



# The Hohlandsberg mountain range in the Bronze Age

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A 640-metre-high mountain range rises above the present-day community of Wintzenheim **between the Münster Valley and the Rhine plain around Colmar**. Today the area is known for its medieval castle, the earliest parts of which were built by Siegfried of Gundolsheim in 1279. The elevated site had, however, been settled since the Neolithic period.

The main settlement activities during the protohistoric period date from the middle and latter stages of the Late Bronze Age, at a time when a growing number of fortified hilltop settlements were being erected.

A **Bronze Age** site was discovered in 1965 by archaeologist Charles Bonnet, who unearthed ceramic sherds during construction work on the access road to the castle. Excavations carried out in the years that followed the discovery determined the extent of the settlement on Hohlandsberg mountain, which is one of only a few Bronze Age settlements ever found in the region.



Three-dimensional representation of the Hohlandsberg  
Florian Basoge © Archéologie Alsace

**The exceptional archaeological potential of the Hohlandsberg mountain range** is due to its geographical features, which make it a distinctly homogeneous area nestled within well-defined boundaries. Moreover, its forest vegetation and therefore the absence of farming, have aided the preservation of the archaeological remains. The strategically favourable location of the site also allows us to trace a network of exchange between the Rhine plain and the Vosges mountains. The abundance of ceramic finds led to the establishment of a typo-chronological classification system for Bronze Age pottery, which has long served as a reference system for the region.