

Die studies of the English Short Cross coinage, 1180-1247

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This note summarises the extent of die studies carried out for the English Short Cross coinage, 1180-1247. It includes not only published studies, but also unpublished studies undertaken by the author over many years. The purpose is to give an overview, share information and co-ordinate further research by highlighting areas that have not yet been studied. It is also hoped that others can provide additional information to allow this summary to be updated.

Table 1 sets out a summary by mint and sub-class to show where die studies have or have not been undertaken.

TABLE 1
Dies studies by mint and subclass

Mint	Class (by obverse)																				
	1a ⁱ	1b	1c	2	3ab	4a	4b	4c	5a ⁱⁱ	5b ⁱⁱⁱ	5c ^{iv}	6a	6b	6c	6d ^v	7a	7b	7c	8a	8b	8c
Bury ^{vi}										P	P			P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Canterbury				P	X	X	X	U	P	P	P		U	U	P	U	U	U		X	X
Carlisle ^{vii}		P	P		P	P	P			P											
Chichester										P	P										
Durham ^{viii}									P	P	P	P				P					
Exeter	P	X	X	P	P				P	P	P										
Ipswich ^{ix}										P	P										
Kings Lynn										P											
Lichfield				P																	
Lincoln ^x		P	P	P					P	P	P										
London	P	X	X	U	U	U	U	U	P	P	P	X	U	U	P	U	U	U	U	X	X
Northampton	P	X	X		U	U				P	P										
Norwich							P		P	P	P										
Northampton or Norwich						U	U	P													
Oxford		U	U							P											
Rochester										P											
Shrewsbury ^{xi}						P	P														
Wilton	P	U																			
Winchester ^{xii}	P	P	P		P	P			P	P	P			P							
Worcester		U	U	U																	
York	P	X	U	U	U	U	U	U	P	P	P			P							

Key to Table1

P – published die study

U – unpublished die study

X – no die study

A blank cell means that no coins are known for that combination of mint and class.

A number of assumptions, simplifications and omissions have been made to avoid complexity and make the table easy to read on a single page. These are set out in the following notes.

- 1 Roman numerals of the standard classification are replaced by Arabic numbers. For example, class VIIb is referred to as class 7b.
- 2 Die studies under class 1a are limited to subclass 1a1 to 1a4. Die studies of subclass 1a5 are included under class 1b.
- 3 Coins of the Welsh mint of Rhuddlan do not fit into the standard classification of the Short Cross series and the mint is omitted from the table. A die study of Rhuddlan was published by John Brand.^{xiii}
- 4 Class 6x is an irregular class which only occurs at Canterbury and is not shown on the table. A die study of class 6x was published by Ian Stewart (later Lord Stewartby).^v
- 5 Most published die studies shown in the table include a corpus, listing the sources of the coins studied, as well as die frequencies and linkages. However, the minimum requirement for ‘published’ is that all the dies have been identified in print. In three cases; Exeter class 3ab, Lichfield class 2 and Northampton or Norwich class 4c, coins are each known from just a single pair of dies. The Mass sylloge provides a good reference for these and other die studies listed as ‘published’, but not covered by the main studies listed below.^{xiv}

The table shows that dies studies have been carried out for quite a large proportion of the Short Cross coinage. A goal of 100% coverage, similar to the Tealby coinage, might be feasible in the foreseeable future, although there are still some difficult classes, such as 6a1 and 8c, that would need to be tackled. It also shows there is a large backlog of unpublished studies. Publication will present challenges, especially for Canterbury and London in class 6 and 7, which involve images of several thousand individual dies and a corpus of over 12,000 coins. Nowadays these will be better published online instead of using traditional printing. This would enable readers to view enlarged images of each die and make it easier to update the studies when significant new material becomes available.

ⁱ Mass 1993, *BNJ* 63, 20-52.

ⁱⁱ Allen 1989, *BNJ* 59, 46-76.

ⁱⁱⁱ *ibid*

^{iv} *ibid*

^v Stewart 1981, *BNJ* 51, 91-106.

^{vi} Eaglen 2006, *BNS* Special Publication No. 5.

^{vii} Allen 1979, *BNJ* 49, 42-55.

^{viii} *ibid*

^{ix} Sadler 2018, *The Ipswich Mint*, Vol. III 1066-1207.

^x Mossop 1970, *The Lincoln Mint*.

^{xi} Allen and Dawson 1992, *BNJ* 62, 193.

^{xii} Biddle 2012, *Winchester Studies* 8: *The Winchester Mint*.

^{xiii} Brand 1966, *BNJ* 34, 90-97.

^{xiv} Mass 2001, *SCBI* 56.

