

Man Barred from Treasure Hunt in Landfill

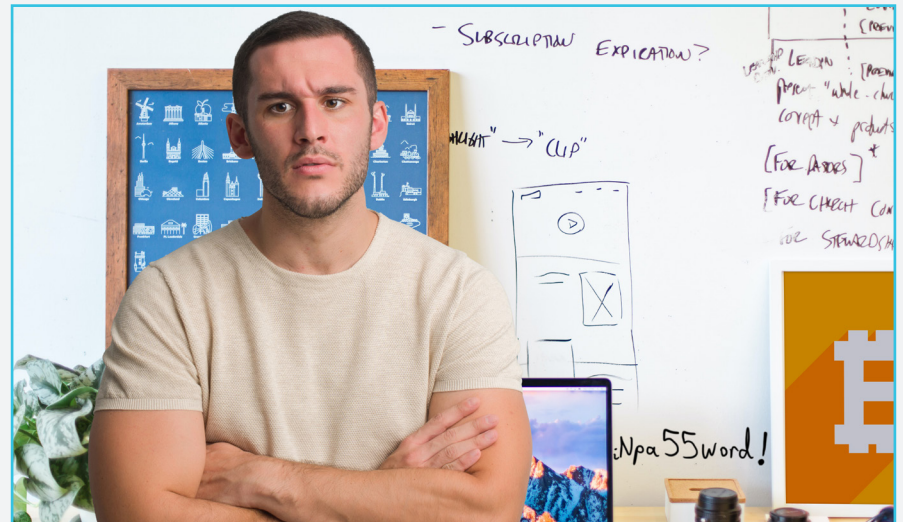
Connor Robertson asked council for permission to dig in the rubbish for a lost hard drive containing £139 million

By Ima Writer, Dec 15, 2022, 2:30pm GMT

Connor Robertson was clearing out his office in the summer of 2014 when he put one of his two hard drives in the pile to take to the recycling centre. One of the drives was broken. The other hard drive contained the files for his 10,000 Bitcoins. Connor binned the wrong drive by accident. It took him several months to realise that he'd thrown away the virtual money, now worth millions of pounds. By then it was too late.

Every month another 30-50cm of waste is poured on top of the landfill, each area being the size of several football fields. He binned the drive on Sunday 15th June, and if he'd realised that week then it could have been just picked up from the top of the pile.

Unfortunately, it's now too far down the pile and it would be dangerous to dig into the



heap to find it. The council are refusing to allow him access to look for the drive as it wouldn't be safe and would be against their regulations.

Connor said "when a general waste bin at the recycling centre is full, it's given a serial number, then is dragged off to the open pit and buried. It was also given a grid reference number."

Bitcoin is virtual money, known as a crypto-currency. They can be used to buy or sell things, but there's no physical coins or notes, just electronic files. When Bitcoin was first created in 2008 the weren't worth very much.

The first time Bitcoin was used to buy a real product was in 2010 when two large pizzas were bought for 10,000 Bitcoin, which is now worth £139 million.

The council refused to comment on the situation.

"If I could access the landfill records I could identify the serial number of the bin that it was in, and then I could identify where the grid reference is located."

—Connor Robertson

