
Ostroga” in Ruda Kościelna (Central Poland) – the tiniest point of banded flint exploitation

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Résumé

The outcrops of banded flint in the Kamienna River basin were located for the first time in 1921 by J. Samsonowicz and S.W. Krukowski. One year later, the first remnants of prehistoric flint mining were identified. The research that has been carried out since then has brought a good recognition of the entire flint mining area. The large and very well-preserved site of the "Krzemionki" is the most famous place. Its surface contains about 2/3 of the entire area of the banded flint outcrops. It is accompanied by nine smaller sites of various sizes and states of preservation. They all lie in areas that are now overgrown with forest, which is very difficult to investigate.

One of the smallest sites associated with the exploitation of banded flint is the "Ostroga" mining field in Ruda Kościelna, district Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski. It was discovered in 1982 during field walk survey conducted by Janusz Budziszewski. It is situated on a tip, cut out by two, nowadays, dry valleys in limestones of the higher Upper Oxfordian (Upper Jurassic). Extremely dense vegetation at this area makes it very difficult to observe the surface of the site. However, during the first research it seemed that the original, anthropogenic but poorly visible relief was preserved on its part.

The emerging, in recent years, methods of forest prospection by airborne laser scanning have enabled new site analysis. Preserved mining area of "Ostroga" is only several thousand square meters. The S-W part of the site has a varied but not very deep relief, in which individual objects cannot be distinguished. In the N-E part, on the slope of the tip, the mines have forms of small quarries facing the slope, where the heaps were naturally dropped down. In both cases the exploitation was carried out with shallow pits. Although the artefacts that could be collected from the forested area are extremely little, there are some waste from the production of axes, both from Neolithic and Early Bronze age.

Mots-Clés: flint mining, banded flint, airborne laser scanning, Neolithic, Early Bronze Age

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