

Rural settlement dynamic during Iron Age in Central Gaul: the excavation and fieldwalking data head to head

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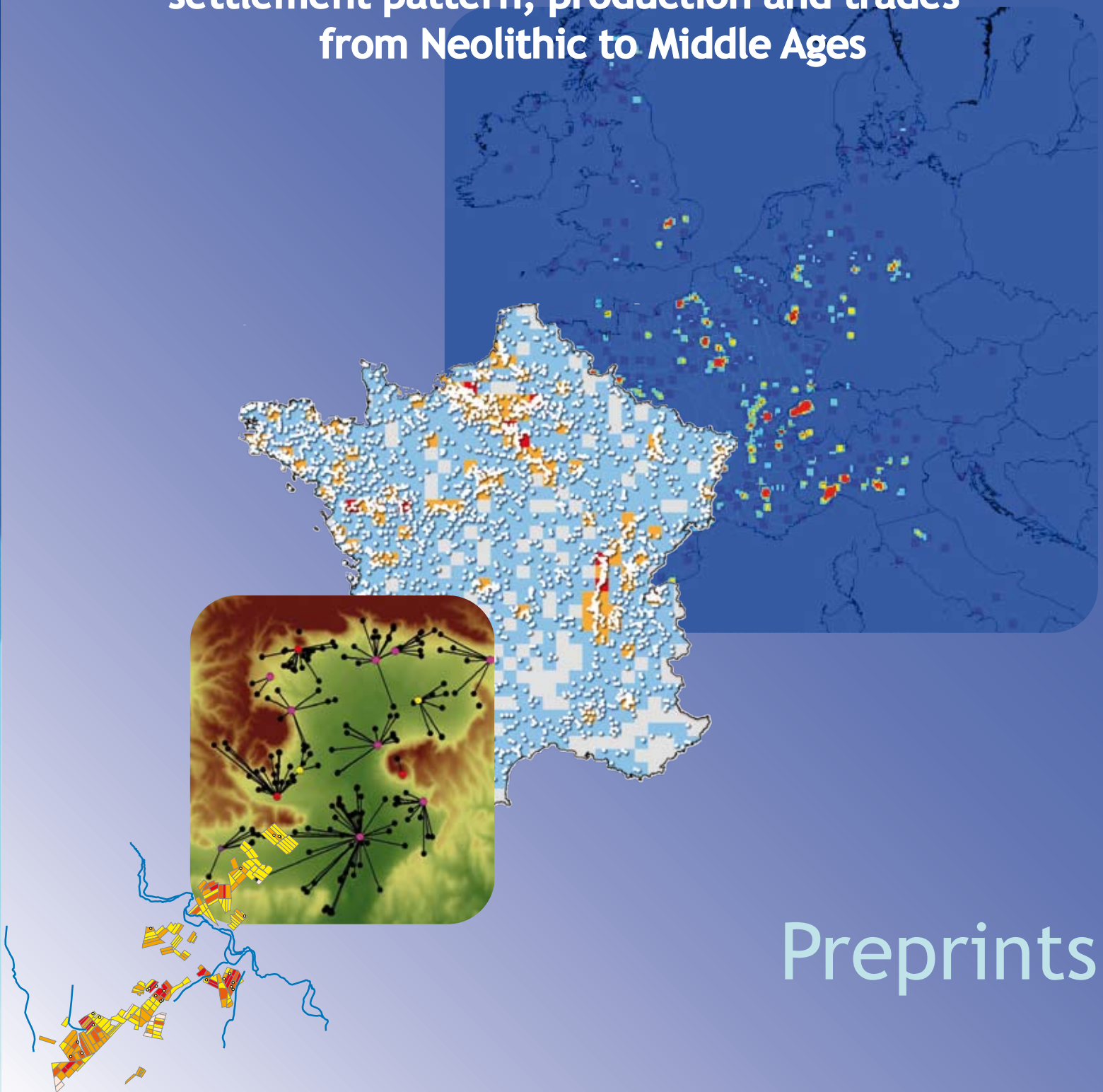
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ACI "Spaces and territories" 2005-2007
Final conference - Dijon, 23-25 june 2008

ARCHAEDYN

7 millennia of territorial dynamics

**settlement pattern, production and trades
from Neolithic to Middle Ages**



Preprints

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ACI « Spaces and territories » 2005-2007

Contract ET 28

**Spatial dynamics of settlement and natural resources :
toward an integrated analysis over the long term
from Prehistory to Middle Ages**

Final Conference – University of Burgundy, Dijon, 23-25 June 2008

ARCHÆDYN

7 millennia of territorial dynamics

*settlement pattern, production and trades
from Neolithic to Middle Ages*

Preprints

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INHA, Paris
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Colloque final :

Université de Bourgogne

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Final conference:

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RURAL SETTLEMENT DYNAMIC DURING IRON AGE IN CENTRAL GAUL : THE EXCAVATION AND FIELDWALKING DATA HEAD TO HEAD.

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Measurement of human occupation evolution is contained by many connected problems, in particular data heterogeneity. Surface survey and preventive excavation generally give opposed information on occupation stability. The first method privileges the long time and resilience of occupation. Whereas, excavations, often strained by reduced study windows and flush structures, gives a more parcelled vision.

Using methods developed in Archaeodyn workshop 2, we wanted to measure more finely these shifts between survey and preventive excavations data.

Therefore, we choice, for the first corpus, survey data from Burgundy (Plateaux de Basse-Bourgogne), Central France (Berry and Limagne) and South France (Languedoc oriental). These data were study with similar process and appear as representative.

On the other hand, we could work on proto-historical farm's corpus build for AFEAF (Association Française pour l'étude de l'Age du Fer) congress in Chauvigny (2007). This corpus was increase by preventives teams as INRAP (Institut National de Recherche Archéologique Préventive) and Antéa. 350 excavated settlements were documented in this study, mainly from North-est France (Burgundy, South-east Parisian area, Champagne, Lorraine, Alsace, and Franche-Comte). This study extends on to the period between La Tène B and augustean period (4th century B.C. and the beginning of 1st century A.C.).

All these settlements could be seen, for organisational and functional criteria, as agricultural establishments.

So, this confrontation could be done on these restricted corpuses: rural settlements occupied during second Iron Age. These two populations were set in the similar recording tables, founded on common description criteria.

Scientific exploitation was also limited by data quality. We had bad information on occupied surface for excavation settlements: this information was none on less than 10% of sites. It was so impossible to compare occupied surfaces evolution. The studies windows, limited by destructing projects, are too partial to allow an adequate comparison. It was thus impossible to explore settlement hierarchy-system and the evolution of territory organisation.

For better correlation, we made some modification in the occupation periodization. For statistic using, it was necessary to transform usual datation (La Tène C1 for exemple) in regular periods (50 years intervals). It was so possible to built curves of desertion and creation evolution, and occupancy rhythms for these two corpuses. The confrontation on these graphics allows expected result.

The discussion will relate on specific characters to each population witch can explain these apparent opposite evolution.

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Spatial dynamics of settlement and natural resources :
toward an integrated analysis over the long term from Prehistory to Middle-Ages

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