

## Grave Surprise Found, Underneath Norwegian House: Viking Artifacts Illustrate Unknown Events of the Past

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Viking burial found under house, including Viking ax and beads (Nordland County Council photo credit)

In America we have the idiomatic expression “skeletons in the closet,” but what about finding a 1,000-year-old Viking grave, literally buried under the house that you live in? That’s what a Norwegian couple recently experienced, according to a report of *The Local Norway*.<sup>1</sup>

A couple in northern Norway were pulling up the floor of their house to install insulation when they found a glass bead, and then a Viking axe. Now archaeologists suspect they live above an ancient Viking grave.

The unusual discovery was promptly reported to the local government. Archaeologist Martinus Hauglid visited the couple shortly after and judged that the grave was likely from the Iron Age or Viking Age.<sup>1</sup>

“It was found under stones that probably represent a cairn. We found an axe dated from between 950AD and 1050AD and a bead

of dark blue glass, also of the late Viking period," he told ***The Local***. [Hauglid] said he had never heard of a find being made underneath a house.<sup>1</sup>

Finding Viking burial-related materials are not unheard of, of course. Norwegian archaeologists are kept busy excavating and analyzing remains of Viking skeletons, boats, weapons, tools, and other ancient artefacts from time to time.<sup>2</sup>

And those who find such treasure trove are often rewarded.

"I guess, they will get some reward, that is normal in Norway, that people that find old artefacts get a reward from the state." The bead and axe have already been sent to Tromsø Museum, and a team of archeologists were in the couple's house on Tuesday digging further. Although Kristiansen's great-grandfather built the house in 1914, she said her family had never spoken about a Viking grave.<sup>1</sup>

Burials of Vikings have become important to the creation science community in recent years, especially because a Viking burial mystery was resolved by recognizing that uniformitarian methodology used for radiocarbon dating (Carbon-14) was deficient, producing erroneous results. This was due to unwarranted assumptions that evolutionists were making about skeletons that were given age estimates that erred by centuries.<sup>3,4</sup>

In short, radiocarbon tests cannot provide one-size-fits-all dating results that are reliable, regarding the date-of-death matching a human skeleton, apart from meaningful records about the human's diet during his or her lifetime—because some foods have more carbon-14 than do other foods. So, whatever someone habitually eats makes a difference in how much carbon-14 one has accumulated at death, which is the starting point of the corpse's carbon-14 that steadily decays thereafter.<sup>3,4</sup>

This reminds us that scientific methodologies have their limitations. Thus, making universal conclusions about the no-longer-observable unique events (such as actions of individuals) requires forensic science-based evidence standards—not after-the-fact empirical methods.<sup>5</sup>

Accordingly, using the proper scientific methodology is very important in creation science matters, because unique events of the past cannot be adequately known just by using empirical science experiments. Examples include distant starlight travel prior to Adam's sin in Eden, the Genesis Flood, the Tower of Babel incident, and the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Likewise, for such unique events of the past, the uniformitarian assumption that “the present is the key to the past” doesn't work.<sup>6</sup>

Do we need reliable eyewitness reports to know the real truth about non-repeating historic events? **In a word, yes.** After the fact, historical causes routinely leave behind physical effects, often with observable characteristics such as fingerprints, tire-tread impressions, or DNA. These can provide reliable inferences about what occurred at a specific location and time.

However, for complete accuracy, there is nothing like a reliable eyewitness. Eyewitnesses can report relevant observations—about who, what, how, or why—that otherwise could leave a mystery misunderstood or unsolved. At other times, eyewitness testimony may clarify minor details with major ramifications. Eyewitness testimony relies upon honesty, opportunity to observe, an accurate memory, and testimonial clarity. These forensic principles apply to the challenging task of reconstructing unique actions that happened in the past, because these events (unless recorded on film or video) can't be seen in the present.<sup>5</sup>

So, if the Viking gravesite were to yield a human skeleton, then how old would it be? Radiocarbon-dating can make some guesses and will likely be somewhat accurate to within 200 years! However, without knowing

about the deceased's diet, carbon-14 estimates about how long ago a decaying skeleton's human inhabitant died are just fuzzy guesses.

## **REFERENCES**

1. Staff Writer. Norway couple find Viking grave under floor of their House. *The Local Norway*. Posted on thelocal.no (May 26, 2020).
2. Nikel, D. Viking Burial House Uncovered in Norway. *Life in Norway*. Posted on lifeinnorway.net (September 24, 2019). Also, archeologists have found and analyzed physical remains of Vikings in non-Nordic lands where the Vikings were once active. See, e.g., Jarman, Catrine. L. et al. 2018. The Viking Great Army in England: New Dates from the Repton Charnel. *Antiquity*. 92(361): 183-199.
3. Johnson, James J. S. 2018. Something Fishy about Radiocarbon-Dating Viking Bones. *Creation Research Society Quarterly*. 54(3): 213-216.
4. Johnson, James J. S. 2018. Viking Bones Contradict Carbon-14 Assumptions. *Acts & Facts*. 47(5):21 (May 2018), posted at <https://www.icr.org/article/viking-bones-contradict-c14-assumptions/> . Also, for a short podcast on this topic, listen to James J. S. Johnson's "Why One-Size-Fits-All Radiocarbon Dating Doesn't Work" (podcast of August 24, 2018), at <https://www.icr.org/article/one-size-fits-all-radiocarbon-dating-doesnt-work> . This limerick poem summarizes how a human's diet can skew date-of-death estimates when conventional radiocarbon (Carbon-14) "dating" calculations are undertaken upon the bone material of a disinterred skeleton.

### **SEAFOOD DIETS SKEWED CARBON 14 "DATING" OF VIKING BONES**

**300 skeletons were found,  
Decaying C-14 in the ground;  
But the bone "dates" were odd,  
Due to diets of cod —  
Proving carbon "dates" often aren't sound.**

[Quoting James J. S. Johnson, "Something Fishy about Radiocarbon-Dating Viking Bones", *Creation Research Society Quarterly*, 54(3):213-216 (winter 2018), at page 216.]

5. Johnson, James J. S. 2016. There's Nothing Like an Eyewitness. *Acts & Facts*. 45 (12):20 (December 2016), posted at <https://www.icr.org/article/theres-nothing-like-eyewitness> .
6. See 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 3:3-6, predicting the inexcusable-yet-pervasive error of uniformitarianism, which is a popular and prominent form of modern pseudoscience (a/k/a fake 'science', i.e., what 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 6:20 calls "'science' falsely so-called"). See also Johnson, James J. S. 2014. Is the Present the 'Key' to Our Past? *Acts & Facts*. 43(6):19 (June 2014), posted at <https://www.icr.org/article/present-key-our-past/> .

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