



Treasure Act 1996

1996 CHAPTER 24

Meaning of “treasure”

1 Meaning of “treasure”.

(1) Treasure is—

- (a) any object at least 300 years old when found which—
 - (i) is not a coin but has metallic content of which at least 10 per cent by weight is precious metal;
 - (ii) when found, is one of at least two coins in the same find which are at least 300 years old at that time and have that percentage of precious metal; or
 - (iii) when found, is one of at least ten coins in the same find which are at least 300 years old at that time;
- (b) any object at least 200 years old when found which belongs to a class designated under section 2(1);
- (c) any object which would have been treasure trove if found before the commencement of section 4;
- (d) any object which, when found, is part of the same find as—
 - (i) an object within paragraph (a), (b) or (c) found at the same time or earlier; or
 - (ii) an object found earlier which would be within paragraph (a) or (b) if it had been found at the same time.

(2) Treasure does not include objects which are—

- (a) unworked natural objects, or
 - (b) minerals as extracted from a natural deposit,
- or which belong to a class designated under section 2(2).

Changes to legislation:

Treasure Act 1996, Section 1 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 16 May 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.

[View outstanding changes](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 8(5)(6) substituted for s. 8(5) by [2009 c. 25 Sch. 21 para. 39\(4\)](#)
- s. 8(7) inserted by [2009 c. 25 Sch. 21 para. 39\(5\)](#)
- s. 10(5)(d) inserted by [2009 c. 25 s. 30\(2\)](#)