

A LATE NEOLITHIC BURIAL FROM THE DRAZDY 12 SITE IN THE UPPER NEMAN REGION (WESTERN BELARUS)

VITALI ASHEICHYK¹, ALIAKSANDRA VAITOVICH²

¹ Institute of History of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, Department of Conservation and Use of the Archeological Heritage, Akademičnaja St. 1, 220072, Minsk, Belarus, e-mail: vitali.asheichyk@gmail.com

² Belarusian State University, Faculty of History, Department of Archaeology and Special Historical Disciplines, Čyrvonaarmiejskaja St. 6, 220030, Minsk, Belarus, e-mail: vaitovich.aliaksandra@gmail.com

The article discusses a new Late Neolithic burial investigated in the Upper Neman region in 2014. A flat grave in the Corded Ware culture's range was found at the multi-period Drazdy 12 site in Western Belarus. The special features of the burial and grave goods correspond to the characteristics of the local 'corded' groups as well as the Middle Dnieper culture. Some characteristics could have originated in the Globular Amphora culture's traditions. Based on the typological criteria, the burial was dated to the second half of the 3rd millennium BC.

Keywords: flat grave, Corded Ware culture, Middle Dnieper culture, Late Neolithic, Upper Neman region.

Straipsnyje aptariamas Nemuno aukštupio regione 2014 m. aptiktas vėlyvojo neolito kapas. Virvelinės keramikos kultūros ratui priskirtinas plokštinis kapas rastas Drazdy 12 (Vakarų Baltarusija) įvairiais laikotarpiais datuojamoje gyvenvietėje. Laidosenos ypatumai bei įkapės atitinka vietinių Virvelinės keramikos kultūros grupių, tokių kaip Dniepro vidurupio kultūra, bruožus. Kai kurie bruožai gali būti kildinami iš Rutulinių amforų kultūros tradicijų. Remiantis tipologiniais kriterijais, kapas datuotinas III t-mečio pr. Kr. antrąja puse.

Reikšminiai žodžiai: plokštinis kapas, Virvelinės keramikos kultūra, Dniepro vidurupio kultūra, vėlyvasis neolitas, Nemuno aukštupio regionas.

INTRODUCTION

The Neman (Lith. *Nemunas*) is one of the major rivers that flows into the East Baltic Sea. Its upper reaches (from the source about 50 km to the SW of Minsk to the vicinity of Hrodna) drain the W part of modern Belarus. During the Neolithic, the communities of the local sub-Neolithic Pripyat-Neman and Neman cultures sequentially settled the Upper Neman basin (Чарняўскі 2003; 2011). Communities with exogenous traditions connected with the Globular Amphora (hereinafter the GAC) and Corded Ware cultures (hereinafter the CWC) penetrated into the area in the Late Neolithic (Lakiza 2007; Лакіза 2008; Szymt 2010; Зуева 2011).

Despite the fact that the Upper Neman region has been intensively studied for several decades by a number of archaeologists, no more than twelve Stone Age burials have been known until recently (Fig. 1). All of them date to the late phase of the Neolithic period. Five: one near Malyja Jodkavičy and four in Krasnasiel'ski Cemetery belong to the GAC (Charniauski 1996; Зуева 2007; Szymt 2010), the other seven to the CWC. Five of the latter are single burials in the area of the multi-cultural Dakudava 5 (two graves), Niz 2, Parchuty 1, and Rusakova 2 settlement sites (Исаенко, Чернявский 1967; Чарняўскі 1997; Лакіза 1999; 2007; Лакіза 2008). One burial has also been discovered in the flint mine near Krasnasiel'ski (Чарняўскі

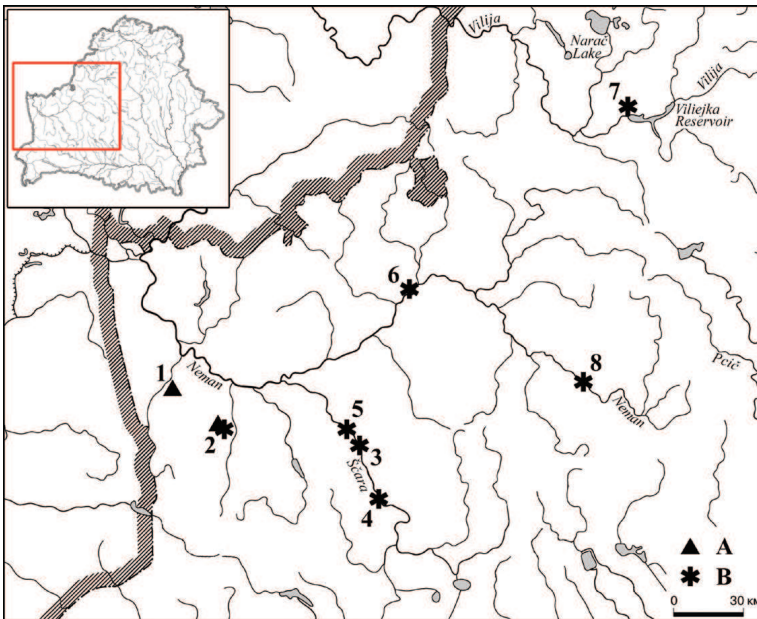


Fig. 1. Globular Amphora culture (A) and Corded Ware culture (B) burial sites in the Upper Neman area: 1 – Malyja Jodkavičy, Bierastavica District, 2 – Krasnasielski, Vaŭkavysk District, 3 – Niz 2 (Janava 2), Slonim District, 4 – Rusakova 2, Slonim District, 5 – Parchuty 1, Dziatlava District, 6 – Dakudava 5, Lida District, 7 – Kuraniec, Vilejka District, 8 – Drazdy 12, Staŭbcy District. Map by V. Asheichyk.



Fig. 2. The Drazdy 12 site and its surroundings. Satellite image by Google Earth. Drawing by V. Asheichyk.

1963; Чарняўскі *et al.* 1996). Yet one more burial is known only because of some bone tools discovered during gravel pit quarrying near Kuraniec (Чарняўскі 1969). It should be noted that many of these burials were badly damaged before the archaeological investigation. Furthermore, the field and published data are incomplete and contradictory in a number of cases.

The discovery made in 2014 at site 12 near Drazdy village of Staŭbcy District might be an important contribution to the study of Late Neolithic funerary rites in the Upper Neman region. This paper presents the newly discovered grave and discusses its cultural and chronological position in the regional context.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

The Drazdy 12 settlement site is 3.7 km to the NW of Staŭbcy, Minsk Region. It lies on a 1.5–2 m high sandy hillock on the left bank floodplain of the River Neman at its confluence with a nameless stream (Fig. 2). Mikhal M. Charniauski discovered it in 2005 (Чарняўскі 2005; 2006). A 2012–2014 expedition (headed by the present authors) from Belarusian State University conducted the excavation. Over three field seasons 127.5 m² were investigated (Ашэйчык, Зуева 2014; Зуева, Ашэйчык 2015). The cultural layer was up to 0.7–0.85 m thick.

The excavation yielded about 25 000 finds, mainly flint artefacts and potsherds. Several chronological and cultural stages related to the settlement's existence in the Early Mesolithic (Kunda culture), Late Mesolithic, Neolithic (Pripyat-Neman culture, Neman culture, CWC range), Bronze Age (Trzciniac culture), Early Iron Age, and third quarter of the 1st

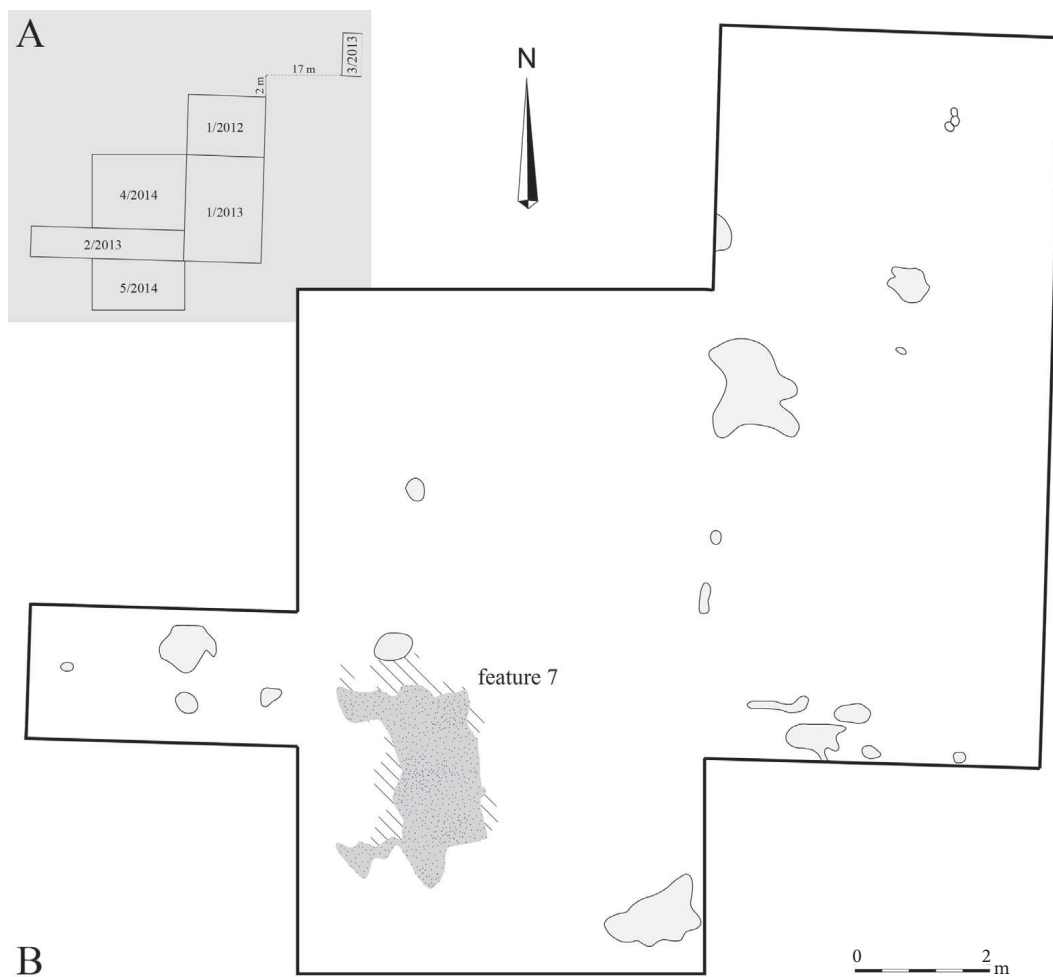


Fig. 3. Drazdy 12: A – layout of the trenches excavated in 2012–2014, B – layout of the features in the excavated area. *Drawing by A. Vaitovich and V. Asheichyk.*

millennium AD were distinguished on the basis of an analysis of the archaeological material.

20 features were also investigated in the excavated area (Fig. 3), but their function and chronology were impossible to ascertain in most cases, the only exception being feature 7, which contained a CWC burial. The burial's description and analysis are presented in this paper.

DESCRIPTION OF FEATURE 7

Feature 7 is in the central, most elevated part of the site. It appeared at a depth of around 0.4 m (all depths having been measured from the current ground's surface) as an amorphous dark grey



Fig. 4. Feature 7 at a depth of 0.5–0.55 m. View from the SE. *Photo by A. Vaitovich.*



Fig. 5. Plan of feature 7, showing its outline at the depths of 0.50–0.55 and 0.65–0.70 and placement of the grave goods: 1 – the beaker, 81, 103 – unretouched flakes, 82, 180, 186 – arrowheads, 181, 199 – knives, 198 – the battle axe, 202 – the ground flint axe. Drawing by A. Vaitovich and V. Asheichyk.

stain. Its outline became more distinct at a depth of 0.5–0.55 m. The careful investigation of the feature started at this level.

At a depth of 0.5–0.55 m, its shape was close to a NW–SE, 3.45 x 1.6–1.85 m sub-rectangle with amorphous projections to the N and S (Fig. 4, 5). Its fill was a dark grey sandy loam containing some small pieces of charcoal and outlined by a

discontinuous band of light-grey sandy loam (0.1–0.45 m wide). A strip of charcoally sand roughly 0.65 long and up to 0.15 m wide was recorded along the feature's E edge. A roughly 0.2 x 0.35 m stain with analogous fill was visible in the S part of the feature at the depth of 0.55–0.6 m.

At the depth of 0.65–0.7 m, the feature's sharp rectangular contours measured 2.1 x 1.1 m. Bands of black charcoally sand ran alongside its N, E, and S edges (Fig. 6). The bands ranged from 0.5 to 0.82 m long and from 0.08 to 0.18 m wide, but did not reach the very bottom of the feature (Fig. 7). It was conjectured that these bands were traces of the wooden planks lining the pit. Previously burnt wood might have been used for this structure. No traces of a fire were recorded inside the feature.

A sub-horizontal, 0.95 x 1.85 m floor lay at the depth of 0.7–0.75 m. The feature's section was nearly sub-rectangular (Fig. 7, 8).

During the investigation, it became clear that the amorphous projections on the N and S sides were very likely not connected with the burial, but with its post-depositional disturbance. At a depth of 0.6–0.65 m, the N projection transformed into a detached roundish stain of light-grey sandy loam roughly 0.5 m in diameter and disappeared at a depth of 0.7 m. Meanwhile the SW projections transformed into detached amorphous,

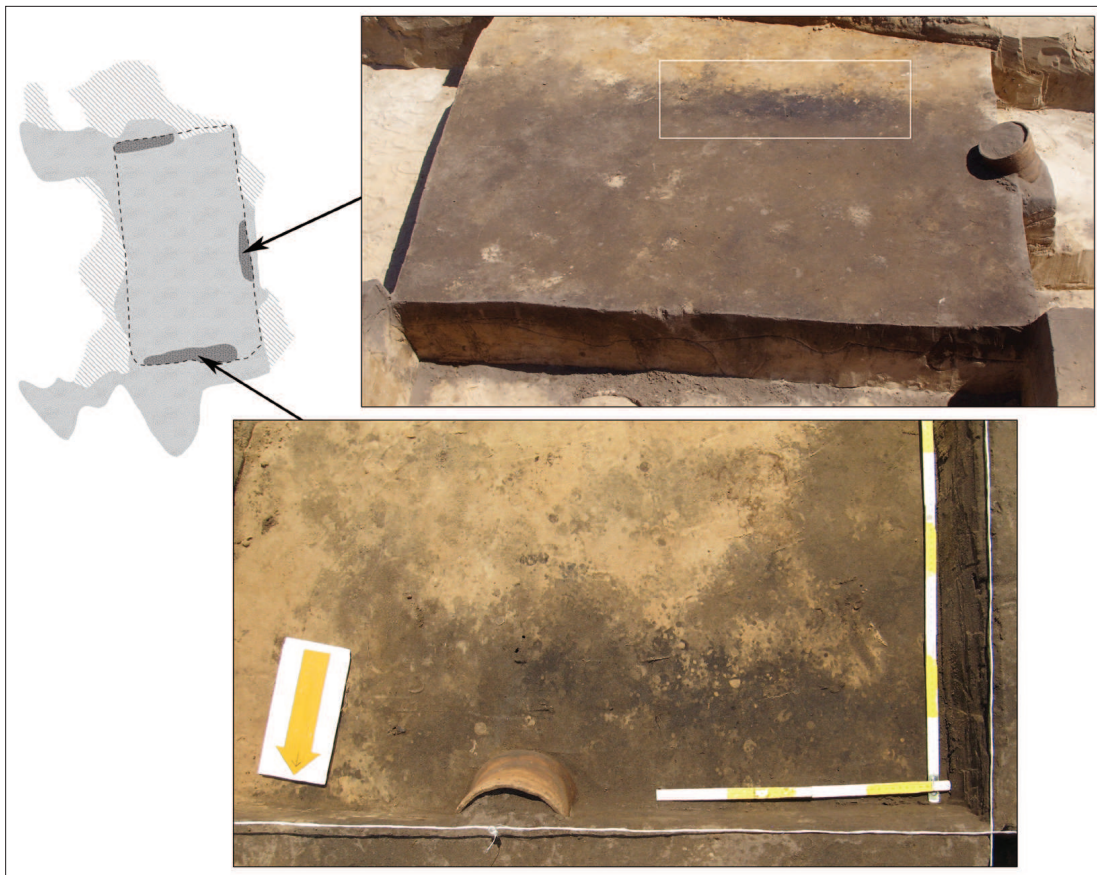


Fig. 6. The traces of the wooden structure in the burial. *Photo by A. Vaitovich. Drawing by V. Asheichyk.*

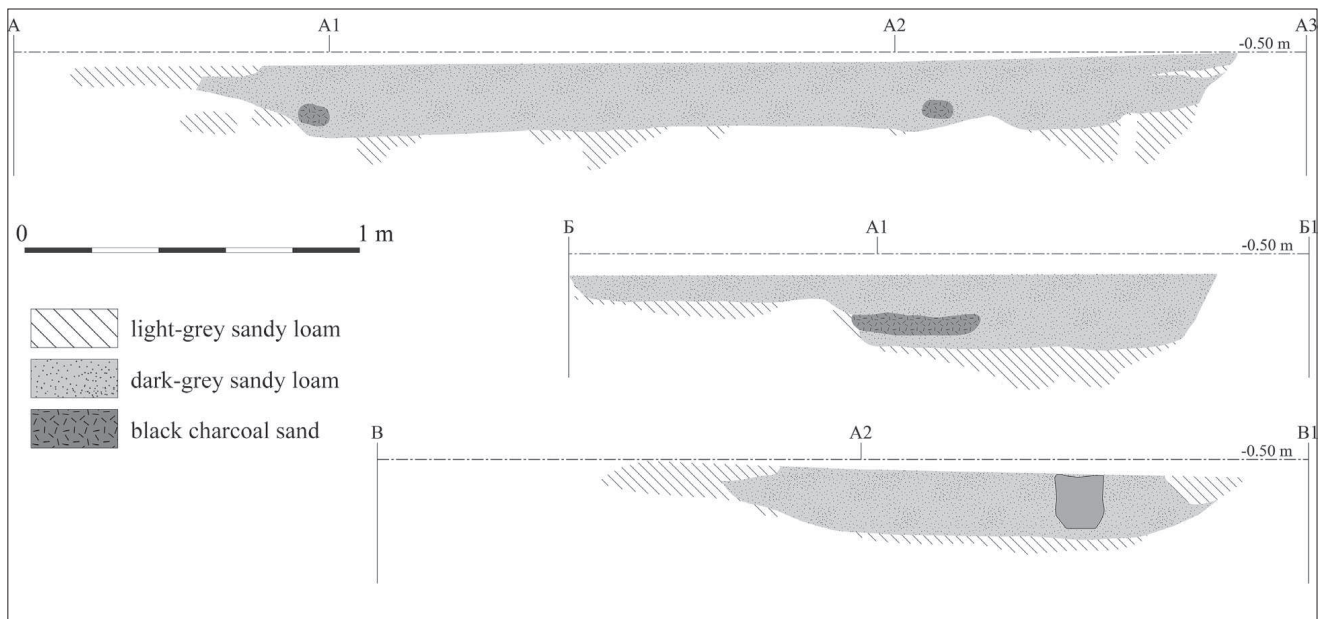


Fig. 7. Sections of feature 7. *Drawing by A. Vaitovich and V. Asheichyk.*



Fig. 8. Feature 7 during the excavation, as seen from the SE. Photo by A. Vaitovich.

0.3–0.4 m diameter light-grey stains at a depth of 0.65–0.7 m and disappeared in the next 0.04–0.1 m.

At a depth of 0.65 m, it became clear that the S projection also had no connection with the grave. At this depth, it was a sub-rectangular, 0.35 x 0.75 m stain isolated from the main part of the feature by a charcoal band (the remains of the aforementioned wooden lining). The projection trans-

formed into a detached, oval, 0.64 x 0.33 stain at the depth of 0.7–0.75 m (which was investigated as feature 7a starting from this depth) and disappeared 0.12–0.15 m deeper.

DESCRIPTION OF THE FINDS

The fill contained 317 finds: 186 recorded *in situ*, 131 obtained from screening. They consisted of 159 flint artefacts, 1 stone tool, 1 intact clay vessel, 123 potsherds, and 33 small fragments of burnt bones (Table 1). The finds occurred throughout the feature's depth and width. Most very likely ended up in the fill by accident, but 11 items were definitely grave goods.

Grave goods

All of the grave goods lay at the depth of 0.65–0.7 m, at the bottom of the burial pit, with only one exception, which will be discussed below.

A slightly tilted *clay vessel* (find no. 1; all find numbers corresponding to the numbers on the plan (Fig. 5)) stood in the grave's SE corner, next

Table 1. Finds from the fill of feature 7. The round brackets contain the number of items considered to be grave goods.

	Depth from the current ground's surface, m						Fill of the vessel	Cross-section	Total
	0.5–0.55	0.55–0.6	0.6–0.65	0.65–0.7	0.7–0.75	0.8–0.85			
Fill of the feature, <i>in situ</i>									
Flint	38 (1)	32	26	7 (7)	2	1	–	–	106 (8)
Stone	–	–	–	1 (1)	–	–	–	–	1 (1)
Pottery	24	15	13	4 (1)	2	–	–	–	58 (1)
Bones	11	4	3	3	–	–	–	–	21
From screening									
Flint	17	18	4	8	2	–	3	1 (1)	53 (1)
Stone	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Pottery	31	19	5	3	1	–	7	–	66
Bones	4	6	1	1	–	–	–	–	12
Total									
Flint	55 (1)	50	30	15 (7)	4	1	3	1 (1)	159 (9)
Stone	–	–	–	1 (1)	–	–	–	–	1 (1)
Pottery	55	34	18	7 (1)	3	–	7	–	124 (1)
Bones	15	10	4	4	–	–	–	–	33
	125 (1)	94	52	27 (9)	7	1	10	1 (1)	317 (11)

to the charcoally remains of a burnt structure and separated from the rest of the grave goods. The sand filling of the vessel contained very small, isolated pieces of flint that very likely ended up in the fill by accident. The vessel (Fig. 9:1) was a flat-base beaker with a slightly outcurving, tall neck, a spherical body, and a straight rim. The clay mass was tempered with fine-grained crushed stone. The vessel has brushed surfaces inside and out. The upper part of the neck has three horizontal rows of bird feather impressions, the base of the neck one row. The junction of the neck and shoulder is highlighted by a grooved line. The shoulder is adorned with a fifth horizontal row of bird feather impressions. The vessel is 17 cm high, the neck 7.7 cm high, the shoulder 4 cm high, and the lower body 5.3 cm high; the rim has an exterior diameter of 15.7 cm, an interior diameter of 14.2 cm, the neck a diameter of 14.6 cm, the body a maximum diameter of 15.8 cm, the base a diameter of 9.1 cm; and the walls a thickness of 0.8 cm.

The majority of the artefacts considered to be grave goods lay almost parallel to the pit's W wall (Fig. 5).

A *battle axe* (shaft-hole stone axe; no. 198) lay sideways, with the blade pointing to the E, in the NW corner, next to the charcoally remains of the burnt structure (Fig. 10). The axe (Fig. 11:7) has a wedge-shaped blade, a longitudinal section close in shape to a trapezium with rounded corners, and a sub-oval transverse section. Its cheeks are convex and asymmetrical. The butt is roundish with a sub-rectangular outline. The cutting edge is arched, wide, and symmetrical. The shaft-hole is closer to the butt. The drilling was undirected, conical, and rough. All the faces have been ground and have indents in places. Length: 97 mm; maximum width: 44 mm; width at the butt: 22 mm; length of the cutting edge: 43 mm; maximum thickness: 44 mm; top shaft-hole diameter: 21 mm; bottom shaft-hole diameter: 18 mm; weight: 255.2 g.

A *ground flint axe* (no. 202) was 0.3 m to the S from the battle axe. Its bottom edge was upward

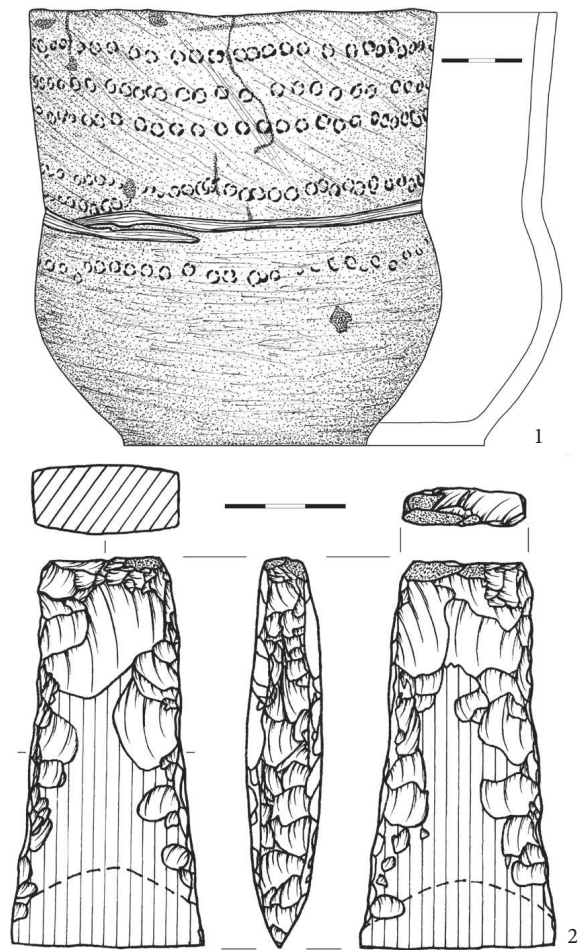


Fig. 9. Grave goods from Drazdy 12: 1 – the beaker (no. 1), 2 – the ground flint axe (no. 202). Drawing by A. Vaitovich.



Fig. 10. Some of the grave goods *in situ*. Photo by A. Vaitovich.

and its blade pointed E. It (Fig. 9:2) has a trapezoid blade with a straight, even taper towards the butt, a slightly accented, broadened cutting edge, a quadrangular transverse section, a symmetrical, wedge-shaped longitudinal section, and slightly convex cheeks. The butt is plain and rectangular, the blade symmetrical and straight. The axe's cutting edge and in part mesial section have been ground on both sides. The cutting edge has also been polished. The preserved negatives on both sides of the axe, both near the butt and in the mesial part, are mainly from lateral removals. The top and bottom edges were shaped by removals from both margins and bear no traces of grinding. The butt has negatives from removals and the cortical remnants. Length: 96 mm; maximum width (coinciding with the blade's width): 47 mm; width at the butt: 30 mm; maximum thickness (in the mesial part): 17.5 mm; thickness of the butt: 10–11 mm; weight: 111.5 g. The axe is made of opaque light-grey cretaceous flint with some narrow dark-grey bands.

A *knife* on a primary blade-like flake (no. 199; Fig. 11:8) was 0.06 m to the S of the flint axe. Its dorsal face was turned down and its proximal end pointed to the NE. One margin is straight, the other slightly convex. The edges had been shaped by regular continuous direct flat retouch that changed to semi-abrupt in the proximal part of one of the edges. Length: 64.5 mm; maximum width: 32.2

mm; maximum thickness (at the butt): 5 mm; maximum thickness in the mesial part: 4.3 mm; weight: 13.3 g. It is made of translucent dark-grey cretaceous flint with a thin dark-grey cortex.

Another *knife* (no. 181; Fig. 11:6), on a tertiary regular blade, was 0.22 m from the previous one. The artefact lay on its dorsal side, its proximal end pointing to the SE (Fig. 12). Both edges had been shaped with fine continuous direct abrupt retouch. Length: 63 mm; maximum width: 21.5 mm; maximum thickness: 4.3 mm; weight: 7.4 g. It is made of translucent dark-grey cretaceous flint.

A compact concentration of *flint arrowheads* (nos. 82, 180, 186) was unearthed 0.12 m to the W of the latter knife. The tips of the three arrowheads found *in situ* (Fig. 12) pointed to the E. One more arrowhead (no. 212) was found in clearing section A1–A2, but its exact location was not registered. All four (Fig. 11:1–4) are triangular with some well-expressed and quite deep sub-triangular notches at the base. The edges are slightly convex, bending slightly inward or directly down at the basal end. Three points are symmetrical and have barbs of the same length (nos. 82, 180, 186). One (no. 212) is asymmetrical and has barbs of a different length. All four have been finished with bifacial invasive retouch. Their metric and morphological characteristics are presented in Tables 2 and 3. The arrowheads are made of translucent dark-grey cretaceous flint.

Table 2. Metric data for the arrowheads from the grave
(L – length, W – maximum width, T – maximum thickness, Wn – notch width, Dn – notch depth)

Artefact No.	L (mm)	W (mm)	T (mm)	Wn (mm)	Dn (mm)	Tip angle	Weight
feature 7: no. 82	23.5	13.8	2.5	10	5	45°	0.5 g
feature 7: no. 180	24	14.4	3.5	11.5	5	43°	0.9 g
feature 7: no. 186	20.5	13.7	2.8	10.4	5.5	51°	0.5 g
feature 7: no. 212	16.2	11.3	2.3	8.5	4.8	55°	0.2 g

Table 3. Morphometric characteristics of the arrowheads from the grave,
measured using W. Borkowski's (1987) methods

Artefact No.	Symmetry	Sides curvature	Slenderness (L/W ratio)		Notch breadth (W/Wn ratio)		L/(L-Dn) ratio
feature 7: no. 82	S	convex	1.70	slim	1.38	wide	1.27
feature 7: no. 180	S	straight	1.67	slim	1.25	narrow	1.26
feature 7: no. 186	S	convex	1.50	squat	1.32	narrow	1.37
feature 7: no. 212	A	convex	1.43	squat	1.33	narrow	1.39

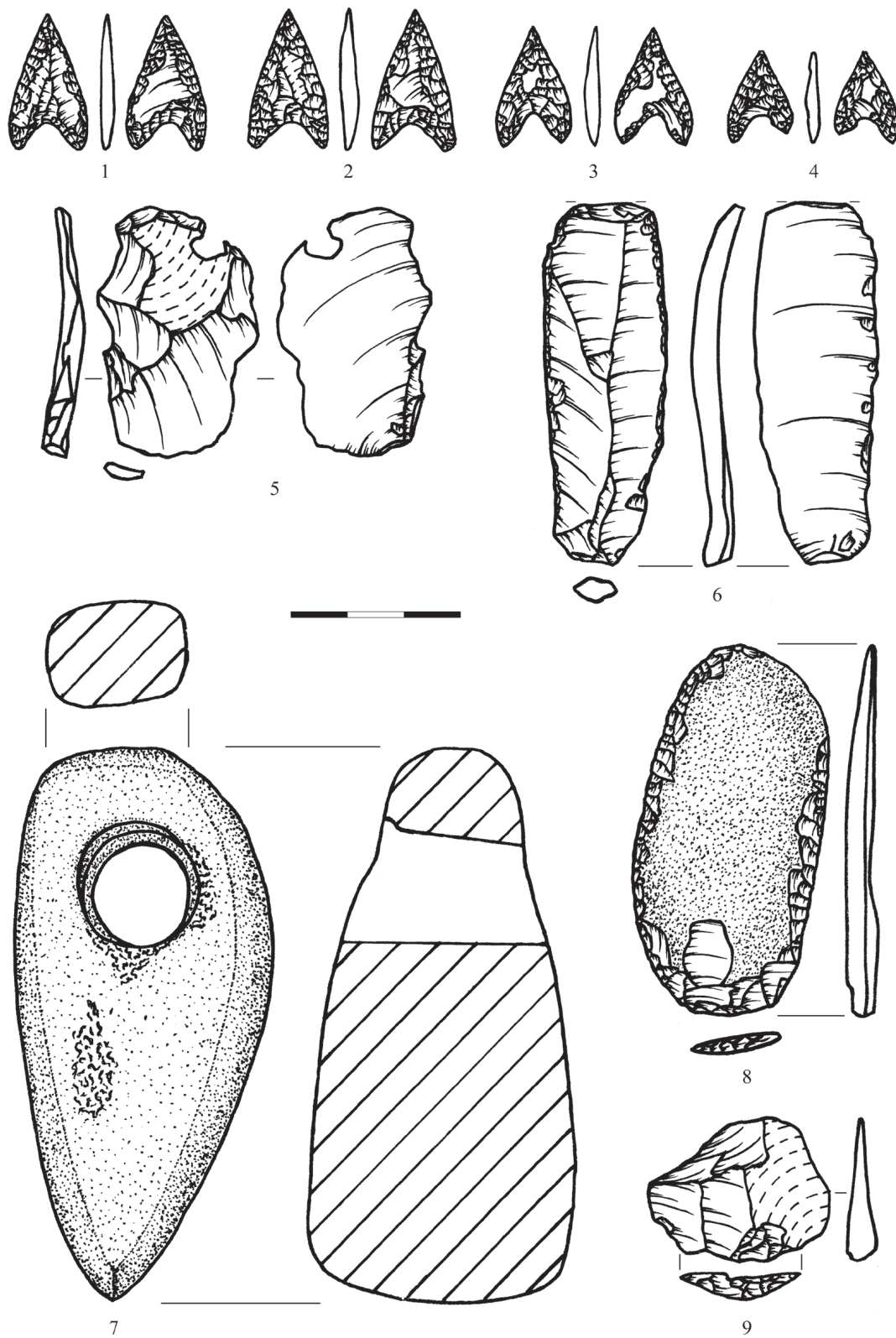


Fig. 11. Grave goods from Drazdy 12: 1–4 – arrowheads (nos. 82, 180, 186, 212), 5, 9 – unretouched flakes (nos. 81, 103), 6, 8 – knives (nos. 181, 199), 7 – the battle axe (no. 198). *Drawing by A. Vaitovich.*



Fig. 12. The knife (no. 181) and one of the arrowheads *in situ* in the burial. Photo by A. Vaitovich.

An *unretouched flake* (no. 81) was 0.6 m to the S from the arrowhead concentration and 0.7 m to the NW from the vessel. The flake (Fig. 11:5) is secondary and has an oval shape with a slightly curved profile. The negatives on its dorsal face run perpendicularly from two sides and obliquely to its axis. The flake is probably from bifacial shaping. Length: 42 mm; maximum width: 28.5 mm; maximum thickness 3.2 mm; weight: 3.8 g. It is made of translucent dark-grey cretaceous flint with an opaque light-grey spot; part of the cortex has survived on the dorsal face.

It should be noted that one more artefact that very likely belongs among the grave goods was found somewhat above the level of the base surface, 0.25 m from the rest of the items. An *unretouched flake* (no. 103) lay at a depth of 0.5–0.55 m. Its ventral face was uppermost and its proximal end pointed to the NE. This secondary flake (Fig. 11:9) has a sub-triangular shape with a straight profile. The negatives on its dorsal face are bidirectional along the artefact's axis and probably result from bifacial shaping. Length: 25 mm; maximum width: 32 mm; maximum thickness 4 mm; weight: 2 g. It is made of translucent dark-grey cretaceous flint; the dorsal face still has part of the cortex.

Other finds from the fill

Pottery

In addition to the aforementioned beaker, 123 sherds of hand built pottery were found in the grave, the majority being very small, non-diagnostic potsherds (80 specimens). Only 43 could be identified: 42 potsherds to sub-Neolithic vessels and one to Bronze Age pottery.

The sub-Neolithic is represented by fragments of Pripyat-Neman culture or/and Neman culture pottery. 13 potsherds were identified more precisely:

- 3 undecorated body sherds of Dubičiai-type pottery (Pripyat-Neman culture);
- 4 body sherds of Lysaja Hara type pottery (Neman culture), three decorated with horizontal rows of strokes and irregular stamp impressions (Fig. 13:20, 21);
- 6 fragments of Dobry Bor type pottery (Neman culture), one a rim sherd decorated with horizontal rows of irregular stamp impressions (Fig. 13:19), the rest unornamented body sherds.

The Bronze Age is represented by one potsherd from the Trzciniec cultural range. It is a body sherd decorated with 'barbed wire' (Fig. 13:22).

It is worth mentioning that none of the potsherds found in the pit's fill are similar to the beaker. This fact and their diverse chronology indicate that they ended up in the pit when it was filled in or owing to post-depositional processes.

Flint inventory

Apart from the artefacts referred to as grave goods, the fill contained another 150 flint finds, mostly chips and indefinable pieces smaller than 2 cm in size. There were also 19 identifiable artefacts: an end-scraper with retouch on both margins (Fig. 13:18); a double side scraper on a flake (Fig. 13:17); a fragment of a blade with fine discontinuous retouch (use retouch?) along both edges (Fig. 13:4); a flake fragment with partial

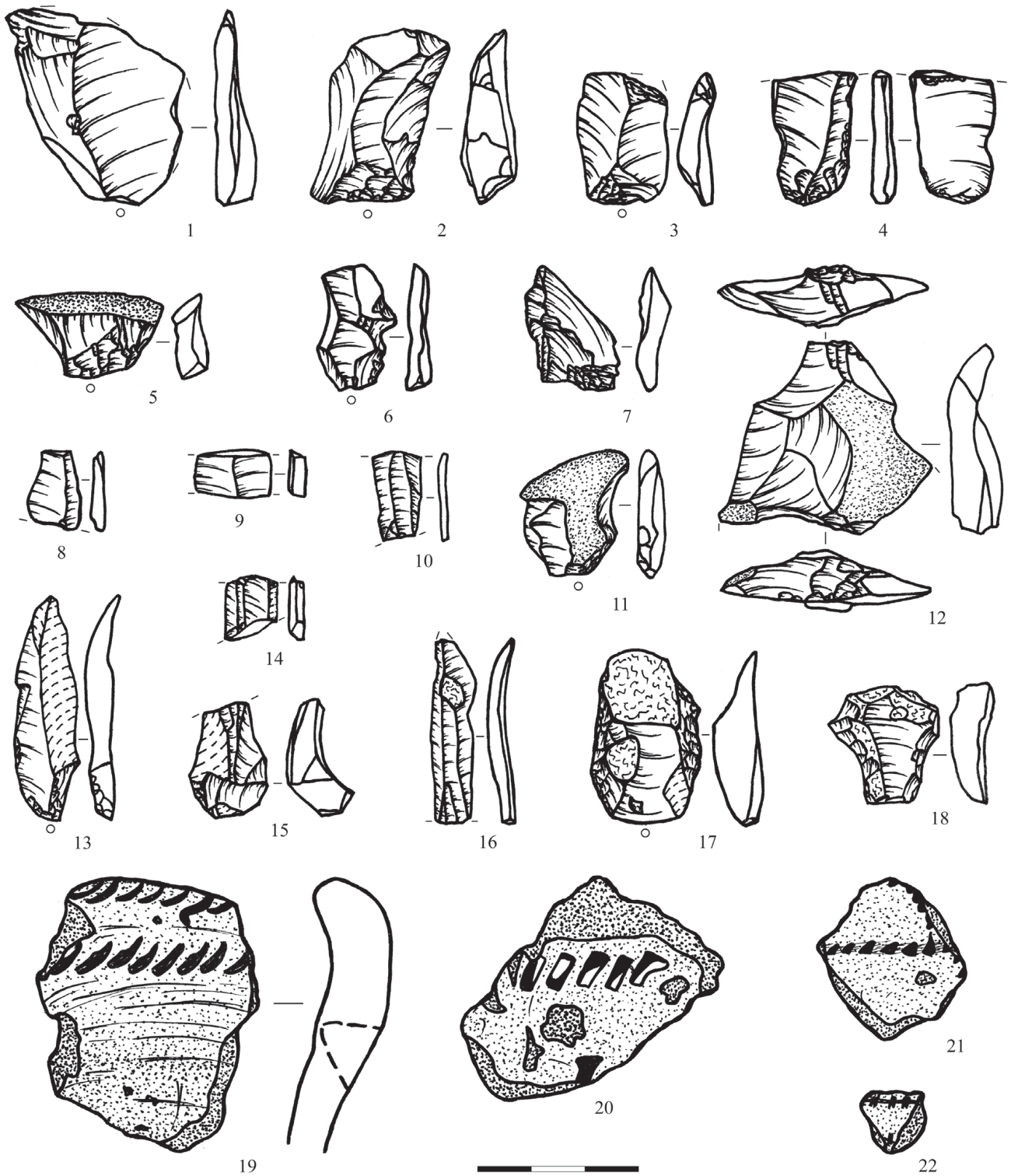


Fig. 13. A selection of flint artefacts and potsherds from the fill of feature 7: 1-3, 5-7, 11 – unretouched flakes (nos. 211, 63, 33, 92, 177, 76, 144), 4 – a retouched blade fragment (no. 32), 8-10, 14, 16 – unretouched blade fragments (nos. 208, 91, 142, 284, 128), 12 – a retouched flake (no. 185), 13 – the trimming blade (no. 325), 15 – the plunging blade fragment (no. 175), 17 – the double side scraper (no. 90), 18 – an end scraper (no. 5), 19 – a Dobry Bor type potsherd (no. 98), 20, 21 – Lysaja Hara type potsherds (nos. 10, 95), 22 – the Trzciniec culture potsherd (no. 2). *Drawing by A. Vaitovich.*

retouch (Fig. 13:12); a fragment of a plunging blade from a conical core for regular blades (Fig. 13:15); a secondary trimming blade (Fig. 13:13); seven unretouched flakes (Fig. 13:1–3, 5–7, 11), five unretouched blade fragments (Fig. 13:8–10, 14, 16); and a larger indefinable piece.

In the opinion of the present authors, three blade fragments (Fig. 13:8–10) are too small to be definitely considered intentional grave goods. The plunging blade (Fig. 13:15) and regular blade (Fig. 13:14, 16) fragments are most likely linked with a Mesolithic assemblage from a settlement. Both scrapers (Fig. 13:17, 18) are burnt, whereas none of the unquestionable grave goods has been thermally damaged. Four more finds: a flake (Fig. 13:11), a retouched flake (Fig. 13:12), the trimming blade (Fig. 13:13), and the larger piece are made of flint that has slight macroscopic differences from that used for the grave good artefacts. The rest of the identifiable finds: six flakes and a retouched blade (Fig. 13:1–7) are indistinguishable from the latter in respect to the raw material. Nevertheless, these artefacts, like the majority of the flint finds described here, do not have very distinctive forms. In addition, their distribution within the fill displayed no regularity.

Thus, it was conjectured that most of the aforementioned items found their way into the fill by accident, in the course of filling the burial pit or owing to some post-depositional disturbance process. The numerous potsherds that are unrelated to the burial and were found in the fill also support this conjecture. At the same time, the possibility that some of them might have been intentionally placed in the grave cannot be eliminated.

Bones

No osteological material was found aside from dozens of small fragments of burnt bone, which occurred throughout the feature and at a depth of up to 0.7 m. The majority were discovered at a depth of 0.5–0.6 m (Table 1). No special analysis of these bones has so far been conducted nor is their spe-

cies attribution known. It is not clear whether they are connected to the burial or found their way into the fill by accident. It should be mentioned that few small bone fragments, including burnt ones, occurred in the settlement's cultural layer.

In an earlier paper, the authors argued in favour of these bones as evidence of a cremation (Зуева, Ашейчик 2015). Unless erroneous, this theory is unfounded in respect to the currently available data.

INTERPRETATION AND DISCUSSION

The characteristic features of the burial unearthed at Drazdy 12 Settlement correlate in general with the funeral traditions of the CWC range.

Both barrow and flat graves are typical for this range. This was definitely a flat grave as shown by not only the absence of a mound (which could have hypothetically been destroyed in the course of subsequent activities at the site, as often happened to the Medieval barrows in the region) but also the absence of any traces of a ditch in the excavated area (Fig. 3). This fits in well with the region's specific features: Late Neolithic barrows are unknown in the Upper Neman region as well as near Polesia and extremely rare for the Rzucewo culture in the Southeast Baltic (Grasis 2007, p.52).

The location of the Drazdy burial is also in line with the regional patterns. In four of the five cases previously studied in the Upper Neman region (Fig. 1:3–6; no clear information exists on the archaeological context of the Kuraniec burial), 'corded' burials were located in the territory of multicultural Stone Age settlements situated on sandy hillocks in a flood-plain (Dakudava 5, Parchuty 1, Rusakova 2) or on a river terrace (Niz 2). 'Corded' pottery has also been discovered in the habitational context of these sites as well as at Drazdy. It should be noted that the analogous practice of locating single graves or small clusters of graves at settlement sites is typical (but not the only existing

practice) in the Southeast Baltic region (cf. Grasis 2007, p.50; Žukauskaitė 2007, p.79).

Various kinds of wooden structures are not rare for burial sites in different parts of the CWC range. A couple of structures that are slightly different from that found at Drazdy have been noted in the Upper Neman region as well. Traces of a wooden burial pit covering were recorded at Parchuty 1 (Lakiza 1999, p.260). Vadzim L. Lakiza also noted a likely post structure over burial 2 in Dakudava 5 (Лакіза 2008, с.86). In the latter case, the incompleteness and unclearness of the published data make both the feature's nature and its 'corded' attribution questionable.

It is currently impossible to determine the exact nature of the burial at Drazdy. It could have been an inhumation but no skeletal remains were found. A small quantity of burnt bone fragments were discovered in the fill but their species attribution is not known nor is it clear whether they are connected with the burial or ended up in the grave as a result of bioturbation. It should be mentioned that the problem of determining the burial method exists for almost every 'corded' burial from the Upper Neman region (the only exception being the burial from Krasnasiel'ski where an entire male skeleton was found). The investigator of the Parchuty 1 burial considers it to be an inhumation even though no skeletal remains were found in the pit (Lakiza 1999, p.260). No human remains have also been recorded in both of the graves at Dakudava 5 (Лакіза 2008, сс.84–86). Charniauski referred to the burials at Niz 2 and Rusakova 2 as cremations (Исаенко, Чернявский 1967, с.159; Чарняўскі 1997, с.309). Meanwhile, the archival and published data on the latter graves are so poor that it is completely unclear what the basis for this interpretation is and how trustworthy it is.

The 'corded' burials from the Upper Neman region contained similar categories of grave goods, but the one at Drazdy is the richest. The individual interred at Krasnasiel'ski was accompanied by a clay vessel and a bone awl (Lakiza 2007, Fig. 2:12,

13). A vessel and a ground flint axe were found in the burial at Niz 2 (Исаенко, Чернявский 1967, с.159, рис. 58, 59); a vessel and a battle axe at Rusakova 2 (Lakiza 2007, Fig. 2:5, 6); and a vessel, a battle axe, and a flint blade at Parchuty 1 (Lakiza 2007, Fig. 2:9–11). One of the graves at Dakudava 5 contained a vessel (Lakiza 2007, Fig. 2:8; Лакіза 2008, мал. 27), but Lakiza has conjectured that the grave good assemblage might have also initially included the flint axe and arrowhead found next to the disturbed burial (Lakiza 2007, Fig. 2:7; Лакіза 2008, с.84, табл. 45:1, 10). Another flint arrowhead was discovered in the fill of the second burial at Dakudava 5 (Лакіза 2008, табл. 45:2).

The technological and morphological features of the artefacts from the Drazdy burial correspond with the local 'corded' standards to a degree. The beaker's macromorphology has no perfect analogies in the region. Nevertheless, its technological features (temper type, character of the surface treatment) are typical for the pottery of the local CWC groups (Чарняўскі 1997, с.308; Lakiza 2007, p.28; Лакіза 2008, сс.101–103, 147–150). Instances of 'corded' pottery decorated with a 'bird feather' pattern are also known in the region (cf. Лакіза 2008, табл. 8:1). It should be noted that this decorative pattern is considered to be one of the main distinctive features of the GAC (Szmyt 2010, p.121, Fig. 33:2), which is why the occurrence of this design in CWC material from the Upper Neman is thought to be the result of the influence of 'amphora' traditions (Зуева 2011, сс.14–15).

Within the regional classification systems, the Drazdy battle axe falls within the type of 'axes with a short roundish butt' according to Ona Bagušienė and Rimutė Rimantienė (1974, pp.90–91, 233) and the analogous type 5a of 'wedge-shaped axes with a roundish butt' by Lakiza (Lakiza 2007, Fig. 8; Лакіза 2008, с.129, мал. 48). Isolated finds of such axes are very frequent in the region (Bagušienė, Rimantienė 1974, žem. 14; Лакіза 2008, с.122, мал. 53).

It is very difficult to find direct analogies to the ground flint axe among the finds from the Neman River basin. None of the existing regional classification schemes fully reflects the artefact's specific features. Thus, according to the classification proposed by Bagušienė and Rimantienė, the axe from Drazdy falls within a very wide group of 'axes with a quadrangular cross-section' (Bagušienė, Rimantienė 1974, pp.85, 232). Lakiža's definition of type 1 axes (Лакіза 2008, cc.113–115): those with a quadrangular cross-section and trapezium shape, is still too broad. According to the classification by Gytis Piličiauskas, the analogous type is labelled K1 (Piličiauskas 2007; 2008; Пиличаўскас 2008). It is possible to look cautiously for forms resembling that of the Drazdy find among to the more precisely defined axes of type K1b (referred to as type 2 in an earlier paper by Džiugas Brazaitis and Piličiauskas (2005, pav. 18:1)). According to the latter researcher, there are about two dozen finds of such axes known from the River Neman area (Piličiauskas 2007, pav. 33). Many of them are connected to the GAC. Nevertheless, some, namely those with faces that have not been completely ground, may belong to the CWC (Piličiauskas 2007; cf. also Абухоўскі *et al.* 2008). It should be noted that such axes are represented in the Neman region by isolated finds and finds from settlement sites. None had been found in a 'corded' burial before this.

Triangular flint arrowheads are a bulk find category at the Neolithic sites in the Upper Neman region (Лакіза 2008, c.112). In Lakiža's opinion, one of these arrowheads might belong to burial 1 at Dakudava 5 (Lakiža 2007, Fig. 2:7). It differs from those from Drazdy by the shallower depth of the basal notch. Nevertheless, arrowheads with deeper notches occur at settlement sites in the region (cf. Лакіза 2008, табл. 17:5, 64:14, 65:10).

The resemblance between some of the grave goods from Drazdy and the CWC materials from the Southeastern Poland should be highlighted. The ground flint axe corresponds well with the

type IB axes in the classification developed by Piotr Włodarczak (2006, p.27, tabl. XXIII:5–7). Such axes are known from dozens of CWC burials in Lesser Poland as well as the territory of Germany, Austria, and the Czech Republic (Libera 2009a, p.172). The Drazdy arrowheads, in respect to their morphometric attributes, correspond to a statistical norm typical of CWC arrowheads from Lesser Poland (cf. Borkowski 1987, Fig. 9–12). Forms with a deep basal notch are frequent in the CWC burials of the Kraków-Sandomierz group (Włodarczak 2006, pp.29, 87). Implements, which are similar to the Drazdy knives, are frequent in Lesser Poland and are referred to by Włodarczak (2006, p.31, tabl. XXIV) as 'typical late Neolithic knives'.

It seems to be of great importance that many of the traits of the Drazdy burial correspond to those of the Middle Dnieper culture (hereinafter the MDC). Both barrows and flat graves are typical for this culture (Артеменко 1967, cc.86–91; Калечыц, Крывальцэвіч 1997, cc.295–296; Krywalcewicz 2007; Крывальцэвіч 2011, cc.293–296). In the Upper Dnieper region, where they are especially numerous, flat cemeteries and single graves are located on sandy hillocks in floodplains. The flat graves can contain inhumations or cremations, the latter being very numerous. Various wooden structures have also been mentioned in some MDC burials (Артеменко 1964; 1967, cc.72–99; Krywalcewicz 2007, pp.14–31; Крывальцэвіч 2015). The traces, unearthed at Drazdy, of a sidewall lining made of burnt wooden planks have direct analogies in burials 1, 2, and partially 20 at Prorva 1 Cemetery (Krywalcewicz 2007, pp.14–15, 30–31; Крывальцэвіч 2015, c.259).

The influence of the MDC is manifested in the characteristic features of the Drazdy beaker. Based on its macromorphological features, this vessel is similar to the one found in burial 11 at the MDC cemetery at Prorva 1 (Krywalcewicz 2007, pp.22–23, tabl. 35:1). The technological

features of the beaker (temper type, character of the surface treatment) are analogous to MDC vessels from the Upper Dnieper region (Калечыц, Крывальцэвіч 1997, с.293). A 'bird feather' design occurred sporadically in MDC materials from the Upper Dnieper region as well. Its presence is also interpreted as an effect of its ties with the GAC (cf. Szmyt 2010, Fig. 45:10; Зуева 2011, сс.13–14). The division of a decorative composition into two zones in the vessel's narrowest place as is seen on the Drazdy beaker is typical for the MDC. This tradition occurred both in the culture's main area (e.g. Артеменко 1987, рис. 11:13; 12:33, 34; 13:31; Калечыц, Крывальцэвіч 1997, мал. 107) and in assemblages that were apparently influenced by MDC traditions and have been found in the Sokal Hills in the Western part of the Volhynian Uplands (Machnik *et al.* 2009, p.180).

The Drazdy arrowheads have analogies among the MDC material. Based on the classification system of Mikalai M. Kryvaltsevich (2007, pp.44–45), three of them fall within the type Ac category, i.e. long symmetrical triangular arrowheads with a deep basal notch. Only the fourth one, no. 212, does not fit precisely in this classification. Type Ad (arrowheads similar to those of type Ac but asymmetrical) is the closest category. The only difference is that field specimen no. 212 is short. Arrowheads with a deep basal notch have been found in MDC burials in the Upper Dnieper area (Артеменко 1964; Крывальцэвіч 2004, мал. 5:2, 4, мал. 8:2–7; Krywalcewicz 2007, pp.44–45, tabl. 50:13–18) and in the Sandomierz Lowland in Southeastern Poland (Machnik, Pilch 1997, рс. 6). Kryvaltsevich assumes the presence of such arrowheads in the MDC to be the result of their adaptation of cultural patterns from the sphere of the steppe cultures (Krywalcewicz 2007, p.96). It should be noted that Włodarczak (2006, p.29) considers their appearance in CWC burials of Lesser Poland (as has already been mentioned) to be a consequence of the influence of the MDC or

the steppe. Indeed, similar forms with analogous and more frequently, even deeper notches are common in the Northern Pontic region, mainly among the material from the Catacomb community (cf. Klochko 2001; Razumov 2011).

Thin trapezium-shaped quadrangular axes are not typical for the MDC, but sometimes occur in this culture's burials (e.g. Артеменко 1964, рис. 1:13, 5:16; 1976, рис. 7:8, 9:34). Artefacts similar to the knives from Drazdy also occur in MDC burials in the Upper Dnieper area (Krywalcewicz 2007, p.43, tabl. 51:5, 6) as well as among the grave goods from CWC burials in the Sokal Hills region, including those of the Sokal group (Libera 2009b, p.291, рс. 127:5). Unretouched blanks are a fairly frequent component of MDC grave goods. Flakes morphologically close to those from Drazdy, i.e. with multidirectional negatives on their dorsal faces, probably the result of being biface-shaping flakes, have also been documented in the MDC (Machnik, Pilch 1997, рс. 7:3, 13; Крывальцэвіч 2004, с.47, мал. 8:9, 11., 9:3, 7; Krywalcewicz 2007, pp.43–44, tabl. 52:1, 3, 5, 6, 10–12).

Another issue is the burial's chronological position. Due to a lack of any radiocarbon dates, only a rough estimate of its age based on a comparative-typological analysis is currently possible.

Chronology is a weak point in the investigation of the CWC communities in the Neman River basin. It is mainly based on the results of comparative pottery analyses supported by a few radiocarbon dates. According to recent evaluations, 'corded' communities existed in the Upper Neman region from the second quarter of the 3rd millennium BC to the second quarter of the 2nd millennium BC (Lakiza 2007, pp.34–35; Лакіза 2008, сс.147–150). The only CWC burial from the region has a ¹⁴C date. The Parchuty 1 burial dates to 2550–2410 cal BC (Lakiza 1999; Лакіза 2008, с.145). A series of radiocarbon-dated burials attests to a CWC presence in the East Baltic during 2800–1900 BC (Girininkas 2002, p.92, lent. 3; Tebelškis, Jankauskas 2006, Table 1).

The specific features of some of the Drazdy grave goods have been helpful in the estimating the burial's chronological position. For example, the radiocarbon dates from CWC burials in Southeastern Poland, where type IB flint axes occur, fall within 2800/2630–2400/2200 cal BC (Libera 2009a, pp.172–173).

The 'bird feather' design used to decorate the vessel is one of the most distinctive features of the GAC. One assemblage from this culture has been radiocarbon dated in the Upper Neman region: burial 3 in Krasnasielski Cemetery dates to 2830–2450 cal BC, most likely circa 2580 cal BC (Szmyt 2010, p.66).

Burial 11 in the MDC cemetery at Prorva 1 contained a vessel typologically close to the one at Drazdy. The grave belongs to the cemetery's first stylistic and chronological burial group based on Kryvaltsevich's periodization. These burials appeared during the Aa stage of the A phase, i.e. circa 2500–2200 cal BC (Krywalcewicz 2007, pp.69–70, 91).

The division of the decorative composition into two zones at the vessel's narrowest part is seen in both the main MDC area and in the Sokal Hills assemblages, which appear to have been influenced by MDC traditions. The MDC population penetrated into Southeastern Poland, a CWC area, and regional syncretic units also developed there during 2540–2490 cal BC. Some of these units existed during the second half of the 3rd millennium BC (Machnik *et al.* 2009, pp.219–232, 259–261).

Based on these things, the Drazdy burial can be dated to the second half of the 3rd millennium BC.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

The burial custom recorded at Drazdy 12 and the characteristics of certain grave goods are connected with three cultural traditions: local CWC, MDC, and GAC groups. It should also be mentioned that material from both 'corded' traditions

is likewise present in the site's habitational context. There are about 70 potsherds belonging to the local CWC group and 2 potsherds decorated with a 'parquet' design typical of the MDC among the material obtained in 2012–2013.

The peculiarities of the material from Drazdy correspond in general with the regional specifics. The presence of MDC elements among the material from the local CWC settlements and burials has been repeatedly noted (Чарняўскі 1997, с.309, мал. 111:5; Крывальцэвіч 2001, с.269; Lakiza 2007, pp.34–35; Лакіза 2008, сс.150–155, мал. 31:1). The occurrence of material with mixed CWC and GAC characteristics has also been recorded in the Upper Neman region (Крывальцэвіч 2001, с.269; Lakiza 2007, p.28; Лакіза 2008, сс.147–150; Зуева 2011, сс.14–15).

The presence of the aforementioned traditions in the upper Neman basin is the result of complicated cross-cultural interactions that have yet to be studied properly. It has been recently ascertained that syncretic 'corded-amphora' material might occur in the region owing to various cultural situations. On the one hand, the direct interaction of various groups of people cannot be excluded; the region's GAC cemeteries indicate such a possibility (Лакіза 2008; Szmyt 2010; Зуева 2011). On the other hand, 'amphora' features might have penetrated into the local 'corded' environment through intermediaries. One possible intermediary of GAC features might be the MDC, which traditions were spreading across the Upper Neman region during the second half of the 3rd millennium BC (Крывальцэвіч 2001; Lakiza 2007; Лакіза 2008; Зуева 2011).

The burial at Drazdy 12 also has special significance from the perspective of the problem of the expansion of the MDC and its impact to the W: the area of the Upper Vistula, the Upper Bug, and the Dniester rivers (cf. Machnik, Pilch 1997; Machnik *et al.* 2009) and the Southeastern Baltic (cf. Крывальцевич 2003).

It should be noted that further detailed studies are required to determine the position of the items from the Upper Neman region within the cultural transformation processes of Central and Eastern Europe during the second half of the 3rd millennium BC.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Dr Mikalai M. Kryvaltsevich for all of his support, the sharing of his valuable knowledge, and his beneficial recommendations and those anonymous reviewers whose comments helped to improve the manuscript. We are also deeply indebted to Hanna Belskaya for her help with the English translation.

ADDENDUM

After the paper was ready to print, the results of the osteological analysis conducted by Dr Łukasz Maurycy Stanaszek, an anthropologist at the State Archaeological Museum in Warsaw, were obtained. He ascertained that all of the bones from feature 7 had been burnt except in one case. Many of the burnt bone fragments were identified as having come from animals. Thus it can be assumed that the remainder (poorly diagnostic fragments) are also non-human. As to human remains, approximately 15 unburnt fragments of molar crowns were found. During the excavation, they were recorded as find no. 167 and were considered in the text of the paper and in Table 1 to be a single item. They lay at a depth of 0.6–0.65 m in the N part of the grave, more or less along its long axis, and precisely 0.15 m to the N of flake no. 103. Judging by the condition of the occlusal surfaces of these crowns, the individual died in the age of *maturus*, i.e. over the age of 35.

In the opinion of the authors, the presented results apparently attest that the Drazdy 12 burial was an inhumation. It is very unlikely that the burnt animal bones are related to the burial. They probably found their way into the fill by accident.

REFERENCES

- Bagušienė, O., Rimantienė, R., 1974. Akmeniniai gludinti dirbiniai. In: *Lietuvos TSR archeologijos atlasas*, I. *Akmens ir žalvario amžiaus paminklai*. Vilnius: Mintis, 84–205.
- Borkowski, W., 1987. Neolithic and Early Bronze Age Heart-Shaped Arrow-Heads from the Little Poland Upland. In: Szélag, T., ed. *New in Stone Age Archaeology (=Archaeologia interregionalis*, 8). Wydawnictwa Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego, 147–181.
- Brazaitis, D., Piličiauskas, G., 2005. Gludinti titnaginiai kirviai Lietuvoje. *LA*, 29, 71–118.
- Charniauski, M., 1996. Materials of Globular Amphora culture in Belarus. *BPS*, 4, 87–97.
- Girininkas, A., 2002. Migraciniai procesai Rytų Pabaltijyje vėlyvajame neolite. Virvelinės keramikos kultūra. *LA*, 23, 73–92.
- Grasis, N., 2007. The Skaistkalnes Selgas double burial and the Corded Ware/Rzucewo culture: a model of the culture and the development of burial practices. *LA*, 31, 39–70.
- Klochko, V.I., 2001. *Weaponry of Societies of the Northern Pontic Culture Circle: 5000–700 BC (=BPS*, 10).
- Krywalcewicz, M., 2007. *Prorwa 1. Cmentarzysko z połowy III – początku II tysiąclecia przed Chr. na górnym Naddnieprzu*. Wydawnictwo Poznańskie.
- Lakiza, V.L., 1999. Radiocarbon dating of the Corded Ware Culture from the Nieman river basin. A grave from Parkhuty, site 1, the Grodna region. *BPS*, 7, 251–263.
- Lakiza, V.L., 2007. Cultural identification of ‘the corded materials’ from Belorussian Neman river basin. *LA*, 31, 23–38.
- Libera, J., 2009a. Czy siekiery krzemienne mogą być wyznacznikami kultury amfor kulistych? In: Taras, H., Zakościelna, A., red. *Hereditas praeteriti: Additamenta archeologica et historica dedicata Ioanni Gurba Octogesimo Anno Nascendi*. Lublin: UMCS, 169–179.

Libera, J., 2009b. Materiały krzemienne z badań kurhanów kultury ceramiki sznurowej na Grzędzie Sokalskiej. *In: Machnik, J., Bagińska, J., Koman, W. Neolityczne kurhany na Grzędzie Sokalskiej w świetle badań archeologicznych w latach 1988–2006.* Kraków: Polska Akademia Umiejętności, 283–308.

Machnik, J., Bagińska, J., Koman, W., 2009. *Neolityczne kurhany na Grzędzie Sokalskiej w świetle badań archeologicznych w latach 1988–2006.* Kraków: Polska Akademia Umiejętności

Machnik, J., Pilch, A., 1997. Zaskakujące odkrycie zabytków kultury środkowodnieprzańskiej w Młodowie-Zakąciu koło Lubaczowa, w woj. przemyskim. *Sprawozdania Archeologiczne*, 49, 143–170.

Piličiauskas, G., 2007. *Titnago industrija Pietryčių Pabaltijyje 2900–1700 m. pr. Kr. gludintų titnaginių kirvių tyrimų duomenimis* (Doctoral Dissertation). Lithuanian Institute of History.

Piličiauskas, G., 2008. *The Flint Industry in the South-East Baltic, 2900–1700 BC, on the Evidence of the Studies of Polished Flint Axes* (Summary of Doctoral Dissertation). Lithuanian Institute of History.

Razumov, S.M., 2011. *Flint Artefacts of Northern Pontic Populations of the Early and Middle Bronze Age: 3200–1600 BC (based on burial materials)* (=BPS, 16).

Szmyt, M., 2010. *Between West and East. People of the Globular Amphora Culture in Eastern Europe: 2950–2350 BC* (=BPS, 8).

Tebelškis, P., Jankauskas, R., 2006. Late Neolithic grave from Gyvakarai in the context of current archaeological and anthropological knowledge. *Archaeologia Baltica*, 6, 8–20.

Włodarczak, P., 2006. *Kultura ceramiki sznurowej na Wyżynie Małopolskiej.* Kraków: IAiE PAN.

Žukauskaitė, J., 2007. Virvelinės keramikos kultūros kapai Rytų Baltijos regione. *LA*, 31, 71–90.

Абухоўскі, В., Зуева, А., Сідаровіч, В., 2008.

Чатырохбаковыя крамянёвыя шліфаваныя вырабы ў зборы Нацыянальнага музея гісторыі і культуры Беларусі. ААА, III, 17–41.

Артеменко, И.И., 1964. Неолитические стоянки и курганы эпохи бронзы близ с. Ходосовичи Гомельской обл. БССР. *In: Бадер, О.Н., ред. Памятники каменного и бронзового веков Евразии.* Москва: Наука, 31–87.

Артеменко, И.И., 1967. *Племена Верхнего и Среднего Поднепровья в эпоху бронзы.* Москва: Наука.

Артеменко, И.И., 1976. Могильник среднеднепровской культуры в урочище Стрелица. *In: Березанская, С.С., Отрощенко, В.В., Телегин, Д.Я., ред. Энеолит и бронзовый век Украины.* Киев: Наукова думка, 69–96.

Артеменко, И.И., 1987. Культуры раннего бронзового века южной полосы лесов Европейской части СССР. *In: Бадер, О.Н., Крайнов, Д.А., Косарев, М.Ф., ред. Эпоха бронзы лесной полосы СССР.* Москва: Наука, 35–51.

Ашэйчык, В.У., Зуева, А.У., 2014. Археалагічныя даследаванні ў ваколіцах вёскі Дразды Стаўбцоўскага раёна ў 2012 годзе. *МАБ*, 25, 274–280.

Зуева, А.У., 2007. Паўночна-ўсходнія могільнікі культуры шарападобных амфар і іх месца ў «амфарнай» культурнай прасторы. *ГАЗ*, 23, 82–100.

Зуева, А.У. 2011. *Культура шарападобных амфар на тэрыторыі Беларусі і яе роля ў развіцці супольнасцяў III – пачатку II тыс да н.э.* (Summary of Doctoral Dissertation). Institute of History of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus.

Зуева, А.В., Ашейчик, В.В., 2015. Синкретизм культурных традиций рубежа неолита – бронзового века в Верхнем Понеманье (на примере памятника Дрозды 12). *In: Лозовский, В.М., Лозовская, О.В., Выборнов, А.А., ред. Неолитические культуры Восточной Европы: хронология, палеоэкология, традиции. Материалы международной научной конференции,*

посвященной 75-летию В. П. Третьякова. Санкт-Петербург: ИИИМК РАН, 167–170.

Зуева, А.У., Ашэйчык, В.У., 2015. Папярэдня вынікі раскопак паселішча Дразды 12 у 2013 годзе. *МАН*, 26, 300–305.

Исаенко, В.Ф., Чернявский, М.М., 1967. Новые данные по спорным вопросам бронзового века Белоруссии. *Ил:* Будько, В.Д., Зверуго, Я.Г., Исаенко, В.Ф., Шут, К.П., ред. *Белорусские древности: доклады к конференции по археологии Белоруссии (январь – февраль 1968)*. Минск: Институт истории АН БССР, 155–191.

Калечыц, А.Г., Крывальцэвіч, М.М., 1997. Сярэднядняпроўская культура. *Ил:* Чарняўскі, М.М., Калечыц, А.Г., ред. *Археалогія Беларусі, 1. Каменны і бронзавы вякі*. Минск: Беларуская навука, 291–304.

Крывальцэвіч, М.М., 2003. К проблеме культурного взаимодействия населения культуры со шнуровой керамикой Верхнего Поднепровья и Восточной Прибалтики. *Ил:* Мазуркевич, А.Н., ред. *Древности Подвинья: исторический аспект*. Санкт-Петербург: Издательство Государственного Эрмитажа, 112–118.

Крывальцэвіч, М.М., 2001. “Шнуравы гарызонт” на Беларусі: праблемы ідэнтыфікацыі і генезіса. *Ил:* Czebreszuk, J., Kryvalcevič, M., Makarowicz, P., red. *Od neolityzacji do początków epoki brązu. Przemiany kulturowe w międzyrecczu Odry i Dniepru między VI i II tys. przed Chr.* Wydawnictwo Poznańskie, 259–275.

Крывальцэвіч, М., 2004. Курган сярэднядняпроўскай культуры на возеры Камарын каля Рагачова. *ГАЗ*, 19, 34–57.

Крывальцэвіч, М.М., 2011. Пахаванні сярэдзіны III – пачатку II тысячагоддзяў да н.э. на тэрыторыі Верхняга Падняпроўя: некаторыя вынікі структурных даследаванняў. *Ил:* Kowalewska-Marszałek, H., Włodarczak, P., red. *Kurhany i obrządek pogrzebowy w IV–II tysiącleciu p.n.e.* Kraków, Warszawa: Instytut Archeologii i Etnologii PAN, Instytut Archeologii Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego, 293–308.

Крывальцэвіч, М., 2015. Драўляныя збудаванні ў пахавальных комплексах сярэднядняпроўскай культуры. *Ил:* Ашэйчык, В.У., Плавінскі, М.А., Сідаровіч, В.М., ред. *Супольнасці каменнага і бронзавага вякоў міжрэчча Віслы і Дняпра: Зборнік навуковых артыкулаў памяці Міхала Чарняўскага*. Минск: Выдавец А.М. Янушкевіч, 255–273.

Лакіза, В.Л., 2008. *Старажытнасці позняга неаліту і ранняга перыяду бронзавага веку Беларускага Панямоння*. Минск: Беларуская навука.

Пиличаускас, Г., 2008. Кремневые шлифованные топоры с территории Беларуси в Национальном музее Литвы и их интерпретация в контексте новых исследований подобных находок в юго-восточной Прибалтике. *ААА*, III, 118–138.

Чарняўскі, М.М., 1963. Старажытныя шахты па здабычы крэменю. *Весці АН БССР. Сер. грамад. навук*, 3, 66–70.

Чарняўскі, М.М., 1997. Культура шнуровой керамікі Панямоння. *Ил:* Чарняўскі, М.М., Калечыц, А.Г., ред. *Археалогія Беларусі, 1. Каменны і бронзавы вякі*. Минск: Беларуская навука, 307–311.

Чарняўскі, М.М., 2003. Да пытання вылучэння прыпяцка-нёманскай раннеалітычнай культуры. *ГАЗ*, 18, 25–33.

Чарняўскі, М.М., 2005. *Справаздача аб палявых археалагічных даследаваннях у басейнах Нёмана, Віліі і Дзвіны ў 2005 г.* Report in the Central Scientific Archive of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, Fonds of Archaeological Scientific Documentation, inventory 1, file 2270.

Чарняўскі, М.М., 2006. Археалагічныя работы ў басейнах Нёмана, Дзвіны і Віліі. *ГАЗ*, 21, 181–182.

Чарняўскі, М.М., 2011. Нёманская неалітычная культура ў Беларусі: генезіс і эвалюцыя. *Ил:* Stankiewicz, U., Wawrusiewicz, A., red. *Na rubieży kultur. Badania nad okresem*

neolitu i wczesną epoką brązu. Muzeum Podlaskie w Białymstoku, 77–86.

Чарняўскі, М.М., Кудрашоў, В.Я., Ліпніцкая, В.Л., 1996. *Старажытныя шахцёры на Росі. Мінск: Навука і тэхніка.*

Чернявский, М.М., 1969. Погребение бронзового века возле м. Куранец. *Ип: Тезисы докладов к Конференции по археологии Белоруссии. Минск: Институт истории АН БССР, 59–62.*

ABBREVIATIONS

AAA – Acta Archaeologica Albaruthenica

BPS – Baltic-Pontic Studies

LA – Lietuvos archeologija

МАБ – Матэрыялы па археалогіі Беларусі

ГАЗ – Гістарычна-археалагічны зборнік

CWC – Corded Ware culture

GAC – Globular Amphora culture

MDC – Middle Dnieper culture

VĖLYVOJO NEOLITO KAPAS DRAZDY 12 GYVENVIETĖJE, NEMUNO AUKŠTUPIO (VAKARŲ BALTARUSIJA) REGIONE

Vitali Ašeičyk, Aliaksandra Vaitovič

Santrauka

Nemuno aukštupio regione iki šiol buvo žinoma ne daugiau kaip 12 vėlyvojo neolito laidojimo vietų 7-iose radimvietėse (1 pav.). Dar vienas vėlyvojo neolito kapas naujai aptiktas Drazdy 12 (Vakarų Baltarusija) įvairiais laikotarpiais datuojamoje gyvenvietėje. Gyvenvietė išsidėsčiusi smėlėtoje kalvelėje Nemuno kairiajame krante (2 pav.), nutolusi 3,7 km į ŠV nuo Stolbcų miesto (Minsko sritis). 2012–2014 m. čia buvo iširtas 127,5 m² plotas. Viename iš tirtų objektų (3 pav.), objekte 7, aptiktas plokštinis kapas.

Keturkampė 3,45 x 1,6–1,85 m dydžio kapo duobė, kurios kontūras išryškėjo 0,5–0,55 m gylyje nuo dabartinio žemės paviršiaus, buvo orientuota ŠV–PR kryptimi (4, 5 pav.). Š ir P duobės dalyje užfiksuoti netaisyklingos formos išsikišimai, atsiradę po vėlesnio suardymo. Apatinėje dalyje, 0,65–0,7 m gylyje, duobės kontūras buvo stačiakampio formos, 2,1 x 1,1 m dydžio (5 pav.). Kapo dugnas pasiektas 0,7–0,75 m gylyje. Kapo pjūvis taip pat artimas stačiakampio formai (7 pav.). Š, R ir P sienelėse matyti smėlio juostelės su anglies intarpais (6 pav.), kurie greičiausiai rodo, kad duobės šonai buvo iškloti medinėmis lentomis. Struktūrai naudotas anksčiau

degęs medis. Neužfiksuota laužo buvimo duobėje požymių. Kapo užpilde rasta nedaug apdegusių ne žmogaus kaulų fragmentų, tačiau jų rūšinė priklausomybė nenustatyta. Kapo Š dalyje vienoje iš koncentracijų identifikuota apie 15 nedegusių žmogaus krūminių dantų fragmentų. Tai leidžia manyti, kad kapas buvo griautinis.

Įkapes sudarė molinis indas, 1 akmens ir 9 titnago dirbiniai. PR kapo kampe buvo plokščiadugnė molinė taurė, puošta penkiomis „paukščio plunksnos“ tipo ornamentų eilėmis (9:1 pav.). Didžioji dalis įkapių buvo sudėta ties kapo duobės V sienoje (5 pav.): laivinis kovos kirvis (11:7 pav.), gludintas keturkampio skerspjuvio titnaginys kirvis (9:2 pav.), 2 peiliai (11:6, 8 pav.), 4 trikampiai strėlių antgaliai su įlinkiais pagrindo dalyje (11:1–4 pav.) ir neretušuota nuoskala (11:5 pav.). Dar viena neretušuota nuoskala (11:9 pav.), laikytina įkapių dalimi, aptikta centrinėje kapo duobės dalyje.

Laidosena ir įkapės yra susijusios su trimis kultūrinėmis tradicijomis: Virvelinės keramikos kultūros rato vietinių grupių, Dniepro vidurupio kultūros ir Rutulinių amforų kultūros. Virvelinės keramikos

kultūros tradicijos taip pat atsispindi ir gyvenvietės kontekste. Remiantis tipologiniais kriterijais, kapas datuojamas III t-mečio pr. Kr. 2-ąja puse.

Drazdy 12 radimvietės medžiagos ypatumai iš esmės atitinka regiono specifiką. Anksčiau minėtų tradicijų susiformavimą lėmė Nemuno aukštupio regione vykę sudėtingi tarpkultūriniai procesai, kurių pobūdis vis dar lieka neaiškus, ir reikalingi detaliūs tyrimai. Sinkretiška archeologinė medžiaga gali būti įvairių kultūrinių situacijų požymis: tiek minėtų bendruomenių tiesioginės sąveikos, tiek kultūros tradicijų komponentų netiesioginės sklaidos. Dalis tyrinėtojų anksčiau yra darę prielaidą, kad Dniepro vidurupio kultūros atstovai III t-mečio pr. Kr. paibaigoje galėjo skverbtis į Nemuno aukštupio baseiną. Taip pat minėtoji kultūra gali būti siejama su Rutulinių amforų kultūros sklaida. Drazdy 12 radimvietės šaltiniai šias hipotezes patvirtina.

LENTELIŲ SĄRAŠAS

1 lentelė. Objekto 7 užpildo radiniai. Skliausteliuose nurodomas įkapėms priskiriamų radinių skaičius.

2 lentelė. Kape aptiktų strėlių antgalių matmenys (L – ilgis, W – maksimalus plotis, T – maksimalus storis, Wn – įlinkio plotis, Dn – įlinkio gylis).

3 lentelė. Kape aptiktų strėlių antgalių morfometrinė charakteristika (matavimai atlikti naudojantis W. Borkowski (1987) metodais).

ILIUSTRACIJŲ SĄRAŠAS

1 pav. Rutulinių amforų kultūros (A) ir Virvelinės keramikos kultūros rato (B) laidojimo vietos Nemuno aukštupio regione: 1 – Malyja Jodkavičy, Berastavicos r., 2 – Krasnasielski, Valkavysko r., 3 – Niz 2 (Janava 2), Slanimo r., 4 – Rusakova 2, Slanimo r., 5 – Parchuty 1, Zietelos r., 6 – Dakudava 5, Lydos r., 7 – Kuraniec, Vileikos r., 8 – Drazdy 12, Stolbcų r. *V. Ašeičyk brėž.*

2 pav. Drazdy 12 radimvietė ir aplinka. Palydovinė nuotrauka iš „Google Earth“. *V. Ašeičyk brėž.*

3 pav. Drazdy 12: A – 2012–2014 m. tyrinėtų perkasų išsidėstymas, B – objektų išsidėstymas tyrinėtame plote. *A. Vaitovič ir V. Ašeičyk brėž.*

4 pav. Objektas 7 0,5–0,55 m gylyje. Vaizdas iš PR. *A. Vaitovič nuotr.*

5 pav. Objekto 7 planas: duobės kontūras 0,50–0,55 ir 0,65–0,70 m gylyje ir įkapių vieta: 1 – taurė, 81, 103 – neretušotos nuoskalos, 82, 180, 186 – strėlių antgaliai, 181, 199 – peiliai, 198 – kovos kirvis, 202 – gludintas titnaginis kirvis. *A. Vaitovič ir V. Ašeičyk brėž.*

6 pav. Kapo medinės konstrukcijos liekanos. *A. Vaitovič nuotr., V. Ašeičyk brėž.*

7 pav. Objekto 7 pjūviai. *A. Vaitovič ir V. Ašeičyk brėž.*

8 pav. Objektas 7 tyrimų metu. Vaizdas iš PR. *A. Vaitovič nuotr.*

9 pav. Drazdy 12 kapo įkapės: 1 – taurė (Nr. 1), 2 – gludintas titnaginis kirvis (Nr. 202). *A. Vaitovič pieš.*

10 pav. Kai kurios įkapės *in situ*. *A. Vaitovič nuotr.*

11 pav. Drazdy 12 kapo įkapės: 1–4 – strėlių antgaliai (Nr. 82, 180, 186, 212), 5, 9 – neretušotos nuoskalos (Nr. 81, 103), 6, 8 – peiliai (Nr. 181, 199), 7 – kovos kirvis (Nr. 198). *A. Vaitovič pieš.*

12 pav. Peilis (Nr. 181) ir vienas strėlės antgalių *in situ*. *A. Vaitovič nuotr.*

13 pav. Objekto 7 duobės užpildo titnago ir keramikos dirbinių rinkinys: 1–3, 5–7, 11 – neretušotos nuoskalos (Nr. 211, 63, 33, 92, 177, 76, 144), 4 – retušuotos skeltės fragmentas (Nr. 32), 8–10, 14, 16 – neretušotu skelčių fragmentai (Nr. 208, 91, 142, 284, 128), 12 – retušuota skeltė (Nr. 185), 13 – skeltė riestu galu (Nr. 325), 15 – pataisymo skeltės fragmentas (Nr. 175), 17 – dvišonis gremžtukas (Nr. 90), 18 – galinis gremžtukas (Nr. 5), 19 – Dobry Bor tipo keramikos šukė (Nr. 98), 20, 21 – Lysaja Hara tipo keramikos šukės (Nr. 10, 95), 22 – Tšcineco kultūros keramikos šukė (Nr. 2). *A. Vaitovič pieš.*