

Dorset Museum appeal to acquire the Charlton Marshall Gaulish staters



Dorset Museum is raising funds to acquire a group of 40 gold stater Iron Age coins, found at Charlton Marshall, near Blandford Forum. Dating to the 2nd century AD, the hoard is incredibly unusual, as the coins were imported from France. They were made by a Gaulish tribe called the Baiocasses and only a very few similar finds are known from Dorset and the south coast.

The hoard was found by metal detector in 2020, was declared Treasure after its discovery.

The Charlton Marshall Gaulish Staters have been valued at £15,300 and Dorset Museum has already raised £7,650 towards the purchase through a generous grant from the ACE/V&A Purchase Fund, and we are currently awaiting the outcome of an application to the Headley Trust. To keep the coins in the county we will need to raise an additional £7,650 by mid-December.

Elizabeth Selby, Director of Collections and Public Engagement at Dorset Museum & Art Gallery says, *This is an important and unusual hoard of gold stater coins, and if the Museum is not able to acquire them, it is likely that the group will be broken up and sold outside of the county. This will mean that all possibility of further research on the hoard, or opportunities for them to be displayed together, will be lost.*

Finds like this hoard tell us about how people were travelling, meeting and exchanging ideas with others on the continent in the centuries before the Roman invasion. The coins have considerable potential for future research into their origins, manufacture and use. Acquiring them will complement the existing archaeological collections at Dorset Museum which have national and international significance.

More information about the hoard can be found on the Portable Antiquities Scheme database: <https://finds.org.uk/database/artefacts/record/id/996502>

If you would like to make a donation to the appeal, please visit the web page <https://www.dorsetmuseum.org/charlton-marshall-gold-stater-hoard-appeal/>, phone 01305 262735 or send a cheque made payable to Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society, citing 'Charlton Marshall appeal' in your covering note.