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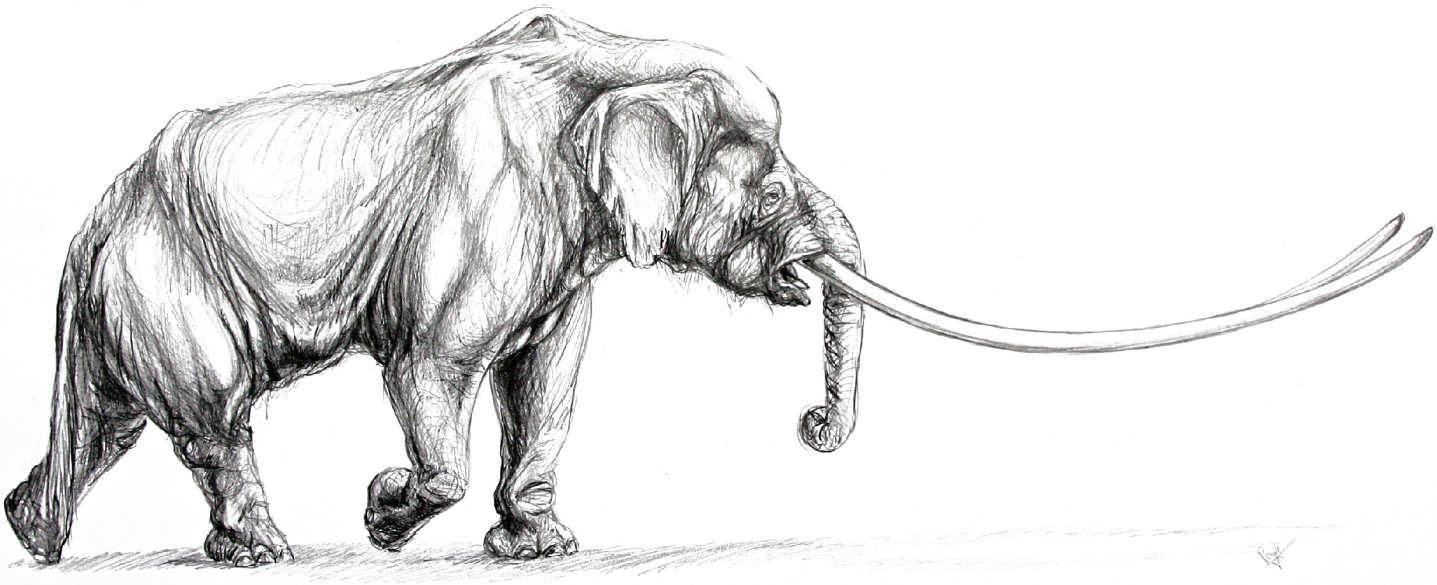

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ABSTRACT BOOK

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Mammoth hunter settlement of Dolni Vestonice I - preliminary results of taphonomic studies

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Dolni Vestonice I is possibly one of the most significant Mid Upper Palaeolithic sites. The research carried out at this location led to the discovery of extremely rich Gravettian deposits containing numerous lithic artefacts, bone products, human remains and - last but not least - art objects, most notably the famous clay figurine known as Venus of Dolní Věstonice. Dolni Vestonice I was excavated for the first time in 1924, by K. Absolon, and later, by B. Klima (Absolon 1945; Klíma 1963). Different areas of the site were investigated and a vast assemblage of animal bone was recovered. A significant part of mammoth bones filled a natural depression (Czech *skladka kosti*) with, to the north of it, five dwelling structures. These were surrounded by single mammoth bones and originally were a sort of an enclosure within which were carried out diverse activities including stone processing (Klíma 1963). Unfortunately despite the extraordinary importance of this material it was never analysed comprehensively and published in a satisfactory manner. With main focus of earlier studies placed on the archaeological record much less time and energy were spent on the analysis of the animal remain (Musil 1959). In this situation it is imperative to re-examine the results of earlier taxonomic studies. This is the main purpose of our project – to make a taxonomic, zooarchaeological and taphonomic study of animal bone remains from the domestic structures at Dolni Vestonice linked with Gravettian settlement.

In the area of dwelling structures remains of different mammals species were found. Bones and teeth of woolly mammoth, wolf, reindeer, fox and horse are most numerous. Traces of human activity (e.g. cut marks) are visible on many of them - especially at carnivore bones. It should be noted that at the dumping area woolly mammoth bones vastly outnumbering remains other mammals.

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