

THE LINEAR POTTERY SETTLEMENTS OF
LANDEN-WANGE AND LINTER-OVERHESPEN
AFTER THE EXCAVATION CAMPAIGNS IN 1984 AND 1985

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Introduction

Both sites are situated out of the traditional settlement areas of the Linear Pottery Culture in Belgium. They were already subject to various activities in the past (LODEWIJCKX, 1984). Further excavations took place since, at Overhespen in 1984 and at Wange in 1985, emphasizing the settlement border structures.

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The Overhespen Site (fig. 1)

After the discovery of an almost complete house ground-plan, the trenches were extended further northwards. A huge amount of pits showed up, although without any explicit connection with the dwelling parts. A third post-hole concentration did not seem to belong to a ground-plan; nevertheless due to its orientation, depth and integration in the other soil traces, it can be considered belonging to the Linear Pottery occupation. Quite remarkable was the long trace, crossing the trenches from one side to the other, that could be followed over a +_ 80 m length. Originally, this trace was probably longer, as both extremities were clearly eroded. All over its full length it was flanked by smaller pits, most of them being as big as the post-holes and a little darker than the trace itself. The trace skimmed past the pits and mostly showed a little darker colour. A second trace, parallel to the first, less visible and measuring a length of 10 m only, could be dressed at the northern side of the trenches.

A considerable amount of pits, strongly differing in shape, dimensions and filling were extended all over the complete area. Most of them showed a complicated structure, which proves that originally they were made for a specific purpose. Regarding their shapes, building and orientation, we assume that some pit-groups can be interpreted as ovenstructures. We also noticed that, the more the archaeological material quantity decreases, the further the pits are located from dwelling structures. Especially noticeable is merely the fact that the more northern pits contain a higher percentage of Limburger Culture pottery and other less typical Linear Pottery materials than those closer to the houses. Meanwhile, two new C-14 analyses could be achieved for the Overhespen site : being 6.400 +_ 100 B.P. (GrN-12.620) and 6.190 +_ 70 B.P. (GrN-12.619).

The Wange Site (fig. 2)

Concerning the Linear Pottery Culture we could finally proceed to the excavation of the most interesting part of the Wange site in 1985, as it contains a complicated occupational history. Agricultural activities however did restrict the research. Anyhow, our research points out that the site border structure had completely vanished by erosion. What we did find indeed, was a very huge amount of pits, clearly separated from each other and with absence of any direct connection with the more centrally localized dwelling traces. Most of the pits were rather simply structured, very dark-coloured and they mostly contained an abundance of archaeological materials, in contrast with the Overhespen excavations. Since the excavation has not reached its final achievement, research of the archaeological materials is still needed.

Bibliography :

LODEWIJCKX Marc, 1984, Les deux sites rubanés de Landen-Wange et de Linter-Overhespen après la campagne de fouilles de 1983, Notae Praehistoricae, 4, p. 97-107.

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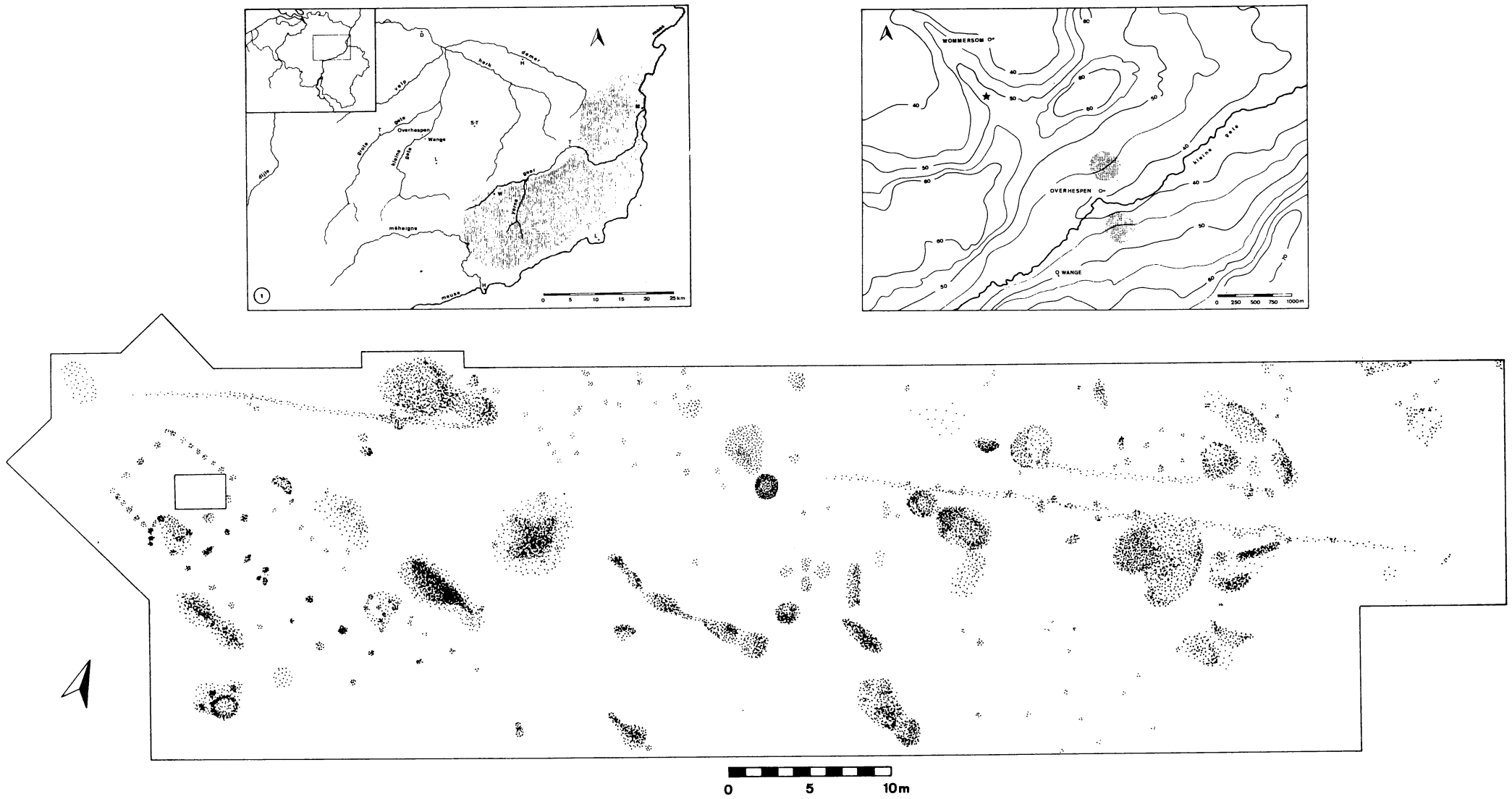


Fig. 1 : The Overhespen excavation plan (1983-1984).

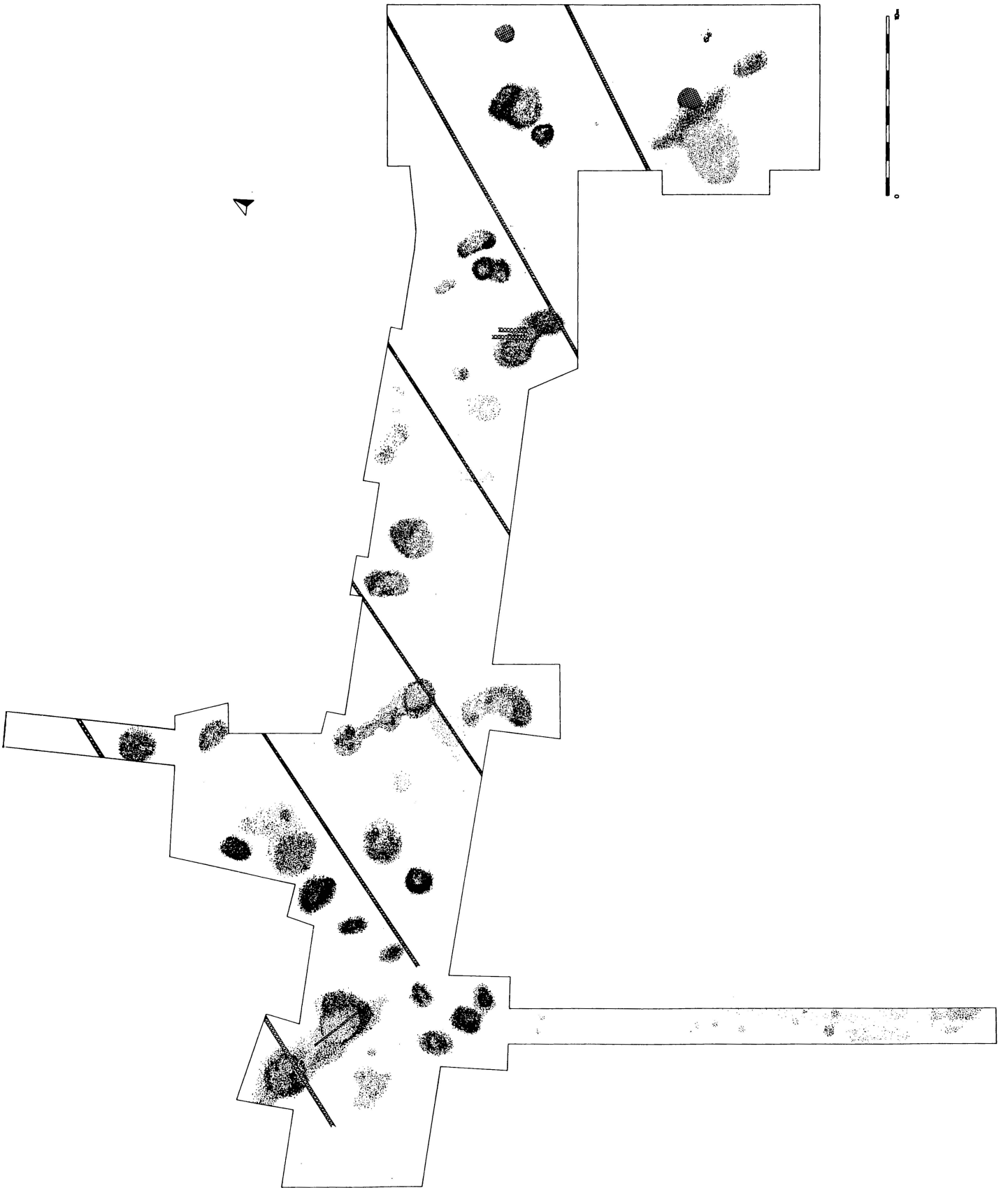


Fig. 2 : The 1985 Wange excavation plan.

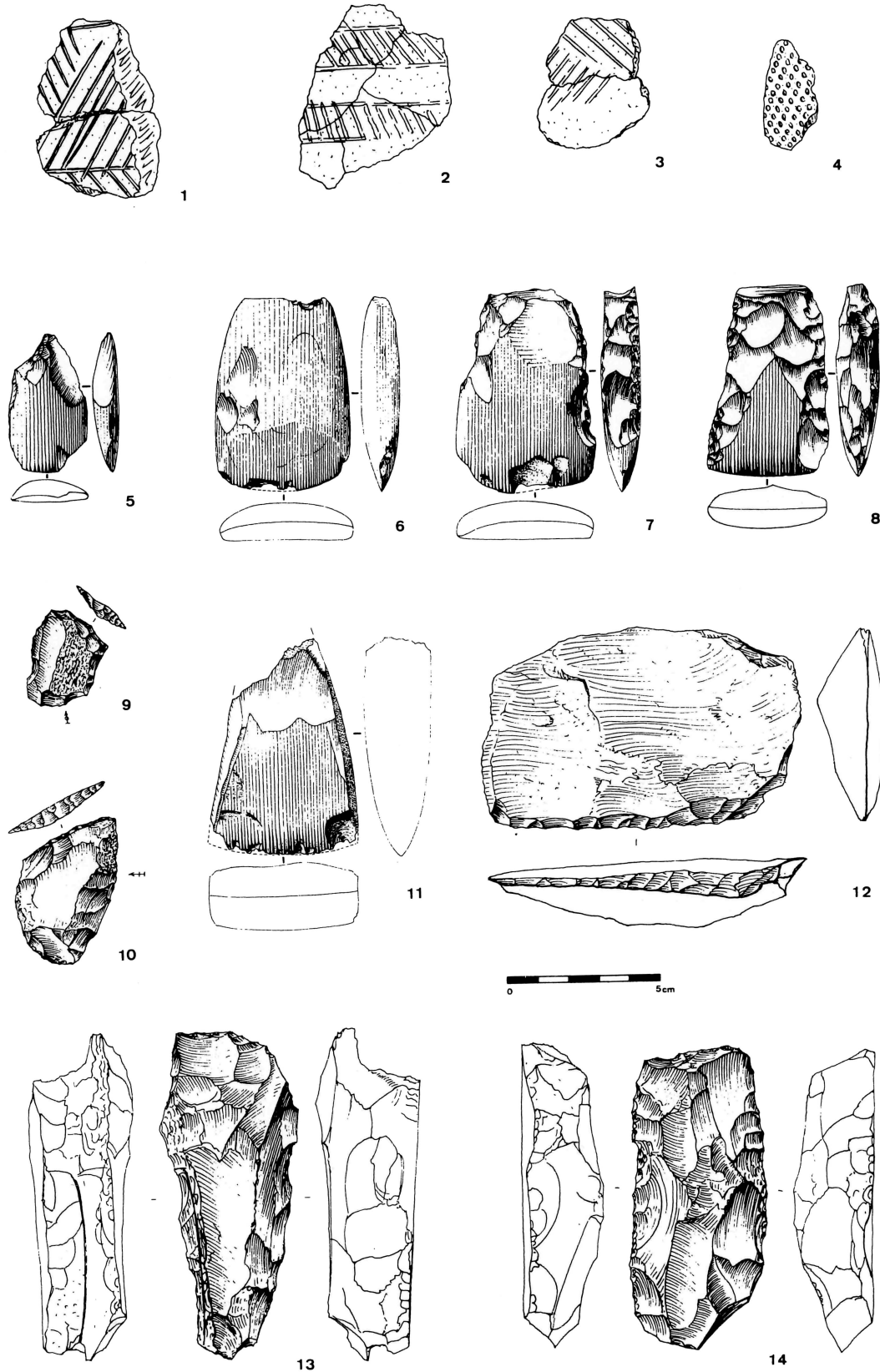


Fig. 3 : Limburger Culture Pottery (1-4); different phthanite tooltypes of both settlements (5-14).