



NEWS

Professor Norman Palmer QC Hon CBE FSA – An appreciation

Alastair Hackett, NCMD President

The NCMD was saddened to hear of the death on Prof. Norman Palmer. Norman was an eminent barrister specialising in a number of fields including cultural objects and the mediation of disputes over cultural objects, commercial law and dispute resolution. His clients included governments, local authorities, cultural institutions, religious bodies, indigenous communities, museum curators, art collectors, art dealers, transporters and insurers.

He held many official positions and was Chair of the Treasure Valuation Committee (TVC) from 2001 to 2011. As Chair of the TVC he presided over the valuations of the Staffordshire Hoard (2009) and the Frome Hoard (2010).

Steve Critchley, former Chairman of the NCMD, recalls that his support for our hobby was such that he was willing to give his time and advice freely in advising the NCMD on many aspects of the Coroners and Justice Bill and other pieces of related legislation, a gesture which was deeply appreciated and a measure of his generosity.

Norman was a long-time friend and associate of the NCMD which arose from his involvement with the hobby as Chair of the TVC where he always sought to find the best accommodation between the needs of finders of Treasure, landowners and the State over finds of Treasure. He was a popular man well liked as a Chair.

Trevor Austin who for much of Norman's tenure was the TVC Finders' Representative, became



a great friend to Norman, and this led to Norman becoming involved with the NCMD, attending a number of Council meetings to present and discuss the legislative requirements of the Treasure Act and any proposed amendments. He was the Chair of the Illicit Trade Advisory Panel and his involvement in researching international antiquity laws along with the many papers he published in the Journal 'Art Antiquity and Law', provided many enlightening and at times, amusing anecdotes during his presentations for the NCMD.

After discussions with the NCMD Norman agreed to accept an invitation to become its Honorary Standing Counsel on legal and procedural matters and he sought to advise and guide the NCMD's efforts in many arenas.

Both Steve and Trevor liaised with Norman on matters of legal procedure on Treasure issues and on proposals to amend parts of the Treasure Act together with clauses

to be inserted in other pieces of draft legislation, e.g., to seek to introduce a duty on acquirers of Treasure to report items, plus a number of other proposals under the Coroners and Justice Act. Norman helped frame thoughts on how to respond to these initiatives. Steve and Trevor met him on a number of occasions at his Chambers in London to discuss progress and to seek advice on this Act and on matters such as the Coroner for Treasure, often accompanied by a guided tour of the historic premises and an excellent in-house meal. Each time they tried to pay however, Norman would come up with a reason why they could not, such as our debit cards would not be accepted as we were visitors, etc. This was so typical of the man. Despite the reason for our visit, he would insist that we were still his guests.

He was a quietly spoken, kind man who looked for the best in people, and with respect to the

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hobby, he avoided the taint of any preconceived, specious or anecdotal comment such as that spread by some on the role of metal detecting in locating archaeological items. His involvement with the fledgling ECMD was carried out in such a manner seeking to advise on the inequalities and legislative prejudice seen in some other European countries towards the use of metal detectors. He looked beyond any seemingly impassable barriers to add logical and reasoned argument to proceedings. The ECMD began with a meeting

with representatives from Bulgaria including well respected academic archaeologists to look at the drafting of a Memorandum of Understanding between the NCMD and the Bulgarian Metal Detecting Federation (BNMDF).

In May 2013, Norman, Trevor Austin, General Secretary and Byron Tosh, the then Vice Chairman, were invited to Bulgaria by BNMDF to attend a detecting conference. The purpose of the visit was to discuss possible future cooperation between the two detecting organisations and

to cement an already strong friendship.

Iliya Iliev, President of the BNMDF recalls:

"Professor Palmer was a brilliant mind dedicated to his work. His wisdom and generosity will be sadly missed. He lived a full life and was an inspiration to us. Brightest memories of him will stay forever in our hearts. We send our condolences to his family. We will be missing our dear friend, Norman."

Norman was also a guest speaker

at the NCMD's Ordinary General Meeting in November 2013 where he gave an extremely interesting talk and presentation entitled: *'Treasure Seeking In A Global Context: Anti-Social Conduct Or Creative Partnership?'*.

The hobby has much to thank Norman for in helping the NCMD to deal appropriately with the many aspects directly affecting the pastime which, whilst perhaps never making it into the hobby press, were nevertheless crucial to attaining the position the responsible hobby enjoys today.

DIARY DATES

NCMD OGM 26 February 2017

PAAG meeting 22 February at the British Museum

GET IN TOUCH

For membership enquiries contact the Membership Secretary:

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For all other enquiries please email NCMD@Glemsford.net

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The NCMD Robin & Karolyn Memorial Trophy Competition – 2015

Hilary Fagen, Competition Manager

This has been another wonderful year for the competition, with entries from the regions, individual members and clubs on the Central Register.



Finds have ranged from the Bronze-Age, through medieval times to 1500-1600.

Hoard Category

The entries have been very diverse especially in the Hoard Category which individual member Gavin Warren won with his unusual hoard of clippings, made up of nothing else but edge clippings from hundreds of Tudor and early Stuart period hammered silver coins. Most unusual. Second place went to an Elizabethan purse loss, consisting of seven hammered silver coins of Elizabeth I, found by Dave Crisp.



Tudor and early Stuart period hammered silver coin edge clippings – Gavin Warren

Artefact Category

The Artefact Category brought many different finds to the table.

First was a post medieval decorated silver mount or vervel, probably 16th or 17th century. The finder was Geoffery Burr, West Kent Detector Club, Southern Region.



First was a post medieval decorated silver mount or vervel – Geoffery Burr

Coin Category

Votes in the Coin Category went to two small coins.

First, in beautiful condition was a Aethelred of Mercia sceat, 674-704 AD found by David Rogers, Down to Earth Club, Yorkshire Region.



Elizabethan purse loss – Dave Crisp

In second place was a post medieval gold ring, 13th century, inscribed with gothic script inside and out, the bezel set with dark blue glass. What a find for Stephen Whitehead, an Individual member.



Post medieval gold ring, 13th century – Stephen Whitehead



Aethelred of Mercia sceat – David Rogers

Hard on it's heels came a Saxon silver sceatta, 685-704 AD, discovered by Lorraine Stanley of the Ischem MDC Western Region.



Saxon silver sceatta – Lorraine Stanley



Winner Dave Rogers receiving his Best Coin trophy



Hoard runner up



Coin runner up

Proving a problem: Help us to map the spread of contaminated green waste

Dr James Gerrard (Archaeology),
Dr Martin Cooke and Dr Massimo Strano
(Civil Engineering and Geosciences), Newcastle University

We are certain that readers of this magazine will be aware of the problems being caused by Contaminated Green Waste (CGW). As long ago as 2012 the NCMD were championing a campaign to raise awareness of this issue and they had some success. Most notably Sir Bob Russell, at the time the MP for Colchester, asked a question about CGW and its impact on detecting in the Commons.

Unfortunately the problem has not gone away and over recent years archaeologists have joined detectorists in their concern about this issue. CGW first came to archaeological attention in 2011 when James Gerrard and his team were undertaking a geophysical survey using magnetometers in Somerset. They had covered many hectares of land and one Friday they were just about to start on a small field about 3ha in size. Down one side of this field was a long pile of green waste, waiting to be spread.

It was clear just by looking at this heap that it was pretty unpleasant. Lots of bits of plastic, pieces of rubber gloves, pill bottles and the like were visible. Returning to the field, ready to start the survey on Monday morning, they found that the waste had been spread. They carried out the geophysical survey but much to their surprise the data was really very poor.

The problem appeared to be a huge number of what geophysicists describe as 'dipole anomalies'. Basically these are readings usually associated with pieces of iron. We encounter them regularly. Every piece of broken plough, every bolt that's fallen off a tractor will give us an 'iron spike'. What was unusual was the scale. There were so many. It could only be due to little pieces of metal being present in the green waste (just the



Controlled detecting was an integral part of the project to investigate the findspot of the Gaulcross hoard. Contaminants within green waste cause significant problems for the detectorists (Gordon Noble, University of Aberdeen).

sort of thing detectorists had been reporting for years).

Just to be certain they resurveyed the field a couple of years later and got the same response. To bring this to the attention of the archaeological community a short article was published in the journal *Archaeological Prospection* in 2015.

The same year BBC's *Countryfile* tackled the story and they discussed the impact on metal detecting, the archaeological problems, the view of farmers, and the recycling industry. Having talked to the NCMD about their experiences the response that the recycling industry gave to *Countryfile* seems pretty typical. Basically recyclers say that we have some of the tightest regulation of green waste in Europe, there are very few

problems and where there are problems it's to do with a handful of rogue operators who should be reported to the authorities.

Talking to detectorists, FLO's and archaeological geophysicists we find this claim that CGW is a small scale problem difficult to believe. Unfortunately without a body of evidence it is very difficult to move the argument beyond this point. We need to be able to show the recycling industry and the Government at both local and national levels in addition to relevant Agencies such as the *Environment Agency*, that CGW is a major and growing problem for both detectorists and archaeologists. As this is a problem that faces both of these groups it also seems logical to work together. Archaeology and metal detecting are pretty niche interests. **Together**

our voices will be louder.

So what can we do? One solution would be to push to have green waste banned. We don't believe that this is an achievable, or even necessarily desirable goal. The consequences of sending green waste to landfill are significant. The whole weight of the recycling industry and green lobby would be against us and on paper green waste is a fantastic example of closed-loop recycling.

We have a greater chance of success if we work with the recycling industry, government and perhaps 'green' organisations to create tighter regulations for green waste and more stringent enforcement of those regulations. The only way we can do this is to first provide incontrovertible evidence that CGW is having a

widespread impact on the historic environment.

In order to do this we have developed a free App (available for Android and iOS phones) and a website that will allow users to identify fields that contain CGW. You will be able to log the type of contaminants (ferrous, non-ferrous, batteries, plastics and other) that you have found and also upload up to five images. The App will either use your phone's GPS to locate your location or you will be able to locate yourself manually.

This App is designed solely to record CGW. You can use the App to record fields where you're detecting now, or fields where you've encountered problems in the past. Both types of information are useful to us.

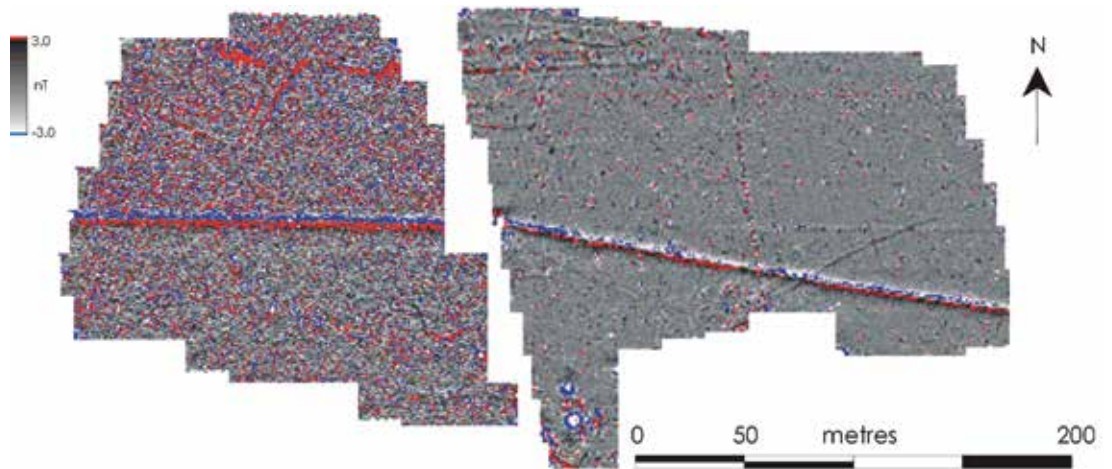
We'd like to make it clear that the **App is FREE** and the users are anonymous. We have no interest in identifying individuals or landowners and the information you will provide us with will not allow us to do this. **We also have NO interest in your archaeological finds** (although feel free to report them to the PAS) because this project is simply about identifying the scale of CGW nationwide.

A step-by-step guide to using the App follows. You can download the App from the Google Play Store or the Apple Store by looking for 'NCL Green Waste'. If you don't have a smart phone you can report your green waste fields using this website <http://ceg-research.ncl.ac.uk/greenwasteproject/>. Any comments or questions can be emailed to us at ncl.greenwaste@newcastle.ac.uk.

We really hope that by working together we can make a difference. Please pass word of the project on to your detecting friends and local clubs. The more people who use the App, the greater our chance of success. We'll try and keep you updated with future articles in *The Searcher*.



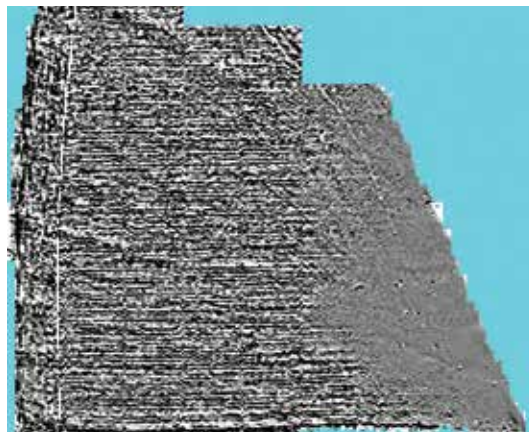
Typical contaminants detected from a field spread with green waste (courtesy of Rosalind Tyrrell and the Magiovinium MDC).



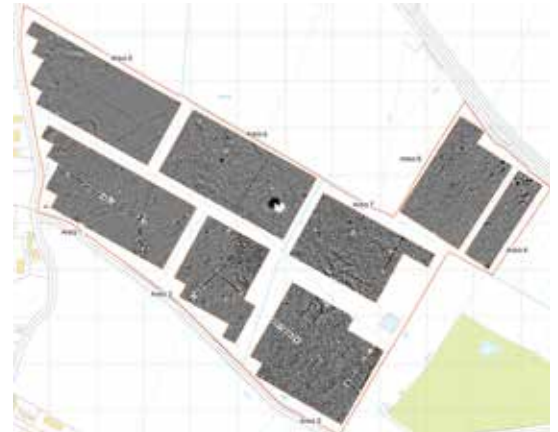
The fields at Lufton with dipole anomalies highlighted in red. Note the greater density of these anomalies in the field (left) spread with green waste (Newcastle University and GeoFlo).



The Gaulcross Hoard of Late Roman and Pictish silver (National Museum of Scotland).



A field in Devon with ferrous interference thought to be due to green waste (Duncan Hale and Archaeology Services University of Durham).



A group of fields in Merseyside. Note the contrast between Areas 1 and 6 and the other fields. CGW is considered the likely cause of this interference (Duncan Hale and Archaeology Services University of Durham).

Green Waste App: A field guide

Creating a new submission

In our Green Waste App, a submission is a little package of data. It always contains a description and information about the quantity and type of contaminants, and can contain photos of what you find.

To create a new submission, open the side menu and tap New Submission.

- Insert a general description of the contaminants you found and of the surrounding area in the Description field. The description needs to be present for a complete submission.

- Insert the number of contaminants you found categorised by type of material.

- **Iron/Ferrous** refers to anything made of iron and/or steel, for example bolts, nails, screws, tin cans, cutlery and so on.

- **Other metal / Non-ferrous:** Anything made of other metals, such as aluminium, for example soft drink cans, kitchen foil, some types of trays for ready made food, and so on.

- **Batteries:** Electronic batteries, from alkaline to rechargeable to the ones used in mobile devices.

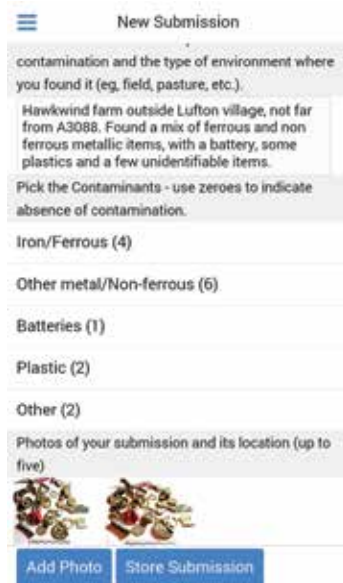
- **Plastic:** From food wrappers to shopping bags to broken toys and anything in between.

- **Other:** Anything else that you feel should not be in a field and does not clearly fall in one of the above categories.

- Add up to five photos by tapping on **Add Photo**. A pop up window will appear asking you if you want to take a new photo or use existing ones from the gallery of your device.

Added photos will appear in the New Submission screen. If you change your mind, you can remove them by tapping them.

- When you inserted all the data, tap **Store Submission** to move on to locating the new submission.



Locating a submission

After tapping on **Store Submission**, a pop up window will appear asking if you want to locate it now or later. Submissions don't need to be located immediately, for example if your device's battery is low. If you do, you will move on to the Submission Location screen.

If you have GPS functions enabled on your device, you can tap the bullseye button to try and find your location automatically. If you prefer to find your location manually, or to refine the location found by the GPS, you can identify your location by dragging the map until you find the right place. It is possible to switch between map view and satellite view within the Submission Location screen.

When you find your location, tap **Store location**. This will save your submission and add it to the list of those ready to upload.

If you change your mind, and decide to pick a location later, just tap Skip. You will be able to select



a location later on.

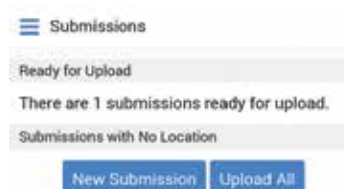
Whichever you decide, the app will move on to the Pending Submissions screen.



Uploading submissions

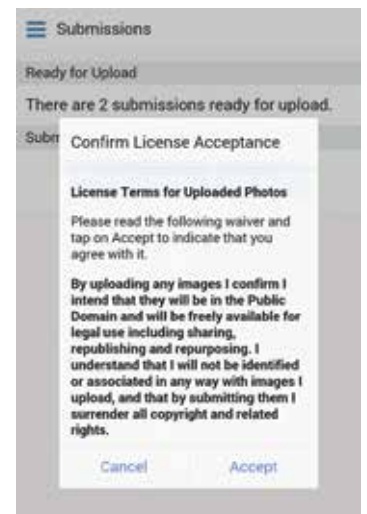
The Submissions screen will show you how many submissions are ready for upload immediately, and a list of the ones that still need to be located.

Tapping **Upload All** will show a pop up window reminding you of the license conditions for any photos you want to upload. That's nothing to worry about, but it lets



us make sure that we can use the photos you upload in our research work.

Once you tap Accept, the uploading procedure will start. Your device will compress all your submitted data and the associated photos, then send them over to our server. This might take a while, especially on older and slower devices, and also if your mobile signal is not strong, so please be patient! When your device completes its job, it will notify you.



Remember: you don't need to upload your submission immediately! You can wait until you get home, or to any place with access to Wifi.

Locating submissions later

Any submission you don't locate immediately is going to be added to a list which you can inspect in the Pending Submissions screen. Tapping any of them is going to bring you back to the Submission Location screen.

General recommendations and advice

- A good submission will need:
 - A concise, clear description of the area and of the contaminants you find;
 - Good, clear photos.
- If you make a mistake, there is no need to worry about it! Just create another submission with the correct data.

PAS Conference 2016 – Can Detectorists Be Archaeologists?

Museum of London – 21 November 2016

John Maloney – Central Register Delegate

In early 2016 I was coerced by our Chairman into presenting a paper to this worthwhile and regular conference. I had to consider how to explain the positive, educational and academic impact our hobby has had on so many people, places and research projects.

After thinking things through for a while I thought it best to focus on the National Council's strapline of 'To Promote, To Protect, To Encourage' so the framework of a paper was in place, it was just a matter of putting some meat on the bones.

It's sometimes amazing how quickly time passes and how many unexpected things can happen between volunteering and the due date of delivery, however I had a good bash at writing my paper, and also re-writing it a few times!

The paper was read through by some Executive Committee members and was then ready to be presented. Then there was just the small matter of me standing on a stage in front of several hundred folk and reading it, no pressure then.

Arriving in London on a cold, wet November day accompanied by my wonderfully supportive wife there was certainly a degree of trepidation and nerves as we

strolled from St Pancras station to the Museum of London.

Having received the programme for the day a week or so previously I was relatively pleased to see I was in a slot towards the end of the day, and was the warm up act for Mike Heyworth (MBE), Chair of the Council for British Archaeology.

The day started with registration and the chance to catch up with a lot of detectorists, National Council members, FLO's and many other people whom seem to congregate at such events. The welcome and housekeeping was provided by Roy Stephenson from the Museum of London (MoL) who started what was to be a very positive day with a very interesting timeline of the MoL's involvement with the Thames Mudlarks. He also described the opportunity for London Archaeology created by the Luftwaffe and the Blitz, setting the tone for things to come maybe?

He also spoke eloquently as to the bridges that had been built between the museums, detectorists, commercial archaeological units as well as voluntary groups and the wider public. He also defined that detectorists, by their study of human history and artefacts, were archaeologists. A great start for many, however would that

message continue?

This was followed by Dr Michael Lewis (Head of the Portable Antiquities Scheme) and Dr Pieterjan Deckers (Vrije Universiteit Brussels) who spoke about the development of responsible, legitimate detecting in the Netherlands, Denmark and Flanders countries and regions. We learnt that where detecting is permitted it is under licence, performed strictly in line with a similar Code of Practice to that endorsed by the National Council. However, digging is restricted to 30cms and finders are 'licensed' by recording their finds with local museums who then recommend certain finds go forward to national museums and research collections.

In turn this has led to the formation of the North Sea Area Finds Recording Group and a number of regional and national databases similar to the PAS. The shared knowledge across countries, regions and areas has already formed the basis for research projects with data sourced from metal detectorists.

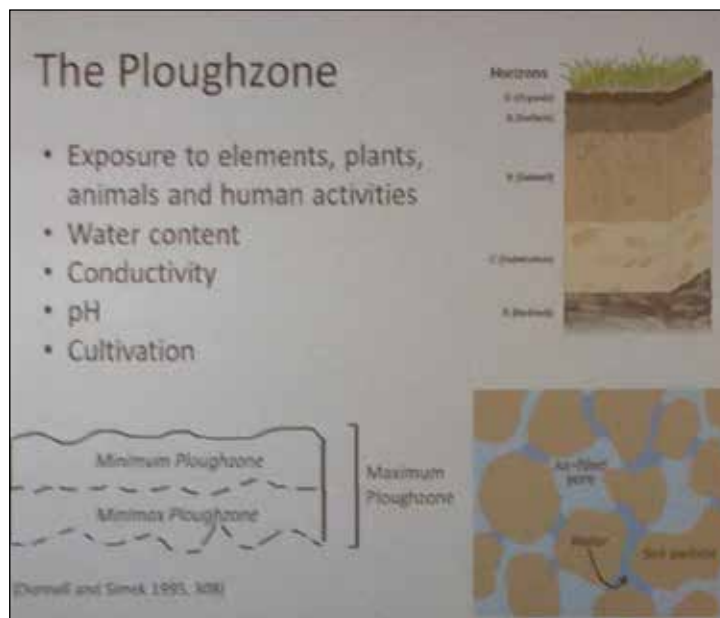
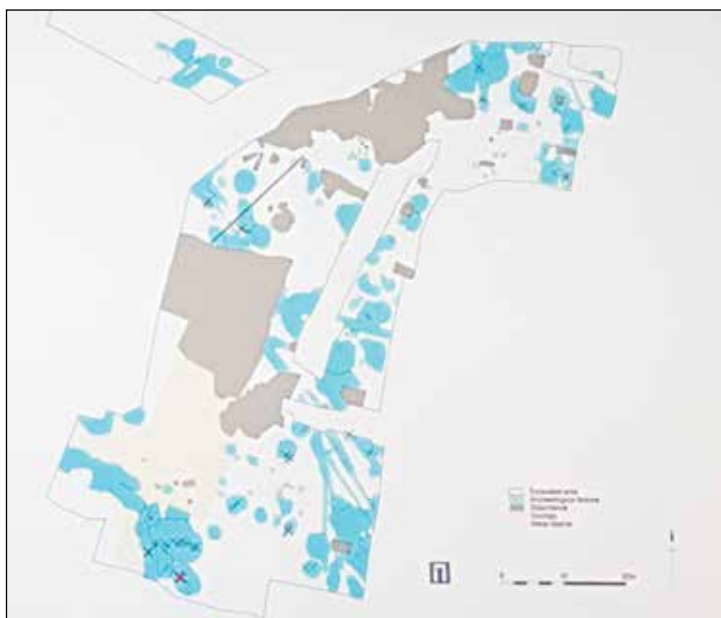
Our next speaker was Dr Felicity Winkley (University College London) who had anonymously surveyed a large number of detectorists using forums,

telephone interviews and by going detecting at various locations across the UK. Dr Winkley's work was to understand how much knowledge was within the hobby and to find out how much detectorists understood what their finds meant to the local area, landscape and research potential. I think she was very surprised how much knowledge, care and responsibility there is in the hobby.

Dr Kevin Leahy was Chairing the morning session as the irrepressible Sam Moorhead was unwell and many speakers and guests sent their best wishes.

It's always nice to see a friendly face and the next speaker was exactly that, Dr Phil Harding (no not the chap from Time Team!) is a metal detectorist, self-recorder and absolute role model for responsible detecting from the fine county of Leicestershire. Phil has always recorded his finds diligently and, having been trained, he now self-records on PAS and has begun to research how his finds help to describe activity on a number of sites over time. Phil spoke about how much support he had received and how much knowledge he had gained from the PAS finds advisors and wider team.

With each speaker having a 20



or so minute slot plus questions the whole day was rammmed full of fantastic work, mostly by amateurs, and of exceptionally high quality.

Our next speaker was David Haldenby, a detectorist from Yorkshire, who had been meticulously recording and researching finds from Cottam and other areas. He was able to provide a well-reasoned, evidenced paper on the impact of the Great Viking Army and how some of its people stayed and changed the habitation and use of particular areas or sites, the first time the Viking impact on a rural settlement has been analysed. David emphasised that, without accurate of find spots, the data would be both inaccurate and the overall picture blurred beyond understanding.

Again another highly detailed and academic paper was presented by what many would consider an amateur hobbyist yet David's paper was worthy of any PhD or doctorate research.

A number of questions came from the floor before our next speaker took to the stage. Lindsey Bedford was described as an 'erstwhile metal detectorist' in the programme and opened her paper with a degree of humour and the 'question tree' (who/what/why/where/when, for those who don't know!) Having been a regular detectorist Lindsey had followed the path to formally become a qualified archaeologist and spoke of both her personal experience of negative archaeologists and also her own research across various sites in Berkshire where she had used both skill sets to define the sites and provide supporting evidence.

We then broke for lunch which also provided conference attendees a brief opportunity to look around the excellent Museum of London galleries and displays, well worth a visit. Lunch eaten and legs stretched it was time for the afternoon session, time for yours truly to start to get a little tense but some wise advice from my wife calmed the butterflies a little.

Faye Minter (Suffolk County Council) was our first speaker and spoke about the fantastic work done by four responsible detectorists searching the Anglo Saxon Royal Estate of Rendelsham. This was a site that was being regularly attacked by thieves with detectors and the landowners had wanted a solution to what was being stolen from the plough zone soil.

The best solution was obvious, responsible detecting, accurate recording and beating the thieves to the finds. Faye also highlighted that planning regulations in areas of known archaeology in Suffolk were now expected to include professional, responsible detecting which should take place with a skilled operator using the machine. A bridge being built between responsible detecting, planning, FLO's and site work.

After so many positive speakers and a very positive theme running through the conference the audience might have almost expected some negative experiences to be presented and Carl Chapness (Oxford Archaeology) had, sadly, experienced the full range of nighthawking and grave robbing at a number of sites. His professional unit had realised the solution (detecting!) but may not have fully understood the nuances of actually

detecting metal. As I often say it's the "nut on the handle" that makes the difference and the machines take some understanding so the best option is to use an experienced, responsible hobbyist rather than a field archaeologist who "fancies a go with the site detecting machine".

Suffice to say they now try and use the services of local detectorists to beat the thieves and to improve the knowledge gained for their reports within the remit of their contract with the employer.

The speaker lucky enough to precede me was Samantha Rowe (University of Huddersfield) who is studying the Archaeology of the Plough Zone and the effect agriculture and environment can have on metallic finds. The best, most consistent artefact Samantha found to study was the humble musket ball!

Samantha's paper is based on documentary evidence of when and where Civil War battles took place which gives a fairly accurate deposition date. Chemical analysis of both the ball and its environment makes it possible to assess how much agricultural practices can cause degradation on small metallic items in the plough zone.

In next to no time it was my 'go'. A deep breath and confident stride to the platform and away I went, I doubt it would be right or becoming to comment on my own paper, but it seemed to be well received with the occasional laugh (planned!), the occasional stumble on words (not planned) and what seemed like an eternity under a particularly bright spotlight! The whole paper will, eventually, make its way onto a website somewhere but there's

no rush in my mind!

Final speaker of the day was Dr Mike Heyworth, MBE, Council for British Archaeology. Dr Heyworth started with the dictionary definition of an archaeologist and reinforced that a responsible detectorist is, by default, an archaeologist. There was a brief recognition that things have changed a great deal on both sides of the fence since the days of the Stop Taking Our Past (STOP) campaign of the 1970's that the CBA supported at the time.

During his paper Dr Heyworth made a number of valid comparisons between the voluntary Code of Conduct for Responsible Metal Detecting and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Code of Conduct and some anomalies between the two.

There were possibly a few people in the room who were surprised by a relatively soft opening, however Dr Heyworth then very eloquently raised some points for future discussion surrounding conservation, funding and Treasure definitions. Dr Heyworth's paper closed with a very kind tribute to Professor Norman Palmer, QC, CBE who had passed away a few days previously and was a great advocate of cultural, property and ownership law.

The whole conference raised a number of questions that will in their own rights lead to some serious preparation and study for the NCMD. As ever we will continue to work tirelessly and diligently in support of the work done by so many of its members who are conscientious, responsible and, dare we say it out loud, archaeologists?

Basics of corrosion

- Metal surface, an electrolyte (water), electron acceptor (oxygen)
- Rates change with ph, temperature, metal composition
- Basics of conservation reduces water content in air (Relative Humidity)

Dissolution rate of lead with changes in pH (Costa and Urban 2005, 50)

A metal corrosion cell

Condition Assessment- categories

- 1. Clean metal surface
- 2. Light surface corrosion
- 3. Moderate surface corrosion
- 4. Heavy surface corrosion
- 5. Severe surface corrosion
- 6. Very severe surface corrosion
- 7. Complete metal loss

Worksheet including detailed visual examples to aid scoring

Fundraising at **Kim's Charity Rally**

Sue Austin generously donated Trevor's machines to the raffle at Kim's Charity rallies held in September in Essex. Monies raised were to be given to the East Anglian Children's Hospice, the 'Nook Appeal' at the Mountnessing Rally in September and which totalled £1,910.00

Ken Randolph from Watford won the Deus (left in photo) and Paul Alison (right) from Clacton won the CTX3030.

'Just wanted to say thanks once again to you and the team for organising this weekend's rally. I'm still in a state of shock after winning the Deus in the raffle and can only say a massive thank you to Sue Austin for putting the metal detectors forward for prizes. Thanks again Kim. Kind regards, Ken'



Ken Randolph from Watford, left on photo. Paul Alison Right on photo, from Clacton.

Membership Renewal Form

MEMBER OF SPORT AND REACTION ALLIANCE

Dear Individual Member

Your membership expires on 31 March 2017. We hope that you have received prompt attention throughout the past year and thank you for your continued support of the hobby.

A subscription for 2017/18 for Individual members on the Central Register is: £8-00. (Please note subscription for individual members of a NCMD region may vary and individual members are advised to contact their Regional Secretary).

If you have not yet renewed your membership, please complete the form and below and return it to the address on the form with payment. If you have already renewed for the forthcoming year, please ignore this reminder.

PAYMENT OPTIONS

All cheques should be made payable to the **National Council for Metal Detecting** and returned to the address below.

OR save the postage and pay securely online at www.ncmd.co.uk/membership.htm either by PayPal or Debit/Credit card.

Please ensure that all information we hold on record is correct and up-to-date otherwise we cannot guarantee newsletters and membership cards reach you.

John Rigby, Membership Secretary



✂

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Helping All Saints Church Restoration Fund

David Rees

The Western Region of the NCMD was re-launched on 24th August 2016. At the meeting Dave Crisp was elected as Chairman: Lorraine Stanley as Treasurer: Keith Arnold as Secretary, and myself (David Rees) as Vice Chairman. The region now has a web site that is hosted by the Trowbridge and District Metal Detecting Club (TMDC) and the direct URL for this is: <http://www.trowbridgemdc.co.uk/home-page-western-region-of-the-ncm> at present there are eleven clubs represented.

The National Trust property Great Chalfield Manor is a beautiful moated manor house situated in Wiltshire. For those of you that have never visited or heard of this manor it is 45 minutes from the World heritage site of Stonehenge: 35 minutes from Avebury, and only 6 minutes from Lacock. It was built around 1465–1480 for Thomas Tropenell, a modest member of the landed gentry who made a fortune as a clothier. There was occupation by a parliamentarian garrison between

August 1644 and September 1646. The house and garden were purchased by George Fuller MP (of Neston Park) in the early 1900s, and restored and furnished between 1905 and 1911 by his fourth son, Major Robert Fuller. Robert Fuller gave the property to the National Trust in 1943, and it is open to the public. Robert Floyd, the grandson of Robert Fuller, and his family live here and manage the property for the Trust. Tours of the house are at fixed times and visitors are escorted by a guide.

The earliest records refer to the existence of a chapel in 1316 and to a church in 1349 at Great Chalfield Manor. The tiny church named All Saints (**Figure 1**) is next to the manor house and from talking with Robert it was apparent that he is trying to raise a considerable sum to restore the roof. He is very confident in raising these funds, but when Gary Cook (Cookie - the TMDC sites' officer) and I offered to help he was delighted.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 6



Figure 4



Figure 7



Figure 8



Figure 10



Figure 5



Figure 9



Figure 9



Figure 11

After obtaining the necessary permissions, we organised a charity detecting event on land in the vicinity of the manor to take place on Sunday 16th September. This was hosted by TMDC where I am Chairman, and circulated by the Region Chairman to some of the other clubs in the Western Region that helped the re-launch. Overnight on Saturday 15th there was heavy rain, but it cleared up and at 9:30 a.m. after the briefing which included some background history, and details from Dave Crisp of the menu he had prepared for the lunchtime BBQ (the menu included a choice of desserts and coffee), they all then set off (Figure 2).

As I made my way around the fields everyone was in good spirits even though it rained quite heavily about 10:45 a.m., finds were starting to be made. I met up with (TMDC) Brian Hall (Figures 3 & 4 are some of his early finds).

Provisionally identified was a weight (Figure 3) made of lead with an iron loop inserted into it. The bronze ring shape at this stage was not cleaned and so unidentified.

In another field I came across two members of WHRADA (Figure 5). Ron Lines (the Chairman) is on the left digging away, with Steve Hutchins (Treasurer) of the club.

These two Roman coins and part of a brooch (Figures 6 & 7) were some of the finds they had made so far. The brooch although not complete still had some traces of enamel on it.

I continued around the fields and next came across (TMDC) Nigel Wright (Figure 8) and he had made two small finds so far (Figure 9).

The small spectacle buckle is probably medieval and the small almost square shaped item could be a medieval pendant. It has some gilding on it but is worn and the loop missing.

His mate Bill later found his first ever Roman coin (not identifiable) and part of a medieval purse bar.

The next person I met up with was (TMDC) Alan MacFarlane (Figure 10) and Cookie came to join us. He couldn't resist getting his head in the picture as we looked at Alan's hammered silver coin, possibly Elizabeth 1st. (Figure 11).

Further on in the next field I met up with (TMDC founder member) Shaun Cruse (Figure 12) and anyone that knows him will appreciate this is indeed a rare picture of this somewhat camera shy person! He had found a nice Henry VI silver penny (Figure 13).

Further on I met up with (SHRADS Chairman) Nick Keeler

always smiling (Figure 14) and he had also found a silver hammered coin (Figure 15) later identified as a Charles I penny.

On occasions when the words 'hammered found' or 'Roman' could be heard in the distance or over hedges people moved to the location or fields producing these finds. The nice thing was that everyone was getting on well together, and there was no apparent rivalry between different club members. This was confirmed by the fact small groups made up of different club members could be observed talking together, and showing each other finds (Figure 16).

The next person I met up with was Chris Bartlett (Figure 17) and he has only been metal detecting for short while. He is the husband of (TMDC) Associate member Sue Bartlett who started metal detecting after attending the Marlborough College Summer School Course on metal detecting this year.

For beginners, this week-long course offers a unique opportunity to learn all about our great hobby and how to become responsible detectorist. You don't even need a detector to take part as they are provided by C-Scope International. (More information can be obtained by contacting the college direct)

Chris was beaming as this was his first coin find. The obverse appeared to be an image of George III (Figure 18) and it was silver washed. Others joined us at that time and the discussion evolved identifying it as a forgery possibly a shilling.

One of the group (WHRADA) Jerry Morris (Figure 19) explained that it is generally well documented that forgery was big business during the reign of George III (1760-1820). There were apparently shortages of small change and of most silver denominations, and forgers filled this void.

He then produced another George III coin he had found, a penny, and also what he identified as part of an early key (Figure 20).

It was soon lunchtime, and slowly everyone came back to the area of the BBQ. Dave had this well underway as the picture (Figure 21) provided by Tina Giles shows.

I then spoke with (TMDC) Mike Hiscock (Figure 22) waiting in line. He had found an interesting small weight (Figure 23). Comments included that the image looked religious. Cookie identified it as an image of Edward 1st.

Dave Whalley (SCHRADS Treasurer Figure 24) is the brother of the late Bob Whalley, and it



Figure 12



Figure 14



Figure 16



Figure 17



Figure 13



Figure 15

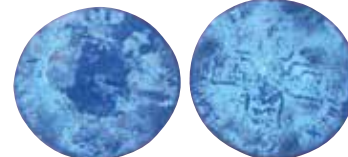


Figure 18



Figure 19

was Bob who for many years ago worked hard for the Western Region and NCMD. Dave had found an interesting horse livery item (**Figure 25**). It had the initials RF clearly visible, and he asked me to give this to Robert which was a nice gesture. Later when I handed it to Robert he was delighted as it could represent his grandfather Major Robert Fuller.

Another person captured in mid-eating this time was (TMDC) Gordon Johns (**Figure 26**) who had found a large decorative buckle (**Figure 27**).

There was a lot of general banter over lunch, and plenty of food to go around for those that wanted to eat; Dave had once again done a great job with the BBQ.

I spoke again with (WHRADA)

Ron Lines and he showed me two more of his finds. One was a damaged Roman spoon (**Figure 28**), and the other was an Elizabeth I coin (**Figure 29**).

Suitably refreshed and back out in the fields and I came across (TMDC) Alan Tamblin (**Figure 30**) who had found a nice Roman toiletry item (**Figure 31**).

Steve Murtie (**Figure 32** with Cookie) another of the team had been collecting admission money and selling raffles tickets throughout the day. The prizes included a beautiful chocolate cake made by Cookie's wife Lisa. There were also a number of items kindly donated by Regtons Ltd., in support of the event. Our thanks go out to both Lisa and the company.

This turned out to be a really good day for finds, and it is almost impossible to show everything that was found, so I have tried to outline a few memorable ones.

This silver sceatta (**Figure 33**) was found by (WHRADA) Lorraine Stanley (**Figure 34**).

At 5:00pm, everyone made their way back to the finds table for the raffle, and then waited for Robert to pick his 'Find of the day' which turned out to be Nigel Wrights Constans Roman coin. The prize a bottle of whisky was rapidly collected.

Here (**Figure 35**) can be seen some of the other items on the finds table.

In this picture (**Figure 36**) with Robert Floyd can be seen many of those that took part and helped to

raise the total of £1034 in aid of the church roof project.

The following week the Wiltshire Times Newspaper gave a short report about the amount of money that had been raised by metal detecting. (**Figure 37**) Shows the cheque being presented and left to right are, Steve Murtie: Dave Crisp: David Rees: Robert Floyd and Gary Cook (Cookie).

Robert has already asked that we hold a similar event next year when land to be agreed will have been ploughed and levelled; something to look forward to and all good for my club and the Western Region. The downside to running such an event is the four of us in the picture didn't manage to get much metal detecting undertaken that day!



Figure 20



Figure 21



Figure 22



Figure 23



Figure 24



Figure 25



Figure 26



Figure 27



Figure 28



Figure 30



Figure 31



Figure 29



Figure 32



Figure 33



Figure 34



Figure 35

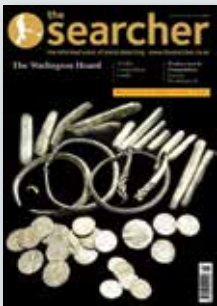


Figure 36



Figure 37

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Report: North West Region Rally – Cheshire

Exactly a year ago and following the very successful North West Region ‘Treasure Finds Exhibition’ at the Chester Town Hall, a suggestion came from a regional club member “Is it feasible for the region to provide a free rally for it’s members” and so began the planning process for a rally that would accommodate a considerable number of regional members that stretched from the Kendal MDC in Cumbria, 130 miles South to the Wrexham Club in Wales and encompasses another 13 clubs on the way. On the day we welcomed 342 members to the rally site.

The marquee housed the Portable Antiquities Scheme representatives Vanessa Oakden and her colleagues who were there to record finds. Unfortunately they were not kept as busy as we would have liked. Among the better finds recorded were several medieval hammered silver coins and a gold medieval posy ring. The 200 acres of available land was a mixture of grass, stubble and ploughed, with the stubble making up two thirds of the total.

The 30 prizes on the raffle table caused a stir particularly with two detectors as the main prizes: a Deus donated by the NCMD and a Teknetics Eurotek donated by UearthedUK,

www.unearttheduk.co.uk. Unfortunately a change in our rally date prevented Graeme Rushton of UearthedUK attending the event, but the donation of the detector and a pinpoint probe was very welcome. The Deus was

won by Andrew Critchley of the South Lanc’s & Cheshire Club and the Teknetics Eurotek by Garth Sansom of the Wrexham Club, two very happy chaps!

All large rallies present their the organisers with potential problems and ours was no exception. The estate land we acquired for the event is in rural Cheshire and with upwards of 160 vehicles expected, the very narrow lanes surrounding the site and the proximity of local cottages were always going to be a concern. These concerns were overcome by a tremendous amount of attention to detail and a number of site visits by the supervising stewards of the organising committee prior to the event, this enabled a trouble free transition from road to field for 168 vehicles.



At a wind up meeting with the farmer the day after the event, I was keen to know if he had had any complaints regarding noise, traffic etc. “not a single one” he said and then added “it was like you came and went in the night” - a nice compliment, the irony of which I suspect, went completely over his head.

Sincere thanks go to the Estate owner, farmer and every individual who made the day so successful.

Kev Gorman
Secretary – North West Region



FLOs - Vanessa Oakden & Susie White



Rally site



Deus winner - Andrew Critchley



Teknetics winner - Garth Sansom

An Assessment of the Extent and Character of Hobbyist Metal Detecting in Scotland

Alastair Hackett

Readers will already be aware of the above project from articles published in the previous two editions of Digging Deep. The assessment project has now been completed, but at time of writing, publication of the full report is awaited. I am however in a position to give a detailed summary which I hope will be of interest.

1. About the project

Hobbyist metal detecting as a recreational activity has the potential to make a positive contribution to our knowledge of Scotland's past if carried out responsibly and in awareness of laws and guidelines designed to protect and preserve our shared archaeological heritage. In recent years it has become clear that our current understanding of hobbyist metal detecting in Scotland has primarily been limited to a small number of data sources, together with more subjective anecdotal accounts prone to bias and assumption. Therefore the fundamental aim of this innovative project has been to better understand the extent and character of hobbyist metal detecting in Scotland by gathering consistent and high quality data from both the metal detecting community and heritage professionals in Scotland to highlight current modes of practice and viewpoints. This better understanding of hobbyist metal detecting in Scotland will inform the future development of reflective and sustainable guidance and engagement strategies for both non-professionals and professionals interacting with the historic environment.

This project was conducted by GUARD Archaeology Limited and was commissioned and directed as a collaborative project by Historic Environment Scotland and the Treasure Trove Unit. A reference group composed of representatives from the metal detecting community, heritage sector and academia were involved at each stage of the process to review project methodologies and results.

2. Aims of the project

This aim of this project has been to:

- Establish high quality data on the extent and character of hobbyist metal detecting in Scotland which does not rely on anecdotal accounts
- Inform the future development of reflective and sustainable guidance and engagement strategies for all who interact with the historic environment.
- Enhance our understanding of the nature and extent of hobbyist metal detecting as a recreational activity in Scotland.
- Engage with both non-professionals and professionals involved with hobbyist metal detecting to gather a diverse range of views and to understand better levels of cross-community engagement.
- Promote responsible practice when interacting with the historic environment
- Encourage positive and productive engagement between the hobbyist metal detecting community and heritage sector.

3. Brief Summary of Results

The project successfully engaged 166 respondents in an online anonymous questionnaire with a range of questions covering topics such as personal detail i.e. age, gender, etc., metal detecting practice, preferences and viewpoints. Furthermore 11 hobbyist metal detectorists and 20 heritage professionals took part in a more detailed interview with the researcher; this was an opportunity to discuss responses more thoroughly and enhance them with examples or experience. Data was also sourced from the Treasure Trove Unit archive and an extensive literature review to establish historical background and context.

The results produced a range of data on hobbyist metal detecting

practices including population, modes of practice, geographical extent, awareness of heritage law, accessibility of information, together with viewpoints on current metal detecting and engagement with the heritage sector.

The report presents the research results in full but highlights include:

- Establishing the number of active hobbyist metal detectorists across Scotland at approximately 520.
- The metal detecting community is composed of approximately 87% men with a predominant age range of 45-55.
- The average length of time participating in the hobby is 9 years with the majority of individuals metal detecting once a week.
- Metal detecting 'digs' or 'outings' are the most common group event lasting one day and involving 20 – 40 attendees. Metal detecting rallies are larger in scale and less common covering 2 – 3 days. The largest number of people attending a rally is typically 80 – 100 people, with the largest event to date involving approx. 120 people which took in September 2015 at Kingsbarns, Fife.
- Geographically the areas identified as having the most intensive metal detecting activity are Dumfries & Galloway, Scottish Borders, Perth & Kinross and Fife. The peak in activity in the latter two areas has been attributed to rally events rather than relating to a higher number of active individuals. High metal detecting activity in the Highlands is restricted to arable land around coastal fringes.
- 55.4% of respondents used a hand-held GPS or GPS software to accurately record findspots.
- The results indicate a high level of awareness of the relevant heritage legislation with 'an interest in the past' being cited as they main inspiration for

taking up metal detecting as a hobby.

- The results indicated willingness to work closer with the heritage sector with a high number of respondents looking to contact heritage professionals for advice or engagement.
- The results also raised concerns regarding issues of trust between hobbyist metal detectorists and heritage professionals, as well as a mutual underlying misunderstanding of each group's own aims and motivations.
- The results also raised concerns regarding response times within the heritage sector and opportunities for interaction with heritage professionals.

4. Recommendations for the future

The report has highlighted a number of recommendations for future approaches to further engagement and understanding of hobbyist metal detecting in Scotland. These recommendations include:

- Working with partners across the heritage sector and metal detecting community to develop guidance to promote best practice and responsible hobbyist metal detecting activity when interacting with the historic environment.
- Promote best practice for metal detecting digs and rallies with mutually approved guidance for site selection, methodologies, and reporting.
- Encourage positive and active engagement between the heritage sector and hobbyist metal detectorists to broaden links and promote mutual respect and understanding.
- Encourage the provision of hands-on participatory workshops for both professionals and non-professionals to promote knowledge exchange on metal detecting and archaeological practice.

- Engage with UK-wide and European partners in research and the promotion of best practice for non-professional interactions with the historic environment.

5. Where do we go now?

It is envisaged the report will only be the first step in a longer-term project to promote best practice in hobbyist metal detecting

activity and to encourage positive and active engagement with the heritage sector, with the aim of building stronger links and developing a secure basis of mutual respect and understanding.

The project will continue to be directed by HES and TTU and they will work, together with a reference group of key stakeholders, to realise the overall aims of this research as outlined above. The first stage will

be to formulate mutually agreed draft guidance and to develop ideas for devising hands-on participatory workshops for both professionals and non-professionals to promote knowledge exchange on metal detecting and archaeological practice. A working timetable is to be agreed but with an aim of draft guidance being made available for consultation in Spring 2017.

To realise the full potential of this

report it will remain accessible online to encourage further research in this area. Similar projects are happening across Europe with key developments in metal detecting engagement and research. Data from this report and the project as a whole will look to contribute and draw inspiration from this exciting and innovative pan-European research network.

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