

JOLANTA ILKIEWICZ

## SPECIALISTIC ELABORATION OF THE MATERIALS FROM THE POSTMESOLITHIC SETTLEMENT IN DĄBKI (SITE 9). INTRODUCTION

The elaboration presented below comprises partial results of complex investigations of the settlement region in Dąbki on Bukowo lake (near Darłowo, the province of Koszalin). The extended introductory report of the investigations was published in *Przegląd Archeologiczny* Vol. 36 (J. Ilkiewicz, *From Studies on Cultures of the 4th Millennium B.C. in the Central Part of the Polish Coastal Area*, PA 36, 1989, pp. 17-55).

The settlement complex was discovered during the surface-sounding investigations in 1977. Its richest site, denoted as Dąbki 9, underwent excavation in 1978-1986. The examination supplied unique archeological material taken from sand and organic formations (peats and gyttjas) and dated as the 4th millennium B.C.

The settlement is situated on one of the terrace island mountains and covers weakly formed promontory lowering down towards the peat-bog below - a Holocene lake. It is removed north-eastward from Bukowo lake by 800 m and south-eastward from the present coast of the Baltic Sea by 1500 m.

The chronology of the site was based mainly on the stratigraphy of the peat-bog and settlement phases distinguished were associated with the chronology of the lake sediments' growth. The radiocarbon dates of the sediments were obtained from three samples of gyttja examined in the laboratory  $^{14}\text{C}$  in Gliwice (see M. F. Pazdur, *Radiocarbon Chronology of the Site Dąbki*, PA 38, pp. 33-34). The samples came from continuous paleobotanic (palinologic) profiles (see Ilkiewicz, PA 36, 1989, Figs 3 and 4). They were taken from two peat trenches during excavatory investigations: from the trench WKT I/81 in the form of a core 190 cm long denoted as "Dąbki 81" and from the trench WKT I/83 also in the form of a core 200 cm long - "Dąbki 83". In Figure 1 which presents the geological cross-section both profiles are schematically marked as P-1. The cores include all natural sediments of the present peat-bog from its bottom up to

its surface. On both profiles there were carried examinations of macroremains, palinologic investigations (K. Tobolski) and the investigations of diatoms, published below (B. Bogaczewicz-Adamczak, PA 38, pp. 25-32). From the profile "Dąbki 83" a series of samples for malacologic investigations were taken. The series was given a symbol P-1 by the author of the investigations - S. W. Alexandrowicz. Taking advantage of geomorphologic drilling there were also obtained some control samples from the middle part of the postlake reservoir (malacologic profile P-2, Fig. 1). Their elaboration is presented below (PA 38, pp. 19-24).

Both elaborations: of the diatoms and of malacofauna should be published together with the history of the flora and the geomorphologic elaboration of the site and the area. Since the investigations have not been completed yet the publication has to be limited to the presentation of the geologic cross-section of the postlake trough (according to B. Nowaczyk - the author of the investigations, Fig. 1). The scope of the culture stratum investigated during the excavation is marked schematically here. It has a form of 0.5-1 m thick layer of vegetal and animal remains with wood coals, wood fragments and portable archeological material (ceramics, flint, stone, bone and horn products). It lowers down from the edge reaching at least 2 m in depth of the peat-bog at a distance of 15-20 m. It is covered with an about 1 m thick layer of later formations. In fact it makes a part of a scrap-heap extending around the proper settlement situated on a sandy terrace island mountain (the lake bank).

In the culture stratum there were distinguished three phases of settlement according to the stratigraphy of the lake sediments' growth. The first phase is connected with shell-gyttja (at places also deposited under lower detritus-gyttja and basic peat). Its floor is  $^{14}\text{C}$  dated as  $6230 \pm 60$  BP (Gd-1703) and the roof -  $5700 \pm 80$  BP (Gd-2162). For the wood and wood coals connected

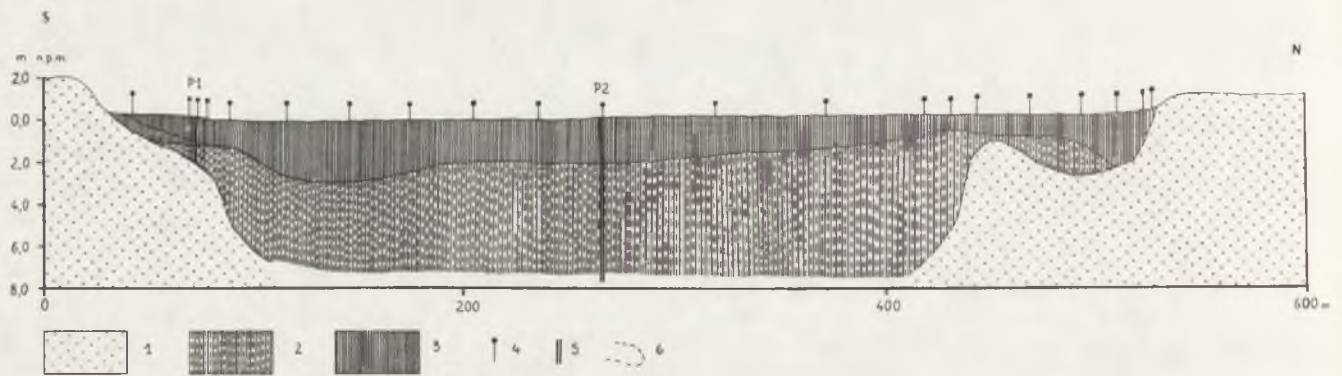


Fig. 1. Geological cross-section of the postlake trough

1 - sands, 2 - lake chalk or shell-gyttja, 3 - peat, 4 - drilling points, 5 - paleobotanic profiles (P-1 - palinologic and diatomic profiles "Dąbki 81" and "Dąbki 83", malacologic profile; P-2 - malacologic profile), 6 - schematic scope of the culture stratum

Elaborated by B. Nowaczyk in 1983

with the Phase 3 radiocarbon dates were obtained:  $5890 \pm 60$  BP (Gd-1278),  $6160 \pm 70$  BP (Gd-2315),  $6250 \pm 40$  BP (Gd-3127). The second settlement phase is associated mainly with vegetal (detritus upper) gyttja deposited over shell-gyttja. It is  $^{14}\text{C}$  dated as  $5630 \pm 70$  BP (Gd-1698) and the wood coals and wood coming from the phase - as  $5680 \pm 60$  BP (2 dates: Gd-1279, Gd-3125). The third settlement phase is related to the wood (sedge-reed-wood) peats. Its absolute chronology is determined by only two dates of wood coals:  $5340 \pm 60$  BP (Gd-1277) and  $5265 \pm 60$  BP (Bln-2465). The author of the  $^{14}\text{C}$  examinations is M. F. Pazdur whose elaboration has been presented below (PA 38, pp. 33-34).

Generally, the beginning of the settlement at the site seems connected with the creation and spreading of a Holocene lake (the first settlement phase - shell-gyttja). In the period corresponding to the sedimentation of detritus-gyttja (the second settlement phase) the settlement at the site grows clearly intensive. Its end (the third settlement phase) must have been connected with the progressive overgrowth and converting the lake (or its bay) into a peat-bog. The ecologic conditions growing worse the

mesolithic hunters and fishermen must have moved to the areas more favourable to their way of living.

The society dwelling in the settlement in principle represents the Mesolithic stage of development but of an already mixed economic system - a local version of the process of overtaking productive economy by societies of the hunting-gathering - due to the contacts with the agricultural population (early breeding of animals, production of ceramics).

The state of the investigations of both the Mesolithic and Neolithic period of Pomerania unables to precisely locate the site in the development schemes of the periods. The dwellers of the settlement have been generally assumed a group of mesolithic (postmesolithic?) population genetically connected presumably with the Chojnice-Pieńki culture. In the archeological material the contacts between them and both the mesolithic circle of the cultures of the western Baltic area (Ertebølle-Ellerbek) and the early agricultural cultures (Band Pottery culture) have been confirmed.

*Translated by Hanna Szłapka*

The authoress' address:

Dr Jolanta Ilkiewicz, Poland  
Muzeum Okręgowe  
ul. Młyńska 37/39, 74-429 Koszalin