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Monuments on the horizon : the formation of the barrow landscape throughout the 3rd and the 2nd millennium BCE

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Stellingen behorende bij het proefschrift:

Monuments on the Horizon: the Formation of the Barrow Landscape
throughout the 3rd and 2nd Millennium BC.

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1. On the basis of radiocarbon evidence the intensification of barrow construction and reuse in the Middle Bronze Age can be dated between 1800 and 1400 cal BC. In reality this probably reflects a shorter chronology which can be restricted further to 1700 and 1500 cal BC (*Chapter 3*).
2. The changes in secondary burial and mound phases during the Middle Bronze Age reflect a fundamental reappropriation of the past barrow landscape but also a shift in the idea of what constitutes a barrow (*Chapter 7*).
3. In the Late Neolithic A alignments of barrows were a cultural concept. This concept concerns the structuring of space along a specific axis of movement. Together with strict rules governing the mortuary practices it is inextricably linked with the Corded Ware burial ritual (*Chapter 8*).
4. By restoring the barrow landscape we create patterns which are essentially similar to the patterns of restoration and reuse left behind by the Middle Bronze Age communities (*Chapter 7 and 9*).
5. The current practices in nature management by estate owners is the single largest threat to the preservation of the barrow landscape. This is a consequence of the fixation on individual monuments as the unit of protection.
6. Our perception of prehistoric societies as small autarkic farmer societies is in complete opposition to the number of archaeological relics, the scale of past human impact on the landscape and the frequency of monument construction. The tens of thousands of burial mounds constructed in a relatively short time frame indicate that the scale of the population and the geographic extent of Late Neolithic and Bronze Age societies was exponentially greater than we now presume.
7. Excavating is as essential to the archaeologist as a laboratory is to a chemist. To expand our knowledge of barrows we need to excavate a number of barrows every few years.
8. The comment '*we weten alles al van grafheuvels*' testifies to a lack of creativity rather than scientific insight.
9. The enormous volume of short reports following even shorter commercial excavations leads to the fragmentation and ultimately the disappearance of knowledge on past societies. As a consequence this goes *against* what the Malta legislation intended.
10. GIS and viewsheds too often are used unconditionally and as a 'push button' technique, in spite of many articles warning of the dangers of doing so. The teaching of GIS at universities therefore should change from being a course learning to use software, to a course aimed at learning to ask the right questions and knowing what methodologies to use.
11. The concept of Collective Memory as used in archaeological literature increasingly is overextended until it essentially equates to culture. This already has happened with the concept of a cultural biography.
12. When deciding on the placement of a playground, policy makers should take into account the almost magical attraction of barrows to playing children.
Thousands of barrows used as 'forts'.
13. Bij het schrijven van een proefschrift mag de impact van de partner op het succes ervan niet worden onderschat.
Dit proefschrift.