

## A late Upper Palaeolithic backed blade from Ashtead

A backed blade (fig 1) was found on the Tertiary Beds south of the Ashtead–Leatherhead railway line (TQ 171 581) in 1982, during fieldwalking by David Field and the author along the course of the BPA Longford/Gatwick pipeline then under construction. The implement was lying on the gravel upcast from the construction trench. The blade is 69.5mm long, and 26.3mm wide at its midpoint. It is of deeply ochreous flint, completely patinated, with shallow pressure flaking on the dorsal surface. The ventral surface is unworked. One edge is blunted by shallow flaking. The other edge has been damaged, but sufficient remains to indicate that it was probably in the form of a burin.

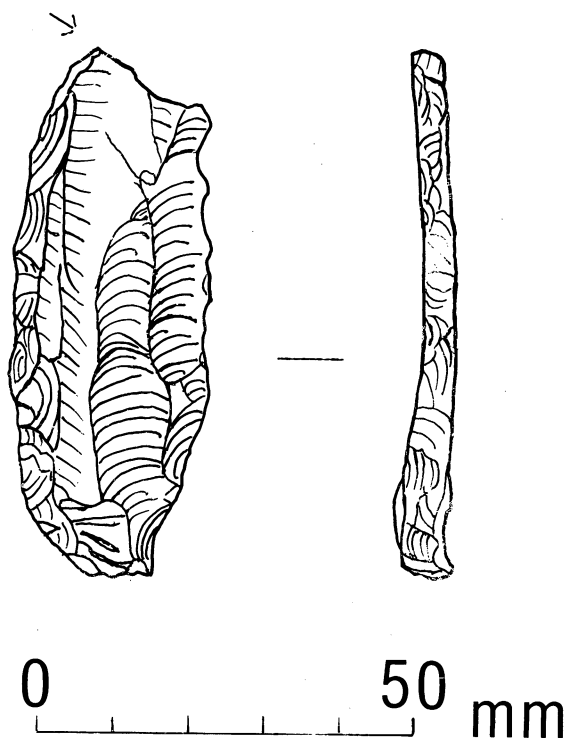


Fig 1. Backed blade from Ashtead (1:1)

This flint blade is held at Guildford Museum, with the other finds from the BPA pipeline course in Surrey.

### REFERENCE

O'Connell, M & Poulton, R, 1982 *BPA Pipeline Surrey*

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