

## Lithic finds from Bartlemas Chapel 2011

Olaf Bayer

### Context

This report summarises the results of an analysis of a small lithic assemblage recovered from the 2011 excavation at Bartlemas Chapel. The assemblage consists of eight pieces of struck flint with a combined weight of 43 grams. All of the assemblage was recovered as residual material from more recent contexts in Trench 2. For the purposes of this report all lithic artefacts are treated as a single unstratified assemblage, and no attempt at spatial analysis is made. Full results of the analysis are included in the spreadsheet.

	Date	Activity	Count
<b>Unmodified debitage</b>			
Chip	uncertain	uncertain	1
Chunk	uncertain	uncertain	1
Flake (unmodified)	uncertain	Stone tool manufacture	4
<b>Retouched tools</b>			
Flake (notched)	uncertain	Scraping/cutting	1
Side and end scraper	Late Neo/EBA?	Scraping/cutting	1
<b>Total</b>			<b>8</b>

### Chronology, typology and activity

The assemblage contains two retouched pieces: a broken, notched flake and a small side and end scraper. Neither artefact is conclusively chronologically diagnostic. However, the scraper's small size and the invasive nature of its retouch show some similarity to Early Bronze Age thumbnail scrapers. The remainder of the assemblage consists of unmodified debitage. All six pieces are either broken flakes or unidentifiable chunks and chips. Where identifiable the negative removal scars on the dorsal faces of artefacts are all flake-shaped and are broadly indicative of Neolithic and Bronze Age activity. The presence of unmodified debitage reflects the manufacture and maintenance of stone tools. The two retouched pieces reflect the use of stone tools for cutting and scraping activities. Three of the assemblage's artefacts (each from different contexts) have traces of burning.

### Raw materials and reduction sequence

All lithic artefacts are struck from a mid to dark grey flint; a single piece has a slight orange hue. Where present cortical surfaces are rough and irregular, indicating a nodular flint source for this raw material, being derived either directly from in-situ chalk, or from residual clay-with-flints deposits. With the exception of the more heavily cortical side and end scraper, little or no cortex is retained on the dorsal faces of artefacts. This suggests that the earliest stages of the stone-working process - the extraction and testing of raw materials and the initial preparation of cores - are likely to have taken place elsewhere in the landscape.

### Interpretation/summary

The small lithic assemblage from the 2011 excavations indicates a low level of potentially Neolithic or Bronze Age activity to the west of Bartlemas Chapel in the area of Trench 2.

Raw Material	Colour	Broken	Burnt	Length mm	Width mm	Thickness mm	Weight g	Platform	Termination	% dorsal cortex	Scar Orientation	Scar Type	Retouch	Comments
Nodular Flint	Dark grey	Yes	No	18	12	6	1	Missing	Missing	0%	Right angles to striking platform	Flake	Unmodified	Chip/fragment of broken flake
Nodular Flint	Dark grey	Yes	Yes	19	13	12	4	Missing	Missing	0%	uncertain	Flake	Unmodified	Unidentified broken flint fragment
Nodular Flint	Dark grey	Yes	Yes	27	37	8	8	Missing	Missing	1-25%	Right angles to striking platform	Flake	Unmodified	Broken flake
Nodular Flint	Mid grey	Yes	Yes	22	34	8	6	Missing	Missing	50%	Uncertain	Flake	Unmodified	Burnt broken flake
Nodular Flint	Mid grey	Yes	No	9	16	5	1	Missing	Missing	1-25%	Uncertain	Flake	Unmodified	Fragment of broken flake
Nodular Flint	Mid orange grey	Yes	No	29	37	11	12	Plain	Missing	26-50%	Same as striking platform	Flake	Unmodified	Flake
Nodular Flint	Mid grey	Yes	No	19	29	7	4	Plain	Missing	0%	Right angles to striking platform	Flake	Non-invasive bi-facial	Broken flake with bifacial retouch along distal end, slight notch
Nodular Flint	Dark grey	No	No	26	23	12	7	Plain	Missing	51-75%	uncertain	Flake	Unifacial and invasive	Small almost thumbnail sized scraper, heavily crushed edges in places, slight point at distal end, damaged, worked down