

1971. No. 314

[NC]

HISTORIC MONUMENTS

Archaeological Finds

REGULATIONS, DATED 1ST OCTOBER 1971, MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE UNDER SECTION 12 OF THE HISTORIC MONUMENTS ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1971.

The Ministry of Finance, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Section 12 of the Historic Monuments Act (Northern Ireland) 1971(a), and of all other powers enabling it in that behalf, hereby makes the following Regulations:—

Citation

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Historic Monuments (Archaeological Finds) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1971.

Interpretation

2. In these Regulations the expression—
“the Act” means the Historic Monuments Act (Northern Ireland) 1971;
“Police Officer” means the Officer in Charge of a Police Station;
“the Director” means the Director of the Ulster Museum.

Revocation

3. The Ancient Monuments (Archaeological Finds) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1937(b) are hereby revoked.

Reporting of Archaeological Finds

4.—(1) A Police Officer who in accordance with the provisions of Section 12 of the Act has received a report and the deposit of an archaeological object shall forthwith, if the report was made in writing, transmit the report and if the report was not made in writing, shall transmit the substance thereof in writing, to the Director together with such further report as he may consider relevant and shall also forthwith send the object to the Director, unless for any reason the Police Officer considers that the object is not suitable for transmission to the Director, in which event he shall retain it.

(2) If for any reason the archaeological object is not deposited with the Police Officer he shall forthwith inspect the object at the place specified in the report of the finder and shall include in his report to the Director such particulars in regard to the object as he may consider relevant.

(3) Where the object has been deposited with a Police Officer and has been retained by him as not being suitable for transmission to the Director, the Director shall, not later than 3 months after the furnishing of the report of the finder, instruct the Police Officer regarding the disposal of the object.

Purchase or return of Archaeological Find

5. During or on the expiration of a period of 3 months after the furnishing of the report of the finder, the Director shall be entitled to return the object to the finder.

(a) 1971. c. 17 (N.I.).

(b) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1937, No. 63.

6. The Director shall inform the finder within 3 months after the furnishing of the report of the finder whether any offer to purchase the object is proposed. If the finder is informed that no such offer is proposed, or if he is dissatisfied with the offer, or if he receives no information under this regulation within the said 3 months, the finder shall be entitled to request that the object be returned to him on the expiration of the said period and the Director shall comply with such request.

Ownership of Archaeological Find

7. Nothing in these Regulations shall affect the right of any person to the ownership of an archaeological object.

Report by Director to Ministry of Finance

8. The Director shall as soon as possible furnish to the Ministry of Finance a full report in writing in relation to the finding of every archaeological object reported to him.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Ministry of Finance for Northern Ireland this 1st day of October 1971.

(L.S.)

Henry Love,
Senior Assistant Secretary.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Note is not part of the Regulations, but is intended to indicate their general purport.)

These Regulations prescribe the procedure to be followed by a Police Officer and the Director of the Ulster Museum upon receipt of a report of an archaeological find.