CHAPTER 4

The Effect of Depositional and Post-Depositional Processes on the Preservation of Skeletal Remains in the Bodzia Cemetery

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Site Location

The archaeological site Bodzia is located in the South Baltic Lake District, which was formed by the processes associated with the Vistulian glaciation. This site is therefore representative of young glacial relief. This Polish area is located in the southeastern part of the Kuyavia, or Inowrocław, Plains (Fig. 4.1). The east side of the plain is bordered by the Vistula Valley; at this point, the valley changes direction from latitudinal (ice-marginal valley) to longitudinal. This section of the Vistula Valley is located in the Płock Basin.1

In the local morphometry of the area, the archeological excavation site is located on the slope of a small hill that descends to the east, at 87 m above sea level (ASL). The slope between the hilltop and the lowest point among the post-glacial depressions is approximately a 5% grade (Fig. 4.2). Small melt lakes are located to the east and northeast of the burial ground (cf. Fig. 4.2). At present, these lakes have a fossil character, and were eroded by the effects of Neoholocene climate change in Kuyavia and the levelling associated with agrotechnological activity. The eastern slope is associated with the extensive Vistula Valley. The edge zone of this segment of the Vistula Valley is cut with numerous erosio-denudational valleys, one of them being south of the burial ground.

Depositional Processes: The Natural Surroundings of the Archaeological Site

The stratigraphy of the site comprises a record of the various processes responsible for the formation of the deposits, including those connected with changes in the natural stratigraphy resulting from human activities (e.g., the removal

1 Kondracki 2002.
Figure 4.1  The morphometrical map of the Kuyavian Lake District. On the map, the location of the archaeological excavation site in Bodzia is marked. The dotted line marks the range of the Inowroclaw Valley.

Figure 4.2  Local hypsometry of medieval burial and gradient between the hilltop and the surface of the melt lake.