

Reviews

IAN LONGWORTH and JOHN CHERRY (eds.): *Archaeology in Britain since 1945*. British Museum Publications, London 1986. 248 pp.

This book, published by the British Museum, is aimed at the general European reader as well as at the student and the scientist. It deals with the practical results of field archaeology during the last 40 years in Britain, a period in which all the European countries have witnessed a dramatic increase in archaeological field work, an improvement of the related techniques, and a considerable accumulation of data. It covers all the Prehistoric and Historic periods until ca. 1600 A.D. including the following chapters: "Prehistoric Britain", "a Roman Province", "Anglo-Saxon England", "Technology, Towns, Castles and Churches AD 1100–1600" and "the Medieval Countryside". For the non-specialist reader the state of results before the war are briefly summarized at the beginning of each chapter, and the authors succeed well in balancing the different approaches and ideas prevalent in British archaeology, although this book clearly is meant to deal with the practical results, not theories, models, computeranalyses etc.

It must certainly interest any reader to be acquainted with the most recent results within the sphere of field archaeology, and perhaps especially in Britain, where the concepts of the prehistoric period seem to have changed more dramatically than in any other European country, most pronounced with respect to the Neolithic. In the beginning of the 'fifties, the Neolithic was seen as a period only covering about 500 years, but now its lifetime is regarded as almost four times this. This change is partly due to the introduction of the C14 method, which, in Britain, is named the C14 "revolution". This widening of the time-scale has, of course, altered the ideas of how the Neolithic societies developed – now there is much more room for independent cultural development; invasions from the Continent or the coming of a superior priesthood are not any more seen as the main reason for cultural change. Also, concerning the Bronze Age and Iron Age, invasions were formerly seen as the main factor governing cultural development; but now things have changed, and even the until-recently maintained ideas of Beaker invasions seem now more or less outmoded. Perhaps this book has gone too far – the Anglo-Saxon invasions are almost not mentioned.

As in all other European countries the stripping off of the topsoil over larger areas has given new and valuable information concerning the daily life of the Prehistoric population – now, archaeology is not only dealing with valuable objects from burials and river deposits, or ritual monuments, now we know the villages and hamlets. Especially British archaeolo-

gists and related natural scientists have achieved very fine results within the sphere of environmental archaeology; in many cases it has been possible to establish the settlements in a general framework of land use. Perhaps this part of British archaeology has not been emphasized enough in this book – only the description of the Bronze Age field systems at Dartmoor and the Medieval parts deals more thoroughly with these aspects. But it must be admitted, that it must have been an indeed very difficult task for the authors to select among the numerous sites and results from the last 40 years.

Many of the sites mentioned in this book have already gained a name as a "classic" site in field archaeology. From the Mesolithic, Star Carr can be mentioned, from the Neolithic, the intensive excavations on the complex causewayed enclosure Hambledon Hill or the many wooden trackways in the Somerset Level. Also the many excavations of the earthen long barrows and the megalithic tombs have given new information. The large scale excavations have yielded small villages such as Itford Hill from the Bronze Age or Little Woodbury from the Iron Age; those at Danebury Hill Fort have given new clues as to the activities going on, on such a site. Perhaps a more detailed account of the South English oppida system from the last prequest century, and the results from the recent excavations on Hengistbury Head concerning trade patterns, minting etc., could have been expected.

As to the Roman period we now have a much more varied picture; both urban, rural and military sites of different kinds have been excavated. The most brilliant find is perhaps the "palace" of Fishbourne. Among other finds, the Water Newton Hoard has shown that Christianity was well established in late Roman times in England. Another interesting fact is, that not all sites in Roman Britain saw an economical set-back during the 4th century; for instance, Verulamium kept going very well until quite the end of Roman Britain.

Also, the excavations of the Anglo-Saxon period have yielded a lot of new information – now, a number of settlement sites with houses are known: before the war only sunken huts on a few sites had been found. A much broader picture is now emerging, including royal residences, trade centers, rural settlement etc. Among the most important sites are those interpreted as royal residences, such as Yevinger. Also, the city excavations have contributed to our much broader picture of the Anglo-Saxons (e.g. York, Northampton). In the field of Anglo-Saxon and Medieval church archaeology a lot of new sites have been recorded, while excavations in Winchester have given us a much better understanding of the development of this cathedral.

In this section dealing with the churches, a certain inac-

curacy appears in the text: on page 150, we are told that “the destruction of churches in war (the second), ... provided the impetus for church-investigation in Germany and Denmark.” In fact, the only severe damage inflicted upon Danish churches in war in recent times was the occasion of the English terror-bombardment of Copenhagen, by incendiary projectiles and aimed at the civilian population, in the year 1807, carried out by General Arthur Wellesley, later 1st Duke of Wellington.

In the same way as open field excavation has given quite a new range of information concerning the Anglo-Saxon period, this method of excavation has also given a much more coherent and complex picture of the Medieval village, its development and land-use – the picture is much more varied than had hitherto been thought. Especially the Warham Percy project has given us a better understanding of the changes in a village, the daily life and the exploitation of its surroundings.

Last, but not least, mention must be made of the many very attractive reconstruction drawings, which give life to a number of sites (but why are the late Palaeolithic hunters on fig. 2 totally naked?).

In the foreword is mentioned a similar survey, which members of the staff of the British Museum wrote in 1932, *Archaeology in England and Wales 1914–31*. This book, however, does not include the times after the Anglo-Saxon period. In comparison with this predecessor, the balance of the present book is perhaps not enough in favour of the Prehistoric period. This can be illustrated by the fact, that the whole Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic are covered in only 24 pages, of which two are used for full page distribution maps, which do not need to cover that much in a general and popular book, while 11 full pages are used to describe one single (though interesting) medieval site.

This very interesting book vividly shows the reader that field archaeology is not merely a science collecting data confirming results earlier obtained (although many of the data come from the well known and not always too satisfying rescue situation), but that it is indeed a very dynamic science – during the last 40 years excavation has rendered obsolete numbers of notions, which earlier were built solely upon speculations, and the daily life of prehistoric man has come into archaeology.

May many other European countries bring out similar books surveying the most recent results in field archaeology, enabling both the general reader as well as the student and scientist to feel himself up to date!

Flemming Kaul

ALASDAIR WHITTLE: *Neolithic Europe: A survey*. Cambridge World Archaeology. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 1985. 363 pages and 116 figures (drawings and black/white photos).

It seems to be a tradition with British Archaeology to write surveys covering specific issues across huge areas and with great time depth. In theory at least this must be considered a very laudable venture, something that we should all appreciate very

much. In practice, however, it is often difficult to see the virtues of the resulting book. In cases of specific technological issues like “the history of the wheeled chariot” or “the history of the boat in European prehistory”, and in cases where a specific theory is tested against a large and comprehensive material, it may work out well. But in cases where the issue is of a very general nature it is less likely that the result will be worth the effort.

The book *Neolithic Europe: A survey* by Alasdair Whittle is unfortunately of the latter kind. There is no doubt that the author’s knowledge of Europe during these four thousand years is very comprehensive, and anyway far greater than the one possessed by the reviewer writing these lines. Yet, simply because there is too much information crammed into each and every page in a staccato manner, I learned very little from reading this book. Literally every sentence holds new information. The following is a good example of how the book is compiled:

At Karanovo I houses were about 7 by 7 m, though the smallest was 5 by 3.5 m. It is interesting again that the feature of a wooden subframe, interpreted as damp proofing, was not found in the very earliest houses. There was an oven on the back side wall of each house. Anza illustrates variation, from interconnected mudbrick rectangular houses 12 by 6 m in phase I, to more free-standing rectangular buildings 8–10 by 4 m, with a timber frame of small close-set uprights and a daub covering, and some with stone footings. Occasionally, preserved details indicate that some houses at least were carefully built and furnished. Parts of a roof of roughly trimmed trunks and branches were recovered at Prodromos in Thessaly: house models have gabled roofs. There is evidence from Karanovo that the walls were painted red and white. A fragment of a clay house-model from the Körös site of Rösztke-Ludvár has an animal head on one gable apex, and other models from Greece, from the Sesklo phase for the most part, have features such as smoke holes in the roof. Some buildings were two-storeyed. (p. 51).

From a technical point of view, this compilation of information is perfectly correct. You are simply given a list of hard facts concerning the issue at hand, here it was houses in the Balkan Early Neolithic. However, the problem is that to form a mental picture of the issue discussed you have to concentrate very hard. In fact, I had to read the above paragraph several times before I considered myself to have a (fair?) picture of the building customs of the Balkan Early Neolithic. But, when you have to read page upon page of compressed information like this, you either lose your concentration and lose track of what is actually written on the pages, or you rather quickly forget what you read, because you are bombarded with so much information that you are unable to store it properly in your mind.

Reading or rather cross-reading this book made me wonder for whom a book like this is intended. It may be intended for the student as an introductory reading to Neolithic Europe. But as such, it is not recommendable. The amount of hard fact information embedded in the book is so staggering that stu-

dents trying to read the book will be left with virtually no overview or mental picture of the Neolithic in Europe. It is far more valuable to let students read papers or books on specific subjects and areas in Europe, and leave out survey compilations like this. The net outcome in terms of the knowledge of and the feel for what the Neolithic of Europe is about becomes far greater that way.

It may also be intended as a book of reference, a handbook in which you can look up specific information on an area with a direct piping into the relevant literature. Seen from this point of view, there is indeed something to say in favour of the book. There is a nice “select” – perhaps too select – bibliography that gives you the handles for a study of the specific areas and periods. However, if the primary intention of the book is as a handbook, I would certainly have wished for it to be structured differently; with an emphasis on discussions of sites and specific problems.

Finally, it may be intended as a book of reference and inspiration to the professional with specific interests in part of Neolithic Europe. However, for this purpose, the book is absolutely unsuitable due to the fact that it is far too superficial in its discussions. Something I did indeed experience with the parts of the book that dealt with South Scandinavia.

It is thought provoking that although I had experienced the South European chapters to be crammed with information, the parts covering Southern Scandinavia revealed themselves to be superficial to say the least. Take the following for instance:

In the EN there was a variety of burial modes including flat graves, round and long dysse or megalithic monuments and long earthen barrows covering graves at one end. Some flat graves were flanked by axial pits, which are interpreted as the remains of tent-like mortuary structures, as at Konens Høj in Jutland. This contained a single inhumation. Others of its type may have been covered by earthen mounds as at Lindebjerg on Zealand which suggest a possible development sequence in mortuary ritual, some but not all sites being important enough for mound construction. Few grave goods were deposited, chiefly pottery in small quantities. The supposed longhouses at Barkaer on Jutland have recently been reinterpreted as long mounds in the same tradition, house compartments being seen now a constructional compartments. In the MN the nature of burial monuments changes and the so-called passage grave becomes dominant, with polygonal chamber and capstone approached by a passage and set in a circular, often kerbed mound (p. 228).

Even though I know the material outlined in the above cited lines very well indeed, I had to concentrate to connect the picture I have with the information given here. Most of the information is in fact correct, but it is so fragmentary, out of context, and so non-communicative on the nature of TBK burial forms and burial practice that in reality it tells you nothing about this whole matter.

Reading the book made me realise that to make a survey like this, and to do it properly so that those archaeologists working

with the material in the individual areas will nod there heads approvingly, takes more than reading a lot of facts from hundreds of books and recompiling them into the framework of a single book. It takes an intimate knowledge of the material, acquired through a close first-hand study. The shorter the paragraph covering each issue has to be, the better must the knowledge be.

The above cited lines represents all information in the book on TBK burial forms and burial practice. I am convinced that limited to the above number of lines I would not be able to give a fair account myself of this particular issue. Indeed, I would not expect anyone could do so. Returning to the first citation in this review, one cannot help wondering if the reason why it was so difficult to perceive was just a matter of the jamming of information?

I have to apologise to Alasdair Whittle, as well as to any reader who might find the book recommendable, that I for one cannot recommend the book. I must stress that I do not blame this on the professional capabilities of the author, which I know are perfectly good. Indeed, his only fault has been that he tried to write a book, which in my opinion cannot be written.

Torsten Madsen

H. THRANE: *Lusehøj ved Voldtofte – en sydvestfynsk storhøj fra yngre bronzealder*. Fynske Studier XIII. Odense Bys Museer, Odense 1984. With contributions by I. TKOCZ, K.R. JENSEN, *et al.*

Lusehøj is the name of the richest burial mound from the Late Bronze Age in Denmark, situated in the island of Funen.

The publication, written in Danish, takes up 215 pages including an extensive and useful bibliography (pp. 180–193) and four appendices (pp. 194–215). 116 figures and three folded plates accompany the text.

The main objective of the publication is to present a detailed description of the excavations in 1973–75 and to discuss the problems relating to the site itself and to the culture-historical implications of the archaeological material recovered. The importance of this field monument pertains not only to the reason of its excavation: the once huge tumulus with all the associations of chiefly ceremonial prompted by the rich find made in it earlier – but also to the surprising discoveries underneath it of some smaller burial mounds and the remains of a settlement, all from the immediate past of the time of the construction of the great mound itself.

The monument now called *Lusehøj* attracted the archaeological attention more than a hundred years ago (about 1861) during a time, however, when the excavation of prehistoric mounds was a pastime aimed at the unearthing of antiquities, the more valuable the better, for private and public collections rather than a responsible scientific undertaking of wider perspectives. In *Chapter 1* the author therefore devotes himself at clearing up the complex circumstances of the whereabouts of the items found during the first diggings in *Lusehøj* which produced the astonishing assemblage of bronze and gold antiquities known as the rich *Voldtofte* burial find from the Late

Bronze Age. These artifacts and their relations to the urn burial are described in detail and all the cultural aspects and implications are discussed at length.

Chapter 2 deals with the problems of the antiquarian identification of the Lusehøj mound and its topographic setting and summarizes the history of the site in terms of the new excavation. While an analysis of the unsatisfactory and confused archival informations only makes it a probability to identify Lusehøj with the mound in which the old 1861 dig took place, the matter is being clinched by reference to fragments of artifacts excavated in Lusehøj in 1973–75 that derive from the objects of the rich burial found in 1861! – The once huge mound (36 m across and 7 m high) has not escaped the fate of numerous mounds of having been destroyed; it had been ploughed down so thoroughly that the remnants were indistinguishable from the smaller natural elevations common in the area. The new excavation spared the SW. quarter of the mound for future investigations.

Chapters 3 and 4 bring the basic evidence of human use of the site in the Bronze Age before the tumulus was constructed in Period V, evidence that adds to the archaeological uniqueness of this site. At the bottom were remains of occupation dating to Period III, consisting of many holes from mostly heavy house posts and of some ordinary pits. This occupation phase was sealed in by a zone of plough, or more correctly, ards furrows whose closely arranged pattern is of a more realistic appearance than mostly seen under barrows; one really gets the impression of fields having been well prepared for the growing of crops. On the surface of this cultivated field, four small grave mounds containing various complex evidence of burial rites dating to period IV had been thrown up. All structural features and portable artifacts relating to these three phases are described.

Chapter 5 records the structures and artifacts relating to the Period V tumulus, beginning with the rich Burial GX and the evidence of the events of the erection of the mound itself, all in the chronological order of the construction. Due to very keen observation and technical ingenuity, a number of unusual phenomena have been recorded such as an extended layer of reeds surrounding the burial which was itself delimited by a wattle and covered by a woven straw mat. And to control the throwing up of the mound, a process taking place immediately after the interment in GX, radial fencework supported by thin sticks had been put up along at least four lines. They were confined to the area with Burial GX, a fact that may not be quite incidental. Important observations are made on the turfs providing the mound fill. The rich grave from the 1861 dig was located though its stratigraphic relationships could not possibly be reconstructed. It is, however, interesting that neither of the two rich burials was situated in the centre of the mound but several metres away from it. Only one more burial (AJ), without grave goods, belonging to this mound was recorded. It was also a-centrally placed though nearer to the centre than the two first mentioned ones. All of these three graves were situated away from the small mounds dating to Period IV.

Chapter 6 reports the evidence of activities later than the Bronze age. The previous discussion (p. 100) of the 1861 dig

and the location of this rich grave is continued here but it ought altogether to have been made more clear including proper reference to plans and profiles. Note (p. 108) the misprint “AQ” for “AO”.

Chapter 7 provides a detailed analysis of the portable artifacts and the structures from the overploughed Period III settlement under the mounds. That on the pottery is especially important because published treatments of Bronze Age pottery are much too rarely seen. Influences from the Central European Bronze Age cultures are noted to have made themselves felt in the local craft of pottery making. No matter how the distribution of the many postholes recorded are viewed, no definite house plans are being suggested. The unexcavated quarter of the mound may, however, hold the answer to the question since the largest group of postholes continues into this area and it might in fact be part of a three-aisled house orientated NW-SE of the well-known Bronze Age type.

Chapter 8 opens the discussions of the second half of the monograph aimed at viewing the results of the excavation at Lusehøj in wider perspectives. The reflections here and in the sequel on the recorded evidence on practical agriculture, both crop growing and animal farming, add very important contributions to the current debate of the nature of the farming and the conditions of settlement in the Bronze Age. Protection of crop fields with fencing against animals is in a way an obvious device, and the fencework connected with the building of the tumulus (plus the wattle around Grave GX) at least supports the idea that field fencing could have been practised at the time. The evidence also points to the systematic removal of stones from the field plots to ease the ploughing of the top soil for crop growing. In this connection the attention is drawn to the fact that the Lusehøj settlement and agricultural activities took place in an area with almost continuous heavy clay soil, quite in contrast to the traditional view of the preference of lighter soils for the farming land in the Bronze Age. A statement made in the previous chapter springs to the mind here: the field observations showed the Period III occupation at the site to have been thoroughly destroyed by ploughing literally subsequent to its abandonment. There is thus more than one reason not to underestimate the efficiency of prehistoric ploughing with ards and thus neither the relative importance of crop growing.

In *Chapter 9* the question of the origin and occurrence of the smaller burial mounds typical as primary mounds of the Late Bronze Age is focused upon. In spite of the source-critical problems involved, a relatively fair sample of these small, exposed field monuments in agriculturalized Denmark is presented (Appendix 3). They are classified as *small mounds* or *mini-mounds*, the former ones not quite unknown in the Early Bronze Age, the latter ones being confined to the Late Bronze Age. Both classes are seen as a rational consequence of the introduction of the cremation rite which basically requires less space for the interment. It is argued that the small mounds no doubt link up with the bigger mounds predominating in the Early Bronze Age while the mini-mounds are more likely to reflect influences from the Continent.

Essential in the remaining part of the chapter are two points.

One is the detailed exposition of the ceramics from the small mounds at Lusehøj which are very representative of the type range in period IV and the emphasizing of the features of form and decoration which are of continental origin, supplemented by one or two vessels being Lausitz importations. Moreover, the author remarks of the rather neglected study of the Late Bronze Age pottery that the potential of this material for comprehensive analyses is small owing simply to its limited variability and originality in ceramic types.

The other point relates to the demographic considerations based on the number of burials in the small mounds at Lusehøj suggesting that the small community in the locality is unlikely to have exceeded a very few families at a time. – The results of the anthropological determinations of the burnt human bone material from the Lusehøj burials and from contemporary graves elsewhere (cf. Fig. 107 and Appendix 1) also give rise to reflections on the sociology of the burial rites. This point of view forms a welcome supplement to the normal study of the Late Bronze Age graves. Particularly interesting is that sex-specific objects of bronze were buried not only as expectable with adults but also with juveniles, probably individuals who had passed the rites of initiation. Infants were also given bronzes as grave gifts but never of this specific category or so many as were given to members of the other age groups. The evidence thus suggests that bronzes in graves reflect status regardless of the age group or sex involved.

Chapter 10 begins with a very useful comparative survey of the Late Bronze Age cremation rite in Denmark. It is demonstrated that the rich Burial GX at Lusehøj dating to period V is one of the earliest, if not the earliest indisputable example of the fully accomplished cremation rite in South Scandinavia: the cremation pit with no container for the burnt bones, these fragments being left in the pit intermixed with the remains of the funeral pyre and of the fire damaged grave gifts. Its obvious continental background most probably should be traced in East Central Europe via West Poland. The author takes the opportunity here as further below to point out that cultural novelties from abroad – such as this variety of cremation burial – are liable to be introduced by high ranking social groups as a means to maintain and strengthen the social prestige.

The problems of interpretation in various burial functional terms of the recorded metal objects from various types of cremation burials are also touched upon. It is suggested that perhaps in general the quantity left in the graves represents but a minor proportion of the full personal outfit brought to the funeral pyre. Supporting comparisons are made with the observations at the large Slusegård cemetery from the Roman Iron Age where the pyres have been located and shown to contain what never reached the graves!

The fortunate detailed observations of the structural components of Grave GX are commented upon in terms of the total burial process, and rare parallels to some of them, also abroad, are mentioned.

Tracing cultural relations is an easier task with portable artifacts than with aspects of burial customs. The author shows that in fact it is not always quite in vain to venture investigations within the latter sphere. This leads very interestingly to

a kind of confession of faith in his capacity as an archaeologist. He thus rightly advocates for a “both-and” stance in opposition to the cheap and unrealistic “either-or” view when it comes to the theories of culture history. Diffusionism of course cannot be rejected as a dynamic force in culture change but must be accepted alongside local, internal forces at work.

An extended comparative exposition of the very fine damaged and fragmentary metal objects (of bronze, gold, and iron) from Burial GX brings the chapter to an end. Importations from the Southwestern Urnfield Culture are pointed out particularly in terms of the bronze fittings to a cart. The use of a cart with this funeral adds to its uniqueness and surprisingly no parallels are on record from contemporary graves elsewhere in Europe. The archaeology of the Late Bronze Age carts is briefly discussed, and reference is made to the bronze remains of a contemporary cart found hoarded in a small bog (Egemoen) only some 6 km away from Lusehøj. This find serves to stress the strong authority of the district in period V, circumstances that appear to be still further illustrated for example by the sword and the heavy cast bronze chain (a belt?) found in Grave GX. So, all things considered, the funeral of this Lusehøj chief evokes associations of his having been a person of strong character, individuality and political power. A closer examination of his relations to the other Lusehøj chief, known from the grave discovered in 1861, would be interesting, though on this particular point most unfortunately the stratigraphic relationship between the two graves is lost forever.

Space does not permit to mention but a few of the many observations made in *Chapter 11* about the construction of the tumulus. The radial fencework meant to aid this work is thought to reflect a broad pool of experience drawn upon widely in space and time when it came to the building of gigantic mounds at a stretch – the Jelling tumuli of the Danish Viking Age is a well-known example. Calculations show the original dimensions of Lusehøj to have been about 36 m across and seven m high made up of some 3200 m³ of earth, i.e. turfs cut from an area of a good seven hectares, equivalent to the interior of a circle of 153 m radius and to a work effort in the order of 100 workmen active for about six months. These figures relating to the requirements of grassgrown fields give rise to considerations of the whole spectrum of social involvement, also in relation to the agricultural strategy, a subject surely worth a separate, extended treatment.

Throwing up a huge mound on top of a group of small mounds being only a few generations older, appears to represent an unusual procedure of the Danish Bronze Age. This makes it tempting in the present case to think in terms of a lineage being in the process of social ascent wanting to confirm the significance of its earlier burial sites. It is stressed, however, that what matters is not the contour of any huge mound, i.e. not of a mound having been made gradually bigger over several phases and centuries, but only a tumulus attaining huge size in a short, continuous once-for-all effort as an exceptional reflection of the craving for social prestige – at Lusehøj satisfied in relation to possibly only two buried high ranking persons (the unexcavated quarter of the mound may hold more). The present excavation results are thus in many ways of rele-

vance also for the understanding of the nature of the settlement of the Voldtofte region.

The immediate archaeological problem discussed in *Chapter 12* has to do with the possibilities of reconstructing the Late Bronze Age social structure using the graves as a basis. This is rooted in the nature of the available evidence being made up of cremation burials that are generally poorly, if at all, furnished with grave gifts and that only rarely muster rich outfits. But the fundamental question would seem to be what these limitations really mean in relation to the universal cremation rite of the time. The answer obviously depends on the basic theoretical point of view. Though complicating the investigations, the author advocates for a differentiated approach which of course is more realistic than a simplistic one; reality was complex also in prehistory. The essentials of this idea are that a funeral as a display of religious and social symbols took its form as much, if not more, to satisfy the social requirements of the participants as to please the departed member of the society.

The more we ask, the more carefully the ground must be prepared to get an equivalent answer. Vital is thus clear discrimination between the cultural aspects involved in the original, total funeral event and the elements of it that may be identified archaeologically. The author warns against viewing the limitations of the recorded funeral investment of the Late Bronze Age as an expression of basically changed conditions and scale of status compared to the situation in the Early Bronze Age. Status relationships are taken to have remained unchanged in the Late Bronze Age, it is only the idea of the cremation rite that is thought to have made its general impact not only on the size and construction of the grave but also on the nature of the symbols in terms of the grave gifts placed in it. The evidence from SW. Funen involving exceptions to such a rule is clearly in support of such a view but the interesting question is why comparable rich burials are infrequent or right out lacking elsewhere in South Scandinavia. The study of social structure based on Late Bronze Age burials has, however, only just begun. The brief, clear statement of the subject in this chapter deserves to be known as a significant introduction to it, but it is being stressed that new, specialized excavations are badly needed to improve the evidence.

In order to view the two Lusehøj chiefly burials in their proper perspective, the author in *Chapter 13* makes a useful account of what may in English be put as the "burials of splendour" of the Late Bronze Age occurring scattered in N. Europe. These very rare finds are characterized by a varying range of precious objects including imports, and almost without exception these especially structured graves have been covered by monumental, primary mounds. The situation is particularly well brought out in the Seddin region of N. Germany where no less than three large mounds with sumptuous burials in contiguous districts can be related to a great number of other graves at all levels of lower funeral investment right down to the predominating humblest of urn burials. The conditions of comprehensive interpretation are exceptionally fine here and there is no doubt that this evidence is going to be very instructive for attempts at a detailed evaluation of the much sparser and incomplete material of most of the other regions.

With reference to the recent literature on the subject, the social functions of these burials demonstrating the highest of chiefdom standards is briefly and clearly discussed. It is pointed out that a full understanding of the phenomenon cannot be achieved without an analysis of the total social structure in its fullest possible economic context. But the core of the social function of these burials apparently has to do with the basically labile nature of chiefdoms. The everlasting struggle for rank only made the expenses at monumental signs and other manifestations of power vital during the very phase of its mobilization. This dynamic force thus explains why such efforts are not repeated in the same place during any extended period of time. It is suggested that similar forces may be at work also during times of significant cultural change.

In *Chapter 14*, the last of the publication, the rich Lusehøj burials of Period V are put into their local context. It is interesting that they turn out to illustrate but an episode in the Bronze Age and the Early Iron Age history of the region, being without basis in the preceding periods and echo in the following periods. It is worth noting that of all the cases mentioned in Chapter 13, the Lusehøj region is the only one where an important range of settlement sites have been recorded to supplement the other categories of finds. This is mainly owing to the very meticulous reconnaissance and the excavations carried out as part of the current settlement archaeology project in SW. Funen. Unfortunately, however, there is still a long way before the full fruits of these significant efforts may be harvested. This is because, as already noted, investigations of the local economic basis make up one of the indispensable approaches – and that a very demanding one – to a comprehensive explanation also of the occurrence of chiefly burials.

The author succeeds in identifying the Late Bronze Age archaeological pattern in SW. Funen with a chiefdom type of society by confronting the find material with the criteria defined by social anthropology. The establishment of exchange connections with chiefdoms on the Continent undoubtedly contributes to explaining both the similarities between them and not the least also their very appearance.

On the whole, the essential data excavated are clearly documented in the publication. The text is adequately supported by extended notes and references to the literature and by illustrations of quite good to excellent standard – even the small photographs come out generally well. The line drawings of the artifacts are especially fine and informative. What is sometimes being missed is a description of the smaller profiles and a clearer statement of the identification of the structures particularly in the plan drawings. Why for instance are the identifications of the holes not stated in Fig. 105?

In view of the very complex stratigraphic and structural evidence recorded at such a large-scale excavation as at Lusehøj, references to plans and profiles are somewhat restricted. This sometimes makes it a disproportionately time-consuming job to become familiar with the material. A few pages with a cross-reference system would thus have been very useful. What I have in mind is a total list in consecutive order of the numbered structures, postholes, profiles, etc. with reference to their

mention in text and presence in figures, preferably also to their localization in relation to the square metre units of the excavation.

To these few critical remarks there is only to be added that it is deplorable indeed that the publication – or at the very least a summary of it – has not been translated into one of the current foreign languages. A large range of colleagues abroad are thus unable to benefit from reading this important monograph.

One of the problems in archaeology is to get the finds published. Some archaeologists might therefore be inclined to envy the author of having accomplished a comprehensive publication of the excavation of a unique field monument only a decade after its completion. – In the essence, besides the all-important presentation of the observations and the artifactual evidence, H. Thrane has also successfully taken the opportunity of discussing many facets of the current problems relating to the study of the Bronze Age archaeology, all in a most inspiring and at the same time common sense manner.

Jens Poulsen

STEEN HVASS: *Hodde. Et vestjysk landsbysamfund fra ældre jernalder*. With contributions by TORBEN DEHN and GRETHE JØRGENSEN. Arkæologiske Studier vol. VII. Akademisk Forlag, København 1985. 367 pp. (220 pp. text, 149 pp. ill., 161 pl.). English abstract.

This book is the final presentation of the extensive excavations at Hodde in the early 1970s, which have been treated in numerous publications by Steen Hvass.

The book chiefly deals with the description of the large village, but the results of several minor excavations also help throw light on this Iron Age settlement on the hill island at Hodde northeast of the town Varde. A total of approx. 19,000 squaremetres was excavated and investigated.

The beginning of the book contains a short geological description of the Hodde area and a presentation of the methods used during the excavation. Then follows the description proper in chapter 3, and chapter 4 contains the analysis of the village and the artefacts it yielded.

Thirty-eight structures can be identified in the village, most of them farms. Each structure is presented phase by phase accompanied by plans in scale 1:200. On each plan the depth of the excavation below the surface of the subsoil is indicated at three levels: 0–40 cm, 40–60 cm, and more than 60 cm. The plan of the excavated area is equipped with contour lines of the surface of the subsoil, eliminating irregularities due to present-day cultivation. The numbering of postholes, pits, fences, and other remains is the same as was used in the original excavation report; however, only structures referred to in the text are numbered. The actual location of the book's photographs and sections is shown on individual maps. This makes the book, as well as the original excavation report stored at the National Museum, Department I, easily intelligible for further studies.

Then follows a description of the locations where each of the artefacts were found. The artefacts are mainly pottery, but there are also small tools, mostly of iron, iron slag, clay lumps, glazing stones a.o. Furthermore, there are animal bones of ochs, horse, sheep, goat, and pig. However, there are so few that they cannot give us a detailed picture of the village's live stock. A posthole from one of the houses dating from the 1st century B.C. contained charred grain, which was analysed by Grethe Jørgensen. It is remarkable that wheat was abundantly represented as wheat has so far been missing or only sparingly represented on Iron Age sites in Jutland. Also abundantly represented at the contemporaneous grain find at Overbygård, wheat has probably been more widespread than hitherto believed.

The chapter is concluded by a discussion of the chronology of the pre-Roman Iron Age including a dating of the phases of the separate structures to period IIIa and b. Phase 1 is dated to the beginning of period IIIa, phase 2 to late IIIa, and phase 3 to IIIb; i.e. from 150 B.C. to around the birth of Christ. The dating of the pottery supports this division into phases, which is based on stratigraphical observations.

Chapter 4 contains an analysis of all the 86 houses based on size, structural details, and function. The existence of two types of houses is shown: small houses measuring 4½–8 m, and long houses measuring 9½–22½ m. The average of the two types are 5–6 m and 11–13 m respectively. Charcoal from around a dozen roof-supporting posts shows that they were made of oak. The extensive presentation of the houses is followed by a comparative analysis making use of many early Iron Age sites, and some of these older excavations are reconsidered in the light of the results from Hodde. A similar analysis is made concerning the fences, and in this case the comparative material includes enclosed Iron Age settlements in Britain, the Netherlands, and northwest Germany.

Finally there is an overall interpretation of the Hodde village and all its contemporaneous farmsteads, their possible relocation, partition, rebuilding, and possible traces of fire. A comparative analysis includes a long series of villages and separate farms from the early Iron Age in Jutland and northwest Germany. Structural similarity between Hodde and Østerballe, Tolstrup, and Borremose is established. The author concludes that the layout of the settlement seems to depend on its size: small settlements have the farms aligned in two rows, whereas larger settlements have the farms gathered around a central square.

Though the author maintains that he finds the structure of Hodde duplicated elsewhere, it should be kept in mind that Hodde with its 27 contemporaneous farms including the large farm is by far the largest and best organized of the villages known from the early Iron Age. It is important to take this into consideration; otherwise this well-investigated village might easily be construed as a prototype of villages of the period.

Then ensues a detailed review of the artefacts, especially the pottery, which is divided into 11 separate groups. All artefacts are illustrated with drawings, and their original locations are shown on the map of Hodde. The analysis of the distribution of the artefacts indicates that the blackglazed pottery is only

found around the big farm and, furthermore, shows that a small number of farms have had potteries and smithies. The existence of these activities in the village is further supported by the presence of 75 kg. of iron slag and the remains of a potter's oven.

The final two short chapters analyse Hodde's economy and its community. The oldest farm, the large one, retains its leadership throughout all the phases of the village, and the other largish farms (*i.e.* farms with long houses measuring more than 15 m in length) remain the largest in the village. This suggests a community with a stable economic differentiation and a permanent leadership associated with the large farm. Furthermore, the examination shows that some of the small farms have had potteries, and that their products have been supplied to the rest of the village. One farm has had a smithy. However, no crafts or trade seem to be associated with the large farm.

The village Hodde has had stabling for a maximum of 460 animals, and its fields have covered an area of around 3.7 squarekilometers, $\frac{2}{3}$ of which have probably been grazing areas. A pollen analysis would provide an interesting insight into the exploitation of the environment throughout the Iron Age.

It is typical that the village has been moved around inside a limited area. The site Hesselagergård is partly contemporaneous with the latest phase of Hodde and continues into the early Roman period; the graves at Karensdal, presented by Torben Dehn, are contemporaneous, but the site at Hessel is dated to the early Germanic Iron Age. The settlement on the hill island at Hodde has followed the same pattern as other Iron Age settlements: having been situated on the same spot for 100 to 200 years the farms were removed, and the old sites with their excellently fertilized soil were then cultivated.

These are some of the most important results the publication of Hodde yields. However, the book is so full of information that it is very hard to find anything that has not been covered. The book is well-arranged and easy to read as every section is followed by a summary that encourages the reader who is not primarily interested in detailed descriptions. The extensive map material and Henning Ørsnes's excellent illustrations of the artefacts are an instructive supplement to the text. The weakest point is the interpretation of the social aspects of the site. Here the author is clearly not familiar with the relevant literature.

The Hodde investigations are an example of basic archaeological research at its best. It consisted of a clearly purpose-oriented excavation project, followed by preliminary reports in local as well as international publications, finally to be published in the approachable and informative book only 10 years after the termination of the original excavation – an excellent achievement.

One final point of critique: it is to be regretted that a publication central to the understanding of early Iron Age village organisation in northern Europe is not available in an international language. [Translated by Ul S. Jørgensen]

Lotte Hedeager

PER ETHELBERG: *Hjemsted – en gravplads fra 4. og 5. årh. e.Kr.* With contributions by STIG JENSEN and TORSTEN MADSEN. Skrifter fra Museumsrådet for Sønderjyllands amt, 2, Haderslev 1986.

This is an important and very useful book, which has been attractively produced by Haderslev Museum. The major part of it was written by Per Ethelberg, a graduate archaeologist of Århus University, attached to Haderslev Museum as Field Officer. On behalf of Museum Inspector Steen Andersen of Haderslev Museum, Ethelberg has conducted comprehensive excavations in advance of major development at Hjemsted, Skærbæk kommune in south-western South Jutland. The archaeological site lies upon a sandy *geest* bank out towards Ballum marsh. Excavations carried out up to now have uncovered three cemeteries. Two are cremation cemeteries of the early Roman Iron Age, with 44 and 30 cremations respectively. These two cemeteries are only briefly considered, as most attention is concentrated on cemetery 3 of Area I, a cemetery of 88 burials, nearly all inhumation graves of the later Roman Period but continuing, significantly, over the chronological boundary of 400 A.D., and thus crossing into the early Germanic Iron Age.

In the first development area, Area I, in addition to these three cemeteries, 14 building groups with buildings of various lengths were exposed. To judge by the series of postholes exposed in the natural, the largest building is up to 40 m. long and of nave-and-side-aisle construction. We apparently have here parts of a substantial village which runs over into the neighbouring areas, II–III. Some exposed building groups are illustrated on pp. 9–11.

The excavation of cemetery 3 lies at the heart of the book, in that the chronological observations relating to the later Roman Iron Age and the Germanic Iron Age which are introduced in this context are the most significant. The author therefore permits an account of this cemetery to take up most of the book. The graves are illustrated in plan in Figure 7. There were three cremations. The remainder were rectangular inhumation graves of depths up to 1.3 m., all oriented more or less directly E-W, often so closely situated that graves overlapped one another. The dead lay in the sleeping position on the side, with the head either to the west or the east; there were however also examples of the supine position. Five of the inhumation graves could be dated by grave goods to the early Roman Iron Age with pots of a typical southern-Jutish and Fynish style, representing a relationship between these two areas which has already been recognized. In 39 cases the outline of a coffin could be seen in later Roman Iron-age graves. With the exception of three plank-built chamber graves, these comprised buried timber coffins. The overlapping of graves was frequently indicative of the relative dates of the graves. A thoughtfully produced catalogue with detailed drawings and fine photographs is presented on pp. 111–193.

But so the problem emerges: which methods, what chronological line is one to follow in dating the graves in Hjemsted's large cemetery? In his discussion of the dating problem in Chapter 3, Ethelberg essentially follows Stig Jensen's interest-

ing studies in *Kuml* 1979 (p. 167ff.). This introduces a new phase within the later Roman Iron Age, his 'Raa-Mølle horizon'. It is this reviewer's opinion that the proposition rests upon a rather weak foundation, which should also be clearly seen to be implied by *Fynske Jernaldergrave*, 1968, p. 307, fig. 63. I do not think that the brooch from Raa Mølle falls outside the chronological milieu of C2 (my Period II) or that distinctive leading types, such as brooches, may be discerned in a phase connected with this brooch. The chronological pattern appears to me to be visible in the sequence C2, C3 (my Periods II and III) in that C3 (III) is identical with the period of use of brooches of the Nydam and Haraldsted Types: see *Fynske Jernaldergrave*, 1968, p. 308, fig. 64.

After the discussion of the chronological problems reviewed here, Chapter 4 proceeds with the finds from the cemetery. An interesting account of the brooches of the later Roman Iron Age is given here, with particular emphasis on the group which, starting from the gold brooch in Sanderumgårds grave 2, developed into thinner forms of silver or bronze which the author therefore characterizes as *blikspænder* (sheet brooches). Subsequently they evolve into the large silver brooches with a long footplate and characteristic stamped ornament. They are associated in finds with Haraldsted and Nydam brooches. In the North-Jutish region, in the cemetery and settlement site at Sejlflod near Ålborg and other places, these large brooches evolve into *de luxe* brooches with profile animal heads and rich Sösdala-style decoration. These late brooches are associated in graves with the earliest cruciform brooches, the successors to the Nydam brooches. In such graves the boundary to the Germanic Iron Age has been crossed.

Following the survey of these important brooch types, there comes a discussion of the pottery and a series of artefacts which commonly appear as grave goods: buckles, knives and especially beads of glass and amber, the latter disc- and figure-of-eight shaped, which are cautiously treated as chronologically diagnostic. On the basis of these and, naturally, of the pottery deposited, on p. 47 one grave is dated to period C2, four to the Raa-Mølle horizon, two to the Nydam phase and thirteen to the early Germanic Iron Age, the latter particularly on the basis of the cruciform brooches.

Finally in Chapter 5 there appears as a conclusion to the survey of artefact-types an analysis of the three-sectioned pots. This involves a chronological study of the ceramic finds. The author uses here a method which seeks to undertake a graphic analysis of the vessels' form and ornament through mathematical seriation. Since this method is totally unknown territory for this reviewer, refuge must be sought in a diagram, Figure 40 in the book, which shows a series of pots' chronological association with the previously considered periods. Despite personal doubts I must acknowledge from a reading of Chapter 6 in the book that the method appears to be practicable. The splendidly illustrated series of each grave's artefacts was able in every single case to correspond to my dating and assessment.

All in all Per Ethelberg's book presents a well-based overview of the position which Danish archaeological research has reached in trying to extract a surer view of the start of the Germanic Iron Age, a period at which traces of the formation of

polities in particular regions begin to show themselves. Ethelberg himself takes up the point in so far as he notes a situation such as the common distribution of inhumation burial in this period in southern and South Jutland while Angeln has cremation burials. In connection with this, attention is drawn to the *Olgerdige*, which is possibly interpretable as a boundary barrier between two groups. Alongside these observations belongs the intensive research work which has been under way for some years in the field in southern Jutland. For the inhumation cemetery from the middle of the later Roman Iron Age investigated by Lund for Haderslev Museum at Stenderup, which H.C. Broholm supplemented with his excavations, and published in *Aarbøger* 1953, a series of research drawings made by Stig Jensen is now added in this book.

With the two major cemeteries, Stenderup and Hjemsted, fully treated we have come a good way along the right road. There remains to be added to these the cemetery at Enderup Skov, which is nearly fully excavated by Erik Jørgensen: the inhumation graves at this site show great similarity to those from Hjemsted, and likewise seem to continue into the Germanic Iron Age. Contemporary with these southern Jutish sites is the major cemetery and settlement site at Sejlflod south of the Limfjord, but before the graves and buildings here can be drawn more fully into the discussion the material must be published. Not least is it now necessary for the settlement site's building groups to be investigated and published. At Hjemsted too such a study of the buildings is as yet still in an embryonic stage. The building groups at Drengsted, which were excavated at the end of the 60's, have not yet been made accessible through publication, nor has the important Dankirke settlement at Hviding marsh. We can look forward with great expectations to the publication of the villages at both Vorbasse and Dankirke. Two interim reports have been published on these sites, indicating the use of these two major sites down into the early Germanic Iron Age. Samples of the domestic pottery from these two sites are reproduced by Ethelberg in his Figures 50 and 51. With a view to future studies, one may hope that progressively new observations on the ceramics could lead to an increasing knowledge of the period's material culture, and that developments in this field will lead us closer to an image of the area's political status and social conditions in this phase of our history, a hidden phase in many respects. [Translated by John Hines]

Erling Albrechtsen

G. KOSSACH, K.-E. BEHRE & P. SCHMID (eds.): *Archäologische und naturwissenschaftliche Untersuchungen an ländlichen und frühstädtischen Siedlungen im deutschen Küstengebiet vom 5. Jahrhundert v. Chr. bis zum 11. Jahrhundert n. Chr.* Band 1. *Ländliche Siedlungen*. Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft. Acta Humaniora der Verlag Chemie GmbH, Weinheim 1984. 461 pages, 136 figures.

In the years 1969–77, the German Research Council provided, through its project 'The prehistoric settlement of the North-

sea area', a significant contribution to the furthering of archaeological research into the settlement of the North German coastal zone in the period of the first millennia B.C. and A.D. A comprehensive assessment of the results of the various individual projects is given in the two volumes of this publication. Only the first volume, on rural settlement, will be reviewed here.

All the archaeological settlement studies are shaped by close cooperation with historians, geographers, and with various scientific disciplines such as geology, soil science, botany and zoology in particular; through this the involvement of scientists in the programme has brought considerable pressure to bear in individual sub-disciplines such as zoology, dendrochronology and palaeoethnobotany.

The assessment of all the individual projects within the common design of establishing the natural conditions governing the choice of contemporary settlement sites, and the determination of their limits and historical change, enhances their value.

The aim of these publications is not the presentation of the results of the individual projects but the evaluation of the archaeological and scientific results in respect of the comprehensive, fundamental problem which was set out to be solved.

The area of study is first and foremost the north-west German marsh and drift sand/gravel (*geest*) area, while the most important sites in the neighbouring areas of the northern Netherlands and Jutland are brought into the study.

The last 30 years' ambitious research projects in the north-west German marsh and *geest* area were inaugurated with the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft's (DFG)'s decision to excavate the terp of Feddersen Wierde, north of Bremerhaven, completely. The site was excavated by W. Haarnagel in 1954–63 and published in 1979. The next project was the investigation of the terp *Elisenhof* by Tönning by area excavation in 1961–64.

After this DFG concentrated its attention on three long-term studies of sites on the *geest*, Gristede (Ammerland), Archsum (Sild) and Flögeln (Wesermünde). The massive excavations at Flögeln have been under way since 1971 and are still not completed. There were also several minor investigations of settlements in the coastal area, and as a supplement the cemetery at Liebenau (Mittelweser) of the late 4th. to the first half of the 9th. century and the East Frisian cemetery of the 8th. to 10th. centuries at Dunum west of the Weser were excavated. There are multiseason excavations of selected, individual areas, where it is possible to dig the rural settlements in full and to investigate their relationship to the natural environment.

The archaeological and scientific studies are divided into three principal sections:

1. The settlement areas
2. The settlements
3. The cultural context.

In the section on the settlement areas, first consideration is given to the change in the coastline, its causes and effects. It is essential to have a clear view of the change in sea level in this period, and thus the various phases of transgression, to in-

vestigate the possibilities of settlement in the marshland and on the *geest* edge.

The next section deals with the plant cover in the coastal zone. The typical constitution of the plant cover reflects most clearly the various biotopes and ecological change.

In a section on changes in the marsh and their influence on the development of the landscape, attention is focussed on the extensive construction of ditches, in which summer dykes are constructed from the 11th. century and supplemented by winter dykes in the 13th. century. As the marshland is drained the conditions of the landscape change so thoroughly that new settlement and subsistence forms are developed.

Although Man began to settle in the marshland from the end of the Bronze Age, this did not happen everywhere at once or with the same intensity. The area of Groningen (Ezinge) in the Netherlands and the flat marshes along the Ems (Boomborg-Hatzum) were settled at the end of the Bronze Age. The coast between the Weser and Elbe (Feddersen Wierde) was settled from the end of the pre-Roman Iron Age. Dithmarschen and Eiderstedt (Hodorf, Tofting) were first settled later, in the Roman Iron Age. The settlement of the marshland reached a peak in the 2nd. century A.D.; many settlements were abandoned again in the course of the later Roman Period, and all cease in the Migration Period.

The examples of settlement sites show the very labile character of the coastal settlement; only when in the Middle Ages dykes were built and the land drained could one keep the settlers put. From the earliest settlement, village form shows an astonishing variability; to some extent settlement forms were imported from the *geest*, to some extent people were directed by the conditions of the environment. Whether the abandonment of the settlements of the 4th. and 5th. centuries is solely due to the frequency of major inundations is a quite separate question.

In Lower Saxony, settlement in the marsh begins in the second half of the 1st. century B.C. as flat settlement on the beach embankment (Feddersen Wierde). The construction of terpen around individual farmsteads, nuclear terpen, begins later. In the 3rd. century nuclear terpen grow together into village terpen; in the 4th. and 5th. centuries the storm surge grows higher and in the middle of the 5th. century the settlements cease. The terpen are next occupied in the 7th./8th. centuries as Frisian settlements. The latest pottery from Feddersen Wierde is from the 12th./13th. centuries. Subsequently new settlements appear in the new marsh further west, originally as flat settlements, later raised again into terpen. These new terpen become church centres in the Middle Ages and are densely occupied up to to-day.

In contrast to the open marsh out towards the sea, the flood marsh offers far more limited possibilities for the choice of settlement and subsistence areas. A chain of settlements along the lower Ems in Reiderland were investigated under the DFG programme. The earlier settlement begins in the 7th./6th. centuries B.C. on high embankments to the flood area of the Ems. Jemgum I (7th./6th.-century B.C.) and Boomborg-Hatzum (6th.- to 3rd.-century B.C.) have been studied through major area excavation. There then come repeated inundations, and

the settlements cease in the 3rd. century B.C.. In the late pre-Roman Iron Age the settlements return with substantially more buildings than before: of these Jemgumkloster, from late in the 2nd. century B.C., and Bentumersiel, from late in the 1st. century B.C., have been investigated. The finds from Bentumersiel give a different picture from Jemgumkloster with its agriculture: the site is interpreted as a store or collection place. Both terpen (Jemgumkloster) and flat settlements (Bentumersiel) remained to the 4th. century A.D., after which all sites were abandoned. There is again a re-settlement of the ems marshland in the 7th.–8th. centuries A.D., partly on the old terpen and partly on new sites.

On the *geest* between the Weser and the Elbe, by the marshland where the terp Feddersen Wierde was excavated, lies the *geest* island of Flögeln, entirely surrounded by bog. This outcrop divides into four sections by natural delimitation, of which three, which each form individual settlement areas, have been marked from the very end of the 1st. century B.C. by a settlement, fields and a cemetery. Settlement ceases in the 5th century, as shown both by a break in the series of finds and the pollen diagrams. A new settlement appears on a new site on the island, Dalem, in the 7th./8th. centuries. This is the sole settlement on the island and ceases in the 14th. century. A second village is founded on the island in the 11th. century, the present Flögeln.

The next major section of the book deals with the very comprehensive material from the settlements themselves, firstly the buildings.

The nave-and-side-aisle longhouse is distributed from the Lower Rhine across the north-west German coastal zone to Denmark. These buildings are generally uniform in the north-west German coastal zone in the early pre-Roman Iron Age, both in the marsh and on the *geest*. The best examples are from Jemgum I, Boomborg-Hatzum and Grøntoft in West Jutland.

The richest material of the late pre-Roman Iron Age is from Feddersen Wierde, with a wide range of building remains from the 1st. century B.C. to the 5th. century A.D. including building timbers. There is no great change in the principles of construction through this period. Buildings on the *geest* (Flögeln) have on average greater living space than those in the marshland, and from the 2nd. to the 3rd. centuries A.D. the buildings become longer, up to as much as 38 m. long. The longhouses at Flögeln are divided into several rooms from the 2nd. century A.D., frequently with the byre placed in the middle. The same changes are effective at Vorbasse in Central Jutland. In contrast to Feddersen Wierde, the gravel site Flögeln has many sunken huts, of which a quarter have a fire-place.

There is a break in settlement from the 5th. to 7th. centuries both in the marsh and on the *geest*. Continuity is only found on the Dutch sites Odoorn and Eursinge. New elements are brought into the construction of buildings in the new building phase in the marshland of the early medieval period, as shown at Elisenhof, Hessens and Niens: massive, split posts rammed in the wall line and sloping posts outside the wall. From the 10th. to 13th. centuries building construction on the gravel changes, with wall posts in large post-holes, occasionally with a wall slot between the outer posts, and no roof-bearing posts,

as in the simple buildings at Dalem. A similar development is recorded from Grasselte in the Netherlands.

The development of the fixed village site begins with the enclosed farmsteads which are known from extensive excavations at Wijster (The Netherlands) and Vorbasse (Jutland). The most wide-ranging view of the structure and development of a fixed village site on the *geest* in North-West Germany comes from Flögeln, which in the 2nd. to 3rd. centuries A.D. has block-like enclosures for several activities. The village moves north at the turn of the 3rd. and 4th. centuries and the longhouses become larger with more entrances, which is suggested to indicate more families dwelling in them, and are situated at greater intervals. The number of granaries decreases. There is a change from farmsteads with many activities to large-scale farmsteads, which must reflect social conditions. Stability of the site for six-seven generations is typical; subsequently a change in the settlement comes about.

The farmstead mounds with stable settlement for up to 300 years have a different settlement structure. Major excavations at Archsum on Sild have given a thorough insight into a farmstead mound on the gravel island.

The last major section of the book deals with the cultural context, with a study of the economy. A large area of Celtic Fields with very broad banks was investigated at Flögeln. Cultivation tools, the plough and ard, are surveyed, the manuring of fields and harvesting tools.

Before Feddersen Wierde was excavated pollen was only collected on a sample basis. At Feddersen Wierde, because of the exceptional preservation, a substantial body of pollen- and plant-material has been systematically collected and analyzed. To-day one must study the total pollen remains from buildings, granaries, pits and so on: new methods must therefore be developed for the removal and identification of this material.

Domesticated animals were the most significant basis for the settlements in the marshland, as shown by the number of byres in the longhouses. Cattle and sheep/goat predominate on these sites, at 70–80% of the stock. In settlement phase 5 at Feddersen Wierde the number of stall units indicates a total cattle stock of 450 head. An average farmstead at Feddersen Wierde would conceivably have had 20–22 cattle, 6 sheep, 2 or 3 pigs and 4 or 5 horse.

Examples of highly advanced woodwork are known from Ezinge, Feddersen Wierde and Elisenhof. Carpenters, turners and wainwrights worked at places within the villages, as shown at Feddersen Wierde.

The terpen provide optimal preservation contexts for bone and antler: craftsmen working with these material are found in the farmsteads at Feddersen Wierde.

The organization of iron-working is clearly visible at Feddersen Wierde, reaching a substantial level in the 3rd. century A.D. and exclusively associated with the principal farmstead.

The good preservation on the terpen has also produced many textile fragments.

An overview of the extensive body of household utensils, dress-accessories and jewels is given. Most of the artefacts come from Feddersen Wierde, Tofting and Hodorf. Imported

Roman pottery is particularly important, the distribution of which is concentrated in the marshland settlements and which is absent inland.

The forms of both metal objects and pottery show regional differentiation. The Elbe-Weser region is frequently in view because of its striking find-groups, including Roman imports, which can be viewed in light of the question of whether there were here an economic centre of special dynamism.

There is also evidence of sacrifice in connection with building and cult sites. Regular sacrifices are known from Feddersen Wierde and Tofting with human and animal material. On the *geest* island Archsum a round embankment of the early Roman Iron Age, Archsumburg, 80 m. in diameter, was investigated. It is interpreted as a mootplace for the surrounding population. Two similar constructions are known from Tinnum on Sild and Trælbanken in southern Jutland, north-east of Højer.

Two major cemetery studies are then reported. One is the site at Liebenau, 15 km. west of the Weser, where about 500 cremation and inhumation graves were excavated. The inventory carries many parallels to Merovingian row-grave cemeteries and shows that the cemetery was in use from the late 4th. to the first half of the 9th. century A.D. Thus there is continuity of population here from the late Roman Iron Age to the Merovingian Period. The second site is on the East Frisian *geest* island Dunum west of the Weser of the 8th. to 10th. centuries A.D. This provides the fullest picture of a Frisian cemetery, with 778 graves divided amongst five sites which presumably represent five farmsteads over *circa* 300 years. The extensive excavation permits a horizontal-stratigraphical ordering of the grave finds.

If one wishes to isolate the individual parts of the society of an agricultural population one must begin with the smallest unit, the farmstead, and then follow the development of farmsteads, the village and larger settlement assemblies. The DFG project, together with the large area excavations in the Netherlands and Denmark, have contributed more information towards this problem than could previously have been commanded on the basis of individual studies.

The last section of the book deals with the North-sea zone as a cultural contact area. After the fall of the Roman Empire, England is Germanicized through the well-known migration of the 5th. and 6th. centuries of Saxons, Angles and Jutes. If one looks at the known artefact material from England and the continent, the difficulty resides in pointing-out the first Germanic folk in England. In general, the metal objects and pottery show similarities between south-east England and the continent, especially the area between the Rhine and Elbe, but it is one-sided to treat the similarities in the finds only as a result of migration. They must rather be regarded as the result of cultural exchange in the North-sea zone.

The book includes both a comprehensive bibliography for the book's many subjects and a special book-list covering the individual projects of the full DFG programme, rendering this a very useful publication.

Looked at from a Danish viewpoint, the north-west German settlement research and this published summary of the major

lines are of great significance and a source of inspiration for research into the development of settlement in Iron-age Denmark.

The marsh and gravel areas of South-West Jutland form a continuation of the marsh and gravel areas of the Netherlands and North-West Germany dealt with here. Purposeful archaeological investigations of settlements to clarify when and how the Danish marshland was settled and thus to make possible a direct comparison with the results of research in North-West Germany are still lacking on the Danish side.

Along the *geest* edge of South-West Jutland there have been two major excavations which as yet are only provisionally published: Drengsted (O. Voss 1976, 68) and Dankirke (E. Thorvildsen 1972, 47). In recent years two surveys of iron-age settlement along the Danish section of the marsh and *geest* area have been published (S.W. Andersen & F.R. Rieck 1984, 95; S. Jensen 1984, 5). [Translated by John Hines.]

Steen Hvass