

A Sea Road Arts Publication
for
Sussex Heritage Community

**ADVICE TO ARCHAEOLOGISTS
HOW TO IMPLEMENT A
CRIME PREVENTION STRATEGY**



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Cover Photo: *Sutton Hoo helmet 625 AD: Source: Wikimedia Commons*

ADVICE TO ARCHAEOLOGISTS

HOW TO IMPLEMENT A CRIME PREVENTION STRATEGY

Crime against archaeological sites is of great concern, not only for the site and its historic artefacts but also the very tools, equipment and research documentation used to excavate and understand these incredible places.

Sadly, archaeological sites can be a target for many crime types, for example: theft, criminal damage including vandalism and illegal metal detecting and burglary.

It is essential that we implement best practice to ensure the security of each project. You are already playing a vital part in investigating our past and I hope to support you in preventing any loss or damage. Present and future generations will lose out if items are stolen - this simply robs us of knowledge and understanding about the past.

Daryl Holter, Consultant to Sea Road Arts



Trenchwork excavation at Lullingstone Roman Villa, Eynsford, Kent

INTRODUCTION

This document offers advice and guidance on how to reduce crime at archaeological sites. It is invaluable to every person who has a responsibility for such places. Its aim is to provide advice to help deter these crimes from happening.

In dealing with any risk of crime, it is important to consider the value and current purpose of the site.

An absence of visitors or overlooking properties would point to a need to enhance security. Sadly, when a site is undergoing investigation, it will likely attract unwelcome sometimes nefarious visitors.

In order to prevent and deter such criminality or unwanted attention it is vital that security and prevention is at the forefront of the site director's or manager's mind.

This document is organised in sections, including advice on what to do in the event of break-ins and the most effective means of marking property to ensure it is more identifiable.

The most basic step, however, is to understand the types of crime that can be committed and how they can be prevented.



The beautiful Sutton Hoo Saxon Purse-lid, circa 624 AD. Source: Wikimedia Commons

In his book *Archaeological Investigation*, Professor Martin Carver, former head of the Department of Archaeology at the University of York and later editor of the magazine *Antiquity*, suggests two cycles experienced regularly by archaeologists:

The Research Cycle: (What is or could be, here?):

Evaluation

Project Design

Fieldwork

Analysis

Research report

Archive

Heritage Cycle: The essential conservation and mobilisation of appreciation of the past for the present and for the future - and here the emphasis is on Management:

The Developer

Consultant

Curator

Planner

are all linked to the Archaeological Contractor for implementation of excavation and preservation within the above Research Cycle.

Both of these key cycles are included in this guide to crime prevention in archaeology.



Trewiddle Hoard of Anglo-Saxon silver coins and chalice, buried during Viking Raid in 868 AD near St Austell, Cornwall. Source: Wikimedia Commons

PART 1

Crime Prevention in The Research Cycle: (What is or could be, here?):

SECURITY OF EVALUATION

A site which may hold information on the past can be well-known from historic or prehistoric traces or records - or a chance find by a walker or metal detectorist.

Once the location is known and local people begin to talk about it – or the Press publicise information about it, then criminals will want to exploit the area and its potential finds before professional archaeologists begin work. Any mention of coins, jewellery, shields, swords, helmets, chariots, ceramics, or even the bones of saints, will soon come to the ear of criminals. Can they access these from your site without detection and sell to the highest bidder?

Therefore, a decision has to be made – is it best to keep the knowledge of the site secret until full preparation for onsite investigation is ready – or does it make sense to tell the public and engender enthusiasm or interest in the work to be undertaken before it starts?

There is no easy answer to this question, but it is vital to consider it. This is your decision as an archaeologist and both options need to be carefully considered in order to prevent crime. Secrecy prevents theft but local awareness also ensures that strangers coming to the area will be noticed. You may be able to harness the goodwill of local people into reporting any suspicious activity.



Painstaking trench excavation work: Source: Daryl Holter

SECURITY OF PROJECT DESIGN

There is an unfortunate kind of innocence in archaeology training books and literature about scientific methods. Professionals live in a world of technical innovation – thinking about the best way to ensure that even the smallest bit of evidence of the past is preserved – but little mention is made of systematic site security during fieldwork.

This guide asks you to enter site security as a major heading in your project design. In this way you will need to think about how to control criminal activity. Will you decide to ask staff to stay on-site overnight? Will you build the costs of site guarding by security teams into your budget? Will you put in surveillance cameras? How will you ensure that partly excavated remains of humans or animals, of pottery, or wooden or metal constructions, are not taken in the night by souvenir hunters or amateur or professional criminals who wish to sell their ill-gotten gains?

You trust your professional staff implicitly, but can you assume that every ‘volunteer’ is innocently working for your best advantage. Will you decide to have some checks on what people take away from high-value excavations?

What about your site equipment – the caesium vapour magnetometers and resistivity survey equipment – how will it be secured? What about trowels, buckets, tape and electronic measuring devices – should they be locked away – and if so – where?

So every step, from initial consideration of the possible value of a site of discovery, the excavation, field preservation and removal of finds, and the post fieldwork scientific work needs to have some deep thought about security, anti-theft or damage, anti-vandalism.

The history of crime has shown that we cannot afford to be innocent or complacent about what others might do to ruin our archaeological efforts.

SUMMARY - CRIME PREVENTION STRATEGY

We need to develop an overall crime prevention strategy for archaeological sites and their contents, please use this document to be aware of the risks the site may be subjected to.

Crime Prevention advice will address issues rather than specific action. Will the site be locked or secured? Will equipment be locked away or removed from site? The answers to these questions will form part of this advice, together with many other factors.

Once you have read this please work through the document and produce a number of your own recommendations.



Wayland's Smithy: Chambered long barrow with 14 bodies interred over time - built in two stages between 3590 and 3400 BCE.

Location near ancient White Horse of Uffington, Oxfordshire. Later honoured by Saxons as the Home of Wayland, their God of Metalworking.

SECURITY OF FIELDWORK

THE PROBLEMS FACING A SITE

The most important first step in managing the crime risk is to become fully acquainted with the problem as it relates to your site. This includes developing an appreciation of the following factors:

1. **Crime trends and threats.** Learning about similar offences and crime trends in the locality. Contact your local neighbourhood watch, Police Force, especially the Rural Crime Team, Countrywatch or local community groups including those on social media.
2. **Prevalence and timing.** The fact that certain crimes are more prevalent at particular times of the year. For instance, criminal damage is more frequent during school holidays when children tend to have more time to themselves.
3. **The market value of items under threat.** The marketable nature of property, i.e. How much, in cash terms, the property, items or artefacts may realise in open sale? It may not be appreciated that an item has any value whatsoever.
4. **Easy crime or hard crime?** The ease with which property may be stolen. For instance, diggers are more difficult to steal than portable generators.
5. **Device reality.** The vulnerability of security devices. Locks generally need to be substantial and even then, are only as effective as the doors and frames to which they are attached.
6. **Opportunity and temptation.** The types of activities undertaken by thieves. Most will be prepared to search all nooks and crannies. Many opportunists do this on the assumption that every locked door or container conceals something of value.

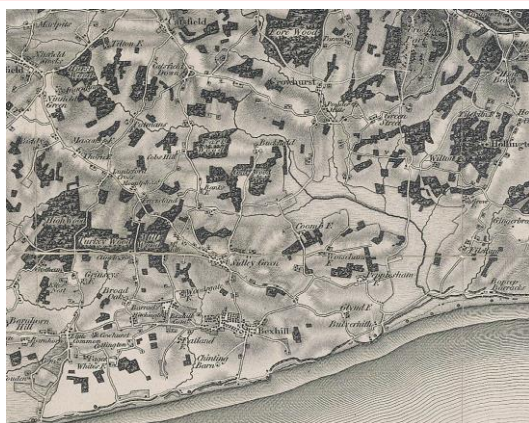
7. Destructive potential. The vulnerability of items to criminal damage and arson. The likelihood of children throwing stones at windows may depend on the availability of suitable 'ammunition'. Arson is more likely when combustible items are left lying about.

Summary

The most common recorded offence committed against archaeological sites – is theft.



One of the many cabinets of antiquities at Bexhill Museum, East Sussex



Old Map of Combe Valley, East Sussex – location of reburied (1932) Norman Longboat with Dacian Wolfhead Prow.



Silbury Hill chalk earthwork, near Avebury, Wilts – circa 2470-2350 BCE

THE FIRST LINE OF DEFENCE - THE PERIMETER

The perimeter of your site is key to the total security package you decide upon. Factors to be specifically considered are as follows:

1. **The criminal's first impression.** The first impression afforded by secure fencing, gates and taped off areas are vitally important. A well-cared for appearance is daunting to the opportunist thief, these factors contribute to crime prevention and encourage passers-by to be more vigilant. Ensure that access and egress to the site is kept secured and locked, criminals, especially opportunist will be operating both day and night. Think barriers, the more there are the more off-putting it will be to the criminal.

2. **Psychological barriers.** Although it is not feasible to totally secure a perimeter, well laid out fencing and a clean site with good quality CCTV, signage explaining no valuables left on site and regular patrols take place on site, is essential. Consideration of permanent CCTV or stand-alone remote trail Cameras. Certainly, any person -up to no good-will feel more ill at ease.

3. **Vehicle access.** Is it possible to prevent vehicles getting close to the site? This helps to deter criminals planning to carry away heavy objects such as plant, fuel or tools. If tools and equipment are left on site, clear and lock them away at the end of day. If not possible, try to have only one area where parking is permitted.

4. **Neighbourhood watchfulness.** Natural surveillance by passers-by and local residents serves to prevent crime and should be facilitated wherever possible. Contact local community, parish council, neighbourhood watch, local neighbours to site, county archaeologist, local archaeological society and museum, they are your eyes and ears, if you are going to be on-site for some time, maybe consider involving local communities. Encourage people to contact the police immediately if they see any suspicious activity.

SECURING THE SITE

INSTALLING CRIME PREVENTION MEASURES: PLEASE BE CAREFUL!

Certain crime prevention methods close to or on buildings or sites of historical interest or significance may require approval. The addition of CCTV cameras or security may need planning permission. Please seek advice from your local planning authority or relevant advisory body if you are in any doubt.

When closing down trenches at end of day remove all tools and take photos for reference.

Placement of tools and equipment in a secure store, container or building in site of any operational CCTV and security lighting. If you can alarm the building this too is desirable. Where possible park a plant vehicle against the access.

Keep plant vehicles in sight of any operational CCTV and under security lighting. Consider fuel theft from not only the vehicle itself but any on-site storage facility, ensure these areas are locked, check fuel levels regularly.

Do not leave any keys on site and have an up-to-date register of who your key holders are.

Daily checks for illicit metal detecting disturbance, digging on site and in spoil heaps.

Check for movement of items within trenches. Are unwanted thieves removing archaeological items or deliberately sabotaging your excavations. Could they be planting false evidence of the past?

Keep a watchful eye on those visiting the site and those who are asking lots of questions. Make note of time, day, date, description and associated vehicles.

Write down registrations of suspicious vehicles parked close by. Also take note of time, date, day, location and frequency.

Social media and image technology. Be mindful as to what is placed on social media, consider as to who may look at your site, finds, equipment and security, use of photos or description may attract unwanted attention. Prior to any work and occasionally thereafter brief your team with regards what they may post, consider backdrop images that may identify your site. Consider social media again with regard to all visitors to your site, also keep in mind drones and long-distance photography.

Antisocial behaviour. Consider your site with regards graffiti on boarding, signage or containers, deal with it as soon as you can, graffiti attracts more graffiti. Further consideration should be given to spoil heaps being used as jumps for BMX riding - try to remove any wood that can be used as ramps.

Consideration around personal belongings, when staff are on site be mindful as to where their property is kept. Can it be locked away? Locking items in cars that are parked off site could be a target to criminals if they can see a pattern to the way you work.

Remove all high value electrical items from site at the end of the day.

Ensure there are no combustible materials at the heritage asset location which could be used by arsonists. These include papers, fuels and log piles.

Items, artefacts and finds of heritage value may need to be removed from site at the earliest opportunity - leaving items overnight is a great risk.

If you notice any disturbance to your site, call your local Police. Please look for any foreign objects, if found secure and where possible cover, if signs of digging are present please ensure that cut marks, footprints are left until police attend the scene.

SECURITY OF ANALYSIS

When you begin to discover items and analyse the site finds you may find it helpful to consider crime prevention aspects in your work.

The foregoing advice in this document has emphasised the level of crime risk and how this may be managed by implementing, predominately, physical security precautions. This section will deal with other measures that may be taken to enhance security.

Property marking Property marking is an internationally accepted means of rendering your property identifiable both to yourself and the police. In the United Kingdom, this is effected by using the postcode or location information of the premises to which the property belongs, together with the name or part of the name.

The purpose of marking property in this manner is to ensure that it can be identified and returned to you after being stolen.

The marking of property also has a strong deterrent effect and it is always advisable to ensure the property bears signs of having been marked.

Property marking is a quick, do-it-yourself task, costing you very little. The following methods may be used:

Ultraviolet marker pens

This uses a cheap ultraviolet, fibre-tip pen, obtainable from most large stationers. The mark is invisible to the naked eye until viewed under an ultraviolet lamp.

Sunlight has the effect of causing such marks to fade after a period of about eighteen months. It is therefore advisable to re-mark property so exposed after this period. The advantage of this type of marking is that the criminal is unable to see it and therefore will not take steps to remove it. It also does not affect any resale value and for this reason is suitable for electrical goods and other items you may wish to sell.

The main disadvantage is that it is not visible, which limits the deterrent effect. The thief knows he will have no problems in selling it on to innocent purchasers.

Permanent ink marking

Where appropriate, the use of permanent ink markers is very effective. Ordinary marker pens which have a solvent based ink and are advertised as 'Permanent' are ideal for use in marking items where a fairly large visible mark is unimportant, and particularly on items that are porous.

Forensic marking

This is a fairly new concept which has shown excellent results in crime reduction. It is particularly suitable for marking heavy items such as tools and generators. Many different types of product are available for a range of items including specialist grease and dyes.

Branding

Branding of wooden or plastic items is a possibility and is very effective. Soldering irons are very effective on plastics and some woods, but you are advised to practice first on similar non-valuable materials.

Photographs / Videos

In addition to marking property you are advised to retain a permanent photographic record of it. This will enable photographs as well as descriptions to be circulated in trade and police publications and also assist in later identification.



Glastonbury Tor seen from Avalon Marshes, Somerset

If a crime may have been committed:

What the Police will want to know

The police will likely try to establish the exact time and date of the offence and then speak to the last person to leave the premises intact, and the person first discovering the theft or break in.

They would be interested in the method of entry and the manner in which property is removed. Additionally they would require full descriptions of all property stolen, photographs if possible and values. They would be interested in any form of property marking that you have implemented.

The Police would likely then try to find out if anybody saw or heard anything suspicious.

To help protect your property, please take the above steps to prevent your property from being stolen.

Who is listening? Ongoing scientific conclusions and discoveries are often discussed during excavation. Care around this is vital, because if sensitive information is provided publicly during the excavation, it could encourage or invite criminality on site.

I appreciate archaeology is about understanding sites and sharing history, yet care is needed.



This photo: Wikimedia

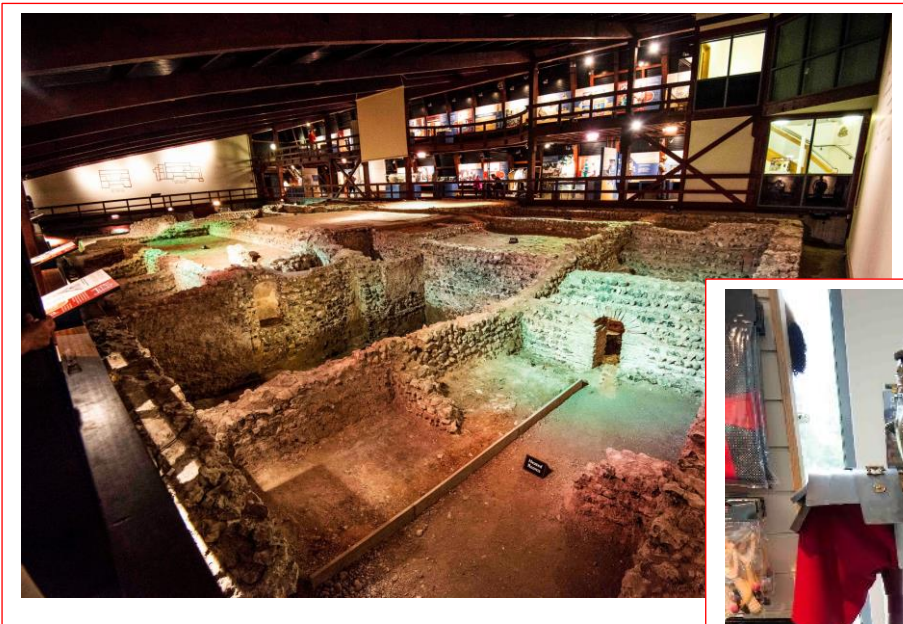
RESEARCH REPORT

Following a successful research phase – with or hopefully without a crime being committed – then a research report has to be made:

Please note any points which may help colleagues or future projects by including a section on site and equipment integrity and finds security.

ARCHIVE

When archiving your valuable research results, ensure that the reports are kept in a safe place if printed out or if online then protected with a strong password and anti-virus software.



Lullingstone Roman Villa. Many people wish for memorabilia of the past.



PART TWO – HERITAGE ASPECTS

The idea of heritage is to conserve the past and help people to appreciate the past, now and in the future. In order to do this it is essential that good management techniques are brought to bear, which will include crime prevention in the historic environment.

As a project manager you may be dealing with central government, local government and the commercial sector. All of these organisations will want to know that your research efforts are not going to be damaged by a lack of forethought in conservation planning. If you include the key aspects set out in this guide you will be more likely to properly protect the site and its research products.

The Developer

If a site is to be developed the Local Planning Authority may require you to employ an archaeological contractor to undertake an archaeological investigation. They should be reminded to include crime prevention in their estimate.'

Consultant

You may be asked to act as a consultant to a developer. This means that there will be pressure on you to complete a rapid assessment but nevertheless, you should still explain that crime prevention is an important aspect of the overall work to be completed.

Curator

A "curator" is the person appointed by the Local Planning Authority to advise on the archaeological implications of development. The curator therefore bears a special responsibility in crime prevention.



Castle Toll: Newenden, Kent

Site of Viking Incursion and encampment in 892 AD when it was an island. Possible site of Saxon Eorpeburnan Burghal Hidage Fort.

Planner

The Local Planning Authority is responsible for ensuring that:

(1) The lawful application of planning permission must be completed before any construction that alters the use of land. Here, there needs to be an awareness that criminals may start to use illegal metal detecting or digging to discover valuable artefacts. This is because they can see on local government websites that you have applied for planning permission - which defines the precise address of the work to be completed. You should therefore advise the commissioning authority that the act of publishing the planning application will raise the risk to the site.

(2) The project manager is the person who is planning how the historic investigation work is to be carried out. This will be you - and so everything in this guide applies. When you start to plan – please think about the prevention of crime in archaeology.



Hoxne Hoard: Suffolk 1992 – Largest ever find of Roman Gold and Silver: Source: Wikimedia

PART THREE – ILLEGAL METAL DETECTING

What is Illicit Metal Detecting?

It is any metal detecting that contravenes the Code of Practice for Responsible Metal Detecting in England and Wales (2017). There has been great concern about the practice of 'nighthawking' where illegal metal detectorists go out during darkness to plunder heritage sites. However, both by night and by day, vital information about past history is lost when metal detectorists act illegally. The concerns are detailed in a major article in the Guardian Newspaper that you can read here:

<https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2020/jun/02/theres-a-romanticism-about-nighthawking-but-its-theft-when-metal-detectorists-go-rogue>

In addition, a major guardian of heritage sites, English Heritage, has published an article about the rise in heritage crime using metal detectors.

<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/about-us/search-news/rise-in-illegal-metal-detecting-at-english-heritage-sites/>

Thankfully, most metal detectorists are responsible, and some remarkable finds have been unearthed and reported in a proper and legal manner to County Finds Officers, who operate the Portable Antiquities Scheme.

The Code is shown below.

Code of Practice for Responsible Metal Detecting in England and Wales (2017).

If undertaken responsibly metal detecting can make an important contribution to archaeological knowledge. This document aims to provide guidance for metal-detectorists who wish to contribute to our understanding of the history of England and Wales. It combines both the requirements of finders under the law, as well as more general voluntary guidance on accepted best practice.

Being responsible means:

Before you go metal-detecting

1. **Not trespassing;** before you start detecting obtain permission to search from the landowner, regardless of the status, or perceived status, of the land. Remember that all land (including parks, public open-spaces, beaches, and foreshores) has an owner, and an occupier (such as a tenant farmer) can only grant permission with both the landowner's and tenant's agreement. Any finds discovered will normally be the property of the landowner, so to avoid disputes it is advisable to get permission and agreement in writing first regarding the ownership of any finds subsequently discovered.
2. Obeying the law concerning **protected sites** (such as those defined as Scheduled Monuments, Sites of Special Scientific Interest or military crash sites, and those involving human remains), and also those other sites on which metal-detecting might also be restricted (such as land under Countryside Stewardship or other agri-environment schemes). You can obtain details of these sites from several sources, including the landowner/occupier, your local Finds Liaison Officer or Historic Environment Record or from [Magic](#), [Historic England](#) or [Cadw](#), which will help research and better understand the site.
Take extra care when detecting near protected sites since it is not always clear where the boundaries of these lie on the ground.

3. Familiarising yourself with the **Portable Antiquities Scheme** (including contact details for your local [Finds Liaison Officer](#), telephone 0207 323 8611), and its guidance on the recording of archaeological finds discovered by the public; make it clear to the landowner that you wish to record finds with the Portable Antiquities Scheme. Ensure that you follow current [conservation advice](#) on the handling, care, and storage of archaeological objects.
4. Obtaining public liability insurance (to protect yourself and others from accidental damage), such as that offered by the National Council for Metal-Detecting or the Federation of Independent Detectorists.

While you are metal-detecting

1. Working on **ground** that has already been disturbed (such as ploughed land or that which has formerly been ploughed), and only within the depth of ploughing. If detecting takes place on pasture, be careful to ensure that no damage is done to the archaeological value of the land, including earthworks. Avoid damaging stratified archaeological deposits (that is to say, finds that seem to be in the place where they were deposited in antiquity) and minimise any ground disturbance through the use of suitable tools and by reinstating any ground and turf as neatly as possible.
2. **Stopping any digging** and making the landowner aware that you are seeking expert help if you discover something below the ploughsoil, or a concentration of finds or unusual material, or wreck remains. Your local Finds Liaison Officer may be able to help or will be able to advise on an appropriate person. Reporting the find does not change your rights of discovery but will result in far more archaeological evidence being recovered.
3. Recording **findspots** as accurately as possible for all archaeological finds (i.e. to at least a one ten metre square - an 8-Figure National Grid Reference), using a hand-held Global Positioning Systems (GPS) device whilst in the field or a 1:25000 scale map if this is not possible.

Bag finds individually, recording the National Grid Reference on the bag with a waterproof/indelible marker.

Archaeologists are interested in learning about all archaeological finds you discover, not just metallic items, because such finds contribute to knowledge.

4. Respecting the [Country Code](#) (leave gates and property as you find them and do not damage crops, frighten animals, or disturb ground nesting birds, and dispose properly of litter.

After you have been metal-detecting

1. Reporting all archaeological finds to the relevant **landowner / occupier**; and making it clear to the landowner that you wish to record archaeological finds to the Portable Antiquities Scheme, so the information can pass into the local Historic Environment Record. Both the Country Land and Business Association and the National Farmers Union support the reporting of finds with the Portable Antiquities Scheme. Details of your local Finds Liaison Officer can be found at <https://finds.org.uk/contacts>, e-mail info@finds.org.uk or phone 020 7323 8611.
2. Abiding by the statutory provisions of the **Treasure Act 1996**, the *Treasure Act Code of Practice* and [wreck law](#). If you wish to take artefacts and archaeological material older than 50 years old out of the UK, you will require an **export licence**. If you need advice your local Finds Liaison Officer will be able to help you.
3. Calling the Police (101), and notifying the landowner/occupier, if you find any traces of **human remains** or a likely burial; human remains can only be disturbed further with a [Home Office licence](#).
4. Calling the Police or HM Coastguard, and notifying the landowner/occupier, if you find anything that may be a live **explosive**, device, or other ordnance. Do not attempt to move or interfere with any such explosives.
5. Calling the Police if you notice any illegal activity whilst out metal-detecting, such as theft of farm equipment or **illegal** metal-detecting (nighthawking). Further details can

be found by contacting Historic England/Cadw or the 'heritage crime' contact within your local police force.

Finding out more about archaeology and metal detecting

- You can find out more about the archaeology of your own area from the **Historic Environment Records** maintained by local authority archaeology services (in England) and the Welsh archaeological trusts. Also the [Heritage Gateway](#) (in England) and [Archwilio](#) (in Wales).
- For further information about the **recording and reporting** of finds discovered by the public and the **Treasure Act 1996** contact the [Portable Antiquities Scheme](#) (email info@finds.org.uk / telephone 0207 323 8611).
- For further information about how you can become involved in archaeology contact the [Council for British Archaeology](#) (telephone 01904 671417). They can also supply details of local archaeology societies.
- You can find out about metal detecting via the [National Council for Metal Detecting](#) or the [Federation of Independent Detectorists](#).

Revised 23 October 2017

This Code has been endorsed by: Amgueddfa Cymru - National Museum of Wales / PAS Cymru, Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers, British Museum / Portable Antiquities Scheme, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, Council for British Archaeology, Country Land & Business Association, Institute for Archaeology (University College London), Historic England, National Farmers Union, Royal Commission on the Historical & Ancient Monuments of Wales, Society of Museum Archaeologists.

A link to the Code:

<https://finds.org.uk/getinvolved/guides/codeofpractice>

To report Illicit Metal Detecting to police call 101 or check with your local police force online for their reporting form. If evidence is left behind, tell the police, and ask how you can preserve the evidence.

Alternatively you can contact the independent charity Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555 111, or online at www.crimestoppers-uk.org

England is very fortunate to have a great community of finders, including metal detector users together with a positive and dynamic working relationship between detectorists, archaeologists and the local police officers and staff.

The majority of hobbyists care deeply about our shared heritage and record their finds with the Portable Antiquities Scheme. Unfortunately, a small number of detectorists exploit their hobby in order to obtain archaeologically important artefacts and attempt to profit from their illegal activity. Please don't forget – if you see illegal activity ongoing call 999 - and if you find evidence of illegal activity afterwards, call 101 and report it.

Thanks to Mr Daryl Holter, Heritage Crime expert, for this interview.

PART FOUR – EXAMPLES OF CRIMES AGAINST ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE

You may find it helpful to learn about the variety of crimes committed against our heritage in order to enhance your prevention planning.

Authorities Recover 10,000 Artefacts Stolen by International Antiquities Trafficking Ring

The organized crime group had connections across Italy, Britain, Germany, France and Serbia:

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/authorities-recover-10000-artifacts-stolen-international-antiquities-trafficking-ring-180973636/>

How a treasure hunt led to a £3m 'heritage stealing':

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-50478708>

Detectorists jailed for stealing £12m Viking hoard of gold and silver:

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/nov/22/detectorists-jailed-for-stealing-12m-viking-hoard-of-gold-and-silver>

Photo below: Damage to key archaeological site by persons placing an illegal cycle track into the area of a scheduled ancient monument. Source: Daryl Holter.



PART FIVE – THE LAWS APPLYING TO ARCHAEOLOGY

Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979: –

Restrictions on use of metal detectors

Damaging certain ancient monuments

Control of works affecting scheduled monuments

Town and Country Planning Act 1990

Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005

Criminal Damage Act 1971

Protection of Wrecks Act 1973

Treasure Act 1996

Merchant Shipping Act 1995

Protection of Military Remains Act 1986

Theft Act 1968: including Burglary and Going Equipped to Steal

Dealing in Cultural Objects Act 2003

Road Traffic Offences Acts

Hedgerow Protection Act

The **Hedgerows Regulations** 1997 were made under Section 97 of the Environment Act 1995 and came into operation in England and Wales on 1 June 1997. They provide important **protection** by prohibiting the removal of most countryside **hedgerows** (or parts of them) without first notifying the local planning authority (LPA).

Background to the Law – How Protection for Archaeology has increased

There is a comprehensive set of Archaeology and Heritage Laws covering all site activity. Early laws include the Ancient Monuments Protection Act (1882) and the Town and Country Planning Act (1947).

A new start in law for all archaeology was the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (AMAA) which enabled English Heritage to schedule sites for protection by the Secretary of State.

However, since 2008, all archaeology and heritage laws have been ‘overhauled’. There are now Heritage Protection laws, Marine Protection and a new Planning Act of Parliament.

Locations have in some cases become protected by the rules on Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Sites of Special Scientific Interest. Furthermore, the Civil Amenities Act (1967) permitted the designation of an area for conservation because of its architectural or historic interest. This Act was replaced in 1990 by the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (England) Regulations that have been updated in 2009 and 2013.

The Marine and Coastal Access Act (2009) allows for the specifying of Marine Conservation Zones.

The major Town and Country Planning Act (1971) ensured that local authorities must take archaeology into account when considering planning applications. This was enhanced by Planning and Policy Guides (PPG16). This was replaced by the Planning and Policy Statement (PPS) 5 (2010). Then in 2012 the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012) was introduced.

Internationally, there is the World Heritage Convention (1972) which protects many global sites, and the Valetta Convention (1992) – the European Charter for the Protection and Management of the Archaeological Heritage (2001).

The old laws on the discovery of ‘treasure’ were replaced in 1996 by the Treasure Act (1996)

Part Six - What is Heritage Crime?

INTERVIEW WITH MR DARYL HOLTER

Extract from the Heritage Crime website: <https://davidbexhill.wixsite.com/heritage>

Our Heritage File site administrator recently interviewed our Heritage Crime expert, Mr Daryl Holter seeking and answer to the obvious question – What is 'Heritage Crime'?

My name is Daryl Holter. I grew up with a passion for history, so helping to protect our nation's heritage is second nature to me. Therefore, over the last six years I have become increasingly involved in preventing heritage crime.

What is Heritage Crime?

Heritage crime is any offence which harms the value of England's heritage assets and their settings to this and future generations. To many criminals, historic buildings, churches, houses, castles, forts, earthworks, battlefields, wreck sites and other historic sites are simply sources of illicit gain, damage or diversion. These heritage assets are often exploited with no regard to what they may represent to the communities in which they are located. Those who for instance are knowingly buying stolen scrap metal or stolen relics from heritage assets are creating a market which is driving heritage crime, some of these buildings have been around for hundreds of years, surviving world wars and the elements of time and nature but are now being spoiled by us.

There are several reasons behind these crimes, greed, selfishness, sheer wanton vandalism, a misguided self-belief of saving our heritage and simply unknowingly committing offences. Churches are often a victim to heritage crime. Offertory boxes, for example, are forced open or stolen for the donations they may contain, lead is indiscriminately pulled up off roofs, tiles and stonework taken or stained-glass windows removed.

All are testament to the skills of medieval craftsmen, and many are stolen or smashed beyond repair - destroying in a moment something that has been familiar to and appreciated by generations. These crimes often damage the very fabric of the building, their impact is immeasurable, as, even though items might be restored or replaced, the link to the past has gone forever. Heritage crime can have a devastating impact on local communities, far outweighing the material loss suffered.

Another factor is provenance. Provenance in this example being the sequence of events connected to a historical object) this is key, if items are stolen or removed it will not only affect us today, it will affect future generations understanding of our past. When items are illicitly removed and not recorded essentially a piece of our history is stolen. Linked to this are those crimes which are unknowingly committed and pose a great threat to our heritage especially when theft also results in damage.



Examples of disturbance at protected sites by illegal metal detectorists. Source: Daryl Holter
An example of this might be illicit metal detecting or unauthorised off-road driving on sites of historical and archaeological importance. Both have impact on archaeology and artefacts, not only are items removed but their context is destroyed resulting in an irreplaceable loss of information.



Heritage crime can be organized and be carried out by an individual or group. This area of crime can be difficult to pre-empt, and it underlines the need for constant vigilance on the part of everyone to whom such things are important. I work with many partner agencies and authorities to enable me to deal with reports effectively and with most impact. The expertise of these partners helps me to address issues comprehensively. We all have different tools at our disposal, and where one may not be able to deal with an issue, generally another can. It is through our combined strengths that we are most effective.

Understanding the heritage and how it sits within the local community, combined with education, prevention, engagement and support can help save our shared heritage. I support volunteers, local groups and societies who work tirelessly to preserve our heritage, we are all one community. Some examples of the work being done to support heritage sites:

Example 1 A Hastings Church has received a cash boost from Sussex Police to pay for security improvements. They were able to secure £260 for Emmanuel Church through the Police Property Act Fund. This is made up of monies received by the police from the sale of found property, and from property confiscated by order of the court and then sold.

Reverend Martin Lane, of Emmanuel Church, said: “The money has been spent on providing a new, secure gate for the west side of the church’s community hall: Medium Hall. “The current gate was rotten and dilapidated, and vulnerable to anyone who would wish to gain entrance to the rear of the hall.” The police explained that they were happy to help and support Emmanuel Church. They said, “Medium Hall is used for many community activities, and security at this location is very important for the safety of all those that use the hall.”

Example 2 A campaign to restore a Second World War control tower also received a £500 boost from Sussex Police, securing funding for the ‘Save Tangmere Tower’ group through the Police Property Act Fund. Mr Holter said: “I am really happy to help Director Matt Gover-Wren and

his team. "The Save Tangmere Tower campaign group is an entirely voluntary organisation, and they are using the funds to purchase a new steel front door and perimeter fence, all to help secure the site." The tower, which is Grade II listed and is on the Heritage at Risk register, has been derelict since the closure of RAF Tangmere in 1970 and has been the subject of antisocial behaviour and criminal damage. Matt Gover-Wren, Director of Save Tangmere Tower, said: "Working with Daryl has been brilliant, he visited us on site and ran through a number of recommendations and general advice going forward. He helped us better understand some aspects of preventative work and connected us with our local policing team. "I have been so thankful to Daryl for his continued support and helping us with this funding. It will enable us to better understand the building and to assess what future work it will need, ultimately allowing us to protect our Second World War heritage."

Example 3 The National Coastwatch Institution station at Shoreham Port has received a £500 boost from Sussex Police. Mr Holter was able to secure the grant through the Police Property Act Fund. He said, "I am really happy to help Laurie Hays, Station Manager and his team at NCI Shoreham. The NCI is an entirely voluntary organisation keeping a visual watch along UK shores, watchkeepers provide the eyes and ears along the coast, monitoring radio channels and providing a listening watch in poor visibility.

They are trained to deal with emergencies, offering a variety of skills and experience, and full training by the NCI ensures that high standards are met". The NCI team at Shoreham intend to put the grant towards their fundraising efforts to purchase and install a CCTV system that will enable them to observe parts of their area that are presently hard to monitor for safety purposes Laurie Hays, the Station Manager at NCI Shoreham, said "Shoreham NCI are looking to purchase a high definition CCTV system. Much to the delight of the Friends of Shoreham Fort one of the cameras will be dedicated to view the site of Shoreham Fort, while another camera will view the beach area surrounding the fort. This grant will not only enhance our view around the station but will also provide added security for the fort which is an incredibly important heritage asset for Shoreham". Gary Baines, Chairman Friends

of Shoreham Fort said “The National Coastwatch tower was originally an aiming light station to support Shoreham Forts guns in WWII and support from the tower continues today, thanks to funding from Sussex Police and the National Coastwatch. This is a great step towards getting CCTV to cover the site of Shoreham Fort and we are very grateful to Sussex Police and to the National Coastwatch for making it a possibility”.

Example 4 Heritage Eastbourne has also received a £350 boost from Sussex Police. Mr Holter said “I am really happy to help Heritage Eastbourne. Jo and his team offer fantastic opportunities to the residents of Eastbourne and surrounds. “Education and understanding are vital for people to be involved in their local heritage. And from a heritage crime point-of-view the more people know of the history around them the better protected it is. “Awareness, and raising the profile of heritage crime, is a key part of my role”. Heritage Eastbourne offers free education around local heritage and archaeology. Its manager, Jo Seaman, said, “We will be using the funding for educational equipment, books, literature, portfolio folders and guides. “We will also be purchasing recording equipment such as graphic pens, drawing boards, acetone, permatrace and paraloid. All of these items assist with the research and the recording of finds.”

Daryl Holter continued:

I work very closely with museums, especially Bexhill Museum and Heritage Eastbourne who often help me, I also work with many heritage sites including Battle Abbey, Pevensey Castle and Shoreham Fort. I have also been fortunate to work alongside The Diocese of Chichester and Ecclesiastical Insurance, both key to helping with the reduction of Church Crime, this year alongside Heritage Eastbourne all four of us have been talking at the Diocesan Road Shows. I hope this provides a better understanding of a role within policing which is crucial to keeping our heritage safe. I further hope that this will inspire others to increase cohesion between partners and communities to reduce heritage crime.

Please report all heritage crime at the time on 101 or 999 or alternatively you can contact Crime stoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.



Long Man of Wilmington, East Sussex

Daryl makes this plea:

“We have a choice to defend our heritage, past, present and future. Some take our past heritage for granted; some forget it is amongst our present. We walk on it, drive through it and fly over it.

To many I have met it inspires belief, understanding, feeling, depth, culture and emotion. A sense of community, ownership, tradition and belonging. It is tangible, it has mystery, it is constant and priceless.

When it falls victim to abuse it is all our moral responsibility to protect our past. It is our future generations that should have opportunity to rediscover, enjoy, experience and interpret the old and the new. We are but custodians of a rich heritage that tells of our journey. Together describes the action needed to preserve our past. Together bonds us as a community, a group or a family. Communities are what hold us together, they watch over our heritage.”

PART SEVEN – CONCEPT, DESIGN AND PHOTOGRAPHY

This is a Sea Road Arts Guide compiled to support the work of Mr Daryl Holter of Sussex Heritage Community.

Design and Photography: David E P Dennis BA(Hons) FCIPD LCGI RAF unless otherwise stated in the photograph caption.



Photo: Daryl Holter working on an archaeological site. Source: Daryl Holter



Dacian Wolfhead Prow – Bayeux Tapestry: Source Wikimedia Commons