CZ Czech Republic

CZ 1 Tušimice
CZ 2 Bečov
CZ 3 Stránská skála
CZ 4 Krumlovský les
In the Magdalenian Culture Bečov type quartzite spread to Saxony, Czech Kras and to west and south Moravia (Brno-Maloměřice). In the Mesolithic it dominated in the Prague region (Praha-Ďáblice), about 60 km from the deposits, while single artefacts have been found all over Bohemia (Fridrich 1972; Přichystal 1994:48; Venc 1990:238–9). Among the farming communities it was less popular than the Skřín and Tušimice types of quartzite and was only used more widely in north-west Bohemia.

Translated by Alicja Petrus-Zagroba

REFERENCES


CZ 3 STRÁNSKÁ SKÁLA, BRNO DISTRICT

Jiří Svoboda

Stránská skála is a Jurassic limestone cliff located in the vicinity of the city of Brno, South Moravia, Czech Republic. Steep rock slopes at the northwest margins of the site are flanked by Lower/Middle Pleistocene slope deposits (site SS-I) and by Würmian loess at the northern margin (site SS-IV, Epigravettian). In the upper part
of the elevation, the rock is partly exposed, partly covered by deposits of Pleistocene soil sediments, soils and loess (sites SS-II and SS-III, Bohunician, Aurignacian). Large pits of the Moravian Painted Ware Culture and the Funnel Beaker Culture are located on the surface of the loess (Fig. 1).

Since 1910, palaeontological excavations at the site I have been carried out by J. Woldřich, K. Absolon, R. Musil and others. Surface collections of Upper Palaeolithic and Neolithic/Enolithic artifacts have been made there since the 1930s, especially by K. Schirmeisen and K. Valoch. Systematic archaeological investigations of the Upper Palaeolithic and Neolithic/Enolithic occupations were begun in 1981–82 (site SS-III), continued in 1983–84 (site SS-IIIa), 1985–87 (sites SS-II, IIa and IV) and 1988–89 (site SS-IIIb; Svoboda 1983, 1987, 1991).

The Stránská skála limestone contains layers of chert of several varieties, the most characteristic being striped (Koutek 1926; Příchystal 1987). Weathered chert nodules appear on the surface of the limestone, at the base of the loess cover, or in the nearby fluvial sediments of the Svitava. It seems that intensive Palaeolithic exploitation of the surface layers has removed the pieces of the best quality, so that the Neolithic/Enolithic people were forced to extract the chert together with the limestone blocks and to transport them to the primary workshops for further processing.
Intensive limestone quarrying since the Middle Ages in the area of the exposed outcrops has destroyed all possible traces of prehistoric activities there. Therefore, the evidence is actually available only from excavations of the adjacent workshops, located on the loess (sites SS-III, IIIa).

The largest workshop feature hitherto excavated belongs to the Funnel Beaker Culture (site III; Svoboda and Šmid in press). It has the shape of an hourglass (probably two adjacent circular pits), measuring altogether 48 m in length (Fig. 1). It includes hearths and several pits, some of them filled with limestone blocks and chert debris transported here from a distance of 200–500 m. Six pieces of used antler are probably related to extraction of the limestone. Some of the blocks also show the use of fire.

The total of the lithic material demonstrates a specialized workshop character, with 13 cores, 41 non-retouched flakes, 43 fragments and chips, and only 3 retouched tools (such as notched and denticulated pieces, end-scrapers, side-scrapers and retouched blades). Imported lithic materials are extremely rare and most of them were blades deposited in a pot (Fig. 2). Although the export of material is presupposed, the Stránská skála cherts are surprisingly rare within the Neolithic/Eneolithic assemblages outside the exploitation area.
Additional evidence from the same feature suggests a wider range of activities than the primary lithic working. Palaeobotanical analyses indicate the presence of cultivated areas (cereals), a steppe (grasses) and arboreal elements (Pinus, Betula, Alnus). The animals found are both wild and domesticated. In the lithic material, plant cultivation and hunting are evidenced by sickle-blades, grinding plaques, and by a few arrow points.

A smaller workshop pit, with a hearth at the base, and with a comparable lithic industry, belongs to the Moravian Painted Ware Culture (site SS-IIIa).

REFERENCES


CZ 4 KRUMLOVSKÝ LES, ZNOJMO DISTRICT

Inna Mateiciucová

The hornstone mines lie on the east slopes of the Krumlovský les, part of the Bobrava upland. Today it is a forested plateau at a height of about 400 m above sea-level and about 16–28 km SW of Brno. The mining site is situated between the villages of Vedrovice and Maršovice (Znojmo district). The area is on the eastern edge of the Czech Massif, at its contact with the Carpathian zone.

The hornstone from this site was differentiated in the archaeological literature twenty years ago (Valoch 1975). It was described by J. Lech (1981:12) and given the name of the Moravsky Krumlov Type, and A. Přichystal (1984:207–8) described it in more detail and named it the Krumlovský les Type. The basis for this distinction was Palaeolithic (K. Valoch) and Neolithic material from Vedrovice-Zábrdovice and Jezeřany-Maršovice (Lech 1983:49–52), connected with the exploitation of this raw material. During archaeological sondages in 1989 at the “V končinách” site in Nové