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# Different ways to handle the domestic space by comparison: the case of Bronze age villages in Oppeano (Verona – ITA)

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## Résumé

The town of Oppeano is about 20 km south of Verona, inside a territory, rich in archaeological evidences, from Bronze Age to Iron Age. Not far from the new discovered site, a settlement built with wooden elements and dated to Late Bronze Age (13th-12th c. BC) is already known since one century ago at Feniletto.

The sites of Oppeano were discovered in 2014 during preventive archaeology operations for the dig of a methane pipeline (56 inch) along the route Zimella-Cervignano D'Adda, in north-eastern Italy.

In the plain named "Bussè" - reclaimed during the 12th AD - two different settlements were discovered, divided by a later channel which cut the stratigraphical relationship: the first one, on the eastern side, dated to the Early Bronze Age (21th-17th century BC), is called "site 4C"; the second one, on the west, dated to the Middle Bronze Age, indicated as site 4D.

In site 4C there was a pile dwelling village dating back to the beginning of Early Bronze Age: the area, in spite of the excavation's difficulties, was rich in archaeological finds and returned numerous wooden elements. At the present only one phase seems present.

In site 4D, 4 phases have been distinguished, each one clearly separated sometimes by gyttja and sometimes by loam layers, the thickness of which suggests the alternation of short wet and dry events. In the levels of phase 2 we have the best preserved wooden structures from the original buildings: a sequence of room remains, marked by wood partitions and hearts (very often restored) typifying the layers; in the outside areas various waste heaps are preserved.

This paper aims to illustrate the results of the studies carried out so far: archaeozoology, micromorphology, dendrochronology, analysis on plant macro fossils and archaeological finds in order to understand the different choices made in the same geographical area during Early and Middle Bronze Age and the relation between inner and outer space.

Moreover, we'll try to answer the question: on what ground Bronze Age people changed settlement strategies in this area?

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**Mots-Clés:** Northern Italy, Early Bronze Age, Middle Bronze Age, wooden houses, waste heaps analysis, settlement strategy, wetlands