

Classic Blade Core from Lincolnshire

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There is considerable evidence for prehistoric artefacts from the Palaeolithic onwards being found along the Lymn valley at the southern end of the Lincolnshire Wolds and the Northern Fen edge in Lincolnshire (Lane *et al.* 1993; May 1976; Philips *et al.* 1990, 5), including the very fine Upper Palaeolithic knife from Fulletby (Bee and Owen 1993, 66).

During field walking in the parish of Salmonby, a classic Upper Palaeolithic blade core was found. It had been fashioned from a nodule of fine-grained brownish-grey flint with inclusions. Finds of this type of flint are quite scarce in Lincolnshire, although with the fens drying out and shrinking, other examples of this flint type have been found.

About a quarter of the original surface of the core survives as cortex, and although the remainder of the surface is generally without patina, one of the striking platforms has a slight whitish bloom.

The core has two striking platforms, both faceted. It is this facetting which gives us a better understanding of how the prehistoric artificer was able to control the force applied, using the indirect percussion method to achieve the best results (Bordaz 1971, 14). The control was such that parallel-sided blanks had been struck from both platforms. There is also evidence on the platforms to suggest that the

overhang from the sides of the negative bulbs of previous removals were taken off, before the next strike was made. There are the remains of twelve blade scars still visible. Because of the amount of workable flint left on the nodule, and as this was a valuable resource, especially in Lincolnshire, one can assume that this core had been lost and not thrown away.

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