



'Frost pitted' flint from Hoxne, length 11cm.  
'Pot-lid' flakes, detached by expansion of freezing water in cracks in the flint, leave distinctive concave patches.



Fire-cracked flint from Barham, 6cm across.  
Some prehistoric people used flints as 'pot-boilers' for heating water. The flints were heated and then dropped into water in the cooking pot. Note the whitened surface.



Flint within flint within flint, from Rushmere St Andrew.  
This nodule shows three distinct phases of formation.



Iron-oxide stained flint from Minsmere.  
The coloured bands have been produced by infiltration of water charged with iron oxides (rust). Some flints show black dendritic stains produced by manganese oxide.

This leaflet is published by GeoSuffolk, 2007, who wish to acknowledge the financial support of Natural England. We aim to promote understanding and appreciation of the geo-resources of Suffolk. (RM)

Please follow the 'Countryside Code'.

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# Flint in **GEO** Suffolk



This trace fossil, from Ipswich, was probably formed in a crustacean burrow in the Chalk. Fresh black flint may be seen beneath the white cortex where the specimen is broken. The centre 'hole' is 10cm across.





# Flint in GEO suffolk

This fossil sponge in flint is from Edwardstone. It is about 8cm across. Minute spicules of silica form the 'skeleton' of some sponges.



Flint is made of silicon dioxide (silica). In its original state it usually occurs as layers of nodules in Chalk. It is thought to form when silica reacts with decomposing organic matter, usually below the sea floor, forming chemical compounds from which flint nodules are later precipitated. Later beds of flint gravel are formed after the softer chalk has been eroded away. Flint of many varieties may be seen in buildings and found in fields. On beaches flint pebbles typically show 'chattermarks' from battering together by waves.



Banded flint, from Trimley, about 5cm long. It may represent traces of a fossil animal. Its fractured internal surface is smooth, but some specimens exhibit furrows and ridges.



Rare spiral flint. Possibly infilling of fossil burrow.

*The background to this page shows sponge spicules, greatly magnified*

'Figure flint'. Fanciful recognition of marks may suggest eyes, mouth and other shapes. Such forms are completely lacking in diagnostic details of true fossils.



This internal mould of a fossil sea-urchin in flint, from Barham, is about 85 million years old. There are several types of sea-urchin commonly found in flint.



A knapped flint from Brandon, trimmed into rectangle shape 3cm across, as produced for flintlock guns. The hardness, durability and curved (conchoidal) fracture of flint have also made it a favourite material for Stone Age tools and, more recently, for ornamentation in buildings.

