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THE LATE BRONZE AGE SOMLÓ HILL AND A NEW BRONZE HOARD

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In January 2023, the National Institute of Archaeology of the Hungarian National Museum launched a new research programme, the aim of which is to explore Somló Hill (Veszprém County), which has been neglected by systematic field research focusing on the Late Bronze Age (LBA) and Early Iron Age (EIA) inhabitation of the site. In the current phase of the research programme, new, preliminary results have been provided on the settlement history of the site, primarily through a systematic metal detector survey. Based on the discovered metal objects, the south-eastern plateau of Somló Hill was inhabited primarily between the Rei Br C and Ha B2 phases, and life on the settlement was probably continuous during the Hallstatt Culture in EIA. In addition to briefly introducing our preliminary results, one of the four hoards, Hoard II from Somló Hill, is introduced. This assemblage was found by Győző Csaba Budai, a volunteer, on the once-inhabited part of the south-eastern plateau. Owing to his discovery, the in situ hoard was documented in excavation. The hoard consists of a handful of objects belonging to a few people, such as a gouge, six Lovasberény-type bracelets, three bracelets with rolled ends, two lumps, and a pseudo-winged axe. The arrangement and grouping of the objects within the assemblage reflect deliberate selection and deposition. The typo-chronological analysis of the objects from the second hoard of Somló Hill suggests that the assemblage was deposited around the younger LBA phase of the settlement in the Ha B1–Ha B2 phases.

2023 januárjában a Magyar Nemzeti Múzeum Nemzeti Régészeti Intézete egy új kutatási programot indított, melynek célja, hogy felderítse az elmúlt száz évben a késő bronzkori és kora vaskori kutatások szempontjából szisztematikusan kevésbé vizsgált Somló-hegyet (Veszprém megye). A kutatási program jelenlegi fázisában elsősorban átfogó fémkereső-műszeres lelőhely-felderítési munkával tudott új, előzetes eredményeket szolgáltatni a lelőhely településtörténetéről. Az előkerült fémszórványok alapján eredményeink azt sugallják, hogy a Somló-hegynek elsősorban a délkeleti platója lehetett lakott a Rei. Bz C és Ha B2-es periódus között, és a település valószínűleg kontinuus lehetett a kora vaskori Hallstatt-kultúra idejében is. A tanulmány az előzetes eredmények felvázolása mellett a II. késő bronzkori kincsegyüttes feldolgozására vállalkozik. A Budai Győző Csaba önkéntes által talált leletegyüttes a délkeleti plató lakott részén belül került deponálásra. A leletegyüttest feltárással in situ tudtuk dokumentálni. Az egy hornyolt élű tokosvésőből, hat Lovasberény típusú karperecből, három visszapödrött végű karperecből, két bronzöntecsből és egy pszeudoszárnyas tokosbaltából álló deponált együttes valószínűleg néhány helybéli ember lerakott készlete lehetett. A Somló-hegyről származó második bronzkincs deponálására a tárgyak tipokronológiai elemzése alapján a település fiatalabb késő bronzkori időszakában, a Ha B1–Ha B2-ben kerülhetett sor.

Keywords: *hilltop settlements, Urnfield Period, Ha B1–Ha B2, hoards, metal detector survey*

Kulcsszavak: *magaslati telepek, urnamezős időszak, Ha B1–Ha B2, depók, fémkereső-műszeres lelőhely-felderítés*

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Introduction

In January 2023, a new research programme was launched by the National Institute of Archaeology of the Hungarian National Museum (HNM-NIA), with an aim to investigate the prehistoric, particularly the Late Bronze (LBA) and Early Iron Age (EIA), inhabitation of a long-known site, the Somló-hegy (Somló Hill) in Veszprém County. Although prehistorians were aware of the rich historical heritage of Somló Hill quite early, and the site was also discussed in the Archaeological Topography of Hungary and even recorded in the National Register of Archaeological Sites in Hungary, our knowledge of it was fragmented at best, and only educated guesses were proposed on its importance in the local and Transdanubian LBA and EIA settlement hierarchy. Gábor Ilon has rightly illustrated this situation when he pointed out in his review of the LBA–EIA research in Veszprém County that 'The great debt of the archaeology of the county, which may not be repaid shortly, is the still neglected research of the Nagysomló plateau' (Ilon 2018, 33). The research project, of which the very first – and in many ways preliminary – results are presented here, is intended to start paying this debt and provide new data on the phasing, inhabitation type, and ritual practices of the site, as well as on its importance in local settlement hierarchy, economy, crafts, and animal and natural resource exploitation during LBA and EIA (for the project statement in detail, see Soós et al. 2023). This paper is one of the pair of studies published in this journal which present some of our most important results from 2023 and take account of and reflect on the previous results of research in light of these new discoveries.

LBA Somló Hill I: research between 1885 and 2018

LBA research on Somló Hill began at the end of the 19th century when numerous finds turned up due to grape cultivation, and enthusiastic semi-professional archaeologists like Kálmán Darnay collected and published them in papers still used today as one of the key sources of knowledge on this site. One of the earliest mentions of Somló Hill involved in the discussion of possible Late Bronze Age finds was given by Károly Kleiszl on the pages of *Archaeologiai Értesítő*. Kleiszl collected bronze finds and made some observations on their context when he was present during agricultural works, disturbing approximately 160 m^2 on the site. Of the different archaeological features, he mentions what, based on current knowledge on the site, could be one of the very first bronze hoards found there: 'Not far from these was a flat stone standing on one of its edges; beside the stone, there was a 19 cm-long bronze spearhead with a beautiful green patina, wrapped around with even thinner, small bronze sheets and rings in an advanced state of decay, which might have been part of a chain (especially as the three rings I could recover were connected like links in a chain)' (Kleiszl 1885, 117).[1] The content of this lost assemblage could be very similar to the objects in Hoard V of Celldömölk-Ság-hegy, which included several small annular rings and sheet metal knobs (see Mozsolics 2000, Pl. 26. 12–37).

Undoubtedly, the most important discoveries were published by the mentioned Kálmán Darnay at the end of the 19th century. He stated that the urn rite dominates the local BA burial custom on Somló Hill and that the urns were placed on black basalt stone slabs. Boar tusks and bronze knobs frequently appear in these burials. He noted a total of five 'burials'. In our opinion, the composition of certain assemblages does not necessarily imply that these were all burials; some could be hoards, especially as Darnay did not mention the presence of cremated human bones in some cases (Darnay 1899, 20, 40, 50, 54–55, 59–61, 75–76; Darnay 1904, 75–76). Human remains were mentioned in the case of an urn grave with cremains and six Lovasberény-type rings (henceforth Somló Hill A). The find spot of this burial within Somló Hill is unknown (Darnay 1899, 56, Pl. 21. 1–6). The second, perhaps best-known LBA assemblage from the site is another burial (henceforth Somló Hill B): grave goods had been placed inside a reddish urn with an elongated belly, an impressed rib at the line of its curved neck, and impressed patterns along its slightly outcurving rim. The 15-litre pot was then closed by a lid broken into pieces. Approximately half of the urn was filled with cremains, and the vessel was placed on a black stone slab. It had a lavish find assemblage of 887 bronze objects and beads, including a bronze pin, three bronze bracelets, twelve bronze annular rings, 285 bronze knobs, and 586 beads made from 'Jurassic limestone' (Darnay 1899, 59–60, Pl. 22). Darnay also published another burial found on 3 April 1896. According to him, it originated from the 'Boba' (probably mistaken for Doba) part of the hill and was found during vine cultivation-related deep soil conversion (henceforth Somló Hill 'burial/hoard' C). This urn grave contained 179

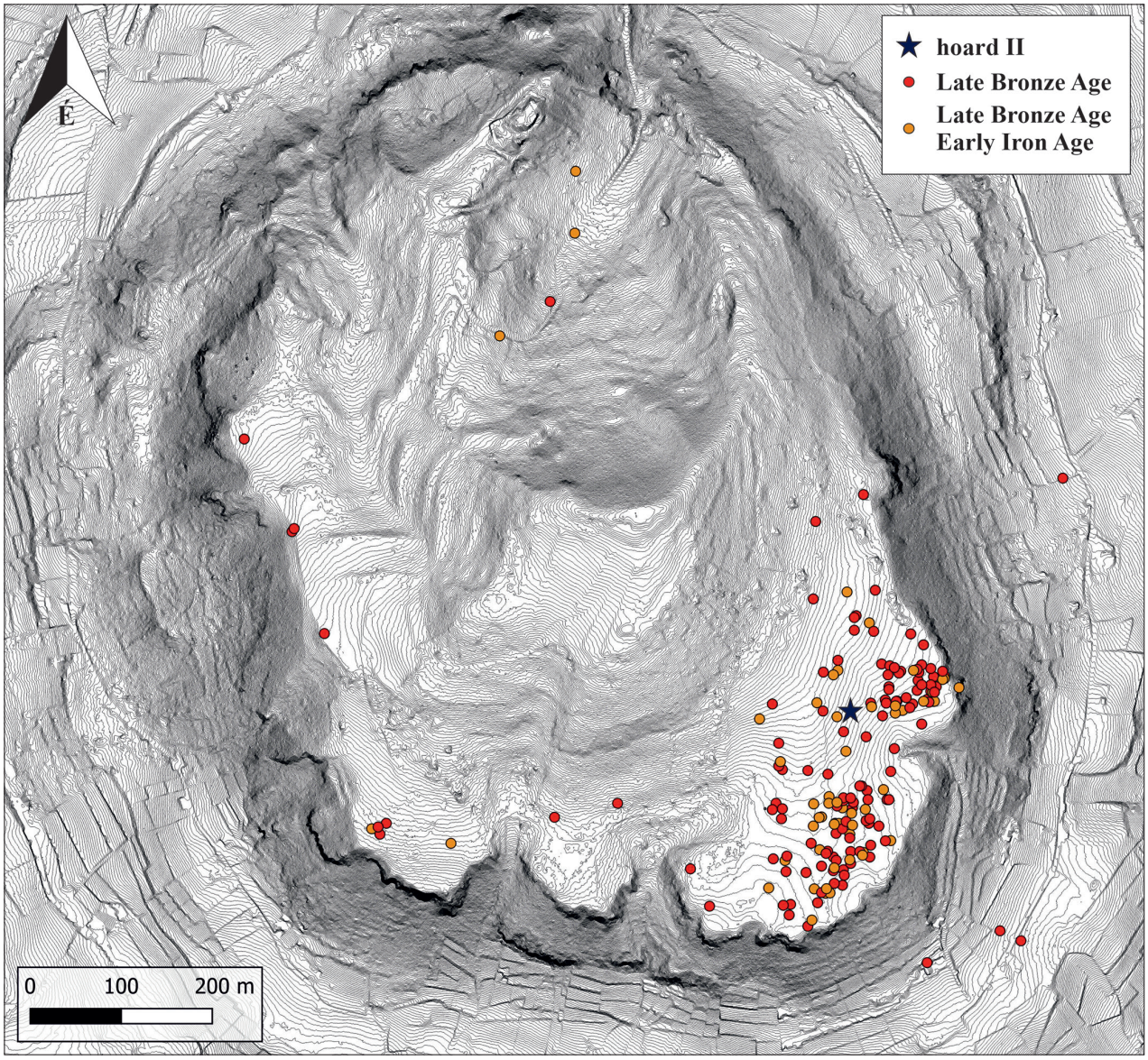


Fig. 1. Distribution of Late Bronze Age metal stray finds and the position of Hoard II on Somló Hill (contour survey base map by Zsolt Vasáros, modified by Bence Soós)
1. kép. Fémtárgyak szóródása és a II. kincs helyzete a Somló-hegyen belül (a szintvonalas felmérést Vasáros Zsolt bocsájtotta rendelkezésünkre, melyet Soós Bence módosított)

bronze bracelets similar to the ones found in Somló Hill B, a burial. This find was confiscated by a gendarme, and the local court ordered its destruction as evidence without value. We found it very likely that this assemblage may have been, in fact, a bronze hoard or hoards, as it seems Darnay was not present at the discovery, and the atypical number of bracelets is not characteristic of Urnfield burials but is present in contemporary Ha B hoards (see Mozsolics 2000, Pl. 13–16; Salaš 2005, Pl. 459–463, Pl. 467–469, Pl. 472). Altogether 89 items from a burial (henceforth Somló Hill D) were rescued by pharmacist Gyula Raák; the assemblage consisted of an intact and two broken bracelets, a spiral tube bead, a sheet metal ring, 53 bronze knobs of different sizes, 31 bronze rings, and 'Jurassic limestone' beads (Darnay 1899, 61, Pl. 23. 3–18). The objects were allegedly found in a grey urn tempered with graphite and rough, grainy clay. Moreover, there is the burial of a 'girl' from Somló Hill (henceforth Somló Hill E), with a pin, a Lovasberény-type bracelet, a bead on a ring, and a pendant-like object among the grave goods (Darnay 1899, 61–62, Pl. 23. 2). Darnay also mentions stray finds from Somló Hill (some with illustrations) like a mould perhaps for casting rod ingots, though its typological identification is not entirely clear based

on the small drawings (Darnay 1899, 54). Notable objects also include a blade belonging to a dagger or a sword (Darnay 1899, 56, Pl. 20. 1), pots, and clay objects (Darnay 1899, 75–77). Besides, a handful of artefacts are only mentioned, and Darnay refers to their typological characteristics through analogies; e.g. knobbed rods (Darnay 1899, 40, 56, Pl. 13. 2–3), a winged axe (Hampel 1886, Pl. 7. 5; Darnay 1899, 56), a Debrecen-type socketed axe (Hampel 1886, Pl. 11. 11; Darnay 1899, 56), a bronze pin (Darnay 1904, 75–76, No. 6), and a bronze awl (Darnay 1904, 75–76, No. 7). Darnay also discusses a bronze knife with an antenna-shaped terminal (*Pfahlbaumesser*); the context of this object is unknown, as is whether it came from the Séd Spring area or somewhere else (Darnay 1904, 71–72).

Darnay's work served as an inspiration for then-future Hungarian research, primarily aimed at re-interpreting all the lavish finds from this area by placing them into cultural models or dating these assemblages and stray finds in the relative chronological schemes by Paul Reinecke and Hermann Müller-Karpe. Such an important attempt has been made by Erzsébet Patek, who provided an overview of Somló Hill in her classic work on the Urnfield Culture in Transdanubia. She dated the Urnfield settlement on Somló Hill to the Ha B Phase, but she also pointed out that the area was settled from the time of the Late Tumulus Culture until the Hallstatt Culture. She reviewed the former finds and discussed mainly the burials with a rich grave find assemblage published by Darnay. She pointed out how rare abundantly furnished burials are in the record and proposed that burial customs in the Bakony area have been preserved for longer because the local 'ethnic group' that followed these practices survived undisturbed. She also pointed out that the burial customs observed there differ from those of the surrounding Urnfield groups. Erzsébet Patek also called attention to that only a single vessel represents the Ha A Phase on the site, unlike on Sághegy, a site with settlement phases supposedly similar to Somló Hill's (Patek 1968, 17, 37–38, 82, 88, 149, Pl. 42. 5, 8, Pl. 54. 10–13, Pl. 60. 3, 5, Pls. 70–72, Pl. 137. 4). The results of the Archaeological Topography of Hungary (MRT) programme marked the next phase of research in 1970. Based on that, we have a general overview of LBA stray finds originating from Somló Hill. However, the programme's research team failed to localise these finds topographically due to a lack of data caused by the former acquisition and inventorying practices of museums and the partial destruction of the Darnay collection along with important data on the context of the finds it held in World War II. They proposed that most finds probably originated from the western part of the hill, the area of the so-called Séd Spring. The authors of MRT mentioned numerous finds, such as spindle whorls, clay rings, perforated clay amulets, a dagger, bronze pins, a winged axe, a spearhead, and pots representing the Urnfield habitation of the site (Bakay et al. 1970, 213–214, Pl. 18. 4–5, Pl. 19. 1–7, Pl. 21. 7; Kőszegi 1988, 180, No. 1036, Pl. 9C). In certain cases, the MRT team localised areas that represent settlement traces within the area of the hill; these were revised later by Frigyes Kőszegi (Kőszegi 1988). The MRT site 15/11 called Doba-Somlóhegy teteje was identified as a hilltop settlement of the younger Urnfield Period (Bakay et al. 1970, 89, No. 15/11, Pl. 28. 5; Kőszegi 1988, 134, No. 300). The second site is Somlóvásárhely III, the south-western part of Somló Hill, where Urnfield pots were collected (Bakay et al. 1970, 210, No. 52/18; Kőszegi 1988, 180, No. 1039), while the third is Somlóvásárhely IV, the southern part of Somló Hill, where the Bakonyi Museum acquired stray pins, a ring, ten clay beads, an iron spearhead, boar tusks, and pieces of deer antler. Unfortunately, these finds have been lost (Bakay et al. 1970, 212, No. 52/20; Kőszegi 1988, 181, No. 1040). Kőszegi also notes a 'site', Doba-Somlóhegy környéke [surroundings of~], where atypical LBA stray finds have been discovered (Bakay et al. 1970, 85–86; Kőszegi 1988, 134, No. 301). In addition to providing a more refined catalogue of the archaeological sites, another merit of Frigyes Kőszegi's work is that he revised the material from Somló Hill within a new historical-archaeological model of the local Urnfield groups. According to him, Somló Hill is a classic hilltop settlement with natural 'fortifications' belonging to the north-western Transdanubian group. Similarly to Erzsébet Patek, he pointed out that the occupation of the site started at the time of the Late Tumulus/Early Urnfield Period and lasted until the Younger Urnfield Period. Based on the scatter of stray potsherds, he understood Somló Hill as a system of small settlements (Kőszegi 1988, 28, 36–37, 48–49, 52, Pl. 9C). The interpretation of the role of Somló Hill in the LBA has also been influenced by Gábor Bándi's idea, who interpreted the Nagygörbő and Somló hilltop settlements with prolonged life as economic and political centres of the 62 lowland settlements from different LBA periods, scattered in the valley of the Marcal River, an important north-south natural transition area in Western Transdanubia

Fig. 2. Stray LBA metal finds from Somló Hill, found in 2023
2. kép. 2023-ban a Somló-hegyen talált szórvány fémleletek

(Bándi 1982, 85, Fig. 4). Recently, Gábor Ilon formulated new thoughts on the site when he interpreted Somló Hill (Nagysomló) as a strategic place with presumable hilltop settlements, where sacrifical and votive hoarding ceremonies were performed, akin to settlements like Velem-Szent Vid, Celldömölk-Ság-hegy, Várvölgy, and Bullenheimer Berg (Ilon 2018, 14–15, 32).

At present, the IVO database[2] (the National Register of Archaeological Sites in Hungary) includes Urnfield sites on the top of Somló Hill or in its immediate vicinity under the following identification numbers: 7804 Doba-Somlóvár (Urnfield settlement), 7813 Doba-Kerek-domb (Urnfield settlement trace), 7814 Doba-Somló-hegy felső platója (Urnfield settlement), 7815 Doba-Somló-hegy (Urnfield settlement), 9171 Somlószőlős-Séd-forrás (Urnfield burial and settlement), 9195 Somlóvásárhely-Szent Margit-kápolna (Urnfield settlement). The polygons marking the extent of these archaeological sites were outlined based on previous data from literature and more recent unpublished field reports, which were synchronised with the topographical data published in scientific works, especially MRT.

LBA Somló Hill II: preliminary results in 2023

New data was provided on the LBA inhabitation of Somló Hill in the framework of an ongoing research programme of HNM-NIA, which attempts to reinvestigate the archaeological heritage of the site through a systematic application of multifaceted field methods and the study of previously collected and new material from the area (see Soós et al. 2023). The research programme started in January 2023, and, for the LBA, this phase of the research consisted essentially of systematic metal detector surveys and rescue excavations carried out with the support of HNM's Community Archaeology Programme. The fieldwork concentrated on the south-eastern and western parts of the upper plateau of Somló Hill (site ID 7814). In these areas, especially on the south-eastern plateau, numerous Urnfield potsherds and metal finds were collected from the surface, suggesting an intensive inhabitation of the area (*Fig. 1*). In this area, the distribution of the potsherds and metal finds suggests that the material of the LBA Urnfield and the EIA Hallstatt cultures overlap and are continuous (see Soós et al. 2023).

Since the beginning of the research project, four hoards have been found; three (Hoards I–III) belong to LBA, a time around the Ha B1 and Ha B2 phases. As Hoards I and III show a high level of complexity in the arrangement of the finds and the fact that they contain hundreds of metal and non-metal objects, the evaluation of these assemblages deserves separate studies, which we plan to prepare after restoring the hoards. So far, 132 pieces of stray find bronzes dated to the LBA have been found, most of which come from the south-eastern plateau (*Fig. 1*). The array of finds includes mainly a large number of bronze lumps (*Fig. 2. 1*), split plano-convex ingots, casting jets (*Fig. 2. 3*), and other ingot types (e.g. an oval ingot) (*Fig. 2. 2*). The presence of these objects supports the theory that bronzeworking was practised on these plateaus. However, these finds very likely belong to the LBA, as the huge number of metallurgical byproducts and ingots is characteristic of this period. The continuity of the Urnfield and Hallstatt inhabitation on the settled plateaus calls for further investigation, essentially a comparative archaeometallurgical analysis of well-datable Hallstatt and well-classifiable Urnfield bronze finds from the site and the material more directly related to casting to see whether this activity continued in EIA. Apart from these metallurgy-related finds, the new stray finds from Somló Hill include intact and small fragments of larger tools (axes, sickles, knives) (*Fig. 2. 5; Fig. 3. 10, 13*) and ornaments (pins, bracelets, pendants, knobs, small annular rings, and bronze beads) (*Fig. 2. 7; Fig. 3. 11–12*). A surprisingly large number of bronze weapons was found on the site, including the blade fragment of a bronze sword (*Fig. 2. 4*), a melted and intentionally damaged spearhead (*Fig. 3. 9*), daggers (*Fig. 2. 8; Fig. 3. 14*), and several barbed arrowheads (*Fig. 2. 6*). The typological spectrum of the artefacts found on Somló Hill is also comparable to that of Velem-Szent Vid and Celldömölk-Ság-hegy, where relatively similar metal object types were found (see Miske 1907; Patek 1968). The detailed evaluation of this abundant material will be the subject of a separate study; here, only some types with high values for relative chronology are described and evaluated (see *Figs. 2–3*).

The relatively long plate-hilted dagger (*Griffplattendolch*) with two pegs and a slightly curved blade (*Fig. 2. 8*) shows similarities with the Haidlfing type dated to the Br C phase (Wels-Weyrauch 2015, 7, 106–107). The presence of this object may hint that Somló Hill had been inhabited since the advanced phase of the Tumulus Culture. The Peschiera-style dagger (*Fig. 3. 14*) is also an important chronological

Fig. 3. Stray LBA metal finds from Somló Hill, found in 2023
3. kép. 2023-ban a Somló-hegyen talált szórvány fémleletek

marker; its Italian counterparts date mainly to the Bronze Recente (Br D) (Bianco Peroni 1994, 154–156), while datable examples in Transdanubia have been recovered from Ha A1 hoards (e.g. Márok, etc.) and Br D/Ha A1 and Ha A1 burial assemblages, such as Galambok-Hársaserdő (Mozsolics 1985, Pl. 91. 10; Kemenczei 1988, 26–27; Száraz 2008, 71, Fig. 7. 1; Tarbay 2020, 15–16). A thoroughly melted spearhead (*Fig. 3. 9*) was also discovered on the south-eastern plateau; based on its intact part it could be identified as a spearhead with an emphasised midrib and a leaf-shaped blade, analogies to which are known from the Carpathian Basin mainly between the Ha A1 and Ha B1 phases (for a review, see Tarbay 2022, 34–35, Fig. 2. 1). This spearhead is not only heavily melted but also features traces of hammering along one side and several impacts of a tool, suggesting that it was deliberately damaged and flattened even further in its already partially destroyed state, probably right after it was removed from the pyre. This condition of the find supports the idea that it may originate from a cremated burial with weapons or a funerary hoard (*Fig. 3. 9*). Among the stray finds, a Vadena-type knife fragment with line bundle decoration can be found. This special and representative tool type occurred in many regions, mainly in the Alps and northern Europe. Its most typical dating is the Ha B1 phase, but some argue for an earlier starting date for the type, the Ha A2-Ha B1 phases. The local production of the type is supported by a casting mould from Lengyel and the formerly found analogies to the knives from Somló in Transdanubia, e.g. Velem-Szent Vid and Komárom-Szőny (reviewed by Tarbay 2018, 60, 329–331, List 33, Map 58) (*Fig. 3. 13*). There is a narrow socketed axe with pseudo-wings (*Fig. 3. 10*), which can be dated to the Ha B1 phase after similarly decorated axes with a loop from north-eastern Hungary and the Czech Republic (e.g. Říhovský 1992, 239–240, Pl. 65. 933–935, Pl. 66. 942–943; Mozsolics 2000, Pl. 111. 6). The relatively large number of weapons found on Somló Hill hint at the fact that warrior identities are another specialist group beside craftsmen that played a role in the LBA history of the site. There is also a rich selection of different kinds of ornaments, which mainly allow us to outline the Ha B inhabitation of the site. These objects also outline a community the members of which could afford to wear a rich selection of ornaments to mark their social status, which is a phenomenon also reflected well by the assemblages published formerly by Kálmán Darnay and the new LBA hoards excavated in the site. The small vase-headed pin (*Fig. 2. 7*) also represents this period and fits well with the material of Velem-Szent Vid and Celldömölk-Ság-hegy (Říhovský 1979, 188–207; Říhovský 1983, 44–50). It also has analogies with the new hoard from Somló Hill. The rich material belonging to the Ha B1 phase is also represented by an armring fragment with fine chase patterns and a blunt terminal (*Fig. 2. 12*). Analogies of this ornament can be found in assemblages recovered around the 19th century from Somló Hill (Darnay 1899, Pl. 22. 1–3), as well as from the Carpathian Basin and lands towards the western part of Central Europe (zu Erbach 1989, 143–144, Map 18).

Even though the investigation of Somló Hill had been going on for only nine months when this paper was submitted, several impressive assemblages and individual artefacts have been discovered during the metal detector surveys. At a time when illegal metal detecting is still flourishing, the richness of finds at a site known since the 19th century is something unexceptional. Although the finds are spectacular and worth being presented to the general public, our results are still preliminary and require detailed archaeological evaluation and further field and museum research. This leaves us with many questions about the inhabitation of the site, which are planned to be further investigated in the 2024 season of this research project. Considering the LBA phase of Somló Hill, the current results point in two main directions: specifying the phases of the inhabitation of the south-eastern plateau, and documenting the hoarding phenomena for the first time on this site. Of the different scholars who engaged in the outlining of the site's time of prehistoric inhabitation, Erzsébet Patek's conclusions, which mainly rest on the material published by Darnay (Darnay 1899; Darnay 1904) are closest to what we can tell about the south-eastern plateau of Somló Hill. Considering the LBA, mainly the metal stray finds and the hoards date the inhabitation of the south-eastern plateau between the Br C and Ha B2 phases; the use of this part continued in the Hallstatt Period. We hope other plateaus and micro-areas of the hilltop settled in prehistory will be dated similarly. Most stray finds and the hoard assemblages suggest that the main phase when this part of Somló Hill was inhabited was the Ha B. We now have a great opportunity to clarify the phases of occupation in different zones. Based on the current level of research, we can already redraw the polygons of the sites in the IVO database. With

the help of further geophysical surveys, LiDAR, and evaluation excavations, we can provide new data on the density of the settlement, the type of activities carried out on the hill, and the exploitation of the prehistoric resources, aspects that have not been studied in depth but are of key importance for the settlement and interpretation of the LBA presence on Somló Hill.

The excavated hoards that are part of the settled landscape of the hilltop reveal a new side of Somló Hill, which can now be defined as a multi-hoard site. That is not surprising, as the systems similar to those of Urnfield hilltop settlements, such as Celldömölk-Ság-hegy (Mozsolics 2000, 37–39), Várvölgy-Nagyláz-hegy (Müller 2006), and Velem-Szent Vid (Miske 1907; Mozsolics 2000, 89–90; Fekete 2008), as Gábor Ilon pointed out well, also showed a similar pattern of deposition (Ilon 2018, 14–15, 32). The detailed archaeological evaluation of the hoards found on Somló Hill is something our research programme has already accumulated a debt with. Considering that both the first and third hoards contain hundreds of artefacts of different materials, their publication exceeds by far the objectives of the current study. Therefore, in this issue of Communicationes Archaeologicae, two of the four new hoards discovered at Somló Hill are introduced: the LBA Hoard II and the EIA Hoard IV, both tool depots (see Soós et al. 2023).

Hoard II of Somló Hill

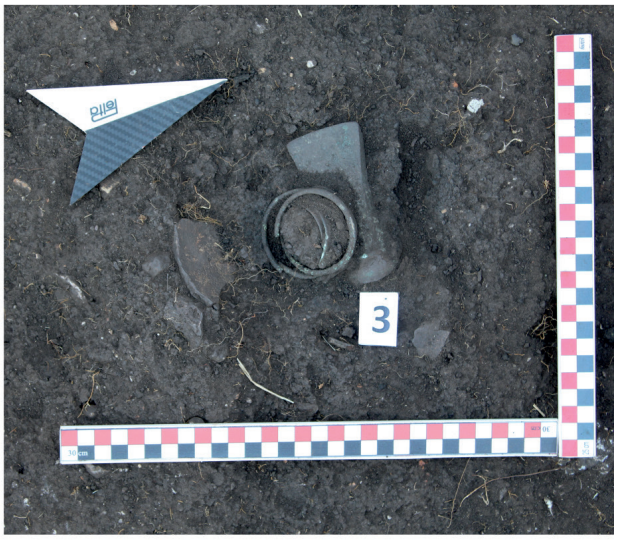
Context

The second hoard of Somló Hill was found by Győző Csaba Budai, a volunteer metal detectorist in the HNM's Community Archaeological Programme. He discovered the assemblage around 12:40–47 on 28 June 2023, during a metal detector survey led by Tamás Péterváry. He dug an amorphous hole to reach the bronze objects: a socketed gouge, a socketed axe, and bracelets. Because he followed the protocol of the Community Archaeological Programme that prohibits removing objects when more than one is visible, Győző Csaba Budai left the finds completely undisturbed, thus enabling the later documentation and professional excavation of the hoard, which were carried out on 29 June 2023 with the participation of three archaeologists (János Gábor Tarbay, Tamás Péterváry, and Bence Soós), university student Zsófia Török, and volunteer metal detectorist Győző Csaba Budai.

The excavation was divided into phases (*Figs. 4–5*). The context was photographed at each of them, along with a photogrammetry documentation of the main phases. Phase 1 started with removing the soil with which the pit was refilled the previous day to hide the assemblage. The 24.5-cm-deep pit and the objects were photographed. In Phase 2, a slightly irregular trench was opened (111 × 98 × 102 × 115 cm). The first objects, the gouge, the socketed axe, and some of the bracelets, were found at a considerable depth. The material of the trench was rich in potsherds belonging to different types of larger and smaller, unclassifiable Urnfield pots. A total of 103 potsherds and a 'token' (772.9 g) have been collected (*Fig. 9B. 1–5*), along with eleven animal bones. According to the analysis by Annamária Bárány, this archaeozoological material comprises the bones of large and small ungulate animals. The few animal bone fragments were rather poorly preserved, and it was not possible to identify their species. Nine fragments could be determined as belonging to large ungulate animals, more precisely deer or cattle. Two fragments were pieces of the scapula of a small ungulate animal. Lumbar vertebra, rib, scapula, humerus, and metatarsal fragments could be identified among the large ungulate bones. A faint, unclear cut mark could be observed on the surface of the outer side of the metatarsus fragment. The opposite end of the animal remain bore a sharp and thorough cut. No settlement layers or features have been observed during the deepening of the trench; it appears that it contained mostly settlement material in a secondary position, while it has remained unclear if any settlement layers were disturbed by agricultural work or taphonomic processes. However, all excavation phases pointed to the bronze objects being *in situ*, in an intentional arrangement, which calls for further geophysical investigation and excavation to see whether they belonged to a settlement feature of any kind (e.g. a pit or a house) or were in connection with such features. During Phase 3, the trench was cleaned, and the 3D photogrammetry documentation of the objects started. The objects were removed in Phase 4 (*Figs. 4–5*). We sought to remove them one by one, but if two objects were corroded or placed inside one another, they were taken out as a single unit. The first item was the socketed gouge (*Fig. 7. 1*), with its edge pointing towards the east. Right beside it, the pseudo-winged socketed axe (*Fig. 8. 10*), facing with its edge to the west, was visible. On the socketed axe lay three Lovasberény-type rings

Phase 4 – excavation No. 1

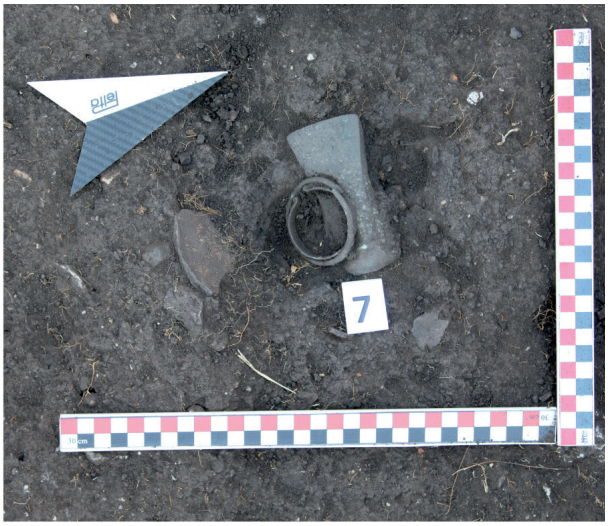
Phase 4 – excavation No. 2



Phase 4 – excavation No. 3

Fig. 4. Excavation phases of Hoard II of Somló Hill
4. kép. A Somló-hegyi II. depó feltárási fázisai

Phase 4 – excavation No. 4



Phase 4 – excavation No. 7

Phase 4 – excavation No. 5

Phase 4 – excavation No. 8

Phase 4 – excavation No. 6

Phase 4/5– excavation No. 9

Fig. 5. Excavation phases of Hoard II of Somló Hill
5. kép. A Somló-hegyi II. depó feltárási fázisai

(*Fig. 7. 2–4*) and two sheet metal bracelets (*Fig. 7. 7; Fig. 8. 8*). The rings were placed inside one another and on top of each other, obviously forming an ornament set within the hoard. The sheet metal bracelets (*Fig. 7. 7; Fig. 8. 8*) were technically between the Lovasberény-type rings Nos. 2–4 and 5–6. A sheet metal bracelet (*Fig. 8. 9*) was inside Lovasberény-type ring No. 6 (*Fig. 7. 6*). Besides the rings, a potsherd was found (*Fig. 9A. 13/1–2*); whether it belonged to the hoard is not entirely clear. In Phase 5, we continued to dig under the hoard, and the subsoil was reached at a depth of 42 cm from the recent surface (*Fig. 5. 9*). Under the hoard, numerous potsherds and some animal bones were found, suggesting that this assemblage may have been placed inside a larger settlement feature, the type of which we were not able to identify in the excavation.

After the excavation, the finds were restored by Balázs Lukács in the laboratory of the Works of Art Conservation and Restoration Department of HNM. During excavation, soil was left inside the socketed tools (*Fig. 7. 1; Fig. 8. 10*). It turned out that the axe's socket was filled with two additional objects (*Fig. 8. 10–12*). Therefore, this axe was delivered to the University of Pannonia in Veszprém. Owing to a generous offer by Vice Dean Róbert Kurdi, a CT analysis of the socketed axe was performed by András Kovács at the institute's laboratory. The longitudinal cuts of the 3D model revealed that two amorphous bronze lumps were placed inside this socketed axe (*Fig. 11*). The blocking of the sockets of axes and spearheads is part of a widely distributed hoard-related phenomenon throughout Europe, and examples of this kind of object manipulation are also known from Transdanubia. Research has often interpreted such arrangements or 'miniature hoards' within the hoards as the results of an intentional and symbolic act related to ritual deposition (Hansen 1998; Dietrich, Mörtz 2019; Tarbay 2022, 121–122, 140, Fig. 5. 13). Filling the sockets of axes with lumps also has analogies; as an example, the axe with a blocked socket from the Kladky 3 hoard from the Czech Republic can be mentioned (Vích 2012, 256–257, Fig. 26. 2, 4–5, Fig. 28). After the original position of the lumps had been documented by CT and photographs, the objects were removed by Balázs Lukács, allowing us to study them separately and record the exact dimensions of all three objects of the 'miniature hoard'.

Socketed gouge (No. 1)

The hoard contained a socketed gouge, a rare specialist tool that may be identified as part of the LBA woodworking toolkit. The gouge from Somló Hill was deposited in a relatively intact state. Only a part of the cutting edge had been damaged prior to deposition (*Fig. 7. 1*). From a technological point of view, the object is a finished product; all casting seams have been removed along its narrow sides and the top of the collar. The small misrun defect right below the collar was a minor casting failure that did not prevent using this tool as intended.

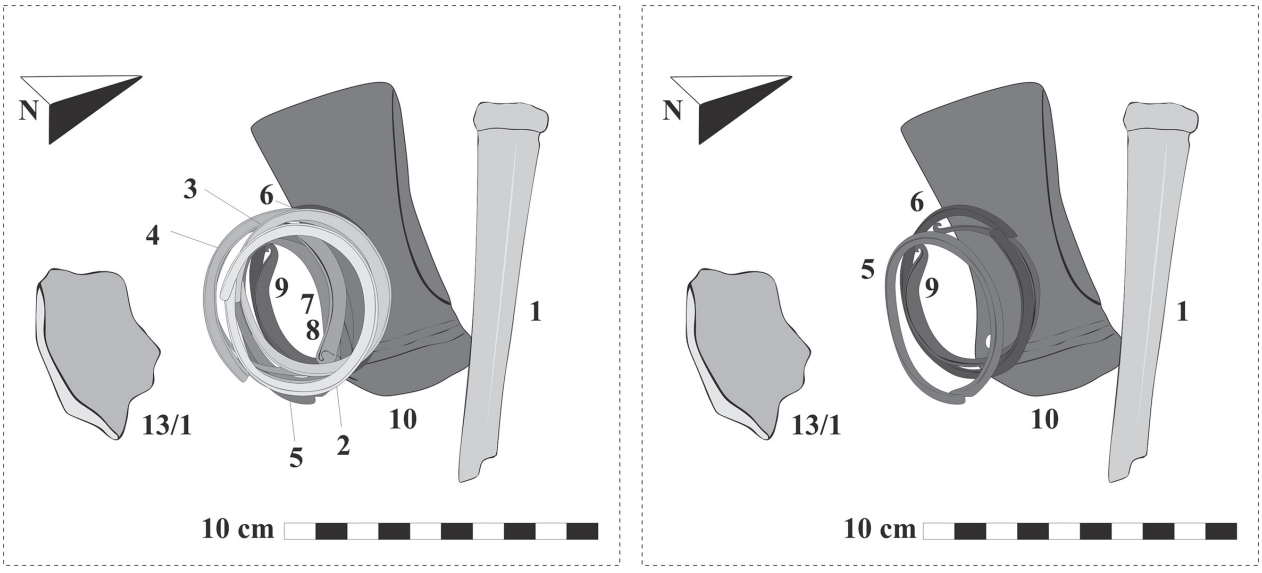


Fig. 6. Context of Hoard II of Somló Hill
6. kép. A II. somlói depó kontextusa

Fig. 7. Hoard II of Somló Hill. 1: gouge; 2–6: Lovasberény type bracelets; 7: bracelet with rolled terminals
7. kép. A II. Somló-hegyi depó. 1: hornyolt élű véső; 2–6: Lovasberény típusú karperecek;
7: visszapödrött végű karperec

Fig. 8. Hoard II of Somló Hill. 8–9: bracelets with rolled terminals; 10: pseudo-winged socketed axe; 11–12: lumps
8. kép. A II. Somló-hegyi depó. 8–9: visszapödrött végű karperecek; 10: pszeudoszárnyas tokosbalta; 11–12: bronzrögök

Gouges cannot be considered precise chronological markers as they appear in a relatively large territory and have no particular typological traits that would allow for a specific dating (Hampel 1896, 31–32; Hansen 1994, 150–154; Bălan 2009, 29, 33–36). Similar tools with thick rims can be dated between the Br D–Ha A1 and Ha B1–Ha B2 phases. The following analogies, from hoards or stray finds, can be mentioned: Belica: 'Ha A2' rather Phase II/Br D-Ha A1 (Vidović 1989, 457–459, Pl. 5. 4); Bingula-Divoš: Phase II/Br D–Ha A1 (Vinski-Gasparini 1973, Pl. 84. 9); Bükkaranyos (Kemenczei 1984, 145, Pl. 120. 10); Debrecen III: Ha B1 (Mozsolics 1985, 111–112, Pl. 264. 2; Tarbay 2018, 667–668); Tata-Dunamellék: Ha B1–Ha B2 (Kemenczei 1996, Pl. 11. 5; Tarbay 2018, 667–668); Gran/Esztergom (Novotná 1970, 69, Pl. 25. 435); Uioara de Sus: Ha A1 (Bălan 2009, 36, Pl. 7. 64b, f).

Pseudo-winged axe (No. 10)

The hoard contained a wide and large pseudo-winged socketed axe with a loop below its collar (*Fig. 8. 10*). Like the socketed gouge, this object was also a finished product. Most of the casting seams along its concave sides have been removed. There are traces of comprehensive hammering along its blade and cutting edge well visible along all sides of this part. This axe has an asymmetrical blade, suggesting that it has been used, and its current cutting-edge outline results from cyclical re-shaping by hammering and sharpening (see Ottaway, Roberts 2003). The unrestored find also bore dents breaking the patina layer; these might have been modern, occurring during the transportation of the objects (*Fig. 10*). In sum, the pseudo-winged axe was a finished and used product deposited in a reversible way (i.e. in a condition that allowed for its later recovery and use).

A stylistic counterpart of this tool is known from the Transdanubian record, i.e. from the Late Urnfield settlement of Gór-Kápolnadomb, where a casting mould depicting a similar axe was excavated in Quadrant L-6, Pit 'b' (Ilon 1996, 174, Pl. 1. 2). The find from Gór supports the local production of this axe type even though most close analogies come from outside the territory of the Transdanubian Urnfield Culture. Such tools are known from Austria, where they were found as stray finds in Salzburg and Limberg-Heidenstadt (Mayer 1977, 189–190, Pl. 74. 1025, 1027). We are also aware of two similar stray find axes from Donja Dolina, Bosnia and Hercegovina. Based on stylistic arguments, one was dated to the Late Urnfield Period (Ha B2) (Žeravica 1993, 100, Pl. 37. 503), while the other to the turn of the Late Urnfield Period and EIA (950–700 BC) (Žeravica 1993, 103–104, Pl. 38. 525). Socketed axes with similar decoration also appear in Slovakia, e.g. in Nové Mesto nad Váhom and Hradec; however, these finds have no dating value (Novotná 1970, 89, Pl. 38. 675–676).

A large number of analogies have been found in Moravia and Bohemia; e.g. the socketed axes in the Boskovice 3 (Ha B2), Jevičko (Ha A1), Marefy (Ha B1), and Syrovín (Ha B2) hoards in Moravia resemble the find under study. Stylistically, not all of them are close analogies (e.g. Jevičko), as the design of the pseudo-wings and the shape of the tools vary, but they still follow the base concept reflected by the find from Somló Hill (Salaš 2005, Pl. 178. 5, Pl. 328. 8, Pl. 404A. 15, Pl. 428. 8). Recently, a new metal detector stray find which can be associated with the studied socketed axe was published by David Vích from Mikuleč (Vích 2014, 118, 121, Fig. 3. 6). A datable analogy was recovered from the Ha B3 hoard at Hradec Králové-Slezské Předměstí, Bohemia (Kytlicová 2007, 264–265, Pl. 201. 26, Pl. 202. 27). Further analogies, dated between the second half of Period IV (~ Ha B1) and the first half of Period V (~ Ha B2), are known from Poland. The axe from the Ha B1 hoard at Miejsce also shows similar traits, as does another in the Karmin II hoard (Ha B1–B2) (Kuśnierz 1998, 19–21, 91–92, Pl. 4. 56, Pl. 38. 762).

Based on the Jevičko find, the very first 'prototype' of the axes similar to the one found in Somló Hill appeared in the Ha A1 phase. However, the best stylistic counterparts of these objects can be found in hoards deposited in the Ha B phase, particularly between the Ha B1 and Ha B2 phases; an example even appears in the Ha B3 phase (Hradec Králové-Slezské Předměstí). This type of pseudo-winged axe seems to have been common at the end of the LBA (Ha B2 Phase), suggesting that it may be the youngest object in Hoard II of Somló Hill, marking the time of deposition.

Lovasberény-type bracelets (Nos. 2–6)

The hoard also contained five bracelets with a slightly rectangular cross-section and blunt terminals (*Fig. 7. 2–6*). These bracelets can be classified as Lovasberény-type, made from cast and hammered rods. Such ornaments were worn on the upper arm and/or the wrist. Lovasberény-type bracelets were found in a handful of graves; so far, these indicate that they were part of the jewellery of adult women and chil-

Fig. 9. A. Late Urnfield potsherds (excavation ID 13/1–13/2) found beside (13/2) and under (13/1) the hoard; B.1–5: selection of potsherds from the trench of Hoard II
9. kép. A. 13/1–13/2 késő urnamezős kerámia, mely a kincslelet mellett (13/2) és alatt (13/1) került elő; B 1–5: válogatás a II. depó szondájából előkerült kerámiaedény-töredékek közül

dren. They are relatively common in hoards, mainly between the Ha A1 and Ha B1 phases. Similar bracelets scatter between Switzerland and west Ukraine, with a concentration in the western and north-eastern parts of the Carpathian Basin. Based on the radiocarbon dates of the Ivanovice na Hané assemblage (1028–895 cal BC) and the relative chronological position of most analogies, they represent the Ha B1 phase (Parma et al. 2018, 324–334, Fig. 4; reviewed by Tarbay 2022, 41–44, Fig. 2. 5).

Bracelets with rolled terminals (Nos. 7–9)
The three sheet metal bracelets with rolled terminals (Nos. 7–9) have a slightly triangular cross-section and a decoration consisting of bundles of a fishbone-like pattern on the back (*Fig. 7. 7; Fig. 8. 8–9*). These bracelets are also castings, made probably in two-piece moulds with a negative and a flat side, and their terminals have been hammered flat and rolled up. They were decorated after casting by a simple chased pattern. The patterns are blurred and incomplete due to corrosion and/or prolonged use. Similar bracelet types, mainly with a flat-hammered body and unique pattern, emerged in Transdanubia in the Ha A1 phase; the best examples are known from hoards such as the ones discovered at Márok, Esztergom, or on a neighbouring site in Kisapáti (Mozsolics 1985, Pl. 92. 12–14, 16–17, 20, Pl. 135A; Tarbay 2022, Pl. 32. 109–111). Such ornaments are also known from assemblages from Transylvania, Serbia, northern Croatia, and Bavaria, dated mainly to the Br D (Mintraching), Br D–Ha A1, or Ha A1 phases (Müller-Karpe 1959, Pl. 150A. 4–5; Vinski-Gasparini 1973, Pl. 79. 12; Mozsolics 1985, Pl. 92. 12–14, 16–17, 20; Petrescu-Dîmboviţa 1998, 185–187; Jacanović, Padojčić 2001, Pl. 14. 1–3, 5). Younger examples are also known from France (Vénat – Final Bronze Age) (Coffyn et al. 1981, Pl. 29. 23–24, 27).

Lumps (Nos. 11–12)
One of the bronze lumps is roundish (*Fig. 8. 11*), while the other has an irregular, elongated shape (*Fig. 8. 12*). Both are casting byproducts; probably molten bronze unintentionally spilt or dripped solidified like this. As such waste pieces have considerable weight and, thus, metal content, craftsmen tended to re-collect them for recycling. Local examples of this practice can be found in Hoard II of Celldömölk-Ság-hegy and the hoard of Románd (Németh, Torma 1965, Pl. 24; Mozsolics 2000, Pl. 124. 27–31). The presence of such objects, along with stray finds of similar character from Somló Hill, suggests that bronze objects were produced at the site.

Potsherd (No. 13)
A potsherd (*Fig. 9A. 13/1*) was found right beside the bracelets (*Figs. 4–5; Fig. 6. 13/1*), while another fragment of the same pot (No. 13/2) was recovered slightly under it (*Fig. 6*). The two sherds are matching fragments of a vessel's shoulder. The vessel was decorated with alternating incised horizontal lines and dense rows of incised oval dots. This decoration was classified by Dular as Type O 24 (*Waagerechte Rollrädchenlinien*), appearing on settlements dated mainly between the Ha B (Ha B1, Ha B2/3) and Ha C0 phases (Dular 2013, 53, 58, Fig. 15. O 24).

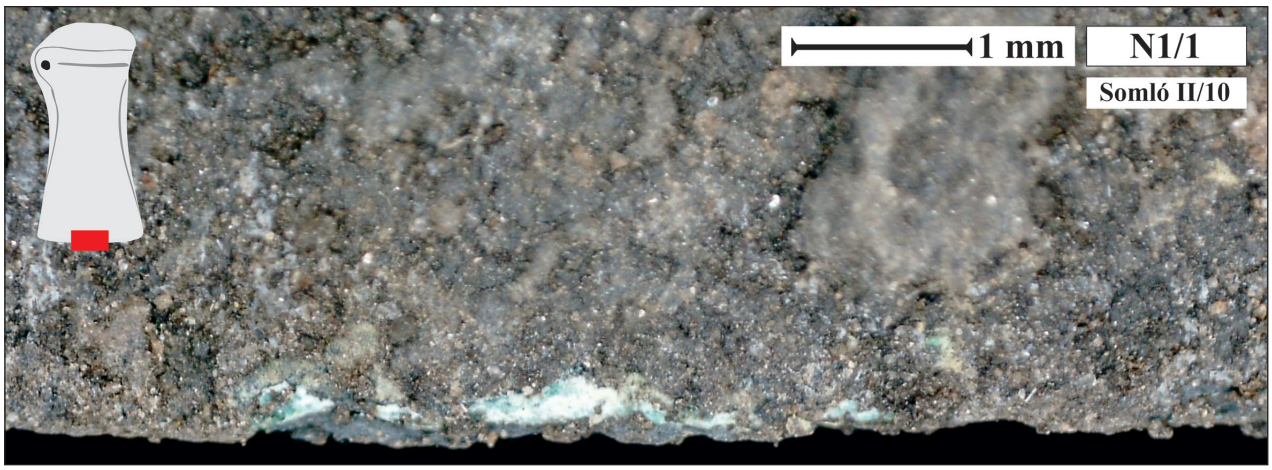


Fig. 10. Microscope images of dents and patina breaks on the cutting edge of pseudo-winged socketed axe No. 10 (unrestored when the images were taken)
10. kép. A 10. tokosbalta élén csorbulást és patinatörést mutató nyomok mikroszkópkamera-felvételen (a felvétel restaurálatlan állapotban készült)

Towards the interpretation of Hoard II of Somló

Hoard II was found in an Urnfield settlement context, as confirmed by the objects found above and below the *in situ* hoard (*Fig. 9B. 1–5*) and the numerous stray potsherds and metal finds scattered on the plateau. However, no settlement layer or well-defined settlement feature could be observed in the relatively small trench, and the upper part of the hoard may likely have been disturbed by taphonomical processes or agricultural work. However, the metal objects were found in their original position, and their arrangement reflected an intentional grouping and way of depositioning instead of random accumulation.

The find context gives us information on the relations between the objects and on the process of intentional deposition. Based on the relative positions of the finds, the socketed axe filled with two lumps was placed first. The chisel was placed right beside it, with its edge facing the opposite direction, in the next phase. The depositors also heaped the bracelets on top of each other (*Fig. 6*). The deposition of (especially Lovasberény-type) bracelets in heaps is a phenomenon appearing in other hoards not only in Transdanubia but also in Central Europe (see Tarbay 2022, 29–30, Fig. 1. 12). Based on their similar sizes, the selection of specimens of a single type, and that one person wore multiple ornaments in this period, these objects should

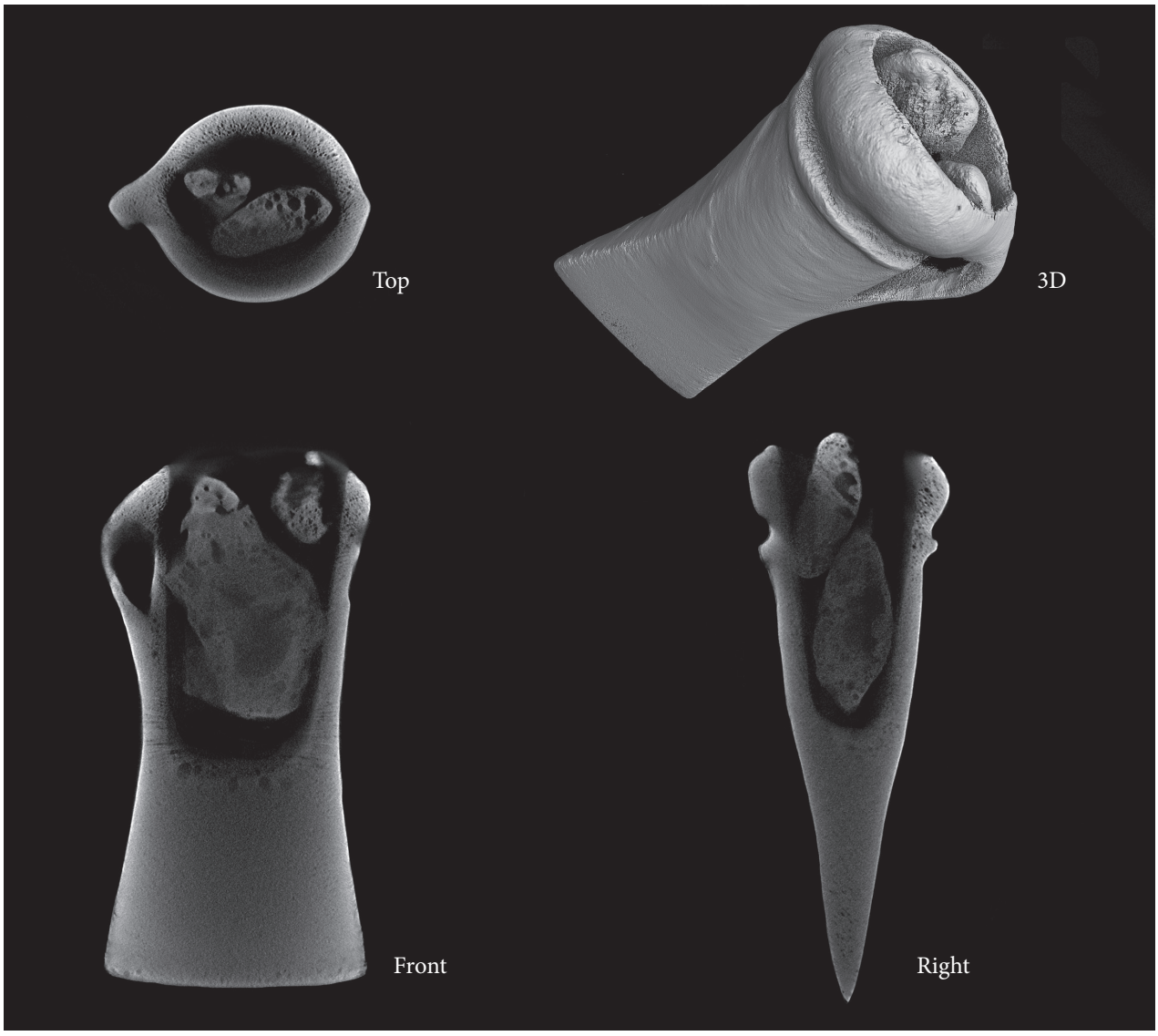


Fig. 11. CT image of pseudo-winged socketed axe No. 10 containing two lumps (Nos. 11–12) (images by András Kovács, University of Pannonia, Veszprém)
11. kép. A bronzrögöket (Nr. 11–12) tartalmazó pszeudoszárnyas tokosbalta (Nr. 10) CT-felvétele (a képeket készítette: Kovács András, Pannon Egyetem, Veszprém)

probably be interpreted as sets belonging to a single person or two. Overall, the finds from Hoard II of Somló Hill may have been the possessions of a few people.

Considering the content of the assemblage, the main object types (bracelets, tools, and metalworking byproducts) are average hoard components in Transdanubia. Hoard II of Somló Hill contains mainly finished products, in some cases used ones, such as the pseudo-winged axe, and probably heavily worn ones, such as the bracelets with rolled-up terminals. Two finds can be interpreted as byproducts of metallurgical activity. Despite their relatively profane character, their find context indicated manipulation, as they were stuck inside the socket of the axe, which research considers to be the result of a ritual act related primarily to hoarding. The hoard is completely reversible; that is, no find bears a mark of intentional breaking, all objects are complete, and only the gouge shows some damage, which but may be due to rough and improper use. This condition seems relatively unique compared to contemporary Ha B1–Ha B2 hoards in Transdanubia. Currently, no coeval excavated depots are known from Transdanubia but Hoards A and B from Budakeszi; in most cases, such assemblages are prone to be destroyed and manipulated upon and after discovery, which might be a reason why the items in most such features of the period are fragmentary (see Kemenczei 1996; Mozsolics 2000; Tarbay 2022, 136–148).

The typo-chronological analysis of the findings supports the idea that the act of deposition may have taken place sometime in Ha B1 or, based on the pseudo-winged socketed axe, Ha B2 phase. At the moment, we can most accurately describe the assemblage as Ha B1–Ha B2. The entire chronological spectrum of the objects and their period of use probably spanned a long time (especially the bracelets with rolled ends, which show uncertain signs of wear and are typical representatives of a much earlier fashion). Lovasberény-type bracelets are also present in the Transdanubian record of a longer period. It cannot, therefore, be ruled out that the accumulation of the ornament set could have spanned several periods.

In sum, based on the current results of the research programme, we can characterise Hoard II of Somló Hill relatively well. It has been found in a settlement, was deliberately deposited during the Ha B1–Ha B2 phases, and is reversible, i.e. all included objects were interred in a condition which allowed for their later recovery and use. The finds may belonged to a few people. The manipulation of the socketed axe and lumps is what may point to a ritual context; at the same time, the motives behind the creation of the hoard are still unclear and, therefore, its interpretation may change a lot after the re-investigation of the area of the small trench by a new excavation and a geophysical survey, which may improve our understanding of the detailed settlement structure in the south-eastern plateau and its temporal and spatial relationship with Hoard II of Somló Hill.

Conclusions

In this paper, the very first results of an ongoing research programme are presented. Our work started with an overview of previous works about Somló Hill, starting from the first papers by Kleiszl and Darnay until the most recent thoughts formulated by contemporary Hungarian scholars. Owing to the metal detector survey, our results primarily provide new information on the inhabitation of the south-eastern plateau. In this case, we can conclude that the site can be dated between the Br C and Ha B2 phases, and this dating can be well defined by characteristic chronological markers, including metal stray finds such as ornaments, tools, and weapons. A new aspect of Somló Hill was the presence of hoards, of which, in this case, we published Hoard II, excavated in 2023. This hoard is a deliberately deposited assemblage of carefully arranged objects from the Ha B1–Ha B2 phases. It was placed within an intensive Urnfield settlement on the south-eastern plateau, marked by stray potsherds and metal finds. The hoard is primarily intact, comprised of three main components, and consists of personal objects and ornament sets, probably of local people. In the present study, we have carried out a basic characterisation of the finds, outlining the typological and technological features of the objects and drawing conclusions from the excavation context. Although the arrangement, selection of finds, and manipulation of the axe indicate a ritual hoard, the interpretation of the assemblage remains open until our topographical knowledge is further expanded in the next phases of the research programme as so we can formulate an opinion on the spatial and temporal relations between the settlement features and the hoard.

Catalogue

Somló Hill, Hoard II

1. *Socketed gouge* (inv. no. 2023.10.1) (field ID: 1). Socketed gouge with a thick collar and oval cross-section. Its cutting edge is broken. A misrun defect is visible below the collar. Length 117.64 mm, diameter (rim) 27.27 × 22.35 mm, diameter (body) 14.62 × 13.56 mm, width (edge) 17.62 mm, weight 102.1 g (*Fig. 7. 1*).
2. *Bracelet* (2023.10.2) (field ID: 2). Bracelet with blunt terminals and oval cross-section. Diameter 54.06 × 54.43 (outer) mm, diameter (inner) 47.55 × 44.80 mm, thickness 4.09 × 3.70 mm, weight 13 g (*Fig. 7. 2*).
3. *Bracelet* (2023.10.3) (field ID: 3). Bracelet with blunt terminals and rectangular cross-section. Diameter (outer) 51.64 × 52.57 mm, diameter (inner) 44.29 × 44.47 mm, thickness 3.64 × 3.54 mm, weight 12.8 g (*Fig. 7. 3*).
4. *Bracelet* (2023.10.4) (field ID: 4). Bracelet with blunt terminals and rectangular cross-section. Diameter (outer) 55.11 × 54.60 mm, diameter (inner) 48.68 × 46.36 mm, thickness 3.27 × 3.51 mm, weight 12.1 g (*Fig. 7. 4*).
5. *Bracelet* (2023.10.5) (field ID: 6). Bracelet with blunt terminals and rectangular cross-section. Diameter (outer) 50.81 × 55.11 mm, diameter (inner) 44.32 × 46.90 mm, thickness 3.71 × 3.68 mm, weight 13.4 g (*Fig. 7. 5*).
6. *Bracelet* (2023.10.6) (field ID: 7/1). Bracelet with blunt terminals and rectangular cross-section. Diameter (outer) 53.55 × 54.72 mm, diameter (inner) 46.92 × 47.96 mm, thickness 3.41 × 3.59 mm, weight 12.7 g (*Fig. 7. 6*).
7. *Bracelet* (2023.10.7) (field ID: 5/1). Sheet metal bracelet with a rolled rim and a low triangular cross-section. An incised pattern consisting of cross-hatched triangles runs on its back. Diameter (outer) 50.02 × 47.87 mm, diameter (inner) 46.17 × 39.51 mm, thickness 7.21 × 1.91 mm, weight 11.3 g (*Fig. 7. 7*).
8. *Bracelet* (2023.10.8) (field ID: 5/2). Sheet metal bracelet with a rolled rim, a low triangular cross-section, and an incised pattern consisting of opposing bundles of triangles along its back. Diameter (outer) 48.26 × 50.45 mm, diameter (inner) 45.92 × 63.37 mm, thickness 8.06 × 1.94 mm, weight 12 g (*Fig. 8. 8*).
9. *Bracelet* (2023.10.9) (field ID: 7/2). Sheet metal bracelet with a rolled rim, a low triangular cross-section, and an incised pattern consisting of opposing bundles of triangles along its back. Most of the pattern had worn off by corrosion. Diameter (outer) 47.47 × 46 mm, diameter (inner) 43.82 × 39.87 mm, thickness 7.78 × 1.51 mm, weight 10.2 g (*Fig. 8. 9*).
10. *Socketed axe* (2023.10.10) (excavation ID: 8/1, 2–3). Socketed axe with a thick collar, a loop, and pseudo-wings along its narrow sides. A horizontal rib is visible at the bottom of the collar. The object features a slight vertical mismatch defect. Upon discovery, its socket was filled with two amorphous and long lumps, revealed by CT images (*Fig. 11*). Its casting seams have been removed, and the tool's cutting edge is asymmetric, thoroughly hammered, and sharpened, with dents of uncertain origin. Length 96.71 mm, diameter (collar) 47.57 × 34.93 mm, width (with loop) 47.31 mm, diameter (body) 34.63 × 20.68 mm, width (cutting edge) 47.71 mm, weight 316.2 g (with lumps and dirt), weight 259.3 g (without lumps) (*Fig. 8. 10*).
11. *Lump* (2023.10.10) (field ID: 8/2). Roundish, amorphous, long bronze lump removed from the socket of axe No. 10 during restoration. A CT image of the object shows numerous pores inside the object. Diameter 25.96 × 22.73 mm, thickness 9.8 mm, weight 16.4 g (*Fig. 8. 11; Fig. 11*).
12. *Lump* (2023.10.10) (field ID: 8/3). Amorphous long bronze lump removed from the socket of axe No. 10 during restoration. A CT image of the object shows numerous pores inside the object. Diameter 24.95 × 47.35 mm, thickness 13.17–5.33 mm, weight 36.9 g (*Fig. 8. 12; Fig. 11*).
13. *Potsherd* (2023.10.11) (field ID: 9). Belly and neck, two matching fragments of a hand-shaped dark brown pot with light brown-yellow inside, made from sand-tempered clay and decorated with incised patterns: alternating circular lines and rows of oblique, oval strokes. Fragment 1: diameter 55.90 × 55.27 mm, thickness 5.67 mm, weight 20.8 g; Fragment 2: diameter 30.92 × 43.08 mm, thickness 5.51 mm, weight 10.8 g (*Fig. 9. A.13/1–2*).

Somló Hill, stray finds

1. *Lump* (2023.14.1). A flat, amorphous lump. 35.46 × 33.51 mm, thickness 8.5 mm, weight 33.2 g (*Fig. 2. 1*).

2. *Oval ingot* (2023.14.2). Plano-convex, oval ingot. 53.52 × 30.70 mm, thickness 11.82 mm, weight 65.6 g (*Fig. 2. 2*).
3. *Casting jet* (2023.14.3). Large casting jet with an oval cross-section and a mismatch defect. 40.87 × 22.49 mm, thickness 16.49–6.29 mm, weight 37.1 g (*Fig. 2. 3*).
4. *Sword* (2023.14.4). Blade fragment of a bronze sword with a protruding midrib. 33.90 × 27.31 mm, thickness 9.08 mm, weight 24 g (*Fig. 2. 4*).
5. *Axe* (2023.14.5). Blade fragment of an axe. The blade is hammered, and the cutting edge is slightly bent due to use. 51.71 × 22.51 mm, thickness 6.91 mm, weight 30.9 g (*Fig. 2. 5*).
6. *Arrowhead* (2023.14.6). Socketed, barbed arrowhead. Its cutting edge is hammered. Length 41.26 mm, width 21.84 mm, diameter of the socket 5.86 × 7.62 mm, weight 3.2 g (*Fig. 2. 6*).
7. *Pin* (2023.14.7). Vase-headed pin with a bent shaft. 101.79 × 56.01 mm, thickness of the shaft 2.9 × 2.92 mm, thickness of the head 8.7 × 8.89 mm, weight 8.3 g (*Fig. 2. 7*).
8. *Dagger* (2023.14.8). Hilt-plated dagger with a rounded butt and two hammered pegs. Hammering traces are visible on its hilt and along its cutting edge. The object is sharpened, and its surface is ground. Length 138.23 mm, width of the hilt plate 28.58 mm, width of the blade 25.78 mm, thickness 3.36 mm, weight 35.7 g (*Fig. 2. 8*).
9. *Spearhead* (2023.14.9). A melted spearhead with a leaf-shaped blade and an emphasised midrib. At least six tool impact marks are visible on the surface. Length 114.02 mm, width of the socket 30.09 mm, width of the blade 28.16 mm 79.6 g (*Fig. 3. 9*).
10. *Socketed axe* (2023.14.10). Socketed axe with a thick collar, one fan-shaped blade, and two pseudo-wings. The tool's blade is hammered, and its cutting edge is asymmetric. Length 91.79 mm, diameter (collar) 32.22 × 23.52 mm, diameter (body) 26.13 × 17.26 mm, width (cutting edge) 40.61 mm, weight 114.7 g (*Fig. 3. 10*).
11. *Ring* (2023.14.11). Small annular ring with a rhomboid cross-section. A mismatch and an incomplete defect are visible on the object. 15.40 × 15.33 mm, thickness 1.73 × 1.98 mm, weight 0.7 g (*Fig. 3. 11*).
12. *Bracelet* (2023.14.12). Fragment of a bracelet with an oval cross-section decorated with a delicate pattern. Length 49.79 mm, thickness 10.37 × 3.39 mm, weight 11.3 g (*Fig. 3. 12*).
13. *Knife* (2023.14.13). Hilt fragment of a flange-hilted knife decorated with line bundles. 33.35 × 13.50 mm, thickness 11.16 mm, weight 16.5 g (*Fig. 3. 13*).
14. *Dagger* (2023.14.14). Upper fragment of a flange-hilted Peschiera-type dagger. It has two peg holes and a leaf-shaped blade with a rhomboid cross-section. Length 71.89 mm, width of the hilt 12.09 × 5.77 mm, width of the blade 11.79 × 3.28 mm, weight 17 g (*Fig. 3. 14*).

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Notes

1 „[E]zektől nem nagy távolságban egy lapos, élére állított kő mellett egy 19 cmeter hosszú bronz lándzsacsúcs szép zöld patinával. E körül voltak még vékonyabb, de már csaknem tökéletesen elenyészett bronz lemezkék s kis sodrony karikák, melyek gyűrűnagyságuknál fogva lánczra engednek következtetni, annál is inkább, mert három egymásba maradt szemet lánczalakban sikerült megmentenem."

2 https://ivo.lechnerkozpont.hu/

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A KÉSŐ BRONZKORI SOMLÓ-HEGY ÉS EGY ÚJ BRONZDEPÓ

Összefoglalás

2023 januárjában a Magyar Nemzeti Múzeum Nemzeti Régészeti Intézete egy új kutatási programot indított, melynek célja, hogy felderítse az elmúlt száz évben az őskori régészeti kutatások szempontjából viszonylag elhanyolt Somló-hegy (Veszprém megye) késő bronzkori és kora vaskori településtörténetét. A 19. század óta ismert lelőhely késő bronzkorával a hazai szakirodalomban többen is foglalkoztak. A legelső munka, amely egy mára már elveszett késő bronzkori depót említ, Kleiszl Károly nevéhez köthető (Kleiszl 1885). Megkerülhetetlenek Darnay Kálmán művei, aki kitartó munkája során számos keltező értékű leletegyüttest, szórványt gyűjtött össze és publikált a korabeli tudományos közösség számára (Darnay 1889; Darnay 1904). A Darnay által közölt leletanyag szolgált alapul a későbbi topográfiai irányultságú (Bakay et al. 1970), továbbá időrendi és kulturális kérdéseket feszegető munkák számára (Patek 1968; Bándi 1982; Kőszegi 1988; Ilon 2018). A Somló-hegyet a késő bronzkor és kora vaskor között folyamatosan lakott (Patek 1968), stratégiai helyen fekvő lelőhelyként ismerjük, melyről néhányan úgy tartják, hogy az urnamezős kultúra egyik „gazdasági és politikai" központja volt Velem-Szent Vidhez, Celldömölk-Sághegyhez és Várvölgyhöz hasonlóan (Bándi 1982; Ilon 2018, 14–15, 32). A Somló-hegy értékelése elsősorban nem új ásatási anyagok, hanem a korábban előkerült, a nagy kiterjedésű a hegyen belül nem minden esetben egyértelműen meghatározható lelőhelyű szórvány és síranyag alapján történt meg. Történeti rekonstrukcióját a fent említett, környező urnamezős lelőhelyeken tapasztalható jelenségek alapján körvonalazták. A lelőhely késő bronzkori megtelepedésének szisztematikus terepi kutatására viszont nem került sor.

A szóban forgó időszak esetében az új tudományos program ezt a hiányosságot kíséreli meg pótolni. A jelenlegi kutatási fázis elsősorban önkéntesek bevonásával végzett fémkereső-műszeres lelőhely-felderítés segítségével szolgáltatott új előzetes eredményeket a Somló-hegyről. Az újonnan talált fémszórványok nagy része a lelőhely délkeleti platójáról származik. A több százra tehető késő bronzkori tárgyak között kis méretű eszköztöredékek (balták, sarlók, kések), ékszerek (dísztűk, karperecek, csüngők, pitykék, kis méretű zárt karikák, bronzgyöngyök), továbbá meglepően sok és változatos fegyver (kard, olvadt lándzsahegy, tőr, szakállas nyílhegyek) került elő. A szórványok nagy száma miatt jelenlegi tanulmányunkban csak a kronológiai szempontból meghatározó, kulcsfontosságú leletek rövid ismeretésére vállalkoztunk (*2–3. kép*). A 2023-as kutatási évad tárgyait a jövőben egy önálló munkában kívánjuk közzétenni. Az elsők között említhetünk ezen válogatásból egy Haidlfing típusú nyéllemezes tőrt, amely a Somló-hegy viszonylag korai (Rei. Bz C) megtelepedéséről ad számot (*2. kép 8*). Ugyancsak a korai időszak tárgya egy Peschiera stílusú tőr, amelynek Dunántúlon és Itália területén egyaránt ismertek párhuzamai a Rei. Bz D és Ha A1 periódus depóiból és sírleleteiből egyaránt (*3. kép 14*). Külön figyelmet érdemel egy részlegesen olvadt, szándékosan rongált bronzlándzsa, melyhez hasonlókat hamvasztásos rítusú sírleletek mellékleteiből és temetkezési depókból ismerünk. A profilált középbordás, valószínűleg levél alakú pengével bíró lándzsahegy a Ha A1 és Ha B1-es periódusok között a leggyakoribb, nemcsak a Dunántúl területén, de általában a Kár-

pát-medencében is (*3. kép 9*). Valószínűleg már a Ha B1-es, hagyományosabb megközelítések alapján Ha A2-Ha B1-es időszakot jelöli ki a Vadena típusú késnyéltöredék, melynek párhuzamait az Alpoktól Észak-Európáig ismerjük. Ez esetben a lengyeli öntőforma és a velemi, illetve komárom-szőnyi késleletek alapján a tárgy helyi dunántúli eredetét ennek ellenére sem zárhatjuk ki (*3. kép 13*). A Ha B periódus hangsúlyos jelenlétét a délkeleti platón több szórvány is alátámasztani látszik. Ezek között említhető egy pszeudoszárnyas tokosbalta (*3. kép 10*), egy vázafejű tű (*2. kép 7*), továbbá az északkelet-Kárpát-medencei, csehországi és alpi kapcsolatú rojtdíszes nyitott karperecek, melyek közül itt egy darabot adtunk közre (*3. kép 12*). A fent bemutatott leletek a délkeleti plató teljes késő bronzkori megtelepedését jelenleg a Rei. Bz C és Ha B2 közé helyezik, a legtöbb szórvány a Ha B-re datál. A szórványok mellett a 2023-as kutatási évadban előkerült még összesen négy kincslelet: három késő bronzkori (Somló-hegy I–III) és egy kora vaskori (Somló-hegy IV) depó. Mivel ezen leletegyüttesek összetett deponálási mintázatot mutatnak, több száz tárgyból épülnek fel, ezért jelen tanulmányban és az ugyanezen folyóiratban közölt, a Somló-hegy kora vaskori kérdéseivel foglalkozó írásban (Soós et al. 2023) a legkisebb és már restaurált leletegyüttesek (Somló-hegy II és IV) bemutatására vállakozunk.

A II. Somló-hegyi depót 2023. június 28-án találta meg Budai Győző Csaba, a Magyar Nemzeti Múzeum Közösségi Régészeti Programjának önkéntes fémkeresőse egy Péterváry Tamás által vezetett, a Közösségi Régészeti Program keretében végzett terepi kutatás során (*4–6. kép*). A leletegyüttes feltárására másnap került sor. Köszönhetően annak, hogy a tárgyakat a megtaláló eredeti találási helyzetükből nem mozgatta ki, a depóegyüttes tárgyait *in situ*, bolygatatlan helyzetben tudtuk feltárni. A feltárást több fázisban végeztük el egy viszonylag kis méretű szondán belül (*4–5. kép*). Munkánk során településréteget vagy objektum foltját nem lehetett megfigyelni, a szonda betöltésében viszont jelentős számú (103 db) kerámiaedény-töredék (*9. kép B. 1–5*) és kisebb mennyiségű állatcsont került elő, ami a platón talált fémszórványok eloszlásának fényében azt a képet erősíti, hogy a depóegyüttest településen belül áshatták el (*1. kép*). A település és/vagy objektumok rétegeit részben a művelés, részben pedig tafonómiai folyamatok miatt nem tudtuk észlelni, ennek tisztázására a jövőben további ásatás és geofizikai felmérés révén kerülhet majd sor. A leletegyüttes tartalma egy hornyolt élű tokosvéső (*7. kép 1*), öt Lovasberény típusú karperec (*7. kép 2–6*), három visszapödrött végű karperec (*7. kép 7; 8. kép 8–9*), egy tokosbalta (*8. kép 10*) és két bronzrög (*8. kép 11–12*). A depóval egy szinten és töredékben alatta előkerült még egy kerámia, amelyen a Dular-féle, a Ha B és Ha C0 között elterjedt O 24-es díszítés látható (*9. kép A. 13/1–2*). A tárgyak egy része (hornyolt élű véső, bronzrögök) több periódusban keresztül deponált leleteknek számítanak (*7. kép 1; 8. kép 11–12*). A Lovasberény típusú karperecek szintén több korszakon keresztül jellemzők (Ha A1–Ha B1) (*7. kép 2–6*). A leletegyüttes deponálási idejét egy tárgy, a pszeudoszárnyas tokosbalta jelöli ki, amely dunántúli, cseh, észak-balkáni, alpi és lengyelországi párhuzamai alapján elsősorban a Ha B1 és Ha B2-re keltezhető, gyakorivá a Ha B2-es kincsegyüttesekben válik (*8. kép 10*). A II. depóban megtalálhatók korábbi divathoz köthető tárgyak is, mint a visszapödrött végű karperecek, melyekhez hasonló ékszerek a Kárpát-medencei leletanyagban alapvetően a Br D/Ha A1 és Ha A1 korszakában gyakoribbak (*7. kép 7; 8. kép 8–9*). Technológiai szempontból – a két rögöt leszámítva, melyek formájuk alapján az öntés során keletkezett melléktermékként értelmezhetők – az összes tárgy késztermékként határozható meg (*8. kép 11–12*). Egyértelmű őskori használati nyomot a tokosbaltán lehetett megállapítani egy élaszimmetria formájában, illetve valószínűleg modern eredetű csorbulásokat a vágóél mentén (*8. kép 10; 10. kép*). Bizonytalan, akár hosszú idejű használatra utaló kopásokat a visszapödrött végű karpereceken írtunk le. A II. somlói depóban elhelyezett tárgyak épek szemben a korabeli leletekkel, mindössze egy kisebb sérülést láthatunk a hornyolt élű véső pengéjén, de ennek okai akár használatból is eredhetnek. A tárgyak elhelyezése a depón belül szándékosságra utal. A baltát és a vésőt éllel ellentétesen fektették le, majd a tokosbaltára helyezték el a karpereceket, egy kisebb kupacban, úgy, hogy a Lovasberény típusú darabok közrefogták a visszapödrött végű változatokat (*4–6. kép*). Karékszerek ilyesfajta felhalmozása, avagy készletként való deponálása ismert jelenség a Dunántúl és Közép-Európa területén feltárt, dokumentált kontextusú depókból. Kiemelhető még, hogy a deponálás előtt a tokosbalta belsejébe kis méretű öntecseket szorítottak bele (*8. kép 10–12; 11. kép*). Ez a fajta tárgytársítás széles körben, Európa egészében elterjedt bronzkori deponálási jelenség, melyet a kutatás jellemzően szimbolikus

célokból elvégzett rituális tárgymanipulációként értelmez. A Somló-hegyi II. depó a lelőhely egyik korábban nem ismert aspektusát világítja meg, mely valószínűleg a késő bronzkori település legutolsó időszakához, a Ha B2-es periódushoz kötődik. Jelen kutatási fázisban a leletegyüttes pontos jellemzésére vállalkoztunk, értelmezése még a jövőbeli, kifezetten a település időbeli és térbeli megértését célzó kutatások során változhat, ezért ezt a kérdést jelen munkánkban nem tartjuk lezártnak.