

## 1.1 Flint

*By Hugo Lamdin-Whymark*

### *Introduction*

- 1.1.1 A total of 120 pieces of worked flint and 6 pieces of burnt unworked flint (weighing 95 g) were recovered during the watching brief at Bower Road. The flint was collected in accordance with the Landscape Zone Priorities and Fieldwork Event Aims for the site, which are set out in section 2 of the main report, above. The flint was collected in order to provide evidence for the dating and nature of occupation in the landscape, especially during the period of later agriculturalists (2000-100 BC), and for ritual and ceremonial use of the landscape.

### *Methodology*

- 1.1.2 In order that unworked and naturally occurring material could be excluded from further analysis, all of the flint was briefly scanned and recorded, with information regarding dating, technology and general condition being noted. The material was added to an Access database. All of the burnt flint was scanned and weighed; general comments on the condition of this material were also made.

### *Quantification*

- 1.1.3 A total of 120 pieces of worked flint and 6 pieces of burnt unworked flint (weighing 95 g) was recovered. This material is summarised below in Tables 2.1 and 2.2.
- 1.1.4 The assemblage contains diagnostic retouched forms dating from the Mesolithic period through to the early Bronze Age. The limited size of the assemblage makes it difficult to speculate on the nature of early use of the site. However, the presence of numerous retouched artefacts (29 flints, 24% of assemblage) of both late Mesolithic and Neolithic date indicates that various activities were performed on site. Two fabricators may indicate the lighting of fires, whilst the scrapers and piercers may indicate hide preparation. This location may therefore have represented the site of a brief late Mesolithic camp and a Neolithic activity area or habitation site. Only three cores were present in the assemblage and cortical flakes appeared underrepresented, perhaps indicating little knapping was performed on site or alternatively that cores were prepared elsewhere, perhaps at the source of the raw material.

### *Provenance*

- 1.1.5 The majority of the assemblage was redeposited in Iron Age and Roman ditches and discrete features.
- 1.1.6 A total of 35 flints were recovered from cleaning layers in the vicinity of the medieval or post-medieval sheep pens (finds reference numbers 455, 458 and 511); this material was in better condition than the majority of the assemblage and is unlikely to have moved far from its original place of deposition. The diagnostic artefacts and technology indicate that this flint dates from the late Mesolithic and Neolithic.

### *Condition*

- 1.1.7 Much of the flint has suffered some post-depositional damage; cortication is mixed. Several pieces of burnt unworked flint were also recovered; this material was very heavily calcined either grey-white or red. A few of the worked flints were also burnt.

- 1.1.8 The flint is adequately bagged and boxed for long term storage. There are therefore no outstanding storage or conservation requirements.

*Comparative material*

- 1.1.9 The flint can be compared with groups from other sites along the CTRL route that have produced Mesolithic to early Bronze Age material. Flint of this period has been recovered from most of the sites neighbouring Bower Road (see section 1.3), although as at Bower Road, the assemblages tend to be small and redeposited. Comparison with material recovered from Church Lane and East of Station Road will be most pertinent, especially if analysis of the waterlogged channel sequence can provide contemporary palaeoenvironmental data. The small element of Mesolithic activity identified appears to be fairly typical of the sites excavated, and may represent a small temporary camp or chance hunting losses.

*Potential for further work*

- 1.1.10 The following section discusses potential for further work in the light of the Landscape Zone Priorities and Fieldwork Event Aims.
- 1.1.11 The limited size and redeposited nature of the assemblage limit the potential for further work, although the material can contribute to wider study of flint distributions at area and Landscape Zone Level. This will contribute to CTRL research aims relating to interaction of hunter-foragers with the environment, and to the activity of early agriculturalists.
- 1.1.12 Bullhead Bed flint, river gravel flint and a beach pebble were all exploited by the users of this site, and represent imported materials. Investigation of potential sources for the raw materials would therefore contribute to CTRL research aims relating to the interaction of early communities with their environment.
- 1.1.13 A summary for publication should be produced using this assessment as a basis. No further work is therefore recommended on the material itself. However it can contribute to CTRL research aims by comparisons with other sites and consideration in the broader context of the area and local landscape, using this assessment.

Table 2.1: Summary composition of flint assemblage from Bower Road (ARC 440/99 95+900-96+300) by context

Context	Count	Period	Comments
101	1		1 flake
148	2		2 flakes
152	2		1 flake, 1 retouched flake (Burnt)
207	4	late Mesolithic/early Neolithic	1 flake (Bullhead flint), 2 blades (1 burnt), 1 ?microburin
215	1		1 flake
239	3		2 flakes (1 burnt), 1 irregular waste (burnt)
243	2		1 flake, 1 blade
246	1		1 broken tanged arrowhead
250	1		1 flake
254	2	Mesolithic/early Neolithic	1 rejuvenation flake, 1 serrated flake (burnt)
262	1		1 flake
263	2	late Neolithic/Bronze Age	1 end scraper, 1 other scraper
300	1	late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic	1 flake
302	1	Bronze Age?	1 flake
307	1		1 flake (burnt)
324	2	Neolithic?	1 flake, 1 serrated flake
371	1	Late Neolithic?	1 levallois flake (Bullhead flint)
377	4	Late Neolithic?	1 levallois flake, 2 flakes, 1 irregular waste (beach pebble flint?)
380	1	Late Mesolithic?	1 retouched flake
381	4	Mesolithic/early Neolithic?	2 flakes, 1 blade, 1 notch
384	2	Late Neolithic/early Bronze Age	1 flake, 1 thumbnail scraper
403	1		1 blade
429	1		1 flake
441	1		1 flake
455	13	Late Mesolithic/ Neolithic	7 flakes (2 burnt) (1 Bullhead flint) , 1 blade, 1 multi-platform flake core, 1 other scraper, 1 piercer, 1 retouched flake
458	10	Late Mesolithic/ Neolithic	7 flakes (1 Bullhead flint), 1 blade, 1 bladelet, 1 retouched flake
459	1	Mesolithic?	1 ?tranchet sharpening flake/burin/retouched flake/scraper multi tool
462	1		1 multi-platform flake core
471	2		2 flakes
473	1		1 flake
479	3	Late Mesolithic and Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age	1 flake, 1 blade-like flake, 1 end and side scraper
489	1		1 flake(burnt)
493	3		1 flake, 1 rejuvenation flake, 1 multi-platform flake core
496	1		1 flake
501	4	Mesolithic/Neolithic	3 flakes, 1 retouched flake
502	3		2 flakes (1 burnt), 1 piercer
504	3	Late Neolithic	2 flakes, 1 chisel arrowhead
510	1		1 flake (burnt)
511	12	Neolithic?	4 flakes, 2 blades (1 Bullhead flint) , 4 retouched flakes (1 Bullhead flint), 1 fabricator, 1 misc. retouch (Bullhead flint)
549	1		1 notch
555	1		1 flake
569	2	Neolithic?	1 flake, 1 blade-like flake

<b>Context</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>Comments</b>
573	1		1 flake
584	3		2 flakes (1 burnt), 1 end scraper
656	4		4 flakes
669	1		1 flake
712	1	Early Neolithic?	1 retouched flake
717	2		1 flake, 1 blade-like flake
736	1		1 flake
872	2		1 flake, 1 retouched flake
<i>Total</i>	<i>120</i>		

*Table 2.2: Catalogue of burnt flint from Bower Road ARC 440/99 95+900-96+300*

<b>Context</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Material</b>	<b>Comments</b>
148	1	10	
656	1	70	
673	2	5	
717	1	8	
819	1	2	