Varieties of British Bronze Farthings 1860-1956

Tom Schumann



Seventh Edition - 2021

In memory of Elwyn Matthew 'Digger' Schumann

First of all, please use this book at your own risk - accuracy is the intention but it is not guaranteed. I have attempted to be accurate but mistakes happen, and there is a lot of commonly accepted and believed knowledge which new discoveries may invalidate. Also note that this book mentions coins that I have not viewed myself or cannot confirm the existence of. If you notice a mistake, error or omission I would very much appreciate being informed so that it can be rectified - I can be reached at schumann.tom@gmail.com.

This book is a good-faith attempt to document all known varieties of these denominations (however some have been intentionally omitted - particularly off-metal strikes, irregular/non-standard planchets, early patterns and or proofs whose attributes deviate drastically from the usual, and also circulating coins with designs that deviate drastically from the norm). It will not attempt to document overdates, errors, flaws or anything of that nature.

The knowledge contained within this book is thanks to numerous great names in numismatics who have come before me and documented the small differences in seemingly similar coins. To quote Sir Isaac Newton, "if I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants".

Enjoy

For each denomination there is a table of obverses, reverses, compositions and dimensions.

The first column of each table includes an identifier used within this book (mostly in the **Number** column in the coin listings); the **Details** column includes a description; the **Use** column lists the years in which it was used and the **Reference** column includes cross-references to other identification schemes.

Following these tables is a list of all coin varieties. The **Year** column shows the year on the coin or the year in which the coin was struck; the **Obverse** and **Reverse** columns show images (where available) of an actual example of that variety; the **Mint** and **Mintmark** columns are self explanatory; the **Mintage** column shows the mintage which may be split across multiple varieties (but each mint will have a yearly total that all coins from that mint contribute to); the **Number** column uniquely identifies a coin and is explained below, and the **Reference** column includes cross-references to other identification schemes.

An example number is GB.¼D.1874H,B.5D/1A The breakdown is as follows: GB: country code (Great Britain) ¼D: denomination (¼ of a penny i.e. farthing) 1874H: dated 1874 with mintmark H B: struck in the city of Birmingham 5D: obverse 5 and reverse D

1A: composition 1 and dimension A

The rarity ratings are suggestive based on available information and are being phased out in favour of more empirical data - common means the coin can be easily obtained while extremely rare means there are only a handful of examples known.

??? indicates something which is unknown.

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Great Britain

The coinage of England and Britain has undergone many changes over many hundreds of years, including various debasements and recoinages and the introduction and deprecation of many denominations. From the mid 1600s the hand-striking of hammered coins was phased out in favour of machine-striking milled coin. At the end of the 1700s most small change in cicurlation was privately issued copper tokens - in 1787 it was found that around 75% of circulating copper coins were unofficial issues (p15, Davies, *British Silver Coins Since 1816*, 1982). They were eventually replaced by a copper coinage produced by Matthew Boulton (p9, Freeman, *The Bronze Coinage of Great Britain*, 2016). In 1806 the copper coinage was reduced in size and continued to be struck until 1860 (p9, Freeman, *The Bronze Coinage of Great Britain*, 2016).

Most of the silver coinage of the 1700s had been hoarded or exported (p15, Davies, *British Silver Coins Since 1816*, 1982) and in 1816 the Coin Committee of the Privy Council made recommendations about new sizes for the silver coinage. These recommendations eventually passed through parliament (p16, Davies, *British Silver Coins Since 1816*, 1982) and on February 17th 1817, the new silver coinage entered circulation (p17, Davies, *British Silver Coins Since 1816*, 1982). The sizes and shapes remained mostly unchanged until decimalisation.

In 1859 the mint master of the Royal Mint convinced Chancellor of the Exchequer William Gladstone that Britain's current copper coinage was in a poor state and that bronze would be a lighter and more durable alternative (p47, Fletcher, *All Change... For The New Bronze Age* in *Coin News*, July 2019). In 1860 the pure copper farthings, halfpennies and pennies were replaced with smaller, lighter and bronze equivalents though the alloy used varied at times (p10, Freeman, *The Bronze Coinage of Great Britain*, 2016). Between 1920 and 1922 there were experiments with a new alloy (p501, Peck, *English Copper Tin and Bronze Coins in the British Museum 1558-1958*, 1970) which was officially set in 1923 (p10, Freeman, *The Bronze Coinage of Great Britain*, 2016). The new alloy was slightly softer and it was believed that coins could be struck with less pressure, thus alleviating the problem of ghosting (p15, Gouby, *The British Bronze Penny*, 1986). This alloy went on to be used until May 1942 when a tin shortage due to World War II necessitated a reduced-tin bronze alloy. This new alloy was used until October 1945 whereupon it reverted to the 1923 alloy. In June 1959 the reduced-tin bronze alloy was re-introduced (p10, Freeman, *The Bronze Coinage of Great Britain*, 2016). Although the years of 1923, 1942, 1945 and 1959 would no doubt have resulted in coins being produced with both the new and old alloys, this book only records the use of the new alloy for simplicity: while it is possible to detect which alloy was used by examining the general colour of the coin, it is not a reliable metric, especially when examining circulated coins.

Parliamentary approval for a new bronze coinage was granted on 4th August 1859. As the Royal Mint was heavily occupied at the time, a large order of bronze coinage was put out to tender, with James Watt & Co winning the contract to produce 1,720 tons of pennies, halfpennies and farthings on 3rd September 1860 (p2, Gouby, *The British Bronze Coinage Pence, Halfpence & Farthings 1860 - 1869*, 2006). In November, James Watt & Co had not yet commenced coining, and on 17th December 1860, the Heaton Mint was awarded a contract to produce 60 tones of bronze coins (p3, Gouby, *The British Bronze Coinage Pence, Halfpence & Farthings 1860 - 1869*, 2006).

The new bronze coin mintages were not recorded as such - rather the weight of produced coins was recorded (p12, Gouby, *The British Bronze Coinage Pence, Halfpence & Farthings 1860 - 1869*, 2006). A number of bronze coins dated 1860 to 1868 with two numbers scratched on either side of the obverse are known and they are believed to relate to the number of tons of bronze coins struck (p5, Gouby, *The British Bronze Coinage Pence, Halfpence & Farthings 1860 - 1869*, 2006). Research by Michael Gouby has examined mint records and correspondence from the Public Record Office in conjunction with the numbered bronze coins in an attempt to calculate the number of coins struck by the various mints from 1860 to 1869.

In 1874 The Royal Mint was "fully occupied with the coinage of silver" and so the Heaton Mint in Birmingham was contracted to produce bronze coinage for Great Britain that year (p150, Sweeney, *A Numismatic History of The Birmingham Mint*, 1981).

In 1882 The Royal Mint underwent refurbishment with installation of both new and repaired machinery. As a result, its capacity was greatly reduced and the Heaton Mint in Birmingham was contracted to produce all of Great Britain's bronze coinage for that year (p150, Sweeney, *A Numismatic History of The Birmingham Mint*, 1981). The Royal Mint stopped work on February 1st 1882 and the refurbishment lasted for ten months (p196, *Miscellanea* in *British Numismatic Journal*, 1967).

1937 was the first year in which bronze coins were included in commemorative proof sets - the sets of 1887, 1893, 1902 and 1911 included only silver and gold coins.

In the early 1950s it was noted that the current site of the Royal Mint in London was beginning to be too small, but it wasn't until the late 1960s that definitive action was taken (https://www.peoplescollection.wales/content/royal-mint). Beginning in December 1967 and through 1968 a facility in Bridgend, Wales was used to train new staff in coin production. On 7th August 1967 construction of the Royal Mint, Llantrisant begun and on 17th December 1968, Queen Elizabth II struck the first coin (p642, Challis, *A New History of the Royal Mint*, 1992). In 1969 the Royal Mint, Llantrisant was still sourcing all of its planchets from The Mint Birmingham, Imperial Metal Industries Ltd and the Royal Ordnance Factory in Crewe (p643, Challis, *A New History of the*

Royal Mint, 1992). On 31st October 1975 the Royal Mint, London's formal closure was announced (p661, Challis, *A New History of the Royal Mint*, 1992) and Queen Elizabeth II struck the last coin - a sovereign - in November 1975 (https://www.peoplescollection.wales/content/royal-mint).

On 1st March 1966 decimal currency was announced (https://www.royalmintmuseum.org.uk/journal/history/decimalisation/).

In 1968 Great Britain ordered that all new coins carry the frozen date of 1967 up until decimalisation in 1971 (p15, *British Date Freeze to Combat Coin Speculation* in *Australian Coin Review*, April 1968).

FARTHING

A number of patterns were prepared with different obverses in 1896, most likely as attempts to make farthings more distinguishable from half sovereigns (p476-478, Peck, *English Copper Tin and Bronze Coins in the British Museum 1558-1958*, 1970). From 1897 until 1917 farthings were artificially toned at the mint to prevent them from being confused with half sovereigns. Occasionally farthings from this era are found without their artificial toning (p118, Freeman, *The Bronze Coinage of Great Britain*, 2016).

Groom reports reverses A and B during the reign of Edward VII (p16, Groom, *The Identification of British 20th Century Bronze Coin Varieties*, 2009) but they are considered the same here as they are the same design - the difference is only in the strength of the details.

Obverse 13 was probably introduced to combat the ghosting that was prevalent on the coins of George V, as was obverse 14, though the problem of ghosting only appears to have been solved with the introduction of obverse 15.

Freeman reports obverses C and D during the reign of Elizabeth II (p137, Freeman, *The Bronze Coinage of Great Britain*, 2016) but they are considered the same here as they have the same number of rim denticles and otherwise appear to be slightly different enlargements of an identical design.

The demand for farthings in circulation decreased following World War II and the denomination ceased to be struck altogether after 1956 (p134, Freeman, *The Bronze Coinage of Great Britain*, 2016). By Proclamation on 26th October 1960, farthings ceased to be legal tender on 31st December 1960 (p528, Peck, *English Copper Tin and Bronze Coins in the British Museum 1558-1958*, 1970).

All farthings were struck with medal alignment.

Obverse	Details	Use	Reference
1	Design: Portrait of Queen Victoria surrounded by the legend VICTORIA D:G: BRITT: REG: F:D: and 133 rim beads. Designer: Leonard Charles Wyon Engraver:	1860	Freeman 1*
The Queen's	nose has a bump towards the top.		
2	Design: Portrait of Queen Victoria surrounded by the legend VICTORIA D:G: BRITT: REG: F:D: and 133 rim beads. Designer: Leonard Charles Wyon Engraver:	1860	Freeman 1 Gouby A Peck 1
The Queen's	nose is straight.		
3	Design: Portrait of Queen Victoria surrounded by the legend VICTORIA D:G: BRITT: REG: F:D: and 137 rim denticles. Designer: Leonard Charles Wyon Engraver:	1860 - 1861	Freeman 2 Gouby B Peck 2
	ir berries in the wreath, in groups	of one, two a	nd one.
The hair abo	ve the ear is slightly wavy.		

Reverse	Details	Use	Reference
A	Design: Seated Britannia holding	1860	
	a trident and a shield with a		
	lighthouse to the left, a ship to		
	the right, the year below and the		
	denomination FARTHING above		
	and surrounded by 130 rim		
	beads.		
	Designer : Leonard Charles Wyon		
	Engraver:		
There are no	rocks to the left of the lighthouse.		
В	Design: Seated Britannia holding	1860	Freeman A
	a trident and a shield with a		Gouby a
	lighthouse to the left, a ship to		Peck A
	the right, the year below and the		
	denomination FARTHING above		
	and surrounded by 130 rim		
	beads.		
	Designer : Leonard Charles Wyon		
	Engraver:		
There are thr	ee small rocks to the left of the lig	hthouse.	

Obverse	Details	Use	Reference	
4	Design: Portrait of Queen	1860 - 1869		
	Victoria surrounded by the	1872 - 1873	Gouby C	
	legend VICTORIA D:G: BRITT:	1875	Peck 3	
	REG: F:D: and 137 rim			
	denticles.			
	Designer : Leonard Charles Wyon			
	Engraver:			
There are fiv	ve berries in the wreath, in groups o	of two, two ar	nd one.	
	ove the ear is quite wavy.			
The entire re	ose on the Queen's bodice is visible	!.		
5	Design : Portrait of Queen	1874	Freeman 4	
	Victoria surrounded by the		Peck 4	
	legend VICTORIA D.G: BRITT:			
	REG: F:D: and 127 rim			
	denticles.			
	Designer : Leonard Charles Wyon			
	Engraver:			
There are fo	ur berries in the wreath, in groups	of two and tw	70.	
	part of the rose on the Queen's bo			
	of the second : in F:D: is half mis			
6	Design: Portrait of Queen	1875 - 1881	Freeman 5	
	Victoria surrounded by the		Peck 4	
	legend VICTORIA D:G: BRITT:			
	REG: F:D: and 127 rim			
	denticles.			
	Designer: Leonard Charles Wyon			
	Engraver:			
There are fo	ur berries in the wreath, in groups	of two and tw	70.	
	part of the rose on the Queen's boo			
	of the second : in F:D: is half mis			
7	Design : Portrait of Queen	1880 - 1881		
•	Victoria surrounded by the	1555 1551	Peck 5	
	legend VICTORIA D:G: BRITT:		2 2 2 1 2	
	REG: F:D: and 127 rim			
	denticles.			
	Designer : Leonard Charles Wyon			
	Engraver:			
There are th	ree berries in the wreath, in groups	of two and o	1	
	: in F:D: is present in its entirety.	or the and o		
	The Queen's nose is a continuous curve.			
	D: points at a rim denticle.			
1110 20 01 1 1	o. pomio di d'inii dendere.			

Reverse	Details	Use	Reference
С	Design: Seated Britannia holding	1860 - 1869	Freeman B
	a trident and a shield with a	1872 - 1873	
	lighthouse to the left, a ship to	1875	Peck B
	the right, the year below and the		
	denomination FARTHING above		
	and surrounded by 134 rim		
	denticles.		
	Designer : Leonard Charles Wyon Engraver :		
There is one	large rock to the left of the lightho	ouse.	
D	Design: Seated Britannia holding	1874 - 1881	Freeman C
	a trident and a shield with a		Peck C
	lighthouse to the left, a ship to		
	the right, the year below and the		
	denomination FARTHING above		
	and surrounded by 130 rim		
	denticles.		
	Designer: Leonard Charles Wyon		
D	Engraver:	1	
	bdomen is concave just above her		
E	Design : Seated Britannia holding	1880	Freeman D
	a trident and a shield with a lighthouse to the left, a ship to		Peck D
	the right, the year below and the		
	denomination FARTHING above		
	and surrounded by 130 rim		
	denticles.		
	Designer : Leonard Charles Wyon		
	Engraver:		
Britannia's a	bdomen is convex - just above the	drapery acros	ss her legs the abdomen
is round and	bulges.		-
F	Design: Seated Britannia holding	1881	Freeman E
	a trident and a shield with a		Peck E
	lighthouse to the left, a ship to		
	the right, the year below and the		
	denomination FARTHING above		
	and surrounded by 130 rim		
	denticles.		
	Designer : Leonard Charles Wyon		
	Engraver:		d' with raised lines

The Union Jack on Britannia's shield is heraldically 'coloured' with raised lines. The left halves of the lower diagonal arms of the Union are filled with raised lines.

6

Obverse	Details	Use	Reference
8	Design: Portrait of Queen Victoria surrounded by the legend VICTORIA D:G: BRITT: REG: F:D: and 127 rim denticles. Designer: Leonard Charles Wyon	1881 - 1888 1890 - 1895	
	Engraver:		
	s nose has a shallow but distinct bu D: points between rim denticles.	mp.	
9	Design: Portrait of Queen Victoria surrounded by the legend VICTORIA • DEI • GRA • BRITT • REGINA • FID • DEF • IND • IMP • and ??? rim denticles. Designer: Thomas Brock Engraver: George William de Saulles	1894	
The A of VI	CTORIA points between rim denti	cles.	
10	Design: Portrait of Queen Victoria surrounded by the legend VICTORIA • DEI • GRA • BRITT • REGINA • FID • DEF • IND • IMP • and 157 rim denticles. Designer: Thomas Brock Engraver: George William de Saulles	1895 - 1901	Freeman 1
The A of VI	ICTORIA points at a rim denticle.	1	T
11	Design: Portrait of King Edward VII surrounded by the legend EDWARDVS VII D:G: BRITT: OMN: REX F:D: IND: IMP: and 135 rim denticles. Designer: George William de Saulles Engraver:	1902 - 1910	Freeman 1 Peck 1

Reverse	Details	Use	Reference
G The right hal lines.	Design: Seated Britannia holding a trident and a shield with a lighthouse to the left, a ship to the right, the year below and the denomination FARTHING above and surrounded by 150 rim denticles. Designer: Leonard Charles Wyon Engraver: Leves of the lower diagonal arms of	1882 - 1888 1890 - 1895 the Union are	Freeman F Peck F e filled with raised
Н	Design: Seated Britannia holding a trident and a shield with the year below and the denomination FARTHING above and surrounded by 146 rim denticles. Designer: Leonard Charles Wyon Engraver: George William de Saulles	1903	Freeman A Freeman B Peck A
beside the sh	e left of Britannia crosses just belo iield. e right of Britannia crosses below	_	-
I	Design: Seated Britannia holding a trident and a shield with the year below and the denomination FARTHING above and surrounded by 146 rim denticles. Designer: Leonard Charles Wyon Engraver: George William de Saulles	1897	Freeman B
The sea to th	e left of Britannia crosses above th	ne wedge into	the rock beside the
J	Design: Seated Britannia holding a trident and a shield with the year below and the denomination FARTHING above and surrounded by 146 rim denticles. Designer: Leonard Charles Wyon Engraver:	1904 - 1925	Groom B Peck B
	e right of Britannia crosses at the o	£ 41.	- 1

Obverse	Details	Use	Reference
12	Design: Portrait of King George V surrounded by the legend GEORGIVS V DEI GRA: BRITT: OMN: REX FID: DEF: IND: IMP: and 152 rim denticles. Designer: Sir Edgar Bertram Mackennal Engraver: the King's neck is of roughly uniform.	1911 - 1915	
	I points to a rim denticle.	Jilli Hauless.	
13	Design: Portrait of King George V surrounded by the legend GEORGIVS V DEI GRA: BRITT: OMN: REX FID: DEF: IND: IMP: and 152 rim denticles. Designer: Sir Edgar Bertram Mackennal Engraver:	1911	Groom 2
The back of	the King's neck is depressed similar	ar to the depr	ession at the front of the
neck below t			
	referred to as the 'hollow neck' obv		†
14	V surrounded by the legend GEORGIVS V DEI GRA: BRITT: OMN: REX FID: DEF: IND: IMP: and 151 rim denticles. Designer: Sir Edgar Bertram Mackennal Engraver:	1914 - 1925	Freeman 2 Groom 2 Peck 2
	I points between rim denticles.		
The designer the neck.	r's initials BM sit just before the do	ownward curv	ve of the truncation of
15	Design: Portrait of King George V surrounded by the legend GEORGIVS V DEI GRA: BRITT: OMN: REX FID: DEF: IND: IMP: and 138 rim denticles. Designer: Sir Edgar Bertram Mackennal Engraver:	1926 - 1936	Freeman 3 Peck 3

Reverse	Details	Use	Reference
K	Design : Seated Britannia holding a trident and a shield with the year below and the denomination FARTHING above and surrounded by 137 rim denticles. Designer : Leonard Charles Wyon Engraver :		Freeman B
L	Design: A wren with year above and the denomination FARTHING below, surrounded by 80 rim denticles. Designer: Harold Wilson Parker Engraver:	1937	
	RTHING points between rim denti	cles.	
	CTHING at a rim denticle.	1.00= 1.0=0	I
M	Design: A wren with year above and the denomination FARTHING below, surrounded by 80 rim denticles. Designer: Harold Wilson Parker Engraver:	1937 - 1953	Freeman A Groom A Peck A
The F of FAI	RTHING points between rim denti	cles.	•
The I of FAR	THING points between rim dentic	cles.	
N	and the denomination FARTHING below, surrounded by 79 rim denticles. Designer: Harold Wilson Parker Engraver:	1953	Freeman B Groom B Peck B
	RTHING points at a rim denticle. RTHING points at a rim denticle.		
О	Design: A wren with year above and the denomination FARTHING below, surrounded by 76 rim denticles. Designer: Harold Wilson Parker Engraver:	1954 - 1956	Freeman C Freeman D
	RTHING points between rim denti RTHING points at a rim denticle.	cles.	

Obverse	Details	Use	Reference	
The designer	's initials BM are at the back of the	e truncation c	of the neck.	
Commonly known as the 'modified effigy'.				
16	Design: Portrait of King Edward VIII surrounded by the legend EDWARDVS VIII D:G: BR: OMN: REX F: D: IND: IMP. and 135 rim denticles. Designer: Thomas Humphrey Paget Engraver:	1937		
17	VI surrounded by the legend GEORGIVS VI D:G: BR: OMN: REX F:D: IND: IMP. and 137 rim denticles. Designer: Thomas Humphrey Paget Engraver:	1937 - 1948		
18	Design: Portrait of King George VI surrounded by the legend GEORGIVS VI D:G: BR: OMN: REX FIDEI DEF. and 135 rim denticles. Designer: Thomas Humphrey Paget Engraver:	1949 - 1952	Freeman 2	
	Design: Portrait of Queen Elizabeth II surrounded by the legend ELIZABETH II DEI GRA: BRITT: OMN: REGINA F:D: + and 91 rim beads. Designer: Mary Gillick Engraver:	1953	Freeman 1 Groom 1 Peck 1	
The + points at a rim bead.				
20 The training	Design: Portrait of Queen Elizabeth II surrounded by the legend ELIZABETH II DEI GRA: BRITT: OMN: REGINA F:D: + and 90 rim beads. Designer: Mary Gillick Engraver:	1953	Freeman 2 Groom 2 Peck 2	
THE + POINTS	between rim beads.			

Obverse	Details	Use	Reference
21	Design: Portrait of Queen Elizabeth II surrounded by the legend ELIZABETH • II • DEI • GRATIA • REGINA • F:D: + and 91 rim beads. Designer: Mary Gillick Engraver:	1954 - 1956	Freeman 3

Specifications

Composition	Details	Use
1	Cu: 95%	1860 - 1869
	Sn: 4%	1872 - 1888
	Zn: 1%	1890 - 1922
2	Cu: 95.5%	1923 - 1941
	Sn: 3%	1946 - 1956
	Zn: 1.5%	
3	Cu: 97%	1942 - 1945
	Zn: 2.5%	
	Sn: 0.5%	

Dimensions	Details	Use
A	Mass: 2.83g	1860 - 1869
	Diameter: 20.16mm	1872 - 1888
	Edge: plain	1890 - 1956

Year	Reverse	Obverse	Mint	Mark	Mintage	Number	Reference
1860			Royal Mint,		Patterns only	GB.¼D.1860.L.1A/1A	Freeman 768A
			London				Freeman 769
1860			Royal Mint, London		1,254,400	GB.¼D.1860.L.2B/1A	Freeman 496 Freeman 497A Peck 1854

		Obverse		•	Number	Reference
1860	T 860	C C P P P P P P P P P P P P P P P P P P	Royal Mint, London	Included in above	GB.¼D.1860.L.3B/1A	Freeman 498 Peck 1857
1860			Royal Mint, London	Included in above	GB.¼D.1860.L.4B/1A	
1860			Royal Mint, London	179,200	GB.¼D.1860.L.3C/1A	Freeman 499 Freeman 500 Peck 1858
			James Watt & Co, Smethwick	4,300,800	GB.¼D.1860.S.3C/1A	
	1860 1860		Heaton Mint, Birmingham	716,800	GB.¼D.1860.B.3C/1A	

Year	Reverse	Obverse	Mint	Mark	Mintage	Number	Reference
1860			Royal Mint, London		Included in above		Freeman 501 Peck 1859
	1860		James Watt & Co, Smethwick		Included in above	GB.¼D.1860.S.4C/1A	

The Royal Mint, Heaton Mint and James Watt & Co strikings are indistinguishable.

L.1A/1A

An example sold in the Michael Freeman Collection in 1985.

L.3B/1A

A mule of the superceded beaded border reverse with a newer toothed border obverse. This variety is rare.

L.4B/1A

A mule of the superceded beaded border reverse with a newer toothed border obverse. This variety is very rare.

An example was sold in the Oxford Collection by Colin Cooke in 2008 as lot 140, which was previously sold in Croydon Auctions in 2005. An example was also sold in the Mangahas Collection by Spink in 1990. There are around two known examples (Cooke, https://www.colincooke.com/collections/oxford_vicbunhead.html).

L.3C/1A

S.3C/1A

B.3C/1*F*

The Heaton Mint produced two tons of farthings according to a draft letter dated 1st February 1861 from the Royal Mint to the Chancellor of the Exchequer (p16, Gouby, *The British Bronze Coinage Pence, Halfpence & Farthings 1860 - 1869*, 2006). Gouby assumes that obverse die 3 was used (p58, Gouby, *The British Bronze Coinage Pence, Halfpence & Farthings 1860 - 1869*, 2006), because the Heaton Mint's work was completed comparatively early, but the later obverse 4 may have also been used. This variety is common.

L.4C/1A

S.4C/1A

This variety is common.

1861	James Watt	6,541,200	GB.¼D.1861.S.3C/1A	Freeman 502
	& Co,			Peck 1860
	12 Smethwick			

Year	Reverse	Obverse	Mint	Mark	Mintage	Number	Reference
1861			James Watt & Co, Smethwick		Included in above		Freeman 503 Freeman 504 Freeman 505 Freeman 506 Peck 1861 Peck 1864

S.3C/1A
This variety is uncommon.

This variety is common.					
1862	REQ.	James Watt & Co, Smethwick	14,336,000	GB.¼D.1862.S.4C/1A	Freeman 507 Freeman 508 Peck 1865 Peck 1866
1863		Royal Mint, London	716,800	GB.¼D.1863.L.4C/1A	Freeman 509 Freeman 510 Peck 1867 Peck 1868
1864		Royal Mint, London	2,508,800	GB.¼D.1864.L.4C/1A	Freeman 511 Freeman 511A Peck 1869 Peck 1870 Peck 1871 Peck 1872

	Reverse	Obverse	Mint	Mark		Reference
1865	I 8 6 5	S C S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S	Royal Mint, London			Freeman 512 Freeman 513 Peck 1872A Peck 1873 Peck 1874
1866	T866		Royal Mint, London		3,584,000	Freeman 514 Freeman 515 Peck 1875 Peck 1876 Peck 1877

		Obverse	Mint		Number	Reference
1867	T 181 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18	REG	Royal Mint, London			Freeman 516 Freeman 517 Freeman 518 Peck 1878 Peck 1879 Peck 1880
1868			Royal Mint, London	4,851,208		Freeman 519 Freeman 520 Freeman 521 Peck 1881 Peck 1882 Peck 1883
1869	TO THE STATE OF TH	G. C.	Royal Mint, London	3,225,600	GB.¼D.1869.L.4C/1A	Freeman 522 Peck 1884

Ye	r Reverse	Obverse	Mint	Mark	Mintage	Number	Reference
18			Royal Mint, London				Freeman 523 Peck 1885
18	(2)		Royal Mint, London		Included in above	GB.¼D.1872C.L.4C/1A	

L.4C/1A This variety is common.

Tills variety is commit

C.L.4C/1A

This variety is very rare - one example is known and it was discovered in 2017, then sold in Spink Auction 19006 as lot 503 on 24th September 2019. The Royal Mint confirmed that the C had not been added post-minting however they had no records of die letters being used on farthings. There is speculation that it was added to a trial die after the farthing production hiatus during 1870 and 1871 (https://www.spink.com/lot/19006000503).

Year	Reverse	Obverse	Mint	Mark	Mintage	Number	Reference
1873	THOUSAND STATES	Constitution of the second sec	Royal Mint, London		3,225,620	GB.¼D.1873,L.4C/1A	Freeman 524 Peck 1886
1874	THU CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF	ROLL CHILLING	Heaton Mint, Birmingham	H	3,584,000	GB.¼D.1874H.B.5D/1A	Freeman 525 Freeman 526 Freeman 527 Peck 1887 Peck 1888 Peck 1889
	5 <u>D/1A</u> Jeaton Mint struck all 1874H farthings in 1874 (p150,	Sweeney. A Numismatic History of The Birminghar	n Mint. 1981).				
1875			Royal Mint, London		712,760	GB.¼D.1875.L.4C/1A	Freeman 528 Peck 1890
1875			Royal Mint, London		Included in above	GB.¼D.1875.L.4D/1A	Freeman 529 Peck 1890A
1875		17	Royal Mint, London		Included in above	GB.¼D.1875.L.6D/1A	Freeman 531 Peck 1891

Yea	r Reverse	Obverse	Mint	Mark	Mintage	Number	Reference
187	5		Heaton Mint, Birmingham	H	6,092,800	GB.¼D.1875H.B.4D/1A	Freeman 530
187		THE DOCUMENT OF THE PARTY OF TH	Heaton Mint, Birmingham	Н	Included in above		Freeman 532 Freeman 533 Peck 1892 Peck 1893

The Heaton Mint struck all 1875H farthings in 1875 (p150, Sweeney, *A Numismatic History of The Birmingham Mint*, 1981).

L.4C/1A
This variety is common.

L.4D/1A This variety is uncommon.

L.6D/1A This variety is common.

H.B.4D/1A This variety is rare.

H.B.6D/1A This variety is common.

Year	Reverse	Obverse			Mintage	Number	Reference
1876	1876		Heaton Mint, Birmingham	Н	1,075,200	GB.¼D.1876H.B.6D/1A	Freeman 534 Freeman 534A Peck 1894
H.B.6		, Sweeney, A Numismatic History of The Birminghan	n Mint 1001)				
1877	reaton white struck an 10/011 farmings in 10/0 (p150		Royal Mint, London		Proofs only	GB.¼D.1877.L.6D/1A	Freeman 535 Peck 1895
A sma	all number of proofs were struck after 1877 (p137, Fr ples (p443, Peck, <i>English Copper Tin and Bronze Co</i>	eeman, The Bronze Coinage of Great Britain, 2016) the printing in the British Museum 1559, 1059, 1070)	hough it is not	clear v	when exactly the	ey were struck. Peck was awai	e of at least four
1878			Royal Mint, London		4,008,540	GB.¼D.1878.L.6D/1A	Freeman 536 Freeman 537 Peck 1896 Peck 1897

		Obverse	Mint	Mark	Mintage	Number	Reference
1879		REG.	Royal Mint, London				Freeman 538 Freeman 539 Freeman 540 Freeman 540A Peck 1898
1880			Royal Mint, London			GB.¼D.1880.L.6D/1A	
1880	TEN SOLO STATE OF THE STATE OF		Royal Mint, London		Included in above		Freeman 541 Peck 1899 Peck 1900



L.6D/1A

This variety is rare.

L.6E/1A
This variety is common.

L.7E/1A
This variety is common.

111	ns variety is common.				
18	81	Royal Mint	3,494,670	GB.¼D.1881.L.6D/1A	Freeman 544
		London			
18	81	Royal Mint	Included in	GB.¼D.1881.L.7D/1A	Freeman 545
		London	above		Peck 1901A

	Reverse	Obverse	Mint	Mark	Mintage	Number	Reference
1881		REGIONAL CONTROL OF THE CONTROL OF T	Royal Mint, London		above		Freeman 546 Peck 1902
1881			Royal Mint, London		Proofs only	GB.¼D.1881.L.8F/1A	Freeman 547 Peck 1903
1881		REC	Heaton Mint, Birmingham	Н	1,792,000	GB.¼D.1881H.B.8F/1A	Freeman 548 Peck 1904

 Year
 Reverse
 Mint
 Mark
 Mintage
 Number
 Reference

L.6D/1A

This variety is rare.

L.7D/1A

This variety is common.

L.8D/1A

This variety is common.

H.B.8F/1A

The Heaton Mint struck all 1881H farthings in 1881 (p150, Sweeney, A Numismatic History of The Birmingham Mint, 1981).



H.B.8G/1A

The Heaton Mint struck all 1882H farthings in 1882 (p150, Sweeney, *A Numismatic History of The Birmingham Mint*, 1981).

		Obverse	Mint	Mark	Mintage	Number	Reference
1883			Royal Mint, London				Freeman 551 Freeman 552 Peck 1907 Peck 1908
1884	T 8 8 4	G. B.	Royal Mint, London		5,782,000		Freeman 553 Freeman 554 Peck 1909 Peck 1910

Year Reverse		Mint	Mark			Reference
1885		Royal Mint, London				Freeman 555 Freeman 556 Peck 1911 Peck 1912
1886		Royal Mint, London		7,767,790		Freeman 557 Freeman 558 Peck 1913 Peck 1914
1887	I 8 8 7	Royal Mint, London		1,340,800	GB.¼D.1887.L.8G/1A	Freeman 559 Peck 1915

		Obverse	Mint	Mark			Reference
1888	TSE S	ROS CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF	Royal Mint, London				Freeman 560 Peck 1916
1890			Royal Mint, London		2,133,070		Freeman 562 Freeman 563 Peck 1917 Peck 1918
1891	T HINGS		Royal Mint, London		4,959,690	GB.¼D.1891.L.8G/1A	Freeman 564 Freeman 565 Peck 1919 Peck 1920

					Reference
1892	IS92	A O J S PUED ON THE STATE OF TH	Royal Mint, London	887,240	Freeman 566 Freeman 566 Peck 1921 Peck 1922
1893			Royal Mint, London	3,904,320	Freeman 567 Freeman 568 Peck 1923

	Obverse				Reference
1894		Royal Mint, London	2,396,770		Freeman 569 Freeman 569A Peck 1924
1894		Royal Mint, London	Patterns only	GB.¼D.1894.L.9G/1A	Freeman 778 Peck 2067
1895		Royal Mint, London	2,852,853	GB.¼D.1895.L.8G/1A	Freeman 570 Peck 1925
1895		Royal Mint, London	Included in above		Freeman 571 Freeman 571A Peck 1958



L.10H/1A

This variety is uncommon.

L.10I/1A

This variety is common.

	Reverse			Mark			Reference
1898	1898	THU CONTRACTOR OF THE CONTRACT	Royal Mint, London		4,010,080	GB.¼D.1898.L.10H/1A	Freeman 576 Peck 1963
1899	1800	The state of the s	Royal Mint, London		3,864,616	GB.¼D.1899.L.10H/1A	Freeman 577 Peck 1964

			Mint		Number	Reference
1900	1900	DRITTO A SOCIAL DE LA CONTROL	Royal Mint, London	5,969,317	GB.¼D.1900.L.10H/1A	Freeman 578 Peck 1965
1901	The state of the s	Bar	Royal Mint, London	8,016,459		Freeman 579 Peck 1966 Peck 1967

	Reverse			Mark			Reference
1902	1902	THE CHARLES OF THE CONTROL OF THE CO	Royal Mint, London				Freeman 580 Peck 2231 Peck 2232
1903	The state of the s	BRITTO MARINE BRITTO DE LA CONTROLLA DE LA CON	Royal Mint, London		5,331,200	GB.¼D.1903.L.11H/1A	Freeman 581 Peck 2233

				Mark			Reference
1904	1904	Carried Carrie	Royal Mint, London				Freeman 582 Peck 2234
1905	19.05 according	EN ENTTONIA	Royal Mint, London		4,076,800	GB.¼D.1905.L.11J/1A	Freeman 583 Peck 2235

Year		Obverse	Mint	Mark	Mintage		Reference
1906	1906	BRITT: ON BRITT:	Royal Mint, London				Freeman 584 Peck 2236
1907	1907ana	FID. D. C.	Royal Mint, London		4,399,360	GB.¼D.1907.L.11J/1A	Freeman 585 Peck 2237

			Mark	Mintage		Reference
1908	THE STATE OF THE S	Royal Mint, London		4,264,960		Freeman 586 Peck 2238
1909	THE DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERT	Royal Mint, London		8,852,480		Freeman 587 Peck 2239
1910		Royal Mint, London		2,598,400	GB.¼D.1910.L.11J/1A	Freeman 588 Peck 2240
1911		Royal Mint, London		5,196,800	GB.¼D.1911.L.12J/1A	Freeman 589 Peck 2322

Year Reverse	Obverse	Mint	Mark	Mintage	Number	Reference
1911	SA.BRITT.	Royal Mint, London			GB.¼D.1911.L.13J/1A	

L.12J/1A This variety appears to be less common.

L.13J/1A
This variety appears to be more common.

1912	BRIT ON FID OF SHIP OF	Royal Mint, London		Freeman 590 Peck 2323
1913		Royal Mint, London	4,134,320	Freeman 591 Peck 2324

Yea	Reverse	Obverse	Mint	Mark	Mintage	Number	Reference
191	1		Royal Mint, London		6,126,988		Freeman 592 Peck 2325
191		BRITT-ON SANDON	Royal Mint, London		Included in above	GB.¼D.1914.L.14J/1A	Freeman 593 Peck 2326

L.12J/1A
This variety is common.

L.14J/1A
This variety is common.



Year Reverse	Obverse	Mint	Mark	Mintage	Number	Reference
1915		Royal Mint, London		Included in above	GB.¼D.1915.L.14J/1A	Freeman 594 Peck 2327
<u>L.12J/1A</u> This variety is rare.						
<u>L.14J/1A</u> This variety is common.						
1016		David Mint		10 002 225	CD 1/D 1016 I 14I/1A	Енестоп ГОГ



				Mark			Reference
1918	TOTE TOTE	BRITT. ONLY	Royal Mint, London		19,362,818		Freeman 597 Peck 2330
1919		BRITT: ONLY	Royal Mint, London		15,089,425	GB.¼D.1919.L.14J/1A	Freeman 598 Peck 2331

						Reference
1920		RITTONAL SELDION OF SELECTION O	Royal Mint, London	11,480,536	GB.¼D.1920.L.14J/1A	Freeman 599 Peck 2332
1921	1921	BRITT, OMINION BRITT, ON B	Royal Mint, London	9,469,097	GB.¼D.1921.L.14J/1A	Freeman 600 Peck 2333

				Number	Reference
1922	BRITTONIA TIDO ON SALE OF SALE	Royal Mint, London	9,956,983	GB.¼D.1922.L.14J/1A	Freeman 601 Peck 2334
1923	BRITTO A FIDO COMPANIA CONTROLLA CON	Royal Mint, London	8,034,457	GB.¼D.1923.L.14J/2A	Freeman 602 Peck 2335

Year Reverse	Obverse	Mint		Number	Reference
1924	BRITT: OMN. The state of the st	Royal Mint, London	8,733,414	GB.¼D.1924.L.14J/2A	Freeman 603 Peck 2336
1925	BRITT: ON A FIDO OF THE STATE O	Royal Mint, London	13,634,697		Freeman 604 Peck 2337
1926		Royal Mint, London	9,792,397	GB.¼D.1926.L.15K/2A	Freeman 605 Freeman 606 Peck 2338 Peck 2339

				Mark	Mintage	Number	Reference
1927	T F 3	BRITI:ON FILOSON SANGER FILOSON SANG	Royal Mint, London		7,868,355		Freeman 607 Freeman 608 Peck 2340 Peck 2341
1928	Comment of the state of the sta	BRITT: ON STATE OF ST	Royal Mint, London		11,625,600		Freeman 609 Freeman 610 Peck 2342 Peck 2343

	Reverse	Obverse		Mark	Mintage	Number	Reference
1929	THE THE STATE OF THE PARTY OF T	BRITT.ON W. AND OF STREET	Royal Mint, London		8,419,200	GB.¼D.1929.L.15K/2A	Freeman 611 Freeman 612 Peck 2344 Peck 2345
1930			Royal Mint, London		4,195,200	GB.¼D.1930.L.15K/2A	Freeman 613 Freeman 614 Peck 2346 Peck 2347
1931			Royal Mint, London		6,595,200	GB.¼D.1931.L.15K/2A	Freeman 615 Freeman 616 Peck 2348 Peck 2349
1932	The second secon	BRITTO MARKAGE DO STALL	Royal Mint, London		9,292,800	GB.¼D.1932.L.15K/2A	Freeman 617 Freeman 618 Peck 2350 Peck 2351

Year Reverse	Obverse	Mint	Mark	Mintage	Number	Reference
1933	BRITT: OMA STATE OF THE STATE O	Royal Mint, London		4,560,000		Freeman 619 Freeman 620 Peck 2352 Peck 2353
1934	RITTON A FIDA STANDARD STANDAR	Royal Mint, London		3,052,800		Freeman 621 Freeman 622 Peck 2354 Peck 2355
1935		Royal Mint, London		2,227,200	GB.¼D.1935.L.15K/2A	Freeman 623 Freeman 624 Peck 2356 Peck 2357

	Reverse		Mint	Mark	Mintage	Number	Reference
1936	TITUTE TO STATE OF THE PARTY OF	TIDO SALES CONTROLLER S	Royal Mint, London		9,734,400	GB.¼D.1936.L.15K/2A	Freeman 625 Freeman 626 Peck 2363 Peck 2364
1937	all number of proofs were struck.	AND THE PROPERTY OF THE PARTY O	Royal Mint, London		Patterns only	GB.¼D.1937.L.16L/2A	Freeman 627 Peck 2369

Year	Reverse	Obverse	Mint	Mark	Mintage	Number	Reference
1937	Canada Ca	The state of the s	Royal Mint, London		8,131,200	GB.¼D.1937.L.17M/2A	Freeman 628 Freeman 629 Peck 2456 Peck 2457
	02 proofs were also struck for sets.						
1938			Royal Mint, London		7,449,600	GB.¼D.1938.L.17M/2A	Freeman 630 Freeman 631 Peck 2459 Peck 2460
1939			Royal Mint, London		31,440,000	GB.¼D.1939.L.17M/2A	Freeman 632 Freeman 633 Peck 2461 Peck 2462
1940			Royal Mint, London		18,360,000	GB.¼D.1940.L.17M/2A	Freeman 634 Freeman 635 Peck 2463 Peck 2464

Year	Reverse	Obverse	Mint	Mark	Mintage	Number	Reference
1941	OAI COM	A STANDARD OF THE STANDARD OF	Royal Mint, London		27,312,000	GB.¼D.1941.L.17M/2A	Freeman 636 Freeman 637 Peck 2465 Peck 2466
1942			Royal Mint, London		28,857,600	GB.¼D.1942.L.17M/3A	Freeman 638 Freeman 639 Peck 2467 Peck 2468
1943			Royal Mint, London		33,345,600	GB.¼D.1943.L.17M/3A	Freeman 640 Freeman 641 Peck 2469 Peck 2470
1944			Royal Mint, London		35,137,600	GB.¼D.1944.L.17M/3A	Freeman 642 Freeman 643 Peck 2471 Peck 2472
1945			Royal Mint, London		23,736,000	GB.¼D.1945.L.17M/3A	Freeman 644 Freeman 645 Peck 2473 Peck 2474

Year l	Reverse	Obverse	Mint	Mintage	Number	Reference
1946	946 Cultural PAIN Cultural PAI	THE BROOM SALE OF THE SALE OF	Royal Mint, London	23,364,800	GB.¼D.1946.L.17M/2A	Freeman 646 Freeman 647 Peck 2475 Peck 2476
1947			Royal Mint, London	14,745,600	GB. ¹ / ₄ D.1947.L.17M/2A	Freeman 648 Freeman 649 Peck 2477 Peck 2478
1948			Royal Mint, London	16,622,400	GB.¼D.1948.L.17M/2A	Freeman 650 Freeman 651 Peck 2479 Peck 2480
1949	The state of the s	To the state of th	Royal Mint, London	8,424,000	GB. ¹ / ₄ D.1949.L.18M/2A	Freeman 652 Freeman 653 Peck 2481 Peck 2482

Year	Reverse	Obverse	Mint	Mark	Mintage	Number	Reference
1950			Royal Mint, London		10,324,800	GB.¼D.1950.L.18M/2A	Freeman 654 Freeman 655 Peck 2483 Peck 2484
17,51	3 proofs were also struck for sets.						
1951			Royal Mint, London		14,016,000	GB.¼D.1951.L.18M/2A	Freeman 656 Freeman 657 Peck 2485 Peck 2486
20,00	0 proofs were also struck for sets.		•		•		
1952			Royal Mint, London		2,251,200	GB.¼D.1952.L.18M/2A	Freeman 658 Freeman 659 Peck 2487 Peck 2488
1953	Constant of the Constant of th	D. T. E. J.	Royal Mint, London		only	GB.¼D.1953.L.19M/2A	Freeman 660 Peck 2520
1953			Royal Mint, London		6,131,037	GB.¼D.1953.L.19N/2A	Freeman 661 Peck 2520A
1953			Royal Mint, London		Included in above	GB.¼D.1953.L.20M/2A	Freeman 662 Freeman 662A Peck 2520B



40,000 proofs were also struck for proof sets.

L.19M/2A

Only found in specimen sets (p138, Freeman, *The Bronze Coinage of Great Britain*, 2016).

L.19N/2A

This cross-over variety is uncommon.

L.20M/2A

This cross-over variety is uncommon.

L.20N/2A

This variety is the most common.

Year	Reverse	Obverse	Mint	Mark	Mintage	Number	Reference
1954	The state of the s		Royal Mint, London		6,566,400		Freeman 665 Freeman 666 Peck 2523 Peck 2524
1955			Royal Mint, London		5,779,200	GB.¼D.1955.L.21O/2A	Freeman 667 Freeman 668 Peck 2525 Peck 2526
1956			Royal Mint, London		1,996,800	GB.¼D.1956.L.21O/2A	Freeman 669 Freeman 670 Peck 2527 Peck 2528

Glossary

Coin orientation

The tops of the designs on each side of the coin face opposite directions.

Exergue

The space below the main design.

Ghosting

The impression of the design on one side of the coin showing through on the other side of the coin. It is caused by a disparity between the size or relief of the designs on opposite sides of the coin.

Hob/hub

A die with a relief design produced from a master die. It is used for the production of working dies

Medal orientation

The tops of the designs on each side of the coin face the same direction.

Punch

See hob/hub

Working die

A die with an intaglio design produced from a hob/hub. It is used for the production of coins.

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- 1893 Great Britain Farthing: http://numismatics.org/collection/1932.999.315

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- 1928 Great Britain Farthing: https://collections.museumvictoria.com.au/items/77000
- 1929 Great Britain Farthing: https://collections.museumvictoria.com.au/items/82366
- 1932 Great Britain Farthing: https://collections.museumvictoria.com.au/items/76884
- 1933 Great Britain Farthing: https://collections.museumvictoria.com.au/items/76883
- 1934 Great Britain Farthing: https://collections.museumvictoria.com.au/items/76966
- 1936 Great Britain Farthing: https://collections.museumvictoria.com.au/items/57498
- 1937 Great Britain Farthing: https://collections.museumvictoria.com.au/items/52391
- 1941 Great Britain Farthing: https://collections.museumvictoria.com.au/items/82370
- 1946 Great Britain Farthing: https://collections.museumvictoria.com.au/items/82371
- 1949 Great Britain Farthing: https://collections.museumvictoria.com.au/items/71314
- 1954 Great Britain Farthing: https://collections.museumvictoria.com.au/items/53385

Professional Coin Grading Service

PCGS (https://www.pcgs.com/) have kindly granted the author permission to use PCGS TrueView images.

- 1880 Great Britain Farthing (Freeman 543): https://www.pcgs.com/cert/37303398
- 1953 Great Britain Farthing (Freeman 660): https://www.pcgs.com/cert/38935780
- 1953 Great Britain Farthing (Freeman 663): https://www.pcgs.com/cert/41600220

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Technology

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