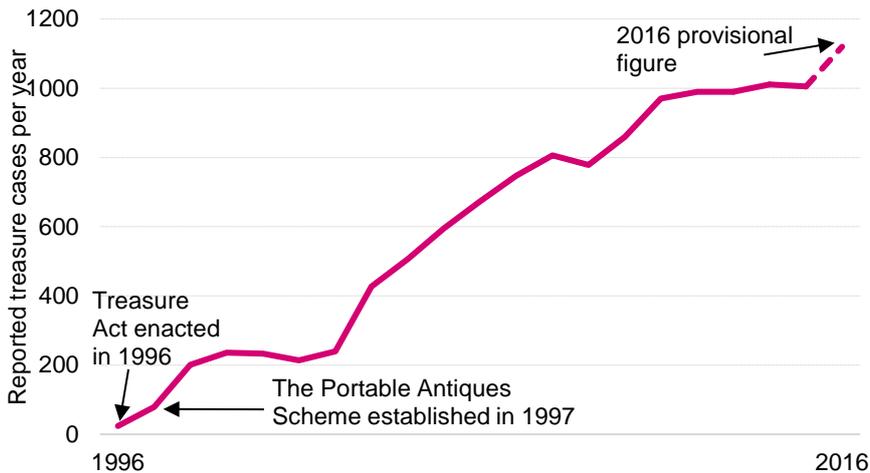




Statistical Release for Reported Treasure Finds 2015 & 2016 (Provisional)

The number of reported Treasure cases in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, 1996 to 2016



Key findings

- In 2015, there were 1,005 reported Treasure finds.
- The provisional figure for 2016 was 1,120, making this the third year in a row when the number exceeded 1,000.
- In both 2015 and 2016, the largest number of finds was in Norfolk followed by Suffolk.

In 2015:

- 82% of Treasure finds were object cases (827 cases). Over half of these were disclaimed/returned to finder (453 cases) and a quarter were acquired (205 cases).
- The remaining 178 cases (18%) were coin cases.
- A large majority (96%) of Treasure finds in England, Wales and Northern Ireland were discovered by metal detecting.

This statistical release presents data on the number of reported Treasure Finds for 2015 and 2016 within England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The data for 2015 are broken down by county, period and disposition and method of discovery. Figures for 2016 are provisional and are provided by county only.

The 1996 **Treasure Act** replaced the common law of Treasure Trove in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. It was supplemented by the 2002 Treasure (Designation) Order. The Act sets out the definition of Treasure.

The Portable Antiques Scheme was established by DCMS in 1997 to record archaeological finds found by the public.

Responsible statistician:

Wilmah Deda
020 7211 6376

Statistical enquiries:

evidence@culture.gov.uk
[@DCMSInsight](https://twitter.com/DCMSInsight)

Media enquiries:

020 7211 2210

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Chapter 1: Key findings

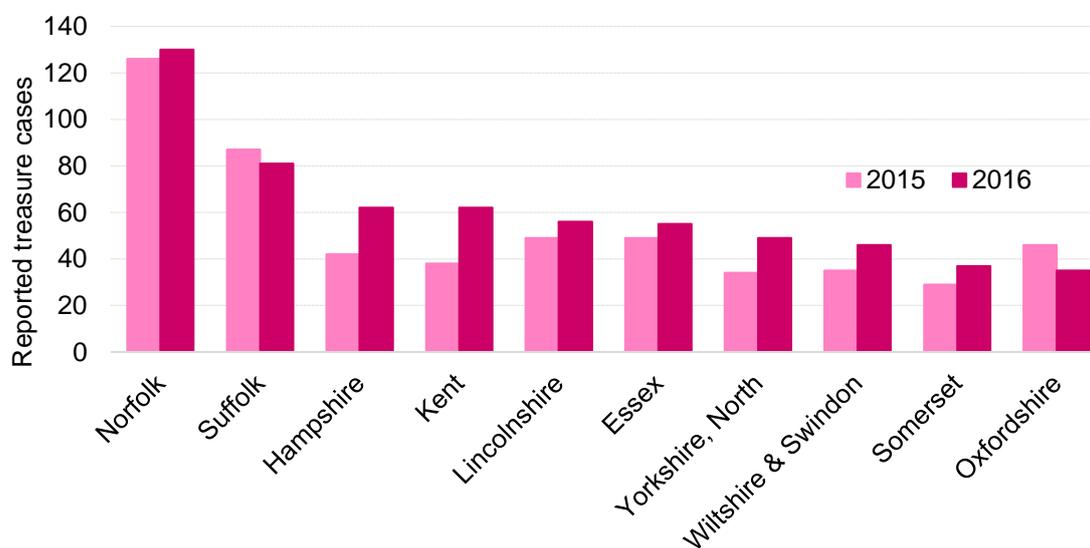
Total reported treasure finds

- In 2016¹, the number of Treasure finds reported reached over a thousand finds (1,120) for the third year in a row and for the third time since 1996. The equivalent number for 2015 was 1,005², which was a small drop of 6 cases from 2014 (1,011).

Reported finds by county, 2015 & 2016 (provisional)

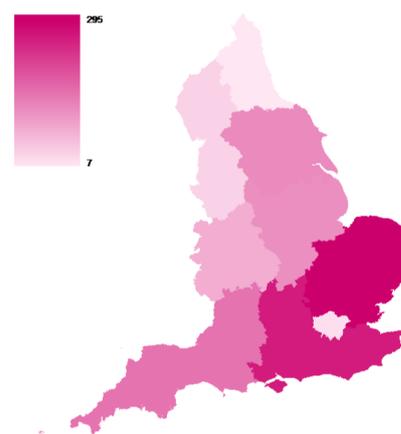
- In both 2015 and 2016 (provisional), the largest number of finds was in Norfolk (accounting for 13% of all finds in 2015 and 12% in 2016) followed by Suffolk (9% and 7% respectively). In 2016, 130 cases were found in Norfolk and 81 in Suffolk.
- Hampshire and Kent both recorded an increase in treasure cases in 2016 compared to 2015, 62 treasure cases respectively.

Top ten counties by reported Treasure cases in England, 2015 and 2016



Total reported Treasure finds by English regions, 2016 (provisional)

- In 2016, there were 40 reported Treasure cases in Wales³, an increase of 3 cases from 2015. Only 3 Treasure Cases were reported in Northern Ireland.



¹ A number of 2016 cases have not been resolved and it is not possible to provide a breakdown of factors such as period and disposition in this release. This final breakdown will be provided in the Treasure Statistical Release in 2018 which will cover the treasure finds for 2016.

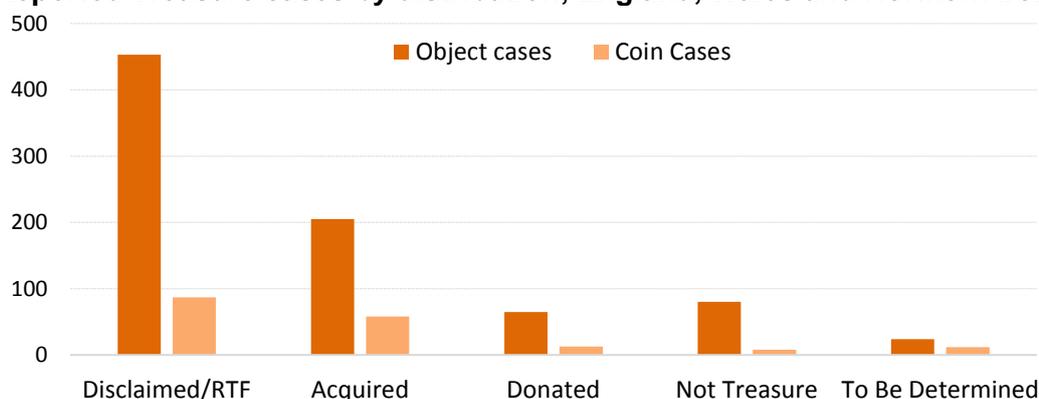
² This figure has been amended from the provisional 2015 figure (1,009) reported in last year's release.

³ A breakdown of finds by county is not available for Wales for 2016, as the National Museum in Wales is still processing these data.

Characteristics of reported finds, 2015

- 82% of reported Treasure finds in 2015 were object cases⁴ (827 cases), of which over half were disclaimed/returned to finder (RTF)⁵ (453 cases) and a quarter were acquired⁶ (205).
- Of the 178 Treasure finds that were coin cases, just under half (87 cases) were disclaimed and a third were acquired (58 cases).
- A total of 78 Treasure case finds were donated allowing them to be acquired by museums at no (or reduced) public cost. 83% of donated cases were object cases.

Reported Treasure cases by distribution; England, Wales and Northern Ireland, 2015



- Over a third (37%) of treasure cases in 2015 were from the post-medieval period (341 object cases and 32 coin cases) and just over a quarter (27%) were from the medieval period.

Reported Treasure cases by period, England, Wales and Northern Ireland, 2015



- A large majority (96.2%) of Treasure finds in England, Wales and Northern Ireland⁷ were discovered by metal detecting. A further 2.2% (22 cases) were archaeological finds and 0.8% (8 cases) were chance finds.

Museum acquisitions, 2015

- In 2015, 341 Treasure cases were acquired by museums in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Of these 6.5% (22 cases) were acquired by the **Colchester and Ipswich Museums Service** and 6.2% (21 cases) were acquired by the **Oxfordshire Museums Service**.

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

⁵ Disclaimed/Return to finder cases are those case 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 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.

⁷ Data for Scotland is collated under the Scottish Treasure Trove system available at: <https://treasuretrovescotland.co.uk/reports-and-minutes/>

Annex A: Background Information

1. 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.
2. 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](#).
3. **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.
4. **The Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS)** was established by the Department for Digital, 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. There is no requirement by the Treasure Act to present statistics on the PAS before Parliament. 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.
5. This report has been produced by Penelope Rafter and Wilmah Deda. The responsible statistician for this release is Wilmah Deda. For enquiries on this release please contact evidence@culture.gov.uk. For general enquiries please contact 0207 211 6134 or enquiries@culture.gov.uk.
6. The next release of data is scheduled for November 2018 and will include finalised Treasure finds data for 2016 and provisional data for 2017.

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Department for
Digital, Culture
Media & Sport

4th Floor, 100 Parliament Street
London, SW1A 2BQ
GOV.UK/DCMS