

APPENDIX 1 - LITHICS

1.1 Flint

by Philippa Bradley

Introduction

- 1.1.1 A medium-sized assemblage of flint was recovered from the excavations at Snarkhurst Wood; smaller quantities of worked flint came from the watching brief work carried out in the area.
- 1.1.2 The material was hand retrieved on site.
- 1.1.3 The flint was collected in accordance with the Fieldwork Event Aims and Landscape Zone priorities for the sites, which are set out in section 2 of the main report, above. The recovery of flint was undertaken in order to establish the relationship of any late Bronze Age features at the CTRL sites with those identified at the MSA to the north. The recovery of flint was also designed to address research aims relating to the interaction of hunter-foragers with the palaeo-environment, change associated with the adoption of agriculture, and the spatial organisation of the landscape during the period of later agriculturalists.

Methodology

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

Quantification

- 1.1.5 A total of 138 pieces of flint was recovered from the excavation at South of Snarkhurst Wood. The assemblage is summarised below in Table 2.1. Fifteen pieces of flint were recovered from the watching brief (Table 2.2), and a single piece of flint was recovered from Musket Lane (Table 2.3).
- 1.1.6 Diagnostic pieces from South of Snarkhurst Wood include a finely worked plano-convex knife of later Neolithic-early Bronze Age date. Technologically diagnostic pieces (a core and a piercer) also suggest some probable Mesolithic activity in the vicinity. A possible Thames pick fragment also of Mesolithic date was recovered from Musket Lane.
- 1.1.7 Generally both hard and soft hammers were used as percussors. Diagnostic retouched forms and debitage indicate a small element of Mesolithic material and a larger component of later Neolithic to early Bronze Age material. The later Neolithic to early Bronze Age material comes from contexts 128, 148, 251, and possibly 135. Other material may also be contemporary. Apart from the Mesolithic blade core there does not seem to have been any blade production, however, it is possible that this reflects fieldwork bias or that the Mesolithic presence is very limited.

Provenance

- 1.1.8 Almost all of the flint occurred in a scatter at the western end of Area B, in topsoil or recovered from the machine-stripped surface. There is a notable correspondence between the location of this group and a fieldwalking scatter recorded during the surface collection survey.

Condition

- 1.1.9 All of the flint has suffered some post-depositional damage; cortication is mostly light to medium, although two pieces are more heavily corticated. Several pieces of burnt unworked flint were also recovered; this material was very heavily calcined. A few small chips were also burnt.

Comparative material

- 1.1.10 Comparisons can be drawn with contemporary material from the CTRL route, particularly the fieldwalking data. The 1995 OAU excavations on the MSA site to the north of the CTRL trace also produced flint, but this was mostly of a mid to late Bronze Age date (Bradley 1997, 135-6).

Potential for further work

- 1.1.11 This medium-sized group contains a relatively high proportion of diagnostic material, falling into two chronological groups: Mesolithic, and late Neolithic to early Bronze Age. It therefore has some potential for further work to characterise the nature and chronology of prehistoric activity at the site. It is particularly interesting that the assemblage does not appear to replicate the results of the MSA excavation, where the assemblage was primarily composed of mid to late Bronze Age material. This will be of value in considering the fieldwork event aims relating to the relationship between the CTRL and MSA sites.
- 1.1.12 It is recommended that the material is fully recorded and the spatial distribution compared with other categories of material culture. It should also be compared to material from the fieldwalking and locally excavated assemblages, as well as material from other sites along the CTRL.

Bibliography

Bradley, P, 1997 Worked Flint, in Archaeological Investigations on the Motorway Service Area, Junction 8, M20 at Eyhorne Street, Hollingbourne (I Scott), *Archaeologia Cantiana* 117, 134-7

Table 2.1: Summary composition of flint assemblage from South of Snarkhurst Wood (ARC SNK99) by context

Context	Count	Period	Comments
U/S	1		1 core rejuvenation flake (face/edge)
101	6	?some Mesolithic	4 flakes, 1 possible retouched flake (but very minimal retouch), 1 opposed platform blade core? Mesolithic
120	1		Natural
127	2		2 flakes
128	70	Later Neolithic-early Bronze Age	48 flakes, 1 core rejuvenation flake (face/edge), 1 multi-platform flake core, 1 tested nodule, 15 retouched pieces (1 plano-convex knife, 1 knife, 8 retouched flakes, 1 very worn serrated flake, 1 end scraper, 1 side scraper and 1 end and side scraper, 1 misc retouched piece), 4 burnt unworked fragments
135	1		1 very worn end and side scraper
148	2	?Later Neolithic-early Bronze Age	1 flake, 1? scraper or knife fragment
151	1		1 flake – possibly natural
163	4		3 flakes, 1 natural
173	12		1 ?knife fragment, 3 flakes, 5 chips, 4 natural, 1 piece burnt bone
174	1		1 flake
233	5		3 flakes, 1 burnt unworked flint, 1 natural
234	4	? Some possibly Mesolithic	3 flakes, 1 piercer – the latter is possibly Mesolithic
246	2		1 burnt unworked piece, 1 natural
251	3	? later Neolithic	1 flake from a polished axe, 1 flake, 1 discoidal core
261	14		4 flakes, 10 chips – some burnt
263	2		2 flakes
279	3		3 flakes
285	2		2 flakes
291	1		1 ?tested nodule, much plough damage
312	1		1 natural cobble
324	8		1 multi-platform flake core, 7 flakes
326	1		1 flake

Table 2.2: Summary composition of flint assemblage from South of Snarkhurst Wood WBSDS (ARC 420 99 66+300-67+100), by context

Context	Count	Period	Comments
1	1		1 flake
4	1		Natural
10	13		2 flakes, 1 multi-platform flake core (some keeled platforms), 10 burnt unworked fragments
13	1		1 flake

Table 2.3: Summary composition of flint assemblage from Musket Lane (ARC 420 99 67+100-68+100), by context

Context	Count	Period	Comments
147	1	Possibly Mesolithic	? broken axe or chisel, possibly a Thames pick fragment