

POPULAR SCIENCE SUMMARY OF THE SCIENTIFIC PROJECT (IN POLISH)

The aim of the project is spatial-functional analysis of chosen Mesolithic sites of Janisławice culture.

Selected were three sites: Tomaszów II, Trench II, Wieliszew XIII/60 and Rydno VI/60. The first one is a flint processing workshop manufacturing chipped artifacts of mined chocolate flint. The second site represents a hunting camp. The third site is located in the area of Rydno-Complex and is related to hematite exploitation.

The grounds for the spatial-functional camp analysis will be the horizontal distribution of flint affects and their refits, accompanied by the examination of microwear use traces left on tools. In the rules of microwear studies, on the surface of flint, after using it in various household activities, remain traces of use in the form of polishing, crushing, breaks, etc. These alterations of the tool surface may be identified by applying a high magnification microscope. Each activity repeated over a longer period of time leaves characteristic traces on flint tools. These traces differ depending on the materials worked, i.e. bones, wood, leather or meat.

Apart from the traseological observations the tools shall also undergo a residual analysis. The latter shall facilitate the reconstruction of past activities. In labile environments, rich in microbes and microorganisms, the remnants decompose quickly. But from the archaeological perspective, places which are stable environmentally, i.e. with strong acidity or alkalinity, very cold or very hot, foster the preservation of organic substance. The localization of the sites approved in the project qualifies them for collecting samples suitable for carrying out appropriate examinations.

Matching the flint artifacts, which compose the refits, e.g. the reconstructed cores, broken tools, etc., may explain the techniques of blade and flake removal, etc. Further, a scatter pattern of the refitting network of flint artifacts originating from singular blocks of flint will show the place of core processing, tool repair and use.

The modest number of Mesolithic sites examined this way until now results in the fact, that we only have apiecemeal information on the functioning of Mesolithic camps in the past.

The planned studies will, no doubt, broaden our knowledge of the activities performed by these societies and they should yield more information on the organization and planning of Mesolithic camps by showing the divisions of labor and spatial location of particular zones of household activities.