



Connected by Circles

Chronological Perspectives and Diffusion Patterns of Neolithic Enclosures
in Central Europe

Prague, 20–21 Nov 2025

Circular enclosures are one of the hallmarks of the Central European Neolithic. Constructed to delimit specific areas, they were likely intended for communal activities, rituals, gatherings, or other purposes that channelled social interactions. The basic construction elements of ditches, trenches, and ramparts were shaped in various layouts that emerged in particular regions and periods of the Neolithic: palisade enclosures of late Linearbandkeramik, Middle Neolithic rondels, pseudo-ditch enclosures in Alsace, ditched enclosures of Münchshöfen culture in Bavaria, large causewayed enclosures of the Michelsberg and Funnel Beaker cultures, or ditch systems in Carpathian Basin to mention just some of them.

Despite their formal differences, archaeologists engaged in research of these early monuments face the same challenges in studying their detailed temporal and diffusion patterns. Many fundamental questions remain unanswered, which prevents us from moving our research forward.

- What were the mutual chronological relations between individual enclosures – were they used simultaneously or consequently?
- How quickly could an enclosure be built?
- Was it just a matter of technical constraints or did more elaborate social aspects intervene?
- When and from where did particular phenomena of enclosing spread?
- After all, was there any cradle for particular types of enclosures or are we dealing with a continuous phenomenon just disguised in forms slightly changing through time?
- What was the duration of enclosures – were they short-lived meeting places or long-term central places structuring the landscape in a long-term perspective?
- Did their role change over time?
- How and why were they abandoned?

The conference aims to gather researchers from various backgrounds but connected by interest in “circles” to discuss and share their approaches. We welcome scholars dealing with absolute dating, spatial analyses, experimental earthwork construction, and theoretical approaches to these questions that will help contextualise enclosures in their specific societies. Contributions may explore both local case studies as well as overarching supraregional perspectives.

We would greatly appreciate it if you could **let us know by the end of February** whether you are interested in participating in our conference and plan to attend. Your early response will help us immensely in organizing the event. Although participation in the conference will be free of attendance fees, there is a limited capacity.

The call for papers will be open in May. You will be informed by email.

We look forward to seeing you in Prague from 20 to 21 November 2025!

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