

HANDAXE

Unique ID: NMS-ECAA52

Object type certainty: Certain

Workflow status: Published

Palaeolithic handaxe. Ovate/cordate handaxe (Wymer. J, J, (1999) type J/K) in mint condition but with a small thermal (frost) fracture at the butt end. Black glossy flint with pale grey coarse grained inclusions, including a large one at the butt end, probably responsible for the v-shaped thermal (frost) fractured break. One face carries two small areas of fine grey pebble cortex. All flake removals are hard hammer struck. Dimensions 128 x 79 x 37mm.

N.B. This has become known as "The" Happisburgh handaxe. It was the first beach find to be recovered from a dateable context (circa 550,000 BC) this area later became known as Happisburgh Site 1. Later excavations by AHOB at Happisburgh Site 3 found evidence of much earlier activity, attributed to Homo Antecessor, that pushed back the earliest ancient occupation of Britain a further 450,000 to 350,000 years from the previously earliest site at Boxgrove (circa. 500,000 BC).

Find of note status

This is a find of note and has been designated: National importance

Subsequent actions

Subsequent action after recording: Donated to a museum

Chronology

Broad period: PALAEOLITHIC

Subperiod from: Early

Period from: PALAEOLITHIC

Subperiod to: Early

Period to: PALAEOLITHIC

Date from: Circa 600000 BC

Date to: Circa 450000 BC

Dimensions and weight

Quantity: 1

Length: 128 mm

Width: 79 mm

Thickness: 37 mm

Discovery dates

Date(s) of discovery: Saturday 1st January 2000 - Friday 19th May 2000

Personal details

This information is restricted for your access level.

Other reference numbers

SMR reference number: 35385

Materials and construction

Primary material: Flint

Manufacture method: Knapped/flaked

Completeness: Complete

Spatial metadata

Region: [Eastern](#) (European Region)

County or Unitary authority: [Norfolk](#) (County)

District: [North Norfolk](#) (District)

To be known as: Happisburgh

Spatial coordinates

Unmasked grid reference accurate to a 0.01 metre square.

Discovery metadata

Method of discovery: Other chance find

General landuse: Coastland

Wymer, J.J., 1999. [The Lower Palaeolithic Occupation of Britain](#) : Wessex Arch./English Heritage 1