



Finds Liaison in Buckinghamshire

March 08 to August 08

Treasure Finds

There have been 10 potential treasure cases reported in the period covered by these notes. The ring from Hampshire was reported by a finder who lives in Bucks. The FLO is able to liaise with the Coroners of other counties where necessary. The five Hambleden finds were from a detectorist's backlog that he was recording. He had not realised that fragmentary silver objects qualified as Treasure. He had not left them unreported intentionally.

Parish	Material	Object Type	Ref No
Aston Abbotts	Silver	Roman ear scoop	2008/T240
Brill	Silver	17 th C seal matrix	2008/T289
Crawley, Hants	Silver	Roman finger ring	2008/T398
Hambleden	Silver	Object with an acorn terminal	2008/T431
Hambleden	Silver	Oval fragment of a ring	2008/T432
Hambleden	Silver	Medieval button	2008/T433
Hambleden	Silver	Medieval button	2008/T434
Hambleden	Silver	Medieval or post med buckle	2008/T435
Shabbington	Silver	E16 th C finger ring	2008/T486
Lt Hampden	Silver	17 th C button	2008/T514

Table 1. Potential Treasure objects reported since the last meeting.

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 5161. The national total is over 353,772. A forthcoming upgrade and redesign of the web based database will make these records more user friendly. This has been planned for some time but financial constraints have held improvements back.

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.

Rotary Clubs continue to see detecting rallies as a way of raising funds for charity. They are however keen to have the finds recorded by PAS so the FLO was present at their 4th rally around Brill in April. In the event they did not find many objects despite being on fields near the kiln sites. Coinshooters cancelled a charity rally south of Buckingham in August as the crop had not been harvested as planned. Weekend Wanderers have only visited this county four times this year as opposed to sixteen last year

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

As a result of this exhibition's success in Bucks County Museum it is hoped that a version of the display will be staged at Wycombe Museum between January & April 2009 but with a south Bucks emphasis.

Publicity

Talks to local history and archaeology groups continue to provide further opportunities to publicise the work of the Portable Antiquities Scheme in Bucks. The Rotary Club who meet at Haddenham, asked for and got a talk about recording finds, timed to be just before their detecting rally at Brill.

Finds Identification & Recording Sessions

These have focused on three 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.

Ros Tyrrell,

Finds Liaison Officer

Portable Antiquities Scheme