



A POSSIBLE STONE AGE FLINT SITE
FOUND NEAR FILL, SHARJAH

BY STEPHEN A. GREEN, JANUARY 1999

To: Gary Feulner.

Gary please
my scanner

excuse quality of
isn't working properly.

reproduction

Stephen Green

25/1/99.

(Front piece illustration x 2 magnification)

A POSSIBLE STONE AGE FLINT SITE
FOUND NEAR FILL, SHARJAH

During a visit to the foothills of the Hajar Mountain range during January 1999 Stephen Green, Gary Feulner and Valeric Chalmers discovered what they believe to be an ancient Flint site near Fili, Sharjah Emirate, UAE.

The site extends (for at least) five hundred metres along the crest of a gentle rounded hillock that overlooks both the gravel plains and the nearby foothills. The quality of this stone age site can be attested to by the fact that in the not so distant past the military have extensively used the same hills for small fortification, foxholes and other similar structures. Its strategic position and advantageous observation posts have obviously not been lost over the intervening millennia.

A confirmation that the flint objects we found are man made, rather than a natural coincidence is to be sought. This report is therefor preliminary at best.

The objects look rather crude and I therefor assume that they are either,

- (i) Very old.
- (ii) Discarded remnants and blanks.
- (iii) Poor quality opportunistic knappings.

Stephen A. Green, January 1999.

POSSIBLE FLINT SITE - FILI

ILLUSTRATION NO. 1 (x 2 multiplication)

PROBABLE 'SPEARHEADS'

(Note: No obvious arrowheads were found).



ILLUSTRATION NO. 1 - PROBABLE 'SPEARHEADS'
Page 3

POSSIBLE FLINT SITE - FILI

ILLUSTRATION NO. 2 (1.5 magnification).

PROBABLE 'AXE HEADS'

All these objects have a similar shape i.e. they have a flat base opposite a convex 'D' shaped edge.

(Note: I have seen the same shaped flints attached to the undersides of wooden sledges and used as ploughs in parts of North Africa, these have used until very recent times).

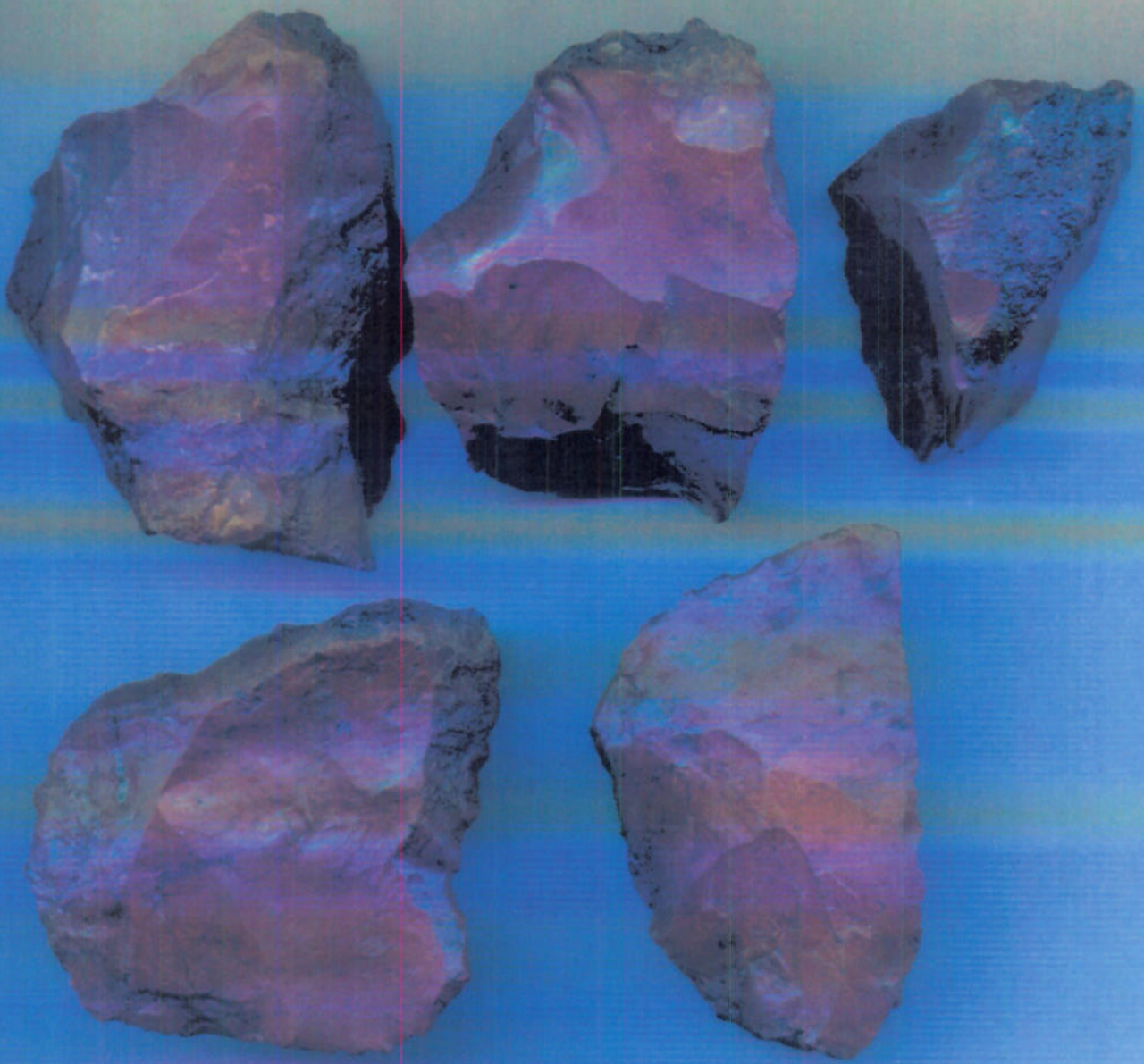


ILLUSTRATION NO. 2 - PROBABLE 'AXE HEADS'

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POSSIBLE FLINT SITE - FILI

ILLUSTRATION NO. 3 (x 1.5 magnification)

PROBABLE 'SAWS'

These consist of one worked edge, this worked edge when viewed 'edge on' appears serrated
i.e.



This shape I assume allows the flint tool to act in a similar manner to the cutting edge of a saw.



ILLUSTRATION NO. 3 - PROBABLE 'SAWS'
Page 7



POSSIBLE FLINT SITE - FILI

ILLUSTRATION NO. 4 (x 2. magnification)

PROBABLE 'SCRAPERS'

Quite thin, semicircular pieces of flint.

There is usually a convenient position towards the middle of the upper face for the thumb and a flat pressure pad for the forefinger (first/index) at about 2 o'clock at the upper right edge.



ILLUSTRATION NO. 4 - PROBABLE 'SCRAPERS'
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POSSIBLE FLINT SITE - FILI

ILLUSTRATION NO. 5 (x2)

PROBABLE 'AWL'

Note the finely worked sharp tip.

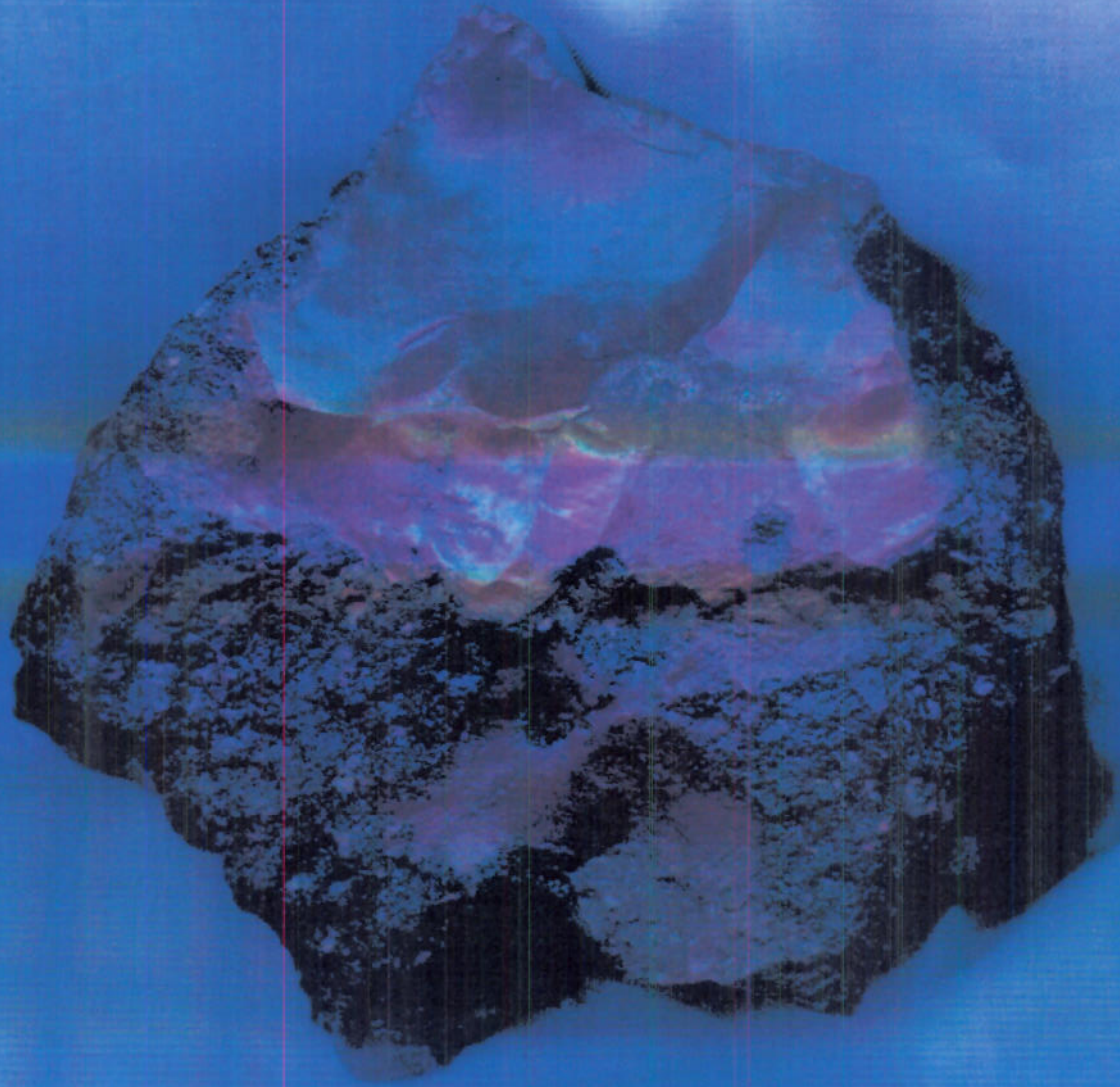


ILLUSTRATION NO. 5 - PROBABLE 'AWL'
Page 11

POSSIBLE FLINT SITE - FLI

ILLUSTRATION NO. 6 (x 1.25 magnification)

PROBABLE 'BLANK' FOR HAND AXE

It may be slightly worked along one edge.



PROBABLE HAND AXE 'BLANK'
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POSSIBLE FLINT SITE - FILI

ILLUSTRATION NO. 7 (x 1.5 magnification)

PROBABLE 'BONE CRUSHER'

The unworked straight edge fits incredibly well into the palm of the hand, leaving the convex outer worked edge, (shaped like a large 'D'), well clear of the fingers.



ILLUSTRATION NO. 7 - PROBABLE 'BONE CRUSHER'
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POSSIBLE FLINT SITE - FILI

ILLUSTRATION NO. 8 (x 2. magnification)

PROBABLE 'SCALPELS'

I assume these are for relatively fine cutting work. The thin outer edge is worked with numerous small percussion points. Once again at about 2 o'clock on the unworked flat inner edge there is an index finger pressure pad. It is interesting to note that one is worked left handed and one is worked right handed (for cutting into different parts of a dead animal?).

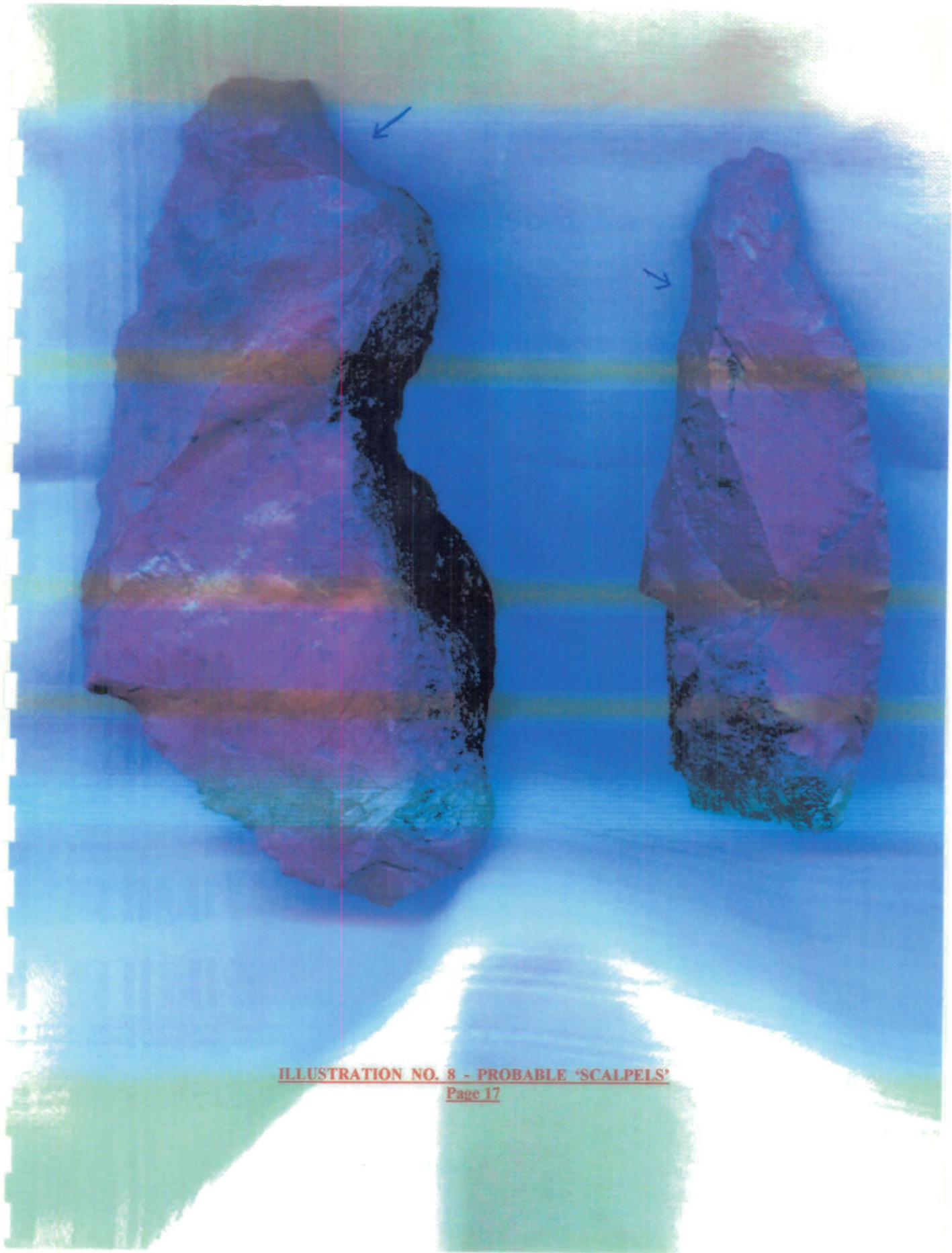


ILLUSTRATION NO. 8 - PROBABLE 'SCALPELS'
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POSSIBLE FLINT SITE - FILI, SHARJAH

Passing Jebel Buhays on your left, you turn right at the first small roundabout ("Soufian Restaurant") and travel down to Fili. Almost at the end of the tarmac road there is an old fortress tower built into a newer house, decorated above the carved wooden front doors with a 'crows-foot' design. If you have never seen a 'Qanat' underground irrigation system then it is worth stopping for few minutes to look at the small Qanat system near this tower. You can then go to the end of the tarmac road [approximately 12.5 kilometres from the Jebel Buhays roundabout] and pull off left to head north on the desert track (4 wheel drive not necessary) towards the infamous red gravel crusher. Passing with the red machinery on your right, you must turn left and head northwest for a short time before the road bends back northeast to east and points towards the mountains. The road passes through a number of unusual very gentle rounded hills [about 5 kilometres from the tower house]. Along the crests of these gentle hillocks can be seen numerous small, stone, army fortifications. It is along these fortified crests and sometimes in the saddles between two hills that the flints can be found.

Map reference: (03) 950/ (28) 681

Site: Stone Age Flint Site – Fili, Sharjah, (ARMY SITE).

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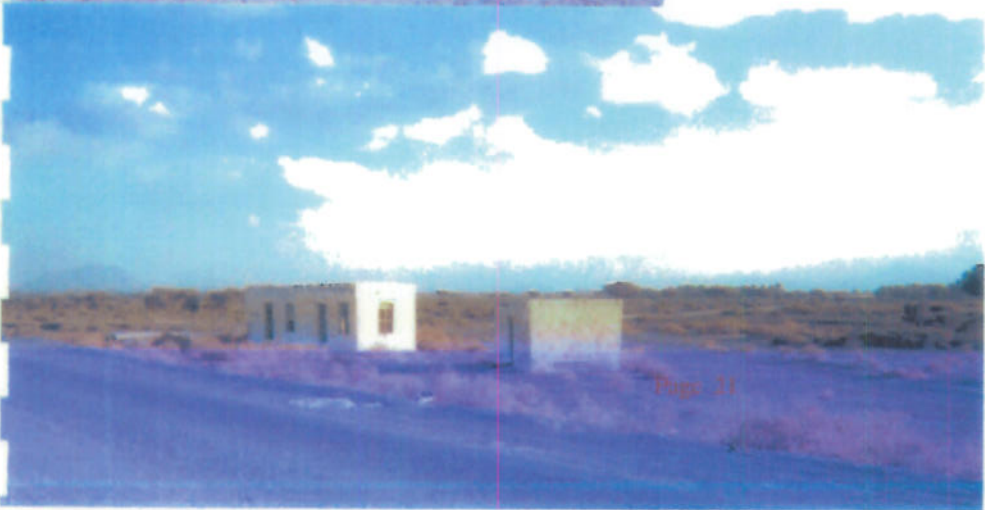
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POSSIBLE FLINT SITE - FILI

- TOP The 'Crows Foot' design surmounts the door. The Tower Fortress can be seen in the background.
- MIDDLE The maintenance chimneys of the underground Qanat irrigation system. There are only about 10 such chimneys to see but the depth is quite impressive, between 20 to 40 foot drop to the underground stream.
- BOTTOM The end of the tarmac road at Fili. You should turn left opposite these two buildings and head off towards the Red gravel crusher. The small building on the right holds a small date honey processor inside.



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POSSIBLE FLINT SITE - FILI

TOP &
MIDDLE

Typical rounded hillocks, along the crests of which the worked flints occur.

BOTTOM

In the side of this hill there is a large oval depression, perhaps 8 metres across. Around this depression for about a 30 metre radius the ground is absolutely covered in flint. I wonder if this could be a flint mine?

