

CHAPTER 8

THE GRAVETTIAN ARTIFACT ASSEMBLAGES FROM THE 1991-1993 EXCAVATIONS

Lawrence Guy Straus

INTRODUCTION

ON THE CONTINUITY AND UNITY OF THE HH GRAVETTIAN HORIZON

The Gravettian horizon at HH is undoubtedly a palimpsest (albeit not very thick) of several occupations of the site. There is, however, no realistic way of separating individual occupation levels. Even distinction between loess Stratum 4 and the reddish lens at its base (4.1), which is found in most areas of our two excavations at the HU ("Dock") area, is chimeric, since 4.1 simply represents a *post hoc* weathering zone. The vast majority of artifacts and essentially all the faunal remains are from the base of Stratum 4 and 4.1, between which the restricted vertical distribution is absolutely continuous. For this reason, the assemblages from 4 and 4.1 will be considered together. There are a very few artifacts in the upper zones of Stratum 4 (probably derived from basal 4 via burrows and other disturbance processes such as cryoturbation), as well as a handful in Strata 3 and 2, at least some of which might represent terminal Pleistocene and/or Holocene visits to the site, although we found no objects that would *specifically* (by their typology) imply a Mesolithic occupation as was suggested by Destexhe for the central sector of the HU ("Dock") area.

Here I will focus on the Gravettian-age materials directly associated with radiocarbon dates in our main (eastern HU) excavation area, together with the undoubtedly Gravettian artifacts from our western (HU road-side) *sondage* and materials from our two pits in the HS ("Smetz") area which, by stratigraphic position at the base of the upper loess deposit and by their technological, typological and raw material similarity, as well as their physical proximity to the IRSNB finds along both faces of the road cut, also pertain to the Gravettian cultural component at Huccorgne-Hermitage. It is worth recalling that the distribution of Gravettian materials in a well-defined stratigraphic position at the base of the LGM loess is continuous across the whole HH site: from east to west it has been found 1.) in Haesaerts' and 2.) Tihon's trenches dug into the western face of the railroad cut, 3.) in our excavation area westward from the railroad cut, 4.) in Destexhe's large central excavation area (all four of which are *physically contiguous* excavations), 5.) in our HU road-side *sondage* (separated from the SW corner of Destexhe's trench by about 5 m.), 6.) in Haesaerts' two long trenches along the eastern face of the road cut (one of which is separated from our *sondage* by only 4 m), 7.) in Froment's three pits along the western face of the road cut (separated from Haesaerts' trenches by the 10 m width of the road), 8.) in our two HS ("Smetz") area pits (the smaller one of which is about 3 m from the southernmost of Froment's trenches and the larger one of which is c. 16 m from the northernmost of Haesaerts' roadside trenches). It *might* also be present in our step trench in the eastern face of the railroad cut. The Gravettian horizon is always at the base of the upper loess, *above* a stony layer. This upper loess is very thin at the eastern edge of the site near the gorgeside cliff; westward it gets increasingly thicker, as we, Haesaerts and Destexhe all found in our respective excavations.

Obviously, the most tenuous inter-area connection is between our larger HS ("Smetz") area pit and the rest of the site. The assemblage from the lower part of the upper loess (Stratum 4--with no

TABLE 1
LITHIC RAW MATERIAL TYPOLOGY USED IN CLASSIFICATION
OF HUCCORGNE COLLECTIONS

10	Fine-grain flint: shiny, smooth surface; opaque to slightly translucent; blue-grey original color, patinates white; chalk cortex; inclusions rare; conchoidal fracture pattern. Source: Cretaceous of Hesbaye. Intergrades with type 12.
11	Fine-grain flint: shiny, smooth surface; opaque to slightly translucent; brown-yellow original color, patinates white; chalk cortex; occasional inclusions; conchoidal fracture pattern. Source: Cretaceous of North Belgium.
12	Medium-grain flint: matte, slightly rough surface; opaque; occasional inclusions; gray original color, patinates white; water-worn cortex; conchoidal fracture. Source: Cretaceous; secondarily in river beds.
13	Fine-grain flint: shiny, smooth surface; opaque; dark brown color with occasional yellow bands; does not patinate; water-worn cortex; inclusions rare; conchoidal fracture pattern. Source: Tertiary of North Belgium.
16	Black flint: very fine-grain; opaque; homogeneous; no inclusions; conchoidal fracture; orangish-yellowish chalk cortex; smooth and shiny. Source: possibly Obourg (Hainaut) or a local (Hesbaye) Cenomanian flint (like "Brandon" flint in England).
18	Grainy, patinated "Hesbaye" flint
20	Chert: fine to medium grain; matte or shiny, smooth surface; opaque to slightly translucent; wide color range; does not patinate; cortex variable (sometimes absent, sometime water-worn, sometimes unworn); inclusions rare; mainly orthogonal fracture pattern. Cretaceous, sources unknown, but sometimes in geological beds, sometimes in river beds.
30	Phtanite: medium-grain; matte or shiny surface; opaque; jet black to grayish black; does not patinate; gray cortex with occasional metal adhesions; no inclusions; conchoidal fracture pattern; Source: Cretaceous. Occurs in geological bed at Ottignies, Central Belgium.
42	Crystallized limestone: fine to medium grain; hard, matte surface; opaque; gray-white, mottled; does not patinate; cortex impossible to distinguish; occasional inclusions; mainly conchoidal fracture pattern; mild reaction with acid ("limey chert"). Source: non-specific Cretaceous.
50	Medium-grain quartzite (includes quartzitic sandstone): matte to shiny surface; opaque; wide color range; does not patinate; water-worn cortex; no inclusions; conchoidal fracture pattern. Source: occurs as cobbles in river beds.
51	Fine-grain quartzite: matte surface; opaque; tan-brown color with occasional bands; does not patinate; water-worn cortex; no inclusions; conchoidal fracture pattern. Source" occurs as cobbles in river beds.
54	Brussels sandstone. Source: Brussels Basin, Central Belgium.
55	Psammite: light brown with manganese oxide stains; medium to coarse grain (resembles quartzite); opaque; a form of sandstone with quartz grains and mica inclusions. Source: occurs as tabular slabs in Lesse River (Ardennes).
90	Ochre/hematite.
99	Other stones.

basal reddish lens here) in the 9 sq.m of the larger "Smetz" pit (J-L/53-55) is composed of 444 lithic debris and only 3 formal tools (2 burins and an endscraper), but there is no hint that these materials are anything other than Gravettian in age or attribution. On the other hand, underlying Stratum 5--which seems to have been separated from 4 by an erosional episode--has 131 lithic debris (including a large Levallois core) and only one "tool" (*sensu* F. Bordes): a Levallois flake. At least one of the three bladelets found in Stratum 5--found at the contact between the two strata--is probably really derived from Stratum 4. Our second (smaller) "Smetz" area pit (JJ-KK/45-46) yielded only 3 artifacts (a blade, a flake and a cortical chunk) from its Stratum 4 (the upper loess). Here there is quite clear evidence of an hiatus between Strata 5 (the stony layer) and 4 (caused probably by water erosion and maybe also cryoturbation). Stratum 5, which yielded numerous water-worn cobbles, lacks any tools or other diagnostic artifacts, and the one bladelet may also be derived from Stratum 4, given the very close and convoluted contact between the two units.

The lithic artifacts (we found *no* osseous or tooth artifacts) were all classified according to an empirical, *ad hoc* typology of raw materials developed for the South Belgium Prehistoric Project by Straus with significant input from J.M.Léotard, Otte, A.E. Martinez and E.Teheux. Only the types represented at HH are presented in Table 1. Further discussion and detailed analysis of raw material use in the Gravettian component at HH and comparisons with Maisières-Canal are presented by R.Miller (this volume; see also Miller 2000).

All the lithic artifacts (retouched and unretouched) were also classified according to a typology of debris/tool blanks (i.e., débitage and cores) developed by Straus over the years in several excavations throughout western Europe. While admittedly far from exhaustive, this system provides information on a number of basic technological aspects of both debris and tool blanks (e.g., general size, morphology, cortex, place within the reduction sequence, type of reduction such as laminar vs. non-laminar). It is also easy to teach to student crew members, who can reliably classify artifacts by this typology in standard fashion. As such, although not definitive, this typology affords preliminary indications as to the nature and relative completeness of the operational chain at the site. Because the blank/debris type list has grown in specificity over time, the types are not listed in fully logical order (Table 2), but rather in partly historical order of their incorporation. However, in the actual tables for each site area, the order of types has been rearranged to reflect technological groups of items (e.g., microdébitage, flakes, blades, bladelets, cores, chunks). Thus they are not presented in type-number order. The same typology for blanks and debris has been used for the Mousterian components at HH. However, the formal, retouched tools of the Gravettian horizon (plus the sole--Mousterian--artifact from Stratum 6 in our roadside pit, a sidescraper) have been classified according to the standard, descriptive Upper Paleolithic typology of D.de Sonneville-Bordes and J.Perrot, whereas the 2 unretouched Levallois flakes (the only "tools" to be found) in the Mousterian levels were classified according to F.Bordes' typology for the Lower and Middle Paleolithic. In addition to classifying all the artifacts according to the raw material, blank/debris and (in the case of tools) tool typologies, all were measured (i.e., length [along flaking axis or maximum dimension in the absence of Hertzian morphology], width [perpendicular to length] and thickness) and weighed. Samples were selected for lithic microwear analysis by K.Akoshima of Tohoku University (Sendai, Japan).

THE MAIN (HU-"DOCK") AREA GRAVETTIAN

The lower part of the pure, beige loess (Stratum B') in the small step trench in the eastern face of the railroad cut (MM-OO/-21-23) yielded 2 atypical endscrapers, plus a secondary decortication flake. Lying above a stony layer (top of C), this upper loess is probably equivalent to

TABLE 2
LITHIC DEBRIS and BLANK TYPOLOGY USED IN CLASSIFICATION
OF HUCCORNE COLLECTIONS

Type	Attributes
1. Non-cortical trimming flake	<1cm; Hertzian morphology, without cortex
2. Non-cortical shatter(small angular debris)	<1 cm; without Hertzian morphology or cortex
3. Plain flake	>1 cm; Hertzian morphology, without cortex
4. Primary decortication flake	Cortex covers whole dorsal surface
5. Secondary decortication flake	Some cortex on dorsal surface
6. Plain, whole or proximal blade	> 2 cm and at least twice as long as wide; whole or proximal fragment (with definite butt); no dorsal cortex
7. Primary, whole or proximal	> 2 cm and at least twice as long as wide; cortex decortication blade covers dorsal surface
8. Secondary, whole or proximal	>2 cm and at least twice as long as wide; some dorsal decortication blade cortex
9. Plain, whole or proximal bladelet	< 2 cm; at least twice as long as wide; narrow and thin; without cortex
10. Burin spall	Thick, tri- or quadrangular section bladelet
11. Unidirectional crested blade	Blade with crest formed by flake scars perpendicular to long axis in one direction only
12. Bidirectional crested blade	Same as above, but perpendicular flake scars in both directions
13. Flake core	Core with only flake removals; usually globular, but includes Levallois cores in Huccorgne Mousterian
14. Prismatic blade core	Cylindrical shape with only blade removal scars
15. Pyramidal blade core	Pyramidal shape with only blade removal scars
16. Prismatic bladelet core	Cylindrical shape with only bladelet removal scars
17. Pyramidal bladelet core	Pyramidal shape with only bladelet removal scars
18. Mixed core	Both flake and blade/bladelet removal scars; form variable
19. Non-cortical chunk(large angular debris)	>1cm., without Hertzian morphology or cortex; includes exhausted core remnants and fragments
20. Platform renewal flake or blade	Has lip of platform with core edge nibbling; served to change angle of extraction
21. Pièce esquillée (splintered piece)	Bipolar flake or core remnant with splintering at both ends
22. Cortical trimming flake	Like No.1, but with cortex on some or all of dorsal surface
23. Cortical shatter	Like No.2, but with some cortex
24. Broken plain blade	Mesial or distal blade fragment without cortex
25. Broken plain bladelet	Mesial or distal bladelet fragment without cortex
26. Cortical chunk	Like No.19, but with some cortex
27. Mesial/distal cortical blade	Like No.24, but with some or full dorsal cortex
28. Mesial/distal cortical bladelet	Like No.25, but with some or full dorsal cortex
29. Whole/proximal cortical bladelet	Like No.9, but with some or full dorsal cortex
30. Fire-cracked rock	
31. Unworked cobble	

TABLE 3

HUCCORGNE "DOCK"
RAILROAD SIDE TRENCH (1991-1992)
LITHIC DEBRIS

Stratum	4		4.1		5	6
Type	No.	%	No.	%	No.	No.
1	228	24.1	125	32.8	3	1
22	11	1.2	5	1.3	-	-
2	220	23.3	101	26.5	4	-
23	33	3.5	15	3.9	4	1
3	178	18.8	70	18.4	3	1
4	14	1.5	6	1.6	1	-
5	70	7.4	13	3.4	3	2
6	26	2.7	-	-	-	-
24	28	3.0	2	0.5	-	1
7	2	0.2	-	-	-	-
8	21	2.2	-	-	-	-
27	4	0.4	1	0.3	-	-
9	10	1.1	1	0.3	-	-
25	25	2.6	8	2.1	-	-
28	1	0.1	1	0.3	-	-
29	1	0.1	1	0.3	-	-
10	2	0.2	-	-	-	-
13	-	-	-	-	1	-
14	2	0.2	-	-	-	-
19	40	4.2	15	3.9	5	1
26	30	3.2	17	4.5	4	-
Total	946	100.0	381	100.0	28	7

TABLE 4

HUCCORGNE "DOCK"
RAILROAD SIDE TRENCH (1991-1992)
UPPER PAELOLITHIC TOOL TYPE*

Stratum	4 & 4.1
Type	No.
10 (Thumbnail Endscraper)	1
17 (Endscraper-Burin)	2
23 (Perforator)	1
30 (Angle on Break Burin)	4
31 (Multiple Dihedral Burin)	2
35 (Burin on Oblique Retouched Truncation)	1
48 (Gravette Point)	1
65 (Piece with Continuous Retouch-1 edge)	5
74 (Notch)	2
75 (Denticulate)	1
Total	20

* De Sonneville-Bordes & Perrot Typology

TABLE 5

HUCCORGNE "DOCK"
ROAD SIDE TRENCH (1991)
LITHIC DEBRIS

Stratum	4		4.1		5	6
Type	No.	%	No.	%	No.	No.
1	96	10.0	1231.6	1	2	
22	3	0.3	-	-	-	-
2	107	11.1	1026.3	3	1	
23	8	0.8	1	2.6	-	-
3	311	32.4	8	21.1	6	2
4	17	1.8	-	-	-	-
5	108	11.3	2	5.3	2	-
6	42	4.4	-	-	-	4
24	90	9.4	-	-	3	-
7	2	0.2	-	-	-	-
8	13	1.4	-	-	-	-
27	27	2.8	-	-	-	-
9	26	2.7	-	-	-	-
25	35	3.6	-	-	-	-
28	4	0.4	-	-	-	-
29	2	0.2	-	-	-	-
16	1	0.1	-	-	-	-
19	46	4.8	2	5.3	-	1
26	22	2.3	3	7.9	-	1
Total	960	100.0	38	100.0	15	11

TABLE 6

HUCCORGNE "DOCK"
ROAD SIDE TRENCH (1991)
UPPER PALEOLITHIC TOOLS*

Stratum	4 & 4.1	6
Type	No.	No.
5 (Endscraper on retouched flake/blade)	1	-
48 (Gravette Point)	1	-
65 (Piece with Continuous Retouch-1 edge)	3	-
77 (Sidescraper)	-	1
Total	5	1

* De Sonneville-Bordes & Perrot Typology

Stratum 4 in the rest of the site. Hence these tools are probably Gravettian in age. They are clearly located on the easternmost periphery of the main concentration of materials at HH.

Strata 4+4.1 in the railroad-side (17 sq.m) and road-side (9 sq.m) excavations yielded a total of 2325 items of lithic debris plus only 25 formal tools. The density of lithic artifacts is obviously much higher in the road-side *sondage* than in our main block excavation: the former has 998 debris (110.9/sq.m); the latter has 1327 (78.1/sq.m). Most of the tools (20) are in the main (railroad-side) area, many squares of which, however, have very few artifacts, in contrast to those squares where the concentration ("feature") was found (as discussed in Ch.6). The collections of debris and tools from the two "Dock" area excavations are detailed in Tables 3-6 (see Figures 1-4).

The lithic raw materials are discussed elsewhere by Miller (this volume), but a few points are of immediate general interest. The overwhelming proportion of the artifacts from the Gravettian component throughout the whole site is made on the local fine-grain, blue-gray flint (our type 10). The remaining artifacts are almost all on the medium-grain, gray flint (12) with which it intergrades and which is also local. Table 7 shows the dominance of Type 10 flint.

TABLE 7. PERCENTAGES OF FINE-GRAIN (TYPE 10) FLINT

Stratum	4		4.1	
	By weight	By count	By weight	By count
HU Railroad-side	89.4	87.7	80.6	87.4
HU Road-side	77.8	89.0	76.5	89.5

However there are hints of contacts with central Belgium (Brabant) in the form of a few pieces of Brussels sandstone (n=65), with North Belgium in the form of fine-grain, dark brown, yellow-banded Tertiary flint (n=15) and with the Ardennes in the form of phtanite (n=2), as well with southwestern Belgium (Hainaut) in the form of a few possible pieces of Obourg flint (n=8). (The latter scenario may be less probable, since Hesbaye and Obourg flints--both Upper Cretaceous chalk flints--do seem to intergrade, with true Obourg being jet black and extremely shiny, smooth and homogeneous). Even if people came with or brought to HH a few items from moderate distances, they certainly went to this site knowing that it was a major flint source and with the primary intention of using that resource. None of the tools or weapon tips we found are made on the exotic, non-local raw materials.

The two HU-"Dock" debris collections have the same full gamut of morphological types, basically representing most of the operational chain. Items with at least some cortex make up 14.8% of the railroad-side collection and 16.0% of the road-side one; the former has 26.5% flakes, the latter has 44.6%; the former has 9.9% blades, the latter has 17.4%; the former has 11.2% bladelets, the latter has 6.7%. There is a large difference in terms of microdébitage (trimming flakes and shatter, all < 1 cm in length): 55.6 % of the railroad-side assemblage vs. 23.7% of the road-side assemblage of debris. This may have been caused by the winnowing away of these, the lightest, artifacts from the latter area, which may have been near the edge of a gully, as argued in Chapter 6. The huge percentage of microdébitage in the railroad-side area of course depresses the percentages of all the other types. But there are interesting facts about the collections as presumably representative where flint procurement and knapping were presumably important, even predominant, activities.

Curiously, neither area is rich in cores (0.2% in railroad-side and 0.1% in road-side pit),

TABLE 8

HUCCORGNE "DOCK"
RAILROAD AND ROADSIDE TEST TRENCH
UPPER PALEOLITHIC TOOL TYPE BY BLANK TYPES
STRATUM 4 & 4.1

Blank Type	3	5	6	24	8	9	25	Total
UP Tool Type								
Thumbnail Endscraper	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Endscraper-Burin	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
Perforator	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Angle Burin on Break	-	-	2	1	1	-	-	4
Multiple Dihedral Burin	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	2
Burin on Oblique Truncation	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Gravette Point	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	2
Continuously Retouched Piece - 1 edge	1	1	4	2	-	-	-	8
Notch	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
Denticulate	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Endscraper on Retouched Blade	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1

*De Sonneville-Bordes & Perrot Typology

TABLE 9

HUCCORGNE "SMETZ"
J-L/53-55
LITHIC DEBRIS

Stratum	3	4		5		6	7	8	9	11
Type	No.	No.	%	No.	%	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
1	-	4	6.6	16	12.1	-	6	5	-	-
22	-	2	3.3	5+	3.8	-	-	-	-	-
2	1	7	11.5	11	8.3	-	6	-	-	-
23	-	1	1.6	7	5.3	-	4	1	3	13
3	-	11	18.0	40	30.3	1	5	1	-	-
4	-	3	4.9	3	2.3	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	10	16.4	16	12.1	2	3	1	-	4
6	-	2	3.3	4	3.0	1	-	-	-	1
24	-	4	6.6	5	3.8	-	-	-	-	-
27	-	3	4.9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	-	-	-	6	4.5	-	-	-	-	-
8	-	1	1.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9	-	1	1.6	1	0.8	-	-	-	-	-
25	-	-	-	2	1.5	-	-	-	-	-
29	-	1	1.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
13	-	3	4.9	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
18	-	1	1.6	1*	0.8	1	-	-	-	-
19	-	2	3.3	2	1.5	-	-	-	-	-
26	-	4	6.6	12	9.1	2	4	-	-	-
20	-	1	1.6	1**	0.8	-	1	1	-	-
Total	1	61	100.0	132	100.0	7	29	10	3	18

* Levallois Core ** Levallois Flake + includes one Levallois flake

although the railroad-side excavation yielded a flake core and a prismatic blade core, to the latter of which many blades and flakes could be refitted (see Martinez, this volume; Martinez and Guilbaud 1993), and the road-side pit had one small prismatic bladelet core. On the other hand, both areas yielded large numbers of chunks, many of which are probably exhausted core remnants: 102 (7.6% of the assemblage) in the railroad-side area and 73 (7.3%) in the road-side pit. The same observation is true of the IRSNB collections: relatively few cores but large numbers of chunks that may include many exhausted cores. But definite hammerstones are missing from both of our excavation areas. (Were they using antler billets? Some poorly preserved reindeer antler fragments--including shed antler bases--were found in both Haesaerts' and our excavations [see Gautier, this volume].) And, also curiously, crested blades and platform renewal flakes are missing from our collections, although they are present in decent numbers (1.1% and 0.8% respectively) in the Haesaerts and Froment (IRSNB) collections from the Gravettian horizon ("G"). It is conceivable that the difference might arise from the fact that the latter (IRSNB) collections were classified solely by Straus, while our own (UNM/ULg) collections were classified mainly by student team members under Straus' supervision. The same observation might pertain to the scarcity of identified burin spalls in our collections (0.2%) versus their relative abundance in the IRSNB collections (0.8%) (Straus personally classified all retouched tools in both cases, since students were explicitly instructed to show him all pieces with any hint of retouching or burination. But students classifying the 1991-93 finds may have failed to consistently query him on all objects that might have been crested blades, platform renewal flakes or burin spalls, all of which are somewhat tricky categories to easily and systematically recognize.) Nevertheless, especially when combined with the IRSNB collections, it is clear that the HH Gravettian cultural record mainly consists of a massive set of knapping workshop assemblages. Retouched tools and weapon tips are quite scarce, especially in our excavations, although they (and especially the projectile points) are somewhat more abundant in the central part of the site. It would certainly be interesting to have excavated sites of the same period in the nearby Ardennes to see if artifacts (especially blades) of Hesbaye flint were being imported from sites like HH, which is what I suspect was going on in the Gravettian (as in the later Magdalenian period). Certainly--despite exhaustive searching by Martinez in our collections-- the refitted core from our railroad-side excavation is missing many excellent blades, at least not present in the several squares surrounding the scatter of refits.

The scarcity of retouched tools and the abundance of cortical debris items do suggest that primary reduction, not tool manufacture and use, was the principal activity at HH. Nonetheless the presence of faunal remains (notably including mammoth, horse and reindeer) in Haesaerts, our and Destexhe's excavations) clearly suggest that hunting also took place, probably facilitated by the site's strategic location.

Not surprisingly given the local availability of large nodules of good-quality flint, the abundance of blades and the presence of blade cores at the site, the tools (n=25) are mainly made on blades (types 6,8 and 24=72%), followed by flakes (types 3and5=20%) and bladelets (8%)(Table 8). Only 8 have any cortex (none are on primary decortication blanks). People here could definitely pick and choose their tool blanks!

The tools include only 2 endscrapers, 7 burins (plus 2 endscraper-burins), a perforator, 2 Gravette point fragments, 8 single-edge, continuously retouched pieces, and 3 denticulate/ notches. All but 5 were found in our railroad-side block excavation and several of those were in close association with the concentration of limestone slabs and bones. The number and excellent quality of burins (generally made on blades) are noteworthy, particularly in light of the high percentage of burins from the much larger Haesaerts collection and the prominence of burins in the Destexhe and Tihon collections.

TABLE 10

HUCCORGNE "SMETZ"
J-L/53-55
LITHIC TOOLS

Stratum	4*	5**	7**
Type	No.	No.	No.
31 (Multiple Dihedral Burin)	1	-	-
35 (Burin on Oblique Retouched Truncation)	1	-	-
14 (Thin Nosed Endscraper)	1	-	-
1 Typical Levallois Flake)	-	1	-
2 (Atypical Levallois Flake)	-	-	1
Total	3	1	1

*De Sonnevile-Bordes & Perrot Typology

** F. Bordes Typology

TABLE 11

HUCCORGNE "SMETZ"
JJ-KK/45-46
LITHIC DEBRIS

Stratum	4	5
Type	No.	No.
1	-	3
22	-	1
2	-	4
3	-	19
5	1	3
6	1	2
24	-	1*
25	-	1
26	1	6
Total	3	40

* possibly intrusive from stratum 4

THE WESTERN (HS-"SMETZ") AREA GRAVETTIAN

The base of the massive Stratum 4 loess deposit in the J-L/53-55 pit yielded a small lithic assemblage: 61 pieces of débitage and cores plus 3 tools (Tables 9 and 10; Figures 5-7).

Of the debris, 23% are microdébitage (trimming flakes and shatter), 39.3% are flakes, 16.4% are blades, 1.6% are bladelets, 6.5% are cores, 9.9% are chunks and one (1.6%) is a platform renewal flake. There are no crested blades or splintered pieces (bipolar core remnants). These relative frequencies fall within the ranges represented by our two HU ("Dock") area excavations--except in the case of cores, which are relatively much more abundant in the HS ("Smetz") area. Fully 40.9% of the debris have at least some cortex. This is a much higher figure (about 2.7 times more) than in either of our "Dock" area assemblages. Although the assemblage is really too small to make sweeping comparisons, it could be suggested that more decortication took place and more cores were discarded in the western part of the site than in the peripheral parts of the main site area that we were able to excavate. Interestingly, the highest relative frequencies of cortical items and cores among the other complete collections we could classify are precisely from the trenches along the *western* side of the road cut dug by S.Froment (36.5% and 1.3% respectively).

The tools from the larger HS("Smetz") area pit are only three: a multiple dihedral burin, a burin on an oblique retouched truncation and a thin nosed endscraper. All these are very plausible (although not strictly "diagnostic") Gravettian types. Given their great stratigraphic depth and position at the base of the upper loess--identical to that of the main HU site area-- are certainly not of Magdalenian age (which is the only likely alternative in this region).

Stratum 4 in the small southeastern *sondage* of the western HS ("Smetz") area (JJ-KK/45-46) yielded only three definite artifacts: a flake, a blade and a chunk. A mesial blade fragment found at the top of Stratum 5 (with evidence of water and/or frost disturbance at the contact with Stratum 4) may actually be intrusive from 4 (Table 11). This piece has marginal retouch on one dorsal edge and a small notch in one corner. It is on the local, unpatinated Hesbaye flint type (10) that is the same as the few other pieces from Stratum 4 in HS (and Stratum 4 in the rest of the site), whereas virtually all Stratum 5 artifacts are on type 18 (patinated Hesbaye) flint. Stratum 4 also produced a sidescraper on a continuously retouched piece. The tentative Gravettian attribution of these objects is based essentially on their stratigraphic position.

SUMMARY OF THE GRAVETTIAN ARTIFACT ASSEMBLAGES FROM THE 1991-93 EXCAVATIONS

In sum, among the east railroad step trench, the two main HU ("Dock") area trenches and the two western HS ("Smetz") area *sondages*, the 1991-93 excavations consistently found Gravettian-age artifacts at the base of the upper loess stratum and right atop a stony layer, a position consistent with the Gravettian component in all the earlier excavations at HH. All together, our excavations of this horizon--undoubtedly a palimpsest of several occupations--yielded 2420 lithic artifacts, of which at most 31 are retouched tools. Thus the aggregate ratio of debris to tools is a high 77 to 1. In short, formal tools make up only 1.28% of the total assemblage. My unsystematic, subjective impression of the large débitage (blades, flakes) is that there is generally no obvious evidence of macro-wear or use-damage. Those potential tool blanks that were not exported to other venues, were simply discarded on-site, apparently un- (or very little-) used. Burins were produced and used throughout the site, together with very limited numbers of other tool types, but weapon tips were only relatively

abundant in the central part of the main area--precisely where we could *not* excavate because most of it had already been dug by Tihon and Destexhe. The equally peripheral areas dug by the IRSNB on both sides of the road cut were similarly poor in weapon tips. Our and the IRSNB collections include notably no Font-Robert points, such as had been found, in contrast, by Tihon and Destexhe, and which relate HH culturally to Maisières and other Belgian Gravettian sites (caves of Spy, Magrite, Andrimont and nearby Chena). Fragments of shouldered and leaf (foliate) points are present in the IRSNB collections (see below). The association of Font-Robert points with leaf points, as at HH, is typical of the Belgian Gravettian (Otte 1979). While the limited nature of the faunal collections from our and Haesaerts' excavations may in large part due to poor preservation conditions, it seems likely that hunting was a secondary--albeit important--activity during the Gravettian visits to the quarry-workshop site of HH.

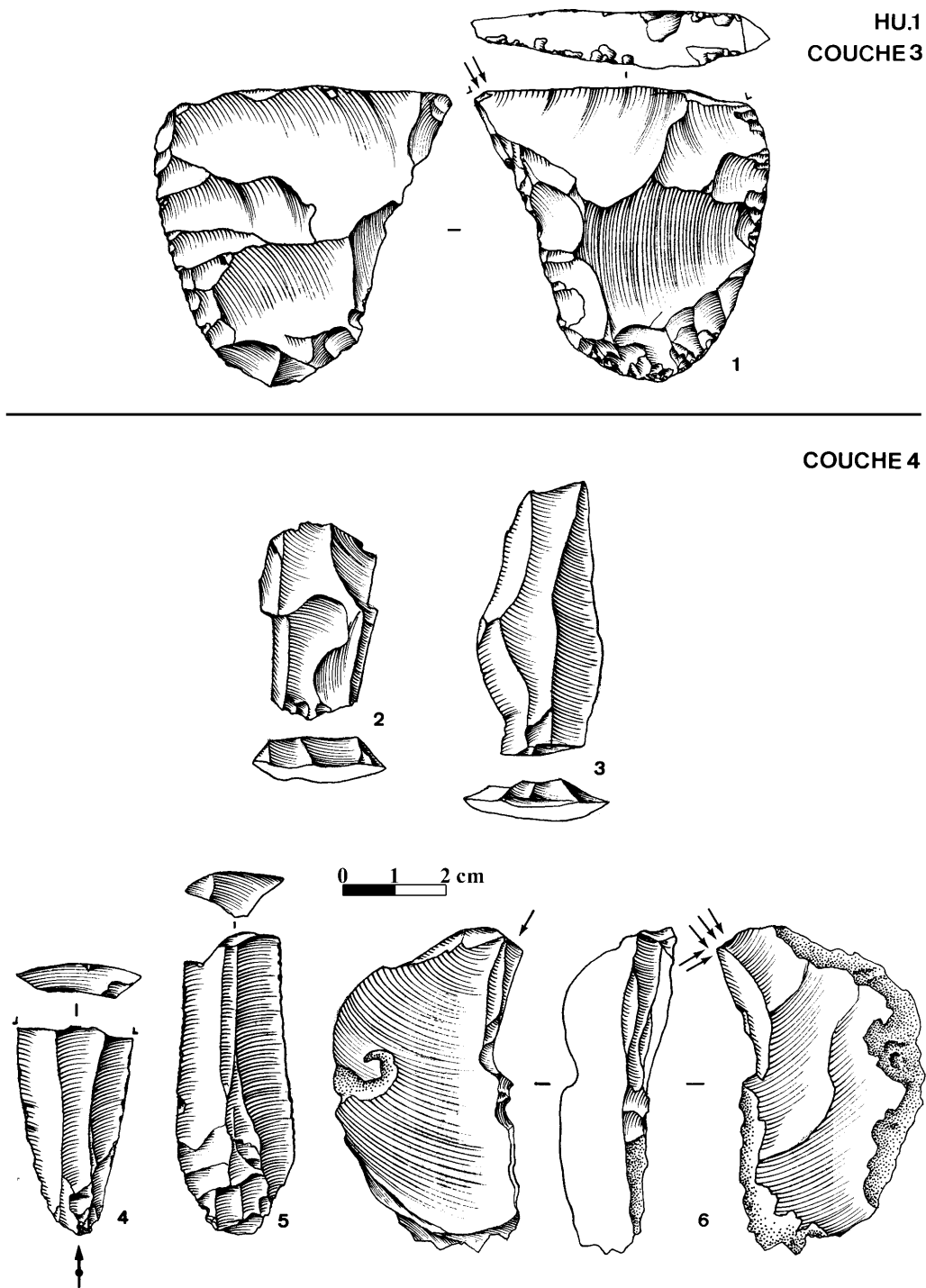


Figure 1. Main: 1. bifacial foliate fragment with burin on break (Stratum 3); 2. angle burin on break; 3. blade; 4. piece with continuous retouch-1 edge; 5. blade; 6. burin on oblique retouched truncation (rest Stratum 4).

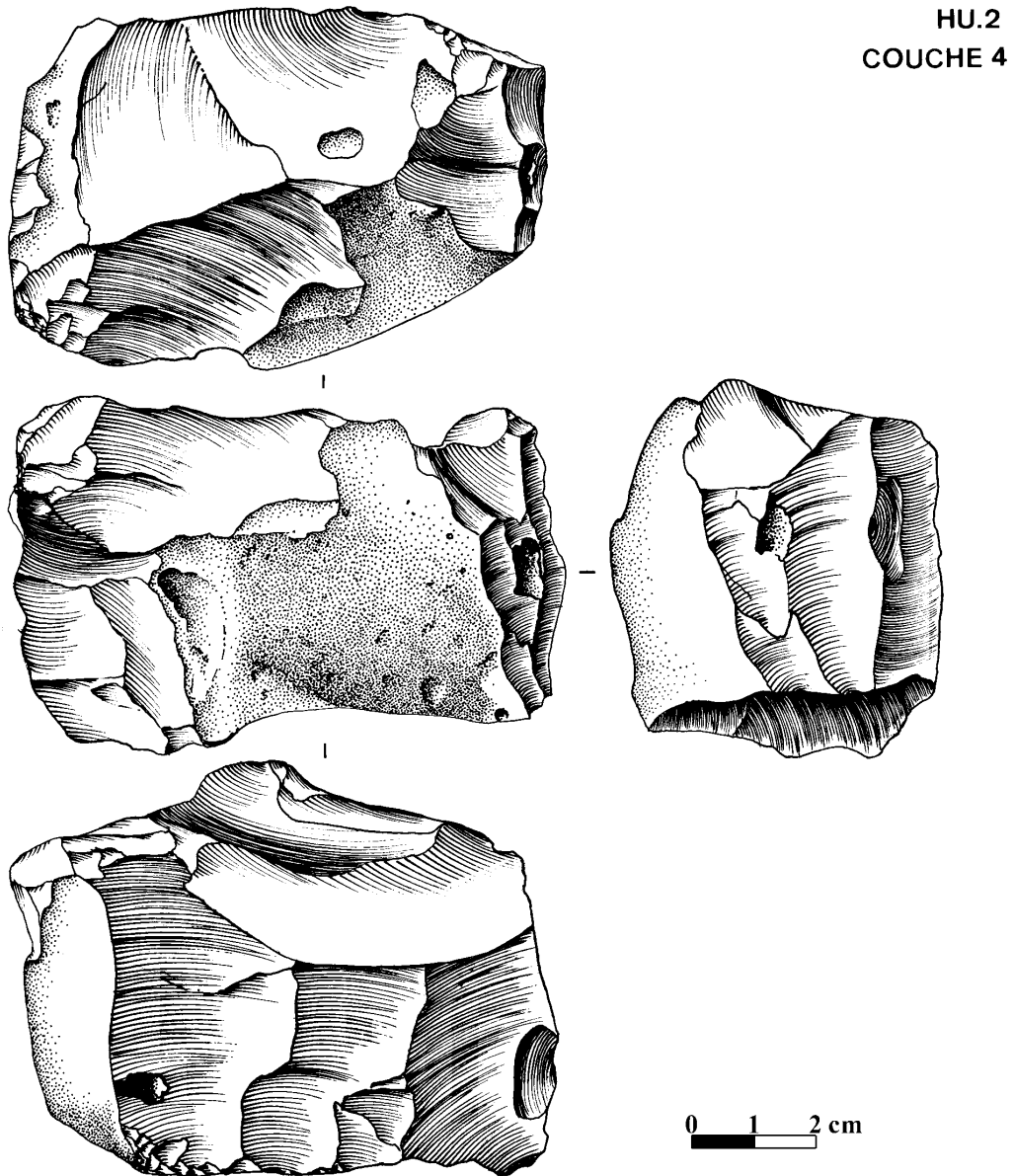


Figure 2. Main: 1. prismatic blade core (Stratum 4).

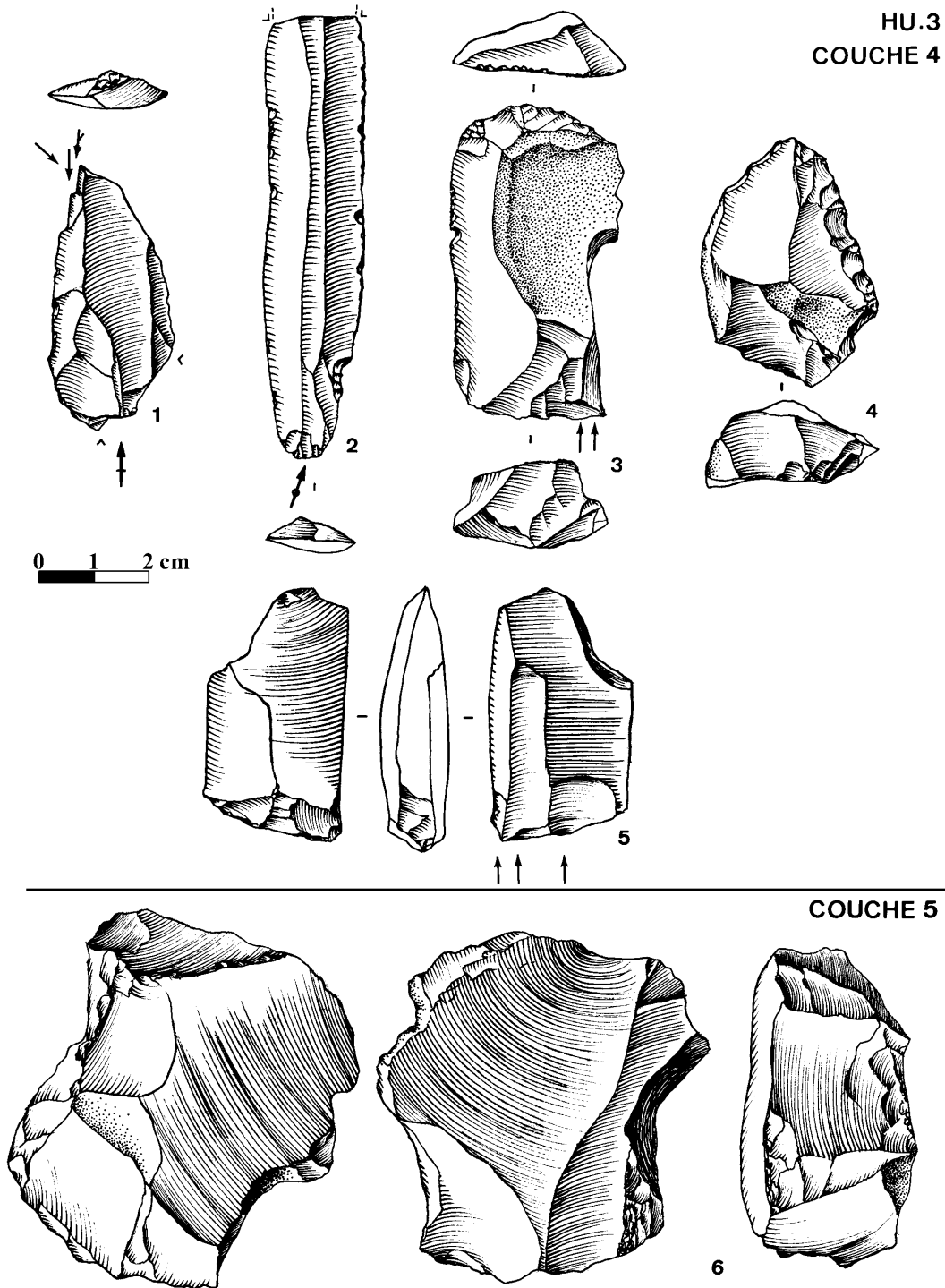


Figure 3. Main: 1. angle burin on break; 2. flake; 3. endscraper-burin; 4. denticulate; 5. burin on oblique retouched truncation (all Stratum 4); 6. Levallois core (Mousterian, Stratum 5)

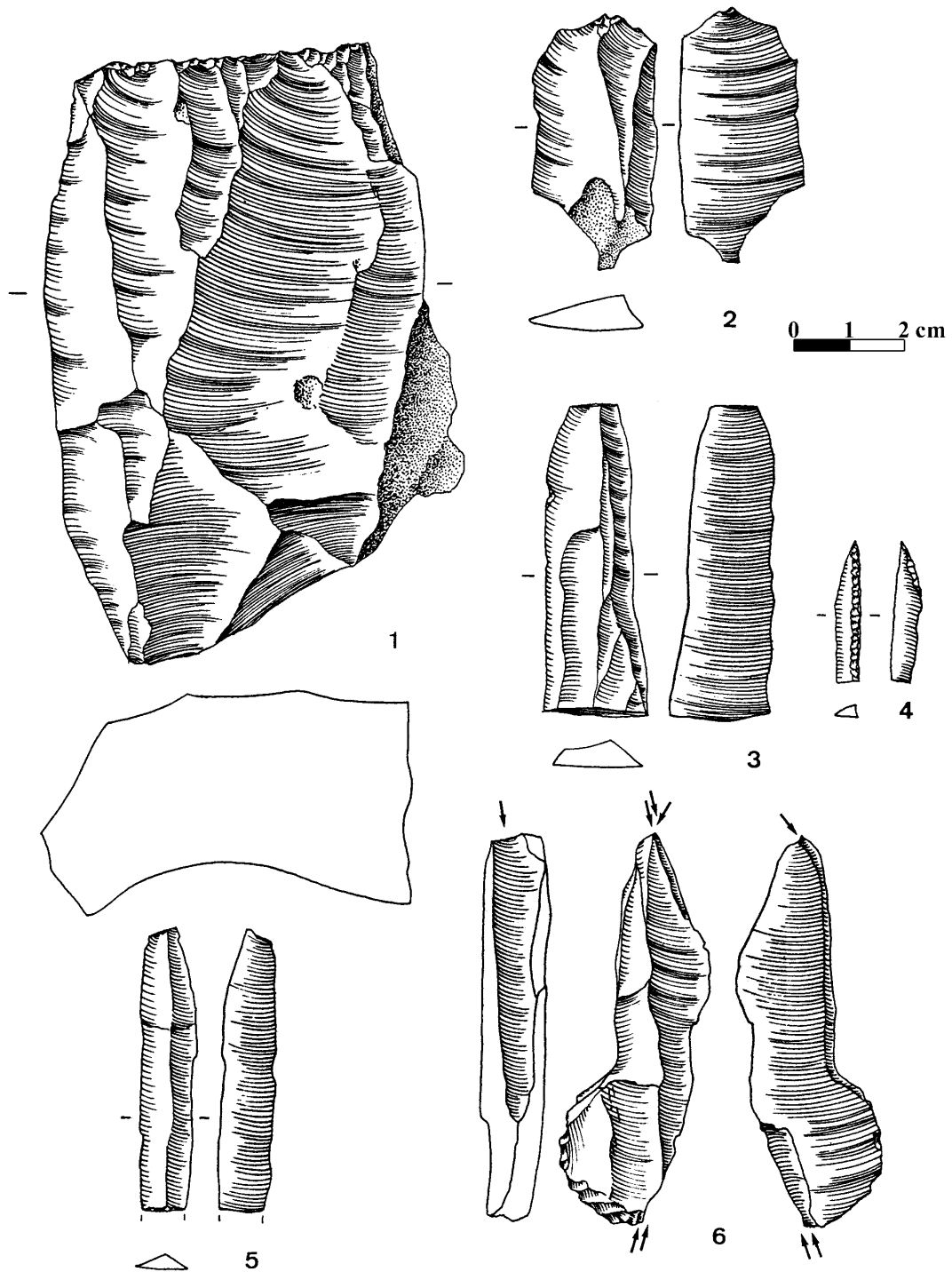


Figure 4. Main: 1. prismatic blade core; 2, 3 and 5. blades; 4. Gravette point fragment; 6. multiple dihedral burin (all Stratum 4).

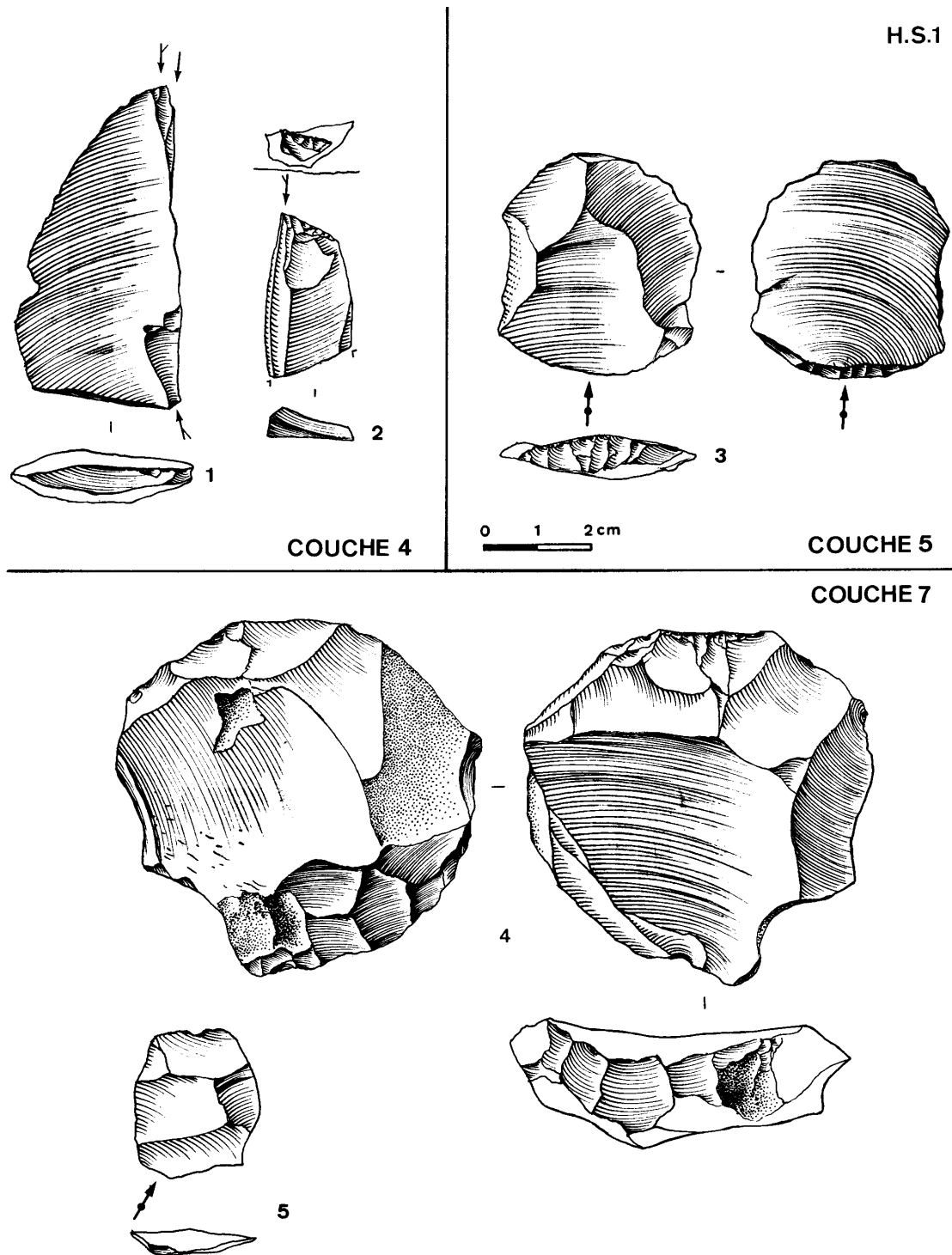


Figure 5. West: 1. multiple dihedral burin; 2. burin on oblique retouched truncation (both Stratum 4); 3. Levallois flake with faceted butt (Mousterian, Stratum 5, refits to core shown in Fig.6); 4. Levallois core; 5. Atypical Levallois flake (both Mousterian, Stratum 7).

H.S.2
COUCHE 5

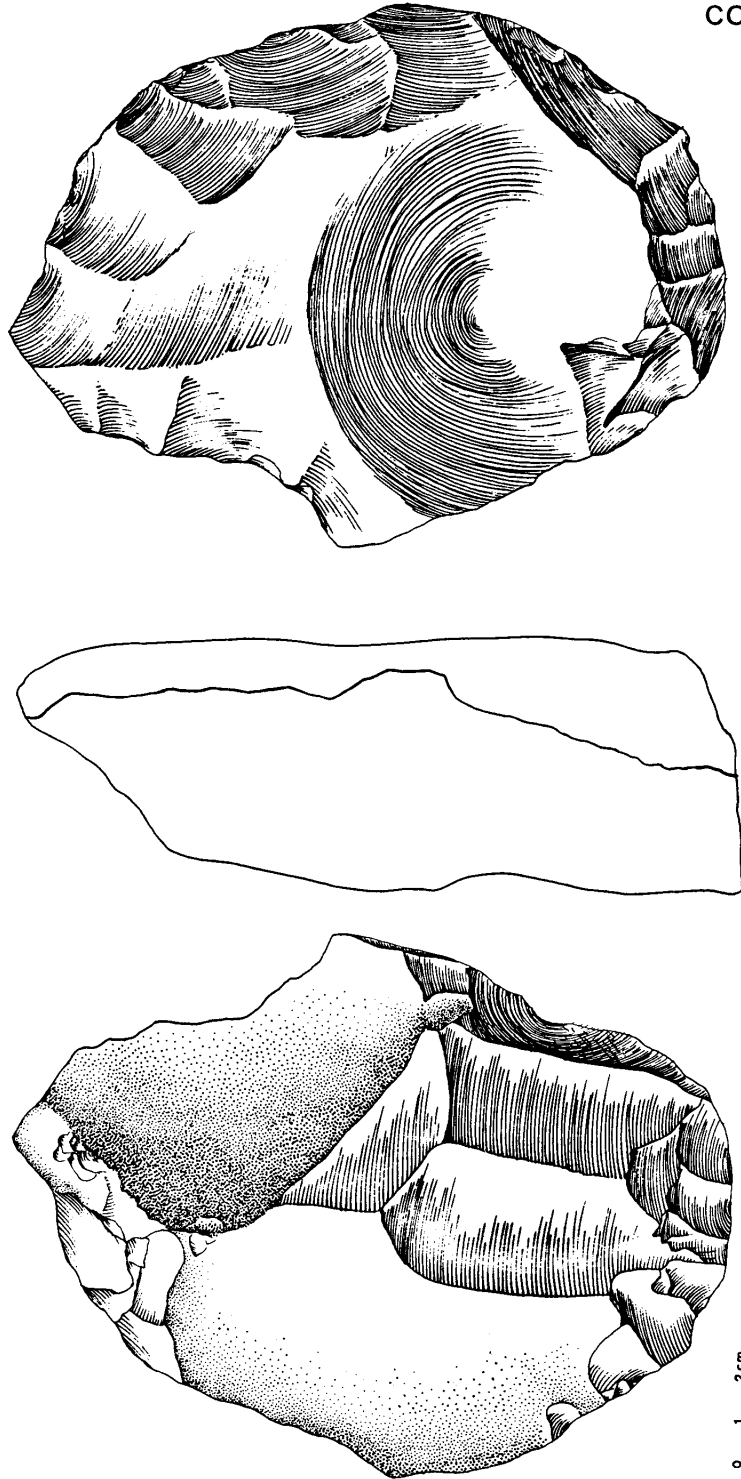


Figure 6. West: 1. Levallois core (Mousterian, Stratum 5).

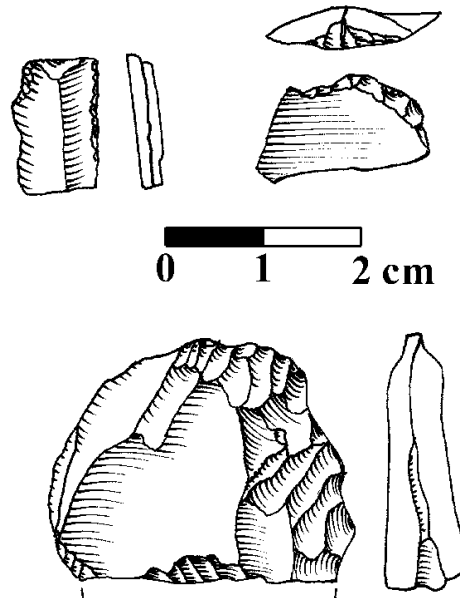


Figure 7. West: 1. Proximal blade fragment (Stratum 5); 2. Nibbled medial blade fragment; 3. Thin nosed endscraper (both Stratum 4).