

Gunnhildr Rune-Inscribed Memorial Stone From St. Peter's Kirk

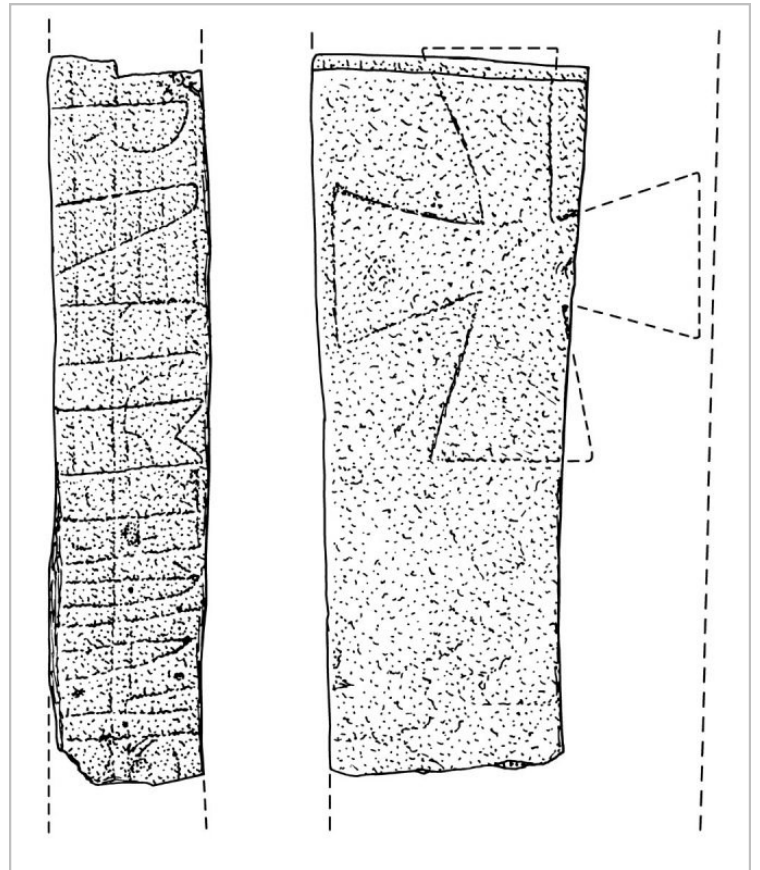
Dates From – 11th to 12th centuries AD

Discovered – Unknown

Where – St. Peter's Kirk, Thurso

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How – The Gunnhildr memorial stone was found built into the tower of St. Peter's Kirk, Thurso. It is very hard to date, but it probably dates from the 11th – 12th centuries AD. The stone measures 650mm in length, by 350mm in breadth, and 180mm in thickness. Between December 2006 and February 2007 the stone was removed from the wall and sent to Edinburgh for conservation. A replica of the Gunnhildr memorial stone was built into the tower. The inscription reads:



...?Gunnhildi, konu sína...

“...?Gunnhildr, his wife...”

Points of interest – Gunnhildr is a common name – the Museum of Cultural History in Oslo, Norway, has a spindle whorl in its Collection that bears the inscription “**Gunnhildr made this spindle whorl**”.

Anything else? The Gunnhildr memorial stone has part of an irregular shaped cross carved on one of its faces. It is possible that the Gunnhildr rune-inscribed memorial stone was once part of a larger monument.

How did it end up at Caithness Horizons? The memorial stone was donated to the museum by The Highland Council in 2013.

When can I see it? The memorial stone is currently not on display. It will feature in a new Early Medieval Sculpture exhibition that will open at Caithness Horizons in 2014. The new exhibition is being funded by Museums Galleries Scotland, The Robertson Trust and The Highland Council.

