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Reconstructing pyrenaen field: preliminary results from a multidisciplinary approach

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► To cite this version:

Christine Rendu, Carine Calastrenc, Olivier Passarius, Ramon Julia, Muriel Llubes. Reconstructing pyrenaen field: preliminary results from a multidisciplinary approach. A Pyrenean territory within the long-term perspective - International Association of Landscape Archaeology 2010, Jan 2010, Amsterdam, Netherlands. hal-04006680

HAL Id: hal-04006680

<https://hal.science/hal-04006680>

Submitted on 17 Nov 2023

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Reconstructing pyrenean fields: Preliminary results from a multidisciplinary approach

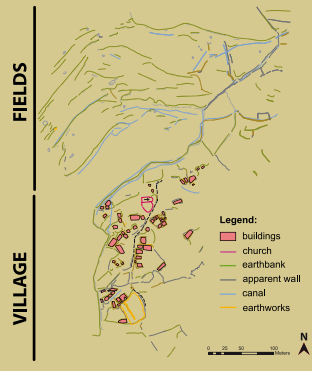
Ch. Rendu, C. Calastrenc, O. Passarrius, R. Julia, M. Llubes - collab : E. Bille, M. Conesa, P. Illes, C. Jodry, P. Berard

Operating context: Extension of a solar power station (1700 m) => archaeological survey of 10 ha, with evidence of a medieval village and an undated system of terraces

Scientific context : This study is part of a long-term, interdisciplinary research project on the landscape in the Eastern Pyrenees.

Interest of this project

1. An entire medieval village (4 ha) => non destructive method.
2. Fields and terraces (6 ha) with deep soils: history of a agrarian landscape.

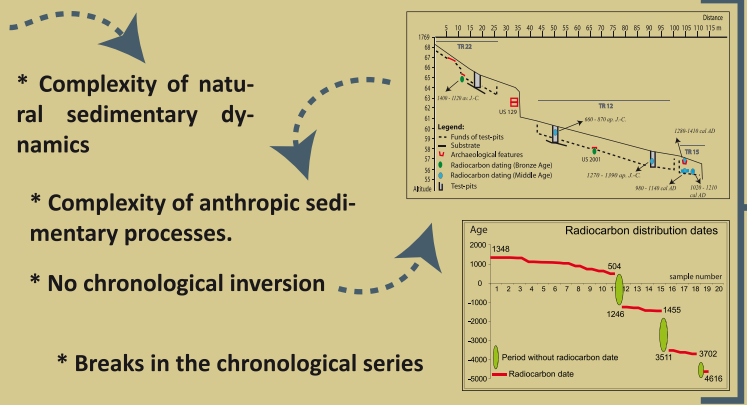
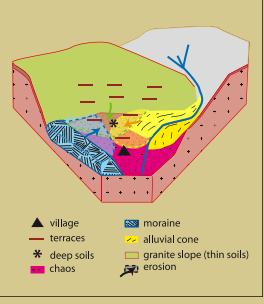
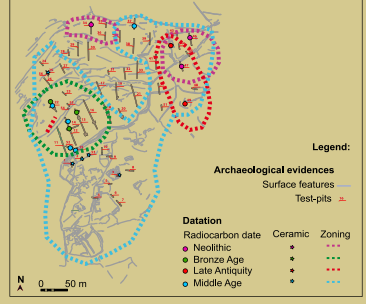


Methods

- surface surveys:**
- DGPS
 - Geophysics
 - Aerial photography
- Excavations:**
- 52 trial trenches
 - geomorphology
 - 22 radiocarbon dates



Lands over the long-term

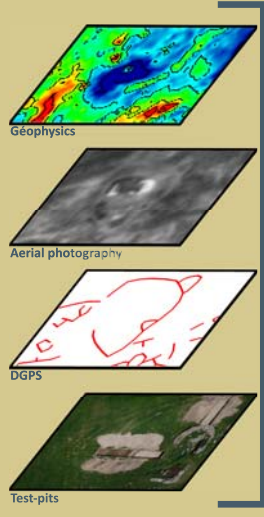


Age and density of the evidences

- => Ancient agricultural shaping of the slope (Bronze Age boundary markers and terraces)
- => Different phases: possible alternating land uses

Periodization of the medieval settlement and its farmlands

A multidisciplinary survey



Comparative analysis

Periodization of the village

- 11th-12th c.: creation
- 12th-13th c.: expansion
- mid-14th c.: desertion

Layout of the village



Medieval Periodization of the Terraces

- 11th-12th c.: first medieval soil and 1st wall
- 12th-13th c.: 2nd terrace wall and 1st drainage
- mid-14th c.: 3 terracing (new wall) and 2nd drainage

- * At the same time the village was deserted, the fields were reorganized.
- * Continuity of cultivation -> Rapid transformation from village fields to a single large farm.

Conclusion : - Complex interactions between Humans and the environment.
- New evidence for regional agrarian history.

