



## FLINT MINE

When in 2002 the permanent exhibition in the “Reiss-Engelhorn-Museum” in Mannheim (Southern Germany) was to be renewed and extended, Archaeo-Technik was commissioned to produce a model of a Neolithic opencast flint mine. We planned a diorama on a one-to-one scale in order to demonstrate to the visitors the obtaining of raw material with Neolithic techniques.

We obtained the required flint – “fresh from the mountain” – from a modern chalk strip mining company in Northern Germany - a strenuous but exciting tour in rainy autumn.

To build the reproduction we covered a polystyrene framework with white plaster to imitate the chalk matrix. Then we partially knocked off the fresh plaster using antler hammers, thus perfectly imitating the traces of Neolithic miners’ work. After inserting the flint strings we coloured the plaster, “planted” the top and installed the working area of a Neolithic flint knapper in front of the mine.

