

What did the Olger Dyke look like?

The Olger Dyke consists of three elements: a wooden palisade, a ditch, and an earthen bank. The correct term for the Olger Dyke is “structure”.

Only certain sections of the structure consisted of all three elements, but they all follow the same pattern. Towards the south were a ditch and an earthen bank, and one or more palisades were placed towards the north.

The palisade was constructed of trimmed oak posts. At certain sections the archaeologists have found two, three – even up to six – parallel rows of palisades.

Approximately 90,000 oak posts were used in the wooden palisade. The bank was assumedly constructed of earth dug up from the ditch.

Captions:

Visualisation of the Olger Dyke at Gårdeby Mark (left). Drawing: Jørgen Andersen.

The opening near the prehistoric Ox Road (bottom). Drawing: Jørgen Andersen.

A complete post from the ditch at Bjerndrupvej. Photo: MSJ.

A post in situ is being removed at Uge Mark. Photo: MSJ.

The posts in the palisades were carefully worked according to their location. At Bjerndrupvej (top), the posts were placed in a palisade trench. The base of these posts was therefore flat and had been trimmed with an axe to allow the post to stand vertically. The sides had been trimmed to allow the posts to be placed closely together like in a fence. The natural subsoil near Uge Mark is soft, and here the posts were rammed into the ground. For this purpose, the posts had been tapered. The posts had an additional small point which served to keep the post in its right position when it was rammed into the ground.

Photos: Moesgaard Museum/Jørgen Andersen, MSJ.

