

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



Vikings Wirral



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

**Moreton, looking for
ancient buildings**

**When excavations lead to exciting
discoveries**

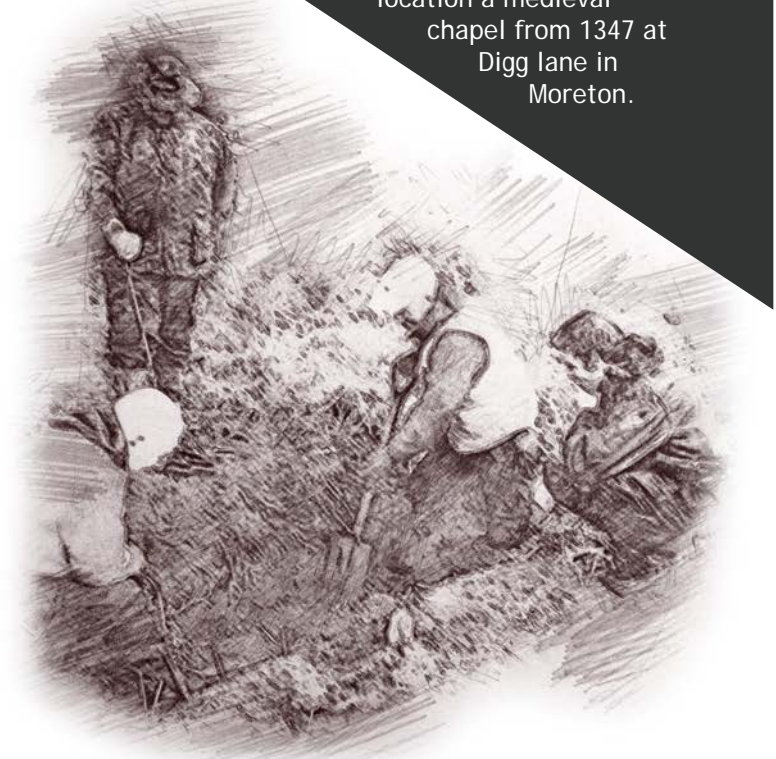
Moreton

Viking age buildings and settlements are hard to find in the north west of England. Scarce finds and the remains of settlements can be difficult to distinguish from other buildings.

Moreton comes from the Anglo-Saxon More - meaning a Lake and Ton - meaning Town. It was known as Moreton-cum-Lingham by 1889 and was bounded by Great Meols to the West with Bidston and Wallasey to the South and East.

Before the embankment was constructed, it was 3000 acres of tidal lagoon between one and two metres below sea level with most of the remainder little more than one metre above. Lingham means Heather Island and is derived from the Norse words Lyng - meaning heather and Holm - meaning island.

Building remains were found during an excavation to try to locate a medieval chapel from 1347 at Digg Lane in Moreton.



The search for the chapel remains revealed the remains of much older, early medieval building. From the complete research five buildings could be superimposed on the excavation area.

Three buildings were enclosed by a boundary ditch which had silted up and was then re-dug twice on a different alignment. The second enclosure and its associated buildings were given a date of the 9th or early 10th Century. This was dated by a coin found in the upper ditch fill. (AD 955-9 Eadwig).

Three of the buildings were probably rectangular in plan with shallow foundation gullies. The last building was very different with a hollow floor, a hearth or oven area in the centre and a wattle edge bench along the wall.



This structure looks more like a Hiberno - Scandinavian building in the style of Dublin and other Viking age towns in Ireland. These possibly date from the 11th and 12th century.

The hollow floor was covered with a thick layer of burnt grain, mostly bread wheat but also oats and barley. The floor also contained weed seed and curiously a single grape pip. Radiocarbon dating suggested the charred grain was from the 11th & 12th century.

Two fragments of Leinster pottery from Ireland suggest there was an exchange of ideas about different forms of structure between Dublin & Wirral.

Ref:

Robert A Philpott - Viking Age Rural Settlement in Lowland North West: Identifying the invisible



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