
6 THE PREHISTORIC FINDS

There was a very small assemblage of prehistoric pottery and flints, much of it residual but some from Phase 1 contexts.

6.1 *The prehistoric pottery*

One small undiagnostic sherd of prehistoric pottery was found in the subsoil (58) and another from the top of natural in the 1990 excavation. Two undiagnostic body sherds and a small rim sherd were residual in later contexts (contexts 1, 20/4, 45).

6.2 *The Lithic Assemblage, by Torben Bjarke Ballin*

Six prehistoric lithic artefacts were found. Five were residual in medieval contexts or topsoil. One, however, from the original subsoil (58) was near the possible ard marks.

The assemblage is briefly characterised in **Table 1** (full report **Ballin 2008**). Three pieces are debitage and three are tools. The debitage includes one minuscule chip (SF 6), as well as two blades (SF 3, 4). SF 3 is a relatively short and broad blade (31 × 13 × 5mm), whereas SF 4 is more regular and narrower (33 × 9 × 3mm). The tools include one short end-scrapers (SF 5), one scraper-edge fragment (SF 1), and one flake with edge-retouch (SF 2). SF 5 is a well-executed, robust end-scrapers (36 × 20 × 12mm), and it was manufactured on a regular hard-hammer flake. SF 1 is a fragment of a scraper-edge (12 × 13

Table 1 Lithic artefacts

	SF no.
Chips	6
Blades	3, 4
Short end-scrapers	5
Scraper-edge fragment	1
Flakes w edge-retouch	2
TOTAL	6

× 8mm), where only the two corners of the working-edge survive. Most likely, the original scraper was a short end-scrapers. SF 2 is a broad hard-hammer flake (43 × 33 × 7mm) with fully blunted lateral sides.

Although no strictly diagnostic types are present, technological attributes associated with the collection suggest that it may be a mixture of – as a minimum – Late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic and Late Neolithic artefacts. The narrow, regular blade (SF 4) was prepared by combined trimming and abrasion, which is the common approach experienced in connection with Late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic assemblages (**Ballin 2006; forthcoming b**). The broad flake used as a blank for retouched piece SF 2 has a finely faceted platform remnant, and it was clearly struck from a Late Neolithic Levallois-like core (**Ballin forthcoming a; Suddaby & Ballin 2011**).