

A probable new die link for John Baliol's second issue *Rex Scotorum* halfpenny

This short note is intended to place on record a probable, unpublished die link for John Baliol's second issue *Rex Scotorum* halfpennies. The coin was found by a metal detectorist in the Strathmiglo (Fife) area in early November 2025 and duly reporting to the Scottish Treasure Trove Unit (recorded as TTDB2025/0728) and subsequently disclaimed and returned to the finder.

A comprehensive study of the coinage of John Baliol (r.1292-96) was undertaken by Nicholas Holmes and Lord Stewartby.¹ In their study of the *Rex Scotorum* halfpennies of the second issue the authors list six obverse dies and 11 reverse dies.² Details of the coin are as follows:



Image not to scale (dimensions and images kindly supplied by the finder).

Obverse legend: +IOhANN[...]elg[...]

Reverse: legend: ReX/SCO/[...]M+

Diameter: c.14mm, weight: 0.6g.

The obverse of the coin shares similar characteristics to Holmes and Stewartby's obverse die no.H7 with the base of the letter e and l touching and the letter l positioned diagonally from the chin of the bust and a similar style of letter h. The reverse die is the same as Homes and Stewartby's Hc, which is only paired with obverse die H3. Obverse dies of H7 are paired with reverse dies Hl, which has RV + in the final angle rather than the usual VM+.³ The new coin in all probability represents a new die link between obverse die H7 and reverse die Hc. This suggests that older reverse dies were still being used with later obverse dies for the halfpennies of the second issue.



¹ Holmes, N.M.McQ & Stewartby, Lord., 2010. 'The coinage of John Baliol'. *BNJ* 80, 107-30.

² Holmes & Stewartby 2010, 117.

³ Holmes & Stewartby 2010, 117.