



FLINTS FOUND NEAR TORRINGTON

SITE OF AN IMPLEMENT FACTORY NEAR TORRINGTON.

Not far from Torrington, beside the Torrington-Bideford road, and between the road and the railway, immediately before reaching the turning to Wear Giffard, is a strip of land recently broken for gardening purposes by Mr. William Sparks of Torrington. Here Mr. Sparks has found a large number of flint chips of varying size. Among the collection which he has made is a number of well-marked cores, for the more part so far reduced by the removal of flakes as to have their possible yield exhausted. Fig. 1, plate V, gives photographs of selected examples.

So far, I have only seen two flakes with marked secondary chipping, of these one is a perfect scraper with curved working edge, and was probably mislaid after manufacture; the other is a piece broken from an implement, the precise nature of which is not determinable, it may have been a leaf-shaped arrow-head, or a small scraper, probably the former, and was very possibly broken in making. See figs. 2a and 2b, plate V.

The greater part of the flint found consists of chips and flakes which are the waste from the process of manufacture, being mainly such as are not well adapted for receiving further work.

The cores, the two fully worked flints, and the many chips, spread over some considerable area of ground are good evidence of the former existence of a factory on this site. The flint was probably of local origin, derived from the deposit near Raleigh; it is brown, possibly in some part further coloured by the nature of the soil in which it has long lain, but not so far stained as to be described as ochreous, and not patinated.

The find is of considerable interest and I am indebted to Mr. W. Sparks for the opportunity of examining his collection and to Mr. G. M. Doe for directing my attention to the matter and for kindly conducting me to the spot. R. H. WORTH.

FLINTS FROM THE BIRCHFIELDS, DEVONPORT.

The Birchfields have a slate subsoil with a thin covering of coarse loam beneath the turf, overlying a shallow lay of clay in which there are deeper pockets. In the loam and the clay on the south-eastern slope of the fields I have found a number of flints.

There is no evidence of any trench, the flints are not pebbles, and they are widely distributed.

A point of interest is that the loam and clay each yield their own type of flint. In the loam the flakes are not patinated and are grey or black, and there are nodules of black flint in the form in which they would be derived from the chalk, evidently brought as raw material to the site.

In the clay the flints are all well patinated, very markedly