

THE FEMARNBELT FIXED LINK - THE NEW BALTIC TUNNEL

Jorgen Dencker – Roskilde Museum, Denmark

In connection to a huge construction work of a 18 kilometer long tunnel between Germany and Denmark crossing Femarnbelt the Danish Viking Ship Museum, Roskilde and the German Archaeological State Office Schleswig–Holstein have been closely cooperating on the underwater cultural heritage.

The two institutions were involved in this construction work at a very early stage in the process because Femern A/S who is the construction company wanted all cultural heritage aspects mapped and analyzed in good time before the start of the building process.

Even if the two involved countries had different marine archaeological traditions and experience the Femern A/S wanted the project carried out as a coast-to-coast project with the highest marine archaeological standards.

Since 2008 an ambitious marine archaeological work has been carried out to detect any trace of cultural heritage which could be affected of the construction work: 1) archival studies; 2) a complete overview of the building area by means of Multi beam echo sounder, Side scan sonar, Magnetometer and Sub bottom profiler; 3) checking the anomalies on deeper water with ROV and if something was of a certain cultural value checking by divers; 4) checking the anomalies on shallow water by divers.

Until now we have found submerged landscapes including stumps and trunks on different water depths, sediments from a former fresh water lake, two wrecks from 1930ties and two wrecks from 17th Century.