

## 5. CHIPPED STONE ASSEMBLAGE

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In addition to the excavated finds, three episodes of surface-collected material are considered here: the initial FCS assemblage that led to the identification of the site (Finlay 2010); four microliths found by Steven Birch in August 2010; and pieces recovered from the evaluation phase surface collection. All of the lithic material was classified using standard terms and methodologies for Scottish Mesolithic assemblages (after Wickham-Jones 1990; Finlayson, Finlay and Mithen 2000). For the purposes of this discussion, the entire assemblage is presented and treated as a unitary entity with subdivision by mode of recovery, trench and context where appropriate.

Most stages of lithic reduction are present, including cores, chunks, flakes and blades as well as small-sized debitage (less than 10mm max. dimension). This includes small complete knapping flakes of *c* 5mm length or less as well as broken fragments of larger debitage pieces. The retouched component is characterised by the microliths and scrapers, with a few other retouched pieces including some diagnostic later prehistoric forms. A diverse range of lithic raw materials are used including flint, bloodstone, baked mudstone, quartz and several other raw materials such as jasper and chalcedony. The condition of the evaluation assemblages is mixed and for the non-quartz component predominantly patinated (white surface cortexation 46 per cent) with at least 21 per cent burnt. Seven pot-lid heat spalls were recovered (three <10mm) from Tr5, Tr11 and as surface finds. Slight iron staining from local iron pan is present on the patinated surface of several pieces and three pieces have random plant gloss.

### 5.1 Surface collections

#### 5.1.1 Initial identification of the site: the FCS collection

In addition to the initial find of the small barbed and tanged arrowhead, Pete Madden collected a further 21 pieces (six blades, one core, four chunks, eight flakes and two pieces of smaller debitage (<10mm max. dimension) from across the wider terrace area (FCS environs). Of note is an intensively worked platform core piece with a bipolar final stage and another flake that may also directly relate to

this reduction episode. A further 88 pieces derive from collection made during the course of about two hours by three people, which yielded a few microlithic forms and a notable blade assemblage (Finlay 2010). A notable feature was the relatively high blade:flake ratio. The overall lamellar index is 27 per cent (after Bordes and Gausson 1970), which is also associated with a preponderance of tertiary pieces. The four cores comprise a couple of flint platform cores, an intensively worked remnant and a baked mudstone opposed platform blade core with flake final removals (FCS101). The presence of complete small debitage flakes (*c* 60 per cent of the <10mm fraction) also indicated a locale of primary knapping activity.

Extensive quartz shatter was noted but none collected (Matt Ritchie, pers comm). The FCS collection is presented in Table 1.

An additional four geometric microliths were collected by Steven Birch in August 2010 and these comprise three backed bladelets and a scalene triangle. Two appear to have been fashioned in grey flint but all are patinated and in keeping with those discussed below from the evaluation and FCS collection.

### 5.2 Evaluation assemblage

In excess of 950 pieces were examined from the fieldwork undertaken in October 2010 including natural and unworked quartz and other pieces subsequently discounted from the analysis presented below. A summary of the assemblage is presented in Tables 2 and 3. Of this, 358 pieces were obtained from the bulk samples taken for palaeo-botanical and artefact recovery, constituting 79 per cent small fraction (<10mm) debitage and three microliths.

### 5.3 Test pit assemblage

Individual test pit assemblages largely mirror the profile of the surface-collected material and are characterised by debitage in which flint, other siliceous materials and quartz are present. No discrete spatial differences were identified and the mixed character of this assemblage is evident; there is a reworked bipolar flint chunk from TP8.

**Table 1** FCS surface collection

| Initial FCS surface collection         | No.        | Flint      | Baked mudstone | Other    |
|--|------------|------------|----------------|----------|
| <b>Primary technology</b>              |            |            |                |          |
| Chunk                                  | 14         | 12         |                | 2        |
| Core                                   | 4          | 3          | 1              |          |
| Blade                                  | 24         | 22         | 1              | 1        |
| <i>Secondary blade</i>                 |            | 4          |                |          |
| <i>Inner blade</i>                     |            | 18         |                |          |
| Flake                                  | 64         | 62         | 1              | 1        |
| <i>Primary flake</i>                   |            | 2          |                |          |
| <i>Secondary flake</i>                 |            | 22         | 1              | 1        |
| <i>Inner flake</i>                     |            | 38         |                |          |
| Indeterminate blank (inner)            | 1          | 1          |                |          |
| Pieces less than (<10mm max dimension) | 33         | 33         |                |          |
| <b>Secondary technology</b>            |            |            |                |          |
| Barbed and tanged arrowhead            | 1          | 1          |                |          |
| Microlith                              | 1          | 1          |                |          |
| Other microlithic forms                | 2          | 2          |                |          |
| Notch and snap                         | 1          | 1          |                |          |
| Other retouched pieces                 | 5          | 5          |                |          |
| <b>Total</b>                           | <b>150</b> | <b>143</b> | <b>3</b>       | <b>4</b> |

**Table 2** Secondary technology (FCS surface collection and evaluation assemblages)

| Type                            | Total     | Flint     | Quartz   | Bloodstone | Indet.   | FCS surface | Surface  | TP1      | TP4      | Tr5 & FCS surface | Tr8      | Tr11     |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|------------|----------|-------------|----------|----------|----------|-------------------|----------|----------|
| <b>Microoliths and related</b>  |           |           |          |            |          |             |          |          |          |                   |          |          |
| Crescent                        | 3         | 1         |          | 1          | 1        | 1           | 1        |          |          | 1                 |          | 1        |
| Backed bladelet                 | 4         | 3         |          |            | 1        | 1           | 2        |          |          | 1                 |          |          |
| Leaf point                      | 1         | 1         |          |            |          |             |          |          |          | 1                 |          |          |
| Irregular/indet.                | 4         | 2         |          | 1          | 1        | 1           | 1        |          |          | 2                 |          |          |
| Microolith fragments            | 6         | 2         |          | 1          | 3        | 1           | 2        |          |          | 3                 |          |          |
| Truncation                      | 2         | 1         |          |            | 1        |             |          |          |          | 2                 |          |          |
| Notch and snap truncation       | 1         | 1         |          |            |          | 1           |          |          |          |                   |          |          |
| <b>Scrapers</b>                 |           |           |          |            |          |             |          |          |          |                   |          |          |
| Convex short                    | 2         | 2         |          |            |          |             |          |          |          |                   | 1        | 1        |
| Angled/side                     | 2         | 1         |          |            | 1        |             |          |          |          | 2                 |          |          |
| Other end scrapers              | 2         | 1         |          |            | 1        |             |          | 1        |          |                   |          | 1        |
| Irregular scraper               | 1         | 1         |          |            |          |             |          |          |          | 1                 |          |          |
| Perfunctory                     | 4         | 4         |          |            |          | 1           |          |          |          | 2                 | 1        |          |
| Perfunctory forms               | 8         |           | 8        |            |          |             | 1        | 1        | 1        | 4                 |          | 1        |
| <b>Other retouched pieces</b>   |           |           |          |            |          |             |          |          |          |                   |          |          |
| Semi-invasively retouched blade | 1         | 1         |          |            |          |             |          |          |          | 1                 |          |          |
| Other retouch and fragments     | 4         | 4         |          |            |          | 2           |          |          |          | 2                 |          |          |
| Serrated edge-damaged blade     | 1         | 1         |          |            |          |             |          |          |          | 1                 |          |          |
| Barbed and tanged arrowhead     | 1         | 1         |          |            |          | 1           |          |          |          |                   |          |          |
| <b>Total</b>                    | <b>47</b> | <b>27</b> | <b>8</b> | <b>3</b>   | <b>9</b> | <b>8</b>    | <b>7</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>23</b>         | <b>2</b> | <b>4</b> |

Table 3 Excavated assemblage by raw materials (excluding retouched pieces)

| Raw material/type                           | Evaluation surface collection | TP1 | TP2 | TP4 | TP5 and Tr5 | TP6 | TP7 | TP8 | TP9 | Tr11 |
|---|-------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Flint and other siliceous material (indet.) |                               |     |     |     |             |     |     |     |     |      |
| <i>Core</i>                                 | 1                             | 1   |     |     | 7           | 2   |     |     |     |      |
| Microblade platform                         |                               |     |     |     | 1           |     |     |     |     |      |
| Non-specific (blade/flake) platform         | 1                             | 1   |     |     | 4           | 2   |     |     |     |      |
| Core fragment                               |                               |     |     |     | 2           |     |     |     |     |      |
| Chunk                                       | 9                             | 3   | 2   |     | 16          | 1   |     | 1   |     | 5    |
| <i>Flake</i>                                | 39                            | 10  | 2   | 6   | 87          | 7   |     | 2   | 1   | 11   |
| Primary flake                               | 3                             | 1   |     | 1   | 5           |     |     |     |     | 1    |
| Secondary flake                             | 10                            | 5   | 1   | 2   | 27          | 2   |     | 1   | 1   | 2    |
| Inner flake                                 | 26                            | 4   | 1   | 3   | 55          | 5   |     | 1   |     | 8    |
| <i>Blade</i>                                | 20                            | 0   | 0   | 2   | 17          |     |     |     |     | 1    |
| Primary blade                               |                               |     |     |     |             |     |     |     |     |      |
| Secondary blade                             | 2                             |     |     |     | 3           |     |     |     |     |      |
| Inner blade                                 | 18                            |     |     | 2   | 14          |     |     |     |     | 1    |
| Small fraction (<10mm)                      | 24                            | 5   | 1   | 6   | 139         | 12  |     | 5   | 1   | 12   |
| Quartz                                      |                               |     |     |     |             |     |     |     |     |      |
| Split pebble                                |                               |     |     |     | 1           |     |     |     |     |      |
| Core  |                               |     |     |     | 1           | 1   |     |     | 1   |      |
| Chunk                                       | 17                            | 9   | 3   | 6   | 44          | 8   | 7   |     |     | 14   |
| <i>Flake and splintered flake</i>           | 10                            | 2   |     |     | 9           | 2   | 1   | 1   |     | 4    |
| Primary flake                               | 1                             |     |     |     | 1           |     |     |     |     |      |
| Secondary flake                             | 7                             | 2   |     |     | 1           |     | 1   |     |     |      |
| Inner flake                                 | 2                             |     |     |     | 7           |     |     | 1   |     |      |
| Blade (secondary)                           |                               |     |     |     |             |     |     |     |     | 1    |

Table 3 *cont.*

| Raw material/type                           | Evaluation surface collection | TP1       | TP2       | TP4       | TP5 and Tr5 | TP6       | TP7       | TP8       | TP9      | Tr11      |
|---|-------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| Flint and other siliceous material (indet.) |                               |           |           |           |             |           |           |           |          |           |
| Small fraction (<10mm)                      | 8                             | 21        | 5         | 40        | 52          | 21        | 18        | 2         | 1        | 12        |
| Other materials                             |                               |           |           |           |             |           |           |           |          |           |
| Agate chunk                                 |                               |           |           | 1         |             |           |           |           |          |           |
| Agate pebble                                |                               |           |           |           | 1           |           |           |           |          |           |
| Baked mudstone platform core                |                               |           |           |           | 1           |           |           |           |          |           |
| Baked mudstone chunk                        | 1                             |           |           |           |             |           |           |           |          |           |
| Bloodstone flake                            | 2                             | 1         |           |           | 1           | 1         |           |           |          | 1         |
| Bloodstone <                                |                               | 1         |           |           | 3           |           |           |           |          |           |
| Chalcedony pebble                           |                               |           |           |           | 1           |           |           |           |          |           |
| Chalcedony chunk                            |                               |           |           |           |             |           |           |           |          | 2         |
| Chalcedony blade                            | 1                             |           |           |           |             |           |           |           |          |           |
| Chalcedony <                                |                               |           |           |           | 1           |           |           |           |          |           |
| Unidentified chunk                          |                               |           |           |           | 1           |           |           |           |          |           |
| Jasper flake                                | 1                             |           |           |           |             |           |           |           |          |           |
| <b>Total</b>                                | <b>133</b>                    | <b>52</b> | <b>14</b> | <b>61</b> | <b>382</b>  | <b>53</b> | <b>26</b> | <b>11</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>59</b> |

## 5.4 Trench 5 and Extension

The assemblage is dominated by small fraction debitage. Overall it is quite diverse and chronologically mixed. This area was very productive in terms of retouched pieces but this may also be a reflection of increased lithic recovery. There is a clear Mesolithic element, including a fine leaf point microlith, truncations and some of the larger debitage. This area also yielded several pieces of bloodstone.

There are a couple of large flint blades but these actually appear to be later prehistoric in character – one is a semi-invasive retouched form from the upper deposits (SF96.2) and there is also a serrated edge-damaged blade with some random plant gloss on the ventral surface (SF128.1, length 41mm). Both forms are typical of Later Neolithic–Bronze Age forms and this date range would also fit some of the scrapers. These indicate the undertaking of Bronze Age processing and craft activities. Overall, the character of the material is quite mixed and the cores are mostly non-specific platforms and are quite heavily worked.

## 5.5 Trench 11

The assemblage is chronologically mixed, with a bloodstone crescent microlith as well as a large convex scraper that is more in keeping with later prehistoric assemblages. There is a worked quartz component here comprising a blade, worked chunks and small fraction debitage. The flint assemblage is also quite diverse in terms of technology and events, and includes quite a large nodule opening flake.

## 5.6 Raw materials

Several different lithic raw materials were identified and traditions of lithic use in the wider region are diverse and complex (see Wickham-Jones 1986; 1990; 2004). As noted elsewhere, the patinated and burnt condition of an assemblage constrains raw material identification (Wickham-Jones 1990), and this is also true here, with some of the material classified as flint best considered within a broader, more general, class of chalcedonic silica (after Wickham-Jones 2004). Indeed, due to patination/burning, nearly half of the excavated non-quartz assemblage, the raw material could not be conclusively identified.

### 5.6.1 Flint

Around 75 per cent of the excavated non-quartz assemblage is considered to be flint. All of the pebble flint exploited appears to have been derived from beach or secondary fluvio-glacial deposits and the use of pebble material is indicated by the presence of heavily battered and water-rolled cortex. Where visible the original internal colour of the pieces indicates the predominance of light grey and brown flint pieces with the occasional darker grey pebble.

The variation in the colour and texture of material is typical of the variation found more generally within Scottish west coast assemblages (Mithen 2000; Wickham-Jones 2008). It is likely that flint and some of the other non-quartz was collected from neighbouring raised beaches or other similar regional deposits. The availability of flint in the Morvern area has been commented on in the past (for example, Lacaille 1954). One FCS split beach flint pebble gives a good indication of the probable average length of the pebbles exploited, at *c* 35mm in length, but the majority of pieces are smaller than this. It is evident from a few larger blanks that are less than 55mm max. dimension that medium-sized flint pebbles were also exploited, such as that used for a large Tr5 blade (FCS101, length 51mm).

### 5.6.2 Quartz

Quartz is a readily available raw material in the immediate environment and one that was used extensively across Scotland in prehistory (Ballin 2008). The challenges in identifying worked quartz are well known and need not be repeated at length here. The quartz component was divided into three categories – unmodified pieces mostly weathered and sub-rounded to more angular pebbles and chunks (not considered further here); pieces where stuck attributions are weak/dubious (accounting for around 25 per cent of the hand-collected quartz assemblage, much of this within the <10mm size class) and pieces with genuine fracture attributes. Both of the latter are presented in Tables 2 and 3.

Several different types of quartz are present; the majority fall within Ballin's (2008: 46) milky quartz class. These were divided on the basis of colour, texture and inclusions into four main types:

Type A: 72 per cent (of the quartz assemblage), semi-translucent, fine-grained white, frequently with dark mineral inclusions and some golden micaceous cortex that resembles glitter.

Type B: 18 per cent, quite fine-grained but more variable in grain size and poorer quality than Type A, this also has brown–dark green, as well as grey mineral inclusions.

Type C: 3 per cent, a matt white quartz with some reflective fine grains (Ballin 2008: fine-grained quartz category), occurs primarily as weathered pieces.

Type D: 10 per cent, a white, reflective quartz with a slightly greasy texture with variable grain size; some of this material is burnt and would fall into a coarse-grained quartz category (Ballin 2008).

The more milky, semi-translucent types (A and B) are those which have more conclusive traces of deliberate reduction, but there is no clear patterning in the association between types and raw materials, and the raw material variation should be seen as something of a continuum. Some vein quartz is evident as well as the more common weathered blocks. There are also some larger tabular blocks with a distinctive gold micaceous surface from Tr6 and Tr11 in particular. Several of these tabular pieces have single flakes or removals predominantly from one side. While this could reflect quite expedient deliberate use and reduction, artificial fracturing through machinery and other natural agencies is also likely to account for some of the patterning seen, given that a few of the removals are very fresh.

The quartz assemblage is dominated by chunks and small fraction debitage. The evidence for the deliberate reduction of quartz is quite limited, but this may be a reflection of its availability and the expedient use of this resource without recourse to systematic reduction that naturally enhances the archaeological identification of utilised material. There is some evidence for systematic cores: one is a large, weathered block with anvil-supported removals from one side only, which is a probable core/scrapper from Tr6, and there are a couple of the large tabular blocks, again with removals predominantly from one side only, from Tr5 and Tr11. Some of the other tabular pieces appear

simply to be broken or have one end fractured off. These are of a totally different size and character from the technological strategies seen in the other raw materials, with pieces of 70–123mm max. dimension present.

While some of the other quartz chunks are clearly struck, there is actually little evidence for systematic reduction and comparatively few bipolar pieces. The impression is of casual exploitation of this resource coupled with the high potential of pseudo-modified pieces. There are some with what appears to be genuine secondary retouch but in many instances this is quite perfunctory, random and irregular in character. A couple of chunks from Tr5 have naturally sharp converging points but there is nothing systematic in this element of the assemblage. A few of the flakes and some of the small fraction debitage do signal an element of quartz working by both platform and bipolar strategies but the frequency of bipolar signatures at 9 per cent is notably low.

#### 5.6.3 Baked mudstone

The pieces of a grey to bluish material resemble the baked mudstone on Skye (Wickham-Jones, pers comm), although we should not automatically assume this is the source since other regional outcrops are likely and at least one piece is from an abraded pebble. There is a large worked chunk that has abraded surface cortex (SF203) and a finer-textured blue/grey basal rejuvenation flake from a probable flake core that has a length of discrete fine semi-abrupt removals and may have served as a scraper (SF99.1). While attributed to this material class it has quite a fine-grained texture and may be geologically distinct. Three pieces of light grey baked mudstone came from the FCS surface collection, including a narrow-blade platform core, worked for only a quarter of the circumference (FCS110, length 30mm). There is also a decent blade from a different core, length 36mm, and a smaller flake fragment.

#### 5.6.4 Rùm bloodstone

Around ten pieces of Rùm bloodstone were identified and counts in this material are likely to be notably under-estimated. The colour and texture

of this material varies from a bluish matrix with red inclusions through to light pink. Of note are a couple of crescent microliths and some small fraction debitage, suggesting that it was probably worked on site rather than simply reflecting tool discard.

#### 5.6.5 Chalcedony, jasper and agate

Other identifiable raw materials include a blue/grey chalcedony including an intensively worked and exhausted multi-stage platform core which has a final bipolar stage (SF35). There is also a proximal blade fragment (<10mm) in this material and it may actually be bloodstone variant. There is also a single small flake of fine-grained deep red jasper. Agate is represented by a single chunk and an unworked white/translucent pebble.

### 5.7 Technological character of the assemblage: primary technology

Two technological strategies are represented: platform and bipolar reduction. The evidence for bipolar or anvil reduction is actually very limited and the absence of bipolar cores is noteworthy, although there is evidence for the more controlled anvil support of cores. Some evidence of bipolar stages is visible on two of the microblade cores; one appears to predate the removal of blades and probably relates to opening. The main technique is platform reduction; most removals are unidirectional and this can be seen on the scar patterns on cores and blanks.

There is some evidence for opposed and alternating platform techniques. Strategies to rejuvenate platforms and address knapping errors are frequent in the assemblage, including platform rejuvenation blades and also both core-trimming blades and basal core rejuvenation pieces. These strategies are noted in other Scottish Mesolithic pebble assemblages, where the variable quality of the raw material demands flexibility on the part of the knapper to correct errors and maintain the core face (Finlay 2008). This was clearly an issue for the knappers at North Barr River, for several of the pieces have visible flaws and vugs. The general impression is that the knapping of siliceous materials is very competent in character and well executed,

which is also reflected in the relative frequency of blades.

#### 5.7.1 Cores

Most of the cores are quite intensively worked, and some of these exhibit earlier stages of removals. The majority are non-specific platform cores, less than 30mm in length. It is probable that many of these were blade platforms in their earlier stages with the final removals being flakes. Many have step and hinge terminations on the face and evidence of anvil support, rather than true bipolar knapping. The use of a supporting anvil is also seen on many of the flakes and blades and there is limited evidence for bipolar reduction, suggesting quite a controlled and parsimonious use of the raw materials. There is one flint microblade core remnant (Tr5, SF128.6) and a baked mudstone opposed blade platform core (FCS101). One baked mudstone single platform microblade core is on the side of a previously intensively reduced and bipolar worked piece, giving it a handled appearance; here the typical removals are only 10mm long by 4mm wide (core max. dimension 22mm, FCS103). In contrast, the quartz cores have a few often unsystematic removals predominantly from one side of a weathered or tabular block.

#### 5.7.2 Flakes, blades and small fraction debitage

The high lamellar index noted in the initial FCS surface collection is also seen in the evaluation phase surface collection. This is not seen in the individual test-pit assemblages, where blades are not common, the only exception being Tr5, where it is 16 per cent (quartz excluded and also in size profiles below). Here the assemblage is chronologically mixed and several larger blades are present. Overall, the blade length dimensions range from 10mm to 51mm (average  $24.0 \pm 9.49$ mm, mode 22mm,  $n=40$ ) with widths of 4–24mm (average  $10 \pm 3.4$ mm, mode 10mm) with average thickness  $3.65 \pm 2$ mm). This compares with the frequencies from the core dimensions, which are 17–35mm max. flaking dimension. Overall the flakes are variable and range from 5mm to 53mm (average  $17.4 \pm 7.9$ mm, mode 10mm,  $n=130$ ) and between

6mm and 47mm wide (average  $14.7 \pm 5.6$ mm, mode 13mm) with thickness 1–22mm (average  $3.88 \pm 2.47$ mm, mode 4mm).

The presence of smaller debitage (<10mm in size) identifies that primary knapping waste is present in the form of complete small debitage flakes; this includes flint, bloodstone and quartz. Some of these flakes are less than 3mm long but the majority of this component are small chunks.

## 5.8 Technological character of the assemblage: secondary technology

### 5.8.1 Microliths

The most numerous category of retouched pieces are the microliths and microlith fragments. Backed bladelets are the most common form. There are three from the evaluation phase, one has irregular backing on one side (SF2010.122), another with angled retouch at the base (SF25) and one more typical backed form (SF35.2). One backed blade microlith which retains the bulb of percussion has abrupt backing along the right side that converges to form a natural point at the distal end (FCS59, length 14mm, width 5mm). There are three crescents, two are small, backed on one side, one in flint the other burnt with enclume retouch (SF108.2, SF5.3). There is also a larger pink bloodstone piece that could be considered in this category on a larger flake blank but equally may be non-microlithic (SF161.1). Another bloodstone piece is on the distal end of an irregular flake (SF123.9) that resembles a backed bladelet in form.

There is a single fine complete grey flint leaf point microlith from Tr5 (SF99.7). Another flint piece has irregular abrupt microlithic retouch around the four sides; some of this looks quite fresh and may simply be trample damage, but it can be classified as an indeterminate microlith form (FCS82). There are also six microlith fragments, most are too small to shed light on the original form and are quite different in type (SF2010.30, SF2010.100, SF28.11, SF42.9, SF173.3, FCS58).

### 5.8.2 Microlithic truncations

There are two retouched truncations, one a partially laterally retouched blade (SF129.4). Retouch on this piece may have been abandoned during backing due

to blank thickness towards the hinge termination. There is also a proximal truncated blade with some fine lateral edge damage (SF128.5). Microlith bases appear to be predominantly trimmed, which might account for the lack of microburins and other truncations, although there is a single notch and snap truncation with a retouched notch on the proximal right side and a straight break (FCS60). Similar to a microburin formed to remove the bulb of percussion, but lacking the characteristic break facet, such pieces are relatively frequent finds in Scottish Mesolithic assemblages (Finlay 2000).

### 5.8.3 Barbed and tanged arrowhead

A small burnt grey flint barbed and tanged arrowhead. It has one vestigial barb, the other is slightly spatulate and a sub-rounded tang. Although fashioned using bifacial invasive retouch, this is largely limited to one face (length 25mm) and it is a Sutton-b type (after Green 1980).

### 5.8.4 Scrapers

The scrapers form a diverse collection of pieces; most are on flint. There are a couple of side scrapers (SF90.2, SF174.1) that have quite short lengths of semi-abrupt retouch and an angled side scraper (SF93.8). There are also a couple of irregular end scrapers (SF181), one on a blade core trimming flake (SF153). There is also a larger convex flint scraper (SF148) that has inverse retouch to create a convex end scraper at the proximal end; this piece is likely to be later prehistoric. Most of the others could be Mesolithic (for example SF72.6, SF153) as forms are quite variable, with somewhat irregular types often found on other west-coast Scottish Mesolithic sites (for example, see individual reports in Mithen 2000, for the southern Hebrides).

In addition, there are 12 more perfunctory forms, primarily on quartz chunks, where it is unclear whether the retouch is genuine modification. In a couple of cases, it is likely related to bipolar spalling (one flint, SF166.3). Natural fracture or later trample damage is most likely for these often unsystematic removals, but these are classified as perfunctory scraper forms here for they may reflect very casual use of tabular quartz blocks and chunks.

#### 5.8.5 Other retouched pieces

Several pieces fall in this category: a flake (SF174.6) and a flake segment with some microlithic retouch (SF172). A burnt flint blade with semi-invasive removals along both lateral edges (SF96.2) is broken at the distal end and the retouch is quite poorly executed but it is likely to be a later prehistoric retouched knife form. From the FCS collection there is one broken retouched blade fragment with a length of fine abrupt retouch at the proximal lateral left side (FCS75). Another is a steeply backed

blade (FCS83, length 25mm) with slightly invasive retouch along both extant sides which converges at an irregular squared point at the distal end with some cortex present and a fresher bending fracture at the proximal end. This is most likely a later prehistoric steeply backed piece as these have quite abruptly backed retouch, rather than a tanged point fragment (*contra* Finlay 2010). There is also a fine larger flint blade with serrated edge damage and random plant gloss on the ventral surface (SF128.1) which is also quite typical of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age forms.