

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES

Further Flint Collections in the Vicinity of Wright's Piece, Priddy

In the early nineteen fifties many flint implements dating from the Mesolithic to Secondary Neolithic – Early Bronze Age were found at Wright's Piece on Mendip (Tratman, 1957). Between 1981 and 1983 the writer has collected further flint, including implements from the same cultural periods, from an adjoining field named Goodenough's Piece. The various surface scatters have been correlated on a plan of the area (Fig. 22) and selected finds have been drawn (Fig. 23).

Within the area noted by Tratman the following sites are recorded under O.S. Antiq. No. ST 55 SW 20. (Note of R.W.K. dated 21.8.63).

SITE 'A'. ST 5285.5493. A dark area with Mesolithic flint in some quantity.

SITE 'B'. ST 5302.5483. A Mesolithic chipping floor. A note by G. H. Pitcher dated 1.7.66 states that the finds were in the possession of the farmer, who had left the area.

The recent finds of the writer are as follows.

SITE 'C'. ST 5329.5468. A Neolithic flint axe (Fig. 23 No. 1) with the cutting edge ground and polished. Reflaking on the sides and a transverse flake scar on the top suggests reshaping as an adze, which could have been mounted in a knee-shaped haft. Similar re-use from larger broken axes is claimed by Tyler (1976). A flint scraper (No. 2) found close by had ground edges and diffuse polishing over all surfaces, with some reflaking and damage to the edges. A similar implement of the later Neolithic period was found at Windmill Hill, Avebury (Smith, 1965).

SITE 'D'. ST 5332.5474. About 150 pieces of flint concentrated in and around a shallow depression now marked by a small pile of stones gathered during recent ploughing. No recognizable implements were found but the proportions of primary and waste flakes suggest a flint-knapping floor. Numerous cores, narrow flakes, blade segments and snapped off ends (Examples, Nos. 3 and 4) are of a recognizable Mesolithic type.

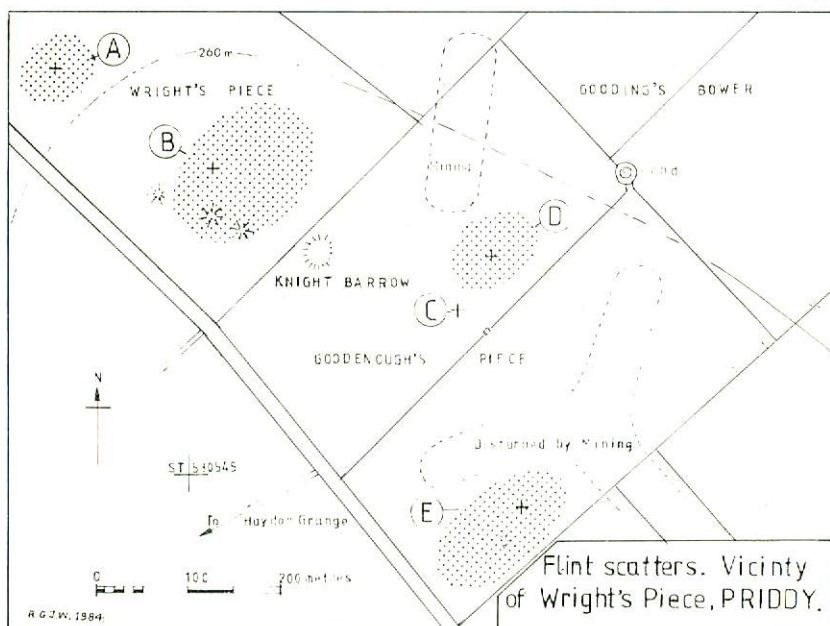


Fig. 22 Map showing Wright's Piece and Goodenough's Piece with areas of flint scatter.

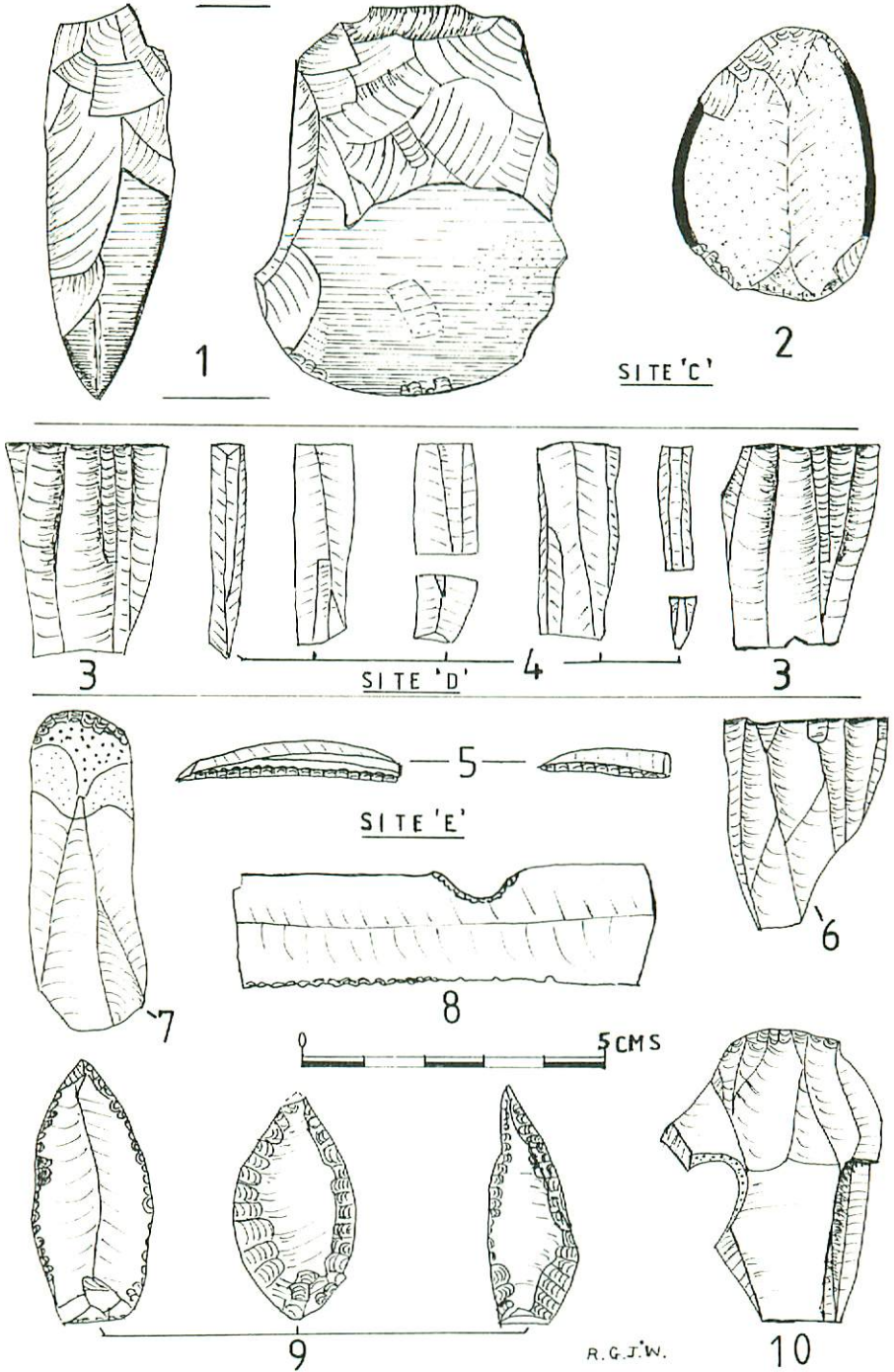


Fig. 23 Flints from sites 'C', 'D' and 'E'.

SITE 'E'. ST 5337.5447. A similar concentration of about 250 flints indicating another flint-knapping floor but with a wider spread. Here several cores (e.g. No. 5) and two 'rod' microliths (No. 6) are Mesolithic types. The scraper (No. 7) is steeply retouched on the end with residual cortex and may also be Mesolithic. The broad blade segment (No. 8) has a serrated edge and a notch in the other edge, where a forefinger could easily be placed, suggesting use as a knife or saw. This implement is probably Neolithic, a period well represented on this site by three leaf shaped arrowheads (No. 9) and the 'waisted' core tool (No. 10).

The recent finds confirm a fairly extensive Mesolithic occupation in this area, which was followed by later cultures. The finds are deposited in the Axbridge Museum.

REFERENCES

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| SMITH, I. F. | 1965 | <i>Windmill Hill and Avebury</i> . Oxford, 105, Fig. 48, F. 151. |
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