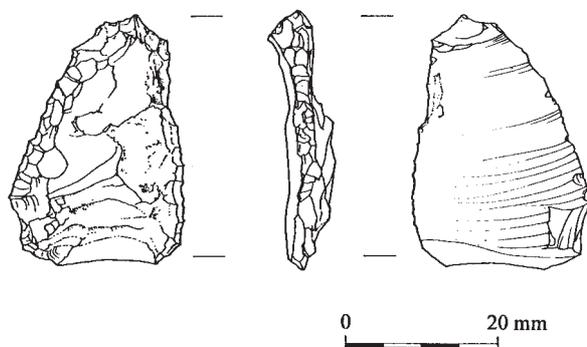


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## 6 The retouched flint flake by *Michael Donnelly*

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*Illus 7 Glennan boulder-shelter: the flint knife*

Flint, 26 mm × 23 mm × 6 mm, plunging secondary flake, heavy platform preparation, flat bulb, flat platform with distinct lip. Regular, medium, parallel, semi-abrupt retouch along dorsal, right margin; regular, fine retouch along dorsal, left margin, low to moderate stepping to both edges and

an area of severe edge damage to lower right margin; slight snap at extreme lower right margin (small find 2, from sieving of spoil).

The flint flake (*Illus 7*) is typical of many finds discovered in association with Bronze Age urns from Scotland. Finds such as discoidal scrapers, barbed and tanged arrowheads (Temple Wood, Kilmartin: [Scott 1991](#), 101–03) and true knives (Upper Largie, Argyll: [Mercer and Rideout 1987](#), 37–38) are prominent within this material and parallels for the Glennan example are less evident although they do exist with numerous examples from Tayside and Fife (eg Kirkton: [MacGregor 1998a](#), 74). Often, many flint flakes with simple retouch or with abrupt retouch are described as knives and it is possible to view this piece as easily fitting into this looser grouping.

The piece had clearly been used during its lifetime, although some of the more severe edge damage might relate to its deposition within the spoil from the initial discovery of the urn. The piece does not display signs of having been affected by high temperatures.