Appendix 12: Typical format of interview questions used in the structured interviews with key individuals

In this particular example, Section A represents the general questions asked to archaeologists interviewed. Different questions were asked to metal-detector users to reflect their metal detecting (rather than archaeological) backgrounds.

A General Questions

1. When and how did you become aware of metal detecting and metal-detector users?

2. What was your opinion of them at first?

3. Has your view of metal detecting changed since then?

4. Have any particular events or developments taken place to change (or sustain) your opinion?

5. Have you (or your organisation) ever been approached directly by a metal-detector user or metal detecting club on any matter? Please describe

6. Have you (or your organisation) ever approached a metal-detector user or metal detecting club on any matter? Please describe

7. Have you actively worked with metal-detector users to assist with your own archaeological fieldwork or used a metal detector as a device in archaeological work?
8. Have you come across any actual cases of looting in your experience as an archaeologist?

9. Do you think that the Treasure Trove law in England and Wales as it stood before 1997 was effective, or do you think that it had flaws? Please elaborate.

10. What is your opinion of the Treasure Act 1996?

11. What is your opinion of the Portable Antiquities Scheme?

12. Northern Ireland and Scotland have different policies and laws for protecting their cultural heritage to England and Wales. Do you think that this has any effects on the way metal detecting relates to archaeology in those countries?

13. There have been changes in legislation made by the UK recently with its acceptance of the UNESCO 1970 Convention and the Dealing in Cultural Objects (Offences) Act 2003. Do you think they will prove to be effective? Why/why not?

14. Are you aware of the UNIDROIT 1995 Convention?

15. If yes, do you see there being any advantage if the UK was to sign the UNIDROIT 1995 Convention?

16. Do you think that more could be done in the UK than is happening currently to prevent looting from Scheduled Ancient Monuments and archaeological sites?
B Specific Questions

(This section varied based on the interviewee’s involvement in historical or current events, and as such could focus on a range of themes such as the STOP Campaign, the development of the Portable Antiquities Scheme, or events at Wanborough. The composition of the questions in this section was informed by relevant literature and archival evidence.)

C Wrapping up

(Thank you for participating in the interview). Do you have any other points that you would like to make or discuss related to any of the issues we have touched upon today?)