

1.1 **Assessment of the Worked and Burnt Flint**

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Introduction

- 1.1.1 Assemblages of worked and burnt (unworked) flint were recovered during the watching brief. It was hoped that the flint would provide evidence for the date and character of prehistoric activities across the area.

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 its condition were also made.

Quantification

- 1.1.3 A total of 224 pieces of worked flint and 812 pieces of burnt unworked flint (the latter weighing 5403 g) were recovered. This material is summarised below in Table 2.1 (worked flint) and Table 2.2 (burnt flint).

Provenance

- 1.1.4 Three of the four ring ditches (89, 90 and 156) produced small quantities of worked flint (ring ditch 89: contexts 60-1, 84-5; ring ditch 90: contexts 88, 96-7, 107, 111; ring ditch 156: contexts 158, 160, 166, 178-9 - see Table 2.1 for details). Debitage dominated this small group (flakes including several trimming flakes, a core fragment, a keeled core and a core rejuvenation flake were recovered). The only retouched piece was a retouched blade from context 166 (ring ditch 156); this piece may simply have been used rather than formally retouched. Possible usewear was identified on a flake from context 88 (ring ditch 90). The keeled core from context 85 may be of later Neolithic date. Several trimming flakes were recovered, which together with the core and core fragment might suggest that nodules encountered during the digging of the ring ditches were exploited and reduced on site. The retouched blade may have been used during this phase of activity or may have been associated with the funerary process itself, although no burials clearly associated with the ring ditches were found. There appeared to be little difference between the material from the various fills of the ring ditches, and no concentrations of material were identified. There is too little material to provide any secure dating although the flint is consistent with a broad Neolithic-Bronze Age date. Context 130, an organic layer associated with ring ditch 90 produced two flakes. Small quantities of heavily burnt flint were recovered from various ring ditch contexts (Table 2.2).

- 1.1.5 The fill (24) of cremation pit 23 contained a single flint flake and the fill (99) of a cremation pit (98) to the east of the ring ditches produced eight pieces of heavily calcined flint. A pit with a deposit of charcoal (14) produced a blade-like flake with used edges (Table 2.1). The blade-like flake was placed vertically within the charcoal deposit; unfortunately the blade-like flake is not closely datable. A number of pit fills produced small assemblages of worked flint (contexts 38, pit 37; context 54, pit 53; pit 106; upper fill 13, pit 14; 43, fill of pit 42; 118, fill of pit 117; 151, charcoal pit 150; 267-8, fill of pit 260). Generally the flint was fairly thinly spread across these contexts, and was relatively undiagnostic material including flakes and

a core tablet from context 38, and a multi-platform flake core fragment from context 43 (see Table 2.1 for details). Three pieces of heavily burnt flint came from context 151, the fill of pit 150, and a single piece of burnt flint came from context 268, the fill of pit 260. The fill of pit 21 produced a large assemblage of heavily burnt flint (Table 2.2).

- 1.1.6 Contexts 19 and 20 consisted of two flint scatters, *c* 60 m apart, containing 106 pieces of worked flint (Table 2.1). The material from these scatters was heavily abraded and battered, as would be expected. Debitage dominated the group (Table 2.1), with flakes, cores and core rejuvenation flakes being recovered. A group of large cores and flakes was included in this group; some potential refitting material was identified although no actual refits were found. No small chips or flakes were found from the scatter but this may simply reflect post-depositional disturbance and/or collection methods on site. The retouched forms from the scatter include scrapers, a scraper or knife, a piercer and two retouched flakes. Typically the scrapers were neatly retouched and included a possible ‘thumbnail’ scraper of Beaker date. It is likely that this material is of mixed date and probably includes Neolithic to early Bronze Age flintwork.
- 1.1.7 A flake and a core fragment were recovered from the fill of ditch 201 (context 264). Three tree-throw holes (contexts 219, 337 and 349) produced small assemblages ofdebitage, including two blade-like flakes from context 337 with possible usewear (see Table 2.1 for details). Two pieces of heavily burnt flint came from context 219, the fill of tree-throw hole 217. Flint was also recovered from the topsoil, subsoil layers and other unstratified contexts (eg 100, 101 and 2, see Table 1 for details). The composition of this material is very similar to that from the flint scatters (contexts 19-20) and is similar in date range.

Conservation

- 1.1.8 Much of the flint has suffered some post-depositional damage; cortication is mixed. Several pieces of burnt unworked flint were also recovered. This material was very heavily calcined either grey-white or red. A few pieces of worked flint were also burnt. Some of the burnt unworked flint is beginning to disintegrate, but little can be done to prevent this. The burnt unworked flint could be discarded. The flint is adequately bagged and boxed for long term storage. There are therefore no storage or conservation requirements.

Comparative Material

- 1.1.9 The flint from Tutt Hill could be compared to material from other Neolithic to Bronze sites excavated along the route of the CTRL (eg Snarkhurst Wood, Sandway Road and Church Lane) and material from the County. Material from the surface artefact collection survey would also provide useful comparisons.

Potential for Further Work

- 1.1.10 The flint from Tutt Hill is generally of Neolithic to early Bronze Age date, but very limited diagnostic retouched forms and littledebitage was recovered. Although the assemblage is only broadly dated to the Neolithic-early Bronze Age it seems unlikely that any of the material is contemporary with the later Bronze Age ceramics recovered. The flintwork was generally thinly spread across the contexts. Given these limitations the flint nonetheless provides evidence for earlier prehistoric activity in this area. It is unfortunate that the activity associated with the flint scatters (19 and 20) cannot be more accurately dated, since they provide potentially

interesting evidence of activity not far from the area of the targeted watching brief which might, for example, be contemporary with the ring ditches.

- 1.1.11 One small group of flints showed potential for refitting analysis, although no actual refits were identified during the assessment. A programme of refitting on this group, if successful, would demonstrate that the flint has not moved far from the point of original deposition and would suggest the presence of a knapping site in the vicinity of the barrows, potentially contemporary with their primary construction and use. This would help to define the range of activities associated with the barrow cemetery. While not necessarily indicating domestic occupation, the presence of a knapping site would at least suggest that the location was a focus of activity, such as a temporary campsite or a meeting place.
- 1.1.12 Some evidence for usewear has been identified but, given the lack of good groups and the number of pieces involved there is no potential for further work in this area.

Table 2.1: Summary of worked flint

Context	Count	Period	Comments
38 (83+900)	3	Prehist	2 flakes, 1 core tablet
13 (83+300)	1	LBA?	1 flake
72	-	LIA-ER	Natural
88	1	LN-EBA	1 flake with possibly used edges
100	1	-	1 flake, very cherty flint, 1 natural
106	1	LIA + PM	1 flake with blade scars on dorsal face
116	5	?	4 small chips, 1 flake. The chips may conjoin
158	2	LN-EBA	2 flakes, also 2 natural
160	4	LN-EBA	4 flakes, one is a very large trimming flake, fresh edges, some usewear
166	2	LN-EBA	1 flake, poss used, 1 retouched blade ?use rather than retouch
178	5	LN-EBA	5 flakes, all small
179	2	LN-MBA	2 flakes
187	-	LN-EBA	2 natural
7 (84+320)	3	EIA	1 flake, 1 used blade, possibly truncated, 1 blade-like flake with possible usewear
13	1	LBA?	1 flake
2 (84+400) U/S	6	-	1 irregular flake, 2 multi-platform flake cores, 1 single platform flake core, 1 end and side scraper made on a ?discoidal core , 1 blade
43	1	LBA	Multi-platform flake core fragment
54	3	LBA	3 flakes one of which has thermal internal flaws and is battered externally
60	2	LN-EBA	1 trimming flake, 1 core rejuvenation flake (face/edge) core has been rotated 180 degrees
61	1	LN-EBA	1 blade-like flake
84	2	LN-EBA	2 flakes, one is a large trimming flake
85	4	LN-EBA	1 keeled core – very cherty flint, 1 flake, 1 possible flake, 1 core fragment, ??later Neolithic
96	1	LN-EBA	1 flake with blade scar on dorsal face
97	2	LN-EBA	2 flakes
101	2	-	1 core rejuvenation flake (face/.edge), 1 retouched flake with very worn edges
107	2	LN-EBA/LBA	2 blade-like flakes with blade scars on dorsal faces
111	3	LN-EBA	3 flakes, 2 are trimming flakes
116	1	?	1 blade-like flake ?used edges
118	2	MBA	2 flakes
130	2	?	2 flakes
151	9	MN-LN	8 flakes two of which are heavily burnt
166	1	LN-EBA	1 flake
264	2	LBA?	1 flake, 1 core fragment
219	6	MBA	6 flakes, also 1 natural

Context	Count	Period	Comments
267	2	?	2 flakes
268	-	?	1 natural
349	3	?	2 flakes, 1 chip
337 (84+500)	6	MN?	4 flakes, 2 blade-like flakes – some with possible usewear
19 (84+700)	95	LN-EBA	74 flakes, 3 core fragments (flake cores), 1 multi-platform flake core, 1 single platform flake core, 1 core rejuvenation flake (face/edge), 6 misc retouch, 6 scrapers (1 fragment, 4 end, 1 possible thumbnail) , 1 scraper/knife, 1 piercer, 1 retouched flake, 2 natural, Neolithic-early Bronze Age
100	3	-	3 blade-like flakes one is burnt
U/S (84+800)	13	-	7 flakes, 2 core fragments, 1 multi-platform flake core, 1 single platform flake core, 1 retouched flake (minimal retouch), 1 end and side scraper – much later damage
24	1	-	1 small flake
19 (84+860)	7	-	3 flakes, 1 extremely large opposed platform flake core with some edge preparation, 3 minimally retouched flakes, also 4 natural
20	11	-	9 flakes (one from an opposed platform core), 1 retouched flake, 1 large ?multi-platform flake core. NB some of the flakes from this group are very large and may well refit the cores
Total	224		

Table 2.2: Summary of burnt, unworked flint

Context	Count	Weight (g)	Comments
2 (83+360)	2	5	Heavily calcined grey
164 (84+300)	1	3	Heavily calcined grey
178	2	26	Heavily calcined white-grey
179	2	11	Heavily calcined grey
61 (84+400)	1	20	Heavily calcined white-grey
151	3	42	Heavily calcined white-grey, one piece is reddish tinged
219	2	3	Heavily calcined grey
268	1	10	Heavily calcined white-grey with reddish tinges, also 1 natural
99 (84+440)	8	12	Heavily calcined grey
22 (84+900)	790	5271	Heavily calcined white-grey with reddish tinges*
Total	812	5403	

* Scanned only, numbers from OAU finds records