



Treasure and Portable Antiquities

Statistical release – 12 October 2011

Purpose of release

This statistical release presents the number of finds of reported Treasure (in England, Wales and Northern Ireland) in 2009 and objects recorded through the Portable Antiquities Scheme (in England and Wales) in 2009 and 2010.

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 (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 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 2009 778 finds of Treasure were reported. The number for 2010 is 860¹.
- In 2009 and 2010 67,089 and 90,099 finds (respectively) were recorded with the Portable Antiquities Scheme (www.finds.org.uk).
- In 2009 113 parties waived their right to a reward in 71 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 finds recorded by county in 2009 and the number of portable antiquities recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme in 2009 and 2010. The release contains 7 tables.

Treasure finds in 2009

A. Number of Treasure cases by geographic distribution

England

County	2009
Bath & North East Somerset	1
Bedfordshire	14
Berkshire	4
Buckinghamshire (inc Milton Keynes)	14
Cambridgeshire (inc Peterborough)	8
Cheshire	10
Cornwall	9
Cumbria	6
Derbyshire	9
Devon	3
Dorset	17
Durham	1
Essex	54
Gloucestershire	10
Gloucestershire, South	3
Hampshire	22
Herefordshire	5
Hertfordshire	19
Isle of Wight	47
Kent	41
Lancashire	5
Leicestershire & Rutland	17
Lincolnshire	40
Lincolnshire, North	5
London, Greater	15
Norfolk	82
Northamptonshire	17
Northumberland	8

¹ The overall figure for the number of Treasure finds is available, but a number of cases have not been resolved and so it is not possible to provide a breakdown of factors including geographical location, period and disposition in this release.

Nottinghamshire	14
Oxfordshire	13
Shropshire	15
Somerset	17
Somerset, North	1
Staffordshire	15
Suffolk	65
Surrey	8
Sussex, East	10
Sussex, West	10
Warwickshire	12
Wiltshire (inc Swindon)	20
Worcestershire	4
York, City of	1
Yorkshire, East	20
Yorkshire, North	39
Yorkshire, South	3
Yorkshire, West	3
Unknown	2
Total	758

Wales

County	2009
Bridgend	1
Caerphilly	1
Ceredigion	1
Gwynedd	1
Monmouthshire	2
Pembrokeshire	3
Powys	4
Rhondda Cynon Taf	1
Swansea	1
Vale of Glamorgan	4
Wrexham	1
Total	20

Northern Ireland

County	2009
Total	0

B. Analysis of 2009 Treasure cases by period and disposition - England & Wales
(accurate as of 1 July 2011)

Object Cases

	Disclaimed/ RTF	Acquired ²	Donated	Not Treasure	To Be Determined	Total
Bronze Age	14	12	10	1	1	38
Iron Age	2	2	2	1	0	7
Roman	34	15	8	3	7	67
Early Medieval	33	37	8	6	6	90
Medieval	102	43	17	8	5	175
Post-Medieval	143	41	15	21	3	223
Modern	0	0	0	27	0	27
Undiagnostic ³	10	1	1	34	1	47
Totals	338	151	61	101	23	674

Coin Cases

	Disclaimed/ RTF	Acquired	Donated	Not Treasure	To Be Determined	Total
Iron Age	2	5	1	0	1	9
Roman	15	14	4	3	2	38
Early Medieval	3	4	0	1	0	8
Medieval	8	12	4	1	2	27
Post-Medieval	15	4	1	1	0	21
Modern	0	0	0	0	1	1
Undiagnostic	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	43	39	10	6	6	104

Overall	381	190	71	107	29	778
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C. Method of discovery of Treasure finds - England and Wales

	Number of finds	%
Metal detecting	737	94.73
Archaeological find	21	2.69
Chance find	13	1.68
Reported by buyer	7	0.90
Total	778	

Portable Antiquities Scheme finds in 2009 and 2010

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.

D. Objects recorded by geographical distribution

² This covers finds that have been acquired as well as finds where museums have made an expression of interest, but have not yet acquired.

³ Includes objects 'of age' but not attributable to a particular historic period.

County	PAS records 2009	PAS finds recorded 2009	PAS records 2010	PAS finds recorded 2010
Avon	148	388	534	772
Bedfordshire	549	551	604	656
Berkshire	99	104	733	847
Buckinghamshire	1,438	1,579	1,745	1,875
Cambridgeshire	1,169	1,801	983	1,135
Cheshire	440	485	442	462
Cleveland	19	29	69	84
Cornwall	199	263	325	336
Cumbria	193	201	530	1,587
Derbyshire	254	392	219	739
Devon	330	591	1,076	1,389
Dorset	580	932	684	1,455
Durham	118	165	473	561
Essex	1,213	2,292	1,432	1,607
Gloucestershire	490	614	631	1,189
Gtr London	661	733	566	567
Gtr Manchester	10	10	20	20
Hampshire	2,084	2,335	2,542	15,511
Herefordshire	240	266	291	339
Hertfordshire	1,111	1,126	1,219	3,867
Isle of Wight	1,340	1,772	1,525	2,100
Isles of Scilly	1	1	0	0
Kent	960	1,158	1,440	6,278
Lancashire	262	282	172	183
Leicestershire	1,074	1,152	1,129	1,235
Lincolnshire	3,548	3,904	4,725	5,648
Lincolnshire, NE	1	1	101	109
Lincolnshire, N	487	503	717	806
Merseyside	20	20	38	84
Norfolk	1,322	1,490	681	1,045
Northamptonshire	870	903	884	1,008
Northumberland	117	489	304	391
Nottinghamshire	1,188	1,236	915	1,034
Oxfordshire	688	1,263	1,231	1,589
Rutland	32	32	138	162
Shropshire	463	10,715	782	1,055
Somerset	810	2,705	626	943
Staffordshire	622	728	879	947
Suffolk	3,106	5,629	4,468	6,571
Surrey	906	2,491	881	1,237
Sussex, E	1,016	1,149	902	1,142
Sussex, W	1,100	1,664	1,330	1,857
Tyne & Wear	4	4	11	11
Warwickshire	1,367	2,913	1,214	5,034
West Midlands	36	128	56	71
Wiltshire	1,288	1,712	1,316	3,111
Worcestershire	279	328	433	1,221
Yorkshire, E	1,776	2,241	2,129	2,415
Yorkshire, N	2,389	3,594	2,509	2,856

Yorkshire, S	384	674	350	573
Yorkshire, W	281	399	220	242
Other	391	456	1,016	1,176
Wales	400	496	509	2,967
Total⁴	39,873	67,089	48,749	90,099

E. Objects recorded by class (where known)

	Metal objects	Coins	Worked stone	Pottery	Other
2009	20,129	35,333	2,665	8,444	518
%	30.00	52.67	3.97	12.59	0.77
2010	25,422	49,970	4,193	9,610	904
%	28.22	55.46	4.65	10.67	1.00

F. Objects recorded by period (where known)

	Stone Age	Bronze Age	Iron Age	Roman	Early Medieval	Medieval	Post-Medieval
2009	2,459	1,014	1,301	35,424	2,170	13,897	10,005
%	3.71	1.53	1.96	53.46	3.27	20.97	15.10
2010	3,724	1,324	3,978	44,831	2,663	13,006	19,321
%	4.19	1.49	4.48	50.46	3.00	14.64	21.74

G. Method of discovery (where known)

	Metal-detecting	Chance find while metal-detecting	Field-walking	Other chance find / gardening	Controlled archaeological investigation	Building / agricultural work
2009	82.70%	5.36%	2.31%	5.83%	2.81%	0.99%
2010	86.41%	2.02%	4.32%	3.61%	3.52%	0.12%

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/publications/7259.aspx>

Next release of data

⁴ This data does not include portable antiquities from the Staffordshire Hoard (3,490+objects in 2009), or the Frome hoard (52,503 coins in 2010); to do so would have a disproportionate impact on the number of finds recorded from the periods in question. It also does not include downloads of the Celtic Coin Index (37,931 finds) or the Iron Age & Roman Coinage of Wales (52,812 finds) 2010 datasets; these databases have been added to the PAS database, but have not been included here as this would give a false impression of the recording work of the PAS.

The next release of data will take place in the third quarter of 2012 and will include data for 2010 (Treasure) and 2011 (PAS).

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).

Contact for enquiries:

Department for Culture, Media and Sport
2-4 Cockspur Street
London SW1Y 5DH

evidence@culture.gsi.gov.uk

The responsible analyst for this release is Peter Antonaides
For enquiries on this release contact: 020 7211 6188
For general enquiries telephone: 020 7211 6000