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Abstract for the Orkney Rune Rede

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**The runic inscription on the pendant from the Brough of Deerness: is it lexical or not?**

The copper pendant in question was found in 2009 during excavations at the Brough of Deerness, and so far it has been examined by two scholars. They are both of the opinion that the inscription on the pendant is not lexical. Michael Barnes calls it “unintelligible” (Gerrard et al 2010:2), and John Hines suggests that “actually being meaningless best explains this object and its inscription” (2013:6). On internet sites the object is already described as “Pendant with rune-like decoration” (Society of Antiquaries of Scotland).

In this paper I wish to discuss the possibility and probability of this inscription being lexical, and in order to do so I shall try to provide a reading for its runes. Some answers as to how its runes should be read I shall seek in other inscriptions from **Orkney**.

Also, the Deerness pendant will be compared with other metal pendants with lexical and non-lexical runic inscriptions from Scandinavia, which will probably throw some light on this object, too.

**Literature**

Gerrard et al 2010 = Gerrard, J., J. Barrett & M. Saunders, 2010. The Brough of Deerness Excavations 2009: Annual Data Structure Report. Unpublished report. Cambridge: McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research.

John Hines 2013: Unpublished report.

Society of Antiquaries of Scotland: http://www.socantscot.org/article.asp?aid=806 (last seen: 31 January 2015)