Finds from the 1980s excavation

Ben Elliott and Nicky Milner

Introduction

Since the archive mapping report was undertaken (Saul and Milner 2013), the material from the 1980s excavation has been investigated further and catalogued and the results are presented here.

The archive

The 1985 and 1989 excavations at Star Carr were small in comparison to Clark's excavations but they still produced a range of finds (see Mellars and Dark 1998). There were 22 fragments of bone, 10 major pieces of red deer antler and one of roe deer and a barbed point. In addition, 10 samples of wood were lifted for further investigation. Overall, a total of 427 pieces of flint was found. A number of environmental samples were also lifted including a block of peat.

The material archive is located in various places. The flint is held by Professor Paul Mellars in Cambridge. The block which was lifted for excavation in the lab was thrown away (Hadley et al. 2010). The cores taken by Petra Dark are still housed in storage in Cambridge and were recently studied again (Boreham et al. 2011).

Many of the organic artefacts and ecofacts were taken to the University of Durham for examination and remained there after the publication of the monograph (Mellars and Dark 1998). Unfortunately, a number of the organic artefacts appear to have been lost, possibly when a fridge malfunctioned, though the details are unclear. The remaining artefacts were transported to the University of York in 2010 and catalogued. These consist of three pieces of bone and eight pieces of the worked wood. Where possible these artefacts have been located on the plan of the trench published in Mellars and Dark 1998, though we are not sure where some of the wood comes from and one of the bones (212) has not been located on this plan, figure 1.

These artefacts have been added to the database hosted in the ADS. The physical artefacts have been accessioned to the Yorkshire Museum (YORYM.2013.241).

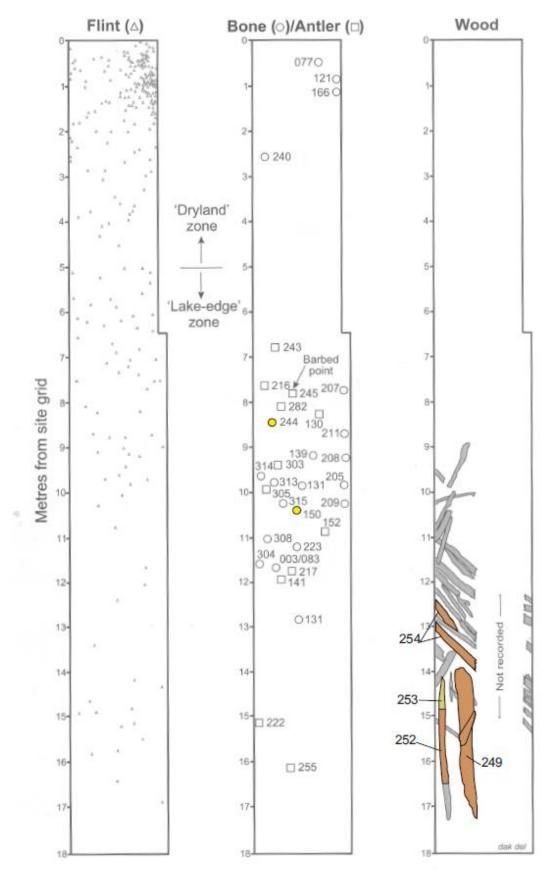


Figure 1: distribution of Star Carr finds accessioned to The Yorkshire Museum within trench VP85A, highlighted in yellow and brown. Modeified from Fig 3.11, p. 38, in Mellars and Dark 1998.

Bibliography

Boreham, S. Conneller, C. Milner, N. Needham, A. Boreham, J. & Rolfe, C.J. (2011) Geochemical indicators of preservation status and site deterioration at Star Carr. *Journal of Archaeological Science* 38 (10): 2833-2857.

Cloutman, E and Smith, A (1988) Palaeoenvironments in the Vale of Pickering Part 3: Environmental History at Star Carr. *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* 54, 37-58

Hadley, P. Hall, A. Taylor, M. Needham, A. Taylor, B. Conneller, C. & Milner, N. (2010) To block lift or not to block lift? An experiment at the Early Mesolithic site of Star Carr, North-East Yorkshire, UK. *Internet Archaeology* 28 (2) (online- open access).

Mellars, P. and Dark, P. (1998) *Star Carr in Context*. Cambridge: McDonald Institute Monographs.

Saul, H. and Milner, N. (2013) *Archive Mapping Report*. Unpublished report, University of York (downloadable from the Star Carr Archives Project page, ADS).