



### **The Salisbury Hoard**

The Hoard was found in a field in Netherhampton and contained Bronze Age and Iron Age items (2400-200BC)

It is the largest group of prehistoric metal objects ever found in Britain and is housed in the British Museum.

It was first discovered in 1988, when archaeologist Dr Ian Stead was shown a collection of bronze miniature shields. He realized that they were unusual Iron Age artefacts, but did not know who found them or where they found them.

You will be able to read more about this in the Crime and Punishment section.

When the crime had been dealt with and the criminals persuaded to impart the information as to where they found them, proper excavations took place in 1993. It was then established that over 600 objects had been in a large pit close to a settlement. Most were miniature versions of objects such as shields, tools, dagger and spearheads. It is thought that they were probably buried as offerings to ancient gods. They were buried about 2000 years ago, at which time some of the objects were already 2,000 years old. It is possible the Bronze Age objects were dug up in the Iron Age and reburied with the other items.