

Kalitvenka

A short account of Kalitvenka 1 was published by A.E. Matiukhin in 1987 (KSIA, 189) and this, together with a brief e-mail about the site as well as Kalitvenka 1v and 1a, was the information we had available prior to the field work in 2004. Further information was received from Matiukhin during the field work, and subsequently we were also able to consult his later articles on the Kalitvenka sites (Matiukhin, 2003, 2004 AEAE 1).

Kalitvenka 1

This site was discovered by L.Ya. Krizhevskaya in 1973, on the right (southward facing) bank of the Malaya Peschanaya ravine where the river Kalitvenka enters the Severskii Donets (Kamenskii region, Rostov district). It is on the second terrace, 15 metres above the floodplain. In 1979-81 and again in 1984 three excavations were carried out over a total area of 114 square metres, and several test pits were also put down. In his account published in 1987, Matiukhin divided the deposits into an upper and a lower unit (or 'packet') with a number of different components. He distinguished 13 'lithological horizons' but these apparently coincide with the levels in which he dug. The first 6 levels were arbitrarily defined, the lower 7 are said to have followed the natural layers.

(1) Upper unit

Loams (suglinki) 1-3.5 metres thick. Levels 2-6 are said to be displaced, such artefacts as are present being linked with detrital material contained within the loams. Level 1 is said to be in situ, and to have produced 10 cores and 200 flakes.

(2) Lower unit

Loams, greyish sandy loams (supesi) and sands 0.7-3 metres thick, equivalent to levels 7-9, above basal whitish sands, presumably equivalent (though it is not said so) to levels 10-13. The total depth of deposits is said to be 2-6.5 metres. In the e-mail message, the basal sands are said to be of Palaeogene age. They are in places greenish or orange coloured and they contain detrital material in the form of small pebbles, rounded gravel, and quartzite boulders. There were some artefacts in level 7, but the bulk of them were found in levels 8 and 9, either on the surface of the basal whitish sands or in the deposits immediately overlying them.

In his account published in 1987, Matiukhin stated that level 8 contained a total of 700 artefacts and level 9 2100. A detailed description, however, was given of fewer pieces than this. Both levels together were said to have produced 93 cores, 831 blanks (mostly flakes with a few blades), and 27 tools (n=951). The basic raw material employed was quartzite, occurring naturally in boulders of variable quality, and there was some use of flint. The site was classified as a workshop because of the large number of cores and flakes relative to finished tools, the presence of unfinished tools, and the proximity of the site to raw material outcrops. There was some use of the Levallois technique, some Levallois or disc cores (KSIA Fig. 1.7), some bifacial and Middle Palaeolithic type tools. Matiukhin at first was unspecific in his classification of the site, but he did compare it to Derkul, a Mousterian site discovered

by Efimenko, and in the e-mail message it was said to be Upper Mousterian, although there is no independent dating evidence to support this. In his account published in 1983, Matiukhin gives slightly different totals for the artefacts found at the site: 663 in layer 8 (with 14 tools) and 2326 in layer 9 (with 37 tools). In his opinion, the fact that bifacial tools were made does not signify that this was a Micoquian site and he continues to refer to it in general as Mousterian.

In the test pits, some artefacts were found in the Upper unit, associated with detrital material in coarse grained sand, and at pits 16 and 18 some concentrations of finds were discovered on the surface. South west of the main excavated area, a depression in the basal whitish sand was discovered filled with artefacts of the same type as elsewhere, and this is referred to as 'locus 2'. There were 73 cores, 90 flakes, 71 dechets de travail, and 14 'macrotools' (n=248). In addition, some surface collections were made, including 31 cores and 33 tools, and these too were said to be of the same type as those found in situ.

Revised Kalitvenka 1 stratigraphy based on 2004 section

The 2004 section (south wall) revealed the following sequence of deposits (see section drawing, fig. **). The delineation of the layers and their description follows indications given by A.E. Matiukhin, who also drew the section.

- (0) Backfill from 1984 excavations
- (1) Recent soil
- (2) Reddish loam containing pebbles
- (3) Light brown loam channel, discontinuous – deposit is altogether absent on eastern side of section
- (4) Brown loam lenses – only present in the centre and western end of the section
- (5) Yellowish sandy loam with calcareous inclusions. Separated by (3), (4) and (6)
- (6) Reddish sandy loam – channel fill
- (7) Brownish grey sandy loam, separated by channel fill (9)
- (8) Light brown sandy loam, again separated by channel fill (9)
- (9) Reddish sandy loam – channel fill
- (10) Whitish loam deposit – widely encountered in the Kalitvenka area. The geological view has been expressed that this deposit is mid Weichselian (50-55 kyr BP) in age but this is no more than an estimation
- (11) Light brown colluvial sand
- (12) Reddish, grading to white, Palaeogene sand. From this layer came about 98% of the Mousterian stone tools

It should be noted that the numbered levels here evidently do not correspond exactly to the system earlier used by Matiukhin, when he distinguished 13 'lithological horizons', with archaeological occurrences, as described above.

Kalitvenka 1v

Kalitvenka 1v is 200 metres north of Kalitvenka 1. It is situated directly on a quartzite outcrop. Outcrops of this kind also occur 100 metres from the main site at Kalitvenka 1. According to Matiukhin (2003) the basal sands with artefacts in places

come out onto the surface, whereas elsewhere they are covered by sandy loams and loams up to 7 metres thick. At that time, he distinguished two levels of finds: (1) in whitish loam, and (2) in yellowish basal sand. Since the finds are so clearly associated with the quartzite outcrop, the site is referred to as a quarry-workshop.

During the field work in 2004 we learnt that Kalitvenka 1v had been excavated in 1984 and 1985 and that the excavations uncovered many large nodules of quartzite in the basal sands. Located further upslope than Kalitvenka 1, the basal sands at Kalitvenka 1v had not been covered by as great a thickness of colluvial loams as at the other site, hence the sequence was shallower. Examining the 2004 section revealed a complicated situation in which the upper part of the sequence had been disturbed by what looked to be tree roots and drying cracks. The sequence of deposits in the section (northern wall) was as follows (fig. X). The delineation of the layers and their description follows indications provided by A.E. Matiukhin, who also drew the section.

- (1) Recent soil
- (2) Brownish sandy loam
- (3) Whitish loam – discontinuous lenses
- (4) Brown sand

Matiukhin's view was that layer (3) at Kalitvenka 1v correlates with layer (10) at Kalitvenka 1. In appearance it is more like layer (5) but this is because of the presence of calcareous precipitates in both layers which, more than likely, formed once deposition had taken place. If so, the presence of such features is not significant, and the correlation is most likely correct.

Other sites

A number of other sites are briefly mentioned. Kalitvenka 1a is quite distant from the raw material sources (about 400-500 metres). According to Matiukhin (2003) many finds were in a recent soil level but others were in a whitish loam horizon. There were no finds in the basal sands, but Matiukhin suggested that the artefacts could in fact have been derived from there. The depth of finds was no more than 1.5 metres from the surface. Altogether there were >16,000 artefacts, but Matiukhin stated that many of them were redeposited. There is mention of broken bifacially worked points such as those found at Kalitvenka 1 (KSIA Fig. 1.5). Other sites mentioned are 1b, 2, and 10, but we have no further information about them.

Comments

On the assumption that this is a Middle Palaeolithic site concentration, then obviously it is an important addition to the open air sites which we have available for study. There do not seem to be any fossil soils represented here, the nature of the sands, sandy loams, and loams will have to be investigated, and the dating of these sites is wide open.

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