The URNFIELD tradition of the North

Research symposium 12.01.2022, 9:00-17:30

Museum Sønderjylland - Arkæologi Haderslev, Dalgade 7, 6100 Haderslev, Denmark

Excavation of Aarupgaard urnfield in 1970-72 (photo: Museum Sønderjylland)

The urnfield burial tradition of the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age is a well-known archaeological phenomenon in Northern Europe. Thousands of urnfield burials have been excavated during the last century, but research into the phenomenon has unfortunately tended to be nationally focused, ignoring possible shared traits or differences of the burial tradition in neighbouring countries and regions. The symposium will bring together researchers from north-western Europe to present recent research results and begin to compile the first overview of the urnfield burial tradition of the North.

Med venlig hilsen,
Helene Agerskov Rose (helene.rose@zbsa.eu), Lisbeth Christensen (lich@msj.dk) og Lilian Matthes (lima@msj.dk)

MUSEUM SØNDER JYLLAND URNFIELD ZBSA

PROGRAM

9:00 - 9:45 Coffee

9:45-10:00 Welcome

10:00-10:40 KEYNOTE

Giacomo Capuzzo, Guy De Mulder and the CRUMBEL Team: Belgian urnfields 2.0, past burial traditions and population dynamics through the lens of isotopic and radiocarbon analyses

10:45-12:00 SESSION 1

10:45-11:00 Nicole Taylor: Same but different? Gaining greater insights into Urnfield identities using strontium isotope analysis on cremated tooth enamel

11:05-11:20 Helene Agerskov Rose: Typo-chronological studies of urnfield assemblages - continuing an old research tradition using new scientific methodologies

11:25-11:40 Arjan Louwen: What's in a name? Urnfields without urns on the edge of the continent

11:40-12:00 Discussion

12:00-13:00 Lunch break and POSTER SESSION

Anna-Theres Andersen: to be announced

Helene Agerskov Rose and Lisbeth Christensen: The URNFIELD project

Lene Frandsen: Billumvad and other sites with ring ditches in Archeology West Jutland's geographical area of responsibility

Sarah Qvistgaard and Bente Grundvad: The urnfield Korsvanggaard

Scott Dollar and Lars Grundvad: Settlements without grave sites – grave sites without settlements

13:00 – 14:40 SESSION 2

13:00-13:15 Karol Dzięgielewski: Urnfields on their own: the Late Bronze Age on the southern Baltic coast

13:20-13:35 Wenke Domscheit: Grave Groups on Grave Fields in the Late Bronze and Early Iron Age – a Sociological and Chronological Phenomenon

13:40-13:55 Björn Rauchfuß: Grab und Gräberfeld in der Endbronze- und der vorrömischen Eisenzeit Vorpommerns – Ein Überblick

14:00-14:15 Ringo Kloß: Kontakte in die keltische Welt anhand eines Urnengräberfeldes der frühen Vorrömischen Eisenzeit in Borgstedt, Kr. Rendsburg-Eckernförde

14:20-14:35 Angelika Abegg-Wigg: Urnenfriedhöfe der Vorrömischen Eisenzeit bis Völkerwanderungszeit in Schleswig-Holstein. Ein forschungsgeschichtlicher Überblick

14:35-15:00 Discussion

15:00-15:30 Coffee break

15:30 – 17:30: SESSION 3

15:30-15:45 Ingo Lütjens: Urnengräber der Vorrömischen Eisenzeit in Schleswig-Holstein. Ein Überblick über Grabformen und Elemente des Grabbaues.

15:50-16:05 Stefanie Schaefer-Di Maida and Jutta Kneisel: The Urnfield phenomenon in Schleswig-Holstein: new dates and hypotheses

16:10-16:25 Lisbeth Christensen: Die Tradition der Urnengräberfelder in Südjütland insbesondere mit Fokus auf unterschiedliche Grabsitten

16:30-16:45 Anna Egelund Poulsen: Bringing the Aarupgaard Urnfield Excavations into the 21st century

16:50-17:05 Niels Algreen Møller: The late urnfield phenomenon: Burial rites and identity in Danish Iron Age Urnfields

17:05-17:30 Final discussion

18:30 Dinner at a restaurant in Haderslev (RSVP needed and at your own cost)

ABSTRACTS

Giacomo Capuzzo[1], Guy De Mulder[2] and the CRUMBEL Team: Belgian urnfields 2.0, past burial traditions and population dynamics through the lens of isotopic and radiocarbon analyses

In the last two decades, the innovations and improvements in scientific techniques (isotopic analyses, radiocarbon dating, infrared spectroscopy, etc.) applied to the study of cremated remains have represented an authentic revolution in bio-archaeology. In 1998 calcined bone has been proved to be suitable for radiocarbon dating by using the carbon in the bioapatite of bone (Lanting & Brindley 1998). Even though there are still some scientific discussions about the origin of the dated carbon (Van Strydonck et al. 2010; Snoeck et al. 2014), this discovery has led to an exponential increase in the amount of ^{14}C dates associated with cremation burials. More recently, it has also been demonstrated that calcined bone provides a reliable substrate for strontium isotopes (Snoeck et al. 2015). As a consequence, cremated human remains have started to be used as a proxy to study population dynamics in the past. New ongoing research has also showed that carbon and oxygen isotopes can be employed to obtain information on the cremation conditions and the specialisation in the performance of funerary rituals (Stamataki et al. 2021), thus significantly increasing our knowledge on past funerary practices.

The CRUMBEL project studies the collections of cremated bone found in Belgium dating from the Neolithic to the Early-Medieval period using state of the art analytical and geochemical analyses, supplemented by new osteo-archaeological research on these old collections. Belgium has a long history of urnfield research with the first discoveries dating back to the 17th-18th centuries. The second half of the 19th century saw the rise of new findings of cremation burials, largely resulting from sand winning activities that took place in Flanders. This intensive research has led to the identification and excavation, especially in the northern part of the country, of hundreds of cremation cemeteries dating to the 2nd and the beginning of the 1st millennium BC.

Taking advantage of these great numbers of sites and materials, a large amount of data has been produced in the last twenty years using the new archaeometric opportunities.

With this lecture we aim to present an overview on the latest scientific results obtained using state-of-the-art bioarchaeological techniques on Bronze-Iron Age Belgian cremations. Recent outcomes have significantly contributed to shed light on past burial traditions and population dynamics in the territory corresponding to modern Belgium, a relatively small region which is characterised by a high degree of socio-cultural variability being located at the crossroads between the so-called Atlantic (Channel-North Sea) and Continental (Eastern France, the Rhine area and Western Switzerland) cultural traditions, in which also influences by the Nordic Bronze Age culture have been detected to a lesser extent.

References

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Snoeck C, Brock F, Schulting RJ. 2014. Carbon exchanges between bone apatite and fuels during cremation: impact on radiocarbon dates. *Radiocarbon* 56(2):591-602.

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Stamataki E, Kontopoulos I, Salesse K, McMillan R, Veselka B, Sabaux C, Annaert R, Boudin M, Capuzzo G, Claeys P, Dalle S, Hlad M, Sengeløv A, Vercauteren M, Warmenbol E, Tys D, De Mulder G, Snoeck C. 2021. Is it hot enough? A multi-proxy approach shows variations in cremation settings during the Metal Ages in Belgium. *Journal of Archaeological Science* 136:105509. doi:10.1016/j.jas.2021.105509

Van Strydonck M, Boudin M, De Mulder G. 2010. The carbon origin of structural carbonate in bone apatite of cremated bones. *Radiocarbon* 52(2):578-586.

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Nicole Taylor[1]: Same but different? Gaining greater insights into Urnfield identities using strontium isotope analysis on cremated tooth enamel

Since strontium isotopic studies reached general acceptance within archaeology, mobility has experienced a resurgence as a research topic. This has been highly prevalent in Bronze Age studies due to the geographically-restricted metal ores required for bronze and the clear spread of characteristic metal artefacts across the European continent.

The Urnfield period, with its established metallurgy-related social networks and almost exclusively cremation burials, appeared set to be bypassed by this particular research topic due to the lack of suitable materials for analysis. In recent years, however, experimental results demonstrated the potential for valid isotopic results from cremated tooth enamel. Using material from the Urnfield cemetery of Vollmarshausen, Hesse, Germany, compared with established geographic baselines, this study is the largest to date to apply strontium isotope analysis to prehistoric enamel from cremations.

The focus was not merely on the geographic origins of the sampled individuals; mobility was one of several aspects considered in a wider archaeological investigation into individual and group identities. The site of

Vollmarshausen is notable for an unusual level of diversity among the burials compared to other Urnfield cemeteries. Even more remarkable is the evidence for the re-access of certain burials, presumably during the period in which the site was in use, as well as features in which grave goods without human remains were present. Yet the results showed that the sampled individuals were most likely all locals from the area around the cemetery, and other identities proved to be more important in the creation of the cemetery.

[1]*CRC 1266 "Scales of Transformation", Institute of Prehistoric and Protohistoric Archaeology, Kiel University*

Helene Agerskov Rose[1]: Typo-chronological studies of urnfield assemblages - continuing an old research tradition using new scientific methodologies

The urnfields played an important role in the early establishment of the Pre-Roman Iron Age, and the relative chronological framework has traditionally been based upon typo-chronological studies of urnfield artefact assemblages. Johanna Mestorf was the first to present urnfield material from Schleswig-Holstein in 1886, followed a few years later by Madsen and Neergaard who registered comparable material from Southern Jutland. Since then thousands of urnfield graves have been excavated in the border region, but has unfortunately been nationally focused, making it difficult to investigate the urnfield phenomenon but also the different chronological frameworks used in Southern Scandinavia and in Northern Germany. This talk will present a new project that continues the established research tradition of typo-chronological studies of urnfield assemblages, but using ^{14}C dating and Bayesian chronological modelling. This will demonstrate the value and importance of existing museum collections for future research into the Early Iron Age.

[1]*Zentrum für Baltische und Skandinavische Archäologie (ZBSA), Stiftung Schleswig-Holsteinische Landesmuseen Schloss Gottorf*

Arjan Louwen[1]: What's in a name? Urnfields without urns on the edge of the continent

The Lower-Rhine-Basin is literally dotted with Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age cremation grave cemeteries. Traditionally, these cemeteries are seen as the product of local adaptations of burial customs famous for the Central European 'Urnfield Phenomenon.' However, based on a recent study of some 3,000 graves from the Dutch dataset and a large corpus of radiocarbon dates that have become available over the last two decades, it seems that funerary traditions in the Lower-Rhine-Basin developed much more autonomously over the course of the second millennium BC than was until recently thought. Not only do the funerary practices observed seem to tie into much older notions about ancestry and senses of belonging to the land but the destructive and transformative qualities of the cremation process also provided the perfect means for emphasising these notions.
Another striking observation was that not even half the graves in these cemeteries actually concern urn graves. Some cemeteries did not even produce a single urn at all. But why we would then still talk about urnfields? And why are the English and Danish cemeteries not counted under the so-called "Urnfield Cultures" (e.g. Cunliffe 2008, fig. 8.2) while they practice-wise not seem to deviate that much from the Dutch cemeteries? Are we in need of a revision of the term 'Urnfield'? These are just some of the questions I very much would like to discuss with my fellow colleagues from the North.

[1]*Faculty of Archaeology, Leiden University*

Karol Dzięgielewski[1]: Urnfields on their own: the Late Bronze Age on the southern Baltic coast

The traditionally perceived vision of the Late Bronze Age in Pomerania (N Poland) emphasized the affinity of this region to other lands occupied by the Lusatian culture, an entity understood then as a self-organized macrostructure. Differences, for example in forms of material culture, such as bronze items, were tried to be downplayed. This had an unambiguously historical and political dimension (e.g., the similarities to the Nordic circle was considered in such categories). More recent studies on the socio-economic relations in Pomerania at the turn of the Bronze Age and Early Iron Age indicate that the differences of the region in relation to the lowland areas of Greater Poland or Silesia went far beyond a greater or lesser affinity between the forms of material culture. Pomeranian communities differed from typical agricultural Lusatian (Urnfield) groups primarily with a more extensive, mobile type of economy and a model of social organization adapted to it. The specific burial rites or ways of manifesting status, visible in hoarding rituals were just a derivative of these differences. The coastal location of the region played a key role, favouring the maintenance of a network of contacts that was facing west and north, and not south, as in the case of the interior communities. Moreover, it allowed access to a unique local raw material – amber. The "discovery" of this resource in the Late Bronze Age and the resulting supra-regional consequences contributed to the reinforcement of peculiarity of the Baltic coasts among the rest of the Urnfields world.

[1]*Jagiellonian University, Institute of Archaeology, Cracow, Poland*

Wenke Domscheit[1]: Grave Groups on Grave Fields in the Late Bronze and Early Iron Age – a Sociological and Chronological Phenomenon

Grave fields with grave groups represent a special phenomenon of the Bronze and Iron Ages in Central Europe. Through them we can observe how different archaeological cultures arranged their graves according to the same principle. This equality of behaviour is expressed on grave fields in what is now Northern Germany as well as in Poland or Romania. In the course of the Middle to the Younger Bronze Age there were fundamental changes in burial customs. A large number of grave fields emerged, which reveal enormous differences in both the grave goods and the construction of the grave. Grave fields with grave groups are characterized by the fact that, despite these differences, the arrangement of their graves is not arranged chronologically in series, but always in clearly distinct groups. In this way, individuals were buried remarkably close to one another in the grave fields, sometimes over several centuries, while other areas were deliberately left out. The reasons for this can be complex, but grave groups in German-language literature are primarily understood as an expression of family relationships. Regardless of how the individual groups differ, whether in terms of grave construction, grave goods or demographic composition, they are graves of individual families or village communities. In my lecture, I would like to use my case study, the grave field of Pinnow (Mecklenburg-Vorpommern), to explain a number of questions that deal with other possible models of interpretation. For example, the possibility of grave groups as part of the memory and past culture of Bronze and Iron Age societies.

[1]*Römisch-Germanische Kommission des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts, Frankfurt a.M.*

Björn Rauchfuß[1]: Grab und Gräberfeld in der Endbronze- und der vorrömischen Eisenzeit Vorpommerns – Ein Überblick

Bis heute werfen die Endbronze- und die vorrömische Eisenzeit im nordöstlichen Deutschland eine ganze Reihe grundsätzlicher Fragen auf, die verständlicherweise auch die Bestattungssitten dieser Perioden betreffen. Dieser Umstand beruht nicht zuletzt auf einem vergleichsweise älteren Publikationsstand, der aufgrund zahlreicher weit gestreuter Veröffentlichungen nur schwer überschaubar ist. So liegen zu den Nekropolen des fortgeschrittenen 1. Jahrtausends v. Chr. zwar kleinere und größere Publikationen vor, eine Analyse des Phänomens der Brandgräberfelder Vorpommerns in seiner Gesamtheit ist allerdings zuletzt in mehreren Arbeiten zwischen 1939 und 1974 erfolgt, liegt also rund 50 Jahre und mehr zurück.

Das Symposium bietet den Anlass, im Rahmen meines Vortrages den aktuellen Forschungsstand zu den Brandgräberfeldern der Endbronze- und vorrömischen Eisenzeit in Vorpommern in einem Überblick zu präsentieren.

[1]AIM-V Archäologie in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern GmbH

Ringo Kloß[1]: Contacts to the Celtic region on the basis of an Urn Burial Field of the Early Pre-Roman Iron Age in Borgstedt, district of Rendsburg-Eckernförde

In the summer of 2020, an urn burial field with 90 burials from the older pre-Roman Iron Age was completely investigated in Borgstedt near Rendsburg. One particularly well-preserved urn clearly stood out from the other burials due to the quantity and quality of the grave goods. The urn contained a Pauken fibula, a heavy eyelet ring and several decorated glass beads. Another special feature is the evidence of painted pottery in Borgstedt. This vessel is the first evidence of painted pottery in southern Schleswig. The appearance of the geometric ornamental style in combination with painting at the beginning of the pre-Roman Iron Age, which can only be proven for a short time, is an indication of cultural influences from the south. This influence and its path to the north is also reflected in the distribution of the Pauken fibulae.

[1] Archäologisches Landesamt Schleswig-Holstein (ALSH)

Angelika Abegg-Wigg[1]: Urnenfriedhöfe der Vorrömischen Eisenzeit bis Völkerwanderungszeit in Schleswig-Holstein. Ein forschungsgeschichtlicher Überblick

Vorherrschende Bestattungsform in Schleswig-Holstein von der jüngeren Bronzezeit bis in die späte Völkerwanderungszeit ist die Verbrennung der Toten. Die verbrannten Überreste der Leichname und Beigaben wurden in einer Urne auf Gräberfeldern beigesetzt. Die wissenschaftliche Erforschung dieser Urnenfriedhöfe in Schleswig-Holstein ist bis in die zweite Hälfte des 19. Jahrhunderts zurückzuverfolgen. Sie ist vor allem eng mit der Geschichte des 1836 gegründeten Museums für Archäologie Schloss Gottorf in der Stiftung Schleswig-Holsteinische Landesmuseen Schloss Gottorf und den dort tätigen Wissenschaftlern und Archäologen verbunden. Genannt seien hier nur Heinrich Handelmann (1827–1891), Johanna Mestorf (1828–1909), Friedrich Knorr (1872–1936), Carl Rothmann (1875–1952), Gustav Schwantes (1881–1960), Hans Hingst (1908–1998), Klaus Raddatz (1914–2002) und Michael Gebühr (1942–2021). Dies ist zu erweitern um das 1937

gegründete Archäologische Landesamt Schleswig-Holstein und das Institut für Ur- und Frühgeschichte der Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel, wobei letzteres bis 1998 institutionell mit dem Museum verbunden war. Aufgrund der teilweise nachgewiesenen Belegungskontinuitäten oder der räumlichen Nähe der Anlage von Gräberfeldern aber auch der Gründe für ihre archäologische Untersuchung berücksichtigt der forschungsgeschichtliche Überblick Gräberfelder von der Vorrömischen Eisenzeit bis in die Völkerwanderungszeit.

[1]*Museum für Archäologie Schloss Gottorf, Stiftung Schleswig-Holsteinische Landesmuseen Schloss Gottorf*

Ingo Lütjens[1]: Urnengräber der Vorrömischen Eisenzeit in Schleswig-Holstein. Ein Überblick über Grabformen und Elemente des Grabbaues

Aus der Vorrömischen Eisenzeit kennen wir aus Schleswig-Holstein nur Brandgräber. Diese in ihrer Ausstattung sehr einheitlich wirkenden Bestattungen können vor allem in der älteren Phase, was den zugehörigen Grabbau betrifft, sehr verschiedenartig sein. Dieser Beitrag soll in erster Linie einen Überblick über die unterschiedlichen Grabformen und Elemente des Grabbaues bieten.

[1]*Archäologisches Landesamt Schleswig-Holstein (ALSH)*

Stefanie Schaefer-Di Maida[1] and Jutta Kneisel[1]: The Urnfield phenomenon in Schleswig-Holstein: new dates and hypotheses

For the first time in the history of research in Schleswig-Holstein, a cemetery has been absolute dated. The burial ground at the site of Mang de Bargen near Bornhöved (distr. Segeberg) was used from the Late Neolithic until the Pre-Roman Iron Age. Most of the burials belong to the Urnfield period and they were interred in the burial mound areas of previous times. Due to the long period of use of the cemetery, the transition from inhumation to cremation as well as the change to the new grave construction (urn) and grave furnishings can be traced at the site. In addition, thanks to extensive dating and with the help of Bayesian statistics, statements on the duration of the urn cemeteries can be modelled. Moreover, absolute dates from other sites in Schleswig-Holstein, which have been dated within our project, provide together with our data from Mang de Bargen new insights into the distribution of the urnfield phenomenon in the region. Furthermore, the anthropological investigations performed as part of our project on the remains from all of these sites show interesting results in the selection of the urn type and the connection between grave goods and age groups. With our presentation we would like to show and discuss our new data and hypotheses.

[1]*Institute of Pre- and Protohistoric Archaeology, Kiel University*

Lisbeth Christensen[1]: Die Tradition der Urnengräberfelder in Südjütland insbesondere mit Fokus auf unterschiedliche Grabsitten

Der Beitrag gibt sowohl eine Forschungsgeschichtliche Introduktion zum Phänomen der Urnengräberfelder als auch einen Überblick über Stand der Forschung. Hier wird insbesondere auf den heutigen Wissensstand um spezifisch die Flachhügelgräber im südjütischen Raum eingegangen werden.

Darüber hinaus werden Unterschiede innerhalb der Grabsitte der frühen vorrömischen Eisenzeit aufgezeigt werden. Die vorrömischen Brandgräber zeigen eine gewisse Vielfalt in Bezug auf Grabformen und Grabbau. Urnengrab, Knochenlager, Brandschüttungsgrab, Brandgrubengrab und Kenotaph. Brandgräber mit oder ohne Steinschutz oder mit Steinkisten aus plattigen Steinen. Einige dieser Grabformen zeigen eine Kontinuität in Bezug auf Grabform von der Jungbronzezeit zur älteren Eisenzeit. Die speziellen Flachhügelgräber im westlichen Teil Jütlands repräsentieren jedoch ein neues Phänomen innerhalb der frühen Eisenzeit. Hinzu kommen die Sekundärgräber in älteren Grabhügeln, die Flachgräberfelder sowie Steinpflaster im östlichen Teil der Jütischen Halbinsel. Unterschiede und Gemeinsamkeiten in Relation zu Grabformen, Grabsitte und Beigabenausstattung werden durch Beispiele von sowohl großen Gräberfeldern wie Aarupgård, Aarre und Uldal, sowie andere weniger bekannten, südjütischen Gräberfeldern veranschaulicht werden.

[1]*Museum Sønderjylland – Arkæologi Haderslev*

Anna Egelund Poulsen[1]: Bringing the Aarupgaard Urnfield Excavations into the 21st century

The excavation history at the Aarupgaard urnfield in southern Jutland, which for the most part took place in the early 1970s, will be presented, as well as the digitalization strategy of the excavation data in present time. The following topics will be addressed: Which methods were used during the excavations, what were the results and how the data was preserved. Which new data has been collected, which new surveys have been carried out? And what is yet to be done?

The task of sorting and digitalizing the massive amount of data was approached with some caution, as the character of the written data differs somewhat from the methods we would normally use today. The work began by sorting out the great amount of data and categorizing it. Secondly, we made an overall plan as to how we could most efficiently digitalize the data, which consists of objects, a large amount of hand written notes, hand written lists and a small amount of excavation notes written on a typewriter. In addition to this we have a large amount of pictures, drawings, excavation plans and slides which are also awaiting digitalization. Some problems presented themselves once the digital work started. Also, new questions had to be answered.

New approaches: Drone flights at the burial site itself gave us some overview images, which enabled us to make mapping using photogrammetry. We also carried out a search for the landmarks, which had been used for the measurements in the 1970s. In collaboration with the University of Kiel, we also did geomagnetic surveys in the field both at the actual burial site and the areas surrounding it.

[1]*Museum Sønderjylland – Arkæologi Haderslev*

Niels Algreen Møller[1]: The late urnfield phenomenon: Burial rites and identity in Danish Iron Age Urnfields

A recent study of two Danish Iron Age Urnfields, Søhale and Veldbæk, undertook the first osteological analysis of Danish urnfield materials in combination with a re-examination of all the archaeological materials. In many aspects, the Danish urnfield rituals resemble activities in both earlier and contemporary urnfields in north-western Europe and the study shows the possibilities of further re-examination of materials from previously

excavated urnfields. Taking its point of departure in the study of the two urnfields, this paper will discuss the "Stand der Forschung" of the late urnfield phenomenon in Denmark in its wider north-western European context and suggest future lines of investigation regarding expression of identity, prolonged burial rituals and burial rituals as markers of cultural identity in the Late Bronze Age/early Iron Age.

[1]*Museum Thy*

Anna-Theres Andersen[1]: to be announced

[1]*Institute of Pre- and Protohistoric Archaeology, Kiel University*

Helene Agerskov Rose[1] and Lisbeth Christensen[2]: Das URNFIELD Projekt

URNFIELD ist ein Netzwerkprojekt, dass das Phänomen der prähistorischen Urnengräber in der deutsch-dänischen Grenzregion untersuchen und vermitteln möchte. Wissenschaftler haben während der letzten hundert Jahre innerhalb des Grenzgebiets tausende von Gräbern ausgegraben. Dabei war der Fokus jedoch immer auf nationale Themen gerichtet, das heißt die deutschen und dänischen Archäolog*innen haben jeweils ihr eigenes Material untersucht. Das Ziel von URNFIELD ist es, ein Forschungsnetzwerk und Forum für den Austausch von Erfahrungen und Informationen zu schaffen, das grenzüberschreitend ist. Das Forschungsnetzwerk soll die Grundlage für weitere Projekte bilden, die diese einzigartigen archäologischen Befunde untersuchen sollen. Bei Einbeziehung von naturwissenschaftlichen Methoden und durch interdisziplinäre Zusammenarbeit sollen die Ergebnisse uns neue Informationen über die Gesellschaft der Eisenzeit liefern.

[1]*Zentrum für Baltische und Skandinavische Archäologie (ZBSA), Stiftung Schleswig-Holsteinische Landesmuseen Schloss Gottorf*
[2]*Museum Sønderjylland – Arkæologi Haderslev*

Lene Frandsen[1]: Billumvad and other sites with ring ditches in Archeology West Jutland's geographical area of responsibility

Just East of Oksbøl, not far from the West Coast of Denmark a larger part of urnfield was excavated in 2013. The burial site was not investigated in its entirety, but it would appear that the excavated area was the central part, as evidenced by the remains of a couple of Stone Age mounds, which probably formed the starting point for the burial site. The features within the ring ditches vary greatly: cremation graves with or without urns, bone-layer graves, fire pits and pits with vessels or potsherd but no bones. The same types of features were also seen between the ring ditches, where a few cooking pits and posthole also have been found. The design of the ring ditches also varies greatly, both in terms of size and number of entrances.

In recent years, several new sites with ring ditches have emerged in Archeology West Jutland's area, both in connection with the systematic review of aerial photography and excavation activity. An attempt must be made here to create an overview of both well-known urnfields and new sites with ring ditches.

[1]*Arkæologi Vestjylland, Vardemuseerne*

Sarah Qvistgaard[1] and Bente Grundvad[1]: The urnfield Korsvanggaard

46 graves were excavated in 2020 at Korsvanggaard, close to St. Darum (Esbjerg). The graves are mainly urn graves with ring ditches, but also graves without ring ditches, ring ditches without graves, and a few cremation graves as in the type of *burn spots*. Two pathways on each side of the burial ground, might be simultaneous with the burial ground, but might also have been established later, with the pathways going around and not damaging the graves.

[1]*Sydvestjyske Museer, Arkæologi*

Scott Dollar[1] and Lars Grundvad[1]: Settlements without grave sites – grave sites without settlements

Museum Sønderskov has excavated relatively few urnfield sites from the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age and similarly few contemporary settlement sites. Nevertheless, both types of sites are known in the Museum's area of responsibility, although they are never located near each other. It is thus remarkable that it has not been possible to identify urnfields near settlements. Is this simply a matter of preservation or is there a topographical explanation for this lack of cohesion? It is the hope that we can shed light on this topic at this poster session.

[1]*Museet Sønderskov*