

# A new farthing reverse die for David II of Scotland's first issue.

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This short article will place on record a new farthing reverse die for David II of Scotland's (r.1329-71) first issue dating to 1329-c.1333 or possibly 1341-46 when David was in Scotland<sup>1</sup>. This coinage consisted of solely of halfpence and farthings with five-point mullet reverses before a larger issue of pence (known as the REX SCOT(T)ORVM issue) was initiated in c.1351.<sup>2</sup> The halfpence and farthings of David's first issue has been studied in detail by Nicholas Holmes and Lord Stewartby.<sup>3</sup> In their paper they list three obverse dies (listed as A-C) and seven reverse dies (listed a-g). This new die presented here was discovered and identified by the writer as he was updating and refining the Portable Antiquities Scheme's (PAS) medieval Scottish coin records. The find was discovered near Monks Eleigh in Suffolk in 2019 and reported to the PAS.

The die shown below has the reverse legend as +RE/X:SC/OTO/RVH with the letter H double barred and a colon stop between X and S. The die is paired with Holmes and Stewartby's obverse die type C which reads as +DAVID: DEIGRACIA. As such a new die link for obverse die C (Ch) can also be added to the original list, with the new die listed as reverse die h.



Figure 1: New die combination of David II's first issue farthings. Image courtesy of the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS record SF-173AA8).

## Bibliography

Holmes, N.M.McQ and Stewartby, L., 2000 'Scottish Coinage in the First Half of the Fourteenth Century' *BNJ* 70, pp 45-60.



<sup>1</sup> A greater discussion on the problems of dating this coinage is provided in Holmes and Stewartby 2000 'Scottish coinage in the first half of the fourteenth century' *BNJ* vol 70 at pages 57-58.

<sup>2</sup> The REX SCOT(T)ORVM pence is the subject of an ongoing die study by the present writer.

<sup>3</sup> Holmes and Stewartby 2000.