

Introduction to The Coinage of Bury St. Edmunds

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Bury St Edmunds struck silver pennies almost continuously from c 1046, four years into Edward the Confessor's reign (1042-1066), until c1329, two years into Edward III's reign (1327-1377), missing out on Harold II, William II and Richard I's reigns only.

The objective of this web site is to provide a current, up to date photographic catalogue of all the known coin dies that were used at this mint. In addition, the site will attempt to keep up with current research on the classification of coins from this 283-year period. Achieving this will enable students, collectors, detectorists and the like to have access to the latest information on the coins produced at this mint.

In essence this will be, in part, an update of the catalogue section of the two publications produced by Dr. Robin Eaglen. (*The Abbey & Mint of Bury St. Edmunds to 1279*, & *The Abbey and Mint of Bury St. Edmunds from 1279*), published in 2006 and 2014 respectively.

Numismatics is constantly moving forward, and nowhere faster than in the Saxon, Norman and Medieval periods. New finds from metal detectorists, together with the regular discovery of hoards, are introducing many hundreds, if not thousands, of coins into the arena each year; it is therefore unsurprising that coins of new types, new moneyers, new dies, and new die links regularly appear.

Research into this period is continually being revised, with the latest research appearing in publications such as the British Numismatic Journal (B.N.J.) and Numismatic Chronicle (N.C.) and more recently in blogs on the B.N.J. site.

Each known die will be illustrated with the best picture that is available to me and these will be replaced when a better example becomes available. It is only too apparent that having a good picture of a coin is the next best thing to having it in your hand. So often we see really low quality pictures of coins making die identification rather challenging.

This site will also record die linking and will be regularly amended as and when new links are discovered. Die linking plays an important part in numismatic research, and gives physical evidence of the order of progression of the coinage, and when taken together with the different designs, names of the moneyers and records that have survived, enables a more accurate dating of the series.

Some idea of the numbers of each die that have so far survived will also be on the site. This will give an indication of the rarity of each die and assist in calculating the output of the mint at a particular time in its history.

The site will be compiled in stages, meaning that not all the content will be available from its outset. The intended progression will be the Short Cross series, Edward the Confessor, Long Cross, Tealby, The Norman series, then Edward I, II, III, then the sub headings, mint, Abbey etc.

Feedback, and better pictures of coins, will be much appreciated, and will be incorporated into the site at the first opportunity.

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