



Archaeology: values,  
benefits, and legacies.  
CIfA2019 Annual conference  
and training event  
24 - 26 April 2019, Leeds

**SESSION: COMMUNICATING THE VALUES OF ARCHAEOLOGISTS TO DETECTORISTS  
AND EMBEDDING METAL DETECTING INTO PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE**

26 April 2019 - 11.30am to 1.00pm and 2.00pm to 3.30pm

Organiser and Chair: **Keith Westcott, The Association of Detectorists** (IoD Initiative)

Contact: [info@detectorists.org.uk](mailto:info@detectorists.org.uk)

**SESSION ABSTRACT**

From the public's perspective, metal detecting is a current and significant element within the heritage and archaeological environment. The accessibility of the hobby and the media propensity towards stories of 'treasure' offers the public a tangible link to our portable past whether through active participation or visually through news articles and museums exhibits. To many, the discovery of an artefact equates to success resulting from physically searching into the past, whilst little is understood as to how the interpretation of contextual information to be gained from a findspot can further the collective knowledge of our heritage.

With artefacts being a depleting resource, it is important to address the social divide between academically educated archaeologists and the hobbyists protecting their current freedoms. How should archaeologists communicate their values in order to positively influence the mindset of detectorists? Is there value in recognising the potential of the metal detector by embedding their use into professional practice?

**SESSION PROGRAMME**

11:30 – 11:35 **Welcome!**

**Chair - Keith Westcott**

*Finder of the Ashmolean's Broughton Castle Hoard*

*Discoverer of Broughton's 'Great Courtyard Villa'*

11:35 – 11:55 **Where to detect? a review metal detector surveys on developer-funded investigations**

**Stewart Bryant**

*Freelance, formally:*

*Head of Historic Environment*

*Hertfordshire County Council*

11:55 – 12:15 **Using structured, supervised metal detecting surveys as technique for investigating archaeological potential in commercial developments.**

**Vicky Nash** – Senior Heritage Consultant for Mott Macdonald (Formerly Development Management Archaeologist for the Cheshire Archaeology Planning Advisory Service).

12:15 – 12:35 **A Tale of Two Cities: Metal Detecting Policy, Municipalities and Heritage**

**Kiara Beaulieu, MA**

*PhD Candidate*

*University of Birmingham, UK*

*Department of Classics, Ancient History and Archaeology*

12:35 – 13:00 **The Current State of Hobbyist Metal Detecting in Scotland- Where do we go from here?**

**Warren Bailie BA (Hons) MCIfA FSA Scot**

*Operations Manager*

*GUARD Archaeology Limited*

13:00 – 14:00 **Lunch**

14:00 – 14:20 **Making Metal-Detecting Great (Again)? - advocating a more archaeologically minded approach to hobby metal-detecting**

**Dr Michael Lewis FSA MCIfA**

*Head of Portable Antiquities & Treasure, British Museum*

14:20 – 14:40 **First contact – Full bloom**

**Dave Hayward MBE**

*Chair of trustees of CLASP*

*(Community Landscape Archaeology Survey Project)*

**Alan Standish**

*NARC*

*(Northamptonshire Artefact Recovery Club)*

14:40 – 15:00 **Metal detecting and local authority archaeology services.**

**Toby Catchpole**

*Heritage Team Leader, Gloucestershire County Council*

*ALGAO representative on Portable Antiquities Advisory Group and PAS best practice working group*

**Title: Metal detecting and local authority archaeology services.**

15:00 – 15:30 **Discussion**

**Chaired by Keith Westcott**

15.30 **Session Ends**

## **SESSION PAPERS**

### **Where to detect? a review metal detector surveys on developer-funded investigations:**

Systematic metal detector surveys are increasingly being undertaken on archaeological investigations although their use is still relatively low and is confined largely to the south and east. This paper will briefly review metal detector surveys on developer-funded survey and excavation projects using the evidence of recent fieldwork together with the research and analysis of metal detector surveys undertaken by the Roman Rural Settlement Project.

#### **Stewart Bryant**

Freelance, formally:

Head of Historic Environment  
Hertfordshire County Council

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### **Using structured, supervised metal detecting surveys as technique for investigating archaeological potential in commercial developments:**

Since 2010 the Cheshire Archaeology Planning Advisory Service have been requesting archaeological contractors with the support of local metal detecting clubs to undertake structured supervised metal detecting surveys on sites subject to planning applications. The aim of this survey is to assess the application areas potential for subsurface archaeological remains not identified by historical mapping. This approach has been used effectively on a number of sites, in some cases allowing the identification of particular locations which may require further investigation or concluding that the archaeological potential of an area has been addressed by the recovery and analysis of the plough soil assemblage.

Using the work of the Cheshire Archaeology Planning Advisory Service as an example I hope to show how supervised metal detecting surveys have a valuable role to play within professional archaeological practice either alongside other techniques such as fieldwalking and geophysical survey or as a standalone approach.

#### **Vicky Nash**

Senior Heritage Consultant for Mott Macdonald (Formerly Development Management Archaeologist for the Cheshire Archaeology Planning Advisory Service).

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### **A Tale of Two Cities: Metal Detecting Policy, Municipalities and Heritage**

This paper looks to recent events in municipal by-law creation in Ontario, Canada and how interpretations of the Ontario Heritage Act by archaeologists have increased the chasm between heritage professionals, government employees, and those amateurs who detect locally. A development in the way some municipalities in the province regulate the use of metal detectors in public spaces has thrown the policies that directly affect metal-detecting into the public light. This paper examines how municipalities (particular London and Windsor Ontario) facilitate and oversee metal detection both in policy and practice. The decisions of some municipal authorities, coupled with the attitudes and actions of select bureaucrats at the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and Sport, may mean the opportunity to harness the knowledge of metal detecting groups could be lost.

This paper also considers how archaeologists can utilize the expertise and labour of detectorists to help enhance our understanding of the past.

**Kiara Beaulieu, MA**

PhD Candidate

University of Birmingham, UK

Department of Classics, Ancient History and Archaeology

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**Title: The Current State of Hobbyist Metal Detecting in Scotland- Where do we go from here?**

My paper would summarise the results of the recent research and reflect on the relationship between those who metal detect and the heritage professionals in the various areas across Scotland. The paper would look at where co-operation has led to mutual benefits and would also look at the techniques used for metal detecting survey. Ultimately a set of ClfA standards and guidance is required to ensure that the metal detecting surveys being carried out by Archaeological Units (whether employing skills from metal detecting groups/clubs or otherwise) are consistent, systematic in their approach, and are using appropriate equipment. More generally, the paper will highlight that work needs to be done to encourage closer working relationships between metal detecting clubs, groups and individuals and heritage professionals.

**Warren Bailie BA (Hons) MCIfA FSA Scot**

Operations Manager

GUARD Archaeology Limited

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**Title: Making Metal-Detecting Great (Again)? - advocating a more archaeologically minded approach to hobby metal-detecting**

For 20 years the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) has been working with the metal-detecting community. In that time great strides have been made, with large numbers of detectorists now willing to engage with archaeologists to record their finds and work alongside archaeologists in other ways. Also, has been developed a *Code for Responsible Metal Detecting*, outlining (for the first time) a base-line for best practice, and (through the HLF funded PAST Explorers project) a mechanism for detectorists and other people to be trained to record their own finds directly on the PAS database.

However, it remains a frustration that many detectorists still refuse to engage with the PAS, seemingly happy to relish in the contribution of metal-detecting to our knowledge of the past but not actual add to knowledge themselves. This paper explored the dichotomy between those detectorists who are keen to contribute to archaeological knowledge and those that do not, and ask the question 'what do archaeologists do about that?'

**Dr Michael Lewis FSA MCIfA**

Head of Portable Antiquities & Treasure, British Museum

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## **First contact – Full bloom**

In the mid-nineties two local metal detectorists, Dave Derby and Steve Pulley, sought permission from the farmer at Whitehall Farm, Nether Heyford. Permission was granted; they were soon back reporting that they had identified a possible villa. As a result of their responsible action a local professional archaeologist from Northampton University, Stephen Young, was informed and organised fieldwork. The result was to create a community-based group, the Whitehall Roman Villa Project.

In 2002 a larger group was established to research the wider Romano-British archaeological landscape across west Northamptonshire. CLASP was born and is now undertaking archaeological field-work, post excavation and desktop activity. With our own geophysics equipment, we have recently identified the early phase defences of Bannaventa. Our metal detectorists have been involved throughout.

Our paper will explore how mutual understanding of each other's objectives has transformed the breadth of community archaeology locally and perhaps beyond.

### **Dave Hayward MBE**

Chair of trustees of CLASP  
(Community Landscape Archaeology Survey Project)

### **Alan Standish**

NARC  
(Northamptonshire Artefact Recovery Club)

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## **Metal detecting and local authority archaeology services.**

After the core activities of development related advice, HER provision and agri-environment consultations, metal detecting is the most significant (and increasing) call on the time of archaeology service staff in Gloucestershire, not only the Finds Liaison Officer (FLO). It is also a major source of new archaeological information available to our HER, exceeded only by planning led commercial archaeology and aerial prospection (NMP projects). This paper will aim to highlight some of the issues that arise, such as the difficulty of funding and staffing emergency rescue excavations in a period of austerity, the increasing costs of managing and hosting FLOs, the negative impact of commercial rallies and their relationship with stewardship schemes, and also wider compatibility issues between PAS and HER datasets. It will also attempt to stimulate debate regarding the use of detectors/ists more consistently in archaeological practice, what training might help, and ask whether the subject should actually be mentioned in revised ClfA S&G documents.

### **Toby Catchpole**

Heritage Team Leader  
Gloucestershire County Council  
ALGAO representative on Portable Antiquities Advisory Group and PAS best practice working group

