

Class 5 introduction, classifications, pictures & die linking

Introduction

Having been closed for 25 years the Bury mint, like many others, reopened to facilitate the somewhat rapid nationwide recoinage of 1205. Modern numismatists have labelled this new coinage class 5. Its immediate predecessor, class 4c had, by 1205, become both untidy in appearance and heavily clipped. Once this recoinage had been completed, in 1207, Bury, like many other mints, closed down².

Bury never took part in the early part of this recoinage therefore the first issue of class 5 (5a) is not seen from this mint. Class 5a was only in production from about December 1204 to May or June 1205 when it was quickly followed by 5b1 then 5b2, 5b3 and 5c. (5b3 being similar to 5b2 with the exception of the broken eye punches and is not a natural follow on from 5b2).

During the 28 month timespan that Bury reopened, six obverses and 11 reverse dies are currently recorded.

Existing records do not reveal the quantity of coins that Bury produced during this time. However, it is estimated that one set of dies, consisting of one obverse and two reverses, could have struck up to about 50,000 coins. Other than wear from circulation, the Bury coins that have survived from this period are normally seen in good condition, being well stuck up on round flans. It is therefore unlikely that each die set would have struck vast numbers of coins.

The die charts show considerable integrated die linking, so that the way they have been listed on this site may not be a true representation of the order the dies were issued.

No new class 5 dies of Bury have been recorded in the last 30 years; however it is possible that new dies will be discovered. One of the existing 5b2 dies has now been designated to 5b3 due to a freshly struck coin clearly displaying broken eye punches.

Reference to the die chart will show how these four sub-classes are interlinked; in addition the chart will give the readings found on each of the reverses, together with the Eaglen number and the approximate number of coins recorded from these dies (*in brackets*). While the Eaglen die numbers will always provide a link back to his publication, the die lettering needed revision in order to provide consistency throughout this site.

General features seen on all class 5 coins of Bury

Well proportioned bust and neat lettering with 5 pearls to the crown.

Normally two large curls each side of the bust, each of which contains a pellet.

Prominent eyelids and eyebrows.

Class 5 coins were struck from mid-1205 to Autumn 1207 during the reign of King John (1199-1216) and under the Abbacy of Samson of Tottington (1182-1211). All produced under the moneyer "FVLKE"

Classifications

Class 5b1 (1205)

Diagnostic features of class 5b1

The flat topped letter "R" (R) (and "K" (K) is the main criterion for determining this sub class. An additional small lower curl each side of the bust. A feature only seen on the one 5b1 die recorded from Bury.

Typical readings and styles of lettering seen in 5b1.

Obverse (5b1) **HNRI CVSR†G✘** Reverse (5b1) ***FVLK•ON•S•ADM**

Class 5b2 (1205-1206)

Diagnostic features of class 5b2

The "R" (R) and "K" (K) both now change to letters having rounded tops to them, the letter "R" being the most easy to distinguish.

Typical readings and styles of lettering seen in 5b2.

Obverse (5b2) **HNRI CVSR†G✘** Reverse (5b2) ***FVLK•ON•S•ADMV**

Class 5b3 (c1206)

Diagnostic features of class 5b3

The only difference between this class and 5b2 is the broken eye punch. "⦿" As will be seen from the die chart, there is only one obverse die that exhibits this feature. Due to the very poor quality of specimens available to earlier numismatists, this particular obverse die was identified as 5b2; it was only when a very freshly struck coin in a good state of preservation appeared that it was identified as this sub class. It can be seen from the die charts that this obverse die is not the final die of 5b2 but sits quite comfortably among the other three 5b2 obverses. The portrait seen on the final obverse die of 5b2 (E) has similarities to the style of portrait of 5c, but as it has the plain letter "✘", is classed as 5b2.

Typical readings and styles of lettering seen in 5b3.

Obverse (5b3) **HNRI CVSR†G✘** Reverse (5b3) ***FVLK•ON•S•ADMV**

Class 5c (1207)

Diagnostic features of class 5c

Very similar to the preceding classes although the bust is now somewhat fuller in appearance with a more finely defined beard.

The main diagnostic feature is now the St. Andrews "✘" that replaced the plain "✘" seen in class 5b1 & 5b2.

Typical readings and styles of lettering seen in 5c.

Obverse (5c) **HNRI CVSR†G✘** Reverse (5c) ***FVLK•ON•S•AD**

Pictures & die charts for class's 5b1, 5b2, 5b3, 5c, c1205-1207

Moneyer FVLKE

Notes

Obverse die "D" has been reclassified to 5b3, (broken eye punch), this following the discovery of an early strike that clearly shows the broken eye punches that define this sub class. 5b3 is no more than a 5b2 die with a broken eye punch! As can be seen from chart 5b3 does not slot in well immediately before class 5c, and has more of the appearance of a 5b2 die, whereas die "D" has a fuller bust and slots reasonably well into the die chart.

Worth noting that the eye punches used on the last of the 5b2 dies "E" are just plain pellets.

The die numbering on the chart below is the same as that used in Dr. Eaglen's publication¹ on the Bury mint, this enables any die pair to be referred back to his catalogue i.e. (Eaglen 80). Alterations and additions since his publication required that the die lettering (for example, A-a1) be altered, meaning this reference cannot be always be relied upon when referring back to his publication. The number in brackets on the connecting lines for example, (5) indicates the number of coins that are currently recorded from these dies.

