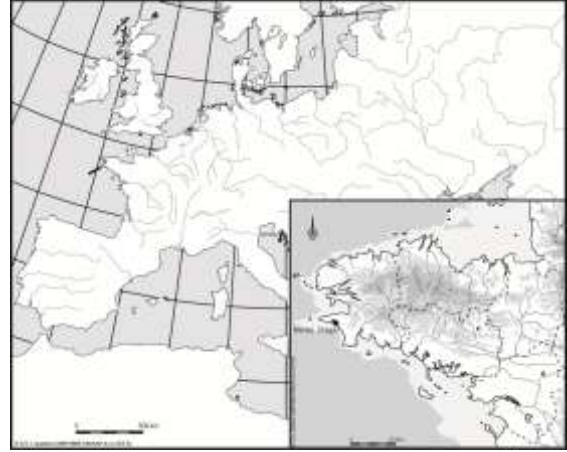


“Menez-Dregan I and the Lower Palaeolithic in Brittany: between Colombarian and Acheulean”

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The variability in the Palaeolithic assemblages of western Europe feeds current debates about their relationship with population flows in a context of environmental and palaeogeographic changes. The technical Colombarian facies, located in the South Atlantic coast of Brittany, illustrates this variability. This facies differs from the Acheulean dominant in neighboring regions, especially in its lack of bifaces. The industry at the site of Menez-Dregan is an example where the geological and paleoclimatic context is the best documented.



Specifically, this site has yielded evidence of fireplaces that are amongst the oldest in Europe, and an abundance of material, which, in the upper levels, offers the beginning of the transition from the Lower Palaeolithic to the Middle Paleolithic. As for the analysis, the technical, typological and morpho-functional features of the lithic assemblages from layers 9 to 4 will trace the development of procurement strategies, techniques and behaviors to put this site in regional and European context. These results, when compared to paleoclimatic and paleogeographic data (current shore near the site but much further during the phases of occupation), will help develop a better understanding of the settlement dynamics of this region during Middle Pleistocene.

