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ABSTRACT BOOK

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Jaksice II - new site of the mammoth hunters from southern Poland

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In the years 2010-2013, almost a hundred years after the discovery of Palaeolithic site at Jaksice made by L. Kozłowski and W. Kuźniar, the new fieldwork's were carried out (Kozłowski and Kuźniar, 1914; Wilczyński and Wojtal, 2011). The site is located on a left bank of a Vistula River opposite the mouth of the Raba River (Fig. 1), about 40 km from Kraków Spadzista site (Kozłowski et al., 1974). The technology and typology of the lithic assemblage as well as radiometric data indicate that this inventory could be interpreted as a remnant of the camp site inhabited by groups of Gravettian hunters in the period 24-20 kyr BP.



Fig. 1. General view and western profile of the Jaksice II site.

During excavations abundant archaeological and palaeontological assemblages were discovered. Among archaeological assemblage we could mention ivory artefact and fragments associated with its manufacture, mollusc shell pendants, hematite fragments and numerous retouched tools - especially backed artefacts. Woolly mammoth and reindeer remains vastly outnumber other mammal species remains. These species were the main source of meat and raw material for the Gravettian hunter-gatherers from this site. The mammoth is represented mostly by ribs, vertebrae fragments and phalanges. It should be noted that no long bones, except for a just a few small fragments (10 cm long), were discovered. Given the impressive quantity of burnt bone discovered at the site it is likely that it was burnt in the hearth as fuel. They formed a concentration in the northern and southern area of the trench – interpreted as the place of a hearth. All this information persuade us to interpret the site as a base camp, where closeness of large river facilitated the hunting of big game animals.

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