The Dark Age of the Lowlands in an Interdisciplinary Light

People, landscape and climate between AD 300 and 1000

Introduction

The late-Roman period (AD 270-450) and Early Middle Ages (AD 450-1050) in the Netherlands witnessed major changes in landscape, economy, demography and possibly also climate. Archaeological evidence throughout north-western Europe, including the Netherlands, indicates changing settlement patterns and severe demographic decline in the late-Roman and post-Roman periods. To fully understand the processes behind these changes, it is necessary to combine datasets of archaeology, geomorphology, past climate and vegetation.

Our research programme focuses on analysing and reconstructing the complex and dynamic interplay between cultural, landscape and climatic factors between AD 300 and 1000 in the Lowlands and a broader northwest-European context. The study will greatly improve our understanding of the development of the early-medieval Lowlands and strongly enhance the scientific framework for future research to this key period.

Method

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