Radiocarbon dating of burial and seed samples from the Sokol fortress in Konavle near Dubrovnik, Croatia

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History
The area around the fortress Sokol in Konavle near Dubrovnik, Croatia, was inhabited as early as the prehistoric period. The fortress was very important in Roman times, and it was also a significant control point on Justinian’s limes (Byzantine Empire, 6th cent.), having a transitional role from the Balkan hinterland to the Adriatic Sea. In the medieval period, the fort was under several patrons, which frequently changed. In the late Middle Ages, it came under the rule of the Dubrovnik Republic, which held the fort until 1672, when it was abandoned.

Results
27 human bones revealed that the burials can be dated from early Roman to late Modern times:
- 12 bone samples - between 1580 ± 25 BP and 1430 ± 25 BP (calibrated age spans fall to 5th and 6th century AD)
- 8 samples revealed calibrated age spans from 8th to 11th century
- 4 samples were dated to 14th century, individual samples: 1860 ± 24 BP (90 – 213 cal AD), 342 ± 20 BP (16th century) and 68 ± 21 BP (19th century).

Conclusion
Although the site is of a military character, not only men but also many women and children were buried there. This demonstrates that there was a settlement around the fort that is often called the town of Sokol in archival data. The huge time span of the burials also bears witness to the continuity of the residential area around the fort.