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Archaeologists stumble upon lost treasure



Exciting Medieval discovery

TWO archaeologists taking a stroll near Lampeter have made an extraordinary discovery.

Nikki Vousden from the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales and Dr Roderick Bale of the university in Lampeter came across a long-lost Medieval incised stone in a stream near St Sulien's Church, Silian.

The rare lost stone was first noted by Nash-Williams in *The Early Christian Monuments of Wales* and a cast of its incised face was kept 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 pattern is thought

EXCLUSIVE by Chris Betteley

to date to the ninth or 11th century. "It was a very exciting discovery," Nikki said.

Amazingly, the stone lay hidden in the stream until the water on its wet surface helped highlight the inscribed pattern and we spotted it.

"How the Silian 3 stone ended up in the stream is a mystery, especially as someone obviously once knew of its significance and took a cast.

"We are currently awaiting information as to the provenance of the cast and photograph."

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Lost Medieval stone is found



Dr Roderick Bale and Nikki Vousden at the brook where the inscribed stone was found

Story continued from page one
St Sulien's Church is already home to two further medieval inscribed stones and the church site, thought to have been of high status, has been in use for at least 1,500 years.

Although the current church building dates from 1873, it is thought to sit on medieval foundations and has an early fifth or sixth century inscribed stone built into its south wall.

The pattern of the 70cm by 38cm stone is rare, with only two other definite examples of crosses in lozenge shaped rings in Wales.

The stone is now being kept in St Sulien's Church, Silian and Nikki will be at the church on Friday, 7 June from 10am until 2pm to talk about the find.

Dr Roderick Bale, from the Department of Archaeology, History and Anthropology at the University of Wales, Trinity St Davids, Lampeter, and Nikki Vousden, of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales, Aberystwyth, with the inscribed stone