

Contents

List of Figures.....	xi
List of Tables.....	xvi
Abstract.....	xviii
1. Introduction	1
1.1. What Were the Interactions Between Sapiens and Neanderthals at the End of the Middle Palaeolithic?	1
1.2. Was the Late Mousterian in Italy a Uniform or Fragmented Techno-Complex?.....	2
1.3. Are There Continuities or Discontinuities in Technology at Oscurusciuto Rockshelter?.....	3
2. Oscurusciuto rockshelter.....	5
2.1. Location	5
2.2. Etymology of the name.....	6
2.3. Geomorphological and geological settings.....	6
2.4. Research history.....	7
2.5. Stratigraphic sequence	8
2.6. Chronology	9
2.7. Sedimentological and Ichnological studies.....	9
2.8. Environment.....	13
2.9. Fauna.....	13
2.10. Hearths	14
2.11. Lithic materials	14
2.12. Selected levels.....	15
3. Lithic Studies: Theory and Procedures	17
3.1. Unveiling the significance of lithic artefacts	17
3.2. Technological approaches	17
3.3. The techno-structural approach.....	18
3.4. Technological analysis: collected traits.....	21
3.4.1. RMU and Refitting.....	21
3.4.2. General attributes	21
3.4.3. Core attributes	22
3.4.4. Debitage products attributes	23
3.4.5. Terminology for comparative study.....	25
4. Materials	27
4.1. Quantity and quality.....	27
4.2. Raw materials: reference collection.....	28
4.2.1. Cherty limestone	29
4.2.2. Radiolarite.....	31
4.2.3. Chert.....	33
4.2.4. Quartz sandstone.....	34
4.2.5. Limestone.....	34
4.3. Provenance.....	34
4.4. Raw materials at Oscurusciuto rockshelter.....	36
5. Level 15: the living floor	37
5.1. Reduction sequences.....	37
5.2. Levallois debitage	39
5.2.1. Core structure.....	39
5.2.2. Selection and initialization.....	39
5.2.3. Production	40
5.2.4. Target product	42
5.3. Additive debitage aimed at producing flakes, C1, D1	43
5.3.1. Core structure.....	43
5.3.2. Selection and initialization	45

5.3.3. Production	45
5.4. Additive debitage aimed at producing blades, D2	45
5.4.1. Core structure.....	45
5.4.2. Selection and initialization	45
5.4.3. Production.....	45
5.5. Other additive production	47
5.6. Retouched tools.....	52
5.7. Overview of SU 15: economy of raw material and production	53
6. Level 14: the tephra occupation.....	55
6.1. Reduction sequences.....	58
6.2. Levallois debitage	58
6.2.1. Core structure.....	58
6.2.2. Selection, initialization and production	58
6.2.3. Target product	63
6.3. Additive debitage aimed at producing flakes and blades, C1, D1, D2.....	66
6.3.1. Core structure.....	66
6.3.2. Selection, initialisation and production.....	66
6.4. Retouched tools.....	66
6.5. Overview of SU 14: economy of raw material and reduction sequences	66
7. Level 13: the short-term palimpsest.....	73
7.1. Reduction sequences.....	74
7.2. Levallois debitage	75
7.2.1. Core structure.....	75
7.2.2. Selection and initialization.....	75
7.2.3. Production	75
7.2.4. Target product	77
7.2.5. Backed products: structure and function.....	80
7.3. Additive debitage aimed at producing blades, C2	82
7.3.1. Core structure.....	82
7.3.2. Selection and initialization.....	82
7.3.3. Production	82
7.4. Retouched tools.....	85
7.5. Overview of SU 13: economy of raw material and production	86
8. Level 11: the long-term palimpsest	89
8.1. Reduction sequences.....	90
8.2. Levallois debitage	91
8.2.1. Cores structure	92
8.2.2. Selection and initialization	92
8.2.3. Production	92
8.2.4. Target product	97
8.3. Additive debitage aimed at producing flakes C1 D1	98
8.3.1. Core structure.....	98
8.3.2. Selection, inizationalization and production.....	101
8.4. Additive debitage aimed at producing blades and bladelets C2 D2.....	101
8.4.1. Core structure.....	101
8.4.2. Selection, initialization and production	105
8.5. Additive debitage aimed at producing point D3	106
8.5.1. Core structure.....	106
8.5.2. Selection, initialization and production	106
8.6. Additive debitage E1 discoid	106
8.6.1. Core structure.....	106
8.6.2. Selection, initialization and production	107
8.7. Retouched tools.....	108
8.8. Overview of SU 11: economy of raw material and reduction sequences	111

9. Continuities and Discontinuities at Oscurusciuto.....	113
9.1. Lithic behaviour	113
9.2. Occupational behaviour	114
9.3. Levallois, non-Levallois and additive debitage	115
10. The End of the Middle Palaeolithic	119
10.1. Geographical and Chronological distribution of the Italian sites.....	119
10.2. Late Middle Palaeolithic lithic production in Italy	122
10.3. Overview of the technology of the last Neanderthals	124
11. Final thoughts: The Flexibility of the Levallois concept.....	129
List of citations	131