



Finds Liaison in Buckinghamshire

August 07 to March 08

Treasure Finds

There have been 10 potential treasure cases reported in the period covered by these notes. The objects from Bedfordshire were reported by a finder who belongs to a Bucks Metal Detector Club. The FLO is able to liaise with the Coroners of other counties where necessary. The ring fragment from Quarrenden parish was reported via the Berkshire FLO who is the nearest to where the finder lives but will come up before the Bucks Coroner as usual. However there may be a delay as the FLO in question has resigned and the job has not been advertised yet.

The silver objects & associated with the Wolverton grave goods will not need to be purchased for the collections as they will remain with the site archive. This will be deposited with the MK collection after the report for the site has been finished.

The following table shows potential Treasure objects reported since the last meeting.

Parish	Material	Object Type	Ref No
Sherington, MK	Silver	17th C button decorated with a flaming heart pierced by two arrows.	2007/T543
Sherington, MK	Silver	17th C dress pin/bodkin decorated and with 'AC' incised on the shaft	2007/T591
Soulbury	Gold	1664 mourning ring decorated with a single skull & inscr: 'SR AGED 76 OBIJIT 19 AUG 64'	2007/T592
Battlesden, Beds	Silver	14th-15th C annular brooch	2007/T593
Stagsden, Beds	Silver	17th C button	2007/T605
Lt Horwood	Gold	2 more Iron Age coins, addenda to 2006/T640 hoard	2007/T608
Quarrendon	Silver	Roman finger ring frag	2007/T717
Wolverton ASC Ltd Excavation, MK	Silver	Saxon grave goods, pieces of a decorated pendant & 5 wire rings	2008/T057
Medmenham	Silver	17 th C medallion with probably Charles I on one side & Henrietta Maria [married 1625] on the other	2008/T078
Stoke Hammond	Silver	Two 17 th C buttons [same as 2007/T543] later converted to a cufflink	2008/T125

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

A large amount of finds have continued to be recorded, and the total entered on the database so far is now 4687. The national total is over 300,000.

Rallies, Club Digs & Meetings

Cooperation with the Scheme is voluntary and no one is forced to record what they find. To date those who organise metal detector rallies in Bucks all invite the FLO to record the finds. This is

not the case in some of the adjacent counties. There are rally organisers who say that land owners are concerned that groups of finds indicating the presence of significant settlements will result in their having to pay for excavations in advance of development in the future. Some landowners prefer there to be no official record of what is found. The cooperation in this county has been brought about by much careful negotiation and could change if the other groups move into the area.

Coinshooters held a charity [in aid of Lifeboats & Ovarian Cancer Action] rally north of Quainton in September. Weekend Wanderers have only visited this county twice since the last report but caused some problems in their choice of site, namely the area round Billingsfield Cottage, Quarrenden. This is close to the Roman sites at Fleet Marston and has a Roman road crossing it. Although the overall rally organiser was prepared to cancel the second visit to the site he allowed his local contact to persuade him into going ahead on with it. The FLO considered the site important enough to come back from holiday specially to record the finds.

The need for the rally organisers to plan their events well in advance is underlined by this debacle and some do this. However the way Weekend Wanderers and some of the other roving clubs work makes this difficult. PAS is having meetings with rally organisers to set up a code of practice just for rallies in an attempt to improve the situation. Ultimately it is difficult to stop anyone setting up a rally with the landowner's agreement and ignoring advice from CAS & PAS.

A recent proposal to hold a rally at Hillesden at Easter was forwarded from Weekend Wanderers to the County Archaeology Service. They recommended against it as there is known to be archaeology that could be damaged by the presence of a large group of detectorists in a small area. The event has been cancelled by the organiser.

The local detector clubs have been visited regularly and are offering their finds for recording on the database. In addition individual detectorists are being proactive in seeking out the FLO to record their finds.

Lost & Found Exhibition

A major exhibition of the work of the PAS in the county has been held from 6th October to 9th February 08 in the County Museum. An amazing range of objects found by the public and recorded with the FLO since 2003 were lent to the Museum for display. All those who lent objects for display were invited to the launch of the exhibition. Several of these finders had not previously been to the Museum and were impressed with how much archaeology was on display. Visitors expressed surprise at the range and quality of objects being recorded from our county and the finders were pleased to share their objects with other interested people.

Publicity

Talks to local history and archaeology groups continue to provide further opportunities to publicise the work of the Portable Antiquities Scheme in Bucks. A newly formed group of local history enthusiasts has been set up by a Hambleton resident. There have been several detectorists recording finds from that area & there was interest in these. The FLO talked to the group about the finds from the area and a research project on the Roman coins from the area. Also an archaeology evening course in MK Library has included a talk on the work of the PAS.

Finds Identification & Recording Sessions

These have focused on a monthly Saturday afternoons at Wycombe Museum and every Wednesday in the Civic Offices in Central Milton Keynes. An increasing number of finders make appointments and come to one of these venues or to the Museum Resource Centre at Halton.

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Portable Antiquities Scheme