



WIRRAL ARCHAEOLOGY

THE BOAT

BENEATH THE CAR PARK

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The Boat Beneath The Car Park

Introduction.

When the Railway Inn was being built in 1938 workmen found what they described as a “Viking boat” while digging at the front of the building. The object was reburied and there has been no investigation since then. This project is designed to carry out a professional archaeological investigation of that unknown object and to prepare a report that will be made public.

The Railway Inn.

The owners of the pub, Green King PLC, have been fully supportive of this investigation.

Mr. John McRae senior was one of the workmen who found the object in 1938. His family have graciously assisted us by providing an original copy of his notes on what he found. His son Mr. John McRae has provided the project with a detailed account of his father’s recollections.

It is not intended to remove the buried object. The intention is to identify what the object is, how old it is, when it might have been deposited there, and possibly why. The information will be used to assess any other actions that may be appropriate.

A preliminary ground penetrating radar survey has been carried out where the object was reported to be found. This found some evidence of a buried object. The next step is to carry out a higher resolution survey to decide the best location for an excavation.

Before the pandemic emergency we were on the brink of making a funding application for the project. This is suspended until the National Lottery Heritage fund re-opens for new bids. At the earliest it will be in late 2020. There is no guarantee the bid will be successful.

On 7th February 2020, the BBC2 programme “Our Coast” broadcasted an episode which described the project. The programme can still be viewed on the BBC iPlayer.