## 1.1 Assessment Of Worked And Burnt Unworked Flint

*By Philippa Bradley*

*Introduction*

1.1.1 A total of 497 pieces of worked flint and 10 pieces of burnt unworked flint (weighing 86 g) was recovered from the excavations at (ARC 430 81+800-82+000, ARC HWD98, ARC 430 79+200-79-500, ARC NEW98). Material from the Mesolithic and Neolithic seems to be present. The majority of the flint came from the excavations and flint scatter at Leacon Lane, with one particular feature being particularly productive (context 22 produced 288 pieces of flint).

*Methodology*

1.1.2 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. Numerous pieces of natural flint were recovered from the excavations; these have been noted and discarded.

*Quantification*

1.1.3 A total of 497 pieces of worked flint and 10 pieces of burnt unworked flint (weighing 86g) was recovered from the excavations at Leacon Lane, Hurst Wood and Newlands (ARC 430 81+800-82+000, ARC HWD98, ARC 430 79+200-79-500, ARC NEW98). This material is summarised below in Tables 24-29.

*Table 25: Summary composition of flint assemblage from Leacon Lane WBSDI*

| Context | Chain | Count | Period | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 81+800 | 2 | | 2 flakes, 1 from an opposed platform core, slightly blade-like removals, cherty grey flint, also 1 natural discarded |
| 8 | 81+800 | 7 | | 3 flakes, 2 chips, 1 core frag, 1 single platform flake core - grey cherty flint, 1 of the flakes is burnt |
| 22 | 81+800 | 288 | Mesolithic | 255 flakes – inc 5 burnt, some trimming flakes, some usewear, 5 CRF - face/edge, some irregular flakes, 1 plunging flake, many blades/blade-like flakes, 6 core fragments, 19 cores - 1 single plat on a thin nodule, 3 other single platform, 3 opposed platform flake/blade, 3 discoidal, 7 multi-platform - only 1 flake a single platform type has blade scars rest are flake, 2 on flakes, 1 fabricator, 2 retouched flakes, 1 serrated flake very worn, on blade-like blank, 1 misc retouch – flake retouched around its circumference, 1 notch, 4 natural |
| 43 | 81+800 | 3 | | 3 flakes |
| 2 | 81+850 | 44 | Mesolithic | 38 flakes inc blades/blade-like, 1 ?crested flake, 1 CRF face/edge, 5 cores - 1 discoidal, 2 single plat blade/flake, 2 core frags, 1 ?core tool roughout |
| 22 | 81+850 | 28 | | 21 flakes – inc 1 slightly blade-like one, and 1 flake from an opposed platform core, some usewear, hard and soft hammers, some hinges, 4 cores - 1 opposed platform with slightly blade-like removals, 2 multi-platform and 1 single platform - some edge abrasion, 1 end and side scraper very minimally retouched, 2 retouched flakes - 1 one a flake from an opposed platform core, both are minimally retouched and possibly just use |
| 2 | 81+900 | 31 | Mesolithic | 23 flakes - some SH, inc 1 possible axe thinning flake, and 1 CRF - tablet, also 1 irregular flake, 6 cores - 3 multi-platform - both with a few blade scars and 2 single platform flake and blade - 1 is a classic pyramid blade core, 1 opposed platform blade core, 2 core fragments |
| 52 | 81+900 | - | | 2 natural from sample 7 |
| 54 | 81+900 | 2 | | 2 flakes |
| 56 | 81+900 | 17 | ?Mesolithic | 15 flakes inc 1 possible truncated blade, 1 chip – recent break, 1 CRF - face/edge blade scars, also 1 natural |
| 58 | 81+900 | - | | 2 natural from sample 9 |
| 60 | 81+900 | 1 | | 1 flake, 1 natural |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 81+940 | 1 | Mesolithic | 1 opposed platform blade core, some platform preparation worn cortex |
| 3 | 81+940 | 4 | | Flakes, including 2 slightly blade-like egs, some ?usewear |
| 72 | 81+940 | 8 | ?Mesolithic | 3 flakes, 1 blade with usewear, 2 cores - 1 multi platform, 1 single platform blade (with possible refitting flake) 1 CRF - tablet, 1 retouched blade-like flake |
| Total | | 436 | | |

*Table26: Burnt unworked flint from Leacon Lane WBSDI*

| Context | Chain | Count | Weight (g) | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 22 | 81+800 | 1 | 5 | Calcined grey |
| 2 | 81+900 | 1 | 5 | Heavily calcined |
| Total | | 2 | 10 | |

*Table 27: Summary of flint assemblage from Hurst Wood Detailed Excavation*

| Context | Count | Period | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 29 | Neolithic? | 27 flakes inc 1 flake from a polished implement and 2 burnt, many are trimming flakes, several may be natural, some worn edges, 2 core fragments, also 35 natural |
| 1 | 1 | Neolithic? | End and side scraper, well worked on thinish blank SF 5 |
| 2 | 1 | | ?used flake SF 2 |
| 2 | 1 | | Flake SF 3 |
| 13 | 1 | | 1 flake, also 1 natural |
| 25 | 3 | | 3 flakes, 1 natural |
| 28 | 1 | Mesolithic | 1 broken microlith steeply retouched along both edges, possibly late Mesolithic |
| 29 | 1 | | ?chip, possibly natural |
| 54 | 1 | | Flake |
| 77 | 1 | | Flake |
| 103 | 2 | | 1 flake, 1 possible chip |
| 125 | 8 | | 6 flakes, 1 chip, 1 multi-platform flake core - some possible refits with orange cortex |
| 129 | 2 | | 2 flakes |
| 137 | 1 | | 1 flake |
| 142 | 3 | | All possible chips |
| 143 | 1 | | 1 flake |
| Total | 57 | | |

*Table 28: Burnt unworked flint from Hurst Wood (ARC HWD98)*

| Context | Count | Weight (g) | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | 5 | Calcined grey |
| 13 | 4 | 16 | Calcined grey |
| 50 | 1 | 43 | Calcined grey |
| 52 | 1 | 7 | Calcined grey |
| 143 | 1 | 5 | Calcined grey |
| Total | 8 | 76 | |

*Table 29: Summary of flint assemblage from Hurst Wood WBSDI*

| Context | Chain | Count | Period | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 79+300 | 1 | | Flake, very worn and battered |
| Total | | 1 | | |

*Table 30: Summary of flint assemblage from East of Newlands Trench Excavation*

| Context | Count | Period | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3005 | 1 | | ?Trimming flake SF 3000 |
| 3005 | 1 | | Small flake SF 3001 |
| 3005 | 1 | | Core fragment SF 3002 |
| Total | 3 | | |

*Provenance*

1.1.4 The flint from Leacon Lane came from a disturbed flint scatter within the subsoil. The material from Hurst Wood came from a range of features including a series of pits which may have been used to make charcoal. It is possible that the flint is redeposited within these features as none of it was burnt.

*Conservation*

1.1.5 The flint is appropriately bagged and boxed for long-term storage. No conservation is required. All of the natural flint has been discarded. 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.

*Condition*

1.1.6 Some of the flint has suffered some post-depositional damage; although there are many fresh edges and some evidence for used edges. Cortication is mixed. Several pieces of burnt unworked flint were also recovered and a few pieces of worked flint were also burnt.

*Comparative material*

1.1.7 Mesolithic material from other sections of the CTRL route will provide comparative material.

*Potential for further work*

1.1.8 The material provides good evidence for Mesolithic activity, with possible usewear and refitting flakes. This would suggest that some *in situ* activity has been disturbed. Generally the material was in good condition and was probably only recently incorporated into the ploughsoil. It therefore represents a good group for analysis of flint technology. Further analysis (incorporating use wear, refit analysis and distribution) would contribute to CTRL research aims at Landscape Zone Level relating to the location and nature of hunter-forager activity.