

4_3_1_The_mega-site_plan

The Nebelivka mega-site conforms to the five key planning principles established by Ukrainian archaeologists in the first methodological revolution in the study of Trypillia mega-sites (Dudkin & Videiko, 2004; Videiko, 2012; Videiko, 2013):

- 1) at least two, and possibly as many as four, principal concentric circuits of structures
- 2) an open space in the centre of the site, inside the inner circuit
- 3) an open space between the two circuits, constituting a buffer zone of varying widths
- 4) the construction of some structures inside the inner circuit
- 5) the construction of some structures outside the outer circuit

However, the second methodological revolution (Chapman *et al.*, 2014), exemplified by recent international projects such as the Kyiv-Durham and Kyiv-Frankfurt-Kiel collaborations, has enabled the identification of several additional planning principles and classes of feature. These recent projects have used new generations of magnetometers to cover huge areas with higher sampling densities and greater spatial precision. Several new elements have been identified at Nebelivka: perimeter ditches, internal ditches, palaeochannels, pit clusters, household clusters ('Neighbourhoods'), bounded unbuilt spaces and buildings which are much larger than typical dwelling houses ('Assembly Houses') ([ADS LINK TO 4_2_2_PLANS/4_2_2_2_ Interpretation](#)). This has led to the establishment of three zones which were largely free of structures: an outer zone (between the perimeter ditch and the outer circuit of houses); a middle zone (between the two house circuits); and an inner central zone ([ADS LINK TO 4_3_3_SPREADSHEETS/4_3_3_1_zonal widths](#)). Many elements of the Nebelivka site plan have also been identified at other mega-sites, such as Maidanetske and Taljanky (Müller *et al.* 2016). These new elements reveal a far greater degree of internal spatial ordering than was ever detectable on the older plans. The result is that we have begun to understand much more clearly the spatial components of mega-sites and their combinations and re-combinations in 'Quarters' and 'Neighbourhoods' (Chapman *et al.*, 2014; Chapman *et al.*, 2014a).