

Fragmented Blades

The number of snapped blades, particularly short ones, attracted the writer's attention during the preliminary digging of the Farnham Pit-Dwellings. Blade fragments, usually as long as they are broad, are so generally distributed on West Surrey sites as to deserve mention. At first sight they would appear to be accidental fractures, and no doubt some are, but when one has accumulated and examined a group of these fragments and noted their used edges, it appears possible that the fragmentation was intentional and that they had some functional value. The fractures are ancient.

A selection of these fragmented blades are illustrated in Fig. 12, Nos. 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8.

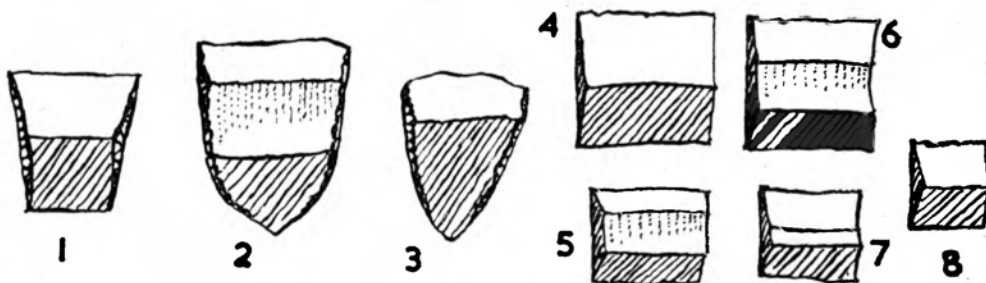


Fig 12.—TRANSVERSE ARROW-HEADS AND FRAGMENTED BLADES (Actual Size)
1—Typical Mesolithic Transverse Arrow-head; 2—Cotmandene (excavated); 3—Farnham Pit-Dwellings (excavated); 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8—Fragmented Blades from various Chipping Floors; 4, 6 and 8 have used edges.

B(8). THE PETIT TRANCHET OR TRANSVERSE ARROWHEAD

The petit tranchet is definitely a mesolithic artifact and, although very uncommon, should be recorded (32) here on account of its rarity. Only two West Surrey finds are known to the writer, but some are recorded from Sussex sites. The West Surrey petit tranchets are:

1. Farnham Pit-Dwellings (preliminary digging).
2. Cotmandene.

In Sussex the petit tranchet has been recorded from Peacehaven, Warnham, and New Faygate, and in Hampshire, from West Heath.

No. 1, Fig. 12, is a diagrammatic representation of the petit tranchet; No. 2 shows the Cotmandene find, and No. 3 the Farnham specimen.

IV. THE MESOLITHIC SITES OF WEST SURREY

A. INCIDENCE AND OCCURRENCE

Of the eighty odd sites in the region, the majority are on the sandy sub-soil of the Lower Greensand Beds and Hythe Beds. The discovery of these sites has been due to a variety of reasons—the plough, the wearing down of heathland tracks, and chance sections. Without a doubt, numerous other sites await discovery on the sandy wastes of the commons. It should be noted that some sites lie "off" the greensand; there are some on the Eocene sands, and a cluster on the Weald Clay which, obviously, could only have been used in dry seasons.

(32) Hooper records two petit tranchets from Surrey, sites not specified, *S.A.C.*, vol. XLI, p. 58, fig. 1, 14.

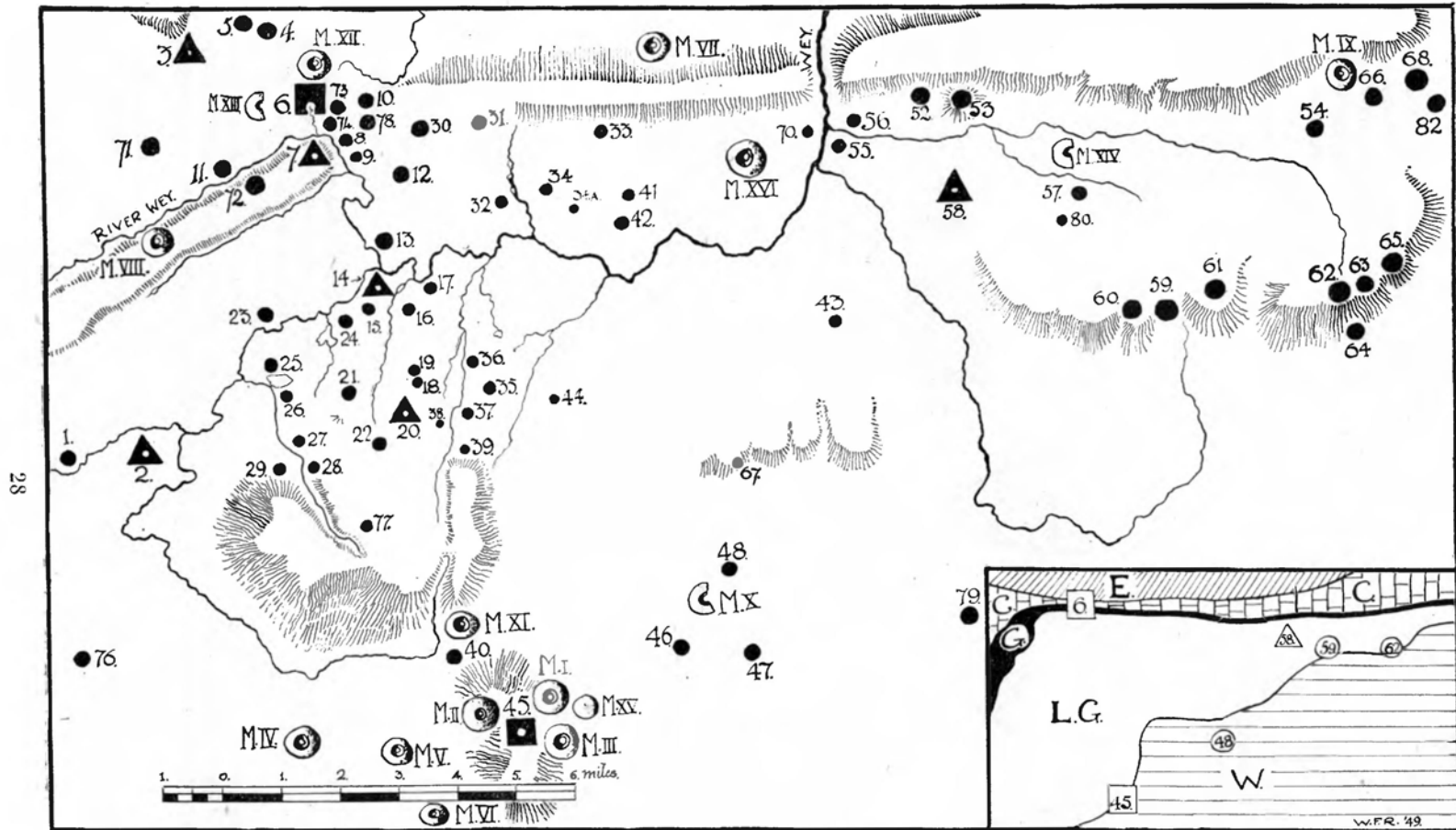


Fig. 13.—THE MESOLITHIC SITES OF WEST SURREY

The two most important Sites are shown by blocked squares, and blocked triangles indicate Sites which appear to be focal. Other Sites are represented by blocked circles. The find-spots of Quartzite Maceheads are indicated by M, followed by a Roman numeral.

Inset—Geological Map of same region. E—Eocene Beds; C—Chalk; G—Gault Clay; L.G.—Lower Greensand; W—Wealden Clay. Sites 49, 50, 51, 69, 75 and 81 are not shown on Map.

B. CLASSIFICATION OF SITES

There was an ecological reason underlying the choice of each site; however, a hard and fast classification is not possible, but definite types of camps are worth noting. There are the flint gathering sites on, or very near, the outcrop of the chalk, and the fishing camps fringe the rivers. The hilltop sites are not easily explained since they are usually remote from water supplies, but, evidently, they had some strategic importance; the hunters' camps which are dominant, usually lie remote from the chalk outcrop. The larger camps such as Snailslynch, Chapel Field, and Blackheath seem to have been of a semi-permanent nature and it was on this type of settlement that the flint gathering and hunters' camps were based. Viewed in this way, some rude pattern of settlement is discernible on the distribution map, and through this pattern run the sinuous lines of the river bank stations.

C. REGISTER OF SITES

Over eighty sites of varying extent are shown on the map; a detailed description of each is not possible.

Register of Sites

Abbreviations used after site names are:—(a)=arable land; (h)=heathland; (p)=private land; (o)=now obliterated; (s.p.)=sand pit; H=described by Hooper in *The Pigmy Flint Industries of Surrey, S.A.C.*, vol. XLI, 1933, 50—78; F=described by Rankine in *Prehistory of Farnham, S.A.S.*, 1939, 61—132; P=described by Rankine in *Proc. Preh. Soc.*, 1939, Jan.—July), Appendix V, 112.

Sites 49, 50 and 51 are "off" the map. Also 69, 75 and 81.

Quartzite pebble maceheads are shown on the distribution map because the Blackdown macehead (see Appendix VIII) was found in a mesolithic context; many of the other maces found in West Surrey resemble it in type, and therefore may possibly be of mesolithic dating.

The find-spots are indicated by M followed by a Roman numeral.

Key:

- I. Blackdown, excavated by Allen Chandler in 1903. Haslemere Museum.
- II. Blackdown. Used for years as a halter weight. Haslemere Museum.
- III. Blackdown, Asbesters Farm. Ploughed up in Telegraph Field. Haslemere Museum.
- IV. Fernhurst, Lynchmere Farm. Now lost.
- V. Fernhurst, Hawkfold Farm. Now lost.
- VI. Henley, Verdley Farm. Now lost.
- VII. Normandy. *S.A.C.*, vol. XI, 1893, Pt. I, 248. Whereabouts unknown.
- VIII. Wreclesham. From top-soil in sand-pit. Guildford Museum.
- IX. Westcott, from a cottage garden. *S.A.C.*, vol. XLV, 142. Guildford Museum.
- X. Chiddingfold. Half only. Haslemere Museum.
- XI. Haslemere, Stroatley. Haslemere Museum.
- XII. Farnham, Alma Nursery. *Preh. Farnham*, 86. Rankine Coll. 2lb. 15oz.
- XIII. Farnham, Pit-Dwellings. British Museum (N.H.).
- XIV. Albury. Fragment, *S.A.C.*, vol. XI, 1893, 289. Whereabouts unknown.
- XV. Blackdown, Anstead Brook. Partial perforation.
- XVI. Peasemars. *S.A.C.*, vol. XI, 1893, 289. Whereabouts unknown.

KEY TO DISTRIBUTION MAP

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| 1. Kingsley Group. P. | 42. Eashing. (o). |
| 2. Sleaford Group. (h). | 43. Munstead Heath. |
| 3. Heath Brow. (h), P, F. | 44. Witley Common. (h). |
| 4. The Ranges. (h), P, F. | 45. BLACKDOWN. (h), P. |
| 5. Caesar's Camp. (h), P, F. | 46. Chiddingfold, Gostrode Farm. (a), P, H. |
| 6. FARNHAM. (o), P, F. (33) | 47. Chiddingfold, Riddingsfield. (a), P, H. |
| 7. Snailslynch. (o), P, F. | 48. Chiddingfold, Prestwick. (a), P, H. |
| 8. Moor Park A. (a), P, F. | 49. Horsell. (o), H. (37). |
| 9. Moor Park B. (a), P, F. | 50. Camberley, Barossa Common. |
| 10. Badshot. (a), F. | 51. Blackwater. (o). |
| 11. Cemetery Allotment. (o), P, F. | 52. Tyting, St. Martha's. (s.p.). |
| 12. Crooksbury, P, F. | 53. St. Martha's Hill. (h). |
| 13. Sheephatch. P, F. | 54. Wotton. (a), H. |
| 14. Chapel Field. (a), P, F. | 55. Trunley Heath. H. |
| 15. Stonehills. (o). | 56. Shalford Common. H. |
| 16. Hankley. (h), P, F. | 57. Brook, Albury. H. |
| 17. The Bluff. (h), P, F. | 58. BLACKHEATH. H. (38) |
| 18. Lion's Mouth I. (h), P. | 59. Woolpit. (a). |
| 19. Lion's Mouth II. | 60. Pitch Hill. H. |
| 20. Kettlebury I and II. (h), P. | 61. Holmbury Hill. |
| 21. Jumps Moor. (o), P. | 62. Leith Hill. (h) (39), H. |
| 22. Bron-y-de (o), P. | 63. Cockshott Hollow. (h), H. (40) |
| 23. Spreakley. (o). (34) | 64. Leith Hill, S. H. |
| 24. Frensham Little Pond. (a). | 65. Coldharbour. H. |
| 25. Frensham Great Pond, N. (h), P. (35) | 66. Westcott Heath. (s.p.). |
| 26. Frensham Great Pond, S. | 67. Vanmoor, Hambledon. (p). |
| 27. Furze Hills. (p). | 68. Dorking, Cotmandene. (41) |
| 28. Barford. | 69. Betchworth Sand Pit. (s.p.), H. |
| 29. Plaster Hill. | 70. St. Catherine's Hill. |
| 30. Seale Lane. (s.p.). P. | 71. Dippenhall. |
| 31. Seale District. P.F. | 72. Farnham, Green Lane. (o), F. |
| 32. Cutt Mill, P. | 73. Farnham, Alma Nursery. (o), P, F. |
| 33. Puttenham District. P. | 74. Farnham, Rock House. (p), F. |
| 34. Rodsall. (a). | 75. Oakhanger. (h). |
| 34a. Hillbury. (h). | 76. Woolmer Pond. (h). |
| 35. Thursley Group. (o), P. | 77. Hindhead region. (h). |
| 36. Truxford. (o). | 78. Farnham, Princess Royal. (a), F. |
| 37. Dye House. | 79. Alfold. H. |
| 38. Hay Barn. | 80. Farley Heath. (h). |
| 39. High Field. | 81. Warnham. (42) |
| 40. Haslemere District. (36) | 82. Dorking, Deepdene. (p). |
| 41. Shackleford. | |

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- (33) Clark and Rankine, Excavations at Farnham, Surrey, *Proc. Preh. Soc.*, 1939 (Jan. - July), paper No. 5.
- (34) Rankine, Remarkable Flints from West Surrey Mesolithic Sites, *S.A.C.*, vol. XLIX, 6, 7.
- (35) Rankine, Mesolithic Chipping Floors in the Wind-blown Deposits of West Surrey, *S.A.C.*, vol. L, 1949.
- (36) *S.A.C.*, vol. XIX, 1896, pl. II (b), fac. p. 35.
- (37) *Ant. Journ.*, vol. IV, 1924, 415.
- (38) *Journ. Anthr. Inst.*, vol. XIII, 1884, 137-43.
- (39) *S.A.C.*, vol. XXXVIII, 1930, 166, fig. 3.
- (40) *S.A.C.*, vol. XXXVII, 1926, 89.
- (41) *Ant. Journ.*, 1926, 82-3; *S.A.C.*, vol. XXVI, 1913, 149.
- (42) A site in the Horsham group; *Arch. Journ.*, vol. VC, 1934, 54.