

Hazelnuts were a staple food and once cured, could be stored for 12 months. The Bann Valley, with its rich natural resources, has enabled these ancient settlers to thrive.



A rchaeology has revealed that the inhabitants may have sat around a fire while they made or repaired tools. Many of these tools would have been made from flint. This type of stone was perfectly suited for crafting into the arrowheads and blades that Mesolithic man would have hunted with. Other tools were also made from bone and wood.

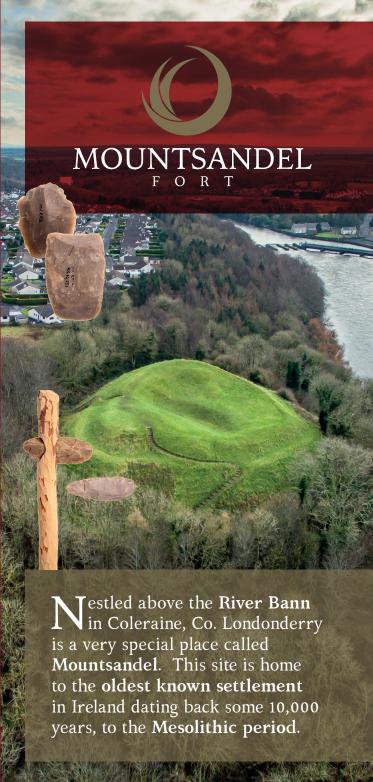


MOUNTSANDEL FOR R T

Through the ages, Mountsandel has been a haven, supporting life, building communities and a driver for the establishment of a remarkably rich history for Coleraine and its surrounding area. We have only just scratched the surface....there are many more Mountsandel discoveries just waiting to be uncovered!











Tn 1973 Peter Woodman I (now Emeritus Professor of Archaeology, University College Cork) began a small excavation at Mountsandel Fort which would lead to one of the most important archaeological discoveries on the island of Ireland. This dig would reveal the existence of an ancient community, from c.10,000 years ago, at 'Mesolithic' Mountsandel. Most importantly, the site would uncover a wealth of information, giving a tantalising glimpse into the ancient people of Ireland and their way of life.



unique feature of Mountsandel's Mesolithic Acommunity is that they appear to have lived at one location throughout much of the year. This is indicated by the remains of delicately constructed homes discovered at the site. These were near circular huts, roughly 5 meters wide and made for long-term use, unlike the temporary shelters used by many other groups in Mesolithic Europe.



