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**LANDSCAPE EXPLORERS GROUP IN THE SOUTH EAST**

**Recording made easy: Field Assemblage Recording Guide**

**Why should detectorists start to Field Assemblage Record (FAR) their finds: -**

1/ Easy self-recording method for individual finders, clubs and groups for recording historical objects discovered in a field that are over 300 years old.

2/ Individuals / club members can self-record their finds with basic descriptions, thus providing themselves with landscape information about their sites and without the need to take significant objects to the FLO, The FLO will contact the finders to fully identify and record certain objects if required.

3/ Benefits for the hobby: Promotes and encourages a wider range of finds recording and can create two-way interaction with FLO's and archaeologists about fields of interest adding to an increased knowledge and interest of the finder’s landscape information.

4/ Benefits for clubs: Members involvement in ID and interaction with new members.

5/ Benefits for archaeology:  A wider range of field finds information for the record.

6/ Supports the PAS: The PAS can pick finds from FAR lists for full database recording.

7/ Provides an easy and speedy method for recording current discoveries, also back recording, which could go as far back as when someone started metal detecting, if they can recall what fields their finds came from.

Back recording may not provide many exact find spots but the importance of having a basic assemblage list of finds made in a specific field can be invaluable.

FAR is a speedy method that enables finders to record their own finds easily with a basic find’s knowledge. It covers archaeological needs with a PAS safety net.

This method protects the metal detecting hobby and puts finders on a par with archaeology by being able to increase contributions to the heritage record in an easy format.

**How does it work: -**

1/FAR form:  One for individuals, one for group detecting.

2/ Use UK Grid Finder or GPS to find the centre of the field 8/10 fig grid ref. Write GR on the top of the FA form.

Print off a map from U.K. grid finder, or the large County map found on the county HER website.

3/ Highlight the field boundary.

4/ List the finds onto the form with identifications to the best of the finder’s ability and knowledge e.g., 1 hammered Penny short cross.

5/ A grid reference for treasure finds should be as accurate as possible and not just be included in the general field assemblage and preferably to 8 or 10 figures, with the use of a GPS device, UK Grid Finder, or ‘What 3 Words’ app.

It is recommended that finds thought to be significant are also given a more accurate grid reference. The finder can record every find with an accurate grid reference if they are minded to do so.

6/ Take photos of objects (both sides for coins) for each FAR form completed, in a group of items or a few groups of items and singularly for significant and treasure objects.

7/ Keep copies for your personal records and research, then send the FAR, photos and map of field to the FLO. The FLO might ask for more detail for finds, or more information about your site before passing the FAR information to be archived with the PAS.

8/ For group detecting, clubs, rallies etc., a coordinator (one or more) will be required to identify and complete the FAR forms, including finders contact details with their consent.

For the individual event the organisers will have to determine how best to arrange the recording e.g., a small club outing could have everything compiled at a club meeting at a later date, whereas a rally would need recorders on the day.

If possible, it is strongly advised that that the individual or group co-ordinator writes a brief general overview note on the reverse of the FAR about the field and search conditions e.g.: -

* The type of field - arable, ploughed or pasture.
* Pottery / flint artefacts sighted / collected.
* Location, (e.g., near a village).
* Flat or sloping ground.
* Ground conditions: Dry / damp / wet.
* Finds concentrations – Hoards / coin & artefact scatters.
* Any other observations.

**David Barwell Clive Sinclair Roger Mintey Geoff & Lesley Burr**

To contact LEGISE for further information on Finds Assemblage Recording please contact David Barwell by email: dantbarwell@hotmail.co.uk

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| --- | --- |
| **FINDERS NAME:** | **DATE:** |
| **PARISH:** | **TELEPHONE No:** |
| **CENTRE OF FIELD GRID REF:** | **Email:** |

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| **APPROX****AGE OF****FIND** | **DESCRIPTION** | **Exact National Grid Reference. See note below** |
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* **INDIVIDUALS FIELD ASSEMBLAGE RECORD.**
* **USE ONE SHEET (OR MORE) FOR EACH FIELD SEARCHED.**

**NB. Insert grid ref of field centre at top of form. Add accurate NGR or What3Words ref for all Treasure items.** It is recommended that finds thought to be significant are also given an accurate grid reference. The finder can record every find with an accurate grid reference if they are minded to do so. If using ‘What3Words’ grid references, please write these in the row directly above the find description.

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| --- | --- |
| **CENTRE OF FIELD GRID REF:** | **GROUP DETAIL (i.e., club name)** |
| **PARISH:** | **DATE:** |
| **RECORDERS NAME:** | **TELEPHONE No:** |
| **SHT No:** |  |

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| **FINDERS NAME** | **APPROX AGE** **OF FIND** | **DESCRIPTION** | **Exact grid ref or W3W see note below** |
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* **GROUP FIELD ASSEMBLAGE RECORD.**
* **USE ONE SHEET (OR MORE) FOR EACH FIELD SEARCHED.**

**NB. Insert grid ref of field centre at top of form. Add accurate NGR or What3Words ref for all Treasure items.** It is recommended that finds thought to be significant are also given an accurate grid reference. The finder can record every find with an accurate grid reference if they are minded to do so. If using ‘What3Words’ grid references, please write these in the row directly above the find description.

**FIELD OBSERVATIONS: -**

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| --- | --- |
| **Type of field – arable or pasture.** |  |
| **Pottery / flint artefacts sighted / collected.** |  |
| **Location (e.g., near a village).** |  |
| **Flat or sloping ground.** |  |
| **Ground conditions: Dry / damp / wet.** |  |
| **Finds concentrations – Hoards / coin & artefact scatters.**  |  |
| **Any other observations.** |  |