



## Celtic hilltop settlements

### Also on the *Rosenstein*?

*You are now standing on the northern end of Wall D, which once protected the eastern part of the plateau.*

*Area: about 58 ha., max. height: 735 m above sea level (a.s.l.).*

Was the *Rosenstein* once a hilltop settlement of a Celtic tribe or maybe the property of a Celtic prince with his clan, whose peasants and slaves used the free surfaces agriculturally? Did the other members of the tribe live in the lowlands near the rivers? Did they get shelter on the *Rosenstein* when they were in danger? Or were the fortifications only built to protect the population during a war – not only during the Migration Period – and were they made to leave it afterwards? Was the plateau resettled by Alemannians? The answers to these questions are manifold, because the frequent settling and agricultural usage of the plateau in combination with natural erosion destroyed many evidences in the past centuries, so that we have to make use of our phantasy and of speculations supported by science.

What do you need to build a fortification as large as the *Rosenstein*? Definitely many humans and a strong motivation were absolutely necessary. It can obviously be assumed that humans lived here permanently for longer periods of time. We should also think of prestigious aims and/or ritual motives. Furthermore, these impressive fortifications did have a deterrent impact on potential enemies and could definitely resist an attack.

### **1. picture:**

European populations in the Iron Age have been called Celts since the antiquity. Cultural affinities in the archaeological remains appear among Celtic populations from northern Spain to Bohemia during the Iron Age beginning in Middle Europe in the 8<sup>th</sup> century BC. This era developed from preceding cultures, in particular from the late Bronze Age called Urnfield culture. Mainly the *Hallstatt* and the *La Tène* culture are popular Celtic cultures. They refer to two sites, first to the cemetery of *Hallstatt* next to the *Hallstätter See* in Austria and second to the site *La Tène* next to the lake of *Neuchâtel* in western Switzerland. Due to these sites with their rich findings, a chronology could be established already in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Celts can neither be seen as a closed population nor as a nation. They rather represent different ethnic groups with a similar culture. Those related groups differ from their neighbouring populations as it was documented by *Tacitus* in “Germania” or in *Caesar’s* “Gallic War”.

### **2. picture:**

--- territory of the Hallstatt culture in the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC



- biggest Celtic territory at about 275 BC
- Lusitania (doubtful Celtic settlement)
- the six Celtic nations with Celtic languages in the Modern Age
- today's spread of Celtic languages

**3. picture:**

This double fibula from the cave *Haus* is ornamented with three different heads of animals on its double bow: eagle, ram and duck. Those animals are zoomorphic manifestations of the Celtic gods *Taranis*, *Teutates* and *Esus* which are named by *Lukan*.

**4. picture:**

rimfragment of a patched copper- or bronze cauldron from *Wall C*