



P V Glob lecture of the Material, Culture & Heritage research programme

Professor Thomas Terberger - The Bronze Age Battlefield and post-War Depositions at Tollense

Venue: AU Moesgård in the large lecture hall (Foredragssalen)

Thursday 12th of December 14.00

Prof. Dr Habil Thomas Terberger will lecture on the latest results of the investigations at the Tollense site near Greifswald. Prof. Terberger is head of research at *Niedersächsisches Landesamt für Denkmalpflege* and coordinates the DFG Tollense project at Greifswald University with Dr. D. Janzen.

-- The Tollense investigations have revealed the earliest evidence of a battlefield. The battle took place on the banks of the river or nearby.

-- The site is extraordinary within Bronze Age Europe as it demonstrates for the first time the existence of large-scale military operations conducted by highly mobile armies. Such armies must have enclosed, or been in opposition to warbands headed by an aristocratic war leader.

-- The Tollense valley site is very likely connected with the fundamental socio-cultural changes in Europe c. 1200 BCE corresponding to the onset of the so-called Urnfield Period in temperate Europe and the collapse of palace-organised societies in the Aegean. This site has historical significance.

-- The River Tollense must have held special connotations related to the belief system – perhaps believed to be the Great River that brought warriors to the realm of the dead, the Underworld.

-- The Tollense find and post-excavation investigations now being carried out constitute windows into how religiosity interfered with warfare *per se*. Post-war rituals is an underrated find category in European archaeology.