

Mikalai Plavinski*
Viktoryia Tarasevich**
Viktoryia Makouskaya***

The study of burial sites of the second half of the 1st – early 2nd millennium in the Upper Vilija region in 2012–2021: goals, results, perspectives

Badania cmentarzysk z drugiej połowy I – początku II tysiąclecia w regionie górnej Wilii w latach 2012–2021 – cele, wyniki, perspektywy

Mikalai Plavinski, Viktoryia Tarasevich, Viktoryia Makouskaya, *The study of burial sites of the second half of the 1st – early 2nd millennium in the Upper Vilija region in 2012–2021: goals, results, perspectives*, „Ochrona Zabytków” 2024, nr 2, s. 233–258.

Abstract

The article presents the main results of the study of burial sites of the 2nd half of the 1st – early 2nd millennium in the upper reaches of the Vilija River in the north-western part of Belarus, which was carried out in the years 2012–2021. This region is well known in the literature, since targeted archaeological research began there in the middle of the 19th century. The close attention of several generations of researchers to the burial antiquities of the Upper Vilija Region was largely due to the geographical position of the region, located on the border of the Slavic and Baltic worlds.

The main objectives of the research described in this article were: 1) study, systematization and publication of the most complete reporting documentation and materials of excavations of barrow cemeteries in the Upper Vilija Region, carried out in previous years; 2) verification of debatable points in the interpretation of topography, chronology and features of the burial rite of individual burial sites by conducting new

* Faculty of Archaeology, University of Warsaw
ORCID: 0000-0002-0660-7298
e-mail: m.plavinski@uw.edu.pl

** Faculty of Archaeology, University of Warsaw
ORCID: 0000-0003-2106-1382
e-mail: v.tarasevich@student.uw.edu.pl

*** Faculty of Archaeology, University of Warsaw
ORCID: 0000-0002-2408-0637
e-mail: v.makouskaya@uw.edu.pl

field archaeological research; 3) popularization of knowledge about the burial sites of the Upper Vilija Region. In the course of this work, a research team led by the authors carried out a study of the burial sites Naŭry I, Naŭry II, Kastyki, Hury and Kamena-1. As a result of the research, it became possible to establish a periodization of the burial rites of the population of this region and to distinguish three periods in its development. An important element of the work was also the dissemination of knowledge about barrow cemeteries to a wide audience.

Keywords

Upper Vilija region, barrow cemetery, flat cemetery, cremation, inhumation

Abstrakt

Artykuł przedstawia główne wyniki badań cmentarzysk z drugiej połowy I – początku II tysiąclecia w górnym biegu Wilii na północnym zachodzie Białorusi, przeprowadzonych w latach 2012–2021. Region ten jest dobrze znany w literaturze, ponieważ ukierunkowane badania archeologiczne rozpoczęły się tam w połowie XIX wieku. Skupienie uwagi kilku pokoleń badaczy na obiektach pogrzebowych w regionie Górnej Wilii wynikało w dużej mierze z położenia geograficznego regionu, znajdującego się na granicy świata słowiańskiego i bałtyckiego.

Głównymi celami opisanych w artykule badań były: 1) opracowanie, usystematyzowanie i publikacja jak najpełniejszej dokumentacji sprawozdawczej oraz materiałów z wykopaliisk prowadzonych na cmentarzyskach kurhanowych w regionie Górnej Wilii w poprzednich latach; 2) weryfikacja spornych kwestii w interpretacji topografii, chronologii i cech obrządku pogrzebowego na poszczególnych cmentarzyskach poprzez przeprowadzenie nowych terenowych badań archeologicznych; 3) popularyzacja wiedzy o cmentarzyskach kurhanowych w regionie Górnej Wilii. W ramach tych prac zespół badawczy kierowany przez autorów przeprowadził wykopaliiska na cmentarzyskach Nawry I, Nawry II, Kastyki, Góry i Kamień-1. W wyniku badań udało się dokonać periodyzacji obrządku pogrzebowego ludności tego regionu i wydzielić trzy okresy w jego rozwoju. Ważnym elementem prac badaczy było też upowszechnienie wiedzy o cmentarzyskach kurhanowych wśród szerokiego grona odbiorców.

Słowa kluczowe

region górnej Wilii, cmentarzysko kurhanowe, cmentarzysko płaskie, obrządek ciałałpalny, obrządek szkieletowy

IN THE YEARS 2012–2021 A RESEARCH TEAM LED BY THE AUTHORS WAS ENGAGED IN THE STUDY of burial sites of the 2nd half of the 1st – early 2nd millennium in the upper reaches of the Vilija River in the north-western part of Belarus (Fig. 1). This region is well known in the literature, since targeted archaeological research began here in the middle of the 19th century. In fact, ‘*The Vilija and its banks*’ (*Wilja i jej brzegi*) (Fig. 2) became one of the regions where the formation of Belarusian, Polish and Lithuanian archaeology began.¹ In the second half of the nineteenth and the beginning of the twentieth centuries, excavations of burial sites in this region were carried out by the brothers Eustachy Tyszkiewicz (1814–1873) and Konstanty Tyszkiewicz (1806–1868), Adam Kirkor (1818–1886), Fiodor Pokrovsky (1855–1903), Helena Cehak-Hołubowiczowa (1902–1979), Włodzimierz Hołubowicz (1908–1962), Aliaksiej Mitrafanaŭ (1912–1988), Yury Drahun (1926–2001), Ida Ciuryňa (born in 1937), Jarasłaŭ Zviaruha (1928–2011), Liudmila Dučyc (1950), V. Valiancin Kaziej (born in 1959), Hieorhi Štychaŭ (1927–2018), Valiancin Rabcevič (1934–2008) and Aliaksandr Plavinski (1952–2019).²

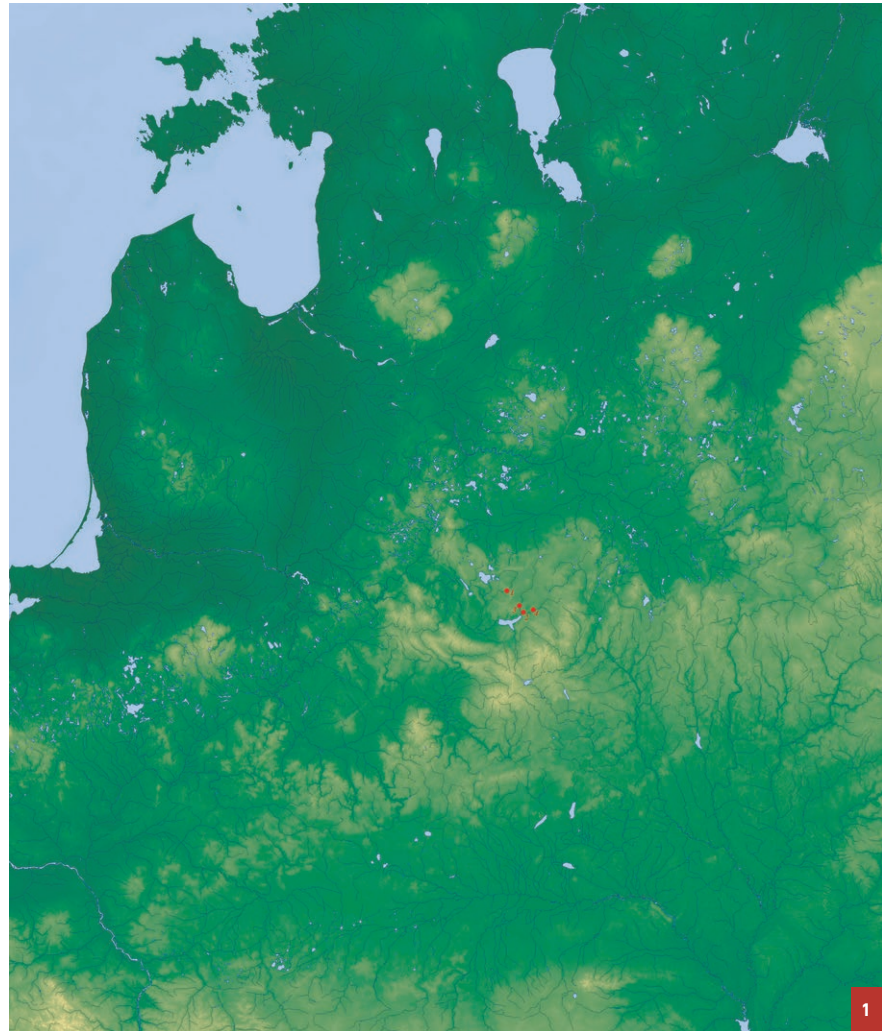
¹ K. Tyszkiewicz, *Wilija i jej brzegi: pod względem hydrograficznym, historycznym, archeologicznym i etnograficznym*, Dresden 1871.

² A.V. Vojtehovič, *Pogrebal'nyj obrād naseleniā Polockoj zemli v X–XII vv.*, Minsk 2019, pp. 6–12; M. Plavinski, *Slavianskija pachavaŭniya pomniki Vierchniaha Pavillia epochi Siaredniaviečča: materyjaly i dasliedavanni*, Minsk 2022, pp. 4–7.

1

Upper Vilija Region burial sites, excavations of which were carried out during 2012–2021 (1 – the complex of archaeological sites of Naŭry; 2 – the complex of archaeological sites of Kastyki; 3 – the complex of archaeological sites Hury; 4 – the Kamena-1 necropolis). Drawing: M. Plavinski

Cmentarzyska w regionie górnej Wilii, na których przeprowadzono wykopaliska w latach 2012–2021 (1 – kompleks stanowisk archeologicznych Nawry; 2 – kompleks stanowisk archeologicznych w Kostykach; 3 – kompleks stanowisk archeologicznych Góry; 4 – nekropolia Kamień-1). Rys. M. Plavinski

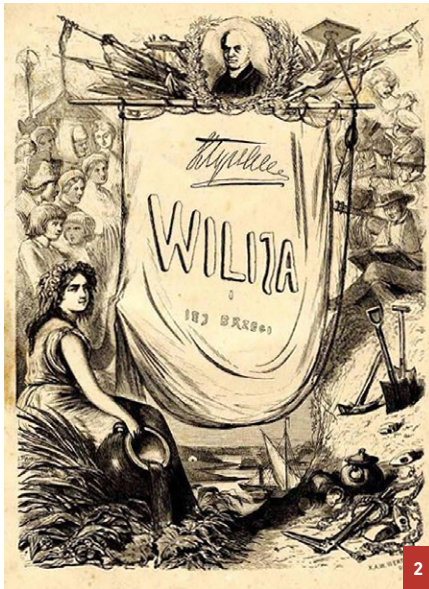


The close attention of several generations of researchers to the burial antiquities of the Upper Vilija region was largely due to its geographical location on the border between the Slavic and Baltic worlds. The contours of this borderland were finalized at the end of the 1st and the beginning of the 2nd millennium, when the western part of the Upper Vilija region was inhabited by the population of the Eastern Lithuanian Barrow Culture – the *Lithuanias* of the written sources,³ and the region of the upper Vilija was occupied by the population of the Smolensk-Polack Long Barrow Culture, which is reliably identified with the annalistic Slavic *Kryvičy* association⁴ in Eastern European archaeology today.

It was the border character of this region that attracted most researchers in the twentieth century, who sought to resolve the question of the ethnicity of the people who left their burial sites here.

³ L. Kurila, 'Lietuvių etninė riba rytuose IX–XII a. (1. Archeologijus duomenys)', *Lietuvos archeologija* 2005, vol. 27, pav. 12; L. Kurila, 'East Lithuanian Barrows – Burial in the Cradle of Lithuanian Tribes', in: G. Zabiela, Z. Baubonis, E. Marcinkevičiūtė (ed.), *A Hundred Years of Archaeological Discoveries in Lithuania*, Vilnius 2016, p. 199.

⁴ M. Plavinski, 'У пошукach novych pohliadaŭ na historyju kryvičoŭ Bielaruskaha Padzvinnia', *Bielaruski historyčny časopis* 2020, № 5, pp. 12–18. It is obvious that such a direct correlation between the ethnonyms mentioned in early medieval written sources and archaeological cultures is tentative. However, this approach to the ethnic identification of these archaeological cultures is currently the most widespread in present day Slavic and Baltic archaeology. The discussion of its correctness is the subject of a separate extensive study, far beyond the scope of this publication. For this reason, we will allow ourselves to use these definitions, fully aware of the extent of their conventions and drawing attention to them for the reader.



- 2 Title page of the book *Wilija i jej brzegi* (*Viliya and its Shores*) by Konstanty Tyszkiewicz (Dresden 1871)
Strona tytułowa książki *Wilija i jej brzegi* Konstantego Tyszkiewicza (Drezno 1871)
- 3 Cover of the book *Комплекс археалагічных помнікаў Кастыкі ў вярхоўях Віліі* (*The Complex of Archaeological Sites Kastyki in the Upper Reaches of Viliya*) by M. Plavinski and M. Latyshava (Stsiapanava) (Minsk 2019)
Okładka książki *Комплекс археалагічных помнікаў Кастыкі ў вярхоўях Віліі* [Kompleks stanowisk archeologicznych Kastyki w górnym biegu Wilii] M. Plavinskiego i M. Latyshavej (Stsiapanavej) (Mińsk 2019)
- 4 Cover of the book *Славянскія пахавальныя помнікі Верхняга Павілля эпохі сярэднявечча: матэрыялы і даследаванні* (*Medieval Period Slavic Funeral Monuments of the Upper Viliya Region: Materials and Research*) by M. Plavinski (Minsk 2022)
Okładka książki *Славянскія пахавальныя помнікі Верхняга Павілля эпохі сярэднявечча: матэрыялы і даследаванні* [Średniowieczne słowiańskie cmentarzyska z regionu górnej Wilii. Materiały i studia] M. Plavinskiego (Mińsk 2022)

At the same time, in spite of the considerable number of excavations carried out in the Upper Viliya region, the materials remained poorly published for a long time, which in practice meant that new generations of archaeologists could not reliably verify the results of their predecessors' research.

The listed factors have determined the main areas of research on the burial antiquities of the Upper Viliya region which we conducted in the years 2012–2021, namely:

- study, systematization and the most complete publication of the reporting documentation and materials of the excavations of barrow cemeteries in the Upper Viliya region carried out in previous years;
- verification of controversial points in the interpretation of the topography, chronology and features of the burial rites of individual cemeteries by conducting new archaeological fieldwork;
- popularization of the knowledge about the burial sites of the Upper Viliya region in order to increase the effectiveness of measures for their protection and to improve their use in the field of educational tourism.



5

Grave goods of the Smolensk-Polack Long Barrows Culture barrow cemeteries Milty I and II (A – Milty I, barrow 1; B – Milty I, barrow 2; C – Milty I, barrow 4; D – Milty I, barrow 13; E – Milty II, barrow 1; F – Milty II, barrow 2). Drawing: M. Plavinski. Photo: M. Latyshava

Wyposażenie grobowe cmentarzyska kurhanowego smoleńsko-połockiej kultury kurhanów długich Milty I i II (A – Milty I, kurhan 1; B – Milty I, kurhan 2; C – Milty I, kurhan 4; D – Milty I, kurhan 13; E – Milty II, kurhan 1; F – Milty II, kurhan 2). Rys. M. Plavinski. Fot. M. Latyshava

Publication of excavation materials from previous years

One of the most important tasks in the study of the medieval burial sites in the Upper Vilija region was the scientific processing, systematization and publication of the materials from the excavations carried out in the second half of the twentieth century, as a significant part of the information on the excavations carried out in this region by a number of researchers remained unpublished or only partially and selectively published. The main difficulty of this work was the



6

Milty I barrow cemetery, barrow 4. Reconstruction of the funeral attire. Drawing: V. Tarasevich

Сmentарызско курхановае Мільты I, курхан 4. Реканструкцыя строю пагrzeboweга. Рыс. V. Tarasevich

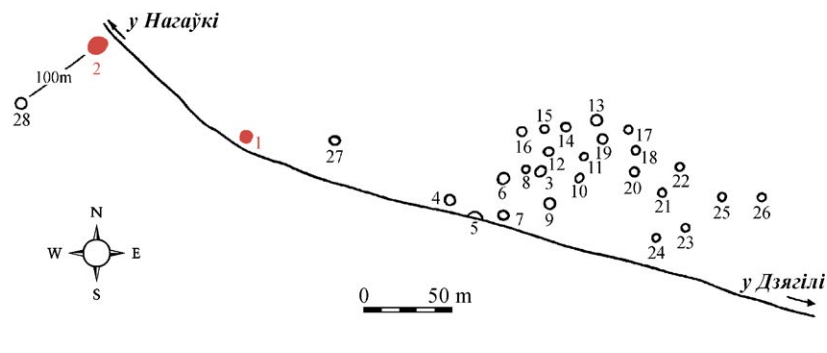
6

very state of the sources – the fieldwork reports stored in the Fund of Archaeological Scientific Documentation of the Central Scientific Archives of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, and the collections from excavations.

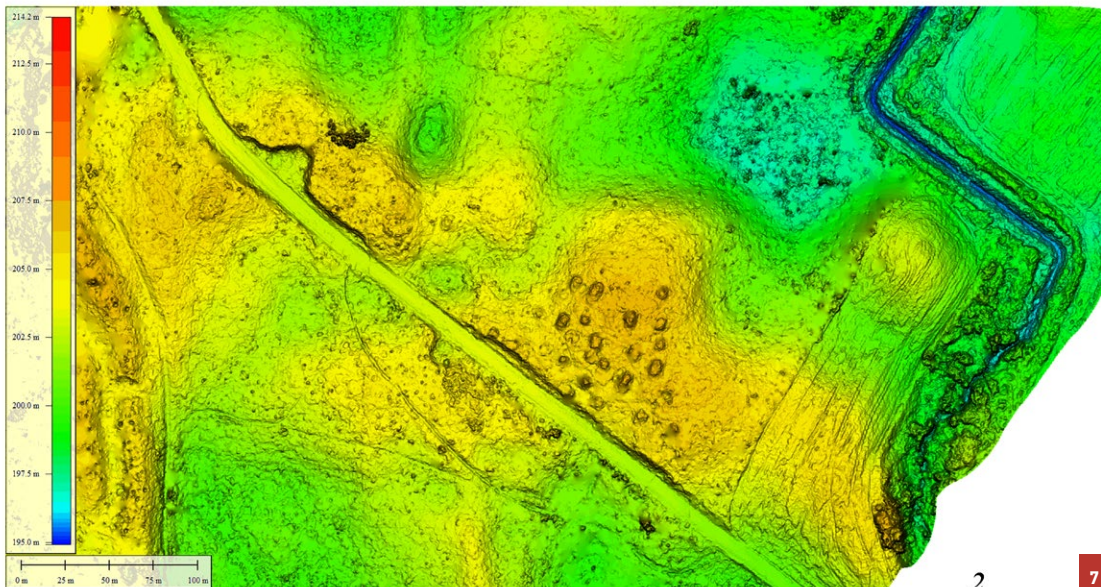
Existing fieldwork reports on investigations carried out in the Upper Viliya region in the 1950s – 1980s are often characterized by their extreme ‘brevity’, or are not accompanied by graphic and photographic documentation. The lack of clear standards for the preparation of fieldwork reports often meant that researchers were unable to include in their texts a description of the stratigraphy of trenches, individual artefacts or their entire categories (especially mass materials), etc. As a result, it is often extremely difficult to form a clear idea of the nature and results of the work carried out on the basis of the available reports drawn up in the years following the Second World War, especially if these results were subsequently unpublished, as was often the case.

In such circumstances, the only source that allows us to assess, at least to some extent, the nature and results of the research is often the collections of finds that have been made. In this case, however, there are often many difficulties. In many cases archaeological the collections were transferred to museums for storage many years after they were excavated, which can lead to partial loss or mixing of collections, as well as confusion. In addition, collections from excavations at the same site have often been divided among different museums, which has not helped to ensure their security. Finally, in many museums, both central and regional, there has long been a negative attitude towards the conservation of archaeological collections, especially those that do not have an obvious exhibition value, which has led to further mixing of materials and their numerous losses.

All these factors indicate that a significant part of the collections from the excavations carried out on medieval burial sites are now partially lost, partially mixed. Reconstructing their original composition, and selecting grave goods of the individual burial complexes from the whole range of finds often requires long-term, concentrated work and comparing a wealth of information from fieldwork reports, data available in museum records and surviving collections. Without such research it is impossible to adequately assess the source potential of the excavated material



1



2

7

Milty II barrow cemetery (1 – plan of the cemetery, taken by A. Plavinski in 1993; 2 – LiDAR image of the cemetery, scanning and processing by A. Sazonau in 2022)

Cmentarzysko kurhanowe Milty II (1 – plan cmentarzyska wykonany przez A. Plavinskiego w 1993 roku; 2 – zobrazowanie LiDAR powierzchni cmentarzyska, skanowanie i obróbka: A. Sazonau, 2022)

of the previous period and, accordingly, to draw conclusions about the chronology of individual burial complexes and necropolises, to make certain generalizations about the social and ethnic composition of the groups that left them, as well as to formulate the goals and objectives of new archaeological fieldwork.

Without going into the details of the work carried out in the second half of the twentieth century to systematize and often reconstruct the fieldwork documentation and collections from the excavations of burial sites in the Upper Vilija region, we should mention that it resulted in the publication of two monographs: *The Complex of Archaeological Sites Kastyki in the Upper Reaches of Vilija* (Fig. 3)⁵ and *Medieval Period Slavic Funeral Monuments of the Upper Vilija Region: Materials and Research* (Figs. 4–9).⁶

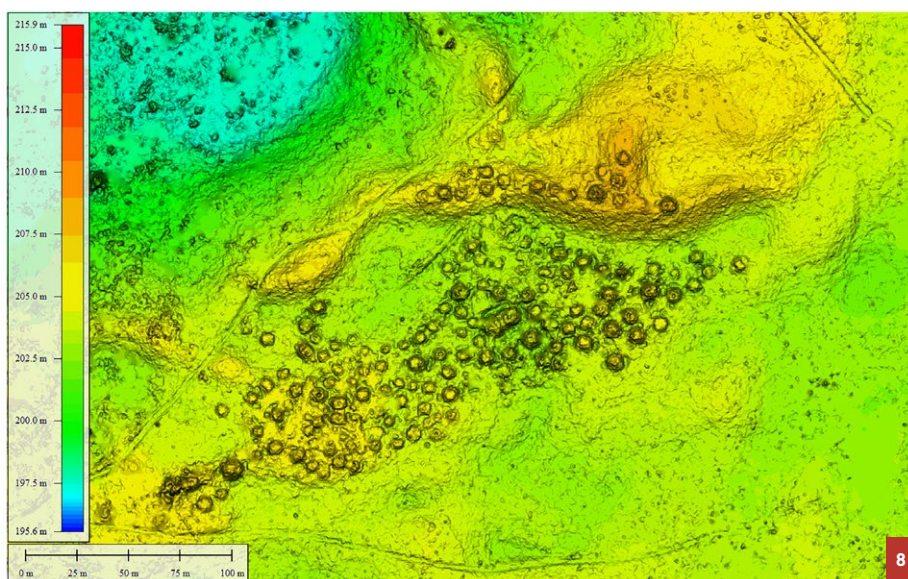
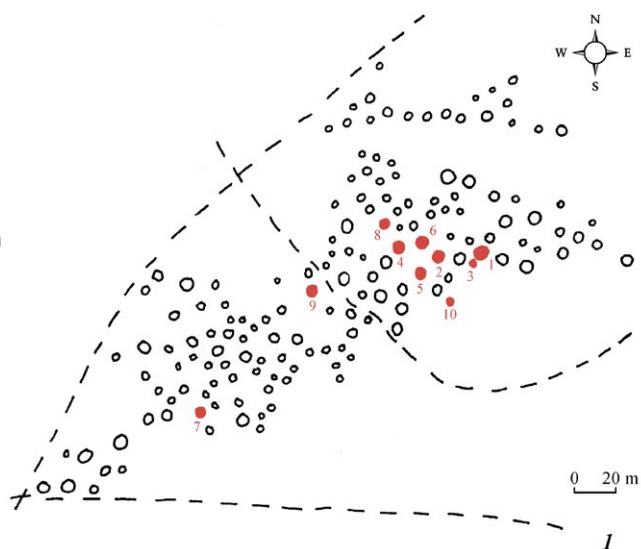
⁵ M. Plavinski, M. Stsiapanava, *Kompleks archiealahičnych pomnikaŭ Kastyki ũ viarchoŭjach Vilii*, Minsk 2019.

⁶ M. Plavinski, *Slavianskija pachavaĺnyja pomniki Vierchniaha Pavillia epochi Siaredniaviečča: materyjaly i dasliedavanni*, Minsk 2022.

8

Nahaŭki barrow cemetery (1 – plan of the cemetery, taken by A. Plavinski in 1991; 2 – LiDAR image of the cemetery, scanning and processing by A. Sazonau in 2022)

Сmentарызско курханове в Ноhawkach (1 – plan сmentарызска wykonany przez A. Plavinskigo w 1991 roku; 2 – zobrazowanie LiDAR powierzchni сmentарызска, skanowanie i opracowanie: A. Sazonau, 2022)

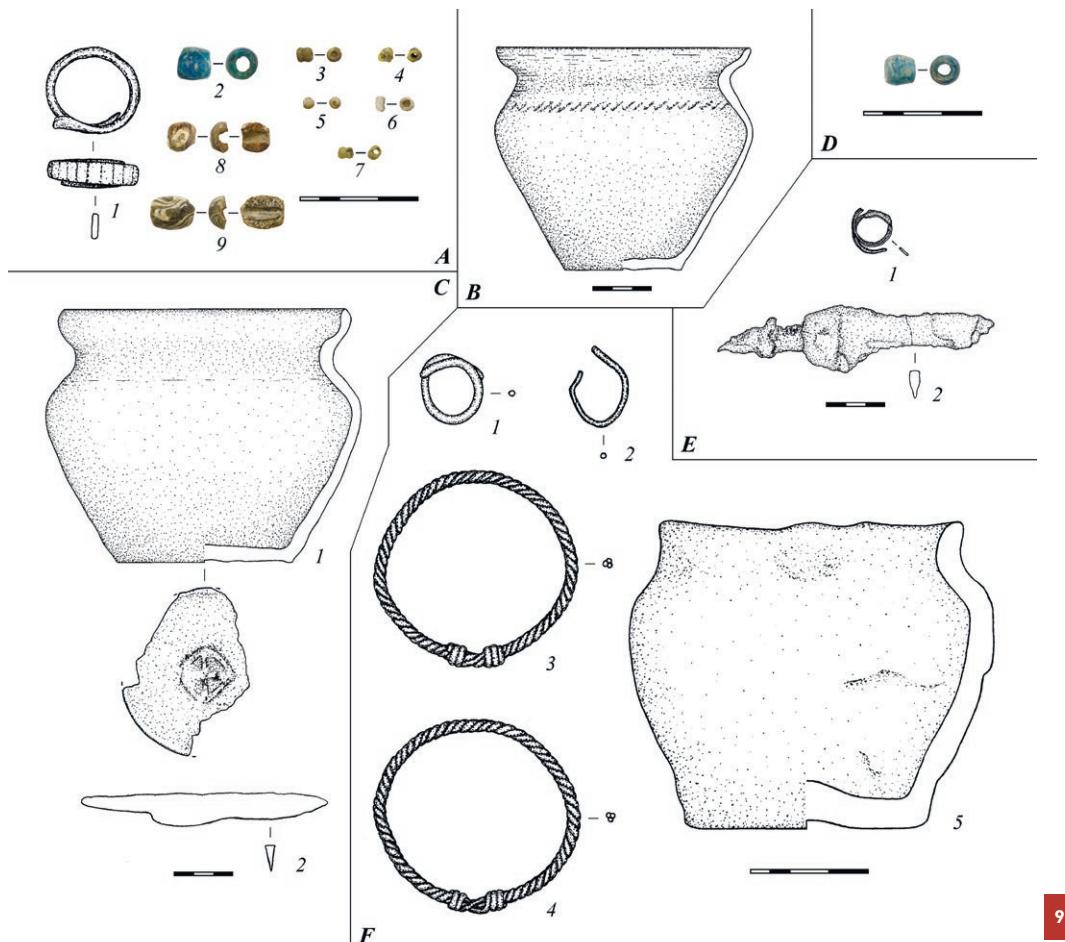


Field studies of burial sites

As a result of the work on the study of archival records and museum collections, we have identified a number of burial sites that seemed the most promising for further study and new archaeological excavations. In total, our research team excavated five necropolises from the 2nd half of the 1st – early 2nd millennium in the Upper Vilija Basin for the period 2012–2021 (Table).

Table. Burial sites of the Upper Vilija Region studied in 2012–2021

Year of excavation	Archaeological site	Author of excavations	Excavated area in square metres
2012, 2015–2017	Naŭry I	Mikalai Plavinski	808
2017–2020	Naŭry II	Aliaksandr Plavinski, Mikalai Plavinski, Viktoriya Tarasevich	733
2016, 2018	Kastyki	Mikalai Plavinski	178
2021	Hury	Mikalai Plavinski	63
2021	Kamena-1	Viktoryia Makouskaya	42



9

Grave goods of the Nahaški barrow cemetery (A – barrow 2; B – barrow 3; C – barrow 5; D – barrow 8; E – barrow 9; F – barrow 10). Drawing: M. Plavinski. Photo: M. Latyshava

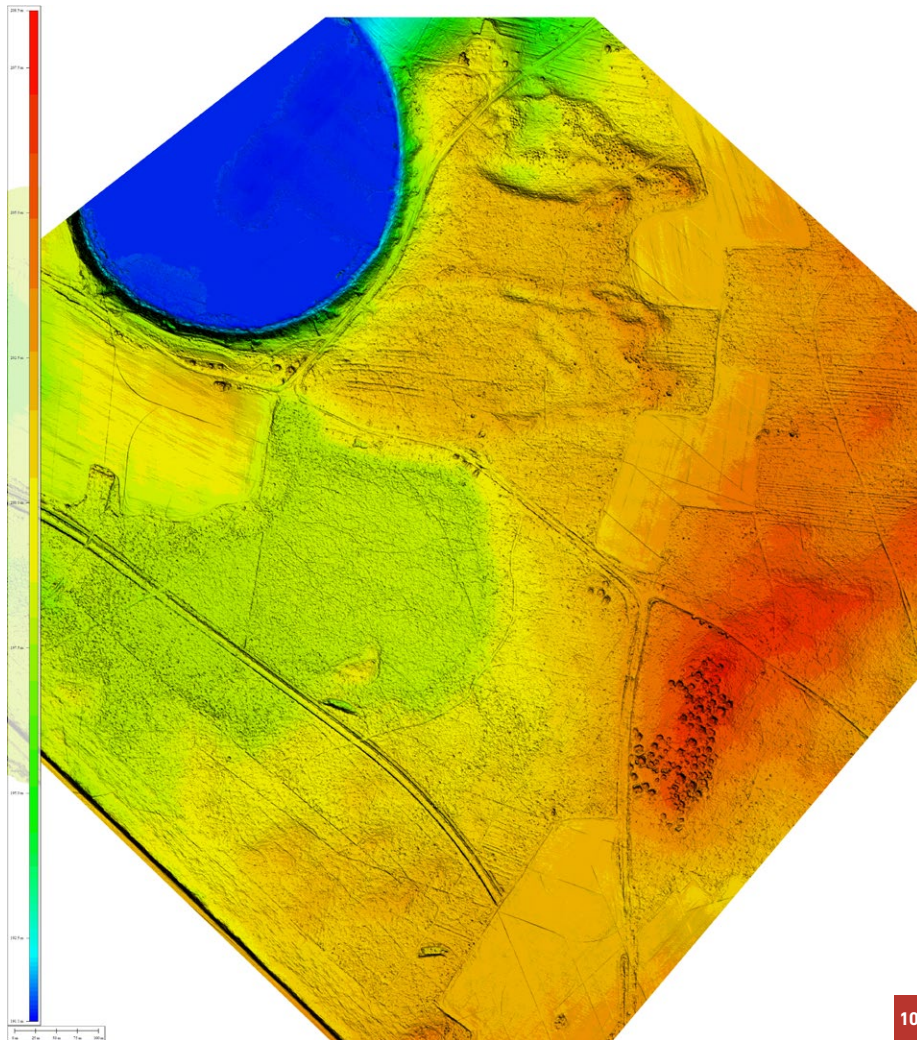
Wyposażenie grobowe z cmentarzyska kurhanowego w miejscowości Nohawki (A – kurhan 2; B – kurhan 3; C – kurhan 5; D – kurhan 8; E – kurhan 9; F – kurhan 10). Rys. M. Plavinski. Fot. M. Latyshava

It should be noted that all the necropolises of the Upper Vilija region were excavated and the entire area was studied. This excavation technique consists of an in-depth study of a certain area of the necropolis, including not only the barrows and other visually identifiable objects on the surface, but also the entire area between the mounds. It is labour-intensive and involves considerably more time to carry out the excavations, but it makes it possible to obtain very interesting and, at times, important new data.

The archaeological complex of *Naŭry* (Polish name *Nawry*, Svatki village council, Miadziel district, Minsk region), consisting of several necropolises and open settlements, has become the base for stationary archaeological research (Fig. 10). The barrows near the village of Naŭry have long been known in the scientific literature. The first significant excavations were carried out here in 1934 by the expeditions of the Archaeological Museum of the Stefan Batory University in Vilnius led by H. Cehak-Hoľubowiczowa in 1934.⁷ Originally there were probably three separate necropolises near the village Naŭry.⁸

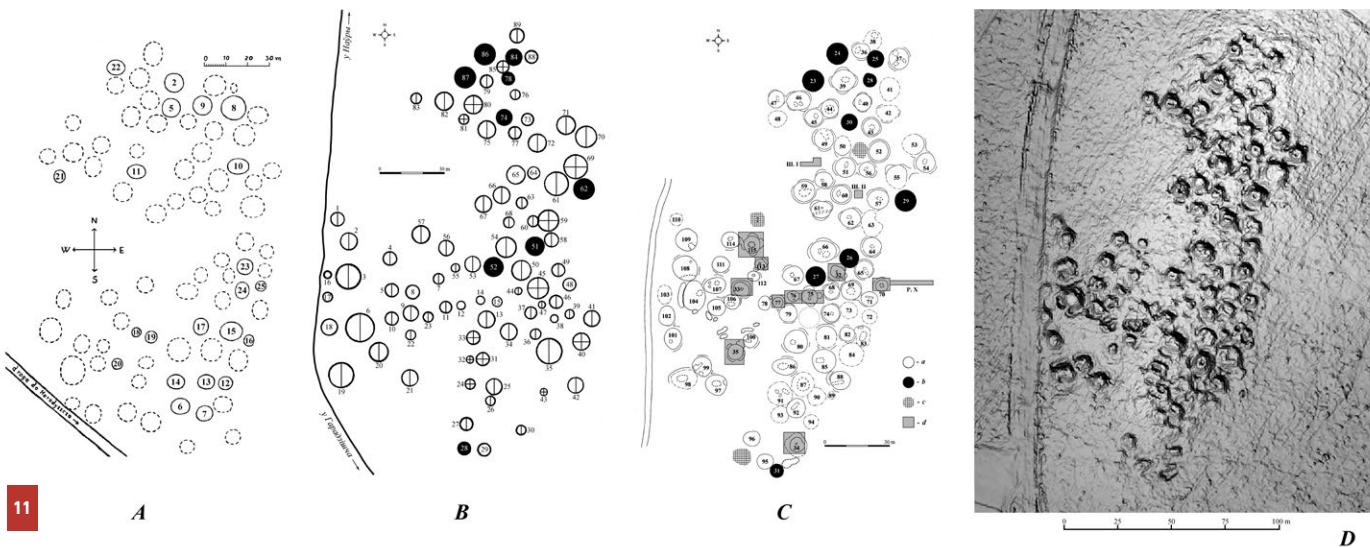
⁷ H. Cehak-Hoľubowiczowa, 'Materiał i zagadnienia cmentarzyska kurhanowego koło wsi Nawry w powiecie postawskim', *Rocznik Archeologiczny* 1937, vol. I.

⁸ The Naŭry III necropolis, excavated by H. Cehak-Hoľubowiczowa in 1934, is not currently recorded in the modern landscape. In 1934, five barrows were studied in one of which a cremation was found. The remaining



10 Complex of archaeological sites of Naŭry, LiDAR image. Scanning and processing by A. Sazonau in 2022

Kompleks stanowisk archeologicznych Nawry, zobrazowanie LiDAR powierzchni. Skanowanie i opracowanie: A. Sazonau, 2022

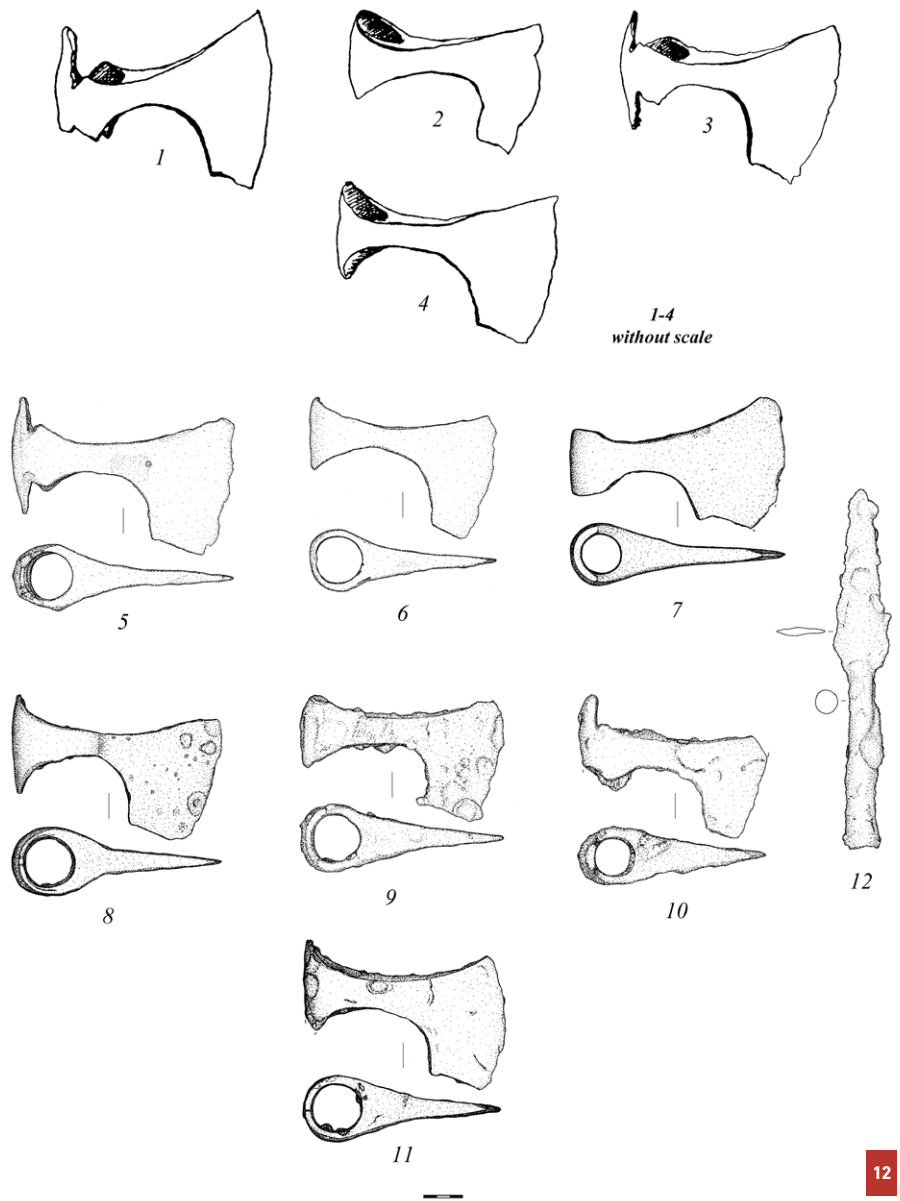


11 Naŭry I barrow cemetery (A – part of the plan of the cemetery, taken by H. Cehak-Hoŭbawiczowa in 1934; B – plan of the cemetery, taken by A. Plavinski in 1987; C – plan of the cemetery, taken by E. Astapovich in 2012, with additions by M. Plavinski; D – LiDAR image of the cemetery, scanning and processing by A. Sazonau in 2022)

Cmentarzysko kurhanowe Nawry I (A – część planu cmentarzyska wykonanego przez H. Cehak-Hoŭbawiczową w 1934 roku; B – plan cmentarzyska wykonany przez A. Plavinskiego w 1987 roku; C – plan cmentarzyska wykonany przez E. Astapovicha w 2012 roku, z uzupełnieniami M. Plavinskiego; D – zobrazowanie LiDAR powierzchni cmentarzyska, skanowanie i opracowanie: A. Sazonau, 2022)

Naŭry I barrow cemetery, weapons from burials (1–4 – after H. Cehak-Hoľubowiczowa; 5–12 – drawing by M. Plavinski)

Cmentarzysko kurhanowe Nawry I, broń z pochówków (1–4 – za H. Cehak-Hoľubowiczow; 5–12 – rys. M. Plavinski)

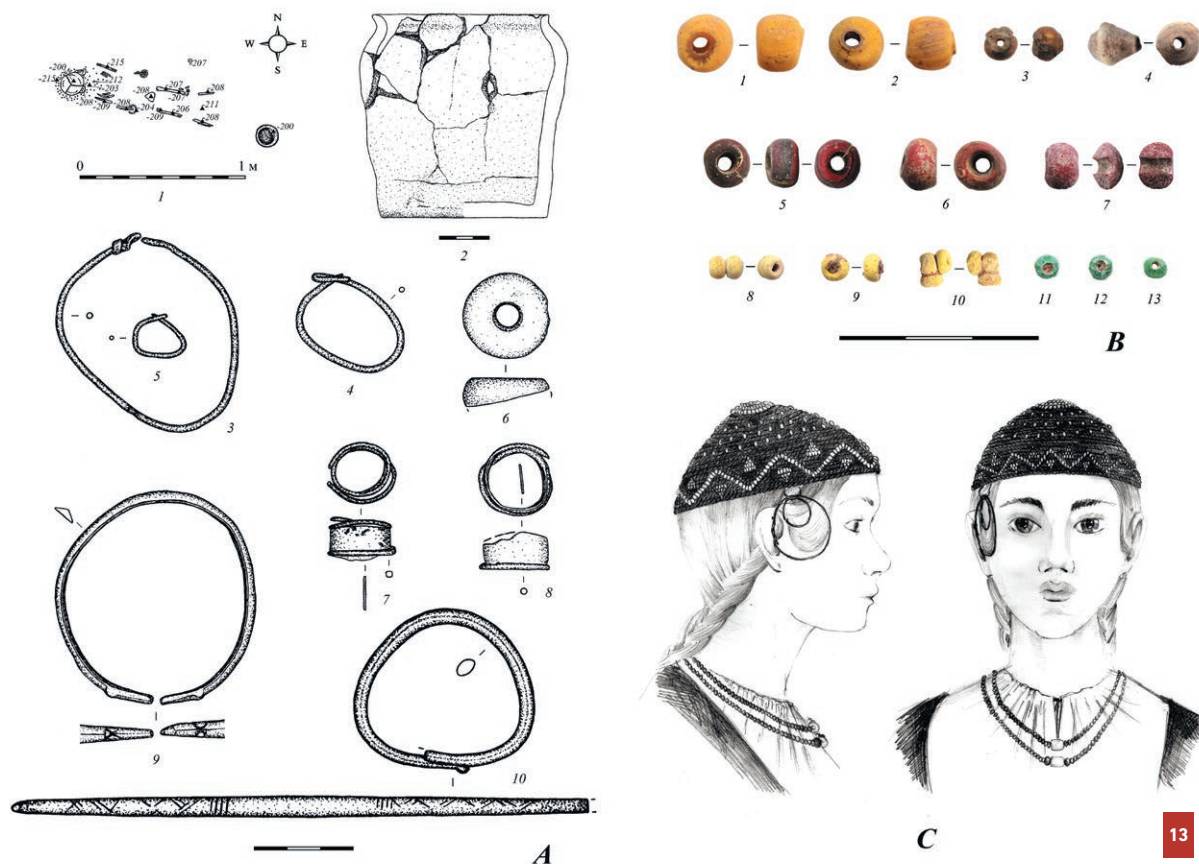


Naŭry I is a barrow cemetery, which originally consisted of at least 117 burial mounds (Fig. 11). The necropolis was excavated by H. Cehak-Hoľubowiczowa in 1934 (24 barrows),⁹ A. Plavinski and V. Rabcevič in 1987 (9 barrows). During 2012 and 2015–2017, 808 square metres were excavated on the territory of the necropolis and 10 barrows were examined.¹⁰ Thus, the total number of barrows studied in Naŭry I is 43, or about one third of the probable initial number of burial mounds. The analysis of the research materials from 1934 and 1987 and the results of our research in 2012 and 2015–2017 allow us to interpret this barrow cemetery as a necropolis of the Slavic population of the Polack Land, who buried their dead here according to the rite of inhumation throughout the

four barrows did not contain burials H. Cehak-Hoľubowiczowa, 'Materiał i zagadnienia cmentarzyska kurhanowego koło wsi Nawry w powiecie postawskim', *Rocznik Archeologiczny* 1937, vol. I, pp. 5, 43. It is possible that all the barrows that made up this necropolis were explored in 1934.

⁹ H. Cehak-Hoľubowiczowa, 'Materiał i zagadnienia cmentarzyska kurhanowego koło wsi Nawry w powiecie postawskim', *Rocznik Archeologiczny* 1937, vol. I, pp. 5–51.

¹⁰ N.A. Plavinskij, 'Kurgannyj mogil'nik Navry v Verhov'ah Vili (po materialam raskopok 2012 i 2015 godov)', *Arheologi i istori Pskova i Pskovskoj zemli. Seminar imeni akademika V. V. Sedova: Materialy 62-go zasedani*, Vyp. 32, 2017, pp. 320–340; N. A. Plavinskij, 'Raskopki kurgannogo nekropol Navry I v 2017 godu', *Arheologi i istori Pskova i Pskovskoj zemli. Seminar imeni akademika V. V. Sedova: Materialy 64-go zasedani*, Vyp. 34, 2019, pp. 286–299.



13 Naŭry I barrow cemetery, barrow 77, plan of the burial, grave goods and reconstruction of the funeral attire (A – drawing by M. Plavinski; B–C – drawing by M. Latyshava)

Cmentarzysko kurhanowe Nawry I, kurhan 77, plan pochówku, wyposażenie grobowe i rekonstrukcja stroju pogrzebowego (A – rys. M. Plavinski; B–C – rys. M. Latyshava)

11th – 12th centuries, and possibly a little later (Figs. 12–13). This necropolis probably belonged to the inhabitants of the local administrative centre, who exercised control over the local population on the western borderlands of Polack Land.

The Naŭry II necropolis consists of at least 13 burial mounds and a flat part (Fig. 10). Its excavation was first started by A. Plavinski in 2017. In 2017–2020, a total area of 733 square metres was investigated on the territory of the necropolis and two barrows and 19 objects, which can be interpreted as flat graves, were studied (Fig. 14).

There are two cultural and chronological horizons in the functioning of the necropolis. The first, dating to the 3rd quarter of the 1st millennium, includes the two excavated barrows with cremations (Fig. 15).¹¹

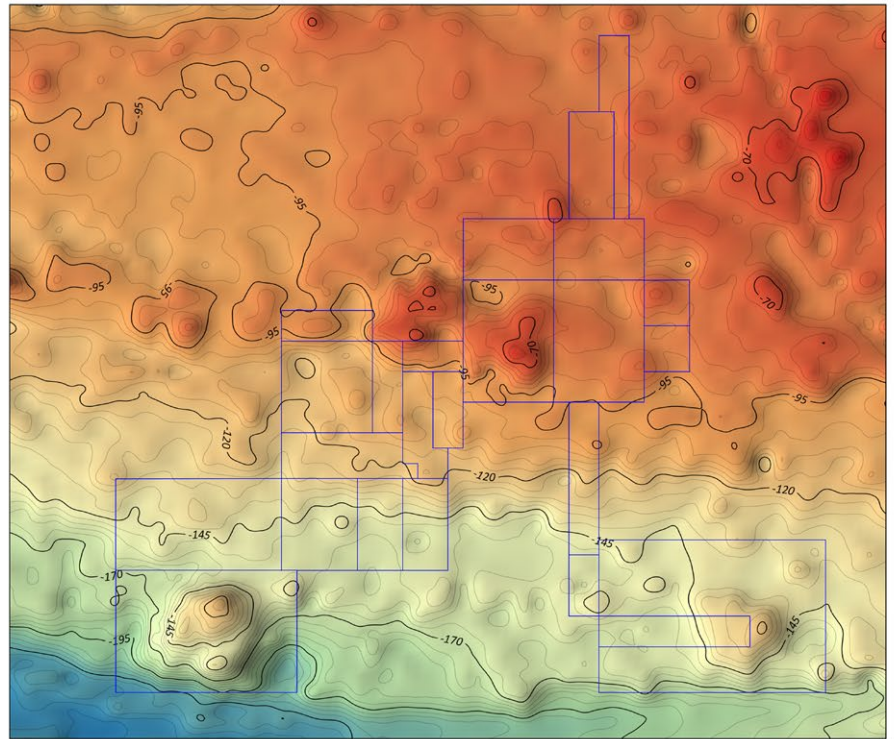
The second cultural and chronological horizon of the necropolis consists of barrowless flat grave cremation burials, which could be carried out in two ways (Fig. 16) – in mainland pits (Type I) or on the surface (Type II). Both types of burials can be dated to the 8th – early or 1st half

¹¹ A.M. Plavinski, M.A. Plavinski, V.M. Tarasevich, 'Raskopki niekropalia Naŭry II u 2017 hodzie', in: M.A. Plavinski, V.M. Sidarovich (ed.) *Ekspiedycyja praciahlasciu ŭ žyccio: zbornik navukovych artykulaŭ pamiaci Aliaksandra Plavinskaha*, Minsk 2021, pp. 122–141, 152–154; N.A. Plavinskij, V.N. Tarasevich, 'Predvaritel'nye rezul'taty raskopok nekropolâ vtoroj poloviny I tys. n.è. Navry II v kontekste izučeniâ pogreba'nyh pamâtnikov severnyh regionov Respubliki Belarus', *Kratkie soobšeniâ instituta arheologii*, Vyp. 263, pp. 319–322; V.N. Tarasevich, V.A. Makouskaya, N.A. Plavinskij, 'Issledovaniâ kompleksa arheologičeskikh pamâtnikov Navry v 2020 godu', 'Arheologiâ i istoriâ Pskova i Pskovskoj zemli. Seminar imeni akademika V. V. Sedova: Materialy 66-go zasedaniâ', Vyp. 36, 2021, s. 272–299.

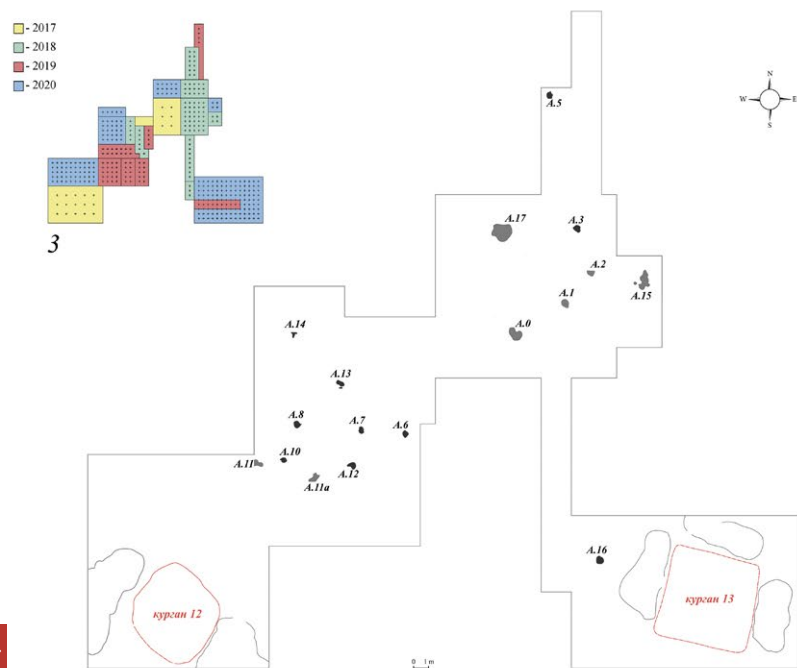
14

Naŭry II necropolis (1 – 3D model of the day surface of the investigated area of the necropolis with the designation of pits and tranches of 2017–2020; 2 – consolidated plan of the investigated barrows and flat burials; 3 – plan for the mutual placement of pits and tranches of 2017–2020). Drawing: V. Makouskaya (1), V. Tarasevich (2–3)

Nekropolia Nawry II (1 – model 3D powierzchni badanego obszaru nekropolii z oznaczeniem sondazy i wykopów, 2017–2020; 2 – plan badanych kurhanów i pochówków płaskich; 3 – plan rozmieszczenia sondazy i wykopów, 2017–2020). Rys. V. Makouskaya (1), V. Tarasevich (2–3)



1



14

2

of the 11th century and belong to the Smolensk-Polack Long Barrow Culture (Figs. 17–19).¹² The fact that the flat grave cemetery of the Smolensk-Polack Long Barrows Culture was discovered and a large area studied can be considered as the most important result of the study of the Naŭry archaeological complex because, until recently, it was believed that the main form of burial rite used by this culture was the placement of cremated remains in barrows.¹³

In addition, the results of the excavation of the Naŭry II necropolis led to the need for a detailed study of the reporting documentation of the previous excavations in order to identify

¹² N.A. Plavinskij, V.N. Tarasevich, 'Beskurgannye pogrebeniâ krivičej po materialam nekropolâ Navry II Mâdel'skogo rajona Minskoj oblasti Respubliki Belarus', *Stratum plus* 2022 5, pp. 273–301.

¹³ V.V. Eukov, *Rannie ètapy formirovaniâ smolensko-polockih krivičej*, Moscow 1990, pp. 13–47.



15 Naŭry II necropolis, barrow 12 (1 – graphic reconstruction of the barrow structure, view from the southeast; 2 – grave goods from burial 1; 3 – reconstruction of the women’s funeral attire from burial 1; 4 – grave goods from burial 2). Drawing: V. Tarasevich (1, 3), M. Plavinski (2, 4)

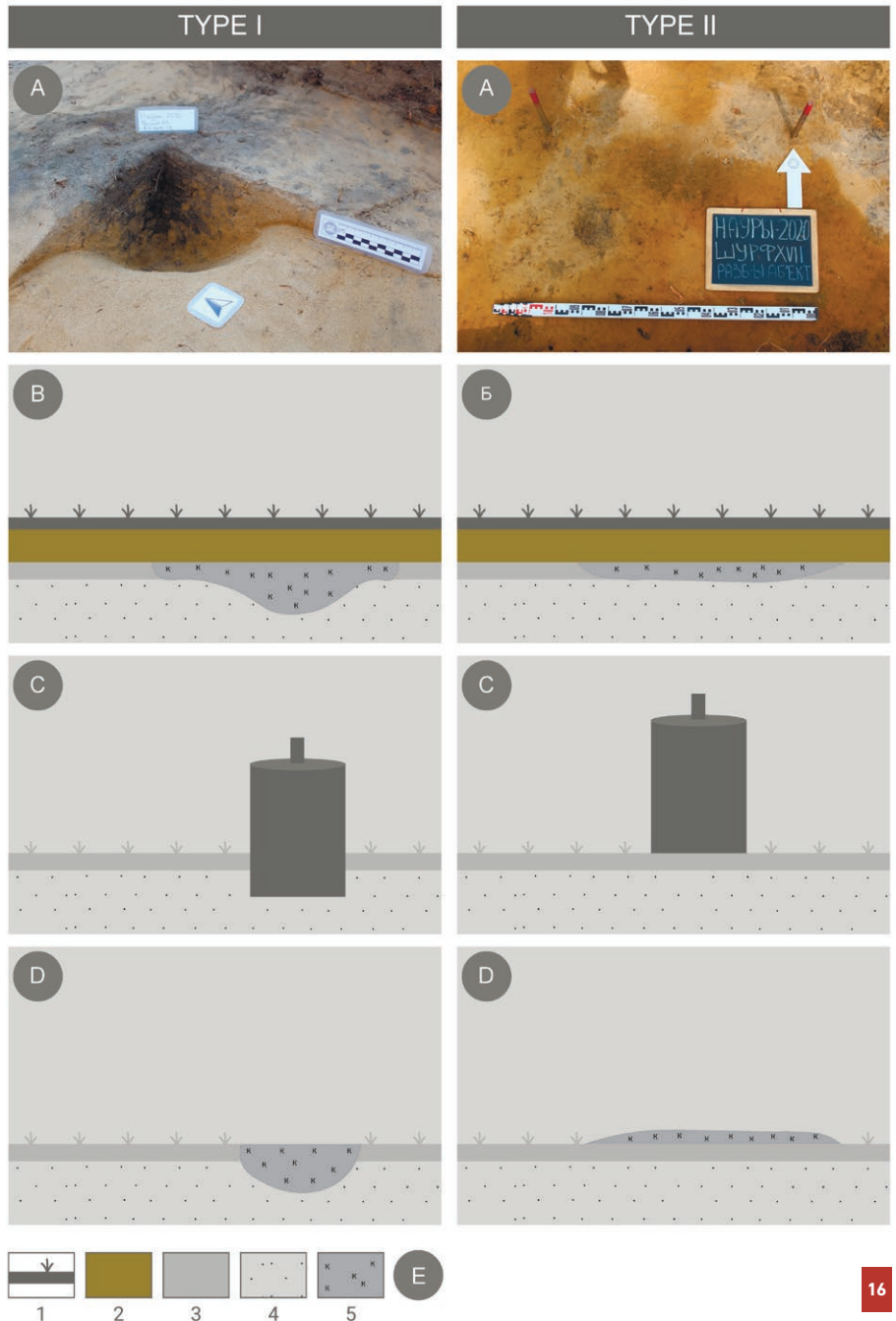
Nekropolia Nawry II, kurhan 12 (1 – graficzna rekonstrukcja struktury kurhanu, widok od południowego wschodu; 2 – wyposażenie grobowe z pochówku 1; 3 – rekonstrukcja kobiecego stroju pogrzebowego z pochówku 1; 4 – wyposażenie grobowe z pochówku 2). Rys. V. Tarasevich (1, 3), M. Plavinski (2, 4)

probable information about such burials. As a result, it was found that a cremation burial had been excavated outside the barrow on the territory of the **Hury** archaeological complex. This archaeological complex consists of an open settlement and a barrow cemetery located near the former farm of Hury (Polish name **Góry**, today Locievičy village, Liudvinova municipality, Viliejka district, Minsk region), on the right bank of the River Servač (the right tributary of the Vilija).

In 1955–1956, 1965 and 1971–1972 the complex of archaeological sites at Hury was studied by A. Mitrafanaŭ. He concluded that the cemetery consists of two groups – the northern and the southern, separated by residential and domestic buildings. Originally the area of the farm was

Naŭry II necropolis, two types of flat burials (A – photos of burials at the level of the mainland surface; B – scheme-example of profiles of identified burials; C – scheme-example of reconstructions of burials in an organic structure; D – scheme-example of reconstructions of burials without an organic structure; E – conventions: 1 – sod layer, 2 – layer 1 [a layer of fine-grained yellow sand – alluvial formation], 3 – layer 2 [layer of humus gray sand – ancient buried soil], 4 – mainland [fine-grained yellow sand], 5 – burial spot). Photo and drawing: V. Tarasevich

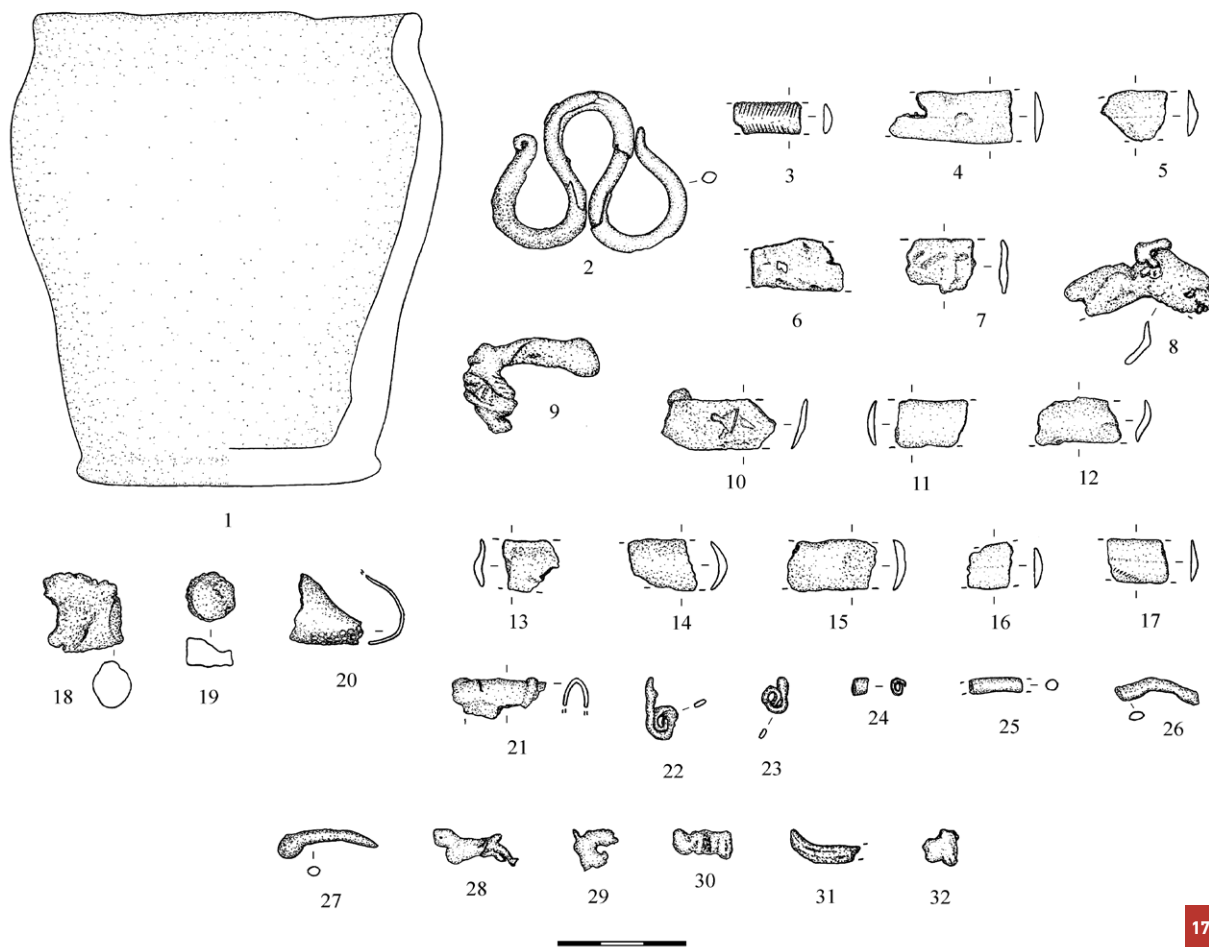
Nekropolia Nawry II, dwa typy pochówków płaskich (A – zdjęcia pochówków na poziomie calca; B – przykładowy schemat profili zidentyfikowanych pochówków; C – przykładowy schemat rekonstrukcji pochówków w konstrukcjach z materiałów organicznych; D – przykładowy schemat rekonstrukcji pochówków bez konstrukcji z materiałów organicznych; E – oznaczenia: 1 – warstwa darni, 2 – warstwa 1 [warstwa drobnoziarnistego żółtego piasku – formacja aluwialna], 3 – warstwa 2 [warstwa szarego piasku próchnicznego – humus pierwotny], 4 – calca [drobnoziarnisty żółty piasek], 5 – miejsce pochówku). Fot. i rys. V. Tarasevich



probably also occupied by burial mounds, which were later completely or partially levelled (Fig. 20). In Hury, A. Mitrafanaŭ excavated 16 barrows, which he attributed to the Smolensk-Polak Long Barrow Culture, and a flat grave cremation burial. In addition, it was revealed that the southern group of barrows occupies the territory of an open settlement, dated to the 5th – 6th centuries and attributed to the Bancaraŭščyna culture.¹⁴

In 2021, in the south-eastern part of the settlement, in the southern group of barrows, a trench of 63 square metres was excavated in order to examine a low mound that we had originally interpreted as a barrow (Fig. 21). However, during the excavation it was established that the mound was of natural origin and consisted of a redeposited cultural layer in which were found materials

¹⁴ M. Plavinski, 'Dasliedavanni kompleksa archiealahičnych pomnikaŭ Hury Vilijskaha rajona Minskaj voblasti ũ 2021 hodzie', XXXVII Lubelska Konferencja 'Badania archeologiczne w Polsce środkowowschodniej, zachodniej Białorusi i Ukrainie', 7–8 November 2022, summaries of papers presented, Lublin, 2022, pp. 56–57.



17

17 Naŭry II necropolis, grave goods from the cremation burial (object 6). Drawing: M. Plavinski
 Nekropolia Nawry II, wyposażenie grobowe z pochówku ciałałpalnego (obiekt 6). Rys. M. Plavinski

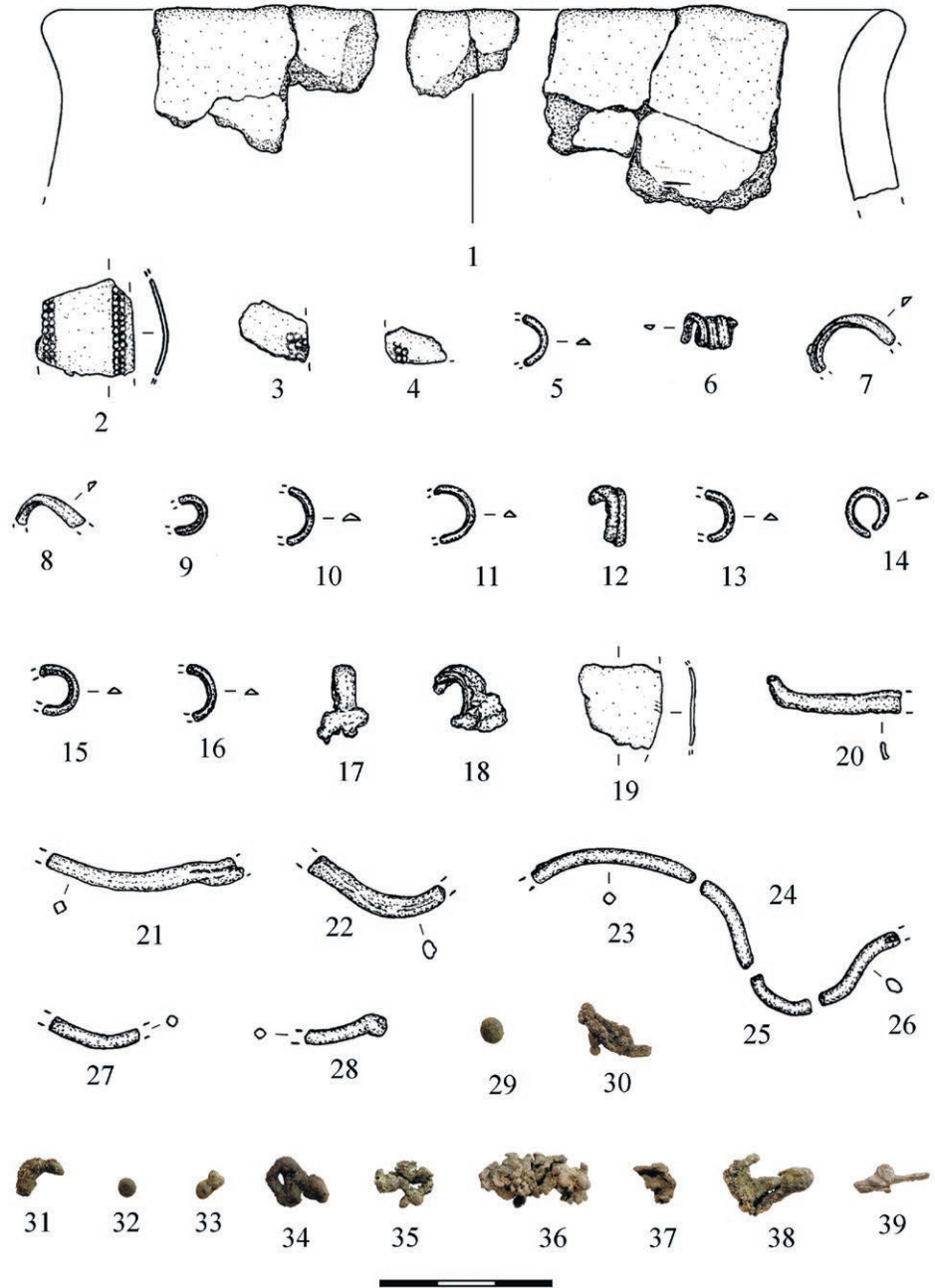
of the late stage of the Hatched Pottery Culture (1st – 1st half of the 3rd century BC), pottery and artefacts that can be attributed to the antiquity of the Kyiv Culture (3rd – 5th century BC) and materials of the Bancarauščyna Culture (3rd quarter of the 1st millennium AD).

At the same time, in addition to materials that undoubtedly belong to the cultural layer of the settlement, a significant amount of cremated bones and jewellery was found in the trench dug in 2021, which can be dated to the 8th – early or 1st half of the 11th century, with traces of being having been in a fire (in redeposited position). This fact indicates that in the immediate vicinity of the trench there was originally a cremation burial (burials?) of the Smolensk-Polack Long Barrow Culture, synchronous with the barrows. Unfortunately, the stratigraphic position of the cremated bones and grave goods does not allow for a confident interpretation of the original nature of the cremations, whether the exposed materials came from a flat grave burial (burials?) or from the neighbouring destroyed barrow (barrows?) of the Smolensk-Polack Long Barrow Culture. In any case, the barrow cemetery at Hury can be regarded as a necropolis in which flat grave cremation burials were probably carried out.

Another destroyed flat grave cremation burial was also discovered in 2021 during the excavation of the *Kamena-1* necropolis (Polish name *Kamień*, Daŭhinava village council, Viliejka district, Minsk region). The Kamena-1 necropolis is located on the right bank of the River Vilija and is distinguished by an extremely complex planigraphy and structure (Fig. 22), since the area

Naŭry II necropolis, grave goods from the cremation burial (object 8).
Drawing: M. Plavinski

Nekropolia Nawry II, wyposażenie grobowe z pochówku ciała-palnego (obiekt 8).
Rys. M. Plavinski



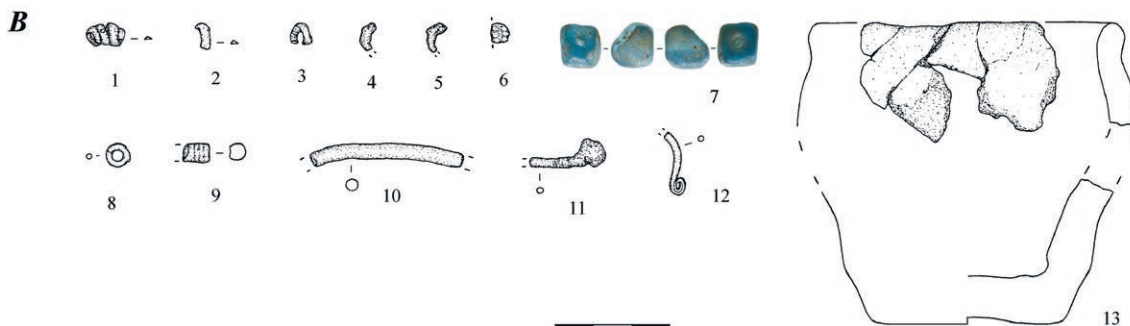
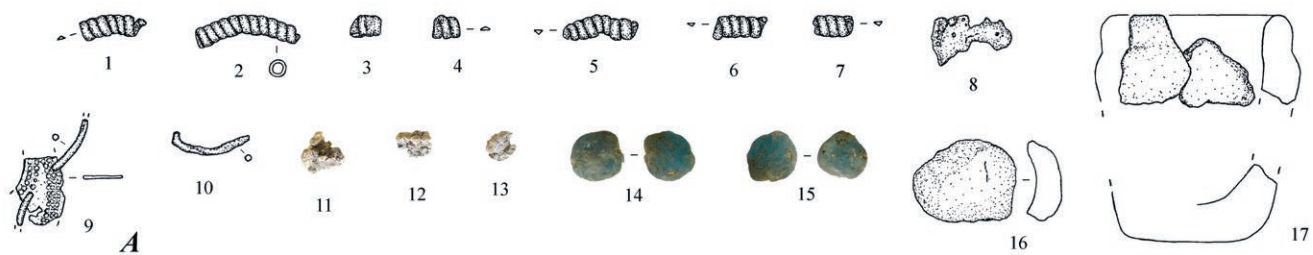
of the medieval barrow cemetery was used in early modern and contemporary times as a Tatar cemetery, known as the Karolin Mizar.¹⁵ The exact date of its foundation is unknown, but it existed as early as 1857.¹⁶ The last burials took place in the 1980s. The Mizar was surrounded by an irregular hexagonal rampart, which covered almost the entire area of the cemetery. The Tartar burials inside this fence are marked by stone gravestones and stone fences along the perimeter. They are located both in the space between the barrows and dug into the barrows themselves.

The existence of a mizar on the territory of a barrow cemetery naturally limits the potential for its archaeological study. The first barrow excavations here were carried out by J. Zviaruha in 1974. He investigated four barrows located outside the perimeter of the Tatar cemetery.¹⁷ Three of

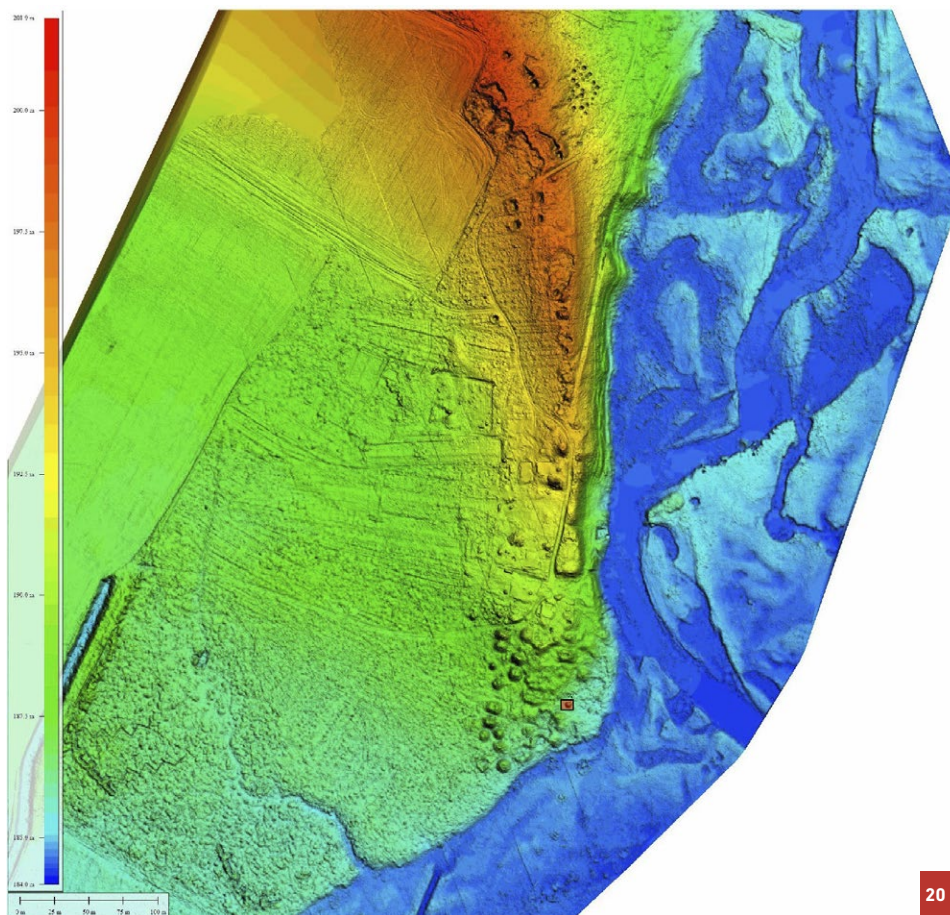
¹⁵ A. Nester, 'Tajny uročiša Karolin', *Žizn'* 2017, № 3, p. 8.

¹⁶ K. Tyszkiewicz, *Wilija i jej brzegi: pod względem hydrograficznym, historycznym, archeologicznym i etnograficznym*, Dresden 1871, p. 32.

¹⁷ J.H. Zviaruha, 'Dasliedavanni kurhannyh mohiŭnikaŭ u viarchoŭjach Viliŭ', *Materyjaly pa archiealohii Bielarusi* 2001, № 3, pp. 175–177.



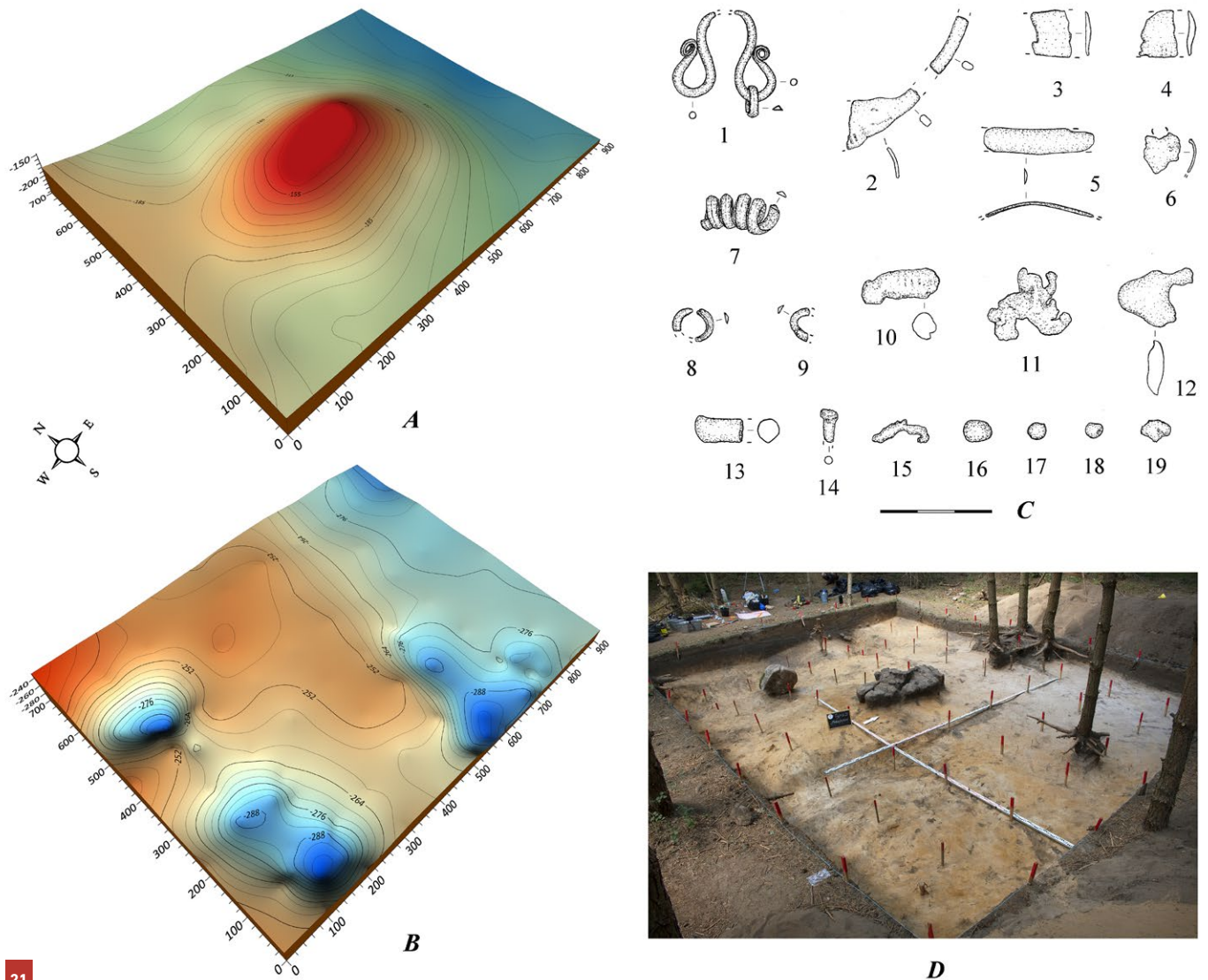
19



20

19 Naŭry II necropolis, grave goods from the cremation burials (A – object 13; B – object 17). Drawing: M. Plavinski
 Nekropolia Nawry II, wyposażenie grobowe z pochówków ciałałpalnych (A – obiekt 13; B – obiekt 17). Rys. M. Plavinski

20 Complex of archaeological sites Hury, LiDAR image of the cemetery. Scanning and processing by A. Sazonau in 2023
 Kompleks stanowisk archeologicznych Góry, zobrazowanie LiDAR powierzchni cmentarzyska. Skanowanie i opracowanie: A. Sazonau, 2023



21

21

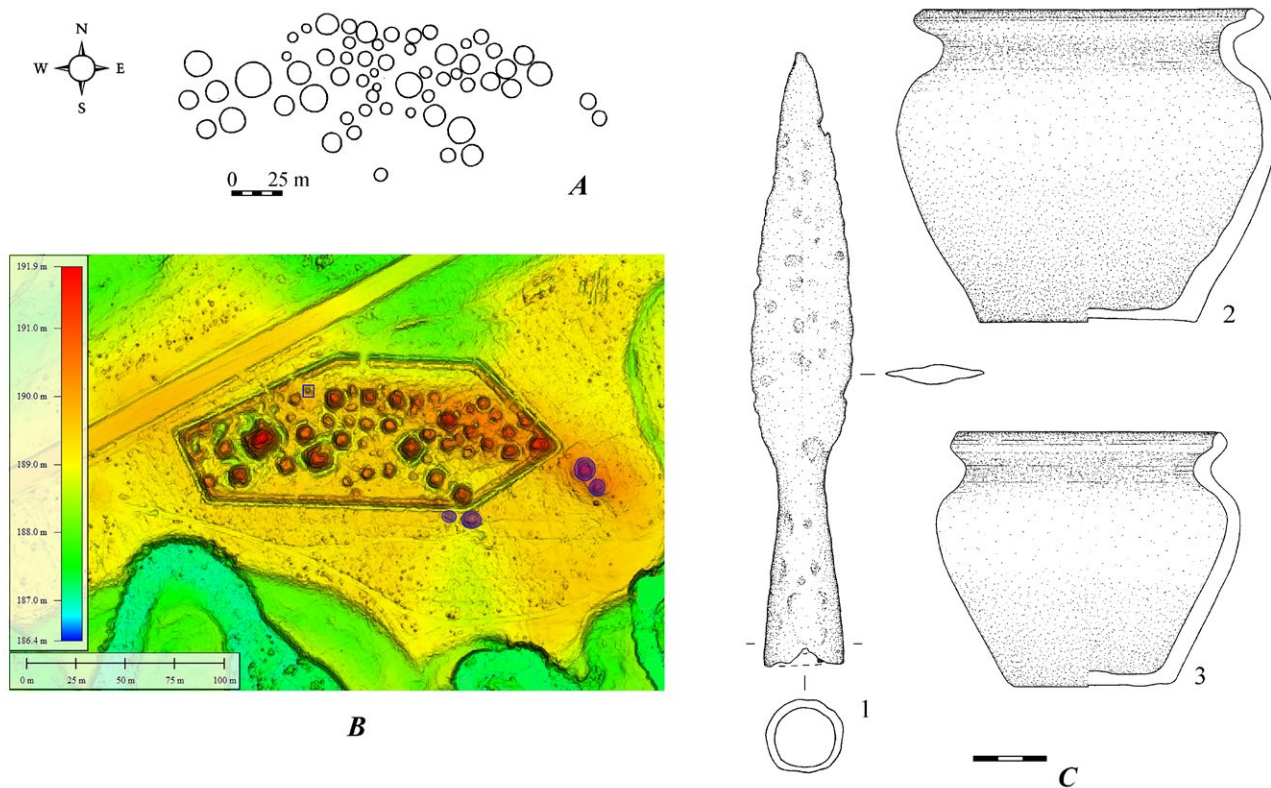
Complex of archaeological sites Hury, 2021 trench (A – 3D model of the trench day surface, view from the southeast; B – 3D model of the trench mainland surface, view from the southeast; C – grave goods from the destroyed cremation burial; D – mainland of the trench). Drawing: V. Makouskaya (A–B). Drawing and photo: M. Plavinski (C–D)

Kompleks stanowisk archeologicznych Góry, wykop z 2021 roku (A – model 3D powierzchni wykopu, widok od południowego wschodu; B – model 3D calca, widok od południowego wschodu; C – wyposażenie grobowe ze zniszczonego miejsca pochówku ciała palnego; D – poziom calca w wykopie). Rys. V. Makouskaya (A–B). Rys. i fot. M. Plavinski (C–D)

the four barrows excavated in 1974 were badly damaged, which made it very difficult to interpret the materials found during their excavation. Accordingly, the main objectives of the research carried out in 2021 were to clarify the dating and burial rite of the Kamena-1 barrow cemetery.

During the course of work in 2021, a trench of 42 square metres was dug in the northern part of the barrow cemetery, the boundaries of which included barrow 5. The burial of a 5–6 year old child was discovered in the barrow. The inhumation was dated to the 2nd half of the 11th or early 12th century (Fig. 23). In addition, during excavations in the mound of the barrow, re-deposited cremated bones and fragments of a small handmade vessel were found, which can be dated within the broad framework of the 2nd half of the 1st millennium BC. Their location suggests that both the bones and the fragments of the vessel came from the same destroyed, flat grave cremation burial.

Despite the extremely limited scope of excavations in 2021 their results, in combination with the 1974 excavation material, indicate that at least three chronological horizons can be distinguished



22

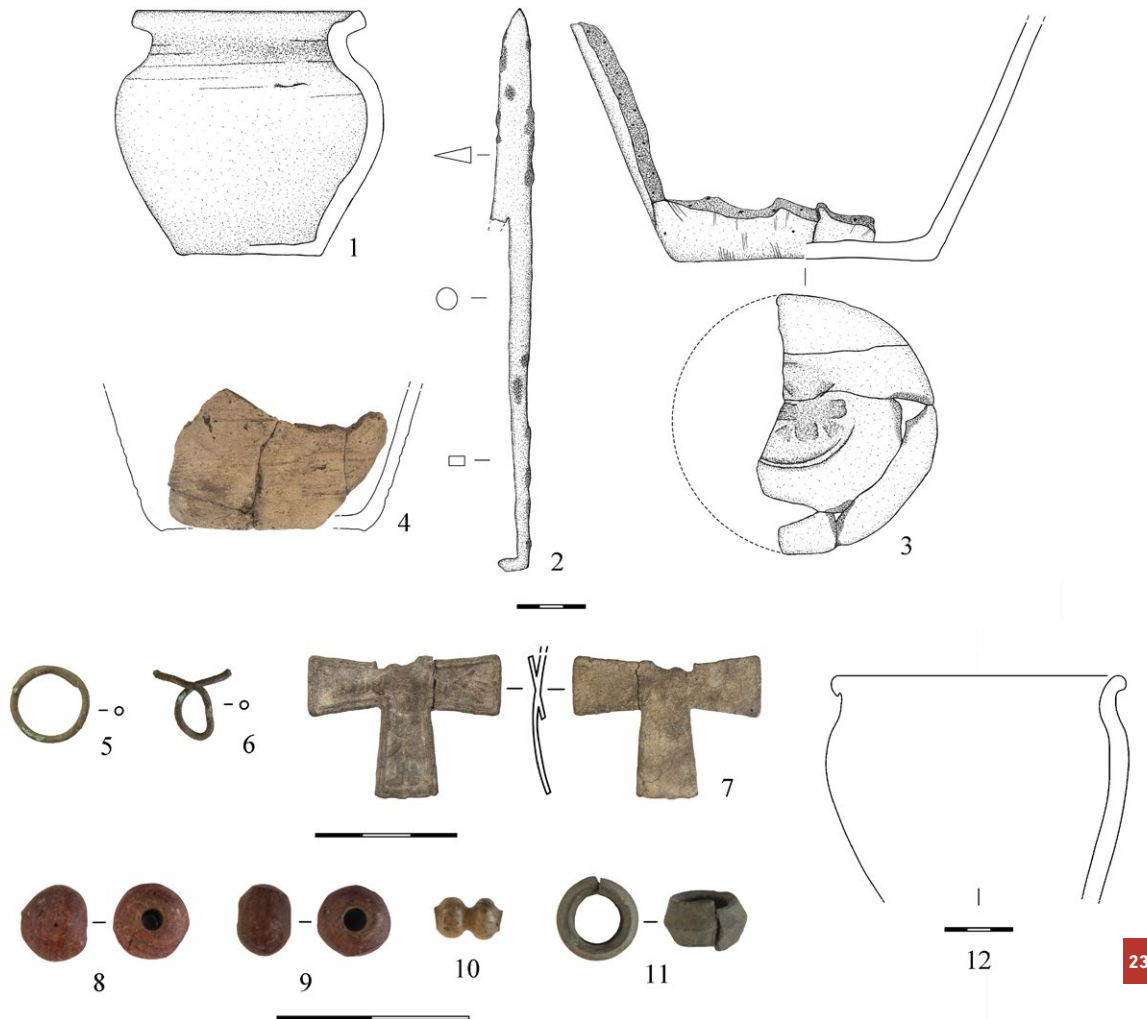
22 Kamena-1 necropolis (A – plan of the barrow cemetery, taken by J. Zviaruha in 1974; B – LiDAR image of the necropolis scanning and processing by A. Sazonau in 2022; C – grave goods from the excavations in 1974 drawing by M. Plavinski; D – gravestones of the Tatar cemetery, photo by S. Kureichyk)

Nekropolia Kamień-1 (A – plan cmentarzyska kurhanowego wykonany przez J. Zviaruha w 1974 roku; B – zobrazowanie LiDAR powierzchni nekropolii, skan i opracowanie- A. Sazonau w 2022 roku; C – wyposażenie grobowe z wykopalisk w 1974 roku, rys. M. Plavinski; D – nagrobki z cmentarza tatarskiego, fot. S. Kureichyk)

in the functioning of the Kamena-1 necropolis: 1) flat grave cremation cemetery of the 2nd half of the 1st millennium; 2) barrow cemetery of the 11th–12th centuries; 3) Tatar cemetery of early modern and contemporary times.¹⁸

Finally, in 2016 and 2018, excavations were carried out at the *Kastyki* archaeological complex (Polish name *Kostyki*, Liudvinova village council, Vilejka district, Minsk region), located on the right bank of the Vilija. It was in *Kastyki* that Count K. Tyszkiewicz made his first excavations

¹⁸ V.A. Makouskaya, 'Kurgannyj mogiłnik Kameno-1 v svete novyh issledovanij', in: M.I. Bažin et al. (ed.) *Aktual'naâ arheologija 6. Materialy meždunarodnoj naučnoj konferencii molodyh učenyh*, St Petersburg 2022, pp. 231–234.



23

Kamena-1 necropolis, 2021 trench (1–11 – grave goods of the inhumation burial; 12 – handmade vessel from the destroyed cremation burial). Drawing and photo: V. Makouskaya

Nekropolia Kamień-1, wykop z 2021 roku (1–11 – wyposażenie grobowe z pochówku szkieletowego; 12 – ręcznie wykonane naczynie ze zniszczonego pochówku ciałałpalnego). Rys. i fot. V. Makouskaya

during his famous expedition down the Viliya in 1856. He unearthed a barrow here, which was partially destroyed when the waters of the Viliya washed away the bank but he did not find a burial or any artefacts.¹⁹ In 1973, J. Zviaruha carried out research in Kastyki and excavated 7 barrows.²⁰

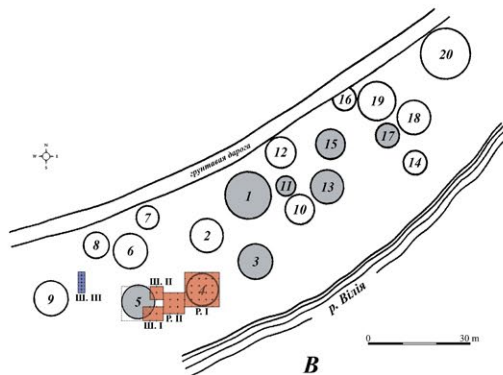
As a result of our excavations in 2016 and 2018, on the territory of the Kastyki archaeological complex, 178 square metres was explored, which included one barrow (No. 4), a part of one of the barrows explored in 1973 (No. 5) and a significant area of inter-barrow territory. One of the most important results of the research was to prove that on the territory of the open settlement, numbered Kastyki II, there were barrows with burials. The settlement existed for a long time. In the cultural layer under the barrows, in the space between them, as well as in the newly deposited cultural layer from which the mounds were built, materials of the late Neolithic and the beginning of the Bronze Age, pottery of the late stage of the Hatched Pottery Culture (1st – 1st half of the 3rd

¹⁹ K. Tyszkiewicz, *Vilija i jej brzegi: pod względem hydrograficznym, historycznym, archeologicznym i etnograficznym*, Dresden 1871, pp. 44–45.

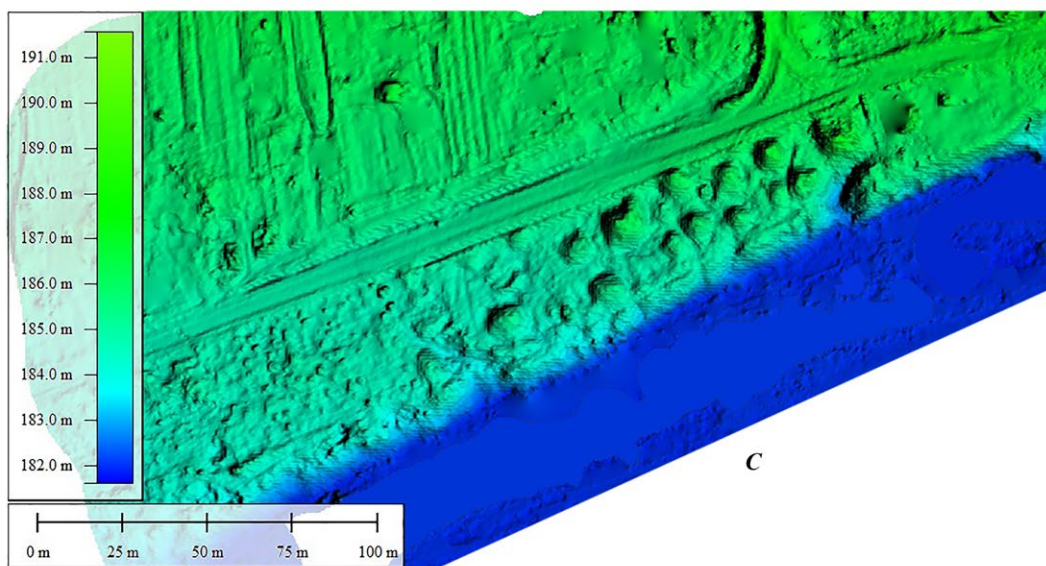
²⁰ J.H. Zviaruha, 'Dasiedavanni kurhannyh mohilnikaŭ u viarchoŭjach Vilii', *Materyjaly pa archiealohii Bielarusi* 2001, № 3, pp. 173–176; M. Plavinski, M. Stsiapanava, *Kompleks archiealahaicznych pomnikaŭ Kastyki ŭ viarchoŭjach Vilii*, Minsk 2019, pp. 10–60.



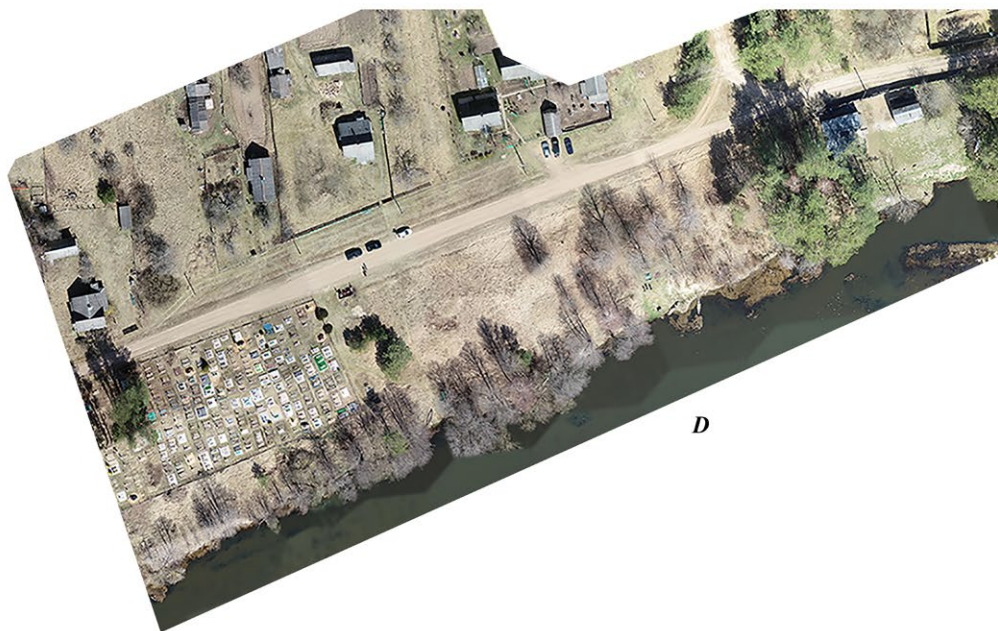
A



B



C



D

24

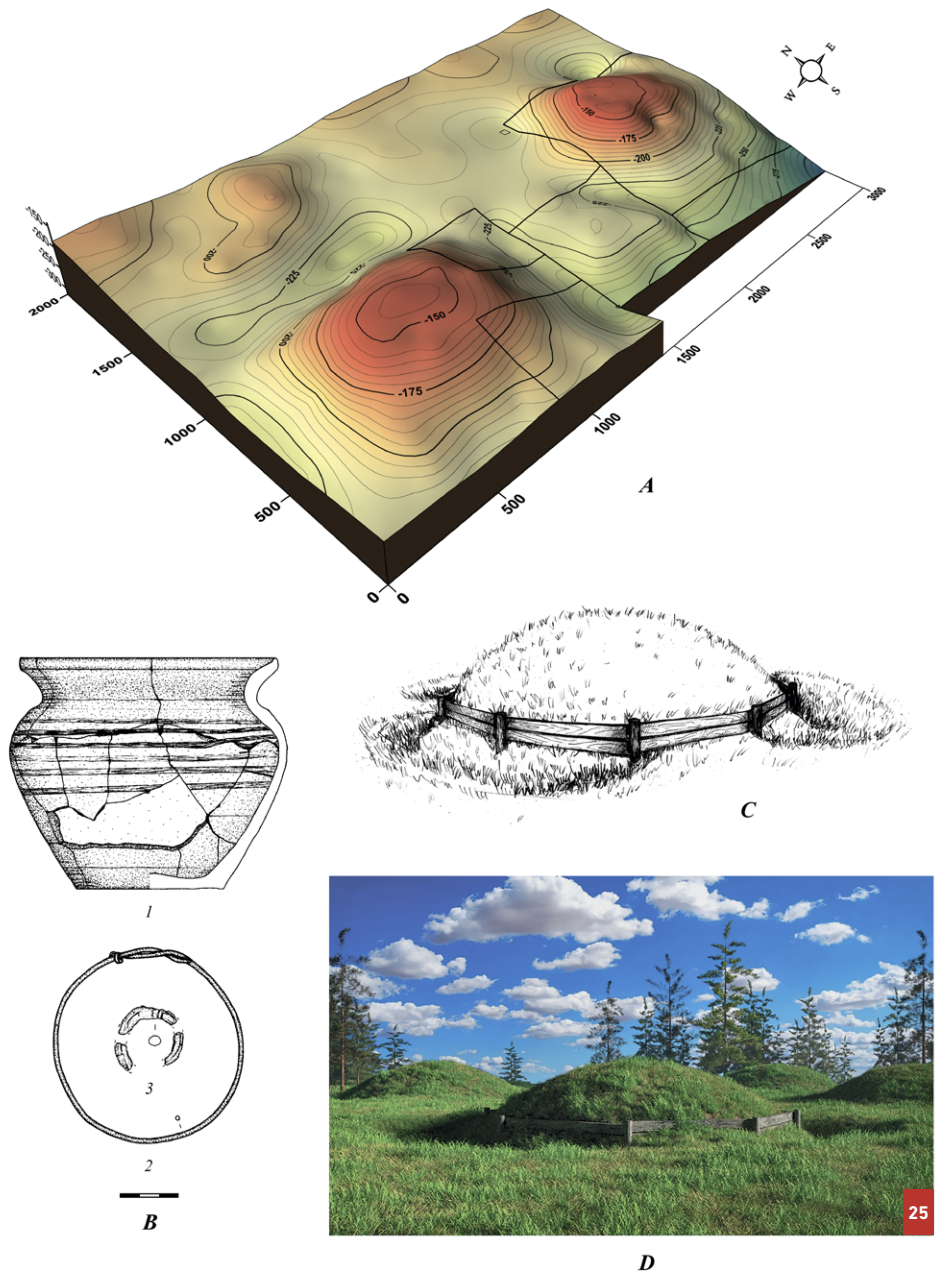
24

Complex of archaeological sites of Kastyki (A – the process of barrows excavation in 1973 after J. Zviaruha; B – plan of the barrow cemetery, taken by J. Zviaruha in 1973, with additions by M. Plavinski; C – LiDAR image of the cemetery in 2022 scanning and processing by A. Sazonau; D – photo of the barrow cemetery in 2022 by A. Sazonau)

Kompleks stanowisk archeologicznych w Kostykach (A – badania wykopaliskowe kurhanów w 1973 roku, za: J. Zviaruhę; B – plan cmentarzyska kurhanowego wykonany przez J. Zviaruhę w 1973 roku, z uzupełnieniami M. Plavinskiego; C – zobrazowanie LiDAR powierzchni cmentarzyska w 2022 roku, skanowanie i opracowanie: A. Sazonau; D – zdjęcie cmentarzyska kurhanowego w 2022 roku, fot. A. Sazonau)

Complex of archaeological sites of Kastyki (A – 3D model of the day surface of the necropolis area investigated in 2016 with the designation of pits and tranches, view from the southeast; B – grave goods of the inhumation burial in barrow 4; C – graphic reconstruction of the original appearance of barrow 4; D – reconstruction of the original appearance of barrow 4). Drawing: E. Astapovich (A), M. Plavinski (B, D), M. Latyshava (C)

Zespół stanowisk archeologicznych w Kostykach (A – model 3D powierzchni nekropolii badanej w 2016 roku, z zaznaczeniem sondaży i wykopów, widok od południowego wschodu; B – wyposażenie grobowe pochówku szkieletowego w kurhanie 4; C – rekonstrukcja graficzna pierwotnego wyglądu kurhanu 4; D – rekonstrukcja pierwotnego wyglądu kurhanu 4). Rys. E. Astapovich (A), M. Plavinski (B, D), M. Latyshava (C)



millennium BC) and of the 2nd quarter of the 1st millennium BC, as well as artefacts and sets of pottery, typical for the Bancaraŭščyna Culture of the 3rd quarter of the 1st millennium were found.

On the other hand, the period in which the barrow cemetery was in use is dated to the middle of the 11th and 12th centuries.²¹

Popularization of knowledge about burial sites

One of the most important areas of work in the study of the burial sites of the 2nd half of the 1st millennium – early 2nd millennium in the Upper Vilija region was the popularization of the knowledge about the barrow cemeteries of the region and the main results of their research. As part of this work, a number of popular lectures and seminars were held both at various educational and cultural institutions in Minsk and at various cultural institutions in Viliejka, Miadziel and neighbouring districts of north-western Belarus. These events were aimed at a wide range

²¹ M. Plavinski, M. Stsiapanava, *Kompleks archiealahičnych pomnikaŭ Kastyki ŭ viarchoujach Vilii*, Minsk 2019, pp. 55–104.

of audiences, from schoolchildren to local museum staff, local government representatives and specialists in the field of tourism.

A separate field of activity to popularize knowledge about the burial sites was the purposeful work on the visual reconstruction of the structure and the original appearance of the investigated barrows, as well as the reconstruction of the clothes and a set of jewellery of the people buried in them. The aim of this work was not only to create a certain visual language that could be used in museum exhibitions, popular publications and travel brochures, but also to change public attitudes towards barrows and to create a stable idea of the importance of preserving both the barrows themselves and the neighbouring territories and landscapes in which barrow cemeteries are located.

Conclusion or main results and prospects of research

The main result of the cycle of studies of the burial sites of the 1st – early 2nd millennium in the Upper Vilija region, carried out by our research team in 2012–2021, was a periodization of the development of the burial rite of the population of the region.

Period 1 covers the 3rd quarter of the 1st millennium. At present, the known burial sites of this period are extremely few, which allows us to state with certainty that the local population of the Bancaraŭščyna culture buried their dead according to the rite of cremation both in burial mounds and in flat graves.

Period 2 is associated with the spread of the sites of the Smolensk-Polack Long Barrow Culture (annalistic Kryvičy) in the Upper Vilija region and can be dated with some confidence from the last quarter of the 1st millennium, or more precisely from the 8th (?) or 9th century to the beginning or 1st half of the 11th century. The customary rite of burial for the cremated relatives of this ethno-cultural group was the construction of barrows. At the same time, it is obvious that the *Kryvičy*, who inhabited the region of the Upper Vilija, also practised a flat grave cremation rite. It is possible that between the burial traditions of the 1st and 2nd periods, certain intermediate or transitional horizons may be identified in the future.

Period 3 (Old Russian period) is characterized by the spread of inhumations in barrows in the Upper Vilija region. The beginning of the period is the very beginning of the 11th century, although it is possible that some of the earliest inhumations in the region took place at the very end of the 10th century. The tradition of inhumations in barrows continued until the end of the 12th century, and in some places barrows over the bodies of the dead were still being used in the 1st half of the 13th century.²²

The most promising areas of research should be identified:

- **firstly**, the further study of the already known flat grave cremation cemeteries and the search for new ones. This type of site is currently of exceptional interest, since its identification and systematic study will allow us to form a fundamentally new idea of the burial rituals of the population of the region in the 2nd half of the 1st millennium;
- **secondly**, a detailed scientific processing and publication of all available archival sources and museum collections from the excavations of burial sites in the Upper Vilija region, which will allow us to establish a detailed chronology of the development of burial rites and a typology of various categories of grave goods of the local population during the 2nd half of the 1st – 1st centuries of the 2nd millennium;
- **thirdly**, a detailed analysis of the available anthropological collections, using both traditional methods of physical anthropology and modern methods such as DNA and isotope analyses.²³

²² M. Plavinski, *Slavianskija pachavaŭnyja pomniki Vierchniaha Pavillia epochi Siaredniaviečča: materyjaly i dasliedavanni*, Minsk 2022, pp. 111–112.

²³ V. Haponava, A. Kots, M. Lucas, M. Both, P. Roberts, 'Medieval and early modern diets in the Polack region of Belarus: A stable isotope perspective', *PLoS ONE* 2022, 17 (10), online: [tinyurl.com/4vahffp3](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0244443).

Mikalai Plavinski, PhD

Lecturer of the Department of Medieval and Early Modern Archeology of the Faculty of Archeology of the University of Warsaw. Since the late 1990s, has been involved in excavations of archaeological sites in different regions of Belarus. Since 2004, has been leading an archaeological studying of the burial sites and settlement of the Slavic-Baltic borderlands of the second half of the 1st – beginning of the 2nd millennium AD in the north-west of Belarus. The main area of research is the archeology of the Polack Land, the study of the Slavic burial rite of the early Middle Ages, the history of medieval Eastern European weapons.

dr Mikalai Plavinski

Adiunkt w Katedrze Archeologii Średniowiecza i Nowożytności Wydziału Archeologii Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego. Od końca lat 90. zaangażowany w wykopaliska na stanowiskach archeologicznych w różnych regionach Białorusi. Od 2004 roku prowadzi badania obrządku pogrzebowego i osadnictwa pogranicza słowiańsko-bałtyjskiego z drugiej połowy I – początku II tysiąclecia n.e. w północno-zachodniej części Białorusi. Jego główne zainteresowania badawcze to archeologia ziemi połockiej, obrządek pogrzebowy Słowian we wczesnym średniowieczu oraz historia średniowiecznej broni wschodnioeuropejskiej.

Viktoryia Tarasevich, MA

Archaeologist, MA in history. Since 2012 participated in archeological expeditions as a volunteer and assistant in different regions of Belarus. From 2017 to 2020, she led research on archaeological sites in Miadzel District, Minsk Region, Belarus. The main area of research is the female jewelry attire (Kryvičy), study of burial sites 500 - ~1100 AD, the history of Belarusian archaeological science. In 2024, started PhD studies at the University of Warsaw.

mgr Viktoryia Tarasevich

Archeolożka, magister historii. Od 2012 roku uczestniczyła jako wolontariuszka i asystentka w wykopaliskach w różnych regionach Białorusi. W latach 2017–2020 prowadziła badania na stanowiskach archeologicznych w rejonie miadzielskim (obwód miński na Białorusi). Jej głównymi zainteresowaniami badawczymi są biżuteria kobieca Krywiczów z okresu od 500 do około 1100 roku n.e. oraz historia białoruskiej archeologii. W 2024 roku rozpoczęła studia doktorskie na Uniwersytecie Warszawskim.

Viktoryia Makouskaya, MA

Archaeologist, MA in archaeology. Graduated from the Belarusian State University. The main field of research is connected with archaeology of early medieval Eastern Europe, funeral archaeology, archaeology of childhood. In the years 2021–2022 she led the excavations of barrow cemeteries on the territory of the Polack Land (territory of the historical Polack Principality of the Old Rus' period). In 2023, started PhD studies at the University of Warsaw.

mgr Viktoryia Makouskaya

Archeolożka, magister archeologii. Ukończyła Białoruski Uniwersytet Państwowy. Jej głównymi zainteresowaniami badawczymi są archeologia wczesnośredniowiecznej Europy Wschodniej, archeologia funeralna i archeologia dzieciństwa. W latach 2021–2022 prowadziła badania wykopaliskowe na cmentarzyskach kurhanowych na ziemi połockiej (terytorium historycznego księstwa połockiego okresu staroruskiego). W 2023 roku rozpoczęła studia doktorskie na Uniwersytecie Warszawskim.

Bibliography

Cehak-Hołubowiczowa Helena, 'Materiał i zagadnienia cmentarzyska kurhanowego koło wsi Nawry w powiecie postawskim', *Rocznik Archeologiczny* 1937, vol. I, pp. 5–51.

Enukov Vladimir V., *Rannie etapy formirovaniâ smolensko-polockih krivičej*, Moscow 1990.

Haponava Vera, Kots Aliaksei, Lucas Mary, Both Max, Roberts Patrick, 'Medieval and early modern diets in the Polack region of Belarus: A stable isotope perspective', *PLOS ONE* 2022, 17 (10), online: [tinyurl.com/4vahffp3](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0244433).

Kurila Laurynas, 'East Lithuanian Barrows – Burial in the Cradle of Lithuanian Tribes', in: Gintautas Zabiela, Zenonas Baubonis, Eglė Marcinkevičiūtė (ed.), *A Hundred Years of Archaeological Discoveries in Lithuania*, Vilnius 2016, pp. 192–207.

Kurila Laurynas, 'Lietuvių etninė riba rytuose IX–XII a. (1. Archeologijus duomenys)', *Lietuvos archeologija* 2005, vol. 27, pp. 59–84.

Makouskaya Viktoryia A., 'Kurgannyj mogil'nik Kameno-1 v svete novyh issledovanij', in: Maksim I. Bažin et al. (ed.) *Aktual'naâ arheologiâ 6. Materialy meždunarodnoj naučnoj konferencii molodyh učenyh*, Saint Petersburg 2022, pp. 231–234.

Nester A., 'Tajny uročiša Karolin', *Žizn'* 2017, № 3, pp. 8–11.

Plavinski Aliaxandr M., Plavinski Mikalai A., Tarasevich Viktoryia M., 'Raskopki niekropalia Naŭry II u 2017 hodzie', in: Mikalai A. Plavinski, Vital M. Sidarovich (ed.) *Ekspiedycija praciahlasciu ŭ žyccio: zbornik navukovych artykulaŭ pamiaçi Aliaksandra Plavinskaha*, Minsk 2021, pp. 115–161.

Plavinski Mikalai, Stsiapanava Maryia, *Kompleks archiealahičnych pomnikaŭ Kastyki ŭ viarchoŭjach Vilii*, Minsk 2019.

Plavinski Mikalai, 'U pošukach novych pohliadaŭ na historyju kryvičoŭ Bielaruskaha Padzvinnia', *Bielaruskii historyčny časopis* 2020, № 5, pp. 12–18.

Plavinski Mikalai, *Slavianskija pachavaŭnyja pomniki Vierchniaha Pavillia epochi Siaredniaviečča: materyjaly i dasliedavanni*, Minsk 2022.

Plavinski Mikalai, 'Dasliedavanni kompleksa archiealahičnych pomnikaŭ Hury Vilejskaha rajona Minskaj voblasti ŭ 2021 hodzie', XXXVII Lubelska Konferencja 'Badania archeologiczne w Polsce śródkowowschodniej, zachodniej Białorusi i Ukrainie', 7–8 November 2022, summaries of papers presented, Lublin, 2022, pp. 56–57.

Plavinskij Nikolaj A., 'Kurgannyj mogiŭnik Navry v Verhov'ah Vilii (po materialam raskopok 2012 i 2015 godov)', *Arheologija i istorija Pskova i Pskovskoj zemli. Seminar imeni akademika V. V. Sedova: Materialy 62-go zasedaniâ*, Vyp. 32, 2017, pp. 320–340.

Plavinskij Nikolaj A., *Raskopki kurgannogo nekropolâ Navry I v 2017 godu*, "Arheologija i istorija Pskova i Pskovskoj zemli. Seminar imeni akademika V. V. Sedova: Materialy 64-go zasedaniâ", Vyp. 34. 2019, pp. 286–299.

Plavinskij Nikolaj A., Tarasevich Viktorija N., 'Predvaritel'nye rezul'taty raskopok nekropolâ vtoroj poloviny I tys. n.è. Navry II v kontekste izučeniâ pogrebal'nyh pamâtnikov severnyh regionov Respubliki Belarus', *Kratkie soobšeniâ instituta arheologii*, Vyp. 263, 2021, pp. 298–326.

Plavinskij Nikolaj A., Tarasevich Viktorija N., 'Beskurgannye pogrebeniâ krivičej po materialam nekropolâ Navry II Mâdel'skogo rajona Minskoj oblasti Respubliki Belarus', *Stratum plus* 2022, № 5, pp. 273–301.

Tarasevich Viktorija N., Makouskaya Viktorija A., Plavinskij Nikolaj A., *Issledovaniâ kompleksa arheologičeskich pamâtnikov Navry v 2020 godu*, 'Arheologija i istorija Pskova i Pskovskoj zemli. Seminar imeni akademika V. V. Sedova: Materialy 66-go zasedaniâ', Vyp. 36, 2021, pp. 272–299.

Tyszkiewicz Konstanty, *Wilija i jej brzegi: pod względem hydrograficznym, historycznym, archeologicznym i etnograficznym*, Dresden 1871.

Vojtehovič Andrei V., *Pogrebal'nyj obrâd naseleniâ Polockoj zemli v X–XII vv.*, Minsk 2019.

Zviaruha Jaraslaŭ H., 'Dasliedavanni kurhannyh mohiŭnikaŭ u viarchoŭjach Vilii', *Materyjaly pa archiealahii Bielarusi* 2001, № 3, pp. 173–186.