

are now beech. The probable explanation is that following inclosure of the wood in 1870 the canopy has become closed and now casts a more uniform and deeper shade beneath which oak seedlings cannot become established.

2) A large proportion of the smaller oaks and beeches which were recorded in 1964 had died by 1984. It is usual in woodland that only a small proportion of tree seedlings survive to grow into large trees. Competition for resources, particularly of light, is intense and most of the small trees perish. In this area other factors such as the drought of 1976 and browsing of bark by ponies and deer, were probably also important.

3) Between 1964 and 1984 a substantial proportion of the beeches exceeding 120cm in diameter had died, but there was no death among oaks exceeding 100cm. Roots of beech are much

more liable to attack by *Armillaria mellea* than those of oak, probably due to the much higher tannin content of oak wood. If pollution were an important contributory factor, it would not be expected that death would be confined to beech, or within beech, to very old beech.

While no detailed surveys or experiments have been carried out to determine beyond all doubt the cause of the widespread death of large beech trees which has occurred in the New Forest in recent years, all the evidence points to a combination of drought and attack by honey fungus as the principal cause. In a case such as this, it is impossible to prove a negative, and the possibility of pollution being involved as a contributory factor cannot be ruled out, but we know of no definite evidence for its involvement.

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LATER UPPER PALAEOLITHIC FLINT TOOLS FROM BROOM HILL, HAMPSHIRE

Broom Hill (SU 384 260) is located in the parish of Braishfield and is situated 1.2km northeast of the village of Braishfield, Hampshire. Temporally diagnostic lithic and ceramic finds recovered by both excavation and fieldwalking from the site range in an unbroken sequence from the Upper Palaeolithic to the end of the Roman period (cf Boismier 1982). The purpose of this note is to describe briefly three Later Palaeolithic flint tools collected from the surface of the site by a local amateur in 1970. These tools comprise two shouldered points and a denticulated blade (Fig 2).

Raw material and condition

All three pieces were manufactured from flint and exhibit an identical type of patina. In colour this patina ranges from a light grey to white and covers both sides of a piece. Minor post-depositional edge damage is present on the denticulated blade and one of the shouldered

points (no 1), with the other shouldered point (no 2) exhibiting considerable post-depositional edge damage.

Shouldered points

Both pieces are characteristic 'type fossils' of the Later Upper Palaeolithic (Campbell 1977). Piece no 1 is plano-triangular in transverse section and plano-convex in longitudinal section. It measures 55mm in length and 20mm in width at the shoulder. Convex marginal retouch occurs along both lateral edges with concave retouch forming the shoulder. Typologically this piece corresponds to Campbell's type AE7 (1977, 5, 151 Fig 1). Piece no 2 is plano-trapezoidal in transverse section and plano-convex in longitudinal section. It measures 58mm in length and 18mm in width at the shoulder. The edges of this piece are highly damaged with retouch surviving along the point and part of both lateral edges. Inverse retouch

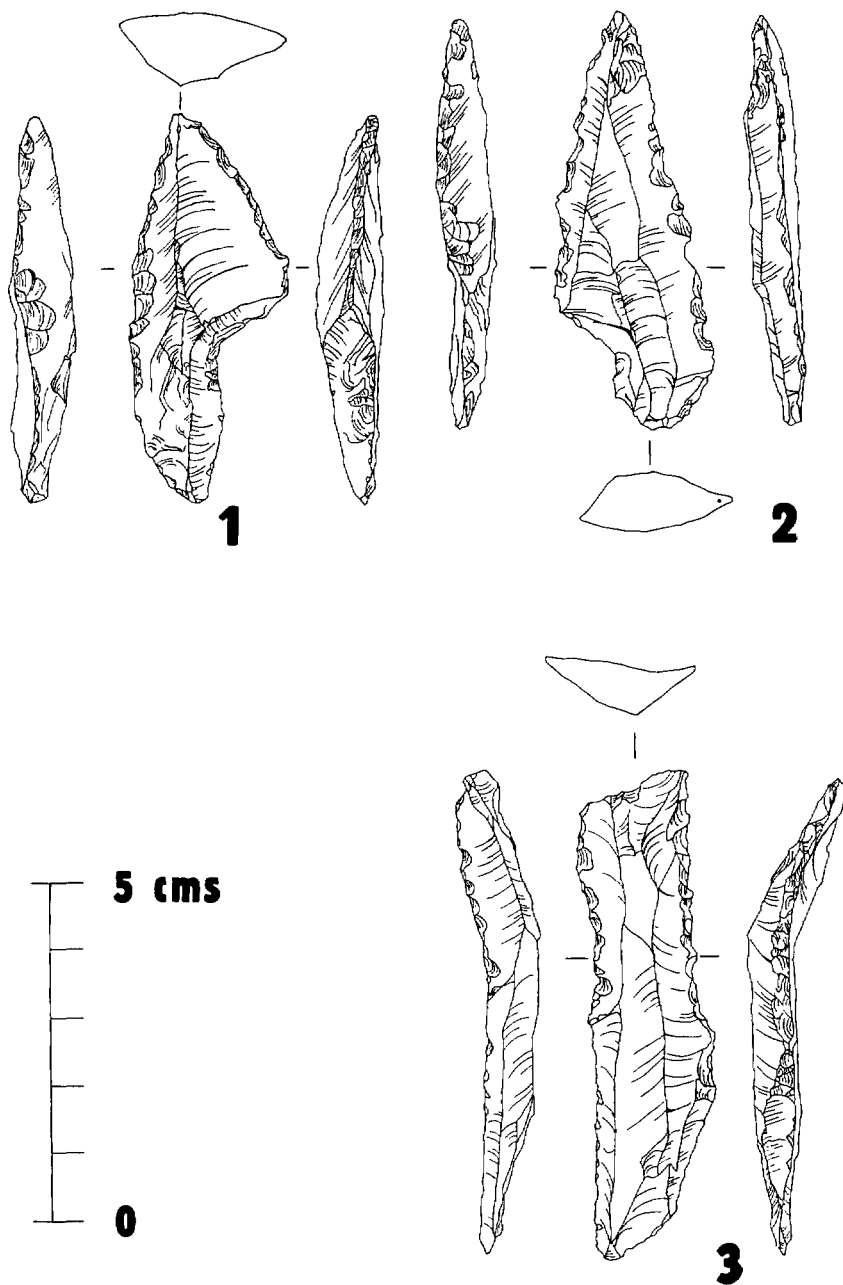


Fig 2. Late Upper Palaeolithic flint tools from Broom Hill.

was employed in forming the shoulder. Typologically, piece no 2 corresponds to Campbell's type AE6 (*ibid*).

Denticulated blade

This piece is plano-trapezoidal in transverse section and assymmetrically concavo-convex in longitudinal section. The piece measures 69mm in length and 15mm in width. Denticulate re-

touch occurs along the upper half of the left edge with utilisation damage along the right edge parallel to the retouch. Typologically, this piece corresponds to Campbell's type FB1 saw (1977, 8, 152 Fig 2).

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A SECTION ACROSS THE OTTERBOURNE-NEW FOREST ROMAN ROAD (ROUTE 422)

Summary

The section revealed a re-surfaced first century road.

Introduction

In December 1982 the Central Excavation Unit of the Department of the Environment excavated by hand a 2m wide section of the road (Margary 1973, 94) at SU 426 198 (Fig 3). This work was occasioned by the construction of a main sewer to service the new industrial estates being erected on either side of the road. The road is now a fenced-off strip within this development.

Excavation Results

The first stage of road construction after the sighting in of its line, was the preparation of the ground. The topsoil and vegetation were stripped off to reveal the underlying natural clay. This process is evidenced by the absence of any buried soil beneath the road.

Two wheel-ruts (8, 9) were found cut into the clay. They were 0.18m and 0.20m wide and 0.05m in depth and indicated an axle width of 1.70m (centre to centre). It is likely that this was

formed by a broad-wheeled cart or carts, presumably carrying the material that made up the first road surface (6). This was a very compact layer of pebbles with a small proportion of gravel and some flints, set in light grey sandy clay. It lay over and infilled the cart ruts and made a cambered surface 5.65m (18½ft) wide and 0.14m high.

The resurfacing of the road (5) increased the width mainly on the north side, to 9.00m (29½ft) and the height of 0.20m. The material used was gravel with a high proportion of grit and some pebbles. No wheel ruts were found on either road surface but there was some post-medieval disturbance (CEU Archive). An area 4.70m on the south side of the road and 6.60m on the north side was excavated and no side ditches were found.

A coin, a possible Claudian copy (Reece, R, CEU Archive), was found pressed into the clay beneath surface 5. It is not possible to state with which phase this coin is associated.

Discussion

The width of the first period road, 5.65m,