

Interpretation of distribution patterns at the battlefield of Kalkriese

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Based on the Roman military objects in the Kalkriese area, we can assume that this was the site of a large battle in a defile with a length of more than 10 km along the northern slopes of the Kalkriese Hill. The distribution of the finds indicates that there was a series of military engagements proceeding from east to west in the course of which the Roman troops were worn down. In this paper I want to reconstruct the military collapse of the Roman army, based on an analysis of the archaeological finds. As we shall see, post-battle processes are essential in our aim for a better interpretation of the archaeological record and the activities on this ancient battlefield.

Recently a new research project on the Kalkriese battlefield aims to investigate the Germanic settlement pattern in the area between the mountains and the marshland since the Germanic infrastructure had an important impact on the cultural landscape and thus shaped the general conditions for the Romans' march and the battle. By including aspects of landscape archaeology, our aim is to build up a more comprehensive picture that allows us to analyse the "conflict landscape" in Kalkriese as a whole.

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