

APPENDIX: THE FLINT ASSEMBLAGE FROM THE STONE PILES AT NAZARETH, HAR AVIHU

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A total of 183 flint items were retained from Stone Piles Nos. 21, 39, 45, 46 examined at the site of Har Avihu near Nazareth. All the items were made of local fine, homogeneous flint, common in the vicinity of the site. Most of the items were abraded and patinated, indicating post-depositional movement. The lithic assemblage comprised mainly debitage and debris, with a small percentage of cores and tools (Table 1).

Technologically, the assemblage seems to represent a flake-oriented industry, with a flake to blade/let ratio of 15:1. The assemblage is dominated by primary elements (N = 38), reflecting *in-situ* initial knapping, and by flakes (N = 59). Core trimming elements (CTE), which usually imply planning, are almost completely absent from the assemblage (N = 1). Furthermore, the knapping method was quite simple and lacked preliminary preparation. The final products were apparently thick flakes, which were later modified into tools by a simple retouch, mostly of an *ad-hoc* nature.

The cores consisted of three types (N = 6). Four are simple polyhedral cores, bearing at least two platforms with no hierarchy. In addition, there was one central surface core, still relatively large, which exhibited extremely careless execution, and one large tested nodule. One core trimming element (see Table 1) was also found. None of these are representative of a standardized manufacturing process.

The tools (N = 9) exhibit a clear preference for blanks that are rather massive flakes. Bifacials (N = 4) make up the largest group of tools. Most are poorly executed rough-outs, which were prepared on large primary flakes. Only one bifacial can be considered an axe; it was heavily used, repaired and eventually discarded due to its unworkable small size. Scrapers (N = 3) were all modified on primary flakes by abrupt retouch, usually found on the entire tool. Only two retouched flakes were found; both items are inconsistently retouched small flakes.

Judging by the non-specialized character of the flint assemblage, it seems that only initial flint knapping activities that did not require any specialized skills or techniques occurred at the site. It is difficult to date the assemblage, as it comprises mainly non-diagnostic flake products. The *ad-hoc* nature of the cores and the tools,

Table 1. Composition of the Flint Assemblage

Type	N		%
Chunks	59		32.2
Chips	7		3.8
Primary Elements	38		20.8
Flakes	59		32.2
Blade/lets	4		2.2
Cores	6		3.3
Polyhedral		4	
Central surface		1	
Tested Nodules		1	
CTE	1		0.5
Tools	9		5.0
<i>Total</i>	<i>183</i>		<i>100.0</i>

along with the rough quality of the bifacials, suggest that the assemblage shares characteristics with some Early Neolithic industries. Sites from the beginning of the Early Neolithic period have recently been documented in the immediate vicinity, at Giv'at Rabbi (Barzilai and Milevski 2010) and at Bir el-Maksur (Yaroshevich 2013), slightly further west.

REFERENCES

- Barzilai O. and Milevski I. 2010. Giv'at Rabbi (East). *HA-ESI* 122 (December 26, 2010). http://www.hadashot-esi.org.il/Report_Detail_Eng.aspx?id=1587&mag_id=117 (accessed March 2, 2016).
- Yaroshevich A. 2013. Bir el-Maksur. *HA-ESI* 125 (October 2, 2013). http://www.hadashot-esi.org.il/Report_Detail_Eng.aspx?id=3338&mag_id=120 (accessed March 2, 2016).