

## Recent Excavations and Discoveries

Please observe the following abbreviations:

- s. *sgn*, Danish parish
- h. *herred*, Danish district
- a. *amt*, Danish county

All places mentioned in this list can be located on the map p. 223 and identified by their no.

### PALAEOLITHIC

#### 1. SEBBELUNG, Fyn

Øster Hæsinge s., Sallinge h., Svendborg a.

##### Reindeer antler implement

The artifact (fig. 1) was found in 1981 during drainage digging in a layer of clay at a depth of c. 2 m. below layers of peat and sand. It measures 54.3 cm. and consists of the proximal part of the antler beam. The bez-tine at the distal end is smoothed and has an oblique facet at the end which forms a tongue-shaped edge.

A limited number of such reindeer antler implements have been found in Denmark and none of them comes from a securely dated context (see survey in Skaarup, reference cited below). There is a close parallel from Løgeskov, likewise on Fyn (Skaarup, no. 6, fig. 6). The type with a tongue-shaped, parallel edge is known from the upper layers of the Late Palaeolithic site at Stellmoor in Holstein (Ahrensburg Culture, Younger Dryas).

*Nationalmuseet*, Prehist. Dept. A 51070 (deposited at *Fyns Stiftsmuseum*, Odense). – Lit. on reindeer antler implements from Denmark: Th. Mathiassen: Some Recently found Reindeer Antler Implements in Denmark. *Acta Archaeologica* IX, 1938. – V. Nielsen: Another Blade Handle of Reindeer Antler. *Acta Archaeologica* XVII, 1946. – J. Skaarup: Et rentakslagvåben fra Storebælt. *Fynske Minder* 1974 (Odense).

P.O. Nielsen

### MESOLITHIC

#### 2. ENGEBÆKGÅRD, North Sjælland

Græse s., Lynge-Frederiksborg h., Frederiksborg a.

##### Settlement site

In the area around Frederikssund a number of Late Mesolithic settlements have recently been discovered. At one of the sites, Engebækgård, a trial excavation in 1982 revealed a culture

layer from the Early Ertebølle Culture. The finds are almost exclusively of flint as no organic material has survived. Among the c. 4000 pieces of flint are 13 core axes, including preforms and fragments, 12 transverse arrowheads with oblique edge, 13 transverse arrowheads with straight edge, and a few scrapers, borers, and burins. Among the cores only one is a micro-blade core. Two rhombic arrowheads suggest a minor occupation at the time of the Late Kongemose Culture. The site is situated on the northern bank of a former inlet which in Atlantic Time was a small fiord.

*Nationalmuseet*, Prehist. Dept. 4455/82.

P.O. Nielsen

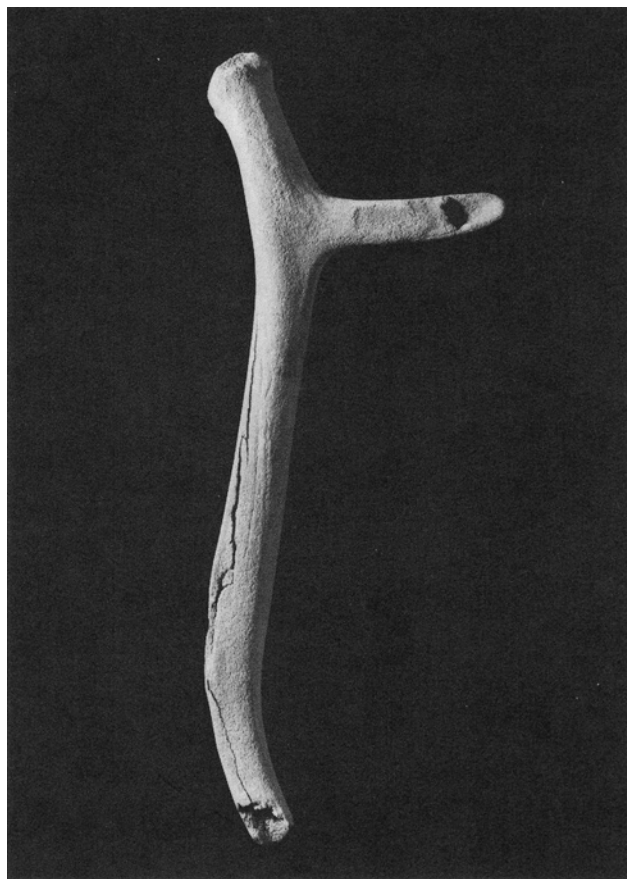


Fig. 1. Reindeer antler implement from Sebbelung, Fyn (no. 1). Length: 54.3 cm. (L. Larsen photo).

**3. GRISBY, Bornholm**  
Ibsker s., Bornholms Øster-Herred, Bornh.

**Settlement site**

In 1982 a trial excavation revealed settlement material from the Late Ertebølle Culture imbedded in a beach ridge. There were a number of separate settlement phases. The finds comprise typical Ertebølle pottery, a greenstone axe, and faunal remains (fish and mammals, mainly seal). Excavation by Finn Ole Nielsen.

*Bornholms Museum, Rønne, 981.*

Margrethe Watt

**4. GULLESTRUP, West Jutland**  
Herning s., Hammerum h., Ringkøbing a.

**Settlement site**

In 1980 trial excavation was carried out of 23 m<sup>2</sup> of a large settlement on a terrace facing the river Storå. The finds included 53 microliths, 33 rhombic arrowheads, and 15 transverse arrowheads.

*Herning Museum 2097.* – Lit.: H. Rostholm: *Oldtiden på Herningegnen*. Herning Museum, 1982, p. 12 and figs. 3–4.

Hans Rostholm

## NEOLITHIC

**5. Vestergård, East Sjælland**  
Solrød s., Tune h., København a.

**Middle Neolithic settlement site**

In 1982 an area with pits and a few postholes was investigated. One of the pits contained finds from Period III of the MN TRB Culture: finely ornamented pottery together with coarse vessels, blanks for flint axes, a flint axe of the Bundsø type, transverse arrowheads, awls, scrapers, and a well-preserved faunal material.

*Køge Museum 1010.*

Svend Åge Tornbjerg

**6. SIGERSTED, Central Sjælland**  
Sigersted s., Ringsted h., Sorø a.

**Settlement site**

The settlement is situated on a sandy terrace overlooking the river Suså. In 1979 a large pit with finds from Period II of the Middle Neolithic TRB Culture was excavated and in 1982 a pit from the Early Neolithic Period A was found and excavated. The finds from the latter (Pit A) were rich in pottery and flint. There are fragments of a variety of pottery vessels including both large and small funnel-beakers, lugged vessels, clay

discs, and fragments of two clay spoons. C. 29 kg. of flint was recovered half of which was fire-shattered. Among the flint artifacts were flake axes, flake scrapers, backed knives, borers, transverse arrowheads, and fragments of polished axes of the pointed-butted type.

The finds from Pit A are comparable to the settlement finds from Muldbjerg (J. Troels-Smith, *Aarbøger* 1953), St. Valby (C.J. Becker, *Aarbøger* 1954), and Värby in Scania (B. Salomonsson, *Acta Archaeologica*, Vol. 41, 1970).

*Nationalmuseet, Prehist. Dept. 2103/77.*

P.O. Nielsen

**7. BØGEBJERG, Langeland**  
Magleby s., Langeland Sdr. h., Svendborg a.

**Megalithic grave**

The remains of a passage grave were excavated on a promontory east of Nordenbrogård, southern Langeland. The chamber had measured 9 × 2.2 m with a cobbled floor and entrance from the east. In the floor layer were found numerous human bones as well as flint axes, blade implements, transverse arrowheads, amber beads, and pottery. Of particular note was a battle-axe of Fredsgårde type. The tomb was in use from period I to V of the Middle Neolithic. The surrounding barrow was rectangular and measured 23 × 10 m.

*Langelands Museum 11164.*

Jørgen Skaarup

**8. FREDENSBRO, Strynø**  
Strynø s., Sunds h., Svendborg a.

**Grave and Mortuary House**

Near the remains of a destroyed domed structure was found an E-W orientated inhumation grave with faint indications of a double burial – unfortunately with no grave goods. A few meters away were found the remains of a small U-shaped structure of wood, in which was found an unpolished thin-butted flint axe. For the present the feature may be regarded as a small mortuary house.

*Langelands Museum 9887.*

Jørgen Skaarup

**9. DONS, East Jutland**  
Vester Nebel s., Brusk h., Vejle a.

**Single-Grave mound**

Five barrows were excavated in connection with the laying of the natural gas pipeline between Egtved and Snoghøj. One at Dons contained a male burial from the Bottom-Grave Period. There were found traces of a wooden coffin, a stone battle-axe, a flint axe, 7 flint arrowheads, an amber ring, and a blade knife.

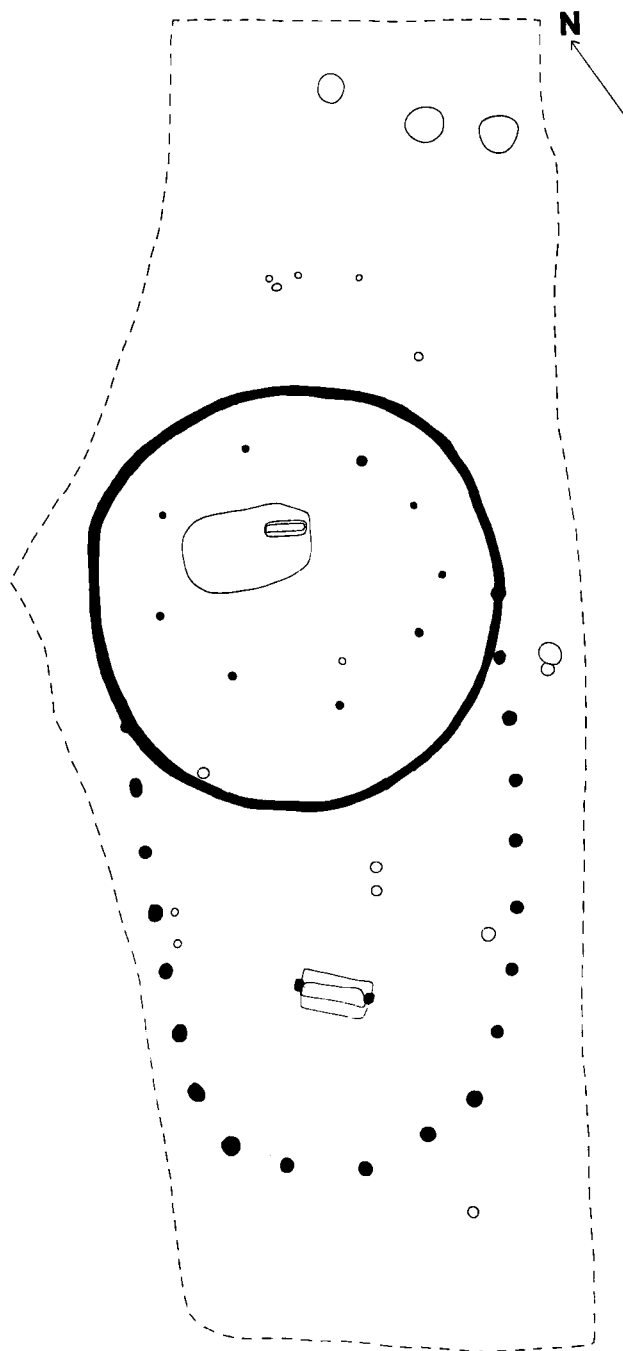


Fig. 2. Plan of the excavation at Løsning, East Jutland (no. 12). Scale 1:300.

Under the barrow was found a ring-ditch in which there had stood posts reaching a depth of 1.5 m. Excavated by Lone Hvass.

Vejle Kulturhistoriske Museum M514.

Steen Hvass

## 10. HARRESKOV, West Jutland Assing s., Hammerum h., Ringkøbing a.

### Grave mound

Excavated in a tree belt in winter 1982–83. Dimensions 15 × 5 m, height 1.5 m. Highest was a grave with a clay vessel and a bronze ring from the Early Bronze Age. Lower down were three graves from the Single-Grave Culture. In the earliest, which lay on the original ground surface, was found a battle-axe of Ground Grave type. Grave 2 contained 41 amber beads and was surrounded by a 3 m long rectangular setting of large stones. In grave 3 was found a straight-walled beaker and a battle-axe from the Upper-Grave Period. Environmental studies of the turf-line and fill are being made by the Danish Geological Survey.

Herning Museum 2478.

Hans Rostholm

## 11. SKARRILD MOSE, West Jutland Skarrild s., Hammerum h., Ringkøbing a.

### Settlement site

In 1978–80 part of a large settlement site of the Late TRB Culture was excavated on the eastern bank of Skarrild Bog. Within an area of 2500 sq. m. many postholes, pits, and a few fireplaces were found as well as culture layers dating from the Middle Neolithic TRB Culture, mainly Period V. In 1980 11 amber beads shaped like double-edged battleaxes were found in a small pit. The finds include i.a. 542 scrapers and 484 fragments of polished flint axes and chisels. Forty sherds had imprints of cereals, mostly emmer and einkorn. Also in 1980 a grave complex of the Single-Grave Culture was investigated (see H. Rostholm, *JDA*, Vol. 1, pp. 35–38).

Herning Museum 1519. – Lit.: H. Rostholm: *Oldtiden på Herningegnen*. Herning Museum, 1982, pp. 32–34, figs. 18–20.

Hans Rostholm

## LATE NEOLITHIC AND BRONZE AGE

## 12. LØSNING, East Jutland Løsning s., Hatting h., Vejle a.

### Grave mound

In connection with the laying of a gas pipeline a ploughed-over barrow was excavated, measuring 20 × 30 m., being c. 1 m. high. Within living memory the now ruined monument appeared as a twin barrow. The excavation showed that there was an older, circular barrow from the Late Neolithic with an extension added in the Early Bronze Age (fig. 2).

The earliest grave was a timber-built chamber measuring 5.35 × 3.24 m., constructed c. 1 m. below the original surface. Just above the bottom of the grave was a compact layer of charred wooden planks parallel to and at right angles to the axis of

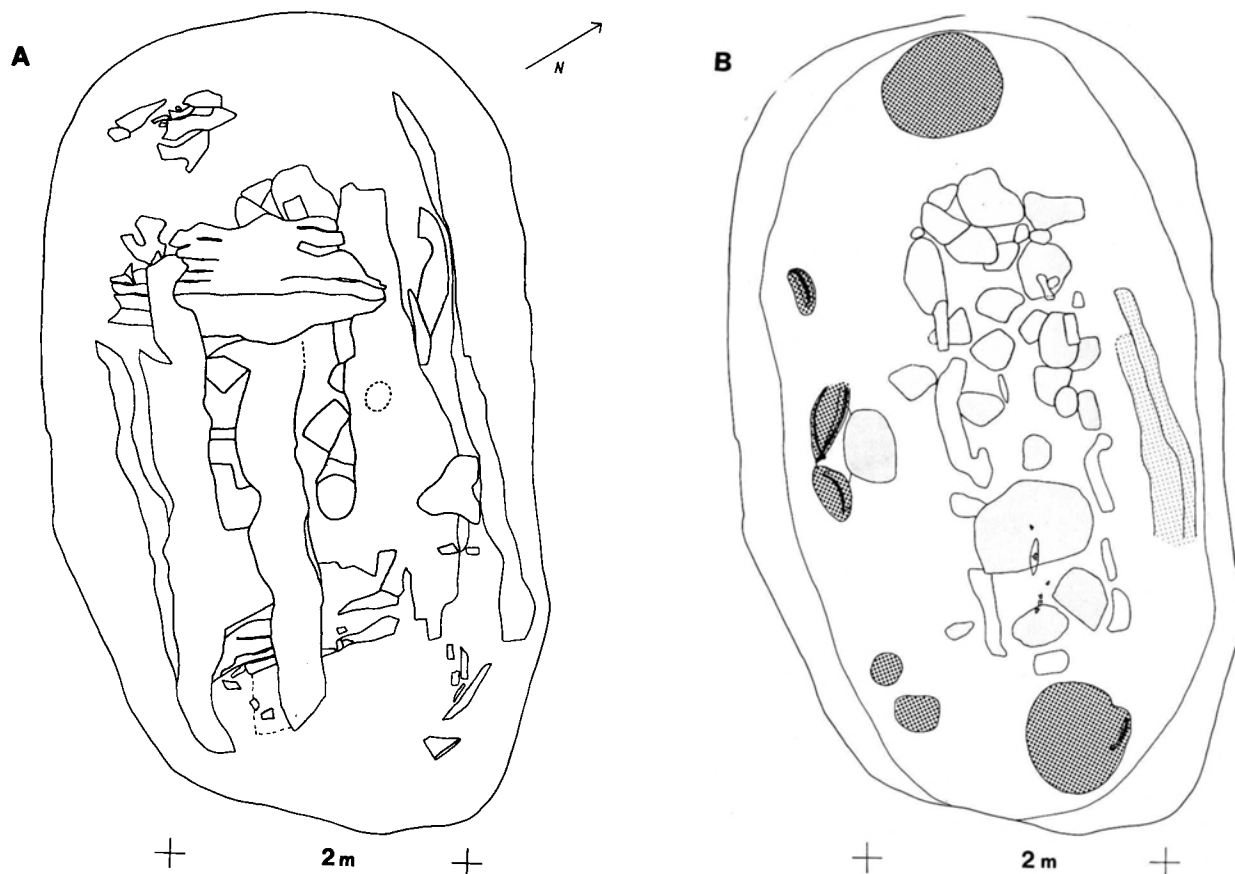


Fig. 3. — a, plan of the grave chamber at Løsning (no. 12) showing the remains of a wooden superstructure. — b, the stone paving with artifacts.

the grave (fig. 3a). From the remains of timber a reconstruction was attempted. Below the layer of charred wood was a paving of flat stones (fig. 36). On top of the paving there were two borders of clay which were interpreted as the remains of the foundation of a coffin. On the stone paving two flint daggers (type I and II) were found together with 7 barbed flint arrowheads. At each end of the grave was a large posthole, obviously supports for a ridged superstructure. Along the southern edge of the grave were a number of smaller postholes, and in the opposite side a shallow ditch was found. Charred wood occurred in some of the postholes.

Above this grave a small cremation burial was found measuring  $1.66 \times 0.29$  m. The grave was not containing any stones, but there were traces of a log coffin. This grave is undated as no grave goods were found. Both the above-mentioned graves were surrounded by a ring of small postholes, again surrounded by a ring-ditch, 16–17 cm. in diam., in which the imprints of upright wooden posts were detected.

Seven-eight m south of the circular ditch was another grave appearing as a layer of stones with a depression in the middle, being the foundation of a now disintegrated log coffin. There were large postholes at both ends of this grave, too, suggesting that it had also had a ridged superstructure. The grave contained a bronze dagger in a wooden sheath, a palstave, and two

goldwire bracelets, dating to the E.B.A. Period II. This grave had been encircled by an oval setting of upright posts, forming an extension to the first barrow. C. 5 m. North of the ring-ditch four cinerary urns from the L.B.A. were found. — Excavation by Per Ethelberg.

*Vejle kulturhistoriske Museum M525. — Lit.: Skalk no. 6, 1982.*

Steen Hvass

## BRONZE AGE

13. VIBY, Central Sjælland  
Syv s., Ramsø h., København a.

### Votive axes

In 1977 the National Museum received a massive bronze axe from Viby, one of the heaviest Bronze Age implements ever found. In the spring of 1983 a similar axe was found in Viby c. 1 km. from the first one. None of the axes were found *in situ* and both were discovered in redeposited soil, the original find location of the axes thus being unknown but possibly within the Viby municipal area. The axe first found (fig. 4, above) is 46 cm. long and weighs 5230 g. The second axe (fig. 4, below) is

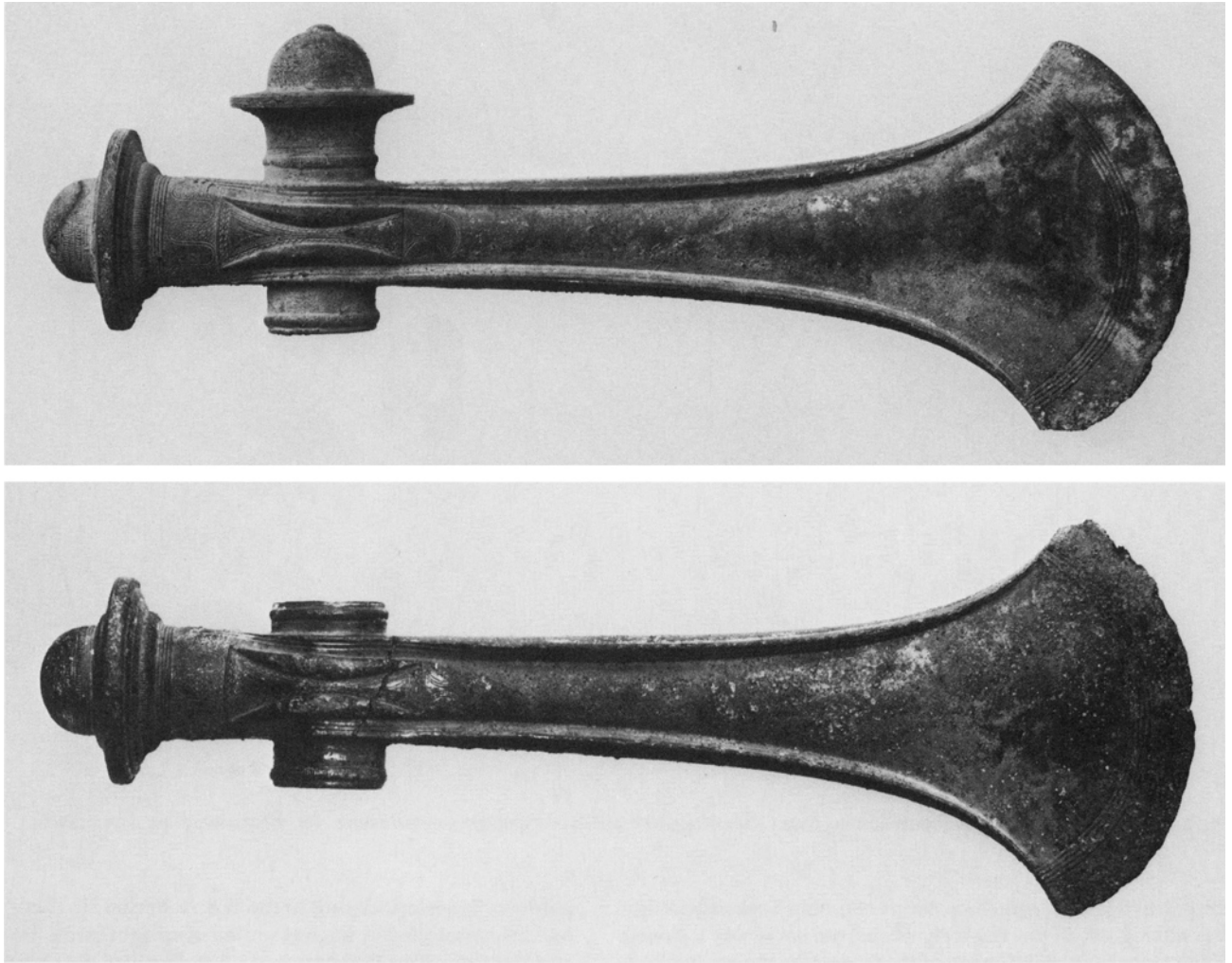


Fig. 4. Massive bronze axes from Viby, Sjælland (no. 13). Above the axe from 1977 (length 46 cm.), below the one recently found (length 45.5 cm.) (L. Larsen photo).

45.5 cm. long and weighs 5130 g. They are decorated in an almost identical way with fine lines and spirals of the E.B.A. Period II. A small fragment of the wooden shaft was found deep in the socket of axe no. 1, the wood being determined as ash (*Fraxinus* sp.). The top cap at the end of the socket on axe no. 2 is missing.

Assuming that the two almost identical axes were deposited together in the B.A., this find is comparable with the two massive bronze axes from Egebak in North Jutland.

*Nationalmuseet*, Prehist. Dept. 2104/77. – Lit.: J. Jensen: *Kultøksker fra bronzealderen. Nationalmuseets Arbejdsmark*, 1978 (Copenhagen).

**14. NORS HAVRELAND**, North-West Jutland  
Nors s., Hillerslev h., Thisted a.

**Grave mound**

Two cremation cists were excavated in a ploughed-over barrow. One also contained fragments of a twisted bronze bracelet, the other a bone pin with perforated head. Excavated 1981.

*Museet for Thy og Vester Hanherred*, Thisted, 1673.

Anne-Louise Olsen

**15. NØRHÅ**, North-West Jutland  
Nørhå s., Hundborg h., Thisted a.

**Grave mound**

On the site of a completely ploughed-away barrow were found

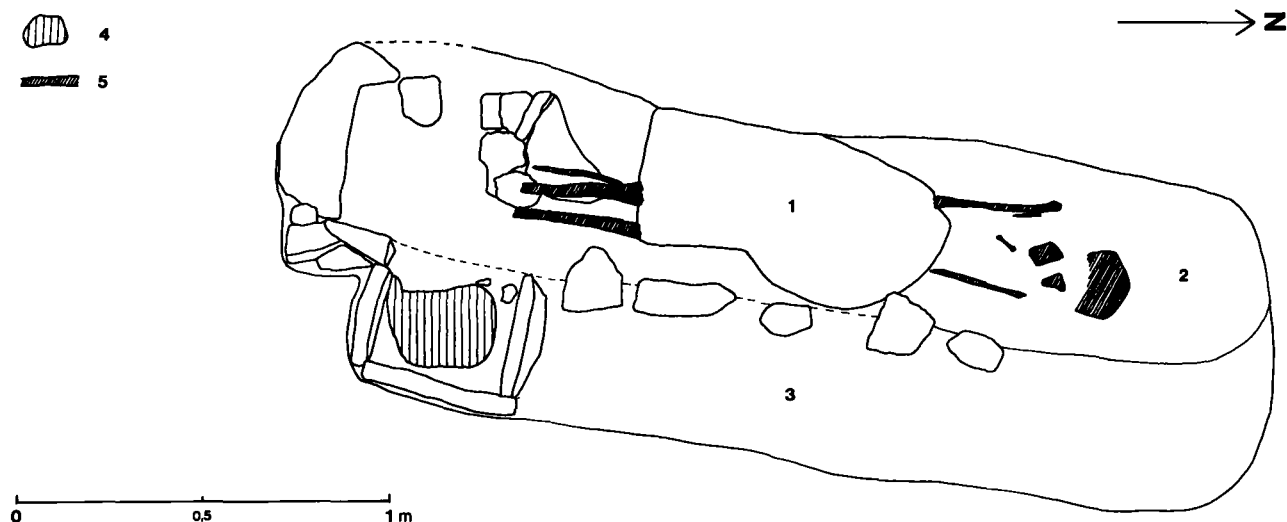


Fig. 5. Plan of double burial from Nørhå, North-West Jutland (no. 15). – 1, recent disturbance; 2, traces of log coffin; 3, heterogeneous fill; 4, cremated bones; 5, uncremated bones.

three graves. The one that is thought to be primary was a double grave with the skull and longbones of an unburned skeleton, probably originally in a log coffin (fig. 5). No grave-goods were found, but the grave was already disturbed. At the foot of the grave was a rectangular setting of flat pieces of limestone, containing the cremated remains of a second individual. There were also two cremation cists without grave goods. At the end of one of them was an oval pit 1.7 m long and 0.3 m deep containing charcoal and red-burned sand, probably from the pyre.

*Museet for Thy og Vester Hanherred*, Thisted, 1550.

Anne-Louise Olsen

#### 16. VILLERUP, North-West Jutland Vestervig s., Refs h., Thisted a.

##### Grave mound

Destroyed mound, excavated 1981–82. The barrow was built in 5 stages and contained 6 stone cists with cremated bone. The primary grave measured 0.8 × 0.4 m. and contained the burnt remains of a 5–6 year old child, a belt ornament (*tutulus*) of bronze, and a piece of woven cloth. The mound covering the infant grave was only 4.1 m. in diam. and 0.5 m. high. Belonging to phase 3 of the mound was a large stone cist measuring 2.0 × 0.8 m. containing cremated bones, a bronze sword with wooden sheath, and a bronze pin. There was a cup-mark on the inside of one of the capstones of the cist. In the 3rd phase the mound had been surrounded by a stone kerb, whereas in the 4th and 5th phases there were ring-ditches with imprints of posts. In the final phase the barrow was 21 m. in diam. and 2.60

m. heigh. – Excavation by Jakob Vedsted and Per Orla Thomsen.

*Museet for Thy og Vester Hanherred*, Thisted, 1696.

Anne-Louise Olsen

#### 17. SPJALD, West Jutland Brejning s., Hind h., Ringkøbing a.

##### Settlement site

In connection with road construction works on Highway A 11 some 2300 sq.m. were investigated, supplementing earlier, extensive excavations (1). In the recently excavated area which lies E of the highway parts of four buildings, refuse pits, and cooking pits from the L.B.A. Period 6 were found, together with a cremation burial from Period 1 of the Pre-Roman I.A. On the same spot a Pre-Roman Period Ia cremation burial had previously been found. Among the settlement material there is a great quantity of pottery, hammerstones, a quernstone, flint tools and debris, and, finally, many fragments of a clay mould for a twisted torque (*Wendelring*) of the type Broholm, 1953, no. 271 (2). It should be noted, that this find has occurred in a part of the country from which torques of this type have not been previously recorded (3). This may either be due to cultural differences or different conditions of preservation.

*Nationalmuseet*, Prehist. Dept. 436/71.

(1) C.J. BECKER: Hal og hus i yngre bronzealder. *Nationalmuseets Arbejds-mark*, 1972. Copenhagen.

(2) H.C. BROHOLM: *Danske Oldsager*, IV, *Yngre Bronzealder*. Copenhagen 1953.



Fig. 6. Miniature vessels from Building A.II at the late Pre-Roman Iron Age settlement at Højris, West Jutland (no. 21).

- (3) E. BAUDOU: *Die regionale und chronologische Einteilung der jüngeren Bronzezeit im Nordischen Kreis*. Studies in North European Archaeology, 1. Stockholm 1960.

Leif Chr. Nielsen

## PRE-ROMAN AND ROMAN IRON AGE

### 18. HELTBORG, North-West Jutland Heltborg s., Refs h., Thisted a.

#### Village mound

A large rescue excavation was carried out in 1981–82 of a thick occupation layer from the Early Iron Age. The 1,600 m<sup>2</sup> excavated is thought to represent about one third of the settlement. The thickness of the deposit ranged from 45 cm to 1 m. Twenty-four houses were found from period III of the Pre-Roman and the Early Roman Iron Age, and also one house from the Later Roman Period. The settlement began in period IIIa, but its end is hard to establish with the same confidence as the upper layers have been largely destroyed by cultivation. Some of the sherds found must date from the Early Germanic Period.

In general it may be said that settlement was centred at three places within the area excavated, where there stood houses all the time from Pre-Roman period III to the end of Early Roman times. Up to six houses lay directly above one another.

Unconnected with these was a single house from the Late Bronze Age. It was 17.5 m long with door posts set back out of line.

*Museet for Thy og Vester Hanherred*, Thisted 1690.

Jens Henrik Bech

### 19. RUGSTEDLUND, East Jutland Ødsted s., Jerlev h., Vejle a.

#### Settlement site

Excavation work along the gas pipeline revealed a settlement with 15 buildings from the Pre-Roman and Roman Iron Age. A

large ceramic material from the Early Roman Period was recovered. – Excavation by Chr. Adamsen.

*Vejle kulturhistoriske Museum* M856.

Steen Hvass

### 20. GAMMEL SOLE, East Jutland Øster Snede s., Nørvang h., Vejle a.

#### Settlement site

Natural gas excavation. The pipeline passed straight through a late Pre-Roman and Early Roman village, of which a 200 m long and 20 m wide strip could be excavated. Fourteen houses were found, falling into two groups with a 60 m stretch without houses between. In the SW area were found a house 19 m long with eight bays, a 12 m long house with four bays, and four 9 m long houses with three bays. In the NE area were found four houses that succeeded one another. They had had 5–6 bays and lengths of about 18 m. North of them were found three 9 m long houses with three bays, and still further north, at the edge of a low area liable to flooding, traces of two 13–14 m long houses with 4–5 bays. The plan of this settlement appears to resemble that of the village excavated at Hodde, south-central Jutland (S. Hvass in *Acta Archaeologica* vol. 46, 1975). – Excavation by Per Ethelberg.

*Vejle kulturhistoriske Museum* M879.

Steen Hvass

### 21. HØJRIS, West Jutland Nørre Omme s., Hind h., Ringkøbing a.

#### Settlement site

In the autumn of 1982 a Pre-Roman (Period IIIa)–Early Roman Iron Age settlement was partly excavated. Three farm complexes were found, each with a number of buildings surrounded by a fence. From one of the farm complexes a large amount of iron slag and white porous cinders from smithing hearths was obtained. In each of the postholes of the roof-supports in the main building of one of the house-groups a miniature clay vessel was found (fig. 6). Ard-furrows from later cultivation were detected over parts of the settlement area. – Excavation by Leif Chr. Nielsen.

*Nationalmuseet*, Prehist. Dept. 3882/81.

## ROMAN IRON AGE

### 22. HAVBOGÅRD, East Sjælland Solrød s., Tune h., København a.

#### Settlement site

A rescue excavation occasioned by the natural gas pipeline revealed the remains of four buildings belonging to a settlement from the Early Roman I.A. Only the holes of the roof-support-

ing posts were preserved. Around the buildings was a wide area with many pits containing pottery, animal bones, and hammerstones.

*Køge Museum* 1012.

Sv. Åge Tornbjerg

**23. OLLERUP SØ, Fyn**  
Svendborg a.

**Bronze saucepan**

Roman saucepan of Gødåker type (fig. 7), found years ago on the bank of Ollerup Lake, handed over to the Svendborg og Omegns Museum in 1982. The end of the handle is missing, and no manufacturer's stamp is preserved. Height: 10.1 cm., rim diam.: 19.4 cm. The inside has a babbitt-metal lining. The outside wears a simple decoration consisting of horizontal lines below the out-turned rim and above the base. The latter is profiled in an elaborate way with 5 concentric ribs around a central knob. This is the third saucepan of Gødåker type found in Fyn. Date: Early Roman Iron Age.

*Nationalmuseet*, Prehist. Dept. C30239. – Deposited in *Svendborg og Omegns Museum*. – Lit.: Ulla Hansen: En romersk kasserolle fra Ollerup, Fyn. *Årbog for Svendborg & Omegns Museum*, 1982, pp. 25–30.

Ulla Lund Hansen

**24. TVED, Fyn**  
Tved s., Sunds h., Svendborg a.

**Settlement site**

In 1982 a settlement from the Early Roman I.A. was excavated at Tved, c. 3 km. North of Svendborg. The remains of 7 buildings measuring 11–20 m. in length were excavated, together with one smaller building, 4 huts or barns, and sporadic traces of fences. The large buildings were of the common type with two rows of roof-supporting posts and, as it seems, walls consisting of vertical posts with wattle-and-daub. No culture-layer, however, was preserved at the house-sites. The buildings were grouped along an E-W orientated line. To the east a well was found. Due to the find circumstances it could not be determined whether the excavated features were contemporary so as to form a village, or whether they represented different stages of the development of 2–3 farm complexes.

The finds mostly come from pits and from a dump area in an adjacent originally flooded area. They consist of pottery, iron slag, a few iron implements, quernstones, and bones of cattle, sheep, pigs, and horses. The site is dated by the pottery to the 1st century A.D. Among the potsherds a small number with painted decoration deserve attention.

*Svendborg og Omegns Museum* TM82. – Lit.: *Årbog for Svendborg og Omegns Museum*, 1982, pp. 6–24.

Per O. Thomsen



Fig. 7. Bronze saucepan from Ollerup, Fyn (no. 23) (L. Larsen photo).

**25. PRIORSLØKKE, East Jutland**  
Horsens s., Nim h., Skanderborg a.

**Fortified settlement site**

The settlement is surrounded on three sides by swampy areas close to the bank of Hansted River. To the south, it is protected by a fortification consisting of a dry moat and a palisade of oak stakes. On the low hill on which the settlement is situated 17 larger and 11 smaller buildings have been excavated until the spring of 1983. The large buildings are of the ordinary E–W orientated Early Iron Age type with from 3 to 7 sets of roof-supporting posts, being c. 5 m. wide and up to 20 m long. No floor-layers are preserved and only the holes of the larger posts have survived. There is a considerable differentiation in size among the buildings. The settlement is dated by pottery to the Early Roman I.A. A few refuse-pits with pottery and quernstones from the early Pre-Roman Period were also found.

*Nationalmuseet*, Prehist. Dept. 1180/75.

P.O. Nielsen





Fig. 8. Sheet-gold figure from Fyn (no. 26). Height: 6.7 cm. (L. Larsen photo).

## GERMANIC IRON AGE

### 26. FYN

#### Sheet-gold figure

Male figure of sheet gold, 6.7 cm. high (fig. 8). The body is naked but wears a smooth neck-ring. There are narrow, tripartite bands around the top of the head, dividing it from front to back in two halves, possibly an indication of the coiffure. The eyes are small round buttons encircled by beaded strings. The ears are flat and pretzel-shaped. The head, body, and upper parts of the legs seem to be made of two thin sheets of gold which are soldered together. The arms and lower parts of the legs with the feet are made separately. The feet are pierced which suggests that the figure was once fastened on a support. From this it must have been torn with force, as the metal is broken at the perforations. A date to the Early Germanic Iron Age is suggested by the type of the neck-ring.

The figure was picked up on the surface at the same place as large number of metal objects including a Roman *aureus* (Valerian), a golden pendant, and a smaller object of bronze with a human face. The find location is concealed as investigations are still in progress.

*Nationalmuseet*, Prehist. Dept. 4013/81.

### 27. GUDME, Fyn Gudme s., G.h., Svendborg a.

#### Bronze statuette

During a continuous registration of surface finds a large number of metal objects mainly from the Late Roman – Early Germanic Periods have been recovered. Among the finds is a small bronze figure of a human being riding on a beast of indeterminate nature (fig. 9). The statuette is 5 cm. high, has faint traces of gilding, and appears to have been attached to a larger object. The crown of the head is set off, suggesting the coiffure, and the hair hangs down at the back in a pony-tail manner. Otherwise the body is rendered in a simple way with no details of clothing or ornaments. The find context suggests an Early Germanic I.A. date. There are, however, no exact parallels among the sculptured art of that time.

*Fyns Stiftsmuseum and Nationalmuseet*, Prehist. Dept. 4620/82.

P.O. Nielsen

## VIKING AGE AND MEDIEVAL

### 28. FRIBRØDREÅ, Falster Maglebrænde s., Falsters Nr. h., Maribo a.

#### Shipyard(?)

During works along a small stream in northern Falster some ship's timbers were found. In 1982 a number of trial trenches were dug parallel with and at right angles to the stream. The deposits were found to be peaty, resting on till 3 m below the present surface. At a depth of 2 m was found a layer containing ship's timbers and waste material in the form of chips and to a greater or lesser degree worked wood and branches. There were also tools and pottery.

Most of the ship's timbers were worn and damaged pieces from different ships, though apparently all were from vessels built in the Nordic tradition of the Viking and early Medieval periods. It should be noted, however, that the planks were not held together with iron clench rivets, as in other Nordic finds, but with small, closely-spaced wooden plugs, a feature often connected with Slavonic ship-building.

The site is provisionally interpreted as a place where ships were repaired and possibly built in the 11th or 12th century.

*The Viking Ship Museum*, Roskilde, 57/82.

Jan Skamby Madsen

### 29. OMGÅRD, West Jutland Nørre Omme s., Hind h., Ringkøbing a.

#### Road and waterfront constructions

Excavations were undertaken in the autumn of 1982 as a continuation of the previous investigations of a large Viking Age settlement (see *Acta Archaeologica*, vol. 50, 1979, pp. 173–208). The most recent campaign has been concerned with dam and

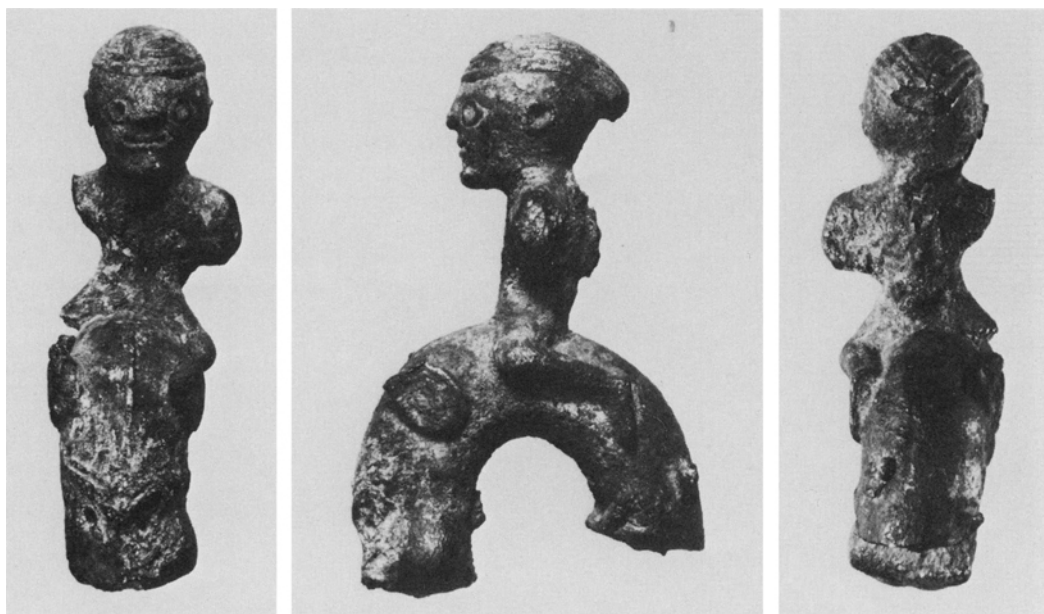


Fig. 9. Bronze statuette from Gudme, Fyn (no. 27). Height: 5 cm. (L. Larsen photo).

road works from the late Viking Age along the river Pøl Bæk. Part of the artificial embankment is interpreted as a quay. Examination of the deposits makes it possible to demonstrate a successive rising of the water level. Among the finds are parts of waggons (including a hub), various pieces of timber, and a fragment of a green glass bead. – Excavation by Leif Chr. Nielsen.

*Nationalmuseet*, Prehist. Dept. 114075 & 2947/80.

### 30. ÅRHUS

#### Excavation of the Medieval town hall and square

In connection with a planned re-shaping of Store Torv (the main square) (fig. 10), in the summer of 1982 a large urban-archaeological investigation in the centre of the Viking Age town within the ramparts was launched. The aim of the excavation was to investigate the Medieval town hall and to examine the date of the square and to demonstrate previous traces of settlement, if any.

The town hall functioned up to 1859 when it was pulled down. It was situated immediately in front of the west-façade of the brickbuilt Medieval cathedral, the construction of which was begun around 1203. The main façade of the town hall faced the most important Medieval market square of Århus. Investigations in the 1940's have shown that large parts of the Medieval masonry of the remains of the town hall basement were preserved.

The 1982 excavation uncovered almost the entire ground-plan of the building and showed that large parts of the basement walls were intact. The town hall had been an impressive

brickbuilt house approx. 26.5 × 10.4 m, laid on a firm foundation and with the brickwork in regular Flemish bond.

No traces of the Medieval walls were found inside the basement, as they were all changed in 1750; consequently the light partition seen to the south on the photo also dates from that time. Finds in the foundation trenches date the building to the end of the 15th century and probably the town hall is built close to the time when it is first mentioned in the written sources, 1484. This means that Århus, too, got its town hall in the 15th century, as it is the case with most Danish towns, where town halls are first mentioned from this period. Somewhere in the 16th century the town hall was equipped with a square stair turret facing the market square.

The investigation of the square itself proved surprisingly that the level of the Medieval square was no lower than today and may even have been somewhat higher. Under the square traces of an intense settlement were found. The date of the latest phase of settlement shows that the square must have been laid out around 1300 and that there have been building activities in the area before that time. The excavation showed that throughout the 12th and 13th centuries there had been an ordinary settlement with houses and an intensive pit-activity. The small-finds also indicated this.

Surprisingly enough not much Viking settlement with houses was found. There were a few pits, and in the SE corner appeared a small 10th century pit-house like those excavated further south at Sønder vold and at the Cathedral school. That there were so few remains from the 10th and 11th centuries in the 350 m<sup>2</sup> area excavated may indicate lack of permanent occupation in this part of Århus at that time.

Århus was founded in the 10th century and, as we can see it

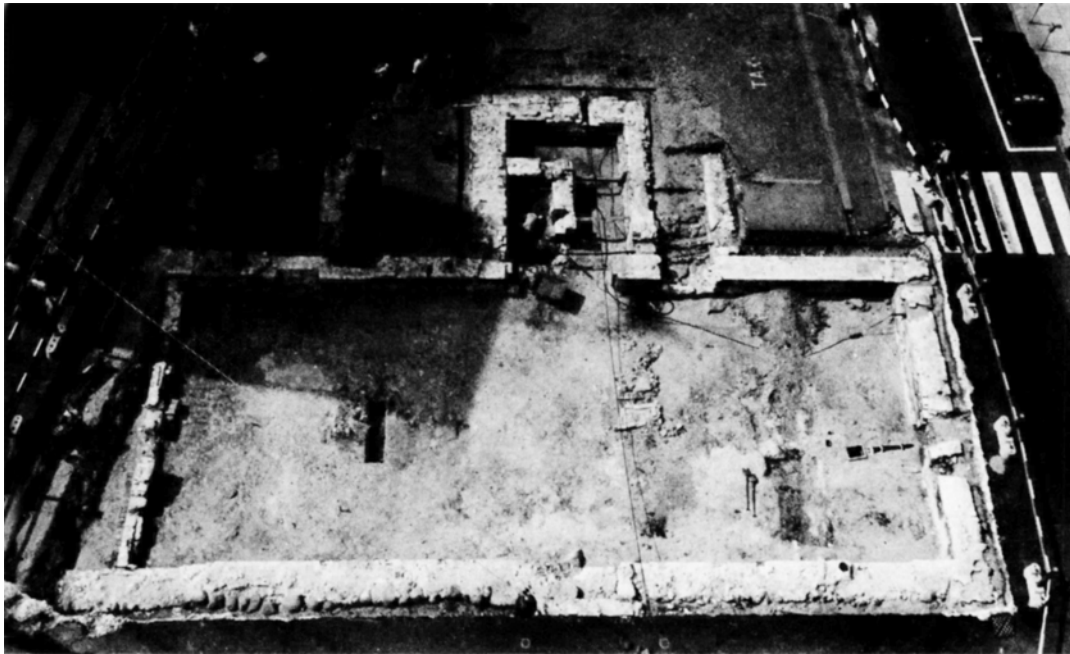


Fig. 10. Århus (no. 30). The excavated area at the town square. The Medieval town hall.

now, as a planned fortification with ramparts and moat. The general settlement was placed along the beach and along the river. This settlement contained, as earlier excavation has shown, many traces of trade and crafts. The remaining part of the town was probably an open space. It is obvious to assume that the town was founded as a royal fortification and stronghold, the function of which was military and which was of strategic importance in the 10th and 11th centuries. Here the king could rally his army in the open space, which also could function as a market place and as a refuge for the inhabitants of the region in times of war. It was natural that tradesmen and craftsmen sought this fortification and that the church in the 10th century (bishop mentioned 948) was placed here under the protection of the king. The bishopric was abolished shortly after 988 and we know of no ecclesiastical buildings from the following period.

When the town in the middle of the 11th century once again

became a bishopric and the travertine cathedral was built outside the town a small settlement arose around the church, while inside the ramparts the space still seems to be vacant.

The pattern of this settlement did not change radically until around 1200, when bishop Peder Vognsen initiated a transformation of the townscape. The cathedral was moved to within the ramparts and with the Bishop's Palace to the north and canons' house to the south most of the old town was taken up by ecclesiastical functions. The bishop seems to have taken over some of the king's interests in the town.

This plan was completed by the construction of the square, Store Torv, c. 1300, together with a partial reregistration so that a large number of the old inhabitants now have to move into the suburbs and especially along Vestergade, where new institutions and the king's water mill were also situated.

Ole Schiørring

Map showing the location of sites mentioned in the section 'Recent Excavations and Discoveries'. The counties (Danish *amter*) are numbered in the following way:

- |                  |                 |                |
|------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. Frederiksborg | 9. Svendborg    | 17. Vejle      |
| 2. København     | 10. Hjørring    | 18. Ringkøbing |
| 3. Holbæk        | 11. Thisted     | 19. Ribe       |
| 4. Sorø          | 12. Ålborg      | 20. Haderslev  |
| 5. Præstø        | 13. Viborg      | 21. Tønder     |
| 6. Bornholm      | 14. Randers     | 22. Åbenrå     |
| 7. Maribo        | 15. Århus       | 23. Sønderborg |
| 8. Odense        | 16. Skanderborg |                |

