

THE PREHISTORIC OCCUPATION OF THE ASHDOWN FOREST AREA OF THE WEALD

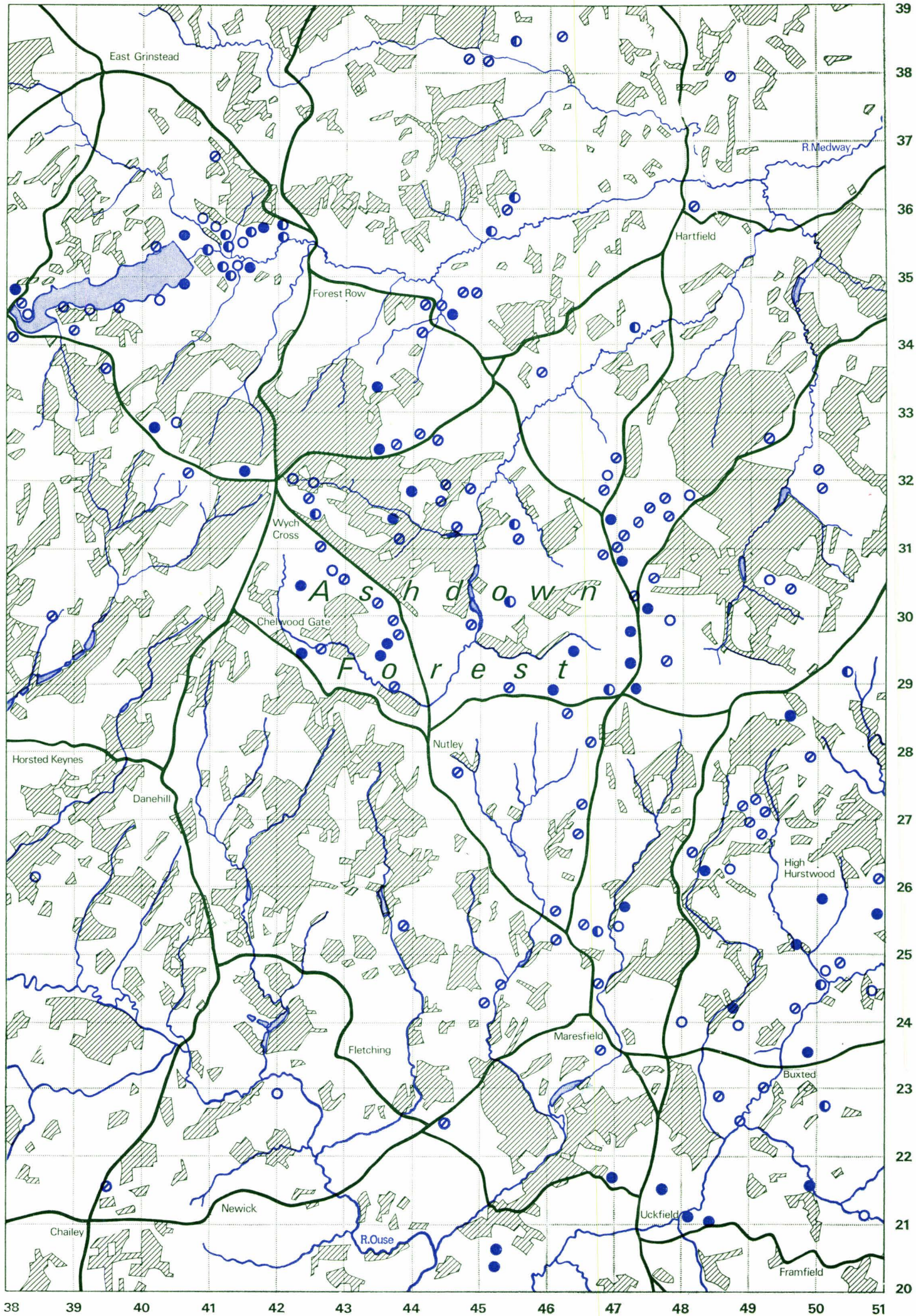
By C. F. Tebbutt, F.S.A.

When I first came to live in the area of Ashdown Forest, in 1966, I soon began to notice, and collect, humanly struck flint flakes and implements in the course of walks over the Forest. These I recorded on the appropriate 1:25,000 inch Ordnance Survey Maps. Soon after this, the Conservators of the Forest began to widen and improve the existing firebreaks and make new ones, often by ploughing and reseeding with grass. This action gave the opportunity, for a short time only, of examining a rather greater area of the shallow unvegetated top soil than had been afforded on the few tracks where the turf had been eroded, mainly on slopes, after being broken by walkers, riders or vehicles. However, the total exposed area where flints might be found was minimal in relation to the 6,000 or so acres of the Forest.

The widespread scatter of flints found on the Forest encouraged me to extend my search to the surrounding farmland, much of which, however, I found to be grass, only occasionally ploughed, or woodland. Again I found that on areas suitable for searching, flints were widespread. On the farmland, however, I found flints from other sources, none of which, of course, was geological. On Weald farms chalk used to be imported from the Downs and burnt in kilns to produce lime to spread on the fields. Flints of this origin are widely scattered and are easily distinguished by their cracked appearance and white calcined cortex. Also raw chalk was sometimes used which left unburnt flints. The remaining source was from gravel or raw chalk used for farm yards, roads or in gateways. Nearly all this recently imported flint is easily distinguished from the humanly struck flint artefacts.

As I widened my searches, and sought permission to walk over private land, I began to come across some small private collections made in the same areas, and indeed a number of my farmer friends began to collect flints from their own farms. In addition, I found flints at a number of what looked like possible rock shelter sites; I soon discovered that much could be learnt from keeping an assemblage of flints from one site, even if it did not contain any diagnostic implements. As my collection grew, at least two distinct types could be distinguished, Mesolithic and Neolithic and later. This was confirmed when the collection was studied, in some detail, by R. M. Jacobi. Some sites, it was found, belonged almost exclusively to one period or the other, others were plainly occupied in both. It was therefore decided to distinguish them thus, symbolically, on the map.

It was at this point that I began to study the scant references in archaeological literature to the Weald in prehistoric times. All writers seemed to assert, or assume, that most of it was an area of dense forest, unattractive for agriculture, and unoccupied by early man. To explain the few axes and arrow-heads from the area in local museums, it was conceded that hunting expeditions had probably penetrated it at times.

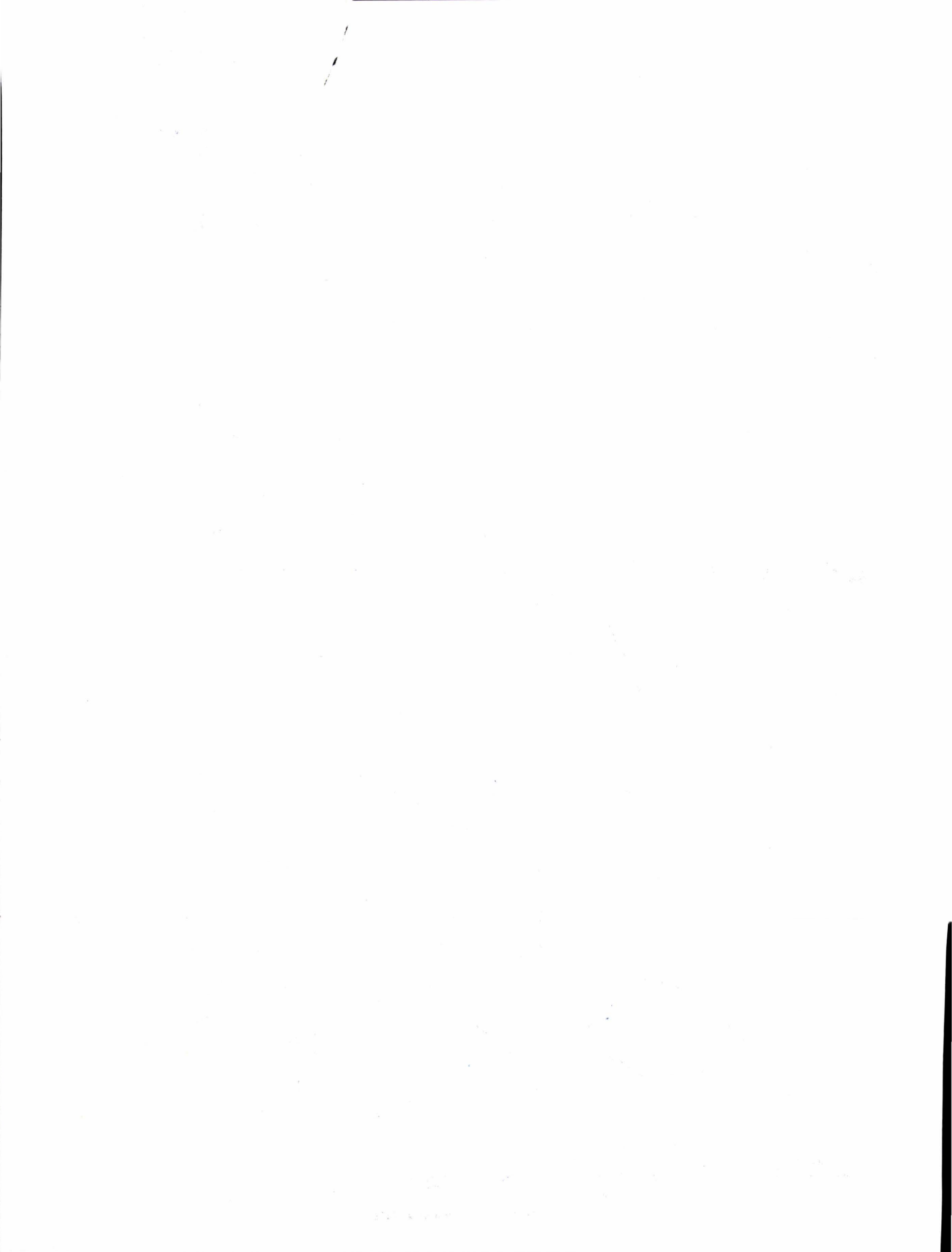


(The grid lines are at 1 Kilometre intervals)

- Mesolithic
- Neolithic or later
- Mesolithic and Neolithic or later
- ⊙ Period uncertain
-  Woodland
-  Road
-  river
-  lake



Fig. 1. Map of sites in the Ashdown Forest area of the Weald



Probably the most authoritative account is by E. C. Curwen,¹ Here he wrote of Mesolithic man:

"The claylands of the Weald would also (as the Downs) be useless to him, not only because they are cold and damp for habitation but because, in a state of nature, they would be covered with dense impenetrable forest not worth clearing with *tranchet* axes."

Further on he writes:

"... though no doubt his hunting expeditions led him into the densely forested claylands and the bare or scrubby chalk uplands."²

Regarding Neolithic man he says:

"Not only are flint axes and arrow-heads insecure guides chronologically but from their very nature they are tools and weapons that were likely to be lost in forest country far from the haunts of man, and are therefore no certain guides to the distribution of population. From the pottery and the specific kinds of earthworks we learn that Neolithic man lived mainly on the Downs, though, no doubt, like his successors, he used the Wealden forests for hunting, feeding swine and gathering fuel. This, in marked contrast to his predecessors who lived in the sandy forests of the Weald, is, of course, due to Neolithic man's need for pasture for his flocks and herds, and open ground on which to sow his scanty store of grain."³

Of Early Bronze Age man he wrote:

"... as to the life of Early Bronze Age man in Sussex the people seem to have lived very much as their predecessors had done; being, no doubt, nomad herdsmen, they continued to live on the Downs and perhaps also on the coastal plain hunting and cutting wood in the Wealden forests where they lost many arrows and a few axe heads."

Of the Middle Bronze Age he says:

"... but the distribution of their burials gives some ground for thinking that they may have spread into the Weald to some extent."⁴

The reasoning quoted above does not take into account the fact that arrow-heads and axes are what people without archaeological knowledge notice, pick up, and take to museums. They do not notice the spread of flint flakes, cores and "pot boilers" that really indicate where prehistoric man lived, at least for some period of the year, if not permanently. I agree with Curwen that the finding of the odd axe or arrow-head, unless on a site with the signs of flint knapping, does not indicate occupation. Why the truth has not emerged before is, in my opinion, solely due to the shortage of skilled field workers in the Wealden area, and the fact that few of the finds that have been made have been published.

One point that should be noted is the absence of pottery. Although several thousand man-made flints have been found, many belonging to the Neolithic or Bronze Age, no single sherd of pottery has been picked up. This, however, is not unusual. For example, E. W. Holden has excavated to the subsoil some 208 square yards in the Lower Greensand at Rackham, Sussex,⁵ recovering nearly 13,000 (2 cwts) worked or waste flints of the Beaker Period without finding a single sherd of pottery. Again in Bedfordshire and Northamptonshire, D. N. Hall and J. B. Hutchings subjected 76,000 acres of ploughland to intensive fieldwork, finding many flint artefacts of the Neolithic and Bronze Ages but no pottery.⁶ They state categorically that Neolithic and Bronze Age pottery does not survive in topsoil.

The only Neolithic pottery coming from the Weald of which I am aware was that found by J. H. Money at High Rocks, Tunbridge Wells.⁷ Here, however, unusual conditions obtained as the site lay under a rock fall. Any explanation of this absence must lie with the geologist or soil scientist.

¹ *The Archaeology of Sussex*, second edition (1954), 54, 57.

² *Ibid.*, 57.

³ *Ibid.*, 66, 68.

⁴ *Ibid.*, 155, 163.

⁵ *S.A.C.*, vol. 113 (forthcoming).

⁶ D. N. Hall and J. B. Hutchings, "The Distribu-

tion of Archaeological Sites between the Ouse and the Nene Valleys," *Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal*, vol. 7 (1972), 1-16.

⁷ J. H. Money, "Excavations at High Rocks, Tunbridge Wells," 1954-1956. *Sussex Archaeological Collections* (hereafter abbreviated to *S.A.C.*), vol. 98 (1960), 173-221.

My results, as recorded on the map (Fig. 1) do show, conclusively I think, that in this part of the Weald at least, prehistoric occupation of some permanence was widespread, and I cannot think that the area under study, taken at random, is not typical of the remainder.

I should first like to emphasise strongly that the map of flint sites (Fig. 1) is not a distribution map of prehistoric occupation sites. Those it depicts must be a very small fraction of those that actually exist. It is indeed influenced by many factors. As already stated above, the area of Ashdown Forest and its environs able to be examined in relation to the whole is minimal. This applies to a somewhat lesser extent to farm land but even here, in the area of the map, there is much more grass and woodland than arable and in particular the S.W. corner where almost no searches have been made. Again I have a number of farmer friends where searching has been made easy for me, and some of them have themselves become keen searchers. All these factors have meant very uneven field work and the results, as seen on the map, bear no relation to a true pattern of occupation, but they do show how widespread it was. No conclusions can therefore be drawn from areas of the map where no sites are recorded.

Some other factors must also be noted. Much Wealden farmland consists of fields along the sides of valleys, where worked flints may be found, exposed by ploughing and erosion; lower down, nearer the stream, there may seem to be none. This may not be a true picture as hill wash may have covered them too deeply to be disturbed by the plough. Again flints found near the surface at low levels may have been washed down from above.

Even allowing for the above possibilities, some trends do seem to emerge from the pattern of recorded sites. Over much of the area, and this is particularly noticeable on Ashdown Forest, where erosion is probably less due to freedom from ploughing, occupation is scant on the flattish hilltops where there is a great deal of "dead ground" between the top and the valley bottom. As one descends the hill one begins to find flints at the point where the whole valley comes into view. This seems to apply to sites of both Mesolithic, and Neolithic and later periods, and if correct, would imply that long views were needed to watch wild animals or domestic herds. The vicinity of springs seems also to have been avoided, perhaps so as not to drive wild animals from the neighbourhood. One cannot easily escape the supposition that a great deal of forest clearance took place, even in Mesolithic times, perhaps by fire or ring barking, and perhaps to increase the feeding grounds for wild grazing animals.

The significance of the map symbols should be explained. I have endeavoured to place a symbol only where I considered there to be a separate site, and on farmland, with smallish fields, I have only put one symbol in a field. In large fields it might be possible to distinguish several sites with barren areas between them. The same principles were applied to Ashdown Forest where sites, to qualify as separated, would have to be say 200 yards apart.

I do not propose to discuss in any detail the types of implements found in relation to methods of manufacture or in comparison with other regional types, but I greatly hope that this will be a matter for research in the near future. To facilitate this I propose to place my collection in Barbican House Museum, Lewes, and to list below any significant collections in private hands that I have come across.

THE PRINCIPAL SITES

Brambletye Manor Farm, East Grinstead. TQ 417354. Fig. 2.

The sites found on this farm are the exception to what I have said above. During the winter of 1972/73 almost the whole of this farm, about 210 acres, was ploughed and I was able to walk

over all of it through the kind co-operation of Mr. B. E. Hales the owner and his foreman, Mr. N. P. Smith. I am reasonably sure that no significant flint site was missed. Moreover, the farm occupies a very typical stretch of Wealden country, straddling both banks of the Medway and its valley sides. The valley bottom is flat, about 100 yards wide, covered by black alluvial soil. From this the sides rise, fairly steeply on the north side, from 200 feet OD to 300 feet OD, and with spurs and side valleys. The rise is less steep on the south side, from 200 feet OD to 240 feet OD, with ridges running into the alluvium. The high ground, with dead ground between it and the valley, was found to have been scantily occupied, but all the spurs and low ridges overlooking the valley were found to have been occupied, with often a heavy scatter of flints. This map can therefore be claimed as a true record of the prehistoric Stone Age settlement on this area, at least down to ploughed level, and I propose to describe each of its sites briefly, according to the numbers of the Map (Fig. 2). Generally speaking, the areas of scattered Mesolithic flints appear to occupy a more confined space than those of the Neolithic or later.

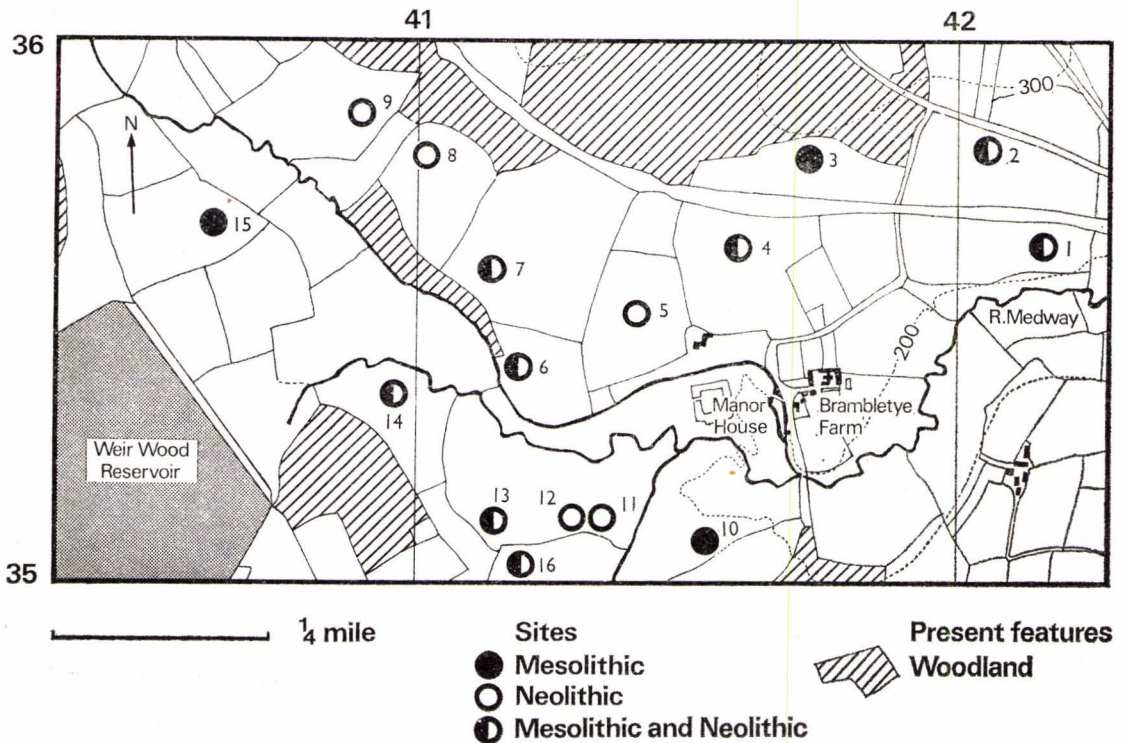


FIG. 2. Brambletye Manor Farm, East Grinstead

1. On top of a steep bank above the Medway, about 80 yards away. It faces south at just above 200 feet OD. Among the 7 flints picked up was a late Neolithic single barbed arrowhead and some Mesolithic blades.
2. At about 275 feet OD and facing south with rising ground to the north. Good views along the valley to the south and east. The 19 flints found were both Mesolithic and Neolithic. They included a fabricator, cores, scrapers, a fine Neolithic knife and micro-cores and blades.

3. Another high site at c.275 feet OD, facing south. Good views of the valley to the south-east. The 9 flints found were probably all Mesolithic and included micro-cores and blades. Several were calcined.
4. A high site at c.250 feet OD facing south. 6 flints found including a core and double hollow scraper. Mesolithic, with possibly a mixture of Neolithic or later.
5. A site at c.225 feet OD on a spur overlooking both the Medway and a small valley to the east. The 7 flints found included conical and micro-cores and a knife. A mixture of Mesolithic and Neolithic or later.
6. At c.225 feet OD facing south on a flat-topped spur overlooking the Medway and its flood plain to the south. This is the most important site on the north side of the river and over 400 flints were picked up in a restricted area. They included one Horsham point, micro-cores, blades, gravels and microliths, some calcined. Mainly Mesolithic with a small mixture of Neolithic or later.
7. At c.250 feet OD facing south. Above site 6 but still commanding good views to the south with no dead ground. The 6 flints found included Mesolithic blades and others of Neolithic or later date.
8. At c.250 feet OD facing west and just below the top of the ridge above a small tributary of the Medway to the north-west. Only 2 flints found, probably Neolithic or later.
9. At between 225 feet and 250 feet OD facing south at the end of a ridge overlooking the Medway and a small tributary to the south-east. The 17 flints found included a fabricator. All Neolithic or later.
10. At c.210 feet OD facing north on the lower south side of the Medway and on rising ground only a little higher than the flood plain. The main part of this site is probably under grass in the adjoining field to the south. Only 2 flints found, a Mesolithic core and microlith.
11. & 12. These sites are only about 80 yards apart facing north but on separate low ridges running north into the flood plain, with barren ground between them. Widely scattered flints lying on them were collected together before it was realised that the sites were distinguishable. It was noticed here, perhaps as the result of ploughing and erosion, that flints were also scattered over a small area of the adjoining flood plain. Over 210 flints were collected including cores, scrapers, calcined flakes and a very fine knife; all Neolithic or later.
13. At c.200 feet OD facing north and on what appears to be a small low island in the flood plain over which flints were scattered. Some 54 flints were found, mainly Neolithic or later.
14. A flat topped ridge running north-east from the direction of Weir Wood reservoir and dropping fairly steeply to the flood plain with good views all along the valley. At the end of the ridge was a great concentration of flints, some of which spread on to the flood plain. Over 500 flints were collected, including 2 leaf shaped arrow-heads, scrapers, cores, calcined flakes, microliths and snapped blades. Some flakes appeared to have been struck from beach pebbles. The site is probably mainly Neolithic with a small mixture of Mesolithic. It faces north across the valley towards site 6, 300 yards away.
15. Facing north on the top of a ridge, at c.250 feet OD with good views. 20 flints found, including an axe sharpening flake and blades. All Mesolithic.
16. On a ridge at 225 feet to 250 feet OD, that descends north to the flood plain where sites 11/12 are situated, but with a barren area between. Of the 60 flints found the majority are probably Neolithic or later, but with a small mixture of Mesolithic, distinguished by white patination.

Nearly all the above sites seem to have been chosen as view points over a cleared valley.

Below I give a list, with brief notes, of some of the more important of the other sites, including those where the finds are, at the moment, in private possession.

ASHDOWN FOREST

Broadstone. TQ 435325. A very concentrated and prolific Mesolithic site that has produced c.500 flints mainly from an area of 60 square yards. They include 10 microliths, 1 tranchet arrow-head, cores, a few scrapers (scrapers are usually scarce on Mesolithic sites in the area) and many calcined flakes. The site has extensive views to the north.

Camp Hill. TQ 468289. A concentrated Mesolithic site exceptionally near a hill top but on the west slope. About 110 flints found, including cores and calcined flakes.

Near Isle of Thorns. TQ 428306. A Beaker period barbed and tanged arrow-head found. No other flints found and it was probably a hunting loss.

Near Kings Standing. TQ 478299. A Beaker period barbed and tanged arrow-head found, with a few flakes. A site with extensive views.

Near an Iron Age Earthwork. TQ 473314. A large unpolished Neolithic flint axe (8 x 4 inches) found many years ago by Mr. H. Humphrey, North Clays Farm, Hartfield, and in his widow's possession. He stated that it was with flint flakes.

Near Chelwood Vachery. TQ 438297 to 436294. Many cores, scrapers and flakes, both Mesolithic and Neolithic or later, have been picked up along an eroded track.

Chelwood Gate. TQ 420299. Coming from her garden at "Brookside," Mrs. M. F. Wilde has a Neolithic polished axe and some 70 flint artefacts, including knives (one tanged), scrapers, cores a *petit tranchet* derivative, and waste flakes, some of which are struck from beach pebbles. The site is on flattish ground, slightly raised above, but close to, a small stream. Without trees it would have a clear view of about a mile to the north-east. Some of these flints are unlike any others from the area and there must be a suspicion that they are a discarded private collection, perhaps from the river Bann area of Northern Ireland.

Stone Hill. TQ 460289. This site, west of Camp Hill, is on the end of a ridge with views to the south-east. On a very short length of firebreak 25 flints of Mesolithic date have been picked up.

Duddleswell. c.TQ 468287. A greenstone axe in Brighton Museum (R. 1545).

Ashdown Forest (no provenance). A Bronze palstave, type C. in Brighton Museum.

FROM OTHER PARTS OF THE AREA.

Windyridge Farm, Hartfield. TQ 439319. A Mesolithic axe, in possession of Mr. A. Fenton, Newtons Hill, Hartfield. The site is halfway down the valley side with good views to the south.

Lewis Park, Nutley. TQ 438313. A Mesolithic axe or pick, in possession of Mr. J. Cranfield, Broadstone Farm, Forest Row. From halfway down the valley side with good views to the north.

Kilwood Farm, Upper Hartfield. TQ 473342. In one field, now a piggery, many flints have been found by, and are in the possession of, Mr. G. C. Johnson, "Wayside," Upper Hartfield. Some of these are Mesolithic and include microliths, blades, graters, micro-cores, scrapers and calcined flakes. In the course of earth moving a number were found, *in situ*, at a depth of 18 to 24 inches and associated with what appeared to be a hearth. Near the road gateway, in levelling, was found a small flint axe with polished cutting edge and a number of flakes, again associated with a hearth.¹

¹ C. F. Tebbutt, "A Polished Flint Axe from Upper Hartfield," *Sussex Notes and Queries* (hereafter *S.N.Q.*), vol. 17 (1968-71), 21-2.

Warren Farm, Crowborough. TQ 493305. A Beaker period barbed and tanged arrow-head was found here by Mrs. Alexander, Warren Farm, Crowborough, and is in her possession. A number of flakes were found in the next field to the east.

Huggetts Farm, High Hurstwood. TQ 501248 and 503248. About 90 flints have been found by the Meades family (of the above farm) widely scattered on these adjoining fields, and are in their possession. They appear to be mainly of the late Neolithic or Bronze Age, with a small mixture of Mesolithic.

Newhouse Farm, High Hurstwood. TQ 497242. Mr. A. C. Hunter of this farm has in his possession a large number of flints from his farm, mainly from the field west of and overlooking the flood plain of the Buxted brook. They appear to be a mixture of Mesolithic and Neolithic and later. He has a Mesolithic axe from TQ 486241, and another from TQ 496243, also an Upper Palaeolithic tanged point from TQ 495248. In Buxted Church is a leaf-shaped arrow-head from TQ 488240.

Buxted Park. TQ 487226. Here, when the lake was being enlarged in 1973, were found a concentration of Mesolithic flints close to the stream on the west side, just under the turf. The 130 flints included several microliths and an axe trimming flake. An unusual site at the bottom of a valley.

Buxted. TQ 503235. Here, in 1964, bulldozing a road up a slope to a building site, was found a fine polished flint axe, 8½ inches long, in mint condition. It is in the possession of the house owner, Mrs. E. A. Peppé, who, in consequence, named her house "Axe Linke."

Shadwell Farm, High Hurstwood. TQ 487263. Here was found an unpolished Neolithic flint axe when clearing woodland. It shows some silica gloss. Another similar axe found on this farm, on a roadway, may have come from the same site. They are in the possession of Mr. J. Sheard of Shadwell. Several fields on the farm overlooking the brook have scattered flints.

Pippingford Army Training Area, Hartfield. TQ 455314. This site is at c.475 feet OD on the north slope of Round Hill with good views to the north. About 30 flints found including a Mesolithic micro-burin and flakes, and 2 pieces of a broken Neolithic polished flint axe.

Garden Hill. TQ 444319. This hill spur, c.550 feet OD, falls away steeply on all sides except the west. On it is a late Iron Age camp with ramparts. During excavation of the interior in 1972 and 1973 many flints were found, all appear to be Neolithic. The hill provides good near views as well as distant views as far as the North and South Downs.

Area of Woodland Farm: Maresfield. TQ 467253. Mr. R. Cottingham has made a detailed study of this area over a number of years, as fields were ploughed. The results formed the basis of a thesis "My Stone Age Neighbours," for Leicester Polytechnic in 1972. He intends to present a copy of this to Barbican House Library, Lewes, and later publish his results. Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age flints from his sites here were identified by Mrs. S. Palmer. From the Mesolithic period came 3 axes, an axe trimming flake, burins, microliths, awls, scrapers and calcined flakes. From the higher ground came a Neolithic arrow-head, scrapers, borers and flakes, while Bronze Age material was mixed with the Mesolithic. One of the Mesolithic axes came from just across the stream together with Bronze Age scrapers and flakes, and the broken butt end of an early Bronze Age flint dagger¹. The flints are in the possession of Mr. R. Cottingham.

¹ See Eliot Curwen, "Notes on some Uncommon Types of Stones Implements found in Sussex," *S.A.C.*, vol.69 (1928), 77-91.

Wych Cross Fruit Farm. The area round TQ 423318 has produced many flint sites grouped round the head of a small stream. They seem to be mainly Neolithic with a small mixture of Mesolithic. Mr. Talbot Green found a Neolithic polished axe and a leaf-shaped arrow-head here.¹ Since then I have found another leaf-shaped arrow-head and many cores, scrapers and flakes. Also Mr. C. R. Davies has presented a box of flints found here to Barbican House Museum, Lewes. Included among them is the tip of another Neolithic arrow-head and part of a polished flint chisel.

Felcourt, East Grinstead. TQ 379418. Miss Saxby has a leaf-shaped arrow-head found in her garden here.

Hartfield. Mr. G. Philcox, "South Reddin," Hartfield has a polished flint axe from somewhere in this parish.

ROCK SHELTER SITES

A list of Wealden rock shelter sites was published by Mr. J. H. Money in Appendix F. to "Excavations at High Rocks, Tunbridge Wells."² Since that time more such shelters have been discovered. Below I have listed the rock shelters in or near my area where flints have been found.

Harrisons Rocks. TQ 533355-532359. On Mr. Money's list. Mr. Terry Tollis, Climbing Instructor of Groombridge, has a number of flints, including a Mesolithic axe, and a hammer stone, from below these rocks.

Hermitage Rocks, High Hurstwood. TQ 494250-497251. On Mr. Money's list. These rocks, in a private garden, have now yielded very many microliths, micro-cores, blades and flakes, all Mesolithic. Since writing the above a trial excavation took place in June, 1974, and the site proved a rich one. In a trench of 10 x 5 feet, 2,500 flint artefacts were found including 50 microliths of the late Mesolithic period. Charcoal was recovered for carbon 14 dating. Full publication will appear in a future volume of S.A.C.

Philpots, West Hoathly. TQ 349329, 349325, 348321, 352322. On Mr. Money's list. This valley has spectacular rock faces and at least two caves. I have found several flakes at the caves, and a Mesolithic *tranchet* arrow-head, with other flakes, within the Iron Age camp, of which the rocks form one side.

Stone Rocks, East Grinstead. TQ 381348. On Mr. Money's list. This is a very prolific site and has produced c.600 flints. They include microliths, Horsham points, micro-cores and burins, graters, calcined flakes, and one *tranchet* arrow-head. Most of these have come from an area of 10 x 3 yards. At this site a number of small round natural flint pebbles occur, apparently without geological explanation. I have also found them, in less numbers, at other rock shelters, and open Mesolithic sites in the area. They could have been used in stone bows as they were by the Indian Gonds.

Blunds Hole, East Grinstead. TQ 411367. Not on Mr. Money's list. From two small areas where the sand under the rocks is exposed, have come 8 flakes, some calcined. They are all probably Mesolithic.

Ridge Hill, East Grinstead. TQ 372359. Not on Mr. Money's list. From fox earth under these rocks and on the nearby nursery garden land have come c.65 flints including one *tranchet* arrow-head, cores and calcined flakes, all probably Mesolithic.

Bowles Rocks Sports Centre. TQ 539331-543331. On Mr. Money's list. From under the large overhanging rock I found two microliths of the late Mesolithic period and a number of

¹ Talbot K. Green, "Neolithic Flints from Wych Cross," *S.N.Q.*, vol. 15 (1958-62), 237-8.

² J. H. Money, "Excavations at High Rocks, Tunbridge Wells," *S.A.C.*, vol. 98 (1960), 218-21.

flakes. In the Common Room at the Centre is a case containing a number of Mesolithic cores and implements named by Mr. J. H. Money.

BRONZE AGE TOOLS AND WEAPONS IN BRONZE

A number of Bronze Age tools and weapons in bronze have been found in or near the area. These are listed by L. V. Grimsell.¹ Those relevant are as follows:—

1. Palstave with loop from Horsted Keynes in Brighton Museum.
2. Palstave. Horsted Keynes. Present ownership unknown. This would appear to be the one now in possession of Mr. J. P. S. Clarke, Cinder Hill, Horsted Keynes, and kept in the Broadhurst Estate Office. It was found on the estate. It is illustrated in E. C. Curwen's *The Archaeology of Sussex*, 2nd edition, 1954, fig. 46 no. 1.
3. Hoard of 5 palstaves from Little London, Waldron. Lewes Museum.
4. Palstave with loop, Buxted. Lewes Museum.
5. Looped and socketed axe, Buxted Wood (probably c.TQ 504242). Lewes Museum.
6. Palstave. Mayfield. Present ownership unknown.
7. Palstave. Ashdown Forest. Present ownership unknown.

ROUND BARROWS ON ASHDOWN FOREST

Of the round mounds on Ashdown Forest, none, as far as I am aware, has been excavated and published, except some of the so called "Mystery Mounds" group around Camp Hill, which were conclusively proved to be the work of the army when it was camped there in 1793.² The only mound marked by the Ordnance Survey as "Tumulus" is about 800 yards south of Gills Lap, near the main road (TQ 468312). It is known locally as Peat Lump Hill. It appears to have a ditch but the mound is much damaged.

There are also a number of round mounds on a southward running ridge about 700 yards west of Duddleswell. Two large ones are close together at c.TQ 463282 and five or six very low mounds lower down the ridge at TQ 462279. Another much damaged mound occurs on a low ridge near Londonderry Farm, Nutley at TQ 444291, all these appear to be of ancient origin.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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I am particularly grateful to Richard Cottingham for drawing the maps.

¹ L. V. Grimsell, "Sussex in the Bronze Age," *S.A.C.*, vol. 73 (1931), 30-68.

² Ivan D. Margary, "The Mystery Mounds on Camp Hill and Stone Hill, Ashdown Forest," *S.N.Q.*,

vol 3 (1930), 101-6; Ivan D. Margary, "Military Field Kitchens of the Eighteenth Century," *S.A.C.*, vol. 103 (1965), 60-66.

PUBLISHED REFERENCES

A number of references to finds of flints in the area occur in the volumes of *S.A.C.* and *S.N.Q.*, in the former particularly among "Additions of the Museum." They are given below. Where the find spots can be identified they have been recorded on the map (Fig. 1), but not where only the parish or farm name is given.

S.A.C.

- Vol. 56 (1913) pp. 201-2. Flint from Hartfield.
 Vol. 69 (1928) p. 80. Pigmy site at Buxted.
 Vol. 70 (1929) p. 203. Mesolithic site, Buxted.
 Vol. 72 (1931) pp. 30-68. "Sussex in the Bronze Age." L. V. Grinsell.
 Vol. 73 (1932) p. 157. Flints from Philpots Camp.

S.A.C. Additions to Museum

- Vol. 72 (1931) Flints from Cross-in-Hand.
 Vol. 74 (1933) Arrow-head from Maresfield.
 Vol. 75 (1934) Mesolithic flint from Horsted Keynes.
 Vol. 76 (1935) Flint celt from Scaynes Hill.
 Vol. 78 (1937) Flints from Horsted Keynes.
 Vol. 80 (1939) Flints from Lt. Cansiron (Holtye)
 Arrow-head, scrapers, &c., Holtye.
 Vol. 81 (1940) 2 arrow-heads from Holtye.

- Vol. 84 (1944-45) Mesolithic flints from Framfield.
 Vol. 86 (1947) Axe, igneous rock, Chailey. Polished flint axe, Horsted Keynes.
 Vol. 90 (1952) Flints from Cross-in-Hand.
 Vol. 96 (1958) Polished axe from Forest Row.
 Vol. 98 (1960) Mesolithic flints from Lt. Cansiron (Holtye).

S.N.Q.

- Vol. 1 (1926-27) p. 72. Flints on Ashdown Forest.
 Vol. 11 (1928-29) p. 175 Flints from Piltdown and Chailey. Vol. 15 (1958-62) p. 37 Axe hammer from Cockhaise Mill Farm, Dane Hill. p. 237 Axe and arrow-head, Wych Cross. Vol. 17 (1968-71) p. 15 Greenstone axe, Forest Row. p. 21 Sedimentary axe, Buxted. p. 196 Mesolithic site, East Grinstead.