

# Executive Summary



**STATE PARTY**

Germany

**STATE, PROVINCE OR REGION**

The districts of Schleswig-Flensburg and Rendsburg-Eckernförde,  
State of Schleswig-Holstein

**NAME OF PROPERTY**

The Archaeological Border Landscape of Hedeby and the Danevirke

**TEXTUAL DESCRIPTION OF THE BOUNDARIES OF  
THE NOMINATED PROPERTY**

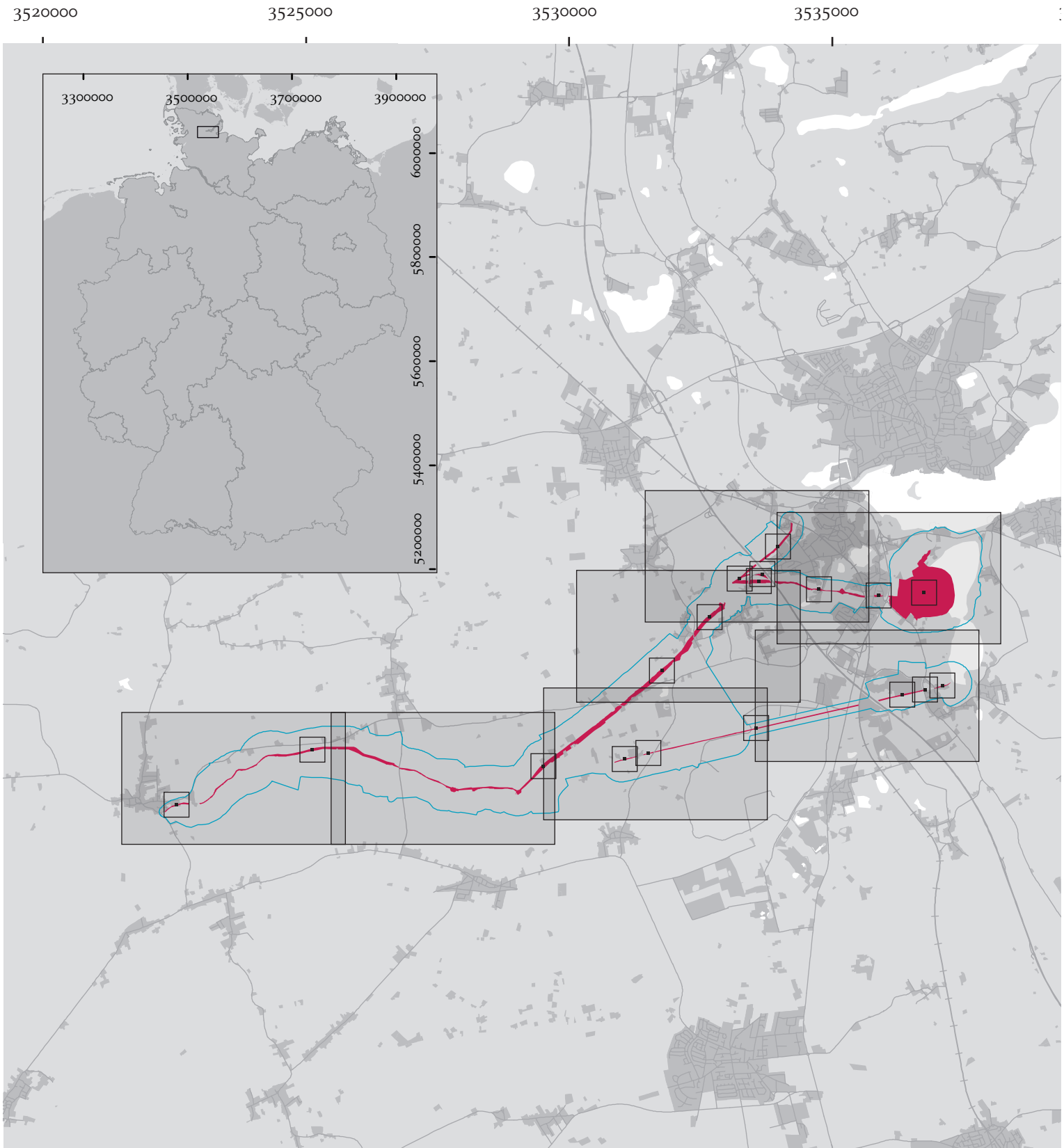
The boundaries of the nominated property are those of the archaeological complex of Hedeby and the Danevirke. It consists of 22 individual archaeological sites situated at the Schleswig Isthmus, a natural traffic barrier, in the southern part of the Jutland Peninsula. Each individual site is delimited to all sides by the extent of the known or presumably preserved archaeological material or features. The boundaries to the South are orientated at the extent of the ramparts or further defensive ditches and ramparts in front. The boundaries to the North are delimited by the extent of the rear of the ramparts or further ditches. The boundaries of Hedeby are delimited by the rampart of the Hill Fort to the North, the presumed extend of the harbour to the East and the extent of the defensive structures around the Semicircular wall of Hedeby to the West and South. The 21 sites of the fortification works of the Danevirke extend over 33 kilometres across the whole of the isthmus and beyond between the Treene River in the West and the Windeby Noor in the East. The settlement site of Hedeby and its associated features lies concentrated at the Schlei Fjord at the east end of the isthmus.

**GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES TO THE NEAREST SECOND**

ID	Name of the component part	Municipalities	Coordinates of the centre point	Area of nominated property (ha)
1	Crooked Wall Area 4	Ellingstedt	N54°27'26" E9°20'52"	1,4
2	Crooked Wall Areas 3 to 4	Ellingstedt	N54°27'59" E9°23'16"	16,1
3	Crooked Wall Areas 1 to 2 Main Wall Areas 4 to 5	Ellingstedt/Danneverk	N54°27'48" E9°27'19"	25,2
4	Main Wall Areas 2 to 3	Danneverk	N54°28'46" E9°29'25"	14,4
5	Main Wall Area 1	Danneverk	N54°29'19" E9°30'15"	6,3
6	Connection Wall Area 9 North Wall Area 4 Arched Wall	Danneverk	N54°29'42" E9°30'48"	3,6
7	North Wall Areas 1 to 2	Town of Schleswig	N54°30'02" E9°31'28"	3,6
8	Arched Wall	Danneverk	N54°29'45" E9°31'12"	0,8
9	Connection Wall Area 8	Danneverk	N54°29'41" E9°31'08"	2,5
10	Connection Wall Areas 5 to 7	Busdorf / Danneverk	N54°29'36" E 9°32'12"	5,8
11	Connection Wall Area 3	Busdorf	N54°29'32" E9°33'14"	0,6
12	Hedeby	Busdorf/Fahrdorf	N54°29'28" E9°33'59"	95
13	Kovirke Area 1	Danneverk	N54°27'52" E9°28'45"	0,9
14	Kovirke Area 2	Danneverk	N54°27'56" E9°29'10"	0,3
15	Kovirke Areas 3 to 5	Danneverk / Selk / Jagel	N54°28'11" E9°31'04"	7,9
16	Kovirke Area 6	Selk	N54°28'30" E9°33'39"	2,1
17	Kovirke Area 7	Selk	N54°28'33" E 9°34'02"	0,05
18	Kovirke Area 8	Selk	N54°28'36" E9°34'21"	0,5
19	Offshore Work	Borgwedel/ Schaalby	N54°31'00" E9°38'32"	36,2
20	East Wall Area 1A to 1C	Fleckeby / Windeby	N54°28'57" E9°44'53"	1,9
21	East Wall Area 2D	Windeby	N54°28'40" E9°46'27"	0,5
22	East Wall Area 2E to 2F	Windeby	N54°28'41" E9°47'02"	1,9
<b>Hedeby and the Danevirke</b>			<b>N 54°29'33" E 9°34'02"</b>	<b>227,55</b>
				<b>Total area</b>

Area of the Buffer Zone (ha) = 2670

Connection Wall Areas 1-2 and 4 were destroyed in modern times and are therefore not included in the nominated property.



Centre Point



Nominated Property



Buffer Zone



Map Section

3540000

3545000

3550000

3555000

6050000

6045000

6040000

6035000

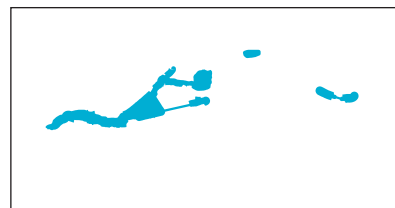
6030000

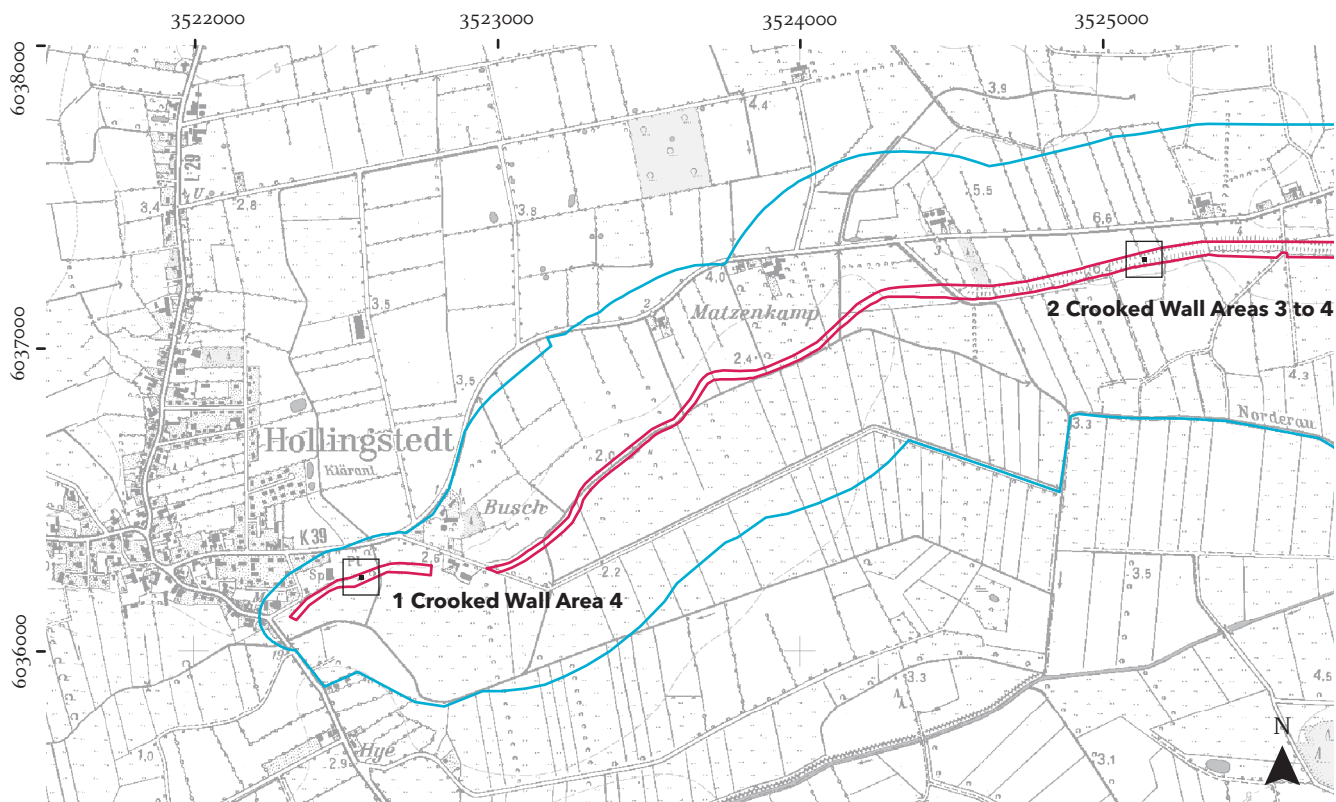


1 centimeter = 1.000 meters

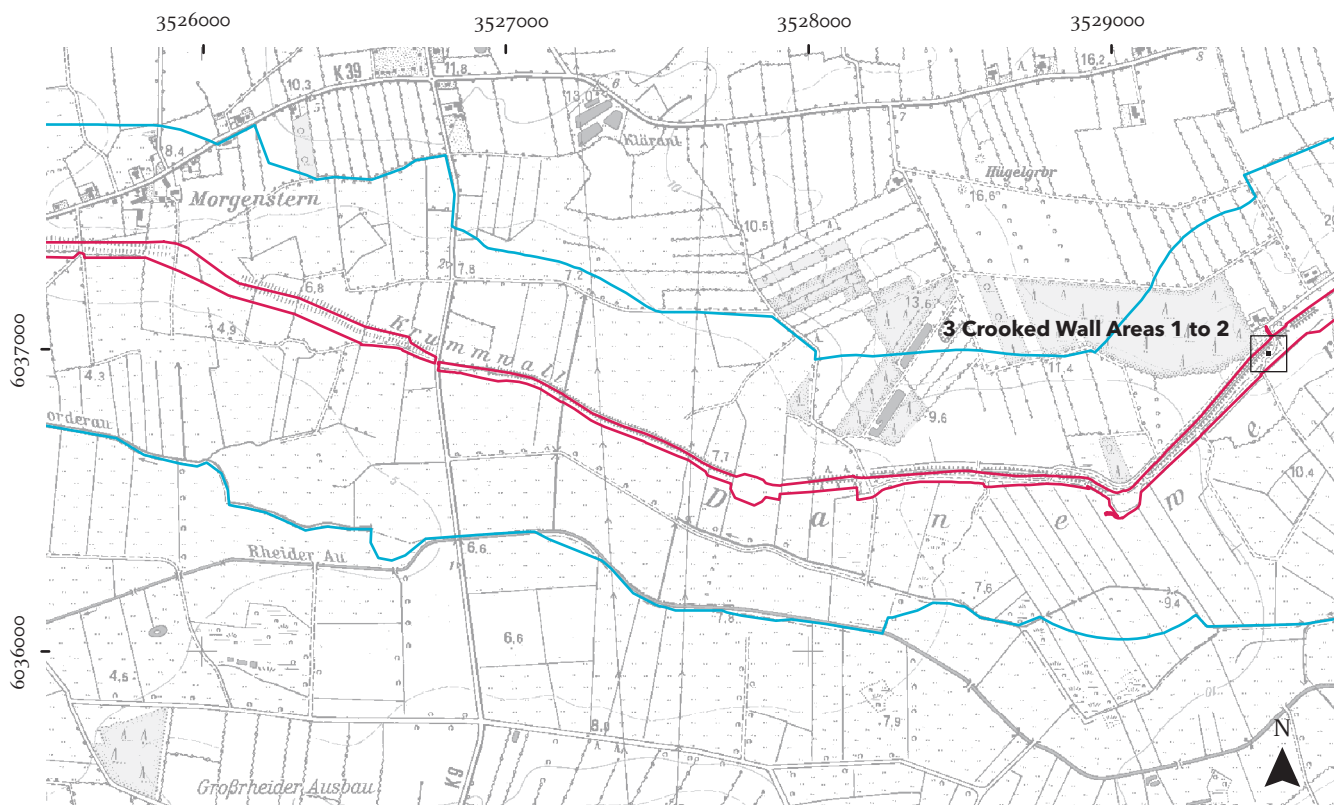
0  2000 Meters

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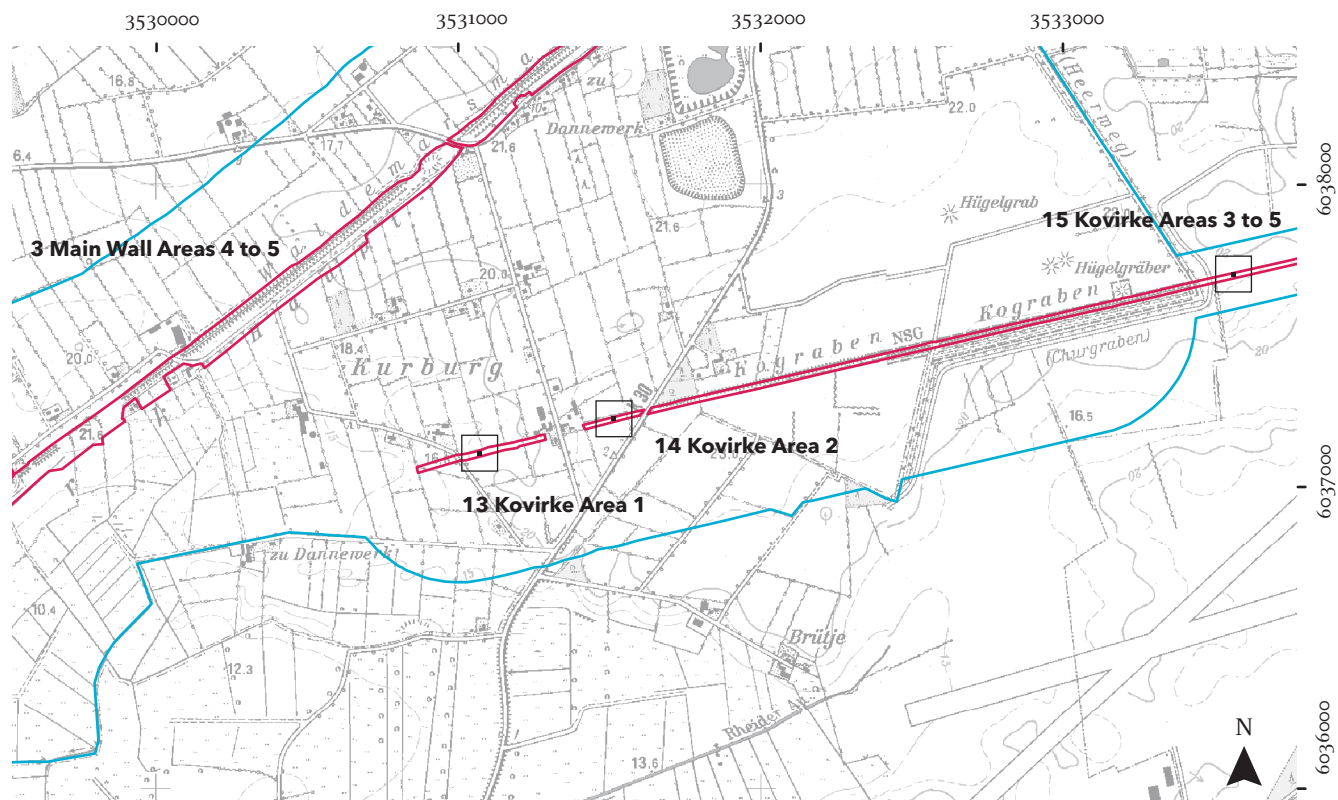


Legend: █ Nominated Property █ Buffer Zone  Centre Point  500 Meters © ALSH 2016 © GeoBasis-DE/LVermGeo SH (www.LVermGeoSH.schleswig-holstein.de)

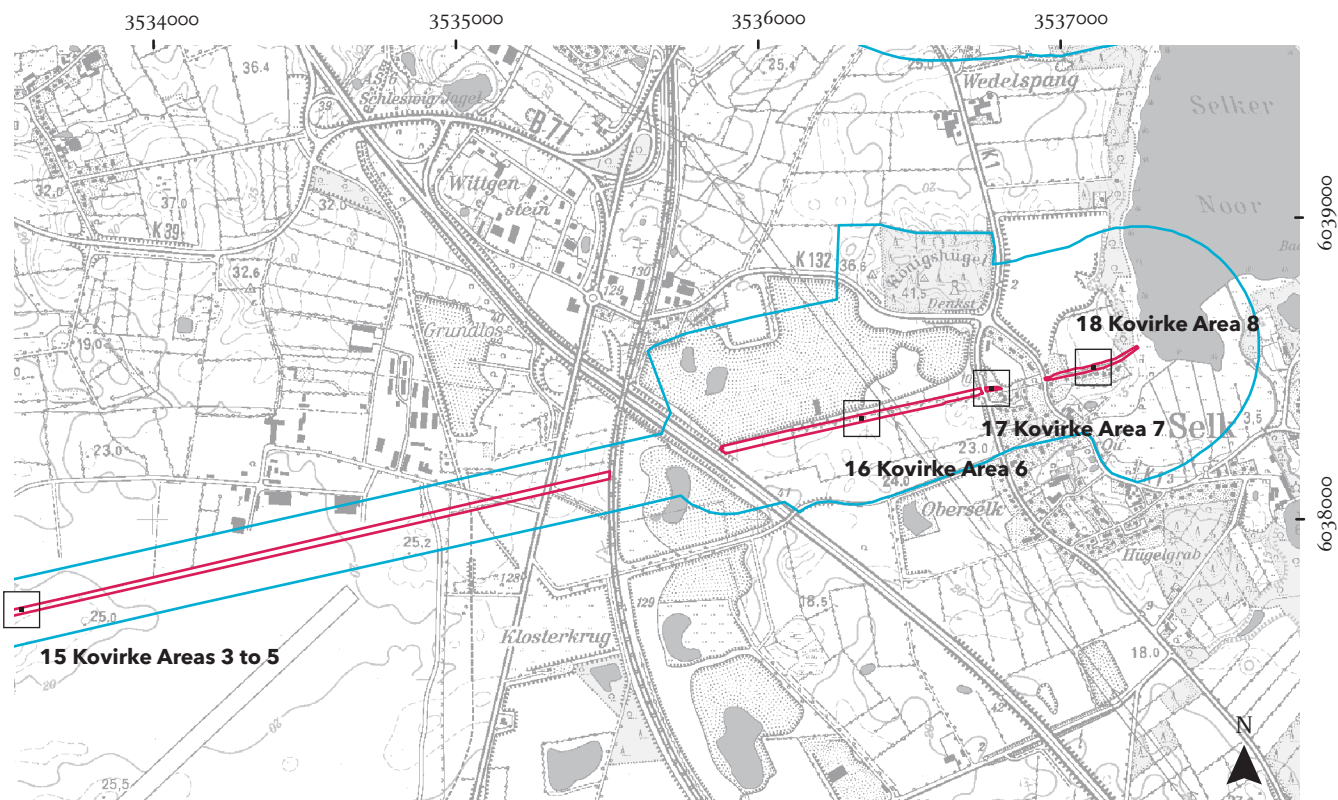


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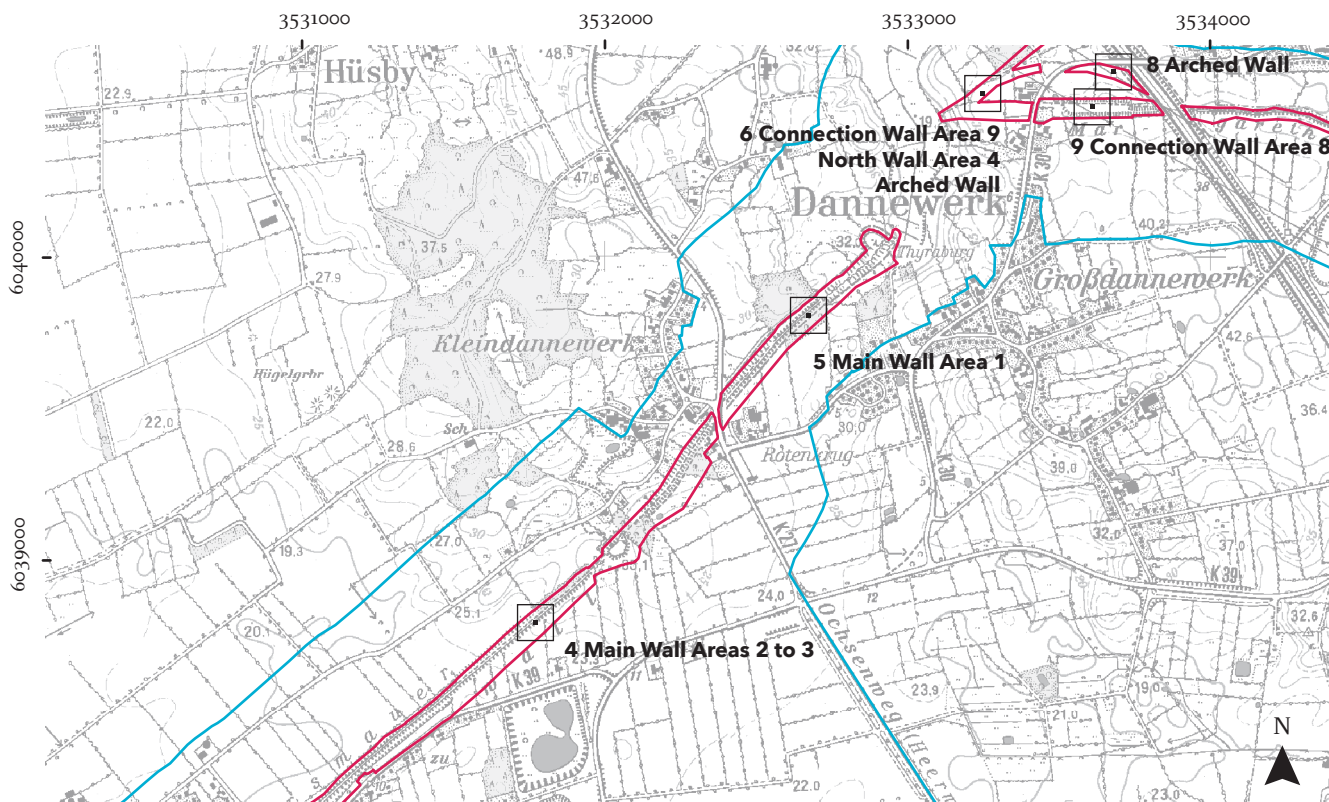


□ Nominated Property   □ Buffer Zone   □ Centre Point   0 500 Meters   © ALSH 2016 © GeoBasis-DE/LVermGeo SH (www.LVermGeoSH.schleswig-holstein.de)

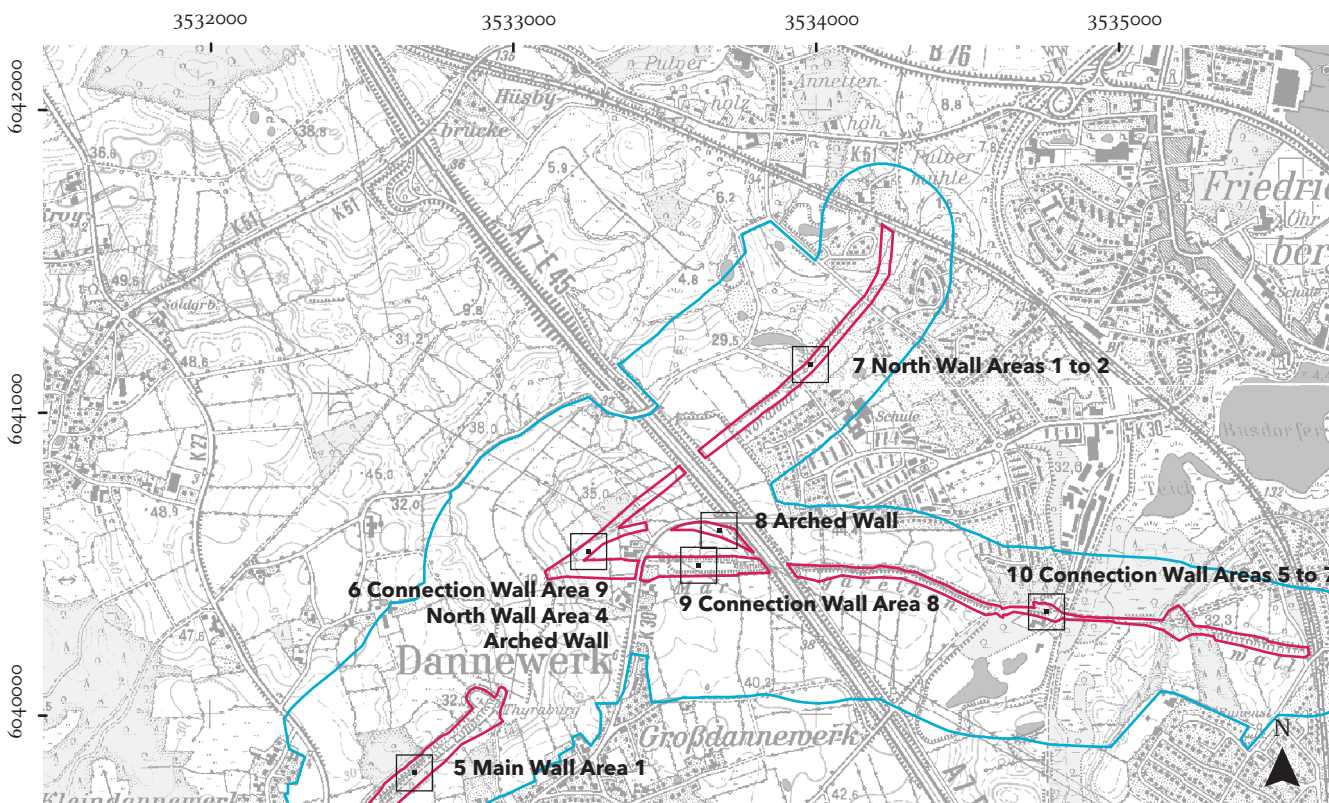


□ Nominated Property   □ Buffer Zone   □ Centre Point   0 500 Meters   © ALSH 2016 © GeoBasis-DE/LVermGeo SH (www.LVermGeoSH.schleswig-holstein.de)



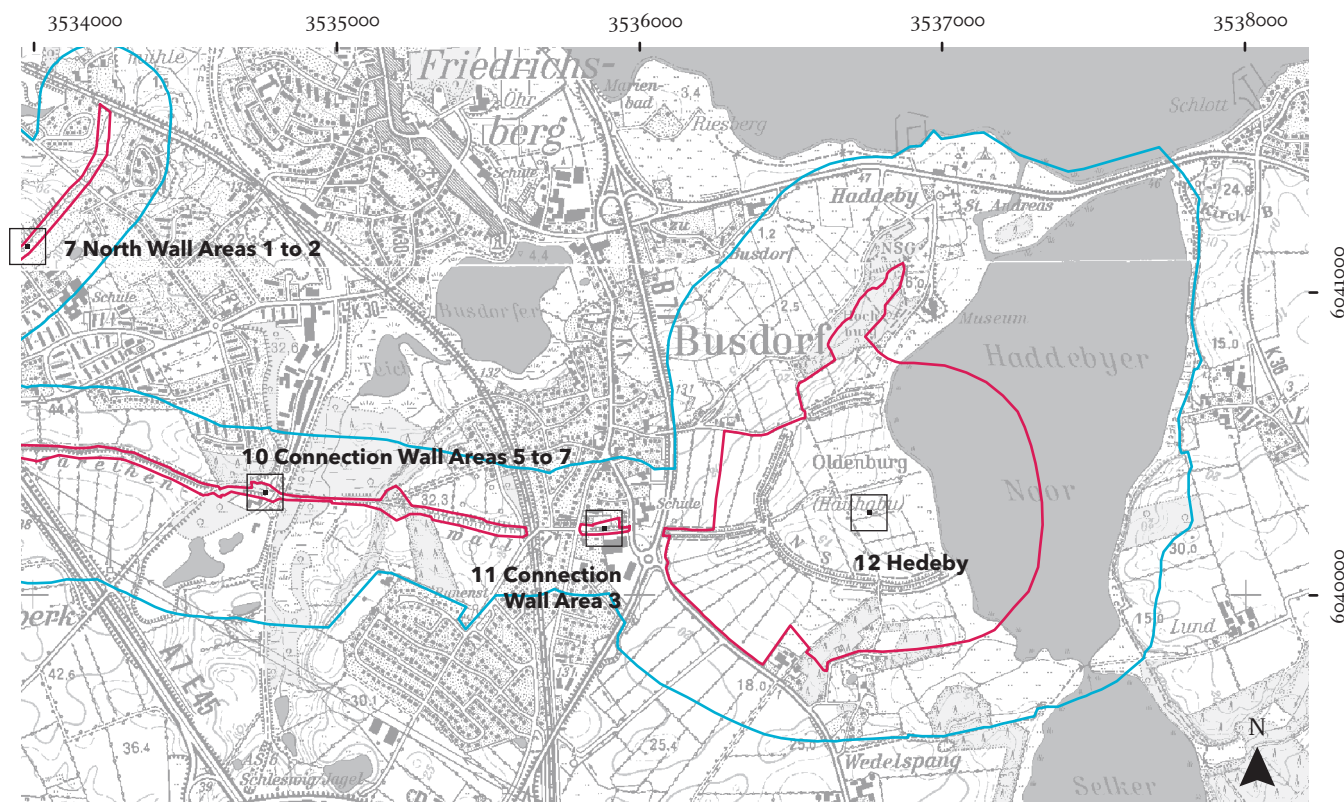


□ Nominated Property   
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  Centre Point   
 0 ——— 500 Meters   
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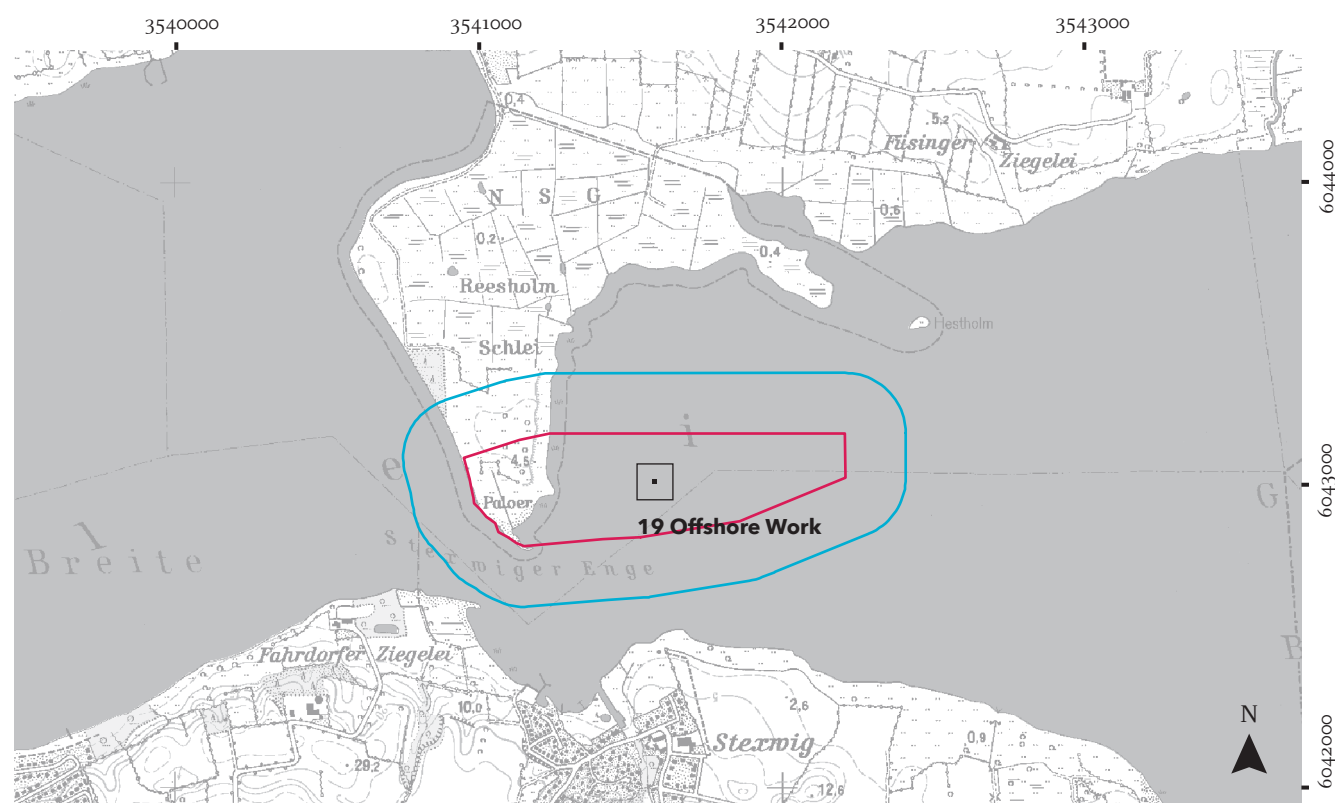


□ Nominated Property   
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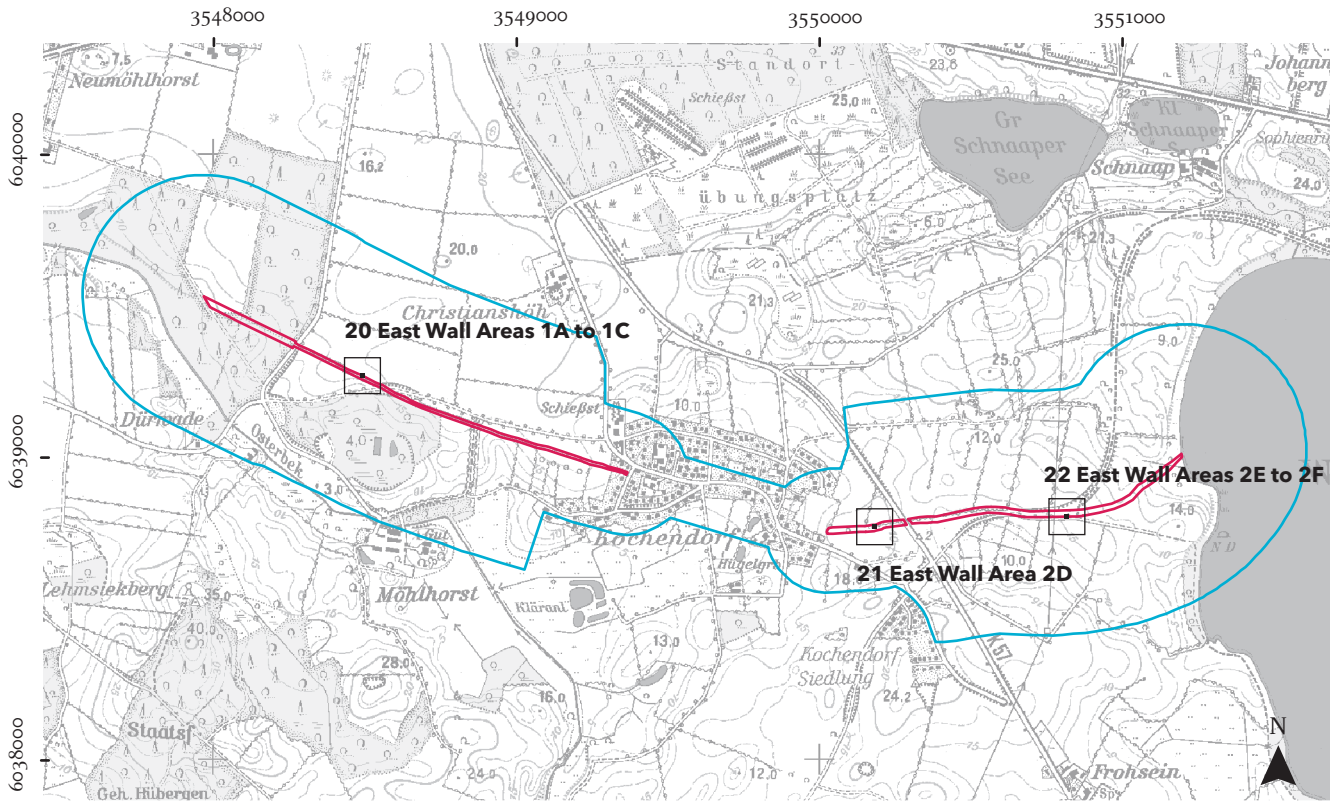


Legend:  Nominated Property     Buffer Zone     Centre Point     500 Meters    © ALSH 2016 © GeoBasis-DE/LVermGeo SH (www.LVermGeoSH.schleswig-holstein.de)



Legend:  Nominated Property     Buffer Zone     Centre Point     500 Meters    © ALSH 2016 © GeoBasis-DE/LVermGeo SH (www.LVermGeoSH.schleswig-holstein.de)





■ Nominated Property    □ Buffer Zone    ■ Centre Point    0 500 Meters    © ALSH 2016 © GeoBasis-DE/LVermGeo SH (www.LVermGeoSH.schleswig-holstein.de)



**CRITERIA UNDER WHICH PROPERTY IS NOMINATED:****CRITERION III:**

*to bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared;*

**CRITERION IV:**

*to be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history.*

**DRAFT STATEMENT OF OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE****A) BRIEF SYNTHESIS**

The defensive system of the Danevirke and the trading centre of Hedeby consists of a spatially linked complex of earthworks, walls and ditches, settlements, grave fields and a harbour across the Schleswig Isthmus on the Jutland Peninsula in Northern Europe from the first and early second millennia AD. Between the eighth and eleventh centuries, features of the natural landscape and man-made structures were combined intentionally to form a border landscape at a natural bottleneck in the Viking-Age between the eighth and eleventh centuries AD. Here, at the Schleswig Isthmus, the singular geographic situation created a strategic link between Scandinavia, the European mainland, the North Sea and the Baltic Sea. A Baltic Sea inlet, rivers and extensive boggy lowlands constricted the north-south passage across the peninsula while, at the same time, providing the shortest and safest route between the seas across a narrow land bridge. Closely tied to the isthmus situation, Scandinavian, Slavonic, Frisian, Saxon and Frankish peoples and kingdoms met in this important borderland.

By means of Hedeby and the Danevirke it was possible to mark out and control the isthmus not only as the nodal point of important trading routes of the eighth to eleventh centuries but also as the crossover point between different domains. Thus, the border landscape of Hedeby and the Danevirke manifests political power and cultural interaction. The importance of the border landscape is showcased by large quantities of imports among the rich find assemblages in Hedeby. The remains of structures of a notably defensive character, buildings, harbour jetties, burials and settlement infrastructure of Hedeby and the Danevirke are well preserved. The archaeological evidence, including large amounts of organic finds, provides an outstanding insight into the significant political power exercised by Danish kings, the expansion of trading networks and cross-cultural exchange over several centuries in the Viking Age.

## **B) JUSTIFICATION FOR CRITERIA**

### **CRITERION III:**

Hedeby and the Danevirke are outstanding testimonies to the cultural traditions of Northern Europe in the Viking Age between the eighth and eleventh centuries AD. They have become key scientific sites for the interpretation of historic developments in Viking-Age Europe.

Hedeby and the Danevirke exerted great influence on the social and spatial organisation of Northern Europe. The sites developed as a result of the contact between Scandinavian, Frisian, Slavic and Saxon societies and the extensive Frankish – and later German – empires over several hundred of years at an isthmus in the borderland. The rich and diverse archaeological structures and finds, including large quantities of organic material, can still be interpreted in the present setting. As an outstandingly well preserved archaeological landscape, Hedeby and the Danevirke are manifestations of the development of political and economic power in old Denmark and bear witness to its conflicts, and to exchange and trade between people of various cultural traditions in the Viking Age.

### **CRITERION IV:**

Hedeby and the Danevirke represent a significant cultural, political and economic phase in the history of Northern Europe, reflecting the specific nature and the development of borders in connection with the formation of states in Viking-Age Europe between the eighth and eleventh centuries AD. This landscape is a unique case study for the development over centuries of the architecture of fortified boundaries in conjunction with trading centres which are strategically integrated into their natural environment.

Hedeby and the Danevirke functioned as demarcations, fortifications and displays of power, and as a means of controlling exchange, trading routes, the economy and the territory at the crossroads between the emerging Danish kingdoms and the kingdoms and peoples of mainland Europe. Ramparts and other defences are preserved from more than six centuries, including wooden structures, stone and brick (then novel building materials), all of which were effectively combined with natural obstacles. Exceptional archaeological remains of the urban settlement, the harbour and the cemeteries have survived in Hedeby, testifying to different cultural traditions from the eighth to eleventh centuries. The archaeological evidence highlights the significance of Hedeby and the Danevirke as an outstanding example of a landscape in a borderland embodying territorial control and political and economic might.

## **C) STATEMENT OF INTEGRITY**

Hedeby and the Danevirke encompass all the archaeological sites and structures of the sixth to twelfth centuries which are necessary to convey the significance of the



property. All important historical building phases and structures, the archaeological material and substance, the construction and layout and the situation and setting of the sites are well preserved and adequately intact as archaeological sites and scientific sources. Further features important for the functional and visual integrity of the setting are included in the buffer zone and the wider setting. Thus, the landscape is still largely intact with respect to its historical topography. Furthermore, the surrounding of the sites is free from any standing structures that would have a significant impact on the visual integrity of the nominated property.

The ground of Hedeby has never been developed and thus provides a multitude of options and research questions for archaeological study. Hedeby is the only emporium in Viking-Age Europe with a preserved town layout and harbour including shipwrecks and remains of landing stages which served as a market. The largely undisturbed site also contains exceptional archaeological relicts of wooden houses, infrastructural elements, workshops, graves and a broad variety of finds made of often perishable materials. Large parts, 26 km, of the preserved structures of the Danevirke are still visible as pronounced embankments or low ridges. Some parts of the sections, especially the western end of the Crooked Wall, are only known from archaeological surveys.

#### **D) STATEMENT OF AUTHENTICITY**

The credibility and truthfulness of the evidence for the interpretation of the Archaeological Border Landscape of Hedeby and the Danevirke is conveyed by the genuine archaeological material and substance, the construction and layout and the location and setting of the archaeological sites. All archaeological remains of the nominated property have retained their authentic construction and layout since the time of their primary use. The archaeological material and substance of the nominated property is also entirely authentic. All building phases, features and their remains relevant to this nomination date to the sixth to twelfth centuries or are likely to do so. Important topographical conditions and features which were historically involved in the choice of site and the layout of the structures are still recognisable even today. Recent repairs and restorations can be clearly distinguished from the historical material and can be traced back thanks to complete and detailed archaeological documentation.

#### **E) REQUIREMENTS FOR PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT**

The nominated property, its buffer zone and its wider setting are protected in the best possible way by the legal systems in place (e.g. listed monuments, nature protection areas, landscape protection areas). In addition, the majority of sites are owned by public bodies. The values of the sites are also considered and respected in public planning processes. The various protection and planning mechanisms and acts which apply

directly to the landscape are sufficient to guarantee the protection and preservation of the proposed Outstanding Universal Value of the nominated property.

A site management plan was implemented in 2014. Here, all important stakeholders commit to the aim of protecting, preserving, monitoring and promoting the proposed Outstanding Universal Value of the nominated property. The values, attributes, integrity and authenticity of the nominated property are safeguarded and managed within the plan, representing the main objective.

Funding for the site management of the property is provided by the Federal State of Schleswig-Holstein and other public owners.

In the long run, the core management issues are to increase awareness of the value of Hedeby and the Danevirke as an archaeological landscape and to retain that value by all important stakeholders participating in its management. The Management Plan aims at further integrating Hedeby and the Danevirke into their cultural, social, ecological and economic settings and to increase their social value to make them a motor for sustainable development in the region. The management works on improving the active network between the stakeholders of Hedeby and the Danevirke in order to maintain and enhance support from local communities and other stakeholders and to secure financial support so as to improve the maintenance and presentation of the sites and their setting.

Future threats to the landscape, such as wind turbines, land use, housing developments and visitor impact, as well as natural agents such as plants and animal activities, need to be tackled collaboratively. Some specific threats such as damage to Valdemar's Wall due to exposure or damage by specific plants or animals such as *teredo navalis*, require additional research and training and the exchange of expertise and mutual support.

**NAME AND CONTACT  
INFORMATION OF  
OFFICIAL LOCAL  
INSTITUTION**

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