The Hackness Cross

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


St Peter’s church, Hackness
The remains of the cross

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

The north face

The west face
The Latin on the north face.

The Latin inscription at the top of the north face:

**MATER AMANTISSIMA**

The Latin inscription at the bottom of the north face:

**ISSA LBURGA ORA**
The Latin on the south face

Latin inscription on the south face.

OEDILBU....
BEATA ...
EMPERT
The tree runes (hahal runes) on the east face

No-one can read them.
The runes

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

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