

FOREWORD

This book is the result of a long process that started around the year 2000 when I read Bergljot Solberg's overview of the Norwegian Iron age and Dagfinn Skre's important thesis on Iron-age property and settlement. Later on it was fuelled further when I managed large-scale excavation projects which produced archaeological evidence that didn't really fit in with the existing view of Iron-age settlement, but did, on the other hand, concur strongly with Lars Pilø's critique of Norwegian settlement research.

However, I did most of the work while I was working on my PhD at the Museum of Cultural History, University of Oslo. After the public defence of my thesis I rectified mistakes and shortcomings pointed out by my opponents Frands Herschend and Helena Victor, arguments were developed or enhanced, sentences added here and removed there, and after a while my thesis transformed into a manuscript and finally a book. I am grateful for John Hines's translation of the main text (Any readers who have experienced my own English will be particularly appreciative of his work!).

A lot of people have, of course, been involved in this long process – there is only room to mention a few of them here. When I was directing large-scale

excavations, advice from, among others, Jan Henning Larsen and Lars Pilø was important. Karl Kallhovd and Lene Melheim, Heads of Department at, respectively, the start and the finish of my PhD, made conditions favourable at the those stages of the research project.

Jan Kristian Hellan, Elise Naumann and Irmelin Axelsen helped with illustrations and literature for my thesis, and some of their work is re-used here – thanks!

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