

DETECTORISTS

Episode 1

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Distant bird song: SKYLARK
A bleak field of stubble.
We hear faint electronic whines and beeps.
Through the mist two stooped figures, LANCE and ANDY appear
some distance apart, wearing headphones and swinging metal
detectors in front of them.

LANCE
(calling out)
Anything?

ANDY
Fuck-all. Three shotgun caps and a
blakey.

They carry on in silence for a bit until Lance picks up a
signal and kneels down to dig a small hole with a trowel. *

ANDY (CONT'D)
What you got?

LANCE
Ring pull. '83. Tizer.

From a pocket on his 'utility vest' Lance pulls out a clear
plastic bag of ring pulls and pops it in.

ANDY
What d'you do with them?

LANCE
Bag'em up, stick 'em on ebay.
People buy this shit.

ANDY
Sad tits.

LANCE
You said it.

They continue across the field in silence.

TITLES:

DETECTORISTS

Andy and Lance are sitting under a tree eating their
sandwiches and drinking tea from a flask.

LANCE
See University Challenge?

ANDY
(sadly)
Yeah.

LANCE
Anything?

ANDY
Nah. You?

LANCE
Nah.
(beat)
Nearly got Benjamin Britton.

ANDY
You can't nearly get an answer
right.

LANCE
I had it in my head. Didn't say
anything. Chickened out.

ANDY
Were you on your own?

LANCE
Yeah.

ANDY
But you were still too scared to
say it out loud?

LANCE
Yeah.

ANDY
Doesn't count.

LANCE
I know.

ANDY
Should've gone for it.

LANCE
I know.

Pause.

LANCE (CONT'D)
You coming up the club Tuesday?

ANDY
What's happening?

LANCE
Terry's giving a talk on buttons.

ANDY

Buttons?

LANCE

You heard me.

ANDY

Christ. Sod that.

LANCE

Yeah. Think I'll give that one a miss.

Pause.

LANCE (CONT'D)

Here, did I ever tell you about the beautiful old battle-axe I once found?

ANDY

Yeah, you married her.

LANCE

I married her. Have I done that one for you before?

ANDY

You've said it before yeah, a few times, I wouldn't exactly call it a stand-up routine. You've added the word 'beautiful' since the last time you said it.

LANCE

Well she was beautiful, Maggie. Mental though. That's why I divorced her.

ANDY

She left you for the manager of Pizza Hut.

LANCE

Yeah. Mental.

At this point Andy notices an attractive young woman, SOPHIE, coming across the field towards them.

LANCE (CONT'D)

She was a hippy, you see. Into crystals and all that shit. Used to wear this vanilla perfume.

ANDY

Oh yeah?

LANCE
Stunk like Playdoh.

ANDY
Heads up, who's this?

LANCE
Dunno.

SOPHIE
Hi.

LANCE
Hello there.

SOPHIE
Saw you in the field earlier. Sorry
to interrupt, are you metal
detectors?

LANCE
No my love, this...
(taps his detector)
...is a metal detector. We are
metal detectorists.

Andy is cringing.

SOPHIE
Oh. Sorry.

LANCE
Not a problem at all.

SOPHIE
I'm Sophie.

LANCE
Pleased to meet you Sophie. I'm
Lance, and this is...

ANDY
Andy.

SOPHIE
I'm a student. History student. I
thought it might be interesting,
you know, see what sort of things
you guys find, local history.

LANCE
Wise move Sophie. What you got
there Andrew?

*

Andy fishes a handful from his 'finds pouch'.

ANDY

Bits and pieces, Victorian penny...
(he holds up a bullet)
Battle of Britain, that's nice.

LANCE

That's worth a quid on the
interweb...

ANDY

Won't do it mate.

LANCE

Idiot.

SOPHIE

Why not?

ANDY

Don't sell my finds, don't agree
with it.

LANCE

Christ, you must have half a ton of
scrap round your house. You up to
date on your tetanus? If you
invested in some jiffy bags you
could give up your cleaning job.

SOPHIE

Are you a cleaner?

ANDY

No.

LANCE

He is a cleaner.

ANDY

It's a temping agency. They get me
all kinds of work.

LANCE

All kinds of cleaning work.

ANDY

Mainly yeah.

LANCE

Andy's been studying for a degree
in archaeology for...how long's it
been?

ANDY

Long time. But I'll get there, and
when I'm a qualified archaeologist
I'll get to see the good stuff.

LANCE

Yeah, bones and bits of pot. Swap your detector for a pallet knife and spend all day scraping dirt off dirt. No thank you, show me to the non-ferrous metals mate.

ANDY

Whore.

SOPHIE

Do you belong to a club?

LANCE

D.M.D.C. Danebury Metal Detecting Club. At the scout hall opposite the Two Brewers on the High street.

SOPHIE

And what sort of thing happens there?

LANCE

We compare finds, discuss the hobby. Sometimes there's a guest speaker.

ANDY

This Tuesday Terry, club president, is giving a talk on buttons.

SOPHIE

Buttons?

LANCE

You heard him.

SOPHIE

Wow. Outrageous. You going along?

LANCE & ANDY

Oh yes, definitely, we'll be there. Etc.

SOPHIE

Could I drop in?

LANCE & ANDY

Yeah, yeah, come along. You'll find us a friendly bunch. Always on the look out for new blood. (Etc.)

SOPHIE

Cool, I'll see you there.

LANCE

Cheerio.

She heads back the way she came leaving Lance and Andy just a little bit in love with her. They try to think of something to say but instead just nod and sip their tea, content to let it remain unsaid.

103 INT. ANDY'S FLAT - NIGHT

103

Andy lets himself in and goes through to the lounge where his girlfriend Becky is watching TV.

ANDY
Hello love.

BECKY
Alright?

ANDY
Yeah you?

BECKY
Yep. You're late.

ANDY
Went to the pub.

BECKY
Oh. Which one?

ANDY
Brewers.

BECKY
Oh right. The Two Brewers?

ANDY
Yeah.

BECKY
The pub on the corner of our road?

ANDY
Um...yeah.

BECKY
Oh nice.

ANDY
Sorry, I should have phoned.

BECKY
Might have been nice.

ANDY
I was with Lance, I didn't think you'd want to hang out with Lance. You think he's a bit of a dick.

BECKY

I think you're a bit of a dick as well but I hang out with you. Might have been nice to have a drink on a Saturday night at the end of my road. With a couple of dicks.

ANDY

Sorry.

BECKY

Find anything good today?

ANDY

Not much.

BECKY

Right.

ANDY

(paying attention)

Why? You alright? You pissed off with me detecting?

BECKY

No I don't mind, if you enjoy it. If it's helping towards your studies.

ANDY

We need to find a new site. We've been detecting those fields for years, all we turn up is litter and ring pulls. This is the land of the Saxons, I want to find where they buried their kings and warriors.

*

*

BECKY

Instead of where they had their snacks and soft drinks?

ANDY

Exactly. But we're on it. We'll soon strike gold and get rich.

*

*

BECKY

Cool. We'll go to Africa. I'll set up a school and you can go off and dig holes.

ANDY

Can Lance come?

*

BECKY

No.

He puts his arms around her.

ANDY
I did find a nice penny. Young
Victoria, 1865.

Becky fakes a big yawn.

ANDY (CONT'D)
Shut up! That's been in the ground
a hundred and fifty years. Imagine
who dropped that a century and a
half ago.

She fakes another big yawn.

BECKY
Yeah, brilliant.

ANDY
Cow.
(beat)
You still think *I'm* brilliant?

BECKY
Course I do, you're my Lord
Canarvon, you're my Howard Carter.
You're gonna discover the Valley of
the Kings.

ANDY
In Essex?

BECKY
In Essex.
(Andy sneaks a look down
her top)
"Can you see anything"

ANDY
(still looking)
"Yes. Wonderful things".

104 EXT. LANCE'S FLAT - MORNING 104

Lance, a bit bleary eyed, leaves his flat.

105 EXT. HIGH STREET - MORNING 105

Lance is walking to work with his hands in his pockets. He
walks past

'CRYSTAL ENIGMA'

a 'new-age' shop selling
crystals, dream-catchers, joss-sticks etc. As he passes he
glances quickly up and sees his ex-wife, Maggie, behind the
counter.

He stops. Hating himself he turns back and enters the shop.

MAGGIE

Hello love, you alright?

LANCE

Yeah, yeah, off to work...you alright?

MAGGIE

Yeah good.

LANCE

Business good?

MAGGIE

Oh it's alright, you know.

LANCE

Good, good, coz I just, I was...I found your Purple Rain album. I wondered, shall I drop it round? Or...

MAGGIE

Oh yeah, would you mind?

LANCE

No, yeah, sure, I thought you'd, coz you liked that one...'When Doves Cry'...

MAGGIE

'When Doves Cry' yeah.

LANCE

You got a record player have you?

MAGGIE

Tony's got one, really nice vintage one.

LANCE

(sotto)

Oh good.

MAGGIE

He's here actually, you should say hello.

LANCE

You're alright, I've got to...

MAGGIE

Tony! Lance is here!

TONY appears from the back room.

TONY
Hello mate! Long time no see.

LANCE
Yep.

TONY
Did you just pop in to say 'hello'?

LANCE
No I needed a...
(he scans the counter)
scented candle.

*

*

He cringes as he says it.

TONY
Didn't think they're your style.
For you?

LANCE
No, a present for someone.

MAGGIE
Ooh, a girl?

LANCE
No.

TONY
A boy?

LANCE
No, a girl, yeah.

MAGGIE
Girlfriend?

LANCE
No, yeah.

MAGGIE
Ooh! Who is she?

LANCE
Oh, no-one, just someone.

TONY
What flavour?

LANCE
Pardon?

TONY
The candle.

LANCE

Oh just, I dunno, what's a good
one?

TONY

I like bergamot and vetiver.

Lance can hardly contain his hate.

LANCE

Nah, you're alright, I'll just get vanilla.

TONY

Oh right. I always think they smell of mini-cabs.

*

Lance pays for his candle.

LANCE

Cheers Mags. See you.

MAGGIE

Bye love.

107 EXT. HIGH STREET - MORNING

107

Lance leaves the shop looking sad and dejected. He stops by a bin and takes the candle out of his pocket. He sniffs the candle sadly and then drops it in.

108 INT. OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

108

Andy is at work listening to his ipod through headphones, sweeping a vacuum cleaner in front of him like a metal detector. He stops, bends down and picks up a metal button. He flips it over in his hand thoughtfully, then takes out his mobile and dials a number.

109 EXT. FRUIT AND VEG DEPOT

109

In a yard outside a large fruit and veg distribution warehouse, lorries are parked and fork-lift trucks are unloading pallets of produce.

One of these is operated by Lance who is talking on his mobile.

LANCE

Bollocks mate, you just want to see that girl again.... Yes you do, I can read you like a book, anyway, she won't turn up...

Good, well then you won't be disappointed...

No, come round to mine, I'll knock up a ruby then we can head over...

Alright, anything you don't eat?

(pause)

Apart from meat and fish?

(pause)

Be back in an hour.

He puts his phone away and calls out to the foreman.

LANCE (CONT'D)
Alright if I knock off once I've
done these aubergines Ted?

TED signals yes.

110 EXT. PRIMARY SCHOOL - DAY 110

Becky is leaving work for the day, carrying a pile of exercise books to her car. Her phone rings, she puts the books on the roof of the car and answers the phone.

BECKY
Hey.

111 INT. OFFICE BUILDING - DAY 111

ANDY
Watcha, you ok?... Lance has
invited us round for a curry before
we head off to the club tonight...
Do you want to come?...
(he winces)

112 EXT. PRIMARY SCHOOL - DAY 112

BECKY
Obviously not... For so many
reasons not least of which is that
I'm not *really* invited, you're just
saying it because I had a go at you
the other night.
What's happening at the club
tonight?...
Buttons?

113 INT. OFFICE BUILDING - DAY 113

ANDY
You heard me. Do you want to come?

114 EXT. PRIMARY SCHOOL - DAY 114

BECKY
Fuck off.... Yep, love you too. See
ya.

115 EXT. FRUIT AND VEG DEPOT - LATER 115

Lance is collecting ingredients for the curry.

He pulls at a stack of wooden pallets, reaches in and retrieves a large onion which he checks over and pops into a bag. Another dig brings out a couple of spuds. He bends down to peer under a large articulated lorry then walks over and grabs a broom.

Back at the lorry he is on his stomach reaching underneath with the broom. He manages to knock a cabbage rolling into the yard, picks it up and adds it to his haul. He takes the bag of veg over to his YELLOW TRIUMPH TR7. *

116 INT. LANCE'S FLAT, KITCHEN - DAY

116

Lance, wearing a topless lady comedy apron, peels and chops vegetables and puts them in a big saucepan. He opens a cupboard which is completely bare save for a large jar of curry powder. He spoons some into the pot.

The doorbell rings and Lance wipes his hands on the boobs of his apron.

117 INT. LANCE'S FLAT, HALL - DAY

117

Lance opens the door to Andy who hands over a four-pack of Guinness.

ANDY

Nice tits.

LANCE

Aye-thenk-yoo.

ANDY

Something smells...

LANCE

Good?

ANDY

No, something just smells.

LANCE

Very droll.

Andy follows Lance up the hall and into the kitchen.

LANCE (CONT'D)

Stick those peelings in the compost bin for us will you.

ANDY

You've only got a balcony. What do you use compost for?

LANCE

Never know when it'll come in handy.

Andy gathers up the 'organic waste'. He holds up a cabbage leaf with a clear tire-tread mark across it.

ANDY

What's that?

LANCE
(taking a look)
Scania R470

118 INT. LANCE'S FLAT, LOUNGE - DAY

118

In the lounge black ash units display blokey trinkets: a model of a red Ferrari Testarossa, some crappy trophy, a signed photo of Linda Lusardi in a clip-frame. There is also a well kept aquarium of tropical fish. At the table, as they shovel curry, Lance excitedly points to his laptop screen.

LANCE
See, I was reading about how coz we've had a hot, dry summer all the earthworks and archaeological features are showing up as dry patches in fields.

ANDY
Right...

LANCE
So I had a look, on Google Earth. Looked around the area, scanned the fields see what I could see.

ANDY
Right...

LANCE
And look! Henburystone. Those cabbage fields off the B1010, have a look...

Andy leans in close.

LANCE (CONT'D)
There!

Lance points at the screen.

LANCE (CONT'D)
Ring shaped feature in the field.

ANDY
Ok...

LANCE
Iron-age round-house! Look at it! But 'what's more' over here, to the right...voila! Another one!

He moves the mouse and then points again at the screen.

LANCE (CONT'D)

And then...move over to the right
we've got another, slightly larger
circular feature but this time with
some sort of entrance. A gateway!
All in a line! It's a fucking iron
age settlement!

Andy looks at Lance, trying to figure out if he's serious or
not.

ANDY

Iron-age settlement?

LANCE

What? Look at it! They're right
there. All in a line!

ANDY

Mate. You look at it.

Lance looks closely.

ANDY (CONT'D)

Notice anything?

LANCE

No...what?

ANDY

Do these "features" seem to spell
anything?

LANCE

No... wait... G...O..O..... fuck
it!

ANDY

Do they seem to spell 'Google'?

LANCE

Fuck it!

ANDY

You prick.

LANCE

It's the Google Earth water mark.

ANDY

It's the Google Earth water mark.

LANCE

You've made that mistake before
haven't you?

*
*
*
*
*

ANDY

Yeah but I realised after fifteen
seconds and never told anyone.

*
*
*

Andy takes control of the computer.

ANDY

No, I'll tell you where we want to be,
I've been doing my own recon...

(he points to the screen)

this farm here. I can't remember
anyone going there before can you?
Look, this is the original Roman road
running up here.

Lance peers closer.

ANDY (CONT'D)

And where you've got Roman, who's to say you haven't got Saxon as well.

We all know there's a Saxon ship burial somewhere in this part of the county. Just got to find it first.

LANCE

(dreamily)

Saxon hoard...that's basically the Holy Grail of treasure hunting.

ANDY

Well no, the *Holy Grail* is the Holy Grail of treasure hunting.

LANCE

If you're going to be pedantic I'd say the Ark of the Covenant is the Holy Grail.

Don't mention it at the club. We'll see if Terry knows who owns the land.

They chink Guinness cans.

119 EXT. SCOUT HALL - EVENING

119

Lance's flashy yellow TR7 is parked amongst a selection of small, scruffy cars of various shades of brown.

120 INT. SCOUT HALL - EVENING

120

The weekly meeting of the Danebury Metal Detecting Club (DMDC) is underway. TERRY SEYMOUR, a gentleman in his fifties and president of the club, is coming to the end of his talk on buttons, a slide projector shows a picture of a featureless button.

*

Eight or so members are sitting on foldy chairs looking thoroughly bored. Amongst them are:

LOUISE and VARDA are a couple in their early thirties.

HUGH is an awkward, spotty teenager.

RUSSELL, forties, is fast asleep and snoring.

*

Terry's wife SHEILA is sitting to one side in a world of her own, sometimes laughing at an internal joke, sometimes mouthing an imagined conversation.

Lance and Andy sit there looking pissed off. Lance looks at his watch and Andy glances round to see if Sophie has turned up yet. She hasn't.

TERRY

...so if you think about how many buttons our predecessors had on their clothes compared to the number of coins they would have had in their pockets is it any wonder that we find many more buttons in our day to day detecting than we do coins?

Louise gives a unexpectedly audible yawn. Terry glares.

LOUISE

Sorry.

TERRY

And so the humble, 'boring' button is a very real piece of social history. Lights please Sheila.

Shelia is away with the fairies.

TERRY (CONT'D)

Sheila?

She springs into action and switches the lights back on. The members yawn and stretch.

TERRY

Thank you.
Any questions?

Nothing.

TERRY

Nobody?
Right-ho then. Club notices:
Now, some of you have been complaining about other detecting clubs muscling in on your sites.

RUSSELL

It's those wankers from The Antiquisearchers.
They're spying on us.

TERRY

Russell...

RUSSELL

I spent weeks researching that site, putting together a folio, only to find someone had got there the day before me and secured permission.

TERRY

The Antiquisearchers are officially affiliated with the museum so I find it hard to believe they would be that underhand. But to be on the safe side I'll not be accepting any new members until the beginning of next season.

Just then the Scout hall door squeaks loudly and Sophie walks in.

SOPHIE

Oh hello. Is this the metal detecting club?
(She spots Lance and Andy)
Oh hi!

Lance takes it upon himself:

LANCE

Hello Sophie. Everybody, this is my friend Sophie.

Andy roles his eyes.

LANCE (CONT'D)

Sophie, these are the 'amassed ranks' of the Danebury Metal Detecting Club.

The detectorists are a bit stunned.

A pause and then all the blokes chime in at once rather too enthusiastically.

BLOKES

Come in! Welcome! Have a seat!

They are thrilled.

SOPHIE

I hope you don't mind. I was just interested to see what was going on and what you'd found. And I understood there was going to be a talk about buttons...

Lance and Andy suppress giggles.

BLOKES

(again, too enthusiastically)
No! Come in! Welcome! Etc!
I'm Russell! Terry! Etc!

Sophie takes a seat next to Andy (he's chuffed, Lance isn't).

TERRY

Welcome Sophie. You're very welcome. I'm afraid you've missed my talk on buttons but I'll happily do a recap...

LOUISE

No!

*

RUSSELL

Please no!

*

*

SOPHIE

Oh no, that's fine thank you.

TERRY

Well have a seat Sophie, you're very welcome.

LOUISE

What happened to 'no new members'?

TERRY

Sorry?

LOUISE

You just said you're not accepting any new members.

LANCE

Oh no, Sophie's cool. We know Sophie.

TERRY

There we are then. If everyone's in agreement. Welcome Sophie.

SOPHIE

Thank you.

121 INT. TWO BREWERS PUB - LATER

121

Andy and Sophie are standing at the bar. Sophie is paying for drinks.

ANDY

So what did you think?

SOPHIE

Yeah, interesting. How was the talk on buttons?

ANDY

Fucking crazy man! Adrenaline fuelled.

SOPHIE

What's next week?

ANDY
Monster Munch packets.

Sophie laughs.

We cut to Lance talking to Terry at the bar.
Lance is showing Terry a print-out of the map they were
looking at earlier.

TERRY
...the land belongs to one Lawrence
Bishop, mad as a frog. People have
tried to get permission but he always
refuses. Doesn't want people digging
around in his fields. Very odd
character.

*

LANCE
Yeah?

TERRY
His wife disappeared years ago. When I
was on the force, I didn't personally
work on the case but I know they had a
big file on him.
Watched him for years but couldn't
ever get anything on him. Not even
enough to get a warrant out to search
his land.

LANCE
Doesn't bode well.

SOPHIE pays for the drinks and they move to a table.

LANCE
That's got to be a first: 'Student
Buys Round!'

*

*

SOPHIE
Funny.

TERRY
What are you studying?

SOPHIE
Ancient history.

TERRY
Oh, well you've come to the right
place. You want to get yourself a
detector and get out there in the
mud.

LANCE
I'll take you out some time if you
like.

SOPHIE
Yeah, that'd be good.
I'll write down my number.

She writes her number on a beer mat and hands it to Andy who is sitting next to her.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)
Somebody text me.
When are you going out again?

ANDY
Saturday?

LANCE
Can't. Got to take Maggie and her
mum to the bingo.

ANDY
What? Again?

SOPHIE
Who's Maggie, your wife?

ANDY
Ex-wife. She uses him.

LANCE
She doesn't use me. I want to help.

ANDY
Why can't the Pizza Hut manager
take them?

LANCE
I like doing it.

ANDY
Bollocks mate. You need to forget
her or she'll keep on taking the
piss. Move on.

LANCE
Cheers for the advice. Advice that
I neither want nor asked for. Mind
your own bloody business.

SOPHIE
How about you Andy? Have you got a
wife?

ANDY
Me? No, I'm not married, I...

The last orders bell is rung at the bar.

LANCE
Oh, do we want another one?

ANDY

It's my round. Same again?

SOPHIE

No, I'd better get going, have to get up early.

LANCE

That's got to be a first: 'Student Gets Up Early!'

*
*

SOPHIE

Funny.

TERRY

Yep, I'm going to call it a night. Bye all.

*

LANCE

See you later.

They leave.

LANCE (CONT'D)

What was that about?

ANDY

What?

LANCE

You know what.

ANDY

What?

LANCE

Why you didn't mention Becky when she asked you if you were married.

ANDY

I'm not married.

LANCE

No, but you've got a long-term girlfriend. Called Becky.

ANDY

I was about to tell her but I was interrupted, remember?

Lance decides to leave it but smiles to himself knowingly.

LANCE

What were you saying before they left.

ANDY

Your ex-wife taking the piss?

LANCE

No it was something about "same again".

ANDY

Same again?

LANCE

Ooh yes please.

122 INT. ANDY'S FLAT - NIGHT

122

Andy and Becky are on the sofa watching TV. Becky has her feet up on Andy's lap. Andy's laptop is on the arm of the sofa and he is looking at maps.

BECKY

You do...

ANDY

I don't.

BECKY

You do. You always mention what she's wearing.

ANDY

That's coz I don't like what she's wearing.

BECKY

But you say it every time she comes on TV.

ANDY

I never like what she's wearing.

(a pause)

I don't fancy Fiona Bruce.

BECKY

Yes you do.

ANDY

I don't.

I tried once. I thought she'd be a good person off the TV to fancy but I didn't get very far, couldn't manage it.

*

Becky laughs.

BECKY

Who do you fancy off the TV then?

ANDY

(he's not falling into this trap)

No one springs to mind.

BECKY

Bullshit! There must be someone.

ANDY

Nope, can't think of anyone.

BECKY

Susanna Reid!

ANDY

Nope. You're the only one for me
Becks.

BECKY

Idiot.
Are we still going to my sister's
tomorrow?

*

Andy winces.

ANDY

Ah. I'm going out with Lance.

BECKY

Oh what?

ANDY

Sorry, I forgot.

BECKY

Jesus you spend more time with him
than you do with me.

ANDY

No I don't.
What time were you going?

BECKY

For Lunch.

ANDY

Oh, we might be finished by then.
We're going to see some mad land
owner to see if we can get his
permission.

*

BECKY
Right, so if he gives you
permission you'll want to go
detecting.

ANDY
True.

BECKY
Have to hope he doesn't then.

ANDY
Fingers crossed.
Can we switch over?
She's making me feel sick.

*

*

Becky flicks channels.

*

BECKY
QI?

*

*

123 EXT. BISHOP'S FARM, TRACK - EARLY MORNING

123

Andy, Lance are walking down a track between two fields.

ANDY
Did you hear that on QI last night?

LANCE
I knew that before it was on QI.

ANDY
Right. And it's just a coincidence
that you said it the day after it
was on QI?

LANCE
It just reminded me of it.
Here we are...

They walk through a gate into a cluttered farmyard and
nervously regard a scruffy farmhouse.

ANDY
Do you think this is wise?

LANCE
Let me do the talking, I can turn
on the charm. You're a
bit...awkward.

ANDY
Yeah, cheers. Don't try any of your
'stand-up' on him.

Lance strides towards the front door and rings the bell.

The bell sounds deep inside the house, and immediately an angry voice starts shouting apparently at dogs. Lance backs up nervously.

VOICE

Get down! All of you calm down! Be quiet! Stay back in there!

We can't hear any dogs.

They hear bolts being drawn back and eventually the door opens and LAWRENCE BISHOP steps out hurriedly closing the door behind him. *

BISHOP

Get back in there!

Bishop is in his sixties. He is constantly busy and fussing but at the same time oddly vacant. His eyes will suddenly glaze over as if he is hearing voices and though he is very enthusiastic about what you've just said you're not sure he's heard a single word.

He turns round, distractedly wiping something off his hand with a rag.

BISHOP

Yes?

LANCE

Hello sir, sorry to disturb you...

BISHOP

Have you come about the...

LANCE

The...?

BISHOP

The... what *have* you come about?

ANDY

No, you're not expecting us actually.

BISHOP

Am I not?

LANCE

No.

A pause.

LANCE

Um, we're actually metal detectorists and we were wondering if we could have permission to search your land? *

*
*

BISHOP
Really? Good lord. Was it a
competition?

ANDY
Pardon?

BISHOP
Did I send off for it?

LANCE
No, no. I guess it's just your
lucky day.

BISHOP
Fascinating. Cup of tea?

Andy and Lance exchange a glance, WTF?

124 INT. FARMHOUSE - DAY

124

Inside the farmhouse is crammed with stuff floor to ceiling.
A large kitchen with a table and around it a few chairs and a
sofa.

BISHOP
Don't mind the dogs, they're a bit
boisterous but they're only being
friendly.

Scattered around are dog bowls, dog baskets, blankets etc, but
no sign of an actual dog.

BISHOP
Just push them off the sofa if
they're in your way. They're not
even supposed to be on the
furniture.

Bishop makes tea in three chipped mugs and, unable to find a
spoon, stirs them with an oily screwdriver.

ANDY
So Mr. Bishop...

BISHOP
Larry, please...

*

ANDY
Larry. Nobody has ever approached
you for permission before?

*

BISHOP
Never.

LANCE
So nobody has ever detected on this
land?

BISHOP
Not as far as I know.
There was that dig years back.

He hands them tea.

ANDY
Sorry, 'dig' Larry? *

BISHOP
Yes, archaeological dig, years ago
before the war. My grandfather told
me about it when I was in short
trousers.

He looks at the boys. They look back.

BISHOP
When I was a child.

ANDY
Yes.

LANCE
Yes.
Did they find anything?

BISHOP
No! Didn't have time. Dug a few
trenches and then the war happened
and there was more important things
to spend money on.

ANDY
Do you know what they were looking
for?

BISHOP
No idea.

LANCE
But you'd be happy for us to have a
look round?

BISHOP
Yes, yes, let me know what you turn
up.
(his eyes glaze over)
Stay out of the paddock on
Birchwood Road. You can't go
digging down there. *

LANCE
Okey doke. *

ANDY
Yes, will do. We'll stay out of
there.

BISHOP

Now, if you'll excuse me. Has anyone seen the phone?

They look around where they were sitting as they get up to go.

BISHOP

Bloody dogs have hidden it haven't they.

He storms out of the room.

BISHOP

Have one of you beasts stolen my telephone...?

The guys look at each other, not sure what to make of it all.

125 EXT. BISHOP'S FARM 'HOME FIELD' - DAY

125

Andy and Lance are unsheathing their detectors and strapping on finds pouches.

LANCE

This is it mate, this is the big one! That's exactly what they had to do with Sutton Hoo, abandon it because of the war. But *they* came back and finished it off.

ANDY

This lot have left it to us.

LANCE

"This time next year we'll be miwyonaires".

ANDY

We've got to do this properly, mark out the site with a grid system, do it area by area, make sure we cover everything.

LANCE

Sod that, let's get detecting.

ANDY

We should spend a few days surveying the site before we even turn the detectors on. Look for features, potential earthworks...

Lance's detector beeps as he turns it on.

LANCE

Too late, I turned it on.
Come on, we'll look for your
'features' tomorrow, I've got a good
feeling about this.
Look at when they were looking for
Richard III, first trench they put in:
bingo!

ANDY

You're right, fuck it.

He powers up and dons his headphones.

LANCE

This is going to be massive mate, you
mark my words.

He gets a good signal, looks at Andy.

LANCE

Here we go. Get ready to get rich.

Andy looks on in anticipation as Lance digs the signal and
retrieves something from the hole.

ANDY

What you got?

LANCE

Biscuit wrapper. Mint Viscount. '75

END CREDITS