

## The Story of the Site – Material and Immaterial Heritage Framework

### *Hunebedcentrum, Borger (NL)*

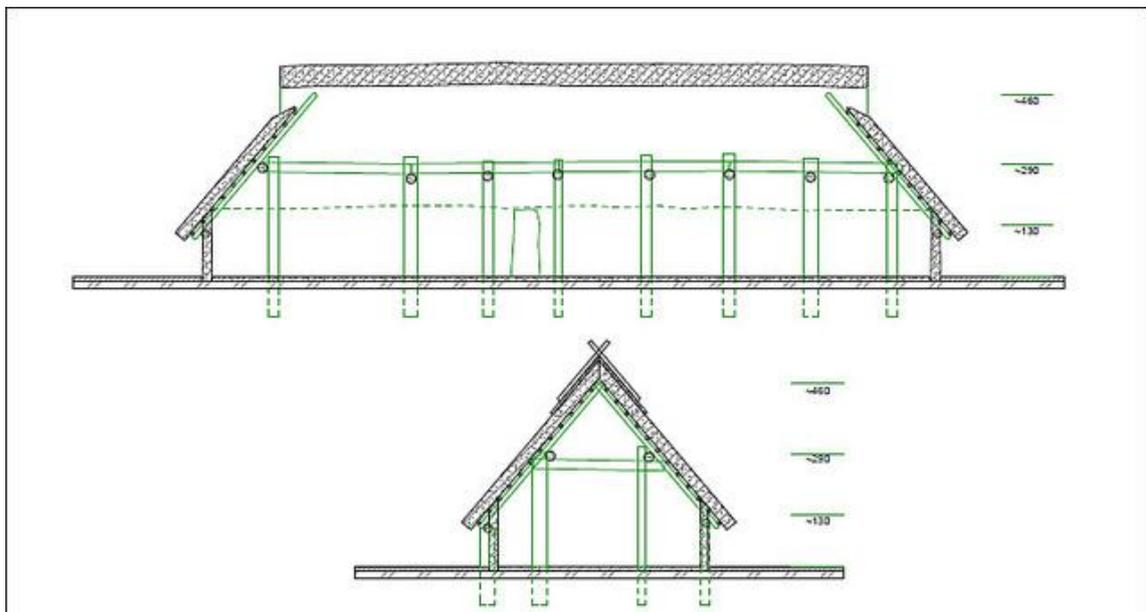
#### *Bronze Age house*

Hunebedcentrum / Prehistoric Park

Inventory Number : **OP-11**

Name of the reconstruction : **Bronze Age house**

#### Photos







More photo's of the reconstruction at:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/40865023@N03/albums/72157650889273731>

## Description of the reconstruction

In spring and summer 2014 there has been built a prehistoric house from the Bronze age in the prehistoric park of the Hunebedcentrum in Borger. The original remains were found during the excavations in the western part of the village Borger, called Daalkampen. The type of house plan is named Borger A, after its first finding in Borger: *Borger 4*. The houses are called living-stall house ("woonstalhuis"). The dynamics of settlement are very different; from single inherit to small clusters. It was very normal to enlarge the farm with a new part. Bronze Age Settlements in NE Netherlands show typical patterns of construction of houses: no 'wanderers'.

The house can be dated in the late Bronze Age. This period can be dated from 1.100 till 800 b.C. The Bronze Age in the Netherlands is the period between about 2000 and 800 BC. At that time bronze was widely used for weapons, tools and jewelry. Nevertheless, the inhabitants of the Netherlands were still using stone and flint. Most people did not live otherwise than in the New Stone Age. But the use of bronze did result in significant changes in prehistoric society.

Bronze consists for the most part from copper. In Eastern Europe, made the people already about 4000 BC, copper axes and jewelry. The copper was melted at a temperature of more than 1000 degrees Celsius, and poured into molds of clay. Later it was discovered that copper easily melted when tin was added. The metal was then also tougher. The new material, bronze, was stronger than (fire) stone could shine like gold and could be hammered and molded into different shapes. Thus came from new weapons. Bronze could be melted down to make new objects from there.

In the Netherlands, copper and tin not be entered and bronze had to. Already introduced in the New Stone Age were very occasionally copper items. The first bronze objects appeared here around 2000 BC. They were made in England, France and Germany. Later learned one here myself to bronze (to) melt and cast objects. Bronze remained rare in our region. Who could come to bronze and knew how to manipulate it,

got prestige and power. The differences in power and wealth among the people were also much higher than in the Bronze Age.

The farmers lived from mixed agriculture and cattle breeding. They have invented gaffel-ard (“haakploeg”) to plow the fields. On the fields they grew millet (“gierst”), covered barley (“bedekte gerst”), naked barley (“naakte gerst”) en emmer (“emmertarwe”). The cattle were much smaller than we are used to. Various aspects emphasize the importance of cattle.

The burial ritual displays both inhumation and cremation, but we should keep an open mind to 'deviant' forms. Cremation is displayed during the late Bronze Age. Burials join older hills and earlier burials. Also used natural heights! Not everybody is buried in the coffin and not everybody is completely buried in a coffin.

### Further Reading and Sources

- H.T. Waterbolk, 2009. *Getimmerd verleden: sporen van voor- en vroeghistorische houtbouw op de zand- en kleigronden tussen Eems en Ijssel*. University of Groningen, Groningen.

***Huijts, C.S.T.J. 1992: De voor-historische boerderijbouw in Drenthe. Reconstructiemodellen van 1300 vóór tot 1300 na Chr. Arnhem.***