

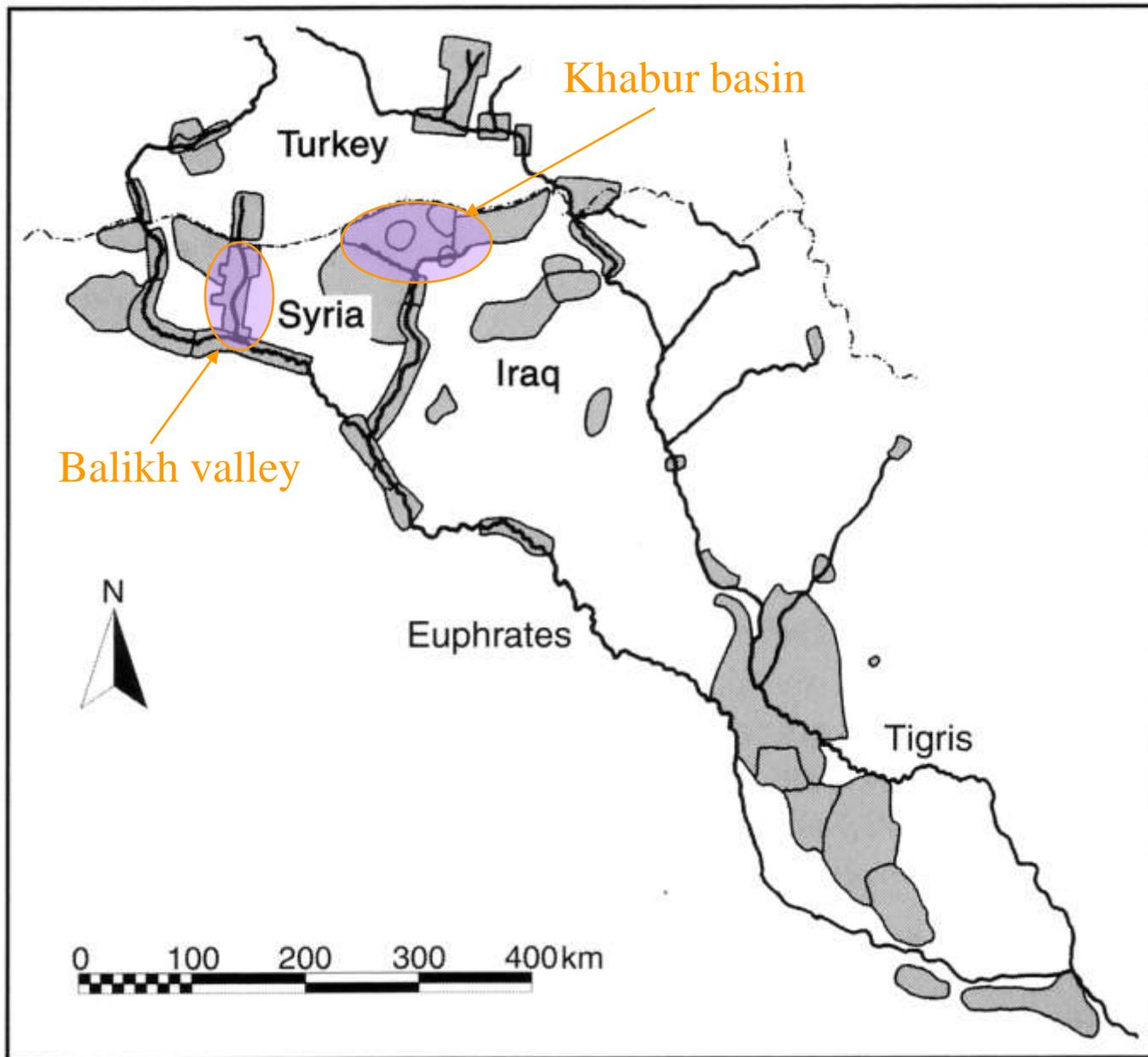
Prehistoric Pottery of the Ancient Near East

15. Reconstructing Late Neolithic settlement

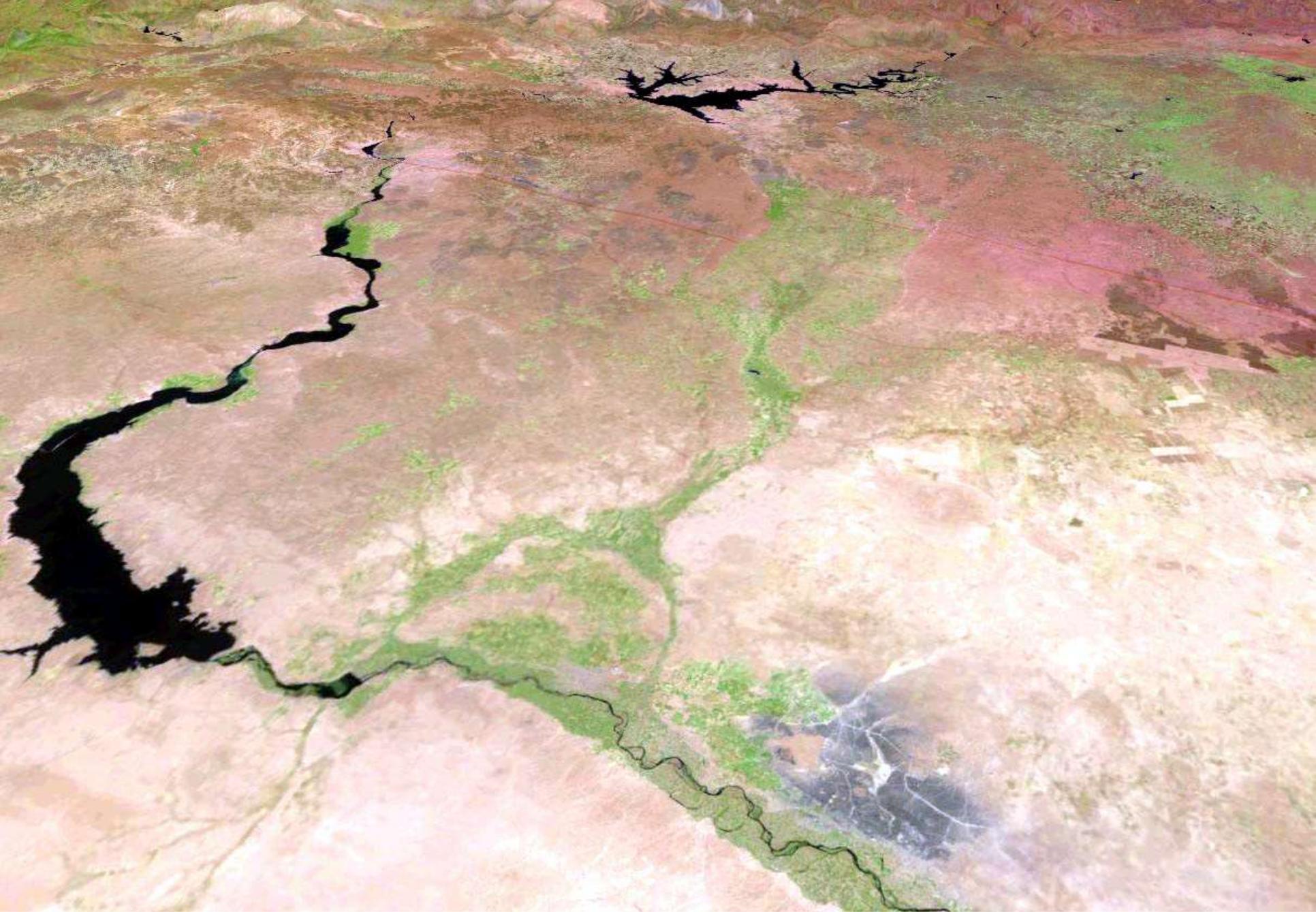
Olivier Nieuwenhuyse

Brno April 2011





Three case studies



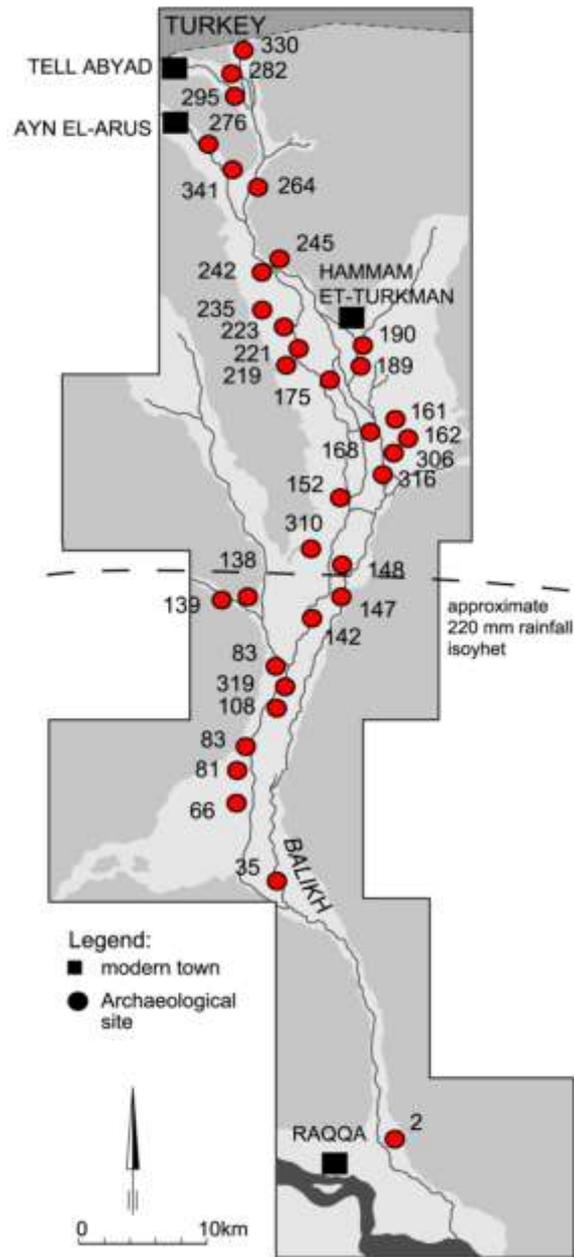
Introducing the Balikh Valley survey



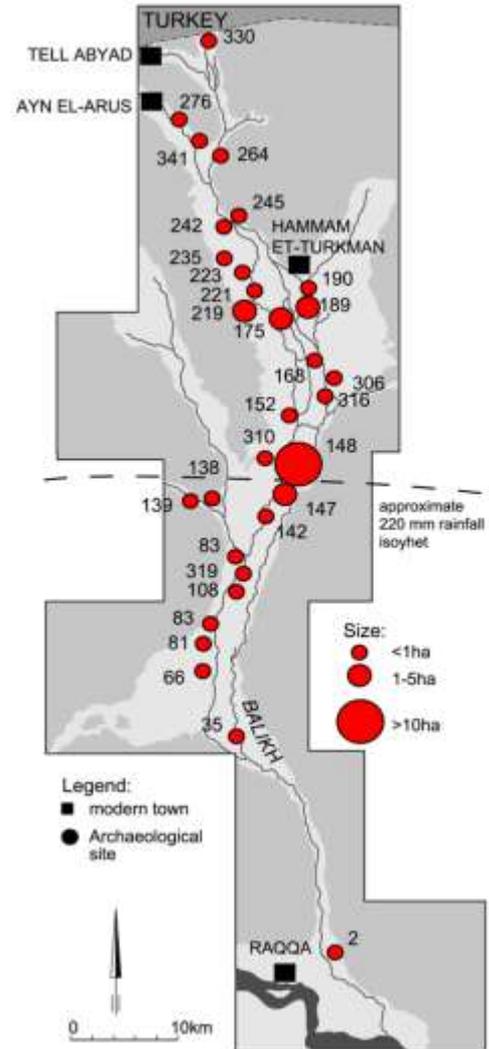
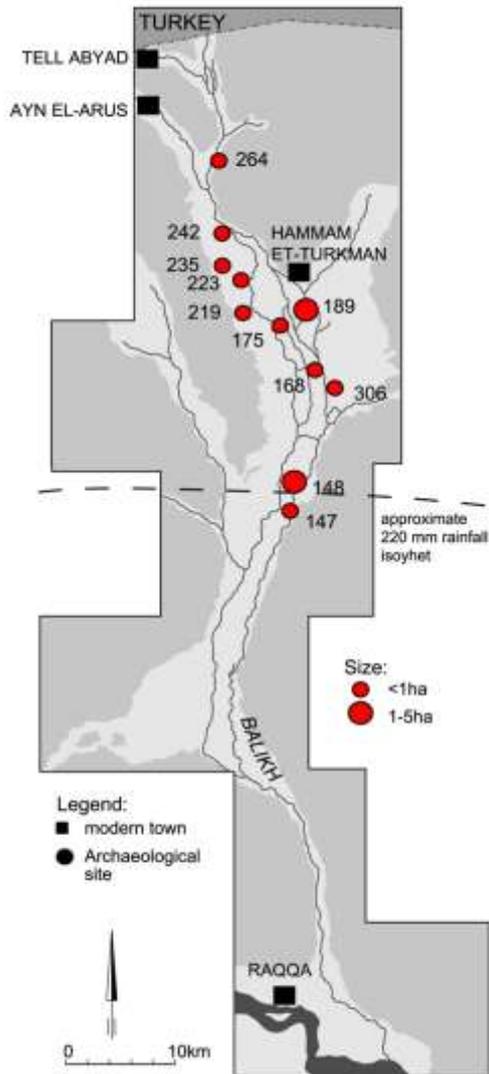
A perennial tributary of the Euphrates



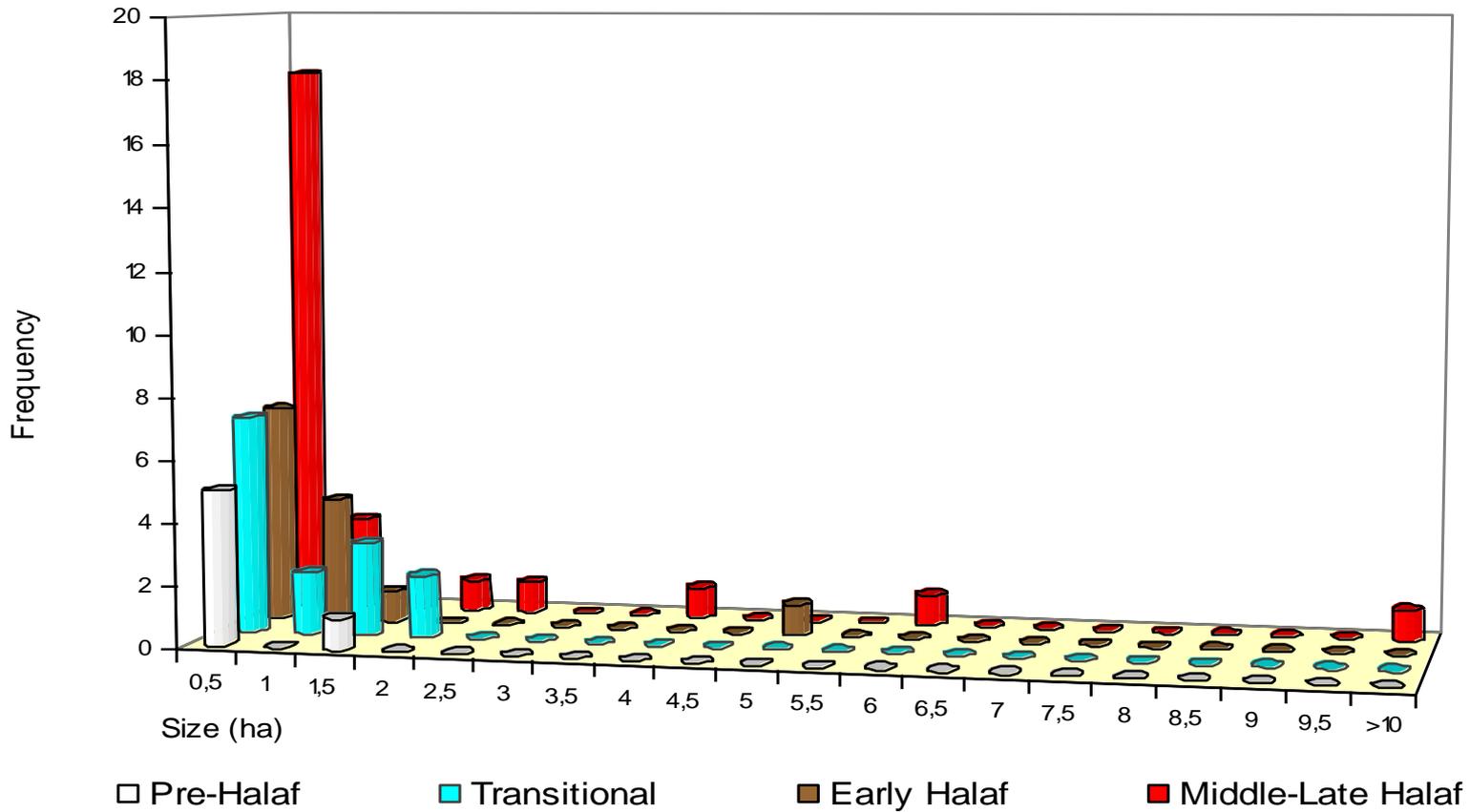
A valley full of *tell* sites



Large numbers of Late Neolithic sites



Halaf settlement



Change in Middle-Late Halaf



Introducing the Khabur survey

Bertille Lyonnet:



Structured sherd processing



Large numbers of Late Neolithic sites

DateBC	Northern Syria	Northern Iraq	Central Iraq
	Ubaid	Ubaid	Ubaid
5200	Halaf-Ubaid Transitional	Halaf-Ubaid Transitional	Halaf-Ubaid Transitional
5400	Late Halaf	Late Halaf	Late Halaf
5600	Middle Halaf	Middle Halaf	Middle Halaf
5800	Early Halaf	Early Halaf	?
6000	Transitional	'northern' Samarra Standard Hassuna	'classic' Samarra
6200	Pre-Halaf	Archaic Proto-Hassuna	?
6400			
6600	Early Pottery Neolithic		
6800			
7000	PPNB	PPNB	

Complex chronologies possible
at excavated sites

DateBC	Northern Syria - Northern Iraq	
	Ubaid	Ubaid
5200	Halaf-Ubaid Transitional	
5400	Halaf II	
5600		
5800	Halaf I	
6000	Transitional	
6200	Pre-Halaf	Proto-Hassuna
6400		
6600	Early Pottery Neolithic	
6800		
7000	PPNB	PPNB

Simplified chronology adopted
In survey

Huge problems with chronology

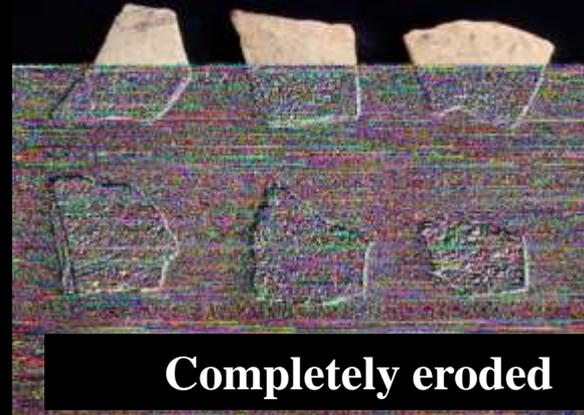
**What we very much
want to find:**



In reality:



Pigment 'in negative'



Completely eroded

Huge sherd problems: small, eroded, non-significant rubbish



'Standard Fine Ware' (Samarra)



Early Halaf Fine ware



Early Halaf Fine ware

Recognising Transitional and Early Halaf sites



Early Halaf settlement

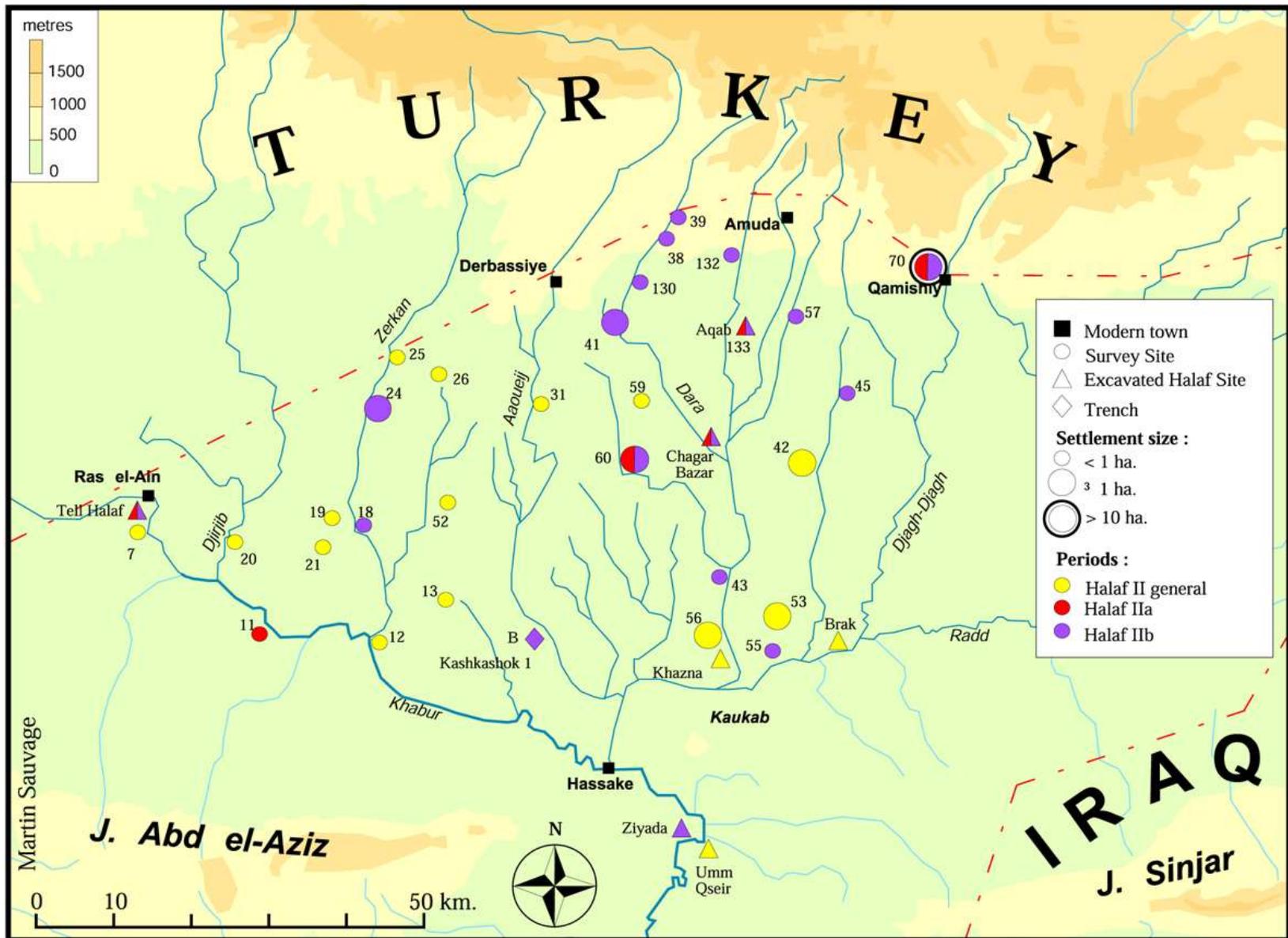


'Free-floating' decoration



Large bowls with 'rim ticks'

Recognising Middle-Late Halaf sites



Middle-Late Halaf settlement



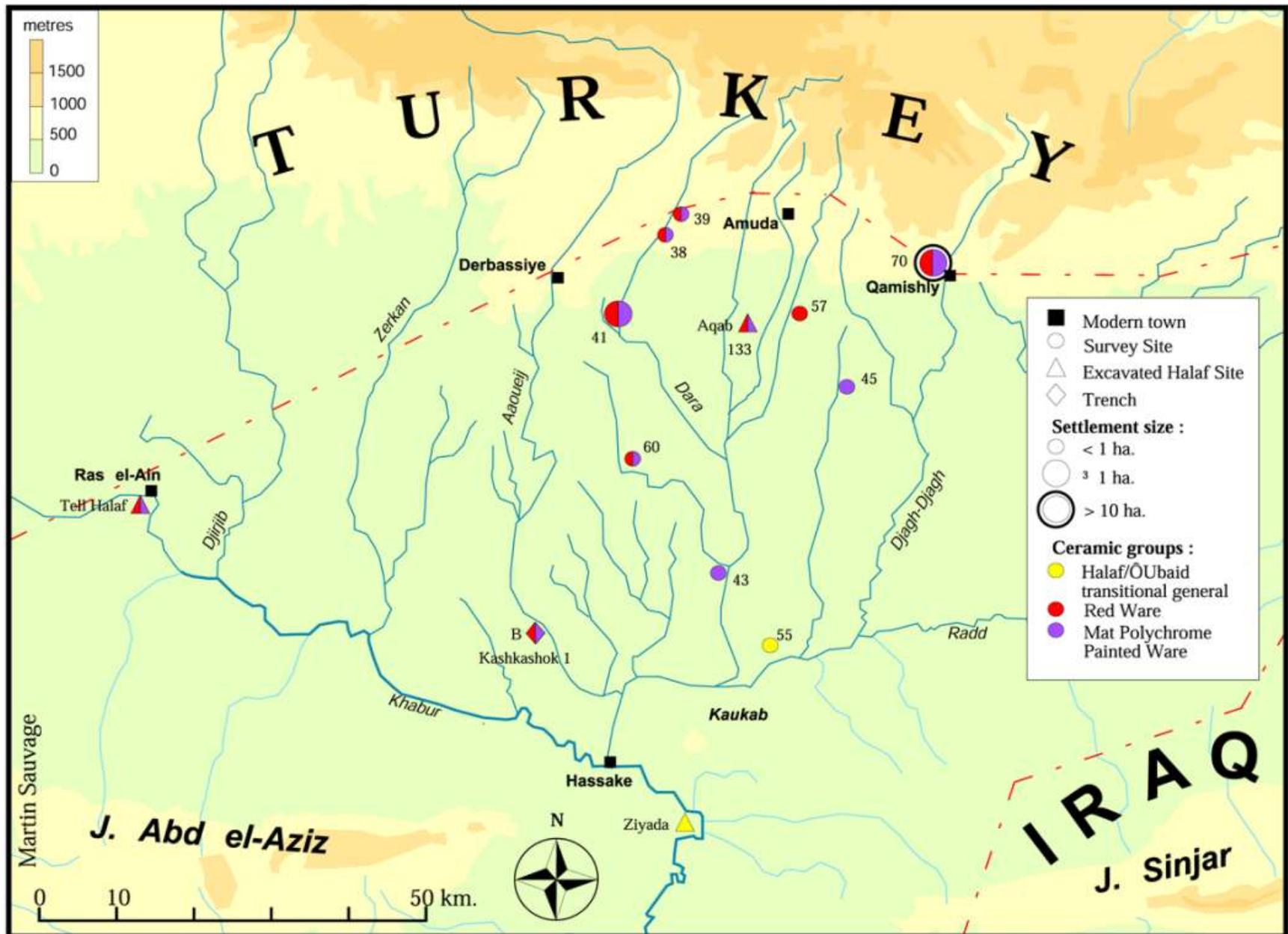
'Lustrous' polychrome



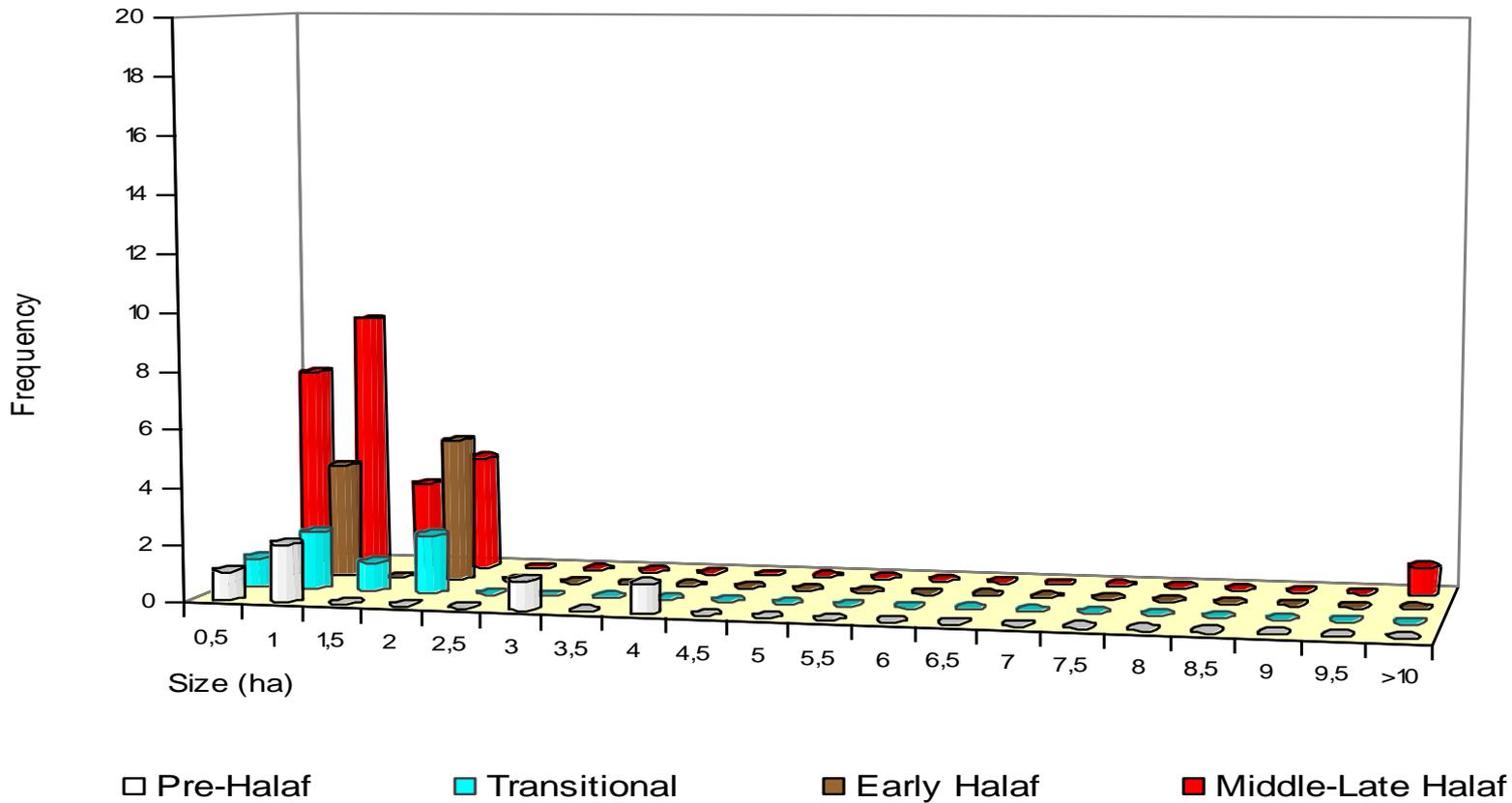
'Red ware'

'Mat' polychrome

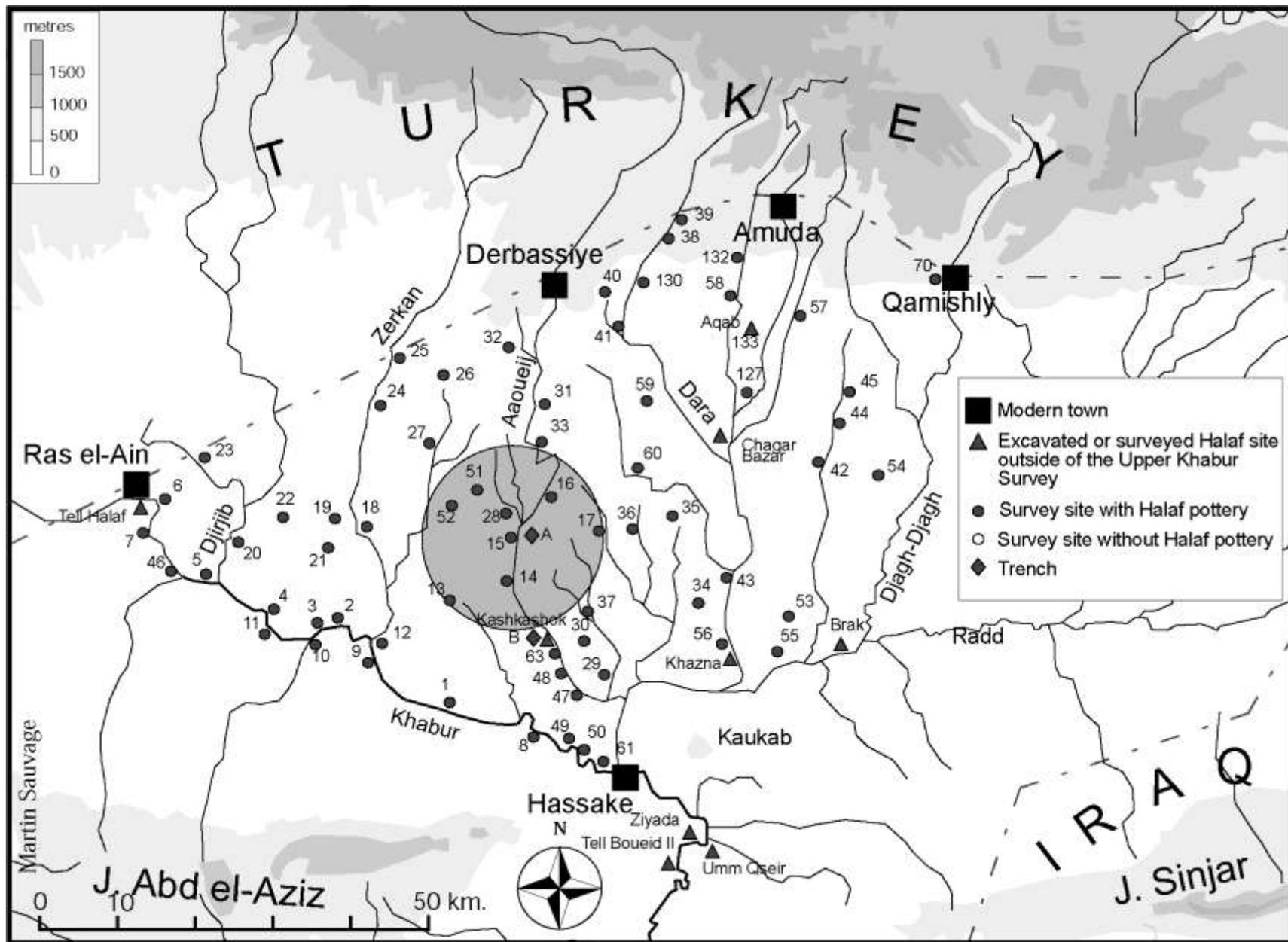
Recognising Late Halaf – HUT sites



Difficulties recognising the Halaf-Ubaid Transition



Change in Middle-Late Halaf



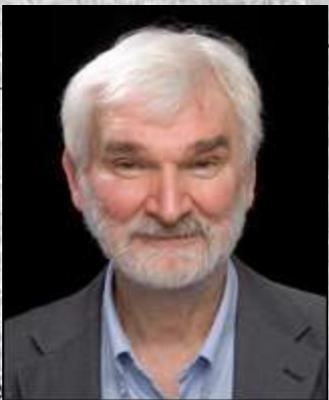
A follow-up in the Khabur



Lyonnet 52?
T. Boughaz

TBS 65
Tell Khazna

TBS 63A = Ly
Tell Ghazal Tahtani

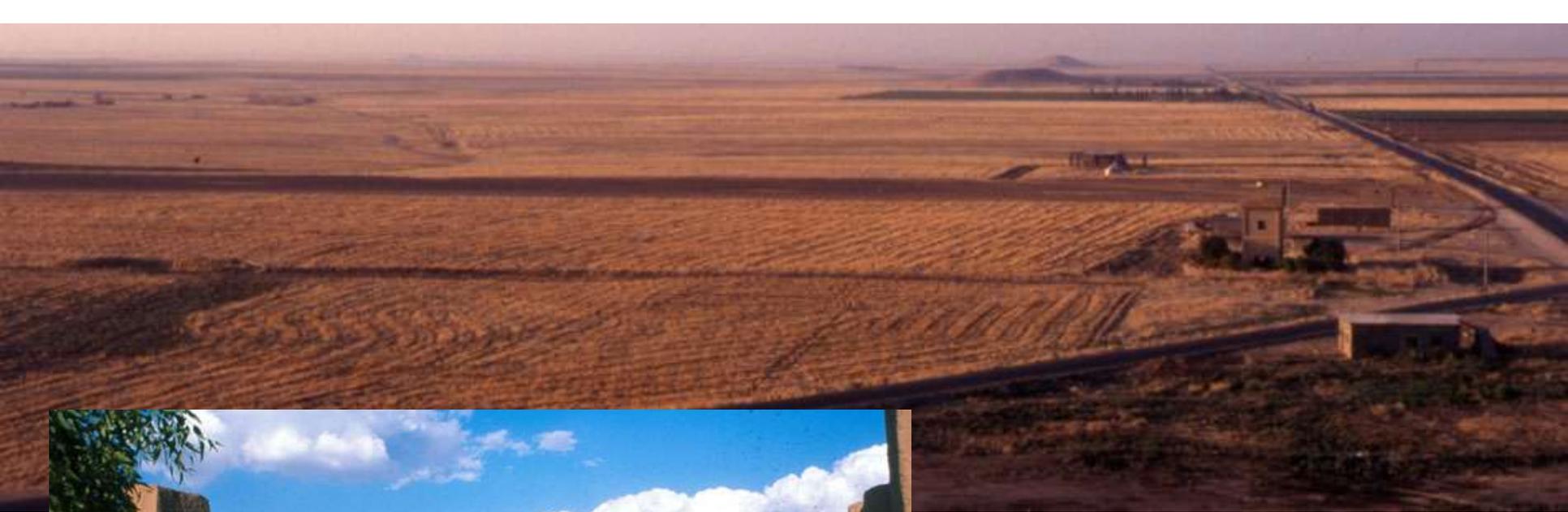


**Tony
Wilkinson**

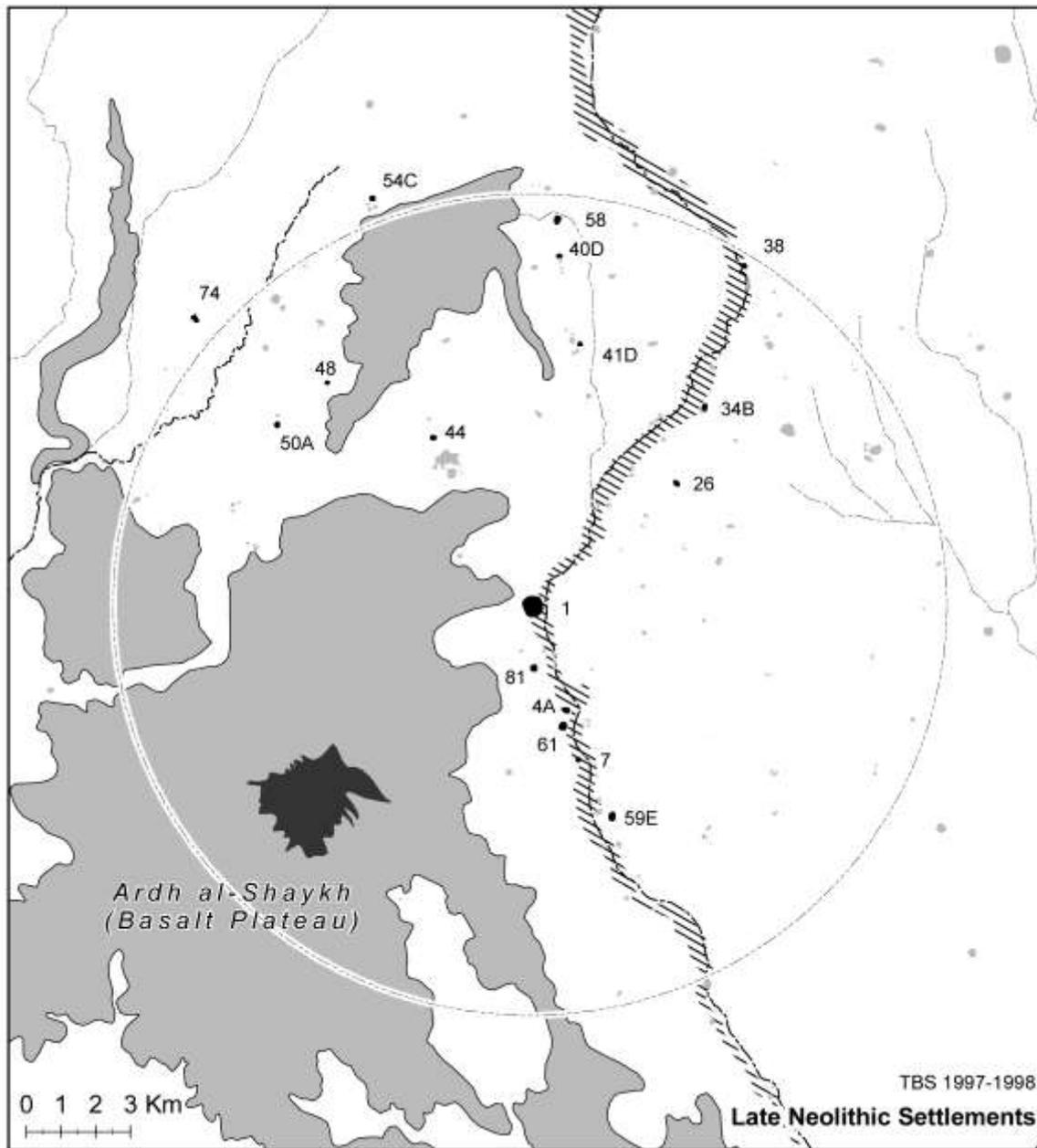


Jason Ur

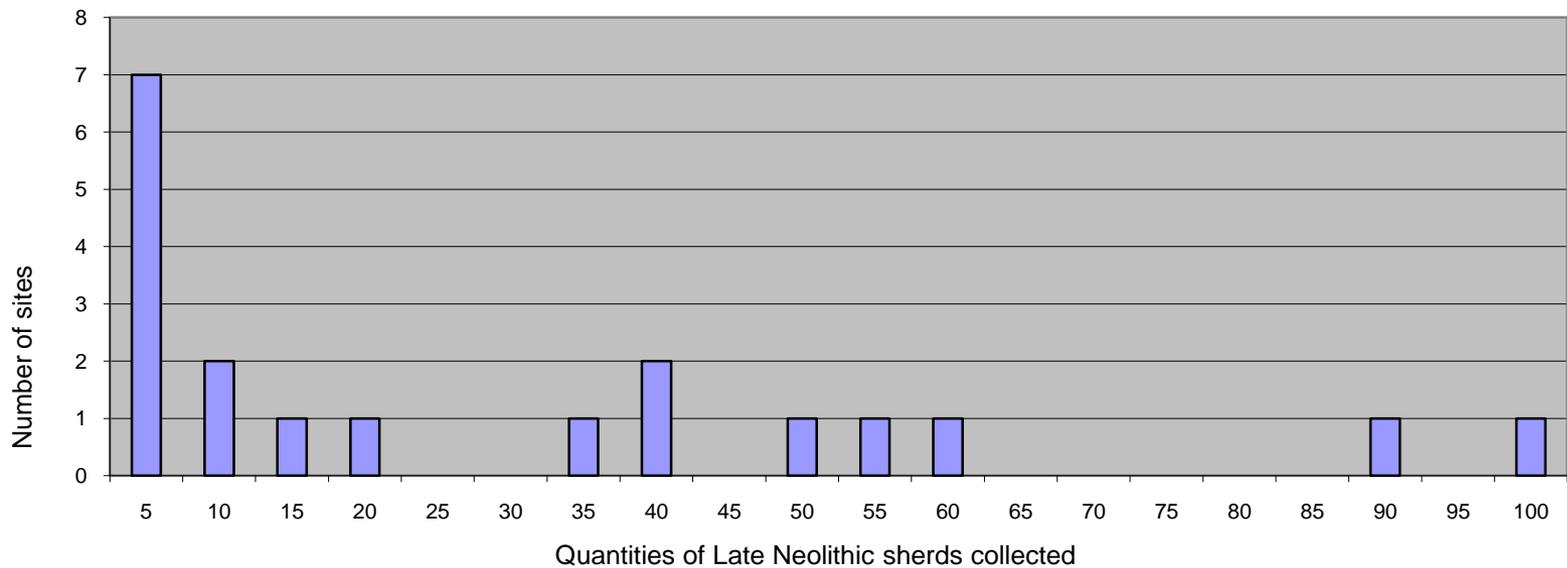
Landscape archaeology



Working in the Khabur is not bad at all ...

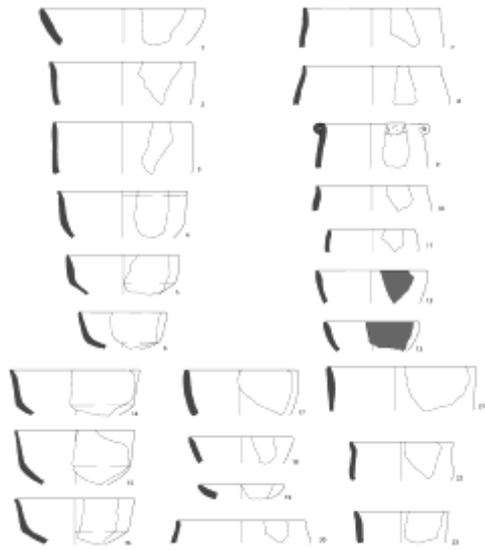


A large number of Late Neolithic sites

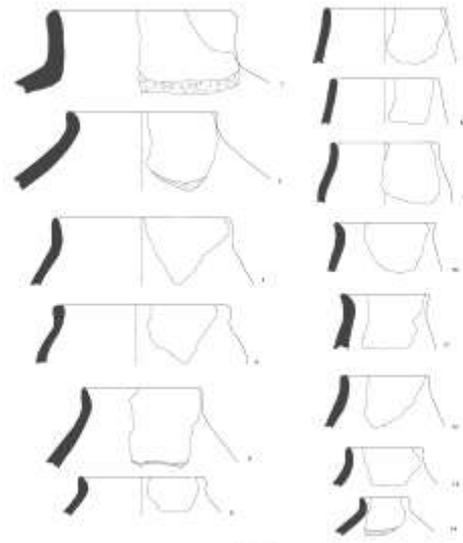


West Syria	Rouj 2a-b	Rouj 2c	Rouj 2d			Rouj 3		
Euphrates basin	Halula II	Halula III	Halula IV	Halula V	Halula VI	Halula VII	Halula VIII	
Balikh valley	Balikh IIA	Balikh IIC	Balikh IIIA	Balikh IIIB	Balikh IIIC	Balikh IIID	Balikh IIV	
Tell Sabi Abyad	Operation III	Operation II, 11-8	Operation II, 7-4	Operation II, 3-1	Operation II			
Upper Khabor		Proto-Hassuna	Proto-Halaf	Halaf Primitif	Halaf Intermédiaire	Halaf Évolué	HUT	
Tell Seker al-Aheimar	Pre-Proto-Hassuna	Proto-Hassuna						
Tell Chagar Bazar			CB-I	CB-II	CB-III	CB-IV	CB-V	
Tell Aqab					Early Halaf	Middle Halaf	Late Halaf	
Tell Kashkashok II		Proto-Hassuna					HUT	
Tell Halaf		"Altmonochrome"			"Buntkeramik"			
Tell Boueid II								
North Iraqi Jazira		Hassuna I	Hassuna II- III	Halaf Ia	Halaf Ib	Halaf IIa	Halaf IIb	HUT
NJP 72								
Khirbet Garsour								
Tell Sotto		Proto-Hassuna						
Yarim Tepe I			Hassuna/Samarra					
Yarim Tepe II					Early Halaf	Middle Halaf	Late Halaf	
Yarim Tepe III							Late Halaf	
Tell Hassuna		Ia Proto-Hassuna	Hassuna/Samarra					
Tell Arpachiyah					Early Halaf	Middle Halaf	Late Halaf	
Tell Beydar survey:	Pre-Proto Hassuna	Proto-Hassuna	Proto-Halaf (Transitional)	Halaf I	Halaf II		HUT	
Cal. BC	6900	6300	6100	5950	5850	5700	5550	5300

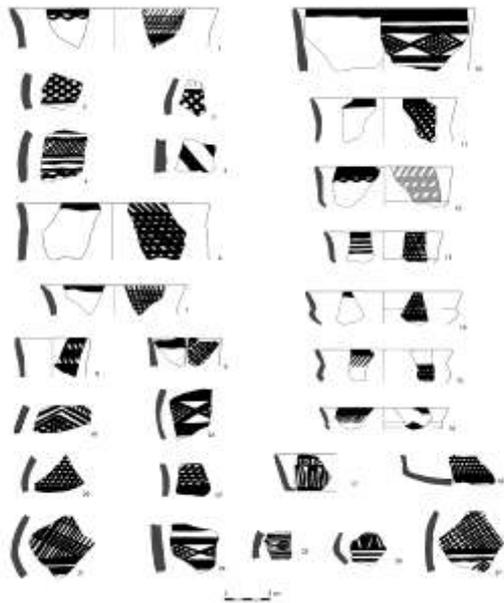
Again, the common pottery issues ...



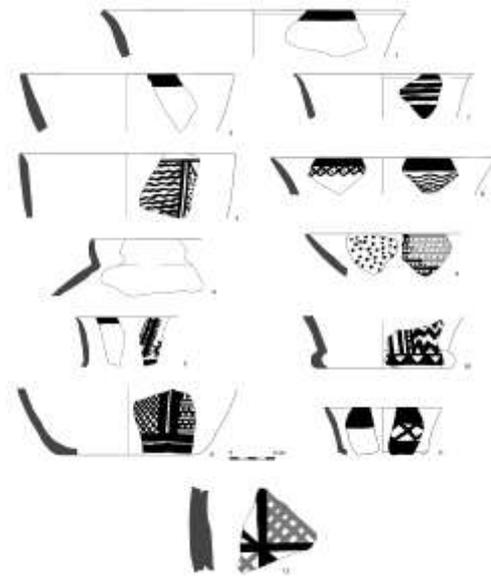
Early Fine Ware; Grey-Black Ware



Plant-tempered Standard Ware

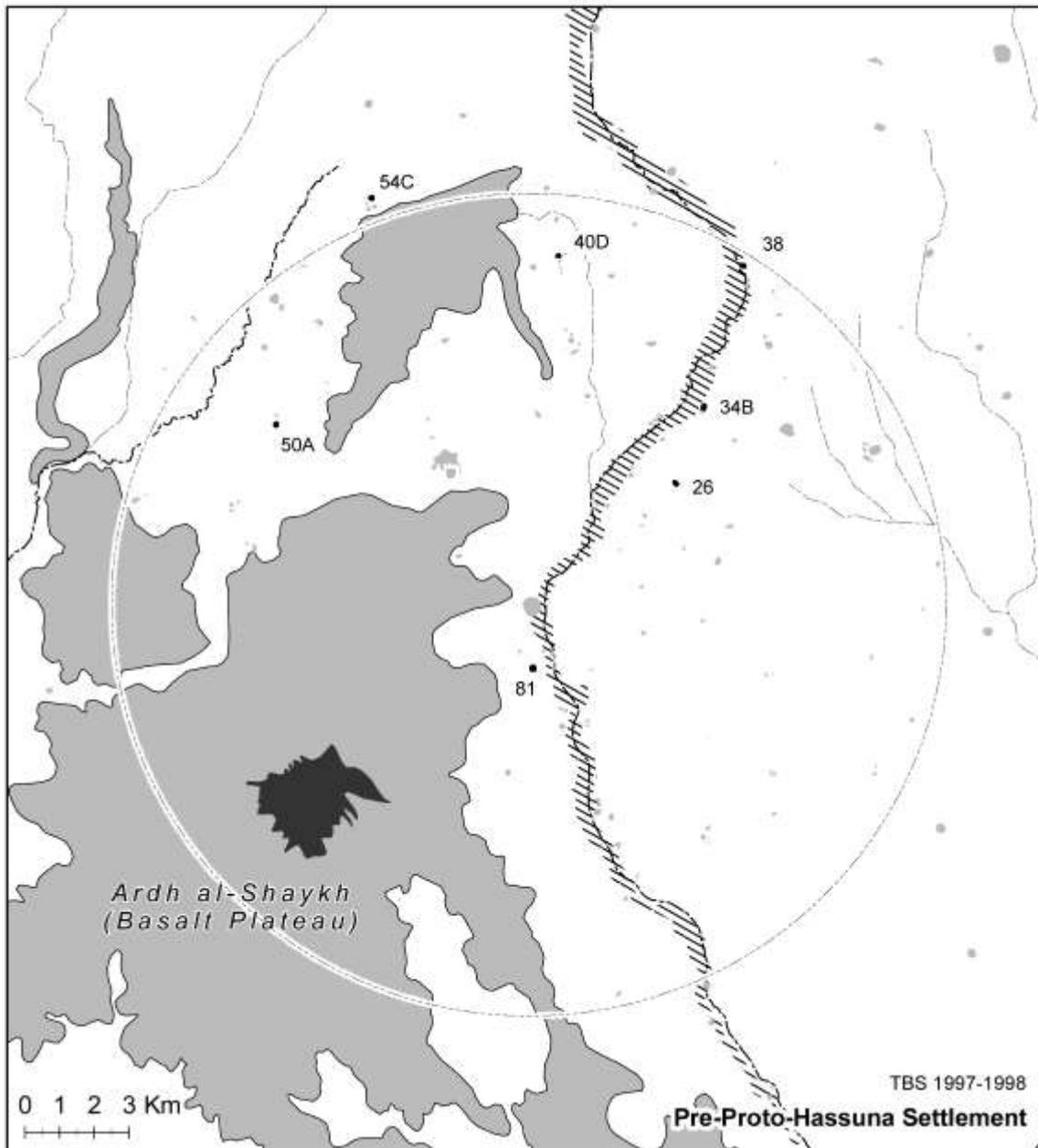


Painted Fine Ware – earlier stages



Painted Fine Ware – later stages

Recognising the various periods

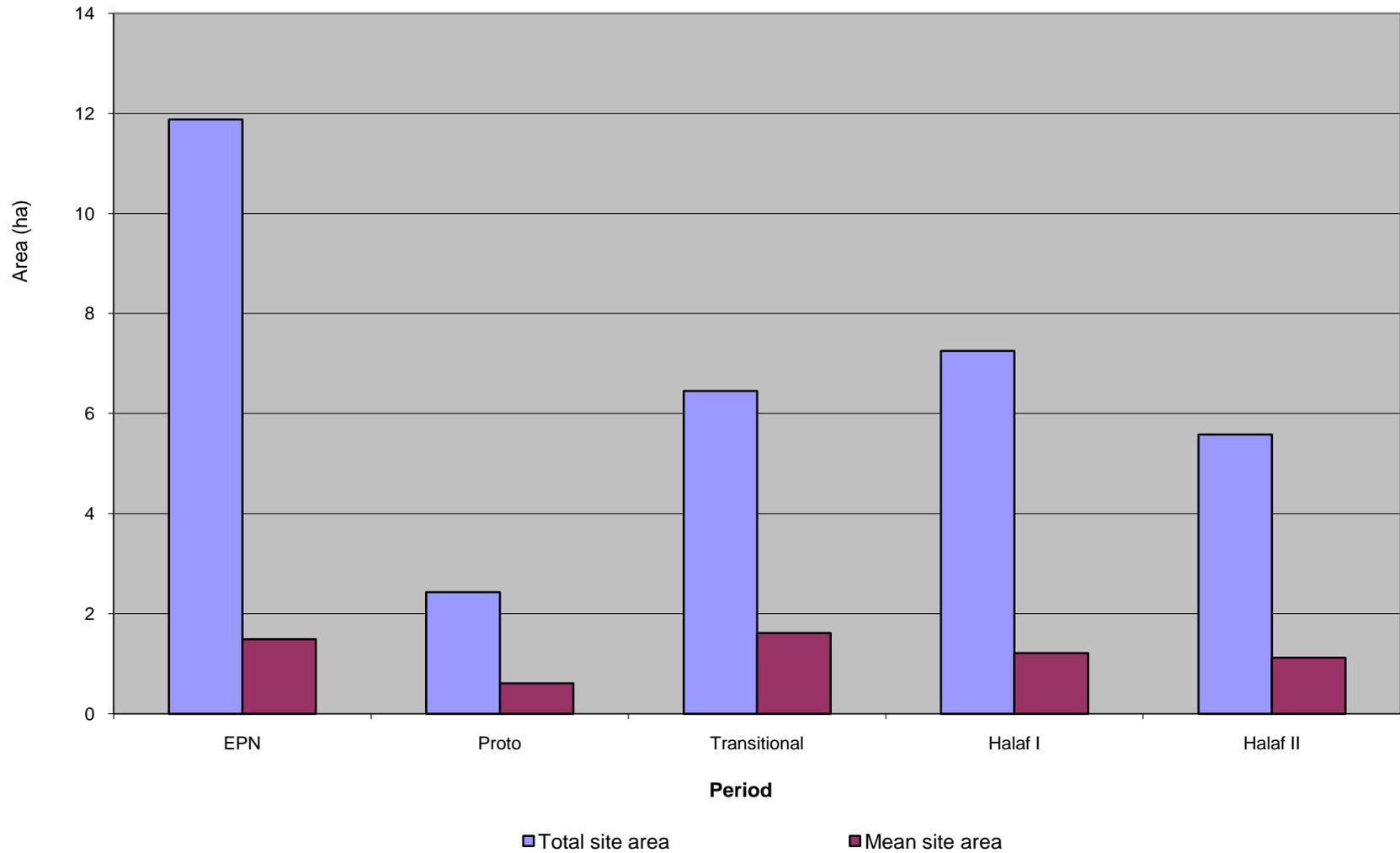


The earliest settlement



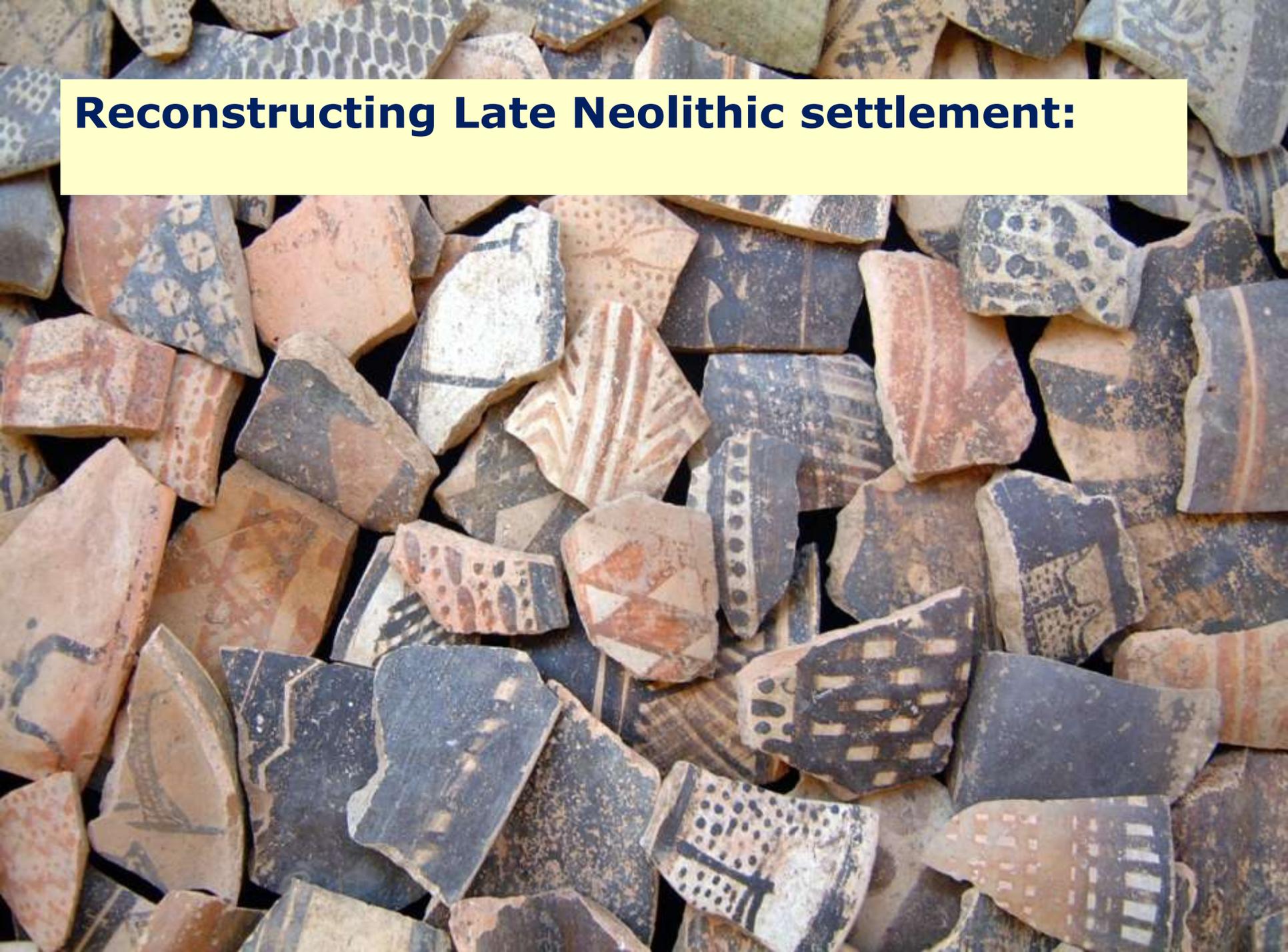
Site:	Pre-Proto-Hassuna	Proto-Hassuna	Proto-Halaf	Halaf I	Halaf II	HUT	Halaf general
1 (Beydar)							
4a							
5							
7							
26							
34b							
37							
38							
40d							
41d							
44							
48							
50a							
54c							
58							
59e							
61							
63							
65 (Khazna)							
74							
81							
Site numbers	8	4	4	7	6	0	3
Site density	1/57km ²	1/113km ²	1/113km ²	1/65km ²	1/75km ²	-	-

Chronologic trends



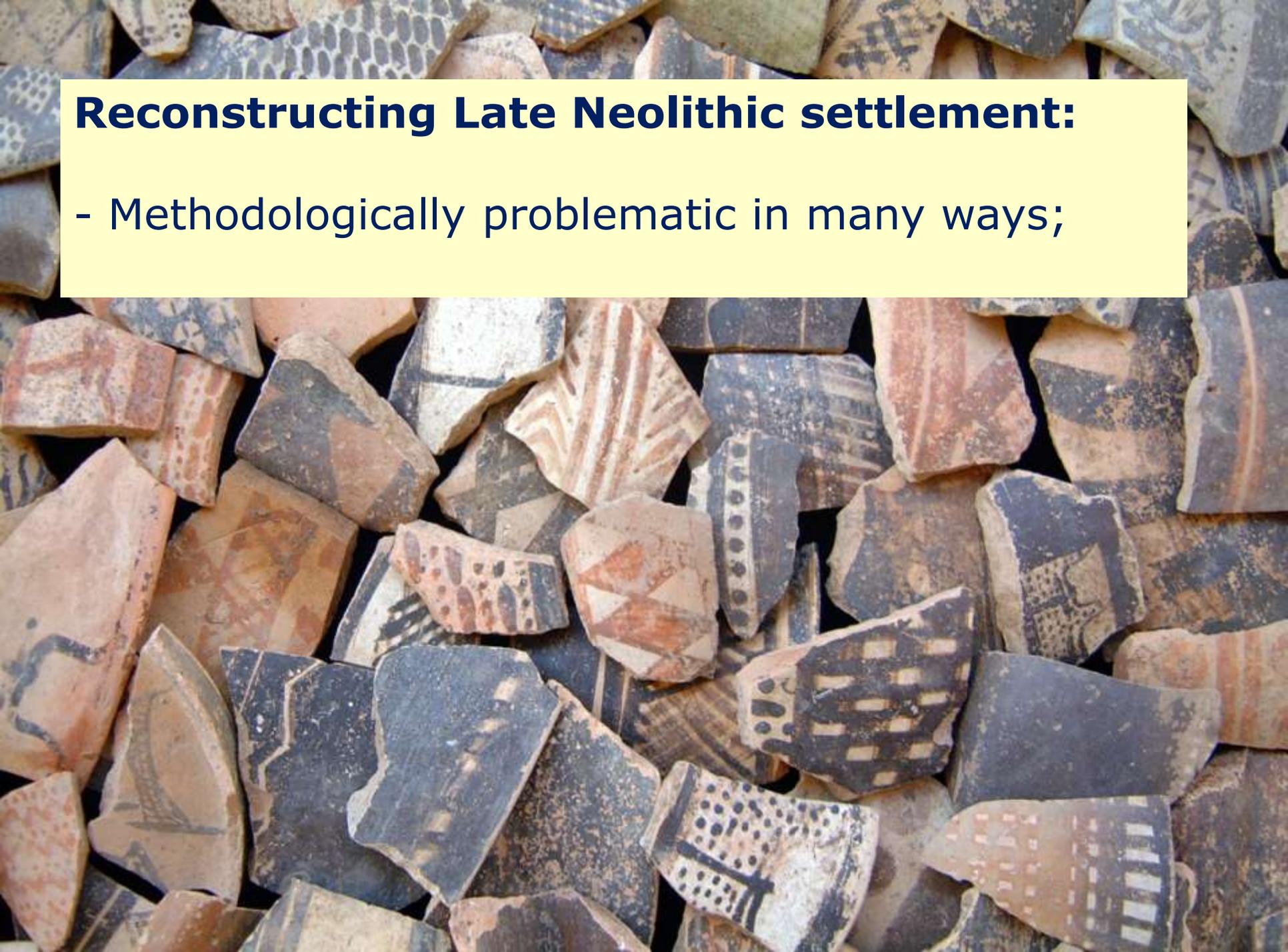
Small communities

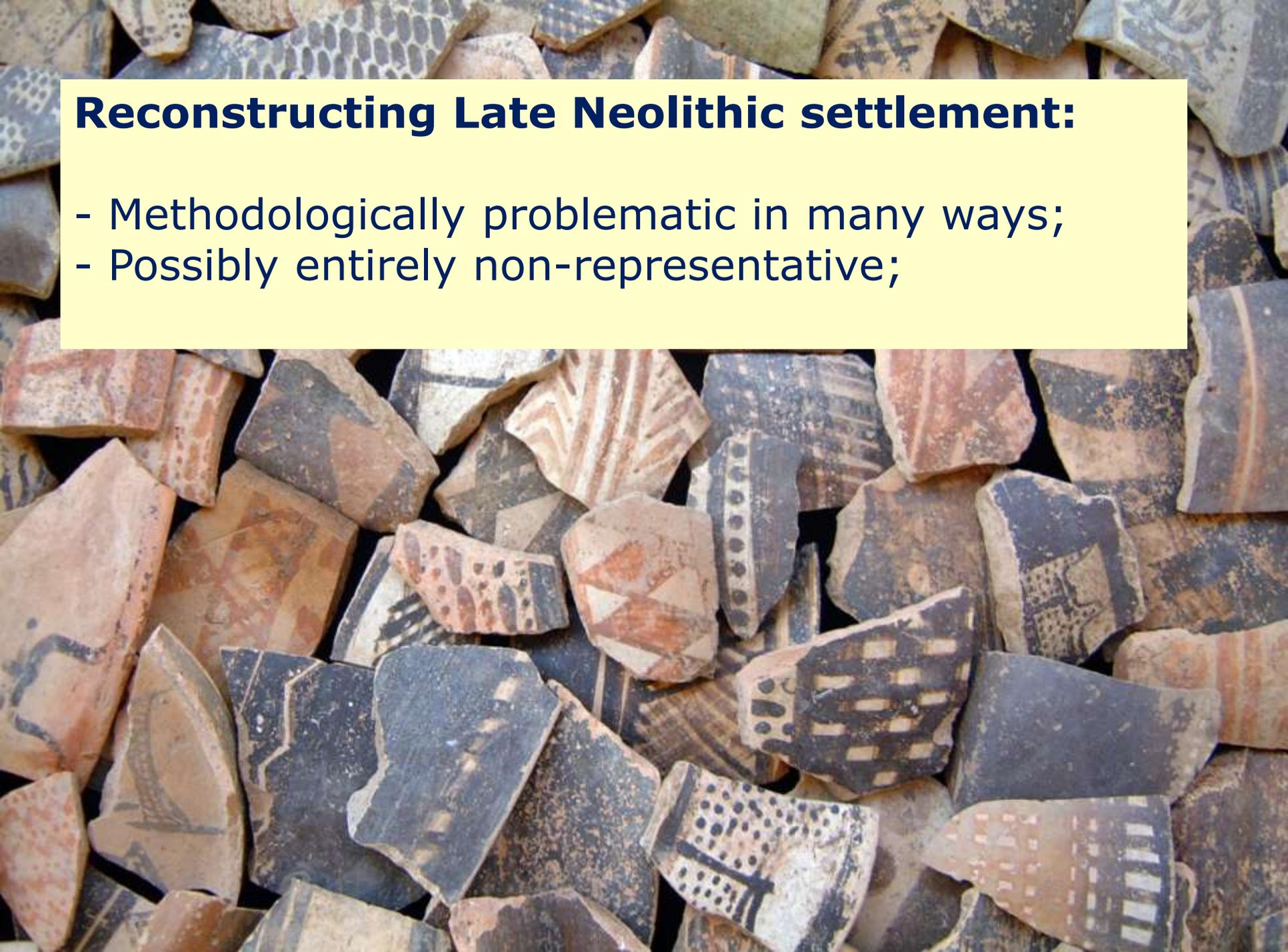
Reconstructing Late Neolithic settlement:



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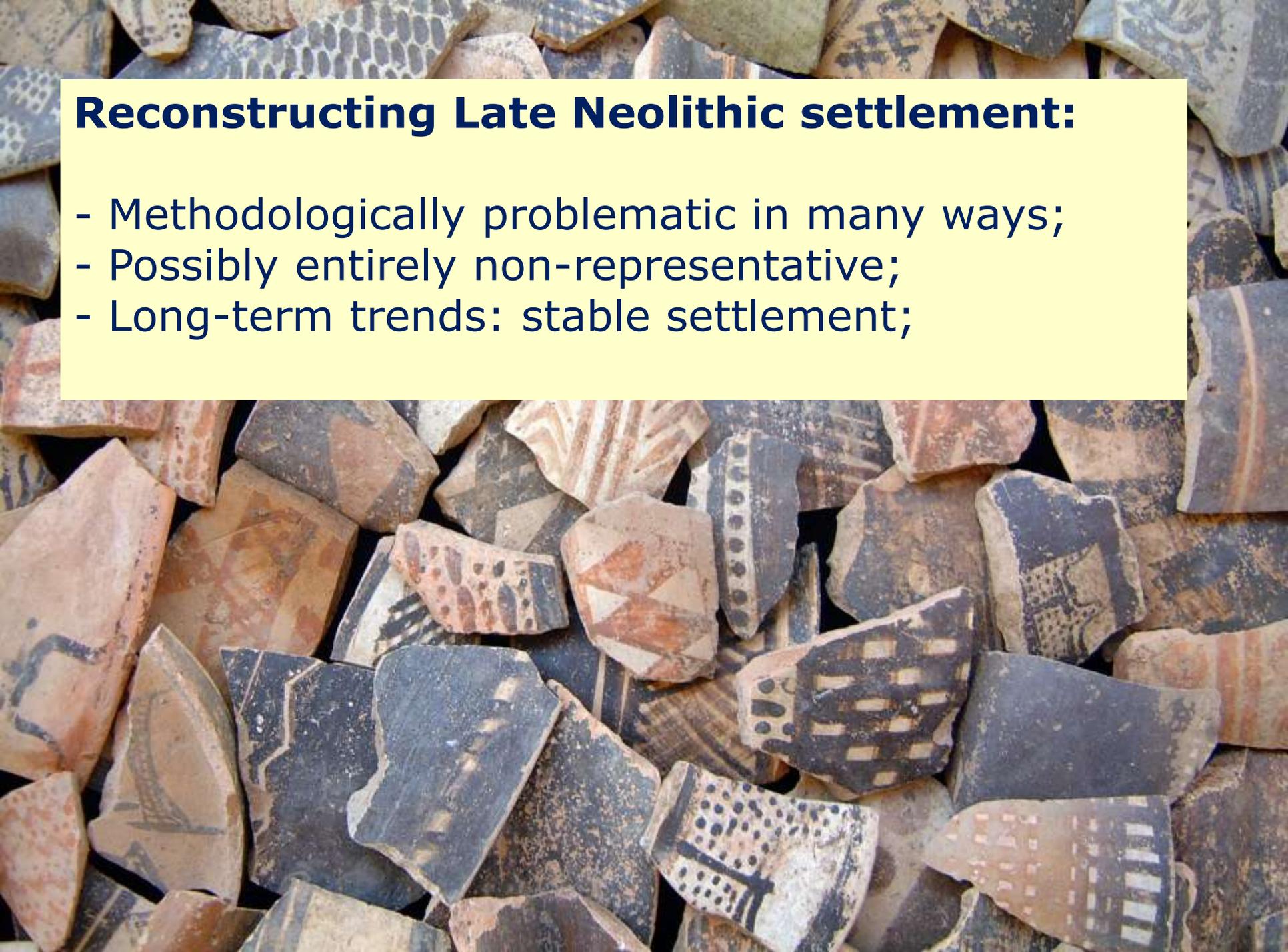
- Methodologically problematic in many ways;



The background of the slide is a dense, overlapping pile of numerous pottery fragments. These fragments vary in color, including shades of reddish-brown, dark grey, and light tan. They feature a wide variety of decorative patterns, such as geometric shapes (squares, triangles, lines), wavy lines, and small circular motifs. Some fragments appear to be part of larger vessels, while others are smaller, possibly decorative tiles or shards. The overall appearance is that of a rich archaeological find.

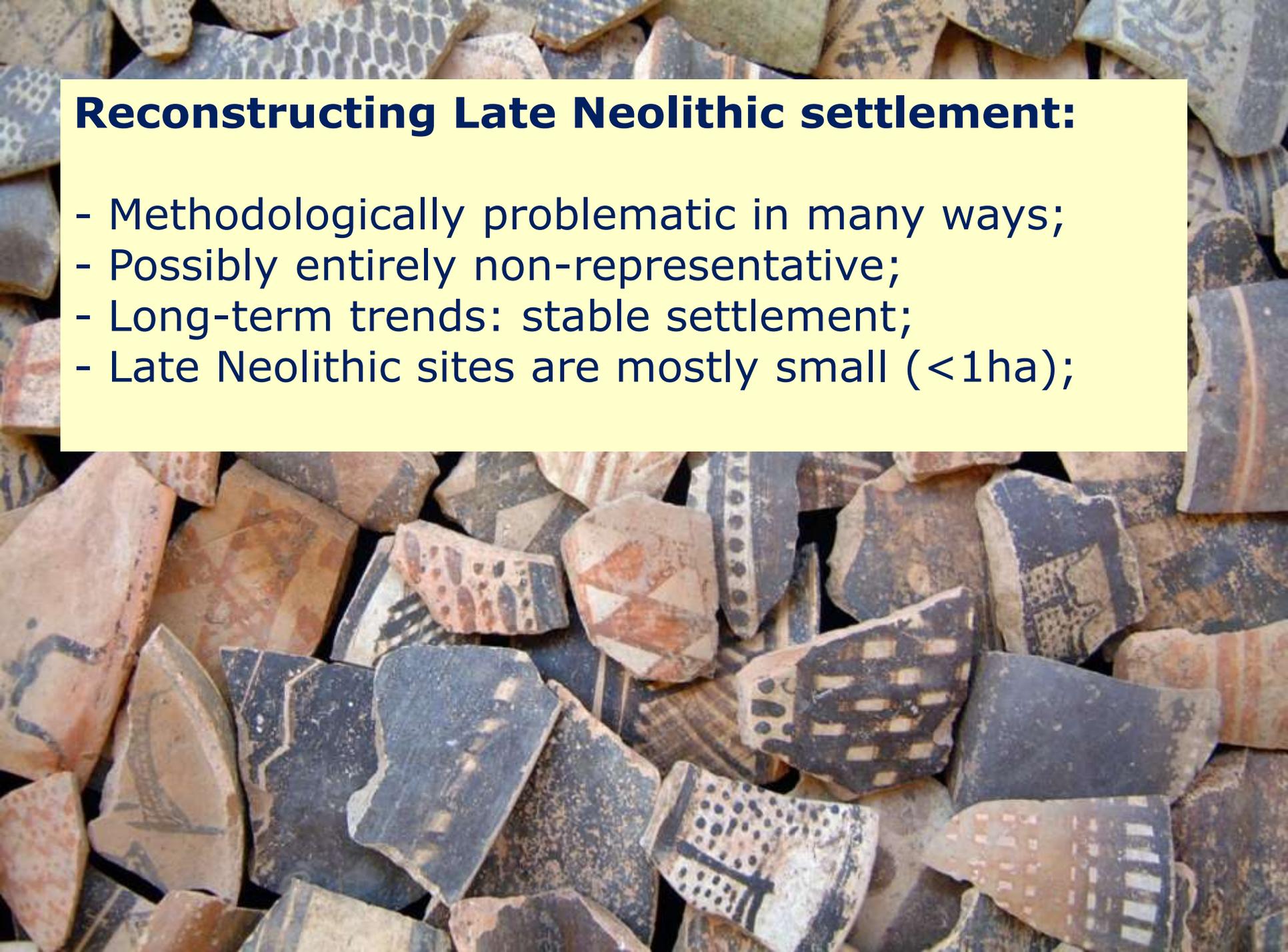
Reconstructing Late Neolithic settlement:

- Methodologically problematic in many ways;
- Possibly entirely non-representative;

The background of the slide is a dense, overlapping pile of numerous pottery fragments. These fragments vary in color, including shades of reddish-brown, dark grey, and black. They feature a wide variety of decorative patterns, such as geometric shapes, wavy lines, and small motifs. The fragments are irregular in shape, suggesting they are broken pieces of larger vessels.

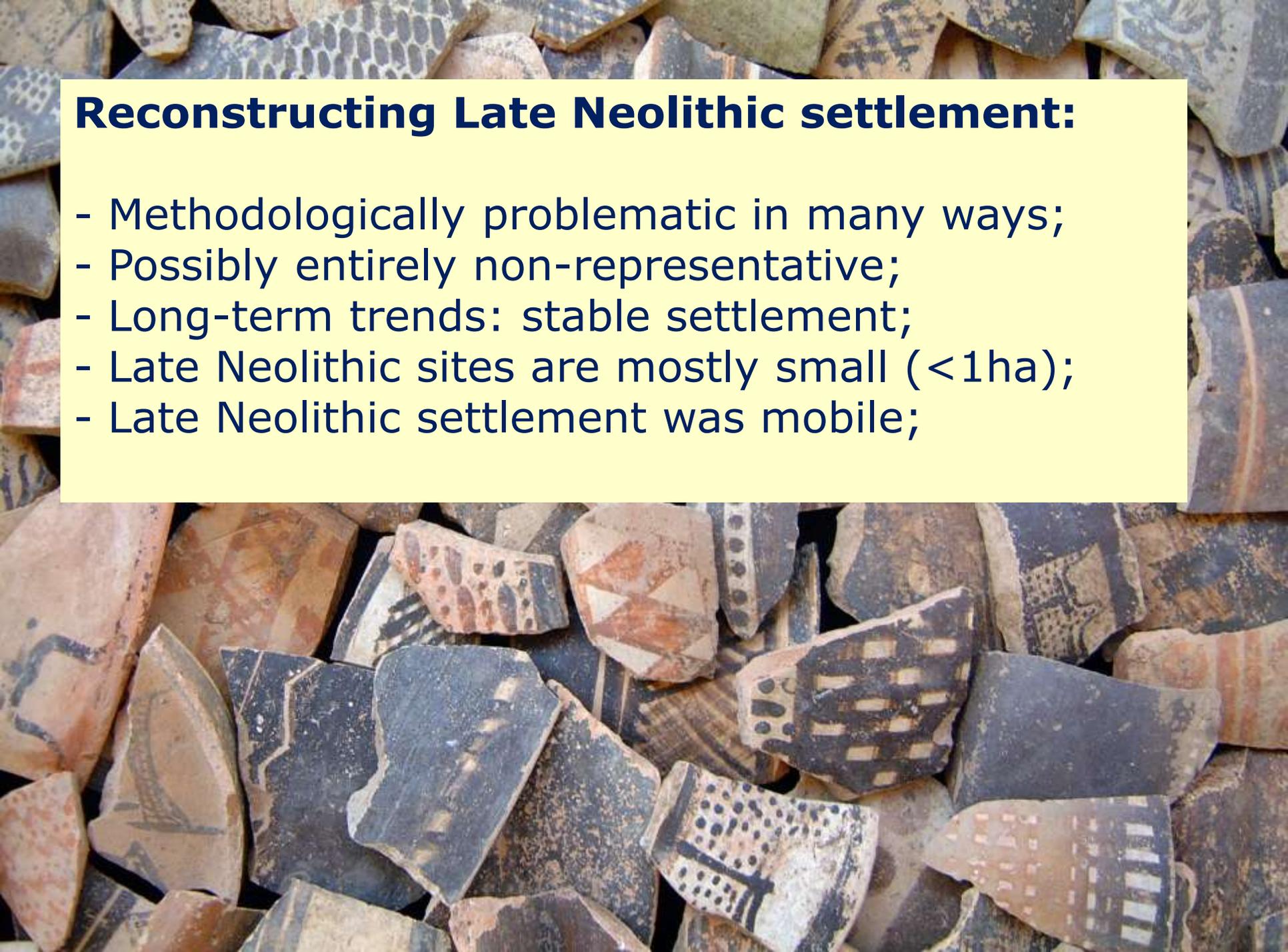
Reconstructing Late Neolithic settlement:

- Methodologically problematic in many ways;
- Possibly entirely non-representative;
- Long-term trends: stable settlement;



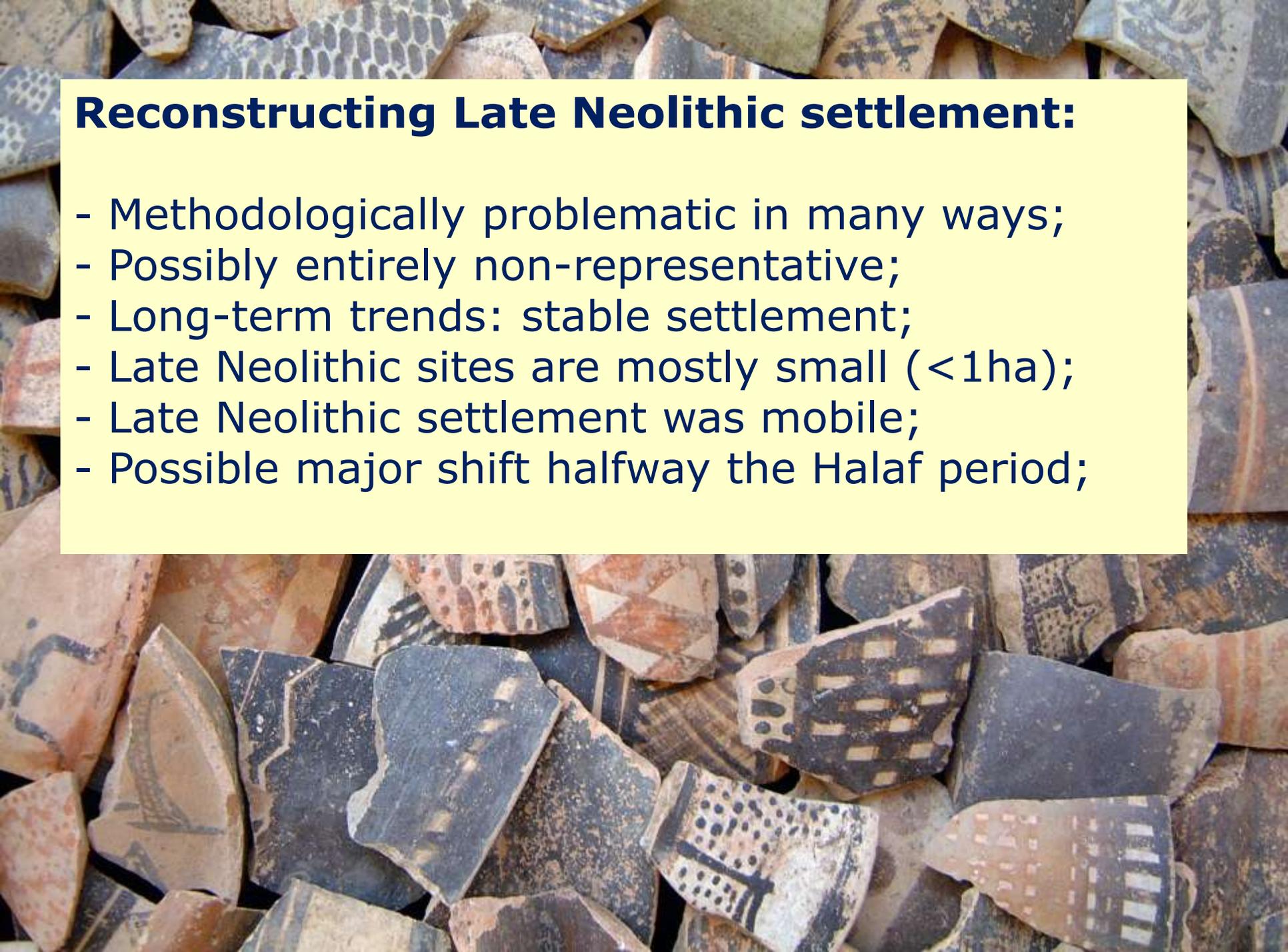
Reconstructing Late Neolithic settlement:

- Methodologically problematic in many ways;
- Possibly entirely non-representative;
- Long-term trends: stable settlement;
- Late Neolithic sites are mostly small (<1ha);



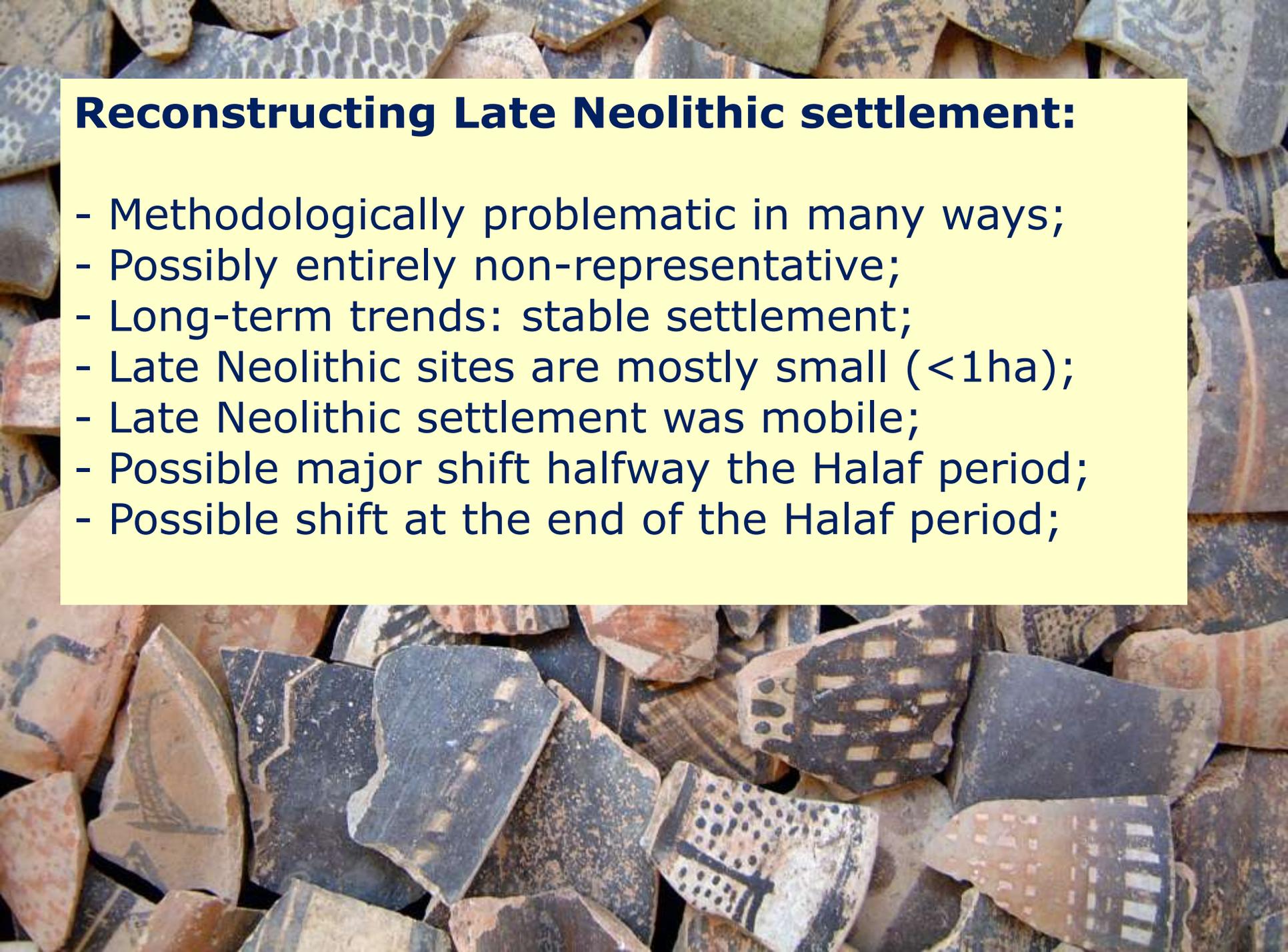
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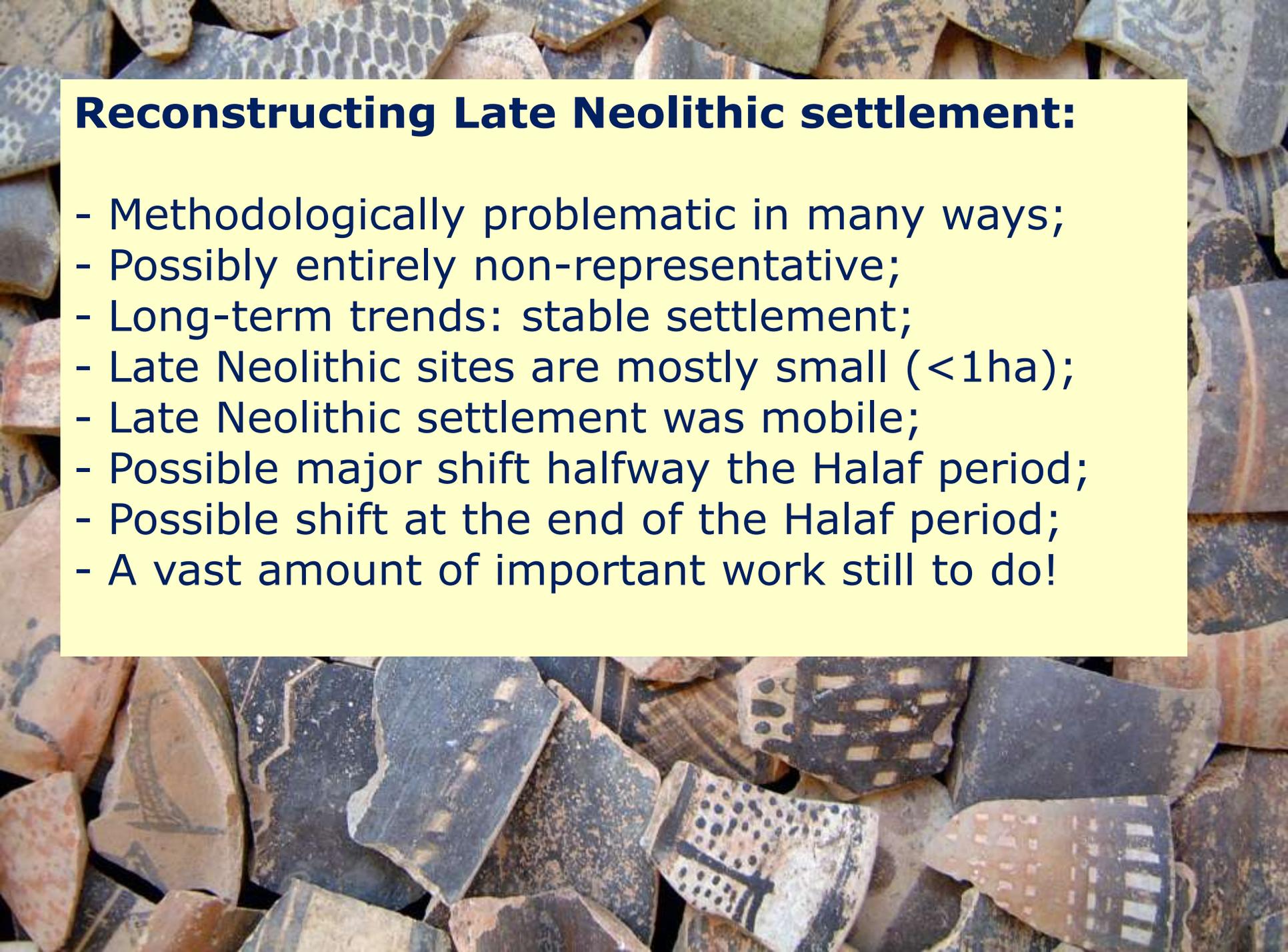
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Reconstructing Late Neolithic settlement:

- Methodologically problematic in many ways;
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- Long-term trends: stable settlement;
- Late Neolithic sites are mostly small (<1ha);
- Late Neolithic settlement was mobile;
- Possible major shift halfway the Halaf period;
- Possible shift at the end of the Halaf period;
- A vast amount of important work still to do!