

Skjolds Plads

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Cover picture: Rådmandsmarken and the area around Tagenshus in 1784. Illustration from: www.starbas.net.

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1 Abstract / Resumé

Due to the construction of a Cityring metro station at Skjolds Plads, the Museum of Copenhagen carried out a watching brief during July and August 2012 in connection to the preparation of the building site.

A stone culvert or stone-covered drainage was found in Haraldsgade. The culvert could have belonged to a country estate on the former Rådmandsmarken and probably dates from the end of the 1700s until the mid-1800s. Despite modern extensive disturbance resulting from the installation of electricity, water supply and gas pipelines in Haraldsgade, several shallow pits or lenses were found cut into the natural soil. The pits and the disturbed overburden under the street contained 1800s pottery and a small group of other artefacts characteristic of everyday life. No traces were found of the medieval village of Serridslev.

Archaeological periods: Late post-medieval, Modern time

Features: stone culvert, pits

Key words: Copenhagen suburbs, Nørrebro, industrialization

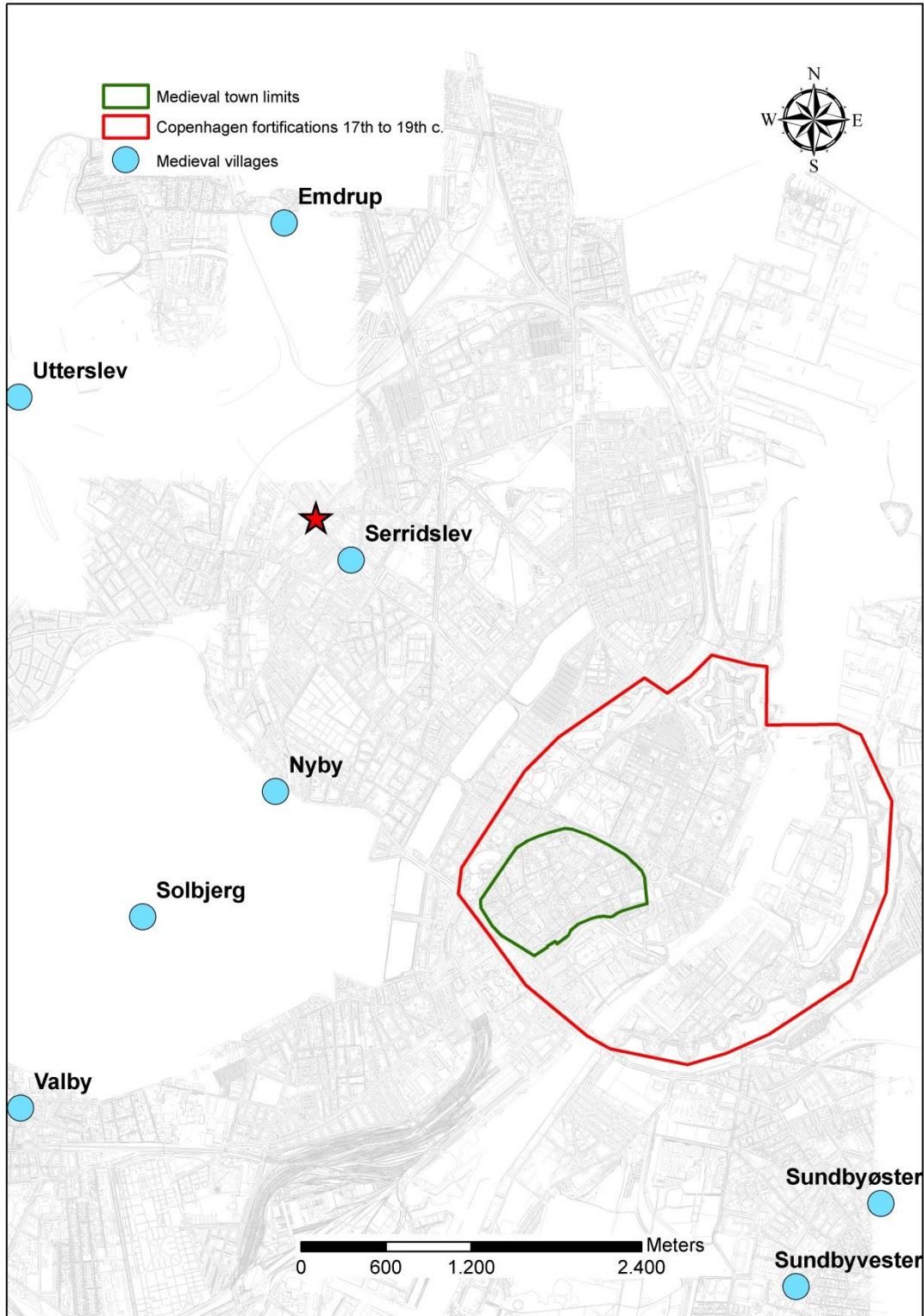


Figure 1. Skjolds Plads. Location of the excavation site (red star).

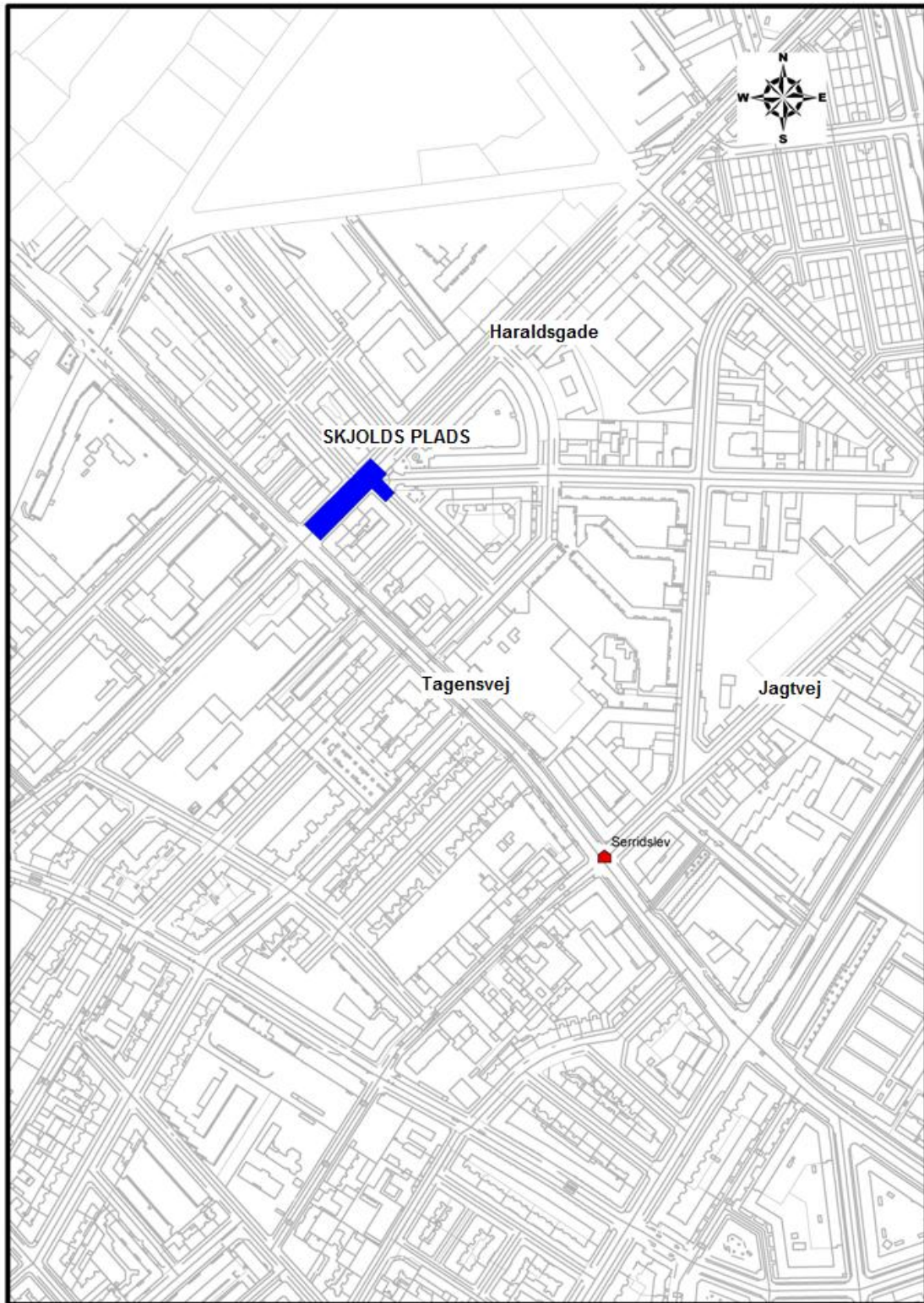


Figure 2. The location of Skjolds Plads at Nørrebro district. The approximate position of medieval Serridslev is indicated.

2 Introduction

2.1 Proposed development

The archaeological investigation preceded the new metro station, which will be located at Skjolds Plads at Haraldsgade (Figure 1, 2). The station is located in Outer Nørrebro and is part of the Cityring Project, which will provide a new transportation system to the surrounding outskirts of the city.

The Museum of Copenhagen wished to carry out a watching brief where the metro station was to be built in order to assess whether it was necessary to carry out further archaeological investigations.

2.2 Legislative framework

The watching brief will follow guidelines required by Kulturstyrelsen (Danish Agency for Culture; in KUAS Vejledning 2010) and Danish Museum law (Bekendtgørelse af museumsloven nr. 1505). Standards for investigations carried out by Copenhagen Museum are stated within a document covering the overall archaeological design aspects of the Cityring project which was approved by KUAS in the autumn of 2009 and in June 2010 (Project Design 2009).

According to Danish legislation, no research financed by the developer, in this case the Metro Company, will be carried out. The end product of the excavation is working statements and site reports, which contains empirical conclusions and basic cultural historical interpretations. For the smaller of the Metro Cityring excavations (named Categories 2 and 3 in the preparations work for the project) there will also be produced a joint report which will highlight the most interesting cultural historical results from the excavations (called "Bygherrerapport"). Further archaeological research and analysis can only be carried out under separate funding. This complies with statements in the Danish Museums law (Bekendtgørelse af museumsloven nr. 1505). Construction work that involves excavation can be temporarily stopped in accordance with Museum Act § 26 (protection of ancient monuments).

Museum of Copenhagen was contacted well in advance, so that a test excavation could take place before the construction work was initiated. The Metro Company agreed on the further details with Kulturstyrelsen and the Museum of Copenhagen.

2.3 Administrative data

On completion of the fieldwork, the Museum of Copenhagen produced a concise interpretative report on the archaeological results of the excavation (this report), which includes an outline of the historical and archaeological contexts and a summary of the results. A copy of this report was distributed to the Metro Company (MC) and to Kulturstyrelsen.

The documentary archive relating to the fieldwork is deposited with the Museum of Copenhagen. All digital records are filed in the IntraSiS database program.

2.4 Other data

The archaeological watching brief started on 20.6.2012 and continued until 16.8.2012. The contractor on the groundwork at the building site was C.G. Jensen

and CMT Site Manager was Tommy Hostrup Galskjær. Responsible for the watching brief in the field was archaeologist Niels H. Andreasen. The weather was optimal and did not affect the archaeological work.

The finds have been analysed by Niels H. Andreasen, Museum of Copenhagen, who also has written the finds report.

3 Topography and historical background

Nørrebro's landscape is formed by the Oresund Glacier, which covered the area during the last ice age. Underneath the ice a melt water valley was created, which formed the Harrestrup Valley, that runs towards Kalveboderne, and Grøndalen, continuing to Lersødal. The valley of the lakes separated Nørrebro's landscape from the low hill formation, where the inner city is now located. The terrain in the northern part of Nørrebro is dominated by a low hill formation that crests at 18 masl at the junction Jagtvejen – Tagensvej. Skjolds Plads lies at 12.6 masl on the southern slope of this gentle hill. The terrain slopes away gradually to the east, but falls sharply to the west toward the former Lersøen, a small lake which drained to the northwest by the Rosbæk stream.

3.1 Rådmandsmarken and Tagenshus – The Haraldsgade area before 1900

The village of Serridslev is believed to have been in the area. One early account of Serridslev is in a letter from Pope Urban III to Absalon, then the Bishop of Roskilde attesting to the transfer of several villages held in fief by Absalon to the Bishopric of Roskilde in 1191. Absalon was appointed Bishop of Lund shortly thereafter. One of these settlements was a harbor that eventually grew to become Copenhagen; another was Serridslev¹. In 1370, Serridslev was a large village comprised of 18 farms, the largest of which belonged to the Archbishop of Roskilde². Documents record a royal estate in Serridslev in 1434, indicating that by that time the crown had acquired some of the village land. The village was officially dissolved in 1523, by royal decree and its lands transferred to the city of Copenhagen³. The reasons and details of this transfer are not completely clear but this was the year that Christian II was forced by disloyal nobles to abdicate, and his uncle assumed the crown as Frederick I.

The village must have been disbanded and its inhabitants dispersed by 1536, when the area outside the city was overrun by the forces of Johann Rantzau during the Count's Feud (Grevens Fejde).

According to Christophersen (1985) and Nielsen (1877) the remains of the village should lie near the former location of the Fuglestangen (see below). This point is approximately at the center of the shaded circles in Figure 8. However, With-Jensen (1939) postulates that the village lay about 500 m further to the northeast at the intersection of Parkallé and Jagtvej. This would situate the village on the eastern margin of the shaded circle, but in both cases approximately equidistant from Skjolds Plads. The village was large and if either of these estimates is accurate Skjolds Plads should lie on or very near the northern edge of the former village of Serridslev.

Rådmandsmarken is an area on the border between the Northwest district and the Østerbro district, which included almost the entire area between Jagtvejen, Tagensvej, Lygten, Lersøen and Lyngbyvej. The name "Rådmandsmarken" refers to the fact that the area from 1527 was made available to the aldermen as a reward for

¹ Nielsen 1885.

² Christophersen 1985.

³ Nielsen 1877; Christophersen 1985.

their work at the City Hall. Rådmandsmarken was thus cultivated by the Magistrate's members themselves who had a private indirect income from these activities. At the beginning of the 1600s, there was a sparse settlement on the former Serridslev fields. The town's brickworks, Teglgaarden, moved to the area in 1616–1617 and there were a number of windmills in the area. In the same year, the so-called “bird pole”, which was used for training royal hunting falcons, was raised near Teglgaarden. Occasionally, the aldermen also used the field for special social events.

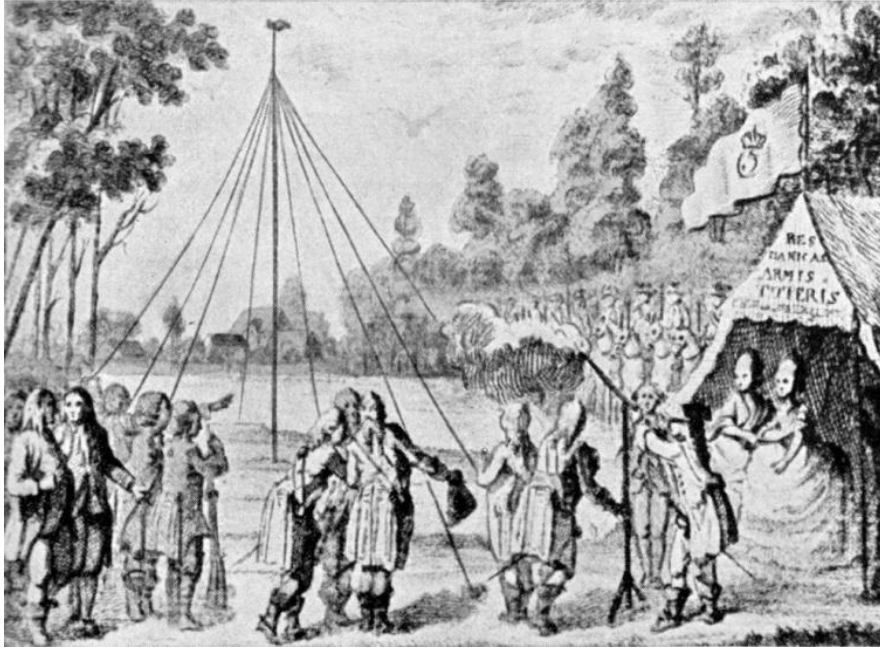


Figure 3. Social event at the Parrot Pole. From www.hartvigson.dk.

The property Tagenshus (located at the north side of Tagensvej just before Rådmandsgade) was built in 1631 on cadastral no. 168 near Teglgaarden and the bird pole as a residence for the field guard who, among other things, managed the fields that had belonged to Serridslev, but were now the property of Copenhagen⁴. For many years, it was only the field guard who lived here and kept watch over Rådmandsmarken. One of the guards was called Tage Nielsen (appointed 1695, died in 1710), and “Tagensvej” - the road from Jagtvejen to Bispebjerg (Bispebjerg) - was named after him.

⁴ Grove 1910.

Rådmandsmarken was also the scene of the peace negotiations with the Swedes in 1659 in connection to the Dano-Swedish War of 1658-1660.

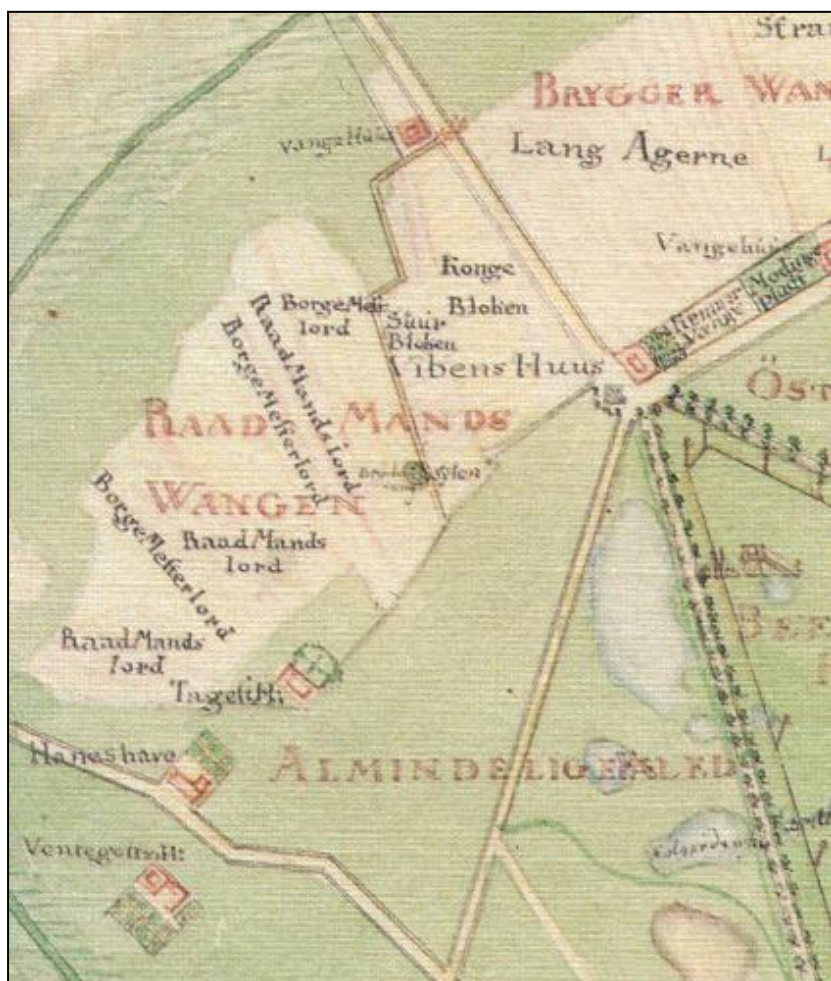


Figure 4. Part of map from 1770 showing Rådmandsmarken and Tagenshus. Københavns Museum.

In 1694, Christian V inaugurated two shooting ranges for the Parrot Pole Company, and the bird pole therefore became the “Parrot Pole” (from this comes the expression “to shoot the parrot”) (Figure 3). Here were given new rules for the Royal Danish Shooting Association, which continued the tradition in Copenhagen and later at Sølyst by Klampenborg. The place thus became familiar to noble, honourable and gun-accustomed men. During the 1700s, illegal duels with pistol or sword were fought at the beginning of Tagensvej.

At the beginning of the 1800s, most of Nørrebro was still idyllically rural with some early building activity along the lakes (Figure 4). The landscape was dominated by several small lakes, ponds and some sandpits. At Rådmandsmarken was earlier a marsh, which, according to a map from 1807, had dried out and was used for agriculture. Lersøen, that formed Nørrebro’s west boundary, had also gradually dried out.

For many years, the latrine from the city’s inhabitants was transported to various collection depots around the city where it dried up. One of these depots was

Rådmandsmarken from around 1850. Local farmers then drove into the depot, collected the human waste, and subsequently spread it on their field. The Rådmandsmarken depot was closed in 1907.

3.2 Haraldsgade

Following the abolition of the demarcation line in 1852, the Haraldsgade district emerged as a neighbourhood around Haraldsgade in Outer Nørrebro. It is bounded geographically by Tagensvej, Jagtvejen, Lersø Parkallé and the track area of the Danish State Railroads. At the end of the 1800s, a street plan was developed for the area, which started in 1893 with the two diagonal streets, Haraldsgade and Vermundsgade, crossing Rådmandsmarken. These diagonal streets still defines the area today. Haraldsgade can be seen on a map from 1830 (Figure 5) where it leads to a building named “Marielyst” where the Grundtvig Folk High School (højskole) was located.



Figure 5. The General Quartermasters map from 1830 shows the later Haraldsgade on Rådmandsmarken between Tagensvej and Lyngbyvej. The blue dot indicates the position of the excavation.

Haraldsgade, named after the King Harald Bluetooth in 1880, was originally an old access road to Rådmandsmarken between Tagensvej and Lyngbyvej (Figure 5). Until 1920, the road's original alignment followed Ragnagade from Teglværksgade to Lyngbyvejen. The relocated street was called “New Haraldsgade” in the beginning of the 1920s⁵. The Haraldsgade district is part of the so called “mythological district”

⁵ Norgaard 1915a, 1915b; Zehngraff 1921, 7-9.

and most streets in the neighborhood are named after heroes and legendary kings from Norse mythology, such as Valkyriegade (named 1915), Fafnersgade (named 1918), and Sigurdsgade (named 1923).

The Haraldsgade district was developed in the first half of the 1900s with a mixture of small and large manufacturing facilities and public housing. In the 1880s, the area north of Jagtvejen had been characterised by scattered buildings and greenhouses. At Rådmandsmarken were clay pits and it was probably one of the reasons that the city's waste was deposited in the area. The dump on Rådmandsmarken on the other side of Tagensvej opposite Skjolds Plads was taken into use from the mid-1850s, where it succeeded the filled dump on Nørre Fælled. The only information on the site originates from 1892 when it is stated that here was a large midden of domestic waste⁶. The Aldersro clay pit was about 4 m deep and stretched along Haraldsgade north of Vermundsgade. When the clay pit was used as a landfill is not known, but in 1892 it was reported that domestic waste was still deposited in the area. Aldersro clay pit was filled before 1922, after which the plots of land in 1930 were parcelled out and partially built⁷.

Haraldsgade soon came to represent one of Copenhagen's first major coherent industrial areas. In 1899, the military had given permission to continue Tagensvej over the Commons, which gave the district a direct connection to the city. This was the beginning of the area's evolution towards a mixed industrial and residential area. The construction of the Titan factory (machine production and welding) in the 1890s shows that the big city was approaching and that the area no longer was considered so remote from the city. Titan (closed 1966) has especially influenced the district, not least because of its size, covering the entire area between Titangade, Rådmandsgade, Hermodsgade, Tagensvej and Sigurdsgade. The growing Titan Factory soon faced trouble spreading freely. The municipality also had plans to construct extensive parkland in the neighborhood. The special outline of the streets around Titangade and Sigurdsgade is a relic of this plan. Titan succeeded in ensuring its expansion by moving the course of one of the streets to the east – that is Titangade, which today bears the factory name. Parkland was not established in the end - but the broad streets became home to small and large businesses, particularly Hellesens Battery Factory, Laurids Knudsen factory for electronics supplies and equipment, and General Motors automobile assembly plant.

⁶ Eriksen 1996, 64-65.

⁷ Eriksen 1996, 65-66.



Figure 6. Haraldsgade or “Old Renovation Road”, which it was called around 1907. Photo from Museum of Copenhagen.

It was the large industry that shaped the neighbourhood, but the small factories also contributed. There was a small factory that made products, contacts etc. of bakelite (bakkelit) just around the corner from Titan, and spread a pungent and unpleasant odour in the beginning of Hermodsgade. But where Hermodsgade turns and crosses Sigurdsgade the smell was probably better, because here was located the coffee roasting plant Merkur. Vermundsgade 11 was built for the Balderskilde Soda Factory in 1937. Here was produced both Sports Water and fizz with sophisticated names like Rinsky Water and Balsi Cola⁸.

Around the turn of the century, many construction companies and building societies built good and affordable housing for the working class. These brick-built apartment buildings were often designed in new classicism or functionalist style. The buildings around the metro construction site are predominantly listed as of only medium conservation value, while Haraldsgade 2 and 4 are of high conservation value⁹. The area was only fully developed around 1950. Today, the neighbourhood has both large commercial and industrial land dominated by large public housing estates, scattered small business, older residential and industrial buildings in the form of row house, ordinary five-story residences and a number of buildings belonging to the Metropolitan University College (Professionshøjskolen Metropol).

⁸ www.hartvigson.dk 2012.

⁹ Bydelsatlas Nørrebro, 46.

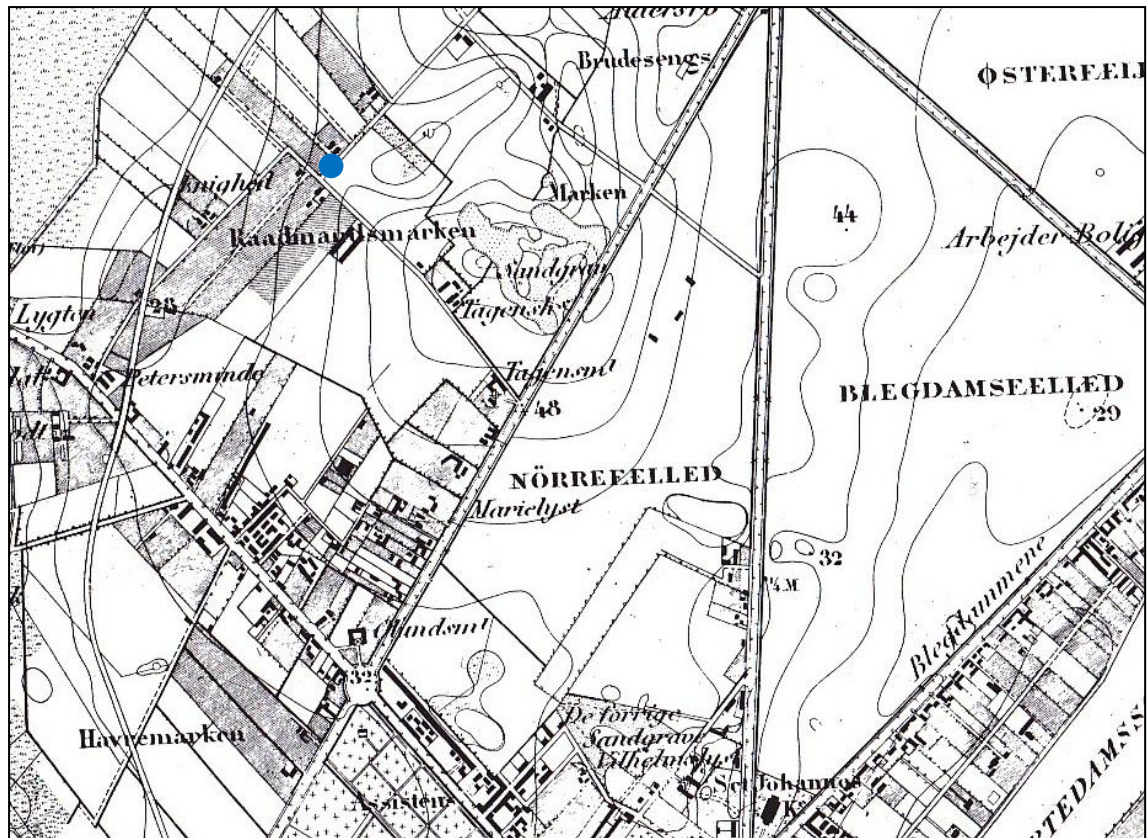


Figure 7. This General Staff map from 1854 shows Outer Nørrebro shortly before the ramparts were demolished. This initiated the beginning of urban development in the area. The blue dot shows the location of Skjolds Plads. Reproduced from Bydelsatlas Nørrebro, 46.

4 Archaeological background

Much fewer archaeological investigations have been conducted in the vicinity of Skjolds Plads or the Nørrebro district in general than in the city center and thus less is known about the area.

A search of the area in a 1.0 km radius of Skjolds Plads was made in the archives of Copenhagen's Museum and the online database maintained by the Heritage Agency of Denmark (www.dkconline.dk, 2009). Only sites with historical or archaeological relevance to the area that could be used to help plan the mitigation have been included here. These have been plotted on Figure 8, using their respective locality numbers.

Figure 8 shows that Skjolds Plads lie at the intersection of two country lanes transecting plowed fields in the late 19th century. The apartment blocks along Haraldsgade were not built until the 20th century and there are no standing structures evident on the map prior to those now standing. This does not preclude the existence of much earlier (historic and prehistoric) structures and features that may have disappeared before the Høje Målebordsblade was drawn. There are seven reported sites, two of which are prehistoric. These sites are listed below in Table 1.

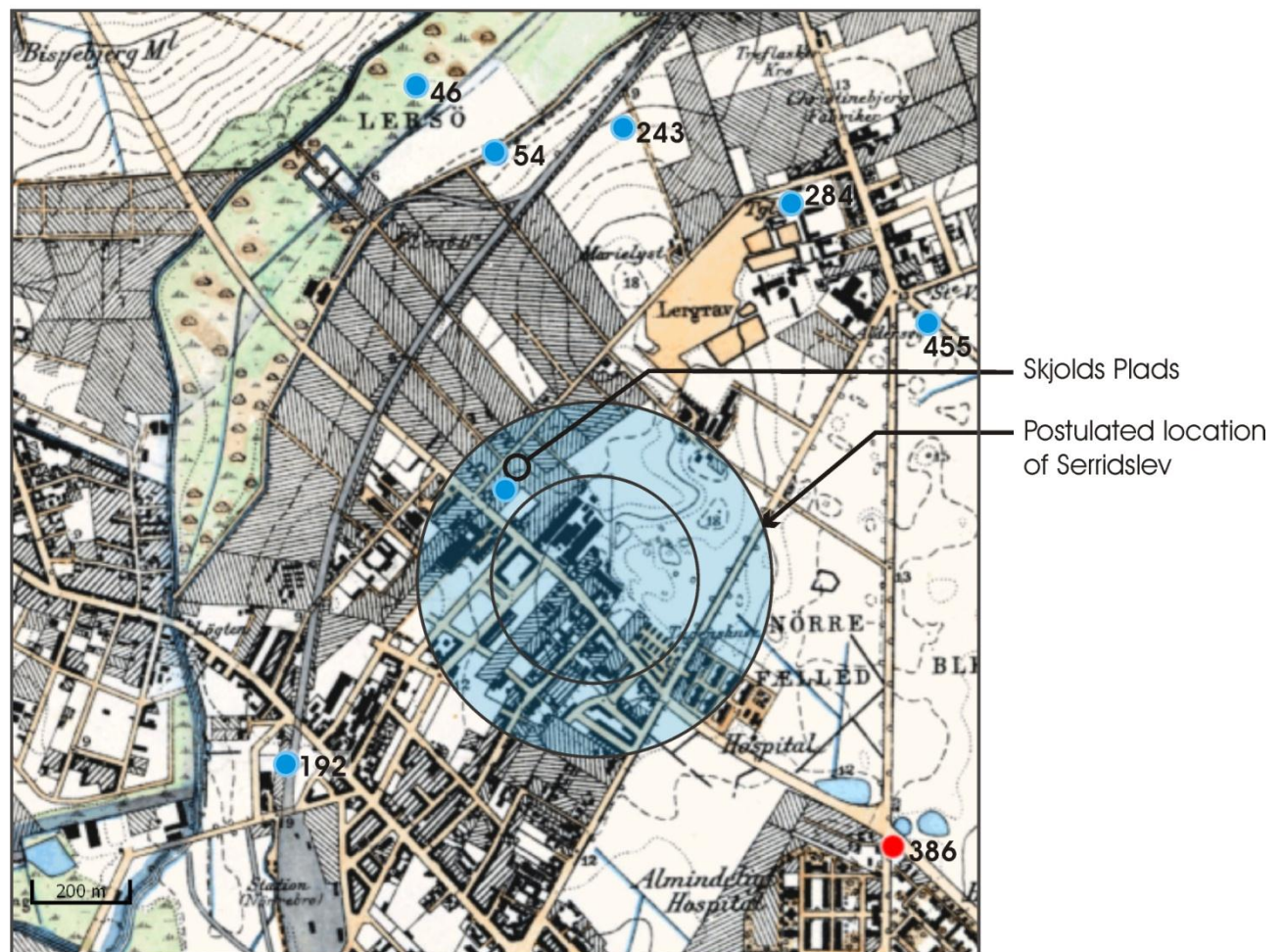


Figure 8. The position of Skjolds Plads plotted on the Høje Målebordsblade (1842-1895) along with previously recorded archeological investigations within a 1 km radius. The sites are labelled with their respective locality numbers. Two of these sites are prehistoric. The position of the historic village of Serridslev, as postulated by Christophersen (1985) from historical sources, is indicated by the shaded nested circles.

Year	Location	SB-nr	Archaeological observation
	Lersø Parkvej	Sb.nr. 020306-46	A thin-butted groundstone flint axe diagnostic of the Early Neolithic TRB Culture, broadly dated from 3950–2801 BC was recovered from a surviving deposit of Subboreal peat. This indicates that it was found in situ and suggests that other prehistoric deposits probably survive in and around the Lersø basin.
	Lersøpark Allé	Sb.nr. 020306-54	On Lersøpark Allé was found a depot, consisting of two flint spearheads diagnostic of the Late Neolithic Dagger Period broadly dated from 2350–1701 BC
1985	Valhalsgade 1-4	No number	During a watching brief in connection to the establishment of district heating were found an archaeological deposit containing charcoal, brick and tile was reported with diagnostic ceramics from the 18 th century as well as several medieval pot sherds.
2002	Ragnhildgade	Sb.nr. 020306-243	An evaluation trench revealed a few modern pits containing asphalt and ceramic building materials.
2004	Ragnagade 9	020306-284 KBM 2903	During a watching brief at a building site was found the filled-up basement of the chemical factory "Nordisk Droge og Kemikaliefabrik" established in the beginning of the 1900s and demolished in 1994. Nothing of archaeological interest was documented.
1999	Esromgade and Farumgade	020306-192	During construction of a bike-path appeared a water main built of dressed field-stone. It is probably part of a municipal water system constructed just after 1661 AD.
		020306-386	Protected antiquity: 120 cm high, square granite mile-marker with an undecipherable description, constructed of four stones bolted together on a square pedestal.

Table 1. Archaeological locations around Skjolds Plads. The "Sb.nr." refers to the parish description numbers in the Danish Cultural Central Register (Sites and Monuments Record).

The archival control of the affected area showed that finds had previously been made around Lersøen and in Fælledparken, which can be dated to several phases of the Stone Age, but particularly to the Neolithic period. Apart from the prehistoric finds from Lersøparken (see table 1 below) finds have also been made in the nearby

Fælledparken, such as settlement material (sb.nr. 020306-135) and an assemblage of Late Neolithic flint artefacts, e.g. a spearhead, a handle of a dagger and some blades (sb.nr. 020306-138).

As noted above, the area of Skjolds Plads has been urbanised only recently and the Holocene surface survives beneath the modern pavement in many places. This fact, seen together with the presence of prehistoric material in the vicinity means that more prehistoric finds and features could be expected. The remaining unprotected finds recorded for the area and indicated on Figure 8, are relatively unimportant. Most of these were recorded during compulsory archeological reconnaissance by the Museum of Copenhagen in the last ten years, and they can be dated to the 20th century, when the area was intensely developed.

Examples include sted-lokalitetsnr. 020306-284, which is a cellar filled with material originating in the adjacent chemical factory and sted-lokalitetsnr. 020306-455, marking the position of material dumped on the western edge of Fælledparken during the recent construction in that area. However, there is a least one exception to this generalisation. This locality on Valhalsgade lies approximately 50 m from the current excavations on Skjolds Plads, and was inspected in connection with district heating installation in 1985 (Table 1). The site comprises an archaeological deposit that indicates a medieval occupation on or very near Skjolds Plads. This site is recorded in the archives of Copenhagen's Museum and had not been assigned an accession number.

5 Archaeological potential and aims

The metro excavations under the City Ring Project are divided into three categories (Class 1-3), relating to documentation conditions, preservation circumstances and cultural historical potential. Skjolds Plads is classified as a Class 3 locality. Antiquarian knowledge is generally sparse for Class 3 sites or previous observations suggest that archaeological remains are of less significant extent and quality. In these cases, the archaeological strategy consisted of test excavations ahead of construction works or watching briefs. Only in cases of special circumstances were systematic archaeological excavations undertaken¹⁰.

The desk-based assessment for this part of Nørrebro showed that there might be prehistoric remnants of archaeological interest on the site. This expectation is partly due to its proximity to the former Lersø and the altitude of around 13 meters above sea level. Combined, these topographical features are likely to have been attractive to prehistoric communities: High dry land for farming as well as proximity to fresh water with the possibility of fishing and adjoining meadows for grazing livestock. Due to the city's high degree of utilization of the available land, there are currently only a few places where it is possible to find traces of prehistoric activity. The construction of the metro station at Skjolds Plads therefore provided a good opportunity to evaluate the potential for the discovery of previously unrecorded and undisturbed archaeological deposits and sites under the modern deposits. Of significance would be any potential data relating to medieval Serridslev or to rural buildings that preceded the district's housing development in the 1800s. The location of the historically documented village of Serridslev is of critical importance to any excavation undertaken in the vicinity of Skjolds Plads. The land deeded to Serridslev covered most of the present quarters of Østerbro and Nørrebro but the actual location of the village itself has never been discovered.

¹⁰ Project Design 2009, Københavns Museum.

6 Methodology and measurement system

6.1 Excavation and documentation

Ground works involved the mechanical excavation of guidewall trenches and the main trench (“yellow footprint”) in Haraldsgade (1655 m²) and a smaller adjoining trench in Fafnersgade (152 m²). This was done under archaeological supervision by an excavator on wheels, fitted with a toothless bucket. The machine reduced the existing ground level, where the modern pavement had been, by approximately 1 meter, which in most places corresponded to the upper limit of the natural subsoil. Potential archaeological features were hand-trowelled (but not fully excavated) to expose their full extent and to obtain potential finds. Archaeological features were recorded by means of manual measurements in relation to existing buildings and roads and plotted on a dimensionally stable survey plan (1:400) published by the metro company. At the museum, the measurements and the geometrical objects were then imported into the IntraSiS database and assigned a unique IntraSiS number¹¹.

The IntraSiS Explorer system created by the Swedish National Heritage Board is used for collecting, relating, structuring, interpreting and archiving of data. The archaeological database structure has been developed specifically for archaeological data captured using the single context recording system on the specific site.

6.2 Finds registration

A special Museum of Copenhagen template has been used for the finds registration. The following parameters have been used: *Name*, *Material*, *Type*, *Fragmentation*, *Number*, *Weight*, *Dating* and *Find category*. *Name* is a short description concerning material, type, fragmentation and find category. *Type* refers to the original shape and type that the find represents. *Number* is the number of sherds or fragments, not regarding how many original objects it represents. Measurements have only been registered if it is an intact or nearly intact object, or if it is decided relevant in any other matter. *Dating* refers to periods defined by *Nationalmuseet*.

Finds registration has been conducted according to the following principles:

- Sherds or fragments associated to one individual object are registered under one finds object ID-number (FO-number)
- Sherds or fragments identical in material, colour, type of shape and decoration, are registered together, on the condition that they also are related to the same context
- In all other cases each object or sherd/fragment is given one individual FO-number

Many artefacts were unstratified and collected during removal of the overburden, but they were retained nevertheless and subsequently registered in the IntraSiS database (K2012:13).

¹¹ The IntraSiS Explorer system created by the Swedish National Heritage Board is used for collecting, relating, structuring, interpreting and archiving of data.

6.3 Environmental sampling

A sample for macrofossil analysis was collected from deposit S100013 in the canal of the stone-built culvert in order to shed further light on the function of this feature. The sample was subsequently registered in IntraSiS.

7 Results

7.1 Preservation

Few features were recorded despite the monitoring of extensive ground works over a total area of 1807 m². Overall, the site evidenced considerable modern disturbance. In Haraldsgade, below the pavement, were encountered modern drainage wells, numerous cables and large pipes running along mostly the sides of the street with fewer disturbances across and down the middle of the street. The construction of trenches for these pipes and their maintenance would have had a severe archaeological impact on the site's archaeology.

7.2 Archaeological results

Overburden

The stratigraphy was remarkably consistent across the site (Figure 9). The pavement was thick and the asphalt base layer and overlay comprise between 0,25-0,50 m. Below this was found a dark greyish-brown clayey sand containing occasional cobblestones and bricks (Flensborg-type) and with moderate inclusions of animal bone, ceramic building materials, oyster shell, flecks of charcoal, post-medieval pottery sherds and glass. This horizon locally overlaid mid-brown, sterile silty sand. The latter deposit perhaps represents a buried agricultural soil above the natural. Such buried soils may occur in urban construction areas.



Figure 9. Machine-cut section parallel to Haraldsgade. The natural (yellow) subsoil is visible at the bottom of the section. One of the many pipes can be seen in the foreground.

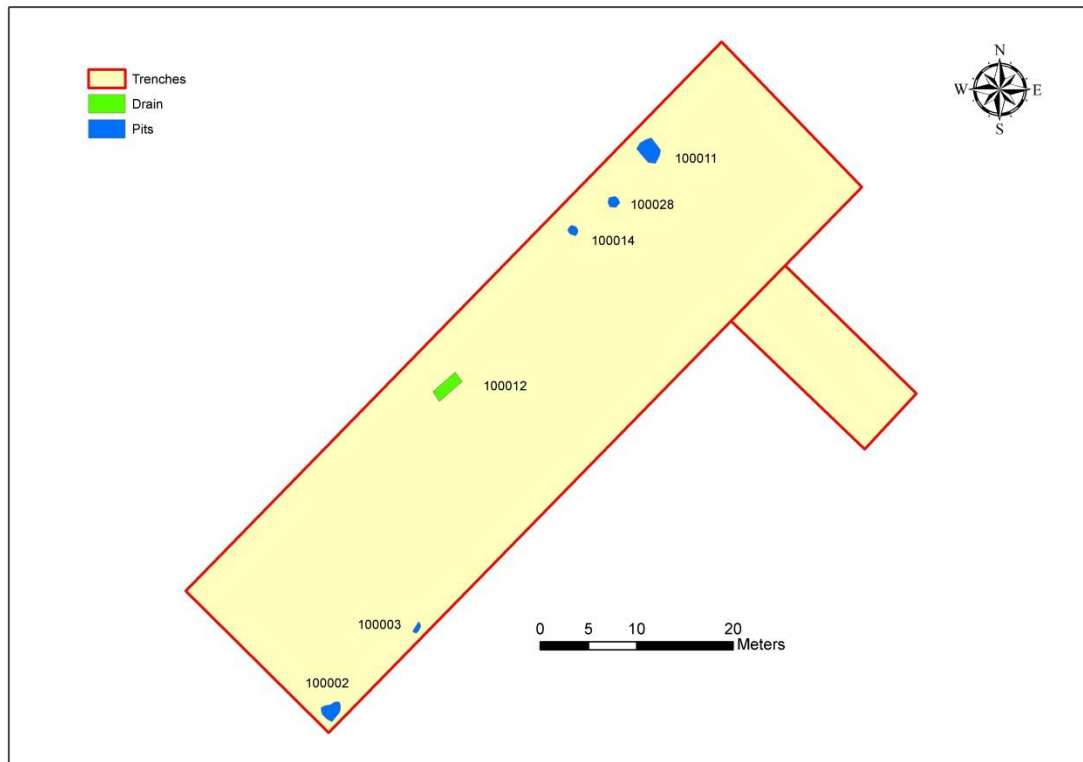


Figure 10. Skjolds plads. Excavation trenches and archaeological contexts.

Drain culvert (S100012)

Topsoil-stripping in Haraldsgade revealed a 3.34 meter long and 1 meter wide linear stone structure (Figure 10) interpreted as a culvert or stone-lined drain (Danish: “stenkiste”) (see drawing at Appendices). The culvert ran north-east to south-west at a slight angle to the direction of the road corridor where it was exposed over its full preserved length. According to the driver of the excavator, a couple of the culvert’s capstones were accidentally removed before he was stopped by the archaeologist. It is uncertain whether these stones were actually in situ or had been dislocated from the structure in the past. A couple of large, loose stones had been dug up by the machine at the corner of Haraldsgade and Slangerupgade when the guidewall at the NE end of the station box was dug. It cannot be excluded that these also originally belonged to the culvert.

The culvert had two main components: Two sidewalls and a row of large capstones. There was no stone-lined channel base. A trench had been dug into the natural clay to contain the sidewalls, which were comprised of parallel lines of unmortared, two-coursed rubble masonry. The bottom course was entirely within the dug trench and only the upper course was visible above the natural level of the subsoil (Figures 11 & 12). The two courses form the side wall to achieve a channel depth of 0.70 m and a width of 0.30 m. The stones were turned so that the most even surfaces turned towards the culvert interior to allow smooth water flow. Wedges in the form of smaller stones were inserted to ensure no movement of the structure. Apart from channelling the water flow, the side walls also supported the cap stones. The surface of the upper course was made level by occasionally inserting flatter stones to provide a base for the capstones. The large capstones would have enclosed the channel and nearly spanned the culvert’s width.



Figure 11. The stone culvert S100012 seen from southwest.



Figure 12. The upper course of stones is resting on a lower course that has been laid in a trench dug into the natural subsoil.



Figure 13. Culvert from the 1800s excavated at Hasselager in 1985 by Moesgaard Museum. Photo: Forhistorisk Museum Moesgård.

The apex of the culvert was uncovered approximately 0,50 m below street level. The base of the culvert canal was an estimated 1,40 m below the surface of the street. The soil above the culvert and in the upper part of the channel contained fragments of brick, mortar, modern pottery and glass. During excavation, this fill could not be differentiated from the waterlogged, muddy deposit at the bottom of the culvert. The only visible difference was that fewer fragmented building materials occurred towards the bottom (S100013 comprised all fill associated with the culvert). A sample for macrofossil analysis (P100015) was collected from the bottom of the culvert¹². It would seem probable that the culvert related to a function around horti- or agricultural activities on Rådmandsmarken prior to building development in the area. The respective function of the culvert is difficult to extrapolate without more evidence. Two similar constructions were documented by Museum of Copenhagen in 1999 at Esromgade / Hillerødgade and in 2012 in Rovinggade - both in the Nørrebro district¹³. Although larger and better built with hewn stones, the former bears a strong resemblance to the building principles behind the Haraldsgade culvert. The latter culvert was encountered during construction work and has a top and side that consisted of cleaved boulders, while the bottom was made from two cleaved stones. The section was 1.40 m wide and 0.95 m high. Dimensions of the opening were 0.60 x 0.65 m.

Stone culverts were traditionally used on estate roads where they allowed pedestrians, horses and wheeled traffic to pass over the drainage feature without difficulty. Until the major drainage projects were initiated in the mid 1800-century, the landscape was crisscrossed by numerous small streams. The old roads tended to go around wetlands, but at the end of the 1700s roads were built in straight lines without regard to the landscape, and it meant that suddenly it was necessary to build across

¹² Stone culverts in use are difficult to maintain due to their enclosed structure, but it is essential that debris and silt that is blocking the culvert is cleared out regularly.

¹³ Simonsen 2009.

many small streams. The solution was culverts, small bridges or stone-lined canals that led streams under the road (Figure 13). As the straight line of the roads was an almost absolute requirement, it happened that the culverts were led diagonally across streams. This meant that they could be much longer than road width. The culverts of major thoroughfares were small architectural works, barrel-vaulted or square, built in granite. But also smaller roads got culverts, which often consisted of crude, roughly hewn boulders, and generally the roads led perpendicular to the streams, so culvert length equaled the width of the road. Today, the majority of culverts in the Danish countryside have been destroyed¹⁴.

Pits

Five features (Figure 10), Pits A-E, cut into the natural subsoil (S100002, S100003, S100011, S100014, & S100028). These were of probable late post-Medieval date (1800s), based on finds recovered from the upper fill of the pits. Their precise function is unclear but they are likely domestic refuse pits. If so, then perhaps they are associated with the houses that existed on Rådmandsmarken prior to the nineteenth century urban development in the area (Figure 7).



Figure 14. Pit B (S100003) cut by modern pipe trench. The folding ruler measures 1 meter.

However, the nature of pits Pit A (S100002) and Pit B (S100003) were different. The basal fill of these features was grayish brown sediment and clearly delimited against the subsoil, but with no evident inclusions apart from small specks of charcoal. Pit S100003 was cut by a modern pipe (Figure 14). The slightly blurred interface between pit-fill and subsoil suggests that Pits A and B are older than the other features and disturbances observed in Haraldsgade.

¹⁴ In some cases, efforts have been made to document and preserve parts of these old structures (see Vej-Hansen & Arnt 2011 for a good example).

7.3 Summary and Assessment

The most noteworthy find from the watching brief was a fairly well-preserved but undated stone culvert. Based on archaeological finds, five shallow pits might be associated with activities in the area dating to the 1850s onwards. No artefacts from archaeological features or from the topsoil could be securely dated earlier than 1800. The evidence indicates that there are no prehistoric archaeological resources at the locality. This part of Haraldsgade appears to be so badly disturbed that it is unlikely that much of archaeological significance has survived within the street corridor. The area should remain an "observation zone" with regards to prehistoric sites as well as the medieval village of Serridslev. The most probably location for Serridslev is slightly further to the southeast at the crossing of Tagensevej/Rådmandsvej¹⁵. Museum of Copenhagen therefore recommends that archaeological investigations continue to be conducted prior to construction works in this area of Nørrebro.

¹⁵ Christophersen 1985, 35.

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Appendices

Finds Report

There are 175 finds registered with 59 finds number (x-numbers). The finds had a total weight of 4286 g (Table 1).

The finds are registered in the IntraSiS database K2012:13. Most finds are fragmented and there are few (n=6) intact or complete objects.

Dating

The finds are all typologically and stylistically dated. Overall most of the finds seems to date from the mid-19th and early 20th century. Yet a few are a bit older and a few are a bit younger. But out of the total of 148 pieces of ceramics, 63 were in cream ware/industrial (and one “faience” shard) ceramics and 13 were in porcelain. The high frequency (51.4%) of particularly those two groups of finds clearly indicates a younger dating. In addition, there are a further four objects of porcelain, which are not included in this count.

Types of finds

Material	Number	Weight (g)
Ceramic	152	3370
Glass	11	274
Pipe clay	1	6
Animal bone	1	4
Worked bone/antler	1	17
Iron	4	713
Slate	1	3
Slag	1	11
Coal	2	21
Copper alloy	1	3
Total	175	4286

Table 1. The table shows the total number of finds in each material group.

As the table above shows the ceramics is by far the largest find group and that is not unusual at all since ceramics often are the only finds preserved.

Z100001 – deposit in pit (A)

x-numbers: X1-X15

Number of fragments: 71

Suggested dating: 1850-?

Import/locations: Bornholm, Westerwald (Germany), England

Late Redware

There are 27 shards from vessels of Late Redware. Two shards are decorated with white cowhorn painting in the form of concentric straight and wavy bands (x1) and covered with a transparent lead glaze.

X2 is a possible ocarina (“Iergök” or “piv-i-røv-fugl”) (Figures 1 & 2). These clay bird work as a primitive flute, since the air flow is controlled by a small gap or channel

over the blow hole edge. There is an area of white slip under the glaze on the underside.

X3 are three shards of light red coloured clay which suggest an origin from Bornholm (Figure 3). Two of the shards are from a bowl, of which one is from a lid, decorated with a small impressed band. Pottery from this area peaked during the 17- and 1800s.

X4 include other Late Redware such as thick-walled bowls, stjertpottor and other sturdy kitchen ware. Two of the shards have white slip, covered on the inside with a light green glaze. The glaze on the other shards range from dark brown to light yellow.

X5 include to unglazed rim shards and are possibly from garden pots.



Figures. 1 & 2. The fragmented ocarina from Skjolds Plads (left) and a complete Swedish "Iergök" from the mid-1650s (right).¹⁶



Fig. 3. Decorated earthenware from Bornholm.
Industrial ceramics

¹⁶ http://www.kalmarlansmuseum.se/1/1.0.1.0/51/1/?item=art_art-s1/1557

There are 26 shards of so-called Industrial Ware. Sixteen of these are decorated. Five are decorated with the Willow pattern (or Blue Willow), which is a distinctive and elaborate pattern used on ceramic kitchen/house wares (x6) (Figures 4 & 5). The pattern – often decorated with a story-telling design featuring a large willow tree by a little bridge - was designed by Thomas Minton around 1790 and has been in use for over 200 years. Willow refers to the pattern, a specific treatment, either applied transfer or stamp, known as transfer ware. This decoration method made it possible to decorate the ware a lot faster and cheaper. This type of ware became very popular during the 19th century and early 20th century.



Figures 4 & 5. One or more fragmented plates in Willow pattern from Skjolds Plads (x6) and a complete plate for comparison¹⁷.

Seven additional shards are of other types of Transfer Ware (Figure 6) and are decorated in green, black and purple (x7). Other decorated shards are in blue and further painted with gold-colour (x8). The undecorated shards are white and include plates, dishes and bowls (x9). One bottom shard from a plate is stamped with a design and "IRONSTONE CHINA" at the bottom.

¹⁷ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Willow_pattern



Figure 6. Various fragments of Transfer Ware, likely of English production (x7).

Porcelain

There are five porcelain shards (x10). Four of the shards feature blue flower designs of which one is Mussel painted (Royal Copenhagen).

X11 is a fragment of a porcelain figurine dressed in a robe.

Stoneware

There are six shards of salt glazed stoneware from three different containers (x12). There are two bottom shards and a handle shard. One body shard is decorated with a blue band. Five of the shards are glazed in a grey colour, and one is covered by brown salt glazing.

Faience

A fragment of a profiled handle in greenish-grey clay with a transparent tin glazing (x13).

Late Greyware

There are three shards of Late Grey ware (x14). All are unglazed and without decoration. Two shards are burnished and can be characterized under the category "jydepotte".

Glass

There is a single piece of clear press glass with relief decoration (x15).

Z100005 - Fafnersgade 1

x-numbers: X16-X25

Number of fragments: 24

Suggested dating: 1850-?

Late Redware

Seven shards were found. There is a shard from a plate with cowhorn decoration (x16) in the form of concentric bands covered by transparent lead glazing. There are also two shards from a pot with brown outside glazing and a light yellow glazing on the inside (x17). The inside glazing has been applied on a green slip/engobe. Four unglazed shards, two in yellowish clay and two in reddish, are presumably from garden pots (x18).

Industrial Ware

There are 12 shards of Industrial Ware of which three are decorated. One is decorated with a moulded decoration in the form a light blue vine-branch (x19). There is also a rim shard of a plate with knurled, green decoration (x20). A shard from a cup is decorated with blue colour and has an unidentified design in green and blue (x21). Nine undecorated shards are white (apart from a shard with brown external glazing) and represented forms include plates and (chamber) pots (x22).

Porcelain

There are three shards of porcelain (cup and plate) painted with blue flower designs (x23). Two shards are Mussel painted.

Late Greyware

There is a sturdy body shard of an undecorated and unglazed vessel (x24).

Metal

There is a handle in iron (Figure 7), which must be from a piece of furniture, which must be from furniture, e.g. a chest of drawers, or similar (x25).



Figure 7. Handle from furniture or chest (x25).

Z100014 – deposit in pit (D)

x-numbers: X26-X30

Number of fragments: 7

Suggested dating: 1850-?

Late Redware

Four shards were found. There is a shard from a bowl with white cowhorn decoration (x26). The painting is in the form of a straight concentric and a wavy band. The decoration is covered by a transparent lead glaze. There are also two shards from a jar with an external brown and internal light yellow and dark brown lead glaze (x27). One unglazed shard is presumably from a garden pot (x28).

Porcelain

There are two shards of white porcelain. One is mussel painted with a blue flower design from Royal Copenhagen (x29) – probably from a coffee cup (Figure 8).



Figure 8. Mussel painted shard from Royal Copenhagen (x29).

Glass

X30 is a fragment from a green bottle. The glass mass contains bubbles.

Z100028 – deposit in pit (E).

x-numbers: X31-X33

Number of fragments: 3

Suggested dating: 1850-?

Industrial Ware

X31 is a rim shard from a plate decorated with a circumferential blue band (x31).

Glass

X32 is from a square-shaped bottle of clear glass. The glass does not contain bubbles but suffers from the initial stage of glass pest.

There is also a delicate stalk-glass with an engraved floral vine and two circumferential bands (x33) (Figure 9).



Figure 9. Engraved glass with broken off foot (x33).

Z100013 – Culvert fill

x-numbers: X34-X39

Number of fragments: 14

Suggested dating: 1850-?

Import/locations: Westerwald

Late Redware

Five shards were found that originate from three vessels (x34). Two shards were from a dish with a handle. The dish has been glazed on the inside and sporadically externally. Two other shards are glazed with a yellow lead glaze on both sides.

Industrial Ware

X35 is a rim shard, possibly from a plate, with blue decoration.

Stoneware

There is one body shard of a Westerwald-vessel with plastic decoration and circumferential blue bands (x36). This ware was produced around the Rhine and generally dates to around 17-1800 (Figure 10).



Figure 10. Westerwald shard (x36).

Glass

Two bottom shards have been found from a sturdy green bottle. The glass is severely affected by glass pest (x37). Three other pieces can be identified as window glass as they are flat and have thickened margins (x38).

Metal

Two hand-forged iron nails are approximately 11cm long (x39).

Z100001 – collection from guide wall trenches and surface

x-numbers: X40-X59

Number of fragments: 56

Suggested dating: 1850-?

Exact dating: -

Import/locations: Bornholm, China, Thüringen?, USA

Late Redware

Twelve shards have been found. X40 is a shard of light red coloured ware, probably produced on Bornholm. It is decorated with parallel grooves under a yellow glazing. The other shards include five rim shards and six body shards from jars and pots displaying a dark brown and yellowish white lead glaze (x41).

Industrial Ware

Twenty-two shards were collected of which 14 are decorated. Two of these are decorated with the Willow pattern (x42) and eight shards are other examples of Transfer Ware with blue, red, green, black and purple colours (x43). Four other shards, with one exception, are decorated with blue paint (x44). The undecorated shards are white and include plates, (chamber) pots and bowls (x45).

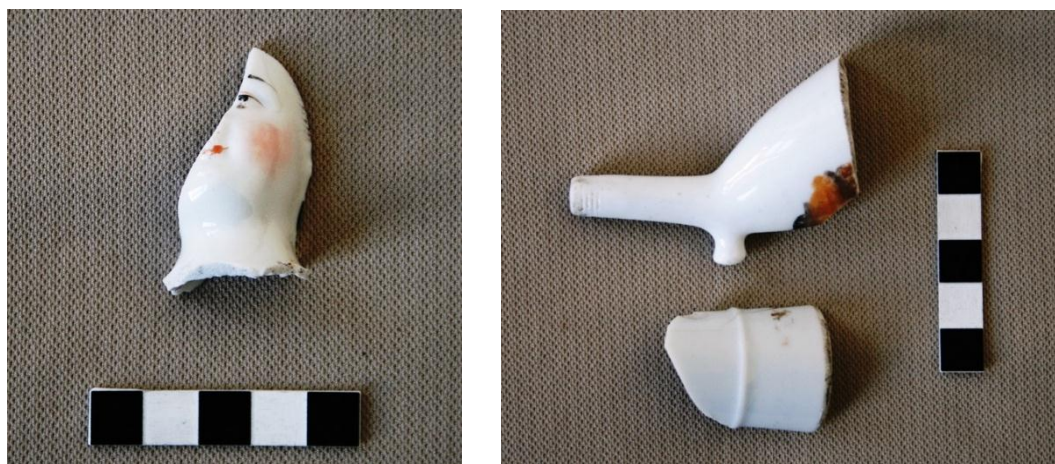
Porcelain

There are six shards of porcelain. Two undecorated shards are from a plate and a dish respectively (x46). The plate shard is in the “shell-pattern” of Mussel-painted ware, but without the common blue paint. The dish has remains of gold paint on the rim. A bottom shard is from a bowl with foot and is painted with rather faint, bluish circumferential bands (x47) (Figure 11). Presumably, this jar is of Chinese production.



Figure 11. Shard of Chinese jar (x47).

X48 is a fragment of a porcelain doll head with painted facial features (Figure 12). Two pipe bowls in porcelain have remains of painted decoration (x49) (Figure 13). Porcelain pipes replace the fragile clay pipe during the 19th century. The pipes could be decorated with highly detailed, hand painted motifs and the mouthpiece could be made in any kind of the material that the smoker wanted, like bone or wood.



Figures 12 & 13. Doll's head of porcelain (x48) and two porcelain pipes with decoration (x49).

Clay pipe

X50 is a decorated clay pipe stem, diameter 1cm. The stalk should probably be dated to the 1600s.

Bone/antler

X51 is a knife handle of bone (Figure 14). It is 6,5cm long and 2,1cm broad at the end. There is a small decorative circumferential groove at the end of the handle. There are rusty remains of the knife blade a rivet through the handle, holding the knife blade in place.

Stone Ware

There are three fragments of stone ware (x52). A bottom shard has white salt glaze and two have a brown salt glaze.

Glass

X53 is a bottom and a body shard from a green bottle. The glass mass contains bubbles.



Figure 14. Knife handle of bone/antler (x51).

Coal

Two pieces (x54).

Slag

One piece (x55)

Animal bone

One bone, probably from chicken, goose, duck or similar large bird (x56)

Coin

USA 1-cent from 1981 (x57).

Slate pencil

X58 is a slate pencil with a diameter of 5,5mm. Slate pencils were produced from the 1600s until the end of the 1800s. An important centre for the production of slate pencils in Europe was the city of Steinach in Thüringen, Germany, from where slate pencils were exported to a global market into the 1900s. Towards the end of the 1800s, production was mechanized.

Metal

Touring skate for tying onto boot (x59). These could be attached, via bindings, to boots and were popular in use for tour skating on natural ice (Figure 15 & 16). Since tour skating often involves walking between lakes or around unskateable sections, the fact that the blades can be easily removed from one's boots is an asset.



Figure 15. Example of old touring skates with bindings, attached to boots.



Figure 16. A Scene on the Ice by Hendrick Avercamp. Painted in the first half of the 1600s. From: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Hendrick_Avercamp_-_A_Scene_on_the_Ice_-_WGA01076.jpg

Assessment

The varied and mixed finds from the investigation cannot be used to date particular contexts or features, but may illustrate a certain level of activity in the area prior to the construction of the apartment buildings around Haraldsgade.

But the find material is too small to play a role for research purposes. They have, however, as all archaeological objects found in Copenhagen, relevance in connection to the general background knowledge about these find types and their distribution in Copenhagen, and as such form a basis for further studies into the general development of the city. The objects found at Skjolds Plads are well known also from other localities in the wider area of Copenhagen.

List of Contexts

Id	Name	Subclass	Description	Length	Width	Interpretation	Dating
100002	Pit A	Deposit		2,5	2	Pit	c. 1850-
100003	Pit B	Deposit		1,1	0,5	Pit	c. 1850-
100011	Pit C	Deposit		2,6	2	Pit	c. 1850-
100012	Stone-built canal	Stone Structure	Covered canal built from field stones in two courses.	3,1	1	Ditch	
100013	Deposit in stone-built canal	Deposit		-	-	Ditch	c. 1850-
100014	Pit D	Deposit		1	0,9	Pit	c. 1850-
100028	Pit E	Deposit		1,2	1,1	Pit	c. 1850-

List of Photos

Id	Name	Motif	Facing	Photographer	Date of Image
100006	C115_1329	Removal of overburden in Haraldsgade onto natural substrate	NE	nha	5.7.2012
100007	DSC_1309	Pit A (S100002) in Haraldsgade	SE	nha	9.7.2012
100008	DSC_1312	Pit A (S100002) in Haraldsgade	SW	nha	9.7.2012
100009	DSC_1317	Pit B (S100003) in Haraldsgade	-	nha	9.7.2012
100010	DSC_1318	Profile in Haraldsgade	NW	nha	9.7.2012
100016	DSC_0365	Stone-culvert S100012	SW	nha	15.8.2012
100017	DSC_0366	Stone-culvert S100012	SW	nha	15.8.2012
100018	DSC_0367	Stone-culvert S100012	SW	nha	15.8.2012
100019	DSC_0368	Stone-culvert S100012	SW	nha	15.8.2012
100020	DSC_0369	Stone-culvert S100012	NW	nha	15.8.2012
100021	DSC_0370	Stone-culvert S100012	SW	nha	15.8.2012
100022	DSC_0371	Stone-culvert S100012	-	nha	15.8.2012
100023	DSC_0372	Stone-culvert S100012	-	nha	15.8.2012
100024	DSC_0373	Stone-culvert S100012	-	nha	15.8.2012
100025	DSC_0374	Stone-culvert S100012	NW	nha	15.8.2012
100026	DSC_0375	Stone-culvert S100012	NE	nha	15.8.2012
100027	DSC_0376	Stone-culvert S100012	SE	nha	15.8.2012

List of Finds

Id	Name	X-no.	Material	Type	N	Weight
100029	Late Redware, plate, cowhorn paited	1	Ceramic	Plate	2	106.5
100030	Late Redware, lergøg (toy)	2	Ceramic	Toy ocarina	1	103.5
100031	Late light Redware, bowl, Bornholm	3	Ceramic	Bowl	3	125.5
100032	Late Redware, various shards	4	Ceramic	Vessel	21	783
100033	Late Redware	5	Ceramic	Rimsherd	2	29
100034	Industrial Ware, Willow pattern	6	Ceramic	Plate	5	30.5
100035	Industrial Ware, var. transfer ware	7	Ceramic	Sherd	7	91
100036	Industrial Ware, blue painted	8	Ceramic	Plate	3	18
100037	Industrial Ware, bowls/plates, no decor.	9	Ceramic	Plate	11	300
100038	Porcelain, blue- and Mussel painted	10	Ceramic	Sherd	5	42.5
100039	Porcelain figure	11	Ceramic	Figure	1	42
100040	Stoneware, jug	12	Ceramic	Jug	7	447
100041	Faience/Industrial Ware, handle	13	Ceramic	Handle	1	20.5
100042	Late Greyware, pot	14	Ceramic	Pot	3	51.5
100043	Pressglass, relief decorated	15	Glass	Bowl	1	11

100044	Late Redware, plate, cowhorn painted	16	Ceramic	Plate	1	23
100045	Late Redware, pot, brown glazed, engobed	17	Ceramic	Pot	2	35
100046	Late Redware, garden vases?, unglazed	18	Ceramic	Garden vase	4	55
100047	Industrial Ware, plate, plastic decoration	19	Ceramic	Plate	1	7
100048	Industrial Ware, plate, blue painted	20	Ceramic	Plate	1	4
100049	Industrial Ware, cup, painted	21	Ceramic	Cup	1	5
100050	Industrial Ware, undecorated	22	Ceramic	Sherd	9	104.5
100051	Porcelain, blue- and Mussel painted	23	Ceramic	Sherd	3	21.5
100052	Late Greyware, bodysherd, undecorated	24	Ceramic	Sherd	1	40.5
100053	Handle, iron	25	Iron	Handle	1	122.5
100054	Late Redware, bowl, cowhorn painted	26	Ceramic	Bowl	1	31.5
100055	Late Redware, glazed	27	Ceramic	Sherd	2	46
100056	Late Redware, bodysherd, unglazed	28	Ceramic	Garden vase	1	14
100057	Porcelain, Mussel painted	29	Ceramic	Cup	2	53
100058	Glass bottle, green	30	Glass	Bottle	1	5
100059	Industrial Ware, tallerken, blåbemalet	31	Ceramic	Plate	1	5
100060	Glass bottle, clear	32	Glass	Bottle	1	29
100061	"Schnaps glass", engraved pattern	33	Glass	Drinking glass	1	33.5
100062	Late Redware, various	34	Ceramic	Bowl	5	86
100063	Industrial Ware, blue painted	35	Ceramic	Plate	1	2.5
100064	Stone ware, bodyshard, Westerwald	36	Ceramic	Sherd	1	10.5
100065	Glass bottle, green	37	Glass	Bottle	2	52.5
100066	Window glass, green	38	Glass	Window glass	3	7
100067	Iron nails, corroded	39	Iron	Nail	2	44.5
100068	Light Late Redware, bodyshard, Bornholm	40	Ceramic	Sherd	1	3.5
100069	Late Redware, various, glazed	41	Ceramic	Sherd	11	160.5
100070	Industrial Ware, Willow pattern	42	Ceramic	Plate	2	18
100071	Industrial Ware, bowls/plates, decorated	43	Ceramic	Sherd	8	52.5
100072	Industrial Ware, plate/cup, blue painted	44	Ceramic	Sherd	4	43
100073	Industrial Ware, bowls/plates, undecorated	45	Ceramic	Sherd	8	103.5
100074	Porcelain, undecorated	46	Ceramic	Dish	2	66
100075	Porcelain, bowl, China	47	Ceramic	Bowl	1	46
100076	Head of porcelain doll	48	Ceramic	Doll	1	9
100077	Porcelain pipes	49	Ceramic	Pipe	2	29
100078	Clay pipe stem	50	Pipeclay	Clay pipe	1	6
100079	Knife handle, bone/antler	51	Bone undef.	Handle	1	17
100080	Stoneware, jug	52	Ceramic	Jug	3	104.5
100081	Glass bottle, green	53	Glass	Bottle	2	0
100082	Stone coal	54	Mineral	Coal	2	21
100083	Slag	55	Slag	Slag	1	11
100084	Bird bone	56	Animal bone	Bird bone	1	4
100085	Coin, American 1-cent	57	Copper alloy	Coin	1	3
100086	Slate pencil ("griffel")	58	Slate	Slate pencil	1	3
100087	Touring skate, for bindings	59	Iron	Skate	1	546

The stone culvert (S100012) in Haraldsgade

