

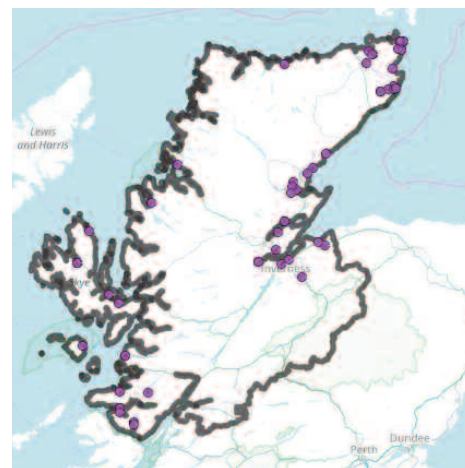
Flint Blades

Period: Neolithic (c. 4000 - c. 2500 BC); some forms in Bronze Age (c. 2500 – c. 800 BC)

Material: stone (flint, but other stone types also used)

Complete items

Flint blades are made by knapping – a process of striking a stone with another piece of stone or antler to knock off flakes until you have the pieces of the size and shape you desire. They are usually struck from flint, chert or quartz, and these have been made from flint. The crystalline, glassy structure of flint means it can produce a very sharp edge.



A blade was created by striking a long narrow flake from a stone core. These examples have been produced as a byproduct of producing the flint axes, but could be used as very effective tools in their own right. They take only moments to produce and require only a little skill and practice, although flint of this quality is rare in Scotland and likely to have

been imported. It is more difficult to make blades like this from quartz or chert.

How many uses can you think of for these blades?

Top: Flint blades from Littleferry, on display at Dunrobin Castle Museum

Right: Just one well-placed blow on the core produced each of these blades



See also:

CT Flint Knapping

When? Neolithic

The Experimental Archaeology: Learning about Craft and Technology in the Past project was funded by Historic Environment Scotland and the Heritage Lottery Fund (now National Lottery Heritage Fund).

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