

School of English

FACULTY OF ARTS



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# The Hackness Cross

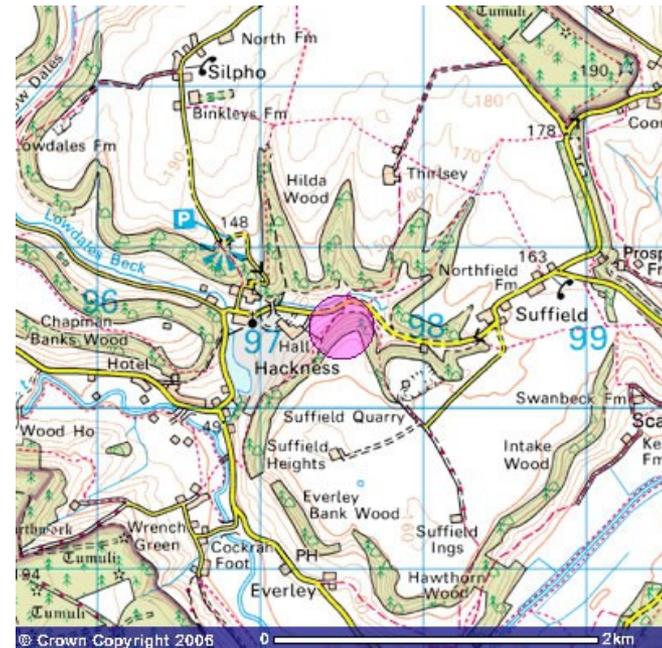
Anthea Fraser Gupta

# 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 (2<sup>nd</sup> 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](#))



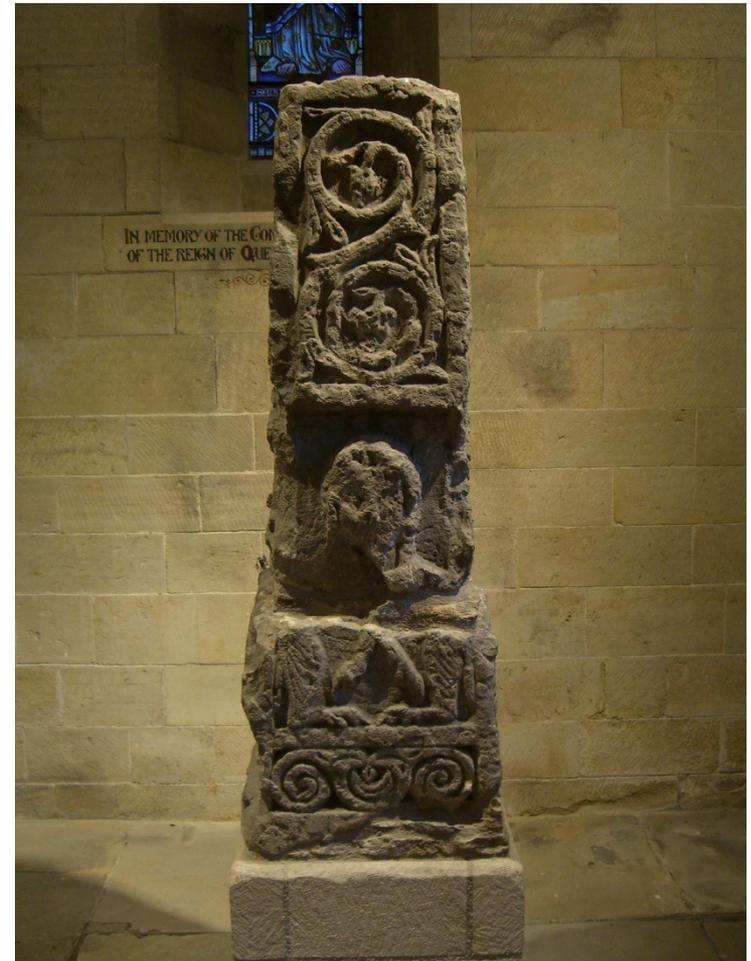
# Full length shots



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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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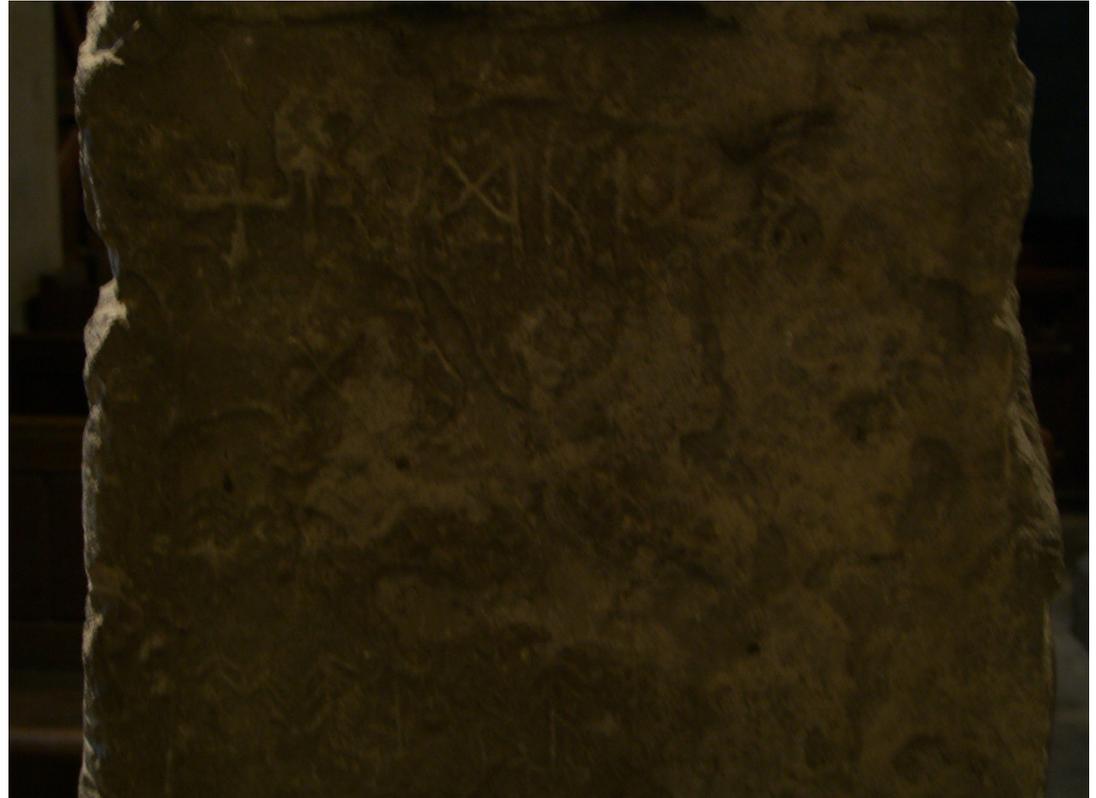
No-one can read them.

# The runes



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



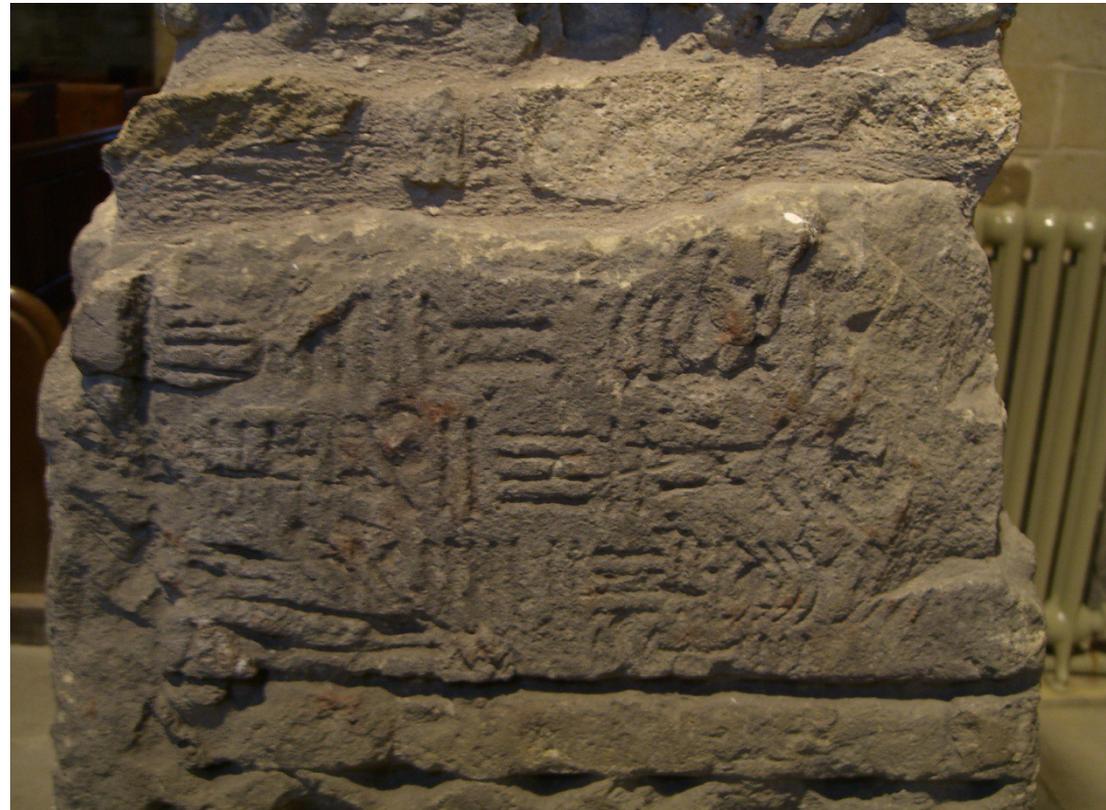
Runic inscription above tree runes on east face (there wasn't much space between the wall and the cross, and evening was coming on).

# 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**