[P35] Man-environment Interaction in the Bronze Age, North-eastern Poland

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Abstract

The aim of the study is an interaction between man and environment in NE Poland (Podlasie Voivodeship) at Jatwież Duża archaeological site of Lusatian Urn Fields culture from the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age. The site is located on the youngest sandur plain which borders the valley bottoms of the Brzozówka river and its left-bank tributary, the Biebla River. This site is a part of the Prehistoric settlement network which includes 27 structures with similar construction and location features. They are founded on a circular plan with two areas - the protective zone consisting of a system of moats and embankments and the central zone consisting of a flat yard. At that time this region was an ecumene and the communities were the first to capture this area on a large scale by establishing an extensive and stable network of facilities. This is confirmed by the Archaeological Map of Poland data from the microregion of the site (radius of 5 km from the site). Within this area, 64 points of community activity from the Bronze Age, 1 from the Mesolithic, 4 from the Neolithic, 9 from the Iron Age and 1 from the Middle Ages were recorded. This expansion, which has led to the remodelling of the nearby environment through extensive use of its resources for the needs of this community, can be observed in the catchment area of the river Brzozówka and its tributary Bieble (left-bank tributary, the Brzozówka River). Intensive deforestation of the area marked a decline in the organic matter content in the peats, which growth here since the Preboreal (9770 – 9180 BP). This change took place in Brzozówka and Biebla valleys after 3660±50 and 1870±60 BP respectively.

Keywords: Archeology, geoarchaeology, environment, Bronze Age, Lusatian culture, Jatwież Duża site

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