

Just dust? Investigations at the archaeological site of Flintsbach, Lower Bavaria

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DOI: 10.18154/RWTH-2019-10534

Stratified *in situ* sites from Bavaria suggest that leaf points were made by Neanderthals at the very end of the Middle Palaeolithic. However, the majority of the numerous leafpoint sites in southern Germany are only known from surface collections, poorly-documented legacy excavations or are single finds. These circumstances contribute to a poor knowledge concerning the general and internal chronology of the leaf point assemblages and their various accompanying technologies.

The site of Flintsbach, Lower Bavaria, has hitherto only been known as a surface collection. However, current fieldwork at the site by the universities of Cologne and Erlangen revealed the possible preservation of a leaf point bearing find layer within a dense, homogeneous, brownish yellow silt (probably loess). A mandible of *Megaloceros* from the surface collection was dated to a time span between 39506 and 43984 calBP suggesting the possible preservation of organic material within an intact find layer. Still, these dates cannot be connected to the finds unless datable material is found associated with lithic artefacts. Therefore, further fieldwork is planned to reveal datable faunal material within an archaeological context to improve our knowledge on the late Middle Palaeolithic of Southern Germany.