



HIBERNO ⊕ NORSE ⊕ WIRRAL

arrival of the vikings

The Norse heritage of Wirral can be traced back to the arrival of Ingimund in 902.

Ingimund and a small band of followers who had earlier been expelled from Dublin (as recorded in the Three Fragments, the record of Irish history). They first tried to settle on Anglesey but conflict with the local inhabitants caused them to set sail once again heading up the coast toward Wirral, on the frontier of Mercia.

They implored Æthelflaed, Lady of the Mercians to be given some land on the Wirral to farm and live in peace.

Æthelflaeds agreement might have been to place a viking enclave on her border to the Irish sea and stop further incursions from the vikings and at first it seemed to work.

Even though some call this the viking enclave it consisted of the expelled Norse and the local Anglos-Saxons.

The local clergy were never far away and as the Hiberno Norse settled in a series of churches were built that overlooked the Norse enclave.

In 907 this uneasy peace changed when Ingimund attacked Chester. After a fierce battle the vikings were defeated. The vikings slunk back to the harsh lands of Wirral and Ingimund disappeared from local history.

The uneasy peace would last till 937 when violence erupted once more with the Wirral being one of the proposed sites for the battle of Brunanburh.

