

Description for the general public

After the regression of the last ice sheet the area of the European Plain has become the target of human re-colonization. Hunter-gatherers societies, who were the first settlers, are associated with so-called Hamburgian Culture. Remains of Hamburgian settlement on the European Plain are very meager. Archaeological sources generally are limited to the lithic productions wastes. Lithics are grouped in one or several concentrations. This poverty of archaeological sources makes the period of the beginning of the Late Glacial and cultural image of Hamburgian societies still poorly understood. In recent years, detailed research on lithic technology and spatial organization of encampments allowed the complete understanding of the Hamburgian in the northern Germany region and Netherlands. The main aim of this project is a comprehensive, multi-faceted analysis of lithic materials from Hamburgian sites of Greater Poland region. The conducted analysis aims to reconstruct the lithic technological system, spatial organization of the camps, as well as to show the social dimension of the lithic production activities (microscale analysis within individual camp sites) and settlement mobility.

Lithics analysis will be conducted using the refitting method. The method allows the capture of individual technological activities (exploitation of nodule, tool production and repair), reconstruction of processing (operational chains) and the movements of materials within the camp associated with cultural and natural processes of deposition. In the context of theoretical assumptions and goals of the project an important feature of the refitting method is the simultaneous connection of technological and spatial dimension within individual analytical units – the refitted block. Moreover, refitting method by connection between clusters analysis can determine the relative chronology in the case of multi-concentrations sites without absolute dating for establishing chronology.

The presented project is the first attempt of a new social approach of lithic technology, spatial organization and settlement model of Hamburgian Culture in Greater Poland region. The previous interpretation referred to the classic Hamburgian sites of Tunnel Valley rich in reindeer bone and antlers remains – the mobility patterns and the nature of the settlement were considered as an environmentally conditioned and strictly related to the seasonal migration of herds of reindeer. In the present project is proposed withdrawal of environmentally interpretation, the attention is directed toward the social conditions of the settlement.

The research will also provide the first complete analysis of lithic using refitting method carried out on a regional scale. The method allows reconstruction of lithic technology and spatial behavior within the camps.