

SunoikisisDC Digital Approaches to Cultural Heritage

Crowdsourcing and Cultural Heritage

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John Pearce (King's College London)

1. Introduction to crowdsourcing
2. Wikipedia and Wikimedia projects
3. Portable Antiquities Scheme
4. Digital Classicist Wiki
5. Exercise and discussion

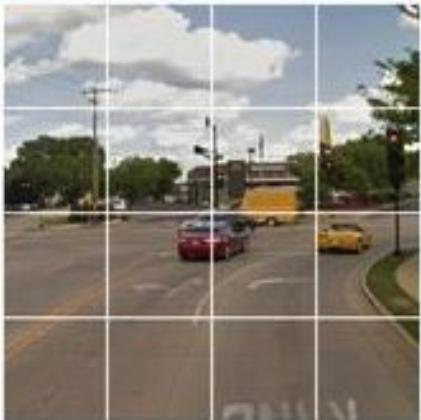
Crowdsourcing

- Definition
- What sorts of project use crowdsourcing?
- Who is the “crowd”?
- What tasks do they perform?
- Who benefits?
- What issues and problems arise?

Definition

“Crowdsourcing is a sourcing model in which individuals or organizations obtain goods or services—including ideas, voting, micro-tasks, and finances—from a large, relatively open, and often rapidly evolving group of participants.”

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NGC 4608

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CGCG 67-4

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IC 816

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CGCG 119-82

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NGC 5701

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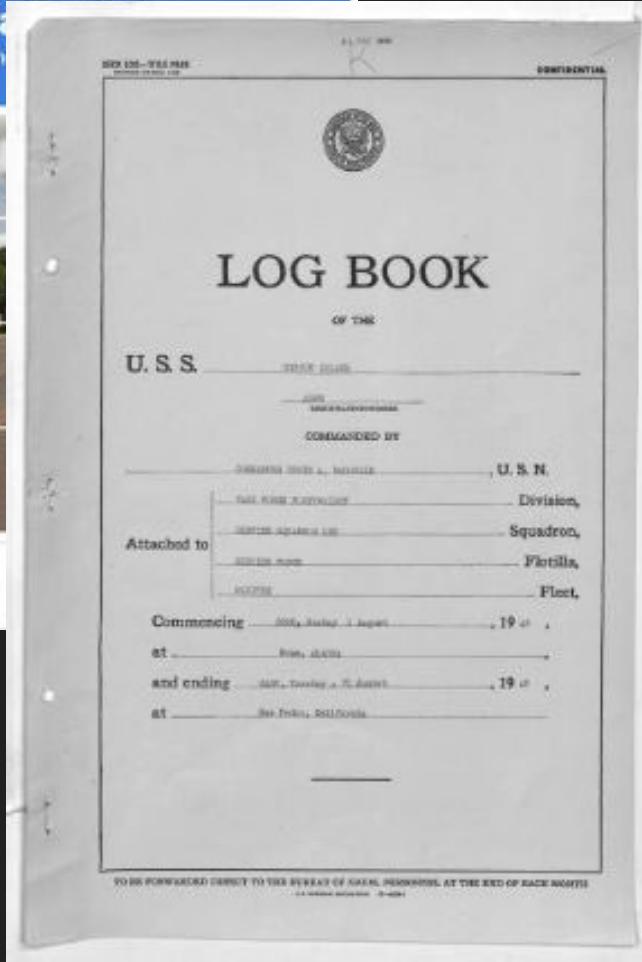
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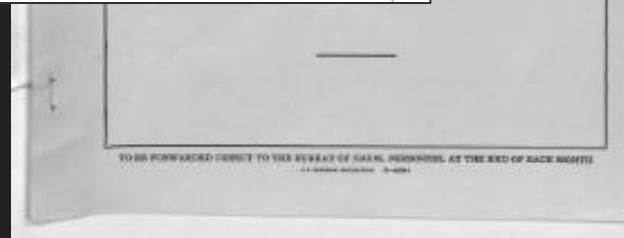
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The Transcription Desk is the heart of a major online initiative to transcribe the manuscripts of the English philosopher Jeremy Bentham. It is managed by the [Bentham Project](#) at University College London.



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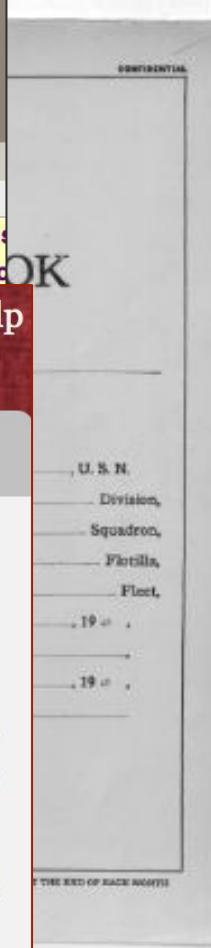
Browse: [DDbDP](#) [HGV](#) [APIS](#) [DCLP](#) [Authors](#) [TM Number](#) or Search: [Data](#)

Bibliography

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The Son of Suda On Line editor is a web-based, fully audited, version-controlled editing environment originally developed for the papyrological community but designed for applicability to other editing communities. It enables the collaborative editing of texts in a framework of rigorous and transparent peer-review and credit mechanisms and strong editorial oversight.

To access the editor, please [sign in](#). If you do not already have an account, signing in will guide you through the sign up process.



816

at outer disc

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at outer disc

C 5602

(LSA(r))

C 3011

blue (r)

NGC 5701

SB(r(l))

NGC 3767

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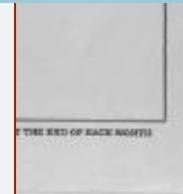
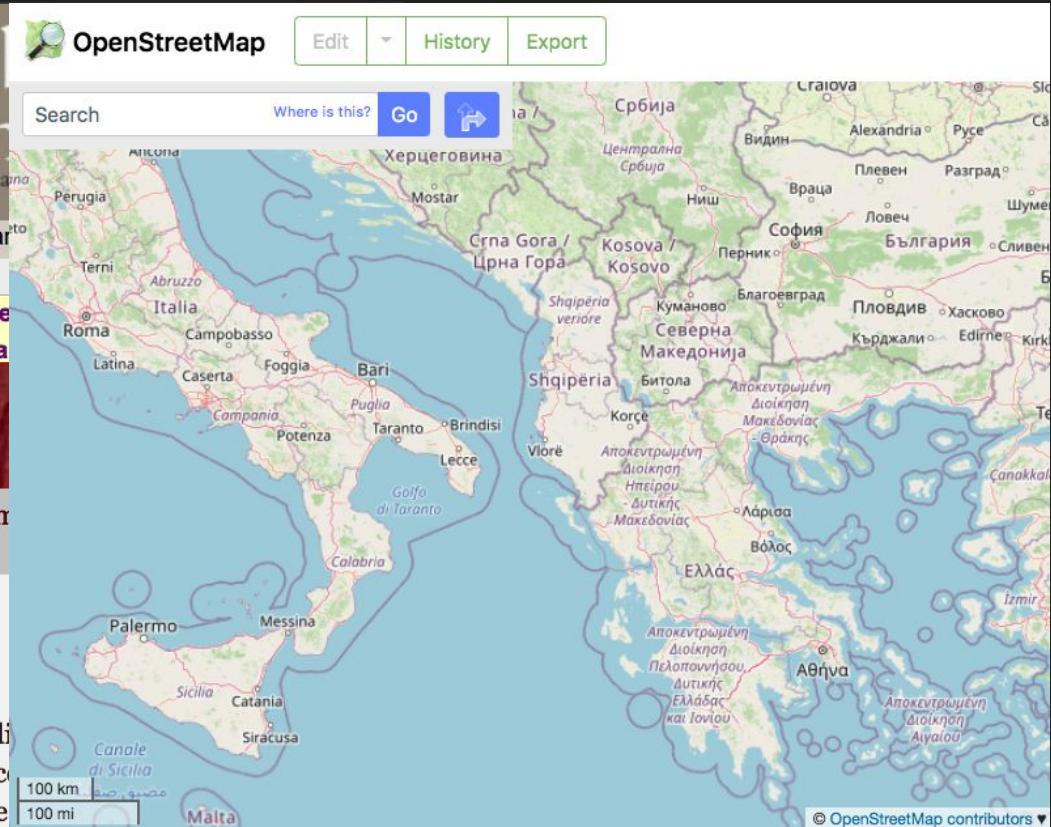
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Where is this?

Go



Crowdsourcing our human past

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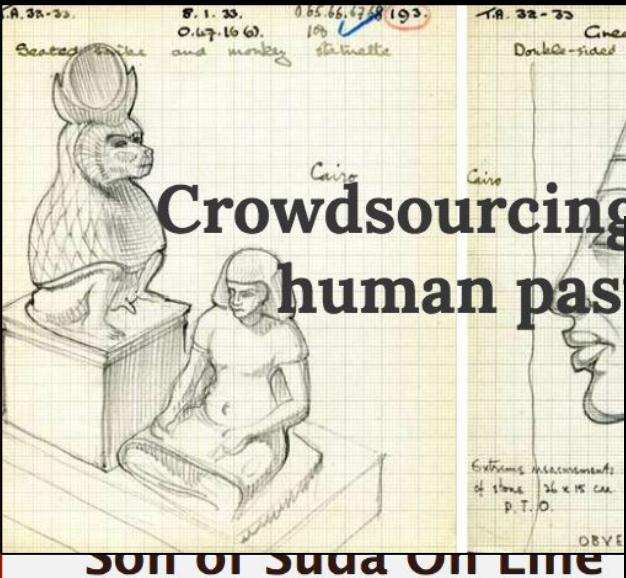
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Crowdsourcing our human past

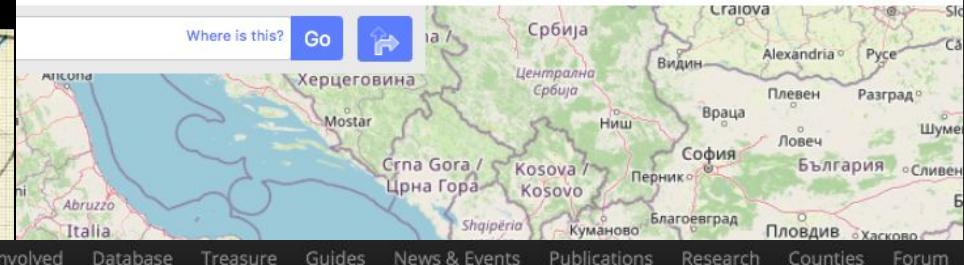
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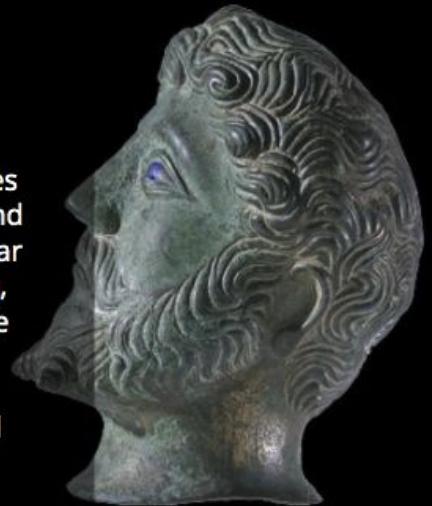


Where is this?

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Welcome to the Portable Antiquities Scheme Website

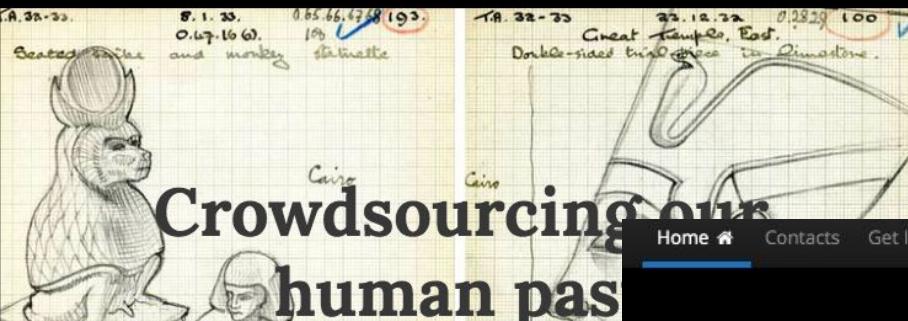
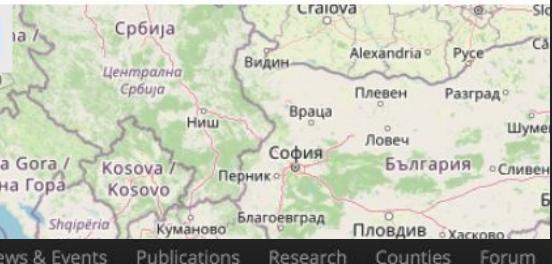
The Portable Antiquities Scheme is run by the British Museum and Amgueddfa Cymru - National Museum Wales to encourage the recording of archaeological objects found by members of the public in England and Wales. Every year many thousands of archaeological objects are discovered, many of these by metal detector users, but also by people whilst out walking, gardening or going about their daily work. Finds recorded with the Scheme help advance knowledge of the history and archaeology of England and Wales.





Where is this?

Go



Crowdsourcing our human past

[Home](#)[Contacts](#)[Get Involved](#)[Database](#)[Treasure](#)[Guides](#)[News & Events](#)[Publications](#)[Research](#)[Counties](#)[Forum](#)

At London Transport Museum, we collect objects, vehicles, uniforms and paintings to name a few 'things'. But we also collect stories of *people* that have played an important role in shaping London's Transport history. You can read some of these stories on our [People Stories section](#).

It can be inspiring and fascinating to find out about different people and their lives.

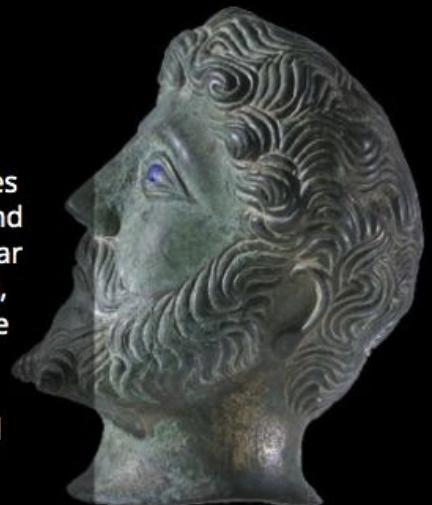
In this activity, we're inviting you to speak to someone in your family or a close friend, perhaps who is older than you; maybe a grandparent? Use the questions in the sheet and build your very own Story.

[Family Story activity.pdf](#)

97.95 KB, PDF

Portable Antiquities

Scheme is run by the British Cymru - National Museum Wales of archaeological objects found in England and Wales. Every year geological objects are discovered, detector users, but also by people or going about their daily Scheme help advance and archaeology of England and



- www.google.com/recaptcha/
- www.zooniverse.org/projects/zookeeper/galaxy-zoo/
- www.oldweather.org
- transcribe-bentham.ucl.ac.uk
- papyri.info
- www.openstreetmap.org
- micropasts.org
- www.ltmuseum.co.uk/activities/your-story

Who is the “crowd”?

- General public
 - Local community
 - Specific people, descendants
 - Interest groups
- Experts / professionals
- Commercial interests

Tasks

- Annotating, tagging
- Transcribing
- Correcting
- Geolocating
- Adding images, media
- Comments, reviews, votes
- Cataloguing
- Expert vs. “Mechanical Turk” tasks

Benefits

- Free labour
- “Wisdom of the crowd”
- Expert knowledge or context
- Public opinion
- Interest/fun – “gamification”
- Public engagement

Issues

- Free labour!
- Accuracy and abuse
- Agendas
- Skewed demographics of crowd
- Need for moderation
 - Moderation breaks model
- Can be hard to engage crowd

Wikipedia and Wikimedia

Portable Antiquities Scheme

Sunoikisis: Crowdsourcing in cultural heritage: a case study of the Portable Antiquities Scheme (England and Wales) (Jan. 2022)

John Pearce, Classics, King's College London
(john.pearce@kcl.ac.uk)



Welcome to the Portable Antiquities Scheme website

The Portable Antiquities Scheme is a DCMS funded project to encourage the voluntary recording of archaeological objects found by members of the public in England and Wales. Every year many thousands of objects are discovered, many of these by metal-detector users, but also by people whilst out walking, gardening or going about their daily work.



Micropasts

A community platform for conducting, designing and funding research into our human past. The Scheme's latest partnership project in conjunction with UCL and funded by the AHRC.

[Read more >](#)



Search our database

Try coin for example

[Search!](#)



Latest tweets

- 6 days, 12 hours ago [findsorguk](#) said: RT @GGAT: Stunning Neolithic leaf shaped arrowhead brought in to @GGAT for me to photograph for @findsorguk <http://t.co/lmVEmu1ott>
- 6 days, 18 hours ago [findsorguk](#) said: Our visualisation "Lost Change: mapping coins from the Portable Antiquities Scheme" is live <http://t.co/HMCxp85LTk...> <http://t.co/EW7gRkcAPn>

PAS: a born-digital project (www.finds.org.uk): 1,566,860 objects documented in 1,005,103 records, 12.01.22)

Summary

- Context – the Treasure Act 1996 and the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS)
- Results – documentation, best practice, research resource
- Role(s) of finders and crowd-sourcing
(NB a personal perspective)

1. Context

Archaeological ‘discovery’

- Archaeological fieldwork
- ‘The public’ (mainly metal detector users – c. 9500 in England, Wales & Scotland)



The Carlile Collection, South Ferriby,
North Lincolnshire



Challenges

- Inadequacies of law of Treasure Trove even for objects and assemblages which came within its scope
- Most discoveries had no legal protection or mechanism for documentation
 - failure to record finds *'represents a considerable loss to the nation's heritage. Once an object has left the ground and lost its provenance, a large part of its archaeological value is lost. The result is a loss of information about the past which is irreplaceable'*. PA Discussion Document (1996)

Responses

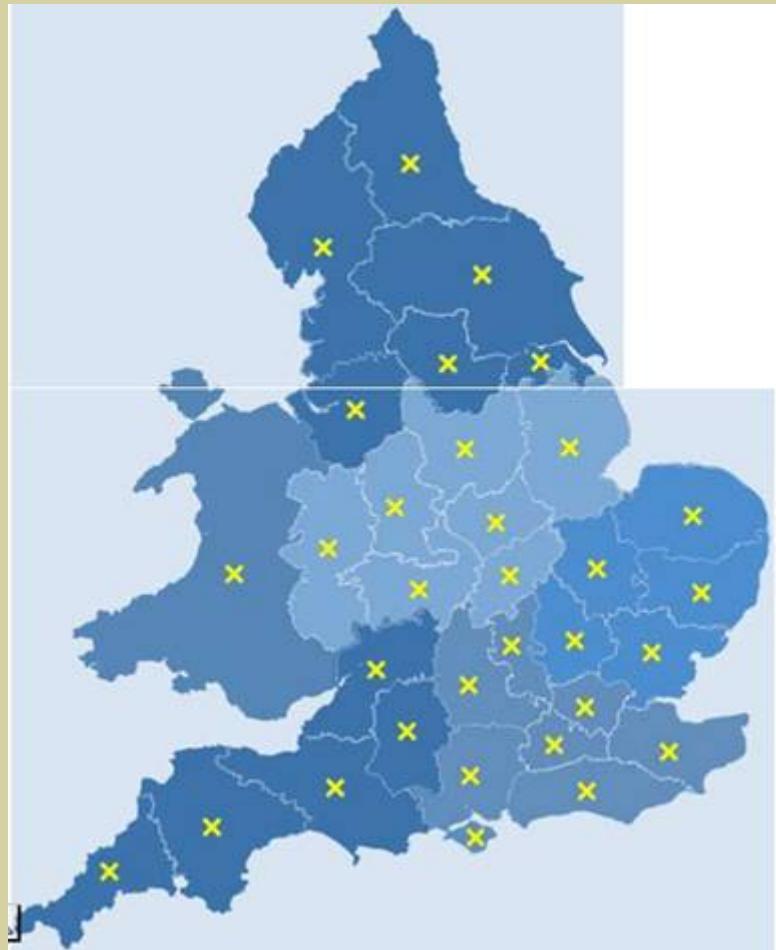
- Treasure Act from September 1997 replaces common law of Treasure Trove (England, Wales, NI): new definitions (extended 2003); new reward and valuation system (<https://finds.org.uk/treasure>)
- PAS – see next slide

Aims of PAS

To implement Treasure Act and to establish a voluntary scheme for recording (not acquiring) archaeological objects found by public - (builds on earlier local initiatives) with the following aims

- To advance knowledge through records of archaeological objects
- To encourage finders to report their finds and promote best practice
- To raise awareness of the educational value of archaeological finds and facilitate research
- To increase opportunities for active public involvement in archaeology

Portable Antiquities Scheme (BM) : organisation



- 6 pilot schemes in 1997, 6 more in 1999
- National network from 2003
- Finds Liaison Officers (currently 40), Finds Advisers (research, training, publication), other staff ('treasure team',) + interns and volunteer recorders
- 32 principal partners under MLA (Museums & Libraries Association) and British Museum (BM)
- Currently UK govt funding distributed through BM

Outreach to metal detector users..



2019:
Contact with 117 metal-detecting
clubs

674+ outreach events (talks, finds
days etc), with at least 15086 adults
and 1,324 children attending (c. one
third of 2017 number).

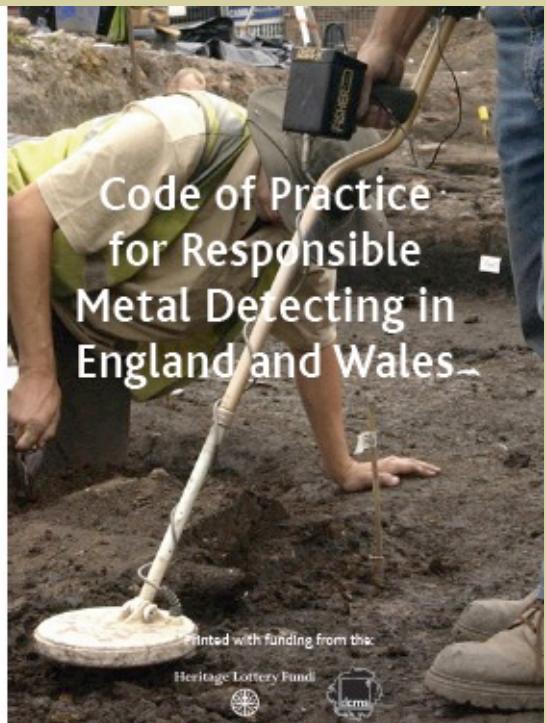
<https://finds.org.uk/documents/annualreports/2019.pdf>



... and a wider public

Best Practice –
To encourage all those
who find
archaeological
objects to make them
available for
recording and to
promote best
practice by finders.
(geo-referencing;
conservation)

Code of Practice for Responsible Metal
Detecting
(agreed with md organisations)



2. Results – documentation, best practice, research resource

e.g. PAS Activity 2019 (and 2020)

81,602 finds recorded (49045 in 2020, otherwise at 2019 level since c. 2010)

90% of PAS finds made by metal detectorists (of 4143 finders)

86% of PAS finds made on cultivated land

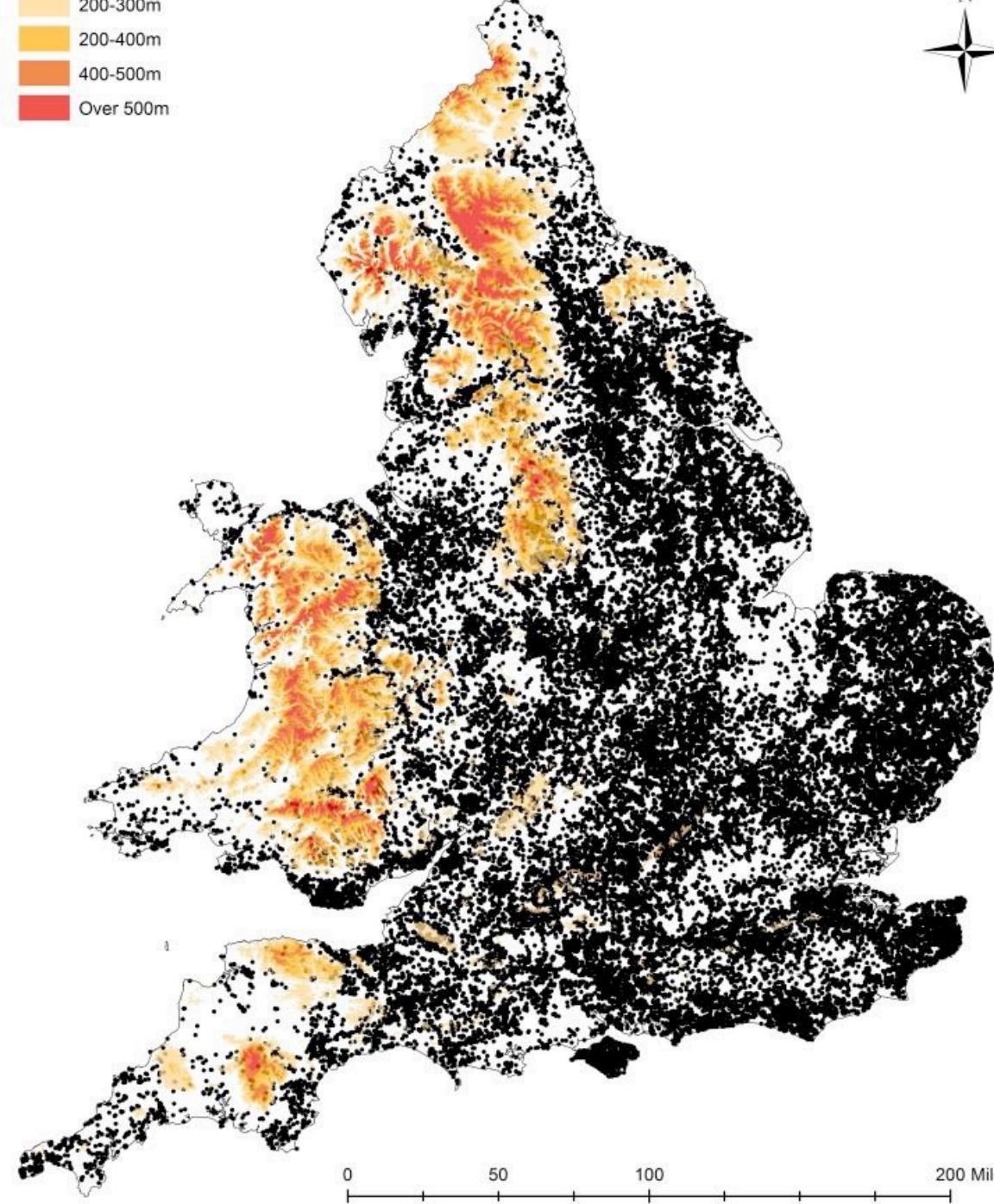
>99% of finds recorded to nearest 100m² (Historic Environment Record utility)
- now minimum recording requirement (compare 2010 – 88%)

1311 Treasure cases – the largest annual total so far (96% found by metal detectorists – compared to 1120 in 2016 and < 1000 in 2011)

Accessing data (2020)

341,358 unique visitors to PAS websites / database; 673,109 visits and 5,354,566 page requests (close to but slightly less than 2017).

Data: PAS annual report 2019: <https://finds.org.uk/documents/annualreports/2019.pdf>
(2020 - <https://finds.org.uk/documents/annualreports/2020.pdf>)



PAS finds (to April 2013) plotted against elevation
(Robbins 2014: fig. 3)

c. 50% more records created
(by 2022) since compilation
of this map



An example search – ‘Roman brooch’ from Greater London (publicly accessible)

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

Mail - Pearson Research... Session 2:... SmartSimp... World news... Classical A... British Arc... Subscriber... King's Coll... SITS Visio... View Modu... figure cap... Financial e... Glio.2013... Database... Digital Map of t... +

https://finds.org.uk/database/search/results/objecttype/BROOCH/broadperiod/ROMAN/countyID/41441 roman imperium map

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 Portable Antiquities Scheme www.finds.org.uk

Sally Worrell » Log out Assigned role: Fa Administer site

Search database All artefacts & coins Finds recorded by me My institution's records My images All images More searches Statistics

Database search results

[Back to simple search](#) | [Back to advanced search](#) | [Send this search to someone](#) | [Save this search](#)

You searched for:

- Object type: BROOCH
- Broad period: ROMAN
- CountyID: Greater London Authority

Record ID: SUR-52045B
Object type: BROOCH
Broad period: ROMAN
County: Greater London Authority
Workflow stage: On review 
A Roman copper-alloy Colchester brooch with two grooves on the side wings and a plain bow. The brooch pin and spring are missing.
Created on: Wednesday 5th October 2016
Spatial data recorded. 



Records per page: 10 20 40 100
Only results with images: on off
Only results with 3D content: on off
Sort your search by: DATE CREATED Object type Broad period Recording institution Workflow status Updated
Which direction? descending  ascending 
Total results available: 55 Search server index: valhalla
You are viewing records: 1 - 20.

Record ID: SUR-7264A3
Object type: BROOCH
Broad period: ROMAN
County: Greater London Authority
Workflow stage: Awaiting validation 
The upper part of a Roman copper-alloy Colchester brooch with a single moulding on the side wings and a prominent spine.
Created on: Wednesday 31st August 2016
Last updated: Wednesday 26th October 2016
Spatial data recorded.  **This findspot is known as 'Keston', grid reference and parish protected.** 

Record ID: SUR-D39AE5
Object type: BROOCH
Broad period: ROMAN
County: Greater London Authority
Workflow stage: Awaiting validation 
A Roman copper-alloy Colchester two-piece brooch, c.AD43-100, which is complete save for its pin. The brooch has two grooves on each of the outer wings, a boldly crested spine and a solid catchplate.
Created on: Wednesday 24th August 2016
Last updated: Tuesday 18th October 2016
Spatial data recorded.  **This findspot is known as 'Keston', grid reference and parish protected.** 

Filter your search

Object type

start Dropbox Setup Database search... Windows E... Found New Ha... Portable Antiqu... Document1 - M... Adobe Photoshop Dissertation su... [Klio] Financial... Search Desktop EN 14:37

An example search – a single Roman brooch from Greater London (publicly accessible): unique identifier BERK-2B92EA

S internal.kcl.ac.uk Mail - Pearce, John - Outlook Record ID: BERK-2B92EA - ROMA +

finds.org.uk/database/artefacts/record/id/965105 Restore Down

Apps Add to My Bookma... Kevin Spacey Reads...

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 Portable Antiquities Scheme www.finds.org.uk

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[BH-2B880E : Roman bead](#)

[YORYM-2B9673 : Post medieval tap →](#)

[Cite record](#) [Embed record](#) [Print](#)

BROOCH

Unique ID: BERK-2B92EA

Object type certainty: Certain

Workflow status: Awaiting validation

An incomplete and worn Roman copper alloy brooch, possibly a Colchester derivative type, dating to c. 43-100 AD. The surviving brooch consists of the lower half of the wing with a double lug attached which then curves down to the bow. The bow is slightly arched and ends in an old pointed break. The spring, catchplate and pin are missing. The brooch has a dark green to almost black patina.

The brooch is 31.6mm in length, 18.2mm in maximum width, 9.2 mm maximum thickness and weighs 2.92g.

A possible parallel can be found in Hattatt 2012, page 297, fig. 156, no. 872 dated to 1st century AD.

Class: Colchester derivative

Subsequent actions

Subsequent action after recording: Returned to finder

Chronology



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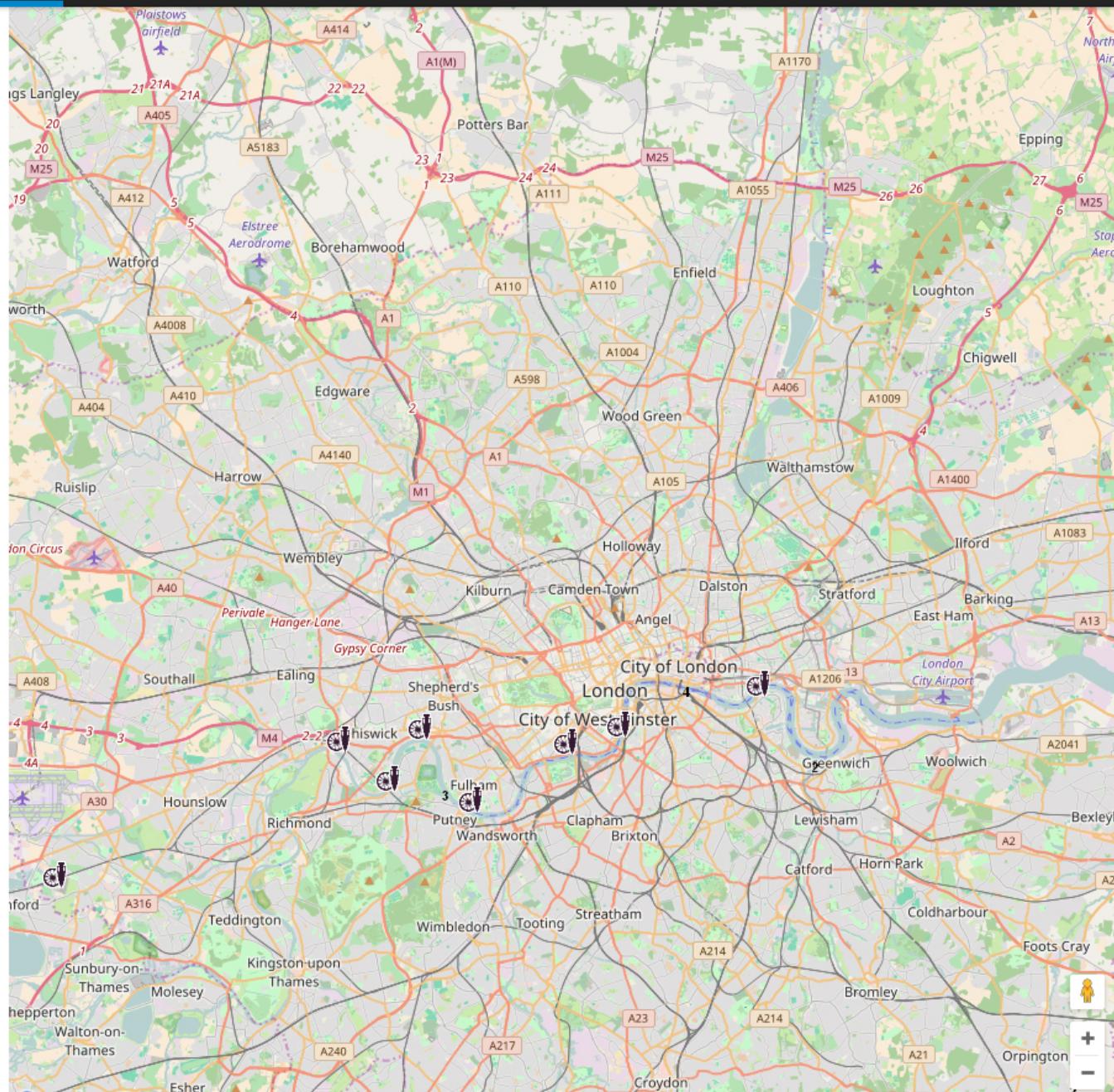
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Type here to search

23:06 27/11/2019

An example search – mapping results - Roman brooches from Greater London (publicly accessible)



Search facets

Object type

BROOCH (34)
BOW BROOCH (1)

County of origin

Greater London Auth

Broad period

ROMAN (35)

Clear this facet

Institution

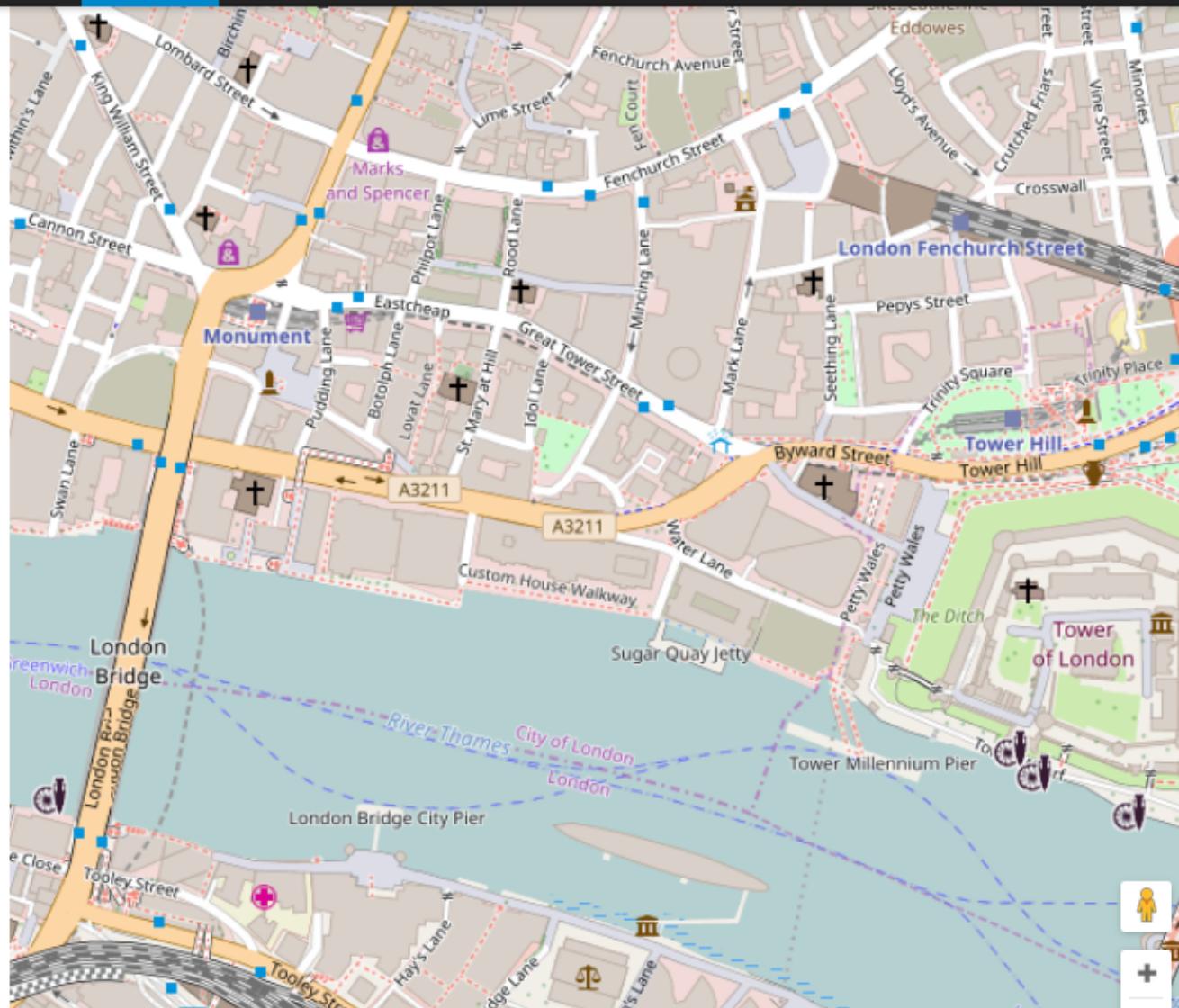
LON (16)
SUR (12)
KENT (7)

Workflow

Validation (27)
Published (8)



An example search – Roman brooches mapping results from Greater London –with 12 figure provenance information (research access)





Frome Hoard, Somerset, c.
52,000 coins, largest number
of Carausian coins yet known
from a single find, tpq AD 305

.... To facilitate research

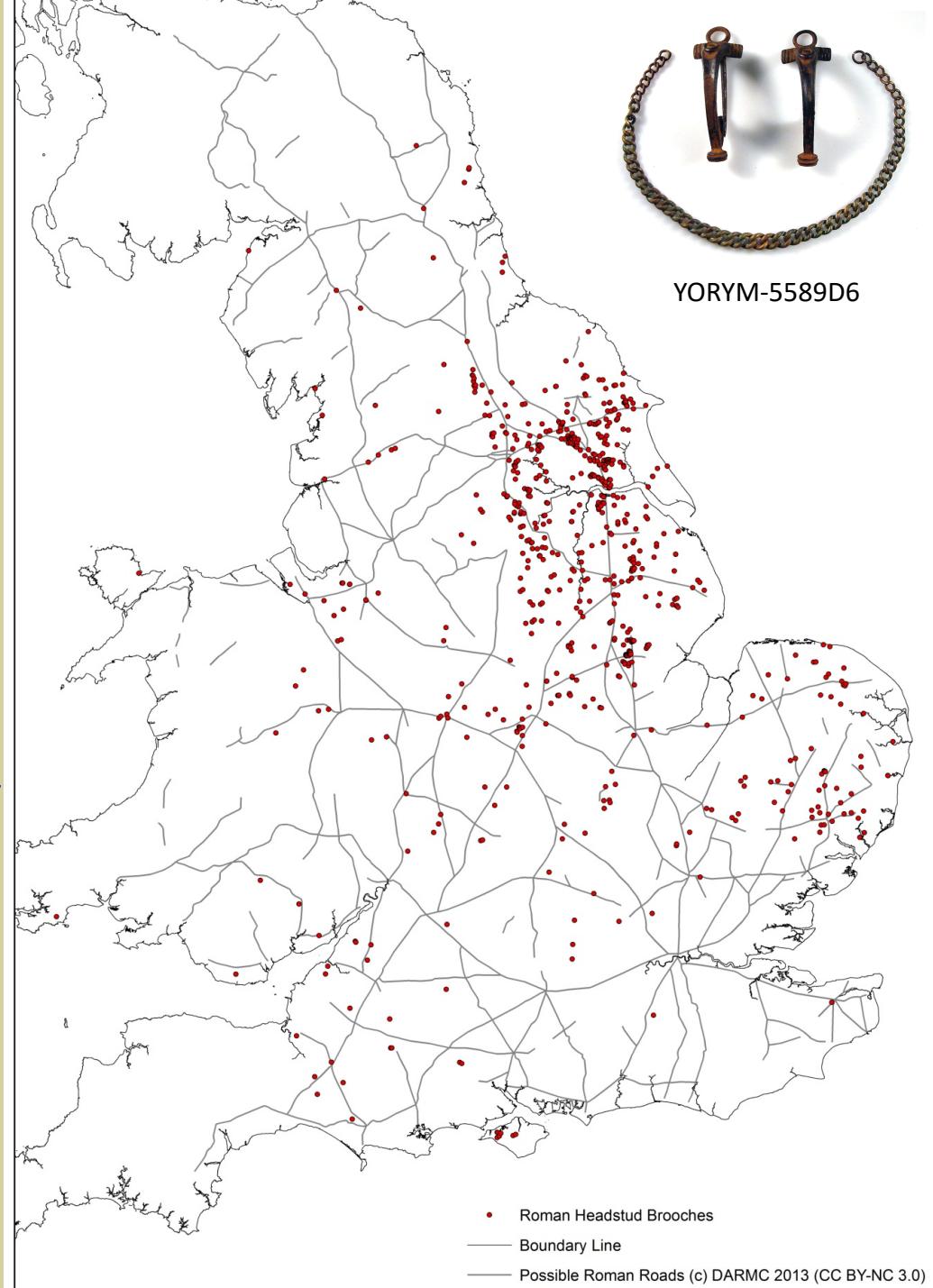
c. 30,000 Roman brooches 1997-2021,

Right Findspots: headstud brooches (+
Roman roads) data to 2013 PAS
(Pearce and Worrell 2015)

823 research projects (by
2020) making substantial use
of PAS data (inc. 57 major
projects and 169 PhDs)

https://finds.org.uk/documents/annual_reports/2020.pdf

(Mapping by Katie Robbins)



Challenges

Complexity as research resource
(Robbins 2014) – potentially uncritical
treatment as ‘big data?’

Ryedale Hoard – sold at auction

£185,000 – May 2021

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-york-north-yorkshire-57069434>

YORYM-870B0E

<https://finds.org.uk/database/artefacts/record/id/1013510>

Acquired for York museum, Oct. 2021

<https://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/heritage-and-retro/heritage/roman-ryedale-bronzes-1800-year-old-roman-hoard-to-go-on-display-at-yorkshire-museum-3417263>

Cf. Crosby Garrett helmet:

<https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2010/oct/07/roman-helmet-sold-two-million>



3. Results

‘To increase opportunities for active public involvement in archaeology’

Finders of objects

- Best practice e.g. geo-referencing / conservation / enable excavation
- Informal advocates for PAS – involvement in public engagement events
- But overlooks finders' and others expertise and interests in objects, landscapes etc., with only limited volunteer opportunities?



‘Unsung heroes of heritage’ Annual PAS and Treasure Report 2005 launch
Peter Peach, finder of Anglo-Saxon vessel, Isle of Wight, (left),
David Lammy, former Labour minister of state for culture (centre),
Frank Basford, former FLO, Isle of Wight (right).

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk/2007/jan/18/artnewsarts>

PAS Explorers <https://finds.org.uk/getinvolved>: Heritage Lottery Fund funded project (Nov. 2014-April 2021)

K Univ | W Reco | Histo | K NICO | NICO | PQ The e | K Janua | Col V | ko_4 | The E | jasmi | G PAS s | News | Docu | Email | G X +

← → C finds.org.uk/getinvolved

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323 8611. Email: info@finds.org.uk.

This information is available in Dutch, English, French, German, Italian, Polish.

PAS Explorers

 HERITAGE FUND

PAS Explorers was a project funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund to enhance the PAS's volunteer programme, running from November 2014 until April 2021.

Under PAS Explorers, volunteers became part of a local team with the Finds Liaison Officer, receiving training in identifying and recording archaeological finds onto the PAS database.

PAS Explorers' legacy was to produce resources to support volunteers and an area of the PAS website dedicated to local finds recording, the County Pages.

The Scheme's Logo and Branding

The scheme's full working name is "The Portable Antiquities Scheme", sometimes shortened to PAS.



Type here to search

O File Internet Explorer Chrome Microsoft Word Microsoft PowerPoint Microsoft Teams

11:52 13/01/2022 24

PASt Explorers

- Training and resources to supplement and assist volunteers with finds documentation and outreach
- ‘Community Finds Recording Teams’ with individual FLOs, in 10 regions
- 619 volunteers, 104,170 finds documented plus many other records enhanced
- True for PAS? ‘the users’ contributions are rarely hardly (sic) fully integrated into the core systems of representation and organization of museum collections.’ (Hajibayova and Latham 2017: 512)
- ‘County Pages’ <https://finds.org.uk/counties/> Blog posts: e.g. see next slide
- Pastcasts: <https://soundcloud.com/user-317950822>
- (<https://finds.org.uk/counties/blog/fare-thee-well-past-explorers/>)

Compare Thames Discovery Programme (<http://www.thamesdiscovery.org/>) – multiple modes of volunteer participation, FROG (700+ volunteers, recording, blogs, Riverpedia etc)



'Kneeling Slave': Imagery of the Abolitionist Movement

Posted on 22nd March 2021 by Elliot Carey

It has been approximated that between the years 1500 and 1900, almost 12 million individuals were removed from Africa by European merchants. These individuals were often bought from west African traders and forcibly moved across the Atlantic to the Americas in what is known as the Slave Trade or the trans-Atlantic Trade in Enslaved Individuals. Only just over 10 million would actually survive the passage. These enslaved individuals would then be put to work in the Americas under intolerable working conditions in what might be considered one of the worst atrocities of the modern age. It was not until 25 March 1807 that the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act was passed by the British government. Despite undergoing great hardships, the men and women of African descent who actively resisted their enslavement are largely forgotten. Instead the focus is often only upon white British men such as William Wilberforce, who often receive the sole credit for bringing slavery to an end. As such, while this blog post investigates the 'kneeling slave' imagery of the UK Abolitionist movements in commemoration of the Abolition Act, the hardships of the enslaved individual and their personal struggle must be kept in mind.



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E. Carey 2021, 'Kneeling Slave': Imagery of the Abolitionist Movement - <https://finds.org.uk/counties/blog/kneeling-slave-imagery-of-the-abolitionist-movement/>

- After PASt Explorers? Local volunteer opportunities with FLOs inc. self-recorders <https://finds.org.uk/getinvolved/volunteering>
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The Portable Antiquities Scheme supports a network of volunteers across the country. Volunteering for the Scheme is a great way to get involved with your local heritage. Our volunteer roles are varied and flexible, and include finds identification and recording, finds photography, and public engagement and outreach.

Volunteering usually takes place alongside your local Finds Liaison Officer. If you are interested in volunteering for the Scheme, please email us at info@finds.org.uk and let us know where you are based so that we can contact the relevant Finds Liaison Officer.

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Volunteering opportunities with the Portable Antiquities Scheme

We don't have any volunteer opportunities available at present. You can contact us with your CV to be kept on file at department of the British Museum directly.

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Digital Classicist Wiki



Main Page

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We seek to encourage the growth of a community of practice, which is open to everyone interested in the topic, regardless of skill or experience in technical matters, and language of contribution. To become a editor of the wiki, please contact one of the administrators. (The "create account" option has been disabled due to spam bots.) Consult the [Wiki editing](#) page to familiarize yourself with formatting conventions.

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In memoriam [Ross Scaife \(1960-2008\)](#)

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