A WIELBARK CULTURE BARROW IN WOJSZE NEAR OSTROŁĘKA IN COMPARISON WITH OTHER FEATURES OF THAT TYPE IN RIGHT-BANK MAZOVIA AND THE PODLASIE REGION

ABSTRACT


The paper presents research on a Wielbark culture barrow in Wojsze, with the results shown only fragmentarily, as the preserved documentation is incomplete. The analysis involves comparison with other barrow burials from the Roman period in Mazovia and the Podlasie region; for this reason, all such features described in the literature have been catalogued and mapped. To make the analysis more comprehensive, the barrow burials in Mazovia and Podlasie have been compared with mound cemeteries of the Wielbark culture in Pomerania.

Key words: Wielbark culture, Roman period, mound cemeteries, northern Mazovia, Kurpie.

Received: 23.09.2013; Revised: 24.11.2014; Accepted: 16.06.2015

The collections of the Kurpie Museum in Ostrołęka include unpublished material from research into a Wielbark culture barrow in Wojsze. The author came across the material while exploring the museum collections in order to catalogue barrow burials of the Wielbark culture for his PhD thesis Mound Cemeteries of the Goth Circle Cultures prepared at the Section of Ancient Archeology, the Institute of Archaeology, Nicolaus Copernicus Uni-
The village of Wojsze lies approx. 15 km south-east of Ostrołęka. It is located in the Łomża Interfluve mesoregion, approx. 1 km north of the central Orz, a left-bank tributary of the Narew (Kondracki 2002, 187–188).

The barrow was discovered by Stefan Woyda during surface survey in 1972. It was located app. 400 m east of Wojsze, next to a roadside shrine by the road leading to Grodzisk (Fig. 1). The barrow, shaped like a subsided cone, with a diameter of approx. 25 m and more than 2 m high, took up a prominent position surrounded by flat land. On the basis of its shape and size, the feature has been dated to the 1st–4th centuries (Korsak 1985,1). It was researched systematically for nearly six months during five seasons in 1985–1989.
However, the drawing documentation is incomplete, with most of the plans missing. Research diaries contain scarce information, and the results can be reconstructed only in a fragmentary way.

The first excavation, aimed at determining the function and chronology of the feature, was carried out in 1983 by Ewa Łęckowska from the National Centre for Historic Monument Studies and Documentation, and by Juliusz Korsak from the District Museum in Ostrołęka (Łęckowska 1983).

After measurements, the barrow was divided into quarters. A test pit, 13 m long and 2 m wide, was marked out in its south-western quarter (quarter B). Beneath 20 cm of humus, there was stone capping consisting of quite tightly fit stones with yellow sand between them. After the stones were removed, a 60 cm thick layer of clay was documented; beneath it, there was a core layer with slightly bigger stones. Next, the test pit was extended over the whole south-western quarter (B), and a partially preserved circle surrounding the core at a distance of approx. 3 m was uncovered (Fig. 2; Korsak 1985, 1–3). In the next seasons, stone capping was recorded in quarters A, C and D, which led to the conclusion that the original diameter of the barrow was approx. 34 m, and the diameter of the core was approx. 18 m. The circle surrounding the core was approx. 24 m in diameter. In quarters A and D, the stone capping was partially destroyed; empty spaces between the stones were filled with loose sand (Fig. 3, 4). In some sections, the capping consisted of 2 stone layers (Korsak 1986, 2). At the edge of quarter D, in its ceiling, a horse skeleton with

---

*Fig. 2. Wojsze, Ostrołęka district. A plan of a fragment of the core with the surrounding circle (by M. Olszewska and A. Kurpiewski, based on a drawing made presumably by J. Korsak; the Archives of the Provincial Heritage Monuments Protection Office in Warsaw, the Ostrołęka branch)*
one preserved horseshoe was discovered and then dated to the 17th century. In quarter A, an inhumation burial was recorded between the core and the circle. In this paper, the burial is referred to as Grave 1.

Exploration of the core started after the stone capping and a layer of sand and clay mixed with lime, approx. 50–70 cm thick, was removed. The core was built of stones with a diameter of 30–50 cm (Korsak 1988, 2–4); it consisted of 4–5 layers and was up to 170 cm high. In parts, the barrow was 220–230 cm high when measured from the floor of the core to the ceiling of the capping. Before the barrow was built, its base had been levelled and
covered with a layer of daub (Korsak 1989, 1–3). After the daub was removed, a burial pit, approx. 3 m in diameter, with a noticeable looter trench, was uncovered in the centre of the barrow. In this paper, the burial pit is referred to as Grave 2 (the main grave).

**GRAVE 1 (AN INHUMATION BURIAL)**

The burial was deposited along the N–S axis in the supine position, with the legs bent slightly at the knees and the head pointing north. The length of the skeleton was 1.5 m. The grave contained no burial goods (Korsak 1987, 2). Due to the lack of detailed description and drawing documentation of the grave, it cannot be determined whether the burial was related to the Wielbark culture, as might be suggested by the arrangement of the body, or whether it was placed within the barrow at a later time. The author of the research describes the burial first as *added* and then as *inserted*, which may be understood as a secondary burial (Korsak 1987, 3). The Wielbark population re-used barrows constructed by earlier cultures for burials; similarly, features dated to the Roman period were used secondarily from the Middle Ages almost to the present (Jaskanis 1963, 323–328; Skóra 2010a, 40). As the documentation is incomplete, the issue cannot be settled. The research diary describes the grave only superficially. The author notes: “The drawing has not been made because of the rain” (Korsak 1987, 3), and describes the skeleton thus: “[...] the narrow pelvis indicates that this may have been a male burial” (Korsak 1987, 3).

**GRAVE 2**
**(THE MAIN GRAVE; POSSIBLY AN INHUMATION BURIAL)**

Detailed analysis of the burial is impossible due to the incomplete documentation. The burial pit was recorded in the central part of the barrow, below the daub layer on which the stone core was based. Firstly, traces of a looter trench in the form of a circular pit, approx. 3 m in diameter, were observed. The pit started to become rectangular at the depth of approx. 70 cm (there is no information about its size); undisturbed subsoil was noted at the depth of 120 cm (Fig. 5). The fill of the pit contained the following artefacts: a clay spindle whorl, a wild boar’s tusk, pieces of ceramics, fragments of molten bronze, a few burnt bones (there is no information if they were human or animal bones) and large amounts of charcoal and daub.

**Inventory:**
1. A clay biconical spindle whorl, diameter 3.3 cm, height 2.0 cm (Fig. 8: 2).
2. A wild boar’s tusk (sus scrofa), its arc length 11.0 cm; a crosswise graze visible at the end of the tusk (Fig. 8: 3). Analysis of the tusk has been carried out by Prof. Daniel Makowiecki, to whom the author would like to express his gratitude.
3. A fragment of a bowl, group 18B according to Wołągiewicz, diameter 11.0 cm (Fig. 8: 4).

4. Pieces of ceramics coming from several vessels, including two mouths and one bottom (Fig. 8: 5–6). Although the research diary mentions “several dozen” ceramic fragments dated to the Roman period, the author has found only twelve fragments of Wielbark culture vessels in the Kurpie Museum.

5. A lump of molten bronze.

6. An amber bead (missing).

Moreover, the barrow mound contained the following artefacts:

1. A U-shaped iron blade of a shovel, height 22.0 cm, width 23.0 cm (Fig. 8: 1).

2. Jan Kazimierz’s small copper coin from 1663.

3. Stanisław August’s grosz from 1782.

**ANALYSIS OF THE MATERIAL**

One fragment of the mouth of a vessel represents group 18 according to Wołągiewicz, formed by six types of miniature vessels from group 6. The types have the same traits as their larger counterparts (Wołągiewicz 1993, 19). The fragment found in Wojsze belongs to type B, dated to phases B2/C1-D (1993, 26, list 18A-F).

The remaining ceramic fragments are too small or not characteristic enough for their typological identification. There is also no information about the form of the missing amber bead discovered at the surface of the stone capping.

The wild boar’s tusk bears traces of processing, i.e. a crosswise graze or slight sawing, which suggests that it may have been set in something or bound with a leather strap. Pendants made from wild boars’ tusks are not typical Wielbark culture finds (cf. Kurpiewski and Narloch, *in print*, where there is more on the subject).

We do not have detailed information about the place where the iron blade of the shovel was found (Fig. 8:1). According to the records, “during the removal of the mound of the stone capping, an iron coulter was discovered” (Korsak 1986). Presumably, the discoverers mistook it for the blade. The iron blade of the shovel was given to Marek Kołyszko for conservation in 1988 and defined then as “ritually bent sword” (Kołyszko in personal communication,
Sites with the Wielbark culture barrows (identified or presumed) in right-bank Mazovia and Podlasie (based on Jaskanis 1976, 2012; Wołągiewicz 1977, Cieśliński 2013, by A. Kurpiewski). The identified and explored sites are marked in green; the presumed sites of uncertain chronology and the features from the Roman period which have not been confirmed as burial mounds are marked in grey. The number of barrows recorded at each site (the first digit) and the number of the explored features (the second digit) are given in brackets:

1 — Bielawy (1/1), Janowiec Kościelny commune, Nidzica district; 2 — Bogdanki (?), Juchnowiec Kościelny commune, Białystok district; 3 — Bogucin (13/2), Raciaz commune, Płońsk district; 4 — Bogucin, Site I (17/1), Raciaz commune, Płońsk district; 5 — Bogucin, Site II (17/1), Raciaz commune, Płońsk district; 6 — Bogucin, Site III (17/1), Raciaz commune, Płońsk district; 7 — Cecelie (8/8), Siemiatycze commune, Siemiatycze district; 8 — Chalin (6/6), Dobrzyń nad Wisłą commune, Lipno district; 9 — Chyczewo (?), Raciaz commune, Płońsk district; 10/4 — Dmochy Rodzinki (6/3), Czyżew-Osada commune, Wysokie Mazowieckie district; 11 — Drozdowo (17/1), Raciaz commune, Płońsk district; 12 — Dworaki-Pikaty (17/1), Sokoły commune, Wysokie Mazowieckie district; 13 — Dzierzążnia (1/1), loco commune, Płońsk district; 14 — Goździk (4/1), Górzno commune, Garwolin district; 15 — Gralewko Nowe (?), Raciaz commune, Płońsk district; 16 — Grochy Stare, Site I (12/5), Płońsk district; 17 — Grochy Stare, Site II (4/0), Płońsk district; 18 — Jasionowa Dolina (12/6), Janów commune, Sokółka district; 19 — Kitki, Site 1 (2/2), Dwór commune, Mława district; 20 — Kłodzowo (?), Janów commune, Sokółka district; 21 — Kostówka (8/5), Narew commune, Hajanówka district; 22 — Kozłówko (1/1), Kozłówko commune, Nidzica district; 23 — Krzywiec (?), Narew commune, Hajnowski district; 24 — Kurowsko (2/1), Sady (?), Zabłudów commune, Białystok district; 25 — Kutówka (4/4), Narew commune, Hajanówka district; 26 — Łosianka (1/0), Narew commune, Hajanówka district; 27 — Młodochowo Nowe (?), Raciaz commune, Płońsk district; 28 — Pawły (?), Zabłudów commune, Białystok district; 29 — Pielgrzymowo (4/4), Kozłówko commune, Nidzica district; 30 — Poboț (5/5), Zabłudów commune, Białystok district; 31 — Rzepniki (?), Zabłudów commune, Białystok district; 32 — Sady (?), Drohiczyn commune, Siemiatycze district; 33 — Skiwy Małe (10/2), Siemiatycze commune, Siemiatycze district; 34 — Surak (?), Sady (?), Zabłudów commune, Białystok district; 35 — Szpaki (13/1), Wyszki commune, Bielsk Podlaski district; 36 — Śledzie (?), Zambrów commune, Zambrów district; 37 — Teolin (5/1), Janów commune, Sokółka district; 38 — Uśnik (10/1), Śniadowo commune, Łomża district; 39 — Wojęże (1/1), Czerwin commune, Ostrołęka district; 40 — Žeňbok (secondary grave), Ciechanów commune, Ciechanów district.
Fig. 7. Wójcze, Ostrołęka district. Profiles of the barrow. The presumed location of the burial pit according to J. Korsak is marked with a dotted line (by M. Olszewska and A. Kurpiewski, based on the Archives of the Provincial Heritage Monuments Protection Office in Warsaw, the Ostrołęka branch).
Fig. 8. Wojsze, Ostrołęka district. Grave 2. 2, 4–6 — clay, 3 — bone. 
The surface of the stone construction: 1 — an iron item (drawing by E. Szewczyk)
for which I am very grateful). The blade dates most probably from modern times and was lost during the plunder of the barrow or burial of the horse, which, according to the researchers, was placed in the ceiling of the feature in the 17th century. Moreover, Jan Kazimierz’s small copper coin from 1663 and Stanislaw August’s grosz from 1782 have been discovered in an unspecified part of the stone capping.

In its shape, the shovel blade from Wojsze resembles blades from Wolica Brzozowa dated to the period of human migration or blades dated to the early 20th century (Kokowski 2004, 74, fig. 34, Moszyński 1938, 160, fig. 112b, 114). Due to their function, shovel blades from the La Tène period remained unchanged almost to the present day, which makes it impossible to determine the chronology of the find from Wojsze (cf. Chudziak et al. 2011, 199, fig. 3/d; Hensel 1987, 43, 92; Jażdżewski 1981, 464, fig. 159/10; Kokowski 2004, 74, fig. 34; Moszyński 1938, 160, fig. 112b, 114).

Because of the lack of precise chronological indicators, the barrow can only be dated to the younger Roman period.

**BURIAL RITES**

According to the surviving documentation, the barrow covered two inhumation graves. The burial located between the core and the surrounding circle, marked with number 1, should be viewed as a secondary grave. Secondary inhumation graves dug into barrow mounds were not a common practice; they are known only from six cemeteries containing eight burials in total: in Pomerania, Gronowo — Grave 3 in Barrow 10; Leśna — Grave 2 in Barrow 1; Odrów — Grave 3 in Barrow 3, Grave 1 in Barrow 5, Grave 3 in Barrow 23; Węsiory — Grave 2 in Barrow 13; in the Podlasie region, Ceele — Grave 2 in Barrow 5; and Rostolty — Grave 2 in Barrow 4. The inhumation burials within the mounds of the “Pomeranian” barrows from the Bronze Age in Mścislawice and Mojszewko are also worth mentioning (Walenta 1980, 146).

The Wielbark culture population usually deposited cremation burials in the mounds of their barrows. Secondary cremation burials have been recorded at 15 mound cemeteries; in the Podlasie region, at the mound cemeteries in Ceele, Jasionowa Dolina, Kutowa and Skiwy Małe. The greatest number of such burials have been documented in Nowy Łowicz, with 17 secondary cremation burials deposited in 11 barrows (Ciesliński and Kasprzak 2009, 184–185, Hahuła 1992, 54).

While describing the exploration of the main burial pit, Korsak mentions “a few” human bones located on various levels (Korsak 1989, 3). The author has not found those bones in the collections of the Kurpie Museum in Ostrołęka. Korsak does not write anything about the bones being burnt, so it may be assumed that they were remains of an inhumation burial. This also seems to confirmed by the preserved drawings. In the field record, the author has come across Korsak’s sketch of the burial pit with a centrally placed
inhumation burial. The date in the drawing, July 1988, indicates that the sketch is a visualisation of the burial pit, and not its real view, because, according to the research diary, the burial pit was only explored during the excavation in 1989. But the date may also have been written wrongly. Centrally placed single inhumation burials in Mazovia and the Podlasie region are known e.g. from Cecele (Jaskanis 1996, 77–82, 91–92), Dmochy-Rodzonki (Jaskanis 1975, 125–140), Dzierżążnia (Okulicz: 1970, 481; Kurpiewski 2014, 10–15), Goździk (Niewęgłowski 1964, 234–237; 1983, 131–159), Grochy Stare, Site 1 (Rusin 1998, 189–209; 1999, 221–233), Kitki (Okulicz 1965, pl. 94, 95) Pielgrzymowo (von Lau 2012, 23–27) and Rostółty (Jaskanis 2012, 14–37). In general, 24 inhumation burials (33%) and 49 cremation burials (67%) have been discovered so far in barrows in Mazovia and the Podlasie region. For comparison, nearly 150 inhumation burials have been recorded in barrows in Pomerania, which amounts to 56% of burials located within barrows in that area.

**SUMMARY**

The migrating population of the Wielbark culture carried the custom of barrow burials to the south-east in phase B2/C1-C1a. However, the burial rites took on a new quality in the newly occupied area. The literature assigns those barrows to the Rostółty type (Jażdżewski 1939, 16–22, Jaskanis 1976, 215), made up of graves covered by a complex stone and earth mound with a diameter of several to over 50 metres. The barrow consisted of stone capping placed on an earthen mound covering a circular core built of several stone layers. Below the core, there was a centrally located burial pit. In some barrows, the core was surrounded by an additional stone circle (Jaskanis 1976, 228). The barrows were one of the characteristics of the Wielbark culture that distinguished it from other cultures in the *Barbaricum* area. It has been 30 years since Jan Jaskanis (1976), Ryszard Wołągiewicz (1977) and Krzysztof Walenta (1981) catalogued identified barrow burials and attempted their typological description. It is worth mentioning that numerous data about barrows explored in the 20th century has not yet been published or further research is required at those sites. The gap has partly been filled by Jan Jaskanis’ publication of 2012, a summary of his long research into barrows in the Podlasie region, and by the new study of the interesting excavation site in Pielgrzymowo (von Lau 2012). Further, a new study has been published on the archival excavation site in Lubieszewo, which is crucial for the research into barrow burial rites of the Wielbark culture (Schuster 2010), and there have appeared more general publications about the construction of barrows in the Wielbark culture, about flat burials at the cemeteries mentioned here (Cieśliński 2011, 171–186; 2013, 49–84), or about selected issues related to burials within barrows (Cieśliński, Kasprzak 2009, 179–194, Skóra 2010a, 27–43).

The research carried out in recent years has considerably broadened our source base, which necessitates a new approach to the construction of kurgans in the Wielbark culture.
Artur Kurpiewski

(the catalogue of Wielbark culture mound cemeteries compiled by the author of this paper includes 90 excavation sites with 450 features of that type).


In right-bank Mazovia and the Podlasie region, researchers have explored 70 out of 135 Wielbark culture barrows located at 40 excavation sites (Fig. 6).

Not all of the sites mentioned above have been excavated; therefore, their cultural affiliation and chronology remain unclear. Several dozen alleged kurgans from the Roman period in Mazovia and Podlasie have only been noted during surface surveys or inventoried during excavations carried out in other places. The chronology and the cultural context of the barrows have frequently been determined on the basis of their external similarity to kurgans explored earlier, e.g. 31 barrows in Chyczewo, Gralewo Nowe, Młodochowo Nowe in Raciąż commune, Płońsk district, located near a large settlement and sepulchral complex in Bogucin, Płońsk district (Prygała 1983, 117); in Podlasie, the barrows in Bogdanki, Białystok district; Kladzewo, Sokółka district; Łosianka, Hajnówka district (Jaskanis 1958, 155; 1976, 221); Pawły, Białystok district (Jaskanis 1958, 155); Rzepniki, Białystok district (Jaźdżewski 1939, 16; Jaskanis 1958, 155); Suraż, Białystok district (Jaskanis 1958, 155); Sady, Siemiatycze district (Jaskanis 1976, 223); and Śledzie, Zambrów district (Kempisty 1965, 84; Jaskanis 1976, 224). Of course, the sites listed above should be verified in the field; some of the kurgans may now be completely destroyed. It is worth stressing that the site in Teolin, mentioned already eighty years ago, has been dated to the Roman period only on the basis of its appearance. The same concerns the site in Grochy Stare (Jakimowicz 1923, 212–213; Jaskanis 1976, 220–222). Rusin’s excavations in both places have confirmed that chronology.

The barrows in Mazovia and Podlasie form several concentrations (Fig. 8). The most westward group of the barrows consists of sites located on the central Wkra river, limited by the Raciążnica and the Plonka, its tributaries. This group includes the sepulchral complex in Bogucin, the barrows in Drozdowo and Dzierzążnia, and more than 30 barrows in Chyczewo, Gralewo Nowe and Młodochów Nowy, whose relationship with the Wielbark culture is yet uncertain. Further to the north-east, the sites in Kozłówka, Pielgrzymów, Bielawy and Kitki on the lower Wkra, Orzyc and Łydynia mark the north-western boundary of the Rostołty type barrows. Further to the east, across the Omulew, the Rozoga and the Szkwa, the right-bank tributaries of the Narew, there are neither mound nor flat cemeteries (Andrzejowski 2007, 243, fig. 1). The barrow in Wojsze lies to the east, on the Orz across the Narew; it is adjacent to the Wielbark culture flat cemeteries in Tomasze and Rostki.
Further to the east lie the sites in Uśnik, Śledzie and Dmochy-Rodzonki. The largest concentration of barrows is situated nearer to the central Narew, in Dworaki-Pikuty, Grochy Stare and Szpaki, all located on the left bank of the river, while the cemeteries in Bogdanki, Pawły, Rzępniki and Rostolty (the place which has given name to the whole type of the burial mounds) are located on the right side of the river. Back on the left side of the Narew, close to the river itself, there are several barrows in Kotłówka, Krzywiec, Kuraszewo, Kutowa and Łosianka, which mark the eastern boundary of the Wielbark culture mound cemeteries; the north-eastern boundary is delimited by the sites in Jasionowa Dolina, Teolin, Kładzewo, and the southern boundary — by the sites in Cecele, Skiwy Małe, possibly in Sady on the Bug river, and in Goździki with their isolated mound cemetery located outside the compact area taken up by the Rostolty type barrows.

While analysing the barrow burials in right-bank Mazovia and Podlasie, it is worth mentioning the necropolis in Chalin, explored 150 years ago. The site, located in the Dobrzyń Land, is the most westward cemetery in that area. The barrows in Chalin do not represent the Rostolty type; they have a different form: their mounds were constructed without stones (their only element built from stones is the surrounding circle; Zieliński 1874, 86–93), and different chronology (the mound cemetery in Chalin has been dated to phase B2). However, the site merits mentioning for another reason. Following Zieliński (1874, 88–89), the literature on the subject states that 6 barrows discovered at the site contained 2 pit graves, 2 urn graves and 2 skeletons deposited next to each other in one barrow, presumably in one pit (Hahula 1988, 99; Skóra 2010b, 805). Detailed analysis of Zieliński’s text suggests that the inhumation burial or burials may have been a secondary grave of the Wielbark culture or, which is more probable, they were placed within the mound much later than the Roman period. Zieliński’s words “[…] after more than half an hour of work, at the depth of over two ells, we have finally discovered traces of a corpse […] it was oriented from the east to the west”, indicate that the burials were discovered approx. 100–120 cm below the top of the barrow. It seems that the layer which had originally constituted the basis for the mound was not identified at that level; beneath it, there could have been a clear outline of the burial pit (sic!). It also appears from Zieliński’s text that it was not until more barrows were “explored” that the following remark was made: “[…] in yellow gravel sand [i.e. undisturbed subsoil] […], there were traces of black earth made from cinders ashes, […] further, pieces of urns or whole urns” (Zieliński 1874, 88–89). It is worth stressing that the burials were placed along the E-W axis, contrary to the rules accepted in the Wielbark culture. Their orientation may point to medieval or modern methods of burial.

Burial mounds appeared in that area along with the first groups of the Wielbark culture population in phases B2/C1-C1a, and they ceased to be constructed in the early phase of the human migration.

The barrows in Mazovia and Podlasie differed in many respects from the Pomeranian barrows. Some elements of the burial rites typical of the mound cemeteries in Pomerania
were no longer used at the newly established necropolises. The barrows were not accompanied by other stone structures, e.g. circles surrounding them, common at the Pomera-
nian cemeteries. The mound cemeteries in zone E were usually situated outside flat necropolises, except the cemeteries in Dzierzążnia, Goździk, Kutowa and Kitki. However, this conclusion may yet change, because the area between the barrows has not been explored fully at most of the sites. Surface surveys indicate putative flat burials e.g. in Uśnik, Ło-
sianka, Jasonowa Dolina (Budzyński 1886, 160; Jaskanis 1976, 221) and Bielawy (Michal-
ski 2001). The barrow in Kozłówek is also assumed to be situated at the edge of a flat cemetery (Heydeck 1892, 171–178, Woźniak 2011, 197). The eponymous site in Cecele is of particular significance, because its 8 barrows delimit the northern and southern bounda-
ries of a flat cemetery with over 550 graves. It is an exceptional place both in Mazovia and Podlasie, where the mound cemeteries were smaller than those in Pomerania. The Po-
meranian cemeteries often consisted of several dozen barrows, e.g. in Gronowo, 30 bar-
ture cemetery identified until now, with 67 barrows (Hahula 1990, 37–54; Cieśliński and Kasprzak 2009, 191, fig. 1). In zone E, mound cemeteries consisted usually of several graves, with the largest cemetery, encompassing 13 barrows, documented in Szpaki (Rusin 2005, 36–41; 2009, 295–308), while 12 barrows have been recorded in Grochy Stare, Site 1 (Rusin 1998, 189–209; 1999, 221–233), and Jasonowa Dolina (Jaskanis 1958, 153–157; 1976, 221–222; 2012, 67–103).

Depositing more than one burial under the mound of a barrow was rare. Two burials under one mound have been documented in Barrow 1 in Kutowo, Kurgan 3 in Pielgrzym-
wo, Barrow 2 in Skiwy Małe and probably Barrow 1 in Szpaki, while the practice has been noted at almost all large cemeteries in Pomerania. In the area discussed here, there are no mounds built exclusively of earth, such as those in Gronowo, Leśno, Nowy Kraków or Nowy Łowicz in Pomerania.

The custom of building secondary graves within the mounds of older barrows has been recorded very seldom as well, but this may be caused by the smaller number of such graves in Mazovia and Podlasie. The only burial of that type is known from Zeńbok, Ciechanów district (Dąbrowski 1957, 158–159).

References

A Wielbark culture barrow in Wojsw near Ostrołęka in comparison...


Cieśliński A. 2013. The Presence of Flat Graves at the Burial Mound Cemeteries of the Wielbark Culture in Northern and Eastern Poland. Wiadomości Archeologiczne 64, 49–84.


