

ARCHÆOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT BEEDLE'S QUARRY, EAST GOSCOTE, LEICESTERSHIRE

by

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Summary

Limited rescue investigations at a suspected Mesolithic site at Beedle's Quarry, during the destruction of the site by gravel extraction, failed to locate stratified Mesolithic horizons, but flint artifacts indicated the presence of some Mesolithic activity in the area. Later prehistoric and Romano-British occupation of the site was attested by flint and pottery finds, and an aerial photograph revealed cropmark enclosures.

Introduction

The site (National Grid Reference SK 637139), in the civil parish of East Goscote, is situated on the eastern edge of the flood plain of the River Wreake, at the junction between the alluvium and the gravel terrace, approximately 175 feet above Ordnance Datum. The locality is alternatively known as Broom Lodge, and it was until recently in the parish of Rearsby. Figs. 1A and 1B give the location of the site in its local and regional setting.

The writer first became aware of the site after examining a small collection of flint artifacts, which included Mesolithic forms, housed in the Jewry Wall Museum, Leicester, said to have come from Pit Field, Broom Lodge, Ratcliffe-on-the-Wreake (see appendix). A visit to the area was made in summer 1970, and a surface scatter of flints noted over a fairly wide area around Broom Lodge, from the B674 road on the north, to the road and railway on the south, on ground which was already disturbed by quarrying and rubbish tipping. This general scatter was perhaps fortuitous, in view of the various agencies which had been disturbing the topsoil, but a partly destroyed sandy bank at SK 63701382, which yielded several flints and a perforated stone implement, suggested itself as a possible focus for early prehistoric occupation.

On a return visit to the site in October 1970, it was found that gravel extraction had accelerated across the area, and the sandy bank had been bulldozed away. However, the section exposed in the face of the quarry at one point close to the edge of the alluvium (Area 1), revealed two distinct horizons of an organic mud deposit interrupting the stratigraphy. A few flint flakes were protruding from the section, and animal bone fragments were noted in the upper organic mud lense. In view of the possibility of associating

Mesolithic artifacts with this stratigraphy, and the suitability of the organic mud deposit for C^{14} assay, it was decided to undertake some emergency investigation at the site.

Accordingly, excavation took place on three weekends in November 1970, immediately after which the site was destroyed archæologically by gravel extraction. Subsequent to the excavation it was discovered that an aerial photograph of the site showing cropmarks existed, and the implications of this are discussed below.

The Excavation

Given limited time and resources, it was decided to concentrate attention at two points, designated Areas 1 and 2, which were only 40 metres apart. Both Areas 1 and 2 are within the excavation area outlined in fig. 1B, and a more detailed site plan is omitted as no archæological features are involved. The National Grid Reference for the excavated area is SK 63781397.

Area 1 Here use was made of the disturbance caused by gravel extraction, insofar as the face of the quarry was simply cut back and cleaned up at three separate points in order to record the stratigraphy. The sections obtained were fairly uniform, and can be summarized diagrammatically by the section given in fig. 2, which reflects the stratigraphy close to the edge of the alluvium.

A total of 11 flint artifacts were recovered from Area 1, of which 2 were from layer 3, 2 from layer 5, 5 from layer 6, and 2 not stratigraphically recorded. One small fragment of Romano-British pottery was found, together with two sherds of prehistoric pottery, one from layer 3, the other from layer 4. In addition there were 6 minute fragments of prehistoric pottery. Fragments of animal bone were recovered from the base of layer 3, and layer 4. None of these fragments were identifiable, but the original investigation of the same spot in October 1970 produced a fragmentary tibia and two teeth of cattle, and a tooth of pig, from the same horizon.

Two samples of organic material from layer 6 were submitted to the Radiocarbon Laboratory at the University of Birmingham for age determination. The results of this analysis have already been published (Shotton and Williams 1973:8), showing two determinations, B-253: 3970 ± 85 B.P. and B-257: 4054 ± 122 B.P. (using the Libby Half Life of 5570 years), which are in good agreement, and indicate a date of about 2000 B.C. for the deposition of layer 6.

Area 2 The excavation here consisted of a narrow trench, 10 metres long by 1 metre wide, across the alluvium-terrace junction. The siting of the trench was determined by the desire to place it where the ground was least disturbed, though even here the topsoil had been truncated. Only 5.6 metres from the centre of the resulting section could actually be recorded (fig. 3), because of damage to the trench by heavy rain at one end, and by a passing bulldozer at the other. Enough of the section remains, however, to show the edge of the two organic deposits demonstrated from Area 1, and the rising slope of the gravel.

The shallow, humus-filled ditch which crosses this area is presumably very recent, and may well be associated with the field boundary shown on

the 1958 Ordnance Survey 6-inch map, and clearly visible in the aerial photograph (plate 2), but all superficial traces of this boundary had been obliterated prior to excavation.

The 51 flint artifacts recovered from this trench were found to be evenly distributed horizontally and vertically throughout levels 1-6, up to a depth of 90 centimetres below the existing surface, without any suggestion of an archæological horizon. The pottery was of prehistoric and Romano-British type, with 2 sherds and 3 fragments of the former, and 22 sherds and 1 fragment of the latter. As with the flints, no significant correlation with levels was noted, the sherds occurring sporadically up to a maximum depth of 70 centimetres below the surface. Bone fragments were again recovered from layer 4, the only identifiable pieces being a fragmentary pig humerus, and a pig molar.

The Finds

A. Flint Artifacts

In all a collection of 112 pieces of cultural flint, weighing 853 grammes, resulted from the 1970 investigations. Areas 1 and 2 produced 62 flints, and the remaining 50 were surface finds.

The flint itself can be described as a fairly good quality, reasonably clear-structured flint, normally medium grey in colour, though this can vary towards black, light-grey, grey-brown, and brown-red. Only 24 of the total are discoloured by cortication, ranging from a slight bluish tinge to dense creamy white. The physical condition of the flints is usually very fresh, with sharp edges, and with little evidence for rolling or water-wear. The flints from the organic horizons usually remain especially fresh. A great variety is apparent in the type and thickness of cortex, the degree of abrasion of which varies enormously. Frequently the pebbles exploited have undergone natural fracturing leaving densely corticated surfaces. The raw material is assumed to be derived pebble flint, no doubt obtained locally. In addition to the flint, the collection includes one small flake of black chert.

The 112 flints can be subdivided typologically as follows:

waste flakes	80	microliths	1
core rejuvenation flakes	1	plano-convex knives	1
core fragments	4	scrapers	2
cores	8	points	1
flaked lumps	1	miscellaneous retouched	13
	—		—
	94		18

With a small mixed collection of this type it is not possible to do more than comment on some of the individual types and classes represented.

The 8 cores include 4 single-platform types, 3 two-platform types, and 1 three-platform type. They have an average maximum dimension of 4.3 centimetres (max. 6.1; min. 2.9), and an average weight of 42.5 grammes (max. 115; min. 10). Five of the cores are illustrated in figs. 4-5. Nos. 9 and 11 are bipolar, No. 9 being the smallest core in the sample. No. 10, and a similar example which is not illustrated, are single-platform pebble cores

which appear to have been unsuccessful because flakes have hinged-out after travelling only a short distance down the face of the core. No. 6 is another single-platform core, this time residual, and No. 12, which is the largest core in the sample, is also in its present stage a single-platform type, though it has obviously had prior flaking from a platform now removed. The three-platform core, which is not illustrated, has a bipolar element, and can be regarded as a Mesolithic type, along with No. 11. Both are corticated, though only slightly in the case of No. 11. The only other corticated core is a two-platform type which is not definitely Mesolithic, while the other cores are not especially diagnostic, but are presumably post-Mesolithic in type.

The other waste material is very varied, but does include 3 Mesolithic-looking bladelets, all densely discoloured, which were surface finds. Four of the waste flakes have possible edge utilization. Three of the waste pieces are burnt, and one of these is completely calcined.

Amongst the retouched pieces, the most significant forms are the microlith and the plano-convex knife. The microlith (fig. 4, No. 1) is damaged at the base, but has blunting down the upper left-hand side, and on the lower right-hand side. It is corticated with a light blue-grey discolouration, and is only otherwise distinctive in being relatively thick (4 millimetres maximum) in relation to its length and breadth. The plano-convex knife (fig. 4, No. 4) is a finely worked implement on dark grey-black flint, measuring 5.1 centimetres long, by 2.7 centimetres broad, by 0.65 centimetres in maximum thickness. The retouch is of the flat-flaked, scale type, giving bilateral sharp edges. The tip of the implement is semi-pointed, and at the base the striking platform has been removed or is broken off.

Both of the scrapers are slightly damaged. Fig. 4, No. 8, is apparently a double side-scraper of "thumb" type, and the other example is an irregular type on a thermal flake. The point (fig. 4, No. 3) is fashioned from a pointed flake with minimal retouch.

In the miscellaneous category the secondary working is usually very slight, and in some cases may be fortuitous or non-functional. The most distinctive examples are illustrated. Fig. 4, No. 5 is a densely discoloured blade, broken at the top, with a retouched notch in the middle right-hand side. Fig. 4, No. 7 is a thermal flake, with steep, open retouch on one edge, which has considerable abrasion in the concave portion. Fig. 4, No. 2 is a bulbar bladelet segment, with slight retouch at the top right-hand side. Though superficially resembling a micro-burin, this is unlikely in view of the angle of the retouch and the configuration of the original bladelet.

In summary, it is clear from the two diagnostic pieces, the microlith and the plano-convex knife, that at least two cultural traditions, probably very widely separated in time, are represented amongst the flint finds. However, while these two implements can be labelled Mesolithic and Late Neolithic/Bronze Age respectively, the remaining artifacts are difficult to sort with reference to cultural typology. At least 2 of the cores, and the notched blade, are probably Mesolithic, and these, like the microlith, are corticated. It may be that in the case of the densely discoloured artifacts the cortication is a chronological indicator, but this applies to very few examples,

almost all of which are unstratified. The microlith, which was excavated in Area 2, came from layer 2 only 20 centimetres below the existing surface. One of the Mesolithic cores was a surface find, the other came from layer 5 in Area 1. The plano-convex knife came from the Area 2 locality, but was unstratified. There is therefore, no basis for subdividing the flints culturally by stratigraphy or other internal methods, other than typologically in a very limited way.

B. Pottery

The small sherd assemblage was subdivided into two groups, prehistoric and Romano-British.

(i) Prehistoric pottery. Total: 6 sherds and 9 fragments.

At least four different fabrics could be isolated.

1. Hard black core, buff exterior, and smoothed black interior. Gritted and micaceous. One wall sherd, 5.2 cms \times 3.9 cms \times 0.8-1.1 cms thick.
2. Grey core, pink-buff exterior, buff interior, Quartz gritting and micaceous. One wall sherd, 4.4 cms \times 3.0 cms \times 1.4 cms thick. Possibly rough Romano-British ware?
3. Hard black fabric. One small rim fragment, with very slight external lip (fig. 6, P1).
4. Black-grey, gritted fabric. Three small, very abraded wall sherds. Possibly Romano-British.

The 9 fragments are uncharacteristic except that they have some gritting. There is also a piece of partially-fired sandy clay, 4.1 cms in maximum length, which incorporates a piece of flint 1.4 cms long. This could possibly be pottery or daub.

The only sherds which seem to be distinctively prehistoric are the large sherd and the rim, both of which can most readily be accepted as Iron Age in type.¹ The rim was unstratified, and the large sherd was from layer 4, Area 1.

(ii) Romano-British pottery. Total: 22 sherds and 2 fragments.

Apart from two abraded wall sherds of Samian, the following 13 coarse ware fabrics could be isolated, though they are often represented by single sherds, and cannot be given any precision in such a small sample. The distinction between some of the fabrics is minimal.

1. Thin, soft grey core, pink outer, internal black slip. 1 wall sherd.
2. Soft grey fabric, variable thickness. 4 sherds, including 1 rim fragment, and 1 sherd with a sharp curve.
3. Harder grey fabric, some gritting. 2 rim fragments, 1 plain, 1 slightly everted, and 1 abraded wall sherd.
4. Grey fabric, some gritting, light core, dark surfaces. 1 wall sherd with incised decoration, presumably from the shoulder of a jar (fig. 6, P2).
5. Brittle grey fabric, some gritting. 1 wall sherd.
6. Soft orange fabric. 2 very abraded wall sherds.
7. Thin, orange core, exterior slip? 1 wall sherd.
8. Soft, brown core, grey outer. 1 base fragment (fig. 6, P3).
9. Thin, grey with orange core. 1 wall sherd.

10. Grey core, orange outer. 2 wall sherds, one more gritty.
 11. Hard, black, gritted fabric. 1 wall sherd.
 12. Soft, orange core, grey outer. 1 wall sherd.
 13. Thin hard fabric, black core, buff outer with black surface. 1 wall sherd.
- In addition there was 1 fragment of brick or tile, and 1 fragment of a tessera.

There is very little to be said about this assemblage. The only partially reconstructible form is the base of a small vase or beaker (P3). Of the 3 rim fragments, one at least is from a jar. Stratigraphically, the information obtained from Area 2, where at least one sherd was found 70 centimetres below the surface in layer 6, indicated the absence of any horizon to which the pottery could be related. Moreover, the abraded condition of many of the Romano-British sherds suggests redeposition.

C. Stone

The only stone artifact from the site is a perforated flat disc (fig. 7, S1), which was found on the surface on the initial visit to the site (see above). The rock has been identified macroscopically by Mr. J. Hedges as a volcanic ash, a hornstone almost certainly from Charnwood Forest, and quite possibly from Beacon Hill, which is only $7\frac{3}{4}$ miles (12.4 kilometres) in a straight line east of Beedle's Quarry.

As can be seen from the illustration, this implement has been considerably worn and damaged, and the original edge is completely destroyed. The surviving portions of the original surface are smooth, but this probably results from wear rather than deliberate polishing. The circular perforation is worn smooth, but unevenly so, as though by something passing through it at an angle, since the opposite edges of the hole are worn on each face. In its present state the implement weighs 180 grammes, has a maximum dimension of 9.7 centimetres, a maximum thickness of 1.8 centimetres, and the perforation has a maximum width of 2.8 centimetres.

Both the function and the cultural ascription of this artifact remain obscure. It bears some superficial resemblance to implements included in the category of hour-glass perforated pebble maceheads, for which a Mesolithic date is often claimed, but it has no precise parallels in that series, which are rarely flat. The hour-glass nature of the perforation in the present instance may be due to wear rather than the way in which the perforation was made. A Mesolithic date is not necessarily precluded, however, especially since the rock is local. The implement is in fact rather similar to a perforated disc from Aldbourne, Wiltshire (Evens, Smith and Wallis 1972: fig. 5), which is composed of Group VI rock from Great Langdale, Westmoreland, and thought to be of Neolithic date.

Alternatively, it is possible to suggest functions such as a haystack weight, or a net-sinker, in which case the artifact could be of very recent antiquity. It is also of a similar size to objects classified as loom-weights on Iron Age and Romano-British sites.

D. Bone

As described under the account of the excavation, almost all of the bone

found was fragmentary. Those pieces which could be identified indicated the presence of pig and cattle. All the bone came from in, or just above, the upper organic horizon, layer 4.

E. Plant Remains

Fragmentary wood and plant remains were recovered from both of the organic mud deposits, layers 4 and 6. The most substantial pieces came from layer 6, and these formed the basis for the C¹⁴ determination. The only species actually identified was *quercus* (oak), from layer 4, but this was certainly not the only species present.

Discussion

The stratigraphy as revealed by the sections obtained from Areas 1 and 2 (figs. 2 and 3), is clearly natural, relating to successive phases in the recent alluviation of the Wreake flood-plain, and the occurrence of finds which belong to diverse chronological periods, mixed up in the supra-gravel deposits can be explained by mechanical action without the involvement of human agencies. The two horizons of organic mud are presumably to be interpreted as the result of periods when the area in question was marshy, or had standing water of some sort, allowing for a build-up of organic material in conditions conducive to its preservation. It seems most likely that this kind of situation relates to local factors, such as changes in the course of the river-bed across its flood-plain, but it could possibly also be linked to general factors, such as changes in the climatic conditions. The silty, sandy clay levels are the result of alluvial deposition. The C¹⁴ determination of about 2000 B.C. for the deposition of layer 6 indicates that the overlying stratigraphy (1.25 metres deep in Area 1) has accumulated since then. The Mesolithic finds can be presumed to antedate the deposition of layer 6, and can therefore be seen to be in derived positions. All the other finds, including the plano-convex knife and whatever flints are of the same cultural origin, are regarded as post-dating layer 6, but in view of their haphazard vertical distribution, and the absence of a definable archæological horizon, these too must be interpreted as redeposited. The sections from Areas 1 and 2 are therefore only archæological significant in a limited negative sense, since no *in situ* cultural activity at the edge of the alluvium has been demonstrated, and the origin of the cultural material is likely to have been higher up the terrace.

The finds themselves simply point to the existence of activity and/or occupation in the area at various periods in prehistory and during the Roman occupation.

The Aerial Photograph (Plate 2)

Subsequent to the excavation, and quite accidentally, the writer discovered, during an examination of the archæological records kept by the Ordnance Survey at its Southampton headquarters, the existence of an aerial photograph of the Beedle's Quarry area, taken some time ago by Dr. J. K. St. Joseph. The photograph is taken from the south-east, and alignment with the map (fig. 1B) is easily obtained by reference to the railway line which appears

in the upper right-hand corner. The farm building at the bottom right is part of Broom Lodge, and the curving hedge on the left roughly follows the line of the edge of the alluvium. The field represented in the photograph can clearly be located on the 1958 edition of the 6-inch Ordnance Survey map, sheet SK 61 SW, centred on SK 637139. The photograph was taken before any gravel extraction, rubbish tipping, or hedge uprooting had taken place, and presents quite a different vista to that pertaining at the time of the 1970 excavation. The position of the excavation would have been close to the line of the curving hedge, towards the far left of the photograph.

The main cropmark features visible in the photograph are three separate sub-rectangular enclosures, with rounded corners, in the centre of the central field. The upper and lower enclosures are visible in their entirety, and do not appear to have any gaps. They range in size from about 8.5 metres at the narrowest part, to 20 metres at the widest, with the lower enclosure measuring something like 19.5 by 10 metres. The complete outline of the middle enclosure cannot be determined, but it seems likely that it has a gap on its upper side.

Several other vague linear features are visible, including an irregularly rectangular feature to the left of the lower of the main enclosures, a three-sided, right-angled feature immediately beyond the upper enclosure, and two other sub-rectangular or circular enclosures. In addition to these the area is dotted with small, roughly circular features, some of which appear inside the enclosures already mentioned.

The interpretation of these cropmarks in archaeological terms is somewhat difficult. The general consensus appears to be that features of the shape and size of the three most prominent enclosures are most likely to be house-sites of Iron Age or Romano-British date (RCHM 1960:12-15), though there can be no certainty about this interpretation. For example, the excavations at Barford on the Warwickshire Avon (Oswald 1969) included four enclosures with roughly comparable external dimensions to those at Beedle's Quarry. Site C at Barford, measuring 13 by 12 metres, was found to be a Late Neolithic house-site; site E, 15 by 13 metres, was Iron Age but of uncertain function; site G1, 17 by 12 metres, was Iron Age and probably a house-site; and site G2, 13 by 11 metres, was probably Iron Age but of uncertain function. Of these Barford sites only site C had no entrance gap in its surrounding ditch, the three other sites each had gaps clearly visible from the original cropmarks.

Little can be said about the less clearly defined cropmarks, but the dots which do appear to cluster around the area of the enclosure could be archaeological features such as pits. On the other hand they could possibly be old tree-holes, or reflections of natural disturbances in the underlying gravel, and in respect to this it is worth noting that the excavation of Area 2 revealed a natural, roughly circular feature in the basal gravel, layer 7.

In summary, it is reasonable to conclude from the cropmark evidence that settlement of some kind took place on the gravel terrace at Beedle's Quarry. In view of the nature of the cropmarks themselves, and taking into account the archaeological finds from the 1970 investigations, it seems most

probable that the settlement in question is of Iron Age or Romano-British date, though there can be no certainty about this. The unclustered and discrete aspect of the cropmarks, compared for example with those at Lockington, Leicestershire (St. Joseph 1968), might suggest that a single-period occupation of restricted duration is involved, though the presence of some ephemeral cropmarks, and the fact that only one photograph is available, urge caution on this point.

Conclusions

It should now be clear from this report that archæological investigations at Beedle's Quarry have been woefully inadequate. In ignorance of the existence of the aerial photograph, the 1970 excavation was planned on a purely *ad hoc* basis to examine the Mesolithic aspect of the site. Circumstances were such that little of consequence can be said about Mesolithic activity in the area, beyond documenting its presence, and the same is true for the Late Neolithic/Bronze Age?, Iron Age, and Romano-British activity suggested by the other finds. In combination with the cropmark evidence, Iron Age or Romano-British settlement on the gravel terrace at Beedle's Quarry has been postulated, but this cannot now be proved archæologically.

The present report can, therefore, do little more than point to another site of considerable archæological potential which has been destroyed by gravel extraction before adequate investigation could take place. The full implications of this fact do not need to be spelled out, but three points deserve to be made. Firstly, it is becoming clear that early agricultural settlement in the Midlands is far more widespread and dense than has customarily been appreciated. All localities where the combination of good soils and accessibility are present, are potential sites of settlement from the Neolithic onwards. Secondly, it follows that archæological surveillance in the Midlands is required for all such areas where destructive agencies, such as gravel extraction, are at work. Finally, it must be recognized that the resources for our understanding of early settlement in the Midlands are already seriously depleted, precisely because of the destruction of unrecognized sites such as that documented in the present paper. The point may soon be reached when a study of early settlement in Central England is no longer feasible, due to eradication of the primary data.

Appendix—Flint Artifacts in Leicester Museum

In order to complete this discussion of the archæology of the Beedle's Quarry area it is necessary to give a brief account of the flint artifacts in the collection of the Jewry Wall Museum, Leicester (accession No. 203'51) which first led to a recognition of the site. Unfortunately there is no full documentation as to the circumstances of discovery of the flints, or how they came into the possession of the Museum. Sixteen of the flints are labelled "Broom Lodge, 1915", while the remainder are simply marked "Ratcliffe". The additional information that at least some of the flints came from "Pit Field" perhaps indicates that they came to light during gravel extraction at the beginning of the present century.

The total collection of 122 cultural flints can be subdivided typologically as follows:

unretouched flakes, including several bladelets	69
core rejuvenation flakes, some with marginal retouch	11
cores	10
core fragments	3
scrapers	6
knives	2
points	1
tanged implement	1
miscellaneous retouched	19
	—
	122

The range of raw material utilized is similar to that already described in the case of the 1970 flint assemblage. Sixteen of the artifacts are illustrated in figs. 8-10, and only these examples will be described in detail.

The three scrapers illustrated are all rather different in type. No. 13 is fashioned on a thermal flake from an abraded pebble, and has some flaking across its base; No. 18 appears in its present form to be an end-of-blade scraper, though the scraping edge is apparently reworked across a break, and the blade probably had a different original function, to which the ancillary working such as the inverse basal retouch relates; No. 23, a small end scraper with notching on the right-hand side, has surface discolouration and may be Mesolithic. One of the knives, No. 17, is illustrated, and seems to be a plano-convex variant, executed on a thermal primary flake. The relative thickness and the angle of retouch argue against a cutting function, however, and this may actually be a scraper. The second knife is broken, but is a core rejuvenation flake with a scale-flaked cutting edge. The point, No. 15, is broken, only the distal end remaining. The retouch is of characteristically Mesolithic blunting type. The tanged implement, No. 14, is also broken, and may have been a point or a knife. Amongst the miscellaneous pieces, No. 16 is a broken blade with inverse distal truncation and bilateral marginal retouch, and No. 22 is a segment of a blunted and notched blade.

Eight of the 10 cores are figured. Nos. 20, 21, 26, and 27 each have a bipolar element, and could confidently be typed as Mesolithic, though only 2 have surface discolouration. No. 19, on a thermal flake, has possibly been utilized as a burin, though whether it was fashioned as such is unclear. The other cores, Nos. 24, 25, and 28, are less distinctive, though No. 28 shows that fairly large pebbles were sometimes available.

Overall, this assemblage is rather amorphous, and does not present any particular correlation with the 1970 assemblage. However, both collections are rather small in total, and chronologically mixed. As with the 1970 assemblage, a time range from the Mesolithic to the Bronze Age may well be involved, though the individual implements in this group are not diagnostic. The cores on the other hand show similarities in terms of type, size, and undoubtedly include a Mesolithic element.

Acknowledgements

I am particularly indebted to Dr. Lawrence Barfield, who first realized the potential of the Beedle's Quarry location, and who guided me through all phases of the investigation, as well as providing much practical help during the excavation and in the transportation of students from Birmingham. I am also grateful to Professor F. W. Shotton, who, as well as arranging for the radiocarbon determination in his department at Birmingham University, visited the site in 1970 and gave helpful comments. Dr. J. K. St. Joseph of Cambridge University kindly supplied a copy of his aerial photograph, and permitted its publication. Mr. Ben Whitwell, formerly at Leicester Museum, facilitated the study of the flints in the Museum collection, and allowed their publication. Mr. John Hedges provided the petrological identification of the stone implement. Finally, I am grateful to all those who assisted in the 1970 excavation, often in appalling conditions, including E. Blank, A. Hannan, S. Hirst, P. A. Rahtz, S. Richards, and students from the Department of Ancient History and Archæology at Birmingham University. At the time of the excavation the writer was in receipt of a D.E.S. Studentship, which allowed the research to take place.

The finds from the 1970 excavations are to be deposited in the Jewry Wall Museum, Leicester.

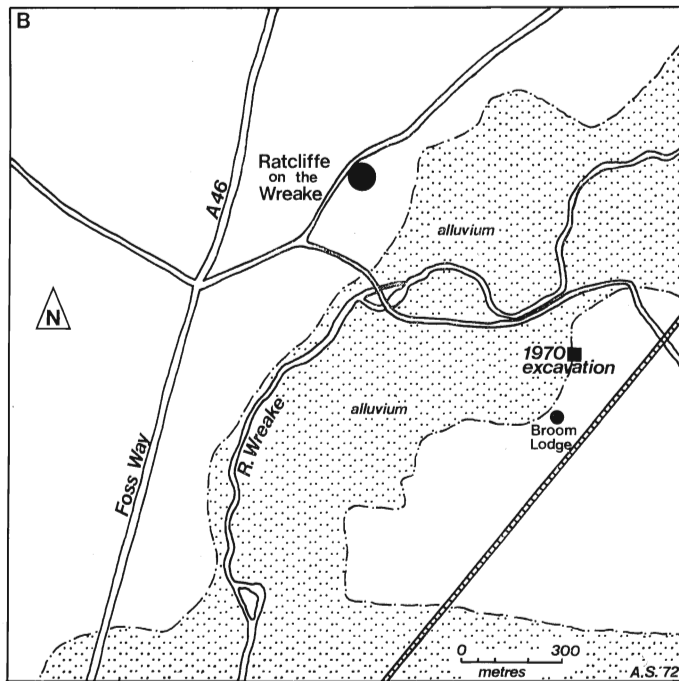
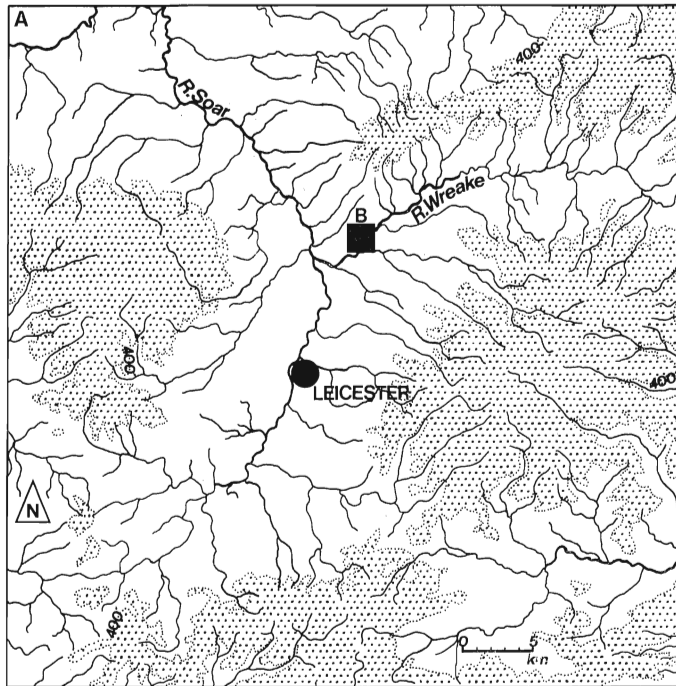
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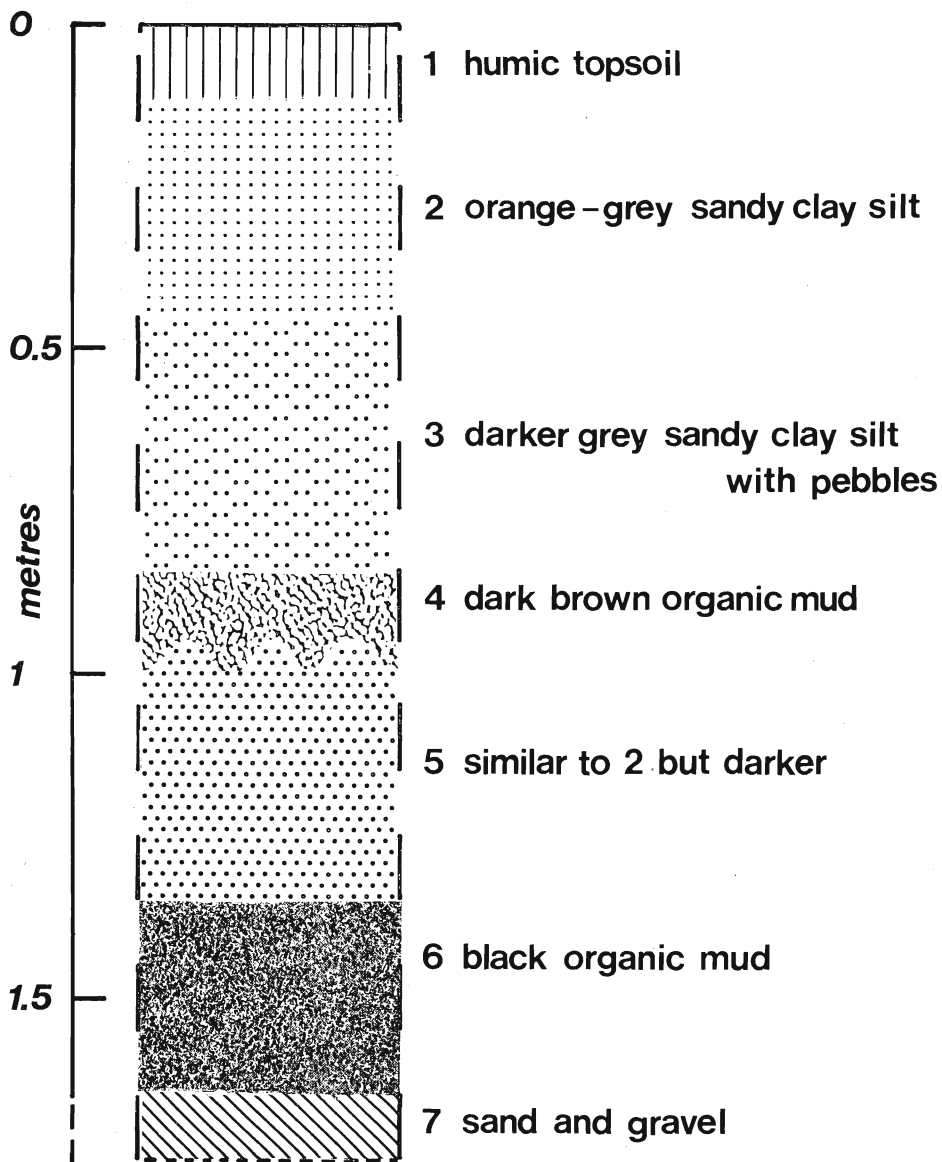
FOOTNOTE

1. Mr. B. Whitwell (personal communication) considered the large sherd to have some fairly close parallels amongst the local Iron Age pottery in the Leicester Museum collections, though the parallels involved had an exterior which was orange rather than buff

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Figs. 1A and 1B The regional and local setting of the 1970 investigation. The edge of the alluvium as shown in fig. 1B should be regarded as approximate only



BQ 70 AREA 1 diagrammatic section

Fig. 2

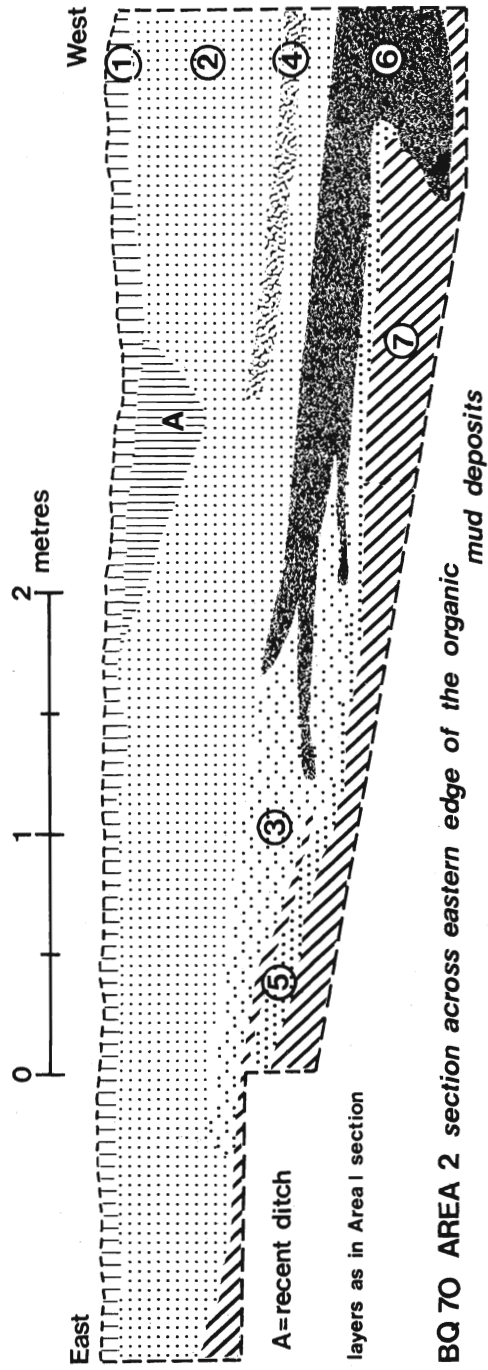


Fig. 3

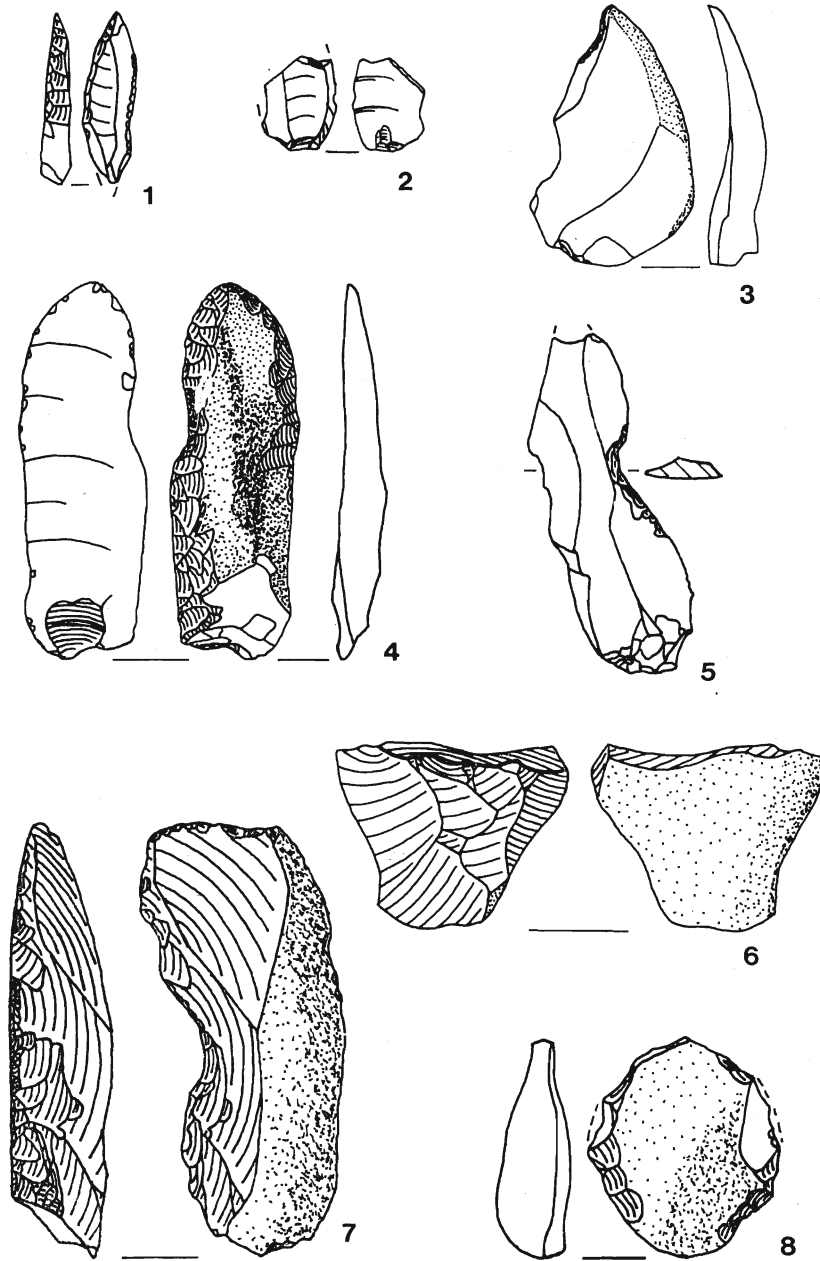


Fig. 4 Flint artifacts Nos. 1-8. Scale 1:1

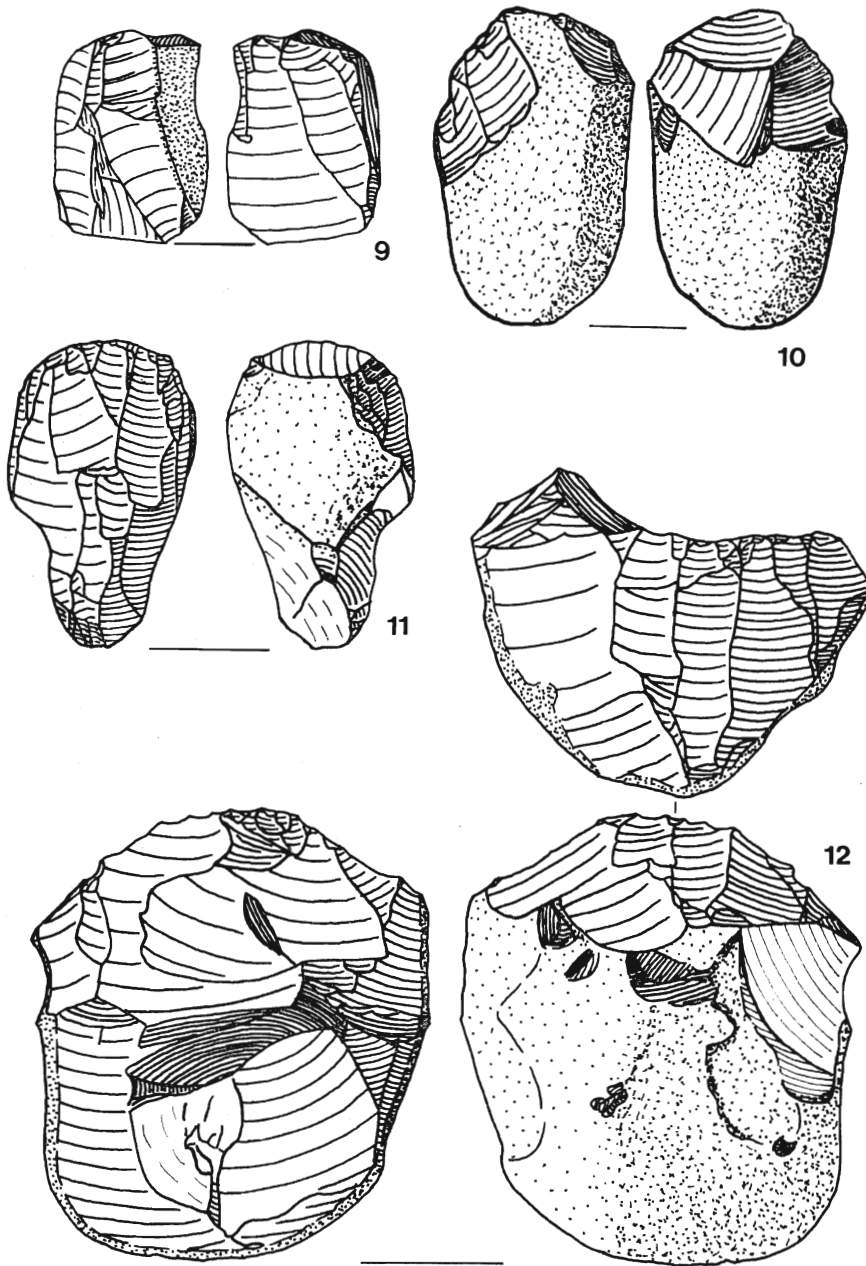


Fig. 5 Flint artifacts Nos. 9-12. Scale 1:1

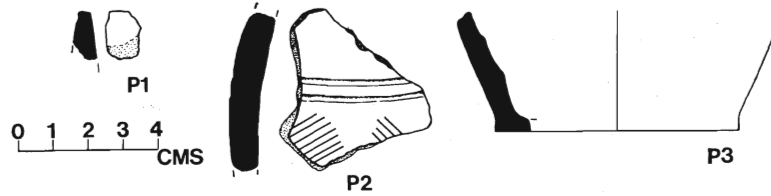


Fig. 6 Pottery

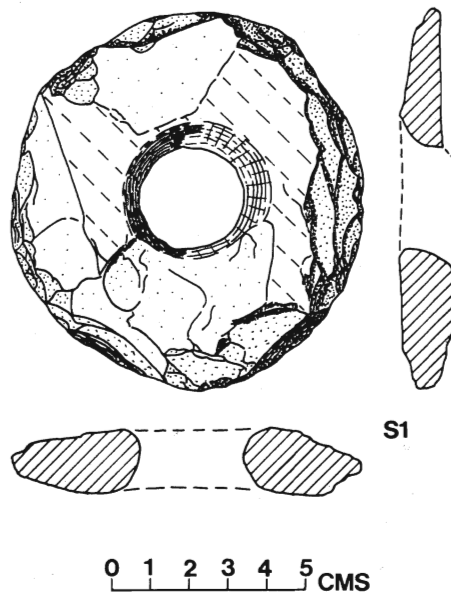


Fig. 7 Perforated stone artifact

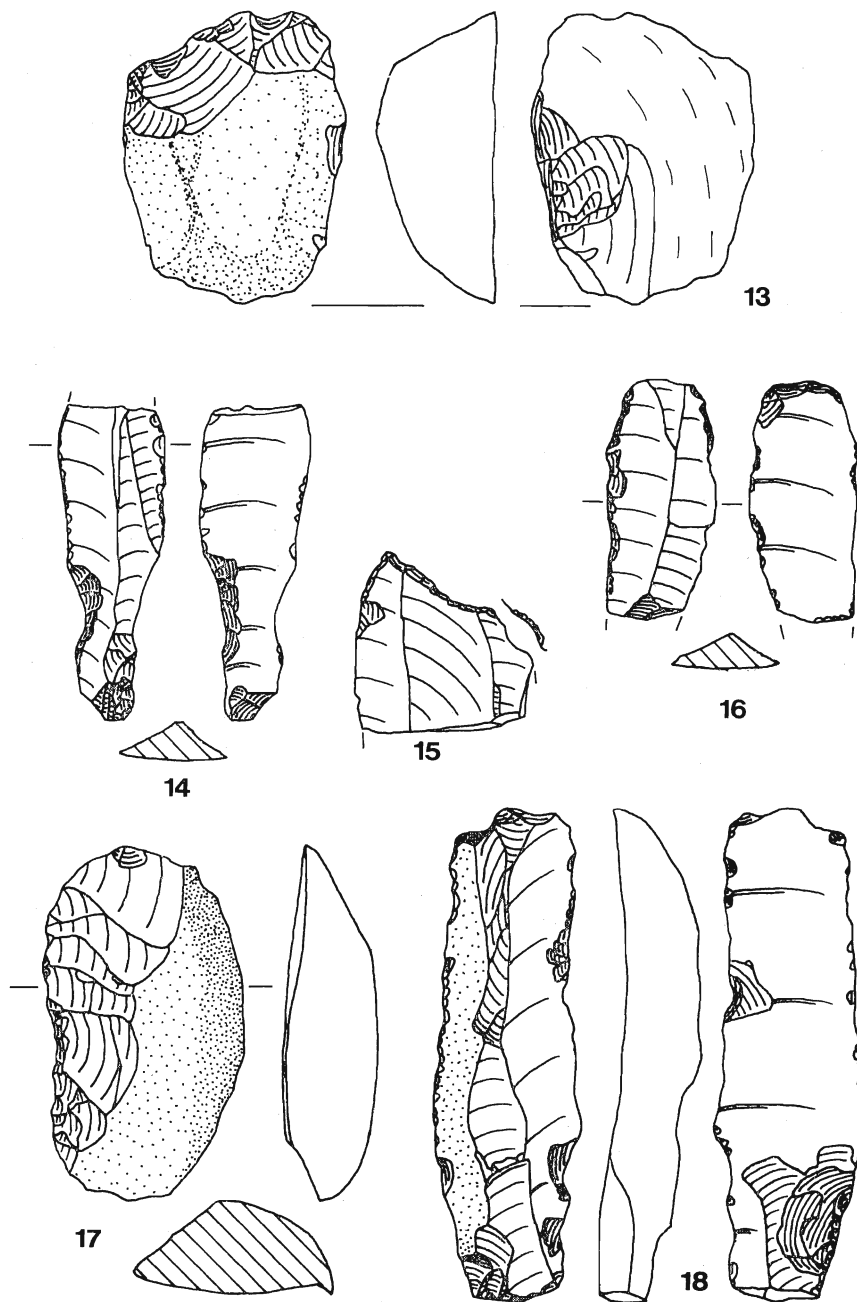


Fig. 8 Flint artifacts Nos. 13-18. Scale 1:1

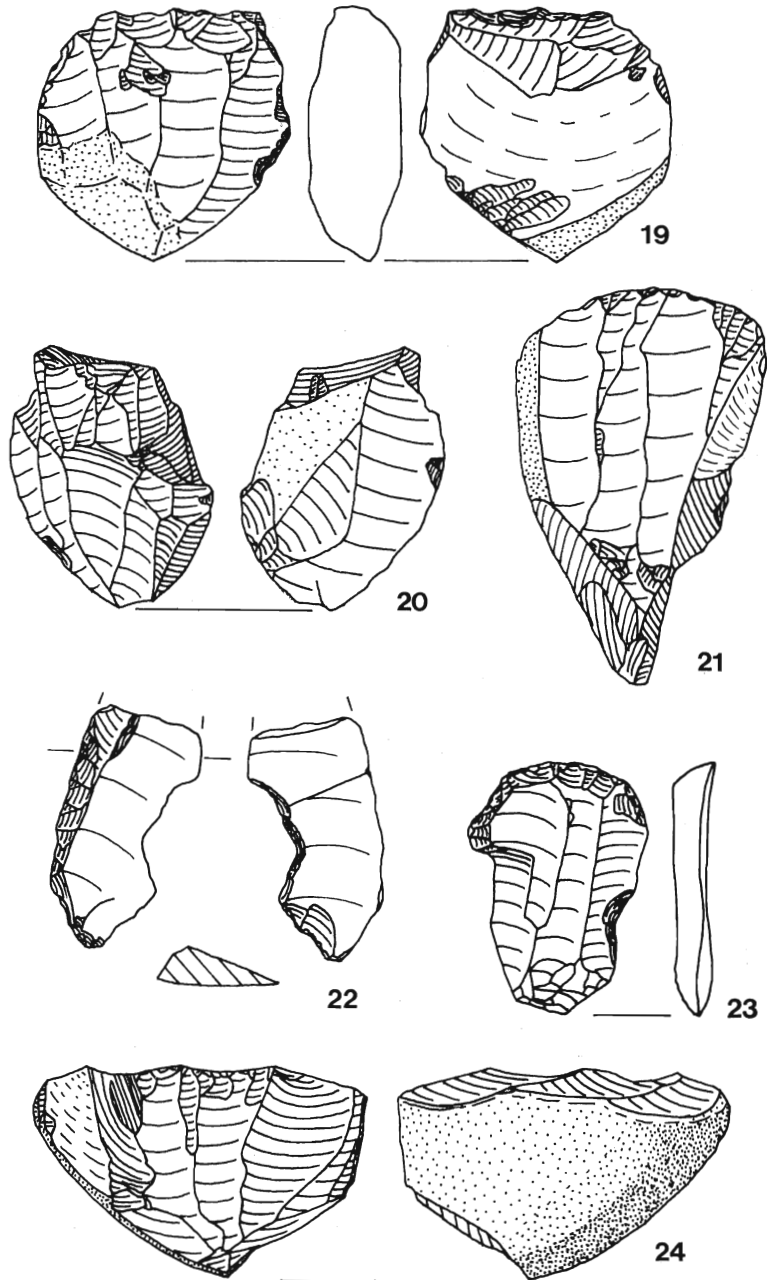


Fig. 9 Flint artifacts Nos. 19-24. Scale 1:1

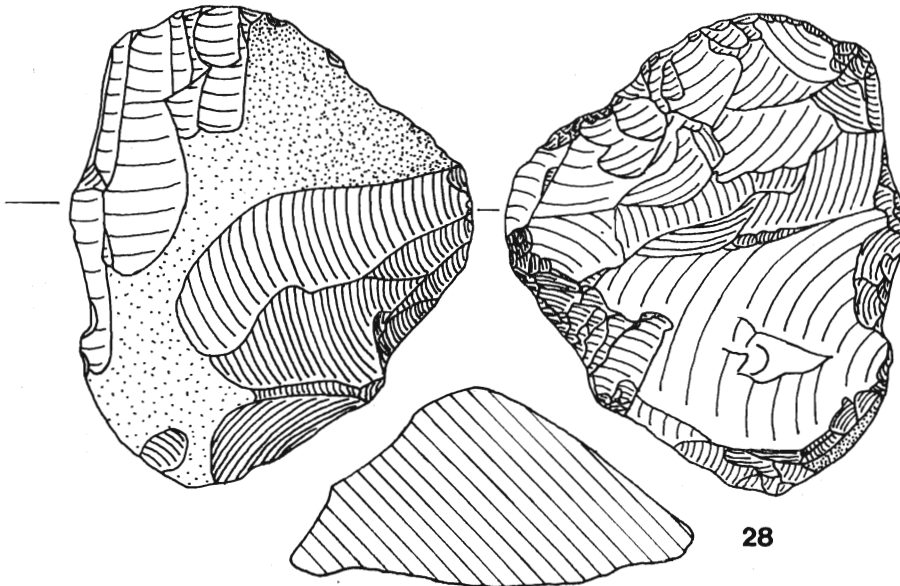
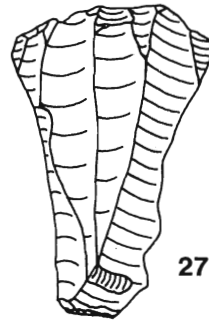
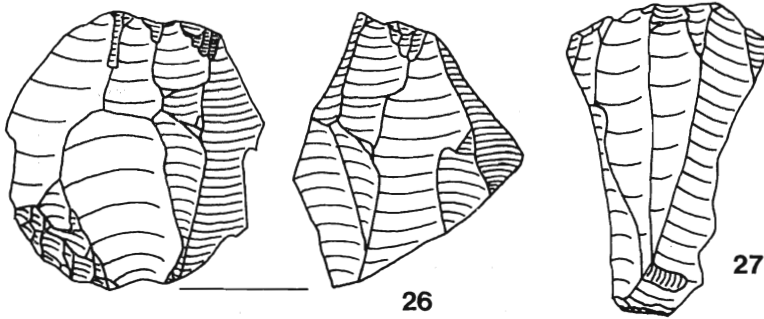
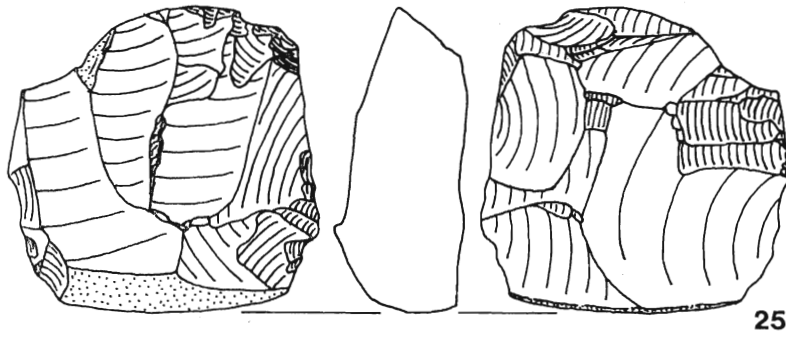


Fig. 10 Flint artifacts Nos. 25-28. Scale 1:1