

Finds Liaison in Buckinghamshire

March 2006

Treasure Reported

Parish	Material	Object Type	Ref No
Hambleton	Gold	Saxon bracteate pendant	2005/T014
Edlesborough	Silver gilt	Saxon brooch [via Beds FLO]	2005/T035
W.Wycombe	Cu Alloy	31 Roman nummii	2005/T043
W.Wycombe	Silver	18 Roman denarii	2005/T121
Prestwood	Silver	2 more Roman denarii from the 1999 hoard	2005/T144
Cublington	Silver	Roman ring [intaglio missing]	2005/T245
Soulbury	Silver gilt	16 th C dress hook	2005/T322
Ivinghoe Aston	Silver?	Medieval annular brooch	2005/T571
Cold Brayfield [MK]	Cu Alloy	36 Roman nummii	2006/T074

Portable Antiquities Database [www.finds.org.uk]

A large amount of finds have been recorded, and the total entered on the database so far is 1625. Many records await adding to the database and the backlog is an ongoing problem. Without the patience and IT skills of Jennifer Moss, a museum volunteer, the situation would not be as good as it is. The agreements are now in place for SMR officers to download object records and findspots direct from the database.

Rallies, Club Digs & Meetings

The FLO has attended & recorded finds at a number of Weekend Wanderers events, at Hastoe, St Leonards, Hunts Green Farm The Lee, Steeple Claydon, Ivinghoe Aston twice, Newton Longville, Wendover Dean Farm twice, Creslow, Hurdlegrove Farm Whitchurch, Raans Farm Amersham, a two day event at Edlesborough & two days at Prestwood. Thame Rotary Club organised a Rally at Brill and were persuaded that objects found during the day should be recorded. Pictures of the more interesting finds were included in their website report of the day.

The local detector clubs have been visited regularly and contributed displays of finds to a case in the Bucks Finest exhibition. Members of the Magiovinium & MK metal Detector Club laid on a display of finds for the Museums National Archaeology Day event and spent time talking, very effectively to visitors about their objects.

The recent sudden removal of hedges around the large area at Weedon Hill, north of Aylesbury, resulted in a flurry of comments that illicit detecting had been seen and of requests from the local detectorists to help with legitimate searching. After a discussion with the County Archaeological Officer it was decided that it would be better to do a controlled search. This would, it was hoped, put off the nighthawks and at least secure some of the finds for the site archive. The Wessex Archaeology Unit, who were already responsible for the watching brief were very cooperative and provided two of their staff with a van and GPS to record the findspots. Local detectorists who were free in the daytime at short notice were contacted. They had to have already recorded finds with PAS and be prepared to waive their rights to any Treasure rewards and be willing to hand their finds to the site archive. A surprising number volunteered and 15 to 18 detectorists turned up each of the three, very cold, days and found a satisfactory quantity of finds. These have been mapped by the Wessex Unit's staff and include Roman, Saxon and medieval coins

and a quantity of Civil War period objects. All the participants found it a useful and enjoyable project and would like to offer their services again.

This year Scheme has funded professional conservators to provide technical advice and training on care and storage of archaeological metalwork. This project culminated in regional workshops for detectorists, one of which was held in Aylesbury Museum in February. About 100 people, many of whom have since said how much they enjoyed the event, attended the day of lectures and advice sessions.

Publicity

A leaflet has been produced, as part of the County Museums series, on advice for those wishing to detect in Bucks and a freestanding pull-up banner that will be useful for indoor displays and events has been ordered.

Recently the Treasure Hunting magazine produced a free, pull out booklet with images of interesting finds from all over the country. FLOs were asked to send in their 10 best finds recorded on the database in 2005 from which a selection were published. There are a number of finds from Bucks featured in the booklet

The Searcher magazine asked FLOs to nominate their most archaeologically interesting object, coin and hoard for a national trophy. Against stiff competition, a Saxon gold coin, found by a Bucks detectorist, north of Aylesbury, has won. The coin is currently in the Bucks Finest exhibition.

Talks to local history and archaeology groups continue to provide further opportunities to publicise the work of the Portable Antiquities Scheme in Bucks.

Publication

A report is due to be published in Records of Bucks on an unusual Saxon brooch found at Buckland by a detectorist and Bucks finds were featured in the PAS section of Britannia. PAS Central Unit has published a free leaflet on the care and storage of detector finds.

Finds Identification & Recording Sessions

These have focused on a monthly Saturday afternoon at Wycombe Museum and Wednesdays in the Civic Offices in Central Milton Keynes. National Archaeology Days and other events like the Fabulous Finds Days provide additional opportunities.

Ros Tyrrell
Finds Liaison Officer