

Middle Paleolithic Artifacts from Kanedori Site, Northeast of Japan

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Introduction

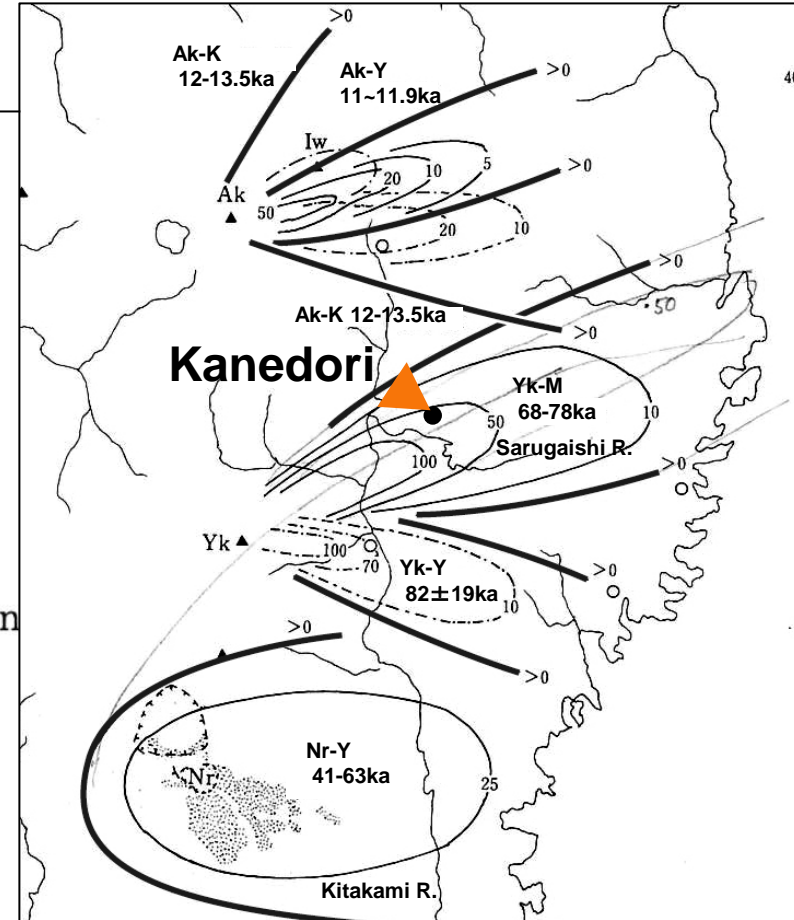
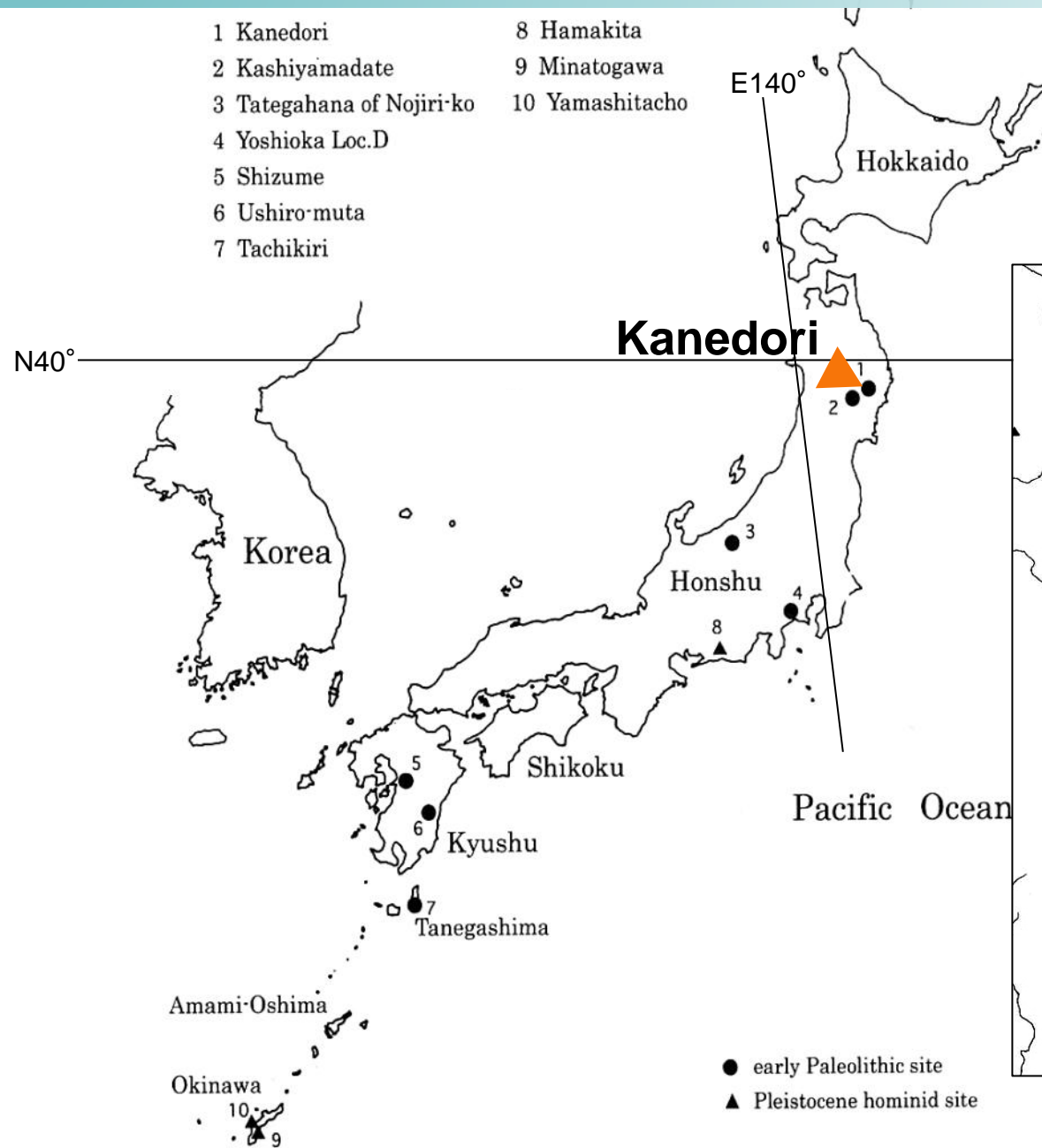
We had reported about Kanedori site in the 6th Worldwide Conference of the Society for East Asian Archaeology held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia on June 8th, 2014.



This was the first time for us to introduce about Kanedori site in foreign country, unfortunately, there were no Korean and Chinese paleolithic archeologists in this session.

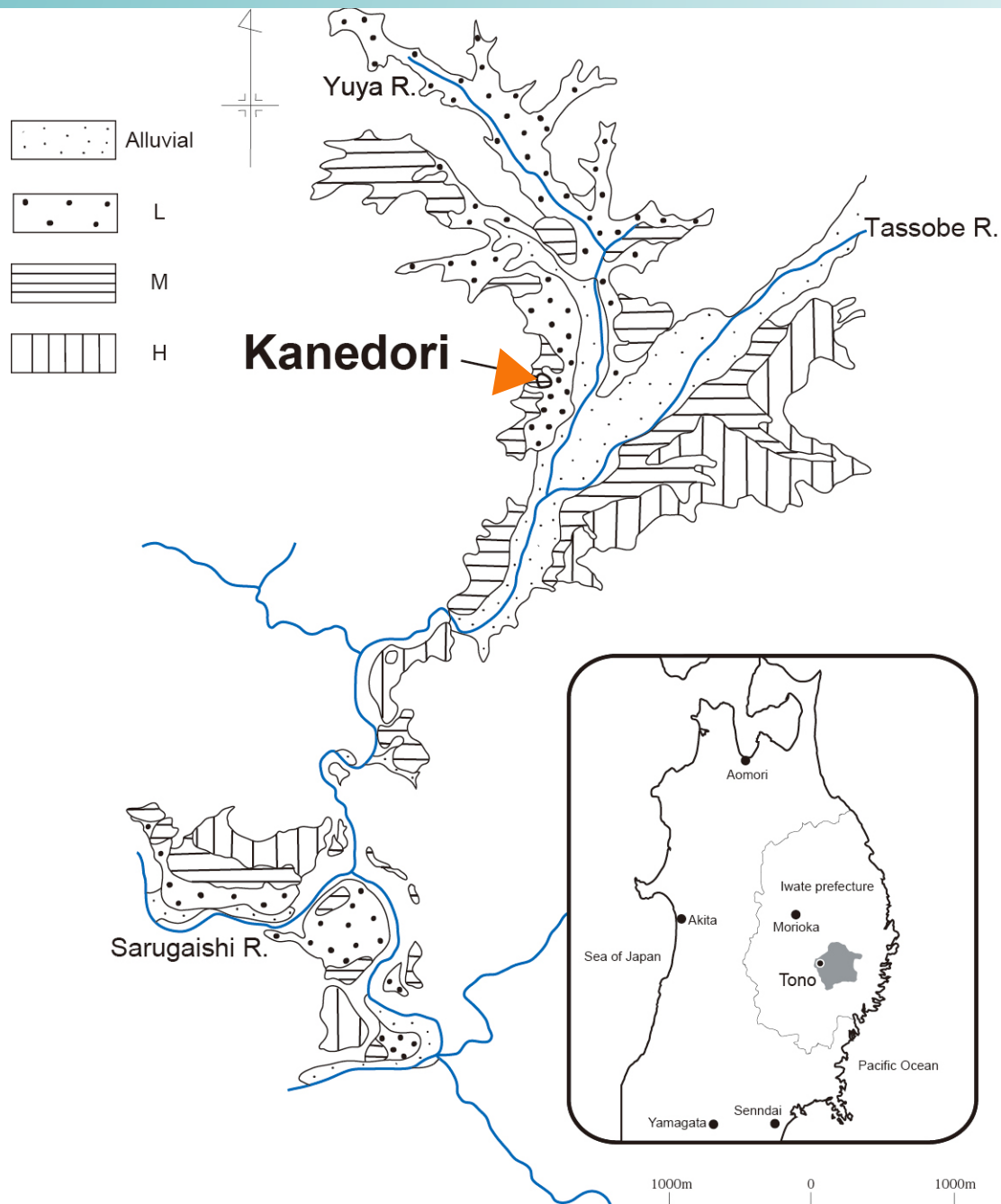
1 Location

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 Kanedori | 8 Hamakita |
| 2 Kashi Yamadate | 9 Minatogawa |
| 3 Tategahana of Nojiri-ko | 10 Yamashitacho |
| 4 Yoshioka Loc.D | |
| 5 Shizume | |
| 6 Ushiro-muta | |
| 7 Tachikiri | |



Isopach map of Yk-M (Machida, Arai 2003) ³

1 Location



Geomorphological map
in around Kanedori (Kikuchi1986) 4

1 Location



Hiryu-san Mt.

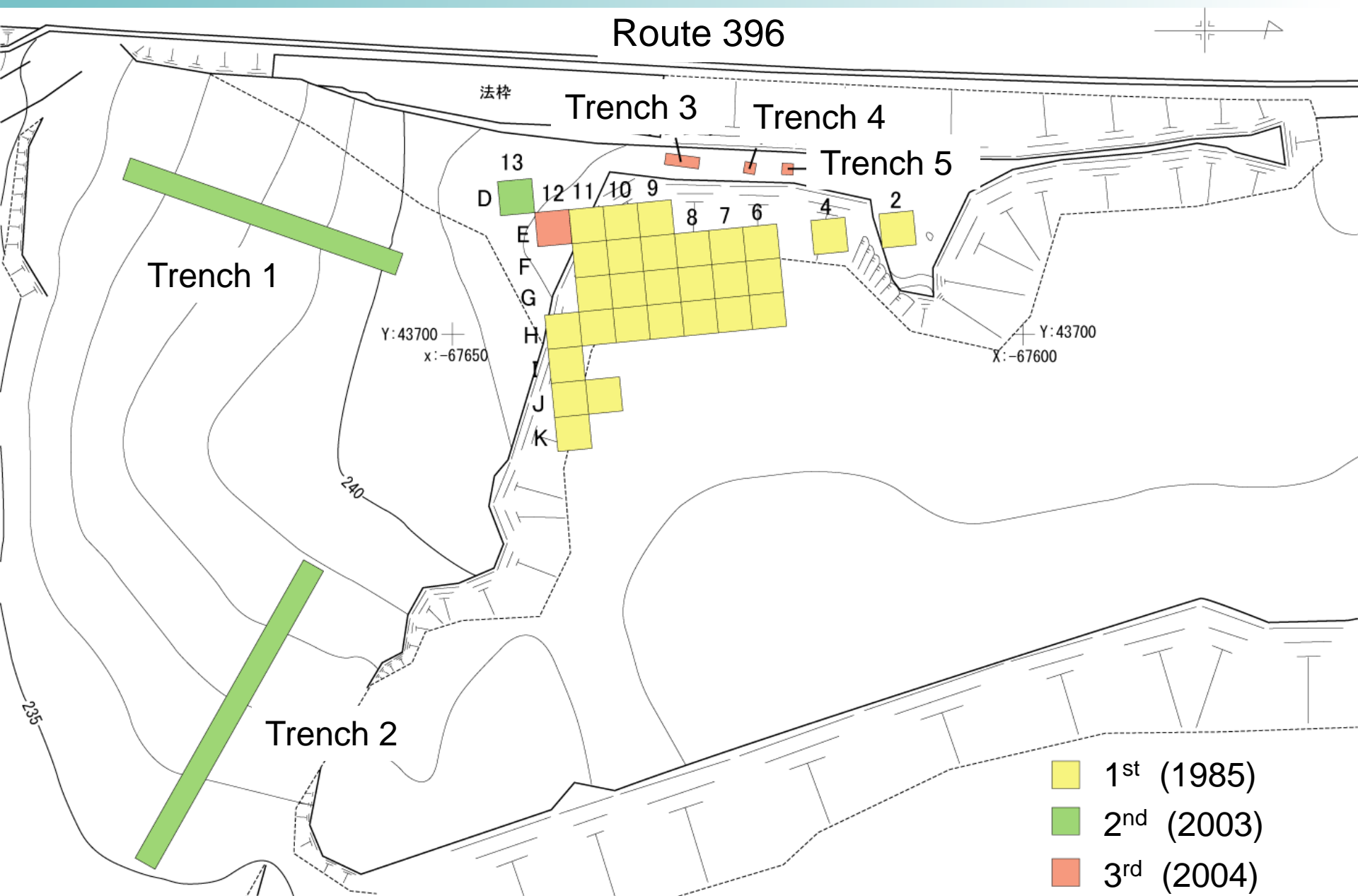
◀ Kanedori

Yuya Riv.

Tassobe Riv.

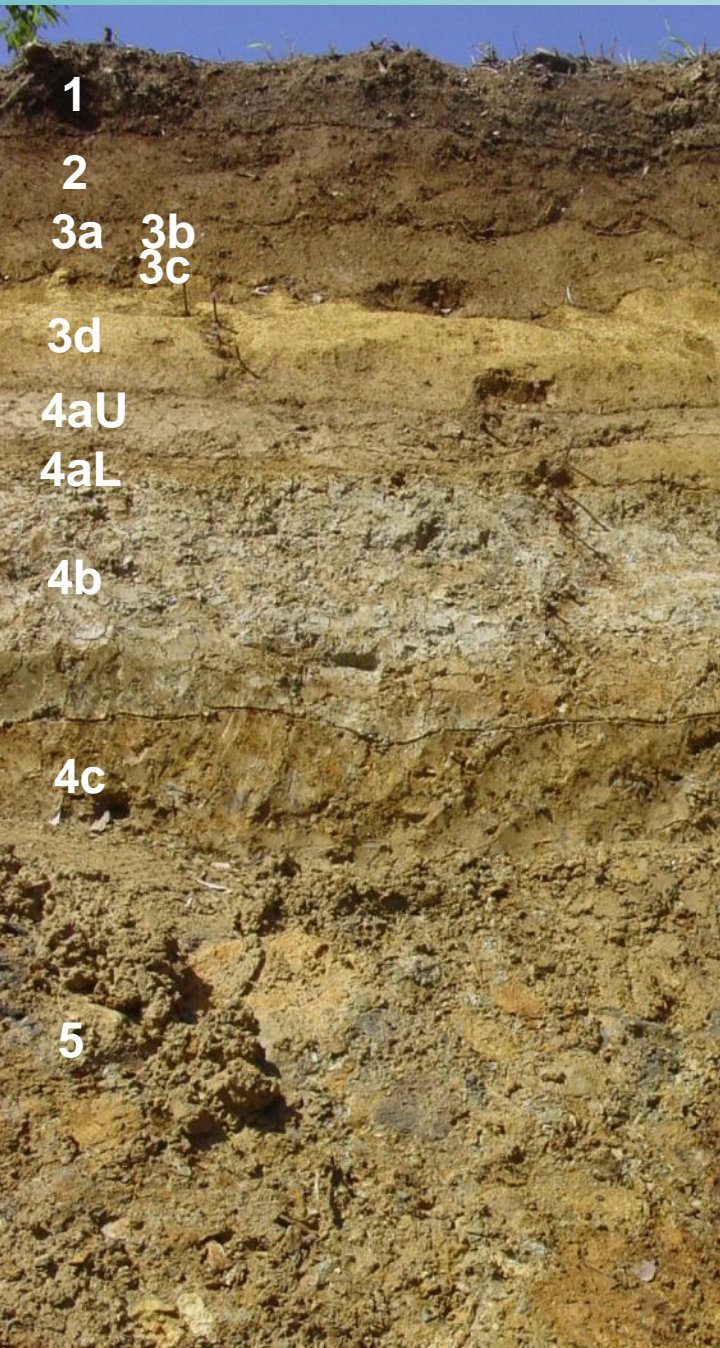
National Highway 396

2 Investigation history and methods



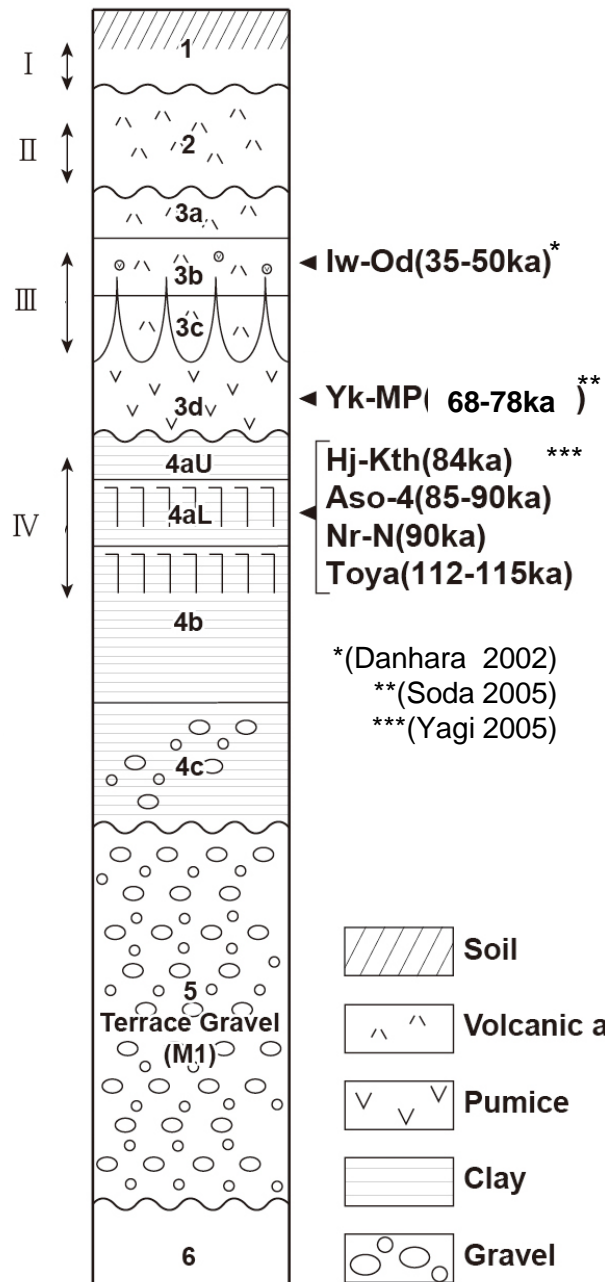
Detailed plan of the excavation area

3 Stratigraphy

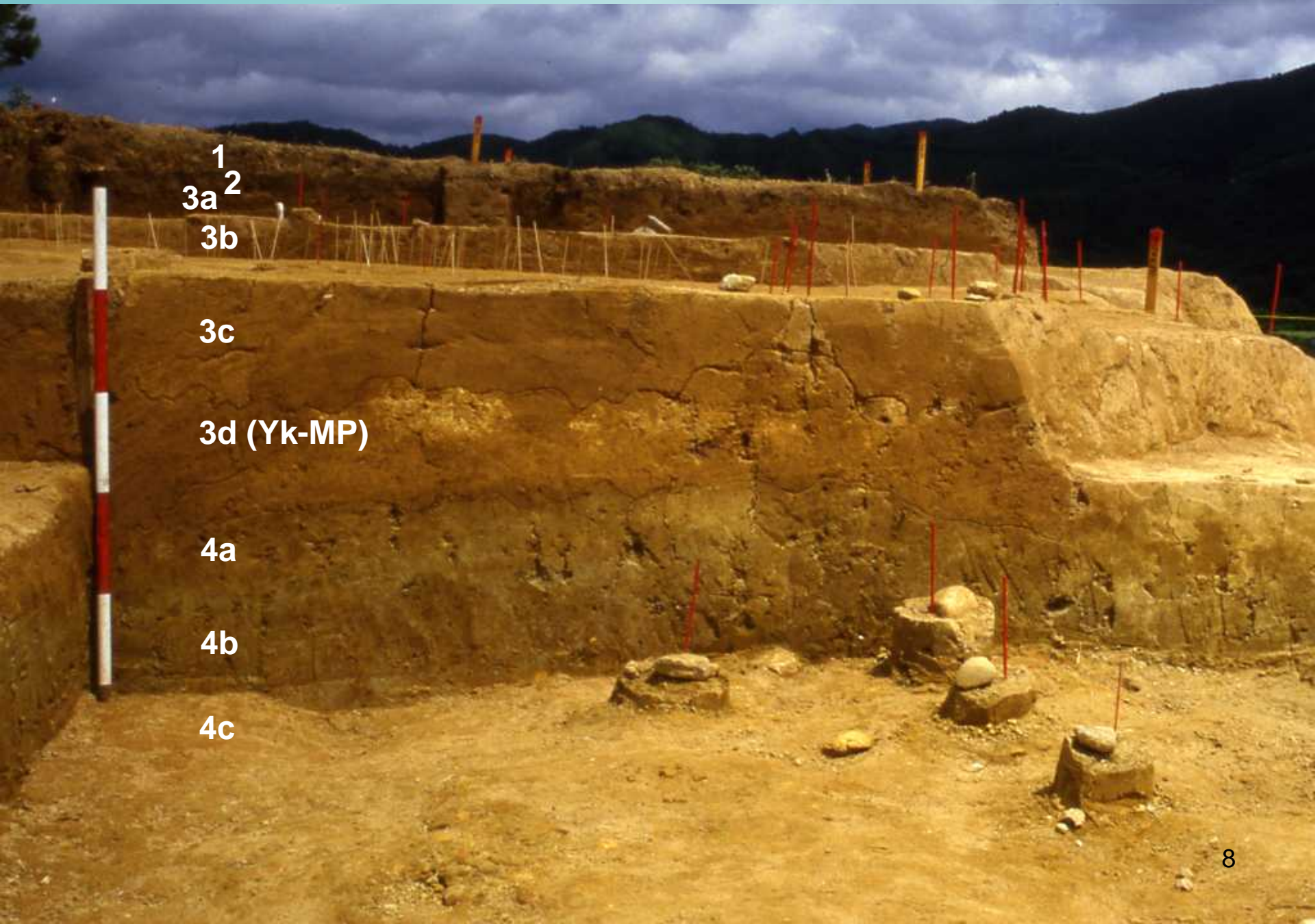


Cultural Layer

Tephra



3 Stratigraphy



1
2
3a

3b

3c

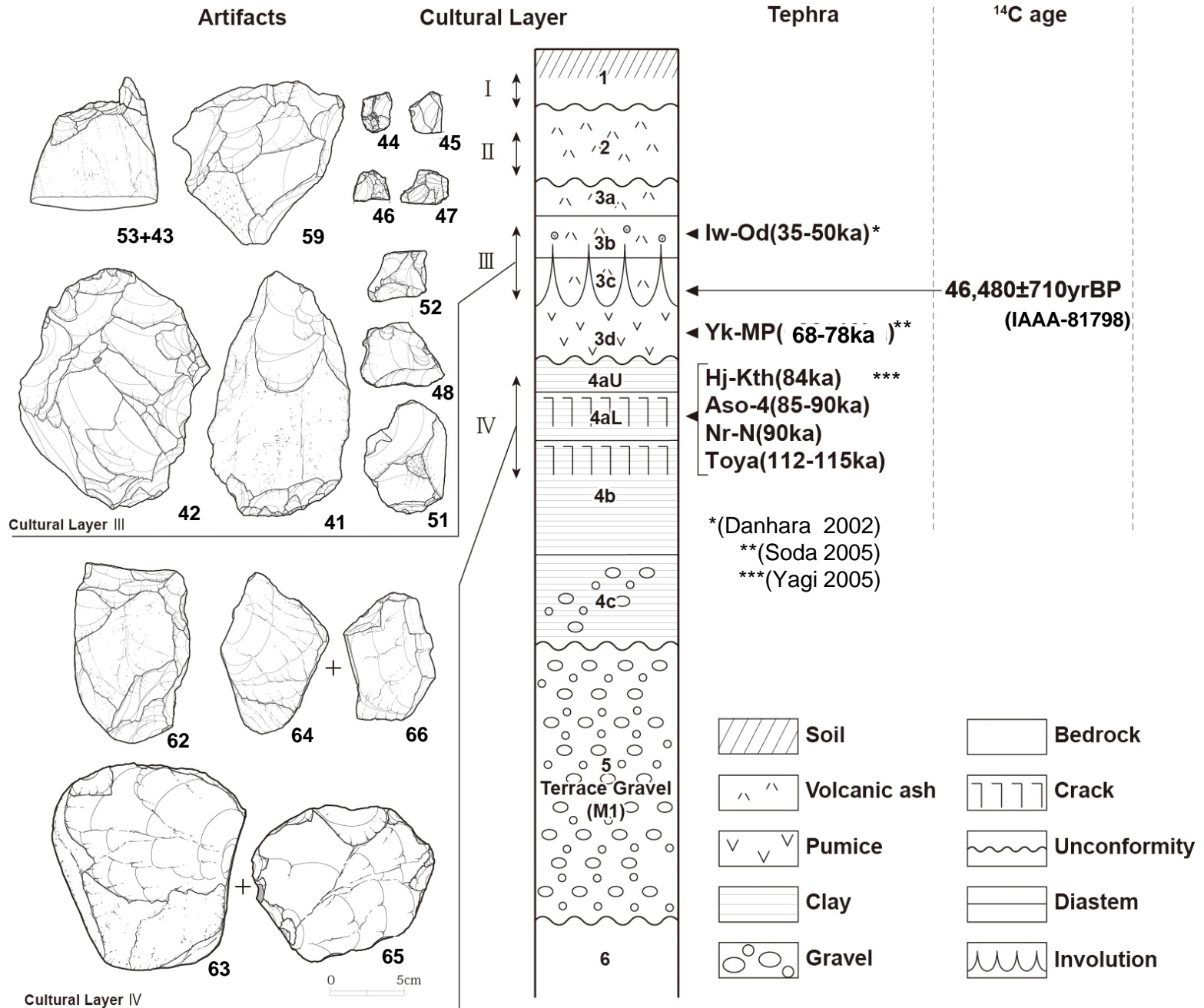
3d (Yk-MP)

4a

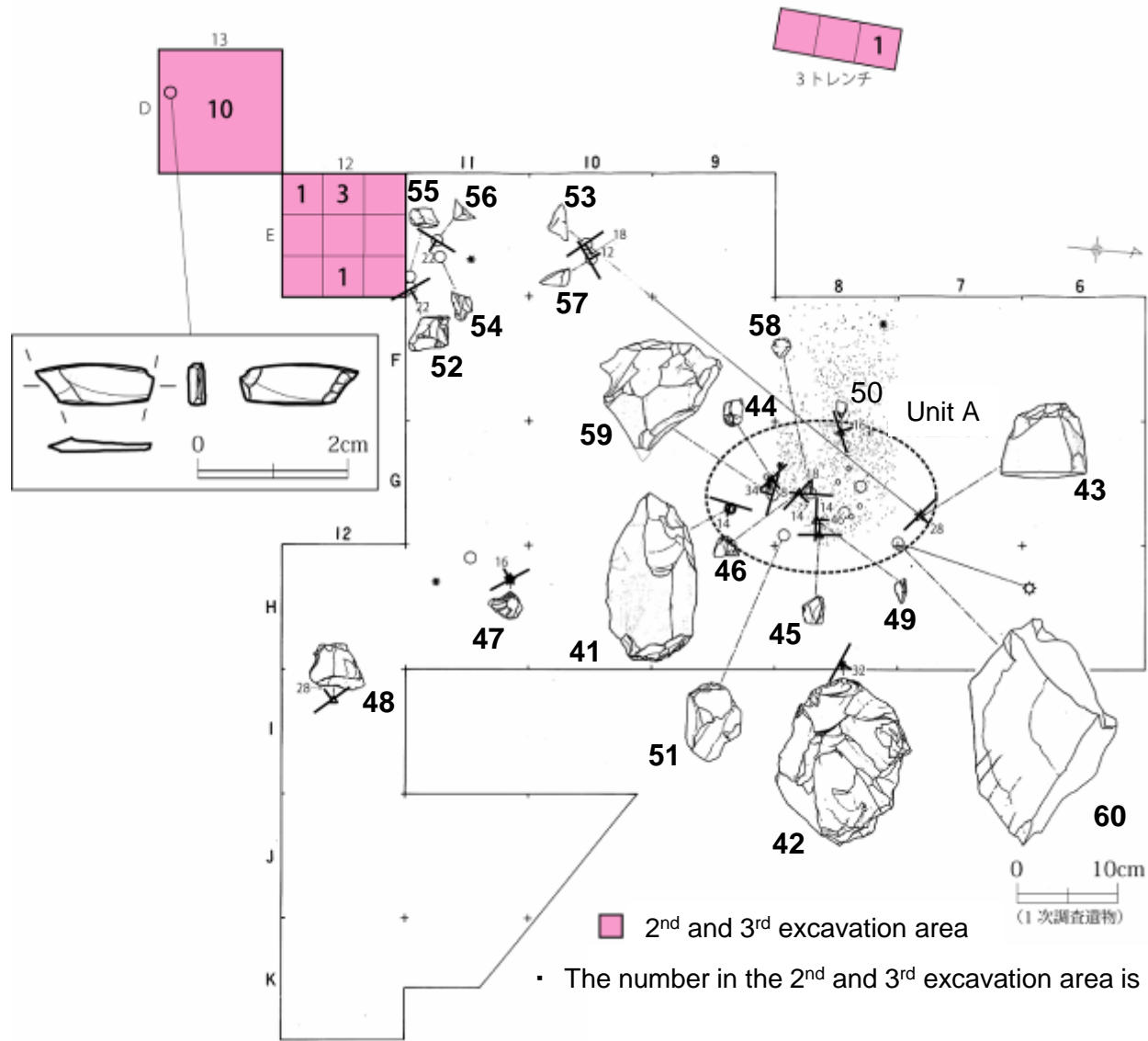
4b

4c

4 Age of Site

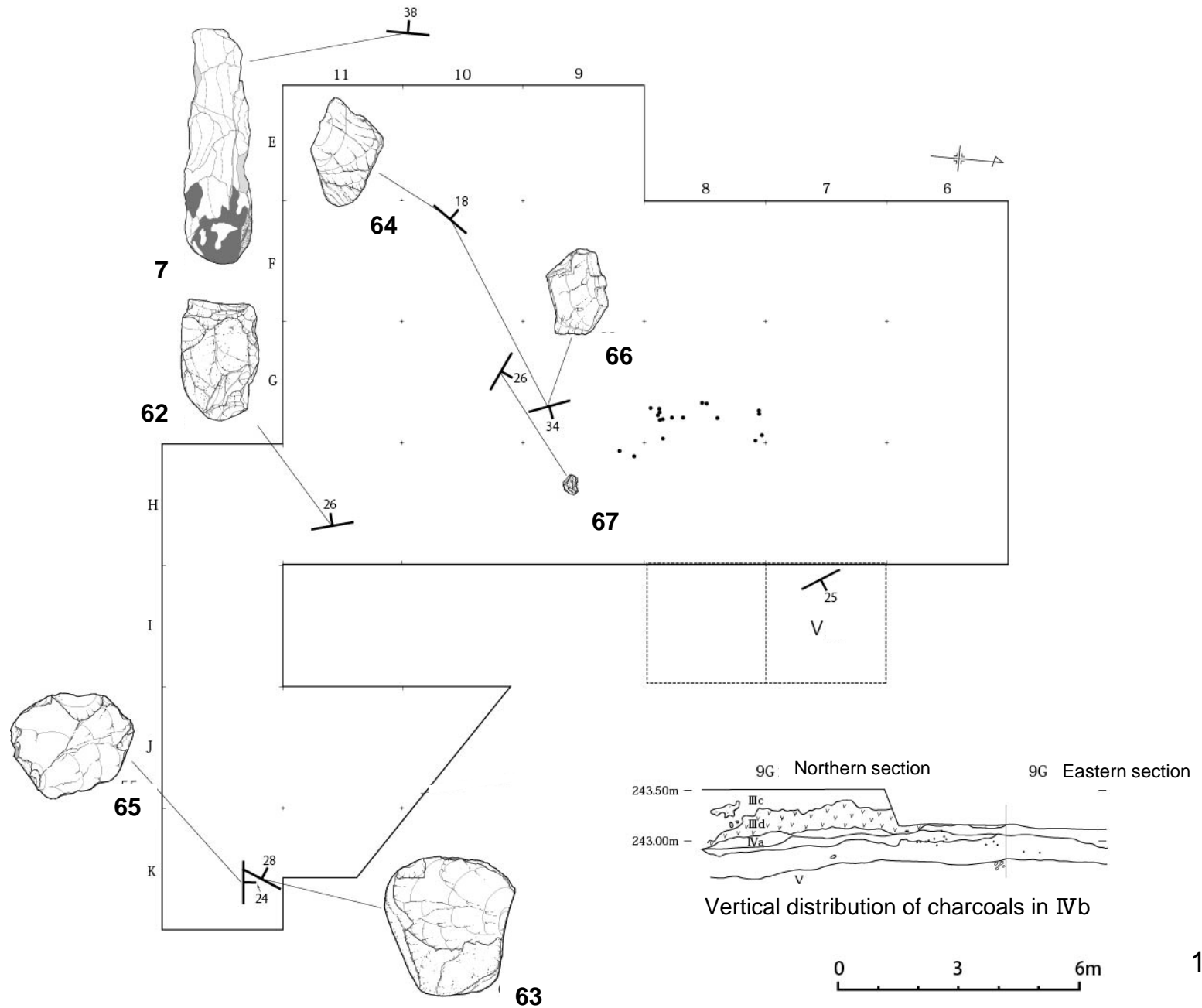


5 Artifacts

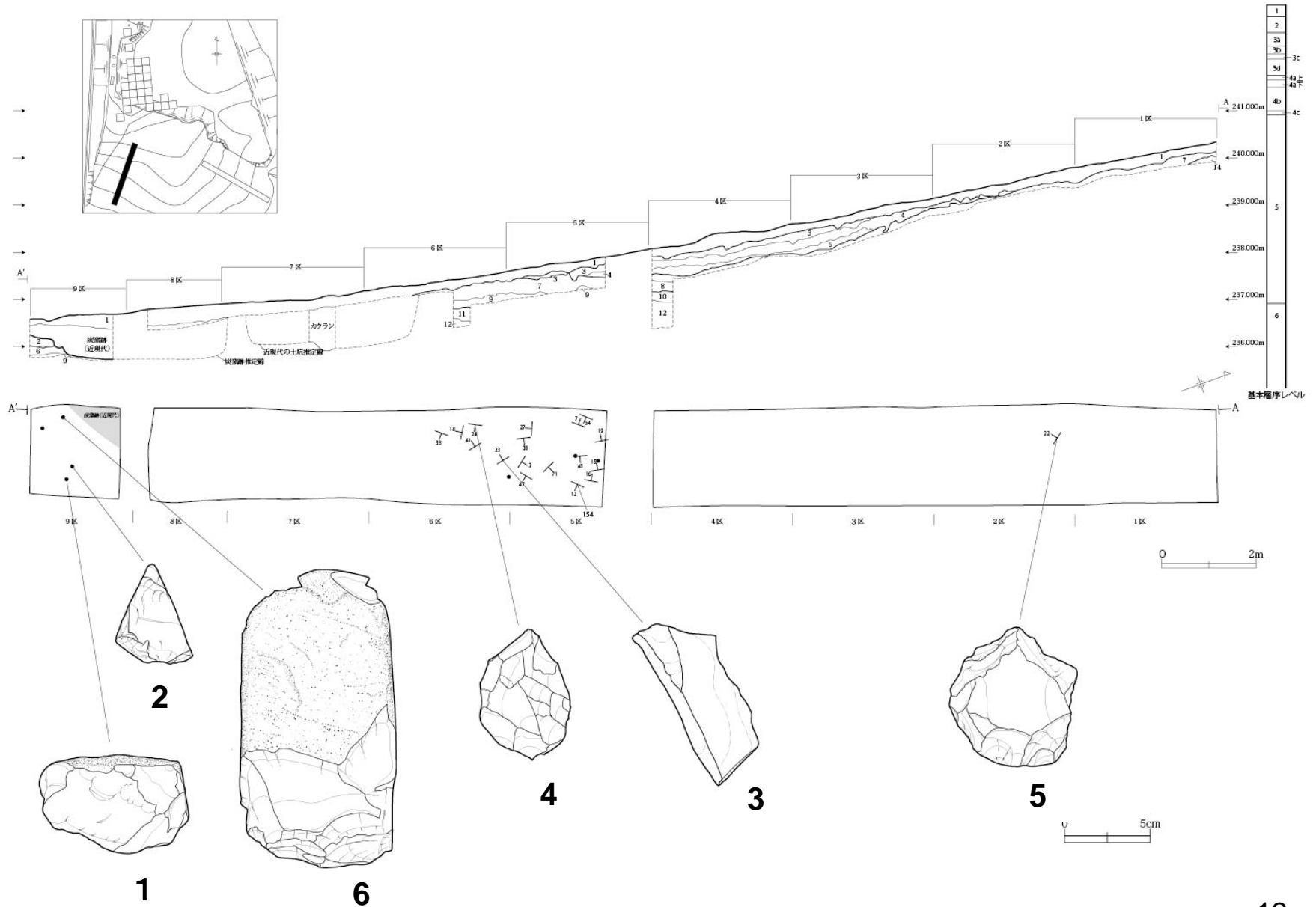


Distribution map of Artifacts In Cultural Layer III (Kikuchi 1986)

5 Artifacts



5 Artifacts



Distribution map of Artifacts In Trench 1 (Kikuchi et al. 2012)

5 Artifacts

Axe-shaped tools



41 Cultural Layer III



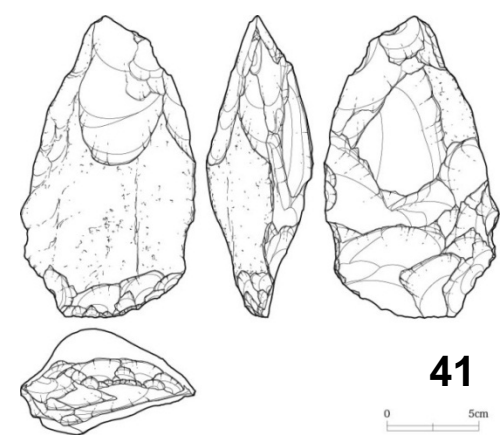
9 Surface collection
(Cultural Layer III)



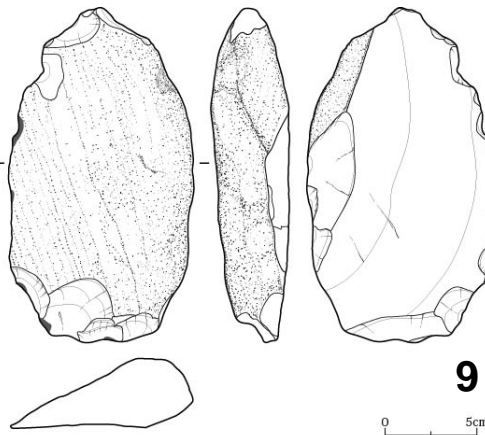
6 Trench 1
(Cultural Layer III or IV)



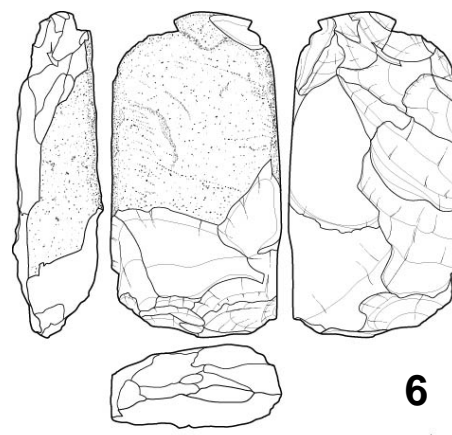
61 (Cultural Layer IV)



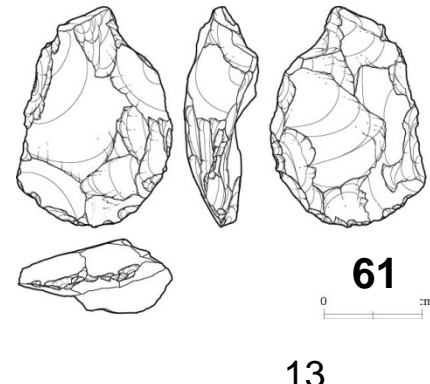
41



9



6



61

13

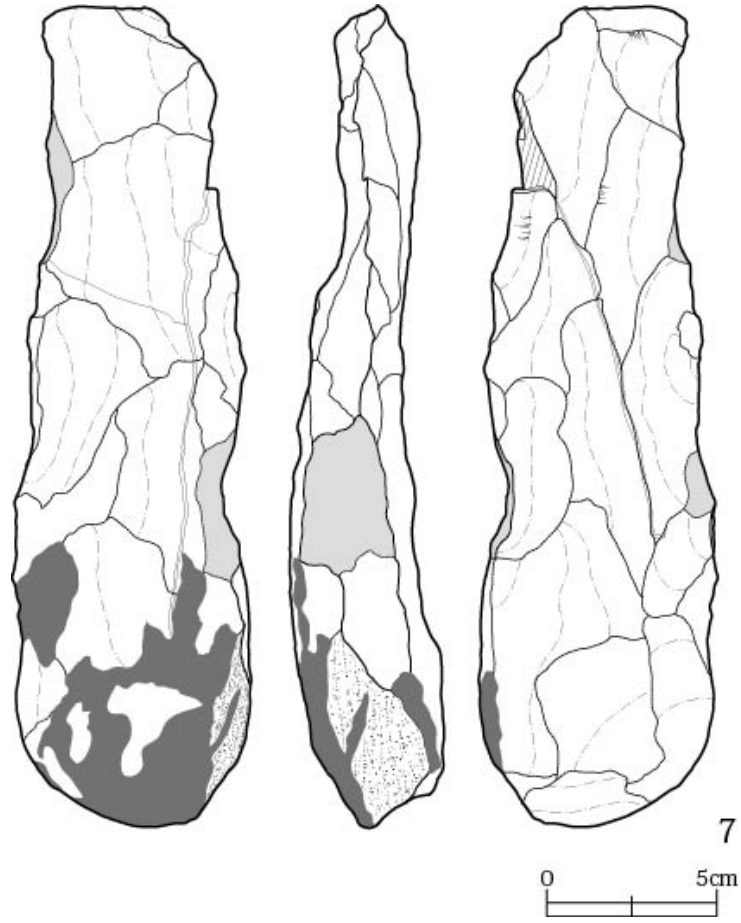
5 Artifacts

Axe-shaped tool



7

Cultural Layer IV



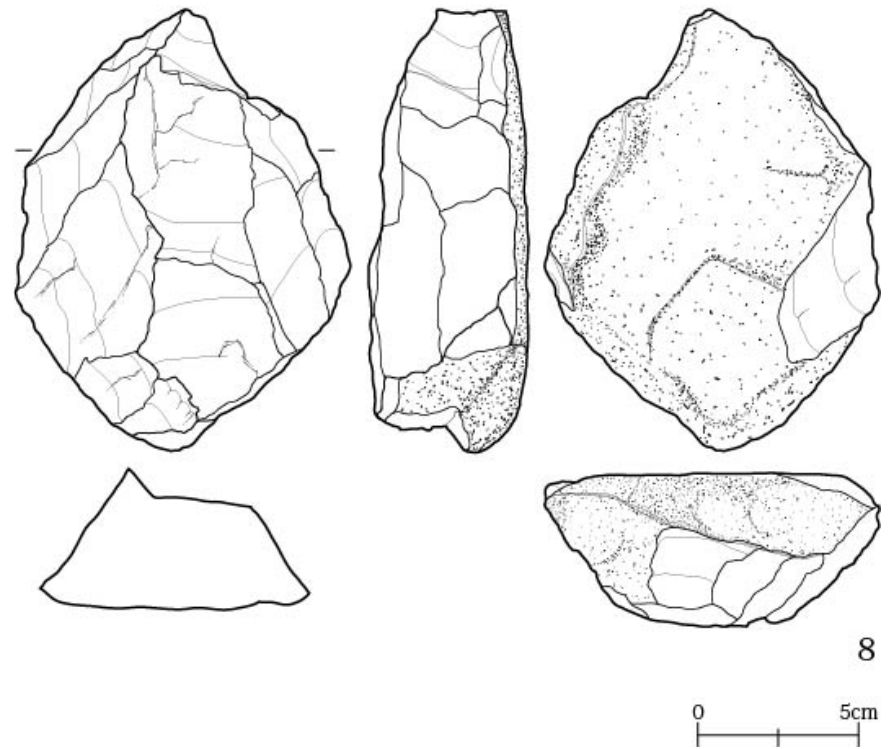
5 Artifacts

Handaxe



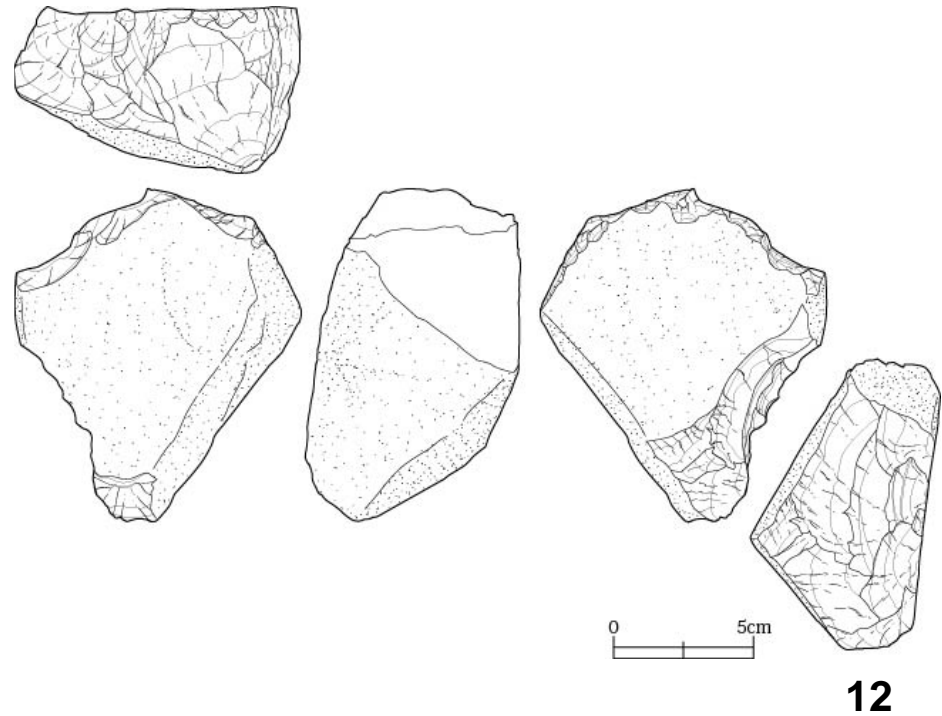
8

Surface collection
(Cultural Layer IV)



15

Plane



5 Artifacts

Choppers



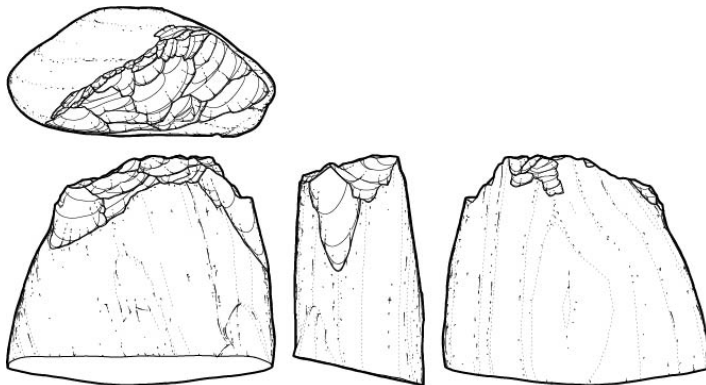
43

Cultural Layer III

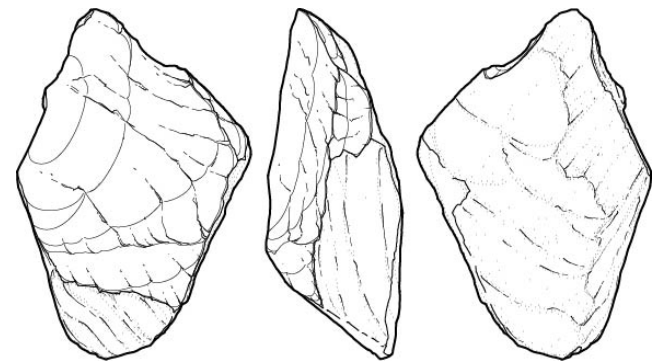


64

Cultural Layer IV



43 (III層)



64 (IV層)



17

Refitting



接合資料 **43+53** (Ⅲ層)



43 (Ⅲ層)



53 (Ⅲ層)



Chopper

Flake

Cultural Layer Ⅲ

Refitting



接合 **64+66** (IV層)



66 (IV層)



64 (IV層)

Flake

Chopper



Cultural Layer IV

5 Artifacts

Chopping tools



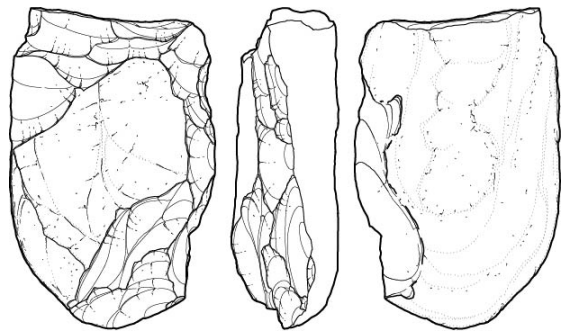
62

Cultural Layer IV



63

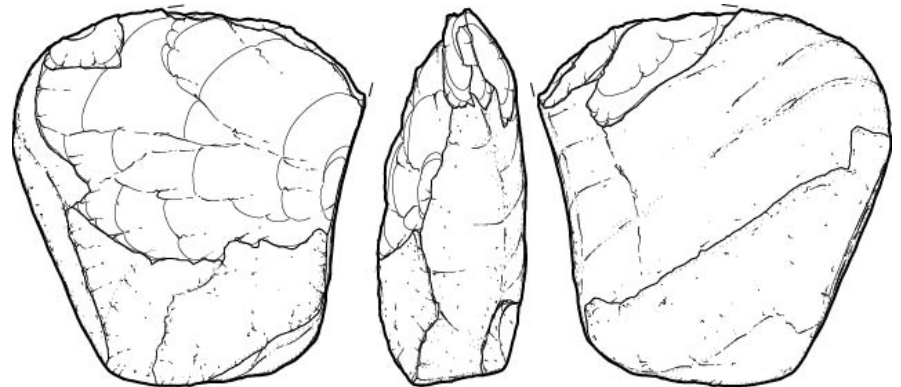
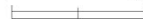
Cultural Layer IV



62

(IV層)

5cm

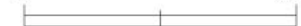


63

(IV層)

0

10cm



5 Artifacts

Refitting



接合資料 **63+65** (層)



65 (IV層)



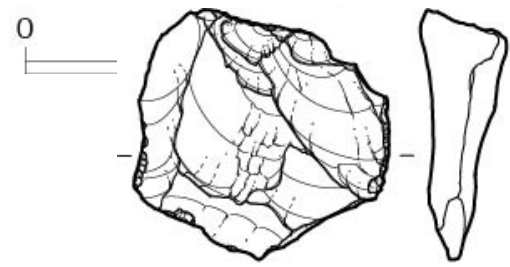
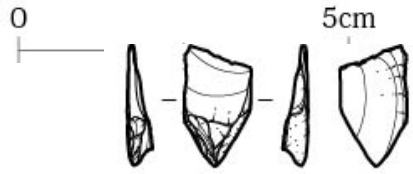
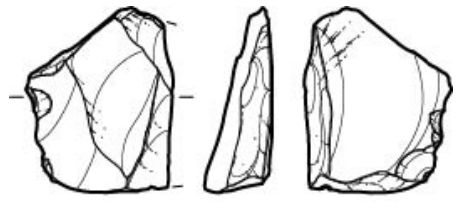
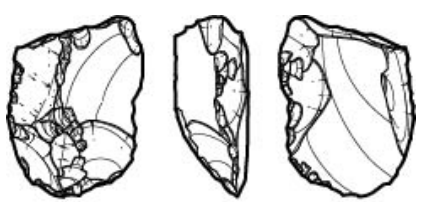
63 (IV層)

Flake

Chopping tool

5 Artifacts

Scrapers



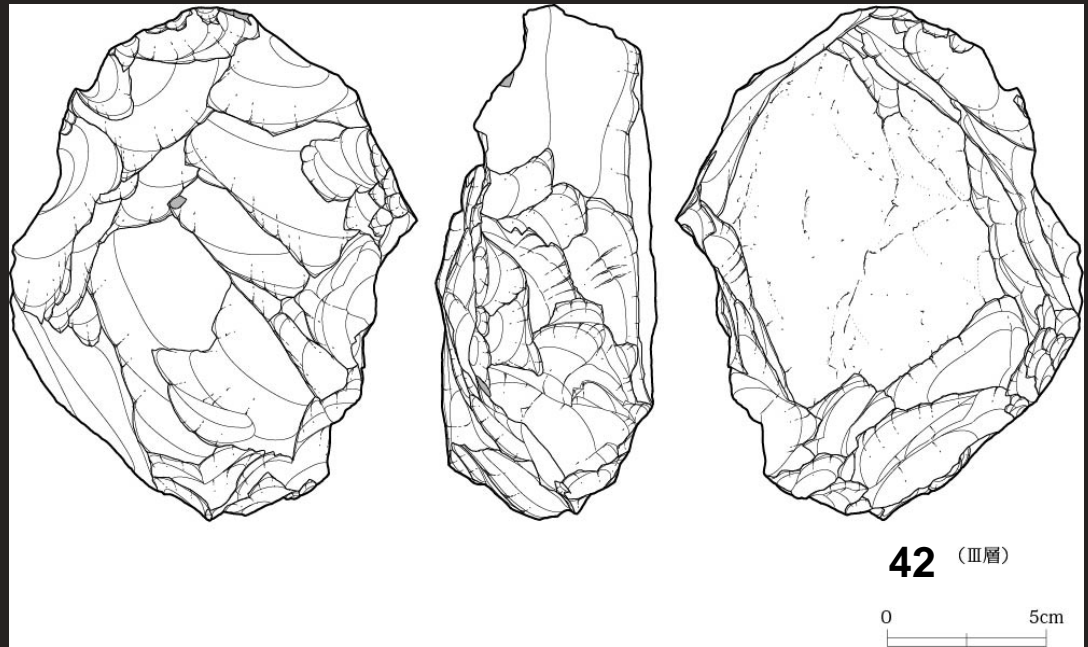
5 Artifacts

Discoidal core



42

Cultural Layer III



42 (III層)

0 5cm

5 Artifacts

Flakes and chips



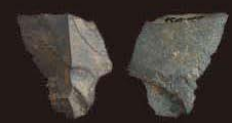
47 (III層)



48 (III層)



52 (III層)



54 (III層)



51 (III層)



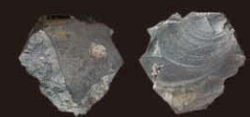
55 (III層)



56 (III層)



57 (III層)



58 (III層)



1026 (III層)



1027 (III層)



1028 (III層)



1029 (III層)



1030 (III層)



59 (III層)



Cultural Layer III

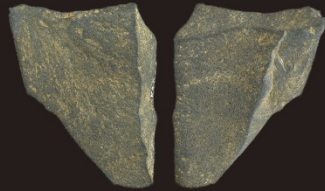


5 Artifacts

Flakes



34 (1L層)



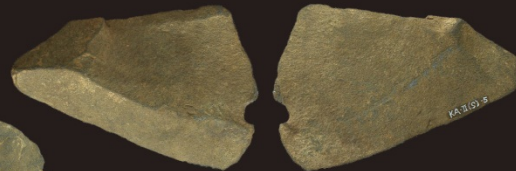
35 (1L層)



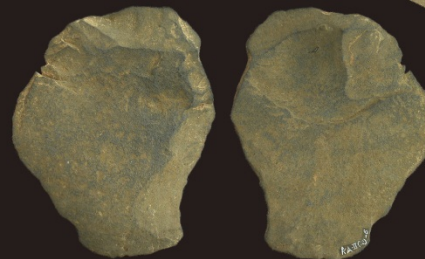
36 (1L層)



37 (1L層)



38 (1L層)



39 (1L層)



5 Artifacts

Flakes refitting



(Cultural Layer Ⅲ)

6 Conclusion

- We found some heavy-duty tools as characterized by axe-shaped tools in the Kanedori site.
- The axe-shaped tool absents in early assemblages of China and the Korean Peninsula. It is seems to suggest unique composition of the Paleolithic assemblages in the Japanese Archipelago. But, we found a few handaxe and plane, too.
- Kanedori assemblages are important clue to solve the mystery of Middle Paleolithic Period in the Japanese Archipelago.

References

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