

1.1 Assessment of the Worked Flint

by Philippa Bradley

Introduction

- 1.1.1 A total of five pieces of worked flint and two burnt unworked flints was recovered from the excavation at Nashenden and the watching briefs undertaken in the vicinity. Three retouched pieces were recovered, but both are minimally retouched non-diagnostic forms, although technologically they are likely to be Neolithic or early Bronze Age. The assemblages are too small to provide precise dating. The burnt flint has generally been very heavily calcined. The flint was recovered from six contexts (Tables 2.1 - 2.3).
- 1.1.2 The recovery and study of the material was undertaken in accordance with the Fieldwork Event Aims (see section 2, main report), in particular 1, 3 and 5.

Methodology

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

Quantification

- 1.1.4 The flint is summarised and quantified in Tables 2.1 - 2.3.

Table 2.1: Summary composition of flint assemblage from Nashenden (ARC NSH98), by context

Context	Count	Period	Comments
5002	1	ND	1 end scraper on an irregular flake
5004	1	ND	1 piercer, small neatly worked point, worn

Table 2.2: Summary composition of flint assemblage from Nashenden Valley (ARC 410 98 51+900), by context

Context	Count	Period	Comments
38	1	Medieval	1 piece burnt flint

Table 2.3: Summary composition of flint assemblage from (ARC 410 99 53+300), by context

Context	Count	Period	Comments
2 (410 54+442)	1	ND	1 flake (possibly natural)
28 (410 53+300)	2		1 flake, 1 minimally retouched end scraper
44 (410 52+000)	1	Roman	1 burnt flint

Provenance

- 1.1.5 The flint was recovered from six contexts (Tables 2.1 - 2.3); there is insufficient material to examine the distribution of material across either contexts or the site as a whole.

Condition

- 1.1.6 All of the flint has suffered some post-depositional damage; cortication is mostly very heavy. Two pieces of burnt unworked flint were also recovered; these have been heavily calcined and have fragmented further since excavation.

Conservation

- 1.1.7 The burnt flint has fragmented significantly since the excavation, however there is little that can be done to prevent this fragmentation. The flint is generally packed appropriately for long term storage.

Comparative material

- 1.1.8 This small group of material provides evidence for some prehistoric activity in the area although its precise nature is uncertain. Comparison of this material with that from the surface collection survey may elucidate the activity, although no very marked concentrations were observed.

Potential for further work

- 1.1.9 This small group of material cannot be closely dated and therefore does not merit any further work.