

# THE POLISHED STONE INDUSTRY FROM ȘOIMUȘ – LA AVICOLA (FERMA 2), HUNEDOARA COUNTY

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**Abstract:** In this contribution the polished stone artefacts from the Neolithic settlement at Șoimuș – La Avicola (Ferma 2), Hunedoara County are analysed. These items belong to Turdaș facies and were discovered during rescue excavations on the A1 Motorway route in 2011. The items are analysed from the point of view of their typology, technology and context, but also their dimensions and the possible sources of raw materials being taken into consideration. A wide range of raw materials for making stone tools at Șoimuș was used, which proves the amazing adaptability of the Turdaș communities to the local environment.

**Cuvinte-cheie:** Turdaș, neolitic, Șoimuș, tehnologie, tipologie, industrie litică șlefuită

**Rezumat:** În această contribuție ne propunem să analizăm artefactele din piatră șlefuită din așezarea neolitică de la Șoimuș – La Avicola (Ferma 2), județul Hunedoara. Ele aparțin aspectului cultural Turdaș și au fost descoperite în timpul săpăturilor arheologice preventive de pe traseul Autostrăzii A1 în anul 2011. Obiectele sunt analizate din punct de vedere al tipologiei, tehnologiei și contextului lor, a parametrilor dimensionali dar și a posibilelor puncte din care materia primă necesară producerii lor ar fi fost colectată. Materiile prime utilizate în confecționarea obiectelor din piatră șlefuită de la Șoimuș sunt foarte diverse, acest lucru dovedind uimitoarea adaptabilitate a comunităților turdășene la mediul înconjurător.

## INTRODUCTION

In 2011, during the construction of A1 Motorway, on the segment between Deva and Orăștie, a joint team of archaeologists from the “Vasile Pârvan” Institute of Archaeology (Bucharest), Roman and Dacian Civilization Museum (Deva), and Romanian National History Museum (Bucharest) carried out rescue excavations for three months (August-November) in the settlement of Șoimuș, (Dobrescu *et alii* 2016; Mărgărit *et alii* 2016, in press; Niță *et alii* 2015; Ștefan 2014; Ștefan, Petcu 2015; Ștefan *et alii* 2013; 2015). The site is positioned between Șoimuș and Bălata villages, Hunedoara County, in a place called *La Avicola (Ferma 2)*, on the middle sector of the first terrace of the Mureș River (Figs. 1 and 2). The area of the site is of ca. 70 ha, but only a small part affected by the Motorway route was investigated. Over 700 features were documented, most of them belonging to Turdaș culture, but also to Early Neolithic, Bronze Age, Middle Iron Age, Roman and Early Middle Age.

In this presentation, we analyse a number of 200 polished stone artefacts from this settlement which belongs to Turdaș cultural aspect. The range of types for these artefacts is diverse (axes, chisels, adzes, armllets,

etc.) and they were discovered in different contexts (dwellings, hovels, pits, ditches). We also tried to establish the traces of use and the types of rocks collected by the community of Șoimuș.

## TYOLOGY AND TECHNOLOGY

Considering the typology, we have of the following items at Șoimuș: axes, adzes, chisels, bracelets, polishers, perforated items, bolts, a grinding mortar, a button, a shuttle and a mace head, summarising a number of 200 items. We have also a category of items (damaged or broken) which can hardly be attributed to any type (Fig. 3).

**Axes** (Pls. I and II) are divided in two main categories, perforated and unperforated, with a single piece from the first one (Pl. II/4) and the majority from the latter. Some of the damaged axes are reused later as adzes (Pl. III/2). Some of the axes are rectangular in shape, others trapezoidal and in longitudinal section they are triangular, rectangular or bulged. Experimental studies have shown the way in which wooden handles were fastened proving an impressive viability (Matheiu, Meyer 1997).