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## FINAL PALEOLITHIC SITES IN KUYAVIA

**ABSTRAKT** Kujawy są znane z wielu stanowisk z epoki kamienia (szczególnie neolitu) przy czym stanowiska datowane na paleolit schyłkowy są bardzo rzadko spotkane. W trakcie realizacji programu badawczego w rejonie grobowców kujawskich w Wietrzychowicach otrzymaliśmy informacje o wykopywanych w torfie przedmiotach kościanych w Skaszynie. Kilkukrotna wizytacja tego miejsca przyniosła obok nielicznych materiałów neolitycznych i wczesnobrązowych niespodziewane odkrycia charakterystycznych krzemieni, które powinny być datowane na schyłkowy paleolit i łączone z kulturą świderską.

Słowa kluczowe: paleolit, kultura świderska, Sarnówka, Skaszyn, badania powierzchniowe

**ABSTRACT** Kuyavia is one of the richest regions in archaeological finds especially in stone age archaeology. Unfortunately for a long time there were almost no data about Paleolithic sites. The first insubstantial information came from the Polish Archaeological Research Project from late 70-ties when the first Paleolithic flint were identified. A new perspective appeared around 2010 and the beginning of PhD research about Mesolithic in Kuyavia when all Final Paleolithic sites from archive of Polish Archaeological Research were registered (Płaza 2015). This research showed around 30 sites which could be indirectly linked with Final Paleolithic cultures. During last few years several further Final Paleolithic sites have been identified during field walking studies connected with execution of project “Archaeological sources in the region of Wietrzychowice Culture Park” supported by Ministry of Culture and National Heritage. All the data collected suggests that in the near future much more Final Paleolithic sites ought to be found in Kuyavia.

Keywords: Kuyavia, Final Paleolithic, Swiderian culture

### Introduction

Stone age research in Kuyavia has a long history. Scientific studies started in 1934 when Konrad Jażdżewski arrived in Brześć Kujawski to carry out rescue excavations. Unfortunately for Paleolithic and Mesolithic studies Jażdżewski and his colleagues focused mostly on research into the emergence of early farming societies (Grygiel 2004) and did not find any Paleolithic or Mesolithic flints. Even the start of the Polish Archaeological Research Project in late 70-ties apparently did not bring any new information about the activities of stone age hunters in Kuyavia. During the next few decades there was some information about single finds which could be dated to the older stone age. A new perspective appeared around 2010 and the beginning of research which ended in a PhD thesis about the Mesolithic age in Kuyavia when the first final Paleolithic sites were entered the register of the archive of Polish Archaeological Research (Płaza 2015). This survey show more than 20 sites which could be indirectly linked with Final Paleolithic cultures. During the last few years several further Final Paleolithic sites

have been documented during field walking studies in the central and especially the south part of Kuyavia which were connected, among other with realization of project “Archaeological sources in the region of Wietrzychowice Culture Park” supported by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage.

### Geology

The geological, geomorphological and soil situation in Kuyavia is directly related with last glaciations (Fig 1).

The territory of Kuyavia was a frontier area during the last glaciation. In the southern part of the region we can find moraine landscape with long and large postglacial lakes and a mosaic of soil with mixture of clay, gravel and sand. Several postglacial valleys like the Bachorza river cut through Kuyavia latitudinally forming the kind of landscape which was very attractive in the end of Paleolithic for hunters. All the environmental data to indicate that Kuyavia was quite similar to other postglacial, lakeland territories throughout Poland and central Europe.

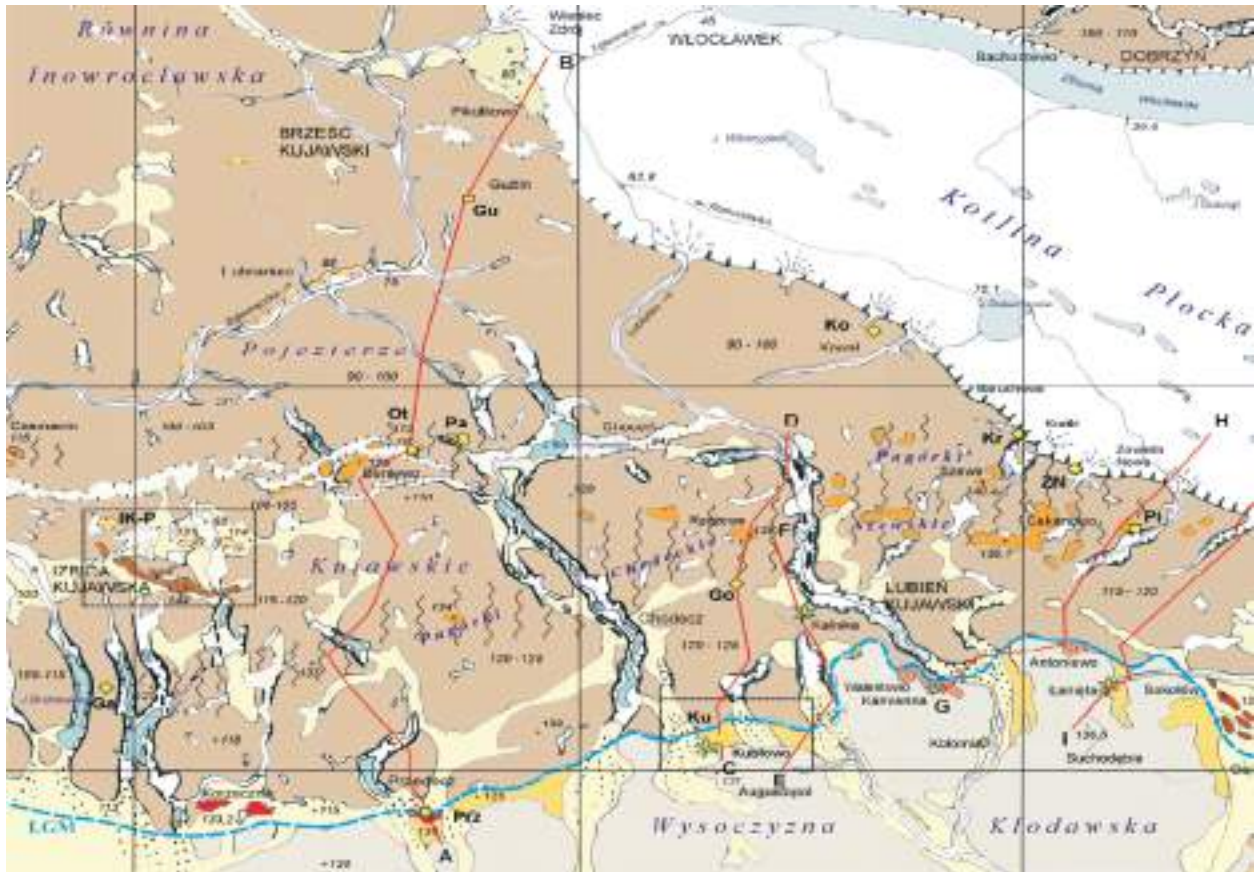


Fig. 1. Geomorphological situation in the Southern part of Kuyavia (after M. Roman 2010)

#### Sites location

Until the end of 2015 there were around 30 sites linked with the Final Paleolithic (Fig. 1; table 1) and 3 other known from older studies from Vistula River Valley from the Wistka Szlachecka region (Schild et al. 1975; Fiedorczuk 2006). The sites are concentrated especially in the northern and southern part of studied region. We suppose that this situation is connected with a state of research and poor results of field studies during Polish Archaeological Research Project during 80-ties. A good example comes from Izbica Kujawska area where the Konrad Jażdżewski Foundation of Archaeological Research together with Museum of Archaeology and Ethnography in Lodz conducted a project of field walking in the framework of the project "Archaeological sources in the region of Wietrzychowice Culture Park". Before our project begun there was no data about Late Paleolithic flint materials from that region. After four seasons of field walking we have 8 new localities which certainly could be linked with the Final Paleolithic inhibition. Those sites were located close to large channel lake like site in Świętosławice (Fig. 2:35), on the bank of latitudinal valleys like sites from Skaszyn or Czamaninek (Fig. 2: 36, 39) and close to small rivers, like the sites from Skarbanowo and

Lubomin (Fig. 2). All these recent discoveries prove that Paleolithic hunters were using different landscapes as they were using other areas of the Polish lowlands (Sobkowiak Tabaka 2011). In our opinion our surface finds suggest that there should be more Paleolithic materials in other areas of Kuyavia. The existence of larger more permanent sites were also recently confirmed by Beata Bielińska Majewska from Regional Museum of Toruń who excavated a Paleolithic site in the northeastern part of Kuyavia at Brzoza (Bielińska Majewska 2015) and during excavation before construction of the A1 motorway in Smólsk (Papiernik 2010).

#### Flint materials

The flint articles that were discovered at all the sites that have been mentioned, were overwhelmingly made of the local erratic flint, or more rarely chocolate flint, the typical material used at all stone age sites in Kuyavia. Fortunately Final Paleolithic material is very characteristic and easy to separate from larger collections of material due to clear technological features. In the 80-ties and 90-ties all sites which were sampled during field walking were identified because of bipolarity of debitage and typological specificity of tools within

most characteristic tanged points. A similar situation was in place during our last project when at all sampled or excavated sites we could identify classical forms of cores (fig. 3:2; 4:1; 5:1), bipolar blades (fig. 3:3; 5:2-5) and tools with tanged points (fig. 3:1; 4:2-4).

## Conclusion

A preliminary report of the first phase of research into the Final Paleolithic societies in Kuyavia shows a diversified situation. On the one hand we can present only around 40 sites from quite large study area. On the other hand this substantial increase in the number of Paleolithic sites gives a good perspective for future research. There are two regions situated in northern and southern part of the studied area where we could talk about concentration of sites. The first region in the north-western part is situated close to Bydgoszcz on the right bank of Noteć River. The discoveries from the second region situated in the southern part of

Kuyavian Lakeland in a diversified landscape allow us to suggest that the small number of sites in the central part of the studied area could only be explained by the poor standard of field walking research. The geological and geomorphological situation is similar in both areas, which suggests that many more sites remain to be discovered in other areas of Kuyavia.

## Literature

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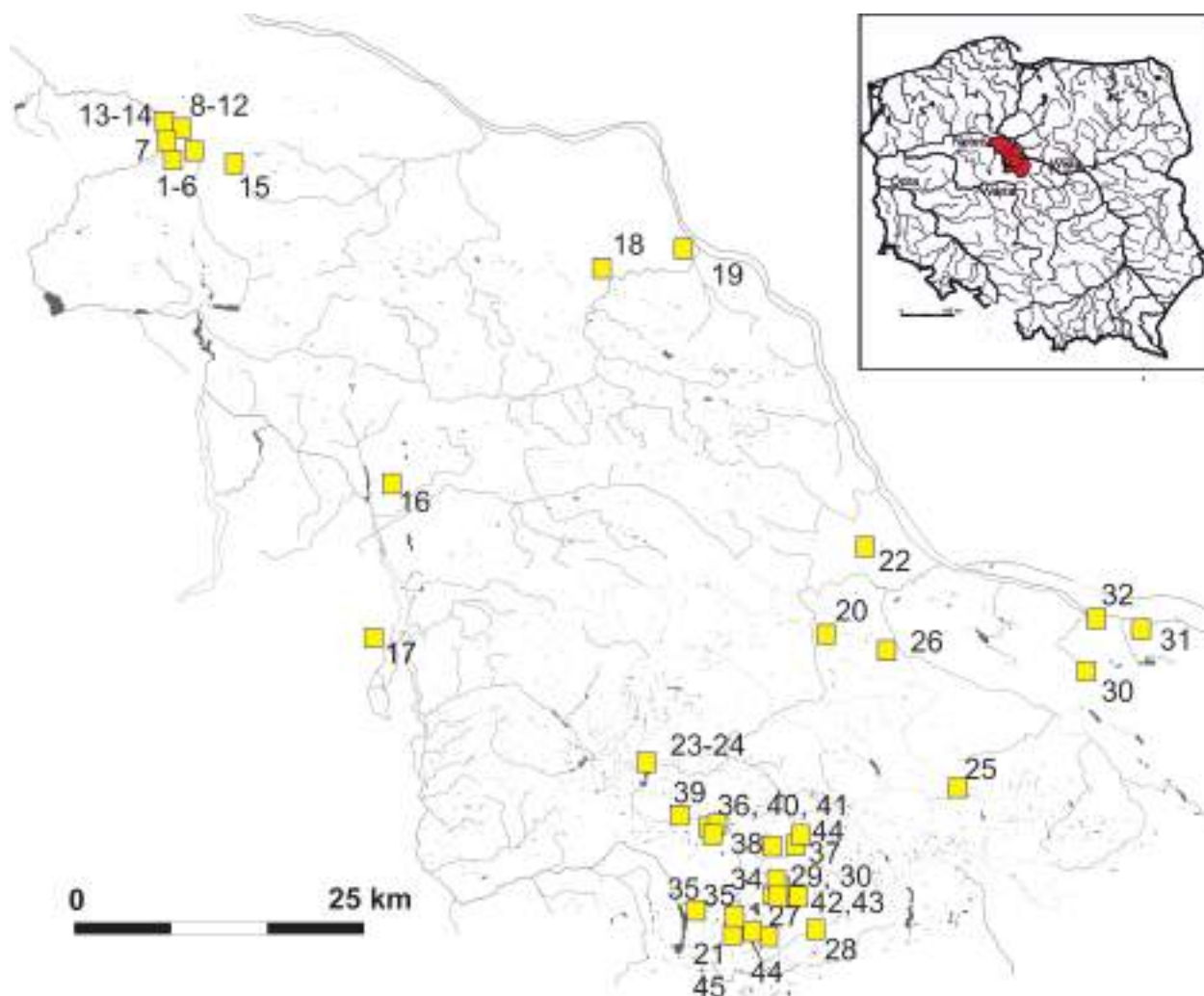


Fig. 2. Location of Final Paleolithic Sites (numbers of sites as in Table 1)



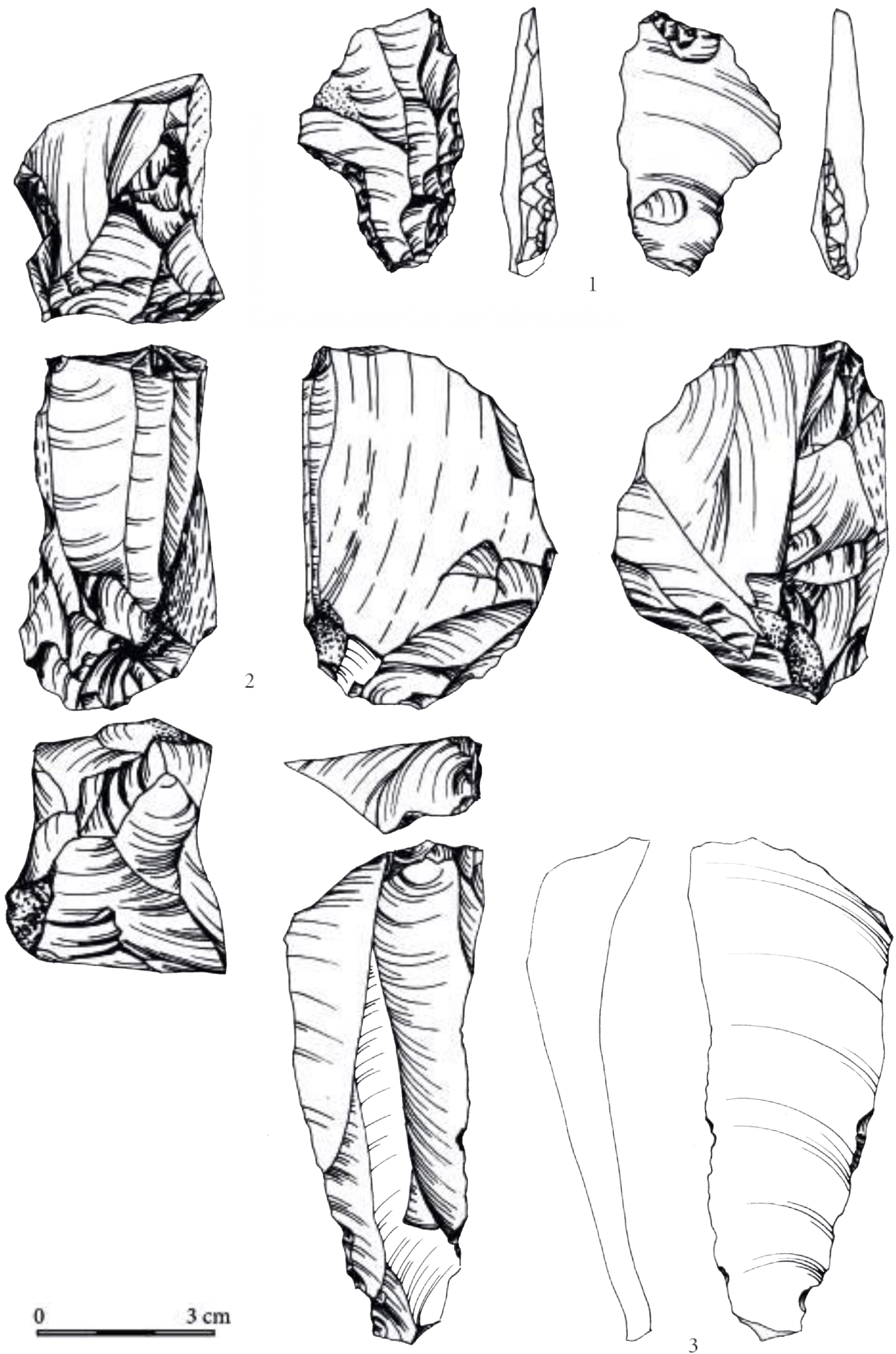


Fig. 3. Palaeolithic artifacts from Smółsk site 2/4 (number 16 on the map) (P. Papiernik 2010)



Fig. 4. Palaeolithic flints from surface studies discovered during realization of project “Archaeological sources in the region of Wietrzychowice Culture Park” in Świątosławice and Błenna

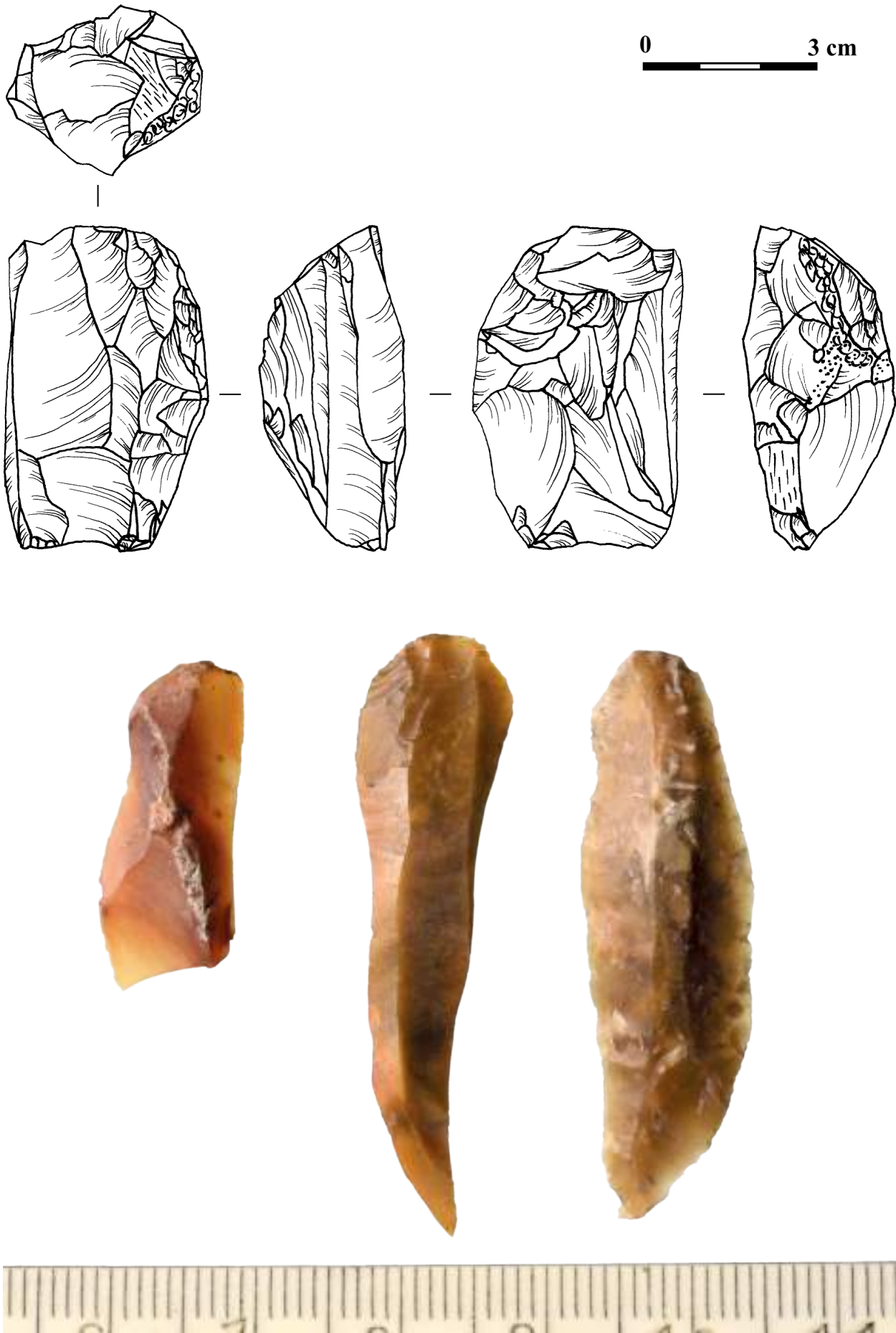


Fig. 5. Bipolar core and blades from Skaszyn

Table 1. List of Paleolithic sites from Kuyavia

Nr	Site location	Nb of the site	Type of resaerch E - excavation; S - surface	Culture	Author of research	Time of discovery	Artifacts	Deposition
1	Januszkowo Kujawskie	11	E	Sviderian	E. Dygaszewicz, T. Zajączkowska	1998	2 flints	n.d
2	Januszkowo Kujawskie	12	S	Sviderian	E. Dygaszewicz, T. Zajączkowska	1998	12 flints	n.d
3	Januszkowo Kujawskie	13	S	Sviderian	E. Dygaszewicz, T. Zajączkowska	1998	tanged point	n.d
4	Januszkowo Kujawskie	22	S	Sviderian	E. Dygaszewicz, T. Zajączkowska	1998	tanged point	n.d
5	Januszkowo Kujawskie	23	S	Sviderian	E. Dygaszewicz, T. Zajączkowska	1998	tanged point	n.d
6	Januszkowo Kujawskie	24	S	Sviderian	E. Dygaszewicz, T. Zajączkowska	1998	tanged point	n.d
7	Kobylarnia	1	S	Sviderian	E. Dygaszewicz, T. Zajączkowska	1998	2 tanged points	n.d
8	Prądocin	2	S	Sviderian	E. Dygaszewicz, T. Zajączkowska	1998	core	n.d
9	Prądocin	10	S	Sviderian	E. Dygaszewicz, T. Zajączkowska	1998	tanged point	n.d
10	Prądocin	16	S	Sviderian	E. Dygaszewicz, T. Zajączkowska	1998	blade core	n.d
11	Prądocin	17	S	Sviderian	E. Dygaszewicz, T. Zajączkowska	1998	biopolar core	n.d
12	Prądocin	24	S	Sviderian	E. Dygaszewicz, T. Zajączkowska	1998	tanged point	n.d
13	Brzoza	19	S	Sviderian	E. Dygaszewicz, T. Zajączkowska	1998	12 flints	n.d
14	Brzoza	3	S	Sviderian	B. Czarnaeka W. Stoczkowski	1982	9 flints	n.d
15	Jakubowo	1	S	Sviderian	D. Prinke		flints	n.d
16	Arturowo		S	Sviderian	J. Bednarczyk	1995	1 blade	n.d
17	Lachmirowice	4	S	Sviderian	D. Dzieduszycka	2002	harpoon	n.d
18	Frydolina	10	S	Sviderian	K. Jażdżewski	1939	blades	n.d
19	Ołoczyn	1	E	Sviderian	J. Kmieciński/ B. Zielonka	1953	335 flints	MAiE
20	Brześć Kujawski		E	Hamburgian ?	R Grygiel	1986	10 flints	MAiE
21	Chociszewo	1, 2, 3	S	Sviderian	A. Koško	1979	2 flints	n.d
22	Janowice	12	E	Sviderian		2008-2009	bipolar blade	n.d
23	Rybiny	14	E, S	Sviderian	P. Makarowicz		flints	ZBK
24	Rybiny	17	E, S	Sviderian	P. Makarowicz		flints	ZBK
25	Szczutkowo	1	S	Sviderian	b.d.	2004	1 flint	ZBK
26	Smólsk	2	E	Sviderian	B. Muzolf	2008	Lyngby type tanged point	MAiE
27	Wilkostowo	23/24	E	Arch Backed Pieces	Domańska	2014		IA UŁ
28	Długie	29	S	Sviderian	P.Papiernik D. Płaza	2014	1 burin	MAiE
29	Obalki	8	S	Sviderian	D. Płaza Papiernik	2014	1 burin	MAiE
30	Wietrzychowice		S	Sviderian	P.Papiernik D. Płaza	2012	12 flints	MAiE
31	Teląźnia Leśna		E, S	Sviderian	R. Schild	b.d.	flints	b.d.
32	Dobiegniewo		E, S	Sviderian	R. Schild	b.d.	flint concentration	IAiE PAN
33	Wistka Szlachecka		S	Sviderian	R. Schild	b.d.	flints	IAiE PAN
34	Śmiely	9	E	Sviderian	P.Papiernik/D. Płaza/J.Wicha	2015	1 blade	MAiE

35	Grochowiska	34	S	Sviderian	P.Papiernik/D. Płaza/J.Wicha	2016	1 core	MAiE
36	Skaszyn		S	Sviderian	P.Papiernik/D. Płaza/J.Wicha	2015	3 flints	MAiE
37	Skarbanowo		S	Sviderian	P.Papiernik/D. Płaza/J.Wicha	2018	1 blade	MAiE
38	Skarbanowo		S	Sviderian	P.Papiernik/D. Płaza/J.Wicha	2018	1 blade	MAiE
39	Czamanin		S	Sviderian	P.Papiernik/D. Płaza/J.Wicha	2017	1 blade	MAiE
40	Skaszyn		S	Sviderian	P.Papiernik/D. Płaza/J.Wicha	2015	2 flints	MAiE
41	Skaszyn		S	Sviderian	D. Płaza, Papiernik	2015	9 flints, bipolar core, blades	MAiE
42	Błenna	6	S	Sviderian	D. Płaza, Papiernik	2014	1 burin	MAiE
43	Błenna	40	S	Sviderian	D. Płaza, Papiernik	2014	2 bipolar blades	MAiE
44	Lubomin		s	Sviderian	P.Papiernik/D. Płaza/J.Wicha	2018	1 blade	MAiE

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