

# Storgård IV

## An Early Neolithic Long Barrow near Fjelsø, North Jutland

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### INTRODUCTION

Early Neolithic long barrows with wooden structures and graves built with wood and small stones were first recognized in Denmark at the beginning of the 1970's. Considerably more are now known as new discoveries are made nearly every year and old ones are being reassessed.

The barrows show much variation both in construction and in size, but there are certain elements which recur together or individually at the various sites. These are timber facades (usually placed at the eastern end of the mound and accompanied by deposits of pottery), rectan-

gular or trapeziform palisade enclosures, and transverse partitioning of the barrow with rows of stakes.

In the great majority of cases one or more graves have been found, built of wood or of a combination of wood and stones. In Danish these have been termed "simple jordgrave". Like the barrows the graves are of very diverse construction and the amount of grave goods varies.

In Jutland there are known a further nearly 100 sites with simple graves. Unfortunately in most of these cases excavation was confined to the grave only, so it is not now possible to say whether they were covered by long barrows. There is much to suggest, however, that there existed graves under a level surface as well graves under barrows.

Including Storgård IV at least 39 non-megalithic long barrows are now known from 36 sites in Denmark (fig. 1, appendix).

### THE EXCAVATION

In the early summer of 1986 Viborg Stiftsmuseum excavated the somewhat ploughed-down long barrow, Storgård IV<sup>1</sup> in preparation for the laying of the gas pipe from Lille Thorup to Ålborg. The site lay about 1.5 km from Simested watercourse, on a gentle slope, so that one end of the monument lay 1.35 m higher than the other. The natural subsoil was yellow to brownish-yellow silty sand. In some places, as near the facade, it contained coarser material.

When excavated the site lay in a cornfield, but until the turn of the century it had been heath. The course of wheel ruts over it showed that the mound had been low even at that time, and it was probably never very high.

### *The barrow*

Storgård IV was found by field survey along the planned course of the pipeline, and showed as an oval, light-coloured, ploughed-up prominence. After removal of the

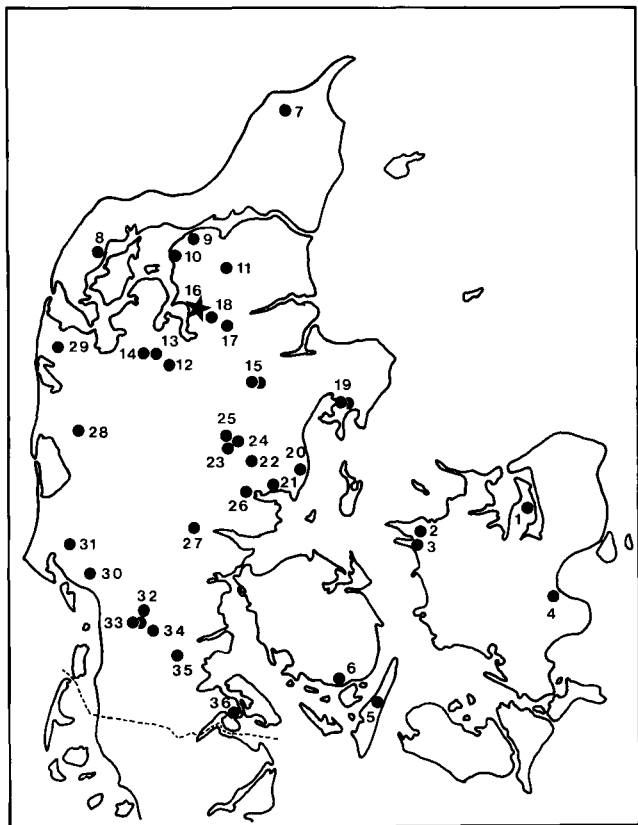


Fig. 1. Non-megalithic Early Neolithic long barrows in Denmark. Storgård IV is marked with a star.



Fig. 2. The site during excavation from the SW.

topsoil it could be seen as a 50 m long and 5.5–12.25 m wide artificial mound, orientated NE to SW with the broad end in the highest part of the slope (fig. 2). The feature was clearly bounded by an outer row of closely-spaced small stones. The entire area was excavated, including a 4–5 m wide belt on all sites, so that the total excavated area amounted to 1200 m<sup>2</sup>.

Storgård IV is one of the few fully excavated long barrows with timber graves, ditches, facade and palisades, which has not been disturbed by the later insertion of megalithic chambers.

It was built in at least two structural phases (fig. 3).

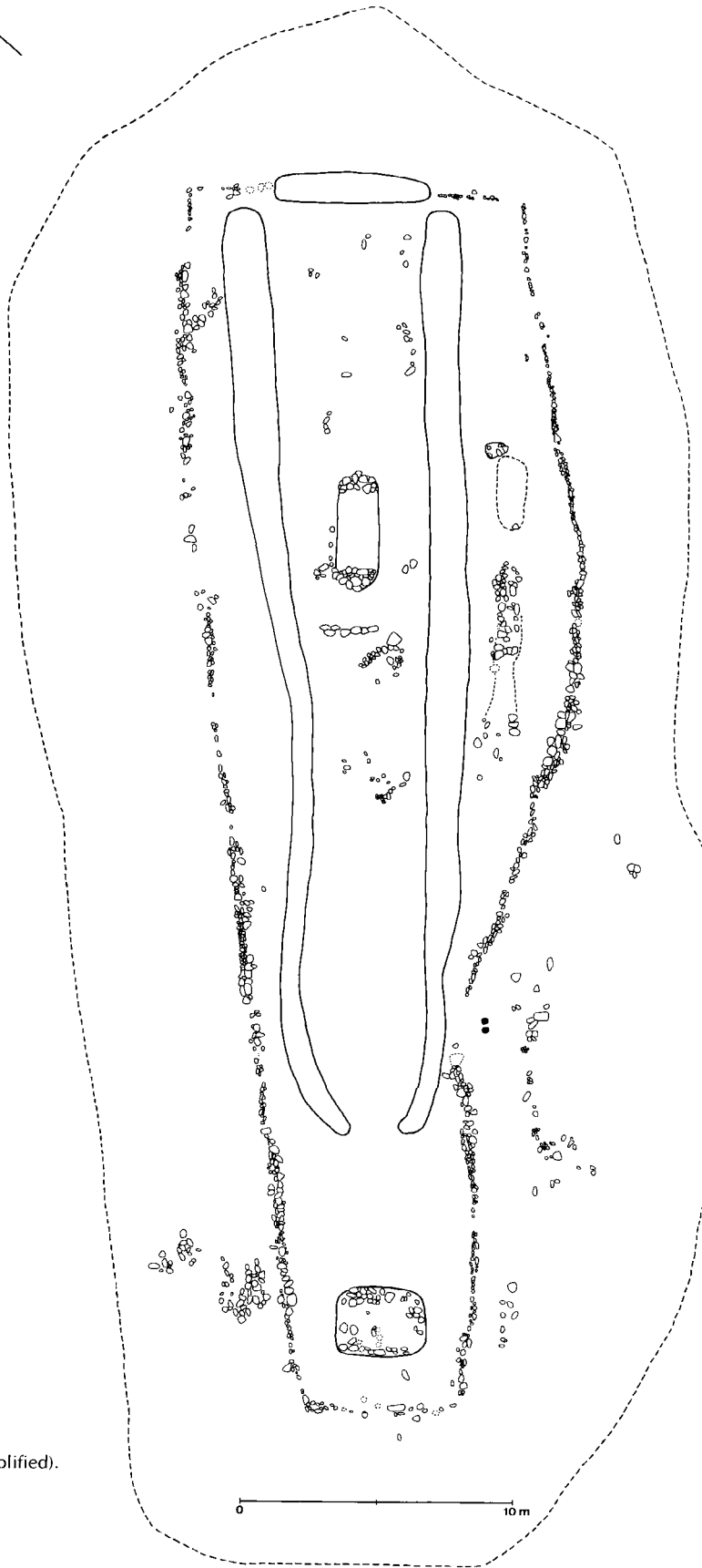


Fig. 3. Plan of the site (slightly simplified).

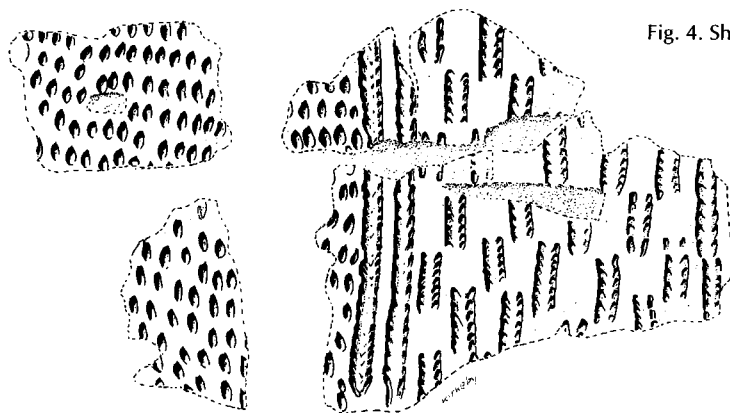


Fig. 4. Sherds from a large lugged beaker. J. Kirkeby del. 1:2.

### *The first phase*

Earliest was a 39 m long and 3.6–8.5 m wide trapeziform structure, having at the NE end a facade built of four large posts. Two stone-free trenches ran from the outer posts of the facade down the slope, delimiting the barrow of this phase. The grave itself was axially placed 11 m from the facade.

In the area bounded by the trenches and palisade was the sod fill of the barrow, best preserved between the grave and the facade. Close to one another in the fill were found a few sherds from the neck of a large vessel, probably a lugged beaker (fig. 4). The decoration consists of pairs of short stab-and-drag lines arranged in a chequerboard pattern and rows of impressions divided up by vertical stab-and-drag lines so as to give a field pattern.

The original surface was several times observed below the barrow.

*The facade.* The timber facade showed as a 5.5 m long and 1.3 m wide feature with parallel sides and rounded ends,

the fill of which was pale brown-grey sand with scattered charcoal.

At a depth of 0.3 m it became possible to distinguish four large stone-lined postholes (fig. 5). They were 1–1.2 m long and 0.5–0.7 m wide, and were dug down to a depth of 1.2 m from the surface. At the edge of each posthole inside the packing stones was observed a grey sand layer with scattered charcoal. The same material could be observed at the bottom of the postholes (fig. 6).

The elongated form of the holes and the arcs of substantial packing stones, intact for the three western holes, seemed to show that the posts were of split logs and had stood with the flat side towards the barrow.

A long and cross section shows the profiles of three postholes (fig. 6). The uppermost layer was 0.3 m thick and had been deliberately placed over the four postholes together with parts of the later palisade trench. This material had not subsided into the postholes and must be from a time when the facade was already cleared away, perhaps after standing for many years.

Below this layer the postholes can be seen as pockets

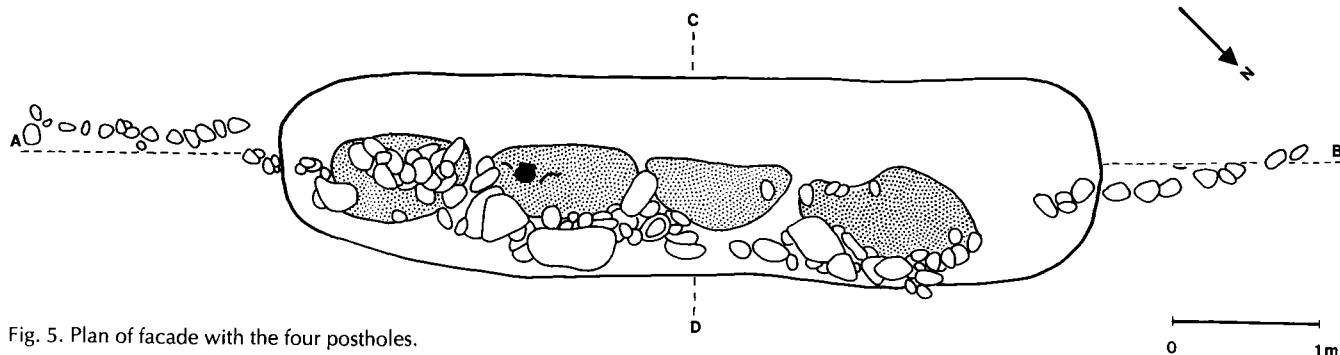


Fig. 5. Plan of facade with the four postholes.

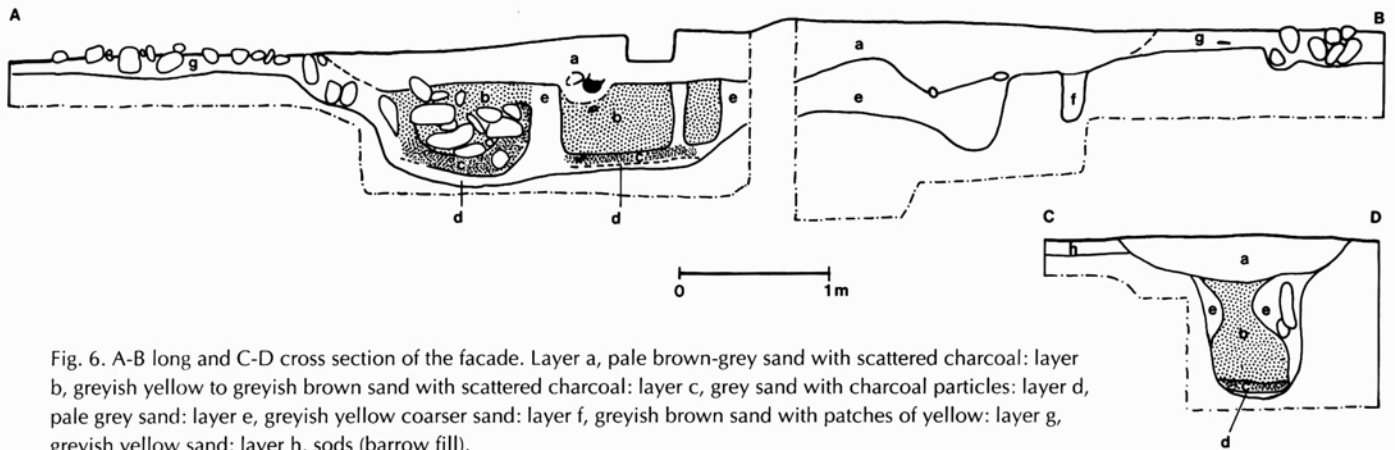


Fig. 6. A-B long and C-D cross section of the facade. Layer a, pale brown-grey sand with scattered charcoal: layer b, greyish yellow to greyish brown sand with scattered charcoal: layer c, grey sand with charcoal particles: layer d, pale grey sand: layer e, greyish yellow coarser sand: layer f, greyish brown sand with patches of yellow: layer g, greyish yellow sand: layer h, sods (barrow fill).

of variable yellow-grey earth with straight sides and flat bases. At the bottom under a 0.05–0.1 m thick layer containing charcoal can be seen a pale grey sand layer. In one of the postholes could be seen a 0.75 m wide area with grey-brown fill, probably the shadow of the post itself.

In a charcoal-rich layer at the top of the stone packing of this posthole lay the remains of three pots – a funnel beaker and one, perhaps two, lugged beakers (fig. 8).

The funnel beaker was 12 cm tall with cylindrical neck, slightly thickened rim, and round base and belly. The upper part of the body is decorated with a fringe of oblique stab-and-drag lines. Of one of the lugged beakers the body and part of the neck survive. It was very similar in



Fig. 7. Packing stones in facade postholes, seen from SE.

shape to the funnel beaker. The body ornament consisted of a field pattern divided by sloping jab-and-drag lines under the lug and filled with horizontal rows of impressions. The body ornament was no doubt repeated on the neck. Only part of the body of the third pot survives. The ornament was carried out in horizontal rows of obliquely jabbed impressions. These pots from the facade belong to the Early Neolithic Volling group.<sup>2</sup>

The facade seems not to have been deliberately burned down. Neither the stones, the earth, or the pots show marks of fire. Instead the charcoal in the postholes may have come from the deliberate surface charring of the timbers.

*The stone-free ditches.* These were 37.5 m long and 0.75–2.20 m wide, and followed similar courses down the hill. At the SW end they turned in towards each other without quite meeting. Sections through them (fig. 9) showed a gently rounded shape with maximum surviving depth of 0.4 m. In one place this feature was cut by the younger palisade. No finds or further details were observed in either of them. They had delimited the barrow of the first phase, and the material from them was not used to construct the barrow. There was scattered charcoal in the fill, which was taken for C14 dating.

*The grave.* This showed as a 4.8 m long and 1.6 m wide feature with parallel sides and stones at the ends (fig. 10). Even at the top of the grave it was possible to see thin charcoal lines from a planken cist (fig. 11), from which a sample of charcoal was taken. The fill of the grave was slumped sod fill. The heaps of stones at the ends survived

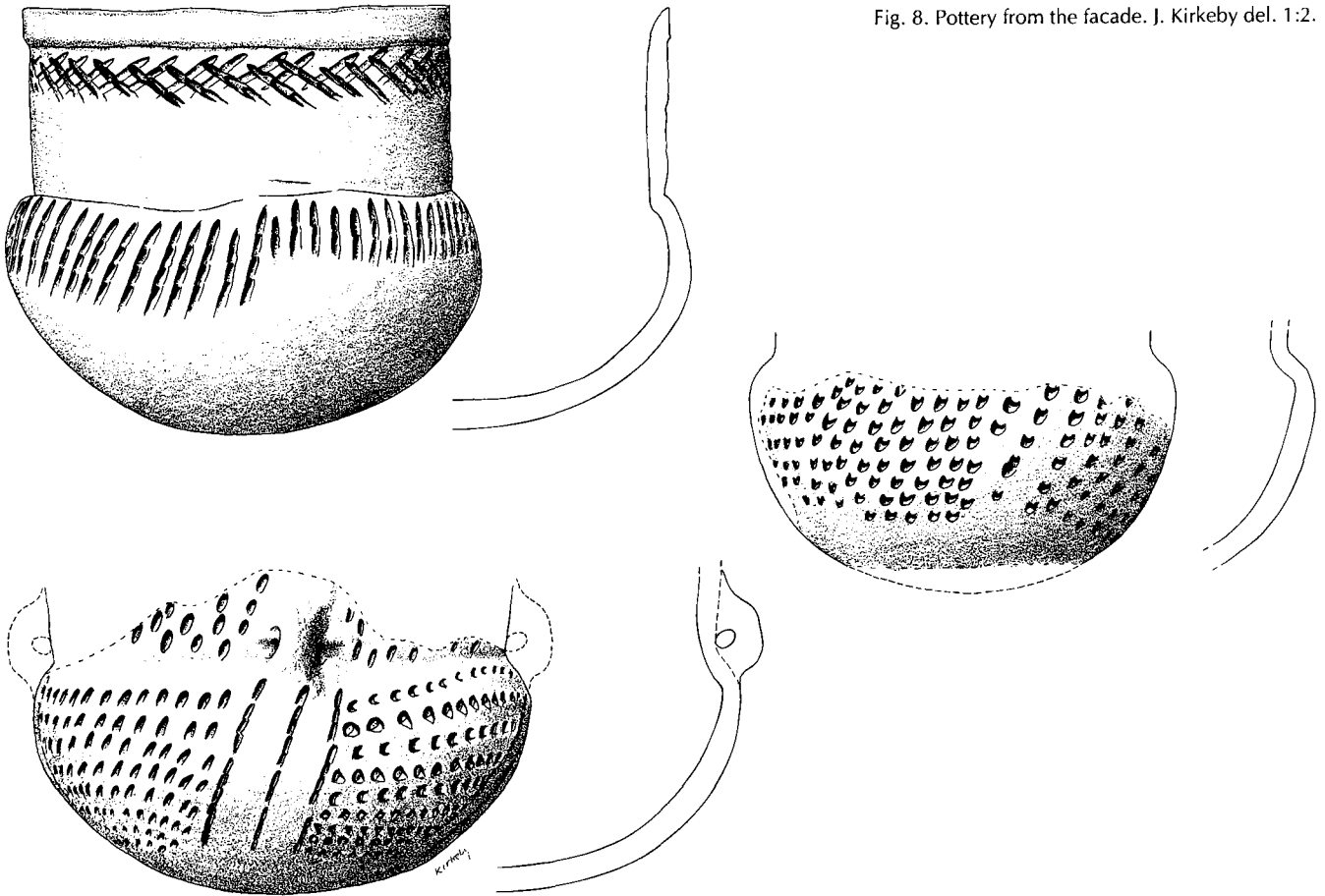


Fig. 8. Pottery from the facade. J. Kirkeby del. 1:2.

to a thickness of 0.5 m and consisted of about 35 not very large stones. There were no postholes under them, and they came to an end at the level of the grave floor. Some stones near the bottom of the heap at the SW end inclined inwards and may have supported a transverse plank.

On the floor of the grave SW of the middle lay a 26.8 cm long thin-butted axe (type IV of Nielsen, 1977) with blade pointing SW (figs. 12 and 13). Close west of this lay a transverse arrowhead (fig. 14) and close east of it a string of 30 amber beads of alternately cylindrical and prismatic shape (fig. 17). Close to the centre of the grave, probably at the waist of the corpse, lay a piece of amber with hole through the centre and 15 drilled pits along the edge. It measured 5.5 x 5 x 3 cm (fig. 15). A little west of this lay 17 smaller amber beads, probably forming a bracelet. At the NE end of the grave were found some cylindrical amber beads and a round piece with central perforation and pits around the edge (fig. 16).

Nothing remained of the corpse, but the grave goods

show that a body had been buried with head at the SW end. None of the finds can be dated more closely within the Early Neolithic.

#### *The second phase*

In the following building phase there was erected a palisade, which together with the timber facade enclosed the entire monument. Within its enclosure was found at the extreme SW end a stone-lined feature measuring 2.8 x 3.3 m. There were no postholes or other details that could explain its purpose. It may have been another grave, in this case without grave goods, or a small mortuary building.

There was no sign of sod fill between the palisade and the trapezoidal feature. In fact the layers here were so thin that there was only a few centimeters to the natural subsoil. In the section could be seen a somewhat irregular layer of fill that might have been added in this phase.

*The palisade.* During excavation this appeared as a trench filled with field stones. Because of these the trench itself could not be seen in plan, but sectioning indicated an irregular excavation 0.15–0.7 m wide and 0.05–0.4 m deep.

There was no regular change in the feature's depth. If the tops of the posts were to be in horizontal line then the posts in the low-lying SW end would need to be taller than those in the NE, and would therefore be set more deeply in the ground. Another possibility is that the palisade's height over the ground was the same as it descended the slope. In an attempt to check the individual posts some areas were chosen for excavation in planes leaving long and cross sections. Fig. 18 shows a long section through one of the most stone-packed parts of the western palisade trench. Only a few posts could be confirmed. They were 0.2–0.3 m in diameter and up to 0.4 m deep. There was no sign of burning down or deliberate charring (fig. 19). The area enclosed by the palisade had three straight sides at right angles to each another. The NW side measured 49.5 m, the NE end 12.25 m, and the SW end 5.5 m.

The northern 34 meters of the SE side was bent somewhat outwards and enclosed also a stony area east of the grave and outside the stone-free trench. Here in a recent



Fig. 9. Section across barrow SW of the grave. Layer a, greyish yellow sand with hand to head sized stones: layer b, pale grey sand with scattered crumbs of charcoal: layer c, sod fill: layer d, pale yellow-brown sand with coarse gravel.

disturbance were found a number of undecorated sherds of Neolithic character. Nothing was observed that could explain the special purpose of this area.

Further south-west there was a gap in the trench, and outside the barrow here was found an 8 m long row of stones of various sizes running parallel with the trench. Two small postholes may together with the stones have formed part of an entrance feature.

The most southerly part of the footing trench consisted of three straight pieces giving the feature a square end.

Very little was found in the footing trench. At the NE end there were some undecorated Stone Age sherds that cannot be determined more closely.

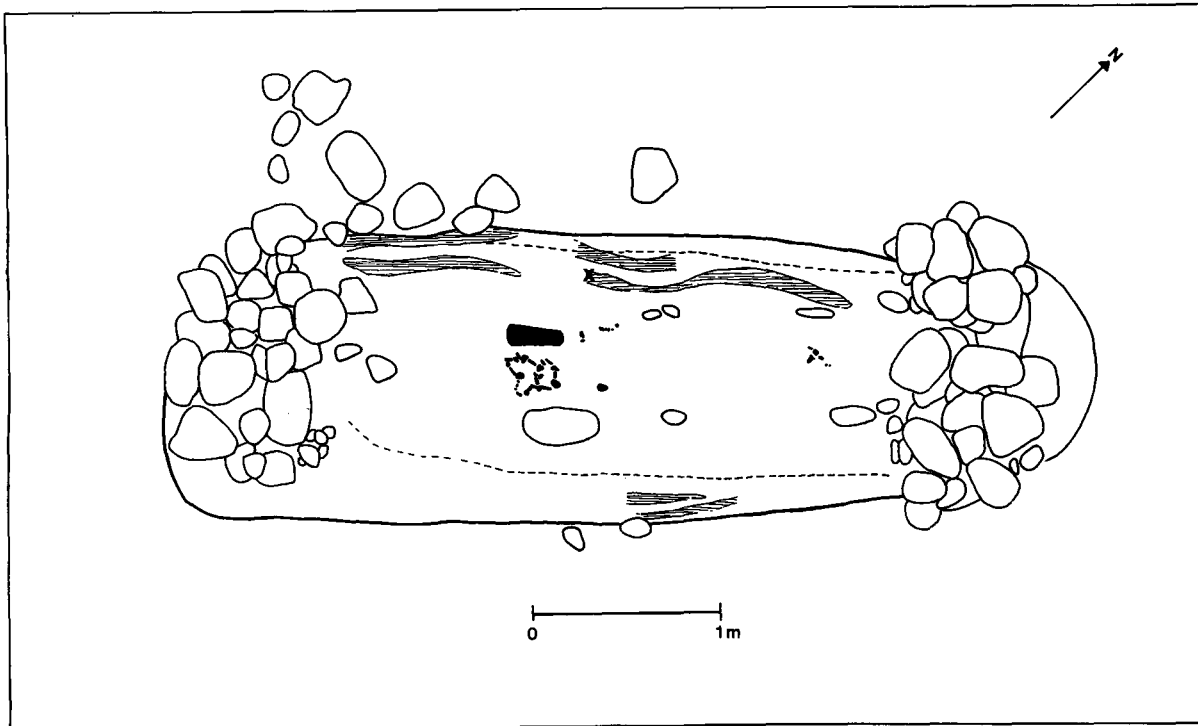
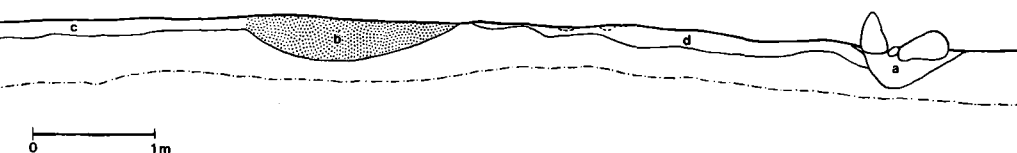


Fig. 10. Plan of grave with grave goods. The transverse arrowhead is shown by an 'x'. Traces of the wooden cist are hatched longitudinally.



### Dating

From pottery found at the facade and in the fill the barrow can be assigned to the Jutland Early Neolithic local group called the Volling group. This is dated to the time bracket 3200 to 2800/2700 b.c. The small pieces of charcoal collected from the facade, the remains of the wooden cist, and in the stone-free ditches were not enough for a dating at the C14 laboratory in Copenhagen, and were sent instead for accelerator dating in Uppsala. The results were  $2875 \pm 140$  b.c. for the sample from the stone-free ditches (UA-441),  $2840 \pm 115$  for the sample from the facade (UA-443), and  $2760 \pm 115$  b.c. for the sample from the grave (UA-442).

### History of the monument

An attempt will be made to trace the course of events from the few stratigraphical clues.

The facade, stone-free ditches, and the grave give the impression of being on the whole synchronous, but dif-

ferences in time cannot be ruled out. Here is a possible sequence.

A planken cist was inserted into the ground, and in it was placed a body with head to the SW, accompanied by personal equipment in the form of an amber necklace, amber at the belt, arrow and flint axe.

There stood or was later constructed a solid, high timber facade, at which pottery was placed as an offering.

The burial area was delimited by digging the two stone-free ditches, and the entire trapeziform area became the burial monument. Between the ditches and facade a low sod mound was raised over the grave.

Some time later, when the ditches had silted up, the palisade was raised. The little grave or building at the SW end could have been the reason for this enlargement. The NE facade had been higher than the palisade, which seems to have been built with stakes all equally high above ground.

After a time, perhaps only when the posts had rotted, there was dug near the facade and the area was cleared. The pottery that had been placed there earlier was upset and fell into the upper part of one of the postholes.



Fig. 11. Close-up of section through remains of the cist, seen from NE.



Fig. 12. The grave goods *in situ*.



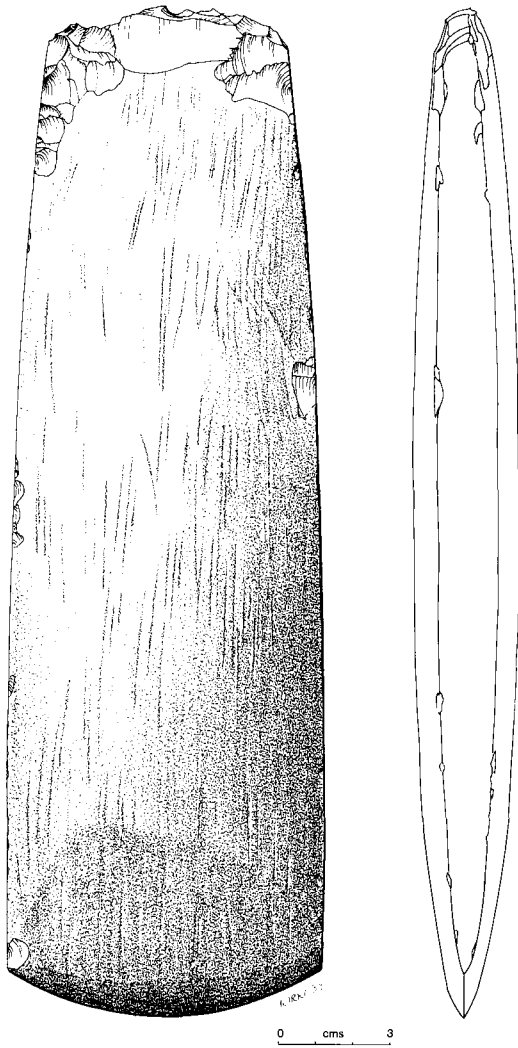


Fig. 13. Thin-butted axe. J. Kirkeby del. 1:2.

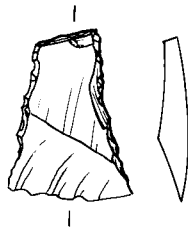


Fig. 14. Transverse arrowhead. J. Kirkeby del. 1:1.

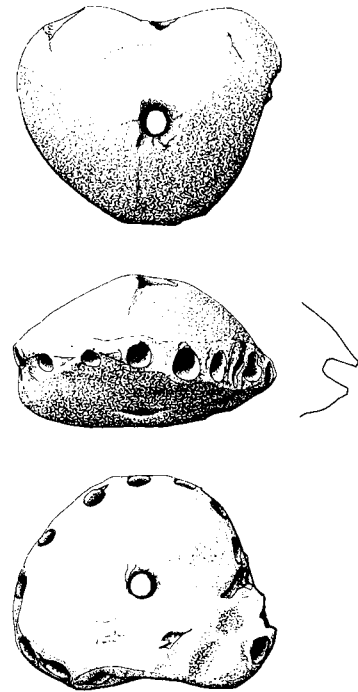


Fig. 15. Amber ornament with perforation in middle. J. Kirkeby del. 2:3.

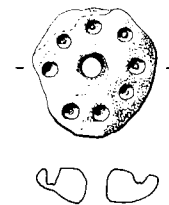


Fig. 16. The amber beads from the NE part of the grave. J. Kirkeby del. 2:3.

#### OTHER LONG BARROWS WITH TIMBER STRUCTURES

There is a whole series of Early Neolithic structures with features like timber facades and surrounding palisades. Those from Denmark were surveyed collectively by T. Madsen (1979).

#### *Timber facades*

Solid facades are known from 17 sites scattered over the whole country. In addition to the 14 described by F. Kaul (1988) attention should be called to Højtvedgård (no. 7) and two recently excavated facades in Thy (no. 8) and West Himmerland (no. 10).<sup>3</sup>

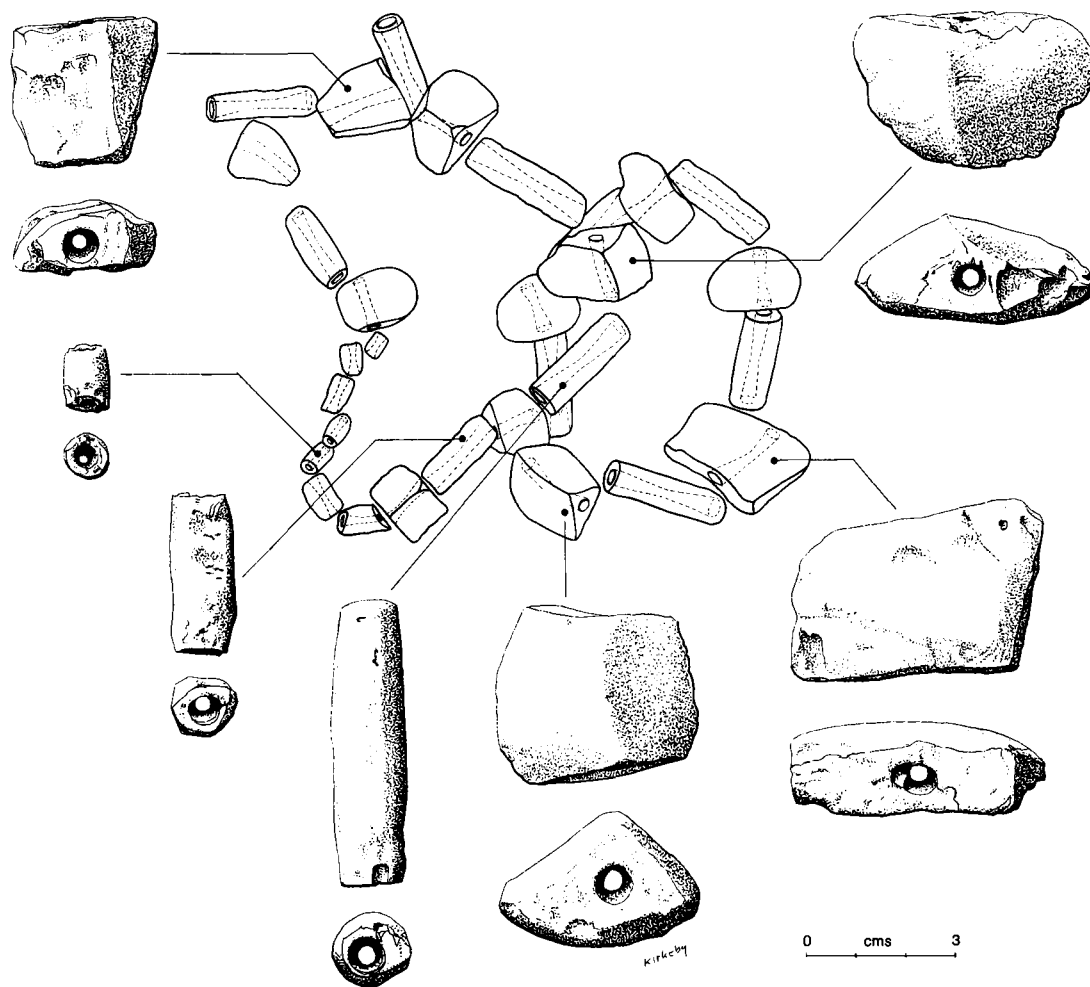


Fig. 17. The amber beads as strung. J. Kirkeby del. 2:3.

Facades are known from long barrows with and without palisade or stone kerb. The few published examples alone are enough to show there was not a uniform construction. Among other things the number of posts varied. Most palisades had four postholes in line. The facade of the barrow at Rude (no. 20) was more complicated, with multiple phases – an earlier unburnt facade with attached horseshoe enclosure, and a later facade built of seven split logs, that all were burned down (Madsen 1980, 88–96). At several sites, including Rude (no. 20) and Bygholm Nørremark (no. 26), it was shown that the facade had been burned down before being covered by the barrow. At other sites, for instance Onsved Mark (no. 1) and Højensvej (no. 6), the posts were pulled up after having served their purpose, and at Højensvej their

place was covered by stones and fill. The majority of the publications do not contain information making it possible to explain when in the history of the monument the facades were erected and destroyed. F. Kaul mentions the possibility that they were raised to mark a coming barrow (Kaul 1988, 73), i.e. before burial and barrow construction.

It is quite possible that the order of construction of the different parts of the monuments was not everywhere the same. At some places the facade may have been erected first, at others it may have continued through a series of building phases, and sometimes it may have come last in the building sequence.

Most of the facades have provided pottery that is interpreted as ritual deposits. Radiometric dating of the facades



Fig. 18. Long section in the palisade trench on NW side of feature.



Fig. 19. Post shadows in palisade trench.

des can date the pottery and illustrate the ceramic sequence in the early Neolithic.

The facade at Lindebjerg (no. 2) is dated to  $3060 \pm 100$  b.c. (K-1659). In connection with this structure there were found remains of four funnel beakers – three small and a large. The former had somewhat straight neck and rounded body and base. The latter had a more outward curved neck. Two of the small vessels were ornamented under the rim with respectively twisted cord and a row of jabbed impressions (Liversage 1981, fig. 24).

The facade at Rustrup (no. 23) is dated to  $3030 \pm 100$  b.c.,  $3010 \pm 100$  b.c. (K-2254), and  $2960 \pm 100$  b.c. (K-2253). At this facade were found two small lugged beakers decorated in surface-covering style with jabs and stab-and-drag (Fischer 1976, fig. 9a).

Rude (no. 20) provided C14 datings of  $2960 \pm 90$  b.c. (K-3124), and  $2860 \pm 70$  b.c. (K-3125). At the facade were found remains of three funnel beakers with outcurved neck and hemispherical body and base. Two of them measured 12–15 cm, while the third was 23.5 cm high. One of them was decorated with two rows of jabbed impressions below the rim (Madsen 1980, fig. 14).

All these pots can like those from Storgård IV be described as Early Neolithic B or non-megalithic C, and would earlier have been placed in the later part of the EN. The C14 determinations however give an earlier dating. Surface-covering decoration using combinations

of various types of impressions is called the Volling style and dated to the period 3200–2800/2700 b.c., and is widespread in Jutland. The pottery from Lindebjerg would today be placed in the Svaleklint group, which was probably contemporary with Volling and is found on Zealand. At Bygholm Nørremark (no. 26) pottery of megalithic C character was found with the facade (Madsen 1979, 307). This facade is C14 dated to  $2790 \pm 100$  b.c. (K-3473).

In the facade at Surløkke (no. 36) was found a funnel beaker with outcurved neck, rounded body with vertical fringe pattern, and round base, and thus in megalithic-C style (Sterum 1983, 40). C14 datings of pottery with vertical scored fringe on the belly from other Funnel Beaker contexts places this decoration in the period 2800–2600 b.c. (P. O. Nielsen 1984 and Andersen 1981).

At Teglværksgården (no. 31) the sherds in the facade trench included some from a funnel beaker decorated below the rim with chequerboard pattern in whipped cord (Faber 1976, fig. 4). This can be placed in the Virum style and dated to a late part of the EN.

If the radiometric datings and the pottery chronology is correct the timber facades of long barrows can be dated to the entire Early Neolithic. However there is no indication that they were erected in the Middle Neolithic.

### *Palisade enclosures*

At seven sites, all in Jutland, the rectangular or trapeziform footing trench of a palisade was found. A rectangular palisade enclosure is known from the long barrow at Troelstrup (no. 18), where a palisade with a number of phases was found together with both wooden and megalithic chambers (Kjærø 1977, fig. 1). In the southern part of the trench lay a large plain lugged jar (Kjærø 1977, fig. 6). The relative dating of this monument is 2800/2700–2600 b.c.

Trapeziform palisade enclosures are known from Bygholm Nørremark (no. 26), Teglværksgården (no. 31), Harreby I (no. 32), Harreby II (no. 33), and Surløkke (no. 36). Three of these monuments were small (nos. 31, 32, 36), between 14 and 27 m long and 1.5 to 5.5 m wide. No grave was found inside them. They may be a special south Jutland variant datable to the last part of the EN. The recently excavated site Harreby II (no. 33) revealed a trapeziform outline of not very large stones, which may also have lain in a foundation trench (Jørgensen 1986, 12–13). The largest trapeziform structure is the one from Bygholm Nørremark (no. 26), which was a 60 m long and 4–13 m wide enclosure surrounding graves, mortuary houses and facade (Rønne 1979, 5).

At Mosegården (no. 21) there were two parallel very long footing trenches in which there could be observed traces of large split posts (Madsen and Petersen 1984, figs. 17–21). The trenches are C14 dated to 3130 ± 90 b.c. (K-3463) and 2940 ± 90 b.c. (K-3464). Inside the enclosure were found secondary megaliths below which were Early Neolithic settlement remains with pottery decorated in Volling style (Madsen and Petersen 1984, figs. 17–21).

Palisade enclosures are thus found during the whole Early Neolithic. It is not known why the palisades had different shapes, but it should be noted that at Storgård IV it was more important to enclose the area east of the grave than to adhere to a rectangular form.

### *Ditches and trenches*

Round-sectioned stoneless ditches bordering a barrow in one of its phases have not earlier been recorded in Denmark.

Slightly waisted ditches 12 m long and 1.4–1.5 to 3–4 m wide north and south of one of the graves at Hejring are mentioned by T. Madsen (1979, fig. 3b). Inside the

ditches outside the grave stood a large plain lugged jar and a large plain lugged beaker. C14 datings of the grave give an average dating of 2655 b.c. ± 100 (K-2194–2197).

It is perhaps only a matter of time before other monuments with ditches turn up in Denmark. T. Madsen and F. Kaul point to the many similarities existing between the Danish and the English long barrows. In England many long barrows with flanking ditches are known, and these are sometimes very large and deep with U-shaped section. The ditches lie outside the palisades and are interpreted as quarry ditches dug to obtain material for the mounds (Ashbee 1970, 47).

### *Grave types in the Early Neolithic long barrows*

The Early Neolithic long barrows contain one or more graves. These can be situated near the facade or anywhere along the axis. Many of them are so badly preserved that nothing can be said about their original construction. The determinable graves fall into the types, Konens Høj, Troelstrup, closed graves set around with field stones, regular plank cists, and simple earth graves.

*Type I.* The Konens Høj type. The graves show up as long narrow features with a round or elongated posthole at each end and sometimes also have rows of field stones along the two sides. The end-pits can, as at the eponymous site, go deep into the subsoil, as much as 1.2 m under the grave floor (Stürup 1966, 15).

Today 16 graves of Konens Høj type are known. Most of them were found at sites where a long mound or an occupation layer was recorded, or at least there is information that a low mound was present. When found under long barrows they have been orientated parallel with it, and lay nearly always E-W (nos. 3, 19, 25, 26, 35).

The Konens Høj type is found throughout Jutland from the Danish/German border to the Randers area. New excavations from the islands show they were in use there at the same time. They are sometimes reconstructed and described as tent-shaped structures of temporary nature and were sometimes destroyed by burning or by pulling out the posts (Madsen 1972, 138).

Various criticisms have been directed at this reconstruction. D. Liversage considers that the graves were built of wide planks at the ends and sides. His illustration suggests that the end planks inclined inwards and the side planks were supported by fieldstones (Liversage 1983, fig. 7).

Most recently F. Kaul discusses the possibility that the end posts were removed before the burial, and there therefore can be no question of tent-shaped graves (Kaul 1988, 75). As nearly all graves of Konens Høj type were excavated before the type was recognized as such, it is difficult to reconstruct the sequence of events at them. The presence of both long and round postholes might indicate that there was more than one form.

The Konens Høj type is C14 dated at the eponymous site to  $2900 \pm 100$  b.c. (K-919). Pottery from others, among them Raving Mark (Ebbesen and Mahler 1980, fig. 27) points to a Volling dating in 3200–2800/2700 b.c., while the pottery from Barkær (Glob 1949, fig. 7) shows a later use. No finds pointing to the Middle Neolithic have been occurred in these graves.

*Type 2.* The Troelstrup type. Graves of this type have a three-sided burial chamber open at one end. They are built of wood or of wood combined with stones. Sometimes there is a little passageway or “antechamber” in extension of the entrance.

At the present time 15 graves can be assigned to this type with considerably certainty. Nearly all are recorded in long mounds (nos. 2, 11, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 33, 34). It is highly probable that all graves of this type were originally under long mounds. Most of the known examples are placed at right angles to the mound and have their entrance facing one of the sides.

Graves of Troelstrup type are found especially in northern Jutland, but are known from south Jutland and presumably also from Zealand.

The graves seem to fall naturally into older and younger sub-types.

*Type 2a.* Wooden graves of Troelstrup type. These were built of wood only, which stood in a trench packed with small stones. The C14 dating of Rustrup feature II is the earliest dating of an Early Neolithic grave –  $2970 \pm 100$  (K-2355). Pottery found in the fill is decorated with twisted cord impressions or surface-covering jabbed patterns (Fischer 1976, figs. 40–46).

Lindebjerg’s feature B may have been a comparable wooden burial chamber, and was reconstructed as such by the excavator (Liversage 1983, fig. 5).

*Type 2b.* Graves built of wood and stone of Troelstrup type. The younger type, which is known from for instance Østergårds Mark, Hejring, and Troelstrup (Madsen 1979, fig. 2), consisted of an internal three-sided wooden construction as much as 1 m high with wooden covering

and a little wooden passage. They were supported externally by a piled heap of fieldstones. At Østergårds Mark the transition from passage to grave was marked by a row of stones.

C14 datings date the grave type to  $2655 \pm 100$  b.c. (Hejring, K-2394–2397) and a similar date is suggested by the sequence of graves at Troelstrup. It appears that the type may have continued into the Middle Neolithic. At Harreby (II) together with a number of early dolmens was found a three-sided feature of heaped field stones, in which was a lugged beaker from MN I (Mathiassen 1942, figs. 5–6 and Jørgensen 1986, 11).

*Type 2c.* Stone-built burial chamber with wooden cover and “antechamber”. This type is only known from a small number of sites, among which the Skibshøj long mound is the best preserved. The grave was constructed on three sides out of fairly large stones on which more stones had been heaped in several layers. The floor was paved, and the paving continued out through the opening at the end. Where it terminated there were found two postholes which together with the rear wall of the grave must have supported the large planks that roofed the chamber and “antechamber” (Jørgensen 1977, 8–9).

Type 2c cannot yet be dated more closely within the Early Neolithic.

*Type 3.* Closed graves surrounded by stones of limited size. These appear as surrounding stones in one or more courses. A high example is seen in grave 6 of the Ølstrup barrow (Mathiassen 1936, figs. 7–9) and a low one occurs at Bygholm Nørremark (Rønne 1979, 5).

This is the commonest of the Early Neolithic grave forms, being known from at least 22 sites, of which only a few were found underneath long barrows however (nos. 5, 7, 12, 27, 28, 30). They are found all over Denmark.

Although wood has not been found in these graves it may be assumed that they consisted internally of a wooden cist.

Graves of type 3 resemble graves from many other archaeological periods and are only datable if grave goods are present. They occur also in the Middle Neolithic.

*Type 4.* Planken coffins. The closed rectangular planken coffin is only known from Bygholm Nørremark (Rønne 1979, 6). The planks survived as thin lines in the soil. There were supporting stones at the ends.

There were no grave goods in this grave, which contained the remains of four skeletons, but the stratigraphy of the site indicates a placing in the Early Neolithic.

*Type 5. Simple burials.* The simple burial without stones or indications of construction is found occasionally, both under barrow (no. 6, 22, 23, 24, 28) and under a level surface.

Sometimes a feature is revealed as a grave only by the grave goods. An example is Rustrup feature I. In a small, scarcely visible soil change was found a polygonal battle-axe, two transverse arrowheads and a waisted amber object (Fischer 1976, figs. 4, 35, 36).

Graves of this type belong presumably to the whole Neolithic period.

#### SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The long barrow, Storgård IV is one of a series of Early Neolithic structures with timber facades and surrounding palisades. It was erected in more than one phase, and as a new element in our knowledge of the Danish long barrows had flanking ditches in the first of them. Facade and ditches together formed a trapeziform structure.

The construction of the grave is not exactly matched in the other Early Neolithic monuments, but is no doubt closest to the planken cist in the Bygholm Nørremark barrow. The palisade enclosure was constructed in the second phase and surrounded a grave or mortuary house. It had three rectangular sides.

The pottery from the mound fill and the facade places the monument in the Jutland Valling group, the time bracket of which is 3200–2800/2700 b.c.

If the long barrows with wooden features are regarded as a whole it is striking how much variation there is in the construction and size of facade, palisade, and fill. Nevertheless an overriding idea finds expression in the depositions of pottery at the facades and palisades. Pottery and C14 dating show that facades were in use throughout the Early Neolithic, and the use of palisades can have been equally long. At present timber facades are known from the whole country, but palisades have so far only been found in Jutland. Future excavations will show whether genuine regional groupings lie behind this.

In most of the barrows in question there were found graves of the types described above. It can be seen that the Danish term “simple jordgrave” is a poor description.

All except the ordinary pit graves contained a wooden structure that was a tent-shaped, plank-built, open, or closed cist or chamber. These forms were in use before and alongside the earliest types of dolmen. Only the Konens Høj type does not continue into the Middle Neolithic. Thus they were not merely the predecessor of the dolmen, but were an independent grave form.

It can be argued that all the graves of Konens Høj and Troelstrup type were originally situated in long barrows, whereas the other types can be found as well under a level surface. The two types each has its main area of distribution – the Konens Høj type especially in south and east Jutland, and the Troelstrup type in northern Jutland. Future excavations will show if this picture is correct.

The Danish monuments dealt with here should be seen as part of a common north European burial tradition extending from England in the west to Poland in the east (see distribution maps, M. Midgley, 1985, fig. 4 and Ashbee 1970, fig. 1–2). In all of this area the long barrows had certain features of layout in common.

The Danish barrows are most often compared with the English, which is not fortuitous considering the many points of similarity between them such as facades, palisades, shape, and now also flanking ditches. However it is hard to imagine direct mutual exchange of ideas between the Neolithic inhabitants of Denmark and England.

It is more likely that the tradition of erecting long barrows came to Denmark via the area south of the Baltic and Schleswig-Holstein, where the pottery is supposed to have its parallels despite the discrepancies in the C14 dates. The pottery development in the early part of the Funnel Beaker culture is explained today by supposing that the Jutland Valling style was inspired indirectly by the Rössen-derived Dümmer pottery, while the Zealand and Scanian Oxie style was derived from Sarnowo-Berlin Britz (Madsen and Petersen 1984, 106). There were two areas stimulating the development of the pottery.

Perhaps the spread of the long mounds followed the same channels and is shown by the different grave forms. In this case the area south of the Danish/German border will be found important for understanding the burial custom in Jutland, while the area south of the Baltic will be found important for the east Danish and Scanian area.

Unfortunately only a few excavated long barrows are known today from Schleswig-Holstein, Niedersachsen, and Zealand-Scania. If observations made in Jutland are applicable elsewhere, the barrows with timber structures

and graves may lie under those with megaliths. Until more is known about this, no answer can be given to the question of the origin of early long barrows in Denmark.

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#### NOTES

1. VSM 445 E, Storgård IV, Fjelsø parish, Viborg county. Sb 119. Excavated in June/July 1986. Financial support from Naturgas Midt-Nord. Reconnaissance, Jytte Nielsen. Excavation participants, Bodil Nørgård, Hugo Sørensen, Margit Bagger Larsen, Martin Mikkelsen, Kirsten Christensen, Niels Milan Petersen, Hans Ulrich Kleiminger. Thanks are due to Mette Iversen, Viborg Stiftsmuseum, and Torsten Madsen, Institute of Prehistoric Archaeology, University of Aarhus.
2. See Ebbesen and Mahler (1980), Madsen and Petersen (1984), and P. O. Nielsen (1985).
3. The timber facades at Bjørnsholm and Kappelshage are unpublished. Thanks are given to Erik Johansen, S. H. Andersen, and Martin Mikkelsen for allowing their inclusion.

#### Appendix

List of Early Neolithic long barrows in Denmark:

1. **Onsved Mark**, Skuldelev parish, Frederiksborg county (Kaul 1988).
2. **Lindebjerg**, Tømmerup parish, Holbæk county (Madsen 1979, no. 29; Liversage 1981; Midgley 1985, DNK-8).
3. **Asnæs Forskov**, Årby parish, Holbæk county. (Gebauer 1990).
4. **Vedskølle**, Herfølge parish, Præstø county (Thorvildsen 1941, no. 128-129; Brøndsted 1957, p. 191; Kaul 1988).
5. **Stengade I**, Tullebølle parish, Svendborg county (Skaarup 1975; Madsen 1979, no. 28; Knöll 1976, 83A; Midgley 1985, DNK-18; Kaul 1988).
6. **Højensvej**, Egense parish, Svendborg county (Thomsen 1987; Kaul 1988).
7. **Højtvedgård**, Mygdal parish, Hjørring county (Knöll 1976, no. 1; Madsen 1979, no. 1).
8. **Kappelshage**, Stagstrup parish, Thisted county (unpublished, excavated 1988 by M. Mikkelsen).
9. **Tolstrup**, Næsborg parish, Ålborg county (Madsen 1975, 1979, no. 2; P. O. Nielsen 1985, no. 37; Midgley 1985, DNK-21).
10. **Bjørnsholm**, Ranum parish, Ålborg county (unpublished, excavated 1988 by S. H. Andersen and E. Johansen).
11. **Den svenske stald**, Giver parish, Ålborg county (S. V. Nielsen 1943; Knöll 1976, no. 25).
12. **Engedal**, Daugbjerg parish, Viborg county (Jensen 1985).
13. **Skibshøj**, Vroue parish, Viborg county (Jørgensen 1977; Madsen 1979, no. 9; Midgley 1985, DNK-17).
14. **Sjørup Plantage**, Vroue parish, Viborg county (Jørgensen 1977; Madsen 1979, no. 8; Midgley 1985, DNK-16; Kaul 1988).
15. **Østergårds Mark**, Vellev parish, Viborg county (Madsen, 1972, 1979, no. 10, 1984; Knöll 1976, no. 31a; Midgley 1985, DNK-12; Kaul 1988).

16. **Storgård IV**, Fjelsø parish, Viborg county (Kristensen 1987; Kaul 1988).
17. **Heiring**, Klejtrup parish, Viborg county (Madsen 1979, no. 5; Midgley 1985, DNK-7).
18. **Troelstrup**, Vester-Tostrup parish, Viborg county (Kjærsum 1977; Madsen 1979, no. 4; Midgley 1985, DNK-22).
19. **Barkær**, Feldballe parish, Randers county (Glob 1949, 1975; Brøndsted 1957, p. 172-74; Madsen 1979, no. 12; Knöll 1976, no. 41B, 1981, no. 27; Midgley 1985, DNK-2; Kaul 1988).
20. **Rude**, Saksild parish, Århus county (Madsen 1979, no. 19, 1980; Midgley 1985, DNK-13; Kaul 1988).
21. **Mosegården**, Søvind parish, Skanderborg county (Madsen 1979, no. 20; Madsen & Petersen 1984; Midgley 1985, DNK-10).
22. **Fredensholm**, Tåning parish, Skanderborg county (Frederiksen 1975).
23. **Rustrup**, Them parish, Skanderborg county (Fischer 1976; Madsen 1979, no. 15; Knöll 1981, 32x; Midgley 1985, DNK-14; Kaul 1988).
24. **Salten Abildgård**, Them parish, Skanderborg county (unpublished, excavated 1947 by C. L. Vebæk).
25. **Salten Langhøj**, Them parish, Skanderborg county (Becker 1947; Madsen 1979, no. 17; Midgley 1985, DNK-15; Kaul 1988).
26. **Bygholm Nørremark**, Hatting parish, Vejle county (Rønne 1978, 1979; Madsen 1979, no. 21; Midgley 1985, DNK-4; Kaul 1988).
27. **Ravning Mark**, Bredsten parish, Vejle county (Ebbesen & Mahler 1980; Kaul 1988).
28. **Ølstrup**, Ølstrup parish, Ringkøbing county (Mathiassen 1936; Thorvildsen 1941, no. 89; Madsen 1979, no. 14; Midgley 1985, DNK-11).
29. **Lomborg**, Lomborg parish, Ringkøbing county (Johansen 1917; Thorvildsen 1941, no. 83; Madsen 1979, no. 14; Knöll 1981, no. 35; Midgley 1985, DNK-9).
30. **Sædderup**, Nørre Skast parish, Ribe county (unpublished, excavated 1890 by A. P. Madsen).
31. **Teglværksgården**, Varde parish, Ribe county (Faber 1976; Madsen 1979, no. 22; Midgley 1985, DNK-20; Kaul 1988).
32. **Harreby (I)**, Sønder-Hygum parish, Haderslev county (Rieck 1982; Madsen 1979, no. 24; Midgley 1985, DNK-6).
33. **Harreby (II)**, Sønder-Hygum parish, Haderslev county (Mathiassen 1942; Jørgensen 1986).
34. **Gelsbro**, Gram parish, Haderslev county (Rieck 1984; Jørgensen 1986).
35. **Vedsted**, Vedsted parish, Haderslev county (Madsen 1972, 1979, no. 25; Knöll 1976, no. 61; Midgley 1985, DNK-23).
36. **Surløkke**, Dybbøl parish, Sønderborg county (Sterum 1983; Midgley 1985, DNK-19; Kaul 1988).

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