

Appendix 2. Context summary.

CONTEXT NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
101	Plough soil.
102	Sub soil.
103	Chalk bedrock. Plough damaged.
104	FO [105]. Naturally formed.
[105]	Tree bole or other rooting.
106	FO [107]. Naturally formed in root voids.
[107]	Disturbance from trees or other rooting.

CONTEXT NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
201	Plough soil.
202	Natural. Limestone bedrock with pockets of degraded stone similar to subsoils seen in other trenches.
203	FO [204]. Sterile natural material, possible glacio-alluvial material.
[204]	Cut feature, completely sterile nature of fill indicates natural origin. Possible ice cast or solution hole.
205	FO [206]. Re-deposited natural formed by uprooting or decay of tree bole.
[206]	Tree bole. Root channels clearly visible.

CONTEXT NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
301	Plough soil.
302	Natural, platy chalk bedrock. Plough damaged, upper surface degraded.
303	FO [304]. Disturbed subsoil etc. in former tree bole.
304	Tree bole
305	FO [306]. Natural material, derived from surrounding bedrock.
306	Natural feature, possible solution hollow.

CONTEXT NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
401	Plough soil.
402	Natural, chalk bedrock. Occasional degraded pockets.
403	FO [404], naturally formed.
404	Natural feature, possible ice-wedge.
405	FO [406], naturally formed material.
406	Ice wedge.
407	FO [408], naturally formed.
408	Ice wedge.

CONTEXT NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
501	Plough soil.
502	Sub soil.
503	Natural. Reddish brown silty clay. Occasional limestone. Glacial till
504	Natural. Chalk bedrock.

CONTEXT NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
601	Plough soil.
602	Sub soil.
603	Natural. Reddish brown silty clay. Occasional limestone, pockets of more gravely material. Glacial till.
604	Natural. Chalk bedrock.

CONTEXT NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
701	Plough soil.
702	Sub soil.
703	Natural. Reddish brown silty clay. Occasional limestone. Glacial till
704	Natural. Chalk bedrock.

CONTEXT NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
801	Plough soil.
802	Sub soil.
803	Natural. Reddish brown silty clay. Occasional limestone. Glacial till
804	FO [805], accumulated fill, presence of large stones precludes alluvial formation. Flint flakes and core recovered.
805	Boundary ditch, NW-SE. Cuts (806)/[807].
806	FO [807], similar to 804, does not appear alluvial. Probably gradually formed after feature abandoned. Flint and pottery recovered.
807	Boundary ditch, E-W.
808	Natural. Chalk bedrock.

Appendix 3. Lithic Materials: Catalogue and Assessment

1.0 Catalogue

Seventeen pieces of worked flint were recovered during the evaluation:

No.	Context		Description	Date
1	804	Core	Type B3 pebble core; worked to exhaustion but not around full circumference, as one side preserves an area of thin, rounded and abraded cortex. A series of (9+) blades have been removed from the other side Platform edge exhibits evidence of abrasion/removal of small spalls – probably platform preparation, although utilisation as a core scraper is also possible. Small flakes detached from the bottom of the core suggest that it was worked on an anvil, at least in the final stages of reduction. Mid brownish-grey translucent flint. 46 x 38mm.	E. Neo (prob.)
2	804	Core	Type A2 pebble core, with a flat platform; worked to exhaustion – at least 5 small blades have been removed. An area of thin, rounded and abraded cortex survives. Chipping and crushing along one edge raises the possibility that this pebble was initially used as a hammer. Mid brownish-grey flint, with very frequent, small, white 'bubbly' inclusions. 35 x 30mm.	L.Mes/ E.Neo
3	804	Blade-like flake (S)	Small flake, with abraded platform, small pronounced bulb and hinged termination. Distal end of dorsal surface is cortical; cortex is thin, abraded and rounded. Very slight post-depositional damage. Pale greyish-brown translucent flint, with frequent, small, white 'bubbly' inclusions - probably from same core as 4, below. 33 x 12mm.	L.Mes/ E.Neo
4	804	Truncated flake (S)	Medial and distal fragment of flake, with feathered termination; platform detached, probably deliberately. Dorsal scars indicate it was struck from a blade core; possibly type B2. Small area of thin, abraded and rounded cortex survives (<5%). Very slight post-depositional damage to flake margins. Pale greyish-brown translucent flint, with frequent, small, white 'bubbly' inclusions - probably from same core as 3, above.	L.Mes/ E.Neo
5	804	Blade-like flake (S)	Elongated rod-like flake, with complex platform, very small pronounced bulb and feathered termination. Small area of cortex at distal end is thin and abraded (<5%). Dorsal scars indicate removal of blades; possibly type B3 core. Mid grey semi translucent flint, with moderate white 'bubbly' inclusions. 47 x 16mm.	L.Mes/ E.Neo

No.	Context		Description	Date
6	804	Truncated flake (S)	Distal fragment of flake, with feathered termination. Has triangular cross-section that represents a spur at the bottom of the core; chipping around this projection suggests that it was worked on an anvil. This section was probably deliberately detached and discarded, while the blade-like medial fragment was utilised. Dorsal scars indicate it was struck from a blade core. Small areas of thin and abraded cortex survive (<10%). Very slight post-depositional damage to flake margins. Mid brownish-grey translucent flint, with frequent, small, white 'bubbly' inclusions.	L.Mes/ E.Neo
7	804	Broken blade (T)	Proximal fragment of blade, with abraded platform. It has been burnt and has a granular structure; pot lids have detached from distal surface. Mid grey flint (formerly translucent).	L.Mes/ E.Neo
8	804	Broken blade (T)	Distal fragment of blade, with feathered termination. Dorsal scars indicate other blade removals. Pale grey opaque flint, with occasional small white inclusions (Wolds flint).	L.Mes/ E.Neo
9	804	Flake (S)	Squat, irregular conchoidal flake, with complex platform, pronounced bulb and feathered termination. Thick distal end is cortical; cortex is thin, rounded and abraded (c. 30%). Mid grey semi-translucent flint, with chalky inclusions. 27 x 41mm	
10	806	Utilised blade (S)	Blade with small complex platform, very small pronounced bulb and feathered termination. A series of very small spalls have been detached from the medial portion of both lateral edges, surviving areas of the edge having a shiny gloss/polish indicative of use-wear. A small area of thin, abraded and rounded cortex survives at distal end (<5%). Dorsal scars indicate similar blade removals. Mid brownish-grey translucent flint, with very frequent, small, white 'bubbly' inclusions. 52 x 18mm.	E.Neo
11	806	End & side scraper (S)	Relatively irregular, broad flake, with thick distal end. Platform has been detached through the removal of a small spall. Distal end has been retouched by the removal of very small, abrupt, invasive flakes; the facets along the edge of the scraper are worn and rounded. Small spalls have also been detached from both lateral edges, either to blunt them or create an additional, slightly denticulate cutting edge. The distal end is cortical - cortex is thin, rounded and abraded (c. 15%). Piece has possibly been burnt or thermally altered (?). Pale grey opaque flint, with white linear inclusions (Wolds flint). 43 x 32mm.	E. Neo
12	806	Utilised blade-like flake (S)	Flake with flat platform, small pronounced bulb and hinged termination, which has removed a pronounced projection from the core. Some evidence of platform edge preparation. There is a diffuse lustre/polish along the proximal half of the thinner lateral edge, this area also having a number of very small spalls detached. Dorsal scars indicate removal of blades probably from a type A core. Surviving areas of cortex are thin, rounded and abraded. Pale to mid brownish-grey semi-translucent flint, with frequent, small, white 'bubbly' inclusions. 42 x 15mm.	L.Mes/ E.Neo

No.	Context		Description	Date
13	806	Broken blade (S)	Medial fragment of blade. Dorsal scars indicate other blade removals. Thin and abraded cortex covers c. 60% of dorsal surface. Mid brownish-grey translucent flint, with occasional small white inclusions.	L.Mes/ E.Neo
14	806	Broken flake (S)	Proximal and medial fragment of irregular flake, with complex platform and small, pronounced bulb. One lateral edge is cortical, cortex is thin and abraded (<5%). Flake margins where distal end was truncated have very shiny glassy polish – possibly use-wear, but more likely to result from post-depositional impact/damage. Pale to mid grey opaque flint, with frequent white inclusions.	
15	806	Flake (S)	Irregular flake, with flat platform, pronounced bulb and feathered termination. Dorsal scars indicate removal of similar flakes from a single platform. Very small area of thin abraded cortex (<5%). Very slight post-depositional damage. Pale to mid grey opaque flint, with frequent white inclusions. 25 x 32mm.	Neo
16	806	Flake (T)	Very small flake, with flat platform, small pronounced bulb and feathered termination. It has been burnt and has several circular heat cracks. Brownish-grey translucent flint. 16 x 11mm.	
17	806	Broken blade-like flake (S)	Distal fragment of very small blade-like flake, with feathered termination. Approximately 50% of dorsal surface is cortical; cortex is thin, rounded and very abraded. Mid brownish-grey semi-translucent flint, with occasional small white inclusions.	L.Mes/ E.Neo

NB: Measurements are given only for complete flakes. The first figure relates to the maximum length, measured perpendicular to the striking platform; the second to maximum breadth, measured at a right angle to the length. Figures for the percentage of cortex relate to the total area of the dorsal surface and platform.

2.0 Raw materials

The flint all appears to be derived from secondary deposits, as the majority of the flakes have areas of thin, abraded cortex, and any relatively large areas of this surface generally exhibit a rounded profile. This indicates that the nodules utilised were water-transported pebbles and cobbles, which would have been rolled and battered by glacial, fluvial or marine currents prior to their initial deposition. These depositional processes also limit the size of the nodules and consequently have an effect upon the methods of working employed. Additionally, the widely divergent sources of the nodules incorporated into the gravels account for the variation in colour, composition and quality.

The pebbles utilised at Reighton may have been collected from the beach situated 2km to the north of the site.

3.0 Dating

All of the diagnostic elements of this assemblage have traits indicative of the highly controlled patterns of working that characterise Later Mesolithic to Early Neolithic activity. Most of the debitage produced by these industries does not allow a more fine-grained determination of date. However, the size of the products of blade core (1), the larger utilised blade (10) and the end and side scraper (11) are likely to have been produced during the Early Neolithic and, as such, may provide a more accurate date for the whole assemblage.

4.0 Composition

It is necessary to emphasise that this assemblage is very small and consequently, it is not possible to provide a determination of the full range, or spatial differentiation of the different activities that were undertaken. However, certain elements of this collection provide an insight into some aspects of the nature of the (Later Mesolithic or) Early Neolithic activity at Reighton.

Cores

The recovery of two blade cores from (804) indicates that core reduction was undertaken on the site. However, the absence of any primary flakes could indicate that the initial stages of core preparation were conducted elsewhere; possibly on the beach or at another local source of raw materials.

None of the flakes that were recovered could be refitted to the cores, or to each other. This could indicate that this material represents a palimpsest of disparate elements that were transported away from the knapping floors before being deposited in ditches [805] and [807]. Alternatively, it is possible that the adjoining unexcavated sections of these ditches could contain larger quantities of worked lithic material that would be more likely to reflect the proximity of a knapping floor.

Tools and utilised flakes

The assemblage contained a single tool, an end and side scraper (11) - (5.9%). The facets along the edge of this piece were worn and rounded, thus providing an indication that the tool had been used.

The assemblage also contained two unmodified blades that exhibited evidence of use-wear, in the form of edge gloss. The polished areas along the edges of blade (10) were very smooth and reflective, while that the utilised edge of blade-like flake (12) had a more diffuse lustre. These differences indicate that different forms of processing were undertaken on the site, but a precise determination of the nature of this activity would require microwear analysis of these artefacts.

5.0 Condition

Some of the artefacts exhibited evidence of very slight post-depositional damage to the flake margins. This suggests that some of the pieces were exposed on the ground surface, or at the base of the ditch, for a short period after their manufacture. However, the relatively fresh condition of the majority of the worked flint suggests that it was recovered from a primary context and consequently could provide an indication of the date of ditches [805] and [807].

Appendix 4. Report on the Prehistoric Pottery

1 Introduction and Methodology

Four sherds of prehistoric pottery were found on this site within the fill of a boundary ditch (NGR 51486 47345). These were examined according to the guidelines of the PCRG (1997).

2 Quantification and fabric types

The sherds are detailed below in Table 1. All the sherds are small in size, being less than 25 mm in length with an average weight of 3.5 g.

Table 1: Prehistoric pottery sherds

Context	No of sherds	Weight g	Fabric	Description
806	1	2	QUSF, QUSM	6mm wall vague incised dec
806	3	12	QUMF, QUSM	10mm wall very abraded
<i>Total</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>14</i>		

The single fine sherd with a 6mm thick wall is slightly red on the exterior, with a brown interior and core. It has vague incised decoration on the exterior and is slightly abraded. It seems likely to be of Beaker type. The sherd is tempered with quartz, both round, fine and angular.

The other three sherds are thicker, orange to buff on the exterior and grey to brown on the interior and core. The sherds are very abraded as all the surface has been lifted off. There is a vague hint of decoration but it is impossible to tell what this was in the present state. All that can be defined is that the sherds are prehistoric and have been moved around the site. The sherds are tempered with quartz both rounded and angular.

The fabrics are:

QUSF, quartz, sparse quantity (3-9%), and fine sized rounded grains (<0.25mm)

QUSM, quartz, sparse quantity of medium sized angular pieces (0.25 -1.00 mm)

QUMF, quartz, moderate quantity (10-19%) of fine rounded grains

The site lies close to Greensands and this may be the source of the tempering materials, but thin section analysis would be required to ensure this interpretation. This would be required for publication of the material.

3 Discussion

These sherds are all of prehistoric type but three are badly abraded and it is therefore not possible to determine the type of pottery, although it is likely to be earlier prehistoric from the appearance of the sherds, possibly Neolithic or Bronze Age. The tempering is likely to have been found locally. The abrasion level of the sherds suggests that these have been moved around on the site, but does indicate that there was earlier prehistoric occupation in the vicinity, although it is impossible to know its character or extent.

The Beaker sherd could be dated to the early Bronze Age period of around 2200 BC (Kinnes *et al* 1991, 39).

4 References

Kinnes I, Gibson A, Ambers J, Bowman S, Leese M, and Boast R, 1991 Radiocarbon dating and British Beakers: The British Museum programme, *Scottish Archaeological Review* 8, 35-76

PCRG, 1997 Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group, *the study of later prehistoric pottery: general policies and guidelines for analysis and publication*. PCRG Occasional Papers 1 and 2

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Appendix 5. Environmental summary

Two samples were recovered from contexts (804) <1> and (806) <2> for assessment for charred plant remains and small artefact retrieval. The samples totalled a volume of 30 litres each. They were processed using a Siraf-type flotation unit, with a 500µm mesh lining the machine and 250 µm flot mesh for the collection of light residue. The heavy residue was then sieved through a 1mm mesh before being allowed to air dry whilst the clean flot was also allowed to air dry. The heavy residue was scanned by eye for plant remains and artefactual material, no plant remains were recovered from either sample. The flots were examined by eye and under x.75 microscopy to determine the presence of charred plant material. Both samples exhibited large quantities of modern root material suggesting that the deposits had been disturbed by plant action.

Both samples also contained small quantities of fine charcoal, <1.0mm, but no other charred plant material was present. Given this absence of charred plant material, as well as the apparently disturbed nature of the deposits, it is recommended that there is no further analysis be undertaken on this material.

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