

REPORT ON FLINT IMPLEMENTS FOUND IN THE BRICK FIELD, LUNDY, 1957

BY K. S. GARDNER

The collection of over 1,000 pieces of flint made by Mr C. Ruse and other members of the Devonport High School in July 1957, throws interesting light on the early occupation of the island. It also provides evidence of a culture for which the writer has been hoping for several years.

In a paper written in 1932, Dr A. J. Dollar,¹ when referring to flints found in the Brick Field, mentioned a type of core with a striking platform at each end, i.e. bi-polar cores with parallel platforms. This type of core is fairly common on sites of the Mesolithic period, and a particularly fine specimen was found within sight of Lundy at Elmscott, four miles south of Hartland Point.² Dollar suggested that these cores were to be associated with 'pygmy flints', or microliths as they are known to-day.

It may be as well at this point to explain that the hunter-nomads of the post-glacial Mesolithic Period (8000-2500 B.C.) used complex hunting weapons and saws consisting of small points (microliths) set in wooden shafts. The methods of production employed also produced distinctive waste cores and flakes which themselves can be accepted as evidence of the culture.

The 1957 assemblage includes a number of small worked microlithic blades, a microburin, conical cores, several notched blades, and a fine backed burin or graver, all typical of a Mesolithic culture, although possibly of a late date.

FIG. 1 NOTE ON ILLUSTRATIONS

- (A) A *burin* or graver, used for scoring lines in the working of bone or antler, etc. The back has been blunted to present a better surface for the user to apply pressure.
- (B) A *microburin*, produced when only a certain part of a blade was required as an implement. A notch was made and the blade broken in half, the microburin being the residual waste flake.
- (C) Trapezoidal microlith worked on three sides.
- (D-F) Trimmed micro flakes.
- (G & H) Notched blades.

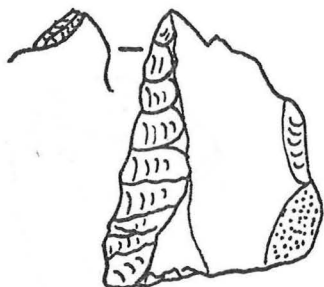
FIG 2

- (A & B) Scrapers crudely made from pebbles.
- (C-F) Better made 'thumb-nail' scrapers.
- (G) Typical conical core.

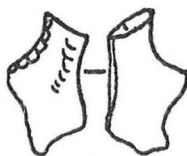
REFERENCES

- ¹ Dr A. J. Dollar, *Archaeological Investigations up to June 1932*. Typescript in N. Devon Athenaeum, Barnstaple.
- ² K. S. Gardner, *Transactions Devon Association 1957* (Vol. 89), Mesolithic Survey of North Devon. Fig. 2-16.

MESOLITHIC FLINTS
LUNDY



A



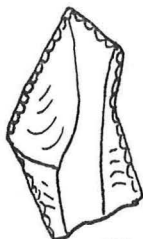
B



C



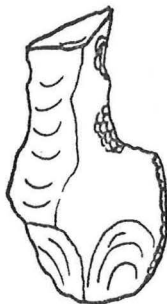
D



E



F



G



H

FIG 1

ACTUAL SIZE

LUNDY FLINTS

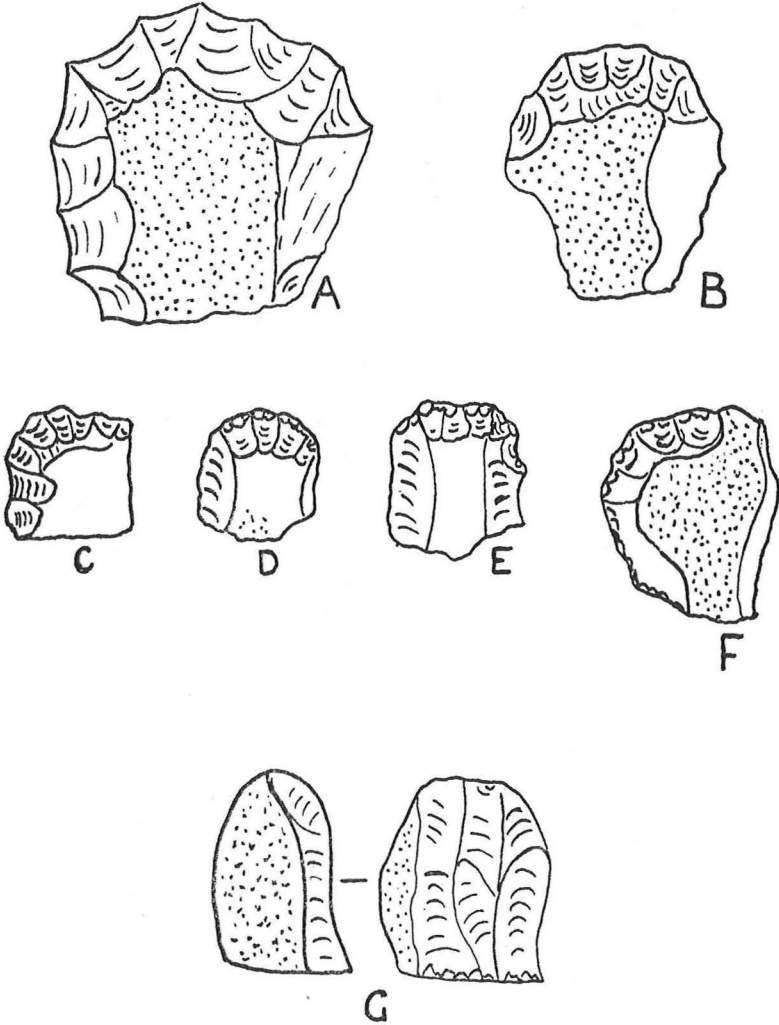


FIG. 2

ACTUAL SIZE