

PORTABLE ANTIQUITIES SCHEME

Edited by John Naylor¹

The Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) records archaeological finds discovered by members of the public in England and Wales.² Many come from sites which have been damaged or eroded, usually by agriculture, leaving the objects as the only evidence of past activity; others are of interest in their own right. By end of 2020 the PAS database contained 38,519 records (containing 56,541 finds) of early medieval date (c 410–c 1066) and 227,917 records (272,573 finds) of high and later medieval date (c 1066–c 1500).³ A small proportion of these are subject to the Treasure Act 1996 which gives the Crown (in practice, museums) the right to acquire them; in 2020, there were 1,077 Treasure cases (1,055 from England, 22 Wales and Northern Ireland), of which 119 were of early medieval and 285 of high and later medieval date.⁴

In 2020, 49,045 finds were recorded,⁵ of which 11,100 were of medieval date. There were a total of 1,419 pre-Conquest finds and 9,681 post-Conquest finds. Stray finds of coinage accounted for 3,664 finds, 195 of pre-Conquest date, and 3,469 post-Conquest coins.⁶ These figures are a substantial decrease on the previous year owing to the COVID-19 pandemic restricting metal-detecting for large parts of the year. Virtually all finds recording by the PAS moved online rather than via face-to-face finds surgeries and visits to metal-detecting clubs.⁷ Last year did, however, see the recording of the 1.5 millionth object by the PAS, a 13th-century papal bulla of Pope Innocent IV from near Bridgnorth (Shropshire; HESH-6359C4).

This round-up of finds and research from the last year includes summaries of interesting and important finds plus two short research notes.⁸ The first discusses Viking-age finds from north-west England, the second the identification of Romanesque bowls in England, their use and re-use.

FOCUS ON COINAGE IN 2020

Early medieval

The long-term recording of stray finds, alongside a small number of hoards,⁹ have highlighted the importation of gold coinage into 5th-century Britain consolidating the view that these circulated primarily in southern and eastern England, as illustrated by two finds of gold *solidi*. A Roman issue of Anthemius (467–72) struck in Rome was found at Wantisden (Suffolk; BM-06DAA9; Fig 1a) and is the first of its type recorded by the PAS, joining a very small corpus.¹⁰ The other is a Merovingian imitation of Anastasius I (491–518) probably struck in the Lower Rhineland. Found at St Osyth, Mersea Island (Essex; ESS-85F619), the coin is unusual although not unique in lacking evidence that it was adapted for suspension, a common modification for 5th and 6th-century gold coins. Elsewhere, a Merovingian pseudo-Imperial *tremissis* copying issues of Justinian I (527–65) found at Pershore (Worcestershire; WAW-A8F955; Fig 1b) is the first recorded from the county by the PAS.

Discoveries of 7th-century Merovingian *tremisses* are more common and nine were reported in 2020. An example from Sodbury (South Gloucestershire; GLO-FAB593; Fig 1c), struck at the port of Quentovic (France), is a rare find in the south-west.¹¹ A Frisian ‘Dronrijp’ type *tremissis* found at Scarrington (Nottinghamshire; LIN-047A65; Fig 1d) is the first PAS-recorded example from the county and complements a small number of *tremisses* whose distribution illustrates the importance of the River Trent.¹²

Ninety-six early silver pennies (or *sceattas*; dating c 670–750) were recorded last year, coinciding with, and reflecting, a period of intense archaeologically-attested North Sea trade. Many of these finds belong to a few large issues emanating from ports,¹³ but other types are often found only in small numbers. These include coins struck across the change from gold to silver coinage, now termed the ‘Transitional’ or ‘Pre-Primary’ Phase of the 660s–early 670s;¹⁴ three were recorded, including two coins of Series Pa. These extend our knowledge of their distribution: one from Clifton Campville (Staffordshire; WMID-D77AED; Fig 1e) is the first Midlands find of this type, and another from Leckhampstead (Buckinghamshire; SUR-85710E) the first from the county and also an outlier from the core distribution in Kent and East Anglia. An example of Series O ‘rampant animal’ (type 57) from Shalfleet (Isle of Wight; IOW-69F13D; Fig 1f) dates to the early–mid 8th century, the first PAS-recorded example of a rare element in a diverse group from south-east England variously incorporating distinctive busts with swept-back hair, backward-looking beasts, standing figures and birds. A more commonly-found type, Series A, an early Primary Phase type (dating c 670–90) was found in Warburton (Trafford; LVPL-461CA6; Fig 1g), well outside its usual area of circulation. It is one of only three early pennies recorded by the PAS from north-west England,¹⁵ and joins only a handful of other finds from the region, including those from Meols (Wirral) and Manchester.¹⁶

In most cases we do not know who issued early pennies but it was probably a mix of royal, ecclesiastical and secular groups (eg merchants). Greater royal control from the mid-8th century can be seen in a rare find of a penny of Beonna of East Anglia (c 749–60) from Wilby (Suffolk; SF-B6CF5A; Fig 1h). One of few stray finds of Beonna it complements the restricted, East Anglian, distribution known from hoard and excavation finds.¹⁷ During Offa’s (757–96) reign the kingdom came under the auspices of Mercia, and c 40 East Anglian-minted coins for Mercian rulers have now been recorded by the PAS. Their broad distribution illustrates Mercian power at the time, although a cluster of finds in southern Wessex is no doubt indicative of maritime networks. Two pennies of Offa recorded last year are of importance, both new types and struck in East Anglia: one from Hacheston (Suffolk; SF-87E18C; Fig 1i) is a variation on a larger group of coins struck by the moneyer Wihtried showing a cross with bulbous, often mushroom-shaped ends, this one terminating in lozenges enclosing groups of pellets. The other coin, from Whitchurch (Hampshire; SUR-8F6CBC) uses a motif of running squared spirals on the reverse into which the moneyer’s name, Lul, is inserted in runes. Another unusual find from the late 8th century comes from Pattingham (Staffordshire; WMID-CC82D1; Fig 1j) in the form of a pierced penny of Ecgberht II of Kent (c 764–79?) probably struck at Canterbury towards the end of his reign.¹⁸ The coin is centrally pierced and its edge is deformed, perhaps through long-term attachment to something by looping between the hole and the centre of the coin, highlighting the potential amuletic qualities of coinage.¹⁹

Later 9th and 10th-century coinage (to Edgar’s reforms of c 973) is rare, with only four certain identified finds recorded last year. These included a penny of Archbishop Plegmund of Canterbury (890–923) from Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor (Oxfordshire; OXON-B49585), the first from the county and only the second stray find recorded by the PAS,²⁰ and a penny of Edmund (939–46) from ‘near Lincoln’ (Lincolnshire; NLM-5562BD; Fig 1k). Both coins belong to the long-lived Horizontal/Two-line type introduced by Alfred the Great (871–99), named after the reverse inscription giving the name of the moneyer in two lines, Plegmund’s belongs to the 890s and names the mint as DORO (*Dorovernia*, Canterbury’s Latin name). No mint name is listed on Edmund’s penny and its mint is unknown.

Three other 10th-century finds are of note. A silver penny in the name of Eric – possibly Eric Bloodaxe – was found in the ‘Bridlington area’ (East Yorkshire; YORYM-BA2295; Fig 1l) and dates to the end of the period when Scandinavian rule had been re-asserted in York, c 939–54.²¹ The first stray find for Eric recorded by the PAS, its design copies the St Peter of York coinage of the 920s,²² with a sword dividing the inscription ERIC REX, showing the influence of the Horizontal/Two-Line type. The two other coins are copper *folles* of Byzantine emperors, one in the name of Leo VI (886–912) from St Ives (Cornwall; CORN-9511B2), across the bay from where large numbers of early-medieval and later finds have been discovered;²³ the other, of Constantine VII (913–59) was found at Weare (Somerset; SOM-33B0A5; Fig 1m) and is the second *folle* from the local area.²⁴ The two finds complement the distribution pattern for Byzantine coin finds in Britain, and may reflect trade routes entering western regions seen through finds of contemporary Carolingian coins.²⁵

Thirty-six pennies dating from Edgar’s reforms to the Norman Conquest were recorded last year. A ‘short cross’ type of Cnut (1016–35) from Baston (Lincolnshire; LEIC-4B7888; Fig 1n) is the first coin of this period recorded by the PAS from mint at Derby, highlighting the variation in output from different mints. The moneyer, Svertingr, is one of just two moneyers listed for this type at Derby in comparison to 53 at London.²⁶ Finds of early-medieval coinage from Wales are rare and the discovery of a ‘bust facing’ type penny of Edward the Confessor (1042–66) from Llangathen (Carmarthenshire; NMGW-8C1521; Fig 1o) is important. Minted in Hereford, it was struck from the same dies as a coin from the ‘Abergavenny area’ Hoard, previously the only example of a ‘bust facing’ penny of this moneyer to have been found.²⁷

High and Later Medieval

Ninety-seven Norman and Plantagenet coins (1066–1180) were recorded last year, around half belonging to Henry II’s ‘cross-and-crosslets’ coinage. Noteworthy coins include a penny of William II (1087–1100) from Cockshutt (Shropshire; WREX-7B9322; Fig 2a). The PAS has recorded very few coins prior to Henry II’s (1158–89) reign from the northern Midlands or Wales, illustrating the low-levels of coin circulation, this being the first stray find of William II from this broad region.²⁸ A penny of Henry I’s (1100–35) ‘annulet and piles’ type found at Inkberrow (Worcestershire; WAW-6E3155; Fig 2b) adds new numismatic evidence regarding minting and moneyers in his reign. Struck at the Colchester mint by the moneyer Swegen/Siwegen it is only the second example of this type from the mint and the first for this moneyer.

Over 1,100 coins of the ‘short cross’ and ‘(voided) long cross’ types of Henry II–Edward I struck from 1180–1279 were recorded in 2020, representing the increasing money supply in the late 12th century.²⁹ Distribution of these coins very wide, although still thins towards the north and west. Clusters of finds emerge through long-term recording, however, some indicative of medieval market sites, both official and unofficial.³⁰ A site near Cockermouth (Cumbria) is a good example. Around 150 high and late medieval objects have been recorded from this location, mostly coin finds, alongside objects including buckles, jettons and weights. Coin loss starts in the 12th-century, following on from a small assemblage of non-numismatic late Saxon-Viking material, peaking from Henry III–Edward I (1216–1307); over 20 coins were recorded from the site last year. These included cut halfpenny of Henry III struck at Newcastle (LANCUM-0B2C63; Fig 2c), a mint opened only for the recoinage of 1248–50, from where the PAS has recorded just 24 coins.

Just under 2,000 coins were recorded from the remainder of the late medieval period, from Edward I's (1272–1307) recoinage of 1279 to Henry VII's reign (1485–1509). These large annual finds totals alongside similarities in design and the range of denominations can, however, mask variations over time. The bulk of last year's discoveries (1,424 coins) were struck in the period 1279–1377, with fewer from subsequent decades. The issues of Henry IV (1399–1413), in particular, are rare owing to a shortage of bullion and the recoinage of 1412 removing older coins from circulation.³¹ Nine coins of Henry IV were recorded, all pennies or halfpennies, including a penny from the York mint found at Caistor St Edmund (Norfolk; NMS-2B0DB7; Fig 2d) struck at the heavier pre-1412 weight standard although it has been clipped around the edge to (illegally) remove slivers of silver.

Alongside its issues in England, the English state also began striking coinage in Ireland in the late 12th century, continuing intermittently throughout the late medieval period. Pennies were struck to English weight standards leading to silver draining out of Ireland.³² Finds of Irish coinage are broadly distributed with clusters around the Solent, along the River Severn and in East Anglia. Over 50 were recorded last year, mostly of Henry III and Edward I. Issues of John (Lord of Ireland 1172–1216; King 1199–1216) are rarer, just two recorded last year, one from Selattyn and Gobowen (Shropshire; WREX-539DB2; Fig 2e) with the bust within a triangle, a design lasting until the reign of Edward III (1327–77). Eight coins of Henry III were reported, with a fine example found at Newchurch (Isle of Wight; IOW-E78737; Fig 2f). Twenty-two of the Irish coins recorded last year belonged to the reign of Edward I, including a penny from the mint at Waterford, found in the parish of Awre (Gloucestershire; GLO-653343) on the banks of the River Severn highlighting the Bristol Channel route into the Midlands. Only a single find from central southern England was found, a Dublin-minted penny of Edward I from Chinnor (Oxfordshire; OXON-657D14; Fig 2g).

One-hundred and eighty-nine foreign coins were recorded (including Scottish coins), encompassing the area from southern Europe to Scandinavia. Finds include a Venetian *soldino* of Doge Giovanni Gradenigo (1355–56) from Lydd (Kent; HAMP-CA5E9D; Fig 2h), the first PAS-recorded find of this doge and the earliest example of a *soldino* on the database.³³ German coins are relatively uncommon finds. Two coins from Cologne were recorded: a *pfennig* of Archbishop Adolph I von Altena (1193–1205) from Brockley (Suffolk; SF-F9E797; Fig 2i), and a civic issue of the city (a *groschen* struck c 1475) found at Ash (Kent; KENT-5E2B20; Fig 2j). Its inscription lists the names of the Three Magi, relics of whom have resided in Cologne Cathedral since the 12th century.³⁴ French coinage is found only in small amounts with gold denominations especially rare so the find of an *ecu d'or* of Charles VIII of France (1493–98) from Padworth (West Berkshire; SUR-952B4E; Fig 2k) is important, the first of its type recorded by the PAS and one of very few known from England.³⁵

(J Naylor)

FOCUS ON NON-NUMISMATIC FINDS IN 2020

In 2020, 7,405 medieval objects (excluding stray and hoard finds of coinage) were recorded by the PAS including a wide variety of different object types and materials. Some highlights and insights into our dataset are outlined below.

Early Medieval

A pair of gilded copper-alloy cast saucer brooches dating c 450–550 were found at Luddington (Warwickshire; WAW-2858D4; Fig 3a). Both appear to carry the same decoration of five-pointed stars around a central boss within a double circle, although one is now badly damaged and fragmented suggesting that they belong to a burial which has been disturbed through ploughing. Luddington borders the River Avon whose surrounding area forms a core area for saucer brooch use alongside the Upper Thames Valley; recent excavations in the adjacent parish of Shottley uncovered evidence for early Anglo-Saxon settlement.³⁶ This find may allude to the presence of a previously unknown cemetery of the same date.

A fine, cast and gilded copper-alloy great square-headed brooch was found at Thoresway (Lincolnshire; NLM-EA4E56; Fig 3b). Belonging to Hines's Group XVI of mid-6th-century date, it carries symmetrical geometric and zoomorphic decoration. It also carries evidence for repair in antiquity in the form of riveting, probably to restore or replace the terminal lobe.

A gilded copper-alloy harness mount from Yatton (North Somerset; GLO-2E6C4F; Fig 3c) is an unusual find from the south-west. Dating to the 6th century, the mount has a pelta-shaped base divided from the lozenge-shaped central body by a facemask. A second facemask forms the upper terminal. The mount was discovered in the vicinity of Cadbury hillfort, a high-status post-Roman settlement where other material from eastern England was discovered.³⁷

A cast copper-alloy die stamp used for making precious metal *Pressblech* foils was found at Whittington (Staffordshire; LIN-490483; Fig 3d). The upper surface is decorated with an asymmetric interlace pattern related to Style II of late 6th–7th-century date, its sub-rectangular shape paralleled by a number of other finds.³⁸ Over 20 die stamps have been recorded by the PAS, most within the area from Lincolnshire to the Solent. This is the first from West Midlands region.

Early-medieval objects are rare finds in Wales. Only five were recorded last year including a silver penannular brooch from Penllyn (Vale of Glamorgan; NMGW-193AB5; Fig 3e). Approximately 40% survives (one lozenge-shaped terminal decorated with a ring-and-dot motif and part of the hoop), broadly comparable with the form and decoration of the Newton Moor brooch, from the same parish, and Linney Burrows (Gower) brooch suggesting an 8th–9th-century date. With most examples in copper-alloy, this is an unusual silver find.³⁹ A small fragment of a copper-alloy penannular brooch, a terminal with geometric decoration and part of the hoop, was found in Llandow (Vale of Glamorgan; NMGW-12DD54), bordering Penllyn parish.

A number of objects of probable Irish origin were recorded last year. An 8th-century enamelled copper-alloy buckle with zoomorphic terminal and a central triskele was found at Snitterfield (Warwickshire; WMID-6E662D; Fig 3f). Missing part of its loop, it is nevertheless of comparable form to finds from Lough Gara (Co Sligo) and Lagore Crannog (Co Meath).⁴⁰ A champlévé enamel object found at Stourton Caundle (Dorset; DOR-E48B7B; Fig 3g) may be an early Viking-Age import, and probably dates to the 7th–9th century. It is a small circular plaque with a central cross design, the enamel inset with millefiori glass. It would originally have been attached to a larger object.⁴¹ A copper-alloy ringed pin with polyhedral head from near Barrow-in-Furness (Cumbria; LANCUM-76F6F3; Fig 3h) is also likely related to Viking activity. The pin is incomplete, but the surviving top of the shaft and head are neatly decorated with punched and incised decoration. This is the only example of its type recorded by the PAS,⁴² and the only example from north-west England although a number have been found elsewhere, including at Meols (Cheshire), further south on the Wirral coast.⁴³

Late Saxon nummular brooches, whose design is influenced by contemporary coinage, are occasional finds.⁴⁴ Three were recorded, a gilded copper-alloy example from Revesby (Lincolnshire; NCL-741A49; Fig 3i) copying Canterbury-minted coins of the 820s–840s, and another from Weare (Somerset; SOM-34D147; Fig 3j) influenced by coinage of the later 10th–11th centuries.

High and Later Medieval

An ornate strap-end in the form of a Romanesque lion was found at Stokenchurch (Buckinghamshire; SUR-F95EA0; Fig 4a). The lion is rearing up on its hind legs, with its head facing backwards to bite its own tail which loops between its legs and over its back. The mane is composed of curlicues running from its head along its back. The style suggests an 11th–12th-century date, a late date for such an object type.

A buckle of ‘standing animal’ type dating c 1100–1300 from Stroud (Hampshire; HAMP-06D1F9; Fig 4b) is a fine example of a diverse and widespread group, where the loop is in the form of an animal standing on the bar of the buckle. The beast has deeply grooved features, and a bird-like mouth biting its tail which loops up from between the legs. This may loop around to form a long tail from which fronds of hair hang, or they may be separate wings. Six other examples were recorded last year from across the eastern half of England.⁴⁵

A short fragment of a copper-alloy strip with transverse linear decoration and a large dome-shaped rivet found at Blyth (Nottinghamshire; SWYOR-7F994B; Fig 4c) is part of a shield boss mount dating c 1100–1250 known as an ‘octopus’ mount. Found across Europe from Ireland to France and Germany, and especially in England, their distribution and use has been linked to high status residences.⁴⁶

The corpus of 12th–13th-century Continental enamelled metalwork recorded by the PAS continues to grow with 17 examples recorded last year, mostly religious pieces belonging to the Limoges tradition. An enamelled champlevé plaque depicting St Luke found at Moorside (Oldham; LVPL-E7EBC6; Fig 4d), however, belongs to the Mosan style of the Meuse Valley. An exceptionally rare find from north-west England, it cannot be paralleled by other PAS finds. Another example, a plaque or disc decorated with an enamel image of a human, probably female, head was found at Cundall with Leckby (North Yorkshire; SWYOR-632F74; Fig 4e). The border of the plaque is inlaid with blue enamel looping over the figure’s head from shoulder to shoulder and may represent a halo. The overall design is unusual and no parallels have been noted.

More common religious items include ampullae, which held water from holy sites, their possible uses including the blessing of agricultural land or for medicinal purposes;⁴⁷ 84 were recorded last year. Most are made from lead in relatively simple designs, comparable in form to a water flask, its base often moulded like a scallop shell. Two ornate examples are noteworthy. The first, found at Wraxall and Failand (North Somerset; GLO-03558D; Fig 4f), depicts St Phillip and St James on either side of the ampulla’s body around which is a circular band, each side holding an inscription to the saint’s relics at Reading Abbey. The second, for the cult of Thomas Becket, was found at Sands End (Greater London; SUR-8124A7; Fig 4g) on the Thames Foreshore; riverine deposition/loss of ampulla is well-attested.⁴⁸ The ampulla is in the shape of a sword chape, probably in reference to Becket’s murder in 1172, decorated on one side with an image of the archbishop seated beneath a canopy, hand raised in benediction. The reverse side shows four roundels, possibly relating to the depiction of Becket’s miracles on his shrine, above which is an architectural feature although this is now unclear.

Over 200 seal matrices were reported last year, and greatly range in quality. A matrix found at Dursley (Gloucestershire; GLO-031814; Fig 4h) carries the figure of a bishop and the inscription DAVIT : DEI : GRA : SCI ANDREE ; EPISCOPVS (David, by the Grace of God, Bishop of St Andrews), probably David de Bernham, Bishop of St Andrews from 1239–53. However, the matrix is made from lead alloy and its decoration, although fine is relatively simple and it may represent an unofficial seal. Another seal matrix of note was found at Gayton (Norfolk; NMS-49F121; Fig 4i), and probably dates to the 13th or 14th century. This is made from silver and includes a re-used Roman intaglio in its centre with an image of Mars holding a spear and a Victory. Around this is an inscription, only surviving in part, reading DECLIN[], possibly part of the phrase ‘*declina a malo et fac bonum*’ (‘decline from evil and do good; Psalm 37). The use of engraved gems, whether re-used from antiquity or contemporary, has been equated with the need for personal counterseals to use alongside those for official business.⁴⁹

A large, circular silvered and gilded copper-alloy mount depicting the white boar of Richard III (1483–5) in enamel was found at Colyton (Devon; SOM-F219CB; Fig 4j). Such mounts were fashionable from the 14th century, and used to decorate belts worn over armour or on martingales, with Richard’s white boar used in his household from the 1470s.⁵⁰ The quality of materials and workmanship on this example highlights the likely status of its user. A small number of boar badges have been recorded by the PAS but this is the first mount of this type on the database.

RESEARCH REPORTS

Reaching York from the Irish Sea in the 10th century: a view from PAS data

The importance of the route linking York with the Irish Sea and in the later 9th and 10th centuries is long-recognised,⁵¹ appearing to follow the trans-Pennine Roman road passing through the Aire Gap (River Aire) and Ribble Valley (River Ribble).⁵² However, the assessment of this route is conditioned more by the distribution of Viking-Age hoards on either side, along the coast of north-west England and in the western reaches of the Vale of York.⁵³ One of the few finds from behind the coast is the Cuerdale Hoard, found in a bank of the River Ribble in 1840 just to the east of Preston (Lancashire) and comprising *c* 7,500 coins – including a high number of coins of the Viking kings of York – and *c* 1,000 other precious metal objects. This hoard is often seen as highlighting the York–Dublin route in the period.⁵⁴

The distribution of hoards and stray finds in the area (Figure 5) shows that the most intense deposition and loss is around Morecombe Bay. Discussion of stray finds tends to be restricted to precious metal objects and evidence for bullion-based economies.⁵⁵ David Griffiths has addressed the broader suite of finds more generally, highlighting some finds from inland.⁵⁶ These include now-lost Irish-style metalwork from Ribchester Roman fort, located in the Ribble Valley east of Preston, and a possible cairn burial from Billington. The only stray finds of note described from the area were a scabbard chape from the Chatburn area (near Clitheroe) and an inlaid weight from the Newton area on the Fylde peninsula (LANCUM-45FF34; Figure 6a).⁵⁷

This note explores the Ribble Valley–Vale of York route by examining finds reported to the PAS which may be related to Viking activity or settlement following pioneering work on the identification of Viking winter camps in Lincolnshire and East Yorkshire through their finds assemblages.⁵⁸ Diagnostic objects include precious metal ingots, arm-rings and neck-rings, imported coinage (Carolingian and Islamic), various types of lead weights, gaming pieces and weaponry.⁵⁹ Not all of these object types occur as stray finds in the study area – there are no

dirhams, neck-rings or arm-rings outside of hoards, for instance. I have also include 10th-century strap-ends of Thomas classes E and F,⁶⁰ both of which can be related to Viking activity. The aim here is to simply draw out broad trends in the distribution and composition of finds assemblages.

The area surrounding Morecombe Bay shows the largest numbers of hoards and stray finds (Figure 5), the latter including inlaid lead weights, a silver ingot, sword parts and strap-ends.⁶¹ The strap-ends include a Class E from near Ulveston (Cumbria; LANCUM-6B9143; Figure 6b), its decoration paralleled by another from the early 10th-century burial at Aspatria (Cumbria).⁶² A strap-end of Class F was found at Burton-in-Kendal (Cumbria; LANCUM-2AD712; Figure 6c) just to the east of the Bay, as was a Carolingian *denier* of an immobilised type struck c 864–925 from Tunstall (Lancashire; SWYOR-80F0F2; Figure 6d). This type is known from the Cuerdale and Silverdale hoards, and is probably linked to trade networks in the Irish Sea coming north from western France.⁶³ Tunstall is located on the Roman road running north-south, and at the head of the valley route between higher ground leading south-east towards Skipton (North Yorkshire).

The other concentration of PAS-reported finds is focused on the Ribble Valley. The Roman road ran on the river's north side to the east of Preston, before its crossing at Ribchester, findspot of the lost Irish-style metalwork, before heading eastwards north of Clitheroe towards Skipton and the Aire Gap.⁶⁴ A number of finds are of interest, some only recently recorded by the PAS. East of Preston on the Fylde peninsula, two Class E strap-ends were found: one is a fragmented Class E3, a ribbed type linked to Viking activity, found at Wesham (Lancashire; LANCUM-2DA5B8),⁶⁵ another from near the coast at Lytham (Lancashire; LANCUM-2409F1; Fig 6e), is paralleled by other Danelaw finds.⁶⁶ A possible Petersen Type L sword pommel was also found on Fylde (LANCUM-FF48A2).

Around Clitheroe there is a cluster of Viking-related finds including the 'near Chatburn' scabbard chape. Other finds include three copper-alloy ingots.⁶⁷ These all have the triangular/ D-shaped profile typical of Viking-Age silver ingots and are paralleled by examples from Torksey (Lincolnshire) where they are considered evidence for a previously unrecognised copper bullion economy (Fig 6f).⁶⁸ Found close by are a late 10th-century sword pommel of Petersen type X,⁶⁹ and a large copper-alloy/iron 'oblate spheroid' weight weighing 285 g.⁷⁰ It is of the same form as smaller examples from elsewhere in Britain and Scandinavia but is markedly heavier; its attribution to the 10th century must remain inconclusive.⁷¹ An large inlaid weight from Gisburn (Lancashire; LANCUM-107126; Fig 6g), c 5 km east of Clitheroe, is of a typical Viking type with a fragment of decorative metalwork placed atop a lead block. A roughly conical-shaped lead weight from Broughton (Lancashire; LANCUM-373D50) is of a similar form to those from Viking winter camps in eastern England.⁷² To the north-east of Clitheroe the Roman road curves eastwards towards the Aire Gap, but further north along the Ribble Valley, an important new find comes from Hellifield (North Yorkshire; SWYOR-073665). Here, a small mixed hoard consisting of whole objects, hack-silver and a coin was discovered, the first such group known from this far inland west of the Pennines, and paralleling many of the hoard groups found around the Irish Sea.⁷³

A number of other early-medieval finds are known from the north and west of Skipton, mainly iron tools and lead spindle whorls, which may relate to typical upland settlement in the area.⁷⁴

This short study has highlighted recent finds reported to the PAS, and these provide exciting new evidence for Viking activity along the likely east-west route from the Irish Sea to York along the Ribble Valley and Aire Gap. Although numbers of finds remains low, they

provide firm evidence that this was indeed the main east-west artery across the Pennines in the 10th century. In addition, the numbers of stray finds around Morecombe Bay complements the large numbers of hoards, and highlights its importance in the 10th century. (*J Naylor*)⁷⁵

New finds of Romanesque bronze bowls and their re-use

This note presents three new examples of 11th- to 13th-century ‘Romanesque bronze’ bowls from England, in the light of recent continental scholarship. Formerly known as ‘Hanseatic bowls’ — now shown to be an anachronism and unrepresentative of the extent of their distribution from multiple production centres in the Rhine-Meuse area⁷⁶ — this distinctive set of copper-alloy bowls has long attracted antiquarian, art-historical and archaeological interest. Generally c 235–340 mm in diameter, most feature engraved depictions of Biblical and mythological themes, animals, knights, and representations of virtues and vices. In recent years, functional evaluation has moved away from universal theories (of spurious precision), such as use in nunneries for penitential handwashing,⁷⁷ to a more heterogeneous and spatially contingent model that encompasses handwashing in the secular realm and pedagogical functions; many have been found in watery contexts, including the first example documented here.⁷⁸ On the Continent, *fragments* of such bowls have been analysed, including their occasional recycling as object components such as rivets, or handle plates and sheath chapes for knives.⁷⁹

Since John Cherry’s 1984 survey of 15 Romanesque bowls from England,⁸⁰ building on Josepha Weitzmann-Fiedler’s then overall corpus of nearly 200,⁸¹ there has been no new publication of English finds,⁸² making the objects below important additions. One is a chance discovery of a complete bowl, the others reassessments of fragments of bowls, each at different stages of object biography.

In 2019, the first complete bowl found in England in almost 40 years was discovered through metal-detecting on grassland near the River Gipping in Creting St. Mary parish (Suffolk; SF-CE6698; Fig 7). The bowl measures only 200 mm in diameter and is engraved with a foliate design of three leaves, thus falling into Poklewski’s type V.⁸³ Though the type is ‘relatively rare’ within a current corpus of over 600 objects,⁸⁴ examples are known from London.⁸⁵ Two repairs made in antiquity, to opposing sides of the rim, testify to the importance of preserving these objects in their original form — a trait well documented across the corpus.⁸⁶ Although the findspot was found within a wider landscape featuring three holdings of alien priories, none are in the immediate vicinity, nor, significantly, were any of them nunneries.

The second object, from Benniworth (Lincolnshire; LEIC-EE2211; Fig 8),⁸⁷ represents a later stage in some of these bowls’ life course, whereby various fragmented examples were possibly repurposed. This fragment is, partly, amorphous, but otherwise cut to respect aspects of the design. The extant design shows the upper part of a female figure facing left; she holds a clasped book in her outstretched right hand and raises two of her left fingers above it (to indicate speech). She appears to be crowned, and wears a cloak fastened by a brooch at the neck.

Originally recorded as a possible plaque, this object can now be positively identified as a fragment from a Romanesque bowl. Detailing, including the cloak’s double transverse line decoration, transverse ornamentation at the cuff, and the central brooch, is paralleled on a so-called ‘Scylla’ bowl in the British Museum’s collection, found near Tewkesbury (Gloucestershire).⁸⁸ Further, a partial inscription — the letters ‘IN’ — left of the head, suggests a personification of Invidia (envy), from the group of bowls depicting vices (*Tugendschalen*; Poklewski type II).⁸⁹ Such personifications are occasionally represented holding books, as on an example at the Kunstgewerbemuseum in Berlin.⁹⁰ Müller associated the *Tugendschalen* with the

12th-century blossoming of scholasticism and with works discussing the battle of good and evil, such as the *Pyschomachia*.⁹¹ Variation in the trimming of the piece plus a small piercing, possibly for attachment, suggests curation after initial damage, but to what end remains uncertain.

The final object represents a further stage in repurposing — a fragment fully recycled into another object type. Again, I have reclassified a recorded object, this time a ‘strap end’ found unstratified during excavations at Botolph Bridge, Orton Longueville (Peterborough; Fig 9).⁹² While acknowledged as a recycled object in the site report — given curvilinear decoration on the *internal* faces — the artefact was compared to a morphologically similar strap-end dated to the 15th century.⁹³ However, the form is also consistent with knife sheath chapes classifiable as Krabath’s *Variante 4/Feveile’s Grundform C2*, typified by the repoussé dots that decorate this object’s outer surfaces. It represents the only find of such a chape documented from England;⁹⁴ the form is otherwise well attested from Denmark and northern Germany.⁹⁵ The nature of the bowl’s extant decoration does not allow for classification of the original design. However, a chape of a different form, converted from a *Tugendschale*, was found at Berlin-Spandau (Germany).⁹⁶ The Orton Longueville chape’s form and comparable reuse both suggest importation from northern Europe, after recycling, eventually to Botolph Bridge probably in the 12th century.

This presentation of three new finds of Romanesque engraved bowls adds significantly to the insular corpus and suggests that the future of their scholarship in England may lie, in the main, in the close analysis of heretofore undefined fragments of copper alloy. It is clear that these bowls were important enough to repair, and even curate after fragmentation. Their recycling in continental Europe — whereby the outward identifiers of such bowls were hidden — evidences more practical imperatives regarding the need to reuse copper-alloy scrap in the 12th and 13th centuries. Future studies may elucidate the chronological nuances of such recycling and any discrepancies between the experience in England and elsewhere. (*R Webley*)⁹⁷

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- ¹ Heberden Coin Room, Ashmolean Museum, Beaumont Street, Oxford, OX1 2PH. john.naylor@ashmus.ox.ac.uk.
- ² Full details of all finds recorded by PAS can be found at: <https://finds.org.uk/database>.
- ³ Date accessed: 18 May 2021.
- ⁴ Finds reported via the Treasure Act 1996 are now included on the Portable Antiquities Scheme Database (PASD). PAS and Treasure Annual Reports are free to download (<http://finds.org.uk/publications>).
- ⁵ As of 31 December 2020. Figures include finds reported under the Treasure Act 1996. Date accessed: 18 May 2021.
- ⁶ See Allen et al forthcoming 2021 for further details. Coin finds include all medieval rulers up to and including Henry VII (1485–1509).
- ⁷ See Naylor 2020, 354 for last year's figures. We are also indebted to the many finders who have provided images of their discoveries for remote recording and for their permission to use these in database records.
- ⁸ Thanks to all PAS FLOs, volunteers and specialists (both within and outside of the PAS) for their work in identifying and recording the thousands of medieval objects brought to the PAS every year, as well as providing broader context for many of our finds. This round-up would not have been possible without their expertise and input into the individual records that are discussed. These records form the basis for the discussion of the items included. Additional thanks to Ian Richardson for his help and advice regarding last year's Treasure cases, and to Michael Lewis and Kevin Leahy for their discussion and comments on some of the objects included. Any errors remain the responsibility of individual authors.
- ⁹ Eg Patching (Sussex): Abdy 2006.
- ¹⁰ Bland and Loriot (2010, table 33 cat 85 and 265) list only a Germanic copy found at Piercebridge (Co Durham) and a mounted silver *siliqua* from Chatham (Kent).
- ¹¹ It is only the second recorded from south-west England by the PAS; see HAMP-38D124 from Buttermere (Wiltshire)
- ¹² Gold *tremissis* found along the River Trent include NLM-BE8DC8 and EMC 2020.0394, 2005.0189, 2008.0316. See <https://emc.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk/> [access date 29 June 2021].
- ¹³ See previous PAS reports: Naylor 2019, 404–6; Naylor 2020, 355.
- ¹⁴ Naismith 2017, 56–7.
- ¹⁵ The two other finds from Cheshire: LVPL-FBB5A1 and LVPL-6F706D.
- ¹⁶ Meols: Bean 2007, 343; Manchester: Richardson 1984.
- ¹⁷ Gannon 2013, 136.
- ¹⁸ Naismith 2017, table 9.
- ¹⁹ Eg Scull and Naylor 2016, 225–6; Hall 2012, 82. Pierced coins dating pre-AD1180 come under the auspices of the Treasure Act 1996. This coin has been reported as 'potential Treasure' and at the time of writing is an ongoing case.
- ²⁰ See KENT-94F984.
- ²¹ Blackburn 2006, 221; Higham and Ryan 2013: 304–5.
- ²² Naismith 2017: 295–8.
- ²³ Eg see Naylor 2020, 361.
- ²⁴ See GLO-D4B576, found at Wedmore.
- ²⁵ Naylor 2010; Naylor forthcoming.
- ²⁶ Jonsson and van der Meer 1990, 66–7, 84–9.
- ²⁷ Besly 2016, 145.
- ²⁸ A small number of hoards are known. See Allen 2015, 147, fig 2.
- ²⁹ Eg Allen 2001, 606.
- ³⁰ See Oksanen and Lewis 2020 for discussion of medieval markets and PAS data.
- ³¹ Allen 2012, 271.
- ³² Dykes 2013, 124.
- ³³ Eg Daubney 2009, table 1.
- ³⁴ Hardering 2020.
- ³⁵ This coin may be part of a dispersed hoard and has been reported as 'potential Treasure'. Kelleher 2007, 221 (coin no 6) the only certain stray find.
- ³⁶ Dickinson 2010, 183; Oxford Archaeology 2016.
- ³⁷ Rahtz et al 1992, 237–42.
- ³⁸ See IOW-E6AEA9, NLM-7DC6F6, LIN-4F6CE7.

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- ³⁹ Newton Moor: National Museum Wales acc no 93.78H <
<https://museum.wales/collections/online/object/6ec8acc4-5b3d-35c0-a3bb-9af41d43a3db/Early-Medieval-copper-alloy-penannular-brooch/>> [accessed 9 July 2021]; Linney Burrows: Redknapp 2007 no 25.
- ⁴⁰ Youngs 1989, nos 46 and 59.
- ⁴¹ Eg see drinking horn terminal in the Ashmolean Museum (acc no AN1927.123) <
<https://collections.ashmolean.org/object/317906>> [accessed 9 July 2021]
- ⁴² Twenty early medieval records on the PAS database are described as ‘ringed pins’.
- ⁴³ Griffiths 2007, 67–9.
- ⁴⁴ Weetch 2014, 69–71; type 2.Ai.
- ⁴⁵ WMID-E74798, SWYOR-AB8A36, BH-1FF373, YORYM-06A08C, BH-545D6D.
- ⁴⁶ Webley 2017, 6, 8–11, fig 3.
- ⁴⁷ Leahy and Lewis 2018, 116; Anderson 2010.
- ⁴⁸ *Ibid*, 199.
- ⁴⁹ Harvey and McGuinness 1996, 58–9, 70.
- ⁵⁰ Egan and Pritchard 1991, 183–4.
- ⁵¹ Eg Williams 2009; Kershaw 2015.
- ⁵² *Ibid*, 151, fig 10.2.
- ⁵³ Williams 2009, fig 8.6.
- ⁵⁴ Graham Campbell 2011.
- ⁵⁵ Kershaw 2015.
- ⁵⁶ Griffiths 2009.
- ⁵⁷ *Ibid*, 15–6.
- ⁵⁸ Hadley and Richards 2016; 2018.
- ⁵⁹ *Ibid*, 2 – 3, fig 3.
- ⁶⁰ Thomas 2004. Class E3 is common in the Danelaw and Scandinavia and Class F considered Hiberno-Norse.
- ⁶¹ Inlaid weights: LANCUM-C07CE5, LVPL1049, LANCUM-4EDD1E; silver ingot: LANCUM-E88AE2; sword parts (Petersen Type L): LANCUM-8FC0B6; LANCUM-F7D49D; strap-ends: LANCUM-6B9143 (Class E); LANCUM-2AD712 (Class F).
- ⁶² Griffiths 2009, 14–5, fig 2.1.
- ⁶³ Blackburn 2007, 125.
- ⁶⁴ See < <http://www.romanroads.org/gazetteer/lancspages.html>> [accessed 18 June 2021].
- ⁶⁵ Thomas 2004, 2, no 28.
- ⁶⁶ Other finds: NCL-C53CC3, DENO-083C15, LEIC-982247 (all Leicestershire).
- ⁶⁷ Copper-alloy ingots: LANCUM-92F87A (Waddington), LANCUM-9CB512 (Clitheroe) and LANCUM-53BBB4 (West Bradford).
- ⁶⁸ Hadley and Richards 2016, 47–8, fig 19.
- ⁶⁹ LANCUM-682DB1.
- ⁷⁰ LANCUM-1D7604.
- ⁷¹ Eg SWYOR-E16C55, BH-C5E266. See Pedersen 2007 for weights of oblate spheroid form from Kaupang (Norway), the heaviest weighing 91.42 g (find no C52517/1746).
- ⁷² Hadley and Richards 2018, fig 3.
- ⁷³ Reported as potential Treasure under Treasure Act 1996 (case 2019 T38). Research on the hoard is ongoing.
- ⁷⁴ Excavated settlements in these upland areas include Gauber High Pasture, Ribblehead (King 1978).
- ⁷⁵ With thanks to Kevin Leahy and Alex Whitlock for comments on a draft text, and to Amy Downes and Ian Richardson for discussing the Hellifield Hoard, enabling me to mention it here. Any errors or omissions remain my own.
- ⁷⁶ See eg Steuer 1992, 408, abb 2 for a distribution map.
- ⁷⁷ Weitzmann-Fiedler 1981.
- ⁷⁸ Cohen and Safran 2006.
- ⁷⁹ Janowski 2019, and references therein.
- ⁸⁰ Cherry 1984.
- ⁸¹ Weitzmann-Fiedler 1981.
- ⁸² Eg nothing relevant was noted deriving from the extensive London excavations of the 1970 and 1980s – Egan 2010, 158.
- ⁸³ Poklewski 1961, 25, 35–38.

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- ⁸⁴ Janowski 2019, 89.
- ⁸⁵ Eg Ward Perkins 1940, 202-203, fig 65.
- ⁸⁶ Janowski 2019, 88 and n 16.
- ⁸⁷ To be published in Read forthcoming, no 25.
- ⁸⁸ Museum no. 1925,1008.1, accessed online at https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/object/H_1925-1008-1 [accessed February 2021]; Weitzmann-Fiedler 1981, cat 2.
- ⁸⁹ This specific legend break has not been traced.
- ⁹⁰ Inv. no. 1914,71, accessed online at <http://www.smb-digital.de/eMuseumPlus?service=ExternalInterface&module=collection&objectId=1963635&viewType=detailView> [accessed February 2021].
- ⁹¹ Müller 1998, 40.
- ⁹² Duncan 2015, 85, fig 50, no SF 68.
- ⁹³ Ibid, 84.
- ⁹⁴ Webley forthcoming.
- ⁹⁵ Krabath 2001, 79, karte 16; Feveile 2017, 64, fig 9.
- ⁹⁶ Reproduced in Janowski 2019, 91, fig 3, no 4.
- ⁹⁷ Department of Archaeology, University of York, King's Manor, York YO1 7EP, UK; rbw102@york.ac.uk. I am grateful to Andrzej Janowski and John Cherry for discussing the Benniworth fragment, and to Rod Trevaskus for his help producing Fig 2. I am also grateful to Oxford Archaeology Ltd for allowing reproduction of the object in Fig 3, and to Laura Burnett for her helpful comments on the whole note. Any errors remain my own responsibility.