

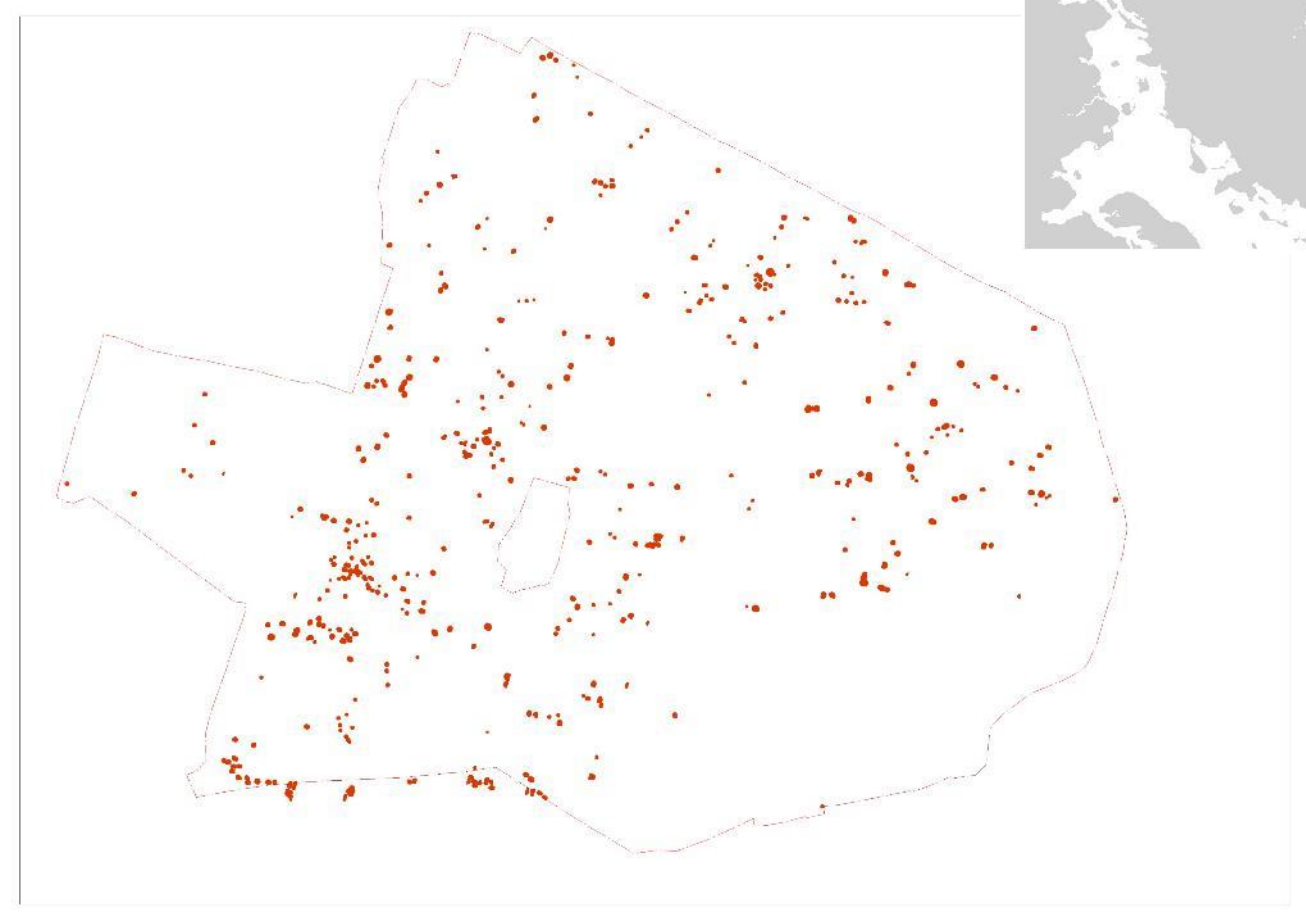


## Cooking pits

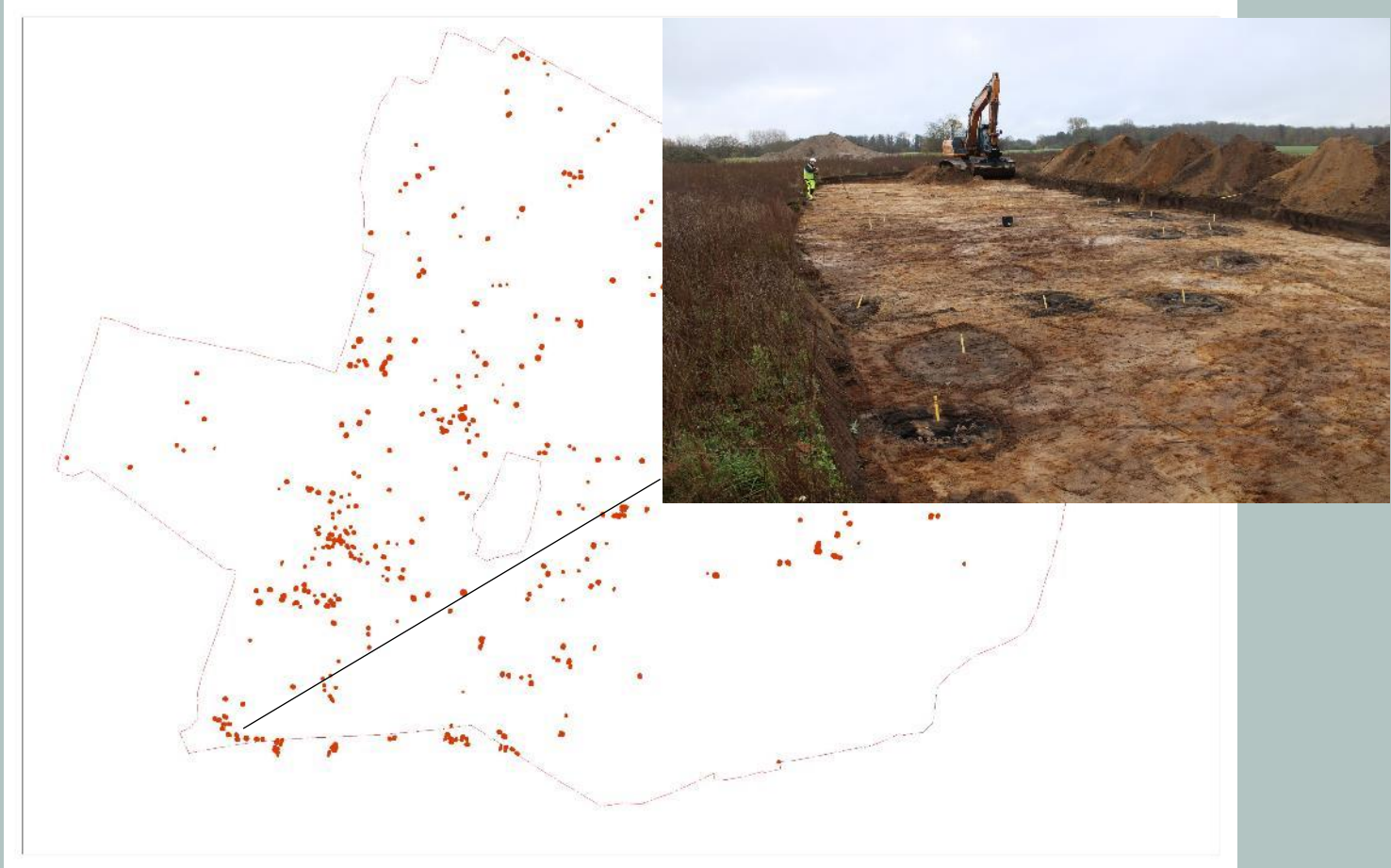
- recent excavations, strategy and focus points

*Jakob Bonde & Michael Borre Lundø*

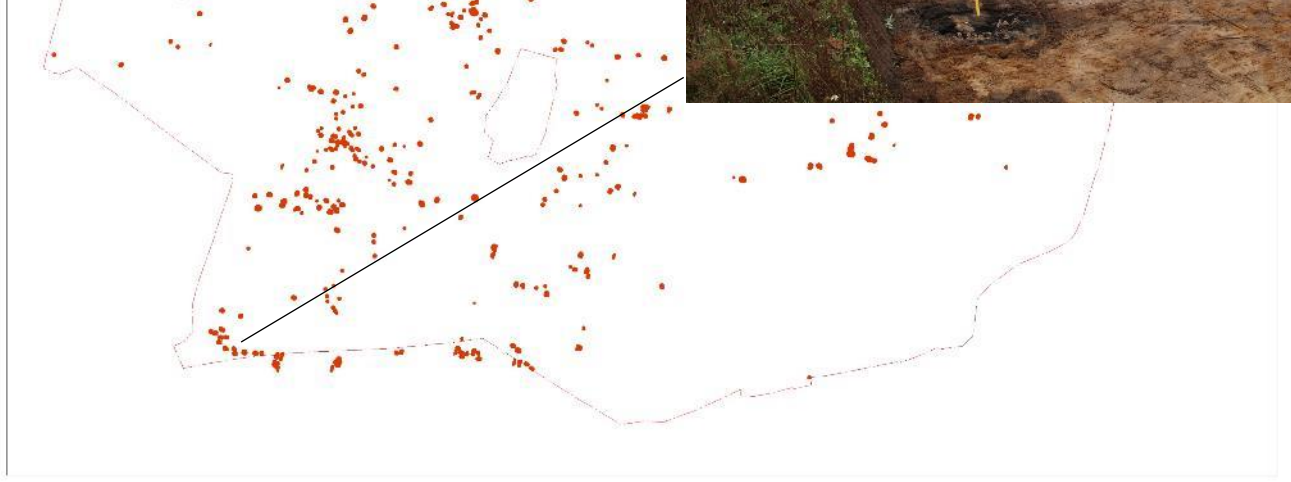
# Markhaven. Cooking pits



# Markhaven. Cooking pit structures



# Markhaven. Cooking pit structures



# Markhaven. Cooking pits and landscapes



# Markhaven. Rituel landscapes



# Markhaven. Rituel landscapes



# Markhaven. Rituel landscapes





# Tietgenbyen Nord. Excavation



# Tietgenbyen Nord. Cooking pits



# Tietgenbyen Nord. Rituel landscapes



# Tietgenbyen Nord. Rituel landscapes



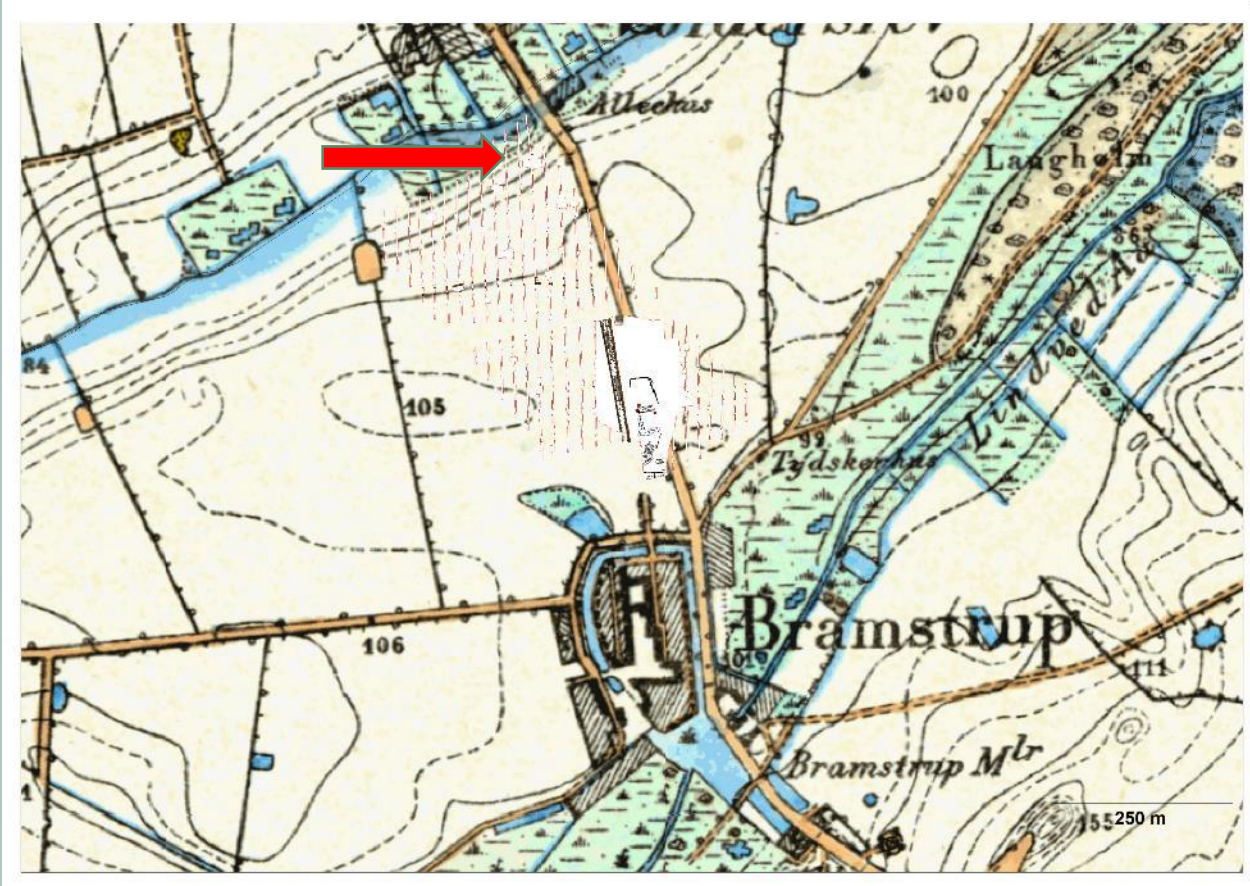
# Tietgenbyen Nord. Rituel landscapes



# Tietgenbyen Nord. Rituel landscapes



# Bramstrup. Rituel landscapes and cooking pits

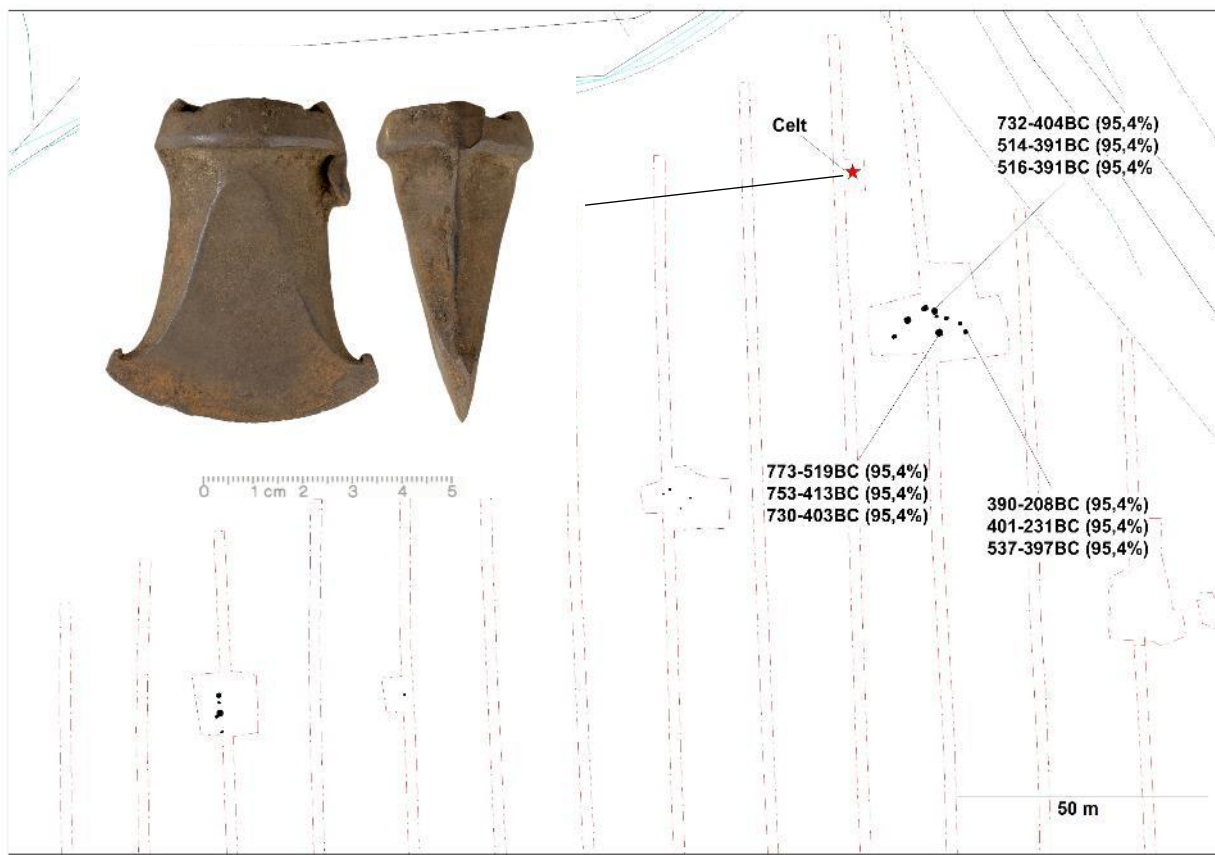


# Bramstrup. Rituel landscapes and cooking pits





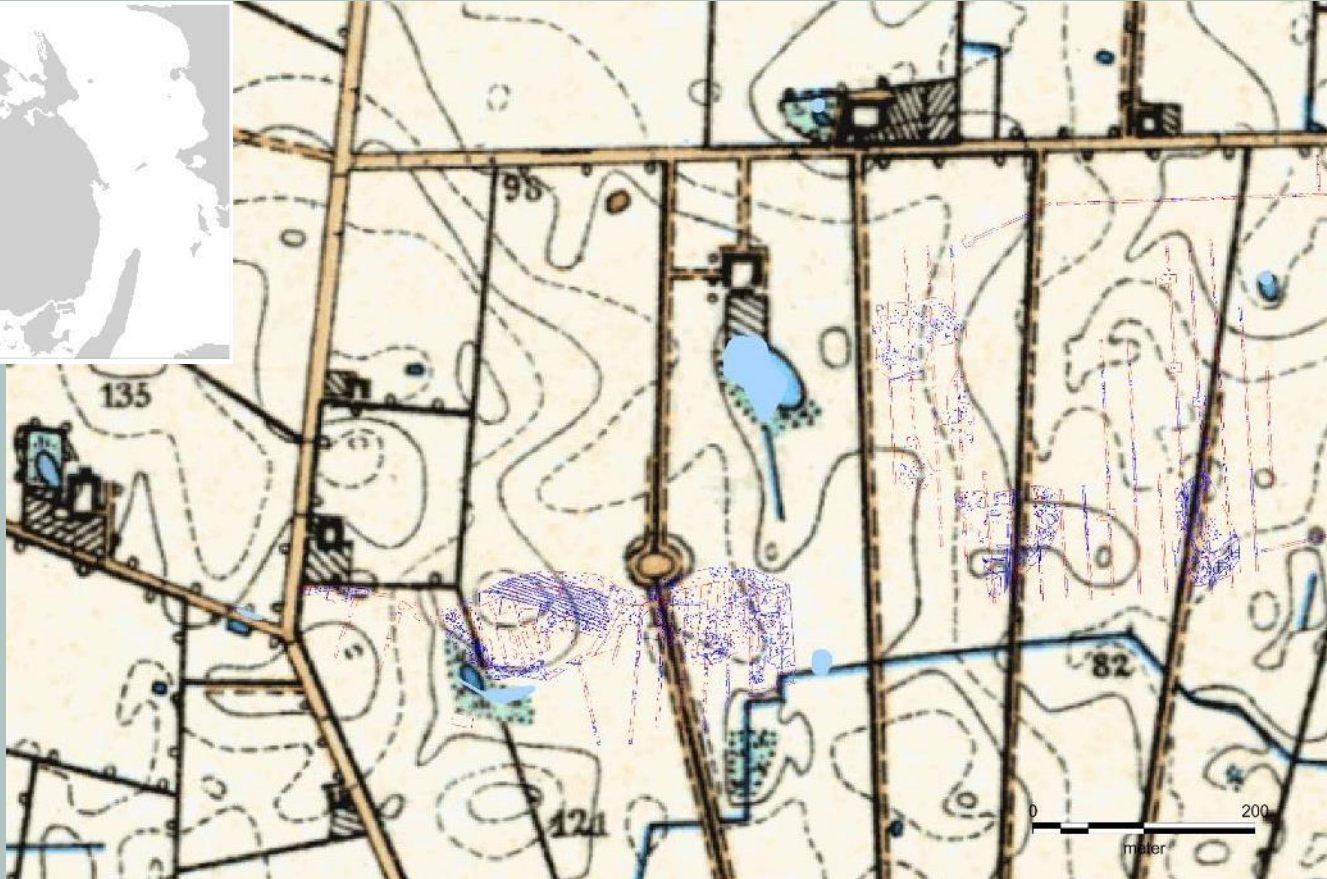
# Bramstrup. Small cooking pit fields



# Bramstrup. Small cooking pit fields



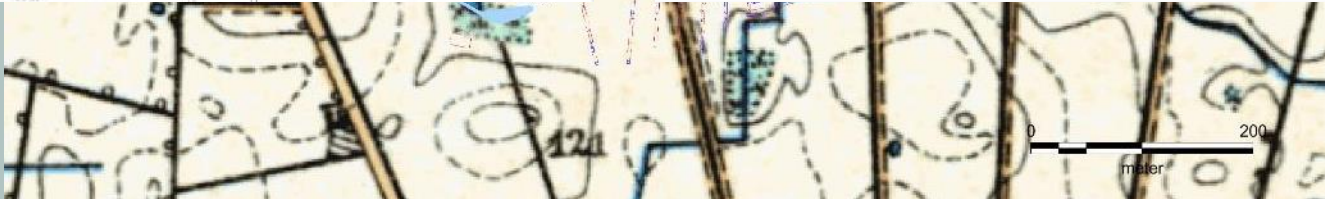
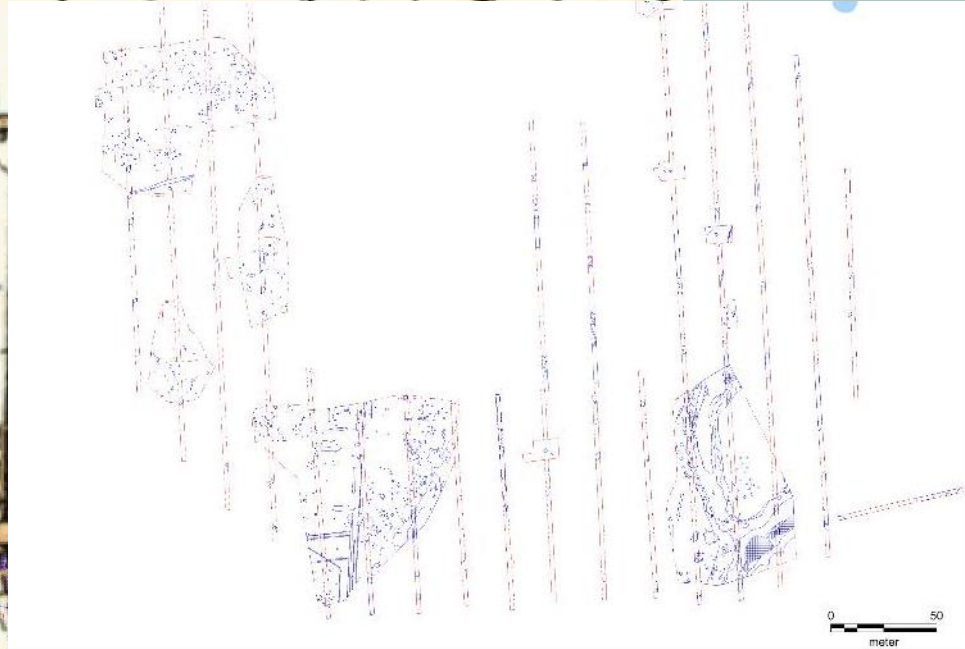
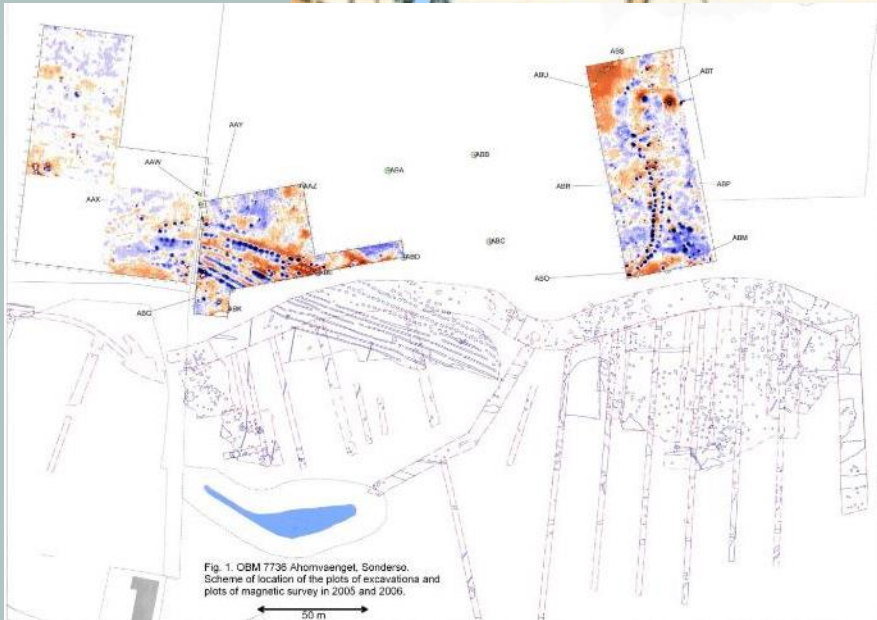
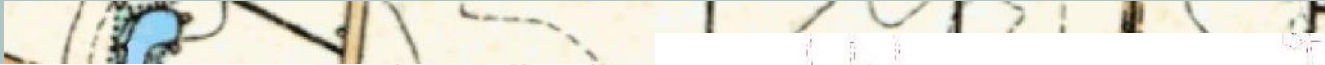
# Gathering Places, Ahornvænget/Nordmarksvej v Søndersø



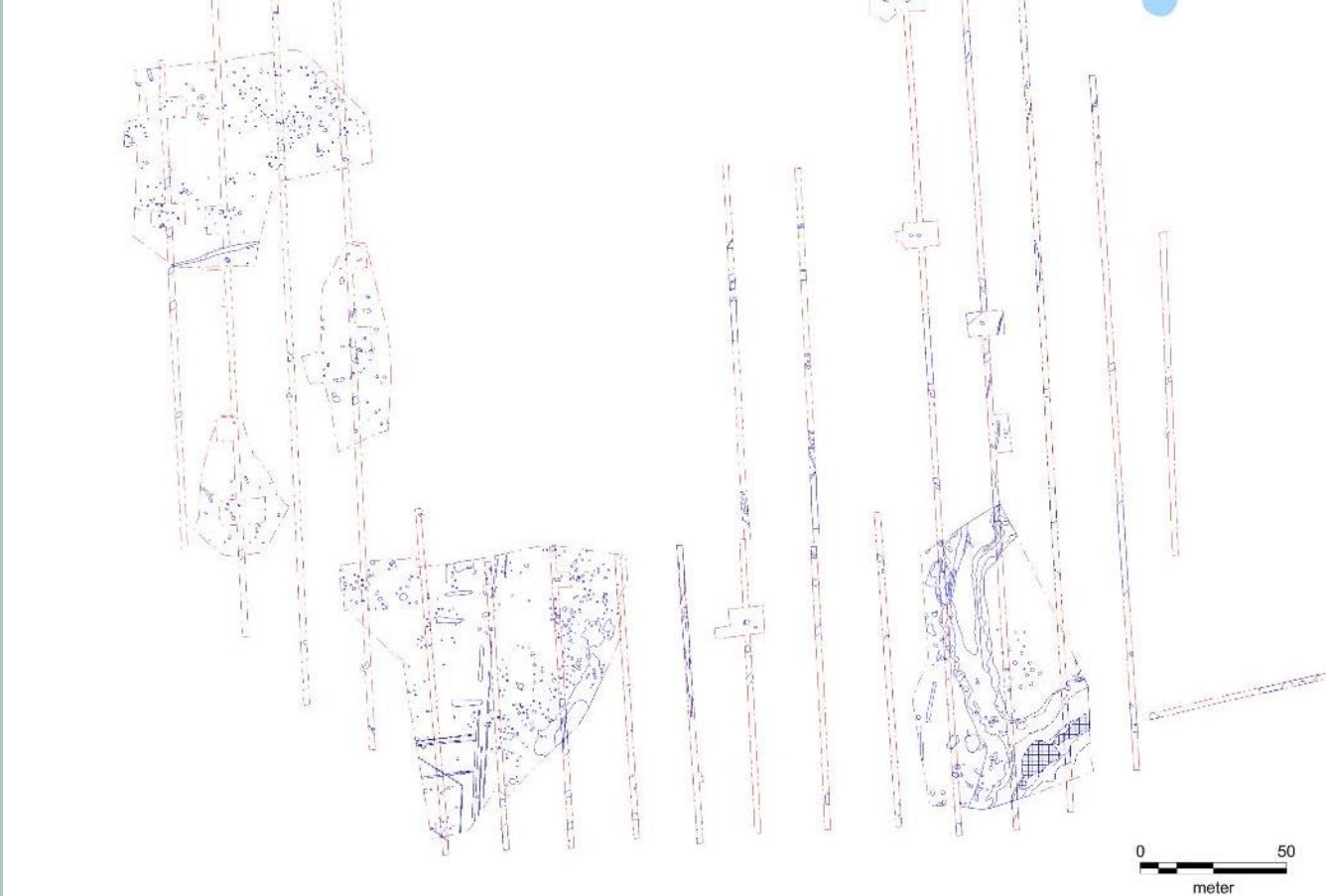
# Gathering Places, Ahornvænget/Nordmarksvej v Søndersø



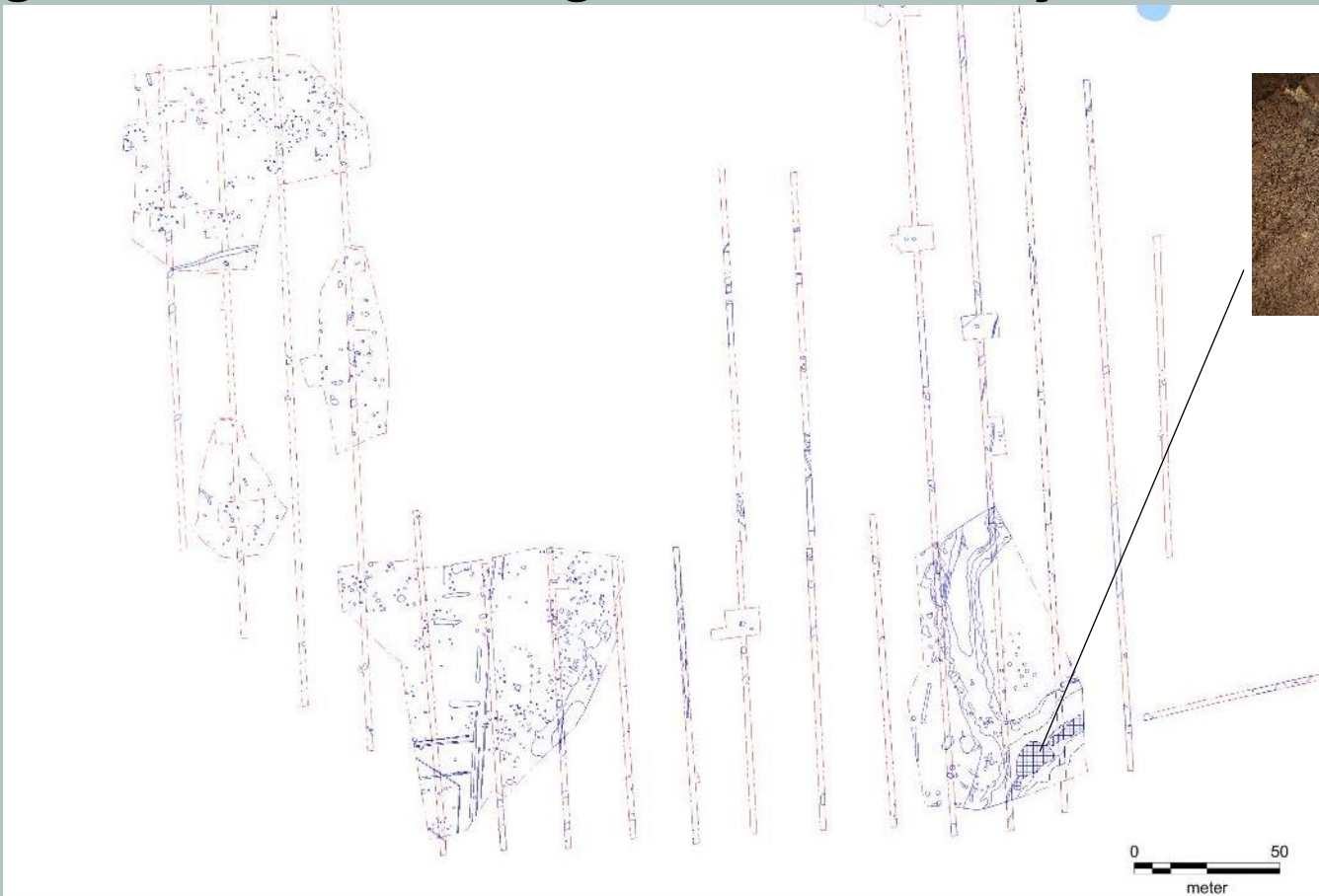
# Gathering Places, Ahornvænget/Nordmarksvej v Søndersø



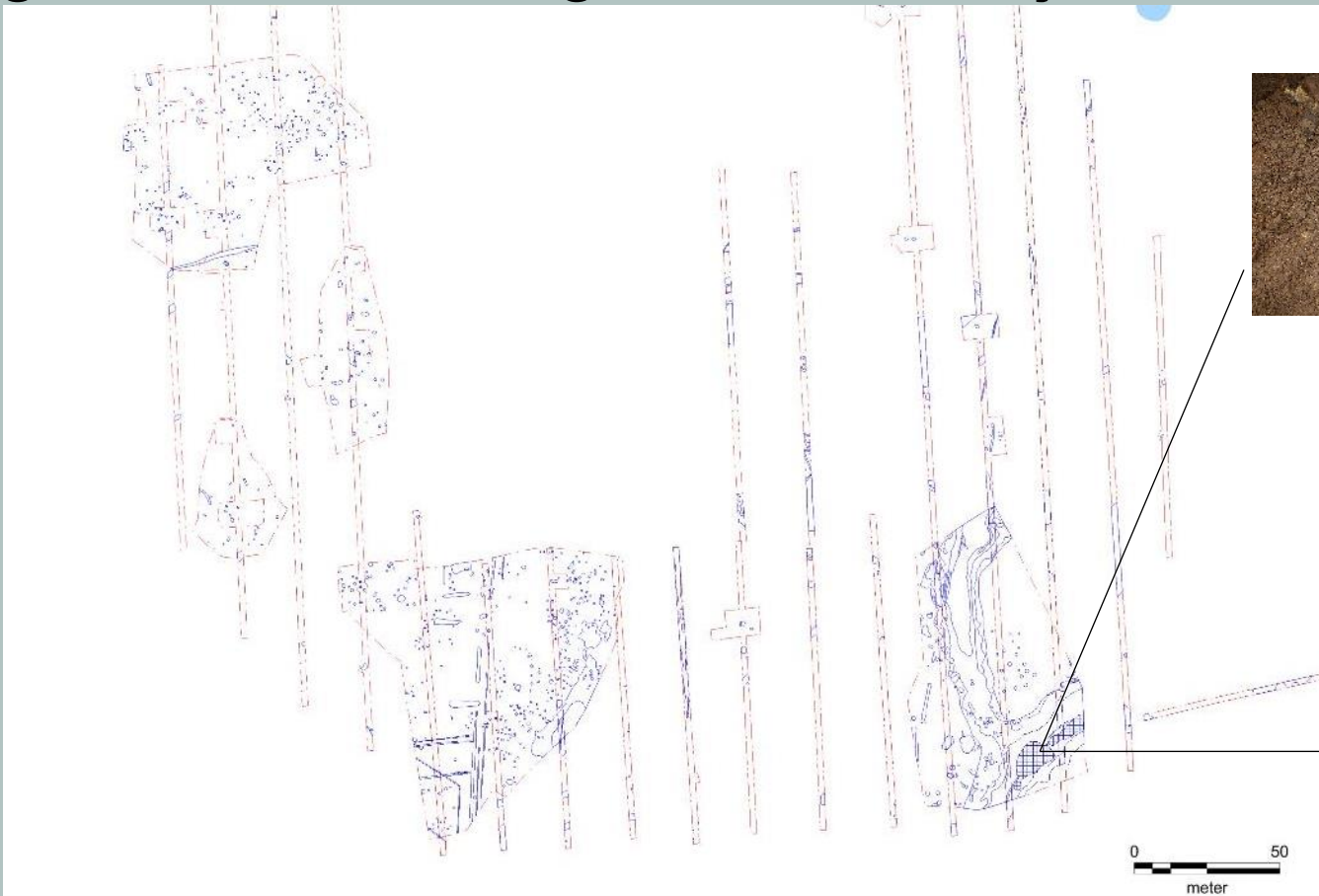
# Gathering Places, Ahornvænget/Nordmarksvej v Søndersø



# Gathering Places, Ahornvænget/Nordmarksvej v Søndersø



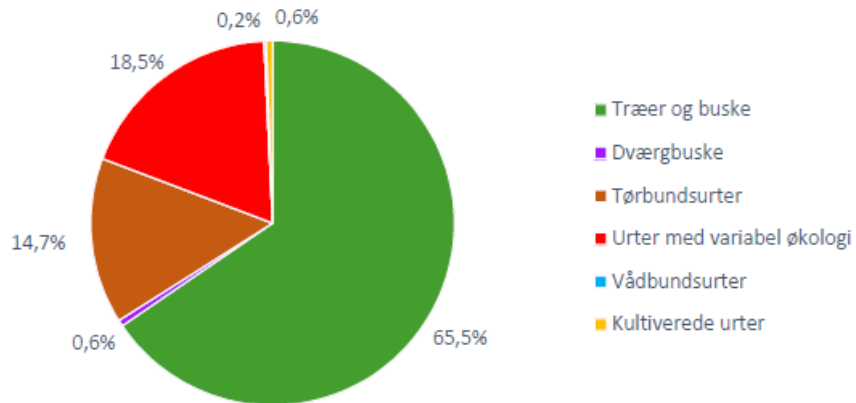
# Gathering Places, Ahornvænget/Nordmarksvej v Søndersø





# Gathering Places, Ahornvænget/Nordmarksvej v Søndersø

% X126 lag BCD



- Træer og buske
- Dværgbuske
- Tørbundsarter
- Urter med variabel økologi
- Vådbundsarter
- Kultiverede urter



0 50  
meter

0 1 cm

# Strategy and focus points:

- Dating and development (14C)
- Function (charcoal analysis, cooking stones, internal structure )
- Context (landscape analysis, connection with deposits, settlements)
- Strategy and possibilities (in process)

## **Billede 1:**

On Museum Odense my colleague Michael Lundø and I are at the moment working on a strategy for increased knowledge about the cooking pit horizon on Funen.

The work is foremost concentrated on cooking pit structures as for example cooking pit rows and different types of cooking pit clusters. This raises a great variety of questions concerning topographical issues, spatial development, dating frame and relations to contemporary deposits and settlements.

But also, the use and character of the cooking pit itself are in focus in order to make a more general strategy on how to register cooking pits and get more knowledge on their variety and use in general.

In the following I will present four locations with different types of cooking pit clusters from recent years excavation in Museum Odense, to get a picture of the big variety in the cooking pit structures in our area.

## **Billede 2**

Markhaven north of Odense excavated by Michael Lundø

On a large settlement area has been registered a great amount of cooking pits distributed over the area (cleansed plan). Some of them were apparently placed in small clusters on the settlement area and in the south of the excavation there were found irregular structures of cooking pit rows.

## **Billede 3**

Excavation of structured cooking pit rows.

## **Billede 4.**

A selection of the cooking pits was excavated (not all of them).

To get the most possible information, the excavations were carried out on selected features and after a strict plan with strict considerations about the use and character of the specific feature.

This included weighing the stones. Up to 200 kg in one pit.

A main circumstance was that the cooking pits in Markhaven was placed on sandy ground without natural occurrence of stones. Hence the stones have been picked up and brought to the area for at least several hundred meters away.

## **Billede 5**

The cooking pit structures are oriented to low lying areas (former meadows) which is of course something we see quite often.

Not regular wetlands but maybe seasonal occurrence of water.

## **Billede 6:**

In the area there were several finds with possible connection to the cooking pit horizon

One of them was a socketed axe from the late bronze age.

## **Billede 7**

A small size cup marked stone, which probably also dates to the bronze age.

## **Billede 8**

In addition, another stone picturing a man standing between a series of cup marks (which may or may not be symbols of cooking pits?)

The stone was found as a part of the structure of an old barn near Markhaven and can most possible be connected with the site.

## **Billede 9**

A location that in many ways are similar to Markhaven – but also with a few differences, are Tietgenbyen Nord, east of Odense.

On a large settlement area with settlements dating from bronze age to late iron age a great amount of cooking pits has been excavated. Most of them were spread with in the settlement area but tended to lay in diffuse clusters and maybe even irregular rows.

## **Billede 10**

On this slide you can see all the cooking pits from the excavation on the central part of Tietgenbyen Nord. South of the settlement, pointing towards a low lying area with a small stream, several structures of cooking pits rows with varying length and form was found. In addition, several small cooking pit clusters was found in this area.

Our main focus on this site was to date as many structures as possible (carbon dating) in order to see their relationship with the settlement and the time relationship within the structures.

No results yet.

## **Billede 11**

As in Markhaven a socketed axe from the late bronze age was found not long from the cooking pit structures.

## **Billede 12**

In addition, an axe from the early bronze age was also found in the area. It seems highly likely that at least some of the cooking pit structures shall be seen as concurrent with the axes.

Probably votive offerings, much like the case in Markhaven.

## **Billede 13**

An outline over one of the cooking pit structures – an irregular line structure pointing to the low lying areas and the stream south of the settlement.

## **Billede 14**

One of the cooking pits from Tietgenbyen Nord.

## **Billede 15**

An example of a small more solitary cooking pit cluster was found near Bramstrup south of Odense. At the time of the excavation this area was in Museum Odenses area of responsibility. Now it is in Øhavsmuseet

## **Billede 16**

At the north end of the site, we excavated a small cooking pit cluster and a few solitary cooking pits distributed in the area. The cooking pits were placed near the slope of a stream and are carbon dated to late bronze age/early pre-roman iron age.

## **Billede 17**

Even closer to the stream, in wet-land areas near the stream, was found a socketed axe from the late bronze age. It should most likely be seen in connection with the cooking pit structures.

## **Billede 18**

Nearby is also found a bird shaped figurine, which probably should be dated to the late bronze age as well. The bird was about 8 cm long.

## **Billede 19**

As an example of a large so called gathering place we have Ahornvænget/Nordmarksvej north of Søndersø on northern Funen.

## **Billede 20**

Ahornvænget was excavated by Kirsten Prangsgaard

It is characterized by massive systems of cooking pit ditches and in addition cooking pits distributed more unsystematic over a large area.

The carbon datings places the site in bronze age PIII-PIV.

The excavation was combined with geo-magnetic surveys, that showed that the cooking pit ditches continued beyond the borders of the excavation.

The more random distributed system of cooking pits was placed a bit longer to the east.

Phosphate analysis of selected areas around the cooking ditches showed a tendency to raised values at the end of the ditches. Maybe it could be interpreted as passages between them.

Samples of red soil around the ditches has also been analyzed – showing that it had been exposed to temperatures of around 400 c.

## **Billede 21**

Nordmarksvej.

Excavated 2014 (Kristine Stub Precht)

## **Billede 22-25**

At Nordmarksvej we have a more random distribution of cooking pits.

But still with several clusters that might incline the presence of small regular cooking pit clusters within the large distribution of cooking pits.

From a little swamp nearby the cooking pit systems there were found a socketed axe and a bronze knife (bronze age)

A pollen sample was taken from a turf layer (same in which the bronze artefacts were found) and analyzed to get information about the landscape at the time of the cooking pit clusters/gathering place.

The site (Nordmarksvej): Carbon dates: PII-PIV (Mostly PIII-IV)

In conclusion. Many different types of cooking pit clusters. Very often found with one or more deposits – votive offerings. And most often in some kind connected to low laying areas – often with streams or former small lakes or swamps.

## **Billede 26**

In conclusion our strategy and focus points concentrates foremost on cooking pit systems and structures (rows and clusteres).

In order to increase the knowledge about these features we have an increased focus on several points

Strategy and focus points:

- Dating and development (14C).

We have increased the focus on getting carbon dates on cooking pits. Our hope is that we over time can tell more about the different kinds of structures and how they relate in time and space.

- Function (charcoal analysis, cooking stones, internal structure).

The use of the cooking pits. Charcoal analysis: what kind of wood have been used. What kind of stones and how many. Has there been primarily fire in the pits or not.

- Context (landscape analysis, connection with deposits, settlements)

How does the cooking pit structures relate to the cultural landscapes. How are they placed over time and how do the relate to contemporary deposits (votive finds) and or settlements.

- Strategy and possibilities are in working process and hopefully inspired furtherly today

***Jakob Bonde and Michael Borre Lundø, Museum Odense***