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 wheather the whole settlement area has been settled at the same time, or wheather 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) entraces 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 parabraunerde (PK III), the complex of three chernozems (PK II), a brown soil (PK I) and the last loess interstrafified by gley horizons (Klíma et al. 1962). This

stratigraphic classification was confronted with radometric datings by H. de Vries and corrected by J.C. Vogel. A charcoal deposit with Pavlovian artifacts was for the first time detected in a solifluction-redeposited layer directly superposed over the brown soil (PK I); a second charcoal horizon, archaeologically sterile, lied in the subsoil. The largest industrial assemblage, very early in the Moravian context, comes from the western wall: 48 flint artifacts and 33 heavy-duty pieces of quartz, quartzite, crystaline schist, granulite and limestone.

In 1985, new industrial exploitation of loess by Ingstav, this time for damm constructions, was initiated above the ancient bricketery. This exploitation unearthed almost completely a Paleolithic site, and it yielded evidence of its inner structure (Fig. 1). The site is composed of three larger agglomerations, several isolated settlement units and an adjacent mammoth-bone deposit.

The first settlement agglomeration, excavated in 1986, is oval shaped, extended in N-S direction along the highest part of the site. In its southern part was located the triple burial DV XIII-DV XV (Klíma 1987a-d; 1990). The second agglomeration, excavated in 1987, is oval-shaped as well and it gradually slopes from E to W. The third agglomeration, excavated in 1987 and located at the western slope, makes the subject of this study. Hitherto only the burial DV XVI, found in its southern part, was published (Svoboda 1987a,b; 1989a; Svoboda-Vlček 1991).

Occupation traces at the northern slope are scarcer. Three isolated settlement units were located at the lower etage (A-C, Klíma 1987e) and somehow higher, close to the uppermost settlement agglomeration, lied another settlement unit (LP/1-4, Svoboda 1990). The mammoth-bone deposit extended about 150 m to the W from the western edge of settlement, in 210 m altitude. It was excavated in 1986 and 1988 (Svoboda 1989b, in press).

The settlement agglomeration at the western slope may be reconstructed as a circle with diameter of about 23-25 m. During leveling the exploitation floors in early spring 1987, a zone along the diameter of this agglomeration, with breadth of 10,5 m, has unfortunately been destroyed. This destructed area separated the excavation in two parts (Fig. 2). The salvage excavations started immediately in the smaller lower (western) part of the area (squares XYZ/4-22). Simultaneously we cleaned the section of the higher etage and excavated a belt of 1 m breadth along its foot (squares A/2-23). The male burial DV XVI was discovered at these places. After mechanical removal of the upper loess, realised by workers of Ingstav already under archaeological controll, we turned to systematic excavation of the upper (eastern) part of the agglomeration. This main area is of oblong shape, measuring 6 x 22 m (squares BG/2--23).

Definition of the settlement units within the excavated area is based on visible regular features such as central hearths, depressions and pits forming a system (Fig. 2). Spatial distribution of lithic industry (Fig. 3) and Dentalium

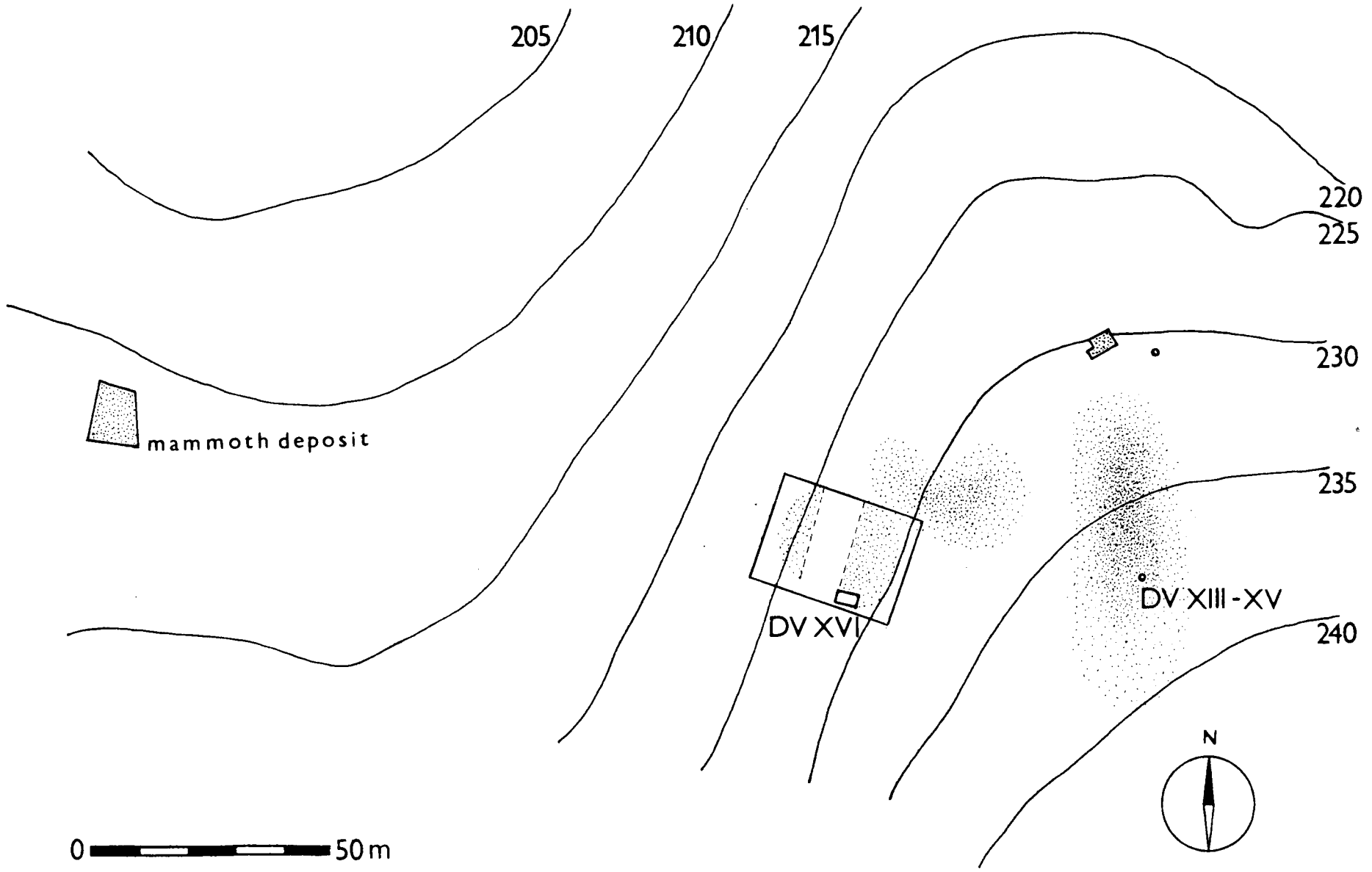

Fig. 1. Dolní Věstonice II, general plan of the settlement (dotted areas) and human burials.

shells (Fig. 23) well corresponds to location of these settlement units, while the pattern of bone industry and chipped bones distribution differs (Fig. 22).

The excavation continued to the north, in another oblong space measuring 7 x 14 m. Our excavation during the summer joined here the area studied by B. Klíma. This area forms lower part of the second settlement agglomeration, sloping from the top of the elevation, and its publication will make subject of another study. After the close of the salvage actions at the western slope, industrial exploitation destroyed the surface of the Pavlovian horizon completely.

STRATIGRAPHY

The key section at the western slope was formed by step of one of the etages, along the isohypse of 225 m above the sea level (squares A1 - A23). During further excavations several perpendicular sections completed the stratigraphic picture. Deeper exploitation revealed the subsoil, formed by a complicated sequence of slope sediments, limestone rubbish, loess, soils and soil sediments of Middle and possibly Lower Pleistocene age.

The section at the spot of the male burial (section No 5) has already been described (Svoboda 1989a, Fig. 1). After consultations with J. Kovanda, T. Czudek, P. Havlíček and other geologists we may summarize that the base (section No 3, Fig. 4) is formed by loess with partly corroded carbonate blocs (layer 9), followed by brown humic soil with charcoal (8) and by loess, including darker strips and lenses with charcoal (7). The cultural layer (6) is developed on this loess. Its base is sharp, with charcoal concentrations; at some places (not in the picture) is visible the upper, partly removed part of the layer, penetrating into the overlying loess. The thick upper loess layer (5-1) is separated by light ochreous and ochreous/light brown strips and lenses, comparable to the so-called gley horizons of B. Klíma (1958), and by irregular rusty smudges and stains with coagulated Fe-hydroxides.

In the squares A 18 - A 22, the cultural layer filled a shallow depression, where the Paleolithic burial (Fig. 5) was discovered on 28.04.1987. In this space (square A-20) two earth monolites were removed from the section No 5, located along the skeleton, and transmitted to L. Smolíková for paleopedological investigation. J. Kovanda and H. Svobodová sampled the section No 1 (squares A7 - A8) on 5.05.1987 for malacozoological and palynological analyses. Sample numerations after the various authors are correlated in tab. 1 and their reports are enclosed to this article.

Chemical composition of the underlying and overlying loess was investigated in search for possible material sources of the earliest ceramic production (Vandiver et al. 1989). The results demonstrate that 60 - 75 % is composed by SiO_2 and 10 - 21 % by Al_2O_3, while CaO, MgO, TiO_2, P_2O_5, FeO, Na_2O and