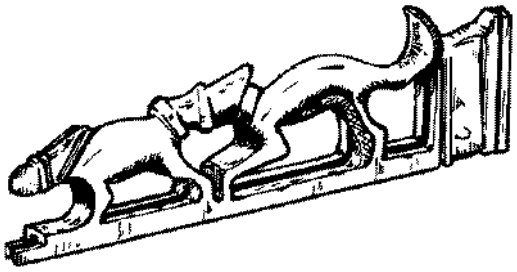
Ampthill & District Archaeological



& Local History Society

Mesolithic flints from Beadlow Manor Farm Clophill.

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Kevan J. Fadden.

www.adalhs.org.uk

Mesolithic Flints from Beadlow Manor Farm, Clophill

KEVAN FADDEN

In the course of road widening operations at Beadlow Manor Farm, Clophill (TL 111383) a number of worked flints were discovered by the Ampthill and District Archaeological and Local History Society. The site was first walked in July 1972 when a fence was erected by the contractors: three flints (1, 2, 8) were discovered in spoil from the fence postholes. A second visit when the area had been scraped to a depth of 0.6m revealed natural sand had been reached and further flints and some working debris (not illustrated) were found. In the section formed where the mechanical excavator stopped, about 3m from the fence line, neither a concentration of flints nor irregularity in soil levels was apparent.

1 Mesolithic core, black translucent, no patina, unworn.
2 Corinated scraper, retouched at end, grey translucent, no patina, unworn.
3 End scraper, retouched at end, buff translucent, no patina, unworn.
4 Unfinished microlith, black translucent, no patina, unworn.
5 Microburin, retouched, grey translucent, no patina, unworn.
6 Rejivenating flake, black translucent, no patina, unworn.
7 Point, no retouching, no patina, unworn.
8 Microlith, black translucent, no patina, unworn.

The flints are all unpatinated and in a sharp unworn condition, belonging to the Mesolithic tradition. They are similar to those from Ruxox Farm, Maulden, some 6 km (3.75 miles) west. Indeed, the Beadlow Manor site on the Lower Greensand ridge bordering the River Flit is very similar in its location to the position of the Ruxox site. It seems probable that, as at Ruxox, the discovery of a number of flints within a small area indicates wider settlement. In such circumstances, it is probable that the site of a Mesolithic working floor has been partially disturbed and it is unlikely that the paucity of flint finds brought to light by the road widening operations is the main concentration. It will therefore be necessary to conduct further work on the site to verify the existence of this Mesolithic site.

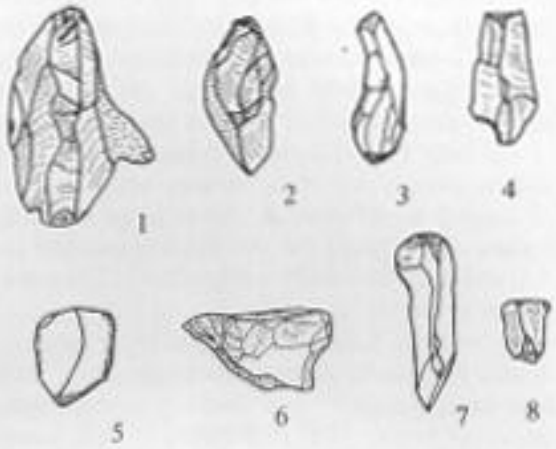


Fig. 1 Mesolithic Flints from Beadlow Manor, Clophill (scale ½)