



Department
for Culture
Media & Sport

Reported Treasure Finds

2011 & 2012

Statistical Release

October 2013

Reported Treasure Finds is an Official Statistic and has been produced to the standards set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics

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Chapter 1: Introduction

Purpose of release

This statistical release presents the number of finds of reported Treasure (in England, Wales and Northern Ireland) in 2011 and 2012.

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 2002 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 (PAS) 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 managed by the British Museum and guided by the Portable Antiquities Advisory Group which advises on issues relating to portable antiquities. The publishing of statistics on the PAS is not included in this release. This administrative data series is continuously updated and available at <http://finds.org.uk/>.

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.

If you have a continued need for the aggregated statistics on the PAS, as has been available in previous releases, then please contact us on evidence@culture.gsi.gov.uk to allow us to review the contents of this release for next year.

Chapter 2: Key findings

This statistical release presents the number of Reported Treasure Finds for both 2011 and 2012. The data for 2011 are available broken down by county, period and disposition, and method of discovery. Provisional headline figures are provided for 2012 by county only.

- In 2012¹ 998 finds of Treasure were reported. The equivalent number for 2011 was 969.
- In 2011, 87 per cent of Treasure finds were object cases² (840 cases), of which half of these were disclaimed/Return to Finder (RTF)³ cases. Nearly a further quarter of object cases were acquired⁴.
- In 2011, the vast majority (92%) of Treasure finds were discovered by metal detecting. A further 2 per cent of cases were by an archaeological find and 4 per cent have yet to be confirmed.
- In 2011, 174 parties waived their right to a reward in 99 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 contains 3 tables. The data for 2011 are available broken down by county, period and disposition, and method of discovery. Provisional headline figures are provided for 2012 by county only. The 2011 data are given as final and the 2012 data are given as provisional, as of 1st August 2013.

A glossary of terminology used in this release can be found at <http://finds.org.uk/database/terminology>

¹ The overall figure for the number of Treasure finds is available for 2012, but a number of cases have not been resolved and so it is not possible to provide a breakdown of factors including period and disposition in this release. This final breakdown will be provided in the Treasure Statistical Release in 2014 which will cover Treasure finds reported in 2012.

² An object case is a find of any non-coin artefact.

³ Disclaimed/RTF cases are those cases where the Crown disclaims title for the find prior to inquest, or where an inquest is held declaring the find to be treasure (and therefore vesting in the Crown) but where a museum subsequently fail to acquire the find and it is returned to the finder.

⁴ This covers finds that have been acquired as well as finds where museums have made an expression of interest, but have not yet acquired.

Chapter 3: Tables

Treasure finds in 2011 and 2012

Table A: Number of Treasure cases in 2011 and 2012 by county (geographic distribution)

England

County	2011 (final)	2012 (provisional)
Bath and North East Somerset	0	10
Bedfordshire	11	15
Berkshire & Reading	11	12
Bristol	0	0
Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes	23	18
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough	22	28
Cheshire and Merseyside	7	6
Cleveland	0	2
Cornwall	3	4
Coventry	0	0
Cumbria	10	9
Derbyshire	6	12
Devon	8	19
Dorset	23	27
Durham	8	1
Essex	91	67
Gloucestershire	14	19
Gloucestershire, South	6	8
Hampshire	29	19
Herefordshire	7	11
Hertfordshire	11	13
Isle of Wight	33	24
Kent	39	52
Lancashire	6	6
Leicestershire and Rutland	15	16
Lincolnshire	74	63
Lincolnshire, North and North East	7	5
London, Greater	22	11
Manchester, Greater	0	0
Norfolk	80	123
Northamptonshire	15	14
Northumberland	8	8
Nottinghamshire	15	11
Oxfordshire	9	19
Shropshire	11	7
Somerset	18	33
Somerset, North	7	0
Staffordshire	15	18
Suffolk	76	62

Surrey	17	8
Sussex, East	13	20
Sussex, West	12	23
Teesside, Redcar & Cleveland	0	0
Tyne and Wear	0	2
Warwickshire	18	19
West Midlands	1	0
Wiltshire and Swindon	41	34
Worcestershire	13	5
York, City of	0	0
Yorkshire, East	25	22
Yorkshire, North	50	54
Yorkshire, South	3	6
Yorkshire, West	6	4
Unknown ⁵	2	0
Total	941	969

Wales

County	2011 (final)	2012⁶ (provisional)
Bridgend	0	
Caerphilly	0	
Carmarthenshire	2	
Conwy	2	
Denbighshire	1	
Ceredigion	0	
Flintshire	2	
Gwynedd	1	
Isle of Anglesey	0	
Monmouthshire	6	
Neath, Port Talbot	0	
Newport	0	
Pembrokeshire	2	
Powys	5	
Rhondda Cynon Taf	0	
Swansea	0	
The Vale of Glamorgan	5	
Wrexham	2	
Total	28	26

Northern Ireland

County	2011 (final)	2012 (provisional)
Armagh	0	2
Fermanagh	0	1
Total	0	3

⁵ The location of the treasure case found is not known.

⁶ A breakdown of finds by county is not currently available for Wales for the year 2012, as the National Museum Wales is still in the process of verifying this data. This will be provided in the 2014 publication when 2012 data will be finalised and provisional 2013 data will be provided.

Table B: Analysis of Treasure cases in 2011 by period and disposition – England and Wales

Object Cases

	Disclaimed/RTF	Acquired ⁷	Donated	Not Treasure	To Be Determined	Total
Bronze Age	12	28	11	0	2	53
Iron Age	3	6	1	1	0	11
Romano-British	35	17	14	6	12	84
Early Medieval	39	51	9	4	2	105
Medieval	135	47	18	5	3	208
Post-Medieval	211	51	23	42	11	338
18th-20th Centuries	0	0	0	15	0	15
Undiagnostic ⁸	1	4	0	20	1	26
Totals	436	204	76	93	31	840

Coin Cases

	Disclaimed/RTF	Acquired ⁷	Donated	Not Treasure	To Be Determined	Total
Bronze Age	0	0	0	0	0	0
Iron Age	6	4	3	1	1	15
Romano-British	21	14	7	1	2	45
Early Medieval	3	7	5	1	0	16
Medieval	12	12	5	3	0	32
Post-Medieval	12	4	3	0	0	19
18th-20th Centuries	0	1	0	1	0	2
Undiagnostic ⁸	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	54	42	23	7	3	129

Overall	490	246	99	100	34	969
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Table C: Method of discovery of Treasure cases in 2011 – England and Wales

	Number of finds	%
Metal detecting	890	91.9
Archaeological find	19	2.0
To be confirmed	39	4.0
Chance find	15	1.6
Reported by buyer	2	0.2
Fieldwalking/Searching the Foreshore	4	0.4
Total	969	100.0

⁷ This covers finds that have been acquired as well as finds where museums have made an expression of interest, but have not yet acquired.

⁸ Includes objects 'of age' but not attributable to a particular historic period.

Chapter 4: Background information

Formats of statistical release

This release is available in word and pdf format. Corresponding data tables are available in excel format.

Previous reports

Statistics covering previous years can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/treasure-and-portable-antiquities-statistics>

Next release of data

The next release of data will take place in the third quarter of 2014 and will include finalised Treasure finds data for 2012 and provisional data for 2013.

Methodology

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

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