

What is the Olger Dyke?

The Olger Dyke is a prehistoric earthwork and defensive structure stretching across the Jutlandic peninsula. It was constructed in AD 31 at the latest and maintained for more than one hundred years.

Like beads on a string

The Olger Dyke appears to have consisted of several sections of varying lengths which – like beads on a string – connected streams, bogs, lakes, and forests between the Aabenraa Inlet in the east and the Wadden Sea in the west.

In combination with the natural barriers, these sections made it difficult to travel from north to south. The sections of the Olger Dyke, which we have examined so far, show that the structure consisted of three parts: an earthen bank and a ditch to the south, and at least one timber palisade to the north. Along with the contemporary ring fortresses Archsumburg on Sild and Trælbanke north of Højer, the Olger Dyke marked the border between the areas of the Angles in the south, and the *Varini* in the north.

Captions:

Map: Jørgen Andersen, MSJ, after T. Bugge and F. Wilster 1805.

Photo: The Olger Dyke visible as cropmarks in a field near Poulskrogvej east of Uge. Photo: E. Schlosser Mauritsen.

Photo: The Olger Dyke near Uge Mark. Photo: MSJ.

Photo: The Olger Dyke near Ligård. Photo: MSJ.

Photo: The Olger Dyke near Bjerndrupvej. Photo: MSJ.

Photo: The Olger Dyke near Gårdeby Mark. Photo: MSJ.

