

SHORTER PAPERS

LOWER PALAEOLITHIC ARTEFACTS FROM ABBOTS LEIGH, SOMERSET

During 1991 a large collection of artefacts of lower Palaeolithic type was recovered from fields at Chapel Pill Farm, Abbots Leigh, Somerset (Hack and Cornish 1991; Hack 2002). This note summarises the subsequent locations of the collection. A large number of these artefacts were deposited at the North Somerset Museum at Weston-super-Mare, and a small, representative collection from the site was deposited at the Axbridge Museum. A further significant representative collection of these artefacts was also held by Professor Derek Roe on behalf of the Donald Baden-Powell, Quaternary Research Centre, Oxford. Following Professor Roe's retirement in 2003, and the relocation of the Centre to smaller premises, it was decided that this collection should be donated to the Pitt-Rivers Museum at Oxford and the donation was accepted in 2004 (Jeremy Coote, pers comm.).

The photograph (Fig. 1) has not previously been published. It shows a representative group of the type of bifacial hand axes which were recovered from the site – this group is now held by the Pitt Rivers Museum at Oxford. It includes an example of a hand axe made from quartzite, a rarely chosen raw material for the manufacture of this type of artefact, not often found in this part of the country.

References

Hack, B., and Cornish, A.C., 1991. 'Preliminary report on a recent collection of stone artefacts from

the 100ft terrace at Abbots Leigh, Avon, Somerset', *Proceedings of the University of Bristol Spelaeological Society*, 19, no. 1, 33–41.

Hack, B., 2002. 'Collections of Lower Palaeolithic artefacts from Abbots Leigh, Somerset, 1991–2', *Lithics*, 23, 48–51.

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Fig. 1 Bifacial handaxes from Abbot's Leigh