

Summary

In order to quicken the travel times between Schwedt/Oder and the district city of Prenzlau, as well as relieving the congestion in the local community Passow, a ring road had been planned. Since this building project is situated in an extremely favorable topographical settlement area (see Fig. 380), all ground operations were placed under cultural heritage orders. Between November 2003 and December 2005, an approximately 5.2km long by-pass route was prospected and the discovered finds areas, in order to examine their extent, were expanded on using search trenches. Subsequently five systematic large area excavations took place. Over a space of 70.000m², around about 1350 archaeological features in six different spatial separate areas on both sides of the river Welse were documented.

In 2007, a total of 12 excavation reports (including plans and photographs) from various authors (E. Czieśla, J. Hogarth, M. Schneider and K. Sommerfeld) were handed over to the BLDAM, Department Archive for archiving and storage, with the finds going to the BLDAM Department Collections. The creation of this monographic publication in the “archaeological sources” (“Archäologische Quellen”) took place, once the publication of the Mesolithic site of “Jühnsdorf 8” (Czieśla, 2017) was completed, between September 2017 and October 2019. This work is not a final evaluation but serves only to call attention to the site. Although there is an extensive and very convincing technical site documentation, comprising of already extensive processed finds with age determination and drawings and finished plans, a publication without knowledge of the situation on site would probably not, even with just a short time of two working years, been possible. This realization is probably applicable to other extensive investigations and may cause concern to those responsible.

The oldest finds are Late Mesolithic scattered finds that were mainly preserved in the Bronze Age features from the area “Passow 6”. Likewise, there are Neolithic period ceramic concentrations and individual burials from the immediate adjoining sites “Passow 27 & 6”. Most of the finds are

datable to the transitional horizon from the Late Bronze Age into the Early Iron Age, in which two spatial separate areas are clearly separated from each other. On the one hand, there are pit features, which contained copious ceramic shards and special finds, such as the remains of terrapins, lying closely together. It is also worth mentioning the pit find of an isolated skull without mandible and the body skeleton of a young female, whose shinbone was discovered in a neighboring pit. On the other hand is a type of feature consisting of linear ordered parallel rows of pits, which had been filled with stones. The intensive examination of exemplary fully excavated “Steinplatzgruben” (pits filled with crackled shattered stones), proved that the stones were not shattered in these pits but were only placed into the pits once they had been used elsewhere. This feature, together with the Neolithic ceramic-concentrations, the Neolithic graves, including others from surroundings of Passow, as well as the partial examined Area “Passow 26” and the finds from “Passow 20”, can be used to reconstruct a ritualistic Landscape which has existed since 4000 B.C. and probably was important into the Roman Iron Age period, as shown by a few features and a well dating to this period. Additional features from the Roman Iron Age period come from “Wendemark 10” on the left side of the Welse as well as from the very extensive site of “Passow 25”, southeast from Passow, although these are cases of settlement and production features. The last mention site “Passow 25” has already been recorded in the “BLDAM-Geoportal” and received the official site designation “Bodendenkmal Brandenburg No. 141.051” (see Fig. 380).

The early Slavic features that occupy a completely different area on the site “Passow 27”, definitely no longer belong to the ritualistic Landscape, but reveal details of a rural settlement. Further Slavic finds out of technical features come from the northern side of the Welse river, out of “Wendemark 10”.

All the investigated areas from the ring road Passow in terms of their position in terrain and their respective time position are shown at a glance in the block diagram Fig. 381.

Translated by Jacob Hogarth