

KOPILA – PODGRAĐE



Istraživanja gradinskog naselja Kopila na zapadnom dijelu otoka Korčule traju još od 2012. godine, a zajedno s Općinom Blato, Centrom za kulturu Vela Luka te Muzejom antičkog stakla u Zadru, u njima od samih početaka sudjeluje i Odjel za arheologiju Sveučilišta u Zadru. Kopila je kao vrlo perspektivan lokalitet prepoznata još sredinom 19. stoljeća (Ostoich 1878: 111–112), a često je na temelju karaktera slučajnih nalaza uvrštena među reprezentante južnojadranskog željeznog doba i rijetke istočnojadranske lokalitete na kojima je ostvaren rani susret ovdašnjeg indigenog stanovništva s grčkim trgovcima (Lisičar 1950: 38; Nikolanci 1973: 111; Marijan 2000). Ipak, neće se pogriješiti ako se



The excavations of the hillfort settlement of Kopila on the western part of the island of Korčula have been ongoing since 2012. The Department of Archaeology of the University of Zadar has been participating in them from the very beginning together with the Municipality of Blato, the Vela Luka Culture Centre and the Museum of Ancient Glass in Zadar. Kopila was recognized as a very promising site as early as the mid-19th century (Ostoich 1878: 111–112), and based on the chance finds, it is often included among the representatives of the south Adriatic Iron Age and the rare east Adriatic sites where the local indigenous population had an early encounter with Greek traders (Lisičar

istakne kako je shvaćanje punog potencijala započelo tek početkom 21. stoljeća otkrićem njezine kasnoželjeznodobne nekropole (Radić, Borzić 2017: 35–60; Borzić 2022). Prostorno podijeljena na dvije izdvojene skupine međusobno spojenih monumentalnih, suhozidno građenih grobnica, višestruko korištenih u razdoblju od 4. do 1. st. pr. Kr., svojim je prepoznatim ukopnim ritualima te popratnim inventarom uvelike osvježila naše poznavanje strukture ovdašnje populacije te njezina položaja u multietničkom i multikulturnom okruženju srednjeg i južnog dijela istočnog Jadrana. Rad na spomenutoj nekropoli do sada nije riješio pitanje ukapanja pripadnika ove zajednice u razdobljima srednjeg i kasnog brončanog te ranog željeznog doba, no da se i na taj segment mora

1950: 38; Nikolanci 1973: 111; Marijan 2000). However, it would not be wrong to emphasize that the understanding of its full potential only began at the beginning of the 21st century with the discovery of its Late Iron Age necropolis (Radić, Borzić 2017: 35–60; Borzić 2022). Spatially divided into two separate groups of interconnected monumental, dry-stone tombs, used repeatedly in the period from the 4th to the 1st century BC, with recognized burial rituals and accompanying inventory, it has greatly improved our knowledge of the structure of the local population and its position in the multiethnic and multicultural environment of the central and southern part of the eastern Adriatic. Work on the aforementioned necropolis has not yet resolved the question of the burial of members of this community in the Middle and Late Bronze Ages and Early Iron Age, but the fact that this segment must also be taken into account is indicated by the still small number of contemporary finds recovered from the fill and substrate of the necropolis and the settlement part of the site.

After eight campaigns carried out in the area of the necropolis and the presentation of the obtained results, in the last two years there was a need for more intensive research of the acropolis and the underground part of the complex, all for the purpose of obtaining as precise data as possible about the periodization of the settlement and the everyday life of its inhabitants. Until now, the research strategy has been limited to smaller trial excavations positioned at different altitude levels of the settlement, with the initial desire to determine the state of the archaeological deposits and thus the real potential of a systematic approach to the selected locations. Namely, it is well known that the entire area where this settlement is located, as indeed most of the island area, outside the already cultivated fields, during the second half of the 19th century, or even earlier, was subjected to intensive agrarian cultivation, i.e. the planting of vineyards whose wine was supposed to satisfy the European market threatened by grapevine disease in the leading Mediterranean production regions (Oreb 2008). It is interesting to note that the aforementioned activities coincide in time with the first news about archaeological finds from the island, which is good on the one hand, but on the



Nekropola gradinskog naselja Kopila (foto: L. Bogdanić)
Necropolis of the hillfort settlement of Kopila (photo: L. Bogdanić)





računati, upućuju još uvijek malobrojni tadašnji nalazi pronalazeni u ispuni i podlozi nekropole te naseobinskom dijelu lokaliteta.

Nakon osam provedenih kampanja na prostoru nekropole te predstavljanja stečenih rezultata, u posljednje dvije godine nametnula se potreba intenzivnijeg istraživanja akropolskog te podgradinskog dijela kompleksa, a sve u svrhu stjecanja što preciznijih podataka o periodizaciji naselja te svakodnevici njegova stanovništva. Istraživačka strategija do sada se svodila na manja probna iskapanja pozicionirana na različitim visinskim nivoima naselja, s prvotnom željom utvrđivanja stanja arheoloških depozita i time realnog potencijala sustavnog pristupa odabranim lokacijama. Naime, dobro je poznato kako je čitav areal na kojem se smjestilo ovo naselje, kao uostalom i većina otočnog prostora, izvan već obrađivanih polja, tijekom druge polovice 19. stoljeća, negdje čak i prije, podvrgnut intenzivnoj agrarnoj kultivaciji, odnosno sadnji vinograda čije je vino trebalo namiriti europsko tržište ugroženo bolešću vinove loze u vodećim mediteranskim proizvodnim regijama (Oreb 2008). Zanimljivo je primijetiti kako navedene aktivnosti vremenski koincidiraju s prvim vijestima o arheološkim nalazima s otoka, što je s jedne strane dobro, ali s druge upućuje na vrlo radikalno negiranje i, s obzirom na okolnosti, opravdane devastacije arheološke baštine.

I dok je godine 2023. za probno iskapanje odabrana pozicija na južnom dijelu akropolskog platoa, na kojem su se uz mnoštvo željeznodobnoga pokretnog materijala prvi put utvrdili i ostatci južnog segmenta bedema te srednjobrončanodobni slojevi naselja, 14C metodom određeni u 16./15. st. pr. Kr., godine 2024. sondiranje se spustilo niže u podgrađe naselja, na katastarsku česticu 6039. Radovi financirani kroz program zaštite arheološke baštine Ministarstva kulture i medija Republike Hrvatske, a aplicirani od Općine Blato, trajali su u razdoblju od 4. do 12. studenoga 2024., a osim potpisnika rada, u njima su sudjelovali još i Dinko Radić (Zavičajni muzej grada Visa) te Lucija Topolko i Ivan Mašković, studenti Odjela za arheologiju Sveučilišta u Zadru.

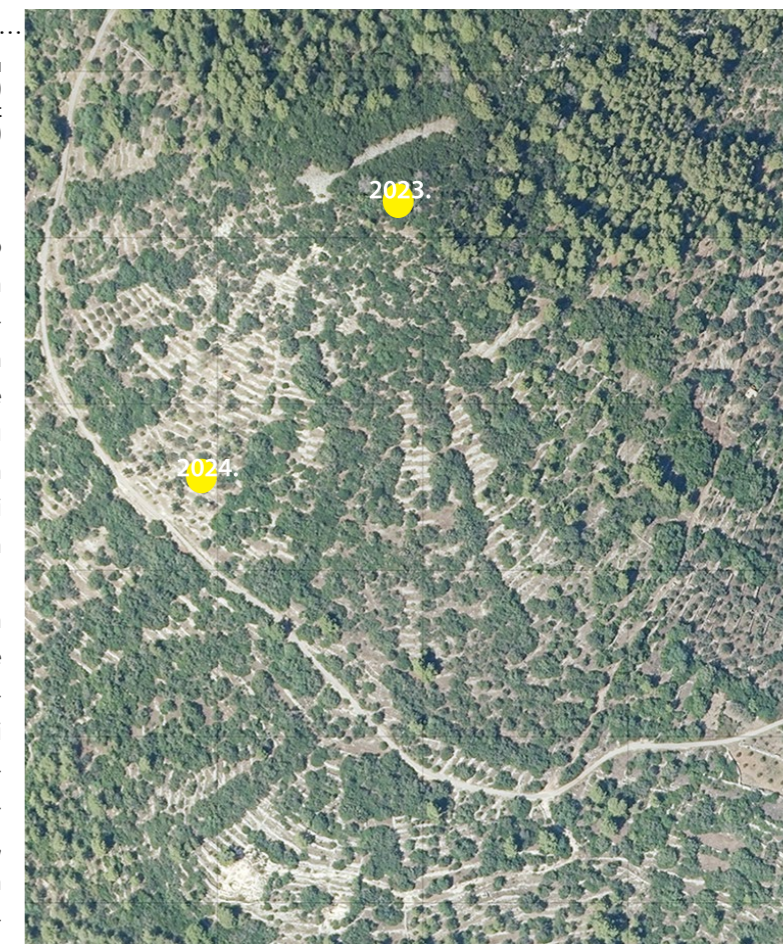
Sonda 1/2024, površine 5 x 2 metra, izdužena je u smjeru sjever-jug na način da je presjekla čitavu širinu poljoprivredne terase na kojoj je pozicionirana. Stratigrafska slika u njoj poprilično je jednostavna i očito je uvjetovana spomenutim procesom kultivacije terena. Nakon potpunog

other hand indicates a very radical denial and, given the circumstances, justified devastation of archaeological heritage.

In 2023, a position was chosen for trial excavations in the southern part of the acropolis plateau, where, in addition to a wealth of Iron Age movable material, the remains of the southern segment of the ramparts and the Middle Bronze Age layers of the settlement were first identified, determined by the 14C method in the 16th/15th century BC. In 2024, trial trenches descended lower into the suburbs of the settlement, to cadastral plot 6039. The works, financed through the archaeological heritage protection program of the Ministry of Culture and Media of the Republic of Croatia, and applied for by the Municipality of Blato, lasted from 4 to 12 November 2024. The members of the research team included Dinko Radić (Vis Heritage Museum), Lucija Topolko and Ivan Mašković, students of the Department of Archaeology of the University of Zadar, and the author of the paper.

Trial trench 1/2024, measuring 5 x 2 meters, was elongated in a north-south direction in such a way that it crossed the entire width of the agricultural terrace on which it was positioned. The stratigraphic picture in it is quite simple and is obviously conditioned by the aforementioned process of terrain cultivation. After the complete removal of the deposit, it was determined that the plate-like bedrock was laid obliquely with cascading sections, larger at places. A recent supporting dry stone wall of the terrace rests against one of such edges, the northern one, in whose structure larger irregular stones can be seen in several places. A long row of blocks of the same morphological characteristics with dimensions of approximately 60 x 30/40 cm was recorded only 1.20 m to the south, and again laid on a smaller natural section of the bedrock. While analogous stone blocks recorded on originally prehistoric structures at the site determine the time of their extraction, the simultaneous formation of the stone row, unfortunately, cannot be confirmed. Furthermore, south of the mentioned structure the deposit is somewhat thicker, and up to a maximum depth of 110 cm it is divided into several stratigraphic units, always layered thicker towards the southern ends of the trial trench. The humus layer, 15 to 60 cm thick, is characterized by a high fragmentation of movable material. Among it, pottery of late prehistoric, presumably Iron Age characteristics prevail,

Položaj probnih sondi na naseobinskom dijelu lokaliteta (izvor: Geoportala, dorada: I. Borzić)
Location of trial trenches in the residential part of the site (source: Geoportala, editing: I. Borzić)



uklanjanja depozita utvrdilo se kako je pločasta matična stijena položena ukoso s mjestimično većim kaskadnim odsjecima. Na jedan od takvih rubova, onaj sjeverni, naslonjen je recentni potporni suhozid terase, u čijoj se strukturi na nekoliko mjesta vidi veće nepravilno kamenje. Dugi niz blokova istih morfoloških odlika s dimenzijama cca 60 x 30/40 cm zabilježen je svega 1,20 m prema jugu, i to opet položen na jednome manjem prirodnom odsjeku matične stijene. I dok analogni kameni blokovi zabilježeni na izvorno prapovijesnim strukturama na lokalitetu određuju vrijeme njihova branja, istovremeni nastanak utvrđenoga kamenog niza, nažalost, nije mogu-



while there is also some Hellenistic pottery used mainly for storage and transport or tableware. Apart from its predominantly stone composition, the layer under the humus does not differ much from the latter in terms of the characteristics of small finds, but we are now able to confirm with certainty that among those chronologically more sensitive categories of objects, *Gnathia* ware and *Alto Adriatico* pottery certainly stand out, i.e. representatives of imported groups of pottery from the 4th and 3rd centuries BC. The last, ten-centimeter-thick layer lying directly on the plate-like bedrock is the only one that does not show signs of disruption of its original compactness and is very likely the only intact context in which, along with the prevailing

Sonda 1/2024, pogled sa sjevera (foto: I. Borzić)
Trial trench 1/2024, view from the north (photo: I. Borzić)



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**Ulomak atičke crvenofiguralne posude s
 Kopile (foto: I. Borzić)**
**Fragment of an Attic red-figure vessel
 from Kopila (photo: I. Borzić)**

će potvrditi. Nadalje, južno od navedene strukture depozit je nešto deblji, a do maksimalne dubine od 110 cm podijeljen je na nekoliko stratigrafskih jedinica, uvijek deblje uslojenih prema južnim krajevima sonde. Humusni sloj debljine od 15 do 60 cm odlikuje velika fragmentiranost pokretne građe. Među njom prevladava keramika kasnopovijesnih, pretpostavljamo željeznodobnih odlika, dok se u manjoj mjeri bilježi i ona helenistička, uglavnom skladišno-transportnog te stolnog karaktera. Osim po pretežito kamenom sastavu, sloj podno humusa se po karakteru pokretnih nalaza ne razlikuje mnogo od potonjeg, no sada smo u mogućnosti sa sigurnošću potvrditi kako se među onim kronološki osjetljivijim kategorijama predmeta sigurno izdvajaju keramika tipa *Gnathia* te keramika tipa *Alto Adriatico*, dakle predstavnici importiranih skupina keramike iz 4. i 3. st. pr. Krista. Posljednji, desetak centimetara debeo sloj nalegao izravno na pločastu matičnu stijenu jedinici ne pokazuje odlike narušenosti svoje izvor-



ne kompaktnosti te je vrlo vjerojatno riječ o jedinoe intaktnom kontekstu u kojem se opet uz prevladavajuću grubu keramiku pojavljuje i mala količina one importirane, no bez detaljne analize teško odredljive pripadnosti. Za njegovo kronološko određenje važnu stavku predstavlja 14C datum dobiven iz koštanog uzorka, koji ga smješta u razdoblje od kraja 6. do početka 4. st. pr. Krista. Iako širokog spektra, navedeni datum potvrđuje naseljenost Kopile i u mlađim odsjecima ranoga željeznog doba, što se i prije pretpostavljalo pu-

coarse pottery, a small amount of imported pottery appears, but without detailed analysis of its attribution which is difficult to determine. An important item for its chronological determination is the 14C date obtained from a bone sample, which places it in the period from the end of the 6th to the beginning of the 4th century BC. Although of a wide range, the mentioned date confirms the settlement of Kopila in the younger phases of the Early Iron Age, which was previously assumed through artifacts accidentally found in the area of



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Južni profil Sonde 1/2024 (foto: I. Borzić)
Southern profile of trial trench 1/2024 (photo: I. Borzić)



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Zidine na vrhu Smokviške gradine (foto: I. Borzić)
Walls on the top of Smokviška gradina (photo: I. Borzić)



tem artefakata slučajno pronalazjenih na prostoru nekropole i naselja, a jedan takav primjerak predstavlja i ulomak atičke crvenofiguralne posude pronađen na površini u neposrednoj blizini ovogodišnje sonde.

Zaključno, ovogodišnja probna istraživanja površinom su bila mala, ali komplementarno s rezultatima ranijih istraživanja na naseobinskom prostoru Kopila ona su postigla željene rezultate. Prije svega se potvrdilo kako se mjestimično mogu očekivati intaktni slojevi iz različitih faza naseljenosti što ohrabruje nastavak istraživanja. Isto tako se po pitanju kronološkog određenja utvrdilo kako na istraženoj poziciji nema brončanodobnih uslojenja, što bi u budućnosti moglo biti od koristi pri sagledavanju prostorne evolucije naselja. Konačno, opus pokretnog materijala znatno je narastao i njegovom će obradom sasvim sigurno biti unaprijeđeno poznavanje materijalne kulture zajednice naseljene na Kopili te njezin položaj u širim društveno-ekonomskim okvirima, kojima pripada i Smokviška gradina, još jedna u nizu interesantnih korčulanskih pozicija posjećena tijekom ovogodišnje kampanje.

the necropolis and settlement, and one such example is a fragment of an Attic red-figure vessel found on the surface in the immediate vicinity of this year's trial trench.

In conclusion, this year's trial investigations were small in area covered, but complementary to the results of previous investigations in the Kopila settlement area, they achieved the desired results. First of all, it was confirmed that intact layers from different phases of settlement can be expected in places, which encourages the continuation of the research. Also, in terms of chronological determination, no Bronze Age strata were found at the investigated position, which could be useful in the future when considering the spatial evolution of the settlement. Finally, the inventory of movable material has grown significantly and its processing will certainly improve knowledge of the material culture of the community settled on Kopila and its position in the wider socio-economic framework, that also includes Smokviška gradina, another one in a series of interesting positions on the island of Korčula visited during this year's campaign.

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