

## **Recent research at the site “Oberesch” in Kalkriese**

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One of the largest battlefield research projects in Germany was started off by a handful of coins found by an amateur archaeologist in Kalkriese in 1987. Step by step different clues indicated that a major battle took place here between Germans and Romans in the early first century A.D., probably the Battle of Varus A.D. 9. It was the first ancient battlefield to be investigated in detail by archaeologists, osteologists, botanists and soil scientists.

This paper recapitulates the results of almost 20 years of excavations on the site “Oberesch” that has turned out to be one of the main sites of activity among the at least 30 km<sup>2</sup>-battlefield. There, about 5,000 Roman military objects were discovered, but also man-made structures, for example a rampart built by the Germans as an ambush and pits that contain the bones of men, mules and horses who died in the battle.

The interpretation of the finds and their distribution pattern at the site Oberesch reveal new and stunning insights in a number of events of the battle and – even more – in the activities which followed the battle, such as looting and processing of metal. The paper aims to present the results of recent research projects and an up-to-date evaluation of finds and features.

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