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Achanduin Castle, Lismore, Argyll: an account of the excavations by Dennis Turner, 1970–5

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7.2 Coins and jettons

Nicholas Holmes

This assemblage of 17 coins and one jetton is consistent with activity on the site from the early to the late 14th century. There are no coins earlier than the single cross type of Edward I, first minted in 1279, and only two pre-date 1305. All the English pennies, as well as the halfpenny of John Balliol, are of types which would have circulated all over Scotland until well into the second half of the 14th century. The coins of David II and Robert II date from the period 1358–90, a period during which the evidence of hoards suggests that English Edwardian pennies gradually fell out of circulation, to be replaced by pennies and larger

denominations issued by Scottish kings. Hoards concluding with coins of David II normally also contain substantial numbers of Edwardian pennies, whereas those concluding with issues of Robert II rarely contain coins earlier than David II. Since this assemblage includes no examples of the relatively common early groats of Robert III, it is reasonable to suggest that coin use on the site came to an end not long after 1390. The French jetton is of a type which fits happily into a late 14th-century context, although it could also have been struck a little later.

7.2.1 Catalogue

7.2.1.1 England

► 1 Coin Ag

Edward I penny, 2b, Durham; 1.27g; black accretion on surfaces

► 2 (clxxxviii) Coin Ag

Edward I penny, 8b, London; no apostrophe after h; reversed N in DON; 1.18g
1971

► 3 Coin Ag

Edward I–II penny, 10ab5, Canterbury; 1.29g

► 4 (cdxi) Coin Ag

Edward I–II penny, 10ab5, Canterbury; unbarred N in ANG; 0.99g
1972

► 5 (cdx) Coin Ag

Edward I–II penny, 10cf1, Durham, cross moline; 1.00g
1972

► 6 (cdxv) Coin Ag

Edward I–II penny, 10cf2a, Durham, cross moline; 1.53g
1972

► 7 (cxcviii [sic]) Coin Ag

Edward I–II penny, 10cf2a, Durham, cross moline; 1.18g
1972

► 8 Coin Ag

Edward I–II penny, 10cf2a, Durham, cross moline; 1.00g

► 9 (clxxxvii) Coin Ag

Edward I–II penny, 10cf2a, London; 0.90g
1971

► 10 (clxxxvi) Coin Ag

Edward I–II penny, 10cf3a1, London; 1.32g
1971

► 11 (cdix) Coin Ag

Edward II penny, 11a2, London; slightly chipped; 0.68g

Forebuilding (1972): ‘occupation soil dumped in bridge pit’

12 (cdvii) Coin Ag

Edward II penny, 11b2, Canterbury; 1.03g
1972

7.2.1.2 Scotland

► 13 (cdvi) Coin Ag

John Balliol halfpenny, 2nd (‘smooth’) coinage, Berwick; 0.52g

Area III: ‘below rubble filling crevice of bedrock and forming pavement of courtyard’

► 14 (clxxxviii) Coin Ag

David II groat, 2nd coinage A, Edinburgh; 4.02g
Area II (1970–3): ‘door fill’

► 15 (clxxxix) Coin Ag

Robert II groat, Perth; 3.59g

Area I (1970–3): ‘below tumble’; found pressed together with coin no. 16

► 16 (clxxx) Coin Ag

Robert II groat, Perth; 3.32g

Area I (1970–3): ‘below tumble’; found pressed together with coin no. 15

► 17 (cdviii) Coin Ag

Robert II half-groat, Edinburgh; 1.32g

7.2.1.3 French jetton: latten

► 18 Jetton Cu alloy

Crown type with annulets as decoration (14th to early 15th century); cf Mitchiner 1988: 477a

Note: DJT drew attention in his notes to a report that ‘About 80 years ago’ [c 1860?] numerous coins were found in an ‘underground passage’ at Achanduin

Castle (Carmichael 1948: 123). The 'passage' was filled in on the insistence of the proprietor and the coins cannot be traced or identified.