

The Nybro bridge – a road connection in the southwestern part of Jutland

Lene B. Frandsen

In 1998 Danish archaeologists discovered a wooden road-bridge dated to the Viking Age at the site named Nybro, situated 10 km to the North-West of the town Varde and 13 km inland from the North Sea. The excavation revealed a huge wooden construction made up by 1,5-3-meter-long poles of oak hammered deep into the peat in the river valley. The poles were standing in three rows in a length of 57 meter. Dendrochronology told us that this bridge was built in the year 761 and was repaired several times. The last time traces of repair dated was to 834. After that the road must have been given up or moved. Because of construction work in the area, archaeologist had a chance to go back to Nybro in 2020. The new excavation only revealed few traces of the wooden construction, but it gave us an opportunity to look at the landscape again. A huge profile was made across the bog for a better understanding of how the watercourse had changed through times. With the help of drone photo, lidarscan, and new studies of maps, I will try to answer the questions: "Why was Nybro built exactly here, and which settlement was it meant to connect" - or more simply where did they come from and where were they going.