



Become a Finds Liaison Officer!

Suitable for
Ages 8+

Time: around
1 hour

Overview: The role of a Finds Liaison Officer is varied and interesting. One of their jobs is to identify the archaeological finds that people bring for them to see. This activity gets people to have a go at identifying and dating some finds from the PAS database.

Learning objectives/skills: This activity uses critical thinking skills and knowledge of history/archaeology.

Materials: Examples of objects from the database. You can use the ones provided here or you can pick your own from the database.

Preparation: Cut out and laminate the object images and put them into a finds bag. If you have a large group, you may want to create several finds bags so you can split people into smaller groups. Or, if you have a selection of finds or replica artefacts arrange them onto trays. You will also need to create a sheet of the answers.

Instructions

- It is a good idea to have a quick refresher of the major archaeological periods (Prehistory to present, along with different periods of prehistory and history).
- Give a finds bag/tray to each group and get them to identify and date each of the objects within. You can add an element of movement to the activity by giving each person an object and asking them to line themselves up in the correct date order.
- Next, ask the young people to decide whether or not they should be recorded on the database according to the recording criteria (see right). Interestingly, all of the objects were recorded on the database due to the place and context of their discoveries, but some of them (e.g. gunflints) are very common finds.
- You can look up the objects on the PAS database to find out more about them.

Find out more about the role of the Portable Antiquities Scheme in our bumper resource pack [here!](#)

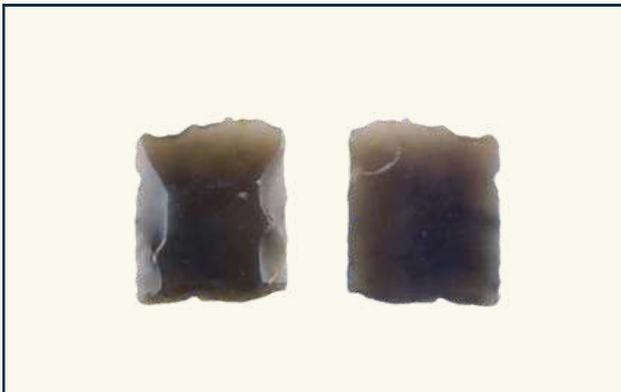


For an object to be recorded onto the PAS database it must:

- Date to 1540AD or earlier
- Be made or modified by humans
- Not be from an organised archaeological project

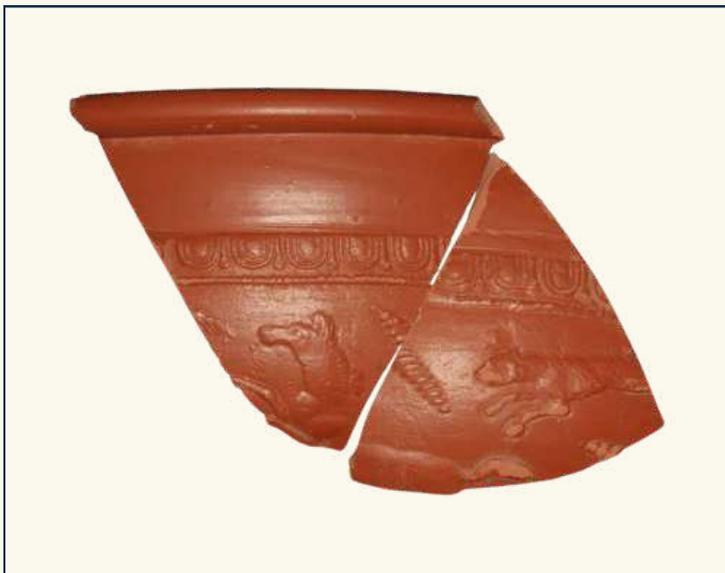


Object examples to print and cut-out





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PALAEOLITHIC



Flint handaxe; 600,000-150,000BC. Found in Norfolk. Recorded as NMS-558D58 on the PAS Database.

MESOLITHIC



Four flint microliths; 6000-3500BC. Found in Lincolnshire. Recorded as SWYOR-D04151 on the PAS Database.

NEOLITHIC



Polished flint axehead; 4000-2200BC. Found in Norfolk. Recorded as CAM-97F9E7 on the PAS Database.

BRONZE AGE



Socketed copper alloy axehead; 1000-800BC. Found in Shropshire. Recorded as LVPL-FA9A48 on the PAS Database.

IRON AGE



Gold stater of the Ambiani tribe; 60-55BC. Found in Essex. Recorded as ESS-D2002A on the PAS Database.

ROMAN



Samian ware pottery sherds; AD70-230. Found in Somerset. Recorded as SOM-20F51D on the PAS Database.

EARLY MEDIEVAL



Copper alloy Great Square Headed brooch; AD525-560. Found in Lincolnshire. Recorded as LIN-7AC173 on the PAS Database.

MEDIEVAL



Silver halfgroat of Henry VII; AD1486-1500. Found in Norfolk. Recorded as NMS-90B6B6 on the PAS Database.

POST-MEDIEVAL



Gunflint from a flintlock musket; AD1600-1900. Found in North Yorkshire. Recorded as YORYM-5F5645 on the PAS Database.

MODERN



Copper alloy regimental badge; AD1862-1966. Found in York. Recorded as PUBLIC-9FB54E.