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Beyond the trenches: a landscape-oriented chronostratigraphic approach to MIS 5 Middle Paleolithic open-air sites on the European Plain : case studies from Lichtenberg and Khotylevo I

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Citation

Hein, M. (2023, June 6). *Beyond the trenches: a landscape-oriented chronostratigraphic approach to MIS 5 Middle Paleolithic open-air sites on the European Plain : case studies from Lichtenberg and Khotylevo I*. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/3620064>

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Note: To cite this publication please use the final published version (if applicable).

Propositions Michael Hein

1. Stratigraphic evidence in Lichtenberg suggests that Neanderthals were adapted to both temperate and cold environments.
2. Stratigraphic evidence in Lichtenberg suggests that the hitherto undated Oerel and Glinde Interstadials might have occurred around the MIS 5/MIS 4 transition instead of MIS 3.
3. The Keilmessergruppen were already present in Central and Eastern Europe before the onset of MIS 4.
4. There is mounting evidence that the Early Weichselian climatic intervals, as detected on the European Plain, largely coincide with the hemispheric climatostratigraphy derived from marine and Greenland ice core records.
5. In formerly glaciated landscapes on the European Plain and in the absence of primary flint sources, the geomorphic activity governs the access to glacially deposited flint raw material, and hence co-determines the type of tool production in the Middle Palaeolithic.
6. Only close collaborations of archaeologists and geoscientists throughout the entire research project can unlock the full potential of former landscapes and their role in Palaeolithic site formation and habitat selection.
7. Consideration of the surrounding landscapes can significantly improve the validity of the palaeoecological and chronostratigraphical information obtained from Middle Palaeolithic sites.
8. There is a need to strengthen the importance of sediment characteristics, depositional processes, sampling positions and their documentation in order to better assess the quality of luminescence-based stratigraphies.
9. Retrieving and interpreting paleoenvironmental information is an adequate way for the current and future society to look forward through the past in terms of e.g., sea levels, glacier extents, wildfire occurrences, fluvial behavior, and adjustments of biodiversity.
10. Introducing certain quota for women in various fields of society, i.e., deliberately selecting women ahead of man is an utterly important and long overdue step to actively create female role models for the socialization of adolescent girls.
11. The political and economic power of Elon Musk's private business conglomerate, combined with his recently disclosed political views, poses a significant threat to access to verifiable information and may shake the foundations of global democracies.