

# Scrapers

**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**

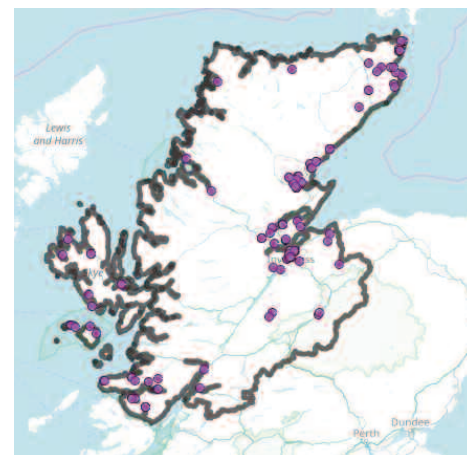
Flint scrapers were made by knapping – a process of striking a stone with another piece of stone or antler to knock off flakes until you have the pieces of the size and shape you desire. They were usually struck from flint, chert or quartz, and these have been made from



*Scrapers found in a Bronze Age cist at Armadale on Skye, now in the Museum of the Isles*

shape, which is the 'bulb of percussion' – evidence of how the force of the knapping strike travelled through the flint when this piece was split from the main flint nodule.

**How many uses can you think of for these tools?**



flint. 'Convex' scrapers are usually dated to the early part of the Neolithic period. They are thought to have been used to work hide and wood. They are fairly common finds and this curved shape can be found across Europe. Other forms of scrapers continue into the Bronze Age.

The orange-coloured example has been knapped from Scottish flint sourced from Aberdeenshire. It is a rough-out shaped in a few minutes of work. There is a large pocket in one side which is a natural flaw in the flint. The rough area at the top of the scraper was originally the outside of the source pebble or nodule, and this is known as the 'cortex'.

The grey coloured scraper is made from English flint, and this piece has fewer flaws. The underside has a pronounced wave



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**See also:**

CT Flint Knapping

When? Neolithic

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