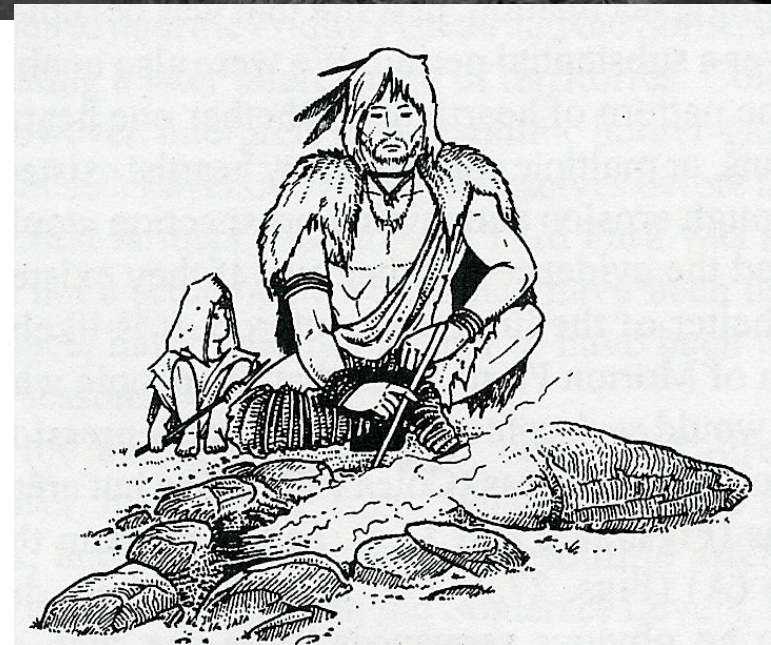


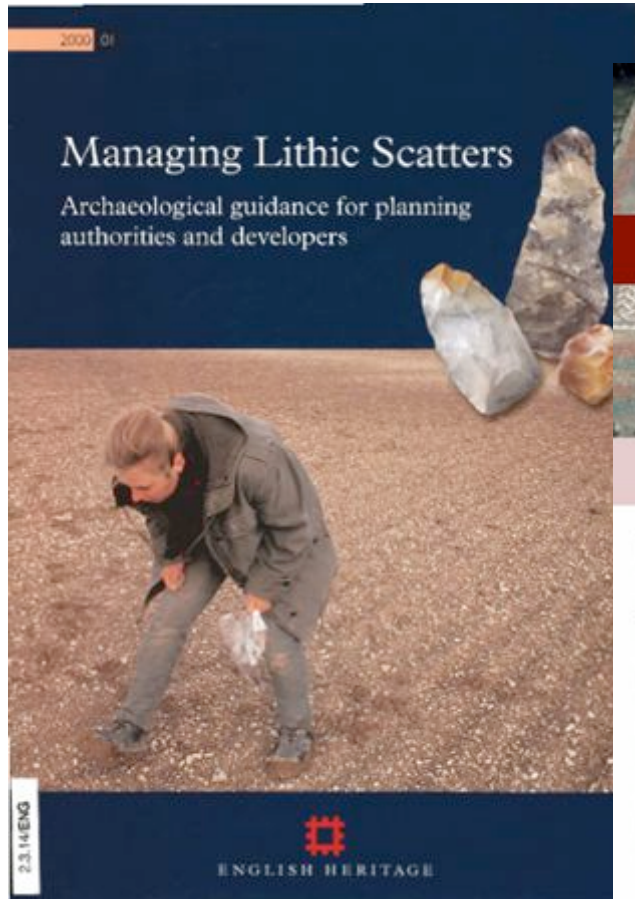
The Portable Antiquities Scheme: the contribution of lithics and lithic scatters

Clive Jonathon Bond
Department of Archaeology
Faculty of Social Sciences
The University of Winchester



Presentation Structure

- Introduction and approach
- Lithics, a national overview
- Lithics, regional patterning and research potential
- Conclusion, PAS, lithics and lithic scatters - the contribution



Archaeology under the Plough

The landscape is our most precious historic document. Its archaeological sites and monuments are the only evidence we have for the majority of human history and are fundamental to the fascination and diversity of the countryside, providing its narrative and contributing to its sense of place. Despite surviving for hundreds or thousands of years, these unique and irreplaceable remains are fragile and can easily be destroyed.

Since 1945, increasingly intensive cultivation has damaged many archaeological sites. Modern ploughing has done more damage in six decades than traditional agriculture did in the preceding six centuries. Among the sites being actively ploughed are nearly 3000 scheduled monuments – sites recognised as being of national importance to our heritage.

We are, quite literally, ripping up our history.

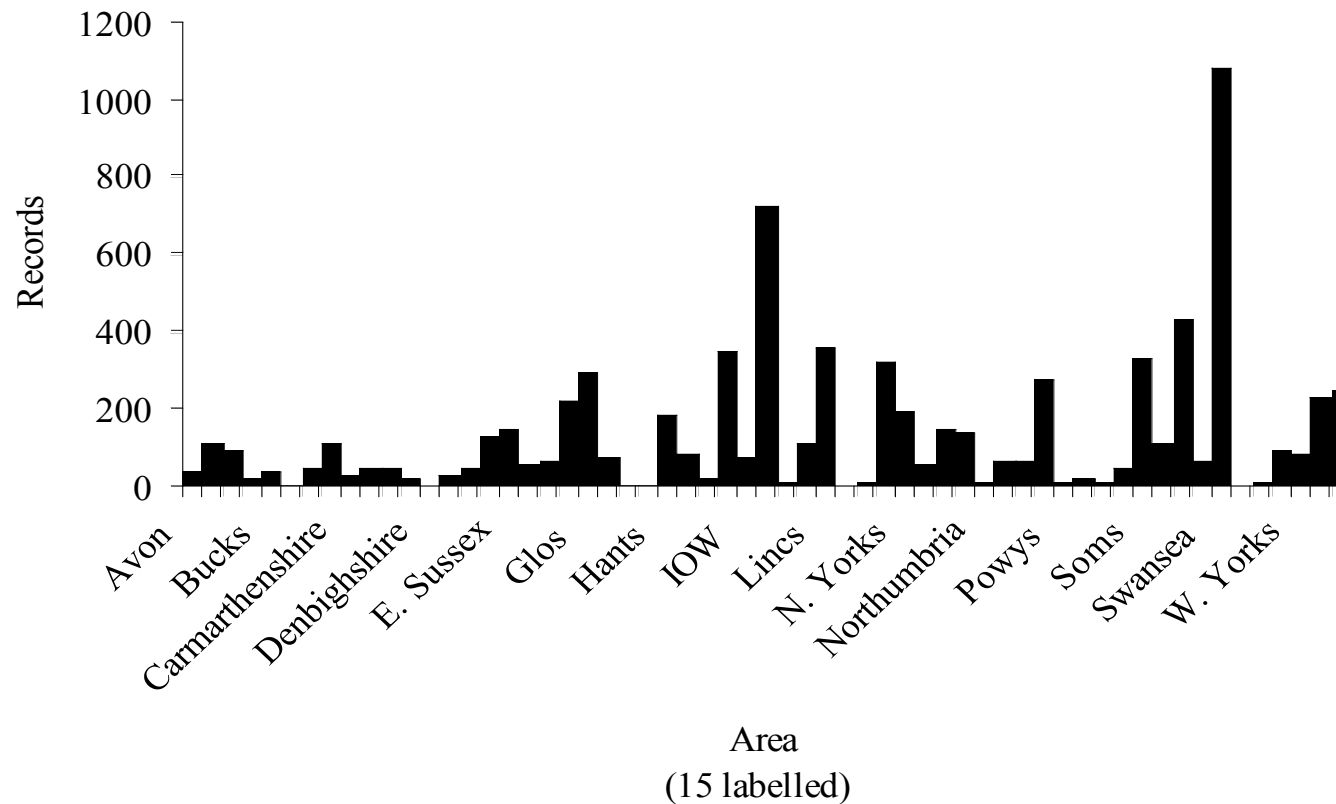
Farmers are not at fault. They have done what society has asked them to do and past agricultural policy has dictated. However, if this important inheritance is to be better protected in future, it is essential that government, archaeologists and farmers now work together to find a new and more sensitive approach.



Lithics, a national overview

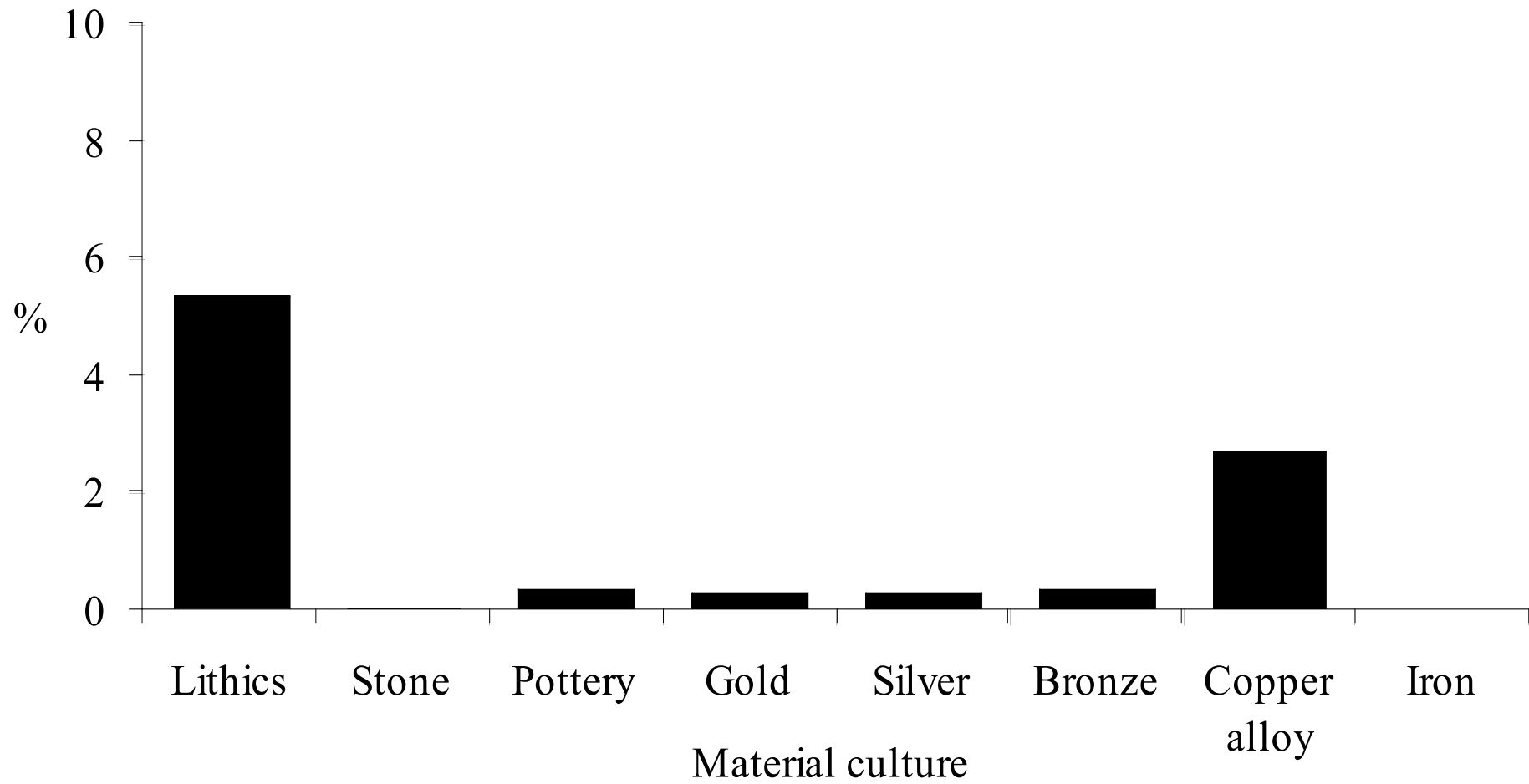
- 56 areas have lithic records (October 2006)
- A total 7696 lithic records (October 2006), now 9550 (April 2007)
- Each lithic record may describe more than 1 artefact
- Hence, total lithics for 7696 records = 25305 artefacts
- All periods are represented, Palaeolithic to Bronze Age (including Gunflints)!

Number of lithic records per area

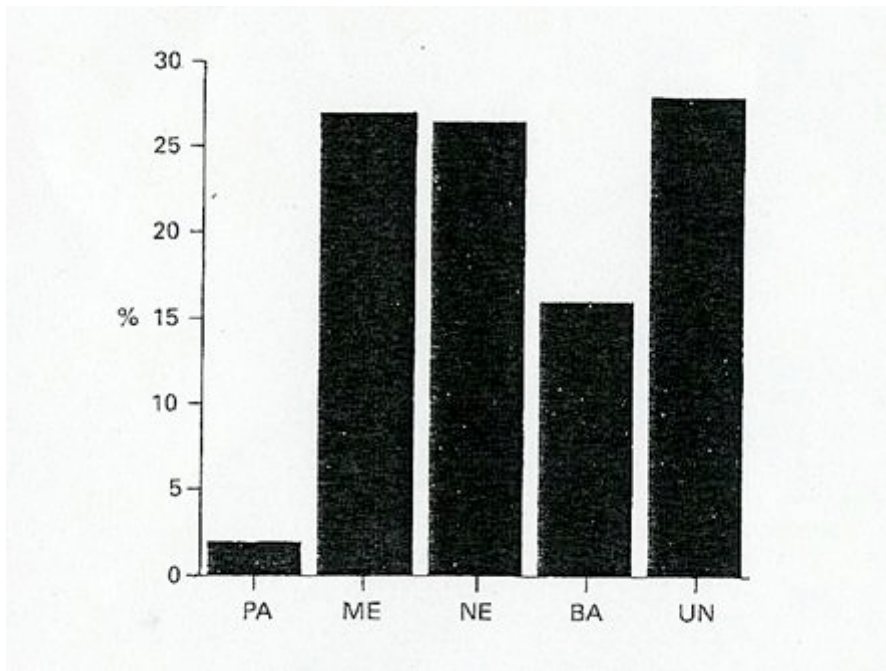


Lithics, a national overview

Prehistoric material culture within the PAS database

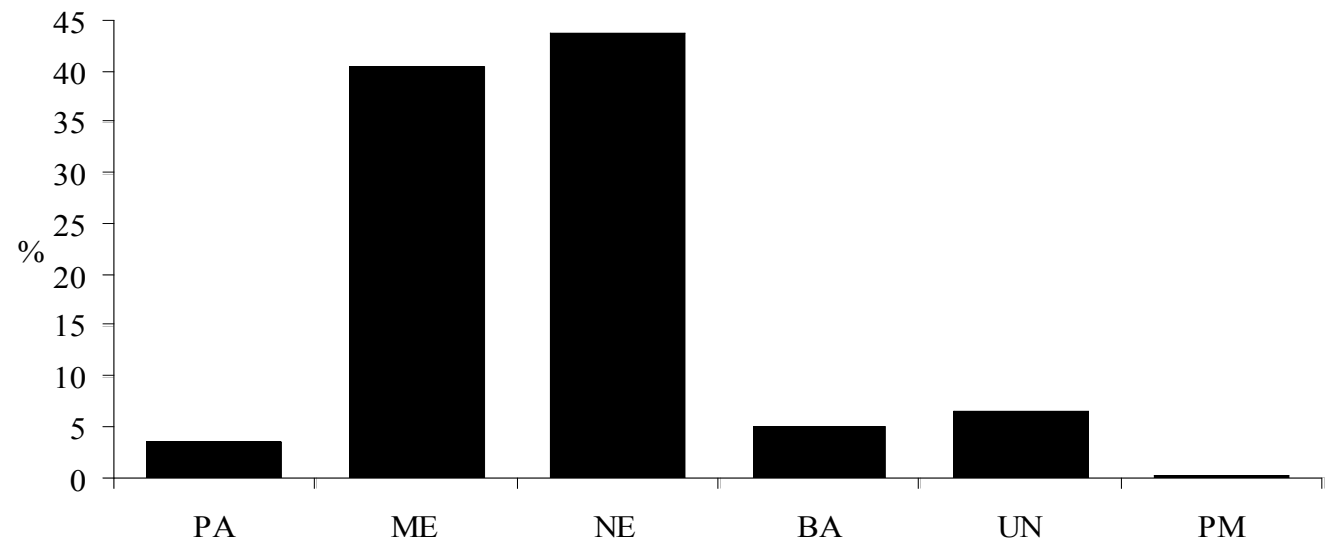


Lithics, a national overview

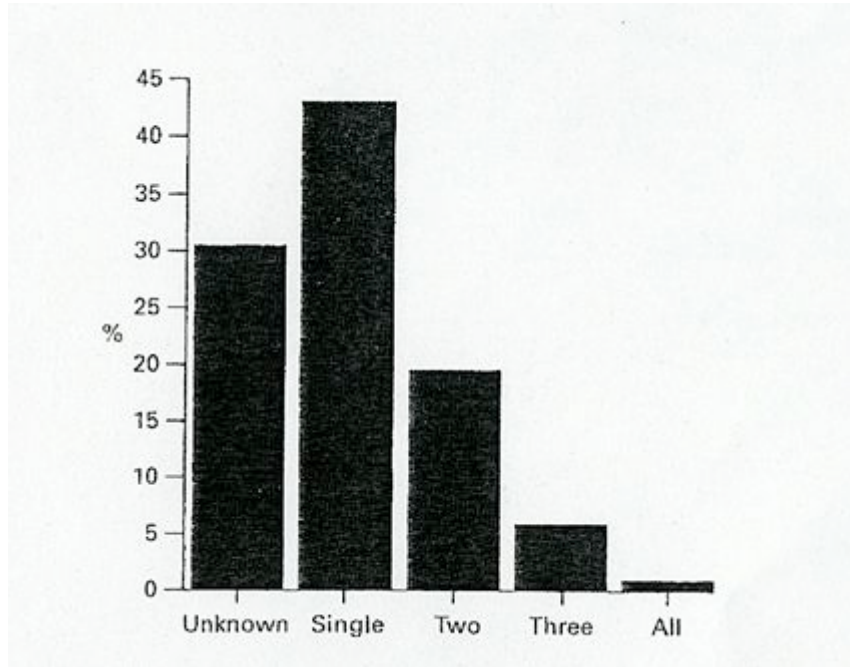


(After Schofield 2000)

Lithic records by period

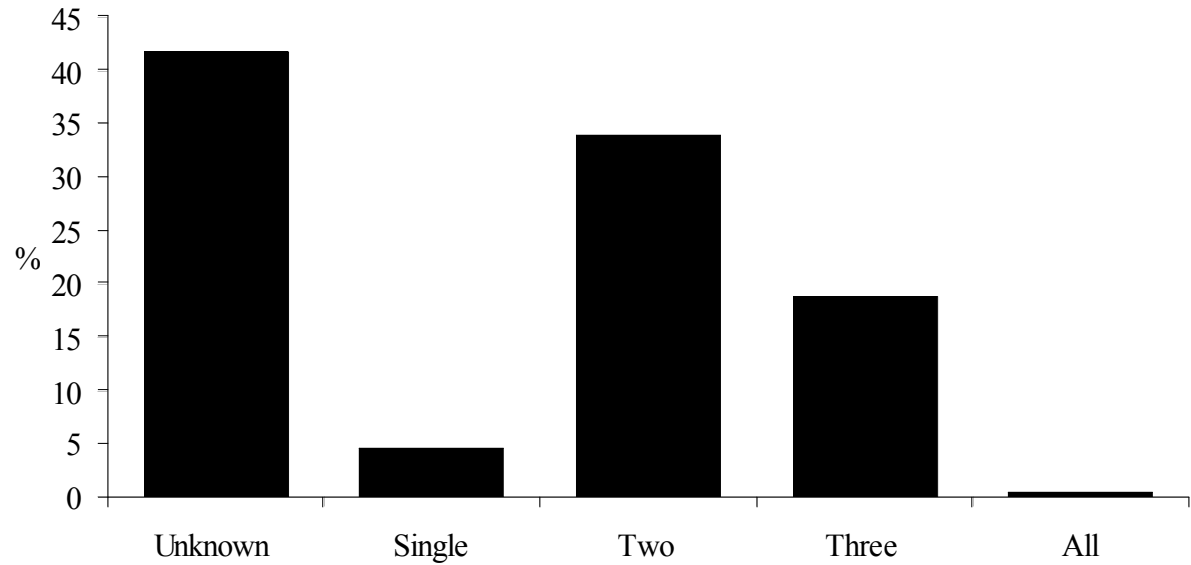


Lithics, a national overview



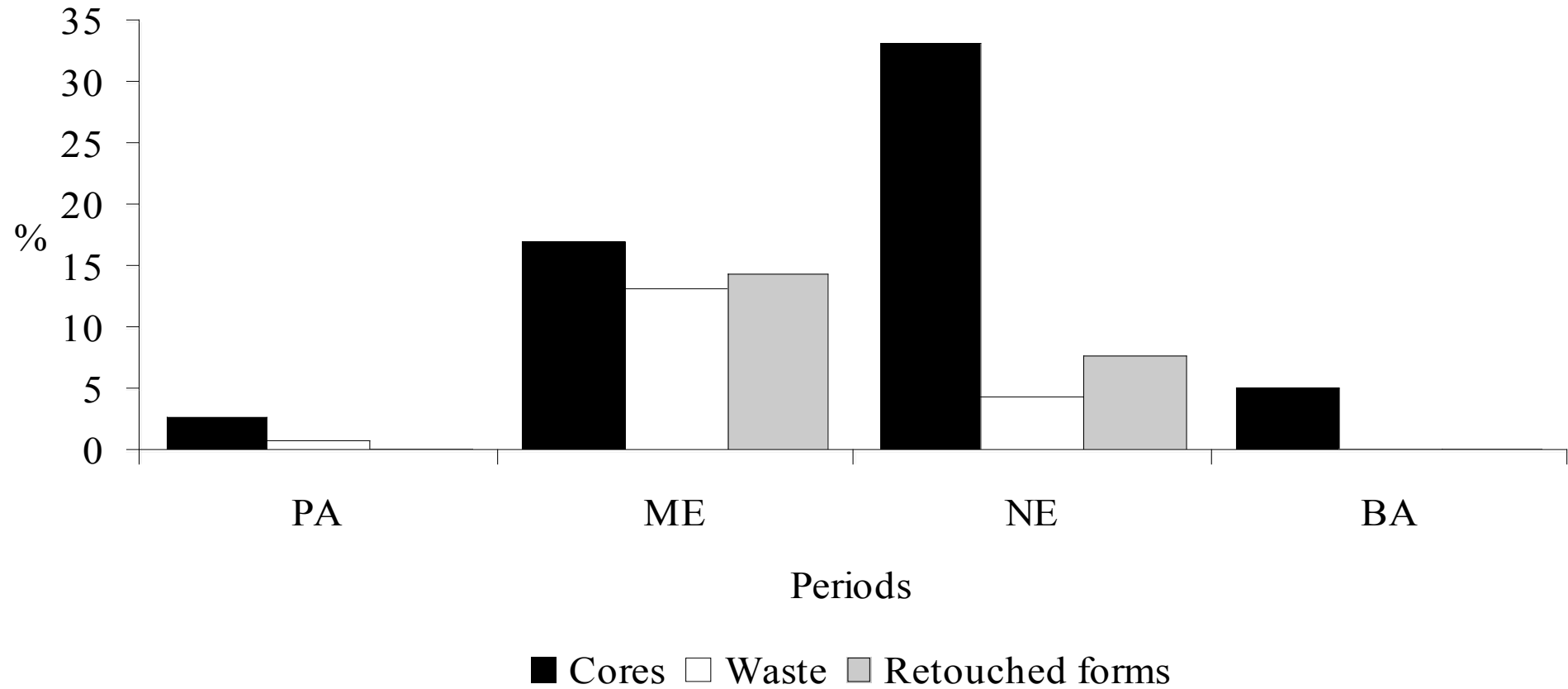
(After Schofield 2000)

Lithic records as multiperiod scatters

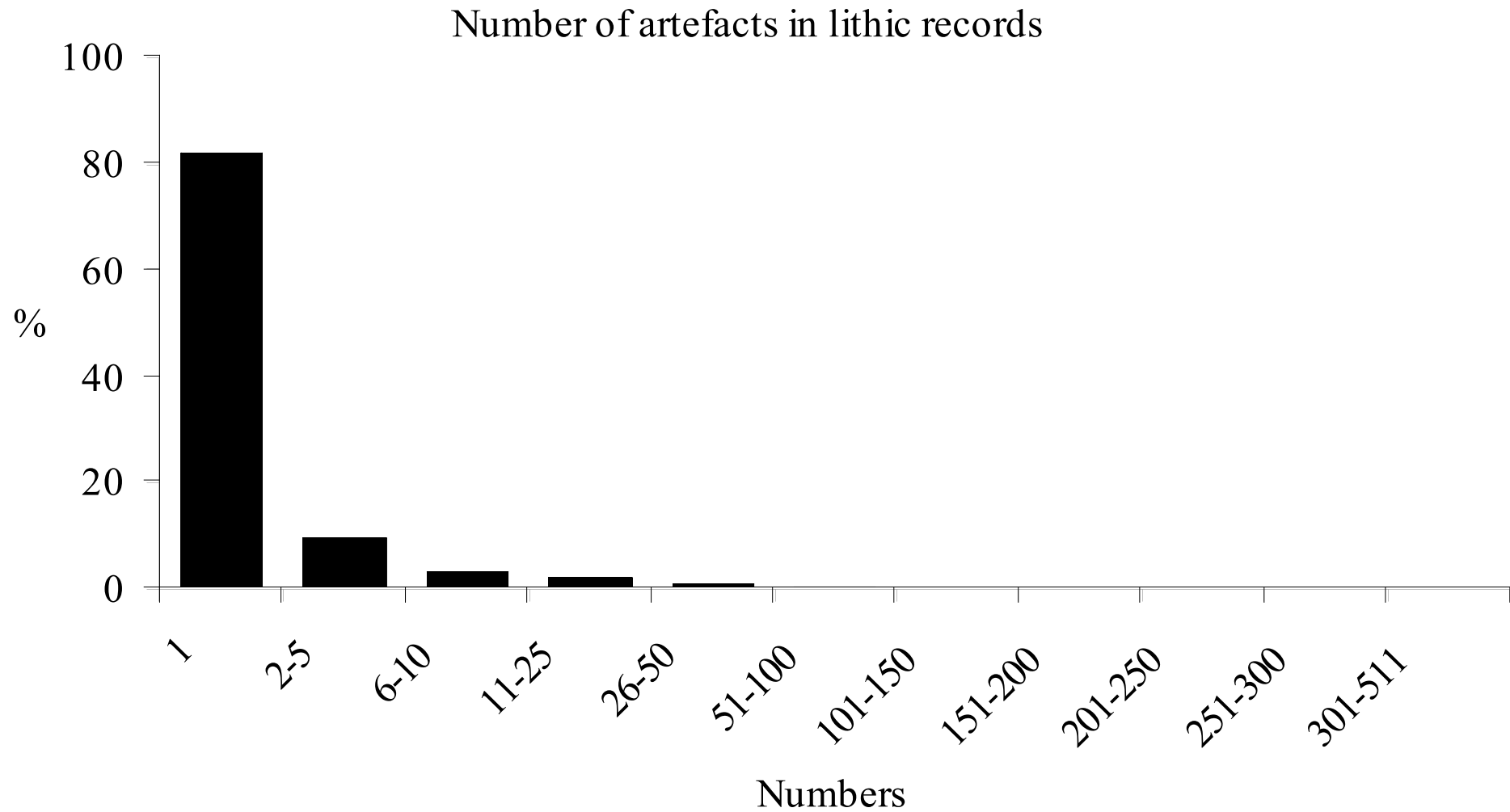


Lithics, a national overview

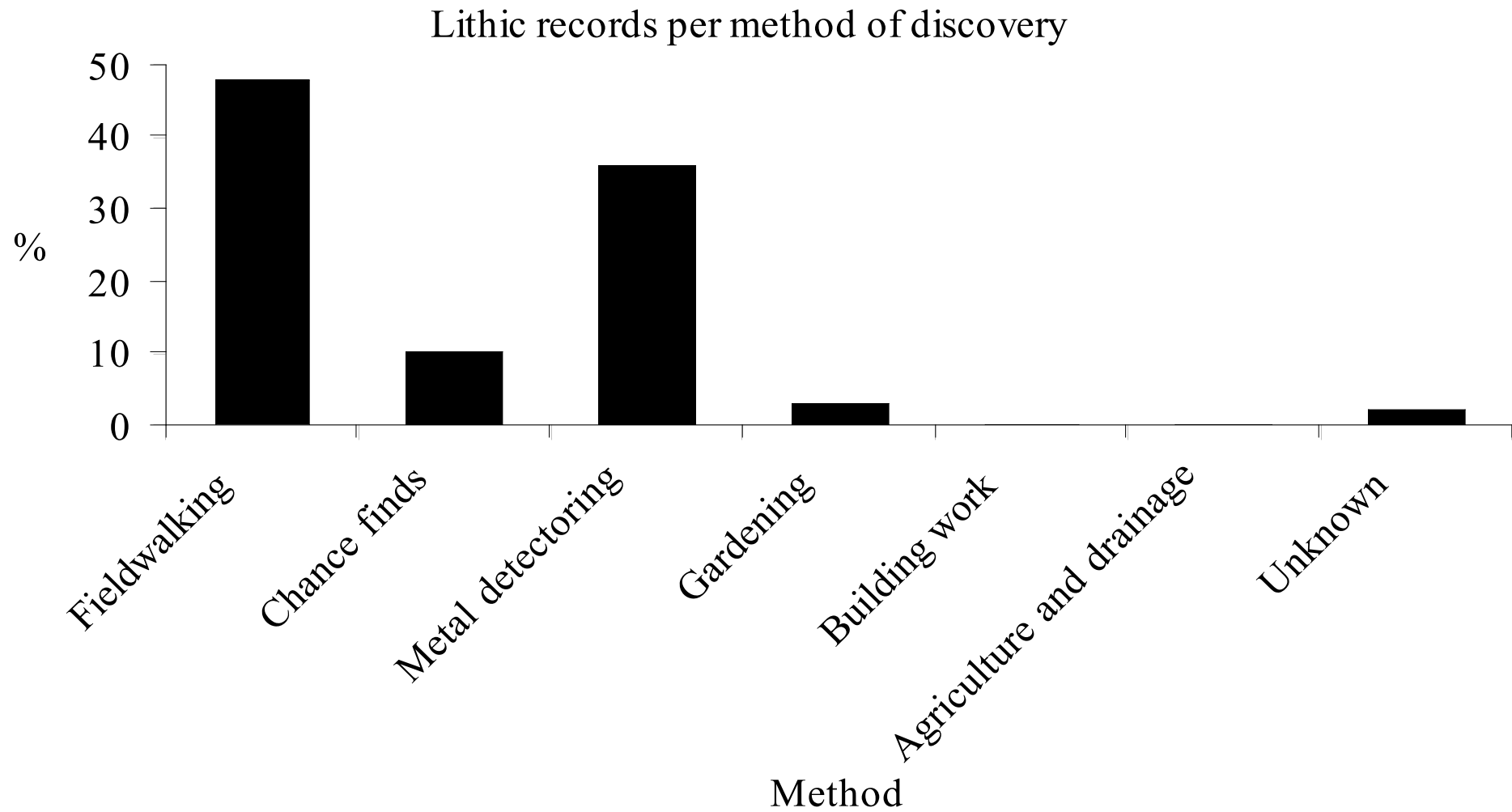
Composition of lithic records



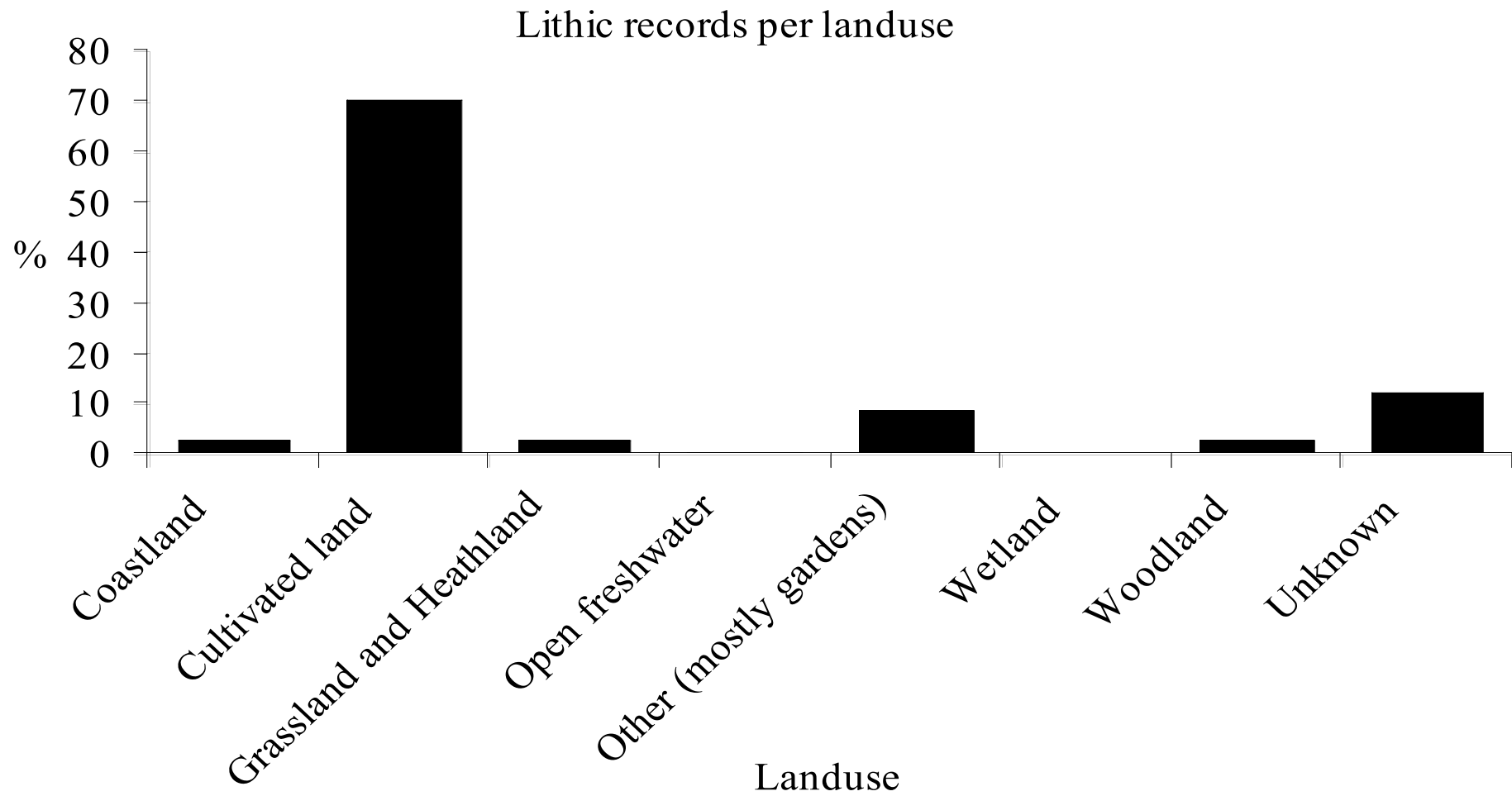
Lithics, a national overview



Lithics, a national overview



Lithics, a national overview



Lithics, a national overview

Palaeolithic (n = 284, 262 mapped records)

Lithics, a national overview

Mesolithic (n = 3114, 2672 mapped records)

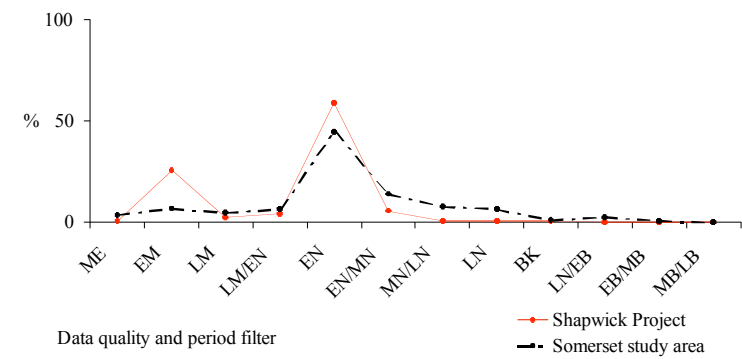
Lithics, a national overview

Neolithic (n = 3363, 2923 mapped records)

Lithics, a national overview

Bronze Age (n = 398, 340 mapped records)

Lithics, regional patterning and research potential



scatters - the contribution

To summarise the PAS contribution:

- Lithics, as artefacts – a way of understanding past people's craft skills, daily routines and lifeways
- Lithics, as assemblages in the landscape – as *proxy* data, a means of reconstructing a populated prehistoric world
- Lithics, as discarded by all past peoples, recovered by communities in the present!

