

Using refittings of lithic artefacts to test a site formation model for the Gravettian site of Krems-Wachtberg

M. Händel¹, R. Thomas¹, U. Simon¹, M. Brandl¹, T. Einwögerer¹

¹Institute for Oriental and European Archaeology, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Austria

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Given its rich archaeological and sedimentary records, Krems-Wachtberg can be considered a key site in the Middle Danube region. Unquestionably, the site is most renowned for its Mid Upper Palaeolithic infant burials. Of similar significance is, however, the preservation of an occupation surface providing the context for these burials as well as for other anthropogenic structures such as a large multi-phased hearth. The presence of yet another rich archaeological layer characterised by redeposited finds, on top of and truncating the *in situ* occupation layer, is of utmost importance for understanding and modelling the local site formation processes.

Archaeological excavations at Krems-Wachtberg have been conducted from 2005 to 2015 and provided a wealth of material and data. Among these are more than 40,000 lithic artefacts for which orientation and position were recorded three-dimensionally. Post-excavation analyses of this assemblage included both artefact-morphological recording as well as raw material determination for each artefact. The latter provided data for a classification of the assemblage and a basis for refittings. Besides providing crucial technological insights, these refittings represent a most suitable proxy for testing our site formation model.