I. Location
Rietberg 5 is the western most of the three major artefact concentrations Rietberg 1; 2; 5. Like the others it was located on a raised sandbank of alluvial, Pleistocene sediments, accumulated by the nearby Ems- River. The old bed of the Ems is still visible within the prospected area, when the relief is excessive 10 times (see figure 1).

II. Technology

II.1 Blank production
All the exploited raw material is probably Baltic flint that can be found at Baltenhorst (5 km away from our site).

The goal of blank production is the extraction of blades and bladeletts. The intentional production of bladeletts is confirmed by their large number (94 bladeletts vs. 225 blades) and a core which shows negatives of bladelette production. As shown by negatives at cores and blanks regularly shaped blades have been produced also, but were exported after that, whereas irregular or broken pieces...
remained on the Rietberg- 5 site. For blade production two kinds of percussion instruments could be
determined. First, organic percussion, that created a spectrum from “short and robust” up to “very
long and robust” blades. Secondly soft- stone percussion instruments (Figure 2) were used, which is
guided with the same gesture as the organic pendant and produces “long and thin” blades.

![Fig. 2 Evidence for the use of soft hammer stone, pieces with „esquillement de bulbe”](image)

II.2 Cores
Contrary to the common core exploitation strategy of common Federmesser- sites (“opportunistical”
core exploitation) a mixture of well prepared cores with evidence of rejuvenation on one hand and
rather “opportunistically” treated ones on the other hand, can be regarded as a special characteristic
of the Rietberg 5- site. The striking platforms are well prepared and show angles between 65° and 85°,
dorsal reduction is very common, preparation of core flanks and backs occurs frequently. The
technological behaviour shows a very elaborated knowledge and treatment of blank production which
connects this inventory with e.g. late Magdalénien and early Late Palaeolithic sites in the Parisien
Basin.

III. Settlement features

III.1 Pits
The whole excavated area of Rietberg 5 contained many pits of different size and depth. The
functional analysis of these structures is still in progress. At least four of them are used as pits for
waste. More than 1/3 of all artefacts were found in these structures. Refits of flint artefacts from
different pits linked them with each other and with the settlement’s surface. Furthermore two pits can
be addressed as postholes. Still the functional character of the majority of the pits remains unclear
until now.

III.2 Fireplaces
Depending on burned flint artefacts three very clear fireplaces (Figure 3, objects A, B, C) and a veil of
burned pieces (figure 3, object D) which could belong to one or two further fireplaces, have been
recognized.
IV. Datation
Radiocarbon dates were taken on charcoal pieces, which stem from two different pits. The first pit (pit 37) gives two dates around 6ky calBC, thereby being Late Mesolithic.
No artefacts were found in this pit.
Another pit contained an unipolarly exploited core on which a hinged blade and a further blade fragment could be refitted. The blades stem from the settlement’s surface and this way link the dated pit with the whole inventory.
The radiocarbon dating was proceeded on charcoal pieces of pinus in the Radiocarbon Laboratory of the University of Cologne and produced a measurement of 12.000 +/- 380 radiocarbon years BP. This date positions Rietberg 5 at the end of the Bølling or the beginning of the Allerød- Interstadial.
Further datations are in progress.
Apart from only one combined end scraper/ burin that looks somewhat “Hamburgian- like”, there are no further formal tools that could date the Rietberg 5- site.
Just the technology which is comparable to other Azilian sites and this one of the Rietberg 1- site, as well as the vicinity to Rietberg 1 and Rietberg 2, are good arguments for dating the Rietberg 5- site into the Azilian- facies, until now.

V. Conclusion
Rietberg 5 is an early Azilian- Site, as demonstrated by technological aspects and the early radiocarbon date. As such it is absolutely alien to this region and has its next parallels in those Azilian
sites of the Parisian Basin. Baltic flint material was imported from a distance of nearly 5km and was exploited on the site. Blanks were produced and the better blades were exported to be used or modified into tools. The number of pits and fireplaces force this place to have been occupied longer, maybe several days up to some weeks. The nearby Ems might have been interesting for Azilian hunter- fisher- gatherer groups for fishing and could have caused them to rest here for a while. The Rietberg 5- site is one example of sites, just few in number, which show the changes in the transitional process from the Magdalénien- period to Late Paleolithic times.

**Literature**

