Portable Antiquities Scheme YAC Activity Pack

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The PASt Explorers project is funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

The British Museum

Portable Antiquities Scheme
www.finds.org.uk

HERITAGE FUND

YAC young archaeologists' club

OVERVIEW

Welcome to our Portable Antiquities Scheme resource and activity pack! Inside you will find information and activities to help you learn all about the work of British Museum's Portable Antiquities and Treasure team. You will discover the exciting world of archaeological small finds and how they are helping to transform our understanding of the past. We will also introduce the PAS database and how you can use it to discover more about the archaeology and history of your local area. The resource pack is split into five sections:

Section One - the Portable Antiquities Scheme

Section Two - the Treasure Act

Section Three - Recording Finds

Section Four - Using the PAS Database

Section Five - Activities

There are suggested discussion points throughout the pack to encourage you to delve further into various topics. We have also highlighted appropriate points at which to do the supplied activities as you work through the pack. However, these are just suggestions and you should use the activities in whatever way you wish. If you would like to create your own activities using the PAS resources, the PAS database is free to access and all images are made freely available for use under the Creative Commons license.

This pack is the result of a partnership between the Young Archaeologist's Club, the Portable Antiquities and Treasure team at the British Museum, and the PASt Explorers project (funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund). It was created by Lauren Speed (Outreach Officer for the PAS) and Ayla Karaman (Treasure Registrar at The British Museum). We introduced a draft of the pack and trialled some of the activities at a YAC Branch Leaders training day held at the Museum of Liverpool in January 2020. The feedback received from this session helped to shape the final pack so we would like to extend our thanks to the YAC leaders present for their contribution. We would also like to thank Joanne Kirton (Council for British Archaeology) for inviting us to create the pack and our colleagues in Portable Antiquities and Treasure for their help with the content.

If you have any questions about the pack or would like further information about the Portable Antiquities Scheme, please visit our website at: www.finds.org.uk where you will find the PAS database, guides and resources, and contact details for everyone who works for the Scheme.

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SECTION ONE: THE PORTABLE ANTIQUITIES SCHEME

The Portable Antiquities Scheme

The Portable Antiquities Scheme (or PAS) is a project that encourages the recording of archaeological objects found by members of the public. It is run by the British Museum and by Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museums Wales.

Not all artefacts come from archaeological excavations or fieldwork. In fact, every year many thousands of archaeological objects are discovered by members of the public, mostly by metal detectorists but also by people who are out walking, gardening or going about their daily work. We use the term “portable antiquities” to distinguish these objects from those found through organised archaeological fieldwork.

Often these finds will be the only evidence for human activity in an area but once they have been removed from the ground that evidence is lost. That is unless it is properly recorded, which is where the PAS comes in! By recording these archaeological finds onto our database, the PAS can preserve the archaeological information and make it available for everybody to research.

Discussion point: Have you ever discovered an archaeological object?

These archaeological objects are not only important for telling us about past peoples and the types of objects they used, but also about the places where they lived and worked. By sharing the archaeological information recorded by the PAS we can help people to learn more about the archaeology and history of their local area.

How are the finds discovered?

Not all artefacts are discovered through archaeological excavation and there are many situations in which a member of the public might come across an archaeological object. The most common is by using a metal detector. In fact, around 90% of the items on the PAS database were discovered in this way. People also find artefacts when they are gardening, carrying out building renovations or simply out for a walk. Some finds are discovered by people who go looking for them whilst others are found completely by accident but no matter the method of discovery, each find has the potential to add to our understanding of the past.

Metal Detecting

A metal detector is an instrument that detects the presence of metal, either hidden within other objects or buried underground. If you've ever been to an airport then you will have walked through a metal detector before you got on the plane. The first recorded use of a metal detector for archaeological purposes was in 1958 when military historian, Don Rickey, used one to map the site of the Battle of Little Bighorn in Montana, North America. Today, metal detectors are used both by archaeologists as part of their site investigations and by people involved in the hobby of metal detecting.

In England and Wales, metal detecting is legal providing that the landowner has granted permission and that the land is not a protected or restricted site. If done responsibly, metal detecting can make an important contribution to archaeological knowledge. For example, metal detectors have been used to make important discoveries such as the Staffordshire Hoard and have helped to locate previously unknown archaeological sites. The metal-detected finds recorded on the PAS database are also being used by researchers to help us understand the lives of people in the past.

Discussion point: What is a protected site? Can you list any examples?

The *Code of Practice for Responsible Metal Detecting* was created to help detectorists to carry out their hobby in a responsible way. This means:

- Getting the permission of the landowner before detecting on their land
- Working on ground that has already been disturbed, such as ploughed fields
- Avoiding damaging any in-situ archaeology and calling for expert help if something is found below the ploughsoil
- Recording findspots (the location of the find) as accurately as possible
- Reporting finds to the PAS so that the information can be recorded on its database for everyone to research
- Obeying the laws regarding Treasure and discovery of human remains

For more information about responsible metal detecting, check out the Code of Practice: https://finds.org.uk/getinvolved/guides/codeofpractice

To learn more about the history of the metal detector check out this timeline: http://mdgear.com/history

Spotlight on Nighthawking

Nighthawking is the theft of archaeological artefacts from protected sites. It often, though not always, involves the use of a metal detector. It is called nighthawking because it is usually done under the cover of darkness. Nighthawking breaks the law in several ways:

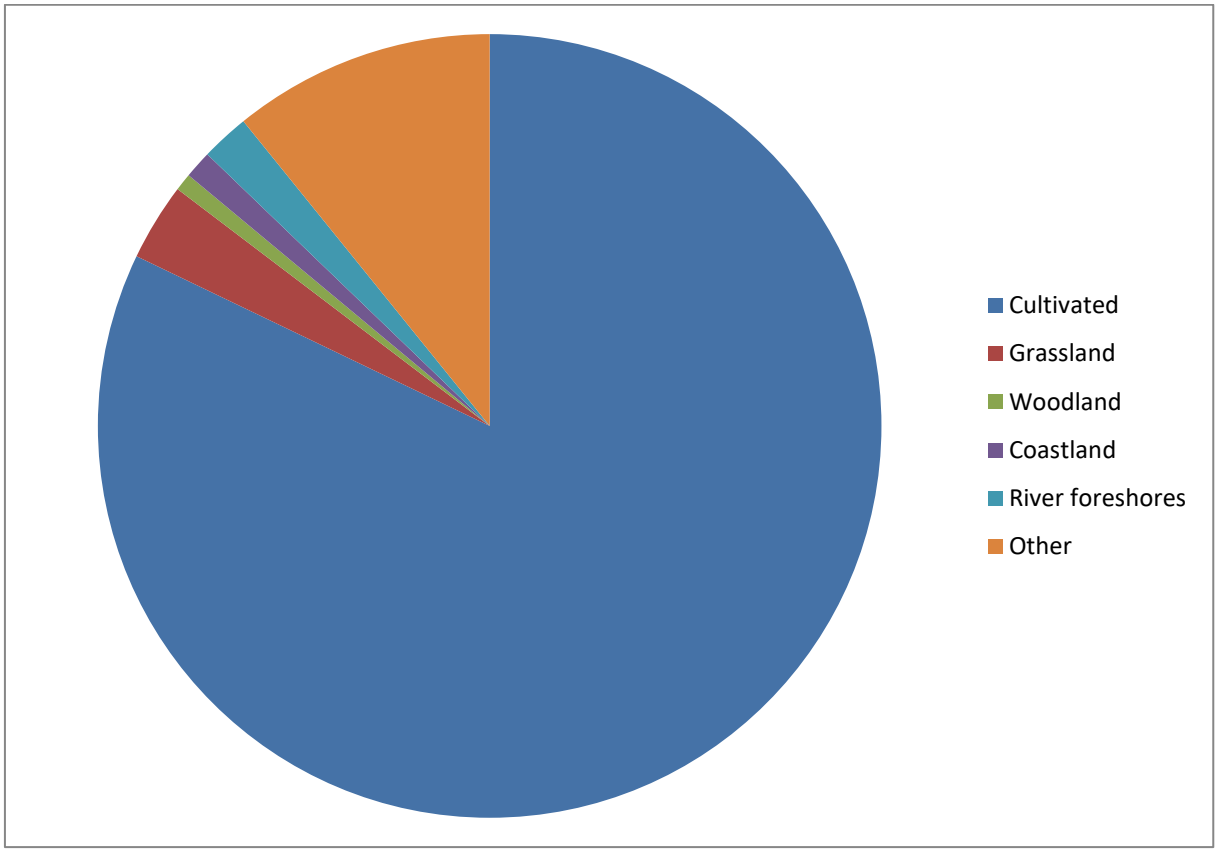
- It is trespass (a civil offence) because it is done without the landowner's permission
- It is often done on protected archaeological sites
- Nighthawkers rarely report Treasure, a criminal offence under the Treasure Act
- It is theft (criminal offence) because any finds, with the exception of Treasure, belong to the owner of the land

The consequences of these crimes can be severe and include a large fine or even imprisonment. As well as breaking the law, nighthawking is damaging to archaeology. Nighthawks do not detect responsibly. They will often dig down through archaeological layers to retrieve objects without recording anything, not even a findspot, so all the archaeological information is lost. They can also cause permanent damage to archaeological sites by destroying features to reach artefacts. If you suspect nighthawking is taking place in your local area, please call the Police on 999 (if taking place) or 101.

Discussion point: What is heritage crime?

Where do the finds come from?

Most finds recorded on the PAS database come from cultivated land – that is land used for growing crops. This is because most of the finds reported to the PAS come from people using metal detectors and, as per the Code of Practice, they detect mainly on cultivated land. But we also get finds reported to us from all sorts of locations from back gardens to river foreshores and even molehills! Some of the strangest findspots come from people doing building projects. For example, there are several items on the database that have been found hidden inside walls and under floorboards. The most unusual location so far must be the hoard of gold coins discovered inside a school piano!



Activity 1: Metal-detecting Debate

Instructions: Use the information and materials in Activity 1 to hold a debate on the topic of metal-detecting

Please Note: All activities can be found at the end of this document

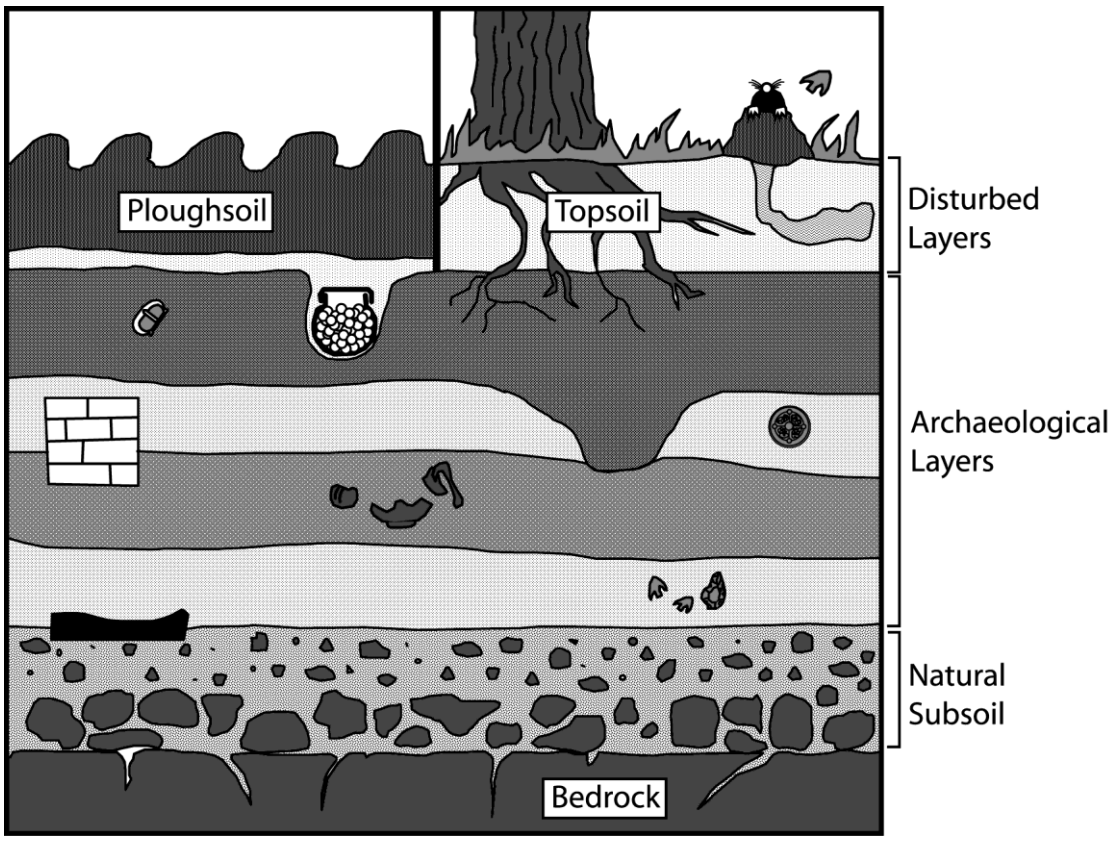
How do archaeological finds end up in the ploughsoil?

To answer this, we first need to think about how archaeological deposits are formed in the first place. We know that soil develops in layers over time, with older things becoming buried as new layers develop over them. Objects and features found within the same layer are therefore considered to be related and to date to a similar time. This principle is one of the foundations of archaeology and is known as stratigraphy. The layer in which an object is found and its relationship to other objects and features in the layer is known as context. Context is very important in archaeology because it allows us to build the bigger picture of a site and the objects found within it.

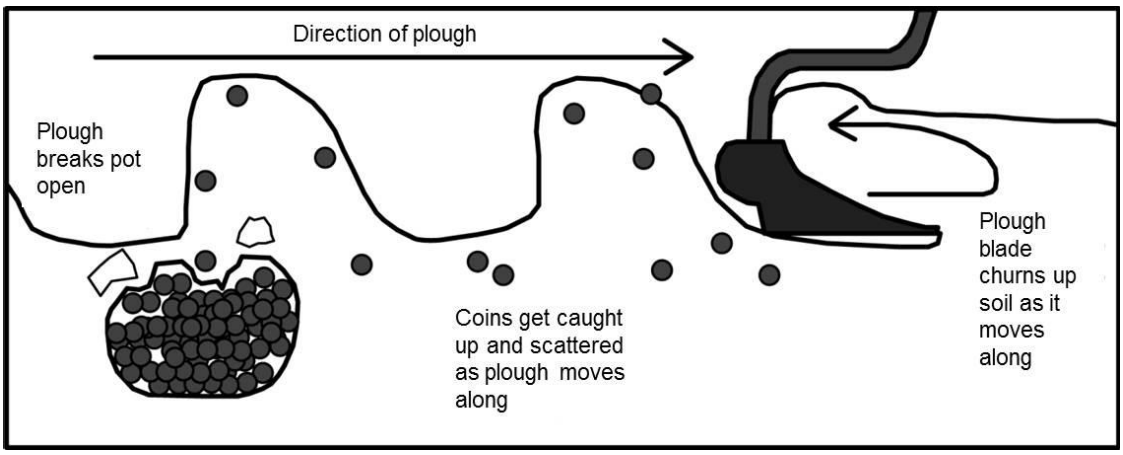
Discussion point: What other ways might objects end up in the soil?

Objects end up buried in soil layers in a variety of ways. For example, some are lost during daily life. Think about all the places you go during the day and how easy it is for something to fall out of your pocket. It was no different in the past. An object may have fallen to the ground – perhaps a small buckle from a medieval horse harness or a brooch from an Iron Age cloak. This could easily be trodden into the mud by people walking over it. Over time, layers of mud and other materials build up over it and the object becomes buried.

Other finds were deliberately placed into the ground. For example, many objects were included in burials as part of funerary practices. Sometimes people also buried objects as part of a hoard. Some hoards were buried for safe-keeping – during times of trouble people would bury their valuables to keep them safe, hoping to retrieve them once peace returned. Others were buried as offerings to the gods. There are 4,850 hoards recorded on the PAS database!



The very top layer – the layer where current human activity takes place – may be undisturbed topsoil with pasture or roads and housing over it, or it might be ploughsoil. Ploughsoil (sometimes called the plough zone) is a layer of soil that is heavily disturbed by agricultural activity. The ploughsoil layer can be very deep, up to 45cm depending on the crop that will be planted in it. This means that if any archaeological layers are less than 45cm deep they are going to be damaged by the plough. Simply put, ploughing jumbles up stratigraphy. It mixes up the normal, orderly layers of soil which means that any objects deposited in the layers get moved around out of their original context. Objects can also be moved around to a lesser extent, as a result of natural action from tree roots and by animals like moles and badgers.



Archaeologists used to believe that objects found in ploughsoil are not very useful because they have been removed from their stratigraphic context. However, in recent years research has shown that whilst vertical stratigraphy is destroyed by ploughing, the horizontal or spatial distribution of objects is affected only minimally*. This means that objects recovered from ploughsoil contexts are usually found close to where they were both used and discarded. This means that they can still tell us important information and it is why the findspot is so important for us to record – the findspot is what gives PAS objects their context.

What happens when an archaeological object is found by a member of the public?

When a member of the public discovers an archaeological object, they can bring it to their local Finds Liaison Officer (or FLO) to find out more about it. The FLO will help identify what it is and whether it should be recorded by the Scheme.

A Finds Liaison Officer is an archaeologist who specialises in the identification and recording of archaeological objects. They research and record archaeological objects found by members of the public and help them to learn about the archaeology of their local area.

A Finds Liaison Officer discussing a find with members of the public.

The PAS employs 40 Finds Liaison Officers who are based in museums and heritage organisations across the country. You can find your nearest FLO here: https://finds.org.uk/contacts

*See *The Importance of Plow Zone Archaeology*, Julia King in *An Archaeological Study of Colonial Chesapeake Culture Project 2014,* https://core.tdar.org/document/6101/the-importance-of-plow-zone-archaeology

What sort of objects do the PAS record?

For an object to be recorded onto the PAS database it must:

- Date to AD 1540 or earlier
- Be made or modified by humans
- Not be from an organised archaeological project

Sometimes, if an object dates to later than AD 1540 but is very significant or has a good local connection we will also record it because it adds important information to the history of an area.

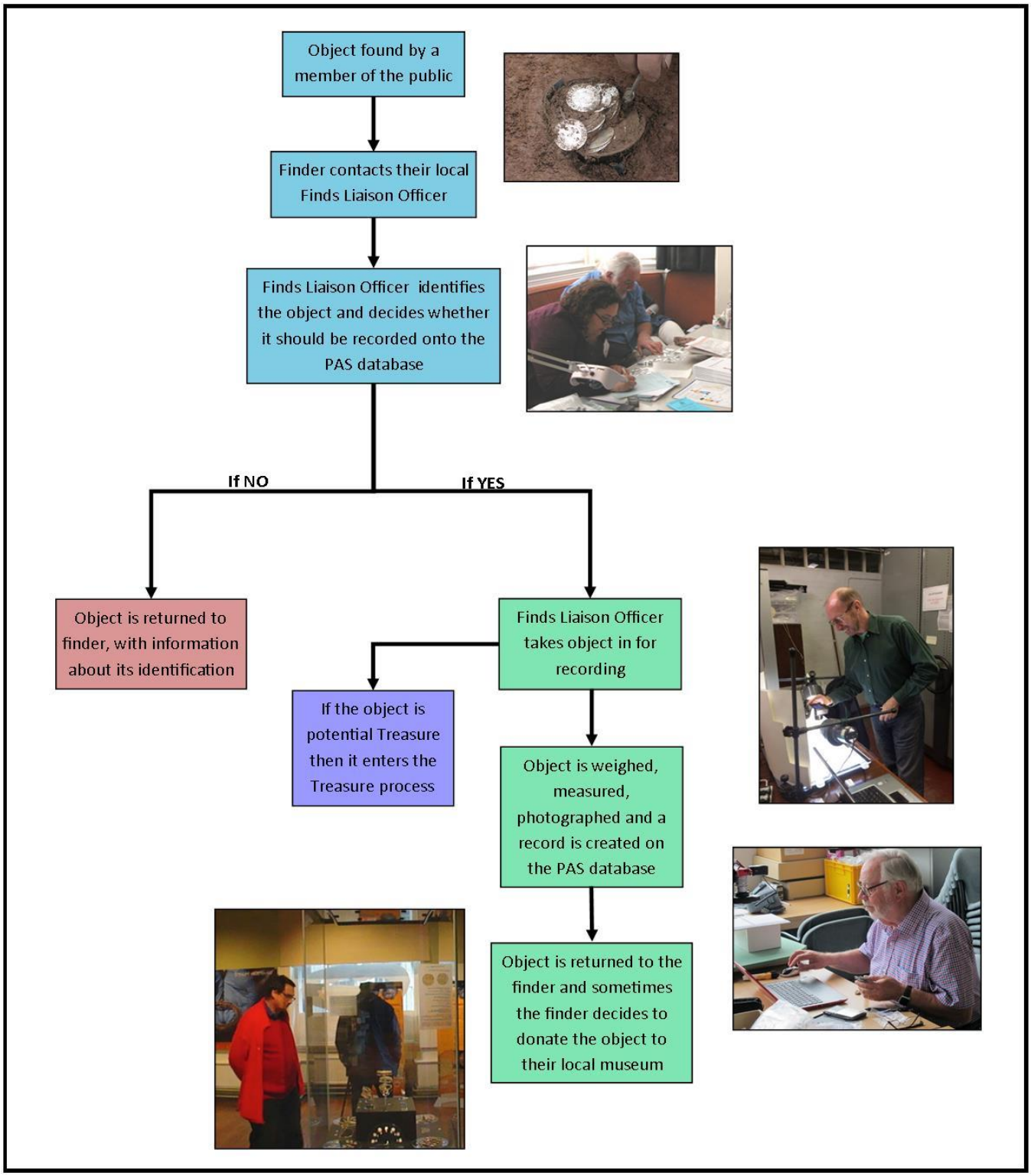
Discussion point: Can you think of any examples?

NLM-C88CE1, North Lincolnshire Museum

This medal was found in Lincolnshire and recorded by the PAS even though it dates to circa AD 1900. It is a medal that was awarded to Gerhard Bersu, a German archaeologist who came to England during the Second World War after being sacked by the Nazis. He carried out many important excavations and was a huge influence on modern British Archaeology. This medal is an important reminder of his contribution and part of our national story.

An object does not have to be made of metal to be recorded, although most of the objects on the database are metallic. We are interested in seeing objects made from all materials. The database includes items made from stone, ceramics, wood, leather and bone.

The PAS also deals with a special category of finds known as Treasure, which you can find out about in the Section Two of this resource pack.



What happens when a find is reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme?

Activity 2: Portable Antiquities Scheme True or False?

Instructions: Use the materials from Activity 2 to test your knowledge about the Portable Antiquities Scheme.

Please Note: All activities can be found at the end of this document

Activity 3: Be a Finds Liaison Officer!

Instructions: Use the materials from Activity 3 to test your abilities as a Finds Liaison Officer.

Please Note: All activities can be found at the end of this document

SECTION TWO: THE TREASURE ACT

What is Treasure?

As mentioned in Section One, there is a special category of archaeological finds known as Treasure (with a capital ‘T’). These are objects that meet a specific set of criteria as defined by law in the Treasure Act 1996. For detailed information on the Treasure Act see www.finds.org.uk/Treasure. The main criteria are summarised below, with examples:

An object that is at least 300 years old and contains at least 10% precious metal (silver or gold).

An Early Medieval gold and garnet pyramid mount from Norfolk (NMS-FCD6CD)

A Medieval silver annular brooch from Gloucestershire (HESH-497CD5)

A Post-medieval gold finger-ring from Dorset (SOM-9B91E8)

Two or more coins found together that contain 10% precious metal (a precious metal coin hoard).

Single gold and silver coins do not currently qualify as Treasure*. However, if a gold/silver coin is found on its own and at a later date another gold/silver coin is found nearby that is most likely associated with the first coin, these coins will be viewed as a hoard. The original coin will not be Treasure (because it was a single coin when initially discovered) but the second coin, and any others found in association, *are* Treasure.

Two Iron Age gold coins from Essex (ESS-817AAD)

Roman silver coins from North Yorkshire (YORYM-9157F4)

Medieval silver coins from Cheshire (LVPL-C920E4)

Post-medieval silver coins from Cheshire (LVPL-025A25)

Ten or more coins found together that are at least 300 years old, including those made of non-precious metals.

Sixteen Roman copper-alloy coins – Treasure because there are more than 10 found together (SUSS-BC6150)

*The Treasure Act was reviewed in 2019 which could lead to a revision of the Act and a change to some of the Treasure definitions: https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/revising-the-definition-of-treasure-in-the-treasure-act-1996-and-revising-the-related-codes-of-practice

A single precious metal coin that is over 300 years old and has been modified to become an object.

Early Medieval gold coin pendant from the Isle of Wight (IOW-27A7E8). A loop has been attached to the coin to turn it into a pendant. The coin can no longer be used as money and has therefore become an object.

Early Medieval silver-gilt coin brooch from the Isle of Wight (IOW-A6DB92). This coin has four rivet holes punched through it for attachment to a garment.

Medieval silver coin brooch from Kent (KENT-D69B27). The marks on the back of the coin show where a fastener was once attached to turn it into a brooch.

Not all single pierced coins qualify as Treasure. It depends on whether the coins continued to be used as money after they were modified. Iron Age, Roman and Early Medieval pierced coins *did not* re-enter circulation, making them objects and therefore Treasure. However, in the Medieval and Post-medieval periods, pierced coins often went back into circulation and are therefore not usually considered to be Treasure.

For further information see: https://finds.org.uk/treasure/advice/piercedcoins

A single Prehistoric (Iron Age or earlier) find with any trace of precious metal, or two or more non-precious metal Prehistoric finds found together (a hoard).

Iron Age vessel and bracelet hoard from Wakefield (SWYOR-1494DB). The four ribbed bracelets can be securely dated to the Iron Age making this hoard Treasure.

Bronze Age hoard from Suffolk (SF-13C7A2). The hoard contains a range of objects including axeheads and spearheads. If only one axehead was found, it would not qualify as Treasure.

Bronze Age gold penannular ring from Hampshire. The main body of the ring is actually copper alloy but it has been plated with gold. For Prehistoric finds there needs to be just a trace of precious metal, rather than the 10% requirement for later Treasure finds.

A find that is more than 300 years old and contains a distinct component made of precious metal.

This does not include gilding as this is considered to be a surface coating rather than a component.

Early Medieval copper alloy disc brooch with a silver rivet (NARC-E11208). The rivet makes the rest of the object Treasure, even though the main brooch is copper alloy.

Any object, regardless of what it is made of, that is found with another object that is Treasure.

Post-medieval hoard of silver coin clippings in a ceramic jar from Derbyshire (DENO-060EAA). The ceramic jar counts as Treasure in this case because it was found with another item that is Treasure – the silver coin clippings.

Any object that would previously have been Treasure Trove but does not fall within the specific categories given above.

To fall into this category an object must be less than 300 years old, be made substantially of gold or silver, have been deliberately hidden with the intention of recovery and have no known owners or heirs. This category is rarely used – mostly because one of the other definitions can be applied. Also, with more modern finds it is often possible to trace the owners or heirs.

Hoard of gold coins found inside a piano in a school in Shropshire (HESH-F5F412). This was an unusual case because the coins were all less than 200 years old and would not normally have been classed as Treasure. However, the coins were all substantially made of gold, they were carefully packaged and hidden inside the piano, and no owners or heirs have yet been traced; so the hoard was classified as Treasure.

Activity 3: Is it Treasure?

Instructions: Use the materials in Activity 4 to decide whether the objects are Treasure or not.

Please Note: All activities can be found at the end of this document

The Treasure Process – an overview

Discovery and Reporting of Treasure

As mentioned in Section One, when a member of the public discovers an archaeological object they can bring it to their local Finds Liaison Officer (FLO) to find out more about it. This is when some finds are identified as Treasure. As soon as the finder or the FLO suspect the find might be Treasure, they must report it to the local county Coroner and the Treasure team based at the British Museum (this differs for Treasure found in Wales and Northern Ireland). Archaeological units must also report any Treasure they find during excavations. It is illegal to knowingly conceal Treasure by not reporting it to the Coroner, and can lead to prosecution and even prison.

Finders and landowners are eligible for rewards for reporting Treasure. If Treasure is found during any type of archaeological activity, then the finder is not eligible for a reward. However, the landowner may still claim a reward.

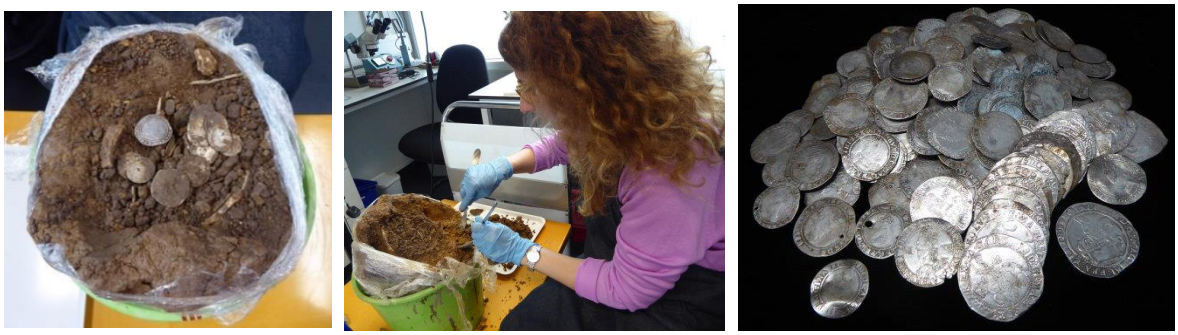
Creating a Treasure report

Once the find has been reported as potential Treasure, the FLO or a curator at the British Museum will write up a report that will later be sent to the Coroner. The report includes the area where it was found, a description of the find, the dimensions, and a conclusion of why it should or shouldn't be considered Treasure. These reports are also uploaded to the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) database, where they are available for research.

Conservation and Scientific Analysis

In some instances, the find might be in a fragile state after being in the ground for so long. In this case, the find will be sent to the conservation department at the British Museum to be treated. In addition, where there is uncertainty over the

material of the find, such as the percentage of precious metal present, it will be sent to scientific analysis for testing.



A Post-medieval silver coin hoard from Hampshire (HAMP-8B9913). The hoard was block-lifted from the ground and treated in the Conservation Department at The British Museum. It was micro-excavated in the laboratory and each coin carefully cleaned. (Images courtesy of The Portable Antiquities Scheme).

Museum interest in the find?

After the Treasure report has been completed it is distributed to local museums to see if they would like to acquire the find for their collections. National museums, such as the British Museum, also have the option to acquire the find. This is an important part of the Treasure process because it enables important finds to be acquired for the benefit of the public. Since the Treasure Act 1996 was brought in, thousands of important finds have been acquired by public museums and are on display across the country.

The Coroners involvement

Once an object has been offered to a museum, there are three possible outcomes:

- **Inquest request:** If a museum is interested in acquiring the find, then the Treasure team writes to the Coroner to request an inquest. The Coroner will then hold an inquest to declare the find Treasure.
- **Disclaim**: If there are no museums interested in acquiring the find, then the Treasure team writes to the Coroner to ‘disclaim’ the find. This means that the Crown gives up any claim to ownership it might have and the find can be returned to the finder, subject to the landowner’s agreement.

- **Not Treasure:** Sometimes after the find has been reported to the coroner as potential Treasure, it is then identified that the find is not Treasure. For example, the find cannot securely dated or there is less than 10% precious metal content. In this case, the Treasure team writes to the Coroner to inform them the find is not Treasure, and the find is then returned to the finder (subject to the landowner's agreement).

Valuing the Treasure finds

If there is museum interest and the find is declared Treasure at the coroner's inquest, the find then proceeds to the valuation stage. The Treasure team commission a team of independent valuers who come to the British Museum to value the find. This provisional valuation is given to the finder, landowner and museum for comment, as well as the Treasure Valuation Committee (TVC). The TVC is an independent advisory group of specialists who determine the final reward value of a Treasure find. The TVC meets around eight times a year to review finds being acquired by museums. Working from the provisional valuation and also any comments from the finder, landowner or museum, they recommend values to the Secretary of State. These recommended valuations are then distributed to all interested parties. The finder, landowner and museum are welcome to submit any comments or challenges to the valuation and they can even submit their own private valuation. This keeps the valuation process open and fair.

The TVC also makes recommendations on how the rewards are allocated. In some cases, the TVC might decide to abate rewards to finders/landowners. This means reducing or taking away the reward payment. For instance, if a finder/landowner conceals any Treasure or damages the find, they could have their reward amount reduced or taken away. This is to encourage good practice in recording and reporting archaeological finds.

Acquisition and closure

As soon as all parties have agreed to the recommended valuation, the museum acquiring the find is invoiced. Once the museum has paid, they are free to collect the find from the British Museum and the reward payments are then distributed to

the finder and landowner. This is usually a 50/50 split unless an alternative arrangement has been agreed between the finder and landowner.
If no one can agree to the recommended valuation, they can appeal to the Secretary of the State, where the matter will be dealt with by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS).

Donation

Activity 5: Treasure Debate

Instructions: Use the materials in Activity 5 to hold a debate about Treasure.

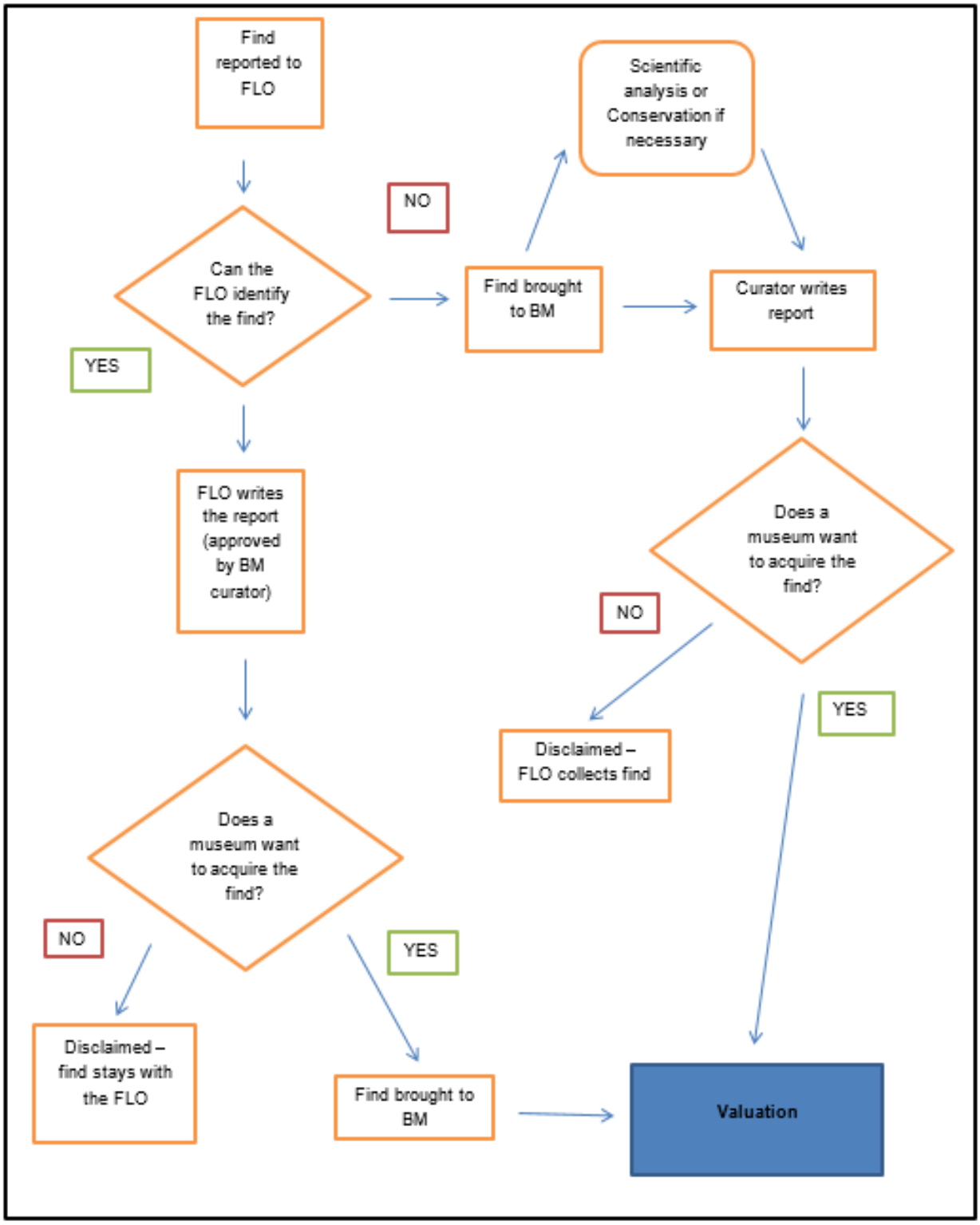
Please Note: All activities can be found at the end of this document

There are some instances where the finder and/or landowner decide to waive their share of the reward. This means that the museum can acquire the find for either a reduced amount or it is fully donated to the museum. In these cases, a donation certificate signed by the Minister of Culture is sent out to the finder/landowner to thank them.

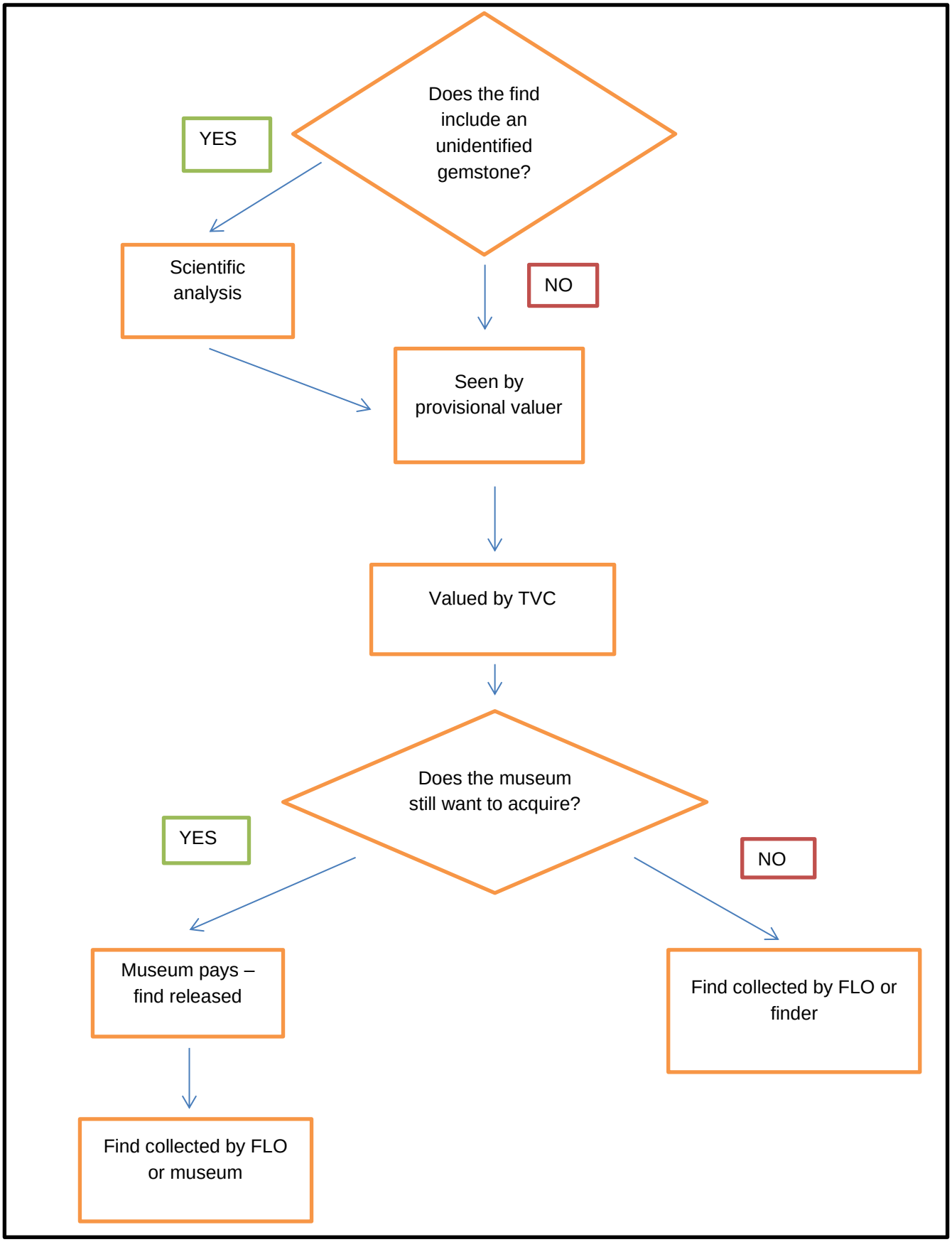
Further information

The two flow charts below show the breakdown of the stages in the Treasure process. Due to the various types of Treasure finds and circumstances of discovery, not all Treasure cases are treated the same way. The Treasure Act is very detailed and the process has many stages. Further information and guidance can be found on: https://finds.org.uk/treasure

Stage One: pre-inquest



Stage Two: valuation



SECTION THREE: RECORDING FINDS

How do we record an archaeological object?

Discussion point: What information about an object would you record?

All finds recorded by the PAS, including Treasure, will have a database record created for them. The best way to think about recording a find is to imagine that the object has vanished completely and all you have left is the database record. What information would you need for that record to be useful for research?

This is the information that we collect in order to create a database record:

- **Object Type** → What is the object?
- **Description** → What does it look like? This is important because researchers will not have the object in front of them so need a full and accurate description.
- **Date** → How old is the object? When was it made and used?
- **Measurements** → Size, weight and quantity (if more than one)
- **Materials** → What is it made of?
- **Discovery Details** → How was it discovered? When? Where? By whom?
- **Images** → Photographs of the objects from multiple angles to show all of the important features. Sometimes people include illustrations of the object as well.

Spotlight on findspots

Why is the findspot so important? The findspot is what gives the objects on the database context, particularly objects that have been removed from their original context through actions like ploughing. Sometimes the findspot is more important to archaeologists than the find itself! This is because where something is found can offer important clues to past activities in an area. It can tell us about demographics, society, culture, manufacturing and trade. So the more accurate the findspot data, the more useful the record is to researchers. The PAS asks finders to provide a minimum of a 6-figure grid reference (precise to 100m) but the majority of our finders supply 8-figure (10m) or even 10-figure (1m) grid references which is even better!

For more information on why findspots are important see: https://www.ncmd.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/ncmd-digging-deep-19.pdf

You can learn all about grid references here: https://getoutside.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/guides/beginners-guide-to-grid-references/, or here https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z6j6fg8/revision/4 and in the finds recording guide on our website.

Writing the object description is often the trickiest part of creating a database record. Try to imagine that someone has to draw your object from just the description. You need to be careful to avoid words that could be interpreted in different ways.

Important information to capture for an object description includes:

Identification	A one sentence summary of what the object is
Material	Of each component, including rivets
Surface treatment	For example, gilding, stamping etc.
Method of manufacture	How it was made
Shape	A detailed description of the shape
Size and weight	In millimetres and grams
Decoration	Is the object decorated? How?
Reverse	The back of the object can be just as important as the front
Completeness	Is the object whole or broken?
Wear	Including wear on any breaks as this can tell us if the break is historic or recent
Colour	Can tell us about deposition conditions, for example
Corrosion and loss of surface	Has the surface been lost through corrosion or other processes?
Components	How is the object constructed? How many parts?
Date and period	When was it made and used?
Parallels	Are there any other examples like this object?

You can find more help about writing database records by checking out our volunteer recording guide and our finds recording guides:

Volunteer Recording Guide: https://finds.org.uk/volunteerrecording
Finds Recording Guides: https://finds.org.uk/counties/findsrecordingguides/

Activity 6: Writing Database Records

Instructions: Use the materials in Activity 7 to write a database record for an object.

Please Note: All activities can be found at the end of this document

SECTION FOUR: USING THE PAS DATABASE

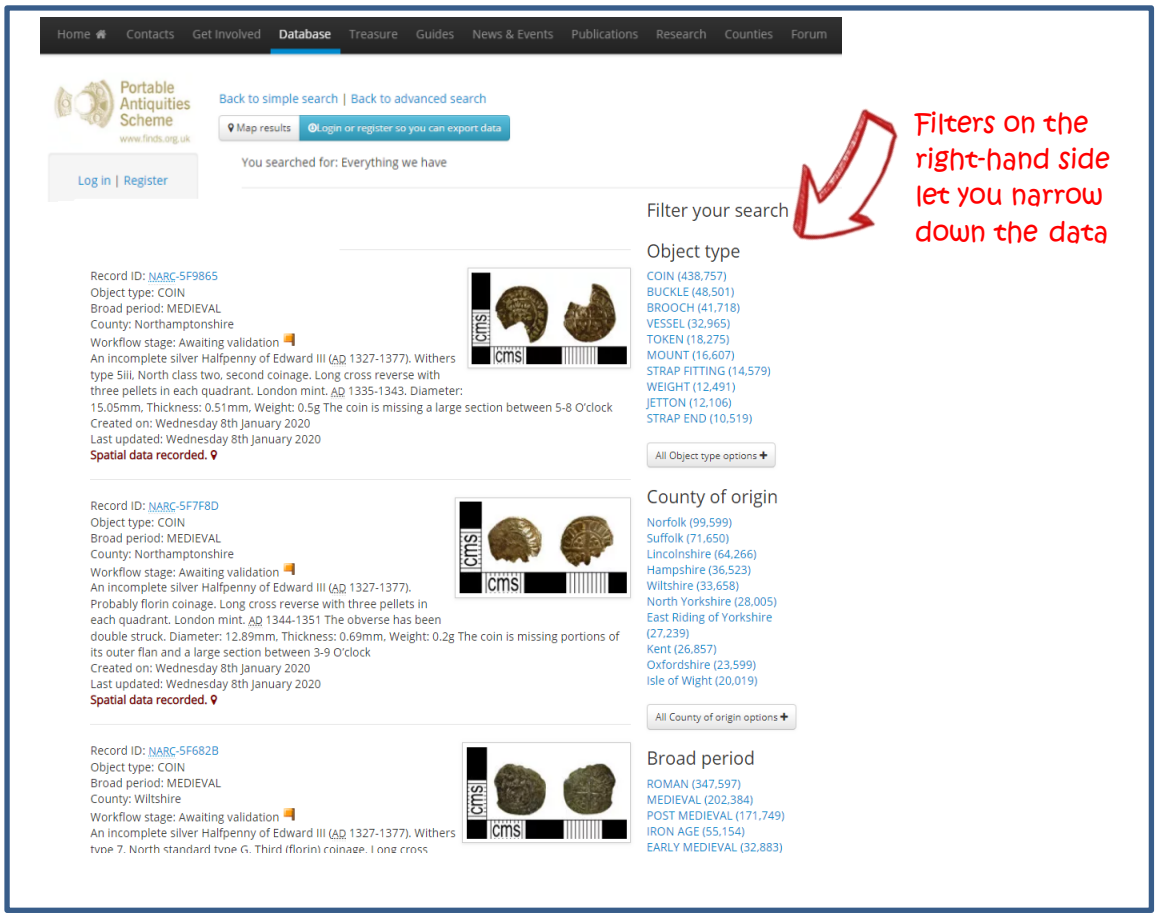
The PAS database is where we store the information about all the finds reported to us. Remember, we do not keep any of the actual finds, just the data about them. This is known as preservation by record. We currently have more than 1.4 million objects recorded on the database – that is an average of almost 70,000 a year!

The information on the database is available for everybody to use so that anyone can find out about the archaeology of their local area. The database is easy to search and your search results can be filtered to find just the data you need.

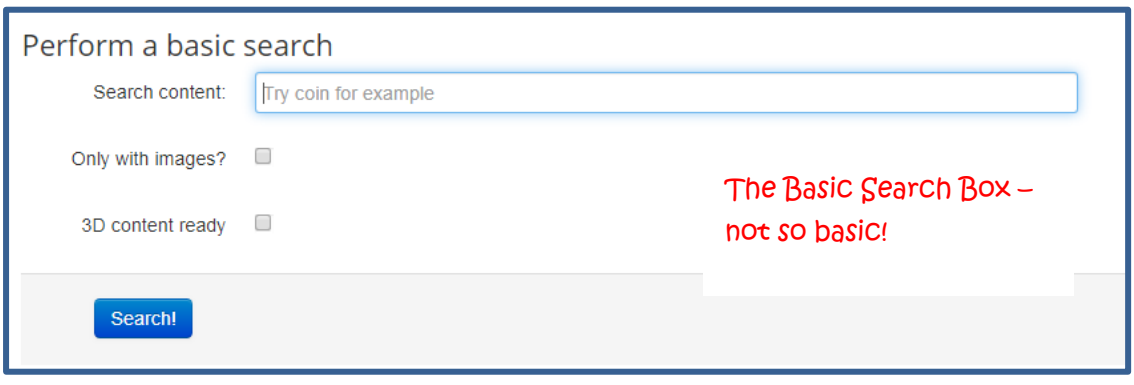
Searching the database

The PAS database is full of information but how do you find what you are looking for? There are many different ways to access the data depending on the type of information you are interested in. You can find all of the different search methods here: https://finds.org.uk/database/search

The quickest and most simple is the “All artefacts and coins” button. This brings up everything on the database. You can then narrow down your results using the filters on the right-hand side. This method is great for finding interesting statistics such as: how many Bronze Age objects are there on the database? It’s a quick way to browse the most recent records that have been added and it is also a fun way to explore the database if you are not looking for anything in particular.



However, sometimes you might want to search for something more specific. For example, if you are looking for a particular find and you have the record number for it; or you want to find all the records with a particular word in them. You can use the Basic Search Box for this. Simply type your chosen word into the box and press “Search!”. This will bring up all the database records containing that word. You can then use the filters on the right-hand side to narrow down your results as before. The Basic Search Box is useful for when you are not sure which database field the information has been put into because it searches all of them. However, it is not so good for words that are very common or have multiple meanings because it can be difficult to filter out the ones you do not want.

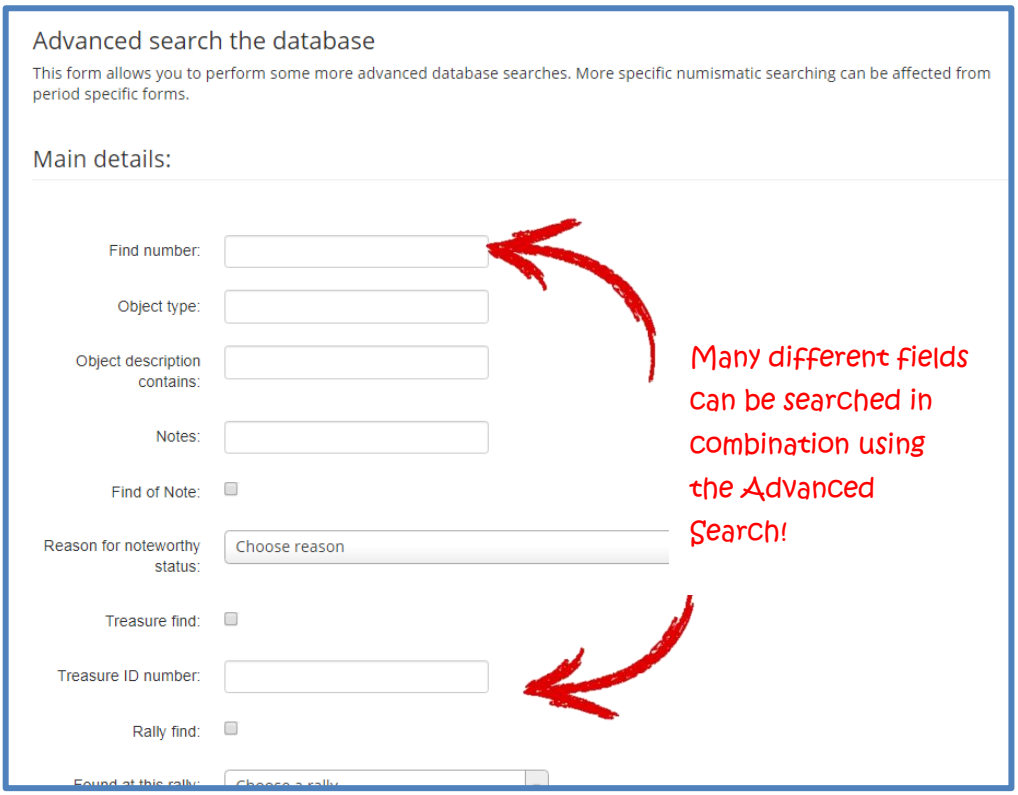


You can also use the Basic Search Box to carry out some quite complicated database searches, but you need to know how to construct your search to get the information you want. We will cover a few basic examples here but for a full explanation check out our handy guide to Searching the Database which can be found here: https://finds.org.uk/counties/findsrecordingguides/searching-the-database/

To boost the searching power of the Basic Search Box you can use something called an operator. The operators used on the database are AND, OR and NOT. With these three you can conduct some powerful searches. Here's an easy way to visualise how these operators work using Roman coins as an example:

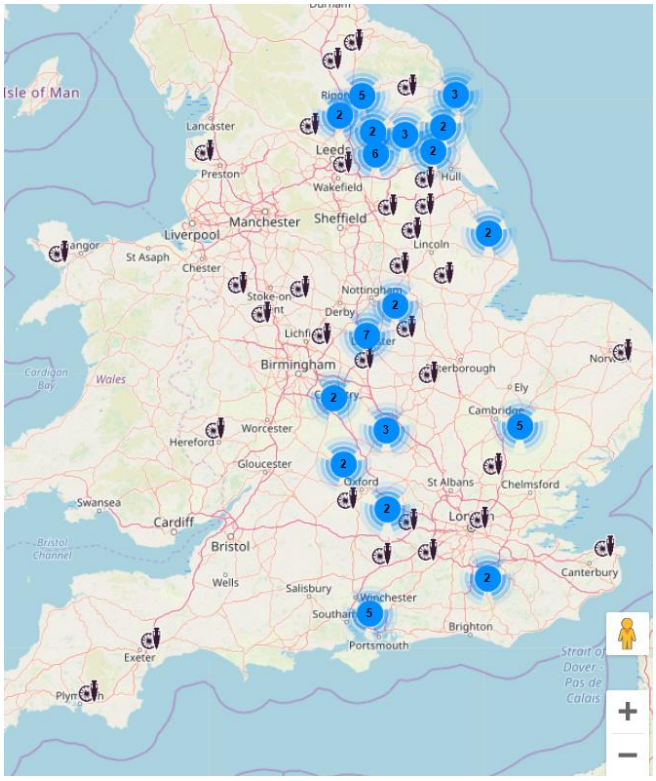
If you type multiple terms into the Basic Search Box without any operators between them, the database will treat it as if you have put AND between them. So, if you want to search for a phrase, such as coin weight, you must wrap them in speech marks like this: "coin weight".

Just remember that whatever you type into the box, the database will bring up all records containing that term, regardless of what database field they are in. If you know which database field you want to search, then the Advanced Search Form is the best approach. There are 23 different fields that be searched using the form, either on their own or in combination. For example, if you are looking for a specific object type or you want to find all the objects made of a particular material, or even both!



Finally, there are some fun geographical searches you can do. The first is the Map Search. This allows you to select an area on the map and search for all the finds that have been discovered there. Alternatively, you can try the Postcode Search which allows you to search for all the finds discovered in a particular postcode area. Both of these searches are fun and great for promoting local archaeology because people can search for things found near their house!

For all search results, regardless of method, you can click the “Map Results” button to get a lovely map that shows where the finds come from.



Distribution map of all the pencils recorded on the PAS database!

Activity 7: Database Scavenger Hunt

Instructions: Use the materials in Activity 7 to search the database and complete our scavenger hunt.

Please Note: All activities can be found at the end of this document

GLOSSARY

Context	The relationship of an object to the other objects and features within the same archaeological layer.
Coroner	A government official who conducts an inquest to decide whether an item is Treasure or not.
Finds Liaison Officer	An archaeologist who specialises in the identification and recording of archaeological objects.
Findspot	The precise location in which an object was found.
Hoard	A collection of objects deliberately grouped together and hidden.
Metal detecting	Activity that involves scanning the ground with a metal detector to find items made of metal.
Nighthawking	Theft of archaeological objects from protected sites, usually carried out under cover of darkness.
PAS database	Online catalogue where information about all the finds recorded by the PAS is stored.
Ploughsoil	Layer of soil disturbed by agricultural activity, primarily ploughing.
Portable Antiquities Scheme/PAS	A project to record archaeological finds discovered by members of the public.
Stratigraphy	The principle that archaeology is found in layers and that the lower layers are older in date that the upper layers
Treasure	Objects that meet a specific set of criteria outlined in The Treasure Act 1996
Treasure Valuation Committee	An independent advisory group of specialists who determine the final reward value of a Treasure find.

ACTIVITY 1: Metal-detecting Debate

Age range: 12+

Overview: This activity invites participants to put their debate skills to the test and discuss the issues surrounding the practice of metal-detecting.

Learning objectives/skills: To encourage discussion and critical thinking of the issues surrounding the practice of metal-detecting. The activity uses verbal reasoning, comprehension and research skills too.

Materials: Newspaper clippings or case studies of metal-detecting that show the various issues involved. If you can find some local examples, even better! Your local FLO should be able to help with this. With older children, you might prefer to provide computers/tablets and have them research examples themselves.

Preparation: Prepare some debate questions/statements. We have provided two below to get you started but you may want to come up with some of your own, depending on the work you have been doing with the group. Use the information from the Resource Pack and your own discussions on the topic to provide the background to the debate.

Set up the room for a debate, ideally with a lectern at the front and two separate areas for each group to work on their arguments.

Procedure: Divide your group into two – one group will argue “For” and the other “Against”. You will also need to appoint a moderator (this could be the YAC leader). Either hand out the clippings/case studies to each group or ask them to look up their own examples. Give them adequate time to formulate their arguments. Each group will need to elect a speaker. Each speaker will then have an allotted time to deliver their argument. After both arguments have been presented, each group gets a chance to challenge the arguments made. You might also want to include questions from the floor. At the end a winner is decided – either the YAC leader can act as the judge or you could have a show of hands from the audience.

After the debate is finished, you could continue the discussion to have a more in-depth look at some of the issues.

Example Debate Topics

Debate Topic 1:

Is metal-detecting good or bad for archaeology?

In the UK, metal-detecting is legal as long as you have the permission of the owner on whose land you are detecting. This means that anybody can, in theory, go out and discover archaeological objects without having to be part of an archaeological investigation. Some important sites have special protection, which means they cannot be detected on at all (for example, Stonehenge) but most land does not. There is no legal obligation to record any of these finds unless they fall under the definition of Treasure. This means that potentially a lot of information about the past goes unrecorded. The Portable Antiquities Scheme aims to capture this information by recording metal-detected finds on its database and lots of detectorists do volunteer their finds for recording. However, some do not and furthermore, others engage in the illegal practice of night-hawking (detecting without the landowner's permission). This has led to damage of some important archaeological sites and the loss of valuable information. On the other hand, metal-detecting has led to the discovery of some previously unknown archaeological sites, and the information on the database has added greatly to our knowledge of Britain's past.

How a detectorist uncovered one of the largest Roman villas ever found in Britain

A detectorist has uncovered one of the largest Roman villas ever discovered in Britain - and with it, a wealth of artefacts including coins, coffins and ever an enormous boar tusk.
The 85m by 85m villa's foundations lie beneath a crop in a field a stone's throw from Broughton Castle near Banbury in Oxfordshire, on one of the estate's farms.
Magnetometry scans showed the outline of the terraced villa is not much smaller than Buckingham Palace.

i News, 23rd August 2018

Graverobbers target ancient Welsh cemetery

Graverobbers targeted an ancient Welsh cemetery digging up dozens of patches of ground.
Around 50 areas of turf were disturbed at the church in Caerwent, Monmouthshire, with a number of shallow holes left.
The digging is believed to be carried out by nighthawkers – people who use metal detectors without permission of the landowners.

WalesOnline, 27th September 2019

Debate Topic 2:

All metal-detected finds should be recorded with the Portable Antiquities Scheme.

Recording finds with the Portable Antiquities Scheme is not compulsory, so not all finds get reported. However, a vast number of finders do report their discoveries to help further our understanding of the past and, to date, almost 1.5 million objects have been recorded. Arguably, this number would be even higher if all finds had to be reported and we could be missing out on valuable information. But some finds do not actually tell us very much archaeologically, especially mass-produced objects from more recent periods. With so many finds being reported already, it is questionable whether all finds should, or even could be recorded, as it takes time to research and record each find.

Silver cufflinks like this were produced in large quantities during the Restoration Period (AD1660-1666). Many of them are identical and have no personalisation or other additional information on them so do they actually tell us very much?

Record ID: LON-ED6E5D
Copyright: Portable Antiquities Scheme, License: CC-BY

This blob of bronze might not look very much; in fact it isn't even an artefact but the waste from the creation of something else. However, it is actually from the Bronze Age and is probably waste from the production of axeheads, so it tells us that axes were being cast near the site that this object was found. Does this make it worth recording?

Record ID: SUR-9F774B
Copyright: Surrey County Council, License: CC-BY

ACTIVITY 2: True or False

Age range: 8+

Overview: This activity tests people's understanding of the Portable Antiquities Scheme. It can also be used as the basis for further discussion on some of the points raised.

Learning objectives/skills: This activity uses comprehension and verbal reasoning skills.

Materials: A list of True or False questions – you can use the ones provided below or add your own.

Preparation: Use section one of the resource pack to introduce the Portable Antiquities Scheme. Depending on how you run the activity, you might wish to set the room up in a quiz show format for example.

Procedure: You can either hand out the list of statements to people, or you can run it as a quiz where you read out each statement or put them up on a PowerPoint. You can add some movement to the activity by having True and False sides to the room and getting people to run to the relevant side.

True or False Statements

Easier

- You must record all of your finds.

False – only Treasure finds have to be reported by law. However, the more finds people report, the more we can learn about the past.

- You can metal-detect wherever you like.

False – you must **always** have the permission of the person who owns the land before you can metal-detect on it. And some land (such as Scheduled Monuments) you are never allowed to detect on.

- If you discover human bones you must call the police.

True – if you find human bones you must tell the police so that they can find out whether they are old or recent.

- If you find an archaeological object in your garden you don't have to tell anybody.

True – unless the objects are human remains or potential Treasure, in which case you must tell the relevant authorities.

- Gold and silver objects are the most important.

False – although gold and silver objects are Treasure, this does not make them more important. In fact, sometimes non-Treasure finds can tell us a lot more about life in the past than Treasure objects.

- You must tell someone if you find Treasure.

True – all Treasure finds must be reported by law.

- The PAS only records metal objects.

False – the PAS is interested in all archaeological objects, not just metal ones. It's just that most of our finds are discovered by people using metal-detectors so they happen to be metal.

Moderate

- It is compulsory to record your finds with the Portable Antiquities Scheme (Answer: False – the Portable Antiquities Scheme is a voluntary scheme so people do not have to record their finds, but it is obviously better if they do!)
- If you discover human remains you should call the police

Answer: True – if you find human remains you must inform the police so that they can determine whether they are recent or archaeological

- If you find an archaeological object on your own property, you don't need to tell anybody

Answer: True – unless the objects are human remains or potential Treasure, in which case you must tell the relevant authorities

- The PAS keeps all the finds reported to them

Answer: False – the PAS records all of the information about an object but does not keep the object itself. Objects are either returned to the finder or sometimes they go to a museum

- All Treasure must be reported by law

Answer: True – non-reporting of Treasure is a criminal offence. Failure to report Treasure could result in a fine or even a prison sentence

- The PAS is only interested in metallic objects

Answer: False – the PAS are interested in all archaeological finds, not just metallic ones. For example, there are over 34,000 flint objects recorded on the database

- An object is only Treasure if it is silver or gold

Answer: False – there are several criteria that determine whether an object is Treasure or not. Precious metal content is just one of them

Harder

- The PAS only record objects that are over 300 years old

Answer: False – although the recording criteria prioritises objects that are more than 300 years old, we will record more recent objects if they have significant historical or local value

- It is important to provide an accurate findspot for each find

Answer: True – an accurate findspot is vital because in order for the data to be useful we need to know where it was found. The findspot gives the object context

- A find from ploughsoil has no archaeological value

Answer: False – though removed from their stratigraphic context, finds in ploughsoil are often still close to the site they were deposited/used so still have the potential to tell us much about the past, as well as containing inherent information about the object itself

- Metal detecting can make an important contribution to archaeological knowledge Answer: True – if carried out responsibly, metal detecting can add to our understanding of the past

- Treasure is more important than non-Treasure

Answer: False – although Treasure has a special status in law, Treasure finds are no more important archaeologically than non-Treasure finds. In fact, often non-Treasure finds can tell us far more about the past than Treasure finds

- You only need to get permission to metal detect on private land

Answer: False – all land has an owner, even public land, and you must **always** have the landowner's permission before you go detecting

- If it is a common find, it doesn't need to be recorded

Answer: False – every object is unique in its own way so even if there are many examples already on the database, another one may still add new information. For example, it might be the first one of that type found in a particular area. FLOs will make a judgement based on the object in front of them, rather than how many of them are already on the database

ACTIVITY 3: Become a Finds Liaison Officer!

Age range: All ages

Overview: The role of a Finds Liaison Officer is varied and interesting. One of their jobs is to identify the archaeological finds that people bring for them to see. This activity gets people to have a go at identifying and dating some finds from the PAS database.

Learning objectives/skills: This activity uses critical thinking skills and knowledge of history/archaeology.

Materials: Examples of objects from the database (images). You can use the ones provided here or you can pick your own from the database.

Preparation: Cut out and laminate the object images and put them into a finds bag. If you have a large group, you may want to create several finds bags so you can split people into smaller groups. You will also need to create a sheet of the answers.

Procedure: It is a good idea to have a quick refresher of the major archaeological periods (Bronze Age, medieval etc.). Give a finds bag to each group and get them to identify and date each of the objects within. You can add an element of movement to the activity by giving each person an object and asking them to line themselves up in the correct date order. As an extension to the activity, you could select some objects that borderline fit the recording criteria and get people to decide whether or not they should be recorded on the database.

Object examples and answer sheet

PALAEOLITHIC

Flint handaxe; 600,000-150,000BC. Found in Norfolk. Recorded as NMS-558D58 on the PAS Database.

MESOLITHIC

Four flint microliths; 6000-3500BC. Found in Lincolnshire. Recorded as SWYOR-D04151 on the PAS Database.

NEOLITHIC

Polished flint axehead; 4000-2200BC. Found in Norfolk. Recorded as CAM-97F9E7 on the PAS Database.

BRONZE AGE

Socketed copper alloy axehead; 1000-800BC. Found in Shropshire. Recorded as LVPL-FA9A48 on the PAS Database.

IRON AGE

Gold stater of the Ambiani tribe; 60-55BC. Found in Essex. Recorded as ESS-D2002A on the PAS Database.

ROMAN

Samian ware pottery sherds; AD70-230. Found in Somerset. Recorded as SOM-20F51D on the PAS Database.

EARLY MEDIEVAL

Copper alloy Great Square Headed brooch; AD525-560. Found in Lincolnshire. Recorded as LIN-7AC173 on the PAS Database.

MEDIEVAL

Silver halfgroat of Henry VII; AD1486-1500. Found in Norfolk. Recorded as NMS-90B6B6 on the PAS Database.

POST-MEDIEVAL

Gunflint from a flintlock musket; AD1600-1900. Found in North Yorkshire. Recorded as YORYM-5F5645 on the PAS Database.

MODERN

Copper alloy regimental badge; AD1862-1966. Found in York. Recorded as PUBLIC-9FB54E.

ACTIVITY 4: Is it Treasure?

Age range: 8+

Overview: This activity invites participants to use their new knowledge about Treasure to work out whether or not a particular object constitutes Treasure.

Learning objectives/skills: To test understanding of the concept of Treasure and to use critical thinking skills to determine whether an object fits the legal definition of Treasure.

Materials: Image cards of a variety of Treasure and non-Treasure objects from the database. Alternatively, you can use the worksheet provided here and they can write their answers down, or you could present it as a PowerPoint quiz and have people shout out the answers.

Preparation: Each example needs a good clear image and some basic accompanying information to provide some clues. We recommend including what the object is, what it is made of and what date, but you can provide more or less information depending on how difficult you want to make the activity! If you are creating image flashcards then you can put the answers on the reverse, along with the database record number so that people can look up the object on the database afterwards. If you are presenting it as a quiz then you will need to create an answer sheet.

Procedure: If using the image flashcards, lay them out with the image facing up. Ask people to choose which objects they believe are Treasure, based on the information provided and what they have learnt earlier in the session. For example, you could get them to sort “Treasure” to the left and “Not Treasure” to the right. When they are ready, you can simply turn over the cards to see how they’ve done. Alternatively, you could hand out the worksheets or present the images via PowerPoint.

Start off with the easier definitions, such as gold rings, then move on to coin hoards and prehistoric base metals. Questions 1-5 are the easiest; questions 6-10 are medium difficulty; questions 11-15 are the most difficult.

Extra examples – unique examples of Treasure

- Bronze Age dirk cut in half during antiquity
- Single pierced coins
- Silver rivets

Is it Treasure? Worksheet

Image of object	PAS record and notes	Is this Treasure? Why is or isn't this Treasure?
	1. SF-9977A7 Post-Medieval (Date: c. 1550-1650) gold finger-ring.	
	2. DENO-38ABF2 Medieval silver annular brooch.	
	3. SUR-E39199 Roman copper-alloy brooch.	
	4. HAMP-06D639 Medieval copper-alloy finger-ring.	
	5. CAM-21F97B Two Bronze Age gold torcs.	

	6. OXON-1EF012 Roman copper-alloy coin found on it's own.	
	7. BUC-56AD68 Medieval silver coin hoard.	
	8. YORYM-057F37 One Bronze Age copper-alloy axe head found on it's own.	
	9. WILT-5EF569 Early Medieval silver pyramid mount.	
	10. SF-13C7A2 Bronze Age copper-alloy hoard.	

	11. WMID-D71A2E Six Roman copper-alloy coins found in the same area that nine other Roman copper-alloy coins were found.	
	12. GLO-EAA7E1 Three fused Roman copper alloy coins.	
	13. WMID-5AC3B1 Early Medieval copper alloy strap end with silver rivets.	
	14. 34E545 Two fragments of a copper alloy Bronze Age dirk. The fragments are probably from the same object as the broken edges fit together. Examination of the edges and breaks suggests that the blade was broken in antiquity. It has been broken before being deposited.	
	15. BUC-87B54A Early Medieval copper-alloy pyramid mount with a ‘significant’ amount of gold sheet and filigree decoration covering the mount.	

Answers:

1. Treasure. It is over 300 years old and contains over 10% precious metal.
2. Treasure. It is over 300 years old and contains over 10% precious metal.
3. Not Treasure. Even though it is over 300 years old, it is made of copper-alloy and contains less than 10% precious metal.
4. Not Treasure. Even though it is over 300 years old, it is made of copper-alloy and contains less than 10% precious metal.
5. Treasure. It is over 300 years old and contains over 10% precious metal.
6. Not Treasure. It is a single copper-alloy coin (10 or more copper-alloy coins qualify as Treasure).
7. Treasure. It contains 2 or more precious metal coins that are over 300 years old.
8. Not Treasure. 2 or more prehistoric copper-alloy objects found together qualify as Treasure, however, as this was found on its own, with no precious metal, it is therefore not Treasure.
9. Treasure. It is over 300 years old and contains over 10% precious metal.
10. Treasure. 2 or more prehistoric copper-alloy objects found together qualify as Treasure.
11. Treasure. These 6 coins are associated to a small coin hoard previously found, taking the total number of copper-alloy coins to over 10. Therefore, these 6 coins qualify as Treasure.
12. Not Treasure. Even though it is over 300 years old, it contains no precious metal and comprises of less than 10 copper-alloy coins.
13. Treasure. Even though the body of the find is copper-alloy, two silver rivets are attached to the find. Since those silver rivets on their own contain more than 10% precious metal they are Treasure and the copper alloy body is Treasure by association.
14. Treasure. Usually one prehistoric base metal find does not constitute as Treasure, even if it was broken in two recently. However, this find was likely broken during antiquity, so before it was deposited into the ground, therefore it constitutes as two prehistoric base metal finds.
15. Treasure. It is over 300 years old and whilst the body of the find is copper-alloy, the gold section is quite extensive and appears to account for at least 10% of the total object, therefore it qualifies as Treasure.

ACTIVITY 5: Treasure Debate

Age range: 12+

Overview: The definition of Treasure, and how the Treasure Act works, occasionally comes under scrutiny and discussion, especially within the metal detecting and archaeological communities. This activity encourages people to test their debating skills and examine the issues relating to Treasure.

Learning objectives/skills: To encourage discussion and critical thinking of the issues surrounding the practice of metal-detecting. The activity uses verbal reasoning, comprehension and research skills too.

Materials: Newspaper clippings/case studies relating to Treasure discoveries. We have provided some examples below.

Preparation: Set up the room for a debate, ideally with a lectern at the front and two separate areas for each group to work on their arguments.

Procedure: Divide your group into two – one group will argue "For" and the other "Against". You will also need to appoint a moderator (this could be the YAC leader). Either hand out the clippings/case studies to each group or ask them to look up their own examples. Give them adequate time to formulate their arguments. Each group will need to elect a speaker. Each speaker will then have an allotted time to deliver their argument. After both arguments have been presented, each group gets a chance to challenge the arguments made. You might also want to include questions

Example Debate Topics

Debate Topic 1:

Should finders and landowners receive rewards for reporting Treasure?

Rewards are given finders/landowners to encourage them to report Treasure finds, however, as the values of Treasure finds can fluctuate it means museums are not always in a position to be able to acquire Treasure. This can then lead to the Treasure entering the private market. However, as 'rewards' have been a component in the Treasure Act since 1996, if rewards are removed this could potentially lead to less Treasure being reported, especially as the values of Treasure are regularly highlighted in news articles. This is also a good opportunity to think about where the money for acquiring Treasure finds come from.

COINING IT IN Metal-detecting couple find one of UK's largest ever treasure hoards after discovering 2,600 ancient coins worth around £5million

The Ashmolean Museum will keep a Viking hoard worth £1.35m after 700 members of the public contributed to its purchase.

The hoard, discovered in Watlington in 2015, dates back to the time of Alfred the Great, King of Wessex.

He successfully defended his kingdom from Viking raids between 871 and 899.

The National Lottery donated £1.05m of the money needed to purchase the hoard - which includes 200 coins. A further £150,000 was raised from Art Fund and the remaining money was donated.

Debate Topic 2:

Not all Treasure is gold and silver, so should it be called 'Treasure'?

There is a debate among some archaeologists over whether we should define these finds as 'Treasure', especially as the word 'Treasure' has certain connotations linked to films and the media. Additionally, many new reports use Treasure to highlight the value of the finds. If the term 'Treasure' was removed, what would you replace it with and why?

ACTIVITY 6: Writing Database Records

Age range: All ages (use appropriate recording sheet)

Overview: The PAS does not keep the finds that it records. Therefore, it is crucial to record all the information that we can about the object before it is returned to the finder. Writing a good database record takes practice which is exactly what this activity is all about!

Learning objectives/skills: This activity uses critical thinking, observation, literacy and numeracy skills.

Materials: Some examples of objects. These can be real archaeological objects from a handling collection or you could ask people to bring in an object from home – it doesn't need to be old! You will also need some weighing scales and rulers (or callipers if you have them).

Preparation: Give each individual/group a recording sheet and make sure they have access to the measuring tools.

Procedure: Get the group to record their object using the recording sheet. The simpler sheet asks for a drawing and some basic information; the fuller version captures more of the crucial details. As a fun follow-on you could get them to read out their object descriptions and see if the others can draw what the object is based on the description only. You could also get them to recreate their object in clay.

Finds recording sheet (simple version)

Use the space below to record your find. A picture paints a thousand words so make sure you capture all the important details!

What do you think the object is? ……

What is it made of? (tick)
□ Ceramic □ Flint □ Stone □ Bone □ Glass □ Wood □ Other ……..
□ Gold □ Silver □ Copper Alloy □ Lead □ Iron □ Metal (unsure of type)

How old do you think it is? (tick one)
□ Stone Age □ Bronze Age □ Iron Age □ Roman □ Early-medieval
□ Medieval □ Post-medieval □ Modern □ Don't know

Finds Recording Sheet (full version)

Name:

Where was your artefact found?
Town or village:
County:
If you know where it is on a map, you can add a grid reference:

When was it found?
How was it found?(tick) □ Gardening □ On a walk □ Metal-detecting □ Other……..

What do you think the object is?
What was it used for?
Write down what the object looks like:
Does it have any marks or patterns on it? What do they look like?
Does it have any writing on it? What does it say?
What is it made from? (tick) □ Ceramic □ Flint □ Stone □ Bone □ Glass □ Wood □ Other …… □ Gold □ Silver □ Copper Alloy □ Lead □ Iron □ Metal (unsure of type)
What colour is it?
When was it made? Is it: (tick) □ Stone Age □ Bronze Age □ Iron Age □ Roman □ Early-medieval □ Medieval □ Post-medieval □ Modern □ Don't know
Is it whole or is there any damage?
Do you think it has been cleaned?

Measurements		
Length:_____ mm	Width:_____mm	Thickness:_____mm
Diameter:_____mm	Weight:_____g	

Picture:
Draw your object or put a photograph of it here. The image should be life size and should show the object from the front and the side. If you have space, draw the top and bottom too – the more information the better!

ACTIVITY 7: Database Scavenger Hunt

Age range: 11+ (requires use of a computer)

Overview: This activity aims to get people used to searching for objects on the PAS database, using the search methods discussed in the session.

Learning objectives/skills: This activity uses computer skills and critical thinking skills.

Materials: A laptop, computer or tablet with internet access (the database is online). A list of items to search for – you can use the worksheet below or pick your own criteria.

Preparation: You should have already discussed the "Using the Database" section of the resource pack so that people are familiar with the different ways of accessing information on the database. It would be helpful to provide people with a printed copy they can refer back to. Make sure that everyone is online and has the database page open.

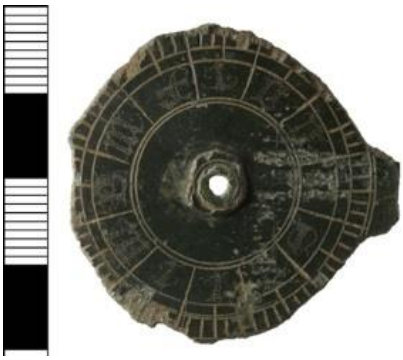
Procedure: Hand out the worksheets for people to complete. You can run this as a proper scavenger hunt where people have to race to complete the activity. Depending on the criteria used, a good follow-on activity would be for people to present some of the objects they have found to the rest of the group. For example, "Find an object that relates to you in some way".

Scavenger Hunt List

- Find the oldest/youngest object you can
- Find something that there is only one of on the database
- Find something from near where you live
- Find something that relates to yourself
- Find something made of [pick a material e.g. flint]
- Find something used for [pick a function e.g. eating and drinking]
- Find something that has been re-used
- Find something with an animal on it
- Find something from your favourite period in history
- Find something you might wear
- Find something recorded on a specific date (e.g. your birthday)

For an extra challenge you can add: Find out what this is! Give participants a mystery object and let them use their database detective skills to try and find parallels on the database. Be warned, some of these are very tricky! As a follow on, they might want to research what some of these strange objects are!

Suggested objects:




cm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Answers:

	NMS-C00005 A nocturnal Medieval, circa AD1430-1510
	SWYOR-16E689 A nutcracker Post-medieval, circa AD1650-1750
	WREX-558BB3 A toy rifle Post-medieval, circa AD1600-1640
	LIN-B6E794 A jetton Post-medieval, circa AD1500-1550
	IOW-FEB074 A bird feeder Medieval, circa AD1400-1600
	SUSS-658A25 A wig curler Post-medieval, circa AD1650-1800
	LON-FA01A5 A parchment pricker Medieval, circa AD1200-1600
	DEV-1386CA A spur Post-medieval, circa AD1600-1700
	SUR-D02FD3 A padlock Medieval, circa AD1200-1400
	LANCUM-422083 A seal box Roman, circa AD75-250

	YORYM-973896 An ampulla Medieval, circa AD1350-1550