

# TRACING VIKING CONFLICT AND MILITARY MOVEMENT IN EARLY MEDIEVAL WALES

## A PREDICTIVE MODEL

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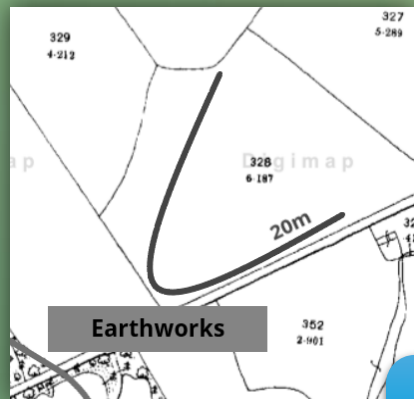
### INTRODUCTION

Research currently conducted at the University of Edinburgh investigates the presence of Vikings in the Early Medieval kingdoms of Wales. Scholarship often omits Wales from the study of the Viking Diaspora, despite evidence suggesting that the Vikings had a significant presence in Wales between 850 CE to 1098 CE.

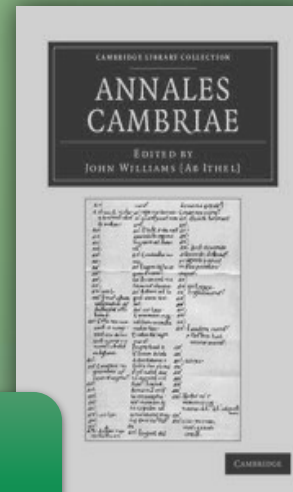


### METHODS AND MATERIALS

This investigation of Vikings in Wales utilises the interdisciplinary approach of Conflict Archaeology; studying historical battles, raids and sieges. For Vikings in Wales, a plethora of evidence is available for this analysis, from archaeological discoveries such as hoards and burials, geographical features like defensive earthworks, to historical literary references and Old Norse place names.



Archaeological  
Material



Historical  
Literature

Geographical  
Features

Old Norse  
Place Names

Fishguard and Goodwick

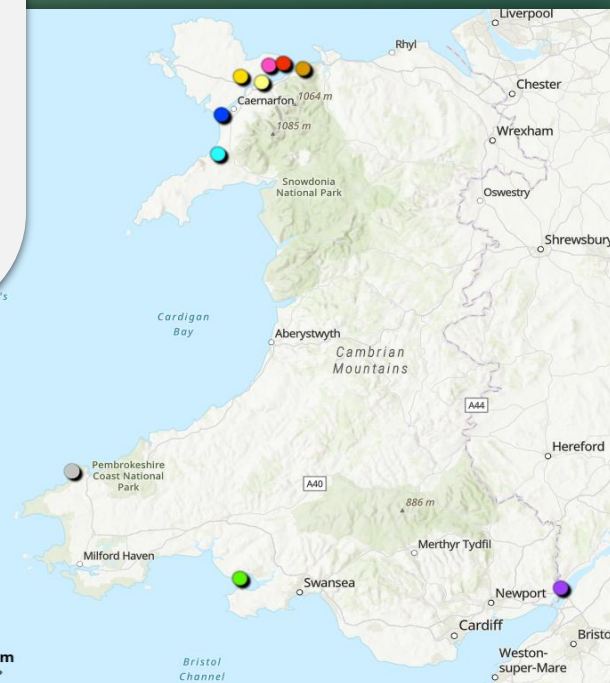


### RESEARCH FINDINGS

This research successfully places Viking forces at several locations in Wales. The presence of these Viking forces show an intention to conquer and claim land within the early medieval Welsh landscape. Therefore, despite past consensus to the contrary, Wales was a Viking Frontier; a site of Viking raids, a place of trading, battles and settlement during the Viking Age.



Figure: Map of all known Viking battlefield locations in Wales. (Nutt 2025). [Created on ArcGIS].



### THE PREDICTIVE MODEL

To identify the presence of Vikings in Wales, through their conflict activity, a Predictive Model was designed. Through the consideration of four groups of evidence, this research has placed Viking warriors, raiders and settlers at several sites in Wales, including identifying three battle locations; The Battle of Great Orme c. 856 CE, The Battle of Buttington c. 893 CE and The Battle of Ros Meilon c. 903 CE. Evidence used in the Predictive Model can be seen above.

**References:** Charles, B.G. (1934). *Old Norse Relations with Wales*. Cardiff - Redknap. M. (2000). *Vikings in Wales: An Archaeological Quest*. Cardiff - Scott, D.D. and McFeaters, A.P. (2011). The Archaeology of Historic Battlefields: A History and Theoretical Development in Conflict Archaeology. *Journal of Archaeological Research*, Vol. 19.