



General Certificate of Education  
Advanced Subsidiary Examination  
June 2012

## **Archaeology**

## **ARCH2**

**Unit 2 Archaeological Skills and Methods**

## **Sources Booklet**

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## Sources for use in answering the questions in Section A

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### Introduction: The Gold Mining Complex at Dolaucothi-Pumsaint

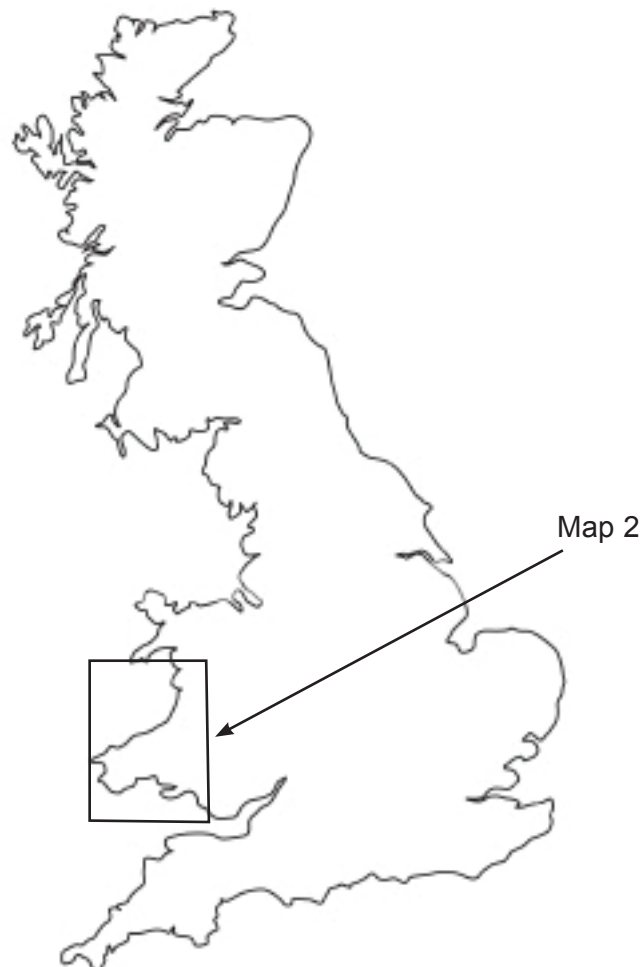
The gold mining complex at Dolaucothi, Carmarthenshire, was studied in some detail between 1987 and 1999. The mines themselves were used over a long period of time, from the Roman period to the present. It is the only site in Britain where it is known that the Romans mined gold. Work on a possible medieval ore-crushing site here took place between 1991 and 1993 to address specific research questions arising from its discovery.

The modern village of Pumsaint overlies the site of a Roman fort and vicus. A Roman road connected the forts of Pumsaint and Llandovery to the south east. Trial excavations at Pumsaint were carried out between 1987 and 1989 to assess the archaeological impact of the National Trust proposal to build houses in the village. The National Trust commissioned further work in 1997 and 1999 to investigate the vicus and this work also helped to reveal the course of the Roman road to Llandovery.

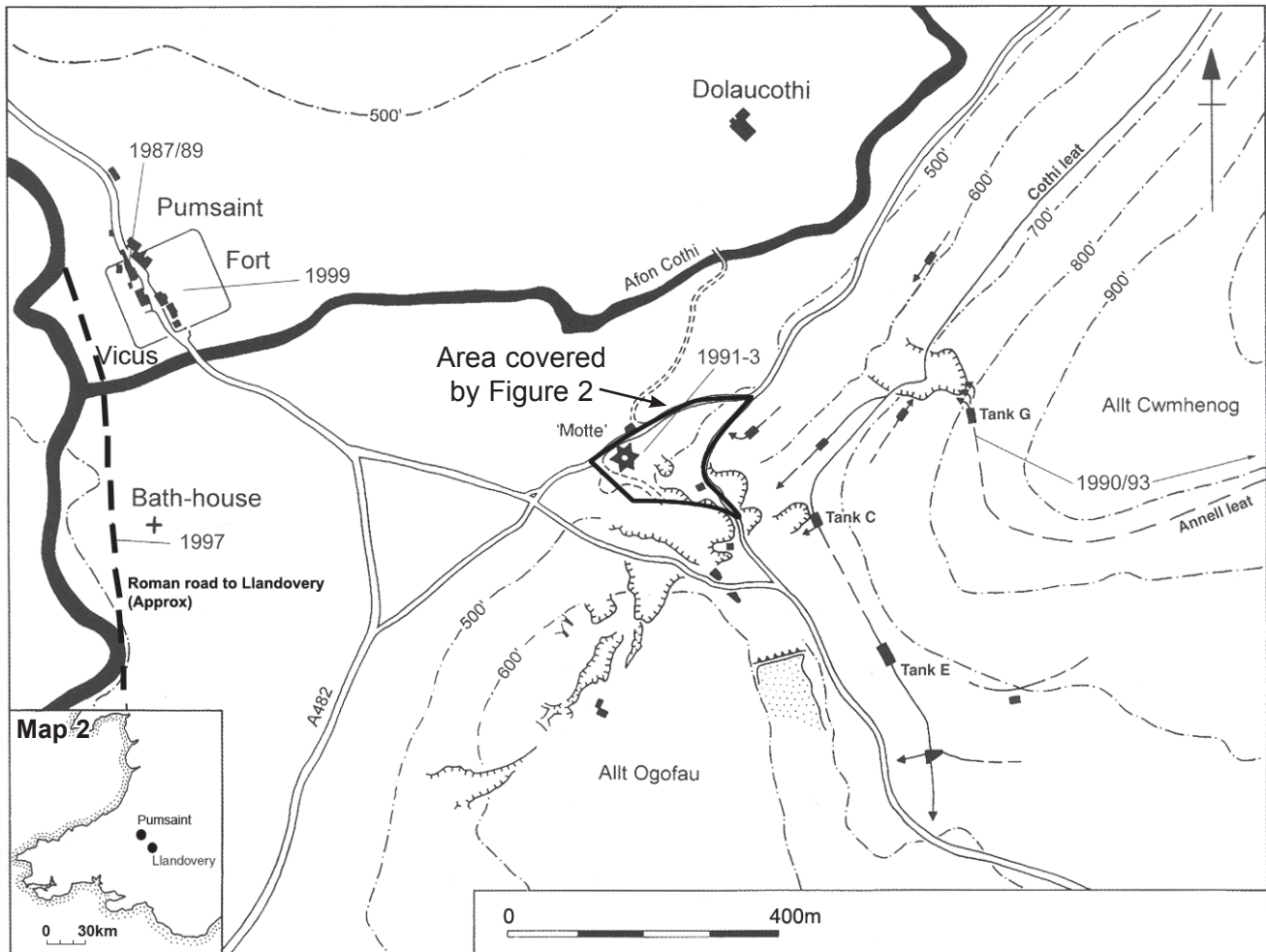
### Glossary:

Vicus – civilian settlement associated with a Roman fort

**Map 1** Great Britain showing the approximate location of **Map 2**



**Map 3** Location of the major archaeological features in the Dolaucothi-Pumsaint area with **Map 2** as an inset.



**Glossary:**

Afon: the Welsh word for river

Leat: an artificial watercourse

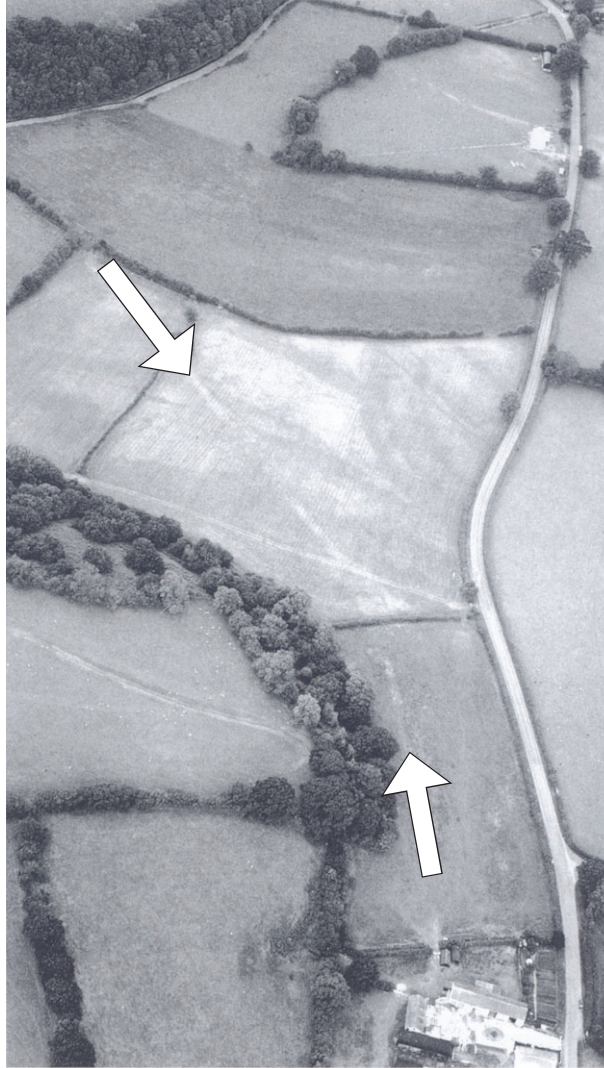
Tank: water container used in mining operations

Motte: an artificial hill, possibly used for defence

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**Figure 1** Aerial photograph showing the Roman road (between the white arrows) between Pumsaint and Llandovery, south of the length shown in **Map 3**.



**Figure 2** Plan of the area around the medieval ore-crushing mill. The location of this area is marked on **Map 3**.



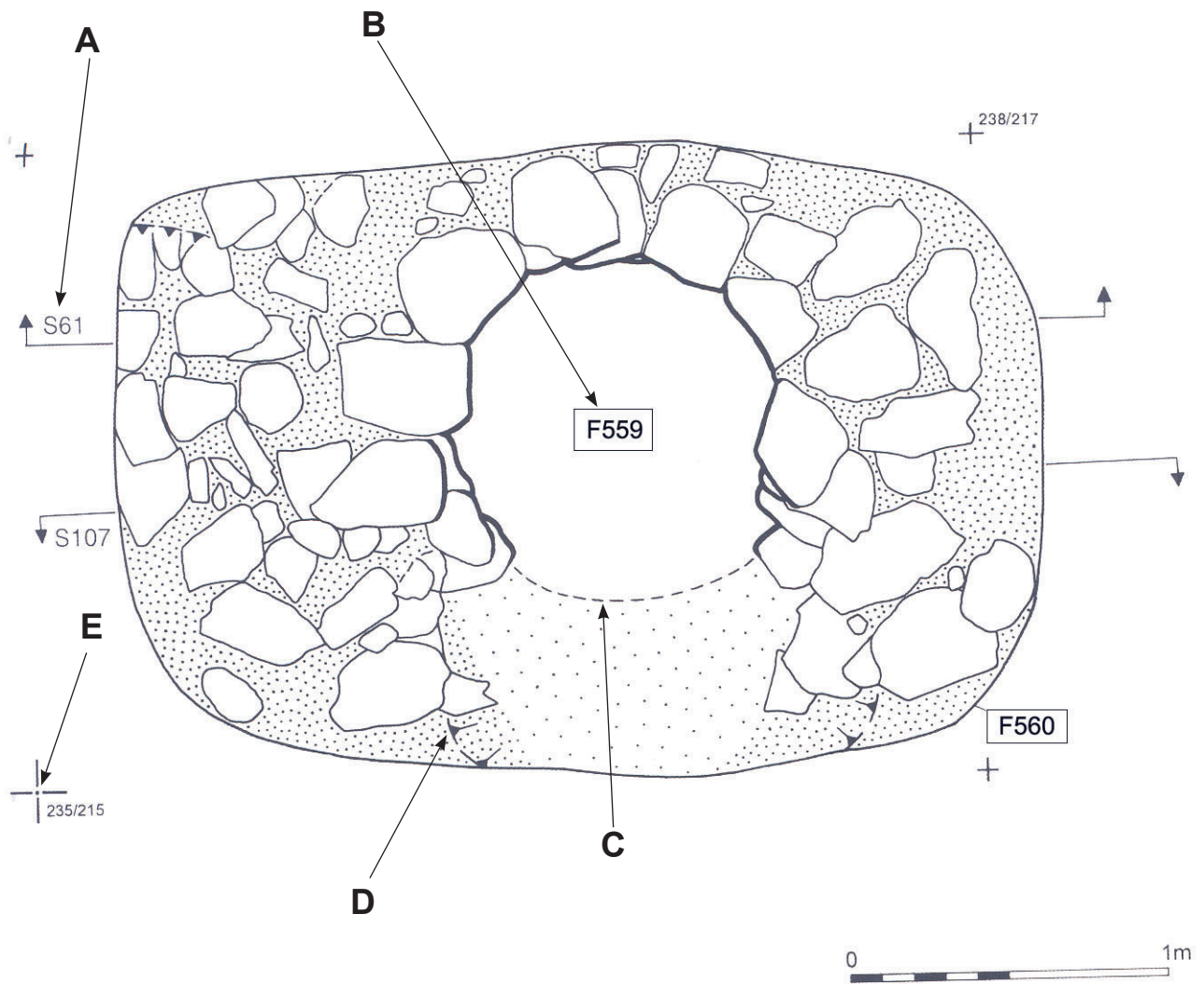
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**Figure 3a** Photograph of the partially excavated well at Pumsaint fort.



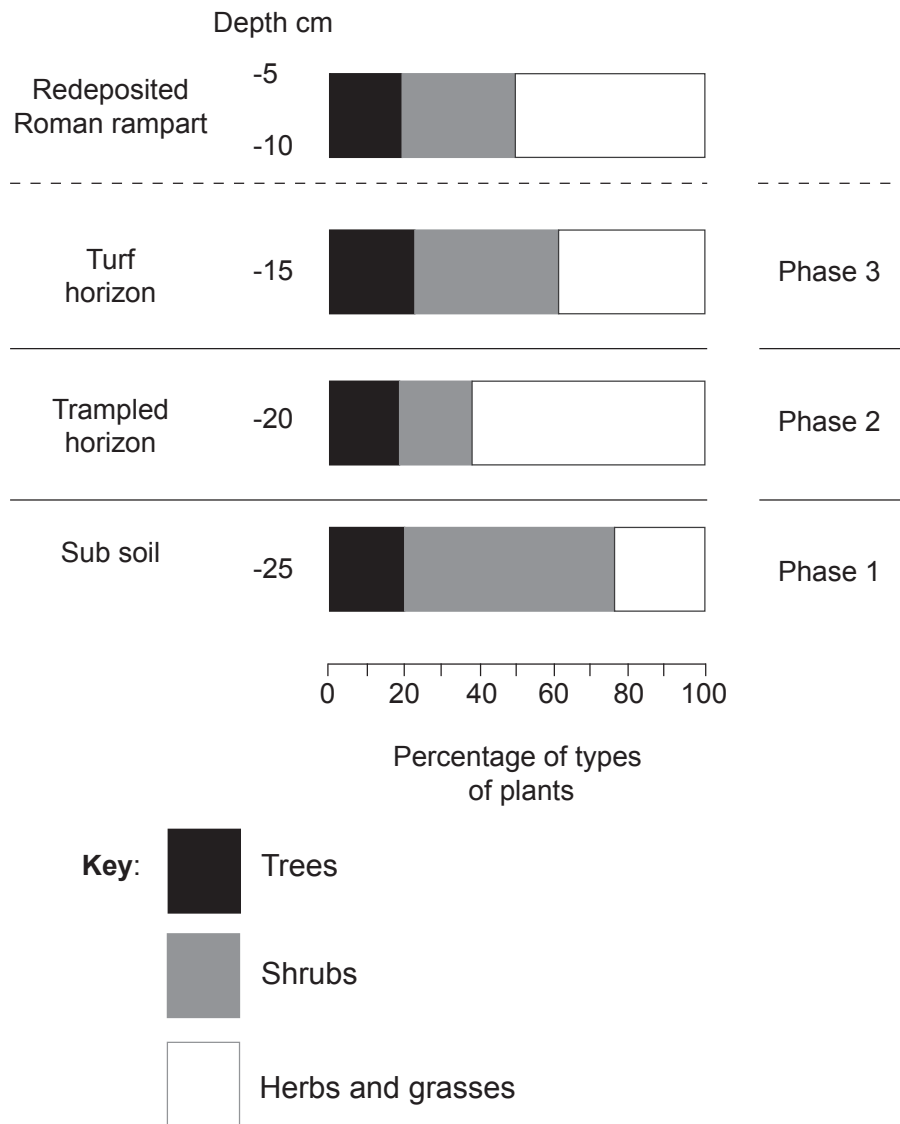
**Figure 3b** Plan of top of stone-lined well and surroundings shown in **Figure 3a**.



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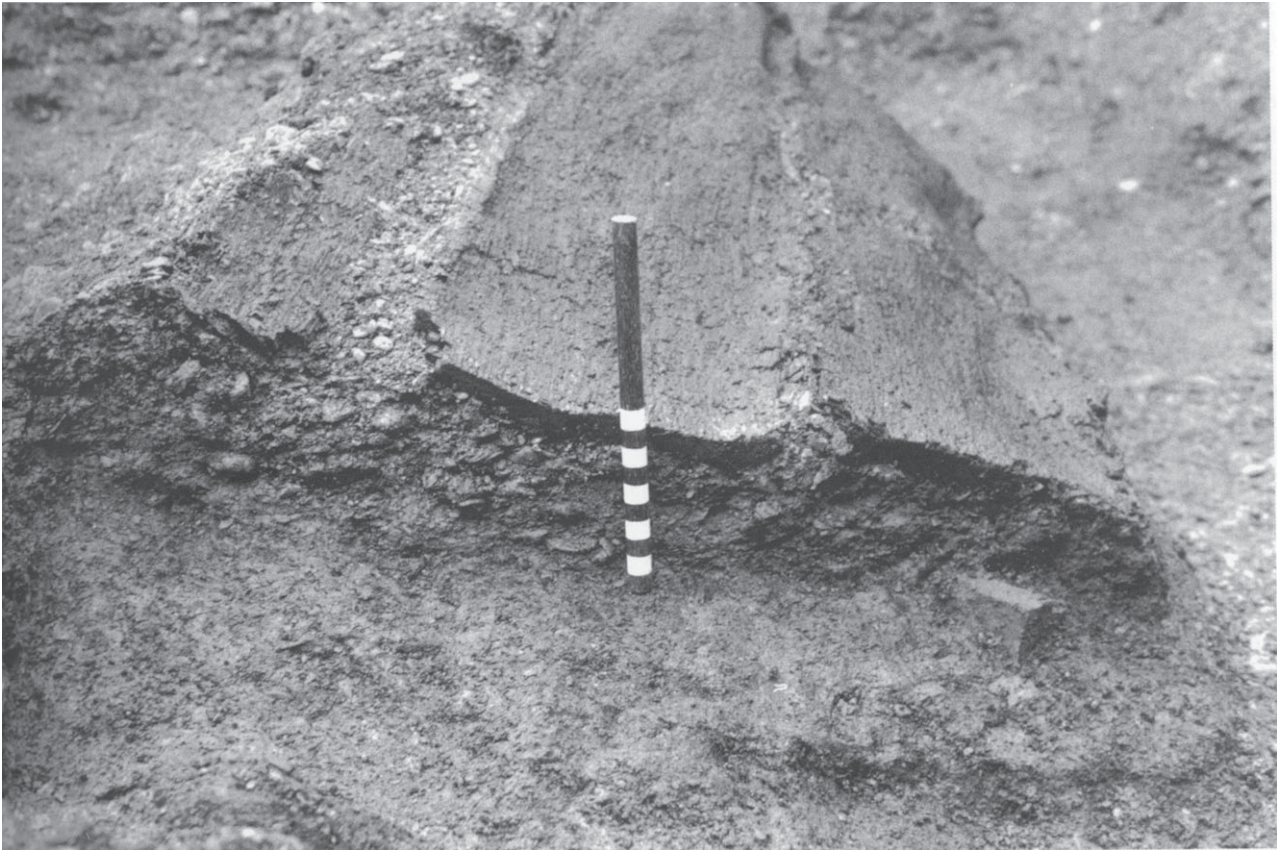
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**Figure 4** Pollen diagram showing the overall proportions of different types of plants from the rampart area at Pumsaint fort.





**Figure 5** Photograph of timber planks from burnt building at Pumsaint fort



Scale is 20 cm long

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**Figure 6** Section of part of Pumsaint fort's ditch and stone rampart.



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