

my visit, and Liza Stewart who accompanied me and translated the two Belgian publications on Spiennes.

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GIANT HANDAXES FROM CUXTON: ERRATA AND CLARIFICATION

Further to my paper in the R.J. MacRae memorial volume on the recent handaxe discoveries at Cuxton (Wenban-Smith 2004) there are two points requiring correction and clarification. Firstly, concerning the stratigraphic context of the giant handaxes, the correct context of both of them is level 2a, not 2b as given in the text (p. 17). In Figure 2, the triangle with "30" inside it represents the find-number of the *in situ* cleaver, which is shown correctly in level 2a; Figure 4 shows (from the base) Chalk bedrock, levels 1a, 1b, 2a, 2b and 3, with the cleaver visible in the slightly gravelly level 2a.

Secondly, concerning the dating of the Hoxnian lower industry, this is intentionally listed in Table 1 as "11[10?]" in the part of the table covering sites from "Hoxnian/early Wolstonian complex?"; it is then, injudiciously, discussed in the text (p. 19) as part of the group of sites in the period MIS 10–8. The dating of the Hoxne sequence is currently under investigation by the Archaeology of Human Origins in Britain project (AHOB) and the results of this re-investigation are not yet available. Pending this revision, prior work at the site (Moir 1926) demonstrated the presence of an arctic bed capping the main interglacial sequence at another part of the site to where the main lower industry assemblage was recovered in the 1970s (Wymer 1985). The lower industry itself is from a horizon (stratum C) associated with cool climatic conditions, which overlies the main interglacial sequence, and is divided from it by an erosional hiatus. It is uncertain whether or not the arctic phase, which must signify an event of glacial status in the MIS record, predates the deposits containing the lower industry. Thus there is some uncertainty over whether the lower industry is associated with a sub-stage of MIS 11, or with a post-MIS 11 sub-stage with a similar faunal assemblage to the main Hoxnian represented in the lower strata D and E. In either case, the main thrust of the suggestion that there is a trend through the Lower Palaeolithic for increasingly varied and well-defined handaxe types is not affected.

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Francis Wenban-Smith

A GREEN BARBED AND TANGED ARROWHEAD FROM OXFORDSHIRE

During excavations by Oxford Archaeology at Ireland's Land, a site located between Northmoor and West End in Oxfordshire (SP 422 040), an unusual green-coloured, early Bronze Age, barbed and tanged arrowhead was recovered from the fill of a late Iron Age/early Roman enclosure ditch. The arrowhead has a broken tip, which could have occurred during use, and uneven barbs. The raw material is dark green in colour with obvious shell fragment inclusions and pale speckles (silicified carbonates), and was identified as a carboniferous chert by Professor John Allen (University of Reading). This material is found as a band within the Clifton Down and Black Rock Limestones, which outcrop in the Mendips, Somerset, for example at Broadfield Down (ST 480 640), a distance of approximately 100km from the place of discovery. Although chert artefacts are common in south-west and northern England, they are rarely found in Oxfordshire, presumably due to the relative local abundance of chalk-derived flint. The transportation of either the finished tool or the raw material suggests links between the Mendips and Oxfordshire during the Bronze Age and the unusual nature of the arrowhead may imply that the artefact carried a higher level of significance than those made from local materials. The only other lithic artefacts from the site were one broken and heavily corticated flint flake and one broken flint blade. A full excavation report will shortly be published in *South Midlands Archaeology*.



Figure 1: The arrowhead

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