

COINS

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(The cross-references denoted 'CQ' in this paper relate to *Charter Quay, The Spirit of Change*, Wessex Archaeology 2003)

A total of 11 coins, jettons and tokens was found at Charter Quay. Five of these were unstratified finds, and of the remainder all but one was found in sealed deposits. They range in date from the mid 13th to the late 17th Century, and are listed by context in the Catalogue of Coins.

As a whole the assemblage is not unlike those from other comparable medieval and late medieval sites, though the presence of a relatively unworn groat of Edward III (AD 1327-77; Obj No 219) is unusual (see CQ p. 23). This groat, three English silver pennies (Obj Nos 40, 217 and 218) and a mid-late 17th century token (Obj No 216 - see below for an overview of the function and date of these tokens) were unstratified.

The dangers of using coins as dating evidence in medieval sites has been well explored (e.g. Archibald 1988), but it is possible to make a few generalisations. The penny of Henry III (1216-1272; Obj No 218) would not have been in circulation much beyond 1279 - the date of a major reform of the coinage (see CQ p. 17). The two other silver pennies (Obj No 40 & 217) were too worn to date closely but, as we know when reductions in the weight of the medieval penny took place, their weight enables us to make an educated guess as to their broad issue date. These pennies and the groat (Obj No 219) would have circulated for perhaps well over 50 years after their issue.

Within the stratified objects, two groups can be observed. Firstly, a mid-late 17th century token (Obj No 99) and two farthings of Charles I (1625-49; Obj Nos 100 and 201) (see CQ p. 35). Tokens were issued by individual traders and by civic authority throughout the country as a response to the shortage of and impracticability of use of the small copper farthings originally issued by royal prerogative. In general they date from 1648 until the introduction of the copper ½d and farthings by Charles II in 1672. Circulation would not have continued much beyond this date, and geographically they were restricted to the locale in which they were issued. The Charles I farthings may also have circulated during this period, again being withdrawn from circulation when the new low denominations were introduced by his son.

The second group consists of three jettons (Obj Nos 10, 24 & 81) originating from France and the Low Countries (see CQ p. 30). Their dating is still vague and the best that can be said is that they were issued at sometime in the 15th to 16th centuries, though they could have been used up to the 17th century. Their function as reckoning counters is well known (e.g. Grierson 1975, 162-5), but it is worth noting that they do occur as site finds where no formal accounting appears to have taken place. As such, it is possible that they performed some monetary function as a low denomination (Archibald 1988, note 3).

References

Archibald, M., 1988, 'English medieval coins as dating evidence' in Casey, J. & Reece, R. (ed.) *Coins and the Archaeologist* 2nd Edition, 264-301

Grierson, P., 1975, *Numismatics*

North, J.J., 1980, *English Hammered Coinage Volume I, Early Anglo-Saxon to Henry III c. 600-1272*, 2nd Edition

North, J.J., 1991, *English Hammered Coinage Volume II Edward III to Charles II 1272-1662*, 3rd Edition

Catalogue of Coins

1. Ag penny of Henry III (AD 1216-1272)
Obv. HENRICVS REX III
Crowned bust facing.
Rev. Faint lettering split by voided long cross with three pellets in each angle.
Diameter: 18mm
Weight: 1.5 grammes
Issued from AD 1251-1272. Corroded coin probably from the London mint. Class 5D
Voided Long Cross type.
References: North I 994
Obj no 218, unstratified

2. Ag groat (4D) of Edward III (AD 1327-77)
Obv. EDWARD DG REX ANGL Z FRANC D HYB
Crowned bust facing within a tressure of arches.
Rev. POSVI DEUM ADIVTORVM MEVM / CIVITAS LONDON
Split by long cross pattée with 3 pellets in each angle.
Initial Mark: Cross pattée
Diameter: 26mm
Weight: 4.7 grammes
Issued in AD 1351. Series B, pre-treaty coinage.
References: North II 1142
Obj No 19, unstratified

3. Ag English penny (14th-15th Century AD)
Obv. Facing bust.
Rev. Long cross pattée with 3 pellets in each angle.
Diameter: 16mm
Weight: 1.1 grammes
Very corroded coin. Based on its weight it probably dates to the late 14th Century AD
Obj no 217, unstratified

4. Ag English penny (15th-16th Century AD)
Obv. No details apparent.
Rev. No details apparent.
Diameter: 18mm
Weight: 0.9 grammes

Very corroded and bent over totally in half. Based on its weight it probably dates to the 15th Century AD.

~~Obj No 40, unstratified~~

5. Æ farthing of Charles I (AD 1625-49)
Obv. CAROLV / D.G / MA.BRI
Single arched crown with 2 sceptres in saltire through it.
Rev. FRA : ET . HI . REX
Single rose surmounted by single arched crown.
Initial Mark: 5 pointed star
Diameter: 13mm
Weight: 0.7 grammes
Struck between AD 1640-1 at the Tower of London mint. Rose farthing Type II.
References: North II 2291
Obj No 100; context 610, layer.
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6. Æ farthing of Charles I (AD 1625-49)
Obv. CAROLV / D.G / MA.BRI
Single arched crown with 2 sceptres in saltire through it.
Rev. FRA : ET . HI . REX
Single rose surmounted by single arched crown.
Initial Mark: 5 pointed star
Diameter: 14mm
Weight: 1.1 grammes
Struck between AD 1640-1 at the Tower of London mint. Rose farthing Type II.
References: North II 2291
Obj No 201, context 623, 19th century garden soil
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7. Æ ½d token of Charles Goodwin (17th Century AD)
Obv. CHARLES • GOODWIN
Around HIS / HALF / PENY
Rev. VINTNER OF BARNES •
Four legged animal (bear?) facing left
Initial Mark: Cinquefoil
Diameter: 19mm
Weight: 1.7 grammes
Obj No 99; context 619, layer
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8. Æ ½d token of Thomas Wilmot (17th Century AD)
Obv. THOMAS WILMOT
Around I A (?).
Rev. NEARE GUILDFORD
No details clear.
Initial mark: 5 pointed star
Diameter: 16mm
Weight: 1gramme
Obj no 216, unstratified

9. Æ ?Flemish jetton (15th-16th Century AD)
Obv. No details apparent.
Rev. Faint lettering.
Diameter: 27mm
Weight: 6 grammes
Very worn jetton. Its fabric gives it the likely origin of Tournai.
Obj No 10, context 818, layer

10. Æ French/Flemish jetton (15th-16th Century AD)
Obv. No details apparent.
Rev. Coat of arms surrounded by faint lettering.
Diameter: 25mm
Weight: 2.7 grammes
Worn jetton.
Obj No 24, context 2443, layer between hearths 2347 and 2243

11. Æ French jetton (15th-16th Century AD)
Obv.PI.....
No details apparent.
Rev. Lis in quatrefoil.
Diameter: 27mm
Weight: 2.6 grammes
Obj No 81, context 2762, dump layer in cellared structure.