



## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

# Defining the Later Neolithic in the Counties of AlUla and Khaybar and beyond (ca. 6000-4000 BCE): A Survey of the Evidence.

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## Abstract

Over the past 7 years the University of Western Australia's Aerial Archaeology in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Project (AAKSA; 2018-2022) and subsequently the University of Sydney's Prehistoric AlUla and Khaybar Excavation Project (PAKEP; 2023-2026) have been investigating the archaeological landscapes of the counties of AlUla and Khaybar in northwest Saudi Arabia. Over the course of this work a dynamic and large-scale later Neolithic occupational landscape has been identified. Much of this occupation has been dated to between ca. 6000-4000 BCE, with a variety of settlement types identified, as well as a rich rock art tradition, and hundreds of monumental structures including, mustatil and "desert kites". This paper will present an overview of this occupational horizon, exploring the various evidence types (architecture, material culture, and rock art, amongst others), in order to better understand the development of the Arabian Neolithic across the northwest of the Peninsula and beyond.

## Keywords

Saudi Arabia, Neolithic, Mustatil, Pastoralism, Lithics

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