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Putting the Palaeolithic into Worcestershire's HER: creating an evidence base and toolkit

Final Report and Assessment

Oliver Russell & Nicholas Daffern
2014

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Putting the Palaeolithic into Worcestershire's
HER: creating an evidence base and toolkit

Final Report and Assessment

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Summary

Worcestershire, like the majority of the West Midlands, is not considered a focal point for the study of Palaeolithic archaeological remains, with much of the focus occurring in the East and South-East of the country. Despite this, discoveries of Palaeolithic artefactual and palaeoenvironmental remains within the county and the wider West Midlands have shown that the area has the potential to be productive and assist in national and international research aims for the period.

Research on the Palaeolithic is carried out by Quaternary scientists or archaeologists with specialist knowledge of Quaternary science. The reports are difficult for non-specialists to assess, with the result that Palaeolithic archaeology is poorly represented and as such is poorly protected through the usual planning process. This project aimed to take this specialist information, up-date it based on recent evidence and new interpretations, and place within the Historic Environment Record in a way in which it can be interpreted and used by non-specialists.

The project has also shown that Worcestershire has real potential to contribute, nationally as well as regionally, to our understanding of hominin development, migration and landscape interaction, whereas previously the region was not considered a focal point for Palaeolithic study. The project has proven that with a relatively small budget, a considerable dataset can be produced through the reassessment and reinterpretation of existing resources.

Background

The distribution and potential of Palaeolithic remains within Worcestershire is relatively poorly understood due to the considerable lack of data and only through regular updating of archaeological and non-archaeological (geological/ geographical etc) datasets can predictive models and distributions hope to be created. Indeed, as Lang and Buteux (2007, 19) state, whilst "the Shotton Project did not directly address general research goals in Lower and Middle Palaeolithic studies...it provided the necessary foundation to make such research possible" but "maintaining the research initiative of the Shotton Project is a major issue" with the "effective incorporation of archaeological and palaeoenvironmental data into the regions SMR's or ...HER's" being central.

As an unfunded addition to the Shotton project Worcestershire HER staff worked with Quaternary scientists and archaeologists to classify the river terraces into dated groups, making the geology more accessible to non-specialists (Buteux, Keen and Lang 2005, 42-50). In addition some new sites were added onto the HER. This was recognised as a simple but effective approach to the problem of making Palaeolithic data accessible to a non-specialist audience, but lack of funds had meant that this work was not fully integrated into the HER and so had not realised its full potential. This project was set up to remedy this.

Review of Methodology

This section covers any deviations and/or issues with the original methodology set out in the Project Design. This includes a detailed overview of how the data was incorporated in the HER.

Stage 1 – Enhancement of the Palaeolithic in the HER

Literature Review

This was carried out as planned using a wide variety of journals, publications and online resources, making use of keyword search functionality on the website to pick up potentially relevant sites. The complete bibliography for the project can be found in Appendix 1. In addition to the 'standard' archaeological sources, Quaternary science and geological journals and publications were reviewed as these are frequently overlooked by archaeologists and the data sets are rarely deposited with Historic Environment Records. However, having a Quaternary specialist on the project team allowed us to make use of this data and include it in the HER enhancement.

Validating Existing Datasets and Incorporating datasets from new sources and sites

The project design stated that the project would use the updated 2011 BGS dataset rather than the 2005 dataset used within the Shotton Project, but due to its availability, the 2013 BGS data was used in the final project. This probably had little effect on the results as very little reassessment of the geology of the region has been undertaken and the geology mapping has remained much the same.

The assessment of artefactual collections was undertaken as planned by Dr Andrew Shaw, who had access to the large Whitehead Collection at the British Museum and smaller collections held within local museums. The Project Design stated that there were approximately 171 artefacts within the Whitehead Collection to be reassessed; however just over 250 objects were assessed by Dr Shaw, 229 of which were identified

as being of Palaeolithic date. There were a further 53 objects assessed from the local collections, 12 of which were deemed to be of Palaeolithic date. This made a total of 304 objects examined, 241 (79.3%) of which were dated to the Palaeolithic. The complete lithics report by Dr Andrew Shaw is included as Appendix 2

Along with Whitehead's artefactual collection it has long been known that there was in existence a faunal collection and catalogue, but it was not known whether the collection was accessible or where the catalogue could be found, and therefore it was not originally included in the project design. However, during the work at the British Museum a photocopy of Whitehead's catalogue was produced, which unexpectedly gave the project access to over 2000 faunal remains. A variation was successfully requested from English Heritage to incorporate this dataset into the GIS so that it could be considered within the project. A breakdown of the faunal remains can be seen in the results section of this report.

As planned, Marine Isotope Stages were used for the dating of the project results. At a recent NHPP seminar it was questioned whether or not we should be using MIS for our dating, as the current data available does not provide that level of accuracy (Wenban-Smith, F.F., pers comm). This may be true of residual or reworked artefacts but *in-situ* deposits containing artefactual, faunal and/or palaeoenvironmental remains can commonly be placed into a more tightly focused time span through the identification of biostratigraphical indicator species and/or the application of radiometric dating techniques. The dates for the MIS boundaries are those that are shown in Lisiecki, L. E., & M. E. Raymo (2005).

In light of this project having an HER enhancement focus we believe that it is essential to incorporate Marine Isotope Stages. This chronological framework has widely been used in Quaternary Science publications for many years and the majority of the geological, climatic and environmental data, in which the archaeological record sits, will be presented in this refined format. This is particularly apparent in the recent works of Penkman *et al* (2011) and McMillan *et al* (2013) whose aminostratigraphic and lithostratigraphic frameworks for the British Quaternary are presented in Marine Isotope Stages.

Also, by using Marine Isotope Stages, a better context for activity can be achieved. For example, the middle Palaeolithic, a c150,000 year period, is grouped together seemingly giving the impression of constancy when in reality this period is characterised by vast climatic and environmental variations including the Wolstonian stage glaciations and the Ipswichian interglacial. The climatic and environmental context would appear to be a better chronological framework than that of slight, heavily-debated morphological variations in artefacts which may reflect short trends, whilst in the wider world, reference is made to thousands of years with glacial and interglacials seemingly being given lip-service.

Within the scope of the current project, because of the lack of more refined dating techniques, we have broadly dated most records to MIS ranges which reflect the more traditional (Upper, Middle and Lower) tripartite dating. This means that broadly dated material is still represented without making assumptions as to which stage it belongs yet ensures that the HER is 'future proofed' allowing for future refinements in dating and easy incorporation of new datasets from Quaternary Science sources. Each MIS has its own 'Theme' record within the HER, which details the national and regional conditions at that time and what faunal remains are to be expected from each

stage. These act as extended Scope Notes for each MIS and have been created as plain English descriptions of each period.

There were two steps taken in creating and mapping records within HER. Firstly, there was the updating and creating of sites based upon the reassessed and newly discovered sites. These mostly took the form of Event records that artefacts were then 'hung from'. In many cases this resulted in a single find being related to a single Event. This approach was taken, rather than grouping artefacts into larger Events, as it allowed the positional data of each artefact to be maintained. Any future projects can then take the HER data and use it for studying the distribution of artefacts on a site by site basis as well as on a Countywide scale. An example of an HER entry for Palaeolithic artefacts and Events is included in Appendix 3. The Schema for the Palaeolithic project is the same as detailed in the Project Design (Figure 1 - HER Schema for Palaeolithic project data)

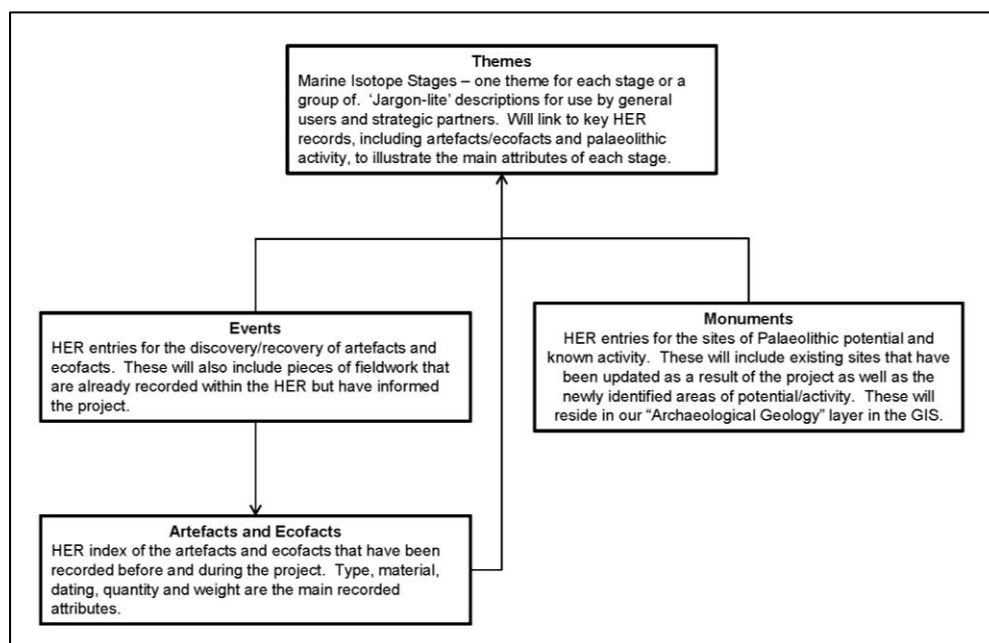


Figure 1 - HER Schema for Palaeolithic project data

The second stage of mapping was the creation of the areas of Palaeolithic potential. As stated in the Project Design, these were mapped using polygons from the BGS data which have been overlaid with the enhanced HER entries and merged into one polygon per member/deposit. Using this method the project has created 21 areas of Palaeolithic potential, each of which has an entry within the HER's Geology layer. The text for these records is the basis for the online toolkit. The areas of potential are included in Appendices 4 and 5. It was decided not to produce a scoring system for the areas of potential as there is still too much uncertainty within the data and scoring areas may give false weighting of areas over others of equal unknown, but possible equal potential. Ideally the project would have assigned levels of potential, however within the scope of this project, a largely desk based exercise, it has not been possible. The future possibilities to enhance this data are discussed elsewhere in this report.

The Project Design mentioned the forthcoming database from The Ancient Human Occupation of Britain project (AHOB). However at the current time the database has not been published, and as such cannot be included within the current scope of this project.

Once published, this can be considered as part of the ongoing enhancement of the HER and will possibly inform an update to the results of this project.

Stage 2 – Production of Toolkit

The methodology for the production of the toolkit has been carried out as described in the Project Design. See the results section for further details on the completed toolkit.

Stage 3 – Dissemination

The toolkit and training sessions will predominantly take the form of online resources, which allows the greatest exposure of the material and also allows the materials to be updated easily. The toolkit will be linked directly to the relevant records on the Heritage Gateway website, allowing access to the full HER records for each area of potential. Worcestershire HER maintains its Heritage Gateway dataset monthly, therefore it will never be more than 1 month out-of-date if edits are made to the master HER.

The project was presented in November 2013 at the Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Annual Dayschool.

It is still envisaged that the project will be disseminated via the HER Forum Online, and that at a suitable time will be presented at a national or regional HER meeting.

Results

Reassessment of Artefact Collections

A major part of this project was the reassessment of various collections of artefacts, most notably the Whitehead collection held within the British Museum. Over 251 stone objects were assessed from the Whitehead collection and a further 53 from various local Worcestershire collections. This assessment work was carried out by an external specialist, Dr Andrew Shaw, who provided a complete report on the identification and assessment of the material. The assessment assigned 79.3% of the artefacts to the Palaeolithic, with several artefacts being of particular interest, five of which were illustrated for the project. The artefacts have been dated within the traditional tripartite system, however these were then been given the equivalent MIS ranges to fit into the newly enhanced dating abilities of the HER. These five artefacts are possibly 5 of the oldest, if not the oldest, artefacts in Worcestershire. Further information and the reasons for their being illustrated are set out below:

Pershore/Allesborough handaxe (Appendix 10, Figure 5) – This handaxe is morphologically (probably due to later rolling/abrasion) and geologically unusual. It is thought to be Lower Palaeolithic in date probably MIS 11 – 9 (D Hurst, R Jackson, A Shaw 2013). Unfortunately, as it was a stray surface find during fieldwalking, it cannot be assigned to a particular context but the Pershore Sand and Gravel Member which lies to the north-east and south-west, is probably the most likely origin. Geologically, the handaxe is unusual with a recent assessment indicating either a south-west (Cornwall) or north-east (Yorkshire) origin (Nick Ashton pers comm.), possibly supporting the theories of researchers such as Paul Pettitt who propose that the Severn-Avon corridor was utilised as seasonal migration route from south-west to north-east Britain.

Ashton under Hill/Bredon Hill handaxe (Appendix 10, Figure 6) – This artefact has been assigned a Lower/ Middle Palaeolithic date but it does exhibit features suggesting that it may be Late Middle Palaeolithic in date, possibly making it later than the other artefacts

selected. Morphologically it was different from the other artefacts selected for illustration, being smaller than the other handaxes and, to non-artefact specialists at least, different to the preconceptions of what a Palaeolithic hand-axe 'should be like'. This perceived difference stimulated much discussion as to why it was smaller and how it would have been utilised and it is hoped that members of the public and other professionals will be similarly stimulated. It was in a very good condition and its colouration was somewhat different than other selected artefacts illustrating the range of materials utilised.

Moseley Farm, Hallow handaxe (Appendix 10, Figure 7) – Provisionally identified as Early Middle Palaeolithic, and given the hiatus in anthropogenic activity for the majority of the Middle Palaeolithic it is thought to be MIS 7, possibly MIS 8 in date. Artefacts from this period are nationally rare and would be a first in the West Midlands (Andy Shaw 2013.). As such, it would be an extremely good example of the potential east/west, Levallois/handaxe divide in Britain. The artefact is in extremely fresh condition and is not directly associated with a mapped superficial deposit hinting at the possibility of an undisturbed, valley side deposit.

Old Hills/Madresfield (Appendix 10, Figure 8) – Morphologically, it is thought to be Lower Palaeolithic in date probably MIS 11 – 9 (A Shaw 2013). Unfortunately, as it was a stray surface find during fieldwalking, it cannot be assigned to a particular context but the Bushley Green and Spring Hill Sand and Gravel Members lie to the east of the findspot.

Queenshill/Upton-upon-Severn (Appendix 10, Figure 9) - Morphologically, it is thought to be Lower Palaeolithic in date probably MIS 11 – 9 (A Shaw 2013) and as such may be the oldest artefact from Worcestershire. Unfortunately, as it was a stray surface find during fieldwalking, it cannot be assigned to a particular context but the Bushley Green and Spring Hill Sand and Gravel Members lie to the east and south of the findspot.

Aesthetics also played a part in the decision making process when choosing the artefacts to illustrate. Individuals (both archaeologists and public) were asked which of the available artefacts were the most interesting, most attractive or fulfilled their perception of what a Palaeolithic artefact looks like. This was of great importance as if something is not recognisable as a tool or does not stir some form of emotion or interest, then engagement with the subject is less likely.

The report acknowledges that even though Worcestershire has a relatively small collection of Palaeolithic artefacts it is indeed highly significant. Here are some of the observations from the report (Shaw 2013):

- The collection reflects the fact that few investigators have actively sought to recover material within the County and when they have, it has been biased towards reject heaps in gravel quarries.
- The assemblages and artefacts give some indication of the first recorded human presence in the region.
- The reassessment potentially identified the first Early Middle Palaeolithic artefact from the West Midlands (Moseley Farm/Park) although the dating of this must currently remain uncertain as it has not been directly assigned to a particular superficial deposit. Despite this uncertainty, the condition of the artefact suggests it may have been derived from a previously undisturbed, *in-situ* context.
- There is potential for Worcestershire to contribute to ongoing, in particular, whether there are west/east divides and/or different entry routes for different hominin species. In the Early Middle Palaeolithic, Levallois assemblages are

found in the Thames Valley whilst handaxes are found in the West of the UK. Whilst in the Upper Palaeolithic, Aurignacian scrapers, associated with modern humans, have a westerly distribution with the Aston Mill artefact being one of the most easterly examples (Dinnis 2012, 4).

- The artefacts selected for illustration were chosen based primarily on their significance. Unfortunately, due to the difficulty of arranging a loan (insurance, time constraints etc) from the British Museum, examples like the Aurignacian scraper were unavailable for high-res photography and/or illustration.
- The collection has potential to be of greater use for both research and strategic planning, especially within the Carrant Brook, if it is combined with some further fieldwork and study of Whitehead's notebooks for spatial data.
- As already noted, most of Worcestershire's Palaeolithic material was collected by a single individual, P.R. Whitehead. Whitehead's collection comprises over 90% of the record and is from a single river valley. This demonstrates that when actively sought, nationally significant Palaeolithic deposits have been shown to be present in Worcestershire and that the potential for further deposits elsewhere in the County is high.

Although the faunal remains were not reassessed, or even viewed, during this project, the complete catalogue was digitised and mapped in GIS. During this process it became apparent that there were several important remains.

The sheer quantity of faunal remains informally collected by Whitehead and his contacts is frankly staggering and, considering the majority comes from just two locations, Aston Mill and Beckford, demonstrates the massive potential of Worcestershire's aggregates. It also amply illustrates the quantity and quality of material held by museums, both locally and nationally, which have never formally been investigated or subject to modern scientific analysis. It is highly likely that many of the gaps in knowledge and/or questions posed by research frameworks could be addressed by re-evaluation and re-interpretation of the material already within our possession.

The concentration and distribution of artefacts recovered from the Carrant Brook area has been the subject of debate, ie, is the distribution real or is it merely due to the area being the focus of Whitehead's research? Whilst the latter is most certainly true, the environment and landscape of a wide, open floodplain marking the confluence of two major river systems within the high ground of Bredon Hill and the Cotswolds, would have been a fertile habitat for wildlife and an incredibly attractive hunting ground.

Potential evidence for the exploitation of fauna by early humans is afforded by the bone fragment recorded by Whitehead as being "butchered and gnawed". Whilst this fragment has not been reassessed, the use of the word butchered by Whitehead, a phrase not used elsewhere, is tantalising. Given his knowledge of prehistoric and Palaeolithic archaeology, it is likely that he used this phrase purposefully. The provenance of these remains is not in question as the organics overlying the Lias Clay in this area have variously been radiocarbon dated to between 32 – 26,000BP and the recovery of bison and reindeer remains from the same context support the Devensian date. If this evidence does show signs of human agency, then it is likely to be the earliest evidence for butchery in Worcestershire (possibly the West Midlands although this would have to be confirmed).

The presence of hippopotamus remains at Aston Mill and those at Stourbridge (Boulton 1917) and Gloucester (Schreve 2009) highlights the potential for Ipswichian (MIS 5e)

deposits, containing significant faunal and palaeoenvironmental remains, lying undisturbed and uninvestigated in the Avon and Severn Valleys, away from the recognised locations at Eckington and Crophorne.

Pleistocene fauna, such as hippos, mammoths and lions, are one of the strongest resources available for engagement with the public. Examples such as the hippo remains gnawed by hyaena and reindeer gnawed by wolf, illustrate that the past was an active place regardless of human presence. Visualising exotic fauna has proven to be one of the most captivating elements when discussing the subject during outreach.

HER Enhancement

The enhancement of the HER was the main aim of the project, and this has been achieved by the updating and adding of many new sites. Prior to any enhancement work a snapshot of the Palaeolithic records within the HER was taken. There were approximately 30 Palaeolithic dated records within the HER (Figure 2) across the County, including Events, Monuments and Artefacts. This low figure can be partially attributed to loosely dated records, where they were assigned general 'prehistoric' dates, which wouldn't have been picked up by a search for just Palaeolithic.

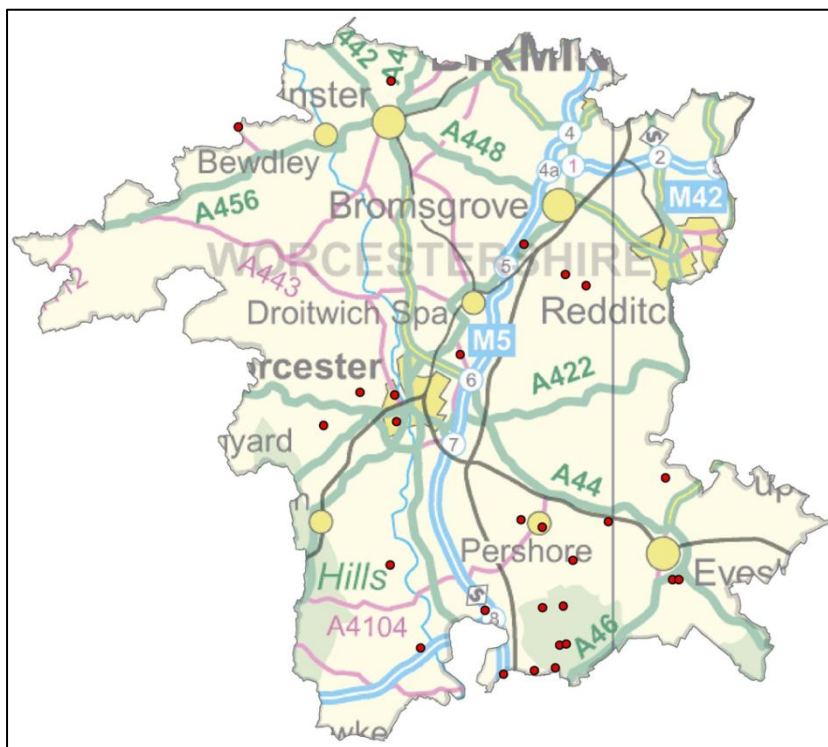


Figure 2 - Palaeolithic sites recorded on HER before enhancement

Following the enhancement of the HER from all of the reassessed materials and literature review the record count for the Palaeolithic is nearer 2500 (Figure 3). This currently includes over 2000 records of faunal data from the Whitehead collection although, despite being digitised and mapped, is not fully integrated into the HER. When completed, this figure will likely be slightly lower as concentrations of remains will be grouped into individual sites. Nonetheless this shows a significant increase in Palaeolithic data within the HER.



In Shaw's report it is noted that the Palaeolithic record is focussed on material from fluvial deposits. There is potential to gather Palaeolithic deposits from non-fluvial capture points, such as solution features, fissures and small depositional grabens formed by cambering (Shaw 2013). Within the scope of this project it has not been possible to include these elements due to the ephemeral nature of them. It is possible that the Moseley Farm handaxe had lain protected in a small depression/fissure created through cambering and valley bulging, but further investigation of the site would be required to confirm this.

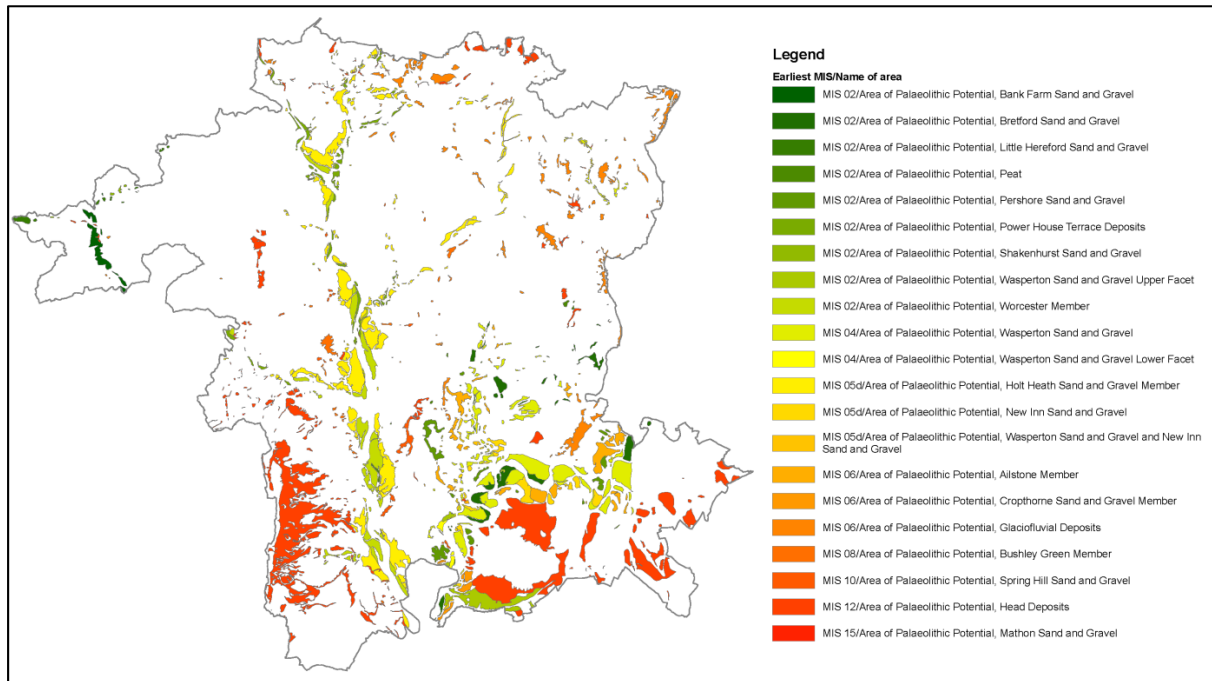


Figure 4 - Areas of Palaeolithic potential (A3 version included as appendix)

Toolkit

The toolkit is a combination of the HER enhancement work, such as the MIS themes and the Area of Potential mapping, and advisory information to tie the Palaeolithic data into the planning policy and future strategic planning across the County. A current example of this is the new Strategic Mineral Plan, which this project hopes to inform when deciding on location and strategy.

Part of the toolkit's purpose is to better inform those professionals who work within the areas of Palaeolithic potential, such as aggregate firms. To this end it was thought that producing an information leaflet to help recognise and raise awareness of these deposits and artefacts would be beneficial. A previous project, the National Ice Age Network (NIAN), produced just such leaflets. The project gained permission from a former member of NIAN to use the materials produced for this earlier work within our toolkit. The NIAN Palaeolithic leaflet is included within this report as Appendix 6.

The toolkit is available on Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service's website. Currently the mapping is only available online as a Countywide overview or via the Heritage Gateway. To make the most of the mapped areas of potential it is envisaged that enquirers will submit a HER search request to the HER, as is the current practice with HER searches.

To view the guidance and toolkit please visit:

www.worcestershire.gov.uk/archaeology/palaeolithic_guidance

Discussion

This project set out to enhance the Palaeolithic within Worcestershire's HER and to produce a toolkit that could be used by strategic planners and researchers in general. The project has proven that with a relatively small budget, a considerable dataset can be

produced through the reassessment and reinterpretation of existing resources. Given the relative simplicity of the method, rolling out/replication of this project could occur in other regions and for other periods although it should be noted that specialist support for reviewing Quaternary datasets may be necessary given the unfamiliarity of the techniques and evidence.

The project has also shown that Worcestershire has real potential to contribute, nationally as well as regionally, to our understanding of hominin development, migration and landscape interaction, whereas previously the region was not considered a focal point for Palaeolithic study. This is reinforced by Dr Shaw in his report "..... it demonstrates that nationally important Palaeolithic sites and collections are present in the county which, if accompanied by further investigations, have the potential to materially contribute to our understanding of the Palaeolithic occupation of the British Isles."

The project has also demonstrated that the Severn and Avon has high potential for the recovery of nationally significant geoarchaeological, palaeoenvironmental and faunal datasets with the potential to improve, refine and advance our understanding of past human-environment interactions.

Review of Costs

Original Budget

Below is a review of the original costs of the project and any overspends. As shown in Table 1 there was an overspend of approximately £2000 on the original budget.

Staff	Day rate	Day Rate VAT (where applicable)	General Project Management	Project Management Cost	Stage 1 Days	Stage 1 Costs	Stage 2 Days	Stage 2 Costs	Stage 3 Days	Stage 3 Costs	Project Total
Emma Hancox	£240.00		1	£240.00		£0.00		£0.00		£0.00	
Oliver Russell	£225.00			£0.00	3	£675.00	2	£450.00	8	£1,800.00	
Nick Daffern	£220.00			£0.00	27	£5,940.00	8	£1,760.00	1	£220.00	
External Specialist	£350.00	£70.00		£0.00	8	£3,360.00		£0.00		£0.00	
External specialist travel						£279.20					
HER Assistant	£162.00			£0.00	19	£3,078.00	1	£162.00		£0.00	
Staff Total			1	£240.00	57	£13,332.20	11	£2,372.00	9	£2,020.00	
Overheads				£60.00		£2,423.25		£593.00		£505.00	
Non-staff costs						£100.00				£25.00	
TOTAL ACTUAL				£300.00		£15,855.45		£2,965.00		£2,550.00	£21,670.45
TOTAL ORIGINAL				£300.00		£12,425.25		£4,340.00		£2,550.00	£19,615.25
OVER/UNDERSPEND				£0.00		-£3,430.20		£1,375.00		£0.00	-£2,055.20

Table 1 - Original project budget

Stage 1

The costs were higher than expected due to a couple of reasons.

- There were some unforeseen problems with gaining insurance for the borrowing of artefacts from local museums. This cost Nick Daffern time in Stage 1.
- The external specialist (Dr Andrew Shaw) spent longer on the artefacts collections than budgeted; this was due to the larger size of the collection than previously thought. The actual travel costs for this stage were nearly 2.5 times the budgeted £100.

Stage 2

The production of the synthetic text for the toolkit did not take as long as originally planned, which allowed Nick Daffern to make up the time lost in point a) above.

Stage 3

This stage is coming in on budget, with a couple of tasks being planned to be completed after this report, including disseminating the results via HER Forum and producing a short paper on the methodology and results.

Variation Budget

There was a successful application for a project variation to cover additional illustration work and the inclusion of the c.2000 faunal remains from the Whitehead catalogue. Below is an overview of the costs of the variation. As shown in Table 2 below, there was a slight overspend on the illustration work.

		Whitehead Faunal Data						Lithic Illustrations		
Staff	Day Rate		Faunal Data Input Days	Faunal Data Input Costs		Faunal Data Analysis Days	Faunal Data Analysis Costs		Illustration Days	Illustration Costs
HER Assistant	£169.91	Planned	7	£1,189.37						
		Actual	7	£1,189.37						
Nick Daffern	£220.00				Planned	1	£220.00			
					Actual	1	£220.00			
Illustrator	£222.22							Planned	7	£1,555.54
								Actual	7.23	£1,606.65
Staff Total			7	£1,189.37		1	£220.00		7	£1,555.54
Overheads				£297.34			£55.00			£388.89
Original Total Costs				£1,486.71			£275.00			£1,944.43
Actual Costs				£1,486.71			£275.00			£2,008.31
Underspend/Overspend				£0.00			£0.00			-£63.89
								Actual Variation Total	£3,770.03	
								Original Variation Total	£3,706.14	
								Project Under/Overspend	-£63.89	

Table 2 - Variation budget

Overall Project Costs

As it stands the completed project will have had an overspend of £1906.70. The majority of this can be put down to the additional artefacts during the analysis stage along with the additional travel costs.

Review of Risk Management

This section will briefly review the risks highlighted in the Risk Log from the Project Design.

Risk 1 – Data loss due to data failure or corruption or accidental document deletion – There was no data loss during the project

Risk 2 – Rate of work slower than expected due to IT issues, equipment failure or illness – There were no IT issues, equipment failure or illness during the project.

Risk 3 – Extended period of HERA sickness – There was no sickness during the project.

Risk 4 – Extended period of Project Leader sickness – There was no sickness during the project.

Risk 5 – Extended period of absence of project specialist – During the majority of the project (until Jan 2014) all specialists were present. In January 2014 Nick Daffern left WAAS, however he has committed to contributing to the final report in his own time.

Risk 6 – Resignation of HERA – No HERAs resigned during the project.

Risk 7 – Resignation of Project Leader – Project Leader did not resign.

Risk 8 – Resignation of Project Specialist – Nick Daffern did resign at the end of 2013, however he has committed himself to work with the project team on the completing of the report.

Risks that were not originally raised:

1 – Problem associated with the borrowing of artefacts, most notably gaining insurance for the items. Future projects should check this situation in the Project Design stage.

2 – Specialist overrun due to larger collections – Dr Andrew Shaw overran by 2 days on the reanalysis of the lithic material. This is due to the available collection being larger than originally believed. Future projects should be aware of this and allow for a greater contingency.

3 – Overspend on travel costs – The original budget under calculated the travel costs for the specialist (Dr Shaw). Future projects should allow for greater travel costs, especially when traveling at short notice on rail as there is less flexibility on costs.

The general analysis of the risks is that we managed to control them within our own team and the more certain areas of the project, however we did not allow for the variability of travel costs and the potential for the artefact collection to be almost 1.5 times larger than expected.

Future Work

Worcestershire

The end of this project does not signify the end of enhancing the Palaeolithic within Worcestershire's HER. As further research, large scale development and ongoing analysis takes place within the region the newly created resource will be maintained and updated through the usual process of HER enhancement. As an update to the toolkit, an interactive GIS based website could be developed, allowing online investigation of areas of interest without the need to consult the HER in every case. This would require further funding, through a second stage project or a new related project.

Following this project there is scope for further study and assessment of the materials and sites. One major aspect that would benefit from further work is the large collection of faunal remains within the Natural History Museum that form part of the Whitehead

collection. Without personally knowing P. Whitehead it is unknown how confident he was in his identifications of faunal remains; however it appears he had an extremely high level of ability and knowledge in this area so it is not necessary to doubt his identifications, but reassessment of these remains by a suitable faunal specialist would be valuable to confirm the nature of the archive and to place it in context in light of recent findings. As discussed in the results section there appear to be quite a few notable objects and remains with diagnostic markings in the collection, such as the earliest evidence for butchery within Worcestershire. Having these reassessed would allow for the confirmation of this and other important features.

As suggested by Dr Shaw, the data currently held could benefit from fieldwork investigations, including coring and scientific dating of deposits. This could be included as planning conditions for new areas of quarrying within areas of Palaeolithic potential.

A particular area requiring reassessment is the Holt Heath Member. This member is believed to be composite, representing multiple phases of deposition. Thus the dating of this unit has proven problematic in the past (Dawson and Bryant 1987, Maddy *et al* 1995) and deposition is currently dated to between MIS 5d – MIS 2/ LGM (Last Glacial Maximum). The Upton Warren Beds contained within the Holt Heath Member have been dated to between 80 – 57ka by amino acid dating (Bowen *et al* 1989; 2002) and 42ka by radiocarbon dating (Coope *et al* 1961) thus indicating the Member was accumulating prior to and after their formation.

Despite this dating, the Member is often characterised as containing a significant proportion of Irish Sea basin erratics derived from the Devensian Stockport Glacigenic Formation (McMillan *et al* 2011) thought to have been deposited during the Dimlington Stadial (22 – 13ka). Obviously this is in opposition to the dating from Upton Warren and therefore a clearer understanding of the timing and conditions of the Holt Heath Member's deposition is required. It is suggested that sub-division of the unit occurs eg Holt Heath 1, Holt Heath 2 etc depending on phase of deposition or a new nomenclature is applied. It is preliminarily suggested that there are two or three divisions consisting of the lower/oldest member deposited somewhere between MIS 5d - early 4 overlying the Ipswichian faunal beds at Stourbridge, possibly a middle member deposited during MIS 4 - 3 (although this middle may have to be combined with the lower, it also includes the Upton Warren Beds) and finally an upper, youngest member deposited during the Dimlington Stadial of MIS2 containing the Irish Sea erratics.

Selection of suitable material from the Whitehead and Upton Warren archives is likely to produce material suitable for radiometric dating and/or other analytical techniques that were previously unavailable.

Unfortunately, due to the difficulty of arranging a loan (insurance, time constraints etc) from the British Museum, examples like the Aurignacian scraper were unavailable for high-res photography and/or illustration. This is something that should be considered for further work as the confirmed identification of a scraper of this date is nationally significant.

Due to its significance, the preparation of a short journal article confirming the identification of the Aurignacian should be considered as concerns regarding the provenance and identification of the artefact have rightly been raised (Dinnis 2012). As part of the preparation of this article, the reassessment of Whiteheads notes should be undertaken to try and confirm the exact location and nature of the context from which it

was recovered, something that was unfortunately not achievable under the remit of the present work.

Interaction with quarry companies to allow suitably trained and inducted professionals and volunteers access to active extraction sites to scan the reject heaps for Palaeolithic artefacts and create relationships with the companies similar to the one that Whitehead maintained. This may lead to access for brief recording of faces and collection of material that would previously have been lost.

Walkover surveys in areas where surface finds have been recorded such as Madresfield and Hallow) but also in the former quarry areas and fossil bed locations ie Kemerton Lakes, Eckington to identify if any of the sections of old workings or associated drainage channels are extant or if stray material has been exposed.

Regionally/Nationally

This project has shown that the region's Palaeolithic remains have the potential to be of national importance; therefore a future project rolling out this methodology to the West Midlands Region would seem appropriate.

The Palaeolithic section of *The Archaeology of the West Midlands* (Garwood 2011) points out that the region has been traditionally neglected when it comes to Palaeolithic research. When work has been carried out in recent years, most notably by P. Whitehead and R. Waite, it has concentrated on the Severn/Avon confluence in Worcestershire and Wolvey in Warwickshire. The region would benefit hugely from systematic research-led programmes of artefact recovery and site investigations.

This project has in part covered many of the regional aims set out in this publication:

- ".....further evaluation of museum and private collections....."
- ".....Palaeolithic archaeology should be brought more effectively into the domain of developer-funded archaeology and the planning process....."
- ".....'predictive modelling' of sites and finds"
- ".....there is a need to establish protocols for dealing with this evidence....."
- "Existing lithic artefacts collections in museums should be re-evaluated....."

Through the work of this project, and the potential regional roll-out of the methodology, it should be possible to produce enhanced datasets that can inform an updated research framework for the West Midlands that better reflect the regions potential.

During the recent NHPP seminar with the other Mesolithic and Palaeolithic projects it became apparent that many of the HERs were realising the limitations of the current thesauri for indexing Palaeolithic sites and deposits. This project chose to use the current thesauri terms in the interest of inputting the data rapidly, however we would agree that a re-think of terms would benefit HERs in the future and enhance their ability to record these sites. As suggested in the seminar, all NHPP projects working on this activity should discuss and collaborate on new and revised terms that are more fitting this period.

It is envisaged that this will occur sometime after this project has completed as all other NHPP projects are on a later timescale. However we can collaborate with the other projects and update our data when thesauri have been agreed.

As the other NHPP projects come to completion it is hoped, that where applicable, national collaboration can be sought to produce consistent national guidance for the identification and recording of Palaeolithic deposits and sites.

Acknowledgements

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Appendices

1. Project Bibliography

This bibliography includes all sources that were checked during literature review. Many of these are not referenced within the body of this report, however they have been sourced within the relevant HER records.

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2. Lithics report

**PUTTING THE PALAEOLOGIC INTO WORCESTERSHIRE'S
HER**

WHITEHEAD COLLECTION & STRAY FINDS

Andrew Shaw

September 2013

ABSTRACT

This report provides a review of previously unassessed Palaeolithic artefacts from Worcestershire. It forms part of the English Heritage support project, 'Putting the Palaeolithic into Worcestershire's HER: creating an evidence based toolkit'. It provides contextual information for the artefacts, a techno-typological review and age attribution of both individual artefacts and assemblages, and discusses of the nature, current value and future potential of the datasets. The assessment allows this material to be incorporated in the Worcestershire County Councils HER and provides additional information relevant for future planning policy. In addition, it demonstrates that nationally important Palaeolithic sites and collections are present in the county which, if accompanied by further investigations, have the potential to materially contribute to our understanding of the Palaeolithic occupation of the British Isles.

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References

Acknowledgements

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APPENDIX: METHODOLOGY

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report provides a review of previously unassessed Palaeolithic artefacts from Worcestershire. It forms part of the English Heritage support project, 'Putting the Palaeolithic into Worcestershire's HER: creating an evidence based toolkit'. This programme aims to take specialist information relating to the Palaeolithic record of Worcestershire, up-date it based on recent evidence and new interpretations, and place it within the Historic Environment Record (HER) in such a way that it can be interpreted, and used by non-specialists.
- 1.2 A major aspect of the project is to validate existing datasets and incorporate datasets from new sources and sites. Previous investigations carried out as part of the Aggregate Levy Sustainability Fund project 'Shotton Project: Midlands Palaeolithic Network' recorded 159 Lower and Middle artefacts from Worcestershire (Buteaux *et al.* 2005; Lang & Keen 2005). This did not, however, include a full assessment of the largest collection of Palaeolithic artefacts from the county, the Whitehead Collection (n=207), nor did it include unassessed Palaeolithic artefacts recovered by members of the public in recent times. Therefore, a key element of the project is to provide a specialist analysis of these artefacts.
- 1.3 This report outlines the results of this assessment. It provides contextual information for the material, a techno-typological review and age attribution of both individual artefacts and assemblages, and a discussion of the nature, current value and future potential of the datasets.
- 1.4 The analysis was carried by Dr Andrew Shaw (University College London).

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 Archaeological Background

2.1.1 The investigation of Palaeolithic material from Worcestershire has a significant history, extending back to the discovery of a handaxe from Worcester in 1920s (Smith 1922). This was followed by the discovery of other artefacts (most frequently handaxes) associated with Pleistocene terrace deposits of the rivers Severn and the Warwickshire/Worcestershire Avon, and its tributary the Carrant Brook (e.g. Burkitt 1934; Smith 1958; Grinsall 1960).

2.1.2 However, by the late 1960s the number of Palaeolithic artefacts from Worcester totalled less than 10 (Roe 1968). These numbers were dramatically increased as a result of investigations carried out by P.R. Whitehead during the 1970s until the early 1990s. Whitehead recovered significant numbers of Palaeolithic artefacts associated with deposits of the River Avon and the Carrant Brook (Whitehead 1977, 1988 & 1992). He also recovered extensive mammalian faunal collections and a raft of other paleontological datasets including molluscs, coleoptera and ostracods (Whitehead 1977 1989a, 1989b, 1989 c & 1992).

2.1.3 Since the early 1990s there has been little systematic research into the Palaeolithic of Worcestershire, with the majority of artefactual finds being individual chance discoveries.

2.1.4 Recent research into the Palaeolithic of the Midlands generally has focussed on its pre-Anglian Pleistocene record (>474 kya >Marine Isotope Stage 12), in particular that from Waverley Wood in Warwickshire (Shotton *et al.* 1993, Land & Keen 2005). Unfortunately, Worcestershire has had little to contribute to this debate as no pre-Anglian archaeology has been recovered from the county; although being situated between two major pre-Anglian drainage systems — the rivers Mathon and Bytham — the potential still remains.

2.1.5 Arguably, this wider regional focus on the period prior to MIS 12 has been detrimental to study of the Palaeolithic in Worcestershire, as its sizeable, and nationally important, mid-late Devensian (~60–26 kya; MIS 4–2) artefactual and palaeoenvironmental record has been largely overlooked.

2.1.6 Furthermore, as in Britain as whole, investigation of the Palaeolithic in

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Worcestershire has been exclusively focussed on fluvially archives. No consideration has been given to potential capture away from rivers where the artefactual material is often better preserved.

- 2.1.7 Worcestershire's Palaeolithic record can be divided into five temporal units: pre MIS 12 (>~474 kya), MIS 12–8 (~474–244 kya), MIS 7–6 (244–130 kya) MIS 5 (~130–71 kya) and MIS 4–3 (~71–24 kya).
- 2.1.8 The period prior to MIS 12 is associated with the first human populations to occupy Britain (Parfitt *et al.* 2005 & 2010) No deposits, or associated archaeology, relating to this period have thus far been identified in Worcestershire (although reworked material in later deposits may belong to this period). However, as the county is located between two major pre-Anglian drainage systems — the Mathon and Bytham — there is potential for such deposits and associated archaeology to be identified.
- 2.1.9 Extensive glacio-fluvial archives attributable to MIS 12 – MIS 9 are present along the Rivers Severn and Avon. In some instances they are associated with palaeoenvironmental datasets (e.g. Bushley Green and Pershore, Bridgland *et al.* 1986; Whitehead 1989a) and have strong chronostratigraphic constraints (see below). However, none have been categorically demonstrated to have produced Palaeolithic archaeology (although some surface finds and reworked material from later deposits may be of this age).
- 2.1.10 Similarly, there are significant fluvial deposits of the Severn and Avon which are dated to MIS 7–MIS 6. These are also frequently well dated, and some are associated paleontological material (e.g. Ailstone, Maddy *et al.* 1991). Furthermore, deposits of this age have produced Palaeolithic artefacts (e.g. Whitehead 1992). Unfortunately, these are all fluvially derived and could have been produced at any time during, or prior to, the formation of the deposits that they are incorporated into.
- 2.1.1 In Britain there is only one locality that is potentially associated with a human presence during MIS 5 (Wenban-Smith *et al.* 2010). This is a period when human populations in Britain are thought to have been extremely lower, with a human absence during much of the period (Ashton & Lewis 2002). Deposits of this age exist within Worcestershire, but have not produced archaeology.

- 2.1.12 Currently the most archaeologically productive Pleistocene deposits in the county date to the mid–late Devensian (MIS 4–3). Monitoring of sand and gravel extraction along the Carrant Brook by P.R. Whitehead (Whitehead 1977 & 1989) resulted in the accumulation of significant archaeological and faunal datasets. However, these finds have not been subjected to detailed study.

2.2 Geological Background

- 2.2.1 Recent research into the Pleistocene record of the county has focussed on a reassessment of the fluvial deposits associated with the rivers Severn and the Warwickshire/Worcestershire Avon (Maddy *et al.* 1991 & 1995; Maddy & Lewis 2005).
- 2.2.2 As these sediment bodies are associated with significant paleontological datasets including vertebrate fauna, molluscs, coleoptera and ostracods, many of possess robust age constraints (e.g. Penkman *et al.* 2013).
- 2.2.3 These investigations have been focussed on deposits which accumulated between MIS 9 and MIS 6. Consequently, they provide a good chronologically framework for any associated artefacts. Unfortunately, the vast majority of extant Palaeolithic artefacts from Worcester come from deposits which post-date this age bracket.
- 2.2.4 This focus on earlier deposits has meant that the depositional mode of Pleistocene sediments post-dating MIS 6 is relatively poorly understood and their ages poorly constrained. It should, however, be emphasized that these aggradations possess the same potential (if not better) for providing robust age estimates than the pre-MIS 6 deposits.
- 2.2.4 In particular, dating of Devensian deposits (MIS 4–2) is currently reliant on a small number of historic C14 dates which should be treated with a high degree of caution. This is particularly unfortunate as they have produced the most significant Palaeolithic datasets. Consequently, improving our understanding of the mode of deposition and geochronological resolution of these units should be a high priority for the future.

2.3 Lithic Assemblages

2.3.1 The lithic assemblages considered herein fall into two categories, those from the Whitehead Collection (curated in the British Museum, Franks House) and individual finds in the possession of museums and institutions in Worcestershire (Worcester City Museum, Almonry Museum, Evesham and Worcester County Council Archive and Archaeology Service).

2.3.2 The Whitehead Collection consists of 207 artefacts and 14 pieces of unworked natural. They were collected by P.R. Whitehead between 1972 and 1989 from sand and gravel quarries in south Worcestershire, and just across the modern county boundary in north Gloucester. These gravel pits were all located along the Warwickshire/Worcestershire Avon and its tributary the Carrant Brook. The collection contains material from the following localities:

- Beckford Priory Gravel Pit, Beckford, Worcestershire
- Aston Mill Gravel Pit, Kemerton, Worcestershire
- Twynning 'Terrace 4' Twynning, Gloucestershire
- Twynning 'Terrace 4' Twynning, Gloucestershire
- Bredon's Hardwick, Bredon, Worcestershire
- Lower Moore, Wyre Piddle, Worcestershire

2.3.3 The individual finds are both recent and historical discoveries and comprise 10 Palaeolithic artefacts and 19 later prehistoric pieces. The Palaeolithic artefacts were recovered from the following findspots:

- Allesborough, Pershore, Worcestershire
- ?Eckington, Eckington, Worcestershire
- Henwick, Worcester, Worcestershire
- Madresfield Park, Madresfield, Worcestershire
- Queens Hill, Upton-upon-Severn, Worcestershire
- Ashton under Hill, Aston under Hill, Worcestershire
- Conderton, Overbury, Worcestershire
- Twynning, Twynning, Gloucestershire
- Moseley Park, Hallow, Worcestershire

3.0 METHOD OF ANALYSIS

- 3.1 The methodology employed to study the Palaeolithic material from Worcestershire is intended to disentangle taphonomic factors affecting the composition of the curated assemblages, before advancing a techno-typological overview and an age attribution. In addition, the data has the potential to allow for more detailed recreation technological actions that have contributed to the formation of an assemblage.
- 3.2 The detailed methodology employed is provided in the Appendix: detailed observations were recorded for all Palaeolithic artefacts and the information stored within two excel databases (one for the Whitehead Collection and one for finds in the possession of other museums and institutions). Each is split into eight sheets to cover the eight primary classes of artefact — non-Levallois debitage, Levallois products, non-Levallois flake cores, laminar cores, Levallois cores, handaxes, retouched pieces and natural. All artefacts were photographed and these images are provided in two separate files.

4.0 Beckford Priory Gravel Pit, Beckford, Worcestershire (SO 984 363)

4.1 Background

- 4.1.1 The village of Beckford is located to the south of Bredon Hill, five miles north-east of Tewkesbury on the Worcestershire-Gloucestershire border. It is located directly to north of the Carrant Brook, a tributary of the Warwickshire/Worcestershire Avon.
- 4.1.2 Palaeolithic artefacts have been associated with sand and gravel pits at Beckford since at least the late 1950s (Grinsell 1960). These were discovered amongst gravel from a pit located east of Beckford (SO 979 360); aggregate has been extracted from this area since at least the 1880s (OS County Series 1:2500, 1884).
- 4.1.3 The largest and most significant collection of artefacts from the locality was recovered by P.F. Whitehead from 1973 and to 1984. These are from Beckford Priory Gravel Pit located east of the village of Beckford (see Figure 4.1). In addition, this pit has produced deposits rich plant, coleopteran and molluscan remains, and extensive vertebrate remains (Briggs *et al.* 1975, Whitehead 1977, 45).
- 4.1.4 The geological deposits along the north bank of the Carrant Brook around Beckford village consist of well bedded water worn gravel overlain by cross-bedded sands which, away from the river, are replaced by roughly stratified gravel. This appears to reflect a transition from fluvial deposition along the Carrant Brook to geliflucted material deposited along the footslopes of Bredon Hill (Briggs *et al.* 1975, 4). The deposits are uniformly overlain by brown silty, clay loam consisting mainly of weathering products from the underlying Pleistocene deposits and the Lias Clay bedrock. This is interpreted as resulting from a combination of gelifluction and aeolian deposition (Briggs *et al.* 1975, 4).
- 4.1.5 The Pleistocene deposits to the east of Beckford are mapped by the British Geological Survey as belonging to the local equivalent of the Wasperton Sand and Gravel, Upper Facet of the Warwickshire/Worcestershire Avon (BGS 1:50,000 Geology Digimap). The Wasperton Member as a whole is thought to have been deposited between MIS 5a and MIS 2 (Maddy *et al.* 1991; Maddy and Lewis 2005, 79; Penkman *et al.* 2013, 124–127).

Wasperton Sand and Gravel, Upper Facet and deposits mapped as 'River Terrace Deposits, 4' (Sheet BGS 1:50,000 Geology Digimap).

4.2 Beckford Priory Gravel Pit

4.2.1 Beckford Priory Gravel Pit was active between the 1960s and the 1980s, and was operated by Huntman's Quarries Limited. The quarry is now landscaped and partially flooded.

4.2.2 The following generalised stratigraphic sequence was observed in 1971 by Briggs et al. (1975) in the north end of the then extant limits of the pit (SO 982 363; see Figure 4.1 & 4.2):

0 – 1.0 m: Brown, silty clay loam, unbedded, containing flint and quartz pebbles with occasional gravelly seams; locally intruding into the sands below.

1.0 – 2.0 m: Quartzose sand; cross-bedded; well sorted; sub-rounded to rounded grains; local seams of limestone gravel; disturbed at the top by involutions involving the overlying loam, and by ice-wedge casts originating at the surface of the terrace. Ice-wedge casts also occur at depth, extending into the gravel below.

2.0 – 3.5m: Roughly bedded limestone gravel, containing scattered quartz and quartzite pebbles, flint, marlstone and sandstone; locally disturbed by ice-wedge casts originating in the sands above.

3.5m: Lias clay.

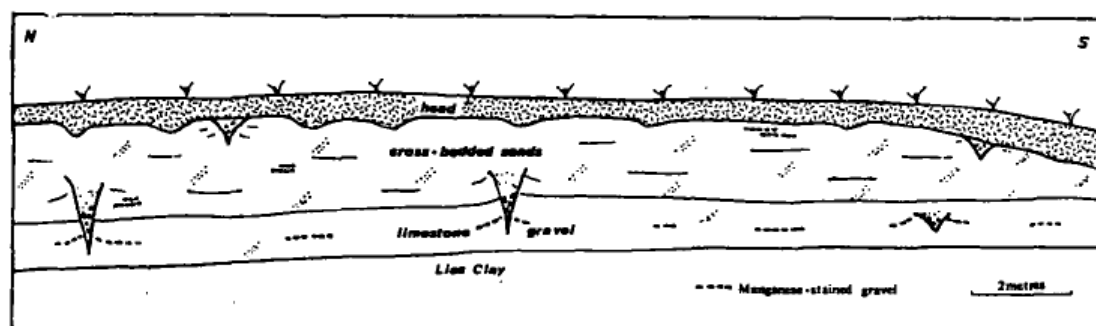


Figure 4.2. Section of deposits exposed in Beckford Priory Gravel Pit, May 1971 (from Briggs et al. 1975).

- 4.2.3 The basal gravels in the sequence contained clasts of local origin, interpreted as being derived by gellifluction from Bredon Hill into the valley, prior to being fluviially reworked. In contrast, the overlying cross-bedded sands are exclusively composed of non-local elements and considered to represent the fluvial reworking of aeolian sediments.
- 4.2.4 The sands and gravels contained periglacial structures indicative of two phases of activity — one during deposition and one post-dating the aggradations. The overlying clay loam is interpreted as the product of solfluction/aeolian deposition.

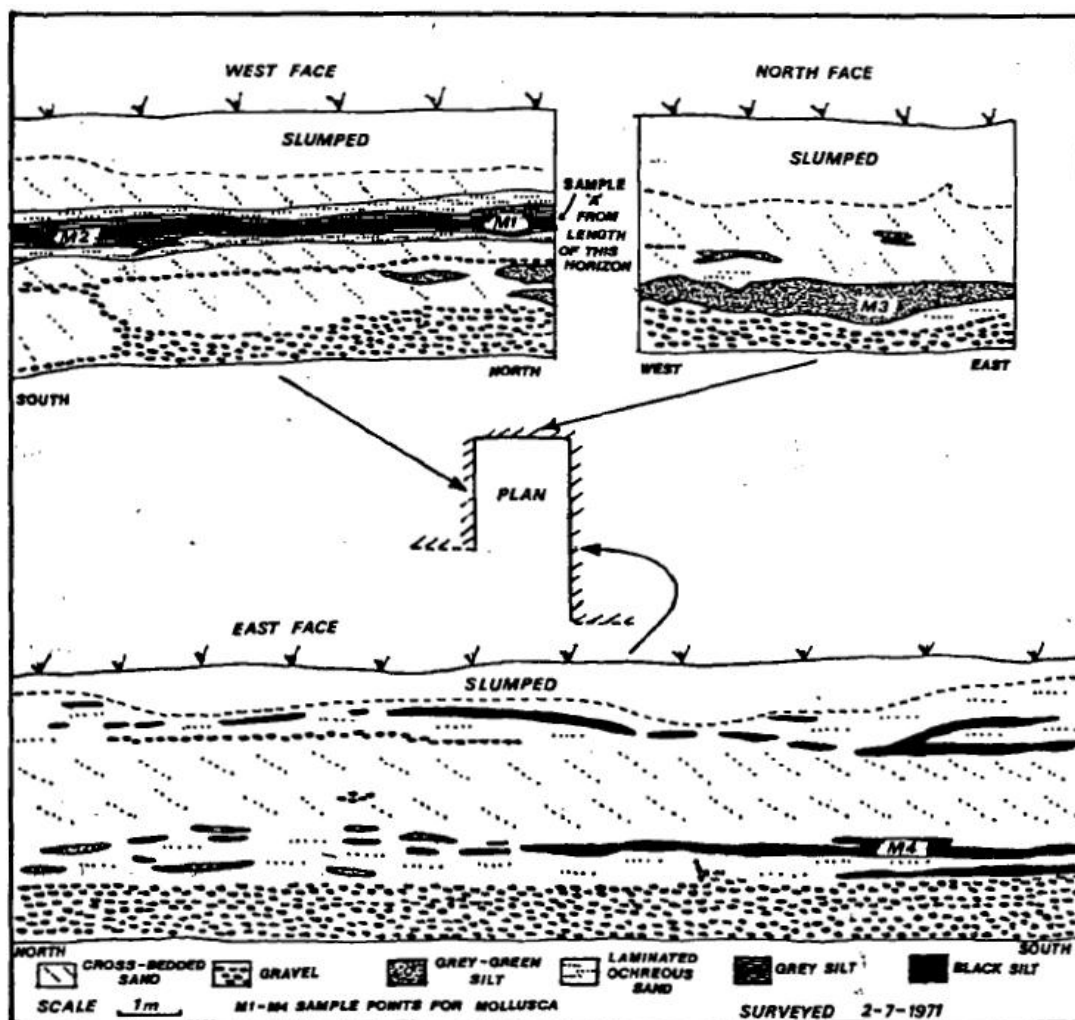


Figure 4.3. Sections of fossiliferous deposits exposed in Beckford Priory Gravel Pit, July 1971, SO 982 363 (from Briggs *et al.* 1975).

- 4.2.5 Within the sands several beds of silt were observed (see Figure 4.3). These contained abundant plant, coleopteran and molluscan remains, and, rarely, bones of vertebrates. They are interpreted as implying a local environment

comprised of open, dry land, crossed by small stream and containing small, temporary, ponds. The climate represented by the fauna and sediments is suggested to be indicative of one of general aridity, with a larger annual temperature range than in the area today — mean summer temperatures below 10°C, with temperatures of at least -6 to -8°C during ice wedge cast formation (Briggs *et al.* 1975).

- 4.1.5 The deposits at Beckford Prior Pit have produced a mammalian faunal assemblage consisting of *Mammuthus primigenius* (woolly mammoth),, *Coelodonta antiquitatis* (woolly rhinoceros), *Equus ferus* (horse), *Bison* (Bison) *priscus*, *Ovibos moschatus* (musk ox), *Rangifer tarandus* (reindeer) and *Microtus gregalis*, (narrow headed vole) (Whitehead 1977, 45). These species are typically associated with Devensian deposit (71–20 kya; Current & Jacobi 2001).
- 4.2.6 A C14 date was obtained from plant macrofossils found within the silt deposits. This produced an age estimate of 27,650±250 years B.P. (Birm. 293) (Briggs *et al.* 1975). Furthermore, a second date was obtained from organic deposits situated directly above Lias Clay and overlain by 4 m of limestone gravel. The sample was collected in 1974 by Whitehead from a locality (SO 9840 3616) 150m south east of the deposits studied by Briggs *et al.* and produced an age estimate of 27,300 ± 500 years BP (Birm. 595; Williams & Johnson 1976, 249).
- 4.2.7 These historic C14 age estimates should be treated with caution, as ranges obtained during the same period by the same laboratory for deposits from Upton Warren, Worcestershire have been shown to represent a minimum age estimate (Boismier & Green 2012, 73). Consequently, this may also be the case for Beckford. The dates do, however, imply that both the gravels and overlying sands at Beckford were deposited prior to ~26,000 BP.
- 4.2.8 The lithic artefacts recovered by Whitehead were obtained from the eastern end of Beckford Priory Gravel Pit (SO 984 363 / SO 9834 3625), c. 80m east of the sections recorded by Briggs *et al.* (1975). They were obtained both from exposed sections, modern surfaces and reject heaps.
- 4.2.9 During these investigations a copy of P.R. Whitehead's artefact and faunal catalogue was identified in the archives of the British Museum, Franks House. This two volume manuscript contains contextual and locational

information (accompanied with six or eight figure OS grid references) for the artefacts and fauna recovered by Whitehead from Beckford Priory Gravel Pit. This has the potential to enable the specific location and context from which material was recovered to be identified, and thus any spatial and detailed stratigraphic patterning to be reconstructed.

4.3 The Beckford Priory Lithic Assemblage

- 4.3.1. 85 artefacts from Beckford Priory Gravel Pit have been analysed. All are from the Whitehead Collection, and all but one is stored in the British Museum, Franks House. The single exception is a handaxe held in the collections of Almonry Museum, Evesham.
- 4.3.2 The artefacts belong to seven broad techno-typological groupings: handaxes, Levallois cores and products, bifacial points, laminar cores and products, non-Levallois and non-laminar cores and flakes. A brief discussion of each these categories are presented.

Handaxes

- 4.3.3 The handaxe assemblage consists of eighteen pieces which subdivide into two taphonomically distinct groups. The first (n=14) exhibits moderate/heavy fluvial abrasion, heavy patination and, frequently, moderate to heavy staining. The second consists of three examples which are heavily patinated, but only lightly abraded and unstained, or only lightly so. The former have clearly undergone significant fluvial displacement, whilst the latter have been subject to less reworking.
- 4.3.4 Techno-typologically the assemblage can be subdivided into two groups; those which could be Lower Palaeolithic or Middle Palaeolithic in age, and those with late Middle Palaeolithic features. The latter are associated with the reoccupation of Britain by Neanderthals during early MIS 3 (~58 kya). It is perhaps significant that the three lightly abraded handaxes all fall within this potentially late Middle Palaeolithic grouping.
- 4.3.5 Seven pieces exhibit features which could be indicative of a Middle Palaeolithic age attribution (cf. Boëda 2001; Cliquet *et al.* 2001, Halliwell & Scott 2011, White 2012). These features include several phases of shaping;

retouch (or use-damage) to the butt; retouched or utilised portions opposed to a modified, blunted edge and planoconvexity resulting from using an initial flake blank (or as is frequently the case with Beckford, tabular frost shattered blanks). It should be emphasized, however, that these features in isolation cannot be taken to indicate that a handaxe is definitively Middle Palaeolithic in age. Furthermore, whilst the characteristics of the Beckford examples are suggestive of an early Middle Palaeolithic date, none can be definitively ascribed to this period (e.g. there are no typo-technologically distinctive Bout Coupés; cf. White & Jacobi 2002).

4.3.6 Whilst the majority of the handaxes currently lack a secure stratigraphic context, four are thought to be from the base of the Beckford gravels. They are clearly fluvially reworked and could be Lower or Middle Palaeolithic in date.

4.3.7 In summary, the handaxe assemblage includes fluvially derived examples, many of which are likely to have been reworked into the Beckford exposures from earlier deposits. However, it also contains examples which may be late Middle Palaeolithic in date. Significantly, this latter group contains three examples which have not undergone extensive fluvial reworking.

Levallois

4.3.9 The assemblage contains six Levallois cores and one product. Four cores are unabraded or only lightly so, whilst two have clearly undergone some degree of fluvial transport. The product, a Levallois flake, is unabraded.

4.3.10 Three cores exhibit all the technological features which are used to define a Levallois core (Boëda 1995), one being a classic example. The remaining three cores are simple prepared examples which reflect the exploitation of natural convexities to exploit a flaking surface with only minimal preparation of the striking platform and/or flaking surface (Scott 2011). As a group, they tend to reflect single phases of preparation and exploitation, probably due to the suboptimal characteristics of the blanks — flakes, split cobbles and small, flat nodules.

4.3.11 A single Levallois artefact is associated with a specific stratigraphic context. This is a roughly prepared and unexploited Levallois core recovered from

the base of the gravel. Such a context is supported by the fact that the piece is moderately fluvially abraded.

- 4.3.12 The Levallois assemblage from Beckford includes fluvially reworked material and relatively fresh examples. The latter suggests a Middle Palaeolithic presence which has been minimally reworked. Unfortunately, the specific context of this material is currently unknown.
- 4.3.13 The Levallois assemblage may be associated with the possible late Middle Palaeolithic handaxes from the site. Although Levallois flaking is uncommon (but not unknown) from late Middle Palaeolithic sites in Britain, it is common amongst contemporary continental sites (White & Jacobi 2002).

Non-Levallois and Non-Blade Cores

- 4.3.14 The collection contains seven non-Levallois and non-blade cores. They are unabraded, suggesting that they have not undergone significant fluvial transport.
- 4.3.15 Two have associated stratigraphic information, both being recovered from the base of the Beckford gravels.
- 4.3.16 Five are the product of diacoidal flaking. This is often (although by no means exclusively) associated with late Middle Palaeolithic handaxes (Cook & Jacobi 1998). Significantly, one of these cores reflects the reuse of a handaxe.

Bifacial Points

- 4.3.17 A most significant component of the Beckford lithic assemblage is a fragment of a fully bifacial leaf point. These rare and enigmatic artefacts are thought to date to 36–38,000 BP (Jacobi *et al.* 2006) and may represent the final presence of the Neanderthals in Britain.
- 4.3.18 The Beckford leaf point is a tip fragment from a fully bifacial leaf point produced on a thin flake or tabular blank. It shows signs of limited fluvial abrasion, is moderately edge damaged, heavily patinated and slightly stained.
- 4.3.19 In addition, the collection contains a second bifacial retouched point. This

consists of a mesial fragment of a partially bifacially thinned point on a thermal fragment. This piece is difficult to classify; it may be chronologically associated with the leaf point.

4.3.20 Both artefacts were recovered out of context amongst rejects

Blade Production

4.3.21 Seven laminar cores and eight laminar products are present amongst the lithic assemblage.

4.3.22 Their condition is broadly analogous — unabraded, or only slightly so, edge damaged, heavily patinated and little, or no staining. This suggests that these pieces have not been subject to fluvial transport.

4.3.23 The material is technologically consistent. It mostly reflects the reduction of blade cores through bipolar and unipolar working using a soft hammer. Blade production was initiated through crestring and there is some evidence of platform rejuvenation through the removal of a core tablet. One bladelet core fragment is also present.

4.3.24 Two pieces of laminar debitage are retouched, however, they do not constitute typologically diagnostic forms.

4.3.24 although most lack contextual information, it is perhaps significant that one of the blade cores was obtained from the top of the Beckford gravels. This suggests that it was recovered from a different context to the handaxes and Levallois cores (see above)

4.3.25 The techno-typological characteristics of the laminar material suggest that it dates to the Upper Palaeolithic. The fact that material was recovered from the upper part of the gravel implies that it is early Upper Palaeolithic in date (38,000 – 26,000 BP).

Flakes

4.3.26 There are 40 flakes in the collection, most of which have produced using a hard hammer; two are the product of discoidal flaking.

4.3.27 Most of the hard hammer flakes are probably Palaeolithic. The exception is one possible Mesolithic example which seems to relate to the

preparation of the flaking surface of a bladelet core.

- 4.3.28 Ten flakes reflect significant fluvial transport, one of which was recovered from the base of the gravel. The remainder are lightly abraded or unabraded. Twelve of these are associated with stratigraphic information; all come from the base of the Beckford gravels.
- 4.3.30 Six of these artefacts are retouched, reflecting the imposition of scraper edges or bifacial thinning

4.4 Discussion

- 4.4.1 The Beckford lithic assemblage can be tentatively divided into five groups :
1. Heavily abraded Lower Palaeolithic artefacts (including handaxes) which have been reworked into the Beckford fluvial deposits from earlier sediment bodies.
 2. A late Middle Palaeolithic handaxe assemblage which has undergone various degrees of fluvial reworking.
 3. A late Middle Palaeolithic Levallois assemblage, some of which has been fluvially reworked, whilst a portion has only been subject to little, if any, fluvial transport. Some, or all, of this material may be related to Middle Palaeolithic handaxes.
 4. An early Upper Palaeolithic leaf point fragment which has been fluvially reworked.
 5. An early Upper Palaeolithic laminar assemblage (?from the surface of the upper gravels) which has not been subject to fluvial transport.
- 4.4.2 The Beckford lithic assemblage is potentially of national importance as it clearly contains material relating to the final Neanderthal and first modern human occupations of the Britain. Such assemblages are extremely rare.
- 4.4.3 The juxtaposition of late Middle Palaeolithic handaxes, a leaf point and an early upper Palaeolithic laminar assemblage adds to the potential value of the collection to advance of understanding of the late Middle Palaeolithic/early Upper Palaeolithic occupation both in the West Midlands and Britain as a whole. Currently, understanding of the chronological relationship between different techno-typological entities during this critical

period is limited (see Jacobi & Higham 2011).

- 4.4.4 Furthermore, the fact that the material is broadly associated with mammalian faunal material and multiple palaeoenvironmental proxies provides the collection with enhanced potential. It could materially contribute to our understanding of the environmental context associated with this period.
- 4.4.5 The value of the Beckford Priory Pit assemblage is currently severely limited by a lack of contextual integrity. Thus it is currently difficult to relate the various elements of the extant lithic assemblage to each other, the stratigraphic sequence, the extensive mammalian faunal assemblage, or the other palaeoenvironmental datasets.
- 4.4.6 The Whitehead artefact catalogue has the potential to begin to address this issue, and can be used to plot where within Beckford Priory Pit particular artefact groupings occurred. This will greatly enhance our understanding of the extant collection — it could potentially allow meaningful behavioural reconstructions to be drawn. In addition this will be of great value to future management of the extant deposits.
- 4.4.7 The degree of any human involvement with the fauna is also currently unknown. This could potentially be resolved through reanalysis of the extant fauna (identification of cut mark, percussion marks etc.). A large proportion of the mammal assemblage is currently stored in the Natural History Museum.
- 4.4.8 The current value of the Beckford material is also limited by a lack of chronological resolution. Addressing this issue is a high priority for the future. This could potentially be achieved through C14 dating of both of any existing and newly acquired organic remains, and the extant fauna (with a particular focus on any pieces which exhibit human modification), in conjunction with OSL dating of sand and silt fractions in the extant sediment bodies present in Beckford Priory Pit

5.0 Aston Mill Gravel Pit, Kemerton, Worcestershire (SO 945 349)

5.1 Background

5.1.1 Aston Mill is located at the base of Bredon Hill 3 km miles downstream of Beckford on the Worcestershire-Gloucestershire border. It is located directly to the north of the Carrant Brook, a tributary of the Warwickshire/Worcestershire Avon.

5.1.2 The Aston Mill Gravel Pit was operated by Gloucester Sand and Gravel Company Ltd and Huntsman's Quarries Ltd from the late 1970s to the late 1980s, covering an area of 155 ha (see Figure 5.1).

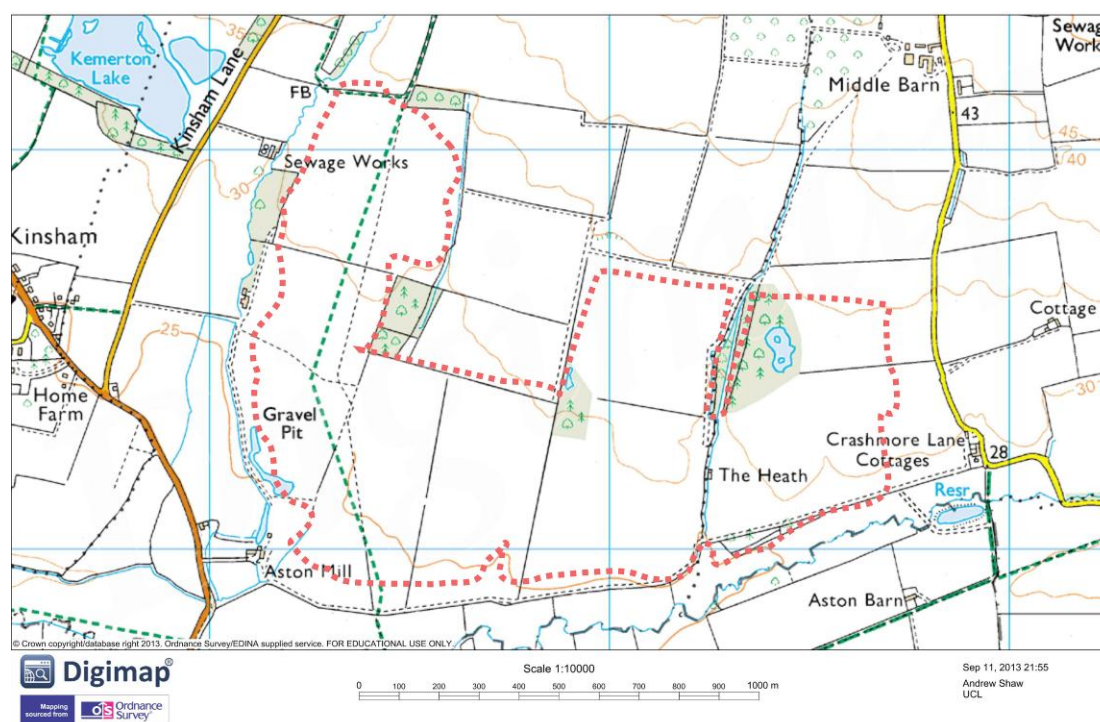


Figure 5.1 Location of plan of Aston Mill Gravel Pit illustrating maximum extent of workings.

5.1.3 The majority of the area covered by the site currently consists of open worked ground, although the eastern end of the pit has been infilled and landscaped. The area directly to the north of the previous workings is currently designated as a Preferred Area for Extraction on the Worcestershire County Council Mineral Plan (Hereford & Worcester County Council, 1997).

- 5.1.4 The deposits quarried at Aston Mill are mapped by the British Geological Survey as the equivalent of the Wasperton Sand and Gravel, Upper Facet of the Avon (BGS 1:50,000 Geology Digimap). The Wasperton Member as a whole is thought to have been deposited between MIS 5a and MIS 2 (Maddy et al. 1991; Maddy and Lewis 2005, 79; Penkman et al. 2013, 124–127).
- 5.1.5 The specific geological sequence encountered at Aston Mills has been described by Dawson (1987). It consists of 2.00–3.00 m sands and gravels, underlain by Lias clay bedrock and overlain by 0.75–1.0 m of silty brown loam. As such, it is broadly analogous to that observed at Beckford Priory Gravel Pit (see 4.0)
- 5.1.6 As at Beckford, the basal deposits consist of clast supported gravels, primarily of local origin. This is overlain by cross bedded sands. However, Dawson (1987, 272) observed that at Aston Mills the two deposits interdigitate towards the valley sides, suggesting a degree of contemporaneity between the two deposits. The gravels are thus suggested to represent active channel zones, whilst the sands reflect aeolian derived sediments deposited, or reworked, during high flood events in areas adjacent to these zones.
- 5.1.7 The gravels at Aston Mill have produced a mammalian faunal assemblage consisting of *Mammuthus primigenius* (woolly mammoth), *Coelodonta antiquitatis* (woolly rhino), *Equus ferus* (horse), *Bison priscus* (bison), *Ovibos moschatus* (musk ox) and *Rangifer tarandus* (reindeer), whilst channel; silts produced a large number of elements from *Bison priscus*, with a smaller component of *Rangifer tarandus* (Whitehead 1977, 45). As at Beckford these species are typical of those found during the Devensian in Britain (71–20 kya).
- 5.1.8 Several radiocarbon dates have been obtained from plant material preserved within deposits at Aston Mill. Two samples were recovered in 1972 from a silt pocket on the Lias clay which was overlain by ~2m of gravel and ~1m of loam (SO 9453 3505). These produced age estimates of 29,500 +170/-1400 and >18,800 (Birm. 504 & 505; Shotton *et al.* 1975, 286). A further sample collected in 1973 from silt at the base of ~5.5 m of gravel, overlain ~1m of loam (SO 9415 3553) produced a value of 31,900 +860/-

780. Additionally, a sample collected from third locality in 1971 (SO 944 355) produced an age estimate of 26,000 \pm 300 on material from grey blue silty 'marl' (Birm 282; Shotton *et al.* 1974, 286)

- 5.1.9 As with the historic radio-carbon age estimates from Beckford (see above), those from Aston Mill should be treated with a high degree of caution, and considered as minimum age estimates. However, they do imply that the basal gravels at Aston Mill were deposited prior to the onset of the last glacial maximum after ~26,000 BP.
- 5.1.10 The lithic artefacts collected from Aston Mill Pit were recovered by P.F. Whitehead between 1973 and 1988. These were covered from localities spread across the 155 ha area of the workings.
- 5.1.11 During this assessment a copy of Whitehead's artefact and faunal catalogue was identified in the archives of the British Museum, Franks House. It should be noted that this two volume manuscript contains contextual and spatial information (accompanied with six or eight figure OS grid references) for the artefacts and fauna recovered from Aston Mill Gravel Pit. This has the potential to identify specific locations and contexts from which material was recovered, and thus any spatial and detailed contextual patterning to the artefactual and faunal groupings.

5.2 The Lithic Assemblage

Introduction

- 5.2.1 A total of 103 artefacts from Aston Mill Gravel Pit have been assessed. All are from the Whitehead Collection, and all but one is stored in the British Museum, Franks House. The single exception is a handaxe held in the collections of Almonry Museum, Evesham.
- 5.2.3 The artefacts belong to seven broad techno-typological groupings: handaxes, Levallois cores and products, blade cores and laminar products, non-Levallois and non-blade cores and flakes. A brief discussion of each these categories are presented.

Handaxes

- 5.2.4 There are 24 handaxes from Aston Mill. As with the Beckford examples, they can be subdivide into two broad condition states. The majority (n=19) are moderately/heavily abraded, heavily edge damaged, heavily patinated and generally heavily stained, whilst five examples are unabraded, and tend to be less stained. The former have been subject to significant fluvial transport, in contrast to latter which have undergone less reworking. The first grouping includes two quartzite handaxes.
- 5.2.5 Techno-typologically the assemblage can be subdivided into two groups; those which could be Lower Palaeolithic or Middle Palaeolithic in age, and those with late Middle Palaeolithic features. The latter (n=3) are potentially associated with the reoccupation of Britain by Neanderthals during early MIS 3 (~58 kya). However, as at Beckford, although some of the Aston Mill handaxes exhibit these later Middle Palaeolithic features, none can be definitively ascribed to this period.
- 5.2.6 Interestingly whilst all of the Lower Palaeolithic and Lower/Middle Palaeolithic examples exhibit some degree of abrasion, the only unabraded example exhibits Middle Palaeolithic features. This may suggest that relatively undisturbed late Middle Palaeolithic activity can be discerned within the Aston Mill Pleistocene deposits. Unfortunately, all the Aston Mill handaxes currently lack detailed provenance.
- 5.2.7 In summary, the handaxe assemblage is very similar to that from Beckford and includes fluvially derived examples, many of which are likely to have been reworked from earlier deposits. It also contains examples which may be late Middle Palaeolithic in date, one example of which does not exhibit evidence of significant fluvial transport.

Levallois

- 5.2.9 Levallois material is present in the Aston Mill collection; five cores, along with one definite and one possible product.
- 5.2.10 Two of the cores display all of the technological features classically assigned to a Levallois core, whilst the remaining three are simple prepared examples which reflect the exploitation of natural convexities to exploit a flaking surface with only minimal preparation of the striking platform and/or flaking surface. As at Beckford, the presence of the latter seems to reflect

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the application of the Levallois concept to suboptimal raw material, which in two out of the three cases involved the exploitation of frost shattered clasts.

- 5.2.11 The definite Levallois product is a flake, whilst the possible example could actually represent a failed attempt to produce a diminutive, non-classic handaxe. Notably, this is the only 'Levallois' piece which exhibits significant fluvial abrasion. The remainder is either fresh or only slightly rolled. They tend to be unstained, but is edge damaged and heavily patinated. This suggests that they have undergone only limited fluvial displacement and constitute a relatively undisturbed collection.
- 5.2.12 The Levallois material may be broadly chronologically associated with the possible late Middle Palaeolithic handaxes from the site. Although Levallois flaking is uncommon (but not unknown) from late Middle Palaeolithic sites in Britain, it is common amongst contemporary continental sites (White & Jacobi 2002).

Non-Levallois and Non-Blade Cores

- 5.2.13 The non-Levallois and non-blade cores include two moderately/heavily abraded migrating cores and two moderately abraded discoidal cores. The latter could potentially be Middle Palaeolithic. One of each was recovered from the basal gravels exposed at the site.

Blade Production

- 5.2.14 Eight laminar cores and six products are present in the collection. All are unabraded/only slightly abraded, and tend to be edge damaged, heavily patinated, but display little staining. They do not appear to have undergone significant fluvial transport.
- 5.2.15 The cores are broadly analogous with those from Beckford and reflect bipolar and unipolar reduction. They are worked using a soft hammer with blade production initiated through lateral cresting and the imposition of a faceted platform. They tend to be geared towards blade production, although two bladelet cores are also present.
- 5.2.16 One of the blade products has been retouched to produce a shouldered scraper. It is a crested piece with a burin removal along one lateral which is

truncated by steep retouch. This form characteristic of the Aurignacian in Britain, which is thought to date to ~32,000 BP (Jacobi & Higham 2011).

- 5.2.17 The techno-typological characteristics suggest that the laminar material from Aston Mills broadly dates to the Upper Palaeolithic. Unfortunately, none of these artefacts possess detailed contextual information. Consequently, it is currently impossible to assess the degree of association between the Aurignacian shouldered scraper and the other laminar pieces.

Flakes

- 5.2.18 Most of the 45 flakes in the collection are likely to be Palaeolithic. The exception is a mint condition, unpatinated hard hammer example which is probably later prehistoric.
- 5.2.19 A proportion have clearly undergone significant fluvial transport being at least moderately abraded (n=15). Most of these are hard hammer flakes, although a single soft hammer flake resulting from handaxe manufacture was recognised. Their specific stratigraphic provenance is currently unknown.
- 5.2.20 The remaining flakes are either lightly abraded or unabraded. The majority are produced using a hard hammer, although three soft hammer handaxe manufacture flakes are present. Interestingly, one of latter is burnt at the distal end. Six of these flakes are from the base of the gravels (including one of the handaxe manufacturing flakes), whilst one is attributed to the upper portion of the gravel.
- 5.2.21 None of the flakes display unequivocal retouch.

5.3 Discussion

- 5.3.1 The Aston Mill lithic assemblage is from a broadly analogous context and contains a remarkably similar typo-technological range of artefacts to that from Beckford Priory Pit.
- 5.3.2 As with Beckford material, it is broadly associated with an extensive mammalian faunal which could materially contribute to our understanding of the environmental context associated with the archaeology.

- 5.3.3 In addition, it is important to assess whether there is any human involvement in this faunal assemblage, particularly with the intriguing large collection of bison recovered from channel silts. A reassessment of the extant fauna to identify any cut mark, percussion marks etc. is therefore a priority. The bulk of this material is currently stored in the Natural History Museum.
- 5.3.4 The Aston Mill lithic assemblage can be divided into five groups:
1. Heavily abraded Lower Palaeolithic artefacts (including handaxes) which have been reworked from earlier deposits.
 2. A potential late Middle Palaeolithic handaxe assemblage which has undergone various degrees of fluvial reworking.
 3. A late Middle Palaeolithic Levallois assemblage that may be chronologically related to the Middle Palaeolithic handaxes.
 4. An Aurignacian shouldered scraper.
 5. An Upper Palaeolithic blade assemblage.
- 5.3.5 As with the Beckford assemblage, it is potentially of national importance as it clearly contains material relating to the final Neanderthal and first modern human occupations of the Britain.
- 5.3.6 Unlike at Beckford, however, it includes an typo-technologically diagnostic Aurignacian component. Although, this consists of just a single definitive artefact, it is of national importance. The Aurignacian is thought to represent the earliest anatomically modern human presence in the British Isles (Jacobi & Higham 2011), however, there are currently just twelve sites of this date in the country. Many consist of a single artefact and are from cave deposits which have long since been removed.
- 5.3.7 Aston Mill is therefore important as not only is it an open air site, but it has also produced other broadly Upper Palaeolithic pieces. This raises the possibility that a larger Aurignacian assemblage is present in the area.
- 5.3.8 Although this possibility cannot currently be addressed through the extant collection, the spatial data in the Whitehead notebooks may be able to establish whether there is clustering to this material. This may also establish whether there are findspots in areas where deposits are still extant.

- 5.3.9 This highlights the fact that, like Beckford, the value of the extant assemblage is currently severely limited by a lack of contextual integrity. This issue prevents relationships being established between various elements of the lithic assemblage, the stratigraphic sequence, and the extensive mammalian faunal assemblage.
- 5.3.10 The Whitehead catalogue may be able to help to begin to rectify this problem by allowing the distribution of particular artefact groupings to be plotted and related to specific areas of the 155 ha of former workings.
- 5.3.11 This will also enhance the ability to direct mitigation works should extraction commence in the Preferred Area for Extraction highlight to the immediate north of the old workings on the Worcestershire County Council Mineral Plan (Herford & Worcester County Council, 1997).
- 5.3.12 In addition, the fact that archaeological material relating to similar temporal periods are present within both the Wasperton Sands and Gravels at Aston Mill and Beckford, suggests that similar potential exists in any area which these deposits are present along the Carrant Brook. This is an important consideration for future planning policy.
- 5.3.13 Like Beckford, the archaeology from Aston Mills currently lacks a local chronological framework. Although there exist several historic C14 dates from organic remains in the basal gravels, their usefulness is limited, both in terms of their accuracy and how they reflect the deposition of different geological units across the gravel pit.
- 5.3.14 A programme of targeted dating is therefore a high priority. This could potentially include C14 dating of both existing and newly acquired organic remains, and the extant fauna (with a particular focus on any pieces which exhibit human modification), in conjunction with OSL dating of sand and silt fractions in any extant sediment bodies.

6.0 Twynning 'Terrace 4', Twynning, Gloucestershire (SO 894 364)

6.1 Background

6.1.1 The village of Twynning is located 4 km north of Tewesbury on the eastern bank of the Warwickshire/Worcestershire Avon. Four former sand and gravel pits are located to the south of the village between, and to the east of, the village of Church End

6.1.2 Palaeolithic artefacts and vertebrate fauna have been recovered by P.R. Whitehead from what is traditionally described as 'Terrace 4' of the River Avon. This material has been recovered from a gravel pit located south of Twynning, directly to the north of church End (see Figure 6.1).

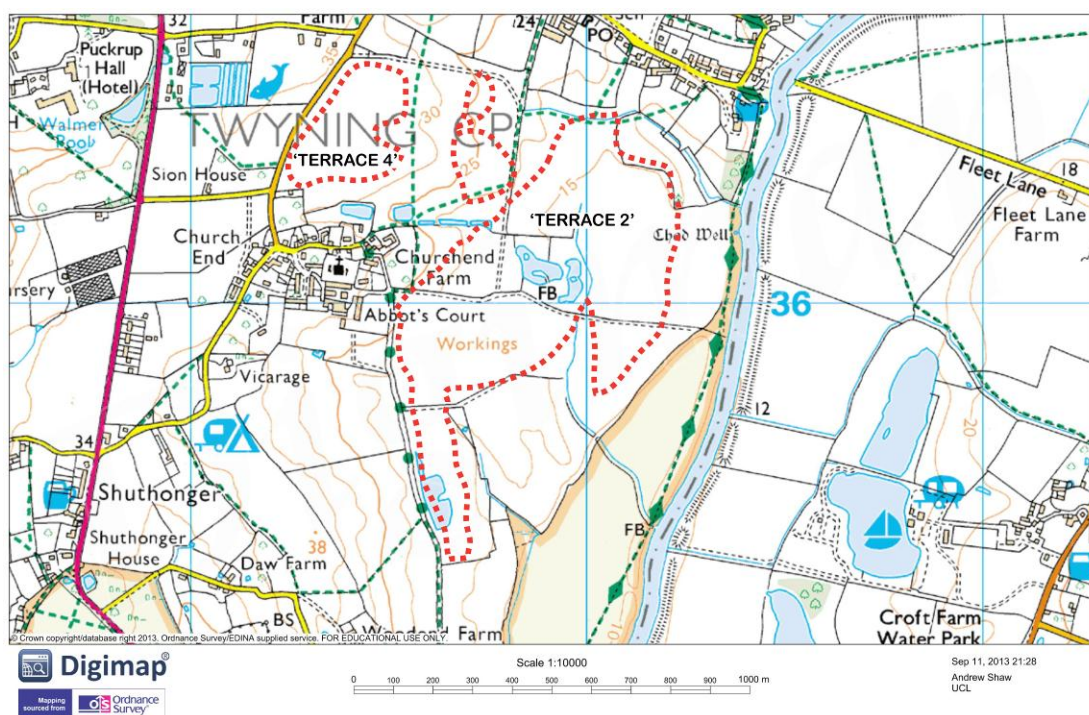


Figure 6.1 Location of plan of gravel pits at Twynning illustrating maximum extent of workings.

6.1.3 This gravel was in operation between 1965 and 1975. The artefacts were recovered by Whitehead between 1972 and 1975. The area has been backfilled and landscaped.

6.1.4 The deposits are mapped by the British Geological Survey as Terrace 4 of the Warwickshire/Worcestershire Avon (BGS 1:50,000 Geology Digimap). They are therefore associated with the Ailstone/Crothorne Member of the

Avon Valley Formation (Maddy *et al.* 1991; Maddy and Lewis 2005, 78). The Ailstone/Crophorne Member is thought to have been deposited between MIS 7 and MIS 6 (Maddy *et al.* 1991; Maddy & Lewis 2005, 78; Penkman *et al.* 2013, 124–127).

- 6.1.5 The specific geological record at Twynning was described by Whitehead (1988 & 1992) as being composed of two lithological facies overlying Lias clay and limestone. The lower unit consist of clast supported fluvial gravels, whilst the upper units comprise sands and gravels with syndepositional ice-wedge casts (see Figure 6.2).

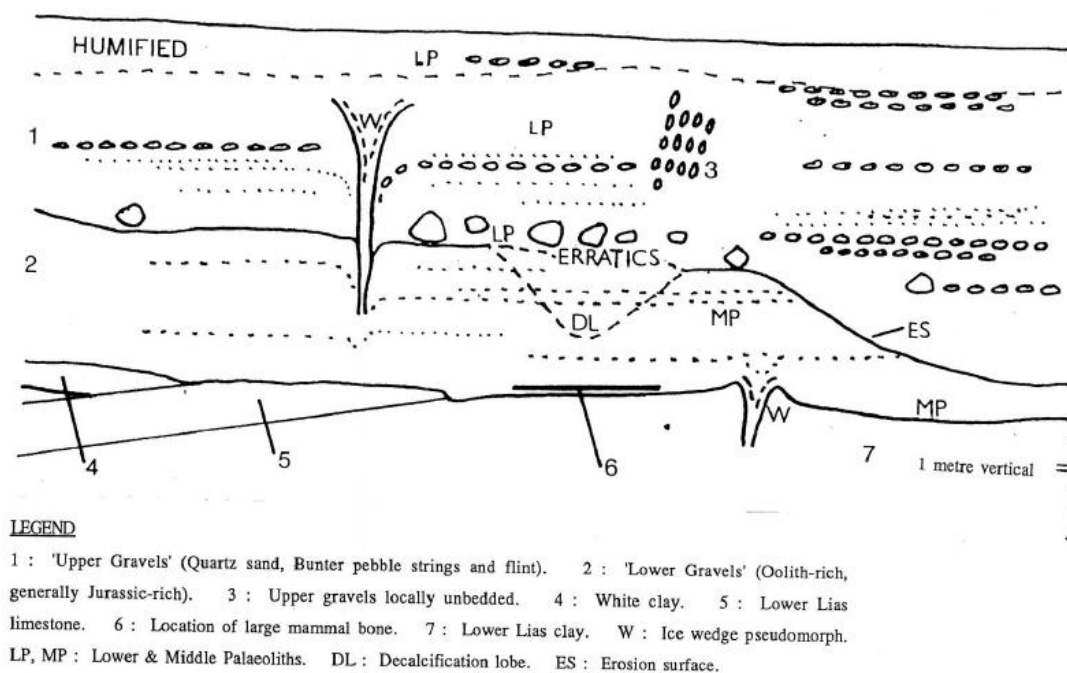


Figure 6.2. Generalised section of deposits exposed at Twynning 'Terrace 4', January 1973 (from Whitehead 1988)

- 6.1.6 The lower gravels have produced a mammalian faunal assemblage consisting of *Mammuthus primigenius* (woolly mammoth), *Coelodonta antiquitatis* (woolly rhinoceros), *Equus ferus* (horse), *Cervidae* cf. *Cervus elaphus* (red deer) and Bovidae sp., indet. large bovid (Bos or Bison) (Schreve 1998, 681). Additionally, Whitehead (1989) recorded the presence of *Rangifer tarandus* (reindeer). A generally cold climate pollen and molluscan assemblage was also recovered from this unit (Whitehead 1992)
- 6.1.7 The Twynning 'Terrace 4' deposits are correlated with those at Ailstone, Warwickshire. Here temperate deposits, which are overlain by cold stage

gravels, have been correlated MIS 7 (Maddy *et al.* 1991; Penkman *et al.* 2013, 124–127). The lack of any underlying temperate deposits at Twynning has been suggested to indicate that the deposits can be correlated with MIS 6 (Schreve 1998, 688).

- 6.1.8 Dating these deposits is, however, complicated by a number of factors. Although the presence of syndepositional ice-wedge casts strongly supports the suggestion that the sequence belongs to a cold climate interval, Whitehead (1989) recorded a fresh valve of *Corbicula fluminalis* found *in situ* in the upper sands and gravels, indicating a temperate climate. Furthermore, recent work has suggested that *Corbicula fluminalis* disappears from the British record after MIS 7, and is not present during the last interglacial — MIS 5e (Penkman *et al.* 2013). Currently, therefore, a broad MIS 7–MIS attribution is preferred for the Twynning ‘Terrace 4’ exposures.

6.2 The Lithic Assemblage

- 6.2.1 20 artefacts from Twynning ‘Terrace 4’ have been recorded. All are from the Whitehead Collection stored in the British Museum, Franks House.
- 6.2.2 The collection consists of ten hard flakes, two cores and eight handaxes. The material is all fluvially derived being heavily rolled, heavily edge damaged and, generally, heavily patinated and stained.
- 6.2.3 The flakes are all flint; ten are hard hammer removals and one is a soft hammer flake associated with handaxe manufacture. The two cores are simply flaked, one being a discoidal and on a flint blank, the other being a quartzite nodule flaked following migrating platforms.
- 6.2.4 Seven of the handaxes are on flint blanks, whilst one is produced through the minimal working of a split quartzite cobble. Most have been thinned using a soft hammer.
- 6.2.5 In summary the small lithic assemblage examined from Twynning ‘Terrace 4’ displays evidence for simply core working and handaxe production. All the material is typo-technologically consistent with a Lower Palaeolithic attribution.

6.3 Discussion

- 6.2.1 The Twyning 'Terrace 4' artefacts are techno-typologically Lower Palaeolithic and are clearly the product of significant fluvial reworking.
- 6.2.2 Consequently, they could have been produced any time prior to, or during, the deposition of the fluvial deposits with which they are associated. This would suggest that they were manufacture during, or prior to, MIS 7/MIS 6.
- 6.2.3 It has been suggested that it is difficult to envisage how this material could have been reworked from earlier deposits due to the fact that there are no remnants of earlier terrace deposits in the vicinity of Twyning (Lang & Keen 2005, 77). This assertion is unwarranted. Earlier terrace deposits are located just 2.5 km upstream in the area to the south of Upper Strensham (Persnore Member). These deposits are themselves adjacent to deposits equivalent to those at Twyning (Cropthorne Member). Consequently, there exists a clear mechanism for how material could be reworked from earlier terrace deposits into the Twyning 'Terrace 4' sequence.

7.0 Twynning 'Terrace 2', Twynning, Gloucestershire (SO 895 357)

7.1 Background

7.1.1 Palaeolithic artefacts have also been recovered from deposits at Twynning that were previously assigned to 'Terrace 2' of the Warwickshire/Worcestershire Avon. The material was recovered by P.R. Whitehead from the southern half of a large gravel pit located south of Twynning and east of the village of Church End (see Figure 7.1).

7.1.2 Gravel and sands were extracted in this area between 1965 and 1975. The artefacts were recovered by Whitehead between 1972 and 1975. The area is currently open worked ground.

7.1.3 The deposits are mapped by the British Geological Survey as Wasperton Sand and Gravel, Upper Facet of the Warwickshire/Worcestershire Avon (BGS 1:50,000 Geology Digimap). The Wasperton Member as a whole is thought to have been deposited between MIS 5a and MIS 2 (Maddy *et al.* 1991; Maddy & Lewis 2005, 79; Penkman *et al.* 2013, 124–127).

7.1.4 The specific geological sequence in the area of Twynning 'Terrace 2' consists of orange/pink level bedded quartzose sand overlying cross bedded sands and gravel (Whitehead 1992, see Figure 7.1).

7.1.5 a C14 date was obtained from organic silts underlying the gravels which produced an age estimate of 36 600 ± 2050/-1640 (Williams & Johnson 1976, 250). As with other historic C14 dates discussed previously, this should be treated with caution.

7.2 The Lithic Assemblage

7.2.1 The Whitehead Collection in the British Museum, Franks House contains four artefacts from this locality; one flaked flake, two cores and a handaxe. They are techno-typologically Lower Palaeolithic. All are on quartzite blanks, are clearly fluvially derived.

7.3 Discussion

7.3.1 The small — probably selected — collection of quartzite artefacts from Twynning 'Terrace 2' consist have undergone considerable fluvial reworking

and are likely to ultimately derive from fluvial deposits which predate those into which they were finally incorporated.

8.0 Individual Finds

8.1 Bredon's Hardwick, Bredon, Worcestershire (SO 908 356)

8.1.1 The Whitehead collection in the British Museum contains one heavily fluvially rolled hard hammer flake from Bredon's Hardwick. This was recovered from a sand and gravel pit located west of village on Bredon's Hardwicke on the east bank of the River Avon (Figure xxx). The area of the former gravel pit is now worked out and landscaped.

8.1.2 The fluvial deposits in this area are mapped by the British Geological Survey as Bretford Sand and Gravel Member of the Warwickshire/Worcestershire Avon (Sheet BGS 1:50,000 Geology Digimap). This suggests that they post-date the Last Glacial Maximum (Maddy & Lewis 2005, 80). However, Whitehead believed the flake came from 'Terrace 2' of the Avon making it part of the Wasperton Sand and Gravel Member, which is thought to have been deposited between MIS 5a and MIS 2 (Maddy *et al.* 1991; Maddy & Lewis 2005, 79; Penkman *et al.* 2013, 124–127).

8.2 Lower Moore, Wyre Piddle, Worcestershire (SO 978 467)

8.2.1 A fluvially derived handaxe fragment from Lower Moore was identified amongst the Whitehead Collection. This was collected in 1981 from amongst gravel extracted from a pit located south of the village of Lower Moore on the north bank of the River Avon.

8.2.2 These sands and gravels are mapped by the British Geological Survey (BGS 1:50,000 Geology Digimap) as part of the Wasperton Sand and Gravel Member, which is thought to have been deposited between MIS 5a and MIS 2 (Maddy *et al.* 1991; Maddy and Lewis 2005, 79; Penkman *et al.* 2013, 124–127). The handaxe is likely to have been reworked into these deposits.

8.3 Allesborough, Pershore, Worcestershire (SO 9308 4640)

8.3.1 The collection from Worcester City Museum includes an unusual handaxe on a fine grained volcanic clast. Such raw material was probably brought into the region in form of a glacial erratic. The handaxe is extremely heavily

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abraded and exhibits significant modern edge damage at the butt and tip. It is typo-technologically Lower Palaeolithic.

- 8.3.2 The artefact was recovered as a chance find from a ploughed field. The field is adjacent to area mapped by the British Geological as New Inn Sands and Gravel Member of the River Avon. This deposit is thought to have accumulated from MIS 5 to 5b (Maddy *et al.* 1991, Penkman *et al.* 2013, 124–127). This potentially provides a minimum age estimate for the handaxe. However, if it does originate from these deposits, it is likely to have been reworked into them from earlier exposures.

8.4 ?Eckington, Eckington, Worcestershire (?SO SO 909 407/ SO 909 417)

- 8.4.1 Amongst the material from Almonry Museum, Evesham is an extremely fluvially rolled handaxe on a split quartzite cobble. This was recovered by Whitehead in 1993 from what is described as the surface of 'Terrace 3' on the east of the River Avon at Eckington. However, the grid references given for the discovery (one on the pieces itself and one in Whitehead's catalogue; Whitehead Catalogue Vol. 2, 84) places it to the west of the Avon, north of Lower Strensham.

- 8.4.2 'Terrace 3' is now considered to equate to the New Inn Member of the Avon Valley Formation (Maddy *et al.* 1991). Deposits of this formation are mapped by the British Geological Survey (BGS 1:50,000 Geology Digimap) around the village of Eckington, but not around Lower Strensham. The gravels of the New Inn Formation are thought to have been deposited during MIS 5 (Maddy *et al.* 1991, Penkman *et al.* 2013, 124–127). However, if indeed the handaxe does ultimately derive from these deposits, it is likely to have been incorporated into them from earlier sediments.

8.5 Henwick, Worcester, Worcestershire (?SO 833 560)

- 8.5.1 The Worcester City Museum collection contains a single fluvially rolled cordate handaxe with the broad provenance to Henwick, Worcester. Its condition demonstrates that it is derived from a fluvial deposit.
- 8.5.2 Historic maps (OS County Series 1:2500, 1928 and 1940) show several sand and gravel pits were active in this area of Worcester (SO 833 560)

from the 1920s and through the 1940s. The deposits in this area are mapped by the British Geological Survey as belonging to the Holt Heath Member of the Severn Valley Formation (BGS 1:50,000 Geology Digimap). The majority of these sediments are thought to be deposited by outwash from the late Devensian (MIS 2) ice sheet. The handaxe is likely to have been incorporated into these from earlier deposits.

8.6 Madresfield Park, Madresfield, Worcestershire (SO 82200 48213)

8.6.1 The Palaeolithic artefacts from institutions in Worcestershire includes a moderately rolled quartzite handaxe from Madresfield. This is currently in possession of Worcestershire Archive and Archaeological Service.

8.6.2 It is typo-technologically Lower Palaeolithic and was recovered from the modern land surface, directly to the south of Madresfield Brook. The area is mapped by the British Geological Survey as alluvium of the Madresfield Brook; the underlying solid geology is Sidmouth Mudstone (BGS 1:50,000 Geology Digimap).

8.6.3 The level of abrasion indicates that the handaxe has been fluvially reworked, possibly within the deposits of Madresfield Brook. However, no obvious upstream Pleistocene source for the artefact is apparent.

8.6.4 The nearest mapped Pleistocene deposits are located 1 km to the east. These comprise deposits of the Bushley Green Member of the Severn Valley Formation, which are thought to have been deposited between MIS 9 and MIS 8 (Bridgland *et al.* 1986; Penkman *et al.* 2013, 124–127). 800 m to the north of these deposits is an outcrop of the Spring Hill Member, thought to correlate with MIS 10 (Maddy *et al.* 1995).

8.7 Queens Hill, Upton-upon-Severn, Worcestershire (SO 8555 3679)

8.7.1 Recent chance discoveries include a small bifacially worked artefact from Queens Hill, Upton-upon-Severn. Although moderate abrasion, extensive edge damage and frost pitting make a more specific identification of this piece difficult, it is likely to be Lower or Middle Palaeolithic.

8.7.2 Discovered by a metal detecting and reported to Portable Antiquities Scheme, it is currently in the possession of Worcestershire Archive and

Archaeology Service. It was recovered from a field 250 m north of Bushley Brook, to the south of Heath Hill.

- 8.7.3 The underlying geology is Branscombe Mudstone (BGS 1:50,000 Geology Digimap) and no Pleistocene deposits are mapped in the immediate area. However, patches of deposits mapped as Spring Hill Sands and Gravel Formation of the Severn Valley Formation are present on hills 500 m to the north east (Heath Hill) and 800 m to the north east (Queen Hill). Consequently, it is possible it could ultimately derive from equivalent deposits. The Spring Hill Member is thought to correlate with MIS 10 (Maddy *et al.* 1995).

8.8 Ashton under Hill, Aston under Hill, Worcestershire

- 8.8.1 The Almonry Museum collection contains a small pointed handaxe found in the vicinity of Ashton under Hill, a village located on the north bank of the Carrant Brook, 2.75 km upstream from Beckford.
- 8.8.2 It exhibits secondary retouch seemingly geared to shaping both lateral edges and the tip. Techno-typologically it is similar to the possible late Middle Palaeolithic handaxes from Beckford and Aston Mill.
- 8.8.3 No unequivocal Pleistocene deposits are mapped in the immediate area of Ashton under Hill, the nearest (an exposure of the Wasperton Sand and Gravel, Upper Facet) being located 1.2 km to the south east (BGS 1:50,000 Geology Digimap). As no exact provenance is available for the handaxe, it could originate from these deposits. As the same broad sequence produced the Beckford and Aston Mill artefact, the find may further extend the area of known archaeologically productive deposits within the valley of the Carrant Brook.

8.9 Conderton, Overbury, Worcestershire

- 8.9.1 The Worcester City Museum collection contains a handaxe tip which is broadly provenanced of Conderton, a village located 2 km north of the Carrant Brook. It is moderately abraded.
- 8.9.2 If from the environs of the village itself, it could be derived from 'Head' deposits on the slopes of Bredon Hill (BGS 1:50,000 Geology Digimap).

This would be interesting as it would suggest it has been derived by gelifluction from a non-fluvial capture point on the southern flanks of Bredon Hill. However, if it is from within the parish of Conderton it could be from the Wasperton Sand and Gravel, Upper Facet found along the north bank of the Carrant Brook ~1 km south of Conderton village. The condition of the piece tends to support the latter explanation.

8.10 Twynning, Twynning, Gloucestershire (SO 8965 3660)

- 8.10.1 The Whitehead Collection contains a handaxe from due south of Twynning village. It was recovered from an area between Pleistocene deposits of the Ailstone/Cropthorne Member and Wasperton Sand and Gravel, Upper Facet of the Avon Valley Formation (BGS 1:50,000 Geology Digimap).
- 8.10.2 Whitehead observed that it was recovered from deposits 'soliflucted' over the top of 'Terrace 2' i.e. the Wasperton Sand and Gravel, Upper Facet (markings on artefacts and Whitehead Notebook Vol. 1, 22).
- 8.10.3 The handaxe is in a different condition than any recovered from the terrace gravels in this area (see 6.0 and 7.0) being unabraded and only lightly edge damaged. Its context, and the fact that it does not appear to have been fluvially transported, suggests that it post-dates the deposition of the Wasperton Sand and Gravel, Upper Facet. Unfortunately, the Wasperton Sands and Gravel are currently dated *en mass* to between MIS 5a and MIS 2 (Maddy *et al.* 1991; Maddy & Lewis 2005, 79; Penkman *et al.* 2013, 124–127). This, along with the fact that it is Palaeolithic handaxe, suggests that it post-dates MIS 5a and is unlikely to date later than MIS 3. This would suggest that is late Middle Palaeolithic in date.
- 8.10.4 The handaxe itself is not typo-technological diagnostic; produced on thermally fractured cherty flint clast, it is worked using a soft hammer and displays some evidence of secondary modification of the edges. It may have been abandoned due the fact that an attempt to further work the tip has struck a flaw in the flint.
- 8.10.5 This artefact demonstrates that deposits overlying the regions Pleistocene terraces have the potential to preserve Palaeolithic material that is not fluvially derived.

8.11 Moseley Park, Hallow, Worcestershire (SO 8112 5933)

- 8.11.1 Amongst the material curated in Worcester City Museum is a pointed handaxe with secondary working on one face, one lateral edge and the tip. Its tip is extensively thinned whilst the butt has been left thick and heavy. Notably, beyond being edge damaged and slightly patinated, it is in extremely fresh condition. It was recovered from a field east of Moseley village in 1970 after potato spinning.
- 8.11.2 The findspot is located on the edge of an area mapped by the British Geological as belonging to the Kidderminster Station Member of the Severn Valley Formation (BGS 1:50,000 Geology Digimap). These deposits are thought to have accumulated during MIS 7 and MIS 6.
- 8.11.3 The Moseley Park handaxe is significant as its condition indicates that it has not undergone significant reworking. Consequently, it is possible that the artefact may be broadly contemporary with the Kidderminster Station Member; although the possibility that it associated with later deposits overlying the terrace (as at Twynning; see 7.9) should not be ruled out.
- 8.11.4 If it were to be established that artefact is contemporary with these deposits, the handaxe could be of great significance. Firstly, sites of this age are rarely encountered in Britain and it would represent the first findspot of this age in the West Midlands. Secondly, the Early Middle Palaeolithic record of Britain is dominated by sites from the Thames Valley. These are characterised by Levallois flaking with handaxes being largely absent (Scott 2011). It has, however, been suggested that sites from the west of England display an opposite trend with handaxes being present but little Levallois material (Scott & Ashton 2011). Such pattern could reflect different populations and different route ways into Britain during the Early Middle Palaeolithic. This suggestion is tentative, being based on a very small dataset. Consequently, Moseley Park may be able to contribute to this debate. Finally, as the handaxe does not appear to have undergone significant transport, artefacts may exist at Moseley Park with the potential to provide ethnographic scale reconstructions of human behaviour.
- 8.11.5 Historical mapping demonstrates that the findspot is adjacent to a hollow (OS County Series 1:2500, 1887), which still extant today. Its form is

suggestive of a small brick pit. The feature provides a potential mechanism by which the handaxe could have been brought to the surface and an opportunity for assessing the geological sequence at the site.

- 8.11.6 In order to establish the full significance of this discovery further work is required. Most notably the local geological sequence needs investigating, the stratigraphic provenance of any further artefacts needs establishing and ages for the associated Pleistocene deposits provided.

9.0 DISCUSSION

- 9.1 This review of previously unassessed Palaeolithic material from Worcestershire demonstrates that the county possess a relatively small, but highly significant corpus of existing findspots.
- 9.2 During this overview three key topics have emerged:
1. Lower Palaeolithic archaeology from fluvial archives.
 2. The potential for Early Middle Palaeolithic archaeology.
 3. The Late Middle Palaeolithic and Early Upper Palaeolithic in the Carrant Valley.
- 9.3 This study reflects that the Lower Palaeolithic of Worcestershire is currently characterised by small collections and single artefacts (most frequently handaxes) from high energy fluvial sands and gravels of the Rivers Severn and Avon. All these artefacts have clearly undergone significant fluvial transport which, in many cases, is likely to have involved reworking from older to younger terrace formations.
- 9.4 This pattern probably reflects the fact that few investigators have actively sought to recover Palaeolithic artefacts from sites in the county, whilst when they have it has involved the recovery of material from reject heaps in gravel quarries (e.g. see Whitehead Notebooks Vol. 1 & 2).
- 9.5 The assemblages and artefacts assessed here give some indication of the first recorded human presence in the region. There is good evidence that humans were active in the region by at least MIS 6 (Twynning 'Terrace 4') and possibly (although by no means unequivocally) as early as MIS 9 (?Madresfield Park and ?Queens Hill). Excluding the pre-MIS 12 discoveries in Warwickshire, this is reflective of West Midlands record as a whole (Lang & Keen 2005).
- 9.6 Unfortunately these datasets are not expansive, nor detailed enough, to allow the reconstruction temporally significant or fine grained patterns of early human technological decision making or landscape-use
- 9.7 Fine grained interglacial deposits are fairly common in Pleistocene fluvial deposits of the Severn and Avon (particularly so in the case of the latter) and it is these which are likely to contain less disturbed Palaeolithic material that could potentially allow early human behaviour to reconstructed on an

ethnographic scale.

- 9.8 A further potential source of less derived Lower (and indeed Middle) Palaeolithic material is the surfaces of, and deposits located stratigraphically above fluvial gravels. The handaxe from 'solifluction' at Twynning clearly demonstrates this potential.
- 9.9 As with Britain as a whole, the Palaeolithic record from Worcestershire is squarely focussed on material from fluvial archives. However, non-fluvial capture points such as solution features, fissures and small depositional grabens formed by cambering have all been shown to be repositories of Pleistocene sediments, palaeoenvironmental datasets and, frequently, Palaeolithic archaeology. The potential of any such depositional features in Worcestershire should, therefore, be considered.
- 9.10 Significantly, this reassessment has potentially identified the first Early Middle Palaeolithic artefact from the West Midlands (Moseley Park). Although requiring further investigation, this tentative attribution could be extremely significant. No other artefacts have clearly been assigned to this period from West Midlands, whilst its condition suggests it may have been associated with a larger, relatively undisturbed assemblage.
- 9.11 The potential presence of handaxe in deposits attributable to MIS7/6 is, in itself, significant as it suggests that the site has the potential to contribute to ongoing debates concerning the nature of the Early Middle Palaeolithic occupation in Britain. In particular, the question of whether a west/east divide exists between assemblages dominated by handaxe and those with large amounts of Levallois material, and whether this reflects the demographic histories of population occupying the British Isle during this period.
- 9.12 This reassessment has demonstrated that Worcestershire, and the Carrant Brook in particular, is associated with a rich mid-late Devensian (MIS 4–2) archaeological and paleontological record. Since its recovery in the late 1970s and early 1980s, and subsequent move to the British Museum and Natural History Museum, the material has been largely overlooked. However, it clearly has the potential to provide important insights into the archaeology and behavioural repertoires of the last Neanderthals and the first modern humans in Britain.

9.13 The collection has a whole has suffered from perceived lack of contextual integrity. However, the use of the spatial data in Whitehead's notebooks, in conjunction with limited new fieldwork would provide significant added value, both in terms of its research potential and its ability to help guide future planning policy within the Carrant Brook and throughout the county. It is therefore, highly recommended that the material is subject to further investigation. This should include:

1. Integration of the spatial data in the Whitehead notebooks into a GIS to provide increased contextual integrity for both the extant archaeological and palaeontological material.

2. A reassessment of the mammalian fauna in order to assess the degree of human involvement in its accumulation. Particular attention should be paid to the intriguing accumulation of bison remains from Aston Mill.

- 3 Improved chronological resolution through a programme of dating. This could include C14 dating of both of any existing and newly acquired organic remains, and the extant fauna (with a particular focus on any pieces which exhibit human modification), in conjunction with OSL dating of sand and silt fractions in the extant sediment bodies in Beckford and Aston Mill

8.14 Most of material assessed as part of these investigations was collected by a single individual — P.R. Whitehead — one of the few Palaeolithic investigators to have been active in Worcestershire. These collections are from a single river valley and comprise over 90% of Palaeolithic record of Worcestershire. Consequently, Whitehead's collection demonstrates that when actively sought, nationally significant collections of Palaeolithic material have been shown to be present in Worcestershire.

8.15 Ultimately, therefore, the story of Palaeolithic research in Worcestershire reflects the fact if you don't look for it you won't find it, but when you do it is there.

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APPENDIX 1: EXTENDED METHODOLOGY

All artefacts; qualitative variables relating to condition

1. Abrasion:
 0. Unabraded.
 1. Slightly abraded.
 2. Moderately abraded.
 3. Heavily abraded.
2. Edge Damage:
 0. No edge damage.
 1. Slight edge damage.
 2. Moderate edge damage.
 3. Heavy edge damage.
3. Patination:
 0. Unpatinated.
 1. Lightly patinated.
 2. Moderately patinated.
 3. Heavily patinated.
4. Staining:
 0. Unstained.
 1. Slightly stained.
 2. Moderately stained.
 3. Heavily stained.
5. Surface scratching:
 0. No scratching.
 1. Light scratching.
 2. Moderate scratching.
 3. Heavy scratching.
6. Battering (characterised by incipient cones visible on artificially flaked surfaces):
 0. No battering.
 1. Light battering.
 2. Moderate battering.
 3. Heavy battering.

All artefacts; qualitative variables relating to raw material and technology

1. Raw material type:

1. Flint.
2. Black flint
3. Grey flint
4. Other flint (specify in notes)
5. Chert.
6. Andesite.
7. Quartzite.
8. Quartz.
9. Limestone.

2. Probable raw material source:

1. Fresh.
2. Derived.
3. Indeterminate.

3. Mode of percussion used to produce a product, or to flake a nodule:

1. Hard.
2. Soft
3. Mixed.
4. Indeterminate.

Debitage (non-Levallois); quantitative variables

1. Length (mm) measured along the axis of percussion.
2. Breadth (mm); refers to the maximum width of a flake at 90° to the axis of percussion.
3. Maximum thickness (mm).
4. Number of dorsal scars. Only scars with a minimum dimension of at least 5mm are included in this count.

Flakes (non-Levallois); qualitative variables

1. Type:
 1. Flake
 2. Chordal flake
 3. Pseudo-Levallois flake
 4. Janus flake
 5. Tranchet flake
 6. Blade
 7. Bladelet
 8. Crested piece
 9. Plunging piece
 10. Core tablet
 11. Shatter
 12. Indeterminate
2. Portion:
 - 1 Whole.
 - 2 Proximal.
 - 3 Distal.
 - 4 Mesial.
 - 5 Siret; flake has split along or parallel to the axis of percussion.
3. Butt type:
 1. Plain.
 2. Dihedral.
 3. Cortical.
 4. Natural (but non-cortical).
 5. Marginal.
 6. Soft hammer.
 7. Mixed (e.g. combination of natural and flake surfaces).

8. Facetted.
 9. Missing.
 10. Trimmed; characterized by small flake scars running into dorsal surface along same axis as flake itself.
 11. Obscured (e.g. by damage).
-
3. Measured (as a percentage) of the total surface area of the dorsal face of a flake that displays cortex, or consists of a natural surface.
 0. 0%.
 1. <50%.
 2. >50%.
 3. 100%.
 4. Indeterminate
-
4. Knapping pattern:
 1. Uni-directional.
 2. Bi-directional.
 3. Multi-directional.
 4. Wholly cortical.
 5. Obscured.
-
5. Retouch:
 1. Yes; additional observations in retouched artefacts section.
 2. No.
-
6. Burnt:
 1. Yes
 2. No.

Levallois products; quantitative variables

1. Length (mm) measured along the axis of percussion.
2. Breadth (mm); refers to the maximum width at 90° to the axis of percussion.
3. Maximum thickness (mm).
4. Number of dorsal scars with a minimum dimension of at least 5 mm.
5. Number of preceding Levallois removals.

Levallois products; qualitative variables

1. Confidence of being a deliberately detached Levallois endproduct:
 1. Definite.
 2. Probable.
 3. Possible.
2. Type of Levallois product in morphological terms:
 1. Flake.
 2. Point.
 3. Blade.
 4. Debordant flake (lateral edge of core removed).
 5. Overshot.
 6. Debordant and overshot.
 7. Indeterminate; partial endproduct which cannot be classified.
3. Portion:
 1. Whole.
 2. Proximal.
 3. Distal.
 4. Mesial.
 5. Siret; product has split along or parallel to the axis of percussion.
4. Butt type:
 1. Plain.
 2. Dihedral.
 3. Cortical.
 4. Natural (but non-cortical).
 5. Marginal.
 6. Soft hammer.
 7. Mixed (e.g. combination of natural and flake surfaces).

8. Facetted.
 9. Missing.
 10. Trimmed; small flake scars running into dorsal surface along same axis as the product itself.
 11. *Chapeau de Gendarme*.
 12. Obscured (e.g. by damage).
5. Measure (as a percentage) of the total surface area of the dorsal face of a Levallois product which displays cortex, or consists of a natural surface:
0. 0%.
 1. <50%.
 2. >50%.
 3. 100%.
6. Method of preparation:
1. Unipolar.
 2. Bipolar.
 3. Convergent unipolar.
 4. Centripetal.
 5. Unidirectional lateral.
 6. Bipolar lateral i.e. preparatory scars run in from both edges.
 7. Unipolar from distal.
 8. Indeterminate; fragmentary, or the flaking surface is obscured.
7. Method of exploitation:
1. Lineal.
 2. Single removal.
 3. Unipolar recurrent.
 4. Bipolar recurrent.
 5. Centripetal recurrent.
 6. Indeterminate
8. Evidence of reparation of the flaking surface preceding the removal of the last flake. This is displayed in the form of smaller, less invasive scars cutting an obvious large, invasive Levallois removal:
1. Yes.
 2. No.
9. Retouch:
1. Yes; additional observations in retouched artefacts section.
 2. No.

Cores (non-Levallois and non-laminar); quantitative variables

1. Maximum dimension (mm).
2. Weight (grams).
3. Total number of core episodes.
4. Total number of removals; this only includes scars with a minimum dimension of 5 mm.

Cores (non-Levallois and non-laminar); qualitative variables

1. Characterisation of overall core-reduction method:
 1. Migrating platform.
 2. Single platform unprepared.
 3. Bipolar unprepared.
 4. Discoidal.
 5. Indeterminate.
3. Portion:
 1. Whole.
 2. Fragment.
3. Blank type. This is inferred from distribution of cortex/natural fracture surface, or relict ventral/dorsal. The following categories were recognised:
 1. Nodule
 2. Flake.
 3. Thermal/frost flake.
 4. Indeterminate.
4. Measure (as a percentage) of the total surface area of core which displays evidence of cortex or retains other evidence of a natural surface:
 0. 0%.
 1. >0-25%.
 2. >25-50%.
 3. >50-75%.
 4. >75%.
5. Blank form retained:
 1. Yes.
 2. No.

5. Number of removals per core episode
6. Retouch:
 1. Yes; additional observations in retouched artefacts section (see section 3.3.10).
 2. No.
7. Burnt?:
 1. Yes
 2. No.

Laminar cores; quantitative variables

1. Length (mm) measured along the axis of percussion.
2. Breadth (mm); refers to the maximum width of a flake at 90° to the axis of percussion.
3. Maximum thickness (mm).
4. Weight (grams).
5. Number of preparatory scars visible on the striking platform surface with a minimum dimension of at least 5 mm (if there are multiple platforms record individually).
6. Number of removals from final debitage surface.
8. Dimensions of final laminar products:
 1. Length (mm).
 2. Breadth (mm).

Laminar cores; qualitative variables

1. Type:
 1. Single platform laminar.
 2. Single platform laminar/flake
 3. Opposed platform laminar.
 4. Opposed platform laminar/flake.
 5. Tangential platform laminar.
 6. Tangential platform laminar/flake.
 7. Bladelet core; exhibits laminar scars <30 mm in maximum length (describe).
2. Blank type:
 1. Nodule
 2. Flake.
 3. Thermal/frost flake.
 4. Indeterminate.
3. Measure (as a percentage) of the total surface area of striking platform which displays evidence of cortex or retains other evidence of a natural surface:
 0. 0%.
 1. >0-25%.
 2. >25-50%.

3. >50-75%.
 4. >75%.
4. Measure (as a percentage) of the total surface area of the debitage surface which displays evidence of cortex or retains other evidence of a natural surface:
0. 0%.
 1. >0-25%.
 2. >25-50%.
 3. >50-75%.
 4. >75%.
5. Blank form retained:
1. Yes.
 2. No
6. Method of preparation of striking platform (multiple platforms record individually):
1. Unprepared cortical.
 2. Unprepared natural.
 3. Single removal.
 4. Multiple removals.
 5. Facetted.
 6. Trimmed.
 7. Obscured (e.g. by damage).
- 7 Remnant distal ends of large scars on striking platform(s):
1. Yes.
 2. No.
7. Retouch:
3. Yes; additional observations in retouched artefacts section (see section 3.3.10).
 4. No.
8. Burnt?:
3. Yes
 4. No.

Levallois cores and simple prepared cores; quantitative variables

1. Length (mm).
2. Breadth (mm).
3. Maximum thickness (mm).
4. Weight (grams).
5. Number of preparatory scars visible on the striking platform surface with a minimum dimension of at least 5 mm.
6. Number of preparatory scars visible on the flaking surface with a minimum dimension of at least 5 mm.
7. Number of definite Levallois products detached from the final flaking surface.
8. Dimensions of final Levallois products:
 1. Length (mm).
 2. Breadth (mm).

Levallois cores and simple prepared cores; qualitative variables

1. Type:
 1. Levallois.
 2. Simple prepared.
2. Blank type:
 1. Nodule
 2. Flake.
 3. Thermal/frost flake.
 4. Shattered nodule.
 5. Indeterminate.
3. Measure (as a percentage) of the total area of the core's striking platform surface which displays evidence of cortex or retains other evidence of a natural surface:
 0. 0%.
 1. >0-25%.
 2. >25-50%.
 3. >50-75%.
 4. >75%.

4. Position of cortex on striking platform surface:
 0. None.
 1. One edge only.
 2. More than one edge.
 3. All over.
 4. Central.
 5. Central and one edge.
 6. Central and more than one edge.

5. Blank form retained:
 1. Yes.
 2. No

6. Remnant distal ends of large scars on striking platform:
 1. Yes.
 2. No.

7. Method of preparation of final flaking surface (after Boëda 1986; 1995):
 1. Unipolar.
 2. Bipolar.
 3. Convergent unipolar.
 4. Centripetal.
 5. Unidirectional lateral.
 6. Bipolar lateral.
 7. Unipolar from distal.
 8. Indeterminate i.e. it is a core fragment or the flaking surface is obscured.

8. Method of exploitation of final flaking surface:
 0. Unexploited.
 1. Lineal.
 2. Unipolar recurrent.
 3. Bipolar recurrent.
 4. Centripetal recurrent.
 5. Re-prepared but unexploited
 6. Failed final removal.
 7. Indeterminate.

9. Evidence of an earlier flaking surface:
 1. Yes.
 2. No.

10. Morphological description of Levallois products from final flaking surface:

0. Unexploited
1. Flake.
2. Point.
3. Blade.
4. Debordant flake - has removed one or both lateral core edges.
5. Overshot distal end.
6. Debordant and overshot.
7. Failed removal(s).

11. Retouch:

1. Yes; additional observations in retouched artefacts section.
2. No.

Handaxes; quantitative variables

1. Length (mm).
2. Breadth (mm).
3. Maximum thickness (mm) measured perpendicular to the long axis of the handaxe.
4. Weight.
5. T1 (mm). Thickness of the handaxe at one fifth of the length from tip.
6. T2 (mm). Thickness of the handaxe at one fifth of the length from butt.
7. B1 (mm). The width of the handaxe at one fifth of length from the tip.
8. B2 (mm). The width of the handaxe at one fifth of length from the butt.
9. L1 (mm). The length of the handaxe measure from the point of maximum width.
10. Total number of scars with a minimum dimension of at least 5 mm, summed for both faces of the handaxe.

Handaxes; qualitative variables

1. Portion:
 1. Whole.
 2. Tip.
 3. Butt.
 4. Other Portion.
2. Measure (as a percentage) of the total surface area of the handaxe which displays evidence of cortex or retains other evidence of a natural surface.
 0. 0%.
 1. >0-25%.
 2. >25-50%.
 3. >50-75%.
 4. >75%
3. Position of cortex or natural surface:
 0. None.
 1. Butt only.

2. Butt and edges.
 3. Butt and face.
 4. Edges only.
 5. On face.
 6. All over.
 7. Butt and one edge.
 8. Face and one edge.
 9. One edge.
4. Measure (as a percentage) of the total area of the piece which can be classed as displaying evidence of the original flake surface (only for handaxes on flake blanks).
0. 0%.
 1. >0-25%.
 2. >25-50%.
 3. >50-75%.
 4. >75%.
 5. N/A.
5. Evidence of blank dimensions:
0. None.
 1. In one dimension.
 2. In two dimensions.
6. Blank type:
1. Nodule
 2. Flake.
 3. Thermal/frost flake.
 4. Shattered nodule.
 5. Indeterminate.
7. Edge position:
1. All round.
 2. All edges sharp, dull butt.
 3. Most edges sharp, dull butt.
 4. One sharp edge, dull butt.
 5. Irregular.
 6. Most edges sharp, sharp butt.
 7. One sharp edge, sharp butt.
 8. Tip only.

9. Butt working:

0. Unworked.
1. Partially worked.
2. Fully worked.

10. Pattern of primary flaking:

1. Fully alternate.
2. One side then other.
3. Unifacial.
4. Alternate edges.
5. Inderminate.

11. Location of secondary flaking:

1. Butt.
2. Tip.
3. One lateral edge.
4. Both lateral edges.
5. Continuous except proximal edge/butt.
6. Continuous except other portion of edge (specify in notes).
7. Continuous.
8. N/A.

12. Extent of secondary flaking:

0. N/A.
1. Marginal.
2. Minimally invasive.
3. Semi-invasive.
4. Invasive.

13. Location of retouch/resharpening:

0. N/A.
1. Proximal/butt.
2. Distal/tip.
3. One lateral edge.
4. Both lateral edges.
5. Continuous except proximal edge/butt.
6. Continuous except other portion of edge (specified in notes).
7. Continuous.

14. Distribution of retouch/resharpening:

- 0. N/A.
- 1. Continuous.
- 2. Discontinuous.
- 3. Isolated removal.
- 4. Isolated tranchet removal.

15. Type of retouch

- 0. N/A.
- 1. Scraper
- 2. Blunting
- 3. Retouched notch
- 4. Isolated removal.
- 5. Isolated tranchet removal.

Retouched pieces; qualitative variables

1. Position of retouch:

1. Direct; retouch is located on the dorsal face, or the surface with the greatest volume above the secant plane.
2. Inverse; retouch is located on the ventral face, or the surface with the least volume below the secant plane.
3. Alternate; retouch is located on the same edge of both faces.
4. Bifacial; retouch is directed into both faces from the same edge.
5. Crossed; retouch is directed into both faces to form a steep backed edge.

2. Location of retouch:

1. Proximal/butt.
2. Distal/tip.
3. One lateral edge.
4. Both lateral edges.
5. Continuous except proximal edge/butt.
6. Continuous except other portion of edge (specified in notes).
7. Continuous.

3. Distribution of retouch:

1. Continuous.
2. Discontinuous.
3. Partial.
4. Isolated removal.
5. Burin removal.
6. "Burin like" removal.

4. Form of retouched edge:

1. Rectilinear.
2. Convex.
3. Concave.
4. Retouched notch.
5. Denticulate.
6. Flaked flake.
7. Backing.
8. Prehensile thinning.
9. Burin removal.

5. Extent of retouch:

1. Marginal.
 2. Minimally invasive.
 3. Semi-invasive.
 4. Invasive.
6. Angle of retouch:
1. Abrupt (approaching 90°).
 2. Semi-abrupt (~45°).
 3. Low (thinning).
7. Regularity of retouched edge:
1. Regular.
 2. Irregular.
 3. Single removal.
 4. Obscured by damage that cuts across the retouch.
8. Morphology of retouch:
1. Scaly.
 2. Stepped.
 3. Sub-Parallel.
 4. Parallel.
 5. Single removal.
9. Typological descriptions of flake tools are also given. These are mostly based on Bordes (1961).

3. Example HER entry

Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service

Event Full Report

Palaeolithic site with artefactual remains

21/02/2014



Report prepared by Worcestershire HER. Tel 01905 765560 or email archaeology@worcestershire.gov.uk. Information valid for three months from date of production.

WSM Reference WSM50031

Event Name Unstratified Palaeolithic Stone Implements found prior to 1988 on land West of Ashmore Lane Cottages, Aston on Carrant

Dates 31/12/1988, pre (1988)

Project Details

Event/Activity Types - None recorded

Organisation that carried out the work - None Recorded

Finds and Environmental Data

Find No.	Type (quantity) and Date.	Material	Specialist Report
FWR12681	DEBITAGE (1) (Marine Isotope Stage 21 to Marine Isotope Stage 08 - 864050 BC to 241050 BC)	FLINT	No
FWR12682	CORE (1) (Marine Isotope Stage 07 to Marine Isotope Stage 04 - 241050 BC? to 55050 BC?)	FLINT	No

Location

Grid Reference

SO 9532 3501 Sheet No. SO93NE

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Kemerton, Wychavon, Worcestershire

Description

In 2013 research was performed by Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology service for the National Heritage Protection Plan Project "Putting the Palaeolithic into Worcestershire's HER". This research included a lithic analysis of the Whitehead collection of artefacts held at the British Museum and analysis of recent Palaeolithic finds within institutions throughout Worcestershire. The analysis identified that Whitehead had collected a Non Levallois Flake Core and piece of debitage on land to the West of Ashmore Lane Cottages. The debitage was found to be thermally fractured dating to Marine Isotope Stage 21 to Stage 4 and the core was discoidal dating probably to Marine Isotope Stage 7 to Stage 4. [1] [2] [3] [4]

Sources

- (1) Unpublished document: Daffern, N Russell, O. Forthcoming. NHPP Project: Putting the Palaeolithic into Worcestershire's HER. SWR21984
- (2) Monograph: Shaw, Andrew. 2013. Putting the Palaeolithic into Worcestershire ; Lithic Report. SWR22405
- (3) Bibliographic reference: Whitehead, P F., 1988. Lower Palaeolithic Artefacts from the Lower Valley of the Warwickshire Avon. British Archaeology Report. SWR7902
- (4) Digital archive: Shaw, Andrew. 2013. Putting the Palaeolithic into Worcestershire ; Lithic Report Appendix. Unique ID Number 118 - Flake Core and 168 - Non-Lev Debitage SWR22373

Associated Monuments - None recorded

WSM Reference WSM50031

Name: Unstratified Palaeolithic Stone Implements found
prior to 1988 on land West of Ashmore Lane
Cottages, Aston on Carrant



Report prepared by Worcestershire HER. Tel
01905 765560 or email
archaeology@worcestershire.gov.uk.
Information valid for three months from date of
production.

Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service

Event Full Report

Palaeolithic site with faunal remains

21/02/2014



Report prepared by Worcestershire HER. Tel 01905 765560 or email archaeology@worcestershire.gov.uk. Information valid for three months from date of production.

WSM Reference WSM49735

Event Name Unstratified Palaeolithic faunal remains found prior to 1929 on land North of Aston on Carrant, Aston Mill

Dates 31/12/1929, pre (1929)

Project Details

Event/Activity Types - None recorded

Organisation that carried out the work - None Recorded

Finds and Environmental Data

Find No.	Type (quantity) and Date.	Material	Specialist Report
FWR12567	ANIMAL REMAINS (Unknown) (Marine Isotope Stage 03 - 55050 BC to 27050 BC)	BONE	No

Location

Grid Reference

SO 9448 3519 Sheet No. SO93NW

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Kemerton, Wychavon, Worcestershire

Description

In 2013 research was performed by Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology service for the National Heritage Protection Plan Project "Putting the Palaeolithic into Worcestershire's HER". This research included a literature search which highlighted Palaeolithic evidence thus far unrecorded within the HER. It identified that Richardson had recorded faunal remains of *Cervus tarandus*, *Bos primigenius*, *Rhinoceros tichorhinus* and *Elephas primigenius* on land at Aston Mill. The remains are dated to Marine Isotope Stage 3 to Stage 2. [1] [2][3]

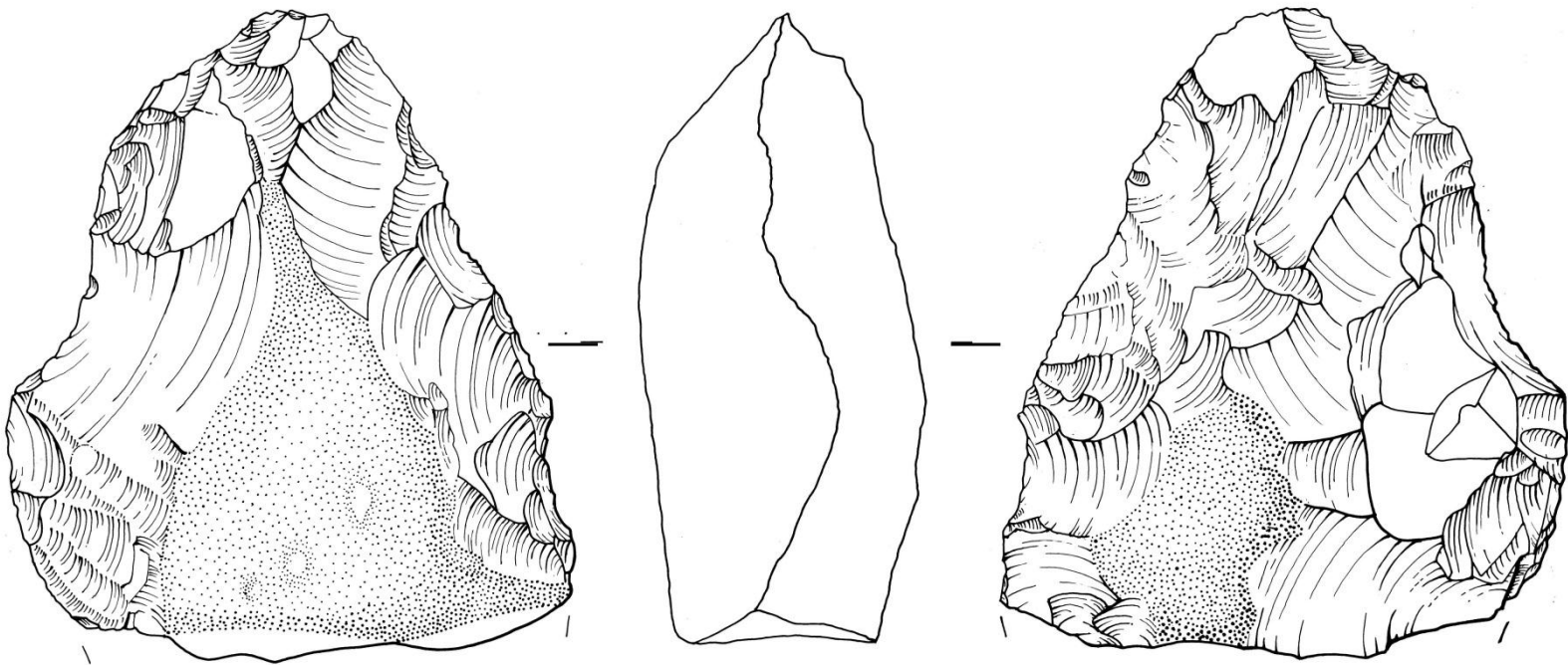
The actual date the remains were discovered, and the discovery method, is unknown. Prior date set to date of publication in Richardson. [1][2] [3] [4]

Sources

- (1) Unpublished document: Daffern, N Russell, O. Forthcoming. NHPP Project: Putting the Palaeolithic into Worcestershire's HER. SWR21984
- (2) Bibliographic reference: Richardson, L. 1929. Geology of the country around Moreton-in-Marsh. Memoir of the Geological Survey of Great Britain. SWR22171
- (3) Bibliographic reference: Briggs, D J. 1975. Origin, depositional environment and age of the Cheltenham Sand and gravel and related deposits. SWR22172
- (4) Personal Comment: Webley, A. 2012 onwards. Personal comment on updating/creating HER record. SWR21669

Associated Monuments - None recorded

4. Guidance for Planning and the Palaeolithic in Worcestershire



Guidance for Planning and the Palaeolithic in Worcestershire

Version 1
2014

Guidance for Planning and the Palaeolithic in Worcestershire

The following guidance is aimed at highlighting areas of potential Palaeolithic deposits in Worcestershire, in order for the impact of development on them to be considered and mitigated where appropriate.

The identification and understanding of archaeological remains from all periods, including the Palaeolithic, is a material consideration in the National Planning Policy Framework (Section 12 and 13), as well as adopted and emerging policies in the districts' Local Plans: South Worcestershire Development Plan (Policy SWDP.24); Wyre Forest District Council Site Allocations and Policies Local Plan 2006-2026 (Policy SAL.UP6), Bromsgrove Local Plan (Policy BDP20) and Redditch Local Plan no.4 (Policy 35). Mineral operations have significant potential to affect Palaeolithic deposits and further guidance is given in Mineral Extraction and Archaeology- A Practice Guide (English Heritage 2008).

The Palaeolithic period extends from the first appearance of artefacts to the end of the last Ice Age (in Worcestershire c.500,000BP – 10,000BP). During this period the development of modern human beings occurs, along with the beginnings of material culture through the production of stone tools. Due to the fragility and rarity of deposits from this period, any new material has the potential to be extremely important, regionally and nationally, to our understanding of human development. The recently completed English Heritage funded project, *Putting the Palaeolithic into Worcestershire's HER: creating an evidence base and toolkit*, highlighted that Worcestershire has the potential to be of regional and national importance within Palaeolithic studies. Full details on the project can be found via the links listed below.

The project revisited and analysed all of the known data and then plotted this against geological deposits, providing the areas of potential shown in Figure 1. The majority of these areas are river terraces that were created during glacial periods. These terraces contain the sands and gravels that modern quarrying extracts. It is primarily these extraction activities that reveal Palaeolithic deposits, and through the increased awareness and targeting of these sites, it is hoped that a greater understanding of the period will be gathered. Many of the areas highlighted include deeply stratified deposits, which would only be disturbed by minerals extraction and other similar large-scale development, but in some cases deposits with Palaeolithic potential lie close to the surface or could be adversely affected by development that changes the hydrology of the area.

Each area of potential has a summary that describes what has been recorded previously and what may be expected during future works. The areas are dated using Marine Isotope Stages (MIS). These are accompanied with regional and national overviews of each of the stages to help give context to the deposits and a plain English overview. More details on MIS can be found via the links below and advice on the potential impacts of individual developments can be obtained by contacting the Historic Environment Planning Officer (contacts below).

Due to the geographical bias within the Palaeolithic data it was felt that we were unable to score the areas of potential, instead choosing to follow a more 'yes' or 'no' approach to assigning the areas. The only areas that would currently warrant a high scoring for potential would be the areas that have been heavily investigated, which would risk all other areas being cast aside as low potential, purely due to the lack of previous investigation.

Links

Palaeolithic Project and Guidance Webpage –
www.worcestershire.gov.uk/archaeology/palaeolithicguidance

Project Report (contains full project bibliography)-
<http://public.worcestershire.gov.uk/sites/archaeology/Reports/SWR21984.pdf>

Worcestershire Mineral Plan - <http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/cms/minerals-and-waste-policy/emerging-minerals-local-plan.aspx>

Heritage Gateway – <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway>

Contacts

Worcestershire Historic Environment Record and Advisory Team
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Tel: 01905 765560

Email: archaeology@worcestershire.gov.uk

Website: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/waas

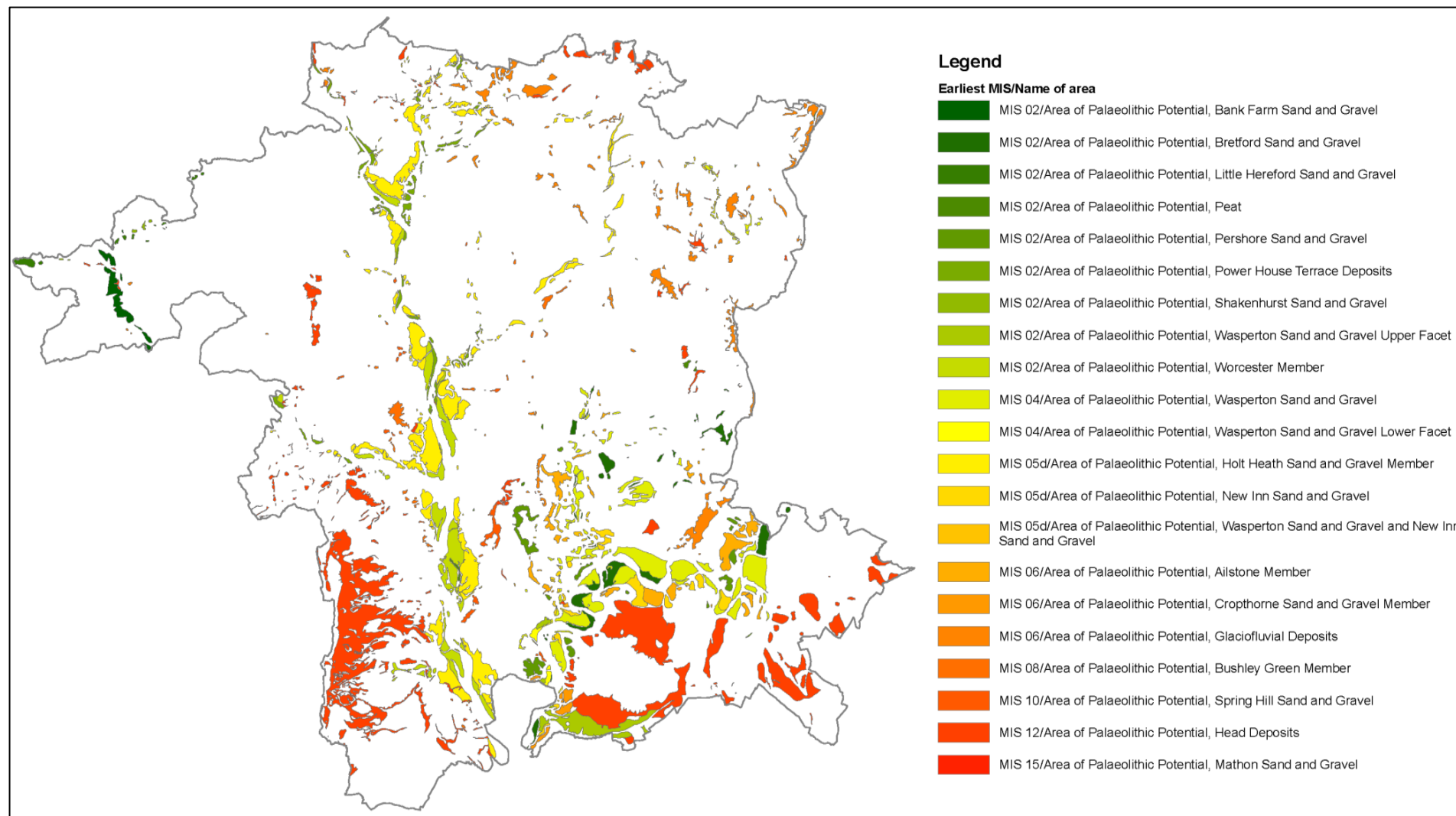


Figure 1 - Geological deposits with Palaeolithic Potential – This map is available as GIS data for detailed queries

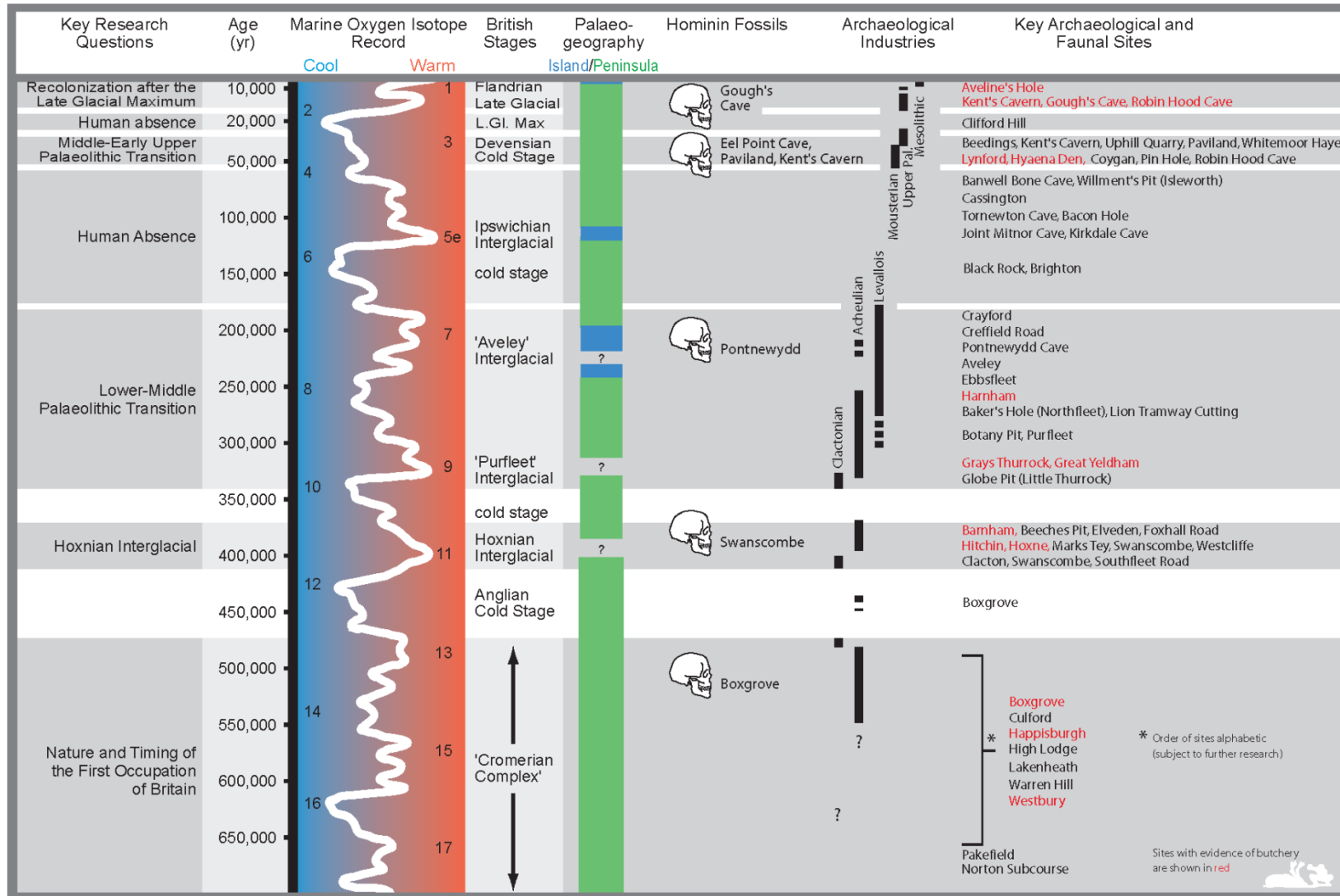


Figure 2 - Chart showing how the Marine Isotope Stages fit in the Quaternary timeframe (image courtesy of Ancient Human Occupation of Britain Project (AHOB))

Areas of Palaeolithic Potential in Worcestershire

Bank Farm Sand and Gravel

Marine Isotope Stage 2

Middle to Late Devensian gravels from other locations have proven potential for the recovery of artefactual, faunal and palaeoenvironmental remains (Wasperton and Bretford Sand and Gravel). Identification of deposits suitable for research is essential for the Teme Palaeovalley Formation as it is currently undefined in the BGS Lexicon and is poorly understood. There is potential that these deposits may mask earlier drainage systems associated with the pre-Anglian Mathon system, especially in the north-west of the county

http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single.aspx?uid=MWR49427&resourceID=1035

Bretford Sand and Gravel

Marine Isotope Stage 2

These gravels represent the latest phase of the Devensian. Evidence has been recovered from gravels at Bredon's Hardwick and in the Carrant Brook environs.

http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single.aspx?uid=MWR49429&resourceID=1035

Little Hereford Sand and Gravel

Marine Isotope Stage 2

Middle to Late Devensian gravels from other locations have proven potential for the recovery of artefactual, faunal and palaeoenvironmental remains (Wasperton and Bretford Sand and Gravel). Identification of deposits suitable for research is essential for the Teme Palaeovalley Formation as it is currently undefined in the BGS Lexicon and is poorly understood. There is potential that these deposits may mask earlier drainage systems associated with the pre-Anglian Mathon system, especially in the north-west of the county

http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single.aspx?uid=MWR49435&resourceID=1035

Peat

Marine Isotope Stage 2

Peat has been mapped by BGS but no dating can be assigned to the deposit. Peat is likely to be Holocene in date but there is potential for Late Glacial material to be present at the base of the sequences. Palaeoenvironmental potential for these deposits is high

http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single.aspx?uid=MWR49438&resourceID=1035

Pershore Sand and Gravel

Marine Isotope Stage 2

Locally overlies organic deposits of the Allesborough Beds (also known as the Pershore Fossil Bed) which contains temperate flora and fauna assigned to MIS 9. There is also potential for reworked artefacts within or associated with these deposits as is evidenced by the presence of an MIS 9 (or earlier) handaxe from Allesborough

http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single.aspx?uid=MWR49439&resourceID=1035

Power House Terrace Deposits

Marine Isotope Stage 2

Unknown potential for palaeoenvironmental, artefactual, human and faunal remains. Given extensive presence of material from similarly dated deposits at Beckford, Aston Mill etc indicates potential

http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single.aspx?uid=MWR49440&resourceID=1035

Shakenhurst Sand and Gravel

Marine Isotope Stage 2

Middle to Late Devensian gravels from other locations have proven potential for the recovery of artefactual, faunal and palaeoenvironmental remains (Wasperton and Bretford Sand and Gravel). Identification of deposits suitable for research is essential for the Teme Palaeovalley Formation as it is currently undefined in the BGS Lexicon and is poorly understood. There is potential that these deposits may mask earlier drainage systems associated with the pre-Anglian Mathon system, especially in the north-west of the county

http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single.aspx?uid=MWR49441&resourceID=1035

Wasperton Sand and Gravel Upper Facet

Marine Isotope Stage 2

Yields abundant faunal and artefactual remains including extensive Neanderthal and early Homo sapien artefacts. Locally overlies and contains the channel-filling organics of the Fladbury Beds

http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single.aspx?uid=MWR49446&resourceID=1035

Worcester Member

Marine Isotope Stage 2

Unknown potential for palaeoenvironmental, artefactual, human and faunal remains. Given extensive presence of material from similarly dated deposits at Beckford, Aston Mill etc indicates potential

http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single.aspx?uid=MWR49447&resourceID=1035

Wasperton Sand and Gravel

Marine Isotope Stage 4 to Marine Isotope Stage 2

Yields abundant faunal and artefactual remains including extensive Neanderthal and early Homo sapien artefacts. Locally overlies and contains the channel-filling organics of the Fladbury Beds

http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single.aspx?uid=MWR49443&resourceID=1035

Wasperton Sand and Gravel Lower Facet

Marine Isotope Stage 4

Yields abundant faunal and artefactual remains including extensive Neanderthal and early Homo sapien artefacts. Locally overlies and contains the channel-filling organics of the Fladbury Beds

http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single.aspx?uid=MWR49445&resourceID=1035

Holt Heath Sand and Gravel Member

Marine Isotope Stage 5d to Marine Isotope Stage 2

Stourbridge beds containing Ipswichian (MIS 5e) fauna including hippo at base of Holt Heath in Stour Valley, unknown whether this presence occurs elsewhere in the Severn system. Interbedded organic beds occur within the Holt heath gravels elsewhere, particularly noteworthy being Upton Warren where Devensian faunal and palaeoenvironmental remains were recovered. Chronology of deposition of the Holt Heath Member is poorly understood but Luminescence Dating has been successful, therefore refining the chronology of this member is a priority.

http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single.aspx?uid=MWR49434&resourceID=1035

New Inn Sand and Gravel

Marine Isotope Stage 5d to Marine Isotope Stage 5b

Locally overlies regionally and nationally significant Ipswichian organic deposits including the channel filling Eckington Beds. Contains reworked Ipswichian faunal remains.

http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single.aspx?uid=MWR49437&resourceID=1035

Wasperton Sand and Gravel and New Inn Sand and Gravel

Marine Isotope Stage 5d to Marine Isotope Stage 4

Yields abundant faunal and artefactual remains including extensive Neanderthal and early Homo sapien artefacts. Locally overlies and contains the channel-filling organics of the Fladbury Beds. Also is likely to contain reworked Ipswichian faunal remains.

http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single.aspx?uid=MWR49444&resourceID=1035

Ailstone Member

Marine Isotope Stage 6

The Ailstone Member correlates with the Cropthorne Sand and Gravel. Locally overlies channel filling lag-gravels and fossiliferous sands of the Ailstone Bed (dated to MIS 7) that yield environmental remains, particular molluscan remains including the bivalve Corbicula

http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single.aspx?uid=MWR49425&resourceID=1035

Crophorne Sand and Gravel Member

Marine Isotope Stage 6

The Crophorne Sand and Gravel correlates with the Ailstone Member. This member locally overlies channel filling lag-gravels and fossiliferous sands of the Ailstone Bed (dated to MIS 7) that yield environmental remains, particular molluscan remains including the bivalve *Corbicula*

http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single.aspx?uid=MWR49431&resourceID=1035

Glaciofluvial Deposits

Marine Isotope Stage 6 to Marine Isotope Stage 2

Potential presence of deposits with geological significance ie proves presence/extent of Saalian and Devensian glaciation. These deposits may also be suitable for radiometric and/or Luminescence dating. May also contain palaeoenvironmental remains associated with glacial environments, particularly during deglaciation/glacial retreat. Limited potential for unstratified/reworked artefactual remains.

http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single.aspx?uid=MWR49432&resourceID=1035

Bushley Green Member

Marine Isotope Stage 8

Gravels overlie the Hill House Beds (formerly Bushley Green Beds). These are comprised of up to 1.5m of sand and gravel containing molluscs of cool temperate climate. The bed is dated to MIS 9. There is also potential for reworked artefacts within or associated with these deposits as is evidenced by the presence of MIS 11 or 9 (or earlier) handaxes from Madresfield and Queenshill/Upton on Severn.

http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single.aspx?uid=MWR49430&resourceID=1035

Spring Hill Sand and Gravel

Marine Isotope Stage 10

There is potential for reworked artefacts within or associated with these deposits as is evidenced by the presence of MIS 11 or 9 (or earlier) handaxes from Madresfield and Queenshill/Upton on Severn.

http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single.aspx?uid=MWR49442&resourceID=1035

Head Deposits

Marine Isotope Stage 12 to Marine Isotope Stage 2

Head deposits may conceal and preserve earlier land surfaces and may also contain unstratified/reworked artefactual remains.

http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single.aspx?uid=MWR49433&resourceID=1035

Mathon Sand and Gravel

Marine Isotope Stage 15 to Marine Isotope Stage 13

Comprises pre-glacial fluvial sands and gravels infilling a palaeochannel, associated with the Bray's Silt Bed, a 1m thick bed of silt containing palaeoenvironmental remains indicative of an interglacial environment. Pre-Anglian deposits containing palaeoenvironmental evidence in the West Midlands (and to a lesser extent, nationally) are very rare and therefore identifying the extent of these deposits is of regional and national importance. Pre-Anglian environmental remains are unknown from Worcestershire but identifying former courses/tributaries of the Mathon would provide a source for this material. The poorly understood Mathon system needs further investigation as mapping its course will be key in understanding the hydrological history of the West Midlands. Hominin and artefactual remains are known from Pre-Anglian deposits (Happisburgh, Pakefield, Boxgrove, Waverley Wood) but none have been identified in this area of the country and given the potential for a non-Thames or non-Bytham migration route into Britain via the Mathon, investigation of these deposits is of national significance.

http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single.aspx?uid=MWR49436&resourceID=1035

Marine Isotope Stage 2 – 29,000-14,000 years ago

Nationally (Pettitt and White 2012):

Glacial ice began to accumulate again around 32,000 BP with maximum extent of the British-Irish Ice Sheet being reached between 27,000 - 24,000 BP. Modelling of ice thickness in Scotland and Ireland suggests the thickest ice could have been 900 - 1,600m thick with thicknesses below 100m in marginal areas. Global sea level was c114- 35m below present day with most of the North Sea and the English Channel being dry. Insects suggest extensive snowfall (Atkinson *et al* 1987) and all areas which were free of ice witnessed severe periglacial conditions. During the Last Glacial Maximum (LGM), the aggrading, braided, gravelly rivers flowed through treeless, arctic landscapes.

Short improvements in the climate occur from 21,000 BP onwards with NW England being deglaciaded between 19,000 - 17,000 BP.

Rapid warming occurred during the Windermere Interstadial (14, 700 - 12,900 BP) with summer temperatures rising by more than 7°C per century and winter temperatures rose by 20°C overall.

Currant and Jacobi (2011) state that the following mammals were present during the Dimlington Stadial (26 - 13 ka):

Primates

- Anatomically modern humans (*homo sapiens*)

Lagomorpha

- Arctic hare (*Lepus arcticus*)

Carnivora

- Fox (*Vulpini*)
- Brown bear (*Ursus arctos*)

Proboscidea

- Woolly mammoth (*Mammuthus primigenius*)

Artiodactyla

- Reindeer (*Rangifer tarandus*)

Bovidae

- Musk ox (*Ovibos moschatus*)

Worcestershire:

Climate/landscape - Worcestershire would most probably have been either a polar desert or, more likely, tundra at this time (or possibly transitioning between the two biomes). Plant, insect and molluscan remains from deposits at Beckford Priory dating to 27,000 years BP (before present) support this indicating cold, open, tundra-like conditions.

Fauna - The recovery of a bison sacrum from gravels at Broadway dated to approximately 24,500 years ago, a species found elsewhere in the UK, indicates full arctic/sub-arctic conditions.

Key Sites -

- Aston Mill
- Broadway
- Beckford
- Stourport
- Wilden Marsh

Key Deposits -

Where available links to the BGS have been provided

Avon

- Bretford Sand and Gravel Member (1st Terrace)
<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/Lexicon/lexicon.cfm?pub=BRET>
- Wasperton Sand and Gravel Member (2nd Terrace)
<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/Lexicon/lexicon.cfm?pub=WAT>

Severn

- Power House Sand and Gravel Member (1st Terrace)
<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/Lexicon/lexicon.cfm?pub=PSTT>
- Worcester Sand and Gravel Member (2nd Terrace)
<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/Lexicon/lexicon.cfm?pub=WORT>

Malvern Hills/Herefordshire

- Rudford Member (Glynch Valley)
<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/Lexicon/lexicon.cfm?pub=RDFD>
- Ham Green Member (Cradley Valley) *not yet classified*

Marine Isotope Stage 3 – 57,000-29,000 years ago (Lisiecki & Raymo 2005)

Nationally (Pettitt and White 2012):

All molluscan and insect faunas indicate an open, treeless environment, with taxa characteristic of rich grassland and local patches of marsh, acid heath and bare, sandy ground (Pettitt and White 2012, 300). Coope (2002) suggested the warmest months averaged just 10°C with coldest months experiencing lows of - 20°C to -27°C.

Trees including pine, oak, alder and hazel may have survived in sheltered locations such as southern flanks of hills and gorges as indicated by pollen evidence found at Cresswell Crags, Wookey Hole and Kent's Cavern. Poor soil conditions, the poor climate and/ or intense grazing may have inhibited tree growth in the exposed floodplains (Pettitt and White 2012, 315). Cold, open tundra persists until climatic deterioration occurs leading to the Last Glacial Maximum in MIS 2 (Hopkinson 2007).

Climatically, MIS3 stands out from other warm episodes as it was relatively cold and extremely unstable. MIS 3 was neither an interglacial nor a glacial but a series of alternating warm and cold events occurring over millennial timescales.

Pettitt and White (2012, 318) produced the following which is a list of mammalian fauna present in MIS 3 Britain:

Insectivora

- Shrew (Soricidae)

Lagomorpha

- Steppe pika (*Ochotona pusilla*)
- Arctic hare (*Lepus arcticus*)

Rodentia

- Field mouse (*Apodemus sylvaticus*)
- Northern water vole (*Arvicola amphibius*)
- Field vole (*Microtus agrestis*)
- Narrow-headed vole (*Microtus gregalis*)
- Vole
- Snow vole (*Chionomys nivalis*)
- Northern vole
- Bank vole (*Myodes glareolus*)
- Norway lemming (*Lemmus lemmus*)
- Lemming (*Lemmus*)
- Collared lemming (*Dicrostonyx*)
- Re-cheeked souslik (*Spermophilus erythrogenys*)

Carnivora

- Lion (*Panthera leo*)
- Wild cat (*Felis silvestris*)
- Spotted hyaena (*Crocuta crocuta*)
- Wolf (*Canis lupus*)
- Sabre tooth tiger (*Smilodon*)
- Red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*)
- Arctic fox (*Vulpes lagopus*)

- Brown bear (*Ursus arctos*)
- Cave bear (*Ursus spelaeus*)
- Stoat (*Mustela erminea*)
- Weasel (*Mustela*)
- Polecat (*Mustela putorius*)
- Large polecat
- Marten (*Martes*)
- Wolverine (*Gulo gulo*)

Proboscidea

- Woolly mammoth (*Mammuthus primigenius*)

Perissodactyla

- Wild horse (*Equus ferus*)
- Woolly rhinoceros (*Coelodonta antiquitatis*)

Artiodactyla

- Giant deer (*Megaloceros giganteus*)
- Red deer (*Cervus elaphus*)
- Reindeer (*Rangifer tarandus*)
- Aurochs (*Bos primigenius*)
- Bison (*Bison bison*)

Worcestershire:

Climate/Landscape - At Fladbury, peat which had accumulated in a shallow pool of standing water on the flood-plain was dated to 38,000 years BP. Evidence indicated that the pools were surrounded by sedges and willow (probably dwarf willow, *Salix herbacea*) whilst away from the pool the country was barren and sandy with a thin cover of vegetation. Molluscan remains recovered from the Wasperton Sand and Gravel Member at Salford Priors indicated cold stage conditions in a slightly vegetated periglacial river.

Fauna - This stage contains abundant evidence for the types and variety of animals that were present in Worcestershire during the Devensian. At Cropthorne, bison, auroch, deer, bear and wolf. At Twyning (Gloucs) lenses of peat in gravel contained remains of woolly mammoth, woolly rhinoceros, Irish elk, horse and bison dated to 36,000 years BP. These were underlain by sand deposits contain remains of wolf, reindeer, steppe bison and field vole. Faunal remains recovered from Aston Mill included reindeer, auroch/bison, woolly rhino and woolly mammoth.

Key Archaeological Area –

- Aston Mill
- Cropthorne
- Fladbury
- Holt Heath

Key Deposits -

Where available links to the BGS have been provided

Avon

- Fladbury Bed
- Wasperton Sand and Gravel Member (2nd Terrace)
<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/Lexicon/lexicon.cfm?pub=WAT>

Severn

- Holt Heath Sand and Gravel Member (3rd Terrace)
<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?pub=HHSG>
- Upton Warren Bed

Malvern Hills/Herefordshire

- Staunton Member (Glynch Valley)
<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?pub=STAU>
- Bullingham Member (Wye Valley)
- Marden and Moreton on Lugg Members (Lugg Valley)

Marine Isotope Stage 4 – 71,000-57,000 years ago (Lisiecki & Raymo 2005)

Nationally (Pettitt and White 2012):

This stage saw a major growth of continental ice and fluctuations in sea level, with levels 100m below modern sea level. Cold/ Arctic open tundra environments covered much of mainland Britain.

Worcestershire:

Climate/Landscape - The climate reflected in the environmental remains recovered from Upton Warren indicates temperate conditions although 1 or more species with arctic affinities are present. Mean temperature for the warmest month is estimated to be between 16 to 18°C and the mean temperature for the coldest month is estimated to be between -1 to - 11°C.

Fauna - Fauna remains from Upton Warren included:

Proboscidea

- Woolly mammoth (*Mammuthus primigenius*)

Perissodactyla

- Woolly rhinoceros (*Coelodonta antiquitatis*)
- Horse (*Equus ferus caballus*)

Artiodactyla

- Steppe bison (*Bison priscus*)
- Reindeer (*Rangifer tarandus*)

Rodentia

- Extinct lemming
- Vole (*Microtus*)

Anura

- Common frog (*Rana temporaria*)

Gasterosteiformes

- Three-spined stickleback (*Gasterosteus aculeatus*)

Key Sites -

- Fladbury
- Upton Warren

Key Deposits -

Where available links to the BGS have been provided

Avon

- Fladbury Bed
- Wasperton Sand and Gravel Member (2nd Terrace)
<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?pub=WAT>

Severn

- Holt Heath Sand and Gravel Member (3rd Terrace)
<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?pub=HHSG>
- Upton Warren Bed

Marine Isotope Stage 5a – 85,000-71,000 years ago (Lisiecki & Raymo 2005)

Nationally: No national overview

Worcestershire:

Climate/Landscape - No known evidence from Worcestershire

Fauna - No known evidence from Worcestershire

Key Sites -

- Fladbury
- Upton Warren

Key Deposits -

Where available links to the BGS have been provided

Avon

- Fladbury Bed
- Wasperton Sand and Gravel Member (2nd Terrace)
<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?pub=WAT>

Severn

- Holt Heath Sand and Gravel Member (3rd Terrace)
<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?pub=HHSG>
- Upton Warren Bed

Marine Isotope Stage 5b – 93,000-85,000 years ago (Lisiecki & Raymo 2005)

Nationally: No national overview

Worcestershire:

Climate/Landscape - Molluscan remains from Beckford indicated a tall-herb mire recovered from a deep (>9.58m) loamy hillwash.

Fauna - No known evidence from Worcestershire

Key Sites - Not identified within Worcestershire

Key Deposits -

Where available links to the BGS have been provided

Avon - no deposits identified

Severn - appears absent, possibly identified within:

- Holt Heath Sand and Gravel (3rd Member)
<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?pub=HHSG>

Malvern Hills/Herefordshire - appears absent, possible identified within:

- Bullingham Member (Wye Valley)
- Marden and Moreton on Lugg Members (Lugg Valley)
- Staunton Member (Glynch Valley)
<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?pub=STAU>

Marine Isotope Stage 5c – 106,000-93,000 years ago (Lisiecki & Raymo 2005)

Nationally: No national overview

Worcestershire:

Climate/Landscape - No known evidence from Worcestershire

Fauna - No known evidence from Worcestershire

Key Sites - Not identified within Worcestershire

Key Deposits -

Where available links to the BGS have been provided

Avon - no deposits identified

Severn - appears absent, possibly identified within:

- Holt Heath Sand and Gravel (3rd Member)
<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?pub=HHSG>

Malvern Hills/Herefordshire - appears absent, possible identified within:

- Bullingham Member (Wye Valley)
- Marden and Moreton on Lugg Members (Lugg Valley)
- Staunton Member (Glynch Valley)
<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?pub=STAU>

Marine Isotope Stage 5d – 115,000-106,000 years ago (Lisiecki & Raymo 2005)

Nationally: No national overview

Worcestershire:

Climate/landscape - At Beckford, molluscan remains of terrestrial species indicated a tall-herb mire. Evidence recovered from Rectors Pit, Crophorne indicated open, poorly vegetated conditions with the absence of other taxa suggesting a severe climate. This severe climate is indicated by the presence of tundra polygons/ patterned ground created by ice wedges through thermal contraction. The mean annual temperature thought to be required to form ice wedges is between -8°C to -6°C.

Fauna - No known evidence from Worcestershire

Key Sites -

- Abbots Salford
- Beckford

Key Deposits -

Where available links to the BGS have been provided

Avon

- New Inn Sand and Gravel Member (3rd Terrace)
<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?pub=NIT>

Severn - appears absent, possibly identified within:

- Holt Heath Sand and Gravel (3rd Member)
<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?pub=HHSG>

Malvern Hills/Herefordshire - appears absent, possible identified within:

- Bullingham Member (Wye Valley)
- Marden and Moreton on Lugg Members (Lugg Valley)
- Staunton Member (Glynch Valley)
<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?pub=STAU>

Marine Isotope Stage 5e – 130,000-115,000 years ago (Lisiecki & Raymo 2005)

Nationally:

The Ipswichian was one of the warmest episodes of the last half million years with mean July temperatures 4°C above those of southern Britain today (Coope 2000) whilst mean January temperatures of 1 to 2° C indicate that winters were mild. The landscape was a mosaic of dense, deciduous forest (oak, maple, ash, hazel) and open, grassland habitats.

Typical fauna identified in Britain include:

Proboscidea

- Straight-tusked elephant (*Elephas antiquus*)

Artiodactyla

- Fallow deer (*Dama dama*)
- Giant deer (*Megaloceros giganteus*)
- Wild boar (*Sus scrofa*)
- Red deer (*Cervus elaphus*)
- Auroch (*Bos primigenius*)
- Hippopotamus (*Hippopotamus amphibius*)

Perissodactyla

- Narrow-nosed rhinoceros (*Stephanorhinus hemitechus*)

Rodentia

- Wood mouse (*Apodemus sylvaticus*)

Worcestershire:

Climate/Landscape - Evidence from the New Inn Sand and Gravel Member indicated temperate, interglacial conditions. The assemblage was dominated by species typical of large rivers with quiet water conditions and weed-rich habitats.

Evidence from Wick indicated an open steppe environment, this is likely to indicate another 'phase' of the stage when the climate and landscape were changing.

Fauna - At Eckington, rich assemblages of molluscan and mammalian remains have been recovered including hippopotamus, mammoth, giant deer and bison. Hippopotamus remains have also been recovered from Bengeworth and Stourbridge. Also recovered from Stourbridge have been woolly mammoth, rhinoceros *tichorhinus*, horse, steppe bison and deer.

Lion, spotted hyena and brown bear are also known to have been present in Britain during this stage.

Key Sites –

- Bengeworth
- Crophorne

- Eckington
- Eckington railway cutting
- Kemerton Lakes (Bredon Quarry)
- New Inn road cutting
- Stourbridge

Key Deposits -

Where available links to the BGS have been provided

Avon

- New Inn Sand and Gravel Member (3rd Terrace)
<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?pub=NIT>

Severn - appears absent, possibly identified within:

- Stourbridge Fossil Bed

Marine Isotope Stage 6 – 191,000-130,000 years ago (Lisiecki & Raymo 2005)

Nationally:

This stage was one of the more severe glaciations of the past 500,000 years with around 50,000 years of sustained cold although evidence in the UK for glaciers is problematic/difficult to identify. Flora and fauna indicate cold open conditions with mean July temperatures around 10°C and January temperatures of - 20°C.

Fauna identified include:

Artiodactyla

- Musk ox (*Ovibos moschatus*)
- Bison (*Bison bison*)
- Reindeer (*Rangifer tarandus*)

Rodentia

- Lemming (*Lemmus*)
- Northern vole

Proboscidea

- Woolly mammoth (*Mammuthus primigenius*)

Perissodactyla

- Woolly rhinoceros (*Coelodonta antiquitatis*)
- Horse (*Equus ferus caballus*)

Carnivora

- Brown bear (*Ursus arctos*)

Worcestershire:

Climate/Landscape - Cool climate indicated by fluviially deposited sands and gravel.

Fauna -No known evidence from Worcestershire

Key Sites - None noted

Key Deposits -

Where available links to the BGS have been provided

Avon

- Cropthorne Sand and Gravel Member (4th Terrace, same as Strensham?)
<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?pub=CRTD>
- Strensham Sand and Gravel Member (4th Terrace, same as Cropthorne?)
<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?pub=STRSG>

Severn

- Kidderminster Station Sand and Gravel Member (4th Terrace)

<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?pub=KRT>

- Ridgeacre Formation, Stourport Diamic

Malvern Hills/Herefordshire

- Colwall Member (Cradley Valley)
 - Hampton Member (Wye Valley)
 - Kingsfield Member (Lugg Valley)
 - Redmarley Member (Glynch Valley)
- <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?pub=RMLY>

Marine Isotope Stage 7 – 243,000-191,000 years ago (Lisiecki & Raymo 2005)

Nationally (Pettitt and White 2012):

On a national level, MIS 7 comprised three warm phases (7e, 7c and 7a) which were interrupted by two cold stages (7d and 7b). The channels and floodplain pools which have been investigated were heavily vegetated with the water being slow flowing or still and poorly oxygenated. It appears only marginal floodplain pools and cut-offs are represented in the archaeological record. Wetland plants such as sedges, rushes, bulrush, watercress and wild mustards grew on the water margins whilst floodplain consisted of marshy, herbaceous rich grassland and/or open meadow-like conditions shaded by weedy vegetation. On the valley sides dry, herb-rich grassland existed similar to that found in southern England today. Trees and tall shrubs were present with most of the modern British deciduous and coniferous trees being present occurring as dense woodland, small clumps or even individual trees depending on the location. This woodland would have grown in the valley sides and the wider, drier landscape as opposed to the valley floors as indicated by the lack of insects associated with trees recovered from these floodplain sites.

Pettitt and White (2012, 227) produced the following which is a list of mammalian fauna present in MIS 7 Britain:

Insectivora

- Hedgehog (Erinaceinae)
- Common shrew (*Sorex araneus*)
- Pygmy shrew (*Sorex minutus*)
- Water shrew (*Sorex palustris*)
- White-toothed shrew (Crocidae)

Lagomorpha

- Steppe pika (*Ochotona pusilla*)
- Hare (*Lepus*)

Chiroptera

- Barbastelle bat (*Barbastella barbastellus*)

Rodentia

- Beaver (*Castor canadensis*)
- Squirrel (Sciuridae)
- Ground squirrel
- Dwarf hamster (*Phodopus campbelli*)
- Collared lemming (*Dicrostonyx*)
- Norway lemming (*Lemmus lemmus*)
- Bank vole (*Myodes glareolus*)
- Water vole (*Arvicola amphibius*)
- Common vole (*Microtus arvalis*)
- Narrow-skulled vole (*Microtus gregalis*)
- Northern vole
- Extinct small mouse
- Wood mouse (*Apodemus sylvaticus*)

Carnivora

- Wolf (*Canis lupus*)
- Fox (*Vulpini*)
- Brown bear (*Ursus arctos*)
- Polecat (*Mustela putorius*)
- Weasel (*Mustela*)
- Badger (*Meles meles*)
- Clawless otter (*Aonyx capensis*)
- Hyaena (*Hyaenidae*)
- Jungle cat (*Felis chaus*)
- Wild cat (*Felis silvestris*)
- Lion (*Panthera leo*)
- Leopard (*Panthera pardus*)

Proboscidea

- Straight-tusked elephant (*Elephas antiquus*)
- Woolly mammoth (*Mammuthus primigenius*)
- Steppe mammoth (*Mammuthus armeniacus*)

Perissodactyla

- Horese
- Narrow-nosed rhinoceros (*Stephanorhinus hemiotechus*)
- Merck's rhinoceros (*Stephanorhinus kirchbergensis*)
- Woolly rhinoceros (*Coelodonta antiquitatis*)

Artiodactyla

- Wild boar (*Sus scrofa*)
- Giant deer (*Megaloceros giganteus*)
- Fallow deer (*Dama dama*)
- Red deer (*Cervus elaphus*)
- Roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*)
- Aurochs (*Bos primigenius*)
- Bison (*Bison bison*)
- Musk ox (*Ovibos moschatus*)

Worcestershire:

Climate/Landscape - At Strensham, deposits accumulated in a shallow floodplain pool with much aquatic vegetation and rich animal life of molluscs, ostracods and insects. Pool was surrounded by an extensive marshy meadow. Wider landscape on drier ground consisted of heath with scattered stands of coniferous and deciduous trees. Deposit was formed during a temperate interglacial (Strensham temperate episode). Schreve (1997) argues that Strensham can be assigned to later in MIS7 (7a) although Bridgland argues for an earlier MIS7 date (7e or 7c). At Pershore and Ailstone, faunal remains were also indicative of a temperate climate.

Fauna - At Strensham, remains of 6 mammoths (one individual, a female, died close or in the pool because skeleton shows minimal disarticulation) and a red deer antler were found in clay lens 3.90m beneath ground surface. Red deer was also found in the palaeochannel deposits incised into the 5th Avon terrace at Pershore.

Key Sites

- Ailstone (Warks.)
- Pershore
- Strensham

Key Deposits -

Where available links to the BGS have been provided

Avon

- Ailstone Fossil Bed
- Strensham Fossil Bed

Severn - None recorded

Marine Isotope Stage 8 – 300,000-243,000 years ago (Lisiecki & Raymo 2005)

Nationally:

MIS 8 appears to have been less severe than other middle Pleistocene glaciations, similar to MIS 4 but lasted much longer (c50,000 years).

Pettitt and White (2012, 65 - 67) produced the following which is a list of mammalian fauna found thus far in British MIS 8 deposits:

Primates

- Hominin

Carnivora

- Lion (*Panthera leo*)

Proboscidea

- Straight-tusked elephant (*Elephas antiquus*)
- Woolly mammoth (*Mammuthus primigenius*)

Perissodactyla

- Horse (*Equus ferus caballus*)
- Woolly rhinoceros (*Coelodonta antiquitatis*)

Artiodactyla

- Red deer (*Cervus elaphus*)
- Aurochs (*Bos primigenius*)
- Bison (*Bison bison*)

Worcestershire:

Climate/Landscape - No known evidence from Worcestershire

Fauna - No known evidence from Worcestershire

Key Sites

- Bushley Green (Gloucs)

Key Deposits -

Where available links to the BGS have been provided

Avon

- Pershore Sand and Gravel Member (5th Terrace)
<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?pub=PERT>

Severn

- Bushley Green Sand and Gravel Member (5th Terrace)
<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?pub=BGT>

Malvern Hills/Herefordshire

- Heath Member (Glynch Valley)

- Holme Lacey Member (Wye Valley)
- Walls Member (Lugg Valley)

Marine Isotope Stage 9 – 337,000-300,000 years ago (Lisiecki & Raymo 2005)

Nationally:

Pettitt and White (2012, 65 -67) produced the following which is a list of mammalian fauna found thus far in British MIS 9 deposits:

Insectivora

- Bicoloured shrew (*Crocidura leucodon*)
- Eurasian shrew (*Sorex araneus*)
- Pygmy shrew (*Sorex minutus*)

Primates

- Macaque (*Macaca*)
- hominin

Chiroptera

- Serotine bat (*Eptesicus serotinus*)

Rodentia

- Squirrel (*Sciuridae*)
- European beaver (*Castor fiber*)
- Bank vole (*Myodes glareolus*)
- Water vole (*Arvicola amphibius*)
- Common vole (*Microtus arvalis*)
- Wood mouse (*Apodemus sylvaticus*)

Cetacea

- Bottle-nosed dolphin (*Tursiops*)

Carnivora

- Wolf (*Canis lupus*)
- Fox (*Vulpini*)
- Brown bear (*Ursus arctos*)
- Polecat (*Mustela putorius*)
- Badger (*Meles meles*)
- Otter (*Lutrinae*)
- Spotted hyaena (*Crocuta crocuta*)

Proboscidea

- Straight-tusked elephant (*Elephas antiquus*)

Perissodactyla

- Horse (*Equus ferus caballus*)
- Narrow-nosed rhinoceros (*Stephanorhinus hemiotichus*)
- Merck's rhinoceros (*Stephanorhinus kirchbergensis*)

Artiodactyla

- Pig (*Sus*)
- Giant deer (*Megaloceros giganteus*)
- Fallow deer (*Dama dama*)
- Red deer (*Cervus elaphus*)

- Roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*)
- Aurochs (*Bos primigenius*)
- Bison (*Bison bison*)

Worcestershire:

Climate/Landscape - Cool - temperate conditions have been indicated by fauna recovered from the Allesborough, Hill House and Bushley Green Beds

Fauna - No known evidence from Worcestershire

Key Sites -

- Allesborough/Pershire
- Bushley Green (Gloucs)
- Hill House Beds aka Bushley Green Beds

Key Deposits –

Where available line to the BGS have been provided

Avon

- Allesborough/Pershire Fossil Bed

Severn

- Hill House Fossil Beds

Marine Isotope Stage 10 – 374,00-337,000 years ago (Lisiecki & Raymo 2005)

Nationally (Pettitt and White 2012):

Pettitt and White (2012, 65 -67) produced the following which is a list of mammalian fauna found thus far in British MIS 10 deposits:

Primates

- Hominin

Rodentia

- Common vole (*Microtus arvalis*)

Artiodactyla

- Musk ox (*Ovibos moschatus*)

Worcestershire:

Climate/Landscape - No known evidence from Worcestershire

Fauna - No known evidence from Worcestershire

Key Sites - None Identified

Key Deposits -

Where available links to the BGS have been provided

Avon

- Wolston Formation
<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?pub=WOLS>

Severn

- Spring Hill Sand and Gravel Member (6th Terrace)
<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/Lexicon/lexicon.cfm?pub=SPHT>
- Ridgeacre Formation?

Marine Isotope Stage 11 – 427,000-374,000 years ago (Lisiecki & Raymo 2005)

Nationally (Pettitt and White 2012):

The Hoxnian period in Britain can be summarised as a classic interglacial vegetation succession, beginning and ending with an open grassland phase, the middle sees the rise of birch-pine coniferous forest, then by fully temperate deciduous oak woodland at its peak which is subsequently replaced by boreal forests as soils degrade and climate deteriorates.

Pettitt and White (2012, 65 -67) produced the following which is a list of mammalian fauna found thus far in British MIS 11 deposits:

Insectivora

- White-toothed shrew (*Crocidurinae*)
- Eurasian shrew (*Sorex araneus*)
- Pygmy shrew (*Sorex minutus*)
- Water shrew (*Sorex palustris*)
- Russian desman (*Desmana moschata*)
- Common mole (*Talpa europaea*)
- Extinct small mole sp

Primates

- Macaque (*Macaca*)
- Hominin

Lagomorpha

- Rabbit (*Lepus curpaeums*)

Chiroptera

- Longed-eared bat (*Plecotus auritus*)

Rodentia

- European beaver (*Castor fiber*)
- Giant beaver (*Castoroides*)
- Norway lemming (*Lemmus lemmus*)
- Bank vole (*Myodes glareolus*)
- Water vole (*Arvicola amphibius*)
- Field vole (*Microtus agrestis*)
- Common vole (*Microtus arvalis*)
- Northern vole
- European pine vole (*Microtus subterraneus*)
- Wood mouse (*Apodemus sylvaticus*)
- Garden dormouse (*Eliomys quercinus*)

Cetacea

- Bottle-nosed dolphin (*Tursiops*)

Carnivora

- Wolf (*Canis lupus*)
- Cave bear (*Ursus spelaeus*)

- Bear (Ursidae) sp
- Stoat (Mustela erminea)
- Marten (Martes)
- Otter (Lutrinae)
- Lynx
- Wild cat (Felis silvestris)
- Lion (Panthera leo)

Proboscidea

- Straight-tusked elephant (Elephas antiquus)

Perissodactyla

- Horse (Equus ferus caballus)
- European ass (Equus hydruntinus)
- Narrow-nosed rhinoceros (Stephanorhinus hemiotechus)
- Merck's rhinoceros (Stephanorhinus kirchbergensis)

Artiodactyla

- Pig (Sus)
- Giant deer (Megaloceros giganteus)
- Fallow deer (Dama dama)
- Red deer (Cervus elaphus)
- Roe deer (Capreolus capreolus)
- Aurochs (Bos primigenius)
- Bison (Bison bison)

Worcestershire:

Climate/Landscape - At Quinton, pollen and insects indicated the Hoxnian interglacial and a part of the preceeding and succeeding cold stages. The Quinton Cold Interlude is represented here in the coleopteran remains, an intense cold interlude with mean July temperatures dropping by c5°C and mean January and February temperatures dropping by c10°C. The Cradley Bed contained temperate molluscs and pollen of sub-arctic scrub with Hippophae (late Anglian) to early temperate betula, oak and elm woodland (early Hoxnian)

Fauna - No known evidence from Worcestershire

Key Deposits -

Where available links to the BGS have been provided

Avon - None recorded

Severn

- Quinton Formation
<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?pub=QUIP>

Malvern Hills/Herefordshire

- Cradley Bed (Cradley Valley)
<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?pub=CRSI>

Marine Isotope Stage 12 – 478,000-424,000 years ago (Lisiecki & Raymo 2005)

Nationally (Pettitt and White 2012):

The most extreme glaciation to have occurred in the last 2 million years. with ice up to 1,000 metres thick advancing as far south as London and destroying the River Bytham drainage system and diverted the Thames further south to its present course. An ice sheet occupied much of the North Sea, damming it to the north and forming a glacial lake.

Pettitt and White (2012, 65 -67) produced the following list of mammalian fauna found thus far in British MIS 12 deposits:

Primates

- Hominin

Rodentia

- Common vole (*Microtus arvalis*)

Carnivora

- Lion (*Panthera leo*)

Proboscidea

- Straight-tusked elephant (*Elephas antiquus*)
- Woolly mammoth (*Mammuthus primigenius*)

Perissodactyla

- Woolly rhinoceros (*Coelodonta antiquitatis*)

Artiodactyla

- Red deer (*Cervus elaphus*)
- Reindeer (*Rangifer tarandus*)

Worcestershire:

Climate/Landscape - Worcestershire would most likely have been a polar desert during this period although transitions to tundra /sub-arctic conditions are likely to have occurred during warmer phases of this stage, particularly at the stages climax. This warming at the stages climax is indicated in the Cradley Beds which contained temperate molluscs and pollen of sub-arctic scrub with *Hippophae* (late Anglian) to early temperate *betula*, oak and elm woodland (early Hoxnian).

Fauna - No known evidence from Worcestershire

Key Deposits -

Where available links to the BGS have been provided

Avon

- Wolston Formation
<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?pub=WOLS>

Severn

- Nurseries Formation
<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?pub=NURS>

Malvern Hills/Herefordshire

- Risbury Formation

Marine Isotope Stage 13 – 533,000-478,000 years ago (Lisiecki & Raymo 2005)

Nationally (Pettitt and White 2012):

MIS 13 consists of three periods, two pronounced warm peaks (13c and 13a) separated by a short cold interval. Evidence from sites in Herfordshire, Warwickshire and Suffolk, Norfolk indicate boreal forest (pine, spruce, fir, birch) with areas of open grassland, marsh and reed swamp with a cool temperate climate similar to modern southern Scandinavia.

Boxgrove, West Sussex is the best source of palaeoenvironmental evidence for this period with c.99 species of fish, birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians, including hominins, the latter only present at the end of the interglacial. The landscape evolved from open grassland to a rich mosaic of grassland, woodland and scrub to a colder climate, boreal forest environment as the climate deteriorated. Summer temperatures were similar or slightly higher than those in southern England today but winters were potentially significantly colder.

Pettitt and White (2012, 65 -67) produced the following which is a list of mammalian fauna found thus far in British MIS 13 deposits:

Insectivora

- Hedgehog (Erinaceinae)
- Pygmy shrew (*Sorex minutus*)
- Extinct shrew sp
- Water shrew (*Sorex palustris*)
- Common mole (*Talpa europaea*)
- Extinct small mole

Primates

- Hominin

Lagomorpha

- Mountain hare (*Lepus timidus*)
- Rabbit (*Lepus capreolus*)

Chiroptera

- Longed-eared bat (*Plecotus auritus*)
- Whiskered bat (*Myotis mystacinus*)
- Bechstein's bat (*Myotis bechsteinii*)

Rodentia

- Squirrel (Sciuridae)

Carnivora

- Wolf (*Canis lupus*)
- Extinct Bear (Ursidae) sp
- Stoat (*Mustela erminea*)?
- Mink (*Mustela lutreola*)
- Weasel (*Mustela*)?
- Badger (*Meles meles*)
- Wild cat (*Felis silvestris*)

- Lion (*Panthera leo*)
- Spotted hyaena (*Crocuta crocuta*)

Proboscidea

- Straight-tusked elephant (*Elephas antiquus*)

Perissodactyla

- Horse (*Equus ferus caballus*)
- Extinct rhinoceros (*Stephanorhinus hundsheimensis*) sp

Artiodactyla

- Fallow deer (*Dama dama*)
- Red deer (*Cervus elaphus*)
- Roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*)
- Bison (*Bison bison*)

Worcestershire:

Climate/Landscape - No known evidence from Worcestershire

Fauna - No known evidence from Worcestershire

Key Sites

- Brays Pit, Mathon (Herefordshire)
- Waverley Wood (Warwickshire)

Key Deposits -

Where available links to the BGS have been provided

Avon

- Baginton Formation <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?pub=BGSG>

Severn

- Humber Sand and Gravel Formation
- Mathon Valley Sand and Gravel Formation
<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?pub=MASG>

Malvern Hills/Herefordshire

- Humber Sand and Gravel Formation
- Mathon Valley Sand and Gravel Formation
<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?pub=MASG>

Marine Isotope Stage 14 – 563,000-533,000 years ago (Lisiecki & Raymo 2005)

No data currently available

Marine Isotope Stage 15 – 621,000-563,000 years ago (Lisiecki & Raymo 2005)

No data currently available

Marine Isotope Stage 16 – 676,000-621,000 years ago (Lisiecki & Raymo 2005)

No data currently available

Marine Isotope Stage 17 – 712,000-676,000 years ago (Lisiecki & Raymo 2005)

Nationally:

Evidence from Pakefield (May be MIS 17 or 19) included plants and animals still found in southern Britain today, indicating a broadly similar climate, but the presence of a few frost-sensitive species, such as hippos, water chestnut, floating water fern, Potugese Crowberry and certain beetles, indicated that summers were rather warmer and winters rather milder than now.

Geochemical studies imply cool wet winters and warm dry summers, showing similarities to the Mediterranean climates of southern Europe today.

The plants and insects (mainly beetles) and other fossil remains indicate the presence of marshy areas on the floodplain with reed beds and alder swamp fringing a slow-flowing meandering river. There were abundant water plants including white water lilies and water soldier, and freshwater fishes such as pike, tench and rudd, all native to the region today. Temperate broadleaved woodland comprising oak, hornbeam, elm, maple and other trees and shrubs grew on drier ground. More open areas of grasses and herbs formed a mosaic with the woodland vegetation or grew preferentially on the river floodplain, or both.

Fauna:

Rodentia

- Vole (*Microtus*)
- Mice (*Mus*)
- European hamster (*Cricetus cricetus*)
- Beaver (*Castor*)
- Extinct Giant beaver (*Castoroides*)

Artiodactyla

- Wild boar (*Sus scrofa*)
- Fallow deer (*Dama dama*)
- Roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*)
- Three species of extinct Giant deer (*Megaloceros giganteus*) ("Irish elk")
- Giant moose
- Extinct bison

Perissodactyla

- Two species of horse
- Extinct rhinoceros (*Stephanorhinus hundsheimensis*)

Proboscidea

- Straight-tusked elephant (*Elephas antiquus*)
- Steppe mammoth (*Mammuthus armeniacus*)

Carnivora

- Lion (*Panthera leo*)
- Spotted hyena
- Wolf (*Canis lupus*)
- Bear (*Ursidae*)

- Sabretooth cat

Worcestershire:

Climate/Landscape - No known evidence from Worcestershire

Fauna - No known evidence from Worcestershire

Key Sites - None recorded

Key Deposits -

Where available links to the BGS have been provided

Avon - None recorded

Severn - None recorded

Marine Isotope Stage 18 – 761,000-712,000 years ago (Lisiecki & Raymo 2005)

No data available

Marine Isotope Stage 19 – 790,000-761,000 years ago (Lisiecki & Raymo 2005)

Nationally:

Evidence from Pakefield (May be MIS 17 or 19) included plants and animals still found in southern Britain today, indicating a broadly similar climate, but the presence of a few frost-sensitive species, such as hippos, water chestnut, floating water fern, Potugese Crowberry and certain beetles, indicated that summers were rather warmer and winters rather milder than now.

Geochemical studies imply cool wet winters and warm dry summers, showing similarities to the Mediterranean climates of southern Europe today.

The plants and insects (mainly beetles) and other fossil remains indicate the presence of marshy areas on the floodplain with reed beds and alder swamp fringing a slow-flowing meandering river. There were abundant water plants including white water lilies and water soldier, and freshwater fishes such as pike, tench and rudd, all native to the region today. Temperate broadleaved woodland comprising oak, hornbeam, elm, maple and other trees and shrubs grew on drier ground. More open areas of grasses and herbs formed a mosaic with the woodland vegetation or grew preferentially on the river floodplain, or both.

Fauna included:

Rodentia

- Vole (*Microtus*)
- Mice (*Mus*)
- European hamster (*Cricetus cricetus*)
- Beaver (*Castor*)
- Extinct Giant beaver (*Castoroides*)

Artiodactyla

- Wild boar (*Sus scrofa*)
- Fallow deer (*Dama dama*)
- Roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*)
- Three species of extinct Giant deer (*Megaloceros giganteus*) ("Irish elk")
- A giant moose
- An extinct bison

Perissodactyla

- Two species of horse
- Extinct rhinoceros (*Stephanorhinus hundsheimensis*)

Proboscidea

- Straight-tusked elephant (*Elephas antiquus*)
- Steppe mammoth (*Mammuthus armeniacus*)

Carnivora

- Lion (*Panthera leo*)
- Spotted hyena
- Wolf (*Canis lupus*)
- Bear (*Ursidae*)

- Sabretooth cat

Worcestershire:

Climate/Landscape - No known evidence from Worcestershire

Fauna - No known evidence from Worcestershire

Key Sites - None recorded

Key Deposits - None in the region

Marine Isotope Stage 20 – 814,000-790,000 years ago (Lisiecki & Raymo 2005)

No data available

Marine Isotope Stage 21 – 866,000-814,000 years ago

Nationally:

Happisburgh Site 3, Norfolk

Worcestershire:

Climate/Landscape - No known evidence from Worcestershire

Fauna - No known evidence from Worcestershire

Key Sites - None recorded

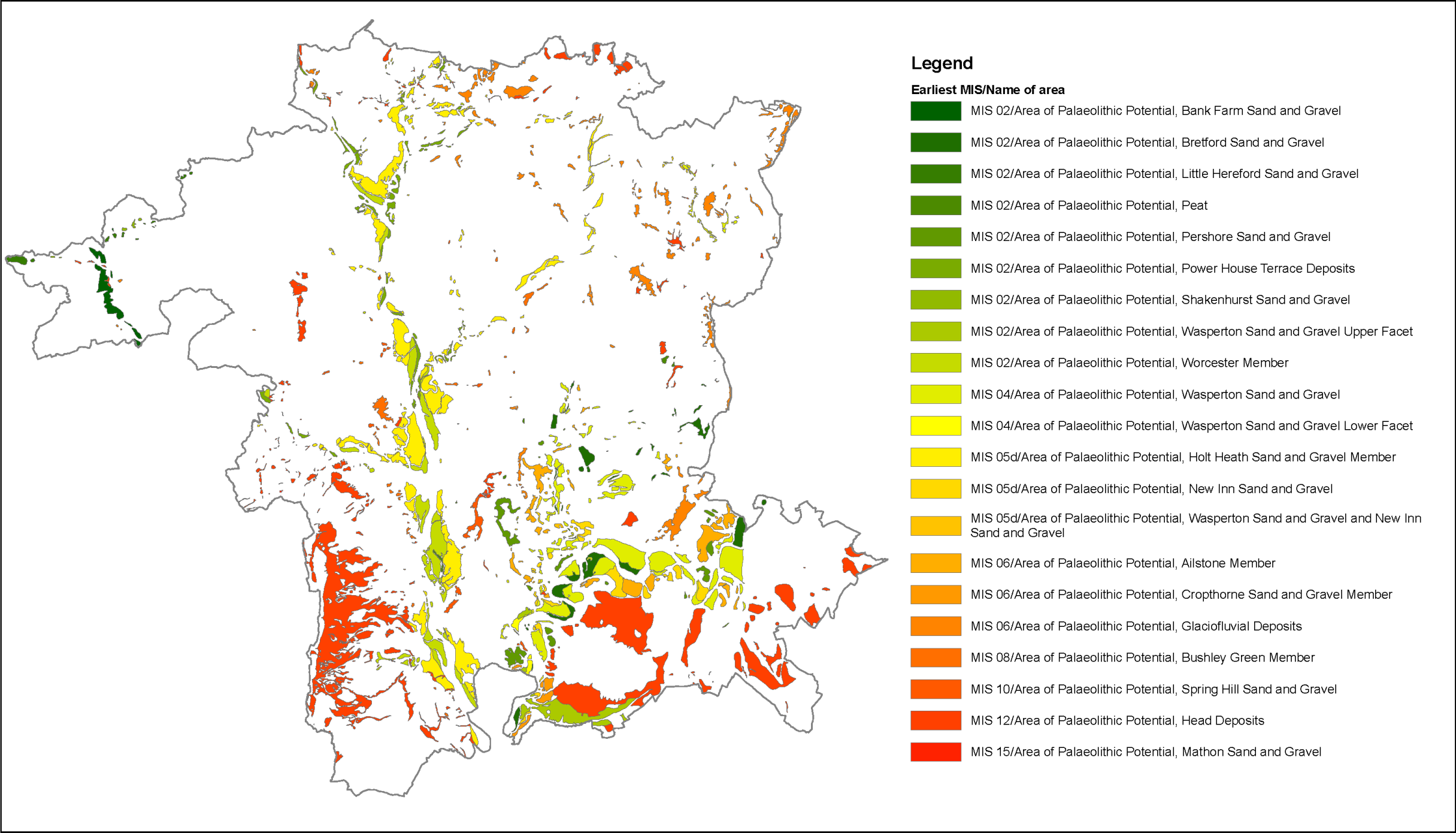
Key Deposits - None in the region

5. Areas of Potential Map

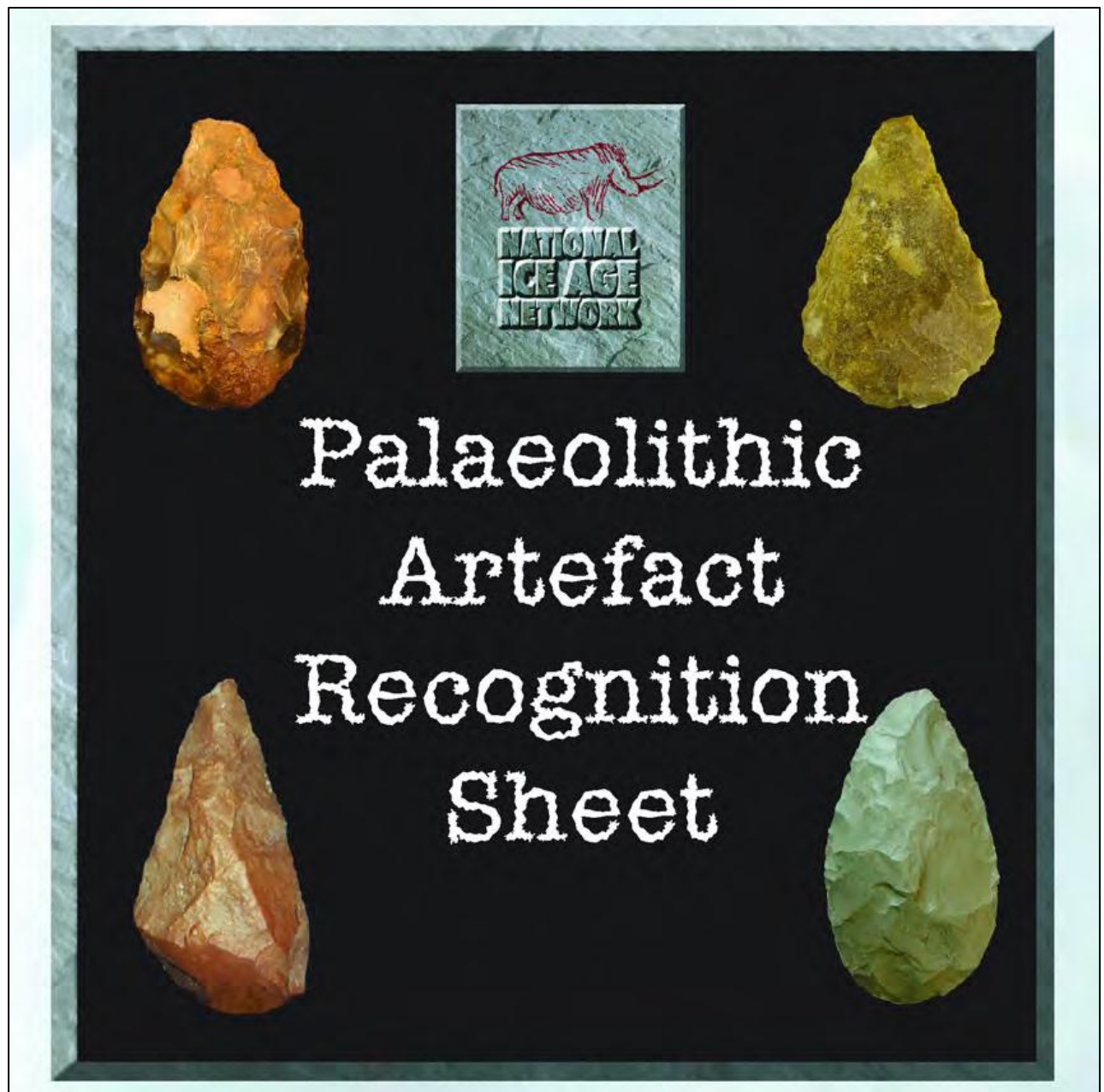


Areas of Palaeolithic potential in Worcestershire
shown by earliest Marine Isotope Stage

Map produced 22/04/2014
Information valid for three months
from date of production



6. Artefact Recognition Sheet – Courtesy of the National Ice Age Network



INTRODUCTION

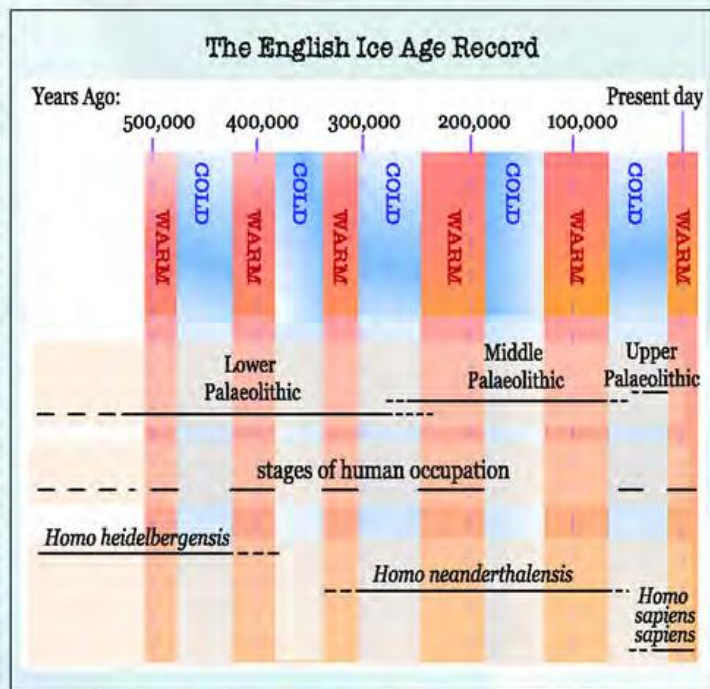
Welcome to the Palaeolithic Artefact Recognition Sheet, one of a series of introductory factsheets produced by the National Ice Age Network, which will include Pleistocene (Ice Age) sediments, fossil animals, plants and shells and lithic artefacts (stone tools).

Palaeolithic literally means 'Old Stone Age', and in Britain the oldest manufactured artefacts are over half a million years old. Due to this great age only very durable types of artefact - such as stone tools - have survived for study by the archaeologists of today. This makes stone tools a unique line of evidence for reconstructing the technologies, habits and behaviours of the earliest human inhabitants of our country. The timeline shows when different species of human (*hominins*) arrived in Britain and an overview of their technologies.

This sheet will introduce you to the main types of Lower and Middle Palaeolithic artefact, from simple *flakes* and the *cores* they come from to *handaxes* and *Levallois* techniques.

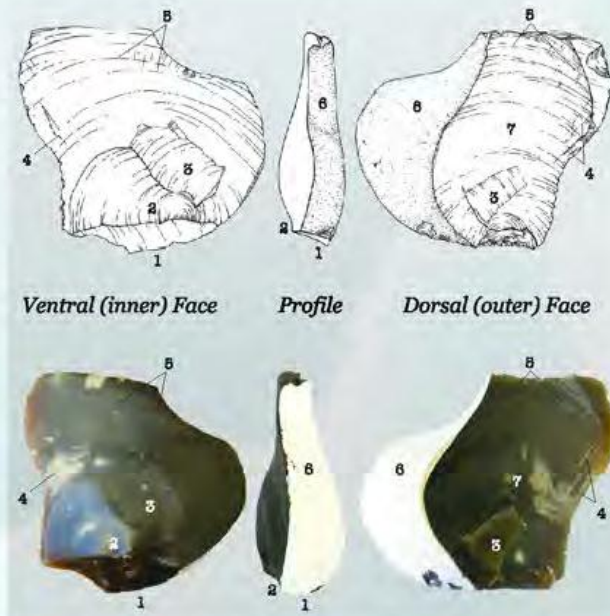
All the artefacts described in this sheet were produced by *knapping* - *knapping* is the process of removing *flakes* from blocks of stone and the shaping of suitable materials into a desired end product.

The *knapping* techniques focused on here are *direct percussion* (hitting) techniques. *Direct percussion* may be done using a *hard hammer* made of stone, or a *soft hammer* usually made of antler. Both *hammer* types can be used to detach and shape *flakes* and *cores* and to *retouch flakes* into other tools.



FLAKES

Flakes are the simplest type of lithic artefact; quick to produce, very sharp and easily *retouched* into other tool types. *Knapping* creates a series of recognisable attributes on both the *flake* and the *core* it is detached from. It is these *percussion features* that allow us to recognise Palaeolithic artefacts.



1 = Striking Platform: this is the flat area where the *hammer* strikes the *core* to remove the *flake*

2 = Bulb of Percussion: adjacent to where the *hammer* strikes, the force of the impact produces a conical swelling

3 = Errillure Scar: a small secondary *flake* that may be removed as the *bulb of percussion* forms

4 = Radial Fissures: small cracks known as '*Hackles*' may be present and point towards the *bulb of percussion*

5 = Ripples: *ripples* radiate from the *bulb of percussion*, travelling the length of the *flake*. *Ripples* indicate the direction of the blow that removed the *flake* from the *core*

6 = Cortex: the '*outer skin*' of a *nodule*

7 = Dorsal Flake Scar(s): evidence of previous flaking may be present on the *dorsal* (outer) surface of the *flake* as *ripples*, or complete *negative scars* which have a hollow where the *bulb of percussion* of the previous *flake* formed

The example above is a modern replica of an ancient *flake*. Archaeological examples you might find are more likely to be stained, patinated or coated in minerals from their long exposure to chemicals in the soil. Orange, brown, yellow and cream are the most common stains for *flint* to develop. On other raw materials such as *chert* and *quartzite* this staining is harder to see due to the natural colouration of these materials.



A *flint flake* stained orangey brown

A *chert flake*, naturally dark brown, showing some orange staining

SIMPLE CORES

Cores are the pieces of lithic raw material from which *flakes* are detached. Just like *flakes*, *cores* have a series of diagnostic features known as *negative flake scars* that help us distinguish humanly-made artefacts from naturally fractured stones.

Negative Flake Scar(s): when *flakes* are detached from the *core* they leave a hollowed out depression of their shape in the *core*. This *negative flake scar* shows a marked hollow corresponding to the 'positive' *bulb of percussion* present on the detached *flake*, and *ripples* indicating the direction from which the *flake* was detached from the *core*.

Each *flake* removed creates a *negative flake scar* on the *core* and as *knapping* of the *core* continues these *negative scars* may overlap and overprint one another - the most complete *negative flake scars* belong to the *flakes* that were removed last.

Sample Core

Flake 1 was removed first. The *core* was then rotated 90° and the *scar* of the first *flake* used as a *platform* for *flake* removals 2 and 3. The *core* was then re-rotated 90° and *flakes* 4 and 5 removed from the *core*. Further *flake* removals from the same location as 4 and 5 would have been possible.



Negative Flake Scars can also tell us about the way in which the *core* was *knapped*.

Single Removal

A single *flake* is detached from the *core* - perhaps to test the quality of the raw material



Parallel Flaking

2 or more *flakes* are detached from the *striking platform*



Simple Alternate Flaking

1 or more *parallel flakes* are removed, then the *core* is rotated through 90° and the *scars* of these removals used as the *striking platform* for further *flakes*



Classic Alternate Flaking

A single *flake* is removed, then the *core* is rotated 90°, and the *scar* used as the *striking platform* for detaching the second *flake*. More *flakes* may be removed, rotating the *core* 90° before each removal



after Ashton
et al. 1998

RAW MATERIALS

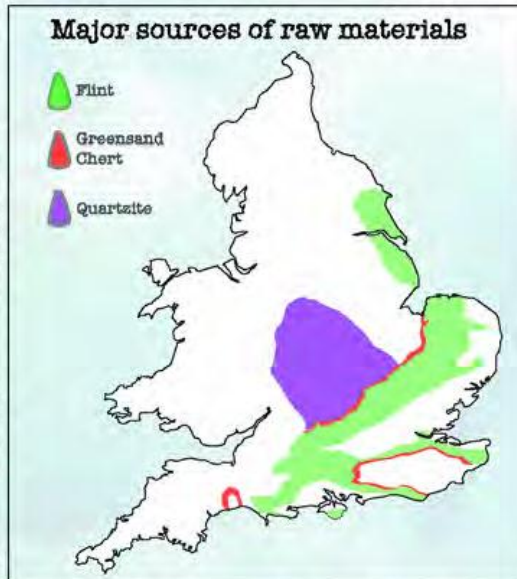
In Europe, *flint* was the most widely used lithic raw material in Palaeolithic times. *Flint* is a fine-grained, very homogenous stone, similar to glass in its mechanical properties. This means that not only does it create very sharp edges as it fractures, it does so in a predictable and consistent manner. *Flint* fractures conchoidally (literally 'shell-like') so as it is *knapped* a series of recognisable *percussion features* are produced.

Flint forms in Chalk, and both large and small nodules can be found where Chalk outcrops. *Flint* collected from eroding Chalk outcrops would have provided early humans (*hominins*) with high quality raw materials for tools. *Flint* would also have been available in secondary sources such as river gravels – though the size and quality of these flint pebbles and cobbles would have been very variable.

Most, but by no means all, of the Palaeolithic artefacts from England are made of *flint*. However, flint was not always available and then Palaeolithic people used other suitable rocks such as *quartzite* and *Greensand chert* and less common materials such as *andesitic tuff* (a very ancient volcanic deposit) to make tools.

The raw material map should give you an idea of what materials Palaeolithic artefacts in your area are likely to be made from – though remember that non-local 'exotic' materials may also have been utilised!

Many of the examples in this sheet are *flint* artefacts, because not only are they the most commonly found material, but *flint* is also the easiest stone in which to "read" the distinctive *percussion features*; however we have also included other raw materials. We hope that you can use this recognition sheet to help identify more Lower and Middle Palaeolithic stone tools, in different locations across England, and in a variety of raw materials. If you would like further advice about stone tool identification please contact the National Ice Age Network or your local museum.



RETOUCHED FLAKES

Freshly *knapped flakes* are extremely sharp, and would have been used for a variety of cutting tasks. However, this very sharp, thin edge quickly becomes worn down and blunted with use. *Retouching* the edge of a flake makes it much more durable and suitable for tasks such as wood working and hide processing which would quickly blunt a *non-retouched flake*.

Retouch is the removal of a series of small *flakes* to modify the shape or edge of an artefact, when done to one face of an edge this is called *unifacial retouch* and when both faces of an edge are *retouched* this is called bifacial retouch. Retouch removals may be made with a small *hard hammer* (stone) or a *soft hammer* (antler) - both *direct percussion* methods.

Illustrated are some common *unifacial retouched* tool types:

Scraper:

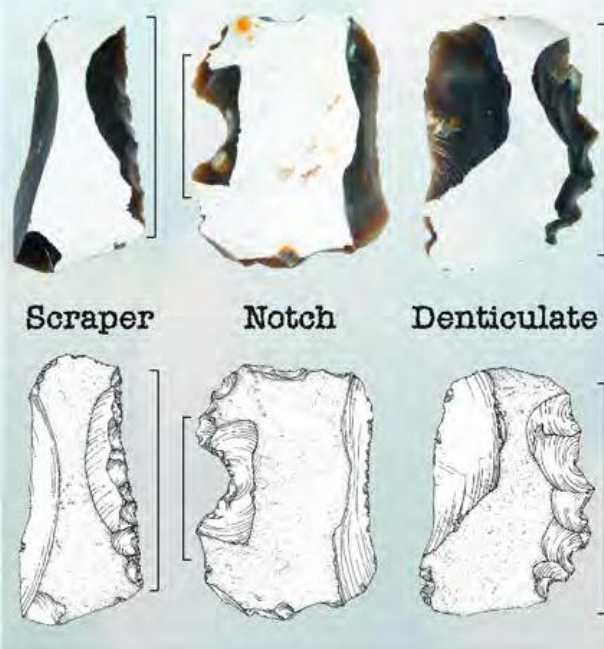
Small *retouch flakes* are removed from one side of the *flake*, creating a durable working edge that could be used for hide or wood working.

Notch:

Larger *retouch removals* concentrated in one location produce this distinctive *notch*. It has been suggested *notches* were used for wood working.

Denticulate:

Small *retouch removals* create a 'saw' like edge, that could have been used for meat or wood processing tasks.



IDENTIFYING ARTEFACTS

Bulb of Percussion: this occurs just below the place where the core was struck to remove a flake - on flakes this bulb is a pronounced swelling and on cores a corresponding hollow.

Flake Scars: the evidence on an artefact for earlier *flake* removals. They are made up of *ripples* and a 'hollowed out' *negative bulb of percussion*. Multiple *negative flake scars*, help us to identify *deliberate knapping* as natural processes do not usually create a series of complete *negative flake scars*.

Retouched Flakes: the removal of small flakes that alter the shape and/or the angle of the edge can be a good indicator of artefact status. However, when dealing with Ice Age river gravels it is always worth remembering that such small flakes may have been removed by natural processes, damaging the edges of the artefact.

Handaxes: *handaxes* or *bifaces* are among the easiest types of artefact to identify, due to the intensive degree of shaping and flaking evidence they preserve. Use the pictures on this sheet as a guide to identifying any potential artefacts you find.

Artefact Size & Shape: Palaeolithic artefacts come in a wide range of sizes and shapes. As a very rough guide, *handaxes* are generally approximately hand-sized, and *flakes* somewhat smaller. *Cores* can be any size. Due to the ferocity of Ice Age rivers it can be difficult to prove that very small pieces are genuine artefacts as the features they display may well result from impacts with cobbles in fast flowing water.

Artefact Colour & Physical Condition: many Palaeolithic artefacts will show iron staining of an orangey colour. Artefacts may also have been damaged by processes such as river transportation; most typically this shows as abrasion to the ridges between the negative flake scars and/or chipping to the edges of the piece.

References:

Ashton, N., Lewis, S.G. & Parfitt, S. 1998. *Excavations at the Lower Palaeolithic site at East Farm, Barnham, Suffolk 1989-94*. British Museum Occasional Paper 125, British Museum Press, London.
Gamble, C. 1999. *The Palaeolithic Societies of Europe*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.
Mellars, P. 1996. *The Neanderthal Legacy*. Princeton University Press, Princeton.
Wymer, J. 1968. *Lower Palaeolithic Archaeology in Britain as represented by the Thames Valley*. John Baker, London.

Credits:

Text and design by Dr. Jenni Chambers & Bryony Ryder

WHAT IS A HANDAXE?

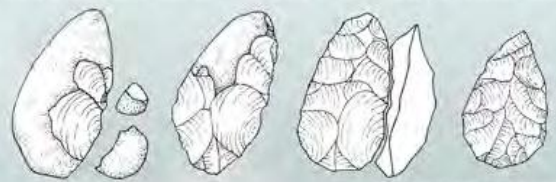
The most commonly recognised type of Palaeolithic tool recovered in this country is the *handaxe*. The *handaxe* is the diagnostic tool type of the Lower Palaeolithic Acheulean technology. The oldest *handaxes* known from this country are over half a million years old.

HOW WERE THEY MADE?

Handaxes are also known as *bifaces*, and this alternative name alludes to how they were made - the *handaxe/biface* is a tool that has been extensively shaped and flaked on both faces. These tools dominate the Palaeolithic record because they are large (larger than most *flakes*), durable and easily recognisable as humanly-made artefacts.

Handaxes can be made in 2 different ways. Firstly a nodule may be reduced by *hard hammer flaking* to create a *roughout* - an approximation of the shape of the finished *handaxe* - then finally shaped using a *soft hammer*. Alternatively if you have access to large *nodules* of raw material then very large *flakes* known as *blanks* can be produced; these are then flaked further to produce the *handaxe*.

Core reduction method of handaxe production:



after Gamble 1999

WHAT WERE THEY MADE FROM?

Handaxes have been recovered in this country in a range of raw materials including *andesitic tuff*, *quartz*, *quartzite*, *chert* and *flint*. The Raw Material Map should give you an idea of the most dominant raw material in your local area. Remember though that 'exotic' raw materials may also have been present and could have been used to make stone tools.

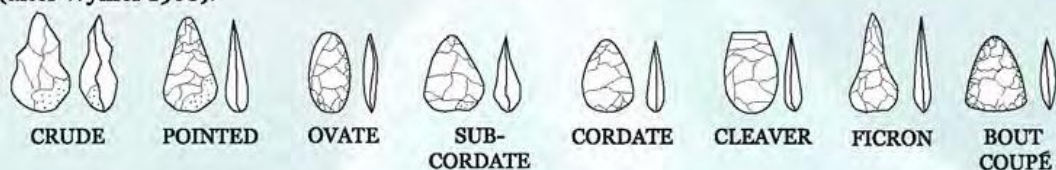
WHAT WERE THEY USED FOR?

Handaxes are considered to be multipurpose tools - sometimes referred to as the Palaeolithic 'Swiss Army Knife'. Many experiments have shown *handaxes* to be highly efficient butchery tools. They are also easily resharpened which both extends the useful life of the *handaxe* and can also provide a source of sharp *flakes* if required.

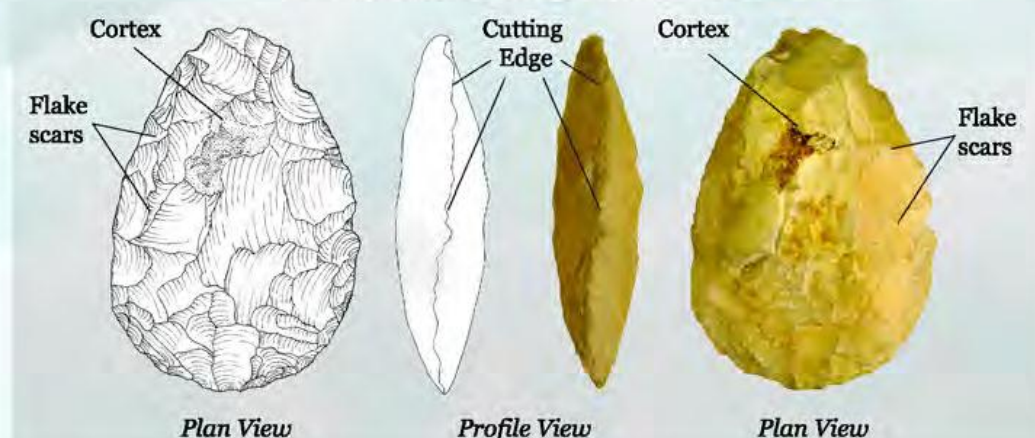
HANDAXE SHAPES & SIZES

There is no standard size for a *handaxe*. Occasionally very large examples (over 30cm long), and smaller specimens (approx. 5cm long) are found, though these artefacts are more typically sized to fit comfortably in the hand (as the name implies).

Handaxes are found in a wide range of shapes and with varying degrees of 'refinement'. It was once thought that *handaxe* forms evolved through time and that crude stone-struck examples were older than more finely flaked forms. Sites such as Boxgrove in West Sussex with 'finely' made *handaxes* of an early date, finally disproved this theory. It is now recognised that 'refinement' is not a useful indicator of the age of a *handaxe*. Similarly, whilst *handaxe* shapes were once considered to represent different 'cultural' groups, variations are now thought to relate to more 'practical' reasons, such as raw material size or tool function. Some of the common *handaxe* shapes are shown below (after Wymer 1968).



A lightly stained Flint Handaxe



EXAMPLES OF HANDAXES FOUND IN GRAVEL DEPOSITS AROUND ENGLAND



Flint handaxes occur in many parts of England, and have been found in a wide range of shapes and sizes. Commonly they are iron-stained, as shown above. *Handaxes* from gravels may also show abrasion and/or damage similar to the *handaxe* on the left.



Quartzite cobbles suitable for *handaxe* manufacture are scattered throughout central England. *Handaxes* are commonly made on split *quartzite* cobbles like those above.



Greensand Chert is mechanically similar to *flint*, though it often looks much coarser. The largest numbers of *Greensand Chert* artefacts occur in the Southwest of England.

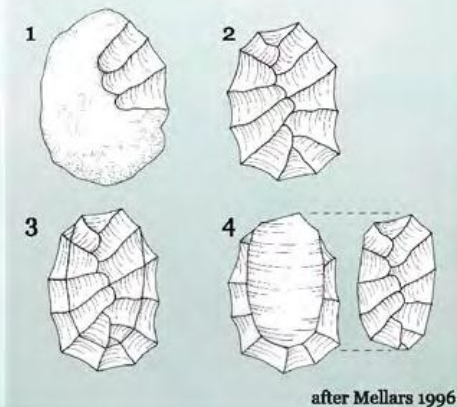


Andesitic tuff is an ancient volcanic deposit, suitable for stone tool manufacture. Palaeolithic *handaxes* of *andesitic tuff* have been found mainly in the Midlands.

LEVALLOIS

Levallois technique is the name of a specific type of *prepared core technology*, usually associated with the Middle Palaeolithic and the Neanderthals. As the name implies, the *core* is first prepared so that a *flake* of predetermined size and shape can be removed.

Levallois schematic



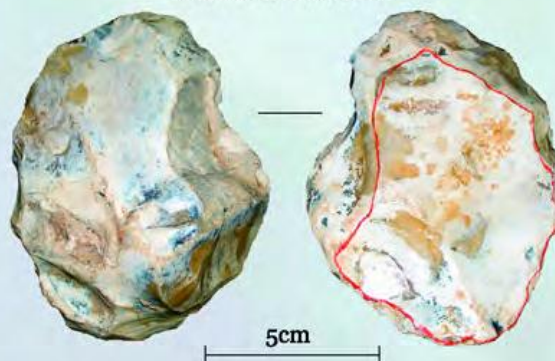
Levallois techniques create a conical core with a convex upper surface, which controls the shape of the final removal, the *Levallois flake*. The shape of this 'tortoise core' allows several *Levallois flakes* to be removed with little further modification of the core.

Levallois flakes have a distinctive *dorsal scar pattern*, testifying to the earlier core preparation.

Preparation of a Levallois 'tortoise core'.



Flint Levallois core.



Location of *Levallois flake* removal marked in red.

Levallois flakes.



Levallois photographs © Birmingham
Museums & Art Gallery

Contact your local 'National Ice Age Network'
centre by email at info@iceage.org.uk or write to:

**North & West
Midlands**

Birmingham Archaeology,
University of Birmingham,
Edgbaston,
Birmingham,
B15 2TT



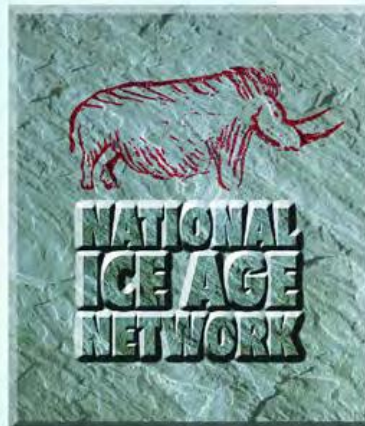
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7. Artefact Illustrations and Photographs

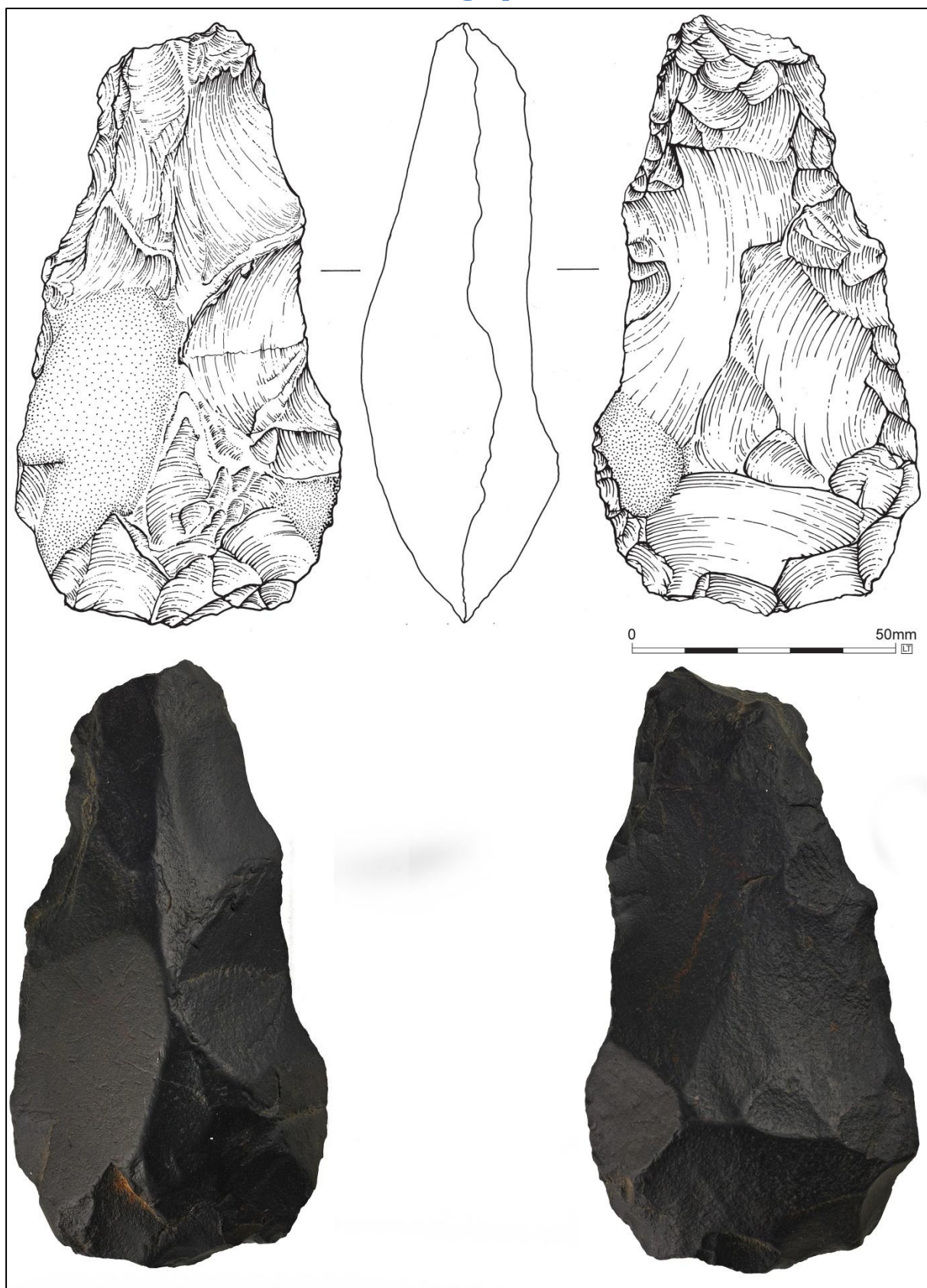


Figure 5 - Pershore/Allesborough handaxe

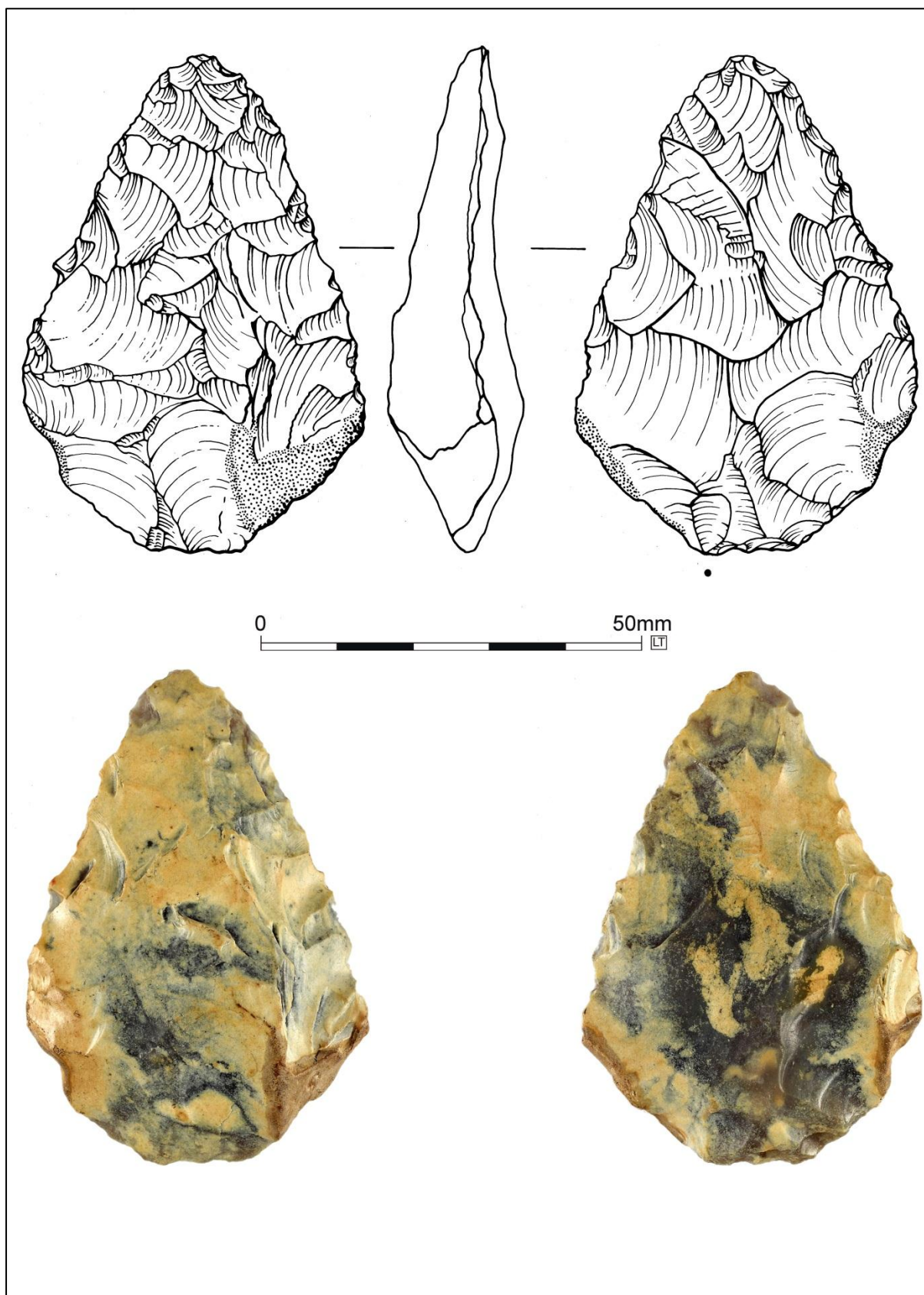


Figure 6 - Ashton under Hill/Bredon Hill handaxe

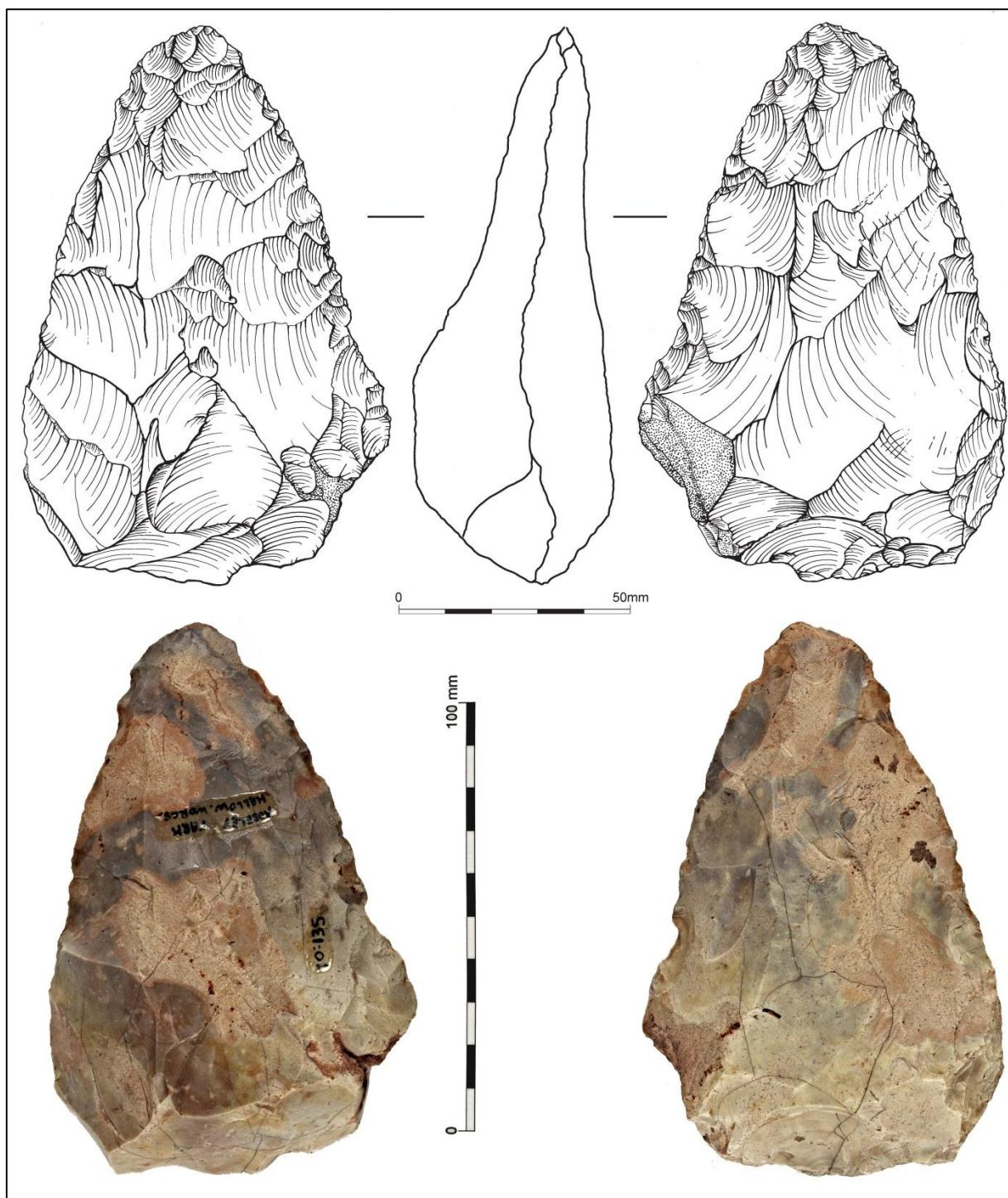


Figure 7 - Moseley Farm, Hallow handaxe

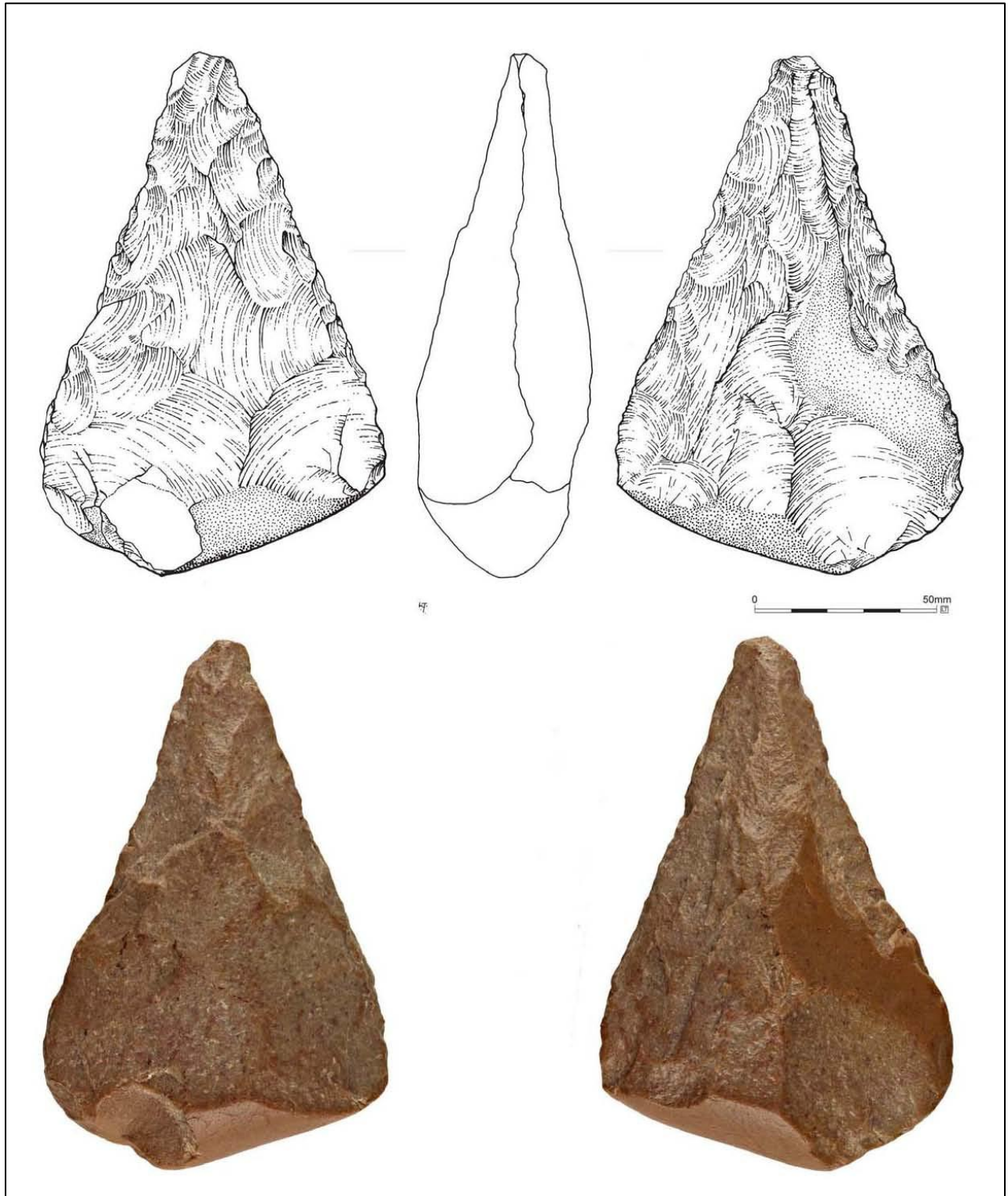


Figure 8 - Old Hills/Madresfield handaxe

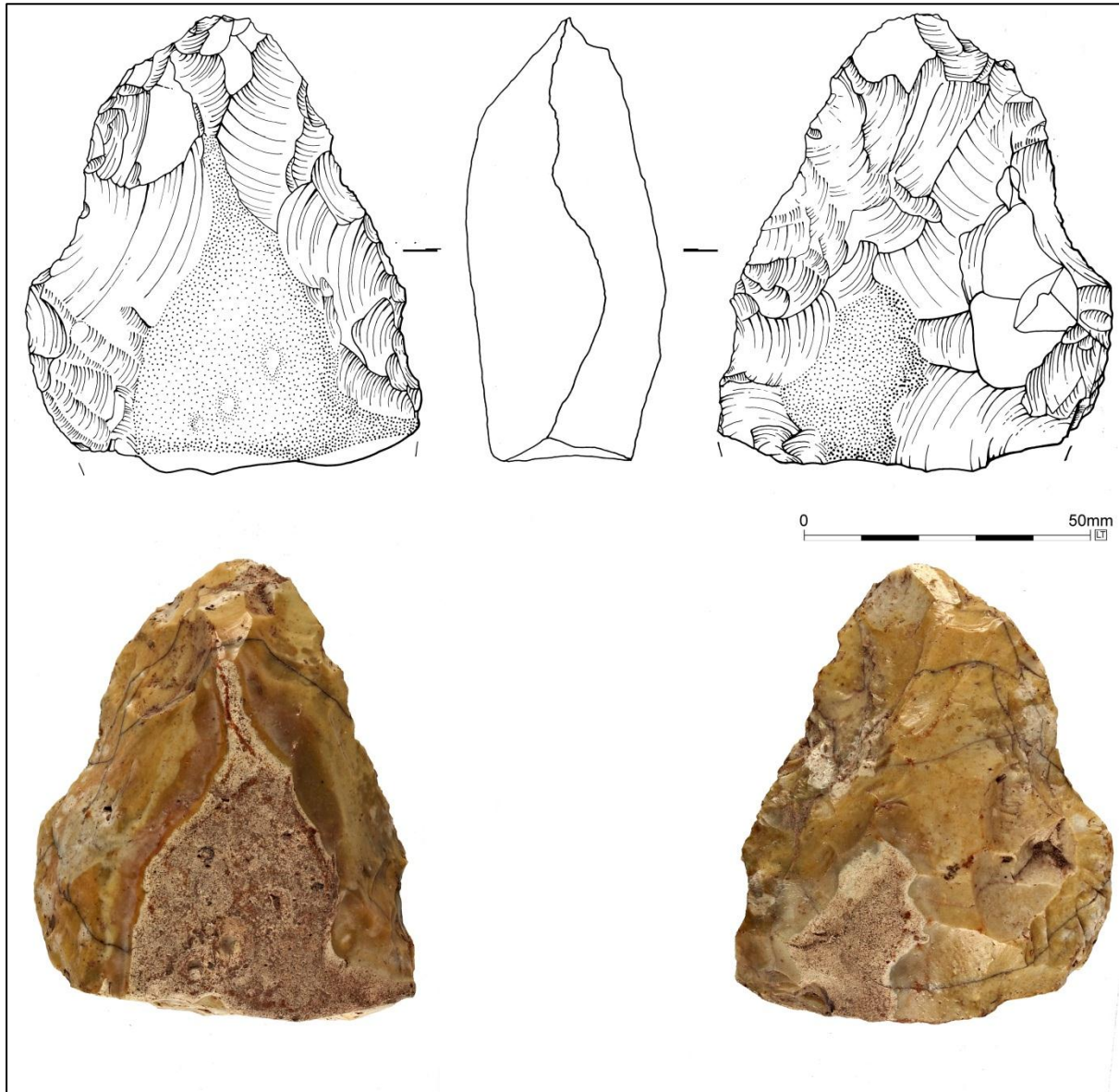


Figure 9 - Queenshill/Upton-upon-Severn handaxe