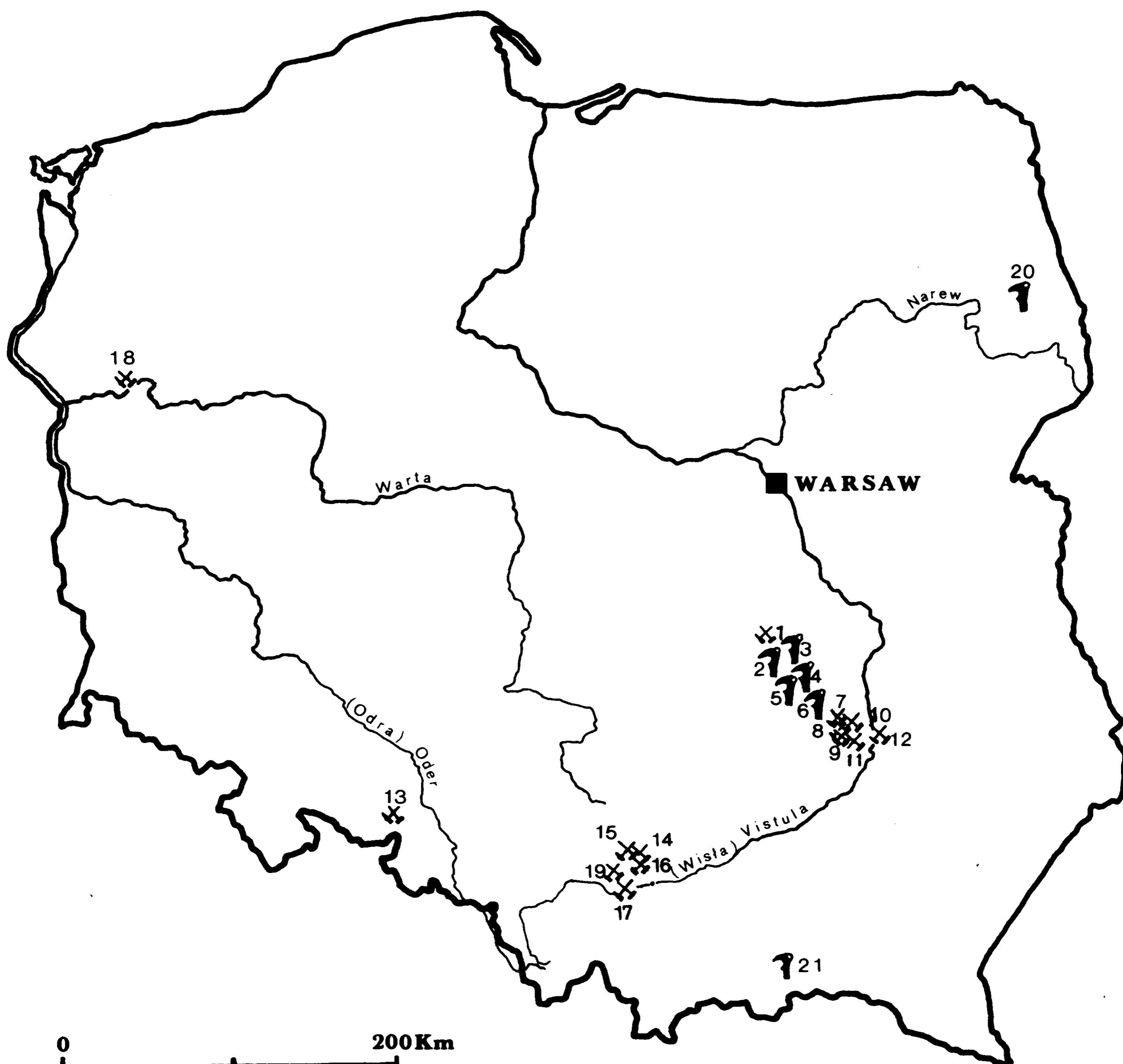


**PL 21 Ropa, Nowy Sącz Province. Early
Bronze Age hornstone mine at Ropa,
site 2 (Polish West Carpathians)**

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PL 21 ROPA, NOWY SĄCZ PROVINCE

Early Bronze Age hornstone mine at Ropa, site 2 (Polish West Carpathians)

Paweł Valde-Nowak

The archaeological site in southern part of the village Ropa, district of Gorlice, Nowy Sącz Province was discovered in spring 1988, during the systematic survey in the Ropa River basin, situated in the western part of the Low Beskid ($21^{\circ}03'06''$ W; $49^{\circ}34'03''$ N). This site is located on a high, deeply washed-away terrace of the Ropa left bank (orographically), below the river's gorge through the "Pieniny Gorlickie" (Valde-Nowak 1991, 1995). The place forms the lower part of the slope of a hump, separated with a saddle from the eastern slope of the Tania Mountain (576 m), one of the peaks of the Grybów Mountains, the eastmost element in the Low Beskid Mts. (Fig. 1).

The surface research (spring and autumn 1988) and small-scale sounding (autumn 1989) led to the conclusion that the site had the character of a mine. The object of the extraction were deposits of a black siliceous rock of the late Eocene and early Oligocene Age, known from the so-called "Ropa window" — a tectonic Window of the Dukla Unit.

The most important element of the site is a workshop (miners camp?) with some mining tools: pick, perforator, cleaver and more than 350 other menilite hornstone artifacts: cores, flakes, sporadically bifacial tools connected with early Bronze Age technology. Such elements and a mass occurrence of natural pieces of menilite hornstone on the surface and in its close vicinity, allow us to assume that a menilite hornstone mine existed in this place. This opinion is supported by the presence of processed blocks, which proves that they were taken directly from a primary deposit. The test trench did not bring to light any remains of exploitation units, *i.e.*, shafts. We may seriously take into consideration the possibility of hornstone exploitation from the rock outcrops visible on the steep slope of the terrace on which the workshop is situated.

The site is connected with the zone of seasonal occupation of the Circum-Carpathian Epi-corded Culture Circle (or latest Corded Ware Culture?).

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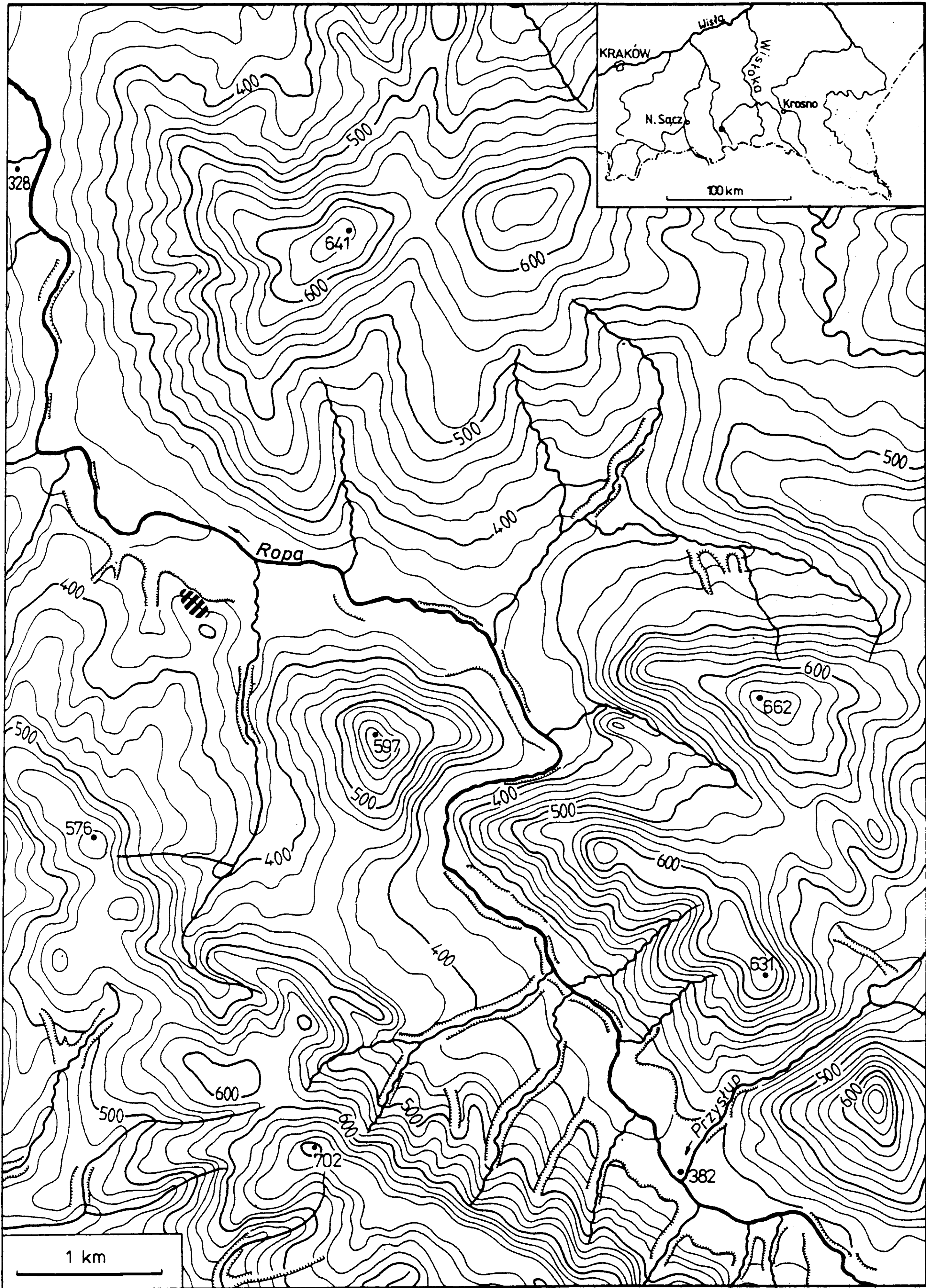


Fig. 1. PL 21 Ropa. Location of the menilite hornstone exploitation site.