

Austrian Government. One Medieval and one Neolithic site were surveyed and protected in 1970-1, and in 1972 a settlement site near Scharfling, on the Mondsee (near Salzburg), was comprehensively recorded. A grid, consisting of a 1 m-mesh net, 111 × 28 m, was laid over the ancient settlement, which lies in 2-4 m of water. Posts, etc., found in each 1 m square were plotted by divers at 1:10, and the measurements were transferred on land to a master plan at 1:100.

Finds included arrow-heads, scrapers, stone beads, pottery, stone axes, numerous bones (of wild and domestic animals), a small bronze spiral (probably decorative) and a copper axe. These artefacts are characteristic of the transition from the Neolithic to the Early Bronze Age, and are the first finds of their kind from Mondsee. Analyses are being undertaken which should provide further valuable information. Initial C-14 tests indicate that the settlement may be 4500 years old.

The survey is (as far as is known) the first *complete* underwater survey of a Neolithic site. Perhaps the most interesting result was the establishment beyond doubt that the major part of the site was originally built on land. Wooden planks were found carved and fitted exactly between posts, a style of construction found among land-house types in other areas of Europe. The level of the lake is now known to have risen 3.20 m after an avalanche cut off a river outlet, and this has been established as having occurred roughly at the end of the Neolithic Age. It is unclear, however, if this caused the abandonment of the settlement or if the settlement had been abandoned previously. In August 1973, a survey was begun at a site near Misling in Attersee, and further developments are planned.

Those interested in the problems described here are invited to correspond with J. Offenberger, An das Praesidium, Bundesdenkmalamt, Hofburg, 1010 Vienna.

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Austria

Scharfling (Mondsee)

Systematic archaeological work under water began early in 1970, when Johann Offenberger of the National Department of Monuments began a programme of surveys of lake sites, with a view to their being given legal protection by the