

The two samples with the same result

Two carbon-14 dating results have removed all doubt regarding the authenticity of the Viking fortress. Marie Kanstup, an employee at the AMS 14C Dating Centre at the Department of Physics and Astronomy at Aarhus University, was responsible for processing the samples:

“We’ve examined two samples of wood from the fortress. We arrived at the same result for both samples: the fortress was built in the period between the year 900 CE and the beginning of the 11th century,” explains Marie Kanstup, an employee at the AMS 14C Dating Centre at the Department of Physics and Astronomy, Aarhus University.

The size and symmetry of the fortress surprise and impress

Archaeologist Jonas Christensen, curator of the Danish Castle Centre participated in the entire excavation. He emphasises what an impression the size and symmetry of the fortress made on everyone involved.

“Again and again, we’ve been surprised and impressed by the structure that’s come to light,” he says. “The fortress was laid out with incredible precision, and no expense was spared during the construction of the fortifications. The massive ramparts that were the first thing we found might only have been half the job,” explains archaeologist Jonas Christensen, curator of the Danish Castle Centre.

New find puts Danish cultural heritage on the world map

Torben Dehn is a special consultant at the Danish Agency for Culture who works on Danish ring fortresses, and he has witnessed the great interest in the latest Viking fortress to be discovered. “It’s really been a discovery that’s put Danish cultural heritage on the world map.” Three of the other Viking ring fortresses are included in the ‘Viking Age Sites in Northern Europe’ tentative list for inclusion in UNESCO’s World Heritage Site list. The continuing research will show whether ‘Borgring’ will also be included on the list,” says Torben Dehn, a special consultant at the Danish Agency for Culture.

The digs will continue

Keld Møller Hansen is director of Museum Southeast Denmark, which includes the Danish Castle Centre, is certain that the excavation of Borgring will continue next summer.

“This is very close to our hearts at the Danish Castle Centre. The museum and the university are working on a detailed research plan, after which we will begin dialogue with Vallø Manor and foundations that could potentially be interested in supporting the project. But for us, the most important thing is to do the best possible investigation of the site that can reveal what the fortress

has to tell us about the early history of Denmark, says Keld Møller Hansen, director of Museum Southeast Denmark.