

APPENDIX X

LITHICS

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INTRODUCTION

This report presents an assessment of the lithic material recovered from excavations undertaken in support of a planning application for development of the Futurist Theatre, Scarborough. A total of two lithics were located during the excavation, of which one was identified as natural and will not be discussed further. An assessment of the single artefact found is provided below.

METHOD

All material was inspected by eye and logged in a database using Microsoft Access. Variables are described as follows:

Site Information

Field No. Field number, if applicable

Area Area, if applicable. If the artefact is unstratified, this is noted here.

Trench Trench number or code, if applicable.

Context No. The context number.

Sample code Sample code, if relevant.

RF No. Recorded find number, if applicable.

Quantity Number of pieces. Usually '1' and used to calculate total numbers.

Flint No. A unique number assigned for the purposes of the lithic catalogue.

Raw material

Material Whether flint, chert, quartz etc.

RM colour A description of the colour of the raw material.

Cortex The amount of cortex present, expressed as a percentage value. In the case of flakes and flake tools, this represents the percentage cortex on the dorsal surface.

<i>Cortex colour</i>	A description of the colour of the cortex, where present.
<i>Patina</i>	The amount of patination, expressed as a percentage value.
<i>Patina colour</i>	A description of the colour of the patination, where present.
Technology	
<i>Type</i>	The type of artefact, e.g. 'flake', 'blade', 'debitage', 'core', 'burnt fragment', or tool types, such as 'scraper', 'arrowhead', 'burin'.
<i>Debitage type</i>	If identified as debitage, this provides the type as a sub category, e.g. 'indeterminate fragment', 'chip', 'shatter' etc.
<i>Size</i>	Individual measurements have not been taken at this stage. Sizes are provided in millimeters, with the maximum dimension, or in the case of flakes, maximum length, given.
<i>Percussion angle</i>	The angle of percussion used to remove a flake or blade.
<i>Reduction Sequence</i>	Stage of the knapping sequence, given as 'primary', 'secondary' or 'tertiary'. The term 'thermal' is used to note heat fracture.
<i>Platform type</i>	The type of platform (for flakes, where present), based on Andrefsky (2005, 96), i.e. 'cortical', 'flat', 'complex', or 'abraded'.
<i>Bulb</i>	A description of the bulb of percussion (where present), recorded as 'pronounced', or 'diffuse'.
<i>Fracture type</i>	The type of termination based on Cotterell and Kamminga (1987), i.e. 'feathered', 'step', 'hinge', or 'overshoot'.
Retouch	
<i>Retouch</i>	An indicator of whether retouch is present. Where retouch is visible, the following categories are recorded, based on Ballin (2002).
<i>Retouch type</i>	The type of retouch present, recorded as 'edge', 'invasive' and 'complete'.
<i>Retouch extent</i>	Extent of retouch, recorded as either 'continuous' or 'sporadic'.
<i>Retouch orientation</i>	Orientation of the retouch, whether originating from the ventral ('normal') or dorsal ('inverse'), or 'alternating', 'propellar' or 'bifacial'.
<i>Retouch fineness</i>	The fineness of the retouch, ranging from 'very fine' to 'very coarse'.
<i>Retouch morphology</i>	The morphology of the retouch.
<i>Retouch angle</i>	The angle that the retouch has been applied at, ranging from 'very acute' to 'obtuse'.

Damage

<i>Burnt</i>	This column uses an ordinal scale to indicate the exposure to burning an item has received. 0 = unburnt; 1 = lightly fired (surface sooting, light crazing); 2 = fired (surface and interior patination, surface cracks, but still retaining original form); 3 = heavily fired (complete surface and interior patination, pot lid fractures, shattering, original form cannot be determined).
<i>Damage</i>	Description of any other damage present, e.g. 'plough', 'frost', 'edge chipping' etc.

Interpretation

<i>Period</i>	Where the artefact is chronologically distinctive then the period is noted.
<i>Interpretation</i>	A description of the lithic(s), including an indication of further working, e.g. 'retouch' or 'edge use'.
<i>Notes</i>	A further field to note any other observations, i.e. if items refit, or any other notes pertaining to artefact in relation to the archaeological works.

RAW MATERIAL

The single artefact was produced using a brown coloured flint displaying speckling and black banding. It is considered to be local in origin, as opposed to exotically sourced, and likely results from the Devensian till that forms the superficial deposits within the local area (BGS 2018). No cortex was present, suggesting tertiary stage working, and the squat size of the flake and its thickness indicate it was probably removed from a smaller nodule.

TECHNOLOGY

The single artefact recovered represented a small endscraper. It has some affinities to similar small scraping tools of the Neolithic. It falls just outside of the usual measurements used to classify thumbnail scrapers (20mm), although it may be classed with this type, meaning that an Early Bronze Age date cannot be ruled out. It was recovered from the fill (517) of well 516. As a result, it is not considered to be in situ.

DISCUSSION

The single find provides evidence of later prehistoric activity within the surrounding area. However, by itself it provides little information beyond the presence of Neolithic or possibly Early Bronze Age people undertaking scraping activities near to the site. The fact the the find is most likely (if not certainly) out of its original context also hampers any additional analysis.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The single find (FTS18_L001) should be retained and illustrated. The natural can be discarded as appropriate. No further analysis is required unless further archaeological work uncovered additional lithic artefacts.

REFERENCES

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