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### **Wooden Post Buildings of the Lake Settlement Serteya XIV 6 Mill. BC**

The lake settlement Serteya XIV (Velizhskiy district, Smolensk region, Russia), studied during the 1990-s and the beginning 2000-s, was found to contain several different "habitation horizons" with finds and building remains dating from the Mesolithic to the Final Neolithic or the Chalcolithic (the 9<sup>th</sup> - the first half of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Mill. cal. BC). Cultural layers of the settlement lie mostly within sandy coastal sediments. There were not sterile layers between different "habitation horizons" and all the findings forms almost single stratigraphical mass. Therefore, we have difficulties of definition of settlement objects cultural attribution and their relative chronology. If the construction of the Mesolithic – Early Neolithic (the 9<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> Mill. cal BC) detected quite clearly through the depressed floors, and easier to attribute them analyzing the housing spots filled findings, then post ground-based buildings are more complicated. The remains of two suchlike buildings (№ 192 and 280) were allocated in the settlement thanks to the traces of post holes in the layer of grayish-yellow sand, on the second "habitation horizon", consistent with the findings of the mid - late Early Neolithic (the 6<sup>th</sup> Mill. cal BC).

The oval building of a 6x10 m size oriented east-west № 192 limits were marked with large and deep post holes. Several rows of posts were inside the structure as well. The hearth remains were detected in the eastern part of the building, which was an oval depression about 0,1 m depth of 1,6 x 1 m wide with burned and chopped stones inside. On the perimeter it was limited by a number of pole pits.

Building № 280 of an 8 x 10 m size sub-oval shape was marked by post and pole holes located on its perimeter. One row of post holes held through the middle of the building along the long wall. Post and pole holes forming a ring of max diameter – 1,1 m were concentrated near the West wall facing the entrance. Inside this ring cracked rocks with burned some of them were found. The calcined whitish sandy loam oval lens of a 0,64 x 0,92 m size and of 0,04 m thickness containing small charcoals and burnt cracked stones as well as fragments of calcined bones was also revealed there. It was probably the remains of the ground-based hearth related to the building.

Within the limits of these constructions at the floor level and in filling of the fireplace lenses flint flakes and blades as well as tools: scrapers, points, leaf-shaped arrowheads were found. Pottery is represented by fragments of the Serteyskaya Early Neolithic

culture (the 7<sup>th</sup> - 5.3 Mill. cal BC): not ornamented vessels with large amounts of organic admixture; the pots covered with deep scratches on both sides and decorated by / incisions under the rim and thin-walled pottery with poke-style ornamentation and admixture of sand. Fragments of the not decorated Early Neolithic pottery were prevailed so the buildings were related to the final Serveyskaya Early Neolithic culture. The aim of present research is to analyze the building № 192 and № 280 constructions, to clarify their cultural attribution as well as absolute and relative chronology if it's possible. It is necessary to identify the finds from the buildings floor levels and analyze them, to make a spatial analysis of structures remains and finds to achieve these goals. The construction of 47 and 63 m<sup>2</sup> size were most likely determined to be built here during the existence of Serveyskaya Early Neolithic culture ceramics phase "c" (approx. the mid. 6<sup>th</sup> Mill. cal BC), but there are also finds of the Rudnyanskaya culture among the ceramic material (the late 6<sup>th</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of the 5<sup>th</sup> Mill. cal BC), which is the result of the Narva culture (beginning about 5.5/5.2 Mill. cal BC) influence. New shape of large ground-based timber buildings replaced the Early Neolithic beginning structures with the depressed floors. This change of the buildings type may be associated with the influence of the neighboring regions population during the second half of the 6<sup>th</sup> Mill. cal BC what was reflected in the ceramic material as well. This type of buildings continued to exist in the study area and apparently got the development in pile structures of the end 4–3. Mill cal BC revealed in Smolensk and Pskov regions of Russia.