

JELLING

WORLD HERITAGE - DENMARK

Proposal for Minor Boundary Modification



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World Heritage - Denmark Proposal for Minor Boundary Modification

1. Area of the property (in hectares)

- a) Existing World Heritage site: property - 4.96 ha / buffer zone - 0
- b) Proposed modification: property - 12.7 ha / buffer zone – 59.2 ha

2. Description of the modification

Proposed change to the boundary of the property

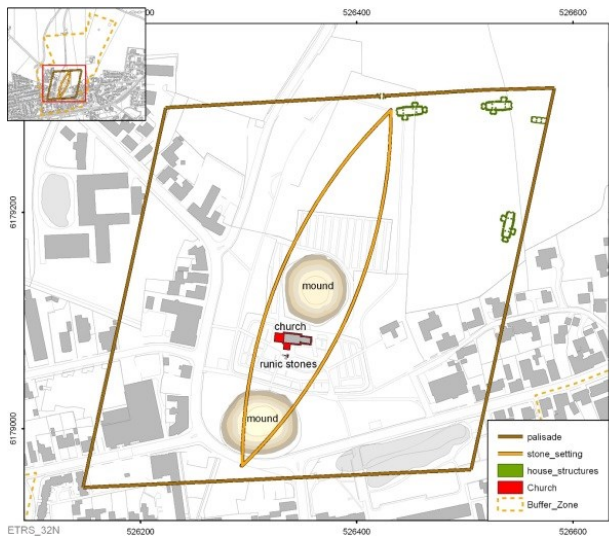
The components of the current world heritage site are two large burial mounds, two rune-stones, and a church under which lie traces of at least three wooden buildings. The proposed boundary encompasses the outer limit of the demarcation of the newly recognized palisade.

With an expansion of the world heritage site, the two burial mounds, the two rune-stones, and the church with traces of wood buildings will remain a part of the site, but these monuments will be supplemented by traces of a boat-shaped stone setting and traces of a wooden palisade with attached wooden buildings. The traces of the stone setting, the palisade, and the wood buildings are all covered with earth but marked with modern materials on the surface. The palisade surrounds a 358-360 x 358-360 m rhombus-shaped area within which all of the aforementioned monuments are located – called the “monument area”.

Some of the buildings in the current Town of Jelling are located within the monument area. In the western part, there are still buildings – among them, the visitors’ centre *Kongernes Jelling* [Home of the Viking Kings] – along one of the town’s earlier main shopping streets and, in the east, a small part of a residential area. Until 2012/13, there were also buildings in the southern part of the monument area, but they have now been demolished.

Prior to this application for Minor Boundary Modification, all the landowners within the expanded boundary were heard, in writing and at a meeting. There was agreement to support the expansion. In addition, the expansion was discussed at a public meeting at which it was also supported.

It should be noted, that with the proposed expansion a small part of the existing world heritage site will with the modification be excluded from the area of the extended world heritage site. This includes 0.06723 ha of the area’s northern part – immediately north of the palisade, which is the suggested new boundary. The justification is that, in this area, there are no registered traces from Viking times and that, therefore, it is not a part of the monument area (the reason it was originally included in the nomination in 1994 is that, for practical reasons, the boundary of the world heritage site here was defined by following a cadastral boundary - and with the new definition of the boundary in 2007, the criterion was that the area owned by Jelling Church was defined as the world heritage site).



Proposed buffer zone

A buffer zone was not designated when Jelling was accepted on the world heritage list. In connection with Jelling's participation in the transnational serial nomination, Viking Age Sites in Northern Europe, however, a buffer zone was established around the monument area, and it is this buffer zone about which this application concerns.

The boundaries of the proposed buffer zone, which is certified in the Municipality Plan 2017-29, are determined in the town area by criteria of visibility and current local plans.

Toward the west, south, and east, the buffer zone includes the part of the Town of Jelling that has the closest interplay with the monument area and is bounded naturally by major transverse roads. The buffer zone in the town area where development and use may affect the monument area, therefore, contains guidelines to protect their OUV. This, for example, may be in relation to building heights, materials, and views into and from the area. The boundaries in the open landscape toward the north are determined by the Protection Order of 13th October 1947 to secure the visibility of and from the North Mound and the church.

3. Justification for the modification

The expansion of the world heritage site is justified by the emergence of important new knowledge about the extent of the monuments, based on the uncovering of important archaeological traces in the area. The traces are related directly to existing components of the world heritage site (burial mounds, rune-stones, and the church), and supplement our understanding of and the historical narrative of the site in essential areas, and thus supplement their OUV to a very high degree.

The background for this extensive, new knowledge is a research and dissemination project, "*Jellingprojektet – et kongeligt monument i dansk og europæisk belysning*" ["The Jelling Project - a royal monument from a Danish and European perspective"], launched by the National Museum of Denmark, the Vejle Museums, and Aarhus University in 2006 thanks to a large foundation grant. The starting point for the research project was the monuments and their role in the local and regional landscape, including angles and

perspectives from the rest of the Nordic countries and Europe. The project, which involved several scientific disciplines - including extensive archaeological investigations - concluded in 2013, and the results of the project are available now.

An important primary result of these archaeological investigations is that all the components of the Jelling complex are located in a well-defined area that, in Viking times, was surrounded by a massive palisade. The heretofore unknown palisade consisted of closely set vertical planks and supporting posts at interval of an average of 1.25 m. In a smaller stretch in South East remains of the original posts are still preserved *in situ*. In connection with the palisade, there were at least three wooden buildings preserved now only as traces of posts underground.

The palisade encloses an area of 12.7 ha – “the monument area” – which, together with the traces of the palisade itself, is identical with the expansion being applied for. In the area are the two burial mounds, the two rune-stones, and the church with traces of at least three older wood buildings and traces of a boat-shaped stone setting.

Everything indicates that the palisade constitutes the actual boundary of the historical Jelling complex. In connection with the research project, large areas were uncovered in the open areas north and east of monument area, but no traces were found there with a relation to the monument. South and west of the monument area is the Town of Jelling, and archaeological investigations of these areas have been undertaken for many years when it has been possible. However, also here nothing was found in direct relation to the Jelling complex.

The actual size and extent of the site have, thus, been established, and a framework around the use and function of the monuments has been defined. The buildings within the framework provide evidence of activities that were presumably not of a true permanent character but rather in use only in connection with special events. Unlike other royal residences such as Kaupang in Norway, Uppsala in Sweden, and Lejre in eastern Denmark that all developed from older constructions on the sites, the Jelling complex seemingly was founded on bare ground and constructed in accordance with a predetermined design..

The results of the research project have essentially supported though not fundamentally changed the narrative of the Jelling of Viking times as a royal residence and starting point for the change of religion. Likewise it has stressed the view of the significance of the site in northern Europe during Viking times.

Furthermore and just as important, the new investigations have provided more clarity about the chronological relationships between the individual components of the Jelling complex in the period from 958/59 AD to 980/981 AD. The boat-shaped stone setting and the small rune-stone are the oldest monuments at the site prior to 958/59 AD, when the North Mound was build. A little later, in the middle of the monument period, the palisade and attached buildings were constructed and, shortly thereafter, the large rune-stone (Harald's Stone) was raised and the construction of the South Mound was begun. At the end of the period, the palisade burned, and the function of the site as a royal residence ceased.

Description of why a buffer zone is required

The connection of the Jelling monuments with the surrounding landscape is of uttermost significance for a true understanding of the unique character of the site – a fact that was already agreed on in the 1940s. Therefore, the Protection Order of 13th October 1947 was implemented to preserve the prospects into and

from the church and the North Mound. Over half a century, with a growing understanding of Jelling's historic significance, a gradual clearing of the immediate surroundings around the church and the two burial mounds has occurred. This clearing of the immediate surroundings and the exemption of the landscape north of the area, however, occurred exclusively from considerations of the experience of the church and the two burial mounds.

With the discovery of the large palisade and the knowledge of the true extent of the boat-shaped stone setting new requirements for the protection of the surroundings and landscape of the Jelling complex appeared and, thus, also for the configuration of a buffer zone.

On this basis, the Municipality of Vejle, the National Museum of Denmark, and the Danish Agency for Culture and Palaces prepared a comprehensive plan for an improved presentation of the Jelling monuments. This plan was put into effect in 2012-13 on the basis of municipal, state, and private (foundation) grants. The plan meant a pervasive clarification of the monuments in the landscape and town, a partial rerouting of the town's traffic structure by moving a part of the town's main shopping street, which ran through the monument area, and the demolition of constructions in the southern part of the area. Finally, as a part of the plan, an extension of the visitors' centre *Kongernes Jelling* [Home of the Viking Kings] was done, so that visitors may view the entire monument area from a roof terrace.

The main part of the comprehensive plan has already been implemented, and a subsequent part will improve the demarcation of the palisade and the monument area in town space. In order to ensure that, in the future, development in the town will happen in compliance with the intentions of the comprehensive plan, the buffer zone includes the existing view preservation, mentioned above, and that part of the town that has the closest interplay with the monument area.

4. Contribution to the maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value

The components of the Jelling complex that are not part of the existing world heritage site – i.e., the boat-shaped stone setting, the palisade, and the building remains - are today all covered by earth. In order to present these structures, they were in 2012-13 marked on the surface with white concrete.

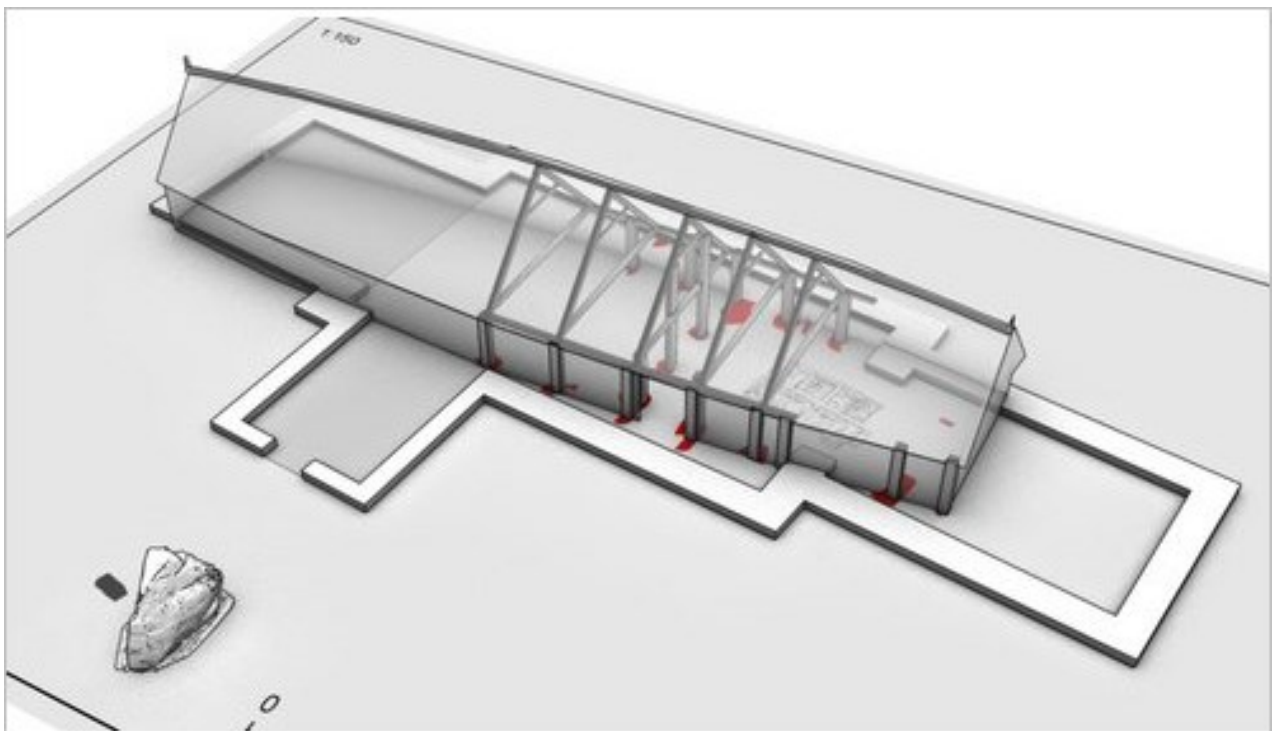
The surface demarcation of the earth-covered structures was done considering the preservation of the original traces beneath the surface. Thus, for instance, the demarcation of the palisade is displaced ca. 1 m outside of the intact traces of the construction.

The outline of the palisade, both in the city and in the open land, is marked by a continuous row of concrete poles to make clear the height of the palisade wall and, thereby, the spatial effect within the palisade. In the town, however, the course of the palisade is shown only in paving on the streets and squares. Inside the palisade area slabs with incised contours of the timber build houses are placed above the houses attached to the palisade. The course of the boat-shaped stone setting is shown by concrete slabs.

The white concrete markers of the palisade, buildings, and stone setting are an artistic, modern interpretation based on the actual traces in the earth. The design was developed in interplay among sculptor,

landscape architect, and archaeologists, and it was the intent to create a demarcation that provides the public with the opportunity to sense the original grandeur and monumentality of the structure. The demarcation therefore is not a genuine reconstruction since it was realized that a true reconstruction would never be possible to carry out fully correctly anyway. During the project the planners also had to consider the fact that the present town of Jelling and the church is still used by the citizens.

During the development of the comprehensive plan, the responsible authorities safeguarded the intention to preserve the monuments and to see to their future protection. In the years after the plan became effective, it has been confirmed that there have been no important negative consequences despite an increasing number of visitors. This is accounted for in more detail in the accompanying management plan.



A proposed reconstruction of the hall that was presumably located at the site where the current church was erected ca. 1100. The ground plan of the present church is marked in white, and some of the postholes that were shown beneath the church floor in the 1970s are marked in red. As it appears, the postholes correspond with the placement of the posts on one end of a “typical” hall from Viking times. Below in the reconstruction, the large Jelling rune-stone is seen (Graphics: Peter Jensen, Archaeological IT, Aarhus University).

The church

In light of the discovery of the traces of buildings in connection with the palisade, the earlier investigations from 1976-79 have been reinterpreted.

Through this re-evaluation, Jelling’s place in the comprehensive shift in religion in the 10th century, in particular, has become clearer. In the National Museum of Denmark’s archaeological investigation of Jelling Church in 1976-79, for example, building traces were found that were interpreted as remains of at least three wooden church buildings, which replaced each other. It is now probable that only the last two of the

at least three wooden buildings on the site were actually true church buildings. The first, however, seems to have been a large hall building (still with religious activities?) that has common features with the buildings found in connection with the palisade. Similar halls have also been found in the last 20-30 years at other contemporary aristocratic residences such as, for example, Lejre and Tissø in eastern Denmark.

Furthermore, a building archaeological study from 2011-12 of the current church has shown that the chancel of the present church was originally really the nave in an older stone church from around 1000 AD. This means that the distinguished tomb ("King Gorm's Tomb") found under the floor of the present church was presumably not, as heretofore thought, located in the first church but, perhaps instead, in the east end of a large hall-building. The tomb was before the recent investigations thought to have been moved into the church from the North Mound as early as in Viking times. The change in architecture from hall to church – first of wood, later of stone - at the same location between the North Mound and the large rune-stone must be viewed as a symbolic manifestation in which the change of religion from paganism to Christianity has been made concrete in an architectural act.

The palisade

The archaeological investigations from 2006-2013 showed that the monument area of approximately 12.7 ha, was surrounded by a very strong rhombus-shaped palisade made of vertical oak planks, dug into a 1-1.2 m deep trench and on each side reinforced by round posts every 1.25 m. It is estimated that the palisade had a height of more than 3 m above the terrain. The palisade runs partially into what is currently open land and partially into the present Town of Jelling. The traces have been established and partially investigated, and only one opening has been established – 2 m wide and surrounded by a wood building with a rectangular floor plan.

The traces of the palisade are represented today only by traces of the trench and the wood posts and planks. Preserved remains of the wood construction itself have been registered in the wetland toward the southeast, and the time this wood was felled has been dated dendrochronologically to 958-985 AD – probably around 968 AD - and, thus, a part of the Jelling complex during Viking times. Only a part of these preserved components of the wood construction have been excavated and taken for dating – the remaining part is preserved *in situ*.

The timber buildings

In connection with the palisade, there were located at the same time at least three large buildings of the same design and construction as buildings at contemporary ring fortresses in Denmark. Traces of the buildings consist of postholes underground. The buildings were located parallel with and at the same distance from the palisade and are presumed to be contemporary with it. A fourth, smaller building with an unknown function is of a different type and is not demarcated in the terrain.

The boat-shaped stone setting

The stone setting had been described as early as 1771 but was not proven archeologically until 1941 during investigation of the South Mound, where individual standing stones were found covered by the mound. In the time since, various theories have been proffered about this structure of which the stones could be a part. However, in the investigations 2006-2013, there were found traces in the northern part of the monument area of corresponding stones. A combination of archival information and minor exploratory investigations indicate that these traces and stones in the South Mound are remains of an approximately

358 m long boat-shaped stone setting with the chamber tomb in the North Mound as the centre and thereby an important part of the Jelling complex's geometric layout.

The rune-stones and burial mounds

In the research project of 2006-2013, also exploratory drilling into the two burial mounds was carried out. They showed that both mounds were built from materials from the area and that, with respect to the North Mound constructed on a small, natural hillock and not, as earlier thought, built above a mound from the Bronze Age.

At the same time as the research project, the two rune-stones were covered by a roof and in this way shielded from the effects of climate and vandalism. With this work, archaeological observations were done that made it probable that the large rune-stone, Harald's rune-stone, is located in its original place.

How the buffer zone contributes to the maintenance of the OUV

The Jelling complex from Viking times did not arise as the result of a local development through the preceding Iron Age, as is the case in other royal residences in Scandinavia. The Jelling complex apparently arose rather abruptly and developed at this site because of political and geographic circumstances and the communication options that the king needed.

Jelling was centrally located in the realm and quite close to major thoroughfares, which fulfilled these requirements. The strength of the dawning monarchy and, thus, the conditions for a shift in religion required a monumental manifestation that demonstrated the king's power and ability to rule independently of the local production and economy. The economic fundament for the massive monument construction was, instead, procured through taxes and tribute. The monuments that remain, on the other hand, came to influence development in the Jelling area in the late Viking age and centuries thereafter because the burial mounds and the church became a focal point for construction.

For these reasons, it is important that, with the help of the buffer zone's restrictions, development in the Jelling area – both in the modern town and in the open landscape – will occur under the greatest possible consideration for the narrative around the Jelling complex, namely, that its connection with the surrounding landscape and the town's connection with the Jelling complex is preserved and improved.

5. Implication for legal protection

The monument area is mainly owned by the Jelling Parochial Church Council, the Deanery of Vejle, the Diocese of Haderslev, and Vejle Municipality. Less than 10% of the course of the palisade and the palisade area is owned by private citizens in Jelling.

The whole monument area is included in **local plan 1150**, the purpose of which is to protect, secure, and disseminate world heritage. This will occur by regulating the establishment of new facilities and the planting of new vegetation and by securing public access. In addition, the churchyard area may continue to be used for church purposes. See also the Management Plan Jelling 2017.



The Town of Jelling and the monument area constitute a whole. Jelling has a number of functions that can support the monument area with an exhibit building, a city centre with commerce, service, parking, railway station, and residences. The buffer zone includes the part of the town that has the closest interplay with the monument area and which is naturally bounded by transverse roads. The buffer zone is an area in which construction and use have a relation to the monument area. This may, for example, include building heights, materials, and the prospect into and out of the monument area. A part of the buffer zone toward the north toward the open land is secured with a view preservation.

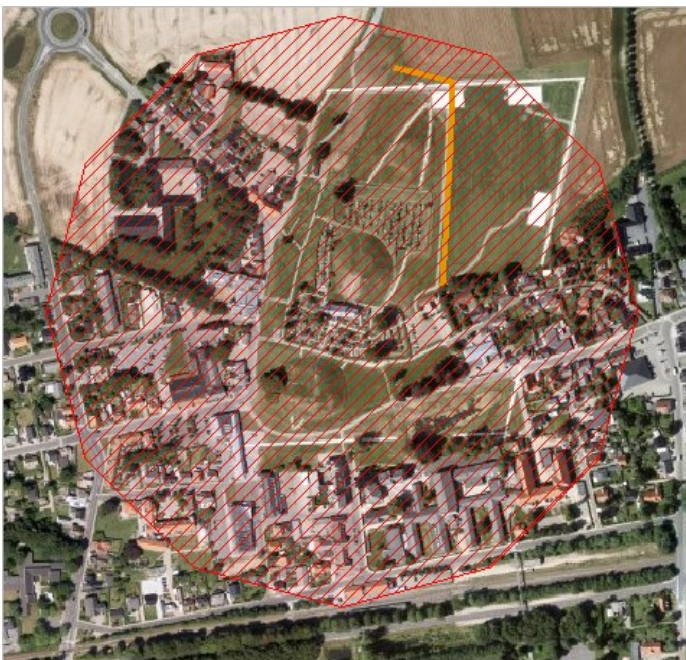
The buffer zone is inscribed in the Municipality Plan for 2017-29 with this guideline: Within the buffer zone for the monument area, as shown on the appended map, and in accordance with the monument area's status as a World Heritage Site and its special cultural-historical values of national significance, facilities or buildings that disturb the monument area may not be established.

With respect to construction and structures or the inclusion of areas for urban development within the buffer zone, consideration must be taken of the cultural-historical values, and it must be established in each instance that the interests of protection and preservation are secured.

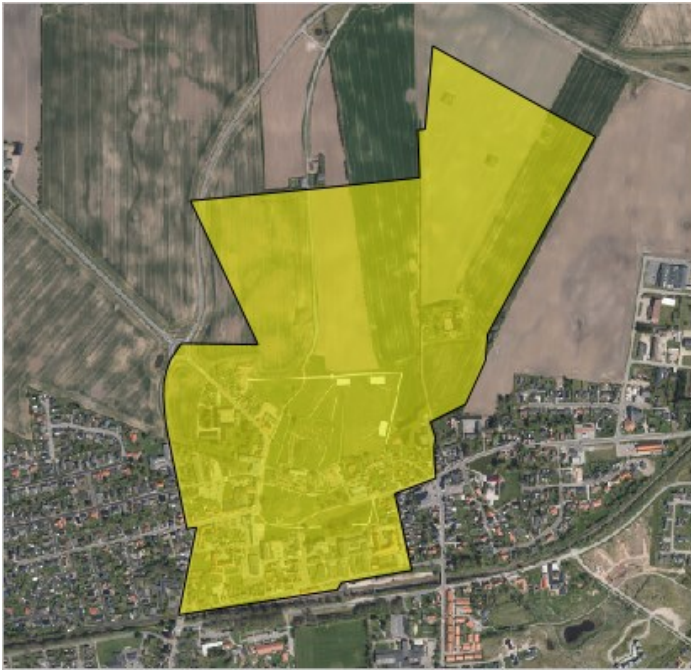
The municipal plan applies to and was prepared by the Municipality of Vejle, which is also the authority for, among other things, planning and guidelines. The Municipality of Vejle is a member of the collaboration group for the world heritage site in which the church, the museums, local associations, and others are represented. All applications and projects that concern the world heritage site and its buffer zone will undergo a hearing process and discussion in this collaboration group.



A part of the area is included in the **view preservation of 13 October 1947** pursuant to chap. 6 of the Danish Nature Protection Act. According to the preservation provisions, construction and planting may not take place in these areas. Nor may roads be paved or masts raised. The Danish Agency for Culture and Palaces may enforce this. Marked in turquoise hatching



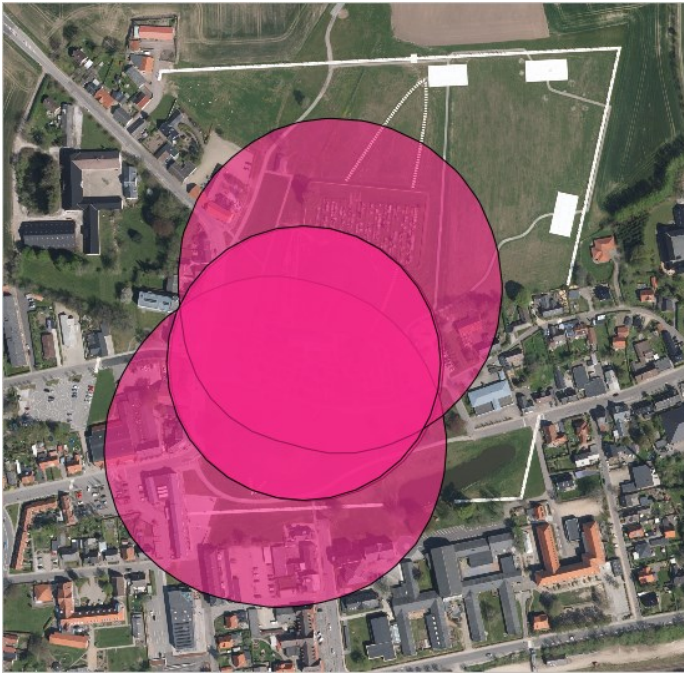
A part of the area is included in the **church building line**, Danish Nature Protection Act § 19, according to which buildings may not be erected with a height over 8.5 m within a distance of 300 m from the church. Marked with red hatching



The monument area and the buffer zone are registered as **cultural heritage area** no. 17.09.04-129. A cultural heritage area is a cultural-historical area of interest with a particularly large extent of important, land-covered ancient monuments in which construction work is to be avoided. Marked in yellow.



The two burial mounds, the two rune-stones, and the land-covered traces of the palisade are protected pursuant to the **Danish Museum Act** § 29 e, whereby the ancient monument may not be changed without dispensation from the Danish Agency for Culture and Palaces. The extent of the Museum Act's protection of the mounds and palisade are indicated in blue.



A part of the area is included in a 100 m ancient monument building line around the two burial mounds and the two rune-stones, Danish Nature Protection Act § 18, whereby no changes may be made within 100 m of an ancient monument without dispensation from the municipality. The protection zones are shown in pink.

6. Implications for management arrangements

Operation and protection of the expanded area are part of the current Management Plan 2017, which is attached.

7. Maps

Please see attachments.

8. Additional information



The palisade's north-eastern corner near the archaeological investigation (Photo: National Museum)



Demarcation of the palisade south of the South Mound at the edge of the town of Jelling (Photo: T. Dehn)



The demarcated palisade and southern tip of the marked boat-shaped stone setting seen from the top of the South Mound (Photo: T. Dehn)



The demarcation of the stone setting with the northern course of the palisade in the background (Photo: T. Dehn)



Preserved remains of the palisade's posts at the archaeological investigation (Photo: T. Dehn)



The excavation field with preserved post remains of the palisade in the pond, emptied of water. In the background from the left, the South Mound, the church, and the North Mound (Photo: T. Dehn)



Close-ups of some of the excavated post remains (Photo: Vejle Museums)



The demarcation of the gate opening in the palisade's northern part with replicas of the posts of the gate building (Photo: T. Dehn)



The demarcation of the palisade's northern tip. The angled slabs indicate the stone traces themselves, while the flat slabs mark the course of the palisade legs. In the foreground, the demarcation of a portion of a structure site and, in the background, the North Mound (Photo: T. Dehn)



View from the roof terrace at *Kongernes Jelling* of the church, the North Mound, and the northern part of the monument area (Photo: T. Dehn)

Management of the Jelling Monument Area, please see attached document.

Bibliography

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Jelling - current and proposed boundary

— Boundary of the World heritage property (current)

— Boundary of the World heritage property (proposed)

- - - Buffer zone of the World Heritage property (proposed)

0 50 100 200 meters

ETRS_1989_UTM_Zone_32N

