


[Latest News](#)
[Browse Topics](#)
[Encyclopedia](#)
[Health Center](#)
[Videos](#)
[Science Books](#)
[Health & Medicine](#)
[Mind & Brain](#)
[Plants & Animals](#)
[Space & Time](#)
[Earth & Climate](#)
[Matter & Energy](#)
[Computers & Math](#)
[Fossils & Ruins](#)
[Show menu](#) | [ScienceDaily home page](#)
[RSS feeds](#) | [Free newsletter](#)
[Print this page](#)
[Email to friend](#)
[Bookmark](#)

 Text: [small](#) | [med](#) | [large](#)

 Source: [Universidad de Granada](#)

Date: June 5, 2007

 More on: [Ancient Civilizations, Lost Treasures, Archaeology, Cultures, Charles Darwin, Origin of Life](#)

Archaeologists Reconstruct Life In The Bronze Age At A Site Of Southern Spain

Science Daily — Researchers of the Group of Recent Prehistory Studies (GEPRAN) of the Universidad de Granada, from the department of Prehistory and Archaeology, have taken an important step to determine how life was in the Iberian Peninsula in the Bronze Age.

Since 1974, archaeologists from Granada, directed by professors Trinidad Nájera Colino and Fernando Molina González, have been working on the site of the Motilla del Azuer, in the municipal area of Daimiel (province of Ciudad Real), in search of the necessary information to reconstruct the day by day in this thrilling and unknown historical period.

The sites, known as "motillas", represent one of the most peculiar types of prehistoric settlements in the Iberian Peninsula. They occupied the region of La Mancha in the Bronze Age between 2200 and 1500 BC, and they are artificial mounds, 4 to 10 m high, a result of the destruction of a stone fortification of central plan with several concentric walled lines. Its distribution in the plain of La Mancha, with equidistances of 4 to 5 kilometres, affects river meadows and low areas where the existence of pools was quite frequent until recent dates.

Although they were already known since the end of the 19th century, the motillas were erroneously considered to be burial mounds until the middle of the seventies, when the start of the research work on the Motilla del Azuer carried out by the Universidad de Granada and sponsored by the Department of Culture of Castile La Mancha showed that it was a fortification, surrounded by a small settlement and a necropolis. It has been the first site of this kind to be excavated in a scientific and systematic way.

Technical characteristics

The mound of the fortification which has been recovered has a diameter of about 50 metres, and is composed of a tower, two walled enclosures and a large courtyard. The central core is composed of a tower of masonry of square plan, with 7 metres high east and west fronts and an interior accessible through ramps inlaid in narrow corridors, which confer a particular nature to the place.

The researchers of the UGR explain that settlement of the Azuer contains the oldest well found in the Iberian Peninsula. The inside of this type of walled enclosures protected basic resources such as water, collected from the phreatic stratum through the well, and was also used to store and process cereals on a large scale, to keep the livestock occasionally and to product pottery and other home-made products, whose remains have also been found.

The site of the Motilla del Azuer has been possible thanks to the close collaboration between the Council of Communities of Castile la Mancha and the Public Service of Employment of Castile La Mancha (SEPECAM), who have financed the works, and the Universidad de Granada, thanks to the archaeologists of the GEPRAN, who have also had the support of the Town Council of Daimiel (Ciudad Real).

During the next excavation campaign, the Centre for Continuous Education of the Universidad de Granada will celebrate the second edition of the course "Excavation Methodology and Techniques in the Archaeological Site of Motilla del Azuer", offered from the 4th to the 22nd of September.

Note: This story has been adapted from a news release issued by Universidad de Granada.

[Ads by Google](#)
[Advertise on this site](#)

Culture defines society
 Fuels our differences
 Highlights our similarities
[TalkAboutCulture.com](#)

Volunteer in Archaeology
 The World Guide to Archaeological
 and Heritage Voluntary Work
[www.archaeovolunteers.org](#)

Organic Lions Mane
 Extracts, capsules, plug
 spawn cultures, recipes,
 books and more
[www.fungi.com](#)

Search Archives

 Find: [> options](#)

[JobStream](#)
[Quick Search](#)

Keywords:

Location:

Job category:

[careerbuilder.com](#)

Stay motivated!

Your girlfriends can get you moving to reduce your risk of cancer, diabetes, heart disease and stroke.

EVERYDAYCHOICES.ORG

In Other News ...

Report: G8 may scale back AIDS initiative
 (2 hours ago)

Insurgent groups in Iraq post truce
 (2 hours ago)

Senate votes on immigration in wee hours
 (2 hours ago)

Cyclone hits Iran
 (3 hours ago)

Report: Iran helping Taliban
 (3 hours ago)

Taliban says it traded hostages for body

 New! Search [Science Daily](#) or the entire web with Google:

Web ScienceDaily.com

Science Video News



Dating Hidden Treasures

A biologist developed a method to determine the date of antique prints made from hand-cranked presses. In his so-called

print-clock method, image ... > [watch video](#)

Jump to: < prev | next >



(3 hours ago)

Fashion innovator Charles Evans dies
(4 hours ago)

Raids in Iraq bring more than 30 arrests
(4 hours ago)

North Korea may have fired more missiles
(4 hours ago)

Blair sees progress on climate change
(4 hours ago)

... more breaking news at [NewsDaily](#) -- updated every 15 minutes

Related News Sections

- [Fossils & Ruins](#)

Related News Topics

- [Ancient Civilizations](#)
- [Lost Treasures](#)
- [Archaeology](#)
- [Cultures](#)
- [Charles Darwin](#)
- [Origin of Life](#)

Related Science Stories

- [Archaeologists Identify Oldest Existing Mound Complex In New World](#)
- [Climate Change Pushed Neanderthal Into Extinction In Iberian Peninsula, Spanish Researcher Says](#)
- [UC San Diego Archaeologists Discover Largest Bronze Age Metal Factory In Middle East](#)
- [Dutch Archaeologists Uncover Earliest Egyptian Temple](#)
- [Inhabitants Of Columbus' First Settlement Were Desperate To Find Metals, Study Finds](#)

Related Encyclopedia Articles

- [Excavation](#)
- [Bronze Age](#)
- [Iron Age](#)
- [Castle](#)
- [Archaeological field survey](#)
- [Stone Age](#)
- [Artifact \(archaeology\)](#)
- [Stonehenge](#)
- [Petroglyph](#)
- [Egyptian pyramids](#)

Related Book Reviews

- [The Goddess and the Bull : Catalhoyuk: An Archaeological Journey to the Dawn of Civilization](#)
- [The Swamp : The Everglades, Florida, and the Politics of Paradise](#)
- [Land Development Calculations: Interactive Tools and Techniques for Site Planning, Analysis and Design](#)
- [The Looting of the Iraq Museum, Baghdad : The Lost Legacy of Ancient Mesopotamia](#)
- [One Man's Wilderness: An Alaskan Odyssey](#)