

In the last, concluding section (III, p. 663–668), the author reiterates that neither Schwanfeld nor Langweiler 8 provide clear results for distribution patterns, but at the same time considers that the *Hofplatz* model can still be a useful tool for the spatio-temporal analysis of LBK settlements. Long-lived settlements with dense clusters of features are always going to be difficult to analyse, especially in the absence of sufficient finds from lateral pits. The longer a site is occupied, the greater the risks involved in using finds from other kinds of pit to search for spatial patterns. One might also add that, on LBK sites with few or no faunal remains, there is little chance of detecting meaningful patterns relating to household economic practices.

Nico Fröhlich has left few stones unturned in his painstaking search for spatial patterns in the finds from Schwanfeld and Langweiler 8. When such a wide range of material is examined, there are inevitably some shortcomings in references to recent research. Many readers will be discouraged by the sheer length of the text. All but the most hardened specialists will be put off by the total absence of illustration of the decoration motifs and flint artefacts that feature in so many of the distributional analyses. And on the whole, readers who are fundamentally sceptical about the *Hofplatz* model are unlikely to be persuaded by Fröhlich's study to think otherwise. Nevertheless, "Bandkeramische Hofplätze" is a remarkably versatile achievement and will surely be a landmark for many years in the field of LBK settlement studies.

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FRITZ JÜRGENS, Der bandkeramische Zentralort von Borgentreich-Großeneder (Kr. Höxter).

Universitätsforschungen zur prähistorischen Archäologie Band 340. Aus dem Institut für Ur- und Frühgeschichte der Universität Kiel. Verlag Dr. Rudolf Habelt GmbH, Bonn 2019. € 83.00. ISBN 978-3-7749-4199-1. 260 pages with 80 figures, 75 tables and three plans as supplements.

This book presents traces of the Linear Pottery Culture (LBK) occupation discovered at Borgentreich-Großeneder, in the region of Warburger Börde in Eastern Westphalia (DE). This peripheral region of the LBK *oecumene* has not been the focus of intensive archaeological research so far. The work is a printed version of a PhD thesis prepared at the University of Kiel under the supervision of Johannes Müller.

The book is divided into eight chapters of very various length. Chapter 1 (pp. 17–26) is a broad introduction to the subject. After a presentation of the state of research on the LBK, especially in Eastern Westphalia, the complicated history of the research on the site itself is outlined. It was discovered in the 1940s and since that time numerous surveys have been conducted there which yielded thousands of finds. In the 1990s small rescue excavations due to a road construction took place; unfortunately, the entire documentation was lost. In 1993 the MIDAL (*Mitte-Deutschland Anbindungs-Leitung*) gas pipeline project led to larger rescue excavations. Altogether an area of 14,700 sqm was uncovered; it was divided into two sections of a total length of ca. 300 m and a width of 20 m, running from the northwest to the southeast. The northern MIDAL 30 and the southern MIDAL 31 areas were divided by the Ederbach valley. In preliminary reports each of these areas is interpreted as a separate LBK settlement (H.-O. POLLMANN, Frühe Ackerbauern und Viehzüchter in Westfalen. Borgentreich-Großeneder und das Gräberfeld von Warburg-Hohenwepel. In: T. Otten et al. [ed.], *Revolution Jungsteinzeit*. Archäologische Landesausstellung Nordrhein-

Westfalen. Schr. Bodendenkmalpf. Nordrhein-Westfalen 11,1 [Darmstadt 2015] 330–333), and a critical examination of this hypothesis is one of the main goals of Fritz Jürgens' publication. Between these two main areas, south of Ederbach, there was a small, irregular area MIDAL 32, which was also excavated in 1993.

In 2005, 2006 and 2016 magnetic surveys were conducted in both parts of the site, while in the south small trenches were opened as well. Additionally, ca. 500 m west of MIDAL 31 a large cluster of stone adzes was registered during fieldwalking in the 1980s and 1990s. It was interpreted as traces of a graveyard and this hypothesis was confirmed by excavations conducted between 2011 and 2017, when ca. 150 graves were discovered. However, finds from this research were not analysed in the present work.

In the second part of chapter 1 the method of analysis of features and finds is presented. Unfortunately, some field documentation was lost, which led to a very general association of artefacts with features, without any information on their internal layers, which would have been useful because the author implies on the basis of pottery decoration that at least some features could have been used during more than one phase. He does not analyse features other than postholes connected with houses and other constructions, limiting their presentation to a catalogue at the end of the book. The analysis of longhouses is based on Pieter Modderman's well-known typology (P. J. R. MODDERMAN, *Linearbandkeramik aus Elsloo und Stein*. *Analecta Praehist. Leidensia* 3 [Leiden 1970]) with additional modifications made mainly for the Aldenhovener Platte. However, the description in this book is not purified from interpretation, for example when the author names southwest parts of houses granaries. The pottery analysis was conducted almost exclusively on the basis of Jürgen Kneipp's scheme for the LBK in the Rhine, Weser and Main area (J. KNEIPP, *Die Bandkeramik zwischen Rhein, Weser und Main*. *Studien zu Stil und Chronologie der Keramik*. *Univforsch. Prähist. Arch.* 7 [Bonn 1998]) and it was restricted to reconstructed vessel entities (*Gefäßseinheiten*), while the remaining "total mass" (*Gesamtmasse*) was only counted and weighed, without any additional division, for example between fine and coarse ware. In this introductory part the author also discusses local chronological schemes based on pottery, paying special attention to the division into ten stylistic groups (*Stilgruppen*) by Kneipp (confusingly named in other parts of this book also stylistic phases – *Stilphasen* – and stylistic stages – *Stilstufen*), which was applied as a basis of relative dating in this work. Little attention was paid to other categories of finds such as chipped or ground stones and thus reflections on daub imprints, albeit only descriptive and not quantitative, surprise in a positive way.

Chapter 2 (pp. 27–32) presents quite briefly the geology and the landscape of the loess area of Warburger Börde and the topographic location of the site. The author deals here with such issues as environmental conditions in the Early Neolithic and the extent of erosion since that period, although in the latter case he does not rely on any detailed analysis and does not try to reconstruct the relief from the LBK, which would have been helpful for the interpretation of areas MIDAL 30 and 31. He implies *a priori* that they represent a single settlement.

This settlement is the subject of the most comprehensive part (more than 100 pages, 52% of the text excluding references and appendices), chapter 3 (pp. 33–140), which is divided into two subchapters, each of them for one part of the site: the northern part in subchapter 3.1 and the southern in subchapter 3.2. Both are organised in a similar way. They begin with the information on the spatial extent of finds and features for both parts. The size of the northern part can be estimated on the basis of fieldwalking and magnetic survey to ca. 300 m along the north-south axis and 500 m along the east-west axis. For the southern part these measurements are ca. 400 m for the north-south axis and 550–750 m for the east-west axis, respectively. Unfortunately, these areas are not presented on a plan and it is not possible to estimate their spatial relation. Excavated

features are presented in the next part of this chapter; in the MIDAL 30 area a total of 340 features was registered, most of them dated to the LBK, 116 constituting elements of timber constructions. Altogether four longhouses and four other structures were identified, although only one complete house was unearthed within the excavated area. Magnetic survey conducted to the north and east of the trench indicated the existence of at least 30 additional houses. In the MIDAL 31 area ca. 666 features were unearthed, with 391 of them connected with 16 longhouses. Six additional houses were discovered in small test trenches to the west of this area and seven others further west could be identified on the basis of magnetic anomalies. Unfortunately, these houses are presented only on small and unclear plans and the magnetic survey was not integrated with excavation results on a common plan.

The presentation of other features was restricted to some outstanding ones. In the case of the northern part, it was the feature 301 with a deposit of flint blades, although unfortunately, information of its location was lost, and a grave containing a flexed skeleton unearthed within the area MIDAL 34a located to the northwest of MIDAL 31. According to the text it should be marked on figure 19 (p. 45); however, it is not.

In the southern part of the site excavations as well as magnetic survey revealed the existence of an enclosure consisting of four ditches and some postholes of a palisade. In the southern section of the MIDAL 31 trench a puzzling circular enclosure with a diameter of only 15.5 m was discovered as well.

From other, more regular features the author selected only pits with outstanding finds for presentation: feature 109 – a hollow with construction rubbish; feature 346 – a refuse pit with a rich inventory; feature 361 – a deposit of vessels; and feature 527 – a refuse pit with charred cereal grains and numerous daub fragments. Other features are presented very briefly although the author implies that some of them could be connected with undetected longhouses where postholes were not preserved.

The following parts of chapter 3 present artefacts found at Borgentreich-Großeneder. Altogether 5010 were found in the MIDAL 30 and 5157 in the MIDAL 31 and these were mainly pottery and daub. These finds were obtained from 99 features from MIDAL 30 (12.2 % of all features) and 81 from MIDAL 31 (30 % of all features). The author pays particular attention to vessel entities of the pottery. He identifies 350 of them for MIDAL 30, 283 decorated; for MIDAL 31 there are 327 entities, consisting of 279 “real vessels”, 200 of them decorated, and 49 collections of undecorated rim sherds. For some vessels the temper is described; organic and grog were the most common types. Preservation of vessels, methods of their production, wall thickness, vessel forms as well as the morphology of rims and bases are presented here as well. The description of decoration is divided into rim, band, and secondary motifs (*Zwickel*) as well as plastic elements grouped into handles, knobs, and other applications. The coarse pottery is presented as a separate category, although in the text various band types are mentioned: it is not clear here if they were included in the band type category or not. The whole analysis is mainly descriptive: simple bar charts presenting the amount of respective analytical categories are the only form of quantitative analysis applied.

The analysis of flint artefacts is reduced to a basic classification into flakes, cores and tools, the latter including blades. The raw material, so essential in the LBK research, was not analysed due to a high degree of fragmentation. The presentation of ground stone artefacts is similarly basic.

In the case of animal bones and botanical remains special studies were conducted before (W. D. BECKER, Von verkohlten Nahrungsvorräten, geheimnisvollen Wällen und bitteren Mahlzeiten. Archäobotanische Untersuchungen in Westfalen. In: H. G. Horn / H. Hellenkemper [eds], Ein Land macht Geschichte. Archäologie in Nordrhein-Westfalen. Schr. Bodendenkmalpfl.

Nordrhein-Westfalen 3, 1995, 191–194; H.-J. PRILLOFF, Archäozoologische Analysen der Tierreste von zwei Fundplätzen der Linienbandkeramik von Borgentreich-Großeneder, Kr. Höxter. In: H.-O. Pollmann [ed.], Archäologische Rückblicke. Festschrift für Daniel Bérenger. Univforsch. Prähist. Arch. 254 [Bonn 2014] 21–28) and their main results are described in this book.

Unfortunately, survey finds were not included in the analysis. The author presents them very briefly at the end of each subchapter about finds, focusing mainly on some random, outstanding flint and stone artefacts.

The following subchapters deal with “the chronology and the dating”. They begin with stratigraphic analysis which was difficult to conduct due to some missing field documentation. Some houses overlap, thus indicating a temporal depth. Houses were also dated according to their typological traits and in rare cases also on the basis of diagnostic finds connected with them, even more rarely on ¹⁴C dates. Much attention is placed on stratigraphic relations between separate ditches of the enclosure.

The very brief chapter 4 (pp. 141–143) is a comparison of finds between two parts of the settlement: their number, weight, form of vessels and proportion of decorated vs plain vessels as well as basic types of chipped and ground stone artefacts, demonstrated in the form of simple box charts. This data is the basis for the verification of the hypothesis from preliminary excavation reports about the existence of two separate LBK settlements at Borgentreich-Großeneder. The author tackles this challenge in chapter 5 (pp. 145–163) on the settlement history and settlement structure. Based on the chronological estimations he suggests that a single settlement unit (Siedlungsverband) existed there instead, and that the occupation shifted gradually from the north to the south. In the following section the author joins the controversially discussed debate, especially in German archaeology, on the microregional settlement organisation of the LBK as either consisting of house wards (Hofplatz) or rows. He opts unequivocally for the latter model, based on false assumptions that the continuity of place is an argument against the house ward model (p. 149), although the opposite is the case. His reconstructions of rows at Borgentreich presented in figure 118 (p. 150) therefore cannot be taken seriously. After some remarks on the size and orientation of houses discussed in comparison with other regions, the author attempts to estimate the size of the whole settlement using as a proxy the mean number of houses per hectare and applying it to the whole settlement area, which is 30 hectares. The impressive total number of 500 houses is a naive fallacy because it neither takes into account different house densities, visible already within the studied area (e.g., in p. 45 fig. 19 there seems to be a boundary of houses in the southern part of the northern settlement), nor relief variations such as the river valley which can influence the structure of occupation. Nevertheless, this extrapolation serves as a basis for further demographic and economic estimations.

In the further part of this chapter the author compares the site with other large LBK settlements and looks for analogies for the shifting of occupation in other regions of this culture. He also discusses the relationship of the settlement with a cemetery and the enclosure, which he similarly declares as the largest within the whole LBK although its northern boundary can only be estimated. The chapter ends with some remarks on the LBK subsistence at Borgentreich, based mainly on botanical remains from the feature 527.

Chapter 6 (pp. 165–179) places the site in the regional context of the Warburger Börde. The author interprets the settlement as a central place in a regional network. He also discusses whether the peripheral location could have influenced the construction of a monumental enclosure and what the relations of the farmers were like with the local hunter-gatherers.

The subject of chapter 7 (pp. 181–187) is the absolute dating of the LBK in the Warburger Börde based on ¹⁴C dates from the site, the first ones in this region. They range between 5100–4800 cal BC.

The author explains the very late end of the LBK with the local resistance to change and innovation known as “Westfälische Zeitverschiebung”. However, these dates, which are at least 100 years later than the generally assumed demise of the LBK (e. g. K. RIEDHAMMER, The radiocarbon dates from Herxheim and their archaeological interpretation. In: A. Zeeb-Lanz [ed.], *Ritualised Destruction in the Early Neolithic: The Exceptional Site of Herxheim [Palatinate, Germany]*. *Forsch. Pfälz. Arch.* 2 [Speyer 2019] 285–303), definitely deserve much more serious discussion. If they are correct, how could this community survive unchanged when most of the previous networks (data on flint raw material would be so useful here!) had collapsed?

The most important conclusions are summarised in the final chapter 8 (pp. 189–190). In the appendix one can find a catalogue of analysed variables and features as well as 74 plates with drawing of finds (pl. 1–28) and schematic profiles of features (pl. 29–75). Plans of MIDAL 30, 31 and 32 are also attached.

Regarding the bad state of research on the LBK in Eastern Westphalia a publication of this important site must be greeted positively, at least on the data level. Doubts appear at the interpretation level: the author definitely tends to spectacular but not seriously founded assumptions such as the largest settlement, the largest enclosure etc. The interpretation of the settlement history with an impressive shift of occupation also relies on very weak data. Why was the pottery from the survey not used to support the dating, which is based on a small selection of the site? Additionally, this dating relies to a large degree only on the typology of houses, which does not allow a precise assignment to one of ten phases which the author proposed. The chronological scheme by KNEIPP (1998) is rejected by most researchers working on the LBK (e. g. J. RITTER-BURKERT, *Die Bandkeramik in Mittelhessen und angrenzenden Gebieten – Typologie, Chronologie, Kontaktszenarien [Kaarst 2019]* 301–305, further references therein). The author ignores these controversies and Kneipp’s work is the main reference for him, which raises additional doubts on his conclusions.

And although I am aware that I kick a man when he is down, I must stress again the bad quality of the figures in this book. They are not only confusingly imprecise (no clear general plan presented in the whole book), but sometimes also erroneous: for example, figure 113 is duplicated while figure 114 is missing. In figure 125 applied from POLLMANN (2015) the author left a dashed line (the boundary of loess) without any explanation in the captions.

Summing up: even if Borgentreich-Großeneder is not the largest LBK site ever found, it is interesting and important. That is why I can recommend this book to scholars interested in the material of the LBK in Eastern Westphalia, with a remark: read with caution.

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DIETER KAUFMANN, Die Rössener Kultur in Mitteldeutschland. Die rössenzeitlichen Geräte aus Felsgestein. Veröffentlichungen des Landesamtes für Denkmalpflege und Archäologie Sachsen-Anhalt Band 72/V and 72/VI = Die Rössener Kultur in Mitteldeutschland Band 5. Landesamt für Denkmalpflege und Archäologie Sachsen-Anhalt, Halle (Saale) 2020. € 79.00. ISBN 978-3-948618-05-6. 645 pages with 58 illustrations and 120 plates.

Following the publication of “Die Rössener Kultur in Mitteldeutschland (I und II) – Katalog der Rössener und rössenzeitlichen Funde – Altkreise Altenburg bis Gotha” in 2017, the catalogue of