

Artur Kurpiewski*

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

Kurpiewski A. 2015. A Wielbark culture barrow in Wojsze near Ostrołęka in comparison with other features of that type in right-bank Mazovia and the Podlasie region. *Sprawozdania Archeologiczne* 67, 259–276.

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The collections of the Kurpie Museum in Ostrołęka include unpublished material from research into a Wielbark culture barrow in Wojsze.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-

* Institute of Archaeology, Nicolaus Copernicus University, Szosa Bydgoska 44/48, 87-100 Toruń, Poland; artur.kurpiewski@wp.pl

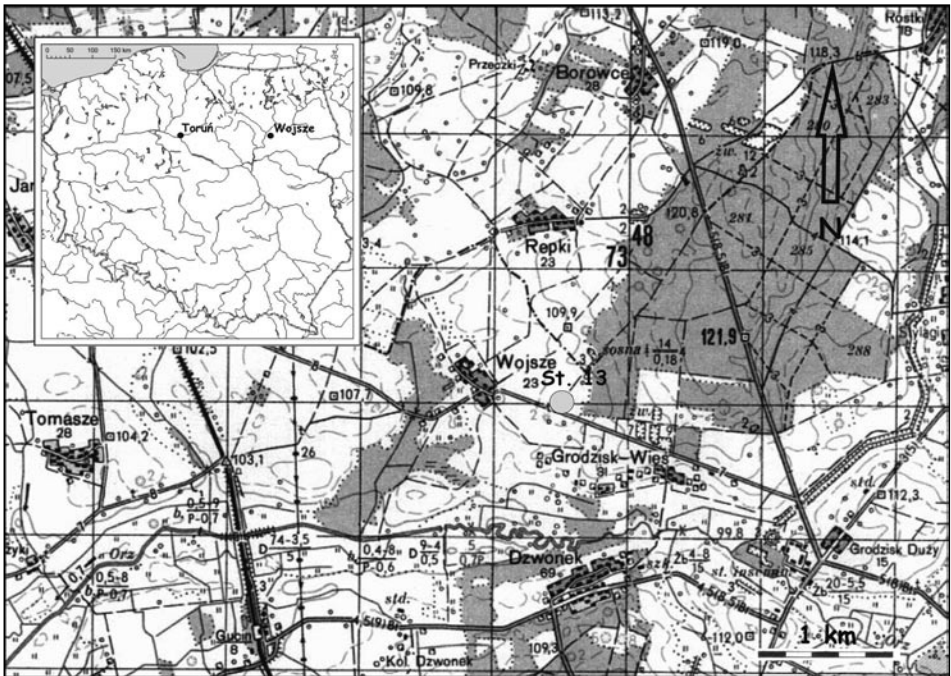


Fig. 1. Wojsze, Ostrołęka district, the location of Site 13. A map to a scale of 1:50000 (by A. Kurpiewski)

versity, under the academic supervision of Prof. Mariusz Mielczarek. The material recovered from the barrow in Wojsze is stored at the Kurpie Museum in Ostrołęka, while the documentation of the research is kept at the Provincial Conservation Office in Warsaw, the Ostrołęka branch. Results of the research have only been mentioned in the *Archaeology Guide* (1985–1987). The author would like to express his gratitude to Maria Samsel, the director of the Kurpie Museum in Ostrołęka, for giving him access to the material, and to Elżbieta Olejek from the Provincial Conservation Office in Warsaw, the Ostrołęka branch, for making the documentation available for study.

The village of Wojsze lies approx. 15 km south-east of Ostrołęka. It is located in the Łomża Interfluvium 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

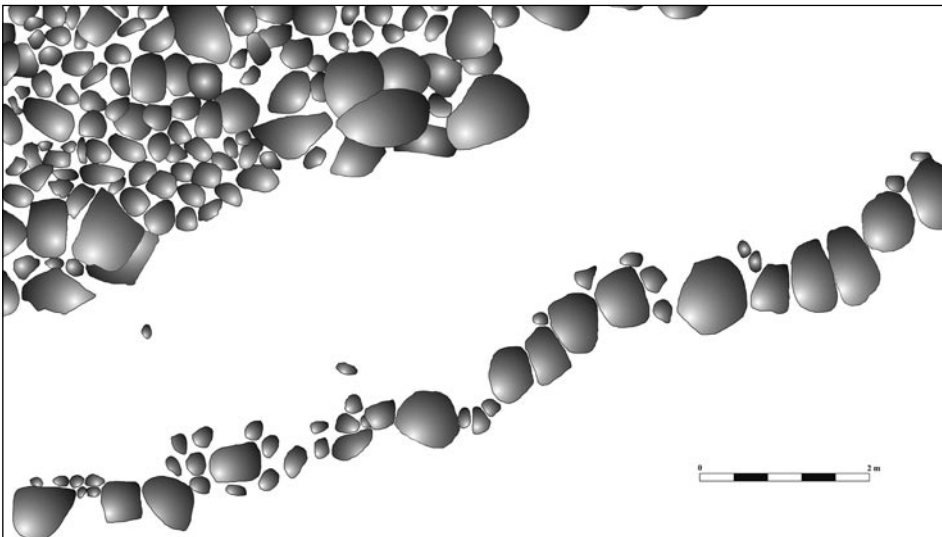


Fig. 2. Wojsze, Ostrołęka district. A plan of a fragment of the core with the surrounding circle (by M. Olszewska and A. Kurpiewski, based on a drawing made presumably by J. Korsak; the Archives of the Provincial Heritage Monuments Protection Office in Warsaw, the Ostrołęka branch)



Fig. 3. Wojsze, Ostrołęka district. The remains of the stone construction in quarter D (north-east)
(photo from the Archives of the Kurpie Museum in Ostrołęka)



Fig. 4. Wojsze, Ostrołęka district. The remains of the stone construction in quarter D (north-east)
(photo from the Archives of the Kurpie Museum in Ostrołęka)

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 Mako-wiecki, to whom the author would like to express his gratitude.

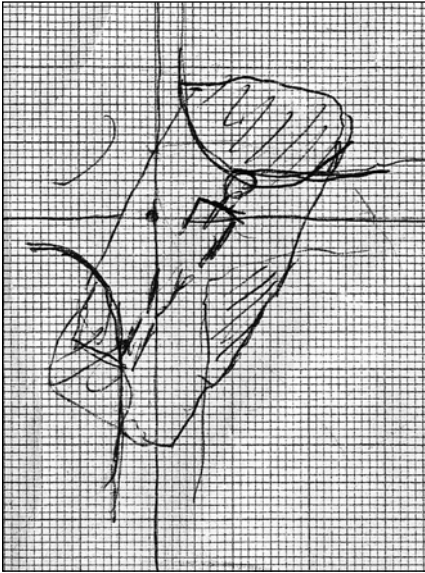


Fig. 5. Wojsze, Ostrołęka district. A plan of the putative burial pit by J. Korsak, the Archives of the Provincial Heritage Monuments Protection Office in Warsaw, the Ostrołęka branch

3. A fragment of a bowl, group 18B according to Wołagiewicz, 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 Wołagiewicz, formed by six types of miniature vessels from group 6. The types have the same traits as their larger counterparts (Wołagiewicz 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,

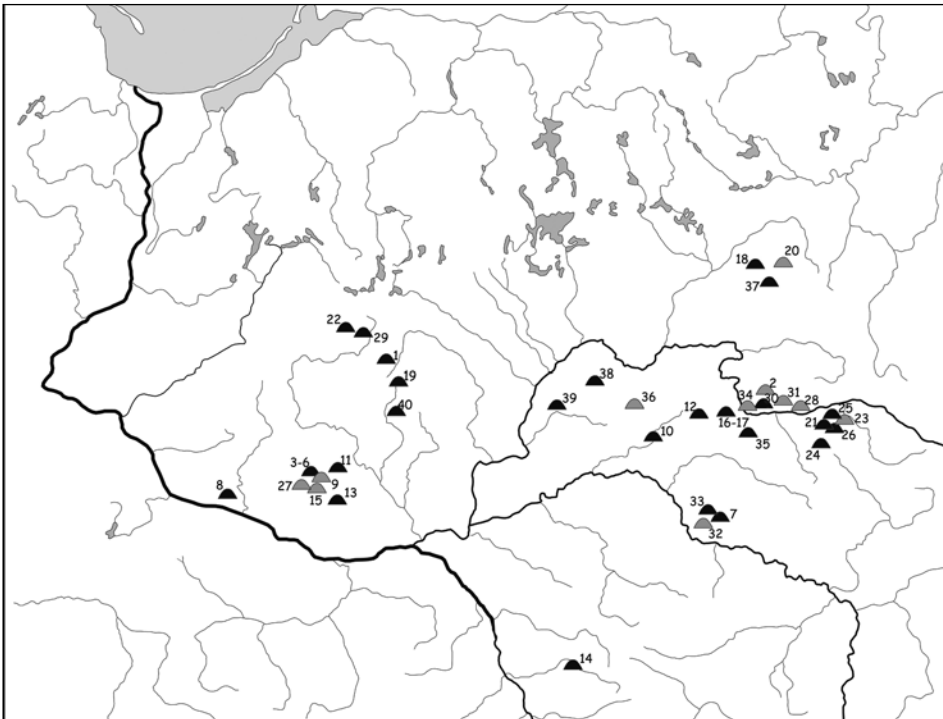


Fig. 6. Sites with the Wielbark culture barrows (identified or presumed) in right-bank Mazovia and Podlasie (based on Jaskanis 1976, 2012; Wołagiewicz 1977, Ciesliński 2013, by A. Kurpiewski). The identified and explored sites are marked in green; the presumed sites of uncertain chronology and the features 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), Raciąż commune, Płońsk district; 4 — Bogucin, Site I (1?/1), Raciąż commune, Płońsk district; 5 — Bogucin, Site II (1?/1), Raciąż commune, Płońsk district; 6 — Bogucin, Site III (1?/1), Raciąż commune, Płońsk district; 7 — Cecele (8/8), Siemiatycze commune, Siemiatycze district; 8 — Chalin (6/6), Dobrzyń nad Wisłą commune, Lipno district; 9 — Chyczewo (?), Raciąż commune, Płońsk district; 10/4 — Dmochy Rodzonki (6/3), Czyżew-Osada commune, Wysokie Mazowieckie district; 11 — Drozdowo (1?/1), Raciąż commune, Płońsk district; 12 — Dworaki-Pikaty (1?/1) Sokółka commune, Wysokie Mazowieckie district; 13 — Dzierżążnia (1/1), loco commune, Płońsk district; 14 — Goździk (4/1), Górzno commune, Garwolin district; 15 — Gralewo Nowe (?) Raciąż commune, Płońsk district; 16 — Grochy Stare, Site I, (12/5), Poświętne commune, Białystok district; 17 — Grochy Stare, Site VII (4/0), Poświętne commune, Białystok district; 18 — Jasionowa Dolina (12/6), Janów commune, Sokółka district; 19 — Kitki, Site 1 (2/2), Dzieżgowo commune, Mława district; 20 — Kładzewo (?), Janów commune, Sokółka district; 21 — Kotłówka (8/5), Narew commune, Hajnówka district; 22 — Kozłówek (1/1), Kozłowo commune, Nidzica district; 23 — Krzywiec (?), Narew commune, Hajnowski district; 24 — Kuraszewo (2/1), Czyże commune, Hajnówka district; 25 — Kutowa (4/4), Narew commune, Hajnówka district; 26 — Łosianka (1/0), Narew commune, Hajnówka district; 27 — Młodochowo Nowe (?), Raciąż commune, Płońsk district; 28 — Pawły (?), Zabłudów commune, Białystok district; 29 — Pięłgrzymowo (4/4), Kozłowo commune, Nidzica district; 30 — Rostoly (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 — Suraz (?), loco 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 — Wojsze (1/1), Czerwin commune, Ostrołęka district; 40 — Zenbok (secondary grave), Ciechanów commune, Ciechanów district

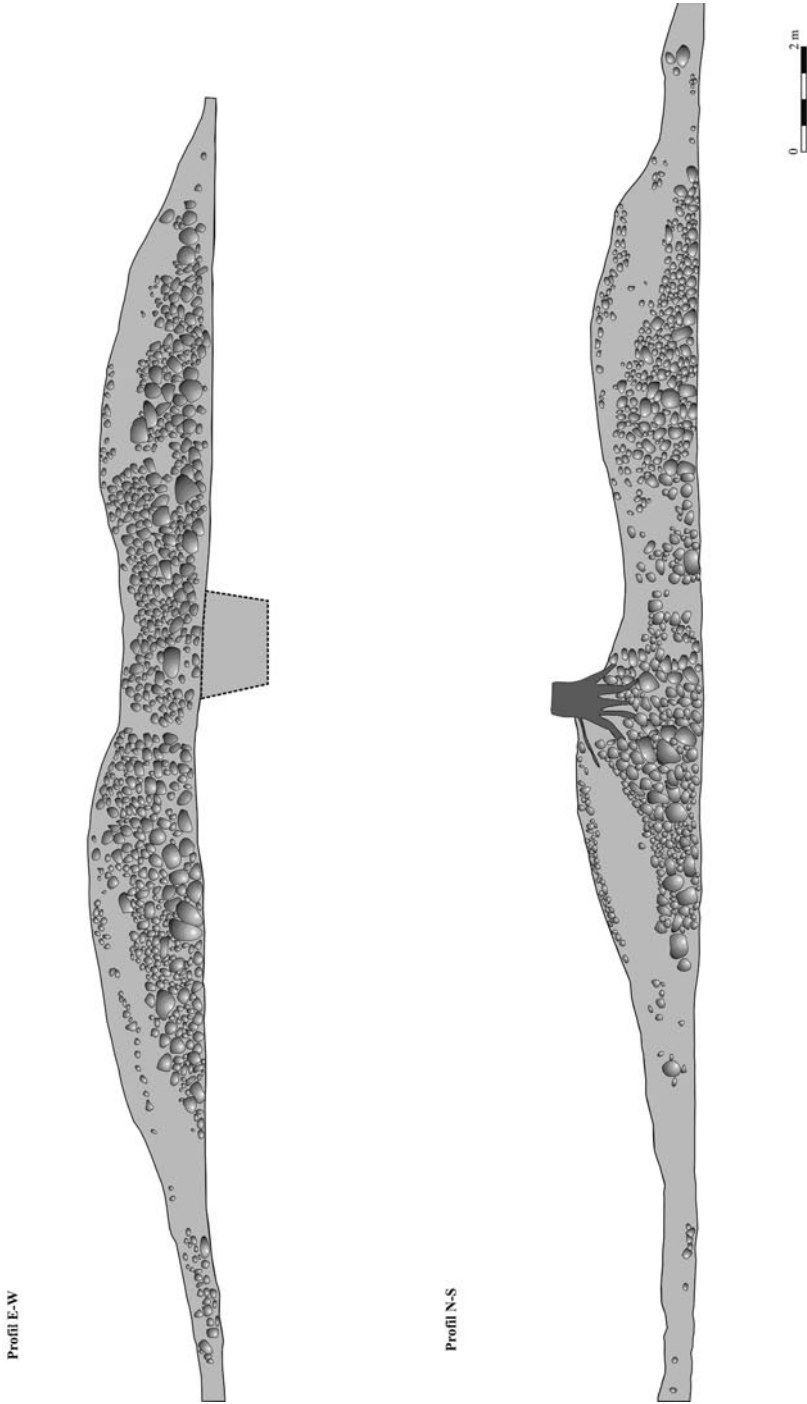


Fig. 7. Wojsze, Ostrołęka district. Profiles of the barrow. The presumed location of the burial pit according to J. Korsak is marked with a dotted line (by M. Olszewska and A. Kurpiewski, based on the Archives of the Provincial Heritage Monuments Protection Office in Warsaw, the Ostrołęka branch)

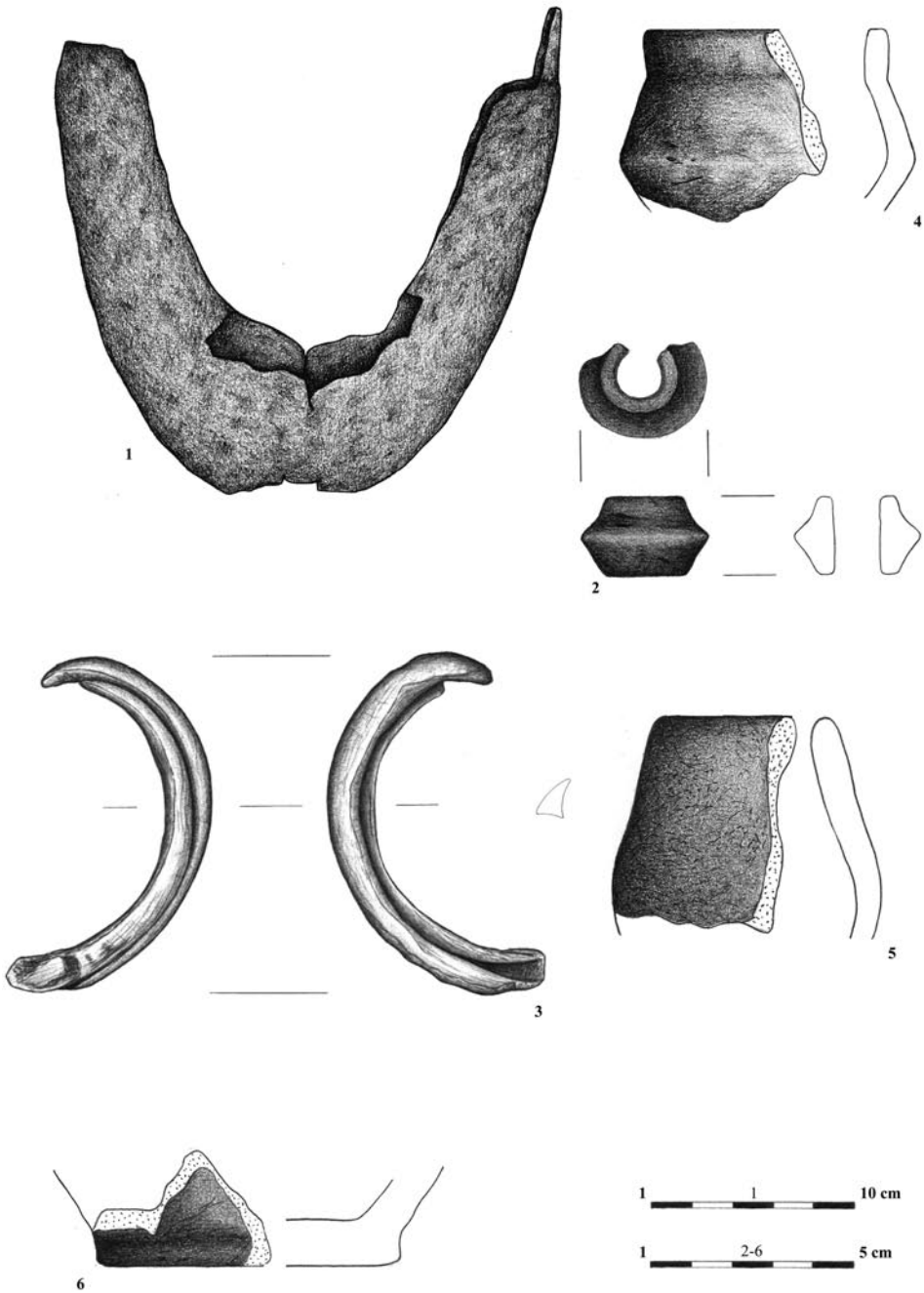


Fig. 8. Wojsze, Ostrołęka district. Grave 2. 2, 4-6 — clay, 3 — bone.
 The surface of the stone construction: 1 — an iron item (drawing by E. Szewczyk)

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 Stanisław 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, Cecele — Grave 2 in Barrow 5; and Rostoły — Grave 2 in Barrow 4. The inhumation burials within the mounds of the “Pomeranian” barrows from the Bronze Age in Mściszewice 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 Cecele, 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 have 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 be 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 visualization 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 (Niewęłowski 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 Rostoły (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 Rostoły 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 Wołagiewicz (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

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

First, the research into the Pomeranian mound cemeteries in Leśno (Walenta 2009) and Nowy Łowicz (Hahula 1990, 37–54; 1991, 197–209; 1992, 53–68; 1994, 131–148; Hahula and Cieśliński 2003, 211–234; Cieśliński and Kasprzak 2006, 107–121; 2009, 179–194), with nearly 80 explored barrows, should be mentioned. In the Podlasie region, exploration is now carried out in Grochy Stare, Szpaki and Teolin, where 29 barrows have been recorded in total (Rusin 1998, 189–209; 1999, 221–233; 2005, 36–41; 2009, 295–308; Jaskanis 2012, 9).

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; Kładzewo, Sokółka district; Łosianka, Hajnówka district (Jaskanis 1958, 155; 1976, 221); Pawły, Białystok district (Jaskanis 1958, 155); Rzepniki, Białystok district (Jażdżewski 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 Płonka, its tributaries. This group includes the sepulchral complex in Bogucin, the barrows in Drozdowo and Dzierżążnia, 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 Kozłówek, 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, Rzepniki and Rostoły (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 Rostoły 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 Rostoły 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 (Hahuła 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 Pomeranian cemeteries. The mound cemeteries in zone E were usually situated outside flat necropolises, except the cemeteries in Dzierżążnia, Goździak, 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, Łosianka, Jasionowa Dolina (Budzyński 1886, 160; Jaskanis 1976, 221) and Bielawy (Michalski 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 boundaries 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 Pomeranian cemeteries often consisted of several dozen barrows, e.g. in Gronowo, 30 barrows (Wołagiewicz 1973, 129–167; 1974, 7–29; 1976, 71–97; 1977, fig. 40, 97); Węsiory, 20 barrows (Kmieciński *et al.* 1968, 39–122); Odry, 29 barrows (Kmieciński *et al.* 1968; Grabarczyk 1995, 33–45; 1997, 36–82, 108–207; 2007, 5–23); Nowy Kraków, 25 barrows (Garczyński 1956, 113–124; Hahula 1994, 131); or Nowy Łowicz, the largest Wielbark culture 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 Jasionowa 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 Pielgrzymowo, 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

- Andrzejowski J. 2007. Pod wodzą Filimera, czyli wielbarsecy osadnicy na Mazowszu i Podlasiu. In M. Fudziński and H. Paner (eds.), *Nowe materiały i interpretacje. Stan dyskusji na temat kultury wielbarskiej*. Gdańsk: Muzeum Archeologiczne w Gdańsku, 229–258.

- Budzyński A. 1886. Badania archeologiczne w Ziemi Łomżyńskiej. *Notatnik Łomżyński* 35, 151–168.
- Cieśliński A. 2011. Grabhügel der Wielbark-Kultur – Gemeinschafts-Familien- und Eliten-grabmäler. Einführung in die Problematik. *Archäologie in Schleswig* 14 (= *Sonderband Det 61. Internationale Sachsensymposion 2010 Haderslev*), Neumünster: Museum Sfinderjylland, 171–186.
- 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.
- Cieśliński A. and Kasprzak A. 2006. Cmentarzysko w Nowym Łowiczu w świetle najnowszych badań. Kurhan 29. In W. Nowakowski, J. Borkowski, A. Cieśliński and A. Kasprzak (eds.), *Goci i ich sąsiedzi na Pomorzu. Materiały z konferencji, Koszalin 28–29 października 2005* (= *Koszalińskie Zeszyty Muzealne, Seria A: Studia Archaeologica Pomoranica* 2), Koszalin, 107–121.
- Cieśliński A. and Kasprzak A. 2009. Ciekawy aspekt obrządku pogrzebowego kultury wielbarskiej w Nowym Łowiczu (powiat drawski). Groby wtórne na przykładzie kurhanu 26. In A. Janowski, K. Kowalski and S. Słowiński (eds.), *XVI Sesja Pomoroznawcza vol. 1, 22–24. 11. 2007 r. Szczecin*, (= *Studia Archaeologica Pomoranica* 3), Szczecin: SNAP O/ Szczecin, Muzeum Narodowe w Szczecinie, Muzeum w Stargardzie, 179–194.
- Cieśliński A., Kasprzak A. and Stasiak Z. 2011. Nowy Łowicz st. 2, woj. zachodniopomorskie. Badania w latach 2009 i 2010. *Światowit* 49 (B), Warszawa, 229–232.
- Chudziak W., Kaźmierczak R. and Niegowski J. 2011. *Podwodne dziedzictwo archeologiczne Polski. Katalog stanowisk (badania 2006–2009)*. Toruń: Wydawnictwo Fundacji Amicus Universitatis Nicolai Copernici.
- Dabrowski J. 1958. Groby z okresu rzymskiego w miejscowości Zeńbok, pow. Ciechanów. *Wiadomości Archeologiczne* 25 (1–2), 158–159.
- Garczyński W. 1956. Kurhan z okresu rzymskiego z Nowego Krakowa w pow. Sławieńskim. *Materiały Zachodniopomorskie* 2, 113–124.
- Hahula K. 1988. Kultura wielbarska na Ziemi Dobrzyńskiej. In J. Gurba and A. Kokowski (eds.), *Kultura wielbarska w młodszym okresie rzymskim I*, Lublin: Wydawnictwo UMCS, 87–103.
- Hahula K. 1990. Nowy Łowicz – cmentarzysko kurhanowe z okresu wpływów rzymskich. *Koszalińskie Zeszyty Muzealne* 18, 37–54.
- Hahula K. 1991. Cmentarzysko z młodziej epoki brązu i z okresu wpływów rzymskich w Nowym Łowiczu na Pojezierzu Drawskim. *Rocznik Koszaliński* 22, 197–209.
- Hahula K. 1992. Dalsze badania w Nowym Łowiczu, kurhan 63. *Koszalińskie Zeszyty Muzealne* 19, 53–68.
- Hahula K. 1994. Cmentarzysko kultury wielbarskiej w Nowym Łowiczu na Pojezierzu Drawskim w świetle dotychczasowych badań (kurhany 52 i 56). In J. Okulicz-Kozaryn and W. Nowakowski (eds.), *Barbaricum* 3, Warszawa: Instytut Archeologii Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego, 131–148.
- Hahula K. and Cieśliński A. 2003. Sprawozdanie z badań wykopaliskowych na cmentarzysku z okresu rzymskiego w Nowym Łowiczu, powiat Drawsko Pomorskie, latach 2000–2001. Kurhan 34. In M. Fudziński and H. Paner (eds.), *XIII Sesja Pomoroznawcza, vol. 1: Od epoki kamienia do okresu rzymskiego*, Gdańsk: Muzeum Archeologiczne w Gdańsku, 211–234.

- Heydeck J. 1892. Das Gräberfeld von Kl. Koslau, Kr. Neidenburg. *Prussia* 17, 171–178.
- Hensel W. 1987. *Słowiańszczyzna Wczesnośredniowieczna*. Warszawa: Państwowe Wydawnictwo Naukowe.
- Jaskanis D. 1958. Kurhan z okresu wędrówek ludów w miejscowości Jasionowa Dolina, pow. Sokółka. *Wiadomości Archeologiczne* 25 (1–2), 153–157.
- Jaskanis J. 1963. Wyniki badań kurhanu w Kuraszewie, pow. Hajnówk. *Rocznik Białostocki* 4, 323–338.
- Jaskanis J. 1968. Badania kurhanu z okresu rzymskiego w Skiwach, pow. Siemiatycze. *Rocznik Białostocki* 8, 407.
- Jaskanis J. 1973. Wyniki badań kurhanów z okresu rzymskiego w Skiwach Małych, pow. Siemiatycze. *Sprawozdania Archeologiczne* 25, 173–181.
- Jaskanis J. 1975. Badania kurhanów z okresu rzymskiego w Dmochach-Rodzonkach, pow. Wysokie Mazowieckie. *Sprawozdania Archeologiczne* 27, 125–140.
- Jaskanis J. 1976.
Kurhany typu rostolckiego (z badań nad kultura wschodniopomorsko-mazowiecka z późnego podokresu rzymskiego we wschodniej Polsce). In K. Godłowski (ed.), *Kultury archeologiczne i strefy kulturowe w Europie Środkowej w okresie wpływów rzymskich (= Zeszyty Naukowe Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego 22)*, Warszawa — Kraków: Instytut Archeologii Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego, 215–252.
- Jaskanis J. 1996. *Cecele. Ein Gräberfeld der Wielbark-Kultur in Ostpolen (= Monumenta Archaeologica Barbarica 2)*, Kraków: Instytut Archeologii i Etnologii PAN.
- Jaskanis J. 2012. *Kurhany wodzowskie kultury wielbarskiej na Podlasiu*. Białystok: Muzeum Podlaskie w Białymstoku.
- Jażdżewski K. 1939. O kurhanach nad górna Narwią i hutnikach sprzed 17 wieków. *Z Otchłani Wieków* 14, 1–22.
- Jażdżewski K. 1981. *Pradzieje Europy Środkowej*. Wrocław: Ossolineum.
- Kempisty A. 1965. Obrządek pogrzebowy w okresie rzymskim na Mazowszu. *Światowit* 26, 5–163.
- Kmieciniński J., Blombergowa M. and Walenta K. 1966. Cmentarzysko kurhanowe ze starszego okresu rzymskiego w Węsiorach w pow. Kartuskim. *Prace i Materiały Muzeum Archeologicznego i Etnograficznego w Łodzi* 12, 39–122.
- Kmieciniński J., Kajzer L. and Walenta K. 1968. *Odry, cmentarzysko z okresu rzymskiego w powiecie chojnickim (= Acta Archaeologica Lodziensia 15)*. Łódź: Łódzkie Towarzystwo Naukowe.
- Kokowski A. 2007. *Goci. Od Skandzy do Campi Gothorum*. Warszawa: Trio.
- Kokowski A. 2004. Kultura Przeworska — zarys dziejów. In A. Kokowski and Ch. Leiber (eds.), *Wandalowie strażnicy bursztynowego szlaku*, Lublin — Warszawa: Wydawnictwo UMCS, 25–85.
- Kondracki J. 2002. *Geografia Regionalna Polski*. Warszawa: Państwowe Wydawnictwo Naukowe.
- Korsak J. 1985. *Sprawozdanie z badań archeologicznych w Wojszach sezon 1985*. Ostrołęka, (typescript in Archives of the Provincial Heritage Monuments Protection Office in Warsaw, Delegation in Ostrołęka).
- Korsak J. 1987. *Dziennik badań — Wojsze 1987*. Ostrołęka (typescript in Archives of the Provincial Heritage Monuments Protection Office in Warsaw, Delegation in Ostrołęka),

- Korsak J. 1988. *Sprawozdanie z badań archeologicznych na stanowisku nr 13 – kurhan w Wojszach w sezonie 1988*. Ostrołęka (typescript in Archives of the Provincial Heritage Monuments Protection Office in Warsaw, Delegation in Ostrołęka).
- Korsak J. 1989. *Dziennik badań wykopaliskowych. Wojsze 1989*. Ostrołęka (typescript in Archives of the Provincial Heritage Monuments Protection Office in Warsaw, Delegation in Ostrołęka).
- Kurpiewski A. 2014. Kurhan czy kurhany z okresu rzymskiego z Dzierżąni koło Płońsk. *Nasze Korzenie* 6, 10–15.
- Kurpiewski A. and Narloch K. *In print*. Zagadkowy obiekt kultury wielbarskiej na stanowisku 23 w Złotorii koło Torunia. *Pomorania Antiqua* 24.
- Łęneckowska E. 1983. *Sprawozdanie z badań archeologicznych kurhanu w miejscowości Wojsze, gm. Czerwin*. Ostrołęka (typescript in Archives of the Provincial Heritage Monuments Protection Office in Warsaw, Delegation in Ostrołęka).
- Michalski J. 2001. Kurhan kultury wielbarskiej na st. IV w Bielawach, gm. Janowiec Kościelny, woj. warmińsko-mazurskie. *Warmińsko-mazurski biuletyn konserwatorski* 3, 50–84.
- Moszyński K. 1938. *Kultura ludowa Słowian* 1. *Kultura materialna*, Kraków: Polska Akademia Umiejętności.
- Niewęgłowski A. 1964. Ogólne wyniki i problematyka badań stanowisk z okresu późnolateńskiego i rzymskiego w okolicach Garwolina. *Wiadomości Archeologiczne* 30, 229–243.
- Niewęgłowski A. 1983. Dwa cmentarzyska z okresu rzymskiego w Goździku, gm. Browie, woj. Siedlce. *Sprawozdania Archeologiczne* 35, 131–159.
- Prygała J. 1983. Bogucin. *Informator Archeologiczne* 17, 117.
- Rusin K. 1997. Wstępne wyniki badań dwóch kurhanów z późnego okresu rzymskiego w Grochach Starych, gm. Poświętne, woj. Białostockie. In J. Ilkjær and A. Kokowski (eds.), *20 lat archeologii w Masłomęczu*, Lublin: Wydawnictwo UMCS, 189–209.
- Rusin K. 1999. Sprawozdanie z badań kurhanów 1–4 w Grochach Starych, gmina Poświętne, stan. 1. *Biuletyn Konserwatorski Województwa Podlaskiego* 5, 221–233.
- Rusin K. 2005a. Sprawozdanie z badań wykopaliskowych kurhanu nr 1 w Szpach, gm. Wyszki, woj. podlaskie. *Podlaskie Zaszty Archeologiczne* 1, 36–41.
- Rusin K. 2005b. Kurhan nr 5 w Grochach Starych stan. 1, gm. Poświętne, woj. Podlaskie. Wstępne wyniki badań. *Biuletyn Konserwatorski Województwa Podlaskiego* 11, 214–227.
- Rusin K. 2008. Grave of Wielbark culture from the Younger Roman Period under barrow no 1 in Szpaki, Wyszki commune, Bielsk Podlaski district, Podlasie voivodship. In B. Niezabitowska-Wiśniewska, M. Juściński, P. Łuczkiwicz and S. Sadowski (eds.), *The turbulent epoch. New materials from late roman period and migration period*, Lublin: Wydawnictwo UMCS, 295–308.
- Schuster J. 2010. *Lübsow. Älterkaiserzeitliche Fürstengräber im nördlichen Mitteleuropa (= Bonner Beiträge zur Vor- und Frühgeschichtlichen Archäologie* 12). Bonn: Friedrich-Wilhelms Universität.
- Skóra K. 2010a. Intruz w kurhanie? O pochówkach wtórnych w obrzędowości pogrzebowej kultury wielbarskiej i przeworskiej (= *Acta Archaeologica Lodziensia* 56). Łódź: Łódzkie Towarzystwo Naukowe, 27–43.

- Skóra K. 2010b. Przyczynek do badań nad podwójnymi grobami szkieletowymi w obrzędowości pogrzebowej kultury wielbarskiej. In A. Urbaniak, R. Prochowicz, I. Jakubczyk, M. Levada and J. Schuster (eds.), *Terra Barbarica. Studia ofiarowane Magdalenie Mączyńskiej w 65. rocznicę urodzin* (= *Monumenta Archaeologica Barbarica. Series Gemina* 2), Łódź – Warszawa: Instytut Archeologii Uniwersytetu Łódzkiego, Fundacja Uniwersytetu Łódzkiego, Fundacja Monumenta Archaeologica Barbarica, Państwowe Muzeum Archeologiczne, 791–808.
- Walenta K. 1981. *Obrządek pogrzebowy na Pomorzu w okresie późnolateńskim i rzymskim*. (= *Archeologia Baltica* 5). Łódź: Katedra Archeologii Uniwersytetu Łódzkiego.
- Walenta K. 2009. *Leśno i mikroregion w okresie rzymskim*, Chojnice: Muzeum Historyczno-Etnograficzne w Chojnicach.
- Wołągiewicz R. 1973. Gronowo 1973. Badania na cmentarzysku kurhanowym z okresu wpływów rzymskich. *Materiały Zachodniopomorskie* 19, 129–167.
- Wołągiewicz R. 1974. Gronowo 1974. Badania na cmentarzysku kurhanowym z okresu wpływów rzymskich. *Materiały Zachodniopomorskie* 20, 7–30.
- Wołągiewicz R. 1976. Cmentarzysko kurhanowe kultury wielbarskiej w Gronowie w świetle badań w latach 1973–1976. *Materiały Zachodniopomorskie* 22, 71–95.
- Wołągiewicz R. 1977. *Kręgi kamienne w Grzybnicy*. Koszalin: Muzeum Okręgowe w Koszalinie.
- Wołągiewicz R. 1981. Kultura oksywska i wielbarska. In J. Wielowiejski (ed.) *Prahistoria Ziemi Polskich* 5. *Późny okres lateński i okres rzymski*. Wrocław: Ossolineum, 5–178.
- Wołągiewicz R. 1993. *Ceramika kultury wielbarskiej między Bałtykiem a Morzem Czarnym*. Szczecin: Muzeum Narodowe.
- Woźniak M. 2011. Cmentarzysko kultury wielbarskiej w KozłóWKu, pow. nidzicki (d. Klein Koslau, Kreis Neidenburg) w świetle publikacji i materiałów archiwalnych. *Wiadomości Archeologiczne* 62, 169–208.