

Studies of Paleolithic sites and relics recently excavated in Seoul, Korea

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This study is to introduce the Paleolithic sites and relics recently excavated in Seoul, Korea. Seoul is divided by the Han river into north and south, and at the huge alluvial plains downstream of the Han River area, prehistoric sites were found.

Starting in 2000, with the planned redevelopment of the residential area of Samseong-dong, Gangnam-Gu, excavations were carried out that revealed sites from the Paleolithic period in the Seoul area.

Including these new finds, newly surveyed Paleolithic sites in Seoul are as follows : Samseong-Dong site, Changjeon-dong Mapo-Gu site, Sagan-dong Jonro-Gu site and Hail-dong Gangdong-Gu site.

Objects discovered from these sites were Choppers, End-scrapers, Scrapers, Cores and Flakes. Archaeo-geological characteristics of these sites indicate that they

have a high amount of 4th period Paleo soils and were mostly located on mountain ridges, tributaries, or coasts of the Han River.

However, new Paleolithic sites were excavated in the Seoul area, therefore, surface survey research should be carried out before starting any development or redevelopment projects.

These days, studies on sites and objects of the Paleolithic period, which are newly found, are mostly carried out in the field such as archaeology, geology, geography, dating, and pedology (soil science) by cooperation among the fields of study. When these studies can be combined in order to determine wider patterns, it would help to approach and understand the sites and objects from the Paleolithic period in the Seoul area.