

THE LANGTOFT HOARDS

Jimmy Haley, Paul Rennoldson
& Stephen Best

If anyone had said we would ever be involved in finding one hoard, never mind two, we would have said that it would have been easier to win the lottery. But that's exactly what happened.

It all started on 24 September 2000, when Jimmy Haley, Paul Rennoldson and myself (Stephen Best) travelled down to York for a weekend's detecting. On the Saturday we had acquired some land to detect on, but had not made many finds. On Sunday we started the day less than confident as we headed off towards Langtoft. Paul had researched some sites in the area and noticed one field with an interesting feature on it. After seeking out the farmer concerned, a nicer man you couldn't have wished to meet, we gained search permission. Once on the field itself, we decided to split up and head off in different directions.

After a while I bumped into Paul and on comparing notes we decided that it was yet another barren field. Just as we were about to try elsewhere we noticed Jimmy, who was over on the other side of the field, waving his arms and shouting for us to come over.

When we reached him Jimmy said "I think I've found a hoard". Needless to say we didn't believe him, but then he opened his hand to reveal half a dozen silver washed radiates in excellent condition. We then knew there had to be a hoard nearby. Eventually, with pockets bulging, Paul shouted for us to come over. He had got a deep signal, and when he had dug down about a foot he had come across an incomplete earthenware pot full of bronze radiates. We all looked at each other in disbelief, experiencing the ultimate adrenaline rush.

We decided at this point to leave the bulk of the coins and concentrate on finding the loose ones. A short time later Jimmy and Paul located a few large *folles* a few yards away, and we then knew that there had to be a second hoard. On quickly joining them, my very first signal in that area proved to



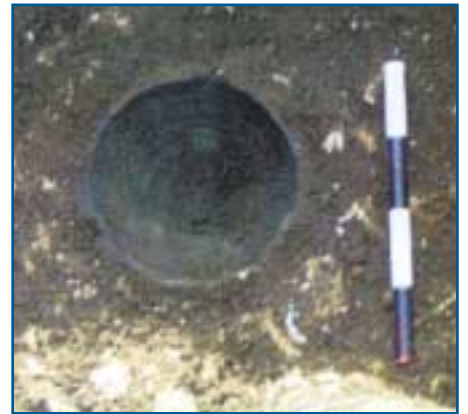
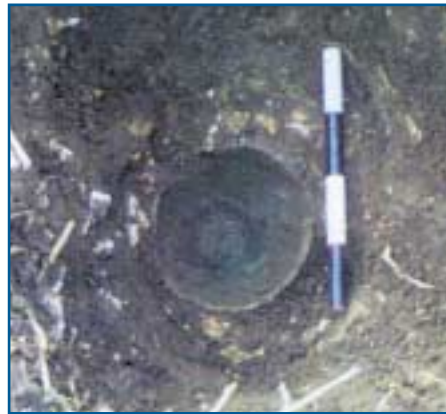
Above: The hoard of large folles



Right: Jimmy Haley with the folles hoard

Below: The two hoard pots

Photos courtesy Craig Barclay, Yorkshire Museum



be the second pot, again about a foot deep. On digging down these coins revealed themselves inside another earthenware pot, with less plough damage than the first. This pot contained mostly large *folles*. We then decided we should inform the farmer. Unfortunately, when we called at the farmhouse no one was around. We therefore left him a note, telling him to get to the field as quickly as possible. Twenty minutes later he roared up in his van, not knowing what to expect. When he saw what had been found he was as surprised as the rest of us.

As it was a Sunday, we decided to

bag up the coins but leave the pots in situ. On Monday morning we contacted Craig Barclay at York Museum and arranged for him to meet us on the field. Upon his arrival, Craig shook our hands and congratulated us on an excellent find. In the meantime, Craig had contacted D. Evans and D. Atkinson, Humber field archaeologists, to come and excavate the two pots.

After photographing and measuring the finds, Craig took the coins back with him to the museum for examination. The coins were in such good condition that they did not need much cleaning. As it turned out, we had

Draft Catalogue			
	Deposited 25/9/2000	Deposited 18/10/2000	Total
Parcel 1 (976)			
Folles			
Diocletian	106	1	107
Maximian	73	4	77
Constantius I	102	7	109
Galerius	96	1	97
Uncertain	8	-	8
TOTAL	385	13	398
Radiates			
Valenan	1	-	1
Gallienus	59	-	59
Salonina	6	-	6
Claudius II	71	1	72
Postumus	1	-	1
Victorinus	1	-	1
Quintillus	6	-	6
Aurelian	34	-	34
Severina	4	-	4
Tacitus	68	-	68
Florian	5	-	5
Probus	172	-	172
Carus	4	-	4
Numerian	5	-	5
Carinus	10	-	10
Carausius	1	-	1
Allectus	1	-	1
Diocletian	61	-	61
Maximian	61	-	61
Galerius	2	-	2
Uncertain	-	1	1
TOTAL	573	2	575
Denarii			
Aurelian	1	-	1
Severina	2	-	2
TOTAL	3	-	3
Parcel 2 (926)			
Folles			
London	458	92	550
Trier	228	36	264
Minor mints	48	6	54
Uncertain	51	7	58
TOTAL	785	141	926

found two separate hoards buried 20 years or so apart, with approximately 15ft between them. The total of coins from both hoards was 1,902, some coins never having seen circulation.

The hoards were declared Treasure at Hull Coroner's Court and are now awaiting valuation. Jimmy swears that there was some divine intervention taking place on that day. His first find, after some time detecting, was a ring pull which he threw away in disgust exclaiming "God, what have I got to do to find something decent?" His very next signal, one minute later, was the first Roman coin, and the rest is history.

In conclusion, we would like to thank the farmer and archaeologists

involved for making this a day we will never forget. The following is an account of our find submitted to the Coroner's Court.

Langtoft: Potential Treasure

On 24 September 2000 Messrs. Paul Rennoldson, Stephen Best and James Haley discovered two pots containing a large number of Roman coins whilst metal detecting on farmland at Langtoft, East Riding of Yorkshire. The finders recovered the coins, but left the pots in situ. On 25 September the finders contacted the Yorkshire Museum to report the find and requested that an archaeological team should attend in order to record the pots whilst they were still in the ground. In response to



Jimmy Haley



Paul Rennoldson



Stephen Best

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this request, Messrs. D. Evans and D. Atkinson of Humber Field Archaeologists attended the site, where they recorded and excavated the two pots.

A number of additional coins were also recovered during the course of, and after, these excavations. On 25 September a total of 1746 coins were passed by the finders to Craig Barclay of the Yorkshire Museum. These coins were accompanied by numerous fragments of pottery (recovered by the archaeological team) and a lead cube found close to one of the pots. The finders returned to the site on 3 and 14 October, recovering a further 156 coins and several fragments of pottery. These were received by the Yorkshire Museum on 18 October 2000.

It is clear from the examination of the coins that the find can be divided into two distinct parcels. The first of these, comprising a total of 976 denarii, radiates and large folles, contains no coins post-dating the abdication of Diocletian and Maximianus in AD 305 and was accordingly probably deposited prior to that date. The second parcel, comprising exclusively reduced folles of the family of Constantine the Great, was probably deposited in the mid 320s



Jimmy Haley
Paul Rennoldson
Stephen Best

*Surface finds -
coins and some
pieces of broken pot.*

AD. The composition of the two parcels may be summarized as follows:-
See Draft Catalogue

Given that the majority of the coins were found buried in two pots, there can be no doubt that the find represents two hoard groups. Given that the parcels were deposited c. AD 305 (parcel 1) and c. AD 325 (Parcel 2) respectively, there can equally be no doubt that the coins and associated pottery are in excess of 300 years of age and are accordingly Treasure as defined by the Treasure Act (1996).

Although the bulk of the pottery

and a few of the coins were recovered by staff of Humber Field Archaeology, it should be noted that the Treasure Act 1996 Code of Practice (II, 74) states that "If a finder does not remove the whole of a find from the ground, but reports it, thus affording the opportunity for the archaeological excavation of the remainder of the find, the original finder will normally be eligible for the whole of the find and not just that part which he himself had removed from the ground..."

Craig Barclay, Adviser on Treasure
16/11/2000

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