

Scientific procedure and time plan

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AquaArkeologen Sverige

G. Ankarlilja, I. Hammarström

Scientific procedure and time plan of archaeological research

The archaeological research is done at the following sites:

- Kopparsvik (Visby)
- Brissund (Väskinde)
- Almedalen (Visby)
- Brusviken (Väskinde)

The investigation is done to answer the following questions

- ✓ Where are the context borders and the area delimitation?
- ✓ How many shipwrecks are there in the context?
- ✓ From which period are the remains?
- ✓ From what ship originates the remains?
- ✓ What is the type of the ship and how was the rig constructed?
- ✓ What do we know about the members of the crew? (Age, length, gender and health)
- ✓ What type of tools and weapons did they have onboard?
- ✓ What type of food did people eat?
- ✓ What is the difference of the earlier excavation, mainly performed with a metal detector, and this modern archaeological excavation?

Survey methodology

The survey will be done in the following three steps; inventory survey, test pits and excavation.

1. Inventory survey

The inventory survey creates an area delimitation and will complement the existing survey areas.

- ✓ The general survey area is searched through remote sensing from a boat with side scan sonar, with a search width of 2x75 m to get the best close up of the sea bed as possible.
- ✓ The detailed survey area will be searched by divers with metal detectors through line- or circular search.

2. Test pits

Sized 1x1 m will be put in the most interesting areas. The test pits will be put both in earlier excavated areas, as references, and in the newly picked out areas.

3. Excavation squares

Each excavation square is sized 5x5 m. At the excavation silts and sediments can be removed from an area of investigation using a submerged ejector dredge driven by a water pump on land or a raft.

At Almedalen only an inventory site survey with documentation will be done.

Sieving

Water and sediment is sucked by the water dredge from the excavation site, to a sieve table under water.

Layers and measurements

While measuring artifacts and the layer is noted, a description of the stratigraphy (e g sand, gravel, clay or bedrock) is done. Exception: In big constructions or at large artifact assemblies, depth will always be reported.

The whole survey and the baseline will be measured from land with a total station to *Rikets nät RT90*, or with GPS-measurements WGS84 (GPS= Global positioning system).

Artifact care and conservation

All artifacts will be documented in situ by photography and measurements in square (+-1 dm).

Criterions for recovery

To control the costs of conservation, findings equal to previous recovered objects are not recovered.

Artifacts of precious metals as gold, silver and alloys as bronze, depending on size, will be documented and recovered. Findings like ropes, bones, leather or similar will be documented and recovered. Objects made of wood and iron will usually not be recovered, only documented under water.

The recovered artifacts and the conservation

The artifacts are also documented on land through measurements (length, breadth, thickness and weight), photographed and put into tubs with water.

Diving safety

All divers dive with a buddy, there will be a safety diver as well as a CPR-educated person on land. On land there will also be an oxy box, mobile telephone and a small rescue boat. All diving takes place on survey areas near land and at depths more shallow than 10 m.

Report

A final report will be written according to the directions of the County Administration board.

Plan for archaeological research

The archaeological excavations will be done during the period 19th of May until the 24th of August, with a break at midsummer (week 25-26).

Kopparsvik week 21, 22, 23, 24 Krusmynta week 27, 28, 29, 30, 31

Almedalen week 28

Brusviken week 32, 33, 34

