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Holocene palaeogeographical reconstructions of Lake Maliq (Korça Basin, Albania): a geoarchaeological approach

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Since the early 90s, excavations of a protohistoric lakeshore settlement in the Korça basin carried out by a French-Albanian archaeological team have induced geomorphological and palynological studies about the sedimentary records of Lake Maliq. In order to prepare a survey around the now dried up lake, which started during the summer of 2007, we made a 3D model of the Holocene deposit from the lake using geomorphological mapping, excavation data, numerous core logs and AMS radiocarbon dating. SRTM DEM data, after DGPS control, was connected to a GIS including all geological and archaeological information. We obtained 4 reconstructions of the Maliq palaeo-lake during the late glacial times (around 14000 BP), the Early Neolithic (around 9000 BP), the Middle Bronze Age (around 4500 BP) and the Iron Age (2300 BP), as well as a map of the thickness of the sediments above potential archaeological layers. The role of Holocene climatic variability to account for fluctuations in the palaeo-levels of lake Maliq will be discussed.