

The burial ground

The graveyard of Trelleborg contains at least 135 graves and 157 dead. Most skeletons are badly preserved, and most graves have very little in the way of grave goods and often none. In the older section, some of the graves contain gifts -e.g. knives and hones, but also a few axes, beads and some jewellery.

One of the male graves contained very impressive equipment - a small bowl made from bronze sheet and a magnificent battle axe inlaid with silver. A rich female grave contained a bronze brooch, beads, a wooden shrine and gaming pieces. The younger graves have no grave goods at all. They were established when Christianization had taken over and grave goods were no longer used.

Mass graves

Three mass graves contained 20 bodies. All the dead seem to have been men aged between 20 and 35 years. One of the graves contained 10 people of which one had had his leg cut above the knee. Perhaps these were warriors who had fallen in battle. Even if most of the graves contained the bodies of younger men, middle aged men as well as women and children have been buried at the burial ground.

Human sacrifices

Human remains were found in some of the wells inside the rampart. Two of the wells contained two children each: one, which is on display at the museum, contained a four year old child and one of seven years and many bones from domestic animals. In the other well, two four- year old children was found together with the bones of a cow, a dog and parts of four horses, five pigs and two sheep.