
Copper age lithic workshop on Mount Doc (Segusino-Treviso, North-eastern Italy)

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Résumé

This paper aims to present a late prehistoric site related to flint exploitation and first stages of working. The site was excavated in 2002-2003 on the ridge of Mount Doc (1394m above sea level), one of the westernmost peaks of the Prealps range of Treviso (North-eastern Italy). The site itself and some of the documentation obtained from surveys and from the extensively excavated sectors have already been the subject of preliminary reports. These have concluded that between an advanced stage of the Neolithic Age and the Copper Age, this site was used to supply and work flint. Mount Doc is potentially an area of raw material extraction, given the availability of flint formations (Biancone and Scaglia variegata) which abound in the most exposed segments of the ridge. The technological analysis confirmed an interpretation of the site as a chipping area linked to the rough-hewing and the production of "pre-processed" products from blocks, small plates or flint fragments found, in all likelihood, a short distance away. Two production goals were identified, one of which involved making preforms whose size made it possible to build bifacial foliate retouch tools, while the other involved the extraction of blades and bladelets. What is almost entirely missing are the final products, as well as prepared cores. This, and other technological data, suggested that the raw materials were chipped quickly and roughly in order to produce rough-hewn preforms and blade/bladelet cores to be taken elsewhere for subsequent stages of production. The activities documented in the sector of excavation under study could be placed within a much wider economic and environmental context, as these activities were probably carried out seasonally by specialised itinerant groups linked to pastoral farming.

Mots-Clés: Lithic workshop, flint quarry, Copper Age, bifacial preform

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