

Palaeolithic Archaeology Teaching Resource Box

Contents List

| Artefact No. | Artefact | Label Description |
|--------------|------------------------------|---|
| PA 1.0 | Chopper Core | Made with a stone hammer, by alternate flaking technique, [with] the scars of one flake forming the striking platform for the next. The cortex remains on one side, and a little secondary working on the working edge. From Clacton-on-Sea, Essex, UK, about 300–400 thousand years old. |
| PA 2.0 | Flake | A flake struck with a stone hammer. It shows the characteristic wide angle between the striking platform and the bulbous face. It was found at Clacton-on-Sea, Essex, UK and is between 300 and 400 thousand years old. |
| PA 3.0 | Flake with Secondary Working | A stone-struck end scraper, showing striking platform, point of percussion, prominent bulb of percussion and ripples. It was found at Clacton-on-Sea, Essex, UK and is between 300 and 400 thousand years old. |
| PA 4.0 | Cordate Handaxe | A heart-shaped handaxe made by bar hammer technique with tranchet finish. From Hoxne, Suffolk, UK. About 300–400 thousand years old. |
| PA 5.0 | Primary Flake | A Middle Pleistocene Upper Industry Clactonian Primary Flake with slight secondary working. It shows the striking platform, bulb of percussion and terminal hook. It was found at Hoxne, Suffolk, UK and is between 300 and 400 thousand years old. |
| PA 6.0 | Pointed Handaxe | A pointed handaxe made by bar hammer technique. It was found at Hoxne, Suffolk, UK and is between 300 and 400 thousand years old. |
| PA 7.0 | Side Scraper | A Middle Pleistocene Upper Industry Clactonian side scraper made by bar hammer technique on a stone-struck flake. It was found at Hoxne, Suffolk, UK and is between 300 and 400 thousand years old. |
| PA 8.0 | Core | A typical stone-struck core with cortex remaining on one side. It was found at Hoxne, Suffolk, UK and is between 300 and 400 thousand years old. |
| PA 9.0 | Pointed Handaxe | One of the most typical and characteristic of all palaeoliths. Made by bar hammer technique and has some localised battering on the butt. From Swanscombe, Kent, UK and is between 300 and 400 thousand years old. |
| PA 10.0 | Primary Flake | A large, stone-struck flake showing striking platform, bulb of percussion and ripples. It was found at Swanscombe, Kent and is between 300 and 400 thousand years old. |
| PA 11.0 | Convergent Scraper | A large, stone-struck scraper with convergent ends and side working. It was found at Swanscombe, Kent, UK, and is between 300 and 400 thousand years old. |
| PA 12.0 | Struck 'Tortoise' Core | Initial flaking shaped the core, so that a flake could be detached. The large scar left by the detached flake is visible, showing a negative bulb, the wide flat ripples and terminal hook. From Northfleet, Kent, UK. About 300–400 thousand years old. |
| PA 13.0 | Levallois Flake from | A large flake, showing the striking platform, the typical flat |

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| | Core | bulb of percussion and the prominent terminal hook. It was found at Northfleet, Kent, UK and is between 300 and 400 thousand years old. |
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Glossary:

Alternate flaking technique describes the flaking of a core from different sides, with the core being rotated or turned between the individual flake removals.

Bar hammer technique is another term for the soft hammer technique: i.e. the use of bone, antler or wooden hammers to remove thin flakes from a core.

Bulb of percussion is a rounded swelling that remains on the ventral surface of the flake, directly below the point of percussion.

Bulbar face is another term for the ventral face or underside of a flake. The ventral face retains a series of features relating to the removal of the flake, including the bulb and ripples of percussion.

Butt refers to the bottom or base of a flake (the location of the striking platform) or handaxe.

Clactonian refers to a distinctive Lower Palaeolithic artefact assemblage, which is characterised by core and flake tools, and by a general absence of handaxes.

Core is the block of stone from which flakes are removed. Cores can either be worked as a source of flakes, or shaped into a core tool (such as a handaxe). Cores sometimes retain *negative bulbs* (a concave depression which is evidence for the previous removal of a flake).

Cortex is the outer surface or 'skin' of stone raw materials: on flint, the cortex consists of chalk.

End scraper is a tool made on a flake, where the opposite end to the striking platform has been retouched to create a scraping edge (typically a robust, slightly blunted edge).

Flake or primary flake refers to those pieces removed from a core by the application of energy (e.g. from a hammerstone blow). They are characterised by a point, bulb, and ripples of percussion on the ventral face (or underside) of the flake.

Handaxes are large core tools flaked on both faces, providing a sharp cutting edge and a heavy-duty tool.

Levallois flake and core relates to the technique of core-working characterised by preparatory flaking and shaping of the core (which creates the distinctive *tortoise core* shape), and the removal of a final Levallois flake of pre-determined size and shape.

Point of percussion is the point on a flake at which the energy which removed the flake from the core was directed into the stone (e.g. the impact point of a hammerstone blow).

Ripples of percussion are the characteristic marks on the ventral face of a flake, created by the transfer through the stone of the energy that removed the flake from the core.

Secondary working is another term for retouch: i.e. the removal of small flakes from a previously flaked piece (either a flake or a core), usually to produce or modify a working edge.

Side scraper is a tool made on a flake, where one (or both) of the sides (known as the lateral edges) has been retouched to create a scraping edge (typically a robust, slightly blunted edge). Where the retouched lateral edges converge on a point opposite the striking platform, the scraper is referred to as a *convergent scraper*.

Stone hammer refers to a hammerstone (usually a rounded or sub-rounded cobble) while *stone struck* refers to those flakes or other artefacts created by the use of a hammerstone.

Striking platform refers to the area on the core where the force is applied (e.g. from a blow with a hammerstone). A remnant of the striking platform is usually found on the resulting flake.

Tranchet refers to the removal of a flake from the side of a core tool (often a handaxe) to create a single, sharp edge.

Upper Industry refers to one of the two main collections of Palaeolithic artefacts from the Lower Palaeolithic site of Hoxne.