

An early medieval dual-currency economy: bullion and coin in the Danelaw

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Metal detecting in England has recovered a large number of Viking Age single finds that have been reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme. These reveal that silver bullion was used alongside coin throughout the Danelaw between AD 865 and 940. Weights of copper alloy or brass and iron weights were an integral part of the system. This dual currency system may have facilitated trade with neighbouring territories, but the two currencies also served as markers of cultural identity for the two communities, offering a choice of monetary media—the bullion currency derived ultimately from Scandinavia, and coinage that had long been used in the occupied Anglo-Saxon territories and continued to be minted during this period.

Keywords: eastern England, Danelaw, Viking, silver, bullion, dirham, currency

Supplementary table abbreviations

EMC: Early Medieval Corpus of Coin Finds: <http://www-cm.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk/emc/>

HER: Historic Environment Records

PAS: Portable Antiquity Scheme: <https://finds.org.uk>

TAR: Treasure Annual Reports, available from <https://finds.org.uk/publications> (accessed 12th August 2015)

References for Table S2

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