Recent archaeological research in Haithabu

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1. Introduction

There is scarcely another undertaking dealing with early medieval archaeology and history of Northern Europe which can look back at such a long tradition as that of the research project of Haithabu. For over one hundred years excavations, investigations, analyses and publications have been carried out here, thus granting this place an influential position in the network of international research. Situated in the north of Schleswig-Holstein, the settlement, its harbour and the associated cemeteries and defences must firstly be considered against the background of the early medieval world between the North Sea and the Baltic, whilst having an intensive look at the archaeology and history of Central Europe. Even the distant world of Western and Central Asia and the coasts of the North Atlantic and Newfoundland comprise frames of reference in the economic, social and military world of the Scandinavian Vikings. The special location of the Haithabu site can only be understood, however, by examining the Jutland Peninsula more closely. Whereas the Treene and Eider rivers cut into it in the west, the Schlei – a genuine Baltic fjord – forms a barrier to the north-east. The rivers and fjord thus give rise to a narrow corridor, the so-called Schleswig Isthmus. The remarkable geo-strategic situation is secured by the Danevirke with its impressive structures and by the naval blockade at Reesholm – a constellation with few comparisons in the North. It is not surprising, therefore, when the Viking age settlement on the Schlei is assigned a central function and significance, for example, in the long distance trading routes of the eighth-tenth centuries, as mapped by S. Lebecq (Fig. 1).

1 For a summary with extensive reference to further literature, see Laur/Radtke/Wiechmann/Stoklund 1999. – A detailed introduction is offered by Jankuhn 1986.
3 For recent material on the Danevirke, see Hellmuth Andersen 1984; idem 1998; idem 2004. – For the naval blockade at Reesholm, see Kramer 1992; idem 1995. – On the importance of the Schlei in the Viking period, see Dobat 2003.
Haithabu itself lies on the Haddebyer Noor at the western end of the Schlei, the c. 27 ha settlement having not been enclosed by a massive semicircular rampart until the second half of the tenth century. In the waters directly in front of the settlement area is the harbour of Haithabu where Shipwreck I and Shipwreck II were found – testaments of immense importance for Viking age shipbuilding. Evidence had been found for settlement and burial areas inside and outside the semicircular rampart. There are also the rune stones, large burial mounds, destroyed cemeteries and the smaller settlements from the hinterland, which must also be reckoned with as part of the infrastructure of the early medieval *emporium*.

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5 Crumlin-Pedersen 1997.
7 For a definition of the term *emporium* cf. Steuer 2003.
Of prime importance here is Haithabu’s location on the southern border of Denmark. Among the neighbours in the west and on the North Sea coast was the Frisian population, while in the south was a German/Saxon population and in the south-east a Slav population.\(^8\) According to the first written record in the “Frankish Royal Annals”, a Danish king called Godfrid gathered in 804 with his fleet and his cavalry at Sliesthorp, a place at the southern border of his realm near an earthwork which protected the Danish border, the later so-called Danevirke.\(^9\) Four years later, after the destruction of the *emporium* Reric, he once again went with his fleet to that place which is now named *portus*.\(^10\) Several researchers suppose that he settled the displaced merchants from Reric in Sliesthorp.\(^11\) The *emporium* of Haithabu was known as Sliesthorp or Sliaswich to the Germans, as *æt Haethum* to the Anglo-Saxons and as at Haithum or Haithabu to the Danes.\(^12\) In the eighth century, Denmark had increasingly participated in the North Sea exchange and trading system between the Franks, Frisians and Anglo-Saxons and it is presumed that not only was the Danish kingdom able to establish a new centre of commerce in Ribe but that it was also able to take over dominance of the North Sea from the Merovingian kings and to start and maintain an internationally based trade.\(^13\) The first written records stress Haithabu’s importance as a harbour near the Danish border and its related military significance.\(^14\)

There is no doubt that Haithabu is also being assigned today a key role in early medieval urbanisation studies in Northern Europe.\(^15\) Further relevant components are being added to the complex system of settlement and harbour: royal graves like the boat chamber burial of Haithabu\(^16\) provide information about the worldly power in the place. The written records as well as the archaeological find material elucidate its central importance in the complicated Christianisation process which peaked in the early

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8  Jankuhn 1986, 53-55, fig. 24a ; Näsman 2000, 57.
9  *Annales regni Francorum* s.a. 804; Lund 1995, 205.
10  *Annales regni Francorum* s.a. 808. – For the meaning of Latin *portus* cf. Schlesinger 1972, 76, who stresses the significance of Latin *portus* as a harbour. Verhulst 2002, 89; 91 understands *portus* like *civitas*, *castellum*, and *vicus* as designations for towns.
11  Schlesinger 1972, 77-78, points out that this event is not directly mentioned but that a movement should be clear from the context. – A movement of the Reric merchants to Hedeby is favoured, for example, by Steuer 1984, 189; also Lund 1995, 207.
12  Laur/Radtke/Wiechmann/Stoklund 1999, 361-363; Marold 2001. – According to the first book of the late-tenth-century chronicle of the Anglo-Saxon Ealdorman Æthelweard this place, the *oppidum capitale* of the Angles, was called *Slesuuic* by the Saxons and *Haithaby* by the Danes. Campbell 1962, 9.
14  Näsman 2000, 57; Hilberg in print.
ninth century with the mission of Ansgar and again in 948 AD when the bishopric was established. The military function of Haithabu, however, will only then be able to be judged properly when the history of the Danevirke is looked at in close relation to the development of the settlement itself. Up until now the function of the place as trading centre for ideas and technical know-how has not been investigated at all. Thus it is scarcely possible to assess in which manner and at what time developments from the south or from the west were advanced or indeed strangled by the structures and powers at Haithabu.¹⁸

Before looking at the latest approaches and results of the research in Haithabu, the basic conditions will again be briefly gone through. Of major importance is the fact that nearly all the academic work undertaken is in the Archives of the State Archaeological Museum in Schleswig, which was until 1947 in Kiel. The documentation of each year’s campaign since 1900 consists of handwritten reports, scaled drawings and photos of selected features as well as cards with descriptions and drawings of find material. Considering the immense losses incurred elsewhere during World War II, we are lucky here to have an almost complete documentation at our disposal. As well as this, Schleswig was fortunate in having researchers of the highest standard who were extremely professional, which was by no means usual, especially in the pre-World War II period. Furthermore, since 1930 all excavators had made use of the zero point in surveying (as defined by Herbert Jankuhn). This not only has made today’s work with modern geographical information systems easier, it is also in itself an expression of the great continuity in research.

The wealth of find material from more than a century of work in Haithabu itself is, for the most part, published. Publishing activity in recent years has concentrated on the find material from the expansive excavations in the settlement and in the harbour.¹⁹ Although the stray finds from the settlement area have been considered in these works,²⁰ they have not to date been integrated in the methodical framework of the project. Amongst the most important works which have been driven forward intensively over recent years have been the analyses of the countless number of timber finds from the settlement excavation and the related dynamism in concrete historical facts regarding the settlement, as well as the archaeological analysis of the harbour

¹⁸ Cf. Hilberg in print.
¹⁹ At present volumes 35 and 36 from the series “Berichte über die Ausgrabungen in Haithabu” are in editing. They contain the analyses of the bones from the harbour and deal with coins and the beads of carneol and rock crystal. So far 10 volumes of “Ausgrabungen in Haithabu” have appeared, the next volume will deal with the hoard of dies found in the harbour.
Recent archaeological research in Haithabu and its buildings.\textsuperscript{21} In both works there have been several thousand structural timbers to deal with and c. 3250 have been dendro-dated. Naturally this has, in the first place, led to a chronological archive being opened up and analysed upon which, on the one hand, all further investigations have to build while, on the other hand, allowing or requiring the new assessment of material published up to now.

Present research too is only conceivable in close association with the resources of the State Archaeological Museum in Schleswig. It is here that the new finds undergo conservation and are stored, the archive containing almost the complete stock of available documentation. The archaeological-zoological working group based in the museum is firmly established as an efficient and capable research body. Moreover, close links exist between the relevant institutions in the Christian-Albrechts-University in Kiel such as the Faculty of Geophysics and the C14 Laboratory, to name but two. Important partners also include the Federal Research Institute for Forestry and Timber Industry in Hamburg, which even today is still concerned with the further evaluation of the dendrochronological data. Of crucial importance is the close contact with colleagues from Scandinavia, co-operation with working groups in Ribe, Tissø, Uppåkra and Kaupang having been intensified in recent years especially. This network is now being supplemented by a new project in Wiskiauten in Samland (known today as Mochove in the territory of Kaliningrad) where field exploration is being carried out from 2005 onwards in co-operation with the Russian Academy and the Römisch-Germanische Kommission of the German Archaeological Institute.

2. Research history: excavations and prospecting

2.1. Outline of the excavations

The synoptic mapping of the excavations from the past 100 years (Fig. 2), clearly shows that it is in the central eastern and southern parts especially that the larger expanses have been examined. Other parts, however, could only be investigated by trial-trenching or by systematically planned excavations at selective points. Though providing an introductory overview, these hardly allow a differentiated insight into the great expanse of the settlement.\textsuperscript{22}

\textsuperscript{21} These analyses ensue within the framework of two dissertations. Joachim Schultze is working on the dendro-dated structural features, cf. Schultze 2005; Sven Kalmring is analysing the harbour structures, cf. Kalmring 2006.

\textsuperscript{22} For this cf. Schietzel 1981, 89-90, who describes the investigation of larger topographical connections for acquiring a better understanding of the structural arrangement of the settlement complex as one of the future tasks of Haithabu research; Jankuhn 1986, 91-92.
In 1897 Sophus Müller identified the area inside the huge and well preserved semi-circular rampart at the western side of the Haddebyer Noor, an inlet of the Schlei/Sliefjord, as the place mentioned on Viking age runic inscriptions found nearby as Haithabu.23 To reveal the character of the place Johanna Mestorf, director of the Museum für Vaterländische Altertümer in Kiel, started with small-scale excavation trenches all

23 Müller 1897, 636-642, figs 395, 396; idem 1898, 232-238, figs 143-144. – DR no. 1+3.
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over this area in the year 1900. In the following years until 1915 and once again in 1921 her colleagues Wilhelm Splieth and Friedrich Knorr dug more than 350 small trenches, revealing the deposits and wooden remains of Haithabu. In addition some 500-700 inhumation burials from a huge cemetery inside the rampart were excavated between 1902 and 1912. The exact number is very difficult to say because of several cases of superimposition and destruction caused by later, overlying settlement structures. While the impressive boat chamber grave, which was investigated in 1908, was published in detail in 1911, the first full analysis was provided by M. Müller-Wille in 1976. Only in one article published in 1924 did Knorr briefly inform of the results from all his excavation campaigns. But his excavations turned the attention from the burials to the thick cultural layers near the coastline, especially in the depression crossed by a small stream.

In 1930 the excavations were started again with a trial trench, which was dug by the young Herbert Jankuhn during his work extending over four years. This trial trench, in most parts not wider than one metre, extended about 530 m from west to east and about 585 m from north to south. Only in some parts was this trench widened because of special features: in the West Jankuhn excavated a group of ten chamber burials, which were surrounded by ring ditches as well as one cremation and two inhumation graves. This part of a cemetery was superseded by a later settlement of several sunken-featured buildings consisting of different phases with wells and pits. Unfortunately the results of these excavations were never published in detail. From 1935 on Jankuhn concentrated his excavations in the low-lying areas near the coastline, which are characterised by well-preserved wooden remains and a stratigraphy up to 2 m in depth. These investigations were continued in 1962 by Torsten Capelle and from 1963 to 1969 by Kurt Schietzel. The excavated settlement structures form the basis of our knowledge of Haithabu and its layout in the Viking age. Approximately 5 % of the area inside the semicircular rampart has been able to be excavated

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25 Knorr 1924, giving only a very short summary of the excavated features.
26 Knorr 1911; Müller-Wille 1976; Wamers 1994.
27 Knorr 1924, 27.
28 Besides very brief summaries the most detailed report on the settlement structures excavated from 1930-1933 is given by Jankuhn 1933; Jankuhn 1986, 93-95, fig. 42; the chamber-graves were published by Aner 1952, but without detailed information of the burials and their grave-goods.
29 Jankuhn 1936; \textit{idem} 1943.
30 Capelle 1964/65; Schietzel 1969; to sum it up Schietzel 1981.
but only a small part has been analysed and published comprehensively.\textsuperscript{32} Most of the preserved timber remains date to the ninth century, but wood was not preserved in the upper layers. Only a well with a \textit{terminus post quem} of AD 1020 provides the latest dendro-date from Schietzel’s settlement excavations.\textsuperscript{33}

To the north, lying at the south-eastern slopes of the hillfort, remains of graves destroyed in the nineteenth century and a settlement pit have been found.\textsuperscript{34} In the south of the rampart remains of inhumation and cremation burials were found by chance in 1956 and this subsequently led to large-scale excavations over several years. Klaus Raddatz, Heiko Steuer and Konrad Weidemann investigated large parts of a huge bi-ritual cemetery, Raddatz and Steuer also excavating parts of an older settlement in the eastern area near the coastline. While Steuer published the structures of the settlement, the cemetery has not yet been published in detail.\textsuperscript{35}

\section*{2.2. Prospection: geomagnetism and field-walking}

The long history of research as too the methods and techniques of research employed can only be discussed briefly here. Excavations and surface inspections have constituted the central approaches in the last 100 years of inquiry into Haithabu’s past. Since 2003 metal detectors have been additionally used as a systematic tool for scientific purposes and on grounds of monument preservation/protection. Geophysical methods have also been employed repeatedly – in the water as well as on land – in order to investigate the settlement on a larger scale and to better understand its development.\textsuperscript{36} In use today are high-tech devices such as caesium or fluxgate magnetometers. Under favourable conditions it is possible to measure manmade disturbances in the surrounding geomagnetic field. In 2002 such an investigation was able to be carried out over an area extending about 29 ha. The surveyors, comprising teams from Kiel, Marburg, Munich and Vienna examined ground both inside and outside the semi-circular rampart\textsuperscript{37}. The spectacular result (Fig. 3), an almost complete map of an early medieval settlement complex, shows a multitude of magnetic anomalies, which can be interpreted as pits, pit dwellings, working areas, graves, roads/trackways and ditches.

\begin{footnotes}
\item[33] Eckstein 1976; Schietzel 1981, 68-69.
\item[34] Jankuhn 1986, 80, 87, the materials of the settlement pit still remain unknown; for a critical view see Stark 1988, 49-50 – Arens 1992/1, 14-18.
\item[35] Steuer 1974; \textit{idem} 1984, 192-194; Jankuhn 1986, 100-102; Arens 1992/1, 44-53.
\item[37] The survey was kindly financed by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft and the ZEIT Stiftung – preliminary survey results appear in Neubauer/Eder-Hinterleitner/Seren/Becker/Fassbinder 2003.
\end{footnotes}
The area within the rampart with its high density of anomalies differs clearly from the surrounding outer areas where only a few features were evidenced.

In the north-western settlement area within the semicircular rampart and north of the stream there is a zone extending about 3.7 ha which is distinguishable by parallel courses and numerous rectangular or square-shaped structures. Being well ordered and aligned purposefully in rows, it is possible to recognise trackways or alleys here (Pl. 18), which distinguish themselves by their especially high rate of magnetism. The
mapping of iron slag in this zone, thanks to Kurt Schietzel and his systematic field-walking activity in the 1960s (parallel to his excavations), provide us with clues as to its function.  

In all probability we are dealing with the working sheds and dwelling huts of smiths, who were forging iron here in a narrowly delimited space in the tenth and eleventh century. The features demonstrate in exemplary fashion that an internal structure based on function can be reckoned with within the settlement even though in other zones of the settlement one may assume, due to various pieces of evidence, that the most varied of workshop types were in close juxtaposition. We know from the 1913 excavations, for instance, that in the area later described by Jankuhn as the “craftsmen’s quarter”, there was a glass furnace directly beside the bronze-casting workshop.  

A linear feature, running parallel to the river bank in the east of the settlement and evidenced by magnetism is also very informative. Obviously it is formed from pairs of opposing house plans (Pl. 18). Without any problems it is possible to follow this path over the whole area by the river bank area over a length of about 530 m. Thus recognisable is an urban development of the harbour area which could already be shown to exist to some degree through the excavations of H. Jankuhn and K. Schietzel. The documentation from the excavations and the current results of the geophysical prospection complement one another in this case almost ideally. It should be mentioned here that corresponding trackway courses are characteristic of early medieval trading centres and have been shown to exist, for example, in Viking age Dublin and Sigtuna on Lake Mälar in Sweden. The wooden bridge over the Haithabu stream provides us with a date for this trackway. It was constructed of an oak tree which was felled in the year 819. Therefore the trackway must have already existed in the first quarter of the ninth century – but how long it was at the beginning we still do not know.

One important question concerning the emporium’s topography still remains unsolved. We still know very little about Haithabu’s topography of power and religion. Neither a representative hall nor an early church nor a heathen temple have been found

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39 This was already interpreted by Jankuhn 1986, 92.
40 Jankuhn (1986, 92) already suggested ironworking workshops on account of the accumulation of iron slag in this area; somewhat more reserved was Schietzel 1981, 75; Westphalen 1989, esp. 36.
41 Jankuhn 1944; idem 1977.
42 Cf. Hilberg in print with fig. 8.
43 Jankuhn 1943, esp. 38-40, 49-50, fig. 4 left the question open as to whether the track running north-south was the “main street” or a “small side alley”; idem 1986, esp. 98-99 with fig. 39; 40. – Schietzel 1969, esp. 19-21 with reference to “wide main road”.
44 Clarke/Ambrosiani 1991, 138-141, figs 5.5, 4.23.
45 Eckstein 1976. – For detailed account of the feature, see Schietzel 1969, 21-26, figs 10-14.
inside the rampart or in its surroundings. But a royal residence could be concluded since
the earliest written records.\textsuperscript{46} Furthermore, a church is known from the written records
and it is possible that the earliest wooden church lay below the late twelfth century St Andrew
church in the wetland to the north-east of the hillfort near the Schlei.\textsuperscript{47} It seems to
be a typical location in terms of topography for a church outside a central settlement area
but in a prominent position.\textsuperscript{48} Interestingly R. Hodges has pointed out that the lack
of monumental buildings and ritual components is characteristic for early medieval
\textit{emporia}.\textsuperscript{49}

The large number of structures that have been found to exist by means of geophysics is overwhelming and, at times, indeed confusing. They show the cramped development of a settlement area enclosed by a rampart since the second half of the tenth century, which, in its heyday, was dwelt in by more than 1000 people – or even by 2000 people.

An important component of current research in Haithabu is the combination of the almost complete record of excavation documentation of the past 100 years with the current geophysical investigations. Employed here are geographical information systems and extensive data banks which allow, among other things, the comparison of the surveying results with those from the excavations as well as from field-walking and metal detector testing.\textsuperscript{50} Thereby it becomes clear that the rough grid of the geophysical anomalies and structures can be interpreted meaningfully. Problems arise, however, especially in those areas where the stratigraphy attests to different archaeological structures, the stratigraphy being particularly deep in places. In the south-western part of the settlement (Pl. 18) there are pit dwellings and graves overlying one another. In this case the unambiguous allocating and dating of the surveyed anomalies is only possible by comparing the old excavation records.\textsuperscript{51} Evaluations to date have led to important results which are planned to appear within the framework of a comprehensive publication. Yet, in summary, it can be already be stressed today that the data and the archives of earlier research, against the background of more recent examinations, can be used in a virtually ideal manner in chronologically ordering the structures proven using geophysics as well as interpreting their function and social meaning. This will also be the object of further research in the future.

\textsuperscript{46} Schlesinger 1972, 76-77, points out that for the planned \textit{consilium} in 804 between Godfrid and Charlemagne a representative hall was needed.
\textsuperscript{47} Cf. Staecker in print.
\textsuperscript{48} Olsen 1999, esp. 65-66.
\textsuperscript{49} Hodges 2000, 70-71, 89.
\textsuperscript{50} The card index system which forms the basis for all material analyses and which was developed under K. Schietzel’s direction offers a superb basis; Schietzel 1981, 22-28.
\textsuperscript{51} For this see Jankuhn 1986, 91-92, 97, 107.
2.3. Metal detecting

The systematic prospection with metal detectors\(^5^2\) which has been in operation since 2003 and which is still in progress has brought a wealth of new small finds of the Viking age to light but no new eighth century metal finds, not even from the southern

\(^5^2\) We owe especial thanks to the members of the Bornholmske Amatorarkæologer for their enthusiastic participation.
settlement site. This may be connected with the minor importance of Haithabu in the eighth century. It was only during the course of the ninth century that the place developed into the leading Danish trading centre, superseding the older trading centre of Ribe on the North Sea in the second half of the ninth century.\textsuperscript{53} Somewhat overrepresented among the finds made by metal detecting are those small finds from later settlement strata which come from the former plough layer. There is clear evidence for the most diverse of groups of objects in use since the middle of the ninth century as elucidated below by the so-called “pseudo-coin brooches” of continental origin (Fig. 4), for which now, for the first time, more extensive series are available in Haithabu.\textsuperscript{54} Whereas previously there were only seven of these fibulae from Haithabu which could be assigned to variants 2 and 3 of Frick’s coin brooch typology,\textsuperscript{55} there are now 20 further brooches from the metal detecting surveys, these having been spread over nearly the whole area within the semicircular rampart. Metal detector finds have also made it possible for us to understand more clearly the late phase of Haithabu in the eleventh century for the first time. In the harbour as well as in the settlement there were, up until now, no dendro-dates for the late phase\textsuperscript{56} apart from a well dated to 1020. Besides the few Anglo-Saxon pennies of King Æthelred II (978-1016) and the various Danish eleventh century coinage, the most dominant coins are German deniers which stem largely from the different mints in Lower Lothringia. These coins (Fig. 5) and small finds in the

\begin{figure}[h]
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\includegraphics[width=\textwidth]{fig5.png}
\end{figure}

\textsuperscript{53} Nyman/Jensen/Stoklund 2003; Jensen stresses \textit{ibid.}, 552, that the cultural layers in the area of the market place stop about the middle of the ninth century. To date there have been few finds and no features for the tenth and eleventh century in Ribe. We are grateful to C. Feveile, Ribe for kindly providing us with this information. – Hilberg, in print.
\textsuperscript{54} Berghaus 1994, esp. 113-115; Schulze-Dörrlamm 1999; Spiong 2000, 45-47, pl. 3.2-3.
\textsuperscript{55} Frick 1992/93, 309-313, find list on p. 392-393, no. 11, 12, 14, 15, 19, 20, 21.
\textsuperscript{56} Eckstein 1976; Schietzel 1981, 68.
so-called Urnes Style (Fig. 6) show that the *emporium* of Haithabu was a trading centre of international significance right into the middle of the eleventh century.\(^{57}\) Dies, models and moulds (Fig. 7) for various tenth and eleventh century ornamental objects point to crafts production on the spot as in earlier times.

The systematic use of metal detectors, alongside that of geophysical prospecting over a wide area, allows further alternatives in studying the internal structure and functional zones within the settlement complex of Haithabu.

3. Perspectives for Haithabu research

The surprising success of the geophysical prospecting is starting point and engine for a new stage (planned to be longterm) in the long history of research in Haithabu. Thereby it is necessary first of all to integrate the old data and records by means of geographical information systems. This will not only secure the data stock with lasting effect but will allow for the gigantic amount of data to be compiled in useful systems and to interpret it along various lines. Methodically it appears extremely important to link the detailed excavations in the settlement area and the harbour which represent the ninth century best of all with the structures located employing geophysics, which are possibly of tenth century date. This data material is being substantially complemented by the metal detector finds which come from the latest stratum – the tenth and eleventh century soil horizon which has been largely destroyed by agricultural activity.

The geophysical survey is not yet complete. A relatively wide strip along the water bank zone, where difficult soil conditions prevail, has not yet been surveyed (Fig. 3).

\(^{57}\) Callmer 1994, esp. 72, emphasizes that the youngest feature horizons could actually be destroyed – Hill 2001, 107 writes of Haithabu’s loss in importance in the late tenth century.
And it is just here that the linking of settlement and harbour could succeed in explaining more precisely how the *emporium* functioned. Hopefully in this way it will be possible to connect the ships’ landing places or jetties as postulated by Hoffmann-Wiek and Grön with the system of trackways in the immediate harbour zone.\(^{58}\)

The integration of data will be one of the main tasks in the future. How successful this strategy can be may be best shown by the identification of that zone north of the stream in the western part of the settlement where the iron smiths were working. The numerous finds of slag permits this allocation, albeit a preliminary one, and this provides clear hints as to the functional arrangement of the settlement. Accordingly the question of new excavations within the settlement itself automatically arises. For 25 years now no digging has taken place in Haithabu. Starting in June 2005, however, purposefully chosen individual structures based on the geophysical survey will be excavated. It is planned that pit dwellings should be to the fore in the excavation programme which is due to last two years initially, these dwellings having not been paid very much attention in the past.\(^{59}\) Besides the questions of the functional classification and the social differentiation within these buildings, the comparison of those excavations which firmly address the issue of Haithabu’s hinterland will move into the foreground. Indeed, in Schuby (Kreis Schleswig-Flensburg) and Kosel (Kreis Rendsburg-Eckernförde) pit dwellings which compare

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58 Cf. Nakoinz/Mayr/Paddenberg/Böhm 1999, Abb. 3.
59 For material published on the sunken house features within the semicircular rampart cf. Jankuhn 1933, 346-352; Jankuhn 1986, 93-95, fig. 42.
well with others in the western Baltic were identified.\textsuperscript{60} For Haithabu’s early phase the pit dwellings of the southern settlement, which have to date been evaluated only in summary fashion, can be used by way of comparison.\textsuperscript{61}

Over the space of more than 100 years a sturdy edifice of research has developed in and around Haithabu. This is, on the one hand, prerequisite for every new piece of research. On the other hand, however, it opens far-reaching perspectives such as those arising from large-scale geophysical surveying. Together with the use of efficient geographical information systems and integration with the natural sciences, it will be possible to gain new insights into what was going on at the interface between Scandinavia and the continent and between the North Sea and the Baltic.

(translation: Mandy Loughran)

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\textsuperscript{60} Meier 1994, 51-74.

\textsuperscript{61} Steuer 1974, 15-19.
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