

Xena Warrior Princess: DNA test cited as first proof of Viking women warriors

The remains of a powerful Viking — long thought to be a man — was in fact a real-life Xena Warrior Princess, a study released [September 8] reveals. The lady war boss was buried in the mid-10th century along with deadly weapons and two horses, leading archaeologists and historians to assume she was a man, according to the findings [published in the American Journal of Physical Anthropology](#).

Wrong.

“It’s actually a woman, somewhere over the age of 30 and fairly tall, too, measuring around [5 feet 6 inches] tall,” archaeologist Charlotte Hedenstierna-Jonson of Uppsala University, who conducted the study, told The Local.

And she was likely in charge. “Aside from the complete warrior equipment buried along with her — a sword, an ax, a spear, armor-piercing arrows, a battle knife, shields, and two horses — she had a board game in her lap, or more of a war-planning game used to try out battle tactics and strategies, which indicates she was a powerful military leader,” Hedenstierna-Jonson said. “She’s most likely planned, led and taken part in battles.”

The discovery marks the first genetic proof that women were Viking warriors, [according to science publication Phys.org](#).

The GLP aggregated and excerpted this blog/article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion, and analysis. Read full, original post: [Viking skeleton’s DNA test proves historians wrong](#)