# Sussex Heritage Community

Communities working together to enjoy & protect their heritage

Threats to our Heritage



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 brings belief, understanding, feeling, depth, culture and emotion.

Also a sense of community, ownership, tradition and belonging. It is tangible, it has mystery, it is constant and priceless.

Our future generations should have the opportunity to rediscover, experience and interpret the old and the new.

We are but custodians of a rich heritage and this heritage tells of our journey through the ages. But...

When it falls victim to abuse it is the moral responsibility, of all of us, to protect our past and we must do this together.

Together, as a group or family, we become a community.

Communities watch over our heritage and likeminded communities stand together.

Together we can preserve our past.

# What are the threats to our shared Heritage?

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.

Many of these buildings have been around for hundreds of years, surviving world wars, the elements of time and nature but are now being spoiled by us.

Threats to our heritage can be organised and be carried out by individuals or in groups.

A further threat is apathy and this is sometimes the biggest threat of all.

This can be difficult to pre-empt and it underlines the need for constant vigilance on the part of everyone whom believes such things are important.

# What are the reasons behind those threats?

## There are several reasons...

Greed

Selfishness

Sheer wanton vandalism

A misguided self-belief of saving our heritage

Simply having little or no knowledge.

# Who do those threats affect?

Churches are often a victim. 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 a 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 acts 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. These acts can have a devastating impact on local communities, far outweighing the material loss suffered.

As you'll see, it affects all of us!

# **Examples of Heritage**Crime

What to look out for...

# Theft







### Historic St Mary's Church, Rye

One of its most valuable stained glass windows removed.

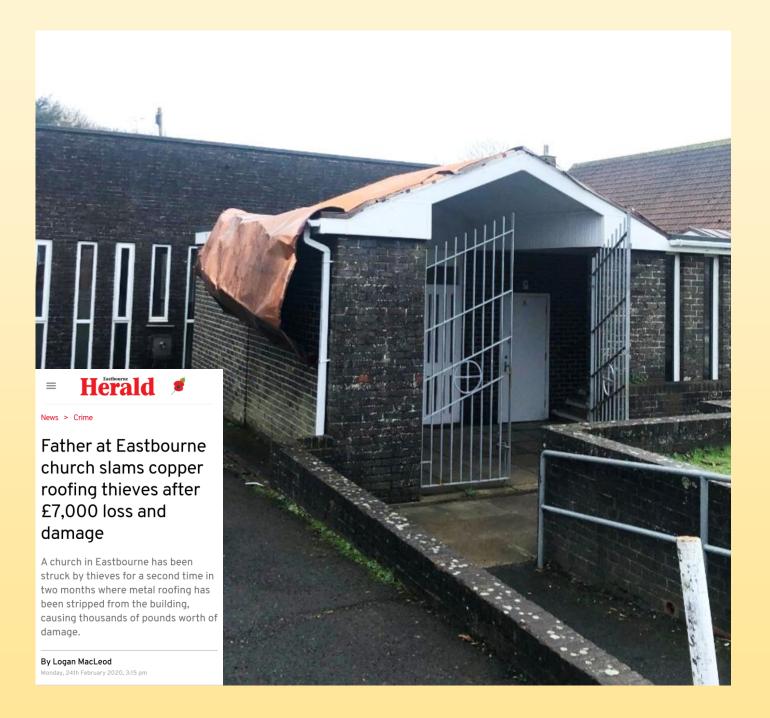




East Sussex Church
Lead theft

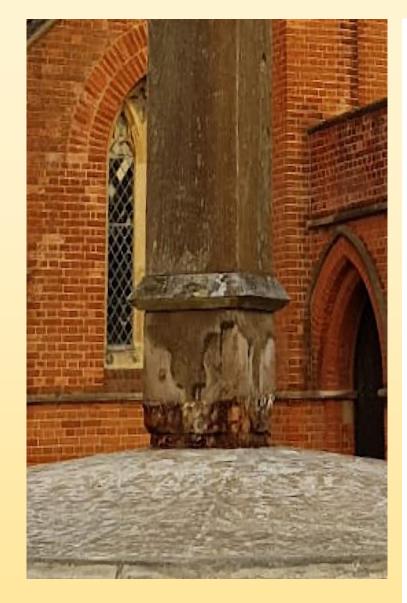


Attempted Sussex Peg Tile theft Criminal damage





Copper is once again the target.
This time - lightning conductors



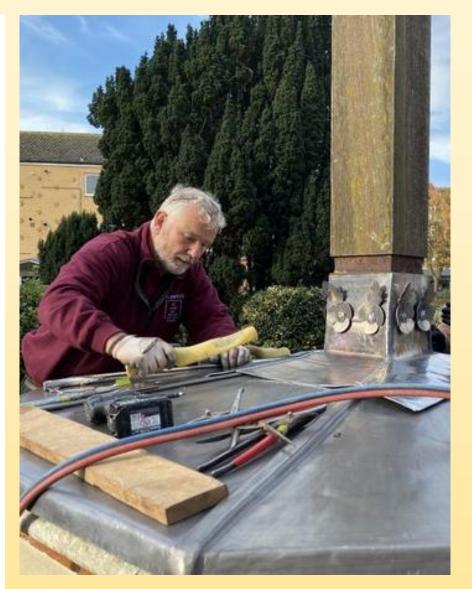
### Herald



Frank Gammon, Nick Carrick, and Paul Strudwick with the finished memorial SUS-201011-152729001

### 'Outrageous' theft at Eastbourne church war memorial

Two roofing companies have stepped in to repair a church war memorial in Eastbourne after thieves and vandals struck.







# West Hoathly grave plaques stolen from churchyard

O 15 August 2019 Sussex





churchyard





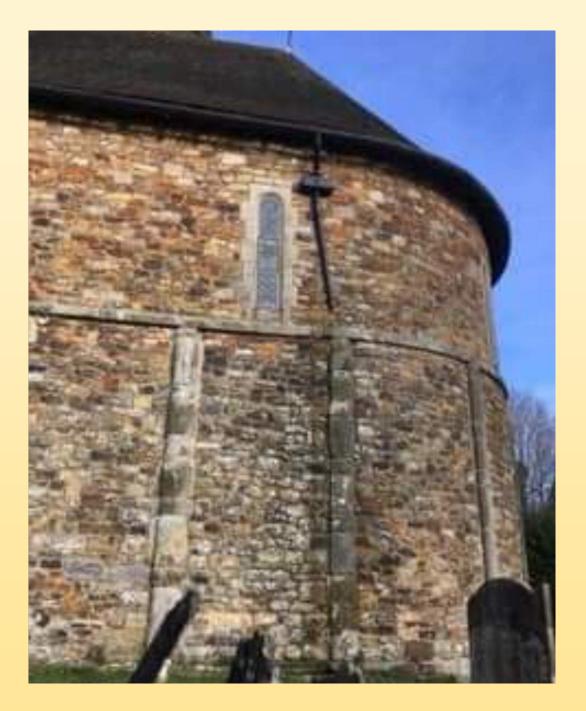


More than 50 grave markers have been stolen from a churchyard in West Sussex.





52 6x9 inch brass plaques stolen



6 x 3 metre
cast iron
drain pipes
stolen from
a Grade 1
Listed C10th
church

# The Argus =

30 December 19

More News >

### Callous thieves stole drainpipes from 1,000 year old church on Christmas Day

By Emily Walker 

✓ Testing

Chief reporter









# Thieves steal 10 tons of lead from Madeira terraces

Posted On 30 Dec 2019 at 11:47 am By : Frank le Duc Comments: 3

Thieves have stolen lead and copper estimated to weigh more than 10 tons from the grade II listed Madeira terraces on Brighton seafront.









Lead letters stolen from graves.
Literally worth pennies.

**Lead theft, West Sussex** 



#### County Times

#### By The Newsroom

Wednesday, 15th February 2017, 4:30 pm Updated Tuesday, 28th February 2017, 12:22 pm

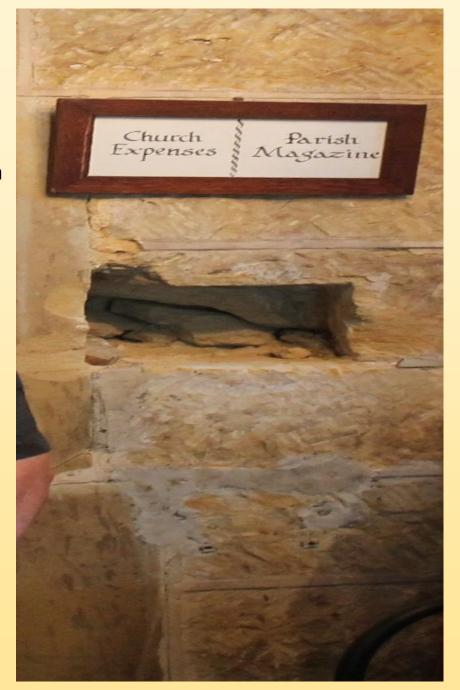


Storrington church damage. Picture: Sussex Police

St Mary's Church in Church Street, Storrington, was throught to have been broken into between 5pm on Monday January 30 and 9am on Wednesday February 1.

#### Windows were broken

An offertory box was opened but nothing was believed to be stolen





News

# Church heartbroken after thieves steal organ keyboard

The rector of St John the Baptist church in Clayton says the congregation is heartbroken after thieves stole the keyboard from the church's organ.

#### By The Newsroom

Wednesday, 13th December 2017, 9:28 am
Updated Wednesday, 13th December 2017, 9:30 am

The belief that the keys were ivory is suspected to be the reason for this theft



"It was made of ivory veneer and not very large but a crucial part of the organ which is now rendered unusable.

## **HAVE YOU SEEN** THIS STATUE?

STOLEN FROM THE WAR MEMORIAL AT SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, EVERSHOLT, BEDFORDSHIRE, ON THE NIGHT OF MONDAY 17 JUNE.







#### War memorial statue in Eversholt stolen for second time

© 20 June 2019 Beds, Herts & Bucks











A "local landmark" on top of a war memorial has been stolen for a second time.

#Heritagecrime A bronze statue of a young boy has been stolen from #Haslemere #WestSussex. The statue was commissioned in the early 1970s, sculpted by the noted sculptor John Robson



### World War 1 memorial STOLEN by heartless thieves -'It is so disrespectful'

ROYAL British Legion officials have slammed heartless thieves who stole a village war memorial of a First World War soldier ahead of the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day.



A five foot tall 'Silent Soldier' war memorial has been stolen (Image: SUSSEX POLICE/SOLENT NEWS)

The black silhouette of a First World War soldier, which is about five feet tall, was taken from outside a Co-Op store in the pretty village



#### St Mary's Church, Petworth

4 Sep at 20:42 · 🕙

Unfortunately two of our silent Soldiers have gone missing the RAF and the Navy. Please if anyone sees them let Fr Mark know #lestweforget #Petworth Petworth



## Theft of Heritage Assets, Organised Crime

Heritage property and any associated goods that are stolen are protected under the Theft Act 1968 and Section 11

Removal of Artefacts from places open to the public.

This would include burglary, the handling of stolen goods and going equipped.



### Theft of historic slabs in Bramber is 'act of greed'

The owners of a 15th century house in Bramber are 'repulsed' after around 70 valuable York-stone slabs were stolen overnight.

By The Newsroom

Monday, 2nd November 2015, 9:33 am

£1000s to replace and repair
The original stone is irreplaceable





**Grade 1 Listed Building Bramber House 1895, 70, £4500 + Damage** 

1928 WW1 memorial Patcham £5000 + Damage





## Milepost stolen from Sussex roadside



A milepost painted with unusual images has been stolen from the side of a road in East Sussex.

Its disappearance from the A22 near Halland was discovered on 24 January but it is thought it may have been removed earlier in the month.

It is made of cast iron and painted white with black decorations.

9,000 remaining nationwide.

Unique to the location they stand on.

Many were removed or defaced during the Second World War.

Other have been demolished by road widening schemes, collision damage or whilst hedge and verge cutting

### **Transport Heritage**



A very rare motorcycle - stolen from Hastings.

The black and silver Manx Norton motorcycle was stolen from Pelham Place.

The motorcycle has a value of £30,000+ and it is a very rare collectable vintage machine, in immaculate condition.

This particular make and model of motorcycle is steeped in British motorcycle racing heritage.

# Damage by Graffiti





WW2 Pillbox



Shoreham Fort
43 year old male
caught and prosecuted





Mary Stanford Lifeboat House, Rye Grade II Listed



C1926 Tram / Bus stop Brighton



**Volks Railway, Brighton** 

# Criminal Damage



#### **Mid Sussex Times**



DM17312955a.jpg, Father Martin Jakubas in St Paul's church, Haywards Heath, beside where a statue of St Therese of Lisieu was ripped from the wall and smashed to pieces, Photo by Derek Martin SUS-170317-191230008

Visitors to St Paul's Catholic church in Hazelgrove Road, Haywards Heath, made the shock discovery last week.





"A three-foot tall statue which has adorned the wall of a church for decades has been ripped from its holdings and smashed to pieces."

Fire extinguisher let off
This can cause erosion if left

It is believed they broke in during the night on New Year's Eve after smashing a window at St Leonards-on-Sea Methodist Church, in Upper Park Road.



St Leonards on Sea Methodist Church, 31/12/18, vandalism: broken window, set fire to nativity, turned on and left on electric hobs (for 14hrs) and damaged other items, any











News

# Crowhurst church window smashed by vandals

A church in Crowhurst had one of its stained glass windows smashed overnight.

#### By The Newsroom

Monday, 2nd November 2015, 3:17 pm



## Listed building damaged on Bexhill seafront





Decorative wooden panels and bench were damaged



Bexhill Museum 10' x 4' First floor window smashed



Battle museum Window pane smashed

# Criminal Damage to Shoreham Forts loop holes - £1850 each to repair. Also burglary and damage to steps, walls and fencing









Criminal damage
Unlawful excavation and damage to SSSI - tank
defences and pillbox foundation

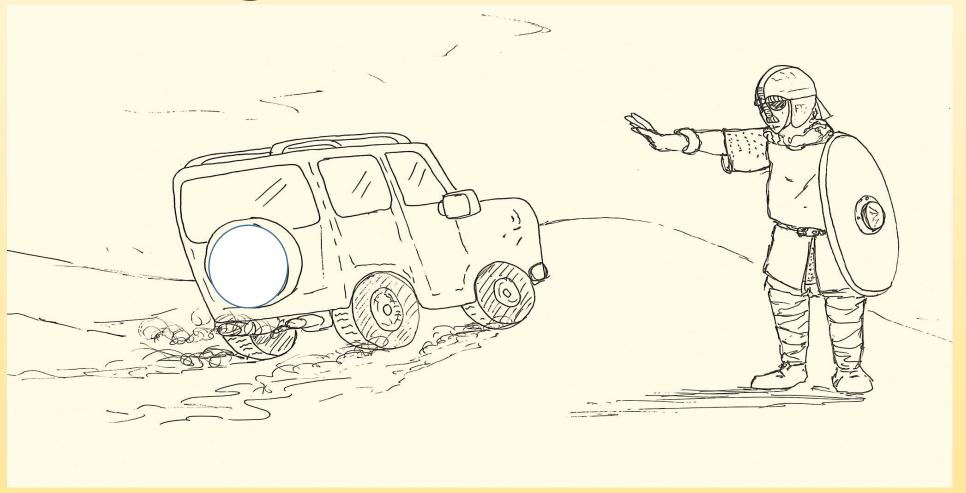




Theft of Anti-Tank Cylinder



# Damage and Destruction



Under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 it is a criminal offence to cause damage to a Scheduled Monument.

#### **Neolithic Causeway enclosure**

Irreparable damage and loss of archaeology





#### Damage caused by a 4x4

What is not obvious is the potential irreparable damage to any artefacts and archaeology below the surface

#### **Neolithic Long Barrow**

**Historic monument damaged in Alfriston** 





An earth mound constructed between 3400-2400 BC

This is a funerary monument and burial place used by early farming communities







## The Argus

31 July 20

More News >

#### South Downs National Park boss urges people to be responsible

WILD camping, raves and parking on verges have been reported at a beauty spot during lockdown.

South Downs National Park Authority chief executive Trevor Beattie has urged visitors to use the area responsibly after burn marks were left in the grass by barbecues.

Park rangers patrol the area and provide reports on what has been going on each week.

Mr Beattie said: "For the last couple of months, every Monday morning, I have seen widespread reports of verge parking, wild camping and raves.

"Last time, at Chanctonbury Ring, I noticed many fire pits, the signs of them on the grass – this is a protected monument."

He said he wanted to encourage people to visit the area as lockdown restrictions were eased, but urged them to use registered campsites when staying in the South Downs.

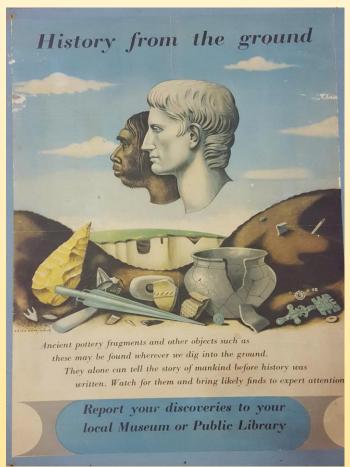
### **Fly Tipping - Criminal offence**





#### Illicit metal detecting





It is vital that you gain permission to detect from the land owner and that any finds are reported

#### **Damage to Cissbury Ring - Ancient hill-fort**



Cissbury Ring, just north of Worthing, is one of the jewels in the crown of the new South Downs National Park. It is the largest hill-fort in Sussex and dates back more than 5,000 years. Its ditch and ramparts enclose some 65 acres of land.

The site is protected by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.

National Trust archaeologist, Tom Dommett, said "We are saddened to see this intrusion at such an important archaeological site, and the potential loss of priceless and irreplaceable information about our past. This sort of behaviour poses a real threat to our cultural heritage. We do not condone any illegal activity on our sites."



He added: "When conducted within the law and recognised best practice, metal detecting can be a valuable tool in adding to our knowledge of the past."

The use of metal detectors on Scheduled Monuments, without a licence issued by the Secretary of State, is prohibited and metal detecting on National Trust land is only ever permitted under a special licence. NT countryside teams regularly patrol Cissbury Ring and the Trust is working with partners to address this latest issue.

Paul Roberts, Historic England's inspector of ancient monuments for Kent, Sussex and Surrey, said: "Irresponsible and criminal metal detecting destroys evidence of our national story that belongs to us all. It is a great shame that Cissbury Ring has now been damaged by the selfish action of a few."



"Illicit metal detecting is a shady unscrupulous act and deliberate damage to this site is irreversible."

"It is unlikely we will know if items were removed, but any such interference is simply stealing our past and robbing us of the opportunity to interpret and understand it."







"There has been outrage from the ethical metal detecting community at this news."

"The overwhelming majority of detectorists adhere to The Code of Practice for Responsible Metal Detecting and report their finds to both the landowner and the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS). They have a love of the outdoors and history, and fully respect farmland."

#### **Bexhill - Suspicious metal detecting**

A member of the public alerted the police to a man digging holes, while metal detecting on the Bexhill Downs, Bexhill on Sea. The site is privately owned and no metal detecting is allowed without the landowner's permission.

Many metal detectorists do seek land owners permissions and carry out their hobby lawfully but there are some that need to be reminded that, without permission, such acts are illegal and cause criminal damage.





A series of holes that were made are consistent with illicit metal detecting

# **B24 Liberator Memorial Butts Brow, Willingdon, Eastbourne**

This WWII crash site is protected by The Protection of Military Remains Act 1986

This downland is rich in history and is abundant in heritage assets. Owners of the land, Eastbourne Borough Council, do not give anyone permission to use a metal detector on their property.

Eastbourne Borough Council Heritage Manager Jo Seaman said "Any illegal metal detecting is an act of destruction of our collective heritage for the benefit of personal gain, but to desecrate a site where these brave young airmen lost their lives for some sort of trophy hunting is beyond belief. "



Digging is consistent with Illicit metal detecting

# Firearms, Ordinance & Sharps



Raising awareness around militaria and firearms and their respective legalities is vital, especially around the Military Remains Act 1986, the Protected Wrecks Act 1973 and the Theft Act 1968.

#### **WWI Mills No 5 Grenade**







A local charity shop in Worthing had a nasty shock last week when this hand grenade was found within a bag of donated items, not knowing if the grenade was live we were contacted, an officer attended who contacted the Army's explosive disposal unit who attended the scene to ensure the item was safe.

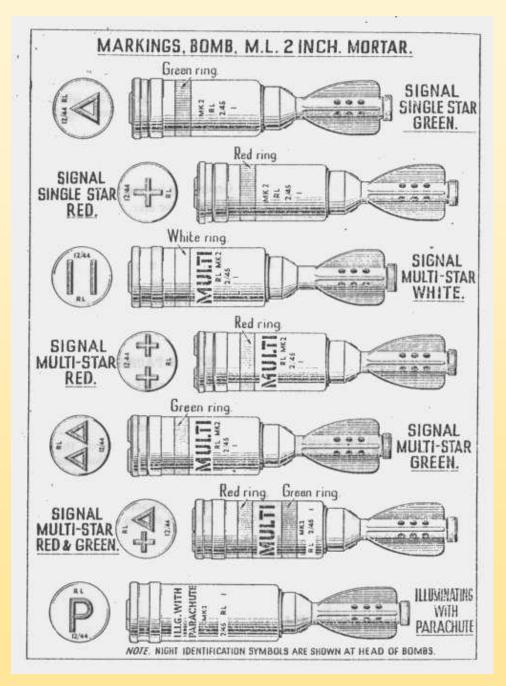
Thankfully the grenade was found to have been deactivated, the donator of the item was traced and was very sorry for the concern they had caused.

#### **WWII 2 Inch Mortar Shell**





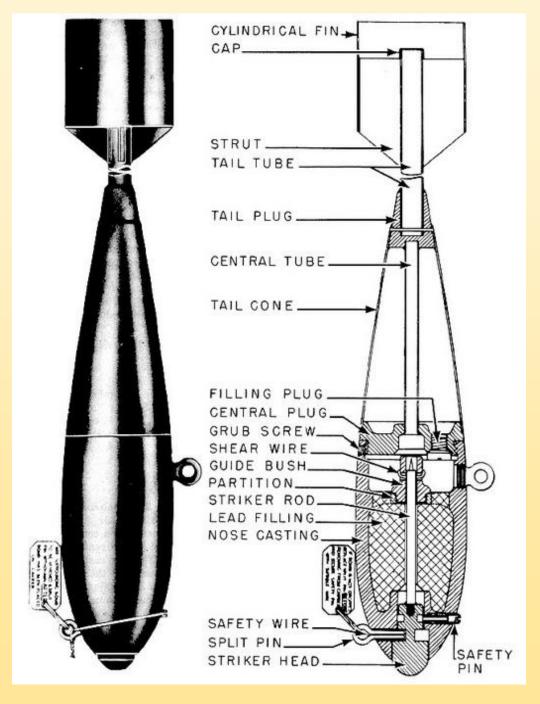




#### WWII 10lb practice bomb







#### Loft Finds - what would you do if you found these?

















Call the authorities

#### Machine gun recovered from Battle of Britain Spitfire

A historic machine gun recovered following a plane crash is set to go on display, giving viewers an opportunity to relive the Battle of Britain. The Browning 303 Spitfire machine gun was acquired by a Hastings resident approximately 50 years ago and has been kept in storage ever since.

Whilst the gun was being made safe it was discovered that there was a live round in its breach. The overall poor condition of the weapon does not lessen that fact that this was a very dangerous find.

Firearms or ordnance could well have component parts that make up a firearm, thus breaching the Firearms Act 1968. If unknowingly sold on, they could find their way in to unscrupulous hands.

The other concern is if heritage assets or objects are sold on, they lose their provenance and that becomes a sad loss to us all. Fortunately there is a happy ending for this find...



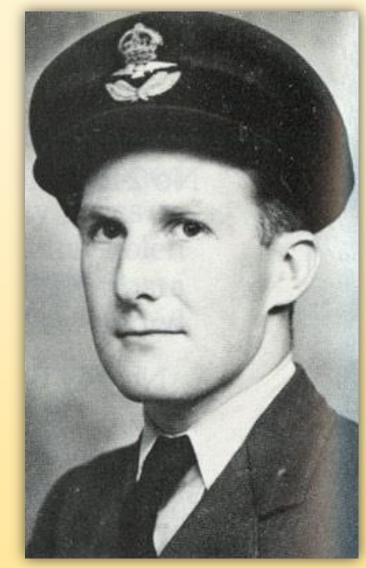
#### **Statement from High Wycombe:**

The Browning 303 machine gun represents a significant part of the RAF's Heritage, this weapon system was utilised in many theatres and aircraft variants during World War Two.

This particular incident helps to highlight the personal aspect of warfare by tracing the origin of the machine gun; Spitfire X4237 piloted by Sgt David Cox from 19 Sqn based at RAF Duxford, was shot down on 27 September 1940. Fortunately, Sgt Cox survived the ordeal after bailing out of the stricken aircraft, although receiving wounds which took him out of action for three months. He fought on and was later awarded the DFC with Bar and a Croix de Guerre for his gallant service. He survived the war and left the RAF in March 1946 as a Wing Commander.

Retaining links to the RAF community, through both the Air Training Corps and as an honorary member of the Officers Mess at RAF Binsbrook, at the age of 60 he realised an ambition to fly in a supersonic aircraft when, as part of the 40th anniversary of the Battle of Britain celebrations, he flew in one of the Station's Lightning trainer aircraft. He died at the age of 84 in 2004.

In this particular case we are delighted to see an artefact of this nature come home so it may be displayed safely. Unfortunately, 96 years after its formation, 19 Sqn was disbanded on 24 November 2011, consequently the gun will be displayed in the Southdown Heritage Centre located at RAF High Wycombe.



Sgt David Cox from 19 Sqn based at RAF Duxford

# How is the historic environment protected?

**Designation** highlights a building, site or area's special interest and value to this and future generations and gives it protection under law or policy for example **listing and scheduling** 

It allows us to protect, manage, enjoy and celebrate England's historic buildings, parks, monuments, gardens, wreck sites and battlefields.

Sussex has at least one of each ......

Some of the most important heritage assets in Sussex are protected through designation

The following are designated:

667 Scheduled Monuments,15,436 Listed Buildings,2 Registered Battlefields,75 Parks and Gardensand 6 Designated Wrecks

BUT...

Over 90% of the <u>recorded</u> heritage is un-designated and therefore not protected by law

## Acts and offences

**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** 

**Criminal Damage Act 1971** 

**Protected Wrecks Act 1973** 

**Treasure Act 1996** 

**Merchant Shipping Act 1995** 

**Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005** 

**Protection of Military Remains Act 1986** 

Theft Act 1968 including Burglary and Going Equipped to Steal

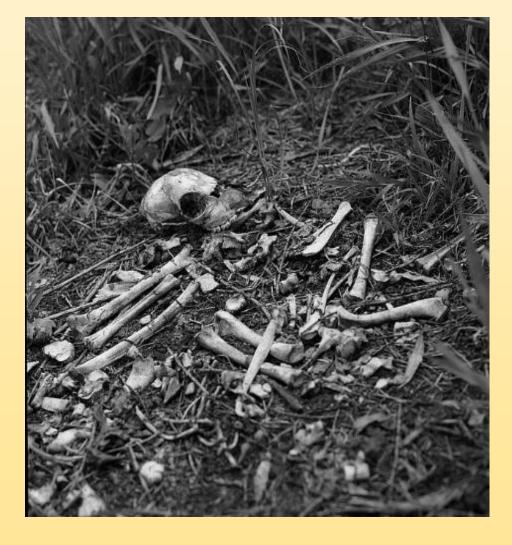
**Dealing in Cultural Objects Act 2003** 

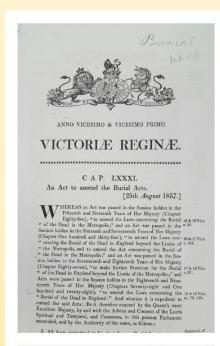
**Road Traffic Offences** 

## **Burial Act 1857**

BONES - DO NOT TOUCH OR

**REMOVE!** Contact Police





#### 20° & 21° VICTORIÆ, Cap.81.

Application of such Monies; and the net Monies to be received by such Trustee or Trustee under any of the preceding Powers shall be applied by them in discharge of any Incumbrances affecting such Gemetery or Burial Ground, and any Debts which such Trustee or Trustees may have properly incurred in their fidoriety Capacity; and any Residue of such Monies shall, where such Land or Buikings shall have been held in trust for any Phrash, be applied in such Manner, for the Benefit of such Parish, as the Vestry of such Parish shall direct; but where such Land or Buikings shall have been held in trust for the Benefit of private Persons, such Itealize shall be divided by puck Trustee; and it shall be lawful for such Trustee or Trustees so to apply any reserved Pauli in hir or their Hands.

NXV. Except in the Cases where a Body is removed from one balles were consecurated Place of Burish is another by Faculty granted by which the Ordnary for that Purpose, it shall not be barded to remove any Bardia Mayor and the Condition of the Cases of the Cases of the Condition of the Cases of the Cases

XXVI. Where any Cenntery in shield Burish have, by Order Barist in Causale, under the herein-before recited Acts or any of them, Bessels may been ordered to be discontinued, is adjoining or near to any Land in sestimal perporting and a part of the propose of a Berisl Ground, and appears to such Board eligible before which for the Purpose of a Berisl Ground, and suppears to such Board eligible before which with the Approaches to such Board, with the Approaches to such Board, with the Approaches to such Board Ground, it shall be having for making elastic such that the control of the Vesty or respective Vestries, to purchase such Centeury or respective Vestries, to purchase such Centeury and the Centeury of the State of the St

XXVII. No Resolution or Proceeding of any Vestry, or Meeting Resolution



<u>Home</u>

#### Form

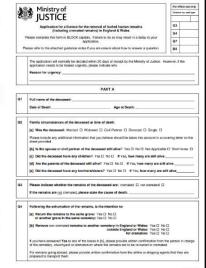
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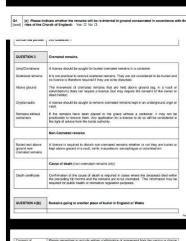
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First published: 2 Febr
Applies to: Englar

Application form for buried human remai cremated remains).

#### **Documents**







Ap lice of rer What do you do if you see evidence of Heritage Crime?

# Report, Report, Report...

## HOW TO REPORT A HERITAGE CRIME

The following is an aide memoir - useful for reporting a crime that has been carried out to a church, historic building or archaeological site.

1. If an incident is **OCCUTTING NOW** or if suspects are still at the location dial 999 and ask for police attendance.

If the incident has **already happened** and suspects are no longer present please report via your local police website – or the local non-emergency police number, **101** or Crime Stoppers on **0800 555111**. If connected to a Contact Centre, ensure you state that you wish to **'REPORT A HERITAGE CRIME'**.

- 2. Give details of the offence you wish to report, such as THEFT or CRIMINAL DAMAGE
- 3. Give them your details full name, personal address and contact telephone number(s), e-mail address.
- 4. Give full victim details.
- 5. Give full location including postcode e.g. Blogs Street, Blogsville, Blogshire, BG1 1AA. Please inform them that a **HERITAGE CRIME** has been perpetrated at a **HERITAGE ASSET**.
- 6. Provide an accurate timeframe encompassing when the offence took place as best you can.
- 7. Detail property damaged or items stolen including identifiable marks etc if possible.
- 8. Provide a clear summary of what has happened. Give events in chronological order.
- 9. Ask for a crime or police reference number.

# What can I offer?

- Give presentations
- Visit heritage sites and help to raise its profile
- Attend events with heritage crime display
- Support partners and the heritage community
- Increase awareness through social media
- Create networks and partnerships
- Offer advice on heritage crime prevention
- Write and share further guidance

#### **Guidance and advice sheets**



HOW TO IMPLEMENT A CRIME PREVENTION STRATEGY



Illicit Metal Detecting



A Heritage Protection Guide

# Safeguarding Museums & Collections



How to implement a basic safeguarding strategy

#### **ADVICE TO CHURCH WARDENS**



HOW TO IMPLEMENT
A CRIME PREVENTION STRATEGY

#### Magnet Fishing



A Heritage Protection Guide

#### **Social Media**





Facebook: Sussex Heritage

Twitter: @Sussex\_Heritage

E-mail: Sussexheritagecommunity@gmail.com

Website: https://davidbexhill.wixsite/sussexheritage

You Tube: Sussex Heritage Community



#### Credit to:

Eastbourne Herald, Mid Sussex Times, Argus, Rye and Battle Observer, BBC News, Frank Le Duc, Edwin Wood, Shoreham Fort, Sussex Police and Historic England

\* This presentation and Sussex Heritage Community is not affiliated to Sussex Police.