

FINDS FROM THE CHAPEL SITE AT ST. NINIAN'S POINT, ISLE OF BUTE

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It seems likely that all seven flints apparently to be included in the finds from the Early Christian chapel site at St. Ninian's Point are late Neolithic or Bronze Age, though one (no. 7) is probably not an artefact. The three blades, nos. 2, 3 and 4, superficially appear Mesolithic in aspect, but it is not conceivable, because of the transgression of the sea in the Mesolithic and Early Neolithic periods, that Mesolithic finds could have survived on so low-lying a site.

1 Utilised blade, 5.5 x 1.9cm, struck from some grey chert-like stone, with most of the cortex remaining on one face. One edge may have been battered to make the blade easier to use as a knife or scraper. Found close to enclosing wall on S side. Probably Neolithic (Fig. 1).

2 Utilised flint blade, 4.8 x 2cm, retouched along most of one edge and part of the opposite edge. Found as 1. Probably Neolithic (Fig. 1)

3 Utilised flint blade 4.8 x 2.2cm, with bulb or cortex removed and slight retouch to one edge in this area. Found as 1. Probably Neolithic (Fig. 1)

4 Unfinished flint arrowhead, 3.6 x 2.8 cm, perhaps Bronze Age rather than Neolithic in date, inasmuch as the only retouched edge is straight, suggesting that a barbed and tanged head, and not a leaf-shaped one, was being manufactured. Presumably from E side of enclosure wall, possibly from midden outside of wall and running under it. (Fig. 1)

5 Small leaf-shaped flint arrowhead, 2 x 1.5cm, completely worked on one face and partially on the other, the base perhaps reworked after damage. Neolithic. Found as 4. (Fig. 1)

6 Backed flint knife, 3.2 x 3cm, made from an almost round blade with the minimum of retouch. Neolithic rather than Bronze Age. No definite location. (Fig. 1)



