

## LATE NOMADIC BURIAL ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF DEBRECEN (Preliminary Report)

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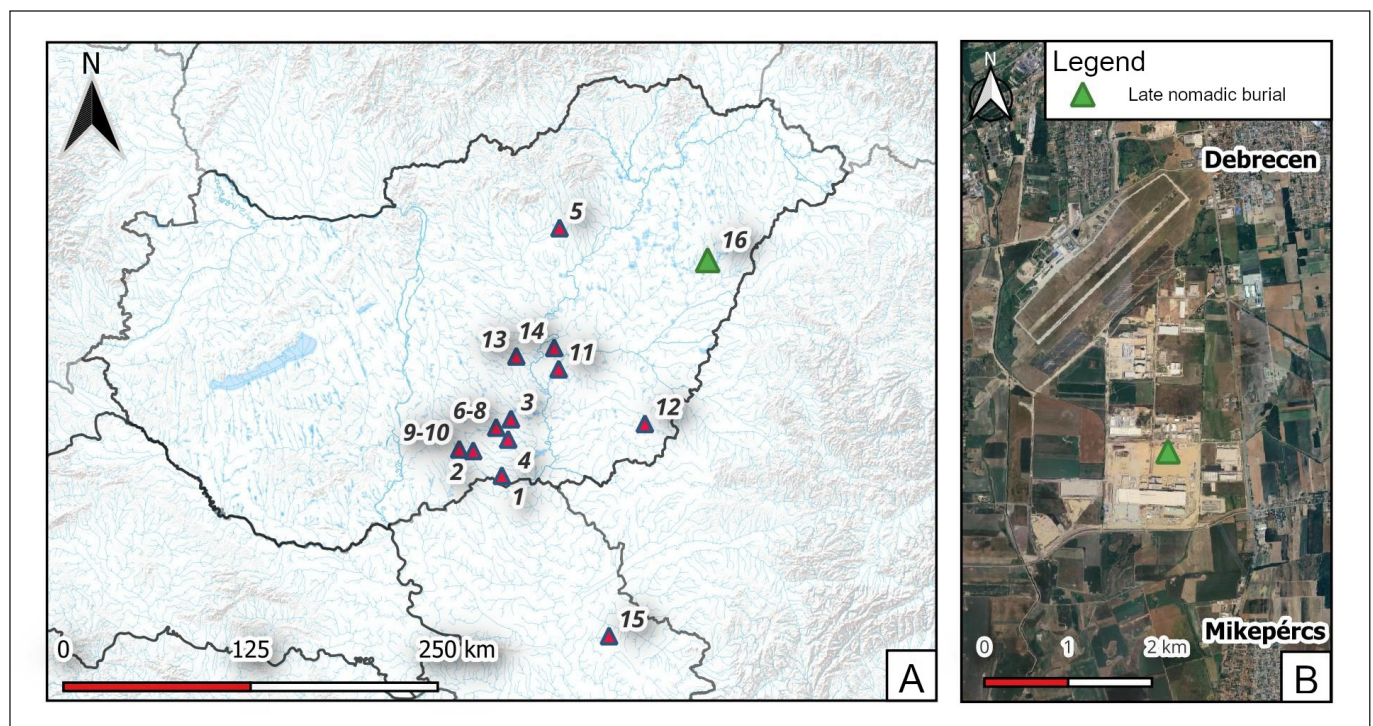
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*Related to a battery manufacturing investment project on the righthand bank of the Kondoros stream on the outskirts of Debrecen, we have unearthed a late nomadic grave. Based on the find material of the symbolic equestrian burial introduced in the present study, it may be dated to the second half of the 13th century. Due to the mega-projects in the Southern Economic Zone, archaeological investigations have already been conducted on several hundred hectares in the area, but a grave of a similar age and with similar ritual elements has not been found so far. Thus, the grave at the edge of medieval Szepes can be interpreted as an isolated burial, probably of the Cuman population.*

**Keywords:** burial, equestrian grave, Debrecen, Middle Ages, 13th century

### EXCAVATING THE LATE NOMADIC BURIAL SITE

Headed by Anna Priskin (*Fig. 1*), in the area of the Bellegelő, Orbán tanya NW (identification number 96881) site, archaeological observations were conducted by the Hungarian National Museum National



*Fig. 1. The position of the Debrecen-Bellegelő Orbán-tanya NW site. A: The sites and pagan-rite Cumanian burials unearthed in the Carpathian Basin: 1. Ásotthalom–Bislicsics, 2. Balotaszállás–Balotapuszta, 3. Csengele–Bogárhát, 4. Csólyospálos–Csólyospuszta, 5. Erdőtelek, 6–7. Kiskunmajsa–Kígyóspuszta, 8. Kiskunmajsa–Kuklis-tanya, 9. Kunfehértó–Debeák–Szarkás, 10. Kunfehértó–Inoka–Pincehegy, 11. Kunszentmárton–Jaksorépart, 12. Nagykamarás–Bánkút–Rózsamajor, 13. Szentkirály–Felsőszentkirály, 14. Tiszaföldvár–Homok-Óvirághegy, 15. Tomaševac–Ludoška humka (Serbia), 16. Debrecen–Bellegelő, Orbán-tanya NW; B: The geographical location of the site (Map: Flórián Harangi)*

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Archaeological Institute of the Hungarian National Museum Public Collection Centre (MNMKK) in the spring of 2025. Led by Asztrik Hüse, the excavation and documentation of the phenomena found were done by Salisbury Ltd. Objects of the Neolithic and Copper Age were monitored in the 2025 observation area, where finding a pagan ritual burial site with riding equipment from the late nomadic culture was truly surprising (*Figs. 2–4*). Due to its geographical location, the grave deserves special attention in the analysis of the late nomadic material in Hungary, because in the borderland of medieval Szabolcs and Bihar Counties, only sporadic archaeological traces have suggested potential late nomadic settlement so far. Evidence may be supplied by the Ártánd–Zomlinpuszta burial, which however was found in a tampered state (MESTERHÁZY 1977; KATONA-KISS 2014) and also by the annular brooch inscribed with runiform characters ('rovás') found at the site of the medieval village of Szepes. The place names and historical and archaeological data from Bihar County that are relatable to the Cumans are given a scholarly overview in a recent study (KATONA-KISS 2024). Against the mostly sporadic finds, with only one exception, and finds that had been tampered with, the present paper introduces a burial site excavated by archaeologists under authentic conditions, which might make a considerable contribution to the interpretation of the so far incomplete archaeological material.

### GRAVE AND FIND DESCRIPTION

The grave pit was oriented SW–NE (158°), and on the surface, the grave fill was dark brown, clayey humus around the edges, and yellow clayey in the middle, which indicates disturbance. The grave pit was rectangular with rounded corners. Its sides were steeply narrowing, its bottom was straight, and its SW side had a slightly gentler slope. Length: 277 cm, width: 144 cm, depth: -100 cm (depth data are always measured from the planed surface). The grave pit's fill at the edges of the pit was dark brown clay humus, with a lot of charcoal in it. In the middle section of the grave, approximately up to the level of the bones, we observed a post factum digging in, the fill of which was yellow clay. Iron objects were found at various depths during the incavation of the grave fill (*Fig. 5*). The skeleton, in moderate condition, lay in anatomical order and belonged to an adult man. Length: 177 cm, width: 45 cm (at the elbow), depth: -74 cm (at the top of the skull), -98 cm (at the pelvis). The arms were bent at the elbows, the hands were probably above the pelvis, their bones were destroyed due to decay, and only a few fragments of phalanges were found, falling between the two wings of ilium. The legs were parallel to each other in an extended position, and the feet were tilted towards the SE end of the grave. The left femur was displaced from its original position when the bone level was found. The grave contained only one find that could be identified as a food offering (*Fig. 2.4, Fig. 3.1*).

#### *Coffin parts*

1. Closer to the SW end of the grave pit, from a depth of -48 cm, a forged iron, concave-sided rectangular, embossed, strongly corroded lock emerged. An iron chain consisting of small links is attached to its surface, both inside and outside, and the locking mechanism can be identified on the inside. The keyhole was made in the lower half of the plate, in the middle, and the hasp aperture was made in the upper left, but these are barely visible due to corrosion. An iron strap was riveted to the edge of the back of the plate as a key-guard plate. Wood remains can be seen on the oval-shaped widened part of the key-guard plate. The lock was attached to the coffin with a nail at each of the four corners. Dimensions: 138×138 mm, thickness: 20 mm, plate's thickness: 1.6 mm, key-guard plate's length: 115 mm, width (in the centre): 30 mm, lock bolt's length: 63 mm, width: 18 mm, hasp aperture's diameter: c. 20×5 mm, key hole's diameter: c. 11.9×6 mm, chain links' diameter: 5 mm (*Fig. 4.3, Fig. 5.3, Fig. 6.1*).

2. Above the pelvis, at a depth of -95 cm, an incomplete forged iron hinged coffin strap appeared. The iron strap's U-shaped end faced upwards, towards the head. The fork end element is a rectangular cross-section strap, which opens up in a U-shape, with one end curling back, the other end missing. A nail fastened the strap in the middle, and another nail fastened the curled-back end. The eye end element is a rectangular cross-section, with a slightly tapered end, without a nail or nail-hole in it. The two elements are hinged together with a knuckle joint, with a hemisphere headed pin at both ends. Length (fork end element with



1



2



3



4

Fig. 2. Photos of grave SNR 1240 at the Debrecen–Bellegelő, Orbán-tanya NW site. 1: Photogrammetric model; 2: The unearthed skeleton; 3: The lower plank of the coffin; 4: Food offering (Photo: Asztrik Hüse)

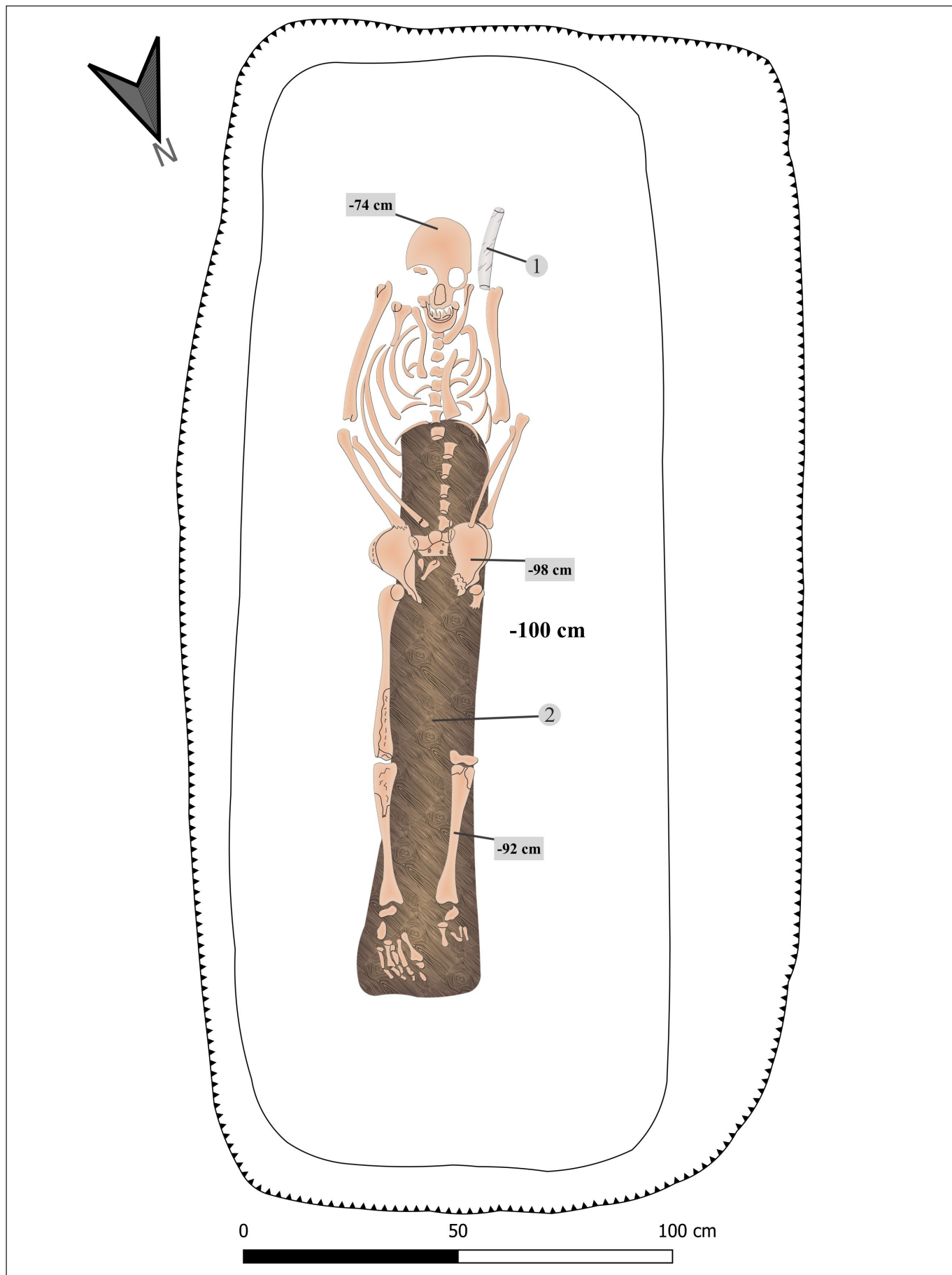


Fig. 3. The bone level of the burial. 1: Cattle rib, food offering; 2: The lower plank of the coffin (Drawing: Asztrik Hüse)

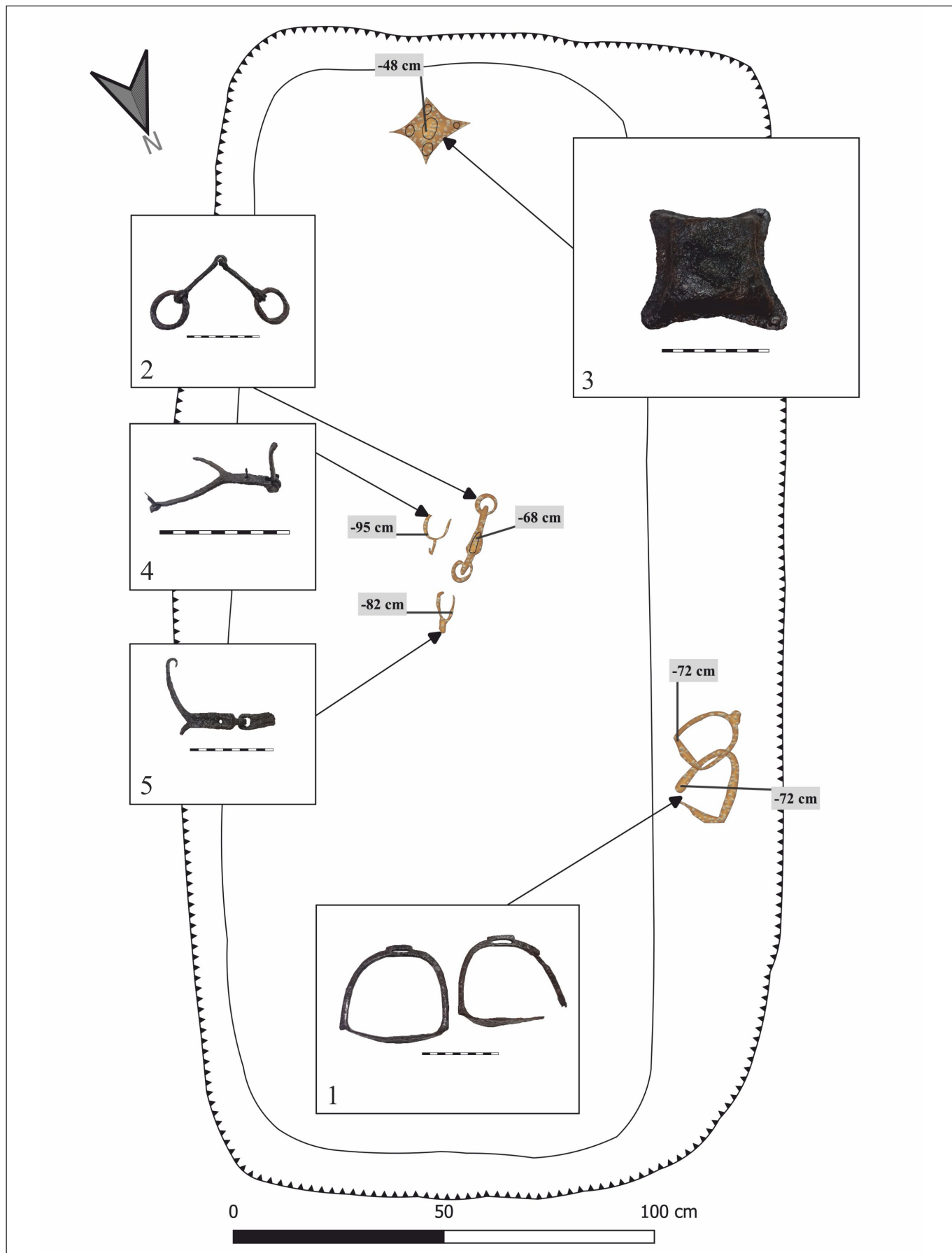


Fig. 4. The position of metal objects within the grave. 1: Pair of stirrups; 2: Snaffle bit; 3: Lock, 4–5: Coffin straps (Drawing: Asztrik Hüse)

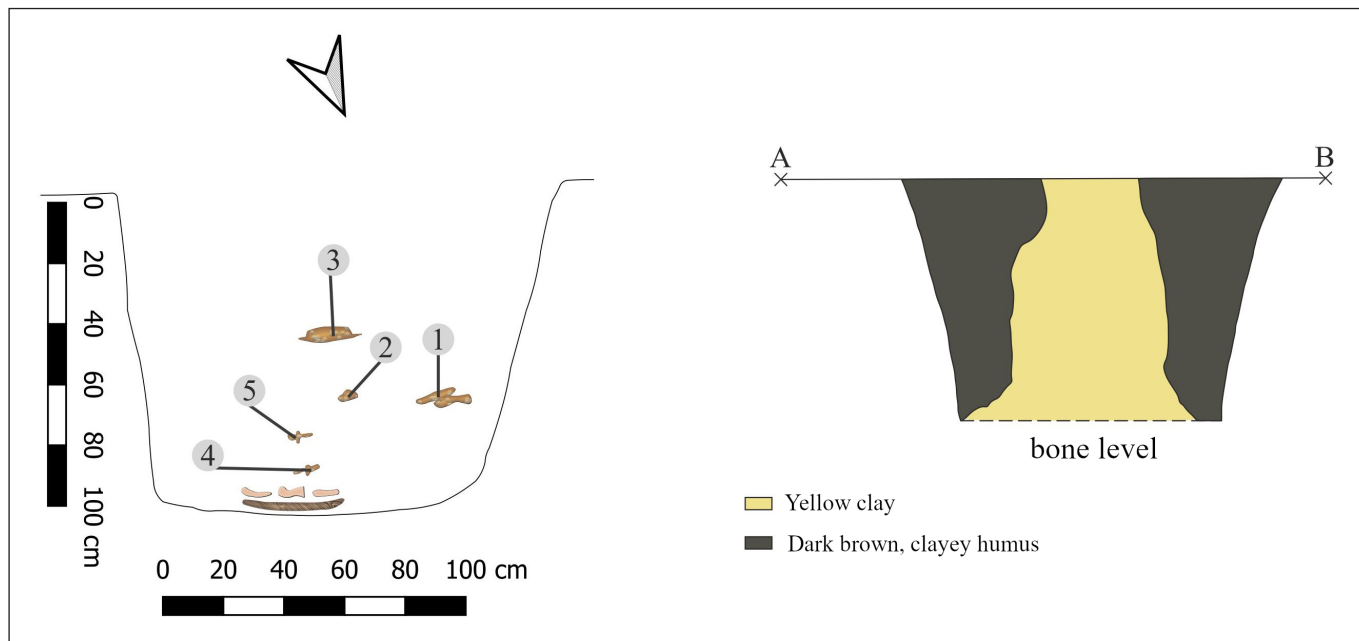


Fig. 5. Section of the grave with the depth position of the finds and the fill of the grave (Drawing: Asztrik Hüse)

U end): 118 mm, length (eye end element): 59 mm, U end's width: 111 mm, shanks' diameter: 6×4 mm, strap's diameter: 15×5 mm, hinge's length: 23 mm; hinge pin's diameter: 11×9 mm, pin's length: 11 mm and 22.6 mm, pin's diameter: 3 mm and 4 mm (Fig. 4.4, Fig. 5.4, Fig. 6.2).

3. Between the two legs, closer to the left femur, at a depth of -82 cm, an incomplete forged iron hook-and-loop connected coffin strap was found. The iron strap's Y-shaped end faced upwards, towards the head. The ring end element has a Y-shaped end, its stems become thinner, their pointed ends bend back, and the other end is missing. This is connected to the looped element by a ring positioned perpendicularly. The nail-hole located in the centre line of the strap was used for fastening. The shorter element of the coffin mount is a strap with a rectangular cross-section, one end is hammered flat, with a loop design, the other end has an almost straight edge and is incomplete. The remains of a nail can be seen near the almost straight end. Length: 146 mm, Y end's width: 107.6 mm, shanks' diameter: 3–9×3 mm, ring's diameter: 18×15 mm; loop's diameter: 21 mm, nail-hole's diameter: 5×3 mm (Fig. 4.5, Fig. 5.5, Fig. 6.3).

4. From the fill of the grave (W side) three small, forged iron, leaf-shaped mount fragments were discovered with a metal detector. The remains of a nail can be seen in the centre of each leaf. The three fragments may have been part of two corner fittings bent in an L-shape. Dimensions: 46.2×18.7 mm, 38.6×17.4 mm and 29.2×19 mm, thickness: 2.5–3 mm, nail's length: 8, 8 and 2 mm, nail's diameter: 4, 4 and 2 mm (Fig. 6.4–6).

5. A small, forged iron, tongue-shaped mount fragment was found in the fill of the grave (W side), when using a metal detector. A strap mount without rivets, slightly curved, with two thicker ribs on the sides, tapering towards one end. Based on its shape, design, and dimensions, it may be a fragment of the lock hasp, but due to uncertainty, we will treat it separately. Length: 49 mm, width: 10–18.7 mm, thickness: 6.6 mm (Fig. 6.7).

6. Under the skeleton, starting from the chest area, we observed a wooden plank, which can be interpreted as the bottom of the coffin. The part towards the head is incomplete, the original edge remains only at the NE end towards the foot, where it widens slightly, then ends in a straight cut edge with rounded corners. Length: 175 cm, width (at the foot): 34 cm, thickness: 2–3 cm (Fig. 2.3, Fig. 3.2).

#### Grave goods

1. A cattle rib (costa) lay on the left side of the head. Its length measured in the grave was 20 cm, but it remained in an extremely fragmentary condition, breaking into several pieces when it was picked up. Based on the size of the fragment, the calf could have been either small or young, about six to twelve months old.



Fig. 6. Coffin accessories. 1: Lock; 2–3: Coffin straps; 4–6: Coffin fittings from the soil in the grave; 7: Lock hasp (?) from the soil in the grave (Photo: Asztrik Hüse – Gyöngyvér Bíró; drawing: Gyöngyvér Bíró)

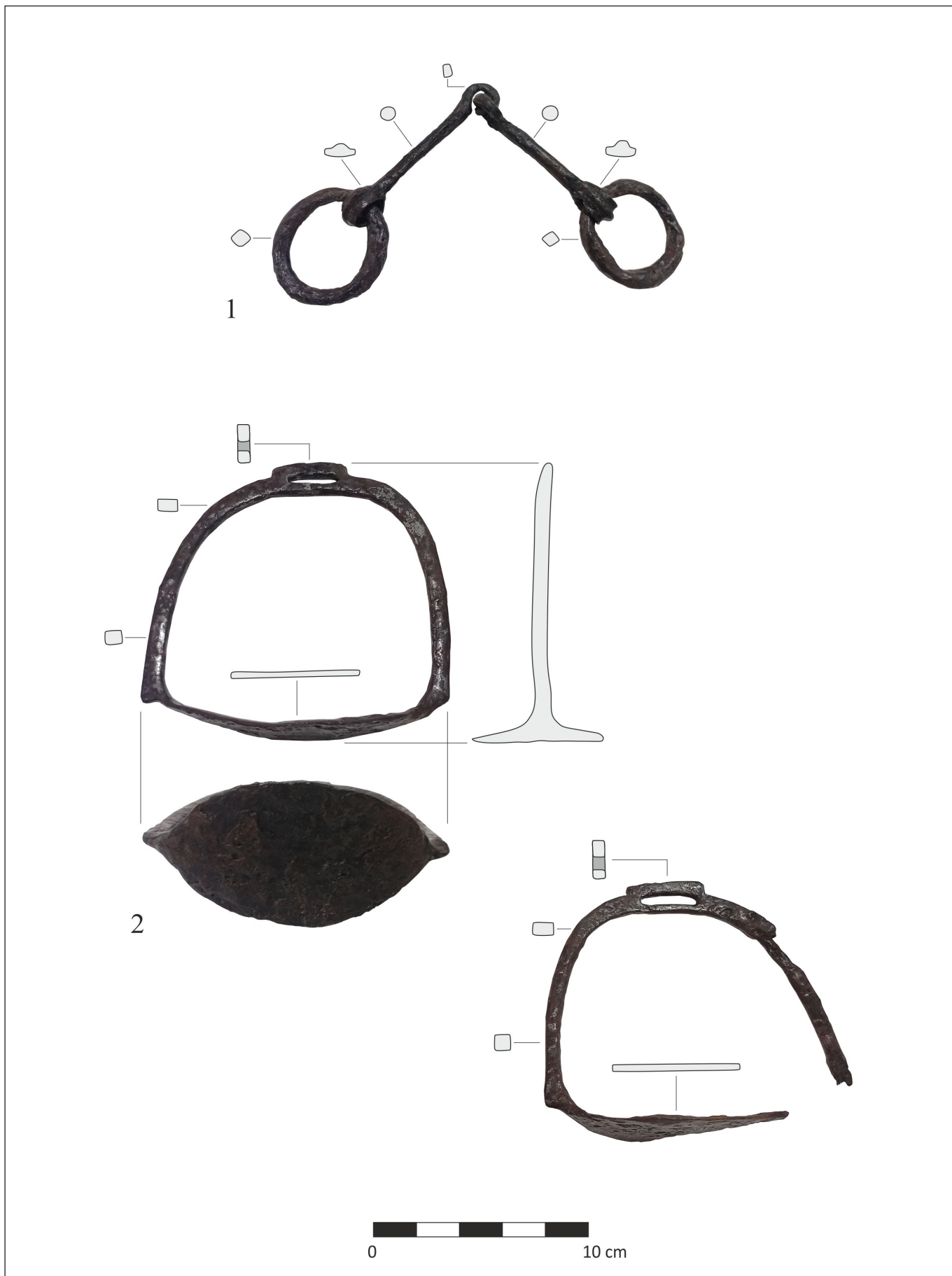


Fig 7. Grave goods. 1: Snaffle bit; 2: Pair of stirrups (Photo: Asztrik Hüse, drawing: Gyöngyvér Bíró)

The epiphysis of the bone and the costal head are also missing; therefore, the above conclusion was made based on the nature of the bone and the size of the fragment (*Fig. 2.4, Fig. 3.1*).

2. In the middle of the grave, above the pelvic bones, at a depth of -68 cm, a two-piece, slightly unequal-shaped, heavily corroded snaffle bit was found. It has a sharp, jointed mouthpiece, which connected to the rhombus cross-section rings of different diameters with a ribbed end (*Fig. 4.2, Fig. 5.2, Fig. 7.1*). Length: 280 mm, mouthpiece's length: 98 mm and 111 mm, mouthpiece's thickness: 8 mm and 7 mm, rings' diameter: 55–56 mm, rings' thickness: 9 mm.

3. A pair of symmetrical stirrups lay close to the NW wall of the grave pit, at a depth of -72 cm. Forged iron pieces with regularly curved, rectangular cross-section frames, slightly curved foot plates that widen strongly in the middle. At the top, there is a rectangular, horizontally pierced suspension loop protruding from the shoulders. The slot for the stirrup leather is narrow rectangular. The suspension loop and the triangular formation at the junction of the frame and the foot plate were formed by hammering the frame. One of the stirrups is broken at the junction of the frame and the foot plate (*Fig. 4.1, Fig. 5.1, Fig. 7.2*). Dimensions: 128 mm and 131 mm, width: 130 mm and 152 mm (the broken piece), frame's diameter: 9×6 mm, suspension loop's height: 19 mm and 17 mm, stirrup leather slot's dimension: 23×5 mm and 4.5 mm, foot plate's width: 60 mm.

### ANALYSIS OF BURIAL CUSTOMS AND GRAVE GOODS

The archaeological material of the burial site found on the outskirts of medieval Szepes is rather limited. Only the iron fittings and the lock of the former coffin, the snaffle bit, the pair of stirrups and the animal bones found in the grave are available for analysis. Based on the finds, the isolated pagan ritual burial may certainly be dated to the Middle Ages, thus to the late nomadic culture. Since based on the features observed, it is hardly possible that the grave should be related to the events of the Mongol Invasion, it is likely to be linked to the high-ranking Cumans' also isolated pagan ritual burials. In this light, it is justified to compare the Szepes grave with another fifteen burials characteristics of the given archaeological heritage.

#### *Method of interment*

The final resting place of the body was a rectangular grave pit with rounded corners, steep sides and a straight bottom, whose SW-NE direction is different from those observed elsewhere (PÁLÓCZI HORVÁTH 2014, 258). The coffin is about 200–210 cm long and 60–65 cm wide. Its height is uncertain due to the disturbance that broke through the coffin's lid but did not affect the skeleton. However, as the snaffle bit and the stirrups were likely to have been placed on the coffin, and the medieval coffins documented so far typically had a height of 40 cm (BÁLINT 1956, 77), in this case as well we should reckon with the same dimensions. As observed, the lid broke in and the construction crashed, tilting slightly to the western and southwestern direction. The position of the hinged and the hook-and-loop connected coffin straps for fixing and opening the lid suggests the same. The coffin had a square lock; perhaps the iron object found in the fill of the grave may be identified as a fragment of its hasp. The leaf-shaped mount fragments may have fixed the edges of the western wall of the coffin.

The closest parallel of the lock and hinges are known from Grave 1 at the Abaújvár Castle, which based on a spur found there, can be dated to the 13th century (WOLF 2022, 13–14, Figs. 10–11). We know of similar fittings from the cemetery around the Abaújvár deanery church (WOLF 2022, 12, 3. fn.). Y-ended hinges (with their proportions and finish slightly differing from those in Szepes) and leaf-shaped straps bent in L-shape also fixed the coffin of the Cumanian burial from Csólyospálos dated to between 1256 and 1291 (PÁLÓCZI HORVÁTH 1969, 116–118, 128–129, 132, Figs. 11–13). A fragment of a lock and a hook-and-loop connected iron strap was unearthed at house 1344 at Cegléd–Bürgeházi dűlő, which was destroyed in the 1241–1242 Mongol attack (GULYÁS 2014, 39, 42, 54, Figs. 14.6, 15.1). A lock similarly formed to the one at Szepes but smaller in size (TEREI & HORVÁTH 2007, 156, Fig. 4) and fittings (TEREI & HORVÁTH 2007, 159–160, Fig. 8, Fig. 11.2) have been found at Kána as well, a settlement abandoned in the 13th century.

Traces of the use of coffins are detectable already in the late nomadic culture. In the 14th–16th-century graves of Cumanian quarter (Latin descensus) cemeteries they occur in large numbers (SELMECZI 1992, 35–36; HORVÁTH 2001, 73–74; HATHÁZI 2004, 75–76), and there are ones among them with locks with keys, although with fittings that differ from those at Szepes, as well as plank coffins – which are dated to the Late Middle Ages, primarily to the 14th century (SZÉLL 1940, 163–164; SELMECZI 1992, 36; GALLINA & VARGA 2009, 36; BOHN 2025, 20–25).

At the same time, only in three cases, including this one, can we verify with more or less certainty coffin burial among the single graves of first- and second generation Cuman chieftains in Hungary. At Csólyospálos, hinges and fragments of fittings have been found (PÁLÓCZI HORVÁTH 1969, 116–118, 128–129, Figs. 11–13), and at Balotaszállás a Cuman lady was probably buried in a fitted coffin (PÁLÓCZI HORVÁTH 1989, 101, 110, Pl. VII.7). This is the first time that traces of a fitted coffin with a lock have been documented in a grave that seems to have been the resting place for a high-ranking Cuman. As the burial at Szepes is certainly much earlier (symbolic equestrian burial, grave goods, etc.) than the graves in quarter cemeteries, we seem to have been able to verify a very early specimen of the coffin type with fittings and a lock structure.

#### *Food offering in the grave*

Over the left shoulder of the deceased in the Szepes burial site, an animal bone was found, which may be interpreted as food remains. According to later archaeozoological investigations, it is a fragment of the the rib (costa) of a small or young calf of six to twelve months. In the same way as horse tack, food placed into the grave is a foreign element among the burial customs of medieval Christian Hungarians, while it is present with the Cumans requesting and granted entry to the country in the middle of the 13th century. This is not a rare feature (HATHÁZI 2004, 125–126) and is known also from a chieftain's grave: in Csengele, a sheep's vertebral bone was placed next to the skull (HORVÁTH 2001, 95, 105). The custom of offering food for the journey to the other world survived for a long time: in addition to fishbone, in Grave 31 at the Cumanian quarter cemetery of Csengele, a metatarsal cattle bone was found, which can be dated by King Matthias's obolus minted in 1468–1470 (HORVÁTH 2001, 71–72).

#### *Horse tack*

The joint snaffle bit in the Szepes grave also fits well with the late nomadic heritage. According to research by Fedorov-Davydov, this type was in use in the Eastern European steppe in the late 13th and the 14th centuries (FEDOROV-DAVYDOV 1966, 17, G IV, 116). Similarly to stirrups, it often features among the archaeological finds of high-ranking Cumans in Hungary. The main characteristic of the Szepes specimen is that that the hammered ends are ribbed. This is an emblematic but not exclusive feature of snaffles in the Hungarian Cumanian find material. Similar forms are visible on ones from Erdőtelek, Kunszentmáron, Bánkút and Tiszaföldvár (PÁLÓCZI HORVÁTH 2014, 128, Fig. 84).

This type of stirrup is well-documented in the late nomadic heritage of the Eastern European steppe. In the region west of the Volga, it was mostly used between the 12th and the early 13th centuries (FEDOROV-DAVYDOV 1966, 12, Fig. 1, V II, 105), but it also crops up in the 12th-century equestrian culture of the “Chorni Klobuky” (Black Hats) organised of Oghuz Turks, Pechenegs, and Berendei defending the Rus from Cumanian attacks (PLETNEVA 1973, 61, Pl. 13/9, 73, Pl. 25/13, 74, Pl. 26/19, 20). Its closest parallels in Hungary are known from the Cumanian chieftains' graves at Csólyos (PÁLÓCZI HORVÁTH 1969, 114–115, 127–128, Fig. 2, 9–10), Csengele (HORVÁTH, 2001, 175, 176, 179) and Kiskunmajsa (HORVÁTH 2003, 374, 383–384, Fig. 3–4). The isolated item from the same period found near Orosháza can also be classified into this group (KATONA-KISS 2022, 94–96, 362–363; KATONA-KISS 2024, 303–304 [8.], 308–309). It is a special characteristic of the Szepes stirrups that there was a triangular finish where the frame and the foot plate met. This is unique to the late nomadic find material on Hungarian land, but is well-known in the archaeological heritage of the “Chorni Klobuky” (PLETNEVA 1973, 41, 78, Pl. 30/7, 8). The chronological position of Szepes stirrups can be defined on the basis of their Hungarian parallels. Accordingly, the pair of stirrups originates from the middle of the 13th century in the same way as the snaffle bit interned with it.

In the lack of horse bones, horse tack may be interpreted as relics of symbolic equestrian burials, which are not foreign to the Cumanian period's burials in the Eastern European steppe (PLETNEVA, 1958, 176). Among the single graves of high-ranking Cumans in Hungary, burials with horse tack have been observed at the sites of Csólyospálos–Csólyospuszta (pair of stirrups), Erdőtelek (pair of stirrups, snaffle bit), Kiskunmajsza–Kuklis-tanya (unmatched pair of stirrups, snaffle bit), Kunfehértó–Debeák-Szarkás (snaffle bit) and Kunszentmárton–Jaksorérpart (pair of stirrups, snaffle bit, girth buckle); they are exclusively male graves (PÁLÓCZI HORVÁTH 2014, 258).

## EVALUATION AND HISTORICAL ASPECTS OF THE SZEPES GRAVE

Based on its find material, the burial excavated on the outskirts of the medieval Szepes village belongs to the late nomadic cultural sphere. It is most likely to be the sixteenth representative of the heritage comprising single graves of high-ranking Cumans in Hungary; after Csengele it is the second to have been found in an archaeological excavation. Regarding the use of the coffin, the symbolic equestrian burial, and the pair of stirrups, the grave of the high-ranking Cuman in Csólyospálos is closest to the characteristics of the Szepes burial. It appears that the deceased placed into the Szepes grave must have preserved his original pagan culture, but he was laid to rest in a fitted plank coffin that is already part of the medieval European material culture. Although the grave goods are quite limited, the elements of the horse tack can be confidently dated: based on domestic and steppe parallels, the most probable time of their internment is the second half of the 13th century. This is the period of the first and second generations of Cumans in Hungary, when their original steppe culture is still reflected by their archaeological material and burial customs. This dating is supported by the closest parallels of the coffin's elements.

The limited amount of find material is obvious, but it has to be clarified that even if the yellow clayey fill in the middle of the pit suggests a possible robbery, it cannot be followed beyond the level of the coffin, thus the bone remains are intact. In other words, the grave is not likely to have been disturbed. It is a possible explanation for the scarcity of grave goods that at this time Cumans were already getting impoverished: some may have been affected when fleeing the Mongol Invasion, while others encountered this situation later. The three watershed years were between the 1279 “Cuman law” with its unfavourable regulations for Cumans and the 1282 Battle of Hód as the culmination of their ensuing discontent (GYÖRFFY 1990, 285–287). It seems apparent that, while gradually losing their riches, not all the descendants of high-ranking Cumans could afford to have the remaining family wealth buried with their father (HATHÁZI 2005, 40, 53–54): in the case of the Szepes burial, the defensive armour and weapons (helmet, chainmail and sabre) and the horse of the deceased. Although this burial is outside the Cumanian settlements known so far, the situation seems to be similar with the Erdőtelek grave finds that are also considered Cumanian (PÁLÓCZI HORVÁTH 1994, 110). It is not impossible that in the background we should see Cumanian private owners outside the settlement area. It is significant to note in this context that it was in the early, 1262–1270 period of King István V's rule that the Cumanian chieftain Alpra was granted the village of Macs as his estate also on the north-western outskirts of Debrecen (ÁMTF I. 1987, 640). According to written sources, land was often granted to large extended families. This was the case with the Papd estate in Temes County, owned by the relatives of Keyran of the Borcsol kindred – Illan, Jardar, Michi, Chibuk et Ona Dominorum de Cumanis (GYÁRFÁS 1992, 418). Therefore, it is conceivable that the Szepes grave contained a relatively poorer member of a Cumanian family living outside the kindred's settlement area, which may account for the modest find material. Perhaps the small number and different type of fittings on the coffin might also reflect “financial modesty”. On this basis, we may tentatively hypothesize that the burial perhaps took place in the second half of the 13th century, some time in its last third or quarter.

In the Middle Ages, Szepes was located in Bihar County south of Debrecen or, more precisely, south of the market town's constituent Boldogfalva (also called Torna) (ZOLTAI 1925, 32, 54–55). According to 18th and 19th-century military maps (military surveys I and II) and manuscript maps, the Szepes estates were in the area between the Tóció and the Kondoros and on the right bank of the Tóció (ZOLTAI 1925, 32, 54–55).

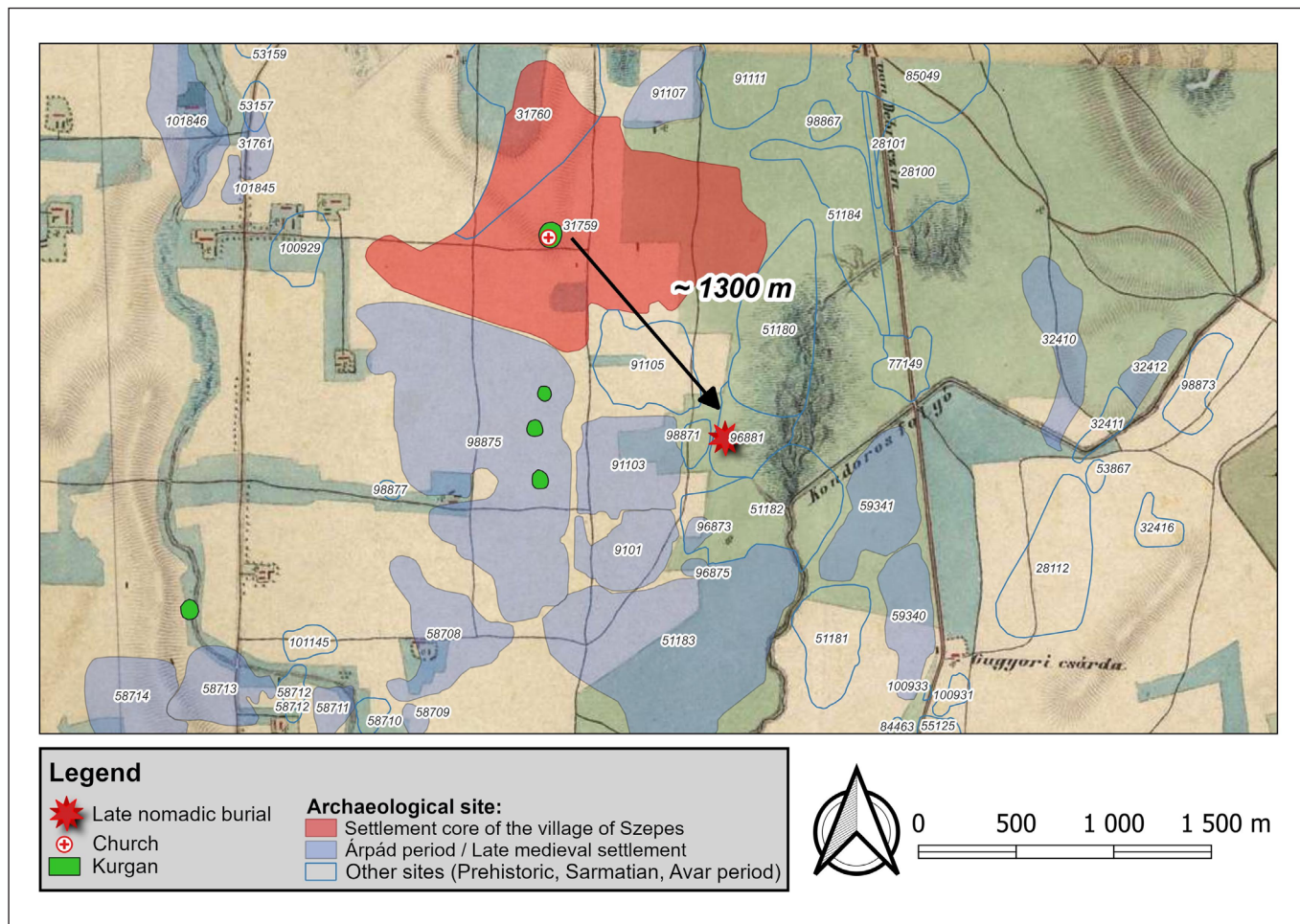


Fig. 8. Topographic relations of grave SNR 1240 found at the Debrecen–Bellegelő Orbán-tanya NW site and the settlement core of the medieval village of Szepes (Map: Flórián Harangi)

Built on a tumulus from the Copper Age, the church, whose walls were found in the early 20th century, was standing in the middle of the village. The grave discussed was unearthed some 1300 metres south-west of the church, but only about 600 metres away from southern section of the medieval settlement core (Fig. 8). The distance is relevant because in the area of medieval Szepes, in addition to star-shaped twelve-spike socketed mace heads, a Gothic annular brooch with runiform signs has also been found. The former conditionally, and the latter with great probability are related to the Cumanian material culture (KATONA-KISS 2022, 96–134, 135–155, 243–245). It needs to be added that one of the border points of the village towards Pércs (today Mikepércs) was Középkorhányhalma (1411: Kezepakorhanhalma), that a written source first mentions at the beginning of the 15th century (GYÖRFFY 1940, 476–477). The possible connection between the Cumanian origin of the name Korhány and the word Kurgan meaning 'tumulus' in the Codex Cumanicus (CC, 222, 266) has already been pointed out (GYÖRFFY 1990, 97), and the word is also included in Imre Baski's list of Cumanian names, meaning a 'burial mound' or a 'Cumanian mound' (BASKI 2007, 273). In fact, most of the places where relics and place names collected from medieval Bihar County are and which are with more or less certainty relatable to the Cumans are geographical objects in the area bearing the name Korhány (KATONA-KISS 2024, 191). In any case, it is for future research to offer a more accurate clarification of the relationship between the village of Szepes and the Cumans.

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Márton Gulyás, István László Molnár, Miklós Kocsis and Balázs Mencser took part in the excavation of the objects on the site. Balázs Tihanyi is working on the anthropological evaluation (Department of Biological Anthropology, University of Szeged), while Dénes Saláta on the analysis of the wooden remains (Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences). The archeozoological identification has been carried out by Andrea Kőrösi (Museum and Library of Hungarian Agriculture). The description and drawings of the Abaújvár grave have been provided to us by Mária Wolf (Department of Archaeology, University of Szeged). László Szolnoki (Déri Museum) has provided oral communication about the Cuman-related find material from the area of the village of Szepes. The final version of the article has been assisted by the peer review of Gábor Hatházi and András Pálóczi Horváth. We are highly grateful for their work and assistance.

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