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# Viking haul unearthed in Galloway biggest since 1891



**A haul of Viking treasure worth a six-figure sum has been unearthed from land in the Stewartry.**

And now experts are calling it one of the most significant Viking find ever recorded in Scotland.

Ayrshire man, 47-year-old, Derek McLennan is a keen metal detector enthusiast who made the initial epic discovery last month which then led to the unearthing of gold and silver jewellery, pottery and highly unique pieces – more than 100 in total – on land owned by the Church of Scotland near Castle Douglas.

The exact location is not being made public for obvious reasons, but this is Derek's second haul after he found a field full of coins in Twynholm earlier this year.

Mr McLennan said he was rendered speechless at what he had unearthed two feet beneath the ground.

Among the recent haul's most intriguing finds is an intricate silver cross and a large Carolingian cup, engraved with animals and one of only three known in Britain. It will soon be x-rayed and its contents discovered.

When the discovery was first made, he was in the company of two ministers who are also detectorists; Rev Dr David Bartholomew, a Church of Scotland minister in Galloway, and Mike Smith, the pastor of an Elim Pentecostal Church.

Mr Bartholomew said: "It was tremendously exciting, especially when we noticed the silver cross lying face-downwards.

"It was poking out from under the pile of silver ingots and decorated arm-rings, with a finely wound silver chain still attached to it."



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