

APPENDIX 1 - LITHICS

1.1 Assessment of Worked Flint

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Introduction

- 1.1.1 A total of 43 pieces of worked flint was recovered during strip, map and sample excavation at Chapel Mill. The flint is a small group of domestic waste of the mid-later Neolithic.
- 1.1.2 A total of 30 pieces of flint came from the scatter found during the Chilston Park, Chapel Mill and Lenham Heath watching brief. This material is of later Mesolithic date.
- 1.1.3 The flint was recovered during fieldwork and from sieving.
- 1.1.4 The flint was recovered in accordance with the Fieldwork Event Aims set out in section 2 of the main report, above. The primary aim of retrieving and examining the flint was to establish its typology and date. This was undertaken to provide evidence of the dating of prehistoric occupation on the site, and its character.

Methodology

- 1.1.5 The flint was briefly scanned, with information regarding dating, technology and general condition being noted. The material was added to an Access database.

Quantification

- 1.1.6 A total of 43 pieces of worked flint was recovered from Chapel Mill. The composition of the flint assemblage is summarised in Table 5. Two contexts (200 and 201, topsoil and subsoil respectively) produced small groups; the remainder produced very small numbers of pieces.
- 1.1.7 The Chilston Park, Chapel Mill and Lenham Heath watching brief produced 30 pieces of flint which are summarised in Table 6.

Provenance

- 1.1.8 At Chapel Mill the flint was recovered from a range of features (cremation pit fills, ditch fills and tree-throw hole fills) of later prehistoric date. The flint is therefore clearly residual with a mid-later Neolithic diagnostic retouched type (an oblique arrowhead from context 200). The remaining pieces are consistent with this date; the discoidal core is a type more commonly found during the mid-later Neolithic although it cannot be used to provide precise dating.
- 1.1.9 The scatter of flint from the Chilston Park, Chapel Mill and Lenham Heath watching brief lay on natural sands on a natural plateau overlooked by a larger hillock from which the flint may have been derived. The flint is clearly not *in situ*, but it does provide a relatively tight group of later Mesolithic material. It is likely that this material has not been moved too far from its original place of deposition. The Mesolithic material has been relatively carefully worked with flakes and cores showing evidence for platform edge preparation. Many of the flakes have been soft-hammer struck and one of the cores is a classic opposed platform blade example. The technology employed is that of careful and controlled knapping, and is typical of the Mesolithic period.

Condition

- 1.1.10 All of the flint has suffered some post-depositional damage; cortication is mostly light to medium, but two of the pieces are more heavily corticated. Several of the flakes have been heavily burnt.

Comparative material

- 1.1.11 The small group from Chapel Mill could be compared to adjacent sites on the CTRL route and with any fieldwalking data. It would also be of interest for mid-later Neolithic studies across the landscape to include this small group.
- 1.1.12 The value of the Mesolithic material from the watching brief is greatly enhanced by the proximity of the *in situ* Late Mesolithic flint knapping site identified in CTRL excavations at Sandway Road. The watching brief material should certainly be studied in conjunction with this major assemblage.

Potential for further work

- 1.1.13 Although the material from Chapel Mill is redeposited its potential is slightly higher given its fairly tight dating to the mid-later Neolithic (an oblique arrowhead, discoidal core and based on the technological traits of the material). It is recommended therefore that this group should be included in any further study of lithics from the CTRL route and would be particularly valuable in contributing to landscape studies of the Neolithic period.
- 1.1.14 The material from the watching brief although again not *in situ* will provide an insight into Mesolithic activity across the CTRL route, and is therefore of some local importance. This is greatly enhanced by the proximity of the *in situ* Late Mesolithic flint knapping site identified during CTRL excavations at Sandway Road. The watching brief material should certainly be studied in conjunction with the material from Sandway Road.

Table 5: Summary of flint from Chapel Mill

Context	Count	Period	Comments
200	24	mid - late Neolithic	Small group of debitage 11 flakes, 1 possible core rejuvenation flake and a small multi-platform flake (core) and retouched pieces including an oblique arrowhead, a point/piercer and 2 miscellaneous retouched pieces. In addition 7 pieces of burnt unworked flint.
201	8	mid - late Neolithic?	Small group of 5 flakes and 3 retouched pieces (a scraper fragment, a minimally retouched side scraper and a broken point or piercer)
203	2	?	1 large thick blade-like flake and 1 flake
204	2	?	1 flake and 1 discoidal core, possibly of later Neolithic date
228	2	?	1 flake, 1 misc retouched piece
229	2	?	2 flakes with ?used edges
231	2	?	2 flakes
249	1	?	1 flake

Table 6: Summary of flint scatter in Chilston Park, Chapel Mill and Lenham Heath Watching Brief

Context	Count	Period	Comments
16 (74+900)	30	Later Mesolithic	14 flakes (some soft hammer-struck and with platform edge abrasion, also flakes with blade scars on dorsal face), 4 blade-like flakes, 5 cores (1

			opposed platform blade core, 2 single platform and 2 multi-platform cores; these latter items both have some blade scars), 7 retouched pieces (1 rod microlith, 1 end and side scraper, 4 retouched flakes, and one possible broken microlith).
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