

The Preliminary Report on the 2005 Excavation on Wong Tei Tung Site, Hong Kong

Hong Kong Archaeological Society

The Wong Tei Tung Site is situated at the northern shore of Sai King Peninsula, on the eastern part of Hong Kong SAR. Hong Kong Archaeology Society and the Centre for Lingnan Archaeology of Zhongshan University was funded by Hong Kong SAR Government conducted the first excavation on that site between December 2005 and January 2006.

The bedrock of the site is mudstone and siltstone, bedrock is overlaid by the silicon tuff. The no.2 quarry site was identified at western slope of Wong Tei Tung Hill, that quarry site is a silicon tuff outcrop is standing at slope at height of 32 meters facing the sea. The silicon tuff provides sufficient and very hard raw materials for lithic manufacturing.

A total of seven small test pits (1 m x 1m and 1m x 2m) had been dug both on No.2 quarry site and slope. A narrow area was enclosed at western sloop for surface artifacts density counting. Over 3,000 artefacts were discovered in no.2 quarry site and test pits, the artifacts comprised of like- wedge tool(or short axe), scraper, point, hand-axe (biface), chopping tool, pick and burin, few blades also identified.

Almost all lithics were made of thick transverse flakes, thus these artifacts identified as flake tool category, besides, take few characters of technique into account, it is suggestive of the techniques of Late Paleolithic Age to Early Neolithic Age have been adopted for the assemblage.

Debitages, flakes, cores, nodules and chucks were not only discovered on slope, but also test pits and no.2 quarry site which helped to re-construct the entire lithic manufacture progress. Such finding provides a clue to indicate Wong Tei Tung site was a lithic manufacturing workshop.

Considering the artifact techniques, their morphology, OSL dating of 2004 trial excavation on that site, and compare with geological stratigraphy, preliminary a conclusion can be drawn on the finds. There are two periods, the early period dated back to 40,000 years bp and later period 7,000 years bp.