The stone tools of Uzun Mera, an open-air Middle Palaeolithic site in Eastern Macedonia

Darko Stojanovski, Independent researcher, Shtip

Trajche Nacev, Goce Delchev University, Shtip

Abstract

In 2017 an open-air Middle Palaeolithic site was discovered near the Uzun Mera locality just outside the Mustafino village, in the centre of the Ovche Pole plain. During the three field campaigns since then, a total area of 30m2 have been excavated, of the otherwise significantly large site with total area of approximately 1,5km2. The excavations revealed a consistent stratigraphy throughout the site, with a cultural layer between 60 and 120 cm thick starting from the modern surface. The collection of artefacts retrieved so far is showing clear affiliation to the Mousterian tradition of the Middle Palaeolithic. Besides excavations, extensive survey has helped in establishing the boundaries of the dispersal area of artefacts across the agricultural fields. Here we will present the stone tools of Uzun Mera and their place in a wider regional context.