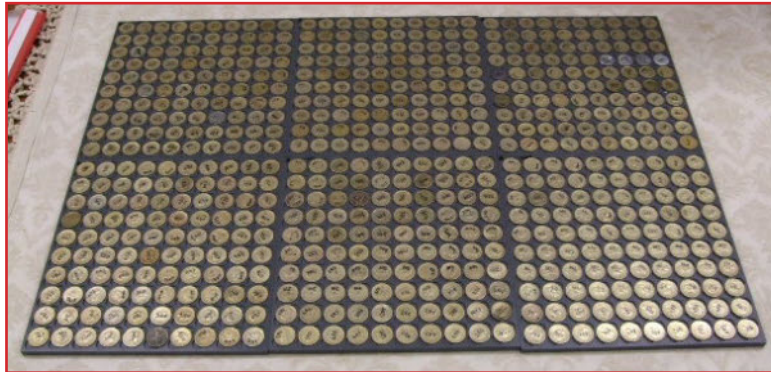


The BBC has learned that the number of fake pound coins in circulation may be as many as one in 20.

Headlines taken from Ben Ando's BBC report, 08 April 09.



These headlines followed an interview with Ben in which we explained that, in all the samples of coins we had checked, we had found that between 3-5% of the coins were counterfeit.

Since the interview we have continued collecting data from both genuine and counterfeit coins.

We have also continued testing coin samples and have collected over 400 counterfeits of our own.

Last week we purchased and tested another 105 £1 coins from our bank and found 5 "definite" fakes.

When we collected the coins, we asked the cashier if the coins had been checked, she said yes twice. We then asked if the £1 had been checked for counterfeits she just smiled.

We rang our bank manger and told him what we had found, he did offer to replace the fakes but we told him that we would use them for testing.

On Friday three representatives of a company that manufactures high volume coin sorting and counting machines came to see us.

They brought with them 500 coins that they had purchased from their bank for us to check.



As it was a large quantity and they wanted to find as many fakes as possible, we explained that each coin would need to be visually inspected.

However, we first used our test validator, and this found 10 "definite" fakes.

We then showed them how to sort and visually inspect each coin (as detailed in our fact file 0005), after checking just a few we found another 8 "definite" fakes.

As the visual inspection takes time they decided to take the coins away and finish checking them themselves.

These checks show that 3.5%-4.7% of the coin's checked were counterfeit.

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