

A penny die of Edward IV used at Waterford and Cork

Philip Lee, Oisín Mac Conamhna

A 2023 detecting find, GLO-3B08F3, is of interest because it provides direct evidence of die transfer between Waterford and Cork in the coinage of Edward IV, and incidentally provides a new obverse type (pellet each side of crown and neck) for the coinage at both mints. The new evidence of this coin is consistent with the suggestion that the Cork mint of Edward IV and Henry VI was initiated with expertise and equipment from Waterford.¹ The coin was identified as probably of Waterford by David Greenhalgh in response to a post on the Facebook Hammered Coinage Identification Group, and in subsequent correspondence between the authors the die match with one of the Cork pennies in the National Museum of Ireland (NMI) was identified. The two coins are shown in Figure 1.



Figure 1. Left, the Waterford specimen GLO-3B08F3, right, the Cork specimen NMI NMIHC:2002.1045, © National Museum of Ireland. The obverse die is the same, as are the letter punches.

¹ Mac Conamhna 2023.

The new Waterford specimen clearly has a pellet each side of crown and neck; they are much less clear on the Cork specimen, and their existence was overlooked by Mac Conamhna 2023. The pellet each side of crown and neck type is unrecorded by the Standard Catalogue² and by Burns 2017, for both mints; Figure 1 attests it for both. With this recognition, there are now no Cork pennies known to us with pellets by crown (types S.6384, S.6384B); we know of one specimen each of plain obverse (“unusually large head”, S.6384A) and pellet each side of neck (S.6384C), together with the NMI specimen above now recognised as pellets each side of crown and neck.

The Waterford specimen weighs 0.49 g. The obverse inscription, read from the Cork specimen, is ED[WA]RDVS DEI GRA DNS I. The reverse inscription has non-standard spacing, CIV-ITA-SWA-TER[] , and there is possibly a letter or punctuation or other mark after the R. If the proposal that the Cork mint was initiated from Waterford is correct, then the use of the common obverse die in Waterford predates this; and as the Cork mint was definitely active pre-readeption, and most probably from 1469,³ it is suggested that the Waterford usage of the die in striking the penny reported here was, despite its weight, towards the latter end of the First Cross and Pellets coinage, 1465-7.

References

- Burns, J., 2017. *Irish Hammered Pennies of Edward IV-Henry VII*, Fifth Edition (Waynesboro).
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- Sovereign Rarities 2025. *Coins of Scotland, Ireland and the Islands (Jersey, Guernsey, Man & Lundy) including Anglo-Gallic coins*. (Malta).

² Sovereign Rarities 2025.

³ Mac Conamhna 2023.