

**Pic.2.
Neolithic
arrowhead
found by
ARCHI
subscriber.**



sites in the area I was fieldwalking. I knew the landscape well, and now that I knew where my ancestors had settled I could begin to see the world through their eyes.

Now that I had seen and felt my first ancient settlement, I wanted to understand how the people of this place interacted with the people of other nearby settlements. How did they communicate with each other? Did they trade in the way we do? Did they see each other as a threat or did they live in harmony? Even though I was now getting somewhere, I was well aware that more sites had been found since the **Victoria County Histories** were published, and hence I reasoned that more sites could have been published in more recent books and journals.

It wasn't long before I had found a second-hand book shop that had a full set of *Britannia the Journal of Roman Studies*. Reading through the references at the end of many very interesting and informative articles I noticed other journals such as the *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society*. Reading through this journal I found out the most counties have their own journals dedicated to the archaeology and history of that particular county.

After five years' worth of weekends and evenings spent collecting information from many, many books and archaeology journals and entering it into my ARCHI database, I was now able to find out in seconds where exactly I needed to go to realise my dream of not only finding treasure, but also making that personal connection with the past which we all know does not have a price.

Now that I had a more “intelligent” approach to metal detecting, it wasn’t long before I was able to use the sites in my database (e.g. crop marks, habitation sites and find spots) to build up a picture of the past. Through place name studies, I began to learn more about the origins of our language. Place names became a particular fascination for me and so I added any place names which suggested antiquity to my ARCHI database. My favourite is Chipping. It is derived from

<p>Search ARCHI for sites near a town or village</p> <p>If you haven't used ARCHI before click here</p> <div style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 10px;"> <p>Password: <input type="text" value="myemail@myemail.com"/></p> <p>Place Name: <input type="text" value="ruehesler"/></p> <p>Area to search within: <input checked="" type="radio"/> 10 km <input type="radio"/> 5 km <input type="radio"/> 3 km</p> <p>Site Period: <input checked="" type="radio"/> All <input type="radio"/> Roman</p> <p>Larger Results Font: <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes</p> </div> <p align="center">Begin Search...</p>	<p>Search ARCHI by UK NGR Co-ordinate</p> <div style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 10px;"> <p>Password: <input type="text" value="ryemail@myemail.com"/></p> <p>NGR Letter Pair (eg TQ): <input type="text" value="TQ"/></p> <p>NGR X Axis (eg 12): <input type="text" value="12"/></p> <p>NGR Y Axis (eg 34): <input type="text" value="34"/></p> <p>Area to search within: <input checked="" type="radio"/> 10 km <input type="radio"/> 5 km <input type="radio"/> 3 km</p> </div> <p align="center">Begin Search...</p>
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Fig. 1. Screenshot of what I like to think of as my Portal to the Past. Building my ARCHI database has allowed me to instantly generate a snapshot of the kind of the ancient sites within 10km of any place in the UK. The links to the maps in the lists of results show the precise location of the site on the ground. This makes it very easy to locate the site and go and visit it. Once at the site, it is always worth taking the time to view the site in the context of the landscape around the site and try to work out why that particular position was chosen. This is an invaluable exercise which can help us gain a deeper insight into how our ancestors viewed the world.

Search by Type of Site


This search will enable you to find sites according to their generic type or classification.

For example, to locate 'banjo enclosures' in Hampshire, enter 'banjo' into the 'Site Type Keyword' box below (without the quotes).

Note: Not all of the records within ARCHII have been indexed so far by their generic type or classification.

Password:

Sitetype keyword:

County Name: 

Begin Search

Fig.2. Screenshot of the ARCHI “Site Type” search box. I added this feature to my site to address a problem I had while I was studying Field Archaeology. We were asked to write an essay to explain the “Distribution of Iron Age Hill forts”. I’m sure if I had easily available locational information at the time, my essay would have gained higher marks!

Search by Name of Site

This search will enable you to find sites by their commonly known name(s) or word elements.

For example, to find the site commonly known as **camelot**, simply enter this name into the 'Site Name Keyword' box below.

Password:	<input type="text"/>
Site Name keyword:	<input type="text"/>

Begin Search.

Fig.3. Screenshot of the ARCHI “Site Name” search box. I added this feature to make it easier for me to generate maps showing the locations of sites I knew of by name.

roman	Coin of Vespasian found , Stansted Mountfitchet, TL 4** 2**, essex	info	Road Map	19th C Map
roman	Denarius found; Roman coin found; Roman find found , Asheldham, TQ 9** 9**, essex	info	Road Map	19th C Map
roman	Findspot of Roman coin(s) , Rivenhall End, TL 8** 1**, essex	info	Road Map	19th C Map
roman	Findspot of Roman coin(s) , Saint Osyth, TM 1** 1**, essex	info	Road Map	19th C Map
roman	Findspot of Roman coin(s) , Old Harlow, TL 4** 1**, essex	info	Road Map	19th C Map
roman	Gold Roman coin found , Little Bromley, TL 0** 2**, essex	info	Road Map	19th C Map
roman	Gold coin found , Maldon, TL 8** 0**, essex	info	Road Map	19th C Map

Fig. 4. Screenshot of a portion of the results list generated by ARCHI. This particular ARCHI search was for Roman coins in a particular area. An appreciation of the distribution of findspots and the concentration of particular finds can help us build a picture of the economic status of an area in ancient times. Analysis of the findspots of Iron Age coins for example has enabled researchers to work out the extent of the regions controlled by particular Iron Age tribes. It is generally accepted that the finds reported by metal detectorists have been the main source of data for such analysis.