

## 1.1 Assessment of the Worked and Burnt Flint

*by Philippa Bradley*

### *Introduction*

- 1.1.1 Flint assemblages were recovered during excavations at Church Lane and East of Station Road.
- 1.1.2 All material was hand-retrieved on site.
- 1.1.3 The flint was collected in order to examine a suspected Mesolithic artefact scatter identified during the evaluation, and to provide dating evidence, and evidence for the activity of early communities in the palaeoenvironment. The Fieldwork Event Aims for the project are set out in section 2 of the main report, above.

### *Methodology*

- 1.1.4 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 the material were also made.

### *Quantification*

- 1.1.5 A total of 778 pieces of worked flint and 68 pieces of burnt unworked flint (weighing 699g) was recovered from the excavations at Church Lane. A smaller assemblage of 128 pieces of worked flint and 9 pieces of burnt unworked flint (weighing 61g) came from East of Station Road. This material is summarised below in Table 9-Table

### *Provenance*

#### East of Station Road

- 1.1.6 The vast majority of the material came from a series of ditch fills. The ditches have mostly been dated to the late Iron Age-early Roman period and therefore it seems likely that all of the flint from these features is redeposited. This is supported by the range of datable retouched forms (Mesolithic to Bronze Age) that came from the fills of these ditches. It seems highly likely that the excavation of the ditches during the Iron Age disturbed Neolithic and Bronze Age occupation. The flintwork is thinly spread across these contexts with rarely more than a couple of pieces from each context. It is difficult therefore to be more precise about the nature of the pre-Iron Age occupation. However, a range of activities such as various processing tasks including possible hide preparation seem to have been occurring. Knapping may have been occurring, several cores and core rejuvenation flakes were recovered although no small flakes and chips were found. However, this may be a product of on-site sampling methods and post-depositional disturbance rather than reflecting the activities occurring on the site.

#### Church Lane

- 1.1.7 The largest single group of flint came from the topsoil and other unstratified contexts (U/S and 500; see Table 10 for a summary). The flint is thus clearly not in primary context. It is possible that the activity to which the flint relates took place upon the low hill which forms the Church Lane site. Mesolithic to Bronze Age artefacts were recovered from these contexts; debitage dominated but a range of retouched forms including a microlith fragment, scrapers, knives, piercers,

retouched flakes, a possible arrowhead roughout and a notch were also recovered. The assemblage composition suggests domestic activities similar to those suggested for Station Road. Distinctive pieces include a piercer with a long and extensively retouched point of likely later Neolithic date, an invasively retouched knife of probable early Bronze Age date and two denticulated scrapers which may be of mid Bronze Age date. Mesolithic activity is represented by a microlith fragment and a truncated flake, two blade-like flakes may also be contemporary. Several pieces of burnt unworked flint were also recovered from these contexts.

1.1.8 A series of colluvial layers and palaeosols produced assemblages of worked and burnt flint (contexts 501, 502, 525 and 527, see Table 10 and Table for details). Dateable retouched forms from these layers provide broad dates ranging from the Mesolithic to the early Bronze Age.

1.1.9 Small numbers of flint were recovered from contexts 506-7, 509, 511, 513, 515, 528 and 532; the fills of a range of ditches, a burnt scoop and a tree-throw hole. These features are of varied dates (13-14th-century pottery was recovered from context 506 and some LBA Bucket Urn came from 509), and unfortunately the flintwork is generally undistinguished debitage (Table 10).

#### *Conservation*

1.1.10 Much of the flint has suffered some post-depositional damage; cortication is mixed. Numerous pieces of burnt unworked flint were also recovered; this material was very heavily calcined either grey-white or red. A few of the worked flint (several flakes, two multi-platform flake cores, a chip and a misc retouch piece) were also burnt.

1.1.11 Some of the burnt unworked flint is beginning to disintegrate, but little can be done to prevent this. The flint is adequately bagged and boxed for long term storage. There are therefore no storage or conservation requirements.

#### *Comparative Material*

1.1.12 The flint can be compared to other sites along the CTRL such as Tutt Hill and Eyhorn Street which produced Neolithic to Bronze Age material. 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*

1.1.13 The assemblages provide extensive evidence for Neolithic and Bronze Age occupation with a little Mesolithic activity. The material from Church Lane and East of Station Road could be compared to other better stratified material in order to try and improve the dating, but as the groups are largely redeposited this is unlikely to be informative.

1.1.14 The flintwork has potential primarily as an indication of the use of this general area in these periods, which, when compared to the wider distribution of similarly dated scatters and sites, may be of some local importance to an understanding of the position and interaction of the site with the local environment. The material provides relatively few clues as to the kinds of activities to which it may have been related. As the material has been redeposited by slope erosion any concentrations are unlikely to be archaeologically significant. There is therefore no potential for detailed spatial analysis, use-wear analysis or refitting of the scatters to address the Fieldwork Event Aims.

## **1.2 Assessment of the Stone**

*by Ruth Shaffrey*

*Introduction and Methodology*

- 1.2.1 Five fragments of sandstone and ironstone were recovered during the excavations at East of Station Road. These were all unworked though one fragment from context 6007 was burnt. All retained stone was examined.

*Quantification, Provenance and Conservation*

- 1.2.2 Five pieces of stone were recovered during the excavations. These are described in the Table 13-Table 14 below. All five fragments were unworked though one fragment from context 6007 was burnt (Table 13). All the stone would have been available locally. The stone was found in various contexts: in the channel deposits (6007), in ditch fills (7034 and 1710) and unstratified (1300). No conservation is required. All the stone could be discarded.

*Potential for Further Work*

- 1.2.3 No further work is recommended.

Table 9: East of Station Road: summary of worked flint

Context	Count	Period	Comments
600	48	-	32 flakes, 2 core rejuvenation flakes ( 1 tablet, 1 face/edge), 5 cores (2 discoidal flake, 1 opposed platform flake, 1 single platform flake, 1 tested nodule – poss natural), 9 retouched (4 scrapers – 3 end and side, one is reworked and 1 end scraper on a blade-like blank, 5 retouched flakes – 1 on Bullhead flint, mostly minimally retouched). Later Neolithic?
1010	1	LIA-ER	1 flake,
1021	1	LIA-ER	1 ?chisel or pick very worn and irregularly flaked, with some later damage. Mesolithic?
1100	2	-	1 flake, 1 ?unfinished arrowhead, possibly a leaf-shaped. Neolithic or Bronze Age?
1104	5	-	3 flakes, 1 retouched flake – probably use rather than formal retouch, 1 multi-platform flake core
1116	1	LIA-ER	1 small flake, Bullhead flint
1118	3	LIA-ER	2 flakes – 1 is burnt, 1 blade-like flake
1207	2	LIA-ER	Flakes – 1 is burnt, also 2 natural
1215	2	LIA-ER	2 flakes – 1 is burnt, the other flake may be natural, also 2 natural
1300	7	-	5 flakes – 1 is burnt, 2 used or very finely serrated flakes – on blade-like blanks
1312	1	LIA-ER	1 flake
1314	2	LIA-ER	2 flakes, 1 is Bullhead flint, also 1 natural
1318	1	LIA-ER	Miscellaneous retouch, minimally retouched flake
1319	-	LIA-ER	1 natural
1325	2	LIA-ER	2 flakes
1327	1	LIA-ER	1 flake
1330	2	LIA-ER	2 flakes
1338	1	LIA-ER	1 flake
1353	1	LIA-ER	1?flake, possibly natural
1360	2	LIA-ER	2 flakes
1369	1	LIA-ER	1 flake
1386	1	LIA-ER	1 end and side scraper, steeply worked
1613	2	-	2 flakes, one possibly natural
1620	1	Modern	1 flake possible soft-hammer struck
1624	1	LIA-ER	1 flake
1706	1	LIA-ER	1 flake
1708	2	LIA-ER	1 flake, 1 misc retouched flake
1710	1	LIA-ER	1 flake, 2 natural
1714	2	-	2 flakes
1716	4	LIA-ER	1 flake, 1 possible core rejuvenation flake (face/edge), 1 retouched blade, 1 retouched flake
1725	-	LIA-ER?	Natural
6004	2	LIA-ER	2 flakes, 1 of which is burnt
6007	1	-	1 flake
6010		LIA-ER	1 end and side scraper, neatly worked. Neolithic or early Bronze Age?
6020	2	LIA-ER	1 end and side scraper, 1 flake. Neolithic or early Bronze Age?
6028	-	LIA-ER	1 natural
6030	1	LIA-ER	1 flake
7008	1	LIA-ER	1 flake
7025	1	LIA-ER	1 flake
7034	1	LIA-ER	1 flake
7036	7	-	4 flakes, 3 cores (1 single platform flake, 1 multi-platform flake, 1 keeled flake). Neolithic ?perhaps later
8000	1	-	1 flake
8013	1	LIA-ER	1 flake
9010	1	LIA-ER	1 flake
U/S	8	Post-medieval	7 flakes, 1 ?gun flint (slightly atypical).

Table 10: Church Lane: summary of worked flint

Context	Count	Period	Comments
U/S	30	-	1 chip, 1 end and side scraper, with some later damage, 2 misc retouch (1 may be a scraper/knife fragment), 1 core tablet, 1 possible core rejuvenation flake (face/edge), 23 flakes (3 of which are burnt), 1 minimally retouched flake, also 3 natural. Neolithic–Bronze Age
500	499	-	442 flakes (28 of which are burnt, 1 truncated, 2 blade-like), 2 core tablets, 8 cores (6 multi-platform flake, two of which is heavily burnt, 1 single platform flake), 13 chips (1 is burnt), 5 core fragments (flake cores), 2 knives (one with invasive retouch), 1 notch, 8 retouched flakes, 4 end scrapers (one on a thick Bullhead flake), 2 end and side scrapers, 2 worn scrapers, 2 denticulated scrapers, 2 piercers (with a long well retouched point), 1 microlith fragment, 4 misc retouch (1 is burnt, 1 ? arrowhead roughout, 2 misc retouched flake), 1 denticulate, also 21 natural. Mesolithic, Neolithic–Bronze Age
501	1	-	1 chip
502	84	-	73 flakes (6 of which are burnt), 4 chips, 1 core (multi-platform flake), 1 end scraper, 1 microlith (obliquely blunted point?), 1 piercer, 3 retouched flakes, also 2 natural
506	6	Med	5 flakes (some of these flakes may be natural), 1 burnt chip, also 2 natural
507	2	Med	2 flakes
509	10	LBA	1 core (small multi-platform flake), 9 flakes (6 of which are heavily burnt), also 1 natural
513	3	LBA	3 flakes
515	5	LBA?	3 flakes, 2 cores (multi-platform flake, one is very cherty flint)
525	55	-	43 flakes (2 of which are burnt), 2 chips, 2 core fragments, 2 cores (1 discoidal flake, 1 single platform flake), 1 arrowhead fragment, 1 scraper, 1 fabricator. Neolithic to early Bronze Age
526	1	-	1 flake
527	78	-	59 flakes (6 burnt), 10 cores (1 single platform flake, 7 multi-platform flake, 2 discoidal flake), 3 core fragments, 1 retouched blade (much later damage), 1 misc retouch, 1 end scraper with worn edge, 3 end and side scrapers, also 1 natural and 1 piece of pot. ?Neolithic (probably later)
528	3	-	2 flakes, 1 chip
532	1	-	1 core (multi-platform flake)

Table 11: East of Station Road: summary of burnt flint

Context	Count	Weight (g)	Comments
1314	2	8	2 burnt unworked flints calcined red
1351	3	38	3 burnt unworked flints calcined red
1363	2	9	2 burnt unworked flints calcined grey
1617	1	6	1 burnt unworked flints calcined grey
1620	1	2	1 burnt unworked flint calcined red

*Table 12: Church Lane: summary of burnt flint*

<b>Context</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Weight (g)</b>	<b>Comments</b>
U/S	2	17	2 burnt unworked flint calcined grey
500	56	533	56 burnt unworked flint heavily calcined grey
501	9	93	9 burnt unworked flint calcined grey
502	1	1	1 burnt unworked flint calcined grey
506	1	1	1 burnt unworked flint calcined grey
509	2	1	2 burnt unworked flint calcined grey
511	1	30	1 burnt unworked flint calcined grey
525	3	22	3 burnt unworked flint calcined grey
528	2	1	2 burnt unworked flints calcined red

*Table 13: East of Station Road: summary of burnt stone*

<b>Context</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Material</b>	<b>Comments</b>
6007	1	Sandstone	Burnt sub angular fragment

*Table 14: East of Station Road: summary of stone*

<b>Context</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Material</b>	<b>Comments</b>
1300	2	Ironstone	Fragments
7034	1	Cherty cream Greensand	Angular small fragment
1710	1	Ironstone	Small chunk