

COIN

Unique ID: LANCUM-9E265D

Object type certainty: Certain

Workflow status: Published

An Middle Early-Medieval Anglo-Frisian gold solidus dating from c.AD825-850, imitating a Solidus of Louis the Pious (AD 814-840). It is 20.63x20.55mm in diameter and weighs 4.36g.

Obverse description: Laureate, draped bust right with long vertical bar for nose, fine hairlines, inverted trefoil for eye

Obverse inscription: DNIIVVDOVSHMIAN (DN LVDOVICVS IMP AVG)

Reverse description: Suspended wreath containing a large cross pattée linked to wreath on vertical axis

Reverse inscription: IVHVHVHISVNVN (MVNVS DIVINVM)

Notes:

After discovery, the coin was straightened and sold by Spink. Discussion by Spink follows: The majority of surviving gold coins in the 9th century in Northern Europe are based on the gold Solidus struck by Louis the Pious c.816 which was copied extensively in the North Sea area. Most surviving examples of these come from three hoards found in the Netherlands. However a small group derive from the British Isles. This is the twelfth example of an imitation of the gold Solidus of Louis the Pious to have been found in Britain. Of these, seven (including this new example) are from locations within England. This new find is therefore a further indication that these imitations of the Louis the Pious Solidus were probably in use alongside other gold coins, such as the famous Coenwulf Mancus, and silver pennies struck by Anglo Saxon rulers in ninth century England. Within the English finds of imitation gold Solidi there is a cluster of three coins (Grierson Group XVI) which share the same dies, which have long been thought to have been produced in England. The find more recently of a lead trial piece for an imitation Solidus at Torksey adds further evidence for there being English produced imitations of the Louis the Pious Solidus. This new coin has similarities to those in the English cluster of three but the execution of the wreath, bust and inscriptions are in better style. With the only similar coin, Grierson Group III, in the Bibliotheque Nationale in Paris (with no find provenience and from different dies), the case for this coin being struck in England is less sure, but this does remain a distinct possibility.

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: EARLY MEDIEVAL

Subperiod from: Middle

Period from: EARLY MEDIEVAL

Subperiod to: Middle

Period to: EARLY MEDIEVAL

Date from: Circa AD 825

Date to: Circa AD 850

Dimensions and weight

Quantity: 1

Length: 20.63 mm

Width: 20.55 mm

Weight: 4.36 g

Discovery dates

Date(s) of discovery: Thursday 7th August 2014

Personal details

This information is restricted for your access level.

Materials and construction

Primary material: Gold

Manufacture method: Struck or hammered

Completeness: Complete

Spatial metadata

Region: [East Midlands](#) (European Region)

County or Unitary authority: [Lincolnshire](#) (County)

District: [West Lindsey](#) (District)

To be known as: West Lindsey

Spatial coordinates

Grid reference source: GPS (from the finder)

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