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### Germanic settlement from the Late Roman and Early Migration periods in Štúrovo

The Germanic settlement in Štúrovo is situated to the north of the present-day Štúrovo in South West Slovakia, in the southern part of the lower Hron river basin, in the area of a former military training ground. It lies on the left bank of the river Danube, south-west of the strategically important confluence of the Hron and the Danube, approximately 5 km from the Pannonian Solva (fig. 1). The settlement has a particularly significant position among the Germanic settlements of the North-Pannonian limes studied so far. A rescue excavation was carried out in years 1956-1957 (T. Kolník). In total 66 settlement structures from the Roman Period (stages B<sub>2</sub>, B<sub>2</sub>/C<sub>1</sub> and C<sub>3</sub>) and the Migration Period (stage D<sub>1</sub>) were unearthed. These include 12 huts and 44 pit objects (Kolník 1962, p. 357-362). The area of the Germanic settlement was largely disrupted by an Avar-Slavonic burial ground (280 graves; Točík 1968) and military training trenches. This was a major complication to the archaeological context, and led sporadically to a multiple damage of objects.

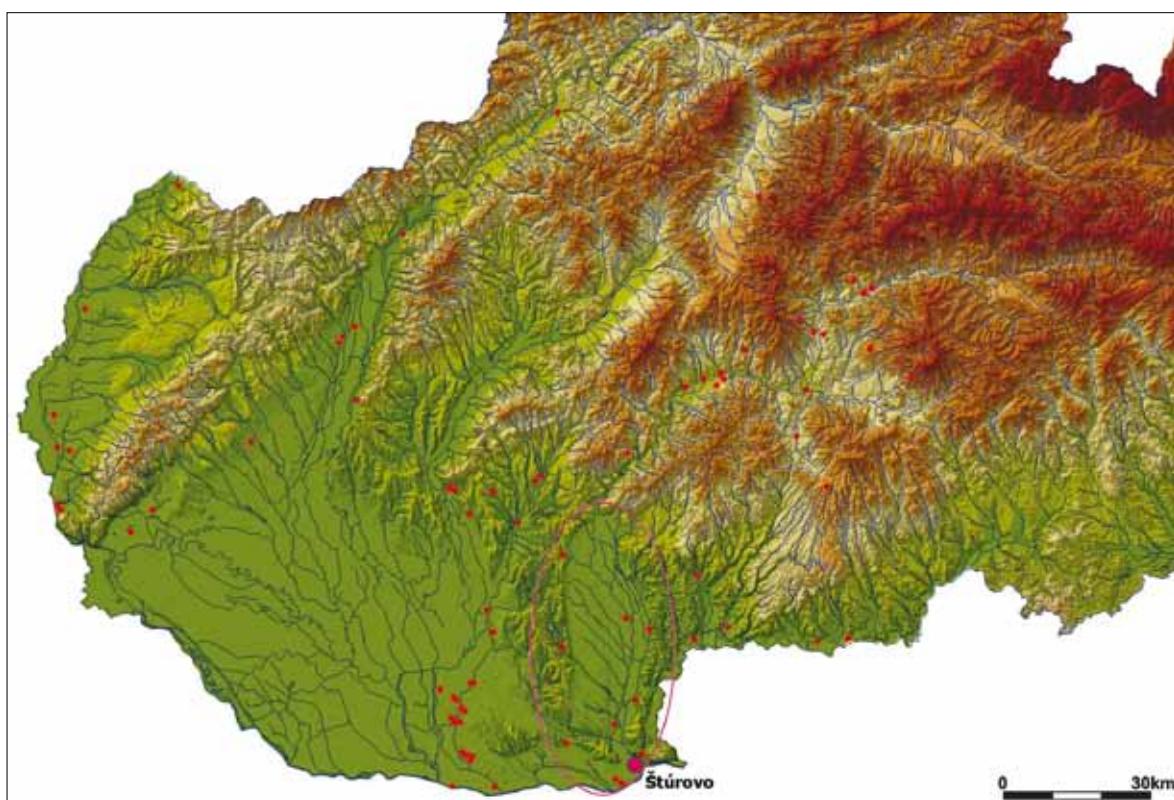


Fig. 1. Germanic settlements (rings) and burial grounds (squares) in South West and Central Slovakia in the Late Roman Period (stage C<sub>3</sub>). Štúrovo is marked by the purple ring, and the lower Hron river basin by the purple frame.

### Settlement structure

Objects from C<sub>3</sub>, C<sub>3</sub>/D<sub>1</sub> and D<sub>1</sub> stages were situated in the south-eastern part of the area unearthed in Štúrovo (fig. 3, 4). They formed following clusters: hut 9 with object R (Late Roman Period); hut 12 with object R1 (Late Roman Period); objects G and J1 (with a post construction on the ground level) with pit objects D and C (Late Roman Period); huts 10 and 11 with objects P, D1, E1 and H (earlier phase of the Migration Period); huts 6/6a with object M and furnace O (earlier phase of the Migration Period).

### Objects

Huts: Two basic types are represented in the hut construction in the Germanic settlement in Štúrovo in the Late Roman and Early Migration Periods: **a.** They are sunken housing objects with a hexagonal post construction, characteristic for the Quadi territory in the Early and Late Roman Periods. **b.** A new settlement type in the middle Danube region in this period are huts with posts in corners.

**a.** Six-post construction huts form the most numerous dwellings group in Germanic settlements (type III according to T. Kolník; 1998, p. 145-150; Kolník, Varsík, Vladár 2007). This is also true of Štúrovo, where this type includes huts 9 and 12 (fig. 6: 1; 9: 1). An interesting find from the filling of hut 9 is a skull with cattle horns. Originally it might have been placed on the front of the hut. The dimensions of the hut 9, which are 5,0 x 4,5 m (20 m<sup>2</sup>), classify it as a medium size sunken hut. The Štúrovo hut 12 had similar dimensions: 5,0 x 4,75 m (23,75 m<sup>2</sup>). Other Late Roman six-post construction huts in the lower Hron region were found in Obid (hut 47/85; Ožďáni 1986, p. 177-179), Šarovce (hut 35/2005; Beljak, Bielich 2007, p. 31-33) and Želiezovce (Novotný 1984, p. 107-117).

**b.** A characteristic dwelling type from the Late Roman Period and the early phase of the Migration

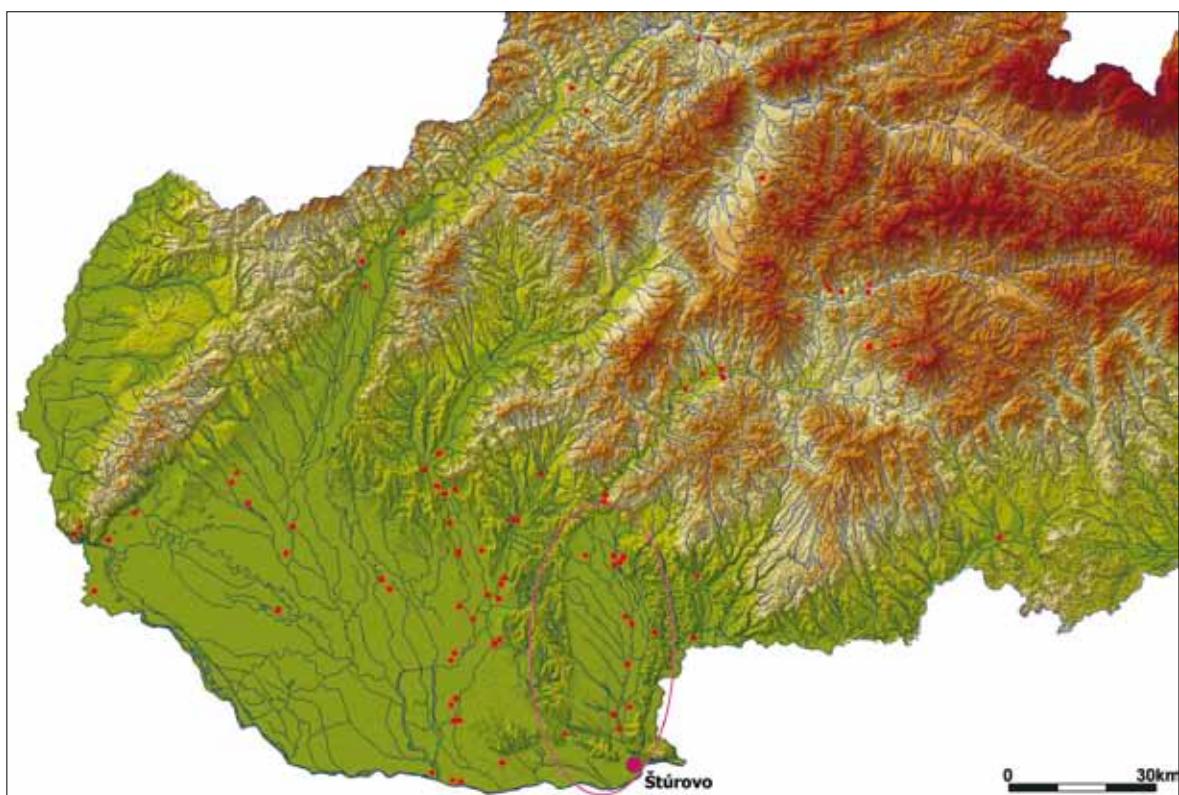


Fig. 2. Germanic settlements (rings) and burial grounds (squares) in South West and Central Slovakia in the Early Migration Period (stage D<sub>1</sub>). Štúrovo is marked by the purple ring, and the lower Hron river basin by the purple frame.



Fig. 3. Štúrovo, Vojenské cvičisko. Comprehensive plan. Highlighted are objects from the Late Roman Period (stage C<sub>3</sub>).

Period are sunken huts with posts in corners. This group includes huts 6/6a, 10 and 11 from Štúrovo (fig. 5: 1; 7: 1; 8: 1). In hut 10 post-holes were only situated in corners (type 4/1 according to T. Kolník; 1998, p. 150; type B1 according to A. Leube, 1992, p. 141; type C1 according to E. Droberjar; 1997, p. 22), while in hut 11 there were besides the corner bearing posts also posts in the middle of its shorter sides. The dimensions 3,3 x 2,7 m (8,91 m<sup>2</sup>) of hut 11 rate it among objects small in area (type C2 according to A. Leube, 1992, p. 141; and E. Droberjar; 1997, p. 22), similarly to hut 10 (2,8 x 2,2 m; 6,16 m<sup>2</sup>). Another of such small objects was the so-called annexe 6a (type 5 according to T. Kolník, 1998, p. 150; 3 x 2,2 m; 6,6 m<sup>2</sup>) to the hut 6 (4,6 x 4; 18,4 m<sup>2</sup>). Since hut 6a had been disrupted by an Avar grave and by hut 6, only one post-hole was identified in it. Hut 6 seems to be stratigraphically older. However, both huts contained chronologically and typologically related finds material. Huts 6/6a, 10 and 11 from the Štúrovo settlement date to the D<sub>1</sub> stage of the Migration Period (fig. 4).

Huts of the same type have been found on other sites of the lower Hron region: Šarovce-Tehelňa (hut B6) and Hontianske Moravce-Opatovce Moravce (Šalkovský, Roth 1991, p. 93-113). These date to the C<sub>3</sub> stage of the Roman Period (Kolník 1962, p. 361-362). Huts with posts in corners are in Slovakia dated to the C<sub>3</sub> stage of the Roman Period and D<sub>1</sub> stage of the Migration Period (Kolník 1962, p. 361-362). They are documented on Germanic settlements from the Late Roman and Early Migration Periods in the territory of South West Slovakia (Nitra-Párovské Háje; Pieta, Ruttkey 1997, p. 146-177, tabl. 4; Veľký Meder; Varsik 2003, p. 171-172, tabl. 9); but also in Lower Austria (Bernhardsthäl; Lobisser, Stuppner 1998, tab. 2); in South Moravia (Vyškov-Žleby; Šedo 1991, p. 25-31, tabl. 8; Zlechov; Zeman 2007, p. 278-279, tab. I, fig. 4: 1-2; 5: 1-2), in Bohemia (Jančo 2002, p. 206-207) and in north-eastern Germany (Leube 1992, p. 141, fig. 7). The horizon of these dwellings was described as "Zlechovian" by J. Tejral (1999, p. 239).



Fig. 4. Štúrovo, Vojenské cvičisko. Comprehensive plan. Highlighted are objects from the Early Migration Period (stage D<sub>1</sub>).

**Objects with a construction on the ground level:** More shallowly sunken huts or objects with a construction on the ground level (G and J1; fig. 3) dated to the Late Roman Period have also been confirmed in the Štúrovo settlement. Six post-holes arranged in a regular scheme (fig. 16: 1) were found close to the pit object G, and four of such post-holes next to the object J1. They are most probably traces of the posts which were part of the roof construction of these objects. While the post-holes unearthed in Štúrovo in the immediate closeness to objects G and J1 are most certainly related to the mentioned buildings, the function of eight post-holes unearthed in the south-eastern part of the settlement is hard to interpret (fig. 3).

Whether surface housing objects with a post construction existed in Quadic settlements remains unknown. It is highly probable that originally also these objects were represented in Quadic settlements in South West Slovakia. However, due to unfavourable soil conditions they have not been reliably identified yet (Kolník, Varsik, Vladár 2007, p. 13).

Besides huts, totally 44 pit objects have been unearthed in the Germanic settlement in Štúrovo. Out of these seven date to the Late Roman Period and ten to the Early Migration Period. With regard to their function we can define two basic pit categories.

a. The first, and most numerous one is represented by storage pits, which supposedly had a lighter overhang. They were used for storing food and crops. When they no longer had this function, they were secondarily used for storing rubbish. Finds of human skeletons in pit objects are rare in Germanic settlements. One of such finds is pit F in Štúrovo, which contained two humans who had been thrown in or laid in an irreverent manner (fig. 15: 1). One of the skeletons belonged to a 10-12 year old child, the other to a 15-20 year old male adolescent. In South West Slovakia remnants of human skeletons have also been confirmed in the settlement in Branč (pits 1 and 155; Kolník,

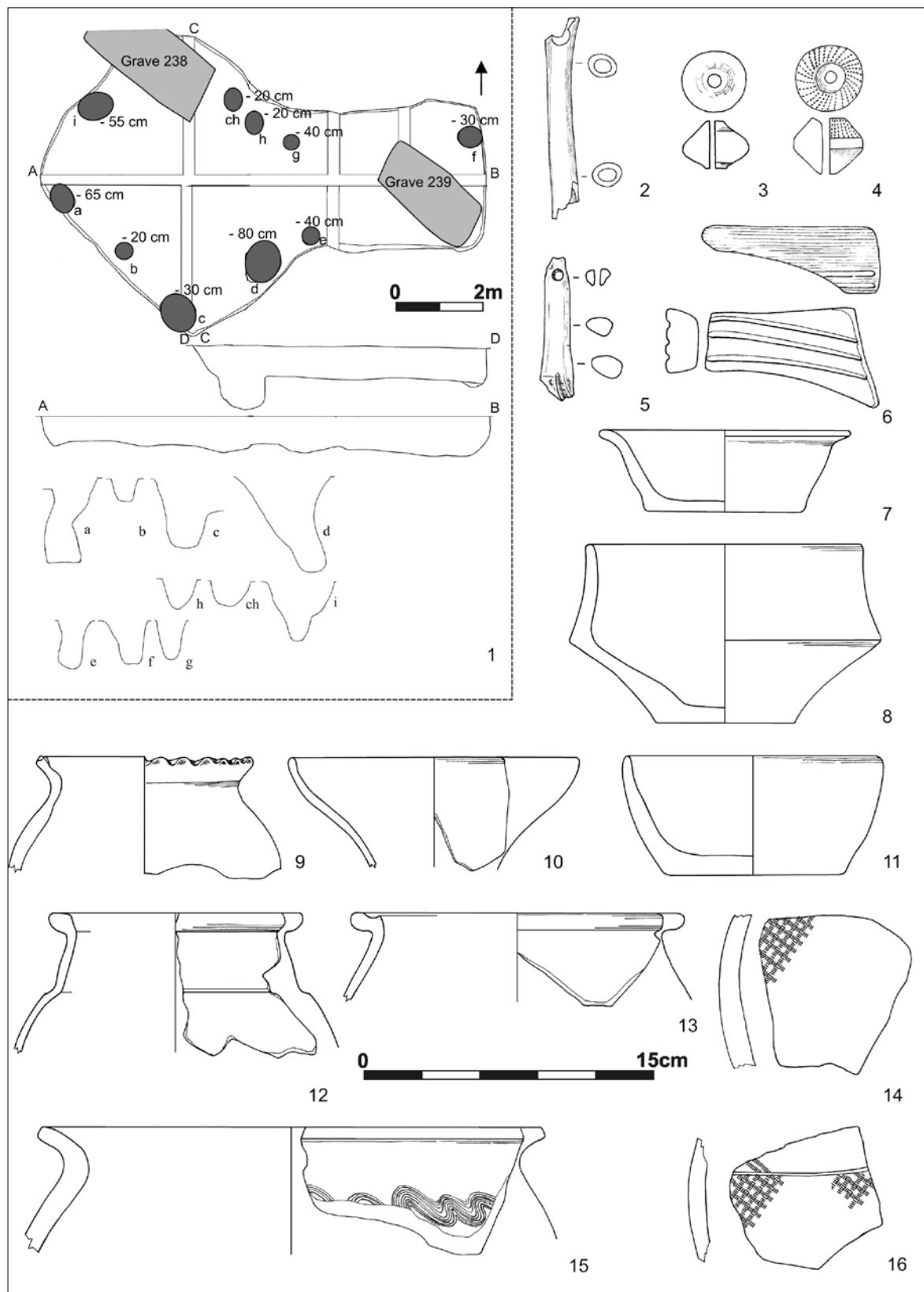


Fig. 5. Štúrovo, Vojenské cvičisko. Hut 06/06a. 1: plan and sections of the huts 6/6a; 2, 5: semi-finished bone products; 3-4: clay spindles; 6: sharpening stone; 7-11: selection of handmade pottery; 12-16: selection of wheel-made pottery.

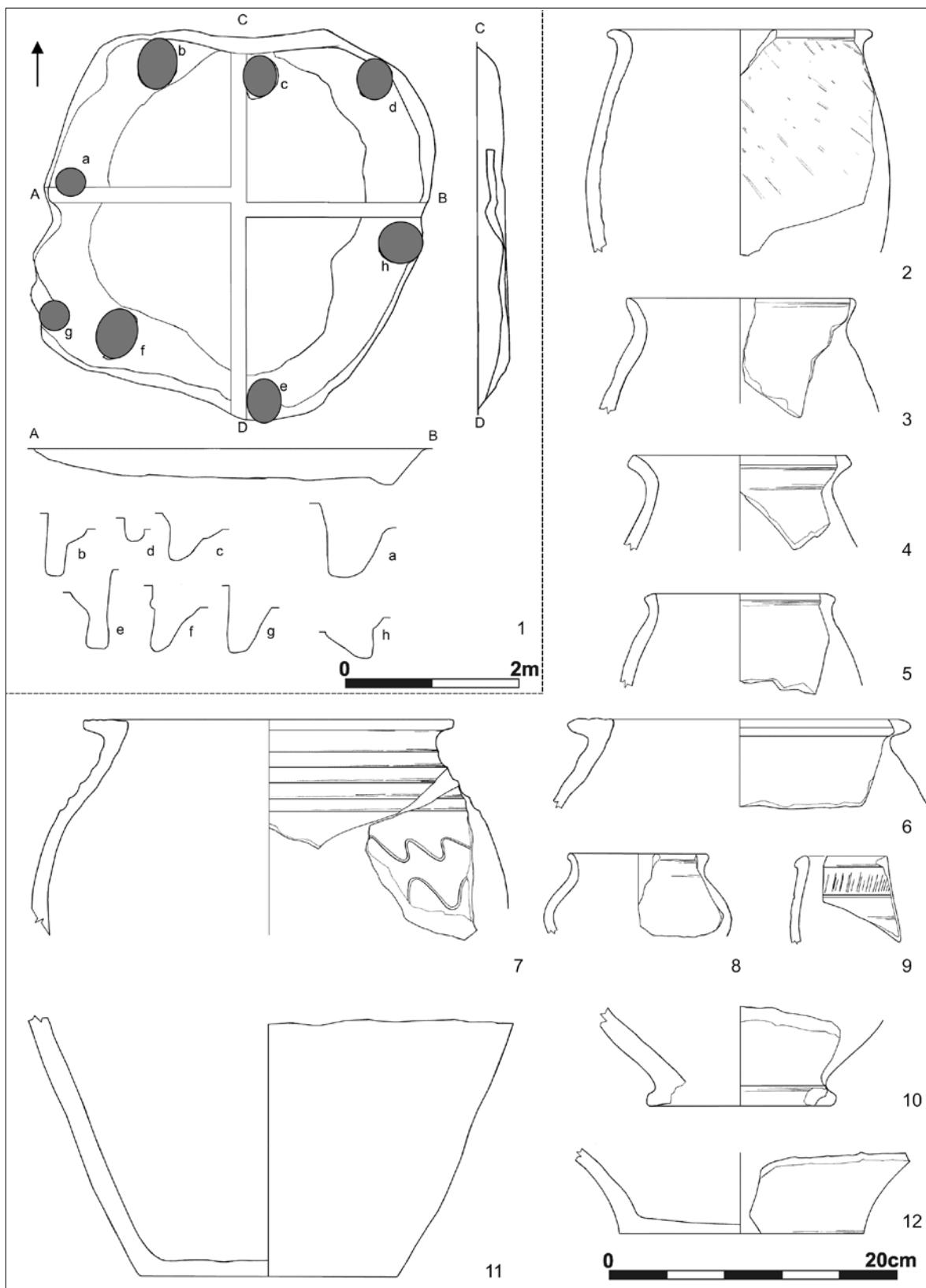


Fig. 6. Štúrovo, Vojenské cvičisko. Hut 09. 1: ground plan and cross section of the object; 2-5, 8: selection of handmade pottery; 6-7, 9-12: selection of wheel-made pottery.

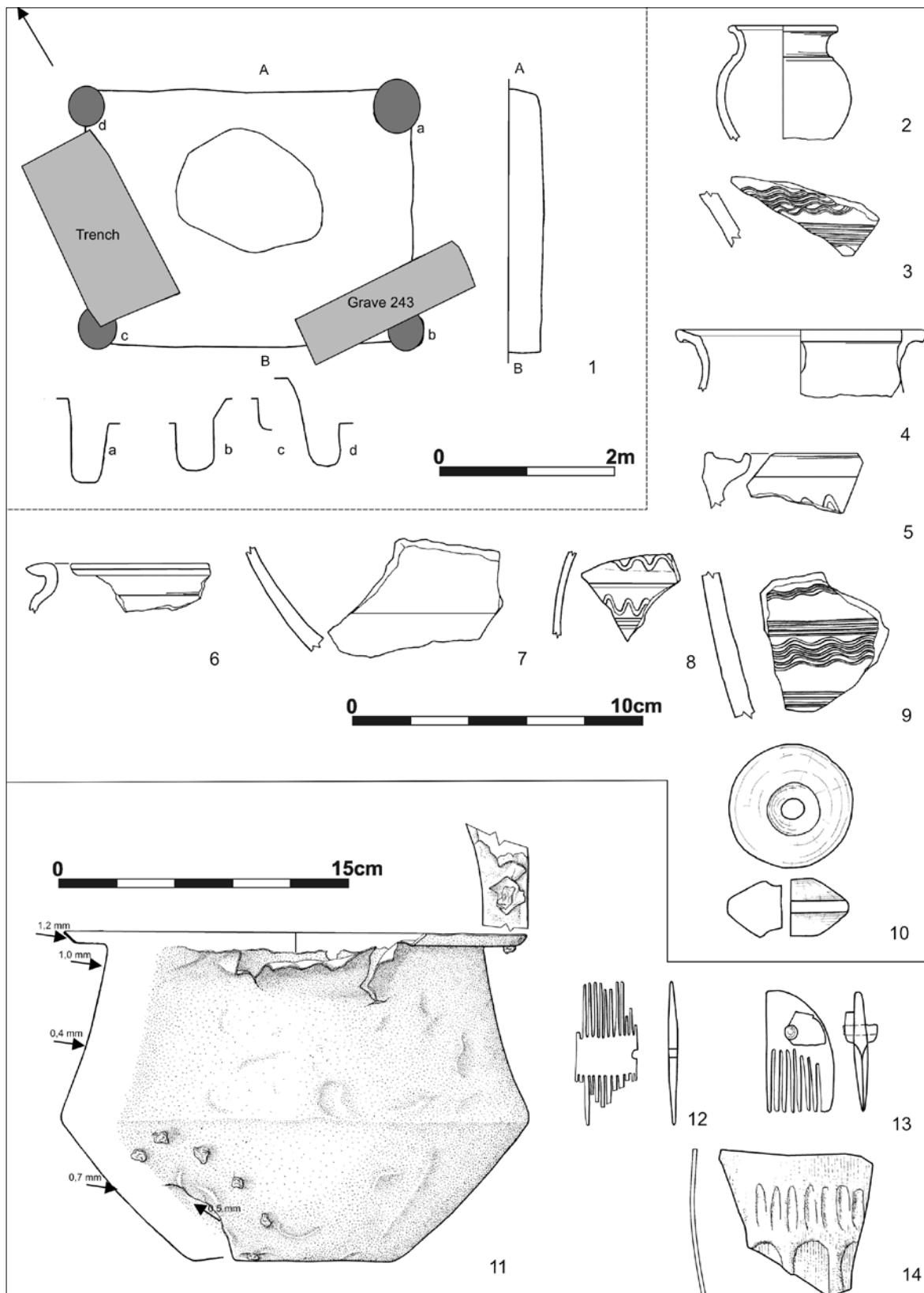


Fig. 7. Štúrovo, Vojenské cvičisko. 1-10: Hut 10. 1: ground plan, cross section of the object and cross sections of post-holes; 2-9: selection of wheel-made pottery; 10: clay spindle. 11-14 gathering. 11: bronze bucket; 12-13: bone comb; 14: fragment of a glass vessel.

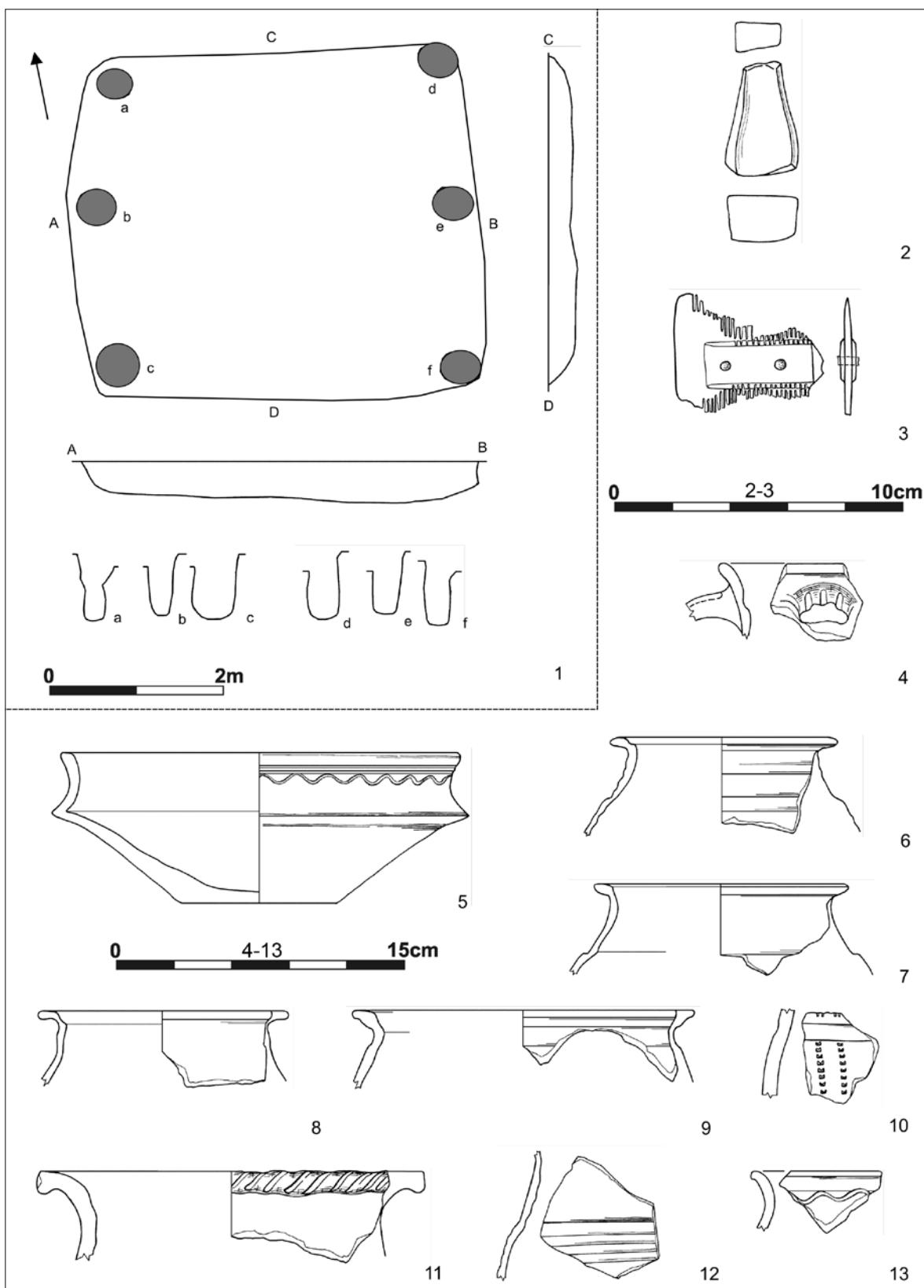


Fig. 8. Štúrovo, Vojenské cvičisko. Hut 11. 1: ground plan, cross section of the object and sections of post-holes; 2: fragment of a sharpening stone; 3: fragment of a bone comb; 4-9, 12-13: selection of wheel-made pottery; 10-11: selection of hand-made pottery.

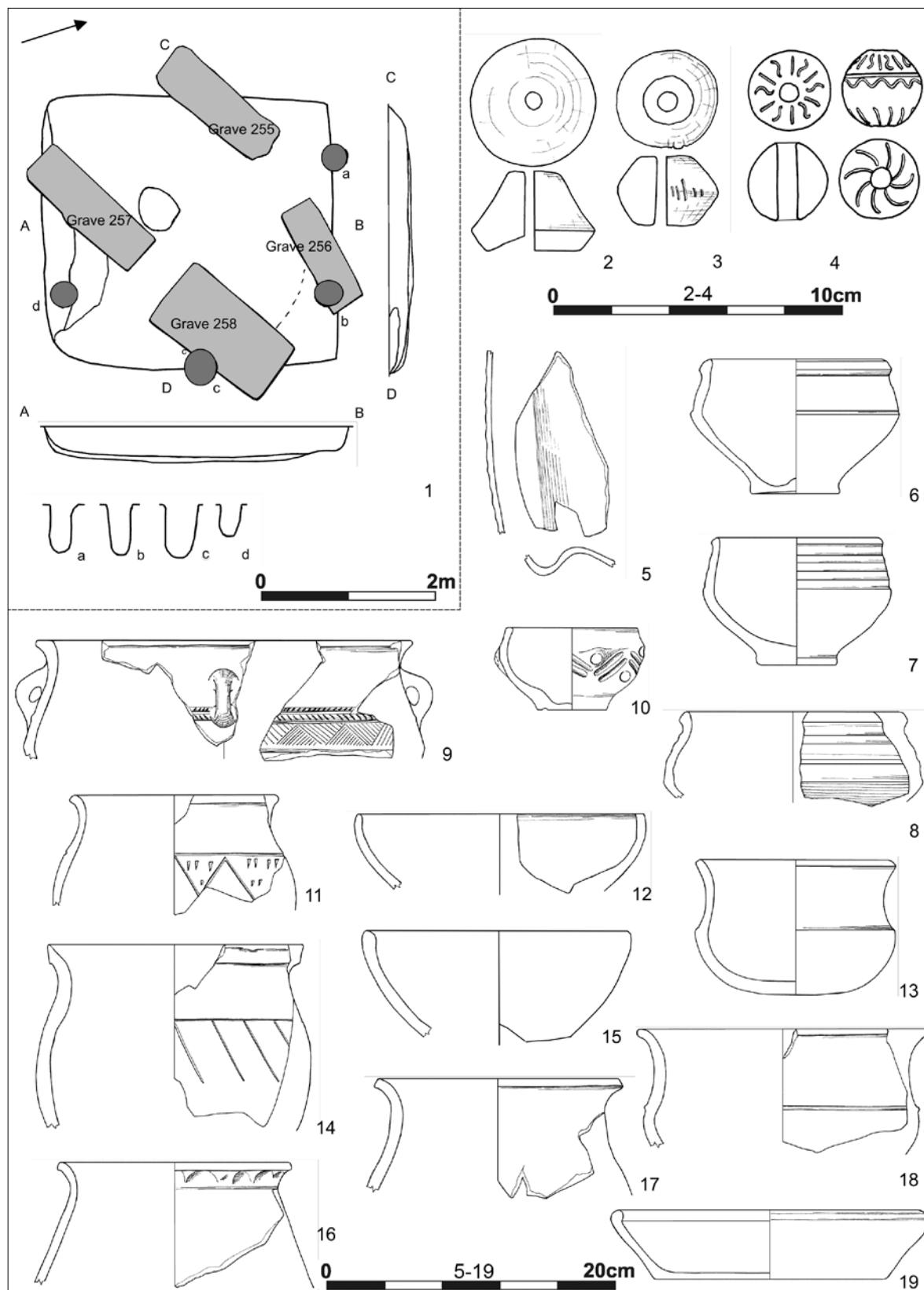


Fig. 9. Štúrovo, Vojenské cvičisko. Hut 12. 1: ground plan, cross section of the object and sections of post-holes; 2-4: clay spindles; 5-8: selection of wheel-made pottery; 9-19: selection of handmade pottery.

Varsik, Vladár 2007, p. 21) and Lipová-Ondrouchov (pit 86; Kolník 1962, p. 391, fig. 124).

**b.** Another group is represented by borrow pits, where originally clay was dug and then used for building housing and farming objects or for pottery production. Objects G1 and P1 are such pits in Štúrovo. They are characterised by irregular shapes and large dimensions. Unclear is the function of the largest object unearthed in the Germanic settlement in Štúrovo, the so-called "Big pit" (so designated by the authors of the excavation). It may have been a natural depression or an extraordinarily large pit which was gradually filled. Its filling confirms two distinct cultural layers (fig. 10, 11) containing finds mostly from the Late Roman and the Migration Periods.

Detached furnaces have also been documented in Štúrovo. This group includes object O, which has connection with hut 6, and object H1. Furnace "O" could have served for preparation of meals for the inhabitants of hut 6/6a (fig. 4). Object H1 next to hut 10 was also a furnace or a stove. Some pieces of daub are considerably rounded and indicate the existence of a vault. The pottery contained in the filling of the vault dates it to the Migration Period.

### Finds Small artefacts

#### Combs

**One-sided combs:** A fragment of a comb with a semicircular handle was found in the so-called Big pit (fig. 10: 3). It is a three-layer comb fastened by four iron rivets. Outer plates are decorated by concentric rings and intermittent lines. It belongs to the Thomas type I (Thomas 1960, p. 77). The decoration classifies it within the ornament group "A" determined by S. Thomas (1960, fig. 27: 2). The find from the Big pit in Štúrovo dates to the Late Roman or Early Migration Period.

The bone comb whose fragment was found in archaeological prospection in the Germanic settlement in Štúrovo (fig. 7: 13) was similar in both construction and shape. Its fragmentation allows only a general classification to the type I (Thomas 1960, p. 77).

The Big pit contained a comb fragment with a semicircularly indented handle (fig. 10: 2). The decoration consisted of an incised wave beside sharp nicks in two double lines. Typologically and ornamentally it belongs to the Thomas type III (1960, p. 104), chronologically to the transitory stage C<sub>3</sub>/D<sub>1</sub>. The closest analogy to this decorative motif in our archaeological context is known from the site Detva - Kalamárka (Šalkovský 2002, p. 117, tabl. 17: 12), which probably also belongs to the Thomas type III (1960, 104-114). It dates to the end of the fourth or beginning of the fifth century AD (Thomas 1960, tab. 64). T. Zeman (2007, p. 277-235) considers them an evidence of foreign, mostly east-Germanic elements and influences, which spread through Pannonia also to the Middle-Danube *Barbaricum* (Zlechov). Further parallels are to be found in the Late Roman archaeological context in the provinces of Pannonium I and Valerium, e.g. on the sites of Dunapentele, Intercissa (Bíró 2002, fig. 119-120), Szőny/Brigetio (Bíró 2002, fig. 109) and Csakvár (Tejral 1997, p. 326; fig. 5: 18, 25, 31).

**Double-sided combs:** Two undecorated fragments of two double-sided bone combs were also found in Štúrovo. The better preserved item was found in the filling of hut 11 (fig. 8: 3). It consisted of three plates fastened together by iron rivets in the middle section. Another middle plate fragment from a double-sided comb comes from archaeological prospection (fig. 7: 12).

In the lower Hron river basin the occurrence of double-sided bone combs is also documented on the Germanic burial ground from the Migration Period in Šarovce III (Novotný 1976, p. 99, fig. XVI: 1). They were represented in graves 9 and 17. A front comb plate from grave 9 is incised with motifs of double letter "X". Analogies to this ornament are known from the nearby Pannonia, on the sites of Szentendre (Bíró 2002, fig. 30), Győr/Arrabona (Bíró 2002, fig. 55) and Szőny/Brigetio (Bíró 2002, fig. 56, 57, 60). On the burial ground in Tesárske Mlyňany in South West Slovakia the

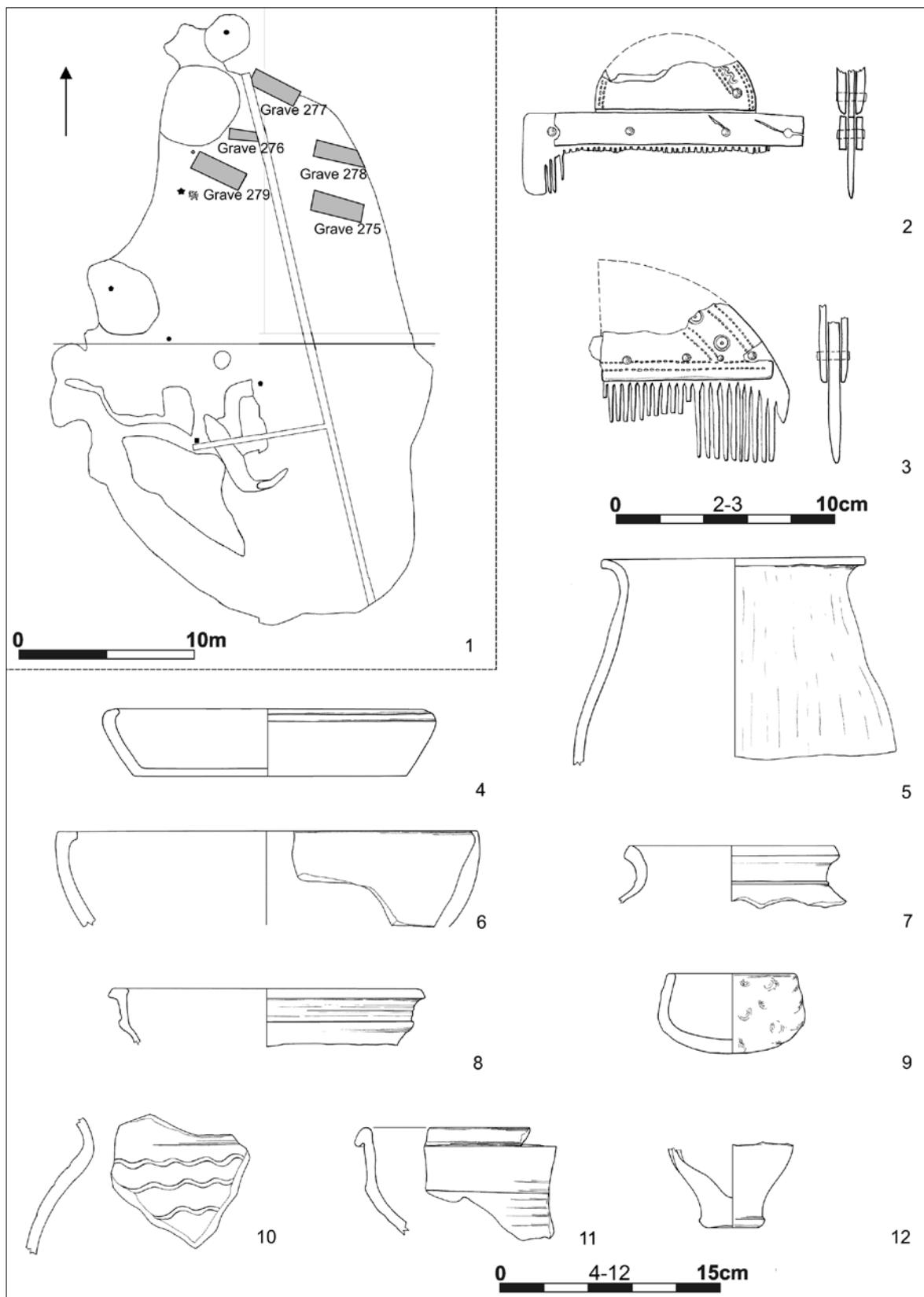


Fig. 10. Štúrovo, Vojenské cvičisko, the "Big pit". 1: ground plan. Finds from the top layer. 2-3: bone combs; 4-7: selection of handmade pottery; 8-12: selection of wheel-made pottery.

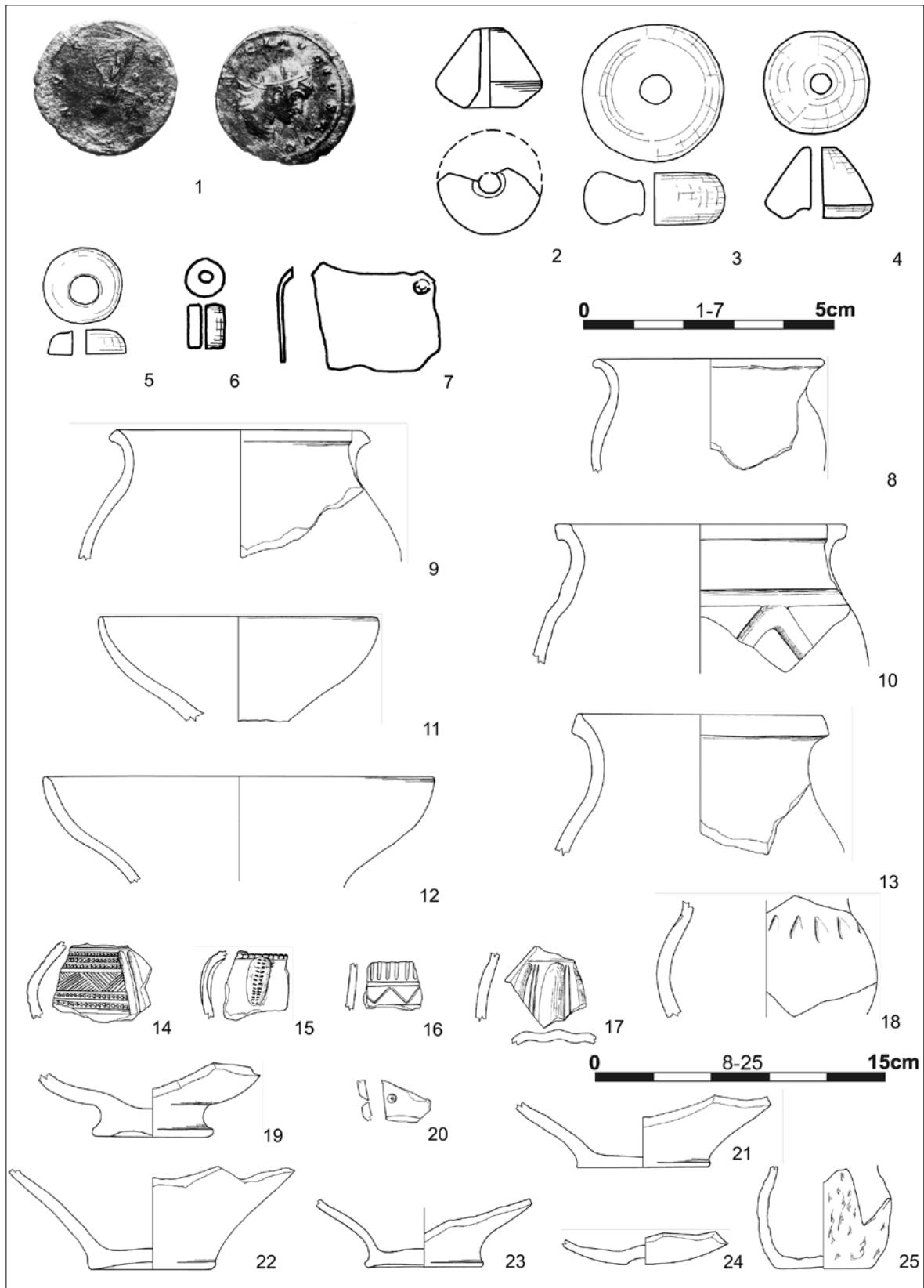


Fig. 11. Štúrovo, Vojenské cvičisko, the "Big pit". Finds from the bottom layer. 1: coin; 2-4: clay spindles; 5: ring of lead; 6: glass bead; 7: fragment of a glass vessel; 8-25: selection of pottery.

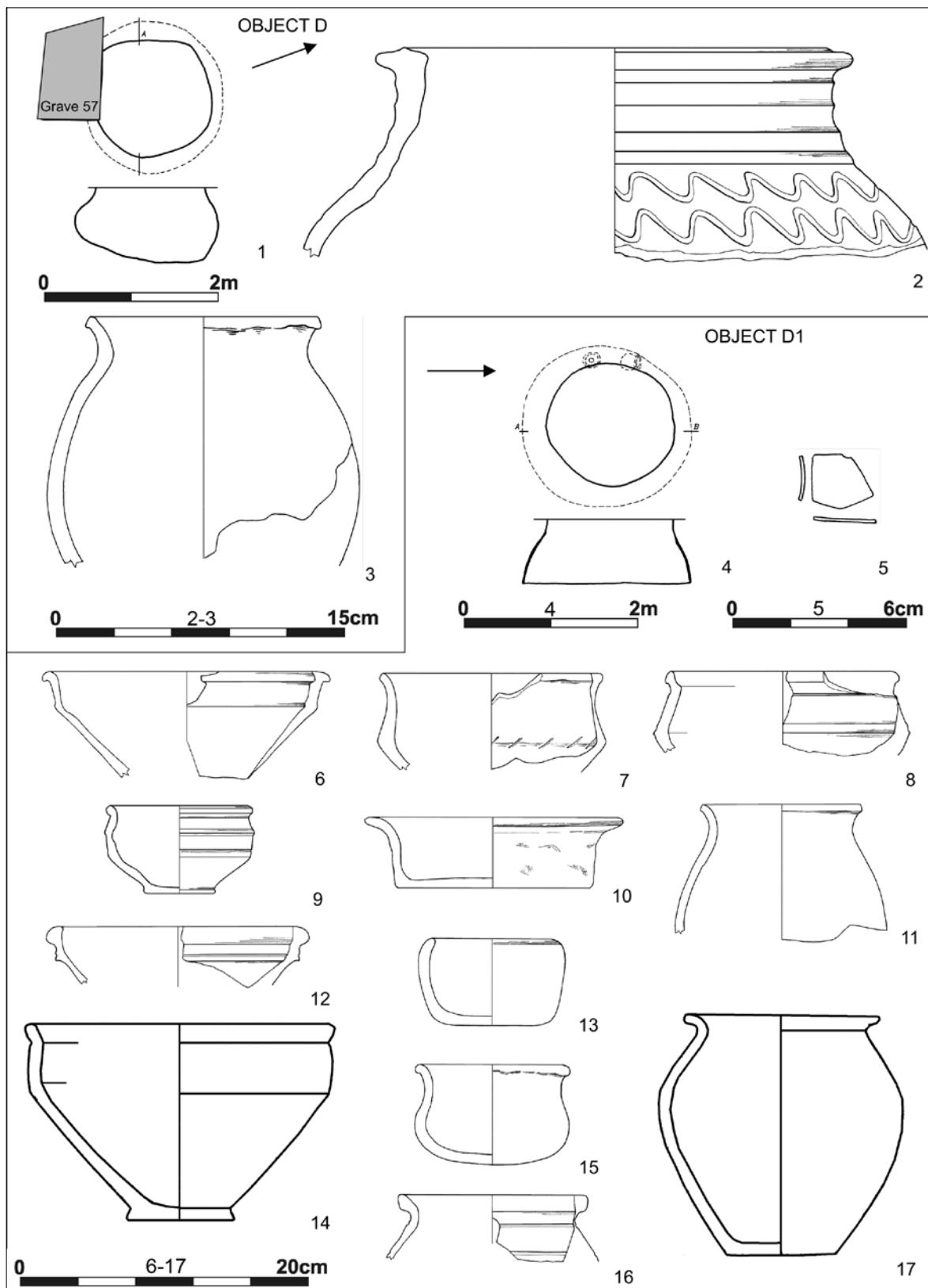


Fig. 12. Štúrovo, Vojenské cvičisko. Object D. 1: ground plan and cross section; 2-3: selection of pottery. Object D1. 4: ground plan and cross section; 5: glass fragment; 6-17: selection of pottery.

occurrence of double-sided combs has been confirmed in eight graves (Ruttkay M. 2007, p. 332-333, fig. 14). M. Bíró dates double-sided bone combs and combs with a bell-shaped handle in Pannonia to the second half of the fourth century AD and to the first decades of the fifth century AD. He explains their increased occurrence in the second half of the fourth century by the arrival of new ethnicities to Pannonia - Alans, Goths and Huns (Bíró 2002, p. 68; Čízmář, Tejral 2002, p. 105, fig. 3: 2).

**Bronze vessels:** A bronze vessel with traces of reparation was found in the cultural layer of the Germanic settlement in Štúrovo (fig. 7: 11). It is probably a variant of the östland bucket type (Eggers type 41 or 43). It has a biconical body and is ribbed in the lower part by a plate fastened by rivets. Buckets of östland type occurred especially in B<sub>2</sub> and C<sub>1</sub> stages of the Roman Period. The signs of reparation on the Štúrovo bucket attest to its long circulation.

**Glass vessels:** Four fragments of glass vessels were found among the researched objects from the Late Roman and Early Migration Periods.

The pit object F1 contained a fragment of a conical glass, probably of E 187 type (fig. 14: 13). Another fragment of a conical glass acquired in archaeological prospection belongs to the same type (fig. 7: 14). Both of the fragments are decorated by oval imprints. The fragment from the pit object D1 (fig. 12: 5) and the one from the Big pit (fig. 11: 7) cannot be defined more closely.

**Coins:** There are two Roman coins from the area of the Germanic settlement in Štúrovo. One was found in the archaeological context of the Big pit, the other one in a much later context: in the Avar-Slavonic grave no. 261. The filling of the Big pit contained a bronze coin of Claudius II Gothicus (268-279; fig 11: 1; Ondrouch 1964, p. 125, no. 381). In the Avar-Slavonic grave no. 261 was found a perforated coin of Constantinus I (306-337), which had been secondarily used as a pendant (Ondrouch 1964, p. 136, no. 435).

### Implements and tools

An iron socketed scythe with the blade diverted in a moderate angle (length approx. 44 cm) was found in the pit object E1 from the Migration Period (fig. 13: 5). The pit was functionally and chronologically related to hut 10. Apart from the scythe its filling contained a fragment of the rim of a big, richly profiled vessel with demonstrable analogies in Chernyakhov Culture (fig. 13: 8). Parallels to these scythes are known exclusively from the Roman provincial areas. J. Henning designated similar specimens as types I1 and I2 (Henning 1987, p. 86-91). These types are similar to sickles, from which they differ in the extended blade. Their especially frequent occurrence is known in the depots from the fifth and sixth centuries AD (Kula, Vojvoda, Preslav-Argatovo, Padarevo; Henning 1987, p. 91, tabl. 43). The scythe from the pit object E1 in Štúrovo dates to the first half of the fifth century AD on grounds of the archaeological context as well as the above mentioned analogies. The finds from the Late Roman and Early Migration Periods in Barbaricum have been registered by T. Zeman (2007, p. 299, fig. 3: 6).

**Other iron implements and tools:** What is probably an iron key was found in the pit object F1 from the Migration Period (fig. 14: 11). Another particularly big iron key was found in the pit object F (fig. 15: 2). In addition to the key, skeletons of two young humans were found. A fragment of an iron hook was found in the pit object "H" from the Migration Period (fig. 16: 8).

The collection of iron items unearthed in the Germanic settlement in Štúrovo is made complete by wedges and nails found in the pit object E (fig. 13: 3); H (fig. 16: 9) and in the Big pit. The Big pit also contained an iron wedge terminated in an eyelet and a ring of lead (fig. 11: 5).

**Semi-finished bone products:** This category consists of five items. Three were found in archaeological prospection and two in the filling of hut 6/6a (fig. 5: 2, 5). These had perforated openings. One

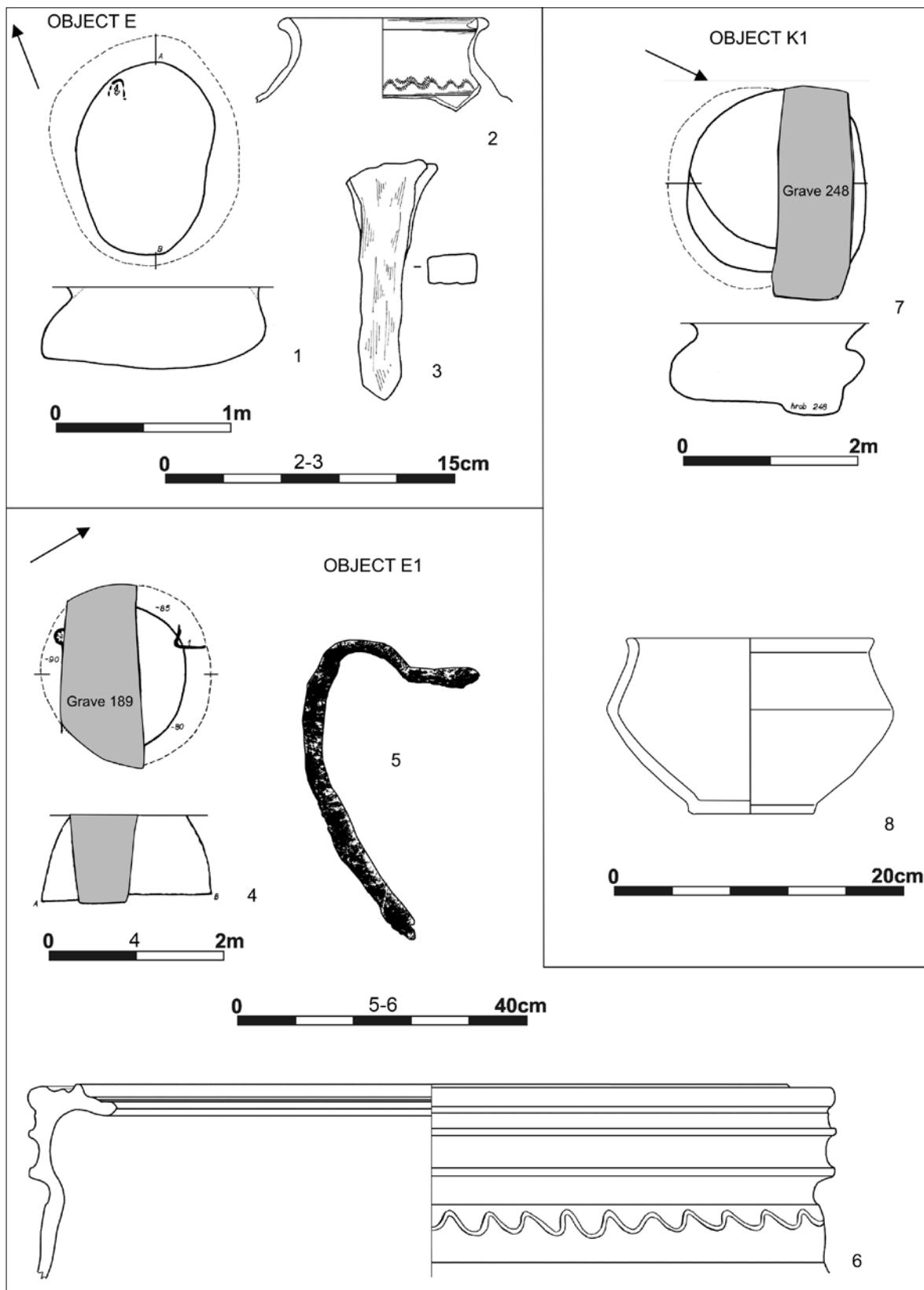


Fig. 13. Štúrovo, Vojenské cvičisko. Object E. 1: ground plan and cross section; 2: selection of pottery; 3: fragment of an iron item. Object E1. 4: ground plan and cross section; 5: iron scythe; 6: selection of pottery. Object K1. 7: ground plan and cross section; 8: selection of pottery.

of them is hollow and could have served as a needle case.

**Spindles:** In total, 22 spindles were discovered, out of which 21 are made of clay and one is made of stone. Fifteen were found in object fillings and seven in archaeological prospection. The most numerous are conical spindles (12 pieces). Biconical specimens are also represented (7 pieces) as well as two ball-shaped and one cylindrical piece.

In the Late Roman hut 12 and in hut 6/6a dated to the Migration Period there were also found decorated pieces. The one from hut 12 is decorated by subtle grooves in wave motif, in form of letters "I" and "S" and curves (fig. 9: 4). The spindle from hut 6/6a is decorated by very subtle imprints of a sharp object (fig. 5: 4). The spindles cannot be dated more specifically.

**Stone items:** In Štúrovo five stone pyramid-shaped sharpening stones were found. Three were found without archaeological context, two were placed in objects from the Migration Period (huts 6/6a and 11; fig. 5: 6; 8: 2). The collection of stone objects includes, besides the above-mentioned ball-shaped spindle (pearl?) from trench G, a fragment of a mill stone found in the filling of the Big pit.

## Pottery

### Provincial pottery

In comparison with the previous periods, in the Late Roman Period we can state a considerably lower occurrence of Roman pottery in Štúrovo. In hut 12 it represents 3 % of the total volume of potsherd finds (fig. 9: 5-8), in hut 9 it is 11 % (fig. 6: 6-7, 9). Similar situation can be found in other Germanic settlements in the lower Hron river basin. In hut 47/85 in Obid-Obidská pusta Pannonian pottery makes up only 2%; in hut B6 in Šarovce-Tehelňa it is 7% and in hut 35/2005 in Šarovce 9%. The most numerous group of imported pottery products in the Late Roman Period is formed by fine grey and rough grey Pannonian pottery (fig. 6: 6-7, 9; 9: 5-8). Glazed mortaria are also found. Vessel shapes of the Late Roman objects in Štúrovo include mostly storage pots, but also fragments of bowls (fig. 9: 6-8) and a beaker (fig. 9: 5) fragment have been recorded.

In D<sub>1</sub> stage of the Migration Period yellow-green or olive-green glazed mortaria are present in the Germanic settlement in Štúrovo. In addition, grey rough-walled pottery is known from the Roman provinces. However, the pronounced similarity between Barbaric and Roman pottery makes it difficult to differentiate the provenance of the finds. It is due to the development of specialised workshop production through implementation of the potter's wheel by the Germans north of the Danube. Roman provincial pottery is largely represented in the archaeological complexes of the final horizon of the Germanic settlement in Štúrovo. It makes up 7% in hut 6/6a (fig. 5: 12-13) and 14% in hut 10 (fig. 7: 2-4, 6-7). Hut 11 is exceptional since the pottery makes up 34% of the total volume of potsherd finds (fig. 8: 4, 6-9, 12). It is mostly pot rims with a distinctly separated neck that occur here (Beljak, Kolník 2007, p. 135-158).

### Germanic pottery

Germanic pottery from the Late Roman and Early Migration Periods found in Štúrovo can be divided into two basic groups: a. handmade pottery, and b. pottery made on potter's wheel.

a. The pottery formed by hand is dominated by S-profiled pots (fig. 5: 9; 6: 2-5; 8: 11; 9: 11, 14, 16-17; 10: 5; 11: 8-10; 12: 3; 14: 6, 9; 15: 4-5), and by dishes with a horizontally inverted rim (fig. 5: 7; 12: 10), biconical bowls (fig. 5: 8; 9: 10; 12: 7), conical bowls (fig. 9: 19), bowls with slightly inward-leaning collar (fig. 5: 10; 9: 12, 15; 10: 4, 6; 11: 11-12; 14: 10), bowls with oval-shaped wall (fig. 5: 11; 12: 13) and bowls with rounded bottom (fig. 9: 13; 10: 9; 12: 15; 14: 8). Most characteristic are low, variously wide conical dishes with flat, or at most very slightly indented bottom. The specific ceramic product, bath-like bowls become more numerous in the Late Roman Period (Kolník 1993, p. 111-116). Dish decoration in the Late Roman Period is poor, often formed only by interrupted rim, engraved hollows and incised waves (Varsik 2004, p. 263).

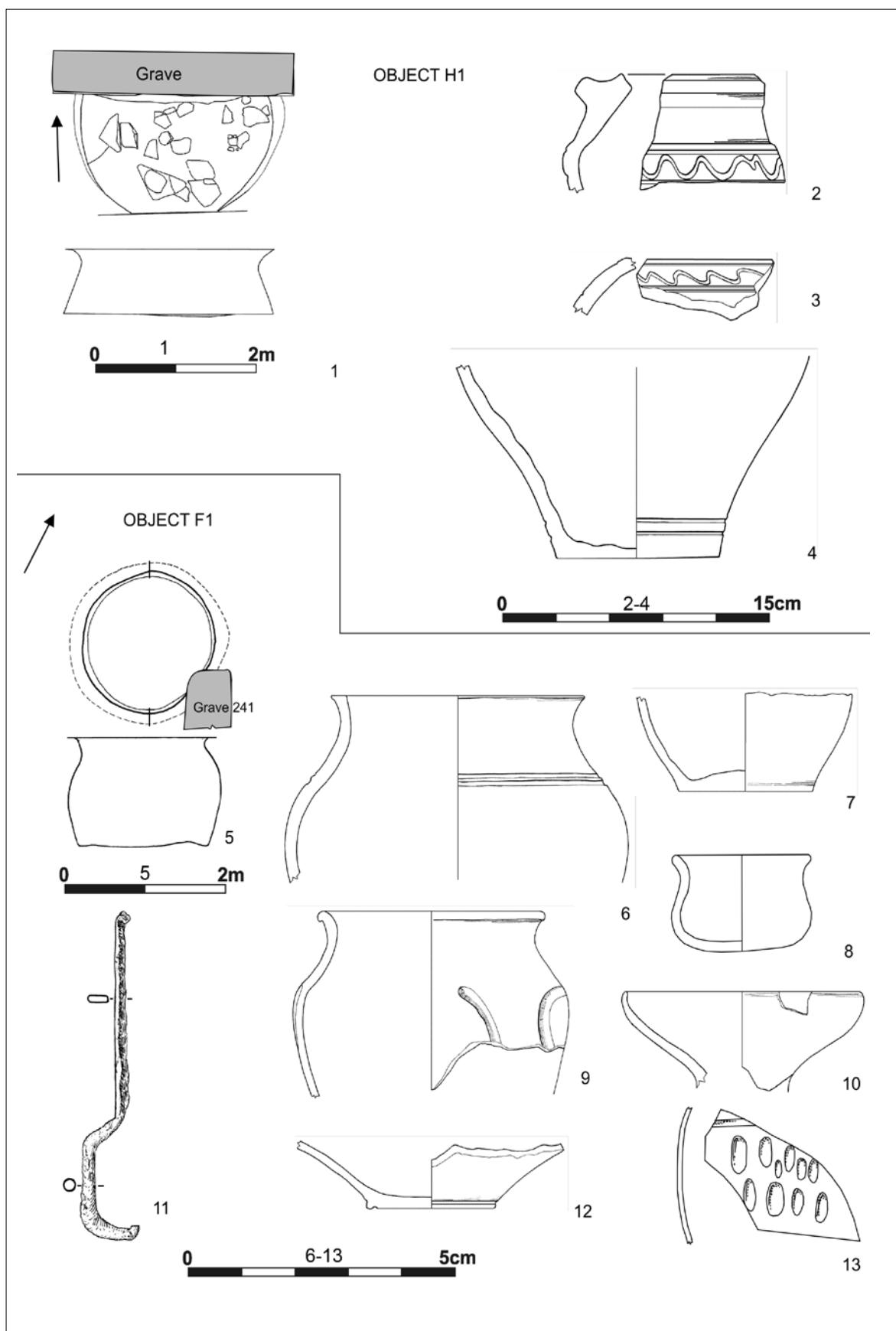


Fig. 14. Štúrovo, Vojenské cvičisko. Object H1. 1: ground plan and cross section; 2-4: selection of pottery. Object F1. 5: ground plan and cross section; 6-10, 12: selection of pottery; 11: iron item; 13: fragment of a glass vessel.

**b.** It was the Quadic wheel-made pottery that functioned as domestic table ware. It can be divided into several categories. Rough-walled vessels with amounts of fine grained sand as well as thin-walled vessels with small amounts of addition. Generally they had rough surface of grey colour. There occur S-profiled pots and bowls (fig. 14: 2), biconical bowls (fig. 8: 5; 12: 8-9; 13: 8; 16: 2), storage pots with horizontally profiled rim (fig. 6: 11; 12: 2), and flagons (fig. 5: 14, 16). A less frequent form are deep dishes with a funnel-shaped upper part, which have parallels in various settlements behind the Limes, e.g. in Velký Meder (Varsik 2004, p. 263, fig. 6: 10), in Lower Austrian Unterradlberg (Rodriguez 1997, p. 173, fig. 4: 10; 6: 1) and elsewhere.

Vessels formed on the potter's wheel were decorated by a single or multiple incised wave (fig. 8: 5; 7: 3, 9). The typical decoration motif of D<sub>1</sub> stage of the Migration Period is wave and lattice on burnished pottery (fig. 5: 14, 16; 14: 2). Germanic/Quads wheel-made pottery occurs from stage C<sub>2</sub>, i.e. from the third century AD. Its production in the Quadic environment lasted probably as long as to the beginning of the fifth century AD (Tejral 1985, p. 112-116).

An extraordinary vessel type, uncommon in the area north of the Danube, are big bowls with inward flat grooved rims. They were found in the filling of object E1 in the Štúrovo settlement (fig. 13: 6) and in the Gbelce-Čapáš settlement. The closest analogies can be found in the Chernyakhov Culture area (Magomedov 1987, tabl. 21: 3, 4, 5; 2001, tabl. 35: 3, 4; Bierbrauer 1994, fig. 100).

### Archaeo-osteologic finds

Totally 1549 animal and human bones were unearthed<sup>1</sup>. Approximately two thirds have been dated. The collection consisted of 18 animal species. Domestic animals included cattle, goat, sheep, pig, horse, dog, cat and chicken. Game was represented by deer, roe deer, fox and two species of birds, which are undefinable more closely. Most of the bones come from domestic animals – 90%. Game makes up only a small percentage. Besides animals hunted for meat we must count on animals hunted for fur. Skin could have been drawn off the animal on the hunting place, i.e. outside of the settlement, which might distort our idea of the amount of the hunted game. Besides the fur, game may have been interesting also as material for antlers.

As for domestic animals, cattle farming is best represented (47,35 % bones; 28,69 % specimens), which attests to its relatively big popularity among Germans settled in Štúrovo. It is followed by goat and sheep (18,59% bones; 29,51% specimens), pig (21,62% bones; 24,59% specimens) and horse (5,73% bones; 3,28% specimens). The animals were rather small, which is also confirmed in Tacitus's note that "domestic animals of Germans were characterised by small height" (*Tacitus, Germania* 5).

In addition to animal bones human bones were found in Štúrovo. However, apart from two specimens from object F they probably come from the disrupted Avar-Slavonic graves. Interpretation of human skeletons from object F (tabl. 15: 1) is considerably complicated (Czarnecka 2007, in print).

### Paleobotanic finds

Four samples of carbon from wood species were taken from the Germanic objects in Štúrovo. All of these objects belong chronologically to the Late Roman and Early Migration Periods (hut 9; pit objects D1, F1 and H). Samples from hut 9 and pit objects D1 and H attest oak (*Quercus sp.*). Carbon of hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) was found in the pit object F1. It proves the occurrence of hard leaf trees in the Danube region at the end of the fourth and beginning of the fifth century AD. This situation corresponds to the contemporary one, since the existence of these wood species is confirmed in the forests along the Danube (Michalko 1985, p. 94).

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<sup>1</sup>Specified by C. Ambróz.

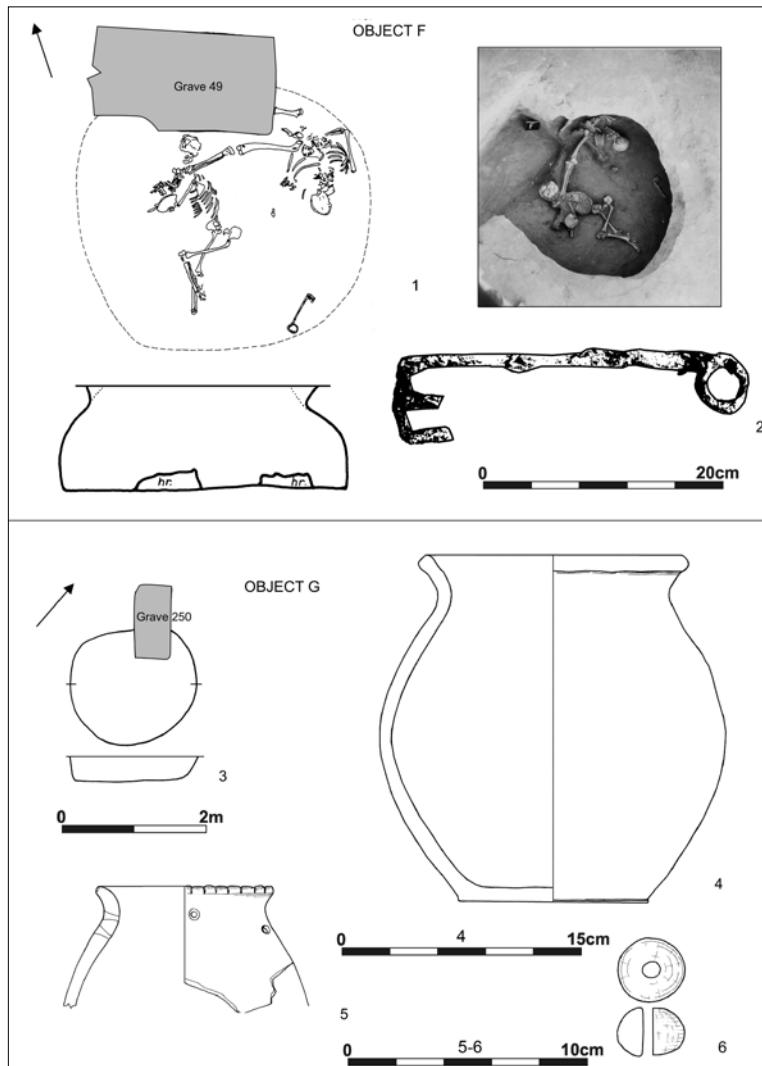


Fig. 15. Štúrovo, Vojenské cvičisko. Object F. 1: ground plan and cross section; 2: iron key. Object G. 3: ground plan and cross section; 4-5: selection of pottery; 6: stone spindle/pearl.

### Summary

Archaeological finds in the Germanic settlement in Štúrovo reliably document the B<sub>2</sub> stage of the Early Roman Period and the transitory B<sub>2</sub>/C<sub>1</sub> stage. However, evidence of settlement in the early stage of the Late Roman Period is absent. The area of the settlement was again inhabited in the Late Roman and Early Migration Periods.

The horizon of the Late Roman Period in Štúrovo can be dated between years 310/320 and 350/370 AD, and synchronised with the C<sub>3</sub> stage of the Roman Period (fig. 3). The house construction is a type of sunken housing objects with post construction in a hexagonal scheme (huts 9 and 12; fig. 6, 9). Houses with construction on the ground level have also been identified (G and J1; fig. 15: 3-6; 16: 1-3). The pit objects A, C, R and R1, as well as the borrow pit P1 and the bottom layer of the Big pit (dated also by a bronze coin of Claudius II Gothicus; fig. 11: 1) date to the same period. The period is characterised by a considerable reduction in decoration on the Germanic handmade pottery, and by decrease in the pottery imported from Pannonia. Typical is the increase in domestic specialised production of wheel-made pottery. We find also high quality burnished pottery made in hands (hut 12, the older layer of the Big pit; fig. 9: 9-10; 11: 14-17), which was typical for Swebish cultural area already in the earlier stages but is rare in the Migration Period.

D<sub>1</sub> stage of the Migration Period in Štúrovo dates between years 350/370 and 420/430 AD (fig. 4). There occur abodes with posts in corners (huts 6/6a, 10 and 11; fig. 5, 7, 8). The pit objects C1, D1 (fig. 12: 4-17), E (fig. 13: 1-3), E1 (fig. 13: 4-6), F (fig. 15: 1-2), F1 (fig. 14: 5-13), H (fig. 16: 6-9), H1 (fig. 14: 1-4), K1 (fig. 13: 7-8) and M (fig. 16: 4-5), and the top layer of the Big pit (fig. 10) date to the same period.

Domestic pottery made in hands is in this stage represented above all by S-profiled pots and conical bowls, which were less carefully made of clay with a very high amount of addition. The typological range of the wheel-made pottery is dominated by biconical bowls and storage pots with a horizontal rim. These are numerous also on the Pannonian bank of the Danube. It is often hard to determine which vessels are of Barbaric and which are of provincial production. The Roman provenance is in this period represented especially by pots with a considerably separated neck. The big bowl with a horizontal, inward flat grooved rim from the filling of object E1 (fig. 13: 6) seems to be a foreign element in the Middle Danube region. These ceramic forms occur in archaeological contexts together with bone combs with semicircularly indented handle of type III according to S. Thomas (the so-called Big pit in Štúrovo), double-sided combs (hut 11 in Štúrovo; fig. 8: 3) and imports from the Roman provinces – a scythe (types I1/I2 according to Henning) from the pit object E1 (fig. 13: 5), which was related to hut 10 (fig. 4).

The Quadic/Swebish settlements in Štúrovo and in the lower Hron river basin vanished during the first decades of the fifth century AD. The settlements on both the lower and upper sections of these rivers disappeared. Explanation of this fact can be seen in connection with the information in Orosius (*Orosius, History Against the Pagans VII*, 38, 3; 40, 3) about the departure of the Swebians/Quadic together with Vandals and Alans from the Carpathian region. After devastating the Roman Galia they found a new home in the territory of the Iberian Peninsula.

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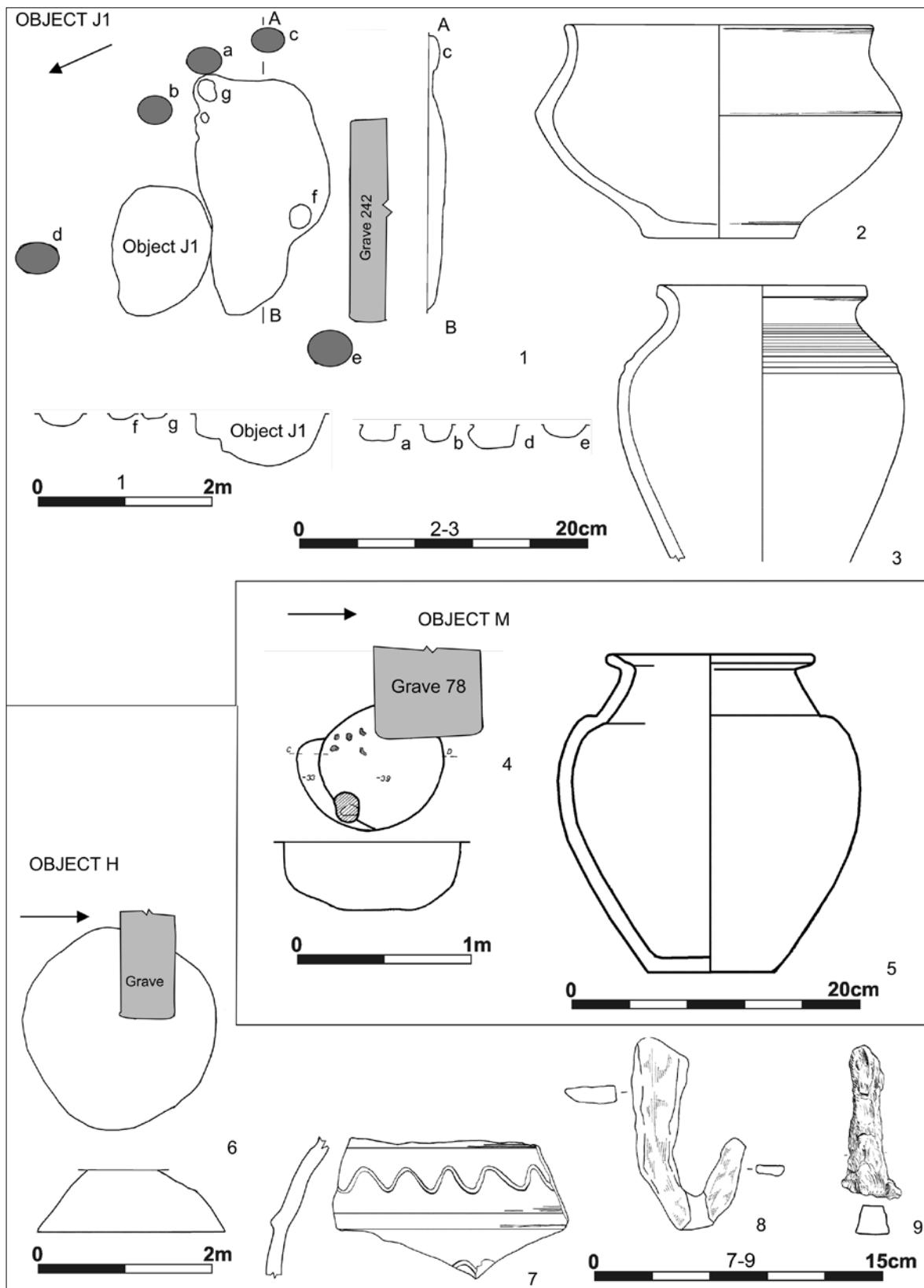


Fig. 16. Štúrovo, Vojenské cvičisko. Object J1. 1: ground plan of the above-ground construction; 2-3: selection of pottery. Object M. 4: ground plan and cross section; 5: selection of pottery. Object H. 6: ground plan and cross section; 7: selection of pottery; 8: fragment of an iron hook; 9: iron nail.

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