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Lost medieval Welsh carved stone rediscovered

Whilst enjoying a bank holiday stroll, Royal Commission staff member Nikki Vousden and Dr. Roderick Bale (archaeologist at University of Wales) came across a long-lost medieval inscribed stone in a stream in Silian!



Nikki and the rediscovered stone at the find spot

The find spot is just southwest of St. Sulien's Church, Silian, home to two other medieval inscribed stones. The church site, thought to have been of high-status, has been in use for at least 1500 years. Although the current church building dates from 1873, it is thought to stand on medieval foundations and has an early-fifth/sixth-century inscribed stone built into its south wall.

The stone had previously been known and cast, but then was lost. It was tentatively ascribed to Silian because of the label on a photograph, also at the National Museum of Wales. The stone is referred to as 'Silian 3' in Nancy Edwards' *Corpus of Early Medieval Inscribed Stones and Stone Sculpture in*



Wales, Volume II, and its decoration is thought to be ninth/tenth century in date. Measuring 70cm x 38cm, the decoration covers around a third of its face. The pattern includes a linear Latin cross with a lozenge shaped ring at its upper end. There are only a few other definite examples of crosses in lozenge shaped rings in Wales: “Llandanwg 5” from St. Tanwg’s Church, Llandanwg, ‘Llanllawer 3’ from St. David’s Church, Llanllawer, and “Llandecwyn 1,” from St. Tecwyn’s Church, Llandecwyn. How the Silian 3 stone ended up in the steam is a mystery, especially as someone obviously once knew of its significance and took a cast.

Details of all four churches and their associated stones can be found on the Royal Commissions’s searchable online database, [Coflein](#). The stone is now being kept in St Sulien’s Church, Silian.

Re-written from <http://heritageofwalesnews.blogspot.co.uk/2013/05/exciting-rediscovery-of-lost-medieval.html>