

Fitting together Bandkeramik Flint

M.E.Th. de Grooth

The manufacture of flint tools is a reductive process that can be summarized in a flow model as follows (Fig. 1):

In all, seven activity sets can be distinguished:

1. The acquisition of raw material
2. The first selection of blocks suitable for further reduction
3. Preparation of the core
4. Flake/blade production
5. Retouching
6. Use
7. Discard/loss

Two main feedback loops exist. First, the correction/rejuvenation of reduced cores; second, the 'recycling' of worn implements, either maintaining them in their original function or modifying them into other tools.

Every step in the manufacturing process produces characteristic waste. Thus, the other way round, the study of the *débris* found at a site enables us to reconstruct what manufacturing steps were executed there. One way to achieve this, is to try and reconstitute (parts of) the original blocks out of the tools and waste material found.

Even in the case of the Bandkeramik settlement Langweiler 8 (Gem. Aldenhoven, Kr. Düren, BRD), where owing to heavy

erosion at most 30% of the flint material originally present could be recovered, this proved to be rewarding (though rather time-consuming).

By piecing together tools and waste from the different stages of the manufacturing process, several hypotheses on the way flints were worked, used and discarded could be tested.

First, it was demonstrated that in Langweiler 8 rubbish was indeed systematically dumped in the well-known 'rubbish-pits', in the immediate vicinity of the relevant activity areas.

Second, no evidence for within-site specialisation in stone tool production was found. Tools were normally made on the spot where they were used (Fig. 2).

Third, most kinds of raw material used in Langweiler 8 were worked locally, from stage 2 or 3 onwards, as *débris* from all stages could be fitted together. Only the so-called 'light grey Belgian' variety arrived mainly as long regular blades or finished tools, thus making some form of between-site specialisation probably.

For a fuller report I refer to 'Beiträge zur neolithischen Besiedlung der Aldenhovener Platte III (in preparation)'.

Drs. M.E.Th. De Grooth

*Bonrefanten Museum voor Kunst en Oudheden
Maastricht*

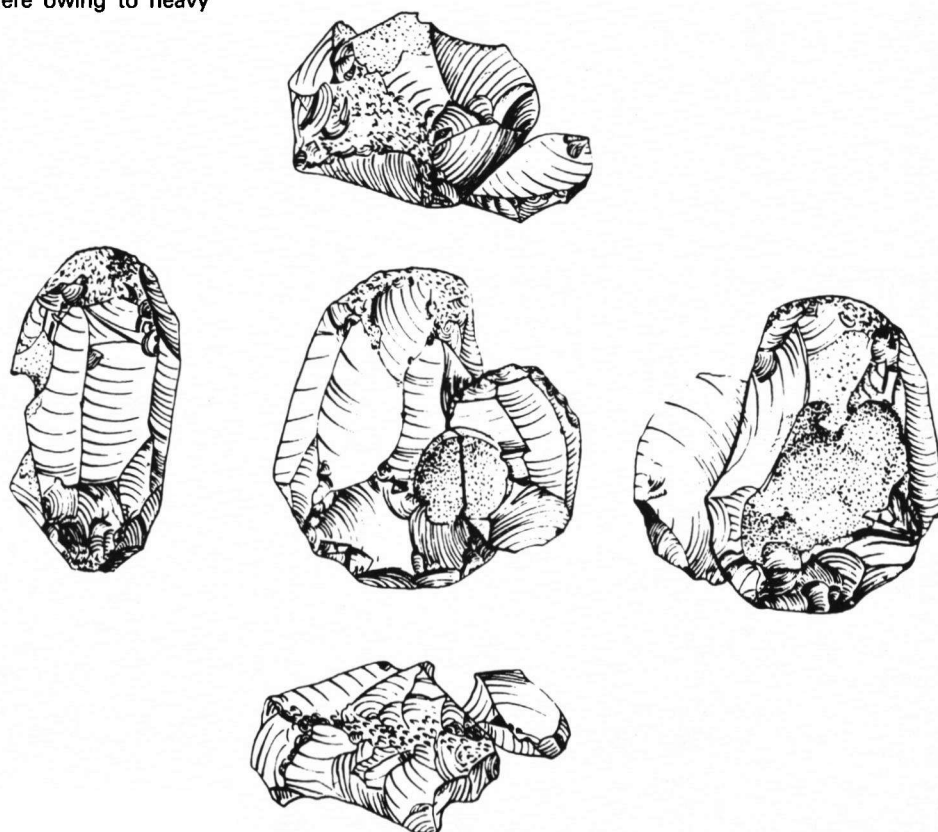


Fig. 2

Langweiler 8, Core and Endscraper, fitting together and found in the same pit. During and after blade production the core has been used as a hammerstone.

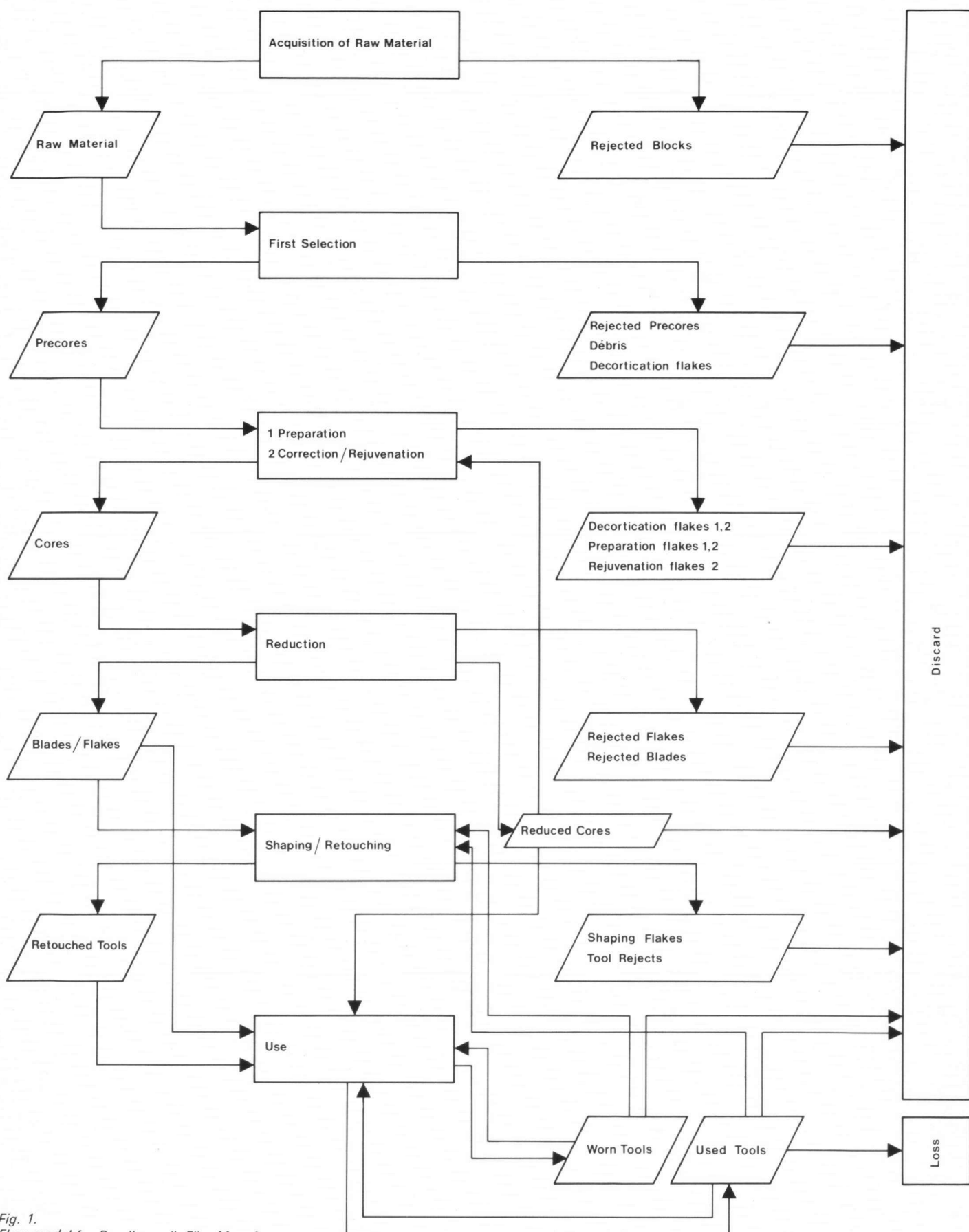


Fig. 1.
Flow model for Bandkeramik Flint Manufacture

Activity set; Product group

(N.B.: this is a simplified version, only those possibilities relevant to Bandkeramik flint technology are represented)