

Rock Art in Luxembourg

The rock of Altlinster



Eine Foto Dokumentation von Josef Rahm Otto

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HÄRTCHESLÄ is the name of a large boulder (6 by 5 by 5m) at the eastern slope of a wooded hillock, called HÄRTCHEN, almost 1 Km north of Altlinster.

Renowned is this boulder because of its relief from gallo-roman times («de Mann an d'Fra op der Lă») which was sculptured on its eastern rockface.

On the irregularly shaped top of the boulder two cavities are found which have special names: The «Härtches-shrine» is a cubical pit (80 by 76 by 38,5cm) of un-known destiny, sculptured in the rock, the «Härtcheswee» («Härtches-way») or «Härtches-we'i» («Härtches-cradle») is a deep sliding furrow.

This furrow starts at the NNE-corner of the top of the boulder, where its shape changes to become a flat rockface sloping to the East.

The width of the sliding furrow is changing from 21cm to 24, 19, 14, 8, 8, 8cm. The first meter of the sliding furrow shows the largest width; in this part it is clearly ground into the rock as a double track.

In the beginning its depth is 9cm and changes successively to 34, 20, 12 and 8cm.

In its first part (2,87m) the course of this sliding furrow is directed straight down; after that it turns right at an angle of 40°. After a distance of another 1m it reaches a horizontal fissure of the rock, 80cm wide, which is passed over to continue below for another 95cm where it reaches the end of the rockface.

Only something heavy like a stone- or metal-ball could be in a position to roll down this furrow by its own.

Its total length are 5,62m, its inclination from top to the end are 37,5°, 35°, 18°, 20°, 30°, 37°, 5° and 30°.

Hole-steps and recent engravings

NE of this sliding furrow two irregular rows of 10 and 6 respectively holes are worked into the rock ; they are not suitable to serve as steps.

On the same rockface 7 horizontal rills are found ; these rills are thick like arms and have a length of about half an arm. Their profile is that of a half-circle. The rills are worked into the rock like rungs of a ladder.

The vertical NW-rockface exhibits another 13 hole-steps and 4 holes as grips for climbing.

In the surroundings of the boulder some engravings are found which can be dated to be pre-roman.

On a separate moss-grown stone an engraving reminds the Hebrew character SIN / S or SCHIN / SCH.

Bibliography

Dr. Ernst Schneider, Material zu einer Archäologischen Felskunde des Luxemburger Landes. Verlag der Hofdruckerei V.Buck GmbH Luxemburg 1939



The stone with his grooves and holes



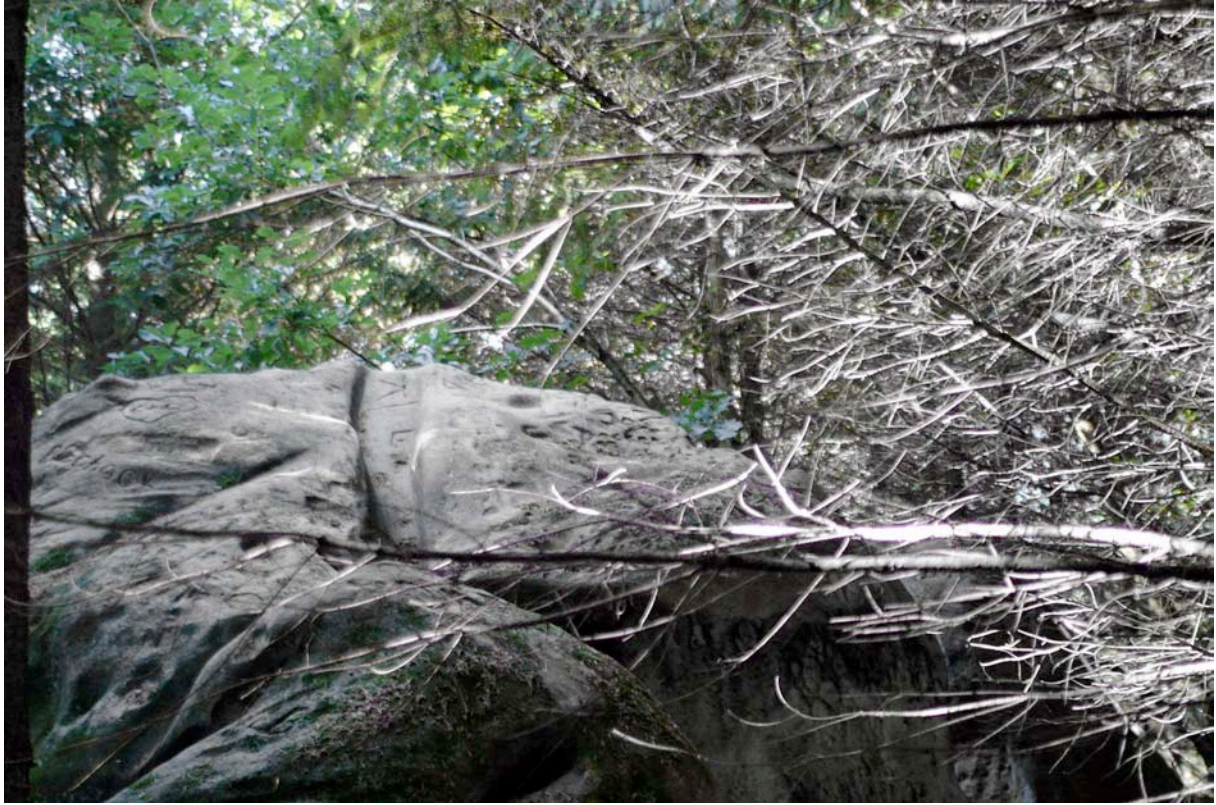
detail



detail



detail



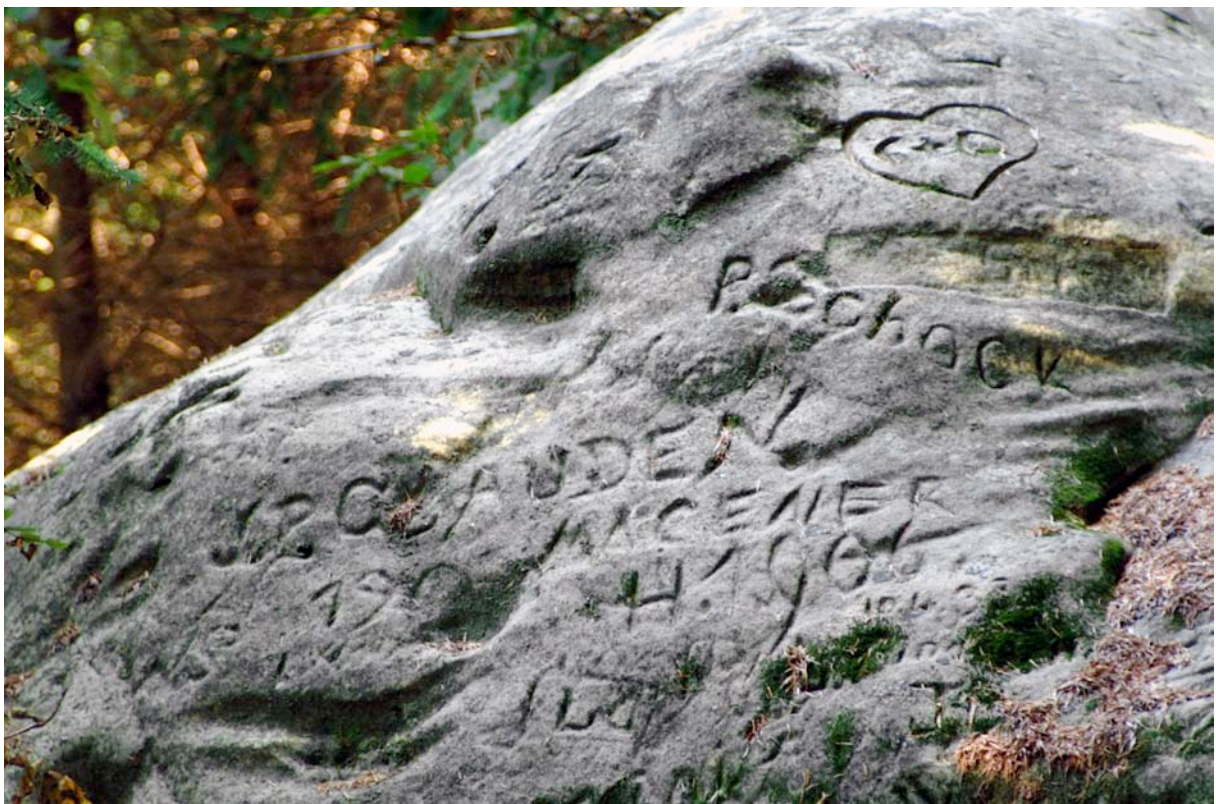
the grooves on the top



the grooves, holes and character of vandalism



character of vandalism



character of vandalism



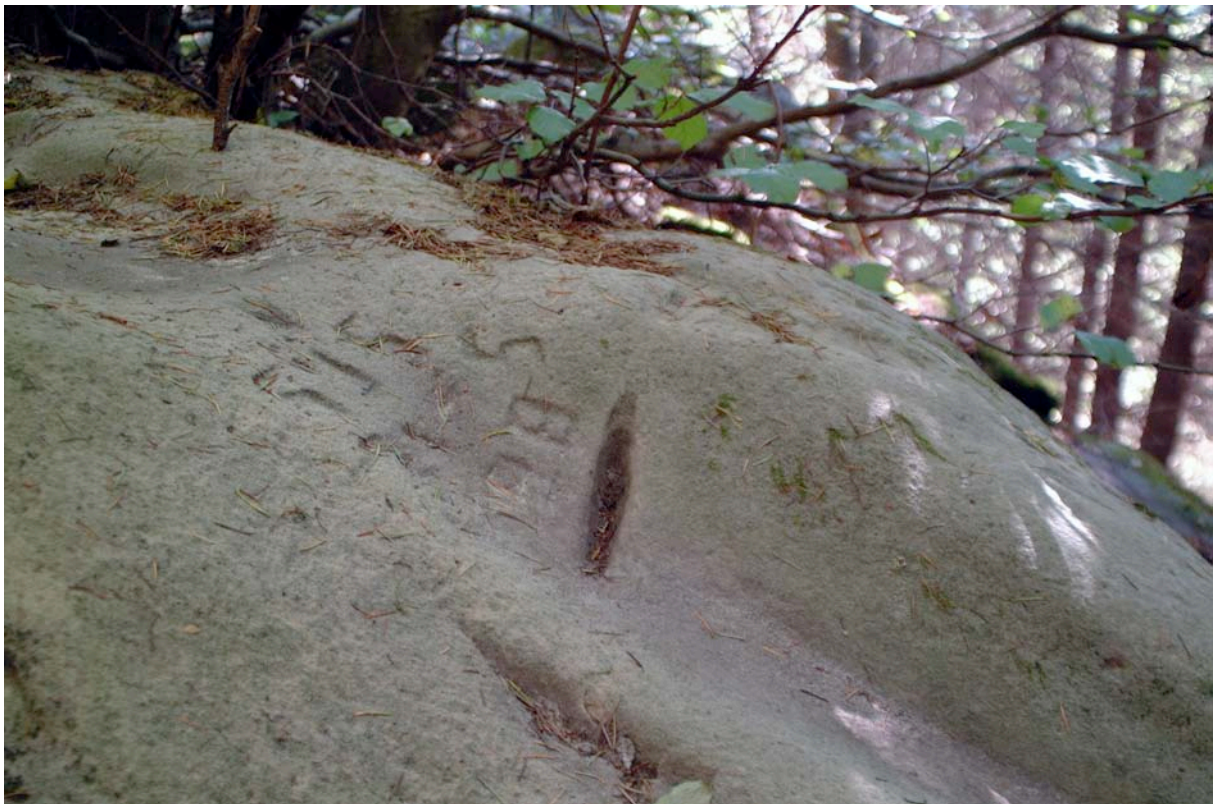
unknown engraving



detail



a hole



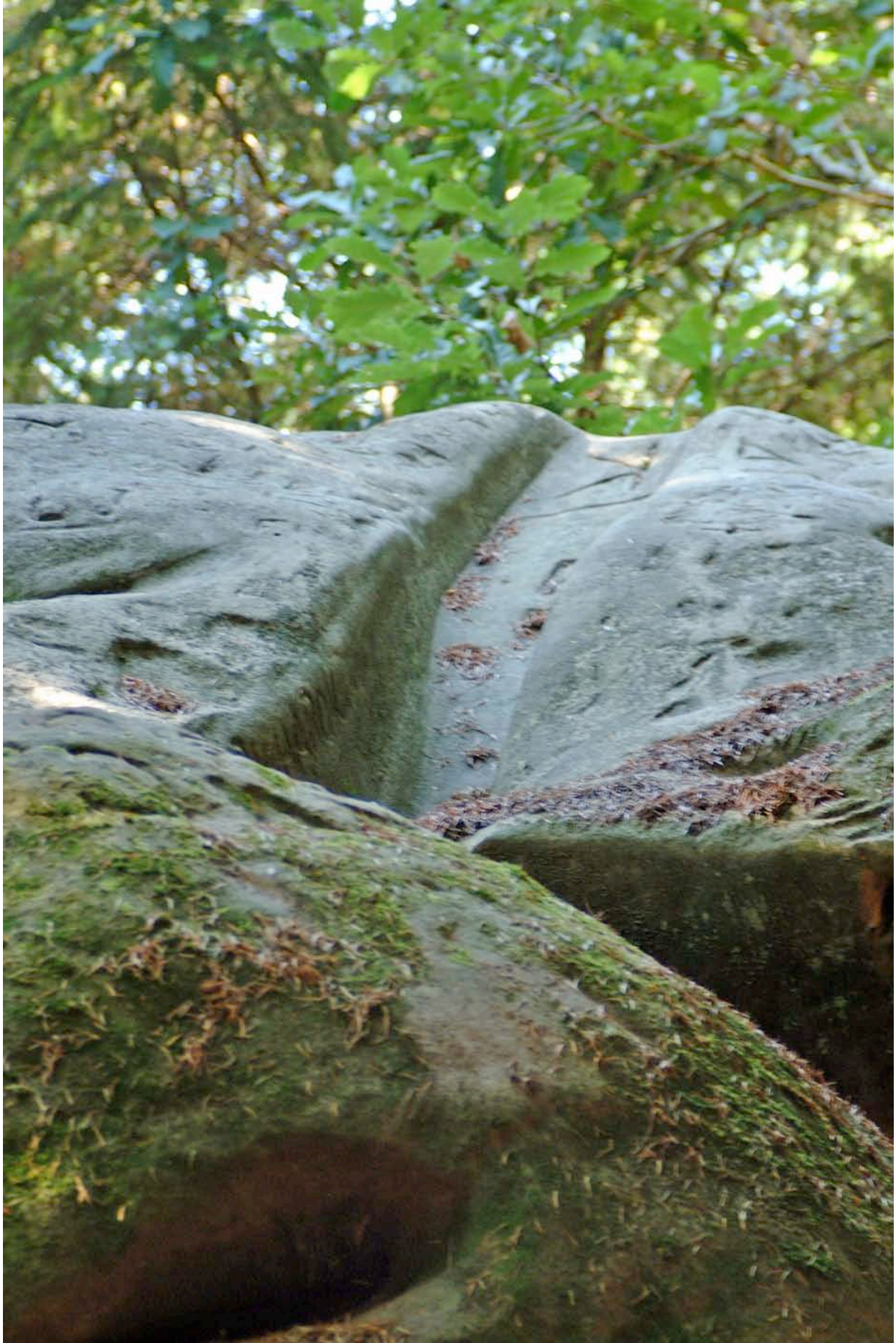
letters



letters



letters



Central sliding furrow



modern letters and a unknown symbol



detail



unknwon symbol



letters and or symbols



engraving reminds the Hebrew character SIN / S or SCHIN / SCH.



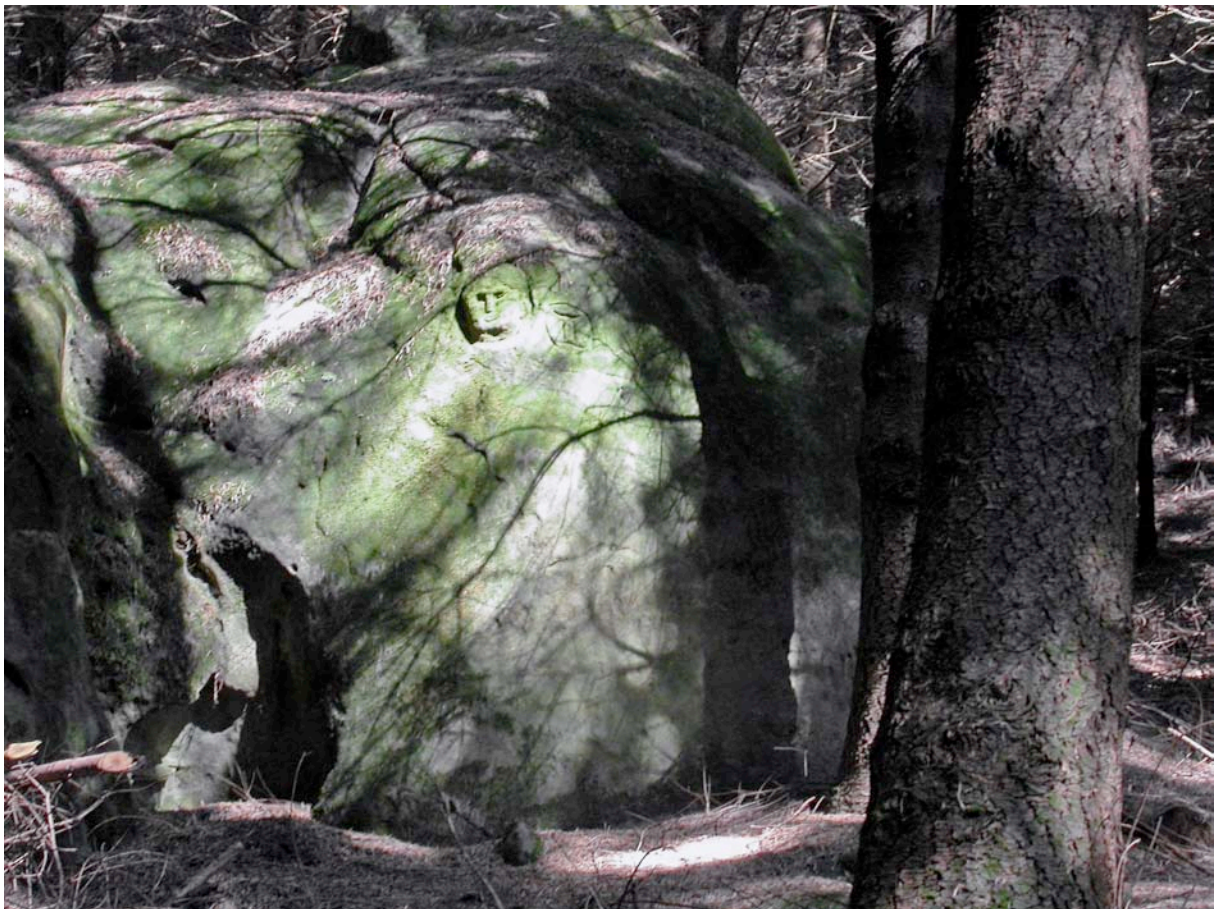
unknown symbol



detail



Letters and symbol possibly from the Nazi time



a face



detail of the face with a symbol



unkown symbol



vandalism, body of a naked woman



detail



unknown or modern letter



detail



cross



a V with a point inside



detail



a M



lines



detail



a unknown symbol



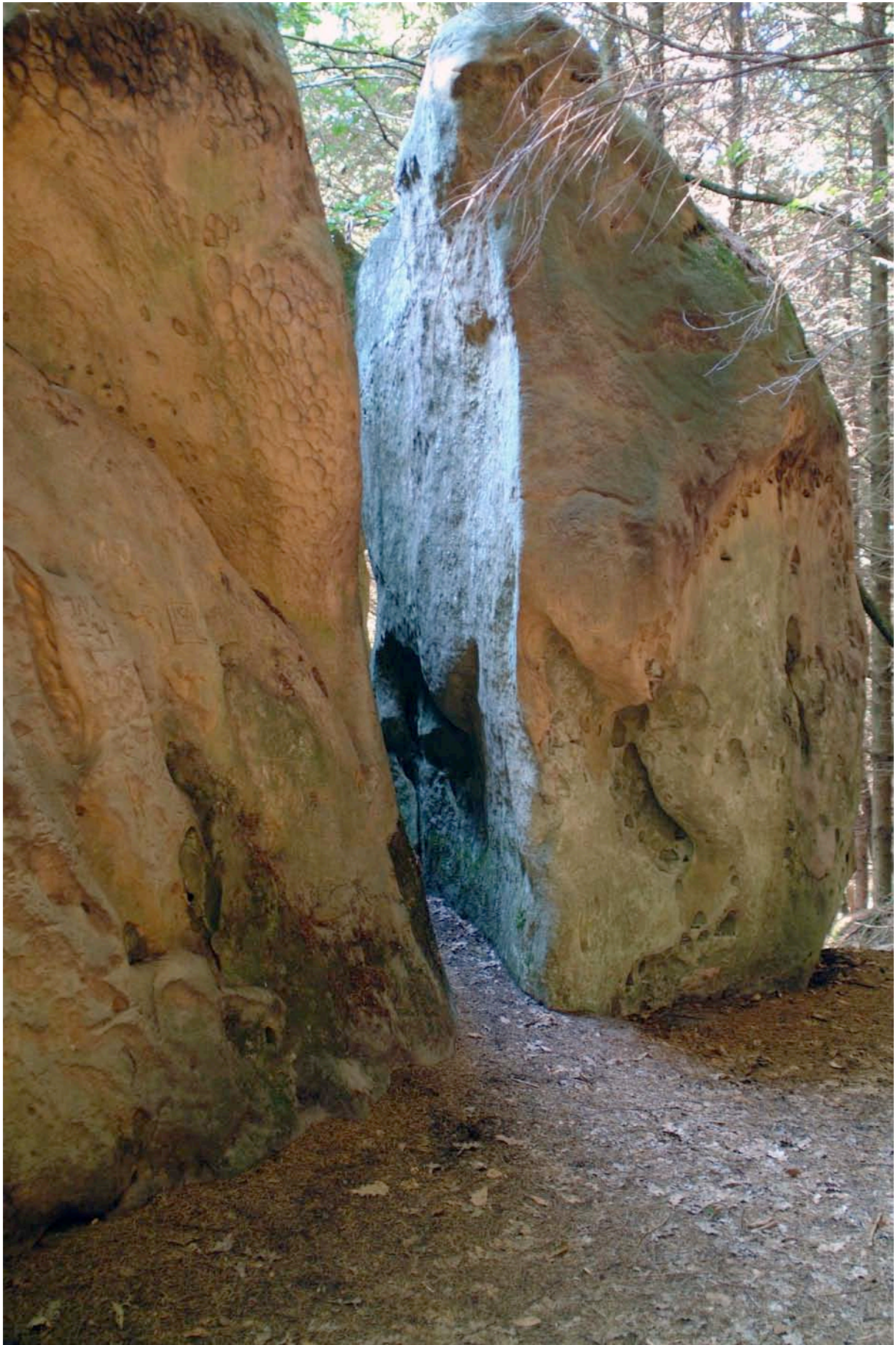
circles



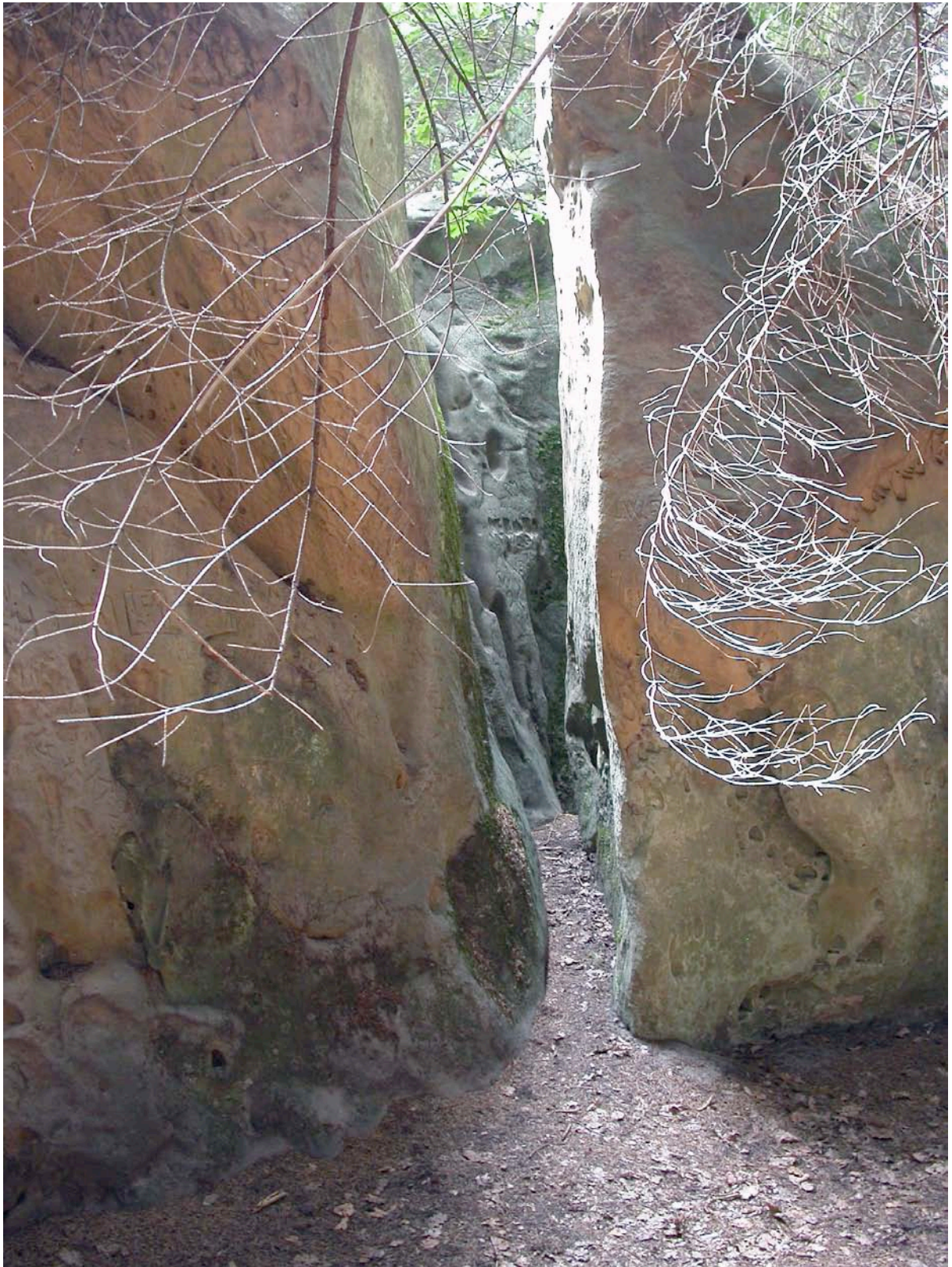
possibly a Bishop stick



furrows



split stone



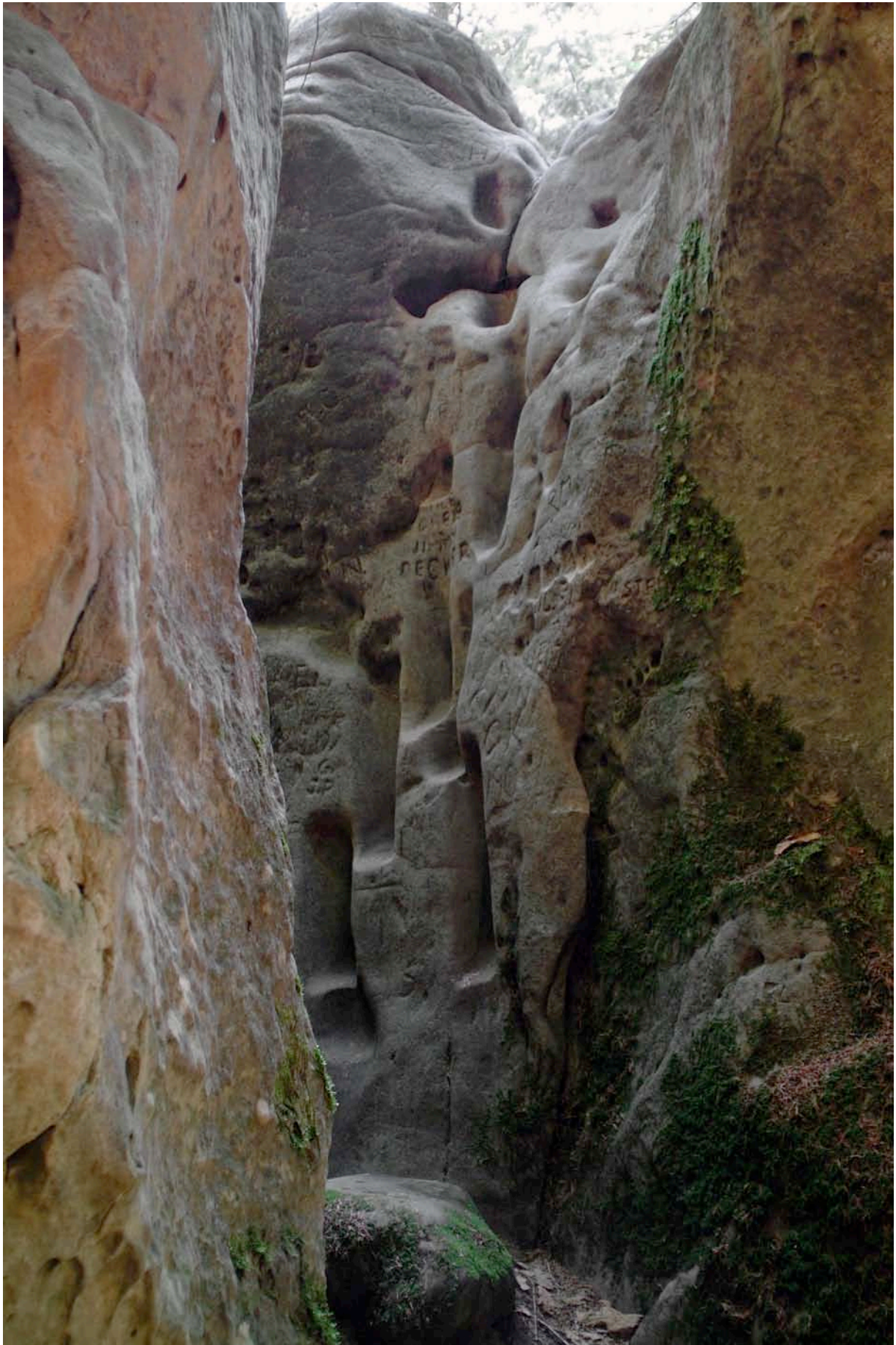
view into the split stone



view into the split stone



inside the split stone, holes and letters



detail with the steps



relief from gallo-roman times («de Mann an d'Fra op der Lä») which was sculptured on its eastern rockface.



detail



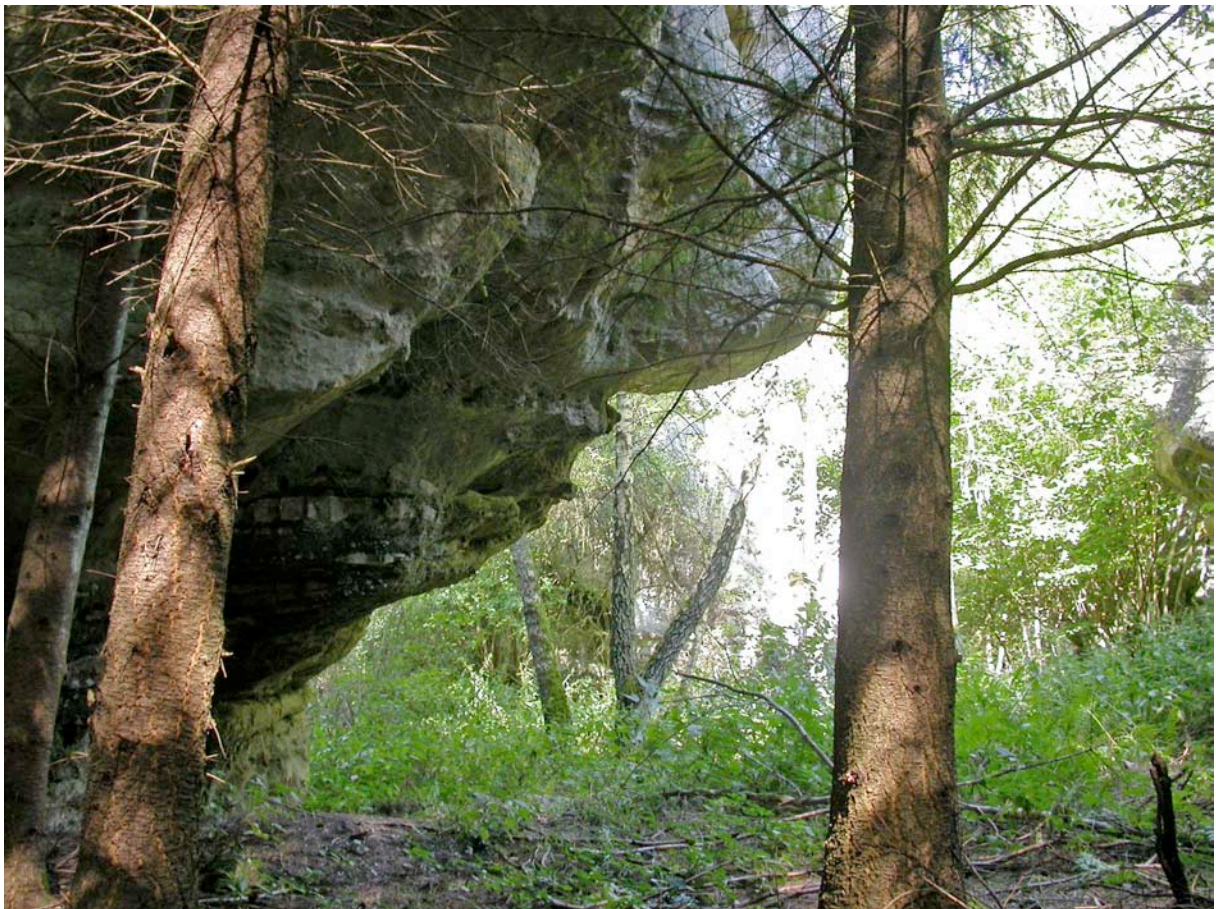
detail



size



another stone with holes in the neighbourhood



an Abri



different stones in the neighbourhood



different stones in the neighbourhood



different stones in the neighbourhood



different stones in the neighbourhood



different stone in the neighbourhood with a cross



different stones in the neighbourhood with a furrow



different stones in the neighbourhood with an smily ape face? Is natural



different stones in the neighbourhood with an big furrow



detail of an another furrow



detail of a furrow



unkwon character