Mesolithic

This period is very well represented from field walking – Lots of blade cores and blades:

Craithes Castle SF7

Nethermills 2 SD10
And an interesting range of retouched tools. Especially these broad blade microliths which are being found along the length of the Dee.
East Park

Nethermills 4 Broad triangle on right, microburin on left
A number of notched blades have been found – many with a notch worked at one end, possibly for hafting as a knife.

East Park notched blade on left, large blade from opposed platform core on right.
Other blades have distinctive oblique retouch at a truncated end

East Parks

Nethermills 2
Park Bridge Large scalene triangle, oblique truncations and awl

These flakes and blades were most likely used as knives

East Park
As well as Mesolithic, there is a lot of evidence for Neolithic activity along this stretch of the Dee.

Upper Balfour – possible unfinished chisel arrowhead and disc core

Upper Balfour fragment of chisel arrowhead and scraper fragment
Upper Balfour Scrapers – the first two are thumbnail scrapers and likely date to the Early Bronze Age

Neolithic Scrapers from Nethermills
East Park Scrapers

When you are field walking you will find flints of different periods close to each other. In this photo there is an unworked flint pebble, two large coarse scrapers probably Bronze Age in date and a mix of blades and flakes. Along the top of the scale you can see a blade knife form, a small bifacial leaf point and an edge retouched flake, all may date to the Early Neolithic.

Cairnballoch flints from one bag

This group of flints came from an area of blackened earth. As well as flakes of different flint colours there is a Neolithic disc core - a red bipolar core to the top left.
Upper Balfour

Other retouched tools include this Early Neolithic leaf point

Nether Balfour
These scrapers probably date to the Early Bronze

Knappach

Tools such as this strike-a-light is could have been used well into the historic period

Nether Balfour

Other raw material were used such as this rhyolite – a source for this can be found at Chest of Dee. Its rolled nature suggest it was collected from the river
Nether Balfour

This fine end scraper may date to the Early Neolithic or possibly even earlier. It is made from a distinctive purple siliceous rock – where was its source?
Large blocks of flint are sometimes found. This was worked into a multi-platform core

Nether Balfour