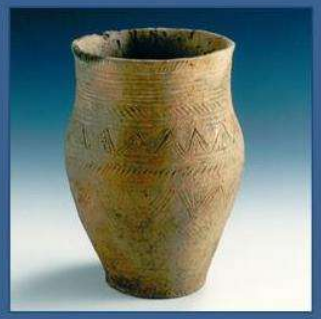
Treasure Trove



Contact Details

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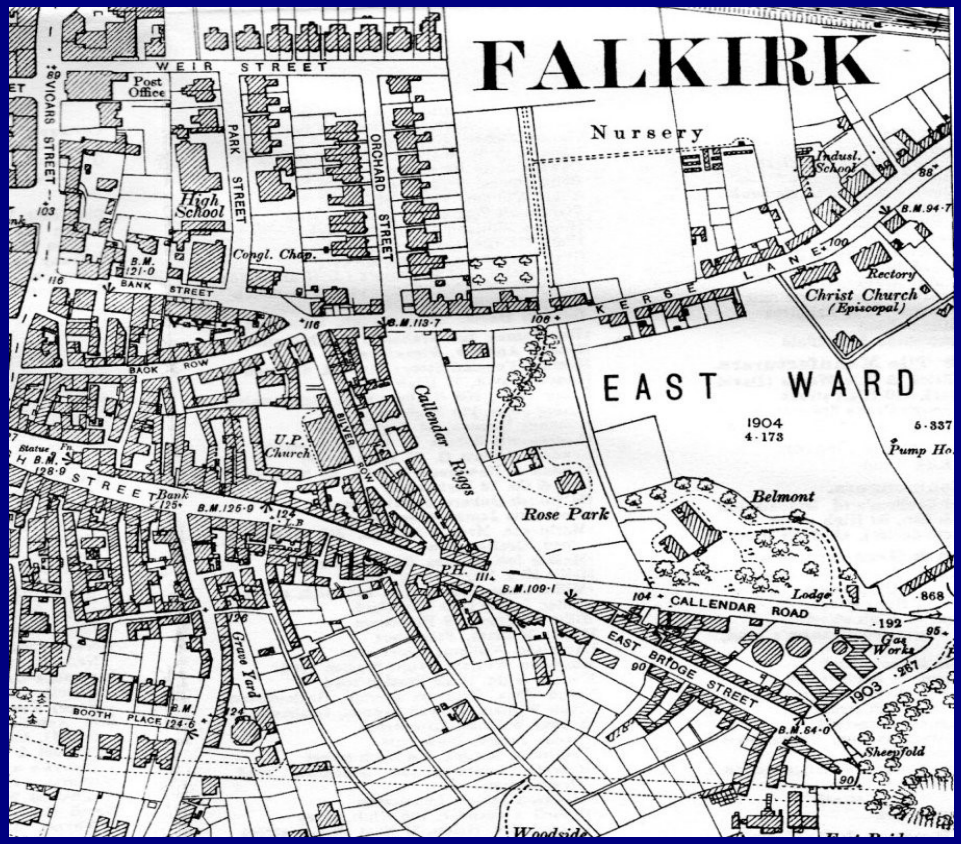
QLTR Queen's & Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer

The Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

Treasure Trove in Scotland:

A guide to the treasure trove system

'Protecting our archaeological heritage for the nation'



Falkirk – Bell's Meadow

Coin hoard found in 1933 with 1,925 silver Roman coins dating from 38 BC – AD 230.

Rim of the terra-cotta jar was packed with a “dog tooth” check woven fabric – now referred to as the “Falkirk tartan”.

Mildenhall - Suffolk

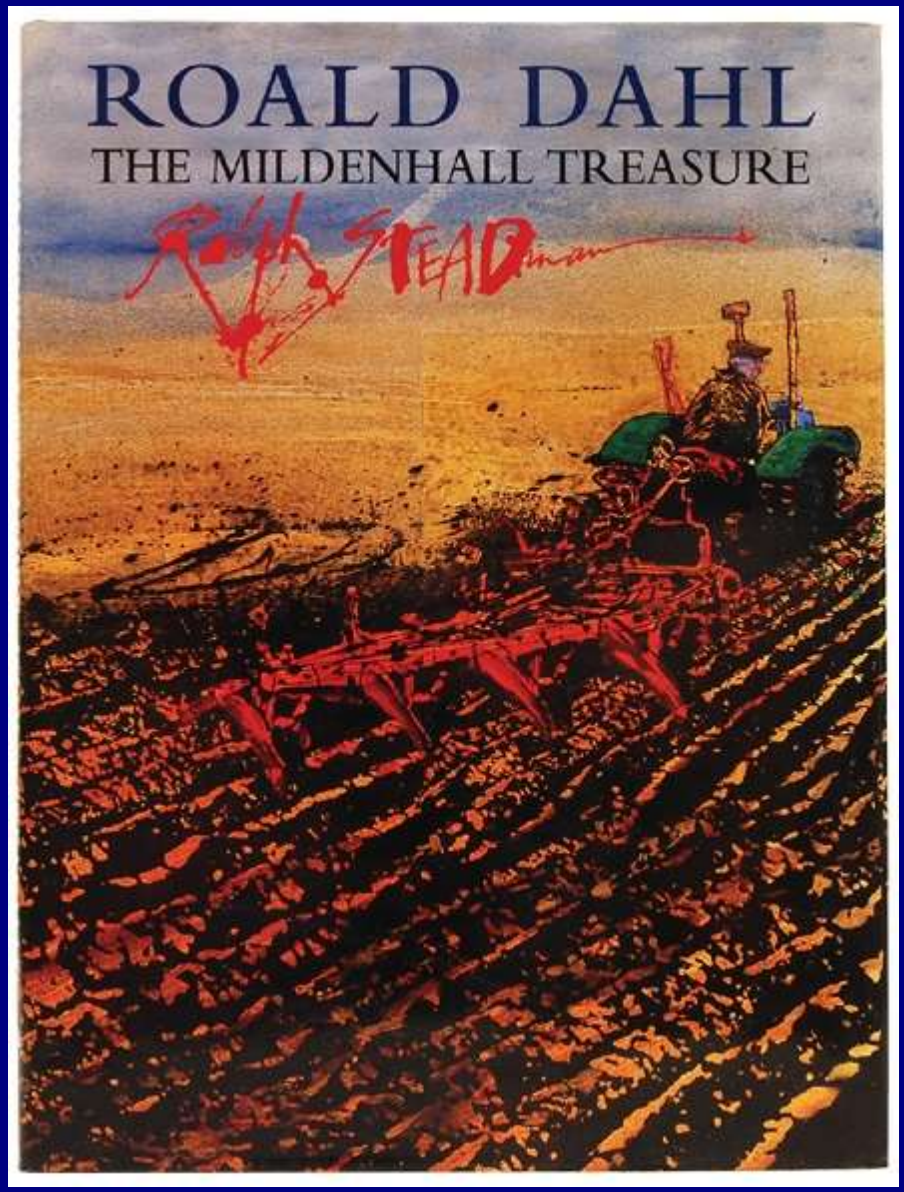
Mildenhall Treasure – Suffolk

34 silver items discovered by a ploughman in 1942 but not reported by the land owner until 1946.

The Treasure Trove reward was £2,000.

Neptune Platter -

measures 603 mm in diameter and weighs over 18 lbs.



Mildenhall Treasure by Roald Dahl 1977

Snettisham - Norfolk

Snettisham Iron Age Hoard :

Farmer ploughing his field in 1948 found this great gold torc weighing 2.3 pounds

The find was reported and declared Treasure Trove. It was bought by the British Museum.

Snettisham was within the tribal area of the Iceni tribe in Roman times.

Snettisham – Norfolk

12 separate hoards of artifacts have been discovered over the past 60 years in this area, most dating from the Iron Age period 600 BC – AD 400.

St Ninian's Isle - Shetland

St Ninian's Isle Chapel – Excavation 1958

St Ninian's Isle Treasure -

Found by a school boy who was helping on the excavation being carried out in 1958.

The hoard comprises of 28 silver & silver gilt objects made up of pennanular brooches, bowls, mounts and 2 sword chapes.

The objects date to between AD 750 to 825.

The treasure had been buried in a wooden box below the floor of the early church most likely to avoid being discovered during a Viking raid.

St Ninian's Isle Treasure -

Sword Chapes
AD 750 to 825

Harehope -
Peeblesshire.

Bronze Age Burial Cist :
2,500 – 600 BC

Burial cist found by ploughing in 1982.

The grave goods comprised of a Bronze Axe Head, 6 wrist bracelets, 2 ankle bracelets, 32 jet buttons and 10 bronze tubes for a necklace.

Blair Drummond - Stirlingshire

Blair Drummond Treasure :

4 gold necklaces or torcs & 1 pair of earrings found in September 2009 - date from between the 1st & 3rd century BC.

The finder was paid £462,000.

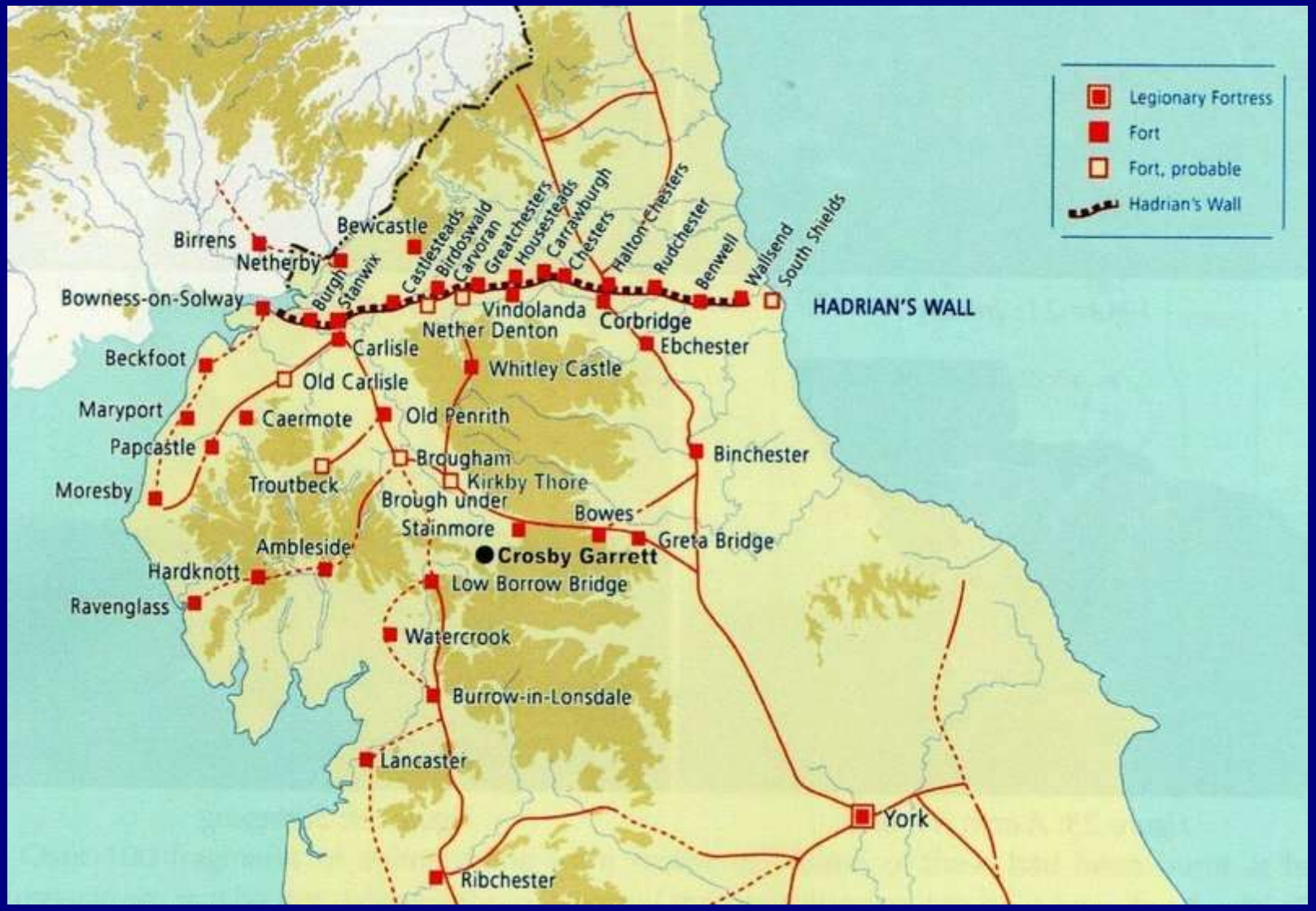
River Thames – Treasure Hunter or “Mudlarker”

Finds recovered from the banks of the River Thames, include pottery of all periods, clay pipes, glass bottles and metal objects.

River Thames -

Treasure hunters in 2015 unearthed a tiny trove of Tudor gold of the 16th century.

Beads, studs and aglets – metal tips for laces most likely from a wealthy persons hat.



Hadrian's Wall – the Roman Frontier in the North of England

Crosby Garrett - Cumbria.

Roman Cavalry Officers Parade Helmet from the late 1st or early 2nd century AD.

Found in 2014 by a metal detectorist

The item was Treasure Troved and went to auction where it sold for 2.3 million pounds to anonymous buyer.

Harrogate – Vale of York

Harrogate -
North Yorkshire.

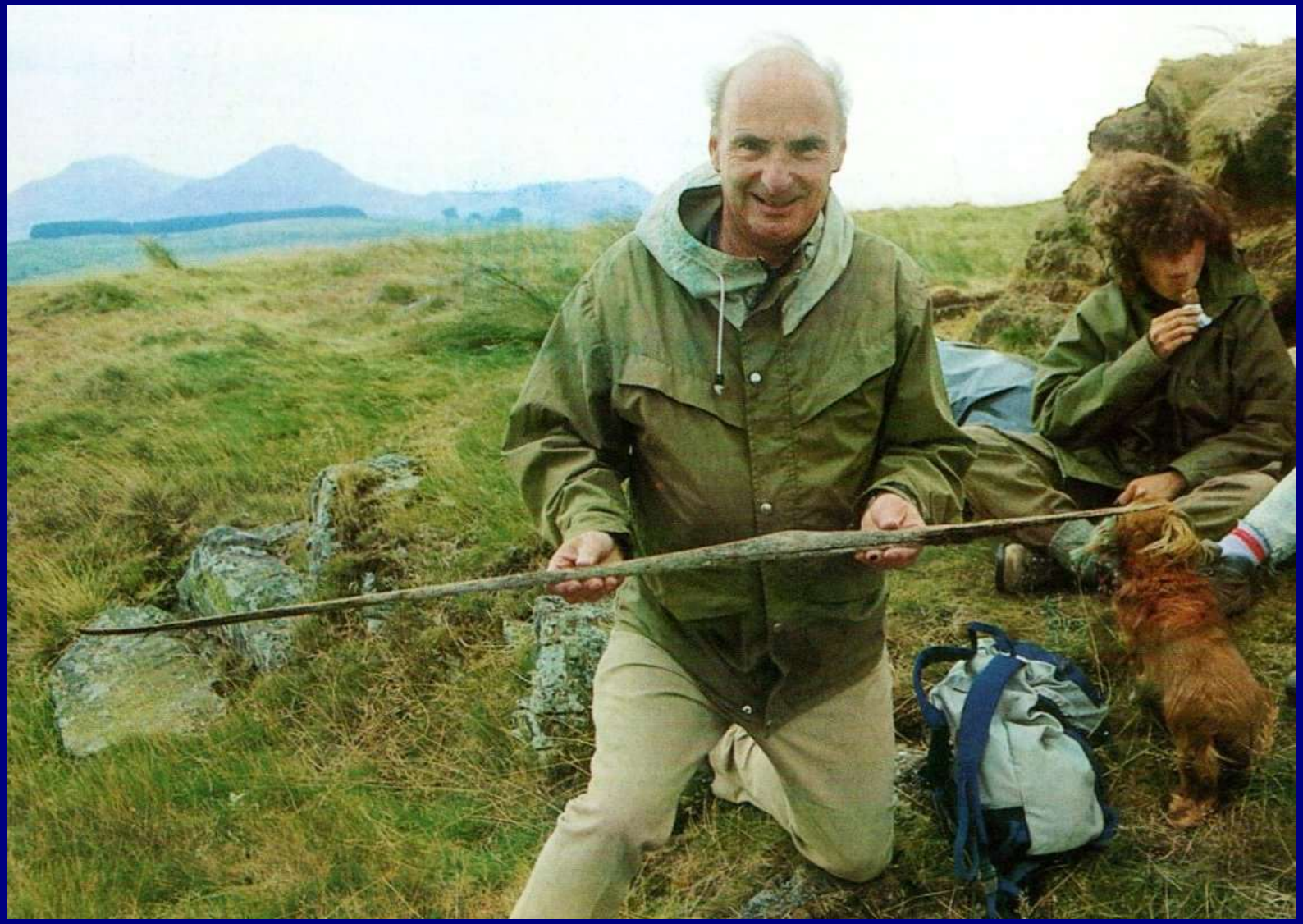
Viking hoard of silver treasure was found on farm-land by a father & son metal detector team in 2007.

The objects were Treasure Troved and valued at £1,082,000.

The hoard was bought by the British Museum & the York Museum Trust.

The silver cup contained 617 coins and various fragments of silver, ingots and rings.

The objects date to around AD 927.



Rottenbottom - Peeblesshire

This Neolithic Age wooden long bow was found in 1990 in peat and has been radio carbon dated to 2,500 – 2,400 BC.

Shropshire Piano Hoard - 2017

This hoard comprised of 913 gold sovereigns and half sovereigns stashed in 8 pouches under the keyboard of an upright piano. The coins date from 1847 To 1915. The coins were classed as Treasure Trove and valued at £500,000.

Galloway – Viking Hoard discovered in 2014 and valued at £1.98 million pounds

Finder – Derek McLennan

Archaeologist – recording the finds

The Viking Age hoard contained over 100 gold, silver and jewelled treasures, many held in this decorated silver-gilt cup or pot of continental or Byzantine origin.

The container was wrapped in textiles.

The hoard was buried about 1,000 years ago perhaps during a time of unrest in the south of Scotland.

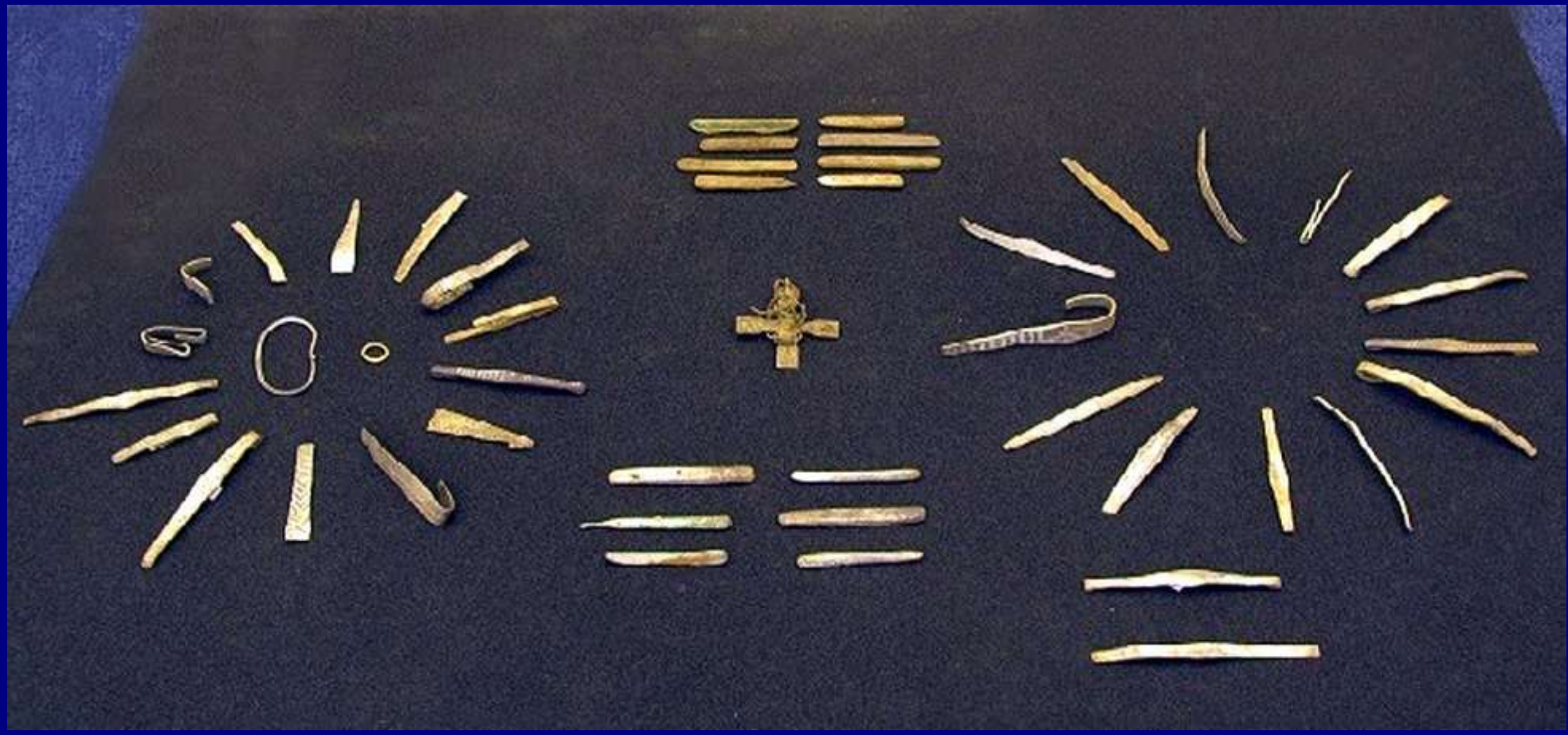
Galloway Hoard -

Includes

5 Anglo-Saxon disc brooches

2 Aestels or pointers, used to read or mark places within medieval manuscripts.

1 gold bird-shaped pin



Galloway Viking Hoard

The Antonine Wall – Rome's Northwest Frontier between AD 140 - 165

Westerwood – field west of Roman fort

Westerwood Roman Altar :
found in 1963

25 in high x 10 in wide x 9.5 in thick

Uig – Isle of Lewis

The Lewis chessmen were found in a sand dune by a cow in 1831. The hoard comprises of 93 gaming pieces (79 chessmen & 14 tables-men).
The pieces range in size from 60 -100 mm. and are made from walrus ivory and whales' teeth. They date from the late 12th and early 13th centuries AD.