

# **BESIDES VESSELS: INVESTIGATING EARLY NEOLITHIC FIRED CLAY ARTEFACTS FROM HUNGARY**

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The paper presents the results of an archaeometric study of plaster and clay artefacts of the Early Neolithic Körös Culture (Hungary), dating to the beginning of the VII millennium BP. They represent the production of the earliest farmers of the Carpathian Basin. The research project investigated both potsherds and non-vessel fired clay artefacts, such as the so-called net-weights, loom-weights and plaster fragments, belonging to walls and floors of the architectural features. These latter were studied with the aim of better characterizing the local raw material composition and comparing it to that of the pottery production. In addition, samples of Pleistocene and Holocene clayish sediments were collected from the area of the Neolithic settlements with hand coring. It is in fact supposed that the raw material for plastering the structures of the settlements was collected from sources located, for logistical reasons, in the very proximity of the sites. The analyses of these samples represent the very first archaeometrical study for this Culture in Hungary. The methods of investigation comprise the petrographic study with the polarizing microscope of thin sections of all samples, combined when necessary with chemical (XRF, NAA) and SEM-EDS analyses.