

# Novington, Plumpton East Sussex

## The Flint

Over 1000 pieces of flintwork were recovered during the survey, and are summarised in Table 0. The flint is of the same types as found in the previous survey of the adjacent field (Butler, 1989,31).

A small proportion of the flakes and blades are soft hammer struck; these, together with the ??type microlith (Fig. 0), date from the ?? Mesolithic. They indicate limited activity here, possibly from hunting groups, in the Mesolithic. The remainder of the debitage is hard hammer struck and, along with most of the Implements, are typical of that found in the later Neolithic and Early Bronze Age. The large quantity of Implements suggests an activity site or sites of some size, and from the range of implements found; scrapers, arrowheads (Fig. 0), piercers, knives and other tools, indicates that a wide range of activities was being carried out here.

**Table 0            The Flint Assemblage**

	<b>Field 1</b>	<b>Field 2</b>	<b>Field 3</b>	<b>Total</b>
<u>Debitage</u>				
Flakes	85	296	339	720
Blades	7	16	13	36
Crested blade	-	2	-	2
Misc retouched pieces	1	42	16	59
Shattered pieces	4	60	62	126
Burin spall		1		1
Single platform, flake core		3	3	6
Two platform, flake core		5	3	8
Three platform, flake core		1	1	2
Single platform, blade core		2	2	4
Core tablet		5	1	6
Core rejuvenation flake		1	-	1
<u>Implements</u>				
Leaf shaped arrowhead		1		1
Transverse arrowhead	—	1	—	1
Scrapers	3	33	26	62
Piercers	4	10	9	23
Notched pieces	3	8	4	15
Knives		2		2
Cutting flake/blades	1	4	7	12
Combination tool	-	-	2	2
Microlith		1		1
Hammerstone			1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>494</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>1091</b>
Fire—fractured flint	284	312	841	1437
<b>Total</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>806</b>	<b>1330</b>	<b>2528</b>

## Pottery

Just over 1000 sherds of pottery, together with clay pipe and burnt clay were found during the survey (Table 0). Full details of the fabrics are deposited with the archive.

### Prehistoric

The prehistoric pottery comprised five fabrics, dating from the Early Bronze Age through to the Early Iron Age.

### Roman

Four different fabrics of Roman pottery were found, however of these, the majority (70%) were of East Sussex Ware.

### Medieval

Medieval pottery made up the majority of all the sherds found. All of those found were of a sandy fabric, most had flint inclusions of variable size and frequency, and some were glazed.

### Post Medieval

Over 250 Post Medieval sherds and 6 fragments of clay pipe were found, mainly in Field 1. These ranged in date from the 17<sup>th</sup> Century up to the present day.

### Burnt Clay

The survey revealed almost 400 fragments of burnt clay, the majority of which came from Field 3. This material probably represents daub of an indeterminate date.

**Table 0 Pottery**

	Field 1	Field 2	Field 3	Total
Prehistoric	3	11	13	27
Roman	13	14	24	51
Medieval	359	17	313	689
Post—medieval	154	12	87	253
Clay pipe	6			6
Burnt clay	41	79	275	395
<b>Total</b>	<b>576</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>712</b>	<b>1421</b>

## **The Pottery Fabrics – Archive data**

### **Prehistoric.**

1. Buff to red or black sandy fabric with frequent medium sized calcinated flint inclusions. Holes left from burnt out organic material. Probably Bronze Age.
2. Black sandy fabric with small to medium sized flint inclusions. Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age.
3. Grog tempered dark grey or red brown/brown fabric with occasional medium sized calcined flint inclusions. Early Bronze Age.
4. Grey/black and brown fabric. Small to medium sized calcined flint inclusions. Holes left from burnt out organic material. Probably Bronze Age (similar to Fabric 1).
5. Orange red to brown grog tempered fabric with medium sized calcined flint and quartz inclusions. Probably Bronze Age.

### **Roman**

6. Fine sandy buff ware.
7. Sandy orange—red ware, sometimes with reduced core.
8. Sandy grey ware.
9. Grog tempered ware with soapy feel. Rare flint inclusion, various colours from buff to black. East Sussex Ware.

### **Medieval**

10. Sandy ware with variable sized flint inclusions of variable frequencies. Colours range from buff,red to brown. Some sherds have a green or yellow—green glaze. Mostly 12th—13th century in date, some may be earlier Saxo—norman type ware.

### **Post Medieval**

11. Various fabrics and types of ware.
12. Clay pipe, no makers marks present on pieces found, but some stems are thick, indicating an earlier rather than later date.

## **The Purse Bar.**

One of the sidebars from this Purse Bar was found during the earlier project at Novington (Butler, 1989, Fig. 2, No 16). The remainder of it was found more recently, in two parts, by Mr Gaston with the aid of a metal detector. The reconstructed Purse Bar is shown in Fig 0.

The Purse Bar is made of bronze or bronze alloy. The side bars are circular in section and take the form of animal's heads at their junction with the central boss. The side bars are decorated with a diagonal lattice-pattern on both the back and front. On one side of the central boss is a simple star, and on the other; what appears to be three almost vertical lines, but which may be a simple 'W', an initial which was quite common on this type of Purse Bar. The central loop, used for suspending the Purse Bar from a belt, is undecorated.

This particular form of Purse Bar is typical of a Type A1 Purse Bar (London Museum Catalogue, 1940,164), which are amongst the earliest and most elaborate Purse Bars known in the country, and date from the 15th Century.

## **Other Non-ferrous Metal Objects.**

### **1. The Disc Brooch:**

A Ring and Dot ornamented Disc Brooch (Fig. 0) was found (at the south end) of Field 1, by Mr R. Burgess. Made in copper—alloy, the Disc Brooch contains a 'ring and dot' design comprising; a central large 'dot' enclosed within an incised ring. Around this are eight smaller dots each within its own incised ring. The whole design is then enclosed within a larger (double?) ring. On the reverse of the brooch are the broken remains of two lugs which would originally have held the fastening pin.

Ring and Dot ornamented Disc Brooches are commonly found in Anglo—Saxon cemeteries and settlements in southern England (Welch, 1983), with examples in Sussex coming from Aifriston, Beddingham and Highdown. They date from the second half of the 5th Century into the later 6th Century.

### **2. The Strap-end:**

A 9th Century Anglo-Saxon strap-end of copper alloy (Fig.0) was also found by Mr R. Burgess in Field 1. It is broken at the split-end, with the upper part of the front missing, and the back is broken at the rivet holes. As with other strap-ends recently found in Sussex (Graham-Campbell, 1988 & 1989), this latest one has 'Trehiddle style' decoration. The terminal is in the form of an animal's head viewed from above, with the main body divided into three fields. The lower of the fields is fan shaped, and contains a stylised plant—motif. Above this appears to be a face comprising a nose and two eyes, and at the top there is a field containing two stylised animals, however part of this field is missing. The reverse of the strap—end is plain. Length: 39.0mm. This find takes the number of 9th Century Anglo-Saxon strap—ends found in Sussex

to six in total, one of which was found in 1984 at Westmeston, only some 3km from this latest one.

### **3. The Buckles:**

Six copper-alloy buckles were found in the topsoil of Fields 1 and 3 ?

They include both single and double types. Two of the buckles are decorated, and one has an iron pin. They may date from the Medieval period, but some are probably later in date.

### **4. Musket Balls:**

Three Lead musket balls were found, two of which are 5.6mm in diameter, the other being 15.5mm in diameter.

### **5. Glass.**

A single annular glass bead was found in Field 1. It is light blue in colour, is undecorated, and has been broken either in antiquity or more recently (Fig. 0). Such beads are commonly found in Anglo—Saxon cemeteries, and date from the late 5th to mid 6th Century (Welch, 1983, 83).

### **Coins. (by David Rudling)**

1. Verica, King of the Atrebates. Silver unit. Inscription in tablet: COMF. Reverse: Eagle. 1.25g. ~ AD10—20.
2. Clipped coin
3. Pierced coin

### **References.**

- Butler, C. 'A fieldwalking Project at Novington Manor, Plumpton', Suss. Arch. Coil. 127, 31-38.
- Graham-Campbell, J. 1988 'Two 9th-Century Anglo-saxon strap—ends from East Sussex', Suss. Arch. Coil. 126, 239—41.
- Graham-Campbell, J. 1989 'Two New 9th-Century Anglo-Saxon Strap—ends from East Sussex', Suss. Arch. Coil. 127, 244—45
- London Museum Catalogue 1940 Medieval Catalogue, H.M.S.O., London.
- Welch M.G. 1983 'Early Anglo Saxon Sussex' British Archaeological Report 112.

**Editors Note** This Discussion paper was partially handwritten, the Editor has attempted to type this paper correctly.

## **Discussion**

The information gathered from the three fields 1,2 and 3 fieldwalked at Novington during 1989 should be studied in association with the adjacent field walked in 1986 (SAC 127 (1989), 31—38). The four fields together create a large rectangle and the analysis can incorporate findings from both projects to encompass a broader perspective of the area.

As in the 1986 survey the finds recovered dated from the Mesolithic period dawn to the present. The flintwork possessed some Mesolithic flakes, but the majority of the flintwork collected was either Late Neolithic d Early Bronze Age. The worked flint and implements (Fig 0) are concentrated at the southern end of field 2 and this concentration aligns with a similar concentration from the 1986 survey in that area. Field 3 has a flint concentration in the central portion of the field. There is a general spread of flint material, fire—fractured flint and burnt clay over all three fields, however the concentrations of each of three types of finds are geographical relative with the occupation ????. The burnt clay in field 2 which lies a little to the West of the field away from the flint material down a gentle slope. Bronze age pottery sherds were found in field 2 in association with the flint material at the south end of the field, however In field 3 the prehistoric pottery was more dispersed. A Bronze age awl and palstave have been found on the hill immediately to the south of the fields walked at Novington. The amount of implements, flint flakes, fire-fractured flint and burnt clay found in the south east corner of field 2 would suggest an area of activity and possibly even a settlement, The finds from the center of field 3 although having fewer implements also appears a possible prehistoric site, however it could be part of the same site in field 2. The ploughing of all the fields in the survey is going to remove the archaeological features, if it has not already done so.

Roman material consists of a thin scatter of pottery sherds and these are predominantly East Sussex ware, similar to those found in the 1986 fieldwork.

The Pottery from the Roman villa at Plumpton was found to be concentrated in the fields immediately surrounding the villa, and although it is possible for the sherds to have been transported by manuring during Roman times or even by tractor wheels in contemporary times the overall picture from the four fields would appear to suggest that the Roman pottery finds become more prolific towards the North east quarter the fields and closer to the Roman road (Margery 1948) but away from the Plumpton villa direction. Further fieldwalking to the north east of those fields already surveyed would prove whether this was in fact the case.

Medieval activity in the Novington fieldwalking is reflected in a large amount of archaeological material, Across fields 1 and 3 were sherds of Medieval pottery, in field 2 the sherds were restricted to the southern end of the field. Metal finds have included coins and a purse bar, The pottery material in field 1 would emphasise the likelihood of a Medieval house in the area Indicated in the 1986 survey. Further concentrations of pottery sherds would also suggest a possible Medieval dwelling in the area of the current gate-keepers lodge.

Saxon Material is represented by a disc brooch and glass bead from field 1. Field 1 is at the bottom of a spur on the north face of the Downs, similar to Park Barn and Beddingham and although there are only 3 finds from the Saxon period, these could be location similarities and dating suggest the presence of a 5th or 6th century cemetery. The third find from the Saxon period is 9th century strap end.

From the small amount of shards found from the analysis of the 1989, incorporation of the 1986 survey a greater perspective of the archaeological data of the fields at Novington is achieved.

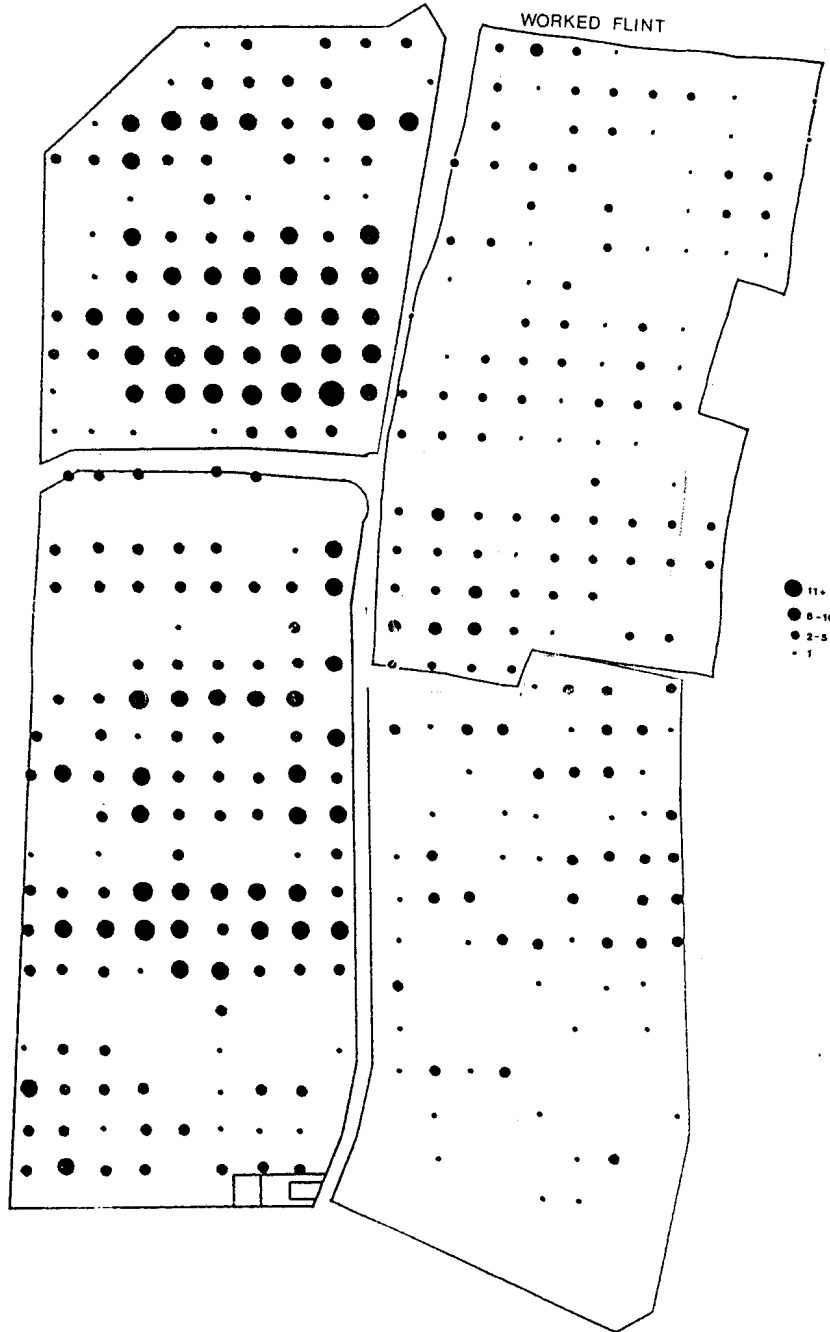
The assessments of the original fieldwalking are both enhanced and emphasized by the broader aspects and can be further advanced by more students and fielding walking of the adjacent fields.

Anomalies in the fieldwalking are indicated in the data by omissions in several lines, of archaeological material studies, flint flakes and tools. While due variations do not detract from the overall archaeological picture it does emphasize the importance of training in recognition of archaeological material prior to fieldwalking.





FLINT



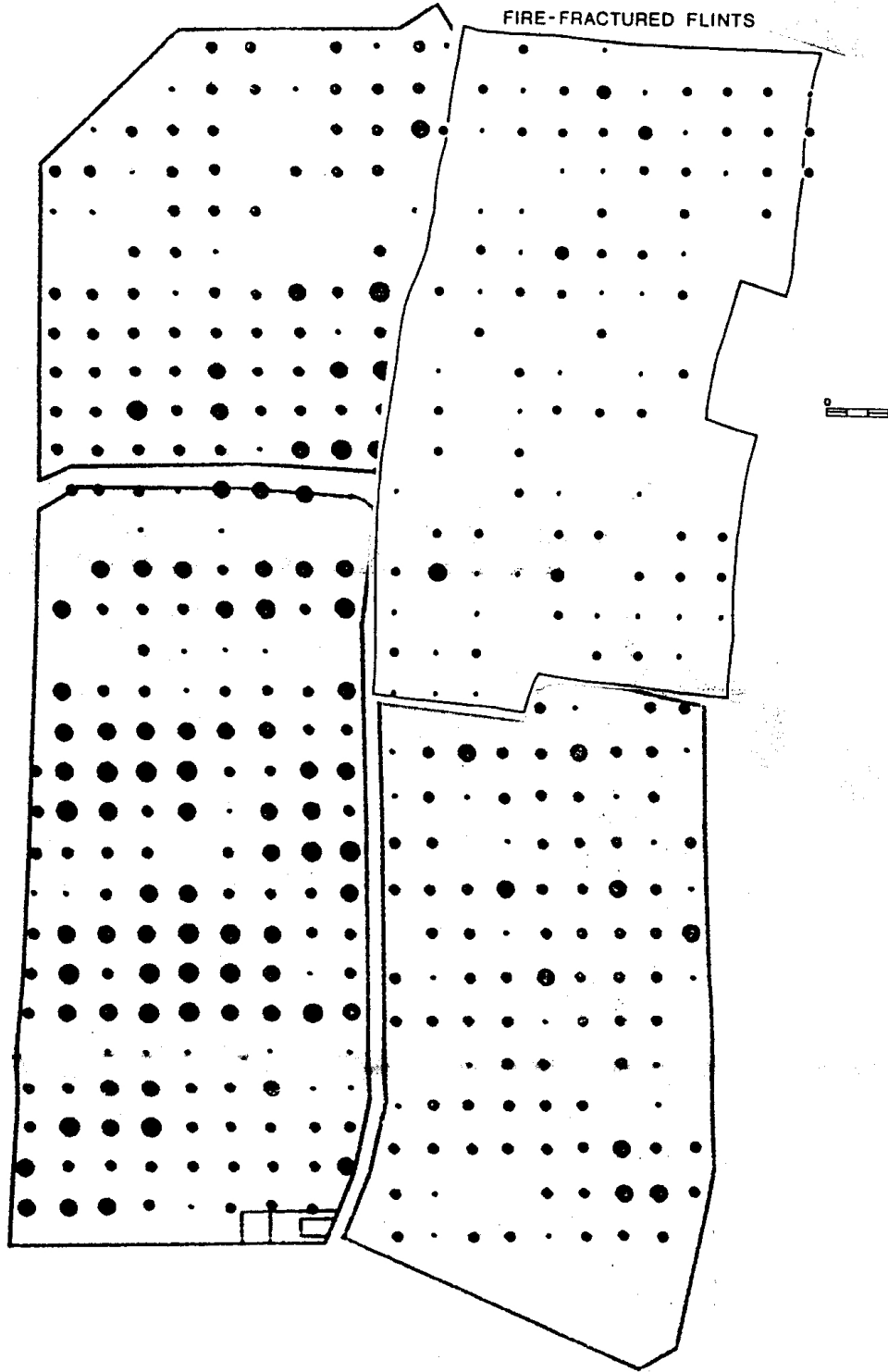
- 11+
- 6-10
- 2-5
- 1

FLINT IMPLEMENTS



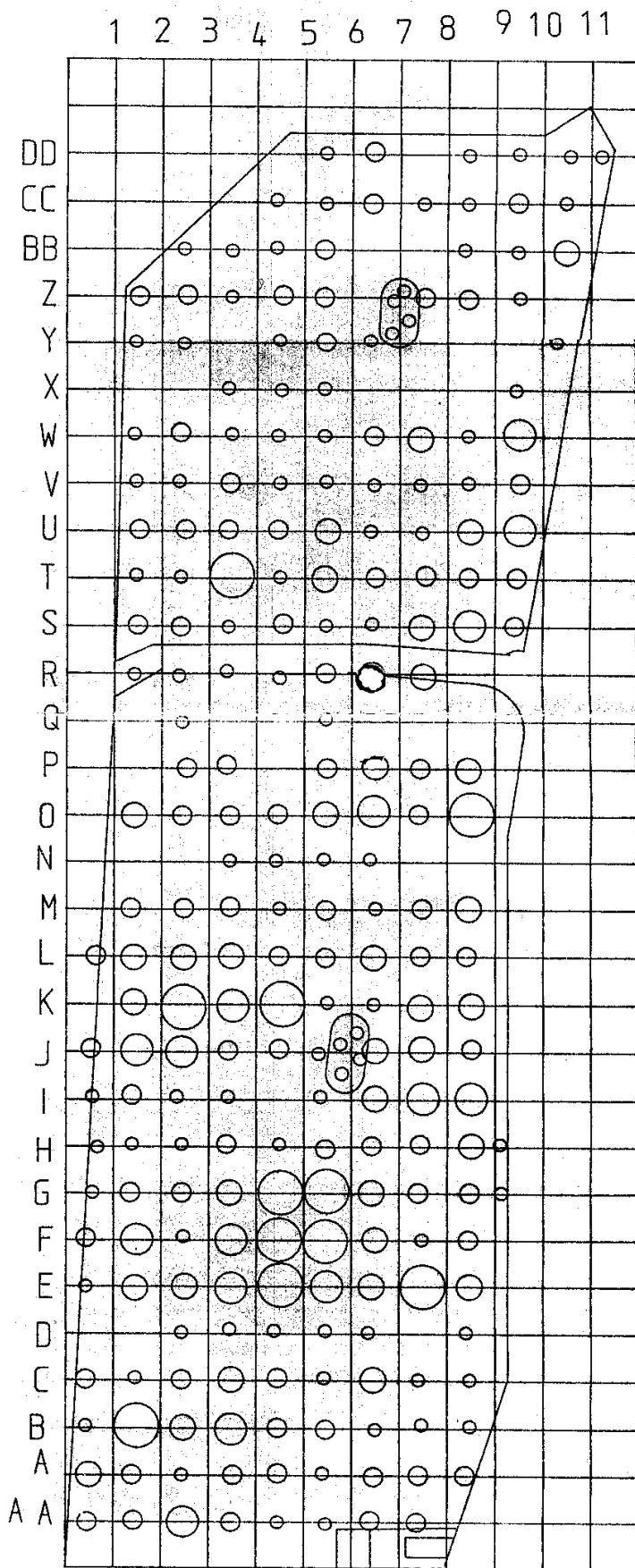
- Arrowhead
- Scraper
- Piercer
- ▣ Core
- ▲ Cutting flake
- ◊ Notched flake

NOVINGTON FIRE-FRACTURED



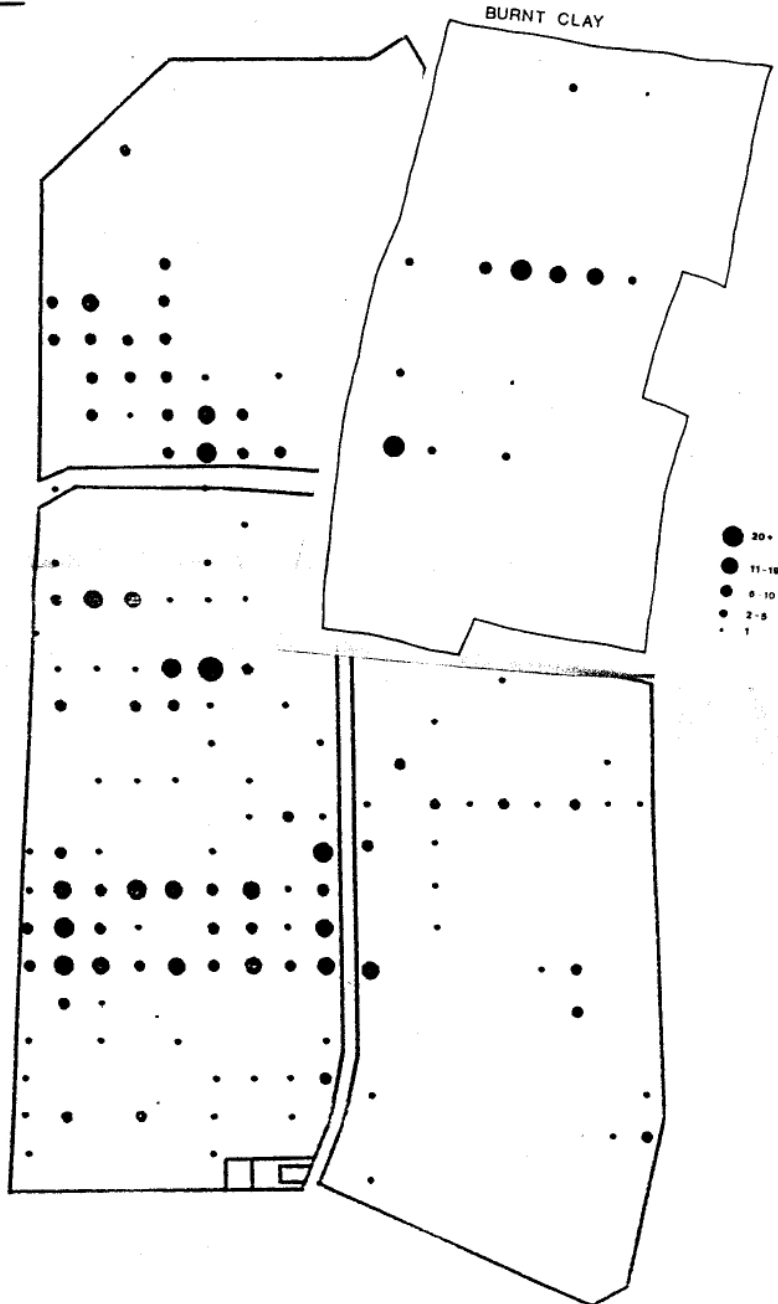
NOVINGTON FIRE FRACTURED FLINT CONCENTRATIONS

- 1-3
- 4-6
- 7-9
- 10-12
- 13-15

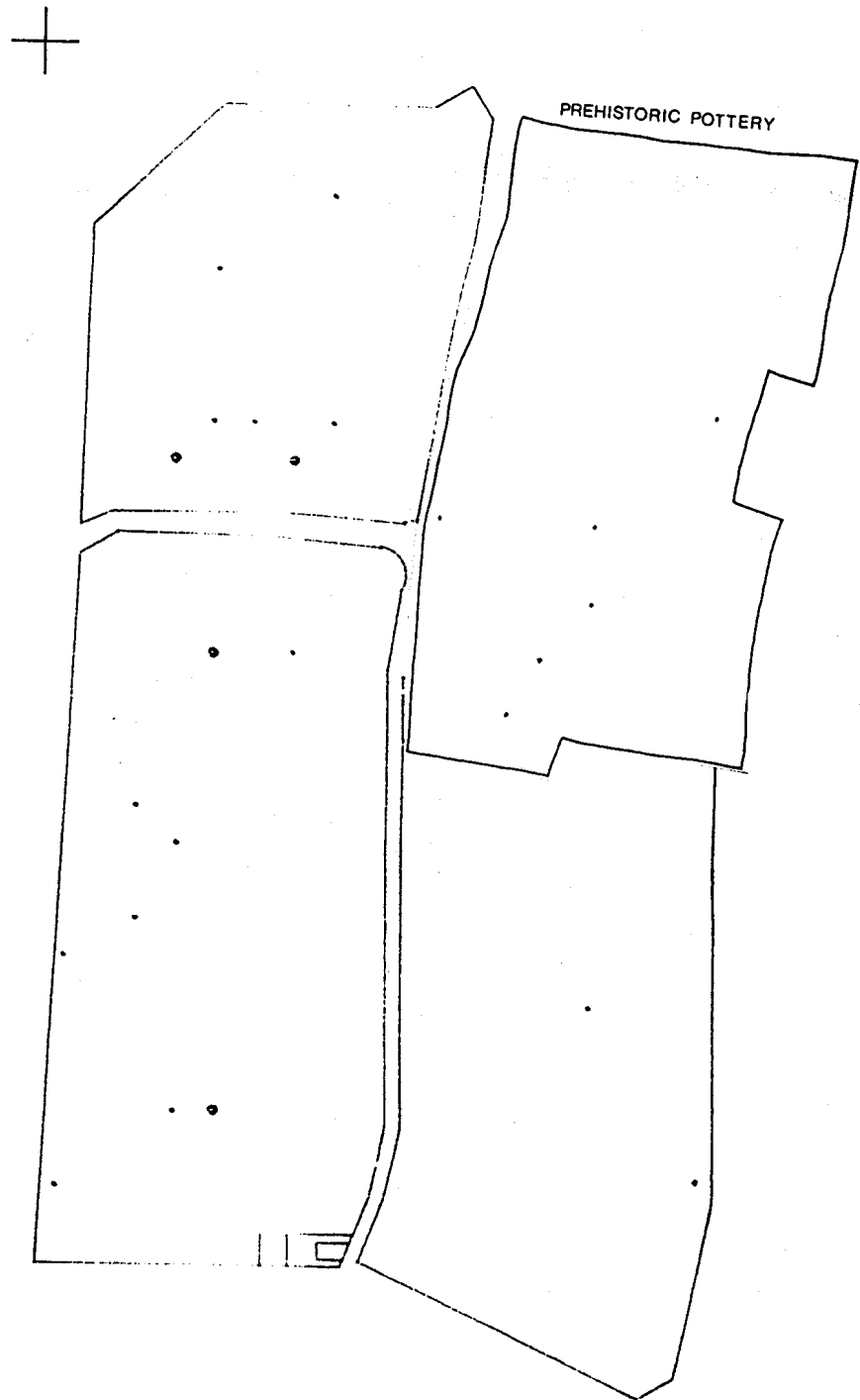


FIELDWALKING AT NOVINGT

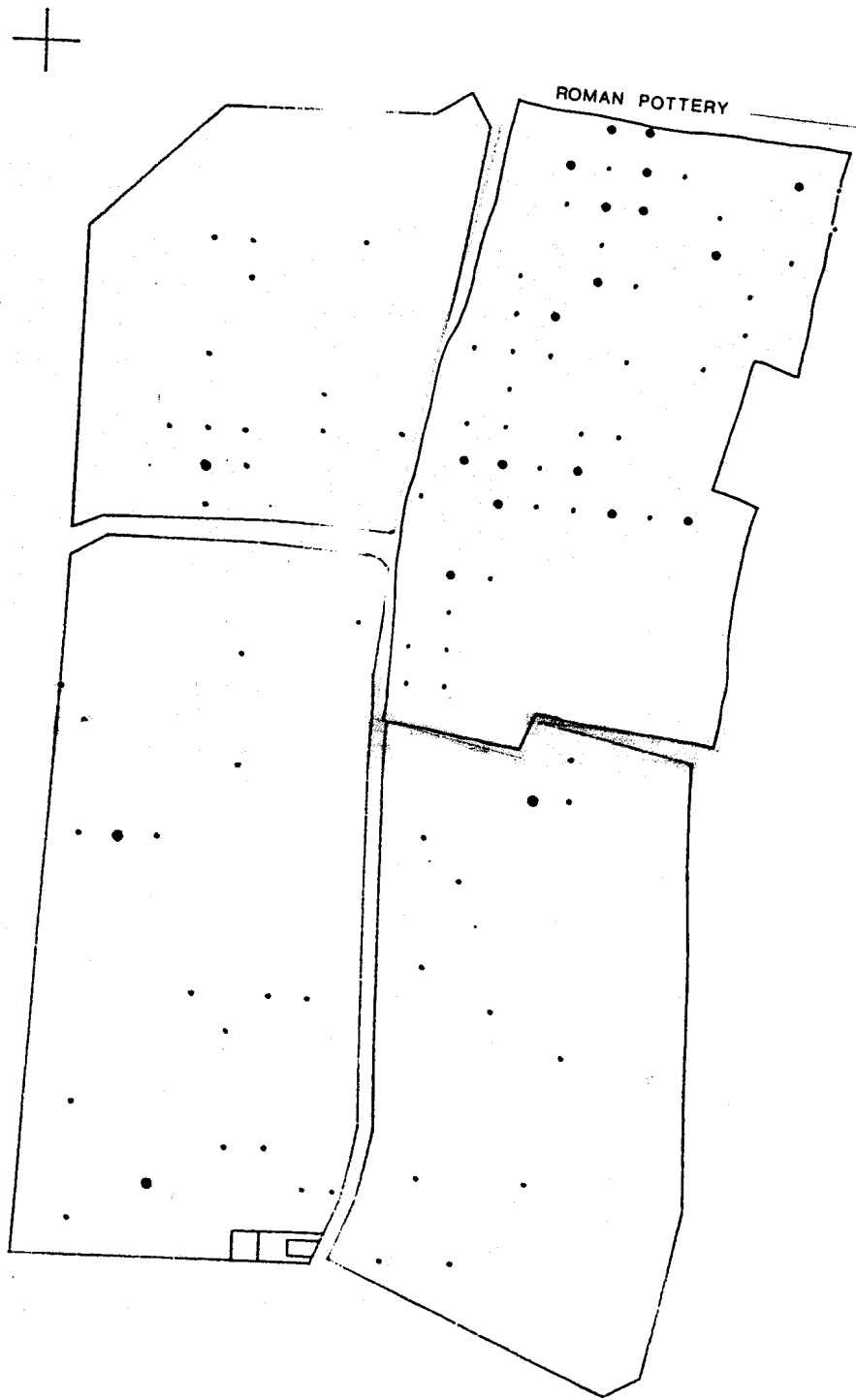
NOVINGTON DAUB



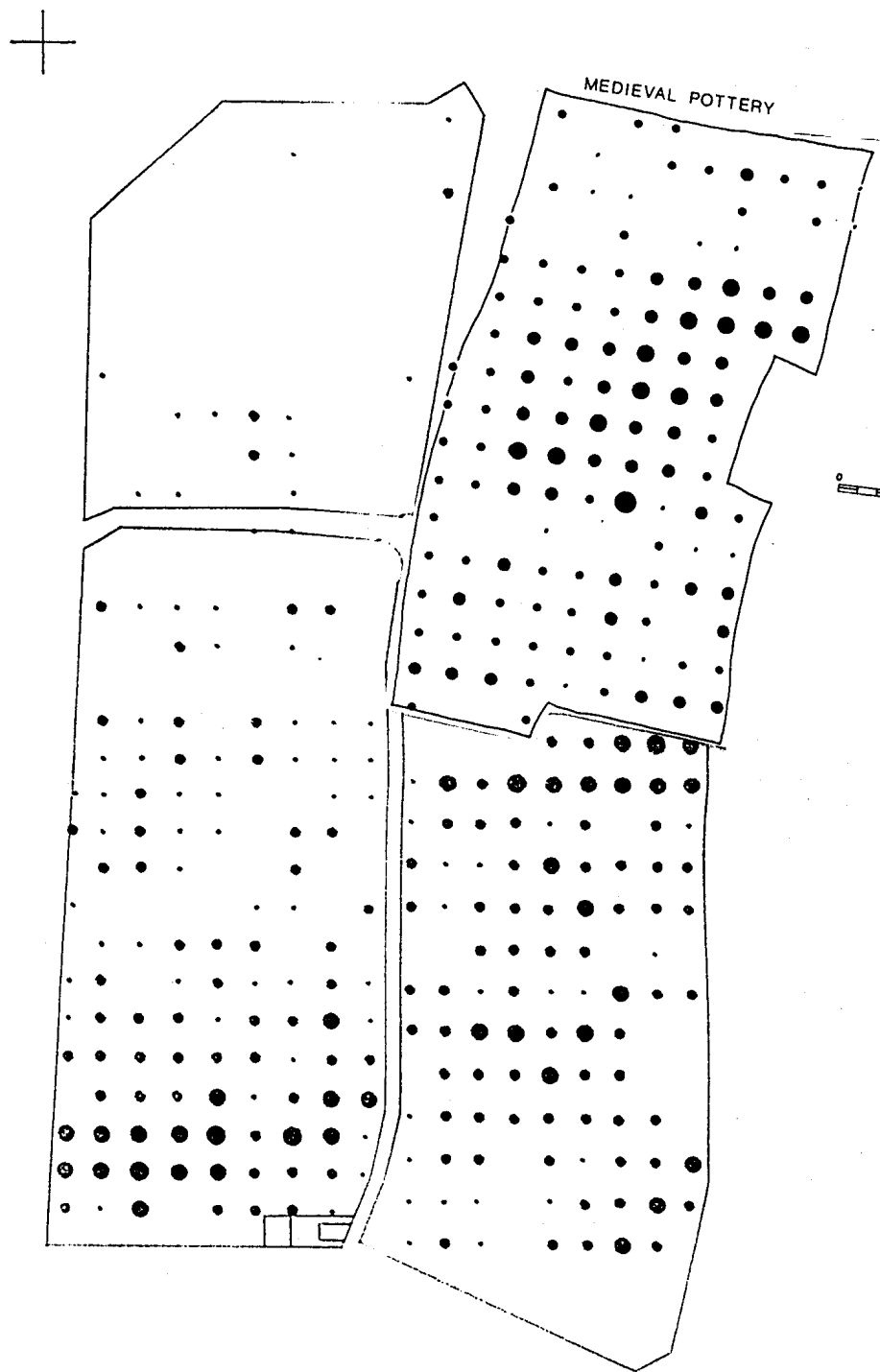
NOVINGTON PREHISTORIC AND IRON AGE POTTERY



NOVINGTON ROMAN POTTERY



NOVINGTON MEDIEVAL POTTERY





NOVINGTON MEDIEVAL POTTERY CONCENTRATIONS

- 1-2-3
- 4-5-6
- 7-8-9
- 10-11-12

