The Merovingian and Carolingian building ground plans of the Geldrop and Dommelen settlements in the Kempen region (Southern Netherlands)

Supplementary data

Frans Theuws

In these folders are the supplementary data of a study of the building ground plans from the Merovingian and Carolingian period (c. 600 – 900) documented during the excavations in the 1980’s and 1990’s at Geldrop-Genoenhuis and Dommelen-Kerkakkers in the Dutch Province of Noord-Brabant (see the entries in the database of these two settlement sites). The study appeared in the German peer-reviewed journal *Zeitschrift für Archäologie des Mittelalters* and will we add a PDF of the article here after one year.

These building ground plans form a good starting point for the further study of the building ground plans from these two periods in the southern Netherlands and northern Belgium. It was decided not to present a typology of buildings as is usually done, because the plans can be grouped differently according to different criteria. Due to the small number of finds in the features (postholes) of the buildings, which mostly concerns very fragmented pottery, it is difficult to date individual ground plans accurately. A new instrument was sought to arrive at an arrangement of the plans. That instrument is the Post Pit Index (PPI), a multiplication of the cross-section and the depth of the post hole. This PPI increases steadily from the Merovingian period to the late Carolingian period (and later into the Central Middle Ages) and seems to be a useful tool alongside other criteria to generally place building ground plans in a certain group. A distinction has been made between a Merovingian group, a Carolingian group and a late Carolingian group without being able to precisely assign calendar years to these groups. They may overlap in time.

The basic data collected per plan are presented here. A first document explains how the catalogue of early medieval building plans from both excavations was set up.