

## A TELL NEAR THE VILLAGE OF BAZOVETS, ROUSSE DISTRICT (ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS IN 2012)

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**Cuvinte cheie:** tellul Bazovetz, chalcolitic, Boian, stratigrafie, ceramică, construcție, structură.

**Keywords:** Bazovetz tell, chalcolithic, Boian, stratigraphy, ceramics, building, structure.

**Rezumat:** Tell-ul este situat în Bulgaria de nord-est, la 2,5 km sud-est de satul Bazovets, în zona "Adata", aproximativ lângă râul Baniski Lom. Are forma unui trunchi de con cu următoarele parametre: 1. Suprafață – 3,9 ari; 2. Diametrul maxim – 77 m; 3. Circumferința la bază – 225 m; 4. Înălțime – 3 m.

Vestiigiile culturale deranjate (în terenul agricol) din zona sitului se află până la o adâncime de 0,35 m. De la aceasta în jos straturile sunt păstrate. Suprafața totală cercetată în campanie este de 115 m<sup>2</sup>. Au fost identificate două orizonturi de construcție. La marginea tell-ului au fost descoperite vestigiile a două clădiri și o parte distrusă a unui sistem de fortificație.

### **Orizont de construcții I**

Începe imediat sub stratul terenului agricol și ajunge la o adâncime de 0 m față de punctul de reper central. Este compus din sediment de argilă maroniu-verzuie și este marcat de vestigiile a două clădiri și o vatră distrusă, probabil făcând parte din interiorul unei clădiri demolate. Materialele sunt tipice pentru epoca Chalcoliticului Mijlociu și culturile Boian IV - Spanțov.

#### **Clădirea No. 1**

Prima construcție avea o structură de nuiete cu pari, acoperită pe ambele părți cu lut. Avea la bază o formă de trapez, cu dimensiuni de 7,20/5,50 m; latura mai scurtă era orientată NE-SV. Intrarea era dinspre partea mai lungă din SE. Casa a fost distrusă de un incendiu de scurtă durată. Latura estică a construcției este orientată SE-NV, fiind marcată de 5 găuri pentru pari, aproximativ aliniați. Zidul de vest este orientat NV-SE și este marcat de alte 5 găuri. Zidul de sud are orientarea E-V și este marcat de 6 găuri pentru pari. Construcția încă nu a fost complet cercetată; cantitatea de material

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arheologic este redusă.

#### Clădirea No. 2

O a doua clădire a fost adăugată pe latura de nord a clădirii precedente; dimensiunile ei nu pot fi determinate în această fază, deoarece conturul ei iese în afara marginilor zonei cercetate (5/5 m). Construcția cu aceeași structură ca și prima, avea două nivele. Orizontul de distrugere este compus din 6 straturi. Straturile 1-3 marchează rămășițele celui de-al doilea nivel, iar straturile 4-6 ale celui dintâi nivel. Construcția este alunecată spre SE. Situația stratigrafică din colțul de SV al careului arată că nivelul ei este situat la 0,30 m sub nivelul Clădirii 1. Potrivit ipotezei noastre Clădirea 2 era plasată pe panta descendentă a suprafeței tell-ului și astfel partea de SE a fost "nivelată" prin plasarea de cherestea sub fundațiile ei. Astfel, cele două nivele ale clădirii au fost aduse la orizontală. Câteva vase sparte și alte fragmente ceramice au fost descoperite la baza nivelului al doilea. Cantitatea de ceramică este însemnată, fiind evidențiate fragmente cu decor canelat și grafitat. Clădirea a fost distrusă de un incendiu puternic, iar dovada pentru aceasta este cantitatea de tencuială de culoare roșie-portocalie, cu urme ale împletiturii de nuiele și pari, lemnul carbonizat și petele de cenușă. După prăbușirea clădirii și arderea lemnului de dedesubt, ea s-a "scufundat" în teren. Construcția a fost deranjată de două intervenții ulterioare – un șanț și o groapă.

Cercetarea celor două clădiri nu este încheiată și va fi reluată.

#### Orizont de construcții II.

Al doilea orizont de construcții urmează imediat sub nivelul clădirilor, iar cercetarea lui completă nu este finalizată. Este marcat de o structură distrusă din piatră (o fortificație?) și de o podea lutuită, probabil o clădire. Materialele sunt tipice pentru epoca Chalcoliticului Timpuriu și culturile Boian III - Vidra.

#### Structura din piatră (fortificație?)

La marginea de SE a așezării a fost descoperită o latură a unei fortificații distruse, cu o lungime de 14 m și o lățime de 3 m. Este construită din blocuri nefasonate de diferite dimensiuni și forme, fără liant. A fost localizată în zona neprotejată de râu a așezării. Acest zid este mai timpuriu decât cele două clădiri; Clădirea No. 2 acoperă parțial aglomerarea de pietre, iar în privința cronologiei, aceasta se raportează la prima perioadă a evoluției așezării. În apropierea ei au fost descoperite bile din piatră, topoare din piatră și os, vârfuri de săgeată.

În tell au fost de asemenea găsite obiecte din ceramică, os, cochilii de midii – figurine antropomorfe și zoomorfe, unelte, podoabe și artefacte de cult.

**Abstract:** The tell is located in northeastern Bulgaria, 2.5 km southeast of Bazovets village in the "Adata" area, approximately next to the Baniski Lom river. It has the shape of a truncated cone with the following parameters: 1. Area - 3.9 dca; 2. Widest diameter - 77 m; 3. Circumference at the base - 225 m; 4. Height - 3 m.

The disturbed cultural remains (fallow land) on the site are continuing down to a depth of 0.35 m. From that point downwards the layers are preserved. The total research area for the season is 115 sq. m. Two construction horizons have been identified. The remains of 2 buildings and part of a destroyed fortification system in the periphery of the tell was discovered.

#### I. Construction horizon

It begins immediately under the fallow-land layers and reaches a depth of 0 m from the central benchmark. It is composed of brown-green clay sediment and is marked by the

destructions of 2 buildings and a destroyed furnace, probably part of the interior of a demolished building. The materials are typical for the Middle Chalcolithic Age and the Boian IV Spanțov cultures.

#### *Building No. 1*

The first building had a stake-wicker construction, coated with clay on both sides. It had a trapezium shape at the basis with sizes of 7.20/5.50 m, directed with its shorter sides northwest-southeast. The entrance was from the southeastern longer side. The house was destroyed by a short-lasting fire. The eastern side of the building is directed southeast-northwest, marked by 5 holes of stakes, approximately in a row. The western wall is directed northwest-southeast by 5 holes. The southern wall has an east-west direction and is marked by 6 holes for stakes. The building has not yet been entirely examined; the concentration of archaeological materials in it is low.

#### *Building №2*

A second building has been attached on the northern side of the previous building; its sizes cannot be determined at this stage, since its outlines are going outside the borders of the excavated area (5/5 m). The building was similar to the first one, except it was a two-floored one. One can note 6 destruction layers. Layers 1-3 are marking the destructions of the second floor, and layers 4-6 - of the first floor. The building has a southeastern displacement. The stratigraphic situation in the southwestern corner of the square is located 0.30 m underneath the level of Building 1. Our working hypothesis is that Building 2 was located on a slanting slope of the tell surface and thus its southeastern side has been "leveled" through placing timber underneath its foundations. Thus the two levels of the buildings have been leveled. Several broken vessels and pottery finds have been discovered on the ground of the second floor. The pottery quantity is high, fragments with channeled and graphite decoration were revealed. The building has been destroyed by a severe fire, and the proof for this is the number of coatings with orange-red color, with marks of a stake-wicker construction, carbonized timber and spots of ash. After the buildings collapse and the burning of the timber underneath it, it has "sunk" into the terrain. The building has been disturbed by 2 subsequent diggings – a trench and a pit.

The research on the two buildings is not finished and is forthcoming.

## **II. Construction horizon**

The second construction horizon starts immediately under the level of the buildings and its complete research is to be implemented. It is marked by a destroyed stone structure (a fortification?) and tamped floor, probably pertaining to a building. The materials are typical for the Early Chalcolithic Age and the Boian III - Vidra cultures.

### **Stone structure (fortification?)**

In the southeastern periphery of the settlement a line of a destroyed fortification with a length of 14 m and a width of 3 m was discovered. It has been made of unprocessed blocks of various sizes and shapes, with no joint. It has been located at the part of the settlement not protected by the river. The wall is earlier than the two buildings; Building No. 2 partially covers the stone piling and in terms of chronology probably refers to the initial period of the settlement development. Battle belongings have been discovered in its proximity - stone balls, bone and stone axes, arrowheads.

Finds of pottery, bone, stone, mussel shells - anthropomorphous and zoomorphous figures, tools for everyday needs, adornments and items with cult functions were also found in the tell.

The tell is located in north-eastern Bulgaria, 50 km to South-West of Rousse town (**Fig. 1**) and 4 km to South-East of Bazovets village, in "Adata" area, on the left riverbank of the contemporary Baniski Lom river course (**Fig. 2**). An earth dike has been constructed between the tell and the river. It has the shape of a truncated cone with the following parameters: area – 3.9 dca; largest diameter – 77 m; circumference at the basis – 225 m; height – 3 m (**Fig. 3**).

The site is located within cultivated agricultural terrains and its surface is cultivated annually, including that more than once it has been trenched. As a result the uppermost layers of the site have been violated and its parameters have decreased in time. According to preliminary information from the museum funds and from local residents the size of the tell in the recent past has been significantly larger. The site has been visited a number of times by archaeologists from Rousse Regional Museum of History and destructions of scattered structures (dwellings, furnaces, etc.) have been noted, as well as fragments of pottery, flints, stones. The materials gathered up to that moment can be referred to the Early Chalcolithic culture Boian-Vidra. According to information from colleagues-archaeologists, who have worked at the Rousse Regional Museum of History, during the 1990s on the surface of the tell mainly Late Chalcolithic Age materials have been discovered, which are now missing<sup>1</sup>. The explanation for this is probably due to the scattered upper cultural layers.

The archaeological excavations of the tell took place in July 2012 with the author of the current article as scientific director of the excavations. The main aim of the research was to determine whether the preserved visible ground parts of the tell have been violated due to tillage.

The excavation area was chosen to be in the southwestern periphery of the site, on 35 m to the west of the central benchmark (**Fig. 4**). In order for the field work to be made easier, an auxiliary benchmark was chosen at 0.35 m to the west of the central benchmark, with a displacement of +0.85 m from it. Displacement of the auxiliary benchmark and level of the road next to the dike (the lowest point of the tell): - 1.53 m, + 2.17 m in the lower section. Displacement of the central benchmark – the highest point of the tell: +1.76 m. Displacement of the auxiliary benchmark – highest point of the tell: +0.91 m. The studied area falls into squares П 10, О 10, H 10, М 10 and H 11, during the season it is 115 sq. m. Two construction horizons are registered, preceded by the uppermost violated layer (fallow land). The remains of 2 buildings were discovered and a part of a destroyed stone structure (fortification?) in the periphery of the tell (**Fig. 5**).

**Stratigraphy (Fig. 6):** 1. A stripe of black ash, immediately under the fallow land with a thickness of 0.05 m; 2. Marked level by two buildings. Probably both layers are marking the beginning and the end of the last preserved horizon of the site; 3. Destroyed stone structure – it belongs to the 2nd preserved horizon and maybe before it (**Fig. 5**).

#### **Surface and fallow land**

The violated cultural remains (fallow land) over the site are continuing down to a depth of 0.35 m from the surface. From that point downwards the layers are

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<sup>1</sup> I'd like to express my gratitude to my colleague Volodya Popov for the presented information.

preserved. The sedimentation has a dark-brown color with a decreased thickness. The pottery is low in quantity. A number of stones with different sizes and shapes were found in the most eastern periphery of the tell on its surface. Part of them were thrown out of the tell immediately next to the dike, resulting from the cultivation of the terrain. This is possibly a destroyed fortification or another structure.

### I. Construction horizon

It begins immediately under the fallow land layer and reaches a depth of 0 m from the central benchmark. The layer is marked by the destructions of 2 buildings and a destroyed furnace, probably a part of the interior of a destroyed building (Fig. 5).

The western profiles of squares M 10, H 10, O 10 and Π 10 are shaping a central control profile of the excavation. Stratigraphy of the first horizon: 1. A thin stripe of black ash; 2. Destructions of Buildings 1 and 2; 3. Floor level of grey-green tamped clay in square O 10 (probably of Building No. 3). All three habitation levels are lying over a layer of brown-green sedimentation with a number of mixtures with coals. They are probably marking the last preserved horizon at a depth of 0.85 m from the auxiliary benchmark or to 0 m from the central benchmark. The second horizon begins at a depth of 0.85 m from the auxiliary benchmark, or from 0 m from the central benchmark, and the lower border has not been reached. The excavated earth in square M 10 in Building No. 2 has the same color and structure of the filler, which is indicative that it is later than Building No. 2, but is probably belonging to the same horizon. An argument for this conclusion is also the fact that the pottery in the trench and the pit has the same characteristic features, like inside the one in Building No. 2.

#### *Building No. 1 (Fig. 5)*

It falls inside squares O 10, H 10 and H 11. Its destructions were found at a depth between + 0.54 m and + 0.20 from the central benchmark. The building has a stake-wicker structure, coated with clay on both sides. It has a trapezium shape at the basis with sizes of 7.20/5.50 m, directed according to its shorter sides northwest-southeast. The entrance was from the southeastern long side. The building has been destroyed by a short-lasting fire. The destructions are composed of two layers from the top to the bottom as follows (Fig. 7): 1. Yellow-green clay sedimentation, very sandy and crumbly; 2. Coatings (floor and wall) of brown and grey-green color, some of them with polished facial sides, others have traces of yellow-green paint. One of these coatings has larger size than the rest – 0.50/0.30 m; it has a displacement towards southeast and certainly marks the walking level of the construction. In some places there are contemporary violations of the ancient remains, and as a result, in separate sections the two layers have a diverse sequence. 2 trenches were discovered at the southeastern end of square H 10 (violations of the cultural layer), probably as a result of a later digging with excavation machinery. A spot of carbonized timber and coal was found in the southwestern corner of the square. The eastern wall of the building is directed from southeast to northwest, marked by 5 stake holes, approximately in a row. They have an approximate diameter of 0.08 m, the first 3 are at a distance of

0.40 m from one another, the 4<sup>th</sup> is 1 m away, and the 5<sup>th</sup> is at a distance of 1.70 m. The depth of the holes is 0.18-0.20 m, diameter 0.10-0.15 m. Distances: 1-2 – 0.62 m; 2-3 – 0.30 m; 3-4 – 0.90 m; 4-5 – 0.60 m. The southern wall of the construction has an east-west orientation and is marked by 6 stake holes:

- the first one is at a distance of 1 m from the western profile, diameter of 0.23 m, reached depth – 0.15 m;
- the second one is at a distance of 0.73 m from the first, diameter of 0.18 m, depth of 0.15 m;
- the third is at a distance of 0.89 m from the previous, diameter of 0.30 m, depth of 0.16 m;
- the fourth one is at a distance of 0.88 m from the previous, diameter of 0.11 m, depth of 0.10 m;
- the fifth is at a distance of 0.73 m from the previous, diameter of 0.15 m, depth of 0.10 m;
- the sixth one is at a distance of 0.75 m from the previous, diameter of 0.16 m, depth of 0.10 m. Between the southern row of holes and the destructions of the building there is a spot with approximate sizes of 3.50/2.20 m, with no destructions in it. It is probably some kind of an antechamber or a penthouse to the building (**Fig. 15**).

The building has not entirely been studied; the concentration of archaeological materials in it is low. The pottery in squares H 10 and H 11 is in low quantities, and the bones are with increased quantity.

#### *Building No.2 (Fig. 5)*

On the northern side of this building a second one has been attached, its sizes cannot be determined at this stage, since its outlines are going outside the borders of the studied area (5/5 m) in sq. M 10. The destructions of the building are at a depth from +0.40 m to 0 m from the central benchmark. The filler around the destructions is composed of brown-green clay earth with mixture of small coal pieces, as it becomes clear from the central western profile. The building had the same construction as the first one, but has been two-storied. The destructions are composed of six layers from top to bottom as follows:

1. Highly burnt, orange-red color coatings, over the larger part of them there are marks from fence stakes with an average thickness of 0.30 m. Some of the coatings have oval or irregular shape, dark-grey or black interior and tile-red exterior parts; it is possible that they were adobe burnt. In the northern corner of the square the coatings have fallen at an angle in southeastern direction;

2. Thin line of grey-green ash;

3. Floor level of tamped burnt, brown-red color clay, with a displacement in southeastern direction, with at least two coating stages. A ceramic bracelet (**Fig. 13/2**) and a flat ceramic item with a rectangular shape, with 4 longitudinal and 3 transverse round openings (**Fig. 13/1**) were discovered over it. Fragmented vessels with biconical-cylindrical shape and graphite decoration in negative (**Fig. 9/3-5**) were found to the east of them. Fragments of more than one tile-red color vessels, secondarily burnt by the fire were discovered over the level in the northwestern corner of the square. The vessels were standing on the floor;

4. Brown color burnt coatings with an average volume of 0.30 m;

5. A level of grey-green tamped clay;

6. Layer of carbonized timber and ash, with clear traces of burnt beams in place.

Layers 1-3 are marking the destructions of the second floor, and layers 4-6 – of the first one. The building has a displacement in southeastern direction. Stratigraphically, the situation in the southwestern corner of the square is located 0.30 m under the level of the building. 1. Our working hypothesis is that Building No. 2 has been located over a slanting slope from the surface of the tell, thus on its southeastern side it has been “leveled” by using timber beams underneath its foundations. This is how the two levels of the buildings have been equalized (**Fig. 15**). Several broken vessels and pottery shards were discovered on the level of the second floor. The pottery has an increased quantity, fragments with grooves and drawn with graphite decoration were revealed. The building has been destroyed by a severe fire, the proof for which are the number of coatings with orange-red color, with marks of stake-wicker construction, carbonized timber and spots of ashes. After the collapse of the construction and the burning of the wooden beams underneath it, the building has “sunk” into the terrain. The building is violated by two subsequent diggings:

*Trench (Fig. 5)* – Through the building in north-south direction there is a violation from a later digging (a trench?) with a width of 0.60 m in square M 10. The trench continues around Building No. 1 in square H 10, where it widens. Its total registered length is 9.40 m. Its bottom has not been reached. The filler is of brown-green clay earth. The sedimentation contains mixtures of small coal pieces. Samples from the coal were taken for analysis. A stone piling was revealed in the southern part of the square, inside the stripe, and a horn was discovered next to it. A concentration of animal bones and pottery was found in the southwestern part of the trench at a depth of +0.15 - +0.25 m. A number of coal pieces were found, as well as a part of smoldered timber. Probably the section of yellow-brown (green downwards) clay earth is a later fill, with leveling purposes or for the foundations of a later building. Samples from the timber were taken for analysis.

*Pit No. 1 (Fig. 5)* – A pit which violates the destructions of Building No. 2 was registered in the northeastern corner of square M 10. The pit is later than the building. In its uppermost part it has a diameter of 1.05 m along the east-west axis, and 0.85 m along the north-south axis. Beginning of the pit - +0.10 m, bottom - -0.73 m, registered depth – 0.83 m. The bottom of the pit is coated with grey-green color clay; a single stone was discovered over it, with sizes of 0.17/0.14 m. The pit has probably been a waste one. Its fill consists of brown-green clay sediment and a small number of ceramic vessels fragments (one of them has a decoration with white paint at the part under the rim), bones and coatings, two pieces of grey-green color coatings decorated with red over the facial part (red ochre?). The pit has an oval cross-section. The pottery in the pit is typical for the Middle Chalcolithic Age.

*Destroyed furnace No. 1 (destroyed Building? No. 3) (Fig. 5)*. Beige-green color coatings of a destroyed furnace were found in square Π 10, in the northeastern corner, at a depth of +0.04 m. A single stone was found over its destructions. In

the northwestern section a layer of white ash was revealed, probably a continuation of the one revealed earlier in the square with the destroyed furnace. In this part the concentration of bones is high. To the north of it, at a depth of +0.08 m a section of tamped green clay was registered in square O 10, with burnt coatings over it. It is probably a destroyed building with a furnace, for which it is unclear whether it has been outside or inside the building.

The ceramic complex (**Fig. 8, 9**) is characterized by channeled surface, negative graphite, placed on the upper part of the vessels (**Fig. 9**), and rarely by Kerbschnitt decoration in negative (**Fig. 8/7,9**), more often with barbotine (**Fig. 8/10, 11**), very rarely with pinned stripe (**Fig. 8/4**) or incised decoration (**Fig. 8/3, 5**). As color, it is from beige-brown to black, with a very well smoothed or polished surface, especially at the thin-walled pottery; the shapes are bicylindrical, biconical or complex-composed, rarely there are vessels with hollow chair met (**Fig. 8/7**), such with spouts (**Fig. 8/6**), notches on the rim edge (**Fig. 8/2**), etc. Over the inner part of a small group of the vessels there is applied red paint (**Fig. 9/2, 4**). The pottery finds direct analogies with the similar one from the Rousse tell, XVII and XVI construction horizons<sup>2</sup>, Ovcharovo tell, V-VII construction horizons<sup>3</sup>, Polyanitsa tell, layer II<sup>4</sup>, Radingrad tell, II-III construction horizons<sup>5</sup>, the prehistoric settlement near the village of Cherven, Bey chiflik area, I and II horizons<sup>6</sup>, Orlovets - Erendzhik<sup>7</sup>, I – II construction horizons, the Emen cave<sup>8</sup>, etc. As a result of the field surveys conducted along the downstream of Yantra river, materials from the villages of Borovo and Volovo, Rousse region, are also known<sup>9</sup>. Similar materials were also discovered on the territory of present-day Romania in the Radovanu tell<sup>10</sup>, Spañtov tell<sup>11</sup>, Tangârû tell<sup>12</sup>, etc. The applied comparisons allow for the I. construction horizon of the Bazovets tell to be referred to the final of the Boian culture, Spañtov phase<sup>13</sup>.

The pottery in Building No. 2 is similar to the one in Building No. 1; probably the two buildings are synchronous. Their purpose at that moment remains unclear. The observations are preliminary and will be more precise after the processing of the materials.

## II. Construction horizon

The second horizon begins immediately under the level of the buildings (**Fig. 6**), and its total research is to be implemented. It is marked by a destroyed stone

<sup>2</sup> POPOV 1996, p. 219-231; POPOV 1998, p. 190-191.

<sup>3</sup> TODOROVA *et alii* 1983, Fig. 37-59.

<sup>4</sup> TODOROVA 1986, p. 105, Fig. 28.

<sup>5</sup> IVANOV, Fig. 34 – 39.

<sup>6</sup> IVANOV, ČERNAKOV 2007, p. 146 – 150.

<sup>7</sup> I'd like to express my gratitude towards my colleague P. Leshtakov for the presented opportunity to study the materials.

<sup>8</sup> ELENSKI 2002, p. 23, Fig. VIII: 4,5, 7, 8, 9; Fig. VI: 6, 7.

<sup>9</sup> KRAUSS 2006, Taf. 39: 1, 5; Taf. 40: 1, 2, 3.

<sup>10</sup> COMŞA 1974, p. 116, Fig. 35, 117, Fig. 36.

<sup>11</sup> MORINTZ, PREDA 1959, p. 164, Fig. 1, 2.

<sup>12</sup> BERCIU 1961, p. 393, Fig. 180, 395, Fig. 181.

<sup>13</sup> The chronological system of the Boian culture, implemented by E. Comşa, is applied.

structure (fortification?) and tamped floor, most likely of a building (Fig. 5).

*Destroyed stone structure (fortification system?) (Fig. 5).*

A stripe of destroyed fortification with a length of 14 m and a width of 3 m was revealed in the southeastern periphery of the settlement. It is made of unprocessed stone blocks of different sizes and shapes, with no joint. It falls conditionally along the diagonals of squares O 10 and H 11. It has been located along the part of the settlement not protected by the river (Fig. 4). According to information from local residents up to the 1960s the river bed of Baniski Lom has been located to the west of the tell, and after that it has been moved to the east of it. In the southwestern corner of O 10 there are 20 pieces of stones, some of which are one over another and again with no joint. In the middle part the stripe continues through 14 stones. In the southeastern corner of the square there are 3 stones, one of which has a greater size and a prolonged shape. A level of stone piling with irregular shape is registered in the northeastern part of the square. It is located under the destructions of Building No. 1 and is therefore earlier than it. The stones in a row are giving the outline of a destroyed building – probably a fortification. The sedimentation has normal thickness and brown-green color. The pottery is in low quantity on account of the bones. From a depth of -0.25 m the pottery is in increased quantity. A fragmented axe-hammer was revealed, made of grey-beige rock. In the northwestern corner of square H 11 there are 19 pieces of stone with irregular shape. They are one next to another, at one place they are arranged in a semi-arch. The largest stone has the sizes of 0.40/0.25 m. In the central part there are 17 stone pieces, 2 of them have a flat shape and one over another, the upper has sizes of 0.30/0.25 m. The largest stone is in the central part of the square, it has a relatively flat surface and irregular shape, sizes of 0.34/0.36 m. In the northwestern corner there is 1 piece of stone with sizes of 0.20/0.30 m, again flat with a prolonged shape. In proximity to the northern profile there is a spot of bricked layer with sizes of 0.70/0.65 m, to the south of it a stone with flat shape and sizes of 0.25/0.26 m and approximately square shape. An increased concentration of pottery and bones, 3 fragmented bone battle axes were found in the stone structure section.

The stones are arranged one next to another in 3 places in square O 10; in 2 places the same situation is observed in square H 11. The stone structure has been narrower than 3 m for certain, but after its collapse the stones have been spread aside. The circumstance that Building No. 1 partially steps over the stone piling (Fig. 7) is an argument to think that the settlement has grown aside in a later stage of the Middle Chalcolithic Age, overcoming the old fortification system.

The wall is earlier than the two buildings and probably chronologically refers to the initial development period of the settlement. Battle belongings were discovered in proximity to it – stone balls, bone and stone axes, arrowheads.

The situations are an evidence for the impetuous events that took place here at the beginning of the 5<sup>th</sup> millennium BC. The population arriving in the region of present-day northeastern Bulgaria during the Early Chalcolithic Age has been forced to construct the first for the age fortification facilities with the aim of protection from hostile attacks from the local population. Reasons for the

migrations and warfare for the new territories has probably been the better natural-climatic, hydrographic and soil conditions, which have been the main precondition for practicing the most important occupation, related to the feeding of the population – agriculture.

*Tamped floor* (**Fig. 5**) – 2 spots from a level of tamped grey-green clay, the largest of which has sizes of 1.70/0.35 m along the north-south axis were registered at a depth of -0.30, -0.40 m in square O 10.

The ceramic complex (**Fig. 10, 11, 12**) is characterized by channeled surface (**Fig. 10/2, 3; 11/3**), by positive graphite and Kerbschnitt decoration, rarely in negative (**Fig. 12, Fig. 11/1, 2, 4, 5**), incrustated with white or red paint, by color from beige-brown to black, incised (**Fig. 10/4**) or combinations of the indicated. The pottery has a very well smoothed or polished surface especially at the thin-walled, in color it is predominantly dark-grey and black; there are also nuances of brown and red, the shapes are bicylindrical, cylindrical-conical and biconical, mainly opened on the outside (referring to the thin-walled vessels); there are also vessels on a hollow chair (**Fig. 11/5**), etc. Parallels are known from the discovered settlements at the village of Tabachka – Pashalom, the village of Batin, the village of Borovo, the village of Karan Varbovka<sup>14</sup>, the rock shelters at the village of Shtraklevo<sup>15</sup>, the Vodna-Tamno rock complex near the village of Tabachka<sup>16</sup>, the village of Pepelina<sup>17</sup>, the tells at the village of Petko Karavelovo, the village of Dzhulyunitsa<sup>18</sup>, the Polyanitsa tell, layer I<sup>19</sup>, Ovcharovo tell, I-IV construction horizons<sup>20</sup>, tell No. 4 near the village of Kosharna<sup>21</sup>, the tells in Romania at Tangâru<sup>22</sup>, Spanțov<sup>23</sup>, Bogata<sup>24</sup>, etc. The second construction horizon of the Bazovets tell allows to be referred to the Boian-Vidra culture, based on the ceramic complex.

Pottery finds, bone, stone, mussel shells – anthropomorphous and zoomorphous figures (**Fig. 14**), tools for everyday needs, adornment and items with cult functions (**Fig. 13**) were also discovered in the tell. Of interest are 4 anthropomorphous figures, all of them fragmented, with incised grooves, filled with white paint decoration. Probably the decoration is a marker for clothes and embroidery on them (**Fig. 14/1-4**). The zoomorphous figures are 4, of which 3 are representing larger ruminants (**Fig. 14/5-7**), and on one of them is an animal from the Canidae (dogs) family (**Fig. 14/8**). A flat ceramic item with 3 transverse openings and 4 longitudinal holes (**Fig. 13/1**), a ceramic bracelet discovered right

<sup>14</sup> The materials are kept at the funds of the Rousse Regional Museum of History

<sup>15</sup> POPOV 1992, p. 23, 26, 27.

<sup>16</sup> ČERNAKOV 2008, p. 159 – 167.

<sup>17</sup> POPOV 1996, p. 93.

<sup>18</sup> The materials are kept at the funds of the Veliko Tarnovo Regional Museum of History. I'd like to express my gratitude towards the colleagues St. Chohadzhev, N. Elenski and P. Leshtakov for the presented opportunity to study the materials.

<sup>19</sup> TODOROVA 1986, p. 103, Drawing 26, 104, Drawing 27.

<sup>20</sup> TODOROVA 1983, T 33-36.

<sup>21</sup> ČERNAKOV *et alii* 2012, p. 9, 14).

<sup>22</sup> BERCIU 1961, p. 385-390.

<sup>23</sup> MORINTZ, PREDA 1959, p. 164, Fig. 3-6.

<sup>24</sup> COMȘA 1959, p. 119, Fig. 3:1,4, 7, 5, 6, 9, 10.

next to the previous item, an item with a conic shape and an extension at one of the ends (**Fig. 13/4**), a wall fragment of a ceramic vessel with relief-plastic application in the shape of the letter "T" (**Fig. 13/3**), etc. are items with unknown functions (cult).

The continuation of the archaeological excavations on the site is to come.

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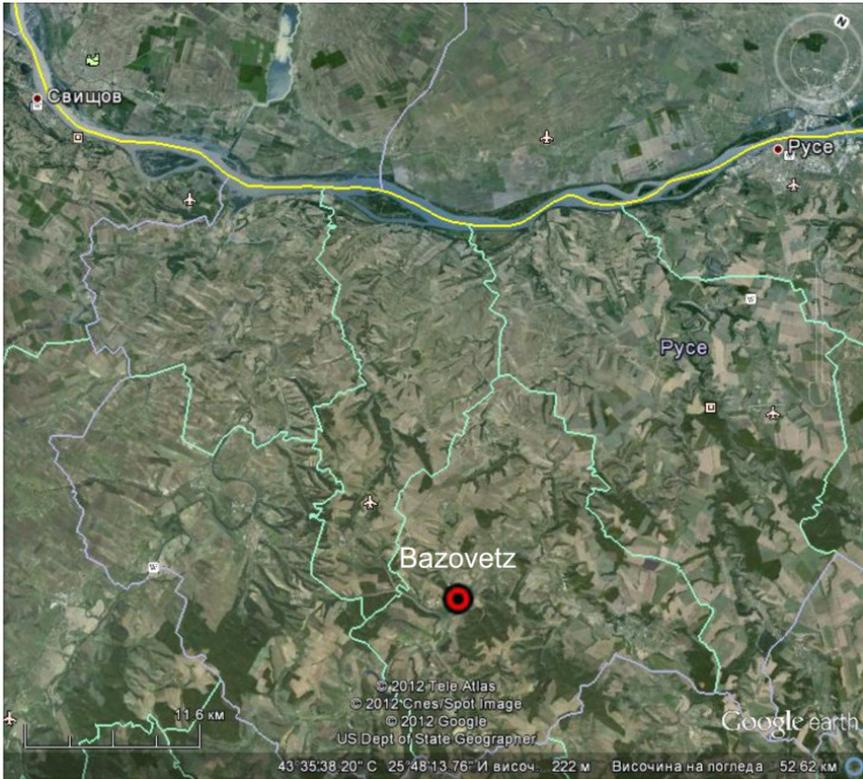


Fig. 1 - 1. Map with the location of the site; 2. Bazovets tell, a view from west.

Археологически обект  
СЕЛИЩНА МОГИЛА с. БЪЗОВЕЦ,  
община Две могили

**ТОПОГРАФСКА КАРТА 1 : 5000**

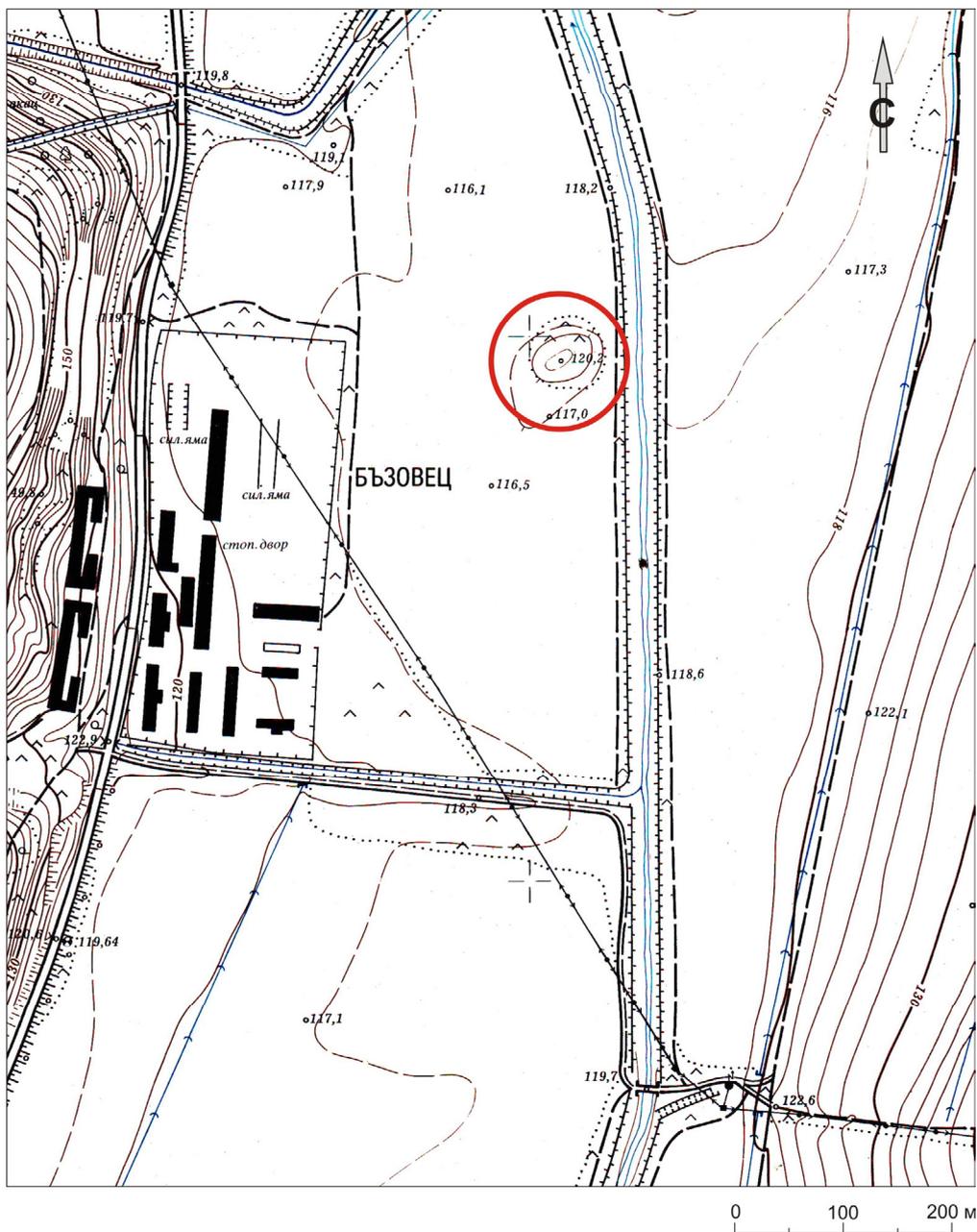
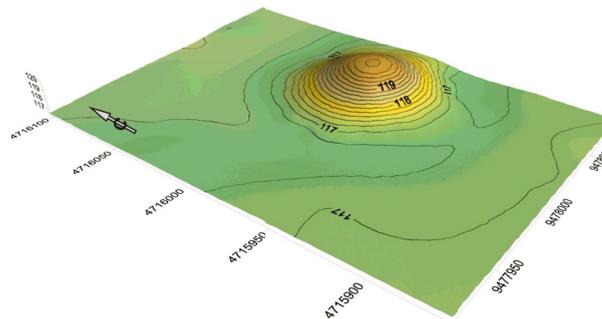


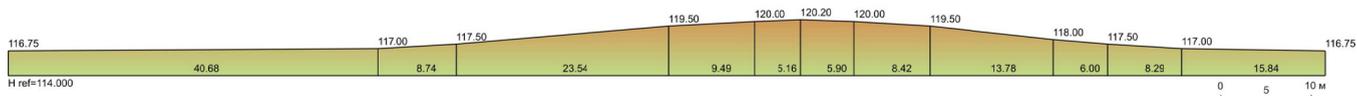
Fig. 2 - Bazovets tell, topographic map 1:5000.

Археологически обект  
СЕЛИЩНА МОГИЛА с. БЪЗОВЕЦ,  
община Две могили

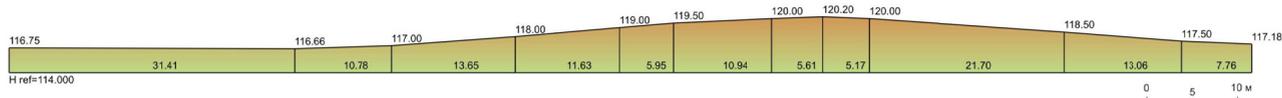
**РЕЛЕФ**



**ПРОФИЛ СЕВЕР - ЮГ**



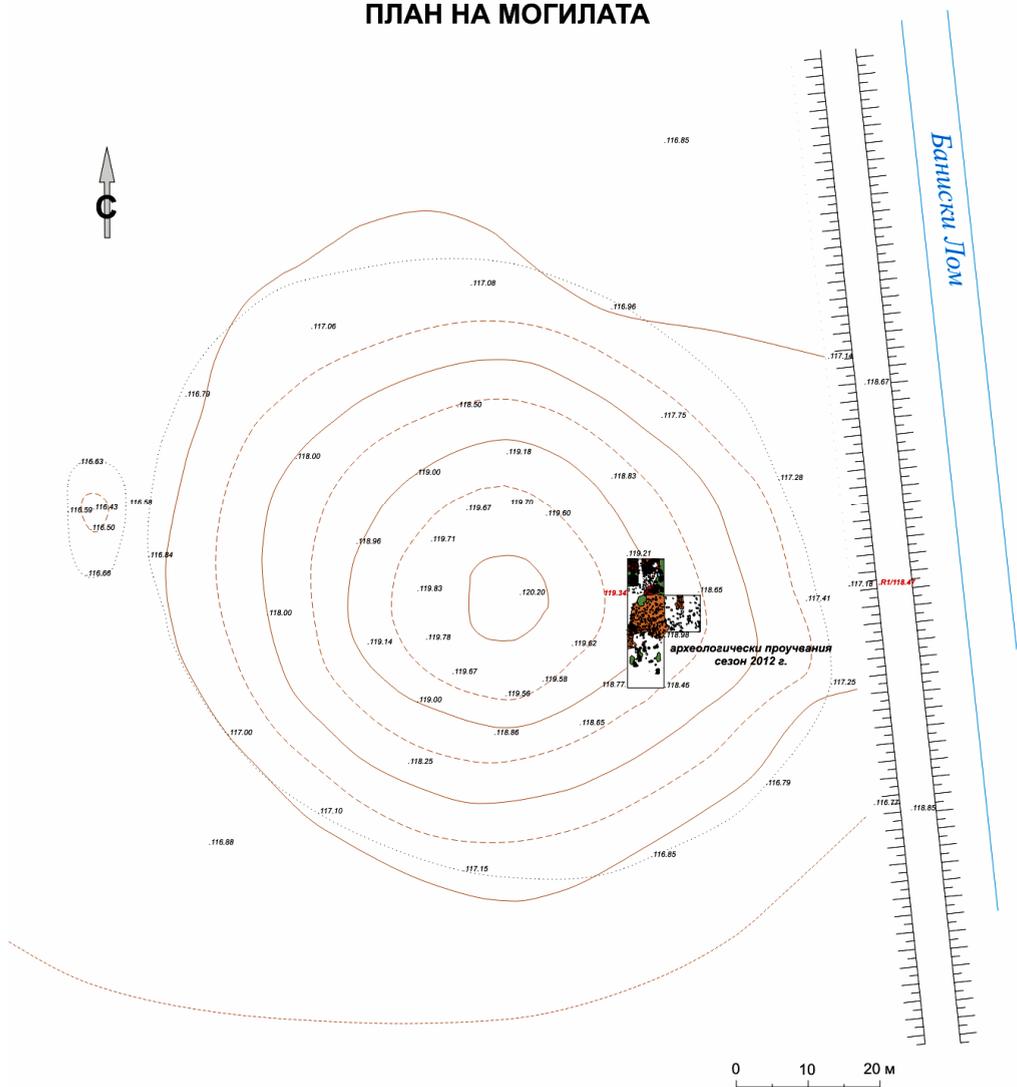
**ПРОФИЛ ЗАПАД - ИЗТОК**



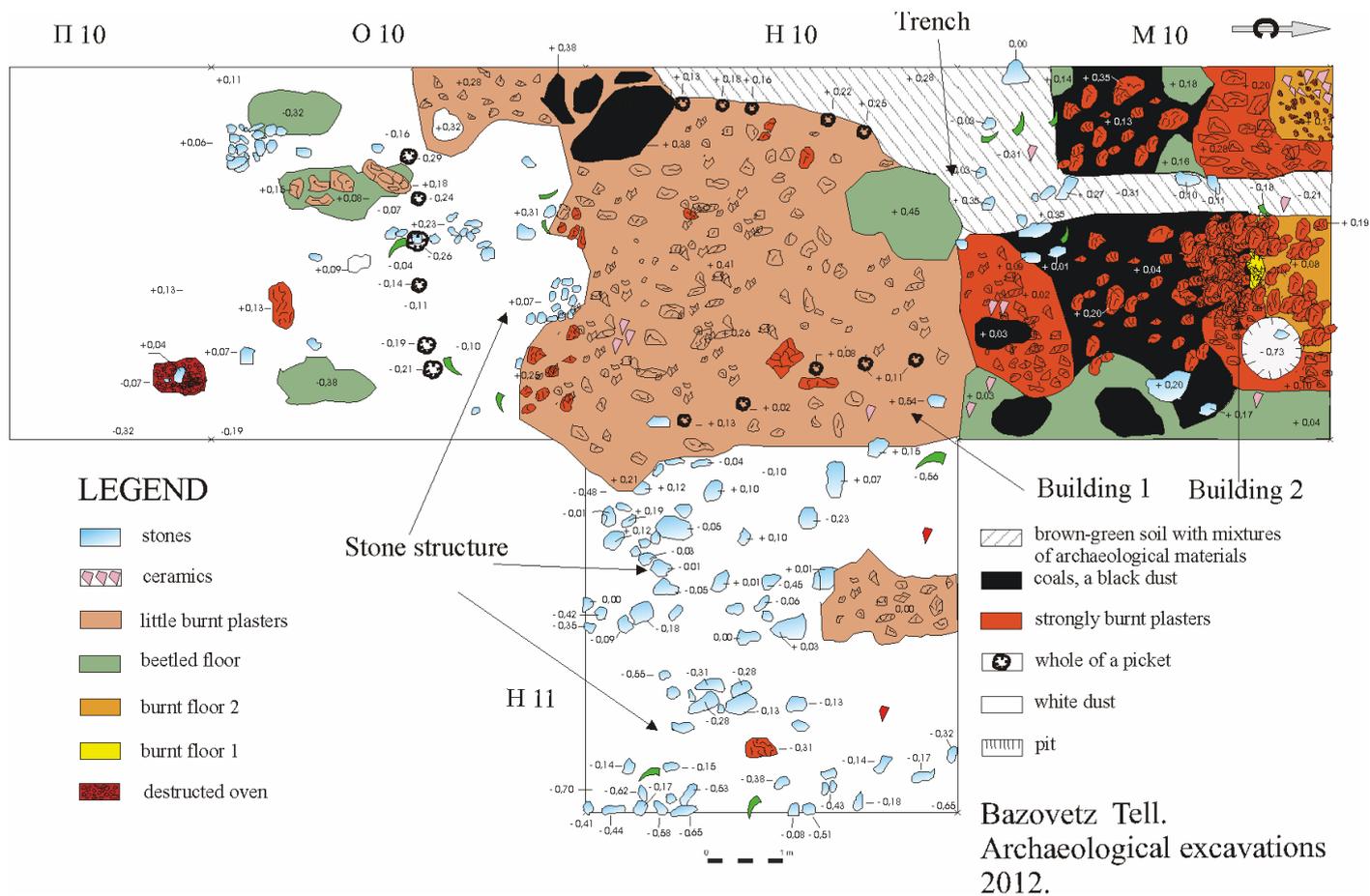
**Fig.3 - Bazovets tell. Relief (author: Engineer Atanas Kamenarov).**

Археологически обект  
СЕЛИЩНА МОГИЛА с. БЪЗОВЕЦ  
община Две могили

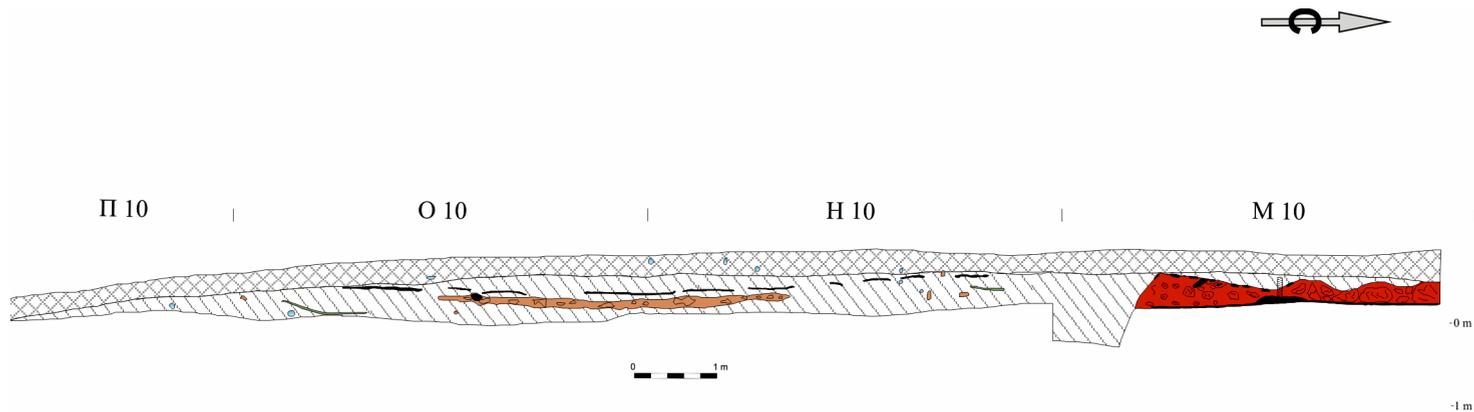
**ПЛАН НА МОГИЛАТА**



**Fig. 4 - Bazovets tell. Geodesic plan of the tell and the 2012 excavations (author: Engineer Atanas Kamenarov).**



**Fig. 5 - Bazovets tell. Excavations plan.**



**LEGEND**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
|  fallow   |  beetle floor            |
|  brown-green soil with mixtures of archaeological materials |  coals, a black dust     |
|  stones   |  strongly burnt plasters |
|  little burnt plasters                                      |  hole picket             |

Bazovetz Tell.  
Archaeological excavations  
2012. Central western profile

**Fig. 6 - Bazovets tell. Central western profile.**

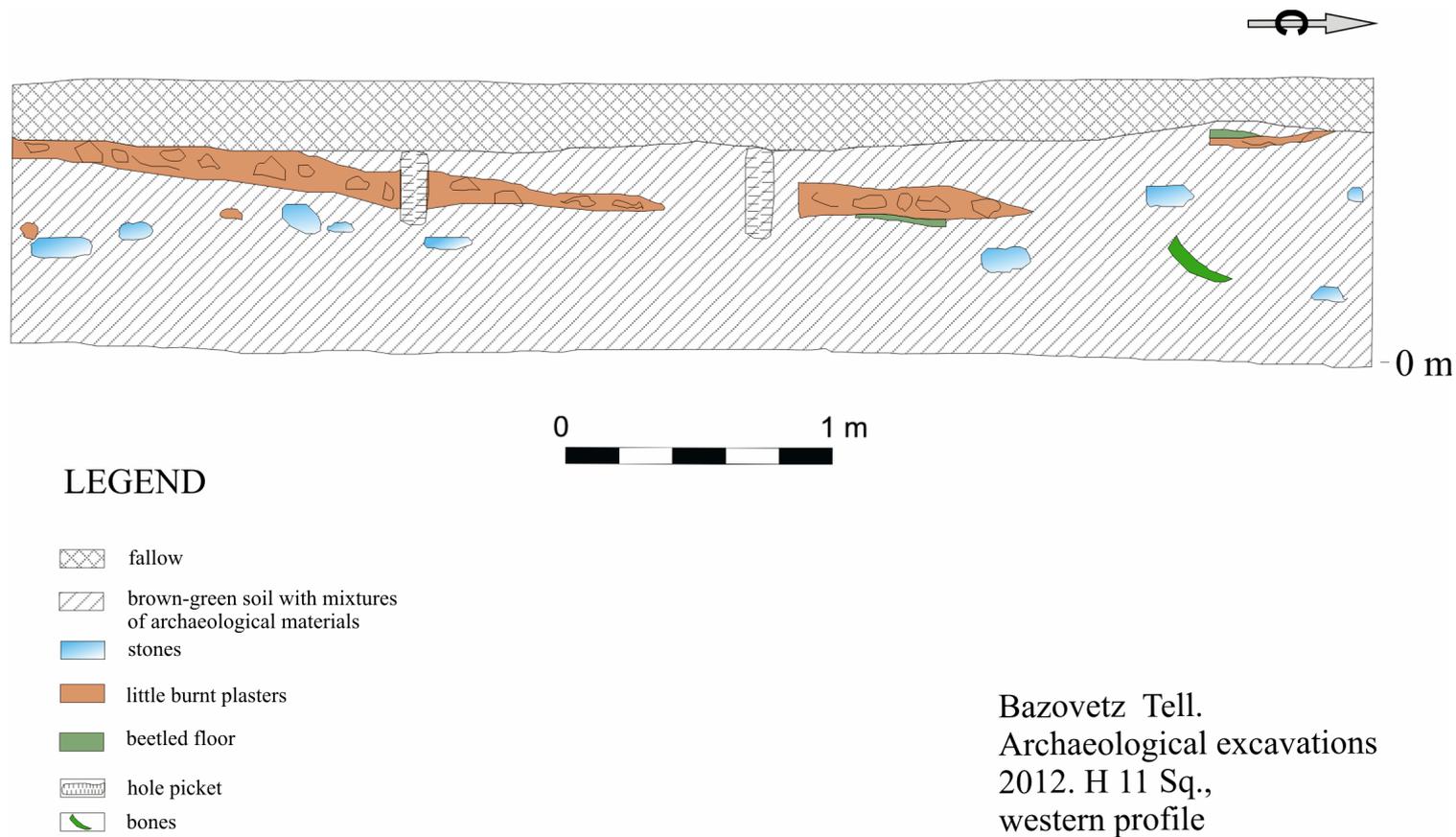


Fig. 7 - Bazovets tell. Square H 11, western profile.

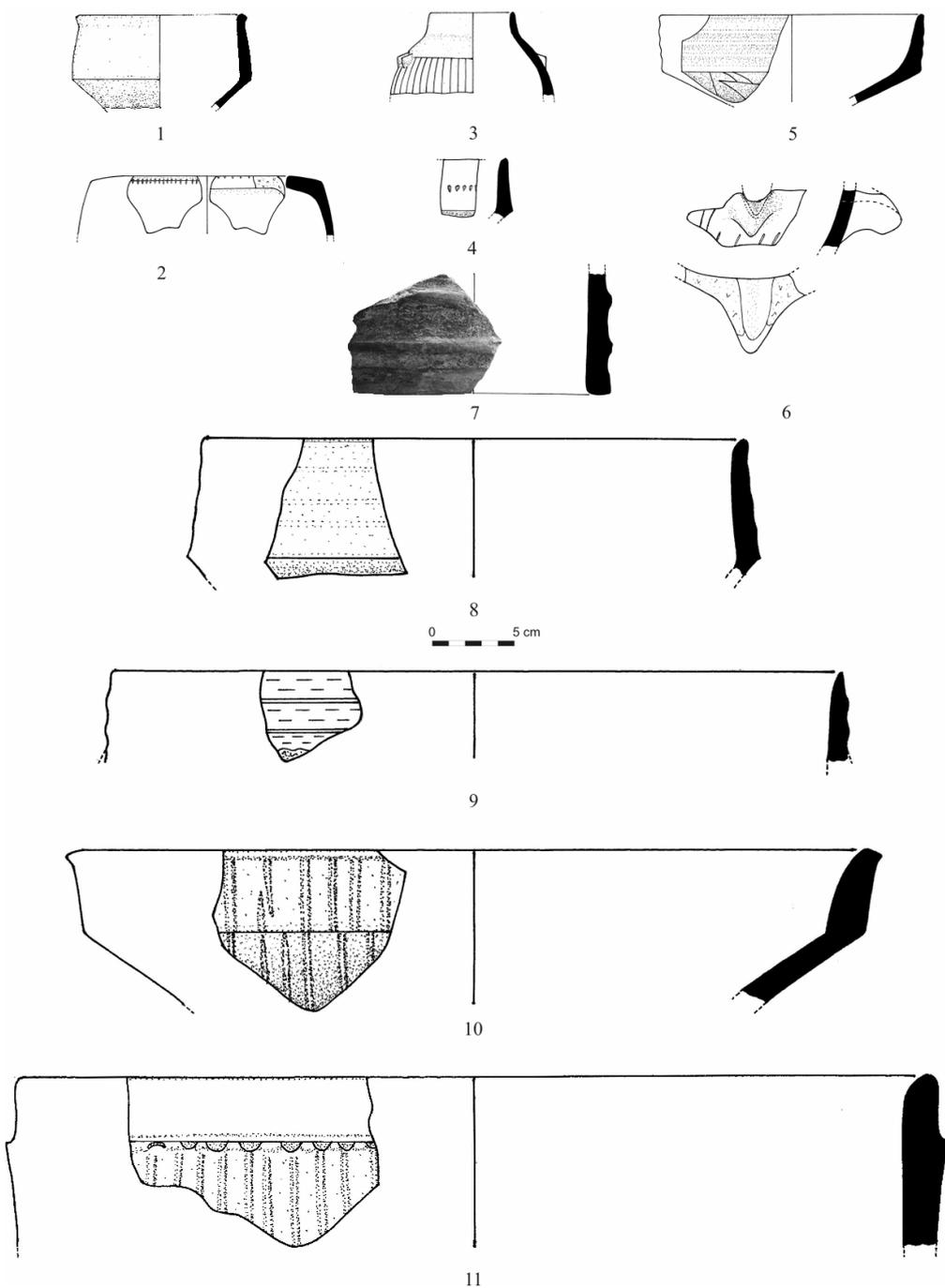


Fig. 8 - Bazovets tell. Ceramic vessels, shapes. I. construction horizon.

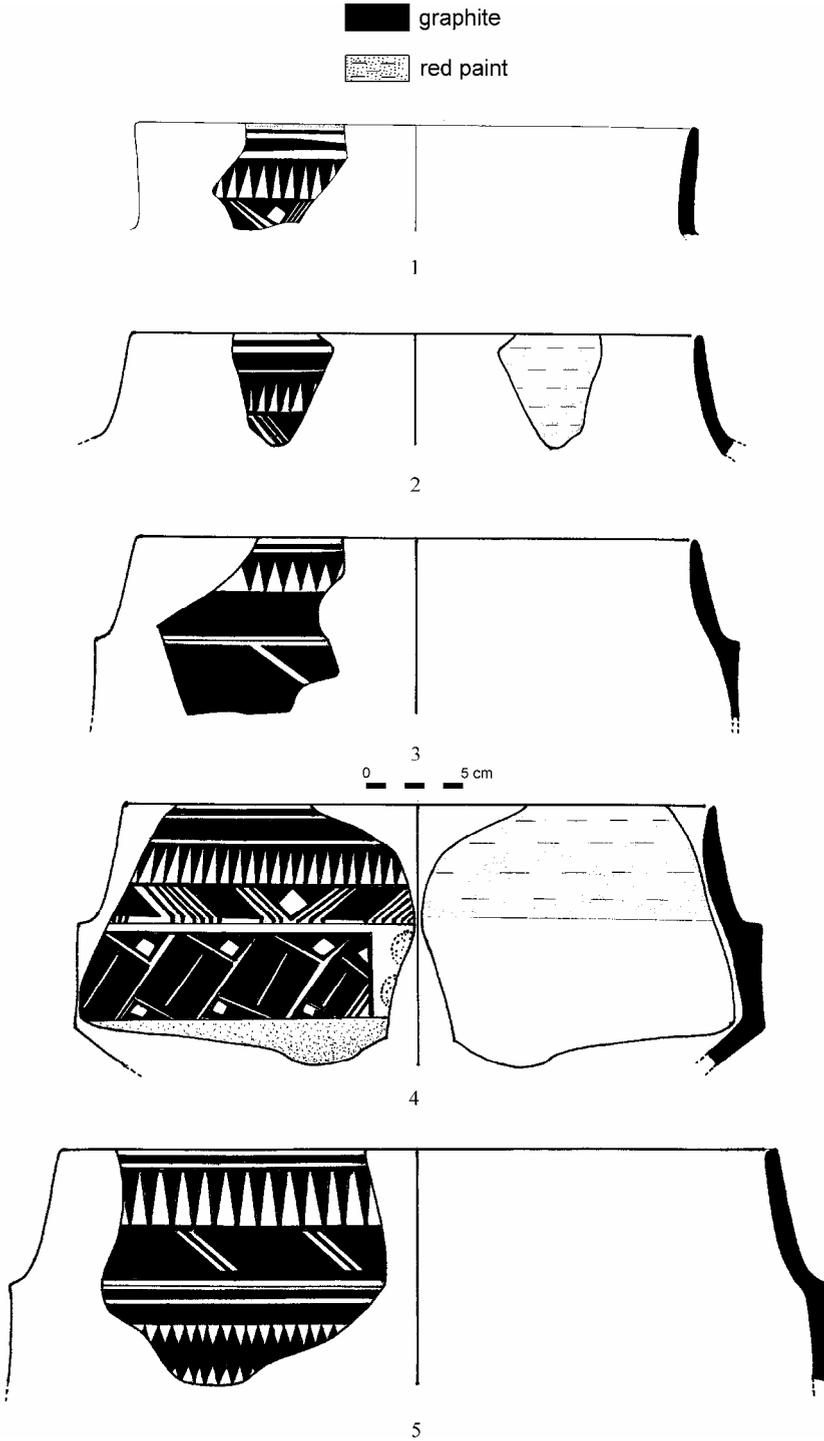


Fig. 9 - Bazovets tell. Ceramic vessels, shapes. I. construction horizon.

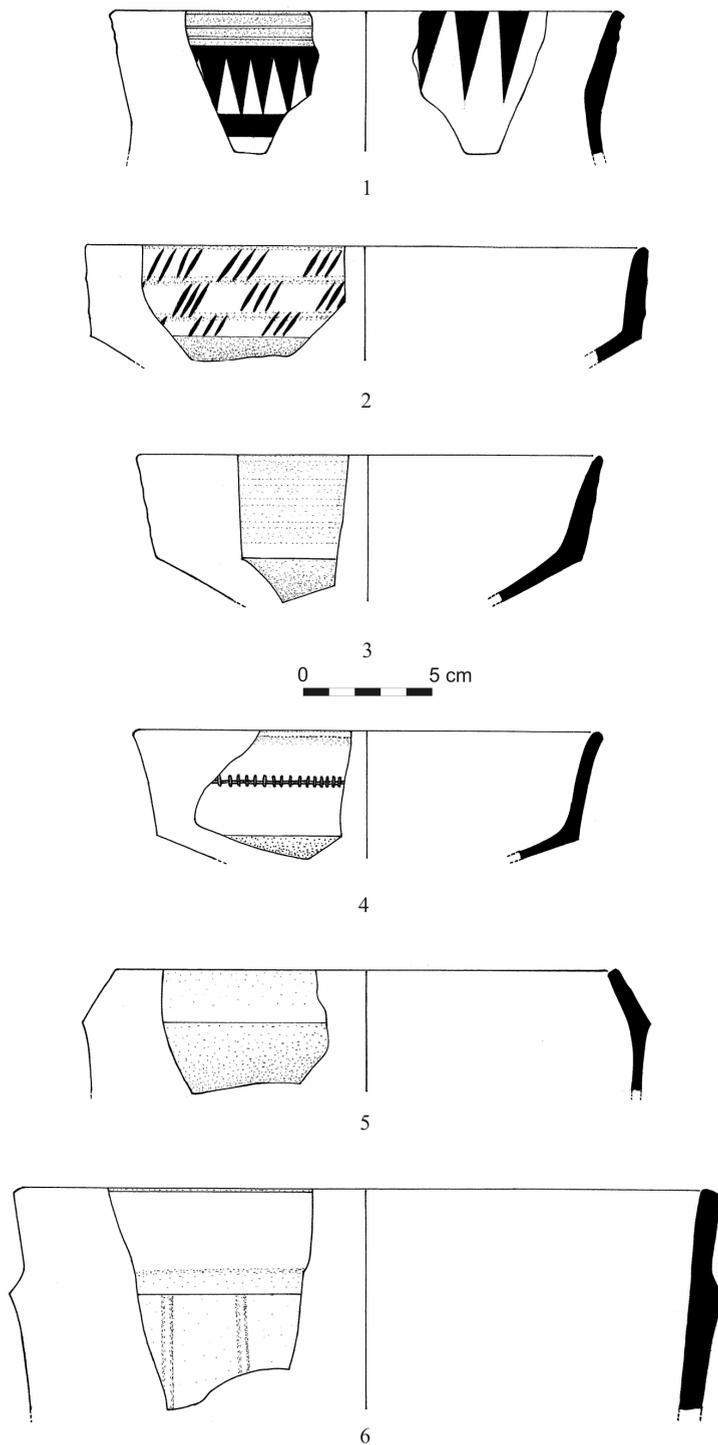


Fig. 10 - Ceramic vessels, shapes. II. construction horizon.

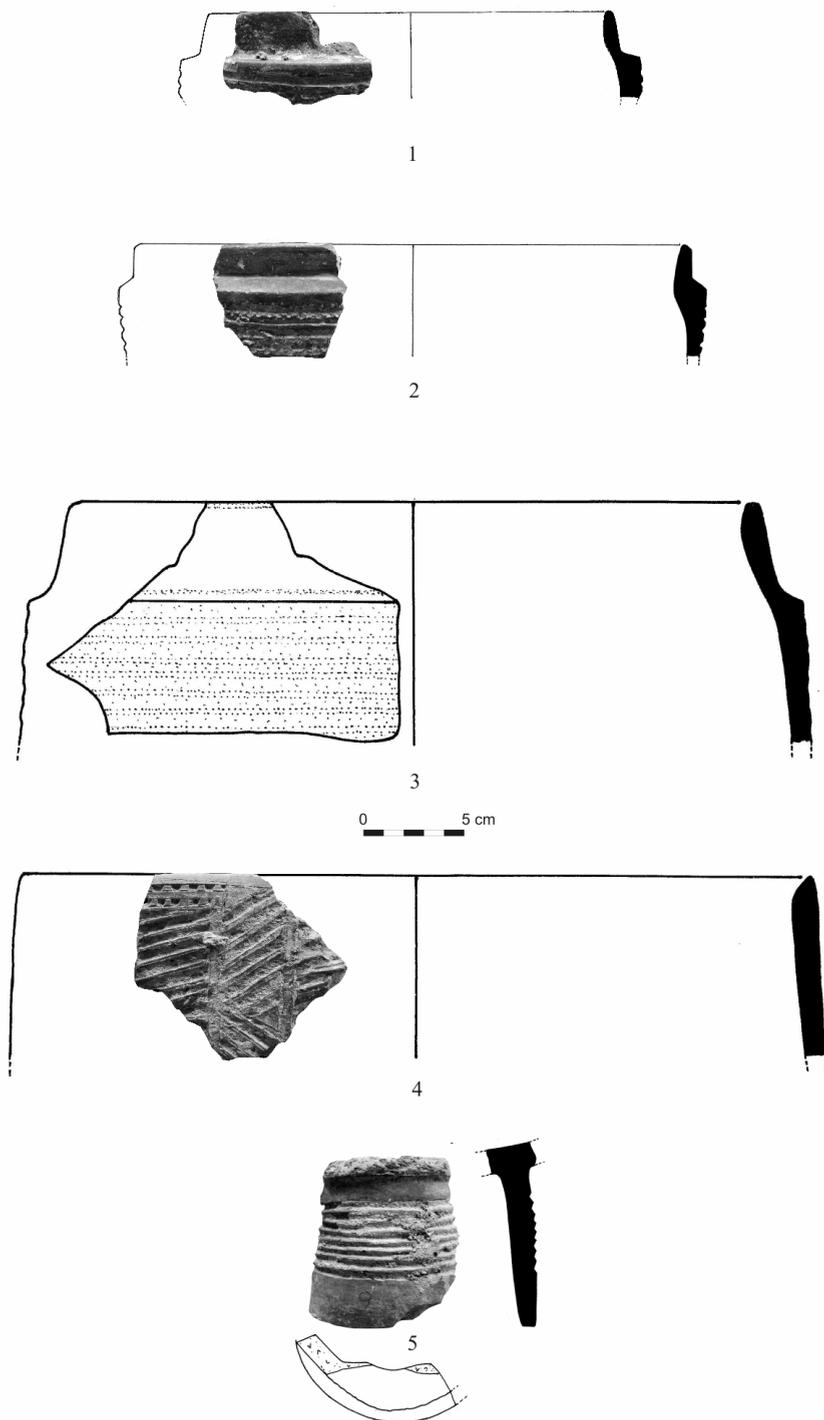


Fig. 11 - Ceramic vessels, shapes. II. construction horizon.

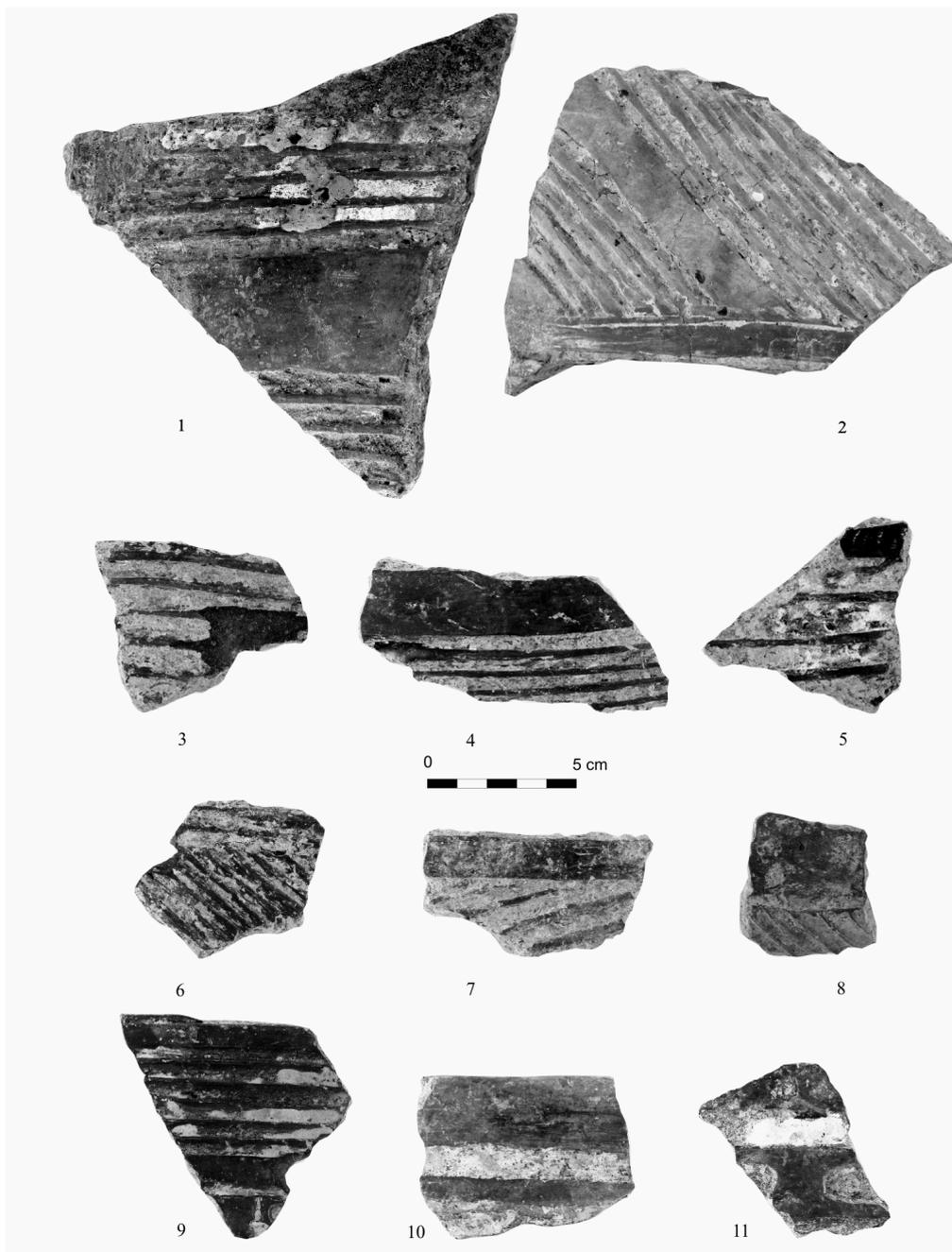


Fig. 12 - Bazovets tell. Ceramic vessels, fragments. II. construction horizon.

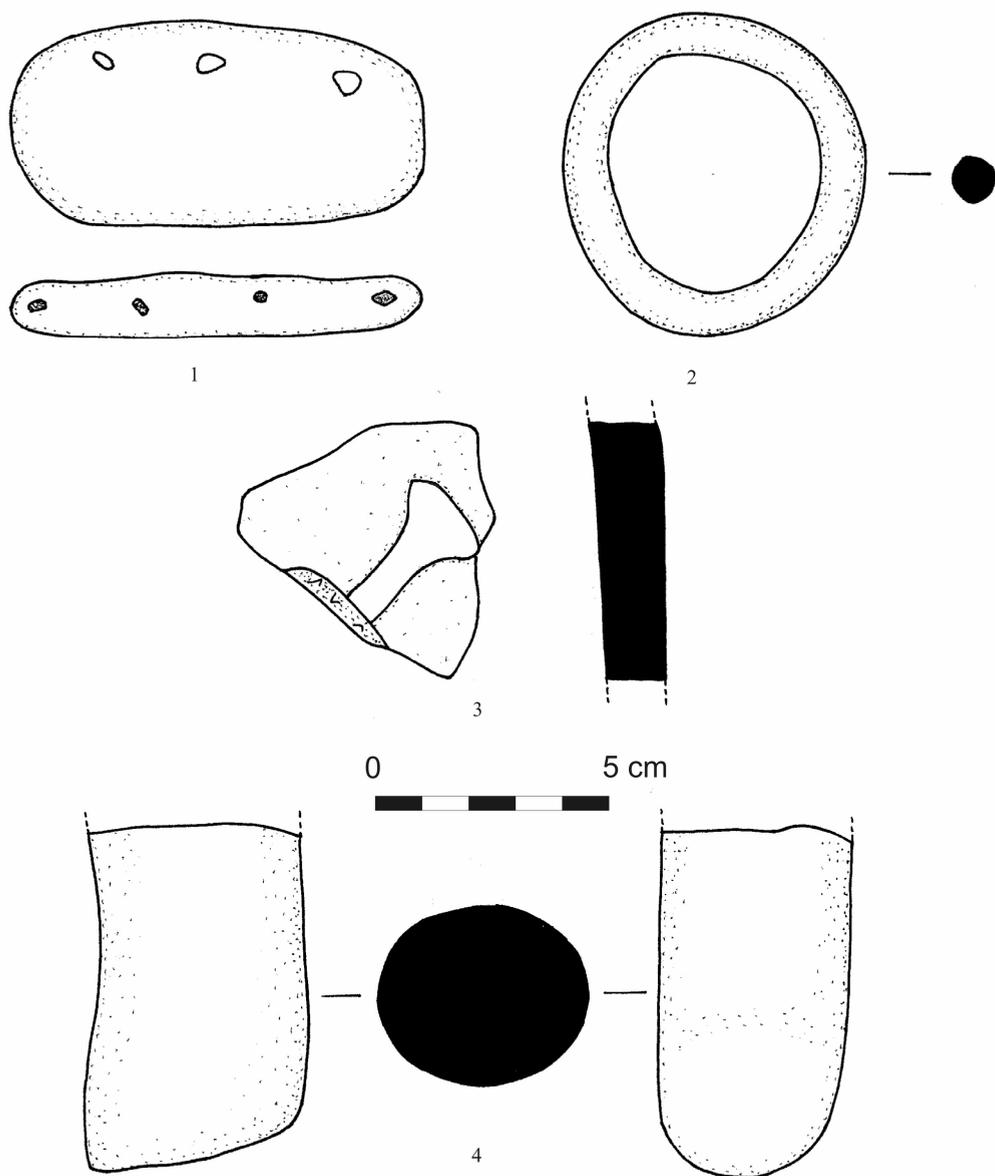


Fig. 13 - Bazovets tell. Plastics 1-4. I. construction horizon; 5. II. horizon.

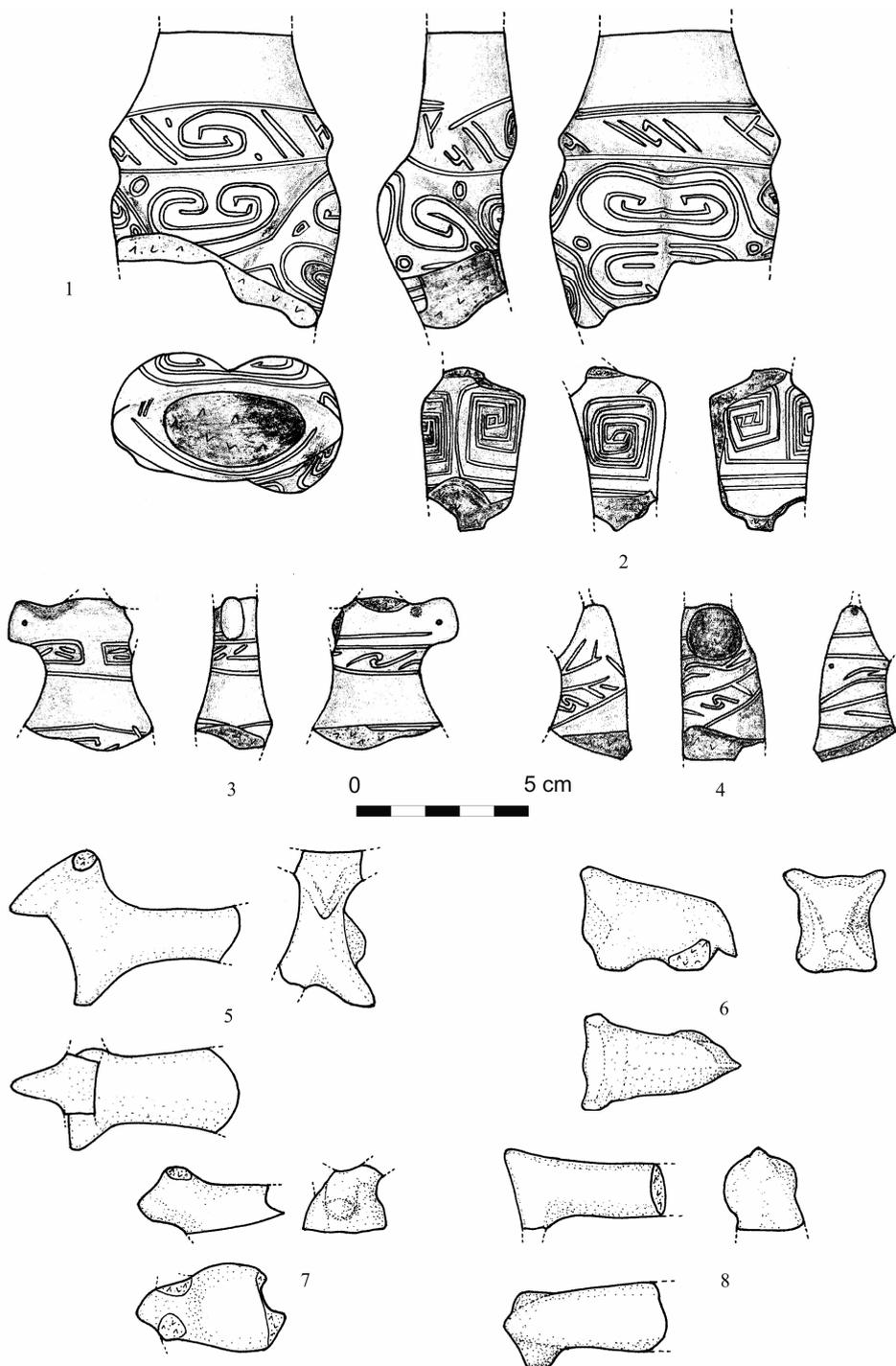
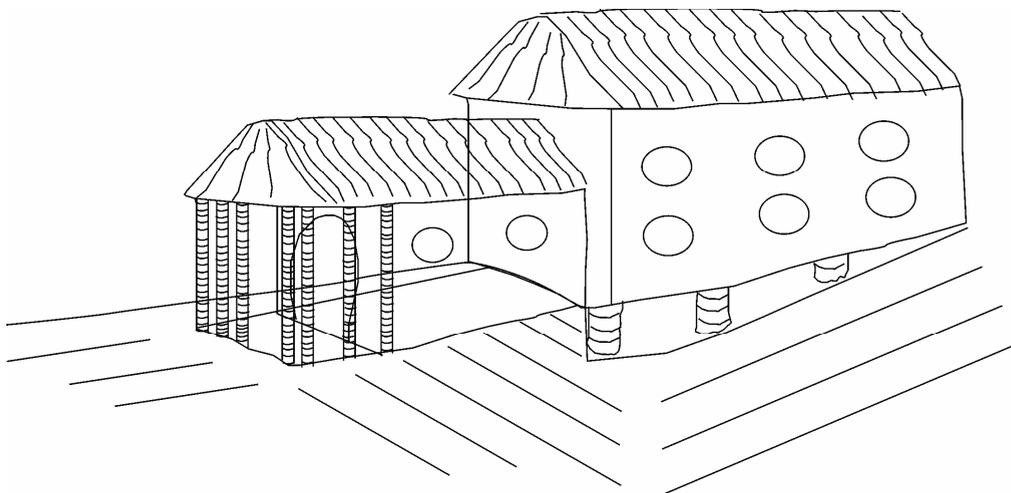


Fig. 14 - Bazovets tell. Plastics. 1, 2, 8 – I. construction horizon; 3, 5, 6 – II. horizon; 4, 7 - with no stratigraphic data.



**Fig. 15 - Bazovets tell. I. construction horizon. A Building No. 1 and a building No. 2, reconstruction.**