



Flat adze fragment in lydite from Tienen-Wulmersum (province of Flemish Brabant, Belgium)

Nick VAN LIEFFERINGE

In 2012, a fieldwalking survey in Wulmersum near the village of Tienen (Flemish Brabant, Belgium) has yielded a concentration of flint artefacts¹ dating back to the neolithic period. The collection also contains a medial fragment of an adze in black silicious quartzite. In cross-section the flat adze² has a plano-convex shape with a maximal thickness of 14 mm. The artefacts initial length and width could not be obtained due to its high degree of fragmentation.

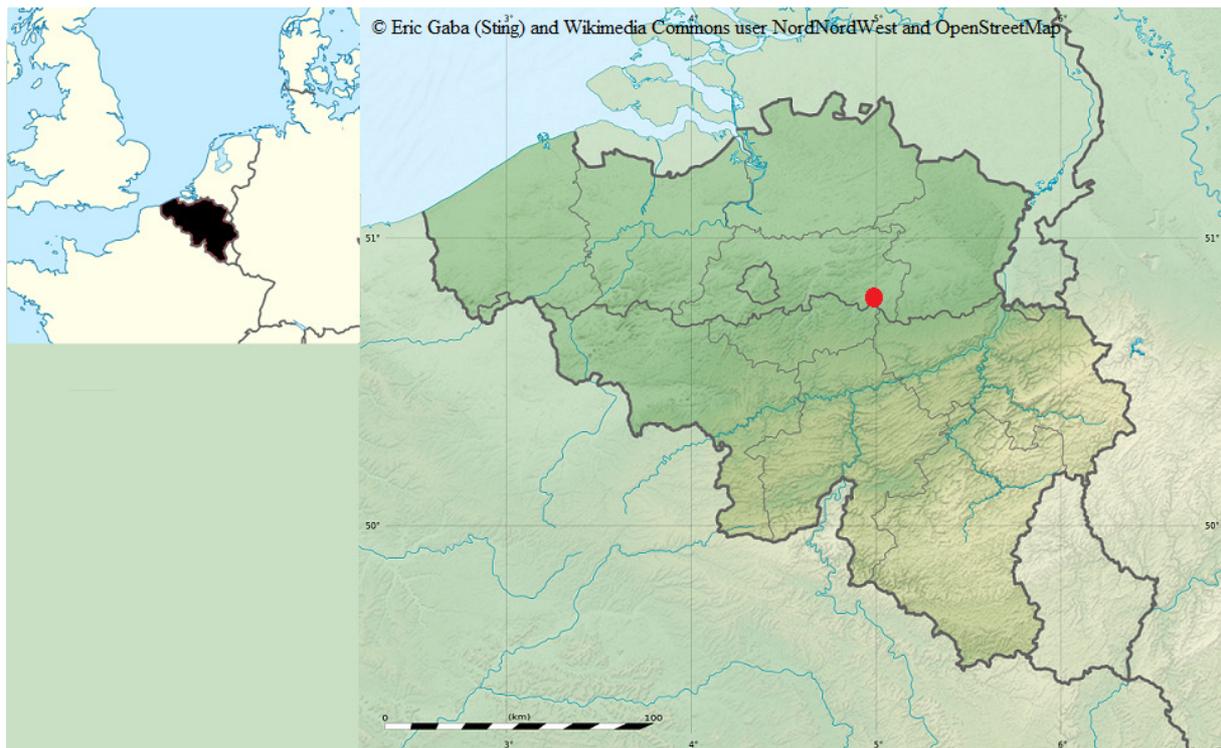


Fig. 1: localisation of the findspot.

¹ Lambert coordinates: X191.857 / Y164.856.

² When the width exceeds the thickness they are named flat adzes. When the thickness exceeds the width they are called shoe-last adzes, or high adzes (Bakels 1987; Verhart 2012, 7: fig. 1).

The raw material is classified as lydite (also called 'phtanite' in older literature), which occurs as imbedded decimetric silicious beds or lenses in the typical black shale of the Franquenes Member (Mousty Formation) (Verniers *et al.* 2001). Outcrops of lydite are known in the Dyle basin within the geological area of the Brabant Massif.



Fig. 2: flat adze fragment in lydite from Wulmersum (Tienen).

Similar adzes occur frequently in early neolithic contexts of the Linearbandkeramik (LBK)-culture in the Lower Rhine Basin (the Netherlands and Western Germany) (Verhart 2012, 6). C.C. Bakels has mentioned four clusters of LBK settlements with associated adze distributions in the belt of loamy soils, specifically the *Merzbach* cluster, the *Graetheide* cluster, the *Heeswater* cluster and the *Dendre* cluster (Bakels 1987, 53-55)

In 1983, a production centre of polished implements in lydite has been identified in the LBK settlement of Wange (Lodewijckx 1984), which is situated at a very short distance from the findspot in Wulmersum.

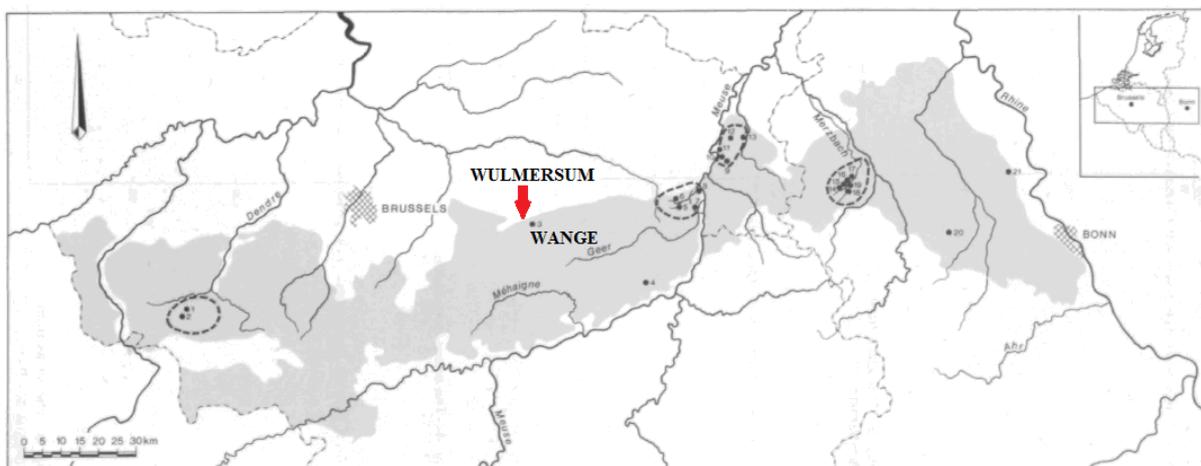


Fig. 3: area of the northwestern Linearbandkeramik. Shaded = loess / Broken lines from east to west: the Merzbach cluster, the Graetheide cluster, the Heeswater cluster and the Dendre cluster and black dots representing individual settlements (with indications of the LBK settlement of Wange and the findspot of the 'Wulmersum adze') (after Bakels 1987, 55: fig. 2).

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