

Reported Treasure Finds

2013 & 2014

Statistical Release

November 2015

*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 data on the number of reported Treasure finds for 2013 and 2014 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 2013 and 2014 within England, Wales and Northern Ireland[[1]](#footnote-1). The data for 2013 are available broken down by county, period and disposition, and method of discovery. Provisional headline figures are provided for 2014 by county only.

* In 2014[[2]](#footnote-2) the number of Treasure finds reported reached over a thousand finds (1008) for the first time since 1996. The equivalent number for 2013 was 990[[3]](#footnote-3).
* In 2013, 88.4 per cent of Treasure finds were object cases[[4]](#footnote-4) (875 cases), of which just over half of these were disclaimed/returned to finder (RTF)[[5]](#footnote-5) cases (453 cases). Just under a quarter of object cases were acquired[[6]](#footnote-6) (207 cases).
* In 2013, the vast majority (94.8 per cent) of Treasure finds in England, Wales and Northern Ireland were discovered by metal detecting. A further 1.8 per cent of cases were by an archaeological find and 1.6 per cent by chance find.
* In 2013 119 cases of Treasure were donated allowing them to be acquired by museums at no (or reduced) public cost. 84.9 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 2013 are available broken down by county, period and disposition, and method of discovery. Provisional headline figures are provided for 2014 by county only. The 2013 data are given as final and the 2014 data are given as provisional, as of 30th September 2015.

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

Chapter 3: Tables

**Treasure finds in 2013 and 2014**

Table A: Number of Treasure cases in 2013 and 2014 by county (geographic distribution)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **England** |  |  |
| **County** | **2013 (final)** | **2014 (provisional)** |
| Bath and North East Somerset | 0 | 3 |
| Bedfordshire | 17 | 12 |
| Berkshire & Reading | 15 | 16 |
| Bristol | 0 | 0 |
| Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes | 20 | 24 |
| Cambridgeshire and Peterborough | 29 | 23 |
| Cheshire and Merseyside | 10 | 14 |
| Cornwall | 9 | 14 |
| Coventry | 0 | 0 |
| Cumbria | 8 | 11 |
| Derbyshire | 6 | 3 |
| Devon | 20 | 25 |
| Dorset | 41 | 35 |
| Durham | 2 | 10 |
| Essex | 66 | 81 |
| Gloucestershire | 15 | 15 |
| Gloucestershire, South | 4 | 1 |
| Hampshire | 47 | 40 |
| Herefordshire | 10 | 4 |
| Hertfordshire | 17 | 25 |
| Isle of` Wight | 30 | 17 |
| Kent | 50 | 33 |
| Lancashire | 6 | 13 |
| Leicestershire and Rutland | 11 | 11 |
| Lincolnshire | 62 | 53 |
| Lincolnshire, North and North East | 26 | 9 |
| London, Greater | 8 | 5 |
| Manchester, Greater | 0 | 2 |
| Norfolk | 107 | 119 |
| Northamptonshire | 17 | 20 |
| Northumberland | 4 | 4 |
| Nottinghamshire | 9 | 10 |
| Oxfordshire | 19 | 28 |
| Shropshire | 15 | 9 |
| Somerset | 19 | 22 |
| Somerset, North | 1 | 1 |
| Staffordshire | 14 | 11 |
| Suffolk | 61 | 72 |
| Surrey | 14 | 6 |
| Sussex, East | 11 | 11 |
| Sussex, West | 9 | 9 |
| Teesside, Redcar & Cleveland | 1 | 0 |
| Tyne and Wear | 0 | 0 |
| Warwickshire | 14 | 15 |
| West Midlands | 1 | 2 |
| Wiltshire and Swindon | 30 | 31 |
| Worcestershire | 8 | 18 |
| York, City of | 0 | 0 |
| Yorkshire, East | 31 | 19 |
| Yorkshire, North | 41 | 55 |
| Yorkshire, South | 5 | 8 |
| Yorkshire, West | 1 | 7 |
| Unknown[[7]](#footnote-7) | 0 | 1 |
| **Total** | **961** | **977** |
|  |  |  |
| **Northern Ireland** |  |  |
| **County** | **2013** **(final)** | **2014 (provisional)** |
| Antrim | 1 | 1 |
| Armagh | 0 | 0 |
| Down | 3 | 1 |
| Fermanagh | 0 | 0 |
| **Total** | **4** | **2** |
|  |  |  |
| **Wales** |  |  |
| **County** | **2013** **(final)** | **2014 [[8]](#footnote-8)(provisional)** |
| Blaenau Gwent | 0 |   |
| Bridgend | 0 |   |
| Caerphilly | 1 |   |
| Carmarthenshire | 0 |   |
| Ceredigion | 0 |   |
| Conwy | 0 |   |
| Denbighshire | 0 |   |
| Flintshire | 2 |   |
| Gwynedd | 0 |   |
| Isle of Anglesey | 1 |   |
| Monmouthshire | 3 |   |
| Neath, Port Talbot | 0 |   |
| Newport | 1 |   |
| Pembrokeshire | 5 |   |
| Powys | 2 |   |
| Rhondda Cynon Taf | 0 |   |
| Swansea | 1 |   |
| The Vale of Glamorgan | 6 |   |
| Wrexham | 3 |   |
| **Total** | **25** | **29** |
|  |  |  |

Table B: Analysis of Treasure cases in 2013 by period and disposition – England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Object Cases** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   | **Disclaimed/RTF** | **Acquired[[9]](#footnote-9)** | **Donated** | **Not Treasure** | **To Be Determined** | **Total** |
| Bronze Age | 13 | 25 | 10 | 1 | 5 | 54 |
| Iron Age | 2 | 4 | 5 | - | 1 | 12 |
| Romano-British | 32 | 17 | 12 | - | 6 | 67 |
| Early Medieval | 36 | 54 | 19 | 2 | 4 | 115 |
| Medieval | 146 | 52 | 22 | 7 | 4 | 231 |
| Post-Medieval | 222 | 55 | 33 | 39 | 7 | 356 |
| 18th-21st Centuries | - | - | - | 9 | - | 9 |
| Undiagnostic[[10]](#footnote-10) | 2 | - | - | 29 | - | 31 |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| **Totals** | **453** | **207** | **101** | **87** | **27** | **875** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Coin Cases** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   | **Disclaimed/RTF** | **Acquired9** | **Donated** | **Not Treasure** | **To Be Determined** | **Total** |
| Bronze Age | - | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| Iron Age | 10 | 7 | 4 | 1 | - | 22 |
| Romano-British | 11 | 17 | 9 | 1 | 1 | 39 |
| Early Medieval | 4 | 1 | - | - | - | 5 |
| Medieval | 15 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 27 |
| Post-Medieval | 13 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 22 |
| 18th-21st Centuries | - | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| Undiagnostic10 | - | - | - | - | - | 0 |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| **Totals** | **53** | **37** | **18** | **4** | **3** | **115** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Overall** | **506** | **244** | **119** | **91** | **30** | **990** |

Table C: Method of discovery of Treasure cases in 2013 – England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|   | **Number of finds** | **%** |
| Metal detecting | 938 | 94.8 |
| Archaeological find | 17 | 1.8 |
| To be confirmed | 10 | 1 |
| Chance find | 16 | 1.6 |
| Reported by buyer | 3 | 0.3 |
| Field walking/Searching the Foreshore | 6 | 0.6 |
| **Total** | **990** |   |

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 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 November 2016 and will include finalised Treasure finds data for 2014 and provisional data for 2015.

**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](http://www.finds.org.uk)).

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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 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The overall figure for the number of Treasure finds is available for 2014, 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 2016 which will cover Treasure finds reported in 2014 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. This figure has been amended since the provisional release of the 2013 figure (993) reported in 2014 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. An object case is a find of any non-coin artefact. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
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. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
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. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. The location of the treasure case found is not known. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. A breakdown of finds by county is not currently available for Wales for the year 2014, as the National Museum Wales is still in the process of verifying these data. This will be provided in the 2016 publication when 2014 data will be finalised and provisional 2015 data will be provided. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
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. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Includes objects 'of age' but not attributable to a particular historic period. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)