ГЛАСНИК 42

српског археолошког друштва 2026



Током 2021. и 2022. године Народни музеј Србије спровео је прва археолошка истраживања тврђаве Купиник у Срему, једне од најочуванијих средњовековних фортификација у Војводини, која се због, специфичне структуре и положаја сврстава у тзв. водене градове. Први пут се помиње у повељама угарског краља Жигмунда Луксембуршког, крајем 14. века, као „краљевски" град. Током 15. века додељиван је у посед српских деспота и великаша, да би постао и резиденција последњих деспота из лозе Бранковића, потомака деспота Ђурђа Бранковића. Откривене целине и покретни материјал указују на живот у граду у време столовања Бранковића, али не и током 14. столећа. Археолошки су потврђени историјски подаци о разарању тврђаве 1521. године у походу Османлија на Београд, праћеним великим пожаром у коме су урушене спратне конструкције куле са каљевим пећима. Унутар бедема утврђено је више нивоа коришћења и нивелација, као и то да – иако је Купиник изгубио значај војнопограничне тврђаве у одбрани јужних граница Угарске – живот овде није сасвим замро.

(Пећњаци из рушевинског слоја разарања тврђаве 1521. године; фото: Вељко Илић, Народни музеј Србије)

Емина Зечевић
Народни музеј Србије

In 2021 and 2022, the National Museum of Serbia conducted the first archaeological research at the fortress of Kupinik in Srem, one of the best-preserved Medieval fortifications in Vojvodina, classified as a so-called water town due to its specific structure and position. It was first mentioned in charters of the Hungarian king Sigismund of Luxembourg in the end of the 14th century as a "royal" town. During the 15th century, it was granted to Serbian despots and nobles, and became the residence of the last despots from the Branković family, descendants of despot Đurađ Branković. Discovered units and mobile material are indicative of the period of life in the city during the reign of the Branković family, but not during the 14th century. Archaeological evidence confirmed historical data about the destruction of the fortress in 1521 during the Ottoman campaign against Belgrade, followed by a great fire in which tower floor constructions collapsed, with ceramic stoves. Within the ramparts, several usage levels and levelling activities were registered, showing that – even though Kupinik lost its significance as a military-border fortress in the defence of Hungary's southern borders – life here did not completely die out.

(Stove tiles from the fortress from the debris layer destroyed in 1521; photo: Veljko Ilić, National Museum of Serbia)

Emina Zečević
National Museum of Serbia

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PREHISTORIC SITES ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE BELI TIMOK VALLEY IN THE KNJAŽEVAC REGION

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Abstract: *This paper presents the results of the first campaign of the systematic archaeological survey in the Knjaževac region conducted in the Beli Timok basin in 2023, with a particular emphasis on a defined corpus of prehistoric sites located on the right side of the Beli Timok valley. The analysis is based on systematic field survey, UAV-based aerial recording, GPS mapping, and GIS data processing within a relatively uniform geomorphological unit. A total of 15 sites are discussed. The results indicate a broad cultural and chronological range, extending from the Early/Middle Neolithic to the Late Iron Age, with a pronounced multi-layered character of certain sites and presence of less clearly defined zones with indicative finds. Particularly significant is the observed spatial concentration of sites yielding material associated with the Gáva–Belegiš II, Kalakača, and Basarabi horizons. In terms of the regional chronology, these horizons may be broadly placed within a sequence extending from the final Late Bronze Age, partly corresponding to the Transitional Period in Serbian archaeological terminology, to the Early and Advanced Iron Age of the Central Balkans. The observed distribution suggests more clearly defined patterns of settlement clustering along the right side of the Beli Timok valley.*

Keywords: *Beli Timok, Knjaževac region, archaeological survey, settlement patterns, Neolithic, Eneolithic, Late Bronze Age, Early Iron Age, Advanced Iron Age*

The paper presents the results of works carried out within the project *Systematic Archaeological Survey of the Knjaževac Region*, conducted by the Homeland Museum of Knjaževac in cooperation with the Institute of Archaeology in Belgrade. The project was envisioned as a multi-year, systematic and non-destructive investigation of the territory of the Municipality of Knjaževac, with the aim to record, spatially define and preliminarily determine the cultural



Fig. 1. Overview of the basin of the Beli Timok near Knjaževac.
UAV photograph (photo: D. Božić)

Сл. 1. Поглед на долину Белог Тимока код Књажевца.
Фотографија из дрона (фото: Д. Божић)

and chronological attribution of archaeological finds and sites from all periods of the past. The basic research methodology included systematic field surveys, UAV-based aerial recording, spatial identification and mapping of sites using a handheld GPS device, and GIS processing of the collected data on various geo-referenced raster base maps.

The first campaign was carried out in 2023 and focused on the basin of the Beli Timok River within the territory of the Municipality of Knjaževac (fig. 1). The investigated zone belongs to a distinct mountain–basin–valley unit of eastern Serbia, morphostructurally formed within the Carpathian–Balkan region. Its main hydrographic and communication axis is the Beli Timok, formed by the confluence of the rivers Svrljiški Timok and Trgoviški Timok in the area of Knjaževac, with a broad valley plain surrounding it. The relief structure is further intersected by numerous left- and right-bank tributaries descending from the surrounding mountain massifs of Tupižnica and Stara Planina towards the valley. This creates, within a relatively limited area, an alternating sequence of alluvial plains, lower river terraces and hilly slopes (Marković 1995, 96; Sibinović 2017, 24–25). Such an environment is particularly relevant for archaeological analyses, as it represents a zone in which natural communication routes, water resources, arable land and topographically favourable settlement positions intersect. The geographical

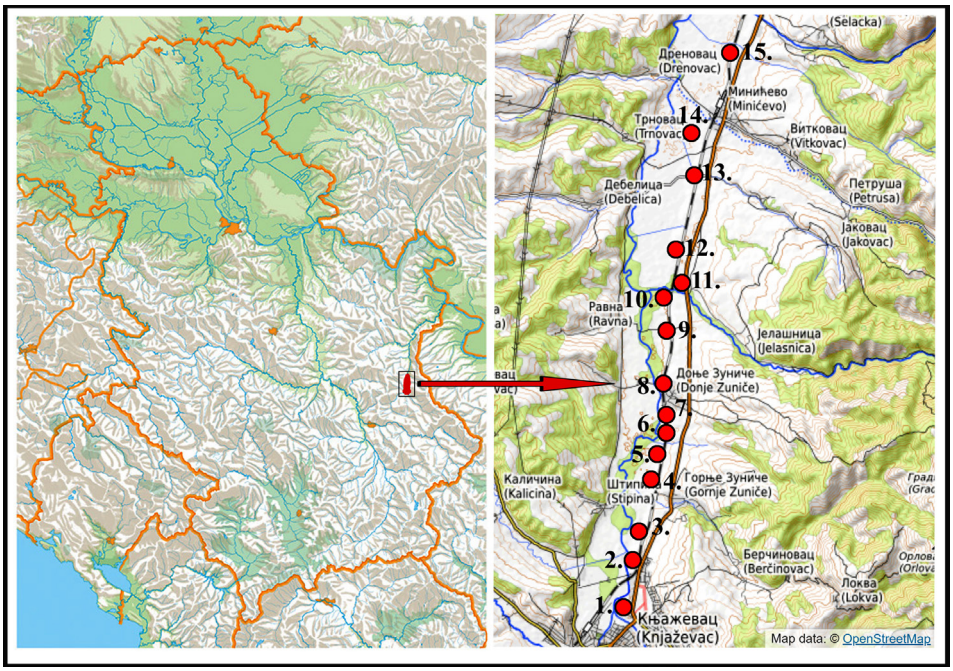

Fig. 2. Map showing the position of the investigated section of the Beli Timok valley within Serbia (left) and spatial distribution of the 15 analysed prehistoric sites on the right valley side of the Beli Timok (right): 1 – Dubrava; 2 – Boševo; 3 – Dajčevica; 4 – Slog II; 5 – Slog I; 6 – Adžijsko Polje II; 7 – Adžijsko Polje I; 8 – Selo; 9 – Bojište; 10 – Škodrino Polje; 11 – Valuge; 12 – Valuge–Lešje; 13 – Jasenje; 14 – Trnovska Bara; 15 – Stare Livade

Сл. 2. Карта положаја истраживаног дела долине Белог Тимока у оквиру Србије (лево) и просторна дистрибуција 15 анализираних праисторијских локалитета на десној долинској страни Белог Тимока (десно): 1 – Дубрава; 2 – Бошево; 3 – Дајчевица; 4 – Слог II; 5 – Слог I; 6 – Аџијско поље II; 7 – Аџијско поље I; 8 – Село; 9 – Бојиште; 10 – Шкодрино поље; 11 – Валуге; 12 – Валуге–Лешје; 13 – Јасење; 14 – Трновска Бара; 15 – Старе Ливаде

framework of the campaign included the Beli Timok valley, as well as narrower zones along its left and right tributaries, most notably the rivers Valevačka, Manjinska, Jelašnička and Koritska Reka.

During the first research campaign, surveys were conducted in 14 rural cadastral areas and two suburban settlements, resulting in the identification of 36 archaeological sites and the collection of 1,448 mobile finds, mostly ceramic fragments. This paper presents a narrower analytical corpus, encompassing exclusively prehistoric sites documented on the right valley side of the Beli Timok, from the zone of its formation at the confluence of the Svrljiški and Trgoviški

Timok, on the northern periphery of Knjaževac, to the mouth of the river Selačka Reka near the village of Minićevo. This is a valley belt, approximately 15 km long and up to 2 km wide, including the cadastral territories of Minićevo, Drenovac, Debelica, Trnovac, Jakovac, Jelašnica, Donje Zuniče and Gornje Zuniče, as well as agricultural areas within the suburban settlements of Boševo and Dubrava. Although Drenovac, Debelica and Trnovac are located on the left bank of the Beli Timok, parts of their cadastral territories extend to the right side of the valley. Such a spatial framework enables the analysis of the distribution, character and chronological range of prehistoric sites within a relatively uniform and clearly defined geomorphological unit.

Within the analysed territory, 15 sites were recorded (fig. 2). Their boundaries were determined on the basis of the surface distribution of the archaeological material, primarily pottery, in relation to the configuration and micro-topography of the terrain. Site status was assigned to positions with a clearly expressed and continuous concentration of the mobile material on the surface, accompanied by technologically and typologically coherent finds. Individual finds outside such concentrations were treated as isolated finds and interpreted only as indicators of possible archaeological activities. Since the analysis is predominantly based on surface-collected pottery, the research limitations of the material gathered in such a manner must be taken into account. It lacks a secure stratigraphic context, is often fragmented and secondarily displaced by ploughing and erosion, and therefore conclusions about their cultural and chronological attribution remain preliminary. They are more reliable at the level of broader stylistic and typological horizons than for finer chronological and functional distinctions.

The cultural and chronological attribution of the Bronze and Iron Age material[1] discussed in this paper requires particular methodological caution, since the direct transfer of the Reinecke/Müller-Karpe system to south-eastern Europe has often reflected research-historical practice and external cross-dating rather than an internally established regional chronological sequence (Gavranović and Ložnjak Dizdar 2020, 55–56; Gavranović 2011, 21–38; 2021, 383–391; Gogâltan 2021, 403–407; Kaiser and Schier 2021, 5). This is particularly problematic when

[1] It should also be noted that, in Serbian and central Balkan archaeological literature, the term "Transitional Period" is frequently used as a relative chronological designation for the interval between the later part of the Late Bronze Age and the onset of the Early Iron Age. Its precise chronological and cultural content remains debated. In different regional studies, depending on the author and the chronological scheme applied, it may broadly be correlated with the range from Br D to Ha B3 (Milojević 2026, Tab. 2). However, one of the most important processes within this broad framework is the spread of channelled pottery of the Gáva–Belegiš II horizon, which recent literature most commonly associates with the period between the 12th and the 10th century BC (Bulatović 2007, 57–59; Булатовић и Станковски 2012, 315–382; Bulatović et al. 2021, 61–63).

metal hoards, ceramic groups and regional cultural developments are forced into a single imported chronological framework (Dietrich 2021, 64–102).

The chronological framework used in this paper, therefore, follows, as much as possible, the regional periodisation proposed by Vasić, whose system was developed through the correlation of the central Balkan material, especially metal finds, with wider European chronological schemes (Vasić 2003, 7; Vasić 2015, 3–8; Pabst 2008, 591–592; Gavranović 2021, 386–391; Pare 2025, 178–181). Accordingly, the material is discussed through the terms Late Bronze Age, Early Iron Age and Early/Advanced Iron Age,[2] while the Gáva–Belegiš II, Kalakača and Basarabi horizons are treated primarily as cultural and stylistic units, rather than direct equivalents of fixed central European chronological phases.

1. Dubrava / "Mitar Bakić" Barracks

Within the area of the town of Knjaževac, at the location of Dubrava, which is treated as a single site complex together with the area of the "Mitar Bakić" barracks in this paper, a multi-layered prehistoric site had been previously registered on the first river terrace immediately above the confluence of the rivers Svrljiški and Trgoviški Timok. This is a slightly protruding terrace extending along the right banks of the Trgoviški and Beli Timok for about 350 m, representing a topographically favourable space for a multi-phase settlement. No systematic excavations have been conducted at the site; however, test trench excavations were carried out within the barracks complex in 1982, while most of the finds were collected during earthworks and survey activities (Стојић и Илијић 2011, 29, 67). Earlier finds indicate the presence of painted pottery from the late phases of the Starčevo culture, Vinča culture pottery, as well as Late Eneolithic material of the Coțofeni–Kostolac style and fragments of the Verbicioara culture from the Middle/Late Bronze Age (Сладић и Јовановић 1997, 169–170; Капуран и Булатовић 2012; Стојић и Илијић 2011, 67–72; Kapuran 2014, 160).

The most recent finds, collected during infrastructural earthworks, confirm the same cultural and chronological range. The Neolithic horizon is represented by Starčevo fragments decorated with barbotine (Pl. I/1, 2) and the impresso technique (Pl. I/3), which are common inventory at Middle Neolithic sites

2 The terminology used here follows Vasić's regional chronological scheme for the Central Balkans. In Vasić's German-language publications, *Spätbronzezeit* or *Spätbronze-* bzw. *Urnenfelderzeit* are rendered here as Late Bronze Age, *Frühe Eisenzeit* as Early Iron Age, and *Ältere Eisenzeit* as Early Iron Age (Vasić 2003; 2010; 2015). Since the literal English rendering Older Iron Age may be confused with Early Iron Age in English-language archaeological terminology, this paper adopts Advanced Iron Age, after the first explanatory mention, as a working English term corresponding to Vasić's *Ältere Eisenzeit* and of the Serbian terms *starije/razvijeno gvozdeno doba*.

from almost all phases of the culture (Dimitrijević 1974, 67, 85; Garašanin 1979, 126; Perić 1998; Tasić 2009, 89–91). An example with deep incisions (Pl. I/4), forming a spiral ornament known from beakers at the site of Crnokalačka Bara (Стојић и Чађеновић 2006, T. CVIII/93), is even more frequently represented in painted decorations from the late phase of the Starčevo culture (Dimitrijević 1974, T. VII/11, 21–23; Tasić and Tomić 1969, 19–25; Petrović 2009, T. VI/6, kat. br. 6). Three fragments (Pl. I/5–7) can be attributed to the Vinča culture, probably to its earlier phase, i.e., the Vinča A–B phase according to Milojčić's chronology. The analogies for the sherd with channelling on the body are found at Grivac (Bogdanović 2004, T. 9.24/a; 9.28/g), while parallels for the fragment with a pronounced shoulder and slightly everted rim can be drawn with material from the site of Korbovo (Kapuran 2014, T. 4/16). The Late Eneolithic is documented by a single fragment of the Coțofeni–Kostolac style (Pl. I/8), decorated with an incised meander, for which close analogies are recorded at the sites of Gospođin Vir – Dobra (Булатовић et al. 2011, T. XVIII/1; Капуран и Булатовић 2012, T. VI/73; Kapuran 2014, T. 11/7) and Mokranjske Stene (Булатовић et al. 2011, T. LXIV/19; Kapuran 2014, T. 12/7). The Middle/Late Bronze Age and the Verbicioara culture are represented by a body fragment (Pl. I/9) with dense vertical channelling, for which the closest analogies can be found at the nearby hill fortification of Baranica (Kapuran 2014, T. 15/17).

2. Boševo

The site is situated along the edge of the first river terrace, approximately 1.2 km downstream from the site of Dubrava. As the area largely falls within the industrial zone of Knjaževac, a systematic surface survey was significantly constrained by the presence of factory buildings and fenced complexes. Consequently, the extent of the site has not been definitively established; however, based on the distribution of surface finds, it may be estimated at approximately 2 ha (fig. 3). Earlier surveys indicated the presence of Eneolithic finds (Јовановић 1987, 123), as well as material dated to the Bronze Age and the Early Iron Age (Стојић и Илијић 2011, 64–66; Kapuran 2014, 160).

The assemblage collected during the 2023 campaign indicates the presence of phases of occupation and/or activity ranging from the Bronze Age to the Late Iron Age (La Tène period). A fragment of an obliquely cut rim with an applied raised band on the neck, decorated with finger impressions (Pl. I/11), may be attributed to the Middle/Late Bronze Age and finds close analogies at Bolvan in Podvis and in the cave of Zlotska Pećina (Kapuran 2014, Pls. 16/34, 15/27). An arched handle with an elliptical cross-section, decorated with a com-



Fig. 3. UAV view of the arable fields within the area of the site of Boševo; the highlighted zones indicate the areas where archaeological material was recorded: Boševo 1 (left) and Boševo 2 (right) (photo: P. Milojević)

Сл. 3. UAV снимак ораница у оквиру зоне локалитета Бошево; истакнуте зоне означавају површине на којима је регистрован археолошки материјал: Бошево 1 (лево) и Бошево 2 (десно) (фото: П. Милојевић)

bination of parallel incisions and oblique notches executed with a toothed implement (Pl. I/10; Boševo 2), has parallels in eastern Serbia (Kapuran 2014, Pl. 28/25; Милојевић и Капуран 2023, Pl. I/13), as well as Velika Humska Čuka and Hisar near Leskovac (Милојевић 2023, Pl. XIX/7; Булатовић и Јовић 2010, Pl. LXXXIII/39). On this basis, it may be broadly placed in the late phase of the Early Iron Age and at the beginning of the Advanced Iron Age. A later phase of the Advanced Iron Age is indicated by a *skyphos* handle of circular cross-section, with a fine grey texture (Pl. I/13; Boševo 1), which, on the basis of available analogies (Милојевић и Перић 2025, Pl. II/15; Milojević et al. in press, Fig. 9/12–13), may be broadly assigned to Vasić's Horizons 2–3 (Vasić 1977, 16–21, 31–32; 2003, 7; 2015, 3–8). Late Iron Age pottery is represented by fine, wheel-thrown fragments fired to a light grey colour (Pl. I/12) (Sladić 1986).

3. Dajčevica

The site of Dajčevica is located approximately 350 m downstream from Boševo, on a projecting terrace spur of the first river terrace formed within a meander of the Beli Timok. Its position on a slightly elevated and visually prominent location, directly above the alluvial plain, renders it topographically suitable for

settlement and for controlling the narrow valley corridor. The surface distribution of ceramic finds was recorded over an area of approximately 0.7 ha, suggesting the presence of a small settlement zone confined to the terrace plateau above the river bend (Pl. II/8–10). As the site has not been previously recorded in the literature, Dajčevica may be considered a newly identified site within the framework of a systematic survey of the right bank of the Beli Timok valley.

The assemblage is primarily composed of coarseware sherds fired in dark brown tones. However, several diagnostically significant fragments may be distinguished: a body sherd of a vessel with a fine texture and decorated with broad, shallow incisions forming rectilinear and curvilinear motifs (Pl. II/10); a vessel neck bearing an applied raised band without additional decoration (Pl. II/8); and a fragment ornamented with fluting and two parallel horizontal grooves filled with impressions, most likely executed using a roulette tool (Pl. II/9). Although the number of diagnostic fragments is limited, the assemblage indicates settlement activity during the Early Iron Age and the beginning of the Advanced Iron Age (Стојић и Илијић 2011, Т. VIII/2; Капуран и др. 2014, Т. XXII/8; Милојевић и Милановић 2017, Т. 2/1–4; Милојевић и Капуран 2023, Т. I/18).

4. Slog II

The area of Slog is located within the territory of Gornje Zuniče and encompasses part of the first river terrace of the Beli Timok, clearly elevated above the extensive alluvial plain known as Ražnjevište, in the interfluve between the river Sinja and the stream of Čevinski Potok. This position, on a terrace elevated approximately 12–13 m above the floodplain, represents a topographically favourable setting for settlement, providing immediate access to water resources and arable land while ensuring protection from seasonal flooding. The site covers an area of approximately 0.4 ha along the terrace edge, east of the Knjaževac–Zaječar railway, approximately 1.5 km downstream from the site of Dajčevica, and has not been previously mentioned in scholarly literature.

The assemblage consists of sporadically collected pottery fragments, predominantly coarseware with untreated or lightly smoothed surfaces, containing visible admixtures of coarse sand and small pebbles, and fired in shades ranging from dark brown to black (Pl. II/1, 2). In technological terms, this assemblage exhibits close similarities to finds recovered from the neighbouring site of Slog I. Among the diagnostic fragments, a bowl sherd with an inturned rim may be distinguished (Pl. II/1). On the basis of its overall technological and typological characteristics, the material may be broadly dated to the Early Iron Age and the beginning of the Advanced Iron Age (Kapuran 2014, T. 29/1–13).

5. Slog I

The site of Slog I is located on the first river terrace on the right bank of the Beli Timok, near the left bank of the stream of Čevinski Potok, approximately 400 m downstream from the site of Slog II. Based on the surface distribution of finds, it may be classified as a linear site extending along the terrace edge over a length of approximately 230 m. The site has not been previously discussed in the archaeological literature, while field visibility was limited due to the low level of cultivation in certain plots; consequently, most of the assemblage was collected from the periphery of the site.

The assemblage is predominantly composed of coarseware fragments, which are largely undecorated. Among the more diagnostic specimens, a rim fragment with finger-impressed decorations (Pl. II/3), sherds featuring obliquely cut and slightly everted rims (Pl. II/5, 6), and, morphologically, the most representative piece, a fragment of a pear-shaped vessel (Pl. II/4), stand out. These stylistic and typological traits find close analogies across a broad chronological span, ranging from the Late Bronze Age to the final phases of the Early Iron Age and the transition into the Advanced Iron Age (Stojić 1986, T. XII/7–9, XIII/2; Булатовић и Станковски 2012, T. XL/1; Булатовић и Капуран 2013, T. II/29, 33, T. III/62; Kapuran 2014, T. 27/1–4, 15–21, 25; Милојевић и Капуран 2023, T. II/18–19, 21; Милојевић 2023, T. I/1, T. LII/1, T. LIX/1). In turn, the material attributed to the Late Iron Age includes a thick-walled, coarse-textured body sherd decorated with an incised group of vertical lines executed with a fine-toothed comb (Pl. II/7). This type of ornamentation is characteristic of the period spanning the late 2nd to the early 1st century BC (Sladić 1986, T. XXIV, XL, XLII/1–2, 4, 8).

6. Adžijsko Polje II / Adžijsko 2

The area of Adžijsko Polje encompasses a terrace and slope zone along the right bank of the Beli Timok, extending from the stream of Čevinski Potok to the settled part of Donje Zuniče. In earlier literature, this micro-zone has been recorded under various names, such as Adžijsko, Adžijsko–Vinsko, and Adžijsko 1 and 2 (Стојић и Илијић 2011, 52; Капуран и Булатовић 2012, 109; Kapuran 2014, 161). The site of Adžijsko Polje II itself is located on the first terrace and its slopes, near a pronounced bend of the Beli Timok, within a narrow area, approximately 280 m wide, bounded by the courses of the streams Čevinski and Crkveni Potok. The highest surface concentration of archaeological finds was recorded linearly, in the direction north–south, along the very edge of the terrace, over a length of about 250 m, while a scattered distribution of finds was also con-

firmed on the slopes of the area of the stream of Seoski Potok, where the material extends across additional 200–250 m west of the terrace edge.

Earlier investigations in the broader area of Adžijsko Polje documented prehistoric finds from various chronological periods. However, the sector of Adžijsko Polje II can be more reliably attributed to the Early and Middle Neolithic, Late Eneolithic, Middle/Late Bronze Age, and Advanced Iron Age. Finds from this sector include material associated with the Starčevo, Coțofeni–Kostolac, and Basarabi cultural complexes. The Middle/Late Bronze Age material could not be more precisely attributed to a specific cultural group (Капуран и Булатовић 2012, 109, 117; Kapuran 2014, 161).

Field survey conducted in 2023 confirmed the earlier finds and expanded the assemblage of surface-collected material from the site. The collected material indicates the presence of an Early/Middle Neolithic component, represented by a sherd bearing a vertically arranged pair of applied raised ribs (Pl. II/11), for which parallels may be found at sites located in the confluence zone of the rivers Zapadna and Južna Morava (Стојић и Чађеновић 2006, Т. XXXI/3). A fragment decorated with oblique grooves (Pl. II/12) represents a common decorative element of the Coțofeni–Kostolac cultural complex, well attested at numerous sites in north-eastern Serbia (Капуран и Булатовић 2012).

A Late Bronze Age component is indicated by a rim sherd of an S-profile cup (Pl. II/13), as well as a fragment bearing fingertip impressions on the rim (Pl. II/14). A somewhat later phase of the Late Bronze Age or the Early Iron Age is suggested by a fragment with two massive horizontal undecorated applied bands (Pl. II/15). Close parallels for the Late Bronze Age material may be found at Trnjane, Popovica and Hisar near Leskovac (Kapuran 2014, T. XIV/16; Милојевић и Капуран 2023; Булатовић и Станковски 2012, Т. XXVII/40–47), while the fragment with raised bands displays typological affinities with finds from the site of Pardička Reka (Милојевић и Миланović 2017, Т. 2/1–4).

7. Adžijsko Polje I / Adžijsko 1

The site is separated from the previously described location only by the course of the stream of Crkveni Potok, with Adžijsko Polje I extending north of its right bank, following the terrace of the Beli Timok in the direction north–south for about 300 m. Earlier investigations recorded archaeological material characteristic of the Starčevo, Coțofeni–Kostolac, Verbicioara, and Basarabi cultural complexes (Kapuran 2014, 161).

During the 2023 field survey, prehistoric material was recovered only sporadically, as extensive vegetation cover and uncultivated terrain severely



Fig. 4. View of the ploughed land within the area of the site of Selo; the highlighted areas represent zones where archaeological material was recorded. UAV photograph (photo: P. Milojević)

Сл. 4. Оранице на којима се простире локалитет Село; истакнуте површине представљају зоне на којима је регистрован археолошки материјал. Фотографија из дрона (фото: П. Милојевић)

compromised surface visibility. However, the recovered material essentially confirmed the earlier observations. Among the more diagnostically significant finds is a vessel neck and body sherd decorated with a pair of deep horizontal grooves (Pl. II/17). This feature is characteristic of Vasić's Horizon 2 of the Advanced Iron Age and may be associated with manifestations of the Zlot–Sofronijevo cultural group (Kapuran 2014, T. XXX/8–12). An earlier component dating to the Early Iron Age is indicated by a bowl sherd with a triangularly thickened rim, decorated with incised lines (Pl. III/12) (Stojić 1986, T. 18/5–6).

8. Selo

The site of Selo is located within the inhabited area of Donje Zuniče, on its western periphery, not far from the bridge over the Beli Timok, approximately 550 m downstream from the site of Adžijsko Polje I. As it is situated within a modern settlement, the site has been reliably recorded only on a single plot covering an area of about 20 ares so far, where a more pronounced concentration of prehistoric and medieval material has been observed (fig. 4). Although the site has not been mentioned in the scholarly literature to date, a collection of material exists in museum records that can likely be associated with this specific area.

The archaeological material consists predominantly of highly fragmented pottery sherds, most likely as a result of long-term and intensive land cultivation. Among the more diagnostically significant finds is a fine, dark grey fragment decorated with fluting forming a garland motif (Pl. II/16), characteristic of vessels in the Gáva–Belegiš II style (Bukvić 2000).

9. Bojište

The site of Bojište is situated within the cadastral area of Donje Zuniče, on a river terrace near a railway crossing, approximately 750 m downstream from the site of Selo. Previous research indicated that the location of the site was not registered precisely (Kapuran 2014, 162); however, during the 2023 campaign, it was accurately identified and documented. On two plots, totalling approximately 80 ares, a significant concentration of archaeological finds was recorded, including ceramic fragments, stone tools, daub, and pieces of fired floor surfaces. The uncultivated condition of the surrounding areas prevented a reliable determination of the site's full extent. Museum collections and published literature document ceramic fragments from the Starčevo (Pl. III/8), Bubanj–Hum (Pl. III/9, 10), Coțofeni–Kostolac (Pl. III/11), and Basarabi culture (Капуран и Булатовић 2012, 110, T. IV/49–51, T. V/52–57; Kapuran 2014, 162, T. 25/1).

Material collected in 2023 also indicates a multi-layered character of the site. The Eneolithic horizon includes a rim fragment decorated with fluting, attributable to the Bubanj–Hum I cultural group (Pl. III/1), as well as a vessel fragment with an applied raised band bearing finger impressions, characteristic of the Coțofeni–Kostolac culture (Pl. III/2). Close analogies for the former are known from the Early Eneolithic horizon at the site of Devojački Kamen, near Vrmža (Milojević et al. 2025, 88), while the latter finds parallels at nearby sites Veliki Most – Vratna and Rosulja–Višnjar, near Rgošte (Kapuran 2014, T. 10/11; T. 11/8; T. 9/20).

The Early Iron Age component is indicated by a fragment decorated with an incised sequence of horizontal lines below the rim (Pl. III/3), as well as several sherds with faceted rims (Pl. III/4–6). The fragment featuring horizontal incised lines below the rim finds close analogies at the nearby sites of Banjica–Rgošte, Bela Stena – Rgotina, and Kamenac–Tamnič (Kapuran 2014, T. 30/8–10). Faceted rims, although present since the Late Bronze Age within the territory of the central Balkans, occur most frequently during the Early Iron Age and are documented at the sites of Gradište in Gamzigrad, Velika Padina in Šarbanovac, and Žljebura in Katun (Kapuran 2014, T. 25/12, 38; Милојевић и Трајковић-Филиповић 2017, кат. 189–190; cf. Bulatović 2009).

The subsequent, Advanced Iron Age component (Vasić Horizon 1) is represented by a sherd decorated with a combination of horizontal *tremolo* lines and concentric circles (Pl. III/7). Similar motifs appear on finds from the Miroč hoard (Jevtić 2015, T. 2/2), as well as those from *Mediana* (Jevtić 2001, T. II/3, 5) and Gradac in Lanište (Stojić 1986, T. 25/5). Among the remaining ceramic finds, two fragments of hearth-related ceramic objects, probably of the *pyraunos* type, should also be noted (Pl. III/13, 14), since such objects are frequently attested in Bronze and Iron Age contexts (Љуштина 2022, 84–85; Kapuran et al. 2020, 66; Kapuran et al. 2025, 33, сл. 3/23–26, 8/1).

10. Škodrino Polje

The site of Škodrino Polje is located within the cadastral area of Jelašnica, on a river terrace of the Beli Timok, whose northern part is cut by the lower course of the river Jelašnička Reka. The site is well known from earlier documentation and literature, as it has been surveyed and test-excavated several times (Лазић и Сладић 1997, 211–213). Excavations in 1987 revealed remains of densely arranged above-ground structures with substructures made of compacted earth, while the areas around the houses were covered with pebbles (Лазић и Сладић 1997, 211). It was established that shallow biconical bowls with unprofiled rims, plates, and beakers dominated among ceramic forms, while other finds included stone and bone tools, one anthropomorphic figurine, a ceramic amulet, and evidence of copper metallurgy (Лазић и Сладић 1997, 212–213). Earlier publications, in addition to the Eneolithic horizon, also recorded finds attributed to the Verbicioara and Basarabi cultural complex (Стојић и Илијић 2011, 54–58; Kapuran 2014, 162). Field survey during the 2023 campaign was significantly hindered by uncultivated terrain, resulting in a small number of finds from prehistory and Antiquity (Muminović Božić et al. in press).

Unpublished prehistoric material from earlier surveys (1980–1982; 1989–1990) indicates the presence of ceramics spanning a wide chronological range, from the Early Eneolithic to the Early Iron Age. The Early Eneolithic is represented by fragments decorated with dense vertical fluting on the vessel body (Pl. IV/1), variants of impressed ornament (Pl. IV/2-4), a pot fragment with vertical notches immediately below the rim (Pl. IV/5), and a handle fragment with part of the body decorated in the barbotine technique (Pl. IV/8). Close analogies for this group of finds exist at Bubanj near Niš, as well as at numerous sites in north-eastern Serbia, such as Rgotina, Korbovo, Čoka lu Balaš, Grabar–Svračara, Taliata, and Krivelj (Milanović i Trajković-Filipović 2015, kat. br. 53, 56, 57, 206, 209; Стојић и Илијић 2011, T. XXXV/41; Kapuran 2014, T. IV/15, 19; T.

VIII/2, 6–8; Tasić 1995, Pl. X/3). Certain fragments display features of the Verbicioara group, such as examples with deeper oblique incisions or groups of three vertical incisions on the vessel body (Pl. IV/7, 10), with analogies in the Danube basin (Jevtić and Vukmanović 2000, Pl. I/1-8, Pl. III/9; Pl.VII/3, 5; Булатовић et al. 2011, T. IV/6; T. X/23).

The majority of the analysed sherds can be broadly associated with a component spanning the final Late Bronze Age and the Early Iron Age (Pl. IV/6, 9; Pl. V/1–3). Among the decorative attributes, an applied raised band with finger impressions, combined with oblique incisions on the rim (Pl. IV/6), stands out and finds close analogies at Džanovo Polje (Kapuran 2014, T. 16/1). Vessels with oblique fluting on the body and a pair of tongue-like handles (Pl. IV/9) are documented at Gomolava (Tasić 1988, 52), Hisar near Leskovac (Stojić 2000, T. VI/5; Bulatović 2007, Pl. 1/2), and the site of Vrelo in Azanja (Stojić 1986, T. IV/3). Sherds of bowls with inturned rims decorated with faceting or oblique fluting (Pl. V/1, 3) represent widespread morphological forms and decorative techniques within the same broad Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age sequence (Bulatović 2009; Medović and Medović 2011, sl. 70/5, 71/8; Kapuran et al. 2019, T. 8/3). Furthermore, fragments with horizontal fluting (Pl. IV/11), occasionally combined with incisions (Pl. V/2), are also well attested within the Južna Morava basin and are most frequently linked to the Gáva–Belegiš II stylistic horizon (Bulatović 2007).

A later component, which can be tentatively assigned to Vasić's Horizon 1 of the Advanced Iron Age, is indicated by rim and body sherds belonging to vessels with inturned, thickened rims that are flattened at the top and decorated with fluting (Pl. V/5). Close analogies are known from Gradina na Bosutu (Medović and Medović 2011, sl. 51/12). The same component may also include a sherd with the attachment base of a horseshoe-shaped handle (Pl. V/4), with parallels documented at the sites of Rudna Glava and Kužnica (Kapuran 2013, T. II/15; Капуран et al. 2014, T. CII/17–18).

11. Valuge

The Valuge area comprises an expanse on the terrace and slopes along the right valley side of the Beli Timok, north of the river Jelašnička Reka. The site of Valuge is situated on the first terrace of the Beli Timok, where the right bank of the Jelašnička Reka intersects it, approximately 250 m north-east of the site of Škodrino Polje. Rescue archaeological excavations were conducted in 1990, which established that this was a single-layer settlement, with remains of two irregularly shaped semi-subterranean dwellings discovered within it (Сладић и Јовановић 1997, 167–169).

The ceramic assemblage recovered during the excavations is characterised by fragments of predominantly globular vessels, with a black core and chaff temper, whose exterior surfaces are decorated with barbotine, impressed technique, and incised ornamentation (Pl. V/6–9) (Сладић и Јовановић 1997, 167–170; Стојић и Илијић 2011, 34; Капуран и Булатовић 2012; Kapuran 2014, 162). Based on the stylistic and typological features of the limited material collected during the 2023 survey, an Early/Middle Neolithic horizon was confirmed, primarily identified through the technological characteristics of coarse Starčevo pottery, with visible chaff traces in the fabric.

The cultural and chronological attribution of the site remains unresolved in the scholarly literature. Initial excavation results assigned the entire horizon to the late phase of the Starčevo culture, specifically Starčevo III (Сладић и Јовановић 1997, 169–170). Subsequent revisions associated the site of Valuge with the Protostarčevo I period (Стојић и Илијић 2011, 34). This discrepancy highlights the need for a reanalysis of the ceramic corpus, as current determinations are based on a limited stratigraphic context and a narrow range of diagnostic forms.

12. Valuge–Lešje

The site of Valuge–Lešje is located on the boundary between the cadastral areas of Jelašnica and Debelica, along the edge of the first terrace of the Beli Timok, directly above the valley plain known as Lešje, approximately 550 m north of the Jelašnička Reka. During the 2023 survey, archaeological material was sporadically collected across an area of approximately 40 ares, consisting of fragmented ceramic sherds, metallurgical slag, and a single quern stone (fig. 5). Due to the small quantity and low representativeness of the finds, as well as the high degree of ceramic fragmentation, the material cannot currently be assigned a more precise cultural and chronological attribution, and can only broadly be associated with prehistoric and Roman-period horizons.

13. Jasenje

The site of Jasenje is located within the cadastral area of the village of Debelica, on the first river terrace of the Beli Timok, at the point where this terrace is intersected by the river Jakovačka Reka, near the railway bridge on the Knjaževac–Zaječar line, approximately 2.3 km downstream from the site of Valuge–Lešje. Due to the limited cultivation of the terrain, archaeological material was collected only sporadically, across an area of approximately 50 ares on the left bank of the Jakovačka Reka and about 10 ares on its right bank. This area should be understood as a zone of recorded finds rather than the definitively



Fig. 5. Quern stone and fragments of metallurgical slag from the site of Valuge–Lešje (photo: Homeland Museum of Knjaževac)

Сл. 5. Жрвањ и фрагменти металуршке шљаке са локалитета Валуге–Лешје (фото: Завичајни музеј Књажевац)

established extent of the site. The assemblage consists of non-diagnostic ceramic fragments and a single flint flake, which, given the current state of research, can only broadly be attributed to a prehistoric horizon. Given the scarcity and low representativeness of the finds, this location is currently better interpreted as an archaeologically indicative zone, i.e., an area where a prehistoric site could possibly be located, rather than a clearly defined site in the strict sense.

14. Trnovska Bara

The site of Trnovska Bara is located within the cadastral area of the village of Trnovac, on a gentle terrace formed along the curved southern edge of Trnovska Bara, near a Roma votive monument bearing the inscription “Bahtalo Bibijako Đive”, dedicated to the feast of Bibija.[3] Across an area of approximately 5 ha, several sporadic concentrations of archaeological material were observed, which cannot yet be reliably connected into a single site unit. At lower elevations within this area, a surface layer of silt, sand, and gravel was recorded, possibly indicating episodes of flooding affecting the former settlement surface. The assem-

[3] Bibija, also known as Aunt Bibija, is a non-canonised saint venerated among some Orthodox Roma communities in Serbia (Ћирковић 2021).

blage consists predominantly of medieval pottery, while prehistoric fragments occur only sporadically and, due to the lack of clear stylistic and typological features, do not allow for a more precise chronological attribution.

15. Stare Livade

The site of Stare Livade is located within the cadastral area of the village of Minićevo, on the river terrace of the Beli Timok, along the left bank of the river Suva Reka, west of the Zaječar–Knjaževac railway, approximately 2.1 km downstream from the site of Trnovska Bara. Sporadic occurrences of archaeological material from prehistoric, medieval, and modern periods were recorded across an area of approximately 1.4 ha.

On a recently ploughed field near the bank of the Suva Reka, traces of a possible structure were observed, represented by fragments of burnt daub flooring or an occupation surface, dispersed across an area of approximately 3–4 m². Several prehistoric pottery sherds were recovered in the immediate vicinity of this concentration. Among them, a diagnostically significant vessel body sherd stands out, manufactured from a fine fabric, fired to a reddish hue, and decorated with broad horizontal fluting (Pl. V/10). On the basis of its technological and decorative characteristics, the fragment may be broadly associated with the final Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age sequence (Bulatović 2007).

Settlement Patterns and Site Clusters on the Right Side of the Beli Timok Valley from the Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age to the Advanced Iron Age

Within the broader survey of the Beli Timok basin, this paper focuses on a narrower analytical corpus of 15 prehistoric sites located on the right valley side of the Beli Timok. The analysed material derives from a relatively homogeneous geomorphological unit, characterised by alternating river terraces, alluvial plains, and lower foothill slopes, which has enabled the distribution of sites to be examined within a single basic relief model.

The settlement pattern shows a clear association with the first river terrace of the Beli Timok and with contact zones near tributaries, particularly at terrace promontories, edges of alluvial plains, and micro-locations slightly elevated above flood-prone areas. The majority of sites are situated precisely in such locations: near the confluences of smaller watercourses, on terraces that provide simultaneous access to water, arable land, and communication routes, while also offering a degree of protection from seasonal flooding. In this sense, the distribution of sites indicates a clear recognition of favourable micro-zones for settlement within the right side of the Beli Timok valley.

The cultural and chronological range of the analysed corpus spans, according to securely confirmed data, from the Early/Middle Neolithic to the Late Iron Age. Particularly noteworthy is the pronounced multi-layered character of several sites, most notably Dubrava, Boševo, Slog I, Adžijsko Polje I and II, Bojište, and Škodrino Polje. This suggests that certain terrace zones in the Beli Timok valley were repeatedly recognised as favourable for settlement over long periods, especially positions near the confluences of Timok tributaries.

Within the corpus of 15 sites, five sites can be singled out with an Early or Middle Neolithic horizon associated with manifestations of the Starčevo culture (fig. 2/1, 6–7, 9, 11), while the presence of the Late Neolithic, namely, the Vinča culture, has so far been reliably confirmed only at Dubrava. At Bojište and Škodrino Polje, material has been documented that can be reliably associated with the Early Eneolithic, namely, with manifestations of the Bubanj–Hum I cultural group, while a Late Eneolithic horizon with features of the Coţofeni–Kostolac style has been confirmed at four sites (fig. 2/1, 6–7, 9). Material from the Middle/Late Bronze Age (Br B – Br D), manifested in eastern Serbia through the influences of the Paraćin and Verbicioara cultures, has been confirmed at five sites (fig. 2/1–2, 6–7, 10).

According to Vasić's regional chronological scheme, the Gáva–Belegiš II horizon remains primarily integrated within the developments of the Late Bronze Age (Vasić 2015, Tab. 1), although it is frequently discussed under the conventional term "Transitional Period" within Serbian archaeological literature (Bulatović et al. 2021, 61–63). The subsequent phase, characterised by distinctive incised ornamentation on pottery, is associated in the Serbian Danube region with the so-called Kalakača horizon (Medović 1988). Given its association with significant shifts in pottery production, a pronounced decline in the deposition of bronze hoards, and the emergence of the first iron objects, it is most commonly regarded as the onset of the Early Iron Age in the central Balkans. Within Vasić's periodisation, the Basarabi complex may be broadly correlated with Horizon 1 of the Advanced Iron Age (Vasić 1977, 6–17, 31–32; 2003, 7; 2015, 3–8; Gavranović 2021, 386–391; Pare 2025, 178–181).

This chronology was further refined by Pabst, who, on the basis of supraregional comparisons with the northern central Balkans and the cemetery at Vergina, argued that the beginning of Vasić's Horizon 1 of the Advanced Iron Age in Serbia should be dated no later than c. 850 BC (Pabst 2008, 591–654). However, Gavranović noted that the transition from the Late Bronze Age to the Early Iron Age in the western and central Balkans cannot be explained by a single chronological model, as the same absolute timeframe was structured differently across regional traditions (Gavranović 2021, 383–391). Given these chronological complexities and in the absence of absolute dates for the sites examined here, the ma-

terial is interpreted according to Vasić's regional periodisation (Vasić 2003; 2010; 2015), while the Gáva–Belegiš II, Kalakača, and Basarabi horizons are employed primarily as cultural-stylistic reference frameworks.

The most prominently represented group within the analysed corpus comprises sites yielding material displaying stylistic and typological traits associated with the Gáva–Belegiš II, Babadag–Pšeničevo, Kalakača, and Basarabi traditions. In this study, such material is considered within the regional sequence extending from the Late Bronze Age through the Early Iron Age to the Advanced Iron Age of the central Balkans, as defined by R. Vasić (Vasić 2003; 2010; 2015). Material of this type has been identified at ten sites (fig. 2/2–10, 15). By contrast, finds attributable to the later phases of the Advanced Iron Age, including those associated with the Zlot–Sofronijevo cultural group, have been recorded at only two sites (fig. 2/2, 7), while evidence of the Late Iron Age has been documented exclusively at Boševo and Slog I so far.

The spatial distribution of sites yielding material broadly attributable to the period from the 12th to the 6th century BC is particularly noteworthy. Nine sites (fig. 2/2–10) form a linear concentration extending for approximately 6.5 km along the right side of the Beli Timok valley, between the confluences of the rivers Valevačka and Jelašnička Reka (Муминовић Божић и Милојевић 2024; 2025). Distances between neighbouring sites range from approximately 200 m to 1.5 km. An additional site with broadly comparable material, Stare Livade (fig. 2/15), lies farther downstream and is therefore not included in this narrower cluster.

Patterns of site clustering appear to be particularly characteristic of the period broadly dated between the 12th and the 8th century BC, whereas continuity into the 7th and the early 6th century BC is less clearly attested (Милојевић 2023, 436–440). Such site clusters are most clearly documented in the Nišava valley and in the Paraćin and Aleksinac sectors of the Pomoravlje region. By contrast, in the Kruševac, Leskovac, and Vranje sectors of Pomoravlje, they have been identified only sporadically so far, typically as small clusters comprising two or three sites (Милојевић 2023, 436–440, Maps 75–77). In broad spatial terms, these concentrations may be described as site clusters, following the general terminology of archaeological spatial analysis (Hodder and Orton 1979, 85–97); the term is used here descriptively and does not imply a formally tested point-pattern classification.

In general terms, settlement clusters may be understood as spatial concentrations of sites or smaller settlements whose proximity may reflect various forms of functional, economic, social, or organisational interaction. Such arrangements could have facilitated the coordination of economic activities, control of territory and communication routes, organisation of movement and exchange, and management of local resources. If such concentrations reflect functionally connected settle-

ment systems, their operation may have depended on interdependencies rooted in shared access to natural resources, production and technological processes, distribution networks, or defensive strategies (Милојевић 2023, 438–440).

The emergence and long-term stability of such patterns were shaped by communication networks, transport opportunities, and access to resources, as well as shared cultural traditions, collective interests, and broader socio-economic structures. Site or settlement agglomerations of this kind may have developed around locations of particular importance, including fortified centres, communication nodes, and ritual or cult places. These focal points could have attracted and concentrated population groups by providing security, facilitating access to resources and exchange networks, and serving as centres for economic production, social interaction, and symbolic or ritual activities (Hodder and Orton 1979, 85–97).

In the case of clusters identified in the Timok and Morava–Vardar basins, several interpretive models may be proposed; however, given the current state of research, these should be regarded as provisional hypotheses rather than established explanations (Милојевић 2023, 438–442). Among the possible explanatory frameworks are climatic instability, environmental stress, demographic change, and population mobility, particularly in light of models advanced for the end of the Late Bronze Age in neighbouring regions, as well as across wider Europe and the eastern Mediterranean region (Holzhauser et al. 2005; Bóka 2012; Kaniewski et al. 2013; Cline 2014; Finné et al. 2017; Bochkarev and Kashuba 2018; Molloy 2022). Rather than being viewed as direct causal mechanisms, such factors are better understood as potential stressors that may have contributed to or amplified broader processes of social transformation. In the Beli Timok valley, however, their role cannot be evaluated with confidence in the absence of palaeoenvironmental, archaeobotanical, archaeozoological, bioarchaeological, absolute-chronological, and palaeoclimatological evidence (Boger et al. 2013, 91–93).

From the perspective of socio-economic organisation, settlement clustering may reflect relationships within kinship or supra-household networks, whereby several smaller communities occupied the same micro-region and cooperated through exchange, resource sharing, and coordinated responses to increased risk. Such forms of organisation could have facilitated both territorial control and collective security. Consequently, spatial concentration should not be interpreted solely in terms of economic considerations, such as access to resources and communication routes, but also as a potential expression of security strategies and broader adaptive responses to changing environmental and social conditions. The observed pattern is therefore best understood as a settlement-topographic phenomenon that may have resulted from multiple interconnected processes, rather than direct evidence of any single historical cause.

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ПРАИСТОРИЈСКИ ЛОКАЛИТЕТИ НА ДЕСНОЈ ДОЛИНСКОЈ СТРАНИ БЕЛОГ ТИМОКА У КЊАЖЕВАЧКОМ КРАЈУ

Кључне речи: *Бели Тимок, књажевачки крај, археолошко рекоīносцирање, обрасци насељавања, неолит, енеолит, īозно бронзано доба, рано īвоздено доба, старије īвоздено доба*

Рад представља резултате прве кампање систематске проспекције из 2023. године, у оквиру које је на десној долинској страни Белог Тимока издвојен ужи корпус од 15 праисторијских налазишта. Локалитети су разматрани у оквиру релативно уједначене геоморфолошке целине, обликоване смењивањем прве речне терасе, алувијалних равни и нижих падина побрђа. У таквом амбијенту највећи број налазишта везан је за терасне ивице, терасне језичке и контактне зоне са мањим притокама, што указује на јасно препознавање топографски повољних позиција за насељавање.

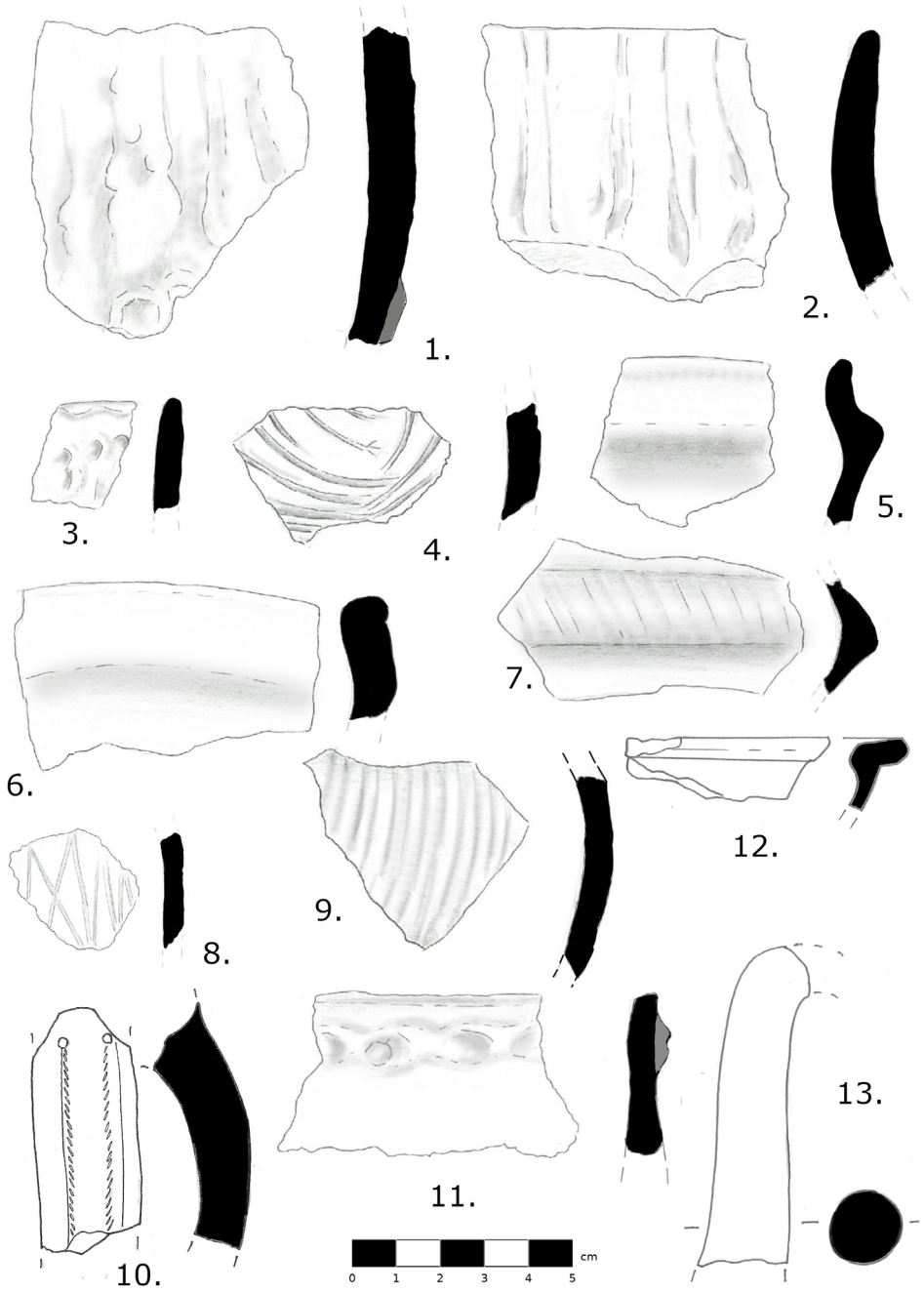
Културно-хронолошки распон анализираног корпуса, према сигурно потврђеним подацима, обухвата период од раног/средњег неолита до млађег гвозденог доба. Више локалитета показује изразиту вишеслојност, нарочито Дубрава, Бошево, Слог I, Аџијско поље I и II, Бојиште и Шкодрино поље, што указује на дуготрајно коришћење појединих терасних зона у долини Белог Тимока, посебно оних у близини ушћа притока. У корпусу од 15 локалитета издваја се пет налазишта са хоризонтом раног, односно средњег неолита, везаног за старчевачку културу, док је позни неолит, односно винчанска култура за сада поуздано потврђена само на Дубрави. Рани енеолит, са обележјима Бубањ–Хум I културне групе, документован је на Бојишту и Шкодрином пољу, а позноенеолитски хоризонт Коцофени–Костолац стила на четири локалитета. Материјал из средњег/позног бронзаног доба, са утицајима параћинске и Вербичоара културе, потврђен је на пет налазишта. Најзаступљенију групу, забележену на десет локалитета, чини материјал са стилско-типолошким одликама повезаним са традицијама Гава–Белегиш II,

Бабадаг–Пшеничево, Калакача и Басараби. Овај корпус се у ширем културно-хронолошком смислу може сместити у секвенцу од завршних фаза позног бронзаног доба, односно тзв. прелазног периода, до почетка старијег, односно развијеног гвоздено доба, тј. Васићевог хоризонта 1, што оквирно покрива период између 1200. и 600. године п. н. е. Насупрот томе, налази из познијих етапа старијег гвозденог доба (Васићев хоризонт 2), развијаних под утицајем злотске културне групе, евидентирани су само на Бошеву и Аџијском пољу I, док су налази из млађег гвозденог доба за сада документовани једино на Бошеву и Слогу I.

Посебну аналитичку вредност има уочена просторна дистрибуција локалитета са материјалом карактеристичним за хоризонт од краја позног бронзаног до почетка старијег гвозденог доба, оквирно смештен у период између 12. и 6. века п. н. е. У ужем просторном смислу, девет локалитетских позиција формира линеарно организован низ дуж десне стране долине Белог Тимока, што указује на израженије обрасце просторног груписања у наведеном периоду. Локалитет Старе Ливаде представља додатну позицију са сродним материјалом, али се налази изван овог ужег кластера. Ипак, значај овог обрасца треба тумачити опрезно, будући да анализа претежно почива на површински прикупљеној керамици.

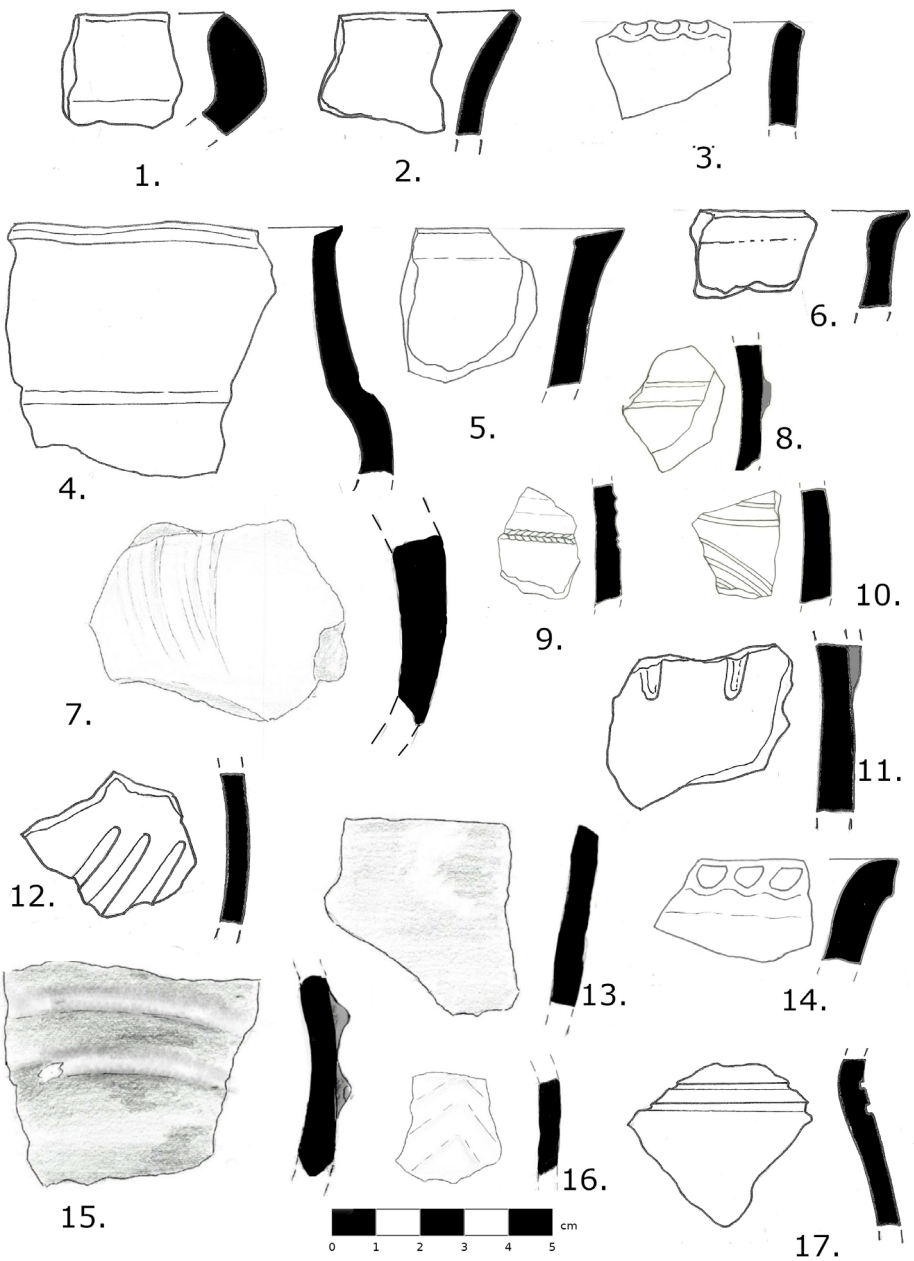
Границе локалитета одређиване су на основу површинске дистрибуције налаза, пре свега керамике, у односу на конфигурацију и микротопографију терена. Таква методологија омогућила је прелиминарно издвајање и картографисање археолошких позиција, али истовремено намеће и јасна ограничења: грађа је често фрагментована, секундарно дислоцирана и лишена поузданог стратиграфског контекста. Због тога су културно-хронолошка опредељења прелиминарна и поузданија на нивоу ширих стилско-типолошких хоризоната него у домену финијих разлучивања.

Упркос тим ограничењима, резултати рада допуњују археолошку топографију књажевачког краја, нарочито у погледу густине, распореда и унутрашње разноликости праисторијских налазишта на десној страни долине Белог Тимока. У наредној фази истраживања неопходни су ревизија корпуса, прецизније мапирање граница и унутрашње структуре локалитета, као и сондажна провера најперспективнијих позиција, како би се садашњи резултати проверили и аналитички продубили.



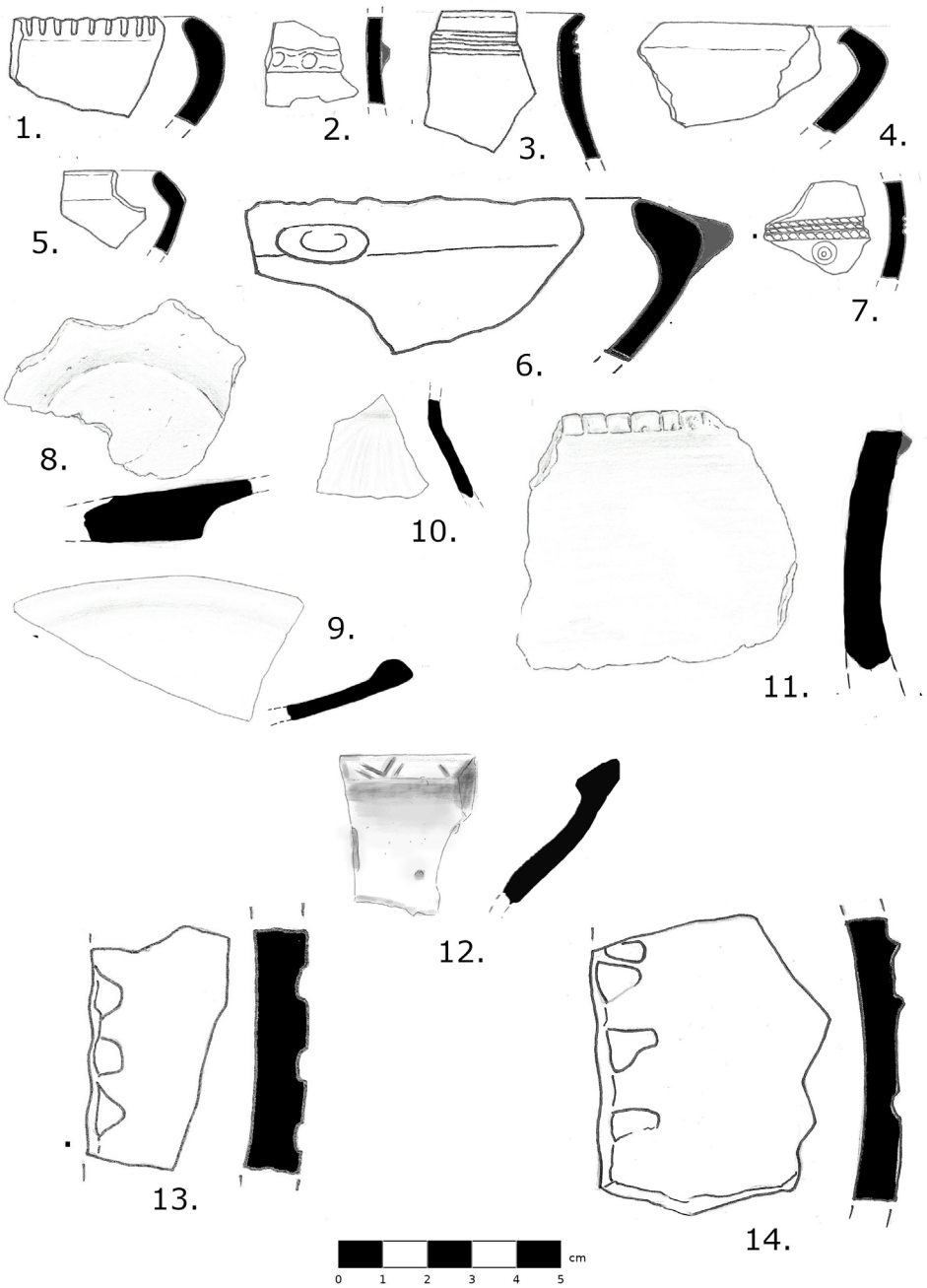
Pl. I Drawings of ceramic material from sites on the right side of the Beli Timok valley (Homeland Museum of Knjaževac): Dubrava: 1–9; Boševo: 10–13

Т. I Цртежи керамичког материјала са налазишта на десној долинској страни Белог Тимока (Завичајни музеј Књажевац): Дубрава: 1–9; Бошево: 10–13



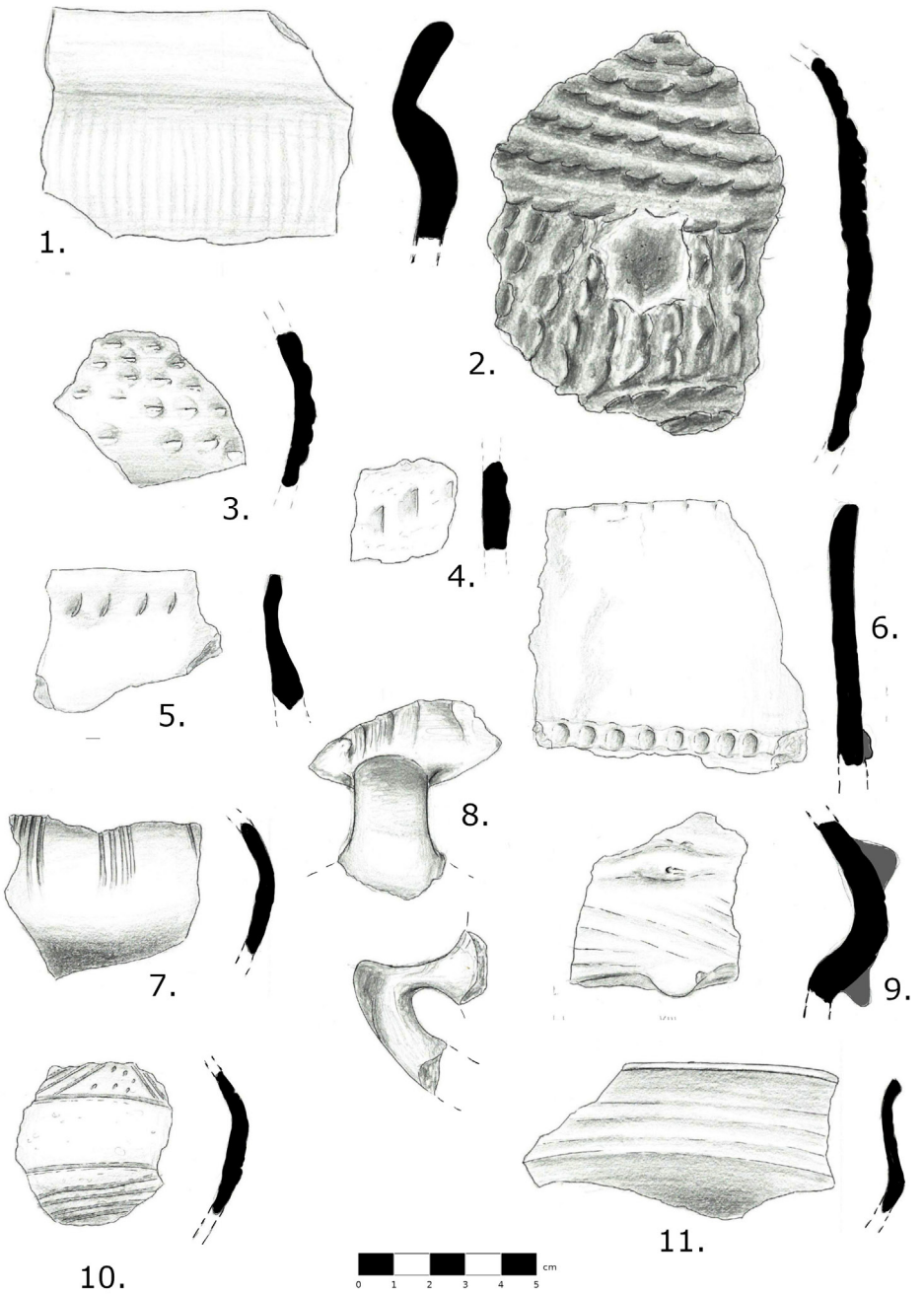
Pl. II Drawings of ceramic material from sites on the right side of the Beli Timok valley (Homeland Museum of Knjaževac): Dajčevica: 8–10; Slog II: 1–2; Slog I: 3–7; Adžijsko Polje II: 11–15; Adžijsko Polje I: 17; Selo: 16

Т. II Цртежи керамичког материјала са налазишта на десној долинској страни Белог Тимока (Завичајни музеј Књажевац): Дајчевица: 8–10; Слог II: 1–2; Слог I: 3–7; Аџијско поље II: 11–15; Аџијско поље I: 17; Село: 16



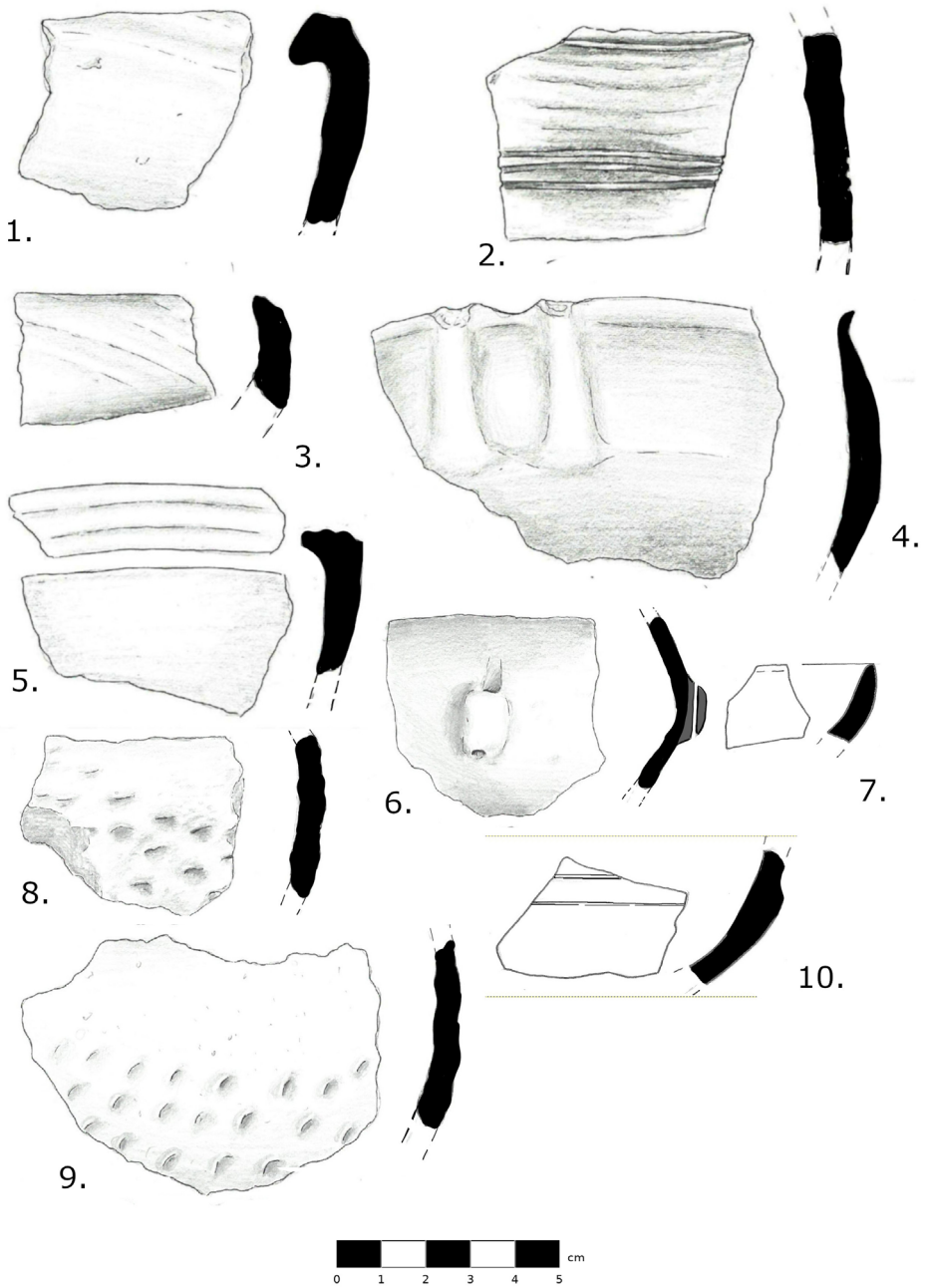
Pl. III Drawings of ceramic material from sites on the right side of the Beli Timok valley (Homeland Museum of Knjaževac): Bojište: 1–11, 13, 14; Adžijsko Polje I: 12

Т. III Цртежи керамичког материјала са налазишта на десној долинској страни Белог Тимока (Завичајни музеј Књажевац): Бојиште: 1–11, 13, 14; Аџијско поље I: 12



Pl. IV Drawings of ceramic material from sites on the right side of the Beli Timok valley (Homeland Museum of Knjaževac): Škodrino Polje: 1–11

Т. IV Цртежи керамичког материјала са налазишта на десној долинској страни Белог Тимока (Завичајни музеј Књажевац): Шкодрино поље: 1–11



Pl. V Drawings of ceramic material from sites on the right side of the Beli Timok valley (Homeland Museum of Knjaževac): Škodrino polje: 1–5; Valuge: 6–9; Stare Livade: 10

T. V Цртежи керамичког материјала са налазишта на десној долинској страни Белог Тимока (Завичајни музеј Књажевац): Шкодрино поље: 1–5; Валуге: 6–9; Старе Ливаде: 10

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