

General Certificate of Education  
June 2008  
Advanced Subsidiary Examination



**ARCHAEOLOGY**  
**Unit 2 Post-Excavation, Dating and Interpretation**

**ACH2**

Monday 2 June 2008 1.30 pm to 2.30 pm

**For this paper you must have:**

- a 12-page answer book
- a Sources Booklet (enclosed).

Time allowed: 1 hour

**Instructions**

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen. Use pencil only for drawing.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The *Examining Body* for this paper is AQA. The *Paper Reference* is ACH2.
- Answer **all** questions.
- Do all rough work in the answer book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.

**Information**

- The maximum mark for this paper is 50.
- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- **Figures 1 to 5** and **Source 1** for use in answering the questions are printed in a separate Sources Booklet.
- You will be marked on your ability to use good English, to organise information clearly and to use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.
- In answering the questions you must clearly demonstrate that you have used or drawn upon all the sources to which you are specifically directed. You must also use your own knowledge and understanding as appropriate to each question.
- You may use a magnifying glass to assist interpretation of figures.
- You may make illustrations in your answer book provided they explain or add to your answer.

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Read the following Introduction and study the material in the enclosed Sources Booklet.

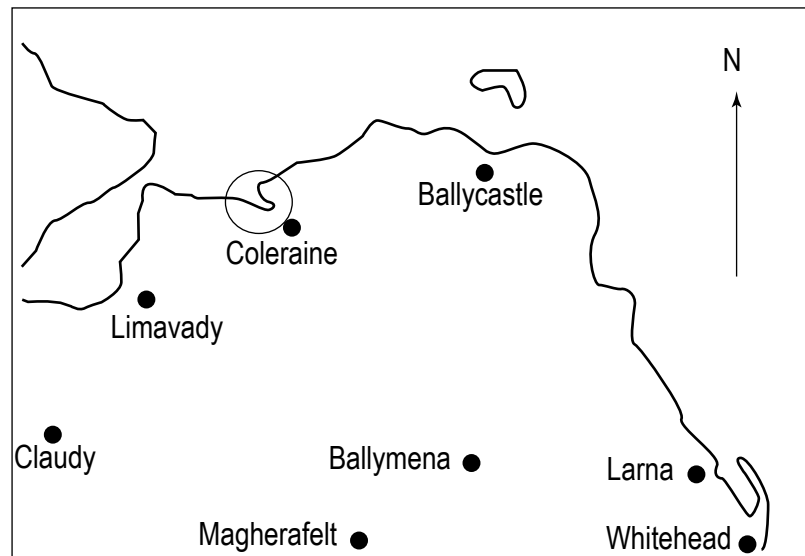
Then answer the questions on page 5.

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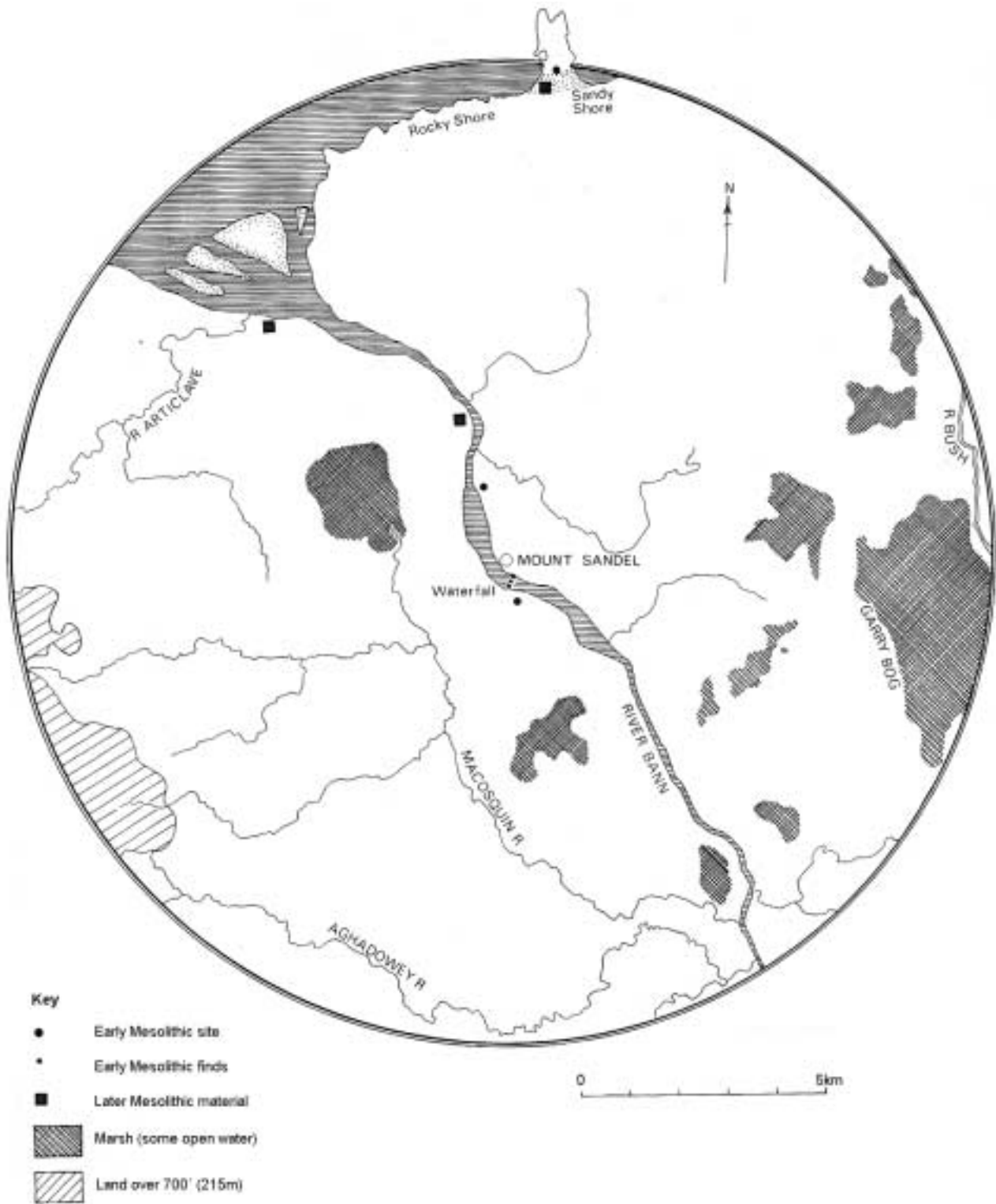
### **Introduction: Mount Sandel**

For nearly 100 years the area around Mount Sandel in Northern Ireland was well known for surface finds of lithics dating to the Mesolithic (approximately 8000–4500 BC). Consequently, when development threatened the area in 1973, a rescue excavation was organised. This excavation revealed well-preserved Mesolithic deposits on a high point on a gravel ridge parallel to the River Bann. Over several years archaeologists extended this original excavation to explore possible adjoining activity areas. They recovered a huge variety of flint artefacts and some environmental evidence and recorded an occupation area containing hearths and up to seven arcs of stake-holes. Mount Sandel is one of the earliest well-recorded settlements in the British Isles and dates to around 7000–6600 BC. Other research in the surrounding landscape has revealed lengthy periods of Mesolithic activity along the river Bann and the nearby coastline.

**Map 1 Location of Mount Sandel near the north-eastern coast of Ireland**

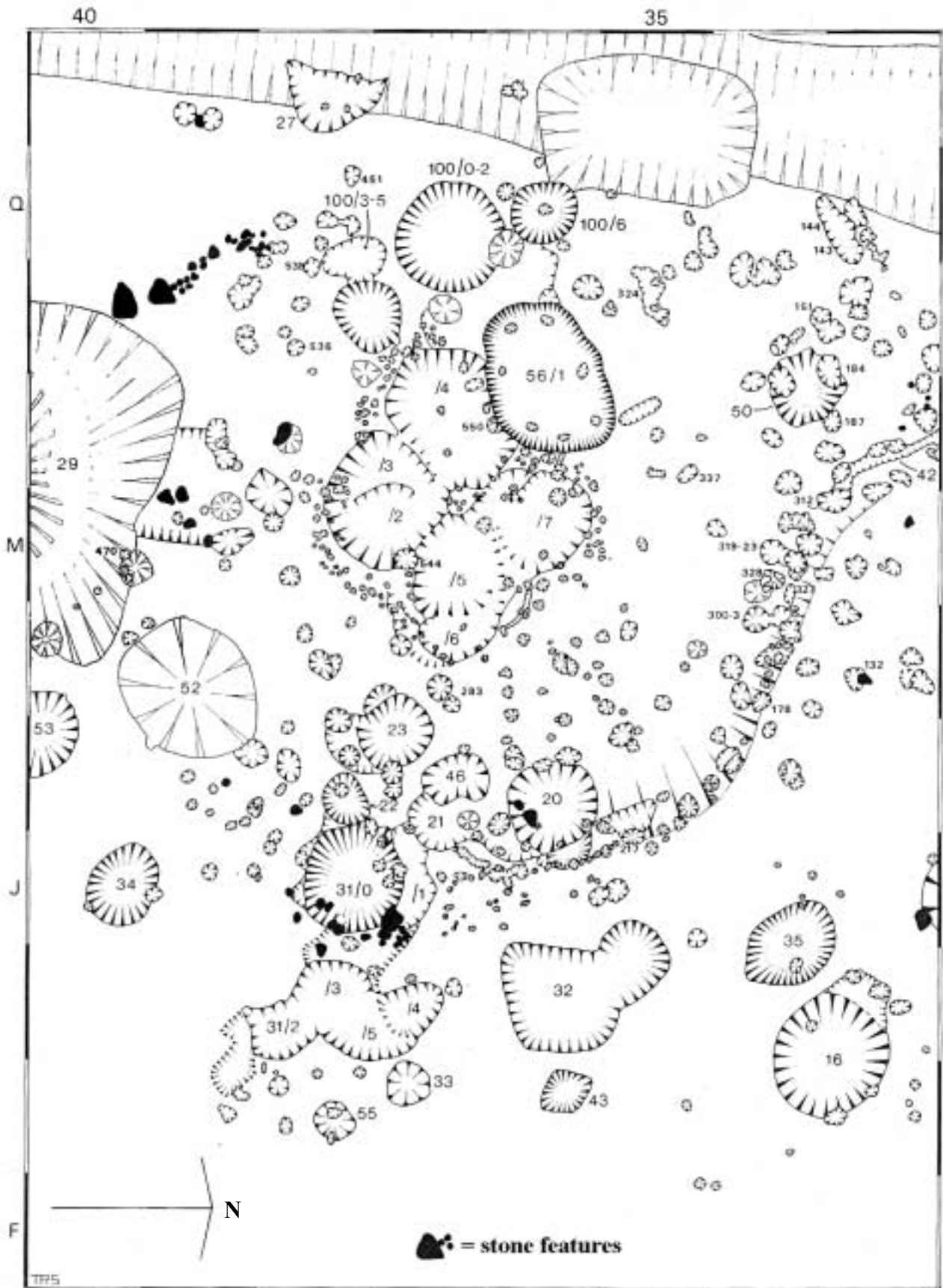


**Map 2 Distribution map of Mesolithic sites in the area around Mount Sandel**



Turn over ▶

Map 3 Plan of central area at Mount Sandel



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Having read the Introduction and studied the material in the Sources Booklet, answer **all** the questions which follow.

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**1** Study **Figure 1** and use your own knowledge.

Outline the similarities and differences between the three artefacts shown. You do not need to know the names of the specific artefacts. *(9 marks)*

**2** Study **Figure 2** and use your own knowledge.

Explain how archaeologists use the technique illustrated and then interpret the results. *(6 marks)*

**3** Study **Figure 3** and use your own knowledge.

Pollen cores were taken from Garry Bog close to Mount Sandel. What do the results shown in the table indicate about the local environment? *(10 marks)*

**4** Study **Figure 4** and the plan in the Introduction (Map 3) and use your own knowledge.

Explain each of the circled elements (a), (b) and (c) in the table. *(6 marks)*

**5** Study **Source 1** and use your own knowledge.

Why was it important for archaeologists to know this information before drawing conclusions from the faunal remains which were recovered? *(7 marks)*

**6** Study **Figure 5** and use your own knowledge.

What evidence might enable archaeologists to construct this table? *(12 marks)*

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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## Sources Booklet

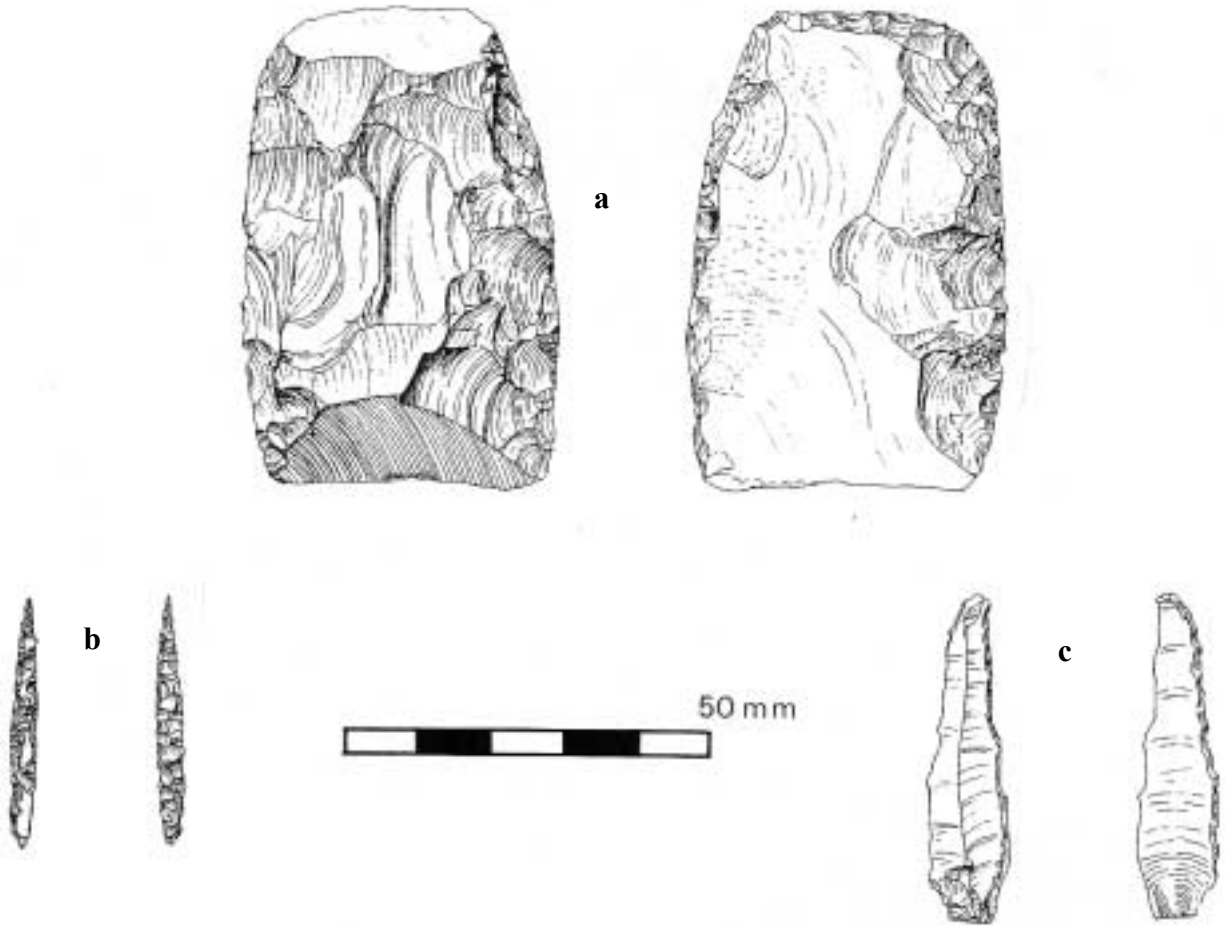
**Figures 1 to 5** and **Source 1** for use in answering the questions in Unit 2

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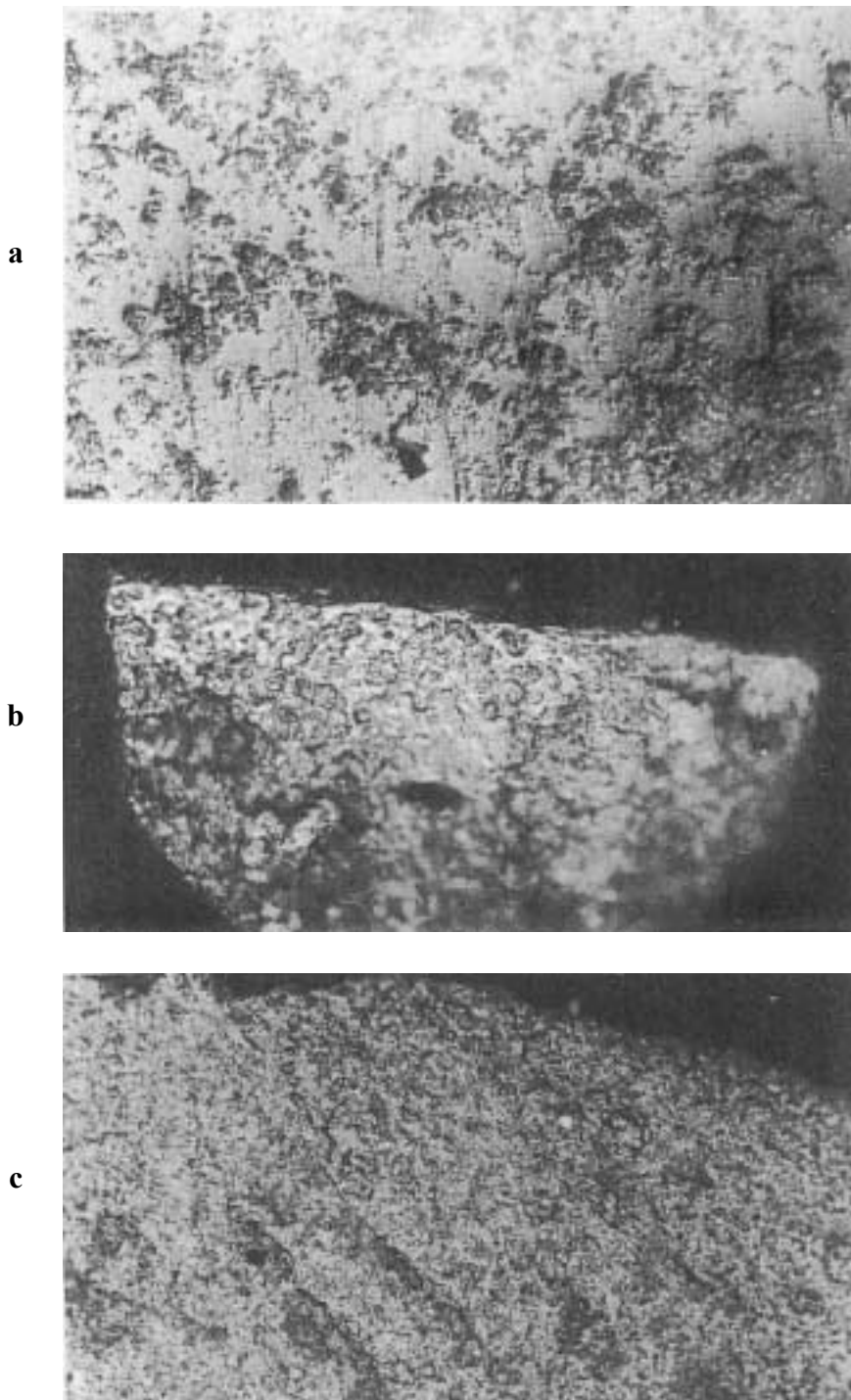
FIGURES AND INFORMATION FOR QUESTIONS

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Figure 1 Lithic artefacts from Mount Sandel

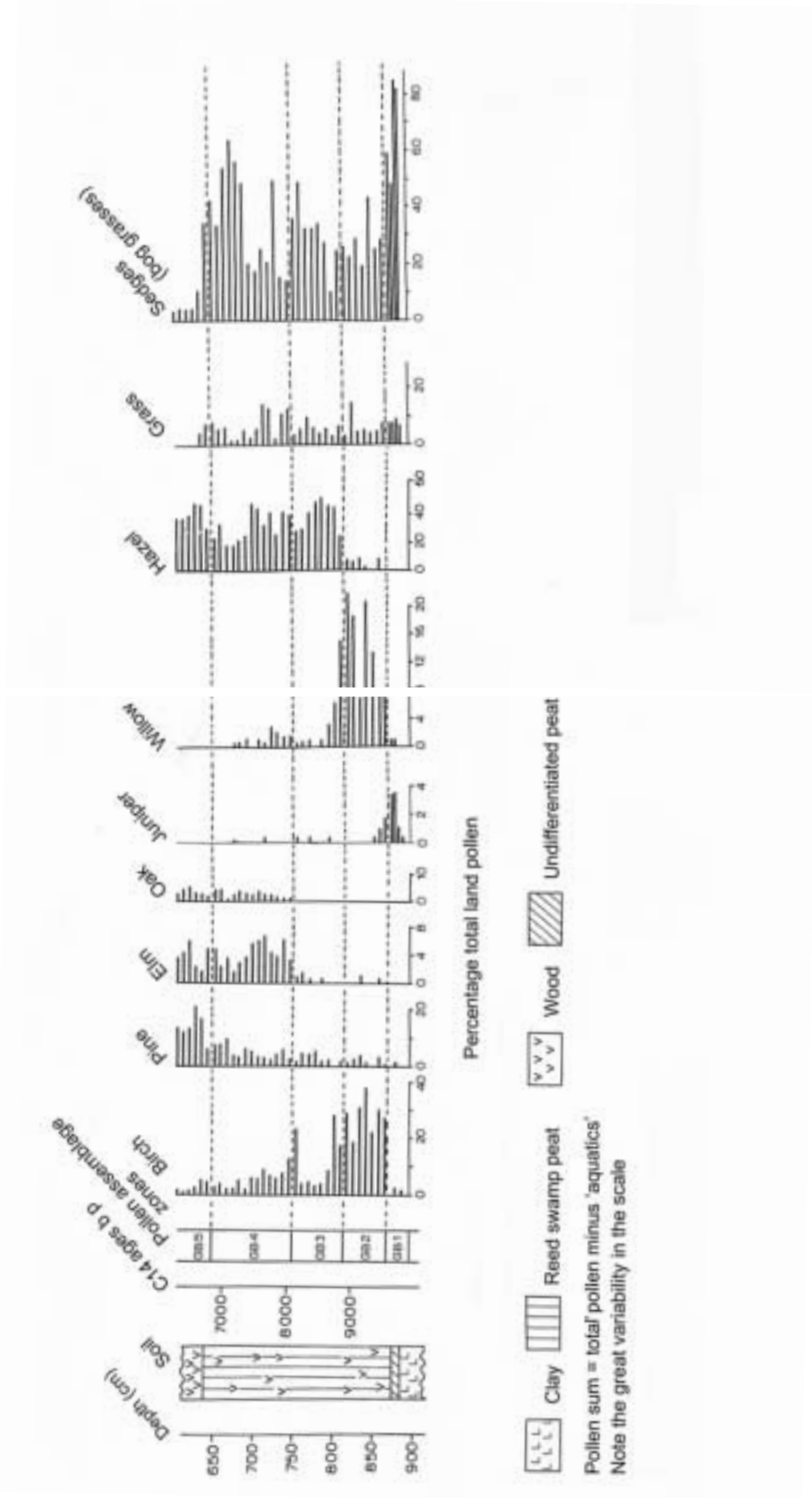


**Figure 2 Magnified views of the edges of lithic artefacts showing (a) wood polish, (b) bone polish and (c) meat polish**



**Turn over ▶**

Figure 3 Results from pollen samples taken from Garry Bog close to Mount Sandel



**Figure 4 Radiocarbon results from Mount Sandel**

Hazel nuts & charcoal	<b>UB912</b>	<b>F100/2</b>	<b>6775 ± 116bc</b>
Hazel nuts & charcoal	UB913	F31/0	6605 ± 70bc
Charcoal	UB951	F56/1	6840 ± 185bc

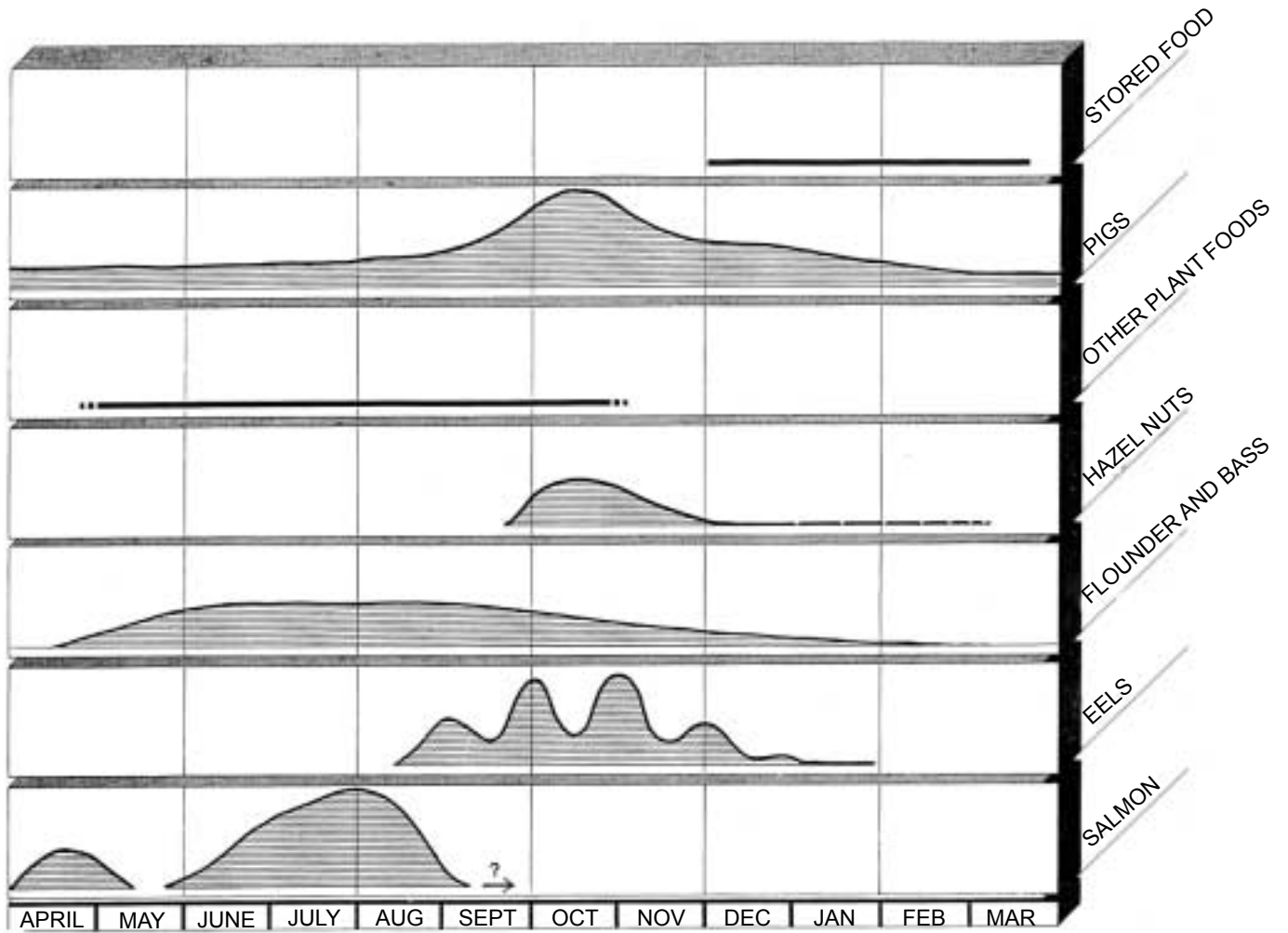
**Source 1**

An intensive sieving programme was carried out to retrieve the faunal remains from the occupation site. Features that were recognised on site as containing layers rich in bone material were sieved through mesh sizes of 3, 1.5 and 0.85 mm. The remaining features and occupation soil were sieved through a 3 mm mesh. The faunal remains thus retrieved consisted exclusively of burnt bone fragments of a whitish to light greyish colour. Most other bone material had disappeared due to the acid nature of the soil.

**Turn over for the next source**

**Turn over ►**

**Figure 5 The likely availability of selected food resources at Mount Sandel**



Flounder: a flat sea fish found in shallow water and estuaries  
 Bass: a medium-sized sea fish often found in estuaries

**END OF SOURCES**

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