

## The Fenn collection

HER 12261 is described as a possible axe factory on the basis of a 50m across spread of large waste flakes and a surrounding area with many large finished and unfinished tools including polished and unpolished axes. No suggestion is made that the site included a flint mine. (the tools are listed as being in the possession of Mr Fenn of Stanhoe).

A published survey of alleged flint mining sites in England (Barker, M., Field, D. and Topping, P. *Neolithic Flint Mines of England* 1999 English Heritage/RCHME) lists Stanhoe (and a number of other sites in Norfolk, including Great Massingham and Ringland) as having no evidence of mining (a note by Anon in *CBA Group 6 Bulletin* 24 (1978), 23 is quoted but this merely reproduces the information on the HER).

The present collection, a descriptive catalogue of which follows, forms part of Mr Fenn's collection (as referred to in the HER, which also states that flakes from the site are in NCM, but these have not been traced).

HER 12261, centred at TF 7975 3795, coincides with only three numbered finds from the Fenn collection located on OS maps, see below. Anabel Symington (of High Barn, formerly Hill Farm, Stanhoe and owner of the collection) recalls that many finds were collected by Mr Nathan "Bob" Fenn, who died in 1993, from a field named Roundo, centred at TF 7983 3828. The field contains five numbered finds, a covert called Gravelpit Plantation, and HER 1894 (a flaked flint axe found before 1972). Ten flint implements within the area of Mr Fenn's finds are recorded (HER 1650-3 and 1894-9) as having been found before 1972. All were reported by John Smallwood, who made record drawings of all of them. It is very likely that they were found by Bob Fenn. A polished axehead found in 1958 was in the possession of the farmer, R.A. Symington, who provided the information (HER 1982). One other record, reported by King's Lynn museum (HER 1983), refers to two implements found by N. Fenn in 1959.

See two 1:10560 scale OS maps for locations of numbered finds. The maps were annotated by John Smallwood in c.1970 in consultation with Mr Bob Fenn.

At least one object (fourth batch K23) is known to have been found outside Stanhoe. Bob Fenn worked for some time in Leziate, and he can be identified with the Mr Fenn who found a Neolithic polished axe there in 1972, the discovery being reported by John Smallwood (HER 11248). It remains possible that some of the material described below may also have been found in that parish. In 1974 Mr Fenn of Stanhoe also possessed a stone axe found in Gooderstone (HER 4588; see F on page 9).

### FIRST BATCH examined by P.A.R. (24/9/07)

The collection, or at least that proportion so far examined, consists of polished and unpolished axes, preforms and roughouts together with adzes, miniature axes (<100mm long), a few rods/punches/chisels, a knife and a scraper. Many of the tools are in a grainy grey flint.

All can be assigned to the *Neolithic* (c.4500 – c.2300 BC) with some of the highly polished items probably in the later part of this period. In the absence of any evidence of mining, the raw material was probably a chance accumulation of suitable surface derived flint.

### Numbered (marked ) Items

7. No grid reference 61 x 48 x 28mm ?blade end of *flaked axe*  
Glossy pale grey.
102. TF 8123 3820 152 x 50 x 31mm *Adze, flaked*  
Creamy patina, iron stain spots. Coarse grained.
104. TF 8058 3744 133 x 40 x 41mm *Flaked axe*  
Coarse grained grey. Pointed butt.
- 110 TF 8047 3784 >>110 x >>60 x >>740mm *Well polished axe*  
Butt end only, snapped diagonally. Butt rounded point, edges smoothed.  
Coarse grained grey, iron spots.
111. TF 8041 3773 120 x 49 x 24mm *Flaked axe*  
Cortex on one face, glossy grey below cortex, otherwise coarse pale grey.  
Spotty iron. Transverse butt. Minor recent damage at blade end.
112. TF 8041 3856 120 x 51 x 29mm *Axe, polished on blade end only.*  
Part of blade glossy flint, part coarse grained as is the rest of the body. Pale  
grey extensive iron spotting. Asymmetric lenticular section.
- 117A. TF 8045 3764 105 x 43 x 22mm *Flaked axe*  
Ancient damage to cutting edge, narrow transverse butt. Coarse pale grey, no  
iron stains, Yellow ?plastic contaminant.
120. TF 7975 3811 180mm long ?*roughout*  
Pointed both ends. Coarse grey, some cortex, spotty iron. No evidence of use  
as pick.
126. TF 8124 3891 153 x 55 x 21mm *Thin adze*  
Very coarse grained, possible trace of polish. Rounded point at butt. Burnham  
Market parish
131. TF 8107 3816 166 x 53 x 26mm *Thin adze*  
Flaked, glossy grey with inclusions. Rounded point at butt. Cutting edge  
almost gouge-like. Spotty iron staining.
145. TF 8074 3821 133 x 46 x 30mm *Flaked axe roughout*  
Glossy grey. Cortex on one face. Spotty iron. Thick at both ends.
148. TF 8050 3736 138 x 48 x 27mm *Flaked axe*  
Narrow cutting edge. Pointed butt. Pale grey, coarse. Iron spotting.

- 158.** TF 8073 3854 >100 x 44 x 25mm *Flaked (?) axe*  
Snapped transversely. Narrow flat butt. Pale grey coarse grained. Minimal iron spotting.
- 163 or 168.** TF 8071 3830 or TF 8051 3799 >186 x 37 x 29mm Butt end of *flaked miniature axe* Snapped transversely near ?cutting edge. Coarse grained, spotty iron [marked with two numbers]
- 166.** TF 7992 3840 110 x 38 x 23mm *?double ended axe*  
Glossy grey?, patinated blue grey. Some coarse inclusions. Trace of cortex on one face. Spotty iron.
- 167.** TF 8038 3758 99 x 50x 15mm Probable *thermal flake*  
Thick weathered cortex on one face, partly removed by peripheral flaking. Dark grey mottled. Some shallow flaking on opposed surface.
- 170.** TF 8043 3742 >120 x 56 x 30mm *Flaked axe*  
Snapped diagonally bear butt through coarse grained inclusion. ?pale grey with blue grey patina. Extensive iron. Parallel sided form.
- 174.** TF 8045 3787 127 x 44 x 27mm *Flaked axe*  
Pale grey fine with large coarse grained inclusions. Cutting edge slanted, butt end rounded point. Some iron staining.
- 175.** TF 7998 3838 117 x 33 24mm *Rod*  
Quadrilateral section, slight curve in profile. Trace of cortex near one end, which has form approaching an adze edge. Chalky patina with iron staining.
- 177.** TF 8026 3683 142 x 39 x 25mm *Flaked adze*  
Pale grey grainy, some spotty iron (some recent iron at cutting edge?). Abrupt butt.
- 180.** TF 7981 3812 136 x 40 x 131mm *Flaked axe / adze?*  
Curved profile, irregular quadrilateral section. Fine grained, pale grey, spotty iron. Butt chisel ended.
- 185.** TF 8080 3847 85 x 29 x 24mm *?chisel or miniature axe*  
Creamy patina, spotty iron (recent stain at butt?).
- 188.** TF 7980 3808 95 x 69 x 18mm *Flaked knife*  
On partially cortical pear shaped flake. Radially flaked on dorsal face – ventral face has bulb removed and minimal flaking on right distal edge. Fine grained, grey, slight patina, no iron staining.
- 201.** TF 8040 3783 163 x 55 x 42mm Heavy *adze or roughout*  
Sub-rectangular section, curved profile, area of cortex on ‘back’. Mainly fine grained with extensive iron spotting.

- 202.** TF 7973 3802            122 x 33 x 24mm    *Rod*  
Semi-circular cross section, one end broader. Coarsely flaked. White patina with sparse iron staining.
- 203.** TF 7964 3797            >75 x 61 x 31mm    Probable parallel side *axe*  
Cutting edge only, broken transversely, gouge-like, formed by long central scar (or damaged in use). Grey fine grained, spotty iron.
- 304.** TF 7966 3791            164 x 50 x 28mm    *Adze/Axe roughout*  
Coarse grained pale grey with iron staining. Slightly curved profile.

### Illegibly marked Items

- A. (?116)**    ?TF 7975 3794            93 x 55 x 21mm    *Miniature flaked axe*  
Probably made on tabular flint, large area of cortex on one face. Grey flint. Pointed butt, irregular rounded cutting edge.
- B. (?9)**        No grid reference        >109 x 59 x 31mm    *Part polished axe*  
Broken transversely at butt end. Pale grey coarse grained with some iron staining. Curved cutting edge in good condition. Parallel sides slightly rounded.
- C. (?118)**    ?TF 8020 3855            112 x 28 x 20mm    *Rod*  
Lenticular cross section, slight polish on one face. Pale grey grainy with some iron staining. One end abruptly terminated, other obscured by ?molten plastic.
- D. (?173)**    ?TF 7983 3819            97 x 34 x 20mm    *?chisel*  
Rod with lenticular section, possible cutting edge at one end. Abrupt butt without battering. Mottled grey with iron staining.

### Unmarked Items (no grid references)

- E.**        77 x 46 x 25mm            *Miniature flaked axe*  
Broad cutting edge and narrow abrupt butt. Pale grey grainy with iron staining. Trace of cortex on one face.
- F.**        142 x 55 x 40mm            *Adze*  
Plano-convex with slight curve in profile. Flaked all over, with possible narrow cutting edge at each end. Pale grey grainy with spotty iron staining.
- G.**        77 x 46 x 12mm            *?flake knife*  
Narrow flake, pale grey flint with steep backing on the right edge, minor chipping on the left edge.
- H.**        136 x 59 x 36mm            *Axe roughout*  
Pale grey with massive coarse grained inclusions, heavily iron spotted. probably rejected owing to inclusions.
- I.**        >95 x 55 x 33mm            *Polished axe (incomplete)*  
Highly polished all over with rounded edges. Both ends heavily damaged. Whitish patina with iron spotting.

- J.** 101 x 68 x 37mm *Axe preform*  
Sub-triangular. Greyish buff patina with sparse iron spotting.
- K.** 110 x 52 x 21mm *?axe preform*  
Elongated oval, possibly from a flake. Greyish white patina with sparse iron spots.
- L.** 128 x 24 x 20mm *Punch or chisel*  
Rod, polished all over, with buff patina and extensive spotty iron staining. One end is rounded and battered. The other, damaged in antiquity, may have had a chisel end.
- M.** 93 x 39 x 29mm *Miniature axe roughout*  
Glossy grey, probably from tabular flint as there is cortex on both faces. Slight patination only.
- N.** 68 x 55 x 10mm *Scraper*  
Rounded end on thin flake, grey glossy with slight greyish white patina. Slight damage to scraper edge. Some additional steep retouch on both lateral edges. See item M.
- O.** <137 x 58 x 34mm *Polished axe*  
Butt end of a highly polished axe in dark grey glossy flint – surface shows clear striations from the grinding process which has eliminated almost all flake scars. Butt is rounded and faceted, lateral edges rounded only. Broken transversely and probably used as a core for the production of at least four flakes. N.B. This axe (and scraper N) is very different in character from the rest of the collection.

## SECOND BATCH examined by P.A.R. (31/1/08)

### Numbered Item

- 219** Thumbnail *scraper* in pale buff-grey flint with minimal patination. 25 x 19mm. Probably Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age (Beaker Period) 2300-1700 BC.

### Un-numbered Items

**These have been given arbitrary numbers, marked in pencil on the individual flints, e.g. A1, etc.**

N.B. All axes, roughouts, etc. are finished by flaking only, unless noted to the contrary.

Most items are heavily patinated a greyish white and carry spotty iron staining on the arrises. Cortex is thick and weathered.

**A** Blue Plastic Box labelled 'Cup Hooks' and containing a card label "Big Course (sic) Flints from the ancient 'Flint Factory'".

**A1** Small *axe* preform. L=84mm

- A2** Small *axe* with part of cutting edge broken. L=116mm
- A3** Small *axe*, cutting edge well formed but body very thick and asymmetrical. L=128mm
- A4** Small *axe*, thick at the butt end. L=105mm
- A5** Butt end only of narrow *axe*. L >64mm
- A6** Narrow *axe* or chisel with sharp cutting edge, triangular section for the body and butt. L=104mm
- A7** ‘*Fabricator*’ with planar base (?thermal flake) and slightly curved profile. Quadrilateral section. L=94mm
- A8** *Axe* preform with some cortex on one face. L=112mm
- A9** *Axe* preform with one planar face and high back with some cortex. L=108mm
- A10** *Rod* or *roughout*, coarsely flaked and with irregular quadrilateral section. L=140mm
- A11** Pointed butt from broken *axe* preform with square section. L=140mm
- A12** *Axe* preform with thick quadrilateral section. L=88mm.
- A13** Curved secondary *flake* with triangular to quadrilateral section. L=112mm
- A14** Broad, blade-like tertiary *flake* with parallel sides and a low crest. L=90mm
- A15** Broad blade-like secondary *flake*. L=82mm
- A16** *Blade*, broken at distal tip, with natural void on left proximal edge. L=97mm
- A17** Blade-like *flake*. L=108mm
- A18** Blade-like *flake*. L=115mm
- B** Large White Plastic Box containing card label ‘Crude Axe Heads’
- B1** *Adze* with quadrilateral section to the body. L=129mm.
- B2** Butt end of a broad *axe*, with the broken edge reflaked. Lenticular section. <115 x 70mm.
- B3** Preform *axe* with a very high backed lenticular section. L=121mm.

- B4** *Axe/adze* approaching plano-convex section. Cutting edge rather irregular, pointed butt. L=145mm.
- B5** *Rod* with quadrilateral section. L=105mm.
- B6** *Axe* preform. Broad and heavy, with lenticular section. 141x92mm.
- B7** *Axe* roughout? Unifacial flaking of a large thermal flake. 122x76mm.
- B8** Massive *flake*. 95x125mm.
- B9** Long *blade*, broken at proximal end with some retouch on the left edge. >136x40mm.
- B10** *Axe* preform, broken at the butt end. Lenticular section with high back. L>110mm.
- B11** Large circular *flake* (thermally generated ventral face) with signs of heavy battering of a potential striking platform. Some recent edge damage. 100x105mm.
- C** Battered cardboard box in Box B. Paper label 'Scrapers'.
- C1** *Scraper* on oval thermal flake with heavily battered cortex on the dorsal face. Steeply flaked around the perimeter. 111x69mm.
- C2** *Axe* preform, broken at one end. Thick lenticular section. L>80mm
- C3** Oval thermal *flake* with some minor edge retouch or damage. L=74mm.
- C4** *Scraper*, rounded end on secondary flake. L=59mm.
- C5** *Scraper*, all round on oval thermal flake, cortex on the dorsal face. Dark grey flint with minimal patination. 70x58mm.
- C6** *Scraper*, rounded end on secondary flake. L=59mm.
- C7** ?*Scraper* on right side of side struck secondary flake. 38x32mm.
- C8** Fragment of cortical thermal *flake*.
- C9** *Scraper* end on broken long narrow secondary flake, proximal end missing. L>58mm.
- C10** Long narrow thermal *flake*, cortex on dorsal face, some recent damage on one edge. L=134mm.
- C11** *Scraper*, rounded end on primary flake. L=56mm.
- C12 a& b** Two refitting shatter fragments.

- C13** Long narrow thermal *flake*. L=85mm.
- C14** *Trial piece* with single flake scar and thermal fracture.
- C15** *Scraper*, end on blade of flint with low level of patination. L=82mm.
- C16** Shatter piece, probably from *axe roughout*.
- C17** *Flake* fragment, probably from a blade core.
- D** Small wooden box with paper lining, labelled 27 and L1. Paper label 'Stanhoe'
- D1** *Axe roughout* with low level of patination. L=142mm.
- D2** Sub rectangular tertiary *flake*, edge damaged in antiquity. 90x52mm.
- D3** *Axe* preform with broad cutting edge. Minimal patination. L=125mm.
- D4** *Axe roughout*. L=92mm.
- D5** *Axe roughout*. L=125mm.
- D6** *Axe roughout* (over thinned). L=112mm.
- D7** *Axe* preform with steep break at the cutting edge. L=108mm.
- D8** *Axe roughout*, broken transversely. L>106mm.
- D9** *Axe* preform with useable cutting edge. L=115mm.
- D10** *Axe* preform with useable cutting edge. Minimal patination but spotty iron staining present. L=117mm.
- D11** *Axe* preform with very broad cutting edge and narrow butt. L=95mm.
- D12** *Rod* like fragment, probably a thermal 'starch' fracture.
- D13** *Axe* preform with pointed butt and useable cutting edge. Low level of patination. L=139mm.
- D14** *Axe roughout* with thick quadrilateral section, narrow at both ends. L=157mm.
- D15** Heavy plano-convex *roughout*, broken transversely at one end. Low level of patination. L>135mm.
- D16** Plano-convex *roughout* with thick weathered cortex over pale brown flint, probably a thermal flake. L=117mm.

**D17** Thermal *flake*. L=98mm.

**E** Plastic 'Jacobs' Biscuit Box.

Contents are mainly flakes, shatter pieces and natural fragments. They were not individually numbered but bagged in groups as follows:-

|                                  |                                  |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Rounded end <i>scrapers</i>      | 14                               |
| Backed <i>blade</i>              | 1                                |
| Crested <i>blade</i>             | 1                                |
| Flakes and broken <i>flakes</i>  | 73                               |
| Thermal flakes/Natural fragments | 33                               |
| Pottery sherds                   | 6 (all RB greyware, A.R. ident.) |

(The scrapers are typical of the Later Neolithic, while the flakes are mainly debitage from the reduction of natural nodules to the roughout stage, however a few exhibit a curved profile, indicating the thinning stage of a preform. The crested blade is from the preparation of a blade core and probably residual from the Early Neolithic or even the Mesolithic. The backed blade is also residual and may be Upper Palaeolithic or Mesolithic).

**F** Small cardboard lid with card label 'Many different tools. Two small identical ones come from Goodstone (sic)'. Probably Gooderstone is meant.

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| End scraper        | 1   |
| Fabricators        | 3 (of which the two smaller ones are probably from Gooderstone) |
| Long narrow flakes | 2   |

## GENERAL COMMENTS

Combining the information above with my earlier report of 24.09.07 gives a typical assemblage from an axe manufacturing site where nodules of natural flint, probably gathered from a local surface source, are reduced by flaking.

The first stage of reduction is to the roughout stage, where a core approaching in shape that required for an axe is produced; breakages and rejects owing to faults in the flint will be discarded, while some of the flake waste (debitage) may be used to form other tools, such as scrapers. The second stage is the conversion of the roughout to the preform stage, where the final shape of the axe is reached; flake waste from this stage are usually thinner and smaller than from the first stage. Often the resultant product is fully useable and no more modification needs to be carried out, but for many the third stage of grinding and polishing, either of the whole surface of the axe or, more economically of effort, just the blade end will be carried out, though not necessarily at the original site or at the same time. It would appear that all stages were carried out in the vicinity of the Stanhoe site.

A rapid count shows that there are 13 roughouts, 29 preforms and 5 polished axes in the collection, with 12 broken roughouts/preforms. As noted in the details, several of the preforms could be considered as useable products.

### THIRD BATCH examined by P.A.R. (1 & 4/9/08)

#### Numbered Items

- 211** Broad *leaf arrowhead*. 47x 32x7mm. Unpatinated
- 216** Leaf-shaped *flake* with shallow retouch on both lateral edges , possibly an unfinished projectile point. Length 47mm. Unpatinated

#### Un-numbered Items

**(All other items are given alpha-numeric numbers, marked with pencil on the artefacts. All artefacts are patinated white, often with spotty iron staining, unless otherwise recorded)**

#### G Tray labelled 'Plum Tomatoes'

- G1** *Axe roughout*. L=173mm
- G2** Fragment of highly *polished axe*, severely damaged by fire. L= 110mm
- G3** Butt end of *polished axe*, broken in antiquity. L=98mm
- G4** *Axe preform*. L=150mm
- G5** Butt end of a *polished axe*, broken in antiquity. L=92mm
- G6** Large crested *blade*, broken at the distal end in antiquity. L=134mm
- G7** *Axe rough out*. L=108mm
- G8** Butt end of an *axe preform*, broken in antiquity. L=92mm
- G9** Segment of a *polished axe*, both ends broken in antiquity. L=109mm
- G10** *Axe preform* in very coarse grained flint. L=137mm
- G11** Blade-like *flake* from the face of a single platform core. L=65mm
- G12** Small double ended *axe*, probably unfinished, with irregular triangular to plano-convex section. L=112mm. (?**Mesolithic**)
- G13** Butt end (?) of a *flaked axe* with almost parallel lateral edges, broken in antiquity. L=115mm
- G14** Medial segment of a highly *polished axe*, with massive hinge fracture. L=60mm
- G15** Butt end of a *polished axe*, broken in antiquity. L=87mm

- G16** Almost complete *polished axe* with ancient damage to the cutting edge.  
L=119mm
- G17** Oval *biface*, one face of which is partially formed by flaking and part thermal fracture, while the other face is entirely thermal. L=80mm
- G18** Flat, pear-shaped flint nodule, with very thick weathered cortex, bifacially flaked at the narrow end only, perhaps intended as an *axe roughout*. L=112mm
- G19** *Axe preform* in coarse grained flint. L=172mm
- G20** End of an *axe preform*, broken in antiquity, in glossy flint, stained brown.  
L=88mm
- G21** Butt end of a *polished axe*, broken in antiquity, in grey flint with slight patina only. L=117mm
- G22** Butt end of a *flaked axe* in mottled grey flint, unpatinated. L=87mm
- G23** Large, broad *flake* of mottled grey flint, unmodified and unpatinated.  
L=102mm
- H** Wooden Box labelled '29 Cards L1 L1BL' and 'Cards 50p, Book £5.00'
- H1** Mesial fragment of a highly polished *axe* in pale grey flint. L=93mm
- H2** Butt end of a highly *polished axe* in pale grey flint. L=88mm. Possibly part of H1.
- H3** Butt end of a *flaked axe* in grey flint. Broken end is burnt. Unpatinated.  
L=80mm
- H4** Blade end of a slim *polished axe* in dark grey flint, with incipient patination. Edge is sharp with slight chips. L=56mm
- H5** Sub-rectangular slab of tabular flint with extensive peripheral flaking on one face, leaving a cortical central boss. The opposed face is smooth, patinated creamy white (?a thermal surface), with four large longitudinal flake scars from one end forming a sharp cutting edge; these latter scars are unpatinated. This artefact may be of *recent* origin. L=149mm
- H6** *Axe* with irregular quadrilateral section and with a cutting edge at one end formed by small longitudinal flake scars on both faces. In dark grey mottled flint, unpatinated. Probably **Early Mesolithic**. L=119mm
- H7** *Discoidal knife*. Almost circular, with a short concave section on the edge, in mottled grey flint with cream coloured inclusions. Flaked over both faces and without

polish, but with a trace of cortex on one face. Diameter 75-80mm and maximum thickness 19mm

**H8** Axe/Adze. Thin sub-triangular artefact in pale grey flint, flaked on both faces to form a cutting edge on the base of the triangle. Unpatinated. Probably a small wood-working tool. L=71mm, breadth 46mm

**H9** Large rounded end *scraper* on an almost circular tertiary flake. Dimensions 67 x 67 x 17mm

**H10** Large rounded end *scraper* on an oval tertiary flake of grey flint with thin patination. 73 x 58 x 19mm

**H11** Large rounded end *scraper* on proximal end of a thin secondary flake of dark grey flint, broken at the distal end. Minimal patination. >60 x 60 x 10mm

**H12** Single platform conical blade/flake *core* with only one small area of cortex, otherwise almost circular. Unpatinated grey flint. Potential blade length 30mm.

**Mesolithic or Early Neolithic**

**H13** Large *blade* of mottled grey flint with trace of cortex on the left edge. Large plain platform, hard hammer struck. L=102mm

**H14** Deeply plunging *flake* from a pebble core

**H15** Long, narrow thermal *flake* with triangular section, two thermal sides and one cortical, the latter having some irregular retouch

**H16** Flaked nodule. Crescent shaped nodule with extensive bifacial flaking on the convex edge. Possibly used as a *chopper*

**J Small cardboard tray inside wooden box H**

Contains large number of small artefacts sorted into types and bagged. Each bag has an alpha-numeric mark, but individual items not marked. Many unpatinated. Comments on the contents of each bag follow.

**J1** A possible *micro-burin* which is a by-product of the manufacture of microliths and an indicator of **Mesolithic** activity. See also H6 and H12

**J2** Two *laurel leaves*. These are an indicator of Early Neolithic activity

**J3** 28 *scrapers*. These include end and side scraper examples, many of which are probably Neolithic but there are also a number of very small examples, probably of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age origin. See J4

**J4** 7 *plano-convex knives* including two broken or unfinished examples. A very characteristic tool of the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age (Beaker Period)

**J5** 6 piercers include *borers*, *awls* and *reamers*, not indicative of a specific period

- J6** 6 miscellaneous *retouched pieces*
- J7** *Biface*. A pear-shaped flint, resembling a miniature axe but without a cutting edge
- J8** 8 *blades*, a by-product of Mesolithic or Early Neolithic activity
- J9** 44 *flakes* and flake fragments, a by-product of any knapping activity (6 flint fragments of natural origin were discarded)

#### **FOURTH BATCH examined by P.A.R. (6/10/08)**

(Unless otherwise stated all items are probably from the Neolithic period. Un-marked items have been given alpha-numeric designations. These are pencilled on the objects and written on the containing bags).

- K1** *Miniature axe* in pale grey glossy mottled flint with minimal polish, even at the cutting edge; this is only slightly curved and the butt is rounded. Dimensions 92 x 43 x 20mm.
- K2** *Piercer*. An unusual form, made on a thick, curved thermal flake with a prominent cortical knob at one end, steeply retouched along both lateral edges of the flake, which narrows to a blunt point, flanked by steep retouch. In unpatinated grey, glossy flint, this artefact is probably of **Bronze Age**, or more recent origin. Length 100mm
- K3** *Polished axe* (fragment). The axe has broken transversely leaving a large hinge fracture scar. Subsequently attempts have been made to use the fragment, which included the cutting edge, as a core, several long, narrow flakes having been removed. Glossy pale grey flint.
- K4** *Rod*. Of quadrilateral section and with pointed ends. Unpatinated. Length 90mm.
- K5** *Scraper*. Rounded end and left side on a high-backed, almost circular flake of mottled grey flint with only incipient patination. Diameter c.55mm.
- K6** (Original number is ?205?). *Sickle blade* (segment). An almost straight segment, finished on both faces with shallow invasive flaking from both edges. A notch in one edge is presumably accidental damage. Unpatinated dark flint. Dimensions 65 x 36 x 11mm. (sketch drawing).
- K7** *Piercer*. Long, well-made point made on the left edge of a thick based secondary flake of unpatinated grey, glossy flint. Probably **Later Bronze Age**.
- K8** *Hammerstone*. Roughly spherical flint nodule, heavily battered and flaked. Diameter c.80mm.

- K9** *Blade* in pale grey flint, soft hammer struck, plain platform without abrasion. Length 62mm.
- K10** Thermal flake. Natural.
- K11** Single platform conical blade *core* for the production of narrow blades. Thin bluish-white patina. Length 40mm. Probably **Late Mesolithic**.
- K12** *Axe/adze roughout*. Tendency to plano-convex section. Dimensions 155 x 48 x 32mm.
- K13** Flake from *polished axe*. Length 70mm. Triangular-sectioned flake with rounded polished crest and some polish on the two dorsal faces, clearly struck from the edge of broken polished axe.
- K14** *Blade*. Length 60mm. Small prepared platform and with some edge damage on the mesial left edge.
- K15** Short, broad, tertiary *flake* of unpatinated grey flint. The notch in the centre of the distal edge is probably accidental.
- K16** Levalloisoidal (tortoise) *core* in glossy grey flint, with unsuccessful strike. Dimensions 67 x 58 x 26mm.
- K17** *Roughout*. Dimensions 145 x 35 x 26mm. Long thin roughout with approximate triangular section, possibly for a **Mesolithic** axe. Heavily patinated and iron stained.
- K18** Blade-like *flake*. Thin cortex at distal end, lightly patinated with some post-patination damage.
- K19** Blade-like *flake*. Post-patination edge damage.
- K20** *Hammerstone*. Flattened sphere with heavy battering around the periphery.
- K21** Notched and bruised *blade*. Blade (length 138mm) of blackish flint with weathered cortex along the left edge and without significant patination. The mesial left edge has a large notch worked into the cortical covered edge and a short length of steep retouch adjacent to the faceted platform at the proximal end. The right edge shows signs of use along much of its length and some ventral bruising opposite the notch. There is a possibility that this is from the **Final Upper Palaeolithic** (long blade) industry which is already known at Titchwell. (sketch drawing).
- K22** Small *blade* with curved profile and cortex on its left edge. Abraded punctiform platform.
- K23** *Bored stone implement* (fragment). The fragment, which has relatively recent broken surfaces, comprises half of the hourglass perforation but is truncated on the other side by an irregular break which prevents any reconstruction of the rest of the artefact. The stone appears to be a coarse grained pink granite, which has been

polished and is now weathered to a speckled buff colour. The thickest point is 54mm and the width at the perforation is 83mm. The hour-glass perforation is c.47mm at its widest and 18mm at its most narrow. (This object was recorded by the Stone Axe Petrological Survey, number N251 as from Brancaster and in the possession of Bob Fenn – finder unknown).

**K24** *Discoidal knife*. Triangular but with a curved base and finished on both faces by shallow intrusive flaking. It is polished on both faces along the two straight edges. Complete except for a tiny chip at the apex of the triangle. Dimensions 73 x 56 x 9mm. (sketch drawing)

**K25** *Blade core*. Large single platform blade core for the production of relatively broad blades. Dimensions 115 x 75 x 72mm. The core is in blackish flint with one large coarse grained inclusion and other pale grey areas. The platform has been prepared and has some areas of edge abrasion. One edge has some minor cresting. Flake scars indicate that blades of up to 105mm in length and 35mm in length have been produced before discard of the core. Although there is a possibility that this core is from the Final Upper Palaeolithic (see K21) it is more likely to be **Early Neolithic**.

**K26** *Quern rubber*. Bun-shaped red quartzite disc of diameter c95mm and thickness 54mm. One face is slightly domed, the other flat in the central area, with some faceting at the perimeter. The edges show some evidence of shaping by pecking.

**K27** *Scraper*. Rounded end and both sides scraper on a high-backed, oval, tertiary flake of dark grey flint. Sharp and unpatinated.