

## Chapter 2: Period 1 - From the Palaeolithic to the Bronze Age

### INTRODUCTION

Some evidence for activity dating from the Palaeolithic to the Bronze Age was recovered from Westhawk Farm. This comprised in the main worked flint, although some evidence for a pre-Roman field system possibly of Bronze Age date was found.

Some fifteen certain or probable Lower Palaeolithic artefacts were recovered, one from Area C and the remainder from Area B. The condition of these was variable, but some at least were quite sharp, suggesting they had not moved a great distance since deposition. Eight of the objects, including the one from Area C, came from the top of the 'natural' subsoil (contexts 3, 5002 and 7002), six were from Roman deposits and one was from topsoil.

A further topsoil find (SF1, context 1) was a probable Mesolithic tranchet axe, roughly made. Twenty-nine flints from fairly closely adjacent features gully 8087 and ditch 8418 were also dated to the Mesolithic, though the features themselves were Roman, of Phases 5 and 2 respectively.

The remaining flint comprised 155 flints recovered from 84 contexts and was all residual in Roman contexts. They include a further ten isolated finds of probable/possible Mesolithic pieces; the latter are included with the Neolithic and Bronze Age material in Table 2.3. The remainder of the flint spanned the Neolithic to Bronze Age, with the majority of the pieces probably being of Bronze Age date, adding weight to the assumption that the pre-Roman field system (see below) was also of this date. The Neolithic and Bronze Age flint forms a low density spread across the site; no flint was recovered from contemporary features and nor were any concentrations observed. In addition, 101 pieces/828 g of burnt unworked flint was recovered from the site.

### PALAEOLITHIC FINDS

by Vicky Winton

Several artefacts thought to be Palaeolithic in age were submitted to the author. Table 2.1 contains a description and interpretation of each of the pieces. The raw material groupings are described below. A consideration of the evidence suggests a general principle of economy in use of raw materials among the Westhawk Farm artefacts, though the artefacts may represent more than one episode of Lower Palaeolithic activity.

Most of the artefacts seem to fall into three main groups reflecting both the raw material and the general condition of the artefacts. These are:

*LB (Light Brown)* A relatively coarse grained and heterogeneous raw material that has a yellow or cream patina and Munsell colour chart values of 10YR 7/6 yellow and 2.5Y 8/4 pale yellow.

*DB (Dark Brown)* This classification denotes Munsell colour chart values of 7.5YR 5/8 strong brown, 7.5YR 6/6 reddish yellow and 10YR 5/8 yellowish brown for the surface of the artefact and the condition is moderately sharp.

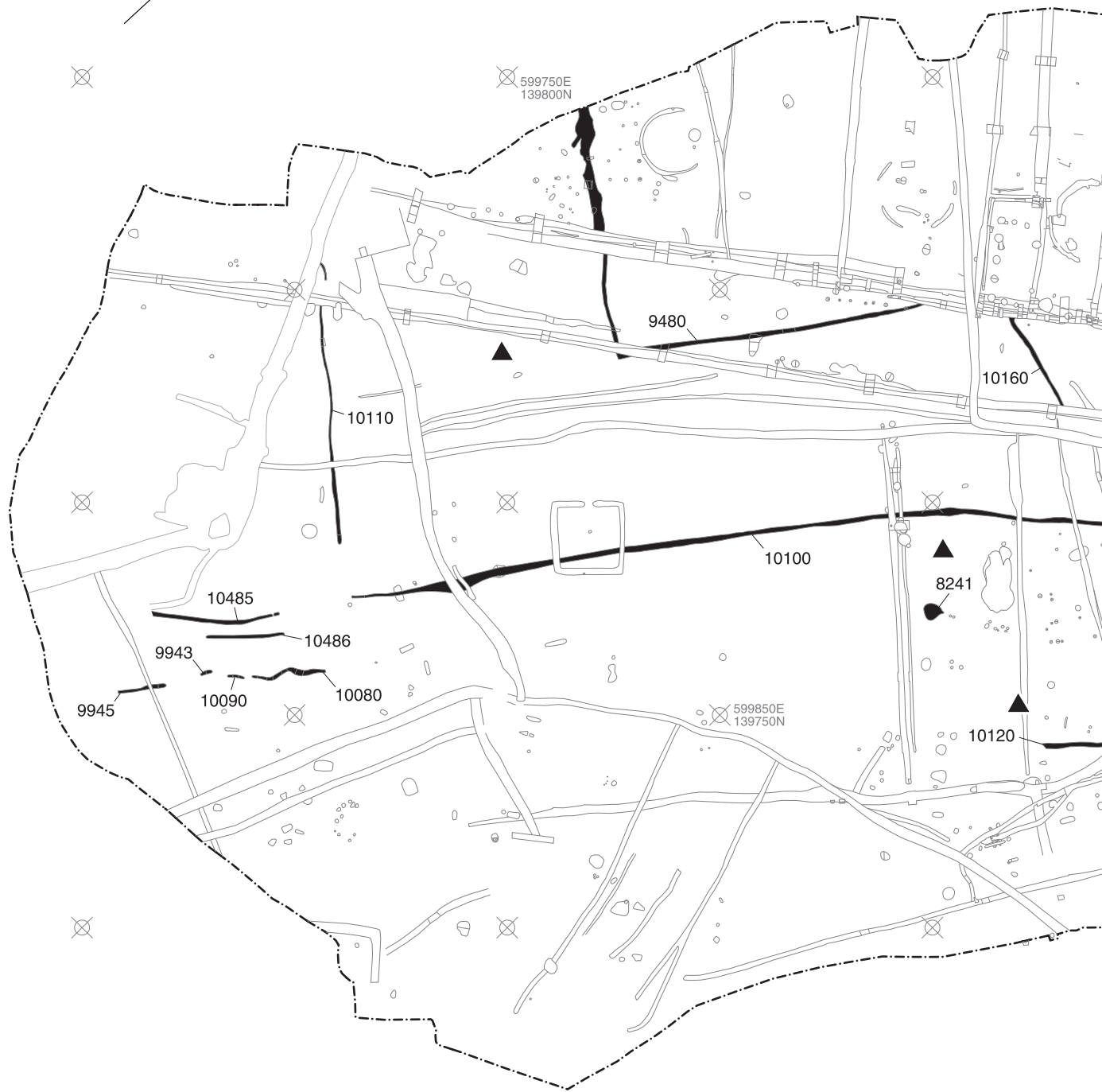
*BC (Brown + Cream)* This is good quality (fine textured and homogeneous) flint of 10YR 4/4 dark yellowish brown, 2.5Y 4/4 olive brown in sharp to slightly rolled condition.

In addition in Table 2.1, VWDB stands for Very Weathered Dark Brown and B distinguishes a mid-brown coloured artefact apparently of different raw material from LB and DB. Artefact 776 displays both BC and DB patinas on the apparently ancient surfaces which could suggest a continuum between BC and DB patinas, and further that the two patinas do not distinguish artefacts of different ages.

The assemblage includes handaxes and handaxe trimming flakes showing that the Lower Palaeolithic flint knapping represented at the site involved the production of bifacial handaxes. There are no very large flakes or entirely cortical flakes, which suggests that the earliest stages of stone tool manufacturing process are not represented. The presence of handaxe trimming flakes and handaxes, without significant amounts of other knapping debris, suggests that the assemblage represents a tool kit that was used away from the place where the tools were made.

Differences in patination and condition are put down to differences in local environmental conditions. That the contexts from which artefacts derive provide diverse chemical environments (and thus differences in patination which are not related to age)

Figure 2.1 Period 1: Plan showing distribution of Palaeolithic flint and possible Bronze Age features.

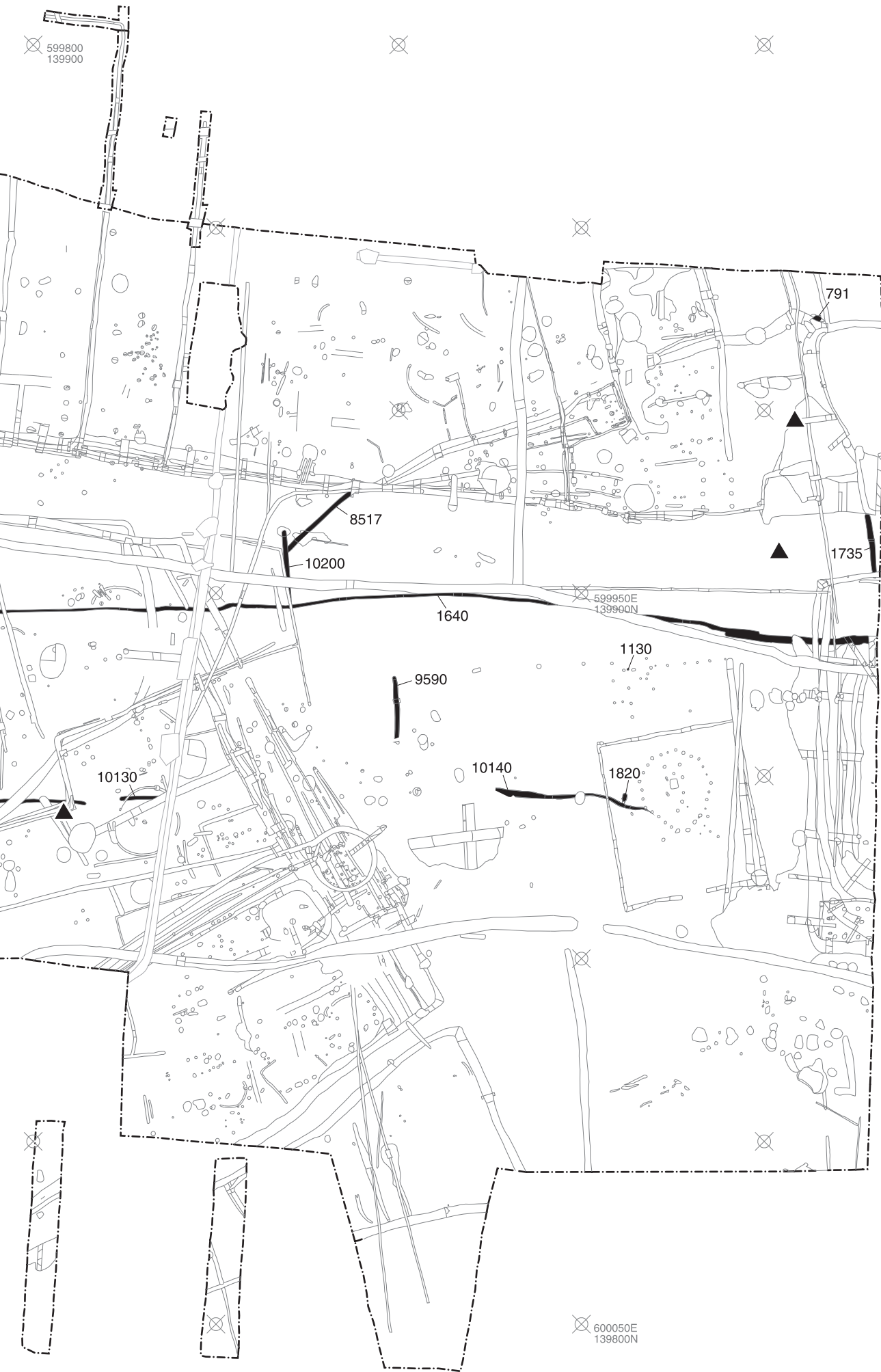


0 50 m

1:1000

▲ Location of palaeolithic flints

599800  
139900



599950E  
139900N

600050E  
139900N

600050E  
139800N

Table 2.1 Catalogue of Palaeolithic flint. Pieces marked with an asterisk are illustrated in Fig. 2.2.

Provenience	L (mm)	W (mm)	T (mm)	Raw Material/ Patina	Type	Condition	Description and Interpretation
9142 (Fig. 2.2)	72	62	15	DB	Handaxe?	Slightly rolled or weathered with pot-lid fracture surfaces on both faces.	A bifacially worked piece with concentric pattern of flake scars on both faces. Part of a small biface? Lower Palaeolithic age.
9389	75	57	18	BC	Flake	Sharp and slightly patinated with concretion adhering to surface in places.	Relatively large hard hammer struck flake with at least six flake scars one of which is on the ventral surface. Debitage from core reduction or maybe early stage of biface shaping? Lower Palaeolithic age.
3 sf 9 (Fig. 2.2)	97	80	24	LB	Handaxe	Rolled or weathered with refitting broken off tip (recent break) and some dark brown concretions.	Wymere type JK biface (cordate - ovate). Lower Palaeolithic age.
5002 sf 500	66	64	19	BC	Flake	Slightly rolled appearance with numerous patinated frost pits and broken into two major parts by unpatinated thermal fracture.	Relatively large flake that may be debitage from a biface since a bifacially flaked edge is preserved on the butt end of the flake.
3 sf 246	61	42	12	LB	Part of handaxe?	Sharp-slightly rolled / weathered with extensive unpatinated break surfaces.	Perhaps from re-shaping a handaxe during use. Lower Palaeolithic age.
7002 sf 1383 (Fig. 2.2)	139	78	36	DB	Biface	Rolled / weathered condition (more so on one face than the other) with some unpatinated damage and two large freeze-thaw break surfaces on the butt area.	Part of a biface (bifacial flaking along one edge) with unpatinated freeze-thaw break surfaces. Lower Palaeolithic age.
8242	57	30	8	DB	Flake	Rolled / weathered condition with two patches of concretion adhering to ventral and dorsal surfaces.	A well made pointed biface (Wymere type F). Lower Palaeolithic age.
7514	42	38	15	VWDB	Flake	Very rolled / weathered and patinated.	
7001 (Fig. 2.2)	63	46	14	BC	Biface trimming flake	Slightly rolled or weathered (more so on highest part of dorsal surface). The distal tip is broken off and this break surface is less patinated than the dorsal flake scars (though not unpatinated).	Flake with at least eight flake scars on the dorsal surface. Could be from the shaping or re-sharpening or re-shaping of a biface.
776	20	35	9	BC and UP	Flake	Mint ventral surface, remnants of patinated flaked surface on dorsal and platform	Small flake with cortex on distal and two dorsal flake scars. General knapping debris. Lower Palaeolithic age.
8329	34	53	14	B	Flake	Sharp	The flake has numerous flake scars on the dorsal surface and platform (which could be the remnants of a bifacial tool edge) and has a thin, arched profile. This flake is in the form of a classic biface trimming flake, which may attest to resharpening of a handaxe during use. Lower Palaeolithic age.
7002 sf 1332	60	42	11	LB	Flake	Rolled / weathered, lustrous surfaces with a great deal of manganese staining	A small transverse flake struck from a patinated artefact. The patination on the dorsal surface is different to that on the platform suggesting differential patination on the artefact from which this flake was struck.
7002 sf 1336	47	50	20	LB	Flake	Ventral surface is more rolled or weathered than the dorsal surface. Thick patina with hard lustrous surface and light ochreous colouration. There is a significant break along the left side.	A transverse waste flake which is not necessarily of Palaeolithic age. Flake apparently a by-product of Lower Palaeolithic handaxe manufacture or re-sharpening on the basis of the condition and soft hammer flake scars on the dorsal surface - though the flake itself appears to be hard hammer struck.
7002 sf 1335	78	40	23	LB	Flake fragment	Slightly rolled / weathered with manganese stains and iron stained striations on ventral and broken edge along left side	Thick flake - possibly from shaping a pointed biface (since ovate forms would not yield a flake with such steep edges) or re-shaping or re-sharpening a handaxe. Lower Palaeolithic age.
7002	91	32	15	DB	Blade	Rolled / weathered and patinated. The ventral surface is more glossy than the dorsal and has some manganese staining	A thick flake, which seems to have had 2 flakes struck from the dorsal surface. Thus this artefact might be described as a flaked flake in the sense of Ashton et al., (1991). Lower Palaeolithic age.

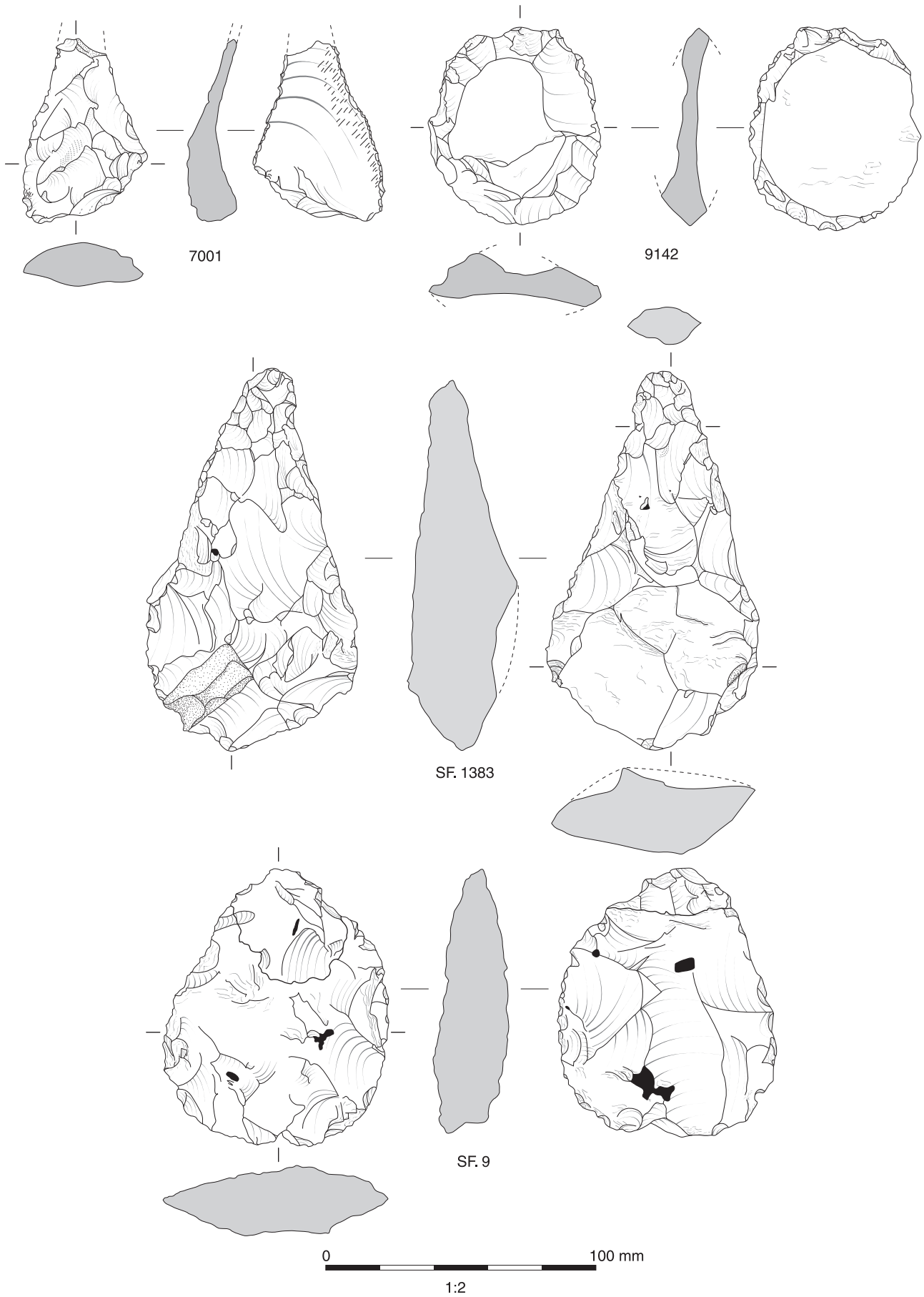


Figure 2.2 Palaeolithic flints.

is suggested by the similarity of patina and condition of a Mesolithic tranchet axe (Sf 1, context) and that of a classic Acheulian handaxe (Fig. 2.2, Sf 9). Differential effects across surfaces of the same artefact are also in evidence. For instance a pointed handaxe from context 7002 (Fig. 2.2, Sf 1383) has more worn flake scar intersections on one face than the other; the handaxe trimming flake from context 7001 (Fig. 2.2, 7001) has more worn flake scar intersections on the most protruding part of the dorsal surface (the area is marked on Fig. 2.2); a blade from context 7002 (not illustrated) has a more glossy ventral surface than dorsal; and a flake (Sf 1336; not illustrated) from the same context has a more weathered ventral surface than dorsal. This suggests that aspects of the same artefact have been affected by different degrees of mechanical and/or chemical weathering. This may have been caused by incorporation into the bed of a watercourse, or by the artefacts having lain exposed on the surface with one face subjected to the elements and the other relatively protected (Roe 1981, 183-4). Further investigation of the 'natural' sediments would be useful in this regard.

In any case, differential patination and weathering on these artefacts lends further support to the argument that the contexts from which they derive did not provide constant, homogeneous conditions and therefore patina and condition are unlikely to fit into an age-delineated pattern.

It could be suggested that the co-occurrence of a pointed handaxe and an ovate form should be interpreted as evidence of two separate episodes of activity (one involving an ovate bearing group of archaic humans and one involving a group who preferred pointed forms). In fact, this need not be the case since it is clear that pointed handaxes and ovates are indeed found together in apparently homogeneous assemblages, even when the assemblage as a whole shows a clear preference for one or the other type. An example of this would be Worthington Smith's site of Round Green, Luton (see illustrations in Roe 1981, 186).

There is perhaps some suggestion of the use of flakes as cores from which to strike small flakes. Artefacts from contexts 7002 (Sf 1335 and no Sf number) and 9389 have flake scars bearing negative bulbs of percussion; that is the flake scars were created after the flake itself was struck from the core or nodule). The sharp edges of the small flakes produced may have been used for cutting, or perhaps the resultant notched edge of the parent flake blank was used. Ashton and McNabb (1996, 201-236) applied the term 'flaked flakes' to artefacts of comparable form recovered from the Lower Gravel and Lower Loam of Swanscombe (see also Ashton *et al.* 1991). In the absence of handaxes, flaked flakes and cores would be described as Clactonian as opposed to Acheulian, on the basis that the Clactonian does not contain handaxes.

In Ashton and McNabb's view there is, however, no reason to suppose that the Clactonian and Acheulian were created by separate groups of people or separate 'cultures'. Rather, they have suggested that the Clactonian and the Acheulian form part of the

same continuum of Lower Palaeolithic approaches to tool manufacture. It seems perfectly believable that the people who made the handaxes at Westhawk Farm might also be responsible for the few items that formally appear to have 'Clactonian' affinities. Alternatively, it is possible that these items do not belong to the same assemblage of tools as the either of the handaxes or handaxe trimming flakes.

In conclusion, there is no definite evidence that the Lower Palaeolithic finds from Westhawk Farm belong to a single assemblage. Different handaxe typologies are represented (pointed and ovate), and perhaps different techno-complexes (Clactonian and Acheulian). The condition of the artefacts also varies in terms of patination depth, colour and degree of weathering and/or rolling. However, there does seem to be a general unifying theme of economic use of raw material in the flint-working represented. The lack of large and/or cortical flakes and the presence of handaxe trimming flakes suggest that handaxes were being used and re-sharpened away from the place where they were made. The presence of flaked flakes, in the absence of cores, also suggests that the artefacts were being made and used at some distance from the place where those flakes had originally been struck from cores. The sources of the raw material out of which artefacts were made no doubt had a significant impact on the patterns of artefact manufacture, use and discard. The economy in the use of flint suggested at Westhawk Farm is really only to be expected, given that the site is located some distance away from a plentiful source of flint.

A possible counter-argument might see the lack of large flakes as a product of the depositional environment (ie one which favoured the deposition of smaller clasts) rather than having anything to do distance from source. However, this does not explain why there are two handaxes, which are effectively large and heavy clasts, in natural contexts. Also, there is no good reason why non-cortical flakes or indeed handaxe trimming flakes would be favoured by any natural mechanism of deposition; there are no fully (or even largely) cortical flakes amongst the assemblage and there are several handaxe-trimming flakes. This further suggests that the early stages of tool manufacture were not carried out in the immediate vicinity.

The contexts from which the artefacts derive and their condition suggest some potential for the local 'natural' as a source of *in situ* Palaeolithic material. This might mean that the incorporation of Palaeolithic artefacts into Roman contexts and later ploughsoils is simply the result of the local 'natural' deposits being disturbed. It is also true, however that cases exist where flint artefacts were collected during the Roman period and purposefully put into pits and waterholes. Turner and Wymer (1987) discuss the deliberate placing of over 40 Palaeolithic artefacts (mostly complete handaxes) at the Roman religious site of Ivy Chimneys, Witham, Essex and Roe (1980) reports the occurrence of an Acheulian handaxe in a Roman context from Woolbury in Hampshire. How-

ever, both of the Westhawk Farm handaxes were from natural contexts and so seem not to have been purposefully collected during the Roman period.

The Southern Rivers Palaeolithic Project records just three handaxes from the Ashford area: two handaxes recorded in museum collections by Roe and one found in a field approximately 3 km north of Westhawk Farm (Wymer 1993, 143). The Westhawk finds therefore contribute significantly to the body of evidence for local Lower Palaeolithic occupation. Wymer (1999, 91) remarks upon the paucity of Lower Palaeolithic finds in the area of the upper reaches of the Stour, which again emphasises the importance of the Westhawk finds, particularly if they are indicative of a larger assemblage waiting to be unearthed at this locality. The Palaeolithic artefacts from Westhawk Farm no doubt represent incursions of archaic hunter-gatherer peoples into the upper reaches of the Great Stour river system. Many hundreds of Lower Palaeolithic artefacts have been collected from further downstream in terraces 2 and 3 of the Great Stour at Sturry and Fordwich (Wymer 1993, 146-148; Roe 1968, 177-179 and 153). It is possible that the 'natural' deposits from which the Westhawk Farm artefacts derive, are also part of terrace 3 of the Great Stour (see map S2 of the Southern Rivers Palaeolithic Project Report number 2 1992-1993).

## MESOLITHIC FLINT

by R N E Barton

An assemblage of 29 flints dating from the Mesolithic was recovered from gully 8087 and ditch 8418, possibly redeposited from a contemporary feature or surface truncated by the gully and ditch. A small number of isolated finds (possibly *c.* 10 flints), may also date from the Mesolithic but are included in Table 2.3 in the Neolithic and Bronze Age flint assemblage.

### Context 8088 (fill of gully 8087)

The seventeen flint artefacts in this assemblage consist of 11 flakes, 4 blades, 1 core tablet and 1 piece of shatter. Fourteen of the artefacts are of a brown mottled flint and could derive from the same core reduction sequence, although attempts to refit the assemblage proved negative. The artefacts are in generally sharp condition and only lightly patinated. The presence of cortical surfaces on nine of the artefacts, plus the existence of a core tablet, demonstrates that some parts of the early stages of core reduction are represented in this group. If the artefacts did all come from the same knapping sequence they could have been introduced into the gully fill as a result of waste disposal or site clearance activity or have been part of a flint scatter knapped *in situ*. However, for each of these cases much higher numbers of small flint chips (< 10 mm) would be expected to survive. The absence of such pieces in this assemblage suggests a form of winnowing and implies that the artefacts may have

been incorporated from a nearby surface and not deliberately deposited. Four artefacts show evidence of thermal damage but this does not necessarily mean the local presence of a hearth. The pieces could have been affected by post-depositional burning of the ground's surface (eg brush fires).

The only retouched tool is a flake with direct, semi-abrupt to abrupt retouch along part of its right lateral margin. Although the tool in itself is not particularly diagnostic, it is interesting to note that negative flake scars on its dorsal surface indicate bi-directional removals from an opposed platform core. Combined with features on many of the other artefacts, and assuming the assemblage to be homogeneous, it is likely that this small collection of flints is of Mesolithic age.

### Context 8090 (fill of ditch 8418)

Ten artefacts, mainly of debitage, and comprising 5 flakes, 2 blades, 1 bidirectionally crested blade, 1 bladelet and 1 microlith tool (Table 2.2). The assemblage is only lightly patinated and is in fresh condition with minimum signs of post-depositional modification. The most characteristic pieces of debitage in the collection are a crested blade and a plunging blade. The plunging blade is 42 mm long and derives from the edge of an opposed platform core that shows typical bladelet removals. The crested blade is a distinctive piece, which belongs to the preparatory phases of blade core, manufacture (Barton 1997). Also in this group is a broken bladelet (defined as a small blade less than 12 mm wide). All of these pieces can be seen as belonging to a Mesolithic technology.

The only diagnostic tool is a microlith, which can be defined within Clark's type A, as an obliquely blunted point (Clark 1934). The microlith point has direct abrupt retouch on its left side. It is 49 mm long and 13 mm wide, and is fairly thick (5 mm). The flint is a rich brown colour and is in sharp condition. There are some signs of damage (minute step fractures and a snap) on the ventral surface at the proximal tip probably incurred during use and suggestive of drilling (Alison Roberts pers. comm.). Similar damage has also been reported in the past on microliths believed to have been used as arrowheads (Barton 1992).

### Context 8093 (fill of ditch 8418)

These are two broken flakes of undiagnostic types. Both flakes display unilinear flake scars on their dorsal surfaces indicating that they were detached from one-platform cores. One of the pieces has direct abrupt retouch developed along part of the break edge. Due to the generally fresh, unpatinated appearance of the flake it is tempting to suppose that the retouch is the result of deliberate manufacture. The artefact also shows a notch at its distal end. It does not conform to any of the major classes of Mesolithic tools; rather it belongs to a miscellaneous category, which is more likely to be of post-Mesolithic type.

Table 2.2 Summary of Mesolithic flint assemblage.

Category Type	Context			Total
	8088	8090	8093	
Flake	10	5	1	16
Blade	4	2		6
Bladelet		1		1
Shatter	1			1
Rejuvenation flake tablet	1			1
Crested blade		1		1
Microlith		1		1
Retouched flake	1		1	2
Total	17	10	2	29
No. burnt flints	4	-	-	4
(%)	(23.5)			(13.8)
No. broken flints	8	6	2	16
(%)	(47.1)	(60)	(100)	(55.2)
No. retouched flints	1	1	1	3
(%)	(5.9)	(10)	(50)	(10.4)

### Individual finds

A small number of individual finds (*c* 10 flints) recovered across the site may also date from the Mesolithic. These flints are primarily blades and blade fragments, such as a narrow plunging blade (<12mm wide) from context 8473 which was struck from an opposed platform bladelet core and a narrow bladelet from context 9706 that exhibits heavy platform edge abrasion and traits of soft hammer percussion. Two retouched tools, a possible tranchet axe and an end of blade scraper, also belong to this period. The scraper is at the proximal end of a broken blade. The semi-abrupt, direct retouch only extends across part of the break suggesting the tool was unfinished. The scraper is characterised by a uniform, slightly milky patina that covers the entire piece. The quality of manufacture and size of the blade support (width 20 mm x thickness 7 mm) strongly suggest an early Mesolithic or late Palaeolithic tool type. The possible tranchet axe (SF1) was recovered from the topsoil and is slightly rolled with some unpatinated recent damage. The artefact is quite roughly manufactured and is 123 mm in length.

Due to the problem of identifying individual Mesolithic flints with any degree of confidence the finds are included in Table 2.3 with the Neolithic and Bronze Age flintwork.

### NEOLITHIC AND BRONZE AGE FLINT

by H Lamdin-Whymark

The Neolithic and Bronze Age assemblage consists of 155 flints, although this figure includes ten possible Mesolithic flints discussed as individual finds above. The Neolithic and Bronze Age flintwork was spread relatively evenly across the excavated area and none was contained in contemporary features, most being recovered from Roman contexts. Due to the disturbed character and mixed date of the flintwork the assemblage is discussed as a whole with reference to broad technological and typological trends.

### Methodology

The artefacts were catalogued according to broad artefact/debitage type, general condition noted and dating attempted where possible. Unworked burnt flint was quantified by fragment count and weight.

### Raw Material and Condition

The majority of the flint in the assemblage exhibited abraded cortices, and interiors that varied through light to dark browns and greys. Thermal fractures were a common trait of this flint. This flint probably derived from the superficial gravel and clay with flint deposits present over much of the weald, and was locally available either from surface collection or riverbeds. There were occasional pieces of relatively good quality black flint which may have originated from the chalk, although no thick chalk cortices were found to support this statement.

The condition of the flint was generally poor. Numerous flints exhibited some post-depositional edge damage and a few flints were rolled; several plough nicks were also present. The condition of the flintwork is consistent with having been redeposited.

### Assemblage

The assemblage is primarily flake based, although a few blades and blade-like flakes are present. The flint was struck using a mixture of soft and hard hammer percussion, although the latter dominates the assemblage. A number of trimming flakes, including cortical trimming flakes, are present. The cores include both single and multi-platform flake varieties, many of which lack platform preparation and platform edge abrasion. A single platform blade core, with platform edge abrasion, was also present. In addition, a multi-platform flake core, weighing 154 g, was re-used as a hammerstone.

A total of fourteen retouched tools (excluding two Mesolithic forms) were present, accounting for 9.5% of the assemblage. Four of the tools were scrapers, manufactured on thick flakes and all relatively crudely retouched. Other retouched artefacts include a crudely retouched piercer made on a flake, two notched flakes and seven simple edge retouched flakes. One of the notched flakes also exhibited abrupt edge retouch around much of artefact's circumference.

### Conclusions

The assemblage includes flintwork with differing technological traits. However, the majority of the material represents the production of flakes and therefore probably dates from the late Neolithic or Bronze Age, although the presence of a small number of Mesolithic flints is noted above, and it is likely that several Neolithic flints are also present. Further refinement of the dating is hindered by a lack of typologically diagnostic artefacts.

The limited number of Neolithic and Bronze Age flints recovered from Westhawk Farm and the ab-



Table 2.3 Summary of the Neolithic and Bronze Age flint assemblage.

Category Type	Total
Flake	104
Blade	9
Blade-like	4
Irregular waste	1
Chip	2
Sieved chips 10-4 mm	6
Rejuvenation flake tablet	1
Thinning flake	1
Core single platform blade core	1
Single platform flake core	1
Multi-platform flake core	5
Keeled non-discoidal flake core	1
Core on a flake	2
End scraper	2
End and side scraper	2
Scraper on a non-flake blank	1
Piercer	1
Notch	2
Retouched flake	7
Tranchet axe	1
Hammerstone	1
Total	155
Total (excluding chips)	147
No. burnt flints (% assemblage excluding chips)	9 (6.1%)
No. broken flints (% assemblage excluding chips)	38 (25.9%)
No. retouched flints (% assemblage excluding chips)	16 (10.9%)
Burnt unworked flint (g)	101 (828)

sence of contemporary features suggest that the assemblage represents a low intensity background spread, an is derived from an occasional presence in the Neolithic and Bronze Age rather than representing a specific activity area, although it is possible some of the flints relate to activity in the possible Bronze Age field system.

### POSSIBLE BRONZE AGE FIELD SYSTEM

Later prehistoric activity was indicated by series of shallow ditches or gullies forming part of a probable field system, the orientation of which may conceivably have influenced the Roman road alignment (Fig. 2.1). None of the ditches produced dating evidence, but a Bronze Age date is possible, and perhaps likely (see discussion below). The basis of the system was a north-east to south-west aligned axial ditch, Groups 1640/10100: two ditches running virtually end to end, with distinct terminals in both. The north-east end of 1640, which extended beyond the limit of Area B, had a broad shallow flat based profile, which changed to a more V-shaped profile to the south-west, as seen also in 10100. Both ditches had a characteristic pale grey silt fill. The alignment was continued south-west of the south-west terminal of ditch 10100 by Group 10485. Running parallel to these ditches approximately 36 m to the south-east were segmented ditch Groups 10140/1820, 10130 and 10120.

At right angles to this series of parallel ditches were the remains of a possible division boundary, ditch 9590 orientated north-west to south-east. This was approximately 12 m in length, 1.30 m wide and 0.20 m deep and was also filled by a single deposit of pale grey silt. A similarly aligned length of ditch (1735) lay west of the axial boundary 1640 at the extreme north-east edge of Area B. It survived beneath the line of the Roman Canterbury road, but it is not clear whether it was (coincidentally) coterminous with the limits of the road, in which case it would have been of very similar length to ditch 9590, or whether it was significantly truncated at both ends by Roman roadside features. Some 113 m south-west of 1735 was another short length of north-west to south-east aligned ditch (Group 10200) of similar character. Associated with this was a short length of roughly north-south aligned ditch 8517. This passed through the line of the later road and looked in plan like a continuation of Period 2 Phase 2-3 ditch 8700, but its fill was of the characteristic pale grey silt and suggests that it was prehistoric in origin. A small group of early Roman pottery from this feature was presumably intrusive.

In the south-western part of the site was a north-west to south-east aligned ditch (Group 10110), which terminated approximately 9 m short of Group 10100. Parallel to 10110 was ditch 9480, which then turned to the north-east and continued for 52 m before being completely truncated by the ditch sequence on the north-west side of the Roman road. Running between the roadside ditches was Group 10160, aligned north-west to south-east and extending for 17 m. At the southern end of the site, south-east of ditch 10485, was a series of small segmented ditches aligned north-east to south-west comprising features 10080, 10090, 9943 and 9945. Ditch 10486, which lay between ditch 10485 and the segmented sequence, was on the same alignment. All of the above ditches contained the characteristic pale grey silt fill, with no stratigraphic relationship between them.

A small number of discrete features produced prehistoric pottery. Possible tree-throw pit 8241 was located approximately 16 m south-east of ditch 10100. It was 2.70 m in diameter and 0.18 m deep and was filled by a single grey silt with lenses of orange natural clay throughout. Pit 791, which lay in the north corner of Area B, was up to 2 m across and c 0.30 m deep, with steep sides and a flat base. The middle of its three fills, of light grey brown silty clay, contained pottery and charcoal. Posthole 1130 was part of fence line Group 1070, a second phase of boundary for the shrine complex.

Together these features produced 46 sherds (462 g) of pottery, out of a total of 54 sherds (502 g) of such material from the site overall. Some of the sherds were abraded and those in posthole 1130 must be residual. The pottery was all tempered with calcined flint. Feature sherds were lacking but the general character of the material and the thicknesses of many of the sherds are consistent with a middle Bronze Age date; though a later date is possible.

