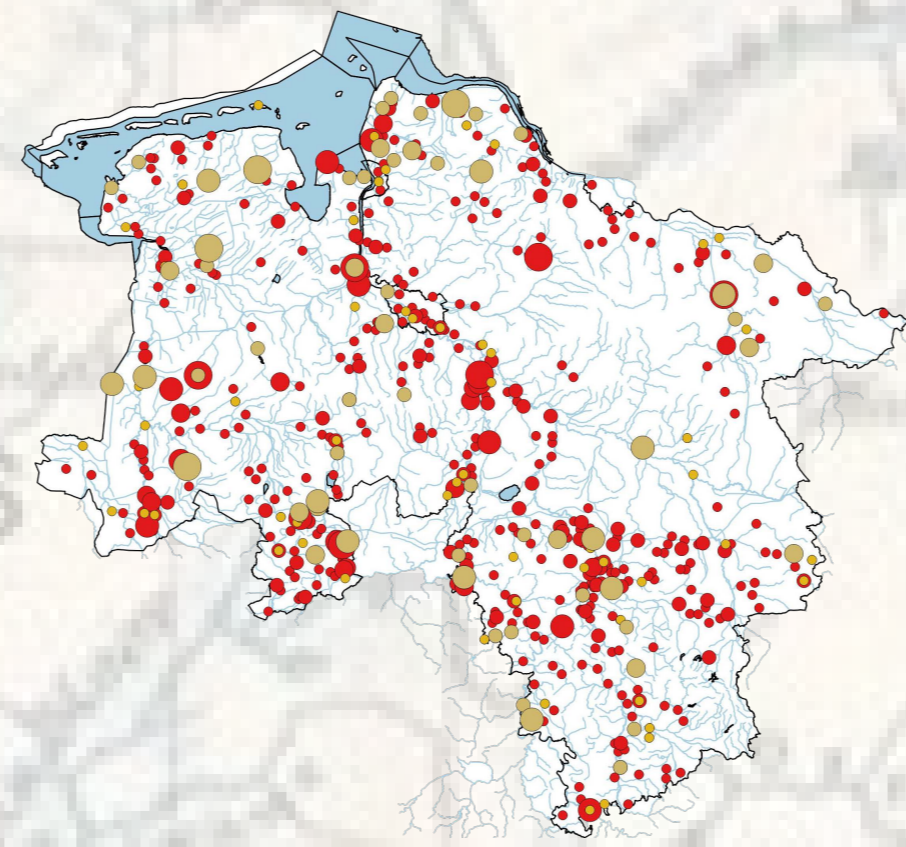


Recording of Ancient Coin Finds in Lower Saxony, Germany

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Progress in Coin Find Recording

Finds of ancient coins from Lower Saxony (Germany) were previously only presented in a short, simple list format. Since 2019 the older and more recent finds have been collected in a database. Seals, lead seals, tokens and coin weights have also been included. The chronological range of the objects which have been taken into consideration stretches from the first minting of coins until the death of Charlemagne in AD 814. As of June 2021 almost 7,200 numismatic objects from the ancient and medieval periods had been integrated into the database, which is about to be published. Of these about 4,200 objects are still accessible for study, around a quarter of which could be re-examined and documented through photography.

The collected coin finds of Lower Saxony were published by Frank Berger and Christian Stoess in 1988 and 1989. An appendix containing the coin finds up to 2006 was produced by Frank Berger and Friedhelm Wulf. The map showing the geographical spread could be generated thanks to ongoing finds recording supported by a database since 2019.

Coin finds from Lower Saxony available worldwide

The data pertaining to the coin finds recorded by the Lower Saxony State Office for Cultural Heritage covers the following areas:

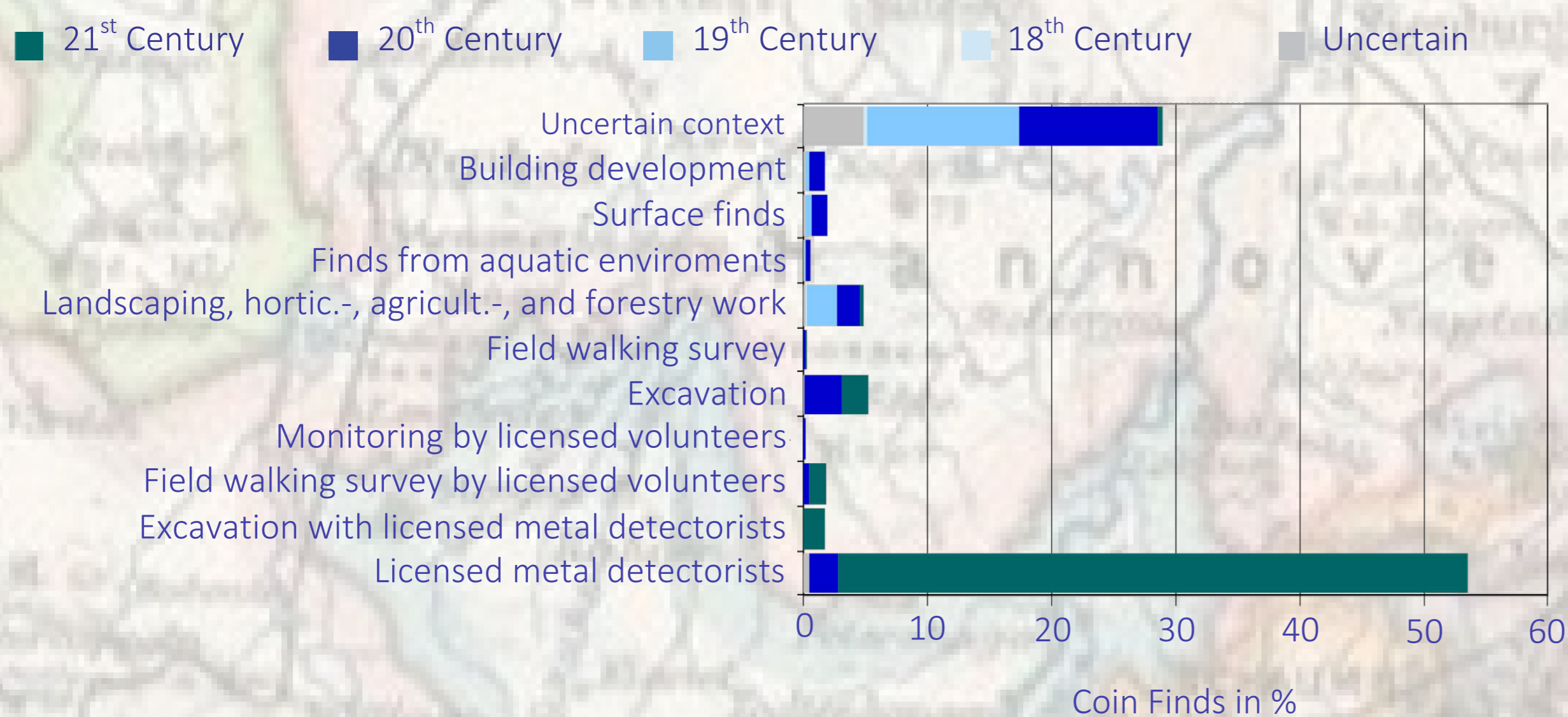
- Administrative data
- Archaeological data
- Technical data
- Image data

Additional norm data fields enable the data to be used internationally and ensure that it is clear and permanent and functions beyond language barriers.

The data is then uploaded onto KENOM and published. KENOM is part of the international numismatic network. It has fixed type portals, which are already available for numerous ancient coin types, and uses specifically numismatic norm data, as laid out by nomisma.org. NOMISMA is a project of the American Numismatic Society and other partners, which ensures that numismatic material is permanently available in digital format using the principle of Linked Open Data (LOD). Through the KENOM project, data relating to the finds of Lower Saxony are available worldwide and may be incorporated into other projects.



Conceptual database design for content, type and structure of the individual data fields for recording coin finds.



Nearly 50% of the ancient coins discovered in the last two decades as single finds were found by licensed metal detectorists working for the Lower Saxony State Office for Cultural Heritage.

Licensed metal detectorists

When found, a coin becomes an archaeological source, which, just as a ceramic article or a brooch, can be used for the chronological dating of a find spot or to answer questions relating to the nature and scale of commercial activities and the supply of material goods in a given area. The Lower Saxony State Office for Cultural Heritage has been holding regular training sessions for metal detectorists since 2015, and over 900 have successfully obtained qualifications.

Areas of particular cultural and historical importance in Lower Saxony, which have been investigated by licensed metal detectorists, include Elsfleth, Kalkriese, Harzhorn and Hedemünden.

Contact

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