

SHORT REPORT

The Early Bronze Age settlement at Šahy was discovered in 1980s due to research activities of Juraj Bánesz and Gabriel Nevizánsky. The proper archaeological excavation was initiated in 2005 when new factory had to be built directly on the site. At first the upper layer of soil was removed in advance (about 40 cm) (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1 – aerial photo from 2006. The area, from where the upper soil layer was removed. Compare with Fig. 6.

Fortunately, the construction of factory had stopped (until 2017). This rendered time for archaeological excavation. During digging of gas pipe west from beforementioned area a 15 m long feature with filled with ash, pottery and daub was uncovered. This feature was dated to the Early Bronze Age (Hatvan culture) (Fig. 2).¹ Within this feature a copper dagger was found along with miniature clay models of battle axes and clay wheels.

¹ Some information on Hatvan culture here (in english):

<https://books.google.sk/books?id=6ZQeAAAAQBAJ&pg=PA822&dq=Markov%C3%A1+Hatvan+culture&hl=sk&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjNmanAneLdAhUKKIAKHbJIBgUQ6AEIJzAA#v=onepage&q=Markov%C3%A1%20Hatvan%20culture&f=false>

If you are interested in the absolute dating of Hatvan culture, look at this (in english too):

http://www.geochronometria.pl/pdf/geo_23/Geo23_13.pdf



Fig. 2 – aerial photo from 2009. Feature uncovered during the digging of gas pipe. Area for future factory clearly visible.

In 2011 and 2018 a geophysical survey took place on the site.² Thanks to this survey two parallel ditches encircling the top of the hill were found. Interesting was, that in the outer ditch an interruption or „gate“ was clearly visible (Fig. 3).

² See the report from 2011: <https://www.grampusheritage.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Green-Village-Sahy-Geophysics-Report.pdf>
Geophysical survey report from 2018 you can find attached in your mail.

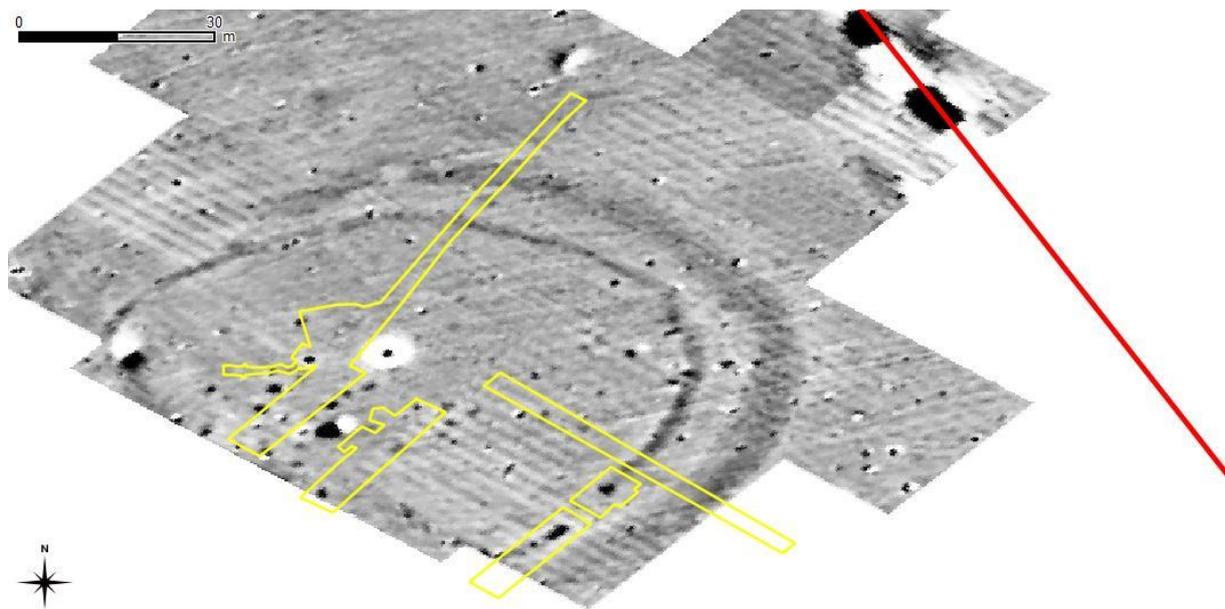


Fig. 3 – yellow lines represent the trenches, red line represents the gas pipe. In 2018 we were digging in the longest trench, which in its northern part cuts both ditches.

In 2015 we focused on the excavation of „the entrance space“ with „gate“. On the inner edge of the inner („smaller“) ditch we found a palisade in form of the row of post holes. The rest of the former rampart was represented by stones fallen inside the ditch. We cut also both ditches. Both of them were filled with pottery, bones and daub, which allowed to fix them chronologically. The inner ditch was dated to the Late Neolithic („Chalcolithic“) Baden culture³, the outer („bigger“) ditch was younger – it was dug out at the times of Hatvan culture.

In 2016 we focused on the feature excavated in 2005 (see Fig. 2). Our aim was to found the southern edge of the feature. We succeeded, but because of the great depth we couldn't finish our work up to the bottom of this feature (so was done in 2018). We found here a collection of clay animal figurines, which were intentionally (?) destroyed. Another important find from this feature was a copper dagger (until now we have 2 daggers from this feature – one of the was exhibited at the museum in Šahy).

In 2017 we were excavating within the enclosed area at the top of the hill (we were digging there also in 2018). In 2 parallel trenches we found 5 features – pits. All of them belonged to the Hatvan culture. A military foxhole with a hand grenade was found here too. In this year a part of the nearby Hatvan culture cemetery was uncovered in the course of erecting the factory (at the area highlighted with red line – see Fig. 1). About 20 urn-graves with copper artefacts were found (unfortunately this excavation was led by private archaeological company, so we don't have access to the excavation report).

In 2018 we tried to completely excavated the foxhole, but, unfortunately, we didn't. Although we found a lot (more than 200 pieces) of cartridges from rifles from the 2. World War. We

³ Short information on Baden culture here (in english):

<https://books.google.sk/books?id=XneTstDbcC0C&pg=PA51&dq=Baden+culture&hl=sk&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwizubzqeLdAhWBbVAKHWmaAHoQ6AEIMTAB#v=onepage&q=Baden%20culture&f=false>

also cut both ditches (you dug there too). In the upmost layer of the inner one („older“ and „smaller“ ditch – Baden culture) you found the pottery (Fig. 4) of Kosihy-Čaka-Makó Culture (the end of Late Neolithic, the beginning of Early Bronze Age)⁴, which means, that this ditch had to be seen at the times, when new ditch was dug out – therefore are both ditches parallel. The width of the inner ditch was 3 m (depth 1,8 m), the width of the outer was 11 m (depth 3,4 m). Unique tools and another artefacts came from the outer ditch (antler axe (?), fragment of needle).

In the same year we were digging in the hinterland of the settlement. We could await lots of storage pits (?), which were visible on the geomagnetic survey plan from 2018. Indeed, we found 4 features full of pottery, which could be assigned to the Baden culture (Fig. 5). Among them were found some sherds of neolithic Linear Pottery Culture – for the first time in the territory of Šahy.

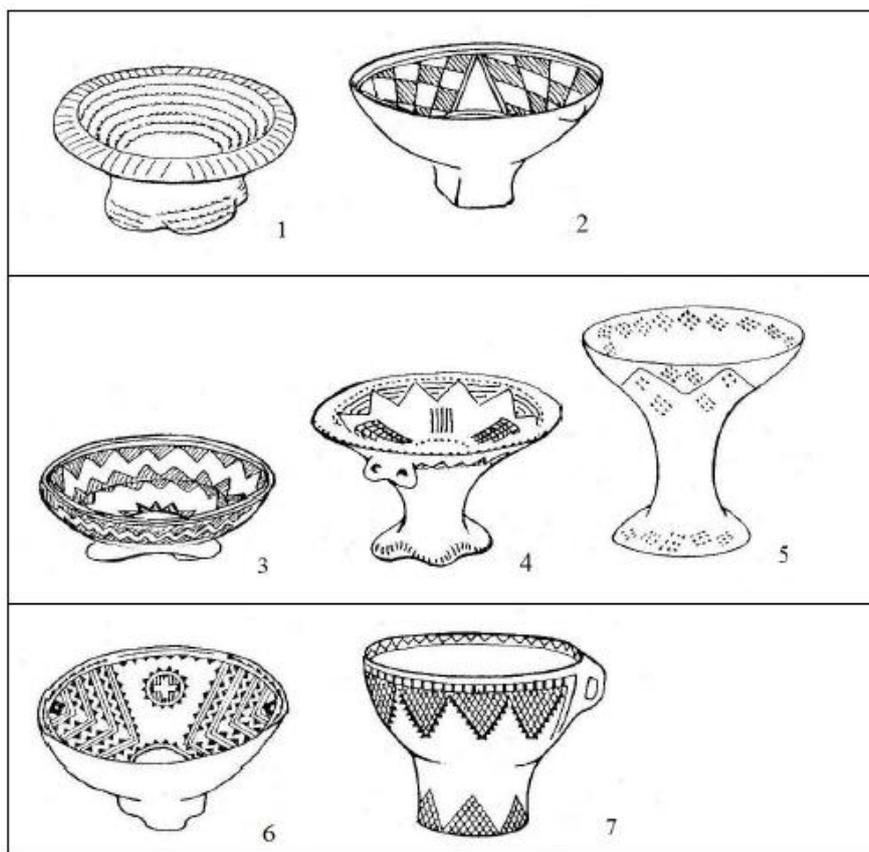


Fig. 4 – special pottery of Kosihy-Makó-Čaka Culture. This type of vessel – footed bowl is very rare.

⁴ Something about Kosihy-Makó-Čaka Culture in Hungary and Slovakia here (also in english; for footed bowls see pages 308-319):

https://www.academia.edu/2523227/The_Beginnings_of_the_Bronze_Age_in_the_Carpathian_Basin._The_Makó_Kosihy_Čaka_and_the_Somogyvár_Vinkovci_cultures_in_Hungary._Varia_Archaeologica_Hungarica_23_Budapest_2009

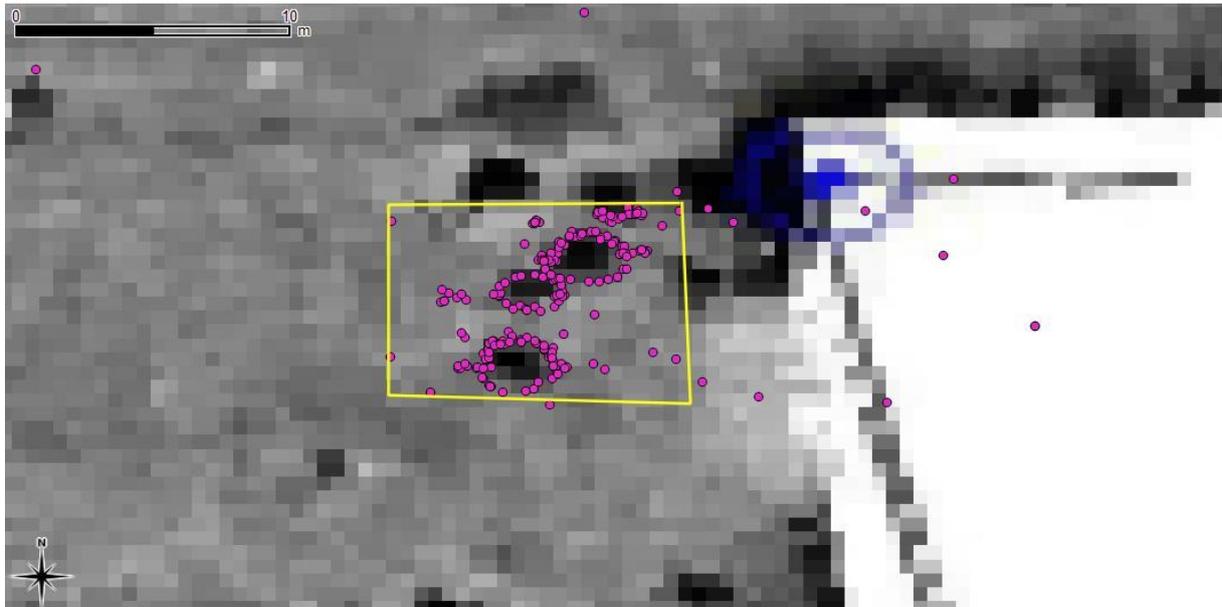


Fig. 5 – GPS points making the borders of 3 features (+ half of one feature at the northern part of the trench) in the hinterland of the settlement. Yellow line – trench border. For overall view see Fig. 7.



Fig. 6 – Aerial photo from October 2017. Trenches at the top of hill are clearly visible. On the area, from which the upper soil layer was taken of, the factory was erected in 2017.

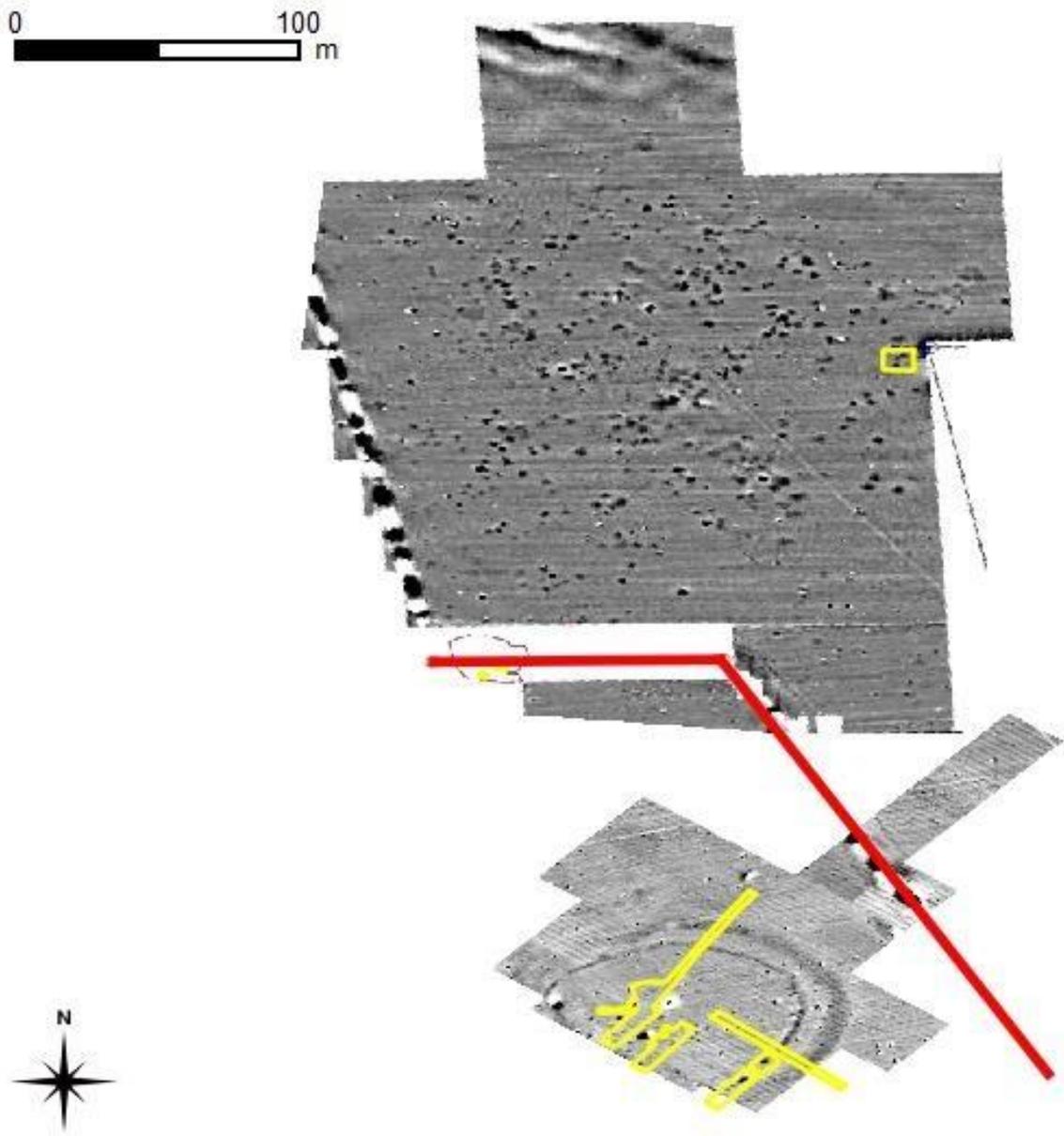


Fig. 7 – Geomagnetic survey plans from 2011 and 2018 put together. Yellow lines – trenches, red line – gas pipe. For a detailed view of a small rectangular trench (dug in 2018) outside the enclosed area and north from the gas pipe, see Fig. 5.