



Organisation der Vereinten Nationen für Bildung, Wissenschaft und Kultur



Harz - Braunschweiger Land - Ostfalen UNESCO Global Geopark

Landmark <mark>23</mark>



Imperial Palace Werla









Networks of the Geoparks NATIONALER GEOPARK 28 Overview of the Geopark Harz . Braunschweiger Land . Ostfalen.



Der Geopark Harz · Braunschweiger Land · Ostfalen wurde 2002 gegründet. Der oben stehenden Übersichtskarte können Sie die Lage aller bisher eingerichteten Landmarken entnehmen.

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Imperial Palace Werla

Kings and emperors of early Medieval times did not live in a designed capital like those of today but ruled their territories while travelling from place to place together with their royal household of about 1000 people. They stopped for several days at convenient localities where they could perform their governmental activities and meet high-ranking nobles and church dignitaries. Those places were called "Pfalz" (=imperial palace, from latin "palatium"). Werla was such a place which had a great importance during the Otto dynasty between 920 and 1002 AD. It is known by written records for numerous visits of kings and meetings of nobles, and even decisions for the succession of kings have been made here.

The Imperial Palace Werla consisted of three separate areas. The core was fortified by a ringwall with towers and contained stone buildings, including a chapel





The Western Gate

Aerial view of the Western Gate

and some large halls where the king could meet his entourage. Visible from a distance, the king's private house was situated on the southern edge and characterized by a luxurious interior, including a hot air heating system.

A long stone wall surounded the three outer baileys ("suburbia") of 17 hectares in total together with considerable ditches and earth walls consisting of the excavated material. In total, Werla represents the strongest fortification of its time known from the northern foreland of the Harz Mountains. The suburbia consisted of storehouses, barns and working huts which were constructed as pit houses protected by a simple roof. They were mainly used for compulsory labour for weaving extensive panels of sheeps wool which served as a tribute to the king and were traded on his order. Processing of copper and silver (most probably derived from mines in the Harz Mountains) is witness of the kings power concerning raw materials and craftsmen.

The buildings in the suburbia were loosely grouped and the space in between could have been used for setting up tents and placing waggons during visits of the king. A multi-storey half-timbered building may have housed the administrative staff of Werla.

The estate of the king around the palace formed a lage economic unit ("Wirtschaftshof", lat. "curtis"). People of the area were obliged to do compulsory labour and had especially to take care of catering during the visit of a king.

Werla thus served for three purposes: the fortification guaranteed security for the estate of the king, the representative architecture expressed imperial power and the products of the estate served as an important income for the king.

The Archaeological Park "Kaiserpfalz Werla" is the largest archaeological park of northern Germany. It

Hornburg, a city of half-timbered Renaissance buildings

Hornburg is characterized by its half-timbered Renaissance houses with overhanging storeys and ornamented timbers beautifully decorated by painted carvings such as fan-rosettes, fan-friezes and sayings or other inscriptions. The municipal pharmacy from 1609 represents the most beautiful example of these buildings in the old centre of the town.

According to an inscription the watermill "Hagenmühle" on the river Ilse dates back to the year 1604, however, there is knowledge of a precursor building dating from at least 1552. The waterwheel still exists and is actually used for generation of power.

The castle of Hornburg is the landmark of the city and served initially as a border fortification for the diocese of Halberstadt. In 1005 it was the birthplace of Suitger von Morsleben und Hornburg who later became the bishop of Bamberg and finally in 1046 the first German pope,





is situated east of the County Road L 615 between Schladen and Werlaburgdorf. There is no entrance fee and the area is freely accessible. People not especially interested in archaeology but simply seeking peace and recreation in a natural surrounding are also very welcome!

Clemens II. The castle was destroyed for the first time in 1113 and a second time by Henry the Lion in 1179, however, two years later Barbarossa started from here to his battle against Henry the Lion. Following the next destruction in 1430 the castle was reconstructed and heavily fortified later in the 15th century, including seven corner towers, a keep and three ringwalls. During the Thirty Year's War it was a target for Imperial and Swedish troups and was finally destroyed in 1645 by the Swedish general Königsmarck. Based on a print by Merian, Georg Lüdecke partly reconstructed the castle in 1927 on the remaining foundations. From the distance an historicized shape now gives the impression of a Medieval castle.

The post-Gothic hall church Beatae Mariae Virginis from 1616 is regarded as one of the nicest examples of early Protestant churches in the northern foreland of the Harz Mountains. The front of the organ was designed by Christoph Cuntzius at the beginning of the 18th century and represents one of the most important of its kind in northern Germany.



The Jewish community of Hornburg

The oldest written record of Jewish people in Hornburg dates back to the middle of the 17th century. The first protective letter for Jewish families is from prince-bishop Leopold Wilhelm von Halberstadt in 1642. Due to conflicts with municipal authorities the economic situation of the Jewish community of Hornburg remained problematic for all of the time of its existence. Following official advice by Prussian king Friedrich II to the municipal authorities a run-down building at the towns periphery not far from the Marienkirche (St. Mary's church) was converted into a baroque style synagogue. It directly followed the model of the synagogue of Halberstadt which had been built by the banker Lehmann in 1712.

The synagogue building fell into disrepair at the beginning of the last century, was sold to the municipality and finally dismantled. However, the complete interior is preserved and on display in the Jewish department "Hinter Aegidien" of the



Heimathaus Alte Mühle Schladen

The name already indicates the site for the local museum (=Heimathaus) of Schladen in the building of an old mill (=Alte Mühle) that had been constructed as a watermill in the herb garden of the former manor house of Schladen. When the mill system of the Braunschweiger Land (=Region of Brunswick) was streamlined the mill was demolished in 1957. Following a suggestion of Adolf Reinecke, the former head of the village administration, the building was transferred to its present use as a local museum in 1966. The museum was finally taken over by a newly founded association of friends in 1978.

The rustic half-timber building today accommodates important artefacts for the region around Schladen. Individual sections of the exhibition literally allow visitors to dive into the selected time slices on display. A rich selection of archaeological objects is evidence for a settlement history of 7.000 years covering late Stone





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of the Hornburg synagogue Heimathaus Schl



Detail from the interior of the Heimathaus Schladen

Braunschweigisches Landesmuseum in Brunswick. It now represents the only completely preserved interior of an 18th century synagogue from northern Germany.

The Jews of Hornburg also had a cemetary available which most probably was situated on an area of about 1.600 m2 at the edge of the town outside the Halberstadt Gate. The first documented burial is that of Isaac Moses Schöningh in 1672. The Jewish cemetary of Hornburg was jointly used by the Jewish community of Wolfenbüttel until 1724. There is a record of ca. 85 burial sites with horizontally laid tombstones instead of erected monuments. The death of Amalie Schwabe in 1923 marks the end of the Jewish community in Hornburg

Age, Bronze Age, Iron Age and Medieval times. Clearly arranged information panels give explanations in words and images.

A special focus is devoted to the Otto dynasty in the 10th and 11th century when the Imperial Palace of Werla gave supraregional importance to the area.

Modern objects showcase life and work around 1900. They make the history of the village and its community, its associations, societies and churches transparent to the visitor.

Another subsidiary part of the exhibition is devoted to the most important son of Schladen, the Bavarian royal master builder Leo von Klenze (1784-1864).

The Heimathaus Alte Mühle is open for the public each first Sunday of the month from 14.00-17.00

www.heimathaus-schladen.de



5 The Kukeriulenburg on the Burgberg

A 1.5 m high and 8 m wide wall are today's evidence for the Kukeriulenburg "castle" on the so-called Burgberg (=castle hill) at Gielde. The wall is presently accompanied on the outside to the south, west and north by a 7 m wide and up to 1.5 m deep graben (= ditch). Because of a steep slope forming a natural barrier, a graben is absent to the east. Originally the wall was more narrow and twice as high, strengthened by a stone wall or palisade on the outside and with a parapet walk on the top. Originally the graben was two or three times deeper than today. The basic outline of the structure is oval (65 by 105 m) surrounding an area of about 0.5 hectare. The southern of the two interruptions of the wall probably represents a historic gate. In the southern part of the area there is an oval podium which is surrounded by a shallow ditch and may represent the remnants of a larger building inside.



6 Schalksburg in the Oderwald

The Schalksburg in the forested ridge of the Oderwald is one of the best preserved wall-graben complexes in the Braunschweiger Land (=Region of Brunswick). In the field there is a ca. 10 m wide and up to 2 m high earthwork preserved which is accompanied on the outside by an up to 7 m wide and 1.5 m deep graben. In its original construction the wall was narrower and more than two times higher with a stone wall or palisade on the outside and a parapet walk on the top; the graben was two or three times deeper than today.

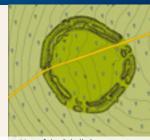
The outline of the Schalksburg is irregularly circular with a diameter of 100 to 105 m between the walls. The area within the fortification is 0.85 hectare. Only two of the six interruptions in the wall (those to the east and to the south) may be assigned to former gates. It is unknown if there were buildings inside





Map of the Burgberg at Gielde with Kuker





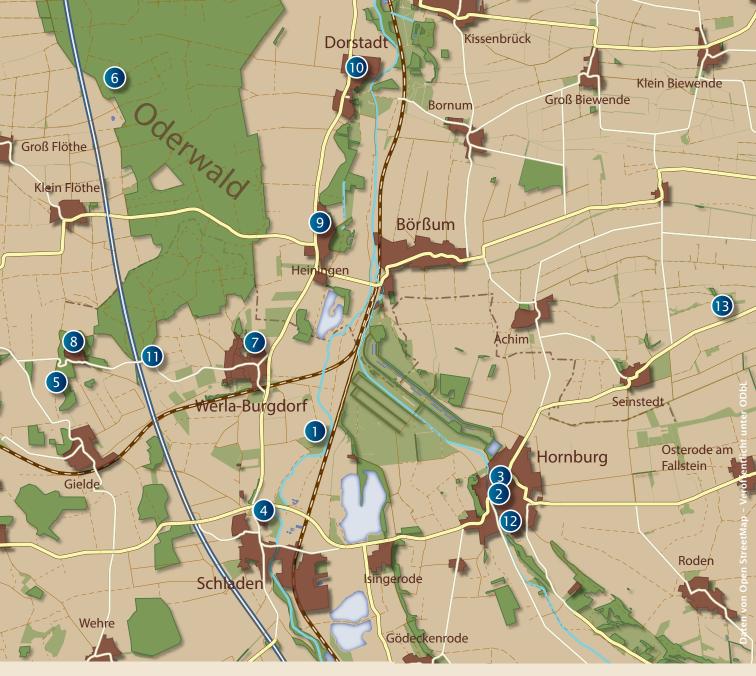
Schalksburg Oderwald: Graben, wall and causeway

Map of the Schalksburg area

It is unknown if the curious name "Kukeriulenburg" goes back to the time of the construction of the fortification. According to oral tradition it was used for keeping livestock, however, this may point to a later use when the "castle" had lost its original function. Since any written record is missing and there have been no excavations made it can only be speculated about the origin of the structure. Mode of construction, size, shape and topographic position may point to an origin around 900 AD. This could indicate some relationship to the Imperial Palace Werla which is only 4 km to the east.

the structure, however, there may have been a few wooden constructions but no domestic buildings. There is no written record existing on the Schallksburg and no excavations have been made. Therefore it is difficult to speculate about the time of construction. However, a comparison with similar but better explored wall-graben complexes allows for a potential dating around 900 AD. Similar to the Kukeriulenburg, the Steterburg at Salzgitter-Thiede and the Imperial Palace Werla it may have been built as a response to the Hungarian invasions before 936. It could have served as a shelter for a small community that was based in the loess-covered rural areas adjacent to the west.

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Explanations to the map

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Burial Ground of Werlaburgdorf

Fulfilling its task as a temporary residence for the emperor, a Medieval imperial palace depended on supplies from the surrounding countryside. Therefore the contemporary cemetary of Werlaburgdorf with ca. 260 graves deserves special attention. It not only represents the largest necropolis of its kind in the Braunschweiger Land (=Region of Brunswick) but is the only one which has been excavated and studied completely.

The cemetary was used by a simple community of rural people living within sight of the the imperial palace. The skeletons tell about hard labour, e.g., in agriculture or in the production of textiles. A community of about five to seven families in the respective village is indicated by the relationship between the number of burials and the time the burial site had been used.



Dove-shaped fibula from the burial ground of Werlaburgdorf

The few grave goods which have been found show that christianity was not unknown to the community. One of the families obviously belonged to a higher class and presumably occupied leading positions within the village community. The rest of the graves appeared poor and may have represented the burial sites of bondslaves or true slaves.

The 9th and 10th century witnessed a deep transformation of the Saxon territory which was politically reorganized and became dominantly christianized. The cemetary of Werlaburgdorf therefore allows a special perspective on the neighbouring Imperal Palace Werla and the consequences of its establishment for the rural population around.

A dove-shaped fibula with an inlay of aquamarine and a cross on the rear side is a remarkable grave good from the Werlaburgdorf cemetary since the dove serves as a symbol for baptism and the holy spirit in christianity.



Manor of Altenrode

The manor of Altenrode today is a large agricultural business, however, its history goes back to Medieval times. Besides residential buildings and buildings for other purposes there is a ballroom in an opulently modified sheep shelter. The manor originally served as an appendix giving entrance (=Vorwerk) to the monastery of Heiningen. The manor was completely owned by the monastery starting from 1306. Probably at the same time a 600 m long stone wall was constructed around the property from remnants of the castle at Gielde or even from the Imperial Palace Werla. As a consequence of the liquidation of diocese and monastery in Napoleonic times Altenrode was privatized together with Heiningen. Christian Heinrich Wätjen (1813-1887), a shipowner and trader from Bremen purchased the property together with 205 hectares of agricultural land and forest in 1872.



Manor of Altenrode

Presently it is owned in the 6th generation by the Wätjen's family. The property forms a small district of the village of Gielde and is surrounded by forest. It appears like a large landscape garden including ponds and the surrounding stone wall of the former monastery and offers a free and scenic view towards the Harz Mountains.

Altenrode is under monument protection since 1992. Modern crop-farming today is organized here as a Society of Civil Right (Gesellschaft bürgerlichen Rechts or GbR) together with two neighbouring farms.

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Monastery of Heiningen with St. Peter and Paul church

The monastery of Heiningen has a close relationship to the Imperial Palace Werla. Due to a donation of two ladies, Hildeswid and Alburgis, from the noble family of the Billungs it was founded around 1000 and included a large property. This is proven by a document of Heinrich II from 1013 for protecting the property. The monastery received a large number of donations from noble circles and many unmarried women joined the convent. Since 1174 Heiningen owned land around Werla and received all related taxes. This income permitted the rise of the monastery.

The only Medieval building remaining from the monastery is the church with its cross-like foundation and a tower. The main building consists of a central nave which is accompanied by two lateral naves reaching half the height of the central one. To the east the main building continues into a square choir with a



10 Mansion of the monastery Dorstadt

The historical manor of Dorstadt is a cultural monument on a large area with buildings representing different architectural styles. It has a park-like appearance and is surrounded by forest and agricultural land. An estate of more than 700 hectares is still owned by the Löbbecke family.

The Saxon noble Arnold von Dorstadt founded the monastery in 1189. As a consequence of the Hildesheim Foundation feud Dorstadt and other parts of the Hildesheim property became part of the dukedom of Brunswick-Luneburg. Since the whole dukedom changed to Lutheran belief in 1568 the monastery was converted to a Lutheran womans convent.

Following restitution of old boundaries in 1643 Dorstadt again came under the influence of the princebishops of Hildesheim. After the end of the Thirty Year's War bishop Maximilian Heinrich von Bayern





semicircular apse attached. Windows and blind arches in the upper part of the central nave become obvious from the inside of the church. The opening between the naves is characterized by columns with square capitals on top.

The monastery was rebuilt during the 12th century and was the church of the parish of Heiningen from 1140. Following a period of decline it flourished again during the 15th century. Between 1542 and 1629 the monastery changed its governance twice and its religious denomination five times. During the Thirty Year's War Heiningen lost most of its property and the buildings were repeatedly destroyed. New buildings for the monastery have been constructed since 1658, partly by using stones which were taken from the ruined church of Werla.

The monastery was finally closed by secularization in 1810. The land was sold and the church became property of the state.

again founded a monastery and settled Augustinian nuns here. They started constructing a new baroquestyle ensemble of buildings which was finished in 1720. The church of the monastery at the same time served as church of the Catholic parish. As a consequence of the end of the Holy Roman Empire the Dorstadt monastery was closed in 1810. It became Prussian property and was later sold to private people. A fire happened there in 1919 and destroyed most of the church. As a consequence the old church was given up and was replaced at another spot by a new one in 1937.

The other buildings of the monastery have been reconstructed in their original style. Today, the owners family, von Löbbecke, Barons of Giersewald, lives in the manor house which originally served as the seat of the prior. A large landscape park extends behind the manor house. The former building of the convent now contains modern apartments for rent.

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Geopath Oderwald

The ridge of the Oderwald is composed of rocks which have been deposited in a tropical epeiric sea during the Cretaceous about 110 to 90 million years ago. Typical rocks are Flammenmergel ("flame-marl"), grey claystones, grey-green Hils-Sandstone and chalk marly limestone (=Plänerkalk). For centuries they have been used as raw materials for building stones (Hils-Sandstone), lime mortar and road pavement (limestone), marling the fields (flame-marl) and the production of bricks (claystone). Like the nearby Elm. Asse and Harly ridges the Oderwald ridge represents a salt structure. Due to a lower density in comparison to limestone, sandstone and claystone, salt started moving upward when a certain overburden was reached. This caused a flat turtleback-like bulge and Cretaceous rocks reached the surface in the Oderwald. Due to the abovementioned structure there is a focus on outcrops of Cretaceous rocks along the geopath in the

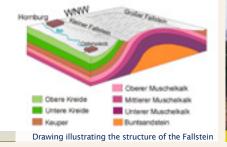


Geopath Fallstein and other Geosites near Hornburg

A mosaic of biotopes becomes accessible by a number of hiking paths between Hornburg and Osterwiek, leading from species-rich deciduous forests to semidry grassland showing the flowers of spring adonis ("Adonisröschen"/Adonis vernalis) in early spring. The paths lead along crests consisting of Upper Cretaceous limestones, together forming the ridge of the "Kleiner Fallstein". Other spots for geological experience in the surrounding area are the gravel pit on the "Klapperberg" at Isingerode with its colonies of sand martins, a peat pit in the "Grosses Bruch", and a spring pond, a former travertine quarry and some sinkholes at Steinmühle. The guarry at Hoppenstedt with a succession of inclined white and reddish chalk marly limestone (=Plänerkalk) is a protected natural monument belonging to Landmark 14 "Kloster Huysburg". Due to their resistance against weathering limestones of Cretaceous age form a crest (up









southern part of the Oderwald. The 2½ hour hiking loop starts on a parking place at County Road L 83 between Werlaburgdorf and Altenrode. It leads successively

- · to a scenic view of the panorama of the Harz Mountains.
- to a trench showing a soil profile on loess,
- · to the so-called Hils-Sandstone which has been used in Medieval times amongst others for the construction of the Imperial Palace Werla,
- · to an outcrop of the so-called minimus-clay which is named after a characteristic belemnite and has been used in a brickwork.
- · back through a vale which is fully covered by spring snowflake ("Märzenbecher"/Leucojum vernum) in early spring.
- · to a former guarry in white chalk marly limestone (=Plänerkalk).
- · and finally back to the parking place.

to 167 m above sea level) at the edge of the conspicious ridge of the "Grosser Fallstein". The joint structure of the "Kleiner Fallstein" and "Grosser Fallstein" formed at the end of Cretaceous times (about 70 million years ago) and is caused by a flat pillow of Upper Permian (Zechstein) salt in the underground. The Mesozoic rocks on the central ridge of the "Grosser Fallstein" are of Early and, mainly, of Middle Triassic age (Bunter and Muschelkalk). Deposits of Jurassic age have mostly been removed by erosion during early Cretaceous times. Reworking of their sideritic concretions along the coastline led to the formation of Lower Cretaceous iron ore, however, these debris ores have never been mined here.

Erratic boulders of glacial origin on top of the "Grosser Fallstein" are evidence for Scandinavian inland ice overriding the structure during the Pleistocene. This happened for the last time during the Saale Glaciation between 330.000 and 127.000 years Before Present.

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13 Geosite Fuchsberg Seinstedt

The Fuchsberg between Seinstedt and Hedeper is situated east of County Road L 82. The large area of an old and partly overgrown quarry shows flat-lying loosely cemented sandstones of Late Triassic (Rhaetian) age. The quarry is situated on the northwestern flank of the Fallstein salt structure where a rising pillow of Upper Permian (Zechstein) salt lifted younger rocks. Therefore, the core of the Fallstein shows Lower and, especially, Middle Triassic rocks at the surface which are normally covered by a thick layer of younger rocks.

The Fuchsberg quarry is one of few exposures in the Geopark showing lower Rhaetian sandstones of the upper Keuper (uppermost Triassic). The massive fine sandstones show channel cross-bedding, however, there are some fine grained intercalations of mostly horizontally bedded claystones and siltstones. These intercalations provided numerous remains of a poor flora but a rich





fauna including some fishes and a diverse association of arthropods. The latter include Conchostraca, limulids and many insects. The lower Rhaetian sediments were formed in a fluvial environment which included some lakes. However, the following thin-layered to platy and partly flasered sandstones (=Flasersandstein) of the middle Rhaetian have been assigned to a fluvio-deltaic environment. Sometimes there is a bonebed developed at the base of the middle Rhaetian.

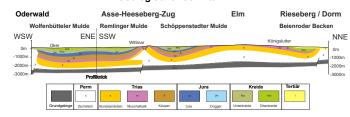


Underground Geology of the Braunschweiger Land (Region of Brunswick)

The underground of the Braunschweiger Land (=Region of Brunswick) is dominated by Mesozoic sedimentary rocks. They are covered in its northern part by unconsolidated rocks, rarely of Tertiary but mainly of Quarternary age. Pre-Permian basement rocks like those of the Harz Mountain's Palaeozoic are covered by an up to 2000 m thick pile of Mesozoic rocks. The base of the Mesozoic cover rises to the north and reaches about 500 m depth in the valley of the river Aller until Paleozoic rocks reappear at the surface in the Flechtingen-ridge.

Change of dynamics in salt movement led to individually formed salt structures ranging from simple salt pillows (example Elm) to complex diapirs (example Asse). Synclines between the salt structures mainly formed as rim synclines due to salt withdrawal. They are especially

Geologischer Schnitt



Section through the Region of Brunswick from NNE to WSW including Elm and Asse

characterized by a filling of Cretaceous rocks while sediments (mainly sands and lignite) of Tertiary age are limited to the secondary rim synclines of the Helmstedt-Oschersleben-Staßfurt salt wall.

However, the Region of Brunswick underground is not only characterized by salt tectonics. Another component is a different depth of the basement which is caused by the dynamics along deep-seated faults. Altogether this is the reason for a varied and complex geological and structural history that includes differently oriented faults. graben structures and inversions.



Reconstruction of Imperial Palace Werla in aerial view

The Geopark includes areas belonging to three of the Federal States of Germany, Lower Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt and Thuringia. It comprises the cities of Wolfsburg, Salzgitter and Brunswick and the counties of Peine, Wolfenbüttel, Goslar, Göttingen, Harz, Südharz-Mansfeld and Nordhausen. The area also includes some adjacent cities and communities of the surrounding counties of Northeim, Börde and Salzland.

Responsible for the Geopark as a whole is the Geopark Harz. Braunschweiger Land . Ostfalen GbR. The Society of Civil Right (=Gesellschaft bürgerlichen Rechts or GbR) is formed equally by the Geopark Trägerverein Braunschweiger Land-Ostfalen, and the Regionalverband Harz, both legally registered associations (e.V.). The Trägerverein (=governing association) Braunschweiger Land-Ostfalen, a non-profit organisation, is active in the protection of geotopes, in education for sustainability, in the development of the region and in supporting scientific research. It is responsible for the northern part of the Geopark where it is taking care of Geopark Infocentres and Infopoints, Landmarks, Geopaths and individual Geosites together with regional partners. The northern part of the Geopark stretches from Wolfsburg in the north to the "Fallstein" in the south and from Peine in the west to Haldensleben in the east

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Supported by ECHY 2018 through the Niedersächsisches Landesamt für Denkmalpflege

1st edition 2019

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Design and Layout: Frank Gieselmann Translation: Dr. habil. Volker Wilde and Prof. Alan Lord

Printed by: Print Shop Bührig, Königslutter



