



WHAT LIES BENEATH THE FAIRFIELD FIELDS

Part two

The first six visits.....







September issue 2014

BRITAIN'S BEST SELLING METAL DETECTING MAGAZINE



Treasure hunting

SEPTEMBER 2014

£3.85



**Unusual
Woden-Head
Sceat Found**



**Coins Of
Edward III**

**Great Tips on
Beach Detecting**



**Searches
With The
E-Trac**



Fairfield Metal Detecting Project 2014



Some of the coins
and artefacts
retrieved before the
ploughing in May.



It is not very often that you get an invitation to metal detect on land without having to seek permission; this, however, changed in January of this year, 2014. I was approached by the "Fairfield Association Flora Nature Reserve", who had acquired some 35 acres of land, which added to their Community Orchard (established 2000) have brought the total to around 50 acres, with the aim to encourage wildlife and flora to thrive within the suburbs of Lancaster. The association is funded by various means, RSPB, Defra, Lancaster City and County Council's Groundwork (Lottery funded), Lancashire Environmental Fund and donations from the general public. We were invited in the first instance to metal detect on a 7 acre field they wanted to turn from grazing to arable land.

Meeting at the site in early January, with two members of the association committee, I realised that I had detected this particular area back in the early 1980s, one of my finds being a bronze vesica seal matrix, now with the local museum. After a discussion and agreeing that all items found would be passed onto the association, and that the site was to be ploughed and sown with a crop of wheat in April, it was agreed that my detecting friend Ken Sedgwick and I would search the area as and when we were able to do so, weather permitting.

Our first visit produced a Roman bronze nummus (to be identified) coin-age of George II and III, and a couple of George V sixpences. Artefacts included a 14th-15th century skillet leg, horse harness buckles and rings, parts of Georgian shoe buckles, buttons, and two weights; one of lead, another a Georgian bronze half ounce, and various other bits and pieces.

Over the next few weeks we managed to make a further five visits and were amazed at the number of finds retrieved. In excess of 150 coins have so far come to light, including the Roman nummus, and two Elizabeth I hammered coins, a groat and half groat. Other recoveries included Georgian and Victorian silver and copper/bronze coins, lead tokens, seals and weights, musket balls, barrel keys, horse harness fittings, shoe buckles and all of the mundane pieces of metal associated with metal detecting (and yes, the obligatory ring pulls!)

On the 22 May, Ken and I were invited to give a talk and presentation to members of the association, at the Storey Institute in Lancaster. All of the "finds" were put on display; this included some of our own that we had found in the Lancaster area.

An insight into our pastime of metal detecting was given. We then explained that as local club members we were also members of a national body "The National Council for Metal Detecting". All items of significant interest are reported to the area officer, who records and photographs the objects found (The Portable Antiquities Scheme).

As a national body we also have a national code of conduct; this includes having to gain permission from the owner before metal detecting on any

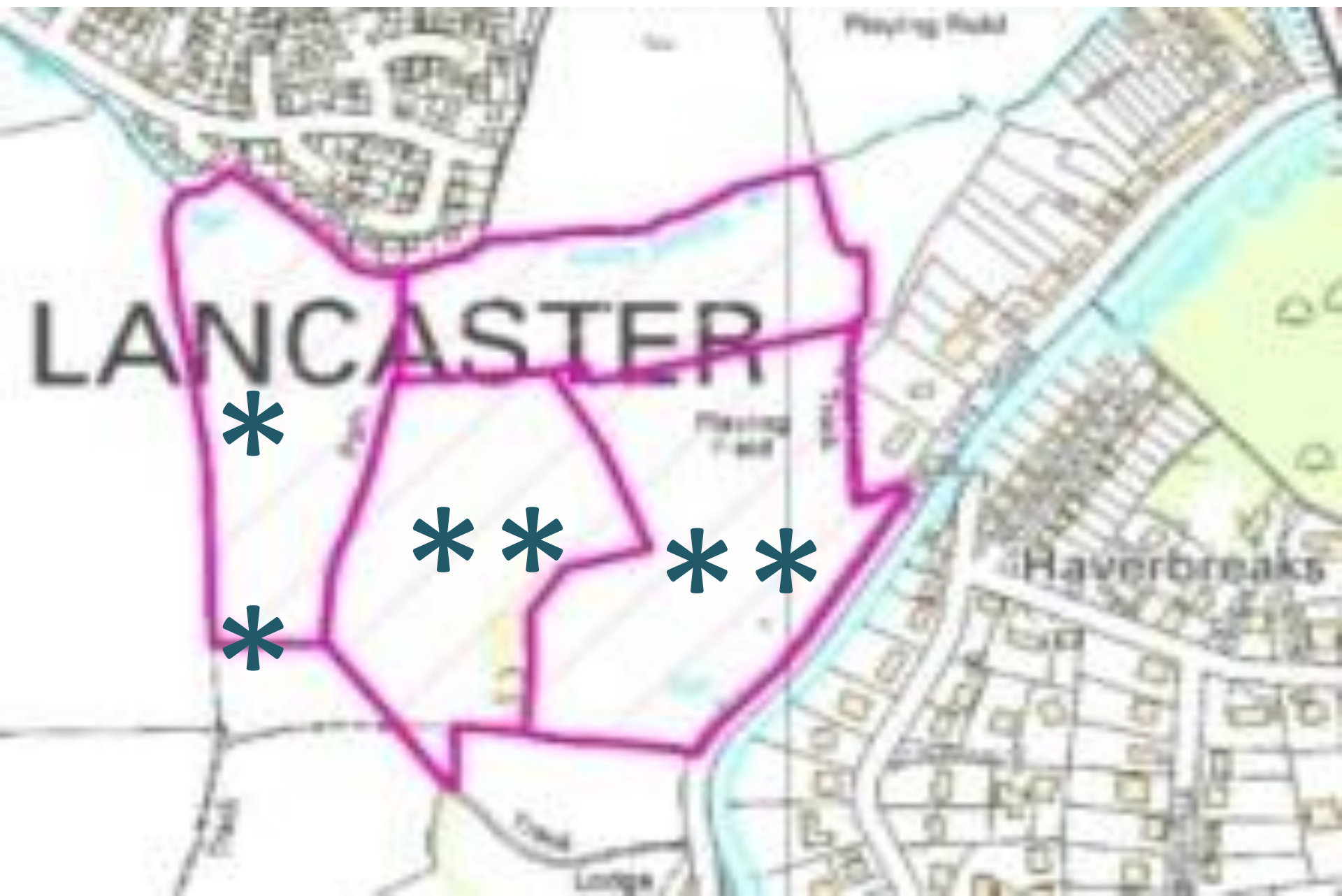
land and foreshore within the UK. Using a Power Point presentation, photographs were shown of some of the more spectacular finds having been found in the North Lancashire and Cumbria areas with the aid of a metal detector. The most recent from 2011, was that of the "Silverdale Hoard" consisting of Viking silver coins, bracelets and hack silver ingots, buried c.AD 900.

A couple of days earlier, Ken and I had metal detected a field, with the intention that any items that were still within the clod of soil were bagged. We had decided on this as it would give the members a feel of seeing something that had been lost in the ground and retrieved when they were asked to open the bags. There was considerable interest from our audience in undertaking this practical work. Nothing exciting came to light, other than one Georgian copper coin, and a couple of buttons; but it did show one of the many aspects of metal detecting.

It has been agreed that come the autumn, when the wheat crop is harvested, we will again search the area, as it would be in the region of 70 years since the site had been ploughed; this will hopefully bring more items to light. We would like to thank the association for allowing us to metal detect the site.

After the harvest - September 2014





LANCASTER

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Fairfield area of Lancaster Timeline

circa 80 AD Romans build fort at Lancaster.....



407 Romans leave Britain

circa 900 Vikings in the Lancaster area.....



circa 1080 Normans build castle at Lancaster



1558-1603 Elizabeth

I.....

• circa 1649-1660 Commonwealth period



1688 William III to Victoria 1837-



After the harvest



The Roman occupation in Lancaster AD60-AD400



Constantinian nummis AD320

Elizabethan era 1558 - 1603



Georgian era 1714 -1830



Victoria 1837 - 1901



George V



Horse & plough & man = 1 acre per day



Harness Buckles



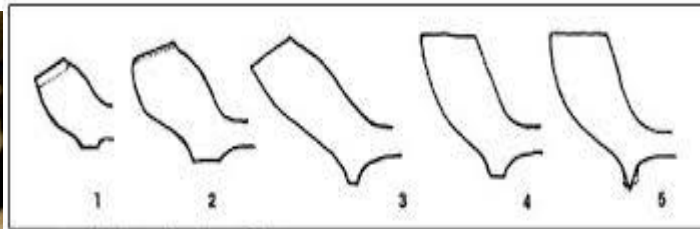
broken porcelain-clay pipes- tile



Clay Pipe



Clay pipes through the ages



A very simplified national typology of clay pipes:

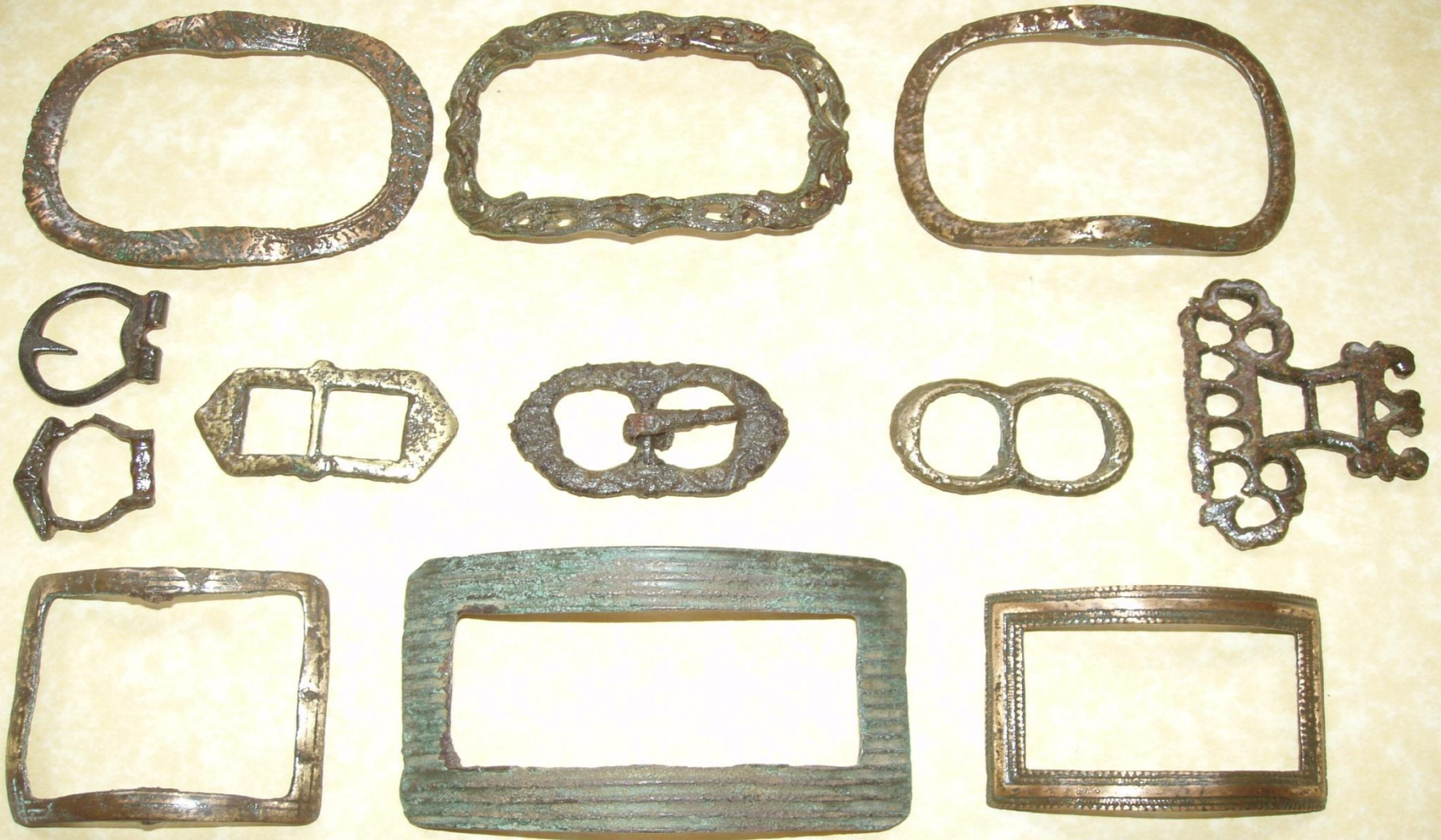
1 c.1600–1640 2 c.1640–1680 3 c.1680–1710 4 c.1700–1770 5 c.1770–1840 (pointed spur tends to be later). In the 19th century moulded decoration is easier to identify, but a variety of bowl forms are used.



Buttons 1750-1900



Shoe-spur & breech buckles



Silver sixpence betrothal or love tokens circa
1680-1740 -



Bronze seal 14th-15th century-found at
Sowerholme, Aldcliffe 1984



A landscape photograph showing a wide, grassy field in the foreground and middle ground. The field is a mix of green and yellowish-brown grasses. In the background, there is a dense line of dark green trees. The sky is overcast with grey clouds. The text "METAL DETECTING AROUND THE LANCASTER AREA" is overlaid in the center of the image in a bold, red, sans-serif font.

**METAL DETECTING AROUND
THE LANCASTER AREA**

DETECTING FINDS FROM THE LANCASTER AREA

Hat badge / ornament circa 1540



Hat badge / ornament of gold...5.9grms.... with trace inlay of, opaque white, red, green, blue and amber enamel. The reverse has three gold flanges for fixing to a garment or hat. The piece depicts the slaying of Goliath by David.

Hat ornaments were worn by men in their caps during the 15th & 16th century and could be purely decorative or symbolic. The estimated date of the item is circa 1540. Possibly of Italian origin.

Found 6th June 2014, by metal detecting.

Under the Treasure Act of 1996, as of 27th June 2014, this item is now with the British Museum for assessment and valuation.

Hat badge / ornament circa 1525-1575 gold & enamel



New England 3d 1652

