

School of English

FACULTY OF ARTS



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The Hackness Cross

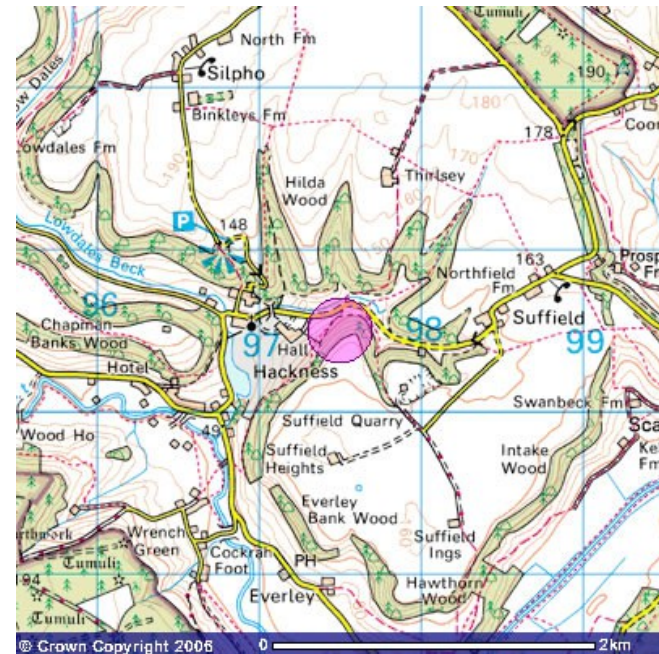
Anthea Fraser Gupta

Where is it?



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In a church in a small village north-west of Scarborough, on the North Yorkshire coast.



References



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- Geake, Elisabeth. 1994. Aethelburg knew me ... *New Scientist* 1920:9.
- Lang, James. 1991. *Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Stone Sculpture Volume III: York and Eastern Yorkshire*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Sermon, Richard. 1996. The Hackness Cross Cryptic Inscriptions. *Yorkshire Archaeological Journal* 68:101-112.
- Winterbotham, J J. 1985 (2nd edn.). Hackness in the Middle Ages. Pamphlet from The Hackness Press.

St Peter's church, Hackness



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The remains of the cross



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OEDILBU[....]
BEATA

West face to left,
south face to right.
Latin at top of south
face and ogham at
bottom.

Full discussion of the (fragmentary) inscription in Lang 1991:135-141. The cross commemorates “ABBATISSA OEDILBURGA”. It might commemorate the Kentish princess married to a Northumbrian king, [Saint Ethelburga](#), who founded the monastery in [Lyminge](#), Kent: the cross writes about her in a similar way to Bede (read [his account translated into Modern English](#))



Full length shots



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The north face



The west face

The Latin on the north

face



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MATER
AMANTISSIMA



The Latin inscription at
the top of the north
face

ISSA
LBURGA ORA



The Latin inscription at
the bottom of the north
face

The Latin on the south face



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Latin inscription on the south face.

OEDILBU....
BEATA ...
EMPERT



The tree runes (hahal runes) on the east face



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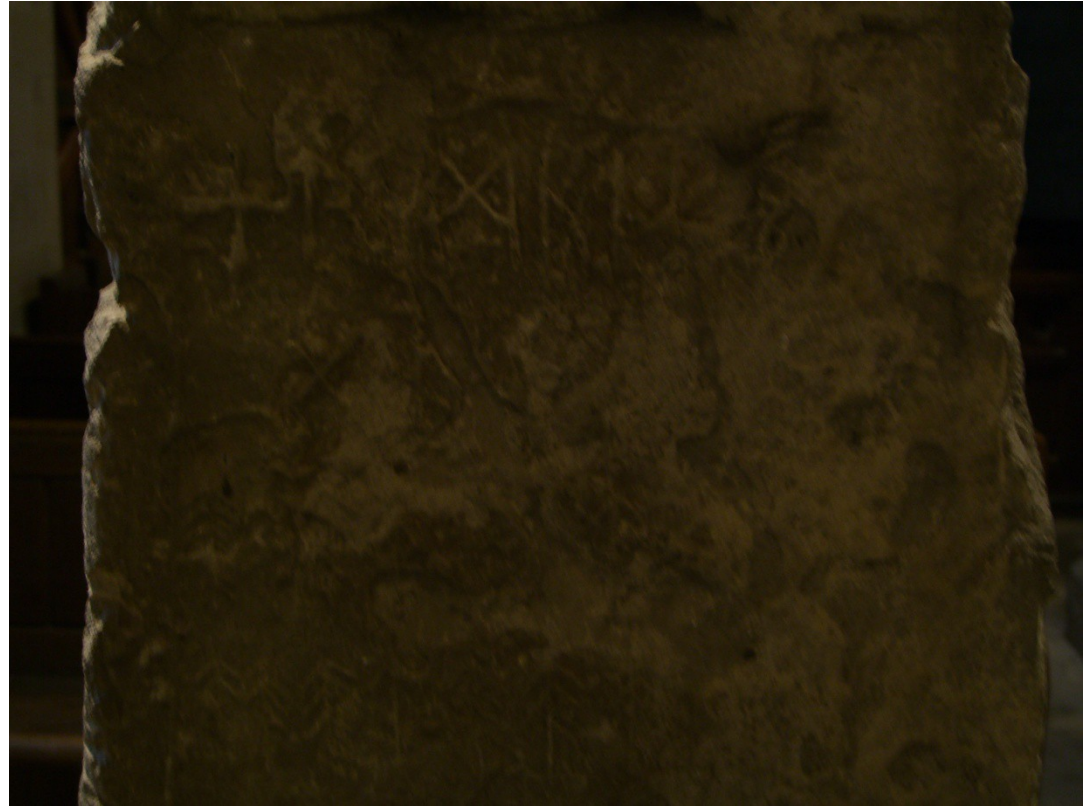
No-one can read them.

The runes



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Sermon thinks this might be an anagram for OE “Oedilburg gnoew me” (=Ethelburga knew me, the cross).



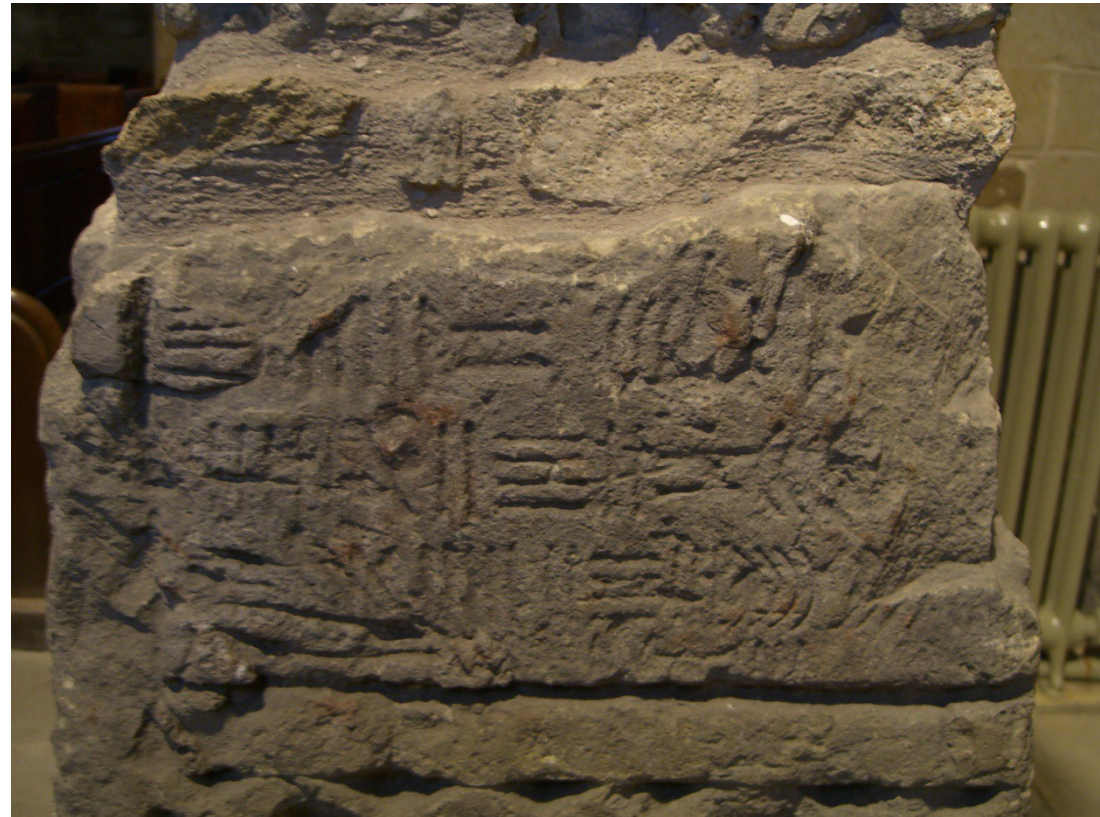
Runic inscription above tree runes on east face (there wasn't much space between the wall and the cross, and evening was coming on).

The ogham



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The ogham inscription
on the south face



Sermon thinks he might have deciphered this one. It might be in Irish and might indicate who erected the cross.



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The End