

Export Licenses. Your Questions Answered

By Trevor Austin NCMD General Secretary

During the past year I have received many letters from overseas visitors and metal detector users wishing to take their finds abroad on the subject of Export Licenses.

As there are a number of questions, which seem to be common to all enquiries I have decided to list them with the appropriate answer.

Q. Do I need a licence for each item or can I list all the items on one licence.

A. Yes a single licence can be obtained to cover all of your finds. You should simply attach a list of the objects to the licence application.

Q. How much does the licence cost?

A. There is no charge for the licence.

Q. How long does it take to get a licence?

A. The licence could take up to a month to issue although it may be issued more quickly as there are other factors which could affect the time scale.

Q. Are photographs needed?

A. Usually yes.

Q. How old does an object have to be before I need an export licence?

A. Archaeological material or any object more than 50 years old found in UK soil or its territorial waters, irrespective of value, needs an export licence.

Q. Who do I contact for further information.

A. You can contact the Export Licensing Unit on 020 7273 8265/66/67/69/73, via email at elu@mla.gov.uk

The booklet "Export Licensing For Cultural Goods" will answer all your questions and is readily available from The Department of Culture Media and Sport.

I would like to thank Lynn Gates of the Export Licensing Unit for her help in the compilation of these answers.

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