



## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

# Khanjyan - a fortified settlement with a central tower from the late Iron Age in the Armenian Ararat plain

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## Abstract

Khanjyan represents a recently discovered archaeological site in the western Armenian Ararat Valley, notable for an exceptional state of preservation of its architectural remains as, in certain instances, the foundations of structures situated at elevations exceeding 1 m above ground level have been preserved. A basalt cone, which forms a natural citadel and is crowned by a tower, forms the centre of the Khanjyan settlement, and a fortification runs in a wide circle around the built-up area.

First excavations took place at this tower as well as in its surrounding settlement revealing high quantities of ceramic, which dates to the 6th to 2nd centuries BCE, but in contrast to usual settlement sites of this area no evidence for significant size differences in the architecture could be recognized.

Towers or tower-like buildings are a characteristic architectural feature of Armenia, and their study is still in its early stages, but Khanjyan's tower is the most extensively researched of its kind. The location of the hill, along with the pottery finds, suggests that the site was a rural spot connected to the ancient city of Armavir and likely represents a satellite settlement of this large Urartian and post-Urartian centre.

## Keywords

Armenia, Iron Age, settlement, tower, Ararat Plain

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