



Getting big stories from small finds:



The Portable Antiquities Scheme in Marcham and Oxfordshire
Dr Edward Caswell
 22nd September 2025












PORTABLE ANTIQUITIES SCHEME




Oxfordshire Museum Service




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Finds from the Portable Antiquities Scheme in Oxfordshire








Aims

- Let you know all about the Portable Antiquities Scheme
- To show off some of the Marcham region's interesting finds
- To demonstrate what small finds can add to our knowledge of Oxfordshire's past
- To excite you about Oxfordshire's past

Contents

- About the PAS in Oxfordshire
- What in the world is treasure
- What has the PAS done for the Marcham region and Oxfordshire?
- How you can get involved with the PAS

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What is the PAS?

Every year many **thousands** of **archaeological objects** are discovered, many of these by **metal detector users**, but also by **people** whilst out walking, gardening or going about their daily work.

The Portable Antiquities Scheme is jointly run by the **British Museum**, the **National Museum Wales** and **local partners** to encourage the recording of archaeological objects found by members of the public in England and Wales.

These finds are preserved in record via on an openly accessible database which anyone can use to help advance knowledge of the history and archaeology of England and Wales



Find ID	Object ID	Object Name	Object Type	Object Material	Object Date	Object Location	Object Description	Object Image	Object Record
1000000001	1000000001	1000000001	1000000001	1000000001	1000000001	1000000001	1000000001	1000000001	1000000001

COIN
Unique ID: CHON 18440
Object type: Roman
Object name: Roman coin
Object material: Gold
Object date: 1st-2nd century AD
Object location: Roman Britain
Object description: A silver Roman Republican denarius of the emperor M. Antoninus Pius, dating to the period c. 120-180 AD. The coin is a gold coin, showing the profile of the emperor facing right. The inscription on the reverse is 'M. ANTONINVS AVG. P. P. S. P. Q. R. OPTIMO PRINCIPI'.



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History of the PAS in Oxfordshire

- In 1997 the PAS started as a pilot scheme in 6 areas funded by the British Museum, Department of Culture Media and Sport and local partners.
- In 2003 Oxfordshire had it's own PAS Finds Liaison Officer (FLO).
- 2004-2008 Kate Sutton
- 2008-2019 Anni Byard
- 2020 – onwards Edward Caswell who is partnered with the Oxfordshire Museums Service and operates out of the Museum Resource Centre (MRC) in Standlake.

OMS



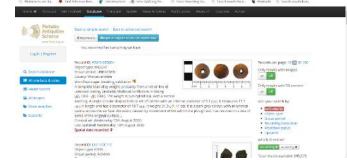
4

Partnering with the PAS

The PAS isn't just Finds Liaison Officers but a whole collective of different individuals collaborating together

These include:

- Finds Advisors
- Museums and curators
- County heritage services
- Charitable bodies
- Volunteers
- Academics
- Members of the Public



The British Museum

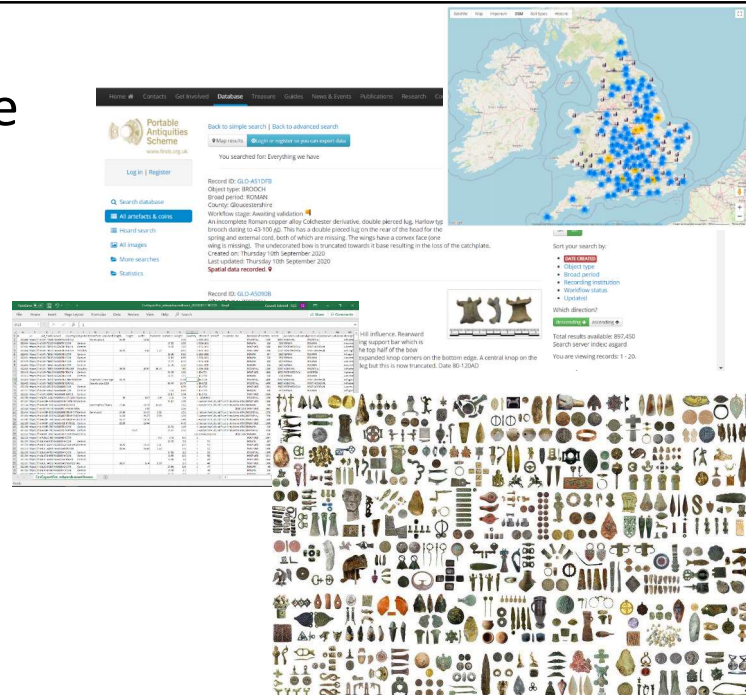


Oxfordshire Museum Service

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The PAS database

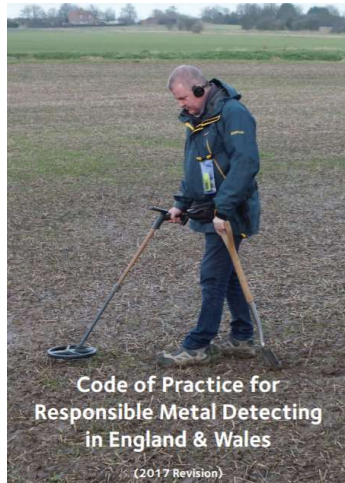
- Records over 1.8 million finds
- Recorded in 1.19 million records
- Over 750 thousand images
- All found across England and Wales
- All openly accessible



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What we do at the PAS now

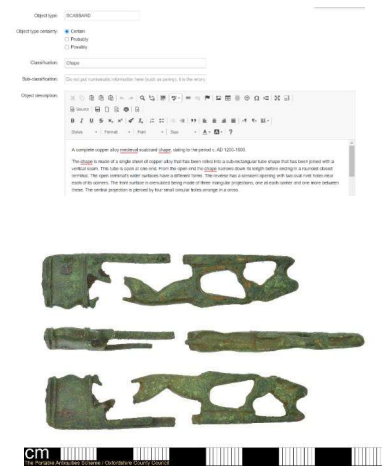
Outreach



Treasure



Recording finds



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Interacting with finders

- We visit metal detecting clubs to take in finds for recording but also to deliver talks
- We try to make ourselves accessible via Social Media and monitor finds being advertised this way
- We organise finds appointments at our host locations
- Host finds surgeries across our patches at local museums and venues Having



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Recording treasure

The PAS plays a large role in the legal process of treasure

We

- Inform the coroner
- Write the report for each case
- Look into whether museums wish to acquire cases of treasure
- The treasure team at the British Museum organises valuation

Department for
Digital, Culture
Media & Sport

Treasure Act 1996

Receipt for object(s) of potential treasure submitted to the Coroner
In order to meet the requirements of the Treasure Act 1996, and the Treasure Act Code of Practice, the personal information in this form will be passed to the Coroner, the Treasury Registry at the British Museum/National Museum (London), and may be shared with the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. The National Antiquities Scheme, any indication that there is potential for the find, and other interested parties in the data. For further information please contact the Treasury Registry at treasure@britishmuseum.org

PAS Database Number	
Date of find	Parish CP
Location of find spot (include a figure grid reference, along with the parish and the county - a map may be attached)	Grid reference
Circumstances of find (depth of find, nature of land, other objects found nearby)	To be known as:
Description of object(s) (include object type and material, weight and dimensions, condition, decorations and inscriptions)	No. of objects deposited:
Institution receiving find	Tel no:
Person making find	
Signature and date	
Name of depositor	Tel no:
Email address	
Signature and date	
(Confirm that the information I have provided concerning my name, address, the location, date, and the nature and circumstances of the find, is correct)	
HM Coroner name	
District	
Date reported to Coroner	

sky news

Treasure hunting on the rise as number of finds reaches record high

NEWS

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Metal detectorist finds treasure in farmer's field



The gold coins were treasure trove found by the Coroner's coroner.

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Treasure Island! Metal detectorists made a record 1,378 discoveries in Britain last year - with Norfolk named the top spot for stumbling on riches

But what is the treasure?

- Before the treasure act cases of "treasure" were handled by the common law concept of "treasure trove"
- This law may date back to Edward the Confessor (c. 1003/1004–1066)
- Treasure trove had to be hidden with "animus revocandi" an intention to recover it later – **so most burials don't count!**
- The Crown had a prerogative right to treasure trove, and if the circumstances under which an object was found raised a prima facie presumption that it had been hidden, it belonged to the Crown unless someone else could show a better title to it.



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Treasure Trove

Three Tests

- Made primarily of gold or silver
- Original owner or heirs unknown
- Buried with intention of recovery

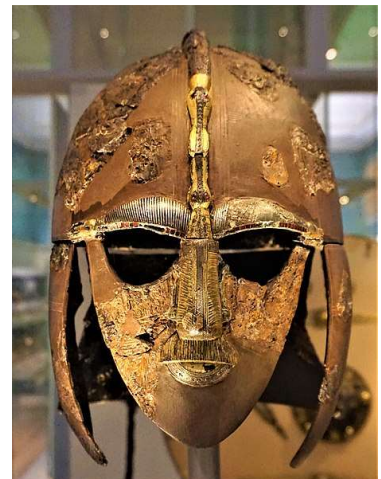


*Silver coins, jewellery and ingots
from the Viking Cuerdale Hoard*

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Modernising of treasure

- In the early 20th century, it became the practice of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury to pay those finders the value of objects which were retained for national or other institutions such as museums
- Objects not retained were returned to the finders
- But the definition of treasure trove was quite strict
- This meant that many items were not treasure trove.
- A revision was needed....



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The Treasure Act 1996



- A new scheme which came into effect on 24 September 1997
- Slightly annoyingly called Treasure act 1996
- This set out new legally defined criteria as treasure as well as including those items that would still have classed as treasure trove
- Broadly there are five criteria that if one is met will define the discovery as treasure
- The fifth being any item that would be associated with a none case of treasure

The Treasure Act 1996 Code of Practice (2nd Revision)

ENGLAND & WALES

improving
the quality
of life for all

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Recording treasure – what (*currently*) counts as treasure

Any metallic object, other than a coin, provided that at least 10 per cent of it is precious metal and that it is at least 300 years old when found.



Any prehistoric object that is in part made of precious metal.



Any group of two or more metallic objects of any composition of prehistoric date that come from the same find



Two or more coins from the same find provided they are at least 300 years old when found and contain 10 per cent gold or silver (if the coins contain less than 10 per cent of gold or silver there must be at least ten of them).



Any object, whatever it is made of, that is found in the same place as, or had previously been together with, another object that is Treasure

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Consultation outcome

Revising the definition of treasure in the Treasure Act 1996 and revising the related Codes of Practice - Government response to public consultation

Updated 4 December 2020

- Recognised that the number of cases reported has increased significantly since its inception.
 - 79 cases were reported in 1997 while there were 1267 in 2017!
- But some finds of national and international importance that need greater protection under the definition of treasure
- Perception that the increase in has placed a strain on the treasure process and that it is now time to review and reform both these issues
- Consultation was carried out between February and April 2019
- There were 1,461 responses
- Results published 4th December 2020

Reviewing the treasure act



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Treasure (Designation) (Amendment) Order 2023

(a) provides an **exceptional insight** into an aspect of national or regional history, archaeology or culture by virtue of **one or more** of the following—

(i) its **rarity** as an example of its type found in the United Kingdom,

(ii) the **location**, region or part of the United Kingdom in which it was found,

or

(iii) its connection with a particular **person** or **event**;

or

(b) although it does not, on its own, provide such an insight, it is, when found, **part of the same find** as one or more other objects, and provides such an insight when taken together with those objects



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Examples



Birrus Britannicus

Found in 2015, Chelmsford Museum

The Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art explains that it gives an **important new glimpse into the clothing of our Romano-British ancestors**. It has been suggested that he wears the distinctive *birrus britannicus*.

The decoration of the cloak is **unparalleled in art and is a unique depiction** of a specifically British garment.



Crosby Garrett Helmet

Found in 2010, private ownership

It is a **rare example of its type**, being only one of three examples of Roman visored helmets. A British Museum curator described it as a find of international and national significance, for the **light it shed on the manufacture of prestige military equipment in Britain** during the time of the building of Hadrian's Wall.



Rudham Dirk

Norfolk Museums Service

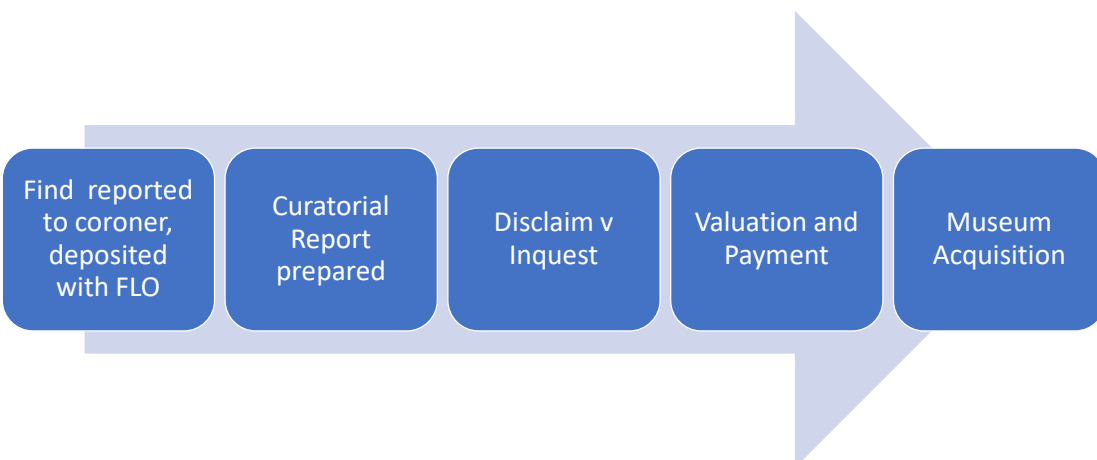
This is **one of only two examples** of these large bronze ceremonial dirk found in England, the other example.

The National Heritage Memorial Fund, that support the acquisition of the object, described it as an **exceptionally rare** and internationally significant Middle Bronze Age artefact.

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What happens then when someone finds treasure today



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2006 T470 - Bronze Age spearheads – West Oxfordshire

- These spearheads were found in 2006 by a metal detectorist
- As they are two metal prehistoric objects that are likely to have been buried together they count as treasure
- These are an interesting type due to their side loops but also their context
- Oxfordshire sees one the highest densities of spearheads in the country mostly along the Thames river
- These examples while not found in the river were found in a wetland area of West Oxfordshire which may suggest the practice of this deposition carried on past the navigable parts Britain's major rivers



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BERK-672758 - Coin hoard – South Oxfordshire

- These three Iron Age gold coins, found by three individuals across an area of c. 60 foot.
- This is usually quite a large spread but each of the coins are of the same broad type not made in Britain
- Being found in the same field is very unlikely as such they are thought to represent a scattered coin hoard
- As there are more than one coins being made of precious metal they count as treasure
- Of course the exciting story about this hoard is the reality that the items – which may not have been used as currency all that often – were circulating extremely large distances even prior to the Roman invasions



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PAS-942FE3- Finger ring– South Oxfordshire

- This is a roman finger ring
- These are frequently found across Britain in copper alloy and silver
- This counts as treasure as its made of more than 10% silver even though its corroded and its over 300 years old



Do try searching for finds on the PAS website. It's a great way of seeing where objects have been found!



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2005 T311 - Toilet set – South Oxfordshire

- This is a cosmetic set including an ear scoop; a nail pick, a flat tool with the end shaped to form a pointed oval; and a point/flattened pick perhaps for use in parting the hair.
- Cosmetic sets of similar type with rivets holding together different elements are found made out of copper alloy or brass
- These are generally Post Medieval in date although there's slightly different shaped Roman examples too
- This counts as treasure as its made of precious metal (silver) and is over 300 years old



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An new exciting case to keep your eyes out for

Treasure cases can take a while to go through the process so there is often a delay before they are displayed here are some examples to keep an eye out for in the coming years

2017 T202 BUC-7E5EA8 South Oxfordshire Palstave moulds

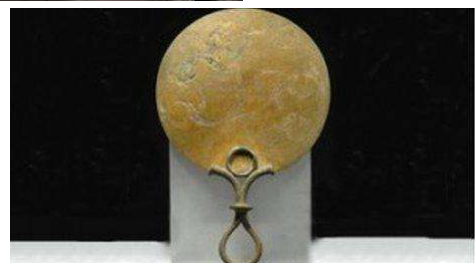
- These are two halves of a Bronze Age axehead mould.
- When joined together molten copper would have been poured through the hole at the top
- Once cool the two pieces could be separate leaving a ready made Palstave axehead
- These are rare objects with less than 2 dozen being found in the UK
- For conservation it has been treated with certain chemicals making its display difficult
- As such the Oxfordshire Museums Service have have made two 3d models of the object using photogrammetry!



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Didcot mirror

- This represents an immaculate example of an Iron Age mirror and is one of only 18 complete such objects known to exist
- The artistry in its decoration and its completeness help demonstrate the technological capability of habitants of Oxfordshire over 2000 years ago
- However, as the mirror is made from bronze and contains no precious metals the Oxfordshire Mirror was not classified as treasure, and so, after being recorded by the Finds Liaison Officer based in St Albans and undergoing conservation work by staff of St Albans Museum, the mirror went in to private ownership.



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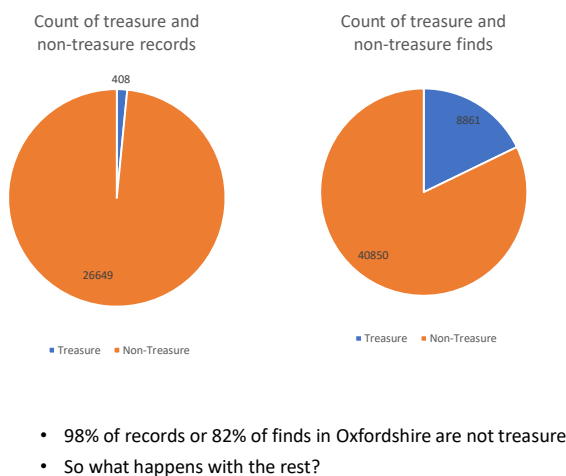
Disclaims

- Not every treasure case can be acquired
- Storage space and conservation represent ongoing costs and so museums have to consider carefully any new additions
- Some cases are not deemed to meet museums collection policy
- Some might add little to the collection
- Some might be similar examples of items already held
- In rare circumstances it might be museums believe or are unable to raise funds to support the acquisition of the case
- In these instances finds are returned to the finder or occasionally the landowner depending on these two group's prior arrangements
- In these situations the PAS record 'preserves the object in record' but there is no guarantee it will be accessible to the public again in future.



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But not everything is treasure



- In England and Wales artefacts found in the ground that aren't are the legal property of the landowner
- Often they strike an agreement with finders who are allowed to keep these
- This means they are theoretically lost forever
- So we spend most of our times recording these artefacts so their preserved in record

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What do we record?

In Oxfordshire we record:

- Everything older than AD 1500
- Most things older than AD 1700 (time allowing)
- Object less than 300 years that tell exciting local stories



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How we record a find?

- Do a physical description, preserving it in record
- Do research into finding parallels – Identifying it use and potential date
- Take a photographic record
- Publish it on the PAS database

BROOCH
Unique ID: C10N-092198
Object type certainty: Certain
Workflow status: Awaiting validation

A near complete Roman copper alloy longlegged continental plate brooch probably dating to the period cAD 100–200. It is only missing its pin but is otherwise complete.

The brooch is approximately lozenge shaped being a mixture of solid decorated plate and openwork. The solid plate has two triangular terminals each with triangular cells within them separated by a solid sub-rectangular plate with concave sides that also has a cell within it. Linear narrow copper alloy frames extend from the outside points of the triangles bordering the sub-rectangular plate which meet to form two more points with triangular recesses between these points and the concave body of the plate. At each of these points and the outer points of the solid plate triangles are circular knobs which have circular cells filled with concave material. It is likely the main plates cells contained enamel although only traces of a dark brown enamel are visible within the sub-rectangular cell.

Chronology
Broad period: ROMAN
Period from: ROMAN
Period to: ROMAN
Date from: Circa AD 100
Date to: Circa AD 200

Dimensions and weight
Quantity: 1
Length: 40.5 mm
Width: 30.7 mm
Thickness: 7.8 mm
Weight: 5.13 g

Dimensions and weight
Quantity: 1
Length: 40.5 mm
Width: 30.7 mm
Thickness: 7.8 mm
Weight: 5.13 g

Discovery dates
Date of discovery: Sunday 1st September 2019 - Friday 14th February 2020

Personal details
Found by: Mr. Tomasz G.
Recorded by: Mr. David C.
Identified by: Mr. David C.

Other reference numbers
Other reference: OMS: 1000 2019-0 can bag 2

Materials and construction
Metal material type: Copper alloy
Manufacture method: Cast
Cast: Yes
Cast: Yes

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Why is this useful?

- We get to record small artefacts which tell us highly personal stories
- We also have collated probably one of the largest database of archaeological information out there all recorded in a standardised format which allows very powerful analyses to be carried out.
- But all well and good saying this better to show it!

Portable Antiquities Scheme
www.pas.org.uk

Log in | Register

Search database

Find results: 1 result - 1 result in 0.00 seconds

You searched for Everything we have

Record ID: C10N-092198
Object type: BROOCH
Broad period: ROMAN
Workflow status: Awaiting validation
Chatter: Gloucestershire

Workflow stage: Awaiting validation
An incomplete Roman copper alloy longlegged continental plate brooch dating to cAD 100–200. This has a double-headed pin on the head for the spring and external cord, both of which are missing. The wings have a narrow base and are missing. The undecorated base is truncated towards its base resulting in the loss of the catchplate.
Created on: Thursday 19th September 2020
Last updated: Thursday 19th September 2020
Spatial data recorded: No

Sort your search by:
• Object type
• Object period
• Recording institution
• Classification status
• Updated

Which direction?
• North
• East
• South
• West

Total results available: 100,000
Search server index: 100,000
You are viewing records: 1 - 20

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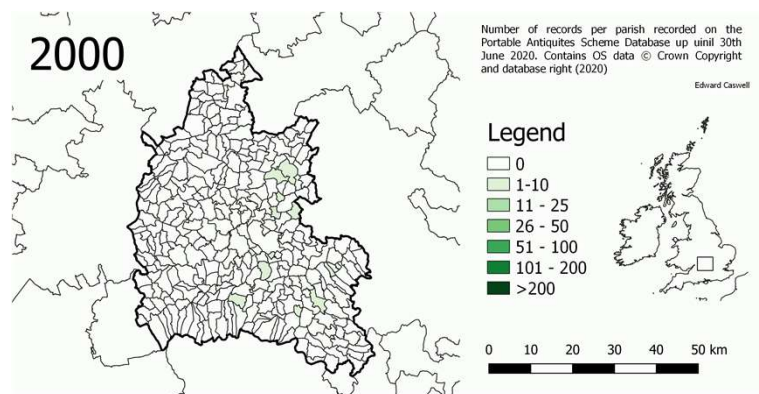
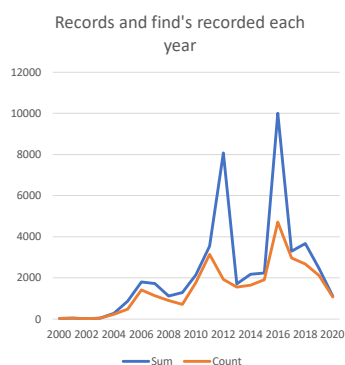
What has this community built data done for Oxfordshire?



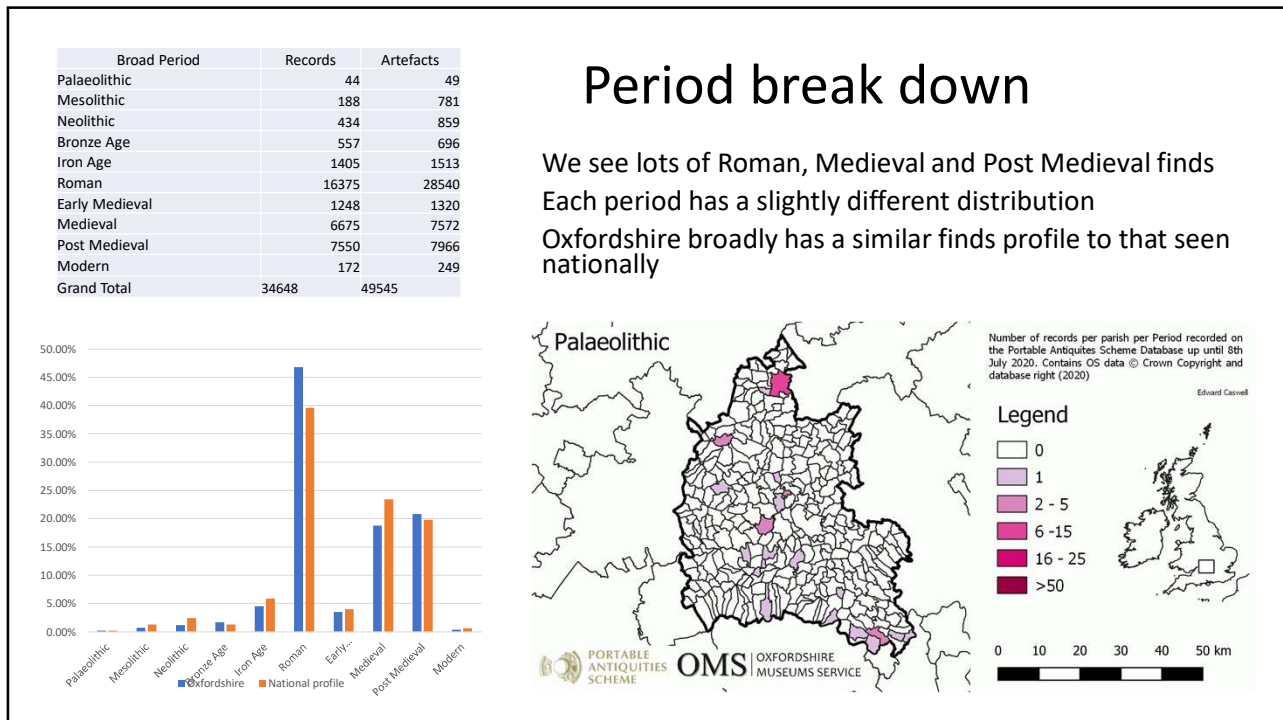
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Oxfordshire and the PAS

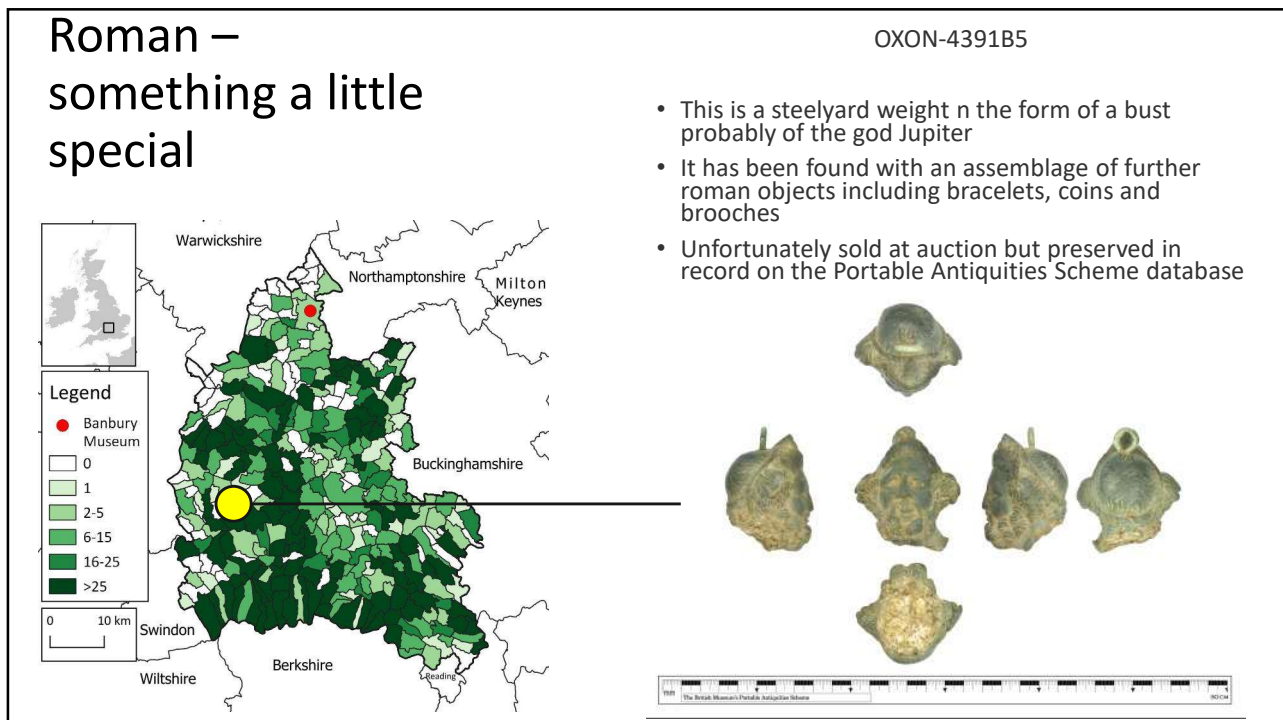
- 36,112 records have been created for objects from Oxfordshire
- These record over 51,757 objects
- These were brought to the PAS by over 3628 finders
- And then recorded by over 290 individuals



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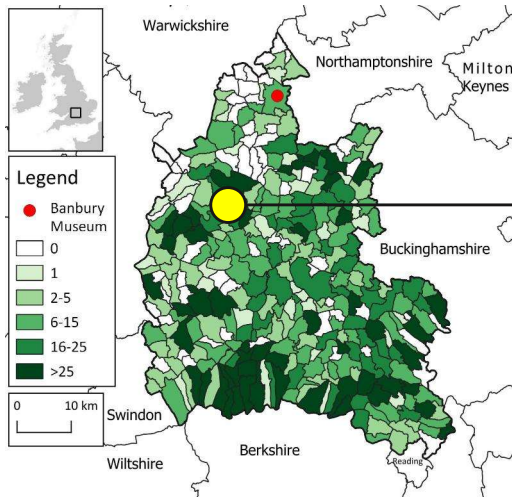


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Roman - something a little special



- We recently recorded a Roman potters stamp
- As this was so well preserved we have been able to make a 3d model of this using photogrammetry



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Marcham parish's finds

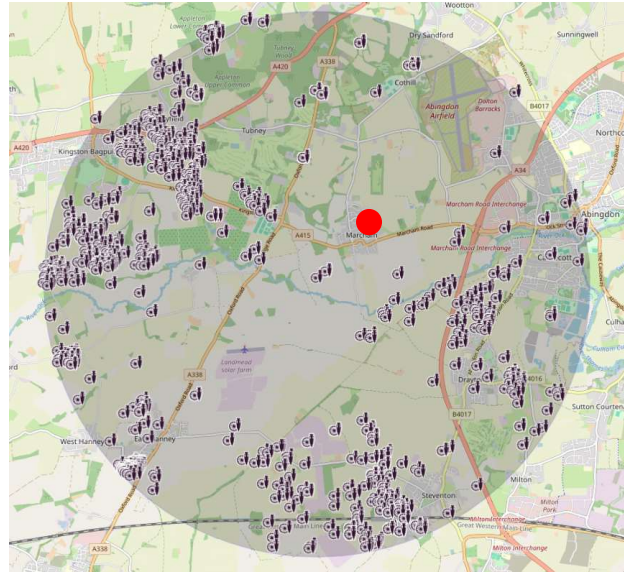


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Find's around Marcham

- But that's just some of the finds in the modern political parish of Marcham which may have limited use for understanding the area.
- From within 5km of the centre of the parish we now have 1,481 records of 2,566 artefacts!!!!
- This is probably too much to go through in one evening so

Period	Records
PALAEOLITHIC	1
MESOLITHIC	38
NEOLITHIC	31
BRONZE AGE	28
IRON AGE	76
ROMAN	619
EARLY MEDIEVAL	42
MEDIEVAL	339
POST MEDIEVAL	283
OTHER	24



It's time for....

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At no.5 with 1,318 records of 3,436 artefacts its...

Vessels



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At no.4 with 1,534 records of 1,592 artefacts its...

Tokens



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At no.3 with 1,826 records of 1,841 artefacts its...

Buckles



41

At no.2 with 2,151 records of 2,151 artefacts
its...

Brooches



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And the top of the finds with 18,719 record of 21,016 artefacts its....



coins..so....many...coins

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Marcham environs highlights – Stone Age

- At the PAS we don't just record metalwork
- Many detectorists and dog walkers while searching are likely to find ceramic and crucially stone objects
- In this area its notable that we don't just have evidence from the Neolithic but also have blanks from the Mesolithic
- And even a Palaeolithic handaxe
- Many of these have come from gardens so keep your eye out when digging!



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Marcham environs highlights – Bronze Age

- Onto the best period, the Bronze Age!
- The PAS data would seem to tell a story about rising activity in the Late Bronze Age scattered in low numbers only in the environs of Oxfordshire with only a hint of Early Bronze Age activity
- But this is in stark contrast to the excavated record which shows a vast monumental landscape following the course of the Thames seem very clearly at Barrow Hills



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Marcham environs highlights – Iron Age

- In most areas Iron Age objects tend to be dominated by two things coins and accessories
- All of which support the now widely viewed summary of the period as one focussed on heterarchy with princely elites probably using horses
- For Marcham your region is dominated by lots and lots of coins
- These are evenly distributed across the region



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mm Portable Antiquities Scheme Oxfordshire Museums Service

Tribes	Abingdon Area	Oxfordshire
Atrebatas	2	83
Canti	1	16
Catuvellauni	2	26
Corieltaui	1	10
Dobunni	8	264
Trinovantes	43	277
Uninscribed	3	29
Iceni	0	4

[illegible]

Marcham environs highlights – Early Medieval

- We see a selection of interesting finds from the Early Medieval period
- Most of these hint at personal wealth, display but also every day life
- This contrasts strongly with finds from the north of the county



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Early Medieval comparisons

Adderbury environs highlights – Early Medieval

- We see less finds in the Early Medieval period
- But those we do get often show two themes
- The increased use of 'horse power' seen in the brooches and stirrup strap mounts
- And also the increasing Germanic-Scandinavian influence on fashion
- Interestingly we have few EM coins in this region with just the one imported sceat



Woodstock environs highlights – Early Medieval

- We see less finds in the Early Medieval period
- But those we do get often show two themes
- The increased use of 'horse power' strap fittings
- But unlike other regions we see little evidence of burial



Dorchester environs highlights – Early Medieval

- We see a selection of interesting finds from the Early Medieval period
- Many are associated with horse riding and the rise of kingdoms
- But in your area rather than a focus on harness fittings we see a large number of brooches typically associated with cemeteries
- We also see a good number of early coins (sceats) supporting the idea that occupation continued in this region rather than disappearing with Roman organisation!



Goring environs highlights – Early Medieval

- We see less finds in the Early Medieval period
- But those we do get often show two themes
- The begging's of the monarchs as seen in early coinage
- And also the increasing Germanic-Scandinavian influence on fashion
- Goring's environs very much agree with these but we have some notably pretty objects



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Marcham environs highlights – Medieval

- In the Medieval period we start seeing the finds that feel representative of every day life
- Yes loads of coins
- Mounts
- Dress hooks
- Strap ends
- Buckles
- Thimbles
- Ampulla
- Finger rings
- But then we do have one or two special cases suggesting its not so very every day!



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Marcham environs highlights – Post Medieval

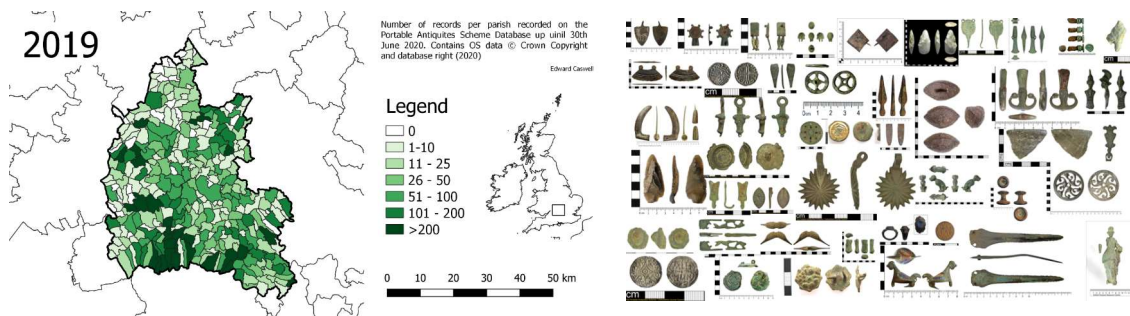
In this period you get a bit of everything!



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Macro view summary

- The reality is there are artefacts everywhere of all time periods and all types.
- Those that are being recovered are those in the plough soil which can degrade after only a little time.
- So this map is information that might otherwise have been lost.
- From a personal view the quantity of this data is immense
- We could compare this to some PhD's which for example look at only a couple of thousand objects
- There *is* bias in the record – we get a disproportionate amount of coins, we do get lots of metal and we get artefacts from where people have been looking.
- But this is no different to most other archaeological datasets



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Finding new sites with roman coins and more!

- Single stray artefacts can tell us activity occurred in a specific area
- However collections can tell us the nature of that activity and identify entirely new sites
- The presence of domestic ceramics for example may indicate that settlement was not ephemeral
- Meanwhile the artefact types can identify whether this was domestic or ceremonial in nature



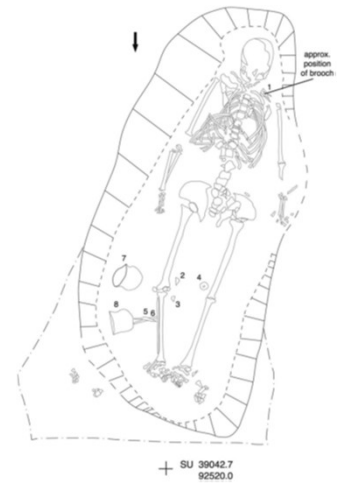
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Discovering new burials – Haney Brooch

The form of artefacts can often inform of the nature of archaeology around them

In this instance the discovery of the Haney Brooch resulted in the responsible reporting of the discovery of human bone and subsequent excavation

The burial and the brooch have helped further understand the Early Medieval period



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Personal stories trade tokens

- A lead alloy 17th century farthing trade token of the grocer John Hall of Abingdon
- This is a lead version of a token we know of – so they weren't able to make enough for their purpose
- This shows how far the Abingdon's trader's had influence and gives us some sense of the trade connections in Oxfordshire at this time



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Discover new artefacts -Vale brooches

Regionally distinct form of brooch

Only 5 known in brooch PhD (2013) 4 of which were recorded by PAS

There are now 21 on the PAS database

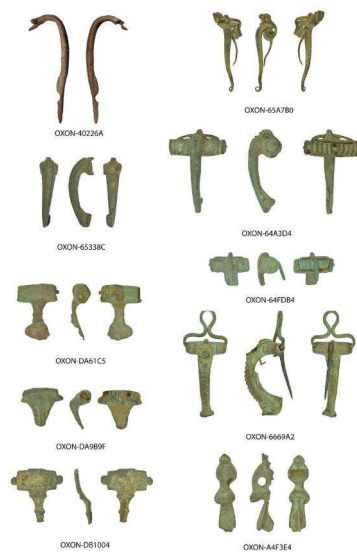
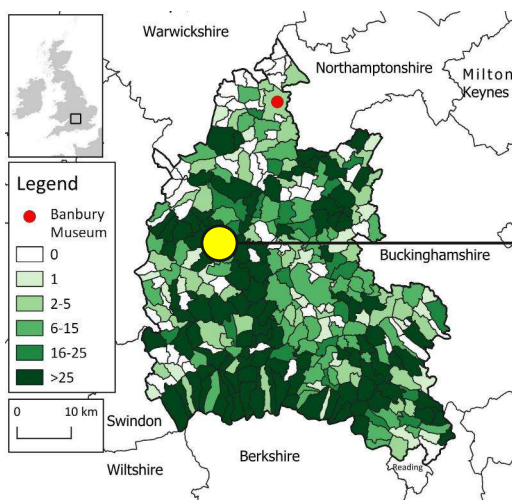
New object form we didn't know about, helps us identify regional identity through a means that isn't coinage or Caesars gallic wars.



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Roman- What brooches can tell us

Keep an eye out for Showells Farm report in Oxoniensia

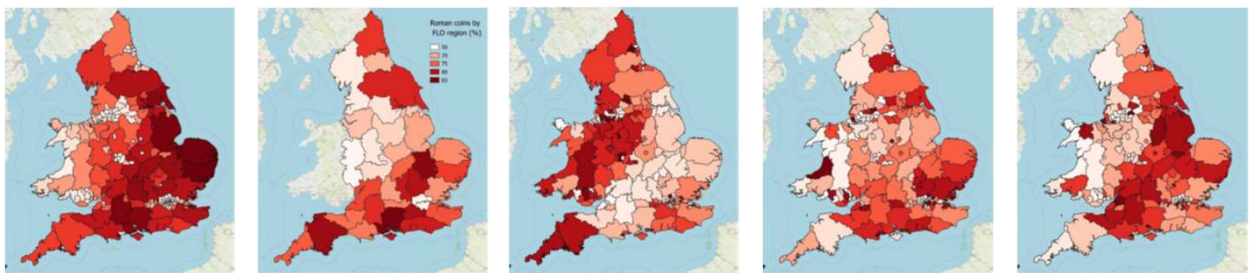


- As well as being high status objects these finds also are able to help us better contextualise archaeological sites
- For example Brooches assemblages can be compared to those found at known occupation sites (farms, villas and towns) found in the county to help indicate the nature of newly found Roman sites

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Make sense of Roman coins

- For Oxfordshire we see coins increasingly dominating as time goes on
- But we have lots of pretty objects from the earlier period
- This is part of a national shift in focus of coins being round in the Roman rural settlements
- The presence or absence of these can be compared to the national trend allowing us to identify unknown sites and to suggest their potential use
- For Oxfordshire What we are seeing by separating the material in this way, even with three very rough, broad periods, is not only the shift in coin distribution but also in patterns of Roman coin loss and by extension potentially the changing use (or at least focus) of the landscape during the Roman period.



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So there's loads of value gained from recording with the PAS to archaeological research

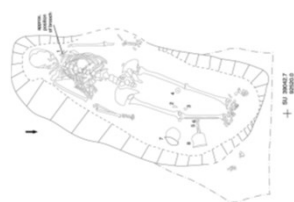
- Identify objects that would typically be lost
- Change national narratives
- Understand Oxfordshire's place within these
- Identify previously unknown sites, objects and burials of national and regional significance
- Allow us to learn more about individuals in the past who we can directly relate to



Random accumulation and breaking: The formation of Bronze Age scrap hoards in England and Wales

Rob Wiseman

Online Publishing in Palgrave Macmillan, Cambridge, UK and New York, USA



So how can you go about working with and using the PAS data?

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Getting on the database

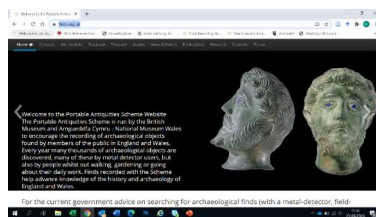
Go to our website

Try searching for something your interested in e.g. axeheads

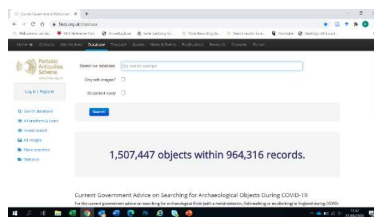
Use the right hand side of the screen to reduce your search

It's probably the easiest online archaeological database I know to search

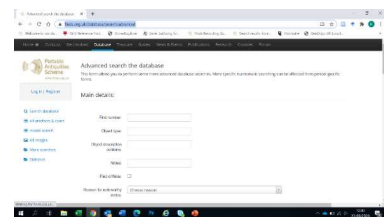
<https://finds.org.uk/>



<https://finds.org.uk/database>



<https://finds.org.uk/database/search/advanced>



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Using the database – finding great pictures

We have over **750,000 images** on the database

The vast majority are covered by the creative commons by license

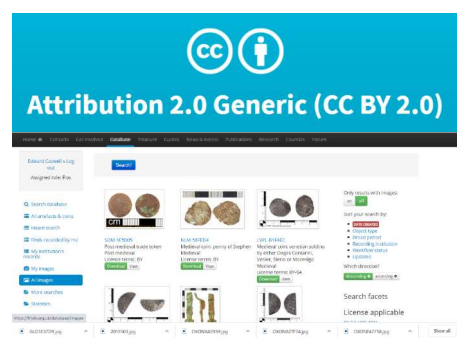
This means you can:

- **Share** — copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format
- **Adapt** — remix, transform, and build upon the material

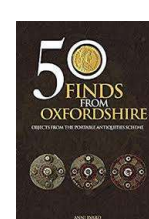
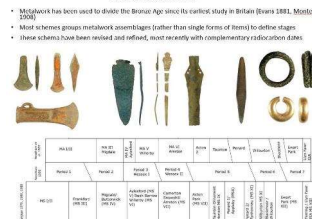
for **any purpose**, even commercially.

As long as you give **Attribution** — You must give [appropriate credit](#), provide a link to the license, and [indicate if changes were made](#).

Great for posters, promotional material, presentations or inspiration



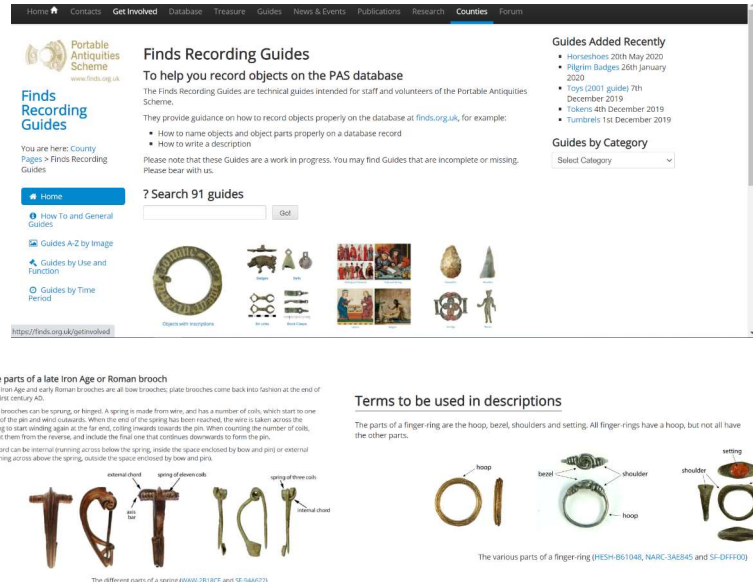
Metalwork



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Using the database – Learning a little about new artefacts

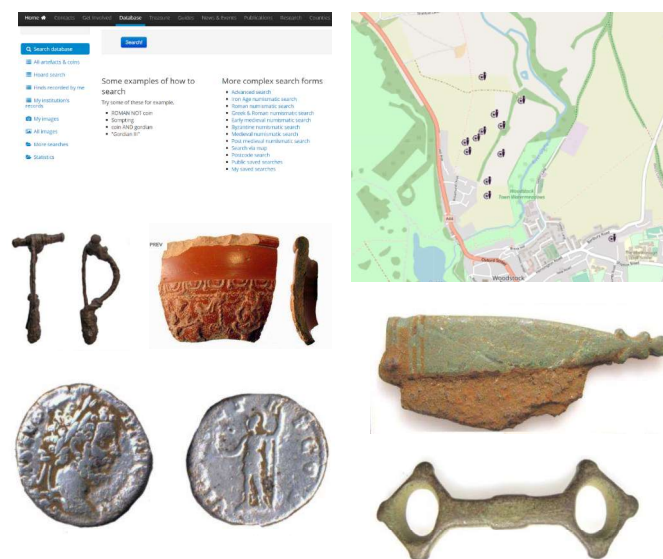
- The PAS has been supported by large quantities of supportive material
- The vast majority of this is available to view at:
<https://finds.org.uk/counties/findsrecordingguides/>
- You can use these to learn more about certain artefact types,
- Identify further reading
- Or to understand more about conserving and recording finds
- Most records also have a bibliography!



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Using the database – finding things from your area

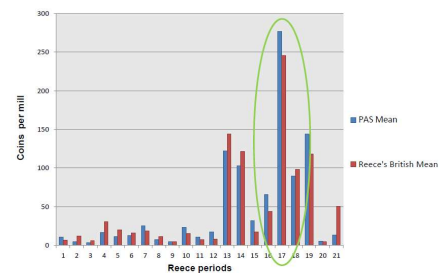
- As all artefacts are given a location its incredibly easy to search for artefacts around any location
- You can search around your home
- Or around somewhere you are researching
- This often gives a very quick and easy way to understand what activity is occurring where



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Using the database – Doing hardcore research

- The data recorded by the PAS is accessible to a certain degree without a logon
- If you create an account you can access more
- And further information can be gained if requesting researcher access
- This grants you one of the largest keyed datasets in the world for use in your own research



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Potential study topics

- The PAS database has a huge amount of potential for advancing our knowledge
- But FLOs have only a limited amount of time
- This means there are plenty of opportunities to use this data for new original projects- if you are keen just go for it!
- These can use the data we record
- Or enhance the data currently stored its all fair game



Potential topics include:

- Regional comparisons of single finds vs hoard depositions
- Typological studies of specific artefacts e.g. votive wheels
- Regionality of finds
- e.g. Late IA Early Roman Beaded Torcs / bracelets
- Identifying sites through the PAS
- e.g. Tracking Roman routeways with stray finds
- Updating old catalogues
- e.g. Maker's Marks on 17th century gold and silver jewellery
- Defining new artefacts
- e.g. Bronze Age Moustache objects
- Anything on lead tokens

Check out

<https://finds.org.uk/research/projects/suggested#> for more ideas!

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Get volunteering

- We can now (covid permitting!) host volunteers at the Museum Resource Centre.
- If you like the look of the objects show here and want to help record them get in touch
- Currently I host 2 volunteers on Fridays but more are welcome!



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