



Treasure and Portable Antiquities

Statistical release – 23 July 2010

Purpose of release

This statistical release presents the number finds reported Treasure (in England, Wales and Northern Ireland) and objects recorded through the Portable Antiquities Scheme (in England and Wales) in 2008.

The Treasure Act 1996

The Treasure Act 1996 replaced the common law of Treasure Trove in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. This has been further supplemented by the 2003 Treasure (Designation) Order. The Treasure Act sets out the definition of Treasure, which includes the metallic composition required for a find to qualify as Treasure and it extends the definition of Treasure to include other objects found in archaeological association with finds of Treasure. The Act confirms that Treasure vests in the Crown, or the franchisee if there is one, subject to prior interests and rights. It simplifies the task of coroners in determining whether or not a find is Treasure and it includes an offence of non-declaration of Treasure. Lastly, it states that occupiers and landowners will have the right to be informed of finds of Treasure from their land and that they will be eligible for rewards.

The Portable Antiquities Scheme

The Portable Antiquities Scheme was established by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) in 1997 to record archaeological finds found by the public. It also has an important educational role, enabling children and adults alike to learn about archaeology, get involved and bring the past to life. The work of the Scheme is guided by the Portable Antiquities Advisory Group and (following the Review of PAS in 2009) a Portable Antiquities Management Group, providing a clear distinction between the management of PAS and policy relating to portable antiquities related issues, such as environmental stewardship schemes, metal-detecting rallies, and illicit metal-detecting.

The PAS has been a key factor in the success of the Treasure Act and the large increase in reported Treasure finds. Through working with metal detecting groups and others, the Scheme's Finds Liaison Officers (FLOs) are able to explain the system of Treasure reporting and encourage detectorists and others to report their finds.

Key messages

- In 2008 806 finds of Treasure were reported.
- In 2008 53,346 finds were recorded on the Portable Antiquities Scheme database (www.finds.org.uk).
- In 2008 82 parties waived their right to a reward in 51 cases of Treasure, allowing them to be acquired by museums at no (or reduced) public cost.

Guide to the data included in this release

This statistical release presents the number of Treasure and Portable Antiquities Scheme finds recorded by county in 2008. The release contains 7 tables which show the number of finds:

Treasure finds in 2008

Number of Treasure cases by geographic distribution [see xls on main page]

Analysis of 2008 Treasure Finds by Period and Category - England & Wales (Accurate as of 1 July 2010)

Object Cases

| | Disclaimed/RTF | Acquired* | Donated | Not Treasure | To Be Determined | Total |
|----------------------------|----------------|------------|-----------|--------------|------------------|------------|
| Bronze Age | 6 | 14 | 5 | - | 1 | 26 |
| Iron Age | 1 | 6 | - | - | 1 | 8 |
| Romano-British | 35 | 14 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 62 |
| Early Medieval | 19 | 30 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 65 |
| Medieval | 112 | 70 | 18 | 9 | 2 | 211 |
| Post-Medieval | 144 | 43 | 15 | 30 | 5 | 237 |
| 18th-20th Centuries | - | - | - | 41 | - | 41 |
| Undiagnostic | 9** | - | - | 43 | 2 | 54 |
| | | | | | | |
| Totals | 326 | 177 | 50 | 131 | 20 | 704 |

Coin Cases

| | Disclaimed/RTF | Acquired* | Donated | Not Treasure | To Be Determined | Total |
|----------------------------|----------------|------------|-----------|--------------|------------------|------------|
| Bronze Age | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Iron Age | 5 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 13 |
| Romano-British | 15 | 19 | - | 4 | 7 | 45 |
| Early Medieval | 3 | 3 | - | - | 1 | 7 |
| Medieval | 9 | 8 | - | 1 | 3 | 21 |
| Post-Medieval | 8 | 2 | - | 1 | | 11 |
| 18th-20th Centuries | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 |
| Undiagnostic | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| | | | | | | |
| Totals | 40 | 37 | 1 | 8 | 13 | 99 |
| | | | | | | |
| Overall | 357 | 214 | 51 | 139 | 33 | 803 |

782 in England / 21 in Wales

* this covers finds that have been acquired as well as finds where museums have made an expression of interest, but have not yet acquired

**Includes objects 'of age' but not attributable to a particular historic period

Method of discovery of finds of Treasure for England and Wales

| | Number of finds | % |
|---------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Metal detecting | 749 | 93.28% |
| Archaeological find | 33 | 4.11% |
| Chance find | 16 | 1.99% |
| Reported by buyer | 5 | 0.62% |
| Total | 803 | 100.00% |

Method of discovery of finds of Treasure for Northern Ireland

| | Number of finds | % |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Metal detecting | 1 | 33.33% |
| Chance find | 2 | 66.67% |
| Total | 3 | 100.00% |

Portable Antiquities Scheme finds in 2008

Note: The following tables are taken from the PAS database (www.finds.org.uk), where the data is updated constantly and is therefore subject to change.

Objects recorded by geographical area [see xls on main page]

Objects recorded by class (where known)

| | Coins | Metal objects | Worked stone | Pottery | Total |
|------------------------|---------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------|---------------|
| North West | 624 | 526 | 147 | 207 | 1,504 |
| % | 41.49 | 34.97 | 9.78 | 13.76 | |
| North East | 50 | 139 | 37 | 7 | 233 |
| % | 21.46 | 59.66 | 15.88 | 0.03 | |
| Yorkshire & the Humber | 229 | 5,175 | 460 | 577 | 6,441 |
| % | 3.55 | 80.35 | 7.14 | 8.96 | |
| West Midlands | 791 | 1,177 | 82 | 1,037 | 3,087 |
| % | 25.62 | 38.13 | 2.66 | 33.59 | |
| East Midlands | 4,187 | 7,883 | 367 | 340 | 12,777 |
| % | 32.77 | 61.70 | 2.87 | 2.66 | |
| East | 4,437 | 5,220 | 260 | 1,173 | 11,090 |
| % | 40.01 | 47.07 | 2.34 | 10.58 | |
| South West | 1,190 | 2,055 | 380 | 3,260 | 6,885 |
| % | 17.28 | 29.85 | 5.52 | 47.35 | |
| South East & London | 3,657 | 4,504 | 480 | 516 | 9,157 |
| % | 39.94 | 49.19 | 5.24 | 5.63 | |
| Wales | 218 | 343 | 29 | 12 | 602 |
| % | 36.21 | 56.98 | 4.82 | 1.99 | |
| Total | 15,383 | 27,022 | 2,242 | 7,129 | 51,776 |
| % | 29.71 | 52.19 | 4.33 | 13.77 | |

Objects recorded by period (where known)

| | Stone Age | Bronze Age | Iron Age | Roman | Early Med | Med | Post Med | Total |
|------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------|------------------|------------|-----------------|--------------|
| North West | 135 | 18 | 6 | 507 | 15 | 369 | 469 | 1,519 |
| % | 08.89 | 01.18 | 00.39 | 33.38 | 00.99 | 24.29 | 30.88 | |
| North East | 37 | 22 | 5 | 46 | 8 | 75 | 69 | 262 |
| % | 14.12 | 08.40 | 01.91 | 17.56 | 03.05 | 28.62 | 26.34 | |
| Yorkshire & the Humber | 402 | 71 | 95 | 2,574 | 366 | 1,659 | 1,294 | 6,461 |
| % | 06.22 | 01.10 | 01.47 | 39.84 | 05.66 | 25.68 | 20.03 | |
| West Midlands | 77 | 165 | 69 | 1,400 | 45 | 728 | 632 | 3,116 |
| % | 02.47 | 05.30 | 02.22 | 44.93 | 01.44 | 23.36 | 20.28 | |
| East Midlands | 355 | 54 | 107 | 8,952 | 309 | 1,736 | 1,264 | 12,777 |
| % | 02.78 | 00.42 | 00.84 | 70.06 | 02.42 | 13.59 | 09.89 | |
| East | 228 | 328 | 278 | 5,558 | 598 | 2,681 | 1,419 | 11,090 |
| % | 02.05 | 02.96 | 02.51 | 50.12 | 05.39 | 24.17 | 12.80 | |
| South West | 351 | 365 | 1,662 | 2,238 | 101 | 1,382 | 793 | 6,892 |
| % | 05.09 | 05.30 | 24.11 | 32.47 | 01.47 | 20.05 | 11.51 | |
| South East & London | 434 | 330 | 421 | 2,837 | 471 | 2,545 | 2,562 | 9,600 |
| % | 04.52 | 03.44 | 04.38 | 29.55 | 04.91 | 26.51 | 26.69 | |
| Wales | 26 | 13 | 5 | 161 | 4 | 176 | 223 | 608 |
| % | 04.27 | 02.14 | 00.82 | 26.48 | 00.66 | 28.95 | 36.68 | |
| Total | 2,045 | 1,366 | 2,648 | 24,273 | 1,917 | 11,351 | 8,725 | 52,325 |
| % | 03.91 | 02.61 | 05.06 | 46.39 | 03.66 | 21.69 | 16.68 | |

Method of discovery (where known)

| | Metal Detecting | Chance Find whilst Metal Detecting | Field-walking | Other Chance find / Gardening | Controlled Archaeological Investigation | Building / Agricultural Work | Total |
|---------------------|------------------------|---|----------------------|--------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| North West | 1,176 | 21 | 264 | 49 | 0 | 14 | 1,524 |
| % | 77.16 | 01.38 | 17.32 | 03.22 | 00.00 | 00.92 | |
| North East | 176 | 0 | 31 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 216 |
| % | 81.48 | 00.00 | 14.35 | 02.78 | 00.93 | 00.46 | |
| Yorkshire & Humber | 5,487 | 534 | 258 | 238 | 5 | 3 | 6,525 |
| % | 84.09 | 08.18 | 03.95 | 03.65 | 00.08 | 00.05 | |
| West Midlands | 2,038 | 301 | 488 | 216 | 3 | 96 | 3,142 |
| % | 64.86 | 09.58 | 15.53 | 06.87 | 00.10 | 03.06 | |
| East Midlands | 12,424 | 238 | 160 | 63 | 5 | 4 | 12,894 |
| % | 96.35 | 01.85 | 01.24 | 00.49 | 00.04 | 00.03 | |
| East | 10,382 | 254 | 46 | 674 | 3 | 24 | 11,383 |
| % | 91.21 | 02.23 | 00.40 | 05.92 | 00.03 | 00.21 | |
| South West | 3,270 | 320 | 997 | 2,337 | 3 | 13 | 6,940 |
| % | 47.12 | 04.61 | 14.37 | 33.67 | 00.04 | 00.19 | |
| South East & London | 8,746 | 165 | 273 | 540 | 8 | 20 | 9,752 |
| % | 89.68 | 01.69 | 02.80 | 05.54 | 00.08 | 00.21 | |
| Wales | 569 | 0 | 30 | 15 | 1 | 4 | 619 |
| % | 91.92 | 00.00 | 4.85 | 2.42 | 00.16 | 00.65 | |
| Total | 44,268 | 1,833 | 2,547 | 4,138 | 30 | 179 | 52,995 |
| % | 83.53 | 03.46 | 04.80 | 07.81 | 00.06 | 00.34 | |

Department for Culture, Media and Sport

Formats of statistical release

This release is available in word/excel and Pdf format

Previous reports

Statistics covering previous years can be found at

http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/6411.aspx

Next release of data

The next release of data will take place in the first quarter of 2011 and will include data for 2009.

Methodology

The data presented here is collected by the Department of Portable Antiquities & Treasure, British Museum and recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme (www.finds.org.uk).

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