

## **MAGNETIC PROSPECTION OF THE MIDDLE NEOLITHIC CIRCULAR DITCH SYSTEMS PRANHARTSBERG I AND II, AUSTRIA**

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The middle neolithic circular ditch systems Pranhartsberg I and II were detected by aerial archaeology and magnetically prospected in 1998 and 1999. The magnetic survey of the two monuments situated 500 m from each other covered 3 ha each and were measured in a 0.5 x 0.125 m grid using a PICODAS MEP750 multisensor cesiumgradiometer with 0.005 nT resolution. The digital image representation of Pranhartsberg I shows a double circular ditch system surrounded by various pits indicating the last remains of the settlement. The circular ditches with diameters of 80 and 52 m are 3.5 to 4.5 m wide. They are interrupted by four entrances. In the centre a 1300 m<sup>2</sup> free area was surrounded by a palisade 41 m in diameter. The second double circular ditch system Pranhartsberg II shows two entrances. The system shows diameters of 110 and 78 m of the 3.5 to 6.5 m wide ditches. The center was enclosed by a palisade 57 m in diameter forming a 2500 m<sup>2</sup> area. The orientation of the entrances of the two ditch system in close neighborhood but without visual contact seems to be the same. The circular ditch systems were reconstructed using 3D modelling. The sites on loessic soil are already heavily eroded.