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Site of Corded Ware Culture in Kavske, Sub-Carpathian Region: Change of Interpretation

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The article is devoted to two barrows of the Corded Ware Culture (CWC). Mounds I–II in Kavske in the Sub-Carpathian region (Ukraine), have until now been interpreted as the remains of a settlement of this culture. As a result of the analysis of the source base (archival materials and the museum collection), it was established that the CWC material in these mounds is represented by a small group of artefacts. On this basis, the interpretation of the mounds as the remains of a CWC settlement was refuted, instead, they were defined as burial places of the CWC. The planigraphy of the features and, where possible, movable material, is presented. The vast majority of the finds belong to the Funnel Beaker Culture (FBC), and it is clear that the barrow burial ground was founded on the remains of a FBC settlement (individual Mesolithic artefacts were also discovered). Imports of the Trypillia Culture were distinguished from the complex of FBC ceramic vessels. We date the construction of Barrows I–II of the CWC no earlier than the middle of the 3rd millennium BC and note a strong similarity of the ceramic material to the vessels of the Middle Dnipro Culture.

KEY-WORDS: Mesolithic, Funnel Beaker Culture, Trypillia Culture, Corded Ware Culture, Trzciniec-Komarów Culture, Middle Dnipro Culture, barrow burial ground

INTRODUCTION

The territory of the Northern Sub-Carpathian region (Ukrainian part) and Podillia is a part of the area of distribution of the southeastern group of Corded Ware Culture (CWC). Due to objective reasons, the local state of research on this archaeological culture is disproportionately low compared to the research carried out in the territory of South-Eastern Poland, where over 400 burials have been investigated (Włodarczak

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2022: 379). Therefore, each investigated site is extremely important for the reconstruction of the settlement of this territory at the junction of Central and Eastern Europe. The publication of sources that were unknown or published briefly, as in the case of the CWC "settlement" in Kavske, is therefore extremely important and relevant.

The multilayered site located near the village of Kavske, Stryi district, Lviv region (Ukraine) was discovered in 1956 by an archaeological expedition of the Historical Museum of Lviv, led by Kostyantyn Bernyakovich (Fig. 1). In an area of about 1 km², six mounds were discovered, located in the valley of the Stupnytsia River at a distance of 1.2 km south of the village (Fig. 2). In 1956, K. Bernyakovich excavated two mounds (I–II; Bernyakovich 1957). Four more were explored during the following year (III–VI; Bernyakovich 1958). At the time of the investigations, the mounds were levelled elevations with a diameter of 11–24 m and a height of 0.3–0.86 m. Under them, according to the researcher's observations, a cultural layer 0.3–0.6 m thick was discovered, and at the bedrock level there were negative features that are interpreted as hearth pits. The materials obtained as a result of the research included pottery, stone, and flint items. The author interpreted all the excavated mounds as settlement sites of the CWC (Bernyakovich 1959a: 29–42; Bernyakovich 1959b: 692–698; Svieshnikov 1959: 24). He also noted that in Mound V there was an inserted cremation burial of an adult aged 30–35 (Bernyakovich 1959a: 38).

The scientific community, in general, agreed with the interpretation of the mounds in Kavske as belonging to the CWC (Machnik 1961: 209–218; Svieshnikov 1974: 28–29), though with certain modifications. Based on the analysis of the published ceramic material, it became clear that some of the mounds were barrow burials of the Trzciniec-Komarów culture (mounds IV, V). Two others, as Igor Sveshnikov suggested, could have been barrow sites of the Corded Ware Culture (Svieshnikov 1977–1980: 49). Mounds I–II, however, have been interpreted to this day (Svieshnikov 1974: 28–29; Voitovych 2012: 144–145; 2022: 43–45) as the remains of a temporary settlement of the CWC (Fig. 3).

Tadeusz Sulimirski did not agree with this interpretation of the site. He considers the barrows in Kavske to be typical burial mounds of CWC. He explains the absence of preserved skeletons by the peculiarities of the local soil, where skeletons are often not preserved in burials. The researcher also drew attention to the presence here of material of the Trzciniec-Komarów culture (Sulimirski 1968: 132–133).

The "archaic features" of a part of the published flint collection from K. Bernyakovich's research in Kavske attracted the attention of Leonid Matskevyi, a researcher of the Mesolithic of Ukraine. In June 1987, the archaeologist conducted surveys at the location of the Kavske I site (it was under this number that the site

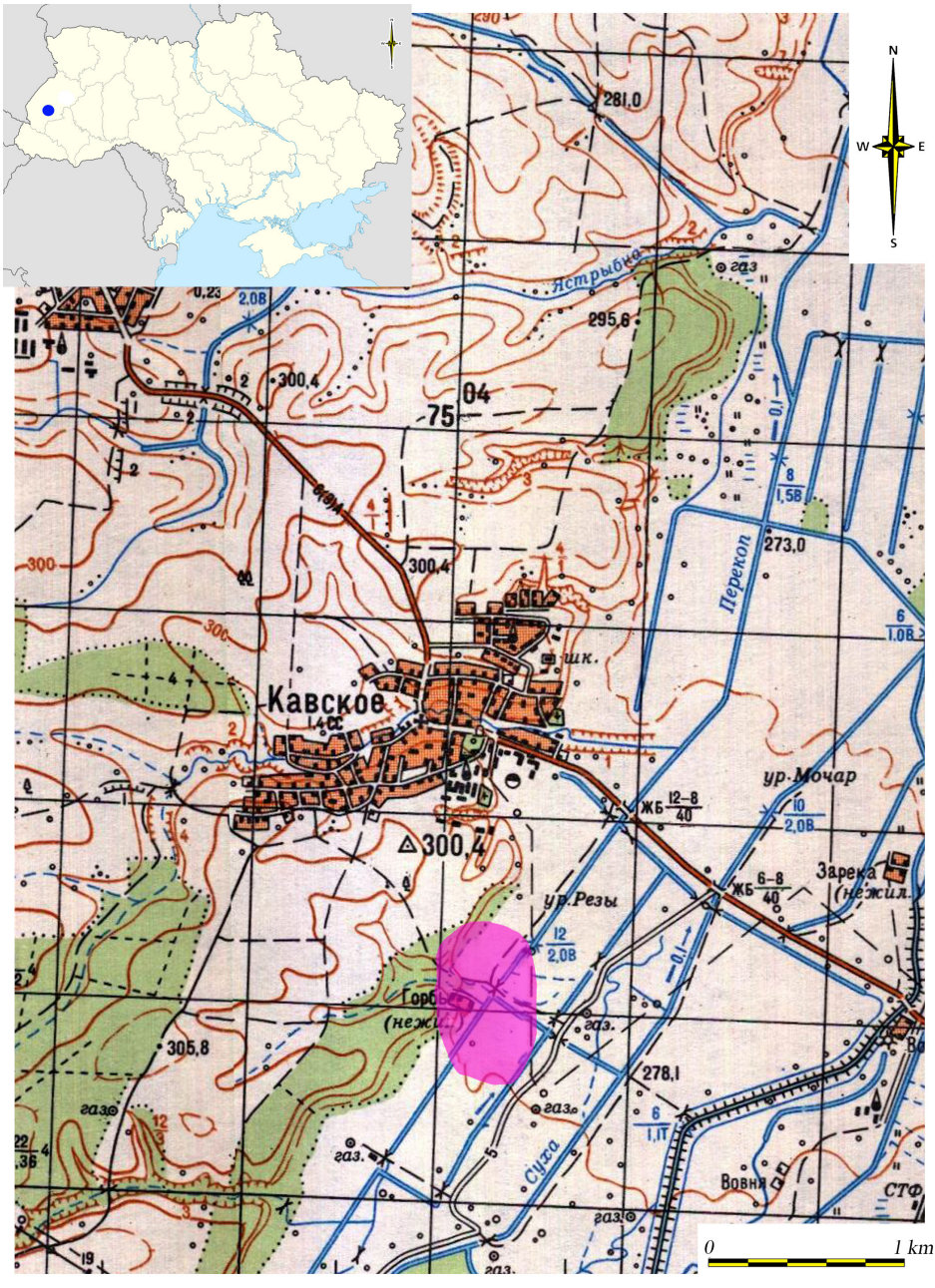

Fig. 1. Localisation of the multilayered site in Kavske in the Sub-Carpathian region. Author: M. Voitovych.

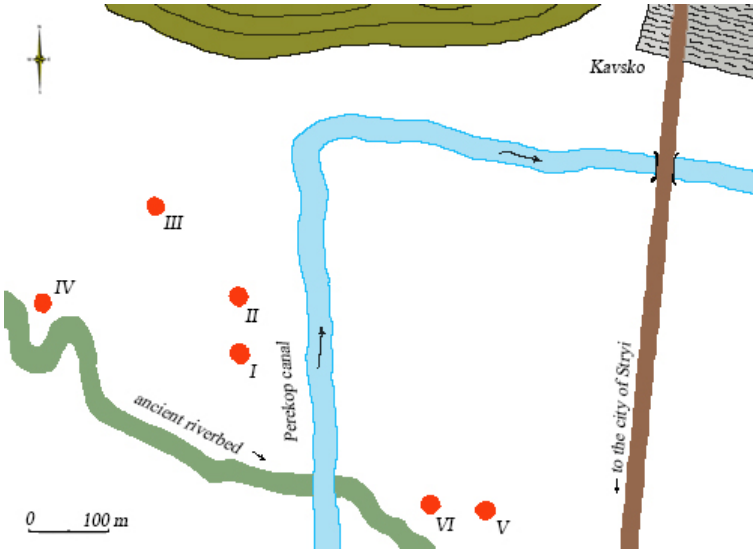

Fig. 2. Plan of the barrow burial ground in Kavske. Archive of the Stryi Regional Studies Museum "Verkhovyna", with additions made by M. Voitovych.

entered the scientific literature). In one of the two survey pits, as well as on the surface of the arable field, flint items and fragments of pottery were discovered (Matskevoi 1988: 22, 57, fig. 26). L. Matskevyi dated all the collected artefacts, including thirty--eight features, to the Eneolithic period (Aleksandrovskyi and Matskevoi 1991: 8; Matskevyi and Kozak 2009: 96). We have examined this collection, which is stored in the reserve collections of the Department of Archaeology of the I. Krypiakevich Institute of Ukrainian Studies of the NAS of Ukraine. The entire collection from the 1987 research is associated with the Funnelbeaker culture. The available ceramic material is in an unsatisfactory state of preservation, represented exclusively by vessel walls. CWC material was found in the collection.

The study of the site continued in 2015, as a result of the implementation of an international project to record the mounds of the Trzciniec-Komarów Culture in the territory of Ukrainian Sub-Carpathian and Podillia regions, led by Przemysław Makarowicz. During the survey research of the site, two strongly levelled mounds (155–156) were discovered in an arable field, which stood out against the surroundings with their dark colour. Two better-preserved mounds (157–158) were discovered in the forest a few hundred metres to the west of these barrows on the territory of the Drohobych Upland. Geomagnetic scanning was conducted on these two mounds. Another barrow was

Fig. 3. The process of researching Barrows I–II in 1956. Scientific archive of the Department of Archaeology of the I. Krypiakevych Institute of Ukrainian Studies of the NAS of Ukraine.

discovered by the expedition participants outside the territory of the site, at a distance of 600 m northwest of Mound 157 (Makarowicz *et al*., 2016: 249–259).

Small-scale research was carried out in 2024 by an archaeological expedition of the Department of Archaeology of the I. Krypiakevych Institute of Ukrainian Studies (KIUS) of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (NASU). This was directed by the author of the article and Yana Yakovyshyna, and the goal of the work was to define the state of preservation of the site. It was established that the cultural

layer on part of the site area was severely damaged as a result of many years of ploughing. No CWC material was found here. However, research near Barrow 158 in the inter-mound space indicated the presence of highly fragmented CWC material here.

The ambiguous nature of this site led us to revise the archaeological collection from Kavske, which had been transferred from the Historical Museum of Lviv in the late 1950s for permanent storage in the collections of the "Verkhovyna" Regional Studies Museum (VRSM) in Stryi. Today, the collection from the Kavske I site includes over eight hundred artefacts. It was established that the interpretation of the site as a settlement of the Corded Ware Culture does not correspond to reality. Most of the materials from Mounds I–II, which had previously been interpreted by the scientific community as belonging to CWC, in fact should be assigned to the Funnelbeaker Culture, on a settlement of which barrows of CWC and the Trzciniec-Komarów Culture had been constructed. Also, in addition to the materials of the above-mentioned cultures, a small group of artefacts dating back to the Mesolithic was discovered, which confirmed Leonid Matskevyi's assumption about the presence of this horizon here. There is also material of the Mierzanowice Culture.

The analysis of the source base allows us to reconstruct the stages of settlement of this territory as follows. The first inhabitants appeared here in the Mesolithic period. Later, FBC population founded a settlement from which individual archaeological features and a large amount of movable material were left, which was discovered under all the mounds of the barrows. In subsequent times, CWC population transformed this territory into a sacred place, founding a barrow burial ground and constructing Mounds I–II. The presence of a preserved Mierzanowice Culture ladle in Mound VI indicates that the population of this culture continued the CWC tradition of burying the deceased in mounds of the barrows. Mounds III–V were built by representatives of the Trzciniec-Komarów Culture, which is clearly visible on the basis of the preserved ceramic vessels (Voitovych 2025: 110–115).

We associate with the CWC the construction of Mounds I–II, a detailed analysis of which is the purpose of this study. The situation with the presence of several fragments of ceramic vessels under Mound IV is not yet fully understood by us. Was this barrow constructed by the CWC population, or did some fragments of ceramic vessels of this culture fall there during the construction of the mound by the population of the Trzciniec-Komarów Culture?

METHODOLOGY

When writing the text, a comprehensive approach was used to examine the source base. In addition to studying the collection stored in the VRSM in Stryi, archival

materials were processed, consisting of archaeological reports (Scientific Archives of the Institute of Archaeology of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (IAN ASU) and the KIUS NASU, a collection of photographic films from archaeological research held in the KIUS NASU, as well as acts of transfer of finds and correspondence between the Historical Museum of Lviv and VRSM in Stryi. This approach makes it possible to obtain the maximum amount of information from the source base that has been preserved to this day. When studying the artefact collection, only those finds for which it is indicated which mound they come from were taken into account. Part of the collection, due to the lack of such information, is classified as dubious finds. Where possible, the localisation of archaeological features and artefacts has been reproduced, based on the material, with indications of depths and descriptions in field reports. The method of a critical approach to sources has been used for the entire source database.

GEOMORPHOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

Site I at Kavske is located at the junction of two geomorphological regions: the Drohobych Upland and the Upper Dnister Alluvial Lowland. The Drohobych Upland belongs to the zone of structural-erosive uplands with a ridge-hilly relief with an altitude of 300–400 m above sea level (Tsys 1962: 172; Kravchuk 1999: 166). The highest elevations in the upland territory are recorded in the watershed areas of the Carpathian foothills (600–700 m above sea level), and the lowest – at the junction with the Upper Dnister Alluvial Lowland (about 300 m above sea level). The relief of the upland is characterised by strong fragmentation of the terrain. There are combinations of broad swampy valleys and deep riverbeds, with a dense network of smaller valleys and different dry small forms (Łanczont and Hołub 2011: 164–166). In the interfluve of Tysmenytsia and Kolodnytsia-Nezhukhivka rivers, there is a complex of branched ravines. Part of the archaeological sites (northwestern area), where two barrows are preserved, is localised on the eastern ledge of the Drohobych Upland, which rises by about 20 m above the level of the Upper Dnister Alluvial Lowland.

Most of the site is located in the valley of the Stupnytsia River (also known as Sukha River), on its left bank. The length of this river is 17.85 km and flows into the Kolodnytsia River northeast of the village of Kavske (Nazaruk 2018: 552). A significant part of this river is canalised and serves as receiving water for drainage systems, which divide the area of the multilayer site into several parts. The average altitude of this area is 278–279 m above sea level. In physical and geomorphological terms, this area is also the easternmost section of the Upper Dnister Alluvial Lowland

subdistrict of the Sambir Basin, which here, in the Kolodnytsia-Nezhukhivka Valley, borders the Zhydachiv Basin. The Sambir Basin is characterised by a thick layer of alluvium (up to 18 m; Pylypovych and Kovalchuk 2017: 51).

BARROWS OF THE CORDED WARE CULTURE

Barrow I. According to K. Bernyakovich, the barrow is somewhat deformed, with a diameter of 17.8 m from north to south and 19.6 m from west to east. Its height relative to the modern surface is 0.86 m. During Bernyakovich's excavation, a control baulk 0.5 m wide had been left in the centre of the barrow, extending from north to south. The stratigraphic layers were recorded as follows: 0–0.36 m layer of light brown soil; 0.36–1 m layer of dark brown, sometimes black soil, the maximum thickness of which occurs in the centre of the mound; 1–1.26 m – the bedrock represented by grey-brown clay. Below this layer are deposits of river pebbles. The dark brown layer represents the mound of the barrow and the ancient soil horizon, about which K. Bernyakovich wrote that it was black in places (Bernyakovich 1957: 6).

Based on the analysis of the plan, combined with the descriptions in the scientific report and location details of the movable material, indicating in most cases the depths, we can reconstruct the planigraphy of the location of the features, in particular, the burial place of the CWC and the movable material (Fig. 4). It is worth noting here that the previously discovered plan of this mound, as well as Mound II, made by I. Sveshnikov and subsequently published by us, is not accurate and in many cases is significantly simplified and does not coincide with the original plan made by K. Bernyakovich (Voitovych 2022: figs 8–9).

In Barrow I, three charcoal accumulations were found at different depths. They had a lens shape in cross section and a thickness of 0.08–0.1 m. Two of them were in the centre of the barrow and one on the periphery. Accumulation № 1 (numbering by the excavator) was located near the centre of the barrow, in its northwestern part at a depth of 0.58 m, pear-shaped in plan with dimensions of 1.48×1.12 m (Bernyakovich 1957: 7). Below, at the bottom of the charcoal layer, at a depth of 0.68 m, a flat axe made of a light cream-coloured siliceous limestone (*opoka*) of trapezoidal shape in plan was found. It is rectangular in cross-section and wedge-shaped in profile (Fig. 4). The surfaces are carefully polished. The butt is rounded, rough. The blade is arcuate with rounded corners. The length of the axe is 9.8 cm, the width of the blade is 5.5 cm, the thickness is 1.63 cm, and the width of the butt is 2.6 cm (Fig. 5:1).

Charcoal accumulation № 2 (Fig. 4) is located 0.3 m south of the centre of the mound, oval in plan with dimensions of 1.14×0.76 m, discovered at a depth

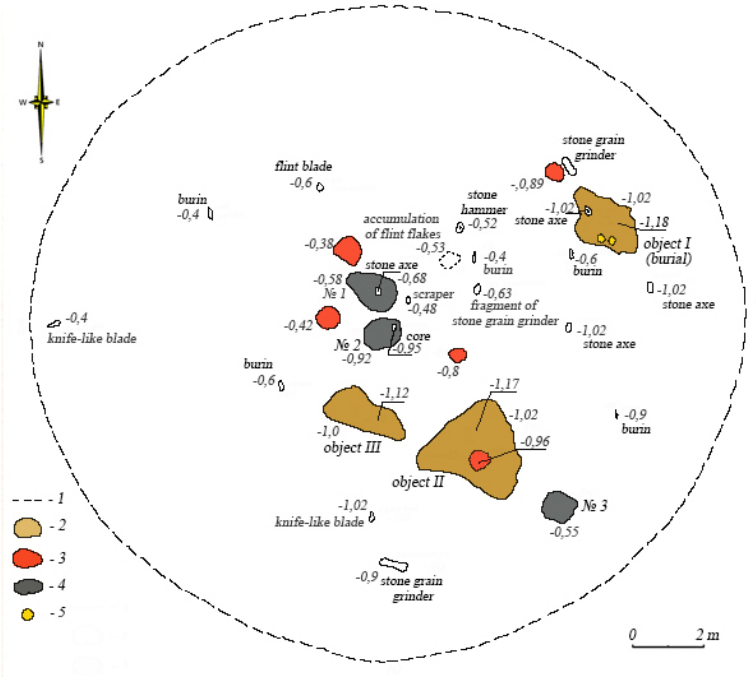

Fig. 4. Plan of Barrow I: 1 – outline of the barrow; 2 – negative features; 3 – accumulation of ceramics; 4 – accumulation of charcoal; 5 – clay vessels. Scientific Archive of the Institute of Archaeology of the NAS of Ukraine, with additions made by M. Voitovych.

of 0.92 m (Bernyakovich 1957: 7). In this layer of charcoal fragments, a strongly worn subprismatic, single-platform core for micro-blades was found, made of grey-mustard quartzite with dimensions of 4.1×4.2×4.6 cm. Flake scars were found on the surface (Fig. 6:4). The knapping technique used to produce this artefact allows us to date it back to the Mesolithic period.

Charcoal accumulation № 3 is located in the northeastern sector of the barrow at a distance of about 7.5 m from the centre of the mound at a depth of 0.55 m. No movable material was found here (Bernyakovich 1957: 7).

K. Bernyakovich provides descriptions of negative features that were recorded at the level of the natural subsoil under the barrow mound, which he interprets as "hearth pits" due to the presence of charcoal in the infill (Bernyakovich 1957: 7).

Feature I (burial of the CWC), located on the periphery of the mound at a distance of 5.76 m to the northeast from the centre of the barrow at a depth

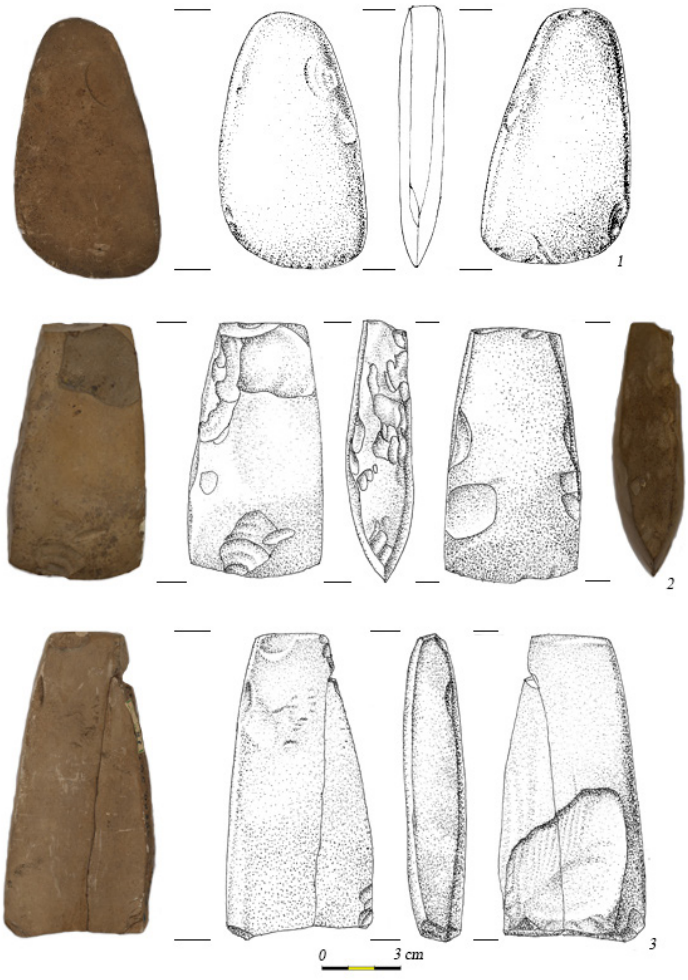

Fig. 5. Axes made of a siliceous limestone (1, 3) and stone (2) of the CWC from Barrow I. Authors: I. Prynada and M. Voitovych.

of 1.02 m, dimensions 1.24×0.75 m and 0.16 m below the level of discovery. Regarding the shape of the feature, there is a mismatch between the description and the available plan. According to the plan, the feature is of a subrectangular shape with uneven contours, extending from the northwest to the southeast (Fig. 4). However, archival materials indicate that "the pit had an almost regular rounded

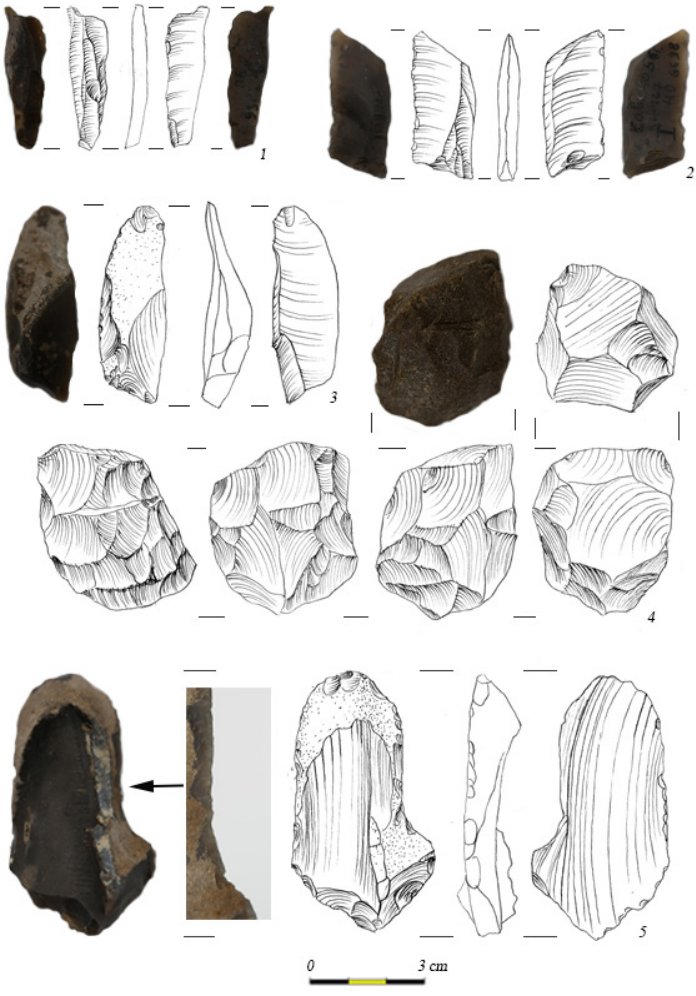

Fig. 6. Flint items from Barrow I. Authors: I. Prynada and M. Voitovych.

shape" (Bernyakovich 1957: 7). The layer of ash and charcoal in the feature was 0.1–0.12 m thick. No skeletal remains from a burial were found in the middle (due to the acidity of the local soils). Two vessels were found near the southern wall, one of which could not be restored, only its bottom remained. In the western one, a drilled stone axe was found (Fig. 7).

Fig. 7. Burial of the CWC in Barrow I. Scientific Archive of the Department of Archaeology of the I. Krypiakevych Institute of Ukrainian Studies of the NAS of Ukraine.

The axe is made of light grey sandstone, wedge-shaped in plan and rectangular in cross-section with rounded corners. The surface is polished, and the side surfaces are best polished with a shine at the side edges of the blade (Fig. 8:2). The blade is slightly inclined downwards, slightly convex, and damaged in the upper part. The butt is high, oval at the end, and obliquely shaped. The hole is made closer to the blade, with a diameter of 2–2.2 cm. The axe length is 11.8 cm, maximum width is 5.2 cm, maximum height is 3.6 cm, the preserved blade length is 2.7 cm, and the height of the butt is 3.3 cm.

The vessel that contained the axe is squat with an uneven bottom, concave, and damaged in its middle part, a convex body with a concave neck, which turns into a slightly everted rim, the edges of which are rounded (Fig. 8:3). The ceramic fabric is heterogeneous with an admixture of grey chamotte. The firing is good. During the restoration, the surface was covered with brown paint. Originally, the outer surface was grey-brown, polished with small scratches from rubbing. The inner surface is light brown, smoothed, but uneven with traces of rubbing with something like a bundle of straw or grass, the traces of which are clearly visible. The fracture is grey-brown. The outer surface under the rim is ornamented with five horizontal imprints of a weakly twisted cord in which individual fibers can be traced in the impressions. The imprints of the cord are with the top to the left. The diameter

Fig. 8. Stone items (1–2) and ceramics (3–4) of CWC. Authors: I. Prynada and M. Voitovych.

of the rim is 16.5 cm, the height is 8.4 cm, the maximum convexity of the body is 15.9 cm.

The bottom of the handmade vessel is flat and squat, its rounded edges pass at an obtuse angle, probably into a swollen body (Fig. 8:4). The ceramic fabric has an admixture of brick-colour fired clay grog. The structure is heterogeneous and tough. The firing is good. The outer surface is carefully polished, and grey-brown. The inner

Fig. 9. Fragments of pottery from Barrow I. Authors: I. Prynada and M. Voitovych.

surface is creamy-brown, and polished, with traces of finger rubbing (or the formation of the vessel?). The fracture is heterogeneous, grey-brown. The diameter of the bottom is 6.5 cm, and the thickness of the bottom is 1 cm.

Feature II was discovered at a depth of 1.02 m and was located at a distance of 3.12 m southeast of the centre of the barrow. It was subtriangular in plan with

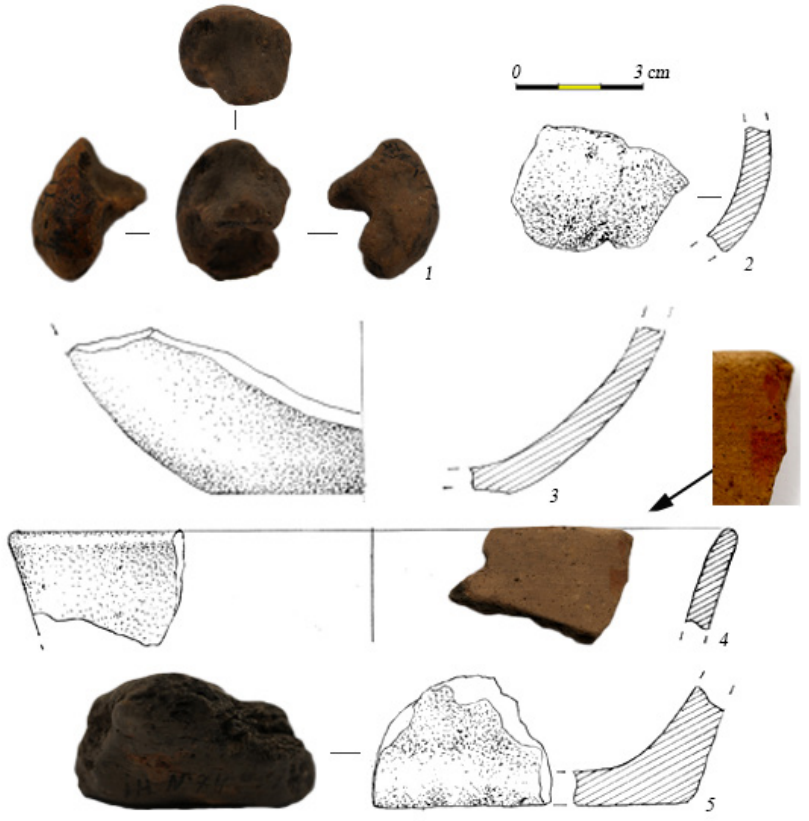

Fig. 10. Fragments of pottery from Barrow I of FBC. Authors: I. Prynada and M. Voitovych.

rounded corners, measuring 2.36×2.92 m and 0.15 m deep. A small accumulation of ceramics was discovered above the feature at a depth of 0.96 m (Fig. 4). It is known that the infill contained charcoal and ash (Bernyakovich 1957: 7).

Feature III was recorded at a depth of 1 m and a distance of about 3 m south of the centre of the barrow, amorphous in shape, extending from northwest to southeast with dimensions of 2.8×0.96 m and a depth of 0.12 m. No movable material was found in the infill, containing charcoal (Bernyakovich 1957: 7).

At different depths under the mound, a significant amount of movable material was collected, consisting of several stone and flint tools and an accumulation of fragments of ceramic vessels found in the mound of the barrow. Four main clusters of ceramic vessels can be distinguished, based on the plan.

The first accumulation was found at a depth of 0.38 m at a distance of 1.92 m northwest of the centre of the barrow. It included 20 small fragments of FBC ceramic vessels with heavily damaged surfaces, represented by vessel bodysherds. Only one find is the rim of a funnel-shaped pot (Fig. 9:7).

The subsequent comparison of the discovered fragments of ceramic vessels with the plan encounters difficulties. According to the description, this cluster is located at a distance of 1.32 m west of the centre of the barrow and at a depth of 0.42 m. However, according to the inscriptions on the finds, none were found at a depth of 0.42 m. The presence of ceramics was confirmed at the following depths: 0.4 m (40 finds), 0.41 m (19 finds), and 0.46 m (40 finds). As for cultural interpretation, the picture here looks as follows. All material from depths of 0.4 m and 0.41 m belongs to the FBC. Among the material discovered at a depth of 0.46 m, three small sherds belong to the CWC and one bodysherd to the Trzciniec-Komaróv Culture, all the others to the FBC (Fig. 9:6, 8). The fragments of Corded Ware Culture ceramics belong to one vessel up to 1 cm thick, made of ceramic fabric with an admixture of chamotte (Fig. 9:5). The outer surface is light brown and carefully smoothed, and the inner surface and the fracture are dark grey. There are noticeable traces of scratches from smoothing with a bundle of straw or grass on the inner surface.

It is noteworthy that among the ceramic finds of the FBC from a depth of 0.4 m are the rims of two vessels of different shapes (Fig. 9:1–2), and on one wall a trace of a handle has been preserved (Fig. 9:4). Also present at a depth of 0.4 m were two fragments of fired daub. Among the ceramic fragments that were found at a depth of 0.41 m, a handle, presumably from a ladle in the form of a zoomorphic figure of a ram, made of a ceramic fabric typical of the FBC with an admixture of chamotte (Fig. 10:1), stands out. The surface of the find, like most of the FBC material, is damaged by acidic soils. At the same depth, three walls of the vessels, belonging to the Trypillian culture, were discovered (Fig. 9:3, 9).

A difficult situation arises with the comparison of accumulations of ceramic material from a depth of 0.89 m. No finds from this level were preserved. Only one fragment of the bottom of the FBC vessel was found at a depth of 0.8 m (Fig. 10:3). Instead, a significant collection of pottery fragments was found at a depth of 1.02 m (44 items). It corresponds to the level of the bedrock of this barrow. All of them are small fragments of FBC vessels (Fig. 10:2), most of which are bodysherds from different vessels. Among them is one rim from a funnel-shaped pot and fragments of two bottoms of thick-walled vessels (Fig. 10:5).

Along with ceramics, flint products made exclusively from high-quality deposits of Turonian flint were found at the same levels, from 0.4 to 1.02 m (Fig. 11). However, their preserved proportion among other materials is quite low (24 pieces). Only in

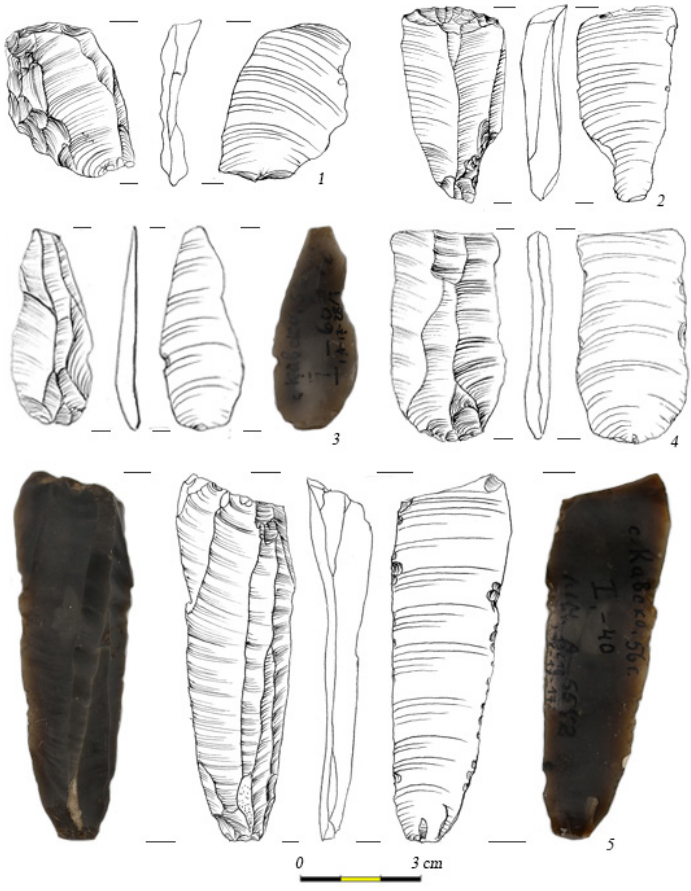

Fig. 11. Flint items from Barrow I. Illustrated by I. Prynada and M. Voitovych.

one case, according to the documentation made by the excavator, was a cluster of flint artefacts found. It includes six flakes, which lay compactly at a depth of 0.53 m at a distance of 1.6 m to the northeast (Bernyakovich 1957: 10). However, no flint item from this depth has been preserved. Among the flint artefacts, there are completed tools, such as burins, knives, and scraper, together with flakes and fragments of blades.

A significant part of the collection of stone tools found outside the features is represented by grain grinders, and flat and drilled axes. The planigraphy of the grain grinders is as follows. One find was discovered 7.5 m to the northeast at a depth of 0.86 m

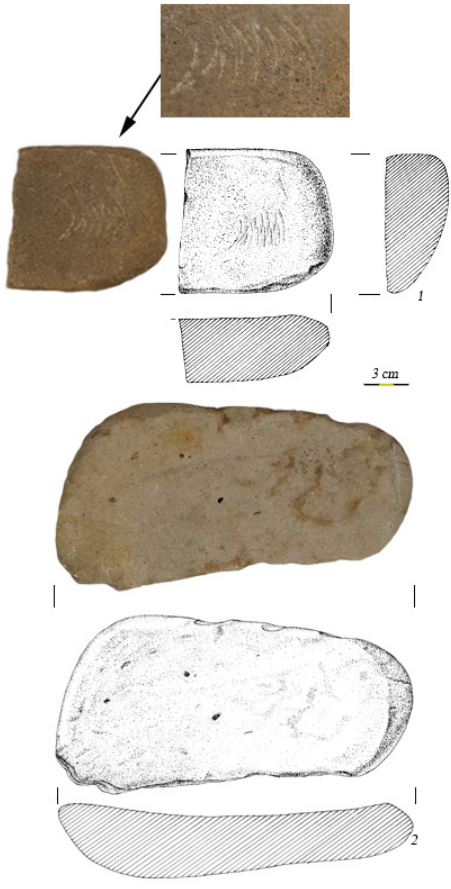

Fig. 12. Stone grain grinders from Barrow I. Authors: I. Prynada and M. Voitovych.

near a cluster of ceramic ware. It was made of a light grey sandstone. The millstone has an elongated shape with rounded edges, measuring 25.8×9.7–10.8×0.35–3.8 cm. The working surface is heavily worn, concave, and flat (Fig. 12:2). The other is also completely preserved, identical to the previous one, measuring 24.2×7.8–12.2×3.3–4.6 cm. The third specimen was found in a fragmented state directly in the barrow's mound at a depth of 0.63 m and a distance of 2.56 m to the northeast from the centre of the barrow. It is made of the same raw material as the previous ones, measuring 10.3×9.6×4.3 cm. On the working surface, there is a recess in the form of a zigzag (Fig. 12:1). It is not clear how these notches were formed. We do

not exclude the possibility of damage to the find by a metal tool during the research (it is necessary to determine what tool made the zigzag).

A sandstone hammer was discovered at a distance of 3.24 m to the northeast of the centre of the barrow at a depth of 0.52 m (Fig. 8:1). It was made from a reused axe, as indicated by the profile of the find in the form of a blade inclined downwards, the surface of which was polished carefully. However, the edge is not polished so intensively, it is rough to the touch. The hammer is biconical in plan with rounded edges. The butt is rounded. The hole is made closer to the lower part, with a diameter of 2.25–2.55 cm. The length of the find is 8 cm, the maximum width is 5.83 cm, the height is 5 cm, height in the lower part is 5.6 cm.

At the bedrock level, at a depth of 1.02 m south of the CWC burial and at a distance of about 2.5 m from each other, axes similar in shape and different in raw material were discovered. The first find, discovered at a distance of 1 m from the burial, was made of cream-coloured siliceous limestone (*opoka*; Fig. 5:3). The blade and one of the sides are missing. Based on the preserved part, we conclude that the shape was trapezoidal in plan, and rectangular in cross-section. All sides are polished. The butt is slightly convex. The preserved length is 11.2 cm, preserved width is 2.9–5.4 cm, the thickness is 2.3 cm.

Another find is made of flinty aleurite of grey-cream colour. It is trapezoidal in shape with a slightly rounded blade on which notches can be seen (Fig. 5:2). The corners of the blade are sharp. The object is rectangular in cross-section, with one slightly convex edge. All sides, including the butt, are carefully polished. The length of the find is 9.6 cm, the width of the butt is 3.2 cm, the width of the blade is 4.9 cm, the maximum thickness is 2.6 cm.

Barrow II is located 15.5 m west of Barrow I, measuring 12.8 m from north to south,14.2 m from west to east, and 0.64 m high. The research methodology adopted for its excavation was identical to that of Barrow I (Fig. 13). The upper layer consisted of light brown soil, 0.32 m thick. Below is the mound of the barrow and the level of the ancient surface, which is represented by a layer of dark brown colour, sometimes black (0.32–0.84 m). The bedrock consisted of grey-brown clay 0.24 m thick, which turned into river pebble deposits, which began at a depth of 1.08 m (Bernyakovich 1957: 11–12). The two mounds were connected by a trench, 2 m wide (Fig. 3), in which no movable material was found (Bernyakovich 1957: 17).

A significant amount of movable material was discovered under Mound II, as well as negative features, among which the burial of the CWC stands out.

The burial, which K. Bernyakovich interprets as an “ash spot”, was discovered at a depth of 0.85 m at the level of the natural subsoil, on the periphery of the mound

Fig. 13. Barrow II. Scientific Archive of the Department of Archaeology of the I. Krypiakevych Institute of Ukrainian Studies of the NAS of Ukraine.

in the north-eastern part of the barrow, at a distance of 4.1 m from the centre (Fig. 14). The dimensions of the pit are 0.84×0.48 m and a depth of 4–5 cm. The infill consisted of a charcoal layer and ash. No grave goods were found in the burial pit, however, nearby, 0.3–0.4 m from the edge of the burial, on the northern side, two clay vessels were found, which are shown on the plan as No. 3–4. According to the researcher's descriptions, a flint blade was also found near the burial (Bernyakovich 1957: 12). It transpires from the records that this find was discovered much higher, at a depth of 0.55 m, so it cannot be associated with the grave goods (Fig. 15:4). At the same depth, near the burial, a flint racloir was also found, which was not preserved (Bernyakovich 1957: 13).

An amphora-shaped vessel (№ 3) was discovered at a depth of 0.85 m. It has a well-defined flat and slightly concave bottom, a convex-flattened body, a high, concave neck, and rim slightly inclined outwards (Fig. 16:1). The ceramic fabric is homogeneous and dense with an admixture of brick-colour chamotte. The firing is good. The outer surface is brown with traces of smoothing using something like a bundle of straw or grass. The inner surface is light brown, also with horizontal traces of rubbing with a bundle of straw or grass. The outer surface under the rim is ornamented with four horizontal stripes of imprints of a weakly twisted cord, applied with its top to the left. The diameter of the rim is 7.3 cm, the height is 13.1 cm, the maximum convexity of the body is 13.2 cm, diameter of the bottom is 6.2 cm.

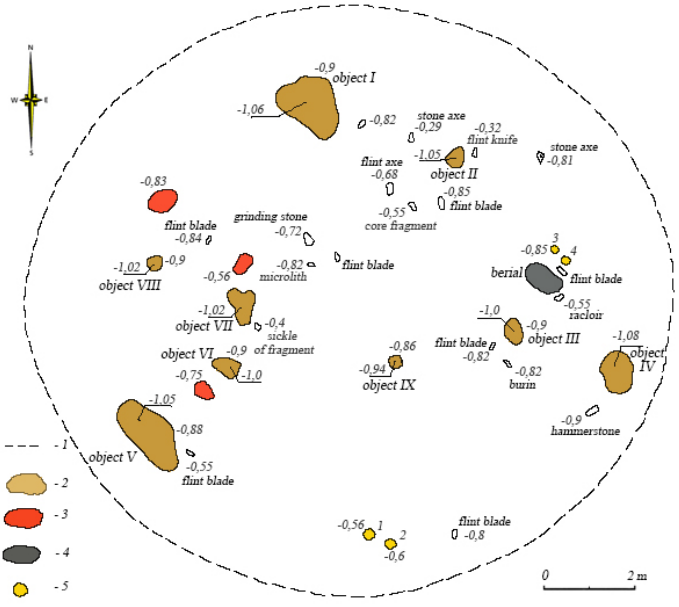

Fig. 14. Plan of Barrow II: 1 – outline of the barrow; 2 – negative features; 3 – accumulation of ceramics; 4 – accumulation of charcoal; 5 – clay vessels. Scientific Archive of the Institute of Archaeology of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, with additions made by M. Voitovych.

A flask-shaped vessel (№ 4) was discovered at a depth of 0.84 m with a flat, well-defined bottom, a strongly convex lower part, and a conical upper part, asymmetrical rim, which on one side is slightly reverted and on the other slightly everted (Fig. 16:2). The ceramic fabric is homogenous and dense with an admixture of chamotte. The firing is good. The surfaces are light cream-coloured and slightly polished. The edges of the rim on one side, which is slightly everted, are ornamented with a horizontal strip of slightly twisted cord. The diameter of the rim is 6.8 cm, the height is 14.5 cm, the maximum convexity of the body is 12.2 cm, and the diameter of the bottom is 5.4 cm.

K. Bernyakovich provides information about the presence of nine negative features where charcoal pieces were found, which he calls "hearth pits"(Fig. 14). The information about them is incomplete. It is indicated that fragments of ceramic vessels were found in some features, but without specifying in which ones. It is also indicated, without additional specifics, that the infill contained charcoal and ash, the thickness of which in the layer was 5–8 cm. The numbering of the features is given by the excavator (Bernyakovich 1957: 12).

Fig. 15. Artefacts made of flint (1, 4–5) and siliceous limestone (2–3) from Barrow II. Authors: I. Prynada and M. Voitovych.

Feature I was located in the northwestern sector of the barrow at a depth of 0.9 m and a distance of 3.76 m from the centre of the barrow. The shape of the feature was close to triangular with rounded corners, dimensions 1.48×1.12 m, and a depth of 0.16 m.

Feature II was discovered in the northeastern sector of the barrow at a depth of 0.91 m and a distance of 3.92 m from the centre of the barrow, 0.14 m deep. The shape in the plan was close to pear-shaped, with dimensions of 0.51×0.32 m.

Fig. 16. Clay vessels of the CWC from Barrow II. Authors: I. Prynada and M. Voitovych.

Feature III was located in the southeastern sector of the barrow at a depth of 0.9 m and a distance of 3.44 m from the centre of the mound. The shape was oval, with dimensions of 0.61×0.39 m and 0.1 m deep.

Feature IV was discovered on the periphery of the mound in the southeastern sector of the barrow, at a distance of 5.68 m from the centre and a depth of 0.88 m. The shape was oval, with dimensions of 0.92×0.68 m and a depth of 0.2 m.

Feature V was located in the southwestern sector of the barrow at a depth of 0.88 m and a distance of 4.72 m from the centre. The shape of the feature was elongated-oval with dimensions of 1.84×0.4 m and a depth of 0.17 m.

Feature VI was located at a depth of 0.9 m and a distance of 2.64 m southwest of the centre, oval in plan, with dimensions of 0.6×0.44 m and a depth of 0.1 m.

Feature VII was discovered at a distance of 2.24 m west of the centre of the barrow at a depth of 0.88 m. Dimensions of 1.08×0.64 m and a depth of 0.14 m in plan, amorphous in shape.

Feature VIII was oval with a diameter of 0.48 m, discovered at a depth of 0.9 m and a distance of 4.21 m west of the centre of the barrow. The depth of the pit from the discovery level was 0.12 m.

Fig. 17. Fragments of clay vessels from Barrow II. Authors: I. Prynada and M. Voitovych.

Feature IX was located in the southeastern sector of the barrow at a distance of 1.36 m from the centre and a depth of 0.86 m. In plan, it was oval with a diameter of 0.43 m and a depth of 0.08 m (Bernyakovich 1957: 12).

We found small discrepancies in the descriptions of the features in the archival materials and in the plan. In particular, the width of Feature V in the text is indicated as 0.4 m, while according to the illustrative material, it is about 1 m.

Despite the smaller size of Barrow II, a significant amount of movable material was discovered here at different depths, dating from the Mesolithic period to the Bronze Age. A significant part of the material had been incvorporated into the mound during the construction of the barrow. This applies to finds discovered at depths from 0.25 m to 0.8 m (the lower limit is relative since it is not known at what depth the ancient surface level began during the construction of the mound).

According to the plan, three accumulations of movable material were recorded under the mound of the barrow, located at a depth of 0.56 m, 0.75 m, and 0.83 m. The first one was discovered in the northwestern sector at a distance of 2.24 m from the centre. These include small fragments of the lower part of the vessel, in a reasonably good

state of preservation. Thanks to the brief description left by the author of the research, we know that the fragments are made of ceramic fabric with an admixture of a significant amount of black grit of coarse-grained sand. Thus, we managed to distinguish these finds from another collection, primarily the FBC, which was discovered at this depth. We know that the bottom of the vessel has a diameter of 6.4 cm, but it is absent among the preserved fragments (Bernyakovich 1957: 15–16). On some fragments, the remains of an intact dark grey surface are visible (Fig. 17:1). The fragments of another vessel were found in this cluster. It differs from the first one in its massive proportions and ceramic fabric, in which, in addition to the grit, there is an admixture of brick-coloured chamotte (Fig. 17:5). We have established that the finds from this cluster belong to the Trzciniec-Komaróv Culture.

We encounter difficulties in interpreting the cultural identity of the next cluster since the plan indicates that the material was discovered at a depth of 0.75 m, and among the preserved ones, there are finds that are fixed at a depth of 0.7 m. Eleven of the thirteen units belong to the Trzciniec-Komaróv Culture. The other two are FBC. The cluster was discovered at a distance of about 2.5 m south of the previous one. All fragments of the Trzciniec-Komaróv Culture belong to one vessel with an admixture of a significant amount of coarse-grained sand and large fractions of black grit. The bottom of the vessel is well-defined and flat (Fig. 17:2), and the rim is slightly everted, thickened, and horizontally cut (Fig. 17:3).

The last accumulation is located in the northwestern sector of the barrow at a distance of 4.52 m from the centre. According to the descriptions made by K. Bernyakovich, it is known that this one included exclusively fragments of brick-coloured ceramics with an identical fracture. The firing is good. In the preserved collection, only one find is recorded at this depth and is represented by a fragment of a vessel base, the diameter of which is extremely problematic to determine. In contrast, three more fragments originating from the same vessel are indicated as having been found at a depth of 0.86 m, and nineteen other examples are indicated only as having been found in this barrow. It was possible to partially recreate the convex body of a rather thick-walled vessel (Fig. 17:6). The surface is severely damaged by aggressive soils, but traces of red paint, which was used to cover the outer surface, are partially preserved. And on one find there are traces of repair in the form of tar residues on the surface (Fig. 17:4). The described finds belong to the CII stage of the Trypillian Culture.

On the periphery of the barrow, in its southern part, two vessels were found together (Nos 1 and 2 on the plan). The first vessel was recorded at a depth of 0.56 m. It is a cup (№ 1) with an uneven bottom concave inward, a convex body with a concave neck, which passes into a slightly everted rim, the edges of which is rounded (Fig. 18:1). The ceramic fabric is dense and homogeneous with an admixture

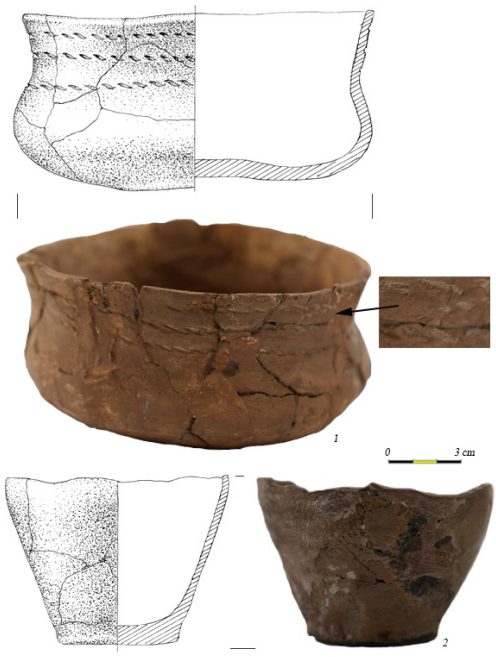

Fig. 18. Clay vessels from Barrow II. Authors: I. Prynada and M. Voitovych.

of brick-coloured chamotte. The firing is good. During the restoration, the surface was covered with brown paint. The original outer surface was light brown and well-smoothed. The inner surface is also light brown, smoothed, but uneven with traces of rubbing with a bundle of straw or grass, the traces of which are visible in the lower part of the body. The fracture is brown. The outer surface under the rim is ornamented with three horizontal imprints of a weakly twisted cord, in which some fibres can be traced in the impressions. The cord is applied with its top to the left. In one place, on the upper imprint, there is a joint at the end of the cord. The diameter of the rim is 14.4 cm, the height is 7.1 cm, the maximum convexity of the body is 14.7 cm.

From another vessel (№ 2), discovered at a depth of 0.6 m, the lower part of the conical shape with a well-defined flat bottom was preserved (Fig. 18:2). The ceramic fabric is mixed with a significant amount of coarse-grained sand, dense, and homogeneous. The firing is good. The outer surface is smoothed, brown in colour, with grains of sand on the surface and small scratches from horizontal rubbing. The inner surface is brown and uneven with grains of sand. The fracture is dark grey. The diameter of the bottom is 5 cm, and the preserved height is 6.8 cm.

Fig. 19. Fragments of clay vessels (1–6) and flint items (7–14) from Barrow II. Authors: I. Prynada and M. Voitovych.

In the mound of the barrow, ceramic material of FBC was recorded from a depth of 0.56 m. It is severely damaged, only some samples have a polished surface. The fracture is dark grey, the outer surface is mostly brown, and the inner surface is grey (Fig. 19:1). A greater concentration of ceramics of this culture is recorded at a depth

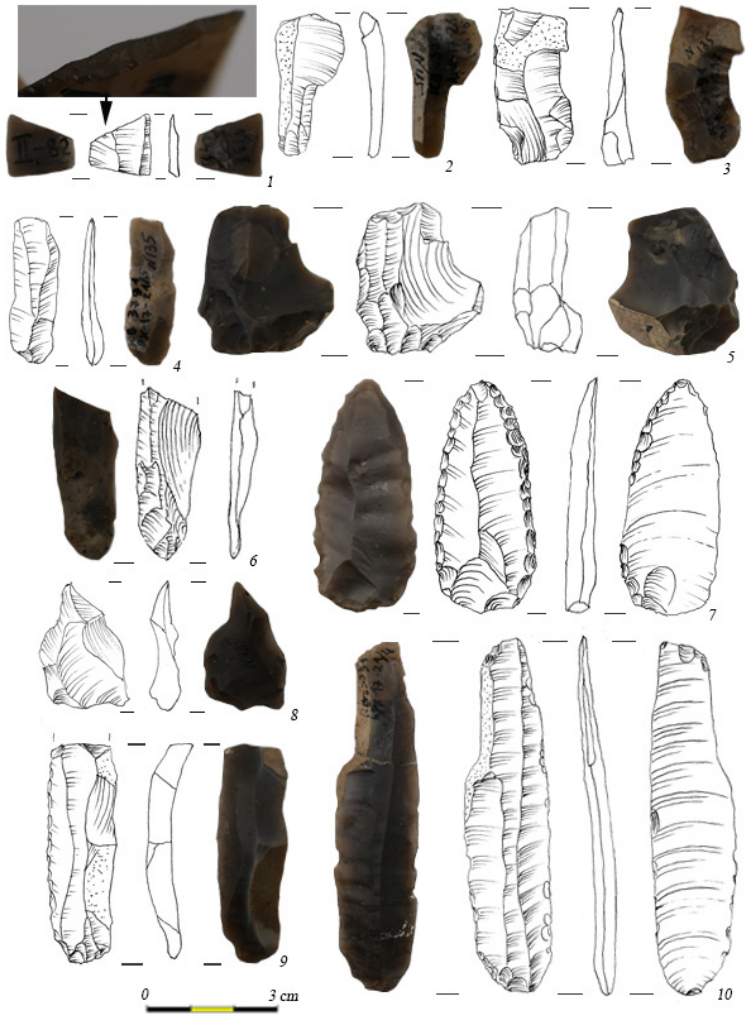

Fig. 20. Flint artefacts from Barrow II. Authors: I. Prynada and M. Voitovych.

of 0.6 m (twenty-nine pieces), but all of them are represented by small fragments of bodysherds (Fig. 19:3–4). The largest collection of FBC vessels was found at a depth of 0.86 m. It is also in a highly fragmented state, but among it, there are some fragments of bases, rims, and handles, which allows us to suggest that among the discovered vessels there are fragments of funnel-shaped pots and amphorae (Fig. 19:2, 5).

Fragments of clay daub were found under the mound of the barrow but in smaller quantities than in Mound I. According to K. Bernyakovich, one find contained an imprint on the clay of a stick with a diameter of 1.8 cm (the find has not been preserved; Bernyakovich 1957: 16).

The collection of flint items was discovered at different depths and left by the local population during the period from the Mesolithic to the Early Bronze Age. The finds occurred from a depth of 0.25 m to 0.85 m, some of them were found in a redeposited state in the mound of the barrow. More than half of the products were recorded in different parts of the mound at a depth of 0.82 m. All discovered artefacts were made from high-quality Turonian raw material.

The collection of finds of the Mesolithic period is small but consists of characteristic finds such as a microlith with a retouched edge (Fig. 20:1) and a fragment of a well-worked narrow-faced single-platform core for removing micro-blades (Fig. 20:5).

Most of the flint artefacts are represented by finds belonging to the FBC, among which blades and their fragments dominate (Fig. 19:7–8, 10–14; 20:2–4). The presented knives are made on blades with retouched edges (Fig. 15:5; 20:9–10). One knife is made on a laurel-shaped blade, triangular in cross-section (Fig. 20:7). The striking platform is facetted. Regular retouching was made on the dorsal surface and partially on the ventral one. Dimensions: 5.22×2.28×0.68 cm. This find is represented in the scientific literature as a dart point (Bernyakovich 1959a: 38). Among other tools, we can distinguish an awl (Fig. 20:8), a burin made on a blade (Fig. 20:6), and a sickle insert. The last one is made on the medial part of a blade, close to a trapezoidal shape. The dorsal surface is parallel, and the working edge of the blade is covered with regular retouching and was polished during usage (Fig. 19:9).

The find of a flint axe, discovered at a depth of 0.68 m and at a distance of 2.6 m northeast of the centre of the mound, is associated with the CWC (Fig. 14). The axe is made of Turonian raw material, striped dark grey and light grey in colour with partial remains of cortex of brown and white colours (Fig. 15:1). It is trapezoidal in plan, with a rounded butt. In profile, it is lenticular in shape with one convex side. The edges of the blade and partially the side crests are carefully ground, and the blade is slightly rounded. The surface of the butt is also ground. On both sides of the object, there are negatives from counterstrikes applied across the axe. The object's length is 8.35 cm, blade width is 3.85 cm, butt width is 1.8 cm, maximum thickness in the centre is 1.5 cm.

Two other axes are also associated with the CWC. The first axe is made of cream-coloured siliceous limestone (*opoka*) in a trapezoidal shape (Fig. 15:3). The surface is carefully polished. The butt is slightly convex, polished. The blade is arcuate with sharp corners. In the cross-section, it is octagonal, in the longitudinal section it is

Fig. 21. Stone artefacts from Barrow II. Authors: I. Prynada and M. Voitovych.

wedge-shaped. The length of the object is 8.5 cm, blade width is 4.55 cm, butt width is 2.9 cm, maximum thickness is 2.35 cm. It was found at a depth of 0.29 m at a distance of 3.84 m northeast of the centre of the barrow.

The second axe is also made of a wedge-shaped siliceous limestone (*opoka*) of grey-milky colour (Fig. 15:2). The find was discovered in the northeastern sector

of the barrow at a distance of 5.32 m from the centre and 2.3 m north of the CWC burial. In plan, the butt of the axe is slightly rounded. The blade is flat, with slightly rounded corners. The surface is carefully polished with traces of mechanical damage. The bore is made closer to the blade, with a diameter of 2.2–2.3 cm. The length of the product is 9 cm, the maximum width in the centre is 5 cm, and the length of the blade is 2.4 cm.

The interpretation of two more stone products, represented by a hammerstone and a grinding stone (K. Bernyakovich interprets it as a fragment of a grain grinder) seems problematic. The hammerstone was discovered on the periphery of the mound in the southeastern sector of the barrow at a depth of 0.9 m (Fig. 21:1). It was made on a pear-shaped piece of sandstone, on which traces of use in the form of notches are noticeable. The grinding stone was discovered in the northwestern sector of the barrow, at a distance of 1.64 m from the centre, at a depth of 0.72 m. The find was made on a grey rectangular piece of sandstone, one of its edges is damaged. The working surface has traces of use and is slightly concave (Fig. 21:2).

DISCUSSION

A characteristic feature of the CWC barrows in the territory of the Carpathians is their high-altitude location in the terrain. The tops of terraces were chosen for the construction of barrow burial grounds, less often, their slopes (Svieshnikov 1974: 29; Machnik 1966: 57; Jarosz 2011: 256). Most of the explored barrow burial grounds in the Drohobych Upland, such as Nyzhni Gai (Machnik *et al.*, 2011: 10–27, map 1), Kulchytsi (Machnik *et al.*, 2006: 126–127, fig. 1), Bolekhivtsi (Svieshnikov 1977: 5–6), Zaluzhany (Demetrykewiecz 1897: 124–125) and Bykiv (Czopek *et al.*, 2016: 64–65), are located in such conditions. However, the studied barrows in Kavske were located in somewhat unusual conditions – in a river valley. The presence of CWC barrows in river valleys in the southeastern area of the CWC distribution is a rather rare phenomenon, however, not unique (Machnik 1966: 69; Jarosz 2016: 513). The closest territorial analogies are found in Radelychi (Mohylky). The ruined barrow burial ground there is located on a low sand dune in the wide Dnister valley (Konoplia 1996b: 31). The now defunct burial ground in Velyka Ozymyna, located in the Bystrytsia Valley, is located in similar conditions (Sulimirski 1968: 137; Machnik *et al.*, 2006: 127, fig. 1). There are also examples of the construction of mounds of CWC in river valleys in the Roztocze region, both in Ukraine and in Poland. In particular, a heavily ploughed barrow burial ground in Sukhovolia near Lviv is located in such conditions (Krushelnytska *et al.*, 1982: 24). Near Ulów, there is a somewhat more interesting situation,

in addition to the typical localisation of mounds on the tops of terraces, there are barrows constructed in the valley (Niezabitowska-Wiśniewska and Wiśniewski 2022: 217, fig. 2, 14). At Kavske, the barrows were built in the reverse topographic conditions (Makarowicz *et al.*, 2016: 249–251). It should be noted that all of these sites, at least on the territory of Ukraine, are severely damaged or completely destroyed, which suggests that in the past there could have been more barrow burial grounds in such conditions.

Barrow I. Most of the discovered movable material had been incorporated into the mound of the barrow during its construction. This primarily concerns the material discovered at depths of 0.38–0.8 m. Some of the material and archaeological features were found *in situ* at the bedrock level and the level of the ancient surface. Unfortunately, the stratigraphic descriptions made by K. Bernyakovich do not allow us to clarify this issue. Whether the level of the ancient surface is the black soil that was partially discovered under the mound is difficult to answer. It seems that the finds of two stone grain grinders, some flint artefacts, fragments of ceramic vessels, and Feature II, which were discovered at depths of approximately 0.9 m to 1.02 m, were left here during the functioning of the FBC settlement (Fig. 4). The number of archaeological features found at the bedrock level was greater. K. Bernyakovich points out that there were depressions here that were not recorded due to the lack of finds inside and which are not marked on the plan of the barrow, and they were not post holes (Bernyakovich 1957: 7). The excavator had recorded features that contained pieces of charcoal. These features were interpreted as hearth pits, and this interpretation of them entered into the scientific literature (Svieshnikov 1974: 28).

Probably, the population of the FBC contributed to the appearance of Feature III, but there is no information on whether any material was discovered here. A cluster of ceramics above Feature II, at a depth of 0.96 m, was indicated in the plan, but the feature began at a depth of 1.02 m, and a significant amount of fragmented ceramics was discovered at this depth. We have identified certain discrepancies between the descriptions, the plan, and the available movable material.

We also encounter difficulties with answering the question which population left the accumulation of charcoal № 2. Its central localisation under the mound and the depth corresponding to the level of the ancient surface attract attention. Although a Mesolithic core was recorded under this charcoal, it cannot indicate that the hearth should be dated to the Mesolithic period. The question of the cultural attribution of the charcoal accumulations Nos. 1 and 3 is simpler. The latter, which is probably the remains of a hearth, is associated with the CWC. Accumulation № 1 most likely belongs to the inserted burial in the mound of the barrow, as indicated by the parameters (1.48×1.12 m) and the presence of an axe made of siliceous limestone (*opoka*)

discovered under it (Fig. 5:1). Presumably, the lower part of the burial pit was not recorded, but only the upper fill, due to the presence of a layer of charcoal here.

In the area of distribution of the CWC in the Forecarpathia, barrows with traces of inserted burials, which are dated back to the late stage of CWC and the early Mierzanowice culture, are often recorded (Jarosz 2010: 281–282; 2018: 147). Therefore, it is not excluded that the so-called Hearth 1 belongs to an inserted burial. We can find examples when inserted burials were carried out in an area close to the centre (Rokytne, Barrow 3; Sulimirski 1968: 145). There are also burials with a flat stone axe among the grave goods (Bykiv, Bigiivka Place, Barrow 2, Burial 1; Czopek *et al.*, 2016: 328). The presence of hearths under the mounds of the CWC barrows is also a well-known practice (Machnik *et al.*, 2008: 212–215; Jarosz *et al.*, 2008: 282–285; Jarosz 2011: 258; Voitovych 2020: 122). In some places, as in our case, more than one was found: two were located in Komariv, Barrow 39 (Sulimirski 1968: 113), two in Bolekhivtsi, Barrow 4 (Svieshnikov 1977: 10–11); and three in Stebnyk, Barrow 1 (Sulimirski 1968: 138).

It is difficult to interpret the presence of individual finds of CWC, in particular axes. We know that a stone hammer was found in the mound at a depth of 0.52 m. However, two other flat axes were found at the same depth as the CWC burial (Feature I) and a distance of 1 m and more than 2 m to the south of it. Whether these two axes are connected with Feature I is a matter of discussion.

Barrow II. The CWC burial is interpreted as a child's, as indicated by the size of the burial pit (Fig. 14). The practice of burying children under CWC barrows is witnessed by some burial mounds in the Carpathian region. In particular, the closest territorial analogies are known from the research conducted by the Ukrainian-Polish archaeological expedition led by J. Machnik in Nyzhni Gai (Machnik *et al.*, 2011).

The presence of the CWC material suggests the presence of at least one more burial under the mound, which was located in its southern part, near the two clay vessels (Fig. 14). Most likely, it was an inserted burial in the mound of an already existing barrow, as indicated by the depth of the discovery of the vessels. We have some comments on one of the vessels found there. Namely, the lower part of the vessel, probably a pot, the ceramic fabric of which is not at all similar to that typical for CWC, but close to that of vessels of the Babyno Culture (Fig. 18:2). We interpret this vessel as an imported product. While such an assumption requires a more detailed study in the future.

It seems interesting that all the separate CWC finds, specifically a flint axe and two axes made of siliceous limestone, were discovered in the northeastern part of the mound in the same area as the CWC burial, although at different depths and a certain distance from each other (Fig. 15:1–3). Whether they are related to the construction of the burial pit is an open question.

Two accumulations of ceramic vessel fragments may mark the places of inserted burials of the Trzciniec-Komarów Culture in the mound (Fig. 14). The absence of bones at the site is due to the specifics of the local soils. However, we can safely conclude that the population of the Trzciniec-Komarów Culture performed certain ritual practices in this barrow, as evidenced by the presence of its material in the mound. An interesting fact is that, except for one vessel wall, which was discovered at a depth of 0.86 m, finds of this culture do not occur below the 0.7 m mark.

Most of the finds under the mound of Barrow II belong to the FBC. This also applies to the artefacts discovered below the 0.8 m mark, except for several items of the CWC. We can assume that negative archaeological features appeared as a result of the existence of a settlement of this culture here. This is be evidenced by the clay daub, which is associated in most cases with the dwellings of this culture. It should be recalled that one of the finds also had the imprints of wooden wattles. The limited source base does not allow us to attribute all of Features I–IX to the FBC, but it can be assumed that a significant part of them was formed as a result of the activity of the FBC population living here.

Movable material. The diversity of the artefacts obtained at the multilayered site in Kavske and the state of research of archaeological cultures, in particular the FBC, originally led to an incorrect interpretation of the site. As we know, I. Sveshnikov, who was just beginning his scientific research in the field of the CWC, took part in the work of the archaeological expedition led by K. Bernyakovich (Fig. 22). Together with Yuri Zakharuk, I. Sveshnikov also provided scientific consultations during the processing of movable material, in particular flint artefacts (Bernyakovich 1959a: 34). Not only was the FBC material not discerned, but a mistake was made in that the small amount of Mesolithic material was not recognised for what it was (in other mounds, several artefacts were also found) and therefore it was not distinguished from other finds. Subsequently, this situation led to the incorrect dating of the site in Kavske and its inclusion by I. Sveshnikov in the circle of sites of the early stage of the CWC. The researcher wrote about this as follows: "The early character of the entire described inventory is indicated not only by the ceramics but also by the presence of such archaic forms as trapezoidal inserts…" (Svieshnikov 1974: 35). Indeed, it was doubts about the attribution of all flint artefacts from Kavske to the CWC that led to the small-scale explorations conducted by L. Matskevyi. However, this time too, not a single find of the Mesolithic age was identified among the obtained flint collection. The researcher continued to interpret the site as Eneolithic (Matskevyi and Kozak 2009: 96). This is despite the fact that in the same topographic conditions and at a close distance from Kavske, there have been several Mesolithic sites recognised in Radelychi, which were explored in the 1980s (Konoplia 1983: 272; 1985: 293–294; 1996a: 18–21; 1999: 3–21).

The poor state of preservation of the ceramics of FBC and the significant fragmentation of the finds became the main reason for the mistake in the cultural interpretation and attribution of the whole assemblage of material to the CWC. As of 1956–1957, the only well-studied FBC settlement was in Mali Hrybovychi in the Lviv region, from where a significant collection of ceramic vessels with a well-preserved surface originates (Smishko and Peleshchyshyn 1962). Research conducted by Yu. Zakharuk in Zymne in the Volhynian region was at an initial stage (Zakharuk 1955: 114–115; 1957: 97–100). Thanks to the study of geographically close sites such as Rudnyky and Trostyanets, we have similar examples where ceramic material is preserved in a similar state (Konoplia and Havinskyi 2013; Havinskyi and Pasterkievich 2017).

Despite the poor state of preservation of the FBC material, several interesting facts were defined. First of all, this is the presence of Trypillian ceramics of the CII stage. This was discovered not only under Mounds I–II (Voitovych 2025: 113–114). One fragment of Trypillian pottery with traces of repair (the presence of tar on the surface) was found. The discovery of this substance on the sites of FBC is not attested for the first time. In particular, it is known thanks to recent research conducted at the site of Vynnyky-Lysivka, where some of the vessels on the surface of which tar is preserved are decorated with it in the form of wide stripes (Havinskyi *et al.*, 2024: 507).

On one fragment of the rim of a funnel-shaped pot, which was found in the mound, there is a vertical stripe of red colour on the outer surface (Fig. 10:4). We assume that this may be an example of imitation of the painted decoration of the Trypillian culture. Such cases are known from some settlements of the FBC, such as Kotoryny and Lezhnytsia (Hawinskyj *et al.*, 2013: foto 12). We treat this find from Kavske with caution until the fact of decoration with paint is confirmed by laboratory analyses. We do not exclude the possibility of the stripe forming naturally, since this area is rich in iron ore deposits.

The settlement in Kavske is part of a group with one of the largest concentrations of FBC sites on the territory of the right bank of the Dnister, covering the interfluve of the Tysmenytsia and Stryi rivers (Havinskyi and Pasterkievich 2016: fig. 2). Among the sites territorially close to Kavske, it is worth mentioning the settlements in Rudnyky, Radelychi, Krynytsia, and Hirske (Artiukh *et al.*, 1977: 262). The discovered ceramic material from Rudnyky, as we can judge on the basis of the latest study of the collection from excavations conducted by A. Havinskyi, is in a similar, unsatisfactory state of preservation (Havinskyi 2024: 79).

The specific ceramic material of the CWC from Kavske and sites such as Kolpets and Kulchytsi led J. Machnik to distinguish a separate group of sites of the Kavsko-Kolpets type of the CWC, since the vessels from there stood out among other ceramic

Fig. 22. Igor Sveshnikov during research of the multilayered site in Kavske in 1957. Scientific Archive of the Department of Archaeology of the I. Krypiakevych Institute of Ukrainian Studies of the NAS of Ukraine.

forms. The similarity of the vessels to the Middle Dnipro culture was noted (Machnik 1979: 61–62). Since the 1990s, several sites have been recorded in South-Eastern Poland, in which vessels of the Middle Dnipro Culture, or imitations of their forms, have been found, which suggests the migration of population groups of the Middle Dnipro Culture to the West (Machnik and Pilch 1997: 146–153; Machnik *et al.*, 2009: 257–261; Machnik 2014: 87–106; Kośko and Włodarczak 2018: 275).

Today, sites of the Kavsko-Kolpets type should be considered as a general phenomenon of the intrusion of the population of the Middle Dnipro Culture to the west. Kateryna Bunyatyan associates this process with a certain pressure from the Catacomb Culture that could have occurred in the second half of the 3rd millennium BC (Buniatian 2008: 10; Buniatian and Samoliuk 2011: 249–256). The appearance of niche sites in various microregions of South-Eastern Poland in which features of the Middle Dnipro Culture were found took place between 2550 and 2450 BC (Jarosz and Włodarczak 2022: 30–31). Therefore, it is worth dating the appearance of burials with features of the Middle Dnipro Culture in the territory of the Upper Dnister region to the same time, and possibly even somewhat earlier. However, this question remains open due to the lack of materials suitable for analysis.

Currently, the main difference between the CWC sites with Middle Dnipro features of the Ukrainian part and the Polish part is that in the territory of the first one, they were all discovered under barrows, while in the territory of Poland, as a rule, in ground burials made in niches (Włodarczak 2022: 390–402). Burials in niches on the territory of the Upper Dnister region are unknown today, although we do not dismiss their existence. A common feature for the CWC barrows in Kavske and burials from the territory of Southeastern Poland is the presence of rather rich grave goods. We know that the majority of barrow burials in the Upper Dnister region are characterised by a low number of materials. A significant part of the burials are without grave goods. Only a few, such as Barrow 7 in Kulchytsi, have rich accompanying material, which includes two or more vessels (Voitovych 2023: fig. 10).

CONCLUSIONS

Thanks to the study of the preserved archaeological collection from the research conducted by K. Bernyakovich in Kavske in 1956–1957, it became clear that the interpretation of the site accepted by the scientific community is mistaken and is caused by the incomplete publication of the collection and the subsequent development of an erroneous chronology of the CWC in the Carpathians with the distinguishing by I. Sveshnikov of the early phase, which was based on the archaic nature of the forms, in particular the flint complex (Svieshnikov 1974: 35). This applies to the inclusion of flint artefacts from the Mesolithic and Eneolithic periods in the assemblage of CWC. A detailed analysis of archival materials and movable materials from Mounds I and II has refuted their interpretation as a CWC settlement on artificial mounds. We have established that the site was repeatedly inhabited in the past from the Mesolithic period and up to the Bronze Age. However, the largest amount of material belongs to the settlement of FBC, over the remains of which the CWC population constructed the first barrows in this area. An interesting discovery was the identification of samples of ceramics of the Trypillian Culture of the CII stage among the FBC pottery, which we interpret as imports. The small amount of CWC material, among other things, refutes the inclusion of the examined site as a settlement of this culture. The discovered CWC material was usually localised compactly, inside the burials or near them. As for the ceramic material itself, it is quite atypical and characteristic of the Middle Dnipro Culture, a population of which, migrating westward in the second half of the 3rd millennium BC, could have brought with them their ceramic forms. It was possible to record the facts of the intervention of the population of the Trzciniec-Komaróv Culture in the mounds of the barrows, probably with certain ritual actions.

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