



Fig. 1 Impression of the early medieval town to be built in Archeon. Illustration Henk 't Jong. ■

Project Delphi

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● **Introducing the European project in which the Pfahlbaumuseum in Unteruhldingen in co-operation with Arais Lake Fortress in Latvia and Archeon in the Netherlands aims to improve access of the public to information on the local past.**

At the EXARC meeting in Százhalombatta (13-15 October 2003) European subsidies were discussed. It was decided to try and get more experience by setting up a pilot project with a small number of members. Afterwards, the results and experiences would be shared with all the other members of EXARC. To our delight we got a positive reaction from Brussels on May 12th. This was not yet official. Despite the delay we had to start at the date we set in our application. So our first important experience would be

the speed of the people in Brussels. There seems to be a lot more work than they can cope with. This situation did not, however, create any major problems for the participants.

The pilot project has been dubbed: Delphi - European Archaeology's Most Frequently Asked Questions. The Pfahlbaumuseum in Unteruhldingen took the lead, Arais Lake Fortress in Latvia and Archeon in the Netherlands are the other two participants. The main aim of the project is to make information

Reports

about a region's past culture more accessible to more people through improved methods. Exchanging experience and expertise between the museums will be essential to make it a success. The main subjects will be our visitors. Each museum creates its own particular features which fit in an overall framework of three parts: the House of Questions, an Infopoint and a Time Island. Each park will collect their visitor's most frequently asked questions, create a freely accessible informative feature in their region, and each park will build some archaeological reconstructions. More specifically:

House of Questions - The three partners will make a list of their visitors' most frequently asked questions and present them and their answers. It will be interesting to see whether there will be any major differences between the three countries. The results will also be presented to conventional archaeologists. We have a hunch that the questions we get from our visitors are not the questions they would expect. The results will also be published on the internet in the relevant languages and English. The most frequently asked questions part of this project will hopefully be expanded to all EXARC members one day.

Infopoint - Each of the museums will make one or more Infopoints. These will provide information on the relationship between humans, nature and the environment in their particular region in the past. The Pfahlbaumuseum in Unteruhldingen will treat the Stone Age and Bronze Age. Archeon will focus on the Roman Age and Araisai will treat the Stone Age, Bronze Age, Viking Age and Middle Ages.

Time Island - The Pfahlbaumuseum in Unteruhldingen will create a special show plantation and a field of activities concerning the Stone Age along a biking-



Fig. 4 Backbreaking but rewarding work. ■



Fig. 5 The beams are all made smooth with an axe. ■

pathway. For the Bronze Age, a footpath, a well and a tracked way will be created. Araisai will reconstruct a Bronze Age house and part of the defensive works around the Viking Age lake fortress. Archeon will reconstruct two buildings from the early Middle Ages as well.



Fig. 2 Replicas of early medieval tools. ■

Summary

Das Projekt Delphi

Der Bericht stellt das europäische Projekt “Delphi” vor, bei dem das Pfahlbaumuseum in Unteruhldingen (Deutschland) mit den Freilichtmuseen “Seefestung von Araisi” in Lettland und dem Archeon in den Niederlanden zusammen arbeitet, um den Zugang der interessierten Öffentlichkeit zu Informationen über die lokale Vergangenheit zu verbessern.

Das Projekt widmet sich dabei drei Arbeitsbereichen: Dem Sammeln von regelmäßig gestellten (Besucher) Fragen, dem Er- und Aufstellen von computergestützten Informationsangeboten im Außengelände und der Schaffung sogenannter “Zeitzone” in den archäologischen Freilichtmuseen.

Projet Delphi

L'article présente un projet européen réalisé en collaboration parmi Pfahlbaumuseum d'Unteruhldingen, Arasi Lake Fortress, Lettonie, et Archeon, Pays-Bas, à vocation d'améliorer l'accès aux informations concernant l'histoire régionale.

Le projet est divisé en trois parties: ramassage des questions les plus fréquentes, fixation des points informatiques et détermination des zones temporelles.



Fig. 3 Some visitors (Vikings) decided to stay. ■