



Portable Antiquities Scheme & Treasure Annual Report for Wales 2015



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Portable archaeological heritage forms a key part of our ever-changing understanding of ancient peoples and places. It offers us important insights into who we were, who we are today and can contribute powerfully to the wider cultural life of the nation. It is a fragile and unique resource, often unearthed through the enthusiasm of those in the metal-detecting community, but can as easily be a chance find by a member of the public on a walk or in the garden. These finds can support learning, contribute to our sense of belonging and inspire creativity. The Portable Antiquities Scheme in Wales supports finders and offers a robust and positive way for anyone to discover more about their finds and to ensure they are properly recorded and the knowledge added to our growing understanding.

The report offers information and an update on the ongoing work and efforts of archaeologists, museum curators and other partners who are engaged daily in recording, reporting upon, collecting and encouraging wider public engagement with the rich and varied material cultures of Wales.



Ken Skates AM
Cabinet Secretary for Economy
and Infrastructure



Key Facts

The main achievements for the Portable Antiquities Scheme in Wales (PAS Cymru) in 2015 are:

- 1479 archaeological artefacts and coins were recorded by PAS Cymru at Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales (AC-NMW); a further 197 were recorded through the regional Welsh Archaeological Trusts, as PAS Cymru partners. These detailed records with images, offer a solid and widely-accessible foundation to facilitate informed research on our shared heritage. Many thousands more objects from across Wales, of lesser archaeological significance and not requiring detailed records, have been identified through PAS Cymru as part of its wider public service remit.
- 1126 PAS finds from Wales were added to the publicly accessible PAS database in 2015¹, over 90% of which were offered for recording by metal-detectorists.
- The Portable Antiquities Scheme in Wales reached out to 66 metal detector club gatherings during 2015, resulting in mutually-beneficial engagement with many hundreds of people across Wales. These engagements represent informal learning opportunities within people's own communities, extending the reach of heritage beyond museums. Meaningful engagements continue to be undertaken in many Pioneer Areas of Wales, with particularly strong representation in the Rhondda and Gwent valleys, Swansea and Wrexham.
- PAS Cymru offers volunteering opportunities, student placements and training, helping to develop skills, work-experience and confidence amongst participating volunteers.
- The work of PAS Cymru has continued to inform and enhance heritage in Wales, supporting the key aims of the Heritage Bill in Wales, by revealing previously unknown

archaeological sites and developing our understanding around known sites. Information has been incorporated into Heritage Environment Records held by the Welsh Archaeological Trust partners. PAS Cymru continues to ensure that the public are at the centre of heritage discovery and promotes an awareness and concern for our heritage, therefore fostering heritage care within communities.

The main achievements in Wales during 2015, of the Treasure Act 1996 are as follows:-

- 37 Treasure cases were reported in Wales (representing approximately 3.5% of the total number of Treasure cases reported from across the whole of England & Wales and an increase on the 33 Treasure cases reported in Wales in 2014). Many of these will be acquired by local museums and Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales for public benefit.
- All Treasure finds in Wales, reported in 2015 were found by metal-detectorists. Most were initially reported via PAS Cymru, while a few were first reported through PAS in England.
- AC-NMW curators prepared 40 reports for coroners and 46 Treasure inquests were held in Wales.
- Important new Treasure finds included:
 - an early medieval coin and ingot hoard from Llandwrog Community, Gwynedd (15.01)
 - an Early Bronze Age tool and weapon hoard from Wenvoe Community, Vale of Glamorgan (15.03)
 - a Late Bronze Age hoard from Grosmont Community, Monmouthshire (15.07)
 - a medieval silver-gilt finger ring from Lamphey Community, Pembrokeshire (15.08)
 - a post-medieval dress-hook from Grosmont Community, Monmouthshire (15.19)
 - a Roman gold ring with intaglio from Newtown & Llanllwchaiarn Community, Powys (15.29)

¹ <https://finds.org.uk/database>

In its first year of operating, in 2015, the Saving Treasures; Telling Stories Project:-

- initiated a programme of collecting treasure and non-treasure finds from Wales, by the end of the year making 14 acquisitions with grant funding totalling £15,281. A further 16 acquisitions were actively being progressed towards grant acquisition in 2016.
- acquired significant Treasure finds for Flintshire County Council Museums Service, Oriel Ynys Môn and Swansea Museum.
- acquired a medieval coin hoard from Wenvoe Community, Vale of Glamorgan for the national collections.
- staff undertook three archaeological site investigations of four newly discovered Bronze

Age hoards. At Grosmont Community, Monmouthshire, artefacts left undisturbed within the ground were excavated, with the help and support of finders and landowner.

- planned for the initiation of two Community Archaeology Projects in 2016, working with Swansea Museum and Wrexham County Borough Museum & Archives.
- developed a plan for redeveloping the PAS Cymru website to be a distinctive focus in Wales for treasure and PAS recorded finds.
- progressed plans towards appointing a Saving Treasures; Telling Stories Project Officer in 2016.
- held regular Project Board meetings, involving all Partner bodies, while also regularly reporting back to the Heritage Lottery Fund on progress made.

Portable Antiquities Scheme in Wales (PAS Cymru)

The Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) was established to record archaeological finds made by the public across England and Wales, in order to advance knowledge of past. It is the only proactive mechanism for recording such finds, which are made publicly available on its online database (finds.org.uk/database) so that this data can be used by archaeologists, researchers, and those with an interest in the archaeology and history of England and Wales.

In Wales, the scheme is staffed by the PAS Cymru Co-ordinator, based at Amgueddfa Cymru, with additional recording inputs from each of the four regional Welsh Archaeological Trusts and support from local museums as reporting centres, providing enhanced cross-Wales coverage. PAS Finds Liaison Officers from neighbouring English counties also offer additional recording support, in instances where finders choose to report their discoveries from Wales, in England. In addition, specialist curators of archaeology and numismatics at Amgueddfa Cymru offer support to PAS Cymru. Bursaries and volunteer opportunities here also offer additional reporting capacity.

PAS Cymru is funded within Wales and managed through the PAS Cymru Advisory Committee, made up of representatives from the three partner funding bodies in Wales (AC-NMW, Cadw and the Museums, Archives and Libraries Division (MALD) of Welsh Government). This is also attended by Dr Michael Lewis, Head of Portable Antiquities & Treasure at the British Museum, ensuring consistency, good communication and a shared strategic approach, where appropriate.

The Portable Antiquities Scheme in Wales has been running since 1999 and to date 62,220 artefacts recorded on the online database are from Wales. These records represent an increasingly important resource relating to the portable archaeological heritage of Wales.

Aims of the PAS

The PAS is a partnership scheme which records archaeological objects found by the public in order to advance understanding of our pasts. In order to do this the PAS:

- promotes the maximum public interest and benefit from the recovery, recording and research of portable antiquities.
- promotes best practice by finders/landowners and archaeologists/museums in the discovery, recording and conservation of finds made by the public.
- in partnership with museums, archaeological trusts/units and others, raises awareness among the public of recording archaeological finds in their context and facilitates research in them.
- creates partnerships between finders and museums/archaeologists to increase participation in archaeology and advance the understanding of our past.
- supports the Treasure Act and increases opportunities for museums to acquire archaeological finds for public benefit.

Treasure Act 1996

Under the Treasure Act 1996² which is current in England and Wales, finders have a legal obligation to report all finds of potential Treasure to the local coroner in the district in which the find was made. In Wales, the success of the Treasure Act is made possible through the work of PAS Cymru and archaeology and numismatics curators at AC-NMW, advising finders on their coin and artefact finds, their legal obligations, and on the Treasure process. In Wales, AC-NMW curators provide expert advice for coroners, by contributing written reports and making recommendations on treasure finds from Wales.

The Act allows Amgueddfa Cymru and local museums to acquire Treasure finds made in Wales, for public benefit. As the national museum, AC-NMW has the right to pre-empt

treasure on behalf of the nation, especially in cases where finds are of national or international significance. However, at present, around half of the 30-40 treasure cases reported in Wales each year are acquired by local museums collecting archaeological material. This sharing of Treasure finds across Wales will continue over coming years (although in the longer term, is contingent upon sources of dedicated funding being available). In instances where no public museum is interested or able to acquire, treasure finds may be disclaimed and returned to finders.

When Treasure found in England and Wales is acquired for public benefit, a reward is paid, which is (normally) shared equally between the finder and the landowner. Interested parties may wish to waive their right to a reward, enabling museums to acquire finds at reduced or no cost. Rewards are fixed at the full market value of the find, determined by the Secretary of State (UK Government) upon the advice of an independent panel of experts, known as the Treasure Valuation Committee (TVC).

The administration of the Treasure process for Wales is undertaken by specialist curators based at AC-NMW. Their work involves the preparation of Treasure cases for coroners' inquests, providing reports and advice for coroners on potential Treasure finds, assessing illustration requirements and couriering finds declared as Treasure to the British Museum in order to facilitate the independent valuation process undertaken by the TVC. The British Museum works in collaboration with AC-NMW, administering the valuation process and handling the payment of rewards in relation to Treasure cases from Wales.

² http://www.museumwales.ac.uk/portable-antiquities-scheme-wales/#treasure_act; <https://finds.org.uk/treasure>; <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1996/24/section/1>

What is treasure?

The following finds are Treasure if found after 24 September 1997, or in the case of category 2, if found after 1 January 2003:

- 1.** Any metallic object, other than a coin, provided that at least 10% by weight of metal is precious metal (gold or silver) and that it is at least 300 years old when found. If the object is of prehistoric date it will be Treasure provided any part of it is precious metal.
- 2.** Any group of two or more metallic objects of any composition of prehistoric date that come from the same find (buried in direct association, as a closed group).
- 3.** Two or more coins from the same find provided they are at least 300 years old when found and contain 10 per cent gold or silver. If the coins are less than 10% of gold or silver there must be at least ten of them.
- 4.** Any object, whatever it is made of, that is found in the same place as, or had previously been together with another object that is Treasure.
- 5.** Any object that would previously have been Treasure Trove, but does not fall within the specific categories given above.

If someone finds something that they believe is Treasure, or is not sure whether it is Treasure or not, they should contact the PAS Cymru Co-ordinator or National Museum archaeology and numismatics curators at Amgueddfa Cymru, for advice.

PAS Cymru and Treasure in Wales; reporting and recording portable heritage across England & Wales

Wales has been a contributing devolved nation within PAS since 1999 and it was one of the early pilot areas, before coverage was extended across the whole of England and Wales. Over this time over 62,000 non-treasure artefacts have been reported and recorded in Wales, with around 1,500 significant archaeological finds being voluntarily reported and recorded by the scheme each year. In recent years, the funding of PAS Cymru has devolved entirely to Wales, with three partners (AC-NMW, Cadw and MALD) providing the combined £75,000 needed annually to fund the scheme, via the Welsh Government. The administration of Treasure from Wales by Amgueddfa Cymru is long-established. However, since the Treasure Act 1996 was introduced, the number of cases has risen from perhaps one case every 2-3 years, to over 30 cases every year. Together, this portable archaeological heritage represents an important and growing cultural resource in Wales for exploring our shared archaeological pasts. The distinctive identity, engagements and successes of PAS Cymru and treasure reporting in Wales deserve to be highlighted and more widely perceived. The recent success in being awarded Heritage Lottery funding for the *Saving Treasures; Telling Stories* project, a partnership between Amgueddfa Cymru, PAS Cymru and the Federation for Museums & Art Galleries of Wales (FED) will address this need for the duration of the project.

The shared PAS network and the Treasure reporting framework across England and Wales continue to bring benefits for all. A finder, landowner or interested member of the public may expect consistent approaches and seamless experiences, whether living,

reporting or accessing in Wales or England. The combined PAS database³ enables the public to access records of objects, wherever they live and irrespective of modern political boundaries. The PAS network of staff help and support each other: many non-treasure finds made in England, may be reported and recorded in Wales, and vice versa. Finds Liaison Officers operating in English counties bordering on Wales work with finders and certain metal-detector clubs in Wales, to enhance the network of reporting coverage and artefact records made. Close and constructive interactions occur daily amongst PAS and Treasure administering staff at Amgueddfa Cymru and the British Museum, ensuring a constant sharing of expertise, knowledge, experience and inputs across England and Wales. These links are both vital to the significant outputs and successes generated, while proving extremely cost-effective in the face of ever growing numbers of significant finds being reported each year.

This newly initiated report, a PAS Cymru and Treasure Annual Report for Wales, is intended as an additional resource, source of information and advocacy tool for Wales as a devolved nation within the United Kingdom. It complements, but does not seek to replicate the statutory requirement to report to the United Kingdom Government Minister on Treasure from England and Wales each year. These Treasure Act Annual Reports may be accessed via the PAS website⁴ along with The Portable Antiquities Scheme Annual Reports, which are both generated by The British Museum.

PAS Cymru

Outreach & Learning

A key objective of PAS Cymru continues to be in developing relationships with communities of finders across Wales. These valued relationships have developed over the last 16 years, enabling archaeologists and the public to learn about and research recently recovered archaeological material culture. This has provided a greatly enhanced understanding of our heritage environment and informed the care and protection of our portable heritage. Recording has revealed numerous new archaeological sites and importantly, placed finders at the centre of this process, through responsible recording. The act of recording ensures that finders engage with heritage professionals and are able to inform the wider understanding of heritage in a meaningful way. These engagements often develop into a broader conversation about our pasts and ensure a growing concern, awareness and understanding of our history through an enhanced appreciation of diverse and changing cultures through time.

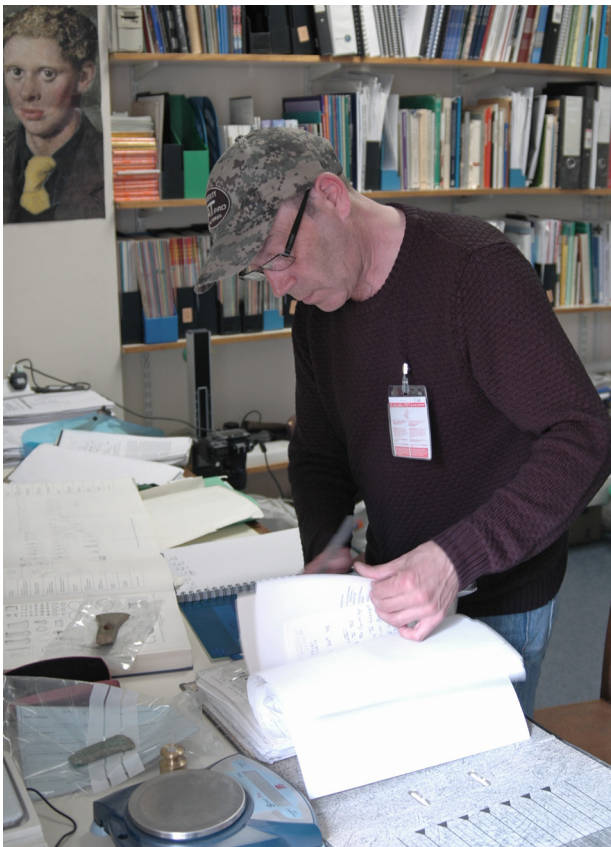
Continued involvement and working within Pioneer Areas of Wales can make a positive difference to people's lives. A demonstrable example in recent years, may be illustrated through the experience of Mr Phil Holt, who is unemployed and a metal detectorist living in the Rhondda Valleys, who has developed a keen interest in archaeology. Phil was a member of a metal detecting club in the Rhondda, visited monthly by the PAS Finds Liaison Officer. Through advice, support and encouragement provided by the PAS Cymru Co-ordinator, Phil enrolled on an archaeology access foundation course at Cardiff University, providing him with the skills and confidence to begin an archaeology degree course in 2015. Further support has encouraged Phil to research and study a prehistoric landscape in Wales as part of his degree. The study area

³ <https://finds.org.uk/database>

⁴ <https://finds.org.uk/publications/reports/treasure/2010,/2011,/2012 & /2013>

will help better understand an important archaeological landscape in an area where Phil and friends have previously recovered significant archaeological artefacts. The study has enabled Phil to access Amgueddfa Cymru collection records to inform and enhance his research. In his own words:-

“Without PAS Cymru I would not have thought about the Pathway course and would not be attending university today”



Mr Phil Holt researching prehistoric finds at Amgueddfa Cymru

Recording finds

PAS Cymru is able to offer a high standard of archaeological recording and an artefact identification service, responding to enquiries from members of the public and also supporting museums and heritage professionals across Wales and beyond. The expertise, skills and resources within Amgueddfa Cymru are essential to maintaining the high standards required and greatly enhance the records produced.

New archaeological sites are frequently identified and characterised through the work of PAS Cymru, through repeated and sustained recording of artefacts of a similar period from a discrete geographical location. At other times, individual finds from many different locations can contribute to our growing understanding of landscapes and regions. For example, during 2015 a member of the public who regularly reported finds of flint tools, reported a small number of flint arrowheads of Later Neolithic and Early Bronze Age date from a ploughed field at St Fagans, Cardiff. Surprisingly, he also picked up a small, fragile sherd of hand-made pottery, identified as being part of an Early Bronze Age Cremation Urn. Together, the finds provide emerging evidence for an important Bronze Age funerary landscape, extending beneath a number of fields and over a wider area than previously suspected.



Early Bronze Age flint arrowhead and pottery sherd from St. Fagans, Cardiff

Artefact Case Studies:

Stone Age – (Palaeolithic, Mesolithic & Neolithic)

During 2015, nearly 500 finds of some of the earliest tools and weapons were recorded by PAS Cymru with the support of experts at Amgueddfa Cymru. These flint and other stone implements are able to provide glimpses into some of the earliest history of Wales.



Neolithic stone axe from the Gower, Swansea coast

A highlight find was a polished stone axe-head (PAS Record No. 2015.232) dating to the time of the first farmers in Wales (c. 3,500 – 2,200BC) and left or perhaps carefully deposited on the coast of the Gower peninsula, Swansea. The axe is complete and is comparatively short with an oval body section. The butt is of pointed form and the sides are gradually divergent to the curved blade edge. It was made by pecking out the shape using another stone before being polished by repeated and prolonged rubbing with coarse-grained stone, sand and water. Still evident, after up to some 5,000 years, are deep striations running off the blade, probably from sharpening the axe. Less polishing is evident

on areas that would have been enclosed in the handle and therefore, the surface is coarser, which is likely to have helped in preventing movement in the haft. This feature has seldom been noted on stone axes.

Bronze Age

The relative abundance of Bronze Age metalwork in Wales continued to be demonstrated through reported finds in 2015, particularly finds of bronze axes, with 20 reported from across Wales during the year.

The more significant of the finds included a highly-unusual, perhaps unparalleled adze-axe (PAS Record No. 2015.100). This bronze tool is of Middle Bronze Age date (c. 1500 – 1300BC) and is near-complete but heavily corroded and now in two fragments. The faces are of differing form, one is flanged and axe-like, while the other is ribbed and of chisel-like form. This unusual tool is difficult to closely parallel and may have had a specialist function. The method of hafting may imply the blade was perpendicular to the axis of the handle, suggesting the tool functioned as an adze. The tool may share similarities with later 'palstave adzes' and it is tempting to see this example as a 'flanged-adze' predecessor of the palstave adze.



Middle Bronze Age 'flanged-adze' from Llantrisant, Rhondda Cynon Taff

Roman

One of the more captivating artefacts offered for recording in 2015 was a Roman figurine depicting an owl (PAS Record No. 2015.109) found in rural Carmarthenshire. The cast, free-standing owl, is near-complete but is well-worn. The owl is naturalistic and is depicted standing on an integral sub-circular plinth. The oval head of the owl is facing forward with an incised chevron to denote the beak. The eyes are recessed circular cells and contain blue enamel, possibly originally with clear glass at their centres. The wear on the sides and front of the bird is striking and suggests the object has been extensively handled through use, perhaps as an amulet.



Roman owl figurine from rural Carmarthenshire

Two other owl figurines have been recorded from Roman Britain which are of a different style but also have enamelled eyes. Owls are associated with the Roman goddess of wisdom, Minerva, and this example does not appear to have been a functional mount or handle but may have been a free standing religious or cult object and perhaps suggests a shrine at or near the find-spot.

Medieval

Interesting finds of many periods have continued to be recovered from Swansea Bay in recent years. It is hoped that many of these



Medieval copper alloy pilgrim's badge of Thomas Becket, recovered from Swansea Bay

finds will be acquired by Swansea Museum and interpreted by local communities through the Heritage Lottery Funded *Saving Treasures; Telling Stories* project. At least twelve medieval pilgrim souvenirs of different types have been reported from Swansea Bay over the last decade, adding significantly to the corpus from Wales being compiled by the Department of History & Archaeology at AC-NMW.

Another badge found in 2015 provides additional evidence for the importance of the pilgrimage to Canterbury across Britain, complementing similar finds from south-west Wales. The badge (PAS Record No. 2015.5.1) is cast in copper alloy and depicts the bust of Thomas Becket wearing a mitre surmounted with a cross and with hair protruding each side. The pellet decoration on Becket's garment or amice may have represented the jewels and precious stones on the head reliquary. The rear of the badge has an integral attachment pin.

The badge depicts the head reliquary of Becket, which was located in the eastern chapel of Canterbury Cathedral. Although there are

diverse mould types differing in finer detail, the generally consistent decoration suggests attempts to portray the bejewelled splendour of such reliquaries. Most of the recovered examples are made of lead-tin alloy and the copper-alloy composition of this example is uncommon. A similar badge made of lead-tin alloy was reported from the vicinity of the 2015 find in 2010. It has been suggested that some souvenirs may have been tossed into the sea on return from pilgrimage in gratitude for a safe landing as the pilgrims finally neared home.

Recording Statistics for 2015

Identifying and recording artefacts and making these accessible to the public via the PAS website remains the core and principal objective of PAS Cymru. This work requires regular attendance at metal-detecting clubs across Wales, while maintaining and sustaining close relations with the metal-detecting community. This is especially critical, since reporting and allowing non-treasure finds to be identified and recorded is a voluntary process. Table 1 shows the significant and important finds which were recorded through PAS Cymru in 2015 at Amgueddfa Cymru and for which full records were merited and created. Recording and photographing these artefacts to the highest standard was a principal concern. Many more objects will have been rapidly scanned and informally identified for finders, however many will have been deemed of lesser significance, therefore not requiring records to be created. The recording process is always selective, relying upon judgement, expertise and experience.

Coins and tokens represented the largest broad group of artefacts, representing 47.9% of finds recorded and relying upon numismatic expertise to support the identification process.

Finds by Type	
Lithic Artefacts	457
Metal Artefacts	313
Coins & Tokens	709
Total	1479

Table 1 Finds by broad type, recorded through PAS Cymru at Amgueddfa Cymru

In addition, lithic artefacts of prehistoric date were a significant proportion of the objects recorded (30.9%), drawing upon additional curatorial expertise and support in lithics recording. Metal artefacts, excluding coins and tokens, of Copper Age to Modern date comprised the remaining 21.2% of finds recorded.

An analysis of the artefacts recorded by period, as presented in Table 2 shows prehistoric finds to have been in combination the largest broad group, spanning the Mesolithic to Iron Age periods (representing 34% of the total). Often, lithic artefacts of Mesolithic to Bronze Age date are not attributable to a single period of time

Period	
Prehistoric (non-attributable)	360
Mesolithic	68
Neolithic	26
Bronze Age	32
Iron Age	18
Roman	369
Early Medieval	15
Medieval	292
Post Medieval	288
Modern	3

Table 2 Finds by period of time, recorded through PAS Cymru at Amgueddfa Cymru

and they account for the majority of prehistoric finds recorded. Diagnostic finds of Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age date were recorded in modest but appreciable numbers per period.

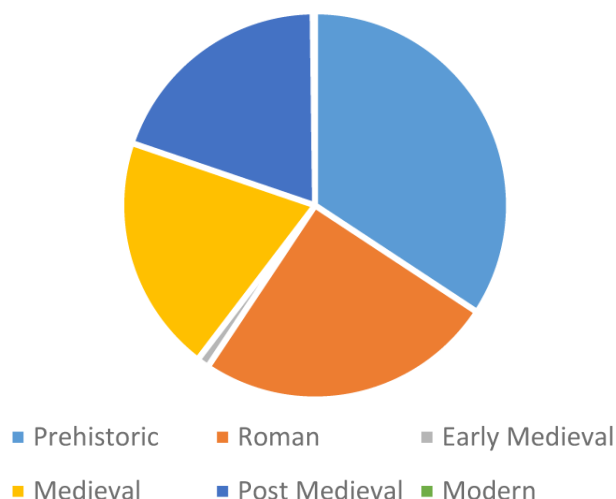


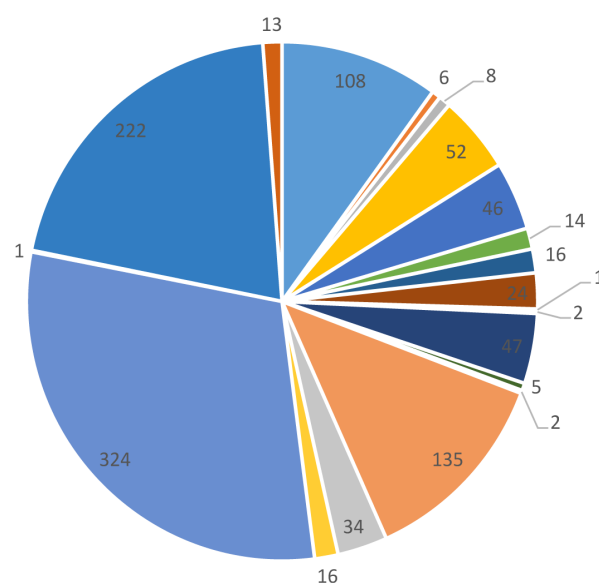
Fig. 1 Finds by Period

The single period most frequently represented (24.9% of finds) through recorded coin and artefact finds was the Roman period (c. A.D. 50-410), with medieval and post-medieval periods also well represented through coin and artefact finds (19.7% & 19.5% respectively). A comparatively small number of post-medieval artefacts and coins (1530-1800 A.D.) offered for reporting are fully-recorded, because of their high frequency of recovery and their comparatively low level of archaeological research potential. Early medieval finds were a significant but small presence (1.0%). Modern research potential. Early medieval finds were a

significant but small presence (1.0%).

Modern finds (post 1800) are only recorded very research potential. Early medieval finds were a significant but small presence (1.0%). Modern finds (post 1800) are only recorded very occasionally, when items of particular interest are presented.

The county or unitary authority area find-spots of artefacts recorded in 2015 via PAS Cymru at Amgueddfa Cymru are presented in Fig. 2. While artefacts were recorded across Wales, it is apparent that the figures predominantly



Wales	1076		
England	403		
Bridgend	108	Monmouthshire	47
Caerphilly	6	Neath-Port Talbot	5
Cardiff	8	Newport	2
Carmarthenshire	52	Pembrokeshire	135
Ceredigion	46	Powys	34
Conwy	14	Rhondda Cynon Taf	16
Denbighshire	16	Swansea	324
Flintshire	24	Torfaen	1
Gwynedd	1	Vale of Glamorgan	222
Isle of Anglesey	2	Wrexham	13
	Total		1076

Fig. 2 Finds from Wales recorded via PAS Cymru in 2015 at Amgueddfa Cymru, by county and unitary authority

reflect areas of best current recording coverage, where the PAS Cymru Co-ordinator and volunteer Steve Sell are able to attend meetings monthly. Finds from Swansea (324), Bridgend (108) and Vale of Glamorgan (222) were therefore particularly well represented. Reasonable numbers of recorded finds from west Wales: 135 from Pembrokeshire, 52 from Carmarthenshire and 46 from Ceredigion. These attest to some coverage and recording function being achieved here. The lack of finds recorded from

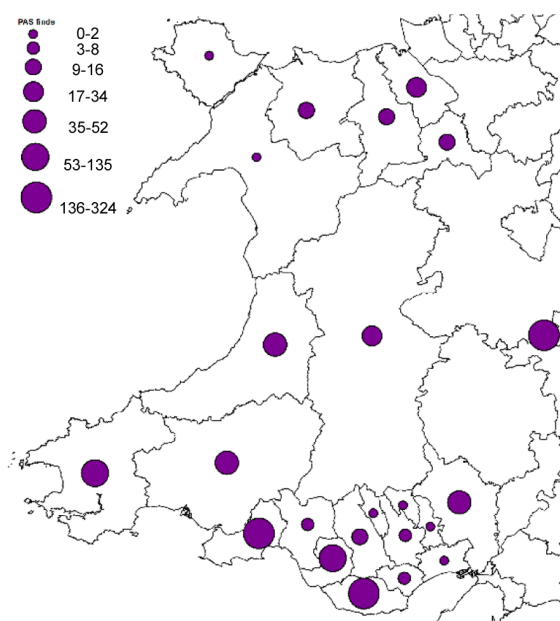


Fig. 3 PAS Cymru reported finds distribution in 2015

across north-west and north-east Wales is not a true picture of what is found each year, but a symptom of current limited and stretched staffing and coverage in these areas.

A further combined 197 artefacts were recorded by the four Welsh Archaeological Trusts in 2015, and are not included in the figures presented. These include finds from under-represented areas of Wales, but probably still fail to reflect accurately the actual numbers of objects being discovered, many remaining unreported each year. In future reports, the recording work of the Welsh Archaeological Trusts will be integrated into the figures presented.

Over one quarter (27.2%) of the finds recorded via PAS Cymru in 2015 were discovered in England. These were found by metal-detectorists living in Wales, finding artefacts in England, but choosing to report their finds in Wales. This is consistent with a longer term trend and illustrates the continuing need for and benefits of a seamless PAS scheme, operating for finders across England and Wales. Just as English finds are reported in Wales, Welsh finds are also frequently reported in England, especially through the Finds Liaison Officers operating in the English counties bordering on Wales.

Treasure in Wales

Treasure Cases Reported in Wales 1997-2015

Since the Treasure Act 1996 came into operation, the number of Treasure cases reported in Wales has significantly increased, from one case of Treasure Trove every two or three years prior to 1997, to the current 30-40 cases of Treasure per year (Fig. 4). This represents around 3.5% of just over 1000 Treasure cases now being reported each year across the whole of England and Wales. In Wales, the revised definition of treasure from 2003 to include prehistoric base-metal associations, led to an increase in overall numbers of Treasure cases, in particular the significant number of Bronze Age hoards now included as treasure. The trend continues to be upward. This is in part a reflection of ongoing metal-detecting activity and discoveries being made, while also a consequence of the success of PAS across England and Wales, in developing relations of trust with metal-detecting clubs and encouraging the reporting of Treasure discoveries. Since 1997, there have been a total of 377 Treasure cases reported from Wales (Table 5), representing a growing and unique cultural resource for exploring our pasts.

While the overall frequency and density of Treasure finds across Wales remains modest in relation to its sizeable geographical area, this is in part explained by low metal-detecting activity within upland and non-arable areas, combined with the low urban population densities and correspondingly modest numbers of metal-detectorists and clubs operating across large parts of Wales (for example across mid- and north-west Wales). By contrast, low-lying areas of arable farm land, with nearby large urban populations and higher numbers of metal-detectorists and clubs (for example the Vale of Glamorgan and Monmouthshire) see relatively high numbers of Treasure cases reported. Low lying areas with good farming land will have tended to attract concentrations of settlement and wealth at different times during the past, leading to increased frequencies of Treasure burial or loss. Fewer discoveries tend to be made in counties today largely covered by urban development, for example the cities of Swansea, Cardiff and Newport.

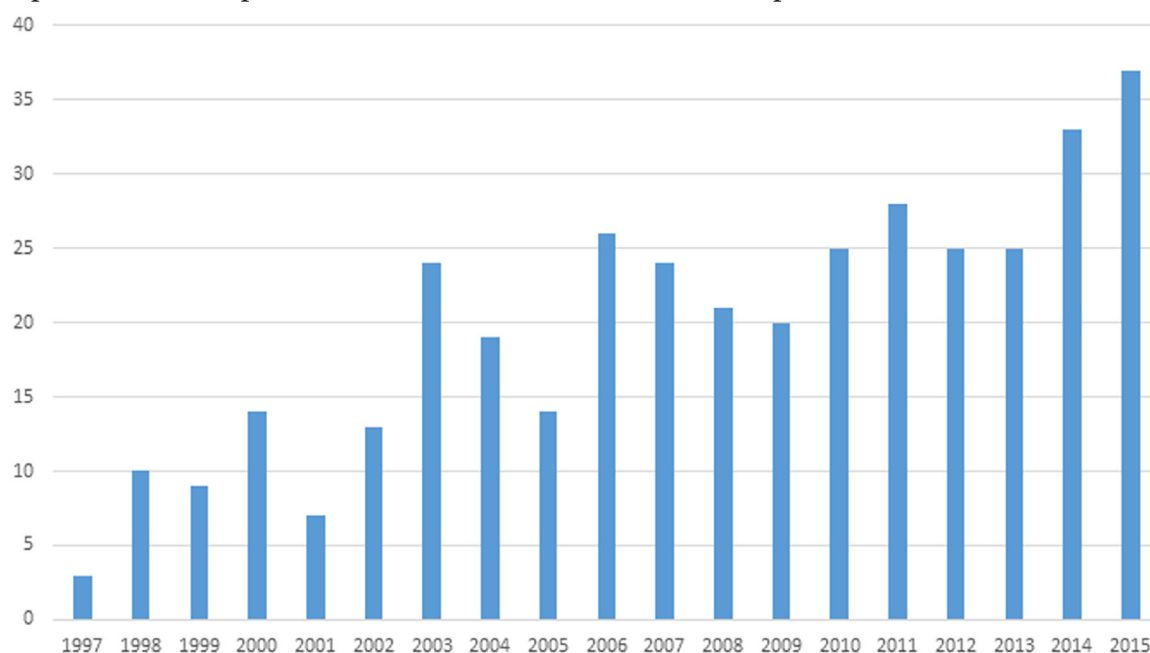


Fig. 4 Treasure Cases Reported in Wales, following the Treasure Act 1996

Treasure Cases Reported in 2015

The number of Treasure cases reported in Wales in 2015 was 37 (Table 3). This compares with 33 cases reported in 2014, an increase of 10.8% year on year. This is a near four-fold increase on the first full year of the Act (1998) during which 10 cases were reported. In addition, 40 Treasure reports were prepared by AC-NMW curators for H.M. Coroners in Wales and 46 Treasure inquests were held in Wales in 2015. AC-NMW staff also handled the linked press and media interest generated on inquest days, when cases were publicly declared as Treasure.

In 2015, nineteen Treasure cases were reported from south-east Wales, with 9 cases from west Wales, 6 cases from north-east Wales (including Powys) and 3 cases from north-west Wales. This south-eastern concentration follows a longer reporting trend (see Table 7 & Fig. 6 below), with Monmouthshire and the Vale of Glamorgan seeing consistently higher rates of Treasure reporting over many years. The four cases reported from Rhondda Cynon Taf and three cases from Ceredigion in 2015 represent particular increases on previous trends in these areas. The six cases reported from Pembrokeshire in 2015 are significant, reinforcing the previously observed pattern (see Table 7 & Fig. 5 below) of being the county of west Wales seeing the most frequent numbers of reported Treasure finds.

Over 60% of Treasure cases (23) reported were either medieval or post-medieval in date, confirming a longer trend, showing a particularly high frequency for these periods (see Table 9 below). There were four cases of Roman date and two cases of early medieval date reported. Included within these figures were two Roman, one early medieval, two medieval and one post-medieval coin associations and hoards, the remainder being objects or groups of non-coin objects. The eight reported Bronze Age associations (all hoards of base-metal artefacts), are a

particularly high representation of this period, in comparison with previous years (21.6% of the total treasure cases for 2015, in comparison with a longer term period representation of 10.1% of the combined Treasure finds reported in Wales between 1997 and 2015).

All 37 Treasure cases reported in 2015 were discovered by metal-detector. While a figure in excess of 90% is in line with wider and longer trends for Treasure reporting across England and Wales, the total absence in Wales of any discoveries, made as chance finds, during agricultural work or during archaeological excavations, is unusual.

Unitary Authority	Treasure Number	Period of find
Bridgend	15.12	Bronze Age
Ceredigion	15.17	Medieval
	15.35	Medieval
	15.36	Post-medieval
Conwy	15.24	Medieval
Flintshire	15.31	Post-medieval
	15.34	Post-medieval
Gwynedd	15.01	Early Medieval
	15.15	Medieval
Monmouthshire	15.05	Bronze Age
	15.06	Bronze Age
	15.07	Bronze Age
	15.19	Post-medieval
	15.22	Roman
	15.26	Post-medieval
	15.27	Post-medieval
	15.33	Post-medieval
Pembrokeshire	15.02	Roman
	15.08	Medieval
	15.09	Medieval
	15.21	Post-medieval
	15.32	Post-medieval
	15.37	Medieval
Powys	15.29	Roman
	15.30	Post-medieval
Rhondda Cynon Taf	15.04	Bronze Age
	15.10	Bronze Age
	15.16	Post-medieval
	15.20	Post-medieval
Swansea	15.14	Medieval
Torfaen	15.18	Bronze Age
Vale of Glamorgan	15.03	Bronze Age
	15.11	Post-medieval
	15.13	Post-medieval
	15.28	Roman
Wrexham	15.23	Medieval
	15.25	Early Medieval

Table 3 Treasure cases reported in Wales in 2015 and geographic distribution (all metal detector finds)



The early medieval hoard from Llandwrog Community, Gwynedd (15.01)

A particularly significant Treasure discovery reported in 2015 was the Llandwrog hoard, Gwynedd (Case 15.01 Wales), comprising 17 silver coins and 4 silver ingots, deposited around A.D. 1025. Fourteen of the coins are of the Hiberno-Scandinavian king Sihtric Anlafsson (989-1036), minted in Dublin. There are three fragmentary Anglo-Saxon pennies of

Cnut (1016-35), minted in Chester. The hoard provides a significant addition to our knowledge of the circulation of silver in North Wales in the eleventh century as part of a wider mixed bullion and coin using economy. It is closely paralleled by Irish finds and the 2003 Glenfaba hoard (Isle of Man).

Analysis of Treasure finds by period and disposition for 2012 and 2013

Table 4 provides the dispositional outcome of Treasure cases for 2012 according to period and type, and Table 5 does likewise for the 2013 Treasure cases. This information is updated, as cases continue through Treasure hearing and valuation stages to final acquisition stage (hence the transitional column header Intention to acquire). Many 2014 and 2015 treasure cases have yet to go through the Treasure reporting and hearing stages, since their status and disposition

Object cases	Acquired	Acquired through donation	Intention to acquire	Disclaimed /returned to finder	Not Treasure	Total
Bronze Age	2	1	1	-	-	4
Iron Age	-	-	-	-	-	0
Roman	1	-	-	-	-	1
Early Medieval	1	-	-	-	-	1
Medieval	3	-	2	-	-	5
Post-Medieval	4	-	3	-	2	9
Totals	11	1	6	0	2	20

Coin cases	Acquired	Acquired through donation	Intention to acquire	Disclaimed /returned to finder	Not treasure	Total
Iron Age	-	-	-	-	-	0
Roman	-	-	-	1	-	1
Early Medieval	-	-	-	-	-	0
Medieval	3	-	-	-	-	3
Post-Medieval	-	-	-	1	-	1
Totals	3	0	0	2	0	5

Table 4 Analysis of 2012 Treasure finds by period and disposition

is not yet established. Therefore data for these years will be presented in future reports.

It is intended that the majority of the combined 50 Treasure cases from Wales in 2012 and 2013 will be acquired by museums for public benefit, with the exception of the two cases declared not treasure and the three cases which have been disclaimed and returned to finders. The *Saving Treasures; Telling Stories* project, with Heritage Lottery funding, will support the acquisition of treasure by museums across Wales (local museums and Amgueddfa Cymru) over the next few years. In the longer term, museums will need to seek both internal and external funding sources, in order to maintain this positive collecting trend. In instances where museum funding sources are not available to acquire Treasure cases, they

are returned to finders. In four cases, finders and/or landowners have waived their claim to reward, thereby enabling museums to acquire finds at reduced or no public expense.

Tables 4 & 5 demonstrate that the majority of Treasure cases reported in 2012 and 2013 in Wales involve objects (42), such as finger-rings, brooches, dress-fittings and prehistoric hoard groups, while the remaining eight cases involve coin hoards and coin associations.

Post-medieval and medieval finds are particularly well-represented, a combined 22 and 15 cases respectively, while Bronze Age finds are a significant presence, a combined nine cases. In these years, Iron Age, Roman and early medieval coins and objects are weakly represented and this echoes a longer observed trend for Wales (see Table 9).

Object cases	Acquired	Acquired through donation	Intention to acquire	Disclaimed /returned to finder	Not treasure	Total
Bronze Age	2	1	2	-	-	5
Iron Age	-	-	-	-	-	0
Roman	-	-	-	-	-	0
Early Medieval	1	-	-	-	-	1
Medieval	1	1	4	-	-	6
Post-Medieval	3	1	6	-	-	10
Totals	7	3	12	0	0	22

Coin cases	Acquired	Acquired through donation	Intention to acquire	Disclaimed /returned to finder	Not treasure	Total
Iron Age	-	-	-	-	-	0
Roman	-	-	-	-	-	0
Early Medieval	-	-	-	-	-	0
Medieval	-	-	1	-	-	1
Post-Medieval	1	-	-	1	-	2
Totals	1	0	1	1	0	3

Table 5 Analysis of 2013 Treasure finds by period and disposition

Name of Museum	2012	2013
Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales	15	12
a). Collecting in counties/unitary authorities with no accredited local museums collecting archaeology (e.g. Bridgend, Vale of Glamorgan, Cardiff)	4	6
b). Collecting as National Museum with cross-Wales collecting remit	11	6
Accredited Local Museums	5	12
Wrexham County Borough Museum & Archives	3	3
Winding House Museum, Caerphilly	1	1
Old Bell, Montgomery	1	0
Flintshire Museums Service	0	1
Oriel Ynys Môn, Llangefni	0	1
Radnorshire Museum	0	1
Swansea Museum	0	1
Pontypool Museum	0	1
Newport Museum	0	1
Abergavenny Museum	0	1
Milford Haven Maritime & Heritage Museum	0	1
Disposition still to be determined	1	0
Not Treasure	2	0
Disclaimed, returned to finders	2	1
Total	25	25

Table 6 Museums in Wales acquiring or intending to acquire Treasure reported in 2012 & 2013

Table 6 shows the museums in Wales acquiring or intending to acquire Treasure reported in 2012 and 2013. Over recent years, the proportion of Treasure cases acquired by local museums across Wales has been significantly increasing. This trend is evident for 2013, when half of the Treasure cases, where disposition has been finalised, are being acquired by local museums (12 of 24). We envisage this trend will be maintained over successive years, and supported by the *Saving Treasures; Telling Stories* project, grant funded via the Heritage Lottery Fund. Amgueddfa Cymru, as the National Museum, has the right to pre-empt Treasure finds from Wales and it

collects across Wales, especially in instances where national and international significance of discoveries can be justified and to strengthen areas currently under-represented in the national collections. In addition, it acquires Treasure in counties and unitary authorities of Wales where no accredited local museums collecting archaeological material currently exist. Therefore, of the 25 Treasure finds acquired in 2012 and 2013 by Amgueddfa Cymru, 10 were found in the Vale of Glamorgan, Cardiff and Bridgend, areas in which there no museums actively collecting archaeological material at the current time.

Treasure Cases in Wales by Geographical Area

Table 7 and Fig. 5 illustrate the breakdown of Treasure cases from 1997-2015 in Wales by county and unitary authority area in numerical and visual formats. In total, 377 Treasure cases have been generated in Wales over this time. The Vale of Glamorgan has consistently seen the highest frequency of Treasure cases reported (87), while Monmouthshire (50), Pembrokeshire (45) and Powys (38) have also seen significant numbers of Treasure cases. The Isle of Anglesey (27) and Wrexham (25), counties of modest area, have also seen appreciable numbers of Treasure finds discovered and reported. Treasure has been reported in nearly all the counties and unitary authority areas of Wales, with the sole exceptions of Blaenau Gwent and Merthyr Tydfil.

Table 8 illustrates the regional frequency of Treasure cases across Wales. Over half of Treasure cases have been reported from south-east Wales (191). This is followed by

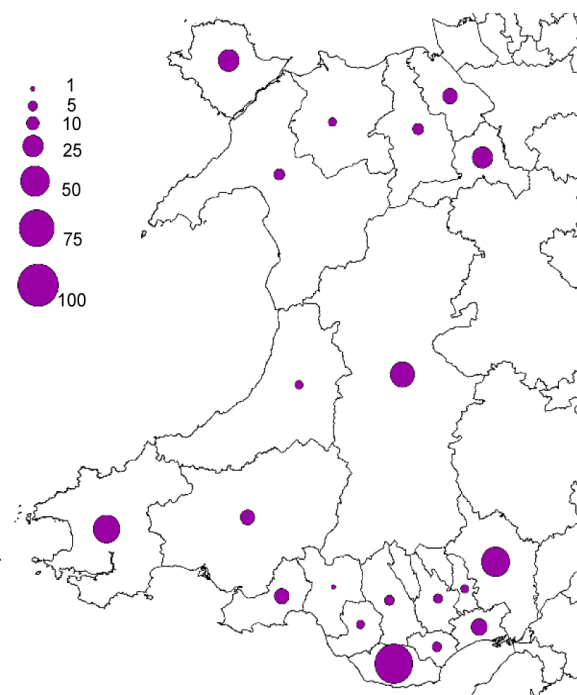


Fig 5 Distribution of Treasure finds in Wales by unitary authority area

north-east Wales and Powys (85) and south-west Wales (63), respectively. North-west Wales (38) has seen the lowest frequency of reported finds.

Year / County or UA	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	Total
Blaenau Gwent																				0
Bridgend									1	1			1						1	4
Caerphilly													1	1		2	1			5
Cardiff										3							1	1		5
Carmarthenshire				2			3	1		2				1	2			1		12
Ceredigion		1				1							1						3	6
Conwy												1			2				1	4
Denbighshire			1					1		1					1	1		2		7
Flintshire				1			1	1			1	1		1	2	2	2	1	2	15
Gwynedd				1							1		1		1			1	2	7
Isle of Anglesey	2	2	2	2	2	2	5	3	2	1	2			1			1			27
Merthyr Tydfil																				0
Monmouthshire		4		3		1	4	3	1	3		3	3	3	5	3	2	4	8	50
Neath-Port Talbot			1																	1
Newport			1			1	3			5	2	1		1			1	1		16
Pembrokeshire		2	1	2	1	1	2				1	5	3	5	2	5	5	4	6	45
Powys		1	1	1	1	1		1	1	2	4	3	4	4	5	3	2	2	2	38
Rhondda Cynon Taf								1			1								4	6
Swansea			2	1		3	1				2		1	1			1		1	13
Torfaen															1		1	1	1	4
Vale of Glamorgan	1			1	3	2	5	7	8	7	8	7	4	5	5	4	5	11	4	87
Wrexham						1		1	1	1	2		1	2	2	5	3	4	2	25
Year total	3	10	9	14	7	13	24	19	14	26	24	21	20	25	28	25	25	33	37	377

Table 7 Treasure cases in Wales by unitary Authority

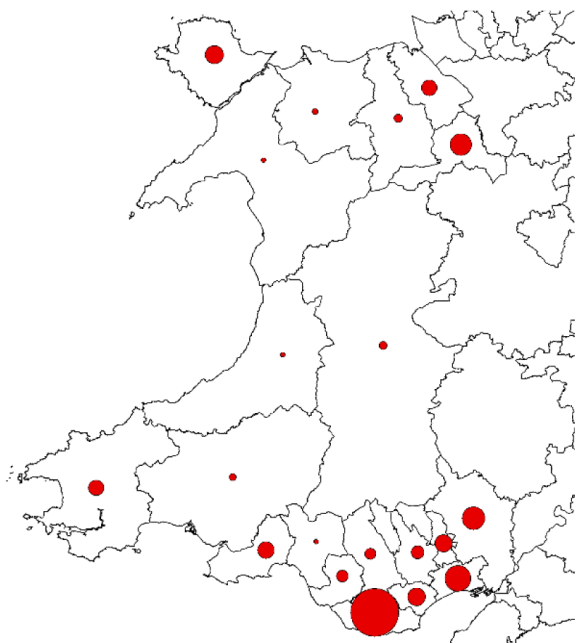


Fig 6 Treasure finds in Wales in proportion to Unity Authority areas

When numbers of Treasure cases are expressed as densities per square kilometre, taking into account the different total geographical areas of counties and unitary authorities (Fig. 6), a more calibrated picture emerges. The relative frequencies of Treasure finds per square kilometre from the Vale of Glamorgan particularly, but also to a lesser extent Cardiff, Newport, Torfaen, Caerphilly, Bridgend and

Cynon Taf remain similar to their numerical proportions.

Treasure Cases in Wales by period

Table 9 illustrates the breakdown of Treasure cases in Wales by period. To date, 356 Treasure cases of 377 reported have been declared as Treasure in Wales. Of these, 277 or 78.51% have been archaeological objects, and 79 or 21.49% have been coin hoards and associations. The most frequent periods represented are medieval (AD 1070s-1500), with a combined 124 cases (34.83%), closely followed by the early post-medieval period (AD 1500-1715) with a combined 111 cases (31.18%). In combination, these account for nearly two thirds of the total Treasure cases declared. Within these figures, coin associations and coin hoards are common, 28 of medieval and 17 of post-medieval date. A high proportion of the objects reported of these periods are finger rings, brooches and dress-fittings, with seal matrices, weapon fittings, items connected with needlecraft, hawking and hunting items also represented. In Wales, Treasure cases of Bronze Age (2,200-800 BC) date have been a significant presence,

Region of Wales	Number	%age
North West Wales (Anglesey, Gwynedd & Conwy)	38	10.08%
North East Wales (Flintshire, Denbighshire, Wrexham, Powys)	85	22.55%
South West Wales (Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire, Ceredigion)	63	16.71%
South East Wales	191	50.66%
Total	377	100.00%

Table 8 Regional frequency of Treasure cases across Wales, 1997-2015

Swansea, all increase, adding to the Treasure concentration pattern in south-east Wales. By comparison, the counties of Powys, Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire and Gwynedd show much lower relative densities of Treasure per square kilometre, despite the reasonable numbers of cases reported from these counties. The relative densities of Treasure finds per square kilometre from Wrexham, Flintshire, Anglesey and Rhondda

especially since 2003 when base-metal object associations of prehistoric date became Treasure. In total, 46 cases have been declared, representing 12.92% of the total. The majority of these are hoards of bronze tools and weapons, with lesser numbers of hoards containing gold jewellery and single gold artefacts, qualifying on their own as precious metal items. Treasure cases of Roman (AD 50-410) and early medieval

(AD c 410-1070s) date are only modestly represented, with 40 or 11.24% and 30 or 8.43% cases declared respectively. The majority of Roman cases are coin hoards and associations (27 cases), with objects including finger rings, jewellery and dress items. Most of the early medieval finds are objects (23 cases), including strap-ends, hack-silver, ingots and decorative mounts. The most under-represented period in Wales is the Iron Age: no coin associations have been reported and only five cases of objects have been declared, representing 1.40% of cases. These finds include a grave group, hoard of vessels, gold ingot and a chariot-fitting association.

When these figures for Wales are compared with the published Treasure figures across England and Wales for 2010, 2011 and 2012, within the successive Treasure Act Annual Reports⁵ some preliminary observations can be made about the Wales signature. In Wales, objects represent a combined 78.51% of cases and coins a combined 21.49%. In contrast, the combined England and Wales data indicates that objects represent in the range of 83-86% of cases and coins the remaining 14-17%, suggesting a slightly higher proportion of objects to coins for Treasure cases in England.



Part of the Roman coin hoard from Montgomery, Powys (Case 11.11- Wales) containing 4,850 coins

⁵ <https://finds.org.uk/publications/reports/treasure/2010,/2011,/2012>

Within the England and Wales data, medieval and post-medieval Treasure cases combined represent approximately two thirds of the total Treasure cases declared, in common with the Wales data. However, post-medieval cases are the most frequent (in the range of 34-37%), ahead of medieval (in the range of 27-31%), whereas in Wales, the medieval period is the most frequently represented (a combined 34.83% of Treasure cases). In Wales, the figures for cases involving Roman and early medieval objects, 3.65% and 6.46% respectively, are significantly lower than in the England and Wales data for 2010-2012, where the ranges are 6.5-9.5% and 10.5-12.5% respectively. However, the corresponding coin association and hoard frequencies in Wales are proportionately similar to the England and Wales data, with 5-8% for Roman and 1-2% for Early Medieval.

In Wales, the coin associations and hoards for both medieval (7.87%) and post-medieval (4.78%) periods represent significantly higher proportions than in the England and Wales

data for 2010-2012, where they are in the ranges of 3-4% and 2-3% respectively. Iron Age coin associations and hoards are present, but only represent a range of 1-2.5% of total Treasure cases in the England and Wales data. Their absence in Wales relates to the absence of Iron Age societies or tribes minting coinage over these areas of western Britain.

Iron Age objects represent a very small proportion of total Treasure cases in the England and Wales data for 2010-2012, in the range of 0.4-1.2% and not dissimilar to the corresponding proportion of 1.40% in the Wales data. A significant contrast in the two sets of data appears to be in the frequency of Bronze Age Treasure cases. In Wales, this period represents 12.92% of the overall Treasure cases declared, whereas in the England and Wales data for 2010-2012, the range is between 4-6%. It would appear that the Bronze Age is a particularly strongly represented period in Wales, Treasure finds here being between two and three times more frequent than across the whole of England and Wales.

Year / Period	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	Total
OBJECTS																				
Bronze Age	0	0	1	0	0	3	1	2	1	1	2	4	3	2	5	4	5	4	8	46
Iron Age	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Roman	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	2	1	2	0	1	0	0	2	13
Early Medieval	1	1	1	2	0	2	1	4	0	2	2	0	0	2	0	1	1	2	1	23
Medieval	0	4	2	4	1	2	12	4	2	7	6	6	4	5	4	5	6	15	7	96
Post-medieval	0	2	0	2	1	0	5	5	5	3	6	5	5	7	13	7	10	5	13	94
Not treasure	0	0	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	2	2	0	1	3	0	2	0	0	0	19
Total	2	7	5	9	4	8	22	19	10	15	20	18	15	21	22	20	22	26	31	296
COINS																				
Iron Age	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Roman	0	2	2	3	2	0	1	0	0	7	0	2	1	0	2	1	0	2	2	27
Early Medieval	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	7
Medieval	0	0	1	1	0	3	0	0	3	3	3	1	0	2	2	3	1	3	2	28
Post-medieval	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	4	2	1	1	2	2	1	17
Not treasure	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
Total	1	3	4	5	3	5	2	0	4	11	4	3	5	4	6	5	3	7	6	81
Combined year total	3	10	9	14	7	13	24	19	14	26	24	21	20	25	28	25	25	33	37	377

Table 9 Treasure cases by period, 1997-2015

The Saving Treasures; Telling Stories Project

Saving Treasures; Telling Stories is a partnership project between Amgueddfa Cymru- National Museum Wales, The Federation of Museums and Art Galleries of Wales (FED) and the Portable Antiquities Scheme in Wales (PAS Cymru), promoting the portable archaeological heritage of Wales by acquiring finds made by the public. The project secured £349,000 of Heritage Lottery Grant funding in October 2014 through the Collecting Cultures programme and runs for five years (January 2015 – December 2019).

Project Overview and Messages

The Project will:-

- **fund** the acquisition of artefacts for national and local museum collections.
- **bring** together metal detector clubs, local museums and communities.
- **enable** communities to engage with evidence for their past. It will contribute to the work of museums and their collections by:-

Strengthening community and cultural identities

- By offering training opportunities and bringing together detector clubs, local museums and communities around new discoveries and the stories they reveal.
- By offering traineeships in community journalism to create and encourage web content.
- By supporting Community Projects taking their inspiration from important portable heritage discoveries.
- By raising wider public awareness of the project through media profiling and advocacy work.

Empowering people through learning, participation and inspiration

By redeveloping the PAS Cymru website, to:-

- Become the focus for celebrating treasure and non-treasure finds in Wales. By acquiring treasure and PAS recorded artefacts for museums, thereby encouraging a long-term collecting culture.
- Become the focus for celebrating treasure and non-treasure finds in Wales. By enabling people of all ages to engage with collections through community archaeology projects.
- Become the focus for celebrating treasure and non-treasure finds in Wales. By furthering the Distributed National Collection concept and encouraging finders to consider museums as suitable future repositories.
- Become the focus for celebrating treasure and non-treasure finds in Wales. By disseminating positive messages about portable heritage and archaeology to stakeholders.

Funded outcomes

- A fund (£180,000) is available over four years to cover the costs of acquiring both treasure and non-treasure finds for accredited local museums across Wales and Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales.
- The project will enable a three year programme of six Community Archaeology Projects (2016-18), working with local museums, metal-detecting clubs, local communities and target audiences (£45,000). Each project will respond to important portable heritage discoveries in their neighbourhoods and present diverse narratives in museums and online.
- Strategic collecting networks, training, skill-sharing and volunteering opportunities will be generated (£30,000). The PAS Cymru website will also be developed as a distinctive

focus in Wales for treasure and PAS recorded finds (£14,000). There will be funding for journalist / media student bursaries (£20,000) to encourage dialogue about portable heritage.

- Additional funding (£87,000) will cover the costs of employing a part-time Project Officer post over three years, to support the work of the project.

Match-funding and in-kind contributions

- To secure Heritage Lottery funding, Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales, as lead partner, has committed a combined £40,000 funding to the project. Annual contributions of £10,000 are committed during the financial years between 2015-16 and 2018-19 using specimen acquisition grant funding.
- In-kind staffing costs have been contributed by Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales and PAS Cymru to the combined value of £106,000 over five years, to cover the inputs of the two Project Managers.
- An additional in-kind staffing contribution of £20,000 has also been contributed by Project Board members (representing AC-NMW, PAS Cymru and the FED) and supporting inputs from other Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales staff.
- Volunteers will contribute their time to the project to the minimum additional value of £15,000 over five years.
- These additional contributions to the project bring the overall project budget to £530,000 over five years.

Report on *Saving Treasures; Telling Stories* project activities during 2015

During the first year of the life of the *Saving Treasures; Telling Stories* project, work was focused on planning for the development and delivery of core outcomes during the project; setting up and beginning collecting treasure and non-treasure discoveries for local museums and the National Museum, through grant acquisitions; and developing ideas and approach for the first two Community Archaeology Projects with our local museum partners.

A Project Board was set in place and met four times within the year, providing a steer for the project and advising the two Project Managers on project approach and priorities. All three project partner organisations (AC-NMW, PAS Cymru and The FED) are represented in the seven-person membership of the Board, ensuring all partner interests, priorities and any concerns arising are met. In addition, the Project submitted two six-monthly reports back to the Heritage Lottery Fund on progress made, while also establishing good personal contacts with relevant HLF staff in HLF Wales and UK.

Acquiring items of portable heritage (archaeological artefacts) through grant purchases began in July, having first set in place a mechanism for acquiring museums to agree to the standard conditions of receiving HLF grant funding. By the end of 2015, fourteen acquisitions (12 treasure items or groups and 2 non-treasure items) had been acquired through the project, for a total grant allocation sum of £15,281. A further 14 treasure discoveries and 2 non-treasure collections of artefacts were also being progressed towards grant acquisition, by museums across Wales, ensuring that the project made a strong start towards achieving its overall five year collecting aims.

Key acquisitions in 2015

Amongst the significant finds acquired for public collections held in museums were:-

- A seventeenth-century silver coin group from near Mold, Flintshire, acquired for Flintshire County Council Museums Service.
- A Bronze Age hoard group, comprising a decorated gold pennanular hair-ring and copper ingot fragments, from Cwm Cadnant Community, Anglesey was acquired for Oriol Ynys Môn.
- Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales was able to acquire a medieval hoard of gold and silver coins from Wenvoe Community, Vale of Glamorgan.
- A seventeenth-century gold mourning ring, found in Pennard Community, Swansea (Gower), was acquired for Swansea Museum's collections.
- Non-treasure acquisitions included an Iron Age decorated tankard handle from Pentyrch Community, Cardiff and a decorated Iron Age sword hilt guard from Penllyn Community, Vale of Glamorgan, both decorated with Celtic Art designs and acquired for the National Collections.

Treasure Investigations with Involvements of Finders and Land-owners

During 2015, three archaeological site investigations of find-spots of four newly discovered Bronze Age hoards reported as new treasure finds, were carried out. These were enabled through a small funding element, provided by the *Saving Treasures; Telling Stories* project. These investigations all involved the help of finders and the support of coroners and land-owners, informing the reporting of these finds to coroners as ongoing treasure cases. The aims were to verify and survey the precise find-spots, where appropriate to hand-excavate over recent metal-detector pits, to clarify the manner of burial of hoards, while also

checking for the survival of any associated treasure finds still remaining in the ground. Finders were able to describe and clarify their accounts of discovery, relating their descriptions to conditions on the ground. They also had the opportunity to be involved with an archaeological investigation, seeing how archaeological evidence can help to reveal fascinating stories about ancient objects and past peoples. Photographic, drawn and written records of the evidences observed were made, to permit future reporting and publication. The landscape locations and features of hoarding places were also photographed.

In April 2015, an archaeological investigation of the find-spot of a Late Bronze Age hoard in the Community of Grosmont, Monmouthshire (Treasure Case 15.07) was undertaken, with the assistance of the finders Nick and James Mensikov and with the help of Dr Jerry Davies. A hoard of six bronze socketed axes, a bronze spearhead and a bronze sword fragment had been discovered by the finders, during a metal-detecting rally organised on the land a few days earlier. Thanks to the restraint and responsibility of the finders, additional bronze artefact 'signals' were left in the ground and the input of National Museum archaeologists was called upon to investigate the find-spot further. Ian Dennis (lecturer at the Department of Archaeology, University of Cardiff) and Rachael Rogers (Curator of Abergavenny Museum) provided additional expert assistance, as part of the team. A small test-pit was hand-excavated over the find-spot, the sequence of soil deposits and features revealed providing additional information on the manner of their burial. Four further bronze socketed axes were uncovered, still in the ground, making a complete hoard of twelve artefacts.

The land-owner, his family and friends were extremely proud and inspired by the discovery of 3,000-year-old tools and weapons on their land, visiting the investigation



Site investigation of a Bronze Age hoard with finders and landowners

regularly during its course as further discoveries were made. Some of their thoughts and feelings will be captured within oral testimony and photographic archive, to be presented at a future date in Abergavenny Museum, as the intended museum destination if it is declared Treasure. In addition, more members of the metal-detecting club involved with the rally visited the site to see the archaeological work going on. With the permission of the Coroner, an illustrated feature article on the find and follow-up archaeological investigation was published in *Treasure Hunting* magazine for August 2015. This small piece of fieldwork involved and enthused people about archaeological pasts in

their neighbourhoods, the new evidence is also helping archaeologists to tell a clearer story about these uncovered objects and the people who used and buried them.

A second site-investigation was undertaken on 1st July of the find-spot of a small Early Bronze Age hoard, buried 4,000 years ago, in the present day Community of Coity Higher, Bridgend (Treasure Case 15.12). This was undertaken with the assistance of finder Paul Howells and PAS Cymru intern student Julia Köppe, also with prior permission of the Coroner and the land-owner. The finder had discovered a large bronze flat-axe and a flat-axe chisel buried together and had

responsibly reported it as possible treasure. In this instance, the precise find-spot was verified and the loose soil fill of the recently dug detector-pit was removed, to observe the soils and the depth of the find. It was felt unlikely that further excavation would yield new information, so no further action was taken. However, a photographic survey and written record of this fieldwork was made, informing future reporting and the publication of this unusual find.

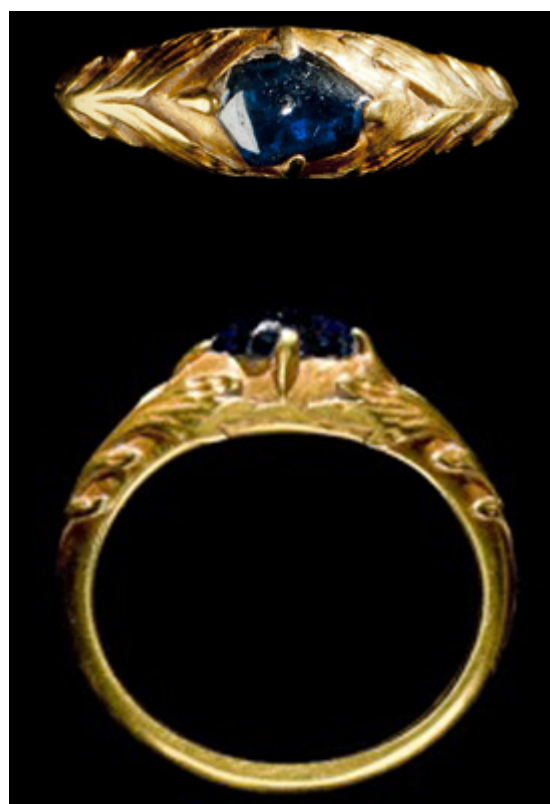
The third and final investigation of the year took place on 2nd October at a locality where two Late Bronze Age hoards had been discovered on the same day in the same field (Treasure Cases 15.05 & 15.06). One hoard comprised eight bronze socketed axes and the other was smaller, comprising two bronze socketed axes and a bronze spearhead. With the help of the finders (David Hughes, Lee Doyle, Stan Evans, Liam O'Keefe, David Owen and John Thomas), and the support of the landowner, it was possible to survey the approximate locations of the two hoards within the field. However, the finders were unable to precisely re-locate the hoard find-spots, as recent ploughing had obscured the locations of their detector-pits and disturbed ground. This prevented the possibility of revealing and undertaking archaeological excavations over the hoard find-spots. A record of the approximate locations of these hoards, in their immediate landscape setting, was made and the finders' accounts of their discoveries of the artefacts were clarified.

Planning of Community Archaeology Projects with our museum partners

Two pilot Community Archaeology Projects were proposed within the *Saving Treasures; Telling Stories* Project funding application to HLF, representing the first year of a three-year programme of projects enabled. The first, led

by staff at Swansea Museum, will work with community groups and a local metal-detecting club, to explore and respond to the important archaeological artefacts recently being retrieved from Swansea Bay and reported as PAS Cymru and treasure finds. The second, led by staff from Wrexham County Borough Museum & Archive, will work with community groups taking inspiration from a hoard of late medieval date, recently reported as treasure (Treasure Cases 12.13, 13.23 & 14.01). This hoard of gold and silver coins, with a gold finger-ring, was found in the Community of Bronington, Wrexham and was buried around the time of the Wars of the Roses.

Following the agreed project timetable, 2015 was an introductory year, enabling further scoping of content and approach for these pilot Community Archaeology Projects, in advance of their running during 2016-17. The *Saving Treasures* Project Board met, discussed and agreed mechanisms for receiving project



Finger-ring from the Bronington hoard

applications from our museum partners, for putting in place baseline evaluation surveys and grant documentation and in setting milestones towards project delivery. The Project Managers also held a number of positive meetings with staff at both Swansea and Wrexham Museums, to discuss content, approach, community involvement and consultation.

In July, the Project Managers and Swansea Museum staff gave a presentation to the Heritage Detecting Club, Swansea, gathering their enthusiasm and ideas for participating in the Swansea Bay project, many members having recently made significant finds reported via PAS Cymru. Two private collections of artefacts from Swansea Bay, owned by Gary May and Peter Jones, were offered as potential museum acquisitions to Swansea Museum, acting as foci for project interest and responses. Arrangements were put in place to have these independently valued in early 2016, with an aim to purchase them using *Saving Treasures* grant funding. A second preparatory event was held in November and attended by members of the Young Archaeologists Club, Swansea, and metal-detectorists, and run by Swansea Museum staff, YAC Co-ordinators, Project Managers and Paul Huckfield of the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust. The feedback received from this event and project was very positive, from both children and parents, suggesting areas for development within the scope of the Community Archaeology Project.



Coin from the Bronington hoard



Coins from the Bronington hoard

During the year, planning was also initiated for a Community Archaeology Project led by Wrexham County Borough Museum & Archives, linked with the discovery and acquisition of the Bronington late medieval coin hoard and finger-ring. However, an extended treasure valuation process, prior to the acquisition of this hoard, set-back the starting date for this project. This is now likely to begin in mid-2016, providing Wrexham Museum staff with extra time to develop their project proposal and to consult with participating community groups, both in Wrexham and Bronington Community. It is envisaged that this project will link the hoard discovery with recent archaeological excavation and improvements to the interpretation of nearby Holt Castle.

Key Project Aims for 2016

Key aims for the *Saving Treasures; Telling Stories* Project in 2016 will be:-

- to appoint a part-time Project Officer, providing additional team capacity, to deliver Saving Treasures project outcomes between 2016 and 2019.
- to continue acquiring archaeological artefacts (both treasure and non-treasure finds) of known provenance from Wales, for accredited public museums collections (local and national) across Wales.
- to redevelop the PAS Cymru website, to become the focus for celebrating treasure and non-treasure finds from Wales. This will become both a recognised source for news about recent discoveries, while also capturing community and creative responses to portable heritage in Wales.
- to initiate the first two Community Archaeology Projects with our local museums partners Swansea and Wrexham Museums, working with targeted local communities, groups and audiences. Applications will also be sought for a second round of two Community Archaeology Projects, to run in 2017-18, taking inspiration from significant nearby portable heritage finds.
- to hold Collections Networking days for museums and heritage staff across Wales, in order to scope and discuss priority collecting areas, share knowledge and skills and to develop collections with a Distributed National Collections agenda in mind.
- to advocate for the importance of the fragile portable heritage of Wales and the archaeological collections held in museums across Wales, with funding bodies, stake-holders and in the public eye, through media coverage of relevant new discoveries and projects.

Appendix: contacts, personnel and expertise

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Dr Michael Lewis (PAS BM)
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Edward Besly (AC-NMW)
Mark Lodwick (PAS Cymru)

Saving Treasures; Telling Stories Project Board

Dr Mark Redknap (AC-NMW, Chair)
Rachael Rogers (Fed.)
Chris Delaney (Fed.)
Mark Lodwick (PAS Cymru)
Dr Jonathan Berry (Cadw)
Adam Gwilt (AC-NMW)
Owain Rhys (AC-NMW)
Dr Rhianydd Biebrach (Project Officer)

Expertise provided at AC-NMW for treasure reports to coroners

Dr Mark Redknap (Early Medieval, Medieval & Post Medieval reports)
Edward Besly (Numismatic reports)
Adam Gwilt (Later Prehistory reports)
Evan Chapman (Roman reports)
Sian Iles (Medieval & Post Medieval reports)
Robin Maggs (Photography)
Mary Davis (Analytical Services)
Louise Mumford (Conservation)
Tony Daly (Illustration)