

Tata

This open-air site is located near Budapest in Hungary. It was excavated by László Vértes in 1958 and 1959.³⁴ A main human settlement was discovered in travertine. The faunal remains are poor, above all composed by *Ursus arctos* and Mammoths. In contrary, the rich lithic assemblage can be the remains of flaking areas. In 1964, L. Vértes dated the settlement from an interstadial period belonging to the beginning of Würm (Brërurp). A ¹⁴C dating on a charcoal sample confirmed the first age hypothesis with a date of 55,000 ± 2500 B.P. However, the palaeontological and malacological studies put the level at the end of the last interglacial. These distorted results were explained by L. Vértes by the water springs related to the site. The first U/Th dating more agree with the palaeontological hypothesis. The human occupation would be dated to 70,000 ± 2000 B.P. to 116,000 ± 1600 B.P., from the end of the last interglacial to the beginning of the last glacial period.³⁵

The two most famous artefacts from this site are a "chouringa" carved in a fragment of a mammoth tooth (determined by L. Vértes as a cult objet from Australian Aborigines) and an "amulet" with an engraved cross made on a polished nummulite fossil. The tooth fragment seems to have been carefully separated from the Mammoth molar tooth, then shaped, bevelled, and coloured in red by rubbing with ochre. Ochre remains have also been discovered inside the site.

Taubach-Weimar

Located in Germany, these two open air sites are a part of a complex of travertines along the slopes of the Ilm river valley, not far the city of Weimar. The material comes from collections accumulated by different researchers working in Weimar and Halle from about 1870. The travertine quarries are closed now. Recent dating by micro-mammals and radiometric studies give an age of 111 Ky and 115 Ky.³⁶ The travertine should be dated to the Eem Interglacial.

The faunal remains are composed by woodland rhinoceros (*Stepanorhinus kirchbergensis*) and brown bears (*Ursus arctos*). These two species provide 90% of all cut marks. *Bison priscus* and *Cervus elaphus* are also well represented.³⁷ Rhinoceros are above all young and total 76 animals.

³⁴ VÉRTES et al. 1964.

³⁵ SCHWARCZ-SKOFLEK 1982.

³⁶ HEINRICH 1994.; BRUNNACKER et al. 1983.

³⁷ BRADLUND 1999.