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Viking Age Revninge woman: an exceptional find

On April 22, 2014, Paul Uniacke had started to explore a field near Revninge with his metal detector – several items had already been recovered when to his astonishment a small (4.6 cm) fine figurine appeared. He instantly recognized it as Viking Age and immediately contacted Østfyns Museums. Archaeologist Claus Feveile, Department of Landscape & Archaeology at Østfyns Museums, explained, “*Small characters from the Viking period are extremely rare and Revninge-woman’s dress is incredibly detailed which will contribute to the discussion on the appearance of clothes and how they might have been worn.*”

The body of the figurine is two-dimensional, while the head is three-dimensional. Through the back of the head there is a small hole, which shows that the figure has been worn as a hanging decorative amulet. Each section of the costume is picked out with different decoration, representing various textile and dress making techniques. But the three-lobed item of jewelry intrigues archaeologists, as when found in graves it is usually placed on the chest area. The figurine has been dated to 800 AD and can be understood in a variety of ways. They can represent goddesses like Valkyries or Norns but here it is tempting to link *Revninge Woman* to the fertility goddess Freya.



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