

APPENDIX 3: ASSESSMENT OF WORKED FLINT

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 Small groups of worked flint were recovered from the excavations. The worked flint consists of mostly hard-hammer struck flakes. A single blade-like flake came from ARC STP 99 and a possible soft-hammer struck flake came from ARC 330 98. This material is not closely datable but is entirely consistent with a Neolithic or Bronze Age date, and probably no later than the early Bronze Age.
- 1.2 Burnt unworked flint was recovered from all sites within this zone, with ARC STP 99 producing the most in terms of both number and weight. The burnt unworked flint consists of a range of small to large sized fragments or pebbles of heavily calcined flint.

2. Methodology

- 2.1 The worked and burnt unworked flint was recorded onto the Oracle database using standard MoLSS methods and transferred to RLE Datasets. The material was recorded by typological group, where appropriate, notes were made on pertinent technological attributes. Brief notes were also made on the general condition of the material. The burnt unworked flint was briefly scanned and quantified, a general note of the condition of the material was also made. Natural unworked flint was discarded.

3. Quantifications

- 3.1 A total of 18 pieces of worked flint and 1164 pieces of burnt unworked flint (weighing 8916g) was recovered from ARC SSR 99, ARC STP 99 and ARC 330 98. The flint is summarised in the Tables below.

4. Provenance

- 4.1 The worked flint was recovered from only 14 contexts, with a maximum of two pieces being recovered from any one feature. The burnt unworked flint was spread over more contexts (23) but apart from a few contexts (eg ARC STP 99 [4] and [83]) the numbers of pieces recovered was less than 10. The distribution by weight is slightly more varied.
- 4.2 The flint came from a range of features across the zone including cut features, natural features and layers. The flint from ARC STP 99 came from pits sealed beneath alluvium dating to the Bronze Age. The flint itself is not diagnostic, consisting of flakes (including a slightly blade-like flake and a possible soft-hammer struck flake) but would not be inconsistent with a later Neolithic or early Bronze Age date. It should, however, be stressed that this is a very small undiagnostic assemblage from several contexts. The flint from ARC SSR 99 and

ARC 330 98 contexts have been dated to the Iron Age and Roman periods, thus the flint would appear to have been redeposited. It consists largely of debitage and a single possible pebble smoother/rubber.

- 4.3 The probable rubber or smoother from ARC SSR 99, context [35] is not a diagnostic artefact and may be prehistoric in date but may equally be contemporary with the Roman pottery recovered.

5. Conservation

- 5.1 The flint is appropriately bagged and boxed for long-term storage. Some of the burnt unworked flint is beginning to disintegrate, however, there is little that can be done to prevent this. No conservation is required. All of the natural flint has been discarded.
- 5.2 Selected burnt unworked flint could be discarded, keeping only a selection of representative material for archive purposes. The full quantification (by weight and number), together with a description of the material discarded would provide sufficient records for any future work.

6. Comparative material

- 6.1 In the local context this flint compares well with material from West of Northumberland Bottom (Area 330 Zone 3) and also from ARC NBR 98 (separate assessment).
- 6.2 Considerable quantities of Neolithic and Bronze Age flintwork have been recovered from Kent principally through the fieldwork undertaken for the CTRL but also from other, mostly as yet unpublished excavations.

7. Potential for further work

- 7.1 Given the restricted range of material recovered and given that the flint is redeposited, the potential for further analysis is very low. The lack of diagnostic dating precludes anything other than a very broad date range being proposed for this material. The flint indicates sparse prehistoric activity occurring in the area. The flint can contribute to some of the Landscape Zone Priorities and Fieldwork Event Aims:

- *Farming communities (2000 BC-100 BC)*
- *To establish the nature of the landscape through time*

- 7.2 If the flint is to be included within the publication, it is recommended that this assessment report can be used as a basis. It may be worth comparing the material from ARC STP 99 to other Late Neolithic – Early Bronze Age assemblages from the CTRL route in order to try and refine the dating. No illustrations would be required.

8. Bibliography

URS 2001a, 'Assessment of Worked Flint from Pepper Hill, Waterloo Connection', unpublished report prepared by Bradley, P, for OAU

URS 2001b, 'Assessment of Worked Flint Area 330 Zone 3', unpublished report prepared by Bradley, P for MoLAS

Table 12: Worked Flint ARC STP 99

Event code	Context	Count	Period	Comments
ARC STP 99	1	2		1 wholly cortical Bullhead flake, 1 partly cortical flake
ARC STP 99	39	1		1 slightly blade-like flake
ARC STP 99	61	1		1 almost wholly cortical flake
ARC STP 99	63	1		1 small ?SH flake, worn
ARC STP 99	65	2		2 small broken flakes
ARC STP 99	73	2		1 small flake, 1 ?trimming flake
ARC STP 99	78	-		5 natural discarded
Total		9		

Table 13: Burnt Flint ARC STP 99

Event code	Context	Count	Weight	Comments *
ARC STP 99	4	1100	5429	mix of large and many small frags
ARC STP 99	46	1	8	
ARC STP 99	61	1	9	
ARC STP 99	74	5	222	
ARC STP 99	78	1	2	small reddish tinged fragment
ARC STP 99	81	5	1143	
ARC STP 99	83	10	442	
Total		1123	7255	

* all heavily calcined white to grey

Table 14: Worked Flint ARC SSR 99

Event code	Context	Count	Period	Comments
ARC SSR 99	13	2		1 small burnt flake, 1 HF ?side trimming flake, also 1 natural discarded (Accession 2)
ARC SSR 99	35	-		2 natural discarded
ARC SSR 99	35	1		1 small round pebble with areas of polish, probably a smoothing/rubbing stone
ARC SSR 99	60	-		1 natural discarded
Total		3		

Table 15: Burnt Flint ARC SSR 99

Event code	Context	Count	Weight	Comments*
ARC SSR 99	1	1	25	
ARC SSR 99	12	5	243	
ARC SSR 99	12	1	47	
ARC SSR 99	13	1	78	
ARC SSR 99	26	1	13	
ARC SSR 99	28	2	115	
ARC SSR 99	28	1	11	
ARC SSR 99	35	3	192	
ARC SSR 99	35	1	8	
ARC SSR 99	39	3	144	
ARC SSR 99	39	1	35	
ARC SSR 99	40	3	136	
ARC SSR 99	48	1	62	
ARC SSR 99	59	1	40	
ARC SSR 99	60	2	53	
ARC SSR 99	62	1	86	
ARC SSR 99	63	1	49	
Total		29	1337	

* all heavily calcined white to grey

Table 16: Worked Flint ARC 330 98

Event code	Context	Count	Period	Comments
ARC 330 98	296	2		small flakes, also 7 natural discarded
ARC 330 98	381	1		side trimming flake?
ARC 330 98	1009	-		2 natural discarded
ARC 330 98	2002	2		1 with hinge fracture, other is slightly irregular
ARC 330 98	2002	1		1 ?SH flake, broken, possible used edges, Accession 141
Total		6		

Table 17: Burnt Flint ARC 330 98

Event code	Context	Count	Weight	Comments *
ARC 330 98	296	7	163	
ARC 330 98	381	3	118	
ARC 330 98	2002	2	43	
Total		12	324	

* all heavily calcined white to grey

