

# AN INSCRIBED SPINDLE WHORL

June 29, 2012 Dot Boughton Day of Archaeology 2012, Finds Cumbria, Hoard, Lancashire, local metal detectorists, Non-metropolitan counties, Spindle

I hadn't planned for anything exciting today – but you never know what can happen. I had a new detectorist dropping in who recorded a Roman and a post medieval coin with me which was a nice surprise. The coins are recorded as [LANCUM-D92224](#) (Roman denarius of Hadrian) and [LANCUM-D8A9E3](#) (sixpence of Elizabeth I dating from 1572), both from Woodplumpton, Lancs. – it was very nice of the detectorist and his dad, the landowner, to think about recording their finds and I am glad that they somehow found their way to the PAS. I guess seven years ago when I started the job that would have been virtually impossible. Today, I am 'part of the team' for most of the detectorists in Lancashire and Cumbria.

Last night, a new club was founded: the Furness Finders. They got in touch with me BEFORE the meeting and asked me which days I couldn't attend the meetings. It's great that they want to make sure that the local FLO records their finds and I was pleasantly surprised. That ups my club count from two to three club in North Lancashire and Cumbria. Barrow has proven to be fantastic place to find 'stuff' recently: We have had the Viking hoard from the Furness area, a Chinese coin hoard and lately, the first ever Early Iron Age hoard in the area – all discovered by local metal detectorists and all reported within hours/days of discovery. Makes me happy to have played part in this.

Another nice surprise today was that one of my Cumbrian detectorists found an inscribed medieval spindle whorl (see image). I have no idea what it means, but I hope I will find out. I suspect it's just non-sensical lettering, but wouldn't it be great if it meant something? Unfortunately, I research Early Iron Age socketed axes, not medieval inscription, so all I could do was photoshop it and send it off to people who know more about medieval lettering than I do...



*Medieval lead-alloy inscribed spindle whorl from Great Mitton, Lancs.*