

Understanding the remains of defended structures and ways to track down evidences

Research on the coastal and insular archaeological sites of Brittany (France) of the 1st mill. BC.

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As a diver in the ocean, the more we look in the depth of time, the more our vision becomes unclear. This general concept can easily apply to the issues linked to the occupation of defended sites through prehistoric and historic times. This presentation deals with coastal and insular archaeological sites as well as fortified islands, established during the 1st millennium BC, in the region that is now called Brittany. Not necessarily different from the continental ones, at least in terms of size and shape, the privileged context offered by such sites may, however, offer a better state of conservation for the structure's remains, due to their remote location. Through several examples, this presentation wishes to focus on the defended structures left for the eyes of the observers and what can be said of them. If it is true that every defended site is different from one another, similarities between some of them lead the archaeologist to formulate theories in order to understand more easily these defensive structures - and interpret them.

The interdisciplinary and systematic study currently drawing in western France wishes to help the understanding of the socio-economic and strategic functions attached to these sites (especially the exchange networks of the Atlantic coast of Europe), located mostly on remarkable topographic positions, as well as the resources deployed for their defense development. By using a new wave of tools and methods serving the interest of our research's subject, the main goal is to propose different ways to see those archaeological structures and to extend our sight within what could not be seen until now.