



Appledore Archive

Memories and Milestones from Appledore's Past

Appledore Coin Hoard

In August 1997, metal detectorists Phil Collins, Bert Douch and Laura Dickinson discovered a hoard of nearly 500 Anglo-Saxon coins near Appledore.

The coins were discovered together with fragments of pottery, believed to be from the vessel in which they had originally been stored. The pot of coins appears to have remained intact until it was disturbed by ploughing in recent times. With only a few exceptions, the coins are of the 'Expanding Cross' type issued during the reign of King Edward 'the Confessor' (1042–66).

The following summer, in 1998, a further parcel of coins was recovered from the same site. This group comprised twelve coins, including one cut halfpenny and one penny broken into two pieces, with a further fragment missing. These discoveries brought the total size of the hoard to 502 coins, including twenty-eight cut halves, along with several very small fragments.



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Now housed at the British Museum, the hoard was probably buried around 1051–52. It contains coins from thirty-four different mints across England, although more than half were struck at Canterbury. Notably, the hoard includes the first known examples of this coin type from the smaller mints of Romney and Sandwich, as well as the earliest recorded coin of the moneyer Edric of Winchester.

The hoard may have been concealed during the rebellion of Earl Godwine of Wessex. At the time, the estate of Appledore was owned by the Archbishop of Canterbury, one of Godwine's most powerful opponents. In monetary terms, the hoard represented around one third of the estate's annual value.