
Spatial distribution of artefacts and food remains at Neolithic (LBK) Vrábľe, Slovakia reveals patterns in their use and deposition practices

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Résumé

The site of Vrábľe-Veľké Lehemby in southwestern Slovakia (c. 5200-4900 cal BC) comprises three adjacent settlements of the Linearbandkeramik cultural network (more specifically associated with the regional Želiezovce group). Typical features of the LBK-settlements have been recorded here, including pairs of parallel long pits and postholes marking the location of houses, pits of various shapes and sizes and, in case of one of the settlements, a circular ditch system. In terms of chronology, occupation of the three sites largely overlaps. According to the available 14C dates, some 300 houses were constructed over a period of c. 300 years. Since 2010, the three sites have been extensively examined using geophysical methods; in addition, substantial sections were excavated. Pottery, lithics, faunal and botanical material have been collected and analysed.

Quantified presence of the recovered artefacts and organic remains have revealed differences in the amounts of these materials across the excavated areas. Examination of the spatial distribution of the finds within and between the structures has allowed a recognition of different ‘zones’ distinguished based on the number, type, or density of artefacts and other remains. This paper presents the spatial distribution of different archaeological materials, features and structures documented at Vrábľe, and identifies patterns in this distribution. Further, it explores the potential meaning of these patterns in terms of the settlements’s activity areas,

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organisation of space, and food production/consumption habits, as well as social aspects of the use of indoor and outdoor areas.

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Mots-Clés: Neolithic, settlement, structures, artefacts, organic remains, spatial distribution