

**The Portable
Antiquities Scheme
Annual Report 2018**





Foreword



Hartwig Fischer
Director of the
British Museum

2018 represented another remarkable year for the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS), with a further 69,687 archaeological finds being recorded onto its database (finds.org.uk), which now totals almost 1.5 million items. These objects greatly vary in their period of manufacture, composition and state of preservation but collectively they help archaeologists and other researchers better understand Britain's past.

All of the finds this year were discovered by members of the public (mostly through metal-detecting) and all were volunteered to be recorded - with the exception of Treasure finds for which there is a legal obligation to report them. It is this contribution from the public to archaeological knowledge that makes the PAS so unique in British archaeology; the community involvement also explains why similar schemes are being created elsewhere in Europe. I must express gratitude to the many finders who have offered items for recording this year and who have helped make this important data set of the past possible.

Central to the Scheme are its 40 Finds Liaison Officers (FLOs) who work with the public to identify and record their discoveries. The Scheme also includes a number of other participants who are key to documenting the finds, including volunteers, paid interns, as well as finders themselves who after expert training record their own discoveries directly onto the PAS database. All of these groups provide vital work to the PAS and I thank them for their dedication.

Our local partnerships, led by the British Museum and *Amgueddfa Cymru* - National Museums Wales, are crucial to the Scheme's success through their support of the FLOs and other staff, providing them with a base and local management whilst also making considerable financial and in-kind contributions to the Scheme. From a British Museum perspective, these relationships not only enable us to reach out to people across the country but also to share our expertise and support in delivering the PAS and creating an enthusiasm for the past and what we can learn from it.

The British Museum and the PAS have kindly been supported by The Headley Trust and the National Lottery Heritage Fund's PAST Explorers programme, funding the intern and volunteer programmes respectively. The Scheme also owes a great thanks to Graham and Joanna Barker, who have supported the work of the PAS locally, and *Treasure Hunting* magazine who have funded the production of this report. Although much of the funding for the PAS is through the UK Government's grant-in-aid to the British Museum, private support of our partners is key to the future success and development of the Scheme. PAS is truly a partnership project and one that is essential to the protection and understanding of Britain's past and its place in the wider world.

Operation Nightingale
volunteers excavating an
Anglo-Saxon cemetery
in the Cotswolds,
Gloucestershire
(see page 11).

Key points



Lab excavation of the Bourne Valley Hoard (BM-C33636) at the British Museum.

The PAS in 2018

- 69,687 finds were recorded; at the time of publication the PAS database (finds.org.uk/database) holds 1,441,391 objects and coins within 924,817 records.
- 4,028 individuals offered finds for recording, and over 92% of finds were found by metal-detectorists.
- At least 82% of finds were found on cultivated land, where they are susceptible to plough damage and artificial and natural corrosion processes.¹
- Over 99% of PAS finds were recorded to the nearest 100m (a 6-figure NGR), the minimum requirement for findspot information for Historic Environment Records.
- New sites discovered through finds recorded by the PAS include a previously unknown later Neolithic domestic/processing site in Herefordshire, and Bronze Age sites of ritual deposition in Somerset and North Lincolnshire.
- Currently 755 researchers have full access to PAS data, and there are 47,268 registered account users in total.
- 724 research projects have used PAS data to date, including 50 major pieces of large-scale research and 147 PhDs.
- 339,919 unique visitors visited the PAS websites and database, making 715,575 visits and 5,681,437 page requests.
- Publications associated with the work of the PAS include reports in *Britannia*, the *British Numismatic Journal*, *Medieval Archaeology* and *Post-Medieval Archaeology*.
- At least 598 outreach events took place, including talks and finds days. Through these, PAS staff had direct contact with at least 19,094 adults and 2,809 children.
- Finds Liaison Officers had regular contact with 136 different metal-detecting clubs, and engaged with many finders via email and social media.

The Treasure Act 1996 in 2018

- 1,097 Treasure cases were reported. It is hoped that many of these will be acquired by museums for public benefit.
- Interesting new Treasure finds include: a gold Bronze Age 'bullae' from Shropshire (HESH-43148A), a hoard of 1851 Roman coins from the Bourne Valley, Wiltshire (BM-C33636), and a silver medieval pendant from Tilney All Saints, Norfolk (DUR-04365D).
- 145 parties waived their right to a reward in 89 Treasure cases reported in 2017; this figure is likely to increase as cases are completed.² Examples include a Roman coin hoard from Kent (KENT-E5B4BB), an Anglo-Saxon strap-end from Surrey (SUR-219F9A), and a medieval brooch from Essex (ESS-1DBFC4).

¹ Land use was not recorded in more than 10% of all records, although most of these finds are likely to be from cultivated land.

² This is the latest year for which figures are compiled.

Introduction



ESS-1DBFC4

Medieval gold brooch from Wix, Essex; the landowner waived his right to a reward so it could be acquired by Colchester & Ipswich Museums Service.

Portable antiquities

The Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) records archaeological finds found by the public to advance knowledge, tell the stories of past communities and further public interest in the past. It is a partnership project, managed by the British Museum and *Amgueddfa Cymru* – National Museum Wales, working with at least 96 partners across England and Wales.

The PAS consists of 40 locally based Finds Liaison Officers (FLOs), covering England and Wales, whose job it is to record archaeological finds made by the public. In England, this work is coordinated by a Central Unit of two and five period specialists (National Finds Advisers). Additionally, three posts are employed as part of PAST Explorers: finds recording in the local community. In 2017, 303 volunteers (including 102 detectorists who record their own finds directly onto the PAS database) and 13 Headley Trust interns contributed to this work.

The PAS (in England) is funded through the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport's (DCMS) grant in aid to the British Museum, with local partner contributions. Its work is guided by the Portable Antiquities Advisory Group (PAAG), whose membership includes archaeological, landowner and metal-detecting organisations.³

The PAS has five strategic goals:

- Advance archaeological knowledge to tell the stories of past peoples and the places where they lived.
- Share archaeological knowledge, so that people might learn more about the past and the archaeology and history of their local area.
- Promote best archaeological practice by finders, so that the past is preserved for future generations to learn about and enjoy.
- Support museum acquisitions of archaeological finds, so that these discoveries can be saved for future generations and enjoyed by local people.
- Provide the PAS with long-term sustainability, so that archaeological finds found by the public can continue to rewrite history.

Treasure Act 1996

Under the Treasure Act 1996 (finds.org.uk/treasure) finders have a legal obligation to report finds of potential Treasure to the local Coroner in the district in which they were found, though in practice most finders report Treasure finds via their local FLO. The success of the Act is only possible through the work of the PAS – its staff advise finders of their legal obligations, provide advice on the process and write Treasure reports for Coroners.

The Act allows a national or local museum to acquire Treasure for public benefit. If this happens a reward is paid, which is normally shared equally between the finder and landowner. Parties may waive their right to a reward, enabling museums to acquire finds at reduced or no cost. Rewards are fixed at the full market value, determined by the Secretary of State upon the advice of an independent panel of experts, the Treasure Valuation Committee (TVC). The administration of the Treasure process takes place at the British Museum and involves the preparation of Treasure cases for Coroners' inquests, providing the secretariat for the TVC, and handling disclaimed cases and the payment of rewards.

³ The membership of PAAG is the Arts Council England, Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers, British Museum, Council for British Archaeology, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, Country Land and Business Association, Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport, Federation of Independent Detectorists, Historic England, Institute of Archaeology (University College London), National Council of Metal Detecting, National Farmers Union, *Amgueddfa Cymru* – National Museum Wales, Royal Commission on the Ancient & Historical Monuments of Wales, and the Society for Museum Archaeology.

PAS is a British Museum and Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales partnership, working with at least 96 partners across England and Wales.

Impact – outreach and research

The PAS reaches out to all those who might find archaeology, and highlights the value of responsible metal detecting.



Anni Byard (formerly Oxfordshire FLO) and Paul Booth (expert on Roman archaeology) recording finds from the Berkshire Downs.

Advancing archaeological knowledge

Archaeological small finds (portable antiquities) were once regarded as an area of niche expertise, but the PAS has revolutionised how archaeologists think about them, especially those found ‘by chance’ – out of an immediate archaeological context. Nowadays, it is unthinkable that archaeologists do not consider this data, whether they are interested in the development of material culture, how objects were made and used long ago, or better understand historic landscapes. As the examples below demonstrate, PAS is at the heart of cutting-edge archaeological research and the investigation of the past.

Interpreting the ancient landscape of the Berkshire Downs

Long-term metal-detecting on an area of land on the Berkshire Downs in Oxfordshire has yielded numerous coins and other objects dating from the late Iron Age to the early post-Roman period, c.100 BC–c. AD 450. A project to record these onto the PAS database – and to better understand the landscape through geophysics and other research – is being led by Dr John Naylor (PAS National Finds Adviser based at the Ashmolean Museum) and Anni Byard (formerly Oxfordshire FLO), funded by a private donor. Analysis of the finds and other evidence suggests the site may have been a shrine, possibly as part of a rural settlement.

Research at the royal site of Rendlesham, Suffolk

Analysis and publication of the internationally important Anglo-Saxon royal site at Rendlesham - through which many of the finds discovered through metal-detecting are recorded on the PAS database - is being undertaken through the Leverhulme funded interdisciplinary research project, *Lordship and Landscape in East Anglia AD 400–800*. Led by Professor Christopher Scull (University College London and University of Cardiff), and assisted by researchers from University of Cambridge, Suffolk County Council, and the University of East Anglia, the project aims to establish a new understanding of the early East Anglian kingdom. In particular, it will tell the story of the royal settlement at Rendlesham, and examine its relationship with other key Anglo-Saxon sites, such as Ipswich and Sutton Hoo.

Investigating Middle Saxon bells

Drs Hugh Willmott (University of Sheffield) and Adam Daubney (formerly Lincolnshire FLO) have recently undertaken a reappraisal of Middle Saxon copper-brazed bells. Handbells are a relatively overlooked class of early medieval material culture in England, largely due to their relative scarcity in the archaeological record. However, significant assemblages of iron bells decorated with copper brazing have started to be recognised among metal-detected assemblages, in particular that from the Middle Saxon settlement at Little Carlton, Lincolnshire. Taking into consideration the inclusion of brazed bells in some ritualistic ‘closure hoards’, Hugh and Adam argue that whilst Anglo-Saxon plain iron bells may have fulfilled a range of profane functions, those that were copper-brazed, regardless of their size, were important objects amongst early Christian communities in England, and the Northumbrian Church in particular.



Metal-detecting survey at Rendlesham (copyright Suffolk County Council).

Research strategy for the Yorkshire Wolds

The York Archaeological Trust (YAT) have been commissioned by Historic England (HE) to create a 'Historic Environment Research Strategy for the Yorkshire Wolds' in order to address heritage-at-risk issues and to leave a lasting legacy for the communities who live, work, pass through and have an interest in the Yorkshire Wolds and its stories. The project, entitled 'Food for Thought', takes a non-traditional thematic approach based around farming, food production, food provision and the rich (nationally important) agricultural economy that defined the economies of the past and continues to define the contemporary economy. The YAT and HE are working with partners from the heritage and academic sectors – including the PAS in Yorkshire – and conducting a programme of community engagement to learn where to focus activity and resources, in order to develop the archaeological heritage of this unique landscape. To this end, data recorded by the PAS is being incorporated into the project to help inform and refine its focus.

Understanding the Great Viking Army

Long-term collaboration with metal-detectorists has enabled Professors Dawn Hadley and Julian Richards (University of York) to map the extent of the documented camp of the Viking Great Army near Torksey, over the winter of AD 872–3. The artefact assemblage, of over 1,500 early medieval finds, is spread over a huge area, equivalent to some 75 football pitches, and confirms that the army must have numbered in the 1000s. It has also allowed them to define a specific Great Army artefact signature, which includes hack silver, weights, lead gaming pieces, and 'things out of place' – such as Northumbrian coins known as *stycas* outside their normal area of circulation. Using the PAS to search for this distinctive signature, Hadley and Richards have now identified over 30 new locations, mainly along major river and land transport routes, where offshoots of the Great Army made temporary camps. Their work has been published in *Medieval Settlement Research* 33 (2018).

'PAS data is proving immensely important in our research to document the Viking impact on England, with detector finds helping to identify previously unknown sites which were visited by members of the Great Army'

Julian Richards, University of York



Places visited by the Viking Great Army in eastern England, with the Roman roads Ermine Street and Fosse Way, and the Rivers Ouse and Trent (Julian Richards, contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright).



FAKL-CED235
Early medieval lead gaming piece from Kilham, East Yorkshire.



HAMP-0E6C4B
Seal Matrix from Hampshire. Finds such as this were highlighted at the New Forest Community Heritage Fair.

Sharing archaeological knowledge

An essential aim of the PAS is to make the finds data, recorded by its FLOs, interns and volunteers, widely available; this will aim to ensure as many people as possible can learn about the finds recorded and past landscapes, and also be enthused about archaeology. The partnership nature of the PAS, and the fact that its FLOs have bases in museums and other heritage organisations, is crucially important in this respect. It is common for FLOs to organise finds days, deliver talks and other outreach activities. The FLOs are supported in these activities by interns and a volunteer network through The National Lottery Heritage Fund funded project, PAST Explorers: finds recording in the local community.

New Forest Community Heritage Fair

In November 2018, Katie Hinds (Hampshire FLO) participated in the New Forest Community Heritage Fair, along with 21 other community heritage and archaeology groups from the area. Focusing on the reading of medieval seal matrices and the range of different Roman coins the PAS identifies and records, she engaged with the Fair's theme of knowledge-sharing, discussion of current research and plans for collaborative work, whilst additionally welcoming interested members of the public – notably a group of undergraduate students wanting to find out what local opportunities were available. The event received several hundred visitors throughout the day.

Outreach across two counties

The PAS in Somerset and Devon – which has its FLOs employed by the South West Heritage Trust – organised a variety of different outreach activities in 2018 and 2019, aimed at a broad range of audiences. Lucy Shipley (Devon FLO), in conjunction with the Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter, ran a 'Found in the Ground' session where 8–12-year-olds learnt all about how to record an object, while also improving their literacy and numeracy skills and, most importantly, having fun at the same time! A course at Exeter University, run over the course of six weeks and led by Laura Burnett (Somerset FLO) with support from Lucy, taught a more senior mixed group of volunteers and students key techniques, in both recording and finds identification. Graduates of the course are continuing to volunteer across both counties and hopefully further afield, putting the course to good use and developing good PAS records.

'At the 'Found in the Ground' session at the Museum, the children were really engaged and totally buying into the idea of what they should do if they make a find. It was great to see young people enjoying weighing, measuring, thinking about age and manufacture whilst having a good time'

Neil Heasman, Events Co-ordinator, Royal Albert Memorial Museum

PAS fun for children

As part of the National Lottery Heritage Fund funded project PAST Explorers: finds recording in the local community, work has continued on the wider outreach objectives of the project, in particular reaching out to a wider group than traditionally engages with the PAS. In December 2018, Lauren Speed (Outreach Officer, PAST Explorers), assisted by Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevarthen (Dorset FLO) and several local PAS volunteers, held an activity day hosted by the Dorset County Museum in their pop-up exhibition in Brewery Square, Dorchester. The Christmas-themed activity gave children (and accompanying adults) the opportunity to create tree decorations based on the ornate design of Anglo-Saxon disc brooches. Those attending took great care in designing, colouring and adorning their pieces with bright and intricate results; fun was had by all.

Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevarthen (Dorset FLO) overseeing the production of PAS-inspired Christmas decorations.





Archaeological excavation at Brailes, Warwickshire.

Promoting best archaeological practice

It is essential that detectorists follow the *Code of Practice for Responsible Metal Detecting in England and Wales* (2017) if they wish to ensure their efforts benefit archaeology. Metal-detecting remains controversial (at home and abroad) mostly because it is seen as doing more damage than good. That is why it is particularly important that detectorists who have a genuine interest in the past and want to help transform our archaeological understanding of Britain's past, also follow best practice – which includes recording their finds.

Recording as a platform for research

Metal-detectorist, and resident of Brailes, Andrew Gardner has offered all his finds for recording with the PAS since 1999, and with meticulous attention to detail. Everything retrieved, whether a piece of metalwork or pottery fragment, has at least a 10-figure National Grid Reference (NGR), plotted using a GPS device. In 2008 the PAS nominated Andrew for a British Archaeology Award where he received a commendation. Since then the PAS in Warwickshire secured grants to have one of his sites field-walked, surveyed and excavated with volunteer support from the PAS and Warwickshire County Council. It came to be known as the Brailes Project. Keen to share this research with local residents, Angie Bolton (Warwickshire & Worcestershire FLO), in collaboration with the Brailes Women's Institute, delivered an evening lecture and finds handling session. The event attracted over 100 people, many of whom wish to be involved with future aspects of the project.

'The PAS has given a purpose to my metal-detecting, and something to work for that I would not have had otherwise. Seeing the work that has been done with the findspot information – particularly the pottery sherd distribution plots – has made my work logging them with the GPS so worthwhile. It's a very good feeling to know that this information will be available for study, both now and in the future.'

Andrew Gardner, metal-detectorist

The landscape around Brailes, Warwickshire.



Operation Nightingale volunteers excavating the Anglo-Saxon cemetery in the Cotswolds, Gloucestershire.

Involving war-veterans in metal-detecting and archaeology

In 2016, metal-detectorist Chris Cuss found a silver-gilt 6th-century sword hilt, together with fragments of the blade, in the Cotswolds, Gloucestershire (GLO-67083F), which he reported to Kurt Adams (Gloucestershire & Avon FLO). A brief excavation revealed an Anglo-Saxon grave of a child buried with high status items, and suggested the presence of a larger cemetery which was subsequently corroborated through geophysics on the site. To help investigate the site further, Kurt approached archaeologists at the Ministry of Defence who deliver Operation Nightingale – a programme that facilitates the recovery of injured soldiers by involving them in archaeological works. Together with Cotswold Archaeology and Breaking Ground Heritage (part of Operation Nightingale) the team excavated several burials, within which were found two rare Anglo-Saxon glass vessels. The aim now is to turn this into a long-term project that will help more veterans in the future.

'Little did I realise that my initial find of a sword pommel would lead to the excavation of an Anglo-Saxon cemetery. This is extremely exciting to me because of my lifelong interest in history and archaeology, and being ex-army myself, I feel privileged to have been able to work with the veterans of Operation Nightingale. This is a wonderful example of the close cooperation between metal-detectorists, landowners, the PAS and other archaeologists, in this case Operation Nightingale – a very worthy organisation, and I am proud to have been part of it'

Chris Cuss, metal-detectorist

GLO-67083F
Anglo-Saxon sword pommel found in the Cotswolds, Gloucestershire.





Rachel Bynoe and Becky Scott inspecting the collection of John Ratford, including Levallois artefacts from Clacton beach, Essex (photo provided courtesy of John Ratford).



CORN-C36586
Copper-alloy Iron Age bridle bit element from St Erth, Cornwall.



CORN-F6FD0F
Copper-alloy Iron Age terret ring from Breage, Cornwall.

Ensuring that lithics are properly recorded

In December 2018, Sophie Flynn (Essex FLO) gave a talk to the Lithics Study Society on the collaborative work between the public and professionals. She focused on two sites that had come to light through the work of field-walkers and beach-combers, who had each found a significant assemblage of lithic material. One site, on the newly recharged Clacton beach – which is currently the focus of on-going investigations – is formed of redistributed sediment from the North Sea, and was found to contain the largest assemblage of Levallois material discovered since the 19th century. The other site was on farmland at Hadleigh, where a large and impressive Mesolithic assemblage was uncovered by field-walkers. The PAS is in a unique position to offer guidance and recording support to those individuals who make discoveries of this kind, and through outreach and collaboration, these sites are able to be analysed further, and the lithic material recorded for the benefit of future research.

Supporting museums and the heritage sector

All FLOs are based within museums or other heritage organisations, providing them with an ideal opportunity to work with colleagues to benefit the wider heritage sector. This might be through helping with exhibitions, supporting the acquisition of important finds, or lending knowledge to local archaeological excavations and surveys. This support is reciprocal, with the PAS partnership benefitting hugely from the expertise of many across the country.

Dorset Foundation

Since 2016, the Dorset Foundation Finds Fund has generously supported museums in acquiring and/or presenting local, non-Treasure finds recorded through the PAS. To date, the fund has benefitted 10 museums across the country, each awarded grants of up to £2,000. In 2018, the fund supported the acquisition of a token die (LON-C9CFE6) by the Museum of London, and a display for exhibiting PAS finds in Derby Museum & Art Gallery.

Museum donations

The Royal Institution of Cornwall has recently acquired two decorated bronze ornaments associated with Iron Age chariots, and a horse harness which dates from 100 BC to AD 100. The winged terret (CORN-F6FD0F) was found by Rosemary Rundle in Breage parish and donated by landowner Edward Coode. Terrets were used widely in Iron Age and Roman Britain to harness pairs of horses for pulling carts and chariots, often as sets of five, with four smaller terrets on the yoke and one larger ring like this one through which the reins would be gathered. The bridle bit (CORN-C36586) is in two pieces, with a cheek ring mount and two links from the centre of the bit. The square plate of the mount is decorated with an 'S-curve', inlaid with red enamel, and was found in St Erth parish by Dave Edwards. Both finds are on display in the PAS case at the Royal Cornwall Museum, Truro.



LON-C9CFE6
Copper-alloy token die issued in the name of Richard Washbourne of the Tilt Yard (now Horse Guards Parade), Westminster, dated 1666. It was found on the Thames foreshore, Southwark.

Anna Booth (Suffolk FLO) and other members of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service excavating the Lackford urns in 2016 (© Suffolk County Council).



Giving students valuable life skills

Dr Mark Altaweel (University College London) has been using PAS data as part of a Masters (MSc) course on archaeological data science. In this he instructs students on methods of data science computation and how it can be applied to archaeological and heritage issues. This has included using the PAS database, where students are taught to 'scrape' data, be able to download descriptive and imagery data, incorporate databases to organise downloaded data, and apply computational and statistical methodology – including machine learning. The students have also conducted research projects that allow them to study different regions, with some projects focusing on types of artefacts found, temporal patterns for artefact types, and qualitative/quantitative topic modelling and assessment of artefact descriptive data. Such work enables the students to develop valuable skills in computation and apply them to a variety of research questions.

Early Anglo-Saxon cremation cemetery at Lackford, Suffolk

In 2015 and 2016 local metal-detectorists reported the presence of disturbed early Anglo-Saxon cremation urns in Lackford to the Suffolk FLOs. The urns had been accidentally disturbed by ploughing and were part of a large known Anglo-Saxon cremation cemetery, partially excavated by Thomas Charles Lethbridge in 1947. The prompt reporting of the damage to the site enabled Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS) to work with the landowner to lead a rescue excavation, which recovered the remains of about 59 urns and their contents. SCCAS also advised changes to the agricultural management of the site, which have prevented any further damage. In 2017–2019, SCCAS received a Historic England grant to fund post-excavation work and an assessment on the site; it is hoped further funding will be available to take the findings to publication in 2020.

Recording finds

The main role of the PAS is to record finds to advance archaeological knowledge. Metal-detecting, if carried out in accordance with the *Code of Practice for Responsible Metal Detecting in England and Wales*, can make an important contribution to archaeology.

Archaeological small finds are not only important for telling us about past peoples and the types of objects they used, but also about the places where they lived and worked.

Prehistoric flint and stone 800,000–2100 BC



NMS-0CDBC5
Stone quern from Plumstead, Norfolk.



DOR-CDE218
Palaeolithic stone hand axe from Burstock, Dorset. It is worked from greensand chert, rather than flint, but the maker has made the most of this material to produce an object of great refinement.

SOM-8F3E56
Most of the 344 flint barbed-and-tanged arrowheads on the PAS database are single finds which makes this group, dating to the Bronze Age, from Corsham, Wiltshire, most interesting. It is not clear why they should be found together. Other finds from the site might tell us more.

(OXON-AB9254)
This group of worked flints was found during gardening in Newbury, Berkshire and represents a good example of Mesolithic flint working.

During 2018, PAS staff, interns and volunteers added 227 stone objects and 3,662 worked flints to the PAS database. Of these, 3,025 items were prehistoric, representing 4.45% of the total number of finds recorded this year; the rest were more recent finds.

Not all stone is Stone Age

It was possible to date 200 of the 227 stone objects recorded in 2018, of which only 61 were 'stone age' – the majority being of later date. These included 18 Roman finds, nine of these being groups of stone *tesserae* from mosaics. Whetstones (for sharpening blades) and querns (for grinding) were also recorded, but stone axes represented the most common finds – with 29 being logged on the PAS database this year.

Flint working waste continued to be the most frequently reported items of worked flint, with 829 pieces being recorded in 2018, including blades, flakes and the cores from which they were struck. Scrapers were the most frequently found complete object type; 481 were recorded, along with 103 arrowheads and 44 Neolithic flint axes. The 29 Lower Palaeolithic hand axes logged represent a significant contribution to the items that were reported. Importantly, during the year, staff and volunteers processed 507 flint and stone finds from Leicestershire as they recorded a large field-walking collection.

Grinding grain and making flour

Querns must have been ubiquitous in the past, although only some 300 have been recorded by the PAS to date, of which over half are Roman. A late Iron Age to Early Roman example, found at Plumstead, Norfolk (NMS-0CDBC5), is recorded as being of 'East Anglian type', though made from 'Hertfordshire pudding stone' – a natural conglomerate of pebbles which does look like a pudding. The quern has been worn smooth by heavy use and, within its central hopper, are traces of an iron sleeve which fitted around a pin on the lower stone. Rust marks around its edge show the use of an iron band which probably secured the handle by which it was revolved. The discovery of this stone in Norfolk fits in with the known distribution of pudding stone querns.

Kevin Leahy



Bronze Age
2350–700 BC

Bronze Age finds were the least common discoveries found in 2018, amounting to 1,125 Bronze Age items, representing just 1.66% of the total number recorded by the PAS. Most metal finds were tools or items of war, such as axeheads, spears and awls. Also recorded were 41 hoards, most being so-called ‘founders hoards’, mostly made up of the above.

Bronze Age gold

36 gold Bronze Age objects were recorded on the PAS database in 2018, all being Treasure. Most were items of personal ornament, such as penannular rings and bracelets. Most spectacular amongst them was a Late Bronze Age *bullā* (perhaps used as a pendant), from the ‘Shropshire Marches’ (HESH-43148A), which is hollow and engraved with a complex geometric scheme. Every surface is covered with precise hatching, generating contrasting reflections that change as the object and the light move. This ‘solar’ effect, combining an intricate radiating design with gold’s unique gleam, also characterises other Bronze Age goldwork, especially from Ireland. This is only the eighth *bullā* discovered to date in Britain and Ireland, and only the second from England. The quality of its making and decoration represents the highest expertise seen within insular metalwork of the period. The *bullā* is from a complex ‘ritual’ site, which archaeologists (with the finder) are keen to explore further.

Spearheads

Common amongst Bronze Age finds found by metal-detectorists and recorded with the PAS are spearheads – only axeheads of his period are more frequent discoveries. During 2018, 75 copper-alloy spearheads were documented, including one of Early Bronze Age date, as well as 31 Middle Bronze Age, 23 mid-Late Bronze Age and 10 Late Bronze Age examples. Important amongst them was a fragment of a socketed spearhead, of the Late Bronze Age, found at Harpham, East Yorkshire (YORYM-2F22B6). Even though only a small part of the object remains – a fragment of the socket wall and the blade – the item is exceptional for its gilded decoration: this object carries gilded rings and sub-parallel rows of stippling on both sides. Decorated spearheads are quite rare, and no other gilded Late Bronze Age spearheads are known from Britain, so it is fortunate that all Bronze Age items with gold content – no matter how small – are Treasure and can therefore be acquired by museums for public benefit.

Sally Worrell



NMS-EAED71
Late Bronze Age copper alloy razor with very thin leaf-shaped blade, found at Carleton Rode, Norfolk. All its surfaces appear to be hammered after casting and then smoothly finished.

YORYM-2F22B6
Decorated spearhead fragment from Harpham, East Yorkshire.

BERK-5B33A7
Middle to Late Bronze Age copper-alloy rapier, dating to c. 1400–c. 1100 BC, found at Kingston Bagpuize, Oxfordshire. Found just a few miles north was a similar example, also recorded by the PAS (GLO-036A39).



HESH-431148A
Gold *bullā* from Shropshire.

DENO-07C564
Copper-alloy looped *palstave* axehead from the period 1050–950 BC of the later Middle and earlier Late Bronze Age. It was found at East Drayton, Nottinghamshire.





Iron Age 800 BC–AD 43



NMS-C27736
Copper-alloy zoomorphic spout
from Northrepps, Norfolk.



KENT-84F0D8
Copper-alloy rein ring from
Eythorne and Shepherdsell, Kent.

Finds of Iron Age date are by no means common, with 1,435 items recorded by the PAS in 2018, accounting for 2.11% of all those logged. Nonetheless, the material recorded, including coinage – items of dress and ornament, horse-gear and so on – provide important insights into this period of the past, where there is little historical evidence.

Drinking 'drink' in the Iron Age

Strainer bowls used for serving and infusing alcoholic drinks were made in Britain in the late Iron Age and early Roman period, with a notable cluster of finds documented in bronze and ceramic in south east England. A copper-alloy spout in the form of an animal's head from one such strainer bowl, and dating to c. AD 25–100, was found in 2018 at Northrepps, Norfolk (NMS-C27736). Taking the form of a stylised canine head, with wrinkled muzzle and parallel strokes marking fur on head and collar, it finds good parallels in other strainers from Britain, notably from the Crownthorpe, Norfolk, and Kingston Deverill, Wiltshire, vessel hoards.

Iron Age horse gear

Harness equipment, especially terrets or rein rings, are frequently recorded by the PAS. Among the 29 examples documented in 2018, was an unusual late Iron Age to Roman (c. 20 BC–AD 180) copper-alloy small rein ring, found at Eythorne and Shepherdsell, Kent (KENT-84F0D8). The U-shaped groove at the top of this flamboyant artefact may have held a coloured setting; the object is now broken and incomplete. Small rings such as this may have been an element of traction harnesses (such as for pulling chariots and such like). The form of this example resembles the so-called 'Y-shaped IC' finials, documented as horse harnesses in Iron Age Ireland. Without direct parallels, all that can be said is that this rein ring may represent a British adaptation of an object from across the Atlantic archipelago.

Recognising Iron Age territories through coinage

Iron Age coins recorded through the PAS often demonstrate well-defined geographical distributions that reflect their usage and circulation in antiquity. This was highlighted again in 2018 with the identification of four silver coins, including one from Odiham, Hampshire (SUSS-E94912), from a distinctive group known as QsT1-6 units of the Regni, a southern British 'tribe' whose power base was centred around modern-day Chichester. The PAS now has recorded nine examples of this type, which depicts a stylised head on the obverse with horse and devolved lyre motif on the reverse. Their distribution is confined to West Sussex and Hampshire, the heartland of Regni territory.

Sally Worrell and Andrew Brown



WREX-C7F53A
Copper-alloy, early Iron Age
dagger or sword chape, dating
to c. 800–c. 300 BC, found at
West Hendred, Oxfordshire.
The base of the chape has an
iron pin, that has corroded.

HAMP-2D8ACC
Gold quarter stater of the
Regni, 'Eye Star' type
(c. 60–c. 50 BC), found near
St Mary Bourne, Hampshire.
It is only the second known
example of this type.



(SUSS-E94912)
Silver unit of the Regni, from
Odiham, Hampshire.

Roman
AD 43–410

Objects and coins dating to the Roman period account for the largest number of items recorded by the PAS in 2018, representing 42.35% of this year's data. Of the 28,802 individual finds recorded, 16,121 were coins. The objects included 2,254 brooches, 160 bracelets and 206 finger-rings, as well as a wide array of other artefact types, such as items associated with religious beliefs, belt fittings, harness equipment, mounts and more.

Figurines and statues

The PAS recorded 42 Roman figurines and statues in 2018, of which an incomplete but well-preserved copper-alloy figurine of Minerva, found at Hailey, Oxfordshire (OXON-7B00CD), is exceptional for its sophisticated modelling. The goddess wears a long sleeveless tunic gathered below the breast and falling to her feet, which is just visible. A cloak wraps around her hips; the figure's cloak and tunic reveal her sinuous curves. On her left arm is her *aegis*, with the curling edges of the goatskin and the spiralling snakes of Medusa's hair carefully modelled. The tunic is fastened at the shoulders by two silver rivets, imitating brooches. The missing left hand may have held a shield, the right a spear.



WMID-746CF7
Copper-alloy inscribed brooch from Orton, Northamptonshire.



YORYM-AED2AF
Copper-alloy medallion of Severus Alexander (r. AD 222–35), produced in c. AD 231 from from Dunnington, City of York. Only seven Roman medallions are recorded on the PAS and this is the first of Severus Alexander.

Romantic inscriptions

An unusual inscribed disc brooch found at Orton, Northamptonshire (WMID-746CF7) bears a message for a lover. The text is formed by capital letters in relief on a red enameled background in two short lines: SI A/MAS (*si amas*) meaning 'if you love...'. This is typical of romantic texts on gifts where the reader supplies words to complete the sense. Longer mottoes on other brooches, and also on finger-rings, suggest what form the completed text might have taken in a recipient's mind. One such example, a brooch found at Richborough, Kent, has the inscription '*Si amas, ego plus*' for 'if you love (me), I love (you) more'.

Small coins

The smallest bronze denomination of early Roman Britain was the *as* (1/16 of a denarius). Rarely, smaller coins like the *quadrans* (the plural of which is *quadrantes*; 1/4 of an *as*) are found, although these likely were never officially issued in Britain but arrived in the province in the purses of soldiers before being lost. In the past decade the PAS has added substantially to our knowledge of these small denominations in Britain. Around 60 examples of *quadrantes* are known to date and 16 of these were recorded through the PAS, including an example from Langford, Nottinghamshire (DENO-5F8BE9).

Sally Worrell, Andrew Brown and Sam Moorhead



DENO-5F8BE9
Copper-alloy *quadrans* of Trajan (r. AD 98–117) found at Langford, Nottinghamshire.



OXON-7B00CD
Copper-alloy figurine of Minerva from Hailey, Oxfordshire.



SOM-B6E28A
An almost complete copper-alloy mount from the rim of a vessel, taking the form of a janiform anthropomorphic bust, rendered in a provincial style. The object was found at Lydiard St Lawrence, Somerset. The clothing of the figure carries a chequerboard design, perhaps a rare representation of a tartan-like fabric.



NARC-5C0816
Copper-alloy amulet from Rushden, Northamptonshire to ward off the evil eye through an incongruous image. At first view it shows a bird feeding on berries, perhaps, but a second glance reveals that the bird's perch is a phallus and its food is the left testicle.

**Early Medieval
AD 410–1066**

Finds of the early medieval period are comparatively rare, especially when contrasted with the numbers found of Roman and medieval date that bookend this period. The 2,239 early medieval items recorded in 2018 are not only important for understanding the Anglo-Saxons, but also other peoples that migrated to, and traded with, Britain at this time.

A monetary alliance: Mercia and Wessex

The history of 9th-century southern England is underlined by the increasing power of one Anglo-Saxon kingdom, Wessex, at the expense of another, Mercia. By the 840s, though, there was increasing cooperation and alliance, including royal inter-marriage – due in part to the heightened threat posed by the Vikings. This alliance can be seen in the coinage, where the same coin types were issued by kings from both kingdoms. These silver pennies, known as ‘lunettes’ from their reverse design, are quite rare finds. Last year, one for Burgred of Mercia (r. 852–874), the first king to issue them, was found at Adisham, Kent (KENT-4FC763), and can be mirrored by examples for Æthelred I of Wessex (r. 865–871) from Newchurch, Kent (KENT-AE7FE8) and Alfred of Wessex (r. 871–899) from Exning, Suffolk (SF-BEFB73). This monetary alliance can be traced until the late 870s when the last Mercian king disappears from history.

Enamelled brooches

Discovered each year are a small number of cloisonné enamelled brooches, distinguished by their enamelled disc being held within a copper-alloy bezel; this is often gilded. In 2014, Rosie Weetch advanced the number of those known in the late 1980s from 20 to 99, with many being found more recently thanks to metal-detecting, including eight this year. The brooches are found with circumferential lobes, as with an example from St Nicholas at Wade, Kent (KENT-E9C398), and without, as at Stoughton, West Sussex (HAMP-C7100B). Particularly striking is their enamelled motifs, commonly in blue, turquoise, yellow and white. An example found in 2018, at Hauxton, Cambridgeshire (CAM-E71DC1), has upon it a wavy equal-armed cross motif, and all its coloured enamel is intact. These brooches seem mostly to date to the 11th century, and cluster in the south and eastern parts of England.

Michael Lewis and John Naylor (with thanks to Rosie Weetch)



KENT-4FC763
Silver 'lunette' penny of Burgred of Mercia (r. 852–874), found at Adisham, Kent.



SF-BEFB73
Silver 'lunette' penny of Alfred of Wessex (r.871–899) from Exning, Suffolk.

KENT-E9C398
Cloisonné enamelled brooch from St Nicholas at Wade, Kent.

HAMP-C7100B
Cloisonné enamelled brooch from Stoughton, West Sussex.

CAM-E71DC1
Cloisonné enamelled brooch from Hauxton, Cambridgeshire.





IOW-047A69

Though damaged and incomplete, this gold mount from Shalfleet, Isle of Wight, still shows the skill of the Anglo-Saxon goldsmith, offset by a garnet at its centre and with fine wire beading. It dates to AD c.450–c.600.

CORN-079B27

Silver denier of the Carolingian Frankish kingdom, minted for either Charlemagne (768–814) or Charles the Bald (840–877), from Grade Ruan parish, Cornwall.



WAW-10781B

This fragment of a bone comb, dug from a garden in Wellesbourne, Warwickshire, is a remarkable survival. It is of a type that is not always decorated, so its ring-and-dot motif marks it out as particularly interesting.

Medieval
AD 1066–1500

The number of medieval finds recorded this year is impressive, totalling 16,449 items. Finds from the Middle Ages represent all aspects of life, from how people dressed to how they worked and played. As such, it is a largely untapped archaeological resource for the medieval life course.

Seal matrices made for women

Almost 6,000 medieval matrices (for making wax seals) have been recorded by the PAS to date, many being so-called ‘off-the-shelf’ varieties that do not give personal details. Of the 378 medieval seal matrices recorded in 2018, at least 22 are certainly (or likely) to have been made for, or commissioned by, women. Although this number may seem small, they are testament to the role of women in making legal transactions, some which were undoubtedly commercial in nature. Examples recorded this year include two which appear to depict their owners – though somewhat styled. A copper-alloy oval matrix of Isabella de Vernon (c.1261–1350) was found at Crosby Ravensworth, Cumbria (LANCUM-1BD7C9). On it is shown a female (taken to be Isabella herself) facing forwards, with a shield bearing the arms of the Dacre family – arms also used by her father Sir Michael de Harcla. Another matrix, also of copper-alloy, but this time circular, was found at Plompton, North Yorkshire (SWYOR-FBB028), upon it the inscription ‘S CISSILIE DE SWINLVNGTE’ (seal of Cecily of Swinlungate). It depicts a forward facing bust (seemingly Cecily) wearing a headdress with a chin strap and drapery, perhaps a wimple. Although it is not the case in these instances, research has shown that pointed-oval seals were particularly favoured by women, and this is apparent in the 2018 data, where of the 22 ‘female matrices’ all but six are pointed oval.

Harness pendants

Medieval horse harness pendants are found in a variety of different shapes and sizes, but of particular interest are those that identify the nobility through heraldic arms. Most of these are made of copper-alloy, which is then enamelled and gilded or silvered. A well preserved shield-shaped pendant from Cuddesdon and Denton, Oxfordshire (OXON-5A7266), has upon it arms believed to be a variation of those of the de Valence family as the Earls of Pembroke – showing six red martlets on a gold and black, or dark blue (as opposed to silver and blue), striped background. It is impossible to be sure, however, since it is the tinctures (colours) that are significant in identifying the owners of arms; individuals might have very similar motifs with only colours varying. Of note is the rendering of arms on a lozengiform pendant from Blythburgh, Suffolk (SF-1BEC7F), the central part of which resembles the arms of Clare. However, these are probably the arms of the Waterville family, with three red enamelled chevrons on a gilded (gold) field, within a distinctive black engrailed border. The techniques of enamelling, gilding and silvering or tinning employed here are ideal for the depiction of armorial shields.



SWYOR-FBB028
Seal matrix of Cecily, found at Plompton, North Yorkshire.



LANCUM-1BD7C9
Seal matrix of Isabella de Vernon, found at Crosby Ravensworth, Cumbria.



OXON-5A7266
Harness pendant from Cuddesdon and Denton, Oxfordshire.



SF-1BEC7F
Harness pendant from Blythburgh, Suffolk.



DUR-04365D

This medieval locket, probably of 14th-century date, was found at Tilney All Saints, Norfolk. It shows an intriguing half-man half-snail motif, perhaps suggesting the object was for a personal keepsake, rather than a religious relic.

England and France

From the reign of Edward III (r. 1327–1377), English monarchs claimed the French throne although only one, Henry VI (r. 1422–1461), actually became King of France. Finds of medieval French coins are not particularly common and the discovery of a silver *Grand Blanc aux Ecus* of Henry VI as King of France from Leafield, Oxfordshire (PUBLIC-AC0B02), is unusual – its design shows the shields of both kingdoms. Coin weights are good evidence for the circulation of French gold coinage in Britain, such as one for the *Salut D'or* of Henry VI from Measham, Leicestershire (LEIC-4CA132). An English mint at Calais opened in 1363 producing coins from the profits of the wool trade, a rare gold noble of Edward III found in the Yafforth area, North Yorkshire (DUR-7D2418), being an early example. Alongside his claim to the French throne, the coin also explicitly lists him as Lord of Aquitaine. It was not until after the French Revolution (1789–1799) that English monarchs dropped their claim to France.

Michael Lewis and John Naylor (with thanks to Helen Geake and Steven Ashley)

PUBLIC-AC0B02

Silver *Grand Blanc aux Ecus* of Henry VI as King of France from Leafield, Oxfordshire.



LEIC-4CA132

Copper-alloy coin weight for a *Salut d'or* of Henry VI from Measham, Leicestershire.



DUR-7D2418

Gold noble of Edward III found in the Yafforth area, North Yorkshire.



YORYM-F112E1

St William of Aquitaine is shown riding in armour on this lead-alloy pilgrim badge from Filey, North Yorkshire. William crusaded against the Arabs and Moors in southern Europe before founding an abbey at (what is now) Saint-Guilhem-le-Désert, which he retired to as a monk in AD 806. This badge dates to the 12th or 13th century.





LIN-E0B301
Civil War period 'lobster pot' helmet with armourer's mark 'HK', from near Spilsby, Lincolnshire. Investigation of the findspot suggests that the helmet was deposited in the 1800s, presumably having been curated beforehand.

**Post-medieval
AD 1500 onwards**



SOM-08A5F5
Dutch *stuiver* of the County of Zeeland, from Stoke sub Hamdon, Somerset.

Although the PAS is selective in recording objects and coins made after 1540, especially if they are industrially produced, a further 14,928 post-medieval items were recorded on the PAS database in 2018, representing 21.95% of all data; to put that into context, that is more than the number of Roman coins recorded in the same period. Post-medieval items cover a wide range of material culture, from dress accessories, through tokens, to tools.

Coins of the Netherlands: the benefits of long-term recording

The long-term recording of seemingly unimportant items can often bring interesting results, and a good example can be seen in the coins of the post-medieval Netherlands, following its independence from Spain as the United Provinces of the Netherlands. Silver *stuivers* and copper-alloy *duits* are quite regular finds in England, and the PAS has now recorded over 300 examples. Their distributions focused around the east and south coasts of England – especially around the major ports – such as in the Solent area or London, attesting to importance of Dutch shipping. Finds recorded last year include issues from several Dutch provinces, including a *stuiver* of the County of Zeeland found at Stoke sub Hamdon, Somerset (SOM-08A5F5), upon it a bundle of arrows symbolising the seven Provinces and strength through co-operation; and a *duit* of the City of Utrecht from Southwark, Greater London (PUBLIC-86DB63), showing the crowned arms of the city.



PUBLIC-86DB63
Dutch *duit* of the City of Utrecht, from Southwark, Greater London.



KENT-AA1B15

Not all flint implements are prehistoric. This find from Denton with Wootton, Kent, represents a blank used in the manufacture of gun flints. Flintlock guns were introduced in the middle of the 16th century and came into common use in the later 17th century. The flints, which produced a spark to ignite the gunpowder, lasted between 20 and 25 shots before replacement. It is surprising then that more of them are not found.

End of an era: the button-type religious badge
 A fragmentary pilgrim badge recorded last year from West Bagborough, Somerset (SOM-DB8BAE), is of a rare form known from the late 15th and early 16th centuries. The object is button like and has a finely engraved depiction of St Hubert, who had a vision of Christ crucified between the antlers of a stag. To date, only nine examples of such badges have been recorded through the PAS. They are made of a high-tin copper-alloy which today gives them a grey quality, though they would have been silvery when used. Such button-type badges are mostly found in north-east France, with some from adjacent areas. They exemplify trends in late medieval religion which included a widespread devotion of saints, increasingly localised pilgrimage, and, in terms of religious objects, a greater use of copper-alloys and silver alongside the predominant medieval lead-tin alloys. As such, this badge need not be a pilgrimage souvenir from St Hubert's monastery in Belgium, and might instead represent personal veneration of a saint, perhaps as a patron. While on the Continent such button-type badges came to be superseded by religious medals, the Reformation in England effectively ended the use of these emblems of piety.

Laura Burnett, Kevin Leahy, Michael Lewis, John Naylor and Robert Webley



NLM-68E3E7

Defaced 'cartwheel penny' of George III (r. 1760–1820), from Roxby cum Risby, North Lincolnshire. The nature of the cut marks suggest republican sentiments.



SF-9977A7

'Memento mori' finger-ring, from Felixstowe, Suffolk. Its inscription 'respice finem' (look to the end) together with the skull depicted are a double reminder of mortality.

SOM-DB8BAE

Button-type religious badge depicting St Hubert of Liège, from West Bagborough, Somerset.



Table 1
PAS finds
recorded and
Treasure cases
reported by
geographical
area (2018).⁴

Area	PAS finds	Treasure cases
Bedfordshire	407	8
Berkshire (inc. Reading)	195	11
Buckinghamshire (inc. Milton Keynes)	1,347	30
Cambridgeshire (inc. Peterborough)	1,689	18
Cheshire	889	7
Cornwall	415	19
Cumbria	399	9
Derbyshire	497	7
Devon (inc. Plymouth)	603	37
Dorset	1,313	42
Durham, Co. (inc. Darlington)	811	9
Essex	908	57
Gloucestershire (inc. Bristol & South Gloucestershire)	2,665	17
Hampshire (inc. Portsmouth)	2,652	68
Herefordshire	2,250	8
Hertfordshire	1,083	9
Isle of Wight	1,138	25
Kent (inc. Medway)	2,890	53
Lancashire	199	5
Leicestershire	1,405	17
Lincolnshire	4,383	87
Lincolnshire, North & North East	1,971	11
London, Gtr	623	9
Manchester, Gtr	13	0
Merseyside	16	0
Norfolk	9,113	103
Northamptonshire	1,151	17
Northumberland	127	3
Nottinghamshire (inc. Nottingham)	871	16
Oxfordshire	3,640	32
Rutland	207	2
Shropshire (inc. Telford)	1,777	23
Somerset (inc. Bath & North East Somerset, & North Somerset)	2,103	32
Staffordshire (inc. Stoke-on-Trent & Wolverhampton)	432	24
Suffolk	5,556	70
Surrey	425	3
Sussex (East & West)	853	26
Warwickshire	490	10
West Midlands	17	2
Wiltshire (inc. Swindon)	2,672	43
Worcestershire	502	8
Yorkshire, East	1,617	24
Yorkshire, North (inc. York, & Redcar & Cleveland)	2,629	54
Yorkshire, South	1,619	11
Yorkshire, West	1,001	4
Wales (all counties)	645	20
Northern Ireland (all counties)	0	6
data not yet available	1,479	1
TOTAL	69,687	1,097

The counties recording the most PAS finds in 2018 were Norfolk (9,113 finds), Suffolk (5,556) and Lincolnshire (4,383). The same counties also saw the greatest number of Treasure cases: Norfolk (103), Lincolnshire (87) and Suffolk (70).

⁴ PAS data downloaded
2 January 2019.

**Table 2
PAS finds recorded (and number of finders recording finds) by recording institution (2018).**

FLO Area	PAS finds	Finders	Average
Berkshire (BERK)	469	113	4.15
Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire (BH)	2,000	59	33.90
Buckinghamshire (BUC)	1,140	50	22.8
Cambridgeshire (CAM)	356	47	7.57
Cheshire etc (LVPL)	1,167	88	13.26
Cornwall (CORN)	453	66	6.86
Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire (DENO)	1,226	108	11.35
Devon (DEV)	660	117	5.64
Dorset (DOR)	1,032	106	9.74
Durham (DUR)	955	81	11.79
Essex (ESS)	557	47	11.85
Gloucestershire (GLO)	2,652	67	39.58
Hampshire (HAMP)	1,649	183	9.01
Herefordshire & Shropshire (HESH)	3,746	52	72.03
Isle of Wight (IOW)	1,132	101	11.20
Kent (KENT)	1,430	148	9.66
Lancashire & Cumbria (LANCUM)	979	105	9.32
Leicestershire (LEIC)	1,951	104	18.76
Lincolnshire (LIN)	1,778	71	25.04
London (LON)	540	90	6
Norfolk (NMS)	9,048	260	34.8
Northamptonshire (NARC)	1,091	53	20.58
North Lincolnshire (NLM)	3,352	89	37.66
Northumberland etc (NCL)	42	12	3.5
Oxfordshire (OXON)	1,611	377	4.27
Somerset (SOM)	2,203	128	17.21
Staffordshire & West Midlands (WMID)	803	104	7.72
Suffolk (SF)	6,242	222	28.1
Surrey (SUR)	1,344	83	16.19
Sussex (SUSS)	818	62	13.19
Warwickshire & Worcestershire (WAW)	977	79	12.37
Wiltshire (WILT)	2,828	121	23.37
Yorkshire, North & East (YORYM)	2,485	119	20.88
Yorkshire, South & West (SWYOR)	3,352	133	25.20
Wales (NMGW etc)	767	166	4.62
Finds Advisers etc (BM etc)	1,905	56	34.02
Self recorders (PUBLIC)	4,947	161	30.73

The institutions recording the most finds in 2018 were Norfolk (9,048 finds) and Suffolk (6,242), followed by the Scheme's volunteers (4,947). In total, 4,028 people recorded finds with the PAS, with Oxfordshire coming top (377), then Norfolk (260) and Suffolk (222). The average number of recorded finds varies tremendously across England from 3.5 in Northumberland to 72.03 per finder in Herefordshire & Shropshire.

**Table 3
PAS finds recorded by government region (2018).⁵**

Government Region	FLOs (FTE)	PAS finds	Average per FLO
North West	2	2,146	1,073
North East	1.8	997	554
Yorkshire	3	9,189	3,063
West Midlands	2.8	5,526	1,974
East Midlands	4	6,046	1,516
East	8.5	18,203	2,142
South West	5	9,828	1,966
South East & London	7.9	12,785	1,618

Most PAS finds were recorded by institutions in the East (18,203), followed by South East and London (12,785) and the East Midlands (9,398). Productivity of each region varies somewhat due to the fact the number of post holders within each varies, making Yorkshire on top (3,063 finds per FTE post), then the East (2,142), then the West Midlands (1,974) and the South West (1,966).

**Table 4
PAS finds by period, where known/recorded (2018).**

	Stone Age	Bronze Age	Iron Age	Roman	Early medieval	Medieval	Post-medieval	Total
2018	3,025	1,125	1,436	28,802	2,239	16,449	14,928	68,004
%	4.45	1.66	2.11	42.35	3.29	24.19	21.95	

Roman finds accounted for the highest number (and proportion) of items recorded (42.35%), followed by those of medieval (24.19%), then post-medieval (21.95%), date.

**Table 5
Method of discovery, where known/recorded (2018).**

	Metal-detecting	Chance find while metal-detecting	Field-walking	Other chance find/gardening	Controlled archaeological investigation	Building/agricultural work
2018	62,977	1,417	3,748	902	470	171
%	90.37	2.03	5.38	1.30	0.67	0.25

Over 92% of PAS finds were found by metal-detectorists, either while metal-detecting or spotted 'eyes only'. The next most common discovery method is field-walking, accounting for 5.38% of all finds.

**Table 6
Findspot precision (2018).**

	4 fig	6 fig	8 fig	10 fig	12 fig
2018	327	19,085	13,499	34,617	28
%	0.49	28.25	19.98	51.24	0.04

Over 99.5% of completed PAS finds records had at least a 6-figure NGR (National Grid Reference), with over 70% having at least an 8-figure NGR, in 2018.

**Table 7
Land use, where known/recorded (2018).**

Land use	2,018	%
Cultivated land	38,360	82.13
Grassland/heathland	1,493	3.20
Woodland	336	0.72
Coastland	534	1.14
Open fresh water/wetlands	930	1.99
Other	5,052	10.82

Over 82% of finds were discovered on cultivated land, where they are vulnerable to agricultural damage and natural corrosion processes.

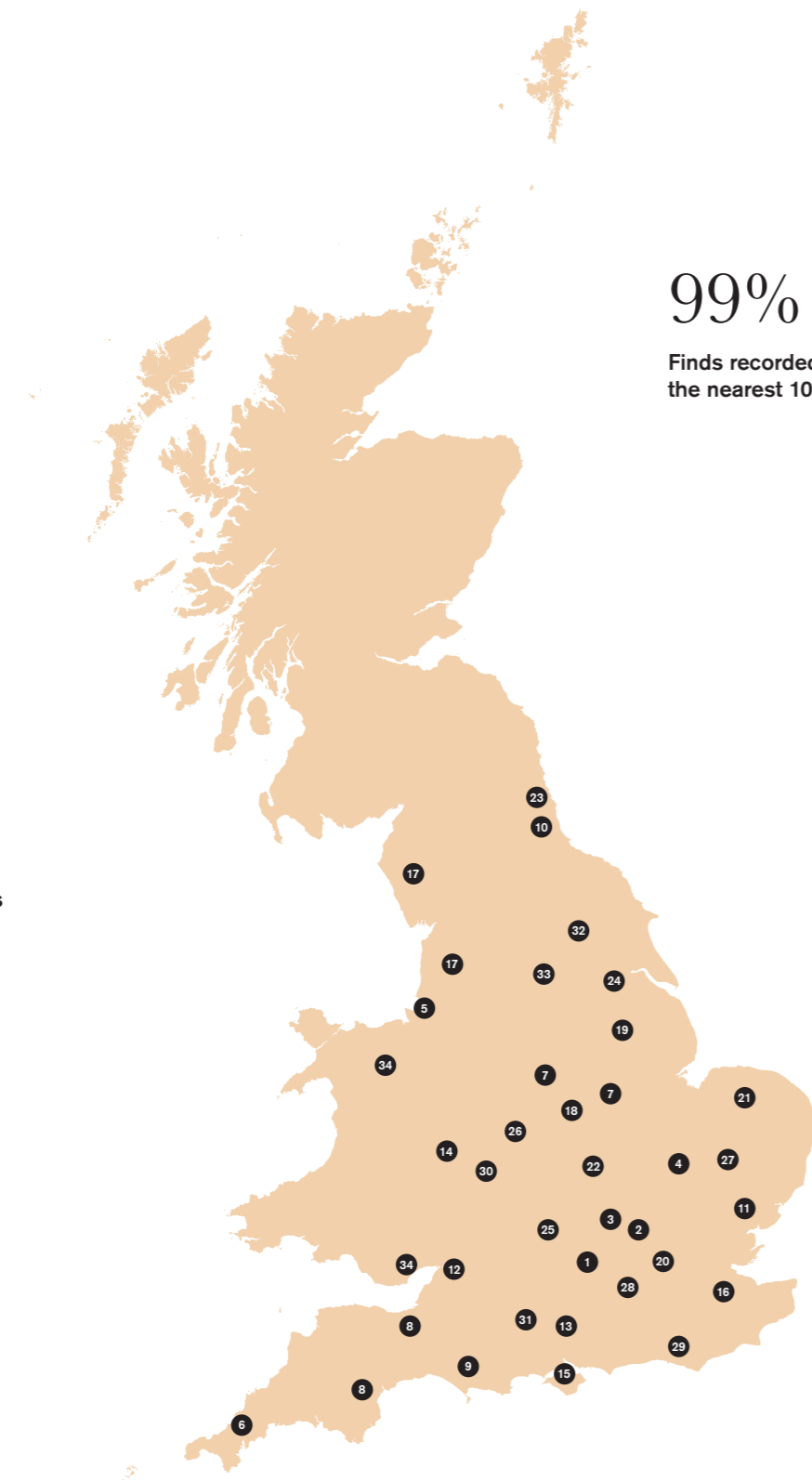
Michael Lewis and Ian Richardson

⁵ This does not include PUBLIC finds.

Finds Liaison Officers' locations

40

Finds Liaison Officers covering 34 areas



99%

Finds recorded to the nearest 100m.

69,687

Finds recorded in 2018

755

Researchers have full access to PAS data

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Printed with the generous support of
Treasure Hunting magazine

Edited by Michael Lewis



Department for
Digital, Culture
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