

The Sedgeford Hoard

This hoard of 32 Iron Age gold coins was found in August 2003 at Sedgeford, Norfolk during an archaeological dig.



The coins are Iron Age 'Gallo-Belgic E staters, made by the Ambiani tribe of Gaul in northern France. 20 of them were found inside the cow bone displayed here.

Why were the coins hidden and buried?
There are two main theories.

2,000 years ago Britons were helping the French Ambiani tribe fight the Romans in Gaul. They were paid in gold coins minted by the Ambiani.

The Roman armies under Julius Caesar defeated the Gauls and France became part of the Roman empire. The British mercenaries, or refugee Gauls, travelled to East Anglia to escape the Romans.

Theory 1

Once in East Anglia the owner of the coins decided to offer them as gifts to the gods in thanksgiving for their safe passage. The coins were placed inside a cow bone and buried as a votive offering.

Theory 2

Once in East Anglia, the owner of the coins decided it was safer to hide their valuable gold coins than carry them around. They were hidden inside a cow bone, and buried, to be retrieved in the future. However the owner was killed, or could not remember where the coins are buried, and they remained hidden for 2,000 years.

The hoard can be seen in the Lynn Museum main gallery.