

Stone Artefacts from the Emily Bay Settlement Site, Norfolk Island

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ABSTRACT. The lithic material from the Emily Bay site consists principally of basalt flakes, blades, preforms and adzes. There are also a small number of obsidian artefacts. The basalt assemblage has been analysed primarily to describe the technology of adze manufacture, which occurred along with reworking of broken preforms and finished adzes. The pattern of adze production is very similar to that found in New Zealand sites. No complete finished adzes were recovered, but the flake material indicates that Duff (1977) Types 1, 2, 3 and 4 were being made. Sourcing studies show that the basalt is local. Sourcing of obsidian shows that nearly all came from Raoul Island (Kermadecs) while one piece may be from New Zealand. Use wear and residues, notably starch grains, were found on many of the sample of 10 basalt and five obsidian artefacts analysed and the range of activities represented is congruent with a permanent or semi-permanent village rather than a temporary camp.

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The major component of the stone artefact assemblage consists of basalt adzes and the flakes produced in making them. Some of these flakes were also used as tools and residues and usewear on a sample of these was analysed, along with some of the exotic obsidian. Our joint authorship of this paper is the result of an amalgamation of Turner's work on basalt artefacts, Anderson's on source characterization of stone and Fullagar's on usewear and residue analysis.

Basalt artefacts

The basalt assemblage from the Emily Bay site comprised primarily flakes, with a small number of adzes and preforms. These have been analysed as if all were produced during the manufacture of adzes, giving an overall impression of the lithic technology and manufacturing sequences. We recognize that some flakes were probably made for other uses, but the overwhelming evidence of the technology is that adze production was primary.