

## **APPENDIX 4: ASSESSMENT OF WORKED FLINT**

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### **1. Introduction**

A small group of worked flint and an assemblage of burnt unworked flint was recovered from the excavations. All elements of the reduction sequence were recovered, but some biases are evident (eg only one chip was recovered). This may reflect depositional practices as well as on site sampling policies. A relatively wide range of retouched forms was recovered including scrapers, retouched flakes and blades, serrated flakes and a piercer. The debitage included flakes, blades, blade-like flakes, a chip and three cores. The burnt unworked flint consists of small to medium sized fragments of heavily calcined flint.

### **Methodology**

The worked and burnt unworked flint was recorded onto the Oracle database using standard MoLSS methods. The material was recorded by typological group, where appropriate notes were made on pertinent technological attributes. Brief notes were also made on the general condition of the material. The burnt unworked flint was briefly scanned and quantified, a general note of the condition of the material was also made.

### **Quantifications**

A total of 57 pieces of worked flint and 128 pieces of burnt unworked flint (weighing 1242 g) were recovered from the excavations at Parsonage Farm (ARC PFM 98 and ARC 430 85+100-85+350 (OAU watching brief of Parsonage Farm). The flint is summarised in the tables below.

### **Provenance**

Flint was recovered from 37 contexts and therefore there were few concentrations of material; most contexts produced only one or two flints. The flint came from a variety of context types including pit fills [175], [601], an occupation layer [382] and a timber brushwood platform [183]. Many of these contexts produced post-Roman pottery and thus the flint is clearly redeposited.

### **Conservation**

The flint is appropriately bagged and boxed for long-term storage. Some of the burnt unworked flint is beginning to disintegrate; however, there is little that can be done to prevent this. No conservation is required.

### **Comparative material**

The flint compares well with other Neolithic and Bronze Age material recovered from the CTRL route. It can contribute to the Landscape Zone priorities in a limited way given its small size and the composition of the assemblage.

### **Potential for further work**

Although all elements of the reduction sequence were recovered this group of flint has limited potential given its size and overall composition. The retouched forms present provide evidence for small-scale domestic activity (food and hide preparation, knapping). However, it is likely that this material is of Neolithic-Bronze Age date; the small size of the assemblage and its composition preclude any refinement of the dating. A single opposed platform blade core may indicate a Mesolithic presence. The dating is based on technological attributes (eg mostly hard-hammer struck) of the material and its general appearance. The material recovered indicates some form of prehistoric small-scale activity in the vicinity, although its extent is unknown. Lithics were recovered from the surface survey collection undertaken across the site (URL 1994). Given this limited potential no further analytical work is required. If a summary is required for publication it can be drawn from this assessment report.

Although the lithics recovered from Parsonage Farm can contribute to some of the Landscape Zone priorities, they are not relevant for the specific fieldwork event aims for the site.

### **Bibliography**

None

Table 12: Worked Flint

Context	Count	Period	Comments [presence of diagnostic material/ dominance tool/flakes etc.]
33	3		1 slightly blade-like flake
33	1		1 end scraper
33	1		1 blade
33	1	ME?	1 burnt opposed platform blade core
U/S	8		6 flakes, 1 multi-platform flake core, 1 double end scraper
164	1		1 retouched flake
179	1		1 blade with used edges
188	1		1 flake
279	1		1 flake
312	1		1 flake some incipient cones of percussion
361	1		1 flake
375			1 natural flint discarded
382	14		9 flakes, 1 flake core with 2 platforms, 2 retouched flakes (1 is possibly a knife), 1 piercer with worn point, 1 small end and side scraper with some wear
471	4		4 flakes, one is on very cherty flint
498	2		2 flakes
743	1		1 serrated flake fragment
771	4		4 flakes
854	1		1 small chip
923	1		1 flake
933	1		1 heavily corticated flake
1021			1 natural flint discarded
1049	3		1 minimally retouched blade, 2 flakes
1053	1		1 small serrated flake fragment
1066	1		1 retouched flake, on an irregular flake, some post depositional damage
1069	1		1 flake
1100			2 natural flints discarded
1137	1		1 flake, also 2 natural
1138	1		1 flake
1148	1		1 single platform flake core irregularly worked
	Total 57		

*Table 13: Burnt Flint*

<b>Context</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>Comments</b>
101	14	334	Burnt unworked flint calcined red
175	1	28	Burnt unworked flint calcined grey
183	1	13	Burnt unworked flint calcined grey
208	1	11	Burnt unworked flint calcined grey
243	38	364	Burnt unworked flint calcined grey
280	1	244	Burnt unworked flint heavily calcined
601	12	49	Burnt unworked flint calcined red
862	12	9	Burnt unworked flint calcined red, also 11 natural
883	2	67	Burnt unworked flint calcined grey
966	38	111	Burnt unworked flint calcined red
967	5	7	Burnt unworked flint calcined red
1049	3	5	
	128	1242	