

WIETRZYCHOWICE CULTURE PARK ON THE EUROPEAN ROUTE OF MEGALITHS

Kuyavian long barrows called megaliths (the name is derived from two Greek words: *me-gas* – great and *lithos* – stone) are the oldest examples of architecture on the area of today's Poland. For thousands of years megaliths have been a ubiquitous element of the landscape of Kuyavia, Pomerania, Chełmno land and the eastern part of Greater Poland. In the 19th century the dwellers of Kuyavia called them “żale”, “żalki” or “mogielniki” (the names are derived from Polish words „żale”, “żalki” – sorrow and “mogielniki” – grave). In those days, they were regarded as tombs of people from the distant past, e.g. pagan times, the period of Teutonic wars, or the times when pre-historic giants inhabited Kuyavia. Here is the typical 19th century description of megaliths, provided by Maksymilian Borucki: *Wherever we look at the fields or plains of this land, we can see so called “Żale”, i.e. quite big stones, symmetrically laid on tombs of the dead, over an elevated area, or on a hill that may have been banked up on purpose. Today many of them have disappeared. After chopping down forests, stones or pebbles had to be used as building material. As stone is scarce in Kuyavia, it was taken away from “żale” or “mogielniki”.*

The first documented excavations of Kuyavian long barrows were carried out by Natalia Kicka, Warsaw philanthropist, who was also passionate about antiquity and numismatics. In July 1873 together with duke Józef Bniński from Osiecz Wielki, she excavated a megalith in the village of Żurawica. The results of the research were published in volume III of “Wiadomości Archeologiczne” (“The Archaeological News”), in the article *Żale Żurawickie*. The introduction, written by N. Kicka is particularly interesting: *I regard it as my duty to give a brief account of the discovery, which was made in my presence. I am doing so in the hope that even one detail added to the research of pre-historic times will not be irrelevant for the science of archaeology.* The barrow that was excavated, was described as follows: *This was a strip of land between arable fields, formed by two parallel rows of large boulders, lying several steps away from one another. The length of the strip of land was 75 steps, and the width between one row of boulders and the other – seven steps.* Here is the description of the exploration at the moment of discovering the grave chamber: *Mr Bniński, who supervised the digging, advocated great care while performing further works, and this was just in time,*

because a moment later an urn appeared. Reason prompted slow work, but the curiosity pushed us and the diggers forward. The poor urn was hanging, as if, above the bones, because it could be seen much higher than the actual place from which the bones had been removed.

The work of Natalia Kicka, translated into German, inspired other “admirers of antiquity” to conduct excavations. German general R.von Erckert was one of the people who carried out amateur excavations of c.a. thirty long barrows at Tymień, Żurawica and Janiszewo in 1879 and 1880. Before World War I, professor Leon Kozłowski contributed to the research of Kuyavian megaliths by excavating features located at Świerczyn and Świerczynek.

Regular scientific research of Kuyavian long barrows was commenced by professor Konrad Jażdżewski in 1934. During three seasons of excavations, he explored clusters of megaliths at Wietrzychowice, Obałki and Leśniczówka, located on the area of today’s communes of Izbica Kujawska and Boniewo, in the district of Włocławek. He applied his own method of excavating, which was extremely modern at the time. Professor managed to sort out all the available data which referred to Kuyavian long barrows. He was the first to put forward the idea that the features were built by the population of the Funnel Beaker Culture (the name was derived from the characteristic shape of the vessels used) in the middle of the Neolithic, which according to modern dating took place between 5700 and 5300 years ago. Moreover, he described long barrows as features consisting of three basic parts: the earth mound (1), sometimes ranging to 100 m in length, limited and protected by stone cairns made up of large erratic stones (2). The latter, put up next to each other, constitute exterior walls of the barrows which assume the shape of an elongated trapezium or triangle. Invariably, underneath the mounds there is either one or several graves (3) of grown-up men, frequently accompanied by additional stone constructions.

Professor Konrad Jażdżewski argued that long barrows were built for the most outstanding and eminent community members, possibly political or religious leaders (elders). In his opinion, megaliths were erected by agricultural communities, whose





principal occupation was growing crops (mainly barley and wheat) and breeding animals, primarily livestock.

Professor Konrad Jażdżewski discovered the cluster of Kuyavian long barrows at Wietrzychowice in 1934, when he was working at the State Archaeological Museum in Warsaw. His account of the event appeared in the newspaper “Z otchłani wieków” (“From the abyss of distant past”), in which he wrote as follows: *In the forest which belongs to Wietrzychowice owner, Mr Adolf Boehmer, there are six gigantic barrows, so called Kuyavian, from the period of the Neolithic. They seem to be the largest and the most impressive barrows of this type in Poland, and possibly in this part of Europe (...).*

The largest of the five long barrows was excavated by professor K. Jażdżewski and Stanisław Madajski in 1935. Megalith no 3 was erected on the plan of an elongated triangle and it was 115 m long. The 10-metre-wide portal (front) of the long barrow was made up of eight large boulders (up to 1.5 m high), with a characteristic gap between them, which may mark an entrance to the feature. It consisted of two graves: the first main grave chamber was situated 2 m away from the front of the long barrow. Inside the meticulously arranged cairn, made up of relatively large stones, was a skeleton of a man buried in a supine position. This indicates that the man was buried lying up straight on his back. Next to it was another grave, similar to the first one, but smaller and prepared with less care. It also contained a skeleton of a person, laid in a similar position.

In the years 1934 – 1936, professor Konrad Jażdżewski carried out excavations of two other clusters of Kuyavian long barrows at Leśniczówka and Obałki. The first one, situated on the area of the village Leśniczówka, currently Arciszewo, probably consisted of seven megaliths. Four of them, which formed the centre of the cluster, underwent excavations. On the basis of a detailed record it can be assumed that these were typical Kuyavian long barrows, built on the plan of an extremely elongated triangle, c.a. 70 – 75 m long and with 8 – 10 m wide portal. Each of them contained its main grave chamber with a person laid in a supine position. Most graves were not equipped with grave offerings, which would otherwise have been preserved in earth for over five thousand years. Only barrow no 3 (male burial) contained a boar fang

and flint tools made of raw material imported from the Świętokrzyskie Mountains (Holy Cross Mountains).

All the barrows excavated by professor K. Jażdżewski were considerably damaged. Many stones were missing from the cairns. Barrow no 4, where only single scattered boulders were preserved, is a good example of the raw material being looted from the barrows.

The cluster of long barrows in Obałki consisted of at least four megaliths, between 60 and 65 m long, and the portal between 10 and 12 m wide. Next to those, there were two other circular barrows, c.a. 15 m in diameter, which is quite exceptional on the area of Kuyavia. Professor K. Jażdżewski excavated three Kuyavian barrows in 1936. The most interesting one was megalith no 1, which contained six paved surfaces and cairns underneath the earth mound. This indicates six burials in the barrow. One of them contained a richly-decorated clay amphora as a grave offering. Barrow no 2 was also very interesting. Behind the portal wall, there were remains of a building, which may be interpreted as a temple or a “house for the dead”, which was connected with religious rituals. More information about such buildings could be obtained during further works on other sites, particularly during the excavations of a long barrows in Gaj.

All barrows excavated in Obałki were void of cairns. Soon after World War I, the boulders were robbed and used by Adolf Boehmer as precious raw material to build fences of manor buildings and also to extend outbuildings in Obałki and Wietrzycho- wice. Plundering the barrows took place 10 – 15 years before the excavations.

The fourth Kuyavian long barrow and one other circular barrow were excavated by German archaeologist, Walter Kersten PhD during World War II. He was the commander of the occupation Office of Prehistory of the Warta Land in Poznań (*Landesamt der Vorgeschichte im Warthegau*). The research of the SS officer was not methodically done and little is known of its results.

Professor K. Jażdżewski and S. Madajski conducted survey research, alongside the excavations. As a result they compiled an inventory of over thirty Kuyavian bar-





rows, located on the area of today's communes of Izbica Kujawska, Lubraniec, Topólka and Boniewo.

Excavations of Kuyavian barrows were resumed in the 1940s and 1950s of the 20th century, and they were conducted in Gaj (commune of Izbica Kujawska) and Sarnowo (commune of Lubraniec).

The first account of Kuyavian barrows in Gaj comes from 1936. Having visited the site, S. Madajski wrote: (...) *opposite the Forest District Office, there are two barrows – one heavily flattened with no cairn, and the other one quite well-preserved, up to 2 m high.* A similar situation was encountered by professor W. Chmielewski in 1949, who prepared a situation map of megaliths, together with A. Gardawski. Next year Maria and Waldemar Chmielewski, in co-operation with S. Madajski, carried out excavations of megalith no 1 on behalf of the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnography in Łódź, on the initiative of professor K. Jażdżewski.

Barrow no 1 was partly excavated. The works were limited to a clearly visible mound with a cairn, 55 m long. Most probably the original size of the megalith was between 125 m and 150 m, which makes it the largest barrow in Kuyavia. It is not known when the mound was shortened. It may have happened between 1936 and 1949. The barrow in question was built on the plan of an elongated triangle with a widened portal. The maximum width of the front part was 10.5 m. Gigantic boulders were placed in the corners, whereas the smaller ones were placed between them, especially at the entrance to the barrow. During the excavations, the remains of two buried people were found, laid up straight, in a supine position. The first main grave chamber was situated in the front part of the barrow. It contained a very badly preserved skeleton of a grown-up man, who was covered by lime substance. The man was equipped with a flint tool (dagger) made of raw material, imported from today's Ukraine. The other burial found in the middle part of the barrow did not contain any durable grave offerings.

Discovering remains of a sacral building in barrow no 1 in Gaj was quite exceptional. It was found directly behind the cairn of the front part of the barrow. Thanks to a fire which slowly burnt wooden parts of the building, in the conditions of lit-

the access of oxygen, some construction elements were preserved in a charred form. They could be clearly seen during the excavations. On the basis of meticulous documentation in the form of drawings and photographs, Waldemar Chmielewski prepared a detailed description of the building. It was erected on the plan of a trapezium, with longer sides 5 m long, and shorter ones 4.4 and 3 m respectively. The walls were constructed with the use of post-and-plank technique, made of hand-split planks connected with posts, which were put in the corners of the building, and one in the middle of each wall. The building had a gable roof, supported on two posts and a cross-beam. The building had a clay, smoothed mud floor. This extraordinary discovery in Gaj helped interpret the character of similar buildings e.g. in Obalki and Sarnowo and work out the meaning of the characteristic gaps in the front cairns, which are present in many Kuyavian barrows.

The main aim of the excavations in the years 1950 – 1951, was to explore the megalithic cemetery at Sarnowo, commune of Lubraniec. The presence of the long barrows of the Funnel Beaker Culture in the forest on the Zgłowiączka river was reported to the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnography in Łódź by Henryka Królikowska, the curator of the Museum of Kuyavian Land in Włocławek in 1949. Michał Paprocki, the forester, assisted in finding the exact location of the barrows and making the preliminary situation maps of the site. Thanks to the fact that the area has been covered by the forests, the long barrows are relatively well-preserved, even despite the removed cairns. However, the gigantic boulders were looted and broken up even with dynamite, as early as in 1916. They were used as raw material by the German army to build the road from Lubraniec to Izbica Kujawska.

In the years 1950 – 1952 some of the megaliths have been reconstructed. They were quite diversified. The largest was 83 m in length, whereas the smallest one – 38 m. The barrows contained graves of 1 – 4 people. The graves frequently consisted of additional stone constructions. The buried were equipped with grave offerings, such as vessels and bone tools. The most interesting form of vessel of the Funnel Beaker Culture is the one found in barrows no 1, 2 and 5, i.e. small collared flask, which according to many researchers is similar to a poppy head, turned upside down.





The exploration of the barrows at Sarnowo was completed by Lidia Gabałówna PhD and Henryk Wiklak PhD from the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnography in Łódź in the years 1966 – 1974. Megalith no 8 was the most interesting of the three excavated features. It was characterised by so called extension. Construction details of the barrow let us assume that these were in fact two barrows – an older one with the main grave chamber, and a younger one which was an extension of the existing barrow with a new front wall added, only 9 m in length. The main grave chamber was a place of burial for 2 people.

The main excavations of the Kuyavian long barrows at Wietrzychowice were carried out in the years 1967 – 1969 under the supervision of professor Konrad Jążdżewski. A large number of employees of the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnography in Łódź took part in the excavations, together with students and graduates of the Chair of Archaeology at Łódź University. Four barrows (no 1, 2, 4 and 5) underwent exploration, as well as site X, where a sixth barrow was to be located. However excavation works revealed that it was a naturally elevated hill.

Barrow no 1 was excavated in 1967. It was built on the plan of an elongated and slightly irregular triangle, 76 m long, with a 10-metre base. The portal of the barrow consisted of seven large boulders with a characteristic gap, which may have formed the entrance to the wooden sacral building. Inside there were two separate paved surfaces. This may indicate that this was a place of burial for two people. However, neither bone remains nor grave offerings were preserved.

The excavations of barrow no 2 took place in 1968. The megalith has a shape of a triangle 93 m long and 9 m wide at the portal. Before the start of the excavations a large part of the cairn was looted and consequently characteristic ditches and holes were left after the removed stones. Barrow no 2 contained a single burial with no additional constructions. The buried man, c.a. 50 years old, was put in a supine position, directly on the ground at the front part of the megalith. No grave offerings were found during the excavations.

Barrow no 4 was excavated in 1969. The excavations revealed that it was heavily damaged and robbed of its stones. Most probably, the barrow was only 30 m long and

maximum 6.5 m wide at the portal, which makes it the smallest megalith in Kuyavia. It consisted of a rhomb-shaped grave pit, which contained skull fragments and a jaw of a man, approximately 30 years old. Other bones were not preserved. The man was probably put in a supine position, directly on the sand. No artefacts were found in the grave.

Barrow no 5 was excavated in 1968. It was built on the plan of an elongated triangle, 47 m long and 7.5 m wide at the portal with a noticeable, characteristic gap. The grave chamber was 3.75 m long and 3 m wide. It was a place of burial for two men, aged 35 and 50, laid on clean sand in a supine position, one metre apart from each other. A limestone was found at the head of one of them.

After the excavations, all megaliths were reconstructed like barrow no 3 and the megalith from Gaj. The Wietrzychowice forest became the site of the Archaeological Park and Nature Reserve.

After an almost 40-year break, in 2009, archaeological excavations in Wietrzychowice were resumed. They were initiated by Adam Myrta, director of Urban-Rural Culture Centre in Izbica Kujawska, who welcomed a group of archaeologists from the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnography in Łódź, arguing that it was necessary to carry on “the search of the builders of Polish pyramids”. The first pilot studies were performed in spring, in the form of archaeological survey research of the fields situated in the vicinity of the Wietrzychowice forest. Survey research involves finding small artefacts on the surface of the ground and recording their location on detailed maps, also with the use of GPS equipment. The works, repeated twice in subsequent years, resulted in some interesting discoveries.

The results of the survey research encouraged archaeologists to go one step further and conduct small-scale reconnaissance excavations, which aimed at checking the state of preservation of archaeological artefacts, hidden underground. The selected place of excavations was marked as site 8 (in archaeology “site” denotes an area with the recorded occurrence of artefacts), and was situated at Osiecz Mały, next to the Wietrzychowice forest. The results of the fortnight research carried out in September / October 2011 exceeded all expectations. On a small area of 2 ares, several





thousand artefacts were discovered, which are the remains of a long-lasting settlement of the Funnel Beaker Culture. On the basis of the characteristic decorations visible on some vessel fragments, it can be supposed that it is a settlement of the builders of the Wietrzychowice barrows.

The works, conducted in the years 2009 – 2011, revealed the place of occurrence of the Funnel Beaker Culture artefacts in the vicinity of Kuyavian long barrows in Wietrzychowice. It was obvious that it was necessary to conduct planned research on a much larger scale. In spring 2012, a comprehensive research project was started by the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnography in Łódź and Professor Konrad Jażdżewski Foundation of Archaeological Research. The project involves multifaceted archaeological research, as well as the study of the natural environment and the description of the changes it has undergone over the last 12 000 years. The underlining principle of the programme, supervised by Piotr Papiernik PhD, is to obtain the scientific knowledge about pre-historic communities, which inhabited the area of today's Wietrzychowice Culture Park, and to find out about the state of preservation of the artefacts. This, in turn, would result in working out the programme of legal and conservatory protection of archaeological sources, particularly the Kuyavian long barrows. An important aim of the research, especially excavations, is to obtain artefacts for exhibitions, which may help popularise archaeological discoveries.

It is extremely important to verify archival record of the existence of other, unexplored barrows in the region of Wietrzychowice Culture Park. The first works encompassed an area on the border of the Wietrzychowice forest, where in 1936, professor Konrad Jażdżewski located a small, heavily destroyed megalith. Before conducting the excavations, the region underwent geo-physical research, on the basis of which small-scale reconnaissance research was conducted in 2013. It was very successful and confirmed the location of the barrow. A similar procedure was applied to the remains of barrow no 2 in Gaj, described by S. Madajski and professor W. Chmielewski. An attempt to verify the location of the feature was resumed as a project "Archaeological Sources in the region of Wietrzychowice Culture Park", which was part of the programme of the Ministry of Culture and Cultural Heritage, called "Cultural Heritage".

Aerial photographs of the site were taken in 2013, and in 2014 geo-physical research was carried out, with the use of geomagnetic method and electrical resistivity tomography. Consequently, a precise location of long barrow no 2 was established, although the megalith was no longer visible above ground. The considerable damage of the barrow, whose cairn was removed, most probably in order to build the Forestry Office Koło in the 1920s, urged archaeologists to resume excavations quite quickly. The main aim of the excavations, which began in July 2014, was to explore the remains of the barrow and save any artefacts it might contain from destruction. Three-year-long archaeological works definitely confirmed the existence of a Kuyavian barrow on this site, even though the area had been ploughed and used as arable land for 70 years! On the basis of the preserved remains, such as the layouts of stones and ditches left after removing the boulders, it is possible to reconstruct the initial size and shape of the barrow. Most probably, the width of the portal of the feature was c.a. 13 m, and its length – 56 m. The discovery of five large, charred posts inside the barrow, right behind its front wall, is particularly interesting. Their layout, size and the amount of burning correspond to the remains of the sacral building, discovered by W. Chmielewski in 1950 inside barrow no 1. Seven dates currently obtained by means of an absolute radio-carbon method, indicate that the building was in use for a very long period of time and it was reconstructed between 3500 and 3100 B.C. There were two grave chambers inside the barrow. The first main grave chamber containing an adult, was located at the front of the megalith and its only offering was a copper dagger, which is an exceptional find in Kuyavia. The other grave of a 8 – 10 – year old child has been discovered in the middle part of the megalith. No grave offerings were discovered. Human remains from both graves underwent a radiocarbon analysis, on the basis of which the burials were dated to 3500 – 3300 B.C.

Owing to the support of the Ministry of Culture and the National Heritage and the implementation of the previously mentioned project “Archaeological sources in the region of Wietrzychowice Culture Park” it was possible to carry out some non-invasive archaeological research, and find the location of the cluster of Kuyavian barrows at Lubomin, Łania (Żurawice), Leśniczówka and Obałki, as well as a single





feature at Śmięły. Some remains of previously unknown megaliths at Gaj and Osiecz Mały were also recorded. The research was facilitated by the analysis of thousands of aerial photographs, systematically taken by drone.

The project also involved comprehensive survey research, in order to recognise Neolithic settlement in the region of the Kuyavian long barrows. On the area of 150 square kilometres, 350 archaeological sites were set up, which contained artefacts typical of the Funnel Beaker Culture. These are remains of settlements, campsites and economic activity on the area. Even a preliminary study of the obtained artefacts indicates that particular clusters of megaliths were built in economically developed centres, which covered an area of over a dozen square kilometres. A more thorough analysis of pottery shows that each area was inhabited for a relatively long period of time, sometimes several hundred years. The location of barrows is also quite characteristic. All clusters of megaliths were located in well-visible places, on elevated areas, in the close vicinity of low terrains, previously occupied by small lakes.

Archaeological research in the region of Wietrzychowice is carried out in co-operation with specialists from other fields of science. Since the beginning of the excavations, the research of the natural environment has been conducted in co-operation with professor Piotr Kittel. The study of the shore of lake Karaśnia was particularly interesting. In 2012, 2014 and 2015 three-metre deep trenches were excavated. A series of samples were collected for specialist examination. They record changes of the lake and the natural environment over the last 12000 years. Also, archaeological artefacts made of organic material have been discovered. These are quite unique when excavations take place on sand or gravel surfaces. Moreover, geological and geo-morphological structure of the whole area has been explored, with the emphasis on the vicinity of the barrows in Wietrzychowice.

The project “Archaeological sources in the region of Wietrzychowice Culture Park” also resulted in preparing a temporary exhibition “80 years of archaeological research in the region of the Wietrzychowice Culture Park”, which was opened on 6 September 2014 in the Urban-Rural Culture Centre in Izbica Kujawska. In the period

of three months, the exhibition was visited by three thousand people, mainly the inhabitants of the province of Kuyavia-Pomerania.

As far back as 80 years ago, professor Konrad Jażdżewski was already convinced that the discovery of Kuyavian long barrows in Wietrzychowice was exceptional. He was well aware of the fact that without legal protection, the features would not survive and like many other such buildings would be destroyed. He thought that people were the greatest threat to megaliths, because they treated them as free raw material to build barns, fences, house foundations and even roads. This is how he wrote about the threats to Wietrzychowice barrows: *(...) for hundreds and thousands of years they were washed away by water and scattered around by foxes and badgers. However, man has once again appeared to be the most wicked. Long ditches at the sides of the embankments look like open wounds, after dozens of boulders have been taken away (...)*. He frequently recalled 19th century descriptions of Kuyavia with “żalki” dispersed all over the place and frequently referred to. He would often quote the account of Maksymilian Borucki, which has previously been mentioned.

In his high appreciation of the unique historical value of the Kuyavian long barrows and the awareness of their possible destruction, professor Konrad Jażdżewski took legal measures to protect the megaliths. In 1935 the long barrows were recorded in the provincial register and cadastre register as Polish historical heritage. Professor aimed to set up “the prehistoric park of right of perpetual usufruct” which he announced in the newspaper “Z Otchłani Wieków” (“From the abyss of distant past”) in 1936. It met with strong opposition from the owner of the land and later was prevented by the break-out of World War II. The problem of legal protection of the Kuyavian long barrows was tackled again in the 1960s. Professor planned to conduct archaeological excavations which would culminate in the reconstruction of the long barrows, and the restoration of their original look. There were plans to set up archaeological parks in Wietrzychowice and Sarnowo. Professor wanted to found a separate institution which would primarily deal with the protection and popularisation of megaliths. Detailed plans were ready in 1967. In 1968 the long barrows in Wietrzychowice were registered on the list of Polish cultural heritage, and thus were guaranteed the pro-





tection of the state. The megaliths and the area of over 10 hectares around them were now under protection. During the excavations, information boards were put up next to the megaliths, and the whole area of the park was designated. Further steps, however, were not taken.

Professor's idea to set up "the prehistoric park of right of perpetual usufruct" which would protect the Kuyavian barrows was resumed in 2006. Adam Myrta – director of the Urban-Rural Culture Centre in Izbica Kujawska, initiated the foundation of Wietrzychowice Culture Park. This was completed with the resolution passed by the Council of the Commune and Town of Izbica Kujawska. The park encompasses a cluster of five Kuyavian barrows in Wietrzychowice and one feature in the village of Gaj, located on the area of State Forests, The Forest District Office in Koło, on the area of the commune of Izbica Kujawska, province of Kuyavia-Pomerania.

Thanks to individual involvement of the founders of Wietrzychowice Culture Park, officially run by the Urban-Rural Culture Centre in Izbica Kujawska, the barrows have been given an immense amount of support and care. First of all, the area has been tidied up, thanks to which the barrows restored their original look. Secondly, a guided trail was prepared together with an extensive information website, also in the English language. Moreover, roads leading to the park have been clearly marked. A great deal of effort has been put into the promotion and educational activities, organised as part of the archaeological fete, called "Time Machine". Additionally, a guidebook titled "In the land of Polish pyramids. Wietrzychowice Culture Park", was issued, as well as a series of other smaller publications on the topic. Information about Wietrzychowice could also be found in electronic media. Wietrzychowice Culture Park is an organiser of various popular-science meetings on the Neolithic, also with foreign visitors. We can also observe a thriving activity of a historical-reconstruction group of young people from Izbica Kujawska. What is more, archaeological excavations in Wietrzychowice are given a lot of technical and organisational support, and above all great kindness.

As regards educational activities, archaeological fete "Time Machine" is of particular interest. It is organised as part of European Days of Heritage, and in 2016 had

its 10th edition. The fete enjoys immense popularity. During one day (usually the first Sunday in September) the Park is visited by several thousand people. This is the time when reconstruction groups present elements of Neolithic everyday life. One can observe the weaving of a hut wall, moulding clay vessels, preparing flint tools and wood tar, or grinding flour. It is also possible to join some of these activities, which is particularly popular among children and young people. The fete also gives visitors an opportunity to get equipped with pre-historic tools and vessels.

Thanks to the community of Izbica Kujawska and the involvement of Wietrzychowice Culture Park and a group of scientists, the barrows are under proper care and are becoming increasingly popular in Poland and in Europe. In the nearest future, further steps will be taken to ensure that the Kuyavian long barrows are turned into features of historic importance.

