

MESOLITHIC SITES IN HAMPSHIRE.

A SHORT description of a Mesolithic site at Beaulieu was printed in the *Antiquaries' Journal* (XVI, No. 2, April 1936) and reprinted with an additional note in the *Hampshire Field Club Proceedings* (Vol. XIII, Pt. 2, p. 184). Since then a number of flint implements, cores, etc., have been turned up in the process of making a garden there, and a report upon the specimens found has been most kindly prepared by Mr. W. F. Rankine, F.S.A. SCOT., so well known in that connection for his outstanding work on the Mesolithic sites of West Surrey.

SOME NOTES ON FLINTS FROM BEAULIEU.

By W. F. RANKINE, F.S.A. SCOT.

The flints, here described, were found in Commander E. C. Wrey's garden at Boarmans, Beaulieu, in the New Forest. This site has been described by Sir Thomas Troubridge, Bart., F.S.A., in the *Antiquaries' Journal*,¹ April 1936 (Vol. XVI, No. 2) and in the Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society, Vol. XIII, Part 2.

Through the kindness of Sir Thomas Troubridge and Commander Wrey I was enabled to examine and study some eight hundred pieces of flint collected from Boarmans and, later, I had the opportunity of viewing the site itself.

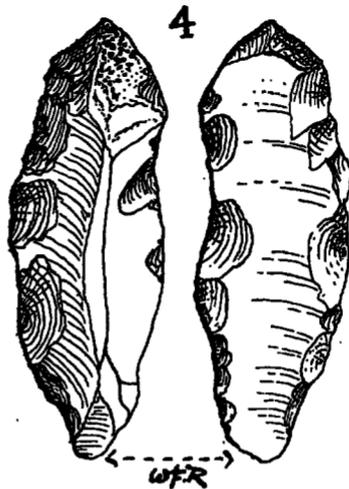
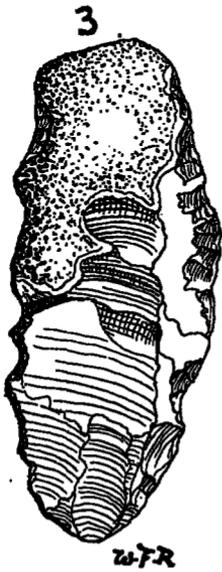
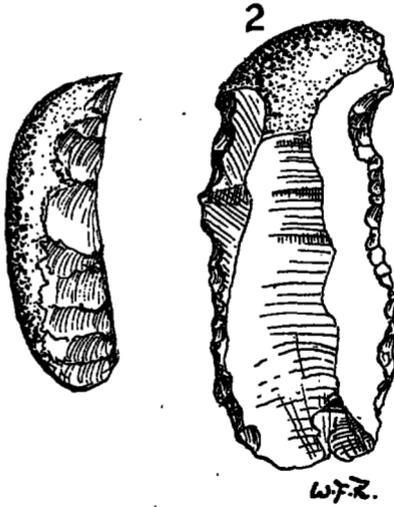
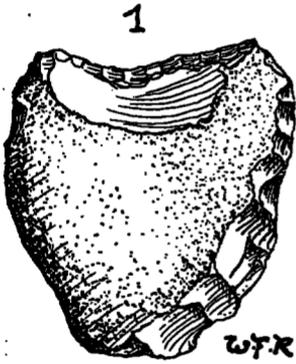
A. THE IMPLEMENTS.

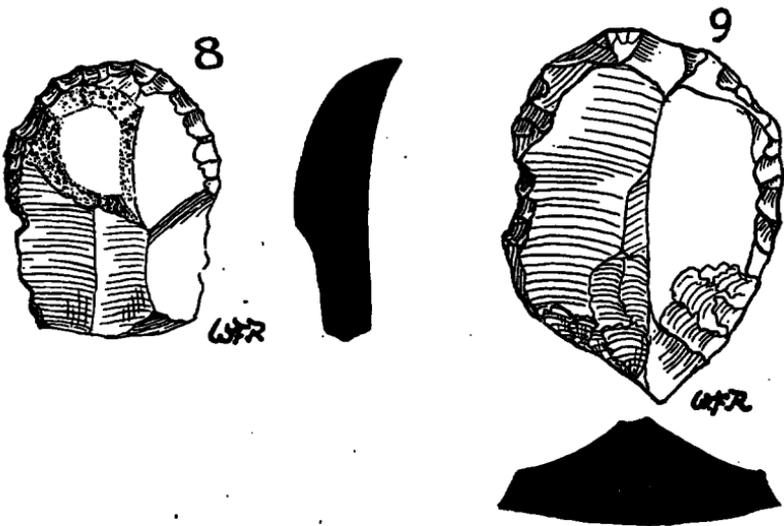
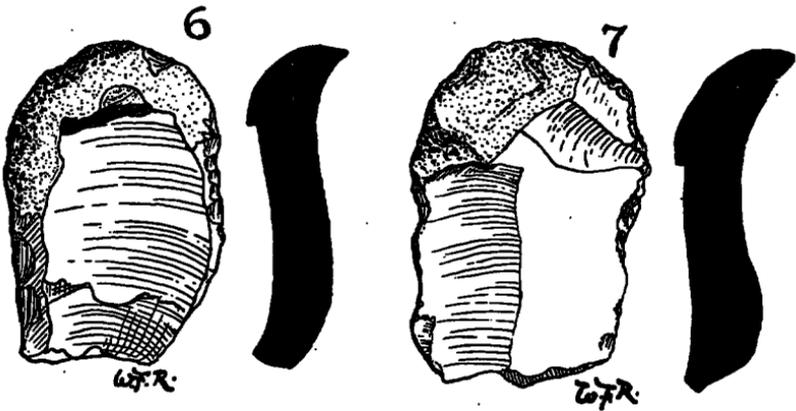
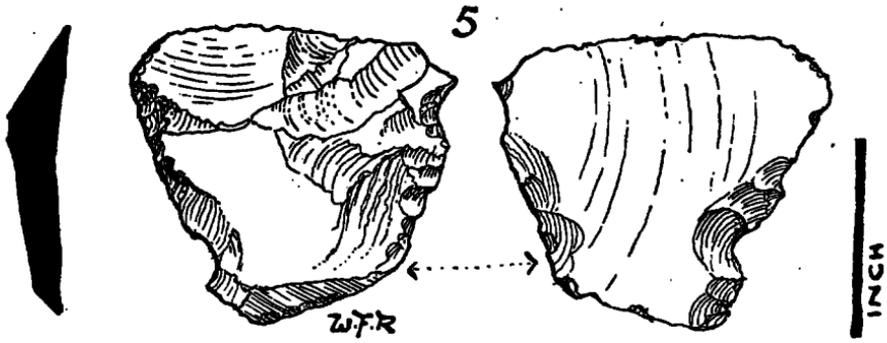
Among the mass of flints were many implements and

(I) **Typologically** the more important forms may be grouped thus:—

- (a) Scrapers. (1) Concave. Figs. 1, 18, 19, 20.
 (2) End. Figs. 6, 7, 8, 9, 17.
 (3) Round. Figs. 10, 21.
 (4) Convex. Fig. 16.
- (b) Dressed flakes. (1) Knife flakes.
 (2) Other forms. Figs. 2, 3, 4.
- (c) Petit tranchet (or transverse arrow head). Fig. 5.
- (d) Cores. (1) Narrow blade type. Figs. 11, 13, 14, 15.
 (2) Broad blade type. Fig. 12.
- (e) Microlith primary blades. Figs. 22, 24.
- (f) Microlith. Fig. 23.

1. Sir Thomas Troubridge, Bt., F.S.A., *A Mesolithic Village in Hampshire*.







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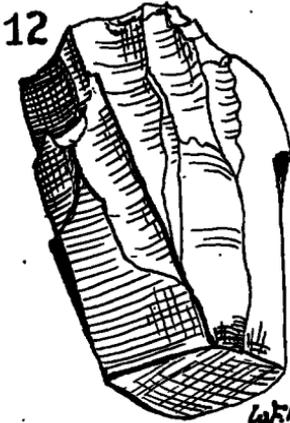


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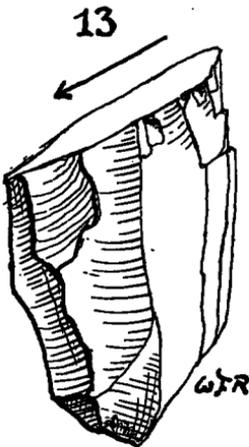
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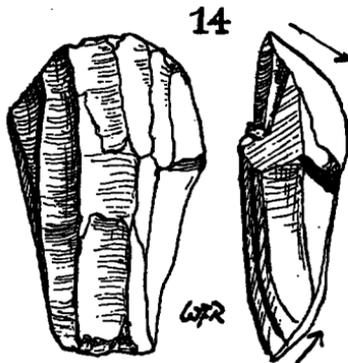
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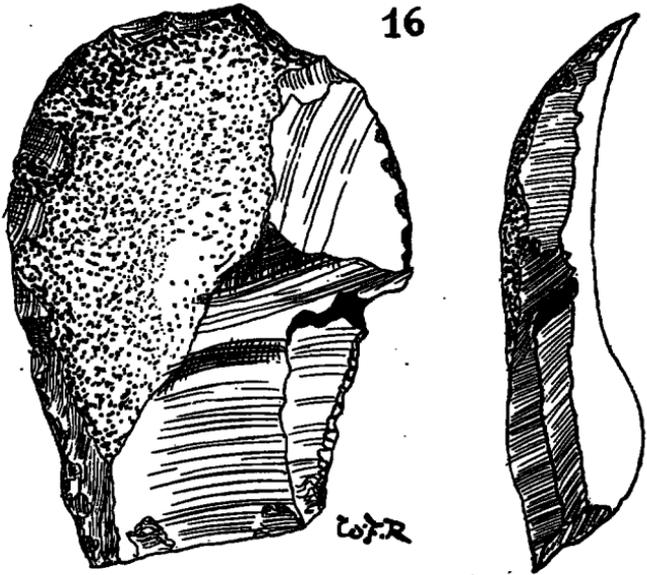
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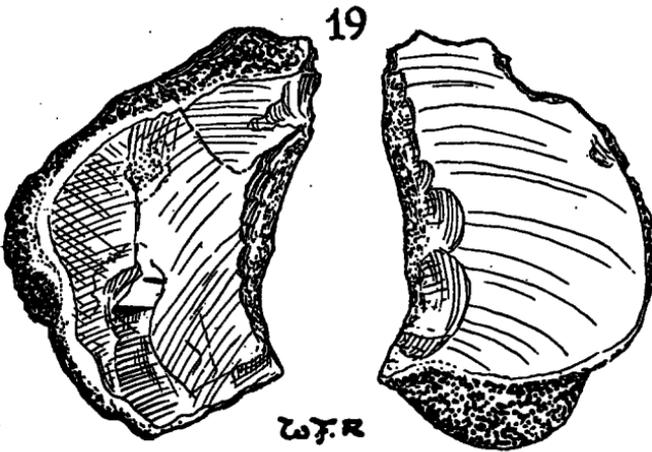
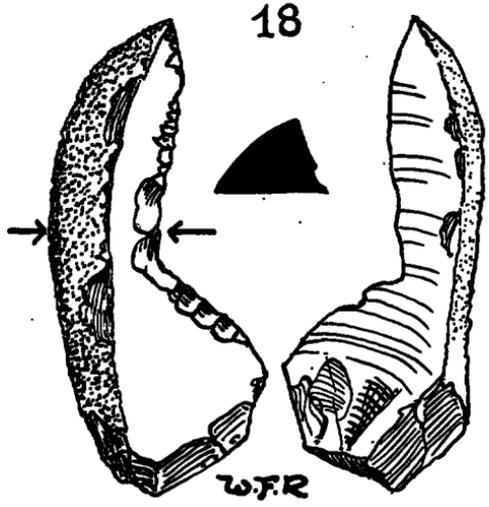
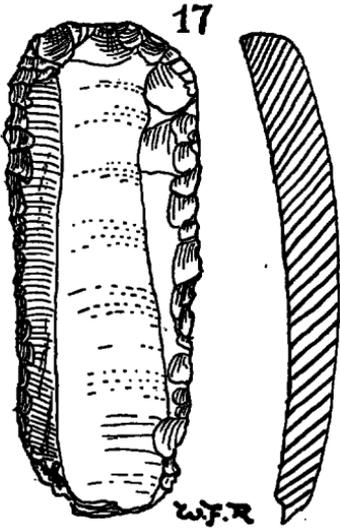
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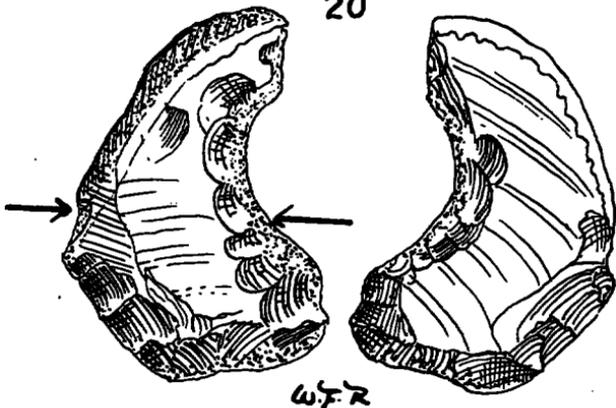
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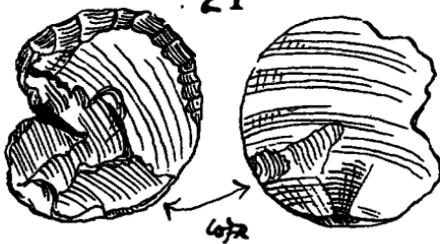




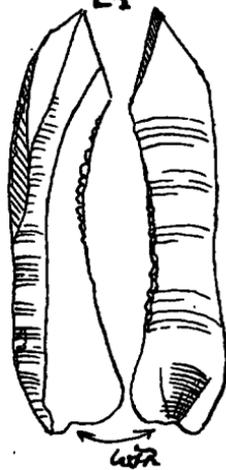
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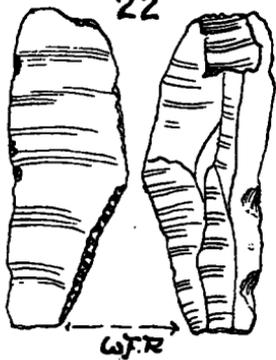
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In addition there were numerous flints showing secondary work which were mainly unclassifiable, and also a quantity of pot boilers resembling those taken from the Farnham Mesolithic pit-dwellings.

(II) **Industrially** the above forms fall into two groups—

- (a) Mesolithic, and
- (b) Post-Mesolithic,

and, unfortunately, owing to the disturbed surface zone, the groups are intermingled.

(a) The Mesolithic group of flints, although thinly represented so far as implements are concerned, is definite. The narrow blade cores are identical with those which derive from authentic Surrey Greensand sites. A broken microlith is easily identified as one of Clark's forms, *viz.*, C. 1 a, or, in older nomenclature, a pen knife point and several microlith primary blades and flakes trimmed with the characteristic Mesolithic retouch afford further proof.

(b) With regard to the Post-Mesolithic group of flints it is almost impossible to attempt an ultimate analysis, *viz.*, into Neolithic and succeeding industries. Some of the scrapers suggest a Bronze Age association and probably some of the cruder forms not detailed typologically in Section I may be assignable to Iron Age. In the absence of definite types such as polished axes, leaf arrow heads and barbed and tanged arrow heads, it is not possible to proceed to a division of this group.

B. MATERIAL.

(I) The Flint.

The flint used varies greatly and exhibits practically all known stages of patination excepting the porcellaneous white characteristic of flints taken from chalk lands. The majority of the pieces exhibit lustre and, significantly, the non-lustrous specimens appear to belong to the Mesolithic group.

With regard to colour the material may be classified thus :—

- (1) black flint ;
- (2) brownish-black, clear flint ;
- (3) pale blue flint ; and
- (4) greyish-white flint usually non-lustrous.

The material comprising groups (1) and (2) appears to have been derived directly from the chalk ; in group (2) a very thick cortex is observable comparable with that exhibited by the flints taken from the clay with flints deposited over the Hampshire chalk.

Group (4) includes all recognisable Mesolithic material. This is significant. Finally, some local material obtained from local gravel deposits was also used for flaking.

(II) Probable Sources of the Material.

There are no flint supplies in the vicinity, other than gravel, and clearly much of the material, if not all, was transported from neighbouring chalk outcrops. It is interesting to note that Beaulieu is:—

- (a) about 20 miles from the chalk outcrop to the west ;
- (b) about 15 miles from the chalk outcrop eastward ; and
- (c) about 10 miles from the Isle of Wight outcrop southward.

With regard to (b) it should be observed that the Southampton Water intervenes and as to (c) there are, to-day, further marine barriers, viz. the Solent, but probably in the Mesolithic period² the Solent was not a formidable waterway and the separation of the Isle of Wight from the main land had not been effected.

BEAULIEU FLINTS.

Description of Figured Implements. Actual Size.

(1) Rough notched scraper with one curved side developed as a concave scraper ; brown, slightly lustrous flint with much cortex ; thickness about half-an-inch.

(2) Dressed flake implement with well-developed notch ; both edges show secondary work ; yellowish, lustrous flint with some cortex.

(3) Dressed flake implement. Under surface shows bluish patina with much lustre ; some secondary working on under surface, and that on right edge, upper surface, is later period dressing. Well developed bulb.

(4) Flake implement with bulb removed ; brown flint with lustre. Secondary work on both surfaces is suggestive of the scale flaking of Bronze Age technique ; some cortex.

(5) Petit Tranchet, or transverse arrow head ; early form, viz., Neolithic-Bronze Age ; greyish flint with slight lustre.

(6) End scraper in brown flint, lustrous ; some cortex ; minimum amount of dressing ; prominent bulb ; apparently post-Mesolithic.

(7) End scraper in grey flint ; faintly lustrous ; some cortex and good bulb. Colour, compared with determinate Mesolithic material, indicates Mesolithic association.

². Read *The Hampshire Basin and Adjoining Areas* (British Regional Geology, H.M.S.O.), by C. P. Chatwin, M.Sc., p. 77.

(8) Small end scraper in fresh flint ; little cortex ; bulb removed. Mesolithic ?

(9) Typical end scraper in greyish-black flint ; lustrous ; diffused bulb ; resembles strongly a scraper dug from a Farnham Mesolithic site.

(10) Large thumb scraper in dark grey flint ; faintly lustrous ; possesses a wide platform with diffused bulb ; similar to type found in pure Mesolithic sites on the Surrey Greensand. Colour identical with that of determinate Mesolithic material from Beaulieu.

(11) Typical Mesolithic narrow blade core in pale blue flint with some lustre.

(12) Typical Mesolithic broad blade core in fresh grey flint ; non-lustrous and evidently fresh from a chipping floor.

(13) Typical core in nearly white flint without lustre ; characteristic rejuvenating blow for securing new platform is indicated by arrow ; note intercepted flake beds.

(14) Typical Mesolithic core in pale blue flint ; the rejuvenating cutting is indicated by arrows.

(15) Typical Mesolithic core in black, lustrous flint ; arrow A shows direction of flaking and B direction of rejuvenating blow by which flake beds are intercepted.

(16) Large and awkwardly-flaked scraper with much cortex ; brownish flint with lustre ; prominent bulb and wide striking platform.

(17) ³End scraper on blade of greyish, lustrous flint ; edges dressed for cutting ; bulb removed, colour identical with that of determinate Mesolithic material.

(18) Notched scraper in bluish grey flint with lustre ; some cortex ; well developed bulb.

(19) Notched scraper in fresh black flint with much cortex ; the remarkable feature is the bruised condition of the notch. Compare with No. 20.

(20) Notched scraper in fresh black flint with much cortex ; here again the remarkable feature is the bruising of the notch. Compare with No. 19.

(N.B.—These scrapers, *viz.*, 19 and 20, are unique in my experience of this type of implement.)

(21) Small thumb scraper in lustrous, black flint ; indeterminate as regards period.

³. Sir Thomas Troubridge, Bt., F.S.A., "A Mesolithic Village in Hampshire," *Hants Field Club and Archaeological Society*, Vol. XIII, Pt. 2, p. 185, fig. 3.

(22) A typical Mesolithic flake showing characteristic blunting; white flint with some lustre; upper surface shows two-way flaking. (See figures 11 to 15.)

(23) ⁴Broken microlith restored in drawing; bluish flint with lustre; a typical Mesolithic point (pen knife point). Clark's C 1A.⁵

(24) Typical microlith primary blade showing dressing, *viz.*, trimming as distinct from blunting on upper and lower surfaces; lustrous white flint.

Some indications of another Mesolithic site have been found by Commander Wrey at Rowbarrow, just south of the "Bishop's Ditch or Dyke" in the New Forest (O.S. 6in. LXXII S.E. 50° 50' 11" N. 1° 29' 22" W.) The indications consist of flints and portions of pot boilers which were submitted to Mr. W. F. Rankine, who describes them as follows:—

- (1) Basal part of a tiny microlithic primary flake.
- (2) Typical Mesolithic flake, used for cutting.
- (3) Angle flake clearance from core (may be Mesolithic).
- (4) A much-used Mesolithic core.
- (5) Pot boilers.

The flakes were found in the material ejected from rabbit burrows. 1, 3 and 4 are very pale grey and 2 is dark coloured. Some of the pot boilers were found at the entrance to rabbit burrows and some lying on the surface.

This site lies on the 50ft. contour on a ridge of nearly pure sand, the situation is exceptionally sheltered for the locality and there is an abundance of water.

4. Sir Thomas Troubridge, Bt., F.S.A., "A Mesolithic Village in Hampshire," *Hants Field Club and Archaeological Society*, Vol. XIII, Pt. 2, p. 185, fig. 4.

5. J. G. D. Clark, "The Tardenoisian of Horsham," *Arch. Journal*, Vol. XC, p. 56