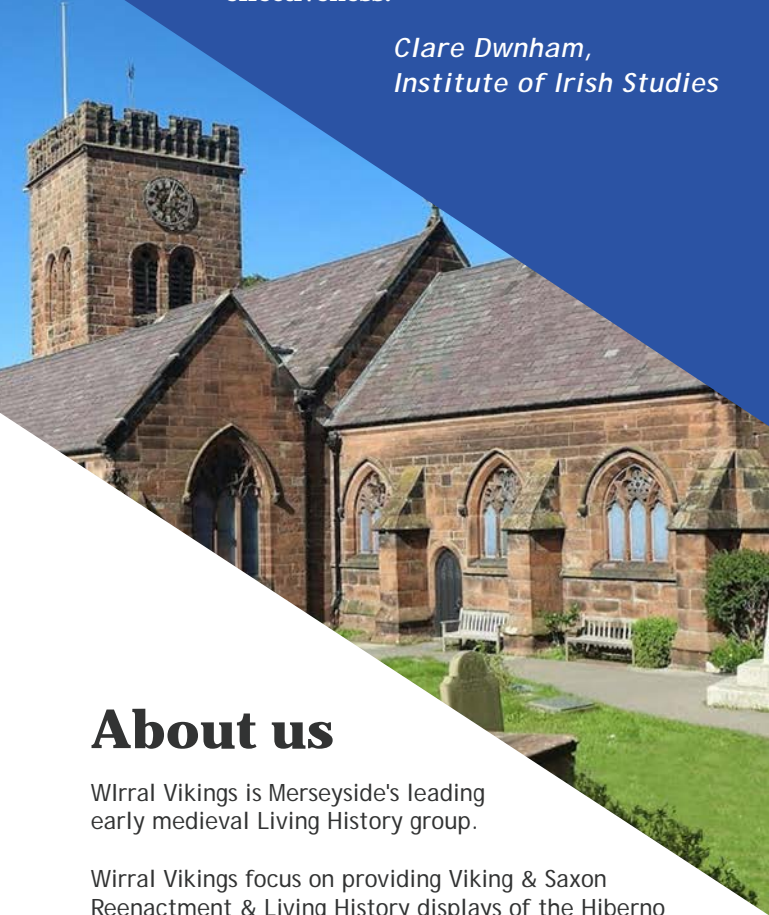


Wirral Vikings have made a significant contribution to events and educational activities in Merseyside.

I have benefited from the group's collaboration with the University of Liverpool, sharing their expertise and enthusiasm at events.

The group also provided images for the 'Viking Age in the North West' iPhone app which made a big contribution to its visual effectiveness.

Clare Dwnham,
Institute of Irish Studies



About us

Wirral Vikings is Merseyside's leading early medieval Living History group.

Wirral Vikings focus on providing Viking & Saxon Reenactment & Living History displays of the Hiberno Norse who settled the Wirral from 902AD, but we cover all aspects of the Viking period from 793AD to 1066AD.

Wirral Vikings are renowned for their living history displays that bring everyday viking Wirral vividly to life. Learning the skills the people used to survive life 1000 years ago in the harsh Wirral landscape.



Wirral Vikings
www.wirralvikings.org.uk



IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE VIKINGS

**West Kirby, Hogbacks &
Carved Stones**

**A look at St Bridget's Hogback &
carved stones of West Kirby**

West Kirby Hogback

'Kirby' is derived from Old Norse meaning 'Settlement with a church'.

St Bridget's name suggests connections between the Wirral and south-east Ireland.

It might have been an important site overlooking the North Western approach to the Wirral.

In the 19th Century an impressive collection of Viking and carved stones were discovered. The best known being the 'Hogback', the Viking Age recumbent stone.

The large round backed stone may have been a grave cover with its patterned roof, on its upper surface imitating a miniature longhouse.

Below: Reconstruction of Bidston Hogback (Liverpool Museum)

Right: 10th Century Cross, St Bridget's Museum

Far Right: St Bridget's Hogback



The style of this monument is not known in Scandinavia or Ireland. There is one non hogback type monument in Castledermot but they are mainly positioned across Northern England and Lowland Scotland.

It has been suggested that the West Kirby Hogback might have been carved at different times due to the way the sides are defined.

The hogback is a distinctive grey which is different to other locally quarried stones and it has been suggested that the stone might have originally been brought from some distance away.



Other carvings can be found in the small museum and include part of a cross shaft, containing cable moulding and interlace, parts of two stone crosses of Cheshire style. There is also a small piece of a recumbent slab decorated with a plait or knot-work.

Ref:

H. Williams, "Clumsy and Illogical"? Reconsidering the West Kirby Hogback, *Antiquaries Journal*, 92 (2016), 69-100

Richard N Bailey et al. *Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Stone Sculpture, Volume IX: Lancashire and Cheshire* (Oxford: British Academy, 2010), pp. 133-36

