

**SOMERSET AGGREGATES LITHICS ASSESSMENT
(SALSA)**

**AGGREGATES LEVY SUSTAINABILITY FUND
ENGLISH HERITAGE PROJECT NUMBER 5285**

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SUMMARY

The Somerset Aggregates Lithics Assessment (SALSA) was commissioned by English Heritage in 2007 and was funded by the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund (ALSF). The project examined the lithic (flint and chert) collections recovered from the most significant aggregate areas of Somerset, on the Mendip plateaux and the Burtle Beds of the Somerset Levels. It provides a rapid assessment of the extent, date and character of the collections and their suitability for further analysis.

The results of the rapid assessment have led to the identification of 122 discrete lithic assemblage locations, comprising 24,097 objects, which have been incorporated into the Somerset Historic Environment Record (SHER) as new or amended sites. This has enabled the SHER to portray a more accurate and up to date picture of the extent of the known lithic distributions in the aggregate producing areas and has therefore enhanced its ability to be used as a development control tool.

The assessment has identified a significant problem with a large proportion of the lithic collections, in respect of a lack of accurate and precise locational information. Many collections suffered from inadequate packaging and labelling and these defects were remedied wherever possible during the project.

The assessment identified the lithic collections that were most deserving of full analysis and could potentially add the most to the archaeological knowledge of the early prehistoric period in the study areas. The project has also highlighted the need for the development and testing of fieldwork methodologies to characterise the human activity and archaeological remains that the lithic scatters represent.

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Back Cover: Martin Green and Keith Faxon using stone and antler tools to knap flint at a public demonstration at the Peat Moors Centre, Westhay, Somerset

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the project

Somerset has a range of geological resources that have been used as aggregates both in the past and the present, including Carboniferous Limestone, Silurian Andesite, Devonian Sandstone, Triassic Pebble Beds, marine sands and the quaternary sand deposits known as the Burtle Beds. In 1996 the total output of aggregates from Somerset was 10.8 million tonnes (Somerset County Council 2004: 24).

Currently Somerset produces one sixth of the UK's aggregates, with the main extraction sites being located on the Mendip Hills to the north of the county. Other smaller scale extraction occurs on the Pebble Beds in the Vale of Taunton and Burtle Beds of central Somerset.

In 2005 English Heritage commissioned the Historic Environment Service of Somerset County Council to complete *The Aggregate Landscape of Somerset: Predicting the Archaeological Resource*. The project was funded by the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund (ALSF) and represented a largely Historic Environment Record (HER) based assessment of the archaeological resource within six 'Character Areas' of past and present aggregate extraction. A consideration was also made of regions that the current Somerset Minerals Local Plan (SMLP) identified as possible sources for aggregates in the future.

The Resource Assessment established that approximately 25% of the archaeological resource of the county of Somerset lies within areas potentially suitable for aggregate extraction. It also highlighted a general dearth of good quality, modern archaeological excavation, geophysical survey, environmental analysis, artefact study and scientific dating studies across all the character areas and chronological time periods. The Research and Outreach Agendas proposed areas for future study and re-assessment, particularly focussing on monuments severely impacted on or destroyed by aggregate extraction that had hitherto been poorly investigated. The results of *The Aggregate Landscape of Somerset: Predicting the Archaeological Resource* project can be found at www.somerset.gov.uk/heritage and on the ADS website.

The Aggregate Landscape of Somerset: Predicting the Archaeological Resource Research Agenda identified the assessment and analysis of un-catalogued lithic collections as one of the highest priorities for future research (Firth 2006: 200-226). Lithics are the most abundant element of the known material culture for the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age periods. They also provide the most common and widely distributed evidence for human activity during the prehistoric periods.

Approximately 32% of the prehistoric entries recorded on the Somerset HER as been recovered from the county's aggregate areas relate to lithics. Currently these lithic collections provide a large proportion of the base data

from which we interpret the early prehistoric periods. It is however widely accepted that there is a lack of detailed academic work on these collections to inform on the settlement pattern and economy of the prehistoric periods.

Some of the lithic material included in the report (part of the Everton and Hack collections) had been studied previously (Lewis 1998 and Bond 2006). However it was decided to include all of this material in the rapid assessment because both Everton and Hack were prolific collectors and the project team wanted to ensure that all their material had been subject to appropriate assessment (further details can be found in Section 5).

The project focused on surface lithic collections recovered from the Mendip Hills and Burtle Beds aggregate character areas, as defined in *The Aggregate Landscape of Somerset: Predicting the Archaeological Resource* (Firth 2006: 13-17). The Mendip Hills are currently responsible for 90% of Somerset's crushed rock aggregate output (Somerset County Council 2004: 24-25). As the demand for aggregate within Southeast England continues and as three of the major Mendip quarries have already submitted plans for extensions it seems likely that this area will continue to play a significant role in the UK's aggregate production.

The quaternary sands of the Burtle Beds have been exploited in the past for aggregates and while there are currently no active quarries within the area, the SMLP has identified these deposits as suitable for "borrow pits" on an ad hoc basis to meet future development needs (Somerset County Council 2004: 39). Such developments could include new county road schemes and the proposed Severn Barrage.

Both these areas have produced significant quantities of lithics. There are 108 entries on the Somerset HER relating to lithics for the Mendip Hills character area and they represent every early prehistoric period from the Palaeolithic through to the Bronze Age. Approximately 64% of these HER entries are recorded as having been deposited within local museums and are available for study. There are 20 HER entries relating to lithics recovered from the Burtle Beds, all are all deposited with the County Museum, Taunton and are available for study.

Where the information is available the Somerset HER indicates that the archived collections from the Mendip Hills and Burtle Beds are held at the museums listed below. Permission to access the material for the SALSA project was sought and granted from each museum.

Somerset County Museum, Taunton
Wells & Mendip Museum
Axbridge Museum and the collections of the Axbridge Archaeological & Local History Society
The University of Bristol Spelaeological Museum
Bristol City Museum
North Somerset Museum, Weston-super-Mare

There are currently several individuals who hold private collections of lithic material recovered from the Mendip Hills and Burtle Beds aggregate character areas. Prior to the start of this project only a small amount of this material was recorded on the Somerset HER and two of the largest private collections (totally approximately 15,000 lithics) had not been reported on. The owners of these two collections granted permission for them to be accessed and assessed. Unfortunately, as the project progressed, one of the collectors insisted on a set of new conditions for access to his collection, that could not be resolved within the project timetable. Another individual came forward with information and an unrecorded lithic collection and that has been included in the project instead.

1.2 Project Objectives

The aims and objectives for this project have been drawn up with reference to the criteria published on the English Heritage website for the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund (ALSF) projects. The project is designed to fulfil two of the three main criteria for the ALSF projects defined on the webpage as:

- A. Projects to increase the understanding and dissemination of knowledge gained from previous work undertaken on aggregate extraction landscapes: both to the local communities and the wider academic and public. This work will also improve our ability to predict future impacts in such environments (see B).*

- B. Projects aimed at developing the capacity to manage the impact of aggregate extraction on historic landscapes in the future. To develop reliable predictive information to enable curators, planners and the industry to better manage the impact of future extraction on the historic environment.*

The two main aims of the project are:

1. To improve our understanding of the diversity, distribution and character of early prehistoric activity in the Somerset aggregate areas.

2. To improve the capability of the Somerset HER to answer research questions and to act as a robust platform for informing development control advice, future management strategies and agri-environment advice.

The specific objectives of the project are:

1. What is the potential of the existing lithic collections to provide information concerning early prehistoric human activity in the aggregate areas?

2. What are the priority collections for full analysis to help achieve Aim 1?

3. To improve knowledge of the early prehistoric occupation of the sand islands in the proposed Somerset Levels and Moors World Heritage Site.
4. What sites are of potential national importance that may warrant protection through designation?
5. Which are the most significant early prehistoric sites that may require the development of management strategies or agri-environment strategies for their preservation?
6. Which early prehistoric sites have the most potential for answering research questions through excavation?
7. The enhancement of the information contained in the Somerset HER through improving existing entries and creating new ones where applicable.
8. The provision of more detailed and comprehensive heritage resource information for the general public and academic researchers.

This project was commissioned by English Heritage in October 2007 on the basis of a Project Design (5285PD) submitted in September 2007, in support of an application for funding under the terms of the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund (ALSF).

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Introduction

A methodology was developed to meet the two main project aims as specified in section 2.2. The basic components comprised of:

1. Identifying the archive location of lithic collections of 20 items or more noted on the Somerset HER from the Burtle Beds and Mendip Hills character areas (excluding all those collected as part of academic research, development control measures or by professional archaeologists).
2. Gaining access to the museum and private collections.
3. Carrying out a rapid assessment of both the museum and private collections and identifying those assemblages, which showed potential for further analysis.

The rapid assessment involved extracting the information listed below:

1. NGR & if relevant site/field name
2. Sketch map/area of discovery or any other paper records
3. Quantity
4. Dates/Periods represented
5. Quantity (%) in relation to each period represented
6. Characteristic tool and waste types
7. Land use (if known)
8. Date found and by whom

Information on the aggregate producing geologies in the county and the identification of the two 'Character Areas' was taken directly from *The Aggregate Landscape of Somerset: Predicting the Archaeological Resource* project (Firth 2006).

2.2 Data Collection

The initial data for the project was gathered exclusively from the Somerset HER. For each character area HER entries pertaining to lithic collections that lay on aggregate geology were captured from the GIS system and isolated, these included entries which were partially located on the surrounding geologies but which lay substantially within the core areas.

A search of the paper records was then made in order to attempt to establish the size of the collections and their whereabouts. Once this was established a list of 'Lithic' HER entries was then sent to the relevant museums. In addition to this information each museum was sent a list of parishes for the character areas so that they could search their own databases for any material not registered on the

Somerset HER. The parishes for each character area are listed below.

The Mendip Hills Character Area Parish List

Ashwick
Axbridge
Binegar
Cheddar
Chewton Mendip
Coleford
Compton Bishop
Cranmore
Crocombe
Doulting
Downhead
Emborough
Great Elm
Leigh-on-Mendip
Litton
Mells
Nunney
Priddy
Rodney Stoke
St Cuthbert Out
Shepton Mallet
Wanstrow
Wells
Westbury
Whatley

The Burtle Beds Character Area Parish List

Bawdrip
Burtle
Chedzoy
Middlezoy
Shapwick
Meare & Westhay
Westonzoyland

Additional information (from the individual museum accession registers or databases) was provided where available and is referred to in the text. The status of the museum records is variable and comments on individual museum archives have been made in Section 5 where appropriate.

2.3 The Rapid Assessment

The rapid assessment took the form of an initial search through the available museum paper records (history files and accession registers) followed by physical counting and recording of the

quantity and types of lithics in each collection. This information was inputted into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet and individual Excel workbooks were saved for each museum. Appendix 1 comprises the excel workbooks.

During the course of the rapid assessment it became clear that some of the lithic collections were in desperate need of re-packaging. Re-packaging (to museum archival standards) was carried out with the assistance of volunteers and donations of archival standard boxes were made to Axbridge Museum and the Axbridge Archaeological and Local History Society and Wells and Mendip Museum.

Where re-packaging was necessary all original information was transferred to the new bags and boxes. Additional special care was taken to ensure that any loose paper notes or labels were placed with the correct assemblage.

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE AGGREGATE CHARACTER AREAS

3.1 The Mendip Hills Character Area

The Mendip Hills form the northern boundary of the county of Somerset. They stretch from the Bristol Channel in the west to Frome in the east where they join the southern reaches of the Cotswolds. They are steeply elevated on both the north and south sides and are bisected by a series of gorges and combes. The area is perhaps most famous for the impressive network of cave systems created by continuous rainwater action since the formation of the hills.

The modern landscape of the Mendip Hills bears the scars of past and present industrial processes such as mining and quarrying. The agricultural landscape is one largely of pasture for beef and dairy cattle and sheep. The whole of the western half of the hills are designated as an AONB and there are several Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

There are two main rock types on Mendip: the Devonian Sandstones visible around Blackdown and Downhead and the Carboniferous Limestones, which dominate the hills and surround the older rock formations. The Limestones are the most intensively exploited geology for aggregates on Mendip. In some areas where the younger Jurassic Limestones overlay the older deposits they are also used as aggregates. The eastern end of the hill range also contain small deposits of Silurian Andesite, the oldest rock formation in Somerset, these are also extracted for aggregates. Aggregate quarrying can be divided into three distinct areas, West, Central and East, with the quarries in East currently producing the greatest yield.

The Mendip Hills aggregate character area as defined in *The Aggregate Landscape of Somerset: Predicting the Archaeological Resource* (Firth: 2006) covers approximately 252 square kilometres and includes all the Carboniferous Limestone, Devonian Sandstone and Silurian Andesite deposits in the area.

3.2 The Burtle Beds Character Area

The Somerset Levels and Moors are situated in the centre of the county and they comprise of approximately 63,000 hectares of low lying land, most of which is below 15 metres OD. In the north they bounded by the Mendip Hills and in the south by the Blackdown Hills. Two smaller hill ranges, the Wedmore ridge, which separates the Axe and Brue valleys, and the Polden hills, which divide the Brue and Parrett valleys, bisect the Levels and Moors.

Modern drainage methods protect the Levels and Moors from flooding and livestock farming takes place across the area. Limited peat extraction continues and a number of nature conservation agencies operate reserves in the exhausted peat exploitation areas. Approximately 29,000 hectares of the

Levels and Moors are designated as an ESA and a further 7,500 hectares are a SSSI.

The geology of the area consists of Jurassic lower lias clays, inter-bedded with thinner limestones. On most of the Levels and Moors there are very few exposures of the underlying geology as superficial layers of peat and estuarine clay of varying thickness overlie them. Amongst the superficial geological deposits rise a number of small 'islands', these are clusters of marine sand deposited during the last interglacial and are known as the 'Burtle Beds'. In some places the bands of sand have merged and become solidified into the limestone below them, creating hard islands. In the true Burtle Beds the sand remains free flowing. The British Geological Survey (BGS) have mapped fourteen Burtle Beds. However historical information and local knowledge suggests that there are likely to be at least double that amount, although many of them are probably very small in size.

During the 19th and early 20th Centuries the Burtle Beds of the Levels and Moors were actively quarried for aggregates. There are currently no active quarries within the area, but the greatest threat to these deposits comes from 'borrow pits', which can become active at very short notice. Government policy on reducing the transportation of aggregate makes the use of such borrow pits more likely in the future for local projects such as road schemes or the proposed Severn Barrage.

The Burtle Beds aggregate character area as defined in *The Aggregate Landscape of Somerset: Predicting the Archaeological Resource* (Firth: 2006) consists of fourteen individual burtles and they collectively cover approximately 14.2 square kilometres.

4 THE MUSEUM COLLECTIONS

4.1 Somerset County Museum, Taunton

A search of the Somerset HER suggested that there were thirteen lithic collections from both the Mendip Hills and Burtle Beds character areas deposited within the Somerset County Museum, Taunton. Details of these collections were passed to the Museum Curator, who also arranged a further search of the museum catalogue to be made using the list of parishes provided by the Project Officer (see Section 3).

After both the museum database and the HER searched had been completed a total of thirteen collections were identified for rapid assessment. Ten collections had been recovered from the Burtle Beds character area and three were recovered from the Mendip Hills character area. The basic details of each collection are listed in Tables 1 and 2, fuller details for each site can be found in Appendix 1.

4.1.1 The Rapid Assessment

The Somerset County Museum holds material collected from both the Burtle Beds and Mendip Hills character areas and as such the following sections have been divided by area (elsewhere in the report material has been divided by individual collectors).

4.1.2 The Burtle Beds Lithic Collections

There are ten lithic collections in the Somerset County Museum recovered from the Burtle Beds character area. Members of the Somerset Levels Project team collected seven of these assemblages (Somerset HER PRNs 10055, 11711, 11723, 11759, 11764, 12107 and 1209). The Somerset Levels Project came into being in 1973, under the direction of John Coles. While its primary aim was to record the wetland archaeological remains discovered as a result of peat extraction in the Brue Valley, the project team also undertook a small number of fieldwalking exercises on the higher ground. Surface lithic scatters were recorded by members of the project and recorded on finds sheets (which became the project catalogue). A summary of the all the lithic material recovered by the project from the Brue Valley was published in 1986 (Brown 1986). The County Museum holds a copy of the Somerset Levels Project finds catalogue, each lithic has been allocated an individual accession number and is clearly marked and bagged accordingly.

The first assemblage collected by the Somerset Levels Project (Somerset HER PRN 10055 and museum accession number 270/1989) was recovered from NGR ST 331 397 in an area to the southwest of Bradney Farm, Bawdrip. It totals 59 lithics and comprises struck waste flakes (93% of the assemblage and including some burnt flakes), blades, a possible scraper and a possible core. There are not enough diagnostic elements to this assemblage to suggest a specific date however it consists of worked lithics and is likely to be prehistoric in origin.

The second assemblage collected by the Somerset Levels Project (Somerset HER PRN 11711 and museum accession number 130/1986/2614) was recovered from a variety of grid references centring on NGR ST 390 430 on Edington Burtle. The collection totals 259 lithics comprising struck waste flakes (40% of the assemblage), a retouched flake, blades, blade fragments, awls, a possible scraper, an oblique arrowhead, a hollow based arrowhead and a possible Mesolithic core. Approximately 50% of this assemblage represents un-worked flakes and chips. The diagnostic material suggests this is mostly a Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age assemblage with a small (perhaps residual) Mesolithic element.

The third assemblage collected by the Somerset Levels Project (Somerset HER PRN 11723 and museum accession number 130/1986/2365) was recovered from around NGR ST 333 392 at Bradney, Bawdrip. It totals 25 lithics and comprises struck waste flakes (68% of the assemblage and including some burnt and chert flakes), retouched flakes, a possible fragment of polished axe and some (un-worked) chips. This assemblage is prehistoric in origin and may date to the Neolithic period.

The fourth collection of Somerset Levels Project lithics (Somerset HER PRN 11749 and museum accession number 130/1986/2364) was recovered from around NGR ST 369 322 south of Langland Road, Middlezoy. It totals 20 lithics, comprising struck waste flakes (95% of the assemblage and including some burnt flakes) and a possible chert core. This material is humanly worked and probably prehistoric in origin however there were no diagnostic elements.

The fifth collection of material recovered by the Somerset Levels Project (Somerset HER PRN 11764 and museum accession number 130/1986/2357) collected from around NGR ST 385 335 and was labelled 'Greylake, field 2'. It totals 15 lithics and comprises struck waste flakes (93% of the assemblage and including some burnt and chert flakes) and a possible core. This material is likely to be of prehistoric origin although the absence of diagnostic material means it is not possible to assign it to a specific period. It should also be noted that although it represents less than 20 items in total it was included because of the proximity to the large collection recovered from the Greylake sand quarry (see below for further details).

The sixth collection of material recovered by the Somerset Levels Project (Somerset HER PRN 12107 and museum accession number 130/1986/2360) came from the area around NGR ST 364 341 at Westonzoyland Airfield. It totals 20 lithics comprising struck waste flakes (90% of the assemblage and including some burnt and chert flakes) and cores (one of which may be Mesolithic and the other is probably Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age). With the exception of the cores there are no diagnostic elements to this collection, although the struck waste is more likely to be Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age rather than Mesolithic in date.

The seventh collection of lithics recovered by the Somerset Levels Project (Somerset HER PRN 12109 and museum accession numbers

130/1986/2229-2237) was recovered from around NGR ST 340 350 at Penzoy Farm, Westonzoyland, a very small Burtle bed in the Parrett valley. The assemblage totals 111 lithics and comprises struck waste flakes and chips (91% of the collection and including burnt and chert flakes), scrapers, blades, retouched flakes, a retouched blade and a core. This collection is probably Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age in origin.

Two of the collections recovered from the Burtle Beds character area had not been recorded on the Somerset HER. The material was collected by a local amateur archaeologist and clearly bagged and labelled although it was not accompanied by any documentation. A small amount of Roman and Medieval pottery had also been collected from both areas.

The first collection (museum accession number 98/2001, Somerset HER PRN 26182) was recovered from NGR ST 336 339 (Ashford's Corn Field) on Chedzoy Burtle. It totals 24 lithics comprising struck waste flakes (88% of the assemblage and including burnt flakes), a possible awl or borer and some un-worked material. It is prehistoric origin.

The second collection (museum accession number 99/2001, Somerset HER PRN11858) was recovered from NGR ST 3380 3695 and labelled 'Chedzoy Field Scatter'. It totals 46 lithics and consists of struck waste flakes (63% of the assemblage and including some burnt material) scrapers, a broken scraper, blades and blade fragments, a broken barbed and tanged arrowhead, a broken retouched blade and some un-worked flint and chert flakes. This assemblage probably dates to the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age period.

The final lithic assemblage recovered from the Burtle Beds character area was collected by a local amateur archaeologist, H.S.L. Dewar from a sand quarry at Greylake, Middlezoy NGR ST 392 335 in the 1930s (Somerset HER PRN 10568). The collection contains approximately 4,000 flint and Greensand chert items. A total 477 objects, including tools, cores and core trimmings have been assigned individual accession numbers while the remaining material, which represents struck waste flakes, cores and waste blades have

been accessioned by bulk. The County museum does not hold any documentation for the collection; however Dewar's archive, which includes a six-inch Ordnance Survey map showing the location of the collection and glass lantern slides of the quarry, was gifted to the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society (SANHS).



Figure1. Microliths from Greylake sand quarry

The collection dates almost exclusively the early Mesolithic period and contains both tools (microliths, microburins, scrapers and an axe) and waste (around 83% of the assemblage) including cores, core trimmings, blades, primary flakes, chip and spalls. Several interim accounts of the collection have appeared in print (Clarke 1933, Wainwright 1960, Norman 1982 & 2007) but the entire collection has never been subject to a full analysis.



Figure2. Saw blade from Greylake sand quarry

4.1.2.1 The Mendip Hills Character Area Lithic Collections

There were three collections recovered from the Mendip Hills character area archived within the Somerset County Museum, Taunton. The first collection (museum accession number 47/1993) had been transferred from the Bourne Hall Museum in Surrey and was recovered by a Mr Tom Walls in 1946. It has hitherto not been recorded on the Somerset HER. The assemblage contains a total of 109 items and comprises scrapers (55% of the assemblage), denticulates/serrated blades, blades, an awl, cores, microliths, possible knives, a barbed and tanged arrowhead, an oblique arrowhead, a broken arrowhead, polished axe fragments and a polished knife fragment.

Although accompanied by a journal only 10 of the objects can be assigned to specific areas, the remaining material was derived from the 'Priddy area'. The material is generally of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze date and it is the opinion of Martin Green and Mr Keith Faxon (Green & Faxon, pers comm. 2007) that the assemblage is typical of the types of material found elsewhere on the Mendip plateau.

The final two collections (Somerset HER PRN 24235 and museum accession numbers A2398 and A2520) were recovered by a Miss E. Janes around 1929 and also recovered from the 'Priddy area'. The first assemblage (A2398) totals 40 lithics comprising scrapers (90% of the collection) and some struck waste flakes. The second assemblage (A2520) totals 46 lithics consisting of scrapers



Figure 3. Barbed and tanged and oblique arrowheads from County Museum Collection 47.1993

(90% of the collection), a possible burin, blades and a possible awl. Both collections are tool selective and are consistent with a Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date.

4.1.3 Recommendations for further analysis

Only one collection from the Somerset County Museum is considered worthy of further analysis. This is the early Mesolithic collection from Greylake Sand Quarry (HER PRN 10658). Recovered from an old sand quarry, the collection represents a locally and nationally important assemblage (C. Norman and Martin Bell pers. comm. 2007). Human remains have also been found at the quarry, which could potentially be of Mesolithic date.

Part of the significance of this assemblage is the range of material recovered by the collector (H.S.L. Dewar). The collection consists of complete series of lithic tools and debitage, from primary and secondary struck waste flakes, cores, core trimming flakes, tiny chips/spalls and blades through to finished tools. It is rare to find such a complete representation of an industry and it is a testament to Dewar's skill that such material was recovered. Such thoroughness is rare even professional fieldwalking exercises let alone in amateur work.

The paper archive (including a location map) demonstrates that the material was collected from a discrete area and it is the opinion of Roger Jacobi and Chris Norman (Jacobi and Norman pers comm. 2007) that the assemblage represents consistent occupation of the area of a sustained period of time, perhaps representing several generations of the same community. The nature of the assemblage is also significant, there is an unusually high ratio of scrapers to microliths (Norman 1982) suggesting that the processing of animal hides and plant remains took place in the area. This type of activity site is unique for the period within Somerset, but is known elsewhere (Norman 1982 and Jacobi pers comm. 2007), rendering Greylake of specific importance.

A full analysis of the whole collection would allow for every part of the collection to be recorded and itemised and for further information about the ratios between the waste and tools to be established. This type of information would be invaluable to improving the corpus of existing information on the Mesolithic activity on the Somerset Burtle Beds. It would also establish the importance of the collection within the Somerset County Museum. During the course of this project it was discovered that ten items from the assemblage consisting of a core, core trimming flakes, struck waste flakes and scrapers had at some unknown time been absorbed into the Somerset County Museum Schools Loan Collection. Those items cannot now be found, had the significance of this material been known it is unlikely the material would have separated from the rest of the collection.

Table 1. Lithic Collections from the Burtle Beds Character Area held at the Somerset County Museum, Taunton

Museum Acc. No.	HER PRN	NGR	Location	Quantity	Date/Period	% per period	Tool and Waste Types	Collector
270/1989	10055	ST 331 387	SW of Bradney Farm, Bawdrip	59	Prehistoric	N/A	Struck waste flakes 45, 1 possible scraper, 2 blades, 10 burnt flakes & 1 possible core fragment	SLP
130/1986/2 614	11711	Centring on ST 390 430 (material collected at various grid references around the Burtle)	Edington Burtle	259	Possibly a very small element of Mesolithic material otherwise LNEO/EBA	99.5% LNEO/EBA <1% MESO	Struck waste flakes 101, 2 Awls, 1 Meso core, 2 blades, 1 hollow based arrowhead, 1 oblique arrowhead, 1 possible scraper & 20 blade fragments, 1 retouched flake, Large quantity (c. 129) un-worked flint/chert flakes and chips	SLP
130/1986/2 365	11723	Centring on ST 333 392	Bradney, Bawdrip	25	NEO	N/A	Struck waste flakes 17 (5 burnt & 4 chert), 1 possible fragment of a Neo polished flint axe, 3 retouched flakes, 4 chips	SLP
130/1986/2 364	11759	Centring on ST 369 322	S of Langland Rd, Middlezoy	20	Prehistoric	N/A	Struck waste flakes 19 (2 burnt) 1 possible chert core	SLP
130/1986/2 357	11764	Centring on ST 385 335	Greylake (field 2)	15	Prehistoric	N/A	Struck waste flakes 14 (2 chert & 1 burnt) 1 possible core fragment,	SLP
130/1986/2 360	12107	Centring on ST 364 341	Westonzoyland Airfield	20	MESO & LNEO/EBA	99.5% LNEO/EBA <1% MESO	Struck waste flakes 18 (3 burnt & 1 chert) 2 cores – (1 poss. Meso the other LNEO/BA)	SLP
130/1986/2 229-2237	12109	Centring on ST 340 350	Penzoy Farm, Westonzoyland	111	LNEO/EBA	N/A	Struck waste flakes and chips 101 (23 burnt & 16 chert) 5 scrapers, 2 blades (1 with retouch), 1 core, 2 retouched flakes,	SLP
98/2001	26182	ST 336 369	Ashford's Corn Field, Chedzoy	24	Prehistoric	N/A	Struck waste flakes 23 (4 burnt), 2 un-worked flakes & 1 possible awl	C. Norman
99/2001	11858	ST 3380 3695	Chedzoy Field Scatter	46	LNEO/EBA	N/A	Struck waste flakes of varying sizes 29 (inc 13 burnt flakes), 1 broken B & T arrowhead, 1	C. Norman

Museum Acc. No.	HER PRN	NGR	Location	Quantity	Date/Period	% per period	Tool and Waste Types	Collector
							broken scraper, 1 broken retouched blade, 7 blades/blade fragments, 3 scrapers, & 4 pieces of un-worked flint	
BR13 F2/F13 & F14	10568	ST 392 335	Greylake Sand Quarry No. 1, Middlezoy	3868	Early Mesolithic with small NEO & BA element	c. 98% Meso, 2 % NEO & BA	Struck waste flakes 3212, cores 114, core trimming flakes 14, retouched flakes 42, blades 365, scrapers 56 (inc 4 thumbnail scrapers and 2 end scrapers, Microliths/Microburins 40, awls 16, knives 5, polished axe spall 1, tranchet axe 1, denticulate/serrated blade 1 & a punch.	H.S.L. Dewar

Notes

MESO = Mesolithic, NEO = Neolithic, LNEO = Later Neolithic, BA = Bronze Age, EBA = Early Bronze Age, LNEO/EBA = Later Neolithic/Early Bronze Age this period is also known as "Beaker"
SLP = Somerset Levels Project

Table 2. Lithic Collections from the Mendip Hills Character Area held at the Somerset County Museum, Taunton

Museum Acc. No.	HER PRN	NGR	Location	Quantity	Date/Period	% per period	Tool and Waste Types	Collector
47/1993		Unknown	Priddy Parish – in some cases items had been found at specific locations and they are listed separately below – but are still counted within the quantity column	109	Mostly LNEO/EBA with small MESO element	c. 98% LNEO/EBA 2% MESO	Scrapers 60, denticulates/serrated flakes 10, blades 25, an awl, cores 2, microliths 3, ?knives 2, a barbed & tanged arrowhead, a broken leaf shape arrowhead, a ?single edged point, polished axe frags 2 and a polished knife frag. Collector mainly focussed on tools rather than waste	T. Walls
47/1993		Unknown	Lower Pitts Farm	1	LNEO/EBA	N/A	B & T Ahead	T. Walls
47/1993		Unknown	Higher Pitts Farm	1	LNEO/EBA	N/A	?single edged point	T. Walls

Museum Acc. No.	HER PRN	NGR	Location	Quantity	Date/Period	% per period	Tool and Waste Types	Collector
47/1993		Unknown	Whitnell Corner	4	LNEO/EBA	N/A	3 scrapers & 1 ?knife	T. Walls
47/1993		Unknown	Rookham	1	LNEO/EBA	N/A	?broken Ahead	T. Walls
47/1993		Unknown	Hill Grove	1	LNEO/EBA	N/A	Scraper	T. Walls
47/1993		Unknown	Hunters Lodge	2	LNEO/EBA	N/A	scraper & knife	T. Walls
A2398	24235	Unknown	Collection bagged as "Nr Priddy"	40	LNEO/EBA	N/A	Struck waste flakes 4 and scrapers 36 (including 2/3 nice examples of thumbnails).	E. Janes
A2520	24235	Unknown	Collection bagged as "Nr Priddy"	46	LNEO/EBA	N/A	Scrapers (inc 1 thumbnail) 39, 1 poss. burin, 4 blades & ?awl	E. Janes

Notes

MESO = Mesolithic, NEO = Neolithic, LNEO = Later Neolithic, BA = Bronze Age, EBA = Early Bronze Age, LNEO/EBA = Later Neolithic/Early Bronze Age this period is also known as "Beaker"

4.2 Axbridge Museum & the Collections of the Axbridge Archaeological & Local History Society

A search of the Somerset HER suggested that there were twenty-six lithic collections archived at the Axbridge Museum and amongst the collections of the Axbridge Archaeological and Local History Society (AALHS). All this material is housed together and has recently been re-located to Axbridge Town Hall. Mr and Mrs Chapman of the Society granted access to both the archived lithic material and the Museum/Society registers. The lithic collections that have an 'L' after the museum accession number were gifted to the Society and are on loan to Axbridge Museum.



Figure4. Margaret Chapman sorting and rebagging part of the Axbridge collection as part of the project

Of particular interest to this project were the lithic collections recovered by Mrs Anne Everton and Mr Brian Hack from the Mendip Hills character area, which are recorded as having been donated to Axbridge. An initial search of the stores and registers confirmed that a large amount of lithic material (around 11,000 items) had been donated to the museum and AALHS.

4.2.1 The Rapid Assessment

The status of the collections donated to Axbridge varied, the Museum and Society have limited funds and until recently limited storage space. However where paper documentation is available it is stored within 'History Files' and most of the material is recorded within the accession registers. As all the lithic material relevant to this project archived at Axbridge has been recovered from

the Mendip Hills character area the following section has been divided by the name of the individual collector or group.

4.2.2 The Anne Everton Collection

There are nine lithic collections archived at Axbridge that were collected by Anne Everton. Mrs Everton was amateur archaeologist and member of AALHS who organised and carried out fieldwalking exercises across Mendip as well as supervising and taking part in a number of archaeological excavations. Published notes on some of the discoveries made by Mrs Everton appear in both the AALHS journal and the CBA Archaeological Review. Material collected by Mrs Everton was donated to both Axbridge and Wells Museums. Table 3 gives the basic details of the Everton assemblages and further information can be found in Appendix 1. All the Everton material was re-bagged and re-boxed in archival standard material as part of the SALSA project.

The first Everton assemblage archived at Axbridge (Somerset HER PRN 10058 and museum accession number 79/AX/285) was recovered from NGR ST 4375 5610, a ploughed field just to the north of Callow Drove Track on Fry's Hill in 1979. The collection contains a total of 109 items and it is accompanied by a location sketch and notes made by Mrs Everton on the types of material recovered. The collection contains struck waste flakes (approximately 73% of the assemblage), cores, blades, retouched flakes, knives and scrapers. It also includes a whetstone fragment. The tool typology suggests that this largely represents a Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age assemblage.

The second Everton collection (Somerset HER PRN 11412 and museum accession number 75/AX/16 1-116) was recovered from NGR ST 4411 5580, a ploughed field on Callow Hill to the west of the Callow Hill aggregate Quarry. The museum staff accessioned the collection in 1980 but it is uncertain when it was recovered. It totals 510 items and consists of struck waste flakes (82% of the assemblage), cores, core trimming flakes, core rejuvenation flakes, blades, retouched blades, retouched flakes, transverse arrowheads, barbed and tanged arrowheads, a saw, denticulates/serrated blades, knives, scrapers, a core that was re-used as a hammerstone and a complete polished axe. The barbed and tanged, transverse arrowheads and the polished axe are currently on display in the Axbridge Museum. The assemblage was also supposed to contain 5 fragments of polished axe but they could not be found during this project.



Figure 5. Small blades 75/AX16. 27 and 29

This assemblage (Somerset HER PRN 11412) is largely Neolithic in origin although there are both small Mesolithic and Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age elements. Two of the retouched/utilised blades from this collection were shown to Roger Jacobi because the Project Officer felt that they could be particularly early in date. It was Dr Jacobi's opinion that while this type of tool was in production during both the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods they could in fact be of a late Upper Palaeolithic date.

The third Everton collection (Somerset HER PRN 11445 and probably museum accession number 86/AX/450L) was recovered from NGR ST 4880 5565, a field immediately to the east of Long Wood in Cheddar, it is not certain when the material was collected and there is some confusion in the museum accession register but it is likely that it was recovered either in the late 1970s or early 1980s. The assemblage totals 919 items and is mostly flint (approximately 25% is chert). It consists of struck waste flakes (80% of the assemblage), cores, blades, core rejuvenation flakes, retouched flakes, scrapers, thumbnail scrapers, knives, awls/borers, burnt flint and some small natural flint and chert nodules and flakes. This collection is largely consistent with a Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date; however a small number of the small waste blades and cores could be Mesolithic in origin.

Everton's fourth collection (Somerset HER PRN 26183 & accession number 83/AX/338) is a small assemblage recovered from NGR ST 5085 5089 above Brimble Pool in Westbury-sub-Mendip. It totals 23 items of flint and chert and comprises of struck waste flakes (83% of the collection), blade cores, a possible microlith, a thumbnail scraper and a plano-convex knife. The waste, scraper and knife are consistent with a Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date and the cores and possible microlith with a Mesolithic date.

The fifth Everton collection (Somerset HER PRN 24870 & accession number 83/AX/339L) was recovered by Anne Everton and Vince Russett from NGR ST 5050 5080, a ploughed field to the northeast of Westbury Beacon, Westbury-sub-Mendip and it was accessioned in 1983. The assemblage totals 69 items and consists of struck waste flakes (83% of the collection, some of which are burnt and a small number are primary flakes), retouched flakes, core trimming flakes, a blade and a possible triangular shaped arrowhead. There is little amongst this collection to suggest a date, it represents humanly worked material and it is prehistoric in origin. Its close proximity and similarity to material collected by Everton and Russett at NGR ST 5050 5086 (HER PRN 24870) suggests that it could be Neolithic in date (see below).

The sixth collection was also collected by Everton and Russett (Somerset HER PRN 24870 & accession number 83/AX/340L) from NGR ST 5050 5086, a ploughed field to the northeast of Westbury Beacon, Westbury-sub-Mendip and was accessioned in 1983. It is likely the material was collected at the same time as 83/AX/338L but there are no further details within the museum records to confirm this. The assemblage totals 86 items and consists of struck waste flakes (79% of the assemblage and including a number of possible primary and burnt flakes), core trimming flakes, blades, retouched flakes and

end scraper and a possible Neolithic core. The tool typology is consistent with a Neolithic date.

The seventh Everton collection (Somerset HER PRN 15668 & museum accession number 83/AX/342L) was recovered from NGR ST 495 515, a field above New Road in Rodney Stoke. There are 46 items in total and the assemblage consists of struck waste flakes (76% of the assemblage and including one burnt flake), retouched flakes, possible cores and one scraper. This collection is probably Neolithic in origin, although in the absence of more diagnostic tools this should be considered a tentative date.

The eighth Everton collection (Somerset HER PRN 11421 & museum accession number 83/AX/344L) was recovered from NGR ST 4698 5353, an area south of Mascalls Wood, Cheddar. It only totals 12 items and the Project Officer decided to record it in order to produce a complete record of the material within Axbridge collected by Anne Everton. The collection comprises struck waste flakes (50% and including a burnt flakes and probable primary flake), blade fragments, a broken end scraper, an end scrapers and a pebble. This collection is probably Neolithic in origin.

The final (ninth) Everton collection at Axbridge (Somerset HER PRN 26184, accession number 83/AX/346L) was recovered from NGR ST 433 544 southeast of a lime kiln on Fry's Hill, Axbridge. The collection totals 26 items and consists of struck waste flakes (88% of the assemblage and including a burnt flake), a retouched flake, a notched scraper and a possible fragment of polished axe/implement. The assemblage is likely to be Neolithic in origin.



Figure 6. Display of lithic material in Axbridge Museum

Table 3. Lithic Collections recovered by Anne Everton from the Mendip Hills Character Area from the Axbridge Museum and collections of the Axbridge Archaeological and Local History Society (AALHS).

Museum Acc. No.	HER PRN	NGR	Location	Quantity	Date/Period	% per period	Tool and Waste Types	Collector
79/AX/285	10058	ST 4375 5610	Fry's Hill north of Callow Drove Track	109	LNEO/EBA	N/A	Struck waste flakes 82, scrapers 6, knives 2, core fragments 3, retouched flakes 6, blade fragments 10 & 1 whetstone.	A. Everton
75/AX/16/1-116	11412	ST 4411 5580	Callow Hill, field west of the quarry	510	MESO, NEO & LNEO/EBA	c.2% MESO, 96% NEO & 2% LNEO/EBA	Struck waste flakes 422 (inc Upper Greensand Chert 4), a polished axe, transverse arrowheads 3, barbed and tanged arrowheads 2, knives 4, scrapers 20, notched scrapers 4, cores 7, retouched flakes 26, denticulates/serrated blades 2, retouched blades 10, core re-used as a hammerstone 1, core rejuvenation flakes 2, blades 5 and 1 possible ?knife.	A. Everton
Uncertain (possibly not accessioned) could be part of 86/AX/450 (L)	11445	ST 4880 5565	Field to the east of Long Wood, Cheddar	919	MESO & LNEO/EBA	c.80% LNEO/EBA & 20% MESO	Struck waste flakes 727, retouched flakes, cores & partial cores 49, blades 24, scrapers (LNEO/EBA) 13, thumbnail scrapers 6, knives (LNEO/EBA) 10, burnt waste flakes 63, ?core rejuvenation flake 1, ?core fragments 2, flakes ?utilised as piercers 3, natural flakes/lumps 4, ?discoidal knife 1.	A. Everton
83/AX/338	26183	ST 5085 5089	Surface flints, north of Brimble Pool, Westbury-sub-Mendip	23	MESO & LNEO/EBA	98% LNEO/EBA & 2% MESO	Struck waste flakes of flint and chert 18, ?blade core fragments 2, ?microlith 1, thumbnail scraper 1, plano-convex knife 1	A. Everton
83/AX/339(L)	24870	ST 5050 5080 (centre point)	Surface flints, Westbury-sub-Mendip	69	(Prehistoric) NEO?	N/A	Struck waste flakes (including several primary flakes) 53, retouched flakes 3, burnt flakes (inc 1 possible core trimming flake) 4, core trimming flakes 7, ?triangular arrowhead 1, & blade 1	A. Everton & V. Russett
83/AX/340(L)	24870	ST 5050 5086	Surface flints, Westbury-sub-Mendip	86	NEO	N/A	Struck waste flakes (inc burnt 4 and primary flakes) 73, un-worked flint nodule 1, core trimming flakes 6, blades 2, retouched flakes 2, ?core 1 (Neolithic), end scraper 1	A. Everton

Museum Acc. No.	HER PRN	NGR	Location	Quantity	Date/Period	% per period	Tool and Waste Types	Collector
83/AX/342(L)	15668	ST 495 515	Rodney Stoke (above New Road)	46	NEO	N/A	Struck waste flakes (inc 1 burnt) 35, retouched flakes 2, ?cores 3 & scraper 1	A. Everton
83/AX/344(L)	11421	ST 4698 5353	South of Mascalls Wood	12	NEO	N/A	Struck waste flakes (inc 1 burnt) 7, blade fragments 2, ?broken end scraper 1, ?end scraper 1 & a pebble	A. Everton
83/AX/346(L)	26184	ST 433 554	SE of lime kiln on Fry's Hill	26	NEO	N/A	Struck waste flakes (inc 1 burnt) 26, notched scraper 1, retouched flake 1 & possible polished axe frag 1.	A. Everton

Notes

MESO = Mesolithic, NEO = Neolithic, LNEO = Later Neolithic, BA = Bronze Age, EBA = Early Bronze Age, LNEO/EBA = Later Neolithic/Early Bronze Age this period is also known as "Beaker"

4.2.3 The Brian Hack Collection

The SALSA project recorded 39 collections of lithics (including two collections of under 20 items which were recorded in an attempt to collate all known Hack material in Axbridge) recovered by Brian Hack within the stores of the Axbridge Museum and the collections of the AALHS. There are also a number of single objects, these have not been discussed here (unless they are considered to be Palaeolithic in origin) but further details can be found in Appendix 1.

Brian Hack is a former resident of the village of Cross in Compton Bishop and was a prolific collector of lithics and objects from the Mendip Hills. He made repeat visits to particular areas over several years and amassed over 8,000 lithic objects. Notes on his discoveries appear in a variety of publications including the Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society (PSANHS), Somerset and Dorset Notes and Queries and the Axbridge Archaeological and Local History Society journal. The bulk of Hack's collection was donated to Axbridge however some material was donated to other museums in the region.

Originally most of Hack's collection was stored in plastic boxes, most of which contained find spot details (on hand written labels) and occasionally tool type list. In some cases the museum staff had accessioned the material by individual grid references but in other cases it was less clear, only where it is possible to state which accession number is correct have they been listed, otherwise they remain listed as 'Uncertain'. Material from three different grid references had also been accessioned under one number, however each 'site' had been kept separate. Recommendations have been made to AALHS that either the whole collection is re-accessioned (with the old numbers discarded) or new numbers are allocated to those collections that are unknown and notes in the accession registers made accordingly. All of the Hack material was re-bagged and re-boxed as part of the SALSA project with the help of volunteers from Axbridge Museum.

Due the size of the collection it was decided to record the material recovered from each NGR as a separate collection/assemblage, even when it is clear the lithics had been recovered from the same field or site. The basic details for each collection are listed below and contained in Table 4. Full details can be found in Appendix 1.

It should be noted that part of Hack's collection was included in a research project carried out by C. J. Bond (Bond 2006), however as time was limited he was only able to carry out lithic sampling (Bond 2006: 54-58). The decision to include Hack's material in the SALSA project, despite Bond's previous work was born of recommendations from a number of professionals (Jacobi, Gardiner, Faxon & Lewis pers comm. 2007) who suggested the need for the whole collection to re-assessed and recorded.

At the time of the SALSA rapid assessment it was believed that all of Hack's material from Axbridge was stored at the Town Hall. However since the completion of the rapid assessment the project team have discovered that C.J. Bond removed material from Axbridge and they have yet to be returned. The material was due to be returned at the very end of the current project but there was not time to view the material in the Museum. Dr Bond was asked for a list of the contents of the four boxes of material that he was about to return but no answer was received before this report was completed. It is possible that the artefacts noted as missing in the collections below are the items in the boxes that were in Dr Bond's possession. Brian Hack has retained some of his flint collection at his home and it is possible that the nicest artefacts were the ones he chose to keep. This material is soon to be accessioned into Axbridge Museum.

The first Hack collection (Somerset HER PRN 25700 and museum accession number 83/AX/381L) was recovered from NGR ST 563 505, a ploughed field to the west of Green Ore on Tower Hill in St Cuthbert Out. Hack's labels refer to this material as 'Tower Hill 1'. The assemblage totals 181 items and consists of struck waste flakes (80% of the assemblage including burnt flakes), retouched flakes, a retouched blade, cores, core trimming flakes and scrapers (including side and thumbnail types). Some of the scrapers and the retouched blade could be Neolithic origin; however the rest of the assemblage is more consistent with a Later Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date.

It should be noted that a description of material recovered from this area was published by Hack in PSANHS on more than one occasion (Hack 1981, 1984 and 1985) and that it is not entirely consistent with the material assessed for the SALSA project.

During the SALSA assessment material recorded as 'Tower Hill 2' was also found at Axbridge, unfortunately none of this material was marked with a more detailed location or NGR. The collection totalled 106 items 90% of which were struck waste flakes.

The second Hack collection (Somerset HER PRN 25795 and museum accession number 93/AX/537L) was recovered from NGR ST 514 534, an area of commercial turf removal about 0.8ha in size to the north of Priddy Hill Farm, Priddy. It totals 1026 items and consists of struck waste flakes (89% of the assemblage), cores, core trimming flakes, blades, retouched flakes, scrapers (including an end scraper), a knife and a polished



Figure 7. Two small end scrapers from 93/AX/537L SHER PRN 25795

implement/axe fragment that has been re-used as a scraper. Other material included a medium sized rolled flint nodule, a hammerstone, a whetstone, natural flint, pebbles and a possible pot boiler. The museum also has several fragments of sandstone from this grid reference. The typology of the tools from this collection is consistent with a Neolithic date.

A description of material recovered from this area was published by Hack in PSANHS (Hack 1982) and that it is not entirely consistent with the material assessed for the SALSA project. In particular Hack's published account refers to several Neolithic arrowheads, none of which were amongst the material archived at Axbridge.

The third Hack collection (Somerset HER PRN 25796 and museum accession number 85/AX/417L) was recovered from NGR ST 512 530, a ploughed area of about 1.6 ha to the northwest of Priddy Hill Farm over a number of years. The assemblage totals 216 items and comprises struck waste flakes (65% of the assemblage including burnt flakes), cores, core trimming flakes, blades and a retouched flake. There are also rolled flint nodules of various sizes and a number of unworked flints and pebbles. The absence of diagnostic tools makes this assemblage somewhat difficult to date. Four of the cores could be Mesolithic in origin but the remaining waste does not appear to be entirely consistent with Mesolithic technology. The lithic material is clearly humanly worked and probably prehistoric in origin.

Once again it should be noted that a description of material recovered from this area was published by Hack in PSANHS (Hack 1982) and that it is not entirely consistent with the material assessed for the SALSA project. In particular Hack's published account refers to two tranchet axes of Mesolithic type neither of these items were amongst the material archived at Axbridge.

The fourth Hack collection (Somerset HER PRN 25797 and museum accession number 83/AX/381L) was recovered from ST 532 495, an area to the north of Ebbor Gorge in Priddy. Hack referred to the area 'Holly Tree' and stated the material had been collected over a number of years while the field was under preparation

for cereal crop cultivation (Hack 1984). The assemblage totals 621 items and consists of struck waste flakes (68% of the collection including burnt flakes), cores, core trimming flakes, retouched flakes, blades, scrapers (including side and end scrapers, thumbnails, end, notched, burnt and side scrapers), awls, denticulates/serrated



Figure 8. Three plano-convex knives from 83/AX/381L SHER PRN25797

blades and plano-convex knives. Other material includes sandstone fragments, pebbles and a lump of ironstone. The entire assemblage is consistent with a Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date.

Hack published a description of material recovered from this area in PSANHS (Hack 1984). Some of the items were illustrated, several of which were found during the SALSA assessment and were bagged accordingly. Hack's published account and the results of the SALSA assessment are not consistent and of particular note is the absence of a discoidal knife, the transverse and barbed and tanged arrowheads from the archived material in Axbridge.

The fifth Hack collection (Somerset HER PRN 25965 and museum accession number 83/AX/381L) was recovered from NGR ST 563 498, Tower Hill in St Cuthbert Out and referred to by Hack as 'Tower Hill 3'. The assemblage totals 81 items (79% of the collection and including burnt flakes), cores, core trimming flakes, retouched flakes, scrapers (including an end and a possible thumbnail scraper), blades and a possible retouched point. The assemblage is consistent with material of a Neolithic date.

Hack published two accounts of this 'site' (Hack 1984 and 1986) in PSANHS and some of the items were illustrated. During the SALSA project where found the illustrated material was bagged accordingly. There are inconsistencies between the findings of the SALSA project and Hack's published records, in particular a leaf-shaped arrowhead reported in PSANHS (Hack 1986) was not amongst the material archived in Axbridge.

The sixth Hack collection (Somerset HER PRN 24229) was recovered from NGR ST 532 499 in the vicinity of Sandpit Hole, Priddy and referred to by



Hack as 'Field above Holly Tree'. Unfortunately its museum accession number is uncertain. The assemblage totals 117 items and comprises struck waste flakes (85% of the collection and burnt flakes), core trimming flakes, retouched flakes, blades and end scrapers. This assemblage is probably Neolithic in date.

Figure 9. Awl from SHER PRN24229

The seventh Hack collection (Somerset HER PRN 24229 and with an uncertain museum accession number) was

recovered from NGR ST 534 495 also in the vicinity of Sandpit Hole, Priddy and is referred to by Hack as 'Site above Holly Tree'. It totals 93 items and consists of struck waste flakes (53% of the assemblage and including burnt flakes); core trimming flakes, scrapers (including end and side scrapers), a

Portland chert end scraper, transverse, leaf-shaped and oblique arrowheads, a retouched implement and a retouched Portland chert blade. The diagnostic implements suggest this assemblage is probably Neolithic in origin.

The eighth Hack collection (Somerset HER PRN 24224, museum accession number uncertain). The assemblage was recovered from NGR ST 533 494 in the field below Sandpit Hole, Priddy. It consists of a total of 52 items comprising struck waste flakes (83% of the assemblage and including burnt flakes), cores, an awl and scrapers (including end, side and side and end scrapers). The scrapers are consistent with a Neolithic date and it seems likely this assemblage is Neolithic in origin.

The ninth Hack collection (Somerset HER PRN 24229 and of uncertain museum accession number) was recovered from NGR ST 532 498 in the vicinity of Sandpit Hole, Priddy. Hack refers to the material as 'Sandpit Hole' or 'SH'. There are a total of 432 items in the collection and it comprises struck waste flakes (73% of the assemblage including burnt flakes), cores, core trimming flakes, retouched flakes, awls scrapers (including side, end, thumbnail and side and end scrapers), oblique arrowheads, a broken barbed and tanged arrowhead, a possible fabricator and polished implement/axe fragments. The diagnostic material amongst this collection



Figure 10. Three arrowheads from SHER PRN24229

suggests there was probably at least two phases of activity within the area from the Neolithic through to the Later Neolithic/Early Bronze age periods.

There is a published account in British Archaeology of material recovered from the vicinity of Sandpit Hole by Hack (Hack 1980), which states that lithics were collected over the winter of 1978 and 1979. There are inconsistencies between the material recorded by Hack and found during SALSA. Firstly the NGRs are slightly different, in the published account material was recovered from NGR ST 531 499, whereas the material archived at Axbridge is labelled as NGR ST 532 494. Hack also refers to the recovery of a greenstone axe, leaf-shaped arrowhead and several items of Portland chert, none of which area amongst the archived material in Axbridge. Additionally he makes no reference to the polished axe fragments or oblique arrowheads. With such discrepancies it seems likely that these to assemblages were collected at different times and that material published by Hack is not at Axbridge.

The tenth Hack collection (Somerset HER PRN 25693 and of uncertain museum accession number) was recovered from NGR ST 5195 4995 to the

northwest of Moorview in Westbury-sub-Mendip and Hack referred to this as a 'new site'. The collection totals 119 items and comprises struck waste flakes (84% of the assemblage including burnt flakes and Portland chert waste flakes); core trimming flakes, an end scraper and a thumbnail scraper. There were also a small number of natural flints, pebbles and a fragment of ceramic building material. The diagnostic elements in this assemblage suggest a Later Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date for the lithic material.

The eleventh Hack collection (Somerset HER PRN 26185, museum accession number uncertain) was recovered from NGR ST 523 498 and Hack labelled the material 'new site, Ebbor Grove Farm 1983'. There are 127 flint and chert items in the assemblage and they include; struck waste flakes (72% of the collection and including 1 Portland chert flake and some burnt material), retouched flakes, cores, core trimming flakes, scrapers (including end scrapers), a possible fabricator and fragments of a polished implement/axe. The collection also contained some pebbles and natural flint. The diagnostic lithics suggest this assemblage is primarily Neolithic in date.

The twelfth assemblage recovered by Hack (Somerset HER PRN26185 - its museum accession number is uncertain). Hack collected the material from NGR ST 523 499 and labelled it 'new field, Ebbor Grove Farm 1983'. The assemblage totals lithic 91 items and comprises struck waste flakes (76% of the collection and including 1 Portland chert flake & 1 burnt flake), retouched flakes, core trimming flakes, scrapers (including thumbnail and notched scrapers) and a possible discoidal knife. A pebble and a piece of modern blue glass were also amongst this assemblage. The tools amongst this collection suggest a Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date for this material.

Hack's thirteenth collection archived at Axbridge (Somerset HER PRN 26185, museum accession number uncertain) was recovered from NGR ST 521 499 and labelled it 'new site, Ebbor Grove Farm 1982'. There was also reference to '2 superb scrapers' amongst this material, however the SALSA project could only find one side scraper in the assemblage. There were 27 lithics in total and the collection comprised struck waste flakes (81% of the assemblage and including 1 Portland chert flake and some burnt flakes), a possible core, a blade, core trimming flakes and a side scraper. It seems likely this material is Neolithic in origin.



Figure 11. Possible discoidal knife SHER PRN 26185. Scale in mm.

The fourteenth Hack collection (Somerset HER PRN 27172) does not have a museum accession number. The collection was recovered by Hack from NGR ST 528 498 and was labelled 'Ebbor Grove Farm'. It totals 59 lithic items and consists of struck waste flakes (81% of the assemblage and including 1 Portland chert flake and 1 burnt flake); core trimming flakes, retouched flakes, possible cores, thumbnail scrapers and an end scraper. There were also several fragments of sandstone, some pebbles and a fragment of ceramic building material (possibly daub) amongst the material collected from this area. The diagnostic lithics suggest a Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date for the assemblage.

Hack's fifteenth collection archived at Axbridge (Somerset HER PRN 26186, museum accession number uncertain) was recovered from NGR ST 515 503/4 to the northeast of the Ramspits deserted farm sites in Westbury-sub-Mendip and appears to have been collected in 1978. The assemblage totals 385 lithics and comprises struck waste flakes (85% of the collection and including some burnt and chert flakes), cores, core trimming flakes, retouched flakes, scrapers (including thumbnail, end and side scrapers), plano-convex knives (including a broken example), a burnt scraper, a discoidal knife and a small rolled flint nodule. The collection also contained several pebbles, natural flints and four possible whetstones. The diagnostic tools suggest this assemblage is largely Later Neolithic/Early Bronze Age in date. The discovery of the discoidal knife from NGR ST 515 504 was published in the Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society in 1983.

It should also be noted that Hack's labels suggested that the assemblage had also contained part of a greenstone axe, two triangular arrowheads, a barbed and tanged arrowhead and an anvil stone. However none of this material could be found amongst the Axbridge archive. A note submitted by Hack concerning the discovery of a Mesolithic tranchet axe/adze also appeared in the AALHS journal in 2002 (Hack 2002) this object could also not be found at Axbridge.

The sixteenth Hack collection (Somerset HER PRN 24225, museum accession number uncertain) was recovered from NGR ST 517 503 from the area to the northeast of the Ramspits deserted farm sites in Westbury-sub-Mendip (Hack's label refers to this material as having come from 'Dale Farm second site 1981', Dale Farm is quite a distance from this grid reference so one can only assume that the note refers to the ownership of the land).

The collection totals 548 lithics and consists of struck waste flakes (80% of the assemblage and 16% of which are burnt), cores, core trimming flakes, retouched flakes, scrapers (including side, end, thumbnail and side and end scrapers), a large flint nodule and rolled flint nodules of various sizes. The diagnostic elements of this assemblage suggest a Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date for the collection.

A note from Hack accompanying this material refers to 6 arrowheads, a discoidal knife and a polished axe fragment from this grid reference. None of this material could be found amongst the Axbridge archive.

Hack's seventeenth collection at Axbridge (Somerset HER PRN 24225, museum accession number uncertain) was also recovered from the area to the northeast of the Ramspits deserted farm sites in Westbury-sub-Mendip from NGR ST 517 505. The collection contains a total of 342 lithic items consisting of struck waste flakes (92% of the assemblage and including some burnt flakes), cores, core trimming flakes, retouched flakes, scrapers (including side and end scrapers) and a discoidal knife labelled as having been recovered from NGR ST 517 504. The collection also contained several pebbles and a piece of slate. The lithics from this assemblage are probably Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age in origin. The discovery of the discoidal knife was reported to the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society in 1983 (Hack 1983).

Hack's eighteenth collection (uncertain museum accession number Somerset HER PRN 25967) was recovered from NGR ST 518 501 to the northeast of Ramspits deserted farm sites in Westbury-sub-Mendip. There are 281 lithics in this assemblage and they comprise struck waste flakes (94% of the collection and including a small number of burnt flakes), cores, core trimming flakes, scrapers (side, end and one thumbnail scraper) and a item described as knife which has been hafted so it resembles a modern 'penknife' and is on display in Axbridge museum (this appears to be an un-worked flake, however a more detailed examination would have damaged the hafting and possibly the item so it was not undertaken at this time). A small pebble was also amongst this material. It is likely this material dates to the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age period.

A note from Hack also refers to the recovery of a fragment of 'cupped' sandstone, a fragment of millstone grit, a transverse arrowhead and two leaf-shaped arrowheads. None of these items could be found amongst the archived material at Axbridge.

The nineteenth Hack collection (Somerset HER PRN 25701) came from NGR ST 518 503 also to the northeast of Ramspits deserted farm sites, Westbury-sub-Mendip. Hack also refers to this assemblage as having been collected from 'Dale Farm'. The collection totals 157 lithics and comprises struck waste flakes (89% of the assemblage and including a small number of burnt flakes), cores, core trimming flakes, retouched flakes, scrapers (including an end, thumbnail and a side and end scraper) and possibly two broken knives. A small pebble was also amongst this material. On the basis of the diagnostic material it is likely this assemblage is of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age origin.

The twentieth Hack collection from Axbridge assessed as part of this project (Somerset HER PRN 24225, museum accession number uncertain) was recovered from NGR ST 518 506 to the northeast of the Ramspits deserted farm sites in Westbury-sub-Mendip. Hack refers to this assemblage as having been collected from 'Dale Farm'. The collection contains a total of 31 lithics and comprises struck waste flakes (71% of the assemblage and including a small number of burnt flakes), cores, core trimming flakes, retouched flakes, a

side scraper and an end scraper. This material is likely to be of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age origin.

The twenty-first Hack collection (Somerset HER 18338) - museum accession number unknown). It was recovered from NGR ST 508 525 from an area to the west of Priddy Hill Farm, Priddy probably between 1981 and 1982. The collection totals 592 lithic items and comprises struck waste flakes (77% of the assemblage and including burnt flakes), cores (including 2 possibly of Mesolithic date), core trimming flakes, blades (including 1 Portland chert and approximately 20% of which may be Mesolithic in origin), retouched flakes, a retouched blade, scrapers (side and thumbnail), plano-convex knives, a denticulate/serrated flake, a broken leaf-shaped arrowhead, a broken polished axe (cutting end) and a polished axe/implement fragment.



The collection also contained pebbles, sandstone fragments, a fragment of slag and a sherd of much abraded Roman pottery. A label accompanying the material refers to the sandstone, a blade and a scraper, although it is not possible to identify specific objects from his description alone. There are a variety of diagnostic tools amongst this material. The earliest objects may date to the Mesolithic period, although it should be noted they only represent approximately 10% of the total assemblage. The collection also contains Neolithic and Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age material, which make up the bulk of the assemblage.

Figure 12. Polished axe fragment from SHER PRN 18338

Somerset HER PRN 44949 (museum accession number unknown) was recovered from ST 508 527 to the west of Priddy Hill Farm, Priddy probably around 1981. There are 1130 lithics in total and they comprise struck waste flakes (84% of the assemblage and including a number of burnt flakes), cores (including 6 probable Mesolithic cores), core trimming flakes, blades, retouched flakes, scrapers (including end, side, thumbnail, and side and end scrapers), an end scraper that has been hafted by Hack and is on display in Axbridge Museum, burnt scrapers, polished implement fragments, a possible knife and a multi-tool (one end is a scraper the other is an awl/borer). The collection also contains several pebbles and natural flints and three whetstones.

The twenty-second Hack collection archived at Axbridge

This is a mixed assemblage, although the bulk of the diagnostic material (approximately 75%) is suggestive of a Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date. A small number of the cores could be Mesolithic in origin and approximately 20% of the assemblage seems to be representative of the Neolithic period. One of Hack's notes also referred to a barbed and tanged arrowhead, a hollow based arrowhead, blade and a fabricator. These items could not be found amongst the material archived at Axbridge.

The twenty-third collection recovered by Hack archived at Axbridge (Somerset HER PRN 26187, museum accession number uncertain) was collected from NGR ST 510 510 to the northeast of Brimble Pool in Westbury-sub-Mendip (Hack refers to this as being on Dale Farm land). The assemblage consists of a total of 585 lithics and comprises struck waste flakes (78% of the assemblage and including 1 Portland chert flake and a number of burnt flakes), cores, core trimming flakes, blades, retouched flakes, scrapers (including end, thumbnail and side scrapers), a broken leaf-shaped arrowhead, an unfinished oblique arrowhead, a plano-convex knife, a possible fabricator, a polished implement fragment, a burnt retouched flake and a number of rolled flint nodules of various sizes. There was also a modern animal tooth fragment (probably sheep) and a small quantity of pebbles and natural stones.

The diagnostic implements amongst this assemblage date to the Neolithic and Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age periods, on balance it seems this material is approximately 60% Neolithic in origin and 40% Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age in origin.

The twenty-fourth collection recovered by Hack and archived at Axbridge (Somerset HER PRN 25698, museum accession number uncertain) was collected from NGR ST 517 530 to the northeast of Priddy Hill Farm, Priddy. There are 68 lithics in total and the collection comprises struck waste flakes (66% of the assemblage and including a small number of burnt flakes), cores, core trimming flakes, blades, retouched flakes, retouched blades (one of which could be Mesolithic), a possible sickle, a plano-convex knife, a side scraper, an end scraper, a broken arrowhead (possibly leaf-shaped) and a possible Upper Palaeolithic long blade (pers. comm. Jacobi 2007). This is amongst exclusively a Neolithic assemblage however there are two items that may be of an earlier date (the retouched small blade and the long blade).

Hack's twenty-fifth collection archived in Axbridge is not currently registered on the Somerset HER and its museum accession number is uncertain. It was recovered from NGR ST 516 530 to the northeast of Priddy Hill Farm, Priddy. The collection contains a total of 333 lithics and comprises struck waste flakes (61% of the assemblage and including a small number of burnt flakes), cores, core trimming flakes, blades, retouched flakes, end scrapers, side scrapers, polished implement fragments (one of which has been hafted by Hack and is on display in Axbridge Museum) and rolled flint nodules of various sizes. The collection also contains some pebbles, natural stones and a large fragment of sandstone. The diagnostic elements within the collection suggest this is exclusively a Neolithic assemblage.

The twenty-sixth Hack collection held at Axbridge is not currently registered on the Somerset HER and its museum accession number is uncertain. It was recovered from NGR ST 516 531 to the northeast of Priddy Hill Farm, Priddy. The collection consists of a total of 31 lithics and comprises struck waste flakes (77% of the assemblage and including a small number of burnt flakes); core trimming flakes, broken denticulates/serrated blades and a side scraper. Several pieces of ironstone, some pebbles and natural stones were also recovered from this area. The diagnostic tools suggest this is Neolithic assemblage.

The twenty-seventh Hack collection at Axbridge (Somerset HER PRN 25698, museum accession number uncertain) was recovered from NGR ST 513 532 to the north of Priddy Hill Farm, Priddy. It only totals 9 lithics, however it has been included here both in an attempt to record all of the Hack material at Axbridge and because of its close proximity to collection twenty-eight. The collection comprises struck waste flakes (55% of the total number of lithics), a blade, a retouched blade with one end utilised as a scraper, a small rolled flint nodule and a Mesolithic tranchet axe. A fragment of rubbing stone was also amongst this material. With the exception of the tranchet axe none of the material within this assemblage was diagnostic of a particular period. It is however humanly worked and therefore prehistoric in origin (there is nothing to suggest it is a wholly Mesolithic assemblage).

The twenty-eighth Hack collection archived at Axbridge (Somerset HER PRN 25698, museum accession number uncertain) was recovered from NGR ST 513 533 to the north of Priddy Hill Farm, Priddy. There are a total of 213 lithics in this assemblage and they comprise struck waste flakes (87% of the collection and including some burnt flakes and a burnt lump of flint), cores, core trimming flakes, retouched flakes, retouched blades, end scrapers and a possible polished implement fragment. There was also a number of pebbles and natural stone, a piece of ironstone and fragment of lead working slag amongst this material. The diagnostic material suggests this is a largely Neolithic assemblage.

The twenty-ninth Hack collection from Axbridge is not currently registered on the Somerset HER and its museum accession number is uncertain. It was recovered from NGR ST 518 510 and Hack's labels state that it came from 'just southeast of three barrows on Dale Farm land in a field with a Hay Barn' and was collected in 1982 and 1984. There are a total of 112 lithics and the collection comprises struck waste flakes (88% of the collection and including a small number of burnt flakes), core trimming flakes, blades, retouched flakes, a broken arrowhead, a side scraper and an end scraper. This collection is probably Neolithic in origin.

The thirtieth collection recovered by Hack and archived at Axbridge is not currently registered on the Somerset HER and its museum accession number is uncertain. The material was collected from ST NGR 513 521 to the south of Priddy Hill Farm, Priddy. It totals 59 lithics and comprises struck waste flakes (68% of the assemblage and including some burnt flakes), cores, core

trimming flakes, blades, retouched flakes, a possible fabricator, end scrapers and polished implement fragments. A fragment of sandstone was also amongst this material. The diagnostic implements suggest this collection is Neolithic in origin. One of Hack's labels also refers to a microlith from this grid reference (it is also sketched); however none the items at Axbridge matched his sketch and therefore it does not appear to be with the other material.

The thirty-first Hack collection at Axbridge (Somerset HER PRN 25698, museum accession number uncertain) was recovered from NGR ST 512 523 to the southwest of Priddy Hill Farm, Priddy. The assemblage totals 21 lithics and comprises struck waste flakes (62% of the assemblage and including a burnt flake), a core, core trimming flakes and end scrapers. This assemblage is probably Neolithic in origin.

The thirty-second Hack collection archived at Axbridge (Somerset HER PRN 25698, museum accession number uncertain) was collected from NGR ST 515 533 to the north of Priddy Hill Farm, Priddy. The assemblage totals 38 lithics and consists of struck waste flakes (39% of the collection), cores, core trimming flakes, a retouched flake, a retouched blade and an end scraper. A whetstone fragment was also amongst the material recovered from this grid reference. This collection appears to be Neolithic in origin.

The thirty-third Hack collection (Somerset HER PRN 26192, museum accession number uncertain) was recovered from NGR ST 556 505 from the Cuckoo Cleeves field, Priddy. It only totals 19 lithics but has been included in the assessment in an attempt to ensure all of Hack's material was recorded. The assemblage comprises struck waste flakes (79% of the collection and including a burnt flake), core trimming flakes, a retouched blade and a retouched flake. There are no diagnostic tools amongst this collection however the material is humanly worked and therefore likely to be of prehistoric origin.

The thirty-fourth Hack collection archived in Axbridge (Somerset HER PRN 26193, museum accession number uncertain) was collected from NGR ST 514 505 to the northeast of Westbury Quarry, Westbury-sub-Mendip. Hack's label states it came from an area of soil stripping and that there was no great concentration. The collection totals 39 lithics and comprises struck waste flakes (60% of the assemblage and including one burnt flake), cores, core trimming flakes, retouched flakes, blades, small end scrapers, a thumbnail scraper and small rolled flint nodules. A small pebble was also amongst the assemblage. The diagnostic implements suggest that this collection is of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date. A note from Hack also referred to the recovery of a possible barbed and tanged arrowhead from this grid reference, it was not however amongst the archived material.

The thirty-fifth Hack collection (Somerset HER PRN 25939, museum accession number uncertain) was recovered from NGR ST 498 568, north of the Wireless Station on Blackdown, Priddy. It totals 31 lithics and consists of struck waste flakes (55% of the collection and including a burnt flake), a core, core trimming flakes, blades, retouched flakes, a retouched blade, scrapers

(end, side and thumbnail) and a blade knife. This material is likely to be of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date. Hack also refers to two arrowheads from this grid reference they are not amongst the archived material in Axbridge.

Hack's thirty-sixth collection archived at Axbridge (Somerset HER PRN 24009, museum accession number uncertain) was recovered from NGR ST 514 509 'by the Priddy Long Barrow'. The collection totals 25 lithics and comprises struck waste flakes (88% of the assemblage and including a burnt flake), possible cores and a retouched flake. A shard of bottle glass was also amongst the material recovered from this location. There are no diagnostic tools amongst this assemblage however the material is clearly humanly worked and therefore it is likely to be of prehistoric origin.

The thirty-seventh Hack collection at Axbridge (Somerset HER PRN 26194, museum accession number uncertain) was recovered from NGR ST 513 507 from the field to the south of the Priddy Long Barrow 1981/1982. The collection totals 55 lithics and comprises struck waste flakes (71% of the assemblage and including some burnt flakes), cores, core trimming flakes, blades, a retouched flake, end scrapers, a thumbnail scraper and a possible arrowhead. A piece of natural stone was also amongst the material from this grid reference. The diagnostic tools suggest this material is of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date.

The thirty-eighth Hack collection at Axbridge (Somerset HER PRN 25699, museum accession number uncertain) was recovered from NGR ST 514 531 north of Priddy Hill Farm, Priddy. The collection totals 32 lithics and consists of struck waste flakes (84% of the assemblage and including a burnt flake) a core (possibly Mesolithic), a side scraper, an end scraper, a thumbnail scraper and a medium sized rolled flint nodule. With the exception of the core which could be Mesolithic in date the rest of the assemblage is typical of a Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date.

Hack's thirty-ninth collection archived in Axbridge (Somerset HER PRN 26195, museum accession number uncertain) was recovered from NGR ST 532 513 to the southwest of Swallow Hole (or Swildons Hole Cavern) in Priddy. It consists of a total of 31 lithics comprising struck waste flakes (97% of the assemblage and including a number of burnt flakes) and a blade. There are no recognisable tools amongst this material however it is clearly humanly made and therefore likely to be of prehistoric origin.

4.2.3.1 Upper Palaeolithic Lithics in the Brian Hack Collection

Hack published several notes on the recovery of Palaeolithic material from Mendip (Hack 1982, 1983, 1985, 1987, 1989 and 2005). During SALSA project a small number of lithics labelled by Hack as Palaeolithic were discovered amongst the archive at Axbridge and they were sent to Dr Roger Jacobi for identification. Where they formed part of a larger assemblage they have been discussed in the text above (see collection twenty-four NGR ST 517 530). Of the 25 lithics that did not belong to a larger assemblage only 3 were considered to be likely to be Upper Palaeolithic in origin.

These are as follows; one core from NGR ST 514 532, near Priddy Hill Cottage, Priddy (Somerset HER PRN 25699, museum accession number uncertain) and two cores from NGR ST 511 509, north of Brimble Pool, Westbury-sub-Mendip (Somerset HER PRN 18244, museum accession number uncertain). The table below shows all 25 lithics and their identifications and further details can be found in Appendix 1.



Figure 13. Upper Palaeolithic core from SHER PRN 25699

4.2.3.2 *Portland Chert Lithics*

A small number of Portland chert lithics were discovered in the Hack archive at Axbridge, some have been discussed in the text above where they formed part of larger assemblages. The remaining material which numbered 14 items in total from 10 different grid references is described in the table below and further details can be found in Appendix 1. There were also 5 un-provenanced Portland chert objects including a knife of probable Neolithic origin.

4.2.3.3 *Lithics without provenance.*

There were a total of 208 lithics (including two rolled flint nodules) within the Hack archive at Axbridge that had no grid references. In some cases this material had the name of a farm written on the original bag in others there was no information. The table below details these items and further details can be found in Appendix 1.

Table 4. Brian Hack's Lithic collections from the Mendip Hills Character Area archived at the Axbridge Museum and amongst the collections of the Axbridge Archaeological and Local History Society.

Museum Acc. No.	HER PRN	NGR	Location	Quantity	Date/Period	% per period	Tool and Waste Types	Collector
83/AX/381 (L)	25700	ST 563 505	Hack's Tower Hill 1 (HER W of Green Ore)	181	NEO & LNEO/EBA	N/A	Struck waste flakes 145 (inc 9 burnt), natural 5, core trimming flakes 6, scrapers 2, side scraper 1, partial ?thumbnail scrapers 2, retouched flakes 2, broken retouched blade 1, ?core 1, cores 15 (inc 2 burnt)	B. Hack
94/AX/537 (L)	25795	ST 514 534	North of Priddy Hill Farm	1026	NEO	N/A	Struck waste flakes 912 (inc 101 burnt), natural/pebbles 12, blades 7, cores 9 (NEO) core trimming flakes 66, retouched flakes 10, end scraper 2, scraper 4, ?notched scraper 1, ?knife 1, flint nodule (med) 1 & polished ?axe frag retouched to be re-used as ?scraper 1. Also includes 1 hammerstone, 1 ?pot boiler & 1 whetstone	B. Hack
85/AX/417 (L)	25796	ST 512 530	North-west of Priddy Hill Farm	216	MESO (cores) Prehistoric	c. 5% MESO	Struck waste flakes 140 (inc 18 burnt), blades 3, flint nodules of various size 32, natural/pebbles 9, retouched flakes 1, cores 9 (4 consistent with MESO), core trimming flakes 22	B. Hack
83/AX/381 (L)	25797	ST 532 495	Hack's Holly Tree (HER Beaker Period site, N of Ebbor Gorge)	621	LNEO/EBA	N/A	Struck waste flakes 421 (inc 41 burnt), side & end scrapers 5, end scrapers 21, plano-convex knives 17, retouched flake implements 12, side scrapers 15, blades 7, cores 13, scrapers 19, thumbnail scrapers 28, core trimming flakes 17, awls 6, broken knives 1, retouched flakes 32, denticulates/serrated blades 2, burnt scrapers 2, notched scraper 2, also some sandstone and pebbles, 1 possible whetstone and a lump of ironstone.	B. Hack
83/AX/381 (L)	25965	ST 563 498	Hack's Tower Hill 3 (Neolithic Settlement N of Pen Hill)	81	NEO	N/A	Struck waste flakes 64 (inc 4 burnt), retouched flakes 1, cores 2, ?thumbnail scraper 1, ?point retouched 1, core trimming flakes 8, ?scraper 1, blades 2 & end scraper 1. PSANHS report 1986 (vol. 130) refers to a leaf-shaped arrowhead from this NGR it was not amongst the material in the museum/AALHS collections	B. Hack
Uncertain	24229	ST 532 499	Hack's Field	117	NEO	N/A	Struck waste flakes 100 (inc 4 burnt), blades 2, retouched flakes	B. Hack

Museum Acc. No.	HER PRN	NGR	Location	Quantity	Date/Period	% per period	Tool and Waste Types	Collector
			above Holly Tree				4, core trimming flakes 9 & end scrapers 2	
Uncertain	24229	ST 534 495	Hack's Site above Holly Tree	93	NEO	N/A	Struck waste flakes 49 (inc 1 burnt), core trimming flakes 12, scrapers 4, side scrapers 7, side & end scrapers 3, end scrapers 5 (inc 1 burnt & 1 Portland chert), transverse (chisel) ahead 1, L-shaped ahead 1 & oblique ahead 1, 1 retouched implement & retouched Portland chert blade 1	B. Hack
Uncertain	24224	ST 533 494	Field below Sandpit Hole	52	NEO	N/A	Struck waste flakes 43 (inc 2 burnt), cores 2, awl 1, end scrapers 3, side scraper 1, scraper 1, side & end scraper 1	B. Hack
Uncertain	24229	ST 5320 4981	Sandpit Hole	432	NEO & LNEO/E BA	LNEO/EBA 50% & NEO 50%	Struck waste flakes 321 (inc 39 burnt), cores 7, awls 1, oblique arrowhead 1, broken barbed & tanged arrowhead 1, retouched flakes 19, pebbles 2, natural 3 (inc quartz), core trimming flakes 32, scrapers 4, side & end scrapers 2, side scrapers 3, end scrapers 10, thumbnail scrapers 6, blades 4, ?oblique arrowhead 1, ?fabricator 1, polished axe fragments 3	B. Hack
Uncertain	25693	ST 5195 4995	NW of Moor View	119	LNEO/E BA	N/A	Struck waste flakes 100 (inc 2 burnt & 2 Portland chert), core trimming flakes 13, natural/pebbles etc 4, end scraper 1, thumbnail scraper 1. Also contains 1 piece of CBM	B. Hack
Uncertain	26185	ST 523 498	Ebbor Grove Farm site	127	NEO	N/A	Struck waste flakes 92 (inc 1 Portland chert & 4 burnt), retouched flakes 9, natural/pebbles 3, ?polished axe frags 2, cores 6, core trimmings 2, scrapers 3, end scrapers 2, ?fabricator 1	B. Hack
Uncertain	26185	ST 523 499	Ebbor Grove Farm site	91	LNEO/E BA	N/A	Struck waste flakes 69 (inc 1 burnt & 1 Portland chert), core trimming flakes 2, retouched flakes 4, thumbnail scrapers 2, notched scraper 1, discoidal knife 1, pebble 1 & 1 piece of blue glass	B. Hack
Uncertain	26185	ST 521 499	Ebbor Grove Farm site	27	NEO	N/A	Struck waste flakes 22 (inc 1 Portland chert & 4 burnt), blade 1, side scraper 1, core trimming flakes 2 & ?core 1	B. Hack
Uncertain	27172	ST 528 498	Ebbor Grove Farm site	59	LNEO/E BA	N/A	Struck waste flakes 48 (inc 1 burnt & 1 Portland chert), core trimming flakes 4, ?cores 2, retouched flakes 2, thumbnail	B. Hack

Museum Acc. No.	HER PRN	NGR	Location	Quantity	Date/Period	% per period	Tool and Waste Types	Collector
							scrapers 2, end scraper 1. Also contains 3 pebbles, 3 sandstone fragments (un-worked) & 1 CBM frag (?daub) a sandstone lump from ST 5275 4975	
Uncertain	26186	ST 515 503/4	NE of Ramspits Deserted Farm (Hack's Dale Farm)	385	LNEO/E BA	N/A	Struck waste flakes 328 (inc 27 burnt & some chert), cores 8, core trimming flakes 13, end scrapers 11, thumbnail scrapers 9, side scrapers 7, retouched flakes 6, ? plano-convex knives 2, broken plano-convex knife 1, discoidal knife 1, flint nodule (small) 1 & burnt scraper 1. Also contains natural/pebbles 11 & whetstones 4.	B. Hack
Uncertain	24225	ST 517 503	NE of Ramspits Deserted Farm (Hack's Dale Farm 2nd site)	548	LNEO/E BA	N/A	Struck waste flakes 438 (inc 72 burnt), core trimming flakes 47, cores 11, retouched flakes 25, natural/pebbles 15, 1 large flint nodule, thumbnail scrapers 4, end scrapers 6, side scrapers 5, side & end scrapers 2 & flint nodules of various sizes 9	B. Hack
Uncertain	24225	ST 517 505	NE of Ramspits Deserted Farm sites (Hack's Dale Farm)	342	LNEO/E BA	N/A	Struck waste flakes 316 (inc 19 burnt), cores 6, core trimming flakes 5, side scrapers 2, end scrapers 6, retouched flakes 6 & 1 discoidal knife from ST 517 504. Collection also contains natural/pebbles (inc 1 piece of slate) 8.	B. Hack
Uncertain	25967	ST 518 501	NE of Ramspits Deserted Farm sites (Hack label calls this NGR W-S-Mendip Biface Site)	281	LNEO/E BA	N/A	Struck waste flakes 263 (inc 8 burnt), cores 6, core trimming flakes 5, side scrapers 3, end scrapers 2, thumbnail scraper 1 & ?knife 1 hafted by Hack and on display in the museum. Plus 1 pebble	B. Hack

Museum Acc. No.	HER PRN	NGR	Location	Quantity	Date/Period	% per period	Tool and Waste Types	Collector
Uncertain	25701	ST 518 503	NE of Ramspits Deserted Farm sites (part of Hack's Dale Farm)	157	LNEO/E BA	N/A	Struck waste flakes 139 (inc 14 burnt), cores 2, core trimming flakes 4, thumbnail scraper 1, end scraper 1, side & end scraper 1, retouched flakes 6, ?broken knives 2. Plus 1 small pebble.	B. Hack
Uncertain	24225	ST 518 506	NE of Ramspits Deserted Farm sites (Hack's Dale Farm)	31	LNEO/E BA	N/A	Struck waste flakes 22 (inc 2 burnt), core 3, core trimmings 3, side scraper 1, end scraper 1 & retouched flake 1	B. Hack
Uncertain	18338	ST 508 525	West of Priddy Hill Farm	592	MESO, NEO & LNEO/E BA	c. 10% MESO, 40% NEO & 40% LNEO/E BA	Struck waste flakes 454 (inc 27 burnt), cores 9 (inc 2 ?MESO), core trimming flakes 32, blades 41 (c. 20% could be MESO, 1 is Portland chert), retouched flakes 17, thumbnail scrapers 10, side scrapers 13, plano-convex knives 3, broken leaf-shaped arrowhead 1, broken polished axe fragment (cutting end)1, ?denticulate/serrated flake 1, retouched blade 1, ?polished axe fragment 1. Collection also contains 2 large pebbles, 1 fragment of worn sandstone, 2 fragments of sandstone, 6 pebbles/natural, 1 fragment of slag & 1 very abraded sherd of RB pottery	B. Hack
Uncertain	44949	ST 508 527	West of Priddy Hill Farm	1130	?MESO, NEO & LNEO/E BA	c. 5% MESO, c. 20% NEO & 75% LNEO/E BA	Struck waste flakes 946 (inc 52 burnt), cores 31 (inc 6 ?MESO), core trimming flakes 77, blades 74, polished implement fragments 3, thumbnail scrapers 9, retouched flakes 19, end scrapers 11 (1 is on display in the museum and has been hafted - by Hack), side scrapers 9, side & end scrapers 5, burnt scrapers 2, multi-tool (scraper & awl) 1 & ?knife 1. Collection also contains pebbles/natural 13 & whetstones 3	B. Hack
Uncertain	26187	ST 510 510	NE of	585	NEO &	c. 60%	Struck waste flakes 456 (inc 30 burnt & 1 Portland Chert), cores	B. Hack

Museum Acc. No.	HER PRN	NGR	Location	Quantity	Date/Period	% per period	Tool and Waste Types	Collector
			Brimble Pool (on Dale Farm Land)		LNEO/E BA	NEO & c.40% LNEO/EBA	17, core trimming flakes 35, blades 36, end scrapers 7, thumbnail scrapers 6, side scrapers 4, retouched flakes 14, broken leaf shaped arrowhead 1, unfinished oblique arrowhead 1, plano-convex knife 1, ?fabricator 1, polished implement fragment 1, burnt retouched flake 1 & flint nodules of various sizes 4. Collection also contains 1 tooth fragment (?Ovid) and natural/pebbles 7	
Uncertain	25698	ST 517 530	NE of Priddy Hill Farm	68	NEO,?MESO &?UP PAL	99.5% NEO & <1% MESO & <1% UP PAL	Struck waste flakes 45 (inc 2 burnt), cores 2, core trimming flakes 5, blades 5, ?sickle 1, plano-convex knife 1, retouched flakes 3, retouched blade 1, side scraper 1, end scraper 1, 1 small retouched blade (?MESO) & broken arrowhead (?leaf shaped) 1. Also contains 1 possible Upper Palaeolithic long blade (identified by Roger Jacobi).	B. Hack
Uncertain	25698	ST 516 530	NE of Priddy Hill Farm	333	NEO	N/A	Struck waste flakes 204 (inc 15 burnt), cores 9, core trimming flakes 10, blades 21, retouched flakes 3, end scrapers 3, side scrapers 3, flint nodules of various sizes 63, & polished implement fragment 2 (1 of which has been hafted by Hack and is in the museum). Collection also contains natural/pebble 5 and large fragment of sandstone 1	B. Hack
Uncertain	25698	ST 516 531	NE of Priddy Hill Farm	31	NEO	N/A	Struck waste 24 (inc 4 burnt), core trimming flakes 4, broken denticulate/serrated blades 2, side scraper 1. Collection also contains 3 fragments of iron stone and 2 natural/pebbles	B. Hack
Uncertain	25698	ST 513 532	N of Priddy Hill Farm	9	Prehistoric & MESO	c. 99.5% Prehistoric & <1% MESO	Struck waste flakes 5, blade 1, 1 tranchet axe, 1 retouched blade with one end as a scraper & flint nodule (small) 1. A fragment of rubbing stone was also found at this NGR	B. Hack
Uncertain	25698	ST 513 533	N of Priddy	213	NEO	N/A	Struck waste flakes 186 (inc 4 burnt, 1 of which is quite large),	B. Hack

Museum Acc. No.	HER PRN	NGR	Location	Quantity	Date/Period	% per period	Tool and Waste Types	Collector
			Hill Farm				cores 12, core trimming flakes 8, end scrapers 2, retouched flakes 3, ?polished implement fragment 1, retouched blades 2. The following material was also found at this site natural/pebbles 4, fragment of ironstone 1, fragment of lead working slag 1.	
Uncertain	26188	ST 518 510	Just SE of 3 barrows on Dale Farm Land (Hay Barn in Field)	112	?NEO	N/A	Struck waste flakes 98 (inc 2 burnt), blades 5, core trimming flakes 3, retouched flakes 3, broken arrowhead 1, side scraper 1, end scraper 1	B. Hack
Uncertain	26189	ST 513 521	S of Priddy Hill Farm	59	NEO	N/A	Struck waste flakes 40 (inc 7 burnt), cores 2, core trimming flakes 3, polished implement fragments 3, ?fabricator 1, blades 3, ?retouched flakes 2, end scrapers 5. A fragment of sandstone is also amongst the material collected from this site.	B. Hack
Uncertain	26190	ST 512 523	SW of Priddy Hill Farm	21	NEO	N/A	Struck waste flakes 13 (inc 1 burnt), core 1, core trimming flakes 4, end scrapers 3	B. Hack
Uncertain	26191	ST 515 533	N of Priddy Hill Farm	38	NEO	N/A	Struck waste flakes 15, cores 3, core trimming flakes 8, blades 9, retouched flake 1, end scraper 1 & retouched blade 1. Also amongst this material is 1 whetstone fragment.	B. Hack
Uncertain	26192	ST 556 505	Cuckoo Cleeves Field	19	Prehistoric	N/A	Struck waste flakes 15 (inc 1 burnt), core trimming flakes 2, retouched blade & retouched flake 1.	B. Hack
Uncertain	26193	ST 514 505	NE of Westbury Quarry	39	LNEO/E BA	N/A	Struck waste flakes 23 (inc 1 burnt), cores 2, core trimming flakes 3, blades 4, retouched flakes 2, small end scrapers 2, thumbnail scraper 1 & flint nodules (small) 2. Collection also contains 1 small pebble	B. Hack
Uncertain	25939	ST 498 568	N of Wireless Station, Blackdown	31	LNEO/E BA	N/A	Struck waste flakes 17 (inc 1 burnt), core 1, core trimming flakes 3, blades 4, end scrapers 1, retouched flakes 2, retouched blade 1, side scrapers 2, thumbnail scraper 1 & blade knife 1.	B. Hack
Uncertain	24009	ST 514 509	By Priddy Long Barrow	25	Prehistoric	N/A	Struck waste flakes 22 (inc 1 burnt), ?cores 2, retouched flake 1. 1 shard of glass bottle was also found amongst this material.	B. Hack
Uncertain	26194	ST 513 507	Field south of	55	LNEO/E	N/A	Struck waste flakes 39 (inc 5 burnt), cores 2, blades 8, core	B. Hack

Museum Acc. No.	HER PRN	NGR	Location	Quantity	Date/Period	% per period	Tool and Waste Types	Collector
			Priddy Long Barrow		BA		trimming flakes 7, retouched flake 1, end scrapers 4, thumbnail scraper 1 & ?arrowhead 1. Plus 1 fragment of natural stone.	
Uncertain	25699	ST 514 531	N of Priddy Hill Farm	32	LNEO/E BA & 1 ? MESO core	99.5% LNEO/EBA < 1% MESO	Struck waste flakes 27 (inc 1 burnt), ?MESO core, side scraper 1, end scraper 1, flint nodule (med) 1 & thumbnail scraper 1.	B. Hack
Uncertain	26195	ST 532 513	SW of Swallow Hole (or Swildon's Hole Cavern)	31	Prehistoric	N/A	Struck waste flakes 30 (inc 4 burnt) & blade 1	B. Hack

Notes

MESO = Mesolithic, NEO = Neolithic, LNEO = Later Neolithic, BA = Bronze Age, EBA = Early Bronze Age, LNEO/EBA = Later Neolithic/Early Bronze Age this period is also known as "Beaker"

Table 5. Lithics identified by B Hack as Palaeolithic in origin, recovered from the Mendip Hills Character Area, archived at Axbridge Museum and amongst the collections of the Axbridge Archaeological and Local History Society.

Museum Acc. No.	HER PRN	NGR	Location	Quantity	Date/Period	% per period	Tool and Waste Types	Collector
Uncertain	25699	ST 514 532	Near Priddy Hill Cottage	1	?Upper Palaeolithic	N/A	Core	
Uncertain	18244	ST 511 509	N of Brimble Pool	6	?Upper Palaeolithic & Prehistoric	66% Prehistoric, 33% Up Pal	?Up Pal cores 2, primary waste flake 1, core trimming 1, retouched flakes 2	B. Hack
Uncertain	26199	ST 516 503	N of Ramspits Deserted Farm Sites	3	Prehistoric	N/A	Chert core 1, flint core 1, retouched core trimming flake	B. Hack
Uncertain	26200	ST 516 492	Above Deerleap	1	Prehistoric	N/A	Retouched blade	B. Hack
Uncertain	25700	ST 564 505	Tower Hill	2	Prehistoric	N/A	Core trimming flakes	B. Hack

Museum Acc. No.	HER PRN	NGR	Location	Quantity	Date/Period	% per period	Tool and Waste Types	Collector
Uncertain	26201	ST 509 510	N of Brimble Pool	1	Prehistoric	N/A	Struck waste flake	B. Hack
Uncertain	26202	ST 523 493	N of Ebbor Gorge	1	?MESO	N/A	Small retouched blade	B. Hack
Uncertain	26203	ST 511 518	W of Townsend Farm	1	NEO	N/A	Core trimming flake	B. Hack
Uncertain	44947	ST 518 500	NE of Ramspits Deserted Farm site	1	?NEO	N/A	Core	B. Hack
Uncertain	26204	ST 512 509	NE of Brimble Pool	1	Prehistoric	N/A	Core	B. Hack
Uncertain	26191	ST 515 531	W of Priddy Hill Cottage	1	Prehistoric	N/A	Large nodule of flint with some primary flakes removed	B. Hack
Uncertain	24229	ST 531 498	Below Sandpit Hole	1	Prehistoric	N/A	Core	B. Hack
Uncertain	12958	ST 509 525	E of Sun Cliff	1	Prehistoric	N/A	Core trimming flake	B. Hack
Uncertain	26191	ST 515 532	NE of Priddy Hill Cottage	1	Prehistoric	N/A	Core	B. Hack
Uncertain	25799	ST 510 504	SE of Brimble Pool	1	Prehistoric	N/A	Core trimming flake	B. Hack
Uncertain	26198	ST 507 525	SE of Priddy Hill Farm	1	Prehistoric	N/A	Core trimming flake	B. Hack
Uncertain	24869	ST 515 504	NE of Ramspits Deserted Farm site	1	Prehistoric	N/A	Core trimming flake	B. Hack

Notes

MESO = Mesolithic, NEO = Neolithic, LNEO = Later Neolithic, BA = Bronze Age, EBA = Early Bronze Age, LNEO/EBA = Later Neolithic/Early Bronze Age this period is also known as "Beaker"

Table 6. Portland Chert Lithics from the Mendip Hills Character Area, collected by Brian Hack, archived at Axbridge Museum and amongst the collections of the Axbridge Archaeological and Local History Society.

Museum Acc. No.	HER PRN	NGR	Location	Quantity	Date/Period	% per period	Tool and Waste Types	Collector
Uncertain	24225	ST 518 505	W of Ebborways Farm	1	NEO	N/A	Leaf-shaped arrowhead	B. Hack
Uncertain	24226	ST 521 508	SW of The Batch	4	NEO	N/A	Side scraper 1, broken blade 1, serrated flake 1, blade 1	B. Hack
Uncertain	24092	ST 507 558	Charterhouse	1	Prehistoric	N/A	Blade	B. Hack
Uncertain	26205	ST 513 503	E of Westbury Quarry	1	Prehistoric	N/A	Blade	B. Hack

Museum Acc. No.	HER PRN	NGR	Location	Quantity	Date/Period	% per period	Tool and Waste Types	Collector
Uncertain	26206	ST 514 538	S of Yoxter	1	NEO	N/A	Scraper	B. Hack
Uncertain	26207	ST 510 511	NE of Brimble Pool	2	Prehistoric	N/A	Struck waste flake 1, ?scraper 1	B. Hack
Uncertain	26208	ST 523 495	W of Ebbor Grove Farm	1	Prehistoric	N/A	Broken retouched blade 1	B. Hack
Uncertain	24225	ST 519 504	NE of Ramspits deserted sites	1	Prehistoric	N/A	Blade 1	B. Hack
Uncertain	26209	ST 522 503	SW of Ebbor Grove Farm	1	Prehistoric	N/A	Blade 1	B. Hack
Uncertain	26193	ST 515 505	S of Priddy Long Barrow	1	Prehistoric	N/A	Core trimming flake	B. Hack

Notes

MESO = Mesolithic, NEO = Neolithic, LNEO = Later Neolithic, BA = Bronze Age, EBA = Early Bronze Age, LNEO/EBA = Later Neolithic/Early Bronze Age this period is also known as "Beaker"

Table 7. Lithics without provenance from the Mendip Hills Character Area, collected by Brian Hack, archived at Axbridge Museum and amongst the collections of the Axbridge Archaeological and Local History Society.

Museum Acc. No.	HER PRN	NGR	Location	Quantity	Date/Period	% per period	Tool and Waste Types	Collector
Uncertain	New	Unknown	Unknown	1	Prehistoric	N/A	Retouched flake	B. Hack
Uncertain	New	Unknown	Bagged as ?Priddy Hill Farm	79	NEO & ?MESO	99.5% NEO <1% MESO	Struck waste flakes 75 (inc 4 burnt & 1 chert), broken retouched blade 1, retouched flake 1, ?arrowhead 1 & microlith 1	B. Hack
Uncertain	New	Unknown	Bagged as Near Priddy Hill Farm, by U P site	52	?NEO	N/A	Struck waste flakes 44 (inc 2 burnt), cores 3 (inc 1 burnt), end scrapers 3, blade 2 (1 very small)	B. Hack
Uncertain	New	Unknown	Bagged as Dale Farm 2 fields passed PLB field	67	?NEO	N/A	Struck waste flakes 61 (inc 1 chert), core 1, end scraper 1, retouched flakes 4,	B. Hack
Uncertain	New	Unknown	Unknown	7	N/A	N/A	Flint nodules	B. Hack

Notes

MESO = Mesolithic, NEO = Neolithic, LNEO = Later Neolithic, BA = Bronze Age, EBA = Early Bronze Age, LNEO/EBA = Later Neolithic/Early Bronze Age this period is also known as "Beaker"

4.2.4 The Chris Richards Collection

There are four lithic collections at Axbridge that are recorded in the accessions register as having been recovered by Chris Richards (now of the North Somerset Museum Service). All three were donated to the AALHS and are on loan to Axbridge Museum. No further information could be found amongst the museum documentation for any of these collections, although the museum registers stated they were accessioned in 1983. The basic details of each collection listed below and table 8 further details can be found in Appendix 1.

The first collection Somerset HER PRN 11412 (museum accession number 83/AX/343L) was recovered by Richards and Marie Clark from NGR ST 4402 5600 on Callow Hill just above Callow Hill Quarry. It comprises 20 struck waste flakes and is probably prehistoric in origin.

The second collection (Somerset HER PRN 26196, museum accession number 83/AX/349L) was recovered from NGR ST 511 538 to the southwest of the Yoxter Firing Ranges in Priddy. It consists of 26 struck waste flakes and no finished tools. They are humanly produced and therefore likely to be prehistoric in origin.

The third collection (Somerset HER PRN 11412, museum accession number 83/AX/352L) was recovered from NGR ST 4426 5595 on Callow Hill. It totals 34 items and consists of struck waste flakes (85% of the assemblage), retouched flakes and one retouched/utilised blade. The material is humanly worked and likely to be prehistoric in origin.

The final collection (Somerset HER PRN 11412, museum accession number 83/AX/353L) was recovered by Richards from NGR ST 442 559, also on Callow Hill and may have been collected at the same time as 83/AX/352L. However there is no further information at the museum to confirm this and as it was accessioned with a different number it has been treated as a separate assemblage here. The collection totals 30 items and consists of struck waste flakes (90% of the assemblage), blades and a scraper/disc core. It is prehistoric origin and could date to the Neolithic period.

Table 8. Lithic Collections recovered by Chris Richards from the Mendip Hills Character Area, donated to the Axbridge Archaeological and Local History Society (AALHS) and stored at Axbridge.

Museum Acc. No.	HER PRN	NGR	Location	Quantity	Date/Period	% per period	Tool and Waste Types	Collector
83/AX/343(L)	11412	ST 4402 5600	Callow Hill, above quarry	20	Prehistoric	N/A	Struck waste flakes 20	C. Richards & M. Clark
83/AX/349(L)	26196	ST 511 538	SW of Yoxter Ranges, Priddy	26	Prehistoric	N/A	Struck waste flakes 26	C. Richards
83/AX/352(L)	11412	ST 4426 5595	Callow Hill	34	Prehistoric	N/A	Struck waste flakes 29, retouched flakes 3, retouched/utilised blade 1	C. Richards
83/AX/353(L)	11412	ST 442 559	Callow Hill	30	Prehistoric (?NEO)	N/A	Struck waste flakes 27, blades 2, ?scraper/disc core 1	C. Richards

Notes

MESO = Mesolithic, NEO = Neolithic, LNEO = Later Neolithic, BA = Bronze Age, EBA = Early Bronze Age, LNEO/EBA = Later Neolithic/Early Bronze Age this period is also known as "Beaker"
 SLP = Somerset Levels Project

4.2.5 Miscellaneous Lithic Collections from the Axbridge Museum and collections of the Axbridge Archaeological and Local History Society.

Members of the Axbridge Archaeological and Local History Society recovered a total of three assemblages from Callow and Fry's Hill, Axbridge. Basic details of the collections can be found in the text below and table 9 with further details in Appendix 1.

The first collection (HER PRN 11412 and museum accession number 77/AX/209) was recovered from NGR ST 4412 5600 on Callow Hill, Axbridge by Mrs F Day and Mrs S Gooch and was donated to the museum in 1977 by Anne Everton. It totals 80 items and comprises of struck waste flakes (91% of the assemblage), one burin flake, scrapers, one transverse arrowhead and barbed and tanged arrowheads. All the arrowheads are currently on display in the Axbridge Museum. The tool typology suggests that this is a Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age assemblage.

The second collection (museum accession number 85/AX/422L) is not currently registered on the Somerset HER and it was recovered from NGR ST 436 558, a ploughed field to the south of Callow Drove Track on Fry's Hill, Axbridge by Mr V Russett (now County Archaeologist for North Somerset) Mrs M Chapman and Mr T Chapman. The assemblage totals 122 items and comprises struck waste flakes (85% of the assemblage including burnt flakes), cores, blades, a retouched blade and scrapers. Most of the material is consistent with a Neolithic date however two of the cores and some of the smaller blades could be Mesolithic in origin.

Vince Russett also remembers collecting arrowheads from this area, they are not however amongst the material in the museum stores, but could be amongst the unlabelled material on display in Axbridge Museum. The collection also includes glass, Post Medieval pottery and a modern horseshoe.

The third and final collection (museum accession number 83/AX/347L) is not currently registered on the Somerset HER and it was also recovered from Fry's Hill, NGR ST 435 553 by Mrs F Day. It only totals 18 items but has been included in this report anyway. The collection consists of struck waste flakes (88% of the assemblage), a core and a broken denticulate/serrated blade. It is probably Neolithic in origin.

Table 9. Lithic Collections recovered by members of the AALHS from the Mendip Hills Character Area donated to the Axbridge Museum and the Axbridge Archaeological and Local History Society (AALHS).

Museum Acc. No.	HER PRN	NGR	Location	Quantity	Date/Period	% per period	Tool and Waste Types	Collector
77/AX/209	11412	ST 4412 5600	Callow Hill	80	LNEO/EBA	N/A	Struck waste flakes, scrapers, a transverse arrowhead, barbed & tanged arrowheads, 1 burin flake,	F Day & S Gooch
85/AX/422(L)	New	ST 436 558	Fry's Hill south of Callow Drove Track	122	MESO, NEO	c. 99% NEO & 1 % MESO	Struck waste flakes, blades & blade fragments, retouched blade, scrapers, cores, burnt flakes	V Russett, M & T Chapman
83/AX/347(L)	New	ST 435 553	Fry's Hill	18	NEO	N/A	Struck waste flakes, a core & a denticulate/serrated blade	F Day

Notes

MESO = Mesolithic, NEO = Neolithic, LNEO = Later Neolithic, BA = Bronze Age, EBA = Early Bronze Age, LNEO/EBA = Later Neolithic/Early Bronze Age this period is also known as "Beaker"
SLP = Somerset Levels Project

4.2.6 Flint Crevice/Slitter Surface Finds

During the search of the Axbridge Museum and AALHS stores a small collection of lithics recovered from the ground surface around Flint Crevice/Slitter (Somerset HER PRN 10073 and museum accession number 75/AX/12 1-35) were discovered. The crevice/slitter is located on Fry's Hill, Axbridge at NGR ST 4312 5502 and was excavated by D. Weare in 1954. In 1978 Anne Everton published a note in the AALHS journal concerning the flints and the results of Weare's excavations (Everton 1978). Although there were no notebooks surviving from the excavations Everton's conclusions were based on progress reports published in the Axbridge Caving Group and Archaeological Society's minutes for 1954. It should be noted here that the number of lithics recorded by Everton and those seen during the SALSA project are inconsistent. The basic details of the surface collection are described below and further details can be found in Appendix 1.

The collection of lithics from Flint Crevice/Slitter at Axbridge is divided into material collected from the slitter during the excavation and material collected from surface between approximately 16 and 30 metres away from the slitter mouth. A total of 25 lithics were recorded at the museum as having been recovered from the surface, they consisted of struck waste flakes of varying sizes (48% of the assemblage), blades and blade fragments, retouched flakes, scrapers and one blade core. In general this seems to be a largely Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age assemblage however the blade core is consistent with a Mesolithic date.

The forms and patination of both the surface and excavated lithic material are consistent, suggesting that they are part of the same overall assemblage and it was because of this it was decided to make a note of the excavated material. The excavated material also contained struck waste flakes, scrapers and partial knives, and is also likely to be of a Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date. Due to the similarities in the two assemblages it is also possible the lithics from the excavations originated on the surface and had been washed down into slitter. There was also what could be described as a 'Mousterian' point in the same box as both the excavated and surface material from the slitter. However it was not possible to ascertain whether it formed part of either assemblage.

4.2.7 Recommendations for further analysis.

The archived lithics from the Axbridge Museum and the collections Axbridge Archaeological and Local History Society represent one of the largest and most significant museum collections in the county of Somerset. The material recovered by Anne Everton and Brian Hack from the Mendip Hills character area alone account for approximately 11,000 flint and chert objects. Both of these individuals targeted specific areas and were responsible for collecting a wide range of implements and waste material.

The nature of the Everton and Hack collections is such that with detailed full analysis further information about the types of activity taking place around Callow Hill and the parish of Priddy could be obtained. This project has already established that there are distinct trends amongst the lithic collections from these areas. For example there appears only to be limited Mesolithic activity on both Callow Hill and the central area of Mendip (above Ebbor Gorge), while there appears to be a strong Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age element to the material recovered from north of Ebbor Gorge.

Additionally the possible presence of Palaeolithic elements amongst both Everton's and Hack's material is significant. Only a full specialist analysis of all the material could identify further Palaeolithic artefacts amongst their collections and this could be used to enhance our knowledge of the complex relationship between the surface sites and the recorded activity of the same period amongst the Mendip Hills cave systems.

4.3 North Somerset Museum, Weston-super-Mare

During the research stage for the Somerset Aggregates Lithics Assessment (SALSA) it was suggested that lithic collections recovered from the Mendip Hills character area may have been archived at the North Somerset Museum in Weston-super-Mare. The museum was contacted and a search was made of the museum catalogue and the data was made available to the Project Officer.

The North Somerset Museum does hold material recovered from Mendip however the only items recovered from the surface of the Mendip Hills character area that could be assigned to a specific location were one implement (Museum accession number WESTM 1903.16) from Cheddar Head and one microlith from Middle Down Drove (Museum accession number WESTM 1990.132). All the other lithics either relate to the caves of Mendip or are simply recorded as having been recovered from 'Mendip'. Specifically the museum has numerous unwashed and un-bagged flints, which were recovered by a Mr Purchase which may have come from Mendip, but which, are not accompanied by any more detailed information.

During this project it was also discovered that in 1996 the North Somerset Museum Service had transferred lithic material recovered from the Mendip Hills to the Axbridge Archaeological and Local History Society. See section 4.2 for further details.

Currently volunteers for the museum are working their way through the museum stores and collections and should any further pertinent information be found relating to provenanced lithic collections from the Somerset aggregate character areas it will be passed on to the Somerset HER.

4.4 The University of Bristol Spelaeological Society Museum

The University of Bristol Spelaeological Society have been instrumental carrying out fieldwork and excavation of many archaeological sites on Mendip. As such it was deemed necessary to contact the Society's museum in order to ascertain whether any lithic material had been archived at the museum.

Following a visit from the Project Officer it was established that the only lithic material held by the museum relating to the Mendip had come from excavated sites.

4.5 Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery

The only significant collection of lithics from the Mendips in the Bristol City Museum that had once had good locational information associated with it was the Selley collection. Many other lithics exist in the Museum which are only provenanced to 'Mendip' or 'around Priddy'. The Selley collection had a limited assessment as it was hoped that locational details might have been found in the paper archive. This proved not to be the case but some details of the collection are provided here.

4.5.1 The Alfred Selley Collection

There are approximately 3,000 lithics held within this collection. The collection is recorded in The British Prehistoric and Roman Antiquities Registers F and Fb. Register F records the following information about the material. " The series of Neolithic arrowheads, scrapers, fabricators and flakes registered here under the numbers 1-129 are flint and were collected by Mr A Selley over a long period of years between 1890 and 1915 from ploughed and waste ground. They were purchased for the museum for the sum of £8 in 1915. Lithics recorded after 1915 vary in period and deposition date.

The museum also has several of Selley's journals that refer to some of the findspots. These journals also contain some good quality sketches. The journals that contained references to lithics found within the Mendip Hills aggregate parishes were consulted to see if it was possible to gain any more detailed information about the locations of the artefacts. They were found to contain descriptions of some of the finds for a particular day accompanied by sketches of the finds, details about the weather and how long he spent searching and references to farm names but no more information about the location of the actual fields.

A typical entry reads;

"Sunday May 17th 1925

Mendip church 10.55 after service made for Manor Farm Charterhouse, new ground waste of time, 2hrs then went to Warren Farm a good patch in prime condition but I think other searchers had been in the ground before, finds one fractured arrow, lozenge

shape a well worked tool, 3 hours search, rain several times during day but I fortunately escaped (accompanied by a sketch of the arrowhead)."

One interesting point regarding this entry is that Selley mentions other searchers suggesting that he was not the only person collecting artefacts from these areas. In another entry he refers to other searchers being in the fields at the same time as him but they had not bothered him and left him alone. These references suggest that there are potentially more collections that have not yet been recorded from these areas.

Along with his journals there were also eight Ordnance Survey maps showing 122 numbered areas. These locations are assumed to be his collection areas but there is no further documentation to relate these areas to any of the collections held in the museum.

4.6 Wells and Mendip Museum

The honorary curator Mr Christopher Hawkes located six boxes containing lithics from various locations on the Mendip Hills that were assumed to relate to the thirteen collections identified during the search of the Somerset HER. Five of the boxes contained material kept in plastic bags and small boxes and were either numbered or lettered and had labels with general area locations.

The majority of the items were individually marked with a code but no further information as to what these codes referred to could be located by the curator during this assessment. Some of the lithics were marked with what appeared to be NGR eastings and northings (54-37 etc) but none of these were consistent with the sites identified in the Somerset HER. The museum store room list states that storage box number 173 (the lowest number on the boxes looked at during this assessment) also contains 2 files; these were not present and could not be found in any of the other boxes.

Mr Hawkes was unsure if the collections had been re-bagged or re-boxed since they had been in the museum as various individuals had looked at the collections for research projects but had not left any information relating to the storage of the collections. It was decided that no further information could be obtained from these five boxes during this rapid assessment but they should be looked at a later stage in more detail if the relevant files can be located.

4.6.1 Everton Collection

One of the six museum boxes contained only material collected by Mrs Anne Everton (see Axbridge Museum & the collections of the Axbridge Archaeological & Local History Society) from Warren Farm, Charterhouse, Priddy in the 1970`s and could be identified as Somerset HER PRN 24164. The material was stored in 2 smaller boxes containing 18 individually numbered bags and boxes, accompanied by a location sketch of the individual scatters and hand written notes on some of the material recovered (including NGR).

Most of the bags had a label referring to the individual scatters but there was no further information as to why the bags had been numbered in this manner and some contained items from different scatters. The majority of the items had been marked individually with CWB, CWC etc so even if a bag did not have a label it was still possible to identify material from the different scatters.

The collection contained 351 items recovered from eight different locations within adjoining fields to the SW of Warren Farm.

The first collection (Charterhouse Warren A) was recovered from NGR ST 498 547 to the SW of Warren Farm. The assemblage totals 78 items and consists of waste flakes (65% of the assemblage including Portland chert and burnt flakes), retouched flakes, end and side scrapers, serrated flakes/blades a notched flake a broken knife or arrowhead, core trimming flakes and cores. The more diagnostic elements within this assemblage would suggest a Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date.

The second collection (Charterhouse Warren AA) was recovered from NGR ST 4980 5467 and is shown on the sketch plan as being part of scatter A (no information in the notes as to why this has been recovered as a separate assemblage). The collection totals 16 items and consists of waste flakes (75% of the total including burnt flakes) a retouched flake or knife fragment a possible arrowhead fragment and a small battered lump. There were not enough diagnostic tools within this collection to assign a date but it appears to be part of scatter A and is probably Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age in date.

The third collection (Charterhouse Warren B) was recovered from NGR ST 4975 5475 to the west of Warren Farm. The collection totals 66 items and consists of waste flakes (62% of the assemblage including burnt flakes), retouched flakes (one is chert), serrated flakes a notched flake a denticulate flake and a Portland chert borer/awl. Also included were a small plano-convex implement, arrowheads (including transverse, oblique and an unfinished leaf-shaped arrowhead), cores (one is a reused polished axe fragment) and core trimming flakes. The diagnostic material within this assemblage suggests a Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date.

The fourth collection (Charterhouse Warren C) was recovered from NGR ST 4920 5460 to the west of scatter A. The collection totals 22 items and consists of waste flakes (50% of the assemblage including burnt flakes and lumps), retouched flakes, scrapers, a scraper with a serrated side, blades, a retouched blade a bifacial tool fragment and a core fragment. There were not enough diagnostic elements within this collection to assign a date but it is either Neolithic or Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age.

The fifth collection (Charterhouse Warren D) was recovered from NGR ST 494 544 to the SW of scatter A. The assemblage totals 44 items and consists of waste flakes (65% of the assemblage including burnt flakes and lumps), retouched flakes, blades (including retouched and serrated) a scraper, broken scrapers a polished axe fragment a core trimming flake and a small natural

lump. The majority of this material would suggest a Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date with a small Neolithic element.

The sixth collection (Charterhouse Warren E) was recovered from NGR ST 498 540 to the south of Warren Farm. The collection totals 67 items and consists of waste flakes (62% of the assemblage including Portland chert and burnt flakes and lumps), retouched flakes, serrated flakes and a notched flake, scrapers, end scrapers, thumbnail scrapers, cores (including burnt and chert) a petit tranchet arrowhead and a chert lump. The diagnostic tools within this assemblage suggest a Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date.

The notes mention a polished discoidal knife fragment; this could not be located amongst this assemblage.

The seventh collection (Charterhouse Warren F) was collected from NGR ST 4958 5467 and would appear to be located at the west end of scatter B (no information in the notes as to why it has been collected as a separate assemblage). The collection contains 37 items and consists of waste flakes (81% of the assemblage including burnt flakes and lumps), retouched flakes, blades, cores (one is a reused flake) and core fragments/lumps (one is Portland chert). There were not enough diagnostic tools within this assemblage to assign a date but it appears to be part of scatter (B) and is probably Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age.

The notes list three scrapers and a petit tranchet arrowhead, none of these items could be located within this assemblage.

The eighth collection (Charterhouse Warren Swallet) was collected from NGR ST 4935 5455 to the east of scatter C and only consists of 2 items a flake and a burnt scraper. As there were only 2 items in this assemblage it is not possible to assign a date but due to their proximity to the other scatters from this area then they are probably Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age in date. The notes (In the Swallet) mention two flakes, a waste flake and a fire crackled scraper.

There were also two bags (numbered 2 and 9) which had no labels and the lithics were unmarked. Bag 2 contained eight items which consisted of flakes a serrated flake a thumbnail scraper and a retouched flake and Bag 9 contained nine items which included flakes, retouched flakes a side scraper an end and side scraper and an oblique arrowhead. Also two unmarked denticulate/serrated blades were found in bag 17 (no label) which contained marked lithics from scatters B, C, D and E.

The majority of these items would appear to be of a similar date to the rest of the collection and are probably part of it but there was no explanation as to why these items are in these bags.

TABLE 10. Everton Collection Lithics from Wells Museum. Notes MESO = Mesolithic, NEO = Neolithic, LNEO = Later Neolithic, BA = Bronze Age, EBA = Early Bronze Age, LNEO/EBA = Later Neolithic/Early Bronze Age this period is also known as "Beaker", SLP = Somerset Levels Project

Museum Acc. No.	HER PRN	NGR	Location	Quantity	Date/Period	Tool and Waste Types
Box 260 E4/a & E4/b	24164	ST 498 547	SW of Charterhouse Warren Farm, Priddy. Charterhouse Warren A	78	LNEO/EBA	Flakes 45 (inc 1 Portland chert), burnt flakes 6, end & side scrapers 2, broken scraper 1, retouched flakes 13, notched? flakes 1, serrated flakes/blades 3, broken knife/arrowhead fragment? 1, cores 4, core trimming 1, small stone chip 1 (Portland chert?).
Box 260 E4/a & E4/b	24164	ST 4980 5465	SW of Charterhouse Warren Farm, Priddy. Charterhouse Warren AA	16	LNEO/EBA ?	Flakes 9, burnt flakes 3, scrapers 1, retouched flake 1 (knife fragment?), arrowhead fragment? 1, small battered lump 1.
Box 260 E4/a & E4/b	24164	ST 4975 5475	SW of Charterhouse Warren Farm, Priddy. Charterhouse Warren B	66	LNEO/EBA	Flakes 39, burnt flakes 2, scrapers 1, disc/thumb nail scraper 1, serrated blade 1, retouched flakes 7 (one is chert), notched flakes 2, serrated flakes 2, denticulate flakes 1, borer/awl 1 (Portland chert), small plano convex implement 1, unfinished leaf arrowhead? 1, transverse (chisel) arrowhead 1, transverse/oblique? arrowhead 1, oblique arrowhead 1, cores 2 (one is a reused polished axe fragment), core trimmings 1, chip 1.
Box 260 E4/a & E4/b	24164	ST 4920 5460	SW of Charterhouse Warren Farm, Priddy. Charterhouse Warren C	22	NEO or LNEO/EBA ?	Flakes 8, burnt flakes & lumps 3, scrapers 3, scraper with serrated side 1, blades 1, retouched blades 1, blade/flake 1, biface fragment 1, retouched flakes 2, core fragment 1.
Box 260 E4/a & E4/b	24164	ST 494 544	SW of Charterhouse Warren Farm, Priddy. Charterhouse Warren D	44	NEO & LNEO/EBA	Flakes 17 (inc 1 Portland chert), burnt flakes 11, burnt lump/pebble fragment 1, scrapers 1, broken scrapers/retouched flakes? 2, blades 1, retouched blades 1, serrated blades 1, retouched flakes 5, point? 1, polished axe fragment 1, core trimming 1, small natural lump 1.
Box 260 E4/a & E4/b	24164	ST 498 540	SW of Charterhouse Warren Farm, Priddy. Charterhouse Warren E	67	LNEO/EBA	Flakes 32 (inc 1 Portland chert), burnt flakes & lumps 10 (inc a thumb scraper), scrapers 3 (one has been re-used), end scrapers 1, scraper/discoidal core? 1, broken scrapers 2 (one is a thumb nail scraper), retouched flakes 10, notched flakes 1, serrated flakes 1, petit tranchet arrowhead? 1, cores 4 (inc 1 burnt & 1 chert), chert? lump 1.
Box 260 E4/a & E4/b	24164	ST 4958 5467	SW of Charterhouse Warren Farm, Priddy. Charterhouse Warren F	37	LNEO/EBA ?	Flakes 24, burnt flakes & lumps 6, small blades 2, retouched flakes 2, flake used as a core? 1, core fragment 1, core fragment/lump (Portland chert).
Box 260 E4/a & E4/b	24164	ST 4935 5455	SW of Charterhouse Warren Farm, Priddy. Charterhouse Warren Swallet	2	LNEO/EBA ?	Flakes 1, burnt scraper 1.

4.6.2 Recommendations for further analysis

The diagnostic elements within this assemblage would suggest that the majority of this collection is of a Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date but due to the rapid nature of this assessment only a full specialist analysis could identify further diagnostic artefacts and flint knapping technologies within it.

Already published sites were not included in this assessment and the correlation of this information with this assemblage will help to give us a broader view of the flint scatters in this area of the Mendip Hills and enhance our knowledge and understanding of them.

4.7 PRIVATE COLLECTIONS

During the planning stage of the Somerset Aggregates Lithics Assessment (SALSA) project it became apparent that there were a number of lithic collections recovered from the aggregate character areas within private hands. In particular two individuals Mr K Faxon of Shepton Mallet and Mr J Hayes of Shapwick expressed an interest in being involved in the SALSA project. It was estimated that the two collections contained a total of approximately 15,000 lithics and they were accompanied by supporting documentation. Permission was sought and granted to access these collections and it was agreed that information derived from the rapid assessment could be reported on, entered onto the Somerset HER and that these collections would be eventually be donated to local museums

Unfortunately access to the Hayes collection was subsequently denied unless specific requirements were met that were incompatible with the project design. However, during the early stages of the project, another individual (and member of the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society), Mr B Lane of Westbury-sub-Mendip approached the Project Officer offering his private material for inclusion in the assessment. The section below details the results of the rapid assessment for the Faxon and Lane collections.

4.7.1 The Faxon Collection

This collection was created by a former resident of the village Priddy on the Mendip Hills who, when a young child, was told by some of his friends that it was possible to find flint arrowheads in the ploughed fields around the village, inspiring many years of fieldwalking. It soon became apparent that all the fields contained lithic material. Initially, although every piece of flint (including waste) was picked and taken home, if it was not an obvious tool it would be discarded without even being washed. Collecting continued until early teenage years, amassing a small collection of selective material covering both the Neolithic and Later Neolithic/Early Bronze Age periods. Unfortunately these items were all grouped together apart from two items (see collection 8). The remainder of this childhood collection is unprovenanced and is not included in this assessment.

After a break of approximately 12 years the collection was briefly restarted during 1998 and 1999 (see collection 16) when a field became available in an area not previously walked. This time the finds were kept separate from the original collection and the bags marked with a location and date.

The majority of the assemblage listed below was recovered during 1992 and 1993 when some of the fields previously walked became available again. There were also adjoining fields that had not walked before to see if the flint scatters continued into them. Although these fields were not walked in measured grids, they were generally walked systematically in approximately 2 metre wide transects either along their lengths or widths depending on the conditions of the particular field. The finds were bagged together and not kept

separately from each transect. All of the fields listed were walked in their entirety unless otherwise stated and all of them contained lithic material throughout.

Since then the collector has become a professional archaeologist and flint expert. The assemblage has remained unpublished until now and this is the first time that it has been looked at in its entirety. The collection is stored in plastic bags and cardboard boxes each with hand written labels giving six figure grid references and a date. At this level of analysis it is only possible to give approximate percentages of the periods represented.

The first collection was recovered from ST 535 501 from an area to the south of Lower Pitts Farm Priddy during 1993 and 1994. The assemblage totals 1304 items and consists of waste flakes (73% of the assemblage including chert, Portland chert, burnt lumps and flakes), retouched flakes (including chert and Portland chert), notched flakes (including Portland chert), serrated flakes, denticulate flakes, blades (including retouched, notched and serrated), fabricators, borers/awls, knives (including a broken plano-convex knife), scrapers (including end, end and side, side, disc and thumbnail), 1 complete and 2 broken leaf-shaped arrowheads, 2 transverse (chisel) arrowheads, 2 petit tranchet arrowheads, 3 polished axe/implement fragments, cores, core fragments/lumps a discoidal core, sandstone pebbles and a small fragment of a copper alloy object.

The more diagnostic elements within this assemblage suggest both a Neolithic and Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date, approximately 20% Neolithic and 80% Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age.

The second collection was recovered in 1992 from ST 535 499 in the adjacent field on the south side of the first collection. The assemblage totals 847 items and consists of waste flakes (62% of the assemblage including chert, Portland chert, burnt lumps and flakes), retouched flakes (one is chert) a retouched Y shaped flake, notched flakes a combined notched flake and borer, serrated flakes, blades, retouched blades (one is Portland chert) a notched Portland chert blade and serrated blades, scrapers, end scrapers (one is Portland chert), end and side scrapers, side scrapers, disc scrapers and small/thumbnail scrapers. Other tools include knives, borers/awls a fabricator a broken leaf-shaped arrowhead, a transverse (chisel) arrowhead, 3 petit tranchet arrowheads an oblique arrowhead a ripple flaked oblique arrowhead a broken barbed and tanged arrowhead and a tanged arrowhead. There are also 3 polished axe/implement fragments, cores (including 4 possible Mesolithic), discoidal cores, core trimming flakes, core fragments/lumps a small discoidal tool with battered edges a hammer stone a flat greenstone, sandstone pebbles and a calcite/quartzite pebble.



Figure 14. Borers, a knife, and transverse and leaf shaped arrowheads from Faxon Collection 2. ----- 1cm

The earliest period suggested within this assemblage is the Mesolithic by the presence of 4 small bladelet cores but they only account for 1.2% of the collection. The diagnostic tools again suggest that the rest of the collection is approximately 20% Neolithic and 80% Late Neolithic Early Bronze Age.



Figure 15. Scrapers from Faxon Collection 3. ----- 1cm

The third collection was recovered from ST 538 501 in a field to the NE of the first collection in 1992 and briefly in 1998. The assemblage totals 2493 items and consists of waste flakes (73% of the collection including chert, Portland chert, burnt lumps and flakes), retouched flakes (3 are Portland chert), notched flakes, serrated flakes, blades (11 are possibly Mesolithic), retouched blades (7 are possibly Mesolithic), notched blades, serrated blades (one is Portland chert), scrapers (2 are chert and 1 is Portland chert), end scrapers, a notched end scraper, end and side scrapers, side scrapers, disc scrapers, small/thumbnail scrapers (one is Portland chert), hollow scrapers a nosed scraper and a double ended scraper. The assemblage also includes fabricators, knives, 5 leaf-shaped arrowheads (one is broken) 2 broken or unfinished leaf-shaped arrowheads, 3 transverse (chisel) arrowheads, 4 oblique arrowheads, 2 petit tranchet arrowheads, 3 barbed and tanged arrowheads (one is broken), transverse/oblique arrowhead fragments, borers/awls, a limestone? Axe

with a reworked butt, 4 polished axe fragments, 4 microliths (Mesolithic), cores (one is a burnt blade core possibly Mesolithic), 2 small levallois style cores a battered core re-used as a hammer stone, natural sandstone lumps, pebbles a small copper alloy object, 2 sheet copper alloy objects a copper alloy coin and a Roman pottery sherd.

There is a small Mesolithic element within this collection but it only accounts for 3.5% of the assemblage. The rest of the collection appears to be approximately 20% Neolithic and 80 % Late Neolithic/ Early Bronze Age.



Figure 16. Various arrowhead types from Faxon collection 3. ----- 1cm

The fourth collection was recovered from ST 538 500 in the adjacent field to the south of collection three and east of collection one. Only the northern edge of this field was walked briefly in 1999. The assemblage totals 194 items and contains waste flakes (68% of the collection including chert, Portland chert, burnt lumps and flakes), retouched flakes (one is Portland chert), blades (one is chert), retouched blades a notched or shouldered blade, a serrated blade, knives a borer/awl a fabricator or knife one polished axe fragment a polished/ground edge tool fragment a polished shaft hole implement fragment, cores (including 1 Portland chert and 1 burnt) and core fragments/lumps. The majority of this material would again suggest a Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date with a small Neolithic element.



Figure 17. Knives
and a fabricator from
Faxon Collection 4.
----- 2cm

The fifth collection was recovered from ST 539 495 to the NE of Higher Pitts Farm. Only the east end of this field was walked briefly in 1993. The assemblage totals 314 items and contains waste flakes (78% of the assemblage including chert, burnt lumps and flakes), retouched flakes (including 2 chert), blades (including 1 chert), serrated blades, a scraper, end scrapers, cores (including 5 possible Mesolithic), core fragments/lumps, 3 Portland chert lumps, 1 sandstone pebble and a flat sandstone pebble with gloss on one side.

There is possibly a small Mesolithic element (5 cores) within this collection that accounts for 7.4% of the assemblage the remainder of the material is probably of a Neolithic date.

The sixth collection was recovered from ST 534 494 to the north of Higher Pitts Farm in 1992. The assemblage totals 345 items and contains waste flakes (80% of the collection including chert, burnt lumps and flakes), retouched flakes, notched flakes, serrated flakes, blades, retouched blades, scrapers a side scraper, disc scrapers, thumbnail scrapers a fabricator a knife a transverse (chisel) arrowhead a barbed and tanged arrowhead a petit tranchet arrowhead, 2 possible transverse arrowhead fragments, cores, core fragments/lumps and 2 natural flint (one is a ball). The diagnostic material within this assemblage suggests a Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date.

The seventh collection was recovered from ST 532 495 from the adjacent field on the west side of collection six, south of Sandpit Hole. Only the east end of this field was briefly walked in 1990 and 1992. The assemblage totals 325 items and contains waste flakes (66% of the assemblage including chert, burnt lumps and flakes), retouched flakes a notched flake, blades, retouched blades a notched blade a notched/shouldered blade a serrated blade, scrapers, end scrapers, end and side scrapers a side scraper, disc scrapers small/thumbnail scrapers (including 1 Portland chert), knives, 2 plano-convex knives, borers/awls a transverse (chisel) arrowhead a barbed and tanged arrowhead, cores, core fragments/lumps (one is chert). The diagnostic material within this collection would suggest a Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date.

The eighth collection was recovered from ST 530 499 to the NW of Sandpit Hole. A greenstone axe head and a leaf-shaped arrowhead and other lithic material were recovered in 1974 when the author was a young child. Unfortunately these are the only 2 items from this area that were kept separate from the childhood collections of lithic material. Both items are of a Neolithic date.

The ninth collection was recovered from ST 523 495 from a field to the south of Moor View, on the east side of Pelting Drove. Only the NE edge of this field was briefly walked during the summer of 1993. The assemblage totals 86 items and contains waste flakes (73% of the collection including burnt lumps and flakes), retouched flakes a serrated Portland chert flake, a blade and a retouched blade a scraper and an end scraper, knives a knife or scraper a possible fabricator or a knife a borer/awl a leaf-shaped arrowhead and core fragments/lumps. This collection would appear to be generally of a Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age with a small Neolithic element.

The tenth collection was recovered from ST 521 496 to the SW of Moor View on the north side of Pelting Drove during the winter of 1992/1993. The assemblage totals 230 items and contains waste flakes (71% of the assemblage including chert and burnt lumps and flakes), retouched flakes (including 1 Portland chert), blades, retouched blades a notched blade, scrapers (including end, end and side, side, disc, small/thumbnail and double ended) a broken plano-convex knife or leaf-shaped arrowhead a ripple flaked oblique arrowhead a polished axe fragment, cores and a sandstone pebble. Again this assemblage appears to be of a Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date with a small Neolithic element.



Figure 18. Ripple flaked oblique arrowhead from Faxon Collection 10.

----- 1cm

The eleventh collection was recovered from ST 520 499, an area to the NW of Moor View during the winter of 1992/1993 and totals 242 items. The assemblage contains waste flakes (69% of the collection including chert, Portland chert, burnt lumps and flakes), retouched flakes, notched flakes (including 1 portland chert), blades (including retouched, notched and serrated), scrapers, end scrapers, thumbnail scrapers a fabricator a knife, 2 transverse (chisel) arrowheads a broken leaf-shaped arrowhead a small oblique arrowhead an arrowhead fragment, cores and core fragments/lumps. The diagnostic tools suggest a Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date with a small Neolithic element.

The twelfth collection was recovered from ST 518 500 in the adjacent field to the eleventh collection during the winter of 1992/1993. The assemblage totals 500 items and contains waste flakes (74% of the collection including chert, Portland chert, burnt lumps and flakes), retouched flakes a notched/denticulate flake, blades (including 1 chert), retouched blades, notched blades and serrated blades, scrapers, end scrapers, end and side scrapers, disc scrapers and a thumbnail scraper. Also included are knives one is a plano-convex knife, borers/awls, a transverse (chisel) arrowhead an oblique arrowhead, 2 possible petit tranchet arrowheads a broken leaf-shaped arrowhead, 3 arrowhead fragments the cutting edge of a flint axe, cores, core fragments/lumps and a possible Mesolithic micro burin (1% of the collection). The majority of this assemblage would appear to be of a Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date with a small Neolithic element.



Figure 19.
Plano-convex
knife from
Faxon
collection 12.
----- 1cm

The thirteenth collection was recovered from ST 515 535, an area to the SE of Yoxter Farm during the spring of 1992. The assemblage totals 424 items and contains waste flakes (73% of the assemblage including chert, burnt lumps flakes and a core), retouched flakes, notched flakes and a serrated flake, retouched blades, notched blades and a serrated blade, scrapers, end scrapers (one is Portland chert), end and side scrapers, side scrapers, thumbnail scrapers, borers/awls, a possible rod fragment. Other tools and items included a leaf-shaped arrowhead a petit tranchet arrowhead a broken barbed and tanged arrowhead, cores, core trimming flakes and core fragments/lumps. This assemblage appears to be generally Neolithic with a small Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age element.

The fourteenth collection was recovered from ST 513 535 in the adjacent field to collection thirteen during the autumn of 1992. The assemblage totals 83 items and consists of waste flakes (61 % of the assemblage including Portland chert and burnt lumps and flakes), retouched flakes notched flakes, blades, retouched blades, a serrated blade, scrapers, end scrapers a Portland chert end and side scraper, side scrapers, disc scrapers (one is Portland chert) a borer/awl a possible small axe roughout, cores, core fragments/lumps, unworked natural lumps and a small sandstone pebble. The diagnostic material within this collection would suggest a Neolithic date

The fifteenth collection was recovered from ST 518 486 from the field containing the standing stones known as Deerleap. The field was only walked briefly during the summer of 1993. The assemblage totals 109 items and

consists of waste flakes (76% of the collection including chert, burnt lumps and flakes and a core), retouched flakes a serrated blade, scrapers, thumbnail scrapers, re-worked scraper a broken fabricator a knife or scraper and a borer/awl. Also included in the assemblage is a broken barbed and tanged arrowhead a transverse (chisel) arrowhead a possible flint hammer stone, cores (one is chert) unworked natural lumps and a small nodule. The assemblage appears to be of a Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date.

The sixteenth collection was recovered from ST 534 521 from a field on the west side of Nine Barrows Lane, Priddy during 1989 and 1990. The assemblage totals 429 items and consists of waste flakes (63% of the assemblage including chert, Portland chert, burnt lumps and flakes), retouched flakes (including 2 Portland chert), notched flakes, serrated flakes, blades, retouched blades, notched blades (one is chert), serrated blades, scrapers, end scrapers, end and side scrapers (one is Portland chert) a Portland chert side scraper, small/ thumbnail scrapers a hollow scraper and a disc scraper. Also included are knives a borer/awl, 2 broken fabricators or rods, 3 leaf-shaped arrowheads (one has the tip missing) a small transverse (chisel) arrowhead a polished axe fragment an un-polished axe fragment (butt end?) 3 Mesolithic microliths and 2 possible microliths, cores (one is Portland chert, and 4 are possibly Mesolithic) and core fragments/lumps.

The earliest date suggested for this collection is the Mesolithic with 5 microliths and 4 cores these items account for only 4.9% of the assemblage with the remainder appearing to be of a Neolithic date.

The seventeenth collection was recovered from ST 563 496 from a field to the west of Priddy Road Farm. Only the north end of this field was briefly walked during the summer of 1991. The assemblage totals 97 items and consists of waste flakes (72% of the collection including burnt lumps, flakes and a core), retouched flakes, blades, retouched blades, an end scraper, small/thumb nail scrapers a borer/awl knife (notched on one side) a transverse (chisel) arrowhead, cores, core trimming flakes and core fragments/lumps. The diagnostic tools would suggest that this assemblage is of a Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date.

The eighteenth collection was recovered from NGR ST 509 524, an area to the SW of Priddy Hill Farm. This area was only briefly walked in the autumn of 1993. The assemblage totals 81 items and consists of waste flakes (80% of the collection including chert, Portland chert, burnt lumps and flakes), retouched flakes, a serrated flake, blades, a serrated blade, 2 scrapers or knives a scraper and core fragments/ lumps. The diagnostic tools suggest that this is a Neolithic assemblage.

The nineteenth Collection was recovered from ST 519 532 from a field on the east side of Priddy Hill Farm. This area was only briefly walked during the autumn of 1993. The assemblage totals 107 items and consists of waste flakes (75% of the assemblage including chert, burnt lumps, flakes and a scraper), retouched flakes a serrated flake, blades, serrated blades, 2 broken fabricators or knives, the cutting edge of a polished flint axe, cores, core

trimming flakes, core fragments/lumps and small natural unworked lumps. The diagnostic tools suggest that this is a Neolithic assemblage.

The twentieth collection was recovered from ST 515 520, an area south of Priddy Hill Farm. Only the SE corner of this field was briefly walked during the autumn of 1993. The assemblage totals 28 items and consists of waste flakes (85% of the collection including burnt lumps and flakes), 2 scrapers a core and a core fragment/lump. This assemblage is probably of a Neolithic date.

4.7.1.1 Recommendations for further analysis

The rapid assessment has shown that (10%) of the sites contain diagnostic tools that are attributable to both the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods, (10%) containing Mesolithic, Neolithic and Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age material, (50% containing Neolithic and Neolithic/Early Bronze Age material, (20%) that only appear to contain Neolithic material, and (20%) only Late Neolithic/Early Bronze material.

These figures are probably not a true reflection of the actual sites as the collection of lithic material from cultivated sites is determined by many factors such as available sites (58% of the collection came from 4 adjoining fields) the surface condition of the field (ploughed, depth of ploughing, harrowed, weathered etc), lighting conditions, time spent on a particular area and the experience of the collectors.

At present the flint scatters can only be used as indicators of prehistoric activity in certain areas over many thousands of years, although all of the sites apart from collection eight (only 2 items) contained burnt flint, cores, primary, secondary and tertiary flakes that would suggest domestic activity and on site knapping.

Already published sites were not included in this assessment and the correlation of this information with the sites identified during this project will help to give us a broader view of the extent of the flint scatters on the Mendip Hills and due to the rapid nature of this project only a full specialist analysis could identify further diagnostic artefacts and flint knapping technologies within the collections and thus enhance our knowledge and understanding of them.

Although the flint collections looked at during this assessment are from unexcavated contexts and have been disturbed by agricultural activity they are of regional and national importance as they represent the largest resource of cultural material from these periods that we have at present from the Mendip Hills.

Table11. Lithics collected and retained by Mr K. Faxon from the Mendip Hills Character Area.

HER PRN	NGR	Location	Quantity	Date/ Period	% per period	Tool and Waste Types	Land use
23965	ST 535 501	South of Lower Pitts Farm	1304	NEO & LNEO/EBA	20% NEO & 80% LNEO/EBA	Flakes 818 (inc 10 Portland chert & 4 chert), burnt flakes & lumps 171 (inc end of scraper), scrapers 16, end scrapers 12, end & side scrapers 4 (two are small & one is chert), side scrapers 1, disc scrapers 1, thumbnail scrapers 17, broken scrapers 24, blades & fragments 53, retouched blades 10, notched blades 1, serrated blades 4, retouched flakes 67 (inc 1 Portland chert & 1 chert), notched flakes 6 (inc 1 Portland chert), serrated flakes 1, denticulate flakes 2, fabricators 2 (1 is a fragment?), knives 3 (one is the end of a plano convex), borers/awls 2, transverse (chisel) arrowheads 2, leaf arrowheads 3 (one is a tip & one is a base), petit tranchet arrowheads? 2 (one is broken), possible arrowhead fragments? 2, unfinished arrowheads 1, cores 41 (inc 2 burnt & 1 chert), core fragments/lumps? 26, discoidal core 1, polished axe/implement fragments 3, sandstone pebbles 5, small pebbles 2, and a small copper alloy object fragment.	Comercial Turf
26258	ST 535 499	South of Lower Pitts Farm	847	MESO, NEO & LNEO/EBA	1.2% MESO, 20% NEO & 80% LNEO/EBA	Flakes 434 (inc 8 Portland chert & 7 chert), burnt flakes & lumps 99 (inc cores & blades), scrapers 11, end scrapers 29 (2 are Portland chert & 1 is burnt), end & side scrapers 6, side scrapers 1, disc scrapers 5, small/thumbnail scrapers 12, broken scrapers 6, blades & fragments 14 (one is chert), retouched blades 15 (one is Portland chert), notched blades 1 (Portland chert), serrated blades 4, retouched flakes 82 (one is chert), notched flakes 5, combined notched flake & borer 1, serrated flakes 11, retouched Y shaped flake 1, fabricators 1, knives 9, borers/awls 2, transverse (chisel) arrowheads 1, leaf arrowhead 1 (broken), petit tranchet arrowheads 3, oblique arrowheads 1, ripple flaked oblique arrowheads 1, barbed & tanged arrowheads 1 (broken), tanged arrowheads 1, cores 27 (4 of these are possibly MESO), core fragments/lumps? 30, discoidal cores 2, core trimming flakes 6, polished axe/implement fragments 3, small discoidal flint with battered edges 1, hammerstone 1, flat greenstone lump 1, sandstone pebbles 2, calcite/quartzite? pebble 1,	Ploughed
23965	ST 538 501	SE of Lower Pitts Farm	2493	MESO, NEO & LNEO/EBA	3.5% MESO, 20% NEO	Flakes 1460 (inc 37 Portland chert & 14 chert), burnt flakes & lumps 381, scrapers 29 (2 are chert & 1 is Portland chert), end scrapers 29 (one is notched), end & side scrapers 5, side scrapers 8, disc scrapers 6,	Ploughed

HER PRN	NGR	Location	Quantity	Date/ Period	% per period	Tool and Waste Types	Land use
					& 80% LNEO/EBA	small/thumbnail scrapers 41 (one is Portland chert), nosed scrapers 1, hollow scrapers 2, double end scraper 1, broken scrapers 15, burnt scrapers 1, blades & fragments 48 (11 possibly MESO), retouched blades & fragments 51 (7 possibly MESO), notched blades 8, serrated blades 10 (one is Portland chert), retouched flakes 181 (3 are Portland chert), notched flakes 16, serrated flakes 9, fabricator 1, fabricator/knife? 1, fabricator/small pick? 1, fabricator tips? 3, knives 22, broken knives 4, wasted tool 1, burin? 1, leaf arrowheads 5 (one is broken), broken/unfinished? leaf arrowheads 2, transverse (chisel) arrowheads 3, oblique arrowheads 4, petit tranchet arrowheads 2, barbed & tanged arrowheads 3 (one is broken), transverse/oblique arrowhead? fragments 6, possible arrowhead fragment 1, leaf arrowhead/plano convex knife? fragment 1, borers/awls 5, cores 37 (one is a small burnt blade core, possibly MESO?), small levallois style cores 2, core fragments/lumps 70, battered cores 2 (one used as hammerstone?), microliths 4 (2 are fragments & 1 is a small backed blade fragment, MESO), re-worked limestone? axe 1, polished axe/implement fragments 4, natural 2, pebbles 4, sandstone 4, small copper alloy object with hole 1, sheet copper alloy objects 2, bronze coin 1 and one RB pot sherd (mortaria).	
23965	ST 538 500	SE of Lower Pitts Farm	194	NEO & LNEO/EBA	N/A	Flakes 106 (inc 6 Portland chert & 2 chert), burnt flakes & lumps 27, scrapers 3, end scrapers 4, end & side scrapers 1, thumbnail scrapers 4, blades 9 (one is chert) retouched blades 8, notched blade/shouldered? 1, serrated blade 1, retouched flakes 9 (one is Portland chert), fabricator/knife? 1, knives 2, borer/awl 1, polished axe fragment 1, polished/ground edge tool fragment 1, polished shaft hole implement fragment 1, cores 8 (one is Portland chert & one is burnt), core fragments/lumps 3.	Ploughed
26259	ST 539 495	NE of Higher Pitts Farm	314	MESO & NEO	7.4% MESO	Flakes 198 (inc 1 chert), burnt flakes & lumps 49, scrapers 1, end scrapers 2, broken scrapers 1, blades 5 (one is chert), serrated blades 2, retouched flakes 21 (2 are chert), cores 15 (5 are possibly MESO), core fragments/lumps 14, Portland chert lumps 3, natural flint 1, sandstone pebbles 2 (one is flat with gloss on one side).	Ploughed

HER PRN	NGR	Location	Quantity	Date/ Period	% per period	Tool and Waste Types	Land use
24224	ST 534 494	North of Higher Pitts Farm	345	LNEO/EBA	N/A	Flakes 235 (inc 4 chert), burnt flakes & lumps 43, scrapers 2, side scraper, 1 disc scrapers 2, small/thumbnail scrapers 4, broken scrapers 7, blades 3, retouched blades 3, retouched flakes 25, notched flakes 2, serrated flakes 2, fabricator 1, knife 1, transverse (chisel) arrowhead 1, barbed & tanged arrowhead 1, petit tranchet arrowhead? 1, transverse arrowhead fragments? 2, cores 4, core fragments/lumps 3, natural flint 2 (one is a ball).	Ploughed
24224	ST 532 495	South of Sandpit Hole	325	LNEO/EBA	N/A	Flakes 171 (2 are chert), burnt flakes & lumps 45, scrapers 3, end scrapers 8, end & side scrapers 3, side scrapers 1, disc scrapers 3, small/thumbnail scrapers 19 (one is Portland chert), broken scrapers 2, blades 3, retouched blades 4, notched blade 1, serrated blade 1, shouldered blade? 1, retouched flakes 36, notched flake 1, knives 4, plano convex knives 2, borers/awls 2, transverse (chisel) arrowhead 1, barbed & tanged arrowhead 1, cores 6, core fragments/lumps 7 (one is chert).	Ploughed
24229	ST 530 499	NW of Sandpit Hole	2	NEO	N/A	Greenstone axe head 1, leaf arrowhead 1.	Ploughed
25692	ST 523 495	South of Moor View	86	NEO & LNEO/EBA	N/A	Flakes 54, burnt flakes & lumps 9, scrapers 1, end scrapers 1, blades 1, retouched blades 1, retouched flakes 8, serrated flake/blade 1 (Portland chert), knife/scrapper? 1, knives 2 (one is broken), Fabricator/knife? 1, borer/awl 1, leaf arrowhead 1, core fragments/lumps 4.	Ploughed
25692	ST 521 496	SW of Moor View	230	NEO & LNEO/EBA	N/A	Flakes 139 (inc 1 chert), burnt flakes & lumps 25, scrapers 3, end scrapers 1, end & side scrapers 1, side scrapers 3, disc scrapers 1, disc/thumbnail scraper 1, small/thumbnail scrapers 4, double ended scraper 1, broken scrapers 1, blades 3, retouched blades 2, notched blades 1, retouched flakes 23 (one is Portland chert), 1, broken plano convex knife/leaf arrowhead? 1, ripple flaked oblique arrowhead 1, polished axe fragment 1, cores 14, sandstone pebble 1.	Ploughed
25693	ST 520 499	NW of Moor View	242	NEO & LNEO/EBA	N/A	Flakes 128 (inc 1 chert & 1 Portland chert), burnt flakes & lumps 40, scrapers 1, end scrapers 3, thumbnail scrapers 2, broken scrapers 4, blades 6, retouched blades 8 (one is notched), serrated blades 4, retouched flakes 13, notched flakes 6 (one is Portland chert), fabricator 1, burnt axe/pick? fragment 1, knife 1, transverse (chisel) arrowheads 2, broken leaf arrowhead 1, small oblique	Ploughed

HER PRN	NGR	Location	Quantity	Date/ Period	% per period	Tool and Waste Types	Land use
						arrowhead? 1, arrowhead fragment 1, cores 9, core fragments/lumps 10.	
44947	ST 518 500	NW of Moor View	500	NEO & LNEO/EBA	N/A	Flakes 313 (inc 1 chert & 2 Portland chert), burnt flakes & lumps 60, scrapers 15, end scrapers 2, end & side scrapers 4, disc scrapers 2, thumbnail scrapers 1, blades 22 (inc 1 chert), retouched blades 4, notched blades 1, serrated blades/fragments 4, retouched flakes 32, notched/denticulate? flake 1, plano convex knife 1, knives 3, borers/awls 3, micro burin? (MESO?) 1, transverse (chisel) arrowhead 1, oblique arrowhead 1, broken leaf arrowhead 1, petit tranchet arrowheads? 2, arrowhead fragments? 3, cutting edge of a flint axe? (not polished) 1, cores 13, core fragments/lumps 9.	Ploughed
26260	ST 515 535	SE of Yoxter Farm	424	NEO & LNEO/EBA	N/A	Flakes 250 (inc 1 chert, burnt flakes & lumps (inc a core) 60, scrapers 12, end scrapers 9 (one is Portland chert), end & side scrapers 4, side scrapers 4, thumbnail scrapers 2, broken scrapers 5, blades 4, retouched blades 5, notched blades 3, serrated blades 1, retouched flakes 38, notched flakes 2, serrated flakes 1, borers/awls 2, rod? fragment 1, micro burin? 1(MESO), polished axe/implement fragments 2, leaf arrowhead 1, broken barbed & tanged arrowhead 1, petit tranchet ? arrowhead 1, cores 6, core trimming flakes 2, core fragments/lumps 6, natural small lump 1.	Ploughed
26262	ST 513 535	South of Yoxter Farm	83	NEO	N/A	Flakes 42 (inc 3 Portland chert), burnt flakes & lumps 9, scrapers 1, end scrapers 1, end & side scrapers 1 (Portland chert), side scrapers 1, disc scrapers 2 (one is Portland chert), blades 1, retouched blades 3, serrated blades 1, retouched flakes 7, notched flakes 1, borer/awl 1, small axe roughout/Y shaped core?, cores 2, core fragments/lumps 3, natural lumps 5, small sandstone pebble 1.	Ploughed
26263	ST 518 486	Deer Leap	109	LNEO/EBA	N/A	Flakes 71 (inc 1 chert), burnt flakes & lumps 12 (inc a core), scrapers 4, thumbnail scrapers 5, re-used scrapper? 1, serrated blades 1, retouched flakes 3, broken fabricator? 1, knife/scrapper? 1, borer/awl 1, barbed & tanged arrowheads 1, transverse (chisel) arrowhead? 1, flint hammerstone? 1, cores 2 (one is chert), lumps 3 (one is battered), small nodule 1.	Ploughed
26264	ST 534 521	Nine Barrows Lane	429	MESO & NEO	4.9% MESO	Flakes 213 (inc 6 Portland chert & 2 chert), burnt flakes & lumps 34, scrapers 2, end scrapers 3, end & side scrapers 3 (one is Portland chert), side scrapers 1	Ploughed

HER PRN	NGR	Location	Quantity	Date/ Period	% per period	Tool and Waste Types	Land use
						(Portland chert), hollow scraper? 1, small/thumbnail scrapers 2, disc scrapers 1, broken scrapers 2, blades & fragments 14, retouched blades & fragments 16, notched blades 5 (one is chert), serrated blades 4, retouched flakes 72 (inc 2 Portland chert), notched flakes 4, serrated flakes 1, broken fabricators/rods? 2, knives? 5 (2 broken), borers/awls 1, leaf arrowheads 3 (one has the tip missing), small transverse (chisel) arrowhead? 1, microliths 3 (MESO), possible microliths 2? (MESO), polished axe fragments 1, fragment of flint axe, not polished 1 (butt end?), cores 20 (one is Portland chert & 4 are possibly MESO), core fragments/lumps 10.	
26265	ST 563 496	West of Priddy Road Farm	97	LNEO/EBA	N/A	Flakes 61, burnt flakes & lumps 9 (inc 1 core), end scrapers 1, small/thumbnail scrapers 2, broken scrapers 2, blades & fragments 4, retouched blades & fragments 4, retouched flakes 5, borer/awl 1, transverse (chisel) arrowhead? 1, cores 3, core trimming flakes 1, core fragments/lumps 3.	Ploughed
26266	ST 509 524	SW of Priddy Hill Farm	81	NEO		Flakes 50 (inc 1 Portland chert & 1 chert), burnt flakes & lumps 15, scrapers 1, knives/scrapers? 2, blades 4, serrated blades 1, retouched flakes 4, serrated flakes 1, lumps core fragments 3.	Ploughed
26268	ST 519 532	East side of Priddy Hill Farm	107	NEO	N/A	Flakes 61 (inc 1 chert), burnt flakes & lumps 20 (inc 1 scraper), blades 1, serrated blades 2, retouched flakes 6, serrated flakes 1, broken fabricators/knives? 2, cutting edge of polished flint axe 1, cores 2, core trimming flakes 2, core fragments/lumps 4, small natural lumps 5.	Ploughed
26267	ST 515 520	South of Priddy Hill Farm	28	NEO	N/A	Flakes 14, burnt flakes & lumps 10, scrapers 2, cores 1, core fragments/lumps 1.	Ploughed

Notes

MESO = Mesolithic, NEO = Neolithic, LNEO = Later Neolithic, BA = Bronze Age, EBA = Early Bronze Age, LNEO/EBA = Later Neolithic/Early Bronze Age this period is also known as "Beaker"

4.7.2 The Lane Collection

Between 1997 and 2003 Mr B Lane of Westbury-sub-Mendip collected a total of 225 lithics from the Mendip Hills character area. In each case Mr Lane reported the discoveries to the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society and they were published in the Society's Proceedings (Lane 1997 and 2003), this information was then integrated into the Somerset HER. The material is carefully bagged and labelled with the dates of discovery and NGR on each bag. The table below contains the basic details for each collection, further information can be found in Appendix 1. As this material has not yet been archived with a museum identity numbers beginning with the prefix 'BL' were assigned by the Project Officer. The numbers are purely arbitrary and were used simply as an aid during the rapid assessment.

The first collection (BL 1 and 1a HER PRN 12991) was recovered by Mr Lane on two separate occasions in 1997 and 2003 from NGR ST 485 485 an area known as Cowleaze, Westbury-sub-Mendip. In total there are 41 lithics in this collection and they consist almost entirely of flint with only one chert chip. The assemblage contains struck waste flakes (54% and including burnt waste), some retouched flakes and several liming flints. There were no recognisable tools amongst the collection, however they do represent humanly worked lithics and with the exception of the 7 liming flints the rest of the assemblage is likely to be prehistoric in origin.

Several non-lithic objects from this area were amongst the material including Mendip potato stones, metal objects (including copper alloy fragments), a whetstone, and abraded sherds of Samian pottery. The Somerset HER records that Roman objects have been recovered from the area in the past (including additional pottery sherds by Mr Lane) and it is thought that the area might represent a Roman settlement.

The second collection (BL 2 HER PRN 24870) was recovered on two separate occasions in 1997 from NGR ST 501 509, a ploughed field directly above Westbury Beacon. The collection totals 76 lithics and comprises struck waste flakes (84% of the assemblage and including some burnt flakes), retouched flakes, blades, a fabricator and scrapers (including an end scraper). Based on the typology of the tools it is suggested that this represents a largely Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age assemblage.

The third collection (BL 3 HER PRN 24870) was also recovered on two separate occasions in 1997 from ST 504 508, a ploughed field to the northeast of Westbury Beacon. This collection totals 76 objects and consists of struck waste flakes (78% of the assemblage), retouched flakes, blades, denticulates/serrated flakes, an end scraper, a possible oblique arrowhead, a core trimming flake (possibly Mesolithic) and a small retouched blade (possibly a microlith – Clark type A). Mostly this assemblage seems to be Neolithic date and with the Mesolithic items probably being residual in nature.

The fourth and final collection (BL 4 HER PRN 16227) recovered by Mr Lane from NGR ST 5146 5160, a ploughed field to the west of Townsend Farm, Priddy in 2003. There are 32 lithics in total and they consist of struck waste flakes (94% of the assemblage and including burnt flakes) and two possible blade core trimming flakes. There are no diagnostic tools amongst this assemblage however the material is humanly worked and likely to be prehistoric in origin.

Table12. Lithics collected and retained by Mr B. Lane from the Mendip Hills Character Area.

Identity No.	HER PRN	NGR	Location	Quantity	Date/Period	% per period	Tool and Waste Types	Collector
BL 1	12991	ST 485 485	Cowleaze, Westbury-sub-Mendip	31	Prehistoric	N/A	Struck waste flakes (inc 6 burnt) 14, blade fragments 2, a chert chip, retouched flakes 5, core fragments 2 and 7 liming flints,	B Lane
BL 1a (collected at a different time to BL1)	12991	ST 485 485	Cowleaze, Westbury-sub-Mendip	10	Prehistoric	N/A	Struck waste flakes (inc 4 burnt) 8 and 2 natural pieces of flint	B Lane
BL 2	24870	ST 501 509 centre point	Field directly north of Westbury Beacon, Westbury-sub-Mendip	76	LNEO/EBA	N/A	Struck waste flakes (inc 3 burnt) - some secondary in nature 64, blades 2, retouched flakes 2, 1 fabricator, scrapers 3, 1 end scraper	B Lane
BL 3	24870	ST 504 508 centre point	Field to NE of Westbury Beacon, Westbury-sub-Mendip	76	NEO (with possibly small MESO element - unconfirmed)	99-100% NEO >1 % MESO	Struck waste flakes 59, retouched flakes (inc 1 chert) 7, blades 4, denticulates/serrated flakes 2, 1 end scraper, 1 arrowhead (oblique), 1 retouched small blade (?Microlith Clark type A) and 1 core trimming flake (? MESO)	B Lane
BL 4	16227	ST 5146 5160 centre point	Field to the W of Townsend Farm, Priddy	32	Prehistoric	N/A	Struck waste flakes (inc 2 burnt) 30 & blade core flakes 2	B Lane

Notes

MESO = Mesolithic, NEO = Neolithic, LNEO = Later Neolithic, BA = Bronze Age, EBA = Early Bronze Age, LNEO/EBA = Later Neolithic/Early Bronze Age this period is also known as "Beaker"

5 RESOURCE SIGNIFICANCE

The Somerset Aggregates Lithics Assessment (SALSA) has led to the identification of 122 discrete lithic assemblage locations, comprising 24,097 objects archived in Somerset museums or in private ownership. This section deals with the significance of the resource and is divided by character area (statements on the potential of individual collections are found in the proceeding sections).

5.1 The Burtle Beds Character Area

The rapid assessment of the lithics recovered from the Burtle Beds character area suggests that the archived material in the County Museum is of a varied nature. The lithics collected by the Somerset Levels Project do not generally contain much diagnostic material however they do provide evidence of human activity on the Burtle Beds during the prehistoric period.

The lithic material recovered from the Greylake sand quarry (Somerset HER PRN 10568) is without a doubt one of the most significant collections from the county of Somerset and demonstrates a prolonged period of early Mesolithic activity within a very discreet area. The quarry is also notable for having produced a beaker burial and late Bronze Age deposition of excarnated human remains and other items in the adjoining swamp. Many other human remains were found on the site that could potentially be Mesolithic in date.

Greylake is not the only recorded example of a Mesolithic activity area within the Burtle Beds character area. Professional fieldwork at Parchey Sand Patch (Somerset HER PRN 15025) produced evidence for three concentrations of Mesolithic flints within one field. Like the Greylake material, some of these lithics are early in date.

Additionally Mesolithic concentrations of flint and chert objects are known from around Shapwick (on a sand bank area not currently mapped by the BGS). When added to the information obtained by the SALSA project from Greylake it is possible to suggest that there was a trend during the Mesolithic period of activity sites on the Burtle Beds.

There was also clearly activity in the Burtle Beds character area during the later prehistoric periods. Further investigations of the Burtle Beds including fieldwalking, geophysical survey and limited trial trenching could provide more detailed information and may help to establish a connection to the wetland archaeological remains of peat moors.

5.2 The Mendip Hills Character Area

The results of the rapid assessment of the archived and privately held lithic collections for the Mendip Hills character area have confirmed that Mendip was rich in activity during the prehistoric periods. It is thanks to the efforts of collectors such as Faxon, Everton and Hack, who concentrated on recovering

both lithic waste and tools that we are able to establish distinct areas of activity.

While the earlier periods (Palaeolithic and Mesolithic) are not well represented amongst the material seen during SALSA, there are definite concentrations of Neolithic and Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age activity on the Mendip Hills. For example the material collected by Brian Hack from Tower Hill, St Cuthbert's Out and to the north of Priddy Hill Farm. Priddy is almost exclusively Neolithic in character. While both Anne Everton and Brian Hack consistently recovered material of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date from the areas to the immediate north of Ebbor Gorge.

Members of the Axbridge Archaeological and Local History Society (including Anne Everton) recovered over 1,000 lithics from a small area at Callow and Fry's Hills in Axbridge. The lithics from this area demonstrate activity dating from the Mesolithic through to the Bronze Age, with a relatively discrete area on Callow Hill producing a significant quantity of Neolithic material.

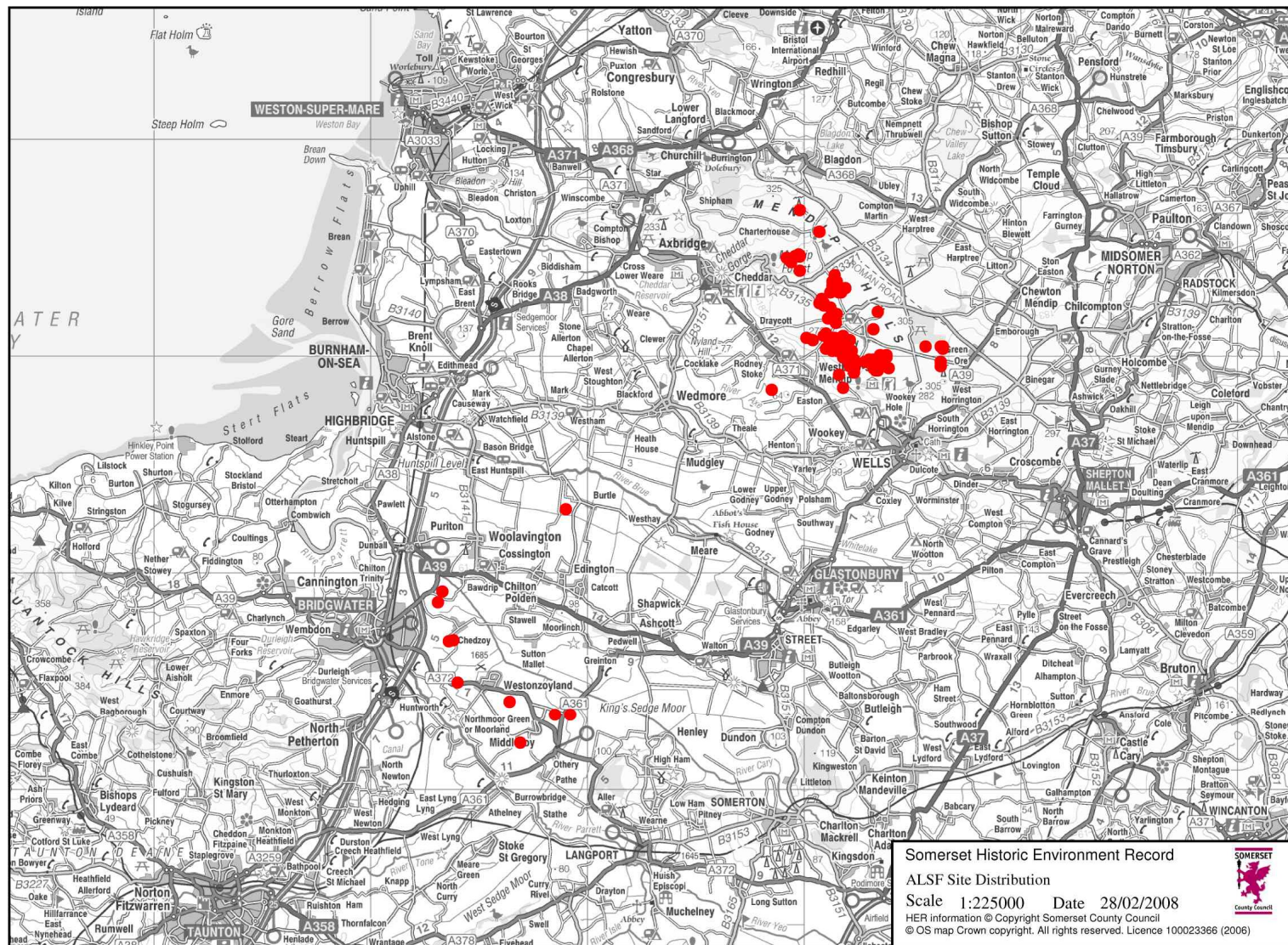


Figure 20
Location map
of lithic
collections
assessed

Somerset Historic Environment Record
 ALSF Site Distribution
 Scale 1:225000 Date 28/02/2008
 HER information © Copyright Somerset County Council
 © OS map Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence 100023366 (2006)



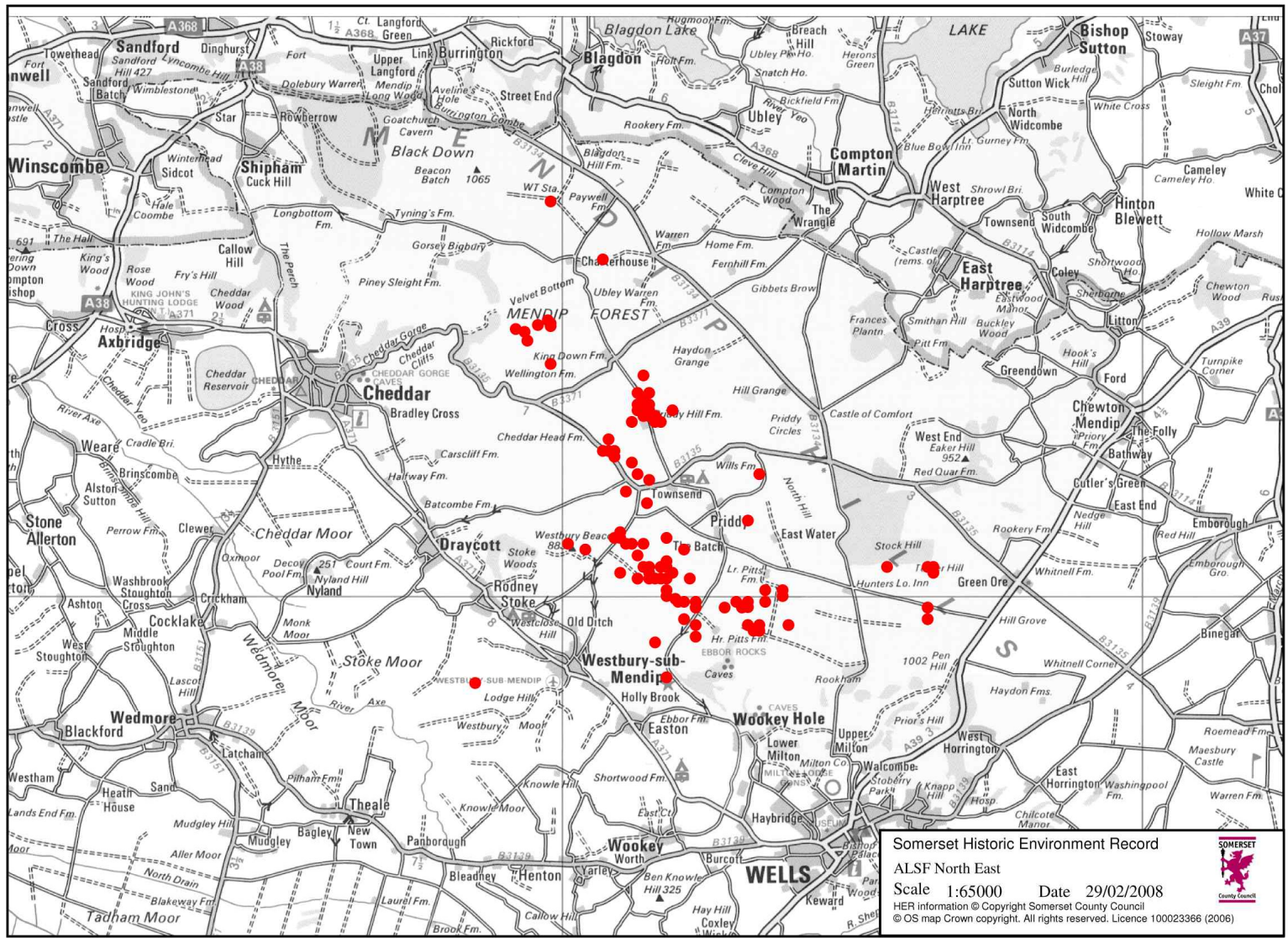


Figure 21
Location map of the Mendip lithic collections assessed

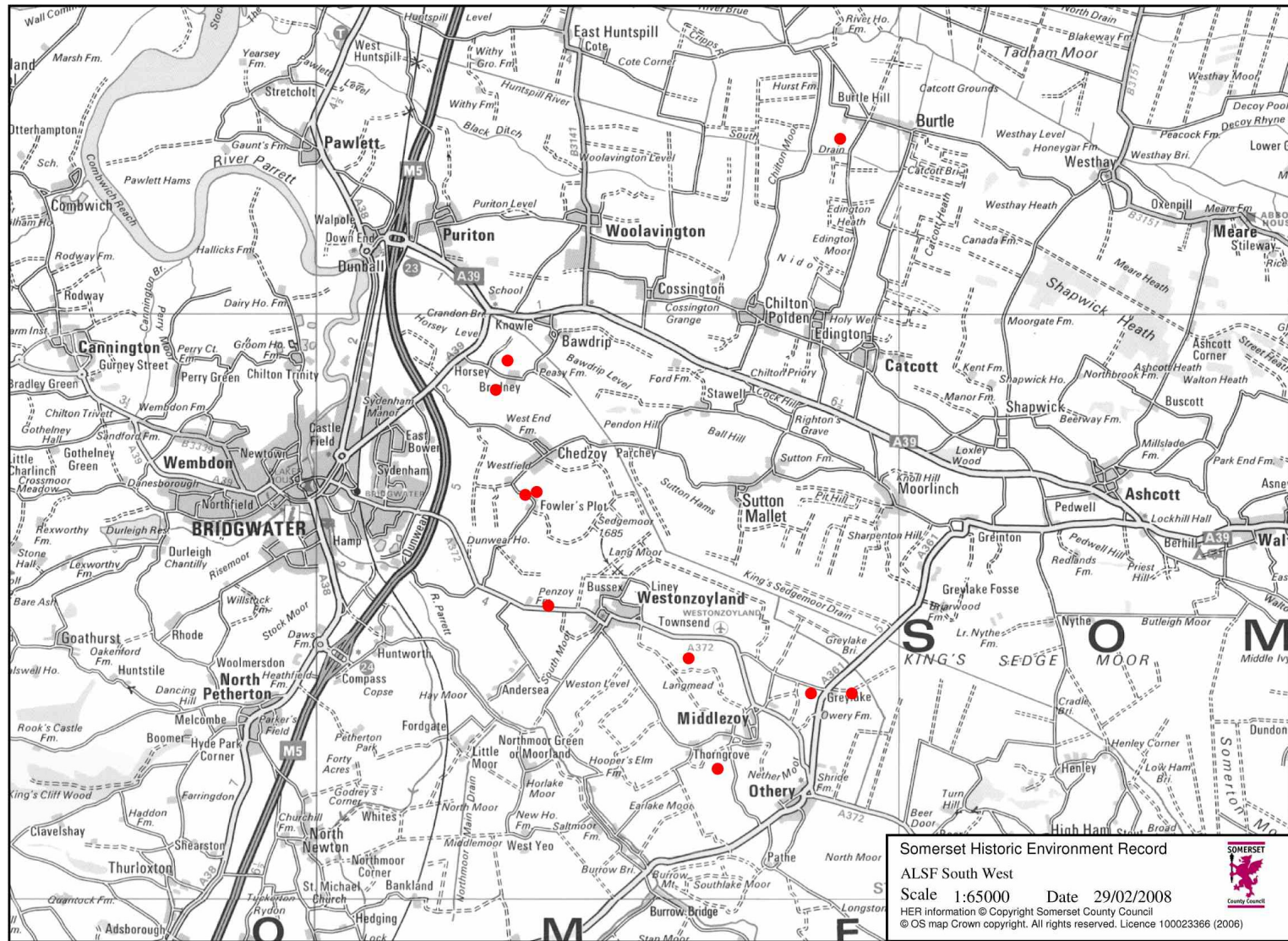


Figure 22
 Location map of the Burtle Bed lithic collections assessed

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