

EXCAVATIONS OF A MIDDLE PALAEO-LITHIC SITE AT KESSELT

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A preliminary report was presented about a Middle Palaeolithic site, discovered in the profile of the enlarged Albert canal at Kesselt (see map, fig. 1). Its geographic situation is as follows : inside the river Meuse basin, the site is located on the southern slope of the small valley of the Hezerwater, tributary of the river Meuse.

The archaeological material, containing animal bones and lithic artefacts, was no longer archaeologically *in situ*. It was deposited in an erosion layer, cut into the B_t-horizon of an interglacial soil formed in the top of loess-deposits which are thought to be of a Saalian age. The erosion layer itself is covered by loam deposits of Weichselian age; in this deposit, features of at least two soils can be recognized, which are still under analysis (geological study by E. Meys).

Among identified faunal remains (determination W. Van Neer) we find : mammoth, rhinoceros, reindeer, horse and probably bison. The lithic industry (see fig. 2-3) can generally be characterized by Levallois flaking technique of flakes as well as blades. Retouched tools consist mainly of side-scrapers, some denticulates, rare Levallois points, a raclette, a bifacially retouched point and

a mousterian tranchet. Handaxes have an important part in the tool-kit : besides a large lanceolate there are also a flat butted sub-triangular handaxe and a partial handaxe on a flake.

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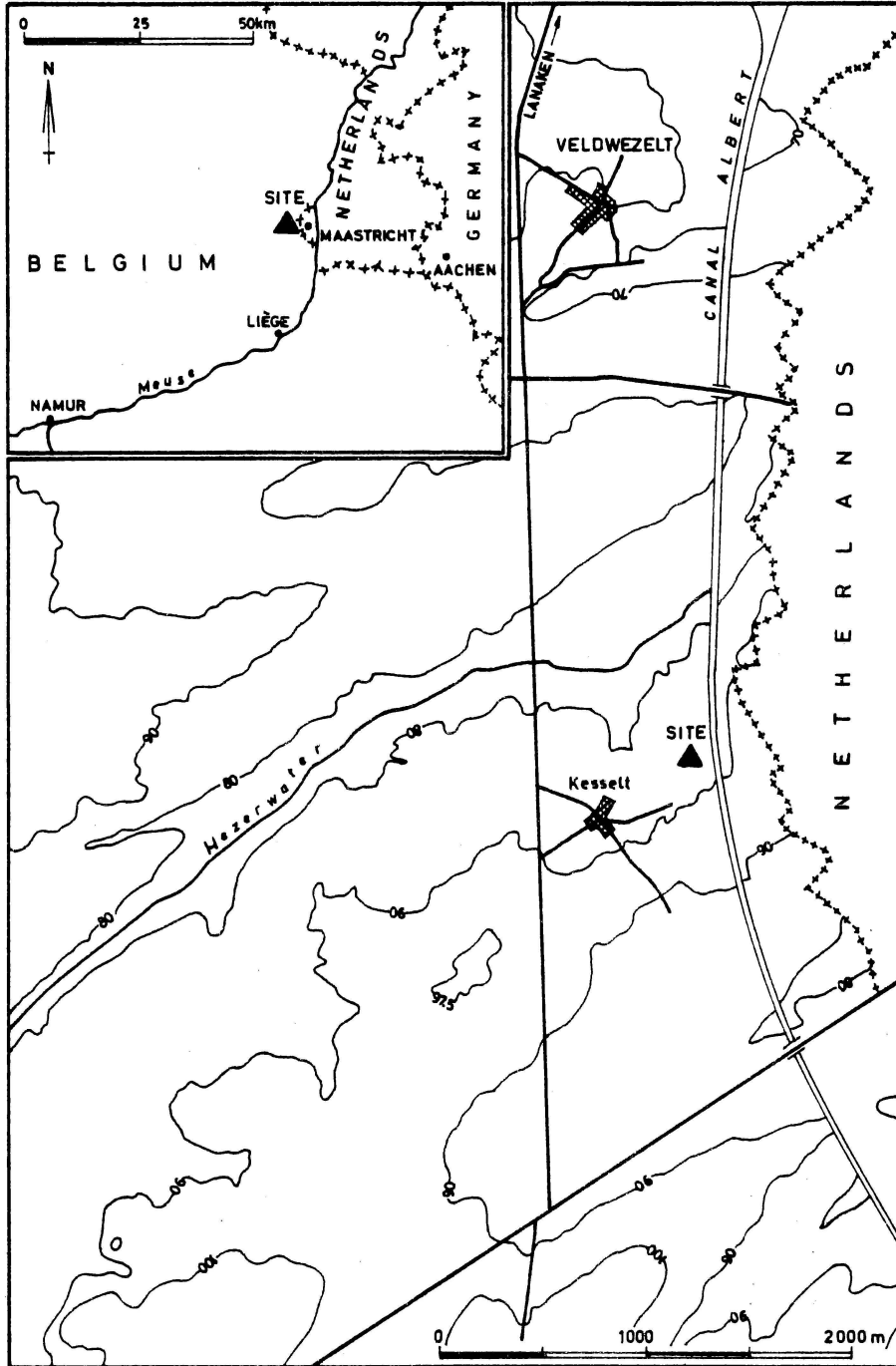


Fig. 1 : Geographic situation of the site of Kesselt.

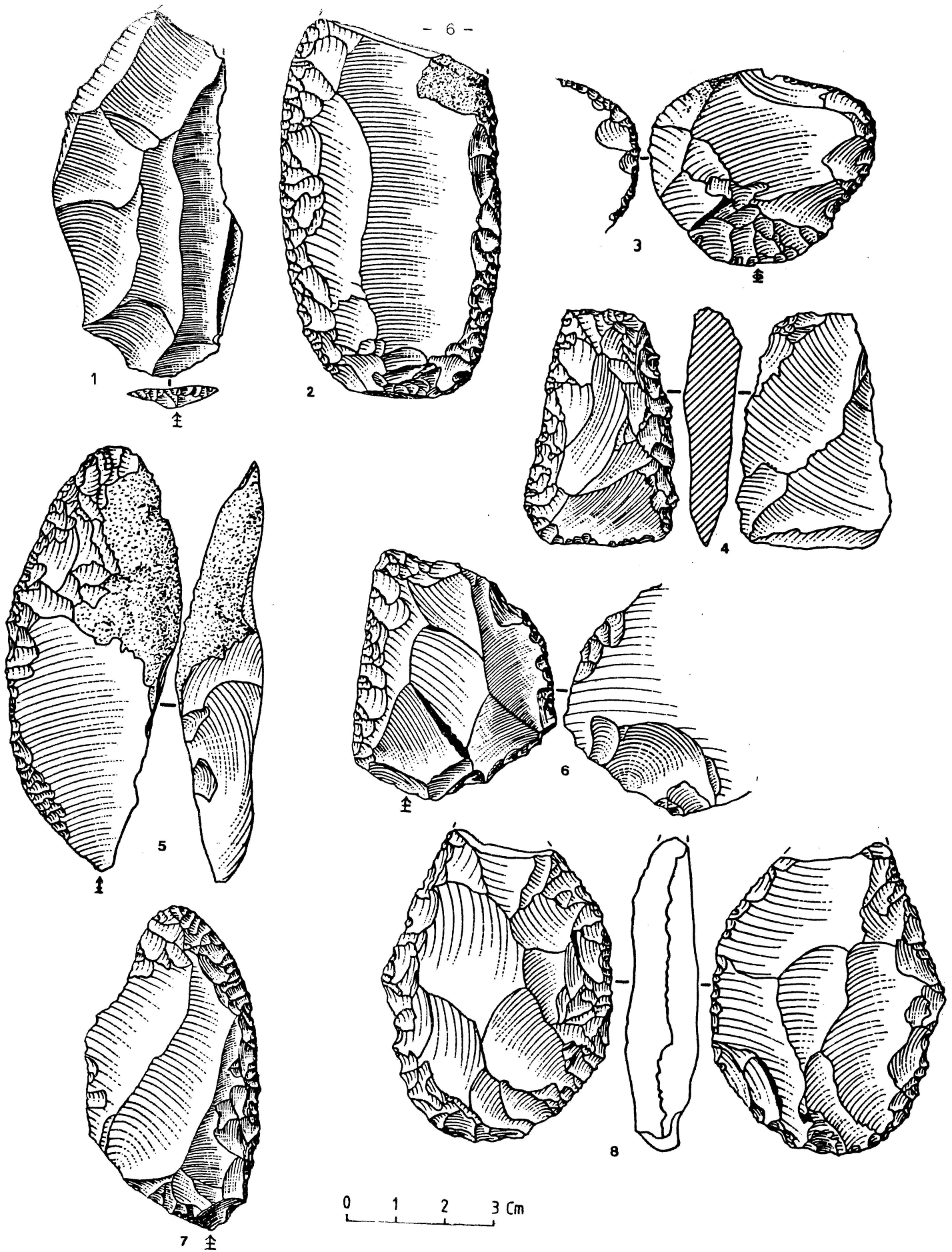
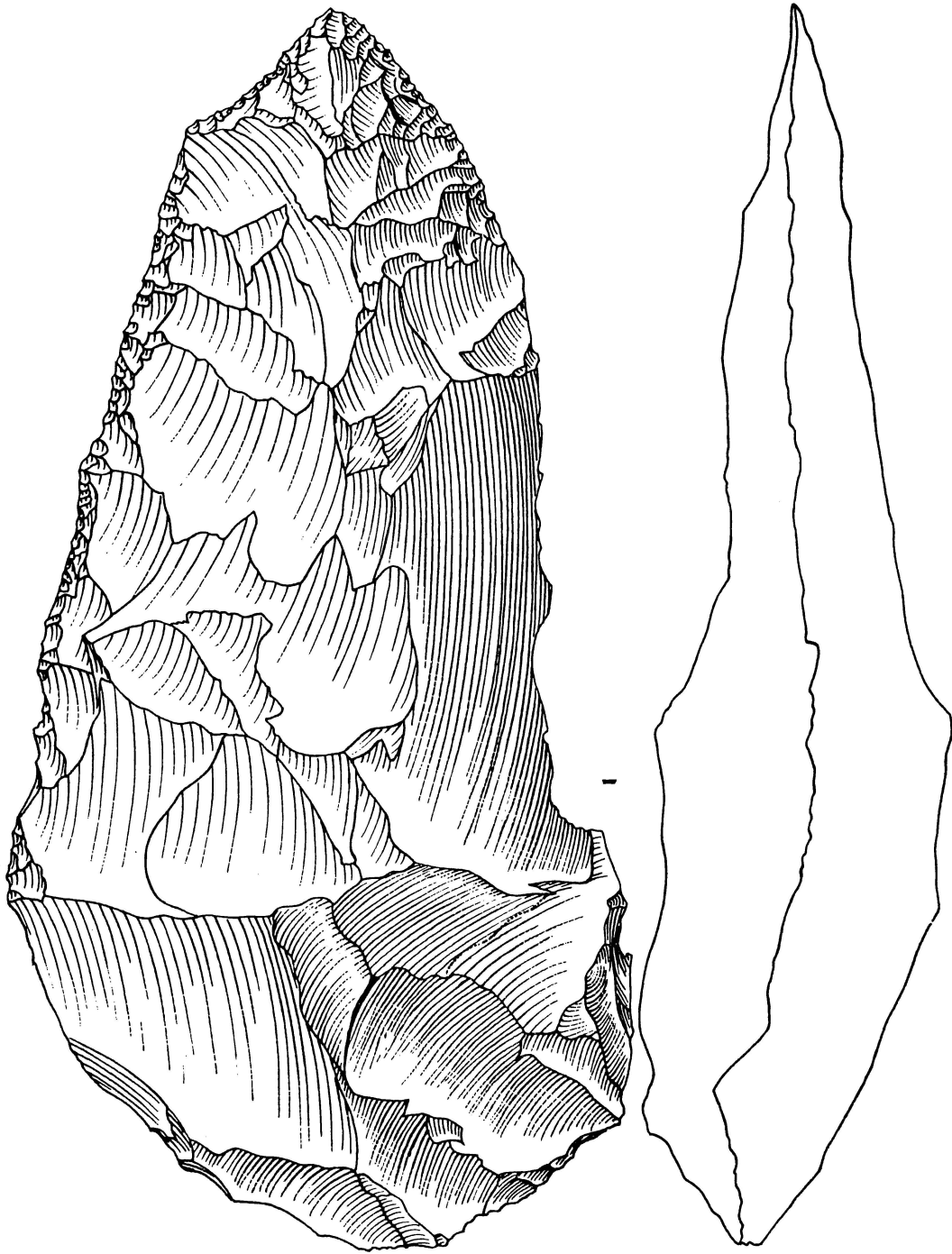


Fig. 2 : Lithic industry of Kesselt. 1 : Levallois flake; 2, 5, 6, 7 : side-scrapers; 3 : raclette; 4 : Mousterian tranchet; 8 : bifacially retouched point.



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Fig. 3 : Lithic industry of Kesselt. Lanceolate handaxe.