



Archaeology of Death

11:2 Death and monuments in the landscape

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c _ t _ s _ _ _

Continuity of Funerary Areas

As we have discussed in the lesson 1, the specialized funerary areas were created within some settlement areas. The funerary areas were usually located in prominent locations in the landscape, such as hills, terraces above the watercourses or grassy knolls above the habitation areas.

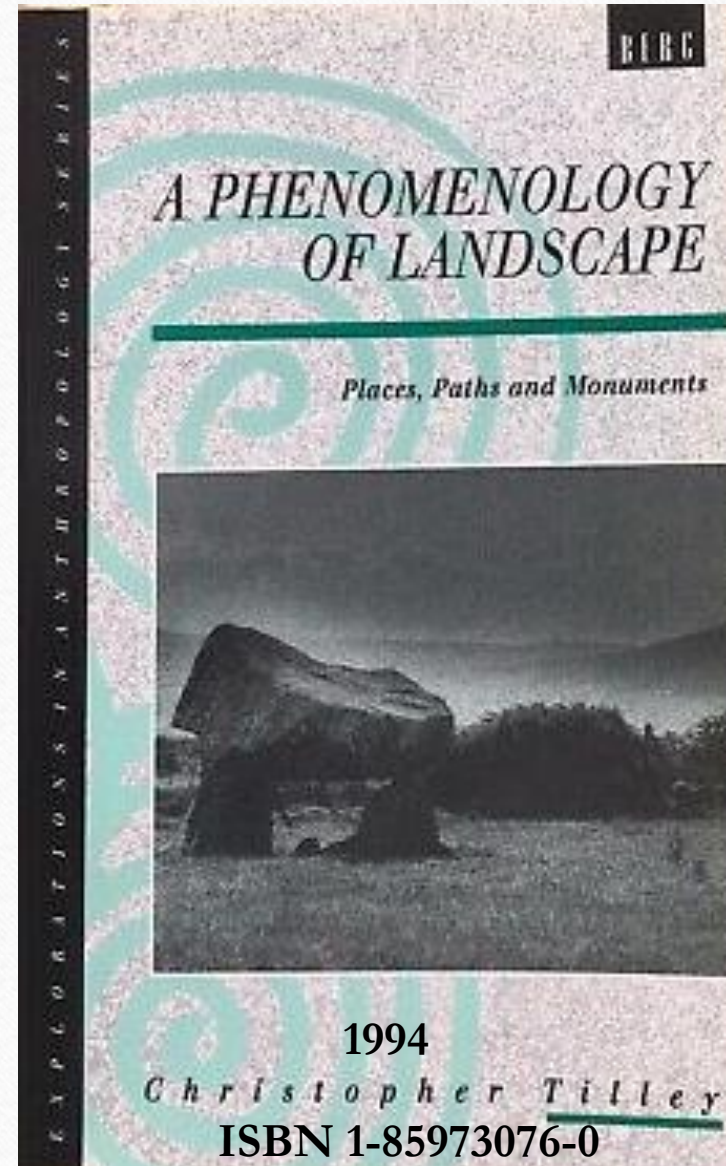
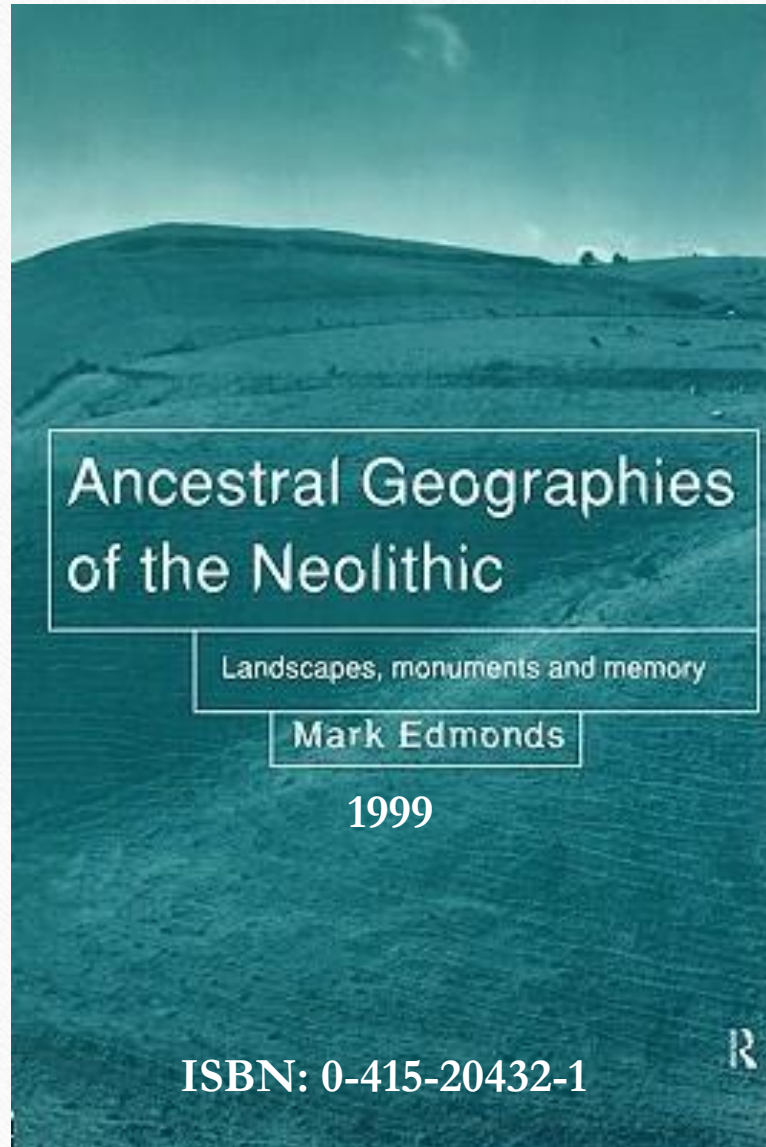
Some locations became so frequently used and sacred that they were repeatedly used by many generations and communities, creating distinctive symbolic continuity covering many centuries or even millennia.

Even if an area was not continuously occupied, the new coming settlers easily recognized the burial mounds of the preceding generations and reused the funerary space and often also the individual funerary monuments.

Just imagine the Central European prehistoric landscape: The first burial mounds started just after mid 5th Millennium in the form of long barrows. This trend continued until the mid 4th Millennium. Common creation of round burial mounds started at the beginning of 3rd Millennium BC and continued till the 4th Century BC (Barrow Cultures). Barrows then re-occurred in the Early Middle Ages (7th – 10th Century AD).

New settlers could easily identify the burial mounds, sometimes several centuries or millennia old, as barrows of their ancestors and they perceived the funerary area as *necropolis*, the place of death and ancestors.

The funerary areas were covered with amazing palimpsest of variety of funerary monuments and their remains were very often visible on ground were visible and respected until the Modern Era machinery ploughing techniques.



Accumulation of funerary events in landscape: Burial mounds in four continents:

Europe



Round barrows in the **Normanton Down** barrow group, Wiltshire, photographed from the air and showing the variety of barrow shapes and sizes that can occur, some with elaborate surrounding ditches and others as simple mounds. Three disc barrows can be easily picked out, while a number of other types including bell and bowl barrows can be identified with a little more scrutiny. Some are tightly clustered together, while others are more widely spaced and single examples such as those outliers in the upper right of the picture can be easily overlooked.

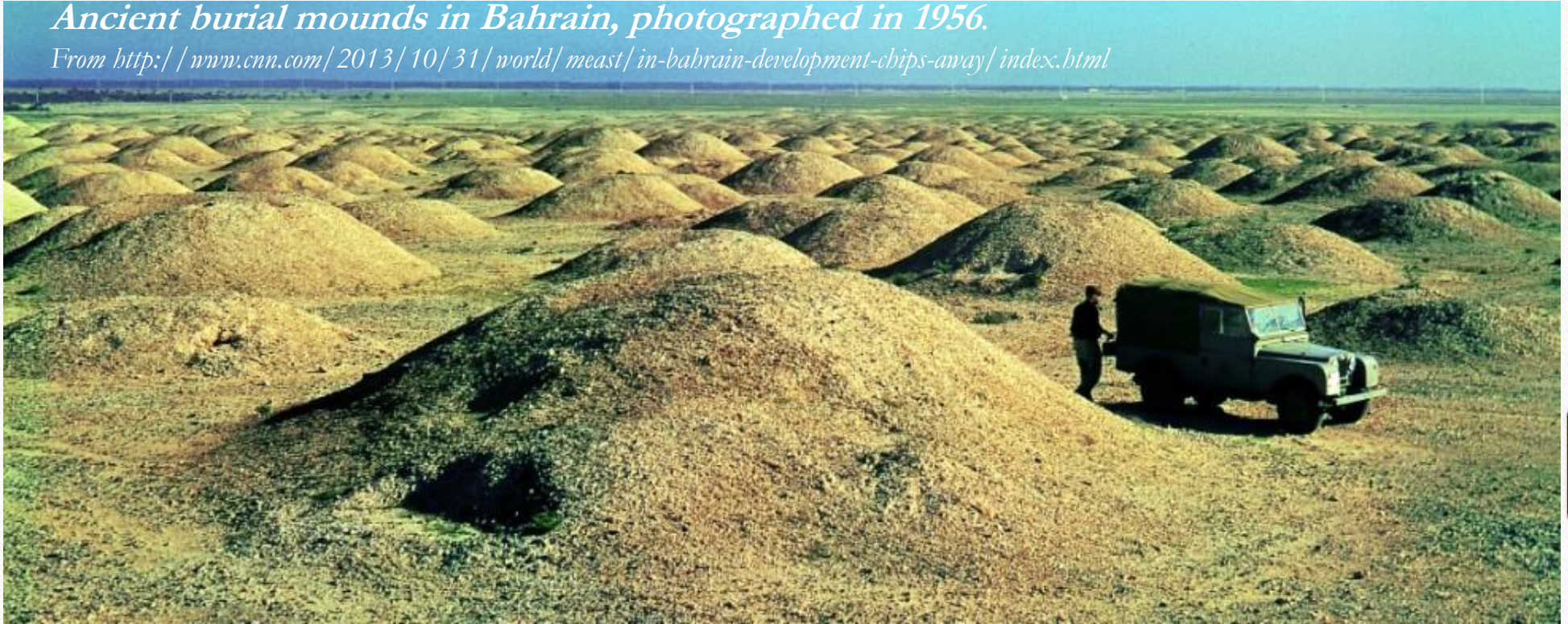
Historic England 2018 Prehistoric Barrows and Burial Mounds: Introductions to Heritage Assets. Swindon. Historic England.

<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/selection-criteria/scheduling-selection/ihas-archaeology/>

West Asia

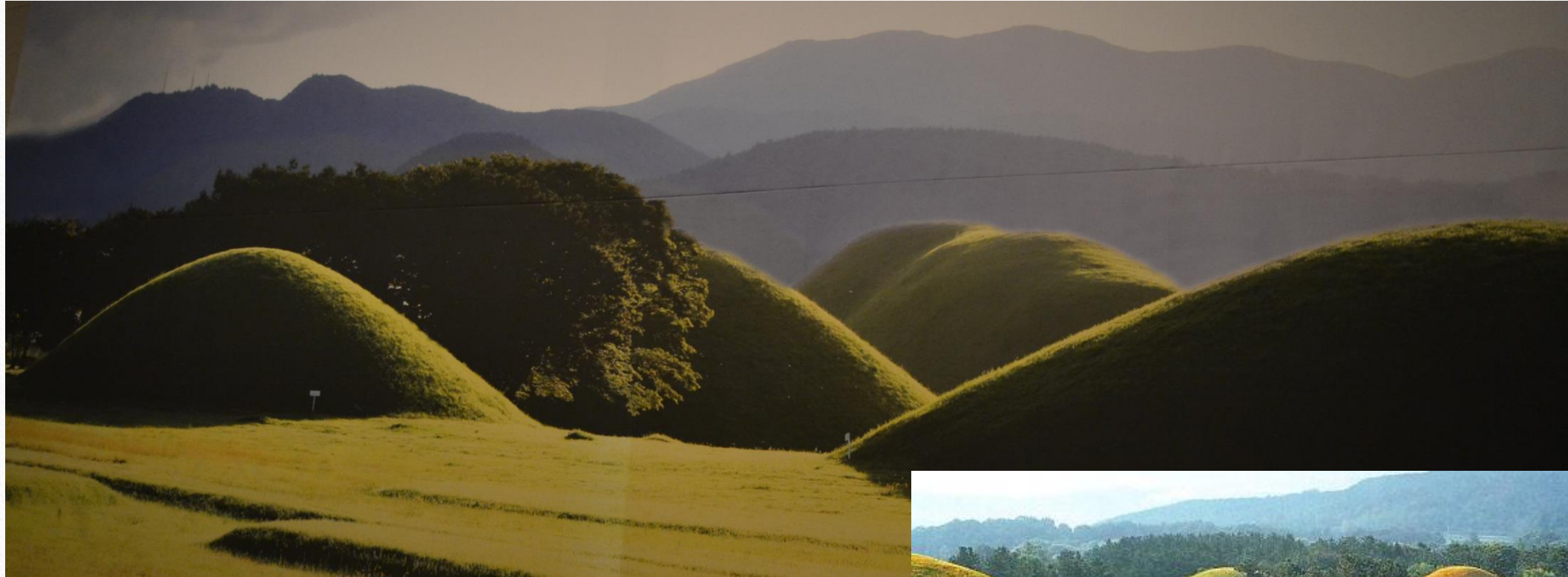
Ancient burial mounds in Bahrain, photographed in 1956.

From <http://www.cnn.com/2013/10/31/world/meast/in-bahrain-development-chips-away/index.html>



Bahrain, Dilmun (4100–3700 BP) one of the largest cemeteries in the ancient world. The cemeteries are concentrated in the north of the island, on the hard stony areas slightly above the arable farming soils – the south of the island is mainly sandy and desert-like. Recent studies have shown that the estimated/approximately 350,000 ancient grave mounds could have been solely produced by the local population over a number of thousands of years. The graves are not all of the same era, or of exactly the same styles, and can vary considerably in size in different areas of the moundfield.





East Asia

Kingdom of Silla
7th Century AD Royal tombs complex
Gyeongju, South Korea.



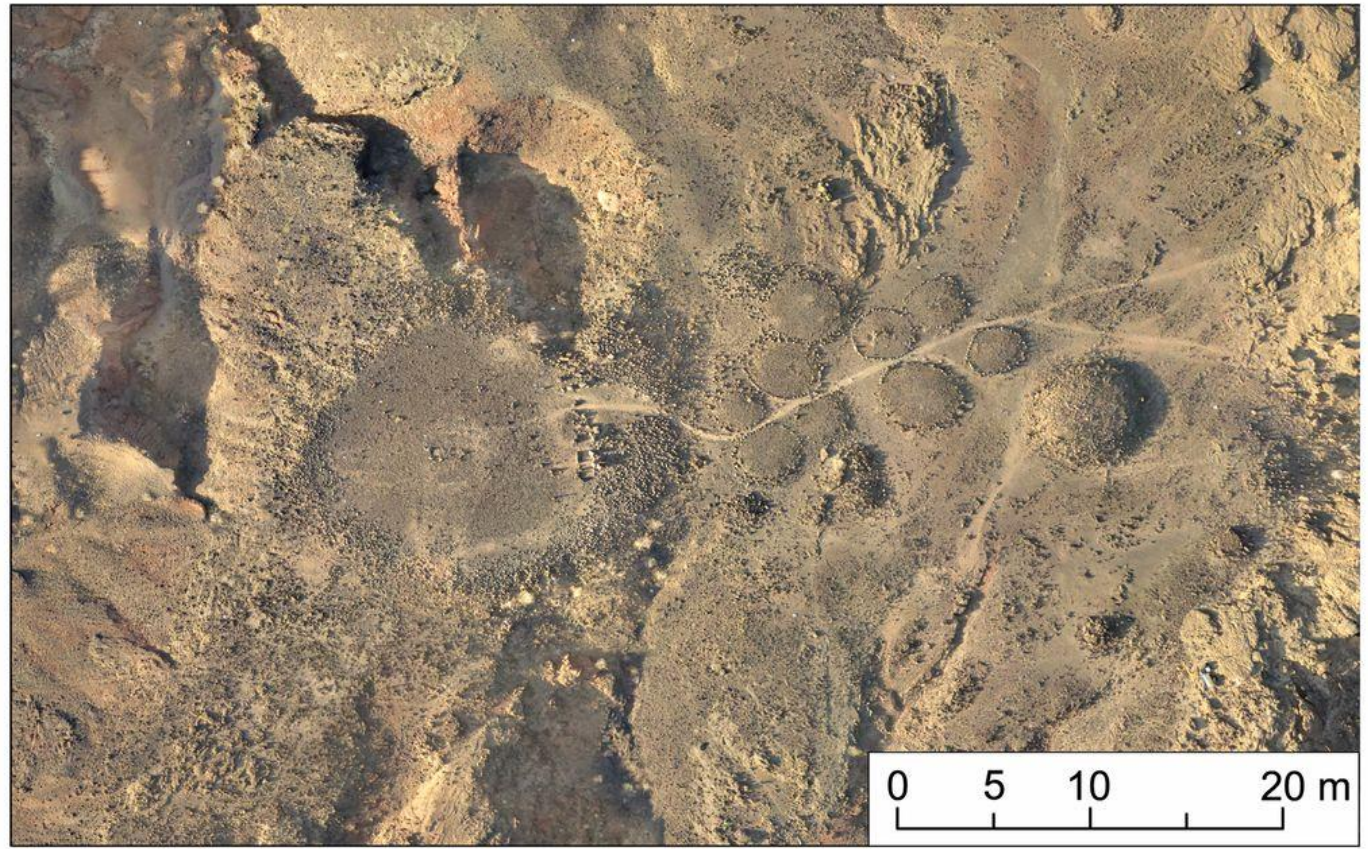
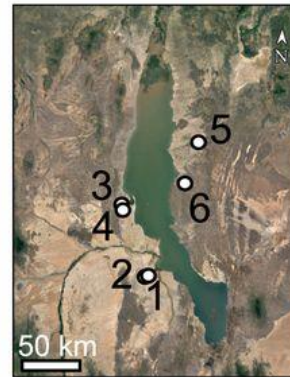
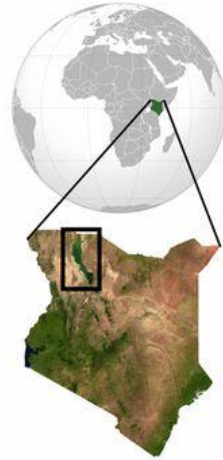


The Takamatsuzuka Tomb (高松塚古墳, Takamatsuzuka Kofun) or "Tall Pine Tree Ancient Burial Mound" in Japanese is an ancient circular tomb in Asuka village, Nara Prefecture, Japan. Built between the end of the 7th century and the beginning of the 8th century AD.

Africa

Elisabeth A. Hildebrand
et al 2018: **A
monumental cemetery
built by eastern
Africa's first herders
near Lake Turkana,
Kenya**

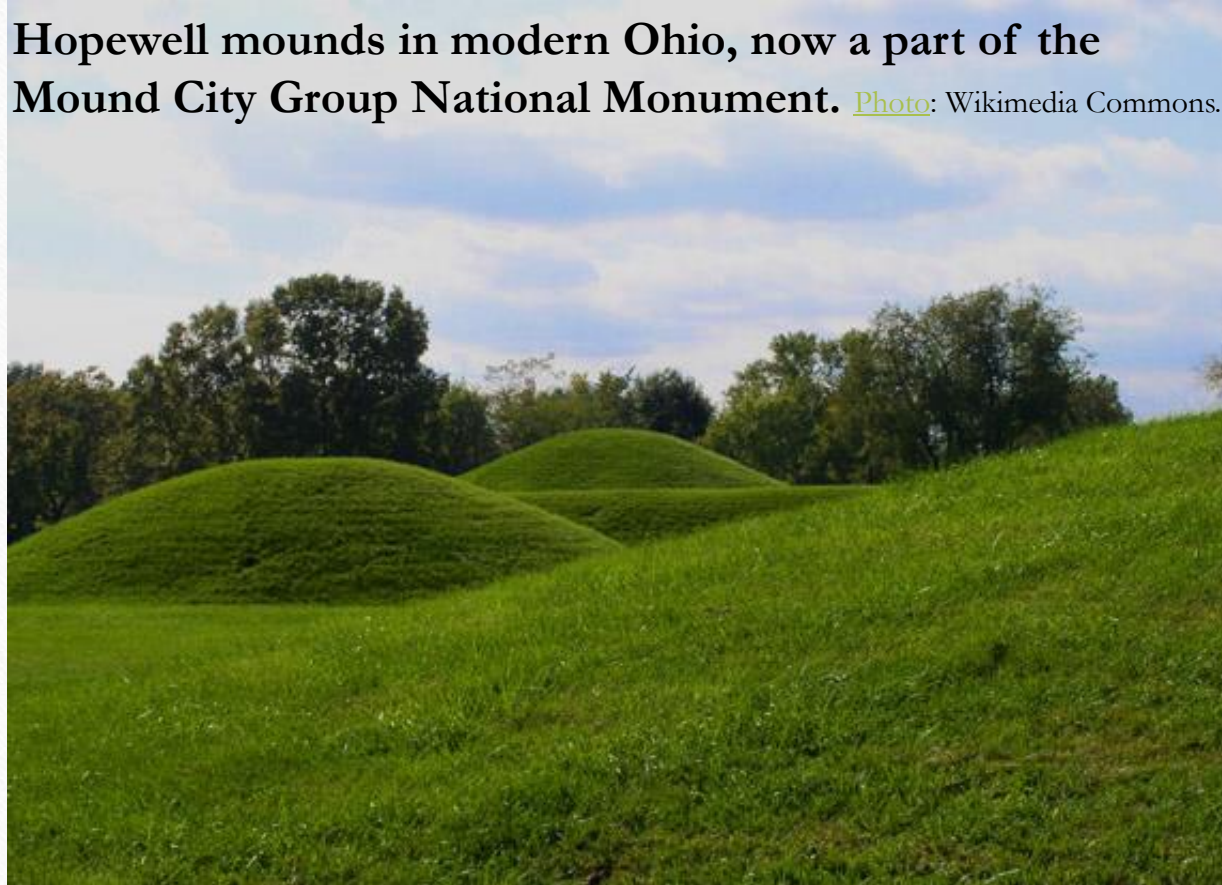
PNAS September 4,
2018 115 (36) 8942-
8947; first published
August 20,
2018 <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1721975115>



Orthoimage of Lothagam North Pillar Site. The platform is the large, flat elliptical area on the west (left) side of the site; the surrounding boulder ring is eroding into gullies on the northwest side. Nine stone circles are visible to the east, on either side of the pathway. The six raised features south and east of the stone circles are cairns. The lower left inset shows locations of contemporaneous pillar sites around the middle Holocene paleo-shoreline of Lake Turkana: 1, Lothagam North Pillar Site (GeJi9); 2, Lothagam West Pillar Site (GeJi10); 3, Manemanya Pillar Site (GcJh5); 4, Kalokol Pillar Site (GcJh3); 5, Il Lokeridede Pillar Site (GaJi23); and 6, Jarigole Pillar Site (GbJj1). All locations are georeferenced except Il Lokeridede.

North America

Hopewell mounds in modern Ohio, now a part of the Mound City Group National Monument. [Photo](#): Wikimedia Commons.



Hopewellian culture began the tradition of mound-building, which would extend down to the Southeast into the next century. All throughout the Ohio River Valley, Native Americans built mounds in the earth where they would bury their deceased. Other archaeologists argue that they were intended for ceremonial purposes. Either way, large mounds and animal-shaped earthworks still exist throughout this area today.



Archaeology of Burial Mounds

edited by LADISLAV ŠMEJDA

Šmejda, V. – Turek, J. – Thrane, H.
(eds.) 2006: *Archaeology of Burial
Mounds*, Dryada, Plzeň.
ISBN 80-903412-6-8

dryada, ArchaEOlogica series

TRAVAUX DE LA MAISON DE L'ORIENT ET DE LA MÉDITERRANÉE

N° 58



ANCESTRAL LANDSCAPES BURIAL MOUNDS IN THE COPPER AND BRONZE AGES (Central and Eastern Europe – Balkans – Adriatic – Aegean, 4th-2nd millennium B.C.)

Edited by

Elisabetta BORGNA and Sylvie MÜLLER CELKA

ISBN: 978-2-35668-022-8



Beaker barrows and the houses of dead

Jan Turek

In: Šmejda, L. – Turek, J. – Thrane, H. (eds.) 2006: Archaeology of Burial Mounds, 170-179.

Introduction

The main purpose is to discuss the question on missing evidence of barrows of the late Eneolithic Corded Ware and Bell Beaker period in Central Europe. Variety of problems of demographic representation of cemeteries, burial customs and spatial structure of funerary areas are connected to the missing barrows. The crucial aim of this paper is to emphasise the variability of late Eneolithic funerary monuments, including the discussion on burial chambers and circular ditches, yet another type of funerary construction without an earthed mound that may be described as houses of dead.

Perishable monuments

Burial rites of the late Eneolithic period in central Europe concerned on the symbolic demonstration of social status and representation of social categories. The funerary symbolism of Corded Ware and Bell Beaker Cultures is using similar expressions, such as positioning and orientation of inhumations and choice of significant gendered grave goods (Cf. Turek 2000; 2002; 2003 with further references). Another common phenomenon of the late Eneolithic burial customs was covering the grave cuts with burial mounds. The traces of prehistoric burial mounds however disappeared in most of the lowland deforested regions of central Europe due to the intense agricultural cultivation. This is very probably the reason why we can not detect the Corded Ware and Bell Beaker burial mounds in the current countryside of Bohemia, Moravia and neighbouring regions. Another important destructive factor is erosion. The purely earthen burial mounds of the Corded Ware and Bell Beaker period were generally more affected by erosion than burial mounds of some other prehistoric periods (e.g. Tumuli Culture, Hallstatt D etc.), that were using more stone in their constructions. As we know from the subterranean parts of late Eneolithic graves the stone was only rarely used for construction of burial mounds. The sunken grave cuts contain very small amount of stones if any at all. This appears to be a great difference in comparison to the subsequent Únětice period. The Únětice graves, especially of the "classical" period are usually packed with stone (especially in the central Bohemia). However, it needs to be observed that the survival of Únětice barrows is also very low (e.g. Čejetický-Choboty, District Mladá Boleslav, Plesl 1959).

VISIBLE AND INVISIBLE MONUMENTS

LATE ENEOLITHIC BURIAL MOUNDS IN FORESTED AREAS OF CENTRAL MORAVIA

In: Ancestral Landscapes.TMO 61, Maison de l'Orient et de la Méditerranée, Lyon, 2011, 107-117. 978-2-35668-022-8

Jan TUREK*, Jaroslav PEŠKA**, Andrea MATĚJÍČKOVÁ***

ABSTRACT

The main purpose of this paper is to contribute archaeological data towards the ongoing discussion on the missing evidence of barrows of the late Eneolithic Corded Ware and Bell Beaker period in Central Europe. A variety of problems, such as demographic representation of cemeteries, burial customs and the spatial structure of funerary areas is associated with the missing barrows. The sites, such as Dřevohostice (East Moravia), represent one of the few examples of Eneolithic cemeteries with remaining surface relics of funerary activities. We also stress that the variability of late Eneolithic funerary monuments is, however, commonly reduced by modern ploughing and erosion. Therefore, the evidence from exceptionally preserved barrow cemeteries in Central Moravia is enormously important for the reconstruction of the structure and extent of cemeteries in the ploughed landscape. Such sites represent an exceptional opportunity to investigate the evidence of otherwise missing and highly invisible archaeological data. Furthermore, in some respects, this opportunity may be thought of as the key to answering many of the questions regarding Late Eneolithic funerary archaeology. In this paper we are going to summarize the aims and methodology of recent research into the late Eneolithic Corded Ware and Bell Beaker burial mounds.

Corded Ware & Bell Beaker Barrows at Dřevohostice, Central Moravia



There are many questions on the spatial and chronological development of such barrow cemeteries (including the questions of continuity in use, satellite burials, use of space between individual barrows) that would greatly contribute towards the modelling of the late Eneolithic cemeteries excavated in the eroded and ploughed landscapes (cf. Krut'ová – Turek 2004).

Vanishing mounds - missing evidence

Considering the integrity and completeness of the late Eneolithic funerary sites in the ploughed landscape one has to bear in mind that the subterranean part of a burial monument is usually less than half of the original tomb construction. As we suggested earlier, the amount of funerary data we are missing from eroded and ploughed away burial mounds is enormous. What could be missing? Later burials, votive offerings, traces of construction, reopening and possible extension and reuse of burial mounds, as well as, environmental data from levels buried within the mound.

Vanishing mounds - missing evidence

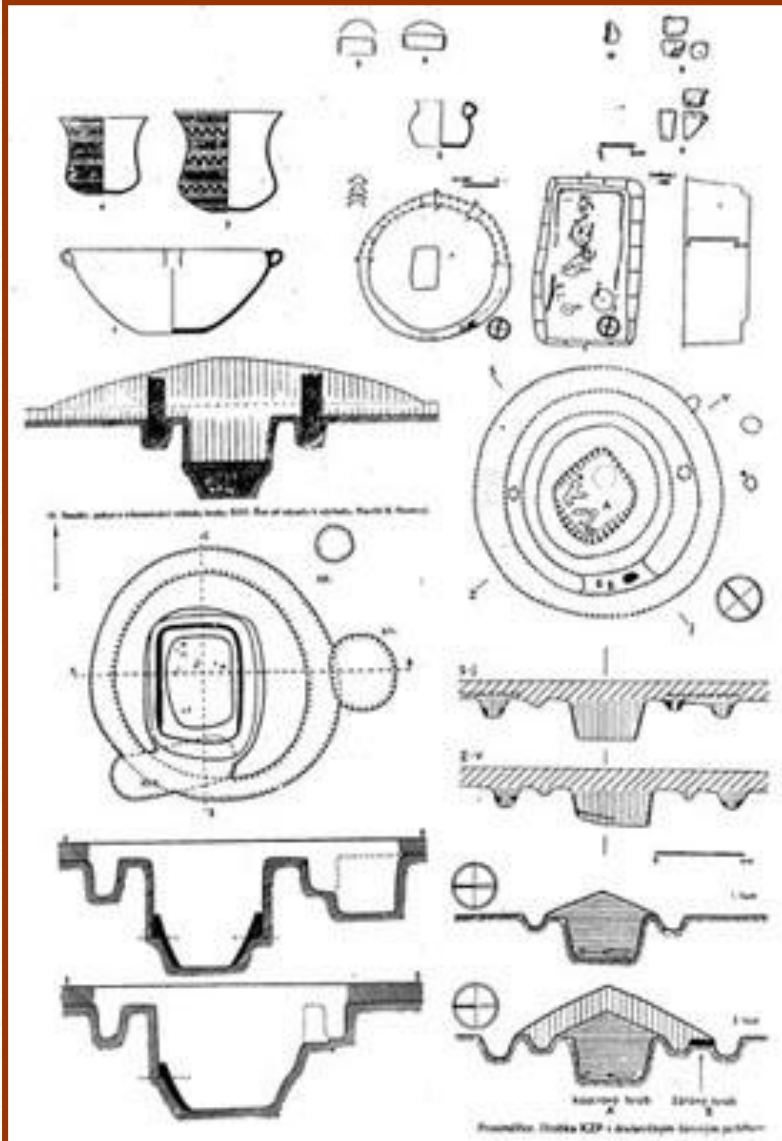
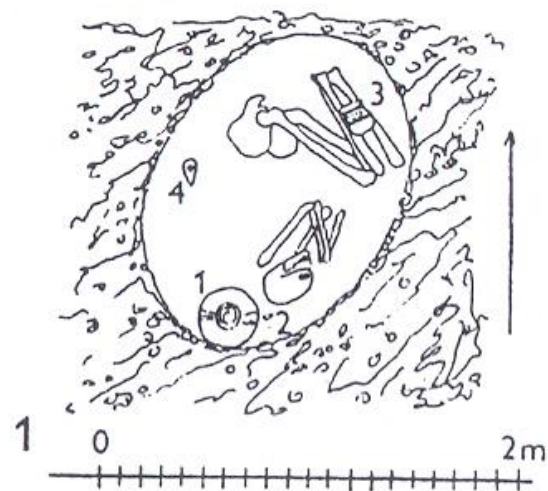
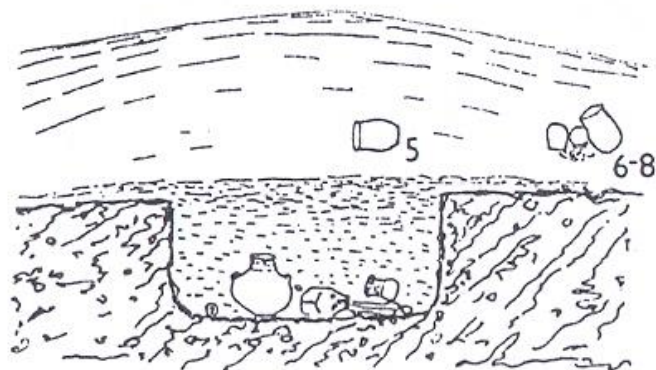
Considering the integrity and completeness of the late Eneolithic funerary sites in the ploughed landscape one has to bear in mind that the subterranean part of a burial monument is usually less than half of the original tomb construction.

The amount of funerary data we are missing from eroded and ploughed away burial mounds is enormous.

What could be missing?

- evidence of reuse of burial mounds
- votive offerings,
- traces of construction,
- traces of re-opening and possible extension
- environmental data from levels buried within a mound.

NĚMETICE: barrow 7



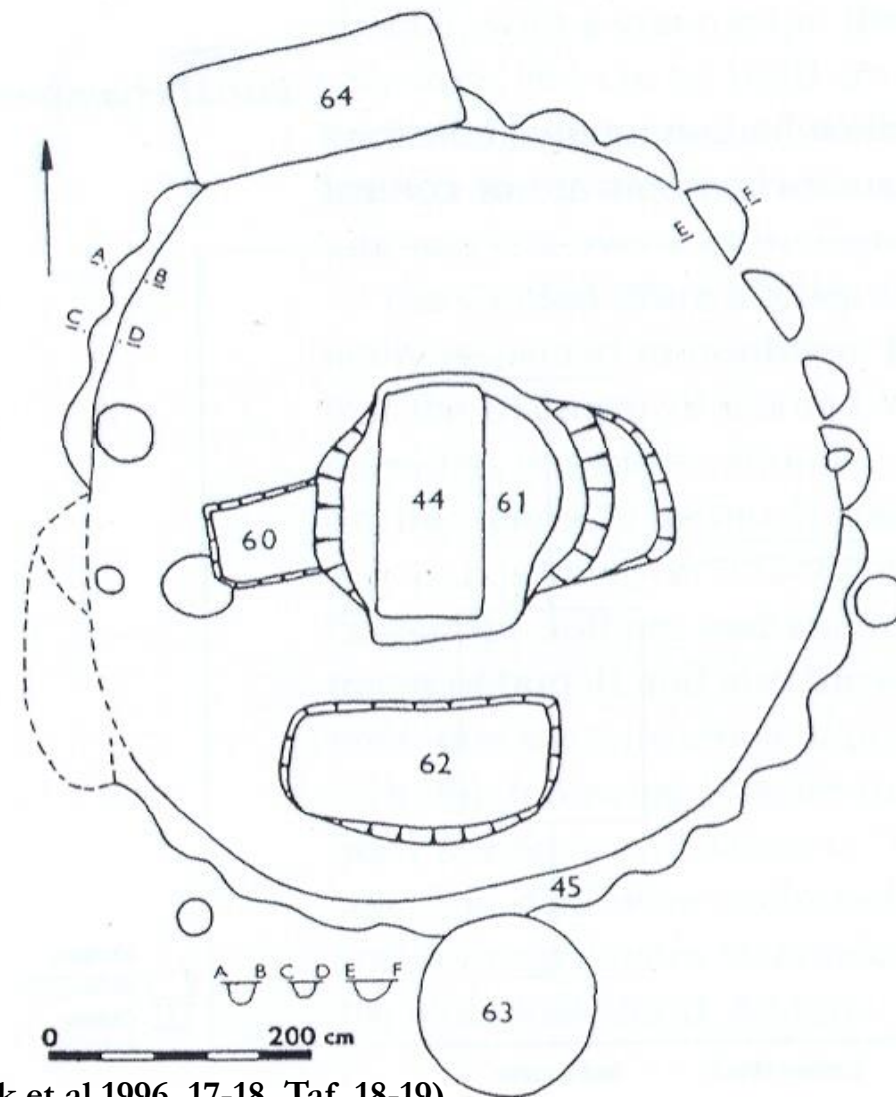
Corded Ware burial with a ring ditch from Chudeřín (North Bohemia).



Ring ditches encircling late Eneolithic graves are a widely spread phenomenon in central and north-western Europe. Corded Ware ring ditches are known from Bohemia, Moravia, Lower Austria, Little Poland, Silesia, central Germany, Bavaria and Holland etc. The Bell Beaker ring ditches were recorded in Bohemia, Moravia, Bavaria, central Germany, Tuscany, Middle and Lower Rhine valley etc. In Bohemia and Moravia ring ditches occurred in both Corded Ware and Bell Beaker periods.

Early Bronze (Únětice) graves fitted into the ring ditches of Bell Beaker period at Dolní Věstonice III.

This is only one example of a frequently occurring phenomenon of continuity in use of funerary areas and reuse of funerary monuments. It is more than obvious that the graves were visibly marked on ground so the successors might have reused the monument even several centuries later.



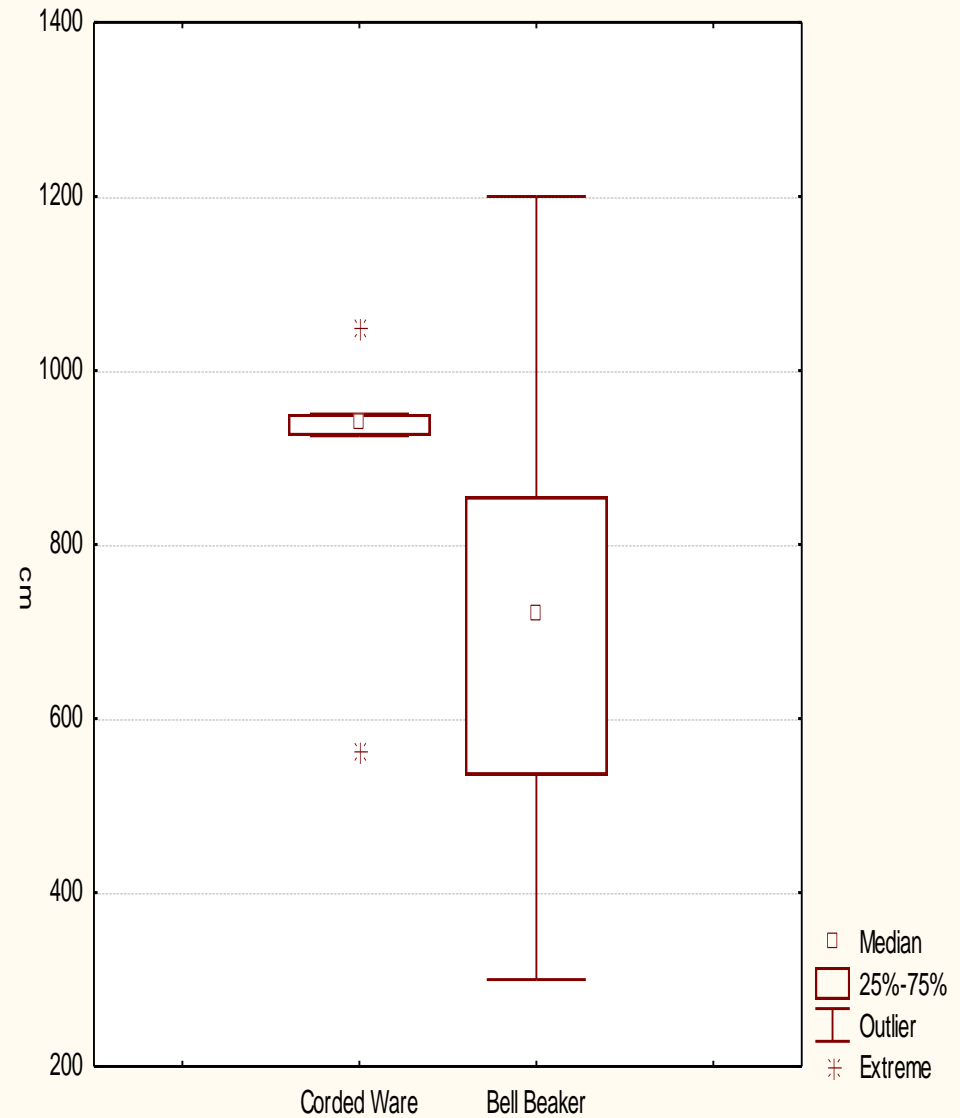
(Dvořák et al 1996, 17-18, Taf. 18-19).

Diameters of these round ditches varies

In **Corded Ware** period from 564 cm to 1050 cm (average 9.4m)

In Bell Beaker period from 300cm to 1200cm
(average 7m)

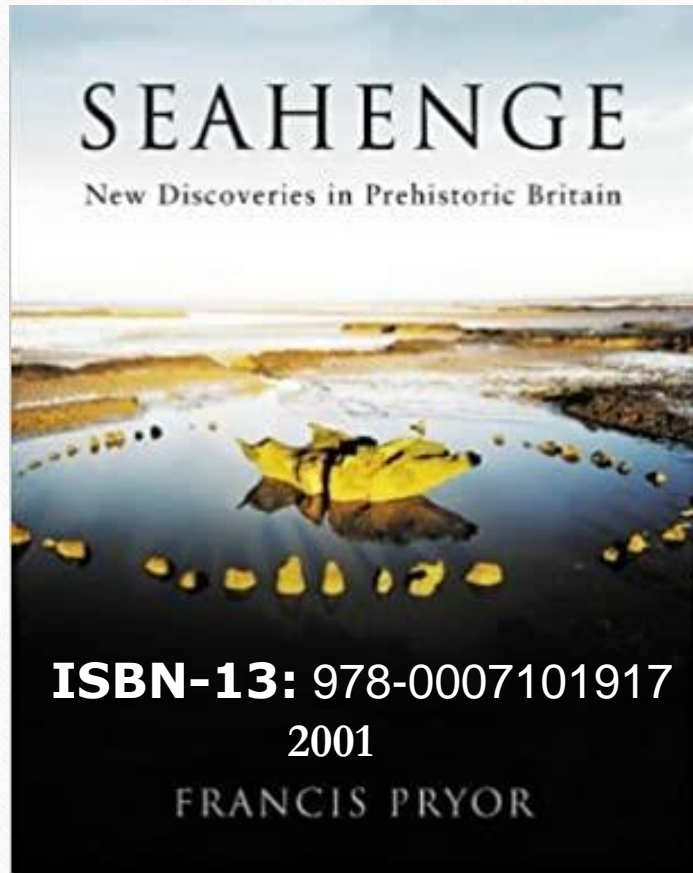
The diameter of Corded Ware ditches is very near to 12 megalithic yards, which may be symbolically significant. The variability of the Bell Beaker ditches seems to be much greater (see the box-and-whisker plot of the diameters).



Houses of dead

An important data for the re-consideration of this question may be found in South Moravian Bell Beaker site of Dolní Věstonice. The Bell Beaker grave no. 44 at Dolní Věstonice was excavated within the ring ditch no. 45. This ditch was sunken only 25 cm deep into the natural subsoil. The outline of the ditch was of a wavy shape and in the north-eastern part were clearly visible postholes in the shape of halved tree trunks.

So not all of the ring ditches were actually part of burial mound construction. Some of them may have been opened or semi opened structures that were used for multiple funerary and worship events. Very important is the comparisson to the Early Bronze Age (1900 BC) oak tree funerary (?) ring at Seahenge in Norfolk.



Seahenge



One could imagine the construction of such monument to be similar as recently discovered Early Bronze Agea funerary timber circle at Holm-next-the-Sea beach in Norfolk that is known as Seahenge. The slightly oval shaped ring was created with 65 posts that were mainly split trunks of tree embedded into the ground). At the south-western part of the ring there was an entrance into the internal area, where was a stump of an old oak embedded upside down into the ground.

Such monument was relatively easy to enter and the funerary events and/or subsequent ceremonies might have repeatedly taken place here.

Were the Beaker monuments similar?

The funerary construction in the terms of a log cabin or one may say “house of dead” would be ideal for such re-opening and continual use of the tomb.



Seahenge

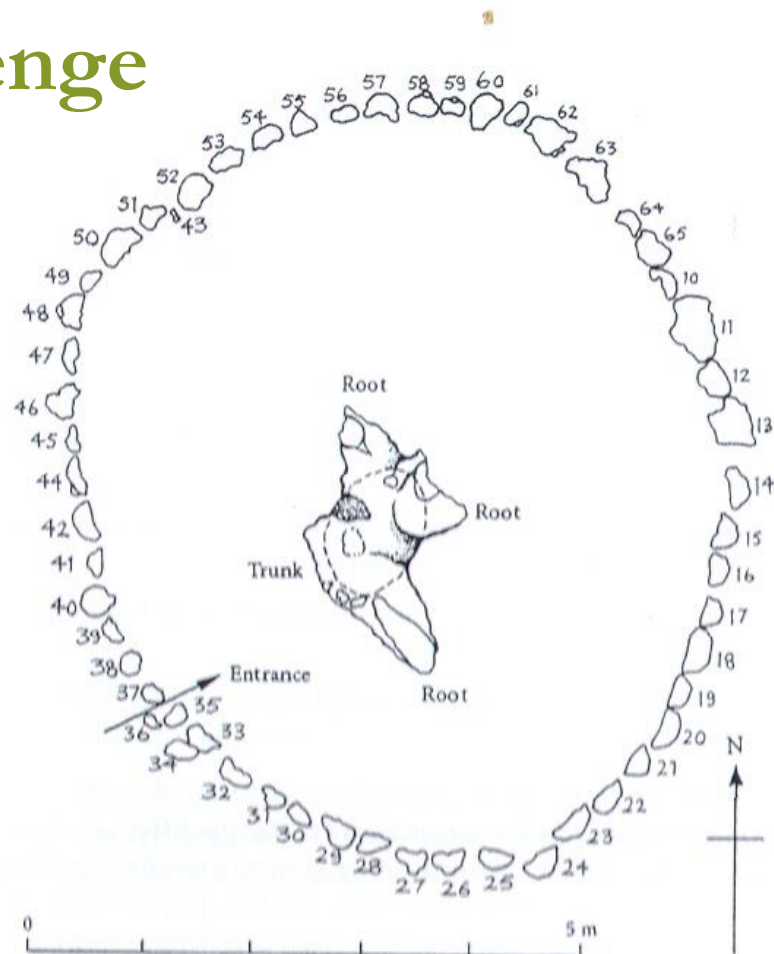
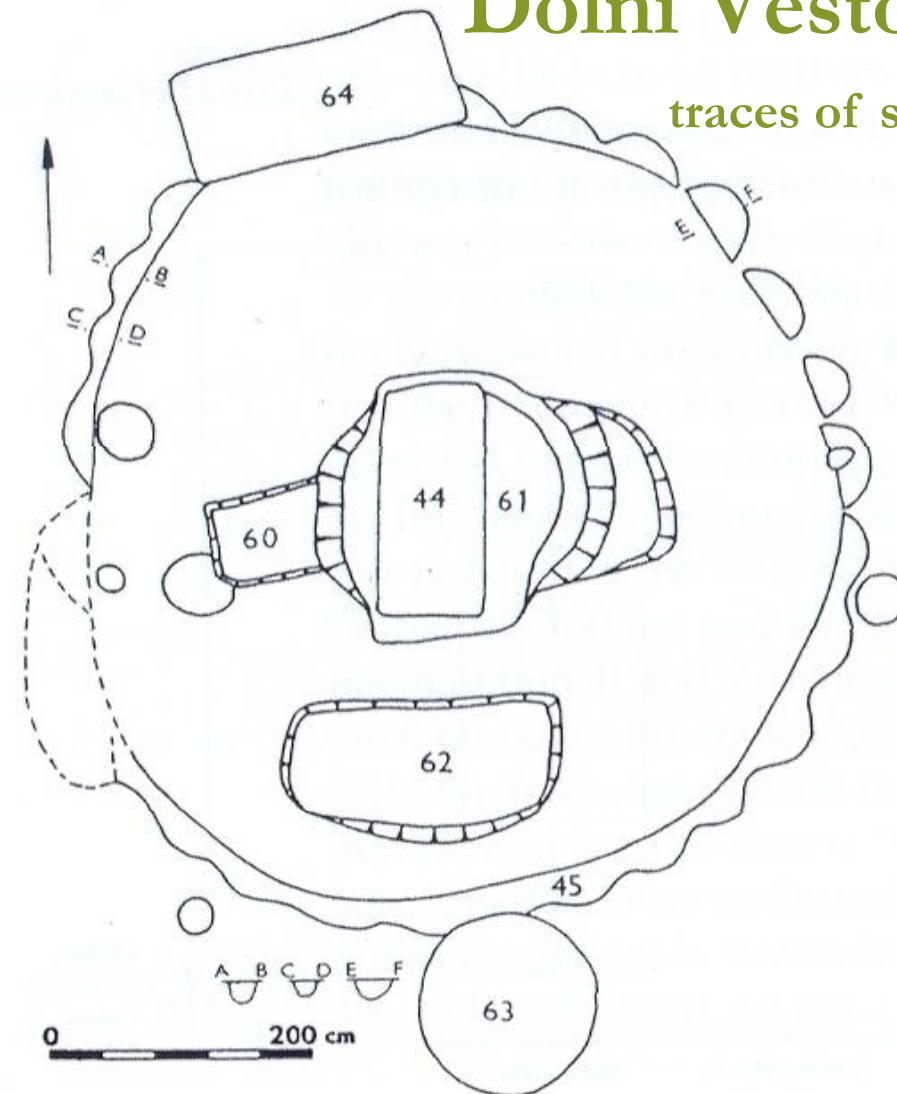


Figure 7 Seahenge, Holm-next-the-Sea, Norfolk, England (after Pryor 2001, fig 24).

Dolní Věstonice

traces of split logs





For Seahenge reconstruction see TIME TEAM video: <https://vimeo.com/59170730>

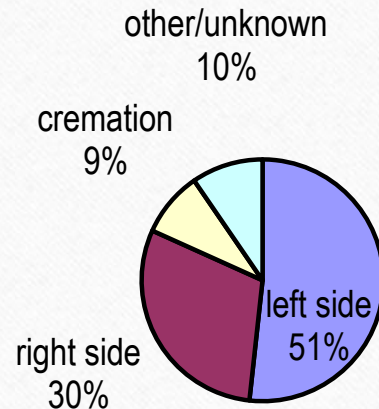
Missing funerary evidence - Burials on/above ground - Excarnation



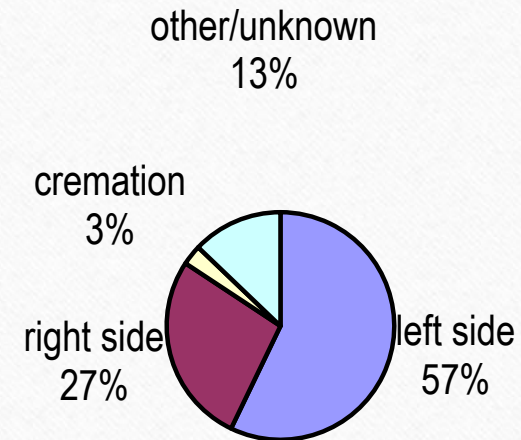
Missing Beaker Women

The question of missing evidence of female inhumations in the Bohemian and Central German group of Bell Beakers was discussed in 2002 (Turek 2002: *Cherche la Femme*). The situation is however, different in Moravia and southern Germany, where both gender groups are equally represented in common inhumation burial rites.

Beaker burials - Bohemia

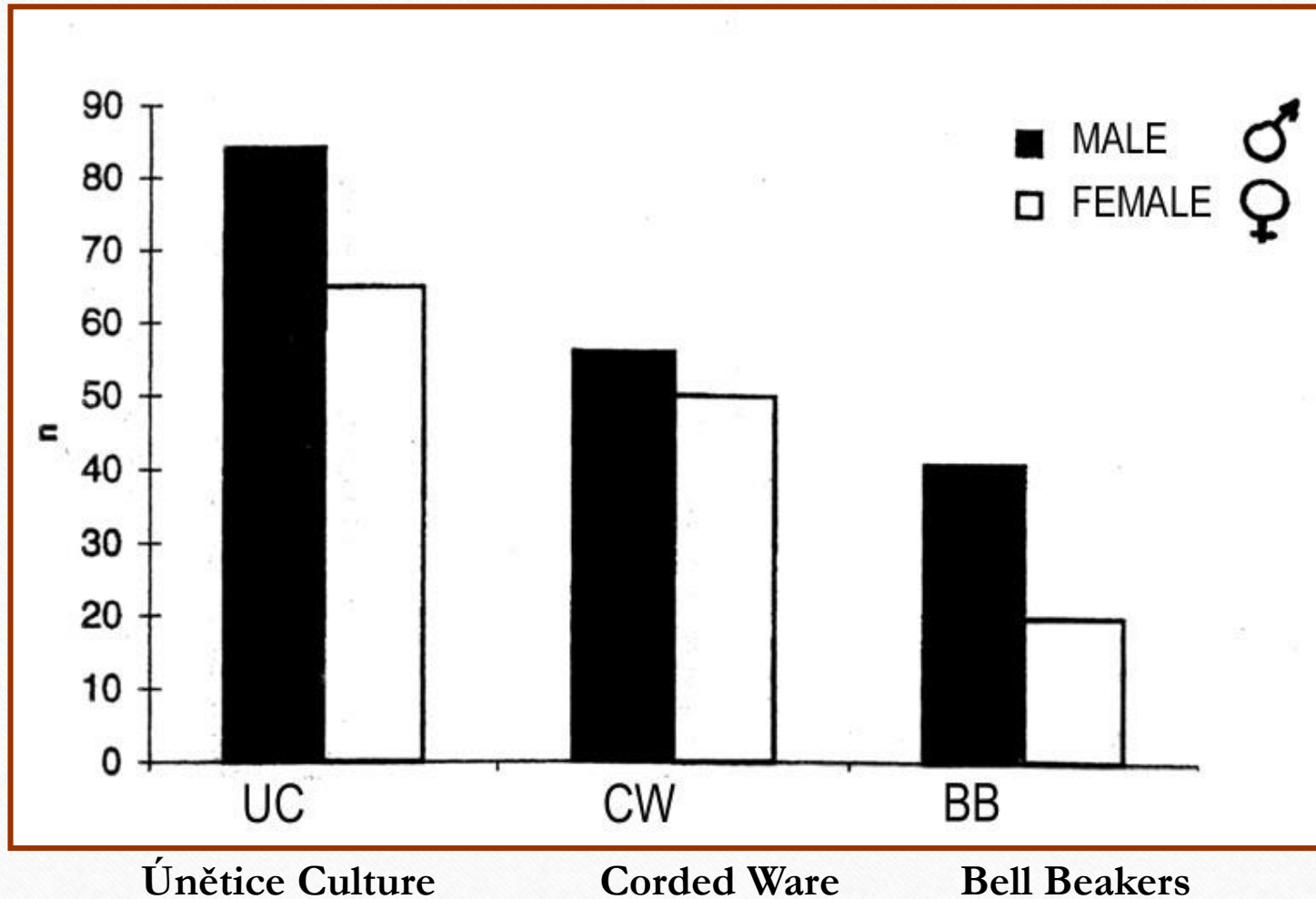


Beaker burials - Central Germany



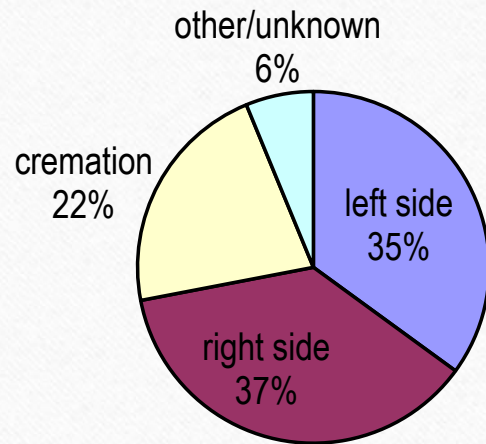
Evidence of skeletal remains according to sex & period

Missing Bell Beaker Women

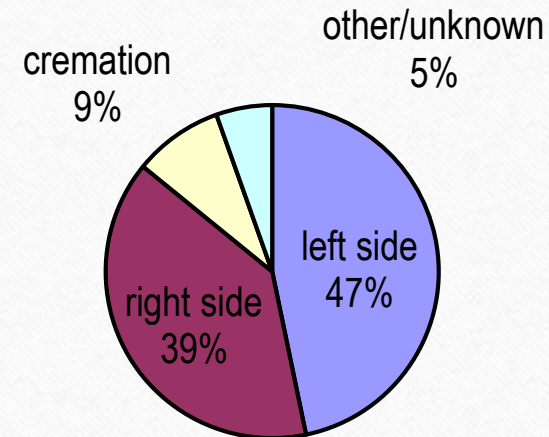


Within Moravian & south German cemeteries the male:female ratio is almost equal.

Beaker burials - Moravia



Beaker burials - South Germany



Bell Beaker secondary burials were often placed into the burial mounds above ground. Such practice is known from the regions where intact barrows survived (eastern Moravia, some sites in central Germany). The undiscovered burial mounds may be a key to the question on “missing” Bell Beaker women in Bohemia and central Germany.

Elite burial monuments?

Within the Corded Ware and Bell Beaker cemeteries in Bohemia and Moravia appear tombs of a higher status. The common inhumations were usually inserted in a simple grave pit and perhaps covered by a simple burial mound. There are, however, also tombs with more elaborate construction of the burial chamber and sometimes with a ring ditch outlining the space around the grave cut.

Bell Beaker elite female burial in chambered tomb

Tišice (Mělník District)





Why elite burials?

- multiple appearance of decorated beakers



- golden objects

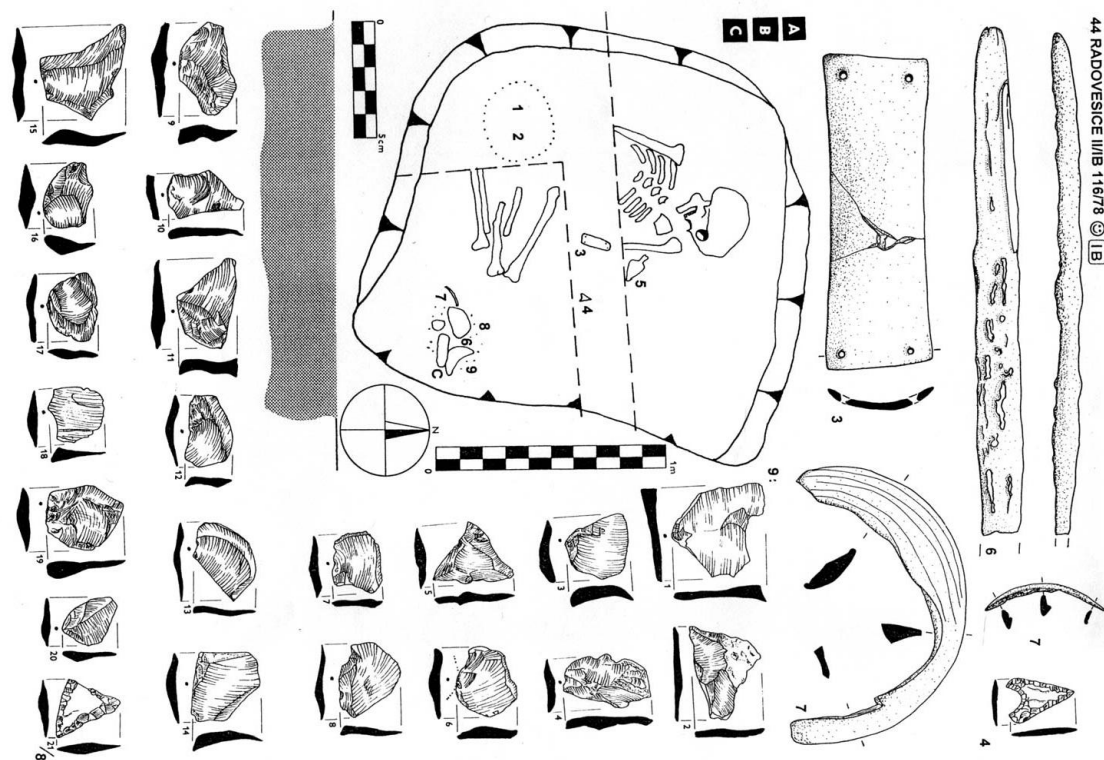


- archery equipment & symbolism





- industrial packages
- secondary cremations inserted into the fill of grave or into the ditch.





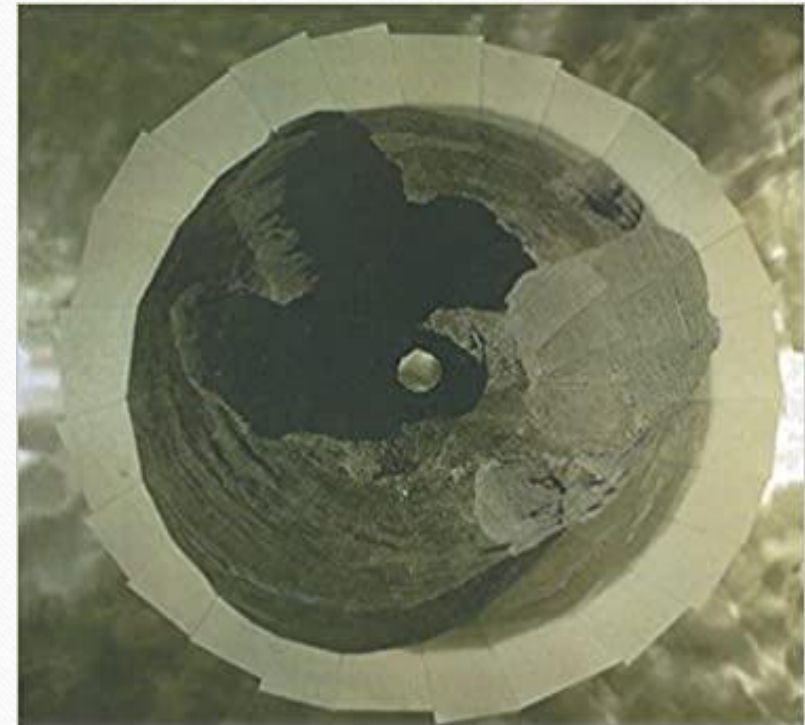
ISBN-13: 978-0203159507

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF
MONUMENTS

On the shaping of human experience in
Neolithic and Bronze Age Europe

RICHARD BRADLEY

1998



AN ARCHAEOLOGY OF
NATURAL PLACES

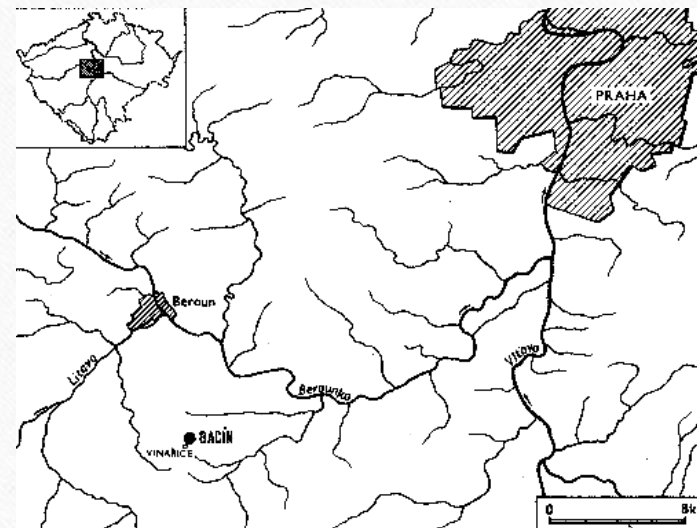
ISBN: 0415221498

RICHARD BRADLEY

2000

Corded Ware 'natural shrines' Bacín hill

Bacín- a hill on the western edge of Central Bohemian settled area - 499 meters a. s. l.



Corded Ware rock shrine at Vinařice – Bacín

(Beroun District) Bohemian Carst formation

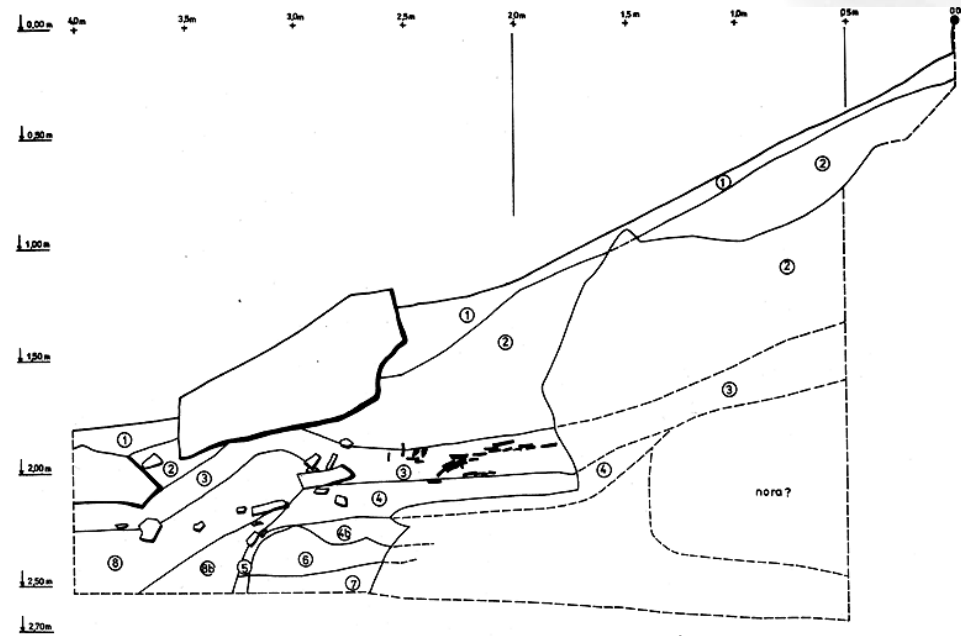
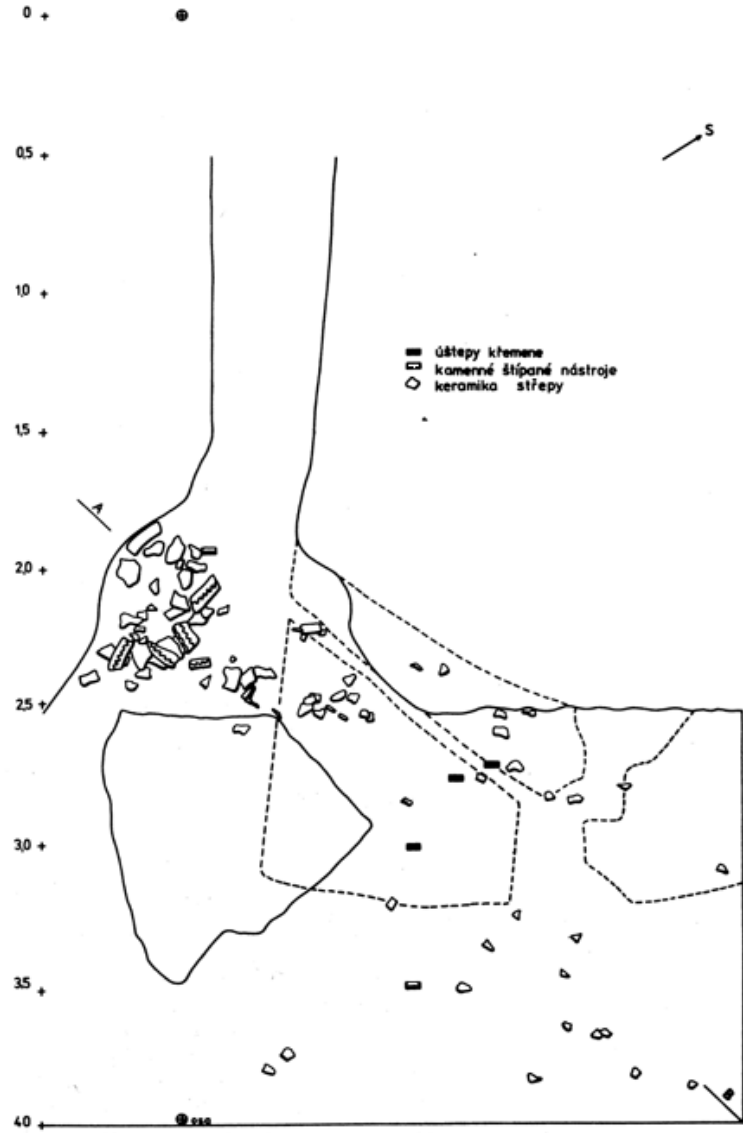


Bacín

Corded Ware domestic pot (2900-2500 BC)



Votive offering in a rock crack at Bacín



After Václav Matoušek & Jan Turek 1998

Bacín

Votive offerings for ancestors: Entrance to the underworld

While during the time from the Early to the Middle Eneolithic people gravitated towards elevated locations for their secular, but apparently also sacral activities, in the Late Eneolithic they abandoned hilltops altogether and concentrated their activities on plains. As far as the vertical direction is concerned, their cult was practiced only downwards, under the ground.



After Václav Matoušek & Jan Turek 1998

Maybe for our Corded Ware ancestors the underworld started immediately below the surface and it was ill advised to encroach upon it for secular reasons. Karst shrines, such as the one on Bacín hill near Vinařice in the Beroun district (Matoušek – Turek 1998), can also serve as evidence of depositing offerings in rock clefts. Such crevices in the ground may have been perceived as sacred entrances to the underworld and thus sacred shrines.

The existence of natural shrines as a kind of counterpart to monuments built by man is well known in the prehistory and ancient history of Europe (Bradley 2000). Similar Corded Ware period natural shrines are known in several localities in Upper Franconia. In Motzenstein near Wattendorf, Corded Ware and later offerings were found between 10-15 metres high Jurassic limestone outcrops, which, like Bacín, contained numerous karst crevices. Another natural karst shrine dated to the Corded Ware pottery period is in Rothenstein in the Stübig cadastre. The Strohholz location near Voitmansdorf probably had a similar character.

The range of minerals used for making axes and battle-axes is much more diverse than in the Řivnáč Culture period, thus it cannot be excluded that people were not allowed to dig under the ground even for the purpose of mining raw materials. Since they could not reach deeper to get to the earlier preferred resources, they could only acquire the raw material for their polished industry from rock outcrops, which inevitably resulted in a greater variety of utilised minerals (Turek 2005).

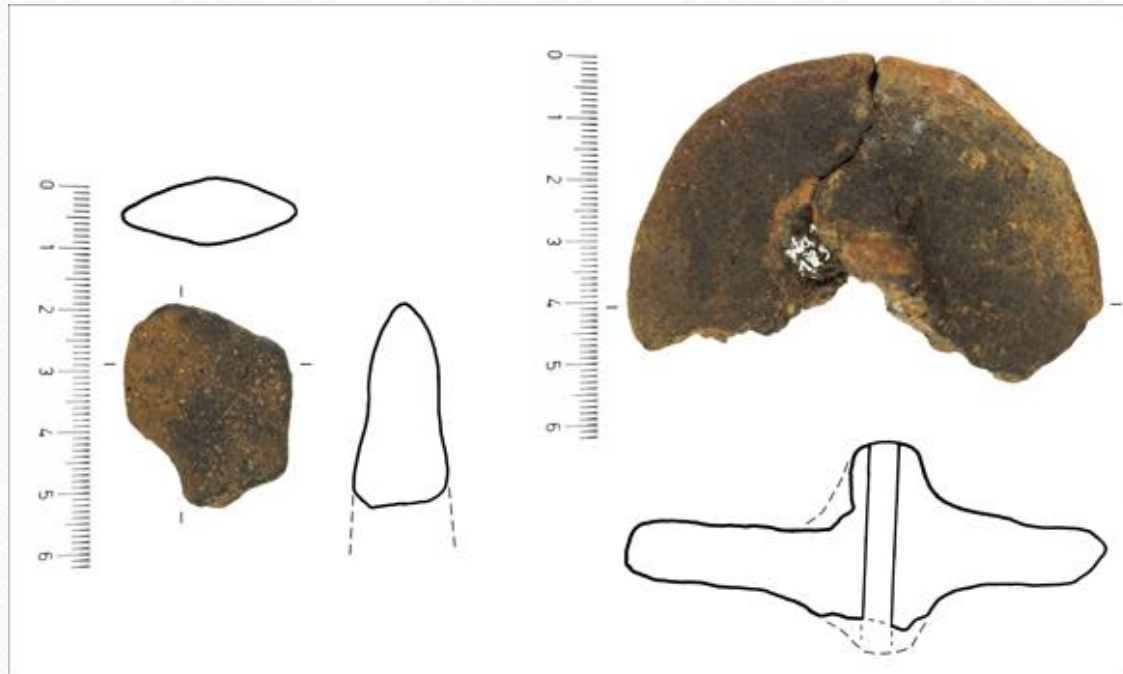
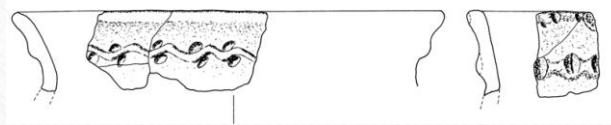
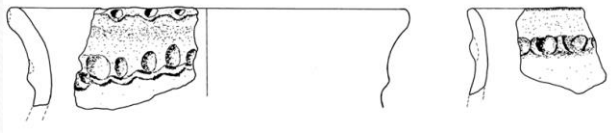
Corded Ware settlement and rock shrine

Wattendorf Motzenstein (N. Frankenalb)



Corded Ware rock shrine Wattendorf Motzenstein

Clay symbolic miniature battleaxes and model of a wheel



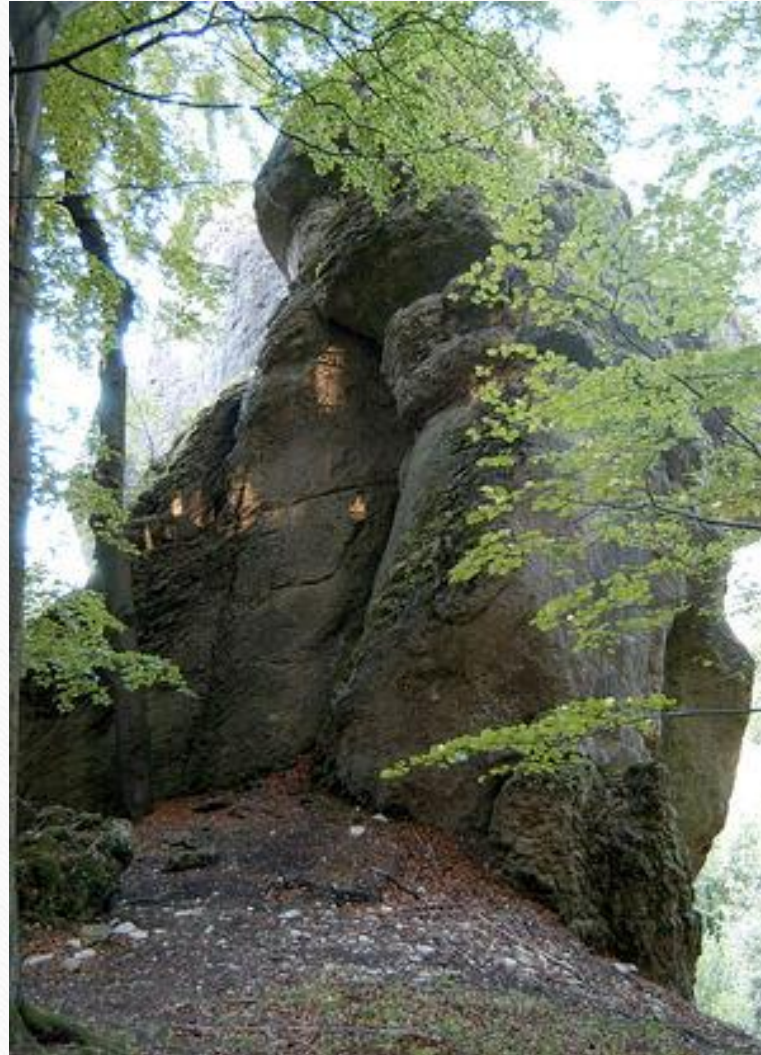
Corded Ware rock shrine Wattendorf Motzenstein

Clay symbolic battleaxe and deposition of grinding stones



Seregély, T. 2008: Endneolitische Siedlungen in Oberfranken I. Wattendorf-Motzenstein: eine schnurkeramische Siedlung auf der Nördlichen Frankenalb I-II. Studien zum dritten vorchristlichen Jahrtausend in Nordostbayern. Universitätsforschungen zur Archäologie, Band 154-155, Bonn, Verlag R. Habelt.

Corded Ware settlement and rock shrine - Stübig Rothenstein



Natural Shrines Conclusion

Corded Ware profane activities strictly restricted to the surface horizontal levels

Underground and vertical motion exclusively for burials and votive offerings

Natural rock shrines—gates to the underworld

New cosmology – besides the solar cult tradition also the ancestors cult and worship at natural places

Variability of the Bell Beaker funerary practices & ceremonial architecture

During last decade some new funerary/ritual structure forms were discovered in Bohemia and Moravia. Two such features were discovered during large scale excavation at Hostivice, west of Prague in 2011 and 2013. The first consisted of a rectangular setting of large postholes with a large internal pit containing scatters of cremated (animal?) bones and fragments of decorated beakers. The second rectangular structure consisted of large circular postholes surrounding a pit which contained a votive offering of four stone wristguards carefully in a square arrangement. The most recently discovered example comes from the Central Moravian site of Brodek near Prostějov, where an unusual long rectangular structure defined by alignments of post holes and a 'shrine' consisting of four grave-like pits containing variety of votive offerings, but no visible indications of human burial were discovered. The sacrificial deposits were probably inserted into the features during a series of successive offering events. These previously unknown types of feature suggest a greater complexity of funerary and ritual construction in the region, with some (Brodek) probably representing examples of monumental architecture within the non-megalithic territory.

Inhumation – Cremation – Excarnation?



Bell Beaker ceremonial architecture in the non-megalithic territory

- Ceremonial – sacrificial post hole structures, probably sheltered
- Found together with human incenerations
- Or only with sacrificial offering (?) deposits of socially prestigious objects
- Near areas with funerary activity
- Traces of multiple events of ceremonial activity

It is rather surprising that distinctive Bell Beaker ceremonial architecture has not been discovered in Bohemia and Moravia until very recently. Only the clearly visible examples from Hostivice (excavation by David Daněček 2011 and 2013) and Brodek u Prostějova (Fojtík 2015; Fojtík 2016, 183-185) have revealed the existence of such monument types. Excavations at both sites (Brodek and Hostivice) are not yet fully analysed and published, so I am grateful to David Daněček and Pavel Fojtík for providing preliminary information on their discoveries. Furthermore, these revelations have facilitated the identification of similar, but perhaps less well preserved, examples from older excavations, such as two post constructed features (513 and 612) from Hoštice I Za Hanou (Matějíčková – Dvořák 2012) and other potential examples such as Stříbrnice 1 – Lopaty (Peška – Tajer 2007) and Dřevohostice (Hejcman et al 2013). Despite the fact that some of the constructions represent rather monumental architecture (Brodek and Hostivice that may be connected to some kind of ancestral cult) and other are remains of funerary constructions (Hoštice, Stříbrnice and Dřevohostice), it is well possible that there is a symbolic link between the architecture connected to ancestor worship and houses of dead.

Looking at the locations of these monuments, they are not always situated within funerary landscapes. While the sites of Hoštice I and Stříbrnice 1 are funerary areas, the largest monuments at Brodek u Prostějova and Hostivice are in isolated locations. However, it should also be noted, that the areas surrounding both latter sites contain high numbers of Bell Beaker. Furthermore, despite the fact that human remains have not been identified in any of these monuments it is important to emphasize additional connections with aspects of funerary activity and ancestor worship.

Another feature that may suggest links between funerary practices and the monuments under discussion are the four-post structures (for dimensions see below) which occurred near both monuments at Hostivice (two such squares near feature No. 1723 and one south of the 2617). Such a four-post (2.5 x 2.5 m) is also known from the funerary site at Dřevohostice (Hejcman et al 2013), where it was partly covered by an eroded Bell Beaker barrow. Such constructions are also known from Bell Beaker funerary areas in Hungary and Austria, at Budakalász and Poysbrunn (Czene 2019, Abb. 8-9 and 11). Similar features are also known from later funerary sites (e.g. Final Bronze Age in Central Bohemia), and in such cases one possible interpretation advanced is that these arrangements represent supports for elevated funerary (excarnation?) platforms (Sofaer – Turek 2004). This interpretation is certainly highly speculative, but it must be stressed that certain parts of the population are severely under-represented within Bohemian Bell Beaker merely inhumation cemeteries. For example, adult female representation is almost 50% lower than could be expected (Turek 2002) and excarnation is certainly amongst the alternative burial methods that leave little or no archaeologically visible traces. Taking this speculative argument even further, it would make sense that if the monuments at Hostivice were some kind of ancestral shrines, then excarnation platforms could have been directly related to them.

Hostivice – Palouky

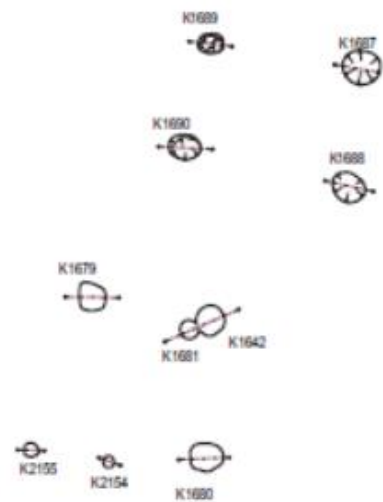
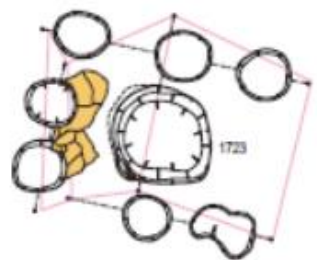
Excavation 2011



Excavated by David Daněček, Museum of Central Bohemia

In the eastern part of the site, which encompassed a very large excavated area (7 hectares, k. ú. Hostivice (př. č. 4/2011), a structure defined by seven large postholes and a central pit was uncovered and dated by pottery classification to the Bell Beaker period (Daněček – Smíšek 2013, 105 – 108). The seven postholes (feature No. 1723/2-8, average 50-70 cm diameter) enclosed an east-west oriented rectangular area (3.5 x 2.5 m) with an eastern entrance. The central pit (1723) was of broadly oval shape (1.3 x 1.5 m) and about one meter deep. The majority of the finds came from the top 20-30 cm of the pit fill, without any finds near to the bottom of the feature. This top layer contained sherds of decorated Bell Beaker pottery, a silicite blade and small fragments of calcined (animal? – not yet analysed) bones.

A pair of rectangular four-post structures, each comprised of 30-50 cm diameter posts, were recorded c. 5 m north-east and c. 13.5 m east of the main structure respectively. The former setting (1692b-1693b, 2167-2168) enclosed a 3.2 x 2.2 m area, while the latter setting (1687-1690) defined a slightly smaller 2.5 x 2.1 m area. A further potentially similar post-built structure was located c. 2.5 m east of the main structure. This delimited a 2 x 2.2-2.5 m area defined by six postholes (features No. K1642, K1679, K1689, K1681, K2154, K2155) of varying size (15 – 40 cm diameter posts). It may be suggested that at least the two four-post ancillary structures potentially represent supports for light constructions that could be interpreted as elevated (excarnation?) platforms or light shelters, and are reminiscent of features documented at the Moravian sites of Hoštice and Strážnice (see below).



Hostivice – Palouky

Excavation 2013



Excavated by David Daněček, Museum of Central Bohemia

A similar site was discovered at Hostivice – Palouky (Prague-west District) in 2013 (Daněček 2014, 126-129) located north-east of the site excavated in 2011. A partially excavated feature, located in the north-eastern corner of excavated area, consisted of two almost north-south aligned parallel rows (minimum 4.5 meters long and 2.5-4 meters apart, not completely excavated) of large (0.7-1 m diameter) semi-circular postholes (2616-2617, 2621, 2623-2625) defining a 4 x 5+ m area. Inside, but probably not contemporary with this construction, were three large pits (No. 2615, 2622, 2026) containing Bell Beaker finds, but no traces of human remains. The most distinctive, pit 2617, contained four stone wristguard, one of which was broken, laid in a rectangular arrangement on the bottom of the pit, two turned with their top side up and two with their bottom side up (diagonally, fig. 12, however, shows wrong arrangement with three wristguards with their bottom side up). All four wristguards are of the same type (B1 – see Turek 2004), and of similar size, colour and raw material. These are intentionally deposited objects, and they were probably interred during a single ceremonial (offering) event.

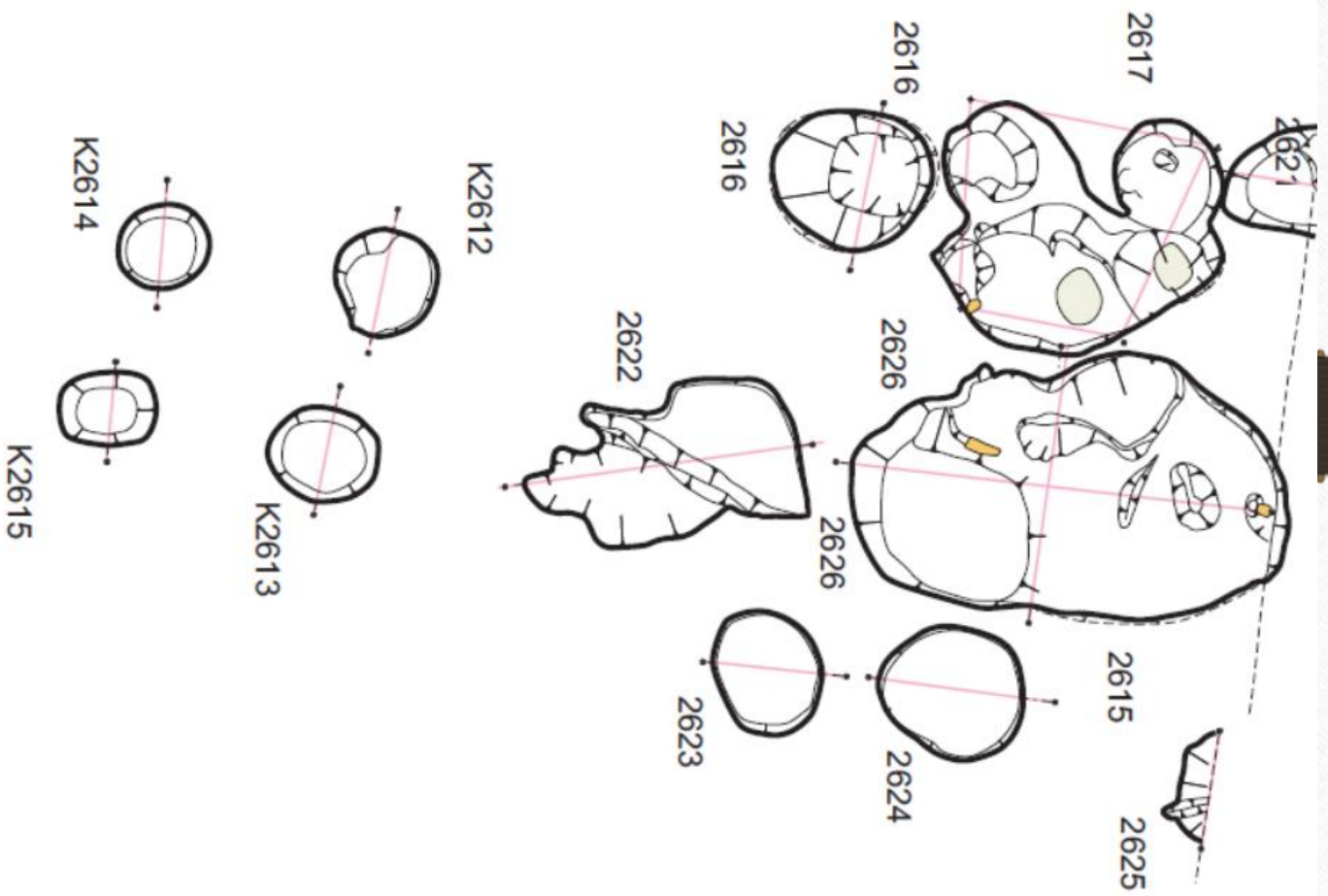
Two meters south of the main structure was a square (2x2 m) four-post setting defined by less substantial postholes (2612-2615, 50-60 cm in diameter). This was probably a light construction (excarnation? platform) similar to the pair of four-post features excavated in 2011 (see above). This construction has exactly the same close to north-south orientation as the main structure and almost seems to have been part of it. It is, however, impossible to interpret this pair of features as one cohesive structure. About 10 m further south, was an inhumation burial containing a decorated Bell Beaker.











5m



Dřevohostice (Přerov District) Excavations 2012 - 2013



Excavated by P. Krištuf, University of West Bohemia, Pilsen, 2012

Excarnation platforms?



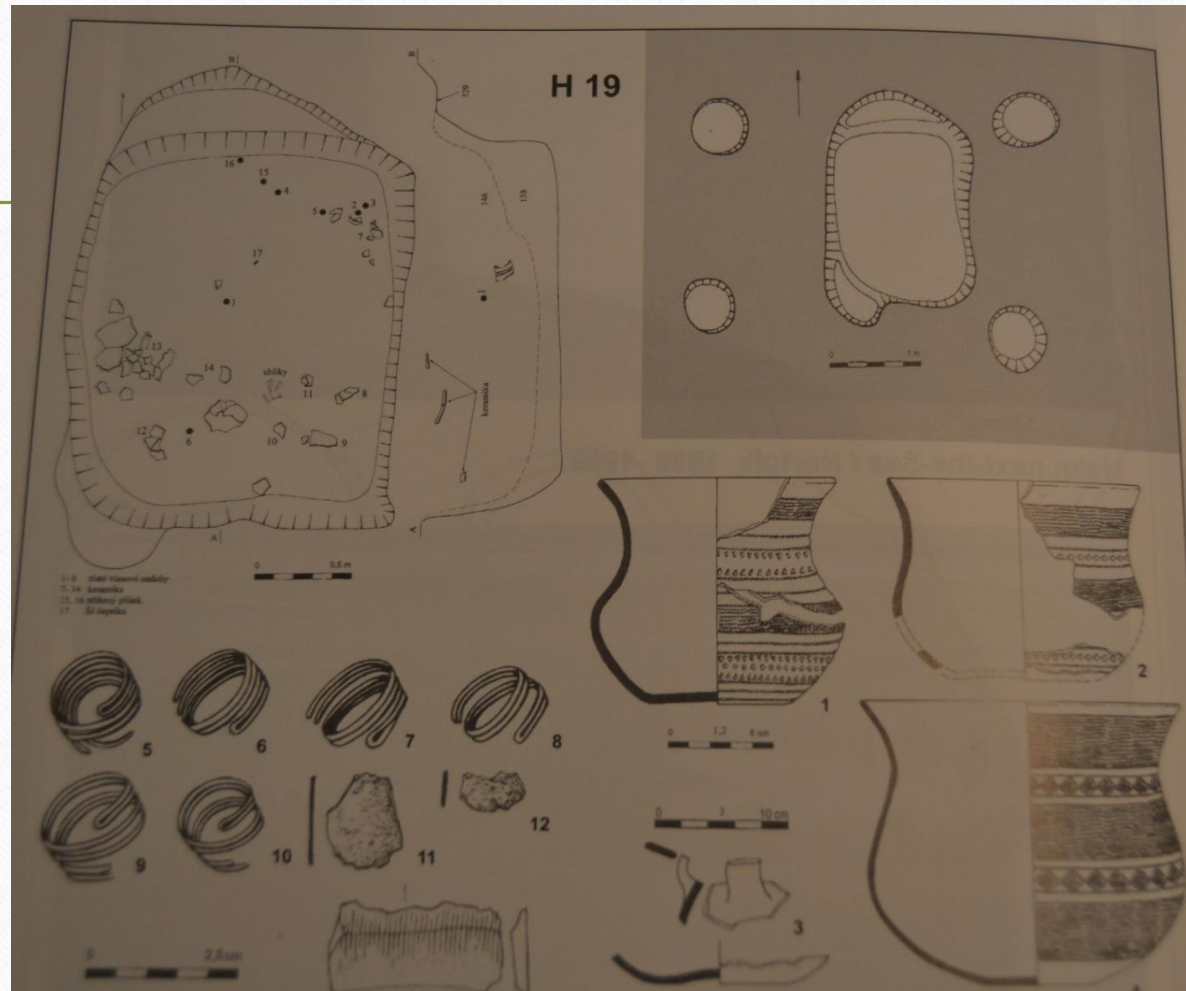
First Nation North America

Scandinavian Neolithic Period



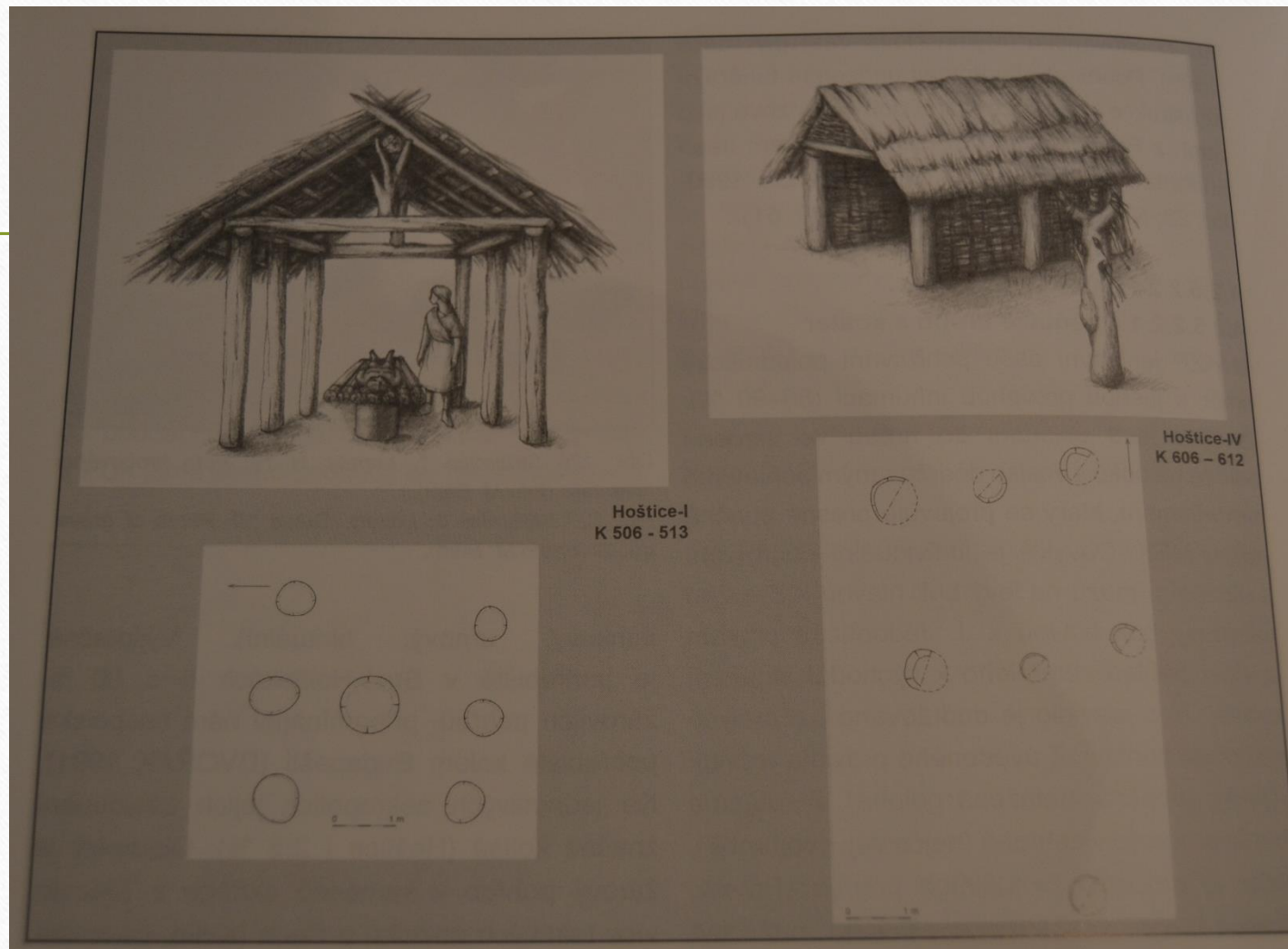
Stříbrnice I – Lopaty

Excavation 2006



After Peška & Tajer 2007

Hoštice I – Za Hanou, Excavation 2002



After Matějčková &
Dvořák 2012

Brodek u Prostějova

Excavation 2015



Excavation (534/14) by Pavel Fojtík, UAPP Brno, 2015

In May 2015, Pavel Fojtík (Institute of archaeological heritage Brno, Fojtík 2015b) conducted a rescue excavation proceeding construction of a R46 highway junction on cadastre of Brodek u Prostějova. The structure uncovered after topsoil stripping had a clearly visible ground plan. This consisted of two close to east-west aligned parallel rows (12 respectively 16 meters long, 2.4 in side – 4.5 meters outside apart) of equally spaced circular postholes (about 60 cm deep) Geochemical analysis (Grömer et al 2016, 48) identified wood within these pits (501-520) indicating they probably held massive wooden pillars (Grömer et al 2016, 48). The enclosed area (c. 20 x 4 m) was bordered on the western edge by two similar post holes. To the east of the post alignments was a roughly quadrilateral arrangement comprising four large rectangular pits (features No. 522–525, 2 x 3.2 meter each, up to about 2 meters deep covering an overall area circa 7 x 5 meters, (Grömer et al 2017, Fig. 2B).

2.5 meter to the north of the eastern end of the main structure a further lighter construction (3 x 4 meters) consisting of two rows of smaller postholes (features No. 500/1–500/9, average diameter 30 cm) was uncovered. These posts might have supported some form of light structure, such as an elevated (excarnation?) platform. Less than 1 meter to the south of the eastern end of the main structure was an irregular oblong pit No. 521 (3.5 x 2 meters). Further to the west, a shallow curvilinear ditch segment was identified, indicating the possible existence of a circular enclosure which could potentially have enclosed the overall ceremonial area (not published, outside the plan).

East – West Collonade 20 x 4 meters. Two rows of 9 postholes, plus 2 in East.
In the West end were four grave-like rectangular pits.



(after P. Fojtík 2015)

In North-eastern corner a light construction. In South-west corner a later (?) Bell Beaker pit.



(after P. Fojtík 2015)



(after P. Fojtík 2015)



(after P. Fojtík 2015)

Inside three postholes were discovered stone wristguards



(after P. Fojtík 2015)

No human remains detected

Sacrificial pits contained: numerous decorated beakers, stone wristguards, amber and bone beads, gold and silver ornaments Found on their bottom, as well as in the fill.



(after P. Fojtík 2015)

Repeated sacrificial events



(after P. Fojtík 2015)

Individual sacrificial events



(after P. Fojtík 2015)



(after P. Fojtík 2015)

A deposit of the Goldsmith stone tools package



(after P. Fojtík 2015)

Numerous finds of decorated ceremonial beakers



(after P. Fojtík 2015)

Ceremonial feasting & libation



Genlis Le Nicolot (France, Burgundy)



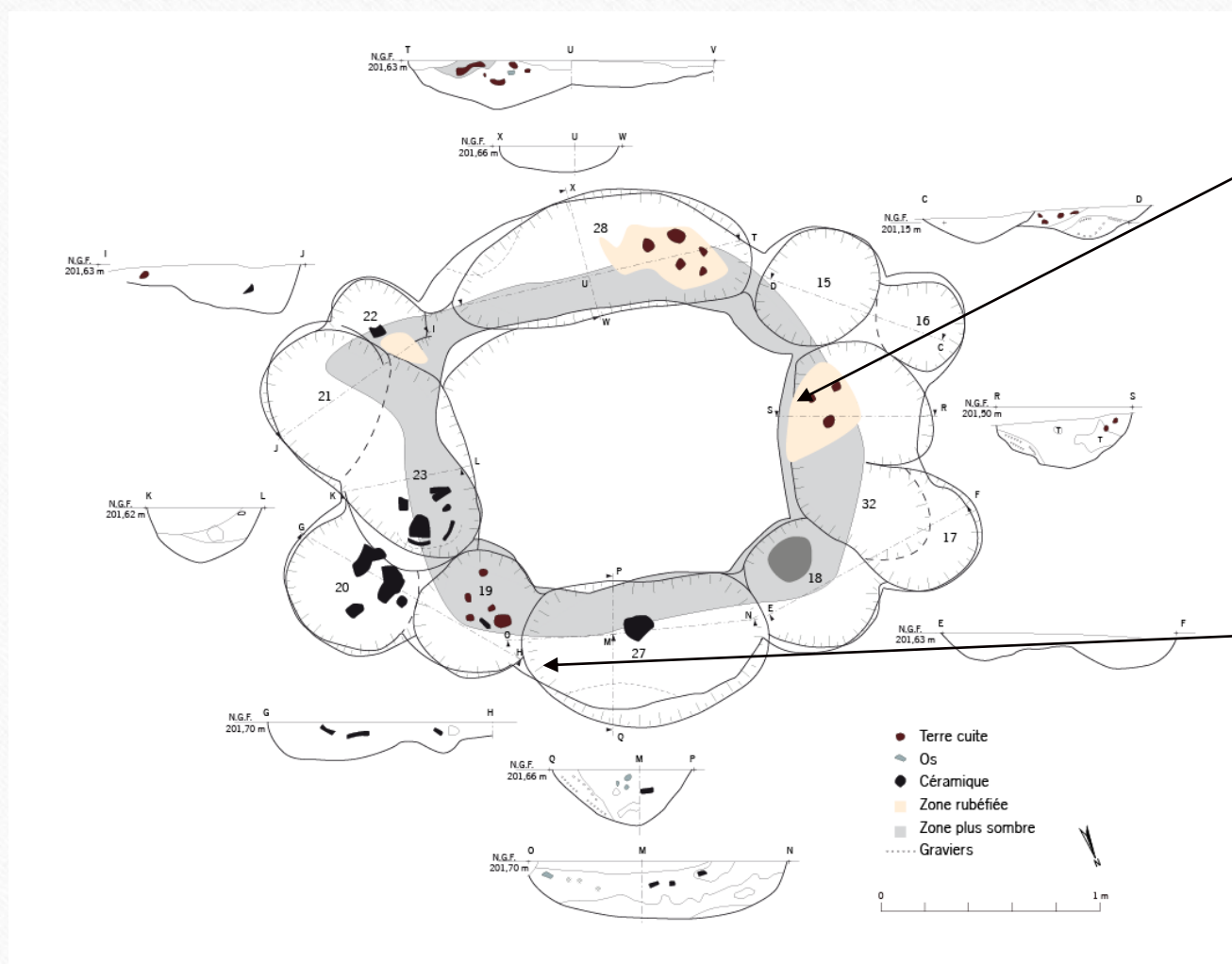
Ducreux, F. – Christin, L. – Fossurier, C. (INRAP Dijon): The Bell beakers cremations, feature presented in Beaker Days Conference in Bratislava & Vienna 2014

Monument M8

Eleven postholes and two oblong pits delimit a rectangular E-W orientated area of 2 m².

Initial funeral installation was probably destroyed and the contents were scattered in the side pits and postholes.





Plan of Monument M8

Darker central area

Burned sediment in the southwest corner and fragments of flint

Ceramic fragments, animal bones, burned human bones; essentially in the northeast corner

The structure was destroyed at 25 cm high.

Funeral assemblage:

- Two beakers (one burned and the other not burned)
- Burned human bone, filling postholes
- Fragments of flint
- Remains of a cow and of a mammal of an average size (sheep or pig) (unburned bones)

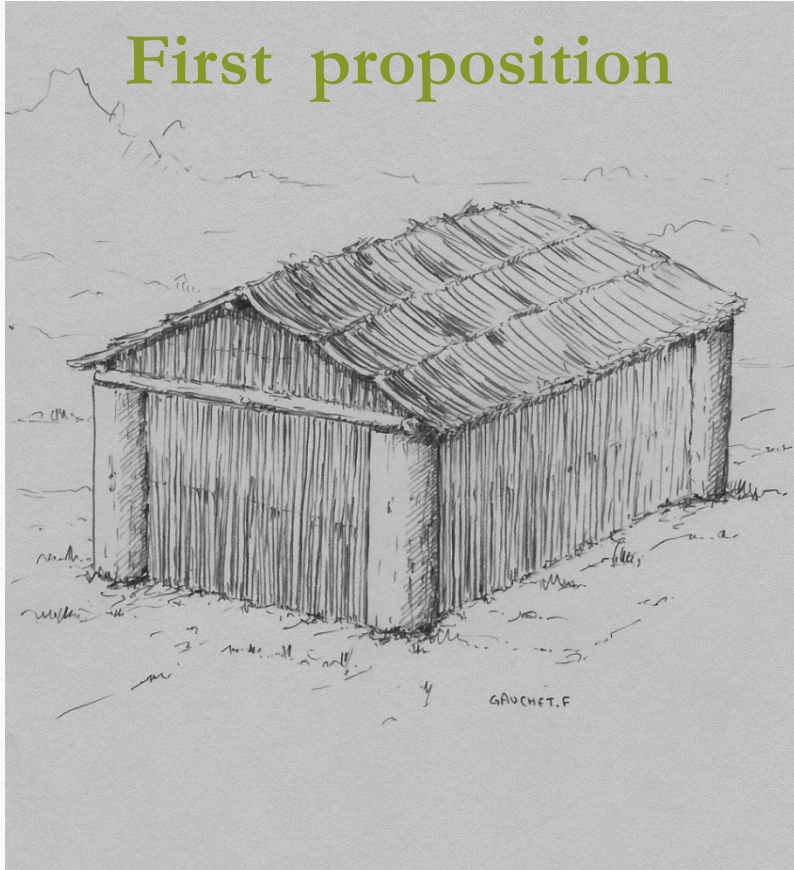
Monument M8



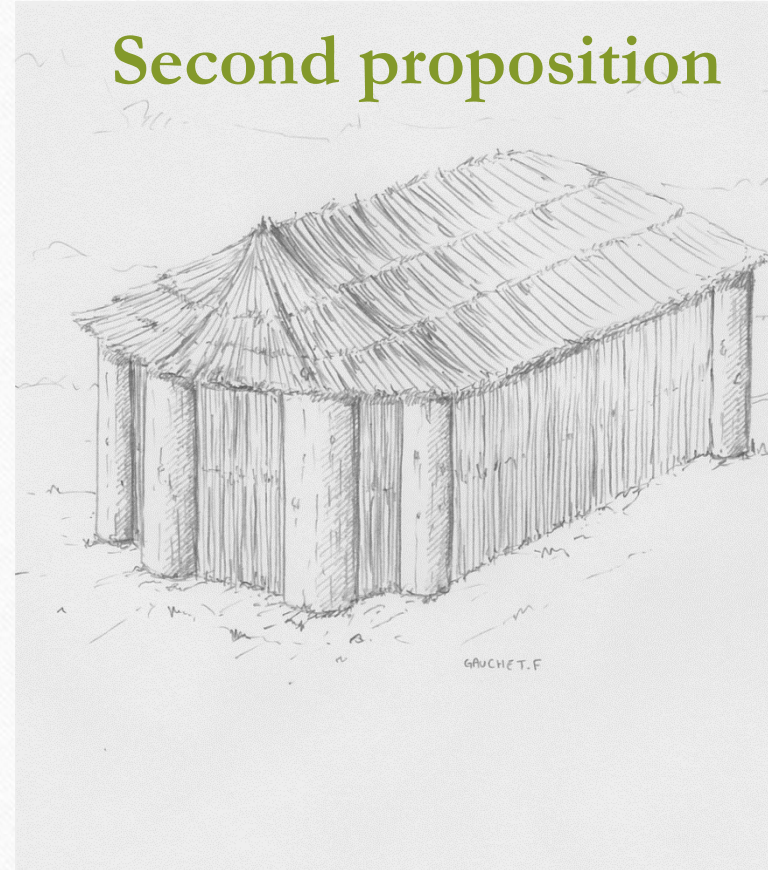


Reconstructed funerary features:

First proposition



Second proposition



Funerary house on four or eight posts, wall of indeterminate nature and hypothetical roof
(F. Gauchet, Inrap)

Thank you for your attention!

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