



NEWS

Report on the Meeting with the Duchy of Cornwall

Chris Matthews, the Duchy of Cornwall's Representative had originally contacted me, asking for the NCMD's comments on the proposals for the Duchy permit scheme. Steve Critchley and myself met with Chris Matthews on 24 January 2012.

The Duchy owns approximately 50% of the foreshore in Cornwall and wants to establish a permit scheme to allow detecting to take

place on some of these beaches. The NCMD's view was that if the public are allowed on to the Duchy's beaches, then detecting should be allowed at the individual's risk – as with Crown Estates foreshore. The Duchy said they had no objection to the principle but it would only be suitable for certain beaches, and like the Crown, would need a licence/permit.

A productive meeting took place and as a result the Duchy have a clearer understanding of detectorists needs and expect to simplify the scheme originally proposed together with a reduction in the permitting fees previously suggested. The detail of a scheme is now being worked up and it is hoped to release more news shortly.

Trevor Austin

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Meeting with the Bulgarian National Metal Detecting Federation

At our recent meeting in February, the Bulgarian National Metal Detecting Federation (BNMDF) attended as guests of the NCMD.

The aim of the invitation was to consider the on-going problems with the Bulgarian Ministry of Culture and their current position

on detecting, to consider a request from the BNMDF for a joint memorandum of understanding (MoU) on co-operation between the NCMD and BNMDF and for the Bulgarian Delegates to experience the workings of the NCMD how we do things in the UK.



Present at the meeting were:
Iliya Iliev – Chairman of the Board of Bulgarian National Metal Detecting Federation.

Mila Mironova – Member of Bulgarian National Metal Detecting Federation, Publicist and Moderator on the website of BNMDF, MA Cultural Tourism.



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Svetoslav Stanev – Member of the Control Board of Bulgarian National Metal Detecting Federation, Moderator on the website of BNMDF.

Elitza Varbanovska – Translator English-Bulgarian language.

The delegates were full of admiration with the way the NCMD conducts its business and the wide ranging scope of its involvement in various metal detecting and heritage issues. The Chairman Iliya has asked to pass on his salutations to our English colleagues.

Our legal counsel has re-drafted the original proposed MoU which has been considered by both parties and the agreement signed.

Trevor Austin



Export licensing and the Exportation of objects found in the UK Soil

I recently received a letter from an individual who was considering emigrating to Australia or New Zealand, and asked whether an export licence was required for a collection of detecting finds, some of which had been reported as Treasure and returned, others which had been reported under the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS). As the Arts Council have recently taken over the responsibility for the export licensing controls for objects of cultural interest, I thought it a good opportunity to give an update on the procedures currently in place.

Whether an item has been reported as Treasure and returned, or recorded to the PAS, it has no bearing on whether an export licence should be sought. *'An export license should be sought for any cultural objects more than 50 years of age and valued above specified financial thresholds for export out of the United Kingdom whether on a permanent or temporary basis'*. (However the threshold for items found in UK soil is zero, so the threshold is irrelevant for the purpose of this article.)

The aim of export licensing controls is to keep nationally important objects within the UK, and balance this with the rights of owners and the thriving art trade.

However, there have been instances where UK cultural objects have appeared on the open market overseas, clearly discovered in UK soil and with no record of any application for export licence, the exporter/owner of these items could be open to prosecution under the Dealing in Cultural Objects (Offences) Act 2003. Under the Act, with effect from 30 December 2003, it became an offence for any person to dishonestly deal in a cultural object that is tainted, knowing or believing that the object is tainted.

For these purposes, a person deals in a tainted cultural object if he; (a) acquires or disposes of it, (b) imports or exports it, (c) agrees with another to do (a) or (b), (d) makes arrangements to do (a) or (b). *Sub-section (1)* defines 'cultural object' as an object of historical, architectural or archaeological interest. This is a wide definition and may cover a diversity of objects from structural, architectural and ornamental elements to portable artefacts of precious or base metal, ceramic, glass, stone or organic material.

While it may not appear that single coins or low value items would need an export licence, it is clear that the legislation requires finders contemplating transporting such objects out of the UK would need to first apply for an export

licence for any item over 50 years old, whatever its apparent monetary value.

All Export Licence applications for archaeological items are as the assessed against the Waverley Criteria, defined as follows:

- is it so closely connected with our history and national life that its departure would be a misfortune?
- is it of outstanding aesthetic importance?
- is it of outstanding significance for the study of some particular branch of art, learning or history?

It should be remembered that the granting of an export licence does not guarantee that the applicant or owner has legal title to the object, or that the object is not tainted in any way.

There have been some notable finds which would have resulted in a refusal of an export licence in

recent years, for example, the gold penny of Coenwulf found on the banks of the river Ivel, was refused an export licence and acquired by the British Museum, an extremely rare medieval bronze model of a knight on horseback found in Carlton-in-Lindrick had an export ban placed on it by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), similarly the Cambridge Roman Horse and Rider figurine had an export ban placed on it by the DCMS. More recently a unique coin of Allectus was recently exported to the US for sale without a licence; it was however later returned to the UK and has since been acquired by the British Museum from the owner for a mutually agreed price.

These examples obviously conformed to the Waverley Criteria, however there are many other items that do not and are regularly allowed to be exported outside the UK. While not



A unique Coin of Allectus. Image supplied by AG & S Gillis



attempting to justify the decision to refuse or grant an export licence on these types of objects within this article, the NCMD agrees with the basic premise that important cultural objects found in UK soil should remain within the UK.

It should also be worth noting that the US, which is the largest marketplace for these types of objects currently, has no agreement with the UK on the illegal removal of cultural objects found in UK soil, perhaps however one may be forthcoming in the near future.

“The following guidance has been prepared by Arts Council England to assist persons who wish to export an archaeological item, which has been excavated in the UK and who is required to complete an application form for an export licence for cultural objects. This guidance applies to both (i) The UK Licence Application Form (‘Application for Export Licence (Objects of Cultural Interest)’, also known as ELU Form C) and (ii) The EU Licence Application Form (‘Application under European Community Legislation (Cultural Goods)’)

Provision of the information suggested in this guidance is not mandatory (and in some cases

the information may not be available to you) but, by providing the suggested information, you will help the expert adviser, who deals with your case, to assess the application properly and promptly. This guidance supplements and does not replace the Arts Council England publication, “Procedures and guidance for exports of works of art and other cultural goods”, to which applicants should refer and which can be found on the Arts Council website <http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/about-us/museums-and-libraries/cultural-property/export-controls/export-licensing/>

For use with the following forms:

- (i) The UK Licence Application Form (‘Application for Export Licence (Objects of Cultural Interest)’, also entitled ELU Form C); and
- (ii) The EU Licence Application Form (‘Application under European Community Legislation (Cultural Goods)’)

It is recommended that the following details are included on your application form in Boxes 8, 9, 11, 12, 15, 17 and 24:

Box 8: Findspot. (Please note that you should obtain the landowner’s permission to disclose this.) This information should be as specific

as possible (i.e. National Grid Ref or Parish/County)

Box 9: Clear list of all items to be included on the application including:

- ‘Historical’ Period (e.g. Anglo-Saxon)
- Type (e.g. brooch)
- Sub-type (e.g. button)
- Composition (e.g. copper-alloy)
- (an attached sheet may be used if required)

Box 11: Total number of items

Box 12: Value (If an application contains multiple objects, which are not defined as a ‘set’ or ‘group’. Individual values should be provided in **Box 9**, with **Box 12** showing the total value).

Box 15: Measurements including weight.

Box 17: It is recommended that all archaeological items which have been excavated in the UK are properly recorded. If possible, please state the reference number from the appropriate body:

- Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS)
- Early Medieval Coin (EMC) Corpus
- Celtic Coin Index (CCI)

If an item has been reported as ‘Treasure’, please provide the



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reference number (e.g. 2009 T001).

Box 24: Clear colour images should be provided, showing both the front/obverse and back/reverse.

For enquiries including Application for Export Licence (Objects of Cultural Interest)’, also entitled ELU Form C).

Contact the Export Licensing Unit on 020 7973 5188/5228/5139/5387/5194/5241, via email at elu@artscouncil.org.uk or via post to the Export Licensing Unit, Arts Council England, 14 Great Peter Street, London, SW1P 3NQ.

Trevor Austin

MEETING DATES

The Next NCMD Executive meeting will be on the 24th June

The Next Treasure Valuation Meeting will be on the 20th April

The Next Portable Antiquities Advisory Board meeting in May

GET IN TOUCH

For membership enquiries contact the Membership Secretary: **John Rigby**
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The Proposed single Coroner for Treasure

We have discussed the proposed Single Coroner for Treasure many times in these pages and NCMD officers have written numerous letters and attended various meetings, in the hope that a solution can be found to the difficulties encountered in implementing the proposal which has become a casualty of the current spending cuts.

It is now certain that the proposal will not go ahead, at least until the next spending review in 2014. While this is disappointing, we have come to the end of the road on the proposal at this time. We will however be making concerted efforts to push for the implementation of the Single Coroner for Treasure up to and including the next spending review.

An extract from a letter from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) is reproduced below.

"As you will know from the debate in the Lords on 23 November and the subsequent debate in the Commons on 29 November, the Government does now intend to implement the office of the Chief Coroner, albeit on a more limited basis than originally envisaged. In particular, the amendment we made to the Public Bodies Bill at Lords Consideration will repeal provisions in section 40 of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 (the '2009 Act'), which were by far the most expensive element of the original Chief Coroner proposal. This amendment has therefore enabled us to bring the costs of implementing the office of the Chief Coroner down to much more manageable levels.

This, however, does not change the position that Ed Vaizey announced to you on 17 November, namely that funding for the office of the Coroner for

Treasure is not available during the current Spending Review period.

Even if the Coroner for Treasure were to be based in the same accommodation as the Chief Coroner, there would still be substantial start up and running costs for the Coroner for Treasure and his support staff. I understand that DCMS will continue to consider options for funding for the Coroner for Treasure as part of the next Spending Review.

I understand your concerns about the handling of treasure inquests. My officials are continuing to work with coroners, colleagues in the DCMS and staff at the British Museum who are responsible for the treasure system to put in place measures that will improve the way such inquests are dealt with. To that end, I understand that Ed Vaizey is planning to attend the next meeting of our Coroners Advisory Group on 12

December and I look forward to hearing the outcome of those discussions.

I note also your concerns about the draft Charter for the Coroner Service. The focus of this document is on investigations and inquiries into deaths and not treasure finds and to broaden its remit to cover such matters would, in my view, weaken its effectiveness. The current Charter, which we intend to publish in early 2012 alongside the MoJ's revised 'Guide to Coroners and Inquests', is a forerunner to the statutory guidance that the Lord Chancellor will issue under powers in section 42 of the 2009 Act. This guidance is limited to the way in which the coroner system operates in relation to bereaved relatives only.

Thank you for taking the time to raise these issues."

Trevor Austin

Metal Theft and its impact on Everyday Life

Metal theft in all its forms is an attack on our communities and a crime that, more and more, is coming onto the radar of emergency services.

During the past 18 months metal theft across the country – and across all industries – has rocketed, with 2011 seeing new records set for the level of thefts in all sectors.

Metal thieves have caused misery for countless people across the country whether it be through stolen lead from roofs, stolen railway cable resulting in delays and cancellations or stolen power cable causing widespread power loss.

More than 10 people have also died in the past year as a result of metal theft.

Whatever the crime, the net result is the same – disruption to everyday life and severe cost to the local and national economy.

British Transport Police Deputy Chief Constable Paul Crowther, ACPO lead for metal theft, said:

"Metal theft in any form is a blight on society and sadly has been having a greater and greater impact on communities in recent months.

"The railway has experienced significant issues for some time, but throughout 2011 we saw criminals diversifying and targeting metal from other areas including power cables, utilities pipework, telecommunications cabling, residential properties, businesses and even vehicles.

"All affected industries are working together to tackle the problem which has now become a significant threat to the infrastructure of the UK.

"We are all working to make life more difficult for thieves through target hardening, legislation and stricter controls at the potential point of sale for the thieves – unscrupulous scrap metal dealers.

"Despite this there are still some criminals who are prepared to take risks to steal metal."

Part of this activity sees BTP

officers, together with other forces and a variety of partner agencies, visit scrap metal recyclers to further educate owners about what to look out for when people bring metal into their yards.

Through Neighbourhood Policing Units, advice is also given to residents and businesses on how to make their metal more secure and more difficult to steal. Roadside checks are also carried out to target those using the road network to transport stolen material.

Detective Inspector Andrea Rainey, BTP's lead for metal theft in the north west added: "Our extensive work with scrap metal recyclers – working with the British Metals Recycling Association to bring in a voluntary code of conduct, educating dealers about the methods used by thieves and showing dealers what stolen metal could look like – has made life more difficult for thieves and we will continue this work to further frustrate criminals.

"But the thieves are still operating

and we are aware that there are a minority of metal recyclers operating in an unscrupulous manner. As such we will target those dealers who continue to flout the law and will use all legal means – as well as powers available to partner agencies – to clamp down on the thieves themselves.

"All police forces should now recognise the significance of metal theft and should be prepared to deal swiftly and firmly with those who seek to profit from the theft of metal."

British Transport Police



The Bulgarian Regional Museum of History

Following our meeting with the Bulgarian National Metal Detecting Federation, the NCMD Chairman and General Secretary met with Professor Nikolay Nenov, the Director of the Rousse Regional Museum of History, Madame Nenova and his assistant Miss Teodora Koleva.

Our legal Counsel Professor Norman Palmer QC was kind enough to arrange the meeting, which took place at his chambers in 3 Stone Buildings, Chancery Lane, Lincoln's Inn, London.

The discussions were primarily to discuss the co-operation between the museum service, metal detector users and other finders in Bulgaria and possible ways in

which a PAS type system might be introduced. We also discussed the contradictory legislation which currently exists in the country for finders of archaeological and other portable antiquities.

The meeting went extremely well and Professor Nenov was clearly keen to take matters further and it is hoped that in due course (maybe this year but more likely next year) we can arrange with them a collective symposium in Bulgaria, perhaps including representatives from other Balkan and Black Sea countries.

The Rousse Museum have a working agreement with the Institute of Art and Law www.ial.uk.com/ to spread the



study and understanding of the global art and antiquities law throughout the region and plan a number of activities with the institute, including an inter-

national congress next year in which it is hoped the NCMD will take part.

Trevor Austin

Finds Recording with third Parties

The Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) came into being in 1997 as a voluntary mechanism for recording archaeological objects found by the public, which did not fall within the accountability of the Treasure Act 1996.

The NCMD has always promoted the responsible recording of finds made by members of the public, whether found by detector users, field walkers or any other manner, although until the arrival of the PAS this was not always an easy and safe process.

Recording of finds is usually done via your local Finds Liaison Officer

(FLO), usually located at your local museum. (See list overleaf for your nearest FLO) though there are a number of other specialist recording agencies such as the Early Medieval Coin Finds (EMC) at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge or the UKDFD.

However there is also the self-recording scheme, allowing finders to record directly onto the PAS database. The level of involvement, in this recently introduced scheme, will depend on the individual's expertise and personal time, some may be happy to record just basic information, uploading measurements, a findspot and a photo, and let the FLOs fill in the details. This is perfectly acceptable. While others who have an expert knowledge may be able to fully identify and record objects directly onto the database. How the process will work will be decided on an individual basis by the PAS team including your local FLOs. Further details of this scheme can be found on the Portable Antiquities Scheme website <http://finds.org.uk/guide>.

Finds recorded with the PAS are

subject to an agreement made in 2005 to ensure that recorded information is not published greater than parish.

In May 2005, the Portable Antiquities Scheme, the National Council for Metal Detecting, the Council for British Archaeology and the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers agreed upon a data transfer agreement. This agreement allows the data that the Scheme collects to be transferred to the relevant HER and used for Development Control and other activities. Personal details will not be published, and grid references must be degraded to four figures or a parish if published elsewhere on the web. (Ref: PAS Website)

Whichever method finders chose to use, the NCMD advice to members is to abide by the current NCMD Policy Statement on Recording finds With Third Parties.

"The NCMD recognises that landowners hold a greater legal title to all non-Treasure items found by metal detection or other means on their land. In doing so, NCMD members need to



Horse and Rider Brooch © PAS

recognise that they have a duty of care to ensure that they uphold this at all time. This duty also includes intent to ensure that before recording any finds with third parties they have full permission from the landowner/tenant/occupier to do so and then only to an accuracy and detail to which all relevant parties feel comfortable.

Issues surrounding the potential publication of find spots data, such as on the Internet and elsewhere as well as the possible use of such data by recipients



Heraldic pendant
Royal Arms
© Trevor Austin



Maximianus.Follis © Trevor Austin

should be considered in discussions with landowners.

Where necessary, recording organisations should be informed of any required restrictions on publication at the time of recording and should make provision for this information on recording forms and/or receipts."

Appendix D to the NCMD Constitution. AGM June 2007

This guidance will be updated at the next AGM in June to facilitate the requirements of agri-environmental schemes which require recording to an accurate NGR and the recording with the PAS of all finds of archaeological material.

While the voluntary recording of such material may seem straightforward; there are issues that members should be aware of.

The recording of potential treasure items, which was covered in issue 8 of Digging Deep, is a statutory requirement and failure to do so may result in abatement of any reward or/and prosecution. However for non-treasure items always ensure that the recording of archaeological material is done with the full permission of the landowner. Should the landowner, for whatever reason, prefer not to record items found on his land, try to explain your preference for recording finds with the PAS, to accuracy no greater than the landowner feels comfortable with, this could be Parish or a four figure grid reference, rather than the usual eight or ten figure accuracy finders usually record to.

Recording finds on the database without the landowner's permission could have profound implications for the finder's relationship with the landowner and may even result in the loss of the site. However in recent issues of the Handbooks to accompany the agri-environment schemes administered by Natural England, access for metal detection is accompanied by a clause which makes the recording of finds mandatory and this forms a part of the landowner's legal agreement. This is implemented by making the voluntary Code of Practice for Responsible Metal Detection act as mandatory document. Finds made on land covered by such agreements have to be reported to the FLO as normal though the terms of the relevant clause state that all finds have to be recorded so there can be no pre-selection of material to be recorded. That job is up to the FLO as a person qualified to do this. By entering into an agri-environment agreement a landowner has no control over what can be recorded or the accuracy it is recorded to.

This requirement has been introduced to ensure that in return for the funding the landowner receives archaeological information is added to the Historic Environment Records about the land they own. In this manner the benefits of responsible metal detecting on farmland can be demonstrated and in doing so actively provide information on areas which may need to be protected such as artefact scatters



Medieval or Early Post Medieval date (c. 1400 AD - c. 1600 AD). © PAS

indicating unknown archaeological sites being damaged by ploughing. Such sites can then be protected by implementing arable reversion or minimum tillage regimes under amendments to the agri-environment scheme agreements.

The PAS currently employs 39 FLOs. The location of these is listed below:

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Roman Cochlear spoon 1st-2nd Century © Trevor Austin

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Roman Stag Brooch © Trevor Austin

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Middle Saxon Ribbed
(Ansate)Caterpillar brooch
© Trevor Austin

Waste: Not Wanted

Arable: The UK is the fourth largest producer of cereal and oilseeds in Europe. Cereals are grown on over 70,000 farms, mainly along the drier east side of the UK.

Dairy and Beef: Around 42,300 beef and dairy farms in England and Wales manage over 160,000 square kilometres of land

Green waste (Definition taken from Wikipedia)

Is biodegradable waste that can be composed of garden or park waste, such as grass or flower cuttings and hedge trimmings, as well as domestic and commercial food waste. The differentiation green identifies it as high in nitrogen, as opposed to brown waste, which is primarily carbonaceous.

This definition identifies those elements that when composted singly or together form nitrogen rich material that when added to existing soil serves to enrich and aid development of plants and crops.

Green waste is often collected in municipal curbside collection schemes or through private waste management contractor businesses and subject to independent audit.

Each type of waste has a 'European Waste Code' with definitive methods of disposal. Legislation states that certain items cannot be put into landfill sites due to various states of decomposition and reactions to compaction and wetness and the amount of methane gas produced by these items. Such items should be incinerated.

However, the so called green waste now being spread upon fields cannot be classed as green waste. A high percentage of the content is not compostable and needs to be controlled in exactly the same way as refuse going to land fill or incineration plants.

On the surface, The Government initiative encouraging Local Authorities to collect green waste and compost would seem to be a good one. However, it is an unfortunate fact that householders do not routinely place only garden waste into their garden waste bins. Whereas many householders are responsible people there are

many more that are not, and as a consequence all manner of domestic waste finds its way into the green waste chain.

As most local authorities send the collected waste to a contractor, their control over the final product is minimal. Typically the Local Authority has an agreement with the contractor that states that a small percentage of contamination is acceptable. It would of course be unrealistic to expect that there would be no contamination at all. This unfortunately is open to interpretation and possible abuse.

Individuals and contractors must ensure that waste is recovered or disposed of without endangering human health and causing harm to the environment. In particular without risk to water, air, soil, plants and animals; without causing nuisance through noise and odours; without adversely affecting the countryside or places of special interest.

As mentioned previously, Green Waste, like any other type of waste, has a European Waste code. However recent experiences show it is seldom that the code is strictly adhered to. The statement below from the Borough of Broxbourne, a typical council, which started green waste collections in 2010, sums up the problem pretty well. It can be taken as read that other Local Authorities have the same problems even after longer periods of time.

Extract from the Borough of Broxbourne website.

Hazel Jackson, Councillor for Direct Services said *"There's a problem at the moment with the amount of plastics and other non-compostable material cropping up. Bins containing non-compostable material may not be emptied as, if the contaminated waste makes it to a recycling facility, the whole lorry load may be rejected. It would then be sent to landfill, which has both financial and environmental consequences."*

Contamination of green waste occurs when non-compostable items are placed in the green waste bin. Some of these non-compostable items are listed below:

Items NOT accepted for green recycling

All types of plastic including:

- Plastic films
- Plastic refuse sacks
- Supermarket carrier bags
- Flower pots
- Polystyrene seedling trays
- Ridged plastic (e.g. lego, toys etc.)
- Hypodermic syringes
- Batteries (contain cadmium, highly toxic)
- Energy saving lightbulbs (they may contain mercury)

Laminated, waxed and foil lined cardboard packaging - such as 'Tetra-Paks', juice cartons or washing powder boxes

Soil/rubble

Treated wood

Glossy paper and magazines

Glass

Metal

Textiles and furniture including carpets, duvets and pillows

Nappies

Fire Ash

Dead animals

Pet faeces

Hazardous wastes including garden chemicals, asbestos etc.

Councillor Jackson continued: *"Our residents have really taken to recycling green waste and it's a shame that a few people putting the wrong waste in the green wheeled bins could undo everyone's great work. Please take a moment to think about whether the right things are going in the bin. And if in doubt, leave it out!"*

The green waste, food and cardboard collected in Broxbourne is processed at an in-vessel composting facility before being spread on local farmland to fertilise crops. As the compost is spread on farmland and supports the food chain it is important that the material delivered to the composting facility is of a high quality and only contains green waste, food and cardboard. If other items are found in the waste it could affect the quality of the land and damage the local environment. Issues are currently being experienced with the

amount of plastics and other non-compostable material amongst the green waste. Bins containing non-compostable material may not be emptied. (Annual report 2011/2012)

It is stated in the foregoing that a whole load can be rejected if it is found to contain non-compostable items, but how often does this actually happen? Hardly ever! The whole load is tipped and whatever non compostable material is contained therein is, at a later date, tipped onto the land.

Are farmers aware what is being dumped on their land under the guise of 'green' waste?

Farmers in the belief that they are doing the right thing for the community are being conned, and having their land contaminated with plastic, aluminium, glass and all kinds of other products, containing chemicals and substances, which not only destroys the appearance of the countryside, but also puts at risk the health of wildlife, our waterways and human beings.

Thousands of tonnes of this toxic rubbish, containing syringes, bottles, gloves, toys, glass - some of which will not decay for hundreds of years, are being tipped on the fields each year.

The dumping of green waste on farm land is not only ruining our hobby it is also contaminating the land for decades to come. If this continues detecting in this country will become a thing of the past. The dumping of this material is nothing short of legalised fly tipping and has to be stopped.

If someone was to fly-tip an old three piece suite down a country lane there would be uproar from all those who love the country side and its wildlife. However if that same three piece suite were shredded and unrecognisable as such and then spread on the land then if those same people were made aware they would be as concerned, if not more so. That is exactly what's happening along with wood, plastics, metal, rubber and accompanying chemicals and poisons.

What incentive do farmers have to accepting this so called green waste on their land? What farmer in his right mind would endanger

the long term efficacy of his land or endanger his livestock and incur expensive bills from animals ingesting rubbish and other toxic substances. The NCMD believes that 99.99% of farmers and landowners in these islands care passionately about their land and the future of their livelihoods. Time and time again farmers and landowners have demonstrated their concern for the environment and have striven to ensure that the land they are currently stewarding will be fit for future generations.

The grim fact is that the Government is aware that the so called green waste actually contains all manner of contaminants and non-biodegradable items. In the past, these items would either end up in a landfill site or be incinerated, but as the European rules now state that landfill sites must be eliminated completely in the near future and there are not enough

incineration plants available, where is it to go? The consequence of this is that the land has then become a landfill site, only instead of the landfill site being in a known area with a chance of some sort of control measures being in place, the entire landscape is covered with rubbish.

Yet another Government incentive has dire consequences for future generations. A lot of the waste being dumped on farm land is undeniably toxic and worse still it is not bio-degradable. In other words it is there for eternity ruining the countryside and endangering the wildlife that other Government initiatives are purporting to promote.

It is no use denying that long term damage is being caused not only to the environment and wildlife, but also to public health. The human food chain relies on the goodness of the earth and

unfortunately the goodness of the earth is being endangered by the practice of spreading contaminants across the Nation's countryside.

As detectorists you will now be aware 'green waste' has become the biggest threat to our hobby. It is nothing less than 'agro-vandalism'.

Please support the NCMD in bringing a halt to this disgraceful state of affairs. We are not alone in our concerns as other countryside organisations are waking up to the fact that rubbish that is being strewn across the countryside in the name of 'Green Waste' recycling.

Local councils have a duty of care to ensure that only green waste goes towards composting.

Composting contractors also share this responsibility ensuring that once shredded and composted no other contaminants are then

added to the waste and ending up on farms, and other horticultural property.

Further stringent government legislation may be necessary to drive home the importance of toxic non-compostable waste being dumped in the name of recycling.

An E-petition currently in place on the web needs 100,000 signatures in order for it to be debated in the House of Commons. The on line address is: <http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/> entitled '*Ban 'Green Waste' being dumped on the Countryside*'. Click on and sign up.

Please sign this petition and get all your friends and families to sign up to this very important issue that not only affects our hobby now but the good health of farming and the environment for the future.

John Wells
President NCMD

Detecting on land under HLS (Higher level Stewardship)

The success, or otherwise of my article 'Detecting & Rallies on Land under ELS Agreement' in *Digging Deep* Issue 8 prompted the powers that be in NCMD to ask me to write a sequel about land under HLS agreements. They also told me that because the restrictions on detecting on HLS Land were so simple that my article should also examine; why such restrictions exist, should remind readers of the basic restrictions on detecting on ELS land and should tell readers how the NCMD deals with all these problem areas.

Why are there so many restrictions on our hobby?

I myself had an interesting reminder of why all these restrictions exist when travelling to the last NCMD meeting in February, when I met an Australian detectorist on the train. I told him about the meeting and that while most of my fellow detectorists would be out in the fields detecting, 20 NCMD Officers and Regional Delegates would be sitting around a table in

a Northampton Hotel for five hours following a four page agenda and that there were three such NCMD meetings each year.

My Oz colleague was incredulous. If there was an NCMD in Oz it would meet every five years with two items on the agenda; first to agree that there was nothing to discuss and secondly to have a beer. I told him that I was presenting a half hour paper on Higher Level Stewardship. He was again bewildered but added that to an Aussie Higher Level Stewardship would be about a couple of trolley-dolley Sheilas serving up Qantas Grog at 30,000'!

The reason for the lack of any restrictions on detecting down under became obvious when he added that despite detecting every week for 37 years his oldest find only dated back to 1864. In this country, buried metal work can date back to 2000 BC, although only a small fraction of our finds actually predate 1700 AD. Because of this, and also because of the tendency of archaeologists to exaggerate the amount of

ancient finds that we make, our hobby has been subject to various controls and restrictions beginning with the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act of 1979, and followed by the Treasure Act of 1996.

ELS A Summary of the restrictions on detecting set out in *Digging Deep* Issue 8

Environmental Stewardship is the latest set of restrictions and controls imposed on our hobby. In my article on ELS agreement land I explained that on land under ELS agreements dated before 1/10/2008 there were no restrictions on detecting. On land under agreements after that date there were three restrictions on metal detecting.

- 1) Detecting on known archaeological sites under grassland is prohibited.
- 2) All detecting has to be undertaken in accordance with the terms of the *Code of Practice for Responsible Metal Detecting* and all finds must be

recorded with the PAS.

- 3) Details of large scale detecting events including rallies must be notified to Natural England 12 weeks in advance.

Detectorists who fail to abide by these restrictions are not breaking the law as they would be if they failed to report Treasure. Breach of these restrictions would place the farmer in breach of his contract with Natural England (NE) which could cause him to incur substantial penalties and then most likely chuck the errant detectorist off his farm.

It is thus the **farmer's responsibility** to identify *known archaeological sites under grassland* and to determine what is and what if not a *large scale detecting event*. The NCMD's sole function in all this is to draw its members' attention to the contents of the various handbooks.

HLS and how it affects detecting

HLS is best seen as a 'bolt on' to ELS. The vast majority of farms 'in HLS' are actually in ELS/HLS. ELS

is a 'whole farm scheme'. A farm is either in ELS or it isn't. (although some fields on an ELS farm are ineligible) HLS is not a 'whole farm scheme' and in an ELS/HLS agreement it is likely that only a small part of the farm is under an HLS agreement. How much of the farm is specifically under an HLS agreement is totally irrelevant for detecting purposes. Unlike in ELS, detecting restrictions appeared in the 2005 HLS Handbook which stated "Do not carry out or permit metal detecting on the archaeological sites on your holding identified in your Farm Environment Plan unless agreed with your Rural Development Service (RDS) Adviser in writing". In the 2008 and 2010 Handbooks the term 'Rural Development Service Adviser' is replaced by 'Natural England Adviser' (the RDS became part of NE on 1/10/2006).

This means that detecting on any archaeological site on the entire holding is banned unless NE agrees otherwise. So if, for example a farm under ELS (after 2008) contains five archaeological sites of which two are under grassland, detecting is permitted on the other three. But if any of the farm is entered into an HLS agreement, detecting on all five sites will be prohibited unless NE agrees otherwise.

If there are no archaeological sites on a farm, an HLS agreement would, in theory, have no effect on detecting. In practice, things might not be that straightforward because areas under HLS agreement could well contain Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Sites of Special Scientific Interest,

Listed Buildings or Registered Historic Parkland or Gardens. The landowner will be able to advise detectorists in such cases.

Clarification of some points and de-bunking a few myths about HLS

It is important to note that 'written permission from NE' is all that is needed for the landowner to grant you permission to detect on known archaeological sites on an ELS/HLS holding. The landowner does not need to apply for a 'derogation' or an 'amendment', both of which are specific devices for altering the terms of the farmer's contract with NE and set out as such in the ELS and HLS Handbooks.

In order to obtain NE's permission support from the relevant archaeological personnel such as the FLO and/or the County Archaeologist would be helpful if not essential. It is possible that the farmer has signed up to HLS educational management options HN8 and HN9 under which he agrees to allow schools and colleges to visit the farm, mainly to learn about agriculture and food production. Responsible detecting on known archaeological sites on such a farm could enrich the educational process and thus be in the public interest.

The NCMD has in the past heard some of its members claim that "If you record too much stuff on an ELS farm the arkies (archaeologists) will chuck the farm into HLS". This is a myth. For a start recording of finds with the PAS is compulsory on post 2008 ELS agreements so there is no point in moaning about it. There is no doubt that many farmers would

like to upgrade an ELS agreement to ELS/HLS since HLS agreements are lucrative and they can also undertake more ELS management options than they can in a simple ELS agreement and thus make more money.

But HLS contracts, unlike ELS, are discretionary and will only be allocated if NE believes them to represent good value for money. A farmer will also think hard before applying for HLS because in order to obtain an HLS contract he will have to put forward a prima facie case to NE at his own expense and then carry out an expensive survey in order to complete a Farm Environment Plan (FEP). If his application succeeds he will be reimbursed some of the costs but if he is unsuccessful he will be out of pocket. Unlike ELS applications, which are a box-ticking exercise, HLS applications are serious undertakings. Farms thus can not be 'chucked into HLS by the arkies'.

Another myth about ELS and HLS is that the 'cross-compliance clauses' can be used to prevent detecting. That was partly true in the old Countryside Stewardship Scheme Agreements. In ELS and HLS 'cross compliance' merely means that the farmer has to comply with various UK or EU farming laws or else he will be in breach of his agreement with NE.

Other detecting restrictions and how they affect ELS and HLS

Detecting on Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs) anywhere is illegal unless permission is obtained from English Heritage. Likewise detecting on Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)

anywhere can only take place with permission from NE. The ELS and HLS Handbooks make it clear that if a farmer in stewardship allows illegal detecting on SAMs or SSSIs he is once more in breach of contract.

The requirements of the 1996 Treasure Act and the laws relating to the ownership of finds are not affected by ELS or HLS contracts.

The more you know about ELS and HLS the easier it is to understand the issues.

NCMD has written a 16 page summary of the 2010 ELS Handbook and a 10 page summary of the 2010 HLS Handbook. Copies of these have been sent to Regional Officers and will be available on the NCMD website. They are both well worth reading! There is now no reason why any NCMD member should be ignorant of the way in which ELS and HLS agreements affect his or her hobby.

So my advice is to read these summaries or make sure someone in your club has read them. There are alternatives, such as detecting solely in Wales or Scotland where there is no ELS or HLS. Or maybe try emigrating to Oz where there are no restrictions on detecting to puzzle over.

But why not read this article once more and, having fully understood all the restrictions on ELS and ELS/HLS holdings, start searching land under these schemes, find a hoard and then you, the missus and the landowner will be able to afford that expensive holiday Down Under and maybe enjoy some Aussie style Higher Level Stewardship en route.

Cheers and good searching!

Pewter Down The Ages

Pewter is an alloy of tin which, when mixed in varying proportions with other metals makes it more durable and has been known since Roman times. Artefacts dating from this period usually contain quite large quantities of lead.

Pewter dating from the mediaeval period rarely survives, but sometimes has been found in the form of pilgrims' badges and sepulchral chalices and patens.

Tudor items are also rarely encountered, but the Mary Rose warship has revealed timed evidence of some items, styles of which were hitherto unknown and has uniquely preserved other items which have survived to this day but in much poorer condition. But pewter's heyday must surely be in the 17th and 18th centuries, where for sheer diversity of style there cannot be any comparison.

Mediaeval

Pilgrims' badges of this time reveal a fascinating insight into the beliefs and hopes of our ancestors. This was a period where life was harsh and often cut short, these relics of the past window their world. Through pilgrimage they hoped to achieve eternal salvation. The Holy Land was the ultimate goal but this was an option for only a few, for the extremely

devout or the nobility. The church encouraged short penitential pilgrimage that now became possible for the ordinary man and shrines proliferated up and down the country.

The first pilgrims wishing to take home a keepsake of their visit, a souvenir, slowly started to erode the fabric of many of these shrines and the solution was the specially blessed and affordable pilgrim



Flagons, plates, measures and spice pots of the 17th and 18th century © Diana German

badge. By association with the saint it commemorated, it not only brought blessings on the pilgrim but also his family, animals and crops. Worn on hats, collars or on the chest these badges consisted of three types, those with stitch loops, those with integral cast pins and those in the form of pendants. Ampullae vessels to contain liquid, usually in the form of holy water from the shrine visited were worn about the neck.

Within three months of the murder of Thomas a Beckett in Canterbury Cathedral miracles were occurring and 'Canterbury Water' the much diluted blood of the saint was being taken home in soft tin ampullae made by a Canterbury lead worker. Canterbury was the first but these tin or lead ampullae followed at other shrines and were often marked. Hung about the neck and so less easily lost than the pin type badge, styles ranged from the scallop shell of St. James of Compostella, to purse types and to bottle types. Often found on agricultural land, ampullae may have been left as offerings to the earth to improve their crops.

Pilgrimage was open to everyone, regardless of class or sex, and Chaucer's Canterbury Tales illustrates the eclectic mix whilst portraying that by no means were these pilgrimages always sedate affairs, quite often to the contrary. Most souvenirs of the badge type were no larger than a 50 pence piece.

Here in Britain, we favoured the open-work badge whilst on the Continent the solid, filled-in background was preferred. Canterbury was the first to mass produce souvenirs in Britain, made using either stone or wooden moulds. The custodians of the shrine would expose these inexpensive little trinkets to the holy light of the relic thereby becoming conduits of grace and channels of salvation to the mediaeval mind.

Some pilgrims might carry a small mirror, usually about two inches in diameter, which in crowded situations could be held aloft and thus encapture the reflection and sacred light of the relic. By the 13th century St. James of Compostella's shrine in North West Spain had joined the ranks of Rome and Jerusalem. The scallop shell is still the universal symbol of pilgrimage in the western world. Legend has it that St. James had taken ship but was almost drowned whilst attempting to land and saved by a swarm of scallops. Styles of crosses range from the papal cross type worn by both pilgrims and crusaders, normally worn inside one's outer garments, the Jerusalem cross with its four corner crosses depicting the four gospels reaching the four corners of the world and perhaps the most common, the crosslet, a sign of many Christian groups, e.g. the Hospitaller Knights of St. John of Jerusalem and the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre who both aided pilgrims and lepers and others in the country which would explain their wide distribution. The Agnus Dei, or Lamb of God, is the emblem of Jesus and sign of St. John the Baptist who is the patron saint of the Knights Hospitallers.

Tokens were issued by the church to enable pilgrims to use them at 'approved establishments' along the pilgrim routes. These were redeemed by the issuing body. Boy Bishop Tokens on the other hand, were given to both the poor and pilgrims to use in exchange for food, etc. and were issued during the period 6 December to 28 December. A boy, acting on behalf of the Bishop gave these out to those considered deserving.

The depiction of various saints in pewter, lead or bronze is of fascination to those interested in their association. St. Barbara is sometimes portrayed with a cannon or hammer and is the

patron saint of armourers, gunners and miners. Her father learnt of her conversion to Christianity and had her imprisoned for many years in a tower and then had her executed. In retribution he was blown up by a thunderbolt.

The young, studious St. Catherine of Alexandria, tortured on a spiked wheel and finally put to death by the sword is patron saint of scholars, young girls, millers and wheelwrights. The Catherine wheel firework is a modern day reminder. St. Thomas a Beckett, that most English of saints, was born in Ironmonger Lane, off Cheapside in the City of London. Close friend of Henry II he rose to fame rapidly in his lifetime but his canonisation was even faster. A chapel dedicated to him stood in the middle of the old London Bridge, this probably accounts for the numerous badges dedicated to him which have been found in London.

From Norfolk's Lady of Walsingham, Boxley in Kent's Rood, our Sainted Kings, Edmund, Edward and Henry VI, to household livery badges of other kings, some far less saintly, these small artefacts all leave a reminder of their place in this rich historical landscape of ours. From these small and often incomplete metal artefacts we can catch a glimpse of the lives of our ancestors and we are the richer for their existence.

Sepulchral finds are also encountered at this time, chalices and patens buried with the deceased, usually in stone coffins. Lincoln Cathedral produced some fine examples but accretions caused by the seepage of bodily fluids has often left them in poor condition. Here however, were some remarkably well preserved chalices and one with an

exceptionally rare knob. Question has been raised as to how prevalent was base metal in churches at this time, or were sepulchral pieces custom made and not necessarily by pewterers or chalciers.

Tudor

Finding pewter from the Tudor period is incredibly rare. A hoard of 20 dishes was found whilst digging foundations for Guy's Hospital in Southwark at the end of the 19th century. The items have been dated to around 1500.

The sinking of the warship the Mary Rose in July 1545 and its raising in 1982 has given us an unprecedented insight into other specifically timelined pewter artefacts, including dishes, which normally in dry land excavations would not have fared so well. Indeed when items became damaged, or just ceased to be fashionable, they were melted down and recast. The Mary Rose pewter consists of 75 items, including some rare forms, including a screw-top flask of unusual shape never previously recorded, some canisters and a sophisticated part-pewter syringe all found in the Barber Surgeon's quarters. It has been possible to date more precisely familiar items, for example porringers and dishes, especially broad rimmed dishes, examples of which are rare at this date and are more familiar from 1630 onwards. Amongst these items the earliest use of the Pewterers' Company emblem of the rose and crown has been found.

In 1348 the Pewterers' craft of London specified the use of fine metal (tin with copper) and lay metal (tin with lead) – the latter alloy was much used throughout Europe. Flatware (dishes, plates,



Foreshore finds mainly toys, and of various dates © Diana German



Tudor.© Diana German

etc.) needed to be of the harder fine metal whilst holloware (flagons, mugs, etc.) could be of the softer lay metal. In A History of British Pewter, Hatcher & Barker 1974, p. 164, "it is clear that the composition of lay metal was not yet fixed: when the ordinances of 1348 were enrolled in City records 22 lb. of lead to 112 lb. of tin was specified. When the craft copied those ordinances into its own records in the late fifteenth century, 26 lb. of lead to 112 lbs. of tin was specified and there was also an instance of officers of the craft accusing John de Hiltone in 1350 of making substandard holloware and claimed that no more than 16 lb. of lead ought to be added to 112 lbs. of tin".

Analysis of the Mary Rose pewter by Roger Brownsword (Brownsword & Pitt 1990) and Peter Northover in 2002 shows that the majority of flatware items were of fine metal 93.4 – 98.8% tin and can be considered to be of English origin. The holloware however was much more variable, some vessels being extremely leady indicating Continental manufacture or substandard English examples. Stylistically also, some of the drinking vessels would appear Continental despite the prohibition of 1534 against imported pewterware and were perhaps purchased before that date or purchased by officers abroad.

Pewterware was reserved for the use of the wealthy officers whilst the ordinary crew ate off wood. Eleven out of 15 of the large pewter platters bear the initials GC, almost certainly the ownership initials of Sir George Carew, Vice Admiral of the Fleet and Captain of the Mary Rose. On ten of these, opposite the initials GC are the initials TC with a crowned rose probably the maker's mark of Thomas Chamberlayn, Master of the Pewterers' Company five times between 1517 and 1536.

Three other large platters with a narrower rim and with the coat of arms of John Dudley, Lord Lisle, Lord High Admiral of the Fleet were also found on board. An unknown touch appears on the reverse of all three but is believed to be that of Henry Clark who became Master of the Pewterers' Company in 1555. He is recorded in the Lisle family papers as supplying pewter to them in the 1520's. (Before the Mast – Life and Death aboard the Mary Rose ed. By Julie Gardiner with Michael J. Allen, The Mary Rose Trust 2005).

Spoons

Pewter spoons over many centuries reveal a diversity of style and composition. Although the Company tried to regulate the quality of these wares many of

these spoons from provincial sources could not be considered 'fine' quality. Searches in the provinces were far less frequent than in London and itinerant metalworkers may also have been responsible for adulterating the metal as old and broken spoons could easily be remelted and recast in moulds of stone, clay, plaster or wood. In a London search of 1675 a number of pewterers producing spoons are recorded as having metal 2 grains worse (heavier) than the standard.

17th and 18th Century

The 17th and 18th century was a boom time in the manufacture of pewter. The average householder by the beginning of the 18th century need no longer use utensils of wood. Most households could now aspire to at least a few items made of pewter and in these two centuries we see the greatest diversity of style. Here we see the style of flagon referred to as James I, which is strangely unrecorded in silver.

Then follows the befeater style (named after the shape of the yeoman warders' hats) and later in the 18th century the elegant spire flagon begins to appear. These items, originally in domestic use, were often gifted to the church and today may be seen in churches and cathedral treasuries up and down the country. Flatware, from the earlier broad rimmed type with domed well is now changing and multi reed rim examples begin to appear. Then plain, very narrow rim plates emerge and then wrigglework examples with foliage, animals or birds appear, no doubt influenced by the accession of William of Orange.

The beginning of the 18th century saw the single reed style of plate or dish and most commonly seen are the plain rims which followed on. Even these plain rims, when thought too ordinary, were sometimes cut and made wavy or polygonal edged and sometimes had fancy borders applied. There was no limit to the pewterers' skill and anything which could be made in pewter usually was, from elegant knopped, square-based candlesticks to chamberpots. But also in the 18th century, a rival appeared in the form of stoneware and from then on pewter was in its decline. It is sad that most people nowadays when asked about pewter will think only of the ubiquitous Victorian tavern pot or

that coming of age mug, a present on their 21st birthday. But there is so very much more.

The Pewter Society, formerly the Society of Pewter Collectors was founded in 1918 and is the second oldest society dealing with specialised antiques. Its aim today is to further knowledge and awareness of this metal that comprises mainly of tin but which can be fashioned into so many different forms and has been for many centuries. Research continues and thanks to a very conscientious warden of the Worshipful Company of Pewterers during the Great Fire of London, its records survived, although its Livery Hall did not.

The Company gained its Royal Charter in 1474, but records exist from as far back as the 14th century to the present day. A journal is produced twice annually as also is our newsletter. Meetings are held four times a year and apart from our A.G.M, which is held in early January at Pewterers' Hall in Oat Lane in the City of London, the other meetings take place in various parts of the country. The society has an extensive database, which is constantly being added to and updated, listing over 16,000 records of pewterers, their names, dates, wares and marks plus additional information where known.

Our website is at www.pewtersociety.org and offers a wide range of information both general and specific, including its history, manufacture and where it can be seen in quantity today. We are pleased to answer enquiries from the public. Members are also available to provide talks. Most recently two of our members gave a talk on pewter spoons to the Metal Detector Club in Cheltenham having first liaised with the Small Finds Officer at Bristol Museum. They also gave a talk to the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society.

Talks on a range of subjects could be provided as long as we have an experienced member within reasonable distance of your area. Email: secretary@pewtersociety.org or contact John Swindell on 01625 575753

If the above has been of interest, please contact us. We would very much enjoy hearing from you.

Diana German



Tudor.© Diana German

Working With Archaeologists and the Impact on Rewards

Working with archaeologists on organised excavations can be interesting, and any finds which are made by detector users working with archaeologists will usually form part of the excavation archive, and if the find is potential Treasure, any subsequent reward the finder may expect to receive may be waived. The Treasure Act code of Practice states this in paragraph 81.

“Rewards will not be payable when the find is made by an archaeologist or anyone engaged on an archaeological excavation or investigation. In cases of uncertainty archaeologists are recommended to require any individuals for whom they are responsible, or to whom they have given, or for whom they have sought, permission to search, to sign a statement waiving their right to a reward. If there is doubt as to whether the finder was an archaeologist (or a person engaged on an archaeological excavation or investigation) the

Treasure Valuation Committee shall decide. This will not affect any interest that the occupier or the landowner may have in any reward. The proportion of any reward payable to an eligible landowner (or occupier) is 50 per cent.”

However, this may need some clarification and further explanation on the various scenarios that can occur in order to ensure finders understand the paragraph.

Firstly let us determine what is meant by *“anyone engaged on an archaeological excavation or investigation”*. This is generally regarded to mean that a person is either an amateur or professional archaeologist, detector user or other person conducting an excavation solely or as part of a team who are receiving remuneration under the auspices of a third party and/or has signed a waiver to their rights to any reward. There is never going to be a one size fits all solution and it



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Please ensure that all information we hold on record is correct. If you have already sent your subscription for the forthcoming year, please ignore this reminder.

Trevor Austin

General Secretary



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will be for the TVC to determine whether or not the finder was formally "engaged on an archaeological excavation or investigation".

There may however be instances where finders are engaged in archaeological excavations, but also have permission to search outside the recognised period of engagement. If finds of Treasure are discovered outside these times and any subsequent reward is paid, the finder may be entitled to a portion of the reward depending on the circumstances.

Although Para 81 is intended to apply equally to amateur archaeologists who may be conducting an excavation or investigation on their own initiative or at the request of a landowner. The TVC would need to determine whether the finder was formally 'engaged'. As an example – **Medieval gold finger-ring from South Wingfield, Derbyshire – Treasure case number (2007 T300)** where the finder, an amateur archaeologist, was considered to be a private individual, not engaged as a professional or affiliated with a formal organisation or institution and was therefore eligible for a 50% share.

There are also a large number of volunteers, including detectorists who regularly work with archaeologists, and although they receive no remuneration for their work, or only travelling expenses,

are happy to waive their right to any reward from potential treasure they may discover.

The requirement for a detector user or other volunteer to sign a waiver before the investigation proceeds is standard practice. However, problems could arise if the detector user or volunteer has not been asked to sign a waiver and then discovers potential treasure material for which he or she would expect to receive a reward. The TVC will need to determine whether or not the finder was formally engaged on the excavation work at the time of discovery and is thereby part of the archaeological team. If the committee decides that this was the case then no reward will be paid, even though a waiver has not been signed.

It should be remembered, that if a finder is asked to participate in a more extensive excavation of a site where he or she has previously discovered items of treasure, then they should not waive of their rights to any reward unless they wish to do so. Any recovered items, which are from the same deposition, will be regarded as being part of the original find and the finder will be entitled to a portion of any reward.

It should also be remembered that in either case the landowner would still be entitled to a reward normally amounting to 50% of the market value.

Trevor Austin

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Yorkshire Region AGM

The Yorkshire Region held its AGM recently, which included the usual raffle and find of the year competition, followed by a detecting outing.

The raffle was well supported by the Regions clubs, with each club donating extra prizes. The main prizes included a handheld Garmin GPS, a Digital microscope, a

pinpoint probe, books, coin paraphernalia, to list but a few.

First Prize in the Artefact of the Year competition went to Ron Heaps with his exceptional gold padlock ring. I can't remember ever seeing a ring of this type come before the TVC, and certainly have no recollection of any similar ring. (Perhaps a reader knows

differently). However a small padlock locket which came before the TVC in 2011 was the smallest I have seen. (T2008 T506)

The Coin of the Year was won by Stan Raymond, for his rare DVMNOCoveros TIGIRnos SENO silver unit.

Winners in the other ten categories of artefact and coins were of equal

quality. The best showcase was won by the Hoyland Club, Graham Dale who was responsible for the layout, also collected the trophy.

The Mike Longfield trophy went to the South Yorkshire MDC.

Thanks to Andy Gillis for judging the competition.

Trevor Austin



© Ron Heaps



© Ron Heaps



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© Ron Heaps



Ron Heaps Receives his trophy and prize for best artefact



© Stan Raymond



© Stan Raymond



Barry Freeman receiving the trophy for coin of the year



Trevor Austin winner of best Medieval tudor coin



Graham Dale, winner best Roman artefact



Barry Freeman and Stan Raymond best Saxon Viking artefact

New Chair of Scotland's Treasure Trove Panel (SAFAP)

In November 2011, Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs Fiona Hyslop announced the appointment of a new Chair to the Scottish Archaeological Finds Allocation Panel (SAFAP). The new Chair is Dr Evelyn Silber, former Director of the Hunterian Museum and Art Gallery, Glasgow. Dr Silber's appointment is for four years and runs from 1 January 2012 to 31 December 2015.

Professor Ian Ralston has now stepped down after two terms in the post. Throughout this period

he has shown considerable dedication through his work on developing the Treasure Trove Code of Practice and his invaluable advice on the Stirling torcs. Prof. Ralston met with Committee members of the NCMD Scottish Region on several occasions in recent years to discuss areas of mutual interest or concern, and the Committee is looking forward to establishing similar links with Dr Silber.

Dr Silber is an art historian and former museum director. She was

Director of the Hunterian Museum from 2001-2006 and is currently the Chair of the Charles Rennie Mackintosh Society and Hon. Professorial Research Fellow at the University of Glasgow. She lectures, and has published on the history of sculpture.

She was a curator and then Assistant Director at Birmingham Museums and Art Gallery (1979-95) and Director of Leeds Museums and Galleries (1995-2001). She has extensive experience of managing and

operating historic buildings.

The Scottish Archaeological Finds Allocation Panel is a small specialist Panel which gives independent advice to the Queen's and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer, the Crown's representative in Scotland, on whether finds of historical items made by members of the public should be acquired on behalf of the nation for allocation to a Scottish museum. The Panel also advises on ex-gratia payments to finders.

Alastair Hackett

Looking for Wallace at Stirling Bridge

Ahead of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations, Stirling Council is planting ten trees at Bridgehaugh, the site of William Wallace's famous victory at the Battle of Stirling Bridge on 11 September 1297.

Stirling Council's Land Service is organising the planting and have created a commemorative arboretum (including Oak, Beech, Birch and Rowan) to mark this special year, which will provide a legacy to the citizens of Stirling

over the next 60 years.

Stirling Bridge is one of the few medieval battles in Britain where the battle can be followed on the ground and represents one of the first times a national people's army defeated a professional army of knights. The bridge is one of two nationally important battlefields in Stirling, the second is Bannockburn.

As the holes for the tree planting had already been dug, Stirling

Council's Archaeologist Murray Cook, asked pupils from Riverside and St Ninian's Primary Schools to help out on an archaeological dig and detector survey of the field conducted by local resident Des Donnelly, a member of the Scottish Artefact Recovery Group (SARG), on 27 February, to look for evidence of the battlefield.

Lesley Sleith of SARG said: 'We were delighted to be involved in this community project, and to have the opportunity to work with



young people exploring their local history, while respecting the environment in the area.'

Despite typical Scottish conditions, cold and damp, the children had a great time, and while they didn't find evidence of Wallace they did find evidence of a medieval farm built over the battlefield.

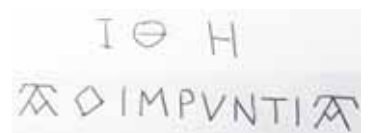
An Early Fede Ring

Stuart Lees, a member of the Scottish Detector Club was delighted to find this lovely *fede** ring at a club outing in East Lothian. Rings like this were in use for a fairly wide period, but this particular example is stylistically similar to the rings in the Lark Hill hoard. Those particular rings were found in Worcestershire and date from the late 12th century, and the type of decoration is typical of later 12th century finger rings. It tends not to appear on later rings.

The inscription is particularly interesting as it appears to contain a contraction for 'JESUS' and a representation of 'IMPUNITA' in the sense of 'free from danger'. The message would have had some function as an amulet or spell.

The ring is currently being assessed and evaluated by The Treasure Trove Unit at the National Museums of Scotland.

**Copies of the Oxford English Dictionary are available from the NCMD at £380 per set.*



Awarded Honorary Membership

Malcolm Collins, the former Chairman of the Coventry Heritage Detector Society, was awarded Honorary Membership when he



retired from the post at the Societies recent AGM. He is seen here being presented with a certificate to mark the occasion by the newly elected Chairman, Alan Charlish.

Malcolm was one of the founder members in 1978 and has seen the Society grow from strength to strength during his 34 years of membership. He is especially known and respected by local archaeologists for his meticulous

recording of finds from club digs.

In the early days records were kept manually, but since computers arrived on the scene a database of finds has been kept. Malcolm has photographed and classified all finds of historical interest and has even recorded the details of the more mundane items.

Landowners have always appreciated Malcolm's beautiful farm record books they receive from the Society each year which

give a written and pictorial account of all finds from their land and provide an excellent talking point and insight of the farm's social history for future generations.

Malcolm has been an outstanding ambassador not only for the Society, but also for the hobby of metal detecting during his long service and will continue to photograph finds and maintain the Societies finds database.

Alan Charlish

It was buried in 1953, but where?

© Boomerang PR Agency

In January, I received a phone call from Jessica Love, a producer at BBC Radio Sussex. She told me that BBC Surrey and Sussex had been running a very sad feature on Delia, a terminally ill lady. They were now running a follow up featuring her 'bucket list' of all the things she hoped to achieve in the time available.

One of these was to recover a Time Capsule from the grounds of her former Primary School in Worcester Park, South West London. The capsule had been buried in 1953, when Delia was six, to celebrate the Coronation. I contacted a few Southern Region stalwarts while Jessica and the School, Green Lane Primary, fixed a date.

The proposed date had to be altered after Delia's health took a turn for the worse and the new date itself had to be changed after

the area was covered in 5" of snow. Eventually the date was set for 22 February. Two members of the West Kent Club were not available so I was only able to take one other detectorist, Simon Earl, from my club, East Surrey.

We had no idea what the Time Capsule was made of, or specifically, whether it was made of or contained ferrous or non-ferrous metal or indeed any metal at all. We arrived at the school at the agreed time, 3.30pm and met with Delia, her helper and Dan from BBC Sussex. While Dan interviewed Delia, Simon and I searched an area in the playground in line with the boundary between the pre-1953 building and its later extension. This was one place Delia thought the capsule might have been buried. We searched in both motion mode and pinpoint mode but never picked up the sort of

signal we were anticipating.

Dan interviewed us and we told him about the technical difficulties we were experiencing. We then moved our search to the front of the school where Simon, searching in all metal picked up a large promising signal that turned out to have emanated from a steel pipe. By 5pm it was getting dark and starting to rain. Delia was getting tired and Dan was getting fed up so we abandoned the search.

It was clear that we needed more information as to the metallic content of the capsule and its likely place of burial. The school and I later contacted three local newspapers appealing for information but up to now nothing has been forthcoming. We are hoping to get another search under way before too long because time is running out for Delia.

One interesting but unhelpful piece

of information we discovered was that a time capsule, buried in 1953 in what was then Kingston Art School and is now part of Kingston University was recovered in January 2011 after a retired lecturer revealed that it had been buried under a stone plinth erected to mark the Coronation. The capsule was a Kilner type glass storage jar and its only metallic contents were two paper clips, a drawing pin, a very small brass plaque showing the names of eleven teachers and a compass, maybe made partly of brass. The vast majority of the contents were paperwork containing much fascination information about the Art College in 1953, but of no use to a detectorist. We will do our best to recover the Green Lane Time Capsule and can only advise those who in future bury them to pack them full of non-ferrous metal!



Mr. H the Reigate 'spy' – Did he leave a false trail?

In the 1950s a middle aged man, H, lived in a four-bedroomed detached house in Reigate. He was a diplomat, spending many weeks away from his home, his wife and their daughter. H's daughter would tell all her friends where her Daddy was working, usually in nice warm British colonies in Africa, the West Indies and the Far East. H would then return from overseas and would often bring some coins with him from whichever country he had been posted to. H's daughter and some friends would then play with these in the garden, where inevitably some would be lost.

H died in 1998. Many people attended his funeral in the local church where one of his colleagues from the Foreign Office paid tribute to his dedicated career as a diplomat. In 2000 the lady living next door to H's widow died and a local detectorist was given permission to search her garden. H's widow told him he could search her garden next year when she was planning to move to Norfolk to be near her daughter.

In 2001 he spent a few evenings in H's widow's garden. By coincidence the detectorist's elder

sister was one of the girls who had played with H's daughter and the foreign coins over 40 years ago. He was thus not surprised that amongst the finds he made were 10 foreign coins, seven 10 cents pieces from East Africa dated from 1921 to 1956, a penny from British West Africa dated 1952, a 10 cents piece from Ceylon dated 1951 and a 10 cents piece from Hong Kong dated 1948. H's widow was also not surprised by these coins, after all those were the places where her husband had been posted. The only find she was interested in was a silver bracelet that she had lost in about 1965 which she took with her to Norfolk.

H's widow herself died in 2003. The foreign coins had by now been duly logged and placed in Lindner coin trays for display purposes. At about that time a few locals started expressing doubts about H's alleged diplomatic career.

After the war H had told a few people that he was "*in some way attached to the War Office*".

On 2 June 1962 the Supplement to the *London Gazette* published a list of awards and decorations made to minor VIPs. One of them

was H who was described as 'attached to the War Office'. But would a man attached to the War Office be spending much of his time in places such as colonial East Africa or Hong Kong?

In 2010 MI5 released another tranche of records of its WW2 operations. One of these revealed that H had been working for MI5 during the war and had infiltrated the British Communist Party and intercepted information about British weapons systems which was being passed to Moscow. All the time he was passing himself off as a civil servant working in public relations for the War Office!

This revelation proved quite a bombshell and gave rise to much local gossip and speculation as to H's true activities and the places he had really visited. The consensus of opinion was that from the end of WW2 to his retirement in the 1970s H had been working for MI6 as some sort of spy and that he had concealed his true activities from his family, with the possible exception of his wife.

It is unlikely that the truth will ever be known unless and until MI5 or MI6 release some more



British W Africa Penny



E Africa 10 Cents

information. We can thus only guess whether the foreign coins were part of an elaborate smokescreen.

It raises the question as to whether other finds, maybe of archaeological significance, could also be used for purposes of deception. After all life was much more dangerous then than it is now and there could have many very good reasons why a person or group of people should have wanted to give the impression they were in one place when they were really in another.

Roger Mintey



Ceylon 10 Cents



Hong Long 10 Cents

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The first edition of Lions Ships and Angels published in 1995 was the first 'compact' guide to coin weights found in Britain and as such, was soon snapped up by enthusiastic detector users eager to identify the obscure pieces of bronze found on many medieval sites. However the book became increasingly hard to source. Edition two, printed in hardback, is therefore a long awaited addition to the reference library of clubs and detector users.

The book not only catalogues the coin weights from the first edition, but has been expanded to include the many finds made by detector users over the last 16 or so years from sources such

as the Portable Antiquities Database and the UK Detector Finds Database.

The book, which contains some excellent photos, covers coin weight from 1344 through to the 19th century. It also includes apothecary weights, some Irish and Portuguese examples as well as continental maker's names and marks from the 16th and 17th Centuries.

Not to be skipped is the excellent introduction, which outlines the history and use of coin weights and helps the reader with the identification. For the uninitiated there is also an excellent section on why coin weights were produced and used.

The identification section of the book contains excellent photographs of actual weights, with information on each design type and denomination, the denomination weight given in Grains and Grams.

Containing some 570 colour photographs and 50 line drawings, I can thoroughly recommend this book to any detector user, who however infrequent, comes across these interesting little items.

Trevor Austin



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