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### Nayland Suffolk (NAY12) Lithics

Of the 34 excavated test pits at Paston, 22 produced lithic material. The assemblage consists of 33 worked flints and 103 unworked burnt flints. The assemblage is quantified by context and type in the table 1 below.

The worked flint assemblage consists almost entirely of unretouched flake based removals and very few chronologically diagnostic pieces are present. Over half the assemblage, 19 flints, were recovered from a single test pit, test pit 1, with the remainder of the assemblage being thinly distributed with no more than three worked flints coming from a single test pit. The worked assemblage is made up entirely of flint. Judging by surviving cortical surfaces all of the flint originates from secondary geological contexts, perhaps the terrace gravels of the river Stour upon which part of the modern village is built. There is no evidence for the use of flint from a primary chalk source. The condition of the worked flint varies somewhat but is generally fairly fresh although minor edge damage is common and suggests that many of the flints have seen some measure of post-depositional disturbance.

Mesolithic or earlier Neolithic activity is represented by a single fine blade from test pit eight and several other removals with carefully trimmed striking platforms and regular morphologies may also be of this broad date. The vast majority of the assemblage, however, is made up of hard hammer struck, flake based material of later prehistoric date. This material is made up of flakes of varied morphology, often relatively thick and broad with unprepared striking platforms. Whilst not strongly diagnostic this flint work is typical of the later Neolithic and Early Bronze Age although it is possible that some later Bronze Age and even iron Age flintwork is also present. The 19 flints from test pit 1 are typical of this flake based material and are dominated by relatively squat flake removals, many of which retain partially cortical dorsal surfaces. It seems probable that test pit 1 was excavated in the area of a relatively discrete late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age flint scatter.

A relatively large amount of unworked burnt flint was recovered from the test pitting, totalling almost a kilogram in weight. The burnt flint was more widely distributed than the worked flint with several test pits containing substantial assemblages. Test pit 1 produced the second highest amount of burnt flint of any test pit and it may be that this material is associated with the worked flint also found in this test pit. The burnt flint takes the form of heat crazed and shattered fragments of flint. Where cortical surfaces survive they appear to have been drawn from secondary sources of flint similar to those from which the material for the worked flint was drawn. Whilst small quantities of burnt flint are found on sites of all periods as a result of inadvertent burning in hearths and fires the relatively large numbers of burnt flints from Nayland suggest the intentional heating of flint, an activity closely associated with prehistoric, especially Bronze Age activity (see, e.g. Edmonds et al 1999). The uses of heated flints remain a matter of speculation and debate, but it is often assumed to have played a role in cooking or craft processing activities.

The lithic assemblage from Nayland attests to prehistoric activity in the area of the village from at least the early Neolithic to the Early Bronze Age. The relatively high density of flintwork and burnt flint from test pit 1 suggests there may be a discrete area of prehistoric (probably late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age) activity in this area. Whilst worked flint is

sparse over the remainder of the village burnt flint is more widely distributed and hints at a more widespread distribution of prehistoric activity.

Test Pit No.	Context	chip	irregular waste	primary flake	secondary flake	tertiary flake	blade	retouched flake	total worked	unworked burnt flint no.	unworked burnt flint weight (g)
1	1								0	1	11.7
	1				1				1	1	10
	4		1		2	1			4		
	5	1			1	4			6	15	108
	6		1		1	4			6	12	60
	7				1	1			2		
6	4								0	1	14
	6								0	1	6
	7								0	1	14
7	6								0	2	20
	11								0	1	2.3
8	1				2				2		
	2						1		1		
9	2				1				1		
	3								0	1	11.7
	5								0	1	13
	9								0	3	57.7
10	1								0	1	2
	2								0	1	2.4
	3								0	2	15.1
	6								0	1	1
12	5					1		1			
15	6								0	1	35
	7								0	1	2.8
	9								0	1	14
	11								0	2	11
	12								0	1	7
16	2							0	1	2	
17	4								0	1	44
	8				1				1		
	9								0	2	8
19	5							0	1	5	
20	1								0	2	42
	8								0	1	4
22	2								0	1	4
	7								0	1	8
	8								0	1	4
23	2								0	1	2
	3								0	2	15
24	2								0	1	126
	3								0	4	29.8
	8				1				1	1	39
	9				1				1		
	10								0	1	15.7
26	1								0	1	1.1
	2								0	1	6
	6								0	1	5.1
27	1								0	4	6
	2								0	2	10.3
	3								0	3	5
28	3					1		1			

Test Pit No.	Context	chip	irregular waste	primary flake	secondary flake	tertiary flake	blade	retouched flake	total worked	unworked burnt flint no.	unworked burnt flint weight (g)
29	2								0	1	22
	3								0	1	6
	4								0	1	4
	7								0	1	8
30	2		1						1	3	11
	3					1			1		
	3			1					1		
	4								0	4	26.5
	5								0	6	13.3
	6								0	1	1.7
31	5				1			1	2		
32	1								0	1	24.1
	<b>totals</b>	1	3	1	13	13	1	1	<b>33</b>	103	917.3

Edmonds, M., Evans, C. and Gibson, D. 1999. Assembly and Collection – Lithic Complexes in the Cambridgeshire Fenlands. Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society 65, 47-82