

Castra Terrae Culmensis – the Results of New Studies of Castles in Chełmno Land (Starogród and Unisław)

Bogusz Wasik – Marcin Wiewióra

Castra Terrae Culmensis – výsledky nových průzkumů hradů Chlumenska (Starogród a Unisław)

Abstract: Příspěvek prezentuje výsledky studia hradů Starogród and Unisław, které probíhají v rámci výzkumného projektu *Castra Terrae Culmensis – na rubieży chrześcijańskiego świata* (*Castra Terrae Culmensis – na okraji křesťanského světa*). Obě lokality se nachází v Chlumensku v severním Polsku, na území bývalého státu Německých rytířů. Vzhledem k jejich torzálnímu dochování ve stavu ponejvíce terénních relikťů bylo dosavadní poznání těchto hradů na velmi nízké úrovni. Oba hrady se vyvinuly z původních dřevohlinitých pevnůstek. Starogród je jednou z nejstarších pevností německých rytířů – staré Chełmno, což značí jeho nepravidelný půdorys, zatímco Unisław byla nejmalebnějším hradem, pokud jde o sídlo nižších řádových představitelů.

Key words: Starogród – Unisław – hrady Řádu německých rytířů – Chlumensko

The research project *Castra Terrae Culmensis – na rubieży chrześcijańskiego świata* (*Castra Terrae Culmensis – at the edges of the Christian world*)¹ has been underway since 2016, and is planning to conduct studies on five castles in Chełmno Land. By the summer of 2017, two castles had been inspected – at Starogród and Unisław.

Historically, most of Chełmno Land lies in the Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodeship², in the northern part of central Poland. Historically, this land lay in the south of late medieval and modern Prussia, and was the cradle of the State of the Teutonic Order in the Baltics. However, both our castles of interest were erected on the western border of Chełmno Land, on a high slope of the Vistula valley.

Starogród

The modern-day village of Starogród is *de facto* old Chełmno (*antiquum Colmen, Althaus Culm*), a settlement which was relocated repeatedly. Early medieval Chełmno, before the arrival of the Teutonic Order, was a gord and a gord-side settlement near the present-day village of Kałdus (Chudziak – Bojarski 2015, 85–86). In 1232, during the Crusade, Herman Balk founded the stronghold and town of Chełmno 1,6 km, as the crow flies, to the south of the older gord (Heise 1887, 16–17; Löwner 1998, 113–114; Piotr z Dusburga 2004, 49). However, this site did not remain the location of the city and the centre was translocated again, this time 4,8 km to

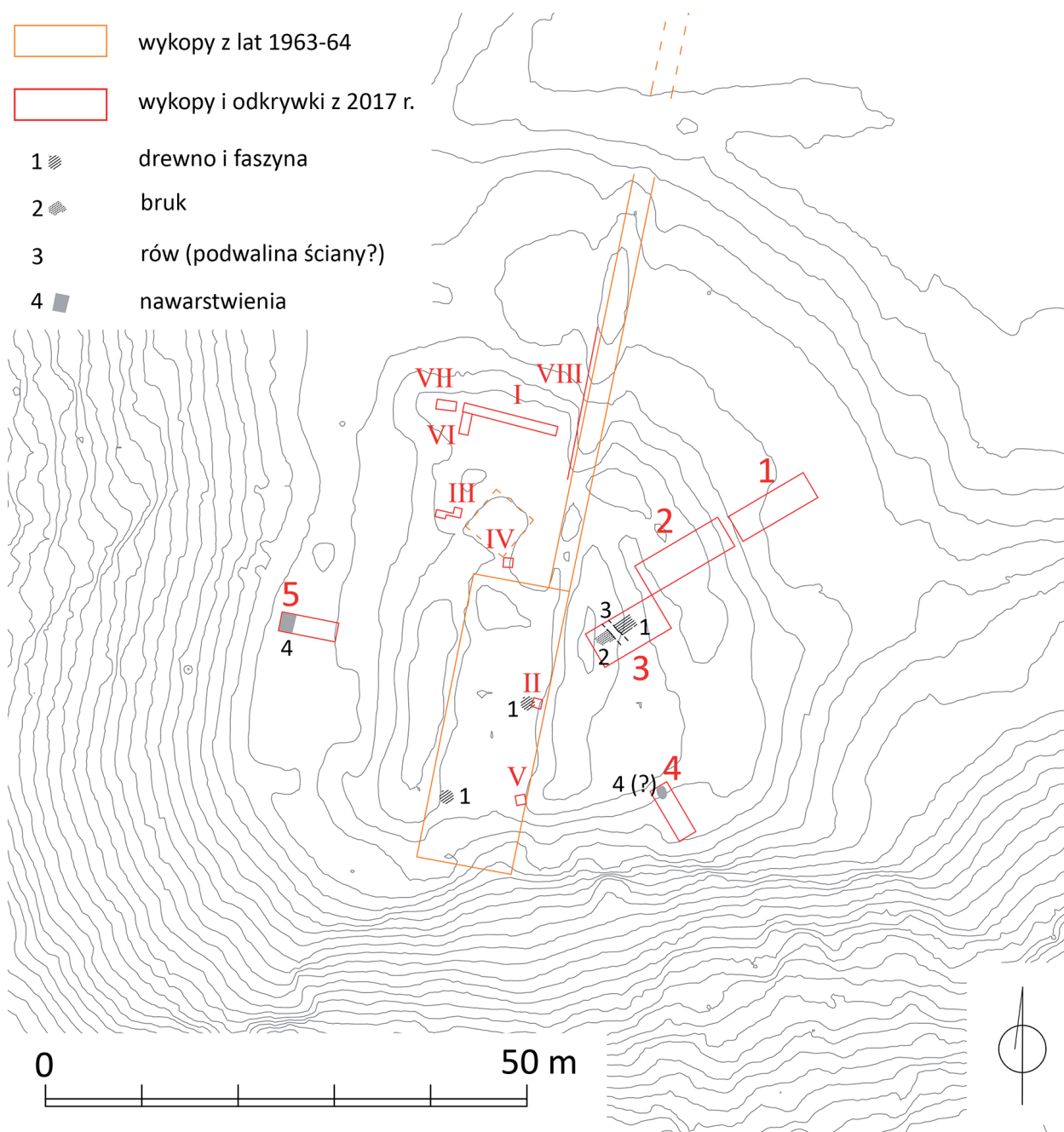


Fig. 1. Starogród – relics and layers from the Teutonic period wooden and earth stronghold registered in the area of the high castle. Drawing by B. Wasik.

the northeast. According to some historians, in 1239, another Chełmno was located in Rybaki (a suburb of modern Chełmno), only to be transferred later in 1253 to its final and current site (Jasiński 1982, 16). Others, however, claim that the city was translocated from Starogród directly to its current location in 1247 (Nowak 1987, 64). But what is important is that the castle remained in its initial location.

The assumption that a stone castle had been built at the exact same location of the earth-and-timber stronghold has been based mainly on a brief mention in the chronicle of Peter of Dusburg (2004, 49). Archaeological studies in the 1960s did not provide any definitive evidence in this



Fig. 2. Starogród – relics from the period of timber and earth stronghold in trench no. 3: 1 – wood level, 2 – ditch (foundation of the wall?), 3 – pavement, 4 – layering from the period of the masonry castle, 5 – primary (prehistoric) humus. Photo B. Wasik.

matter (Wasik 2016a, 26). However, within the excavations currently underway, remains and layers associated with a Teutonic Order earth-and-timber fortress have been uncovered (Fig. 1). The most preserved ones were recorded in trench No. 3 in the north-east part of the high castle (Fig. 2). Here, a layer lined with a thin layer of wood has been preserved – probably a floor of boards not stripped of their bark. It was then covered with clay, and cut across by a trench of approximately 60 cm wide and 70–80 cm deep. This may have been the foundation of a building. Cobble stones were associated with it. Fragments of pottery with traditional features lay within it (Figs. 3–4), as well as a piece of brick of unusually small proportions which was made of poor-quality clay, and fired poorly. In a higher layer which has already been associated with the brick castle, a coin of type T.1.8 was discovered which was minted between the years 1237 and 1248 (Wasik – Cackowski 2017, 23–24). Layers from the period of the first stronghold were also recorded to the west (excavation No. 5; Fig. 4) and probably to the south (excavation No. 4). In trench No. 5, a human skeleton (Woźniak 2017c, 31) was also found at the bottom of the layers from the second quarter of the 13th century. As shown by the dating of the deepest layers of the moat based on pottery, it too was dug in the second quarter of the 13th century (Woźniak 2017c, 51). By this period, two baileys had already been created, as indicated by their location between the high castle and the area prepared for the location of the city in 1232, and the compact nature of this castle–settlement complex.

The appearance of the masonry-wall castle has only been reconstructed so far on the basis of an imprecise plan made by engineer Giese in 1825, and published by Conrad Steinbrecht (1888, 19; Abb. 23), and descriptions from the 17th and 18th centuries, which was nonetheless difficult to



Fig. 3. Starogród: A – traditional ceramics from trench No. 3, B – brick fragment from the context of the wood-earth stronghold's pavement from trench No. 3 Photo by B. Wasik and M. Wiewióra.

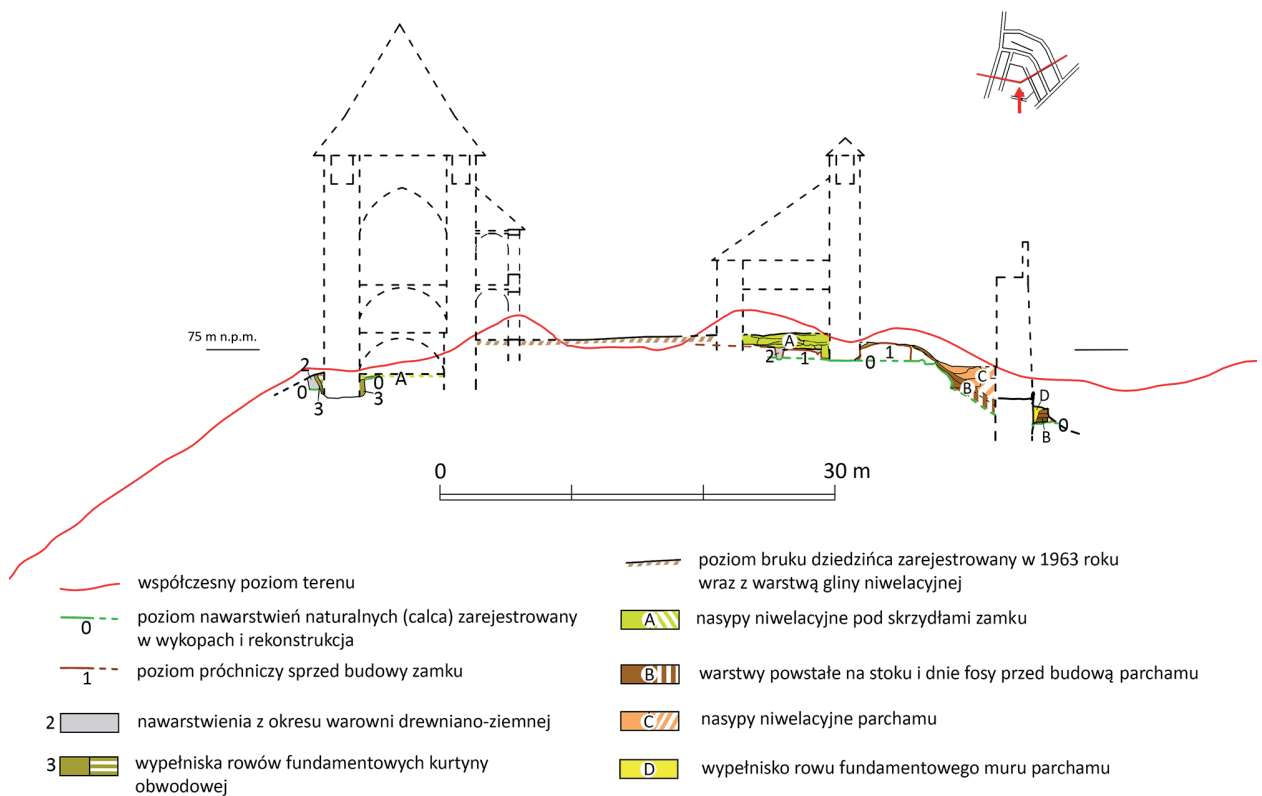


Fig. 4. Starogród – west-east cross-section (view to the north) of the high castle, with the marking of layers of embankments. The state from the first half of the 14th century (by B. Wasik).

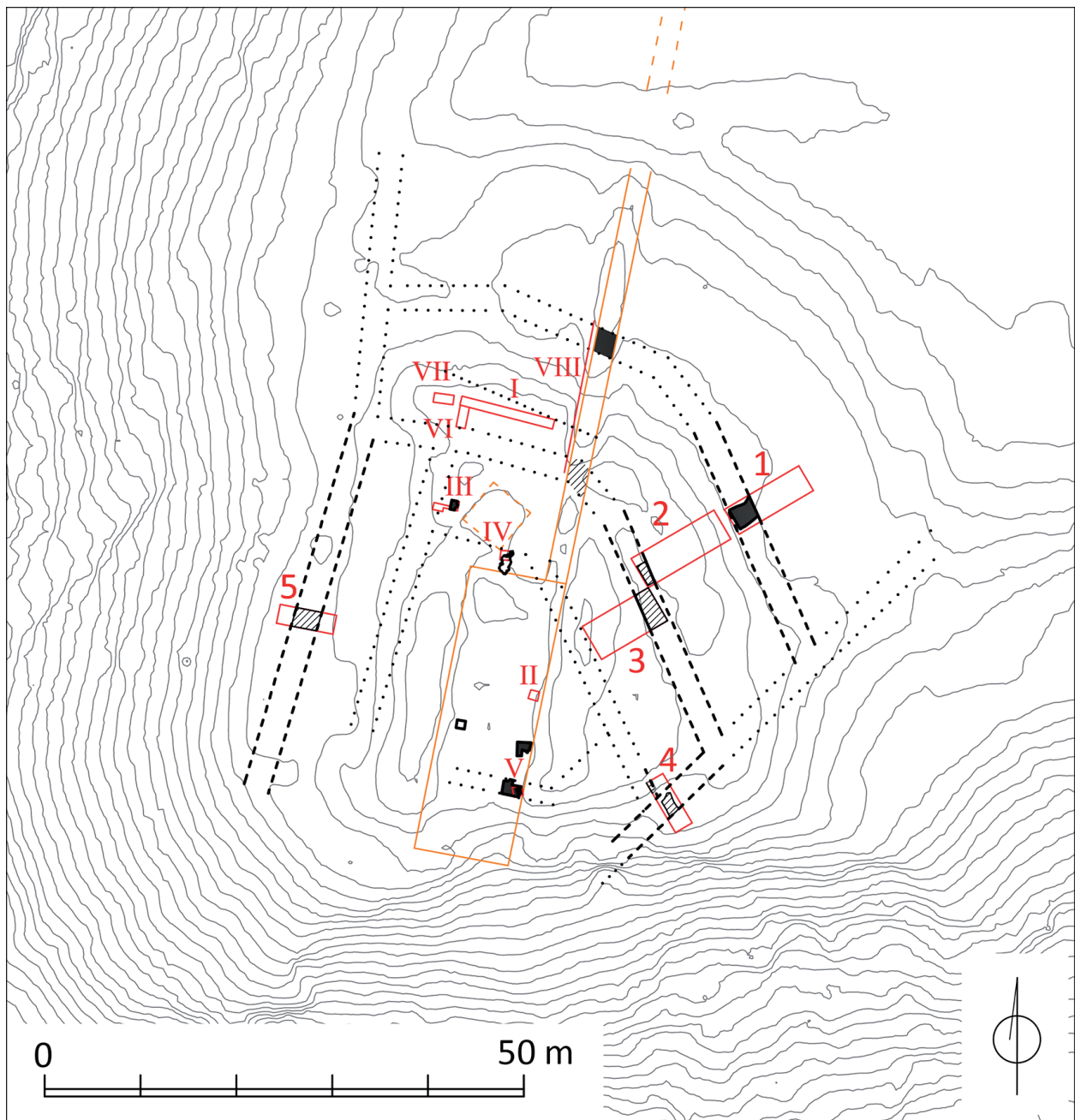
interpret because the castle was demolished at the end of the 18th century, and no walls or other reference points have survived. In the three-hundred-square-metre excavation established (and not filled in) in the area of the courtyard, besides cobblestone pavement, only single fragments of the walls were discovered. This was because the excavation did not include peripheral buildings expressly (Janikowski 1964). In the course of the current studies, it turned out that the walls of the castle were dismantled, including foundations, but their negatives were recorded very clearly in the excavations. In addition, it turned out that the negative of the entire circumference of the high castle is clearly visible in the terrain surface, which, together with the results of geophysical survey, greatly facilitated the reconstruction of its layout (Figs. 5–7).

No written sources cast any light on the beginnings of the construction of the stone-brick castle, and none of the latest archaeological studies brought any unambiguous findings. The old Chełmno castle was an important centre in the 1240s, and in the years 1246–1285 it was probably the first commandry headquarters of Chełmno land (Józwiak 2001, 45, Torbus 1998, 70), while, around 1250⁴, the Old Chełmno commandry was established there. Researchers have therefore suggested that this was one of the oldest, or even the oldest, Teutonic stone-brick castles (Heise 1887, 16; Steinbrecht 1888, 19; Toepfen 1880, 8–9; Torbus 1998, 337; 2014, 70). The beginning of the transformation of the stronghold from earth-and-timber to masonry-wall can, in fact, be probably dated to about the middle of the 13th century or slightly later, which is also attested by the dating of the above-mentioned coin. The convent house, however, took on its full form only after construction works at the end of the 13th century and at the beginning of the 14th century. This is indicated by the dating of both the architectural detail from the chapel and west wing (Fig. 8), and of the ceramics from the construction layers (Wasik 2017c, 53). Thus, the castle was transformed into the manner typical of early irregular Teutonic castles, which assumed their full two- or three-wing form at the turn of the 13th and 14th century (Wasik 2016a, 315–320).

The high castle (convent house) was erected on a headland (some 40 m high, with steep slopes) jutting out into the Vistula valley (Figs. 6–7). It was an irregular pentagon with an east-to-west span of about 48 m, and the main buildings were located to the west – over the escarpment. They were celared and had two main above-ground storeys and a masonry-wall cloister. The layout of the interior can be precisely determined thanks to modern descriptions. The chapel was placed in a short wing in the south-west corner of the castle.⁵ The western wing was divided into three rooms on different floors – the outer ones being larger, and the middle ones smaller. In the Middle Ages, the room adjacent to the chapel housed a refectory, as indicated by historical sources, and in modern times there was still a dining room. The presence of the hypocaustum heating system for heating the refectory has been confirmed by the discovery of a characteristic floor slab with a hole (Fig. 8: C). The function of the other larger interior in the west wing is not certain. It may have accommodated the sleeping chamber; however, due to the lack of sources, it can only be suggested that there was a dormitory there. Next to this wing there was probably also a dansker, which possibly relates to information from 1614 concerning a lavatory and a large rubble heap visible in the results of geophysical surveys (Inwentarz 1614, 99–100; Inwentarz 1646 and 1676, 35–36, 119; Inwentarz 1723–1747, 7–8; Inwentarz 1759, 4; Józwiak – Trupinda 2012, 340).

The buildings in question must have been of great artistic value. This is indicated by the discovery of a fragment of architectural sculpture depicting a saint, which should probably be associated with the chapel's portal. Noteworthy, there is a mullion window coated with green glaze (Fig. 8: A, B), and a simple sandstone keystone (?).

In the first half of the 14th century, single-storey work-building wings were erected to the north, north-east and south-east sides of the convent house, housing a kitchen, a bakery and a brewery (Inwentarz 1614, 100; Inwentarz 1646 i 1676, 36–37, 120–121; Inwentarz 1723–1747, 7; Inwentarz











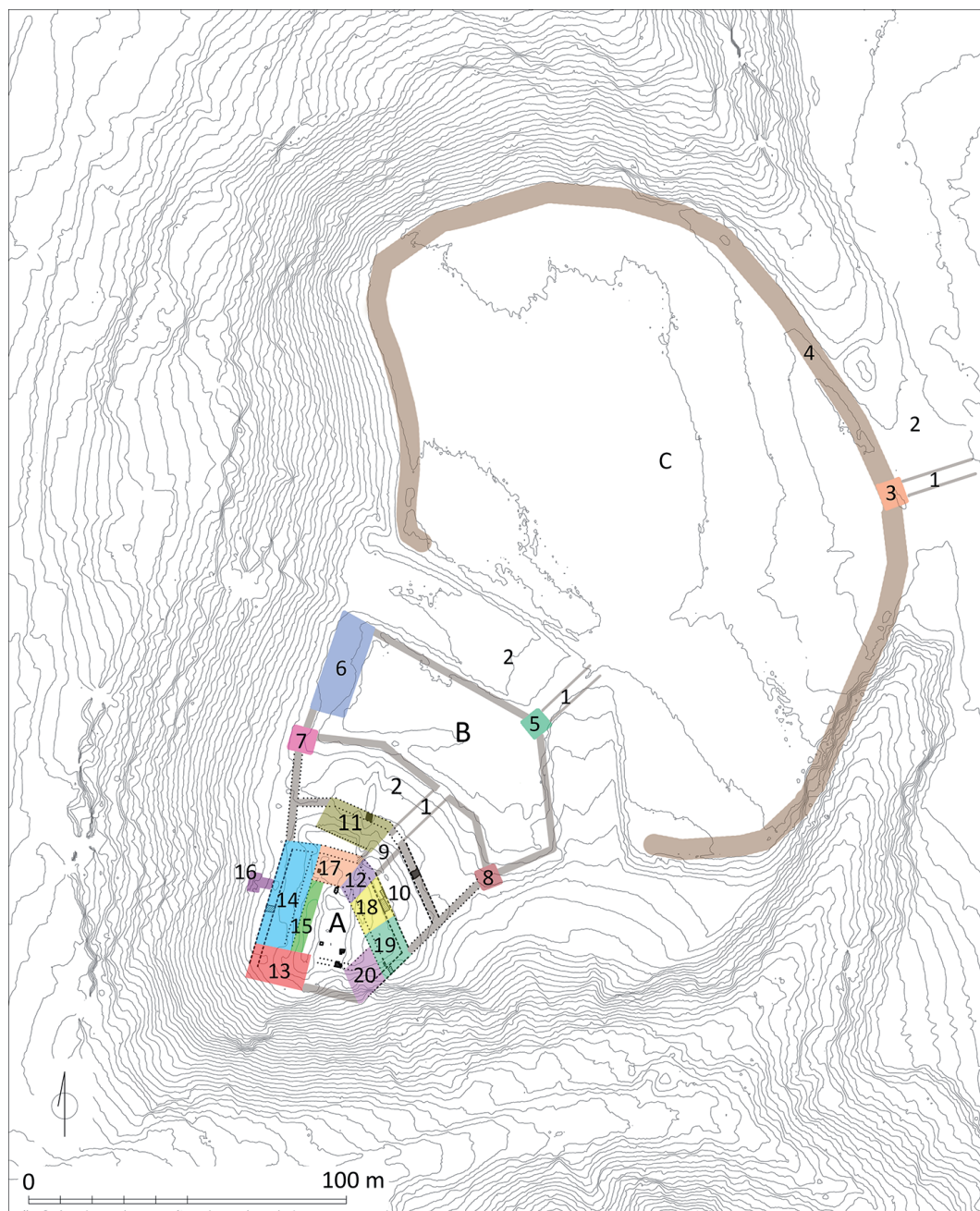
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|  | wykopy archeologiczne z 2017 r. |  | rekonstrukcja przebiegu murów na podstawie badań archeologicznych i elektrooporowych |
|  | odkrytki powierzchniowe z 2017 r. |  | przebieg murów na podstawie negatywów powierzchniowych i prospekcji elektrooporowej |

Fig. 5. Starogród – plan of the high castle with the marking of archaeological tranches and the reconstruction of the walls (by B. Wasik).



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|---------------------------------|--|
| A - dom konwentu (zamek wysoki) | 10 - parcharnia |
| B - przedzamcze I | 11 - dom komtura |
| C - przedzamcze II | 12 - przejazd bramny |
| 1 - mosty | 13 - skrzydło południowo-zachodnie ("kapliczne") |
| 2 - fosy | 14 - skrzydło zachodnie (mieszczące m.in. refektarz i dormitorium) |
| 3 - brama przedzamcza II | 15 - ganek murowany |
| 4 - wał ziemny | 16 - gdanisko |
| 5 - brama przedzamcza I | 17 - skrzydło północne |
| 6 - karwan | 18 - piekarnia |
| 8 - wieża mniejsza | 19 - kuchnia |
| 9 - szyja bramna | 20 - browar |

Fig. 6. Starogród – a reconstruction of the layout of the castle at the turn of the XIV–XV centuries, based on the results of archaeological research and descriptions from the 17th–18th centuries (by B. Wasik).

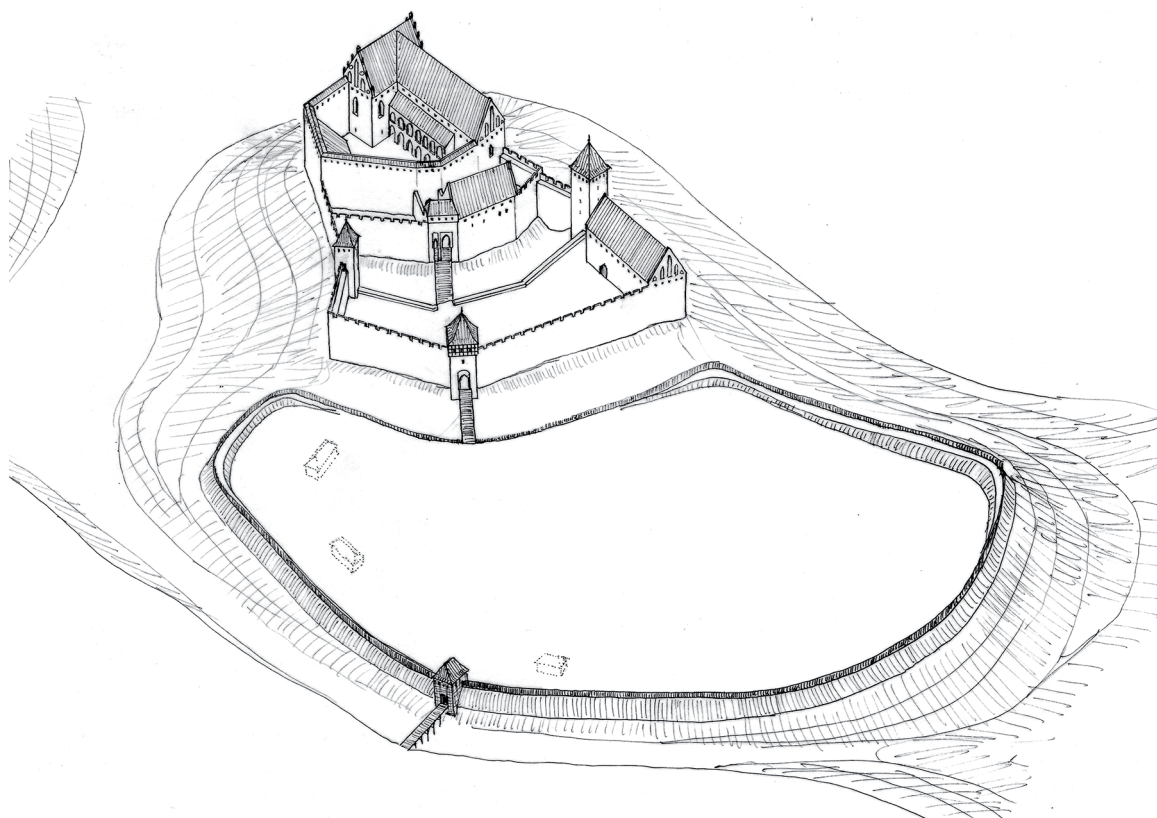


Fig. 7. Starogród – reconstruction of the castle's appearance at the turn of the XIV–XV centuries, based on the results of archaeological research and descriptions from the 17th–18th centuries (by B. Wasik).

1759, 6). On the side of the first bailey (to the north and north-east), the high castle also had a parcham about 13 m wide.

The aforementioned bailey was also provided with a masonry curtain wall with two towers to the west and a gate tower to the east (Figs. 6–7). The large masonry-wall stables to the north should also be associated with the medieval period. The second bailey remained as earth-and-timber (Inwentarz 1614, 97; Inwentarz 1646 i 1676, 35, 117; Inwentarz 1723–1747, 5; Inwentarz 1759, 4; Józwiak – Trupinda 2012, 215).

The last major investment in the Middle Ages was the construction of the commandry house in the northern parcham just before 1400 (Józwiak – Trupinda 2012, 137; Wasik 2016a, 270). Changes during the period of its function were also noted in the north-east parcham. During the 14th century, it served as a dump for kitchen waste (pottery, bone remains, etc.). This created a layer about 1,1 m thick. This was unusual, because the parchams of Teutonic Order castles were usually kept clean in the Middle Ages. In the first quarter of the 15th century (as indicated by the dating of the ceramics), a demolition layer was created, over which a clay coating (of about 20 cm thick) was laid to level the parcham (Wasik 2017a, 46).

Out of the more extensive transformations from the period when the castle was the seat of the Chełmno bishops (16th to 18th century), it is worth mentioning the construction of upper floors housing residences in the north and north-east wings between 1624 and 1646, and a new residential building with tower to the south built at the end of the 17th century (Inwentarz 1646 i 1676, 36, 119–120; Inwentarz 1723–1747, 6–9; Inwentarz 1759, 4).



Fig. 8. Starogród – architectural detail: A – window mullion element, B – fragment of an architectural sculpture depicting a saint, C – flooring slab of hypocaustum heating. Photo B. Wasik).

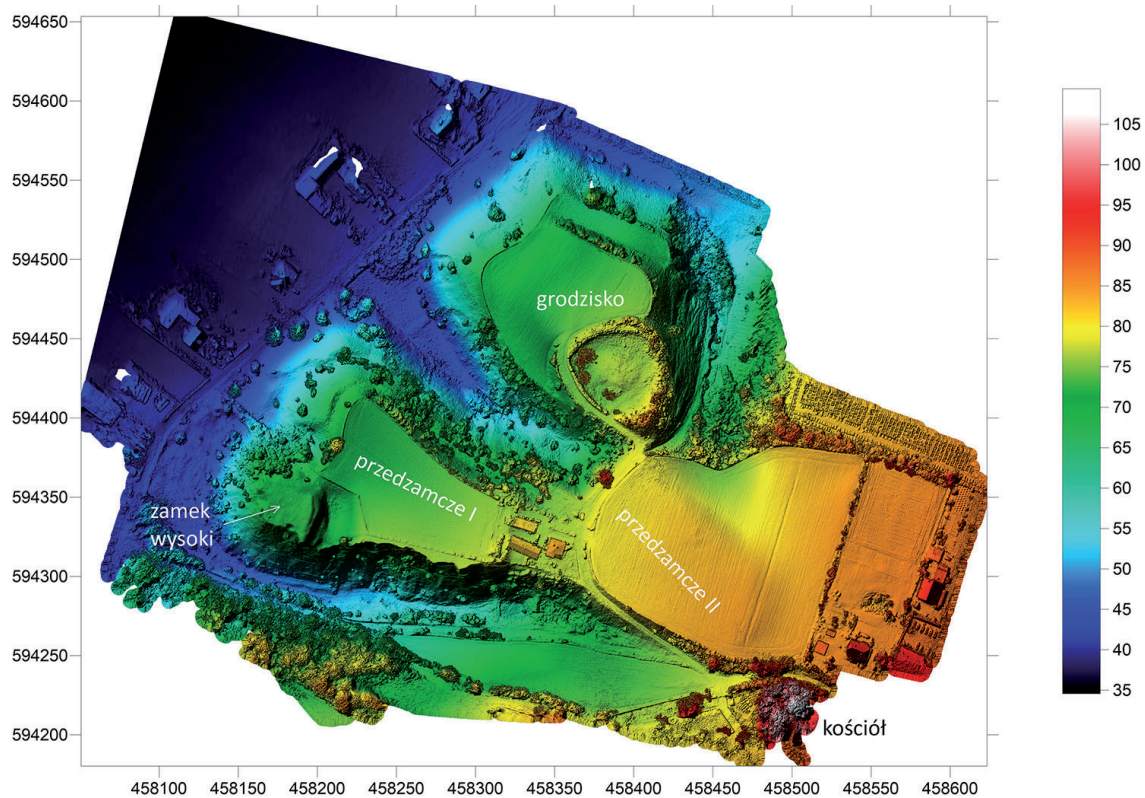


Fig. 9. Unisław – topography of the castlearea (by M. Bogacki, W. Małkowski, K. Misiewicz).

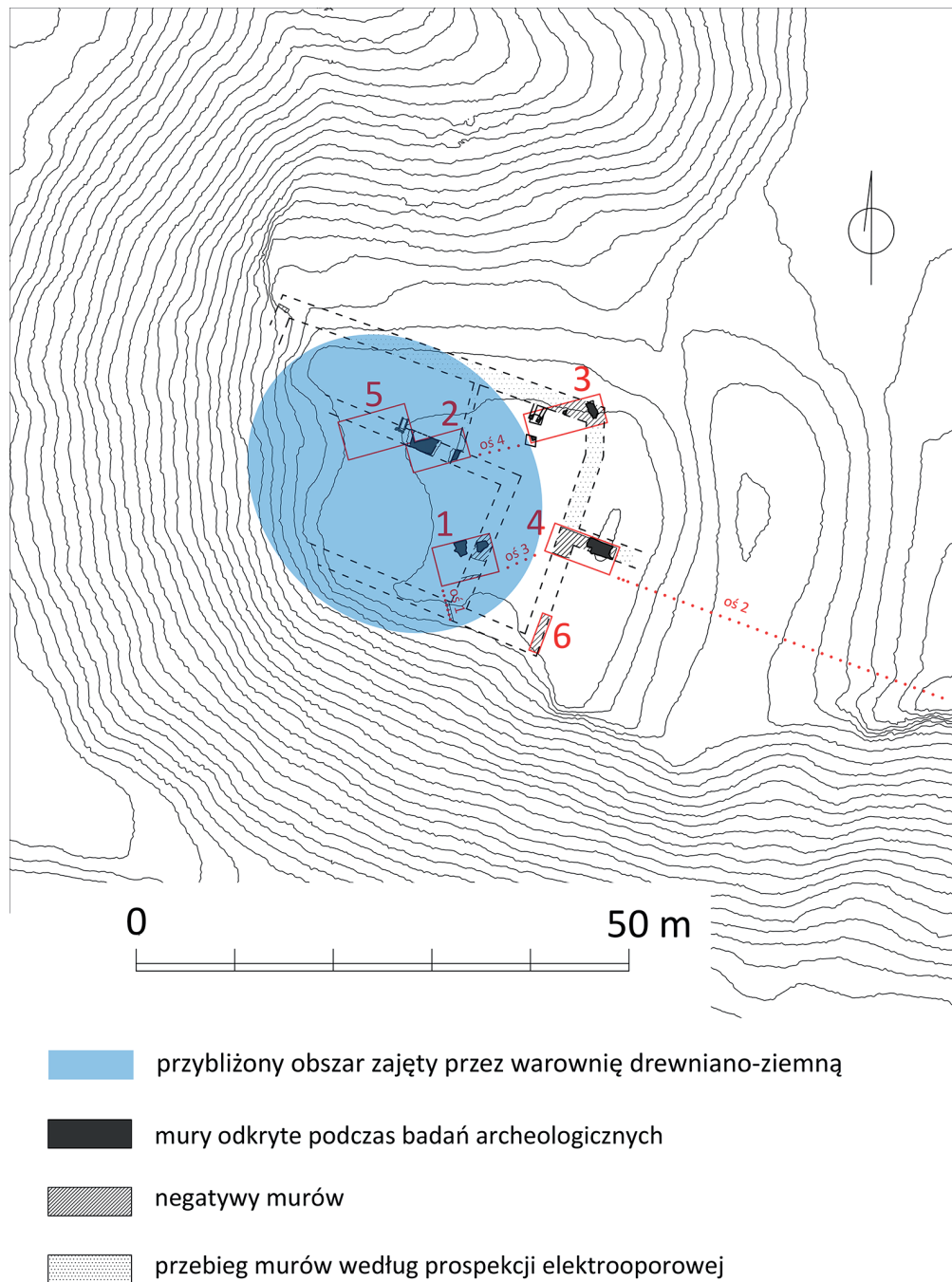


Fig. 10. Unisław – the high castle plan with the approximate marked range of the wooden and earth stronghold. Drawing by B. Wasik.

Archaeological studies have also provided information on construction techniques. The walls of the castle were erected in narrow foundation trenches (Fig. 4). The foundations of the curtain wall were erected on diverse levels at different sides (they were built almost 3 m higher to the east than to the west), which is typical of irregular castles and distinguishes them from rectangular castles (Wasik 2016a, 185–186). When building new fortifications, the old earth-and-timber ones were completely removed, as no traces of them remained. At the same time, during the construction of the castle in the 13th century, no embankments were built to adjust the relief, and such works were

carried out only at the turn of the 13th to 14th century during the construction of the parcham. This is also typical for the changes in construction techniques between the end of the 13th and the early 14th century (Wasik 2016a, 113–114). While building the parcham, a wall was erected at the foot of the original moat's slope, and then about 2,5 m of clay was laid down on the ward side (parcham), roughly – but not completely – levelling the terrain (Wasik 2017a, 45–46).

Unisław

Until geophysical surveys were carried out on the area of the high castle in 2016 and the spring of 2017, almost nothing had been known about the castle at Unisław and whether it was a wooden or masonry-wall construction. However, geophysical surveys revealed the presence of masonry remains and rubble (Bogacki – Małkowski – Misiewicz 2016), and the results of the surveys were used as a reference for archaeological excavations.

The castle in Unisław, as in Starogród, was located on a headland sided by deep ravines and jutting out into the Vistula valley; the castle rises approximately 30 m above the valley (Fig. 9). The whole castle consisted of the high castle (castle house) and two baileys. It was erected in the immediate vicinity of the remains of a gord which had functioned from the 9th to the 11th century (Chudziak 1994, 177). The current archaeological survey which has covered the area of the high castle proved that the open settlement near the gord had also extended to that area.⁶ It is not clear why the Teutonic Knights did not use the abandoned gord while building the castle, but it is probable that the neighbouring and more prominent spit was considered a better defensive location.

The written sources show that just prior to 1285, the Teutonic Knights formed a commandry here, which after several dozen years was nonetheless closed down and replaced in the second quarter of the 14th century by a new unit – a procurator's office. The last mentions of commandries in Unisław come from 1326 and 1339, although the credibility of the second source is doubted by historians in this matter (Józwiak 1997, 183–187; 2001, 60, 136). Archaeological studies have shown that the seat of the commandries was an earth-and-timber stronghold, where the procurators erected a brickstone castle in the second quarter of – and no later than the middle of – the 14th century.

When the Teutonic Knights chose this place for the construction of the earth-and-timber commandry stronghold, the layout of the headland was significantly different to what it is today, as the level of the ground where it stood was nearly 4 m lower than today. Furthermore, its western and southern slopes are further back today due to the destruction and erosion of the slopes. Excavations, observations of the cliffs and drillings have determined that the extent of the earth-and-timber stronghold was slightly lesser than that of the later masonry-wall high castle. Thus, the span of the complex can be estimated at approx. 30 m (Fig. 10). It was surrounded by an earthen embankment⁷, which has been preserved to a height of about 2,5 m (Fig. 11). At least in part of the construction there was stone cladding. The scope of the survey does not permit the internal structural details of the commandry stronghold to be reconstructed. Stratigraphy indicates that as a result of the formation of numerous utility and regulating layers, the level of the yard rose by about 2,8 m in the short period the stronghold was operational. In excavation No. 2, the edge of a 2,3 metre-deep trench of indeterminate function was discovered. It originates from a more recent period of the commandry stronghold, whose older layers it intersects. In the vicinity, slags, lumps of melted metal objects, and semi-finished crossbow bolt heads have been found, indicating the presence of some form of metallurgical workshop. In trench No. 5 a primitive heating furnace with heat-accumulation stones (from a hypocaustum) was documented (Wasik 2017d, 68–70). In masonry-wall castles, more advanced furnaces of these types of heated refectories were usual (Józwiak – Trupinda 2012,



Fig. 11. Unisław – layers of the earth embankment in trench No. 1. Photo B. Wasik.

148–151, 326–342), but they are also evidenced in dignitary houses built outside high castles (convent house) at the time, e.g. in Toruń or Brodnica (Wasik 2016a, 250, 304). Interestingly, there are source mentions indicating that earth-and-timber commandry headquarters also had interiors functioning as a refectory,⁸ so the presence of the furnace in Unisław may also be associated with this room, which was highly typical for monastery life.

According to pottery dating, the last period in which the earth-and-timber stronghold was operational can be put to the first quarter of the 14th century (Fig. 12). The chronology of the operation of the commandry headquarters built in the 1280s is also confirmed by the results of ¹⁴C dating.⁹ It is not known whether the baileys were functioning at this time, but it does seem very probable that the first bailey had already been built by this period.

The brick-stone high castle was slightly larger than the earth-and-timber one. The perimeter spreads approximately 35 (N) × 23 (W) × 37 (S) × 26 (E) m. Therefore, to widen the plateau, embankments were made, the thickest of which was recorded to the northeast, where it was about 1 m thick. In other places, they did not reach even 0,5 m in thickness. As a result, the castle was surrounded by an earthen terrace several metres wide. The main element of the building was a house of 16 × 30 m occupying the southwestern part of the construction (Figs. 13–14). Its proportions indicate the vertical, tower-like nature of a castle house (Festes Haus). At the same time, attention should be given to the builders' obvious concerns about the stability of the rise. For this reason, the walls of the building were erected on arcade foundations. The best preserved one was found in trench No. 2 (Fig. 15). Under the pillars, foundations were dug to a depth of about 2,6 m, crossing through layers of the previous period almost to the natural level, which, however, was not reached in the investigated area. Because this kind of foundation was used, the building did not have a cellar.



Fig. 12. Unisław - finds from the castle: A - pitcher from the younger layers of the wood and earth stronghold, B - elements of weaponry (1 - bolts, 2 - plate from protective armament) from the castle area. Photo B. Wasik.

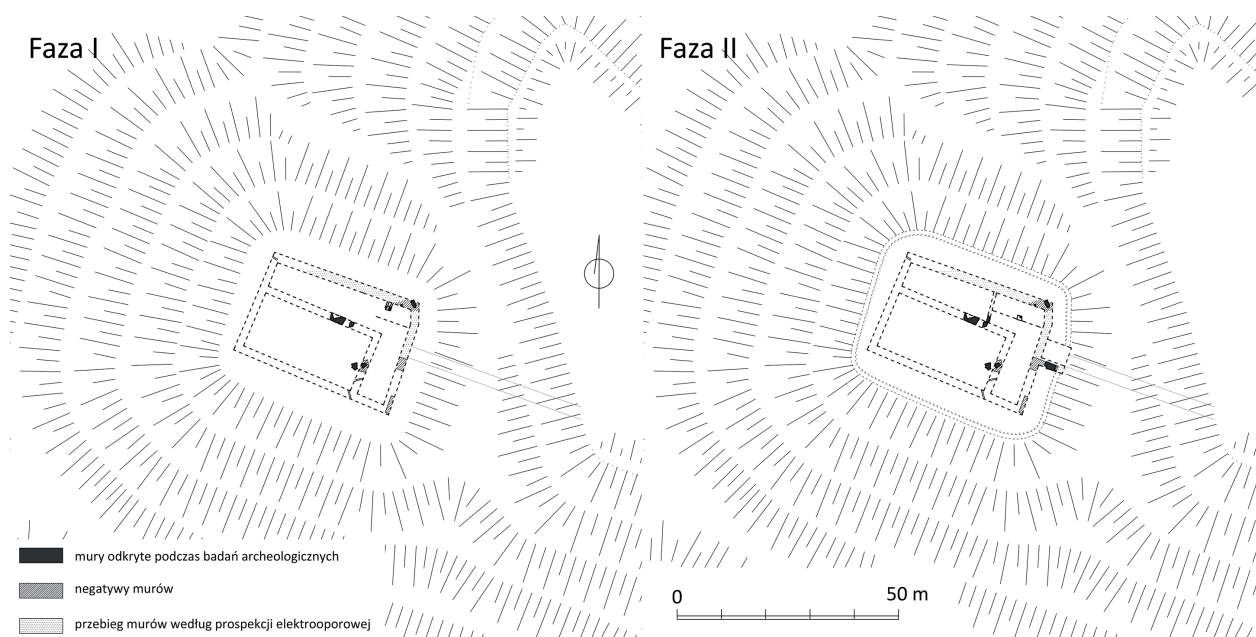


Fig. 13. Unisław - reconstruction of transformations of the high castle in the prosecutor's period: phase I - 2. quarter-half of the 14th century, phase II - turn of the 14th-15th century (by B. Wasik).

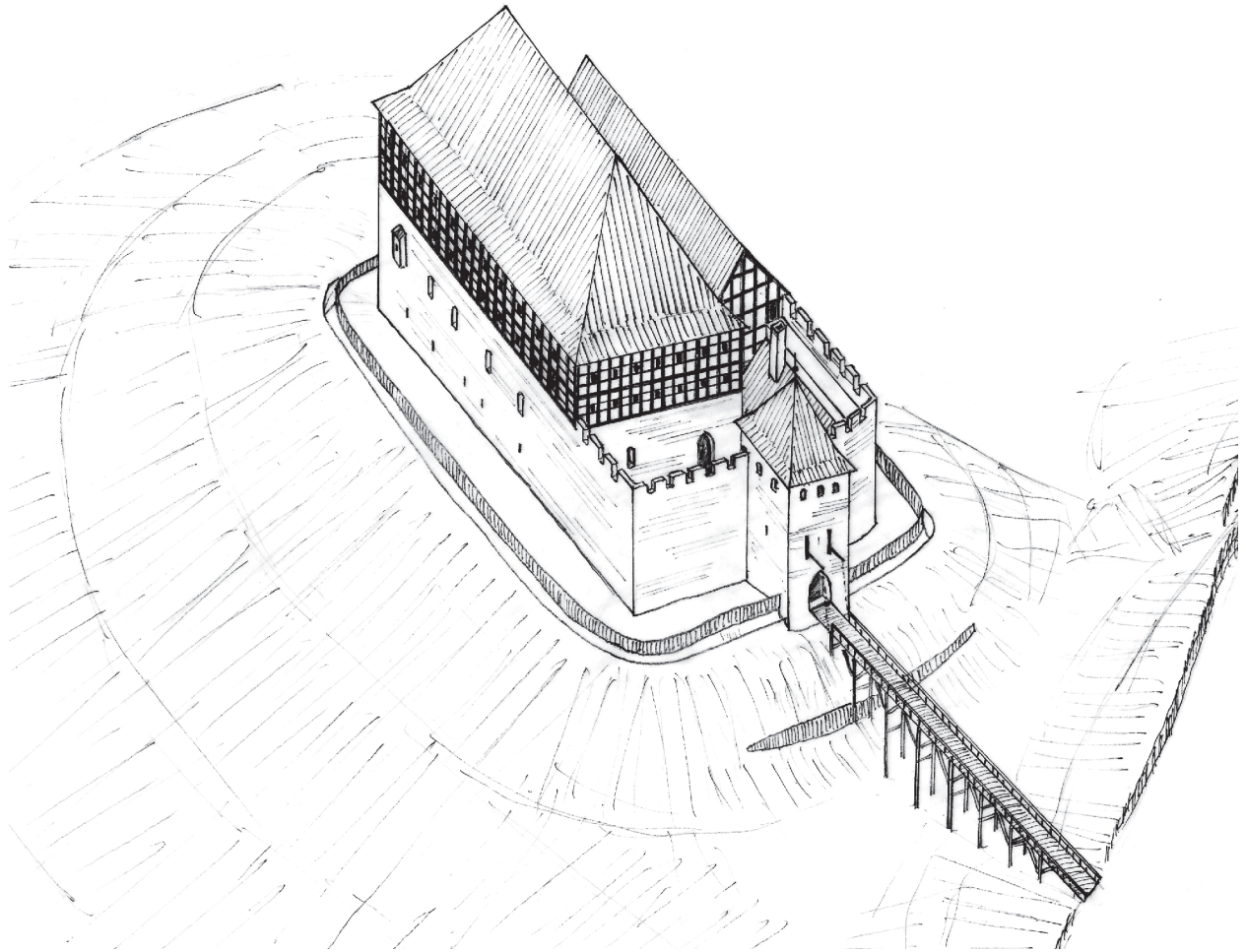


Fig. 14. Unisław – reconstruction of the appearance of the high castle at the turn of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries (by B. Wasik).

At the same time, however, its walls were not thick, reaching the thickness of about 1,7 m only. All this indicates that it was not a full masonry wall. Brick was probably used for the two lower storeys, housing ground-floor storage and utility rooms, and residential and official rooms on the first floor. The upper floors (probably two) for warehousing and defensive purposes must have been of light construction, and most probably timber-framed (Wasik 2017b, 52, 59; 2017d, 71–72).

To the north and east where the entrance was, a defensive wall was erected, also on strong arcade foundations. This created a ward approximately 6–7 m wide, into whose north-eastern corner a wooden kitchen building with a stove and a pantry ditch was placed (Fig. 13; Wasik 2017d, 72).

Thereafter, the castle was expanded further (Figs. 13–14). However, it is not certain whether this was part of a single undertaking. Based on the dating of pottery from the earthen floor of the younger phase of the kitchen, this extension can be dated to the end of the 14th and beginning of the 15th century. This was the time when the castle changed ownership, as the Teutonic Knights gave it to the knight Hans von Wedel in 1384. Soon, however, the Teutonic Knights recovered it, as the procurator reappeared in the source in 1391. Between 1400 and 1403 the office was revoked (Bartkowski 2007, 126–127; Józwiak 2001, 205). Von Wedel was in debt to the Order, so it should be doubted that he could have been the initiator of the investment and perhaps his debts were associated with the castle being returned to the hands of the religious knights at this time. The

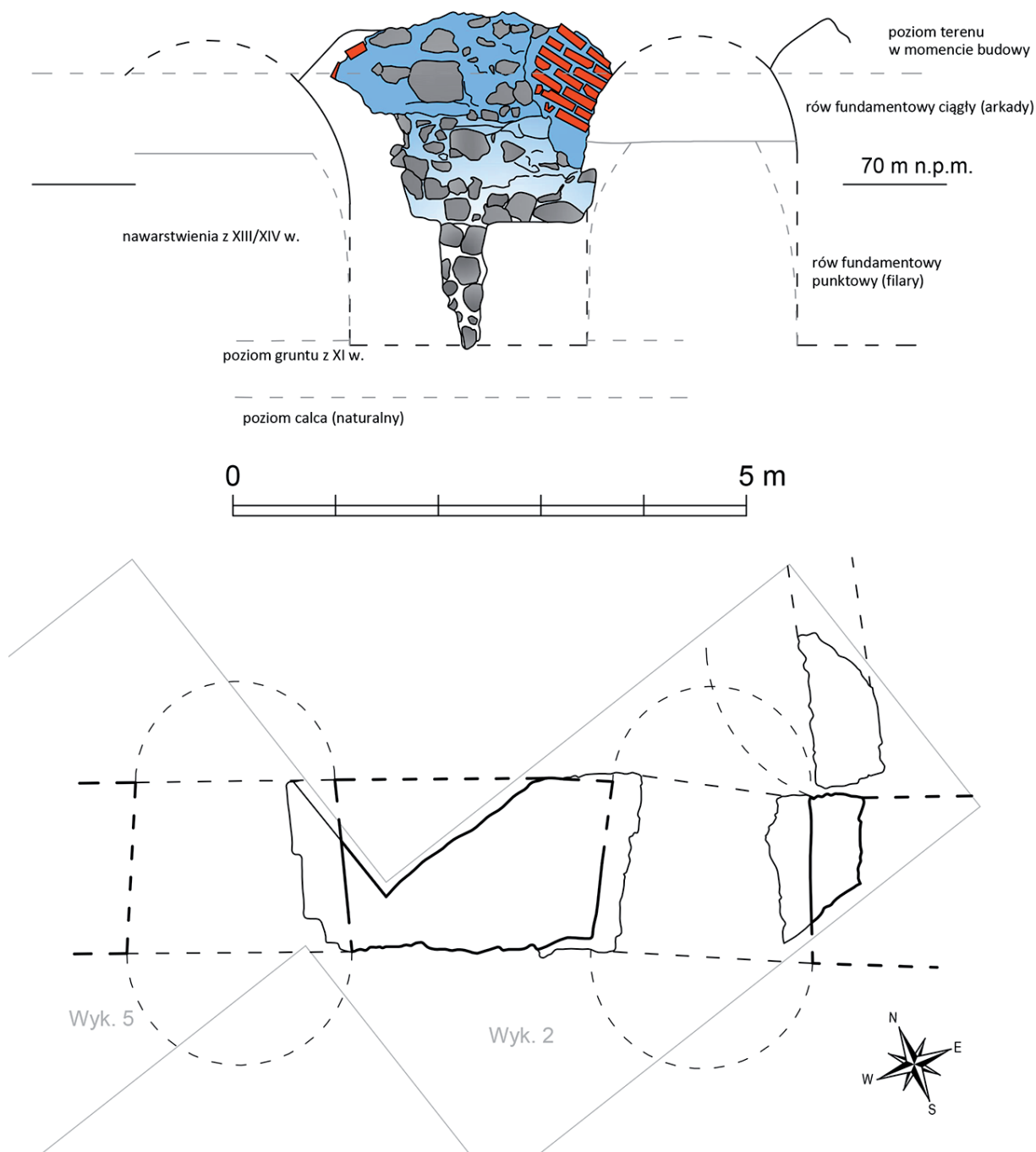


Fig. 15. Unisław – arcade foundation of the castle house, discovered in trench No. 2. Drawing by B. Wasik.

construction of the gate tower to the east and the building inserted in the north ward can be dated to this period. These features were also built on arcaded foundations, but differ from the previous ones in that they were very shallow. As indicated above, the kitchen building was also completely rebuilt at that time. It was equipped with walls of timber frame construction, the posts of which were placed on stone foundations (one was uncovered in trench No. 3) and the interior level was raised by making a new clay earthen floor, destroying the old furnace in the process. The construction of a wooden fence at the edge of the castle terrace¹⁰ and a ditch in front of it with a sharp triangular cross-section of about 1 m deep and wide should also be dated to this period (Wasik 2017d, 73).

The layout of the two baileys can be reconstructed on the basis of preserved relief features (Fig. 9). They were completely made of earth-and-timber.¹¹ No studies have been conducted to show whether both of them were created simultaneously or the internal one first. The slope of bailey I (inner) to the south has, like that of the high castle, been eroded back. Originally, it was gentler. From the north-west and north, the slope is terraced, indicating a double defensive line on the side facing the abandoned settlement. There were two moats with a large rampart between them on the most accessible side (eastern) of the ward, where there was certainly a gate¹² as well. Bailey II is identifiable on laser measurement relief maps to the east of bailey I. To the east it was separated from the moraine plateau by a single moat of about 30 m wide which is still visible in the field (Wasik 2017d, 74–76).

According to the dating of pottery from the demolition layers from the castle in Unisław, and the presence of burns, soot-coated roofing tiles and gouges from crossbow bolt heads bearing traces of the effect of heat, the castle was destroyed during the Thirteen Years' War between the Teutonic Order and the Prussian Confederation and Polish Crown in 1454–1466. After this destruction, it was not rebuilt and the place was abandoned.

The two castles discussed above began as Teutonic Order earth-and-timber strongholds. Starogród (old Chełmno) was one of the oldest, while Unisław proves how the constructing of such commandry headquarters persisted further, having been built at the turn of the 13th to 14th century. These buildings should be viewed in the context of “transitional castles”, which were built in the 13th century while major socio-economic changes were taking place and new areas were being settled. In Prussia, the construction of earth-and-timber strongholds by the Teutonic Knights was associated with major political, social and economic changes, and one of their important functions was to help the Teutonic administration to take root in the new lands (see Wasik 2016b, 233–244).

The stone-brick fortresses built on their foundations, however, represent completely different places among the forms and changes in castle construction in Prussia. Starogród belongs to the irregular fortresses, which were the earliest stone strongholds in Prussia. Built in the third quarter of the 13th century, the fortresses were modest. At that time, a perimeter wall was constructed, and the construction of a single stone-and-brick building started with no plans to create further wings. No sooner than around 1280, when the conquest had ended, and the country could stabilise itself and develop rapidly, itself and develop rapidly, was it possible to build monumental, large-scale architecture. At that time, the model of the “regular” four-sided castle was adopted in Prussia. Following new models at the end of the thirteenth and beginning of the 14th century, irregular castles were completed, leaving them with two or three wings, which had not been planned in their original construction. The Starogród Castle fully reflects these changes in architecture (Wasik 2016a, 315–320; 2016b, 245–252).

The brick-stone high castle in Unisław, meanwhile, was the headquarters of the procurator, and hence a lower ranking official. Accordingly, the stronghold was also the subject of a more modest architectural programme, which was based on the common tower model of a feudal headquarters. Residential towers had long been perceived as prestigious, as well as the *pars pro toto* of a castle. The Unisław tower house belongs to the Festes Haus or Hohen Haus type characterised by its larger size, usually considerable wall thickness and a height of three to four storeys (Lasek 2013, 25–27, 165, 279). Due to the builders' concern about the stability of the ground, the Unisław building was made lighter in structure, although it dominated over the area visually.

References

- 1) The project is conducted by Marcin Wiewióra of Institute of Archaeology, UMK in Toruń (research programme 2bH 15 0078 83), and is financed as part of a grant from the National programme for the Development of Humanities, Development Module 2b.
- 2) The eastern end of Chełmno Land lies in the Warmińsko-Mazurskie Voivodeship.
- 3) The ¹⁴C dating of wood and coal samples confirmed the chronology of the stronghold to the second quarter of the thirteenth century.
- 4) It is now known that it could not have happened before 1250. The first mention of the commandry is from 1251 (Jóźwiak 2001, 49–50; Löwner 1998, 165–166).
- 5) It was not possible to carry out archaeological excavations or geophysical surveys due to obstacles in the form of a metal barrier, sizable heaps of earth from the 1960s and the proximity of a cliff.
- 6) The late medieval construction and embankment layers contained early medieval pottery from the 9th – 11th century in the secondary depositional material, but in one trench (no. 2) on a barrel soil a layer from this period was recorded as well. No settlement was recorded in this place in the period after the nearby gord had been vacated (12th–13th century), which indicates that there was an interruption in settlement (Wasik 2017d, 68).
- 7) Discovered in trench No. 1, and captured by drillings to the west.
- 8) In a document from 1285 referring to the castle in Radzyń Chemiński, which was at that time undoubtedly earth-and-timber, an interior functioning as a refectory is mentioned (Jóźwiak – Trupinda 2012, 297–299).
- 9) Sample No. 23/17 (excavation No. 2) dated 1287–1399 AD (95% confidence) and 1296–1319 AD (25% confidence). At the same time, radiocarbon dating of samples which were, like the ceramics, found in secondary depositional material because of older deposits being moved during earthworks in the late Middle Ages, confirmed the presence of an open settlement in the 9th–11th century.
- 10) Recorded in the southern slope of the hill and drillings at excavation No. 4.
- 11) The geophysical surveys of bailey I did not record the presence of masonry construction (Bogacki – Małkowski – Misiewicz 2016).
- 12) According to the account of a farmer, until the 1940s the bailey had a preserved earth embankment to the south-east equal in size to the rampart at the remains of the gord.

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Bogusz Wasik – Marcin Wiewióra: Castra Terrae Culmensis – die Ergebnisse der neuen Erforschung der Burgen in Chełmno-Land (Starogród und Unisław)

Die Burgen von Starogrod und Unislaw blieben bis heute nicht erhalten und die Kenntnisse darüber waren noch vor kurzem ziemlich gering. Durch die im Rahmen des Projekts "Castra Terrae Culmensis – am Rande der christlichen Welt" durchgeführten Studien wurde diese Situation wesentlich verändert. Starogród (eigentlich die Burg Alt Kulm) war eines der ältesten Zentren der deutschen Macht in der Region. Im Jahre 1232 wurde an der Stelle einer Befestigungsanlage eine Burg vom Deutschen Orden angelegt. Bisher wurden die Versuche erfolglos unternommen, die Stadt Chełmno daneben zu lokalisieren. Die Forschungen der Hohen Burg entdeckten die Relikte und Siedlungsschichten dieser Festung aus Holz und Erde aus dem zweiten Viertel des 13. Jahrhunderts. In der Mitte des 13. Jahrhunderts oder später wurde sie in ein gemauertes Objekt umgewandelt, jedoch können die Erdwerke vom Ende des 13. und Anfang des 14. Jahrhunderts identifiziert werden. Die Hauptgebäude mit einem Untergeschoss sind nach Westen und Südwesten orientiert. Das Areal umfasst unter anderem eine Kapelle und ein Refektorium. Im Westflügel befanden sich auch ein Dansker (Toilettenanlage) und ein Kreuzgang. Im Norden und Osten wurde in der ersten Hälfte des 14. Jahrhunderts ein einstöckiges Gebäude mit einer Küche, Bäckerei und Brauerei errichtet. Auf der Vorhofseite wurde die Burg von einem Parcham und einem Wassergraben abgeschirmt. Die Burg hatte zwei Vorhöfe: einen inneren aus dem Mauerwerk und den anderen aus Erde und Holz.

Das Schloss in Unisław wurde auch als Hauptzentrum seiner Umgebung gegründet. Diese Festung wurde um 1285 erbaut und funktionierte bis zum ersten Viertel des 14. Jahrhunderts. Es war von einer steinernen Wallanlage umgeben; innen befanden sich ein von einem Hypocaustum-Ofen beheiztes Gebäude und eine metallurgische Werkstatt. Im zweiten Viertel des vierzehnten Jahrhunderts wurde die Burg zum Sitz von Prokuratoren; in dieser Zeit veränderte sich auch die Mauerwerksstruktur. Den Hauptteil bildete ein großes turmartiges Gebäude. Es wurde auf den Arkadenfundamenten errichtet und die oberen Etagen wurden wahrscheinlich aus Flechtwerk gemacht. Es wurde auf der Stirnseite von einer Verteidigungsmauer abgeschirmt. In der Nähe befand sich eine Küche, und um die Wende vom 14. zum 15. Jahrhundert entstand hier noch ein weiteres Gebäude. Zu dieser Zeit wurde ein Torturm ausgebaut und die Küche wurde umgebaut. Außerhalb der Hochburg befanden sich auch zwei Vorhöfe aus Erde und Holz. Die Burg wurde im dreizehnjährigen Krieg in der Mitte des 15. Jahrhunderts zerstört.