

Lithic Assessment

North East Yorkshire Mesolithic Project

Volunteer Flint Collections [MPV11]



TA11/14

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1 Introduction

This assessment considers a number of lithic collections reported by volunteers during the Mesolithic Project. The following are the principal collectors:-

- Mike Dixon
- Joan and Chris Evans
- John and Siriol Hinchcliffe
- Roger Inman

1.2 Methodology

Find bags were emptied onto a clean working surface and the material examined by eye and with supplementary use of a 20x or 40x hand lens where necessary.

A brief written description was made of each collection with particular comment made on chronologically distinctive pieces.

2 Mike Dixon

This is a small collection from a number of distinct sites. Finds are bagged or boxed with a site name and GPS derived grid reference.

2.1 Danby Beacon Car Park

Summary – A mixed period assemblage with a large Mesolithic component including blades, a blade core and core trimming blade of early Mesolithic. Non-geometric microlith forms suggest an early Mesolithic presence.

Description - Numerous areas of erosion are present at this car park from which flints are easily collected. This small collection is mainly of light brown flint with a milky patina lending a grey appearance to many of the items. There are 21 blades (including blade fragments), 17 flakes, 7 fragments of angular waste, a burnt blade core (in red/brown flint) and a core trimming blade. There are five microliths. These include two obliquely blunted points, which are 26mm and 32mm in length. There is a straight backed blade fragment and two further microlith fragments. The relatively large size of the microliths and the types present suggest an earlier Mesolithic presence. The finds also include a microburin, half a leaf shaped arrowhead (Neolithic/early Bronze Age), a thick end and side scraper (Bronze Age) and a retouched overshot flake.

NZ 73650 09266 – A separately bagged collection is present from this grid reference. A burnt obliquely blunted point (in two parts) consistent with those above is present, along with 8 blade fragments, 4 flakes and 2 angular pieces of waste. Also present are the distal end of an end scraper based on a long blade and 2 retouched flakes. All are consistent with the Mesolithic period.

2.2 Howdale Hill, Farndale

Summary – A number of small collections. Raw material is consistent throughout. Tools are limited to very small microliths including a discrete collection of 6 similar pieces, possibly a 'lost shot'. Late or very late Mesolithic in character and in keeping with the material noted in the 2009 field season (Rowe 2011a).

Description - These flints were collected largely from areas of footpath or track erosion. Finds are bagged by ten figure grid reference and are described below arranged from south to north.

NZ 64713 01234 (on track). 4 complete narrow blade microliths (straight backed) with two fragments (possibly from the same microlith) in similar style. Also 2 angular waste pieces, 1 flake and one blade fragment. All in brown flint with milky white patina. Late or very late Mesolithic.

NZ 64716 01235 (on path). 2 burnt fragments, 3 pieces of angular waste, 5 flakes, 4 blade fragments. All in brown flint with milky white patina.

NZ 64714 01256. Two blade fragments with seven small angular pieces.

NZ 64711 01270. Four small chips/angular fragments.

NZ 64712 01273. Approximately 70 small pieces (less than 10mm max. dimension) of angular gravel. Various shades of brown and toffee coloured flint. Low potential.

NZ 64750 01300. 1 burnt fragment, 4 flakes and one distal end from a blade.

NZ 64703 01420 (found on path). 2 burnt fragments, 3 pieces of angular waste, two large blades. All in brown flint with milky white patina.

NZ 64700 01436. 2 burnt fragments, 3 pieces of angular waste, 10 flakes, 6 blade fragments (1 with retouch). All in brown flint with milky white patina.
Track to Grouse Butts. 2 flakes.

NZ 64691 01460. Natural pot lid.

NZ 64800 01500 (approx. on track to grouse butts). 4 angular waste pieces, 3 flakes, and 6 blades. A straight backed narrow blade microlith and short scalene triangle with the short edges retouched are also present.

NZ 64775 01579 (on track). The collection includes eight burnt fragments, 17 angular fragments, 10 flakes, 15 blades (including snapped fragments). Tools include a very small scalene triangle with retouch along all edges and the distal end of a blade with abrupt retouch partly extending along one edge. All in brown flint with milky white patina.

NZ 64770 01613. 3 small angular pieces, four flakes, two blade fragment. All in brown flint with milky white patina.

NZ 64700 01800 (approx.). 1 brown flint blade and 1 large chunk of waste in red/brown flint.

2.3 Wetherhouse Moor/Bilsdale West

Summary – This is a mixed surface collection ranging from the late Mesolithic to Bronze Age. The collections are similar to those noted in the 2010 excavation season (Rowe 2011b) and the surface collection reported by Clarke (Clarke 1973). Items of particular interest include a flake from a polished flint axe head or discoidal knife, a possible fragment from the butt end of a second flint axe head and a large triangular arrowhead (all Neolithic).

Description – These are discretely bagged collections, mainly picked up during the MPW10 season in the environs of the excavations. Finds are bagged by ten figure grid reference and are described below arranged from north to south.

NZ 52297 01129. 1 angular piece, 2 flakes, 5 blades (including fragments) and one retouched blade.

SE 54886 95698. 1 flake core with two platforms at right angles (Neolithic), 1 end and edge scraper on a robust flake with semi-invasive retouch (Bronze Age) and 1 burnt flake.

SE 54859 95629. 1 opposed platform blade core, 1 angular piece and 1 flake.

SE 54929 95134. Large surface collection. Includes a single platform blade core, opposed platform blade core, 15 burnt fragment, 10 angular pieces, 25 flakes (including one in chert), 18 blades (including three in red/brown flint), a tool fragment and a narrow blade scalene triangle microlith.

SE 55014 95099. 1 blade core fragment and one poor quality tested pebble.

SE 55017 95092. 2 angular fragments of chert, 1 burnt flint fragment and 1 flake.

SE 54929 95068. 1 single platform blade core, 1 opposed platform blade core, 1 flake and 1 natural piece.

SE 55092 94848 (found in ditch). 1 discoidal scraper (Neolithic).

SE 55095 94832. 1 flake and a flake from a polished stone axehead or discoidal knife (Neolithic).

SE 55160 94819 (near pond). Large flake of red/brown flint.

SE 55189 94817. 1 flake, 1 discoidal core (Late Neolithic/early Bronze Age).

SE 55145 94808. 2 burnt fragments and a flake.

SE 55365 94676. 3 burnt fragments, 2 angular pieces, 1 flake, 3 blades, 1 polished flake – possibly an axe fragment (Neolithic), 1 x burnt barbed and tanged arrowhead.

SE 55237 94666. 4 angular fragments, 1 core with platforms at right angles (Neolithic), 1 blade, 1 narrow blade microlith fragment.

SE 55200 94660. 6 burnt fragments, 4 angular pieces, 8 flakes, 8 blades a microburin and an invasively retouched edge scraper (Neolithic).

Peat Moss. 1 large triangular arrowhead with chunky section (Neolithic or early Bronze Age). These large items are often described as blanks for barbed or tanged arrowheads or variants of the transverse arrowhead (Butler 2005, 160).

2.4 Smaller Collections

Bransdale (NZ 60720 97526 – found in ditch along track). Found during MPB09 excavation (Grahame 2010). 6 angular pieces and five blades.

Stockdale Moor (Bag 43). Core trimming blade (Mesolithic).

Snilesworth (Bag 83). 3 brown flint flakes and one thumbnail scraper (Bronze Age) on red/brown flint.

Highcliffe, Guisborough (Bag 84). Flake fragment of light brown flint.

3 Joan and Chris Evans

Two small collections were assessed as below: -

3.1 Above Esklets (found 23.03.2010)

NZ 6551 0115 (at side of shooter's track). 1 x flake of brown flint.

NZ 6593 0055 (in erosion gully). 3 pieces of angular waste, 5 flakes, 9 fragments of blades. All in light brown flint. Mesolithic in character.

3.2 Low Thwaites (found 13.03.2010)

Summary – a small collection from the upcast of a drainage ditch alongside the track west and above Low Thwaites. Although the majority is undiagnostic material, those pieces that are distinctive are Mesolithic in date.

SE 5427 9444. 1 flake fragment.

SE 5429 9285. 2 small flakes and 1 mid section from a blade.

SE 5428 9287. 1 small flake.

SE 5453 9498. An angular fragment, 1 flake and 1 blade.

SE5451 9496. 4 burnt fragments, 2 angular fragments, 4 flakes and 1 blade fragment.

SE 5437 9510. 1 small single platform blade core, 2 burnt fragments, 1 flake, 1 blade fragment and two small scrapers with abrupt retouch (Mesolithic).

SE 5468 9519. 2 angular fragments. 1 small blade and 1 primary flake.

SE 5483 9519. 3 burnt fragments, 5 angular fragments, 12 flakes (including flake fragments), 5 blade fragments and 1 straight backed blade microlith (late Mesolithic).

4 John and Siriol Hinchcliffe

This is a major collection from a number of moorland sites. All finds are bagged by find spot with eight-figure grid reference. A catalogue and list of sites have been produced by the Hinchcliffe's (Hinchcliffe 2010). Given the size of the collection and the existing catalogue this assessment is a rapid visual inspection with the aims of spot dating.

4.1 Wetherhouse Moor [HAR]

Four grouped collections were noted by the Hinchcliffe's. The area corresponds to the environs of the 2010 Mesolithic Project evaluation at Wetherhouse Moor/Peat Moss (MPW10; Grahame 2011).

HAR1 [Low Thwaites West] – Material from the track running up the west side of Low Thwaites Intake.

Description: Approximately 220 flints. Generally broken flake and blade fragments of mixed raw material (light brown, brown and red-brown flint) with many burnt fragments. The following items are of particular note. There are no cores in this collection. The majority is consistent with the Mesolithic period.

H092 – Left handed scalene triangle microlith noted.

H452 – Narrow blade microlith fragment (late Mesolithic)

H454 – Blade with serrated edges (Mesolithic).

H458 – Core trimming flake (Mesolithic-Neolithic)

H459 – bifacially worked awl (late Neolithic-Bronze Age)

H463 – Includes a narrow blade straight backed microlith fragment (late Mesolithic) and a broad blade lanceolate microlith with tip damage and limited inverse retouch to the base (early Mesolithic).

H619 – Includes a small scalene triangle microlith (Late Mesolithic) and a small fragment from a second microlith.

H738 – core trimming blade (Mesolithic)

H979 – microburin (Mesolithic)

H985 – unusual micro-tranchet microlith with oblique tip and retouch along all other edges including the base (late Mesolithic)

HAR2 [High Thwaites/Bilsdale West] – material from the track running north from the Low Thwaites intake.

Description: Approximately 85 flints. Largely as above but with later material present in larger numbers.

H312 – distal end microburin (Mesolithic)

H313 – End scraper on crude flake (later prehistoric?)

H318 – includes a reduced flake core with opposed platforms and third platform at right angles (Neolithic)

H518 – End scraper of hard hammer struck circular flake (Neolithic).

H525 – includes a very small blade core (Mesolithic)

H794 – discoidal flake core (late Neolithic/Bronze Age)

HAR3 [Wetherhouse Moor Central] – material from the track running west-east immediately beyond the north boundary wall of Low Thwaites intake.

Description: Approximately 450 flints. Generally broken flake and blade fragments of mixed raw material (light brown, brown and red-brown flint) with many burnt fragments. The following items are of particular note. The majority is consistent with the Mesolithic period with some later material.

H006 – includes square multi-platform flake core (Neolithic).

H007 – includes core trimming blade, opposed platform blade core (Mesolithic).

H093 – small blade core (Mesolithic).

H094 – small blade core (Mesolithic).

H130 – includes small microlith fragment (Late Mesolithic).
 H140 – microburin (Mesolithic)
 H167 – 12 burnt fragments
 H169 – includes small borer.
 H323 – includes 2 back blade microlith fragments (late Mesolithic).
 H324 – 21 pieces including small blade core, microlith fragment and microburin (Late Mesolithic).
 H325 – 7 flints including 2 good blades.
 H327 – 5 flints including microlith fragment (late Mesolithic).
 H330 – scraper fragment with retouch cutting through earlier patina.
 H473 – small awl on blade blank (Mesolithic).
 H475 – includes microlith fragment (late Mesolithic) and bifacially worked triangular arrowhead (Neolithic/early Bronze Age).
 H476 – includes retouched flake.
 H477 – 31 flints, mainly burnt fragments with a short piece of rod microlith (very late Mesolithic).
 H626 – 11 flints including a backed blade microlith fragment (late Mesolithic).
 H627 – 38 flints including a burnt microlith fragment and a backed blade microlith (late Mesolithic).
 H798 – 9 flints including a scalene triangle microlith (late Mesolithic) and a large flint pebble.
 H990 – microburin (Mesolithic).

HAR4 [Wetherhouse Moor East] – material from Wetherhouse Moor on tracks running east and south-east from the Low Thwaites Intake.

Description: Approximately 250 flints. Generally broken flake and blade fragments of mixed raw material (light brown, brown and red-brown flint) with many burnt fragments. The following items are of particular note. The majority is consistent with the Mesolithic period with some later material.

H141 – microlith fragment (late Mesolithic).
 H152 – retouched blade fragment (Mesolithic).
 H156 – very large flake with small amount of retouch.
 H915 – inc. 1 small end scraper (Mesolithic/Neolithic).
 H917 – large core in poor quality light brown flint.
 H919 – large microburin (Mesolithic).
 H920 – large flint flake with burination at distal end (Mesolithic?).
 H921 – 7 flints including flake core with opposed platforms and at right angles (Neolithic).
 H922 – core tablet (Mesolithic/Neolithic).
 H925 – small core and blade (Mesolithic).
 H996 – 10 flints including a micro tranchet microlith with retouch along both edges and base (late Mesolithic).

4.2 Farndale Moor [HAG]

Approximately 630 flints were collected from eroding footpaths. The material has been divided into three groups. The area corresponds to the environs of the 2009 Mesolithic Project evaluation at Farndale (MPF09; Grahame 2010).

HAG 1 [Farndale Moor East Path] – material from the eastern of the two paths which cross the site south of the old railway.

Description: - Approximately 210 flints. Generally in a homogenous light to medium brown flint with reduced cortex. Diagnostic pieces tend to be later Mesolithic in date.

H194 – 5 flints including one burnt microlith fragment (late Mesolithic).
 H197 - 79 flints at NZ 6503 0072 including 2 microlith fragments (late Mesolithic), blades (Mesolithic) and three blade cores (Mesolithic). Very homogenous brown flint.
 H202 – 1 backed blade microlith (late Mesolithic).
 H270 – 8 flints including blade core (Mesolithic).
 H500 – 38 flints including microlith fragment (late Mesolithic).

H501 – 47 flints including 2 microburins (Mesolithic).
H644 – 25 flints including a possible microlith fragment.
H761 – burnt microlith fragment (late Mesolithic).
H962 – 6 flints including a serrated edged flake.

HAG2 [Farndale Moor West Path] – material from the western of the two paths which cross the site of the old railway.

Description: - Approximately 200 flints. Generally in a homogenous light to medium brown flint with reduced cortex. Some red-brown flint. Diagnostic pieces tend to be later Mesolithic in date.

H205 – 10 flints including a microlith fragment (late Mesolithic).
H206 – 8 flints including a backed blade microlith fragment (late Mesolithic).
H207 – 6 flints including a backed blade microlith fragment on red-brown flint (late Mesolithic).
H208 – 41 flints including a scalene triangle microlith and two blade cores (late Mesolithic).
H209 – 14 flints including a blade core fragment and several blades (Mesolithic).
H210 – 21 flints including blades (Mesolithic).
H505 – 19 flints including several red-brown pieces including blades and a retouched blade (Mesolithic).
H645 – 7 flints including microlith fragment (late Mesolithic).
H646 – 10 flints including a small blade core (Mesolithic).

HAG3 [Farndale Moor/Howdale Hill] – material from the track running north from the old railway across the flank of Howdale Hill.

Description: - Approximately 225 flints. Generally in a homogenous light to medium brown flint with reduced cortex. Some red-brown flint. Diagnostic pieces tend to be later Mesolithic in date.

H073 – 4 flints including a blade and blade core (Mesolithic).
H075 – 36 flints, mainly very small preparation chips.
H253 – 23 flints including a scalene triangle microlith (late Mesolithic) and a number of parallel sided blades (Mesolithic).
H255 – small obliquely blunted microlith with retouch on leading edge (late Mesolithic).
H259 – large flint pebble.
H260 – 9 pieces of burnt flint.
H536 – 16 pieces of mainly burnt flint, including a blade core and possible microlith fragment (late Mesolithic).
H539 – 3 flints including crested blade (Mesolithic).
H543 – 5 flints including microlith fragment (late Mesolithic).
H651 – 5 flints including a microlith fragment (late Mesolithic).
H652 – 4 flints including a microlith fragment (late Mesolithic).
H656 – 27 flints, mainly angular waste or burnt fragments.
H657 – 8 flints including 2 microlith fragments (late Mesolithic).
H659 – 17 flints including a scalene triangle microlith and various blade sections (late Mesolithic).
H660 – burnt and badly shattered bifacial leaf shaped arrowhead (Neolithic).
H944 – 5 flints including scalene triangle microlith (late Mesolithic).

4.3 Smaller collections

4.3.1 Head of Bonfield Gill/Bransdale Ridge [HAA - SE 6059 9725].

Approximately 175 flints were found in a discrete area of erosion. The area corresponds to the environs of the 2010 Mesolithic Project evaluation at Bransdale (MPB10; Grahame 2011).

Description: - A mixture of light brown, brown, dark brown and toffee coloured flints. This collection has no chronologically diagnostic later material and all suits a later Mesolithic date. This is consistent with the results of the 2010 lithic analysis (Rowe 2011c).

H013 – 7 flints including microlith fragment (late Mesolithic).

H698 – 82 flints, mainly small chips, flake fragments and blade sections.

H709 – 21 flints including a scalene triangle microlith (late Mesolithic).

H811 – 79 flints including a backed blade microlith and blade core (late Mesolithic).

4.3.2 North Gill Head [HAO - NZ 7284 0029].

This is a newly identified scatter of fairly scattered flint noted on a bare patch just north of the Lyke Wake Walk.

Description: a small collection of 36 flints. Largely broken blades and flakes in varying shades of brown flint.

H562 – 12 flints including a burnt scalene triangle microlith (late Mesolithic).

H566 – 2 flints including a microlith fragment (late Mesolithic).

H685 – 3 burnt fragments and 1 very well produced backed blade microlith (late Mesolithic).

H686 – 1 flake fragment and 1 microlith fragment (late Mesolithic).

4.3.3 Head of Clough Gill [HAI - NZ 6700 0249]

This is a newly identified scatter. The flints were noted in a small quarry and adjacent drainage gully on the east side of the source of Clough Gill.

Description: A collection of 25 flints, mainly blade waste and small flakes with some larger angular chunks. Diagnostic material is limited to the Mesolithic period.

H124 – 2 micro-scrapers on small flakes (Mesolithic).

4.3.4 Head of Oak Beck Gill [HAD – SE 6592 9987]

This is a newly identified scatter. The flints were noted on a track serving a line of grouse butts running north from the old mineral railway on High Blakey Moor.

Description: A collection of 24 flints, mainly blade waste and small flakes with some larger angular chunks. Raw material is largely lighter brown and is often heavily patinated. Diagnostic material is limited to the Mesolithic period.

H020 – 2 blades and a backed blade microlith (late Mesolithic).

H192 – an end scraper based on an asymmetric flake. A non-standard form.

4.3.5 Rosedale Head [HAH – NZ 6805 0181]

This is a newly identified scatter. The flints were noted on an eroded path.

Description: A collection of 20 flints, mainly blade waste and small flakes with some larger angular chunks (one of which is retouched). The raw material is largely a light brown flint with several toffee coloured examples. Blade production suggests a Mesolithic date.

4.3.6 Danby Beacon Car Park [HAM – NZ 7365 0927]

As with the Dixon material (section 2.1), these flints were collected from eroded hollows within the car park.

Description: A collection of 156 flints. Largely angular waste with broken flakes and blades. A single platform blade core was noted.

4.3.7 Osmotherley Stones [HAP – SE 5333 9820]

This scatter is described as being highly concentrated on a bare path of ground to the west of the main shooters track.

Description: The majority of the 330 flints are small angular pieces (possibly including some grouse grit) and angular burnt fragments. Blade sections and broken flakes are frequent. Obliquely blunted points were noted from collections H668 & H774 (early Mesolithic). A flake core of red-brown flint was noted in collection H669 and a blade core of the same distinctive material was noted in collection H775 (Mesolithic). A microburin was present in collection H776.

4.3.8 Great Fryup Head [HAJ – NZ 7137 0170]

This collection was found along a 100m stretch to the west of the path junction.

Description: Approximately 130 flints were recovered. The raw material is mainly light brown flint with some toffee and red-brown coloured pieces. These are mainly angular and burnt fragments. Blades are present with some complete examples, but the majority as broken sections. There are no cores. Collection H187 produced a broken microlith fragment (late Mesolithic) and a very well worked micro-tranchet microlith (late Mesolithic) with abrupt retouch along both steep edges. H388 produced a microburin (late Mesolithic). A broken, bifacial, leaf-shaped arrowhead (Neolithic) is present in collection H185 and a tip from a unifacial arrowhead was noted in collection H884.

4.3.9 White Gill [HAV – NZ 6397 0275]

These flints were found on bare patches on the east side of Stony Ridge at the head of White Gill. Collections H890-893 may be in upcast from the excavations of Raymond Hayes.

Description: The majority of the 94 pieces are a homogenous light brown flint with reduced cortex. There are several well balanced blades present. A scalene triangle microlith (late Mesolithic) was noted in collection H892. A blade core fragment was noted in collection H945.

4.3.10 Sweet Banks, above Esklets [HAC – NZ 6629 0059]

This small collection was found on an eroded track above Esklets.

Description: This small collection of 35 flints mainly consists of small preparation chips and flakes with a number of well balanced blades. Microburins were noted in collections H394 & 779 (Mesolithic). A large nodule of flint is present (H780) which has a suitable platform but has not been knapped further.

4.3.11 Head of Parci Gill (Meggy Mire) [HAU – SE 5483 9618]

This small collection was noted to be a discrete concentration, separate from the main Wetherhouse Moor site to the south.

Description: A small collection of 14 flints and 5 pieces of chert (from the same grid reference). Three refitting fragments of a broken long blade were also noted in the same location. A mixture of small preparation chips and larger flakes suggests a broad chronological spread from the Mesolithic to Bronze.

4.3.12 Little Howdale Hill [HAF – NZ 6329 0195]

This small collection was found in a drainage gully on the north side of the old mineral railway above Farndale Middle Head.

Description: This small collection of 22 flints mainly consists of small preparation chips and flakes with a number of well balanced blades. A burnt blade core with a single platform was also recovered. The raw material is a fairly homogenous light brown with reduced cortex and possibly from a single episode of knapping.

4.3.13 Cow Ridge [HAE – SE 5304 9537]

This collection was found on grouse butt tracks.

Description: This collection of 70 flints mainly consists of small preparation chips and flakes with a number of broken blades. There are at least two platform rejuvenation flakes and one blade core. The raw material is a fairly homogenous light brown with reduced cortex and possibly from a single episode of knapping. The knapping style is largely Mesolithic or early Neolithic in character.

4.3.14 Bransdale Ridge [HAB – SE 6072 9801]

This collection was found largely in a drainage ditch to the north of the 2010 excavation (Grahame 2010).

Description: This collection of 45 flints mainly consists of small preparation chips and flakes with a number of broken blades. There is a good blade core and three microliths, including two narrow blade scalene triangles and backed blade fragment. The raw material is a fairly homogenous light brown with reduced cortex suggesting a limited chronological range which from the chronologically distinctive pieces is likely to be later Mesolithic in date and consistent with that from the nearby excavation (Rowe 2011c).

4.3.15 Simon Howe [HAL – SE 8301 9830]

This collection is described as a cluster at the high point occupied by Simon Howe.

Description: This collection of 29 flints mainly consists of flakes and flake fragments. There are a small number of broken blades. There is nothing particularly chronologically distinctive although the larger flakes with pronounced platforms may be later prehistoric.

4.3.16 Black Hill [HAQ – SE 6051 9890]

This collection was found on a bare patch.

Description: This is a small collection of 10 flints but including two microliths, both narrow blade forms, one a scalene triangle and the other a backed blade. The remainder of the pieces are blades or burnt waste. Late Mesolithic in date.

4.3.17 Golden Heights [HAN – SE 6506 9651]

This collection is described as a cluster on the mineral soil on a grouse butt track.

Description: This is a small collection of 10 flints of very similar light brown raw material. There are 4 items of burnt shatter, 3 blade fragments and 2 flakes (1 in two pieces). Largely undiagnostic.

4.3.18 Faceby Bank [HAK – NZ 5142 0163]

This collection is described as a cluster on a bare patch at Carlton Moor.

Description: This is a small collection of 10 flints of very similar light brown raw material with one piece of red brown flint. The items are mainly flakes with some large examples. Largely undiagnostic.

5 Roger Inman

This collection derives from fieldwalking from many distinct sites over a 30 year period. The majority of the sites lie to the south of Middlesbrough around Stokesley and Guisborough. The majority are small collections of less than 10 flints or are single items. The flints were boxed with either a site code/number or six-figure NGR on individual flints. The collection was sorted in to matching codes or grid references. Approximately 30 pieces were not labelled or the labelled had worn off and was illegible. These items were not examined.

In general terms the raw material is very mixed in character with a much wider variety of flint types than noted on the moorland sites. Orange-brown and red-brown flint is much more common alongside the more usual light brown material. Overall the lithics tend to be of larger size given the method of collection, usually from the weathered surface of heavy clay soils.

5.1 Sites bagged by site code

These sites generally have a three or four letter site code. Later sites have a code number and these are at the end of this list. Eight or ten figure grid references are available for most of the sites but have been withheld at Mr. Inman's request.

AFA Ayton Firs, Little Ayton (NZ 556 094)
Small thumbnail scraper (Early Bronze Age) and retouched flake (undiagnostic).

AGGA Ayton Grange, Great Ayton (NZ 552 103)
Flake (undiagnostic).

AWFA Angrove West Farm, Great Ayton (NZ 536 094)
End scraper on elongated flake (Mesolithic or Early Neolithic) and an undiagnostic flake.

AWS Angrove West Farm, Great Ayton (NZ 535 091)
1 blade, 1 blade fragment (Mesolithic), 1 flake, 1 flake fragment and 1 retouched flake.

B Busby (NZ 507 069)
4 angular pieces and 3 flakes (undiagnostic).

BFAA Bridge Field, Angrove, Ayton (NZ 540 090)
1 end and edge scraper (late Neolithic/Bronze Age) and 1 irregular scraper (undiagnostic).

BFM Back Field, Marton (NZ 548 144)
1 thumbnail scraper (Bronze Age), 2 edge scrapers (Neolithic/Bronze Age) and 1 fragment from a bifacial arrowhead (Neolithic/Bronze Age).

BFU Broad Field, Upsall (NZ 558 158)
2 long blades and 3 flakes (Mesolithic).

BGG Barnaby Grange, Guisborough (NZ 581 158)
1 end and edge scraper (late Neolithic/Bronze Age).

BKFT Brick Kiln Field, Thornton (NZ 481 134)
1 knife fragment (late Neolithic/early Bronze Age), 1 thumbnail scraper (Bronze Age), 7 flakes (undiagnostic), 2 blades (Mesolithic/early Neolithic) and 1 end and edge scraper (Neolithic).

BSHG Barnaby Sweet Hills, Guisborough (NZ 578 162)
1 blade, 2 elongated flakes, 1 flake, 1 angular waste and 1 natural piece (undiagnostic).

CCGA Clover Close, Great Ayton (NZ 551 119)
5 flakes (undiagnostic).

CHG Carr Hill, Goulton (NZ 4790 0359)
1 retouched piece with working cutting existing patina and 2 retouched flakes (Later Bronze Age/Iron Age).

CHP Croft Head, High Farm, Pinchinthorpe (NZ 576 145)

1 blade fragment (Mesolithic), 3 angular fragments, 2 flake fragments, 3 retouched flakes and 1 thumbnail scraper (early Bronze Age).

CPN Coldpool, Newby (NZ 494 120)

1 natural piece.

CPG Chaloner Pits, Guisborough (NZ 602 174)

1 flake (undiagnostic).

DCP Denton Close, Pinchinthorpe (NZ 578 135)

3 flakes (undiagnostic).

DFT Dales Field, Thornton (NZ 485 136)

1 primary flake (undiagnostic).

DPFU Dibdale Plantation Field, Upsall (NZ 550 162)

5 large flakes (undiagnostic), 1 blade and 1 single platform core (Mesolithic).

DWG Decoy Wood, Guisborough (NZ 597 178)

1 retouched flake (undiagnostic).

EFT Enclosure Field, Tunstall (NZ 526 112)

1 bipolar flake, 1 flake, 1 flake fragment and 1 end scraper (Neolithic/early Bronze Age).

EFN Eastfields Farm, Nunthorpe (NZ 555 133)

3 flakes (undiagnostic).

FFM Fore Fields, Marton (Dixon's Bank) (NZ 528 145)

2 angular fragments (undiagnostic) and 1 thumbnail scraper (early Bronze Age).

FHMM Far High Moor, Morton (NZ 545 151)

2 large robust blades (65mm and 90mm in length) with battered edges (Mesolithic/early Neolithic), retouched flake fragment (undiagnostic), 4 flakes and 1 burnt fragment (undiagnostic).

FMT Farm Moor, Thornton (NZ 490 121)

3 retouched flakes and 1 thumbnail scraper (early Bronze Age).

FSCT Far Stanley Close, Tanton (NZ 530 106)

1 invasively retouched blade (Neolithic).

FTHY Fir Tree Hill, Yearby (NZ 596 195)

7 flakes of varying sizes, 1 flake fragment, 1 burnt fragment (later Prehistoric).

GCS Great Castle Field, Seamer (NZ 485 114)

Retouched flake (undiagnostic).

GCU Great Crow Field, Upsall (NZ 566 154)

11 flakes of varying size, 3 blade fragments (Mesolithic/early Neolithic), 1 blade core with opposed platforms (Mesolithic/early Neolithic), 2 retouched flakes and 1 natural piece.

GFGA High Golden Fall, Great Ayton (NZ 541 096)

1 angular fragment (undiagnostic).

GFN Grange Farm, Nunthorpe (NZ 540 140)

3 flakes (undiagnostic).

GHG Galley Hill, Guisborough (NZ 592 156)

2 flake fragments (undiagnostic) also 1 piece of Crambeck Ware.

GHMA Greenhow Moor, Great Ayton (NZ 542 119)

2 flakes, 1 retouched flake and 1 thumbnail scraper (early Bronze Age).

HCG Home Close, Guisborough (NZ 591 165)

1 robust scraper (Bronze Age), 2 flakes, 1 blade and 1 natural piece.

HCQS Hill Close, Quaker's Grove, Stokesley (NZ 535 095)

1 flake (undiagnostic).

HDHP High Doctor Hill, Pinchinthorpe (NZ 575 143)

1 blade fragment (Mesolithic).

HFFN Hall Farm Field, Nunthorpe (NZ 54 13)

1 angular piece (undiagnostic).

HFP Hall Field, Pinchinthorpe (NZ 569 147)

1 end scraper on an elongated flake (Mesolithic/early Neolithic), 1 discoidal core (late Neolithic/early Bronze Age), 3 flakes, 1 blade fragment.

HHA Harland Hill, Little Ayton (NZ 554 090)

1 flake (undiagnostic).

HHFT High Hilton Field, Thornton (NZ 482 138)

1 primary flake, 2 angular pieces (undiagnostic).

HMT High Moor, Thornton (NZ 491 123)

1 flake (undiagnostic).

HPFN High and Plantation Field, Newby (NZ 51 12)

4 flakes, 2 angular pieces and 1 retouched flake (undiagnostic).

HPT Horse Pasture, Tunstall (NZ 525 122)

1 flake (undiagnostic).

KHBG Kellin Howe, Barnaby, Guisborough (NZ 573 153).

2 blades (Mesolithic/early Neolithic), 6 flakes and 1 edge scraper (Bronze Age).

LDS Levensdale, Stokesley (NZ 541 088)

1 single platform blade core (Mesolithic), 1 single platform flake core (Mesolithic/early Neolithic), 3 blades (Mesolithic/early Neolithic), 11 flakes, 2 retouched flakes and 1 large bifacially worked barbed and tanged arrowhead (Bronze Age).

LHFS Low House Farm, Seamer (NZ 499 112)

1 retouched flake with retouch breaking pre-existing patina (Bronze Age/iron Age).

LHM Land Hill, Morton (NZ 546 156)

6 well balanced flakes with diffuse bulbs and complex knapping platforms 1 blade and 1 blade fragment (Mesolithic/early Neolithic).

LMT Low Moor, Thornton (NZ 489 121)

Core trimming flake (Mesolithic/early Neolithic).

LPP Low Pastures, Pinchinthorpe (NZ 578 149)

1 natural pot lid, 1 angular chunk, 6 flakes (including one in chert), 1 long blade and 1 blade fragment (Mesolithic/early Neolithic), 1 retouched flake, 1 burnt scraper, 1 end scraper (Bronze Age), 1 invasively flaked piece (Neolithic/Bronze Age).

LRN Lyn Ridge, Nunthorpe (NZ 539 126)

3 flakes (undiagnostic).

LSSP Little Stone Stiple Field Pinchinthorpe (NZ 567 145)

1 proximal blade end with retouch, 1 distal blade end, 1 flake with blade scarred ventral face (Mesolithic/early Neolithic).

MHCP Mill Hill Close, Pinchinthorpe (NZ 569 142)

1 blade (Mesolithic/early Neolithic).

MHG Mill Hill, Guisborough (NZ 605 169)

2 flakes, 1 thumbnail scraper (early Bronze Age).

MHNT Middle Hill, North Tanton (NZ 516 106)

2 flakes (undiagnostic).

MTCP Middle Tillage Close, Pinchinthorpe (NZ 575 136)

1 microlith fragment, possibly from an obliquely blunted point (early Mesolithic) and three flakes.

NBN Nunthorpe Belt, Nunthorpe (NZ 544 136)

1 angular chunk, 1 flake, 1 barbed and tanged arrowhead with bifacial working (Bronze Age) and End and edge scraper (Neolithic).

NCG North Cote Farm, Guisborough (NZ 601 172)

3 natural pieces, 1 retouched blade (Mesolithic/early Neolithic), 2 small hard hammer struck flakes, 1 retouched flake, 1 teardrop shaped end scraper (Neolithic/early Bronze Age).

NFT New Field, Thornton (NZ 487 125)

1 flake (undiagnostic).

NSFS Nova Scotia Field, Seamer (NZ 484 118)

1 natural piece of ?agate 1 flake and 1 invasively retouched flake (Neolithic/early Bronze Age).

NSN Nunthorpe Stell, Nunthorpe (NZ 549 130)

2 blades (Mesolithic/early Neolithic).

OSG Old Sleights, Guisborough (NZ 602 162)

16 flakes of various sizes but mainly with flat knapping platforms and pronounced bulbs of percussion (Later Prehistoric), 4 retouched flakes in keeping with previous flakes and 1 fragment from a bifacially worked arrowhead (Neolithic or Bronze Age).

PEN Pond Field, Eastfield, Nunthorpe (NZ 554 131)

1 natural piece, 1 unifacial leaf shaped arrowhead or unfinished blank (Neolithic/early Bronze Age)

PFN Playing Fields, Nunthorpe (NZ 538 142)

3 flakes (later prehistoric), 1 retouched flake (later prehistoric).

PFS Park Farm, Sexhow (NZ 476 057)

1 bifacially worked arrowhead fragment (Neolithic/early Bronze Age), 1 flake.

PWG Plots, Woodhouse Farm, Guisborough (NZ 594 159)

4 flakes, 2 angular pieces (later prehistoric).

QGS Quaker's Grove, Stokesley (NZ 534 098)

2 natural pieces, 1 flake fragment (undiagnostic).

QFN Quarry Hill Farm, Nunthorpe (NZ 546 128)

1 tool fragment (undiagnostic).

RCBG Rush Close, Barnaby Side (NZ 573 161)

1 burnt double end scraper (Neolithic/Bronze Age).

RHEN Round Hill, Eastfield, Nunthorpe (NZ 552 125)

3 natural pieces, 5 flakes of various sizes, 2 retouched pieces (undiagnostic).

SCO Swan's Corner, Ormesby (NZ 544 154)

1 single platform flake core (Neolithic), 1 end scraper on the distal end of a blade (Mesolithic/early Neolithic), 2 blades (Mesolithic/early Neolithic), 3 large flakes (later prehistoric) and 2 thumbnail scraper (one on a thermal flake) (early Bronze Age).

SFG Scugdale Farm, Guisborough (NZ 585 160)

2 blade fragments (Mesolithic/early Neolithic), 2 flakes, 1 retouched flake, 1 end scraper (Mesolithic/early Neolithic), 1 notched flake (Mesolithic/early Neolithic).

SFP Shade Field, High Farm, Pinchinthorpe (NZ 573 147)

1 flake core with 2 platforms at right angles (Neolithic), 2 angular pieces, 5 flakes, 2 retouched flakes and 3 natural pieces.

SFT Shepherd Field, Tunstall (NZ 531 118)

1 leaf shaped arrowhead with rounded base and bifacial working (Neolithic/early Bronze Age).

SG Stanley Grange, Great Ayton (NZ 531 113)

2 flake fragments, 1 flake, 1 blade, 1 tool fragment and 1 thumbnail scraper fragment (early Bronze Age).

SGE Stanley Grange Enclosures (NZ 531 113)

1 microburin (Mesolithic), 6 flakes, 1 scraper fragment and 2 thumbnail scrapers (early Bronze Age).

SHA Stanley Houses, Great Ayton (NZ 533 108)

7 flakes (mixed period), 1 retouched flake, 1 triangular arrowhead (Neolithic), 2 thumbnail scrapers (early Bronze Age).

SHS Stanley House, Stokesley (NZ 531 102)

1 thumbnail scraper (early Bronze Age).

SJFA Stream Junction Field, Ayton (NZ 549 101)

1 blade (Mesolithic/early Neolithic), 2 flakes, 1 circular end and edge scraper (later Neolithic/early Bronze Age).

SPF Sexhow Park Farm, Sexhow (NZ 474 059)

1 blade (Mesolithic), 5 flakes (mixed period), 1 squat scraper (Bronze Age), 2 retouched pieces.

SRN South Ryehill, Nunthorpe (NZ 535 127)

1 flake (undiagnostic).

TAME 1 end and edge scraper on a hard hammer struck flake (Bronze Age).

Thornaby 1 end and edge scraper on a hard hammer struck flake (Bronze Age).

TCT Tunstall Cottage, Tunstall (NZ 526 115) 1 flake fragment (undiagnostic).

UHF Upsall Hall Farm, Upsall (NZ 551 154)

12 flakes of various sizes, 3 flake fragments, 4 blade fragments, 1 retouched flake and 1 end scraper fragment (mixed period).

WCSG White Close, Scugdale, Guisborough (NZ 589 162)

1 blade mid section (Mesolithic/early Neolithic) and 1 robust end scraper on a hard hammer struck primary flake (Later Prehistoric).

WFS Well Field, Seamer (NZ 490 115)

2 small flakes (undiagnostic).

WHF Woodhouse Farm, Guisborough (NZ 599 159)

1 blade, 2 flakes (Mesolithic or early Neolithic) and 2 natural pieces.

WHFA Winley Hill Farm, Great Ayton (NZ 539 095)

1 flake and 1 retouched flaked (Mesolithic or early Neolithic).

WMFN West Mill Field, Newby (NZ 508 122)

1 blade fragment (Mesolithic/early Neolithic).

YBS Young Beast Paddock, Seamer (NZ 489 117)

1 blade core with platforms at right angles (Neolithic), 1 flake and 1 tool fragment.

132 Low Brick Field, North Tanton (NZ 521 107)

1 natural flake, 1 blade fragment (Mesolithic/early Neolithic) and 1 retouched flake with retouch cutting pre-existing patina (Bronze Age).

134 Golden Close, North Tanton (NZ 521 109) 1 incomplete scraper on a primary flake.

157 Newby (NZ 523 114)

1 edge scraper with invasive retouch (Late Neolithic/early Bronze Age).

160 Gold Hill, Whorlton (NZ 482 031)

Natural flake.

166 Tunstall (NZ 530 117)

Natural flake.

168 Gold Hill, Whorlton (NZ 480 029)

2 angular chunks, 4 flakes (later prehistoric), 1 thumbnail scraper, 1 thumbnail scraper fragment, 1 robust end and edge scraper fragment (Bronze Age).

169 Ryehill Farm, Nunthorpe (NZ 528 134)

1 angular chunk, 4 flake fragments, 2 blade fragments, 1 thumbnail type scraper, 1 thumbnail scraper, 1 end scraper on a primary flake (Bronze Age), 3 retouched fragments.

170 Ryehill Farm, Nunthorpe (NZ 530 132)

4 angular fragments, 1 small flake, 1 blade (Mesolithic/early Neolithic), 1 thumbnail scraper (Bronze Age), 1 retouched flake and 1 5/8th of an inch gun flint (18-20th century).

5.2 Sites bagged by grid references

These finds have an inked six-figure grid reference. A place name has been added to this catalogue for ease of reference.

NZ 479 033 (Carr Hill, Potto) - 1 flint flake (undiagnostic).

NZ 493 114 (Low House Farm, nr. Coldpool) - 1 broken flake (undiagnostic).

NZ 493 124 (Thornton Moor) – 2 flakes, 1 damaged thumbnail scraper and 1 robust end and edge scraper (Bronze Age).

NZ 502 114 (Broom Hill, nr. Newby) – 1 robust end and edge scraper (Bronze Age), 1 retouched flake with retouch breaking patina (Bronze Age).

NZ 523 109 (North Tanton Farm) – 1 leaf shaped arrowhead with the distal face entirely flaked and the ventral at the tip only (Neolithic).

NZ 527 106 (Tanton) – 1 small flake (undiagnostic).

NZ 531 102 (Peaton Carr Farm, nr. Stokesley) – 1 thumbnail scraper (Bronze Age) and 3 flakes.

NZ 534 112 (Stanley Grange Farm, nr. Tunstall) – 1 fancy barbed and tanged arrowhead, bifacially worked, barbs and tangs intact (Bronze Age), labelled 'Flint found at Stanley Grange by Malcom Leng, Given 15.4.1987).

NZ 540 130 (Old Nunthorpe) – 1 thumbnail scraper (Bronze Age).

NZ 541 103 (New Shed Plantation, nr. Stokesley) – 1 blade (Mesolithic/early Neolithic), 1 flake fragment and 1 robust end and edge scraper on a hard hammer struck flake. Flake has good symmetry with retouch extending along both edges (Neolithic). 1 bifacial arrowhead fragment, well thinned, partly ripple flaked (late Neolithic/early Bronze Age).

NZ 542 099 & NZ 542 100 (New Shed Plantation, nr. Stokesley) – 1 blade, 1 flake fragment, 5 small flakes and 1 large flake (undiagnostic).

NZ 543 104 (New Shed Plantation, nr. Stokesley) – 4 small flakes and 1 larger flake with retouch (undiagnostic).

NZ 543 143 (Grange Farm, Nunthorpe) – 1 crested blade (Mesolithic/early Neolithic) and 2 robust flakes with flat platforms and pronounced bulbs of percussion (later Prehistoric).

NZ 544 092 (Gravel Hill, nr. Stokesley) – 1 blade (Mesolithic/early Neolithic) and 1 robust end scraper on a primary flake (later Prehistoric).

NZ 545 149 (Crow Wood, e. of Nunthorpe) – 2 natural pebble fragments and 3 flakes (undiagnostic).

NZ 546 101 (New Shed Plantation, nr. Stokesley) – 2 flakes (undiagnostic).

NZ 547 099 (New Shed Plantation, nr. Stokesley) – 2 flakes (undiagnostic).

NZ 555 152 (nr. East Upsall Farm) – 3 blade fragments (Mesolithic/early Neolithic) 1 flake and 1 retouched flake (undiagnostic).

NZ 561 143 (Garbutts Plantation, nr. Pinchinthorpe) – 1 invasively retouched fragment (Neolithic/Bronze Age).

NZ 567 155 (nr. Hemble Hill Farm, nr. Pinchinthorpe) – 1 primary flake, 5 tertiary flakes, one with blade scars on dorsal face (Mesolithic).

NZ 567 161 (Barnaby Side Farm, nr. Guisborough) – 1 retouched flake (undiagnostic).

NZ 569 152 (nr. Low Farm, Pinchinthorpe) – 1 flake (undiagnostic).

NZ 573 140 (Pinchinthorpe Hall) – 1 flake fragment (undiagnostic).

NZ 575 147 (Pinchinthorpe House) – 2 flakes, 1 elongated flake with invasive retouch and 1 thumbnail scraper (Bronze Age).

NZ 577 149 (Pinchinthorpe House) – 2 large flakes, 1 robust end scraper and 1 retouched flake fragment (Bronze Age).

NZ 577 160 (Barnaby Grange Farm, nr. Guisborough) – 1 natural piece, 1 circular end and edge scraper (Neolithic/early Bronze Age).

NZ 587 161 (Scugdale Farm, nr. Guisborough) – 1 retouched flake (undiagnostic).

NZ 587 195 (Bank Top, Eston Hills) – 1 blade fragment, 2 angular pieces, 2 flakes and 2 flake fragments (mixed period).

NZ 595 156 (Guisborough) – 1 angular fragment (undiagnostic).

6 Conclusion

The volunteer collections have greatly complemented the excavation seasons (e.g. Wetherhouse Moor - section 2.3 & 4.1 and Farndale – 2.2 & 4.2). Material is generally in keeping with previous material but with a number of interesting observations: -

- Danby Beacon Car Park (Sections 2.5 and 4.36). An earlier Mesolithic site seems to be present with larger obliquely blunted points and other non-geometric microlith forms. Later material (Neolithic/early Bronze Age) is also present.
- The Hinchcliffe collection from Osmotherley Stones (section 4.3.7) has early Mesolithic material consistent with earlier observations (Vaughman 2007, p. 19).
- Low Thwaites (sections 3.2 & 4.1). A useful complement to the Wetherhouse Moor material to the east. Possibly suggesting that the Mesolithic material will continue into the adjacent farmland.
- A number of newly identified sites are present with late Mesolithic material. These are North Gill Head (section 4.3.2), Head of Clough Gill (section 4.3.3), Head of Oak Gill (section 4.3.4) and Rosedale Head (section 4.3.5).
- The Roger Inman collection is largely from the Tees Lowlands (Stokesley/Guisborough areas). Although not found in concentration, Mesolithic material is often present in the form of blades with complex knapping platforms and diffuse bulbs of percussion. The information on these and later lithics should be added to the relevant Historic Environment Record.

7 Bibliography

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