# The Flint Assemblage from Site 152 in Ramot Menashe

Maya Oron

The flint assemblage (n = 216) presented below was retrieved from Site 152 (see Beeri, this volume), except for one item, which was collected from the surface at nearby Khallat Abu Ḥalaḥ. The few diagnostic items in the assemblage are assigned to the Chalcolithic period, the Intermediate/Early Bronze Age, the Middle Bronze Age and the Iron Age; these most likely originated in mixed layers and on the surface. The raw material is light to dark brown flint of good quality, probably from the nearby Eocene sources of 'Adulam formation (Segev and Sass 2009; Ekshtain et al. 2014).

*Technology*

The dominant industry is the ad hoc production of flakes, exploited as an end product for several ad hoc tool types. This technological tendency is evident from the waste quantities (Table 1), which are dominated by primary elements (26.9%), flakes (26.4%) and simple blades (13.0%), as well as CTEs and core types (Table 2).

The cores (n = 13) show a similar dominance of flakes (Fig. 1) and simple blade cores, with additional few bladelet cores (n = 3; Fig. 2). However, due to the small quantities

**Table 1. General Flint Category Count**

| Type | N | % |
|---|---|---|
| Primary elements | 58 | 26.9 |
| Flakes | 57 | 26.4 |
| Blades | 28 | 13.0 |
| Canaanean Blade | 1 | 0.5 |
| CTEs | 6 | 2.8 |
| Burin spall | 1 | 0.5 |
| *Total debitage* | *151* | *69.9* |
| Chunks | 17 | 7.9 |
| Chips | 2 | 0.9 |
| *Total debris* | *19* | *8.8* |
| Cores | 13 | 6.0 |
| Tools | 33 | 15.3 |
| *Total* | *216* | *100.0* |

**Table 2. Core Typology**

| Type | N | % |
|---|---|---|
| Broken | 1 | 7.7 |
| Blade core | 2 | 15.4 |
| Bladelet core | 3 | 23.1 |
| Flake core | 6 | 46.2 |
| Tested nudule | 1 | 7.7 |
| *Total* | *13* | *100.0* |

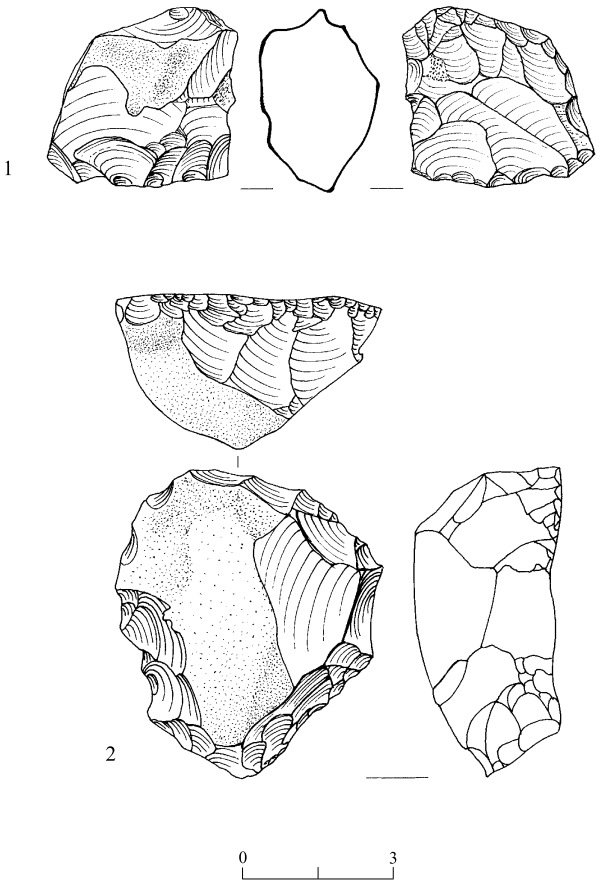


Fig. 1. Flake cores: (1) L160, B1170; (2) L128, B1192.

and the absence of end products, it is not possible to determine the significance or nature of these industries. Blade and bladelet cores are very diverse in shape and size, with no specific exploitation method. Only one Canaanean blade was found while cleaning before excavation (L128), probably originating in Intermediate Bronze Age deposits on the tell.

*Typology*

The assemblage includes 33 tools that are 15.3% of the artifacts, with a clear dominance of ad hoc tool types (Table 3). The most frequent tool types are retouched flakes (n = 14), accompanied by retouched blades, and notched and denticulated items (n = 6 each), one scraper and one truncated item.

Sickle blades (n = 2) and bifacials (n = 3) are the only "formal" and diagnostic tool types in the assemblage. The two sickles are large geometric sickle segments (Fig 3:1, 2), only one of them (Fig 3:2) coming from a clean Middle Bronze Age context in Stratum III (L143). Geometric sickle segments are known to appear in assemblages dating from MB II

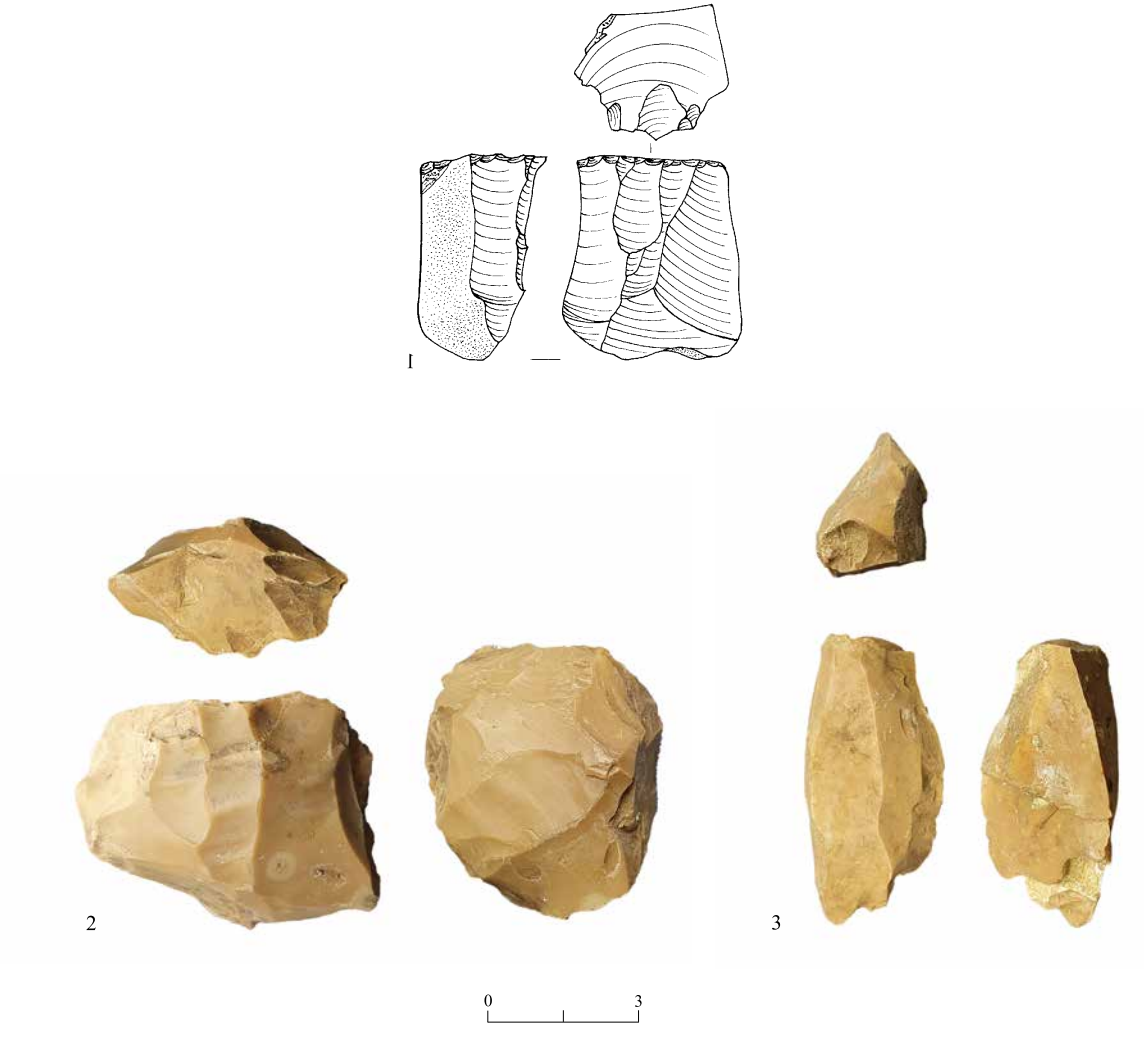


Fig. 2. Bladelet cores: (1) L128, B1192; (2) L158, B1148; (3) Ll60, B1170.

**Table 3. Tool Typology**

| Type | N | % |
|---|---|---|
| Sickle blade | 2 | 6.1 |
| Bifacials | 3 | 9.1 |
| *Ad Hoc Tools* | | |
| Notch/Denticulate | 6 | 18.2 |
| Retouched Flake | 14 | 42.4 |
| Retouched Blade | 6 | 18.2 |
| Scraper | 1 | 3.0 |
| Truncation | 1 | 3.0 |
| *Total Ad Hoc Tools* | 28 | 84.8 |
| *Total* | *33* | *100.0* |

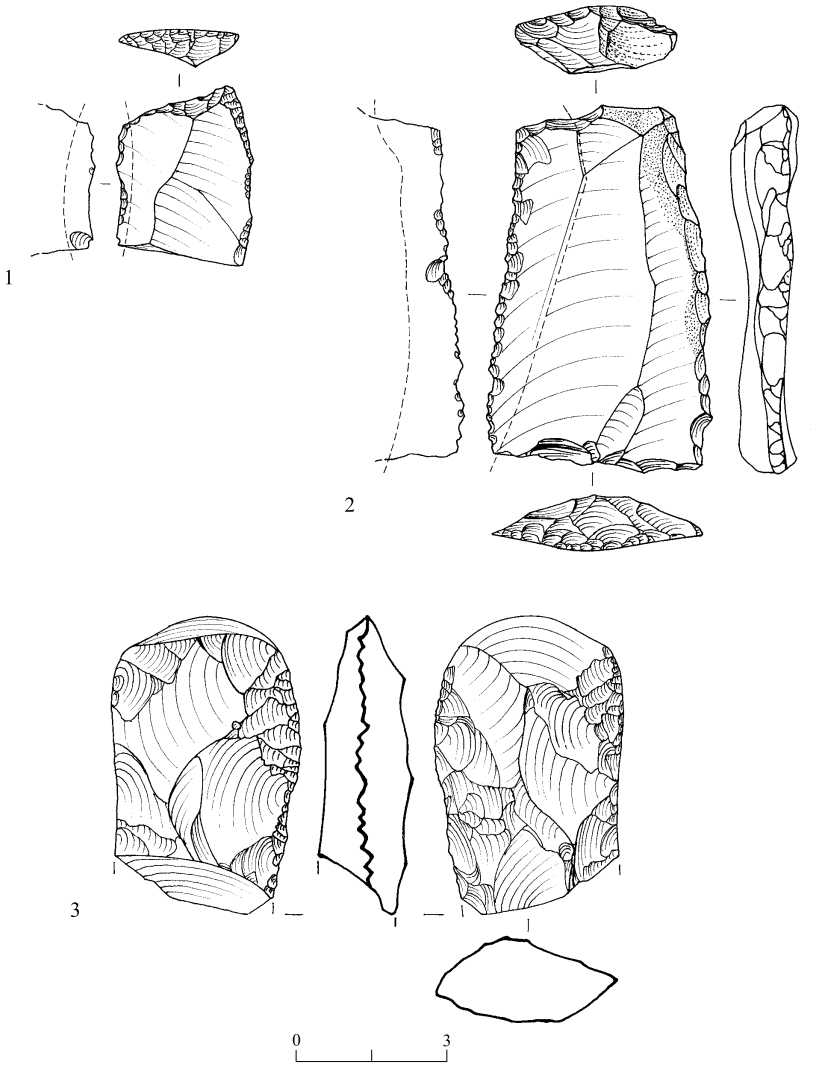


Fig. 3. Flint tools: (1, 2) geometric sickle segments (L128, B1192; L143, B1108); (3) bifacial (surface).

until the Iron Age (Rosen 1997; Manclossi and Rosen 2019). One of the bifacial tools, a broken axe, was a surface find, collected near Khallat Abu Ḥalaḥ (Fig. 3:3), while the other two are bifacial preforms from an MB II context in Site 152 (L136, Stratum IV). These tools probably originated in a Chalcolithic context and were found in a secondary deposition. Another item of interest is a worked flint nodule, naturally pierced in its middle and flaked around its edges; its purpose is unknown (Fig. 4).

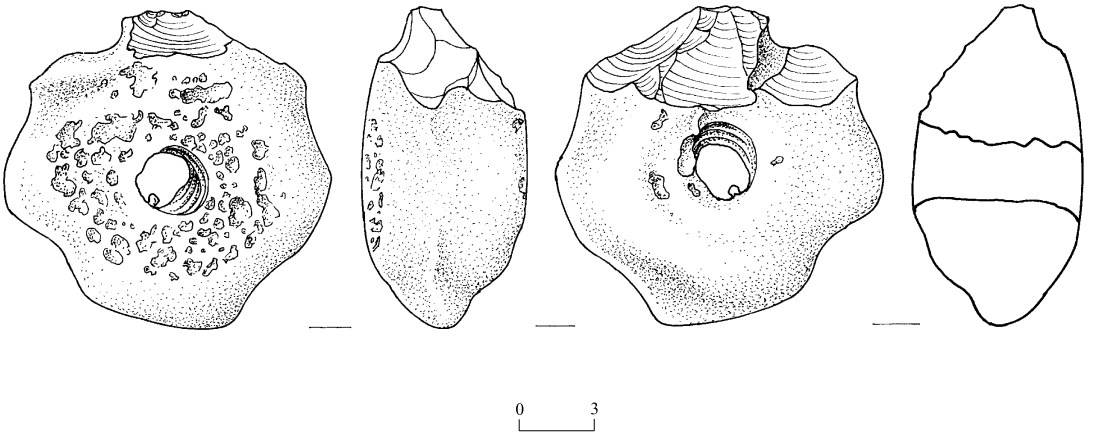


Fig. 4. Worked flint nodule (L125, B1124).

## References

Beeri R. This volume. Site 152: A Small Settlement from the Bronze and Iron Ages in Ramot Menashe.

Ekshtain R., Malinsky-Buller A., Ilani S., Segal I. and Hovers E. 2014. Raw Material Exploitation around the Middle Paleolithic Site of ‘Ein Qashish. *Quaternary International* 331:248–266.

Manclossi F. and Rosen S.A. 2019. Dynamics of Change in Flint Sickles of the Age of Metals: New Insights from a Technological Approach. *JEMAHS* 7:6–22.

Rosen S.A. 1997. *Lithics after the Stone Age: A Handbook of Stone Tools from the Levant*. Walnut Creek–London–New Dehli.

Segev A. and Sass E. 2009. *Sheet 3-III: Atlit. Geological Maps of Israel* (1:50,000) (The Geological Survey of Israel). Jerusalem.