

Department for Culture, Media and Sport

Treasure Annual Report 2002

1 January–31 December 2002



Contents

Foreword			2
Introduction			4
List of contributors			7
Tables			9
Distribution map of Treasure finds in 2002			14
Catalogue			
A. Artefacts	15	(v) Spoons	95
(a) Prehistoric	16	(vi) Toilet implements and dress accessories	97
(b) Roman	22	(vii) Other objects	100
(i) Finger-rings	22	(e) Post-medieval	102
(ii) Spoons	26	(i) Bodkins	102
(iii) Other objects	28	(ii) Buckles	103
(c) Early Medieval	44	(iii) Dress-hooks	104
(i) Brooches	44	(iv) Dress-pins	109
(ii) Hooked-tags	48	(v) Mount	111
(iii) Ingots	49	(vi) Finger-rings	112
(iv) Mounts	52	(vii) Seal-matrix	119
(v) Pendants	54	(viii) Thimble	120
(vi) Pins	58	(ix) Other objects	120
(vii) Finger-rings	61		
(viii) Strap-ends	64	B. Coin finds	125
(ix) Sword fittings	66	(a) Iron Age	126
(x) Other objects	71	(b) Roman	127
(d) Medieval	76	(c) Early Medieval	137
(i) Brooches	76	(d) Medieval	139
(ii) Mounts	81	(e) Post-medieval	143
(iii) Finger-rings	83		
(iv) Seal-matrices	94		
Valuations			145
Catalogue index by county/unitary authority			147

Foreword



This is the fifth Annual Report to Parliament on the operation of the Treasure Act 1996. Like its predecessors, it lists all the finds that were reported as potential treasure to the British Museum, the National Museums & Galleries of Wales and the Environment and Heritage Service, Northern Ireland. This Report contains details of 240 new cases reported during 2002. Of these cases, 104 new Treasure finds have been, or are being, acquired by museums across the country.

The number of finds being reported as Treasure is increasing rapidly and it is expected that the numbers will increase to around 500 by the end of 2004. This is largely due to the expansion of the Portable Antiquities Scheme in 2003, when 21 new Finds Liaison Officers (FLOs) were appointed across the country. Finds Liaison Officers play a crucial role in the effective operation of the Treasure Act, encouraging finders to report their finds and guiding them through the Treasure process.

As in previous years, I would like to acknowledge the role of finders and their prompt reporting of finds. Metal-detector users find the great majority of Treasure and without their active co-operation the Act would be ineffective.

It is a pleasure to acknowledge that there is an increasing tendency for Treasure finds to be donated to Museums. This Report highlights nine cases where finders and landowners have agreed to donate finds to the appropriate museum.

I would like to pay tribute to the contribution that the staff of the British Museum, the National Museums & Galleries of Wales and the Ulster Museum have made to the Treasure process.

The Coroners' Service has a central role in the Treasure system and we continue to appreciate the part played by Victor Round, H M Coroner for Worcestershire, and Secretary of the Coroners' Society of England and Wales.

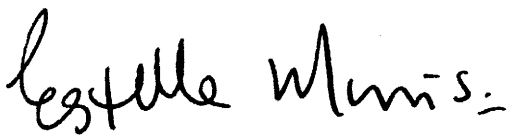
I am particularly grateful to the Treasure Valuation Committee and its panel of expert advisers for its work. Last year the Committee, which provides Ministers with independent advice on the valuation of Treasure finds that museums wish to acquire, dealt with 138 cases and many of those it considered more than once.

I am indebted to the Chairman of the Treasure Valuation Committee, Professor Norman Palmer, and to its members, Mr Thomas Curtis, Mr Dennis Jordan, Dr Arthur MacGregor, Dr Jack Ogden and Ms May Sinclair for the very careful consideration they have given to these and all the other cases that have come before them. Dennis Jordan, President of the National Council for Metal Detecting, retired from the Committee after six years' service and I would like particularly to thank him for his contribution which has helped to bring about a sea-change in relations between my Department and the metal-detecting community. I am pleased to welcome in his place Trevor Austin, General Secretary of the National Council for Metal Detecting, who has also spent much time advising finders on Treasure cases.

I would also like to pay tribute to the members of the panel of expert advisers from whom the Committee commissions provisional valuations: Mr Michael Sharp of Dix Noonan Webb, Mr James Ede of Charles Ede Ltd, Mr Tom Eden of Morton and Eden, Ms Elizabeth Mitchell of Sotheby's, Ms Joanna van der Lande of Bonham's, Ms Susan Hadida of Faustus Ancient Art, Ms Mary Fielden, Mr Peter Clayton of Seaby's and Mr Richard Falkiner. Their expertise plays an essential role in the valuation process.

Funding bodies play an essential role in supporting the acquisition of Treasure finds by museums, particularly the V&A/MLA Purchase Grant Fund, the Art Fund and the Heritage Lottery Fund. In last year's Report I noted with concern that in twelve cases museums had expressed an interest in acquiring Treasure finds but had then been unable to pursue them because of difficulty in raising the money. However, I am delighted that in January of this year the Trustees of the Sainsbury Family Charitable Trusts announced that the Headley Trust would establish a new fund, the Headley Museums Treasure Acquisition Scheme (www.headleytreasures.org.uk), to operate in conjunction with the V&A/MLA Purchase Grant Fund. The purpose of this is to enable regional museums to acquire Treasure and I understand that eight grants have been made in the first six months. This fund has been established on a trial basis for one year. I commend the Trustees of the Sainsbury Family Charitable Trusts for their initiative and I hope that they are able to continue with this fund.

Lastly, I would like to thank the 49 contributors for their entries in this Report as well as the editors, especially Anna Gannon. I think it important that these Annual Reports on Treasure, besides fulfilling the statutory obligation to report to Parliament each year on the operation of the Act, should also serve as a useful first publication of these finds.



ESTELLE MORRIS
Minister of State for the Arts
September 2004

Introduction

Increase in Treasure cases

This Report contains details of 26 more cases than the Report for 2001, but since 2002 the numbers have risen much faster: 429 cases were reported in 2003 and over 250 have been reported during the first six months of 2004, so that this year's total is likely to be around 500.

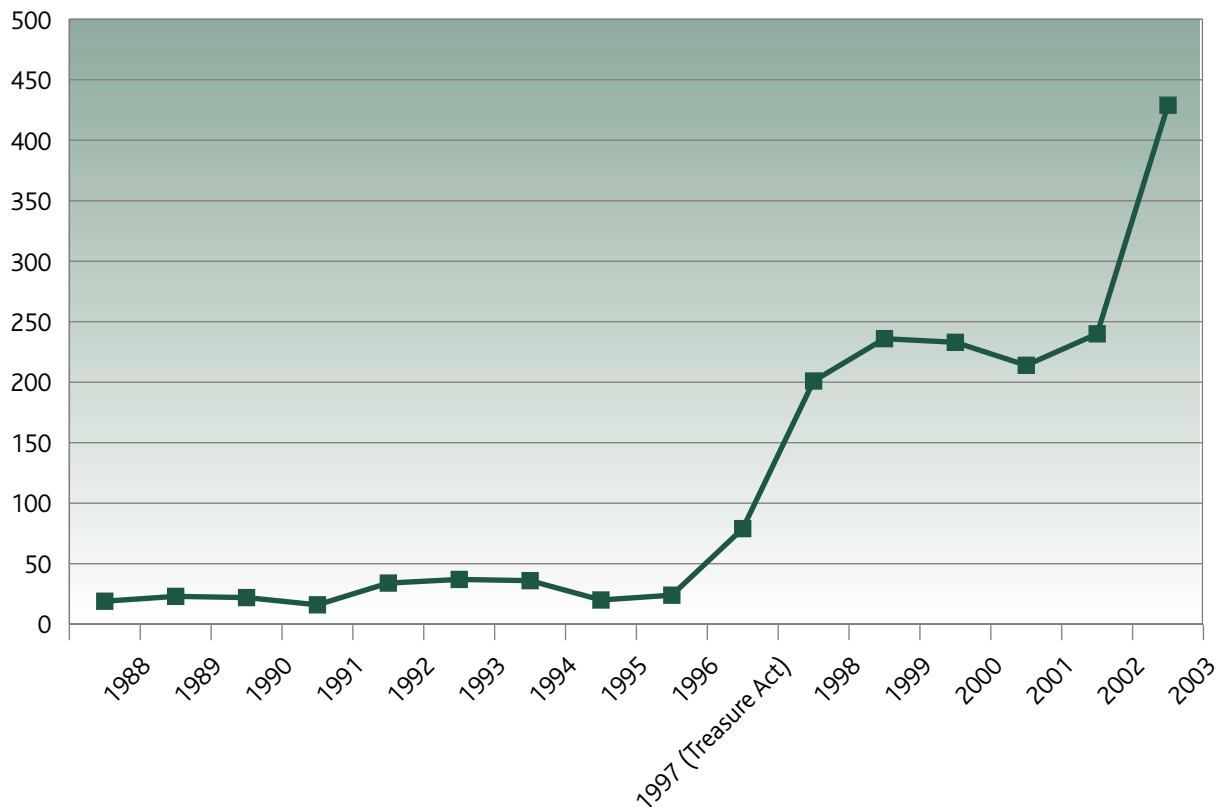


Chart 1. Treasure cases, 1988-2003

This very steep increase in Treasure cases over the last two years is largely the result of the expansion of the Portable Antiquities Scheme last year. Twenty-one new Finds Liaison Officers (FLOs) were appointed during 2003 and this has been followed by an average fivefold increase in the reporting of Treasure. Table 4 and chart 2 below set out the impact of the reporting of Treasure finds in areas where FLO posts were established in 2003, while table 5 and chart 3 show the pattern of reporting in those areas where FLO posts were already established before 2003 (pages 12-13). These show that while there has been a general increase in the reporting of Treasure, there have been particularly dramatic increases in those areas where FLO posts have recently been established: for example, in Lancashire there has been a fifteen-fold increase since the FLO was appointed in December 2003, in Sussex a thirteenfold increase since the establishment of the FLO post last August and in the Isle of Wight a tenfold increase since September when a FLO was appointed for the island.

These figures show what a crucial role the Finds Liaison Officers play in the effective operation of the Treasure Act. The British Museum is now actively encouraging Finds Liaison Officers to take a greater role in writing reports for coroners on Treasure. Finds Liaison Officers also play an important role in encouraging finders to report finds and in guiding them through the process.

Thanks to the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Portable Antiquities Scheme has funding until April 2006. There are 63 national and local partners in this project which is led by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council. It is important not to lose the momentum that the Portable Antiquities Scheme has built up.

Unreported finds of potential treasure

At the same time as the upsurge in the reporting of Treasure, there has been concern about an increase in the number of unreported finds of potential Treasure appearing in trade, particularly on the Internet. The Portable Antiquities Scheme and the Treasure section of the British Museum have been monitoring the sale of such objects on the eBay website and elsewhere since the beginning of 2004. They are in discussion with eBay on this issue and hope to be able to establish an agreement whereby eBay will remove finds from their website if there are grounds for believing them to be potential Treasure. There is of course no intention to single out any one outlet for antiquities for special treatment and the Portable Antiquities Scheme and British Museum plan to be more proactive in monitoring all those who trade in antiquities from the UK on the Internet. The police have recently been actively investigating a number of cases of unreported Treasure. It is important to ensure that both finders and dealers are aware that failure to report Treasure without a reasonable excuse is an offence under the Treasure Act and that dealing in unreported finds may also now constitute an offence under the Dealing in Cultural Objects (Offences) Act 2003.

Abatement of rewards

During the past year the Treasure Valuation Committee has advised on finds where there have been grounds for abating the reward to the finder and/or the landowner, most frequently because the finder has cleaned the object inappropriately. It is important to stress to all those who find Treasure that they should follow the guidance in the Treasure Act Code of Practice (paragraph 47) and leave objects in the condition in which they are when removed from the ground, as far as possible. Inappropriate cleaning can easily destroy vital evidence about the context of the find, besides reducing its commercial value. The Committee will abate the reward to the finder in such cases, following the provision of paragraph 79 (viii), which states that finders may expect to receive an abated reward or no reward at all 'where significant damage has been done deliberately or recklessly either to the actual object, or to a surrounding monument...' There are of course other circumstances that might lead to the abatement of a reward, such as failure to get permission from the landowner or failure to disclose all the circumstances of the discovery of the find.

Acquisition of treasure by museums

During the current year more finds have been disclaimed (108), than have been, or are being, acquired by museums (104). In addition a further 19 cases in this Report were found not to be treasure (19). As in previous years, the great bulk of finds (95 per cent) have been discovered by metal-detector users, 1 per cent by chance finders and 3 per cent during the course of archaeological investigations.

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Note on Treasure Analyses

Treasure analyses at the British Museum, Department of Conservation, Documentation and Science, are carried out non-destructively by x-ray fluorescence spectrometry (XRF). The surfaces of the objects are often corroded, even when not visibly so. The analysis is mainly of the surface and, whilst adequate in the majority of cases to establish for the purposes of the Treasure Act whether an object contains more than 10 per cent of precious metal, the percentages quoted are approximate and may not be an accurate analysis of the whole object.

Gemstone identifications at the British Museum were undertaken using a Raman microscope (Dilor LabRam equipped with a Nd:YAG green laser at 532 nm and a near infrared diode laser at 785 nm), and by standard gemmological techniques where appropriate.

Tables

Table 1. Analysis of finds listed in this Report by period and type of object

Objects	Acquired	Disclaimed	Not treasure	To be determined	Total
Prehistoric	5	1	1	1	8
Roman	8	10		2	20
Early medieval	24	13	2	2	41
Medieval	24	36		1	61
Post-medieval	15	29	14		58
Total	76	89	17	6	188

Coins	Acquired	Disclaimed	Not treasure	To be determined	Total
Prehistoric	4	2			6
Roman	12	8	1	2	23
Early medieval	3	1		1	5
Medieval	9	3			12
Post-medieval		5	1		6
Total	28	19	2	3	52
Grand total	104	108	19	9	240

Table 2. Method of discovery of finds listed in this Report

		%
Metal detecting	227	94.6
Chance find	3	1.25
Archaeological find	8	3.3
Not recorded	2	0.8
Total	240	

Table 3. Summary of all Treasure cases, 1997-2003, by county

Note: the finds from 1997 are divided between those found before 24 September, when the Treasure Act came into force, and those found after that date.

ENGLAND	1997(1)	1997(2)	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Total
Bath and North East Somerset				1					1
Bedfordshire		1	2	3	1	2	3	1	13
Berkshire	1		7			2	1		11
Bristol					1				1
Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes	1		2	5	2	2	1	10	23
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough		3	2	2	5	4	3	6	25
Cheshire		1	3	1	3	3	5	6	22
Cornwall				1	1	1	1		4
Cumbria					1		4		5
Derbyshire		1	3		1	1		3	9
Devon			5	4	5	1	2	9	26
Dorset		3	5	9	3	6	8	15	49
Durham			1				1	2	4
Essex	2		8	8	8	8	9	19	62
Gloucestershire		2	2	6	3	2	2	4	21
Gloucestershire, South		1	2						3
Hampshire		1	5	10	10	11	10	18	65
Herefordshire		1							1
Hertfordshire		1	5	5	5	4	3	3	26
Isle of Wight			3		1		3	9	16
Kent	1	1	12	18	18	12	11	35	108
Lancashire		1		1		1		3	6
Leicestershire and Rutland		1	4	2	2	5		6	20
Lincolnshire	2		8	9	13	13	16	29	90
Lincolnshire, North		2	2	1	1	1	1	5	13
London, Greater		1	3	2	1	1	1	5	14
Norfolk	5	8	40	49	43	43	46	58	292
Northamptonshire		1	1	3	6		1	8	20
Northumberland				1			2	1	4
Nottinghamshire		3	2	4	4	3	3	6	25
Oxfordshire	1	1	2	1	3	4	5	4	21
Shropshire				5	2	1	3	3	14
Somerset			3	4	3	4	6	4	24
Somerset, North		1					1	1	3
Staffordshire		2	3	1	2	2	2	2	14
Suffolk	2	6	18	15	32	23	30	47	173
Surrey			3	7	1	3	3	8	25
Sussex, East	1		1	1	1	1	1	8	14

Sussex, West	1		2	1	3		2	5	14
Teesside							1		1
Tyne and Wear								1	1
Warwickshire	1	1	4	8	10	9	8	8	49
West Midlands			2	2					4
Wiltshire and Swindon	1	5	9	10	4	7	9	8	53
Worcestershire			2	3		1		4	10
York, City of			2		3	1	3	2	11
Yorkshire, East		2	3	7	6	10	7	12	47
Yorkshire, North	3	3	9	8	12	5	6	22	68
Yorkshire, South				4	1	5	1	2	13
Yorkshire, West			1	1			1	2	5
Total England	22	54	191	223	221	202	226	404	1543

WALES	1997(1)	1997(2)	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Total
Carmarthenshire					2			3	5
Denbighshire				1					1
Ceredigion			1						1
Flintshire					1			1	2
Gwynedd				1					1
Isle of Anglesey		2	2	2	1	3	3	5	18
Monmouthshire			4	1	2		1	3	11
Neath, Port Talbot				1					1
Newport				1			1	3	5
Pembrokeshire			1	2	2	1	1	2	9
Powys			1	1	1	1	1		5
Rhondda Cynon Taf								1	1
Swansea				2	1		3	1	7
The Vale of Glamorgan		1			2	3	2	4	12
Torfaen								1	1
Wrexham							1		1
Total Wales		3	9	12	12	8	13	24	81

NORTHERN IRELAND	1997(1)	1997(2)	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Total
County Antrim						1			1
County Armagh			1			1		1	3
County Down				1		1	1		3
County Londonderry						1			1
Total Northern Ireland			1	1		4	1	1	8

Total	22	57	201	236	233	214	240	429	1632
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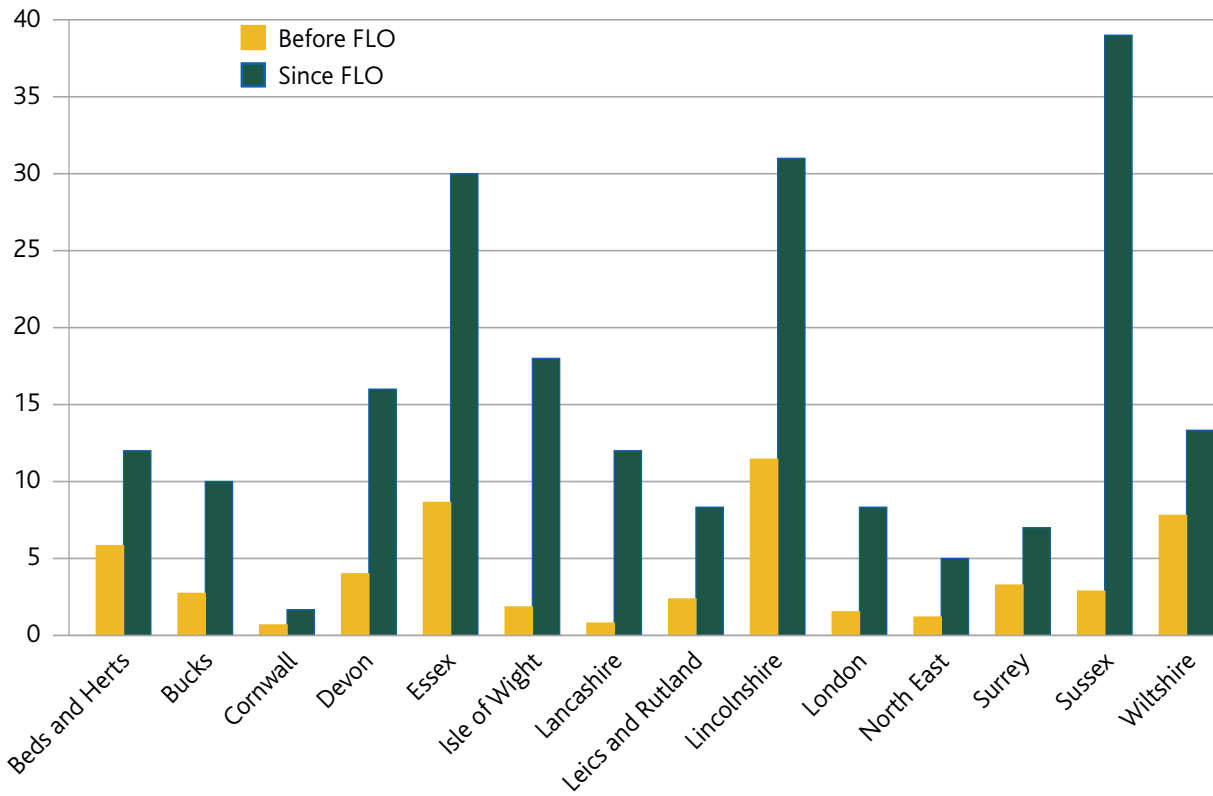
Table 4. Reporting of Treasure in areas where Finds Liaison Officer posts were established in 2003

Area	Finds per year before FLO	Finds per year since FLO	Increase
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	5.83	12.00	2.06
Buckinghamshire	2.73	10.00	3.66
Cornwall	0.68	1.67	2.46
Devon	4.00	16.00	4.00
Essex	8.64	30.00	3.47
Isle of Wight	1.85	18.00	9.73
Lancashire	0.80	12.00	15.00
Leicestershire and Rutland	2.37	8.33	3.51
Lincolnshire	11.45	31.00	2.71
London	1.53	8.33	5.44
North East	1.19	5.00	4.20
Surrey	3.27	7.00	2.14
Sussex	2.88	39.00	13.54
Wiltshire	7.80	13.33	1.71
Average reporting rate	3.93	15.12	5.26

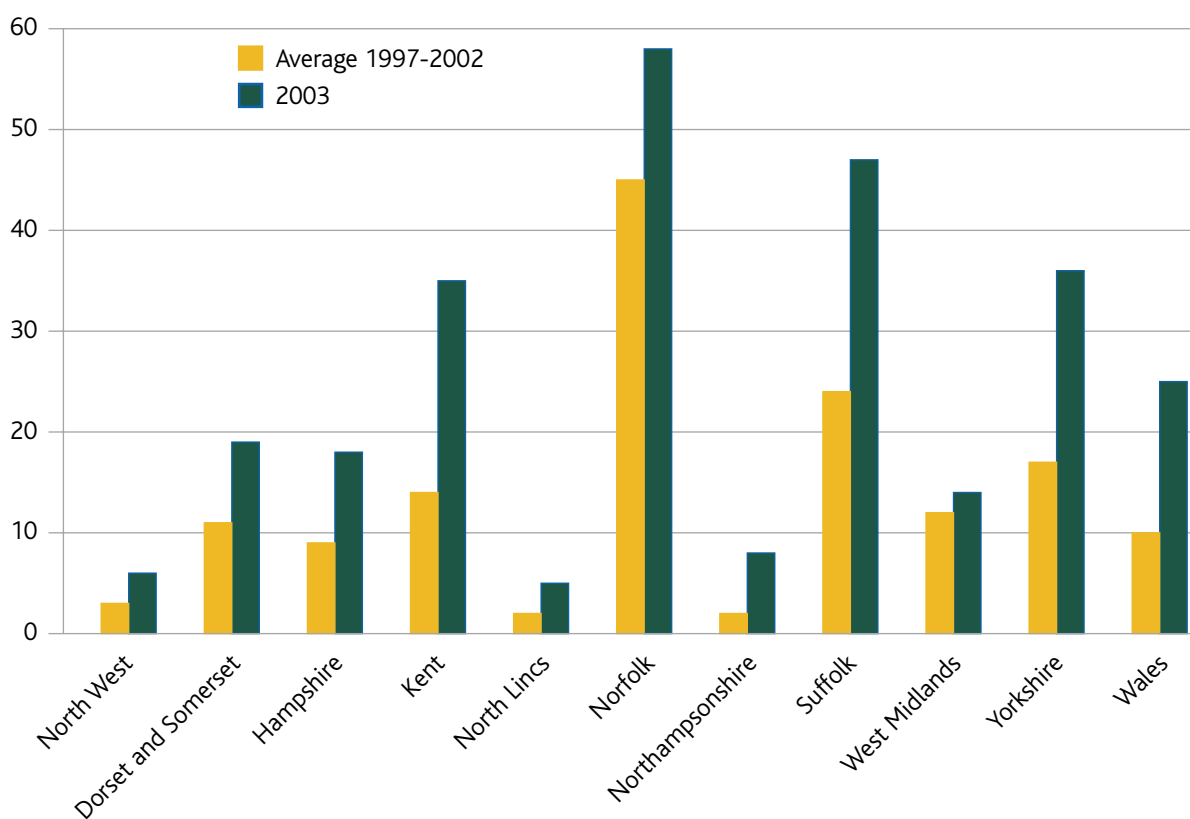
Table 5. Reporting of Treasure in areas where Finds Liaison Officer posts already existed in 2003

Area	1997-2002 annual average	2003	Increase
North West	3	6	2.00
Dorset and Somerset	11	19	1.73
Hampshire	9	18	2.00
Kent	14	35	2.50
North Lincolnshire	2	5	2.50
Norfolk	45	58	1.29
Northamptonshire	2	8	4.00
Suffolk	24	47	1.96
West Midlands	12	14	1.17
Yorkshire	17	36	2.12
Wales	10	25	2.50
Average reporting rate	14	23	2.16

Treasure reporting in areas where FLO was appointed in 2003



Treasure reporting in areas where FLOs existed in January 2003



Distribution map of Treasure finds in 2002

