

BIWEEKLY COLLOQUIA SUMMER TERM 2021



The chalcolithic ›mega site‹ of Valencina de la Concepción (Seville): New investigations in the Northern Sector

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The ›mega-site‹ of Valencina de la Concepción extends throughout the northeast limit of the Aljarafe Plateau, 6 km to the West of modern-day Seville in the South of Spain. It consists of a huge necropolis area with several monumental tombs and a settlement area which covers an area of about 200 hectares. In the margin of a project financed by the DFG the German Archaeological Institute investigates the Northern sector of this ›mega-site‹ by means of geophysical surveys, excavations and scientific studies. The geomagnetic survey of a surface of more than 19 ha. revealed a concentric system of at least five ditched enclosures and one smaller rectangular one, as well as a large amount of pits, semi-circular huts excavated in the ground, as well as possible hypogea.

For the first time we have also been able to sequence the infill of almost all chalcolithic ditches by means of manual drillings. During the excavations carried out in the municipal plot of Cerro de la Cabeza a dense sequence of chalcolithic pits, semi-excavated huts and workshops have been documented and first stratigraphic cuts through some of the ditches have been undertaken.

The chrono-typological definition of the ceramics, as well as a series of ¹⁴C dates obtained by AMS begin to reveal the



sequence of the settlement. Beginning in the late Neolithic/Early Chalcolithic (end of the 4th millennium BC) it experiments its peak occupation during the Middle Chalcolithic (first half of the 3rd millennium BC). During its transition to the Late Chalcolithic (mid 3rd millennium BC) there seems to be a reduction in the size of the settlement, seeming to become even more reduced during the Bell-Baker phase. At about 2200 BC the excavation of ditches as well as the settlement itself suddenly ends. We also present some evidence that seems to indicate a short and not very intense re-occupation of the Cerro de la Cabeza area during the later Early Bronze Age (beginning of the 2nd millennium BC).

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