COIN HOARD

Unique ID: CAM-58D133

Object type certainty: Certain

Workflow status: Awaiting validation

Hoard of probably six or seven silver hammered coins that are fused together to form a clump. Some are in a poor condition having most likely been melted. As the coins are clumped together this suggests that they may have been in a purse or container which held them tightly together. Where the surface of the coins can be seen some are quite worn. The coins seem to have a thickness of c.0.23mm and diameter ranging from possibly 15.47mm (the smallest and most deformed coin) to c.22.30mm which seems to be the approximate size of most of the rest of the hoard. The coin hoard has been given a broad date range c.1485 (Henry VII) to c.1561 (Elizabeth I) due to so little of the coins being visible. Total weight of all coins: 8.75g.

The smallest coin is completely malformed due to melting. The legend of the coin behind the smallest coin reads [...PO]SVI DIV.[...]. The 'I' between the 'D' and 'V' might be an 'E' but looks more like an 'I'. Only a small part of the central area of the coin can be seen due to the presence of the small coin in front of it and wear. The only detail that can be seen is c. 5.22mm of the boarder of the central shield, with the arm of the cross leaving the centre of the coin. The end of the central cross extends to the edge of the coin passing between the letters 'I' and 'D' of the legend. There is a slight break or crack just in front of the 'S' in the legend and before that the edge of the coin is very worn. After the dot that follows the 'V' of the legend the area of miss-formed mass occurs.

The coin at the back of the clump has the reverse side facing outwards. It is very worn and possibly had some of the edge clipped. An area of miss-formed mass is present at the top right quarter of the coin and approximately half of this has been broken off revealing a fresh clean break. The legend is difficult to read due to the level of wear however a quartered shield is present at the centre of the coin. In at least one quarter, the bottom right are fleur de lis. The central cross extends to the edge of the coin passing between the letters of the legend. In the top right quarter the letters EV can just be determined before the start of the miss-formed mass. At the bottom of the coin and to the left of the arm of the cross it is just possible to make out the letters 'IV' the rest is illegible. This coin is probably of Tudor date, possibly from the reigns of either Edward VI, Mary or Elizabeth.

Notes:

British Museum report

I have examined a fused pile of 5 or 6 coins found at Mepal, Cambridgeshire. The two visible sides are both the reverses of English silver coins of the 16th century and fit the dimensions and design of groats of Elizabeth I. It seems likely from the look of the pile that all the coins are of the same type. The group weighs 8.74g, which would be close enough for 5 late Tudor groats. As English silver coins, they will have a fineness of the traditional sterling standard and be over 90% fine metal.

As coins of good silver clearly deposited together on one occasion, this Mepal find would, in my opinion, fulfil the criteria of Treasure, according to the Act.

Dr Barrie J Cook

Evidence of reuse: None

Subsequent actions

Subsequent action after recording: Undergoing further examination at a museum

Treasure details

Treasure case tracking number: 2010T273

Chronology

Broad period: MEDIEVAL
Period from: MEDIEVAL
Period to: POST MEDIEVAL

Dimensions and weight

Quantity: 6

Thickness: 0.23 mm Weight: 8.75 g Diameter: 22.3 mm

Discovery dates

Date(s) of discovery: Tuesday 20th April 2010

Personal details

This information is restricted for your access level.

Other reference numbers

Treasure case number: 2010T273

Materials and construction

Primary material: Silver

Manufacture method: Struck or hammered

Completeness: Uncertain

Spatial metadata

Region: Eastern (European Region)

County or Unitary authority: Cambridgeshire (County)

District: <u>East Cambridgeshire</u> (District)

To be known as: Mepal

Spatial coordinates

Grid reference source: From a paper map Unmasked grid reference accurate to a 0.01 metre square.

Discovery metadata

Method of discovery: Metal detector General landuse: Cultivated land

Specific landuse: Character undetermined