

19 December 2003

Trevor Austin is appointed to the Treasure Valuation Committee

Estelle Morris, Minister for the Arts, announced today that Trevor Austin has been appointed as a Member of the Treasure Valuation Committee (TVC). The term of appointment will run from 19 December 2003 to 18 December 2007.

Biographical notes:

Trevor Austin is General Secretary of the National Council for Metal Detecting (NCMD). Since joining the NCMD in 1990, he has been involved in consultations on the introduction of Treasure Act and its Code of Practice, the introduction and expansion of the Portable Antiquities Scheme, and contributed to the Treasure Act Review (2001 to 2002). Trevor has consistently promoted responsible metal detecting. Recently, he acted as consultant to, and appeared on, BBC2's 'Hidden Treasure' series. He has not undertaken apolitical activity in the last five years.

Note to Editors:

The Treasure Valuation Committee provides independent advice to the Secretary of State for Culture Media and Sport on the fair market value of * Treasure finds, made in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland by members of the public, which museums wish to acquire from the Crown. The Committee also advises the Secretary of State where there may be grounds for paying a reduced reward or no reward. Committee members do not receive a salary but may claim reasonable travel and subsistence.

* Items found on open sites, by members of the public, come within the remit of the Treasure Act 1996 if they are at least 300 years old, contain at least 10% gold or silver, or part of a group of Prehistoric base metal objects.