

Point 3.

Once we can read the signs in the landscape it will be so much easier to work out where the settlements, shrines and places of work of our ancestors lie. Figs.5-7 show a Merovingian gold tremissis (AD 620-640), a small "Saxon" gold thrymsa, and an early medieval mount. These were all found in the same field along an ancient route passing through good farming land and just above the flood plain of a winding river – a prime location in early medieval England!

Figs.8-12. show a Celtic gold quarter stater, a silver penny of King Offa (AD 757-796), a short cross silver hammered coin, a long cross silver hammered coin, and a Venetian silver solidus.

More than a thousand years separates the oldest and the youngest coins but they were all found in the same small field. The water theme also occurred at this location. The field is bounded by a river on one of its sides and a modern road on another. The road is believed to follow the path of a Roman road. Given that the field is right next to the river, it is easy to imagine the role it carried out for thousands of years as a stopping off place for travellers to rest and water their horses.

Point 4.

My ARCHI database was created so I could record the locations of thousands upon thousands of UK ancient sites. Once the database could tell me where the known sites were, I had the information I needed to start to work out why they were there.

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Fig.5. Merovingian gold tremissis (AD 620-640).



Fig.6. Small "Saxon" gold thrymsa.



Fig.9. Silver penny of King Offa (AD 757-796).



Fig.8. Celtic gold quarter stater.



Fig.7. Early medieval mount.



Fig.10. Short cross silver hammered penny.



Fig.11. Long cross silver hammered penny.



Fig.12. Venetian silver solidus.



Fig.13. Castleshaw Roman Fort. The first ancient site that inspired the realisation that my home town of Oldham's history went back much, much further than its cotton mills!