Major Norman Conquest coin hoard secured for the



The Chew Valley Hoard. Credit: © British Museum.

The Chew Valley Hoard, which at £4.3million is the highest valued treasure find on record, has been acquired by the South West Heritage Trust thanks to National Lottery funding.

The unprecedented hoard of coins consists of 2,584 silver pennies from 1066–68, likely buried for safekeeping in the turmoil of the Norman Conquest of England.

Our funding of £4,420,527 together with £150,000 from Art Fund, has enabled the acquisition and a project to engage audiences with the hoard. Other supporters included Friends of The Museum of Somerset and the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society.

From 26 November, coins from the hoard will go on display at the British Museum. They will later be displayed at museums across the UK before finding a permanent home at The Museum of Somerset.

A remarkable find

The hoard is one of the most remarkable finds reported under the Treasure Act 1996.

It was North East S archae



Curator of Archaeology at the South West Heritage Trust, Amal Khreisheh. Credit: © South West Heritage Trust.

Keeping our heritage safe

The coins come from a turning point in English history. They cover the transition from Saxon to Norman rule marked by 1066 and were probably deposited for safekeeping during rebellions in the south west against the new Norman king, William I (also known as William the Conqueror). While slightly over half the coins feature William I, just under half show Harold II, the last crowned Saxon king of England.

Eilish McGuinness, Chief Executive of The National Lottery Heritage Fund, said: “We are delighted to support the acquisition of the Chew Valley Hoard, and the plans to share its fascinating heritage with audiences across the UK before it returns to the south west where we are funding a permanent home at The Museum of Somerset.

"The National Lottery Heritage Fund celebrates its 30th anniversary next month so it is incredibly exciting that this treasure will be part of the story of three decades of National Lottery funding for heritage.

“Thanks to funding from National Lottery players this incredible hoard will be valued, cared for, and sustained, for everyone, now and in the future.”

Thirty years of funding

Since 1994, we've invested £8.6bn raised by National Lottery players in more than 47,000 projects across the UK.

Discover some of the other projects we've supported over the years.



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Former dock worker Leslie Morgan (centre) and children from the Gateway Learning Academy schools (waving flags representing the Windrush generation), alongside Tilbury port's 16ft docker puppet, celebrate the Tilbury Riverside Station grant in the building that will be transformed into a creative community hub.



head of our 30th birthday

We've supported Norwich Castle's transformation with £13million in funding.





Selection of coins from the Beau Street Hoard

Roman Baths secures future of Beau Street Hoard