



## **Their Settlements**

### **Trypilian Settlements**

By the 1920s archaeologists already suspected that Trypilian settlements were unusually large communities, but could not prove this without appropriate mapping based on ground-level surveying and field walking – difficult and labour-intensive activities. The solution became available in the 1960s with aerial photography. Crop marks and contrast shadows have proved useful to archaeologists in finding foundations and other features beneath the ground surface. The location of these features matched the site plans of previously-known examples of Trypilian settlement patterns. These aerial studies, coupled with other ground-level surveys, revealed astounding results.

### **Largest Settlements**

At least ten settlements occupying areas from 50 to 450 hectares were identified, with each settlement containing hundreds, even thousands of structures. Assuming that all the buildings were occupied at the same time, these villages would have been the largest anywhere in the Neolithic world. The sheer size of some Trypilian villages attests to their flourishing economy.