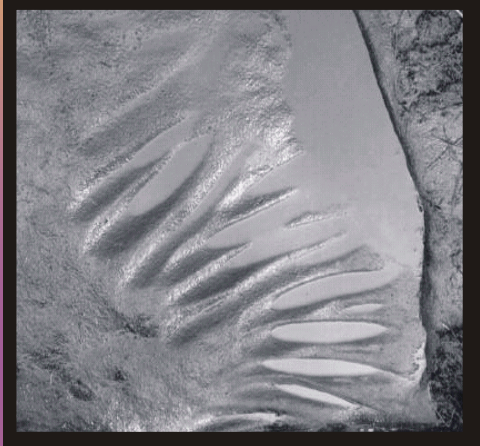


Axe Grinding Grooves Below
 Made by Aboriginal people sharpening their stone axe heads. The axes were constructed from hard volcanic stone fastened to a wooden handle. To sharpen the axe water is put onto the wet rock and the axe is rubbed backwards and forward until the stone is sharp. The water is used to clean and cool the stone as friction from the rubbing generates heat. The sharpening leaves these grooves in the rock.



Rock Engraving Below: Engravings were made by pecking a series of holes, which were then connected to form a line. In the local area designs include fish, animals, humans, wooden artefacts and mythological beings.



Rock shelter with Deposit (Right)
 In Sydney sandstone is the material from which rockshelters are formed. Shelters are overhangs that form hollows, allowing good protection from the elements. Deposits show evidence of Aboriginal occupation eg: midden material, fire places, tools and sometimes burials.



Art Work Above: Hand Stencils. Stencils are produced by mixing ochre in the mouth into a wet paste, & spraying it over the hand. Other objects used include human feet, fish, boomerangs, axes, woomeras, kangaroo tails and shields. The most common elements used include red and yellow ochre, white pipeclay, gypsum and charcoal.

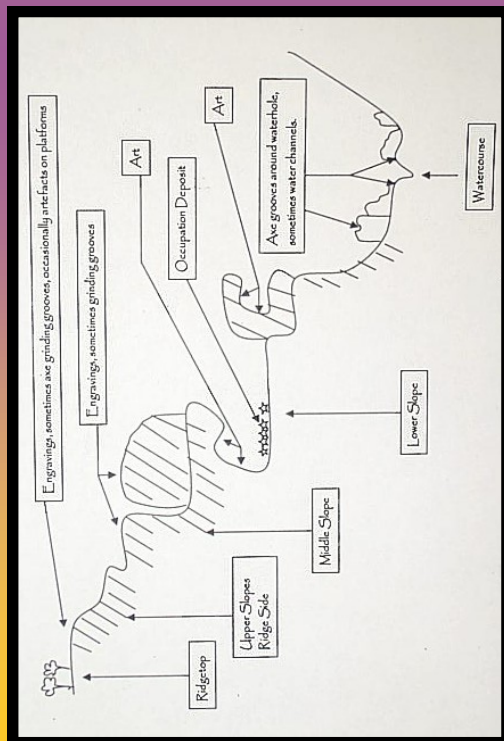
Midden Below: A midden shows gathered remains of meals of shellfish. Rock oyster & Sydney cockle were the main food that made up the diet. Apart from containing shells, other objects have been found such as human bones, animal bones, artefacts and tools made from stone, shell or bone.



Potential Site Areas

This diagram is a cross section showing the location of sandstone landscape showing the location of common features and the types of sites with which they are associated.

Ridge tops and ridge sides have high potential for engravings. Middle and lower slopes, with cliffines or isolated boulders, have high potential for shelters with occupation deposit and art. Lower slopes and water courses have high potential for axe grinding grooves.



Other Sites Include:

Open Camp Sites: predominately artefact scatters, i.e. stone tools for working, food preparation etc.

Isolated Find: A single artefact is an isolated find. eg. flaked stone, core or any finished implement.

Bora or Ceremonial Ground: A circular ceremonial place where initiation ceremonies are performed and are often meeting places as well.

Burial: Burials found where soft soils are located e.g sand or silty material. A number of burials have been found in middens and within shelters.

Scarred Tree: Trees show removal of bark & wood for shields, shelters, coolomons & canoes.

Carved Tree: Carved trees have complex patterns cut into the tree for important ceremonial meaning.

Fish Trap: Rocks grouped in water – the tide is high, fish are trapped behind Rocks when tide lowers.

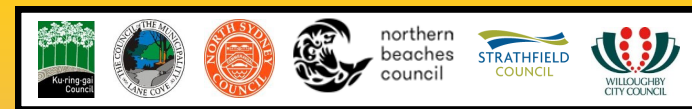
Stone Arrangement: Stones are placed in a certain way to form circles, semi-circles, lines and routes. E.g. ceremonial grounds and tribal

Importance of the Law

Please report any sites you may find

All sites are protected

Fines for damage are from \$275,000 to \$55,000 and 2 years imprisonment



Aboriginal Sites Awareness



The Sydney Basin is one of the richest provinces in Australia in terms of Aboriginal archaeological sites. There are over 4,500 sites registered in the area.

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