



*Early Bronze Age enclosure at Pietrowice Wielkie (Poland)
Summer field school of archaeology 2015*

INTRODUCTION

The *Archaeologiae Silesiae* Science Foundation and the Institute of Archaeology, University of Wrocław kindly invite students and graduates of archaeology who possess some experience in archaeological fieldwork, to participate in an archaeological field school in Pietrowice Wielkie.

Project director: dr Mirosław Furmanek (Institute of Archaeology, University of Wrocław)

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THE SITE

The impressive and enigmatic enclosure at Pietrowice Wielkie was identified in 2011 in satellite images. A geomagnetic prospection conducted subsequently revealed its extent and layout. The circular double ditch system was at first interpreted as a Neolithic *rondelle* site, however fieldwork carried out in 2012 established its Early Bronze Age chronology.

The site is located in Silesia (south-western Poland), at the foreground of the Moravian Gate, which has been one of the most convenient communication arteries connecting northern and southern Europe since the Palaeolithic. The region is well-known for its elaboration of the prehistoric cultural landscape. The enclosure is situated on an exposed promontory in the confluence of the Troja and Cyna (Psina) rivers.

During research conducted in 2012 the stratification of both ditches was investigated. Selected storage pits located in the area between the ditches were also studied. Animal bone deposits

(e.g. deer and dog) consisting of whole skeletons and large body fragments were discovered at their bottoms, what may suggest a ritual context of their deposition.

The objective of the project is to explore the character of the enclosure – its chronology, function and spatial organization as well as its role in the local settlement network and possible interregional significance.

METHODS

Specialists representing different fields of science are involved in the project, what enables a multi-disciplinary approach to the studied issues. The application of various research methods allows to obtain a possibly broadest picture of prehistoric activities at the site. Our research procedure comprises three main aspects: non-invasive surveys, archaeological fieldwork and post-ex laboratory analyses.

Non-invasive methods

Aerial photography is used for monitoring known archaeological sites and for discovering new ones, which are visible in the form of soil or crop marks. The participants of the field school will familiarize themselves with the methodology of aerial prospection, take part in low altitude aerial photography using a drone and a kite (UAV, KAP) and analyze the obtained data.

Geomagnetic prospections allow to determine the extent and layout of sites by registering anomalies caused by the presence of archaeological features of various character. The participants of the field school will learn the techniques of gradiometry and magnetic susceptibility prospections by taking part in the surveys and subsequent analyses of data.

Excavations

The excavations will be conducted in places selected on the basis of non-invasive prospections. During the fieldwork the nature of the detected anomalies will be verified and information regarding the stratification of archaeological features will be obtained. Artefacts and samples for post-ex analyses will be collected and catalogued. The participants of the field school will explore and sample archaeological contexts. They will also acquire practical skills in techniques of digital archaeological recording (e.g. using a total station and preparing photogrammetry).

Laboratory analyses

Analyses of artefacts allow to determine their chronological and cultural affiliation. The participants of the field school will familiarize themselves with various types of archaeological finds characteristic for Early Bronze Age communities and will be responsible for their cataloguing.

Archaeobotanical analyses of botanical macro-remains discovered in archaeological contexts reveal information regarding the use of various plants as food, fodder, fuel or raw materials. The participants of the field school will learn the methodology of preparing samples for microscopic observations and will take part in recognizing individual species and interpreting these findings.

Archaeozoological analyses of animal remains deliver information on the significance of different animal species for prehistoric communities. The participants of the field school will most likely have the opportunity of exploring animal skeletons (or their large fragments) and will take part in field descriptions of the faunal material.

Osteological analyses of human remains reveal direct information regarding the life history of individuals and whole populations in aspects of sex, age, physical condition and cause of death. The participants of the field school will familiarize themselves with describing human osteological material. Advanced research methods (DNA and isotope analysis) will be presented during afternoon lectures.

Geoarchaeological analyses (micromorphology and geochemistry) allow to recognize the mode and tempo of archaeological context formation and the composition of the layers. The determination of natural, anthropogenic and post-depositional factors broadens the understanding of the feature's function(s). The participants of the field school will learn the methodology of taking soil samples and familiarize themselves with current results of geoarchaeological analyses conducted at the site.

Radiocarbon dating determines the absolute chronology of archaeological materials and contexts. The participants of the field school will learn the methodology of selecting appropriate sample materials and sampling procedures.

LECTURES

Besides the fieldwork, lectures presenting the environmental and cultural context as well as the theoretical foundations of the conducted research will be presented by invited researchers from Poland and the Czech Republic. The participants of the field school will receive a set of teaching materials related to the research topic.

FIELD SCHOOL LEARNING OUTCOME

The participants of the project will take part in conscious, interdisciplinary archaeological research involving the use of different science methods and aimed to reveal prehistoric human activity at the studied site. The participants will have the opportunity of obtaining valuable practical skills, supplemented by state of the art theoretical knowledge.

The participants will receive a certificate confirming their involvement in the field school.

DAILY SCHEDULE

8.00-15.00 – work at the site or in the field laboratory (in groups)

16.00 – lunch

18.00 – lectures and daily discussion

During the weekends excursions to neighbouring archaeological sites and other places of interest are planned.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

The field school will take place between the **10th** and **28th** of **August 2015**.

The participants will be based at the school in Pietrowice Wielkie (Racibórz county, Silesian Voivodeship). There will be a large common room and several smaller rooms (kitchen, storage room) available. The school is clean and in good condition and has toilets and showers. A recreational area is also available (sports ground and barbecue place).

The participants should take their own sleeping bags. Sleeping mattresses will be available at the school.

Daily lunch and drinking water at the site will be provided by the organizers.

Pietrowice Wielkie is a large village with several grocery stores, a pizzeria, restaurant, pharmacy, cash machine and post office. The city of Racibórz (bus & train stations, hospital, supermarkets, restaurants & pubs) is located nearby (ca. 7 km away).

The currency in Poland is PLN (Polish Złoty). The cost of the field school is **200 PLN** (ca. **50 EUR**). The fee will be used to pay for accommodation and subsistence.

The participants are responsible for their own insurance.

The participants should arrive at Pietrowice Wielkie around noon, on Monday, 10.08.2015. It is also possible to come one day earlier, on Sunday.

The organizers cannot provide direct transport to Pietrowice Wielkie. However, there is a possibility of collecting individual participants or small groups from Wrocław (airport, bus & train stations) or Racibórz (bus & train stations). Please contact us regarding transport matters – we will be happy to assist You in planning Your journey!

The summer in Pietrowice Wielkie is usually quite hot (up to 30 °C), however rain can also be expected. The participants should be equipped in appropriate working shoes, head cover and waterproof clothing. Sun creams and insect repellents can also be useful.

Number of places: 15. Please apply as soon as possible!

We guarantee You a great time and an unforgettable scientific experience. Help us solve the riddle of the Pietrowice Wielkie enclosure!

CONTACT INFO

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