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Roman Village in the Province of Upper Pannonia: Virovitica Kiškorija South

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Roman Village in the Province of Upper Pannonia: Virovitica Kiškorija South

- Location: NW Croatia – Upper Pannonia
- Excavated in 2005 during rescue excavation by Institute of Archeology, Zagreb
- Excavated area: 17946 m²
- Roman village (2nd-5th century)
- Early Medieval village (8th-10th century)



Roman Village in the Province of Upper Pannonia: Virovitica Kiškorija South

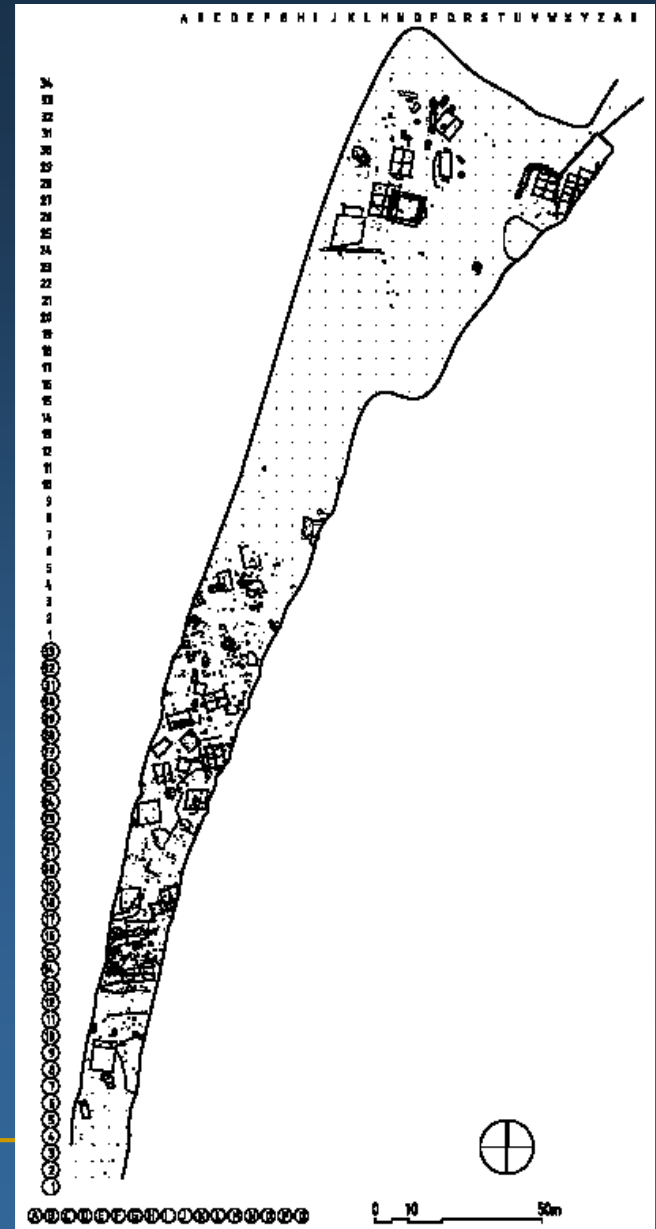


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- Unknown Roman name of the village (between *Cocconis* and *Bolentio*)
- Communication routes: *Poetovio* – *Mursa*, the Drava River
- At the foot of the Bilogora Mt. and next to small Ođenica River
- Large area suitable for agriculture and pasture
- Road connections and possibility for trade, food, water and wood supply
 - → good opportunity for long term occupation of the area

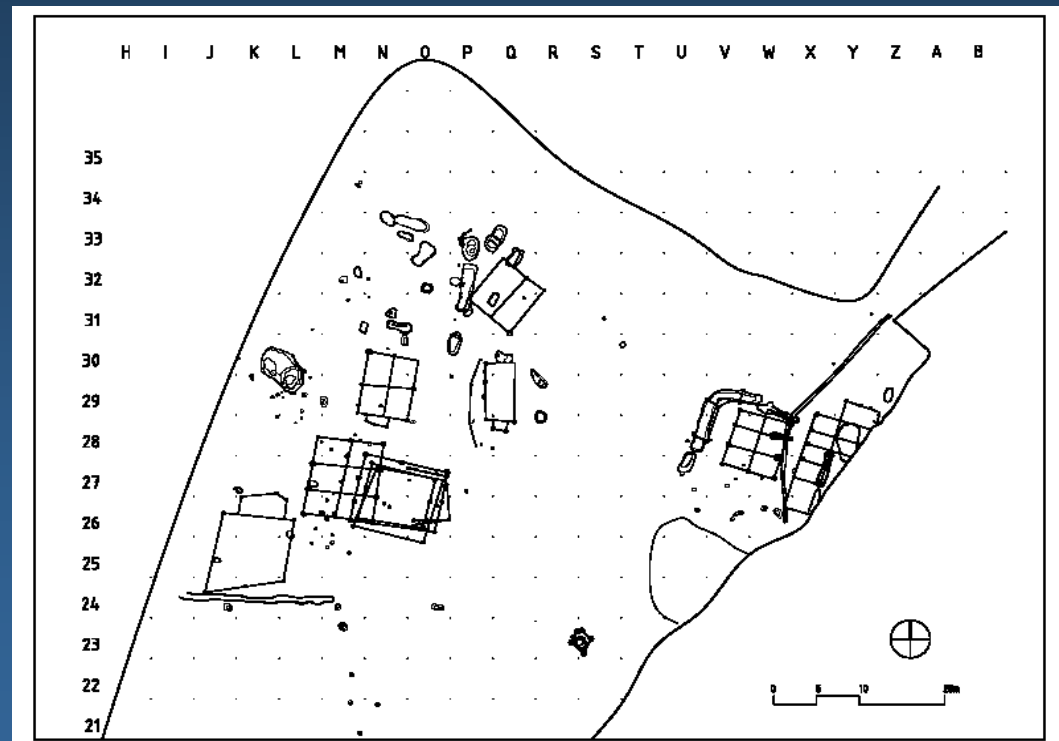
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- Discontinuity: why?
 - Organization of the village?
 - Different period?
 - Height difference of the area:
 - Northern and southern part are several meters higher
 - Uninhabited area lower; sterile soil: clay
 - After for hours of rain, water remained for days
 - Southern part: highest density of SU, sterile soil: sand, mild inclination of the area → it helped to keep the area dry and suitable for living

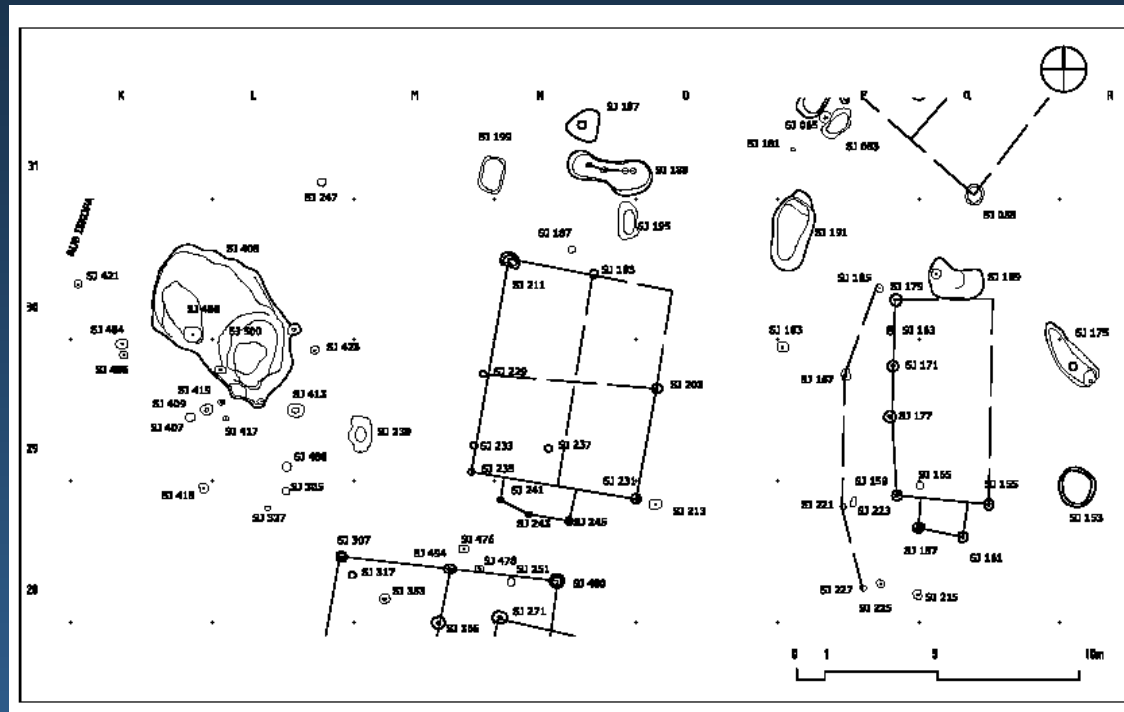


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- Density of the SU does not always allow to reconstruct living and working areas
- Several complexes were identified comprising: house, pits, fireplaces

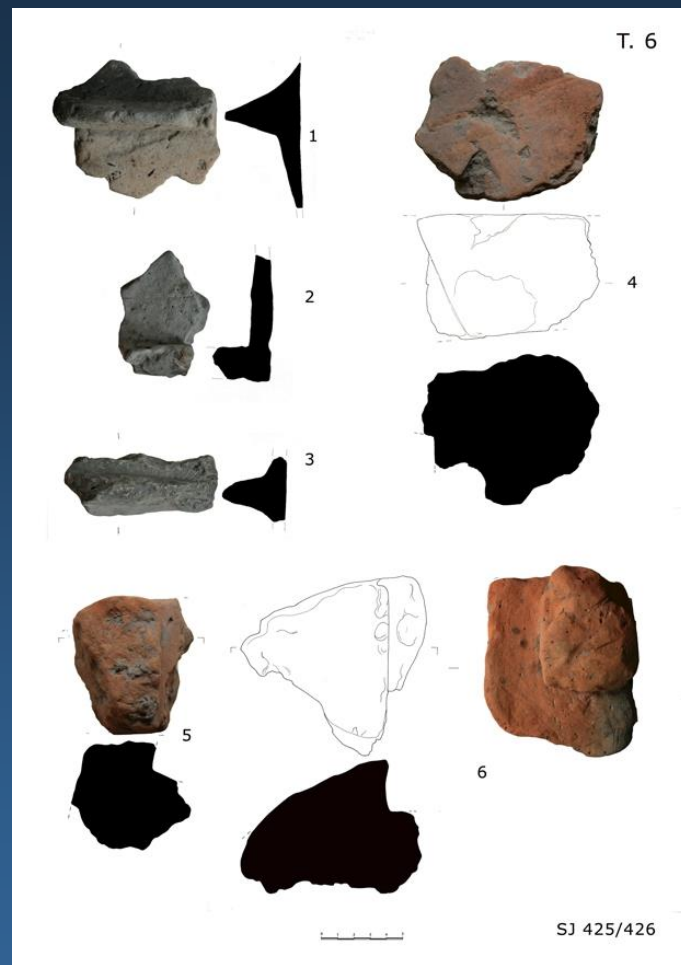
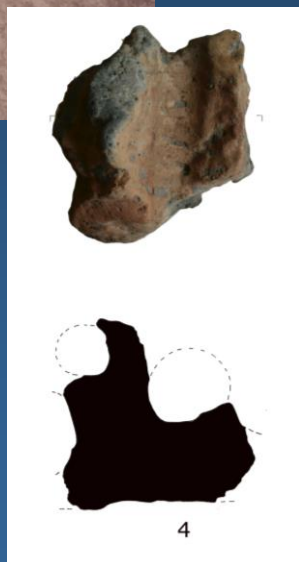
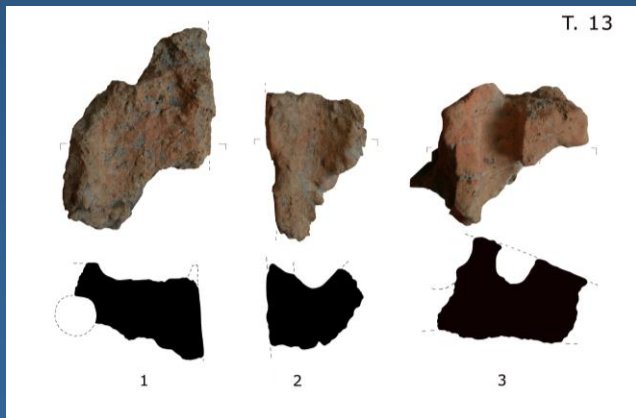


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- Houses built with wooden beams, planks and mud, sometimes they had a shed on the southern side
- Stone and brick finds are not found in the village, only stone finds belong to grinding stones and whetstones
- Besides houses, some living areas consist of semi dugouts with storage within the unit

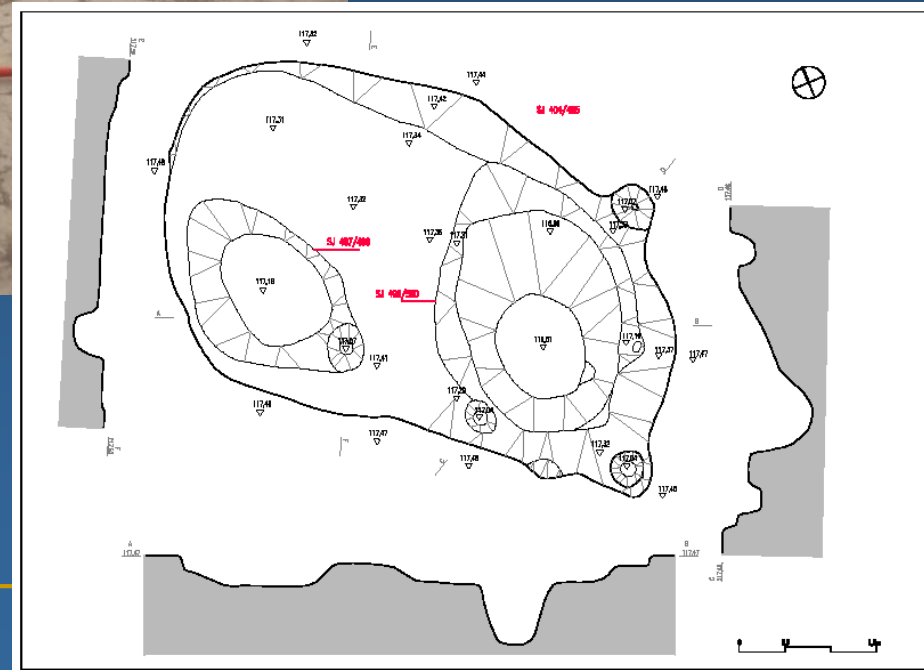
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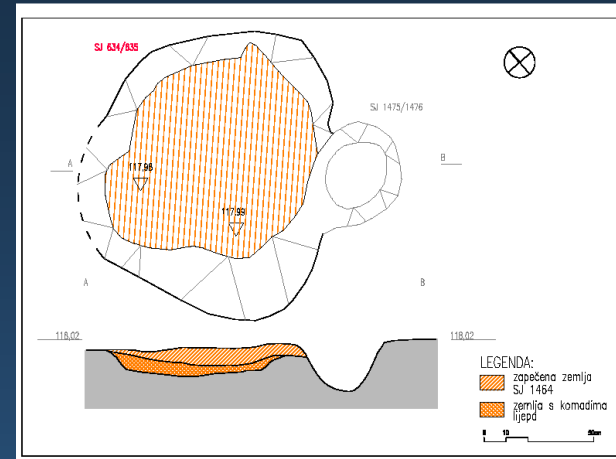
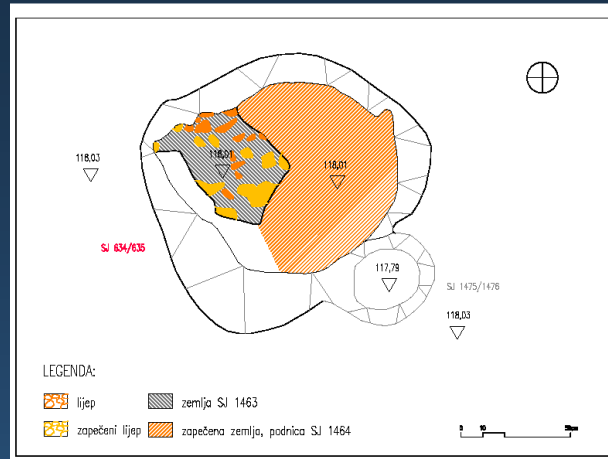


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- Different food preparation structures and fireplaces with archaeobotanical remains

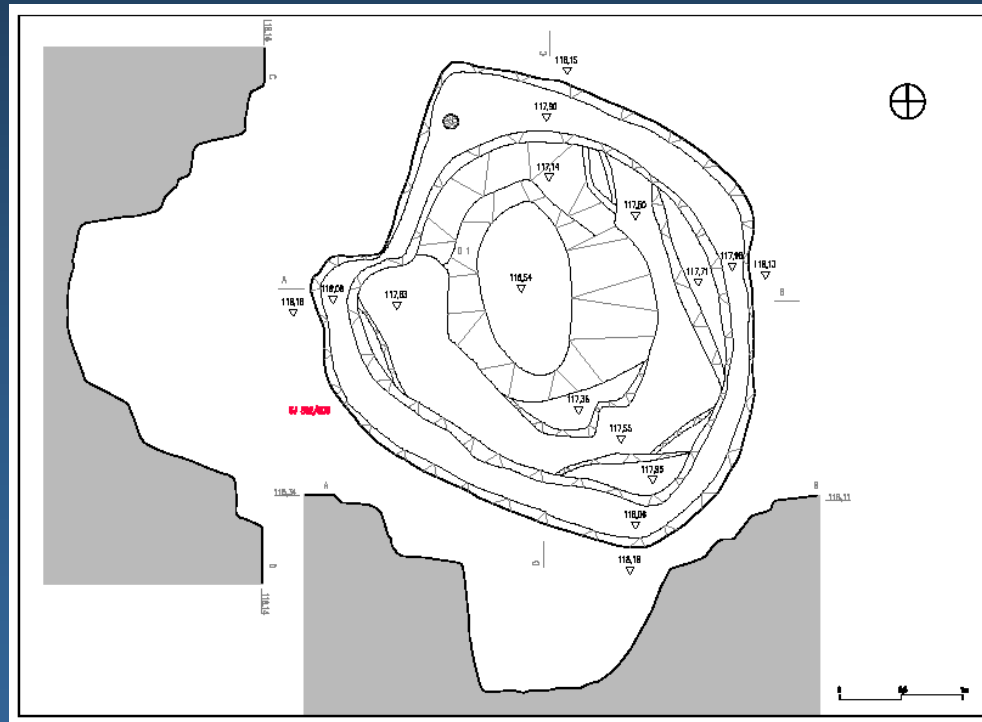


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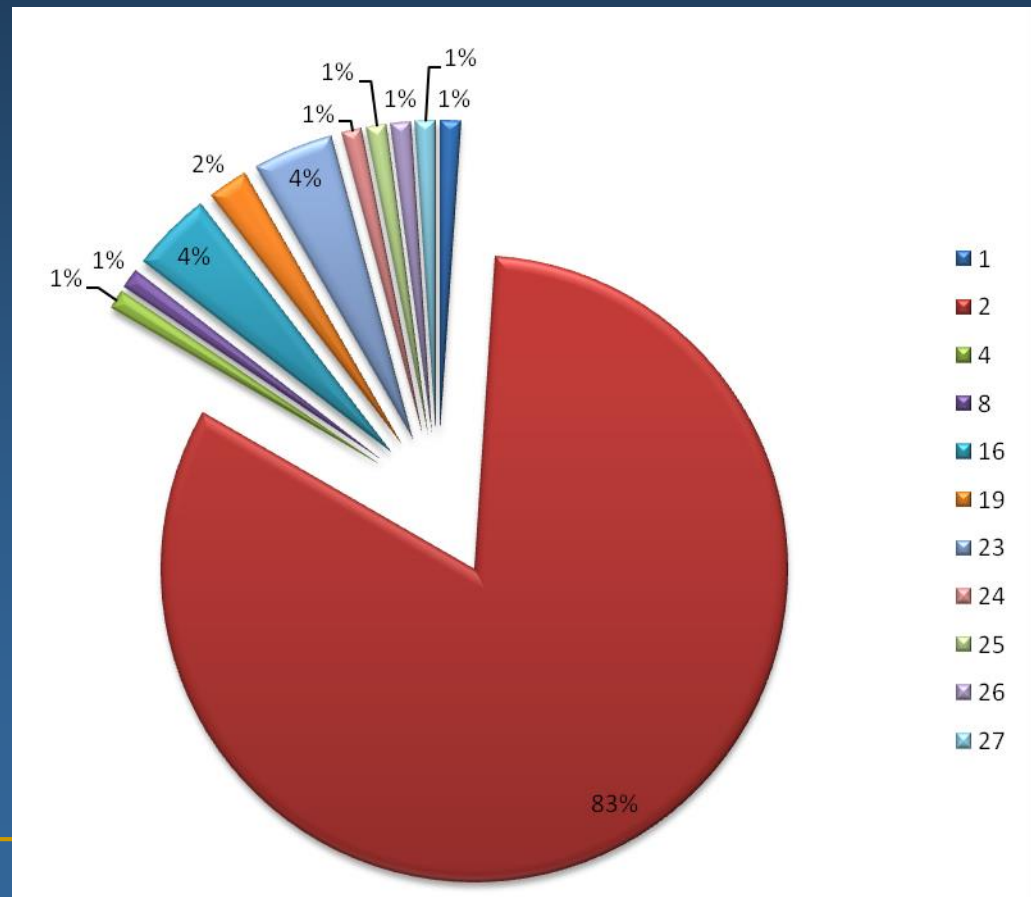
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- Wells:
 - 3 wells on the site, we can assure that only one of them was used in Roman period



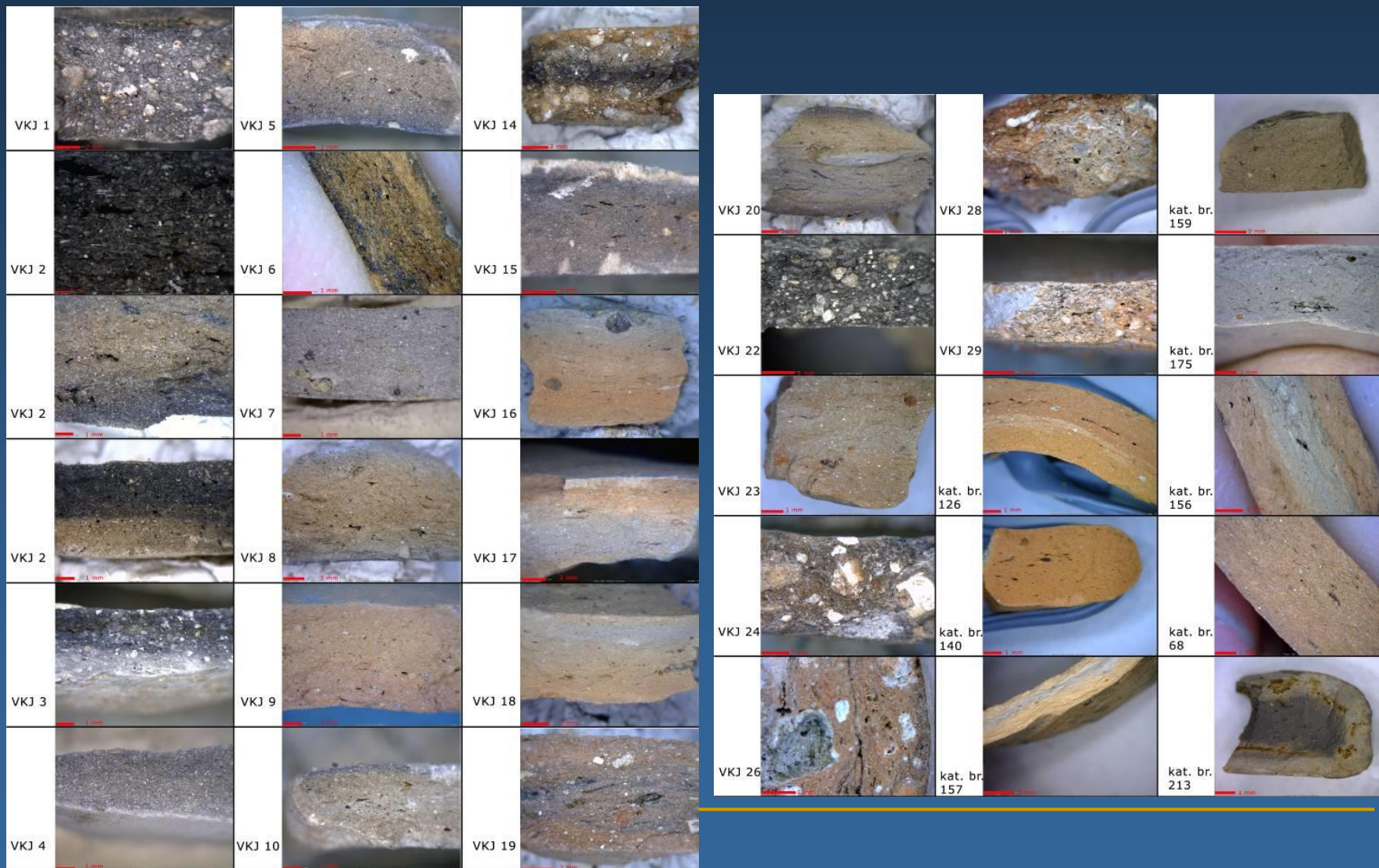
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- Pottery:
 - Largest number of the finds belongs to this category
 - Most of the pottery was locally produced (within the micro-region)
 - 29 different fabrics were identified, VKJ 2 fabric present with 83%
 - Production of the pottery within the site was not proven



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■ Pottery fabrics:



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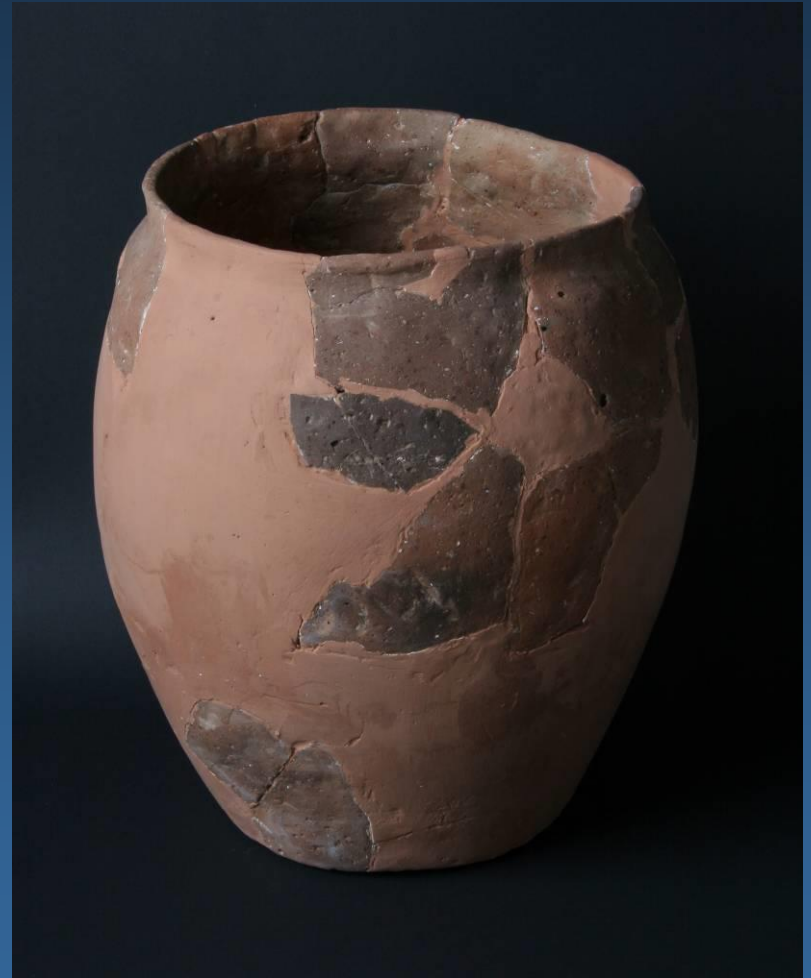
- VKJ 2 fabric:
 - Present with different firing colours (on single vessel)
 - White elongated inclusions (thin white lines)
 - Quartz and mica have not been identified
 - Different voids, mostly elongated
 - Some vessels have very thin slip
 - Often hand made, they used coils and wheel
 - Fabric is present in all periods
 - Used for production of different pottery types
 - Vessels produced in this fabric could have been fired on open fire which would be difficult to prove on archeological site
 - Chemical and geological analyses have not been done
 - Clay, water and wood were available to the village – what makes production for village, family needs possible



Roman Village in the Province of Upper Pannonia: Virovitica Kiškorija South

■ Pottery types





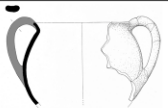



- Small number of types – expected on a rural site with a low number of imported pottery goods
- Pots, bowls, plates, lids, mortaria, storage vessels
- Changes in typology have not been observed throughout the centuries
- Prehistoric tradition present but new types were accepted too



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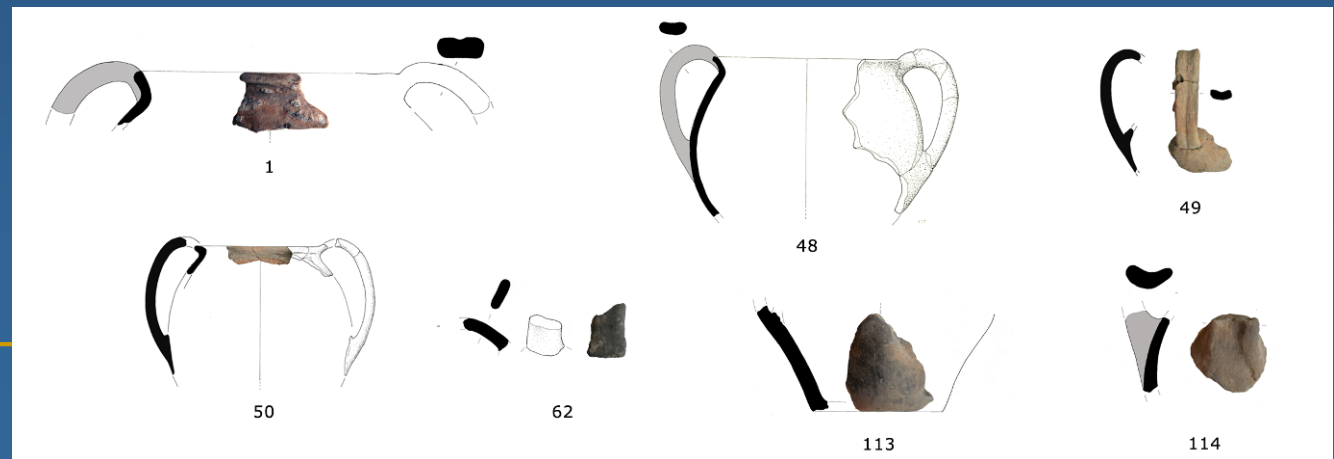
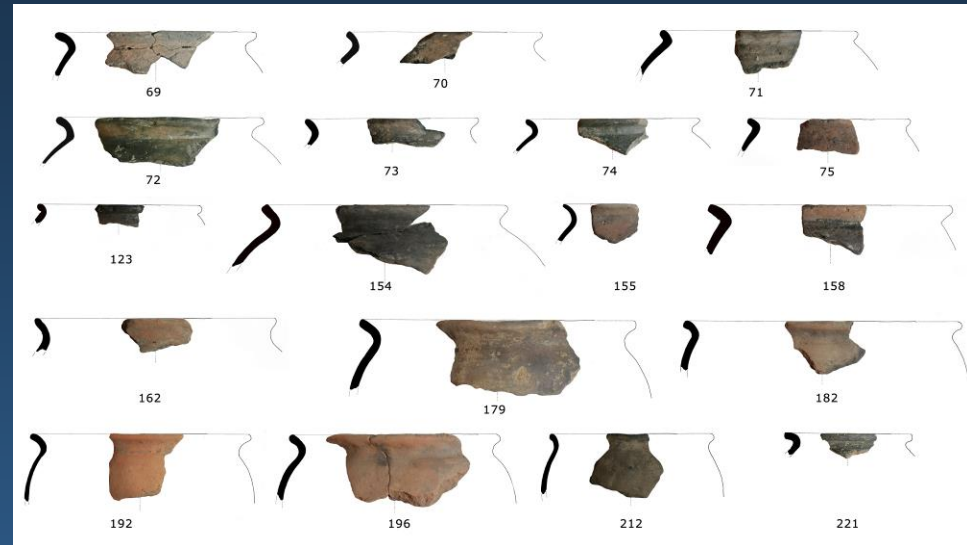
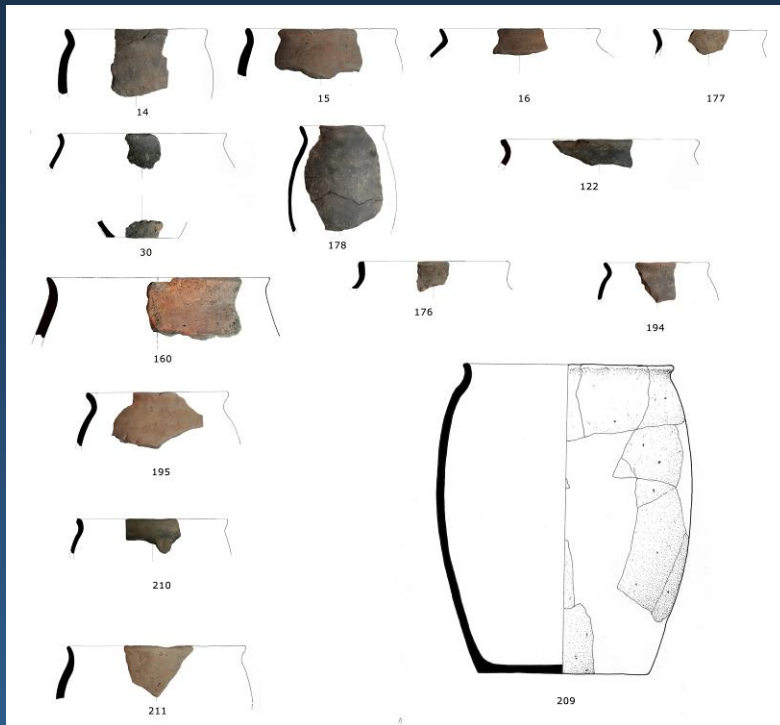
■ Pots:

- 8 pot types have been identified
- Within every type there are small variations – expected since many were partly hand made and not part of large scale production

TIP POSUDE	1. st.	2. st.	3. st.	4. st.	5. st.
 L 1	—————				
 L 2	—————				
 L 3		—————			
 L 4		—————			
 L 5			—————		
 L 6			—————		
 L 7	—————				
 L 8			—————		

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Pots:



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■ Bowls:

- 4 types, only one decorated with green glaze





TIP POSUDE	1. st.	2. st.	3. st.	4. st.	5. st.
		—————			
	—————				
			—————		
			—————		

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■ Plates:



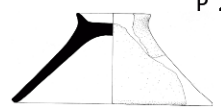

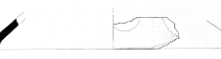

- 2 simple types, produced also in VKJ 2 fabric

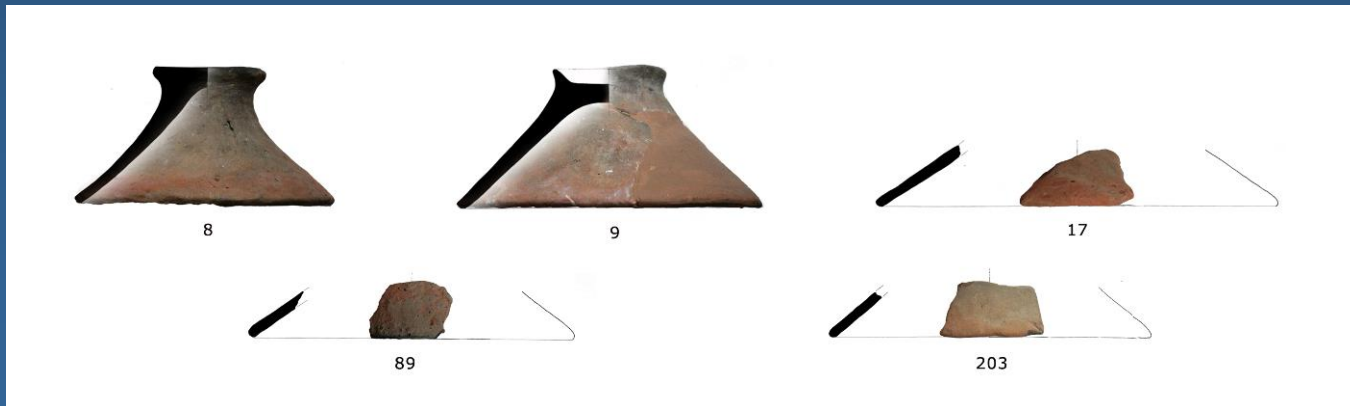


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T 1 	—————				
T 2 	—————				

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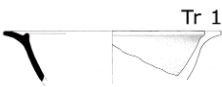

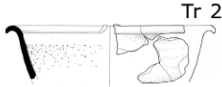

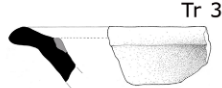

- Lids:
 - 3 types identified

TIP POSUDE	1. st.	2. st.	3. st.	4. st.	5. st.
 P 1					
 P 2					
 P 3					



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- Mortars:
 - 3 types identified, all dated to Late Antiquity and glazed

TIP POSUDE	1. st.	2. st.	3. st.	4. st.	5. st.
 Tr 1					
 Tr 2					
 Tr 3					



Roman Village in the Province of Upper Pannonia: Virovitica Kiškorija South

Other pottery types:

- These vessels are presented with small number of finds: pan, local amphorae and *dolium*
- Fabric VKJ 2 used in production



TIP POSUDE	1. st.	2. st.	3. st.	4. st.	5. st.
Tava 		—————			
Amfora ? 		—————			
Amfora ? 		—————			
Dolij 		- - - - -			

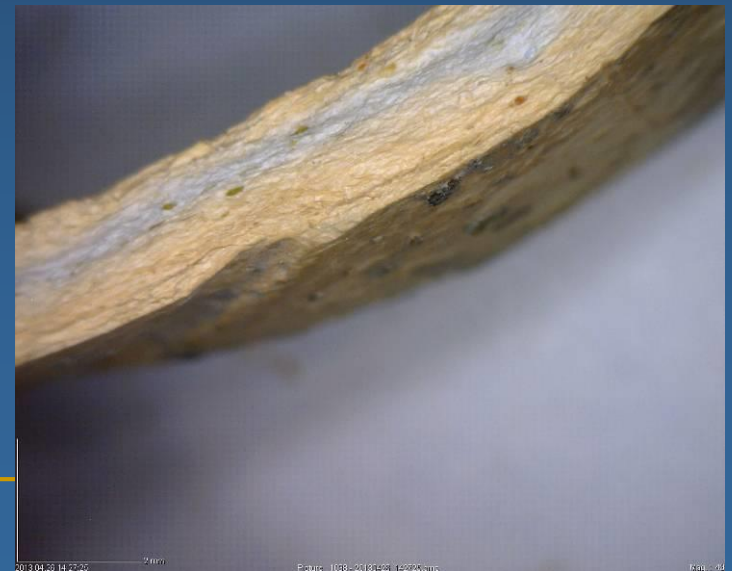
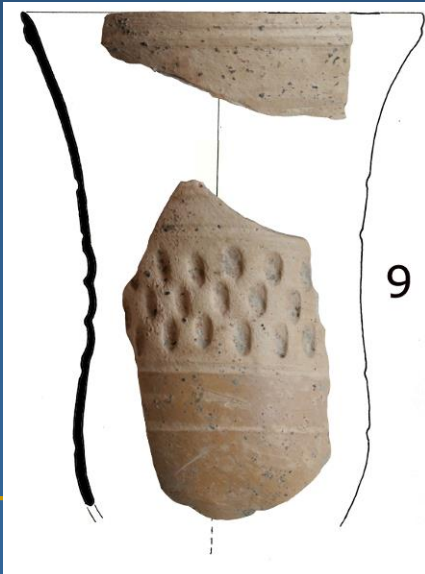
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■ Tableware

- *Terra sigillata*, thin walled pottery
- *Terra sigillata*: presented with 5 small shards, Dragendorf 32 was identified, and Rheinzabern was the origin of production. Drag. 32 is very common in *Pannonia*

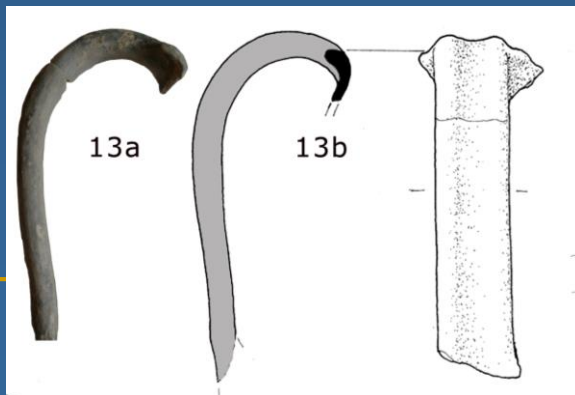
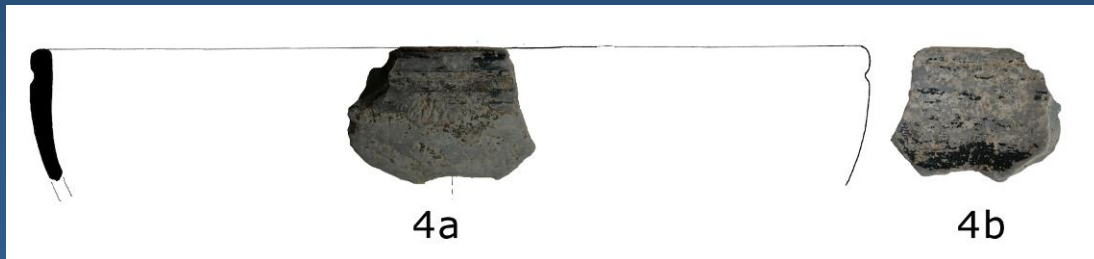


- Thin walled pottery: yellowish fabric, rarely seen in Pannonia, 2 cups present this ceramic category. 1 Cup is similar to glass cups Isings 24 and present one of the earliest finds on the site



Roman Village in the Province of Upper Pannonia: Virovitica Kiškorija South

- Dual function dishes
 - Pannonian grey fired ceramics,
 - Red fired ceramics
- Pannonian grey fired ceramics: frequent find in Pannonia, different production centers, frequent in 1st and 2nd cent. but present even later
 - Glossy slip (only 2 shards found) - PGW
 - Matte slip (many shards of flagons and pots)



Roman Village in the Province of Upper Pannonia: Virovitica Kiškorija South

■ Dual function dishes

- Pannonian grey fired ceramics,
- Red fired ceramics

■ Red fired ceramics

- Without painting (Pannonian flat bottomed amphorae, flagons)
- With Painting (flagons, pots, bowls imitating Drag. 37, Indented cup, plates)



14



7a



15



7b



14

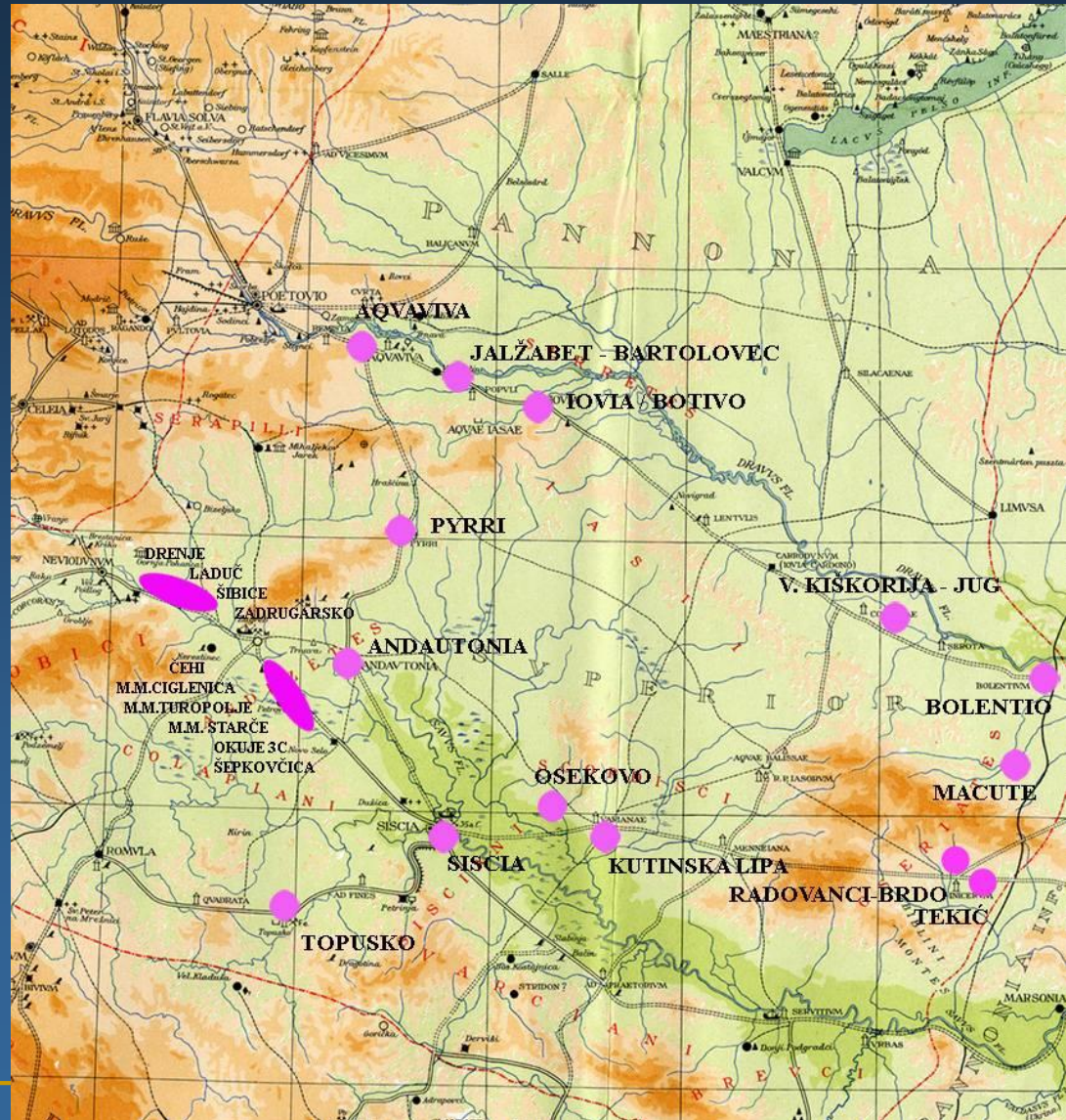


7a

7b

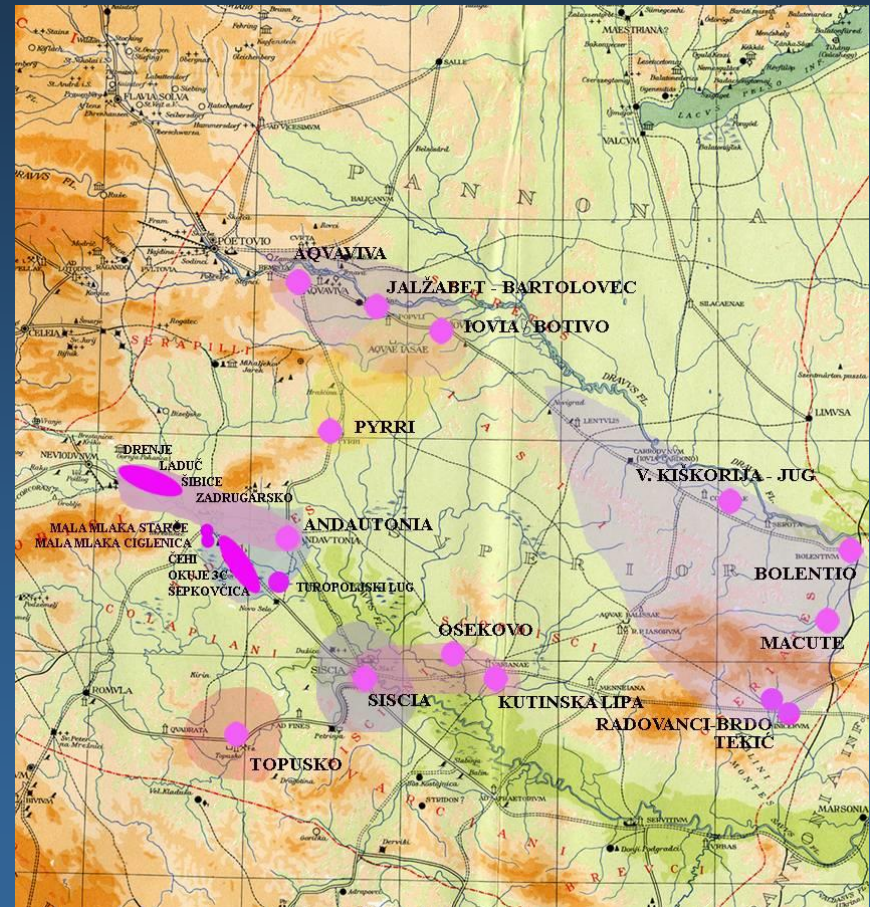
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- Locally produced pottery from VKJ compared to neighboring micro-regions
 - Pottery from different sites in Upper Pannonia was examined: towns, villas, villages
 - Differences and similarities were observed
 - After examination several micro-regions emerged where all sites within 1 region have locally produced pottery, typical for only that area, visible in form and decoration that is not present in other regions or is present with very small quantity
 - That is a result of different prehistoric background, Roman influence, type of the site



Roman Village in the Province of Upper Pannonia: Virovitica Kiškorija South

- The result of pottery overview: different micro-regions
 - Pottery on Kiškorija and micro-region is not decorated and shares typological, technological and fabric characteristics
 - The fabric that dominates on all sites within this micro-region can be compared with VKJ 2 fabric
 - Simple forms of pottery



Roman Village in the Province of Upper Pannonia: Virovitica Kiškorija South

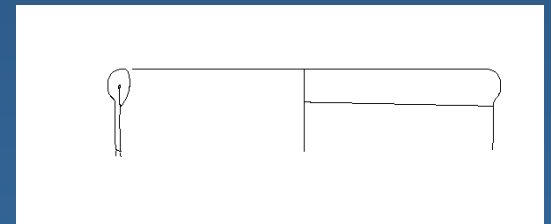
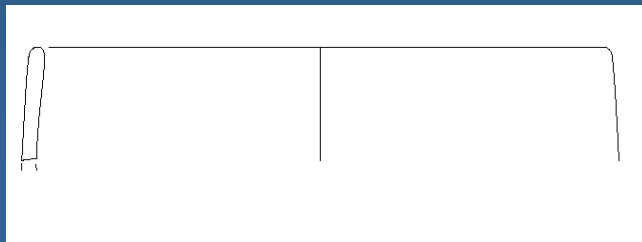
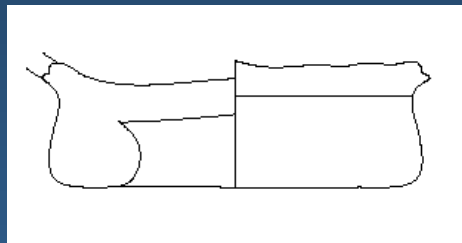
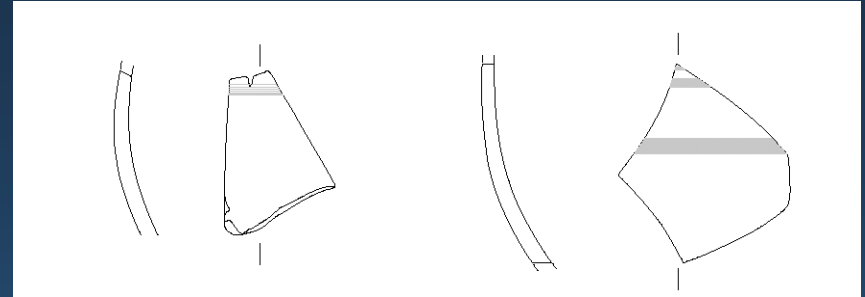
- Ceramic loom weights and whorls:
 - Textile production but probably only for personal needs of local population or even individual households
 - Sheep/goat bones have been found, small bronze bell and a needle



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■ Glass vessels:

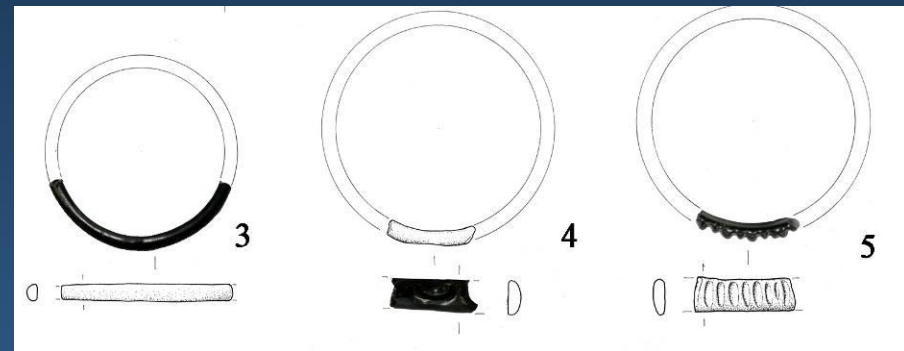
- Only 27 small fragments of glass vessels have been found and only 8 of them can be typologically identified and they belong to cups, jar, bowl and a bottle



Roman Village in the Province of Upper Pannonia: Virovitica Kiškorija South

■ Glass jewelery:

- Beads and bracelets
- Beads were found in a small pit from 3rd to 4th cent.
- some of them look unfinished and/or broken
- They were made by winding glass around the stick and after heating the surface was smoothed (except in unfinished beads)
- 2 small red beads, probably produced by stretching were found too
- Glass bracelets present very common find on Pannonian sites (graveyards and settlements) and types found here present very well known types
- 7 fragments of different bracelets have been found from 3rd to 4th cent.



Roman Village in the Province of Upper Pannonia: Virovitica Kiškorija South

- Metal finds: tools, implements, vessels and decorative items
 - Relatively small number of finds illustrates everyday life in the village with several decorative items
 - Tools used in agriculture, knives, bronze vessels, needles, carpentry tools
 - 2 fragments of *fibulae*, 2 rings



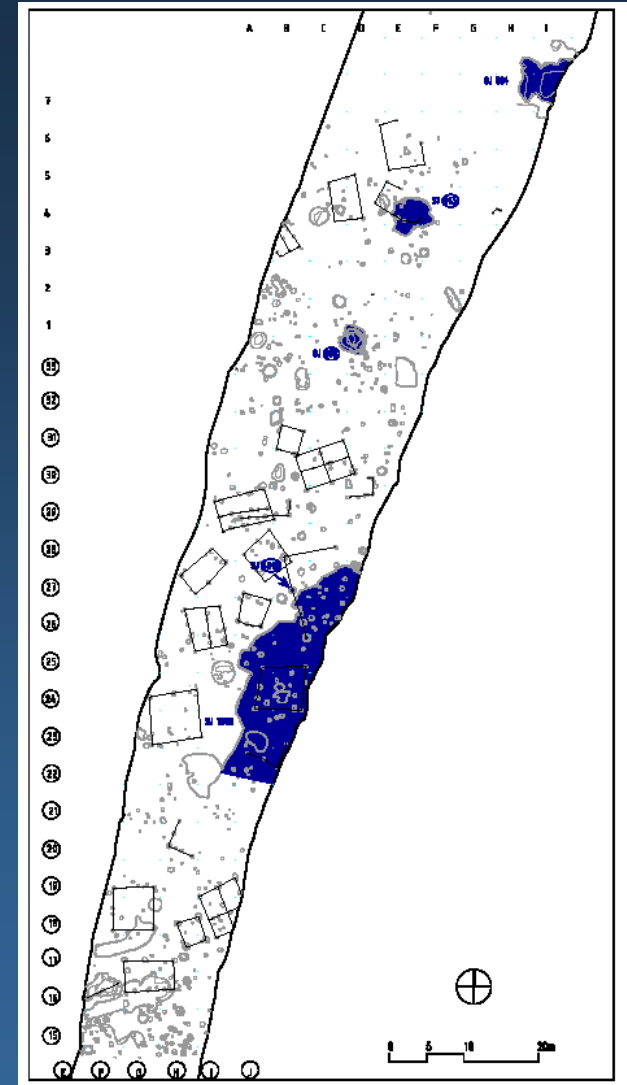
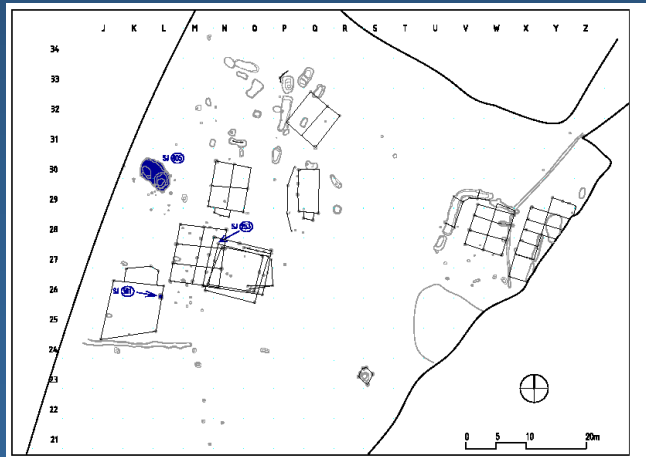
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- Numismatic finds:
 - 5 coins have been found dating from 2nd to 4th cent. (*Faustina II, Gordianus III/Gallienus, Maximianus I, Constantius II and Probus*)
 - Minted in Rome, *Siscia* and *Viminatium*
 - Coins from VKJ fit overall image of numismatic circulation in *Pannonia*



Roman Village in the Province of Upper Pannonia: Virovitica Kiškorija South

- Metallurgical activity?
 - Iron slag was found
 - Blacksmiths kiln was not found
 - Some iron items (iron nuggets) suggest blacksmiths activity which could easily be presumed in a village



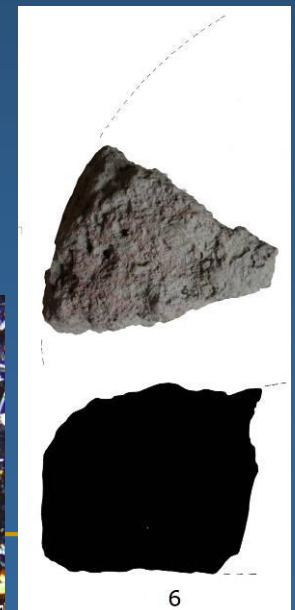
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■ Grindstones and whetstones:

- 6 grindstones have been found
- Found in different locations on the site suggesting their use within households
- Petrographic sections were done, without comparison to material from potential sites of origin it is impossible to determine their exact provenance
- Sandstones of petrographic features that grindstones have on VKJ can be found in Pannonia (Papuk Mt. And around Meczek)



- Fragments of 2 rotating whetstones
- One is made of volcanic rock (provenance not in Croatian territory)



Roman Village in the Province of Upper Pannonia: Virovitica Kiškorija South

- Archaeozoological and archaeobotanical remains and their interpretation
 - Animal remains: Sheep/goat, pig, cattle, horse/donkey/mule and small unidentified animals
 - Plant remains: barley, millet, foxtail millet, rye, spelt, wheat, broad bean, blackberry, plum

Plants/animals	Products
Barley (lat. <i>Hordeum vulgare</i>)	Bread, Bear, Various dishes: porridge, gruel, <i>pollenta</i> , fodder
Broomcorn millet (lat. <i>Panicum miliaceum</i>)	Bread, Bear, Various dishes: porridge, gruel, <i>pollenta</i> ,
Foxtail millet (lat. <i>Setaria italica</i>)	Bread, Bear, Various dishes: porridge, gruel, <i>pollenta</i> ,
Rye (lat. <i>Secale cereale</i>)	Bread, Bear, Various dishes: porridge, gruel, <i>pollenta</i> ,
Spelt (lat. <i>Triticum spelta</i>)	Bread, Bear
Wheat (lat. <i>Triticum aestivum</i>)	Bread, Bear, Various dishes: porridge, gruel, <i>pollenta</i> , fodder
Broad bean (lat. <i>Vicia faba</i>)	Various dishes: porridge, gruel
Blackberry (lat. <i>Rubus fruticosus</i>)	Eaten fresh and dried, preserved in honey, Medicinal use, Syrup with honey
Plum (lat. <i>Prunus domestica</i>)	Eaten fresh and dried, preserved in honey, boiled with wine, Various dishes: sauces, Medical purpose
Cattle (lat. <i>Bos Taurus</i>)	Mostly draught animal, Meat, Milk , Leather
Pig (lat. <i>Sus sp.</i>)	Meat, Leather
Sheep/Goat (lat. <i>Ovis/Capra</i>)	Meat, Milk, Leather
Horse/Donkey/Mule (lat. <i>Equus/Asinus</i>)	Traveling, Draught animal

Roman Village in the Province of Upper Pannonia: Virovitica Kiškorija South

- Virovitica Kiškorija Jug (South) – an example of a Roman village in the Upper Pannonia
 - Situated not far away from Drava River and roman road connecting *Poetovio* and *Mursa*
 - In Late Antiquity it belonged to *Pannonia Savia*
 - Archaeological finds and C¹⁴ dating show that the excavated part of the village existed from 2nd to 5th century
 - Half-buried structures and huts, large quantity of locally hand made produced pottery, low number of imported goods are indication of strong prehistoric tradition present in the village through all the centuries
 - Prehistoric tradition that is present as much as here is usually seen on sites with continuity from Prehistoric period
 - 265 m from VKJ there is VKS (La Tène site) from 2nd -1st cent BC – we have discontinuity of 100-150 years but both sites were not excavated completely
 - West of the roman site (excavated area), on position higher than excavated area and prehistoric site, there is large concentration of finds
 - Some of the finds suggest possibility of earlier dating: strongly profiled brooch, thin walled pottery
 - If the inhabitants were moved to this new nearby location (documented elsewhere in Pannonia) it could be because this way they are closer to the road, and the position is higher (safer from the flood)
 - Other villages show similar pattern: even in Late Antiquity there is handmade pottery and small number of imported goods, glass, metal finds and coins
 - Northern part suggest some organization: modest house with fireplace, working place and a storage

Roman Village in the Province of Upper Pannonia: Virovitica Kiškorija South

- Virovitica Kiškorija Jug (South) – an example of a Roman village in the Upper Pannonia
 - Structures used for living as built on VKJ site were common in villages in Southern Pannonia as we can see from new archaeological excavations (unpublished)
 - Rarely brick was used for construction, the use of stone as building material was not documented so far in the villages
 - Organization of the village is difficult to define in this site given the dense population on a small area – other villages have structural organization that is more clear where streets and households can be recognized
 - Compared to other sites VKJ survived for a long time – possibly because of the self-sufficiency (locally produced food and goods necessary for every day life)
 - Jewelry and decorative items found in village are not that luxurious and that difficult to obtain

Roman Village in the Province of Upper Pannonia: Virovitica Kiškorija South

- Roman villages in Pannonia:
 - Before Romans, southwestern part of Pannonia was densely inhabited
 - After political changes caused by Roman arrival economical and social situation calmed down and had undergone through some structural changes
 - Road building, erection of new settlements and *villae rusticae*, reorganization of the existing villages and settlements
 - Many of the Prehistoric villages survived until the 2nd half of the 1st; the same type of housing, pottery production and economy; survival attested with epigraphically and historical sources and have been proven by some onomastic researches
 - In some cases these villages could not adapt to new demands and ceased to exist – their abandonment was not always caused by war or destruction, local situation should be kept in mind
 - Hungary, Szakály, south of Balaton: an example of continuity from Late La Tène period to Late Antiquity (beginning of the 5th cent) – VKJ has more similarities with this village than with any other: housing, negligible Roman influence (mortars appear in Late Antiquity, small number of imported finds, lamps were not found)
 - Recent numerous archaeological protective excavations (mostly published as short reports so far) in Croatia revealed also roman villages some with continuity that existed also in 1st cent BC: Slatina-Veliko polje-Trnovača, Blizna, Stružani and greater number of sites belongs to those villages that persisted for longer period and were newly founded

Roman Village in the Province of Upper Pannonia: Virovitica Kiškorija South

- Roman villages in Pannonia:
 - Villages with continuity are mostly situated in regions far away from roads but that is not a rule
 - In Hungary, near 2 important roads villages with continuity and strong Prehistoric influence have been excavated
 - Next to the road *Emona-Siscia* a village + graveyard like that have been excavated
 - Every region should be taken in consideration as one whole, and general conclusions on the Province cannot be done: many events could effect destiny of the villages (behavior of local elites that could have provoke Roman reaction and their tolerance or intolerance)
 - In Podravina Region, we know so far only what did life in VKJ looked like so that region is unknown and general conclusions cannot be drawn
 - Newly founded villages from Flavian period show higher rate of development than villages that
 - Some villages founded as *villae rusticae* and in Late Antiquity they are transformed in villages (example: Ivandvor)

Roman Village in the Province of Upper Pannonia: Virovitica Kiškorija South

- The end of the Roman rural life:
 - New research on this topic was not published extensively but from short reports it seems that most of the villages existed until the end of the 4th cent
 - C¹⁴ analysis from VKJ showed that life continued without disruption until 1st quarter of 5th cent
 - These villages were positioned in lowland, on open space and were not protected so their inhabitants must have moved to more secured cities or newly founded settlements in higher position
 - In 5th cent in VKJ there were no traces of new elements unknown in previous periods (pottery, metal finds)
 - Research of rural aspect of Roman life from 1st century onwards in Pannonia is at the beginning and we can only hope that at least some of these sites will be published
 - New publications could provide us with great number of answers on continuity, new elements, changes, production, trade economy, influences, relations towards towns and villas
 - Even VKJ is not a big site and provided us small number of finds, it is the first extensively published village in Croatian part of Pannonia and gave as opportunity to get a small insight in a rural way of life in that aspect of Roman life

Thank you for your attention!!!