



Department
for Culture
Media & Sport

Reported Treasure Finds

2014 & 2015

Statistical Release

November 2016

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

Contents

| | |
|--|---|
| Chapter 1: Introduction..... | 3 |
| Chapter 2: Key findings..... | 4 |
| Chapter 3: Tables..... | 5 |
| Chapter 4: Background information..... | 8 |

Chapter 1: Introduction

Purpose of release

This statistical release presents data on the number of reported Treasure finds for 2014 and 2015 within England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

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 this release prior to 2013, then please contact us on evidence@culture.gsi.gov.uk.

Chapter 2: Key findings

This statistical release presents data on the number of reported Treasure finds for 2014 and 2015 within England, Wales and Northern Ireland¹. The data for 2014 are available broken down by county, period and disposition, and method of discovery. Provisional headline figures are provided for 2015 by county only.

- In 2015² the number of Treasure finds reported reached over a thousand finds (1,009) for the second year in a row and only the second time since 1996. The equivalent number for 2014 was 1,011³.
- In 2014, 87.1 per cent of Treasure finds were object cases⁴ (881 cases), of which just over half of these were disclaimed/returned to finder (RTF)⁵ cases (447 cases). Just under a quarter of object cases were acquired⁶ (248 cases).
- In 2014, the vast majority (96.1%) of Treasure finds in England, Wales and Northern Ireland were discovered by metal detecting. A further 2.1 per cent of cases were by an archaeological find and just under 1.0 per cent by chance find.
- In 2014, 77 cases of Treasure finds were donated allowing them to be acquired by museums at no (or reduced) public cost. 89.6 per cent of donated cases were object cases.

Guide to the data included in this release

This statistical release contains three tables. The data for 2014 are available broken down by county, period and disposition, and method of discovery. Provisional headline figures are provided for 2015 by county only. The 2014 data are given as final and the 2015 data are given as provisional, as of 26th October 2016.

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

¹ Data for Scotland is collated under the Scottish Treasure Trove system available at http://www.treasuretrovescotland.co.uk/News_and_reports/Annual_reports/Annual_report_13_14.html

² The overall figure for the number of Treasure finds is available for 2015, 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 2017 which will cover Treasure finds reported in 2015

³ This figure has been amended since the provisional release of the 2014 figure (1,008) reported in 2015

⁴ An object case is a find of any non-coin artefact.

⁵ 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.

⁶ 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 2014 and 2015

Table A: Number of Treasure cases in 2014 and 2015 by county (geographic distribution)

| England | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| County | 2014 (final) | 2015 (provisional) |
| Bath and North East Somerset | 3 | 1 |
| Bedfordshire | 12 | 8 |
| Berkshire & Reading | 16 | 11 |
| Bristol | 0 | 0 |
| Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes | 24 | 30 |
| Cambridgeshire and Peterborough | 22 | 22 |
| Cheshire and Merseyside | 14 | 8 |
| Cornwall | 14 | 5 |
| Coventry | 0 | 0 |
| Cumbria | 11 | 10 |
| Derbyshire | 3 | 6 |
| Devon | 25 | 19 |
| Dorset | 35 | 40 |
| Durham | 10 | 6 |
| Essex | 80 | 50 |
| Gloucestershire | 15 | 13 |
| Gloucestershire, South | 2 | 1 |
| Hampshire | 40 | 42 |
| Herefordshire | 4 | 11 |
| Hertfordshire | 25 | 13 |
| Isle of Wight | 17 | 25 |
| Kent | 33 | 38 |
| Lancashire | 13 | 6 |
| Leicestershire and Rutland | 11 | 15 |
| Lincolnshire | 53 | 49 |
| Lincolnshire, North and North East | 9 | 6 |
| London, Greater | 5 | 13 |
| Manchester, Greater | 2 | 1 |
| Norfolk | 119 | 127 |
| Northamptonshire | 20 | 11 |
| Northumberland | 4 | 7 |
| Nottinghamshire | 10 | 22 |
| Oxfordshire | 28 | 46 |
| Shropshire | 9 | 13 |
| Somerset | 22 | 28 |
| Somerset, North | 1 | 0 |
| Staffordshire | 11 | 11 |
| Suffolk | 72 | 87 |
| Surrey | 6 | 8 |
| Sussex, East | 10 | 3 |
| Sussex, West | 9 | 8 |
| Teesside, Redcar & Cleveland | 0 | 0 |

Department for Culture, Media and Sport
Reported Treasure Finds

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------|------------|
| Tyne and Wear | 0 | 0 |
| Warwickshire | 16 | 14 |
| West Midlands | 2 | 1 |
| Wiltshire and Swindon | 30 | 36 |
| Worcestershire | 18 | 8 |
| York, City of | 7 | 15 |
| Yorkshire, East | 19 | 24 |
| Yorkshire, North | 48 | 34 |
| Yorkshire, South | 8 | 11 |
| Yorkshire, West | 7 | 7 |
| Unknown ⁷ | 1 | 0 |
| Total | 975 | 970 |

Northern Ireland

| County | 2014 (final) | 2015 (provisional) |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|
| Antrim | 1 | 0 |
| Armagh | 0 | 0 |
| Down | 2 | 1 |
| Fermanagh | 0 | 1 |
| Total | 3 | 2 |

Wales

| County | 2014 (final) | 2015 ⁸ (provisional) |
|-----------------------|--------------|---------------------------------|
| Blaenau Gwent | 0 | |
| Bridgend | 0 | |
| Cardiff | 1 | |
| Caerphilly | 0 | |
| Carmarthenshire | 1 | |
| Ceredigion | 0 | |
| Conwy | 0 | |
| Denbighshire | 2 | |
| Flintshire | 1 | |
| Gwynedd | 1 | |
| Isle of Anglesey | 0 | |
| Monmouthshire | 4 | |
| Neath, Port Talbot | 0 | |
| Newport | 1 | |
| Pembrokeshire | 4 | |
| Powys | 2 | |
| Rhondda Cynon Taf | 0 | |
| Swansea | 0 | |
| Torfaen | 1 | |
| The Vale of Glamorgan | 11 | |
| Wrexham | 4 | |
| Total | 33 | 37 |

⁷ The location of the treasure case found is not known.

⁸ A breakdown of finds by county is not currently available for Wales for the year 2015, as the National Museum Wales is still in the process of verifying these data. This will be provided in the 2017 publication when 2015 data will be finalised and provisional 2016 data will be provided.

Table B: Analysis of Treasure cases in 2014 by period and disposition – England, Wales and Northern Ireland.**Object Cases**

| | Disclaimed/ RTF | Acquired ⁹ | Donated | Not Treasure | To Be Determined | Total |
|----------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------|-----------------|---------------------|------------|
| Bronze Age | 12 | 32 | 4 | 2 | 9 | 59 |
| Iron Age | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Romano-British | 39 | 25 | 10 | 3 | 4 | 81 |
| Early Medieval | 36 | 66 | 15 | 10 | 4 | 131 |
| Medieval | 144 | 66 | 15 | 3 | 10 | 238 |
| Post-Medieval | 216 | 59 | 24 | 30 | 8 | 337 |
| 18th-21st Centuries | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 8 |
| Undiagnostic ¹⁰ | 0 | 0 | 0 | 25 | 1 | 26 |
| Totals | 447 | 248 | 69 | 81 | 36 | 881 |

Coin Cases

| | Disclaimed/ RTF | Acquired ⁹ | Donated | Not Treasure | To Be Determined | Total |
|----------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|----------|-----------------|---------------------|------------|
| Bronze Age | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Iron Age | 5 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 10 |
| Romano-British | 20 | 29 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 61 |
| Early Medieval | 4 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 11 |
| Medieval | 16 | 7 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 27 |
| Post-Medieval | 11 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 20 |
| 18th-21st Centuries | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Undiagnostic ¹⁰ | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Totals | 56 | 48 | 8 | 9 | 9 | 130 |

| | | | | | | |
|----------------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------|
| Overall | 503 | 296 | 77 | 90 | 45 | 1,011 |
|----------------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------|

Table C: Method of discovery of Treasure cases in 2014 – England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

| | Number of finds | % |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|--------|
| Metal detecting | 972 | 96.14% |
| Archaeological find | 21 | 2.08% |
| To be confirmed | 3 | 0.30% |
| Chance find | 10 | 0.99% |
| Reported by buyer | 1 | 0.10% |
| Field walking/Searching the Foreshore | 4 | 0.40% |
| Total | 1,011 | |

⁹ This covers finds that have been acquired as well as finds where museums have made an expression of interest, but have not yet acquired.

¹⁰ Includes objects 'of age' but not attributable to a particular historic period.

Chapter 4: Background information

Official Statistics Report

Treasure Finds is an Official Statistic and as such has been produced to the professional standards set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. Official Statistics undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure they meet customer needs and are produced free from any political interference. See the Statistics Authority code of practice for more information.

Formats of statistical release

This release is available in html 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 November 2017 and will include finalised Treasure finds data for 2015 and provisional data for 2016.

Methodology

The data presented here is collected by the Portable Antiquities and Treasure section, Department of Portable Antiquities & Treasure and recorded by the [Portable Antiquities Scheme](#).

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