

Excavations in grid square 4-H

Site 4-H-14

The highly unusual grave (see also Gazetteer Grid Square 4-H, pgs V-VI) contained the badly disturbed skeleton of an aligned east-west with the head to the east (Plate 00). It was flexed on its right side facing north with the right hand over the pubis. Some bones were missing, others were not *in situ*. Traces of coarsely woven textile remain around the knee and pelvic area. The body lay on a layer of silt and gravel, the natural ground surface. Partly covering the skeleton was a mixed fill, about 30% granite gravel and a grey fine silt. All the fill was sieved but no grave goods were noted.



Plate 4H.1. Site 4-H-14. Interior of the grave with cover slabs in place.



Plate 4H.2. Site 4-H-14. The grave after removal of the cover slabs.

Figure 4H.1. Site 4-H-14. Plan of the skeleton - orientation approximate (scale 1:15).

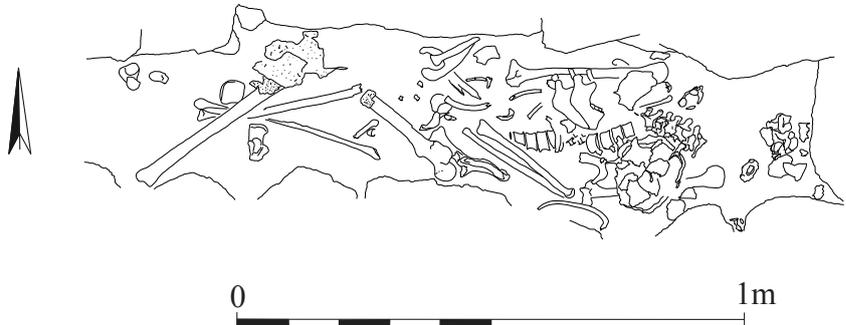


Figure 4H.2. Site 4-H-14. Plan of the cover slabs - orientation approximate (scale 1:20).

Site 4-H-49

Two of the crevice graves, graves 2 and 8 (Features (2) and (3)), were excavated at this site for a general description of which see Gazetteer Grid Square 4-H, pgs XVII-XVIII. Both graves contained soft soil around the skeleton which was probably wind-deposited material. The rest of the graves was a void up to the level of the cover slabs.

Grave 2 [skeleton 5, Grave 'cut' L: 1.7m, W: 350-470mm, Depth: 910mm]

A narrow crevice was utilised for this grave. It contained the body of an sub-adult/adolescent which must have been placed in an extended position with the head to the south east but had been much disturbed. The crevice was blocked at the north-western end by a built 'wall' of five courses of stone with a total height of 910mm. At the other end another 'wall' filled the upper 520mm of the gap which tapered in width from 70-130mm. Five cover slabs remained *in situ* ranging in length from 460-770mm and in width from 190-420mm. They were a maximum of 310mm thick.



Plate 4H.3. Site 4-H-49. Interior of grave 2 with cover slabs and blocking wall in place.

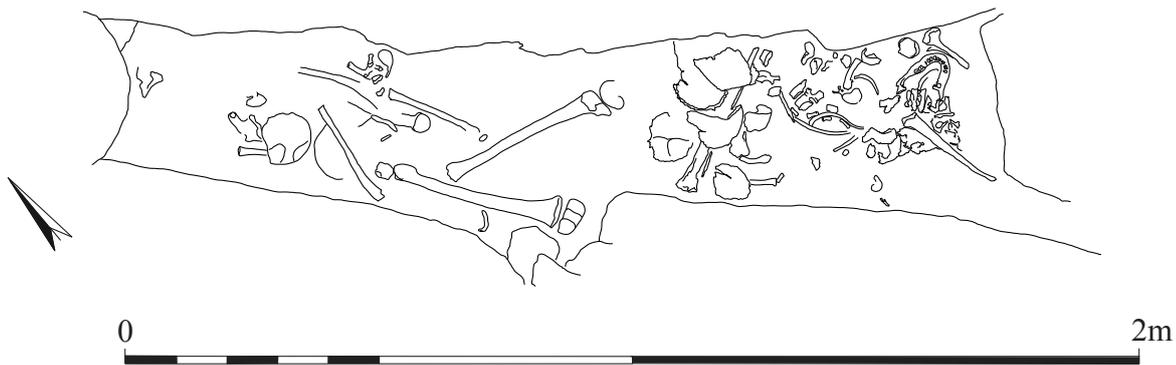


Figure 4H.3. Site 4-H-49. Grave 2, plan of the skeleton (scale 1:15).



Plate 4H.4. Site 4-H-49. Plan view of graves 2 and 8.



Plate 4H.5. Site 4-H-49. Plan view of the slabs covering graves 2 and 8.

Grave 8 [skeleton 10, Grave 'cut' L: 1.75m, W: 290-470mm, Depth: 720mm]

A very narrow crevice was utilised for this grave delimited by the bedrock pavement on three sides. The body of an sub-adult /adolescent was in an extended supine position with the head to the south east. It had been partly disturbed. The crevice was blocked at both ends by stones, that at the north-western end of stones set on edge to block the narrow gap 720mm high. A fissure in the bedrock on the northern side was also blocked with chock stones. Several cover slabs remained *in situ* ranging in length from 400-650mm and in width from 160-400mm. They were a maximum of 270mm thick.

No artefacts were found associated with the graves.

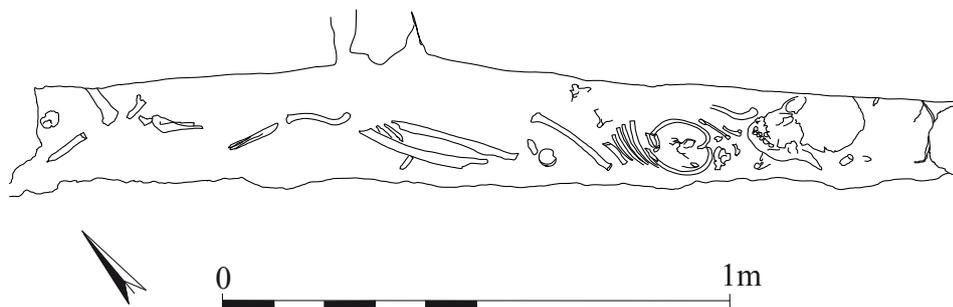


Figure 4H.4. Site 4-H-49. Grave 8, plan of the skeleton (scale 1:15).



Plate 4H.6. Site 4-H-49.
Grave 8, the burial.

Plate 4H.7. Site 4-H-49. Walls
blocking the north-western ends of
the crevices used for graves 2 and 8.

