

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

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

***Meols Shore,
through the Ages***

The discoveries of the Meols Shore

Meols

We don't know what the Romans called any place on the Wirral but Meols has been an important location for a long time.

Meols shore, or rather 'Dove Point' may have derived from the Celtic word 'Duhb' which means black or dark. Hence Duhb Lynn (Dublin) and Blackpool (also called Dublin) meaning 'Blackpool' for both cities. Alternatively, a local landowner in Meols was one John Dove, who lived there in 1555, the point might have been named after him.

The Viking name Meols derives from the Old Norse word meir meaning 'sandbank'.

The point protected an important harbour known as the Hoyle Lake.

The area which lies between the Dee and Mersey on the coast was prone to constant coastal erosion which has revealed thousands of artefacts.



shows Meols was an important Roman Port since at least Roman times and continued into the Anglo-Saxon period as a beach market and possible fishing area.

Settlers and traders used the area through Viking times from which the name we use today was formed. The Viking finds demonstrate the important trading connections with Ireland which increased in importance after Ivarr regained the Irish Settlement of Dublin in 917.

Viking artefacts include distinctive ring pins which started as an Irish form but represents a merging of Irish and Scandinavian styles. A bird shaped fitting from a traders balance, a dragon decorated stirrup chape, bells, buckles and strap ends were also found.



Axe, Shield boss & Spear tip

A furnished burial was possibly found in winter 1877-78.

The discovery of an iron axe, shield boss, spearhead and sword found in the same dunes location pointed to the possible remains of the furnished burial.

Ref:

D.Griffiths, R Philpott and G. Egan, Meols: The Archaeology of the North Wirral Coast, Oxford University School of Archaeology Monographs (Oxford: University of Oxford, 2007)

Meols Photographs by Brian Griffiths



Bird shaped fitting from a traders balance