

A Silver Coin from Eastgate/Wragby Road, Lincoln (EGWR03)

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A corroded silver coin from an excavation at Eastgate, Wragby Road was submitted for identification and assessment. The coin has been identified as a short cross penny, datable to c.1180-1272.

Investigative cleaning would probably allow a fuller identification to be made but would add little to the archaeological knowledge of the site, since short cross pennies were not withdrawn from circulation until 1272, which therefore is the latest possible date at which this coin would have been current.



Figure 1 a. Life size, b) x3

Description

EGWR03 (26) SF1. A corroded silver coin, **mm diameter. No details can be seen by eye but the radiograph (Fig 1) indicates that the coin is well-preserved and would probably be readable if cleaned.

Obv: No sign of the king's head can be discerned in the xray but a fair diagonal line is probably the sceptre, found on all types of the short cross coinage.

Rev: The x-ray indicates a central double line cross, expanded at its terminates into pellets and with groups of four pellets in the interstices. The cross is surrounded by a band which appears to be solid. The inscription is illegible, partly because of interference from detail on the obverse showing through.

Die axis: cannot be discerned without being able to identify the beginning of the obverse inscription

Weight: should be measured.

Assessment

Short cross pennies are common finds on sites in Lincoln. There are 16 such finds from the 1972 to 1987 excavations. The late 12th to mid 13th centuries saw Lincoln at the height of its medieval fortunes and this find indicates that the Eastgate suburb shared in that prosperity.

At some stage, the coin should be weighed, cleaned and recorded by a numismatist.