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The Later Stone Age occupation and sequence of the Mapungubwe landscape

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APPENDIX A

LITHIC CATEGORIES (ALPHABETICAL)

There is debate as to the categorising of lithics. This is not presented here. Below are the definitions of each tool category, tools and features, used during the analysis. They are based on Walker (1994, 1995a) and Deacon (1984b) as presented by van Doornum (2005). Note that at times two categories have been used to describe one tool. In such cases, this has been done because the artefact fulfils the requirements of each category.

Adze

Adzes have one or more working edges. These are usually straight or slightly convex. The edges have been steeped for working and the scars are at an obtuse angle. Generally adzes are larger than scrapers and show less variability through time.

Awl

In size, awls fit between reamers and borers. The tip has been shaped and elongated into a point leaving the rest of the artefact untouched.

Backing

Backing refers to the blunting of an edge to facilitate hafting.

Bipolar core

This core type usually ends in a point with a broad striking platform. The end product of a bipolar core is oval in design and may have battering on both ends. The core's shape is caused by repetitive removal of flakes from two opposing striking platforms.

Blade or bladelet

A blade or bladelet's length is double its width. It has one margin, which is utilised as a cutting edge. The opposite margin may be blunted for hafting. In such cases this is known as a backed blade or bladelet (see backing). A blade is more than 25 mm in length while a bladelet is less than 25 mm.

Blade or Bladelet core

This is a core from which blades or bladelets have been removed. Alternatively, if the removals are bipolar, it is known as a bipolar blade or bladelet core.

Borer

A borer has blade or bladelet proportions but a blunted and retouched tip, often polished, and presumably used for perforating OES beads.

Chip

Chips are lithics less than 1 cm^2.

Chunk

Chunks possess one or two negative flake scars but no discernable pattern.

Double platform core

This core type has two striking platforms that are not opposite one another.

Irregular core

Irregular cores have multiple negative flake scars in no discernable pattern.

Lozenge chunk

These are cortical chunks, characterised by two facets and an outer cortex rind. Their general shape is that of an orange segment.

Miscellaneously retouched piece

These artefacts are retouched randomly over a small portion of a working edge.

Opposed platform core

Cores from this category have been freehand flaked from one platform and then rotated 180° and flaked from another platform.

Other tools

This umbrella term includes all tools other than adzes, backed bladelets, scrapers and segments.

Plane

A plane is a large scraping device, usually on coarse grained material, presumably for wood manufacture. It has one retouched working edge.

Retouch

Retouch refers to knapping along a cutting edge for the purpose of improving the edges utilisation capability. It is usually discrete and can either occur along an entire working edge, such as on scrapers, or in small sections, such as with miscellaneously retouched pieces.

Rice seed core

This is a bipolar core reduced in size and shape to resemble a rice seed. They are long and narrow and small in shape (< 15 mm).

Scraper

Scrapers are usually made on flakes, but core types are found, and are characterised by two main features: the ventral surface is flat and unretouched and one or more dorsal edges have deliberately been retouched. Secondary retouch along the working edge results in a steep angle between 30° and 90°. The working edge is usually convex. Scrapers can be divided into sizes (small = < 20 mm; medium = 20 – 30 mm & large = > 30 mm) or categories based on the location of the working edge (end scarpers, side scrapers, double end or side scrapers, end & side scrapers and other variations).

Segment

Segments are portions of a circle, orange segment in design, that have one working edge and a blunted, opposite end (bowed end) to facilitate hafting. Variation in this form is based on the elongation of the segment or truncate of the oval.

Single platform core

Single platform cores have flake removals radiating from a single platform.