



Call for papers

International workshop: The setting of fortifications in the natural and cultural landscape

Fortifications are a well-known, but little understood phenomenon in Europe for almost all archaeological periods. Their location in the natural and cultural landscape probably varies mainly according to their function, but depends not only on social preconditions but also on external location factors such as the topography and condition of the terrain or the availability of building materials. In addition, a change in the social or economic framework conditions can also change the function of the fortifications or make an adjustment necessary. Sometimes fortifications even became obsolete and were abandoned, but came back into use centuries later.

Nevertheless, the location in the landscape and the relationship to the surrounding hinterland seem to be the key to understanding the complex monuments. Regardless of function, whether traffic and communication routes were to be controlled and the power of the builders had to be actively expressed, or whether they purely worked as refuge castles for the population and their food and belongings, the location of fortifications in the landscape was absolutely decisive for the success of the desired function.

Due to the geographical and cultural diversity, the question of the reasons for this or that choice of location cannot be answered comprehensively. Rather, each site must first be examined individually in order to clarify its specific function, before entire systems of contemporary fortifications and thus "fortified landscapes" can be reconstructed from the individual sites.

The aim of this workshop within the framework of the EAA Community on Fortification Research (COMFORT) is to use case studies to illustrate the entire range of possible functions depending on the particular situation in the natural and cultural landscape. On this basis, possible differences and similarities can be worked out in the discussion in order to find the underlying mechanisms for choosing the location.

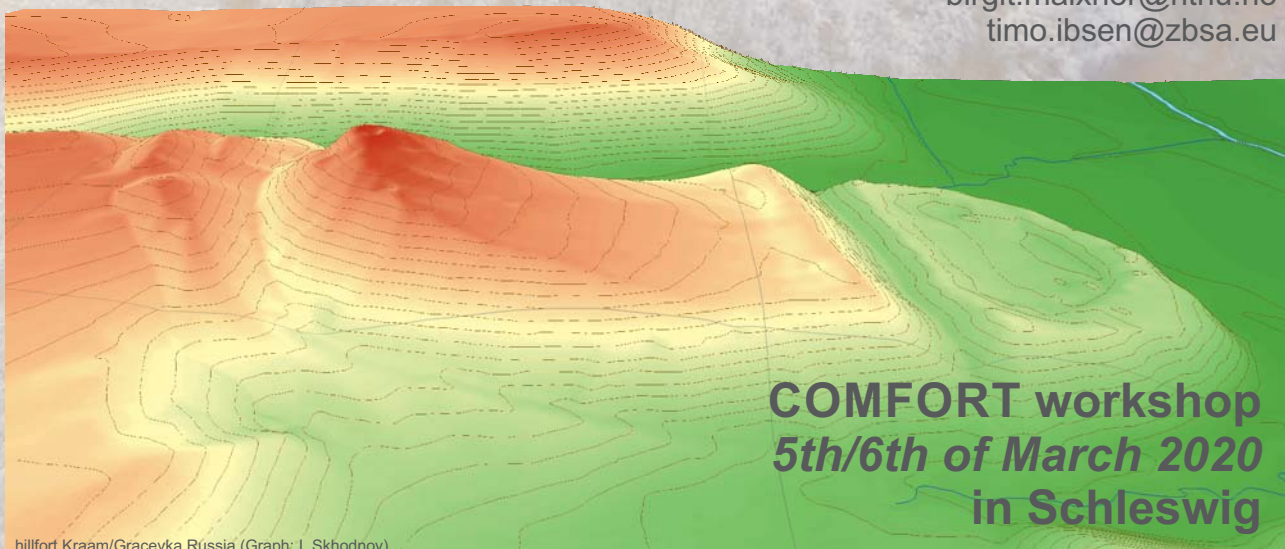
The workshop will be held in the Center for Baltic and Scandinavian Archaeology (ZBSA) in Schleswig on the 5th and 6th of March 2020. The organizers welcome contributions that present best practice examples for exploring the landscape of strongholds from different geographical and temporal environments in Europe.

Contact for registration until 31st of January 2020:

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COMFORT workshop
5th/6th of March 2020
in Schleswig



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Preliminary programme:

Thursday, 5th of March:

09-13h: workshop/lectures

13-14h: lunch break

14-18h: workshop/lectures

19:30h: workshop dinner

Friday, 6th of March:

09-11h: COMFORT board meeting

11-14h: excursion to UNESCO world
heritage sites Haithabu and Danewerk

14h: end of workshop

The workshop will be held in the Center for Baltic and Scandinavian Archaeology (ZBSA) in Schloß Gottorf in Schleswig, Germany. Lectureres are asked to submit a paper proposal of 150 to 300 words by 31st of January 2020 to the organizers. Presentations should not exceed 15 min and focus on the workshop subject. Workshop language will be English. There are no fundings for travel costs or accommodation, but we are happy to help finding a hotel in Schleswig. Please let us also know, if you want to take part without giving a paper, and if you are interested in the excursion.

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