

DIGGING IN DENMARK

July 29, 2011 davisj Day of Archaeology, Day of Archaeology
2011, Excavation, Medieval Archaeology, Copenhagen, denmark, Excavation, field archaeologist, paint
brush, Shovel, Trowel, Twigs, United Kingdom, University College Dublin

In brief, I'm Joss, and I'm a field archaeologist from the UK, who, due to the financial crisis etc. etc. has failed to find work in that country, and has been forced (kicking and screaming mind you) to relocate to Denmark to get a job.

I'm kidding of course!

I've been here in Copenhagen for the last three months, and have one month to go on the project. We've been gradually working our way down through layers of the city's past in one of the major squares in the centre, which seemed to mostly consist of wooden water pipes for quite a while! On one edge of the site we have the foundations for the 16th century city wall and the moat outside it, and last week we finally finished recording it and removed the last of the huge boulders.

Yesterday, underneath where the boulders had sat, I found the remains of a reasonably well preserved wooden structure which appears to be a wattle fence – small stakes situated 30 to 40cm apart, with long thin twigs woven around them, some short thorny twigs amongst those, and a layer of brown organic material mixed with bits of straw surrounding the twigs. This smells quite strong, so our current theory is that it might be a daub made partially from manure!

