



## CABINET

Tuesday, 05 September 2023

<b>Subject</b>	Roman Coin Hoard and Pot Disposal
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Councillor Paul Ashton Cabinet Member with responsibility for Corporate Services – Digital, Customer Services, HR and Assets
<b>Report Author(s)</b>	Laura Hack Public Realm Contracts Manager <a href="mailto:laura.hack@eastsoffolk.gov.uk">laura.hack@eastsoffolk.gov.uk</a>
<b>Head of Service</b>	Kerry Blair Head of Operations <a href="mailto:kerry.blair@eastsoffolk.gov.uk">kerry.blair@eastsoffolk.gov.uk</a>
<b>Director</b>	Andrew Jarvis Strategic Director <a href="mailto:Andrew.Jarvis@eastsoffolk.gov.uk">Andrew.Jarvis@eastsoffolk.gov.uk</a>

Is the report Open or Exempt?	OPEN
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Category of Exempt Information and reason why it is <b>NOT</b> in the public interest to disclose the exempt information.	Not Applicable
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	Wickham Market

## Purpose and high-level overview

### **Purpose of Report:**

To provide information on the origin of the Border Cot Lane Hoard and options on its future.

### **Options:**

1. Retain hoard on long-term loan with the County Archaeological Service and Council officers arrange for physical valuations to take place every three years.
2. Donate the hoard to the County Archaeological Service.
3. Cease the loan to the County Archaeological Service and arrange for secure storage at East Suffolk House.
4. Offer the hoard and pot to the Wickham Market Archive Centre.

### **Recommendation:**

That the Hoard be donated to the Wickham Market Archive Centre, which will ensure that it is kept in the district, with a caveat that if the organisation ceases, it is then donated to the County Archaeological Service.

## Corporate Impact Assessment

### **Governance:**

The Hoard was found on SCDC land during development of a business unit at Boarder Cot Lane in Wickham Market in 1983. The hoard has a monument record of WKM004 logged with Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service and the determination that SCDC, now East Suffolk Council, is the owner is confirmed by the letter dated 11 September 1984 from the British Museum, as no inquest was held by the Coroner (Appendix A). The Council can therefore dispose of the artefacts as it sees fit.

### **ESC policies and strategies that directly apply to the proposal:**

5.5.10 of the Constitution, page 133

### **Environmental:**

Not applicable

### **Equalities and Diversity:**

Not applicable

### **Financial:**

Should it be decided to retain the hoard and store it at the Council, there will be capital security costs (as dictated by Zurich) to house it and approximately £300 valuation costs every three years.

### **Human Resources:**

If kept by East Suffolk Council the hoard and pot will require a named officer to take responsibility for the location and periodic valuation.

**ICT:**

Not applicable

**Legal:**

As the hoard and pot is on the Asset Register, 5.5.10 of the Constitution, page 133, refers to following best practice guidelines for asset disposals, issued by the CFO.

The Constitution (pp 133-135) refers the reader to “Local Authority Assets: Disposal Guidance - DCLG March 2016” for the process to follow to dispose of assets. This guidance only relates to the disposal of land and property (rather than artefacts) but is the closest relevant process. Asset disposal is not expressly reserved to Council under The Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000, so it is by default a Cabinet function.

**Risk:**

Housing the hoard and pot on site within the Council offices may increase the chance of theft.

<b>External Consultees:</b>	County Archaeological Service Wickham Market Parish Council Wickham Market Archive Centre
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## Strategic Plan Priorities

Select the priorities of the <a href="#">Strategic Plan</a> which are supported by this proposal: <i>(Select only one primary and as many secondary as appropriate)</i>		Primary priority	Secondary priorities
<b>T01</b>	<b>Growing our Economy</b>		
P01	Build the right environment for East Suffolk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P02	Attract and stimulate inward investment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P03	Maximise and grow the unique selling points of East Suffolk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P04	Business partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P05	Support and deliver infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>T02</b>	<b>Enabling our Communities</b>		
P06	Community Partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P07	Taking positive action on what matters most	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P08	Maximising health, well-being and safety in our District	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P09	Community Pride	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>T03</b>	<b>Maintaining Financial Sustainability</b>		
P10	Organisational design and streamlining services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P11	Making best use of and investing in our assets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P12	Being commercially astute	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P13	Optimising our financial investments and grant opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P14	Review service delivery with partners	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>T04</b>	<b>Delivering Digital Transformation</b>		
P15	Digital by default	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

P16	Lean and efficient streamlined services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P17	Effective use of data	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P18	Skills and training	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P19	District-wide digital infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>T05</b>	<b>Caring for our Environment</b>		
P20	Lead by example	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P21	Minimise waste, reuse materials, increase recycling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P22	Renewable energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P23	Protection, education and influence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>XXX</b>	<b>Governance</b>		
XXX	How ESC governs itself as an authority	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>How does this proposal support the priorities selected?</b>			
Allows a council asset to be available for public display and negates the Council of ongoing financial requirements.			

## Background and Justification for Recommendation

<b>1 Background facts</b>	
1.1	The hoard was found on 3rd October 1983 during construction work on industrial units belonging to the then Suffolk Coastal District Council in Border Cot Lane, Wickham Market. The hoard was given to the Council and was then stored in the safe at the Council Offices at Melton Hill, until the Council's move to Riduna Park. With storage at a premium in the new offices, there was no safe big enough to store the hoard in, so it was loaned to the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service within their Bury Resource Centre.
1.2	The hoard originally consisted of a pot and 1,587 bronze and silver coins, circa 270s AD (Gallienus, Tetricus, etc). However, on a count in 2015, it was discovered that there was a variance of 41 coins missing from the original count in 1983. Anecdotally, this had happened over a number of years as the coins were loaned to local groups, schools and used for staff to give talks, or a second theory is that a number of coins were purchased by the British Museum in 1984 (see letter of intent to purchase Appendix A). To ensure that the hoard and pot were protected for the future, it was determined that a long-term loan to the Archaeological Service and this took place on 18th November 2016.
<b>2 Current position</b>	
2.1	The Roman Coin Collection was valued at £3,400.00 in 2016 and now requires a valuation every 3 years to be covered by insurance. The County Archaeology Service have expressed their agreement to retain the hoard on long term loan but note that they do not insure the finds they hold (however all finds are kept in a secure environmentally controlled finds store with red line response for fire and intruder alarms). Since the hoard and pot have been loaned to the Service it has been on public display for 3 months at Moyse Hall in Bury St Edmunds, at which East Suffolk Council representatives attended the launch and publicised. Coins

	<p>from the hoard have also been used in a project to create a picture based ID guide to Roman coins by the Archaeological Service, producing drawings from photographs of coins. County have indicated that they would welcome the hoard and pot to be donated to them by East Suffolk Council.</p> <p>In consultation with Wickham Market Parish Council and the newly formed Wickham Market Archive Centre, both organisations wish for the Hoard to be donated to the Archive Centre to become one of the key items in their collection.</p>
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### 3 How to address current situation

3.1	<p>The newly built Wickham Market Archive Centre has a large fire and water proof safe in which it could be stored. They have indicated that it will be included within their contents insurance, and they would like to be able to research the emperors and coins and put on exhibitions to the public, in which it would be displayed.</p> <p>The County Archaeological Service has also expressed a desire to have the Hoard donated to them, where it would be used for research and display.</p> <p>Donating to the Archive Centre would keep the Hoard locally within the District and the ward in which it was found. A caveat to the donation should be made that if the Archive Centre ceases, the Hoard is then donated directly to the County Archaeological Service.</p>
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### 4 Reason/s for recommendation

4.1	The Council has no experience or facilities for displaying the collection to the public.
4.2	Donating to either the Wickham Market Archive Centre or the County Archaeological Service negates the requirement for regular valuation and insurance by the Council and this will allow the items to have more opportunities for public display and use in research projects.
4.3	Wickham Market Parish Council are in agreement that the Hoard should be donated to the Wickham Market Archive Centre.

## Appendices

### Appendices:

<b>Appendix A</b>	Letter from the British Museum 11 September 1984
<b>Appendix B</b>	List of Coins
<b>Appendix C</b>	Photo of selection of coins in 2016

### Background reference papers:

Date	Type	Available From
12/01/23	Monument record WKM 004 initial report	<a href="#">WKM 004 - Border Cot Lane - Suffolk Heritage Explorer</a>

Appendix A – Letter from the British Museum 11 September 1984

WKM 004



# The British Museum

Department of Coins and Medals London WC1R 3BG  
Telephone 01-636 1555 ext 404

B C Y Archer LL.B  
Suffolk Coastal District Council  
Melton Hill  
Woodbridge  
Suffolk IP12 1AU

Your reference

Our reference  
AMB/AP

Date

11th September 1984

For the attention of Mr Howard

Dear Sir,

Wickham Market Coin Hoard

I am glad to say that the work of cleaning and identifying the coins has now been completed. We would now like to photograph a few of the coins, mostly the contemporary forgeries, and hope to arrange this before too long.

I attach a summary of the hoards' contents, which differs only in detail for that prepared previously by Miss Plouriez. I also enclose a copy of the manuscript catalogue of the hoard's contents.

I suggest that the hoard should be published in the occasional series of Coin Hoards for Roman Britain, published by the British Museum. We would happily undertake the strictly numismatic part of the publication, and would hope to collaborate with Miss Plouriez (for the container, circumstances of finding and possible archaeological significance).

I gather, I hope correctly, from your letter of 22nd February (MISC/5/DSH/TAK) to Miss Plouriez that the Coroner does not wish to hold an inquest, and that therefore, by implication, Suffolk County Council is the owner of the hoard. I would support Miss Plouriez's suggestion that the hoard should be placed with a Museum or Archaeological Unit for safe-keeping. Moreover as the coins from this hoard are rather better preserved than usual, and retain much of their original silvering, they could form the basis of an attractive Museum display.

Some of the coins in the hoard are numismatic interest. These are 29 coins (13 Gallienus, 2 Salonina, 1 Valerian II, 8 Claudius II, 1 Quintillus, and 4 Postumus), which are all minor varieties of the coinage of the period, and I wonder if there is any possibility of their acquisition by the British Museum.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Miss Plouriez.

Yours sincerely,

A M Burnett  
Assistant Keeper

Members of the staff of the British Museum cannot accept liability for the opinions they may express on objects submitted for identification or for information; neither can they give valuations

Inland and Overseas Telegrams: Britishmus London WC1

## Appendix B – List of coins

Emperor	D Collier	Financial Svs	Variance	
	Original Count	Count 23/02/15		
Trajan Decius	1	2	-1	
Volusian	1	0	1	
Valerian I	24	20	4	
Valerian II	2	5	-3	
Gallienus (joint reign)	13	315	45	
Gallienus (sole reign)	339			
Gallienus (uncertain)	8			
Salonina (Joint Reign)	6	43	-1	
Salonina (Sole Reign)	27			
Salonina (Uncertain)	9			
Postumus	209	196	13	
Laelian	1	0	1	
Marius	8	8	0	
Victorinus	426	506	-80	
Tetricus I	78	112	-34	
Tetricus II	13	15	-2	
Claudius II	200	204	-4	
Di?us Claudius	9	1	8	
Quintillus	38	39	-1	
Aurelian	5	5	0	
Unidentified - Unknown	170	50	120	
Marked as Imitation		25	-25	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,587</b>	<b>1,546</b>	<b>41</b>	



**Appendix C – selection of coins and the pot from count in 2016 and images of historic storage**





