Re-examining Frensham points: unusual Mesolithic curved flints from south-west Surrey
IAN GOODE

Appendix 1

THE MESOLITHIC CULTURE AROUND FRENSHAM

by R. G. V. Venables and A. White.

Introduction

During the past five years the writers have carried out a detailed investigation of a number of Mesolithic sites in the vicinity of Frensham, near Farnham, and in the following pages an account is given of the flint implements recovered from this area, and of other data collected during the course of this investigation.

Out of some forty sites (all lying on the Surrey lower greensand) the eight most prolific have been dealt with in greater detail than the remainder, and out of these eight five are fortunately situated in undisturbed ground where every find may be regarded as homogeneous.

A classification (Fig. I) adhering as far as possible to that published by Dr. Grahame Clark (The Archaeological Journal, Vol. XC., 1934) is used, but in several instances it has been considered necessary to reduce this to rather more concise terms, and moreover several types of microlith have been discovered around Frensham which are apparently unique to this locality - and these have of necessity been included in the classification.

The great majority of the sites under discussion were found by the writers, and the totals - registered in the final classification - of microliths and other artifacts in their possession, are thought to represent very nearly the full amount recovered by anyone from the Frensham district.

Frensham Common

The settlement on Frensham Common occupies a comparatively restricted area of approximately three acres, and up to date ten pits have been excavated. These have yielded in all some 418 microliths - of which no less than 273 were

recovered from a single pit. The flints occur in about a foot of sand between a few inches of peaty humus and a hard black "pan" (this latter being undulating but lying at an average depth of 16 ins. beneath the surface).

The site, which is situated at an altitude of between 210 and 215 ft., was covered at a recent date by large pine trees, and in view of this it is obvious that the soil must have been somewhat disturbed. However, attempts to discover traces of any definite grouping or arrangement of the flints were rewarded by a pair of exactly similar "scalene" triangles (H.3) which were found lying side by side (almost touching) immediately beneath the peat in Pit 8, and more recently by a line of seventeen obliquely blunted points (A.1) which lay in rather uneven formation upon the "pan" in Pit 5. These also were side by side, and covered a distance of ten inches.

As can be seen from the Frensham Common classification, the outstanding pit is No. 5, and although the surface area of this is already 324 sq. ft, the pit has still to be completed. Especially impressive is the series of sixteen "scalenes" - every one perfectly made and varying from 1¼ to ½ an inch in length.

Another interesting point concerning Pit 5 is that it is the only one from this site to yield any tanged points, and - even more remarkable - that it is unique in possessing examples of Class D (a type which is found nowhere else in the area covered by this survey).

A specimen of this class is illustrated in Fig.II (No.10) along with several representative finds, including a very fine tranchet axe (No. 2) and an axe sharpening flake (No. 8). The axe was not actually dug from one of the pits but was recovered from the bed of a near-by pond. No 1 represents the best of a series of backed knives (from which the bulb of percussion has not been removed), and Nos. 6 and 7 show examples of the unusually neat gravers which are a feature of this site. No.4 depicts the only petit tranchet recovered, and No. 5 illustrates a typical "trapeze" (J.2) whilst Nos. 9 and 12 show two finely made microliths - both from Pit 5. As can be seen No. 9 is actually of crescentic form, but this specimen - together with several others of similar shape - has been classed as a B.1, since in size and general appearance these microliths hardly resemble the true geometric crescent.

Cores and scrapers are found in large numbers – especially fine examples coming from Pit 5, and two of the latter are illustrated as Nos. 11 and 13 (the first

of these apparently being a double purpose instrument). Nos. 14 to 17 depict a part of the above mentioned series of "scalenes" whilst No. 18 is one of several such curiosities in our possession and represents what is probably a stage in the manufacture of a "rod" (K.1). Nos. 19 and 20 show two microliths together with their respective "micro-burins" (the "parentage" in both cases being indisputable), and No. 21 shows a partly completed "pen-knife" point (C.I) - the toe "micro-burin" being still unstruck.

The last three illustrations are of some of the numerous and finely made saws which have come from Pit 5, many of which possess teeth worked alternately from above and below. Actually No. 24 would appear to be rather too thick and clumsy to act as a saw - though this site has yielded some really delicate examples, one of these having no less than sixty teeth to the inch.

Only two fabricators have been recovered (both from Pit 5) and the larger of these has been illustrated as No. 3. It would, however, seem not impossible that pieces of the hard ironstone which are to be found in the locality might have been brought into service as fabricators - at any rate for the heavier work.

Rough nodules of flint showing traces of battering are met with in all the pits, and an interesting point regarding this site is the occurrence of water-worn flint along with the fresh cortex-covered pieces more usually associated with the microlithic industry.

In addition to the scrapers and cores we have amassed numerous flakes showing signs of use, and - as is to be expected - some thousands of waste flakes, many of them (especially from Pit 5) being exceptionally long and slender.

There is unquestionably much material yet to be recovered from the ten pits so far excavated, and one can say with equal certainty that there are still several pits to be located, but a very fair idea of the types and distribution of the various implements can never-the-less be obtained from what has been discovered up to date.

Kettlebury Hill

This site - lying between the 300 and 325 ft. contours - is rather more widespread than the rest, its two most distant pits being nearly half a mile apart. The large quantity of smooth and rounded iron-stone which occurs in this district points

to the fact that the sand here has at some time been extensively wind-blown. The flints, however, are perfectly sharp and fresh in appearance and seem to be quite undisturbed; lying in approximately the same depth of sand as those from Frensham Common, though at Kettlebury they cease to occur several inches above the "pan".

We have excavated a total of nine pits, and the supposition that the flint is undisturbed is born out by the fact that in the majority of pits there is a very definite tendency on the part of the larger implements to lie at the bottom; moreover, two instances were noted where the flint from the lowest levels was of a cloudy white (instead of the usual black or grey), and the artifacts made from this flint were not of the typical microlithic culture, but consisted of large and roughly worked flakes.

This site - unlike the one at Frensham - does not possess one really outstanding pit, the four most prolific having yielded 135, 118, 109 and 97 microliths respectively. Two pits however (Nos. 2 & 4) were remarkable in that they contained a quantity of equipment, altogether more heavy than that usually associated with the Mesolithic age - consisting for the most part of steeply worked blades ranging from one to four inches in length (an example being illustrated in Fig. III, No. 11).

From Pit 2 we recovered a tranchet axe and no less than eleven sharpening flakes - the largest of which is nearly 2¾ ins in width (which means that the axe from which it was struck must have been approximately eight inches long - if it was of the usual proportions). These sharpening flakes are mostly of a peculiar grey cherty flint - the above-mentioned blades however being lustrous and black, except for the example illustrated as No. 4, which was found in three pieces (the second piece having been re-blunted after the original tip had fractured).

The other implements depicted in Fig. lll are as follows: No. 12 - a neatly made transverse arrowhead (one of a pair recovered from Pit 5). No. 14 - a typical axe sharpening flake. No. 16 is the best example of a series of fine cores from Pit 2, and No. 17 is an unusually symmetrical scraper from Pit 4. Nos. 19 & 20 (also from Pit 4) represent a remarkable pair of "saws" - identical in every respect save that of their teeth (the first example having exactly half the number possessed by the second).

No. 15 is a neat graver from Pit 2, and No. 10 is one of several such non-microlithic forms which - for want of a better name - we have termed "scimitars". The remaining nine implements shown are all classifiable microliths - No. 3

being an excellent specimen of the rare "lanceolate" type (K. 4) whilst No. 8 is one of the large series of hollow-based points - this site having yielded in all nearly seventy examples of the F class.

From Pit 1 we recovered what is clearly the "rough-out" for a large axe - though curiously enough no other trace of axe manufacture has been discovered in this pit. However, the excavation of this has yet to be completed, though unfortunately a part of the flint-bearing soil here has at some time been removed during the construction of a road. Pits 3 & 5 have been affected in a like manner, though to a much smaller extent, and the remaining six chipping floors appear to be quite undisturbed.

There is no indication of the site ever having been covered by large trees (as is the case on Frensham Common), although a quantity of young firs was planted some years ago. These, however, were killed by a heath fire before their roots had penetrated more than a few inches, and in actual fact their planting has proved useful in that the flints which were occasionally thrown up with the soil have often provided the clue to the whereabouts of a chipping floor.

No doubt there are still several more to be located, but as nearly a thousand artifacts have been recovered already a fairly thorough idea may be gained as to the nature of the site.

Kingsley Common

Here is a site remarkable in many ways, for although we have located four definite chipping floors, only two of these have been excavated; and yet from these two pits alone have come considerably more microliths than from any other site (where the average number of pits excavated is often four times greater than at Kingsley). Moreover, neither of these two pits is anywhere near exhausted as yet, and a final estimate of 750 microliths from Pit 1 and 500 from Pit 4 would not appear to be unreasonable.

But despite the considerable number of implements which has been recovered from this site - the types so far encountered are remarkably limited; while a further interesting point is that all the microliths of Class G and K.2 come from Pit 1, and (with one exception) every K.6 comes from Pit 4.

These two pits (which lie about a quarter of a mile apart) are strikingly dissimilar as far as their contents are concerned, although the occurrence of the exceedingly rare K.5 in both pits suggests that they were contemporary. If this were the case it would seem that the occupants of Pit 1 practised some specialised industry necessitating the employment of a considerable number of "sub-triangular" points (K.2), since nearly a hundred of these small implements have been recovered from here and not a single specimen from the other pits.

Some illustrations of the Kingsley industry will be found in Fig. IV, No. 1 being a "mudstone" which shows signs of use as a "needle pusher" near the lower end, and which was found in the flint-bearing sand of Pit 4.

From this pit also come Nos. 2 & 21 - typical K.6s, and the axe sharpening flake - illustrated as No. 3, while another sharpening flake - No. 8 - was recovered from Pit 1.

Nos. 4, 7, 11 and 13 are examples of "sub-triangular" points and No. 5. is a K.5 - a type which is apparently unique to this site and Kettlebury. No. 6 is an unstruck K.6 of exceptionally neat workmanship, and No. 9 is a typical scraper from Pit 1 which is almost covered with cortex. No. 10 was recovered from the same pit and depicts a "squared rod" (or K.1).

No. 12 is a small graver of very similar appearance to several from the Frensham Common site, and Nos. 14 and 15 are two remarkable microliths from Pit 4. They are perhaps the two most interesting finds from Kingsley - or indeed from any site in the district - both these implements having been polished down a part of one side. They are definitely not made from part of a polished flake, the work having been carried out subsequent to the usual blunting. This is the only example of polishing which we have met with in the Mesolithic culture, and it would appear that this method was resorted to only when the microliths had become so narrow that it was impossible to hold them firmly enough to enable further blunting to be carried out.

No. 16 is the largest example of the C class from Pit 1 - or indeed from any site which we have excavated. Two other specimens of this class were recovered from Pit 1 which, although somewhat smaller than the one illustrated, are unusually large and an exact pair. No. 17 is a K.2 with its attendant "micro-burin", and No. 18 is the sole example of Class E. No. 19 is another scraper from Pit 1 (these implements being far more numerous here than in Pit 4). No. 20 depicts an

indefinite object which is most probably an unstruck K.6, whilst one of the rare saws from Pit 1 is illustrated as No. 22. No. 23 is an unstruck "sub-triangular" point, and one of the numerous round pebbles from Pit 4 has been included in the illustration as No. 24.

Nos. 25, 26 and 27 are three typical microliths - the first and the last coming from Pit 1, whilst Nos. 28, 29 and 30 are the petit tranchet arrowheads which have been recovered from Pit 4.

These thirty illustrations give quite a good idea of the excellent style of workmanship, though the interest of the Kingsley site lies more in the quantities of the various types of microlith - and particularly in their distribution. The site is situated at an altitude of slightly above 250 ft., and in such details as the depth of sand and peat it is similar to other sites in the locality. It is definitely unusual however with regard to the flint implements which it has yielded - especially the ninety-three "sub-triangular" points (a type rare elsewhere in the district), and the two polished microliths.

But it is not in such details alone that Kingsley Common is remarkable, for its microlithic total - already far in excess of any other local site - is made up by the contents of only two pits, and would moreover have been considerably greater were it not for the fact that excavation cannot be carried out in wet weather. This is unfortunate and unavoidable, but despite this hindrance such work as has already been done has met with extremely gratifying results.

Devil's Jumps Moor

This site - lying slightly above the 200 ft. contour - takes its name from the three small hills known as the Devil's Jumps which rise abruptly on the southern edge of the moor. It has produced a total of nearly two hundred microliths - half of which were recovered from a single pit, and the remainder from four or five smaller pits and from extensive surface collecting

Pit No. 1 is the excavation which has yielded the largest number of implements, and in connection with this there are two extremely interesting facts; in the first place almost every piece of flint is of a bright golden yellow (though the few exceptions to this rule exclude the possibility of the flint having become coloured in the pit); and secondly - there is an unbroken layer of a black peaty substance lying approximately four inches below the surface - the flints

occurring both above and below this band. The character and style of workmanship of the upper and lower artifacts is absolutely identical - further proof of their homogeneity lying in the fact that both series are manufactured from the peculiar yellow flint.

It would appear highly improbable that the band of peat was formed during actual occupation of the site, or that the flint worked its way through it in either direction, so one is forced to conclude that occupation must have ceased for a while - to be resumed again subsequent to the formation of this layer.

The site lies on the fringe of a large depression which may well have been a lake, and it seems feasible that at some period the water may have risen - temporarily flooding out the dwellings and leaving this black deposit as a result. In any case, the question is at the present moment being dealt with more thoroughly, as a result of which it is hoped that some light may be thrown upon the problem.

Illustrations of some typical finds from the Devil's Jumps Moor are to be seen in Fig. V, these being as follows:

No. 1 - a "mudstone" of similar appearance to the specimen recovered from Kingsley - although somewhat smoother, and in addition to showing traces of use as a "needle-pusher" it is slightly striated. Nos. 2 & 3 are typical hollow-based points from Pit 1, Nos. 4, 5 and 7 coming from the same pit and being an H.2, an unstruck C.l and a n H.1 respectively.

No. 6 is a good example of the rather infrequent scrapers recovered from this site, and No. 8 is an interesting fragment of a microlith from Pit 1 - showing both positive and negative "burin" facets. Nos. 9 and 10 are specimens of the K.3 and J.5, whilst No. 11 is a neat core of the typical golden flint from Pit 1.

The next two numbers illustrate very thin scrapers of the "thumb-nail" variety, and No. 14 is a curious piece which might in theory be classed as an A.1 since in actual fact the bulb of percussion has been removed. No. 15 is an excellent unstruck "triangle" and No. 16 a possible (though unclassed) petit tranchet - the actual specimen being somewhat thicker than it would appear from the illustration.

No. 17 is a boldly made "tanged point" (G.b.l) whilst No. 18 depicts two views of an axe trimming. It would perhaps be more accurate to call this last

piece an axe fragment, for in actual fact it is not a sharpening flake struck from the side, the percussion rings opening towards what was the end of the axe - pointing to the fact that the piece was knocked off accidentally.

The "mudstone", the axe fragment and a number of microliths and "micro-burins" from the Devil's jumps Moor are in the possession of Commander Cottrell (upon whose property the site is situated.) The tranchet axe from Frensham Common is also in Commander Cottrell's collection, and we are indebted to him for enabling us to include these specimens in this article.

Sleaford Heath

This site was not discovered until a few months ago, and we have therefore had insufficient time to give it anything but a preliminary investigation. It lies upon the summit of a small hill (altitude 300 ft.), and as yet has produced only a single chipping floor. However, there are doubtless other hut-sites in the immediate vicinity which have so far escaped notice - especially in view of the fact that at Sleaford remarkably little flint finds its way to the surface.

Despite the present incomplete nature of this single excavation we have already recovered a total of 134 microliths, and there is every indication of this pit proving one of the most prolific in the locality.

Reference to the Sleaford classification discloses the singularly interesting fact that there are no less than 177 "micro-burins" as opposed to 134 microliths, and that all but five of these "burins" are on the butt end of the flake. It is of course in no way unusual to find the vast majority of "micro-burins" to be bulbar, but had there been a large number made in the "toe" of the flake their presence at this site would have been explained by the numerous triangles (H.1) which have been recovered.

As it is, however, it would seen that at least one third of the microliths made at Sleaford have at some time been removed - the "micro-burins" being left behind. This fact suggests the possibility of microliths being given away or sold to other inhabitants in the district, which would - to a certain extent - account for the deficiency of "micro-burins" noted in the majority of pits.

With reference to this point however, it must be remembered

that the bulb of percussion was occasionally blunted away to form the microlith – as opposed to the more usual notch and strike technique of the "micro-burin".

Moreover, in the course of our excavations we have come across some hundreds of snapped bulbar ends which betray no trace of a notch, and which may very well have been purposely snapped off - leaving behind a most suitable flake from which to manufacture a microlith.

Illustrations of the Sleaford Heath industry (Fig. VI) show four typical cores (Nos. 1 to 4), and below these are shown eight examples of the fine series of "triangles" which forms an important feature of this site.

Nos. 5 and 6 depict two obliquely blunted points (A.1), whilst Nos. 15, 16 and 17 show three examples of the crude but much used blades with which this site abounds. Many of these steeply blunted pieces of flint are of no apparent use whatsoever, and would seem to have been worked in an idle moment for want of something better to do.

No. 18 shows a thick blade made of black flint - the top of which has been worn perfectly round and smooth by repeated rubbing or use as a fabricator. Nos. 19 and 20 illustrate two more examples of the steeply worked blades, and No. 21 shows a "triangle" and its attendant "micro-burin".

No. 22 is one of the numerous scrapers, No. 23 is an unstruck “triangle” and Nos. 25, 29, 30 and 31 are examples of the large series of hollow-based points coming from this site. No. 26 might possibly be described as a "thumb-nail" scraper, whilst No. 27 is a typical section of a fractured blade. No. 28 is a curiously jagged scraper and is one of the few pieces betraying traces of patination.

As can be seen from the classification - Sleaford is unique in that it does not possess A.1s as its leading type, this class being outnumbered by "triangles" (H.1) and almost equalled by hollow-based points (F). In the forty or fifty pits which we have excavated during the past five years the A.1 has invariably predominated, and in such sites as Kingsley has outnumbered all the remaining types put together. At Sleaford, however, this type represents only 31% of the microliths (excluding fragmentary), and this fact - coupled with the large "micro-burin" total and the fact that nearly every waste flake and blade shows traces of working - makes this site unusually interesting.

Surface Sites

For the sake of convenience the three leading surface sites in the Frensham District will be dealt with under one heading - and also illustrated upon the same page (Fig. Vll) .

All three sites occur on ploughed land at an altitude of a little over 200 ft., and are alike moreover in that they are each situated upon rising ground within a few yards of a river or stream. Their names are Bron-y-de Farm, Spreakley and Chapel Field respectively, and they will be described in that order.

Bron-y-de has yielded a total of nearly 200 microliths - the majority of which are thickly patinated and of a fairly neat style of workmanship. Cores and "pot-boilers" are exceptionally abundant, as also are scrapers and roughly worked flakes.

Nos. 19 to 32 in Fig. VII illustrate the typical finds from this site - including a transverse arrowhead (No. 28), an axe sharpening flake (No. 29), three neat scrapers, a truncated blade (No. 23), a steeply blunted flake (No. 31), and seven typical microliths.

The Spreakley culture is very similar, although here the flint is in a less advanced state of patination. A tranchet axe will be noted in the classification of this site, but this is unfortunately fractured - only the butt end having been recovered. However, there appears to be every justification for including it under this heading, since the piece in our possession is of typical tranchet axe style.

A most remarkable series of artifacts has come from this site - namely the "curved points" which are illustrated as Nos. 10 to 13. Their use remains obscure - since for the most part they are steeply blunted all the way round, but that they do actually date from Mesolithic times there can be little doubt. Not only is the blunting typical of this culture, but we have recovered them from two of the pits on Kettlebury Hill (and also from Bron-y-de Farm). They were not mentioned in the description of Kettlebury because only five specimens have been recovered from this site as against twenty-five from Spreakley and thirteen from Bron-y-de.

The majority of these "curved points" retain the bulb of percussion, and in general they are of somewhat rough manufacture.

Apart from these - Spreakley has yielded 71 microliths, 42 "micro-burins", 2 gravers and 2 petit tranchets (these last two being illustrated in Fig. VII as Nos. 1 and 2, and one of the gravers as No. 3). No. 4 is a crescent, No. 5 shows what appears to be an unstruck example of the same type, Nos. 6, 8 and 9 belong to Class J whilst No. 7 is a specimen of Class K.

No. 14 is one of the five hollow-based points from Spreakley and No. 15 would appear to be either a "rod" (K.1) and its "micro-burin" or a broken implement of the type illustrated by Fig. II, No. 18. No. 16 depicts a very fine fabricator, No. 17 is possibly of later date and resembles the "shouldered point" whilst No. 18 is a typical example of the small blunted blades which abound at this site - though for the most part they are somewhat smaller than the specimen which is illustrated.

Chapel Field - the last of the three principal surface sites - has long been the favourite haunt of collectors and in view of this fact the total of thirty-six microliths in our possession doubtless represents but a small part of all that has been recovered. When first discovered this site must have been extraordinarily prolific - for even now one can hardly cross the field without finding one or two implements, and the cores and waste flakes lie about the surface in their hundreds.

Examples of several artifacts from Chapel Field are illustrated by Nos. 33 to 40, the first seven being typical microliths and the last being a graver. The general standard of workmanship here is fairly high – especially with some of the very numerous scrapers and cores, and - as is also the case at Spreakley and Bron-y-de - much of the flint has been patinated. A large number of "pot-boilers" occur all over the field, and numerous Bronze Age arrow-heads have been recovered - but although there is naturally a certain amount of admixture with other cultures the Mesolithic undoubtedly predominates.

Miscellaneous

The sites included under this heading are mostly surface, but three or four have been excavated to a certain extent and these have proved in general to be similar to the larger sites like Kettlebury and Frensham Common. Two, however,

are remarkable in that they have yielded a number of gravers out of all proportion to the microliths and other artifacts recovered. One of these (a surface site) has produced six gravers and four microliths, while the other (where the flints were excavated and definitely homogeneous) has also yielded six gravers - but only two microliths.

Two of the surface site gravers are illustrated in Fig. VIII by Nos. 1 and 3 - the second example being double ended and of extraordinarily fine manufacture, whilst No. 2 is also from this site and is a typical example of the many large blades which have been recovered.

No. 5 illustrates a remarkable concave scraper of which three or four have been found in the district. The interesting point regarding these implements (if implements they are) lies chiefly in the fact that both the concave and convex curves which have been blunted most of the way round are invariably part of an exact circle (of 1.9 cm. radius) , and moreover a large percentage of the "curved points" already referred to fit one way (and often both ways) into these scrapers – as if made to measure

In connection with this it has been suggested that the "curved points" were found to be most efficient when made a certain shape, and that these concave scrapers were in reality gauges from which the curve of the points could be checked while being manufactured. Be that as it may - the similarity of these curves would appear to be more than a mere coincidence, and in this there is certainly much interesting food for thought.

No. 7 depicts an ordinary hollow scraper, No. 8 a neatly made graver and No. 9 a typical truncated blade. Nos. 10 to 13 were all recovered from the same site (surface), and the first of these illustrations is of what would seem to be a pair of hollow-based points which are as yet unbroken. That hollow-based points were, upon occasion, made in pairs in this manner is indicated by the fact that by no means all of them have their points towards the bulb of percussion; and as further proof we have found several points which appear to have been snapped across and left without the base actually being worked. These are distinct from an ordinary broken microlith in that the lower corner of the unblunted side has been trimmed round in the typical hollow-base manner. This fact alone would not, of course, be proof that the snapped points had been made in pairs, but we have recovered several pairs of completed hollow-based points which appear to join at

the lower ends (as much as is possible in view of the fact that the bases have been slightly worked away). We have in our possession another example of a still unsnapped pair - slightly larger than the one illustrated - but this specimen was recovered from outside the area under discussion.

No. 13 is an extremely fine transverse arrow-head and No. 16 (an E.2) comes from the same site. Nos. 14 and 15 were recovered from the other prolific graver site, as also were the three typical microliths illustrated by Nos. 18, 20 and 23. No. 19 is a very steeply worked scraper which still retains a considerable quantity of cortex, whilst No. 21 has been classed as a B.1 - though it might almost equally well be termed a C.1. It is typical of several such microliths coming from the Frensham sites and when more specimens have been recovered they might warrant a class of their own - possibly as C. b or D. b.

No. 22 is a very symmetrical double ended core, and No. 17 (F.4) and No. 24 (a tranchet trimming) were found on the same field - together with two gravers (one of which is illustrated by No. 8), several microliths, another tranchet trimming and numerous scrapers. A feature of this site is the extraordinary number of cores, which are of typical microlithic technique but which are actually more numerous than the microliths themselves. This remarkable fact cannot be explained by the quantity of blank flakes - because there are only a very few of these; and the only solution is that nearly every flake and microlith has at some time been removed from the site.

Like most other ploughed fields in the vicinity this has yielded numerous "pot-boilers", though it would seem unlikely that these date from Mesolithic times in view of the fact that we have never recovered any from excavations.

Conclusion

Upon the last page will be found a complete classification of all the Frensham sites, and from this several most interesting facts come to light - in particular that we have recovered only 1438 "micro-burins" as against 2446 microliths.

This deficiency can in part be explained by our having unfortunately overlooked the less obvious "micro-burins" during the first few months of our collecting, but in the main we feel that the explanation lies in the previously

mentioned fact that many microliths were apparently manufactured from flakes which had had the butt end snapped off - and also that a certain number were made by blunting the bulb of percussion away (as opposed to the notch and strike system of the so-called "micro-burin”). We have definite proof that this latter method was employed upon occasion - several microliths (especially from Bron-y-de) still retaining part or all of the bulb - although the flake has been worked up into a perfectly sharp and complete microlith.

As regards the snapping off of the bulb of percussion - almost conclusive proof that the remainder of the flake was worked up into a microlith is to be found in the fact that to every ten snapped off butt ends we find only one flake from which the bulb has been broken, and in view of this the deficiency of "micro-burins" would appear to be easily explained. It seems obvious that the "micro-burin" technique - excellent though it undoubtedly was - would be employed only where it was considered preferable to simply snapping or blunting away the bulb of percussion.

In conclusion it might be pointed out that the total of 4004 classifiable artifacts does not include scrapers, awls, backed blades etc. since these are in many cases very indefinite. But despite this - and the fact that this is essentially only a preliminary paper – the reader can gain a very fair idea of the extraordinarily prolific Mesolithic sites which occur around Frensham.

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CLASSIFICATION OF THE MICROLITH FORMS

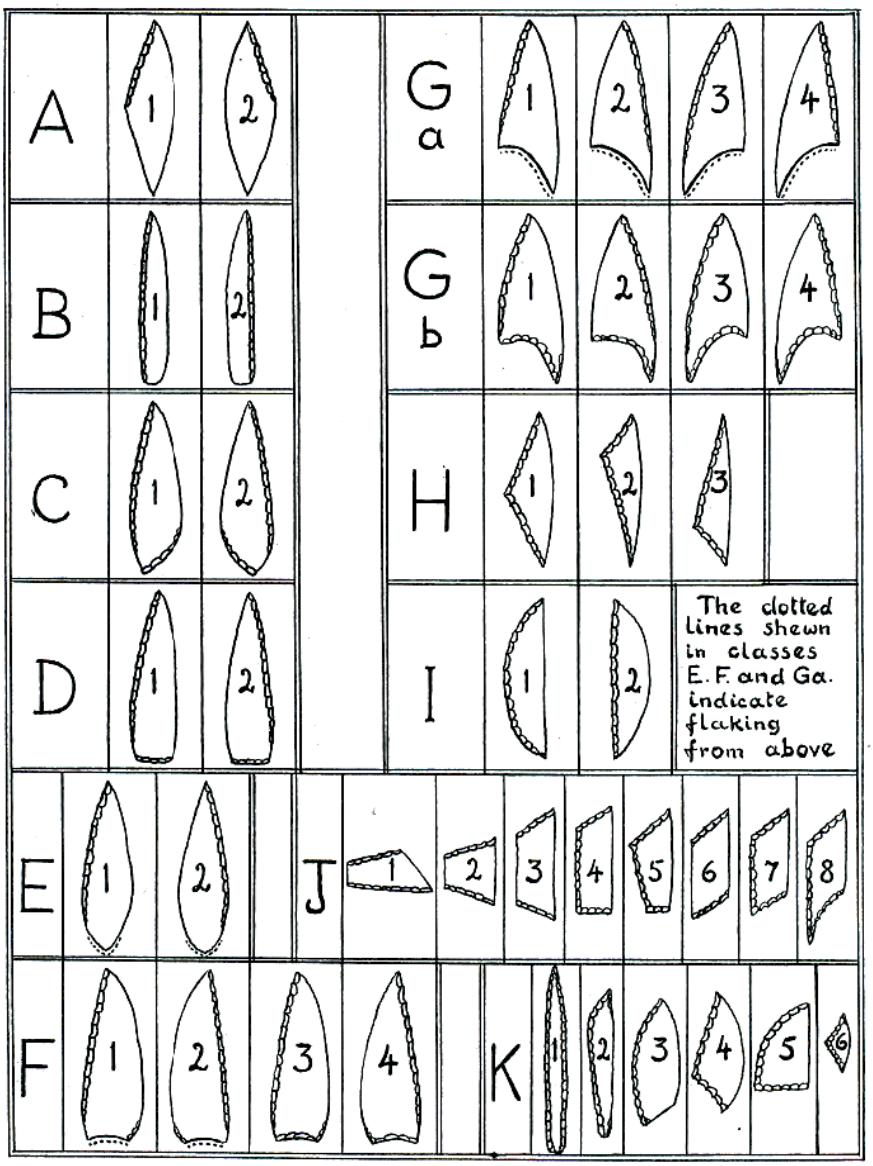

FIG. I

FRENSHAM COMMON

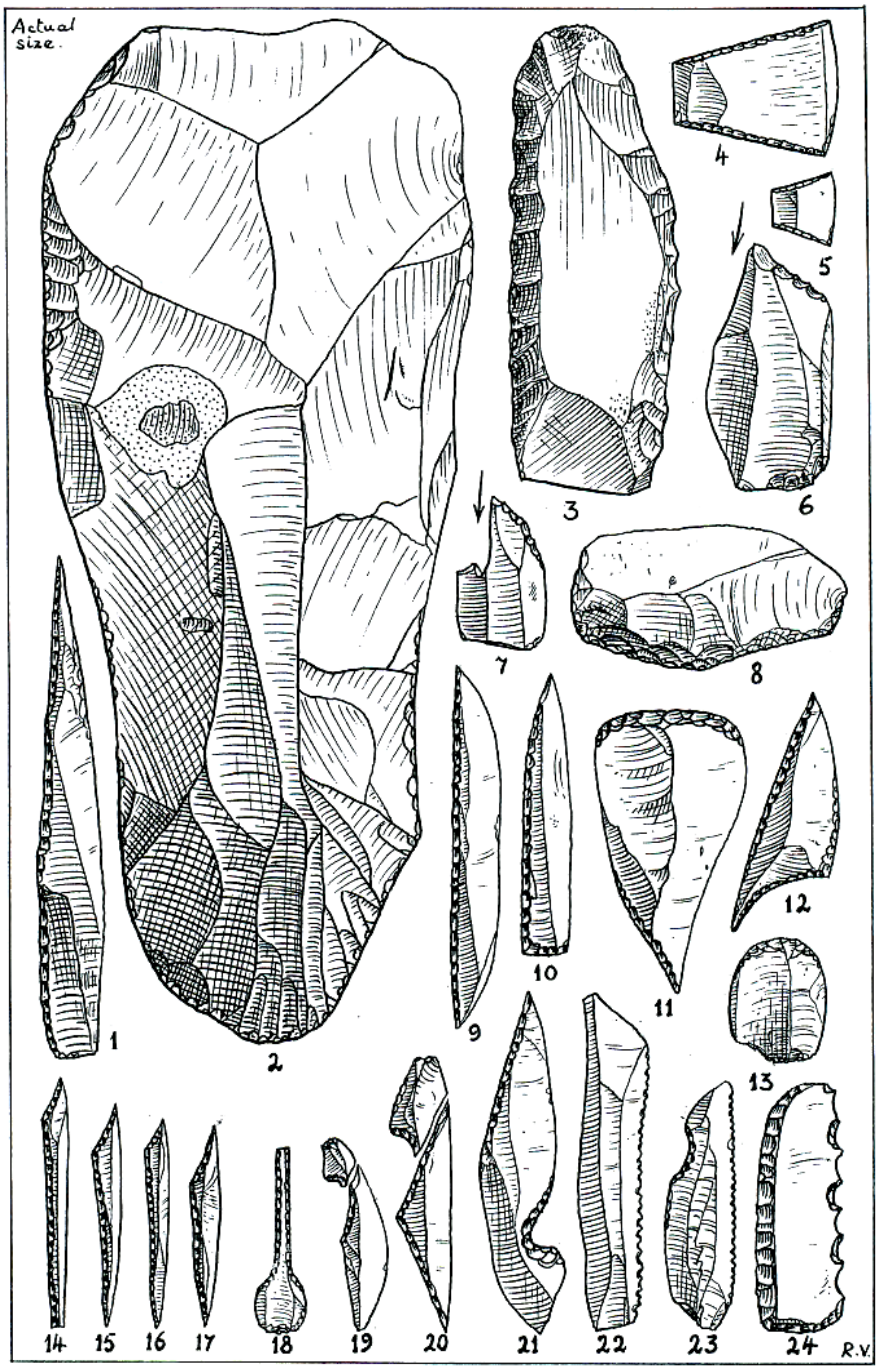

FIG. II

KETTLEBURY HILL

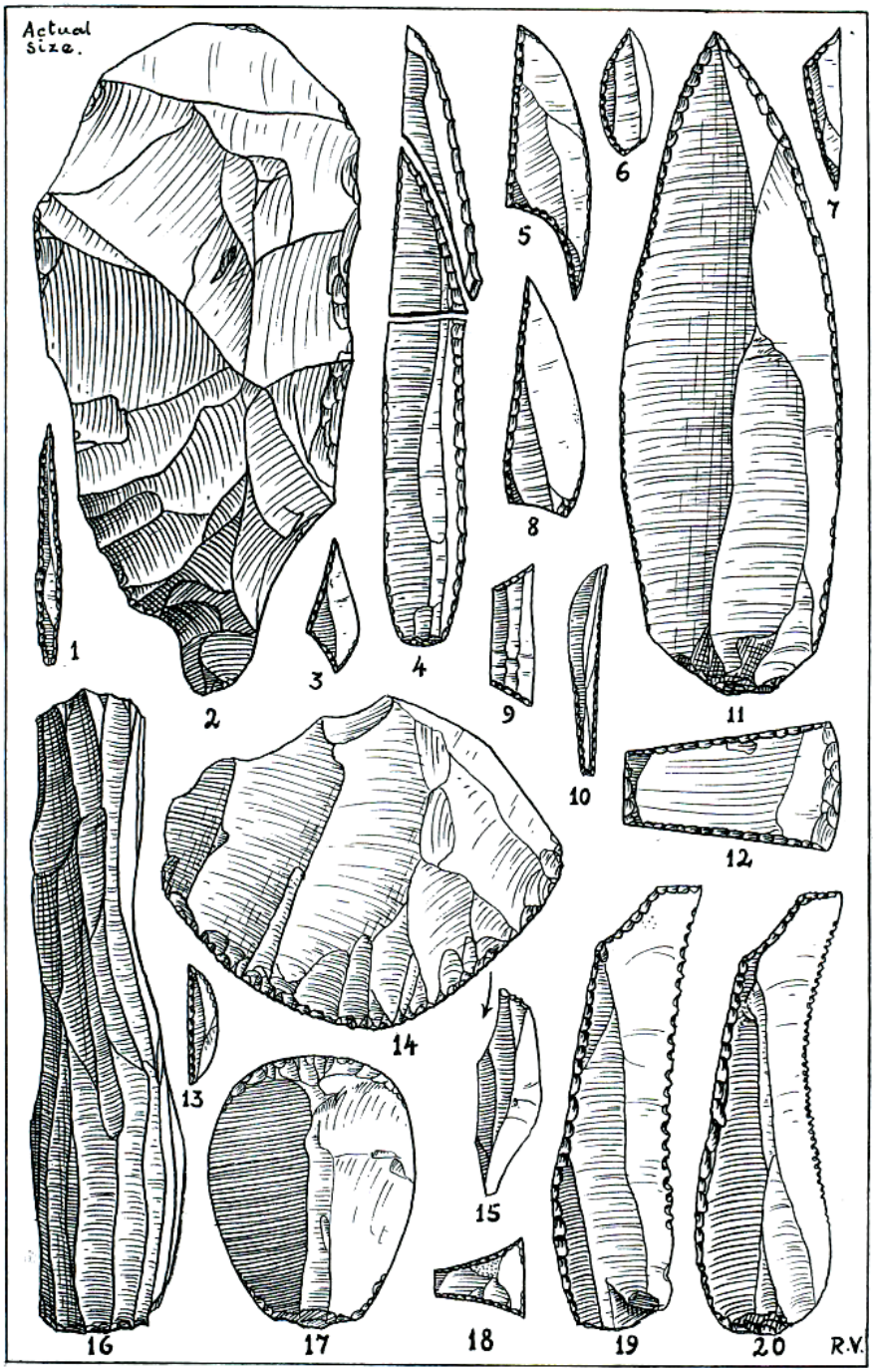

FIG. III

KINGSLEY COMMON

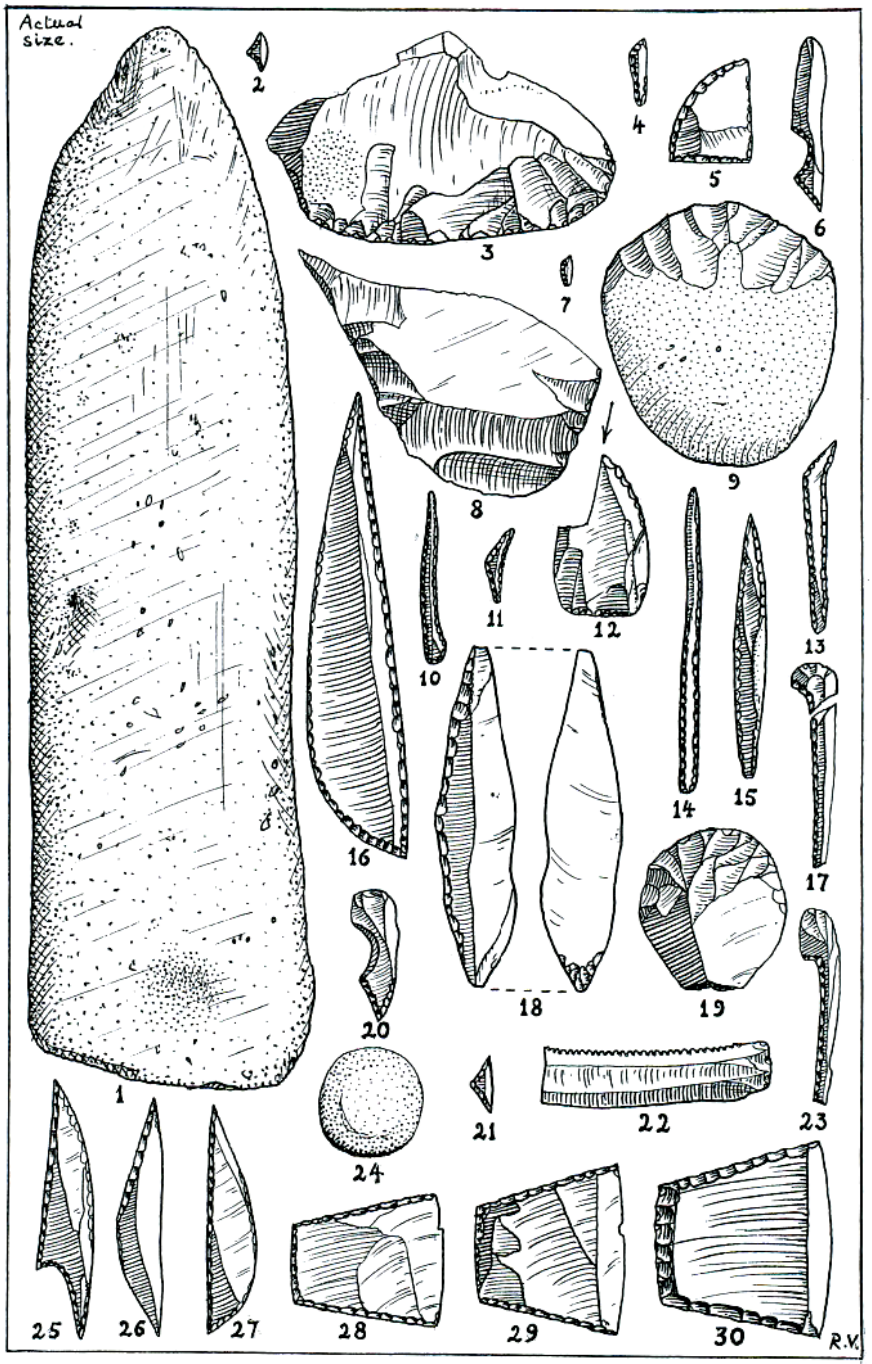

FIG. IV

DEVIL'S JUMPS MOOR

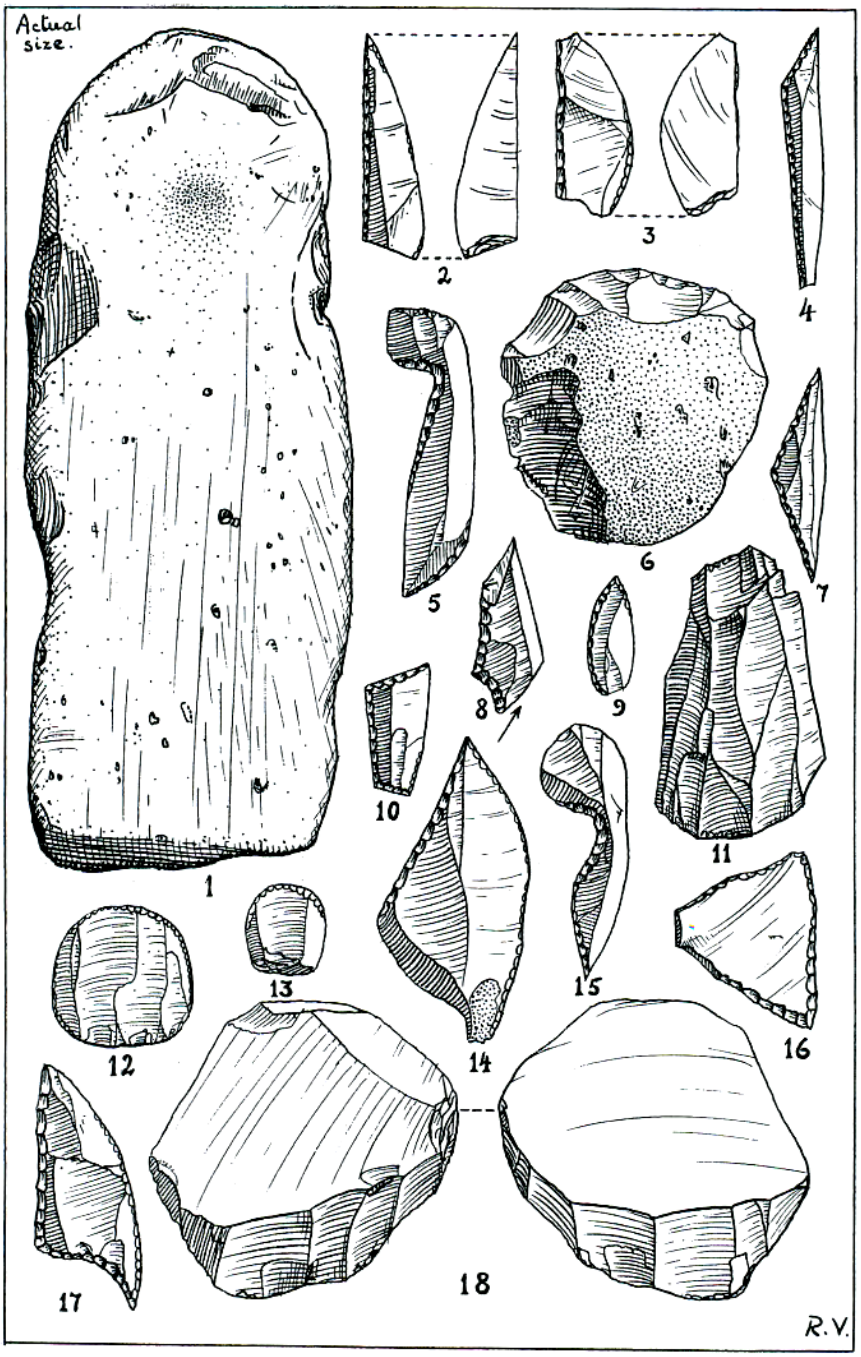

FIG. V

SLEAFORD HEATH

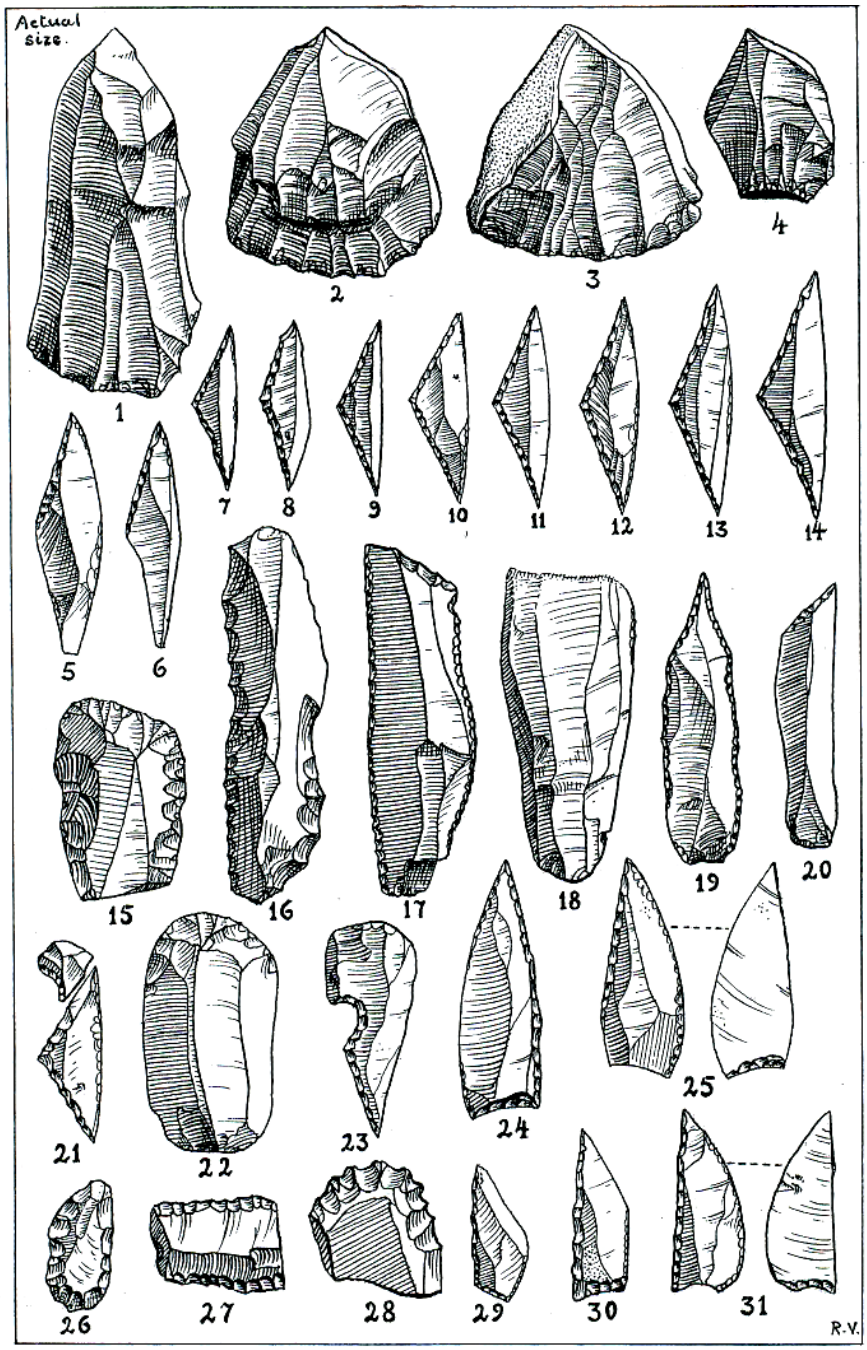

FIG. VI

SURFACE SITES

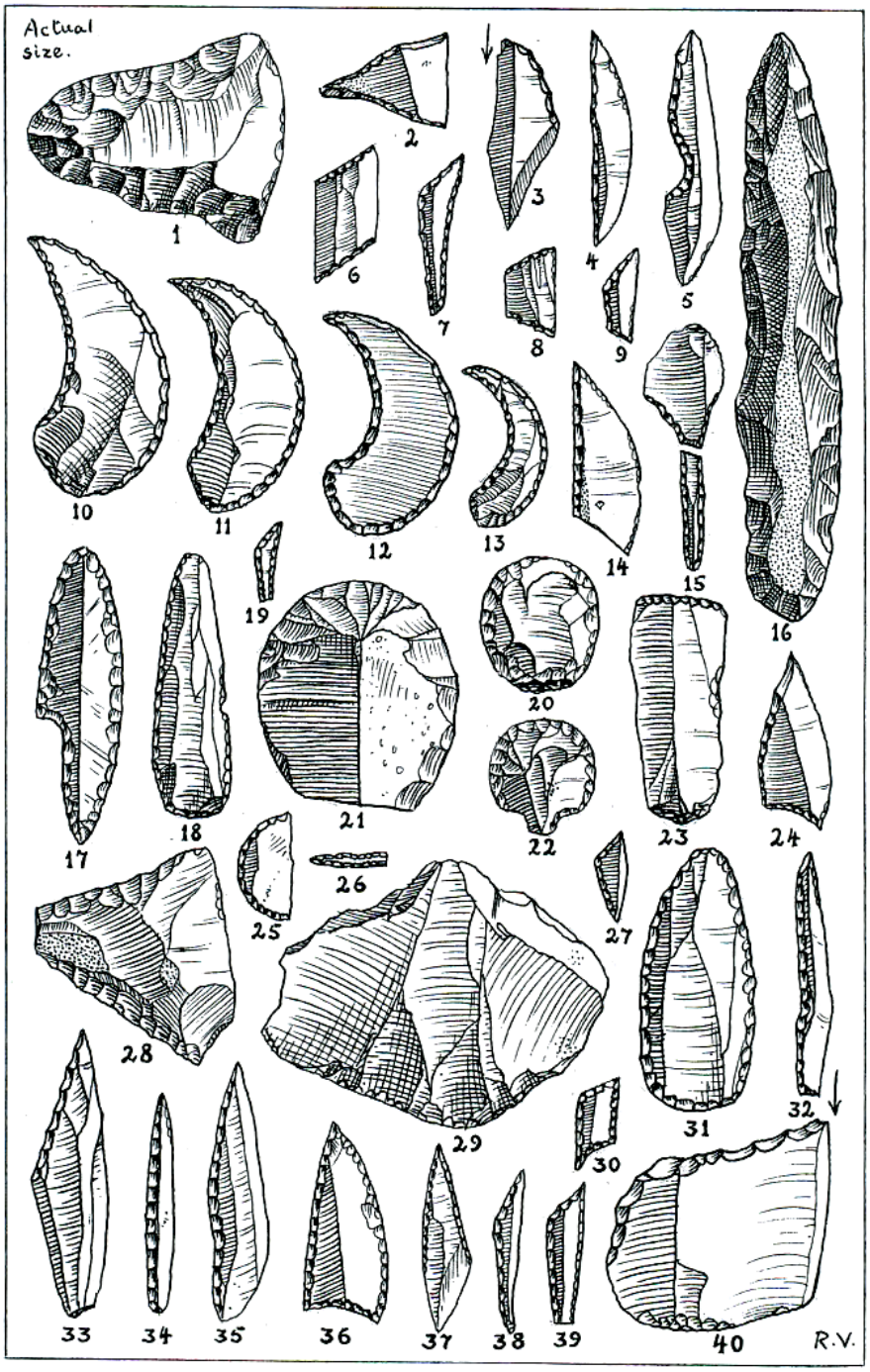

FIG. VII

MISCELLANEOUS SITES

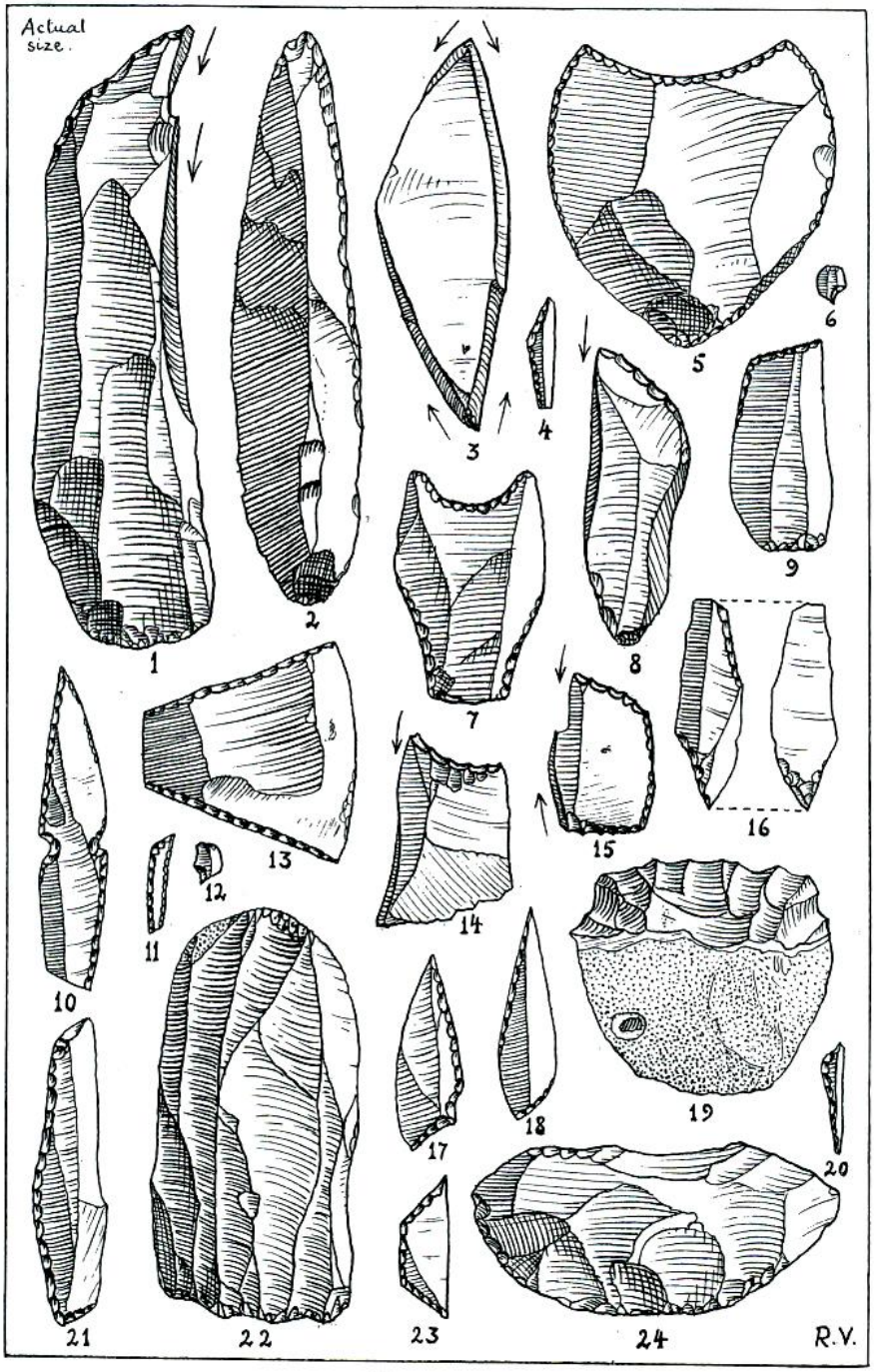

FIG.VIII

Appendix 2: abbreviations used for local sites by Venables

A	Local (site not recorded)	HL	Hankley Common
B	Devil's Jumps Moor	WD	Weaver's Down
C		BN	Bide's Nursery
D	Chapel Field	DH	Dye House earthwork
E	Blackdown	BL	Around Black Lake
F	Thursley	PH	Picket's Hill
G		HF	Hunter's Field (when West isn't there)
H	Peper Harrow	RL	Around the Red Lion (Thursley)
I		SH	Sheep Hatch
J		SL	Shoelands
K		TT	Around tumuli on Thursley Common
L	Kettlebury Common	BC	Around Wood's Quarry corner
M		BO	Broad Oak (behind Seale school)
N		FH	Grounds of Frensham Heights
O		GL	Around Green Lane Cemetery
P	Above Pond Hotel - Frensham Mill Path	MW	Fields beside Monks' Walk
Q		FM	Around Froyle Mill
R	Heath Common	KR	Kings Ridge
S	Spreakley	WF	Woodford's Farm – edge of Hankley
T	Farnham Sewerage (507)	TR	Beside Tilford-Milbridge road
U	Sleaford Common	TH	Temple Hanger
V	West Heath	BM	Above Barford Mill
W	Ludshott Common	DC	Field behind Dove Cottage
X	Slab Quarry	LP	Between Little Pond and River Til
Y	Kingsley Common	CR	Crooksbury
Z	Woolmer Common		
GP	Around Great Pond		
LG	Lloyd George's Fruit Farm (Bron-y-De)		
BH	Black Heath		
HH	Heath Hill		

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Ian Goode
22 Great Austins
Farnham
Surrey
GU9 8JQ

26th January 2010

Re: Frensham points

Dear Ian,

Microwear analysis has been conducted on the assemblage of points from Frensham near Farnham, Surrey. These pieces form part of the Venables collection held at the Museum of Farnham.

Analysis was conducted using standard methods and procedures for the evaluation of post-depositional modification and preliminary assessment for use related wear at the Lithic Microwear Research Laboratory, University of Bradford.

Evaluation was specifically targeted at the assessment of the authenticity of the pieces on the basis that this had previously been questioned following their original discovery and presentation.

Modification consists of heavy to very heavy rounding of dorsal ridges typically resulting from pedoturbation. Ridge rounding ranges between 10-30 microns (plate 1:b); for reference rounding above 5 microns is typically considered to mark a partial loss of use related wear and rounding above 14 microns is considered to indicate a point at which almost all use related wear is obliterated. Plate 1:a presents an image of a ridge from an experimental flake for comparison; the ridge is fine to the point that it is barely visible. Surfaces also exhibit polishing typically referred to as soil sheen confirming the likely obliteration of wear and the degree of extensive post-depositional modification. Plate 1:d shows an example of this, an image of the ventral surface of point 24 and is contrasted against plate 1:c an example showing the ventral surface of an experimental flake.

Wear analysis concludes that this collection of pieces has undergone a significant amount of post-depositional modification to the point that use-wear analysis is not considered to be feasible. In the assessment of the authenticity of these pieces a

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comment is required. The author has in the course of experimental research attempted to generate rounding on this scale. Whilst this degree of rounding is achievable in a lapidary tumbler with sharp sand for 40 hours it is not possible to generate wear that appears to have formed in a natural manner with the variation which one sees on archaeological implements. The ridge rounding on the Frensham points is typical in the author's experience of material having naturally undergone pedoturbation over a significant period of time. The same statement can be made for the surface sheen which is extremely hard to replicate experimentally – certainly to the degree found on some of these points. This author therefore rejects claims of forgery in favour of the likelihood that these are genuinely discovered archaeological finds.

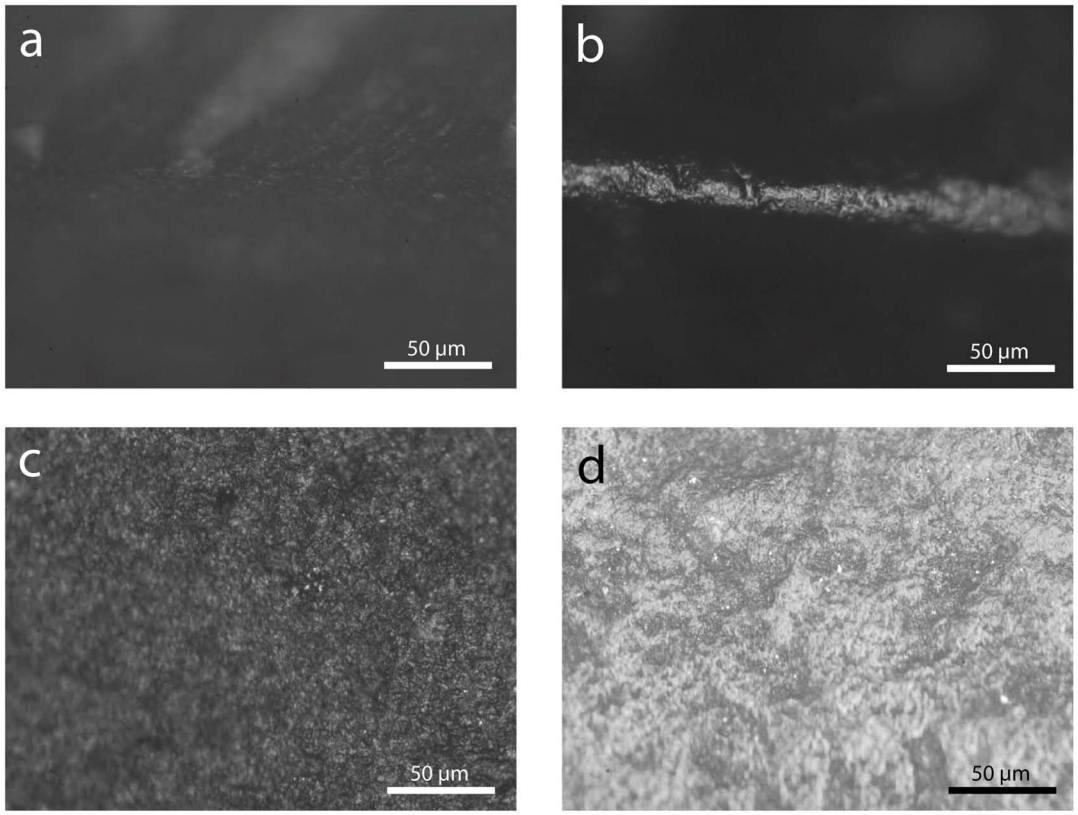

Plate 1. A comparion of a dorsal ridge and ventral surface from a fresh flake, a and c respectively, with typical ridge characteristics from the set of Frensham points (point 4) b and surface polishing (heavy soil sheen, point 24).

Best regards,

Adrian A. Evans