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Michałowice, Czarnocin commune, site 1. The urn from grave 80 (photo Jan Bulas)

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Szymon Kalicki¹, Paweł Valde-Nowak¹, Barbara Witkowska¹

Neolithic deposit of flint cores in Zagórze, Kazimierza Wielka district

Abstract: The purpose of this paper is presentation of flint materials from the pit number 92 discovered at multicultural site 1 in Zagórze. During the exploration a group of five flint cores were revealed, whose layout indicates an intentional deposit. They were accompanied by few ceramic fragments and several animal bones. In spite of the fact the flint artifacts represented different stages of exploitation, they have a relatively high potential and, after the necessary remedial treatments, could still have been exploited. It seems that the group of cores can be interpreted as a deposit of a utilitarian character. Three of these were formed on the nodule of chocolate flint, the rest were made of Jurassic flint. The size of the obtained blades and the technique of core processing speak for the feature's affiliation to the Lublin-Volhynian culture. Currently, considering only the partial examination of the site 1 in Zagórze, making a statement as to whether the presence of the L-VC in the discussed site was only a single episode or had more stable character is sadly not feasible. The reason of separated publication of this deposit is justified since discovery of this assemblage of cores contributes greatly to the picture of flint knapping in the the L-VC.

Keywords: the deposit, the flint cores, the Lublin-Volhynian culture

1. Introduction

The site 1 in Zagórze is located approximately 10 km northeast of Kazimierza Wielka in Świętokrzyskie province, on the area of the Proszowicki Plateau (Kondracki 1978, 365). This part of the region is distinguished by poor soils derived from sands or degraded loesses, which might have considerably

influenced settlement instability in the pre-historic and early historical periods of the region. The fieldwork, so far conducted in the valley of the little creek of Zagórzanka, which is one of the tributaries of the Nidzica River, allowed the registering of a series of multicultural sites. The settlement in Zagórzanka valley was concentrated on small promontories, surrounded with what are now boggy depressions. The site 1 in Zagórze, best examined in the Zagórzanka valley, also has such a location (Grygiel, Pikulski, 2006 Grygiel *et al.* 2009a). It is situated

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on the top of a promontory (Fig. 1). The excavations were conducted between 2001 and 2008 by Michał Grygiel and Jacek Pikulski within the framework of a long-term research programme of the Institute of Archaeology of the Jagiellonian University (Grygiel, Pikulski 2006; Grygiel *et al.* 2009a).

Based on field-walking survey we can estimate the size of the site to be approximately 2–3 hectares. So far, an area of 30 ares

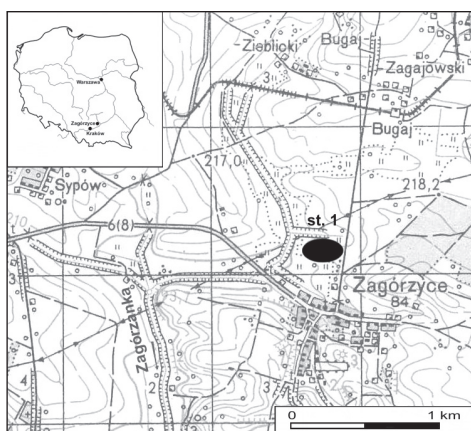


Fig. 1. Zagórze, distr. Kazimierza Wielka, site 1. Location of the site

has been excavated. The excavations have revealed numerous traces of human occupation, dating back from the early Neolithic to the late Middle Ages. The interest of the researchers has thus far mainly been focused on the Bronze Age and Roman Period materials (Grygiel *et al.* 2009a; 2009b). The preliminary analysis of Neolithic materials led to the distinction of dozens of archaeological features associated with various stages of the settlement in this time, including the Linear Band Pottery culture, the Lengyel–Polgar cycle, the Funnel Beaker culture and the Corded Ware culture. The feature which is described here, as well as the deposit of flint cores, have been mentioned twice in

the literature to date: for the first time by P. Kowalczyk (2004) who suggested that the Zagórze deposit refers to the oldest phase of Linear Band Pottery culture, and for the second time by M. Kaflińska (2006) who attributed it to the Lengyel–Polgar cycle.

2. Description of the discovery

During the research conducted in 2003 in the northern part of the site (trench LII) feature no. 92 was discovered. Its outline was determined at a depth of 40 cm from the contemporary ground level. The ceiling part of the pit had been destroyed by the cultural layer associated with some of the younger stages of the settlement. The feature was oval in plan, stretched onto the axis NW–SE and with dimensions of approximately 180×100 cm. It resembled a shallow, hollow-shaped pit in profile with an irregular bottom and a maximal thickness which reached up to 20 cm, calculating from the level on which it had been distinguished (Fig. 2). The fill was formed by a dark grey, non-homogeneous layer, considerably disturbed as a result of the activity of burrowing animals. During the exploration in the deepest northwest part of the feature, a group of five flint cores was revealed and whose layout indicates an intentional deposit. They were accompanied by a few ceramic fragments and several animal bones.

3. Flint artefacts

Core number 1. The carinated blade core with separated flaking surfaces in the initial stage of exploitation. The platform was created by utilizing the natural surface which was free of cortex, most likely as a result of thermal fracture. Only at the edge adjoining the flaking surface was it prepared with a series of chip off strikes directed from the

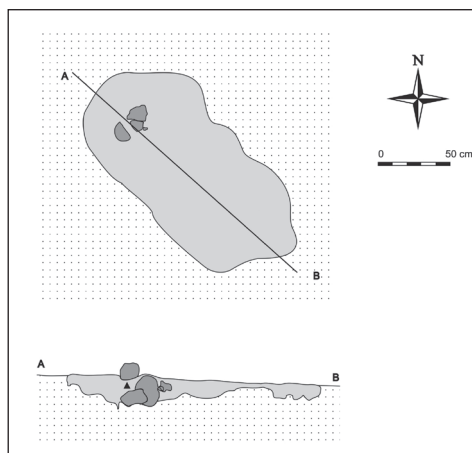


Fig. 2. Zagórze, distr. Kazimierza Wielka, site 1. Planigraphy and cross-section of the feature No. 92 – triangle marked the position of pottery fragment (prepared by S. Kalicki)

side of both platforms. There are negatives of cortex or partially cortex blades visible on the flaking surfaces. The core angle in both cases is acute. The negative of the longest blade is 18 cm, the maximal width of the negatives being 4.5 cm. It is worth noticing the lack of preparation of the sides and flaking surfaces. The predominant part of the core is still covered with cortex. In the top part, one can observe a crushing point revealing siliceous mass. The core has been made of a chocolate flint lump with visible scratches on the cortex, indicating an origin from weathered formations (Fig. 3). The lump's dimension are: length 27 cm, width 16 cm, height 16.5 cm. The weight of the discussed specimen is 8405 g.

Core number 2 The single-platform blade core, nearly conical. The core underwent full pre-core preparation, as evidenced by a fragment of lateral crest edge visible on one of the sides. The flaking surface overlaps on the second side. The rear of the core is covered by large scars of preparation flakes whose

axes of reflection are parallel but with opposite directions. There are visible scars of preparation flakes and platform rejuvenation flakes on the platform next to a small, probably natural surface. The core angle is acute. There are visible narrow blade scars on the rounded flaking surface, including two negatives of short, unsuccessful strikes (hinge), which ended the core's exploitation. On the edge top, next to bilateral crushing, there are scars of correction strikes being registered, which create the impression of double platform reduction (Fig. 4: 1). The core is made of the three-colour siliceous mass chocolate flint, where streaks of blue colour are visible within. Dimensions: length 4.9 cm, width 5.3 cm, height of the core is 7.5 cm and is equal to the longest blade negative. The width of blades reaches up to 1.6 cm. The weight of the specimen: 175 g.

Core number 3. The single-platform blade core, narrow flaking surface, conical, made of flat concretion of chocolate flint. The sides of the core are partially covered with cortex. The negatives of preparation flakes create a bilateral crest in the rear part. The prepared platform bears traits of rejuvenation. Repair attempts to the platform led to a change in the coring angle for an obtuse. There are visible blade scars on the flat flaking surface, including the results of a striking series which broke the bulbing parts of the specimen and whose further course is visible in the form of ruptures. The blades formed that way didn't detach of the flaking surface (Fig. 4: 2). The edge top bears splinting traits. Maximal width of blade scars ranges from 1 to 1.5 cm. The longest preserved blade scar was 8.2 cm long. Dimensions: length: 5.5 cm, width: 3.3 cm, height of the core: 9.1 cm, weight: 198 g.

Core number 4. The single-platform blade core, wide flaking surface, close to carinated core, made of the G variety Jurassic flint.

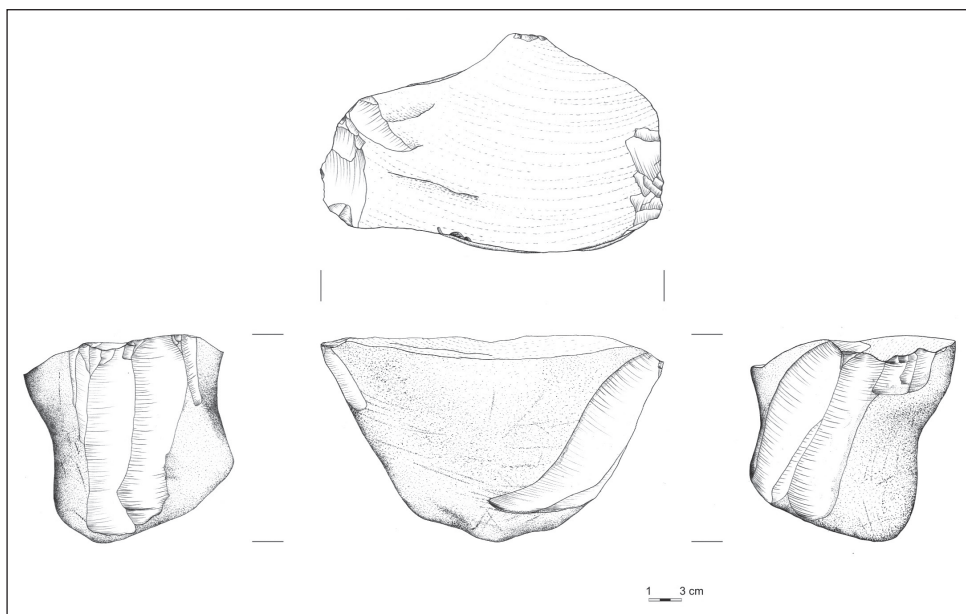


Fig. 3. Zagórzycze, distr. Kazimierza Wielka, site 1. Core No. 1 made of chocolate flint (drawn by B. Witkowska)

One of the sides was initially prepared, on the second the negatives of thermal cracks are visible. The rear edge passes into the cortex surface. The natural platform created by thermal surface utilization, initially prepared only in edge part. The core's angle is acute. The flaking surface is rounded with traces of trimming, strongly incurved (Fig. 5: 2). The maximal width of blade scars ranges from 1 to 2.7 cm, the longest preserved scar is 108 mm long. The top bears splinting traces. Dimensions: length: 10.2 cm, width: 10.2 cm, height of the core: 11.4 cm, weight: 1116 g.

Core number 5. The single-platform blade block-like core, made of the G variety Jurassic flint. The sides are covered with cortex and bear few negatives of preparation flakes. The rear is partially natural and thermal. In the apex part, a few broad negatives removed from one of the sides are visible. The entirely prepared platform is occupied by negatives of rejuvenation flakes. The edge shows traces

of trimming. A slightly convex flaking surface overlaps on the sides. It was probably shortened by the correction of the apex part by several short removals. The core angle is close to straight. An unsuccessful attempt at knapping led to the damage of the flaking surface by a deep scar (Fig. 5:1). Dimensions: length: 11 cm, width: 9.8 cm, the core height: 14.1 cm. Maximal width of the blade scars ranges between 1.4 – 3.3 cm, and the length reaches up to 12.2 cm. Weight: 2121 g.

4. Ceramics

From the fill of the discussed feature, stone artefacts and two ceramic fragments were recovered. Over a dozen further fragments with similar characteristics were recovered from the cultural layer around the feature. This layer is of the same character as in the feature. Even though they all represent uniform technology, the reconstruction of the vessel form was unsuccessful and it is

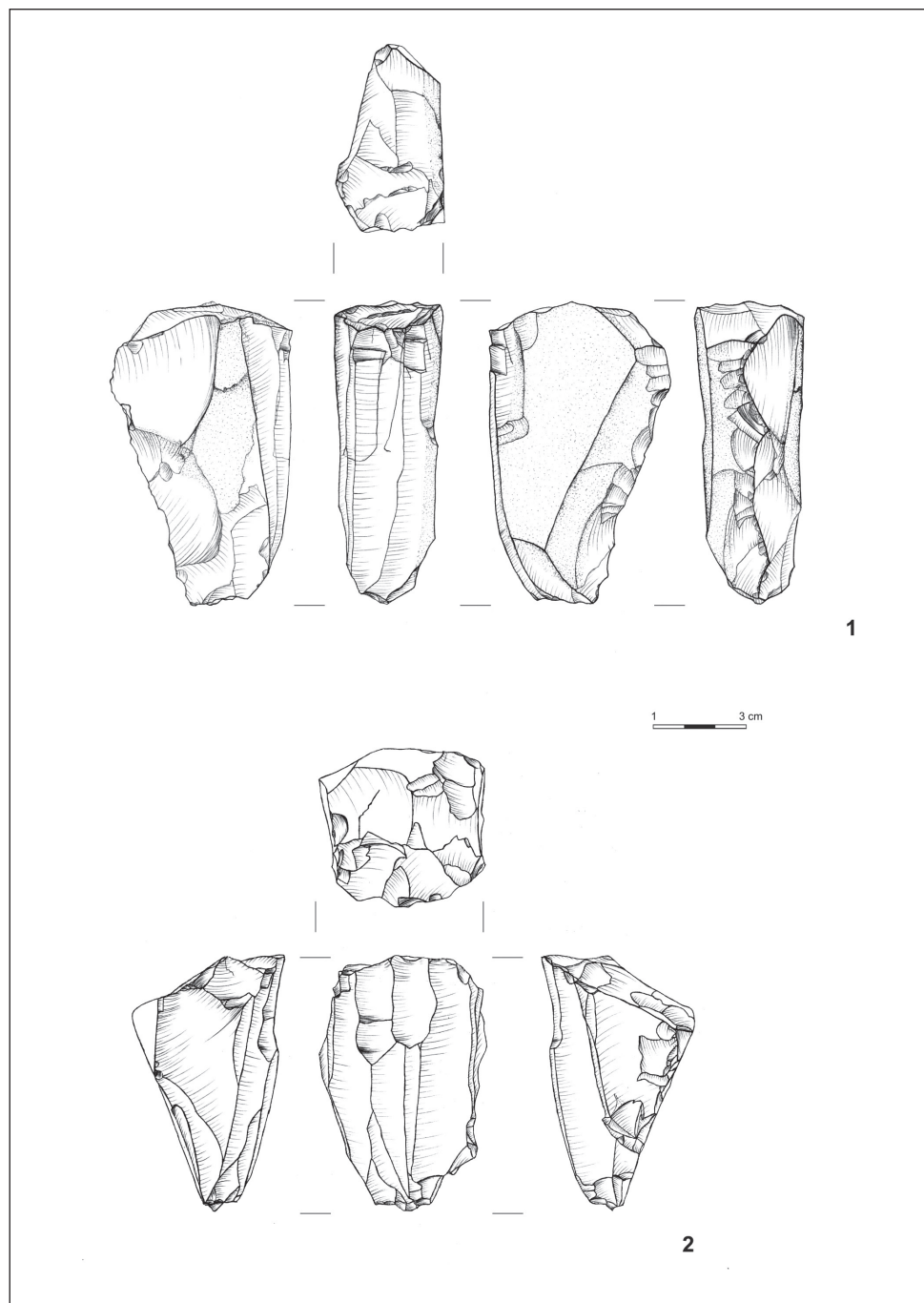


Fig. 4. Zagórze, distr. Kazimierza Wielka, site 1. 1 – core No. 2 made of chocolate flint; 2 – core No. 3 made of chocolate flint (drawn by B. Witkowska)

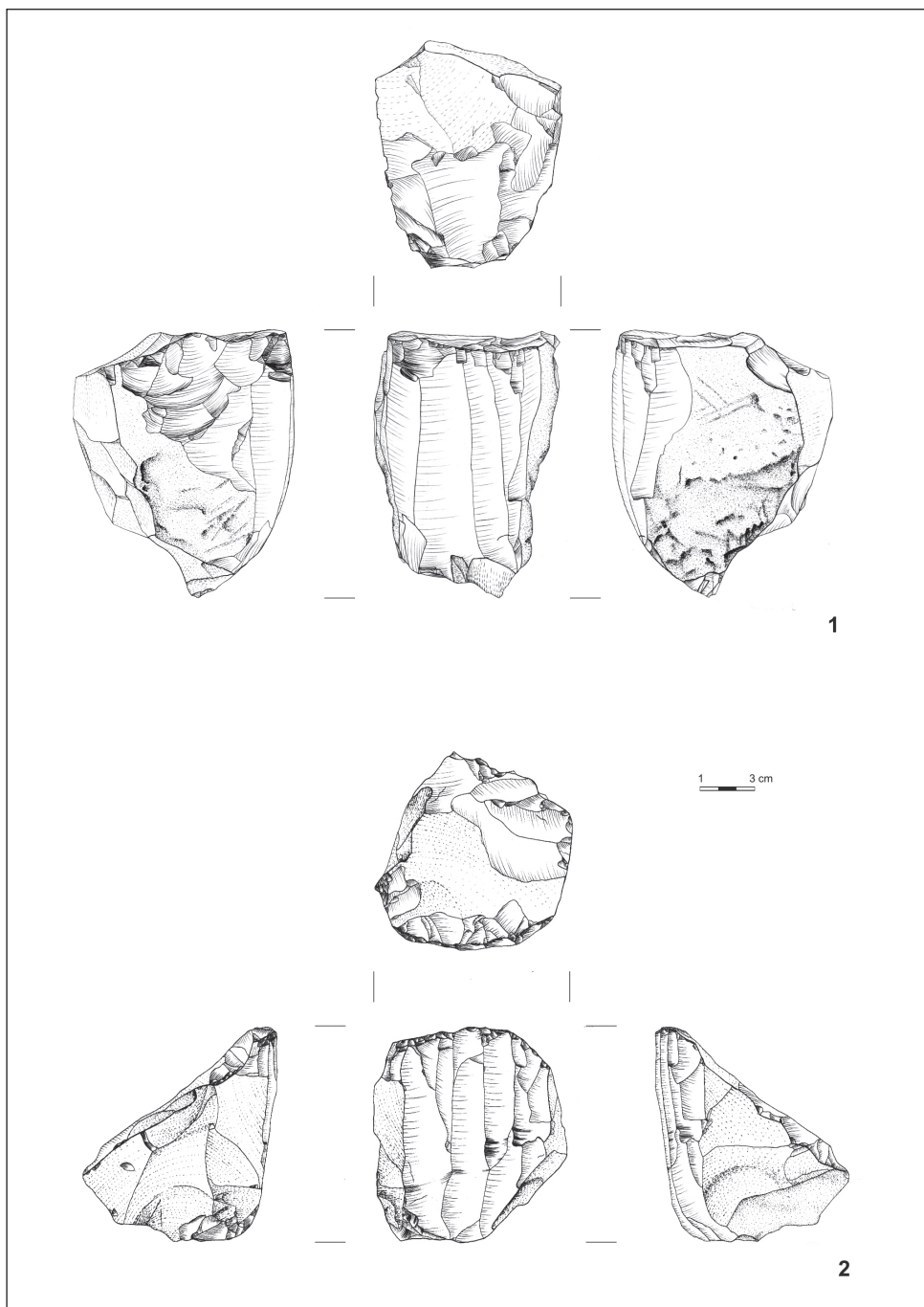


Fig. 5. Zagórze, distr. Kazimierza Wielka, site 1. 1 – core No. 4; 2 – core No. 5; both cores made of Jurassic flint of variety G (drawn by B. Witkowska)

uncertain whether the shards come from one vessel. The ceramics found in the fill is a rim fragment with a corrugated verge line and a base fragment (Fig. 6). The lip form and its decoration might be associated with the Lublin-Volhynian culture. Analogical forms are known from the sites in Las Stocki (Zakościelna 1986), Złota (Podkowińska 1953; Rauhut 1962) and also from the nearby settlement in Bronocice (Kruk, Milisauskas 1985). The technology of pottery from Zagórze, in which an admixture of sand and crushed stone had been registered, differs from the technology known for the discussed cultural unit². It should be emphasized that all the Neolithic materials known from Zagórze associated with the Lengyel-Polgar circle, as well as with the Linearbankeramik, are distinguished by the significant share of mineral admixture as compared to the technological standard observed in the material from sites of Lesser Poland Upland. Perhaps it is the effect of the usage of local materials – the site is located on an elevation built of sandy deposits and presently degraded loess.

5. Cultural affiliation of feature No. 92

A common feature of the presented cores is the manner of their exploitation. In all cases there is a division visible between the active and passive striking platform in the interpretation of Marcin Wąs (Wąs 2005). It is present both in specimens with the platform entirely prepared as well as in that which uses natural planes. The trimming embraces only the at-the-edge part of the platform and serves to correct the flaking angle. The presence of splinting and fractures, which probably arose as a result of leaning the cores

against some hard surface during exploitation, is common for all the cores. They are, however, distinguished by their shape going from carinated to conical, dimensions and proportions of obtained half-products, and the extent of the sides and rear preparation.

In addition to some fragments of ceramics, the size of the obtained blades and the technique of core processing, with the explicit traits of Lengyel-Polgar cycle from the phases of post-metric breakthrough, speak for the feature's affiliation to the Lublin-Volhynian culture (Dzieduszyka-Machnikowa, Lech 1976). In the Lublin-Volhynian flint treatment, the predominant types of cores are specimens with a circumferential or rounded flaking surface, parallel to the specimens made of Jurassic flint (Zakościelna 1996, 33–34). They are usually accompanied by cores with narrow flaking surfaces used for the acquisition of small sized half-products. The subsequent similarities concern the poor preparation of the sides and the correction of the flaking surface by splinters spread out from the top. An analogy in the discussed culture can also be found in the incipient core. The block of chocolate raw material, free of preliminary preparation, with one negative of the cortical blade, is known from the sites in Las Stocki, Bronocice and Gródek Nadbużny (Zakościelna 1996, 30–31, Tab. 4).

It seems that the group of cores from feature 92 in Zagórze can be interpreted as an intentional deposit of a utilitarian character. Both the context of the find and the character of the collection prove that. Except for core No. 3, formed on a flat nodule, the other artefacts have a relatively high potential and, after the necessary remedial treatments, could still have been exploited (Figs. 7; 8). Presumably for that reason they have been deposited. Flint deposits of a similar character and chronology (Lengyel-Polgar cycle) have been discovered for example

² The authors are very grateful to Associate Professor Dr. Anna Zakościelna for her comments related to the pottery technology of the Lublin-Volhynian culture.

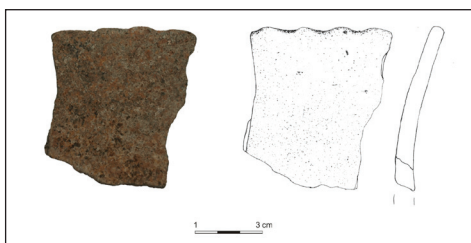


Fig. 6. Zagórzyce, distr. Kazimierza Wielka, site 1. Pottery fragment from the feature 92 (drawn by B. Witkowska)

in Giebułtów, site 8 (unpublished excavations of K. Tunia between 1998–2000)³, in Kraków-Mogiła, site 1 (i.a. incipient cores assemblage – Kozłowski 1961) or in Kraków-Pleszów (Kaczanowska 1971).

In this context, it is worth mentioning the discovery of a very slender retouched blade of a length of 21.9 cm in the Lublin-

in the discussed culture in a model way and links the incipient core discovered in Zagórzyce with it. The longest preserved negative of a blade on this core is 18 cm. A clue to clarify the chronology of the feature could be the raw composition of the collection. The lack of the Volhynian flint in the inventory is probably the result of the cutting the Lublin-Volhynian culture population off from this raw material after its deposits became controlled by the Tripolye culture, as has been proposed by A. Zakościelna (2006) and the expansion of former culture toward west (Fig. 9). The settlement in the Western Lesser Poland Loess Upland is in fact related to the third phase of the development of this unit, which can be dated back to about 3650 BC (Zakościelna 2010, 35).

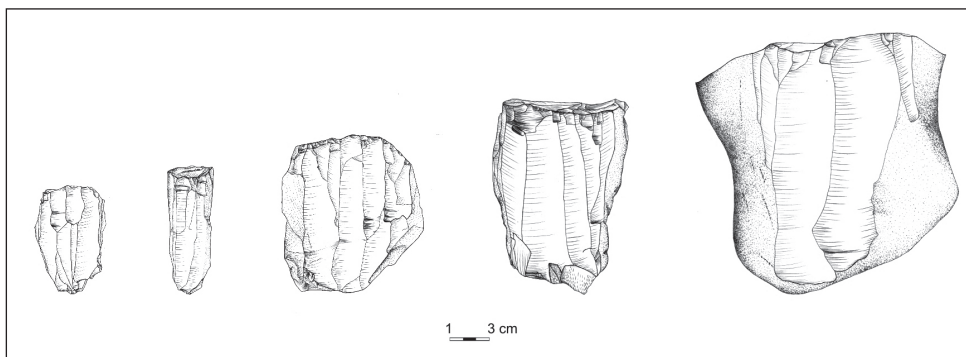


Fig. 7. Zagórzyce, distr. Kazimierza Wielka, site 1. Size comparison of all flint cores found in the feature No. 92 (drawn by B. Witkowska)

Volhynian culture grave in Gozdów, site 1 (Zakościelna, Prusicka-Kołcon 2006). It had been made of the Volhynian flint, therefore the raw material not represented in the discussed assemblage. However, it shows the possibilities of flint treatment

6. Concluding remarks

The discovery of this assemblage of cores contributes to the greatest extent to the picture of flint-knapping in the Lublin-Volhynian culture. It is known from finished tool forms, especially the sharp, slender blade forms with the characteristic fluted retouch. Among the cores, the conical

³ According to the kind personal information of Dr. Krzysztof Tunia.



Fig. 8. Zagórze, distr. Kazimierza Wielka, site 1. General view of flint cores from the feature No. 92 (photo by S. Kalicki)

specimens with a single platform are noteworthy (Zakościelna 1996; 2006, 88). The discovery from Zagórze significantly

emphasises the commitment to the variant created by scaphoid specimens, well known from different groupings of the Lengyel-Polgar cycle (i.a. Dzieduszycka-Machnikowa, Lech 1976). The lack of information about the places where the flint was extracted and processed is still keenly felt, although the significance of this culture in the distribution of artefacts made of Volhynian, chocolate and Jurassic flint from the areas of upper Dnestr basin and upper Vistula towards the south, was undoubtedly considerable.

Currently, considering only the partial examination of the site 1 in Zagórze, making a statement as to whether the presence of L-VK in the discussed site was only a single episode or had a more stable character is sadly not feasible.

Neolityczny depozyt rdzeni krzemiennych z Zagórzyc, stan. 1, pow. Kazimierza Wielka

Celem artykułu jest prezentacja materiałów krzemiennych odkrytych w obiekcie 92 na stanowisku 1 w Zagórzycach. Położone jest ono około 10 km na północny-wschód od miejscowości Kazimierza Wielka, woj. świętokrzyskie, na obszarze Płaskowyżu Proszowickiego. Badania prowadzone z ramienia Instytutu Archeologii UJ w latach 2003–2008 przez mgr. Michała Grygiela i Jacka Pikulskiego obejmowały kompleks stanowisk wielokulturowych położonych nad jednym z bocznych dopływów rzeki Nidzicy – Zagórzanką. Rejon ten charakteryzuje się słabo wykształconymi glebami wykształconymi na piaskach lub silnie zdegradowanych lessach. Osadnictwo pradziejowe skupiało się w obrębie niewielkich cypli.

Wielkość stanowiska 1 na podstawie badań powierzchniowych można szacować na około 2–3 ha. Do chwili obecnej rozpoznano wykopaliskowo obszar o łącznej powierzchni 30 arów, co czyni to stanowisko najlepiej przebadanym w całym wspomnianym kompleksie. Dostarczyło ono licznych śladów osadnictwa datowanych od wczesnego neolitu po późne średniowiecze. Zainteresowanie badaczy skupiało się do tej pory w znacznym stopniu na materiałach z epoki brązu i z okresu wpływów rzymskich, które były sukcesywnie opracowywane i publikowane. Wstępnie rozpoznanie materiałów neolitycznych doprowadziło do wyróżnienia kilkudziesięciu obiektów związanych z różnymi etapami młodszej epoki kamienia. Opisywany depozyt był już dwukrotnie wzmiankowany w literaturze: po raz pierwszy przez P. Kowalczyk z sugestią przynależności materiałów do najstarszej fazy kultury ceramiki wstępowej rytej (KCWR), a następnie przez M. Kaflinę z przypisaniem do cyklu lendzielsko-połgarskiego.

Obiekt nr 92 odkryty został w 2003 roku w północnej partii stanowiska, na odcinku LII. Jego zarys wyróżniono na głębokości 40 cm od współczesnej powierzchni gruntu. Strop jamy został zniszczony

przez warstwę kulturową związaną z młodszymi etapami osadnictwa. W rzucie poziomym obiekt miał kształt zbliżony do owalu rozciągniętego na osi NW-SE o wymiarach około 180×100 cm. W profilu rysowała się płytka nieckowata jama o nieregularnym dnie i maksymalnej miąższości sięgającej 20 cm. W trakcie eksploatacji, natrafiono na skupisko 5 rdzeni krzemiennych. Towarzyszyło im kilka fragmentów ceramiki i kości zwierzęcych.

Układ w jakim odkryto materiały wskazuje jednoznacznie na intencjonalny depozyt prawdopodobnie o charakterze użytkowym. Świadczy o tym zarówno kontekst znaleziska, jak i charakter samego zbioru. Trzy z opisywanych artefaktów wykonano na konkrekcjach krzemienia czekoladowego, dwa pozostałe z krzemienia jurajskiego. Poza rdzeniem nr 3 uformowanym na płaskiej konkrekcji, pozostałe zabytki posiadają jeszcze stosunkowo duży potencjał surowcowy i po wykonaniu niezbędnych zabiegów naprawczych mogły być nadal eksploatowane. Prawdopodobnie w tym też celu zostały zdeponowane. Krzemienne depozyty o podobnym charakterze i chronologii (cykl lendzielsko-polgarski) odnalezione zostały m.in. w Giebułtowie na stanowisku 8, w Krakowie-Mogile na stanowisku 1 (m.in. skład rdzeni zaczątkowych) czy w Krakowie-Pleszowie na stanowisku 48.

Cechą wspólną przedstawionych rdzeni jest sposób ich eksploatacji. We wszystkich przypadkach widoczny jest podział na pięć aktywną i pasywną w rozumieniu M. Wąsa, zarówno na okazach z piętą zaprawioną w całości jak i wykorzystującą naturalne płaszczyzny. Zabieg świeżenia obejmuje tylko część przykrawędnią piętę i służy korekcie kąta rdzeniowania. Wspólna dla wszystkich rdzeni jest obecność wyluszczeń i stłuczeń powstałych zapewne w wyniku opierania rdzeni na twardym podłożu w trakcie eksploatacji. Różni je natomiast kształt (od łódkowatego do stożkowatego); rozmiary i proporcje uzyskiwanego półsurowca utrzymującego się w trzech klasach metrycznych oraz stopień zaprawy boków i tyłów.

Zarówno cechy technologiczne, jak i metryczne opisywanych rdzeni wskazują naszym zdaniem na przynależność depozytu do kultury lubelsko-wołyńskiej (KL-W). Potwierdzeniem tego są nieliczne fragmenty ceramiki odkryte w zasypisku obiektu oraz w jego okolicach. Za afiliacją taką przemawia rozmiar uzyskiwanego półsurowca i technika obróbki rdzeni nosząca wyraźne cechy „poprzelomowego” krzemieniarstwa naddunajskiego. W krzemieniarstwie KL-W przeważającym typem rdzeni są okazy z dookólną lub zakoloną odłupnią analogiczne do opisanych okazów nr 4 i 5 wykonanych na krzemieniu jurajskim. Towarzyszą im zazwyczaj rdzenie wąskoodłupniowe służące do pozyskiwania półsurowców małych rozmiarów. Kolejne podobieństwa dotyczą ubogiej zaprawy boków oraz zabiegu korygowania odłupni poprzez odbicia idące od strony wierzchołka. Analogię w omawianej kulturze znajduje również rdzeń zaczątkowy. Bryła surowca czekoladowego pozbawiona zaprawy wstępnej z jednym negatywnym wióra degrosisażowego znana jest ze stanowisk w Lesie Stockim, Bronocicach czy Gródku Nadbużnym.

Wskazówką do uściślenia chronologii obiektu może być skład surowcowy zbioru. Brak w inwentarzu krzemienia wołyńskiego jest zapewne wynikiem odcięcia ludności KL-W od złóż tego surowca po zajęciu obszarów jego wydobycia przez kulturę trypolską (zgodnie z tezą A. Zakościelnej). Osadnictwo KL-W na obszarze zachodniomałopolskiej wyżyny lessowej związane jest bowiem z III fazą rozwoju tej jednostki, która trwała do około 3650 BC (Zakościelna 2010, 35).

Wobec stanu opracowania materiałów neolitycznych ze stanowiska 1 w Zagórzycach niewiele można powiedzieć o kontekście znaleziska. W chwili obecnej niemożliwe jest stwierdzenie czy obecność KL-W na omawianym stanowisku ogranicza się do pojedynczego obiektu i epizodu osadniczego czy ma bardziej stabilny charakter. Prezentacja powyższego depozytu w ramach osobnej publikacji wynika z wartości, jaką wnosi on do poznania krzemieniarstwa KL-W.

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