COIN

Unique ID: SUR-4861A3

Object type certainty: Certain
Workflow status: Awaiting validation

A counterfeit crown of Elizabeth I.

The coin is now dark grey and an original crown is of course gold. It is not clear of which metal this coin is made. There is a hint of yellow metal on one edge.

Notes:

John Naylor comments:

This probably isn't a modern or Victorian forgery but that is always a possibility. The background for forgery in this period comes from C.E. Challis (1978) "The Tudor Coinage" (Manchester University Press), p. 289-92. It appears that there was a problem with forgery in the Elizabethan period, especially copies of the silver coinage (groats, shillings and half-sovereigns, sometimes pence and halfpence) but copies of gold crowns and foreign coins 'of many kinds' were also well known. Challis suggested that counterfeits made abroad were an especial problem, mostly from France, the Low Countries and (especially problematic) Italy. One example cited was of a Yorkshire merchant who was pardoned for importing counterfeit half sovereigns and crowns manufactured in Rouen and Dieppe. In 1565 there was documented evidence for Flemish counterfeit angels. It seems likely that gold coinage was counterfeited less than silver simply because gold was not used by the normal population but the by the higher clases, with 'accountants' and as a result would have been more easily spotted and stopped. This coin fits into a pattern of forgery in the period.

Find of note status

This is a find of note and has been designated: National importance

Subsequent actions

Subsequent action after recording: Returned to finder

Chronology

Broad period: POST MEDIEVAL
Date from: Circa AD 1558
Date to: Circa AD 1603

Dimensions and weight

Quantity: 1
Weight: 2.17 g

Diameter: 22.74 mm

Discovery dates

Date(s) of discovery: Sunday 1st August 2010

Personal details

This information is restricted for your access level.

Other reference numbers

Other reference: 10-1084

Materials and construction

Primary material: Silver
Manufacture method: Struck or hammered
Completeness: Complete

Spatial metadata

Region: [London](#) (European Region)
County or Unitary authority: [Greater London Authority](#) (Greater London Authority)
District: [Greenwich](#) (London Borough)
Parish or ward: [Greenwich West](#) (London Borough Ward)

Spatial coordinates

4 Figure: TQ3777
Four figure Latitude: 51.47538
Four figure longitude: -0.028724
1:25K map: TQ3777
1:10K map: TQ37NE
Grid reference source: From a paper map
Unmasked grid reference accurate to a 1 metre square.

Discovery metadata

Method of discovery: Fieldwalking
General landuse: Open fresh water
Specific landuse: Running water