

Enkhuizen-Kadijken. A Bronze Age settlement site near the town of Enkhuizen in West Frisia (province of North Holland), The Netherlands

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Bronze Age, West Frisia, Enkhuizen, settlements

Between 2007 and 2011, a total area of 6 ha was excavated near the town of Enkhuizen in the eastern part of West Frisia. During the excavations, numerous Bronze Age settlement features were discovered. The excavation plan is dominated by house sites and ditch systems, most of which can be dated to the Middle Bronze Age (ca. 1400–1200 BC). In this article, the results of the excavations will be presented. Special attention will be paid to the house plans which show many similarities, but also some differences in length and the shape of house ditches. The numerous rebuilding phases and extensions of house plans at the site Bovenkarspel-Het Valkje could not be identified at Enkhuizen. The presence of settlement features at Enkhuizen shows that the settlement distribution in the eastern part of West Frisia is larger than previously thought. Not only the higher sandy creek ridges were cultivated – even the lower lying areas were densely inhabited throughout the Middle Bronze Age.

The excavations provide new insights into the development of settlements in the eastern part of West Frisia and, furthermore, give a new boost to the well preserved Bronze Age landscape of this region. Enormous settlement sites were excavated in the 1970s but were never completely analysed and published. In August 2011, the research project 'Farmers of the coast. Coastal farming communities on the southern North Sea coast, 2000–800 BC' was initiated at Leiden University. In this project, one of the subjects concerns the cultural landscape of West Frisia, in which unpublished excavations will be analysed and published.

Enkhuizen-Kadijken. Eine bronzzeitliche Siedlung bei Enkhuizen in Westfriesland, Niederlande

Bronzezeit, Westfriesland, Enkhuizen, Siedlungen

Zwischen 2007 und 2011 wurde im östlichen Teil von Westfriesland eine Gesamtfläche von 6 ha nahe der Stadt Enkhuizen ausgegraben. Bei den Ausgrabungen wurden zahlreiche bronzzeitliche Siedlungsgegenstände entdeckt. Der Ausgrabungsplan wird von Hausbefunden und Grabensystemen dominiert, die größtenteils in die mittlere Bronzezeit (ca. 1400–1200 BC) datiert werden können. In diesem Artikel werden die Ergebnisse der Ausgrabungen präsentiert. Besondere Beachtung bekommen die Hausgrundrisse, die sowohl viele Gemeinsamkeiten als auch einige Unterschiede in Länge und Form zu den Hausgräben zeigen. Die zahlreichen Wiederaufbauphasen und Erweiterungen der Häuserpläne am Fundort 'Bovenkarspel-Het Valkje' konnten in Enkhuizen nicht identifiziert werden. Das Vorhandensein von Siedlungsartefakten in Enkhuizen zeigt, dass die Siedlungsdichte im östlichen Teil von Westfriesland größer ist als bisher angenommen. Nicht nur die höheren, sandigen Regionen wurden kultiviert, auch die tiefer liegenden Gebiete wurden während der gesamten Mittleren Bronzezeit besiedelt.

Die Ausgrabungen geben neue Einblicke in die Siedlungsentwicklung im östlichen Teil von Westfriesland. Viele Siedlungsplätze sind in den 1970er Jahren ausgegraben aber nie vollständig analysiert und veröffentlicht worden. Im August 2011 wurde das Forschungsprojekt 'Farmers of the coast. Coastal farming communities on the southern North-Sea coast, 2000–800 BC' an der Universität Leiden ins Leben gerufen. In diesem Projekt bezieht sich eines der Themen auf die Kulturlandschaft Westfrieslands. Die prominentesten Ausgrabungen aus der Vergangenheit werden analysiert und veröffentlicht.

1 Introduction

West Frisia is located in the northwestern part of The Netherlands, in the province of North Holland (fig. 1). Around 5500 BC, West Frisia could be characterised as an open coast with tidal flats and mud flats with tidal creeks. Around 3800 BC, the marine basin was enlarged due to a rapidly rising sea level. Around 2850 BC, the sea level declined and as a result, the coast was closed off by beach barriers. Near West Frisia, there was only an inlet close to the village of Bergen from which two large marine creeks were active in the region. The inlet closed around 1500 BC and due to the compaction and oxidation of the surrounding soil, the former creek beds became sandy ridges (fig. 2). This process is also known as 'relief inversion' (see Van Zijverden in this volume). These relatively high ridges were suitable for occupation in the Middle and Late Bronze Age, roughly between 1600 and 800 BC (IJZEREFF/VAN REGTEREN ALTENA 1991).

Over the last five years, an area of 6 ha was excavated 1.5 km northwest of the town of Enkhuizen in the eastern part of West Frisia (fig. 2). The excavations were carried out in a new housing development area called 'Enkhuizen-Kadijken'. The area is situated in the original mudflat and salt marshes that were considered unsuitable for habitation in the Bronze Age. The Bronze Age features that were discovered in the test trenches prior to the large-scale excavations were thus difficult to interpret. Could these features be seen as 'outskirts' or off-site phenomena of a large settlement or hamlet? In this article, the results of the excavation will be presented and, furthermore, the implications of the presence of Bronze Age occupation in this area will be discussed. Obviously, settlement sites had a far wider distribution in West



Fig. 1. Location of West Frisia in The Netherlands.

Frisia than previously thought. The analysis of the features and finds of Enkhuizen has given us information about house-building traditions, settlement patterns and phasing that allow us to specify and perhaps revise the old model for Bronze Age habitation in West Frisia that was presented in the 1980s (BRANDT 1980. IJZEREFF/VAN REGTEREN ALTENA 1991).

2 A brief history of Bronze Age settlement research in West Frisia

The first Bronze Age excavations in West Frisia were primarily focused on burial mounds. Most of the barrows were still clearly visible in the fields. A. E. van Giffen was the first archaeologist to investigate several barrows near the village of Zwaagdijk (VAN GIFFEN 1944). In the following twenty years, more barrows were investigated in the region. The existence of settlements became clear during the soil survey by P. J. Ente and his assistants in the period 1953–55 (ENTE 1963). From the mid-1960s onwards, numerous Bronze Age settlement sites were investigated in the eastern part of West Frisia. In the years 1964–69 the first settlement was excavated near the village of Hoogkarspel (fig. 2, Hoogkarspel-Tolhuis) by the former 'Instituut voor Pre- en Protohistorie' (BAKKER/BRANDT 1966. BAKKER/METZ 1967. BAKKER et al. 1968. BRANDT 1980). In the years 1973–75, the site Hoogkarspel-Watertoren was excavated (fig. 2, BAKKER et al. 1977). Numerous houses and ditch systems were found during the excavations, and it was clear that a unique Bronze Age landscape was present in the eastern part of West Frisia. Upcoming land consolidations (1972–79) were an immense threat for these values and the State Service started field surveys and excavations.

The field surveys were carried out in the period 1972–78 in the eastern part of West Frisia, and dozens of settlement sites and barrows were discovered. In 1973, two small excavations were carried out near the village of Andijk by the State Service to test some of the results of the survey (fig. 2). Between 1974 and 1978, one of the largest excavations in West Frisia was conducted, covering an area of more than 15 ha near the village of Bovenkarspel (fig. 2). During this well-known excavation (Bovenkarspel-Het Valkje), more than 100 house plans were discovered. Unfortunately, the results of all these excavations were never fully analysed or published. Two articles present a short overview of the results of the Hoogkarspel and Andijk/Bovenkarspel excavations (respectively BAKKER et al. 1977 and IJZEREFF/VAN REGTEREN ALTENA 1991).

In 1974, W. Metz began with aerial photography research in the region (METZ 1993). In the years 1978–79, during the land consolidation in the southeastern part of West Frisia, she discovered many new settlement sites and barrows (fig. 3). Because of her research many settlements were mapped, demonstrating the immense distribution of Bronze Age sites. Unfortunately, all of these sites were destroyed during the consolidations.

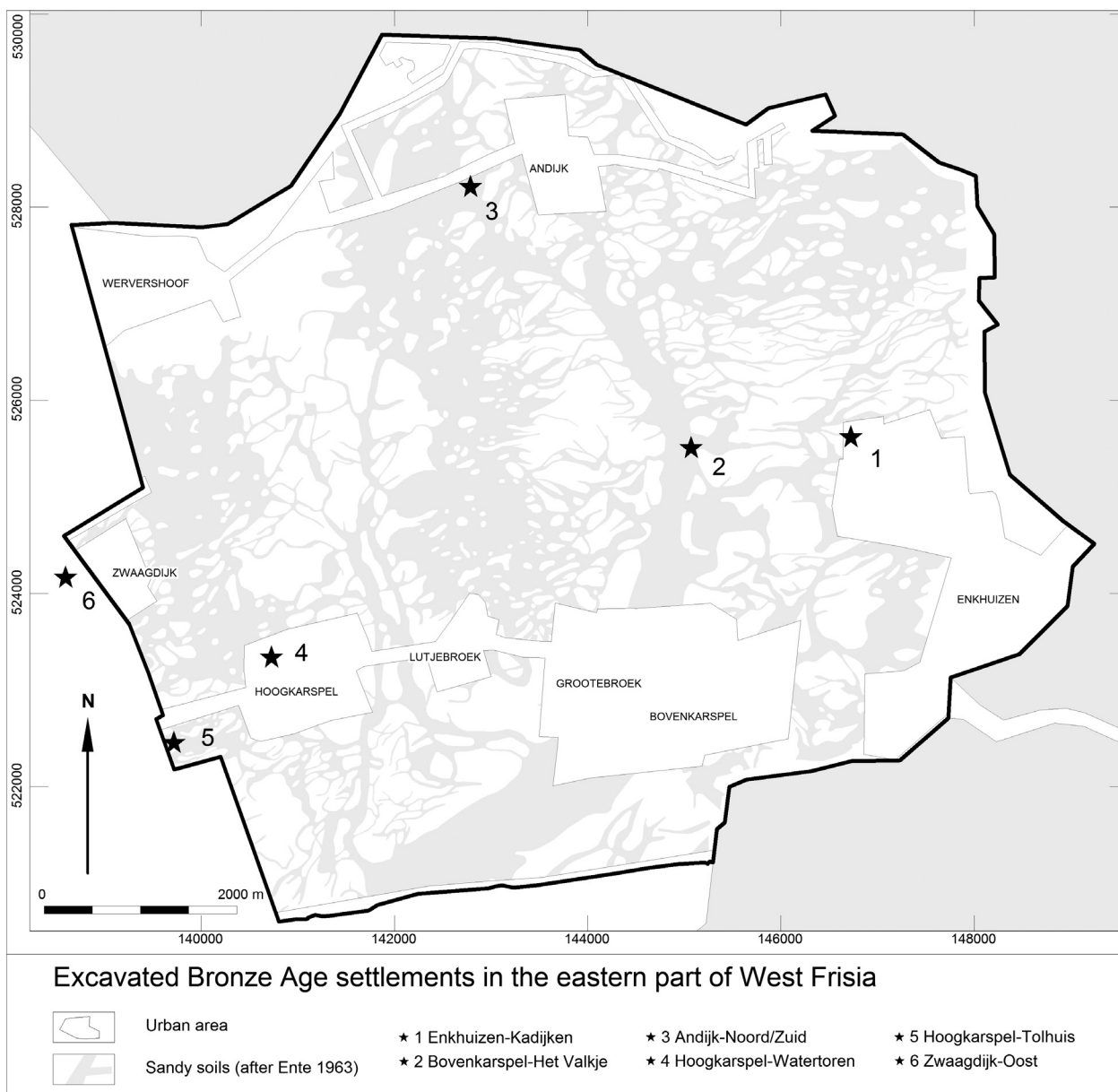


Fig. 2. Location of some important excavated Bronze Age settlement sites mentioned in the text.

After the excavations of the 1970s, only a few small-scale Bronze Age excavations were carried out in West Frisia. In the last ten years, large-scale excavations have been conducted in the region once again, near the village of Zwaagdijk (fig. 2, UFKES/VELDHUIS 2003, DE WIT/STOKKEL 2011) and close to the towns of Medemblik (SCHURMANS 2010) and Enkhuizen (ROESSINGH/LOHOF 2011). Relatively large areas could be investigated during these excavations.

3 Excavations at Enkhuizen-Kadijken

3.1 Introduction

The investigations at the site Enkhuizen-Kadijken started in 2005 when archaeological desk research was car-

ried out for a new development area north of the town of Enkhuizen. A coring campaign showed a nearly intact soil profile (VAN ZIJVERDEN 2006) and in the ensuing test trenches numerous Bronze Age features came to light (ROESSINGH/VAN ZIJVERDEN 2007). The character of these features was however still unclear. Could the site be interpreted as a settlement or should the features be interpreted as off-site phenomena of the famous site Bovenkarspel-Het Valkje, less than 1.5 km to the west? In 2007, an area of ca. 0.5 ha was excavated in the northeast, and in 2009, an area of ca. 5.5 ha was excavated in the west (ROESSINGH/LOHOF 2011). In 2011, a small strip of ca. 0.2 ha west of the site was added (ROESSINGH/VERMUE 2011). In total, more than 6 ha were excavated at Enkhuizen.



Fig. 3. Aerial photograph southwest of Enkhuizen (photo: W. Metz).

The excavation plan is dominated by numerous ditches (fig. 4). A total of nineteen individual house plans were discovered together with almost 270 circular structures. In this chapter, the main features of the excavation will be briefly discussed and special attention will be paid to the house plans. After that, a brief overview of some of the finds will be presented together with the dating and phasing of the features.

3.2 A Bronze Age barrow within the settlement territory

During the first weeks of the excavation, the remains of a ring ditch were found. The diameter of the shallow ditch measures 15.6 m. The ditch must have surrounded a small barrow, but unfortunately no traces of the mound were preserved. A piece of bone found in the filling of the ditch was radio-

carbon dated to the period 1610–1420 BC (SUERC-28688 GU-21187: 3230±35 BP). This is the oldest radiocarbon date of the excavation. The central part of the barrow was disturbed by a modern ditch, but in the northwest, a secondary burial was preserved. The remains belong to a young man and the femur was radiocarbon dated to 1220–1000 BC (SUERC-28677 GU-21179: 2910±35 BP). Although we have to be careful with radiocarbon dates from bones, we assume that the secondary burial was placed in the mound at least 200 years after the barrow was constructed. As we can see below, the barrow was erected in a cultivated landscape and must have been visible during the peak of occupation (1400–1200 BC). At the end of this peak, the barrow was used again to bury one of the inhabitants.



Fig. 4. The main features of the Enkhuizen-Kadijken excavations.

3.3 Houses and house sites

At least 19 individual house plans were found which were built on a house site. On two of these house sites, at least three subsequent houses were built. The houses have a three-aisled construction with two rows of roof-bearing posts, which can probably be interpreted as trusses (fig. 5). With an average depth of 30 cm below the excavation level, the house posts could easily be distinguished from other posts which were less deep. The distance between the posts of a pair varies from 2.6 to 3.4 m, with an average of 2.9 m. The distance between the pairs is 2.1 m and quite regular. In the absence of any substantial wall posts, we suppose that the walls were made of sods. These sod walls would have been strong enough to support the roof alone. During the excava-

tion near the village of Andijk in 1973, features of walls were found at some of the Bronze Age house plans (fig. 6). These walls consisted of rows of stakes at a distance of 1.2 m from the posts or trusses. Presumably, these stakes can be interpreted as the inner construction of the actual walls made of sods. When we take these measurements into consideration for Enkhuizen, the average width of the houses is 5.3 m. The length of the houses varies from 14 to almost 23 m.

In the western part of some of the house plans, four or six posts can be found. This was also noticed at Bovenkarspel (IJZEREEF/VAN REGTEREN ALTENA 1991, 72). These irregularly placed posts are situated too close to each other to be considered part of the house construction. We there-

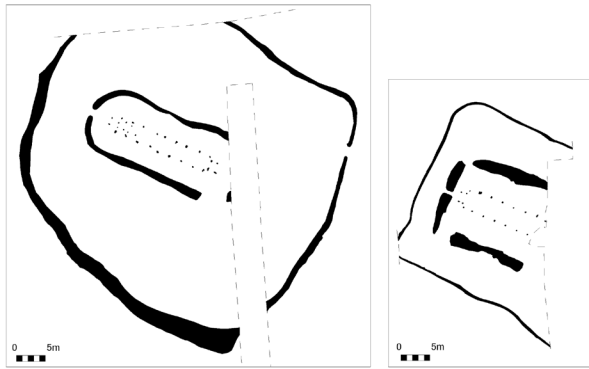


Fig. 5. Enkhuizen-Kadijken, house 10 (left) and house 11b (scale 1 : 1000).

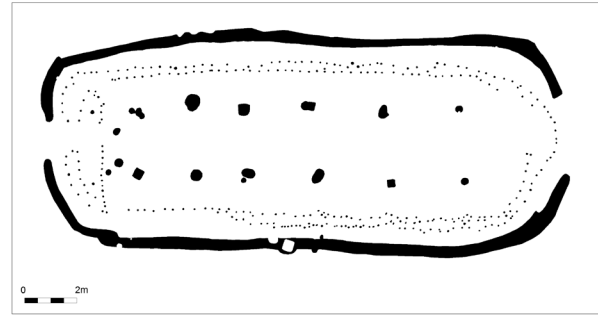


Fig. 6. Andijk-Noord, house 5 (scale 1 : 200).

fore suppose a more functional, special activity explanation for the posts, such as supports for a loom or a construction around a fireplace.

Entrances can be found on the short side of the house plans. The last posts of a pair are mostly placed closer to each other, at an average distance of 1.5 m. It is interesting to note that the eastern entrance posts are placed further away from each other than the entrance posts in the west. A wider entrance on the eastern short side could be an indication for a utility or a stable entrance.

Around or partly around the house plan there was a ditch, supposedly under or close to the eaves. Whether the ditch was dug prior to or after the construction of the house is not clear. The soil from the ditch could have been used to raise a (shallow) platform on which the house could be built. However, it seems impractical to have a ditch at a close distance while building. These ditches, therefore, might also have been dug after the construction of the house.

The house ditches can have different shapes. Most of the ditches completely surround the house plan, except on the short side, where the ditch is interrupted, and in one example not even that is the case. Some of the ditches have a bracket shape, while others are more rectangular. The more rectangular types are wider (and often deeper) than the bracket-shaped ones. According to IJzereef/Van Regteren Altena, in Bovenkarspel a chronology of houses can be made according to the different shapes of the ditches. The 'oldest' houses have a rather narrow ditch of the bracket shape. The 'later' houses have straight ditches of the rectangular type. The 'youngest' houses have wide and straight ditches further away from the construction and very often only along the long sides of the house (IJZEREEL/VAN REGTEREN ALTENA 1991, 68). Most of the houses at Enkhuizen could be dated to the period 1400–1200 BC and a variety of types of house ditches occur.

Houses of different lengths are present from the period 1400–1200 BC. We see no clear proof of the assumption that houses became longer, as IJZEREEL (1981) suggested. On the contrary, for a better understanding of the settlement dynamics, we must certainly not exclude the possibility of the simultaneous existence of houses of different lengths. The houses of Enkhuizen do not show extensions or rebuilding phases, as was identified with the houses of Andijk and Bovenkarspel (IJZEREEL/VAN REGTEREN ALTENA 1991, 69 f.). Some of the posts were replaced, but large-scale adjustments of house plans could not be determined. Furthermore, the house plans of Andijk have recently been analysed in detail and rebuilding phases or extensions were not identified. We therefore believe that the idea of adjustments of the Westfrisian Bronze Age houses should be reconsidered.

3.4 Pit circles and ring ditches

More than 270 small round structures were found during the excavation. About 200 structures can be defined as pit circles (fig. 7). These structures have an average diameter of 4.2 m and consist of small pits dug out at regular distances in a perfect circle. Other shapes also occur, such as half round, oval, half oval, figure of eight and clover shapes. Small ring ditches are present, with almost 70 structures. The function of these structures has been debated for a long time (*e. g.* BUURMAN 1979. BAKKER 2004). The typical square or rectangular outbuildings (in Dutch *spiekers*) are absent in Westfrisian Bronze Age settlements, which make an interpretation as storage facilities likely. The pit circles and ring ditches can be found all over the excavated area. Concentrations can be found around the houses but also in the more 'empty' zones. In this respect, the central part of the excavation is interesting. Here, a dense concentration of these structures is present, while most of the houses are to be found in the northern and southern regions. It is possible that this central zone represents a field that has been used as arable land for a long time.

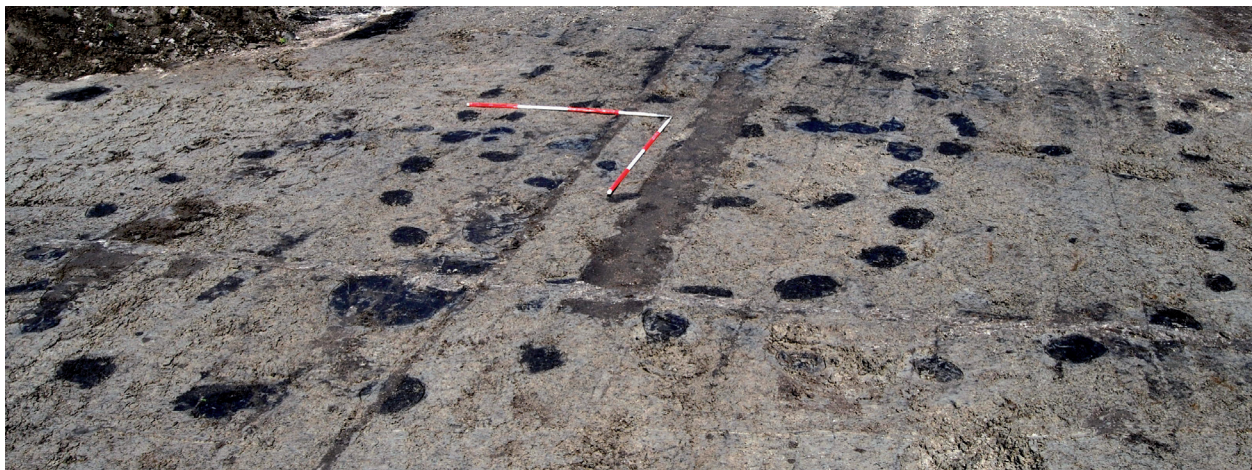


Fig. 7. Concentration of pit circles.

3.5 Ditch systems and rows of stakes

The site is dominated by ditches which will have had an important function for drainage. As can be seen on the excavation plan, the ditches form parts of systems that divide the physical landscape in quite an orderly way. Around most of the house sites, a ditch can be found, which we interpreted as a boundary around the farmyard (fig. 5). These yards all seem to have more or less the same dimensions (50 x 50 m) but smaller yard boundaries are also to be found. Other ditches probably surround arable fields and perhaps even different territories.

It is not easy to interpret all the ditch systems mainly due to the relatively small scale of the excavation. The surrounded yards and fields are spread over a large area and in order to understand these systems fully, it is necessary to excavate large areas. The width of the excavation plan at Enkhuizen is ca. 150 m, which is insufficient to investigate the large field systems. Another problem with the analysis of ditches is the interpretation of the huge number of cross cuts. Most of the ditches have been in use for a long period of time and have been dug out several times. It has proven to be difficult to unravel the different phases of use.

All over the excavated area, rows of stakes have been found which can be interpreted as fences. These rows were also identified alongside – or in line with – ditches. Most of the rows consist of stakes placed close to each other, with a length of sometimes more than 40 m. Because of the shallow depth of the stakes, we probably only found a fraction of the actual fence systems. The areas surrounded by fences give us more information about land division, for example at some spots, enclosures for cattle can be suspected.

3.6 Pottery

The West Frisian Bronze Age pottery is called Hoogkarspel pottery, named after the excavations near the village of Hoogkarspel in the 1960s (BRANDT 1988). According to

Brandt, two groups can be distinguished within Hoogkarspel pottery; Hoogkarspel-oud (old) and Hoogkarspel-jong (young) pottery. The Hoogkarspel-oud group mainly consists of thick-walled barrel and bucket shapes with coarse tempering and date from the Middle Bronze Age, approximately between 1600 and 1100 BC. Hoogkarspel-jong pottery includes thin-walled bucket and biconical shapes, dishes, bowls, miniature pots, spoons, discs and conical artefacts and date from the Late Bronze Age (1100–800 BC). It is not clear when exactly the transition of Hoogkarspel-oud pottery to Hoogkarspel-jong pottery took place. According to Brandt, this was around 1100 BC, but it is unclear what this date is based on.

During the Enkhuizen excavations, a total of 3,000 Hoogkarspel sherds were recovered. Both groups are equally represented, but there is a marked difference in the contexts in which they were found. The Hoogkarspel-oud pottery was found in (house) ditches, pits and wells. These were radiocarbon dated to the period 1500–970 BC. The majority of the Hoogkarspel-jong sherds were found in only three ditches. These ditches were packed with Hoogkarspel-jong finds. Two of these ditches were radiocarbon dated to the period 1020–790 BC.

3.7 Animal bones

Because of the calcareous subsoil in West Frisia, bones are well preserved. A total of 10,000 animal bone fragments were found, predominantly cattle. In addition, remains of sheep, goats, pigs, dogs and horses were found. Non-domesticated animals such as wild boar, deer, beaver, elk and even brown bear have also been identified. In one of the wells, a special deposit of bones was recovered. Fragments of at least six cows, a dog, a sheep or goat and a pig were found. Furthermore, a femur of a brown bear was found among the fragments. Like most of the other bone fragments, this fragment showed traces of slaughter and cutting. The deposition can possibly be associated with the remains of a special meal.

Small animal bones, mostly discovered by wet sieving ditch fills, include the remains of various birds, such as duck, goose, hawk, woodcock, ruff and a thrush. The more than 3,000 fish bones are dominated by fresh water species such as bream, roach, carp, catfish, pike and perch. Bones from the eel (a catadromous species) are also well represented.

3.8 Wood finds

The wood finds consist mostly of branches, but some interesting wooden objects were also found. A total of four wooden planks were recovered, all of which had rectangular holes in the middle. Unfortunately, only small pieces of the planks, ca. 50 cm of each one, were preserved. One of the planks was pointed and may have functioned as a ladder (fig. 8). The original function of the planks is not clear, but can most likely be interpreted as a constructive element.

A spectacular discovery was made in one of the wells. An almost complete fish trap was found with a length of 130 cm and a width of 40 cm (fig. 8). The trap, which is assumed to have been used to catch eel, is made of willow rods bound together with twine. Only the funnel is missing. A sample of willow was radiocarbon dated to 1400–1190 BC (SU-ERC-26271 GU-19851: 3025±30 BP).



3.9 Dating of Enkhuizen-Kadijken

It is not easy to establish a detailed chronology of all the settlement features. It was easy to identify the individual house sites, but the lack of cross cuts and the problem of identifying all the individual yard boundaries make the determination of a relative chronology problematic. We have three important indications for setting up a chronology of the features: orientation, radiocarbon dates and finds.

When we look closely at the orientation of house plans and adjacent ditch systems, three main orientations can be distinguished. It is plausible that most of the houses with equal orientation date from the same period. If this is correct, three phases can be distinguished, but unfortunately no cross cuts between the different 'orientation phases' could be identified within the excavated area. It will thus be very interesting to see how the excavation plan will look when the area to the west of the present excavation is excavated (planned in spring 2012).

In total, 25 samples were analysed for radiocarbon dating (ROESSINGH/LOHOF 2011, 359–372. ROESSINGH/VERMUE 2011, 45–54). From each house, samples from the postholes were analysed for carbonised material (preferably seeds or chaff). We were astonished to find that the majority of the samples dated from the period 1400–1200 BC. Only two samples could be dated prior to this period; house 2 in the northwest (1500–1360 BC; SUERC-28668 GU21173, 3140±35 BP) and the bone fragment from the ring ditch of the barrow (1610–1420 BC). For the period after 1200 BC, six samples are available. Three samples from two houses and the secondary burial date from the subsequent period, ca. 1200–1000 BC. The three youngest dates come from three ditches which date to the period 1000–800 BC. The radiocarbon dates thus show four phases (ROESSINGH/LOHOF 2011, 279–284). In the period 1600 to 1400 BC, the barrow was constructed. We think some of the smaller and irregular ditches belong to this first phase. We do not have any evidence for the presence of houses, but looking at



Fig. 8. One of the wooden planks (left) and the fish trap in one of the wells (right).

the small ditches, it is possible (and likely) that they are an indication of one or more house sites. Features of the construction, however, are not preserved. At the end of this first phase, the first house (recognisable for us) was built in the northwest. In the second phase (1400–1200 BC), we see a lot of activity in the area. In this period, houses were built all over the place. Different orientations can be identified and the ditches become wider and deeper and dominate the excavation plan. Two houses can be assigned to the third phase, between 1200 and 1000 BC (house 5 in the north: 1220–9700 BC; SUERC-28661 GU21169, 2895±35 BP and house 14 in the west: 1211–994 BC; SUERC-37152, GU25584, 2895±30 BP). In this period, a secondary burial was made in the old barrow. In the fourth and final phase of occupation (1000–800 BC), three ditch systems can be identified in the northeast, west and southwest of the excavation. One of these ditches in the northeast can probably be interpreted as a so-called ‘terp ditch’. The wetter environment forced people to move to the higher parts of the region, i.e. the ridges. These higher parts can be found to the north and south of the excavated area.

How can the finds be of assistance in this chronology? Unfortunately, most of the material could not be dated precisely. The Hoogkarspel-oud pottery has a long period of use, between 1600 and 1100 BC. The material is very fragmented and found in small quantities in most of the house ditches, drainage ditches and pits. The available radiocarbon dates from different features confirm the dating of Brandt. Unfortunately, this group of pottery is uniform and no specific characteristics could be identified. The Hoogkarspel-jong pottery (1100–800 BC) was found in only a few contexts. The radiocarbon dates of these also confirm the dating of Brandt.

4 New insights and further research

The excavations at Enkhuizen provide us with new insights into Bronze Age settlement dynamics in West Frisia. IJzereef/Van Regteren Altena proposed a model for the beginning of Middle Bronze Age habitation on – or rather next to – the former tidal and gully channels (BRANDT 1980, IJZEREEL/VAN REGTEREN ALTENA 1991, 65). The fields could be found on these ridges. The low lying clayey basins of the original mud flats were used as grassland for cattle. According to IJzereef/Brandt, the first houses were built in these same low lying clayey basins, and it was only later that they appeared on the flanks of the ridges (IJZEREEL/VAN REGTEREN ALTENA 1991, 65). However, this assumption is not based on radiocarbon dates. From Enkhuizen, we now know that *both* the low lying clayey basins and the ridges show habitation from the beginning of the Middle Bronze Age until the end of the Late Bronze Age (ca. 1600–800 BC). This was already suspected by UFKES/VELDHUIS (2003, 43). Environmental conditions must have been an important factor for the location of settlements, but the presence of house sites in the lower lying areas is evidence that these climate factors

must not be overestimated. In this respect, a detailed study of the region is required, which is now being carried out by W. van Zijverden (see this volume).

The presence of settlement territories on the ridges and in the lower lying areas also affects the way we look at the settlement density in the region. The static model that was based on settlements situated primarily on the ridges (hamlets?) must be revised. At none of the excavated settlements the limits were reached. Settlement territories must have been much larger than previously thought, and this implies a different approach to interpret these ‘settlements’. Can we speak of stretched out settlement territories, or large villages, where houses were built close to each other? Can we distinguish nucleated settlements from which habitation expanded gradually? How was this all organised? There are many questions to be answered about Westfrisian Bronze Age settlement dynamics. In August 2011, the research project ‘*Farmers of the coast. Coastal farming communities on the southern North-Sea coast, 2000–800 BC*’ was initiated at Leiden University. In this project, the Westfrisian Bronze Age will be studied. The project is divided into four subjects: landscape, settlements, subsistence economy, and identity and communication networks. Within four years, various researchers will study different aspects of the Westfrisian communities. More information about the project and the results of the different projects can be found on our website: www.westfrisia.com.

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