FIELD-WALK ON EWEBOTTOM HILL - NEAR BRIGHTON

Ewebottom Hill lies 3/4 mile north of Patcham on the outskirts of Brighton.

Grid. ref. (The start of line A see Fig.l): TQ 3012 1025

Date walked: 28/1/84

Method:"Lines" - lines 30m apart with sections 30m long. Material picked up lm on either side of the line — 'leap—frog' method. The sections in lines C to G and H1O and 11 were walked twice.

Situation and geology: The field walked lies in the area where the ridge running southwards from Holt Hill forks into Ewebottom Hill and Scare Hill. Most of the field slopes down to the south. The underlying rock is Upper Chalk.

State of field: Much naturally fractured flint and chalk in certain areas. Good condition for walking.

Area covered: 62,000sq.m

Farmer & Farm: Mr.J.D.Paul, Patcham Court Farm (TQ 302 092)

Reason for field-walk: Investigation of the area where a few flint scapers and sherds of pottery were discovered.

Description and Distribution Of Finds

Finds consisted mainly of worked flint and burnt flint with lesser quantities of 'modern' (i.e. Post 18 C) pottery, tile, brick, glass and slate, 'old' (i.e. Prehistoric and Romano-British) pottery and sandstone fragments. The distributions of the finds are shown in Figs. 2 - 4, 6 - 11 and the total quantities in Table 2.

Fig. 1 : Location of the site (When laying out the lines no account was taken of the slope of the hill - consequently this diagram shows only a representation of the lines and sections.) The field dimensions have been taken from a 1981 aerial photograph.

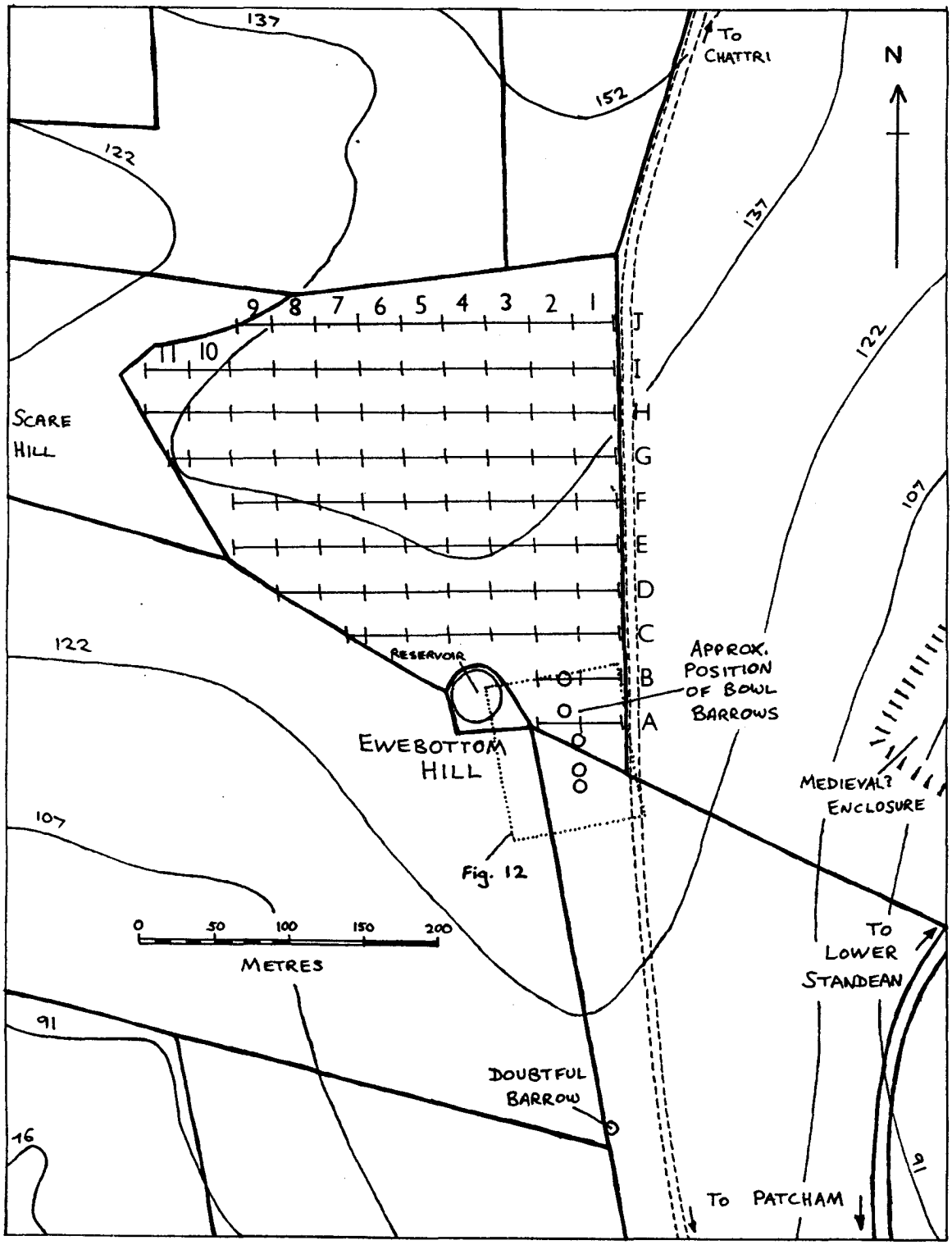


Fig.2 Distribution of struck flakes

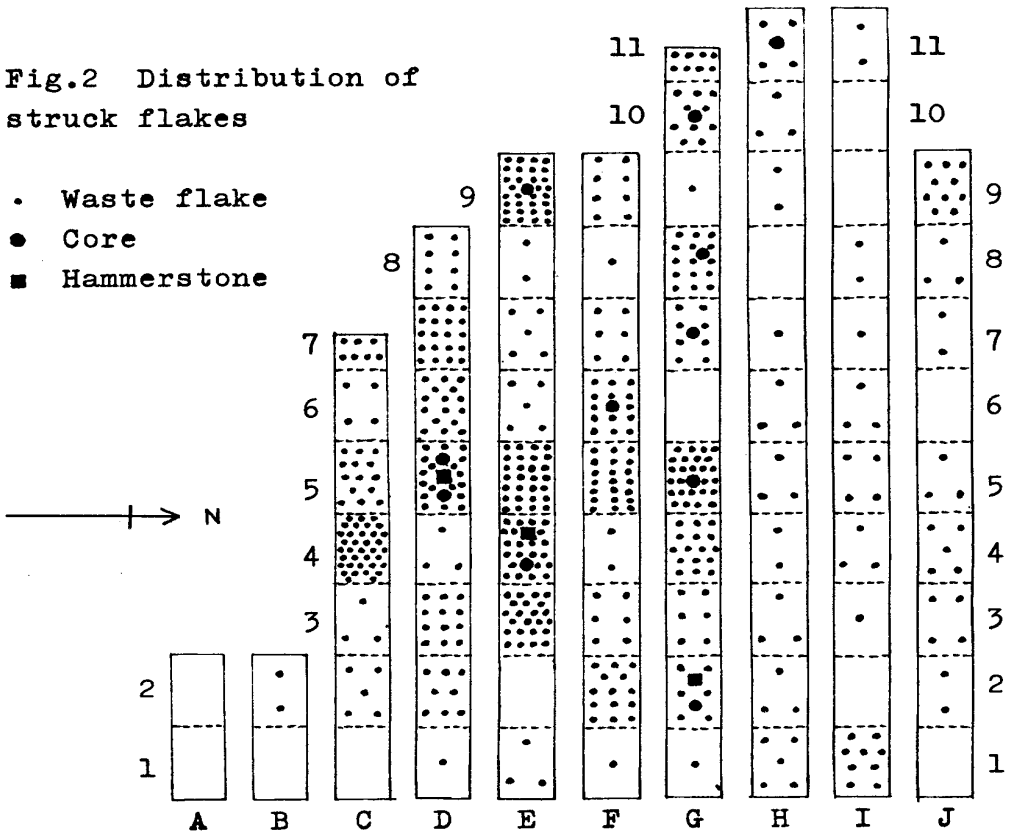


Fig. 3 Distribution of burnt flint

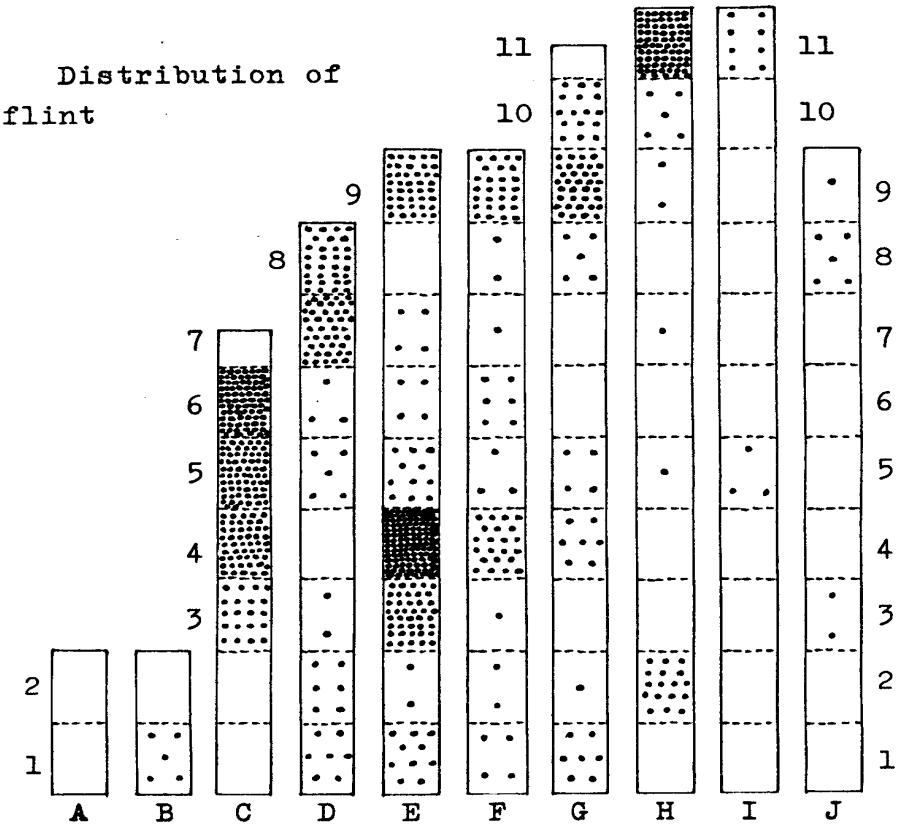


Table 1 : Flint implements (see Fig.5 for the illustrated examples)

↑	Single-barbed arrowhead (No.1)		1
End scrapers	- long (No.2)	13	41
	- waisted (No.3)	1	
	- short (No.4)	27	
Side scrapers	- long	3	8
	- short	5	
	Combined end and side scraper (No.5)		1
	Combined side and hollow scraper (No.6)		2
	Hollow scraper		10
M	Multi-purpose tool?(No.7)		2
	Flakes with scraper-like retouch		25
	Fabricator or strike-a-light? (No.8)		1
	Pick (No.9)		1
Δ	Awl or graver (No.10)		2+1?
	Knife with retouched edges (No.11)		1+1?
	Blades with edge retouch or utilisation		6
×	Miscellaneous retouched or utilised flakes		40
			143

Fig.4 Distribution of flint implements (see Table 1 above for explanation of symbols)

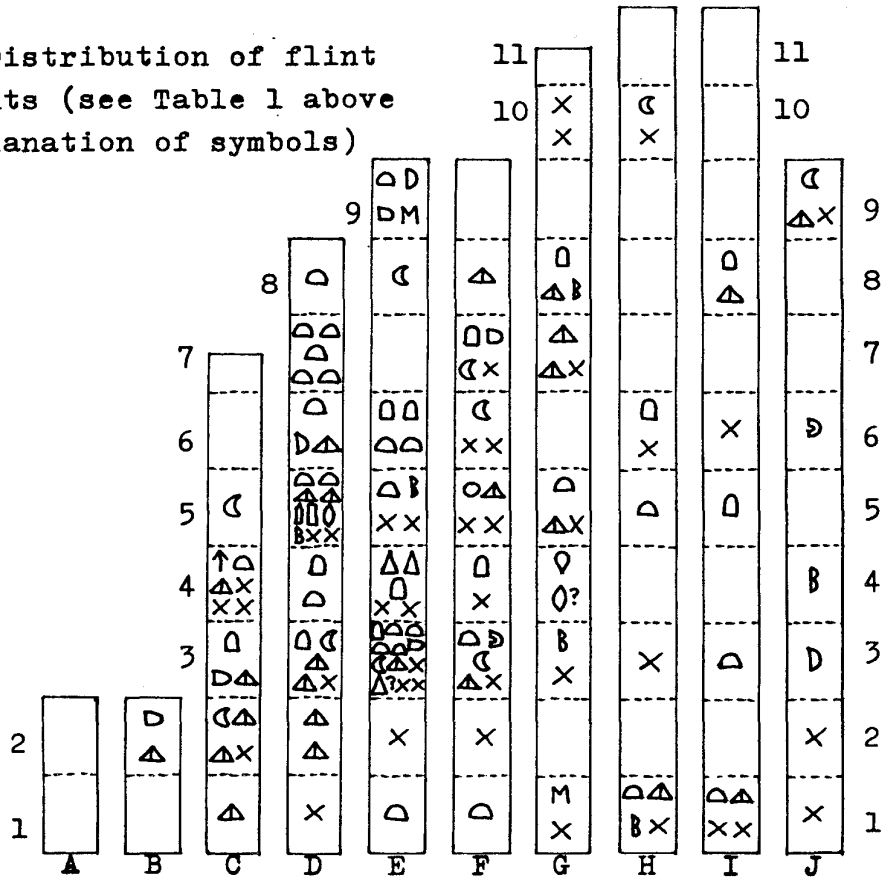
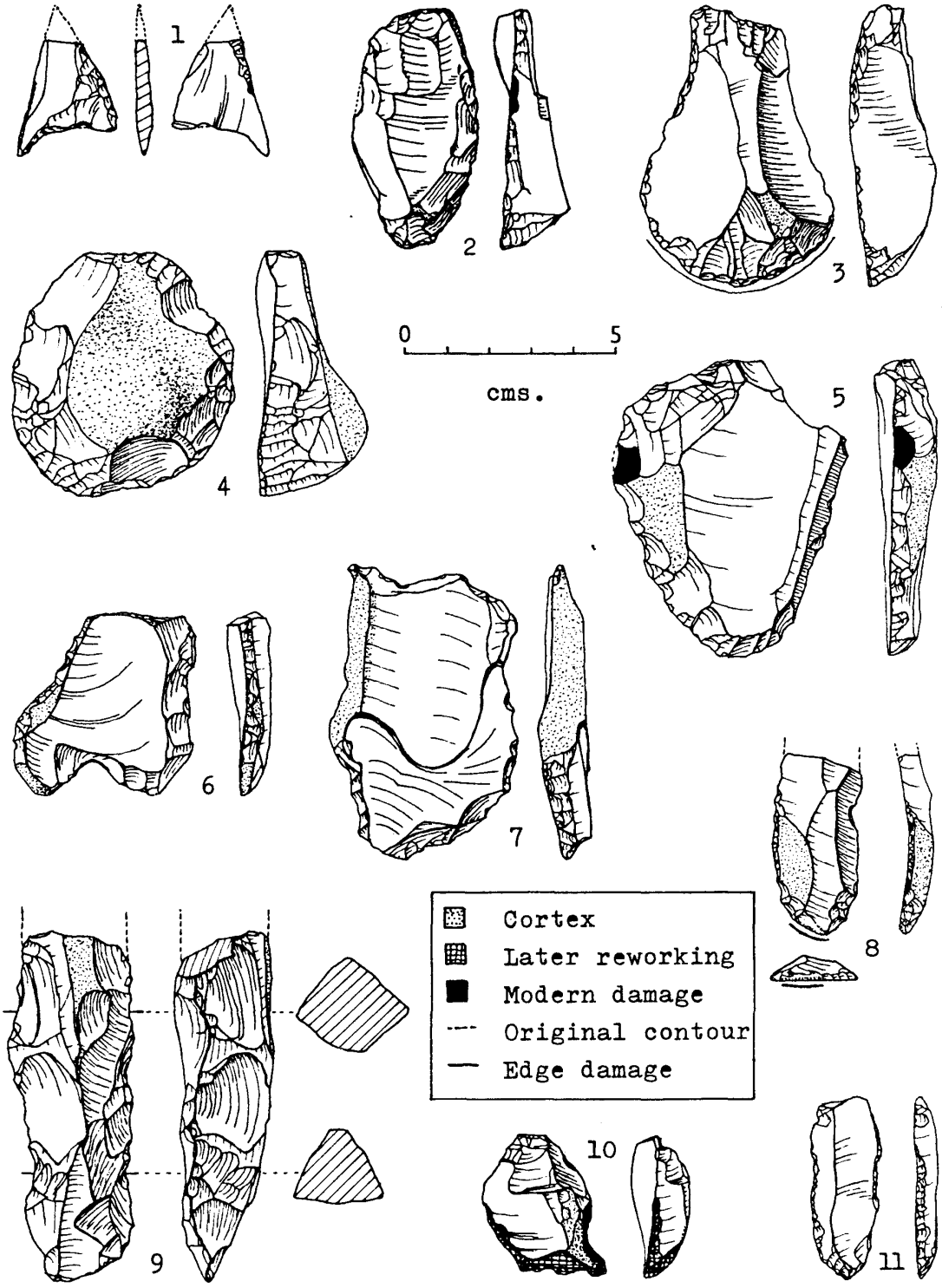


Fig. 5 Flint implements



Worked flint and burnt flint

The distributions of waste flakes, cores and hammer-stones, implements and burnt flint are represented in Figs. 2, 3 and 4. Finds are generally concentrated on the lower slope to the SW of the field.(see Discussion for comments). Table 1 shows the quantities of the various implement types, the symbols used in Fig.4 and the illustration numbers for Fig.5.

The scrapers have been classified into long and short types; long scrapers have length : breadth ratios greater than 7 : 5. Several of the scrapers show signs of use but only the waisted scraper (Fig.5 no.3) has the working edge rounded with wear (possibly suggesting a different function?). One short end scraper is made from a small core (from section H5) whilst two others are on frost-fractured pieces. The supports for the two multi-purpose implements (Fig.5 no.7) and one flake with scraper-like retouch are similarly frost-fractured flakes.

The heavy edge damage on the end of one blade (Fig.5 no.8) suggests that it may have been used as a fabricator or strike-a-light even though the piece is not of typical form.

The awl or graver (Pig.5 no.10) is made from a struck flake that has been reworked at a later period - the original flaked surface is almost white whilst the later flake scars have a pale grey patina. The struck flakes in general show a range of colours, from white to almost black, but it would be unwise to assume that this is a consequence of differences in the age of the material - It could simply reflect variations in the acidity of the soil that the flints have lain in contact with.

Pottery

Fig.6 shows the distributions of prehistoric and Romano-British potsherds and Fig.7, modern pottery.

Eleven tiny, ‘soapy’ sherds with orange/buff fabrics, most containing the very occasional fine flint inclusion are probably of Beaker or Bronze age date. Generally they are poorly fired and contain numerous cavities. The thickness of the sherds ranges from 0.5 - 1.0cm. The largest sherd (3 x 3cm) is possibly decorated with bird bone impressions approx. 1.5cm apart but the sherd is too small and worn to be certain.

Seven sherds in a fine sandy orange to dark brown fabric containing numerous fine to medium flint inclusions are probably of Iron age date. Seven sherds in a ‘soapy’, grog-tempered fabric having orange/buff suxfaces and dark grey interiors are probably Romano-British, East Sussex ware (+ 4 other sherds). The twenty-eight modern sherds include fragments of soneware, brown glazed earthenware, porcelain and flower pots.

Fig.6 Distribution of prehistoric and Romano-British pottery

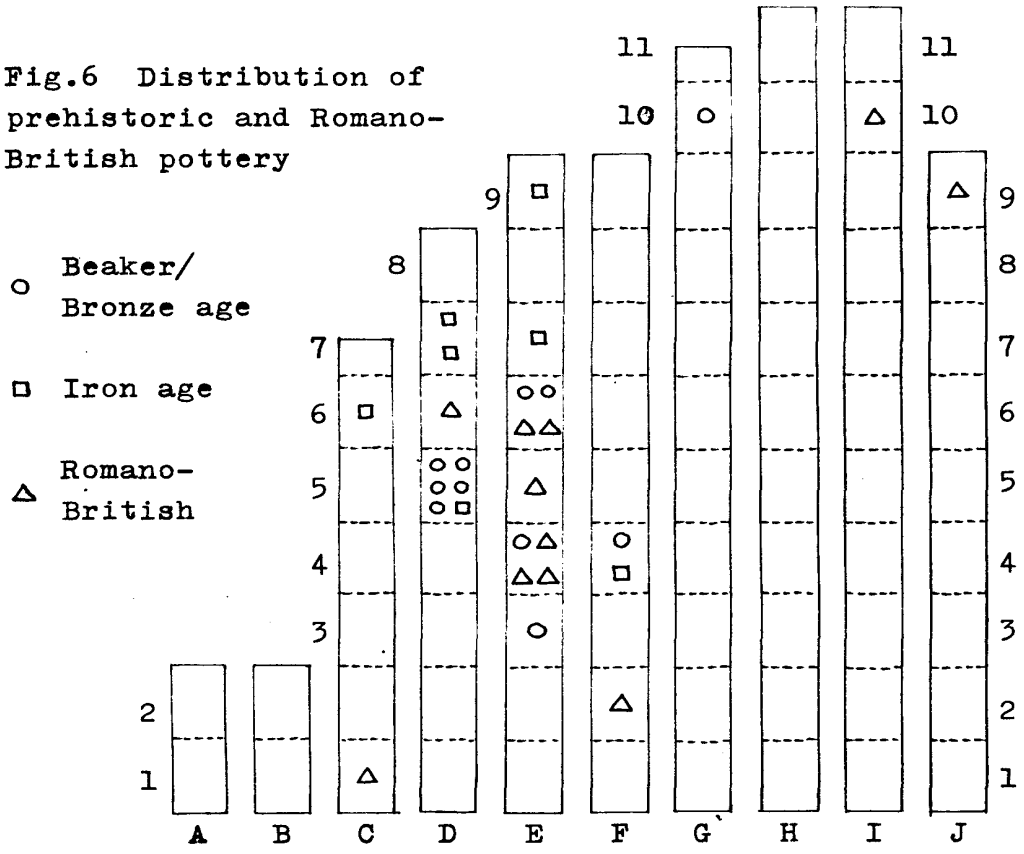
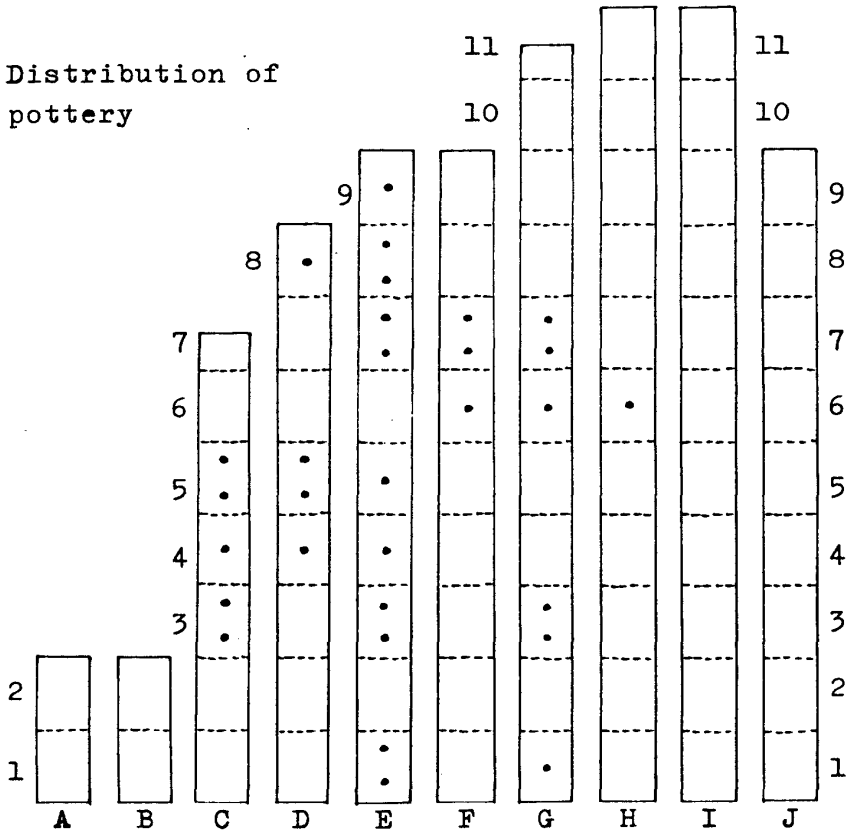
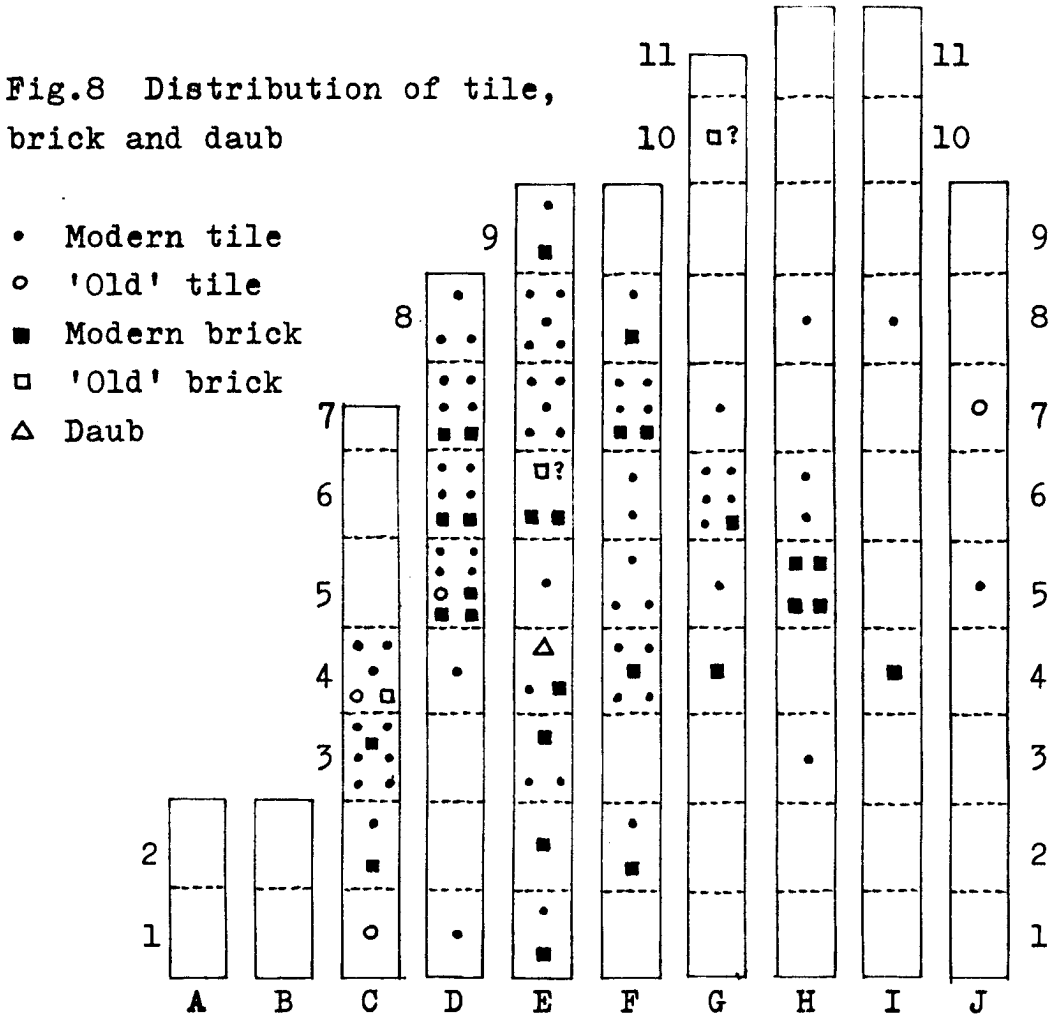


Fig.7 Distribution of modern pottery



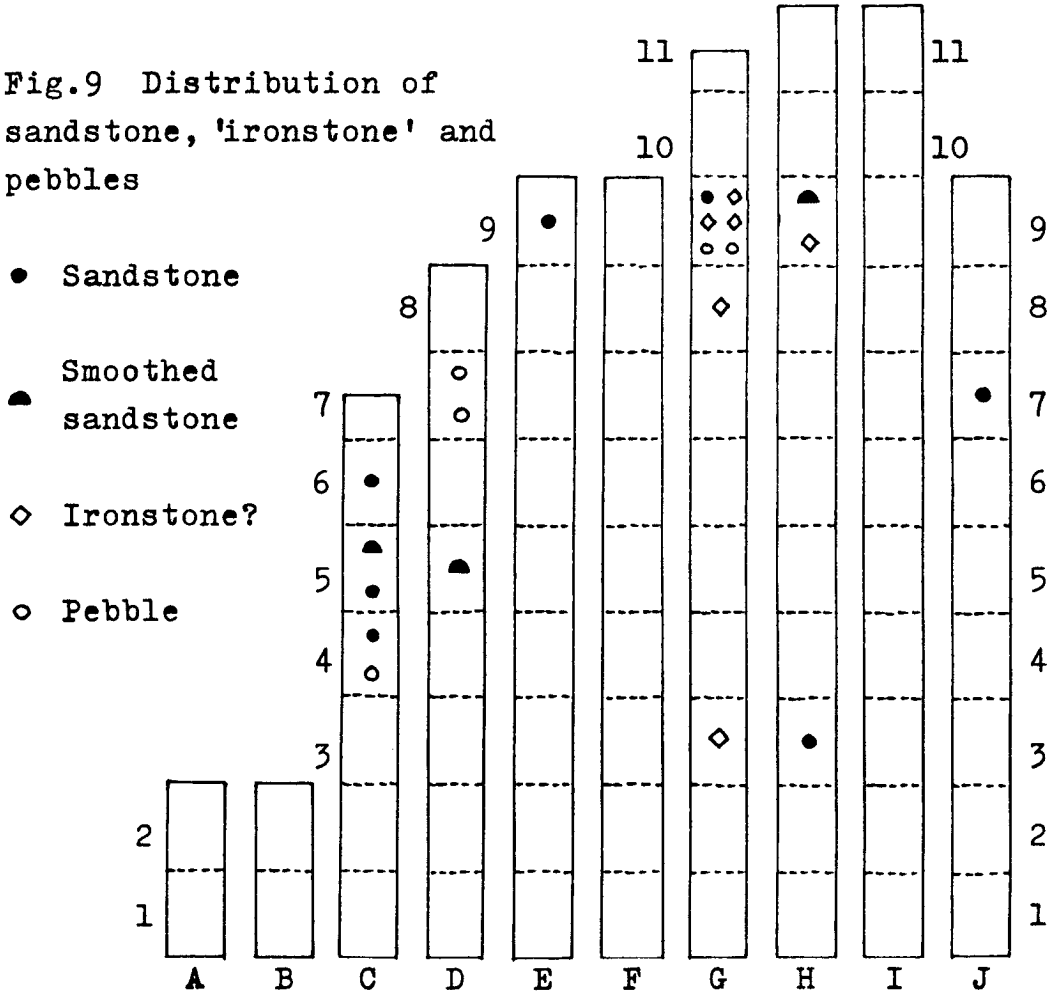
Tile, brick and daub (see Fig.8)

Four pieces of tile having orange surfaces and fine grey fabrics found in sections CI, 06, D5 and J7, and one soft, pale orange brick fragment from section C6 (+ 2 other tiny orange pieces from E6 and G10 may be earlier than 18 C, but the majority of tile and brick found was clearly of a modern date. One buff-coloured piece of daub was found in section E4.



Foreign stone and pebbles (see Fig.9)

Of the ten sandstone pieces recovered three have flattened surfaces (two quern? fragments from 05 and H9 and one whetstone? frag. from D5). Six pieces tentatively identified as ironstone and a few flint beach pebbles were also found.



Others

Moderate quantities of modern roofing slate (Fig.1O) and glass (Fig.11) were found. Metal pieces included four nails (D5, El, E4 and E7), a small horseshoe 7x6,5cm (El), two pieces of sheet (06 and G6) and a possible latch (D5).

One bone (G8), oyster (E6) and piece of slag?(C6) were found. A few pieces of coal, coke and cement were also recovered.

Table 2 : Total quantities of finds.

Type		Quantities	
Flint -	Waste flake	517	
	Core	11	
	Hammerstone	3	674
	Implement	143	
	Burnt flint		813
Pottery -	Beaker/Bronze age		11
	Iron age		7
	Romano-British		11
	Modern		30
Tile -	'Old'		4
	Modern		71
Brick -	'Old'		1+2?
	Modern		28
	Daub		1
Foreign stone -	Sandstone		10
	'Ironstone'		6
	Pebbles		5
Others -	Slate		42
	Glass		27
	Metal		8
	Bone		1
	Oyster		1
	Slag		1
	Coal		7
	Coke		8
	Cement		2

Fig. 10 Distribution of modern roofing slate

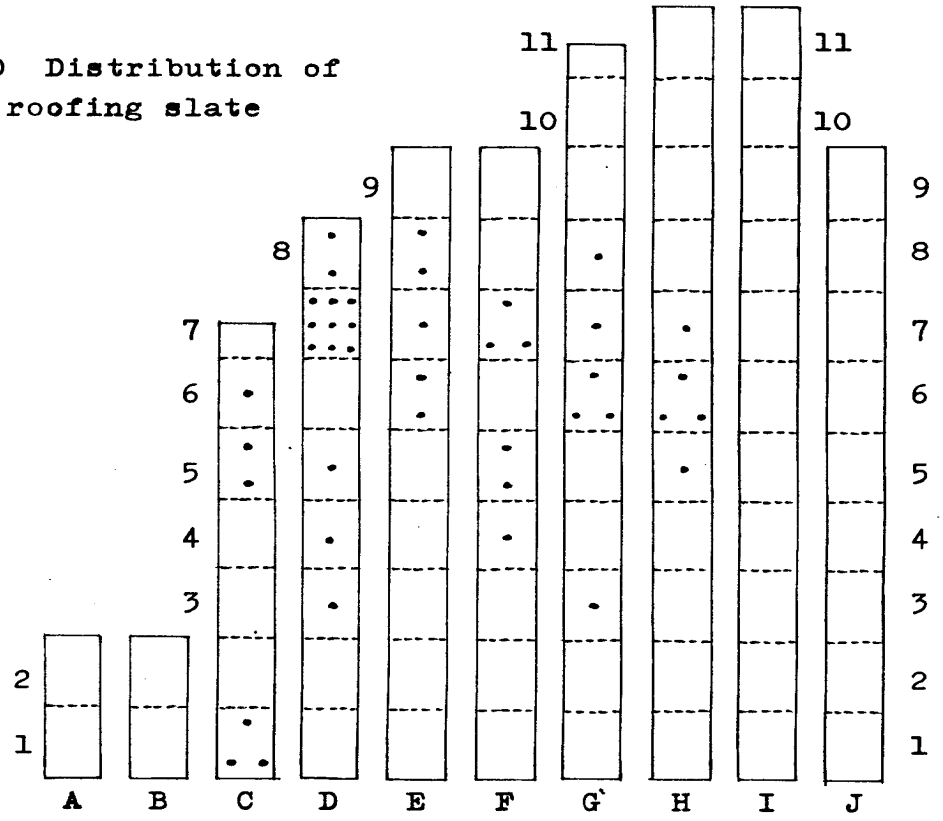
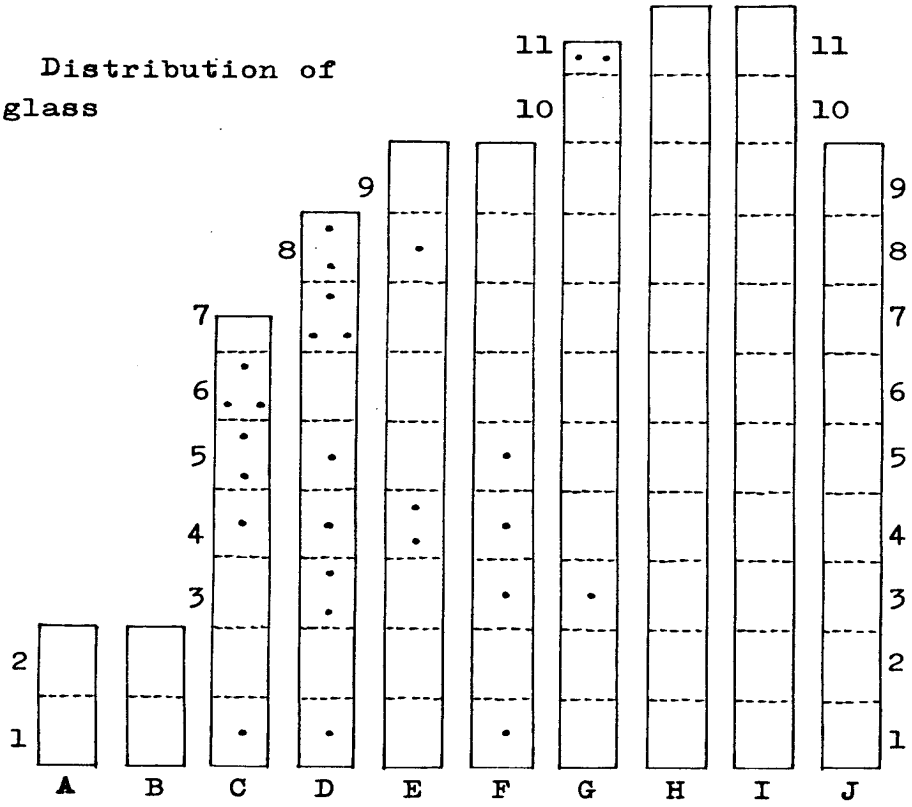


Fig. 11 Distribution of modern glass



Discussion

A study of the distribution diagrams (Figs.2-4, 6-11) indicates that most finds are concentrated approxi~ate1y in the centre and along the south-west edge of the field. This trend is true for both old and modern artefacts alike and hence is probably not, very significant. The relative paucity of finds in the north and east may be a result of ploughed- up chalk obscuring the surface and soil slippage to the lower southern slope. Lines H, I and 3 were, unlike most of the lines, only walked once, but this is not likely to be important since there was a genuine lack of finds in this area.

Apart from the worked flint and burnt flint, the quantity of finds were small, not enough to place much significance on. The Bronze age pottery does not appear to be associated with any of the recorded round barrows (in sections A2 and.B2) and their presence may, together with the other non—flint finds, be simply a result of manuring.

Definite concentrations of burnt flint were noted ‘in the field’ and are indicated on the distribution diagram, Fig.3, but again there is a difficulty in interpretation - gorse burning has been carried out in the area and it is not unlikely that this should produce quantities of burnt flint. According to Mr.Paul, the farmer, this mainly took place in the west of the field and hence the concentration in section E4, at least, probably dates from an earlier period. It is tempting to associate the older pottery finds with the burnt flint concentrations but this would be stretching the meager evidence too far.

A good collection of worked flints were recovered but, as suggested above, the concentration in the centre and south-west of the field is probably more apparent than real. The quantity of waste flakes and implements (especially scrapers) found and the presence of three hammerstones makes it feasible that an occupation site may have been situated in this area. No closely datable finds were recovered - the single-barbed arrowhead is a type that was used between the late Neolithic and Middle Bronze age.

The reworking of an ‘old’ struck flake to produce an implement (the ‘awl’, Fig.5 no.10) possibly suggests that flints were being worked at a relatively late period (though there is no way of knowing how late!) but clearly very little weight can be placed on a single find, and without more evidence the flint—working site can only be dated Neolithic/Bronze age.

Other archaeological remains in the area (see Fig.1) are a group of 5 ploughed-out bowl barrows (L.V.Grinsell - S.A.C.75 (1934) p259), a ploughed-out double lynchet road (between TQ 3008 1063 - 3017 0997) of probable I.A./R.B. age and a medieval or post-medieval stock enclosure.

The finds have been stored in Brighton Museum (code Eh 84).

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Dr.A.Woodcock for his help in identifying the flint implements. My thanks must also go to all the members of the Brighton & Hove Archaeological Society that took part in the field—walk or helped with the marking-up of the finds.

Resistivity Survey On Ewebottom Hill

Grinsell, in his report on Sussex barrows (S.A.C.75 1934 p.259), says little about the group of ploughed-out bowl barrows on Ewebottom Hill except their approximate positions and diameters. A resistivity survey was carried out on 7/4/84 in order to discover what, if any, further information could be discovered using this method, The survey was made on the pasture land immediately to the south of the fieldwalked area (see Figs. l and 12) using a Martin-Clark resistivity meter. (For an introduction to the instrument and the theory behind the method see John Coles, Field Archaeology in Britain, Methuen (1972) pp.34-8 ; or F.H.Goodyear, Archaeological Site Science, Heinemann (1971) pp.229-36 for •a more informative account.)

Fig. 12 Location of the surveyed area

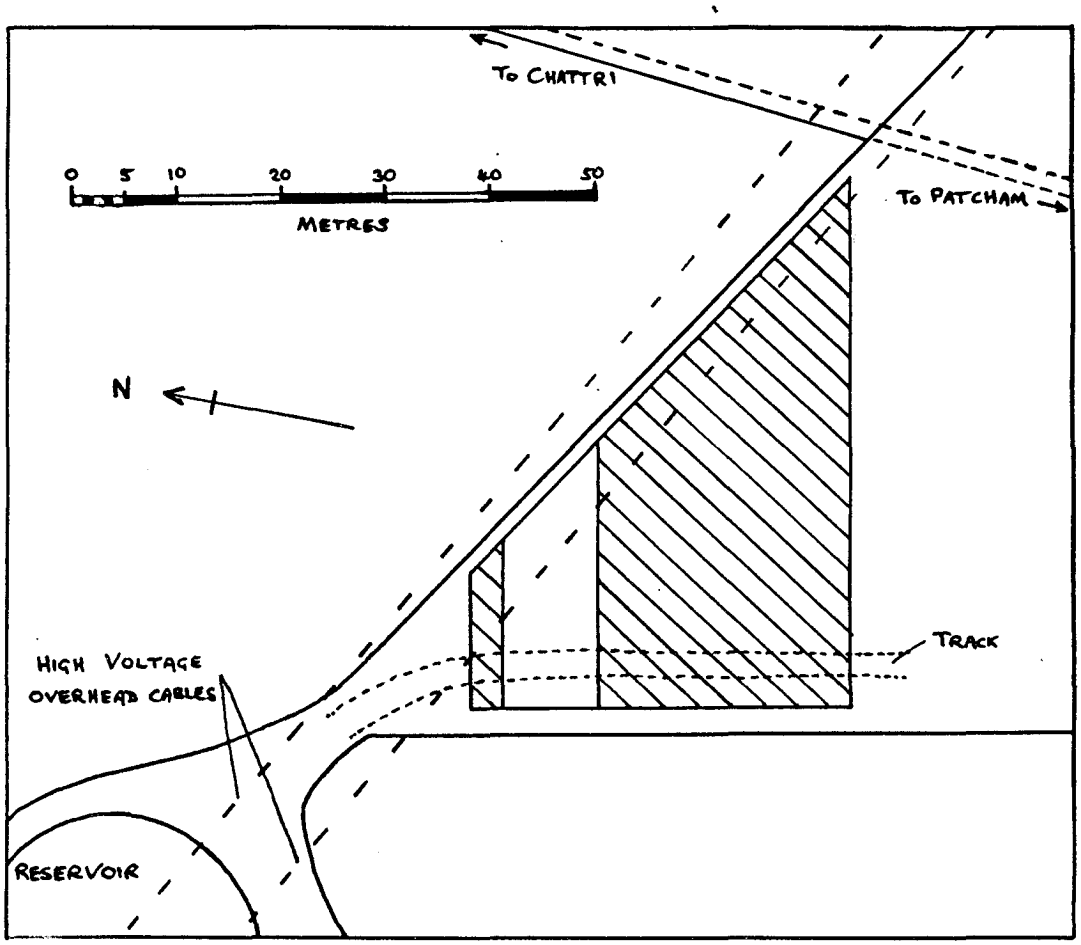
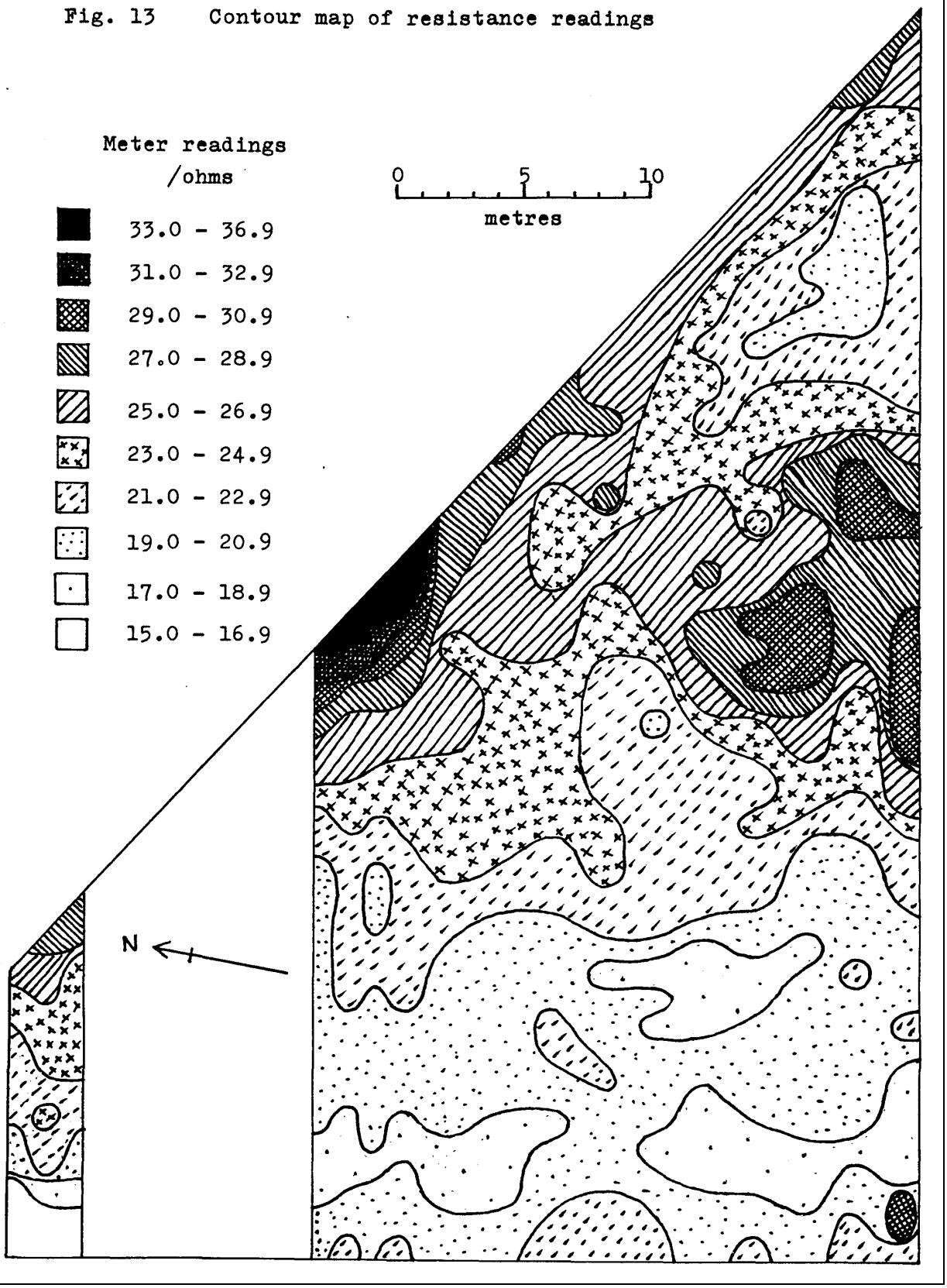


Fig. 13 Contour map of resistance readings



Readings were taken with the probes spaced 1 metre apart and along lines 2 metres apart.
Rain had fallen the previous day and the underlying bedrock was chalk conditions that should give optimum results. Large quantities of naturally fractured flints had, however, been noticed in the adjacent ploughed field during the fieldwalk and their presence in the soil could possibly interfere with the results.

Results

The readings had a tendency to oscillate between higher and lower values, and this was probably due to small variations in the probe spacings, but whatever the reason a more consistent set of results was obtained by averaging consecutive readings. The contour map Fig.13 is based on these averaged resistance values[1].

The contour map indicates that the readings taken beneath the high voltage cables were always relatively high and this is clearly a factor to be taken into account when doing this type of work.

Two areas of high resistivity can also be seen: the one on the edge of the diagonal side and the other to the south of this area correspond approximately with the positions of two of the barrows as described by Grinsell (see Fig.l). The area surveyed, however, is not large enough to yield convincing results and no definite conclusions can be drawn.

Acknowledgements Bob Saville 17/5/84

I would like to thank all the BHAS members that helped with the survey.

Would anyone wanting more information about the Brighton & Hove Arch. Soc. please contact the Secretary.

1 Since the probe distances were kept constant the resistance readings measured on the meter are proportional to the resistivities.