

Humans and Horses 300.000 years ago - An approach to public presentation in the research and experience center Schöningen spears

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We are introducing a new research and experience center located near the stripmine of Schöningen in western Germany, one of the most important archaeological sites in the world, which is scheduled to open its doors in 2013. The 1995 discovery of wooden hunting spears (Thieme 1997) in conjunction with the remains of hunted and butchered horses (*Equus mosbachensis*) contributed significantly to change the scientific view of early European Hominids being “marginal scavengers” (Binford 1981, Gamble 1987) to skilled hunters. The remains of at least 19 horses were unearthed along a former lakeshore. Initial publications demonstrate early hominid butchery systematics designed to achieve a thorough acquisition of horse products (Voormolen 2008). In order to get a better understanding of the possible hunting scenario (Thieme 2007) knowledge of wild horse behaviour is of primary interest. The exhibit section of the new center is developed to present an experience oriented concept. Access to artefacts, such as the over 300.000 year old spears, is correlated with exhibits concerning Pleistocene horse morphology, group structure and behaviour of modern day wild horses in order to draw a vivid image of the past.

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