Prior to the explorations by me, of course, a few Lower Palaeolithic sites scattered over a wide area of the thick Malnad region were known. Since then explorations and excavations were more in the maidan area of the Deccan resulting in the discovery of numerous sites. These discoveries and the sporadic notices in the thick forest area gave a superficial impression that the latter region was not hospitable for the pre and proto-historic communities. The present explorations make it clear that the Malnad and semi-Malnad areas with thick forest in varying degrees were exploited by the prehistoric people.

Present investigations in the region under study has brought to light numerous Lower Palaeolithic sites situated in the Malnad, semi-Malnad and Maidan areas each of which is characterised by marked difference in rainfall as well as vegetation now. Sites in the 'Maidan' area representing semi-arid ecological condition account for 50%. Sites in the semi-evergreen forest area account for 32% and the remaining 18% of the sites are located in the thickly forested area. During the Lower Palaeolithic period, the ecological conditions may not have been exactly the same as now. It is probable that the present 'Maidan' area may be more forested than it is today and increasingly so in other two areas. It, thus appears that the Lower Palaeolithic man preferred the middle and lower courses of the river valleys of the region where rock material are more easily available in plenty and with penetrable forests.

The study of the stratigraphy in the river valleys of the region, revealed one aggradational deposit except in small patches at Kattebelguli in the Hemavati and Nadaghatta in the Upper Tungabhadra basin where two aggradational deposits are noticed. The gravel as well
as other deposits are found to be bereft of fossils, however, a portion of an oyster shell could be located at Harsharapura in the Lower Tunga valley. A pebble bed noticed at Hadonahalli about 1.5 Km further west of the left bank of the Upper Tungabhadra at a higher level, is noteworthy for, Seshadri (1956) mentions the presence of lower and upper gravel at Hampasagara further north in the Lower Tungabhadra valley. However, further systematic study of the formation of rivers, analysis of sediment samples and contemporary climatic changes may throw more light on the problem of the river terraces. Absence of terraces in other river valleys of the region is also noteworthy in this context.

Different rock materials have been used for manufacturing artefacts noticed in the region. These include quartzite, quartz, volcanic trap and Jasper. The most common rock material used profusely is river borne quartzite pebbles. These are of different shades with saccharodial texture, do not yield conchoidal fracture and comparatively less amenable for finer flaking. Interestingly, epidote-quartzite exhibiting fine fracture has been used at Nyamti. Artefacts made of close grained milky quartz, dyke, jasper and volcanic trap, though small in proportion compared to the quartzite group, clearly suggests that the early man in the region under study had the capacity to choose raw materials after ascertaining their granular and petrological properties.

The main tool types are chopper-chopping, hand axe, scraper, discoid, cleaver (two numbers), point and borer. Pointed tip in the pebble tool is a noteworthy feature. Bulk of the hand axes of triangular and cordiform shapes are made on flakes. Core axes noticed at Nagasamudra, Vaderpura and Bankal are heavy, devoid of secondary retouch and their crude flaking apparently suggest that these may belong to an early phase of the Lower Palaeolithic. On the grounds of the flaking technique, the pebble - hand axe group by and large
displays different Acheulian stages. It has been possible to identify different techniques such as block on block, stone hammer, cylindrical hammer, soft hammer, etc. Although more information could be gathered about the personality of the Malnad Lower Palaeolithic culture, it is observed that these features are not different from other known areas such as Krishna - Godavari and Kortalayar valleys.

As mentioned above, only cleavers could be noticed. When compared to the numerous evidences noticed in the adjacent Ghataprabha and Malaprabha valleys, its occurrence in small number in the region under study is rather intriguing. If this is due to the rock material used which is essentially coarse grained quartzite lacking the property of yielding conchoadial fracture and hence not so favourable for fashioning cleavers unlike the close grained quartzite, is a matter for further detailed examination.

In the flake group tools of the region, occurrence of scrapers and pointed tools with their sub-types is noteworthy. Of course, there is nothing so striking regarding the tool types and the techniques employed in their making. However, these exhibit certain noteworthy features. Though the scraper tool group occurs in small numbers in each site, its total percentage in the collection is comparable to the evidences from other river valleys in the adjacent regions. Discoids made on core as well as flake are uniform in size and most of them represent employment of Levalloisian technique. Points and borers also exhibit advanced techniques in so far as the retouching of the margins and tips. These are medium to small in size. In the collection, a few blades have also been noticed which are made on thin and long flakes. All the features of scraper-point group mentioned above are indicative of a distinct Late Acheulian phase.

Similar tool assemblage has been reported from the Malaprabha basin (Joshi, 1955) and from the Upper Krishna basin (Pappu, 1974), Nagarjunakonda (Subramanyam, 1975) and Attirampakkam (Krishnaswami,
1947) accommodating factory sites are the other two regions outside Karnataka which could be compared with the Lower Palaeolithic industry of the Malnad region. But this comparison need to be restricted only to the typological similarities. As already mentioned above, the Lower Palaeolithic tools in the region under study do not occur in clusters in the river valleys and their tributaries except in the site at Gedlahalli situated in a different geo-setting where tools occur in small clusters. The situation in the adjacent North Karnataka region is distinctly different as for example: at Khyad and Megur-Asotı (or Menasqi) in the Malaprabha basin, large number of Lower Palaeoliths are reported to have been occurring. Similarly, few other sites, for example, Pattadakal, yield considerable quantity of tools. Anagawadi in the Ghataprabha is no less prolific. Hunsgi nullah accommodates factory sites yielding hundreds of finished and unfinished Lower Palaeolithic tools.

Thus, it appears that the Middle Krishna basin with sites such as Khyad, Anagawadi, Nagarjunakonda and Hunsgi seems to be the focal region of the Lower Palaeolithic culture. The Upper Tungabhadra, the Tunga and the Bhadra along with their tributaries in the northern part of the region under study appears to be the peripheral zone as is evident from the presence of two tool type tradition, viz., the chopper-chopping and hand axe. Similarly, the Lower Palaeolithic tools in the southern part of the Malnad region could be compared with the tool repertoire (hand axe culture) of prolific factory sites at Attirampakkam, Poondi and Vadamadurai in the Kortalyar valley which seems to be the focal area. The sites in the Hemavati and the Upper Kavery valleys with chopper-chopping element may fall within the peripheral zone.

Interestingly, pebble tools occur in most of the river valleys and their tributaries in small number in this region. In the Krishna basin
at Giddalur (Soundararajan, 1952) and in the Lower Deccan (Sankalia, 1975), occurrence of the pebble tool is noteworthy. It now appears that the area in between the Lower Krishna and the Tungabhadra valleys forms an important zone of the pebble tools characterised by chopper-choppings. Quite contrarily, most of the sites in other parts of the Krishna valley dominantly yield tools of the flake group. The present study, therefore, suggests a well defined and much better 'pebble tool zone' in Karnataka. However, this postulation poses a question whether this 'pebble tool zone' is mainly due to the availability in abundance of the rock material?

As is well known, the very terminology of the artefacts (viz., pebble tools) suggests that these are made on pebbles. However, in the region under study, not all sites yield this tool type although pebbles are available in plenty in the river bed. It may, therefore, be observed provisionally that it is the tradition and not rock material that is implied in the chequered pattern of the occurrence of two distinctive tool types, the pebble and the flake. It is also pertinent to mention here that the above observation on pebble tool zone confines to the pebble tools found mixed with core and flake hand axes and do not suggest any pre-hand axe substratum indicating a developmental stage in itself.

At Gedlahalli in particular, it is noteworthy that the usual chopper-chopping group, large hand axes and cleavers found in other sites in the neighbouring region is almost absent. Further, the size and type of tools as well as the mode of flaking seem to indicate the tools as belonging to the Late Acheulian overlapping into the beginning of the Middle Palaeolithic. Most of the characteristic tool types that become very common in the Middle Palaeolithic assemblages are already found here.

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Technologically, what is required here is the suitable rock material for preparing scrapers of smaller size which are most effective. Once the Prehistoric man began to exploit the fine grained rock materials such as chert, agate, chalcedony, etc., it facilitated him to achieve the goal. The necessary stage for this development therefore seems to has been set already in some of the sites in the region. It is from this point of view, the occurrence of scrapers and other small tool types attains greater significance. Incidentally, the sites with more number of scrapers may represent a later phase of the Lower Palaeolithic. A closer observation of the features noticed in the scraper point group of the Malnad Lower Palaeolithic group in general and the tool repertoire of the Gedlahalli site in particular provides sufficient evidence to surmise that these assemblages having all the features of Late Acheulean phase may probably represent a transitional stage from the Lower Palaeolithic to the Middle Palaeolithic. However, further intensive, inter-disciplinary study of the region may throw more light on these problems.

In so far as the geographical distribution of the Lower Palaeolithic sites in the region under study, two distinct patterns have been noticed, viz., those located (a) in the gravel bed of the rivers and their tributaries; (b) in the vicinity of lakes.

The Lower Palaeolithic culture of the region discussed above, on typological grounds on the one hand and on an analogy with the similar evidences noticed in the neighbouring region on the other may be broadly assigned to the Middle Pleistocene to the Early Upper Pleistocene period. These observations are tentative especially in the light of the fact that for the first time, such a study is attempted in the Southern Karnataka region. The present field work forms only part of a vast area of research and therefore needs to be studied in detail.
In view of the strikingly small number of sites in relation to the Lower Palaeolithic sites in the region on the one hand and to the Middle Palaeolithic in the Krishna valley (prolific with the antiquities, as for example, Salvadgi, etc.) on the other, the Middle Palaeolithic culture is not well defined and distinct as in the Upper Deccan especially in the Krishna - Godavari valleys. This may be owing to two factors, viz., the unsuitability of the rock material and less density of population of the region. But the prolific occurrence of tool types in the Hemavati valley in spite of the rock material used being not as much suitable is enigmatic. Secondly, the genetic connection of the sites in the region with those of other regions is not known since it occurs in isolation. Like the problem of the Upper Palaeolithic in India some years ago, the Middle Palaeolithic phase appears to be more a problem in the Malnad region than a regular phase in relation to the other regions. It looks as though a small section of the Middle Palaeolithic people had boldly penetrated into the more difficult Malnad region.

Regarding the rock material, what is noteworthy here is the majority of the tools are made on quartzite unlike the chert or jasper, i.e., fine grained rock materials mostly used in the Krishna valley and the Upper Deccan. The other rock materials used include chlorite schist, chert in small quantity and quartz. The occurrence of bladish flakes along with scraper-point assemblage also is enigmatic for, whether this is a development from the Middle Palaeolithic is not clear since only a stray Upper Palaeolithic site has been found in the Malnad region, and the sequence of culture is not known in a well defined stratigraphical position. Therefore, this also needs to be more intensively examined through field work. But the thick forest covering the major part of the region is a serious impediment for thorough exploration in pursuing these problems.
The source of the chert tools noticed at Thakkanahalli is to be traced. It is learnt that about 10 Km further south of Thakkanahalli, chert is found in the schist. However, whether the chert of this area is petrologically the same as that of the tools is to be ascertained. Further, it looks as though that Thakkanahalli represents the southward extension of the Middle Palaeolithic culture from the focal area that is Krishna valley indicated by the use of chert and fewer number of the sites of the culture. In the course of the further southward movement of the people, they were compelled to adopt local rock material such as quartzite as at Govinkovī, Chikbasur, etc., and chlorite schist as at Kattebelguli, Cholenahalli in the Hemavati valley. Further, chlorite rock material is rather superior to quartzite and therefore, possibly accounts for the large number of tools in the Hemavati valley. Although the precise dating of this culture is not possible at this stage, on analogy, it may be tentatively assigned to the Upper and Late Pleistocene. Finally, the Middle Palaeolithic sites in the Malnad region probably represent the peripheral zone of the culture in the Deccan.

The discovery of only one site with the Upper Palaeolithic cultural remains indicates the existence of this cultural stage in the region and suggests further explorations for such sites is likely to be rewarding. Like the Middle Palaeolithic sites, it may also indicate the region as the peripheral zone of this cultural complex. Apart from the suggested relationship and chronological horizon on the basis of comparison, any other observations of significance on the culture can not be made at this stage.

From the above survey (Chapter VI) of the Mesolithic sites, classified into different categories in relation to their particular locations, certain interesting facts emerge.
Use of quartz and rock crystal, the two popular rock material available in plenty in these regions is significant. Similar feature is already reported from sites in the Bangalore district (Seshadri, 1956). Although close grained chert is used in the preceding Upper Palaeolithic culture at Thakkannahalli in the Upper Tungabhadra valley, Mesolithic people who succeeded them in the same site essentially preferred quartz. Small percentage of tools are found made on quartzite also.

As already mentioned, sites are categorised in relation to their geo-setting, viz., (I) sites on the gravel patches away from the river banks; (II) sites on the hill terraces, hill tops or at the foothill and (III) sites situated right on the river banks. Interestingly, sites of category I and II are found in the Upper Tungabhadra, the Tunga and the Bhadra valleys, but not in the Hemavati valley.

Two distinctive differences in the first two categories of sites seem to be very significant. They are (a) large sites scattered over a vast area and (b) concentration of sites in a limited area and increase in number of sites.

Though geo-setting has been taken as the main criteria for the above categorisation, it is interesting to note that the typo-technological aspects also substantiate such a categorisation. While in the first category the size and tool types are considerably more, scraper being the dominant group, the second category sites are characterised by tools of diminished size as well as variety. Tool types in both these categories are essentially non-geometric and are almost similar and exhibit continuity of tool tradition from the preceding cultures.

As noticed above, both the rock material and tool types of the two categories are almost common, the scraper-point assemblage being dominant. Therefore, the location of the sites in the hill areas...
probably indicates a later phase of culture as well as a better mode of living and exploitation of the surroundings especially from the point of view of hunting economy.

In the sites of the third category, the blade complex becomes quite distinct and small percentage of geometric type also occurs. However, absence of geometric types in the sites of this category in the Hemavati valley is noteworthy. In view of the dominant occurrence of the blade complex in the succeeding cultural stage, namely, the Neolithic, this category probably represents a transition from late phase of the Mesolithic to the Neolithic. However, this observation may not be applicable to the Hemavati assemblage which on typo-technological basis, seems to be more akin to the second category group though located in a different geo-setting, viz., near the river banks.

In the absence of stratigraphy of cultural debris, it is difficult to work out precise dating. Considering the typo-technological aspects as well as analogy to similar evidences reported elsewhere, the three categories of Mesolithic sites could be tentatively assigned to early part of the Holocene to 2000 B.C.

In view of the present density of the Mesolithic sites of the Krishna - Tungabhadra valleys, it looks as though the Tunga and the Bhadra valleys seem to form part of the focal area of the early phase of the Mesolithic culture and the sites along the western coast on the one hand and sites in the eastern Karnataka on the other form the peripheral zone.

Unlike the preceding Stone Age sites (either camp or factory) the sites with essentially Neolithic, some Megalithic, Early Historic and even few with Medieval assemblage indicate that they are regular habitation sites. In Upper Tungabhadra, their number is much more than the other preceding Stone Age sites. The spread of debris and the thickness indicate them to be regular habitation sites.
Over a distance of about 60 Kms from Hallur to Kudli in the Upper Tungabhadra, there are as many as 17 sites, i.e., the distance between the two sites throughout on an average is about 3.5 Kms almost corresponding to the present occupation density. A few of them are located on the opposite banks, for example, Haraganahalli is opposite to Hallur and Kotehalu is opposite to Hosahalli. Some sites are larger both in extent and in volume with rich antiquities. They seem to be important villages with small villages supporting them mostly in their economic activities. This pattern seems to be the fore-runner of the pattern of town surrounded by village clusters that emerged during the historical period.

But, the sites in the Tunga and the Bhadra valleys relatively speaking are few and far between. It appears, therefore, that Upper Tungabhadra was part of the focal area of the Tungabhadra valley and the Tunga and the Bhadra form the peripheral zones.

In many of the sites, especially in the Upper Tungabhadra, the remains of the succeeding Iron Age Megalithic and even early historical and a few with medieval sites with fort, etc., were evidently important political centres and surprisingly in these places Neolithic sites—quite large in many respects—are found. Thus, the importance of these sites in terms of material culture goes back to the very Neolithic period. The Upper Tungabhadra forms a sort of cultural highway between the Maidan and the Malnad regions.

However, it is interesting to note that the ash mounds which are generally recognised as a trait of Neolithic cultural complex of Northern Karnataka is conspicuously absent in the Malnad region (Allchin, 1963). A particular point worthy of note is the occurrence of White painted Black and Red ware pottery characteristic of Early Iron Age as known at Hallur. However, trial digging at Benakanahalli has shown that in the Upper Tungabhadra, this ware, as a distinctive
cultural trait, overlaps with the Neolithic pottery right from the earlier levels in the pre-Iron Age context. Almost up to Kudli, this pottery is found. Thus, the spread of this particular cultural element could be defined from Hallur southwards in the valley. The occurrence of the Microliths more akin to the tools of the third category of the Mesolithic complex is appropriate for two reasons, viz., (1) the location of the Neolithic and Mesolithic sites near to one another and (2) the intimate similarity between the tools and the raw material.

Regarding the material culture of the Neolithic folk, only a few observations can be made for, our study is largely based on the explorations. Hence, a well-defined sequence as well as the salient features of the culture through the period of its existence could not be known. However, the select materials explored have been systematically studied. By way of comparison with the materials from the stratified deposits and analysis, the explored materials could be better studied. It is further supported, of course, extremely on a limited scale by the trial digging in Benakanahalli which has helped in particular to ascertain the stratigraphic context of the White painted Black and Red ware in the area under study.

As already observed, the microliths, their rock materials and types are more akin to the microliths of the third category of the Mesolithic and certainly not with the parallel sided blades and microliths made on fine grained material such as carnelian, chert, jasper of the Neolithic - Chalcolithic culture of the Brahmagiri, Maski, Nevasa, Inamgaon, etc. It is, therefore, likely that these microliths may be of the Mesolithic people in the survival stage living along with the Neolithic people there at the beginning in those respective sites. It may be recalled here that in the Kaveri valley at T. Narasipur (Seshadri, 1971), similar quartz tools were found in a pit along with cattle bones sealed by the earliest phase of the Neolithic culture there (layer no. 6). Similar tools were not found along with the Neolithic cultural remains outside the pit in any part of the
stratified layers. Obviously, these sites were not a part of the Neolithic cultural assemblage, but belong to a small group of people in the survival stage of the Mesolithic culture. It may also be recalled here that at Sanganakallu, similar microlithic tools are found in a context anterior to the beginning of the Neolithic culture there (Sankalia, 1965; and Nagaraja Rao & Ansari, 1969).

Therefore, from the surface study, it is difficult to ascertain definitely whether the microliths in the region under study are pre-Neolithic or a survival in the early phase of the Neolithic.

Among the other stone tools, as usual, ground and pecked tools are found in varying numbers but in a few sites. The ground or sometimes polished stone tools are axe, wedge and chisel of a variety, suitable for clearance of forest and carpentry work suggesting therefore an agricultural economy too. Besides, ring stone, rubber, sling ball, saddle quern, hammer, etc., again indicate agricultural economy as well as hunting. But what is noteworthy is the occurrence of flakes, particularly polished, to make the edge sharp, in considerable number. These may be apparently the reject flakes while remaking the polished stone tools. But a close examination of the flakes reveals this to be improbable for, all the flakes so far found have polish only near the edge and on both sides. Evidently, therefore, suitable flakes were picked up and edge was sharpened by polishing both the sides to obtain effective working edge. Possibly these could be carpenters' tools for scraping as well as for cutting leather, etc. These tiny scrapers could be used for dressing fish and other aquatic food too. Even today, the river is rich in aquatic creatures. Occurrence of axes with protruded dorsal side similar to shoe-last axe type is noteworthy and could very well represent a local feature. However, the functional aspect of these is yet to be known.
The study of animal bones retrieved from Benakanahalli trial digging indicates the environmental conditions. These bones indicate that the animals are of wild species which may throw some light on the food habits as well as hunting economy. Further, these animals were sturdy, highly agile but dwarf. This may be due to lack of sufficient fodder as well as presence of salt affecting the growth. It appears, therefore, that the ecological conditions were unfavourable besides scarcity of nutritious food.

Among the pottery, there are largely and broadly two kinds, the Grey ware and the Brown and Black ware with their sub-varieties, the former being dominant. In the excavated site at Hallur and T. Narasipur, we find these potteries in large proportions. Thus, the pottery tradition of the Neolithic culture here, both in fabric and type, is akin to those of Hallur in the Upper Tungabhadra and T. Narasipur in the Middle Kaveri. The Neolithic tool types and the pottery, their fabric and type, therefore, indicate that Neolithic culture in these respects is a part of the wide spread culture of the Upper Kaveri, Upper Tungabhadra region. Only large scale excavation may reveal the intimate similarity of the other aspects of the culture with those of these two river valleys.

There are a few scattered Neolithic sites beyond the Tunga and the Bhadra on the north and the Hemavati in the south for instance, at Nilaskal. The antiquities from the surface are too meagre to compare with their counterparts in the nearby known sites. Some of the pottery pieces in fabric have one or two unusual features as for example, the yellowish colour of the surface. Whether these features are due to the property of the local clay, as also whether this site indicates the penetration of the people from the Tunga valley or from the Hemavati or from any other area can be known by more intensive explorations. Very recently, both in South Kanara and in North Kanara, typical Neolithic tools, i.e., axe with pointed butt end have been found (Vasantha Shetty, 1989).
As far up as Hallur in the Tungabhadra valley (Nagaraja Rao, 1971), evidence of the intrusion of the Chalcolithic cultural elements typical of the Godavari valley have been traced in the excavations also. They are Black on Red painted pottery or late Jorwe fabric, parallel sided blades, microliths made on black jasper as well as copper objects. In most of the sites in the Tungabhadra valley from Hallur below apart from the Krishna and the Bhima, even on the surface such Chalcolithic cultural remains could be picked up. Now in the sites under study, not even one site has yielded any such Chalcolithic remains. Apparently, therefore, the culture here appears to be by and large Neolithic comparable to that of T. Naasipur. With regard to the chronology, C-14 dates of T. Narasipur (1800-1100 B.C.) hold good for the Malnad Neolithic culture also since the cultural materials are almost akin to each other.

In the study of Iron Age Megalithic cultural remains in the Malnad region, two kinds of sites could be noticed, viz., the burial sites and the habitation sites. The former is found in larger number in the southern region while the latter is noticed in the northern region along the river valleys.

There are as many as nineteen burial sites scattered over a vast area of three districts. In these sites, there are now a few Megalithic burials ranging from 2 to 10-15 unlike the sites like Brahmagiri (Wheeler, 1948), Terdal (Sundara, 1966-67), Hirebenakal (Sundara, 1975) and Coorg (Subbaiah, 1978) each with several hundreds of Megalithic burials. However, the sites under study certainly were not poor originally: There must have been several Megalithic burials in each of them but most of them in course of time were destroyed due to intensive agricultural activities. What is now present is a very small fragment of once a large site. Therefore, the present numerical account is not helpful in understanding the distribution pattern of Megalithic types in each of them. Yet, there are certain important and significant points evident in these types.
There are about ten sites together with about 50 menhirs concentrated mostly in the northern region of these sites, the one in Nilaskal being the largest having as many as 36 menhirs. In the other sites, they range from 1 to 5. It looks, therefore, as though that Nilaskal appears to be the focal area of the menhir tradition. This tradition seems to have diffused as far north as Hallur and as far south at Attapady in Kerala.

In the southern part of the region under study, especially in the Kaveri valley region, there are cist circles, Dolmenoid cists, found scattered as far north as Upper Tunga, for example; at Arehalli and Beluvnakudige. The port-hole chamber in the dilapidated condition mostly concealed under natural vegetation are difficult to be traced, hence it is rather difficult to get a fair picture of the distribution of these sites. It appears, therefore, that the southern Malnad forms the peripheral zone of the rich sites located in the Coorg region. Thus, now in this region, there are two principal traditions, the Menhir tradition and the port-hole chamber tradition. There is also an overlap of these traditions clearly indicating the contemporary nature of these two at some stage for, both at Shigodu and Pungame, there are stone circles with menhir in the circle. In Managondanahalli, there is a very clear evidence of a cist with a Menhir beside it (Sundara, 1975). In Shigodu, the two types noticed, namely, cairns and stone circles with menhir, are represented in two separate groups indicating segregation. This feature is noticed in North Karnataka and elsewhere (Sundara, 1976). In Sompura, there is one large multiple circled cist burial. It is surrounded by couple of cist circles of smaller dimension. It looks as though that this large circle may be that of a chieftain of the community.

The habitation Megalithic remains are invariably found in the ancient sites with the Neolithic and Early Historical remains. Excepting a few menhirs noticed at Belimallur and Haraganahalli near
the habitation sites, generally no Megalithic burial remains are found on the surface near the other habitation sites. Elsewhere in Brahmagiri, Maski, etc., Megalithic burials are found in many numbers in proximity of the Megalithic habitation sites. These sites are already described above. The occurrence of the remains of three cultures in the same habitation site is exactly similar to the excavated sites in T. Narasipur and Hallur on the one hand as well as Brahmagiri, Maski and Sanganakallu in the maidan area on the other. But in Hallur and T. Narasipur, the characteristic pottery of the Iron Age Megalithic in type and in fabric, distinctly differ to a greater extent. The Black and Red ware and All Black ware in Hallur are in type and fabric more akin to the Chalcolithic Black and Red ware found at Tekkalakota and as far north as Lothal in Gujarat. The Black and Red ware and All Black ware in T. Narasipur are more akin to those of the late phase of Iron Age Megalithic in Chandravalli and to Early Historical in T. Narasipur.

The habitation sites noticed in the region yielding Megalithic Black and Red ware and other associated ceramics on analogy could be dated to 1200-800 B.C., if not earlier. Among the burial types noticed in the region, the port-holed chamber type on a comparative basis could be dated to 800-600 B.C. tentatively. Similarly the multiple pit burials noticed in the Upper Kaveri valley could be tentatively dated to 800-200 B.C., if not earlier.

Megalithic cultural remains in the habitation sites of Malnad are the distinct bright Black and Red ware, All Black ware and Red ware comparable to those of Maski, Brahmagiri and Hallur. In Hadonahalli, iron slags were also found. In many sites in Northern and Western Karnataka, iron slags occur with remnants of furnaces. But these are almost probably of the medieval period. However, recently at Banahalli (IAR, 1985-86 - unpublished), six furnaces have been exposed in the
Megalithic level and iron slags have also been encountered. Excavation, therefore, in Hadonalli can alone definitely decide the cultural context of the iron slags.