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**Neolithic Settlement Zones in Western Part of Little Poland:
a Case of Targowisko**

A preliminary reconstruction of the range of the settlement complex Targowisko (site 10-16) and Szarów (site 9, 21) allows to determine approximately its size. Latitudinally, from east to west, the complex is spread out over a length of more than 2 km. Due to the lack of a full archaeological recognition, it is difficult to establish how wide was the belt of land occupied by the Neolithic farmers. The analysis of inhabited geomorphological forms indicates that the width of the inhabited zone was less than 1 km wide.

A small, two-phase settlement of the oldest Zofipole phase of LBK at the site 10, 11 has been documented recently in Targowisko. Every settlement phase consisted of at least four post frame houses (inhabited concurrently), whose length exceeds or oscillated around 20 meters. The centre of this settlement shifted over time from west to east. This is the first reconstructed settlement of the oldest, pre-music note phase of LBK not only on the Wieliczka-Bochnia loess areas but also throughout the entire eastern group of the culture.

Approximately three-four kilometres west of the settlement complex Targowisko-Szarów researchers recorded the site 17 in Brzezcie. They made there almost a complete reconstruction of the settlement and building development of a large LBK settlement with its classical, music-note phase. It consisted of three to six concurrently inhabited long houses, arranged around an empty space in the centre. The houses (within subsequent phases of construction) were built near the already functioning structures within the same house clusters. The discussed settlement is a great illustration of Hofplatzmodell assumptions.

Most of the remains of long post-holes houses coming from the settlement complex Targowisko-Szarów (without including the west edge of the complex – i.e. the site 10, 11 in Targowisko) are linked with the period at the turn of the music-note and Żeliezowce phases and mainly with the youngest LBK phase i.e. Żeliezowce phase. Researchers hesitate what model of settlement is represented by the houses of the youngest phases: Hofplatzmodell or Zeilensiedlungsmodell? They have posed the question whether the houses of the next settlement phases were built in the space within house clusters or

they mainly existed at the same time, and new constructions were added along the extension of the rows that were formed.

The achievement of the last decade is the discovery of unknown so far forms of houses and settlements of the Malice culture in the area of the settlement complex Targowisko-Szarów and several other sites in the Wieliczka-Bochnia loess region, including Zagórze site 2 and Rzeszów-Przemyśl loess area. These discoveries have completely changed the existing views on these aforementioned topics.

The place of trapezoidal houses (mainly typical for the areas of younger Danubian cultures located in the Lowland areas) which had been built within large settlements, was taken by small rectangular (approx. 12 meters long) post-holes structures. They occurred most frequently individually or in systems of two (Targowisko, site 13-14), in rows consisting of 45 buildings (e.g. Zagórze 2) or they formed difficult to reconstruct, larger spatial structures (Targowisko, site 10, 11 and e.g. Rozbórz, site 42).

To some extent, the researchers have already acquired and analyzed palaeobotanical macroremains and the background of environmental and climate changes has been outlined regarding the area of the discussed settlement complex.

In many cases, the rule of placement of individual skeletal graves has been confirmed within the settlements near the houses. Moreover, so far the occurrence of cemeteries neither in the area of the described settlement complex nor in other areas where this culture appeared has been noticed.

It is believed that cultural and settlement hiatus took place at the turn of LBK and younger Danubian cultures. Sometimes the continuation and transformation of internal nature have been emphasized. However, considering southeastern Poland any transformational mechanisms replacing one culture with another one have not been reconstructed so far. It has been done for neither the hiatus model nor the model of cultural continuation.

The possibility of detailed observation and documentation of trends, presenting changes regarding the settlement, economic and cultural situation at the turn of LBK and the Malice culture in the light of the settlement complex Targowisko-Szarów, creates a unique opportunity to reconstruct the mechanisms of cultural change not in range of the whole archaeological culture, but in the microregional dimension. So far we have not had any knowledge considering a crucial stage of assumed changes that is the

reconstruction of the direction and determinants of cultural evolution of the želiezowce phase.