

Naversdale

Rune Stone



An interesting Christian artefact found in this vicinity, was discovered in 2013. The Naversdale stone is a runestone, of which there are many from the Northern Isles. However, this one is different as the runes transliterate into a fragment of the Lords Prayer written down as it would have been spoken in medieval Latin. The original context of the stone is not known although the size and lack of wear suggests it was built into a structure and was not a gravemarker or memorial stone. With a date bracket spanning the twelfth to fifteenth centuries, the stone has been compared favourably with the twelfth century runic inscriptions found at Maeshowe chambered tomb (only a few miles to the NW). The inscription indicates that there was local knowledge and desire to have a Christian blessing, perhaps in a house, in medieval times and it echoes similar examples from Norway. Unusually here we have archaeological evidence of medieval Christian practice that goes beyond the confines of a church or cemetery.

For further information see:

<http://www.orkneyjar.com/archaeology/2013/10/10/viking-runestone-found-on-medieval-scholars-farmland/>