

PREHISTORIC MEGASITES IN UKRAINE:

Early Urbanism in the Forest-Steppe Region in a Global Context

Oxford, 5th – 6th November 2026



Chernyshi hillfort
Cherkasy region, Ukraine
Photo by Oleh Bilynskyi

Location:

New Seminar Room,
St. John's College

Organisers:

Manuel Fernández-Götz
Oleh Bilynskyi

THURSDAY 5TH NOVEMBER

10:00 - 10:15 AM

Arrival

10:15 - 10:30 AM

Manuel Fernández-Götz (*Oxford*) & Oleh Bilynskyi (*Kyiv*)

**Ukrainian megasites in context:
Introduction to the workshop**

10:30 - 11:00 AM

Amy Bogaard (*Oxford*)

**How different types of farming
fed different types of cities**

Opening Keynote

SESSION 1:

Trypillia megasites

11:00 - 11:30 AM

Johannes Müller (*Kiel; online*)

**Trypillia: Settlement organisation
and population development**

11:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Coffee break

12:00 – 12:30 PM

Mychailo Videiko (*Kyiv*)

Urbanization processes of the Trypillia era

12:30 – 1:00 PM

Aleksandr Diachenko (*Kyiv, online*)

Variation in Cucuteni-Trypillia house size distribution: What does it reveal?

1:00 – 2:00 PM

Lunch break

2:00 – 2:30 PM

Vasyl Lykianytsia (*Kyiv*)

Talianky: The largest Trypillian settlement in the context of the Cucuteni-Trypillia megasite phenomenon

2:30 – 3:00 PM

John Chapman (*Durham*)

& Bisserka Gaydarska (*Historic England*)

Inner open spaces in Trypillia megasites: The nature of the problem

3:00 – 3:30 PM

Marco Nebbia (*UCL*)

Urban citizens before cities in Chalcolithic Europe? The case of Trypillia megasites

3:30 – 4:00 PM

Final discussion session 1 and coffee break

SESSION 2:

Early Iron Age megasites

4:00 - 4:30 PM

Denys Grechko (*Kyiv; online*)

**Nomad 'capitals' of the forest-steppe:
Proto-urban sites or just large fortified
central places?**

4:30 - 5:00 PM

Oleh Bilynskyi (*Kyiv*)

Gigantic hillforts of Forest-Steppe Scythia

5:00 - 5:30 PM

Tim Taylor (*Bratislava*)

**Keeping them out and keeping them in:
The functional architecture of Bil's'k**

5:30 - 6:00 PM

Final discussion (Day 1)

FRIDAY 6TH NOVEMBER

SESSION 2:

(continuation)

10:00 - 10:30 AM

Alisa Demina (*Kyiv*)

**Centre of power or communication hub?
Non-invasive research at the Early Iron Age
Chernyshi hillfort, central Ukraine**

10:30 - 11:00 AM

Oleksandra Ivanova & Ivan Zotsenko (*Kyiv*)

**Defensive megastructures
in the fortified landscape around Kyiv**

11:00 - 11:30 AM

Final discussion session 2 and coffee break

SESSION 3:

Widening the scope: International perspectives

11:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Manuel Fernández-Götz (*Oxford*)

**Iron Age megasites north of the Alps:
Fürstensitze and *oppida***

12:00 - 12:30 PM

Ian Ralston (*Edinburgh*)

**Pulses of increased settlement complexity
in Gaul from the Late Bronze Age
to the Late Iron Age:
The example of the Bourges megasite**

12:30 - 1:00 PM

Gary Lock (*Oxford*) & Ian Ralston (*Edinburgh*)

The Atlas of Hillforts of Britain and Ireland

1:00 - 2:00 PM

Lunch break

SESSION 3:

(continuation)

2:00 - 2:30 PM

Simon Stoddart (*Cambridge*)

**Contextualising the megasite
of Etruscan Tarquinia**

2:30 - 3:00 PM

Bill Finlayson (*Oxford*)

**Documenting cultural heritage
in and around times of conflict
in the Middle East**

3:00 - 3:30 PM

Final discussion session 3 and coffee break

3:30 - 4:00 PM

Chris Gosden (*Oxford*)

Concluding remarks