

PARSONS SITE GROUND STONE ARTIFACTS

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INTRODUCTION

A total of 30 ground stone artifacts was recovered, including the bit portions of nine celts, eight additional celt fragments, one charmstone or pendant preform, a fragment of a stone pipe bowl, one whetstone, a portion of a large metate, four possible abraders, five hammerstones, and one anvilstone.

DESCRIPTION

Celts

The celt fragments consist of nine bit portions (Table 43), two poll (butt) ends, and five generalized fragments. All of these fragmentary tools are made from hornblende/chlorite schist. The size of these tools is quite variable ranging from 8 g for the smallest to 351 g for the largest. On all nine of the bit portions, crushing and flaking at the bit end together with battering at the proximal end of six of the specimens suggests that, after fragmentation, these tools were used secondarily as wedges, possibly for splitting wood. Two of the celt fragments represent longitudinal breakage along the tool's axis. After splitting, one of the latter pieces was resharpened to facilitate its use as a wedge. One specimen has no obvious use-wear modification on the bit, but appears to have opposed lateral crushing. This item, therefore, may have functioned as a hafted tool for woodworking.

Two poll end fragments were recovered, both exhibiting battering at the distal end. One of the poll fragments, which is longitudinally split, is polished on its exterior surface. The other poll portion is trianguloid in cross section and has remnant polishing on all three surfaces. The remaining probable celt fragments include four pieces that have at least one polished surface and a spall flake that was removed from the bit end of a tool, probably due to impact.

Charm/Possible Pendant Preform

An artifact manufactured from fossiliferous red shale was recovered from a post in the east wall of House 8. This possible charmstone or pendant preform is a flat, ovoid pebble, measuring 33 mm in length, 21 mm in width and 5 mm in thickness. While the lateral edges of the pebble have been carefully rounded, and both flat surfaces are highly polished, it is neither notched nor drilled for suspension.

Stone Pipe

A small fragment of a limestone pipe was recovered from Midden 4. The item represents a quarter section of a rectangular pipe bowl with a flat lip (Figure 28). At the base of the bowl is a remnant of a drilled hole that would have accommodated a separate wooden stem. The interior surface of the bowl has characteristic horizontal scarification related to boring. Bowl decoration consists of two neatly drilled

Table 43 Descriptive Information for Celt Fragments (Bit Portions).

Length	Metrics		Weight(g)	Bit	Proximal	Comments
	(mm)	Thickness				
64.1	30.2	10.0	35	flaking, crushing	battered	
41.6	20.8	5.2	8	small chips	flaked	
62.5	42.0	15.0	66	flaking, crushing	battered	reworked celt fragment
75.2	46.0	17.5	116	small flake removed	unfinished	split longitudinally
61.5	30.8	11.9	55	flaking, crushing	unfinished	
83.8	40.0	12.7	72	honed	unfinished	lateral crushing, hafted
96.5	61.8	34.5	351	crushing	battered	
66.1	21.6	26.2	67	dulled	broken	derived from large celt
107.9	43.3	15.0	114	reworked, chipped	battered	reworked longitudinal fragment

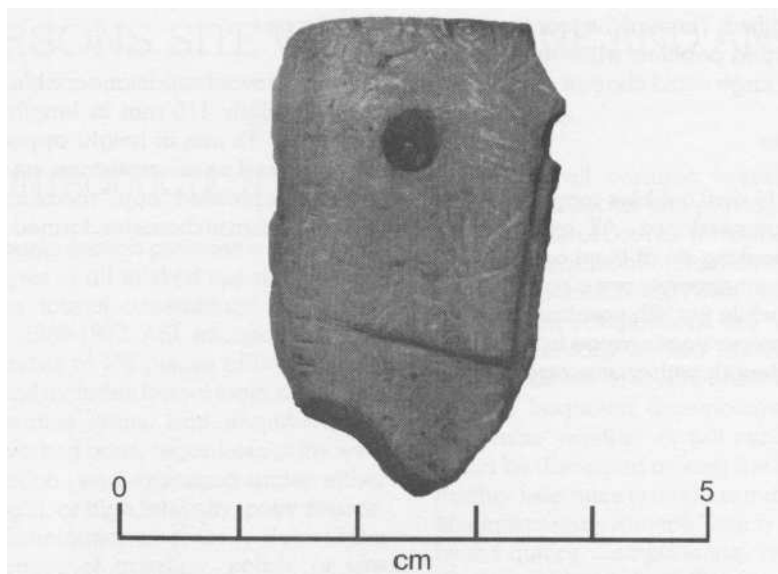


Figure 28. Scored and Snapped Limestone Pipe Bowl Fragment.

holes just below the lip and fine notching on the edge of the lip and along the corner of the bowl. This edge decoration is present on bowls of similar form recovered from sites in southwestern Ontario (e.g., Wintemberg 1924:54; 1939:91).

Scored grooves running parallel to its fractured margins indicate that this pipe was intentionally broken prior to being discarded. As considerable care was taken to properly break the pipe, it is possible that the item was intended to be recycled (cf. von Gernet 1985:146-147).

Whetstone

A small tabular piece of fossiliferous red slate was recovered from Feature 240, the large refuse-filled depression along the two innermost rows of the east palisade. The same material was used in the manufacture of a highly polished charm described above. One surface has been smoothed and is traversed by six roughly parallel grooves. Several shallow incisions run perpendicular to these grooves. The overall pattern of grooving does not appear to represent a stage in the manufacture of red siltstone or slate beads and pendants, as discussed by Fox (1980:91, Figure 3). Rather it is likely that the artifact was used as a whetstone to sharpen ground stone celts and/or to hone the tips of bone awls.

Metate

A portion of a large metate or grinding stone was recovered from Feature 141 in House 7. It appears to represent approximately one quarter of the complete artifact and weighs approximately 5.5 kg. It was manufactured from a large tabular piece of sandstone and has a smoothed, circular depression that has a maximum depth of 25 mm.

The complete grinding stone would have weighed over 20 kilograms and was probably used to process shelled maize. Given the poorly consolidated nature of sandstone, a considerable amount of grit would have been incorporated into the corn meal. Large, non-portable grinding stones have frequently been found on Iroquoian sites in southern Ontario; some have been fashioned from large boulders or glacial erratics. Examples of these exceedingly large metates have been identified at the Middle Iroquoian Antrex site in Mississauga, excavated by Archaeological Services Inc. in 1993 (Williamson et al. 1994) and at the Late Iroquoian Lawson site in London (Wintemberg 1939:67).

Possible Abraders/Whetstones

Four items represent possible abraders or whetstones. While smoothing is evident on all four specimens, it is not certain that they were

culturally modified. Three of the four items are flat, ovoid shaped pebbles, while the fourth is a portion of a large ovoid shaped cobble.

Hammerstones

Five round to oval cobbles may have functioned as hammerstones. All exhibit some evidence of pecking on at least one surface. Four of the hammerstones are a hard granite-like material, while the fifth specimen is sandstone. The hammerstones range from 42 to 81 mm in overall length, with an average length of 57 mm.

Anvilstone

A heavy ovoid sandstone cobble, measuring approximately 110 mm in length, 80 mm in width and 75 mm in height appears to have been utilized as an anvilstone, as it exhibits a shallow depressed "cup," measuring approximately 35 mm in diameter, formed by pecking.