



## Treasure Trove

The processing of excavation assemblages by the Treasure Trove system has always meant that human remains and other skeletal material has been processed through the system as part of larger assemblages, even though the Crown has no ownership rights over human remains. While this approach has worked well in the past recently – and for the first time- assemblages which consist only of human remains have been declared to the Treasure Trove Unit. This situation has also highlighted the reluctance of some museums to accession or collect human skeletal material while still wishing to acquire the artefactual component of an excavation assemblage.

In response to these circumstances the TTU will no longer accept excavation assemblages which consist solely of human skeletal remains and only in exceptional circumstances will the TTU facilitate the allocation of assemblages which consist solely of human remains.

The Scottish Archaeological Finds Allocation Panel will accept bids from museums who do not wish to acquire human remains in any assemblage. However should there be competing applications for the same assemblage SAFAP will be minded to favour that institution which will also accept any human remains. In cases where there is only one bid and that bid excludes the human remains, then the Panel may turn where appropriate to museums willing to act in a regional capacity to see whether there is interest in order to keep both skeletal material and objects together.