

**Area B, East Field Farm, Winteringham,  
North Lincolnshire  
WGMCV 08**

**Lithic Materials: Catalogue**

Report by Jim Rylatt – July 2008

## 1.0 Introduction

This report concerns one piece of worked flint recovered during an archaeological watching brief of Area B, East Field Farm, Winteringham.

## 2.0 Method of study

The lithic artefact was physically examined in order to create an archive catalogue. Its attributes were noted in order to determine its place in the reduction sequence, describe observable characteristics of the lithic technology utilised and provide an assessment of its functional potential. The catalogue also records the presence of patination, cortex and whether the piece has been burnt. The piece has been weighed and metrical data is recorded if it is a complete flake, tool or core. It was examined with a x3 hand-lens to determine whether there is any evidence of localised modification that could be indicative of use.

## 3.0 Catalogue

Context	Type	Dimensions	Comments
102	Retouched b-l flake	29x13mm 1.2g	Probable leaf-shaped arrowhead - small tertiary flake with small pronounced bulb and feathered termination; dorsal scars indicate removal of 4+ similar blade-like flakes from same platform, including possible platform trimming; has slight conchoidal curvature from platform to distal end; piece has been bifacially retouched around c. 90% of both ventral & dorsal margins – small semi-abrupt/acute spalls & chips detached from dorsal surface, small invasive chips from ventral margins, including attempt to thin bulb – retouch is relatively crude & unsystematic, all scars are patinated indicating antiquity; medium opacity patination across entire surface; greyish-brown translucent flint E.Neo

**NB:** measurements are only given for complete flakes, tools and pieces - 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; the third to maximum thickness.

## 4.0 Comments

The morphological traits of this small retouched flake are indicative of early Neolithic core reduction strategies. The bifacial retouch is relatively crude and, with the exception of thinning to the platform and bulb, restricted to within 3mm of the margin of the flake. Despite the minimalist nature of the secondary working of the piece, its overall form is suggestive of a leaf-shaped arrowhead and it is difficult to explain it as anything other than a relatively crude projectile point. It is possible that this was a practice piece for someone learning to manufacture arrowheads, or that someone had roughed-out the shape then decided that it was not suitable for continued working. Alternatively, it may have been manufactured in a relatively expedient manner without any of the aesthetic concerns and typological templates that characterise the majority of prehistoric flint arrowheads. This example most closely conforms to Green's Type 4C (Green 1980, fig 29), although arguably it is somewhat

fallacious to attribute a typological characterisation based upon the form of an artefact that is either deliberately crude or unfinished.

Although the recovery of this artefact provides an indication of a prehistoric presence on the site, the fact that there is only a single piece of worked lithic material suggests that any activity was brief and ephemeral. The probability that it was a projectile point could also be a factor in the discovery of only a single isolated find, as arrows, by their very nature, can be fired into areas well away from any other form of contemporary human activity or occupation.

## **5.0 References**

Green, H.S. 1980 *The Flint Arrowheads of the British Isles*. Oxford, British Archaeological Reports, British Series, 75.