



## The open-air site *Sand*

### Palaeolithic hunters rambling along the Swabian Jura

Just imagine: a little camp of tents made of hide and wood with humans producing lithic tools, repairing their weapons and processing the meat of hunted animals like wild horses or deer. This might have been the scenario 13000 years ago on the *Galgenberg* when you look down onto the plateau from the *Rosenstein*. Hunters and gatherers from the Ice Age to the Holocene preferred to frequent this exposed spur in the immediate foreland of the Swabian Jura.

Whereas the *Kleine Scheuer* is a cave site, the *Sand* must clearly be seen as an open-air campsite. Open-air sites like the *Sand* point out that hunters and gatherers rather camped in the surrounding areas of caves than in caves themselves. Tools from the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic have repeatedly been recovered in the ploughed up soil for the past 100 years. Due to constant surveys conducted by hobby archaeologists from the *AK Steinzeit Schwäbisch Gmünd* and to an excavation by the University of Tuebingen the maximum age of the finds is attributed to the Magdalenian. This techno-complex marks the last culture of the final Pleistocene. Together with the *Kleine Scheuer* one may conclude that this region was visited a few times to rest, repair tools and produce new ones. Regional Jurassic chert in a typical variation called *Kieselkalk* (siliceous limestone) was picked up at the slopes of the *Scheuelberg*, south to the *Sand* and processed on the *Sand*. Refittings were possible within this material, so single processes of the tool production could be reconstructed for the Magdalenian. Lithic projectiles appear at the *Sand* in all periods of the Stone Age which points at hunting activities. Especially in the Magdalenian the import of non-local lithic tools from the *Randecker Maar* 40 km southwest (Tertiary chert), *Kelheim* in Bavaria (tabular chert) and Radiolarite from Danube gravels 40 km south, show the mobility of hunters and gatherers in the late Pleistocene. The *Sand* is considered to be an outstanding open-air campsite from the final Ice Age about 13000 years ago.

#### **1. picture:**

hunting event in the forelands of the Swabian Jura daily routine at the campsite

#### **2. picture:**

daily routine at the campsite

#### **3. pictures of some finds:**

1. backed points made on tabular chert from Bavaria prove hunting activities around *Heubach*

2. refitting (*Aufeinanderpassung*) of blades made on local *Kieselkalk*