

## The vertebrate remains of Maasvlakte 2 in a broader context

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### Summary

Targeted fishing trips were carried out in the Maasvlakte 2 sand extraction zone, using a beam trawler, to collect molluscs, bone fragments, archaeological objects and stones. This resulted in the identification and localisation of areas with a high concentration of archaeological and palaeontological finds. In these areas large amount of finds from different time periods have been collected.

Also the Maasvlakte 2 beach, where the dredged sediment was deposited, yielded a large number of interesting finds. Two types of field survey were deployed on the Maasvlakte 2 beach: collecting finds manually and collecting the finds mechanically using a so-called Mega Beach Cleaner. The purpose of these surveys was to search for archaeological material, gravel and palaeontological remains at pre-selected and recorded locations on the beach. The different methods yielded combined a large quantity of material, including vertebrate skeletal remains, molluscs, wood and gravel, as well as a few archaeological objects including flint flakes.

The majority of the vertebrate remains recovered during the fishing trips and the beach surveys derived from mammals that are typical of the mammoth steppe fauna association. This presentation discusses the results of the taphonomical analysis of the mammalian remains and the efficiency of the different ways of collecting (fishing trips, manual, and mechanical beach surveys). Finally, the finds are discussed in a broader (geographical as well as temporal) context.