



***Danish Raiders, Danish Law,  
& Danish Kings:***



***The Vikings in Britain 793-1066***

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**Postcards from the Edge...of the Viking World:**

*King Harald's Saga* as Viking Age Guidebook

*King Harald's Saga* takes us across much of the breadth and depth of the Viking World, and many of the episodes it recounts could be said to epitomize the ethos of that world. Harald Hadradi himself is sometimes referred to as the "Last Viking," and his death could be said to mark the end of the Viking Age. Indeed, this final chapter of the Viking saga involves two great invasions of Britain in 1066, mounted by Harald Hadradi and William of Normandy, each of which represented an incursion from a different branch of the same Viking family tree.

This saga, which ends on the fields of England, thus provides a fitting conclusion to our study of the Vikings in Britain, which began, in historical terms, just 150 miles away at the Priory on Lindisfarne. More to the point, *King Harald's Saga* offers an overview of the vast sphere of Viking influence, giving us a guidebook, as it were, of the realities of North Atlantic life, Scandinavian politics, and the far-flung influence of Norse raiders, traders, warriors, and settlers from Iceland to the British Isles, across the Channel to Normandy, through the Baltic and the Russian river-ways to Constantinople, and throughout the Mediterranean.

On the reverse of this sheet is a postcard from a waypoint on the itinerary suggested by that guidebook. Together with those classmates who received the same postcard, find direct references in *King Harald's Saga* to the location suggested by that postcard, note the major episodes and events of the saga set in that location, and discuss how such events might help to elucidate our knowledge of that and related sites more generally in the context of the Viking World. In simplest terms, how does *King Harald's Saga* generally—and this location specifically—help us to sum up our semester-long Viking Adventure?