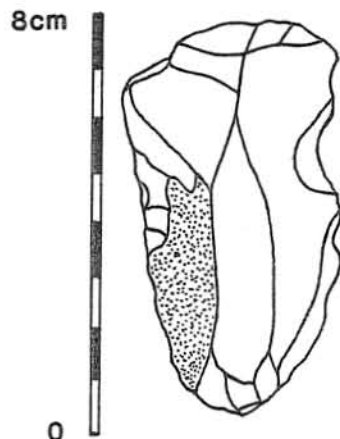


NOTES

ARTEFACTS OF MATERIAL OTHER THAN FLINT

by Ted Masson Phillips

In Devon, the majority of post-Palaeolithic implements, other than polished stone axes, are flaked from glossy black flint, the ultimate source being the chalk cliffs of Beer, where small filled-in pits may indicate the former existence of flint mines. In east Devon much use was also made of Greensand chert, usually of a distinctive orange-yellow shade but occasionally grey. Also, rarely, a white translucent variety of siliceous rock resembling chalcedony was employed. Away from the chalk, especially on coastal sites in south and west Devon, much use was made of pebbles of flint and chert from the local beaches, together with blue-black Portland chert, presumably from the same source, and Bunter quartzite.



Another source of material suitable for flaking is the jet-black chert of the Carboniferous age which occurs in the valley of the river Teign. The illustration is of an end-scraper made from this material and shown with the flaking platform at the bottom. It was found in 1950 on the wooded northern slope of Beardon Hill, Ashton (SX 852 843) and was examined petrologically (Evens *et al.* 1962, 258, serial no. 811) and was identified as Radiolarian chert of Lower Carboniferous age. This rock outcrops on the hill and the slope is littered with weathered fragments. The scraper, in my possession, is made from a struck flake, the stone being so compact and fine-grained that it flakes readily with an almost conchoidal fracture. The reverse (bulbar) face is plain except for signs of wear on the scraping edge and some delicate flaking at the lower end - presumably to flatten the bulb of percussion. There are also traces of wear at this end, suggesting that it also was used, though for what purpose is problematical.

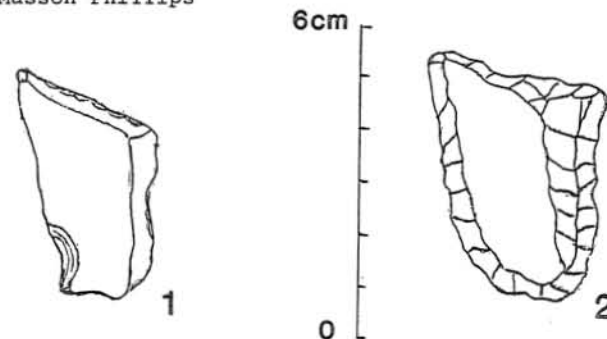
A careful search of the site unfortunately failed to locate any other artefacts.

REFERENCE

Evens, E.D., Grinsell, L.V., Piggott, S., and Wallis, F.S., 1962, 'Fourth report of the sub-committee of the south-western group of museums and art galleries on the petrological identification of stone axes', *Proc. Prehist. Soc.* 38, 209 - 266

OBLIQUELY TRUNCATED FLAKES

by Ted Masson Phillips



The illustration shows two obliquely truncated flint flakes, both from plough soil in the Long Field at Yalland, South Brent, Devon (SX 689 627), a prolific site which has yielded Mesolithic material. In addition to their similar shape (and function?) they have other points of resemblance. Thus both have delicate secondary work (and/or signs of use) on the oblique edge and on the longer of the two sides. However, they differ in the mode of manufacture. No. 1, of black flint, has had the bulbar end snapped off and the truncation (made by a single transverse blow) is at the opposite end of the flake, whereas no. 2, of grey flint, has the truncation at what was the bulbar end of the flake and the opposite end shows signs (ripples) of hinge-fracture. The oblique edge is delicately retouched as is the longer side and this retouch is carried around the butt end. A very similar artefact to no. 1, also de-bulbed, was found at Bolberry Down, a Mesolithic flaking site on the south Devon coast at SX 685 385. The production of implements of this shape would appear to be deliberate, and it would be interesting to know for what purpose they were intended.