

**Buckinghamshire Finds Liaison Officer
for the Portable Antiquities Scheme [PAS],
based in the County Museum Trust**

The total of records of objects entered on the PAS database in Buckinghamshire in 2013 was 682 but 2014 saw this rise to 1071. This has been helped by a hardworking volunteer, uploading part of the backlog of paper records onto the database. The Finds Liaison Officer (FLO) would like to record her thanks, to him for all this work.

The start of 2014 was quite quiet but detecting activity picked up after Easter. A detectorist, who regularly reports his finds, has been detecting in an area north west of Aylesbury. This was at the request of the landowner and in cooperation with Mike Farley. This has produced a substantial quantity of objects including a pair of Saxon saucer brooches, buried together [donated to the Museum], Roman and medieval pottery and a complete Tudor purse-hanger. All these records will add up to an interesting distribution map when the loose ends have been tied off.

In early October last year the FLO was contacted by the Weekend Wanderers organiser, who was hosting a group of holidaying Americans. They had started a week of detecting north of Whitchurch and one of them had uncovered something curious. It was suggested that it needed checking by an archaeologist. What they had unearthed was Samian pottery, iron and copper alloy vessels possibly a complex Roman burial group. As the FLO is not equipped to excavate and record what could be unstable objects, she contacted the County Archaeology Service to see if the Emergency Excavation Fund could help. Eliza Alqassar took up the challenge and commissioned Oxford Archaeology. They came and excavated a wooden box containing a number of grave goods, including two samian ware cups, two samian ware dishes, a pottery flagon, two glass vessels, a bronze jug with decorated handle, a bronze patera or dish, an iron lamp holder, two unidentified lead objects and an urned cremation burial. Also, with the cremated bone, was a fine jasper intaglio. The finder, who had gained a lot from helping the dig, was happy to donate his interest in the objects, as was the landowner. All the objects are now the property of the County Museum, who will be looking to their conservation and long term survival. Despite the unexpected nature of the project everything happened as a model of cooperation. In addition the FLO recorded 215 further finds discovered by the Americans from the fields around the site.

Four days before Christmas, the FLO was invited to record the finds made by detectorists at the Weekend Wanderers Xmas Rally, south of Buckingham. Within half an hour of arriving and preparing to record, news came that something interesting had been found. As the light went at the end of the day a hoard of more than 5,000 silver coins, wrapped in a damaged lead parcel, had been carefully excavated.

The coins had been piled onto a thin rectangle of lead sheet with cut edges. The longer edges had then been lifted and folded over on themselves and the ends pinched together to make an elliptical parcel. Through the damage on the upper surface a tightly packed, jumble of coins could be seen. They did not appear to have been laid in any order and there was no trace of, or room for them to have been in leather pouches. The coins were in excellent condition and will be cleaned by in the British Museum and a report prepared for the Coroner by Gareth Williams, Curator of Early Medieval Coins at the British Museum. The quick identification of a few of the coins suggests that they are probably silver pennies of Ethelred and Cnut whose reign ended in 1035. Full examination of the hoard may well change this initial view. There will be no valuation of the coins until the Coroner has declared them to be Treasure, under the current act. So, final decisions about the final ownership of the hoard have not been made yet.

The local detector clubs are visited on a regular basis to record the member's finds. Detecting rallies in Bucks are attended to the same end when the FLO is invited and has enough information. The voluntary nature of the scheme means we are unable to insist on the FLO being invited to attend to record. Weekend Wanderers do however, invite the FLO and have held rallies

in Stone, Lenborough (on 2 occasions) & Poundon which were attended (the last minute nature of the organisation sometimes makes this difficult).

Treasure finds

The table shows the potential treasure items found in the county since September last year. These are currently being processed through the system of reporting and inquests. The Coroner is aware of these objects but has not ruled on all of them yet.

Metal	Period	Date	Description	Parish
Gold	Uncertain	Modern?	Pendant [may not qualify as Treasure]	Buckingham
Silver gilt	Medieval	1200-1500	Annular brooch with beasts	Kingsey
Silver	Early Medieval	700-900	Decorated strap end	Kingsey
Silver	Post medieval	1600-1700	Pendant showing Charles I.	Kingsey
Gold	Post medieval	1600-1700	Finger ring	Coleshill
Silver gilt	Medieval	1200-1400	Finger ring	Mentmore [Crafton]
Silver	Medieval	1154-1185	Coin hoard [9 pennies & 5 cut halves]	Coleshill
Silver	Post Medieval	1670-1750	Decorated thimble	Ickford
Silver	Post Medieval	1500-1700	Dress hook	Ellesborough
Silver gilt	Roman	43-410AD	Finger ring [damaged]	Quainton
Silver	Post Medieval	1500-1700	Spoon bowl?[damaged]	E. Claydon
Silver	Post Medieval	1500-1700	Lace tag?	Haddenham
Silver	Early Medieval	1035	Coin hoard 5190 pennies & 2 cut halves	Lenborough
Gold	Post Medieval	1600-1700	Finger Ring	Quainton

Ros Tyrrell 20.2.15