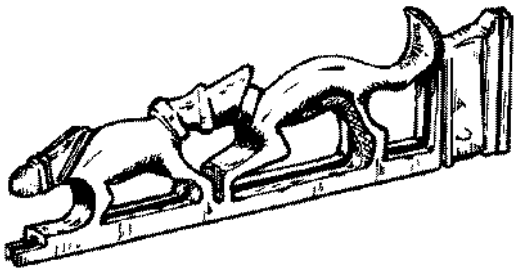
Ampthill & District Archaeological



& Local History Society

Further Flints from Ruxox Farm Maulden

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NOTES

Further Flint Finds from Ruxox Farm, Maulden

KEVAN FADDEN

Introduction

The Ampthill and District Archaeological and Local History Society have conducted an intensive field walking campaign on the fields of Ruxox Farm, Maulden (TL 048360), following the discovery of flints by the farmer, Mr J. Course, during the 1960s. Artifacts previously published[1] suggest a date range of the Mesolithic period to the Late Bronze Age from prehistoric occupation at Ruxox.

A further series of finds is published here following the introduction of more intensive agricultural methods. The area has been ploughed continuously since the eleventh century but within recent years this has become deeper. In 1970 a 400 mm plough was utilised over the whole farm, with the exception of one field.[2] The latter, too wet to work because of a post-Roman peat layer, escaped the full destruction but subsequently the peat has been broken down. Following the deep ploughing a series of prehistoric artifacts were discovered within an area of 6m radius from the extreme eastern extremity of the area of flint finds marked on the previously published map.[3]

The Flints (figs 1 and 2)

A number of finds were made and of these a selection is illustrated. These remain in the possession of the Ampthill and District Archaeological and Local History Society.

1 Bifacially worked cordiform type Mousterian hand axe. A shaped black/brown translucent core with light brown patina, recently damaged. The light stipple on drawing indicates possible later working with some retouching, this was unpatinated.

2 Bifacially worked burin, retouched at point black translucent with slight white patina, unworn.

3 Unifacially worked scraper, grey translucent, white patina, unworn.

4 Unifacially worked flake, retouched at point, honey translucent with white patina, unworn.

5 Unifacially worked flake, retouched at point, grey translucent slight white patina, unworn.

6 Unifacially worked, burin, retouched at point, grey translucent, white patina, unworn.

7 Unifacially worked burin, retouched at point, grey translucent, white patina, unworn.

8 Unifacially worked truncated flake, grey translucent with slight white patina, unworn.

9 Unifacially worked artifact, grey translucent, white patina, unworn.

10 Unifacially worked micro burin, opaque with

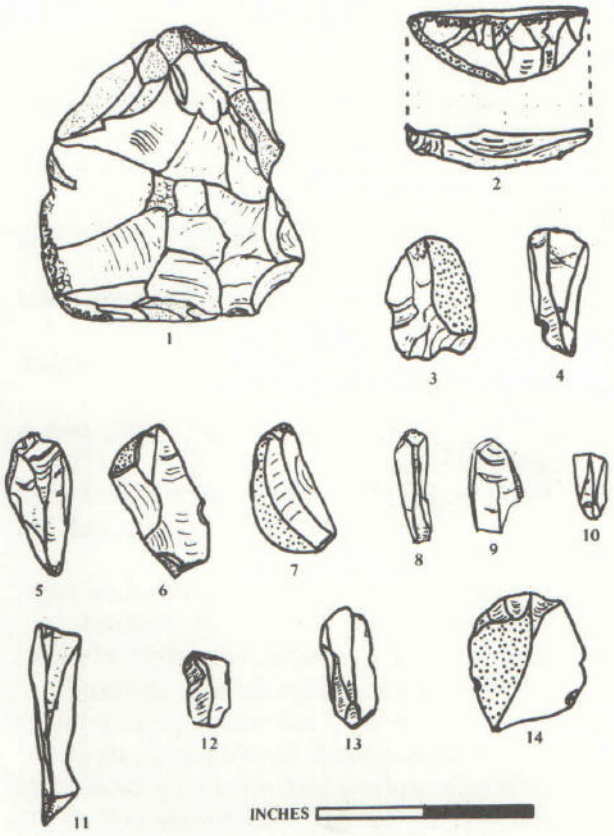


Fig 1 Mousterian hand axe (1) and Mesolithic flints (2–14) from Ruxox Farm, Maulden.

heavy white patina, unworn.

11 Unifacially worked burin, retouched at point, honey translucent, deep red patina, unworn.

12 Unifacially worked micro burin, grey translucent, white patina, unworn.

13 Unifacially worked burin, honey translucent, white patina, recently damaged.

14 Unifacially worked, steeply corinated scraper, retouched, grey translucent, white patina, unworn.

15 Unifacially worked corinated scraper, grey translucent, heavy white patina, unworn.

16 Unifacially worked, backed scraper, grey translucent with light white patina, unworn.

17 Bifacially worked saw, grey translucent light white patina, unworn.

18 Unifacially worked burin, grey translucent, light white patina, unworn.

19 Microlithic core, grey translucent, white patina, unworn.

20 Microlithic core, light brown opaque, white patina, unworn.

21 Microlithic core black opaque, white patina, recently damaged.

22 Core, grey translucent, slight white patina unworn.

23 Unifacially worked adze head, multicoloured with brown patina, recently damaged on blade.

24 Bifacially worked scraper, retouched on edge, black translucent, unpatinated, unworn.

25 Bifacially worked burin, retouched at point, black translucent, unpatinated, unworn.

26 Unifacially worked end scraper, retouched at ends, multicoloured, brown patina, unworn.

27 Bifacially worked end scraper, retouched at end, brown opaque with brown patina, unworn.

28 Bifacially worked burin, retouched at point, black translucent, unpatinated, unworn.

29 Unifacially worked end scraper, retouched at point, black translucent, unpatinated, unworn.

30 Unifacially worked end scraper, retouched at end, brown translucent, unpatinated, unworn.

31 Unifacially worked backed blade,honey translucent, unpatinated, unworn.

32 Bifacially worked awl, black translucent unpatinated, unworn.

33 Unifacially worked artifact,black translucent, unworn.

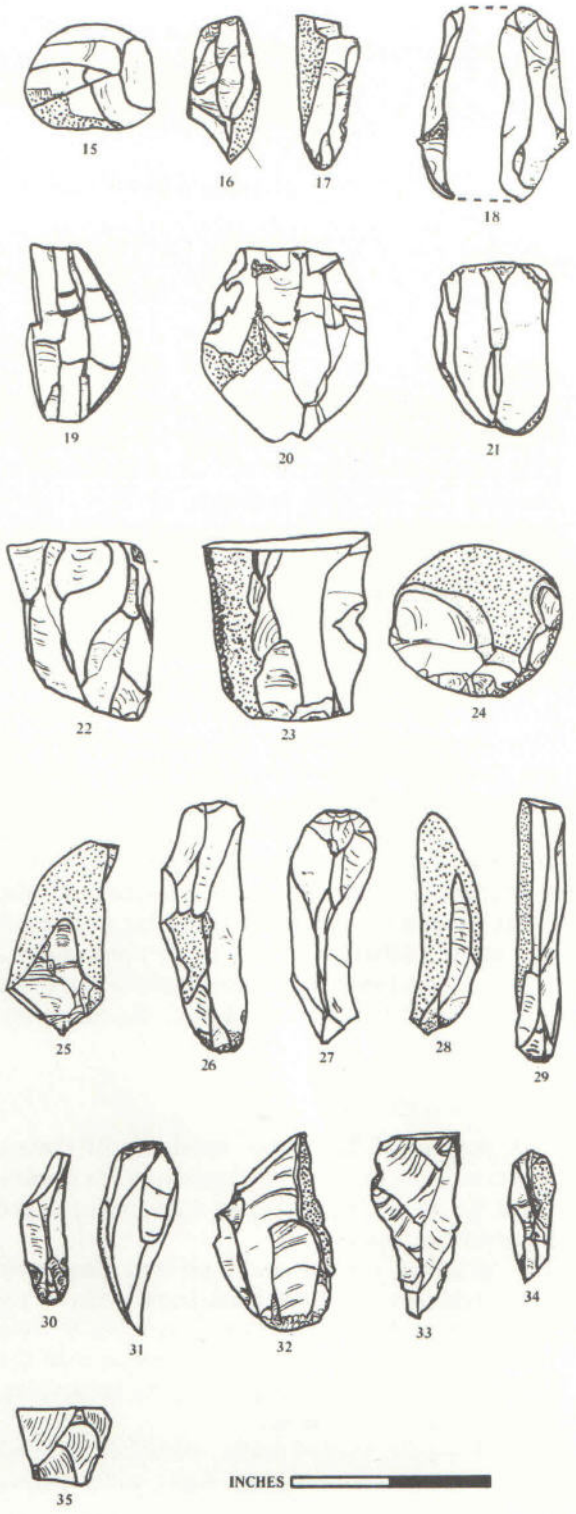


Fig 2 Flints from Ruxox Farm, Maulden.

34 Unifacially worked truncated flake, black translucent, unpatinated, unworn.

35 Chisel headed arrow head, multicoloured translucent, unpatinated, unworn.

Discussion

The Mousterian hand axe (fig 2.1) is the oldest known find in this area and is a good example of the cordiform type. It is damaged but it appears to have been deliberately re-struck since its original manufacture. This could have been in the Neolithic period as the working is unpatinated as were (29) and (30) found within inches of the axe.

The flints (2–22) are in the Mesolithic tradition and are all to some extent patinated. They are in good condition with no sign of wear. These together a fair scatter of worked debris not illustrated suggest a Mesolithic working floor.

The other artifacts (23–35) are basically larger and mostly unpatinated making it safer to suggest a Neolithic dating.

As all the flints were found in such a small area it can reasonably be assumed that the plough disturbed at least two occupation levels. This can not be verified in the forseeable future as it is not possible to excavate due to intensive agricultural requirements.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank Dr D. Roe who kindly confirmed the dating of the Mousterian Hand Axe. Thanks are also due to Mr J. Buckle of Ruxox Farm who has allowed the Society to walk his fields.

NOTES

1 K Fadden, 'Ruxox Farm, Maulden: 1 the prehistoric finds', *Beds Arch J* 5, 1970, 1-4, with description of the physical environment of the area.

2 Fadden, 1970, map 1: field located to

3 Fadden, 1970, fig 1, the shaded area.