

INTRODUCTION

One of remarkable cultural and adaptive phenomena of the Pavlovian is formation of larger settlements at strategic locations, controlling river valleys. Compared to the Aurignacian, the number of sites decreased, but their spatial extension and amount of archaeological material increased and suggest marked settlement concentration. The question becomes important whether the whole settlement area has been settled at the same time, or whether it accumulated by short-term stays during longer time-span. This kind of questions, and the problem of settlement stability, calls for detailed investigation of Pavlovian settlements.

Three geographic points gained importance during the Pavlovian: slopes of the Pavlovské Hills above the Dyje river (Dolní Věstonice, Pavlov), the SW (Předmostí) and NE (Petřkovice) entrances of the so-called Moravian Gate pass. All three points lie at the main communication axis through the Moravian plain. Further to the SW this route connected sites in Austrian Danube valley and to the NE are attached Gravettian sites of South Poland (Spadzista, Mamutowa Cave). By the same route, mass of lithic raw materials has been brought into Moravia and Austria.

Smaller sites are scattered along the Morava and Dyje rivers. Moravian caves have scarcely been settled and no direct stratigraphic evidence of Gravettian occupation is available (Pod hradem Cave, Kůlna Cave ?). Primary workshops at local lithic outcrops are missing as well, because most of the raw material was imported.

THE SITE DV II

A continuous bow-shaped chain of sites extends along the northern slopes of the Pavlovské Hills between Dolní Věstonice and Pavlov (Klíma 1986). Other sites (Milovice, Bulhary) are attached further to the SE. The site Dolní Věstonice II, located at the western edge of this site chain, was first evidenced by scattered surface finds in the vicinity (Klíma et al. 1962, Fig. 6). It is one of the loess elevations in altitude of about 240 m, raising above the Dyje river and sloping further to the Jurassic limestone outcrops of Pavlovské Hills (550 m). The loess deposit reaches maximal thickness at the foot of the elevation, where it has been exploited for brickmaking. The brickyard, opened at the eastern edge of the village, attracted attention of researches since the earliest times and it became subsequently one of the key sections of the Upper Pleistocene in Central Europe (Absolon et al. 1933; Klíma et al. 1962 with lit.; Demek-Kukla 1969; Havlíček-Kovanda 1985).

The basal parts of the brickyard section were detected by borings only. In the brickyard wall is visible the Last Interglacial parabrunerde (PK III), the complex of three chernozems (PK II), a brown soil (PK I) and the last loess interstratified by gley horizons (Klíma et al. 1962). This