

## A FOURTEENTH-CENTURY HOARD FROM LLANDDONA, ANGLESEY

EDWARD BESLY

ON 18 June 1999 Mr Graham Williams deposited a group of 205 silver coins at the National Museum & Gallery in Cardiff. The coins had been found with the aid of a metal detector on a beach above low water mark near Llanddona at the eastern end of Red Wharf Bay, on the Isle of Anglesey. As a result of further searching two more batches, totalling 106 coins, were received in September 1999 and January 2000. The coins were declared treasure at an inquest in Caernarfon on 12 September 2000 and have been acquired by Oriel Ynys Môn, Llangefni.

There is no doubt that the coins form a single deposit, scattered in the beach within an area of around fifty square metres. On one coin, a concretion preserved evidence of a fine plain weave

<sup>15</sup> *SCBI Northern*, as in n. 7, 207.

<sup>16</sup> *SCBI Northern*, as in n. 7, 208.

<sup>17</sup> Pirie, as in n. 5, no. 81.

<sup>18</sup> Pirie, as in n. 5, no. 91.

<sup>19</sup> D.M. Hadley, 'Burial practices in the northern Danelaw, c.650–1100', *Northern History* 36 (2000), 199–216. Churchyard burials occurred from the eighth century onwards.

<sup>20</sup> Cf. *Thrymsax and Sceattas*, as in n. 2, nos 464 and 468; chemical analyses at pp. 678 f.

textile, indicating a possible cloth container.<sup>1</sup> The presence of so many coins on this beach may have one of several explanations. Coastal erosion is unlikely here and there are no reports of other finds from the area that might suggest a shipwreck. However, the sands have long been used as a shortcut by people crossing the bay, a distance of around 5½ km from end to end, rather than going inland.<sup>2</sup> The hoard was most likely accidentally lost in this context, or from a beached vessel.

The coins themselves are English pennies of Edward I–II, with the customary sprinkling of Irish, Scots and Continental issues; none requires individual comment. The latest are of class 15c from Bury, Durham and London, placing the hoard in the 'hard-to-date' category within the period c.1325–c.1345. The proportion of classes 11 or later in the hoard, a possible criterion for dating the hoard, is 27.0 per cent (79 out of 293 English coins), a high figure which might suggest a deposit early in the period (late 1320s or perhaps early 1330s).<sup>3</sup>

However, the hoard itself ends strongly, with a notable representation of class 15 coins of the Durham mint, which as a result accounts for an exceptionally high proportion (16.7 per cent) of the whole. In this context the mint distribution is also of interest. If Llanddona is compared with the figures quoted by Mayhew,<sup>4</sup> northern mints such as Hull and York are well represented, as are the Scottish issues, which include four pennies of John Baliol. It must be remembered that the numbers are all very small, however, and of limited statistical significance. Nevertheless, London and Canterbury, while they provide (as expected) the two largest mint groups in the hoard, are both distinctly weakly represented overall. Whatever the circumstances of the hoard's loss on an Anglesey beach, its source would appear to lie in northern parts.

The preservation of the coins is, as might be expected for a beach find, generally poor. Weights of individual coins have been recorded, but except as a museum curatorial tool, are not informative. Three coins show signs of significant clipping.

## CATALOGUE

### ENGLAND

#### Edward I–II

			<i>% of hoard</i>
<i>London</i>	1c; 1d; 1d or 2a (2); 2b (2); 3c; 3c–d; 3d; 3f; 3g (2); 3g? (3); 3; 3 or 4; 4a (4); 4b (3); 4c; 4e; 4 (4); 5a; 8c; 9a1 [no star]; 9a1 [plain cross]; 9a; 9b1 [no star] (2); 9b1 [star] (3); 9b1 [?]; 9b2; 9b (5); 10ab1?; 10ab2 (2); 10ab5 (5); 10ab (2); 10ab with crown cf1; 10cf1 (11); 10cf2 (5); 10cf3 Mayfield (7); 10cf3 late (8); 10cf5 (9); 10cf3–5 (2); 10cf4–5; 10cf (3); 11a1; 11b1 (2); 11; 12; 13 (3); 14 (4); 15b? (2); 15c (2)	<b>120</b>	38.6
			<i>% of hoard</i>
<i>Canterbury</i>	3c; 3d; 3; 4a; 4a?; 4a–c (2); 4c; 4d; 4 (3); 9b1 (2: one with adherent concretion bearing traces of fabric); 9b (3); 10ab3; 10ab5; 10ab5?; 10ab (5); 10cf1 [EDWAR]; 10cf1 (2); 10cf1or2; 10cf2 (7); 10cf3 (4); 10cf3 Mayfield; 10cf3 late lettering (2); 10cf5 (2); 10cf 3–5 (4); 10cf? (2); 11a2 (2); 11b2; 11b3 (2); 11b (3); 11c; 13; 13 or 14; 14 (5); 15b (2); uncertain	<b>70</b>	22.5
<i>Bristol</i>	2b; 2b or 3; 3c; 3g2; 9b1	<b>5</b>	1.6
<i>Bury</i>	9a2 (2); 9b; 10ab3; 10cf3 Mayfield; 10cf3b; 10cf3? (2); 10cf5?; 11a1; 11a3; 11a; 13; 14 (3); 15a; 15c/b; 15c (3)	<b>21</b>	6.8

<sup>1</sup> Information from Louise Mumford, Cardiff.

<sup>2</sup> Information from Kate Geary, Sites and Monuments Officer, Gwynedd Archaeological Trust.

<sup>3</sup> N.J. Mayhew, 'The Aberdeen, St Nicholas Street, hoards of 1983 and 1984', *BNJ* 58 (1988), 40–68 at pp. 42–3.

<sup>4</sup> Mayhew, as in n.3, p. 49, Table 2 (Finds analysed by mint).

			% of hoard
<i>Durham</i>	9b2; 9b?; 9; 10ab?; 10cf3 Mayfield; 10cf3; 10cf3-5; 10cf (3); 10?; 11a; 11 or later (3); 13?; 15; 15?; uncertain [10 or later]		
Bek:	9b1; 9b; 10ab5; 10ab?; 10cf3 (3); 10cf4-5		
Kellawe:	11a; 11b2; 11b3; 11b; 11b?		
Beaumont:	13; 13-15 (3); 15c (6); 15c? (2); 15; 15? (2)		
Unc. mm.	15c (4); 15c?	<b>52</b>	<i>16.7</i>
<i>Exeter</i>	9b2 [Pothook/Roman N]	<b>1</b>	<i>0.3</i>
<i>Hull</i>	9b1; 9b (2)	<b>3</b>	<i>1.0</i>
<i>Lincoln</i>	3c	<b>1</b>	<i>0.3</i>
<i>Newcastle</i>	3e; 9b1 (2); 10ab2	<b>4</b>	<i>1.3</i>
<i>York</i>	2b; 3b; 3e; 9b1 (4); 9b1 archiepiscopal; 9b2	<b>9</b>	<i>2.9</i>
<i>Uncertain</i>	11 or 13/Durham?; 10cf3 Durham??; 11? Durham?	<b>3</b>	<i>1.0</i>
<i>Berwick</i>	4b (2); 4c (2)	<b>4</b>	<i>1.3</i>
		<b>293</b>	<i>94.2</i>
IRELAND			
<b>Edward I</b>	Dublin, group A/rev.1 (2); C/rev.3; G2/rev.2	<b>4</b>	<i>1.3</i>
	Waterford, group A(2)	<b>1</b>	<i>0.3</i>
SCOTLAND			
<b>Alexander III</b>	sterlings: groups B2:24pts; M/D:24; E/D:25 (stars); B/M: 24?; uncertain:23? (one star)	<b>5</b>	<i>1.6</i>
<b>John Baliol</b>	sterlings: 1st coinage S.5065 <sup>5</sup> : 4×6pts; 2nd coinage S.5071: 4×6pts (2); S.5071?: 4×5pts	<b>4</b>	<i>1.3</i>
CONTINENTAL			
	John of Louvain (1285-1309), Herstal crockard, M.82 <sup>6</sup>	<b>1</b>	<i>0.3</i>
	Gaucher de Châtillon (c.1313-22), Yves, M.239	<b>1</b>	<i>0.3</i>
IRREGULAR			
	'10ab Canterbury', M.377; 'London'	<b>2</b>	<i>0.6</i>
<b>Total</b>		<b>311</b>	

<sup>5</sup> P. Seaby and P.F. Purvey, *Coins of Scotland Ireland & the Islands* (London, 1984).

<sup>6</sup> N.J. Mayhew, *Sterling Imitations of Edwardian Type* (London, 1983).