

## Hardek near Ormož

IRN 6049	Hardek – Na Bregu archaeological site
Motorway section	Ormož by-pass
Geographical coordinates	x 589372 y 141966 z 240
Primary topographical map sheet TTN5	Ormož 20
Cadastral register	c.c. Hardek, cadastral plot nos. 608, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629 & 707
Site type	Settlement
Period	Eneolithic, Early Iron Age
Fieldwork method and date	Excavation 1997
Excavation directors	Ivan Žižek and Ivan Tušek
Excavated area	7,100 m <sup>2</sup>
Site archive kept by	Pokrajinski muzej Ptuj

The Eneolithic settlement at Hardek close to Ormož is located on the extreme southern edge of the Slovene Gorice hills., a large Early Iron Age barrow, largely excavated by Professor Franc Ferik in 1899, is also known close to the settlement site. Archaeologists had been active on the site prior to the excavations. Individual surface finds had been recorded; the approximate size of the settlement was established by trial trenching due to recent extensive damaged by the expansion of the clay pits of the Ormož brickworks, primarily in the eastern and northern parts.



Eneolithic pottery ladles

At least 7 buildings, 4 hearths, many large pits and the remains of a fence enclosing these dwelling structures were recovered during the archaeological rescue excavations. The defended entrance to the settlement was located in the north-west. Significant finds

include fragments of coarse domestic pottery and deep



bowls. Finer pottery comprised vessels on wide-bellied feet and bowls made of purified clay, usually with black painted exterior surfaces. A large amount of polished and chipped stone tools was found. The pottery and lithic artefacts are attributed to the Lasinja culture (according to Dimitrijevič). Radiocarbon analyses date the site to 5,000–5,300 years BP. The charcoal samples are derived from the following types of trees: oak, pine, hornbeam, poplar, willow, ash, maple, beech and lime.

The palaeochannel of a dried up stream, significant for the settlement, was investigated beside the buildings on the eastern side.

The remains of the Iron Age barrow were excavated as a separate excavation area within the route of the bypass. It yielded no results apart from some fragments of a large pottery pithos with zoomorphic handles and an oval jar. However, Ferk's field notes record that the

barrow contained various iron and bronze weapons, as well as gold and a considerable number of bronze artefacts and pottery vessels. Regrettably, these artefacts are now mostly lost or mislaid.

Some fragments of Late Iron Age graphite-slipped pottery were excavated, but the associated features were not discovered.

Two silver-plated buttons in the shape of cicadas and a glass disc were found in the alluvium in the western

part of the excavated area. The bodies of the cicadas are triangular in shape and decorated with oblique incisions. The space in between is filled with a series of short incisions and the head is stylised. These artefacts can be dated to the 5th century AD or up to the middle of the 6th century AD.

IVAN ŽIŽEK



Two vessels from the remains of the barrow

#### References

- TUŠEK, IVAN, *Poročilo o arheološkem nadzoru, ročnem in strojnem sondiranju na območju ormoške obvoznice*, Ptuj 1998.
- , "Hardek. Obvoznica Ormož", *Varstvo spomenikov*, No. 38, Ljubljana 2001, p. 35–46.
- ŽIŽEK, IVAN, *Poročilo o zaščitnih izkopavanjih eneolitске naselbine in halštatske gomile na Hardeku*, Ormož 1997.