
Salaspils Laukskola – the northern fringe of the Swiderian technological tradition

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Résumé

The earliest settlement of Latvia occurred at the very end of the Late Glacial, after the retreat of the ice sheet. Reindeer and their hunters entered the country from the south, using the valleys of the major rivers. The evidences of this earliest habitation are stray finds of reindeer bones and antlers, bone and antler artefacts – Lyngby axe and harpoons of archaic appearance, some of them dated by radiocarbon analyses, and flints. The flint stray finds are most numerous. Only one excavated settlement site with a rich flint inventory, where flints had been discovered in six concentrations, is known - Salaspils Laukskola.

This Younger Dryas site, as well as several smaller finds from Latvia, represents some of the most northerly sites with projectile points of Swidry type (Zagorska, 1996, 1999, 2012). Together with the exploitation of chocolate flint at Laukskola (Sulgostowska, 1997) this is seen as indications of an association with the Swidry finds in the south, e.g. Poland.

A recent technological analysis of the blade production concept used in the site brings further arguments to the discussion, demonstrating great similarities with the Swidry blade technology as described by several authors (Dziewanowski, 2006, Galiński og Sulgostowska, 2013, Gruzdz, in press, Migal, 2007, Sulgostowska 1999).

The paper will present results from the technological analysis, and on this basis discuss the relationship between the Latvian finds and the Swidry area further south.

Mots-Clés: Lithic technology, technological tradition, Swidry, Eastern Baltic, Latvia

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