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Production zone of the Przeworsk culture settlement from the period of Roman influence at site 6 in Żurominek, Mława district, Mazowieckie Voivodeship

#### Abstract

Żurominek 6 is a site that is a production zone of a settlement of the Przeworsk culture. During the research only 2 fragments of pottery were recovered and as many as 262 features were recorded. Among the uncovered sources, hearths (70%) definitely dominate. Unfortunately, it was not possible to determine their function. The hearths, although devoid of dating materials on the basis of formal features per analogiam, were associated with the Roman influence period and the Przeworsk culture. The site completes the "list" of known settlements from the Roman influence period with separate zones with concentrations of hearths.

#### Keywords:

Mazovia, Roman influence period, Przeworsk culture, economic and productive zone of the settlement, hearths

#### Summary

Rescue excavations at site 6 in Żurominek (AZP 40-60/37) were carried out in connection with the construction of the S7 expressway on the Mława-Strzegowo section of the Mazowieckie Voivodeship. The commissioner of the rescue work was the General Directorate of National Roads in Olsztyn, and the contractor of the research was APB THOR Sp. z o.o. of Gniezno. The archaeological work was carried out in 2020.

A total of 39.5 acres were investigated, on which 4 utility pits, 47 pits of undetermined function, 27 postholes and 184 hearths were separated. In the fill of one pit and one hearth, single fragments of pottery were registered, which were found in secondary deposits in these objects. Features in which pottery fragments were registered were located in the western and southwestern parts of the surveyed area.

Ceramic material - two fragments, were discovered in two objects located in the production zone of the settlement. A technological analysis of the obtained fragments was carried out, based on which it was

concluded that they could only be generally associated with the Przeworsk culture of the Roman influence period.

Features were recorded throughout the site and the dominant group of objects were hearths, which varied slightly from one another and did not form clearly distinguishable clusters. Despite the fact that hearths are among the most "visible" archaeological sources, they were characterized by insignificant thickness - about 80% of them were very heavily damaged by intensive agricultural work.

Among the hearths, the predominant objects were those that had quadrangular and near-quadrangular shapes in horizontal projections. It is assumed that objects with such shapes are found mainly in settlements from the Roman influence period.

In addition to hearths, pits were also recorded, among which features with an economic function and postholes were distinguished.

Żurominek, in terms of the number of recorded hearths, can be counted among the sites of the Przeworsk culture characterized by their considerable number. This indicates the existence of a substantial settlement, the center of which, along with the residential zone, is already outside the study area. The examined area is probably the extreme - productive and economic part of this settlement. The peripherality of the analyzed area is also evident in its location, i.e. on a slope with eastern exposure.

In the case of the Żurominek site, it is important to emphasize the difficulty of researchers in determining the chronology of objects devoid of artifacts. The hearths, on the basis of formal features per analogiam, were linked to the period of Roman influence.

The discussed site completes the "list" of known settlements from the Roman influence period with separate zones with a concentration of hearths, but unfortunately, it does not solve the problem of their function, which has puzzled many researchers for years.