

24. EARLIER BLOOMSBURY OCCUPANTS

*People have visited the property over thousands of years,
leaving behind a small collection of stone tools.
Historic site occupants also worked stone.*

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Perhaps three millenia before the Sappingtons, Siscos and Counselors arrived, other Indians settled briefly on the low rise we have called the Bloomsbury site. They, too, left behind traces of their lives, marked by flakes of stone, fire-cracked rocks, and a few tools. Their encampment was most likely short-lived; no trace of shelters or storage pits were found.

Most of the tools they discarded or lost here are stemmed bifacial tools often collectively referred to as projectile points. Many, however, were used as knives or other kinds of processing tools (Custer and Bachman 1984: Figure 40). Although each of the six “projectile points” found here are different in shape and material, five of them fall within the range recovered from the buried occupation level at the Hawthorne

site (Custer and Bachman 1984: Plates 7 - 9). This buried occupation dates to the Wolfe Neck Complex of the Woodland I period (1000 B.C to 750 B.C.), and appears to represent a very short time frame, perhaps 10 years (Custer and Bachman 1984:120).

Three of the Woodland I projectile points (130B, 131D, F) appear to have been used as spear points, because they show evidence of impact fractures which snapped off the tip or base, making the point unusable. A fourth (131E), made of rhyolite, appears to have been used as a knife, indicated by crushing and step fractures along the edges of the blade. The fifth point (131H) was probably lost, rather than discarded, because it is intact in every respect.

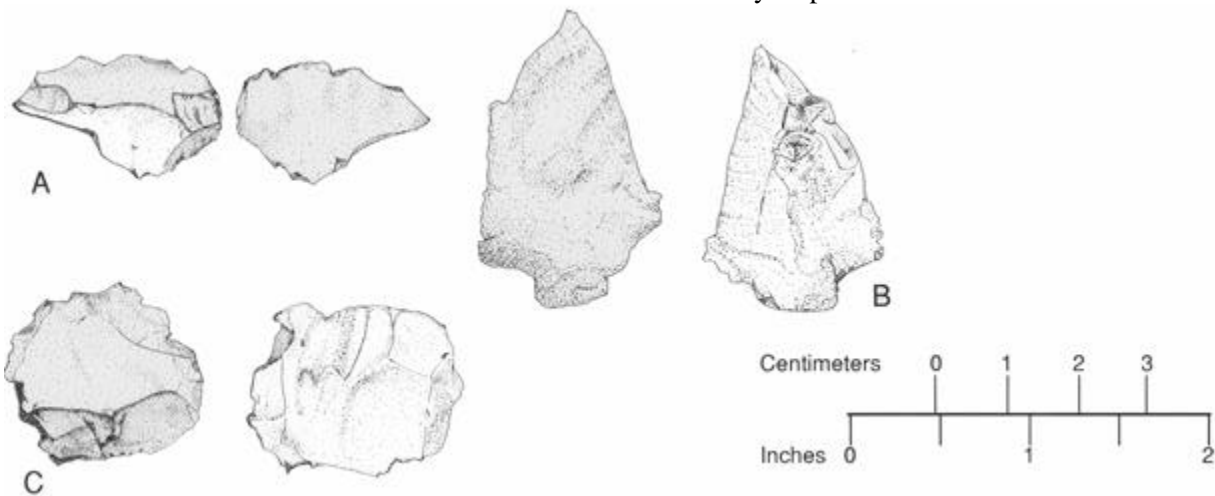


Figure 130

Worked stone artifacts from the Bloomsbury site

The sixth projectile point recovered from this site suggests that the site may have been visited even earlier than the Woodland I Period. A small jasper point (131G) appears to be a bifurcate point with one lobe snapped off. This point dates to about 6500 B.C., the early part of the Archaic Period.

Despite the widely separated dates for these two occupations, it is likely that both encampments were similar. In both cases, the site was probably visited for only a day or two. Any shelter would have been very temporary, such as a lean-to. The people in the camp were probably engaged in repairing a hunting tool kit – discarding damaged spearpoints and resharpening others.

Some butchering may also have taken place--the only other stone tool recovered from the site is a crude unifacial knife (131I) made from a split cobble.

A flat rose quartz bead (ER 42g, page 226) was lost during one of these visits.

Although most of the flaked stone objects from the Bloomsbury site were made long before the Sappingtons, Siscos and Conselors arrived, two items were probably made during their residence there. One is a chunk of English flint from which flakes have been removed, and which may have been used as a scraper. The other is a gunflint (130C), apparently made from the same material.

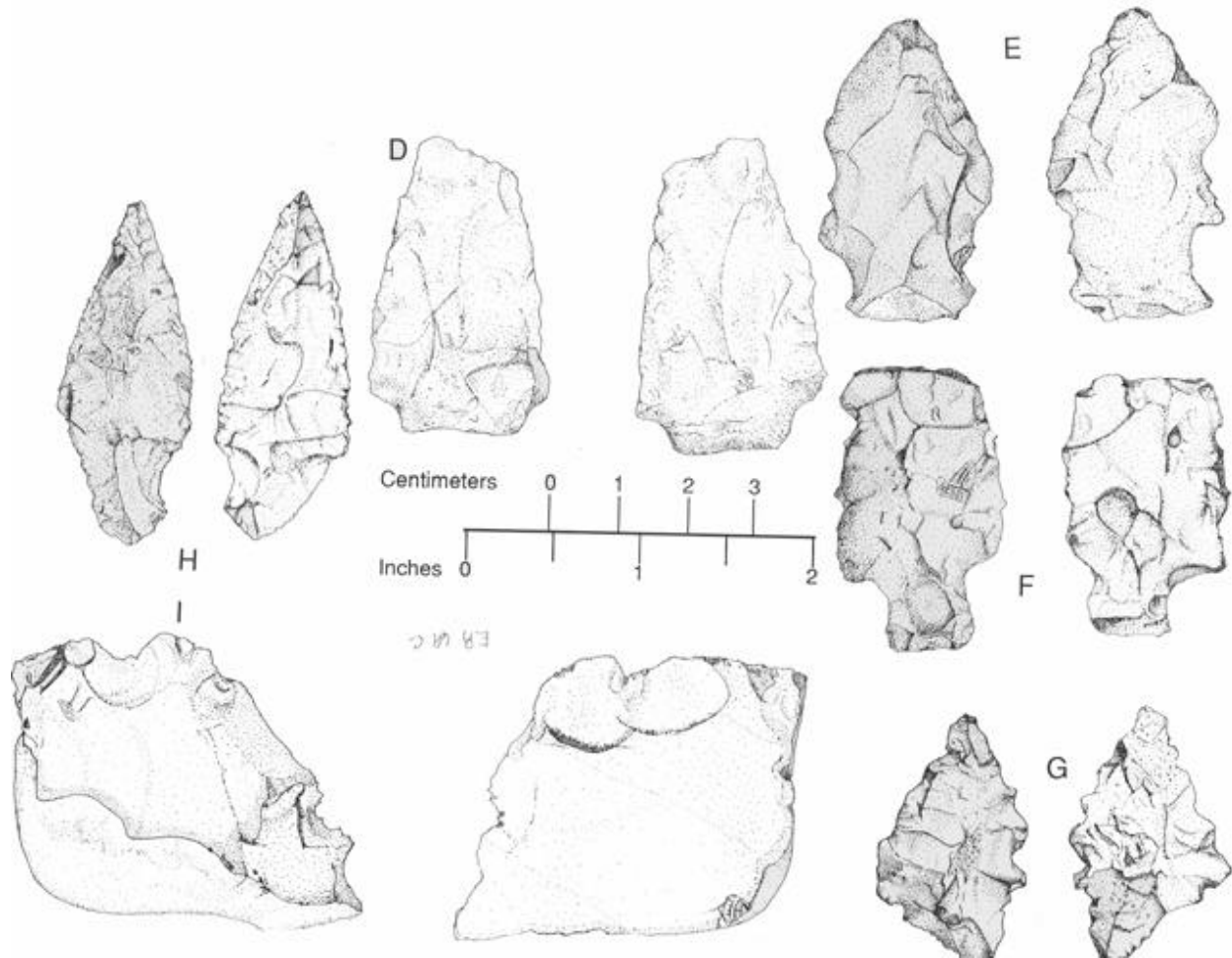


Figure 131

Worked stone artifacts from the Bloomsbury site