Eneolitická výšinná lokalita Vlkov-Babiny (okr. Plzeň-jih)

Jan John a kol.

FAKULTA FILOZOFICKÁ
ZÁPADOČESKÉ
UNIVERZITY
V PLZNI

Katedra archeologie fakulty filozofické Západočeské univerzity v Plzni • Muzeum jižního Plzeňska v Blovicích
Department of Archeology, Faculty of Philosophy and Arts, University of West Bohemia in Plzeň • Museum of south Pilsen district

Plzeň 2009

Eneolitická výšinná lokalita Vlkov-Babiny (okr. Plzeň-jih)
Jan John a kol.
Za jazykovou stránku příspěvků odpovídají jejich autoři
Náklad: 300 ks
Rozsah díla: 101 stran

Recenzovali:
PhDr. Miroslav Dobeš
PhDr. Jan Prostředník, PhD.

Publikace je výstupem výzkumného záměru
Opomíjená archeologie – MSM 4977751314

Vydavatel: Západočeská univerzita v Plzni
Univerzitní 8, 306 14 Plzeň
Vydavatelství – tel.: 377 631 951

Grafická úprava: Pavel Bárta, Opava
Tisk: Typos, tiskařské závody, s.r.o., Plzeň
1. vydání

ISBN 978-80-7043-835-0

Obsah

Resume

The Late Neolithic (Aeneolithic) hilltop site of Vlkov–Babiny (the Pilsen–South district) (a contribution to the understanding of the later middle Aeneolithic in Western Bohemia)

This study brings information about a project that was aimed at the research of the hilltop site of Vlkov–Babiny (cadastral region Vlkov u Spáleného Poříčí; Pilsen–South district). The site is considered as an example of the Cham culture of the middle Late Neolithic (Aeneolithic) and is located in the river-basin of Úslava, 20 km to the SW from Pilsen *(fig.2)*. The site is located on a rocky ridge formed of proteozoic silicite and oriented in the direction SW–NE, approximately 1 km to the west from Vlkov. On the top of the ridge is a well-visible artificially levelled plateau, which reaches the height above sea level of 432-433 m.

The site was discovered in 1961 by the amateur archaeologists K. Škrábek and J. Sýkora. One of the goals of the project was to publish the collection of the finds that these researchers collected on the site in the 60s and 70s and that can be found today in the Museum of the Pilsen–South district in Blovice.

Another goal of the project was the survey of the site in the years 2007 and 2008 that took place as a part of the reserch project "Neglected Archaeology", that is at the present time underway at the University of Western Bohemia in Pilsen. In 2007 was undertaken a detailed survey of the site, a geophysical survey and the verification of its results by the excavation of trenches 1-3. In 2008 the research was complemented by further excavation of smaller test-pits at the hilltop site (6 test-pits of 30×30 cm). The excavation of test-pits was aimed especially on the collection of samples for archaeobotanical analysis and for radiocarbon dating.

The study of older finds from the site of Vlkov–Babiny as well as the new research undertaken at the site in 2007 and 2008 can be considered as ventures bringing a collection of interesting new facts about the period of middle Late Neolithic in western Bohemia:

1. As for the ceramic collection, Vlkov–Babiny with the total number of finds (375 pieces) cannot be considered as one of the largest collections of the middle Late Neolithic pottery in western Bohemia, however, the large number of decorated ceramics (54 %) opens up a whole new area of possibilities for their detailed classification. In the collection we can find sherds of pots and bowls and also smaller amphoras. Four types of corded ware with the decoration in the form of suspended triangles are represented here and the unique decoration using striated incision speak for the dating of the collection to the later stages of the Cham culture, which is confirmed also by the unexpectedly young radiocarbon dates. We can say that the case of Vlkov–Babiny represents the last stage of development of the Cham culture, where we can observe the same features as on the Jevišovice Layer B and for which we cannot on the basis of radiocarbon dates exclude a certain overlap to the period of the Lower Aeneolithic. Another representative of this later stage is probably the site of Mířkov-Racovský hill (Domažlice district), which was partially excavated by the Mr. and Mrs. Bašta in 1984 *(Bašta–Baštová 1988)*. Some of the features connecting these two sites are similar decoration of ceramics and the use of local sources of material for the making of polished stone artefacts.

2. The range of stone tools encompasses almost all the main categories used in the Late Neolithic, i.e. polished and chipped stone artefacts, sharpeners and grindstones, cracking mills, grain-grinders, blanks and manuports. As for the used materials the most common is local material, sandstone for sharpeners and grindstones, cobbles for cracking mills and spilite for polished artefacts. From greater distances was collected mainly the raw material for making chipped artefacts, the prevailing material being silicite from glacier sediments. In the making of artefacts there is overall no evidence for any contacts in the eastern or western direction, which in the case of Cham culture can normally be determined by the imports from Bavaria (tabular

hornstone) and from the Central Bohemia (green-striped spilites).

3. Geophysical prospection has brought information about the presence of sediments containing larger amounts of daub at the hilltop plateau. The areas with the presence of daub, which show themselves as areas of prominent magnetic anomalies are concentrated on the southern end of the western part of the plateau that was used in the Late Neolithic as a living area. Hence, we can suppose that a house was standing on the western half of the plateau, which is confirmed by the results of the excavation of the smaller test-pits, because it was only in the westernmost test-pit No. 1 where a layer containing both ecofacts and artefacts was found. On the contrary, on the basis of the excavation of trenches 1 and 2 the existence of prehistoric features aside the plateau itself could not be confirmed, although magnetic anomalies were detected there. A terrace underneath the hilltop plateau on the eastern slope of the rocky ridge could represent the remains of some form of enclosure, e.g. a palisade.

4. An archaeological analysis was undertaken on comparatively small samples which resulted from the excavation of smaller test pits (130 l sediments in total); nevertheless, it brought some positive results. In total 6 samples of plant macroremains and 224 pieces of charcoal (9.2 g) were analysed. The analysis has also shown the presence of approx. 13 plant taxons, out of which 1 is typical for timber forest and 12 for other tree species. As for the macroremains, the presence of domesticated wheat *(Triticum dicoccon)* was noted four times, one sample was noted as an undeterminable cereal and another was an acorn *(Querus sp.)*. Three of the wheat grains were used for radiocarbon dating by the AMS method. The analysis of charcoal (224 pcs. in total) revealed a broad range of tree species with the oak as prevalent and strongly pronounced presence of juniper and spruce. Hence, the Late Neolithic forests around the site can most probably be characterised as mixed broad-leaved woodland with lime-tree, elm, ash, maple and prominently represented spruce. The prevailing representation of those species that need a lot of light, such as juniper, speaks for the human intervention in cutting down the trees in the forest (woodland pastures, tree cutting, collection of dried twigs and shots).