

MOVE – Mobility, continuity and transformations: new results from the wetland sites of Sutz-Lattrigen on lake Biel (BE, Switzerland)

Project: University of Bern, Institute of Archaeological Sciences, Prehistory Department. SNSF-Project (197383) «MOVE, Mobility, Vulnerability and Resilience of Middle European Neolithic Societies at the end of the 4th millennium BC», under the direction of Prof. Albert Hafner and the co-direction of Dr. Caroline Heitz.

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The University of Bern's «MOVE» project, which is being conducted in collaboration with the Archaeological Service of the Canton of Bern, is concerned with the interruption and continuity of settlement activity at the shores of large lakes (lakeshore settlements), as well as with societal changes and spatial mobility as resilience capacities of the populations at the end of the 4th millennium B.C. In this context, three sites in Sutz-Lattrigen (Neue Station, Hauptstation aussen and Kleine Station) on Lake Biel are being studied and precisely dated by dendrochronology between 3400 and 2700 BC. This time frame corresponds to the typo-chronological spheres of the «Horgen» (fig. 1) and «Lüscherz» (fig. 2). Dendrochronology also allows precise dating of settlement interruptions, for example at Sutz-Lattrigen, Neue Station. The plan of the piles makes it possible to reconstruct a horizontal stratigraphy because the occupations are offset from one another (fig. 3). We can therefore separate the archaeological material into phases. This enables us to study the occupations independently of each other, but also to compare them in order to identify similarities and differences between them. Our study focuses on ceramics, stone and antler tools as well as flints and organic objects. The ceramics are particularly suitable for the exercise and can give us an indication of the changes that occurred during the period being studied. These changes are particularly visible from a typological point of view after the long interruption of the settlement between the Horgen and Lüscherz periods. They are indeed radical, but is this also the case at the technological level? Are the production habits completely different? In what respects? What about other types of industry? Have mobility patterns also changed? How is the resilience of these populations reflected in these changes? These are all questions that the MOVE project seeks to answer.



Fig. 1: Sutz-Lattrigen, Hauptstation aussen: Horgen ceramics. Drawings: Marcel Stadelmann, Archaeological Service of Bern.

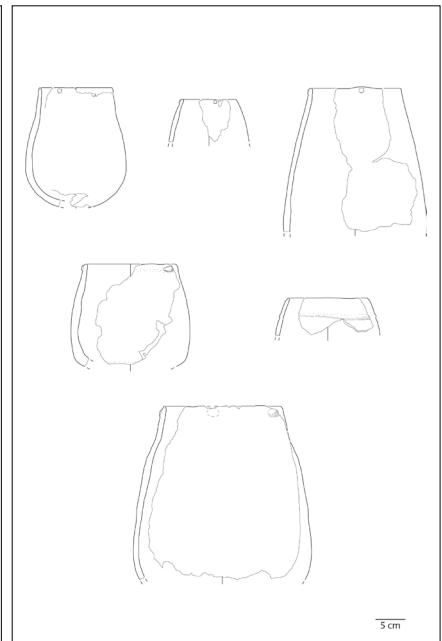


Fig. 2: Sutz-Lattrigen, Neue Station: Lüscherz ceramics. Drawings: Christine Rungger, Archaeological Service of Bern.

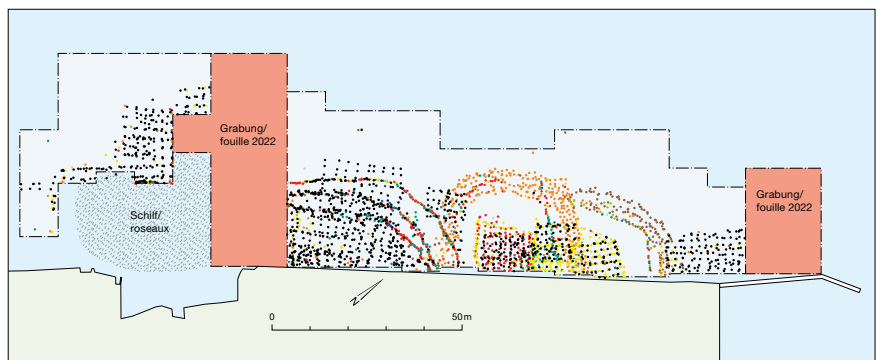


Fig. 3: Dendrochronological plan of the occupation phases of Sutz-Lattrigen, Neue Station. Lukas Schärer, Matthias Bolliger and Daniel Marchand, Archaeological Service of Bern.

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