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## Foreword



This is the third annual report to Parliament on the operation of the Treasure Act 1996 and contains details of 265 new cases which were discovered or reported during the year 2000, together with details of a further 24 cases that were listed in summary in last year's report. This report, like its two predecessors, lists all finds that were reported as potential treasure to the British Museum, the National Museums & Galleries of Wales and the Environment and Heritage Agency, Northern Ireland. Fifteen of the cases in this report were found not to qualify as treasure; the report does not include any finds that may have been reported as potential treasure to local finds advisers that were found clearly not to qualify and therefore were not referred to the national bodies.

### Treasure Review

The number of reported treasure finds made during 2000 was 221, almost exactly the same as the final figure for 1999 (223), itself an increase from the 191 cases in 1998. As my predecessor noted in last year's report, the Act has certainly succeeded in its primary aim of ensuring that more finds of important archaeological objects are offered to museums for public benefit. In addition, there has been a substantial gain in our knowledge of artefact types and their distributions since the introduction of the Act – knowledge that would otherwise be lost. This is borne out in the scholarly detail in many of the individual reports published here.

However, the substantial increase in the caseload borne by the many different parties concerned with the operation of the Act has, from time to time, placed strains upon the system, leading to delays. For this reason, an independent consultant, Elaine Paintin, was commissioned in September 2000 to carry out a review of the Act, as required by the Code of Practice. The Review concentrated on two principal issues: the definition of treasure and the system of administration. A consultation paper was published in December 2000 and the *Report on the Operation of the Treasure Act: Review and Recommendations*, was published in October 2001. Both documents were widely circulated to interested parties.

The Report contained 52 individual recommendations in all and is available on the Department's website ([www.culture.gov.uk/heritage/index.html](http://www.culture.gov.uk/heritage/index.html)). We have welcomed the Report and are committed to implementing its two most important recommendations: to extend the definition of treasure to include deposits of prehistoric base-metal objects, and to revise the Code of Practice on the Act (DCMS News Release 288/01, 8 November 2001). This commitment was repeated in the Government's policy statement *The Historic Environment: A Force for Our Future* (DCMS and DTLR, December 2001).

The draft Order altering the definition of treasure and the revised Code of Practice will be laid

before Parliament for approval this summer. Provided Parliament approves both measures, the revised Code of Practice will then need to be published and widely circulated and there will be an interval of six months between Parliamentary approval of the two measures and their coming into force.

Although these measures will result in a higher number of objects being reported as treasure, we have been encouraged to proceed because of a number of positive developments that have recently taken place.

### **Portable Antiquities Scheme**

Most importantly, the Heritage Lottery Fund has agreed to fund in full a bid from Resource: the Council for Museums, Archives and Libraries, for an expansion of the Portable Antiquities Scheme for three years from April 2003. The aim of the Portable Antiquities Scheme is to record all archaeological objects found by members of the public on a voluntary basis for public benefit. Resource's lottery bid, which has the support of 63 partners, both national and regional, will mean that it will be possible to extend the Scheme across the whole of England and Wales. Since 1997 my Department, with the help of the Heritage Lottery Fund, has been funding a number of pilot schemes under the Portable Antiquities Scheme and these have been taken forward by finds liaison officer posts based in regional museums and archaeological services.

Although the finds liaison officers have a much wider role than just dealing with treasure finds (over 95 per cent of the objects they record are not treasure), in practice it has been found that providing advice to finders on treasure has proved to be an extremely important part of their remit. One issue that came across very strongly in Elaine Paintin's consultation while carrying out the review of the Act was the often crucial role played by the finds liaison officers in ensuring that the treasure process runs smoothly and that the different parties involved are kept informed about the progress of their cases. Thanks to the proactive approach of the liaison officers it is already obvious that a significant number of finds have been reported as treasure that would otherwise not have been. However, hitherto less than half of England has enjoyed the services of a liaison officer and in those areas not covered by the Scheme we have relied on the services of those museums and archaeological services that have agreed to act as local treasure advisers. From late 2003, there will now be a national network of 36 finds liaison officers across all of England and Wales, together with four supporting finds specialist posts and a central support team of five (45 posts in all), and this means that we can be confident that there will be the staff to ensure that finds are dealt with as they should be.

### **Improved administrative arrangements at The British Museum and the DCMS**

Additional resources have also been made available for the administration of treasure cases within my Department. Responsibility has been transferred from the Architecture and Historic

Environment Division to the Cultural Property Unit and, in addition to the existing post which was already devoted full-time to treasure, two new posts have been created, part of whose remit is also treasure-related. In addition I greatly welcome the British Museum's decision to create a new post for a Treasure Registrar from October 2001. The Treasure Registrar is responsible for the co-ordination of all treasure cases from England up to inquest: after that responsibility passes to the treasure team in my Department. The establishment of this post was another of the key recommendations of the Treasure Review. The early indications are that the Treasure Registrar, Lisa Voden-Decker, is already having a substantial impact on the administration of treasure cases up to inquest. Although it is not necessary to have separate Registrar posts in Wales and Northern Ireland, where the volume of finds is so much lower, I would also like to acknowledge the role of the National Museums & Galleries of Wales and the Environment and Heritage Agency and National Museums & Galleries of Northern Ireland in dealing with treasure cases from their countries.

### **Coroners**

My Department is also anxious to work with the other bodies which have responsibilities for treasure, particularly the coroners' service which has a central role. We much appreciate the role of the Coroners' Society of England and Wales, and especially their Vice-President Victor Round, H M Coroner for Worcestershire, for his role in assisting and advising his fellow coroners about treasure. My Department, with the British Museum, will be holding a seminar for coroners this autumn on the new developments in treasure. At the same time we have been co-operating with the Fundamental Review of Coroners, being carried out for the Home Office by a small team under the Chairmanship of Tom Luce.

As in previous years, I would like to acknowledge the role of finders in reporting their finds promptly, as required by the Treasure Act. The great majority of the treasure finds reported here have been found by metal-detector users and without their active co-operation the Act would be ineffective. My Department has had fruitful discussions with the National Council for Metal Detecting over the Review of the Treasure Act and I would like to acknowledge their positive contribution to the process.

I am particularly grateful to the Treasure Valuation Committee and their panel of expert advisers for their work. The Committee, which provides Ministers with independent advice on the valuation of treasure finds that museums wish to acquire, is now dealing with over a hundred cases a year. During the past year the Committee has also been asked to advise on a number of finds where there has been a dispute over the allocation of the reward (see below, nos. 5 and 281): I am especially grateful to the Committee and its Chairman, Professor Norman Palmer, for the very careful consideration they have given to these cases. I would also like to thank the other members of the Committee: Mr Thomas Curtis, Mr Dennis Jordan, Dr Arthur MacGregor, Dr Jack Ogden and Ms May Sinclair for their contribution and I would like to pay tribute to the members of the panel of expert advisers from whom the Committee commissions valuations: Mr Michael Sharp of A H Baldwin and Sons Ltd, Mr James Ede of Charles Ede Ltd, Mr Tom Eden of Morton and Eden, Ms Elizabeth Mitchell of Sotheby's, Ms Joanna van der Lande of Bonham's, Ms Susan Hadida of Faustus Ancient Art and Ms Mary Fielden. I

believe that the fairness of the valuations recommended by the Committee is now widely recognised and this is due in large part to the care and diligence with which the Committee discharges its duties.

One of the Committee's valuations, for the two hoards of Roman coins from Langtoft (nos. 255 and 256), was recently tested at auction. It had originally been expected that the hoards would be acquired intact by either the Hull & East Riding Museum or the East Riding Museum Service and they were valued by the Committee at £17,650. The local museums subsequently withdrew from the acquisition and the British Museum acquired a selection of 20 coins, which were valued by the Committee at £873. The remainder of the hoard, except for 34 coins which the finders retained, was then sold at auction by Dix, Noonan & Webb for a total hammer price of £14,350. The Committee's valuation therefore corresponds very closely to the price that the coins subsequently achieved at auction when allowance is made for the coins acquired by the British Museum and those retained by the finders.

During the current year a higher number of finds have been disclaimed (132), or found not to be treasure (15) than were declared to be treasure and have been, or are being acquired, by museums (136). Ninety-four per cent of cases have been discovered by metal detector users, one per cent by chance finders and four per cent during the course of archaeological investigations. The geographical distribution of the finds is also highly significant. Although cases have been reported from almost every part of England and Wales (there are none during this period from Northern Ireland and the Act does not have force in Scotland), as in previous years, some areas, such as Norfolk and Suffolk, are notably richer in finds than others.

I would also like to acknowledge the essential role played by funding bodies in supporting the acquisition of treasure finds by museums, particularly the V&A/Resource Purchase Grant Fund, the Art Fund and the Heritage Lottery Fund, as well as other, local, sources of funding. For the first time the present report acknowledges their contributions in the catalogue entries, where that information was available.

Lastly, I would like to record my thanks to the thirty-four contributors for their entries on treasure cases. It has been our aim to ensure that these Annual Reports on Treasure, besides fulfilling the statutory obligation to report to Parliament each year on the operation of the Act, also serve as a useful first publication of the finds presented herein. That this is so is thanks to the scholarship of the experts listed overleaf.

Tessa Jowell

## List of Contributors

[Editors: Roger Bland and Lisa Voden-Decker, British Museum]

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**Note on Treasure Analyses**

Treasure analyses at the British Museum, Department of Scientific Research, are carried out non-destructively by x-ray fluorescence spectrometry (XRF). The surfaces of the objects are often corroded, even when not visibly so. The analysis is mainly of the surface and, whilst adequate in the majority of cases to establish for the purposes of the Treasure Act whether an object contains more than 10 per cent of precious metal, the percentages quoted are approximate and may not be an accurate analysis of the whole object.

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## Analysis of cases of treasure listed in this report

### A. By period and type of object

Objects	Acquired	Disclaimed	Uncertain	Total
Prehistoric	7	1	-	8
Roman	10	13	-	23
Early medieval	31	20	5	56
Medieval	37	34	-	71
Post - medieval	18	47	-	65
<b>Total</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>223</b>

Coins	Acquired	Disclaimed	Uncertain	Total
Prehistoric	10	3	-	13
Roman	13	19	-	32
Early medieval	-	-	-	-
Medieval	8	4	1	13
Post - medieval	2	6	-	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>66</b>

### B. By method of discovery

Metal detecting	272	94.1%
Chance find	4	1.4%
Archaeological find	12	4.2%
Not recorded	1	0.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>289</b>	

## C. By county

Note: the finds from 1997 are divided between those found before 24 September, when the Treasure Act came into force, and those found after that date.

ENGLAND	1997 (1)	1997 (2)	1998	1999	2000	Total
Bath and North East Somerset				1		1
Bedfordshire		1	2	3	1	7
Berkshire	1		7			8
Bristol					1	1
Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes	1		2	5	2	10
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough		3	2	2	5	12
Cheshire		1	3	1	3	8
Cornwall				1	1	2
Cumbria					1	1
Derbyshire		1	3		1	5
Devon			5	4	5	14
Dorset		3	5	9	3	20
Durham			1			1
Essex	2		8	8	8	26
Gloucestershire		2	2	6	3	13
Gloucestershire, South		1	2			3
Hampshire		1	5	10	10	26
Herefordshire		1				1
Hertfordshire		1	5	5	5	16
Isle of Wight			3		1	4
Kent	1	1	12	18	18	50
Lancashire		1		1		2
Leicestershire		1	3		2	6
Lincolnshire	2		8	9	13	32
Lincolnshire, North		2	2	1	1	6
London, Greater		1	3	2	1	7
Norfolk	5	8	40	49	43	145
Northamptonshire		1	1	3	6	11
Northumberland				1		1
Nottinghamshire		3	2	4	4	13
Oxfordshire	1	1	2	1	3	8
Rutland			1	2		3
Shropshire				5	2	7
Somerset			3	4	3	10
Somerset, North		1				1
Staffordshire		2	3	1	2	8

ENGLAND	1997 (1)	1997 (2)	1998	1999	2000	Total
Suffolk	2	6	18	15	32	73
Surrey			3	7	1	11
Sussex, East	1		1	1	1	4
Sussex, West	1		2	1	3	7
Warwickshire	1	1	4	8	10	24
West Midlands			2	2		4
Wiltshire	1	5	9	10	4	29
Worcestershire			2	3		5
York, City of			2		3	5
Yorkshire, East		2	3	7	6	18
Yorkshire, North	3	3	9	8	12	35
Yorkshire, South				4	1	5
Yorkshire, West			1	1		2
<b>Total, England</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>711</b>
WALES	1997 (1)	1997 (2)	1998	1999	2000	Total
Carmarthenshire					2	2
Denbighshire				1		1
Ceredigion			1			1
Flintshire					1	1
Gower				1		1
Gwynedd				1		1
Isle of Anglesey		2	2	2	1	7
Monmouthshire			4	1	2	7
Neath, Port Talbot				1		1
Newport				1		1
Pembrokeshire			1	2	2	5
Powys			1	1	1	3
Swansea				1	1	2
The Vale of Glamorgan		1			2	3
<b>Total, Wales</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>36</b>
NORTHERN IRELAND	1997 (1)	1997 (2)	1998	1999	2000	Total
County Armagh			1			1
County Down				1		1
<b>Total, Northern Ireland</b>			<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>2</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>749</b>

# Catalogue



## A. Artefacts

a) Prehistoric	12
b) Roman	18
c) Early Medieval	27
d) Medieval	60
e) Post - medieval	85

## (a) Prehistoric Artefacts



(Fig.1) Bourton-on-the-Water



(Fig.2) Batsford

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### 1 Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire: Early to middle Bronze Age gold 'bead' (P&EE 92) (Fig. 1)

**Date:** Second millennium BC

**Finder:** Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Service

**Date of discovery:** July 2000

**Circumstances of discovery:** Controlled archaeological excavations carried out under the direction of Gloucestershire County Archaeologist.

**Description:** Annular sheet-gold bead with a cross-section in the form of a slightly flattened 'C'.

**Dimensions and metal content:** Maximum diameter: 6mm; internal diameter: 4mm; weight: 0.11g. X-ray fluorescence analysis conducted at the British Museum indicated an approximate gold content of 84 per cent.

**Disposition:** An archaeological find and therefore disclaimed. To remain with site archive in the Corinium Museum.

G VARNDELL

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### 2 Batsford, Gloucestershire: Late Bronze Age gold penannular ring (P&EE 60) (Fig. 2)

**Date:** About 1150–750 BC

**Finder:** Mr Michael Chapman

**Date of discovery:** 9 April 2000

**Circumstances of discovery:** While searching with a metal-detector.

**Description:** Late Bronze Age penannular ring consisting of a covering of sheet gold over a core (not made of precious metal).

**Dimensions:** Maximum external diameter: 18mm; maximum internal diameter: 5mm; weight: 8.75g. X-ray fluorescence analysis conducted at the British Museum indicated an approximate gold content of 80 per cent.

**Disposition:** The Corinium Museum.

G VARNDELL



(Fig.3) Ripon



(Fig.4) West Wight

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### 3 Ripon, North Yorkshire: Late Bronze Age gold penannular ring (P&EE 67) (Fig. 3)

**Date:** 1150–750 BC

**Finder:** Mr Norman Smith

**Date of discovery:** 30 July 2000

**Circumstances of discovery:** While searching with a metal-detector.

**Description:** Late Bronze Age penannular ring. The surface shows banding in alternate stripes of darker and lighter golden colours.

**Dimensions:** Maximum diameter: 18mm; weight: 14.9g. X-ray fluorescence analysis conducted at the British Museum indicated an approximate gold content of 78 per cent for the yellower stripes and 47 per cent for the whiter stripes.

**Disposition:** Declared not treasure at inquest. Subsequently donated by the finder to Ripon Cathedral.

G VARNDELL

**4 West Wight, Isle of Wight: Late Bronze Age gold ribbon bracelet (P&EE 68) (Fig. 4)**

**Date:** 1150–750 BC

**Finder:** Mr Ben Griffiths

**Date of discovery:** 20 July 2000

**Circumstances of discovery:** While searching with a metal-detector.

**Description:** Late Bronze Age penannular bracelet consisting of a band of thin ribbon gold which narrows and thickens towards the buffer-shaped terminals at each end.

**Dimensions:** Estimated length: 172mm; maximum width of band: 12.2mm. X-ray fluorescence analysis conducted at the British Museum indicated an approximate gold content of 82 per cent.

**Disposition:** The Isle of Wight Museum.

S NEEDHAM

**5 Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire: Bronze Age gold hoard of two torcs and three bracelets in a pot (P&EE 69) (Fig. 5)**

**Date:** 1150–750 BC

**Finders:** Messrs Gordon Heritage and Michael Rutland

**Date of discovery:** 7 September 2000

**Circumstances of discovery:** While searching with metal-detectors.

**Description:** (1) Neckring 1: a penannular ring of thick gold bar of elliptical cross-section, the whole ring is decorated with incised radial lines except for a plain strip all along the rear face; there is more complex groove decoration near the terminals. (2) Neckring 2: a penannular ring of thick gold bar of elliptical cross-section, decorated near the terminal zones only, with bands of close-set grooves.



(Fig.5) Milton Keynes

(3) Bracelet 1: a 'C'-shaped ring of elliptical cross-section; the butt ends are ground flat.

(4) Bracelet 2: a 'C'-shaped ring of elliptical cross-section; the opening is narrower than Bracelet 1; the butt ends are ground flat.

(5) Bracelet 3: a penannular ring of almost 'D'-shaped plan and with an octagonal cross-section.

(6) Bronze fragment: a tiny fragment of rod or wire.

(7) Pottery vessel: an undecorated fineware bowl in a brown fabric with eroded traces of lightly burnished surfaces.

**Discussion:** The information on the context of this find is very good thanks to the diligence of the finders, the efforts of local archaeologists Paul and Charmian Woodfield and Brian Giggins, and the prompt action of Hayley Bullock of the British Museum's Department of Conservation. As a result we have the first unequivocal association between a gold hoard and pottery for the British Middle to Late Bronze Age. This is of exceptional importance for helping synchronise the chronology of gold metalwork, which normally occurs in isolation, with the broader picture of social and economic development.

Excluding the fragment of bronze, which is too small and undiagnostic, all objects in the hoard can be identified as Late Bronze Age types. The pot form belongs to the *Post Deverel-Rimbury* tradition, and essentially to the early to middle phases of that tradition, which span the British Late Bronze Age, about 1150–800 BC. The gold types represented can all be accommodated within this date span, although it is not impossible that some of them first emerged a little earlier. The neckrings belong to a family distributed widely and thinly across the Atlantic regions of Europe, from Iberia to Ireland and Britain. Precise morphology and decorative schema are varied across this geographical range.

Plain, expanded-terminal bracelets with round or oval band sections are a dominant form in the British/Irish Middle to Late Bronze Age. The two

examples in this hoard are unusual only in their massive proportions, hitherto rarely seen. The third, faceted bracelet is again unusual in its precise form, but is clearly affiliated to lozenge sectioned, and other faceted bracelet types.

**Dimensions and metal content:** (1) Diameter: 143.5mm x 135mm; thickness of bar: 15.1mm x 11.4mm; weight: 626.9g.



(Fig.6) Spetisbury

(2) Diameter: 145.9mm x 134.5mm; maximum thickness of bar: 12.9mm x 10mm; weight: 441.3g.

(3) Diameter: 84.7mm x 65mm; minimum thickness of bar: 14.5mm x 10.8mm; weight: 382.6g.

(4) Diameter: 81.4mm x 68.5mm; minimum thickness of bar: 14.4mm x 11.2mm; weight: 408g.

(5) Diameter: 73.6mm x 62.5mm; minimum thickness of bar: 9.2mm x 7mm; weight: 162.5g.

(6) (No measurements).

(7) Diameter of body: 210mm; diameter of base: 100mm; height: 100mm.

X-ray fluorescence analysis conducted at the British Museum indicated approximate gold contents as: (1) 76 per cent; (2) 85 per cent; (3) 84 per cent; (4) 85 per cent; (5) 84 per cent.

**Note:** The landowner, English Partnerships, sought to deny that the finders had valid permission to search. The Treasure Valuation Committee, after considering statements from all parties concerned, disagreed and recommended that the share of the reward payable to English Partnerships should be reduced from 50 to 40 per cent in consequence, with



(Fig.7) Shillington

the balance of 60 per cent being divided between the two finders.

**Disposition:** The British Museum hopes to acquire this find.

S NEEDHAM

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**6 Spetisbury, Dorset: Bronze Age gold penannular ring (P&EE 97) (Fig. 6)**

**Date:** 1100–800 BC

**Finder:** Not disclosed

**Date of discovery:** November 1999

**Circumstances of discovery:** Offered to Dorset County Museum in early 2001 by a coin dealer (see Chris Rudd, List 57 (2001), no. 26) and recognised by them as potential treasure.

**Description:** A penannular ring made from a round-

sectioned gold bar, slightly tapered to the flat terminals. The circuit features 79 evenly spaced radial stripes, in fact a continuous spiral, alternately of yellow metal and a more silvery grey metal.

**Dimensions and metal content:** Diameter: 14.5mm x 13.8mm; maximum thickness: 4.4mm; weight: 7.095g. X-ray fluorescence analysis conducted at the British Museum indicated an approximate gold content of 79 per cent.

**Disposition:** Dorset County Museum hopes to acquire this find.

S NEEDHAM

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**7 Shillington, Bedfordshire: Iron Age silver brooch, bronze mirror and pottery fragments (P&EE 79) (Fig. 7)**

**Date:** 1st century BC

**Finders:** Messrs S Pyper and S Leete

**Date of discovery:** 12 November 2000

**Circumstances of discovery:** While searching with metal-detectors.

**Description:** (1) Silver *Knotenfibulabrooch* in two pieces. (2) Decorated bronze mirror with handle. (3) Thirty pieces of pottery from a pedestal urn, flat based jars and other vessels.

**Discussion:** All these objects were found in close proximity and probably come from a disturbed grave. Cremation burials became a common way to bury the dead in parts of south-east England in the 1st Century BC. Most graves contain pottery vessels used for drinking or eating. The richer graves sometimes contain decorated bronze mirrors. Silver brooches are very rare finds from Iron Age Britain, and only about nine or ten others are known. They all appear to have come from burials and are very similar in shape to this brooch. Dating to the middle of the 1st Century BC (the archaeological period known as La Tène D2), these safety-pin type brooches all have a decorative collar or boss in the middle of the bow, and are often called *Knotenfibula*. The Shillington brooch is very similar to the two pairs of silver brooches found at Great Chesterford, Essex.

The mirror is one of the finest examples of a decorated Iron Age bronze mirror found in recent years. It is constructed from three parts; the circular mirror plate, the handle and decorative ring on the bottom of the mirror plate near the handle. The back of the mirror was decorated with an abstract curving La Tène or 'Early Celtic' design. The design consists of repeated circular ovals and arches of similar sizes in-filled with a fine basket-weave of engraved or chased marks to make the design stand out. The front of the mirror would be plain and polished for seeing the reflection in. This mirror is well preserved, except for the major tear in the top made when it was found. Decorated bronze mirrors are a uniquely British object. About thirty examples are known. Many are stray finds, but those found in archaeological

investigations usually come from burials. A number of decorated mirrors have been found in south-east England, including examples from Aston (Hertfordshire), Dorton (Buckinghamshire), Chilham (Kent), Great Chesterford (Essex), Colchester (Essex) and Old Warden (Bedfordshire).

Decorated bronze mirrors were made and used for at least 150 years from about 100 BC to AD 50. This is one of the earliest dating mirrors so far found.

**Dimensions and metal content:** (1) Length when complete: 72mm. X-ray fluorescence analysis conducted at the British Museum indicated an approximate silver content of 85 per cent. (2) Mirror diameter: 199mm; handle length: 132mm.

**Disposition:** Luton Museum and Art Gallery hopes to acquire this find.

J D HILL

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## 8 Winchester area, Hampshire (1): Iron Age gold hoard (P&EE 72) (Fig. 8)

**Date:** 1st century BC

**Finder:** Mr Kevin Halls

**Date of discovery:** September, October and December 2000

**Circumstances of discovery:** While searching with a metal-detector.

**Description:** (1) Brooch 1: gold, *Knotenfibeln*, bow; found still attached to the chain (see (3)).  
 (2) Brooch 2: gold, *Knotenfibeln*, bow, identical to (1).  
 (3) Chain: made from interlinked rings of gold wire; at each end is a gold collar and hook/ring for attachment to the matching terminals on brooches (1) and (2).  
 (4) Brooch 3: gold, bow, with ring for attachment of chain (not found).  
 (5) Brooch 4: gold, bow, with ring for attachment of chain (not found).  
 (6) Bracelet: gold, complete, penannular.  
 (7) Bracelet half: gold.



(Fig.8) Winchester area

(8) Bracelet half: gold.

(9) Necklace/Torc 1: made from interlinked rings of gold wire, decorated cylinder terminal at one end.

(10) Necklace/ Torc 2: similar construction to (9), but smaller.

This set of objects is one of the most important discoveries of Iron Age gold objects made in the last 50 years. The hoard contains what appear to be two sets of personal jewellery. There are two necklace torcs and two pairs of brooches. There is also a single pair of bracelets or ingots.

**Discussion:** All the objects from this hoard are unique or very unusual. The only closely dateable objects are the gold brooches. Iron Age gold brooches are even

rarer than silver brooches, such as that found at Shillington (see above no. 7). Perhaps less than a dozen gold Iron Age brooches are known from Europe north of the Alps, and only two were known from Britain before this discovery. Both pairs of brooches belong to types of fibula (safety-pin style brooches) commonly made in bronze and iron across central and west Europe in the middle of the 1st Century BC (the archaeological period known as La Tène D2). Brooches 1 and 2 are gold versions of a type of *Knotenfibeln*, known in bronze from south-east England. The other brooches are gold versions of a type made in bronze that is found mostly in France. Both pairs of brooches were originally linked by chains, but only one chain has survived. There is clear evidence that these brooches were worn before being deposited. The bracelets are undecorated and less well finished than the other objects. These bracelets have no immediate parallel.

The most unusual objects are the necklace-torcs. No other objects of this type have so far been found from Iron Age temperate Europe. These objects appear to be versions of traditional Iron Age torcs, an important status symbol, made in a very different way, using Roman or Hellenistic Greek technology. They must have been made by Roman or Hellenistic trained craftspeople. The necklaces are very flexible, made using loop-in-loop techniques usually used by Classical goldworkers to make fine jewellery chains. The terminals of the necklace-torcs are ornamented with fine soldered open wire work, and the smaller necklace-torc also has very fine filigree and granulation. Both show evidence that they were worn.

**Dimensions and metal content:** (1) Length: 60mm; weight: 22.2g.

(2) Length: 60mm; weight: 22.5g.

(3) Length: 170mm; thickness: 4.4mm; weight: 23.6g.

(4) Length: 80mm; weight: 20.7g.

(5) Length: 80mm; weight: 20.5g.

(6) Diameter: 90mm; weight: 94.1g.

(7) Weight: 53.3g.

(8) Weight: 53.1g.

(9) Length: 480mm; thickness: 11mm; weight: 516.7g.

(10) Length: 440mm; thickness: 8.3mm; weight: 332.1g.

X-ray fluorescence analysis conducted at the British Museum indicated approximate gold contents as:

(1) 94 per cent. (2) 94 per cent. (3) 94 per cent. (4) 92 per cent. (5) 91 per cent. (6) 95 per cent. (7) 99 per cent. (8) 99 per cent. (9) 94 per cent. (10) 97 per cent.

**Disposition:** Acquired by the British Museum (with funds from the NACF, NHMF and the British Museum Friends).

J D HILL

## b) Roman Artefacts

### (i) Finger-rings (chronological order)

#### 9 Catterton, North Yorkshire: Roman silver finger-ring (P&EE 77) (Fig. 9)

**Date:** 1st or 2nd century AD

**Finder:** Mr Peter Ireland

**Date of discovery:** 17 September 2000

**Circumstances of discovery:** While searching with a metal-detector.

**Description:** Silver ring, with oval gem setting (gem



(Fig.9) Catterton

lost).

**Dimensions and metal content:** Gem-setting: 13mm x 10mm; weight: 8.7g. X-ray fluorescence analysis conducted at the British Museum indicated an approximate silver content of 91 per cent.

**Disposition:** Disclaimed; returned to finder.

C M JOHNS



(Fig.10) Dorchester

#### 10 Dorchester, Dorset, Roman gold finger-ring (P&EE 84) (Fig. 10)

**Date:** 1st or 2nd century AD

**Finder:** Wessex Archaeology

**Date of discovery:** 23 November 2000

**Circumstances of discovery:** Controlled archaeological excavation in advance of redevelopment.

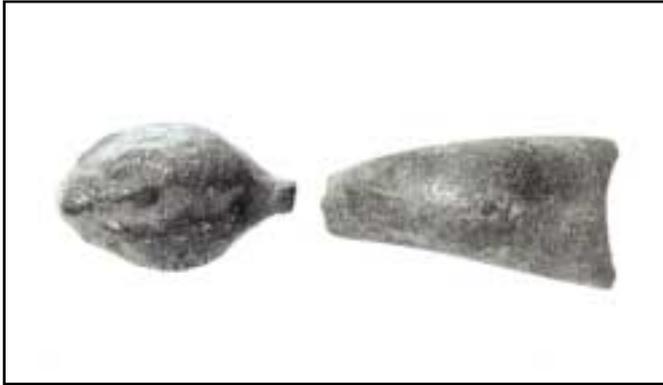
**Description:** Gold ring with gem setting (gem lost).

**Dimensions and metal content:** Weight: 7g. X-ray fluorescence analysis conducted at the British Museum indicated an approximate gold content of 81 per cent.

**Disposition:** To be determined; Wessex Archaeology hopes to acquire as part of the site archive.

C M JOHNS

#### 11 Godstone, Surrey: Roman silver finger-ring fragments (two) (P&EE 86) (Fig. 11)



(Fig.11) Godstone

**Date:** 1st or 2nd century AD

**Finder:** Mr David Hunt

**Date of discovery:** September 2000

**Circumstances of discovery:** While searching with a metal-detector.

**Description:** (1) Shoulder and fragment of gem setting from a silver Henig Type II ring. (2) Terminal of a silver snake ring.

**Dimensions:** (1) Length: 18mm; weight: 3.2g. (2)

Length of head: 12mm; width: 8mm; weight: 1.8g.

**Disposition:** Disclaimed; returned to finder.

C M JOHNS

## 12 Ashwell (3), Hertfordshire: Roman silver finger-ring (P&EE 74)

**Date:** 1st or 2nd century AD

**Finder:** Mr A Phillips

**Date of discovery:** October 2000

**Circumstances of discovery:** While searching with a metal-detector.

**Description:** Flattened silver ring with gem setting (gem lost).

**Dimensions:** Gem-setting: approximately 8mm x 6mm.

**Note:** For previous finds from this site see *Treasure Annual Report 1998–1999*, nos. 27 and 31.

**Disposition:** Disclaimed; to be returned to finder.

C M JOHNS



(Fig.13) Weybourne

## 13 Weybourne (1), Norfolk: Roman silver finger-ring (P&EE 2002/14) (Fig. 13)

**Date:** Late 1st or 2nd century AD

**Finder:** Mr J Morrison

**Date of discovery:** September 1999

**Circumstances of discovery:** While searching with a metal-detector.

**Description:** Romano-British silver ring, slightly flattened plain oval hoop, widening at top to allow neat setting of an oval intaglio. The stone is a pinky-red carnelian, which has a small chip to the lower left of the engraved figure. The engraving depicts a satyr standing left wearing a chlamys; he stands on his left leg with his right leg bent and raised; his right arm extends outwards at hip level, whilst his left arm is completely outstretched, and holds a bunch of grapes. There are obvious parallels with examples found in the so-called Snettisham Roman jeweller's hoard (C Johns, *Snettisham Roman Jeweller's Hoard* (London, 1997)), and it would not be unreasonable to conclude that the Weybourne ring is the product of the same workshop.

**Dimensions and metal content:** Weight: 3.3g. X-ray fluorescence analysis conducted at the British Museum indicated an approximate silver content of 86 per cent.

**Note:** See *Treasure Annual Report 1998–1999*, no. 46.

**Disposition:** The British Museum hopes to acquire this find.

R HOBBS

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#### 14 Little Grimsby, Lincolnshire: Roman silver finger-ring, fragmentary bronze finger-ring and 11 silver coins (P&EE 89)

**Date:** (1) Silver ring: late 1st to early 2nd century AD. (2) Bronze ring: 2nd century AD. Date of latest coin: AD 148.

**Finders:** Messrs Malcolm Hammond and Russell Taylor

**Date of discovery:** June 2000

**Circumstances of discovery:** While searching with a metal-detector.

**Description: objects:** (1) Silver ring with very slender hoop; gem setting has some remains of adhesive material. (2) Fragmentary bronze ring with circular, flat and undecorated bezel; the tapering shoulders have a median groove.

**Dimensions:** (1) Internal: 18mm x 15mm; weight: 4.33g. (2) Length of fragment: 18m; weight: 1.17g.

**Description: coins:** 11 silver *denarii*:

Vespasian (AD 69–79), 1

Titus (AD 69–81), 1

Domitian (AD 69–96), 1

Hadrian (AD 117–38), 4

Reign of Antoninus Pius (AD 138–61):

Marcus Caesar, 1

Diva Faustina, 1

Plated, 2 (Trajan)

**Note:** 2 medieval silver pennies of the Long Cross type were also found at the same time:

Henry III (1216–72) (London)

Edward I (1272–1307) (Ireland)

These cannot be part of the same find.

**Disposition:** Disclaimed; to be returned to finder.

C M JOHNS AND I LEINS



(Fig.15) Shelton

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#### 15 Shelton, Norfolk: Roman silver finger-ring (P&EE 70) (Fig. 15)

**Date:** 2nd century AD

**Finder:** Mr Paul Thrower

**Date of discovery:** December 1998

**Circumstances of discovery:** While searching with a metal-detector.

**Description:** Silver ring; overlapped, wound-wire type.

**Dimensions and metal content:** Diameter: 20–22mm; weight: 8.1g. X-ray fluorescence analysis conducted at the British Museum indicated an approximate silver content of 94 per cent.

**Disposition:** Disclaimed; returned to finder.

C M JOHNS

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#### 16 Narford, Norfolk: Roman silver fragments: finger-rings, spoon and bracelet (P&EE 64)

**Date:** 2nd to 3rd century AD

**Finders:** Mr J Wells and Mrs P Wells

**Date of discovery:** 6, 25 and 27 April 2000

**Circumstances of discovery:** While searching with metal-detectors.

**Description:** (1) Bezel and one shoulder of a silver