

HUMAN-ENVIRONMENT RELATIONSHIP IN PREHISTORY AND MEDIEVAL PERIOD AT OSTROWITE ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMPLEX (NORTHERN POLAND) BASED ON RESULTS OF MULTIDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

A. Leszczyk ¹; M. Zalinian ¹; P. Kittel ²; J. Sikora ³; O. Antczak-Orlewska ⁴.

1. University of Lodz, Doctoral School of Exact and Natural Sciences, Lodz, Poland

*2. University of Lodz, Faculty of Geographical Sciences, Department of Geology and Geomorphology,
Lodz, Poland*

*3. University of Lodz, Faculty of Philosophy and History, Department of Historical Archaeology and Weapon
Studies, Lodz, Poland*

*4. University of Gdansk, Faculty of Biology, Department of Plant Ecology, Laboratory of Paleoecology
and Archaeobotany*

*Corresponding author: aleksandra.leszczyk@edu.uni.lodz.pl

Keywords: Ostrowite archaeological complex, prehistory, paleoecology, paleosols, environmental archaeology

The Ostrowite archaeological complex in Northern Krajna Lakeland is a sophisticated and extensive settlement complex with archaeological relicts dated from the Late Palaeolithic to the Late Medieval, presenting a unique opportunity to investigate ancient human-environment interactions through interdisciplinary research methods. In recent years, a paleoenvironmental program has been implemented in Ostrowite to understand the human-environment relationship better. The study's primary goal is to reconstruct the environmental conditions under which prehistoric and medieval human societies functioned.

Detailed palaeoecological analyses of biogenic lacustrine sediments and paleosoils will help to identify human interactions with the environment in the past, as well as to assess the human impact on local ecosystems. Based on two biogenic cores taken from kettle holes, palaeobotanical, paleozoological, and geochemical analyses were performed. The studied carbonate sediments from kettle holes provided that small lakes functioned from the Late Glacial to Atlantic period, so the chronology of their sediments does not coincide with intensive human activity at the Ostrowite site.

A core from a Ostrowite lake, which an archaeological complex is located, will be analyzed using paleoecological methods. In addition to the impact of Holocene climate change on animal communities, the research will indicate the impact of humans on local aquatic ecosystems, due to the response of organisms to changes in habitat conditions.

The University of Lodz financially supported the study within the IDUB grant for experienced researchers – edition II 2021 (contract No. 56/2021).