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# ANTÆUS

*Communicationes ex Instituto Archaeologico*

39/2023

*Sigel: Antaeus*



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39

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## ABBREVIATIONS

AAC	Acta Archaeologica Carpathica (Kraków)
ActaArchHung	Acta Archaeologica Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae (Budapest)
ActaMusPapensis	Acta Musei Papensis. A Pápai Múzeum Értesítője (Pápa)
Acta Botanica Hungarica	Acta Botanica Hungarica. A quarterly of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Budapest)
Aetas	Aetas. Történettudományi Folyóirat (Szeged)
Agria	Agria. Az Egri Múzeum Évkönyve (Eger)
AgrSz	Agrártörténeti Szemle (Budapest)
AKorr	Archäologisches Korrespondenzblatt (Mainz)
Alba Regia	Alba Regia. Annales Musei Stephani Regis. Az István Király Múzeum Évkönyve (Székesfehérvár)
Antaeus	Antaeus. Communicationes ex Instituto Archaeologico (Budapest)
AÖ	Archäologie Österreichs (Wien)
AR	Archeologické Rozhledy (Praha)
ArchA	Archaeologia Austriaca (Wien)
Archaeometry	Archaeometry (London)
Archeometriai Műhely	Archeometriai Műhely. Elektronikus Folyóirat (Budapest)
ArchÉrt	Archaeologiai Értesítő (Budapest)
ArchHung	Archaeologia Hungarica (Budapest)
Arrabona	Arrabona. A Győri Xantus János Múzeum Évkönyve (Győr)
AV	Arheološki Vestnik (Ljubljana)
BAR-IS	British Archaeological Reports – International Series (Supplementary) (Oxford)
BudRég	Budapest Régiségei (Budapest)
Burgen und Schlösser	Burgen und Schlösser. Zeitschrift für Burgenforschung und Denkmalpflege (Heidelberg)
Cahiers LandArc	Les Cahiers LandArc (Fleurance)
Castrum	Castrum. A Castrum Bene Egyesület Hírlevele (Budapest)
CommArchHung	Communicationes Archaeologicae Hungariae (Budapest)
Cumania	Cumania. Bács-Kiskun Megyei Múzeumok Közleményei. Acta Museorum ex Comitatu Bács-Kiskun (Kecskemét)
Demográfia	Demográfia. Népeségtudományi Folyóirat (Budapest)
DissPann	Dissertationes Pannonicae (Budapest)
DuDolg	Dunántúli Dolgozatok (Pécs)

Építés- Építészettudomány	Építés- Építészettudomány. A Magyar Tudományos Akadémia Műszaki Tudományok Osztályának Közleményei (Budapest)
Érem	Az Érem (Budapest)
ÉT	Élet és Tudomány (Budapest)
Ethnographia	Ethnographia. A Magyar Néprajzi Társaság Folyóirata (Budapest)
FMTÉ	Fejér Megyei Történeti Évkönyv (Székesfehérvár)
FolArch	Folia Archaeologica (Budapest)
FontArchHung	Fontes Archaeologici Hungariae (Budapest)
FÖ	Fundberichte aus Österreich (Wien)
Föld és Ember	Föld és Ember. Negyedévenként Megjelenő Tudományos Szemle (Budapest)
FrK	Földrajzi Közlemények (Budapest)
Geomorphology	Journal of Geomorphology (New York)
Gesta	Gesta. Historical Review (Miskolc)
Gymnasium	Gymnasium. Zeitschrift für Kultur der Antike und humanistische Bildung (Heidelberg)
GySz	Győri Szemle (Győr)
Határtalan Régészet	Határtalan régészet. Archeológiai Magazin. A Móra Ferenc Múzeum Régészeti Magazinja. Régészeti Ismeretterjesztő Magazin (Szeged)
HungArch	Hungarian Archaeology. E-Journal (Budapest)
Hungarian Studies	Hungarian Studies. A Journal of the International Association for Hungarian Studies and Balassi Institute (Budapest)
Jahrbuch des RGZM	Jahrbuch des Römisch-Germanischen Zentralmuseums Mainz (Mainz)
JAMÉ	A Nyíregyházi Jósa András Múzeum Évkönyve (Nyíregyháza)
JAS	Journal of Archaeological Science (London)
JCAA	The Journal of Computer Applications in Archaeology
KDMK	Kuny Domokos Múzeum Közleményei (Tata)
KMMK	Komárom-Esztergom Megyei Múzeumok Közleményei (Tata)
Korall	Korall. Társadalomtörténeti Folyóirat (Budapest)
KRMK	A Kaposvári Rippl-Rónai Múzeum Közleményei (Kaposvár)
LDMK	A Laczkó Dezső Múzeum Közleményei (Veszprém)
MatArchSlov	Materialia Archaeologica Slovaca (Nitra)
MFME StudArch	A Móra Ferenc Múzeum Évkönyve – Studia Archaeologica (Szeged)
MHKÁS	Magyarország honfoglalás kori és kora Árpád-kori sírleletei (Budapest)
MittArchInst	Mitteilungen des Archäologischen Instituts der Ungarischen Akademie der Wissenschaften (Budapest)
MNy	Magyar Nyelv (Budapest)
Múzeumcafé	Múzeumcafé. A Múzeumok Magazinja (Budapest)

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Múzeumi Hírlevél	Múzeumi Hírlevél. A Kalocsai Múzeumbarátok Köre Kiadványa (Kalocsa)
MRT	Magyarország Régészeti Topográfiája (Budapest)
Ókor	Ókor. Folyóirat az Antik Kultúrákról (Budapest)
Ősrégészeti Levelek	Ősrégészeti Levelek. Prehistoric Newsletter (Budapest)
PA	Památky Archeologické (Praha)
PBF	Prähistorische Bronzefunde (München)
PNAS	Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (Washington, D. C.)
Quaternary Int	Quaternary International. The Journal of the International Union for Quaternary Research (Oxford – New York)
RégFüz	Régészeti Füzetek (Budapest)
Remote Sens	Remote Sensing (Tulsa)
Savaria	Savaria. A Vas Megyei Múzeumok Értesítője (Szombathely)
SbNM	Sbornik Národního Muzea v Praze Ser. A. (Praha)
SlA	Slovenská Archeológia (Bratislava)
SMK	Somogyi Múzeumok Közleményei (Kaposvár)
SSz	Soproni Szemle (Sopron)
Studia Hercynia	Studia Hercynia. Journal of the Institute of Classical Archaeology (Praha)
ŠtZ	Študijné Zvesti Arheologického Ústavu Slovenskej Akadémie Vied (Nitra)
Századok	Századok. A Magyar Történelmi Társulat Közlönye (Budapest)
Turul	Turul. A Magyar Heraldikai és Genealogiai Társaság Közlönye (Budapest)
UPA	Universitätsforschungen zur prähistorischen Archäologie (Bonn)
VAH	Varia Archaeologica Hungarica (Budapest)
VMMK	A Veszprém Megyei Múzeumok Közleményei (Veszprém)
WMMÉ	A Wosinsky Mór Múzeum Évkönyve (Szekszárd)
ZalaiMúz	Zalai Múzeum (Zalaegerszeg)
ZbSNM	Zborník Slovenského Národného Muzea. Archeológia (Bratislava)
ZfAM	Zeitschrift für Archäologie des Mittelalters (Köln)



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## VELEG, A MEDIEVAL VILLAGE IN THE CSÓKAKŐ CASTLE DOMAIN (FEJÉR COUNTY, HUNGARY)

**Zusammenfassung:** Im Rahmen eines 2022 gestarteten Forschungsprojekts werden die im 13. Jahrhundert errichtete Burg Csókakő und die Siedlungen der Burgherrschaft (Burgherrschaft Fejér, Ungarn) einer historischen und archäologischen Forschungsanalyse unterzogen. Während dieser Arbeit haben wir die zerstörten und positionell noch nicht bestimmten Siedlungen der Burgherrschaft mit extensiver Feldbegehungen identifiziert, weitere großangelegte Prospektionen wurden unternommen. Wir haben die noch vorhandenen Elemente der Landschaftsnutzung, wie z. B. die Lage der in den schriftlichen Quellen erwähnten Fischteiche und Mühlen im Gelände festgelegt, und uns mithilfe von zerstörungsfreien Untersuchungen die möglichst vollständige Vermessung der Überreste des zerstörten gebauten Vermächtnisses (Kirchen etc.) zum Ziel gesetzt. Die vorliegende Studie erläutert die komplexe Untersuchung, bzw. die Ergebnisse besagter Untersuchung, die sich auf eine der kleineren Siedlungen der Burgherrschaft und deren mittelalterliche Standortbedingungen konzentriert.

**Keywords:** Csókakő castle domain, village site, historical sources, non-destructive survey, Middle Ages, Fejér County, Hungary

The Csák kindred (*genus*), one of the most powerful kindreds of the era, built Csókakő Castle – together with several other castles in the vicinity – on a southern slope of the Vértes Mountains in the second half of the 13th century. Its owners in the 14th–16th centuries included the king and potent nobilities like the Rozgonyi, the Kanizsai, the Nádasdy, and the Bakics families. The Ottomans occupied it in 1543–1544, and it remained under their rule, except for the few years of the Long Turkish War (1593–1606), until 1687; the castle had a military function until the end of the 17th century.<sup>1</sup>

The vicinity of the regional centre, Székesfehérvár (no more than 25 km away), was decisive in bestowing Csókakő with a key strategic, historical, and economic position in the Middle Ages and the Ottoman Period, as were the important military and trade routes that ran near the castle. The pilgrimage road from Western Europe to Jerusalem, connecting Győr and Székesfehérvár, ran in its western foregrounds<sup>2</sup> and a busy sideway engirding the Vértes Mountains also passed under the castle. These circumstances influenced, in addition to its role in the region, life in the settlements of the castle domain.

The Csókakő Castle was especially valuable for its aspect and significant domain, which several sources refer to from when it belonged to the Rozgonyi and the Egervári-Kanizsai families. The domain was surveyed sixteen times between 1430 and 1522; it comprised a total of 32 villages

<sup>1</sup> For more on Csókakő Castle, see, e.g., *Hatházi 2010*; on the research between 2014 and 2017, *Hatházi – Kovács 2019*.

<sup>2</sup> The exact path is unknown; it cannot be excluded that largely matches that of Route 81 (*Hatházi 2010 27*).



Fig. 1. The Csókakő castle domain. Unidentified settlements: Apátfája, Apostol (Sós), Kankuta (after Engel 2020 and Bocsi 2007)

and partial estates in Fejér and Veszprém counties, some of which included fish ponds, mills, toll stations, and manors.<sup>3</sup> For example, in 1459, the Csókakő domain comprised fifteen estates, one partial estate, eight *predia*, four toll stations, three fish ponds, and a manor house.<sup>4</sup> About 16-28 estates belonged to it at a time; their number changed continuously (*fig. 1*).

Several early publications include written sources concerning the domain; recently, Zsófia Bocsi surveyed them.<sup>5</sup> A good proportion of the related settlements are known: many have been identified by field surveys,<sup>6</sup> detecting even the ruins of the churches of some.<sup>7</sup> Besides, Gábor Hatházi and Máté Stibrányi have carried out significant landscape archaeological research in the area.<sup>8</sup>

A new project, entitled *Castles, Settlement System, Material Culture, 1300–1700 – Complex Micro-Regional Research on the History, Landscape History, and Archaeology of Transdanubia*<sup>9</sup>,

<sup>3</sup> Bocsi 2006 51–60; Bocsi 2007; Hatházi 2010 117–119. Another mention has been discovered since these publications (containing fourteen); see footnote 35.

<sup>4</sup> Bocsi 2006 51.

<sup>5</sup> Károly 1893; Károly 1899 286–354; Seidel 2005 [1898] (see footnote 18); Bocsi 2006; Bocsi 2007.

<sup>6</sup> Stibrányi 2015 47, 87.

<sup>7</sup> Stibrányi 2015 Pl. 30–31, 74, 109–110.

<sup>8</sup> Hatházi 2010; Stibrányi 2015 chapter 4.

<sup>9</sup> National Research, Development and Innovation Office / Hungarian Scientific Research Fund (NKFIH / OTKA) K 143099, 2022–2026. Principal investigator: Gyöngyi Kovács. The research in Fejér County is carried out within the framework of a cooperation agreement between the HUN-REN RCH Institute of Archaeology and the King St. Stephen Museum in Székesfehérvár.

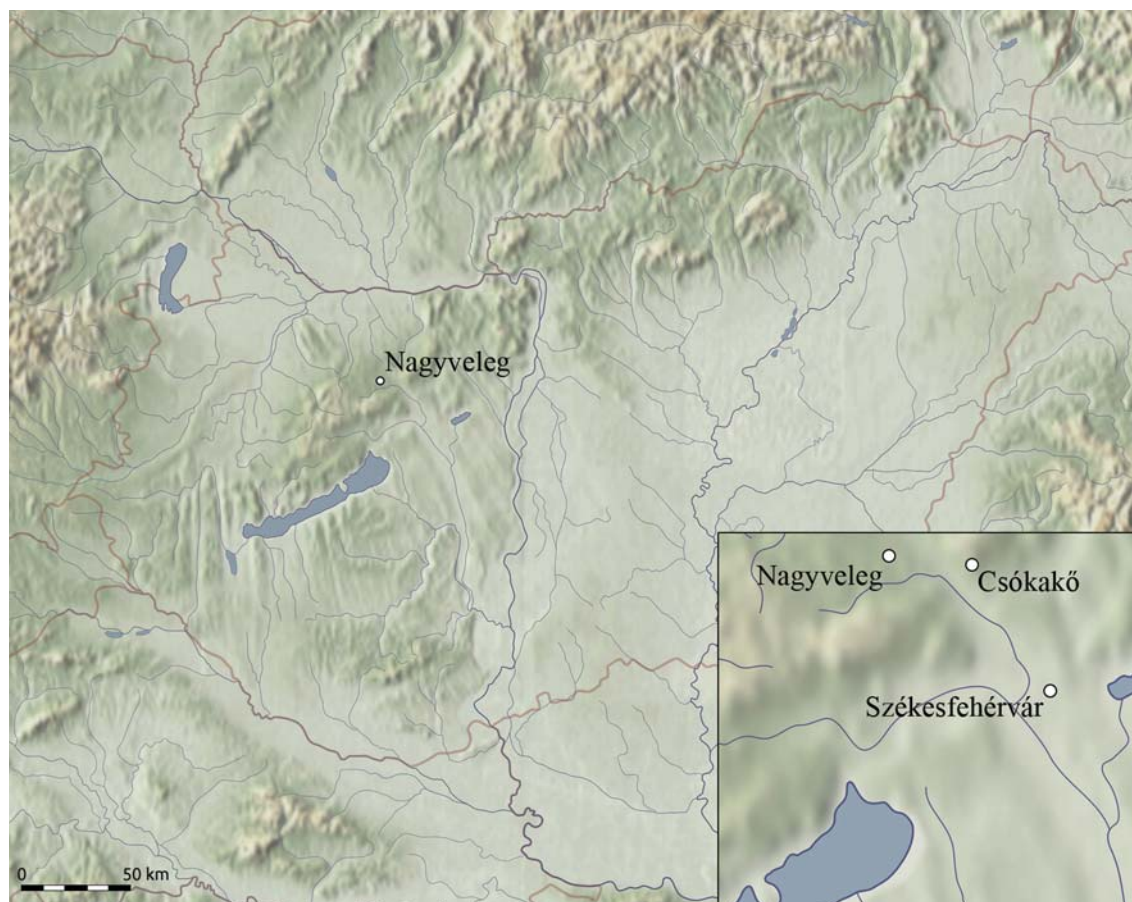


Fig. 2. Survey map showing the location of Nagyveleg, i.e., the medieval Veleg village (Map: ©Zsóka Varga)

was launched in late 2022 to investigate the vanished and not yet identified settlements of the castle domain (e.g., Csala, Fornaszentmiklós, Igar, and Kér), by extensive field collecting surveys. Besides, intensive field collecting surveys will also be conducted in the areas of the one-time villages, e.g., Boldogasszonykáporna, Kerekszenttamás, Tímár, Veleg, Sárkány, Orond, and Dinnyésméd. The project aims also include identifying the persisting elements of medieval landscape use, such as the fish ponds and mills mentioned by written sources, as well as applying non-destructive methods to survey, to the possible extent, the remains of the destroyed built heritage elements (churches etc.) in the study area,<sup>10</sup> reconstruct the former settlement structure of some villages, and identify medieval and early modern roads.

In the following, some results of the research on the history and remains of the medieval village of Veleg, conducted in Nagyveleg-Faluhely-dűlő, one of the project's focus areas, are presented.

Nagyveleg is situated in the southern foregrounds of the Vértes Mountains, west of Csókakő. It lies at a distance of mere 12 km from Csókakő and 6 km from Mór, a small town (*fig. 2*). The site of the medieval village of Veleg stretches over now unbuilt lands, marked on archival and current maps as 'Faluhely', on the southern outskirts of the current village (*fig. 3*). Today, the area around the modern village is covered by diverse size forest patches, but, according to the respective map of the First Habsburg Military Survey (1782–1785), the settlement was completely enclosed by

<sup>10</sup> E.g., *Stibrányi – Klembala 2021* on geophysical research of churches in Fejér County.

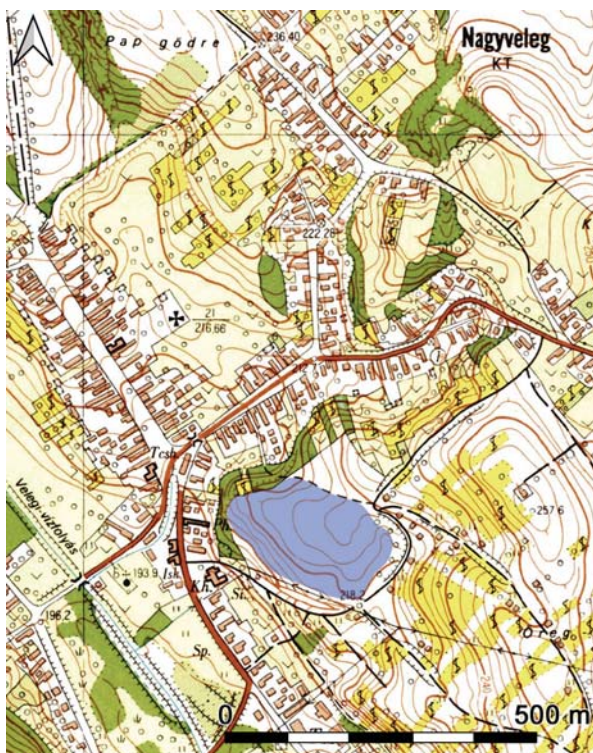


Fig. 3. Survey map of Nagyveleg-Faluhely-dűlő

First Habsburg Military Survey and a cadastral survey in 1883 (fig. 4. 1–2).<sup>14</sup> An informant of Frigyes Pesty still mentioned the ruins in the mid-1860s, recalling times 65 years before.<sup>15</sup> The residents of the village kept scavenging the wall remains for bricks, and the relic became interred for good probably at the turn of the 18th and 19th centuries; the earthquakes in 1810 and the years before must have accelerated this process, as they seriously damaged several settlements in the Mór Valley, including Veleg.<sup>16</sup>

forests at the end of the 18th century.<sup>11</sup> Some medieval sources also imply vast forests in the area. The Veleg Stream runs in a valley west of the village. A NW–SE-directed section of Route 81, the road crossing Mór, also runs close to the village; as mentioned, its path probably largely matches that of the medieval main road. The forest road of most probably medieval origin, connecting Mór and *Welek* (as marked on the map of the First Habsburg Military Survey), does not exist anymore; its line can be recognized in the path of the main streets of Nagyveleg (fig. 4. 1).<sup>12</sup>

The sources on the completely decayed one-time church of the settlement include a map and 19th-century descriptions; based on them and surface findings, its place could be identified at the north-western edge of the site. The destroyed settlement was repopulated in 1758; a map made shortly after that, in 1769,<sup>13</sup> marks its church as ruined (*rudera*), while the building is no longer marked on later maps, including the

<sup>11</sup> An interesting addition: The 67 km<sup>2</sup> continuous forest surrounding Nagyveleg at the end of the 18th century became fragmented by the mid-20th century, with the patches covering a mere 16 km<sup>2</sup> (see Wallrier 1942 40).

<sup>12</sup> See Stibrányi 2015 95; short sections of the medieval road are still visible on the outskirts of the village.

<sup>13</sup> Lajos Nagy mentions a map from 1769 (*Mappa possessionem Vellek representans*), on which in the area of Faluhely-dűlő is marked the ruins of church (as '*rudera*'); see Nagy 1966 178.

<sup>14</sup> Cadastral maps of the Habsburg Empire; <https://maps.arcanum.com/hu/map/cadastral/?layers=3%2C4&bbox=2015424.0256997363%2C6000197.094940836%2C2018646.3241733832%2C6001348.42767938> [last accessed on 10. 10. 2023.].

<sup>15</sup> According to the description of the place by the village clerk in 1865, '14 acre arable land in the southern part of the village called Faluhely by the locals; 65 years before the ruins of a church could be seen there; serfs were made to dig up the land around it, and they found many skulls there'. And 'In the southern part of the current village, there is a ploughland called Faluhely, which belonged to the manor before it was redistributed and became a 12 acre ploughland of the village of Veleg in 1861. A village could be there earlier, too, but even the oldest only remember the ruins of a church and that the residents quarried many cartloads of bricks where the church once stood. The remains of a row of cellars can still be seen in the western part of this former village'; Párniczky 1977 292–293, see also Stibrányi 2015 76–77.

<sup>16</sup> Kiszely 2010; [http://www.foldrenges.hu/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=125:foeld-rengesek-a-vertesben&catid=33&Itemid=7](http://www.foldrenges.hu/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=125:foeld-rengesek-a-vertesben&catid=33&Itemid=7) [last accessed on 10. 10. 2023.].



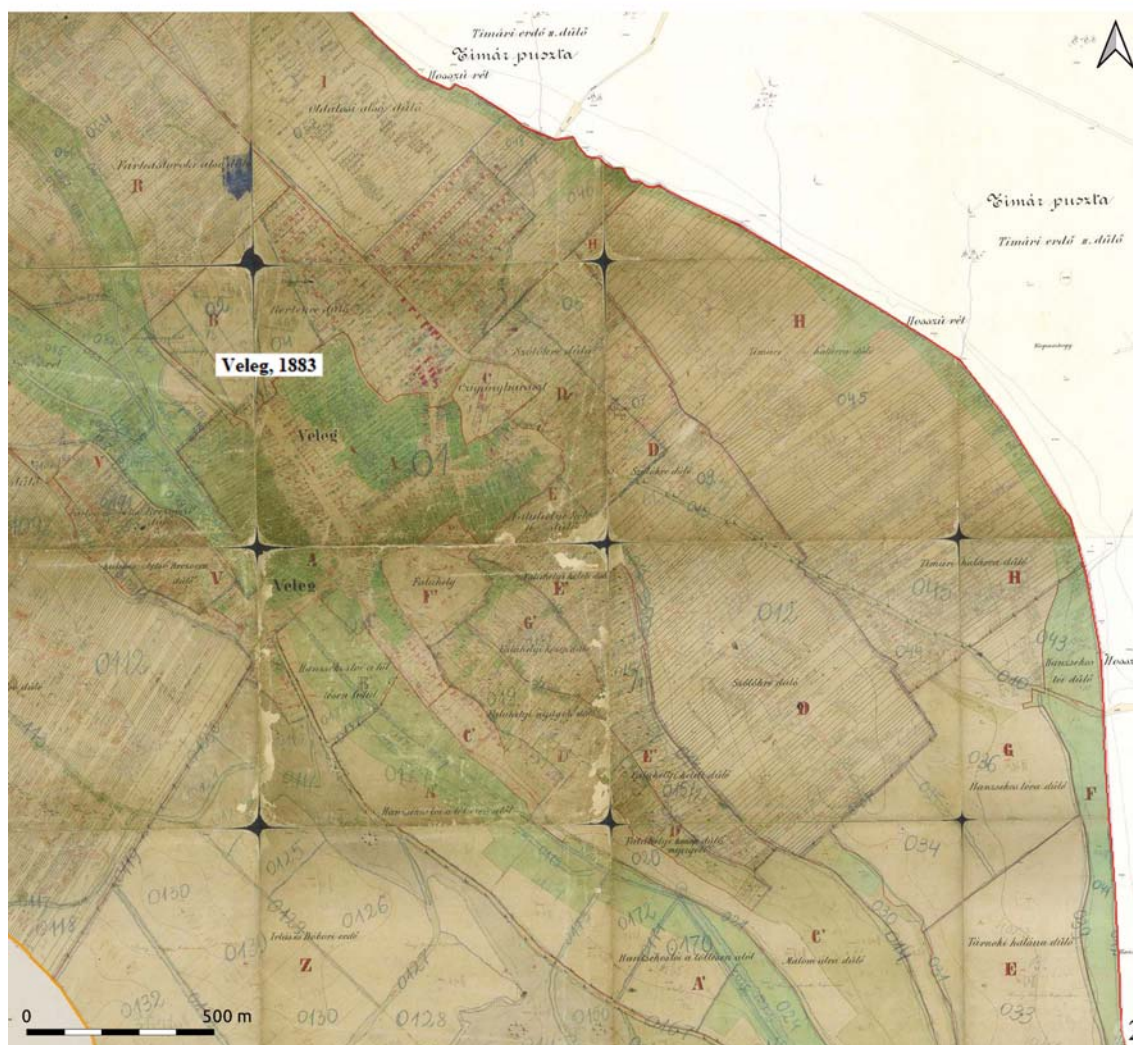


Fig. 4. 1. Veleg on a map of the First Habsburg Military Survey (1782–1785); 2. Veleg and Faluhely on its outskirts on an 1883 cadastral map (Cadastral Maps of the Habsburg Empire, ©Arcanum)

*Veleg in written sources*

Lying on the border of Fejér and Veszprém counties, Veleg, a village west of the medieval Mór and Tímár, was one of the westernmost (although not the remotest) permanent lands (*pertinencia*)<sup>17</sup> of the Csókakő castle domain.<sup>18</sup>

The village first appears relatively early in the charters compared to other estates of the domain. In the Árpád Age, it was mentioned (together with several other villages) as the estate of the Csák kindred, the rulers of the area at the time, in the 1228 and 1231 wills of Miklós Csák (*de genere Chak*),<sup>19</sup> the younger brother of the late Archbishop of Esztergom, Ugrin Csák.<sup>20</sup> It was then mentioned as obtained property bestowed on the firstborn son, Izsák, by his mother (the first wife of Miklós Csák), to whom it was a morning gift.<sup>21</sup> Veleg is not listed in the will amongst the ancient lands of the Csák kindred, but it was a royal estate donated to them in a coeval charter from 1230, where King Andrew II confirmed the decisions of his son Béla (later King Béla IV), who took his father's donations of land on review, approving some and taking others back from the rewarded. Miklós Csák had a chance to claim back some of his estates in Fejér County during the related royal committee hearing; as a result, he lost five villages but could keep two, one of them Veleg.<sup>22</sup>

The name of the village originates from a Slavic personal name, Velek,<sup>23</sup> who was likely the founder or first owner of the settlement. A leader named Velek appears in several chapters of the *Gesta Hungarorum* by Anonymus; according to the story, he followed Álmos, the first leader of the Magyar conquerors, from the Old Homeland, and also served Árpád later.<sup>24</sup> While the *Gesta* is best considered a literary work that contains no relevant information on the era of the Hungarian Conquest, it certainly holds interesting additions to our knowledge on the time of its writing: the figure of Velek likely refers to the emerging Csák family.<sup>25</sup> Onomastic research by Katalin Fehértói pointed out that the village must have been established in the early 13th century at the latest, as 13th-century sources include many variations of the name (*Velk, Velec, Velek, Veluc, and Veluqu*); the earliest mention is the one in Anonymus's *Gesta*, discussed above.<sup>26</sup>

Following the 13th-century charters on the dealings of the Csák kindred, the village appears in written sources only two centuries later. In 1430, it was a royal estate and part of the domain of Csókakő Castle; it was a lifetime donation as *honor*, i.e., an acknowledgement of his merits (practically a kind of service property) by King Sigismund I to István, comes of Temes County, son of László Rozgonyi.<sup>27</sup> Albeit the village has not been mentioned in written sources for two

<sup>17</sup> The extended and revised version is under publication. *Bocsi in press*.

<sup>18</sup> The first overview of the history of the castle and the castle domain was written by János Károly, Canon of Székesfehérvár, in 1893 (*Károly 1893; Károly 1899* 286–354). This work was completed by the survey on the castle and the castle domain (reorganised in the 17th century as part of the Mór domain) by Ignác Seidel, the overseer of the Mór domain; see *Seidel 2005 [1898]*.

<sup>19</sup> 'Velgh': *MNL OL DL* 88083; *Györffy 1987* 414.

<sup>20</sup> Originally, the kindred, which both Anonymus and Simon Kézai originated in their *gestas* from Előd, a leader of the Magyar conquerors, dwelled in the area of the Vértes Mountains; see *Szentpétery 1937* 41, 99; *Anonymus 2003* 38, 88; *Szentpétery 1937* 166; *Karácsonyi 1900* 291–292; *Györffy 1987* 325.

<sup>21</sup> 'Welg': *MNL OL DL* 61129 (1231); *Fejér 1829* 227–230; *Nagy 1885* 53; *Karácsonyi 1900* 311; *Károly 1904* 444–445.

<sup>22</sup> 'Welg': *MNL OL DL* 61127 (1230); *Fejér 1829* 204–206; *Ipolyi – Nagy – Véghely 1876* 24–26; *Nagy 1885* 51–52; *Károly 1899* 224.

<sup>23</sup> *Kiss 1978* 454.

<sup>24</sup> *Szentpétery 1937* 101–106; *Anonymus 2022* 89–92.

<sup>25</sup> See the introduction by György Györffy in *Anonymus 2003* 12–13; *Kristó 2002* 49–58.

<sup>26</sup> *Fehértói 2004* 820–821.

<sup>27</sup> *MNL OL DL* 12306. For more on the same period of Csókakő Castle and its domain, see *Bocsi 2006*.

centuries, the results of the most recent archaeological research indicate that the Mongol Invasion (1241–1242), the event which caused the largest trauma in the life of the medieval Kingdom of Hungary, inflicted relatively little damage on this area.<sup>28</sup> First King Albert in 1439,<sup>29</sup> while later, his widow, Queen Elizabeth, reinforced the privilege of donating Csókakő Castle and its domain as one that can be inherited to István Rozgonyi and his son, János.<sup>30</sup> Besides, the village of Veleg is listed as an estate of the Csókakő castle domain in about a dozen other 15th-century documents, including land donation charters and their reinforcements, ones ordering the registration of ownership, and ones reporting that it has been done.<sup>31</sup>

A 1493 common estimation (*aestimatio communis*), written on the occasion that the Csókakő and Vitány castles were pawned, sheds light on what the estate usually mentioned simply as ‘Veleg estate’ included.<sup>32</sup> The document comprises a detailed list of all lands classified according to actual land use and the quantity and size of the related plots, thus outlining their value by common estimation (as it was the custom of the time). The following entries were listed as part of the ‘Veleg estate’: a stone church with a graveyard,<sup>33</sup> four inhabited plots (*sessio populosa*), eight out-of-village plots (*sessio campestra*), half a royal ploughland,<sup>34</sup> twenty-four scythe lands (*falcastrum*), and ten royal ploughlands of forest and shrubbery where sheep can be grazed.<sup>35</sup> In comparison, Apostol, the least populated village of the domain in that time, included two inhabited, three abandoned, and eleven out-of-village plots, while Mór, the most populated settlement, comprised 48 inhabited and eight abandoned plots and seven out-of-village plots. Veleg had the smallest arable land and Mór the biggest, extending to six royal ploughlands. The natural environment determined the size of the scythe lands, too: Veleg, amidst vast forests, had 24 scythe lands worth of grasslands, while Mór, a town situated on a plain rich in arable land, had exceedingly large, extending to 400 scythe lands.

The real advantage of Veleg became manifested in the total area of forests and shrubberies, which, extending to ten ploughlands, were the second biggest of the castle domain (with even the

<sup>28</sup> Wolf 2018, especially 124–126.

<sup>29</sup> MNL OL DL 13408; Károly 1899 303–304, the full text of the charter *ibid.* Charter no. LXXXI, 547–549.

<sup>30</sup> MNL OL DL 19214, MNL OL DL 56803, MNL OL DL 88159, MNL OL DL 88893, MNL OL DL 88914; MNL OL DL 13466, MNL OL DL 88167; Károly 1899 303–304, published in Charter no. LXXXI, 547–549. Károly 1899 Charter no. LXXXII 549–553 publishes the full text of the charter on the actual registering (MNL OL DL 13466) with faulty dating.

<sup>31</sup> For a detailed description of the 15th-century of the Csókakő Castle domain, intertwined with that of the Rozgonyi family, see Hatházi 2010, especially 52–64, 88–90; Schmidt Mayer 2012; Schmidt Mayer 2014. As for the latter, it must be noted that the data concerning Veleg is mentioned incorrectly in footnote 14 because the respective charter (MNL OL DL 13466) mentions the village as an estate, not a partial estate. For more on the Csókakő castle domain, see Bocsi 2007.

<sup>32</sup> The settlement appears in 13th-century charters as *Welg*. In 1430, it was mentioned as *Weleke*, while in 1439, as *Weleg* or *Welegh*. Some documents refer to it as Nagyveleg (*Nagyhwelgh*, *Nagywelgyh*, or *Nagywelegh*); that these do not mention a separate Veleg indicates that the two names were interchangeable in the Middle Ages, marking the same village; see Csánki 1897 356. Kisveleg first appears as abandoned only in 17th-century documents, only in pair with Nagyveleg.

<sup>33</sup> It must be noted here that this is the first written mention of the church of Veleg as it was not included in the 1332–1337 papal tithe register of eligible settlements (those with a parish and a church) in the territory of the Kingdom of Hungary.

<sup>34</sup> A ploughland is a piece of land that can be ploughed with a single plough in a year. It is approximately 150 royal acres or 126.6 ha. Bogdán 1978 150, 161.

<sup>35</sup> MNL OL DL 19214. *Item possessione Weleg cum ecclesia lapidea sepulturam habente ac sessionibus populosis quatuor, sessionibus campestralibus octo, terris arabilibus ad medium aratrum regale, pratis ad falcastra viginti quatuor, silva usuali et rubetis, ubi etiam pecora eorum pascuntur, ad iugera regalia decem se extendentibus.*

third, belonging to the village of Tímár, not being bigger than six ploughlands). Only Sárkány<sup>36</sup> in the Bakony Mountains had bigger forests and shrubberies (eleven ploughlands), but half of these were closed off for hunting.<sup>37</sup> Forests were diversely utilised in medieval times: they were hunting grounds and their wood was exploited for fuel and timber; village people foraged diverse foods there to complete their diet and gathered various raw materials, while landlords had their livestock fed there (pig farming, which heavily relied on pannage in the forests, had become a lucrative business by the Late Middle Ages).<sup>38</sup>

The residents of Veleg were mentioned in charters (and often by name) since the 15th century. The name of the neighbouring village, Tímár (*Thymar*), appears in the documents of several prolonged litigations, where their neighbours are also often mentioned.<sup>39</sup> Besides, dwellers from Veleg are mentioned in papers related to a feuding (power display): in 1482, serfs from villages of the Csókakő castle domain (including Veleg) felled and hauled away trees from the forest in Barc of the Crusaders of Székesfehérvár at the instigation of György Kanizsai and his wife, Klára Rozgonyi, the owners of the castle at the time.<sup>40</sup> A few mentions of village officials are known from the early 16th century. For example, in 1493, Bertalan, Balázs, and Gáspár from Veleg were amongst the ones invited to the probate ceremony of the estates of Csókakő Castle;<sup>41</sup> the latter is probably identical to the judge of servitors mentioned in a 1508 and a 1511 document.<sup>42</sup>

The Rozgonyi line broke with the death of the last son, István, in 1492, and after that, the immense fortune – including Csókakő Castle – was passed down through the female line. At the end of the Middle Ages, the domain changed hands more and more often between the Egervári, Kanizsai, Bakics, and, finally, the Nádasdy family, but this did not seem to affect daily life much.<sup>43</sup> Veleg remained one of the smallest villages in the domain, with a sparse population. Only two taxpaying serfs were registered there in 1515,<sup>44</sup> and the 1521 census recorded ten abandoned plots in the village.<sup>45</sup> Due to the low number of inhabitants, Veleg was registered jointly with the neighbouring Tímár in the 1524–1528 *nona census*,<sup>46</sup> albeit it had its own judge, a certain István Méhes, in 1526 and 1527.<sup>47</sup> The 1528 *urbarium* by Lukács Csopaki, a new judge of the village who had just moved from Sárkány then, mentions four houses again.<sup>48</sup>

The sources fell silent when Székesfehérvár and its surroundings came under Ottoman rule in 1543. An Ottoman garrison was established in Csókakő Castle, and the villages of the domain

<sup>36</sup> Today Bakonysárkány.

<sup>37</sup> *MNL OL DL 19214*.

<sup>38</sup> *Saláta 2009*, especially 231–234; *Hegyi 1978*; *Zatykó 2021*.

<sup>39</sup> A few examples: Péter Velegi is mentioned as a neighbour in 1437 (*MNL OL DL 106442*; *Érszegi 1971 217*); in 1445, members of the Tímári family, including Antal, canon (*custos*) of Eger, and his brothers, Simon, Benedek, and József, attempted to assert their right to certain plots in Tímár and Veleg, which they had been donated in the previous year by István Rozgonyi, Comes of Temes County. The charter, dated 29 September 1445, is published in *Károly 1904 687–693*, Charter no. LXIV. Furthermore, a charter dated to 1469 reports on the possessions (gifted to her as morning gift and engagement present) of Erzsébet, widow of Józsa Tímári, in Tímár and Veleg, when she sold these for 110 gold florins to János and Renold Rozgonyi, the owners of Csókakő Castle (*MNL OL DL 106664*; *Érszegi 1971 237*). In 1486, András, Bertalan, and László Velegi were questioned as neighbours to the village in a public hearing related to Tímár (*MNL OL DL 106665*, details published in *Károly 1893 127–131*).

<sup>40</sup> *MNL OL DL 106687*; *MNL OL DL 106697*; *Károly 1896 372*; *Érszegi 1971 248*; *Ribi 2021 267*.

<sup>41</sup> *MNL OL DL 19960*.

<sup>42</sup> *MNL OL DL 106728*; *Károly 1896 306*; *MNL OL DL 106736*; *Érszegi 1971 251–252*.

<sup>43</sup> *Hatházi 2010 89–106*.

<sup>44</sup> *MNL OL DL 26164*.

<sup>45</sup> *MNL OL DL 37007*.

<sup>46</sup> *MNL OL DL 26319*.

<sup>47</sup> *MNL OL E 156 – a. – Fasc. 004. – No. 041*.

<sup>48</sup> *MNL OL E 156 – a. – Fasc. 004. – No. 041*; *Bocsi 2007 61, Table 4*.



Fig. 5. Nagyveleg-Faluhely-dűlő. The site in the spring of 2023 (Photo: ©Gyöngyi Kovács)

became subject to double taxing; information on their daily lives does not appear in documents after that. The village is mentioned in a 1662 *urbarium* as *Kis- és Nagy-Veleg* [Small and Big Veleg], both abandoned and used by tenants.<sup>49</sup> The village became re-settled in 1758.<sup>50</sup>

### *The research of the settlement site*

In spring 2023, field walking surveys were carried out in the Faluhely-dűlő (*fig. 5*) on the eastern bank of the Veleg-patak (Veleg Stream) in the southern fringes of the recent village, an area that had been identified as the site of the medieval Veleg village.<sup>51</sup> Most of the surveyed area was freshly ploughed or covered with newly sprouting crops, providing excellent or at least good visibility.<sup>52</sup>

Applying identical or at least comparable methods of data and find collecting was a primary concern during the field survey to support geoinformatical processing and the statistical evaluation of the find material. Therefore, the designated area was surveyed in linear north-south

<sup>49</sup> *MNL OL E 156 – a. – Fasc. 004. – No. 043/b; Seidel 2005 [1898] 57–58*; another *urbarium* from the end of the 17th century mentions the residents of Csesznek as tenants of the two Veleg villages (Kisveleg and Nagyveleg), both of which remained inhabited during the Ottoman occupation (*MNL OL E 156 – a. – Fasc. 006 – No. 055, p. 38, translation published in Károly 1893 87–92*). The villages are mentioned in the 1692 and 1702 registers, i.e., after the reconquest of the occupied lands, as abandoned villages (*Károly 1899 224*).

<sup>50</sup> *Seidel 2005 [1898] 63; Párniczky 1977 292–293*.

<sup>51</sup> Zsuzsanna Lencsés has identified the site in an authentication inspection in 2022. It was introduced in the Central Register of Archaeological Sites of Hungary as Nagyveleg-Faluhegy, ID No. 98851.

<sup>52</sup> Bianka Gina Kovács, Gyöngyi Kovács, Csilla Zatykó, and Zsuzsanna Lencsés participated in the field survey.

tracks with 25 m spacing; all findspots were recorded with a handheld GPS, and the finds were packed separately from every 25 m section of every track,<sup>53</sup> thus projecting a 25 × 25 m grid onto the 120/150 × 180 m survey area and recording the find scatter and its intensity accordingly. The survey probably did not include the whole area of the one-time settlement as the northern part was closed off for a solar panel park, and the find scatter, albeit its intensity gradually decreased towards that, did not run out completely until the border of the studied area. The find scatter also continued to the edge of the surveyed area in the south, where thick shrubs followed the valley of the stream, preventing us from finding the limits of the settlement in that direction. The eastern edge of the one-time village could easily be followed, while in the west, the find scatter continued under the plots and gardens of the recent settlement. In summary, the find scatter indicates that the central part and most of the peripheries of the medieval Veleg village were surveyed.

### *Evaluation of the collected surface finds*

The systematic find collecting campaign yielded altogether 519 pottery, two knife, five bone, three daub, a roof tile, and two brick fragments. In addition, 39 sherds were recovered from outside the sampling track; these are considered stray finds (*fig. 6. 6–7, 9, 16; fig. 7. 13–16; fig. 8. 11–13*). Most fragments could be dated to the 11th–16th centuries; of the rest, two are prehistoric, and two are modern. About 10% of the find material could only be dated as ‘medieval’ as they did not bear any traits that would help specify their chronological position. Altogether, 9% could be dated to the three centuries of the Árpád Age, while 14th–15th-century, late medieval fragments comprised the bulk (65%) of the find material. In addition to the ‘traditional’ chronological categories, 3% of the find material could be dated to the 13th–14th, 2% to the 12th–14th, and 1% to the 15th–16th centuries. Only 1% of the recovered finds could be dated precisely, to the 14th century, and another 9% to the 15th century.

Most Árpád Age (11th–13th-century) potsherds are red, while some are brown or yellow. Other sherds are grey due to secondary burning during use; the original colour of the latter could not be identified. The sherds came from pots and mugs but no cauldrons. They were all coiled and made on a slow wheel; the coils can still be recognised on many. They were made of clay tempered with coarse sand, fine gravel, and, in several cases, crushed limestone. Originally, the pots had simple band rims of about 14–19 cm in diameter; the mouth of the only mug was 11 cm wide. Some side fragments bear incised wavy lines, the detail of a perpendicular spiral, or cogwheel patterns (*fig. 6. 1–4*).

The 13th–14th-century record contains more yellow pieces and also includes red and grey fragments. The vessels were tempered with coarse sand or fine gravel. Pots in this group have more diverse rims, with usually a profiled rib on the outer side of the lip (*fig. 7*); their mouth ranges between 14 and 23 cm in diameter. A grey rim fragment is a clear ‘Austrian’ ware imitation with four incisions on its bulging rim (*fig. 7. 11*); it has numerous analogies in the territory of the *Medium Regni*. Recent research has revealed that such ware was possibly produced there;<sup>54</sup> previously, all ‘Austrian’ pieces were considered imports.<sup>55</sup> The relics of this period also included the fragment of a flat lid or lamp (*fig. 7. 17*); it was red, with a 13 cm mouth and a 10 cm base. Reduction-fired, grey variants of this type (also from ‘Austria’) had been arriving in the territory of the kingdom since the 13th century;<sup>56</sup> this red piece was likely a local imitation.

<sup>53</sup> For more about the method, see *Mesterházy 2013; Berta 2022* 88–90.

<sup>54</sup> *Bárdi 2014* 71–73; *Feld 2008* 310–311.

<sup>55</sup> *Holl 1955* 163–174, 184; *Bertalan 1998*.

<sup>56</sup> *Holl 1963* 343.

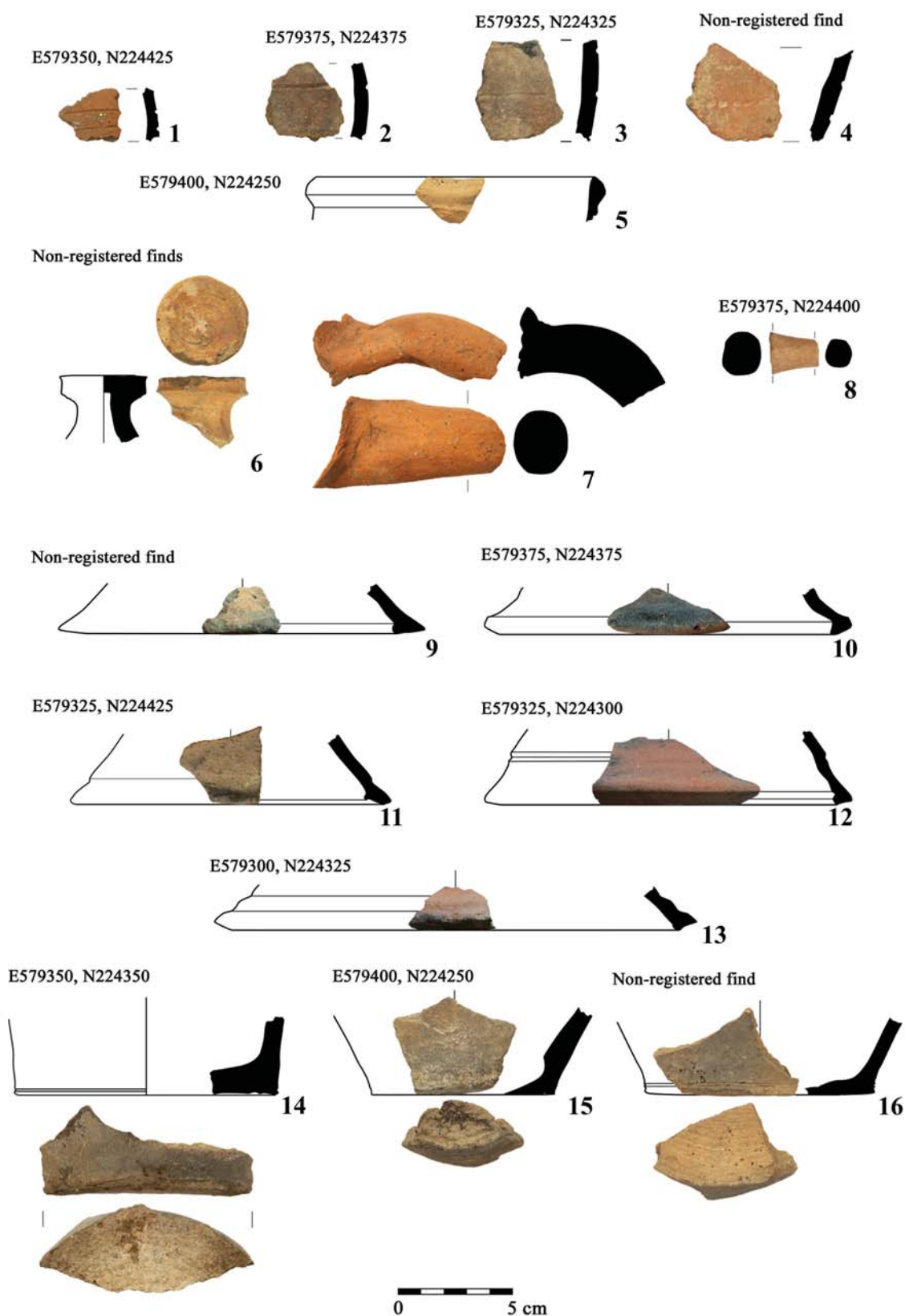


Fig. 6. Nagyveleg-Faluhely-dűlő. Medieval pottery finds with the coordinates of the respective cells of the find collection documentation grid: 1–4: Árpád Age fragments; 5, 7. Late medieval liquid containers; 6, 9–13. Late medieval lids; 8. Fragment of a (footed) pot; 15. Vessel base as removed from the potter's wheel; 14, 16. Base of a wheel-thrown pot (Photos: ©Péter Hámori, drawing: ©Zsóka Varga)

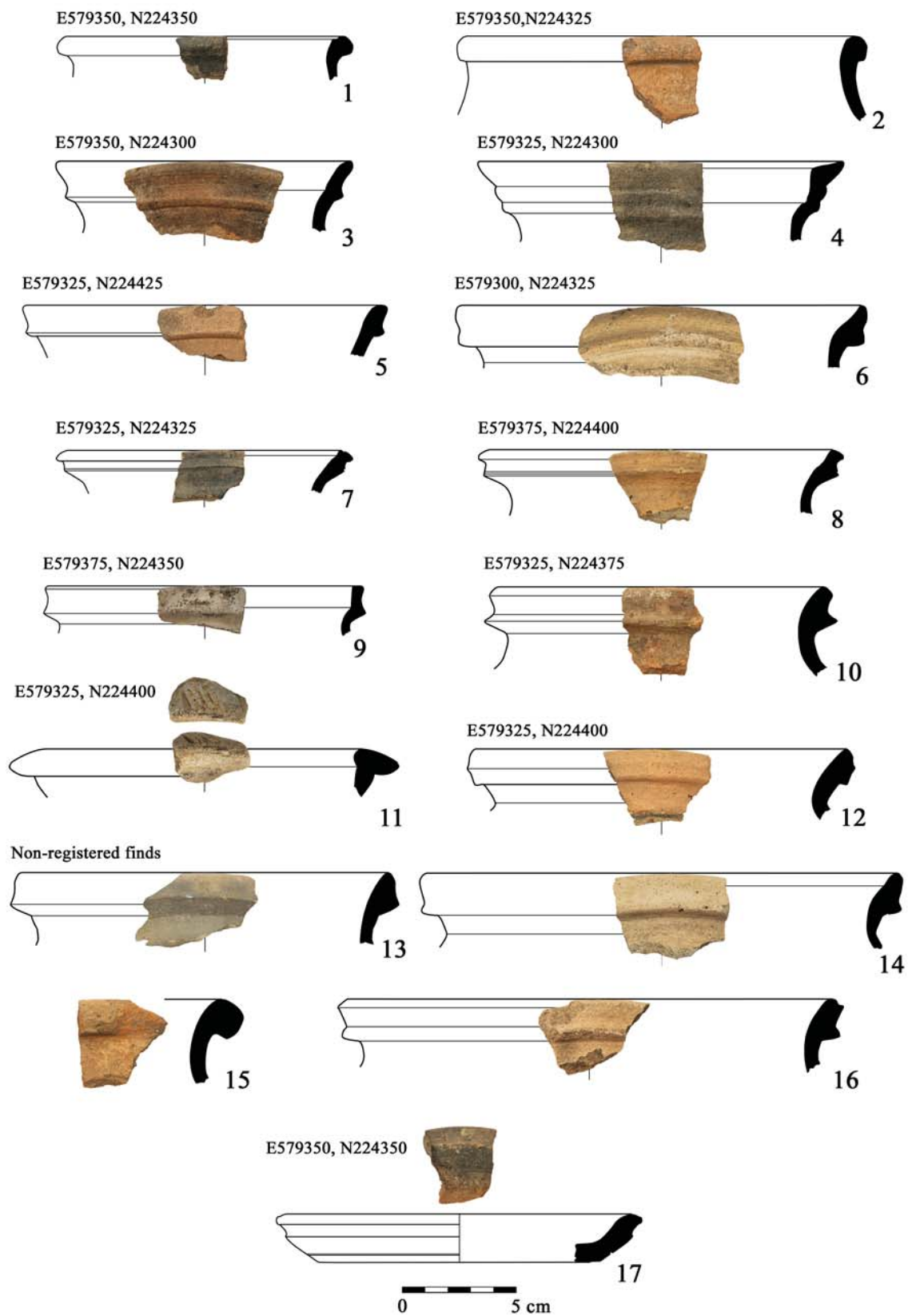


Fig. 7. Nagyveleg-Faluhely-dűlő. Medieval pottery finds with the coordinates of the respective cells of the find collection documentation grid: 1–16. 13th–14th-century pot rims; 17. Lamp(?) fragment (Photos: ©Péter Hámori, drawings: ©Zsóka Varga)



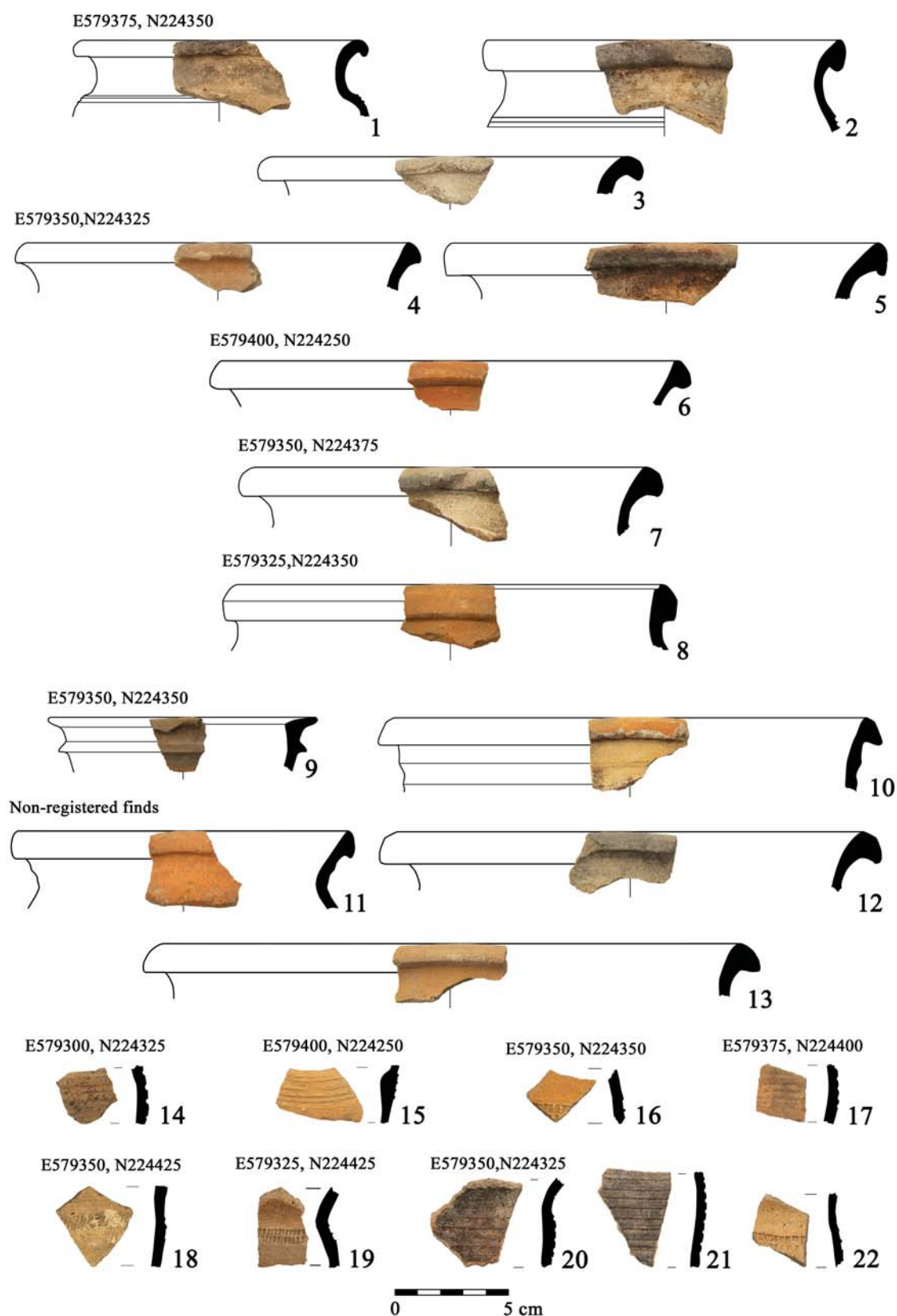


Fig. 8. Nagyveleg-Faluhely-dűlő. Medieval pottery finds with the coordinates of the respective cells of the find collection documentation grid: 1–13. 15th–16th-century pot rims; 14, 16–22. Decorated pot side fragments; 15. Decorated side fragment of a liquid container (Photos: ©Péter Hámori, drawings: ©Zsóka Varga)

The largest group, late medieval (14th–16th-century) pottery, included mostly thin-walled, wheel-thrown pieces. Among them, the colours of the previous periods recur: the sherds include yellow, pink, red, and grey pieces. Their dating could be specified based on local analogies of the rim profiles and the decorations of the vessel body. Yellow pots were usually made of clay tempered with medium coarse or coarse sand, which often contained dark grains, while some had fine gravel temper. Their rims most commonly imitate ‘Austrian’ forms: the everted, bulging, slightly collared type is also characteristic of the coeval pottery recovered from nearby sites (*fig. 8. 1–7, 10–13*).<sup>57</sup> Most rims could be classified as variants of this basic type, and different rim solutions were rare (see, e.g., *fig. 8. 9*). Pots had mouths between 12 and 23 cm in diameter. The typical decorations of the vessels’ sides include slight ribbing or profiled ribs, incised line bundles, and rolled stamp patterns on the shoulder (*fig. 8. 14, 16–22*). Some bottom fragments are uneven (*fig. 6. 15*), but most feature cut marks where they had been separated from the fast wheel (*fig. 8. 14, 16*); their diameters range between 8 and 12 cm. Pots include a pink and a pale red variant, with designs and tempering akin to yellow pottery; their colour is likely the result of some difference in the applied firing method or their place in the pottery kiln. Samples from a similar ware in the record of Csókakő Castle have been subjected to petrographic analysis, which has revealed that the pale red and yellow pots were made of identical material.<sup>58</sup> Besides, the collected surface pottery finds include red pots with gravel temper and other rim variants, e.g., band rims with a lid groove (*fig. 8. 8*), which was typical of the regions of the Bakony Mountains<sup>59</sup> and east Transdanubia<sup>60</sup> in the 15th–16th centuries.

The assemblage contained only a few fragments of yellow and red conical lids with retracted rims, 14–16 cm in diameter, with a knob of about 4 cm in diameter (*fig. 6. 6, 9–13*). The marks of having been cut off the potter’s wheel are clearly visible on most knobs. The number of identified liquid containers is low; all were made of finely tempered clay and, save for one piece, fired to yellow. The only rim fragment is ribbed (*fig. 6. 5*). Many side fragments bear incised line bundles the shoulder (*fig. 8. 15*) or a broad-brush painted red line pattern on the body. Analogies to the latter are known from Csókakő Castle,<sup>61</sup> as well as Székesfehérvár<sup>62</sup> and its surroundings.<sup>63</sup> The only handle fragment is red and gravel-tempered (*fig. 6. 7*), representing a type also found in the area’s pottery record, including the castles in the Vértes Mountains.<sup>64</sup>

In summary, the pottery record fits well amongst the find materials of coeval sites in the region,<sup>65</sup> thus featuring several similarities with the pottery obtained from Csókakő Castle. The 15th-century ceramic vessels have good analogies in Csókakő, and the similarity will likely extend to the finds of other centuries as the processing of the find material progresses. Probably, the workshops of the wide area supplied Veleg with pottery in the first place, while the imported distance types (which appear in the record of the castle) did not get there.

<sup>57</sup> Kovács 2022.

<sup>58</sup> Kovács 2023 61; Kreiter – Viktorik – Máté 2022.

<sup>59</sup> E.g., Bakay – Kalicz – Sági 1970 fig. 6. 2–3, fig. 35. 27–28, fig. 39. 23.

<sup>60</sup> E.g., Siklósi 1982 fig. 1; László 2014 Tab. 4. 1; Feld et al. 1989 180, figs. 5–6; Gerehlyes – Feld 1986 174.

<sup>61</sup> Kovács 2023 fig. 9.

<sup>62</sup> Siklósi 1983 Abb. 4.

<sup>63</sup> Berta et al. 2023.

<sup>64</sup> Kovács 2014 Abb. 15. 6; Kovács 2023 62.

<sup>65</sup> E.g., Siklósi 1983; Siklósi 1993; Berta et al. 2023.

### *Database and chronological classification of the field survey finds*

The GPS tracklogs and points were downloaded from the handheld GPS devices after the field survey. Artefact count was summarized in every  $25 \times 25$  m cell of the survey grid, and the chronological data was connected to these units. The finalised database contains the coordinates of the survey grid cells (x and y coordinates in HD72 projection, EPSG: 23700) and the chronological data as presented below.

In the chronological classification of the survey finds,<sup>66</sup> the traditional period or age-dependent temporal framework was abandoned, and a probability-based approach was implemented. The main aim was to estimate and express the chronological value of the sherds and assess its uncertainty. The Middle Age was divided into hundred-year-long ‘artificial’ periods (centuries), which were used as base units in the evaluation.<sup>67</sup>

The surface finds collected during the field survey in cells of a  $25 \times 25$  m grid were classified into smaller sub-groups based on their chronological values estimated by specialists. Then, the probability value (on the scale of [0;1]) was defined of every sub-group within a collection unit (cell) per century. The sum of the probability values within every sub-group was 1, their distribution implying the chronological accuracy of the respective subgroup. Well-datable sub-groups with a probability value of 1 fell only in one artificial ‘century’, while ones with a low chronological value got 0.25 probability values, falling in four different ( $4 \times 0.25 = 1$ ) artificial ‘centuries’.

#### *Temporal changes in the field survey find material*

The collected 516 medieval artefacts were divided into three major categories based on expert judgement. Sub-groups with 0–0.33 probability values were considered low (ca. 3–5 ‘centuries’), those with 0.33–0.66 probability values medium (ca. 2 ‘centuries’), while the ones with [1] probability values high chronological value. Based on the chronological framework developed for the site, altogether 1,197 probability values were attributed to the 516 collected artefacts. As for the distribution of the finds between the different probability categories, roughly 27.9% (334 pcs.) fell in the low, 67.8% (812 pcs.) in the medium, and only 4.2% (51 pcs.) in the high range (*Table 1*).

The proportion of the different categories in the different temporal units shows a more complex picture. Low-value finds (with a 0–0.33 assigned probability value) in the 12th–15th centuries represent the general pottery of the Middle Ages, which also highlights the problems emerging in context with the separation of the finds of the early centuries.

Probability value	11th	12th	13th	14th	15th	16th	Total
0.2	98	50	50	50	50	0	298
0.25	9	9	9	9	0	0	36
0.4	0	48	48	0	0	0	96
0.5	0	0	16	354	342	4	716
1	0	0	0	4	47	0	51
<b>Total</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>417</b>	<b>439</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1197</b>

Table 1. Probability distribution and sherd count by ‘century’

There is a slight increase between the 12th and 13th centuries and a significant one between the 14th and 15th centuries in the number of medium-value types (with a 0.33–0.66 assigned value). Most high-value pieces were classified to the 14th and 15th centuries (*Table 2*).

<sup>66</sup> Chronological classification by Bianka Gina Kovács, analysis by Gábor Mesterházy.

<sup>67</sup> *Bevan et al. 2012; Crema 2012; Crema 2015; Mesterházy – Füzesi in press.*

Probability value	11th	12th	13th	14th	15th	16th	All
0.2	91.59	46.73	40.65	11.99	11.39	0.00	24.90
0.25	8.41	8.41	7.32	2.16	0.00	0.00	3.01
0.4	0.00	44.86	39.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.02
0.5	0.00	0.00	13.01	84.89	77.90	100.00	59.82
1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.96	10.71	0.00	4.26
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Table 2. Probability distribution per ‘century’

Both the overall count and the chronological uncertainty of the Árpád Age (11th–13th century) finds is significantly lower than the late medieval (14th–16th centuries), although 12th–13th-century medium-value finds clearly outline a distinct Árpád Age settlement on the site. The slightly elevated number of medium-value finds in the 13th century implies a distinct find horizon marking the transitional period between the Árpád Age and the Late Middle Ages.

The majority of the collected material could be dated to the 14th–15th century with medium or high probability.

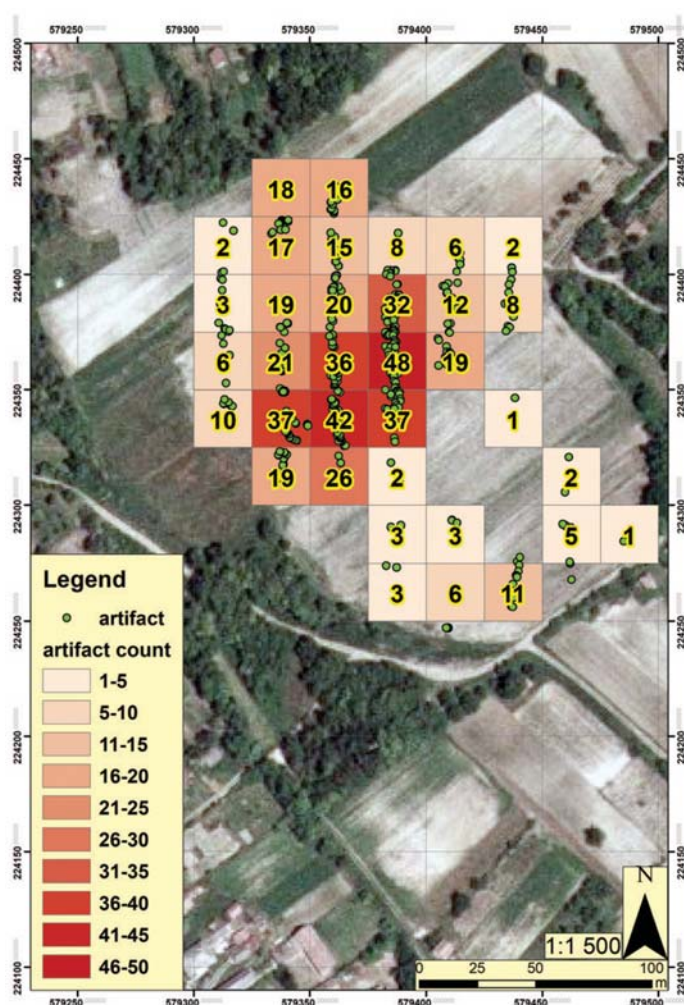


Fig. 9. Artefact density and scatter in the survey area  
(©Gábor Mesterházy)

#### *Spatial changes in the scatter of the find material collected in the field survey*

The 11th–12th-century finds concentrated in an area of about 100 m around the church. Two small gaps were observed in the scatter of medium-value finds of this period, which younger, 13th-century artefacts filled.

A scarce scatter of finds of this period could also be observed in some peripheral areas in the southeastern part of the site. The immediate vicinity of the church was quite empty at the time, containing only a few low-value sherds. The find scatter reflects a significant expansion of the settlement in the 14th and 15th centuries, with high-value 15th-century artefacts concentrating in the centre of the site (*fig. 9; fig. 10. 1–4; fig. 11. 1–2*).

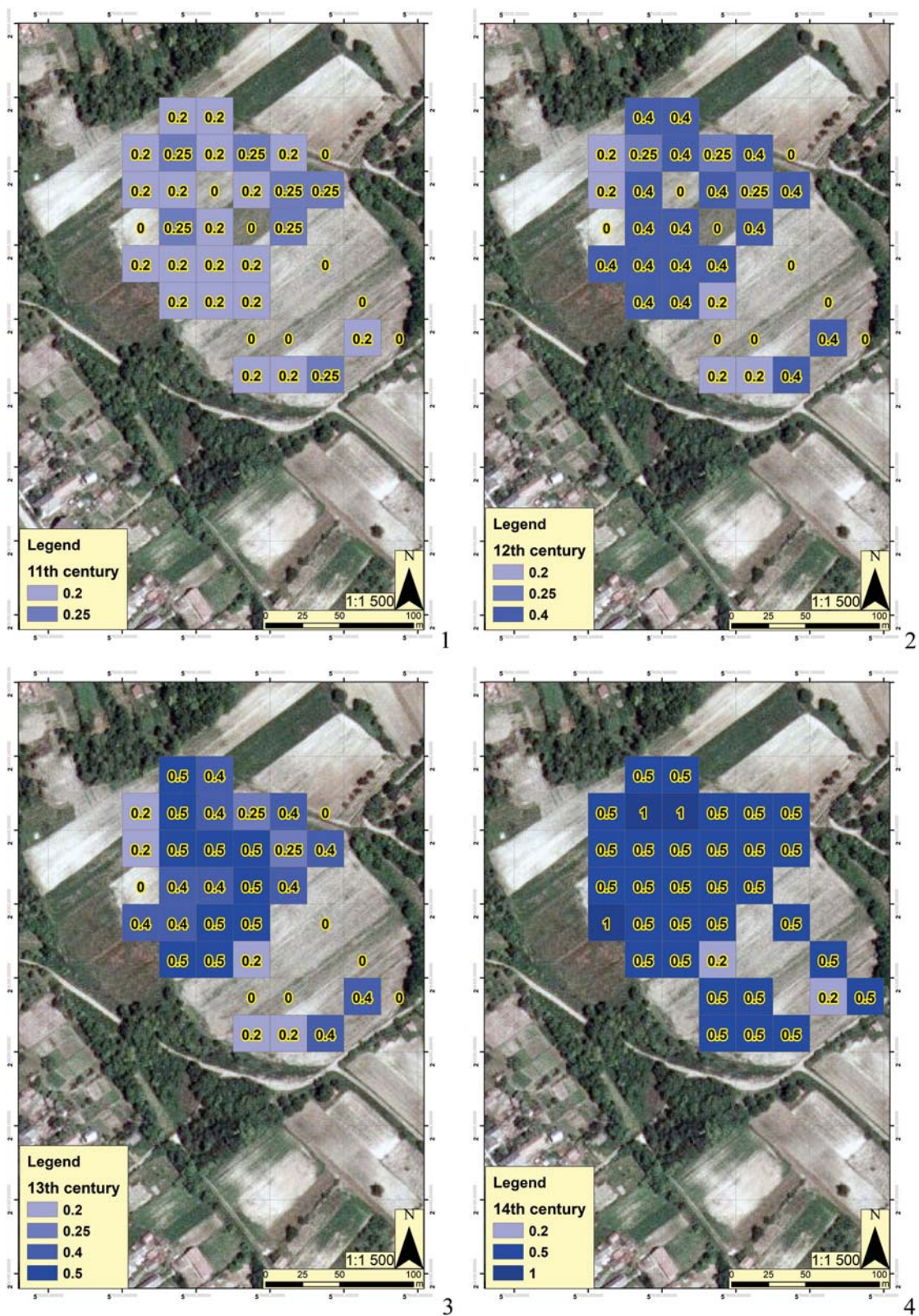


Fig. 10. Probability values of the collected artefacts: 1. 11th century; 2. 12th century; 3. 13th century; 4. 14th century (©Gábor Mesterházy)

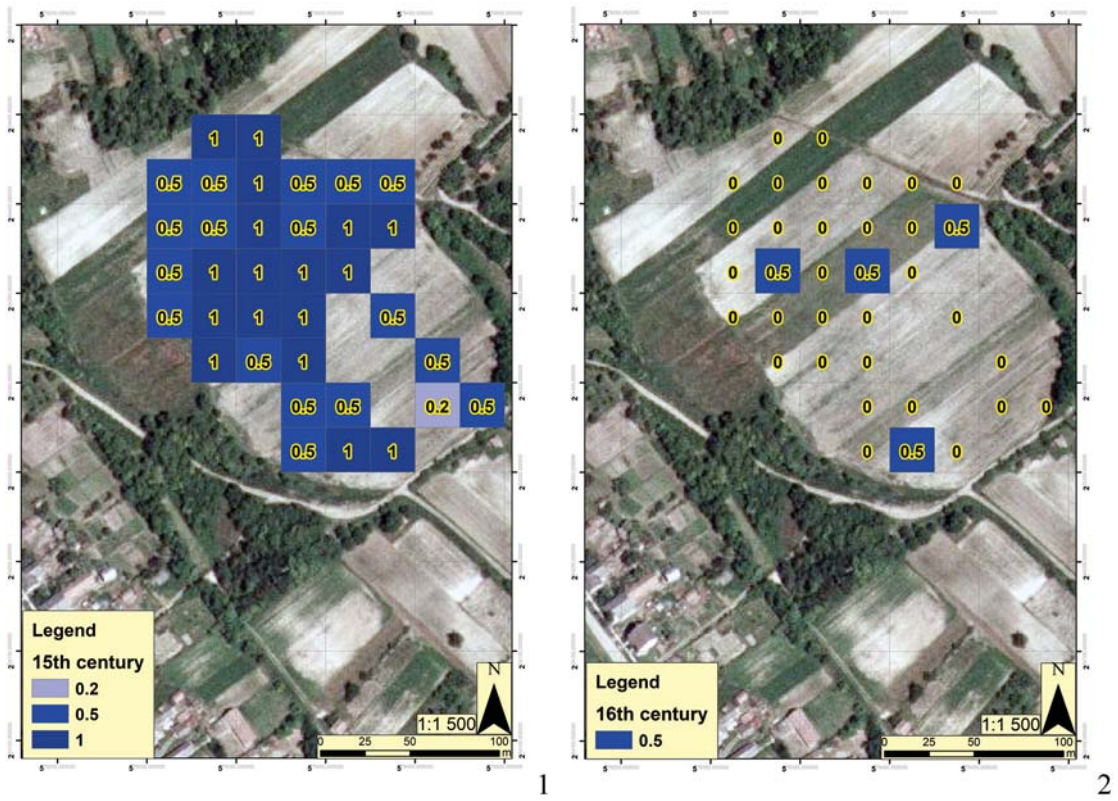


Fig. 11. Probability values of the collected artefacts: 1. 15th century; 2. 16th century (©Gábor Mesterházy)

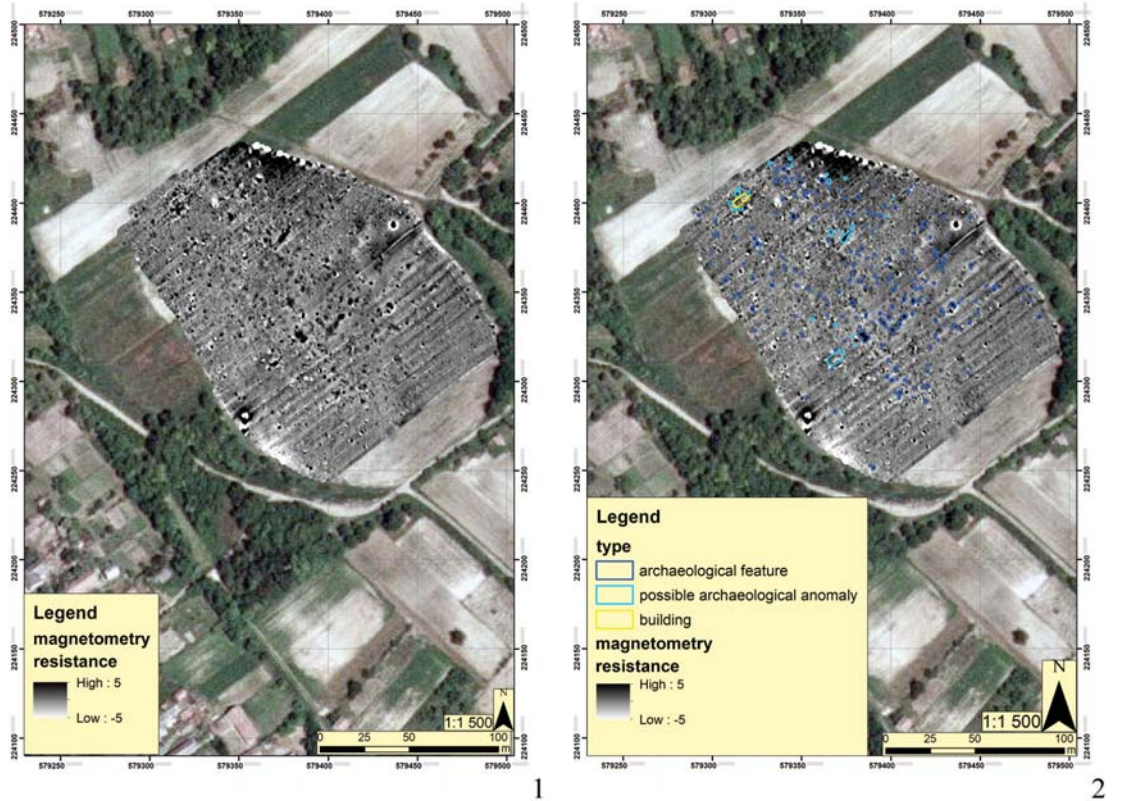


Fig. 12. 1. Magnetometer image of Nagyveleg-Faluhely-dűlő (by Gábor Mesterházy); 2. Magnetometer image of Nagyveleg-Faluhely-dűlő and interpretation (©Gábor Mesterházy and Mihály Pethe)

### Geophysical research

A complex geophysical methodology integrating diverse analytic methods was applied in the research of the medieval village of Veleg to identify archaeological phenomena on the settlement site.<sup>68</sup> Magnetometer survey was carried out in the whole area of the Faluhely-dűlő, while the higher north-western part where the church once stood was georadar surveyed. (fig. 12. 1–2; fig. 13) The focus area is divided into several plots, all ploughed at the time, providing optimal survey conditions. In the following, the applied methods and the results are presented in detail.

#### Magnetometer survey

The magnetometer survey was conducted with a SENSYS MXPDA five-channel fluxgate gradiometer equipped with an RTK-DGPS system for georeferenced measurements. Altogether, 24,730 m<sup>2</sup> of the site were surveyed.<sup>69</sup>

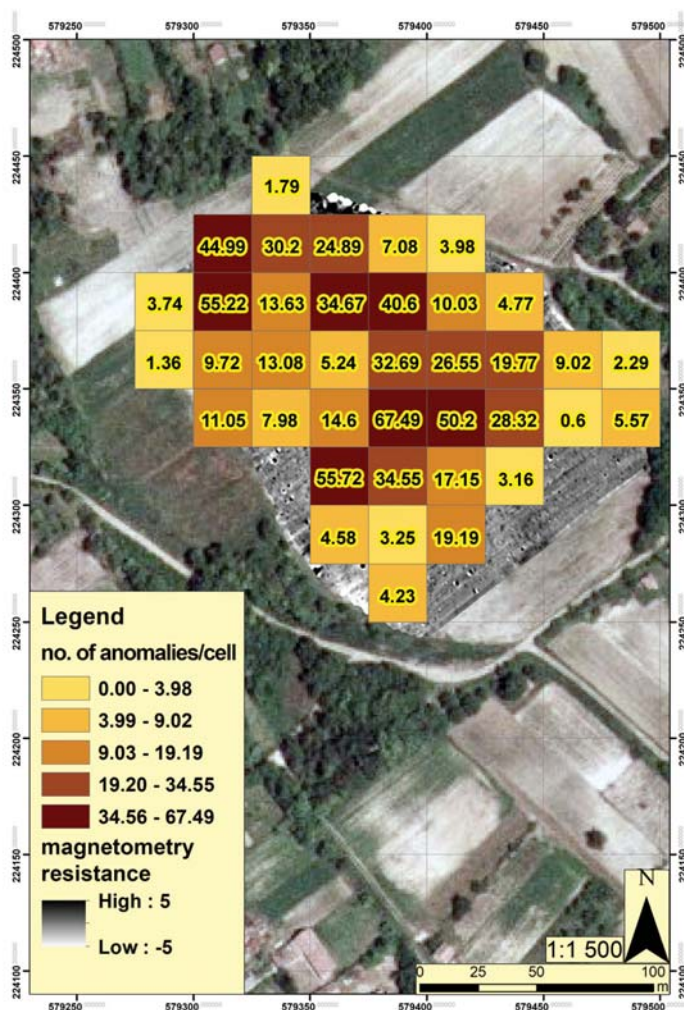


Fig. 13. Distribution of magnetic anomalies in the cells of the 25 × 25 m documentation grid (©Gábor Mesterházy and Mihály Pethe)

<sup>68</sup> The geophysical surveys followed the protocol as described in *Schmidt et al. 2016*.

<sup>69</sup> Raw data were processed by geophysicist Mihály Pethe, and the results were interpreted by Mihály Pethe and Máté Stibrányi.

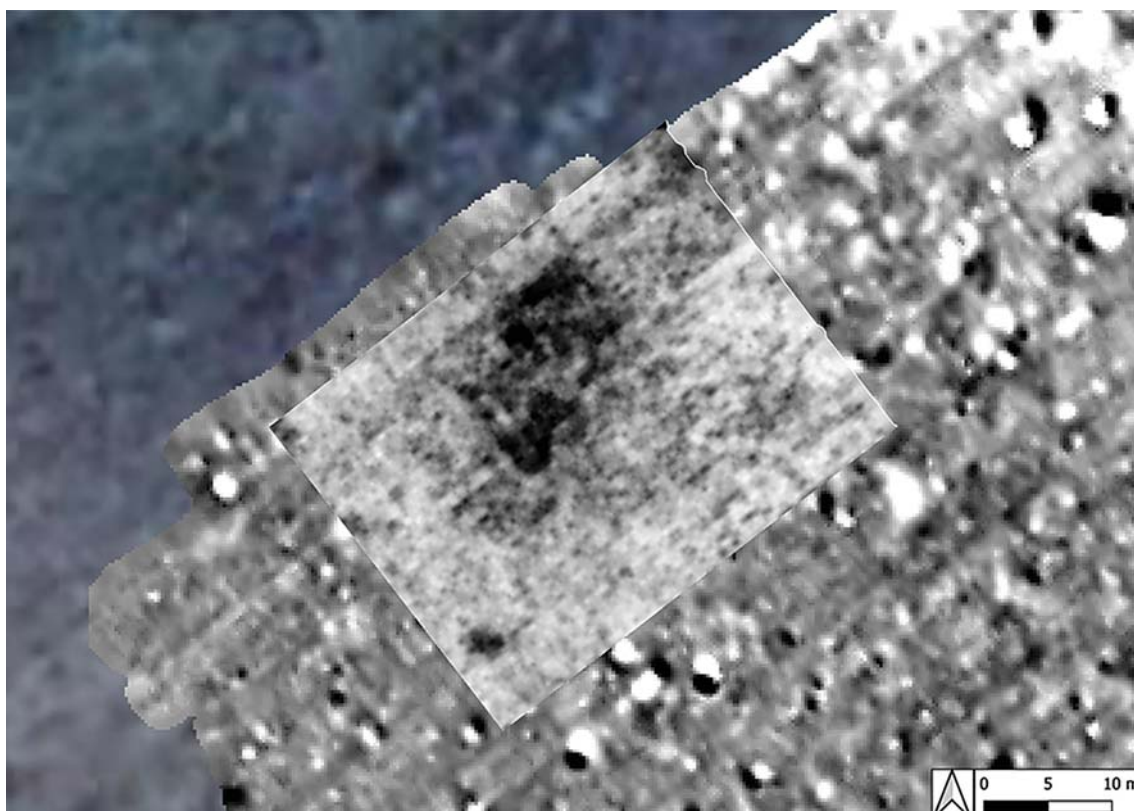


Fig. 14. Georadar depth profile at -0.4–0.7 m (©Zsombor Klembala and Máté Stibrányi)

The intensive anomalies at the north-western edge of the survey area could unambiguously be identified as marking the place of the one-time church, and even some walls appear on the image as negative signals; however, the image alone is insufficient for reconstructing the floor plan of the building. South-east of that, almost all of the survey area is densely covered in anomalies indicating archaeological phenomena, with a concentration on the small elevation south-east of the church (*fig. 12. 1–2*). Metallic noise, a characteristic of medieval settlement sites, was quite strong throughout the survey area, while two relatively big anomalies indicated large subterranean structures, perhaps semi-sunken pens. No ditches or ditch systems referring clearly to the Árpád Age occupation or revealing details about the inner structure of the settlement could be observed in the survey image (*fig. 13*).

#### *Georadar survey*

The georadar survey was conducted with an ImpulseRadar CO4080 pushed single-channel dual-frequency device with a dipole antenna with ultra-wideband frequencies centred around 400 and 800 MHz. The 800 MHz range allowed investigating the ground to a maximum depth of 1.5 m, the 400 MHz to 2–2.5 m; the survey was taken in a grid of parallel and perpendicular tracks with 0.5 m spacing. Measurements were taken at every 2.5 cm along the track. The data were visualised in a three-dimensional model built from depth profiles.<sup>70</sup> The main perimeter points of the survey area were recorded with a Leica VIVA GS08plus geospatial survey station.

<sup>70</sup> Raw data were processed by geophysicist Zsombor Klembala, and the results were interpreted by Zsombor Klembala and Máté Stibrányi.



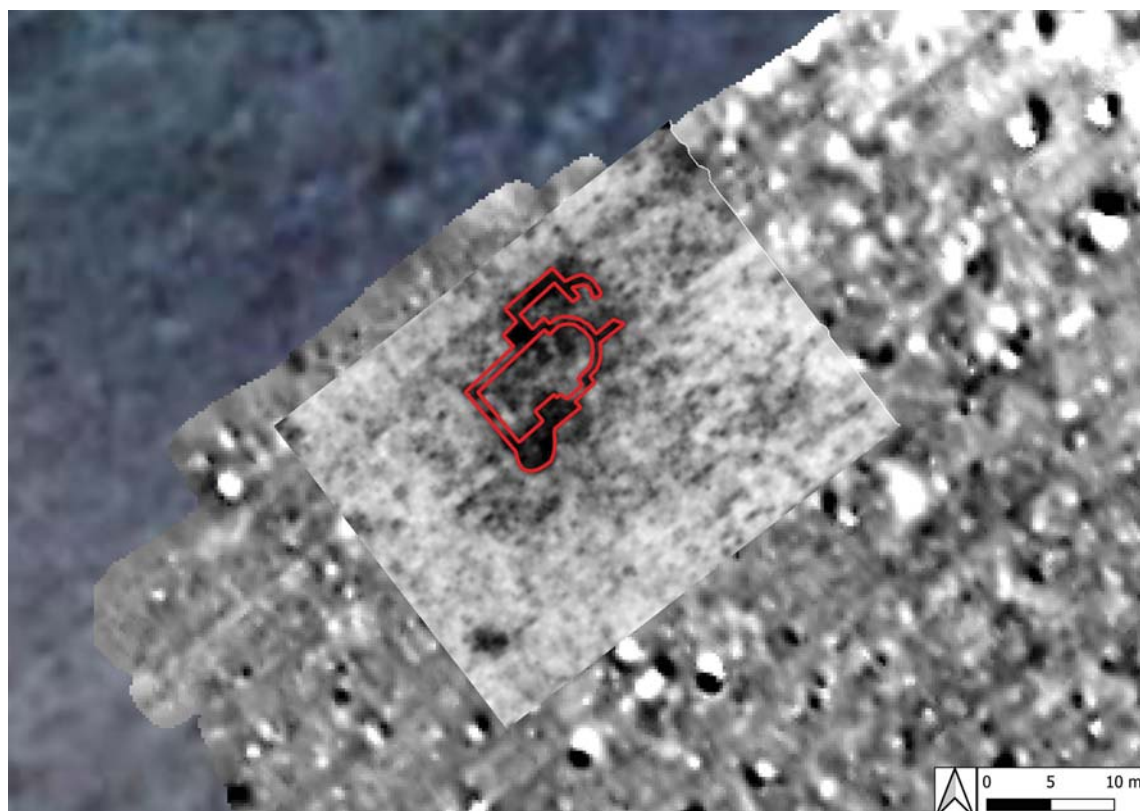


Fig. 15. Georadar depth profile at -0.4–0.7 m with interpretation (©Zsombor Klembala and Máté Stibrányi)

The results have revealed that the church has been preserved relatively well under the surface (figs. 14–15), despite its walls having been quarried for building material and the remains being prone to erosion and the harmful effects of agricultural activity in the area: the wall remains appeared already on the -0.30 m depth profile. The profiles clearly outlined a 10 m long (with the sanctuary) and 6 m wide building with a semicircular apsidal end and the foundation of the altar positioned at the centre of the sanctuary. A 6 m long and 4 m wide sacristy or side chapel was attached to the sanctuary in the north, extending over the end of the sanctuary towards the north. The massive,  $2.5 \times 2.5$  m foundation on the south-western side of the church could belong to a tower. The church wall does not appear on the survey image.

### *Summary*

The medieval Veleg village was part of the domain of Csókakő Castle in the area of Mór. Based on historical sources, the village was founded before the 13th century, i.e., before Csókakő Castle was erected; its first mention is dated 1228. Throughout its history, Veleg was one of the smallest villages of the domain with few taxpayers, whose homes (in varying numbers) were scattered in an area of merely 2.16–2.7 ha. The number of taxable homes and serfs does not indicate the number of residents.<sup>71</sup> It must be kept in mind that only a small part of the land of the village was suitable for cultivation (the sources mention half a royal ploughland), but it stood amidst vast forests and had the second biggest forests in the castle domain. The frequent changes in the

<sup>71</sup> Cf. *Hatházi 2010* 118.

ownership of Csókakő Castle and its domain did not significantly influence life in the settlement, shaped fundamentally by its contacts with the nearby Mór and the needs of the residents of the castle. The village had its heyday in the 14th and especially in the 15th century (simultaneously with the castle). Its church was mentioned in a common estimation in 1493. It even had its own judge in 1526 and 1527. Veleg was likely destroyed in the early 16th century, at the start of the Ottoman occupation; it is mentioned as abandoned in 17th-century documents and was rebuilt and the area re-settled next to the medieval settlement site in the 18th century.

Based on pottery finds, the residents of the village used vessel types common in the region. The find material collected in the surveys was evaluated independently of the available historical data, the probability-based approach applied in the dating of the individual stray finds making the uncertainty of the dating perceivable. Uncharacteristic Árpád Age potsherds without any feature that may help specify their chronological position were dated to the 11th–13th centuries; therefore, one of the maps includes an ‘11th century’ category despite no written source points to any settlement existing in the area of the site at that time. Historical and archaeological data equally enable that the first village was founded in the 12th century, likely towards its end. The relatively large quantity of the 14th–15th-century finds recovered from the site is in accordance with the abundance of written sources related to the coeval history of the village.

One of the main streets of today’s Veleg (Móri Street) largely follows the path of a medieval road passing at the north-western fringes of the Faluhely-dűlő; based on that, the one-time road turned northwards probably on the north-western fringes of the medieval village, near the church.<sup>72</sup> The instrument-aided and geophysical surveys of the site resulted in identifying the church, clarifying its extent, and reconstructing its floor plan. According to 19th-century descriptions, the small, apsidal church building was at least partially built of bricks.<sup>73</sup> Its size – 10×6 m, with an attached sacristy or side chapel of 6 × 4 m – suggests that it was unlikely built before the late 14th century,<sup>74</sup> and most probably after the 1420s when the land was a possession of the Rozgonyi family in 1430–1496 (the church is not included in the papal tithes registers in 1332 and 1337, only appearing in documents first in 1493, which corroborates this dating). However, only excavations could specify its chronological position. Besides the church building, the magnetometer survey revealed several anomalies that indicate a settlement in the area of the site, but their character and position did not allow outlining house sites, plots, or a street network. The reconstruction of the internal structure of the settlement was probably hampered by the destruction caused by intensive agricultural activity.

Both historical data, the find material, the size of the church, and the mention of the church in a document at the end of the 15th century point to the village having its heyday in that century, in the decades when the Rozgonyi family owned these lands. The scarce 16th-century written record reports on the slow decay of the village in the shadow of Ottoman rule.

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<sup>72</sup> See also *Stibrányi 2015* 95.

<sup>73</sup> *Párniczky 1977* 292.

<sup>74</sup> According to Alán Kralovánszky, the usual floor area of 11th–12th-century churches is around 33 m<sup>2</sup>, while of those built in the 13th–14th centuries 65 m<sup>2</sup>; see *Fügedi 1981* 392. However, it is unclear whether the related calculations included the area of the sanctuary or not; *Tari 1995* 153–159. The church of Veleg extended to 60 m<sup>2</sup> without and 84 m<sup>2</sup> with the side chapel.

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