

In the author's opinion, the Unit 3 terrace gravels (lithostratigraphical Unit III-A) have yielded only two indisputable artefacts, along with a large number of 'dubious' pieces.

Figure 21a shows a rolled flake found on October 6, 1981 by Mr W.M. Felder (Geological Survey, Heerlen). The presence of a bulbus, a large striking platform, and several dorsal negatives makes it quite certain that this flake is an artefact. The flake was found roughly in the middle of the gravel section. Mr Felder could not establish with certainty whether the flake was still in its original position; the deposits overlying the Unit 3 terrace gravels had already been removed several months before the discovery and the gravel section was of recent date. The rolled flake must have come from the upper half or the middle of the Unit 3 terrace gravels though.

Figure 21b shows a flake found on March 2, 1988, in the final stage of the writing of this manuscript. The artefact was found by Mr A. Spieksma (Institute of Prehistory, Leiden).

The Unit 3 gravels have not been subjected to an intensive archaeological survey, but were only unsystematically surveyed for artefacts in several field campaigns. The gravels contained a large amount of flint and a large number of 'dubious' flakes were recovered by survey and screening. All of these have no, or only small striking platforms, no dorsal negatives, etc. The flints that are considered artefacts on technical grounds, like the two illustrated here, had without any doubt been shifted from their original position, as is proven by their rolled condition.

At present, the Unit 3 gravels are thought to post-date the Needian interglacial which, on the basis of pollen-analytical evidence, is correlated with the Holsteinian interglacial (see: Zagwijn 1973). As indicated by the dating evidence obtained for the overlying Unit IV deposits (see chapter 8), the Unit 3 gravels were formed in the first stadial of the Saalian (cf. Zagwijn 1973). The possible date of these rolled flakes is therefore the first stadial of the Saalian.

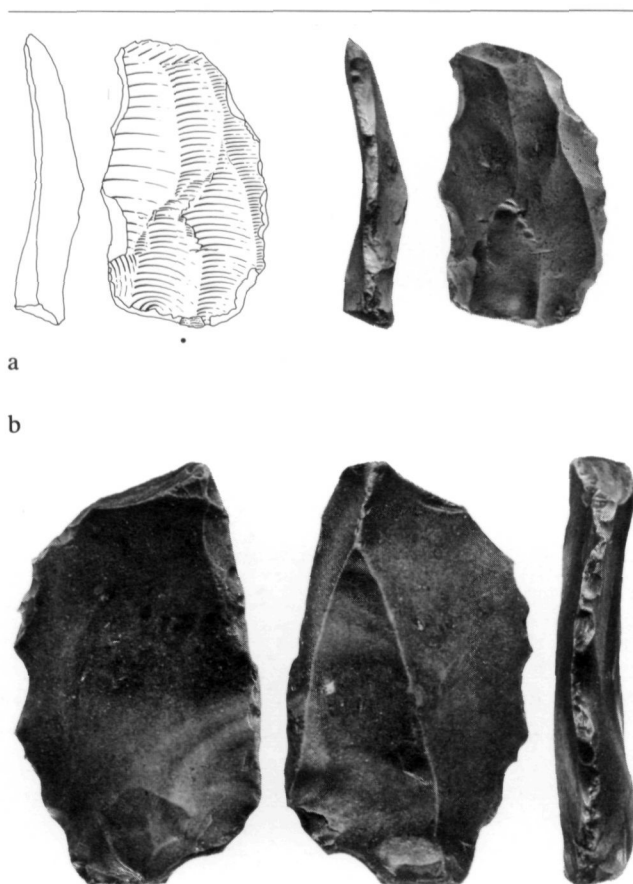


Fig. 21. Two rolled flakes from the Unit 3 gravels, scale 2:3.

