

Isn't it captivating to discover 840 ancient gold coins in the Wickham Market Hoard, England?aa

The Wickham Market Treasure Trove is a trove of 840 Iron Age gold staters discovered in March 2008 by auto technician Michael Darke using a metal detector in a field on Dallinghoo near Wickham Market, Suffolk, England. 825 coins were discovered at the site during excavation, and 840 coins had been discovered by the time the treasure trove was officially recognized as a treasure trove. The coins were made between 40 B.C. and 15 A.D.



The hoard of gold coins from the British Iron Age has been called “the largest hoard of British Iron Age gold coins to be fully studied,” and it was instrumental in shedding light on “a great deal of new information about the Iron Age, and especially about East Anglia at the end of the Iron Age.” Since the Waddoubs Iron Age hoard in 1849, this was the greatest cache of staters discovered.

The trove was purchased by the Ipswich Museum for £316,000 in June 2011.

After 25 years of looking for metals in the fields around Wickham Market, a sixty-year-old auto technician named Michael Darke, who at first requested anonymity, discovered his first gold coin on March 16, 2008. Through the use of the Internet, Darke determined the coin to be a Freckenham stater, so named from the trove in which the typeface was first discovered in 1885.

Darke discovered eight more gold staters a week later, despite the snowfall from his earlier visit to the field and working in the wet snow. He continued to look, and after a while he said that his metal detector “suddenly went crazy” and that he “knew for a fact that he was standing right on a jug of gold.”



