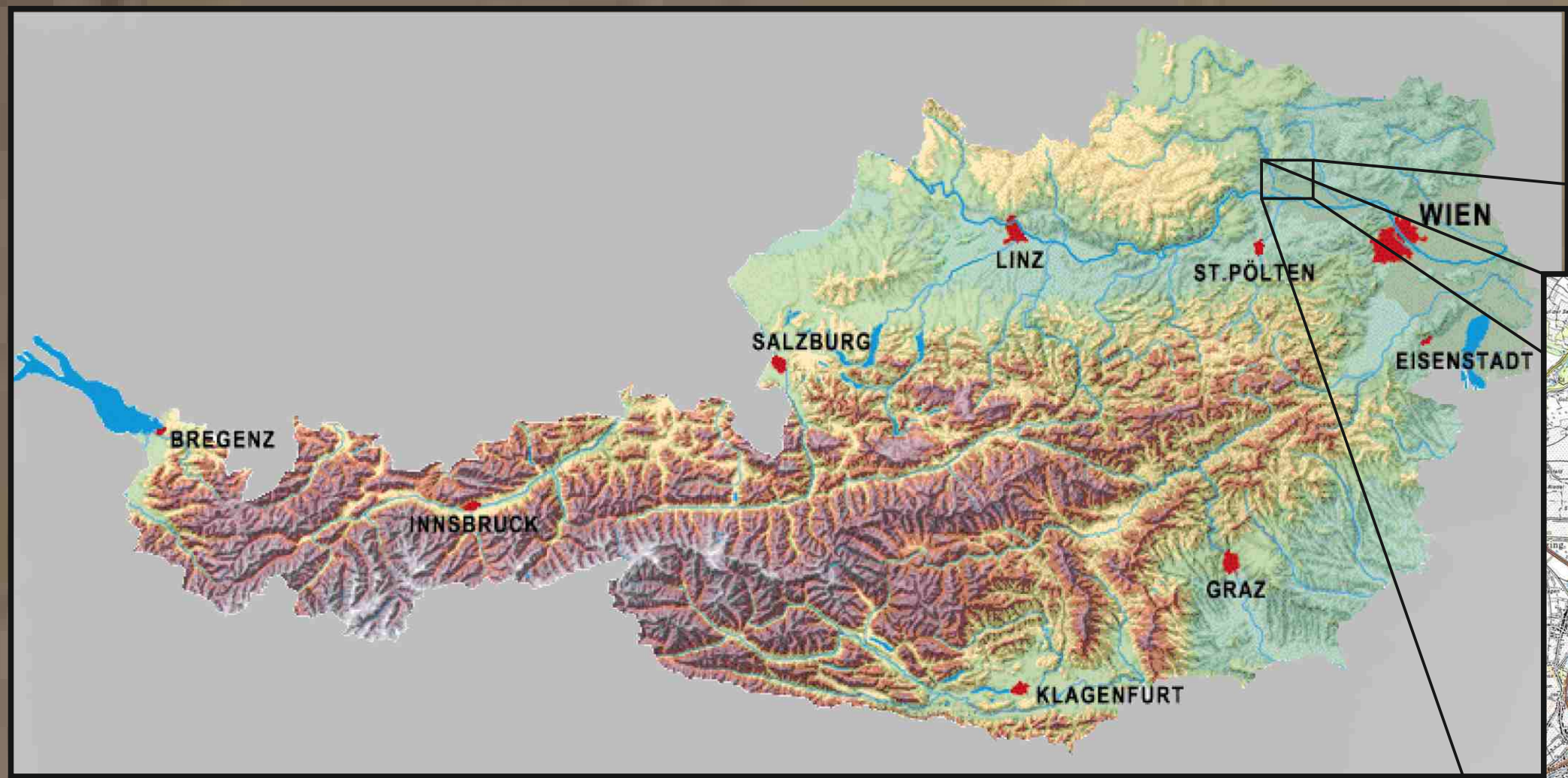
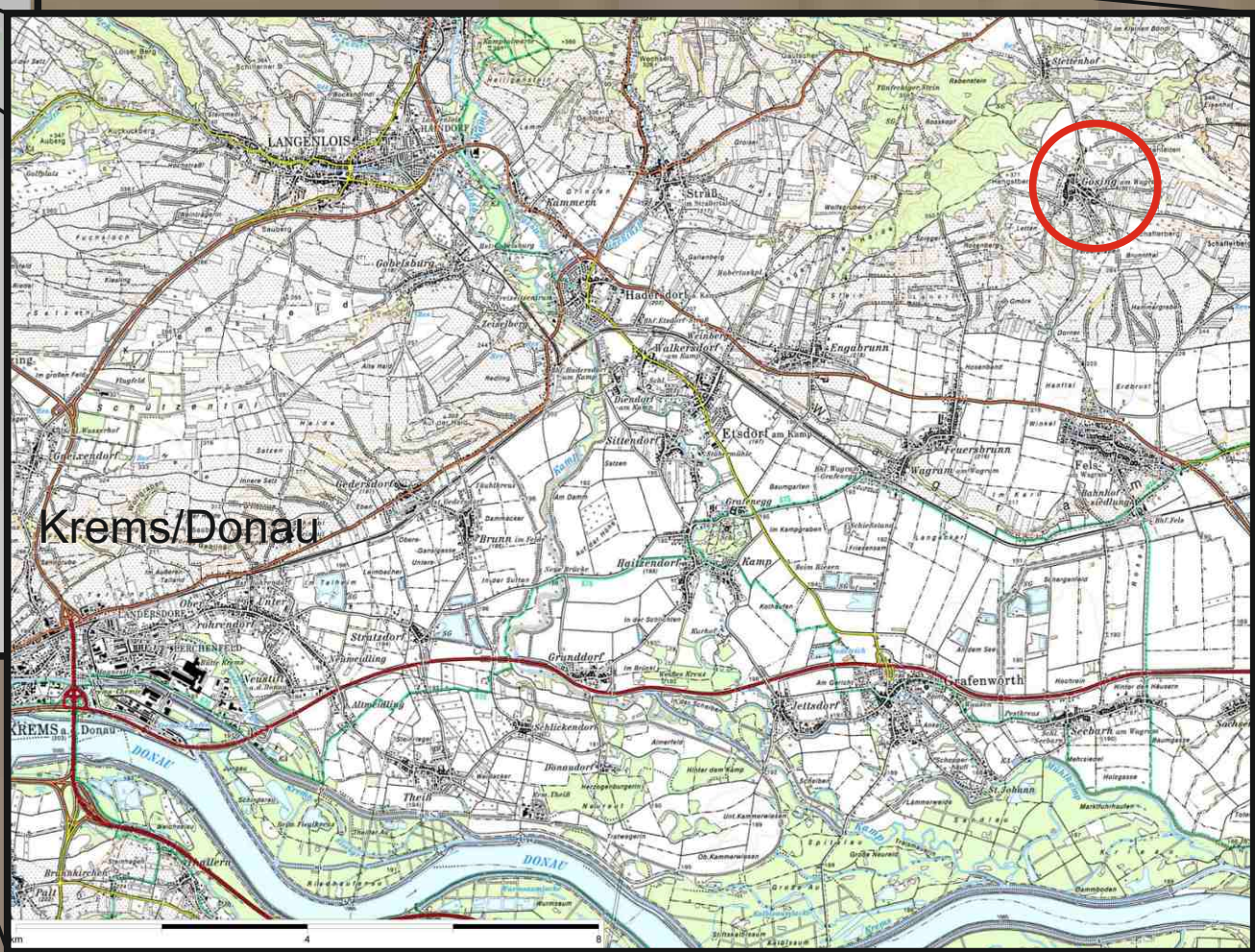


# Ice age hunters in Gösing at the Wagram

Norbert Buchinger and Thomas Einwögerer



Gösing at the Wagram is situated in the district of Tulln in Lower Austria about 120 m above the Danube valley. Approximately 9 km north of the present river course the slopes of the Wagram are characterized by aeolian loess deposits cut by a number of gullies.



Location of Gösing at the Wagram



Airborne laserscan of Gösing



Excavation site

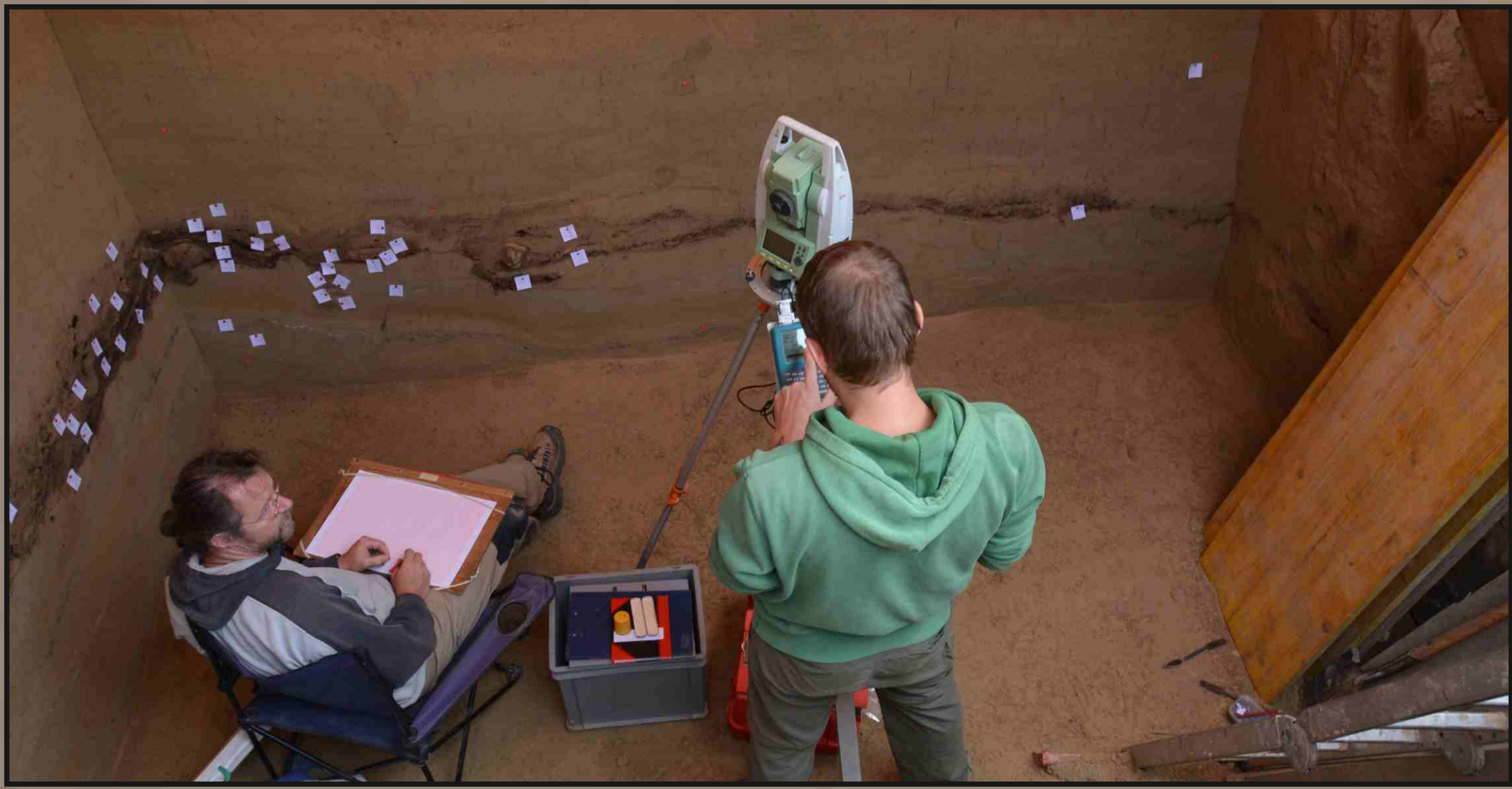


Periglacial disturbances of the southern profile



Periglacial disturbances, detail of the northern profile

Four different archaeological horizons were determined – all of these had been strongly influenced by periglacial processes and erosion.



Documentation of the profiles

In the course of the excavation of a 3 x 3 m construction pit in the summer of 2014 in between the Pfundberggraben and the Setzergraben several Upper Palaeolithic cultural layers were cut. The Quaternary Archaeology research group of the Institute of Oriental and European Archaeology (OREA) of the Austrian Academy of Sciences was commissioned for the documentation and recovery of the remains of the cultural deposits. Since the greater part of the up to 2 m deep cultural layers had already been destroyed by the mechanical excavator, it was only possible to document the profiles and excavate a few remnants in the northeast part of the pit.



Northeastern corner with remains of the in situ fireplace

The youngest layer showed the remains of an in situ multi-phased fireplace in a shallow depression in the northeast corner of the construction pit. The slightly dug-in hearth with its 20 cm thick deposits contained at least one layer of stone slabs. The three lower archaeological horizons didn't contain any findings beside a small number of bones.

Two 14C-samples of charcoal from the hearth provided dates between 26550 and 26790 BP.

Laboratory no	<sup>14</sup> C years (BP)	+	-
MAMS 22745	26550	80	80
MAMS 22746	26790	90	90

Radiocarbon dates, Curt-Engelhorn-Centre for Archaeometry Mannheim

The archaeologically relevant spoil in a magnitude of ca. 15 m3 has been water-screened and assorted. The finds include several thousand stone artefacts of a high-quality raw material with a white patina. The to date assessed part of the inventory shows a very high portion of blades and bladelets. Documented types include burins, backed bladelets, and backed micro-denticulates. In addition to burnt stone slabs from the hearth, water-screening also revealed a remarkable amount of charcoal and different colour materials, furthermore a spherical, not yet precisely analysed object consisting of loess. So far faunal remains are sparse. Securely documented are horse, reindeer, and mammoth. Three serpulides (petrified wormshells) must be considered as personal adornments. Remains of cooking stones are represented by heat-cracked quartz pebbles.



Selection of ungulate teeth



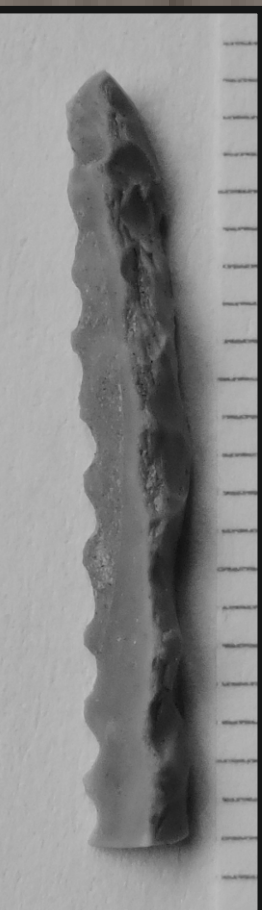
Serpulides



Selection of blades



Backed bladelet



micro-denticulate



Selection of mammal bones



Red ochre



Unknown objekt consisting of loess

An attribution of the uppermost find layer to the Pavlovian is possible due to technology of the knapped lithic artefacts, the occurrence of backed micro-denticulates, as well as the absolute dates. The new investigations in connection to previous findings in the surrounding wine cellars show the potential of the Pfundberggraben/Setzergraben area in Gösing at the Wagram for the exploration of the Middle Upper Palaeolithic in the Danube region.

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