
Biographies of recycled artefacts in burial context. Case study from Yuzhniy Oleniy Ostrov, Northwest Russia

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Abstract

Pendants made of animal teeth or splitted tubular bones are common finds in inhumation graves at Yuzhniy Oleniy Ostrov in Northwest Russia. Among the bone pendants, we identified items made of barbed points. The points were cut, and grooves for attaching were made on the narrower end. In this paper we present the biographies of these items. We studied the raw material, technology and tool type of the barbed points, and investigated how these broken artefacts were later turned into pendants, and used in an ornament. We studied the grave context of these artefacts, and describe various phases in their life histories. Finally, symbolic meanings of these artefacts is discussed and compared with data of the other types of ornaments in this burial site and other Late Mesolithic sites in Northeast Europe.

Keywords: Artefact biography, burials, material circulation

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