

Abstract

The relationships between archaeologists and metal-detector users in England and Wales: Impact of the past and implication for the future

Ever since the hobby of metal detecting emerged in the United Kingdom in the late 1960s, it has been at odds with professional archaeology, due to its apparent encouragement of treasure hunting. This thesis analyses the development and nature of the relationships between archaeologists and metal-detector users, focussing specifically on England and Wales. The roles of key individuals, events and organisations in the formation of legislation, campaigns and frameworks for interaction, are analysed. Therefore, the focus of the thesis is on individuals and processes involved, rather than on archaeological material.

An international context is provided by reference to literature and interviews with individuals from the wider UK, and from other countries where different forms of treasure hunting take place. The role of the international trade in antiquities is also considered.

A significant component of the research is historical analysis; studying archives that had not previously been researched, complemented by interviews with appropriate individuals. This, along with a survey of current metal-detector users and clubs, contributes significant original data to the academic discourse. The thesis is placed into a theoretical context by reference to 'social capital' and its application to the relationships between archaeologists and metal-detector users. Reflexive and hermeneutic research methods associated with post-processual theories are applied.

The thesis then analyses the development and success of the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS), a unique initiative in England and Wales operating alongside the *Treasure Act* 1996. This is done utilising the knowledge platform already established in the thesis, and information from professional archaeologists within and outside of PAS, and metal-detector users and the wider public. Reference is also made to recent reviews of PAS and current metal-detector user activity.

Concluding, the thesis recommends further support for and enhancement of PAS, and to focus on improving communication, inclusion and trust. It points to the furtherance of research in this area by establishing, for the first time, an in-depth analysis of both the history and the current status of the relationships between archaeologists and metal-detector users.

Contents

Abstract	i
List of Figures	vii
List of Charts	ix
List of Tables	xii
Acknowledgements	xiii
Abbreviations	xv
Chapter 1: Introduction	1
1.1 General introduction	1
1.2 Theoretical contexts	6
1.3 Background to research	15
1.4 Current initiatives and legislation in England and Wales	18
1.5 Reviews of the Portable Antiquities Scheme and of Nighthawking	22
1.6 Research questions	27
1.7 Research Aims and Objectives	28
1.8 Definitions	30
1.9 Chapter outlines	51
Chapter 2: Research Methods	60
2.1 Introduction	60
2.2 Research ethics	61
2.3 Literature review as a process	62
2.4 Primary sources and archival research	65
2.5 Questionnaires and interviews	71
2.6 Other methods	84
2.7 Conclusions	86

Chapter 3: Metal detecting and the antiquities market: a global perspective	88
3.1 Introduction: sales from England and Wales, sales from other countries	88
3.2 The international trade in antiquities	89
3.3 Issues of ownership and responsibility	95
3.4 Metal-detector users in other countries	98
3.5 American relic hunters	101
3.6 Metal detecting in other parts of the United Kingdom	106
3.6 Conclusions	111
Chapter 4: The Council for British Archaeology: “measures for the care of Antiquities”	113
4.1 Introduction	113
4.2 Brian Hope-Taylor and “ <i>The Need for Adequate Archaeological Propaganda</i> ”	115
4.3 The 1950s: The Waverly Report and American G.I.s	121
4.4 Export of antiquities: continued concerns	125
4.5 Some conclusions	130
Chapter 5: How STOP started: early approaches to the metal detecting community by archaeologists and others	132
5.1 Introduction	132
5.2 Amateurs, archaeologists and treasure hunters	134
5.3 “ <i>The Hobby of the Year</i> ”	140
5.4 “ <i>At variance with the general opinion of archaeologists</i> ”	145
5.5 STOP is formed	152
5.6 The Detector Information Group and the battle for public opinion	156
5.7 Legislative developments	162
5.8 Conclusions	170
Chapter 6: Events after STOP	174
6.1 Introduction	174
6.2 “ <i>The Battle of Wanborough Temple</i> ”	176
6.3 Interpretation of the site in court	180
6.4 More attempts to reform treasure trove	184

6.5 The planning of the Portable Antiquities Scheme	192
6.6 Conclusions: was Wanborough significant?	195
Chapter 7: Metal-detector users today	203
7.1 Introduction	203
7.2 Analysis of individual metal-detector user survey	205
7.3 Analysis of metal detecting clubs survey	225
7.4 The Durobrivae (Water Newton) metal detecting rally	237
7.5 Conclusions	251
Chapter 8: The Portable Antiquities Scheme as an effective system for England and Wales	267
8.1 Introduction	267
8.2 Analysis of Finds Liaison Officers' survey	268
8.3 Analysis of wider public opinion: the <i>Buried Treasure</i> exhibition feedback	290
8.4 Buried Treasure: Building Bridges	301
8.5 Other views on PAS, and ways forward	304
8.6 Conclusions	314
Chapter 9: Conclusions	316
9.1 Answering the research questions	316
9.2 How the aims were achieved	320
9.3 Reviewing the theoretical contexts	322
9.4 Historical and contemporary relationships	324
9.5 Recommendations and areas for future research	328
9.6 Final conclusions	333
Bibliography	335
Appendix 1: Recommendations from the Hawkshead <i>Review of Portable Antiquities Scheme</i>, 2004	372
Appendix 2: List of Recommendations from <i>A review of the Portable Antiquities Scheme</i>, 2008	374

Appendix 3: List of Recommendations from the <i>Nighthawks and Nighthawking</i> report, 2009	376
Appendix 4: Questionnaire for metal detecting rally participants	377
Appendix 5: Additional questions asked to participants at the Durobrivae (Water Newton) metal detecting rally (occurring as Questions 10, 11, 12 and 13)	381
Appendix 6: Extra questions for sample of respondent participants at the Nene Valley metal detecting rally	382
Appendix 7: Questionnaire distributed to metal detecting club representatives	383
Appendix 8: Cover letter sent to metal detecting club representatives	388
Appendix 9: Questionnaire distributed to Finds Liaison Officers	390
Appendix 10: Questionnaire for visitors to the <i>Buried Treasure</i> exhibition, Hancock Museum, Newcastle upon Tyne	393
Appendix 11: Table of Interviewees and Personal Communications	398
Appendix 12: Typical format of interview questions used in the structured interviews with key individuals	403
Appendix 13: Fieldnote guidelines for student volunteers attending the Durobrivae (Water Newton) metal detecting rally	406
Appendix 14: The Waverly Criteria	407
Appendix 15: Frequency and Percentage Tables for Questionnaire results of individual metal-detector user survey	408

Appendix 16: Lists of names of responding metal detecting clubs and societies as represented in the individuals' survey and the clubs' and societies' survey	416
Appendix 17: Frequency and Percentage Tables for Questionnaire results of metal detecting club survey	420
Appendix 18: List of Student volunteers from Newcastle University that participated at the Durobrivae (Water Newton) metal detecting rally by find spot recording and keeping fieldnotes, August 2007	427
Appendix 19: Responses from the extra questionnaire questions at the Durobrivae(Water Newton) metal detecting rally, August 2007	428
Appendix 20: Responses to the extra questions for sample of respondent participants at the Nene Valley metal detecting rally	429
Appendix 21: Frequency and Percentage Tables for Questionnaire results of Finds Liaison Officer survey	434
Appendix 22: Names of respondent Finds Liaison Officers and regions where they were responsible at the time of the survey	442
Appendix 23: Frequency and Percentage Tables for Questionnaire results of exit survey of visitors to Buried Treasure exhibition, Hancock Museum, Newcastle upon Tyne	443

List of Figures

All photographic figures were taken by Suzie Thomas unless otherwise stated.

- Figure 1.1:** From left to right: a circa 1972 detector; a circa 1969 M L Beach detector; and a circa 1970 Webb Fletcher "British Prospector", photographed with kind permission of Frank Mellish, 2007 **31**
- Figure 1.2:** A 'nighthawk torch', discarded and then discovered at the Durobrivae (Water Newton) metal detecting rally, August 2007 **34**
- Figure 1.3:** Detail of the 'nighthawk torch', showing the reddened lens of the light **34**
- Figure 2.1:** First edition of *True Treasure Monthly*, 1972 **64**
- Figure 3.1:** Native American pottery at the University of Arizona, Tucson, the type of pottery popular with collectors and relic hunters. Photograph taken with kind permission of Barbara Mills, 2005 **105**
- Figure 4.1:** "Father Time has buried a jigsaw" design by Brian Hope-Taylor, (undated b). Photograph: Laura Sole **118**
- Figure 4.2:** "History in the Ground" poster design by Brian Hope-Taylor, (undated c) Photograph: Laura Sole **119**
- Figure 5.1:** illustration accompanying "Getting Down to your Fortune", an article in the *ITV Times*, (Fairley c.1970: 13-14) **143**
- Figure 5.2:** Newspaper cutting from the *Cheltenham Chronicle and Gloucester Graphic* (1970: 5) showing story about metal detecting (or "coin spotting") **144**
- Figure 5.3:** The STOP Campaign logo, 1980 (taken from a letterhead courtesy of CBA) **152**
- Figure 5.4:** STOP publication for teachers, 1980 (courtesy of Kate Pretty) **154**
- Figure 5.5:** illustration featured in STOP Campaign leaflet, reproduced courtesy of the CBA **160**
- Figure 5.6:** STOP poster design by cartoonist Bill Tidy, image courtesy of the CBA and Bill Tidy **162**
- Figure 5.7:** STOP poster design by cartoonist Bill Tidy, image courtesy of the CBA and Bill Tidy **162**
- Figure 6.1:** The Great Barn at Wanborough, image courtesy of Guildford Borough Council, 2008 **176**
- Figure 6.2:** Map of the area surrounding the site, which straddles Green Lane north west of Wanborough. Image courtesy of Audrey Graham, scanned from *Surrey Archaeological Collections* 82 **177**

Figure 6.3: John Gower, Joint Honorary Secretary of the Surrey Archaeological Society, examining damage by treasure hunters at Wanborough in 1985. Photograph: Marian Gower 1985	179
Figure 6.4: Artefacts on display at the Guildford Museum, including finds from Wanborough	181
Figure 6.5: Damage from recent looting of Wanborough temple site, filled with rainwater. Anecdotal information suggests that quantities of earth may have been removed to search more thoroughly at a different location. January 2005	201
Figure 6.6: More evidence of ground disturbance at the Wanborough site, January 2005	202
Figure 7.1: A student volunteer interviewing a metal-detector user at the Nene Valley metal detecting rally, August 2008. Photograph: Gregory Jackson	203
Figure 7.2: PAS staff and volunteers recording finds at Thornborough metal detecting rally, September 2006	238
Figure 7.3: David Connolly showing Newcastle University students GPS devices in the marquee at the Durobrivae (Water Newton) metal detecting rally, August 2007	241
Figure 7.4: Metal-detector users searching at the Durobrivae (Water Newton) rally, with student volunteers (in high-visibility jackets) recording find spots, August 2007	241
Figure 7.5: Metal-detector users search a field at the Snape metal detecting rally, August 2006	251
Figure 7.6: A selection of ‘Find of the Month’ competition entrants at Blaydon Search and Recovery Society, Tyne and Wear, 2007	263
Figure 8.1: The famous Mildenhall Treasure, as displayed at the <i>Buried Treasure</i> exhibition at the Hancock Museum, Newcastle 2005	292
Figure 8.2: <i>Buried Treasure: Building Bridges</i> leaflet	302

List of Charts

Chart 1: Pie chart to show the responses to the 1959 survey of UK museums by the CBA	126
Chart 2: Statistics for Pipe Finder/Metal Detector Licences issued by the Home Office	141
Chart 3: Pie chart to show the proportion of total questionnaire respondents from each metal detecting rally	206
Chart 4: Pie chart to show the gender of individual metal-detector user questionnaire respondents	206
Chart 5: Pie chart illustrating the proportion of postcodes for each urban/rural indicator zone for Scottish responses	208
Chart 6: Bar chart illustrating the proportion for each urban/rural indicator zone for English and Welsh responses	210
Chart 7: Bar chart demonstrating the distribution of respondents per age range category	211
Chart 8: Bar chart showing how many years that respondents had been metal detecting at the time of interview	212
Chart 9: Dot graph to show the mode age group for each number of years metal detecting	213
Chart 10: Pie chart showing affiliation of respondents to national metal detecting organisations	213
Chart 11: Pie chart showing respondents' membership to local metal detecting clubs or societies	214
Chart 12: Bar chart showing the count for each response option for Question 8	215
Chart 13: Pie chart showing frequency with which respondents attend metal detecting rallies over a year	216
Chart 14: Bar chart showing popularity of each response option for Question 10	217
Chart 15: Pie chart showing whether respondents had ever worked with archaeologists	219
Chart 16: Pie chart showing whether respondents said that they sell their finds	221
Chart 17: Pie chart showing whether respondents have donated finds to a museum	222
Chart 18: Line chart showing when responding metal detecting clubs and societies were formed	226

Chart 19: Bar chart showing responses to current state of metal detecting club memberships	227
Chart 20: Bar chart showing the count for each response option for Question 6 concerning club activities	228
Chart 21: Bar chart showing metal detecting clubs' relationships with PAS	230
Chart 22: Bar chart showing metal detecting clubs' relationships with the UKDFD	232
Chart 23: Pie chart to show whether metal detecting clubs had worked with archaeologists in field work	233
Chart 24: Pie chart to show the way in which contact was made for metal detecting club assistance with archaeological projects	234
Chart 25: Pie chart showing whether participants noticed anything different about the Durobrivae (Water Newton) metal detecting rally	242
Chart 26: Pie chart showing whether participants regarded the archaeological presence at the Durobrivae (Water Newton) metal detecting rally as positive or negative	243
Chart 27: Bar chart showing number of years each FLO had been in current position when surveyed in 2006	270
Chart 28: Bar chart showing years FLO had worked as a FLO in total when surveyed in 2006	271
Chart 29: Chart 29 Bar chart showing number of known metal detecting clubs per region according to FLOs when surveyed in 2006 N=21	272
Chart 30: Bar chart to show number of clubs that responded to FLO contact per region N=21	273
Chart 31: Bar chart to show number of clubs that contacted PAS without initial communication from a FLO N=18	274
Chart 32: Bar chart to show clubs per FLO response that were invited to work with PAS but declined N=21	275
Chart 33: Chart 33 Bar chart to show number of individual metal-detector users (rather than club members) seen by FLOs	276
Chart 34: Bar chart to show number of metal-detector users according to FLO responses that have contact with other archaeologists but no direct contact with PAS	277

Chart 35: Pie chart to show responses from FLOs regarding whether contact with metal-detector users had increased, decreased or stayed the same	278
Chart 36: Pie chart showing FLO awareness of nighthawking in their region	279
Chart 37: Pie chart to show whether specific sites were known as vulnerable to nighthawking	280
Chart 38: Pie chart to show whether any convictions (or attempted convictions) were known	281
Chart 39: Pie chart to show the gender of the respondents	293
Chart 40: Bar chart to show the age ranges of respondents	293
Chart 41: Bar chart indicating why respondents had visited <i>Buried Treasure</i>	294
Chart 42: Bar chart showing respondents' ratings of the exhibition	295
Chart 43: Pie chart showing whether respondents had heard of PAS before visiting the exhibition	296
Chart 44: Pie chart showing whether the respondents who had heard of PAS had worked with it	296
Chart 45: Pie chart showing ways in which respondents had worked with PAS	297
Chart 46: Area chart showing the gender of respondents and ways in which they had worked with PAS	298
Chart 47: Area chart indicating age range of respondent and way in which they had been involved with PAS	299

List of Tables

Table 1: Chapters in relation to the Aims and Objectives, the principal evidence and the research methods used	55
Table 2 (a, b, c and d): Tables to demonstrate the research methods employed for each objective:	56
Table 2a: Aim 1	56
Table 2b: Aim 2	57
Table 2c: Aim 3	58
Table 2d: Aim 4	59
Table 3: Urban/rural indicator metadata for Scotland with count of postcodes collected	208
Table 4: Urban/rural indicator metadata for England and Wales with count of postcodes collected	209
Table 5: Comparison of survey results and official PAS results for 2005-6 and 2006-7	285
Table 6: Aims shown with ways in which they were achieved in the thesis	321

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Abbreviations

ACAO	Association of County Archaeological Officers
ACC	Association of County Councils
ACCG	Ancient Coin Collectors Guild
ADA	Antiquity Dealers Association
ADC	Association of District Councils
ALGAO	Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers
AMAA Bill	Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Bill
AMAAA	Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act
APPAG	All Party Parliamentary Archaeology Group
BAJR	British Archaeological Jobs Resource
BBC	British Broadcasting Corporation
CAF	Community Archaeology Forum
CBA	Council for British Archaeology
CD	Compact Disc
CIA	Council for Independent Archaeology
CLA	Country Landowners Association
COA	Census Output Area
DCA	Department for Constitutional Affairs
DCMS	Department for Culture Media and Sport
Defra	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DIG	Detector Information Group
DNH	Department of National Heritage
DoE	Department of the Environment
DOENI	Department of Environment for Northern Ireland
DS	Detecting Society
EDM	Early Day Motion
FID	Federation of Independent Detectorists
FLO	Finds Liaison Officer

FMDAC	Federation of Metal Detector and Archaeological Clubs Inc.
GPS	Global Positioning System
HAPPAH	Halte au Pillage do Patrimoine Archaéologique et Historique
HC Deb	House of Commons Debate (Hansard)
HER	Historic Environment Record
HL Deb	House of Lords Debate (Hansard)
HMSO	Her Majesty's Stationary Office
IARC	Illicit Antiquities Research Centre
ICCHS	International Centre for Cultural and Heritage Studies
ICOM	International Council of Museums
MA	Museums Association
MD	Metal Detecting
MD Soc.	Metal Detecting Society
MDC	Metal Detecting Club
MLA	Museums Libraries and Archives Council
MP	Member of Parliament
NAGPRA	Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act
NAMDC	National Association of Metal Detecting Clubs
NCMD	National Council for Metal Detecting
NFU	National Farmers Union
NGR	National Grid Reference
OPSI	Office of Public Sector Information
PAAG	Portable Antiquities Advisory Group
PAS	Portable Antiquities Scheme
PAWG	Portable Antiquities Working Group
PhD	Doctor of Philosophy
PPG16	Planning Policy Guidance no.16
SAM	Scheduled Ancient Monument
SCAM	Standing Conference on Archives and Museums
SCOPA	Standing Conference on Portable Antiquities
SCUM	Standing Conference of Unit Managers

SMA	Society of Museum Archaeologists
SMR	Sites and Monuments Record
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
STOP	Stop Taking Our Past
THWP	Treasure Hunting Working Party
TVC	Treasure Valuation Committee
U3A	University of the Third Age
UK	United Kingdom
UKDFD	United Kingdom Detector Finds Database
UKDN	United Kingdom Detector Net
UKIC	United Kingdom Institute of Conservation
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
USA	United States of America
VASLE	Viking and Anglo-Saxon Landscape and Economy Project
YAC	Young Archaeologists Club