

9. LAKE GOŚCIAŻ: RECORD OF HUMAN IMPACT ON NATURAL ENVIRONMENT SINCE MESOLITHIC TILL TODAY



9.1. PREHISTORIC AND EARLY HISTORIC ANTHROPOGENIC CHANGES RECORDED IN THE LAKE GOŚCIAŻ SEDIMENTS

9.1.1. ARCHAEOLOGIC EVIDENCE OF PREHISTORIC SETTLEMENT IN THE AREA NEAR LAKE GOŚCIAŻ

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Systematic archaeological researches on the prehistoric settlement near Lake Gościąg began in 1990. The territory of 10 km radius around Lake Gościąg was a basic area of investigations. As the first step, all data about the oldest excavations, surface surveys, and accidental discoveries were collected (Głosik 1962). The results of the Archaeological Surface Survey of Poland (ASS) have also been included (Figs 9.1–9.5, Tab. 9.1).

Within the basic area a smaller zone of 5 km in radius around Lake Gościąg was intensively investigated. No archaeological sites were known from this zone before our investigations. The area in question was examined several times by the systematic surface surveys. Numerous sites from the Late Palaeolithic to Modern time were discovered. In order to define precisely the chronology of the occupation of this area and to complete the information about the settlement system, several sites assumed to be representative of different periods were excavated. The main aim of all the archaeological investigations near Lake Gościąg was to describe the relationships be-

tween the prehistoric settlements and the economy, as well as the changes of the natural environment recorded in the annually laminated sediments of Lake Gościąg (Ralska-Jasiewiczowa & van Geel 1992).

Late Palaeolithic remains

During the excavations of the sites Gościąg 11 and 12 (Fig. 9.2), remains of Late Palaeolithic encampments were found. Small assemblages of flint artefacts confirm the penetrations of the area around Lake Gościąg in this period. The Late Palaeolithic flint assemblages consist of several double platform blades and leave points. No traces of any settlement places were found at these sites. The lack of diagnostic tools caused difficulties with precise chronological interpretation of the sites. The leave points suggest the Sviderian Culture.

The Mesolithic

18 Mesolithic sites concentrated in two groups were discovered in the area studied (Fig. 9.2). One group consisting of 5 sites is located in the zone along the edge of the Lakes Na Jazach valley. The other site concentration was found in the dunes extended along the Vistula valley. 47 sites found in the Lake Gościąg surroundings are represented by very poor assemblages or even single flint artefacts. It is very probable that the majority of those sites belong to the Mesolithic period too.

Beside the old investigations at Wistka Szlachecka (Schild et al. 1975) several Mesolithic sites were excavated by the authors during the 1990–1994 field seasons. Five of them are located in the upland zone and in the valley of Na Jazach lake complex. The majority of those sites appeared to be heavily destroyed. The site Gościąg 11 (Fig. 9.1) is the only one containing the primary pattern of flint artefacts suggesting the tool processing practised on the spot. Flint assemblages from the particular sites were rather poor. The biggest assemblage contained several hundred artefacts. In addition various Neolithic potsherds and/or Palaeolithic flint artefacts were found at many sites.

Numerous Mesolithic sites were also found in other parts of the Gostynińskie Lake District. The geographical

Table 9.1. Prehistoric sites in the Lake Gościąg region.

Cultures	Numbers of sites
Mesolithic	18
Undefined (Stone Age)	47
Funnel Beaker Culture	27
Comb Pitted Culture	4
Epibeaker Horizon	1
Globular Amphora Culture	2
Corded Ware Culture	1
Early Bronze Age	25
Lusatian Culture	59
Przeworsk Culture	28

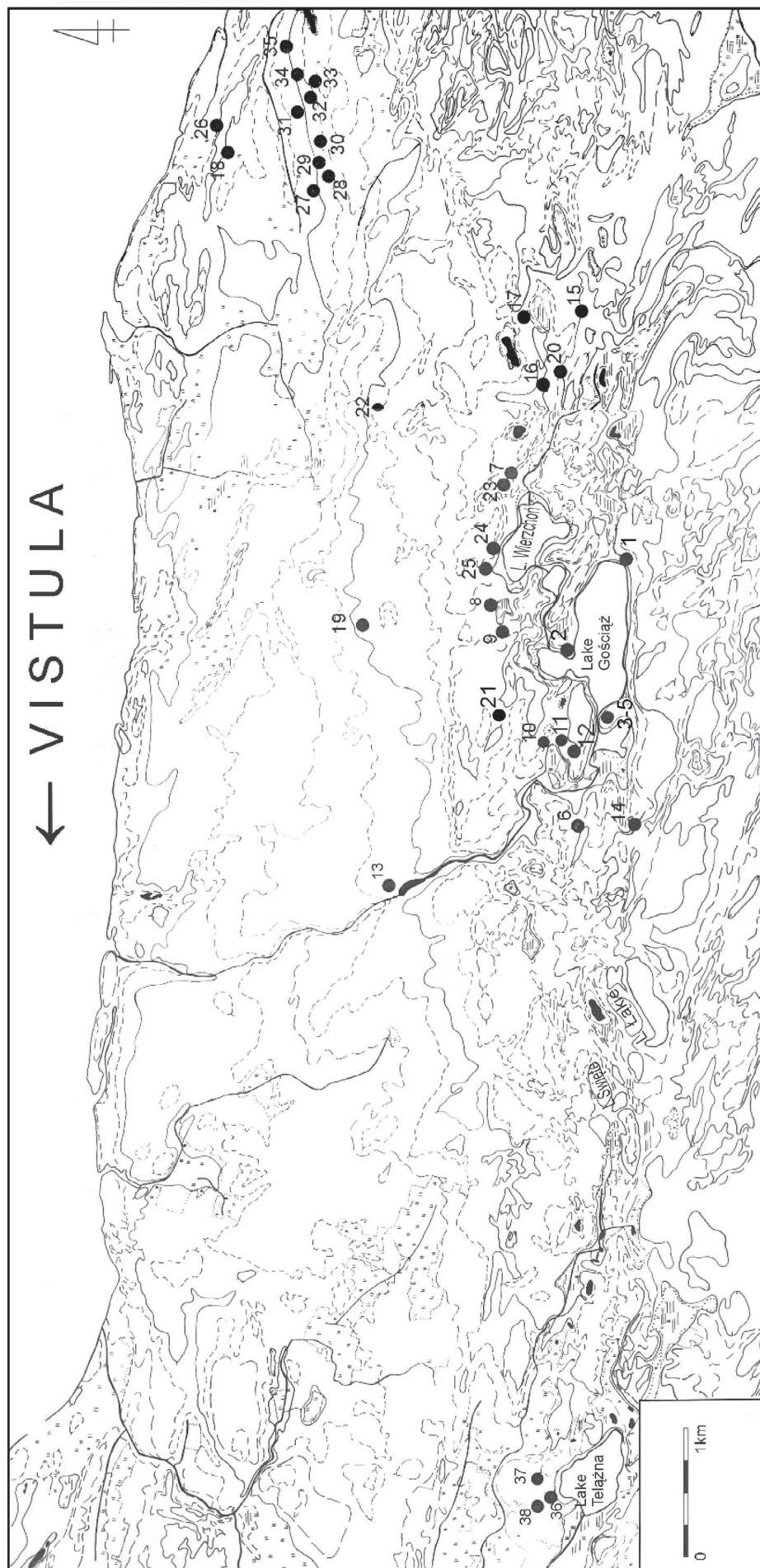


Fig. 9.1. Prehistoric sites in the Lake Gościąg region (found by A. Pelisiak & M. Rybicka). 1 – Gościąg, site 1 – Stone Age (undefined); 2 – Gościąg, site 2 – Medieval Period; 3–5 – Gościąg, sites 3–5 – Stone Age (undefined), Lusatian Culture (?), Przeworsk Culture (?), Modern Times; 6 – Gościąg, site 6 – Modern Times; 7 – Gościąg, site 7 – Funnel Beaker Culture, Comb-Pitted Culture; 8 – Gościąg, site 8 – Mesolithic; 9 – Gościąg, site 9 – Stone Age (Mesolithic); 10 – Gościąg, site 10 – Stone Age (Mesolithic); 11 – Gościąg, site 11 – Late Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Bronze Age (Trzciniec Culture); 12 – Gościąg, site 12 – Late Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Funnel Beaker Culture, Comb-Pitted Culture, Epibeaquer; 13 – Gościąg, site 13 – Medieval, Modern Times; 14 – Gościąg, site 14 – Stone Age (undefined); 15 – Gościąg, site 15 – Stone Age (undefined); 16 – Gościąg, site 16 – Stone Age (undefined); 17 – Gościąg, site 17 – Stone Age (undefined); 18 – Gościąg, site 18 – (Skoki Duże) – Mesolithic; 19 – Gościąg, site 19 – Stone Age (undefined); 20 – Gościąg, site 20 – Modern Times; 21 – Gościąg, site 21 – Stone Age (undefined); 22 – Gościąg, site 22 – Stone Age (undefined); 23 – Gościąg, site 23 – Lusatian Culture; 24 – Gościąg, site 24 – Bronze Age (Trzciniec Culture/Lusatian Culture); 25 – Gościąg, site 25 – Stone Age (undefined); 26 – Gościąg, site 26 (Skoki Duże) – Mesolithic; 27 – Dąb Polski, site 9 – Funnel Beaker Culture; 28 – Dąb Polski, site 1 – Lusatian Culture, Modern Times; 29 – Dąb Polski, site 2 – Funnel Beaker Culture, Modern Times; 30 – Dąb Polski, site 3 – Medieval Period; 31 – Dąb Polski, site 4 – Stone Age (undefined), Modern Times; 32 – Dąb Polski, site 5 – Funnel Beaker Culture, Modern Times; 33 – Dąb Polski, site 6 – Funnel Beaker Culture, Modern Times; 34 – Dąb Polski, site 7 – Early Bronze Age, Medieval Period; 35 – Dąb Polski, site 8 – Funnel Beaker Culture, Modern Times; 36 – Telązna Leśna, site 12 – Przeworsk Culture; 37 – Telązna Leśna, site 13 – Funnel Beaker Culture; 38 – Telązna Leśna, site 14 – Mesolithic.

situation of the sites located in the area near Lake Gościąg reflect the rules that characterize the settlements of the Mesolithic cultures in the whole Gostynińskie Lake District (Galiński 1988) as well as in the Kaszuby Lake District (Bagniewski 1987).

Up till recent time almost all studies on the Mesolithic Period in Poland were directed to typological analysis of flint assemblages, chronological and cultural classification, and cultural connections or differentiations. Studies on the settlements, economy, and analyses of relations among settlement, economy, and environment are very rare. Changes of the natural environment caused by hunters-gatherers-fishermen populations were described from the British Isles (Innes & Simmons 1988). Some attention to these problems has also been paid in Poland during recent decades (Bogucki 1988, Latałowa 1992b). However, these papers do not present any analysis of the Mesolithic settlement systems based on archaeological data in connection with the interpretation of pollen diagrams. Poor archaeological background to the considerations on anthropogenic origin of environmental changes recorded in pollen diagrams makes difficult the satisfactory interpretation of these changes in prehistoric terms. In addition, none of the Mesolithic microregions was studied according to modern palaeogeographical methods (Bogucki 1988). In spite of these deficiencies some general trends in land use by Mesolithic people are clear. The hunter-gatherer-fisher groups mostly inhabited dunes or other sandy places near lakes or on river terraces. The last systematic archaeological surveys revealed highly clustered concentrations of Mesolithic sites in many parts of the Polish Lowlands (Bogucki 1988). All are located in places such as mentioned above. Many thousands of flint artefacts found in particular sites suggest that these dwelling places were inhabited during long periods of time or were periodically inhabited many times. Concentrations of sites may suggest relative stabilisation of settlements in the Late Mesolithic. All these concentrations are connected with sandy zones. The Mesolithic sites are almost lacking in the loess and fertile zones in Kujavia. Single flint artefacts found within these zones show only rare penetration but never occupation and exploitation by hunter-gatherer-fishermen populations.

Basing on mentioned discoveries near Lake Gościąg it is difficult to reconstruct the precise chronology of the Mesolithic settlements there. Two main techno-typological groups of artefacts can be described. The first one is connected with production of single-platform microblade cores and utilization of regular microblades and their fragments for the production of tools. Local flint and chocolate flint raw materials were used. The artefacts made of regular microblades refer to the classic Mesolithic Komornica and Chojnice-Pieńki cultures. The artefacts of the second techno-typological group were made

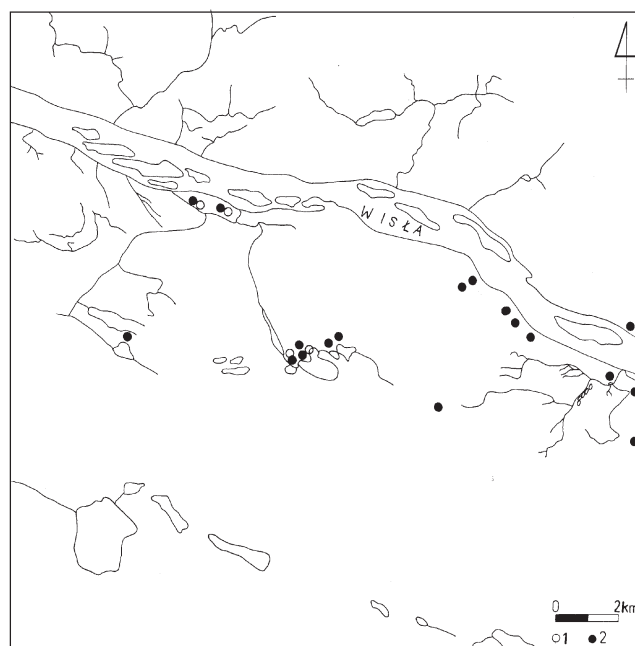


Fig. 9.2. Palaeolithic and Mesolithic sites in the Lake Gościąg region. 1 – Palaeolithic, 2 – Mesolithic.

mainly from local flint. Blades are not regular. It can be supposed that such blades were made of multi-directional cores. This group can be connected with assemblages of the Wistka Szlachecka Type (Schild et al. 1975). There are two possibilities for the interpretation of these flint assemblages. According to the first one these assemblages may represent several different chronological phases of settlement. The second one is that typological differentiation of artefacts reflects a specific technological type of the Mesolithic near Lake Gościąg. It is difficult to answer these questions, but the general observations of the sites suggest the first interpretation rather. According to this supposition there were two main phases of the Mesolithic occupation of the area near Lake Gościąg. The first one could be placed within an old and/or middle Atlantic period, the second one could be referred to the late Atlantic period.

The general chronology of the Mesolithic settlements near Lake Gościąg can be connected with the disturbances of the natural environment described on the basis of pollen diagram from G1/87 profile (samples 150–176; 8000–6650 cal BP = 7300–5800 ^{14}C BP; Ralska-Jasiewiczowa & van Geel 1992, and Chapter 9.2.4). These changes can be considered in terms of the settlements and hunter-gatherer-fisher economy of the Mesolithic people who lived near Lake Gościąg.

The Neolithic

Within a radius of 10 km around Lake Gościąg 35 Neolithic sites were found. Materials of the Funnel Beaker Culture (FBC) occur at 27 sites, the so-called Comb-

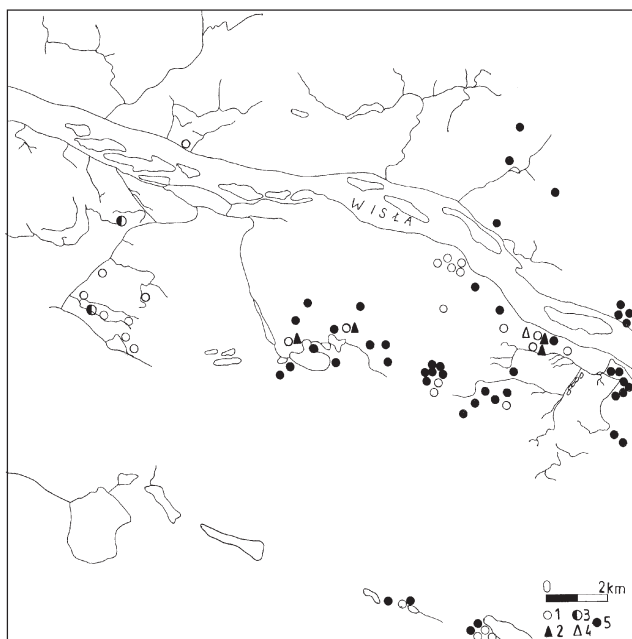


Fig. 9.3. Neolithic sites in the Lake Gościąg region. 1 – Funnel Beaker Culture, 2 – Comb-Pitted Pottery Culture, 3 – Globular Amphorae Culture, 4 – Corded Ware Culture, 5 – Stone Age (undefined).

Pitted Pottery Culture at 4 sites, the Corded Ware Culture at 1 site, and 2 sites were defined (by ASS researchers) as belonging to the Globular Amphorae Culture. No remains of the Early Neolithic Linear Pottery or Lengyel Cultures were discovered near Lake Gościąg. The last observation is very important for the interpretation of the oldest phases of disturbance of the natural environment. It should be emphasized that such poor habitats as those surrounding Lake Gościąg were very rarely and only temporarily settled by communities of Danubian Circle Cultures. Those cultural groups have occupied and used only very fertile loess or clay soils. The nearest known settlements of Danubian Circle Cultures are located near Brześć Kujawski about 30 km to the west of Lake Gościąg (Grygiel 1984). These sites are situated on the morainic plateau, outside the sandy Płock Basin (Madska, Chapter 2.2). Because of the distance the economy of those communities could not influence directly the natural environment near Lake Gościąg. These data and the distribution of Mesolithic sites near Lake Gościąg support strongly the thesis about the Mesolithic rather than Neolithic people being responsible for the disturbances of the natural environment dated between 7050–6650 cal BP (6200–5800 ^{14}C BP; samples 168–176).

The Funnel Beaker Culture settlement

27 Funnel Beaker Culture (FBC) sites have been found in the area of a 10 km radius around Lake Gościąg. Two of them are located very near the Na Jazach lake complex (Fig.9.3). These sites (Gościąg 7 and 12, Fig. 9.1) are situated on the sands within the transition zone

between the glacial terrace surface and the lake depression. The results of the excavations may suggest that the sites were only small short-time encampments. No remains of FBC dwellings were recovered. Potsherds and flint artefacts are not numerous. The chronology of these sites can be placed within the Wiórecka Phase of the FBC (Pelisiak & Rybicka 1998).

Seven sites of FBC were discovered near Dąb, about 1.5–2.5 km NE of Lake Gościąg (see Fig. 9.6). These encampments are situated on the terrace of the old Vistula River bed.

The other concentration of FBC sites was discovered near Lake Telągna 4–5 km west of Lake Gościąg (see Fig. 9.6). One of them was excavated in 1993. This settlement, as other sites of this group, belongs to the Wiórecka phase of the FBC.

No sites of the oldest Sarnowo Phase of FBC were found in the investigated area. It should, however, be stressed that some site of this FBC phase were also found in the Gostynińskie Lake District. One of them (Helonów, site 1 – Papiernik & Rybicka, in print) is located in a ca. 30 km distance to the south-east of Lake Gościąg. It is not unlikely that people of FBC Sarnowo phase penetrated or even exploited the surroundings of Lake Gościąg. Potsherds that might be referred to the Luboń Phase were discovered at the site near Dąb. It should be taken into consideration, however, that the potsherds found during the surface survey often bear not enough typical features, and on the basis of such material it is difficult to define precisely the chronology of sites.

Some questions concerning the settlement patterns and system of economical exploitation of particular landscape zones by FBC communities arise from the results of the analysis of the distribution of the FBC sites. It seems that the poor sandy terrains very close to the Lake Gościąg were not permanently settled by the FBC populations. Remnants of encampments found here show that this zone was penetrated and probably temporarily exploited by the FBC people, but the permanent settlements were connected with the more fertile clay soils around Telągna.

Similar relations between FBC settlements and natural environments were also found in the other parts of the Polish Lowlands. In the Kujavia, the large FBC settlements were located on the dunes or different sand soils, but the sites were surrounded by fertile soils. Such relations were recognized there at Pikutkowo (Niesiołowska 1967), Opatowice, and Radziejów Kujawski (Koško & Szmyt 1993 Rybicka 1995), where FBC settlements situated on sandy hills were surrounded by clays, which form the substratum of fertile Kujavian black soils. However, the short-time FBC sites are often situated within areas where sands dominate. Good example of this pattern are the sites from Bachorza valley (Kujavia): encampments at Dęby (Czebreszuk & Szmyt 1992) and Papros (Koško

1987). Location of FBC settlements near an area of relatively fertile soils is confirmed in the Grabia Basin, Sieradzkie province (Pelisiak 1991) as well as in the other parts of Central Poland (Pelisiak 1988).

Such relationships between FBC settlement and natural environments must have been determined by the economic preferences, first of all by the conditions suitable to the slash-and-burn farming method, and to the formation of good pastures.

General chronology of FBC in the investigated area provided the chronology for disturbances of the natural environment represented by samples 181–200 (6400–5200 cal BP = 5560–4500 ^{14}C BP).

Settlement of so-called Comb-Pitted Pottery Culture

Remains of the so-called Comb-Pitted Pottery Culture (Kempisty 1972, 1973) were discovered at four sites (Fig. 9.3). Two of them (Gościąż 7 and 12, Fig. 9.1) are located in the northern transition zone between the glaci-fluvial terrace and Na Jazach lakes valley. Both sites were excavated. At Gościąż 7 a small encampment was recovered. The CPC assemblage consists of several dozen potsherds and flint artefacts. At Gościąż 12 remains of a relatively long-time settlement occurred. This rich assemblage consists of almost 700 potsherds and more than 400 flint artefacts (Pelisiak & Rybicka 1998).

It should be added that CPC sites are often situated in places where the Mesolithic flint artefacts were also found. Similar relations between CPC and Mesolithic sites were stated in different parts of Polish Lowland (Kempisty & Sulgostowska 1976, Bagniewski 1983). In contrast in the Gostynińskie Lake District encampments of CPC are located at the same sites as FBC. It is however not always possible to define the chronologic relationships between those cultures. It is also difficult to reconstruct the economy of the communities of these cultures in the area studied. On the basis of the locations of CPC encampments near lakes it is supposed that fishing and gathering was a base of the economy for these communities (Wiślański 1979). It should be emphasized that the settlement at Gościąż 12 is located less than 100 meters from the present shore of Lake Mielec, and its history should be clearly recorded in the sediments of that lake.

Chronology of the Gościąż 12 site was defined on the basis of pottery ornamentation. This material refers to the Linin Type (Kempisty 1973), and the chronology of the settlement can be estimated at 4450–4250 ^{14}C BP. Considering the location of the site and its chronology, there is strong probability that the disturbances of the natural environment found by pollen samples 203–209 dated at 5050–4750 cal BP (4500–4150 ^{14}C BP) were mainly caused by CPC people from the settlement recorded at Gościąż 12 site.

The Epibeaquer Horizon

A small concentration of potsherds of so-called Epibeaquer Horizon (Koško 1981) was also found at the site Gościąż 12 (Fig. 9.1 and Pelisiak & Rybicka 1998). This material can be interpreted as the remains of a small encampment. It indicated the youngest phase of Neolithic occupation of the area near Lake Gościąż. The age of this encampment can be estimated within a period of 4250–4050 ^{14}C BP. Such chronology refers also to the phase of human impact distinguished in samples 203–209.

The Early Bronze Age

There were 21 Early Bronze Age (EBA) sites discovered in the area within a 10 km radius of Lake Gościąż (Fig. 9.4), most of them located near the old Vistula River valley about 5–7 km north-east of Lake Gościąż. Two sites are located close to the Na Jazach lake complex. The first small encampment is located near the northern shore of Lake Wierzchoń, on the southern slope of the glaci-fluvial terrace (site 24, Fig. 9.1). The second one is situated between lakes Gościąż and Mielec (site 11, Fig. 9.1).

The encampment near Wierzchoń was excavated during the 1993 and 1994 field seasons. Several dozen potsherds were recovered within a small area. The chronology of the site can be estimated as the III period of the Bronze Age. However, the potsherds are not typical, and there were some difficulties with the cultural identification of this assemblage. Technology of the potsherds and the shape of recovered fragments suggests that the site may be referred to the Trzciniec Culture as well as to the oldest phase of Lusatian Culture.

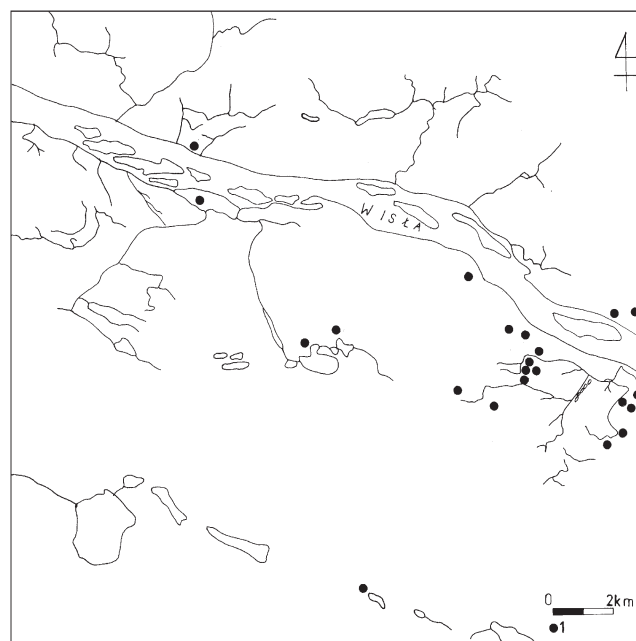


Fig. 9.4. Early Bronze Age sites in the Lake Gościąż region. 1 – Early Bronze Age (undefined).

The Early Bronze Age site found between lakes Gościąż and Mielec is represented by only one fragment of pottery.

Numerous EBA sites are known from the whole Gosyński Lake District, but the organization of settlements has not yet been studied. The majority of sites are located in small river valleys. The sites are rarely placed near lakes. Due to the lack of excavated sites it is difficult to reconstruct the size of dwelling places and to say which sites have been long-time settlements and which have been short-time encampments.

The Early Bronze Age settlements correspond chronologically to the disturbances of the natural environment recognized by samples 222–232 (4100–3500 cal BP = 3800–3300 ^{14}C BP).

The settlements of the Lusatian Culture

The settlements of the Middle and Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age are represented by 59 sites (Fig. 9.5). Moreover, the sites of the East Pomeranian and Bell Grave Cultures are also noted. It should be emphasized, however, that the materials of the Lusatian Culture and East Pomeranian and Bell Grave cultures found during the surface surveys are very similar to each other, and it is very difficult to separate potsherds of these cultures in such material. Because of the difficulties in the cultural interpretation, the material of all the three cultures found on the surface was classified as “Lusatian Culture” *s.l.*

Nearly all 22 sites found are concentrated in the area of about 7 km² near Lake Telążna. Most of the sites are represented by small and untypical assemblages of potsherds recorded during the surface search. Only two sites

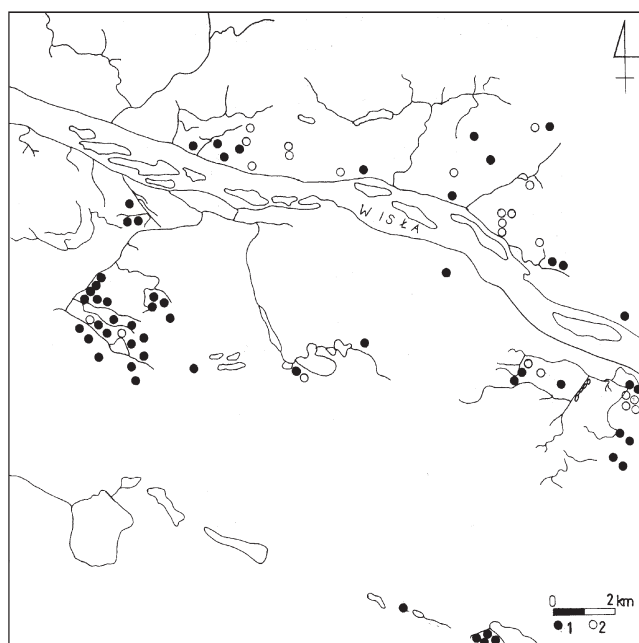


Fig. 9.5. Lusatian Culture *s.l.* sites (1) and Przeworsk Culture sites (2) in the Lake Gościąż region.

of Lusatian Culture were discovered close to Lake Gościąż. One of them was found between lakes Gościąż and Mielec and the other near Lake Wierzchoń. Both are represented by single fragments of pottery. During excavations of these sites no other material of Lusatian Culture was found. These facts show that the area near Lake Gościąż was not permanently settled by communities of Lusatian culture but it was penetrated and may have been temporarily exploited. The more fertile soils nearby were permanently settled by the Lusatian people.

It is clear that Lusatian communities first settled and economically exploited the land where the environment offered the best conditions to live. Large unfertile and dry sandy areas were not permanently settled then yet. The situation around Lake Gościąż seems to reflect tendencies of Lusatian settlements typical for the Polish Lowlands.

There is an almost 1000 year period of disturbances of the natural environment representing this culture in pollen diagrams from Lake Gościąż. This period (samples 233–251; 3500–2550 cal BP = 3250–2500 ^{14}C BP) comprises all stages of development of the Lusatian Culture.

The settlements of the Przeworsk Culture

There are 28 sites of the Przeworsk Culture found within a 10 km radius of Lake Gościąż (Fig. 9.5). All the sites are located several kilometres from the lake, the nearest of them at Telążna at 5 km from Lake Gościąż. The results of excavations suggest that their chronology can be attributed to the Late La Tene Period. It is difficult, however, to recognize the chronology of sites on the basis of surface material only. The sites might have been occupied during the Late La Tene Period as well as the Roman Period.

The record of the economical changes in the pollen diagram attributed to this culture (samples 257–259; 1950–1750 cal BP = 2020–1850 ^{14}C BP) is not reflected by the archaeological evidence. Because there are no Przeworsk Culture sites very near Lake Gościąż the interpretation of this pollen record is difficult. It is possible that we missed finding some sites in this area, or that the recorded changes were connected with large-scale economic activity of people who inhabited settlements located several kilometres from Lake Gościąż (e.g. from the Lake Telążna region). The elucidation of Przeworsk Culture settlements and economy in this area should be the aim of further archaeological studies near Lake Gościąż.

Comments on the success of archaeological researches in the Lake Gościąż region

The first aim of the archaeological investigations in this region was to correlate the phases of disturbance of the natural environment found in the pollen record with

the phases of prehistoric settlement evidenced in the lake surroundings. Next stage of studies was to reconstruct the settlement system of prehistoric cultures and to describe the economical base of these communities. From the results of the investigations carried out so far, the first part of this program was successfully completed. It appeared possible to reconstruct a general chronology of the prehistoric cultures near Lake Gościąż. The distribution of sites shows which landscape zones have been inhabited and exploited during different periods of time. Some data were obtained concerning the size of sites and how long the sites could have been inhabited. Many problems connected with settlements and exploitation of the natural environment of this area were, however, only touched. The problem of the Przeworsk Culture near Lake Gościąż remains still unresolved. The lack of sites close to the lake as compared to the heavy destruction of the environment recorded in the lake sediment should be the aim of investigations. There is also a shortage of information about internal organization and economy of prehistoric settlements near Lake Gościąż.

9.1.2. SETTLEMENTS AND THE ECONOMY IN THE LAKE GOŚCIAŻ AREA SHOWN IN PRINTED DOCUMENTS (FROM AD 1300 TO 1700)

Małgorzata Rybicka & Andrzej Pelisiak

The settlement and the economy in the Medieval and Modern periods can be analysed on the basis of both archaeological material and printed documents. Relatively few documents refer to Medieval settlement in the Lake Gościąż region (the earliest come from 13th century (Nowak 1991)) and the early periods of the Middle Ages. The Medieval archaeological material is rather poor. Results of a surface survey from the area between Wistka and Duninów (Fig. 9.6) are insufficient to reconstruct settlement organization in the Medieval period up to the 14th century. More precise information about the population and economy of the people who lived near Lake Gościąż is contained in later documents: in the 15th century in the so-called Registers of the Royal Lands, and in the 16th century and later particularly in the so-called Surveys of Gentle Land (Posadzy & Kowalewicz 1957, Senkowski 1961, Tomczak 1963).

Information about Dobięgniewo Forests and Duninów Forests often appears in the documents (Nowak 1991). In one of the works on history of the Kowal district where Lake Gościąż is located, Nowak (1991) points out that "...track connections between important administration centres such as Dobrzyń and Włocławek led through the broad forested areas". The state of the forestation of Kowal Lands at the end of 18th century is shown on the map by von Gilly from 1802–1803 (see Goslar, Chapter 9.2.1). The northern part of this region had been covered by an extensive forest then.

The documents confirm the existence of several tracks leading through the investigated region. In the King's Zygmunt I document from 1519 the "Vias Dobrinensem et Vladislaviensem" were mentioned (Guldon 1968). On the basis of data from the 18th century Nowak (1991) suggests that "...Dobrzyń Track led from Telążna to Dobięgniewo, where a boat-ferrying through the Vistula River functioned". After Gašiorowski (1972) this track was used from the times of King Władysław Jagiełło (AD 1385–1434). There was a second track, called Vistula river-side track, leading through Łęg and Duninów, used too (Góralski 1962). These data indicate that the dispersed archaeological material recovered from this area (mainly single potsherds, Fig. 9.6) can be interpreted as remains of the short-time stays of the people using the tracks.

However, the Medieval pottery remains found near Lake Gościąż may represent settlements that existed at this area from 13th century (Fig. 9.6). In a document from 1228 an information exists about a village named Dąb (Nowak 1991). The documents of Siemowit, Prince of Dobrzyń from the transition of 13/14th century support this information. Wistka, and probably Dąb and Dobięgniewo, were mentioned in this document as villages connected with the Dobrzyń castellany (Tab. 9.2, Nowak 1991). It is assumed that the two nameless villages located on the left bank of the Vistula mentioned in the Teutonic Knights documents refer to Dąb and Dobięgniewo (Bieniak 1986). This information may suggest that the area north of Lake Gościąż was permanently settled during those centuries.

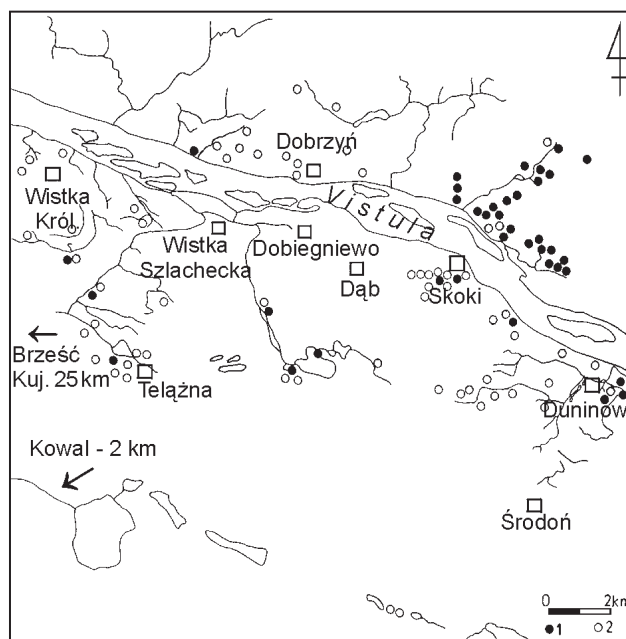


Fig. 9.6. The Medieval sites in the Lake Gościąż region. The present location of towns and villages (□) mentioned in the text is also indicated. 1 – Medieval Period, 2 – Modern Times.