

THE FINDS

The only artefacts recovered were flaked stone. One piece was recovered from a stratified context (209) and 31 pieces from the ploughsoil and from surface collection adjacent to the trenches. The majority of these artefacts were of flint with one flake of Portland chert from context 400. The assemblage is presented in Table 4.

Context	Cores	Flakes	Tools	chips	Tool type
209			1		Scraper
400		1			
402		2		1	
500			3		2 scrapers, 1 backed blade
701	3	7	2		1 scraper, 1 core tool
1001		1			
Surface collection	6	3	2		1 long scraper; 1 broken axe roughout reused as a core?

Table 4: Flaked stone assemblage

The material, in general, has a Late Neolithic character. There are a number of large blades or blade-like flakes, though most of the debitage is large broad flakes. The scrapers are mainly broad extended end scrapers, typical of the late Neolithic, with one example on a long blade. The core tool is a fairly rough small pick.

The flint was almost exclusively recovered from the proposed wellsite area on top of the ridge.

Little can be said about such a small unstratified collection. It does, however, point to a Late Neolithic presence in the area, which has not otherwise been noted.

CONCLUSIONS

The trenches revealed little evidence of archaeological activity over much of the area investigated. Archaeological features and deposits that were identified were restricted to the northern part of the proposed wellsite, adjacent to the Roman road.

Of the features identified, only the two ditches in Trench 2 would seem likely to be archaeologically significant. Although these

features are undated, they are probably remnants of field ditches of Iron Age and/or Roman date. Ditch 210 is on a similar alignment to the ancient field traces to the north of the site.

The singular lack of pottery, animal bone or other domestic material, of any period, may be interpreted as reflecting an absence of settlement activity in the immediate area.

It was noted that some of the geophysical anomalies (Figure 3) corresponded to the presence of geological features in some of the trenches. The presence of the archaeological features was not indicated, probably due to their small size and the variable nature of the underlying subsoil.

PROJECT ARCHIVE

The archive will be deposited with the Dorset County Museum, which has agreed in principle to accept the archive, subject to fulfilment of the Museum's requirements of the preparation of archaeological archives. A copy of the microfiched archive will be deposited with the National Monuments Record.

The indexed and cross-referenced project archive consists of: –

- File 1: 1.1 Specifications and correspondence
- 1.2 Assessment report 5068.1
- 1.3 Geophysical Survey report
- 1.4 Evaluation report 5076.1
- 1.5 Trench record
- 1.6 Context Record
- 1.7 Context Finds Record
- 1.8 Drawing register
- 1.9 Photo register and contact sheets
- File 2: 2.1 Monochrome negatives
- 2.2 Colour transparencies
- File 3: Project Drawings
- The Finds 1 box

REFERENCES

RCHME 1952 = Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England 1952 *An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in the county of Dorset 1, West.*

Appendix 1: Trench Co-ordinates and Dimensions

Trench	OS NGR Co-ordinates	Dimensions (m)		
		L	W	D
1	NW 355568/091722: NE 355573/091720	5	1.6	0.45
2	NW 356303/093517: NE 356332/093531	30	1.6	0.48
3	NW 356250/093492: NE 356279/093494	29	1.6	0.30
4	NW 356336/093492: SW 356338/093463	29	1.6	0.40
5	NW 356285/093447: SW 356286/093413	33	1.6	0.30
6	NW 356300/093381: NE 356331/093381	30.6	1.6	0.30
7	NW 356348/093301: SW 356343/093280	21.8	1.6	0.35
8	NW 356206/093059: NE 356227/093062	21.2	1.6	0.30
9	SW 355998/093017: SE 356018/093020	20	1.6	0.99
10	NW 355832/092987: NE 355853/092992	20	1.6	0.28
11	NW 355979/092637: SE 355988/092619	20	1.6	0.26

Appendix 2: Description of Archaeological Features and Deposits.

Context	Filled with / Fill of	Description	Dimensions (m)		
			L	W	D
204	205	“Outer” fill of 205 . Mid-greyish- to yellowish-brown silty clay, frequent flint gravel <0.10 m	2.50	0.95	0.43
Feature 205	204, 206	Irregular, sub-circular feature, with inconsistent edge definition. Tree-hole or other natural feature.	2.50	1.48	0.48
206	205	Central fill of 205 . Yellowish-brown sandy clayey silt. Common small flint gravel, rare large nodular flint, disturbed/ re-deposited natural?	1.50	0.51	0.48
207	208	Fill of 208 . Greyish-brown clayey silt, rare flint gravel <0.08 m	3.5+	0.41	0.15
Feature 208	207	Ditch, aligned ENE-WSW. Shallow, open, rounded profile. Irregular in plan, poor edge definition, probably truncated.	3.5+	0.41	0.15
209	210	Upper fill of 210 . Greyish-brown clayey silt loam, occ. flint gravel <0.08 m Contained flint scraper.	2.0+	0.90	0.25
Feature 210	209, 211	Ditch, aligned NW-SE. Open “U” profile, with sharply defined edges and base.	2.0+	0.90	0.39
211	210	Primary fill of 210 . Yellowish-brown silty clay loam, common flint gravel with larger nodules in centre.	2.0+	0.58	0.15
212	--	Geological feature, Dark mineral stained veins or lenses within the natural subsoil	1.6+	?	1.25+
403	404	Fill of 404 . Greyish-brown silty clay loam, occ. flint gravel, abundant charcoal <0.03 m	0.70	0.40	0.11
404	403	Shallow, irregular scrape, 11 m from N. end of trench	0.70	0.40	0.11