

Tumathorp in South-Eastern Scania

A Study of an Early Medieval Town (*Kungalev*)

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Abstract

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Östra Tommarp in south-eastern Scania is one of Scania's oldest towns, along with Lund and Helsingborg. In the Tax Register of King Valdemar Sejr (*Kong Valdemars Jordebog* or *Liber Censu Daniae*) from the 1230s, Tommarp is described as a *kungalev*, implying that the foundation of the town may have been preceded by a royal estate. Archaeological investigations at Östra Tommarp have led to the recovery and analysis of comprehensive find material from the High Middle Ages in particular.

This study aims to shed light on Tommarp's earliest phase and interpret when the royal estate may have been established at the site. The authors have worked with the entire archaeological find material and documentary material from the area around the medieval town. The study covers the period up until 1155 when a Premonstratensian monastery was founded in Tommarp, probably on the site of an earlier royal estate.

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Introduction

Östra Tommarp in south-east Scania is today an unremarkable village, but hidden beneath the soil lies a medieval town, Tumathorp. This early medieval town is Scania's oldest, along with Lund and Helsingborg.

The evidence for the minting of coins here during the period 1048–1086 (Wallin 1955–1962, pp. 208 ff.) makes the town's regional significance hard to overstate. Earlier studies of the site have been dominated by material

from the High and Late Middle Ages. Only a few investigations at Tommarp have been able to publish finds contemporary with the mint (Thun 1967, pp. 22 ff.).

Knowledge of medieval Tommarp is poor, particularly considering that the site conceals one of Scania's oldest towns. A number of archaeological investigations of varying size have been carried out within the presumed town boundaries since the 1950s (Thun 1967;

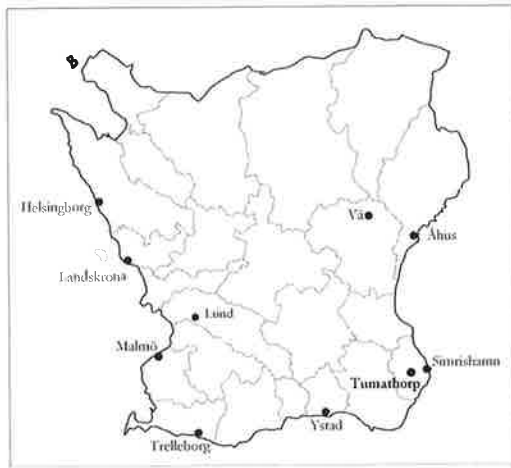


Fig. 1. The location of the medieval town of Tommarp in Scania.

Redin 1968). Excavations at Tommarp have mostly been confined to long, narrow trenches connected with archaeological evaluations and the laying of pipelines and cables. Small-scale research excavations were carried out in Tommarp during the 1990s (Jönsson 2001). The long, narrow trenches meant that only smaller surfaces were opened up, and no complete larger structures such as floor layers, sunken-floored huts or other types of house were investigated in their entirety. In addition, the larger excavations carried out during the 1950s and 1960s suffered from somewhat unsatisfactory documentation. One significant problem the newly implemented project has encountered has been linking finds with the various structures and the correct stratigraphic levels. Older find lists have also been studied and we have been able to ascertain that a large number of finds have been made. This will of course affect a later review and analysis of the material.

As a part of the project, the entire find material from all of the investigations at Tommarp has been analysed and registered. The total find material, excluding unworked bone, amounts to 372.5 kg, divided among 14,408 items. Ceramics alone amount to 121.2

kg divided among 10,771 pieces. The study included documentary material from all of the investigations, and documentation of several contexts has been converted into digital form. The project was funded by a generous donation from the Ebbe Kock Foundation.

The project had several aims. An important one of these was purely antiquarian: to register the finds and assess the quality of the metal objects. The archaeological aims dealt mostly with the earliest dating of the town and the quality of the find material, whether this reflected a normal burgher class or a higher or lower social status. The role of the church and the monastery in High Medieval Tommarp has also been studied. This article makes up an important part of the project and is intended above all to shed light on early medieval Tommarp. The basic aims of the article are to attempt to ascertain when the settlement in Tommarp was established and how extensive this settlement was during the earliest period. In order to illustrate the site's significance as a *kungalev* as well, Tommarp's structure and function is compared with the similar sites of Oxie and Gårdstånga. The review of the finds and documentary material from the collected investigations of Tommarp shows that the early medieval settlement was quite comprehensive. This can be empirically established from the find material, which consists above all of Baltic Ware and spindle whorls, and what seems to be a relatively large sunken-floored hut. In connection with this it should be pointed out that a comparison with Oxie and Gårdstånga regarding the construction and function of these sunken-floored huts is all but impossible as the conditions of the excavations were vastly different. Furthermore, the documentation methods used also varied widely. However, the find material can be used to provide an indication of when the construction of sunken-floored huts started in Tommarp. The distribution of sunken-floored huts in Tommarp can also provide an

indication of how large the settlement was during the early medieval period. The proximity to the Viking Age aristocratic farm at Järrestad will also be discussed.

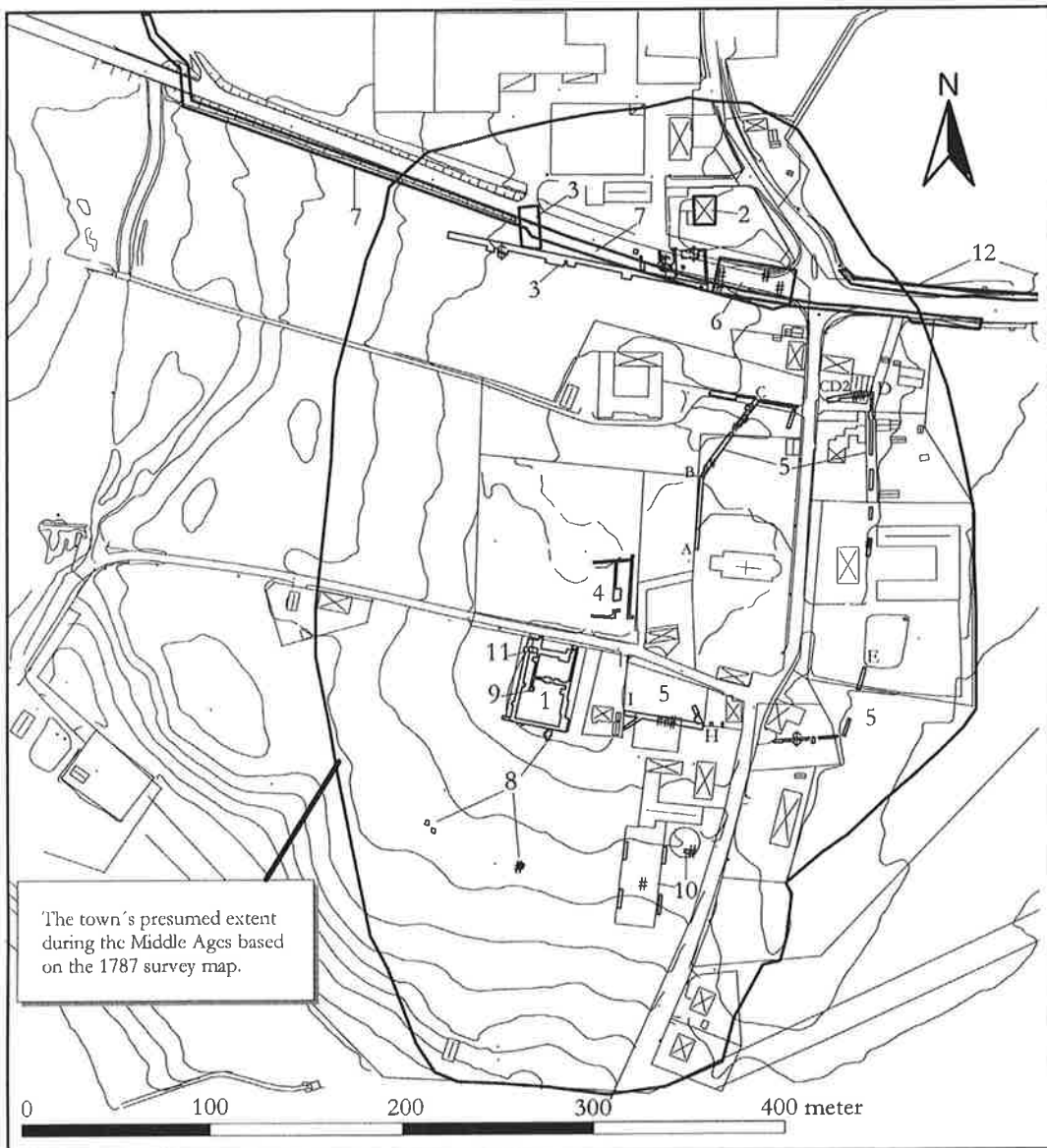
The historical and archaeological background

The area around Östra Tommarp contains a number of prehistoric remains. These include Tågarpsdösen, a passage grave from *c.* 3000 bc, which lies just west of the community, and Tullhögen, a tumulus from the Early Bronze Age, just north of the village (Strömberg 1971). No Iron Age remains are known in or around Östra Tommarp, but several potsherds from the Roman Iron Age were discovered in connection with the registration of the archaeological finds. This indicates the possible presence of an Iron Age settlement in the vicinity of Tommarp, even if no clear remains have yet come to light. However, a large Iron Age settlement is known in and immediately south of the village of Järrestad, about 4 km east of Östra Tommarp (Anglert 1995; Strömberg 1976; Söderberg 2003). In connection with archaeological investigations in 1999 and 2000 just south of the village, remains of an aristocratic farm from the Late Iron Age were discovered, an indication of the site's importance during the period. Järrestad was most likely an important regional centre during the later Iron Age, with a special function for an aristocratic farm. Bengt Söderberg has said that the "aristocratic" environment of Järrestad indicates a residence for the local or perhaps even regional elite during the Vendel and Viking Ages. Järrestad may even conceivably be the main farm in an estate complex (Söderberg 1999, pp. 41 ff.; Söderberg 2003, p. 110).

Tumathorp probably arose on royal initiative, perhaps in connection with the Danish king's eastward expansion. From the

end of the 10th century until *c.* 1200, towns are considered to have functioned as important administrative centres for the developing royal power. In Scania, these were Lund, Helsingborg and Tumathorp, which are considered to have become urban centres by 1130 (Anglert 1995, p. 47). They are described as *kungalev* in the Tax Register of King Valdemar Sejr from the 1230s (*Kong Valdemars Jordebog* 1–3). *Kungalev* in their turn consisted of properties belonging to the royal office, and have been interpreted as the crown's regal or administrative estates with associated properties and rights. They are believed to have functioned as local centres in the hundreds during the medieval period and to have formed the basic unit in the royal power structure, as residential manors for courtiers, and as local centres from where the royal rights were maintained in the country, economy and hundreds (Andrén 1983, pp. 34 ff.; Anglert 1995, pp. 43 ff.; Carelli 2001, pp. 221 ff.; Jönsson & Brorsson 2003, pp. 157 ff.; Thomasson 1998, pp. 86 ff.).

A royal estate may have been present at Tumathorp as early as the beginning of the 11th century, and the site thereby attains significance as a royal central location. Tumathorp's significance as royal central and administrative location in the region is indicated, among other things, by finds of three coins, which are believed to have been struck during the period 1048–1086. These may be evidence of a royal estate with mint (Wallin 1955–1962, pp. 208 ff.), which further reinforces the site's central status during the Middle Ages. In addition, an event that took place around 1120, mentioned in the *Heimskringla* from the start of the 13th century, indicates that Tumathorp was relatively important during the Middle Ages. Around 1120, the Norwegian king *Sigurd Jorsalafar* launched an attack around the Baltic Sea. It is mentioned that the king plundered a "*thorp*" (farmstead) called Tumathorp, not far from Lund, while on the way to Kalmar.



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|------------------------------------|---|---|
| 1. Klosterplatsen 1955 LUHM 29285 | 7. VA-schakt 1973 LUHM 80938 | |
| 2. Hemmet 1957 LUHM 29060 | 8. Klosterplatsen och 144:4 1992 LUHM 30462 | |
| 3. Hemmet 1959-60 LUHM 29203 | 9. Klosterplatsen 1994 LUHM 30568 | |
| 4. Nya kyrkogården 1960 LUHM 29119 | 10. Tommarp 144:4 1995 LUHM 30629 | # Sunken-floored huts |
| 5. VA-schakt 1967-68 LUHM 31434 | 11. Klosterplatsen 1999 LUHM 31291 | \$ Spindle whorls in culturelayer or pits |
| 6. Hemmet 1968 LUHM 31434 | 12. Väg 11 1999 | |

Fig. 2. The map shows all archaeological investigations in Östra Tommarp. All possible sunken-floored huts are marked, as are find spots for all spindle whorls. The town's presumed extent during the Middle Ages is based on both the archaeological material and on the 1787 survey map of Östra Tommarp. Digital basis: City Architect's Office, Simrishamn.

Around 1155, a radical change occurred at the site of the royal estate. This was the founding of the Premonstratensian monastery, probably on the initiative of the Archbishop Eskil. In 1161, Valdemar I issued a charter for the monastery, in which he granted the monastery two churches in the town and five mills along the river (Wallin 1955–1962, pp. 163 ff.). From this it would seem that the material foundation for the monastery was mainly of royal origin. Valdemar's granting of the mills probably implies that he also surrendered a portion of his administrative centre in the region, possibly the royal estate.

East of the town boundary lay St Jörgen's Hospital, which is mentioned for the first time in 1285. During the Late Middle Ages, Tumathorp's significance went into decline, to a certain extent due to the growth of Simrishamn during the 13th century. During the Reformation, the monastery ceased to operate and at the same time the town's rights were lost. The town became a normal village (Wallin 1955–62 & 1976; Thun 1967; Redin 1972; Jönsson 2001; Jönsson & Brorsson 2003).

One of the first investigations was carried out in 1955 at the site of the former monastery. During the investigation, the monastery's church and its magnificent north gate were discovered, among other things. South of the monastery church, an unidentified group of buildings oriented around a square open space were also discovered. Only parts of the monastery's walls were uncovered (Jönsson 1987; Jönsson 2001).

A few years later, in 1959–1960, the largest archaeological investigation yet in Östra Tommarp took place in connection with the construction of a new road that cut through the northern part of the medieval town. An area for the smelting and working of iron was identified here. This featured a number of pit kilns, containing large amounts of slag, and a number of small, thin, ovular ingots (Thun 1967).

In advance of an expansion of the cemetery,

further archaeological excavations were carried out in 1960. Discoveries included cobblestone constructions, wells and early medieval cultural deposits (Hofrén & Thun 1960).

One of the larger archaeological investigations was carried out in 1967–68 when a new water and sewage system was laid in the community. This work would disturb the eastern parts of the monastery area, where a part of the eastern monastery wall was known to exist. A number of graves with heavy stone coffins also existed east of the wall. The foundations of a late medieval house with walled cellar were additionally found west of the church – these may have been the remains of Tommarp's town hall. Other features were also found, some of which were interpreted as possible sunken-floored huts (Redin 1968).

In 1973, an investigation took place just south of the course of the new road through the community. This revealed a stone structure, a well and a rectangular stone framework, which served as foundation for the walls of a wooden house (Augustsson 1973).

In 1992 a minor research project started with the comprehensive aim of attempting to identify the extent of the complete monastery complex. This project is described in more detail in another article (Jönsson 2001). In connection with the project, archaeological investigations in the form of four test pits were carried out. The placement of these was intimately connected with the aims of the research project. The first test pit was placed immediately south of the part of the monastery area investigated in 1955. In the western part of the test pit, a wall of beautifully dressed limestone, broken by a roughly 0.70 m wide walled-up opening, was found. This wall probably formed part of the monastery's southernmost building. Three courses, with a height of 0.70 m, remained of the wall. The walled-up opening may once have formed an earlier cellar entrance. In Test Pit Four, placed 70 m south of the central monastery area,

cultural deposits indicating early medieval activities in the area were found. At the bottom of the pit, a 0.60 m deep cut into the subsoil with a fill containing Baltic Ware was documented (Jönsson 2001).

After this introductory phase in 1992, the project was put on hold until 1994, when a minor archaeological investigation was carried out in the central part of the monastery area. This was intended to attempt to find out if the monastery had been founded on the site of an early medieval royal estate. Test pits were dug by the monastery church's southern foundation wall. The cultural deposit here consisted of a layer of rubble from the collapse of the abandoned monastery and a layer deposited in connection with the construction of the monastery. Below this, three graves were discovered, one of which was intact while the other two were partly destroyed. Purely on stratigraphic evidence, these were dated to *before* the monastery was completed, *c.* 1200. These graves may possibly have originated in an early medieval cemetery connected with a church belonging to the royal estate. As the entire investigation area was riddled with graves, no earlier cultural deposit could be documented (Jönsson 2001).

In connection with an archaeological evaluation excavation in 1995, just south-west of the monastery site, comprehensive early medieval cultural deposits and clear building structures were found. Among other things, remains which very possibly could be interpreted as a sunken-floored hut were present. In connection with these, a comparatively large amount of Baltic Ware was present (Jönsson 1995).

In summary, it can be said that none of the archaeological investigations which have so far been carried out in Östra Tommarp have opened up any large cohesive area. With this as a starting point, it is impossible to present any theories concerning house grouping, street networks or plot divisions.

The structures and the early town

It should be mentioned straight away that only a few complete sunken-floored huts have so far been identified at Tommarp. In most cases the investigated areas have been too small, or the supposed huts have occurred in cultural deposits with complicated stratigraphies. In certain cases, later features such as pit kilns or wells were dug directly over or through the huts, which has complicated documentation and interpretation. However, a combination of the study of the descriptions of the earlier cuts/pits at the site and a study of the find material found in or near these has led to the identification of a comparatively large number of "sunken-floored huts". The freshly studied material from the sunken-floored huts at the *kungalev* site of Oxie (Jönsson & Brorsson 2003) has been of use in the interpretation of these huts.

The study of the finds and documentation from Tommarp shows that at least 20 sunken-floored huts have so far been found at the site. Table 1 shows a list of the possible sunken-floored huts at Tommarp. This shows that sunken-floored huts have been found by virtually every archaeological investigation in Tommarp. The only exception seems to have been the investigation of 1959–60, where none were securely identified. However, a number of spindle whorls were found here, together with a comprehensive assemblage of Baltic Ware, which indirectly indicates the presence of early medieval sunken-floored huts here as well. Furthermore, many of the high medieval pit kilns were established in earlier pits (Thun 1967). Some of these may originally have been sunken-floored huts, which were then put to a secondary use for another purpose.

The distribution of sunken-floored huts in Tommarp probably also reflects the extent

of the early medieval settlement at the site. This is presumably also the extent of the *kungalev* of Tumathorp during the period prior to 1200, that is, before the monastery was founded in the town. A division of the sunken-floored huts into early medieval phases has partially been carried out on the basis of the Baltic Ware finds (see below). A discussion of the *kungalev* site and its significance follows the summary of the find material.

The finds from the early town

The study of Tommarp's earliest period has, due to the antiquarian problems described above, been surrounded by serious source-critical issues. We have therefore chosen to be cautious in our archaeological interpretations, but still tried to present our interpretation of the earliest period at Tommarp. The basis for our interpretations and above all the dates presented has been the find material. We have therefore concentrated upon four find categories above all: pottery, spindle whorls, coins and other metal objects.

Pottery: The dominant potteries during the Late Viking Age and Early Middle Ages are Scandinavian AIV Ware, Baltic Ware and west European Kugeltopf Ware. AIV pottery in Scania dates from the 8th to the mid-11th centuries (Brorsson 2003, p. 346). This pottery is normally completely unornamented and is comprised of only a few vessel types, predominantly vessels with inverted rims. Other vessel types are cups and hanging vessels. This ware has a comparatively coarse temper using for the most part crushed stone and can be characterized as prehistoric ware.

Baltic Ware is rooted in the Scandinavian and Slavic ceramic craft tradition, but was manufactured in more or less the whole of southern Scandinavia. This pottery type appears for the first time at the end of the 10th century and becomes common during the

first half of the 11th century (Roslund 1992, p. 162). Baltic Ware can for the most part be dated up until the end of the 12th century, but is found increasingly in 13th-century contexts. Briefly, the vessels can be described as ornamented with characteristic wavy bands and lines. During the 11th century, vessels with inverted rims dominate, while vessels with everted rims dominate during the 12th century. Baltic Ware also includes hanging vessels, lids and bowls. The fabric of Baltic Ware differs from that of the earlier AIV Ware. Crushed stone is still used as tempering, but in significantly smaller proportions. Furthermore, firing has improved somewhat, resulting in a more even colour on the vessel.

Kugeltopf Ware is largely reminiscent of Baltic Ware, but with a completely different vessel form. Baltic Ware consists solely of flat-bottomed vessels, whereas Kugeltopf Ware vessels are round-bottomed. These vessels are furthermore unornamented and the rims are prominently everted. Kugeltopf Ware, which is rooted in the German handicraft tradition, appears in Scania during the mid-11th century, and makes up only a few per cent of the total ceramic material.

Spindle Whorls: Spindle whorls make up a common find category during the Viking Age and Early Middle Ages. They are often found in sunken-floored huts and form a particularly good artefact group for the identification of constructions earlier than the foundation of the monastery in 1155. It is well known that spindle whorls are a common Viking Age find category, but the question of how long into the Middle Ages they were used has still not been satisfactorily discussed.

Coins: Several coins have been found in Tommarp, in addition to which the minting of coins probably took place in Tumathorp during the second half of the 11th century, which makes this find category useful to shed light upon when the town or royal estate were founded.

Investigation Tommarp	Sunken-floored hut number/size	Finds
1. Sewage trench 1967–68 LUHM 31434 trench BC	1 and 2. 1,2 x 0,8 m	Baltic Ware, Kugeltopf Ware, early Black Ware, shears, spindle whorl.
LUHM 31434 trench BC	1 and 2. 2,6 x 2 m (?)	Baltic Ware, Kugeltopf Ware, later Black Ware, shears, spindle whorl.
LUHM 31434 trench BC	3 and 4	Baltic Ware, later Black Ware and earlier Red Ware.
LUHM 31434 trench BC	3 and 4. 2 m (?)	Baltic Ware, later Black Ware, Paffrath Ware, weaving comb, spindle whorl, slag.
LUHM 31434 trench BC	5. 2 x 2 m (?)	Baltic Ware, later Black Ware, earlier Red Ware, a pendant whetstone and iron slag.
LUHM 31434 trench BC	6. 2 x 3 m (?)	Baltic Ware, later Black Ware, whetstone, comb bar, slag.
LUHM 31434 trench CD2	7. 2 x 1 m (?)	Baltic Ware, iron slag and a whetstone.
LUHM 31434 trench CD2	8. 2,5 x 1 m (?)	Baltic Ware and worked horn.
LUHM 31434 trench DE	9. 3 m (?)	No finds present.
LUHM 31434 trench HI	10 and 11. 3 x 1,3 m (?), 3,7 x 1,2 m (?)	Baltic Ware, later Black Ware and earlier Red Ware.
LUHM 31434 trench HI	12. 3 x 1,6 m (?)	Baltic Ware, later Black Ware, Paffrath Ware, bone ice-skate, crucible, comb.
LUHM 31434 trench H	13. 2 x 1,6 m (?)	Baltic Ware. One spindle whorl also present.
2. Hemmet 1968 LUHM 31434	14. 4,75 x 2,75 m (?)	Kiln/oven. Baltic Ware, spindle whorls, slag, knives, shears, bone objects, bone awl, boat rivets.
Hemmet 1968 LUHM 31434	15. 4 x 2,5 m	Baltic Ware, later Black ware, unglazed Red Ware, earlier Red Ware, almost stoneware. weaving comb, slag, whetstone, padlock and iron awl
Hemmet 1968 LUHM 31434	16. 6 x 4 m	A potsherd from the Vendel Period
Hemmet 1968 LUHM 31434	17. 3,5 x 3 m (?)	No finds.
3. Monastery site and Tommarp 144:4 FO 1992. LUHM 30462 trench 4	18. Trench 1 x 1 m	Baltic Ware, Kugeltopf Ware, a tanged knife, slag.
4. Tommarp 144:4 FU 1995. LUHM 30629 trench 1	19. 2,4 x 1,8 m (?)	Baltic Ware, clay daub.
Tommarp 144:4 FU 1995. LUHM 30629 trench 6	20. 1,4 x 1 m (?)	Baltic Ware present in surrounding cultural deposit.

Table 1. Summary of archaeological investigations at Östra Tommarp with structures interpreted as sunken-floored huts.

Other metal items: During Thun's processing of the finds from the investigations at Hemmet in 1960, four metal objects with a presumed date in the 11th century were found (Thun 1967:20).

Field drawings from all investigations have been studied, and several features have been reclassified from pits, wells and so on to sunken-floored huts. The find assemblages from the presumed sunken-floored huts have been studied with particular attention and form the basis for the dates assigned to the houses.

Dating the find material

Prehistory: The earliest find from the investigations at Tommarp is a potsherd from the Funnel Beaker Culture (TRB). This potsherd was found within the property Hemmet in 1968. A smaller amount of ceramic material from the Roman Iron Age has also been established. This was present within two properties, Hemmet and close to the site of the monastery at the property Tommarp 144:4. There were no clear contexts for these finds due to the small investigation areas. In the fill from Sunken-Floored Hut 16, which was found within Hemmet in 1968, only one potsherd was found. This sherd was from a slightly everted rim. The ware corresponds well with AIV Ware, and it seems likely that the sherd is from the second half of the Vendel Period or the first half of the Viking Age. This type of vessel is found all over Scania and normally makes up 25% of the total ceramic material from the period. It is unfortunate that only one potsherd can supply a date for this sunken-floored hut. The absence of earlier and later finds reinforces the dating to the transition between the Vendel and Viking Periods.

The period 1075–1100: A total of five sunken-floored huts have been interpreted as deriving from this period. This interpretation is mostly

based upon the form of the Baltic Ware plus the occurrence of spindle whorls. The fills of certain of the sunken-floored huts contained later finds such as ceramic, iron and bronze artefacts from the High Middle Ages and later. These have however been interpreted as later intrusions into the huts.

In Sunken-Floored Huts 6, 13, 14 and 17, both Baltic Ware and spindle whorls were found. The spindle whorls were conical in form and made of bone, ceramics or stone. The ceramics were vessels of Baltic Ware. In Sunken-Floored Hut 6, a bowl was also found, while an oil-lamp was identified in Sunken-Floored Hut 14, both of these being of Baltic Ware. Two unidentifiable coins of silver and copper alloy were found in Sunken-Floored Hut 14.

The Baltic Ware from the period was mostly made up of pottery with inverted rims, this comprising 60% of that present (fig. 2). Four of the five sunken-floored huts also contained spindle whorls while in two of the huts a bowl and an oil-lamp were also identified.

Apart from the sunken-floored huts, there were several artefacts indicating activity at the end of the 11th century. These are mostly those finds previously published by E. Thun from the excavations within the property Hemmet in 1960 (Thun 1967, p. 20). They are a bracteate of silver, an Urnes clasp and a perforated clasp of bronze as well as a snaffle-bit. Thun's analysis of these finds led to the discovery of a number of parallels, above all in Scania, and on the basis of these he was able to date the finds to the 11th century. In the find material from the same context an amount of later material occurred which was deposited upon later occasions as a result of later activities on the site. Two of the clasps were present in the same deposit. The division of rim forms of Baltic Ware within this layer is shown in Figure 3. The material consists of only 13 potsherds, which is far too few to be statistically significant, but there is a clear tendency towards

the dominance of vessels with inverted rims. This ceramic material does not contradict the dating of the clasps.

12th century: Nine sunken-floored huts have been located from this period. The dominant find material was once more made up of Baltic Ware, although of a different type from the earlier phases. Other contemporaneous finds are a spindle whorl and Kugeltopf Ware. As mentioned above, there were also two pairs of sunken-floored huts that could not be distinguished from one another. The finds have been related to Sunken-Floored Huts 1 & 2 and 3 & 4 respectively. The ceramics from all of the sunken-floored huts from the period consisted mostly of vessels of Baltic Ware. No lids, bowls or oil-lamps were identified in the fill layers. In Sunken-Floored Huts 1 & 2 there was a rim sherd of Kugeltopf Ware. In the same hut, the only spindle whorl (lead) from the period was discovered. With reference to the complex stratigraphy in the two Sunken-Floored Huts 1 & 2 it is not unthinkable that the spindle whorl is in fact from the 11th century.

The rims of the 12th century Baltic Ware mostly seem to have been everted in form (fig. 3). More than 60% of the rims are everted, while inverted rims make up only 20% of the total Baltic Ware from the period. It is also interesting that spindle whorls are largely absent from contexts containing ceramics with everted rims. The absence of lids, bowls and oil-lamps is also striking.

Period 1075–1200: Insignificant find material came from three sunken-floored huts. The datable artefacts consisted of body sherds and rim fragments of Baltic Ware. The ceramics cannot be dated any more closely than a general Baltic Ware date. The find material in the other sunken-floored huts is from the same period.

Analysis of the find material

Of the 10,667 potsherds examined in connection with the study of Tommarp, only three are of Scandinavian AIV Ware. One sherd was found as a stray find, while the other two came from within the Hemmet property, one from a sunken-floored hut and one from a pit kiln. The sherd in the sunken-floored hut has been dated to the transition between the Vendel and Viking Periods.

By far the most dominant early medieval find category is Baltic Ware. A total of 379 rim sherds have been found (Table 2). The reason that only rim sherds are presented in the table is that it is more or less impossible to distinguish

	No.	Weight(g)
<i>Baltic Ware</i>		
Vessel	341	7109
Lid	14	381
Oil-lamp	2	562
Bowl	22	614
<i>Kugeltopf</i>		
Vessel	12	488

Table 2. Division of rim sherds of Baltic Ware and Kugeltopf Ware from Ö. Tommarp. This pottery was found at all investigations in Ö. Tommarp.

body sherds of Baltic Ware from Kugeltopf Ware. Body sherds with wavy bands are most likely Baltic Ware, but these cannot be used in statistical analysis as this would have led to this pottery group becoming over-represented. Of the Baltic Ware, the most common object type is normal vessels of varied sizes and forms. As can be seen from Figure 3, both inverted and everted forms are richly represented in the material, indicating a date from either the 11th or the 12th century. The total number of rims reaches 310, and it is regrettable that the individual contexts contain only a minimum of material. This makes them statistically

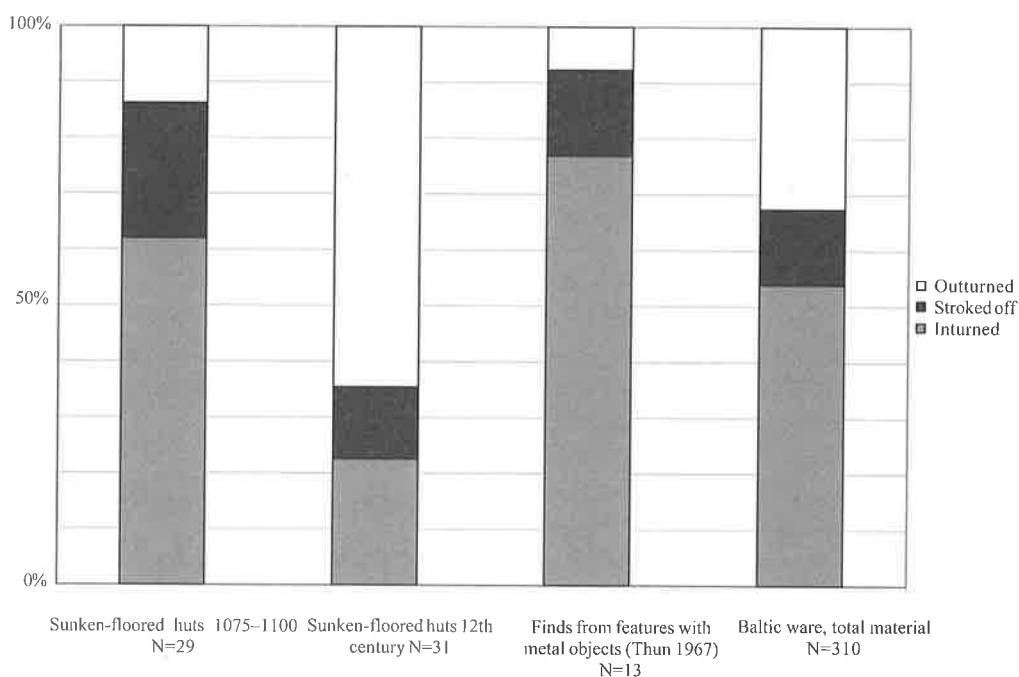


Fig. 3. Distribution of all identifiable rim sherds of Baltic Ware from Ö. Tommarp. The diagram shows sherds from sunken-floored huts dated to different intervals, plus the total amount of rim sherds of Baltic Ware from Ö. Tommarp.

unreliable. In the diagram, three different structures are presented with varying dates. The statistical basis is small, but can be used to show tendencies. During the review of the Baltic Ware from Oxie it could be established that lids, hanging vessels and bowls existed in the ceramic material, unlike at the other *kungalev*, Gårdstånga (Jönsson & Brorsson 2003). Among other things, Oxie was interpreted as having a much larger amount of urban material than, for example, Gårdstånga. In Tommarp, a greater percentage of lids, oil-lamps and bowls has been identified than in Oxie. Based on the interpretation of the Oxie material, Tommarp, from a material point of view, should already have had urban material by the transition between the 11th and 12th centuries. The absence of hanging vessels in Tommarp is probably due to chronological causes. In Oxie, hanging vessels have been dated to the interval between 1025 and 1075 (Jönsson &

Brorsson 2003, p. 172). Within the property Apotekaren 4 in Lund, hanging vessels were found within layers dating from 1020 to *c.* 1100 (Vandrup Martens 1995, pp. 108 ff.), and in Löddeköpinge they were present in the period before 1050 (Brorsson 2000, pp. 201 ff.).

Of the total material, only 12 potsherds have been interpreted as Kugeltopf Ware (Table 2). This type of pottery therefore comprises only 3% of the total early medieval ceramics, which corresponds well with other studies, such as Löddeköpinge (Brorsson 2000, pp. 202 ff.) for example. This Kugeltopf Ware can be dated from the mid-11th century, and is replaced during the 12th century by wheel-turned west European Black Wares. This transition can be identified in the Tommarp material, and belongs to the second half of the 12th century, that is to say, after the monastery was founded. At the same time, it is possible

that the proportion of Baltic Ware shrank and a clearer import of west European pottery started to occur.

Among the finds from the earlier investigations, west European Pingsdorf Ware has also been identified. This type of pottery originates from the Cologne area and has been found for instance in Hedeby as well as in early and high medieval contexts around the Baltic (Janssen 1987, pp. 46 ff.). A total of 17 potsherds of Pingsdorf Ware have been identified from Tommarp, but these have been found together with earlier glazed Red Wares and later High Medieval wheel-turned Black Wares. There is no reason to believe that this ceramic type was present in the town before the foundation of the monastery.

The 17 finds of spindle whorls probably belong to the period before 1100. These are made of bone, ceramics, burnt clay, stone and lead. All were found within the property Hemmet during investigations by E. Thun and L. Redin.

A total of 94 coins were found during all the investigations at Tommarp. Of these, 67 have been identified, 42 of which can be ascribed to either the 13th or 14th centuries. It is apparent that the town was at its height during these two centuries. Seven coins can be dated to the 12th century, and five of these to between 1154 and 1182. These are of the Valdemar I type and were struck in Lund and Roskilde (Ulla Silvergren, personal communication). This makes the dates of the coins correspond well with the documentary sources on the foundation of the monastery. No earlier coins have been found within the medieval town of Tumathorp.

Three of the four 11th-century metal objects E. Thun worked with in connection with his licentiate dissertation are without doubt status items (Thun 1967: fig. 26). The finds were discovered in connection with high medieval pit kilns, which indicates that these structures disturbed earlier ones. Thun argues that an area a few hundred metres north of the

centre of medieval Tommarp was already in use during the 11th century (*ibid.*, p. 22). Thun also mentions that significant amounts of Black Ware were found in this area, but does not supply any further details. The recently finished study shows that this ceramic material, with great probability, derives from the 11th century. It is also highly likely that the pit kilns were established upon an early medieval settlement, where sunken-floored huts probably played a significant role.

Tumathorp before the foundation of the monastery in 1155

One aim has been to try to discuss the relationship between Tommarp and its neighbour Järrestad as well as with the *kungalev* sites of Oxie and Gårdstånga.

These sites represent different periods in time, but each one is in one way or another a representative site for its region, a central place. During investigations for a new stretch of road during 1999 and 2000, the aristocratic farm at Järrestad was excavated (Söderberg 2003). The site was found to be a royal centre, intended for the regional elite. Activities at the site could be dated from the 7th century until the Early Middle Ages. Later pottery finds consist of Scandinavian AIV Ware, Baltic Ware and Slavic ceramics (Brorsson 2003). Among other things, the Slavic vessel type Teterow occurred at Järrestad. A bowl of Baltic Ware was also represented among the ceramic material. Some time after the first quarter of the 11th century, settlement at the earlier central area of Järrestad ceased. There is, in other words, no evidence that the *kungalev* of Tommarp immediately replaced Järrestad as regional centre of south-eastern Scania. However, there was one sunken-floored hut at Tomarp which could possibly be assigned to the Vendel/Viking Age, and this may show

that there was a minor settlement from this time at the site. In this case, it would be contemporaneous with the large settlement at Järrestad.

In connection with the study of the ceramics from Järrestad, the site was compared with the material from Gårdlösa in the same region (Brorsson 2003, p. 367). Gårdlösa lies 11 km west of Östra Tommarp and is best known for its comprehensive Early Iron Age cemetery (Stjernquist 1993). Within the same area as the cemetery is a settlement with sunken-floored huts from the Late Iron Age and Early Middle Ages. Baltic Ware was found in two of the sunken-floored huts, and study of the material has shown that this pottery probably derives from the first half of the 11th century (Brorsson 2003, p. 367). It is therefore likely that Gårdlösa represents a later phase than Järrestad, but an earlier phase than Tommarp.

The archaeological material shows that the *kungalev* of Tommarp was a part of a larger region surrounded by several more or less important sites. Archaeological research in south-east Scania has been relatively low compared with Lund and south-west Scania. This is probably one reason why no material contemporary with the earliest phase at Tommarp has been found in the region, although there are exceptions such as the Löderup-Hagestad area, for example. Ceramics excepted, the archaeological find material from Tommarp offers limited opportunities for dating purposes. This is because certain groups of artefacts can only be dated from the start of the 12th century until well into the 13th century. In this study we have chosen to ignore these as their dating horizons are too wide to be useful.

The review of the Baltic Ware from the sunken-floored huts in particular shows that the earliest construction at Tommarp cannot have been established before the second half of the 11th century. The Baltic Ware is varied,

with several finds of lids, oil-lamps and bowls, which is an indication of the urban character of the material. There is a clear parallel with the material from the sunken-floored hut settlement at Oxie. Five sunken-floored huts have been assigned dates from the period c. 1075–1100, while most of the rest can probably be dated to the 12th century. The earliest settlement at Tommarp seems to have been spread fairly evenly over the site, which indicates that in principle all of the medieval city area was put to use relatively quickly, and that this happened according to an organized pattern. Comparing with the early medieval settlement at Oxie, which was established during the first half of the 11th century, that is, during the final phase of the Viking Age, we see that the earliest constructions at Tommarp are half a century younger. This may indicate that south-east Scania was not fully integrated into the Danish kingdom until half a century later than the south-western part of the province.

Concluding words

The authors have examined all of the archaeological find material and early documentary material from the area around medieval Tommarp. This has been a comprehensive task, with almost 14,500 finds being registered and more than 100 of these also being photographed. Documentary material has been reviewed and, among other things, 20 features have been reinterpreted as sunken-floored huts from the Vendel or Viking Ages and Early Middle Ages. A large number of sunken-floored huts also seem to have been destroyed by later activity at the site. The study of the investigation material from the 1950s up until the end of the 1990s has been an all-embracing task, and has resulted in a new view of early Tommarp.

The *kungalev* of Tommarp probably did not immediately replace Järrestad as central

place in the region. But the large early medieval ceramic material from the sunken-floored huts in Tommarp seems to have an urban character. This indicates that a comprehensive, organized settlement of sunken-floored huts was very quickly established at Tommarp in the late 11th century, in connection with a royal estate established by the crown. By the mid-11th century, however, this power structure had been broken and the crown handed the area over to the secular world, while the Premonstratensian monastery was established, possibly on the site of the former royal estate.

It should finally be mentioned that an extraordinary body of high medieval material also came to light during the analysis of the finds. Parts of this material have previously been published by Thun in particular (Thun 1967), but there is an enormous potential in the rest of the material. A few examples are the various metal artefacts consisting of a beer tap, riding gear (bridle, stirrups, spurs, horseshoes), arms, smithing tools, a cobbler's knife, coins, amulets, a torch holder, shears and last but not least keys, locks and bolts. The quality of the ceramics is very high, and includes a very high proportion of imported ceramics from France, Germany and the Netherlands, among other places. Perhaps the best-known ceramic object from Tommarp is the monk's face mounted on a pitcher of glazed Red Ware (Thun 1967: fig. 30). Our hope is that further studies of medieval Tumathorp will focus on the period when the monastery was founded until the end of the High Middle Ages and also cast light on when and why Tumathorp came to lose its significance as the main town in these eastern parts of the Danish kingdom.

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