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## **Hedensted and early churches in Denmark**

This presentation will mainly deal with topics such as when the early wooden churches were built, and how they were constructed.

In 2007-2008 the inside of Church of Hedensted was to be renovated. Thereby came an opportunity to explore the older parts of the church. Almost the entire nave and chancel was excavated. Among other things a wooden church was identified through postholes, clay floors and two identical wells. The excavation revealed a wooden church constructed as a three aisled house without chancel. It looked like a typical early medieval house, but several indicators point out that the wooden building, that once stood here, must have been a church. At the presentation the results of the excavation will be revealed.

During the last couple of years several wooden churches have been discovered mainly through excavations of redundant churches. For a long time the flat plan of wooden churches in Denmark have been described as small versions of today's churches made of stone - without any critical notes to what actually have been found on the excavation site. If the flat plan did not look like a church, it was not a church. The discovery of the wooden church in Hedensted led to a renewed look at the material from old excavated wooden churches. The task was to focus on what was actually found at the excavation site, and not just what was published later on. Another aim was to find a chronological development of the churches construction, before the stone churches became tradition in Denmark in the 12<sup>th</sup> century.