

Excavations in grid square 3-O

The Excavations

A range of sites discovered during the 1999 and 2006/7 survey seasons was sampled, and in the case of site 3-O-1 totally excavated, during the winter of 2002/3 and in January - February 2007.

Number in [] are contexts, numbers in () are features.

Site 3-O-1

Two large areas, A and B, were excavated in the 2002/3 season as well as a few small sondages under the direction of D. A. Welsby. It was expected at the time that this would be the sum total of excavations on this site and the five tumuli excavated were designed to provide a sample of information. The tumuli and the graves they covered were excavated carefully along with the areas around them. In area A were two tumuli (10) and (11) and the wall linking them. Area B included three tumuli (3), (4) and (5) and the walls which linked them. In all cases the tumuli were initially quarter sectioned, the south-east quadrant being removed down to the surface on which the tumuli were constructed. After careful drawing and recording of the sections exposed a square area was then excavated over the grave cut and excavation of the grave was undertaken.

Late in 2006 when the teams working in the area of the Manasir were forced to relocate the Peruvian team's excavations within the post-Meroitic cemetery at site 4-M-53 had to be abandoned. Moving to et-Terief the Peruvian team under the direction of Rosio Diaz conducted further excavations within the cemetery at site 3-O-1. Owing to the limited time available excavations were focussed on the graves themselves; the tumuli and surrounding areas were not investigated. The area was designated (P).

Below the excavations are described in tumulus number order, derived from the initial survey of the cemetery in the 1999 season.

Tumulus 3

Grave (B)58 [skeleton (B)65, Grave cut – descendary L: 2.58m, W: 2.04m, Depth: 1.92m – chamber L: 1.6m, W: 0.72m. Monument – Tumulus - L: 8m, W: 7.55m, MDASP type FT05a]

The descendary is pear-shaped in plan. After an initial step down from the east it slopes gently to the vertical cut giving access to the grave chamber. The oval grave chamber, had its long axis aligned north-south. It contained the badly disturbed remains of an adult male. The skull and many of the bones of the torso, including articulated vertebrae and ribs, lie towards the south end of the chamber, the pelvis is at the other end. In between is one articulated leg and a pile of long bones. The body had probably been wrapped in a shroud as fragments of textile adhered to some of the bones. No trace of the blocking wall of the chamber remained nor any of the original fill of the descendary.

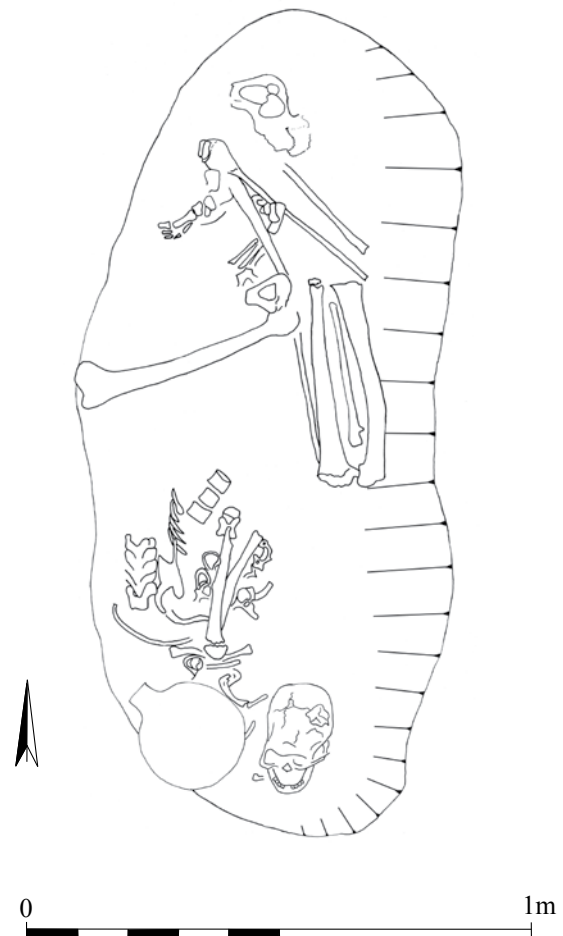


Figure 3O.1. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (3) - grave (B)58 (scale 1:15).

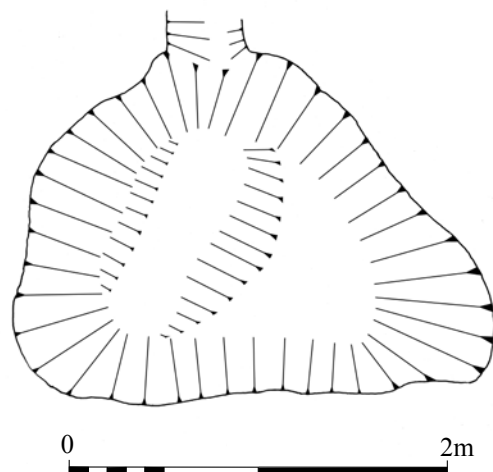


Figure 3O.2. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (3) - grave (B)58 (scale 1:40).

Material associated with the burial

Jewellery

SF:216 - 2 stone beads by the skull

SF:217 - 2 blue faience beads by the right leg bones

Pottery

beer jar (type 000) resting on its side by the skull

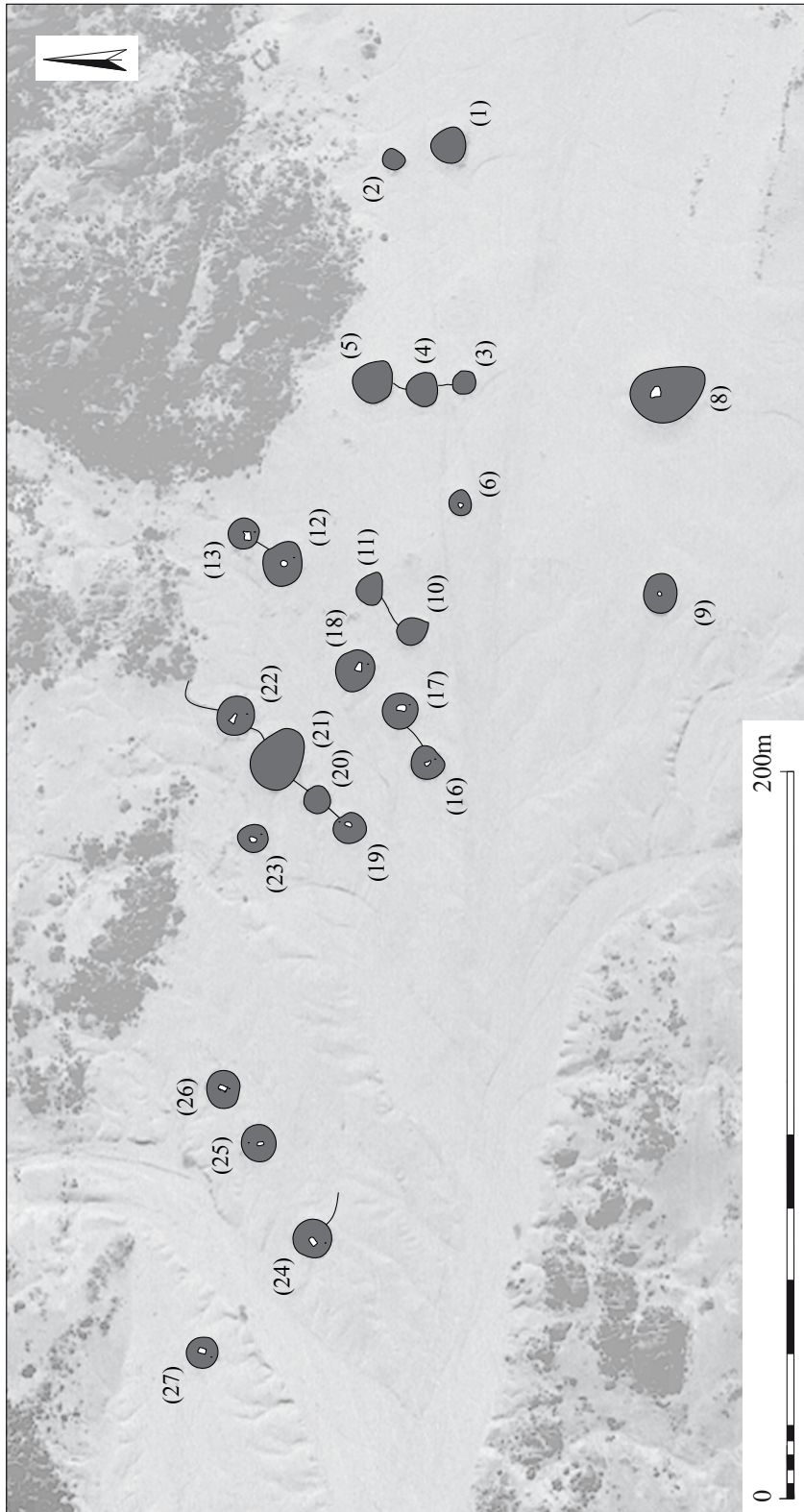


Figure 3O.3. Site 3-O-1, plan of the cemetery (scale 1:2000).

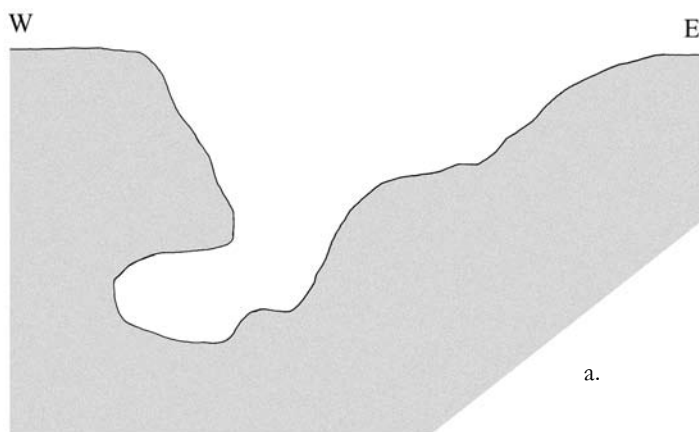


Figure 3O.4. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (3) - grave (B)58; a. section east-west through the grave pit and across the burial chamber; b. section north-south along the burial chamber (scale 1:40).

0 2m

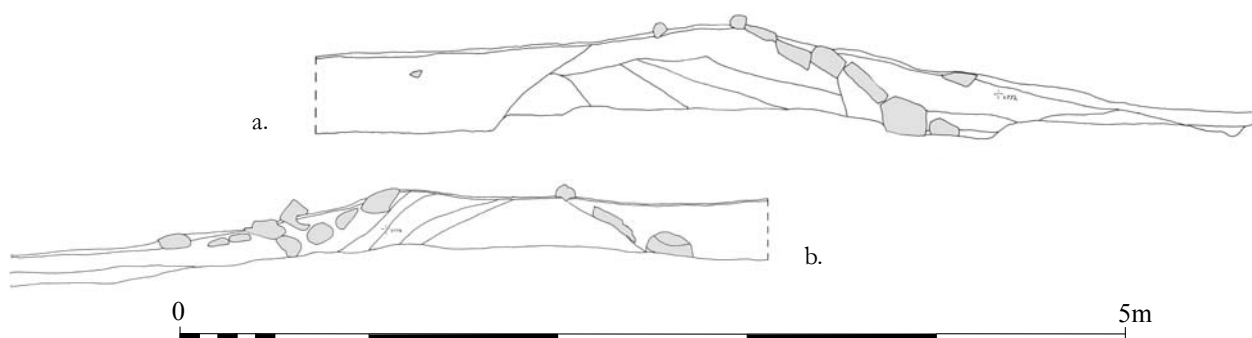
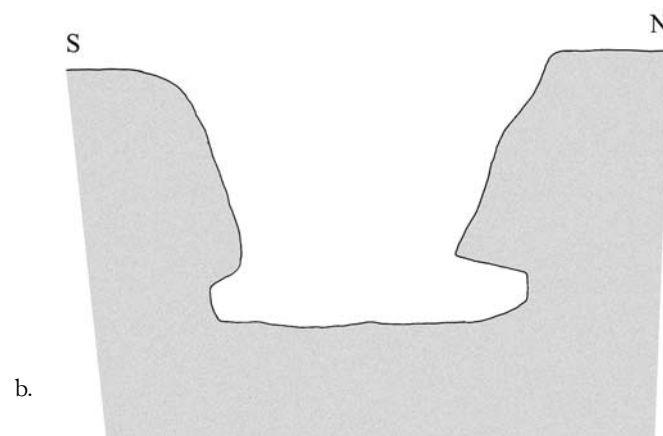


Figure 3O.5. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (3) - a. section east-west of the eastern half of the tumulus; b. section north-south of the southern half of the tumulus (scale 1:40).

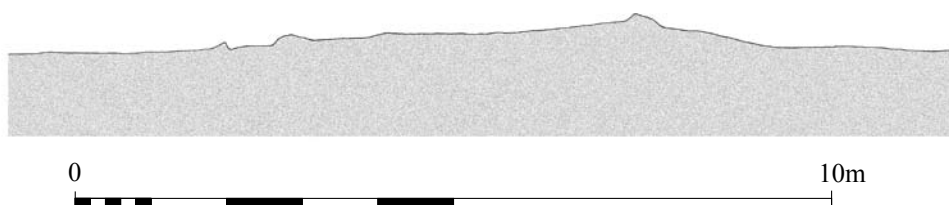


Figure 3O.6. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (3) - grave (B)58, profile of tumulus (3) (scale 1:100).

The subsoil in the area of Tumulus (3) is a fine black silt and this was used to construct the tumulus. It was presumably derived partly from the grave cut but also from a shallow ditch dug around the tumulus which attained a maximum depth of 130mm and a width in excess of 2m. The outer edge is steeper suggesting that material was drawn from there and dragged up onto the tumulus. The tumulus exhibits the tip lines noted in the

other monuments at this cemetery but the angle of slope of these suggests that this tumulus was never as tall as its neighbours. It has the usual revetment made from stones up to 500mm in length but is circular in plan. In the bottom of the ditch were several clear impressions in the mud of the hooves of a bovine. A thin deposit in the ditch appears to be water-born silt above which were layers of wind-blown sand which completely filled the



Plate 3O.1. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (3), general view after the excavation of the ditch.



Plate 3O.2. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (3), hoof prints in the bottom of the ditch.



Plate 3O.3. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (3), general view after the excavation of the ditch.

ditch before the revetment began to collapse.

The robber pit, measuring at the top 3.5 x 3.1m, was an inverted cone in section and attained a depth of 1.9m. The robbers had removed all of the original fill of the descender and whatever feature had been constructed to block the entrance into the chamber. It filled over a period of time with layers of wind-blown sand and water-deposited silt.

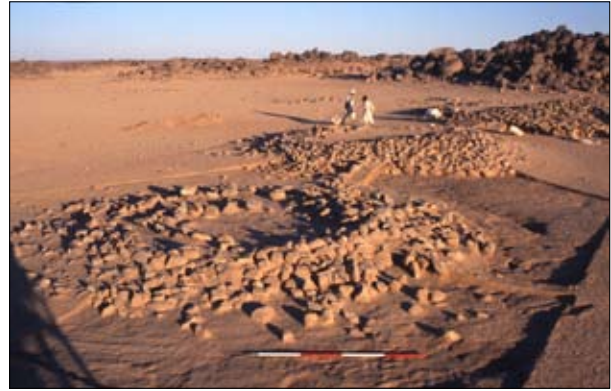


Plate 3O.4. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (3) to (5) under excavation.

Tumulus 4

Grave (B)46 [skeleton (B)63, Grave cut – descender L: 2.45m, W: 1.75m, Depth: 700mm – chamber L: 4.25m, W: 2.44m. Monument – Tumulus - L: 10.5m, W: 8.9m, H: 1.25-0.6m, MDASP type FT06a]

The descender is rectangular with vertical sides. Stepping down from the east side to a depth of 730mm the base slopes gently towards the opening of the chamber, a narrow sub-rectangular slot 1.36 x 0.48m in size, which is cut a further 720mm below the floor of the descender. The chamber itself extends to the west, north and south of the descender and is roughly oval in shape with a flat bottom measuring 4.22 x 1.91m. Towards the south end it extends a little further to the east than elsewhere and it is here that the body was placed, a crouched inhumation laid east – west on its right side head to the east (Plate 3O.5). It has subsequently been disturbed by the robbers when the head was twisted until it came away from the body (Plate 3O.6) and was then placed between the pelvis and the south end of the grave cut. Both arms had been ripped from the body and the right foot. One arm was partly disarticulated and lay adjacent to the body, the other was found in the robber pit fill above the blocking wall of the chamber. Skin survived very well on the body as did leather around the midriff, perhaps part of a loin cloth or some other item of clothing. Traces of leather suggest that the body may have been placed on a hide. Traces of reed matting were also found by the body.

Material associated with the burial

Jewellery

SF:205 - 2 carnelian beads by the arm

SF:206 - 131 faience beads, some still with their string, from a necklace by the arm

SF:207 - 43 spherical glass beads

SF:208 - leather bracelet by the arm

SF:209 - 17 faience beads, some still with their string

Pottery

2 beer jars and a bowl to the west of the body (types 000, 000 and 000)

a bowl and a beaker by the original position of the head (types 000 and 000)

3 beer jars against the west wall of the chamber mid way along its length (types 000, 000 and 000)

1 beer jar (type 000) and a leather container a little further

Figure 30.8. Site 3-O-1,
tumulus (4) - grave (B)46
(scale 1:15).

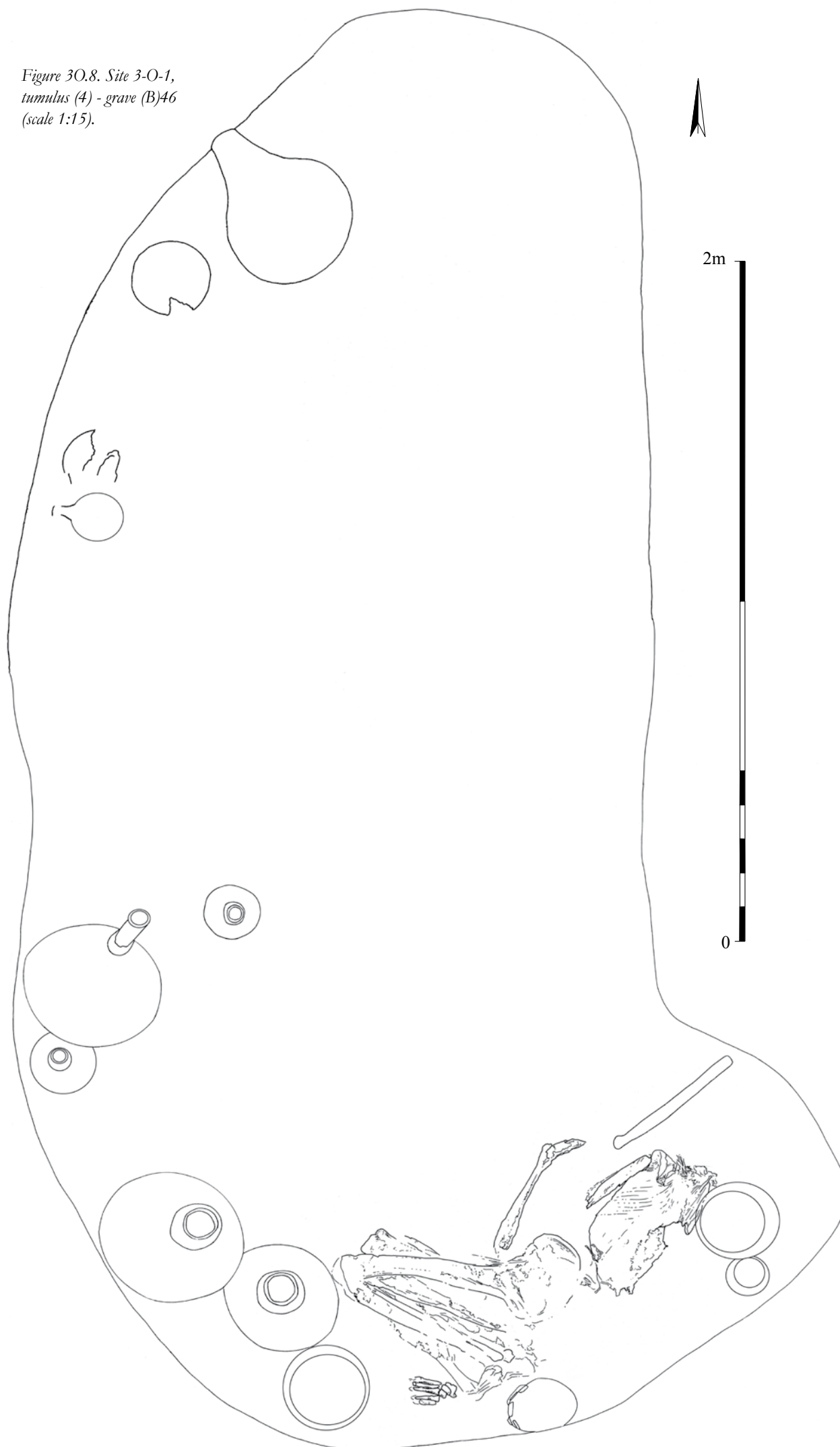




Plate 3O.5. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (4), naturally mummified body in situ with the head visible behind its back.



Plate 3O.6. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (4) grave (B)46, the naturally mummified body after removal from the grave.

to the north

Organic

SF:1495-1498 - 4 leather containers

A mass of leather

The entrance into the chamber was blocked by large rounded stones. Although the blocking has been much disturbed by the robbers it does not appear that the entrance was blocked by angled slabs but that a pile of stones sealed the opening. The descendary was then filled with the earth derived from its excavation.

The prominent egg-shaped tumulus stood to a height of 1.25m at the prow and approximately 600mm elsewhere around its circuit. The tip lines resulting from the construction of the monument were clearly visible and again suggested that the tumulus originally was much higher, perhaps in the region of 3m at the centre. The core of the monument, an oval measuring 4 x 3.7m in size and surviving to a height of 400mm, was made from the same material used to fill the descendary, presumably derived from the cutting of the grave. This material was quite solid and contained lumps of earth. Additional layers were

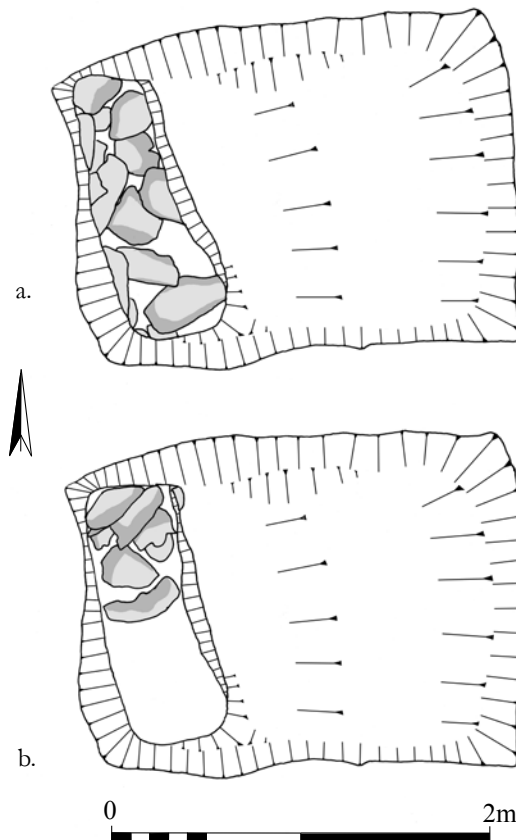


Figure 3O.9. Site 3-O-1, grave (B)46, the descendary;

a. stones within the tomb chamber;

b. part of the entrance blocking (scale 1:40).

then added to this, of loose earth ranging in colour from orange-brown to dark grey, with a moderate amount of sub-angular granite inclusions up to 20mm in size (Plate 3O.8). To stabilise the monument and protect it from wind erosion it was revetted with large rounded blocks up to 500mm in length. Around the base of the revetment was a number of blocks fallen from above resting on a thin layer of earth which had formed at the base of the revet-



Plate 3O.7. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (4) grave (B)46, layer of stones within the chamber.

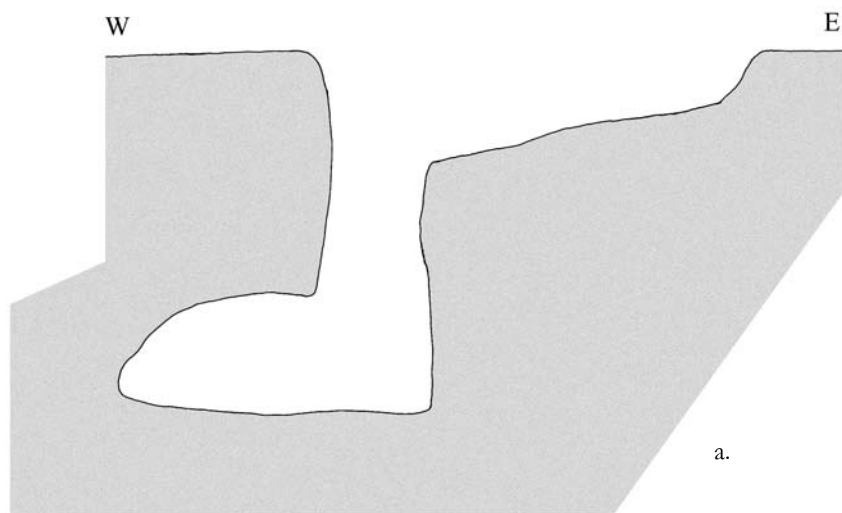


Figure 3O.10. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (4) - grave (B)46; a. section east-west through the grave pit and across the burial chamber; b. section north-south along the burial chamber (scale 1:40).

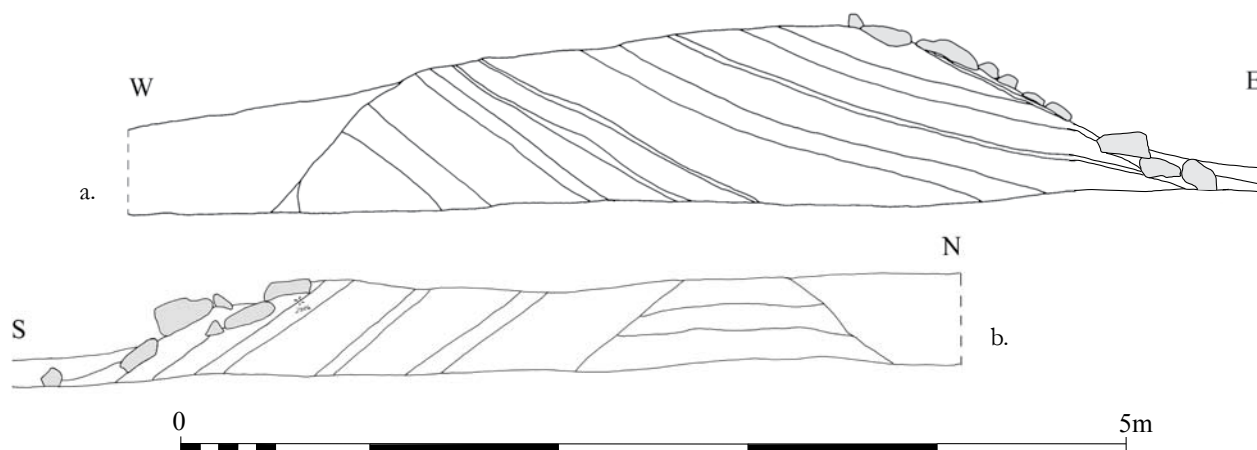
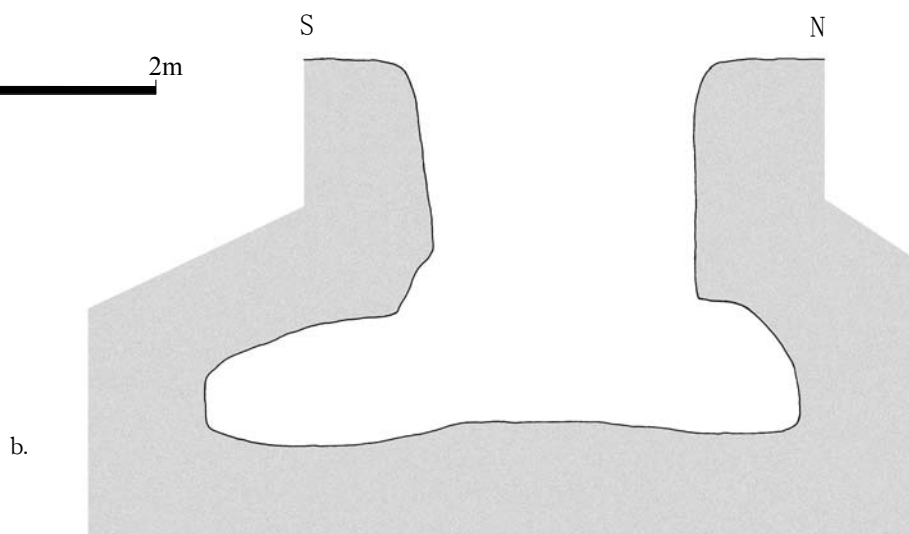


Figure 3O.11. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (4) - a. section east-west of the northern half of the tumulus; b. section north-south of the western half of the tumulus (scale 1:40).



Figure 3O.12. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (4) - profile (scale 1:100).

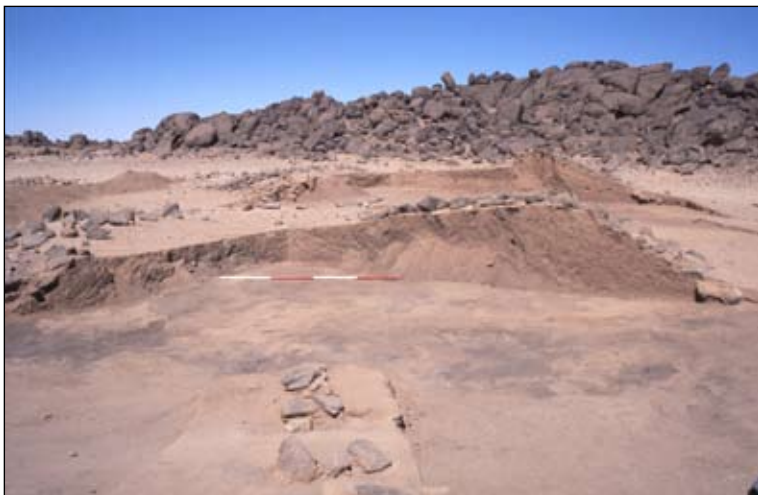


Plate 3O.8. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (4) - quarter section with tumulus (5) beyond.

ment prior to the collapse of the monument.

The sides of the upper part of the robber pit, measuring 2.8m north - south by 2.2m east - west (max. depth c. 1.7m), is at approximately 45°, the angle of rest of the loose tumulus fill through which it was cut. The robbers had greatly disturbed the blocking into the chamber in their efforts to reach the body which they partly dismembered presumably to allow the easy removal of valuable objects from on the arms, at the right ankle and around the neck. Earth and stones fell into the chamber during these activities and about half of the chamber became filled with earth subsequently as the robber pit filled naturally with layers of wind-blown sand and material slipped from the pit edges.

Tumulus 5

Grave (B)34 [skeleton (B)60, Grave cut – descendary L: 3.36m, W: 2.46m, Depth: 1.1m – chamber L: 3.7m, W: 1.65m. Monument – Tumulus - L: 13m, W: 12.2m, H: 1.48m, MDASP type FT06a]

The descendary was trapezoidal, the vertical east end rounding into the sloping base which has two very shallow steps in it. The chamber was dug to a depth of 900mm below the descendary floor and extended well to the west, north and south of the descendary. The burial had been very badly disturbed. The body had presumably been



Plate 3O.9. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (5) grave (B)34, the badly disturbed skeleton.



Plate 3O.10. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (5) grave (B)34, the badly disturbed skeleton and burial chamber.

placed at the south end where a mass of partly articulated bones remained (Plate 3O.9) while some of the disarticulated bones from an arm and hand remained in the centre of the chamber (Plate 3O.10).

Material associated with the burial

Metalwork

SF:1548 and 1576 - 2 arrowheads, iron by main concentration of bones

Jewellery

SF:1574 - 4 faience beads by main concentration of bones

SF:150 - 8 beads, faience

SF:1559 - ostrich egg-shell bead

SF:162 - 12 glass beads

SF:1580 - 59 faience beads were found in the fill of the robber pit

The entrance to the chamber was closed off by stone slabs up to 800mm in length placed carefully together and resting at an angle on the descendary floor and against the west side of the cut. Other slabs were lain against these and then the whole descendary was filled with a mass of large (average 500mm in length) granite blocks with earth filling the interstices.

The core of the monument, 4.2 x 3.6m in size, of quite hard and compact earth, survived to a height of 500mm. On to this was mounded layers of varying thickness of from grey to orange-brown fine clay/sand. As elsewhere the angle of the tip lines indicates that the tumulus was originally much higher. It was revetted by a single layer of stones up to 500mm in size, carefully placed, except towards the base where the revetment is up to three stones thick. Before excavation it was a very prominent egg-shaped tumulus standing at the prow to a height of 550mm. The lower part of the tumulus was masked with rubble from its partial collapse.

The robber pit, with dimensions at the top of 3.9 x 3.8m,

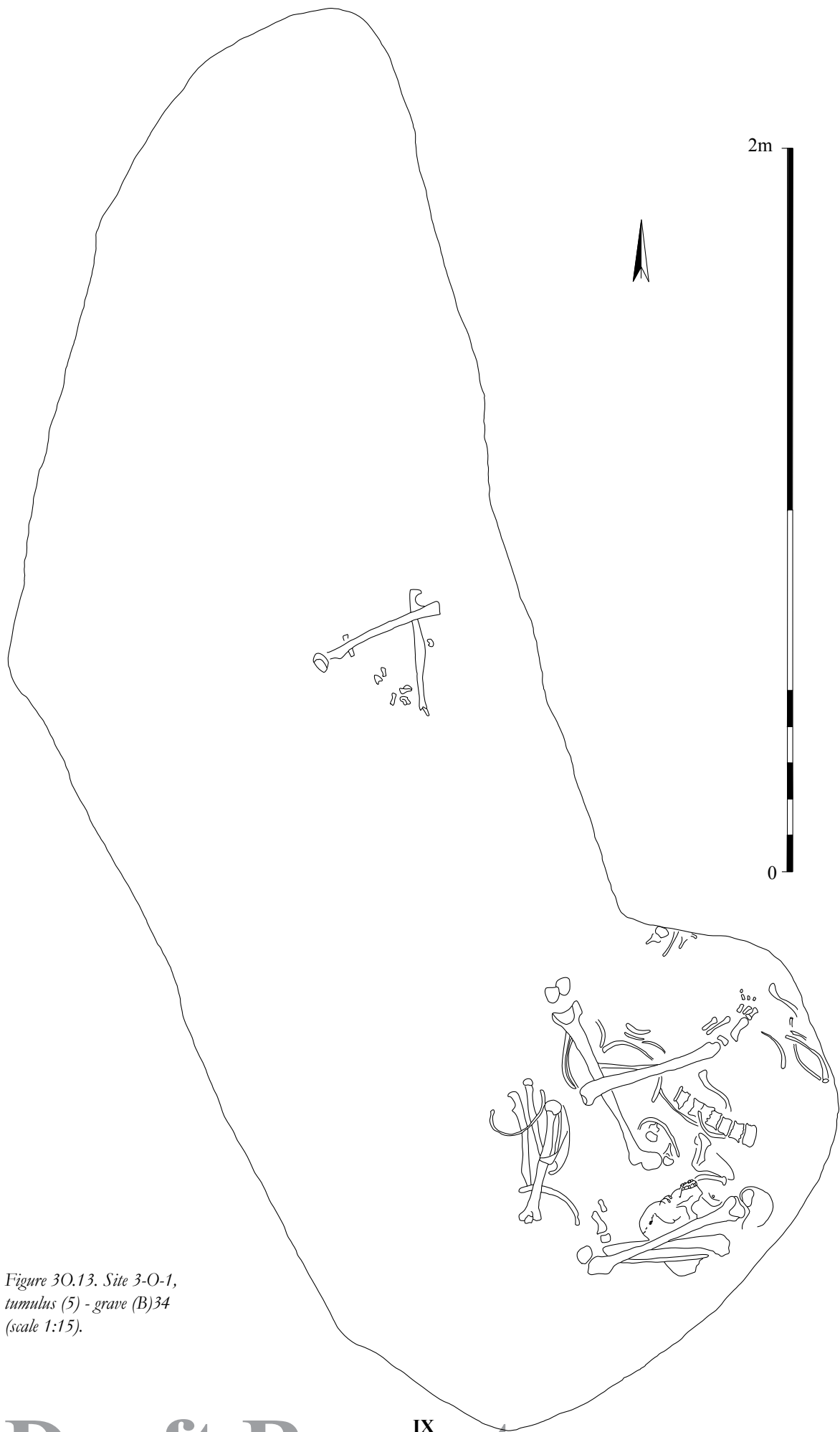


Figure 3O.13. Site 3-O-1,
tumulus (5) - grave (B)34
(scale 1:15).

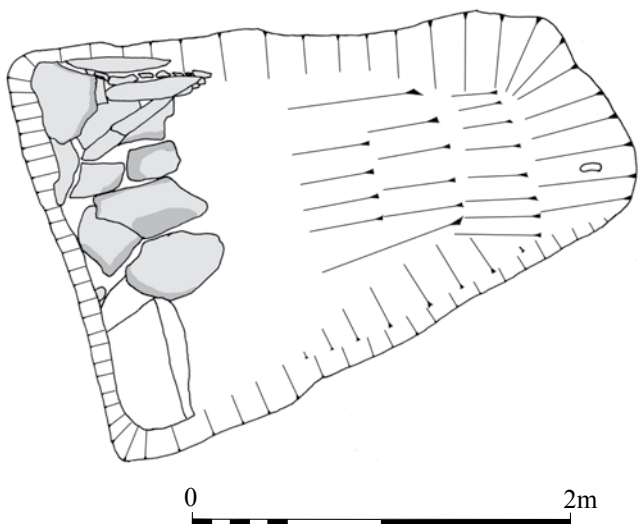


Figure 3O.14. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (5) - grave (B)34, the descendary and blocking slabs (scale 1:40).



Plate 3O.11. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (5) grave (B)34, the descendary and blocking slabs.



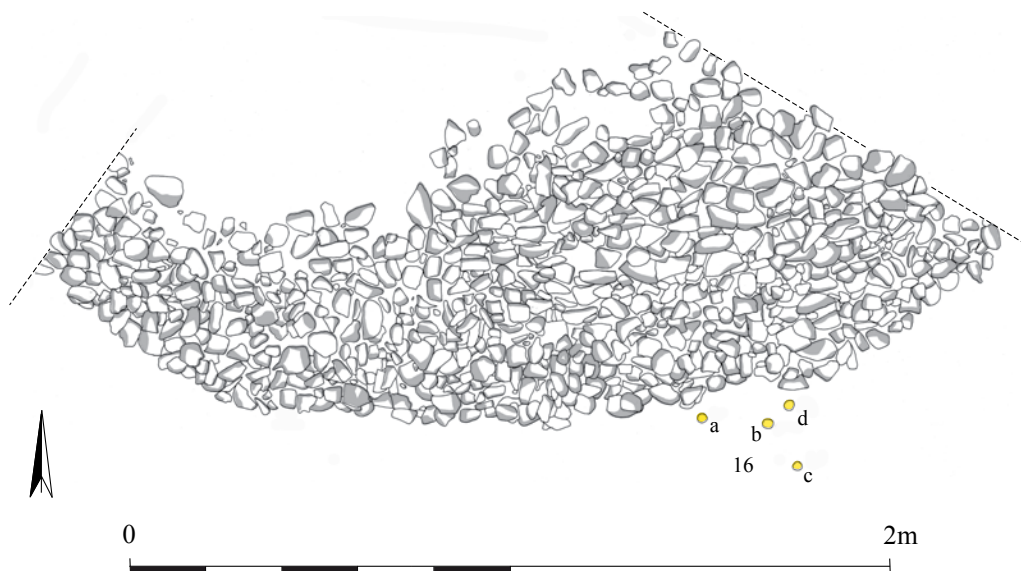
Plate 3O.12. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (5) rubble infilling the descendary.



Plate 3O.13. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (5) detail of the revetment at the prow.

is an inverted conical shape at the top where it cuts through the loose fill of the tumulus with sides at an angle of 45° . In the harder descendary fill the sides are much steeper and are revetted on the east side by a rough wall of stones 550mm high presumably derived from the blocking of the descendary. The robbers had been particularly thorough in ransacking the grave, totally disturbing the burial and removing most of the grave goods including presumably the pottery vessels. The pit filled naturally with loose earth which also infilled most of the grave chamber. A small bowl-shaped pit [(B)69], 680 x 600mm in size and

Figure 3O.15. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (5) - plan of a section of the tumulus revetment by the prow and post-holes 16a-d (scale 1: 20).



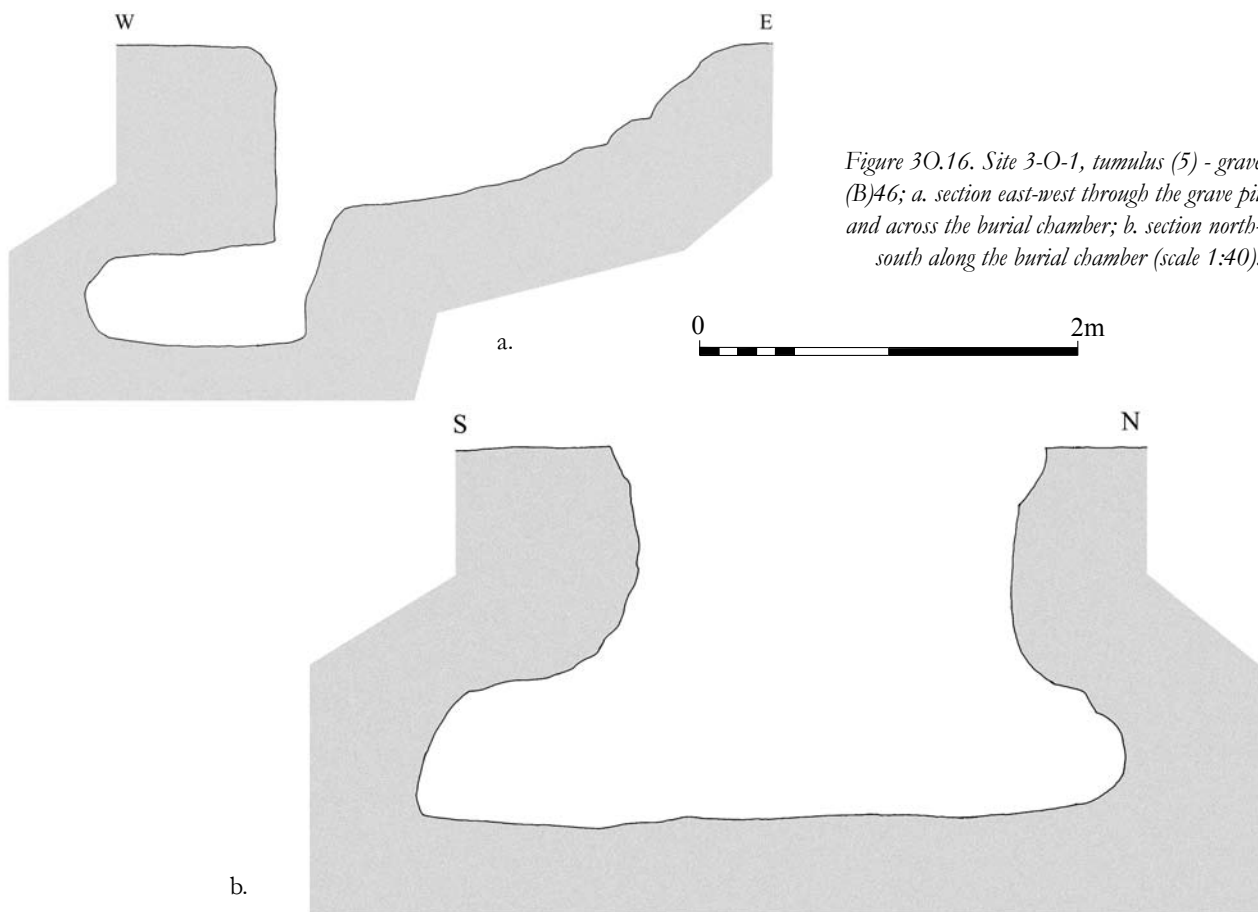


Figure 3O.16. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (5) - grave (B)46; a. section east-west through the grave pit and across the burial chamber; b. section north-south along the burial chamber (scale 1:40).

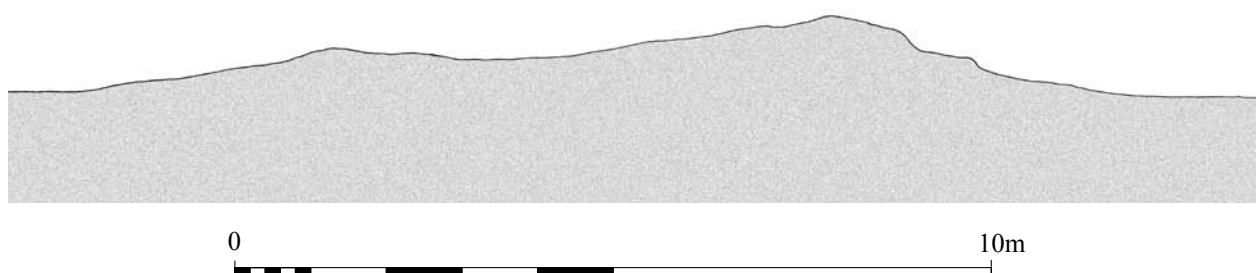


Figure 3O.17. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (5) - profile (scale 1:100).

160mm deep, was dug into the robber pit fill and filled with fine silt and sand layers.

Linking walls associated with tumuli (3)-(5)

Joining each of the three tumuli were walls formed from a single line of granite blocks. The 4.2m long

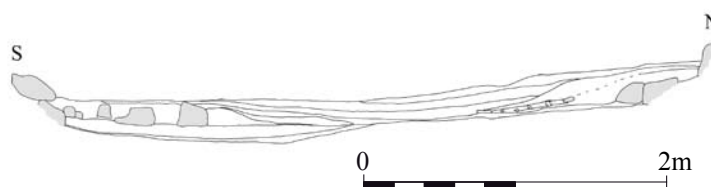


Figure 3O.19. Site 3-O-1, (B), section between tumuli (4) and (5) (scale 1:50).

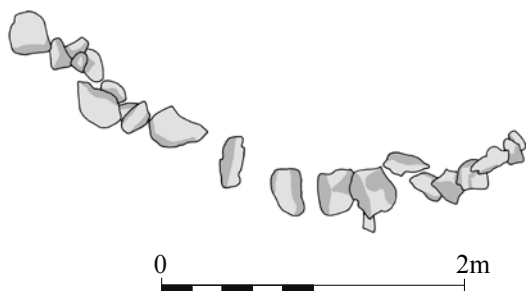


Figure 3O.18. Site 3-O-1, (B) the wall linking tumuli (3) and (4) (scale 1:50).

wall between Tumuli (4) and (5) incorporates stones up to 350mm in length. It overlies at both ends rubble from the collapse of the tumuli revetments and the earth that has built up among that rubble, a layer of sand with water-deposited silt (Figure 3O.19). The wall between Tumuli (3) and (4) is similar at 4m in length and appears to post-date the partial collapse of both tumuli.

Area B

In the northern part of the excavation trench the earliest surface revealed was hard and flat. It was cut by a number

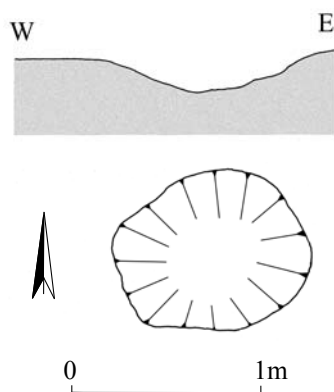


Figure 3O.20. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (3)
- grave (B)58; section and plan of pit
71 (scale 1:40).



Plate 3O.14. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (6) - the burial chamber.

of post-holes which do not form the plan of any recognisable structure (Figure 3O.15). The holes [16a-d] are on average 120mm in diameter and 110mm deep. Sealing these features was a thin layer forming another surface of the same type. On this was a small fireplace, an area of fire-reddened earth and ash 330 x 160mm in size. The heat had reddened the earth to a depth of 80mm below the surface. It was this surface on which Tumulus (5) was built. At the southern end of the trench was a pit 1.08 x 0.86m in size and 220mm deep. This was sealed by a thin layer of sand/silt on which Tumulus (3) was built. It is reminiscent of the offering pit under Tumulus (11) but only contained sand/silt.

Tumulus (6)

Grave (P)58 [skeleton (P)59, Grave cut – descendency L: 1.42m, W: 1.27m, Depth: 1.06m – chamber L: 1.27m, W: 570mm. Monument – Tumulus - L: 6m, W: 5m, H: 400-500mm, MDASP type FT05a]

The tomb is of the cylindrical type, of medium depth, circular at the mouth becoming oval at the bottom which is formed of a very hard and flat natural surface. If any grave goods had been buried with the deceased, who was an adult of indeterminate sex, the robbers had removed all trace of them. At the surface disturbed by the robbers

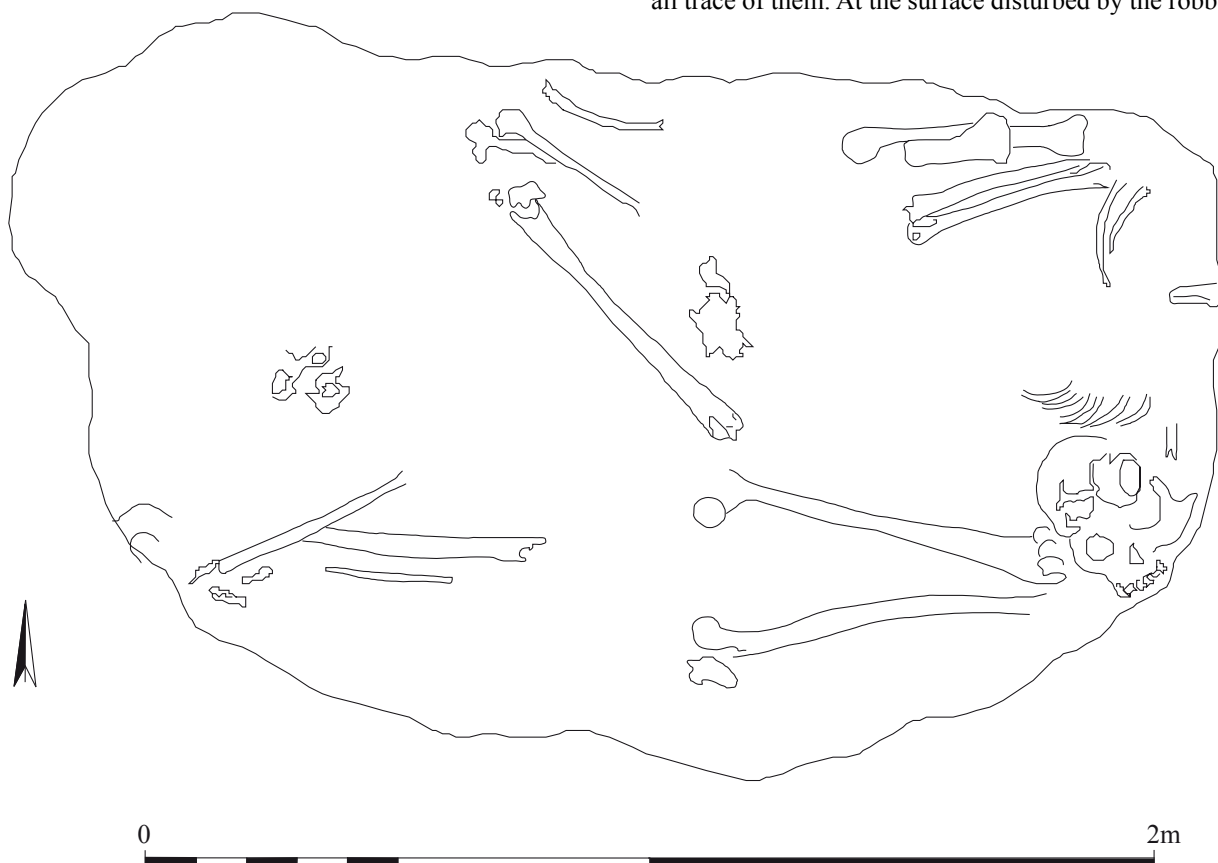


Figure 3O.21. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (6) - the burial chamber (scale 1:15).

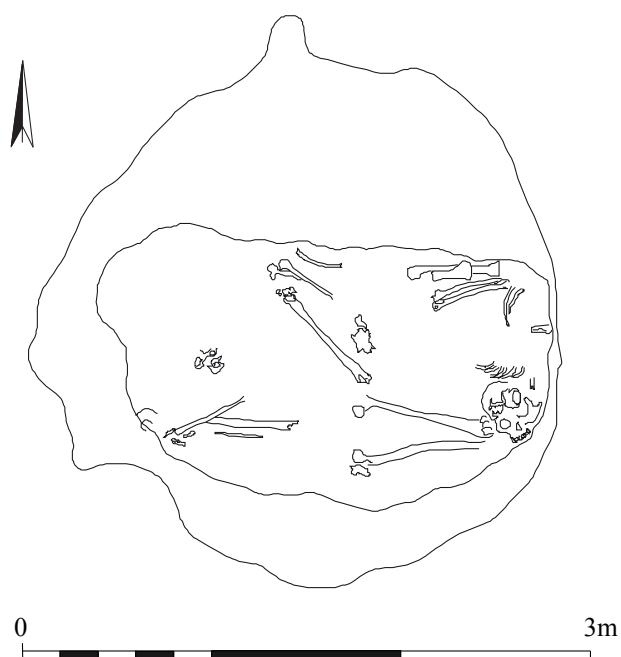


Figure 3O.22. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (6) - plan of the descendary and burial chamber (scale 1:40).

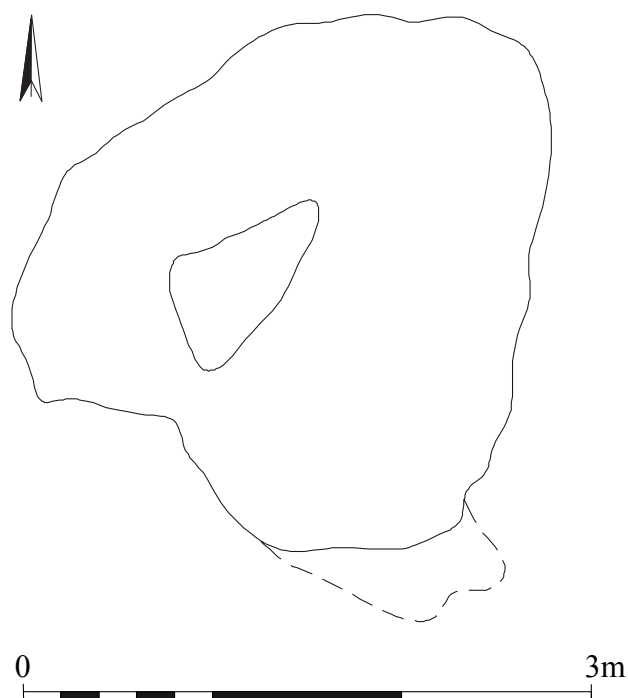


Figure 3O.23. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (6) - plan of the top of the descendary (scale 1:40).

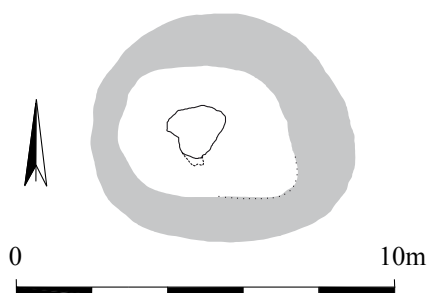


Figure 3O.24. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (6) stone revetment and descendary (scale 1:200).



Plate 3O.15. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (6) - the descendary and burial chamber.

were several long flat slabs perhaps originally serving to block the mouth of the tomb.

Material associated with the burial

Jewellery

SF:1684 - beads, faience

SF:1685 - beads, shell

Metalwork

SF:1686 - artefact, metal

Tumulus (8)

Grave (P)30, [skeleton (P)31, Grave cut – descendary L: 2.6m, W: 2.5m, – chamber L: 2.64m, W: 1.84m. Monument - Tumulus - L: 20m, W: 15m, MDASP type FT06a]

The descendary is trapezoidal with a ramp sloping down from east to west. At its base a trench approximately 450mm wide was cut along the west side and part way along the north and south sides forming a ‘U’-shaped chamber which on its south-western side undercut the wall of the descendary. The body of an adult of indeterminate sex was placed at the east end of the southern arm of the chamber with a metal bowl placed near the skull and a pottery (cup) below the bones. The skeleton was then covered with stones.

Material associated with the burial

Jewellery

SF:1680 - beads, faience

SF:1681 - beads, faience and shell



Figure 3O.25. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (8) - skeleton with covering stones (scale 1:15).

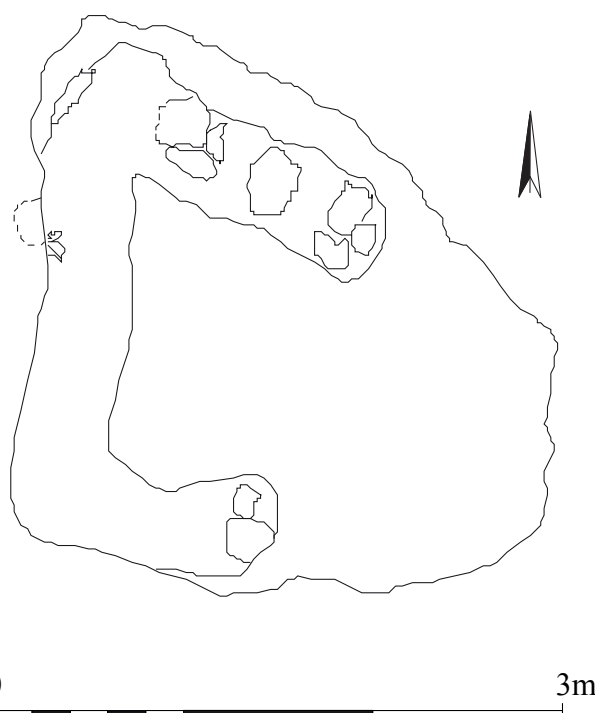


Figure 3O.26. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (8) - plan of the bottom of the descendary and burial chamber (scale 1:40).

SF:1682 - beads, faience and shell

Metalwork

SF:1683 - bowl, copper alloy

Pottery

cup (type)

Organic

feather with string

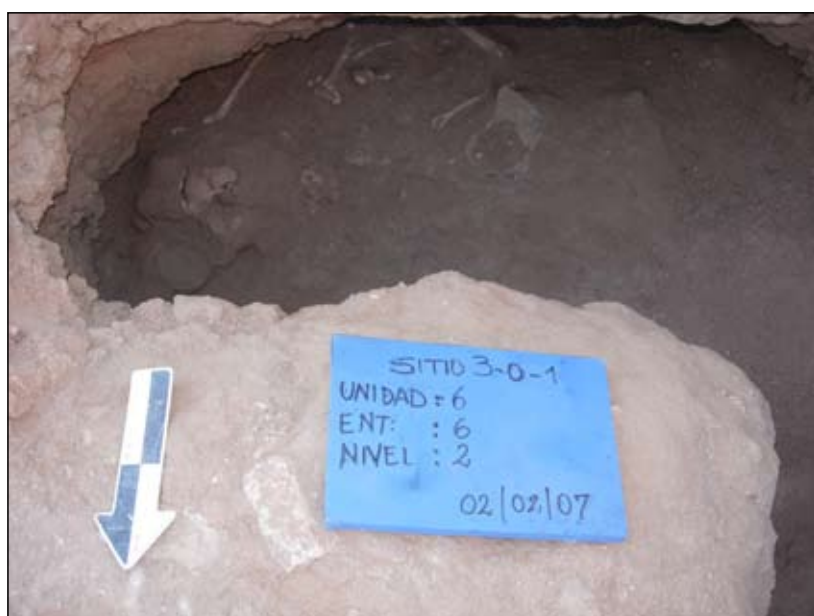


Plate 3O.16. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (8) - the skeleton with grave goods.



Plate 3O.17. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (8) - the U-shaped trench at the base of the descender.

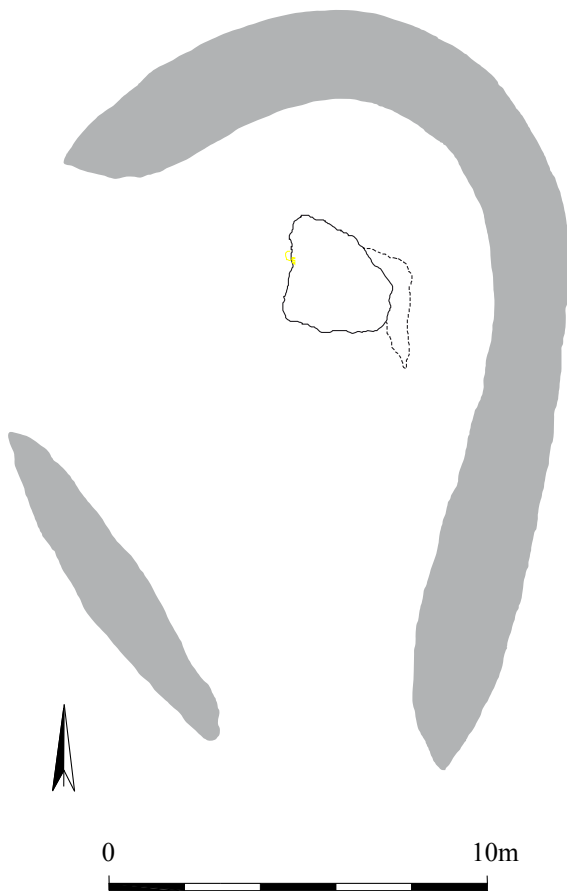


Figure 3O.27. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (8) stone revetment and descender (scale 1:200).

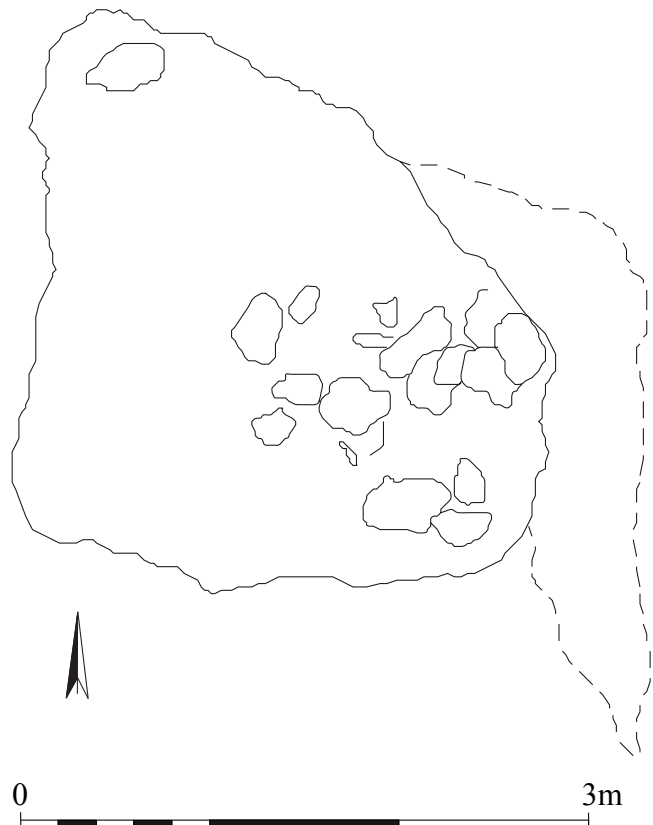


Figure 3O.28. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (8) plan of the top of the descender (scale 1:40).

Tumulus 9

Grave (P)32 [skeleton (P)33, Grave cut – descendary L: 1.09m, W: 0.87m, Depth: 1.2m – chamber L: 1.22m, W: 0.69m. Monument - Tumulus - L: 10.8m, W: 9.2m, MDASP type FT05a]

The deep circular pit had a flat bottom which was dug through on the south side to form the oval burial chamber partly undercutting the sides of the descendary. The body of an adult female had been much disturbed; no bones were found articulated and it was hence not possible to define its original orientation and position. The pelvis, tibia, fibula, femur, vertebrae and some ribs were found at a higher level, on the bottom of the descendary. The skull, humerus and scapula found at the bottom on the west side of the grave. No grave goods remained in the burial chamber. In the upper fill of the robber pit was a large beer jar. Around the mouth of the pit were ash lenses and burning though by the excavators to be contemporary with the looting.

The tumulus was revetted by loose stones placed one above the other, forming the ring.

Material associated with the burial

Jewellery

SF:1687 - beads, from grave fill

Pottery

beer jar (type ...), from upper fill of shaft

Organic

carbon

botanical remains

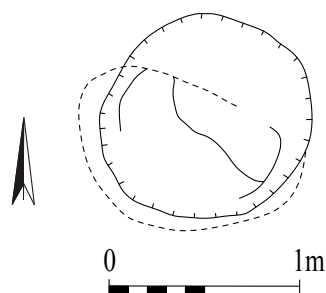


Figure 3O.30. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (9) - plan of the descendary and burial chamber (scale 1:40).

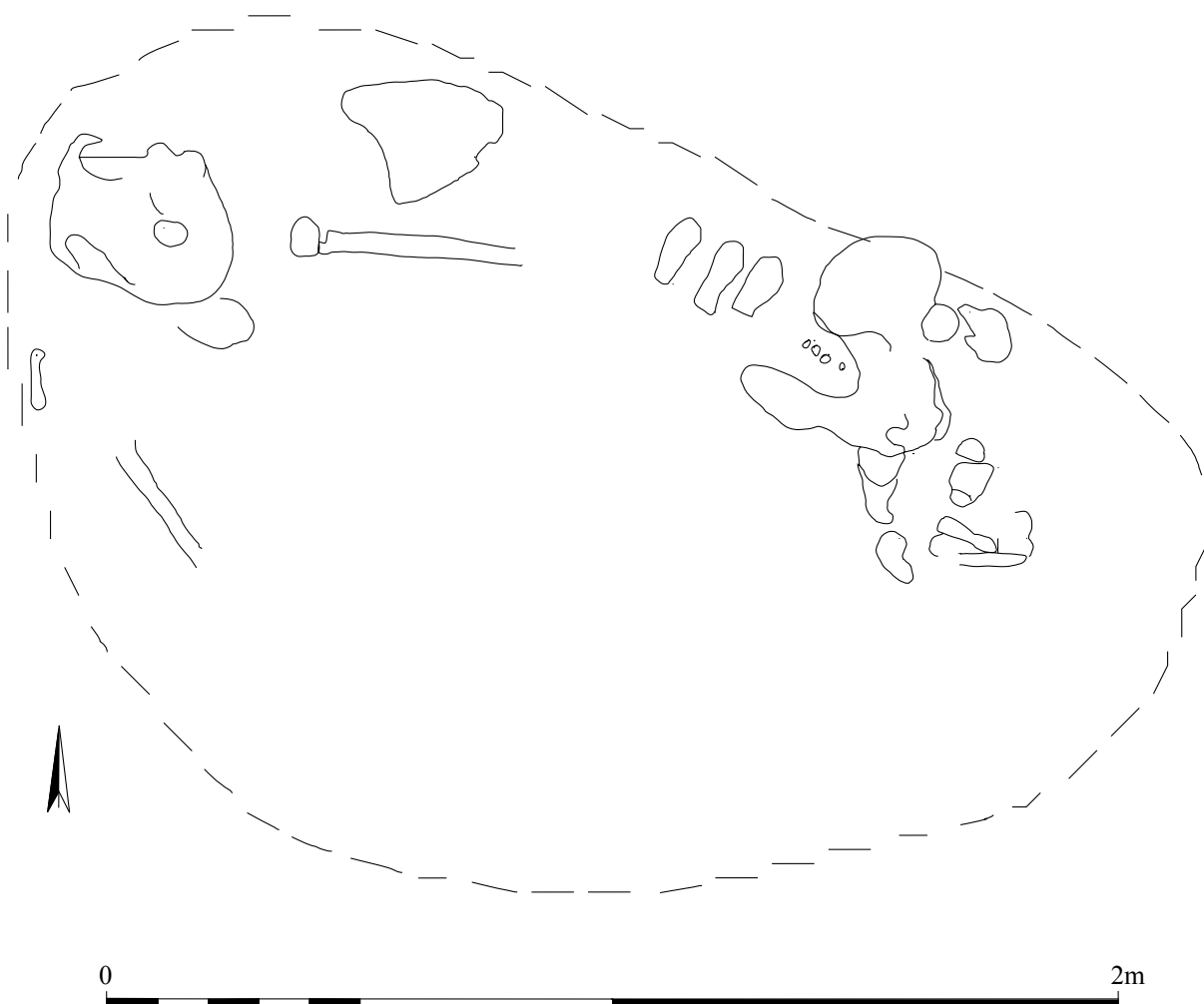


Figure 3O.29. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (9) - plan of the burial chamber (scale 1:15).



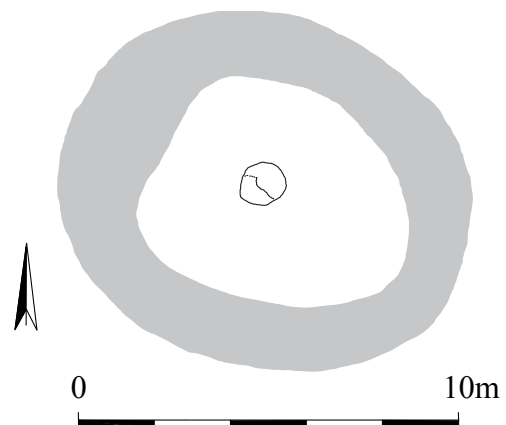
*Plate 3O.18. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (9)
- the descendary and burial chamber.*



Plate 3O.19. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (9).



*Plate 3O.20. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (9) - beer jar in the
upper fill of the robber pit.*



*Figure 3O.31. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (9) stone revetment
and descendary (scale 1:200).*

Tumulus 10

Grave (A)15/30 [skeleton (A)35, Grave cut – descendary L: 3.25m, W: 2.1-0.46m, Depth: 1m – chamber L: 2.4m, W: 750-950mm, Depth: 640mm. Monument – Tumulus - L: 8.75m, W: 7.75m, H: 820mm, MDASP type FT06b] The trapezoidal descendary sloped down at an angle of approximately 24° to the mouth of the grave chamber which was cut a further 640mm below the lowest point of the descendary. The chamber was 'kidney-shaped' (Figure 3O.32, Plate 3O.22) and set at right angles to the long axis of the descendary. It had a flat bottom and vertical sides with the roof sloping upwards from the back towards the opening into the descendary. Prior to the burial it would appear that a thin layer of fine sand was placed on the floor of the grave. The bones of the body were in good condition but there had been much disturbance although one of the limbs remained articulated (Plate 3O.21). The body had originally probably been oriented south - north in a supine position with the head to the south and with the legs flexed at the knees to the right.

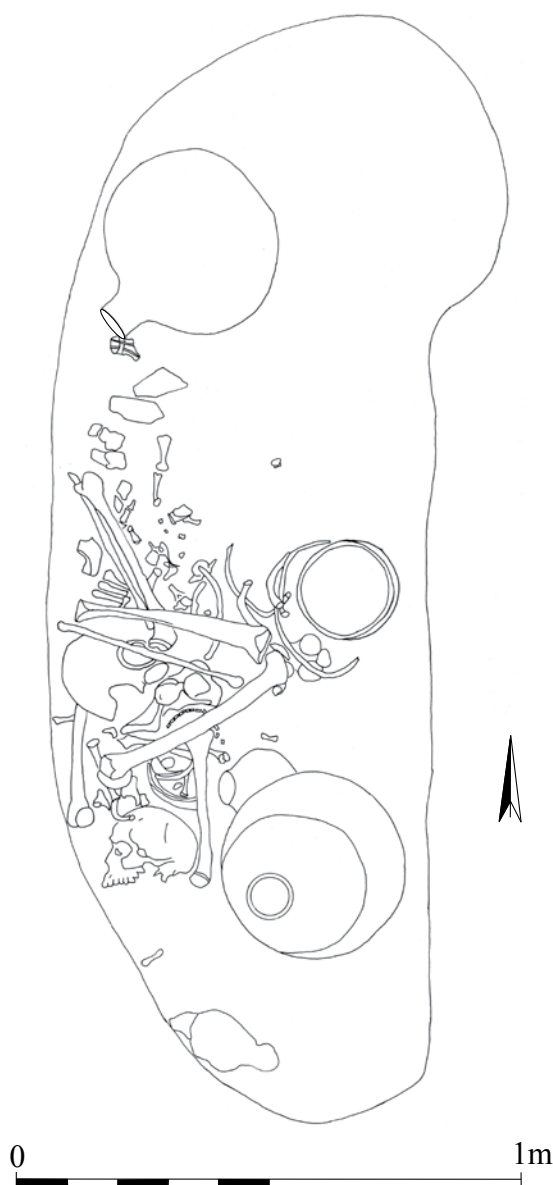


Figure 3O.32. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (10) - grave (A)15/30 (scale 1:15).



Plate 3O.21. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (10) - grave (A)15/30, the skeleton and associated pots.



Plate 3O.22. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (10) - grave (A)15/30, the burial chamber.

Material associated with the burial

Jewellery

SF:118 - bracelet of 29 glazed composition and carnelian barrel beads was found by the pelvis

SF:992 - beads, faience, in the sand on the floor of the chamber

SF:141 - 19 beads, carnelian, in the sand on the floor of the chamber

SF:961 - single glazed composition bead in grave fill

Organic

lump of organic material at the south end of the grave, possibly leather [(A)39d] fragments of twisted leather cord from the ankle area – used to bind the flexed legs?

Metalwork

SF:954 - iron point from under the pelvis

SF:120 - iron fragment from by the cranium

SF:137 - iron fragments, in the sand on the floor of the chamber

Pottery - four pottery vessels remained complete beer jar (type)

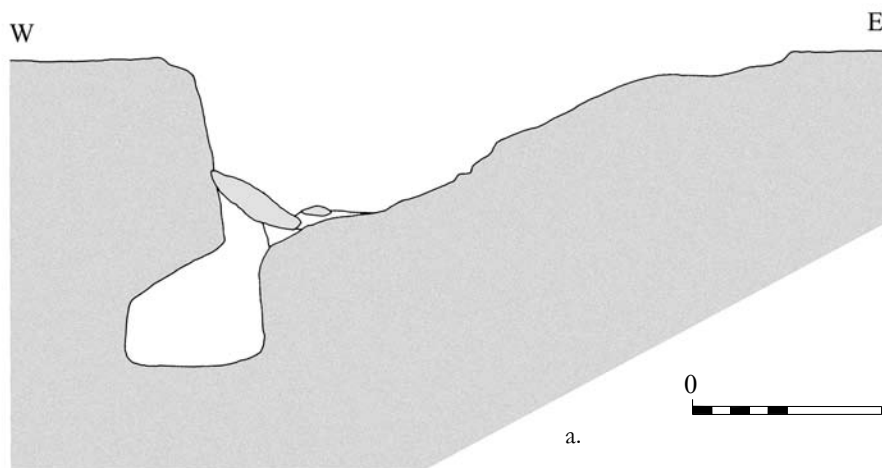


Figure 3O.33. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (10) - grave (A)15/30; a. section east-west along the descendary and across the burial chamber; b. section north-south along the burial chamber (scale 1:40).

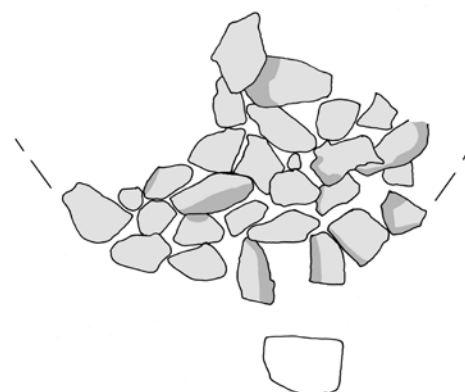
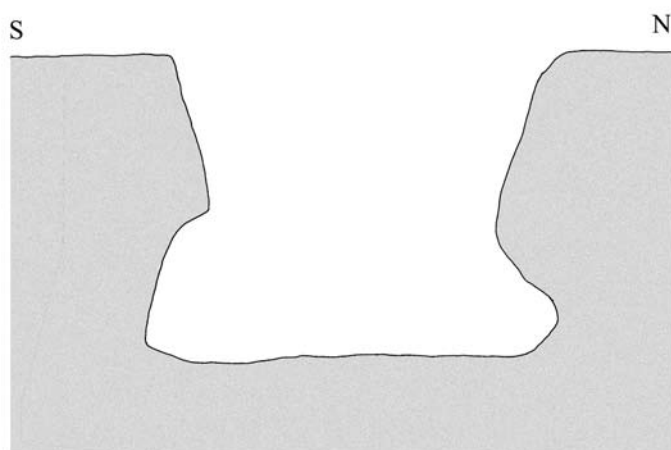


Figure 3O.34. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (10) - detail of the eastern part of the tumulus revetment with the 'lamp box'; Its capstone lies on the ground to the east (scale 1:40).

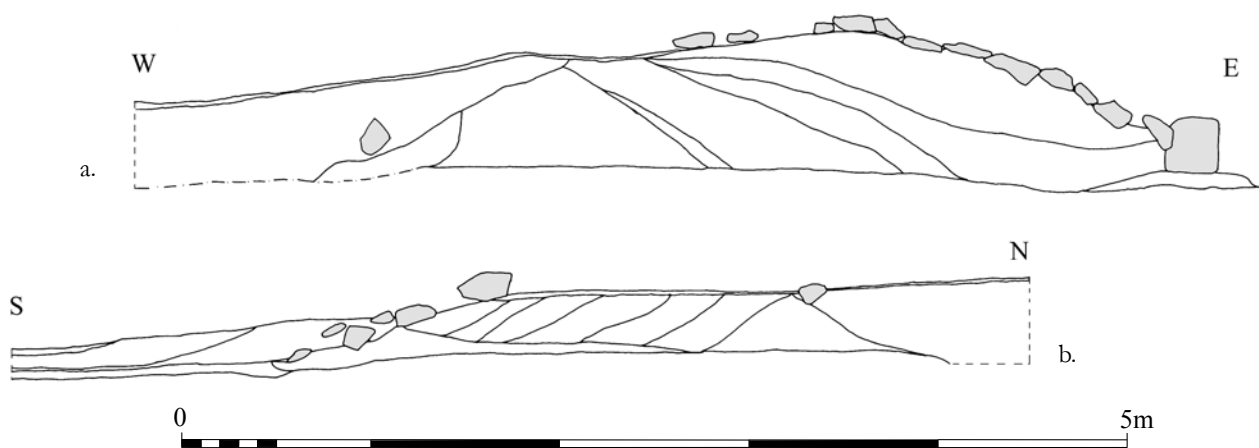


Figure 3O.35. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (10) - a. section east-west of the eastern half of the tumulus through the 'lamp box'; b. section north-south of the southern half of the tumulus (scale 1:40).



Figure 3O.36. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (10), profile (scale 1:100).

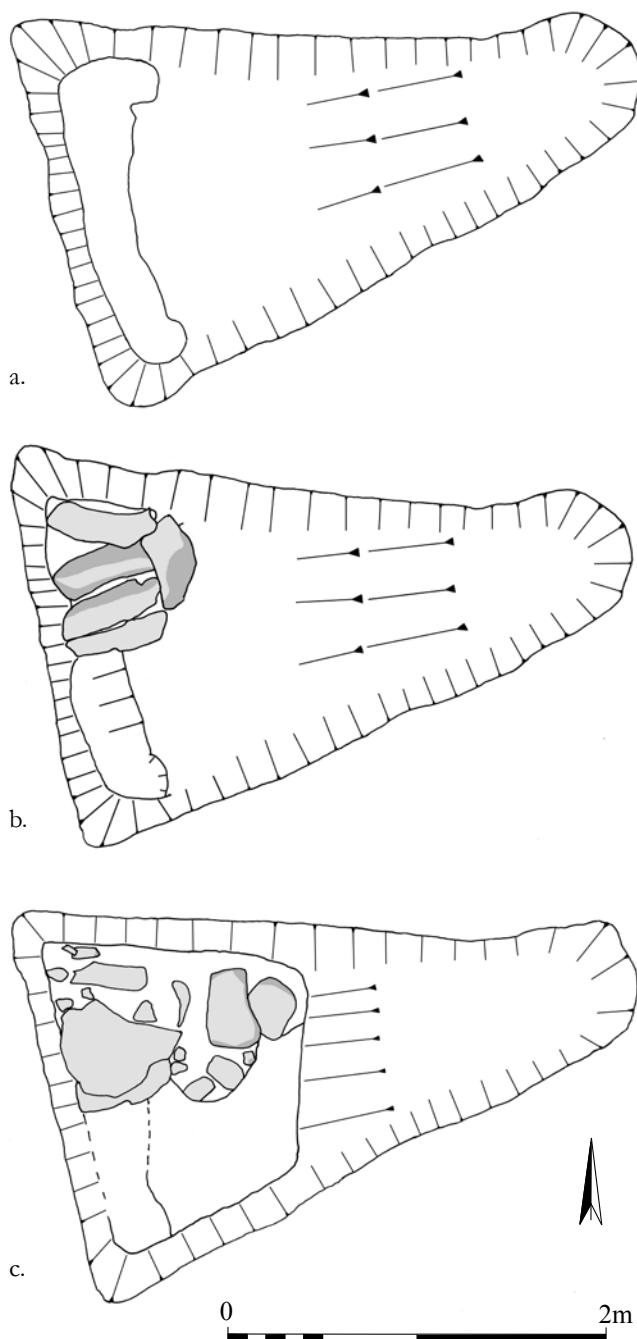


Figure 30.37. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (10) - a. descender with mouth of burial chamber; b. blocking slabs in situ at the mouth of the burial chamber; c. rubble filling of the descender (scale 1:40).

beer jar (type)
jar, small (type)
hemispherical bowl (type)

Cartonage?

SF:2293 - painted fragment to the north of the body [(A)39f] by the mouth of one of the beer jars and other small fragments elsewhere in the grave

The burial chamber was sealed by a carefully placed row of stone slabs each approximately 550-560mm in length and between 220mm and 180mm in width, resting against the west face of the descender (Figure 30.37b). These were held in place by another large slab placed at

right angles to them. The slabs towards the southern end of the cut had been removed to allow the robbers access into the grave. Resting on these stones were many others with compact silty sand and gravel between them. Among the stones was one slab 700 x 550mm in size. The beads (SF:926, 927, 930), stone cube (SF:932), reused pottery sherds (SF:937, 939) and single human metacarpal presumably came from the robbing activities. Covering the blocking stones and filling the descender was brownish-grey silty sand.

The fill of the descender was sealed beneath the tumulus. Initially it appears to have been a steep-sided mound 6m in diameter, of homogenous material, to which was added many additional layers. On the eastern side more material was then added before the whole thing was completed with the addition of a carefully-built stone revetment of flattish stones placed on the mound surface, surviving to a height of 500mm on the west side of the tumulus but towards the east it rose to a height of 1m. The tumulus was markedly egg-shaped with the point to the east where the high revetment was provided. From the angle of the tip lines (Figure 30.35) one can suggest that originally it attained a height in excess of 2m. At the base of the revetment on the 'point' two slabs were set upright forming a small box 500mm long by 540mm wide by 270mm high, and another slab, lying a little to the east, may have formed the top of the box (Figure 30.34, Plate 30.23).

Cutting through the centre of the tumulus was a robber pit 2.5m in diameter, rapidly narrowing to 1.6 x 1.06m at the level of the original ground surface. It penetrated right down into the grave chamber. The fill, of wind-blown sand interleaved with water-deposited lenses, indicates that it filled naturally over a period of time. Prior to excavation it was not visible on the surface. Apart from the destruction caused by the robbing, a small amount of rubble from the revetment was found around the base of the tumulus set in silt, some of it presumably from the erosion of the tumulus itself.



Plate 30.23. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (10) - the 'lamp box'.

Tumulus 11

Grave (A)37 [skeleton (A)44, Grave cut – shaft L: 1.8m, W: 1.5m, Depth: 570mm – chamber L: 1.85m, W: 900mm, Depth: 1.23m. Monument - Tumulus L: 10.4m, W: 8.4m, H: 300mm, MDASP type FT05a]

The sub-rectangular grave cut was dug with almost vertical sides to a depth of 570mm below the contemporary ground surface. The chamber, 'D'-shaped in plan, was excavated along the southern side of the shaft undercutting that side by 480mm. The tightly contracted skeleton was placed against the south wall of the chamber. It was aligned east – west on its right side with the head to the east facing north. The arms were flexed at the elbows, the hands being in front of the face. The body either rested on, or was wrapped in, a coarse fabric traces of which only



Plate 30.24. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (11) - grave (A)37, the skeleton.

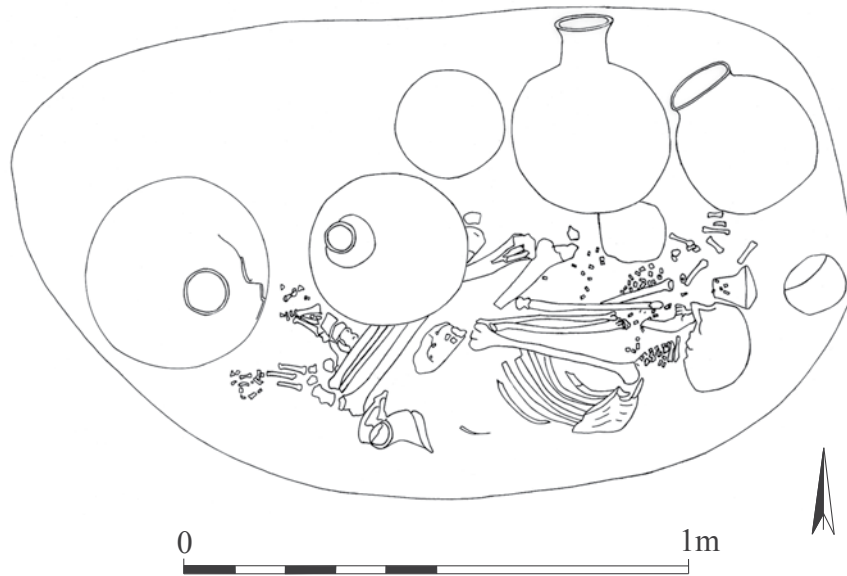


Figure 30.38. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (11) - grave (A)37 (scale 1:15).

survived beneath the body.

Material associated with the burial

Jewellery

SF:196 - 273 turquoise faience cylindrical beads were found at the neck probably from several long strings

SF:198 - faience disc bead

SF:197 - 12 stone tear-drop beads

Pottery - five pottery vessels were placed in a line along the north side of the grave.

beer jars (type)

beer jar (type.....)

bowl (type)

beer jar (type)

wide-mouthed jar (type)

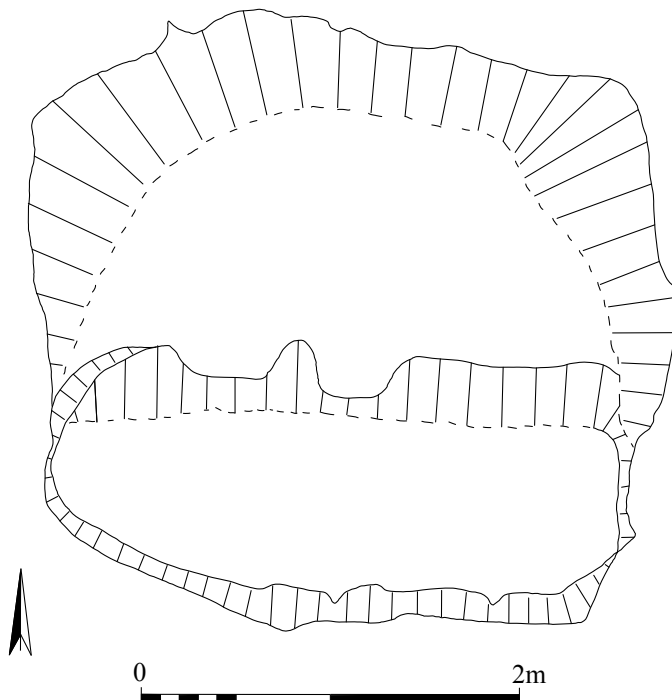


Figure 30.39. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (11) - grave (A)37 (scale 1:40).



Plate 30.25. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (11) - grave (A)37, the pottery grave goods.

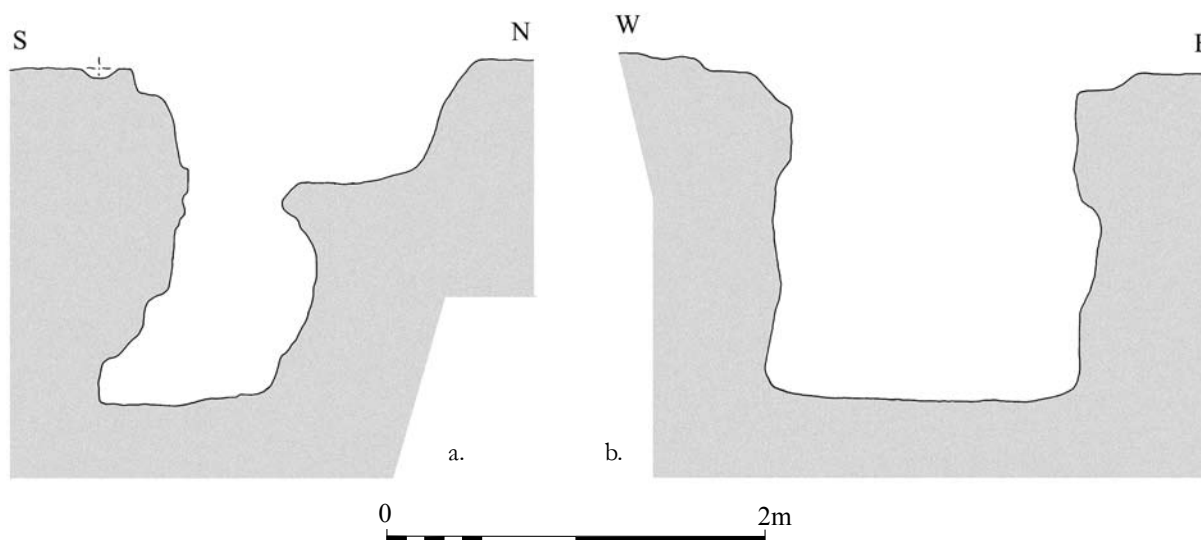


Figure 3O.40. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (11) - grave (A)37; a. section north-south through the grave pit and across the burial chamber; b. section east-west along the burial chamber (scale 1:40).



Plate 3O.26. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (11) - grave (A)37, the pottery grave goods.

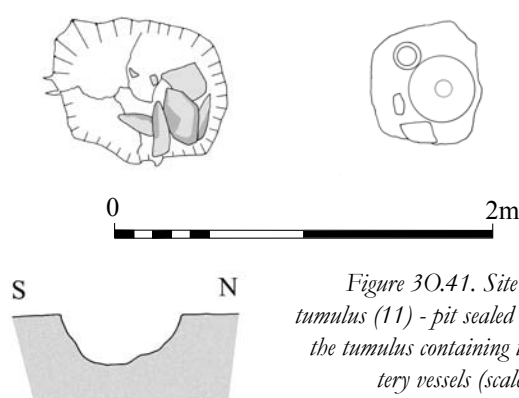


Figure 3O.41. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (11) - pit sealed beneath the tumulus containing two pottery vessels (scale 1:40).



Plate 3O.27. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (11) - pit sealed beneath the tumulus containing two pottery vessels (scale 1:40).

bowl (type), placed on its side within the niche immediately to the east of the skull

The opening from the shaft into the chamber was blocked by large stones up to 600mm in length and 550mm wide resting on the floor of the shaft and against its south wall. These were associated with a compacted brown fill layer which acted as a bonding material. The original upper fill of the shaft had been totally removed

by the robbers.

Before the construction of the tumulus another pit was dug 300mm to the south of the grave shaft. This almost circular pit (630 x 600mm) was bowl-shaped in profile and 320mm deep (Figure 3O.41, Plate 3O.27). It contained a large beer jar (type 000) which protruded 160mm above the top of the pit, a small cup (type 000) lying under a piece of granite, another piece of granite and a large pebble, all set in a loose earth fill.

Both the shaft and the pit were sealed by the makeup



Plate 3O.28. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (11) - grave (A)37, the offering pit and the tumulus stone revetment, a part of which has been removed.

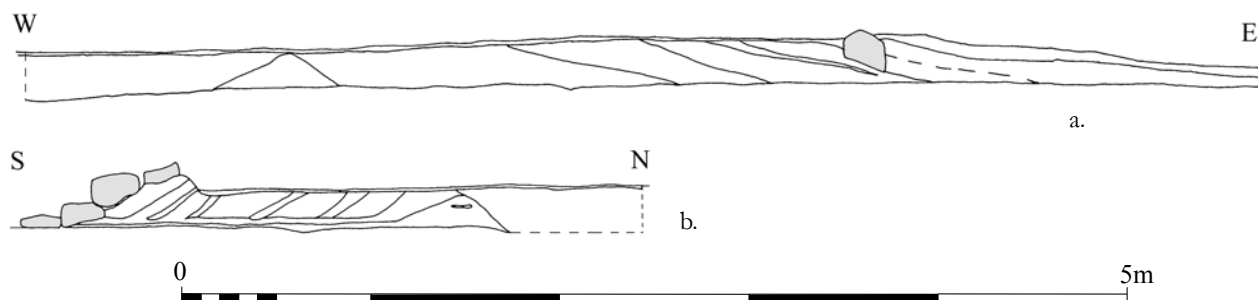


Figure 30.42. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (11); a. section east-west of the eastern half of the tumulus; b. section north-south of the southern half of the tumulus (scale 1:40).



Figure 30.43. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (11) - profile (scale 1:100).

of the tumulus formed in the same way as Tumulus (10). Tumulus (11) was also markedly egg-shaped, the point towards the north east. It was again revetted with stones, many of them slabs on average 250 x 200 x 100mm in size. However the revetment as it survived at the time of excavation was of the same height around the whole circumference of the tumulus. The large amount of rubble suggests that it will have originally stood much higher but there is no particular concentration of rubble at the point.

The robber pit was 2.9 x 2.6m at the top narrowing to 2.6 x 1.8m at the old ground surface. The robbers appear to have cleared out all the upper fill from the grave shaft as no distinct robber and grave cuts remained on the ground surface. Lower in the fill the robber pit penetrated through the chamber blocking wall only at its west end. The pit was presumably left to fill naturally with lenses of wind-blown sand and water-deposited silt. The eroded upper sides of the pit suggests that this may have taken

some time. Among the fill was a glazed composition bead (SF:121).

Area A

Extensive areas of the excavation were cleaned down to the surface into which the graves were dug. One animal hoof print was found right on the edge of the area later covered by Tumulus (10) although whether it was actually sealed by it is uncertain. Immediately to the west of Tumulus (11) the fill of a large pit which extended out of the excavation area was visible in the surface contemporary with the digging of the graves. It was not investigated further.

Linking wall

Extending between Tumuli (10) and (11) is a wall 10.5m in length (Plate 30.29) formed of a single and in places a double row of irregular blocks (max. size 400 x 250 x 170mm, average 240 x 180 x 100mm) a maximum of two courses high (400mm). Towards the mid point is a gap 1m wide, flanked by stones. Whether this is an original feature or simply to allow unimpeded access across the site in the more recent past is uncertain although the careful placing of the flanking stones suggest the former interpretation. At its south end the wall is clearly later in date than Tumulus (10). It rides up over a thick deposit of earth which sits on the revetment and some rubble from its collapse. Its relationship with Tumulus (11) is less clear. However, if it is not contemporary with the construction of the revetment of this tumulus, the very small



Plate 30.29. Site 3-O-1, wall linking tumuli (10) and (11).

Tumulus 12

Grave (P)34 [skeleton (P)35, Grave cut – descenderly L: 1.72m, W: 1.54m, Depth: 1.53m – chamber L: 1.55m, W: 1.35m. Monument – Tumulus - L: 12.6m, W: 11.4m, MDASP type FT03b]

The grave had a circular shaft dug into the sandy soil which reduced in size to an oval shape and then flared out at the base to form the burial chamber. Robbing of the



Plate 30.30. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (12) - the grave pit and burial chamber.

grave had left only a scatter of bones making it impossible to determine the original position and orientation of the body. In the upper grave fill were many large stone slabs which may have sealed the shaft. The tumulus was 5m in diameter revetted in stone. From within the fill came pottery and a metal object.

Material associated with the burial

Jewellery

SF:1691 - beads

Metalwork

SF:1692 - object

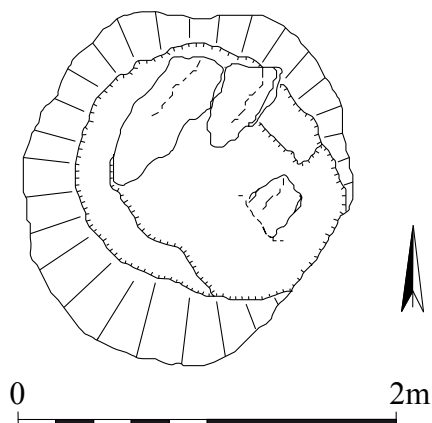


Figure 30.45. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (12) - plan at the level of the stone slabs (scale 1:40).

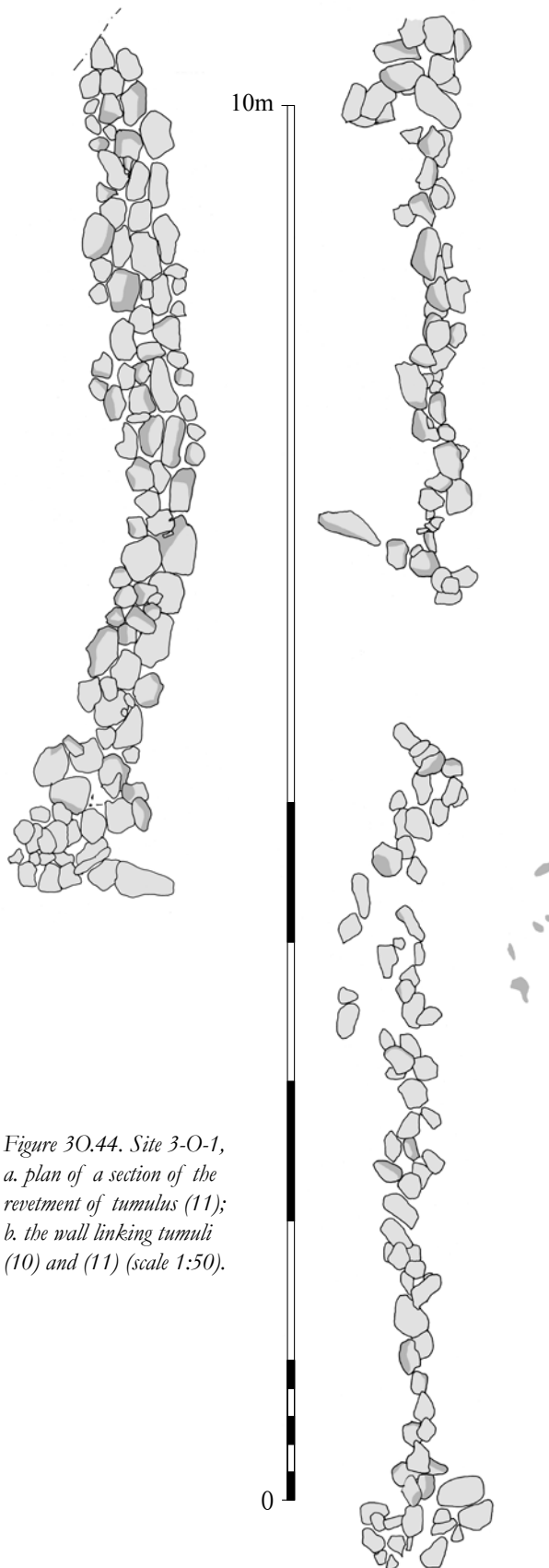


Figure 30.44. Site 3-O-1, a. plan of a section of the revetment of tumulus (11); b. the wall linking tumuli (10) and (11) (scale 1:50).

amount of earth beneath it suggests that it was constructed very soon after.



Figure 3O.46. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (12) - burial chamber and disturbed skeleton (scale 1:15).



Plate 3O.31. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (12) - the grave pit at the level of the stone slabs.

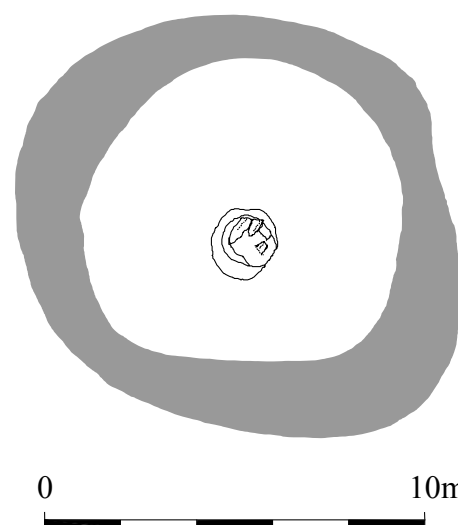


Figure 3O.47. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (12) (scale 1:200).

Tumulus 13

Grave (P)36 [skeleton (P)37, Grave cut – descendary L: 1.49m, W: 500mm Depth: 1m – chamber L: 2.1m, W: 900mm. Monument – Tumulus -L: 8.6m, W: 8.2m, H: 500mm, MDASP type FT05a]

The rectangular descendary formed a ramp sloping down towards the west where a subrectangular hole provided access into the oval burial chamber hollowed out of the alluvium. The entrance to the burial chamber may have been blocked with stones and the descendary was partly filled with stones and with earth up to the surface. The tomb was later disturbed, but the body of an adult female retained some articulation.

Material associated with the burial

Jewellery

SF:1688 - beads

SF:1689 - beads, faience and shell

SF:1690 - beads, faience and shell

Pottery

beer jar (type)



Plate 30.32. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (13), the descendary at the level of the stone fill.

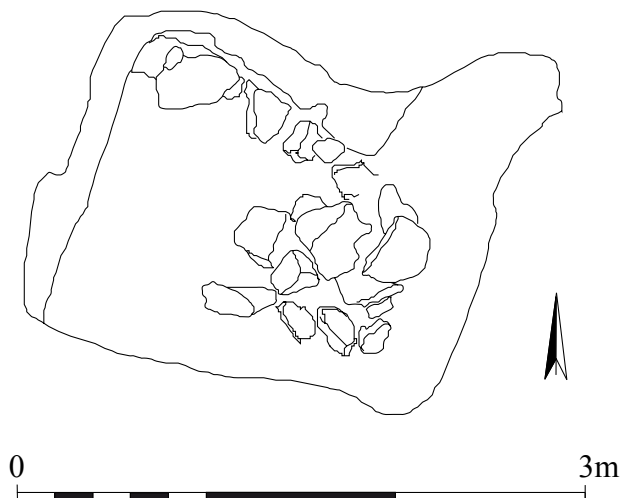


Figure 30.48. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (13) - plan of the descendary at the level of the stone fill (scale 1:40).



Figure 30.49. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (13) - burial chamber and disturbed skeleton (scale 1:15).

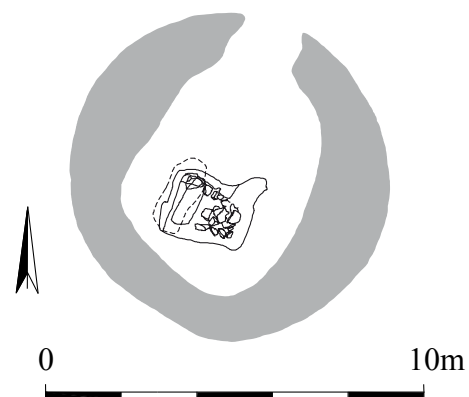


Figure 30.50. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (13) (scale 1:200).

Tumulus 16

Grave (P)38 [skeleton (P)39, Grave cut – descenderly L: 1.8m, W: 1.33m Depth: 3.03m – chamber L: 2.78m, W: 1.46m. Monument – Tumulus - L: 9.4m, W: 9m, MDASP type FT05a]

The grave shaft was roughly triangular in shape leading down to a kidney-shaped burial chamber at a depth of 3m with its long axis aligned north-south (Figure 3O.53, Plate 3O.34). It was not possible to describe and interpret the primary layout of this burial owing to the extensive rob-

bing. Bones of an adult of indeterminate sex were found scattered and in some cases at different levels (vertebrae and other bones were found at a depth of 1.5m, other bones on the floor of the burial chamber at a depth of 3m. Amongst the bones the ribs were mixed with bones of the foot and leg, which indicates that these were removed when the soft tissue had already decayed. Fragments of pottery were first noticed at a depth of 1.5m and an appreciable number of beads and a possible bracelet as well as two almost complete ceramic vessels and fragments,

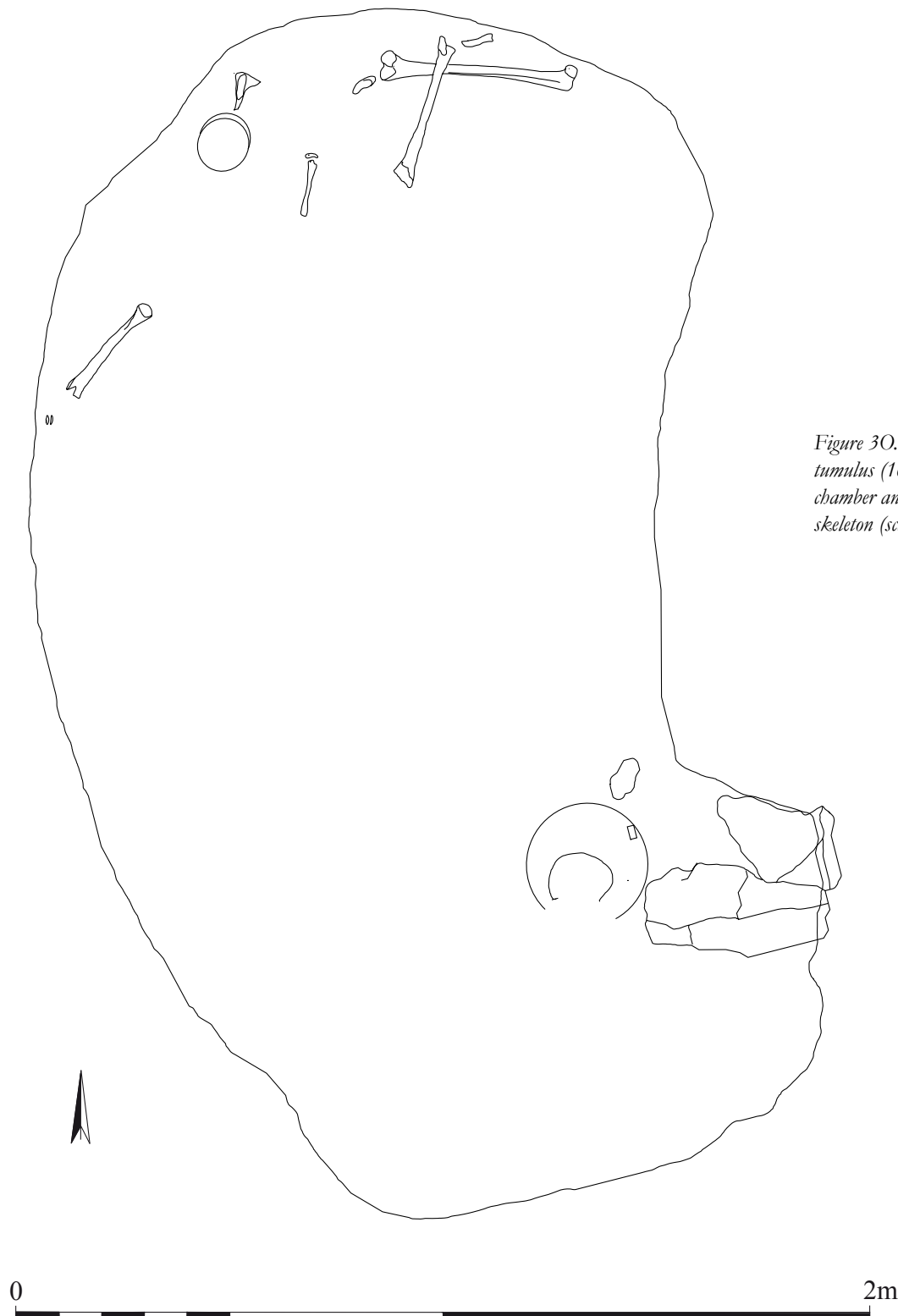


Figure 3O.51. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (16) - burial chamber and disturbed skeleton (scale 1:15).



Plate 3O.33. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (16) - the burial chamber.

were recovered. The mass of stones within the fill (Plate 3O.34) indicates that the shaft must have originally been sealed with a thick deposit of stones.

After the robbing the tomb was left open, as can be seen from the wind-blown deposits filling the pit.

Material associated with the burial

Jewellery

SF:1710 - beads, shell, stone and faience

Pottery

(type)

cup (type)

.....

Organic

Animal bone



Plate 3O.34. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (16) - the grave shaft with stone fill.

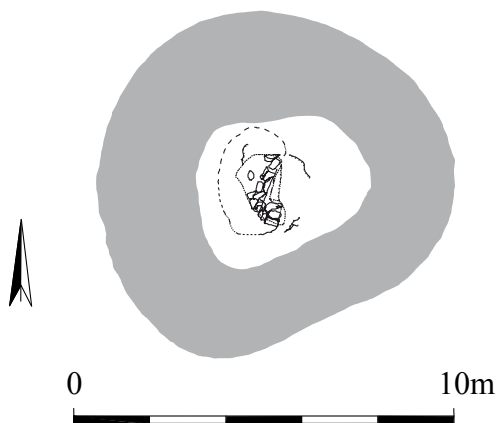


Figure 3O.52. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (16) (scale 1:200).

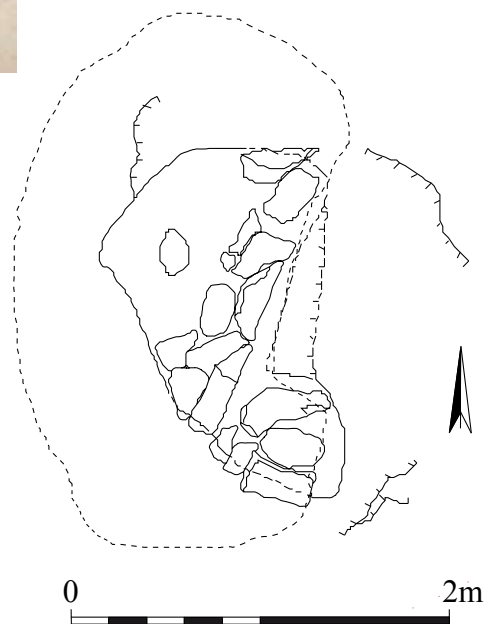


Figure 3O.53. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (16) - plan of the descendantry at the level of the stone fill (scale 1:40).

Tumulus 17

Grave (P)40 [skeleton (P)41, Grave cut – descenary L: 2.22m, W: 980mm, Depth: 2.15m – chamber L: 2.75m, W: 2.44m. Monument – Tumulus - ø 9.6m, MDASP type FT03b]

At ground level the grave shaft was oval with a slight ramp on its west side. At a depth of 350mm the hole was reduced to a rectangular shape and was a total of 2.18m deep. At the bottom the shaft was extended to form a cavity in the west wall. The body of an adult of indeterminate sex was found badly disturbed by the grave robbers. Grave goods included a bowl, a ceramic cup, pottery sherds and

faience beads.

Material associated with the burial

Jewellery

SF:1709 - beads, shell and faience

Pottery

bowl (type)

cup (type)

Organic

Textile

Animal bone

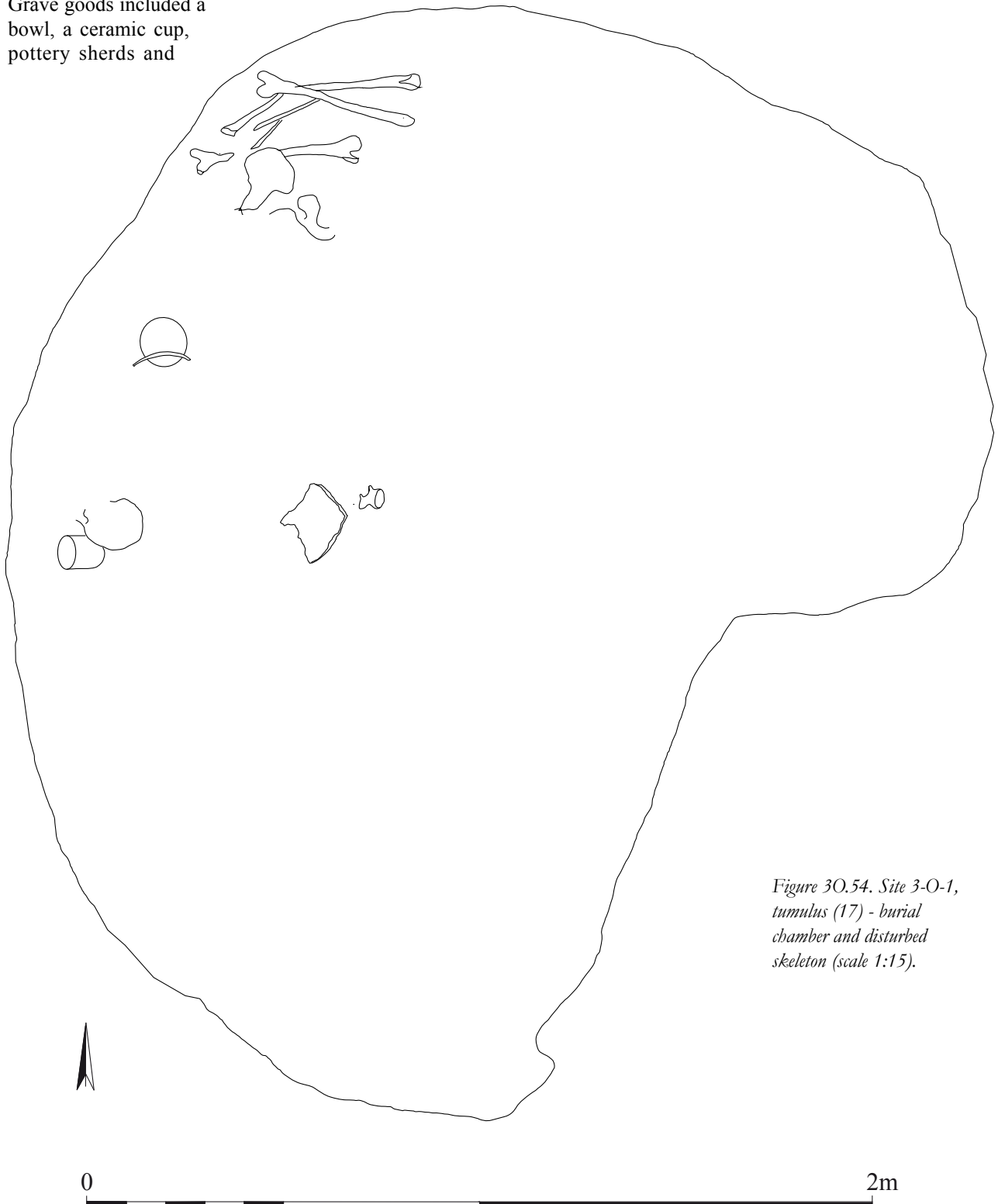


Figure 3O.54. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (17) - burial chamber and disturbed skeleton (scale 1:15).



Plate 3O.35. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (17) - the burial chamber.

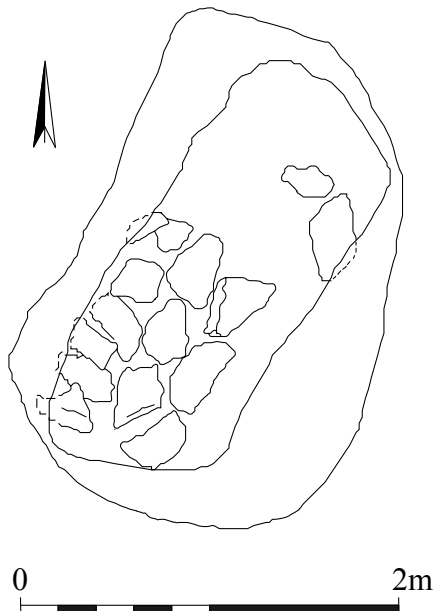


Figure 3O.55. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (17) - plan of the grave shaft at the level of the stone fill (scale 1:40).

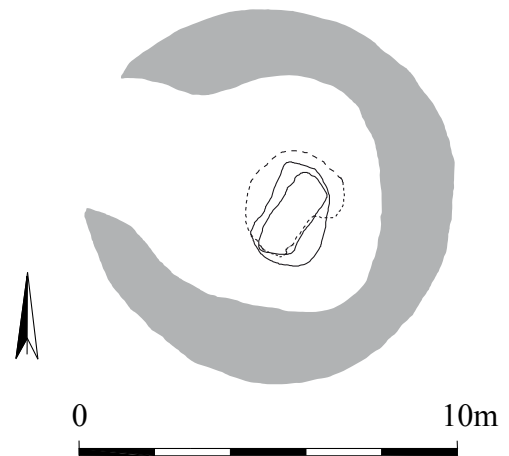


Figure 3O.56. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (17) (scale 1:200).



Plate 3O.36. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (17) - the grave shaft with stone fill.

Tumulus 18

Grave (P)42 [skeleton (P)43, Grave cut – descendary L: 1.57m, W: 440mm, Depth: 960mm – chamber L: 2.3m, W: 1.2m. Monument – Tumulus - L: 12m, W: 10.6m, H: 600mm, MDASP type FT05b]

The descendary was trapezoidal the base of which formed a ramp sloping from east to west to a depth of 870mm. At this level a rectangular pit, rounded at each end and 1.57 x 0.44m in size, gave access into the oval burial chamber a further 960mm deep (Figure 3O.58a).

The body of an adult female, aligned south-north west was placed in a semi-flexed with legs bent backwards, is slightly turned onto its left side (Figure 000). The skull was turned toward the left side facing west. The left arm was extended with the hand slightly turned to the right, the right arm was flexed with the hand on the chest (Figure 3O.57). The body was covered by plain dark cloth and under this with a layer of thin dark brown leather. It was adorned with an abundance of jewellery; beads made from stone and faience, located at the head, neck, forearm and right wrist (Plate 3O.38). The grave goods included three jars, two placed by the feet and the other by the head. A bowl was placed in front of the face. Baskets were also found, one sat in the mouth of a beer jar, another in isolation and one covered by a stone slab (Figure 3O.57, Plates 3O.37-39).

The mouth of the burial chamber was sealed with six large slabs placed upright and resting on the west wall of the descendary (Figure 3O.58b, Plate 3O.41). Infilling in the spaces were branches of a plant known today as *maharaib*, the whole then covered with gravel. The fill of the rest of the ramp was totally different, a mass of stones of angular shapes and a variety of sizes and then loose brown earth up to the surface (Figure 3O.58c, Plate 3O.42).

Material associated with the burial

Basketry

SF:1693 - basket

SF:1694 - basket, organic with stone lid

SF:1695 - basket, organic



Plate 3O.38. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (18) - detail of the deceased with its textile wrapping and abundant grave goods.



Plate 3O.39. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (18) - the beer jars and basketry cup at the north end of the burial chamber.



Plate 3O.37. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (18) - the burial chamber with the deceased, its textile wrapping and abundant grave goods.

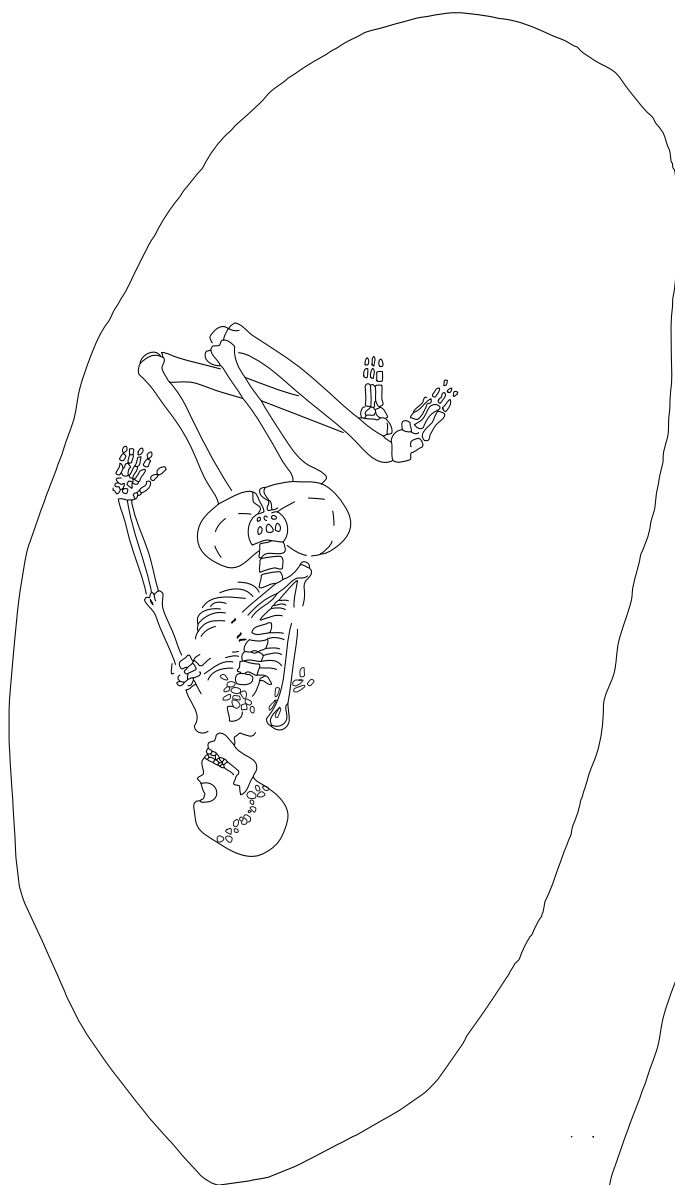


Figure 3O.57. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (18) - burial chamber; a. the skeleton; b. the burial with textiles and grave goods (scale 1:15).

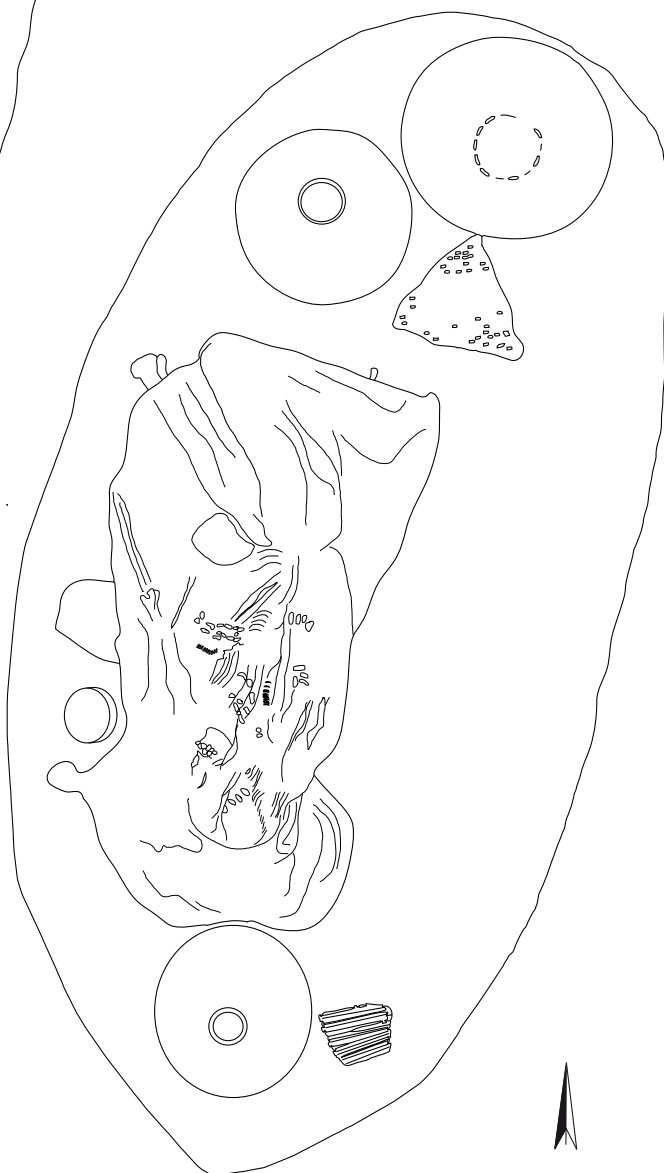


Plate 3O.40. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (18) - the beer jar at the south end of the burial chamber.

0 1m



Plate 3O.41. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (18) - slabs blocking the entrance to the burial chamber.

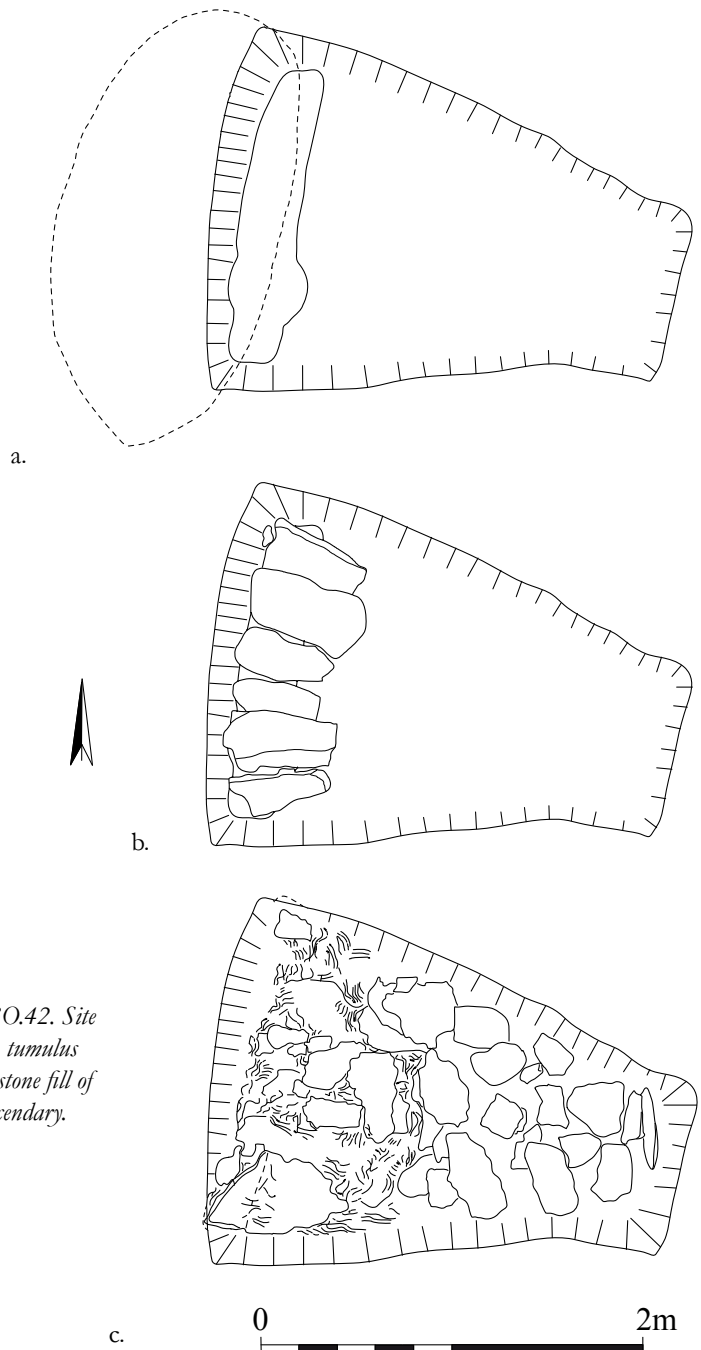


Plate 3O.42. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (18) - stone fill of the descender.



Figure 3O.58. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (18) - plan of the descender; a. the opening into the burial chamber; b. slabs blocking off the entrance to the burial chamber; c. the stone fill (scale 1:40).

Plate 3O.43. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (18).



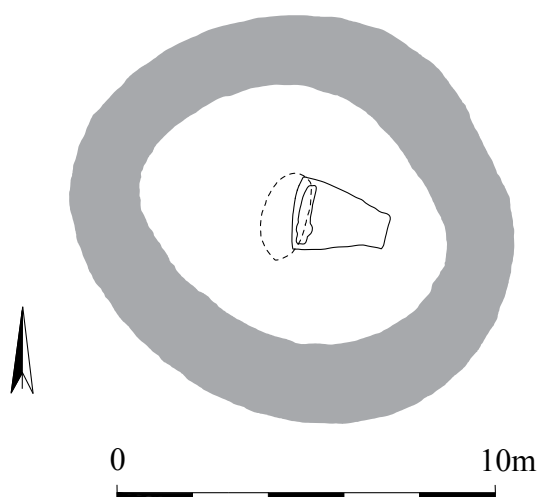


Figure 3O.59. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (18) (scale 1:200).

Jewellery

- SF:1696 - necklace of stone beads
- SF:1697 - necklace of faience beads
- SF:1698 - beads, faience
- SF:1699 - bracelet of stone beads
- SF:1700 - bracelet of shell beads
- SF:1701 - bracelet of faience beads
- SF:1702 - bracelet of shell beads
- SF:1703 - bracelet of faience beads
- SF:1704 - bracelet of faience beads
- SF:1705 - bracelet of faience beads
- SF:1706 - bracelet of faience beads
- SF:1707 - beads, faience
- SF:1708 - beads, faience

Pottery

- beer jar (type ...)
- beer jar (type ...)
- beer jar (type ...)

Tumulus 19

Grave (P)44 [skeleton (P)45, Grave cut – descendary L: 2m, W: 1.24m, Depth: 1.78m – chamber L: 2.08m, W: 1.36m. Monument – Tumulus - ø 9m, MDASP type FT05a]

The mouth of the grave pit was oval with its long axis north-south). Lower down it became 'D'-shaped but again opened out to the west to form the oval burial chamber. The body of an adult male had been much disturbed and its original position could not be ascertained. Among the grave goods were two ceramic bowls and possible a bead necklace or bracelet. Fragments of textile were found attached to the bones.

After the robbing the tomb was left open and exposed to the elements. It suffered from water erosion before being refilled with wind-blown deposits.

Material associated with the burial

Jewellery

- SF:1714 - beads, shell, stone and faience

Pottery

- bowl (type)
- cup (type)

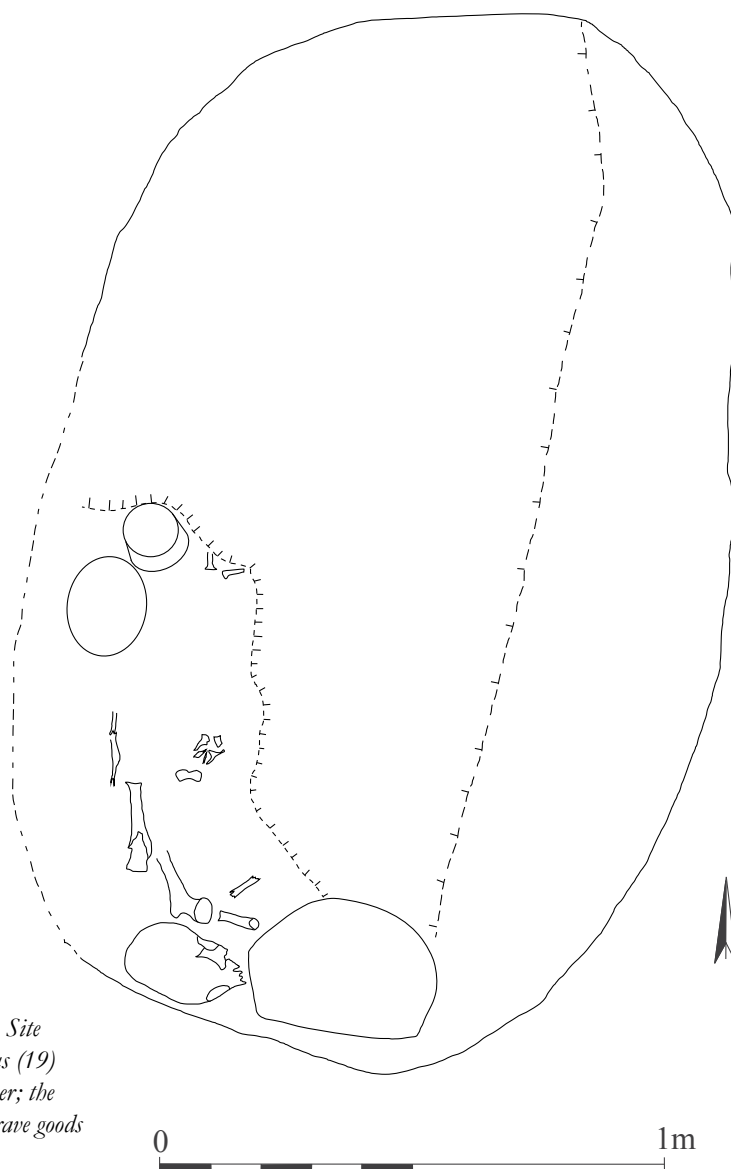


Figure 3O.60. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (19) - burial chamber; the skeleton and grave goods (scale 1:15).



Plate 30.44. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (19) - the skeleton and pottery vessels.



Plate 30.45. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (19) - the grave shaft.

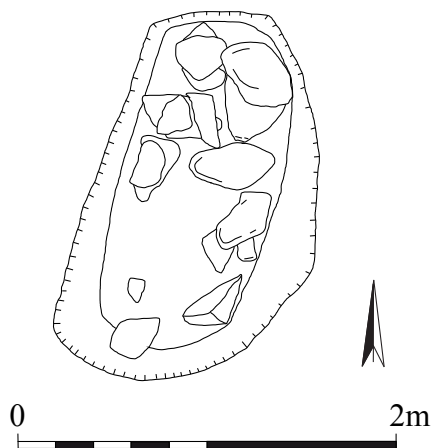


Figure 30.61. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (19) - the stone fill in the descender (scale 1:40).

Tumulus 22

Grave (P)46 [skeleton (P)47, Grave cut – descendery L: 1.73m, W: 1.12m, Depth: 900mm – chamber L: 2.81m, W: 2.2m. Monument – Tumulus - L: 11.2m, W: 10.1m, MDASP type FT05a]

The trapezoidal descendery with a sloping ramp gave access to the burial chamber at its north-west end via a small step. The body of an adult male with part of the chest, the right leg and left arm still articulated had been moved from its original location in the south-western end of the chamber. The body retained some skin. Loose beads from a necklace or bracelet were recovered. After the deceased had been placed in the chamber the body was covered in stones.



Plate 30.46. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (22) - the skeleton and burial chamber.



Plate 30.47. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (22) - the burial chamber with ceramic bowl and stone pavement.

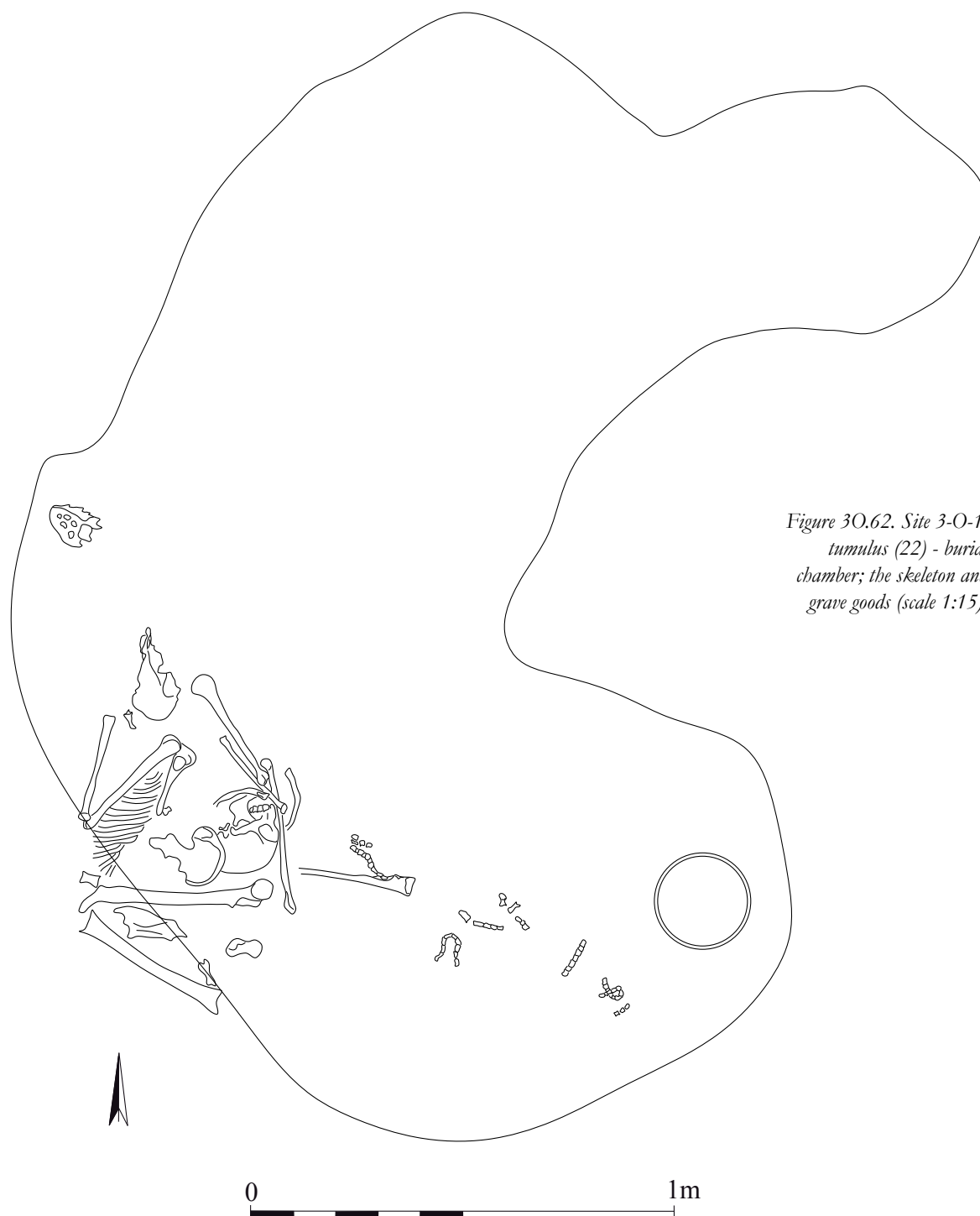


Figure 3O.62. Site 3-O-1,
tumulus (22) - burial
chamber; the skeleton and
grave goods (scale 1:15).



Material associated with the burial

Jewellery

SF:1711 - beads, faience

SF:1713 - beads, faience, shell

Pottery

bowl (type)

.....

Plate 3O.48. Site
3-O-1, tumulus (22) -
the burial chamber with
stone pavement.

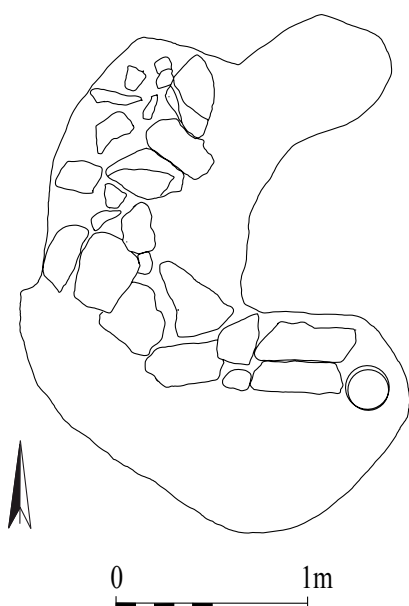


Figure 3O.63.
Site 3-O-1,
tumulus (22) -
the stone pavement
in the burial cham-
ber (scale 1:40).



Plate 3O.49. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (22) - the descender.

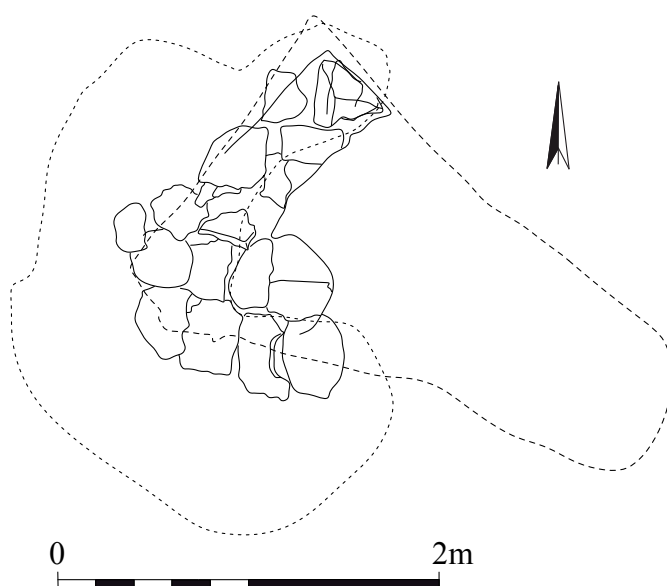


Figure 3O.64. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (22) - the stone blocking
in the burial chamber shaft (scale 1:40).

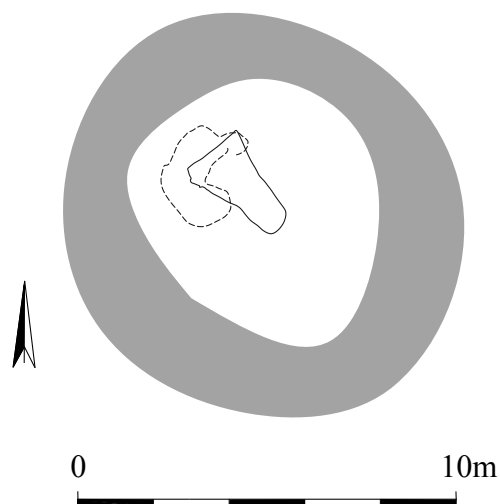


Figure 3O.66. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (22) (scale 1:200).

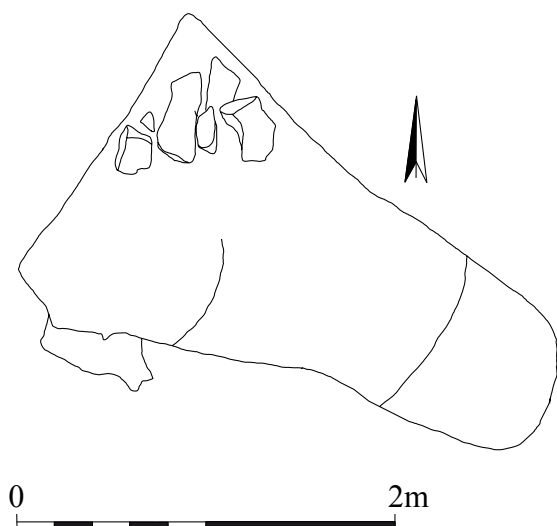


Figure 3O.65. Site 3-O-1,
tumulus (22) - the descender
(scale 1:40).

Tumulus 23

Grave (P)48 [skeleton (P)49, Grave cut – descendary L: 1.45m, W: 1.88m, Depth: 1.62m – chamber L: 2.85m, W: 2.08m. Monument – Tumulus - L: 8m, W: 7.6m, MDASP type FT05a]

The deep oval-shaped hole had its long diameter aligned south west to north east. On the east side was a cavity with a nearly horizontal floor. The body of an adult female was badly disturbed making it impossible to determine the original position of the individual and its orientation. At the south side was found a necklace of three strings of red and blue glass, white shell and white stones, with the bones of an arm and hand; also found were pottery sherds. The body was covered with stones and the grave infilled with earth. Later the tomb was completely looted, the bones scattered and many removed.



Plate 3O.50. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (23) - strings of beads and the skeleton in the burial chamber.

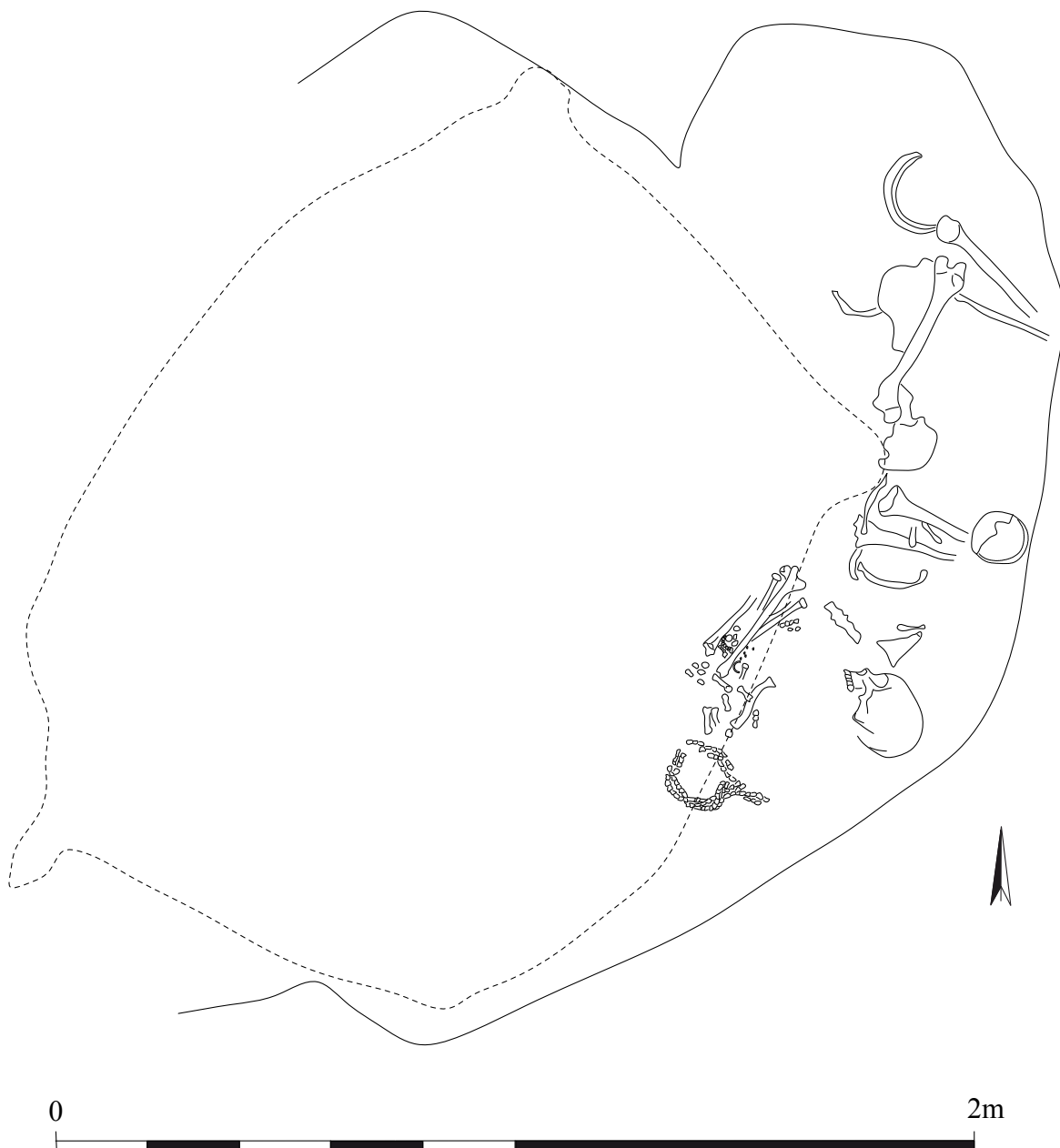


Figure 3O.67. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (23) - burial chamber; the skeleton and grave goods (scale 1:15).

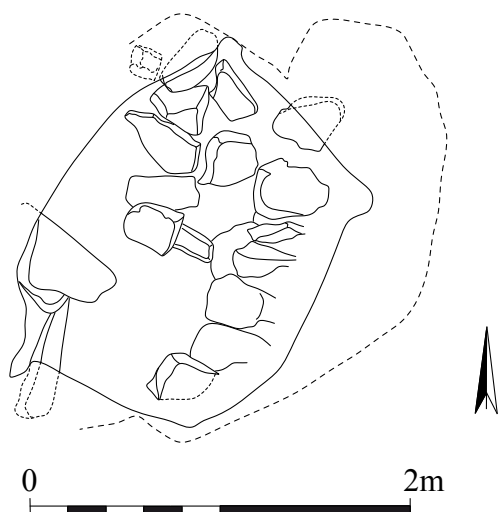


Figure 3O.68. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (23) - the lower level of stone blocking in the burial chamber shaft (scale 1:40).

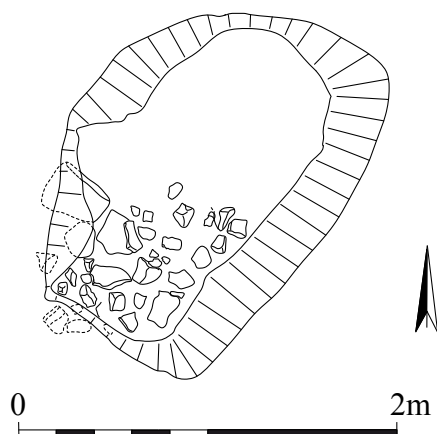


Figure 3O.70. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (23) - the upper level of stone blocking in the burial chamber shaft (scale 1:40).

Material associated with the burial

Jewellery

SF:1715 - necklace, glass beads

SF:1716 - ring, metal

SF:1717 - beads, stone

SF:1718 - beads, shell

SF:1719 - beads of red and blue glass

SF:1720 - beads, glass

Pottery

cup (type)

Organic

animal bone



Plate 3O.51. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (23) - the upper level of stone blocking in the burial chamber shaft.

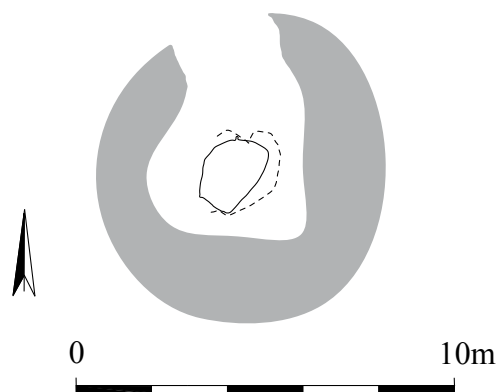


Figure 3O.71. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (23) (scale 1:200).

Tumulus 24

Grave (P)50 [skeleton (P)51, Grave cut – descendary L: 2.02m, W: 1m, Depth: 1.3m – chamber L: 2.78m, W: 1.96m. Monument – Tumulus - ø 10.6m, MDASP type FT05a]

The shaft was a carefully cut rectangular hole in the compact alluvium which was reduced in size then widened on the west side to form a cavity where the body of an adult male was deposited along with the grave offerings. Within the shaft was an accumulation of stones with an earth fill up to the ground surface. The tomb was subsequently looted and damaged, having been left exposed to

the elements. As a result the bones were found in a very poor condition.

Material associated with the burial

Jewellery

SF:1727 - beads, faience and stone

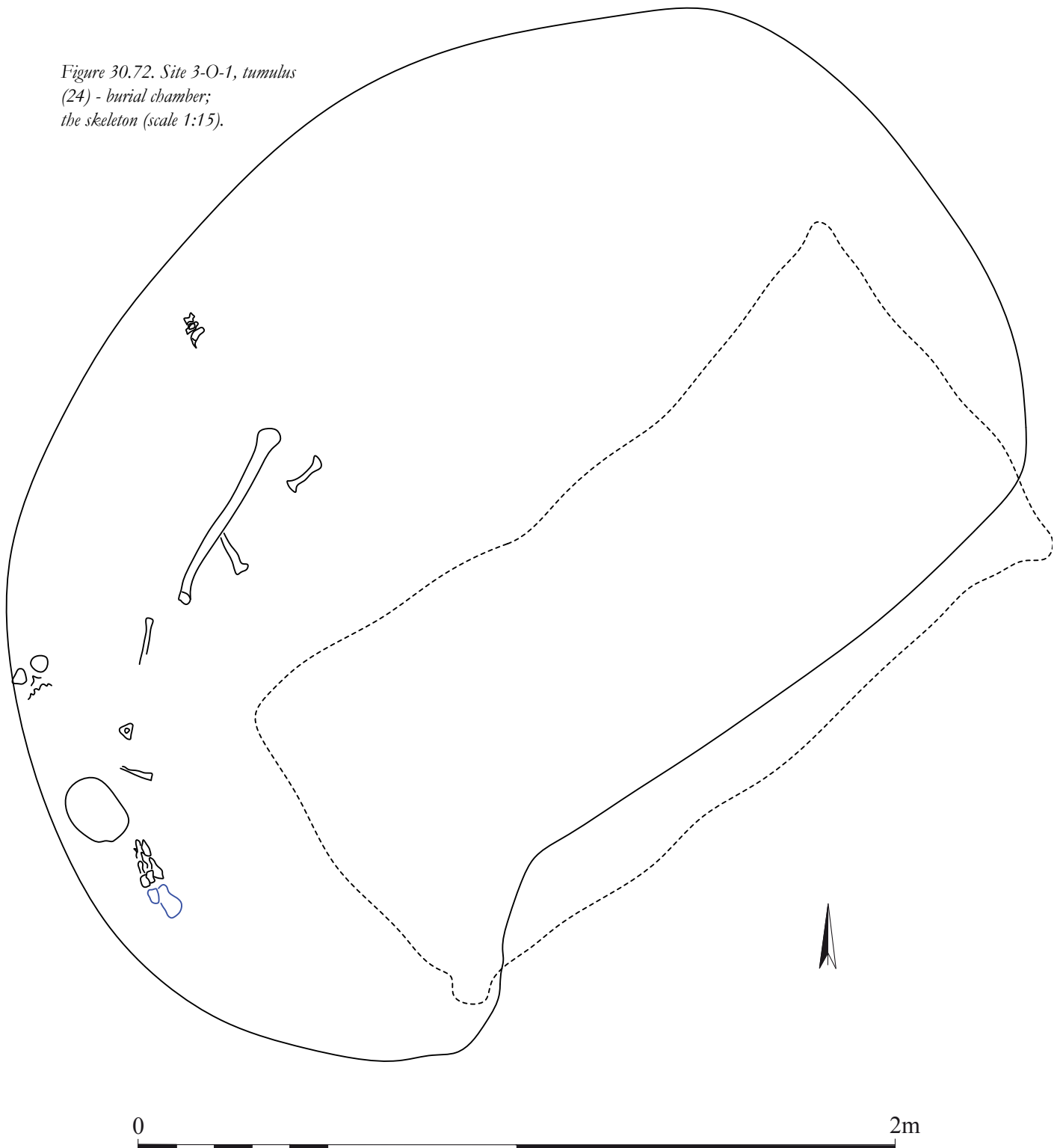
Pottery

beer jar (type)

Organic

animal bone

Figure 30.72. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (24) - burial chamber; the skeleton (scale 1:15).



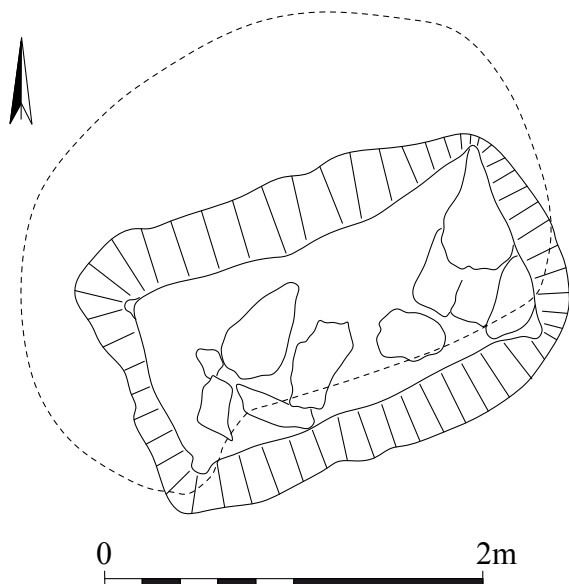


Figure 30.73. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (24) - stones in the grave shaft (scale 1:40).



Plate 30.52. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (24) - stones in the grave shaft.

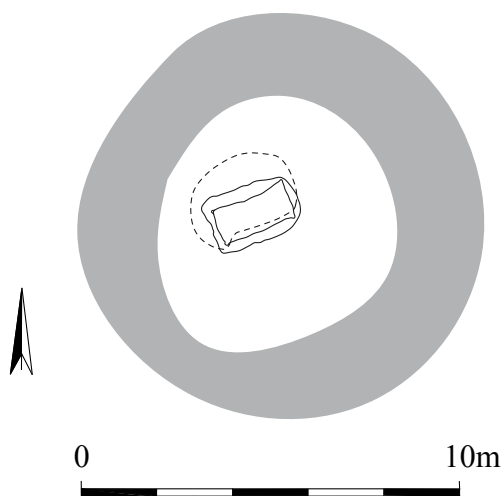


Figure 30.74. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (24) (scale 1:200).

Tumulus 25

Grave (P)52 [skeleton (P)53, Grave cut – descendary L: 2.1m, W: 1.5m – chamber L: 2.78m, W: 2.45m. Monument – Tumulus - L: 10.2m, W: 9.4m, MDASP type FT05a]

The rectangular shaft was dug to a depth of 2.3m at which point a hole (2.13 x 1.38m) gave access into the oval burial chamber undercutting the west and north walls of the shaft. The body of an adult male had been much disturbed and its original position could not be ascertained. The body had been covered in a layer of stones and the shaft infilled with earth. Pottery sherds and loose beads were found in the shaft.

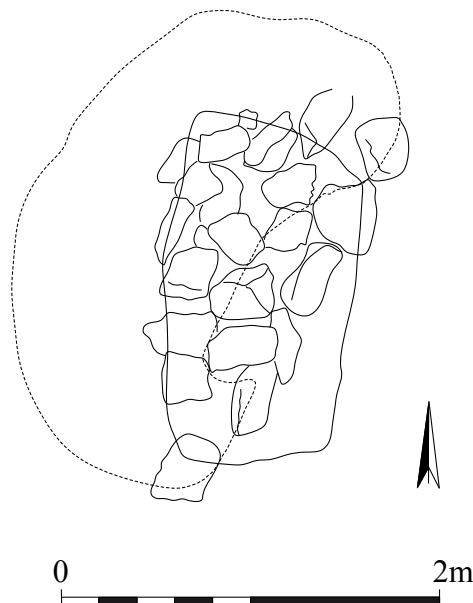


Figure 30.75. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (25) - the lower level of stone blocking in the burial chamber shaft (scale 1:40).

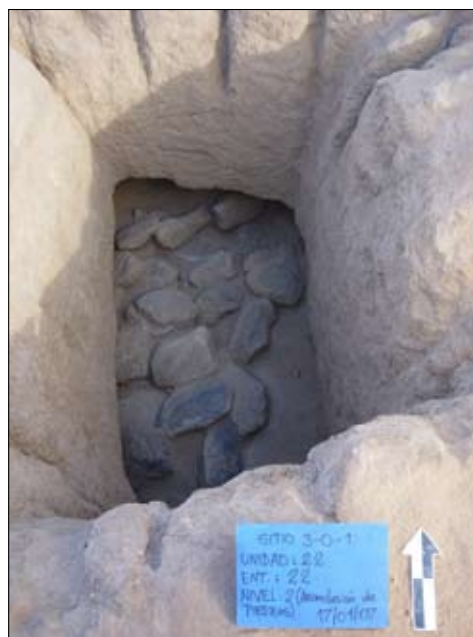
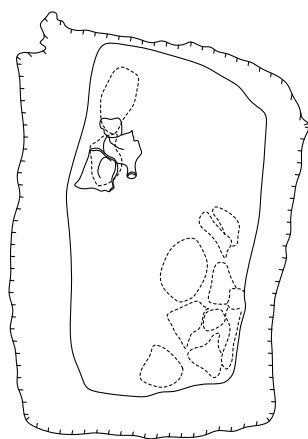


Plate 30.53. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (25) - the lower level of stone blocking in the burial chamber shaft.



0 2m

Figure 3O.76. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (25) - the upper level of stone blocking in the burial chamber shaft with the upper part of a beer jar (scale 1:40).



Plate 3O.54. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (25).

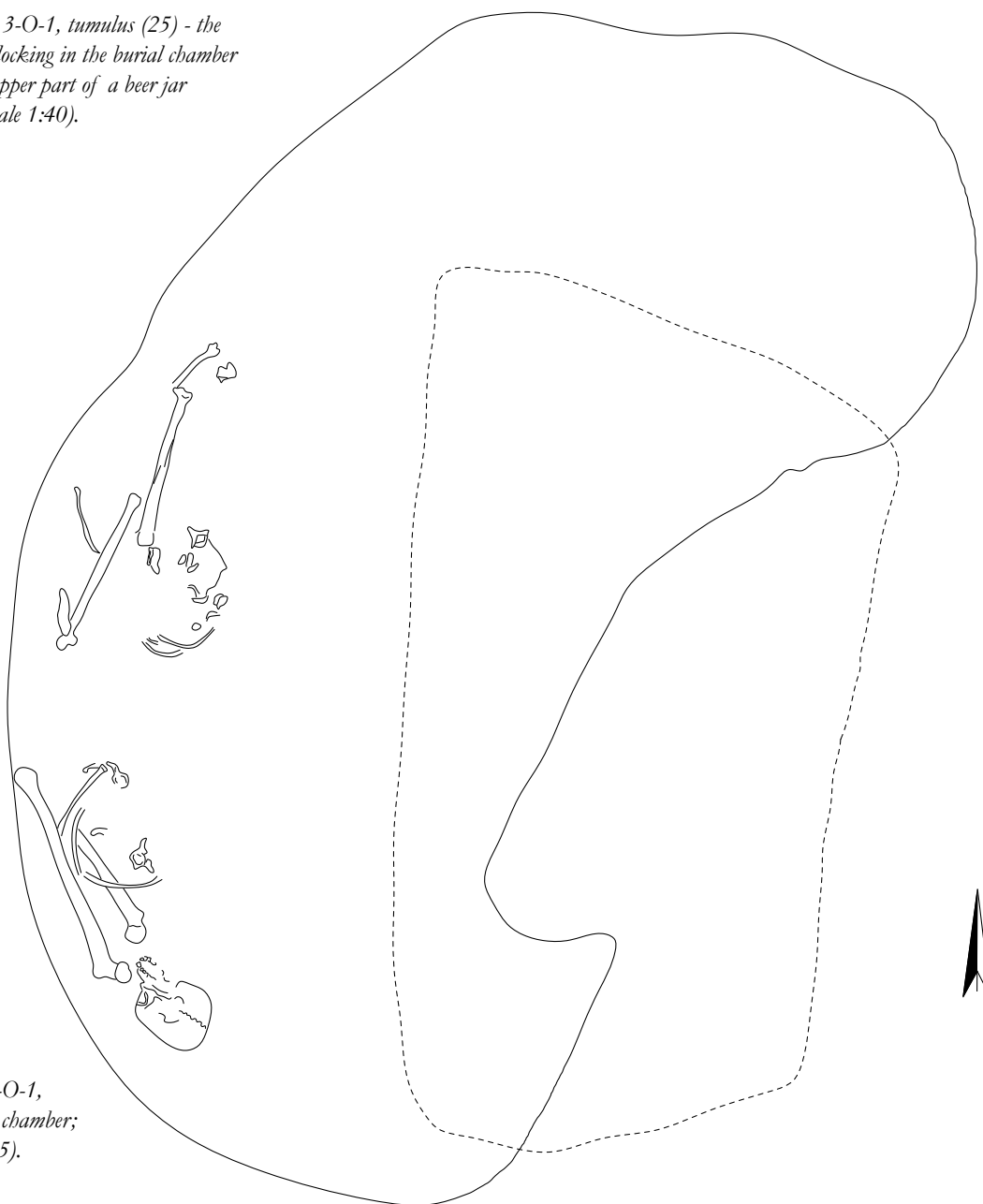


Figure 3O.77. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (25) - burial chamber; the skeleton (scale 1:15).

0 2m

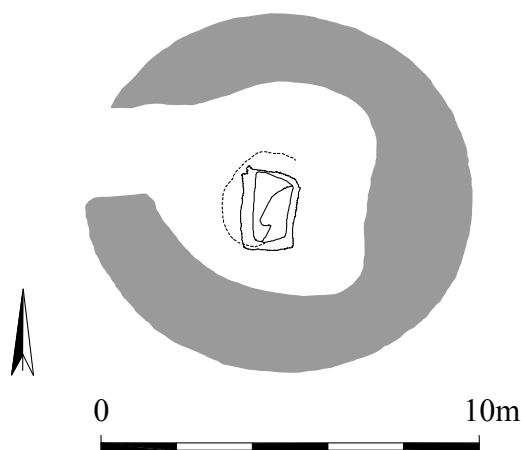


Figure 3O.78. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (25) (scale 1:200).

Material associated with the burial

Jewellery

SF:1724 - beads, glass

SF:1726 - beads, stone

Metalwork

SF:1725 - point, metal

Tumulus 26

Grave (P)54 [skeleton (P)55, Grave cut – descenderly
L: 2.3m, W: 1m, Depth: 1.91m – chamber L: 2.95m,
W: 1.68m. Monument – Tumulus - L: 10.4m, W: 9.4m,
MDASP type FT03b]

The shaft was rectangular, in the centre of the floor of
which was the rectangular opening (2.11 x 1.18m) into

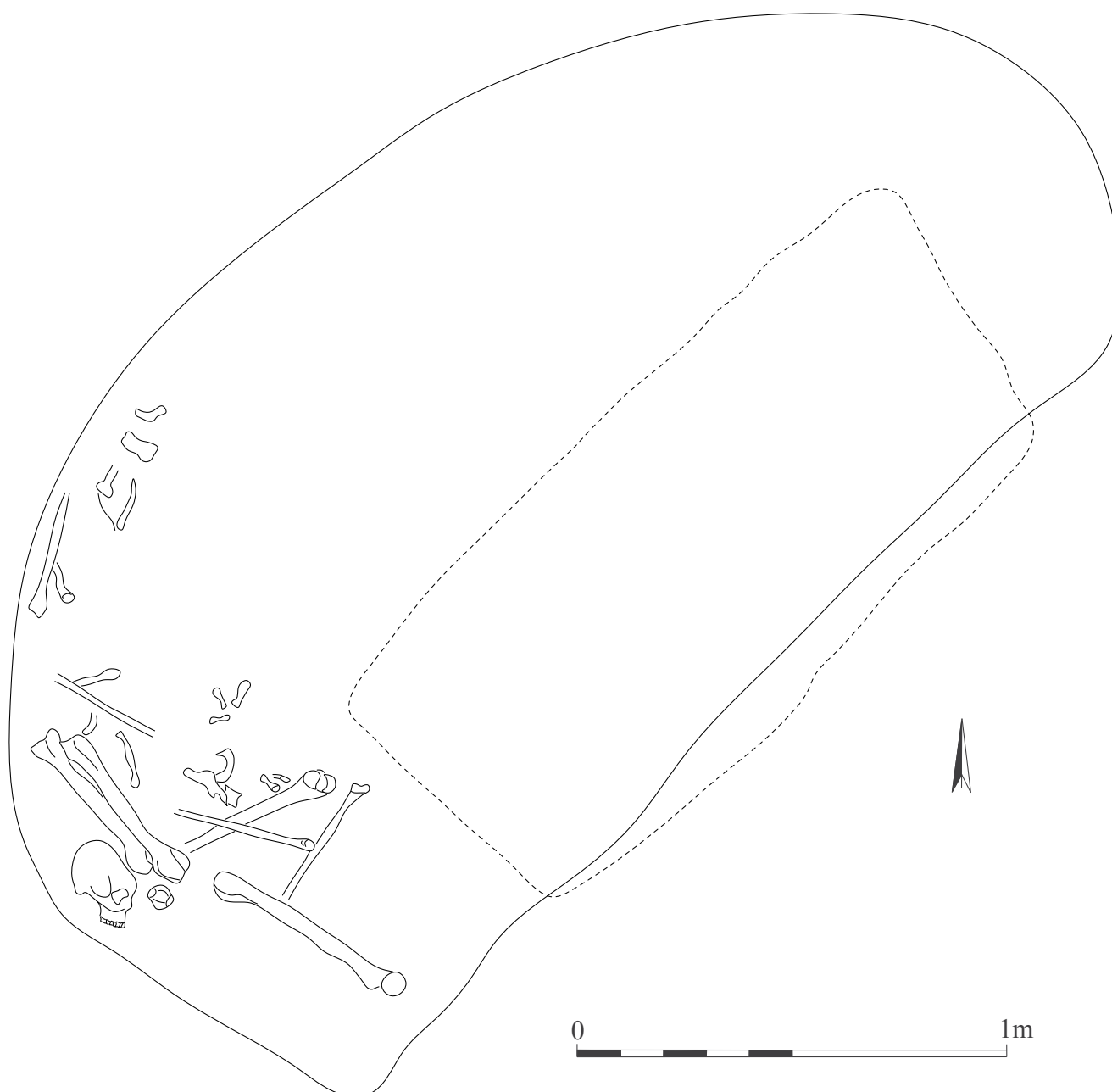


Figure 30.79. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (26) - burial chamber; the skeleton (scale 1:15).

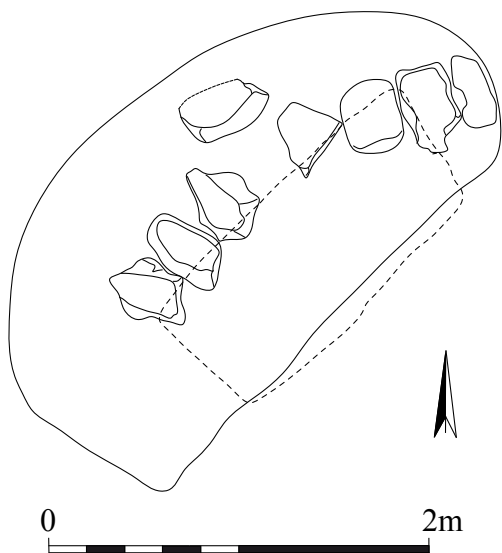


Figure 3O.80. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (26) - layer of stones in the burial chamber shaft (scale 1:40).



Plate 3O.55. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (26) - layer of stones in the burial chamber shaft.

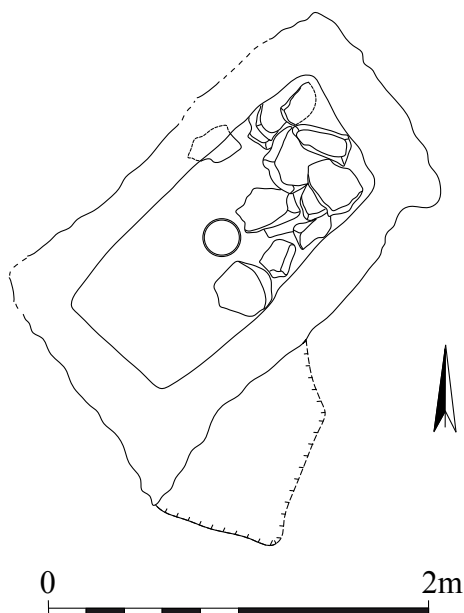


Figure 3O.81. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (26) - the stone blocking and pottery bowl in the burial chamber shaft (scale 1:40).



Plate 3O.56. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (26) - the stone blocking and pottery bowl in the burial chamber shaft.

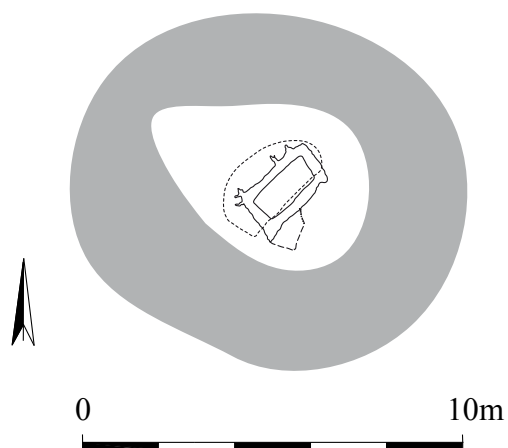


Figure 3O.82. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (26) (scale 1:200).

the oval burial chamber undercutting the north-east, south-west and north-west sides of the shaft. The shaft and chamber were aligned south west to north east and the body of an adult male appears to have been placed at the south-western end of the chamber. It had been much disturbed and the original position is uncertain. Within the chamber a layer of stones may have been placed over the body. After the burial the lower part of the shaft was infilled with stones amongst which was a pottery bowl all sealed by earth. Faience beads were found within the fill.

Material associated with the burial

Jewellery

SF:1721 - beads

SF:1722 - beads, faience

SF:1723 - beads, faience

Organic

textile fragments and rope

animal bone

charcoal

Pottery

bowl (type)

Tumulus 27

Grave (P)56 [skeleton (P)57, Grave cut – descenary L: 2.16m, W: 1.4m, Depth: 1.68m – chamber L: 2.13m, W: 1.57m. Monument – Tumulus - L: 8.8m, W: 8.5m, MDASP type FT03b]

The grave pit of rectangular shape had a cavity on its west and south sides around the mouth of which was placed a ring of stones. The body of an adult male, although totally disturbed by the robbers, still retained its skin and the ribs, backbone and legs were partly articulated. The skull, pelvis, arms, hands and feet were completely disarticulated. If some of the bones retained their original position the body was possibly oriented south-north in a flexed position. Textile fragment were found on the upper body and fragments of textile and leather came from the fill along with beads (SF 1729-1731) and the metal point SF:1732. There were four complete ceramic vessels, a cup, two bowls and a jug as well as pottery sherds.



Plate 3O.57. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (27) - ceramic grave goods.



Plate 3O.58. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (27) - stones and pots in the descenary fill.

Figure 3O.83. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (27) - burial chamber; the skeleton and grave goods (scale 1:15).

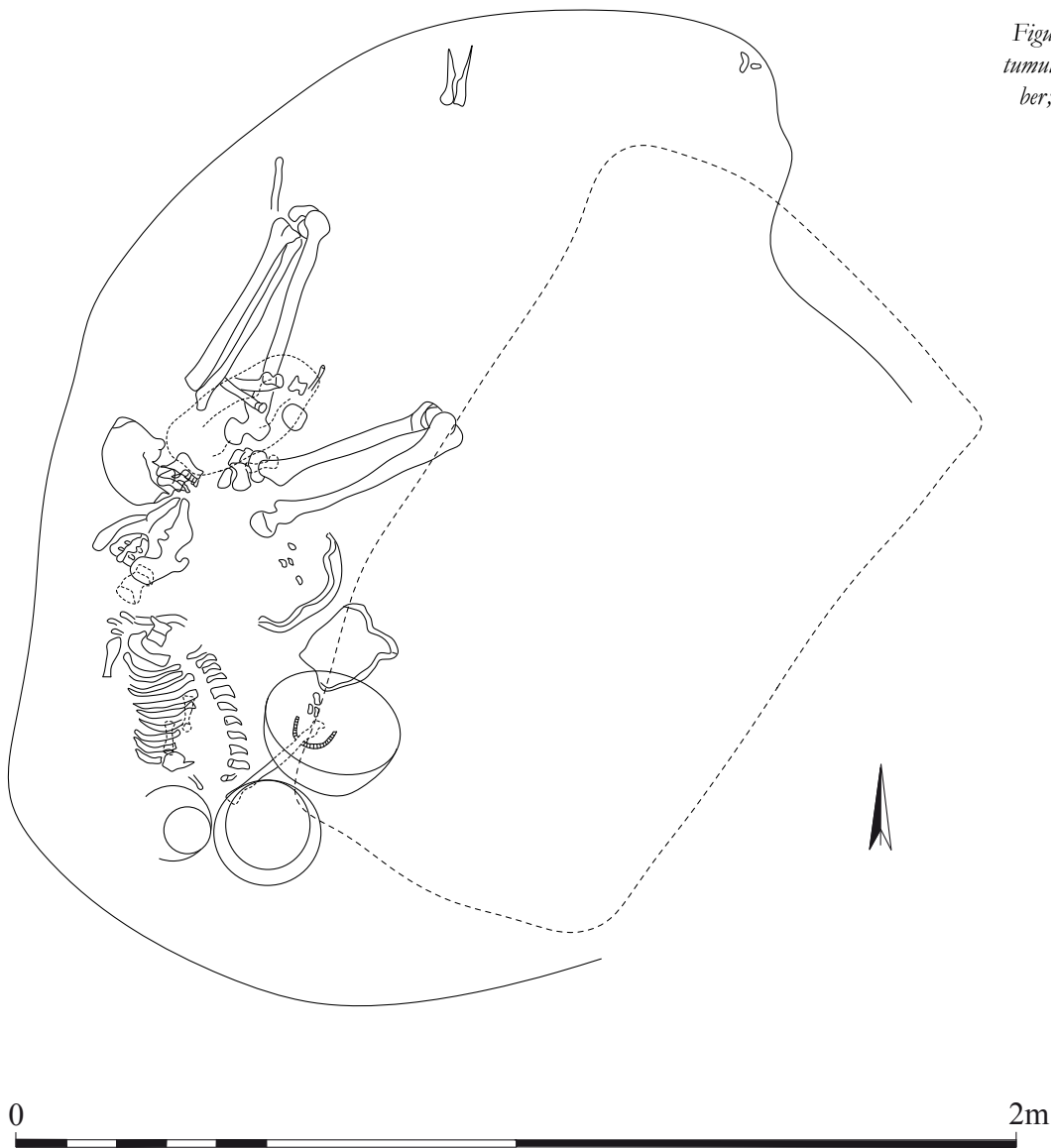


Plate 3O.59. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (27) - the burial chamber.

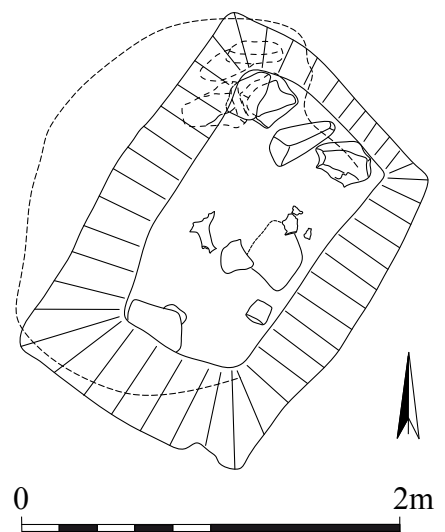
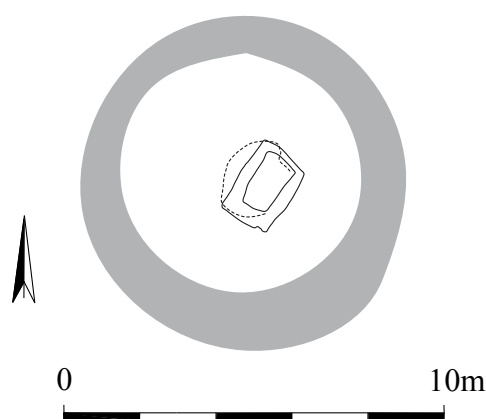


Figure 3O.84. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (27) - stones in the grave shaft (scale 1:40).



bowl (Type)
jug (Type)
sherds

Lamp boxes

A sondage was excavated at the point of Tumulus (18) which indicated the presence of lamp boxes of similar form to that at Tumulus (10).

Figure 3O.85. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (27) (scale 1:200).



Plate 3O.60. Site 3-O-1, tumulus (27).

Within the cavity was an accumulation of stones above which the shaft was filled with earth. In this fill were beads and textile.

Material associated with the burial

Jewellery

SF:1728 - bracelet, shell beads

SF:1729 - beads

SF:1730 - beads, stone

SF:1731 - beads, shell

Metalwork

SF:1732 - point, metal

Organic

textile

fragments of leather

animal bone

carbon

Pottery

cup (Type)

bowl (Type)

Site 3-O-3

This site was located in 1999 and consisted of a range of structures as well as an occupation scatter over a wide area (Welsby 2003, 20). Of particular interest was the discovery of sherds from a caliciform beaker of Late Neolithic type (Braddock 2003, fig. 3.5, no. 58), a vessel form hitherto only known from cemetery sites. A number of areas were investigated where piles of rubble in among the rock outcrops suggested that there may be graves. No grave was, however, located.

Within the lithic and pottery scatters of Neolithic date, on a level terrace overlooking the Nile, several small sondages were excavated in 2002/3. Where not interrupted by outcropping rock there was a flat surface of earth immediately below the fine gravel and sand covering (Plates 3O.61 and 3O.62). On this were found stone slabs, the arrangement of which in some cases suggested that they had been placed there by man. No structures however, could be convincingly identified nor any activity areas. A wide range of lithic and ceramic material was recovered from the site (for the lithics see http://www.sudarchrs.org.uk/Pdf%20files/draft_lithics.pdf) indicating that occupation occurred on the site in the early Neolithic.



Plate 3O.62. Site 3-O-3. Stone features in Area (F).



Plate 3O.61. Site 3-O-3. General view over the site during excavation looking north east across the island of Ishashi.

Medieval occupation

A small ash-filled depression in area (A), 300mm in diameter, was associated with medieval pottery (types 000) and burnt animal bones. The archer's loom (Welsby 2003, 73, no. 6) may be associated with this period of occupation, although it could well be earlier. Other medieval pottery was found on the surface among the Neolithic material.

Site 3-O-12

This is a small nucleated cemetery of five tomb monuments (Figure 3O.86, Plate 3O.63). Each consists of a sub-rectangular to oval structure (Plate 3O.64) made of stones many of which are long and thin and are arranged radially (MDASP type FM02). The wall of each monument is



Plate 3O.63. Site 3-O-12. General view over the cemetery looking towards sites 4-F-74 and 4-F-71.

between 500 and 750mm in width and stands to a height of several courses, up to 700mm (Plate 3O.65). There is a tendency for the upper courses to slightly overhang those below them. In (3) towards the northern end of the feature what may be capstones remain in place. The monuments about each other but there is no attempt to use a party wall. The interstices between the individual monuments are infilled with smaller stones so that the whole cemetery has a monolithic structure. Prior to excavation a depression was visible in the centre of each monument with silty

material in the bottom. Small fragments of human bone were found in all of these deposits. In (1) the majority of the skull fragments were found at the south-west end of the grave, the foot bones to the north-east. In (4) the



Plate 3O.64. Site 3-O-12. Monument (2) looking north.

skull fragments came from the western end of the grave. The cemetery is built on the bedrock which is visible on the surface; hence no attempt was made to excavated the grave below the ground surface.



Plate 3O.65. Site 3-O-12. The exterior face of monument (4) looking south west.

The finds

Jewellery

SF:200 - beads, faience
SF:201 - beads, faience
SF:1583 - beads, faience
SF:1584 - beads, faience
SF:1586 - beads, faience

Metalwork

SF:1577 - ring, copper alloy

TABLE 1. SITE 3-O-12: DETAILS OF THE TOMB MONUMENTS (DIMENSIONS ARE EXTERNAL).

Feature	Length	Width	Height	Orientation	Fill contained
(1)	3.35m	3m	520mm	SW-NE	Human bone, copper-alloy ring (SF:1577)
(2)	3.1m	2.4m	650mm	N-S	Half a pot
(3)	3.2m	2.4m	700mm	N-S	Human bone, scarab (SF:163), beads (SF:200,201,1583,1584,1586)
(4)				W-E	Human bone, pottery sherds, bead (SF:199)
(5)	2.7m	2m		W-E	Human bone, pottery sherds

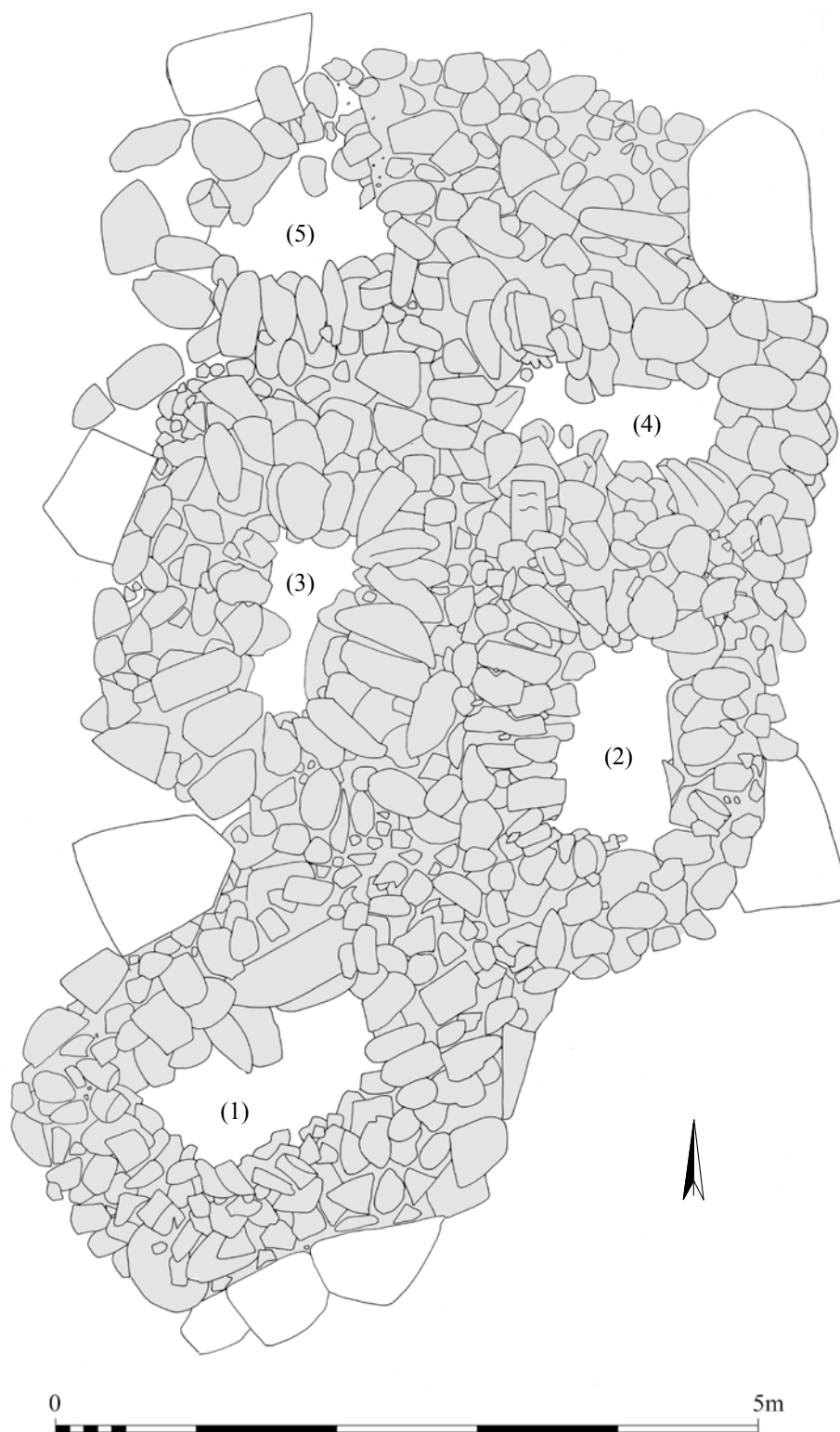


Figure 3O.86. Plan of the cemetery at site 3-O-12 (scale 1:50).

Stone

SF:5017 - object

SF:163 - scarab, limestone?

SF:5017 - was recovered from the site but was not closely associated with a particular feature.

Pottery forms:

Draft Report^L

Author - D. Welsby 2013

Site 3-O-169

On removal of much of the tumulus superstructure set on the ground surface, here bedrock, was a ring of stones 2.25 east-west by 1.25m north-south constructed of stones on average 300 x 180 x 150mm in size up to a maximum size of 450 x 350 x 150mm (Figure 3O.87, Plate 3O.66).



Plate 3O.66. Site 3-O-169, stone slabs lining the grave and covering the body, looking west north west.

Some slabs may have capped the grave although they were not large enough to have spanned the grave chamber. The grave was filled with a grey sandy silt, small fragments of granite and brownish-red gravel. The skull and some of the leg bones remained *in situ* with pottery sherds adjacent to the legs (Plate 3O.67). The body had been placed in



Plate 3O.67. Site 3-O-169, pottery sherds in the grave, looking west.

a tightly flexed position on its left side west-east facing north (Figures 3O.88-89). The grave was V-shaped in profile, the natural shape of the bedrock fissure which had been utilised for the interment.

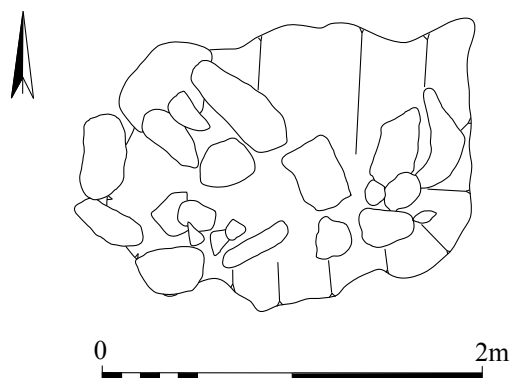


Figure 3O.87. Site 3-O-169, stone slabs lining the grave and covering the body (scale 1:40).

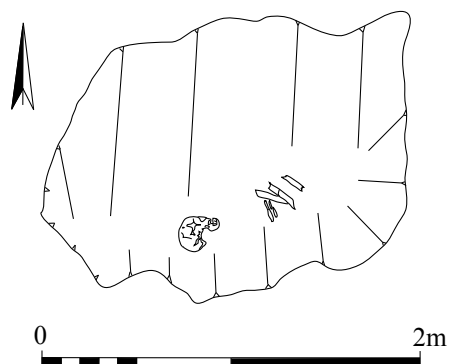


Figure 3O.88. Site 3-O-169, the grave pit (scale 1:40).

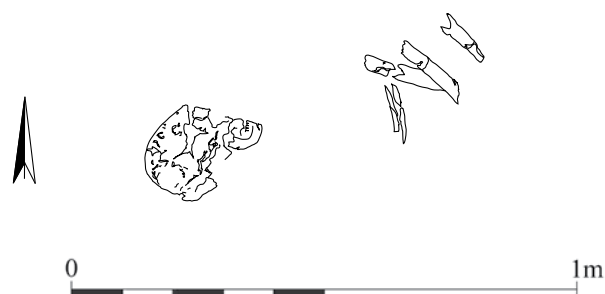


Figure 3O.89. Site 3-O-169, the skeleton (scale 1:15).

Finds
Pottery:

Site 3-O-257

The site sits on flat gravel-strewn ground encircled by rock outcrops high above the river.¹ An area with maximum dimensions of 10 x 9.5m (92.05m²) was excavated to the natural. Beneath the crust of water-compacted silt



Plate 3O.68. Site 3-O-257, general view during excavation. looking north.

10mm thick was another similar deposit [5] mixed with decomposed granite bedrock. This represented the ground surface at the time of occupation of the site; in places the bedrock pavement outcropped. Cutting surface 5 were 12 post-holes and six pits.

Post-holes	Ø (mm)	Depth (mm)	
4	250 x 200	150	
8a	100	40	
8b	100	40	
8c	110	90	
8d	120 x 100	90	
8e	90	20	
8f	90	70	
8g	140	80	Some animal disturbance, not on plan
8h	100	50	Abuts 8i, not on plan
8i	130	60	not on plan
8j	100	60	not on plan
19	220	20	

Pits	Ø (mm)	Depth (mm)	
13	150 x 140	50	
15	550 x 450	60	
16	250	40	
18	260	30	
21	320	60	
22	300 x 270	130	not on plan



Plate 3O.69. Site 3-O-257, pits 16, 15 and 21 after the removal of the stone windbreak (3), looking north west.



Plate 3O.70. Site 3-O-257, the stone windbreak (3) and pits 16 and 15 before removal of their fills, looking north west.



Plate 3O.71. Site 3-O-257, the stone windbreak (3) and pits 16 and 15 after removal of their fills, looking north west.

¹ For details of all surface features see the gazetteer.

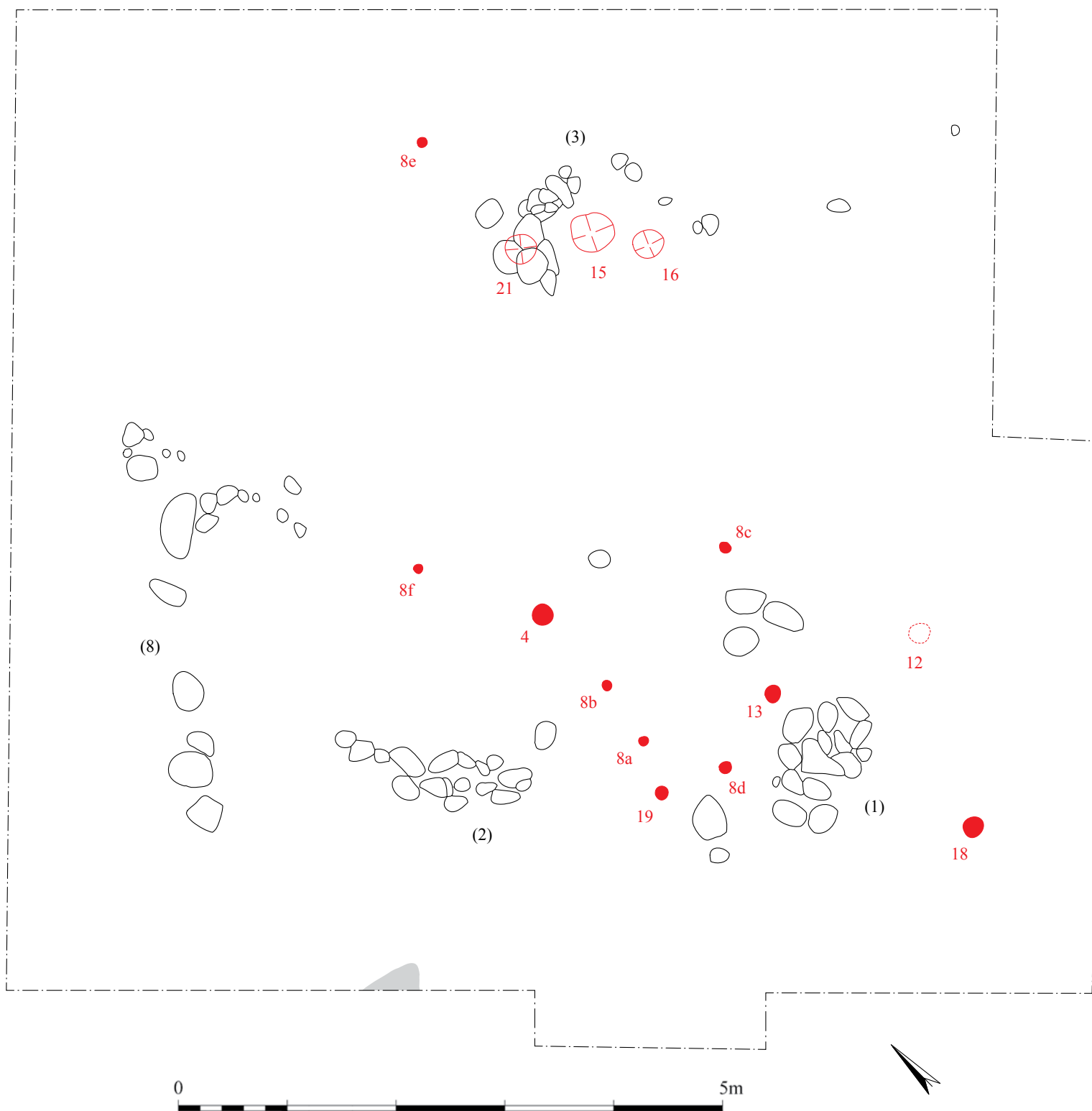


Figure 3O.90. Site 3-O-257, stone features, pits and post-holes (scale 1:50).

Of the post-holes 8f, 4, 8b, 8a and 19 form a smooth arc and may be associated with the same structure. All are shallow and it may be that they have been truncated by erosion and that others have been lost altogether. If originally circular the structure would have had a diameter of approximately 6m. Fire had been set within all the pits burning the surrounding earth and their fills included charcoal. Pit 22 also had a piece of wood and string in its fill. All were small bowl-shaped depressions. Pits 15, 16 and

21 were close together and are probably of more than one period. Resting on surface 5 is a small stone windbreak (3) a maximum of two courses high which appears to be associated with fireplace 15 but the stones of which seal fireplace 21. Another fireplace existed at 12 where there is no pit but the ground surface is burnt red.

On surface 5 was a number of other stone features within the excavation area (1), (2) and (8). The excavation did not shed any further light on their function and they are

not obviously associated with the pits and post-holes.

No pottery or other datable artefacts were found associated directly with the excavated features.²



Plate 3O.72. Site 3-O-257, general view during excavation, looking south west.

² For pottery found in the vicinity see the gazetteer.

Site 3-O-258

Set in amongst the large boulders on this hilltop (1) consists of concentric circles of stone slabs set on end which inclined outwards from the vertical. The slabs stand to a



Plate 30.73. Site 3-O-258, general view with (1) in the middle distance, looking west.

maximum height of about 450mm and form an oval ring 1.45 x 1.1m in size. These stones appear to be supported by smaller stones against which in some cases they rest rather than being set into the ground. Within and around the ring the ground has a 50% cover of flat slabs. The surface on which the stones are set has a grey layer of fine ash and the surface itself is burnt red in places. No features cutting into this surface were found, its make-up rested directly on the bedrock.

No artefacts were found in association with this feature.



Plate 30.74. Site 3-O-258, (1) after half sectioning the silty deposits, looking north



Plate 30.75. Site 3-O-258, (1) after excavation, looking south



Plate 30.76. Site 3-O-258, (1) general view before excavation, looking south.

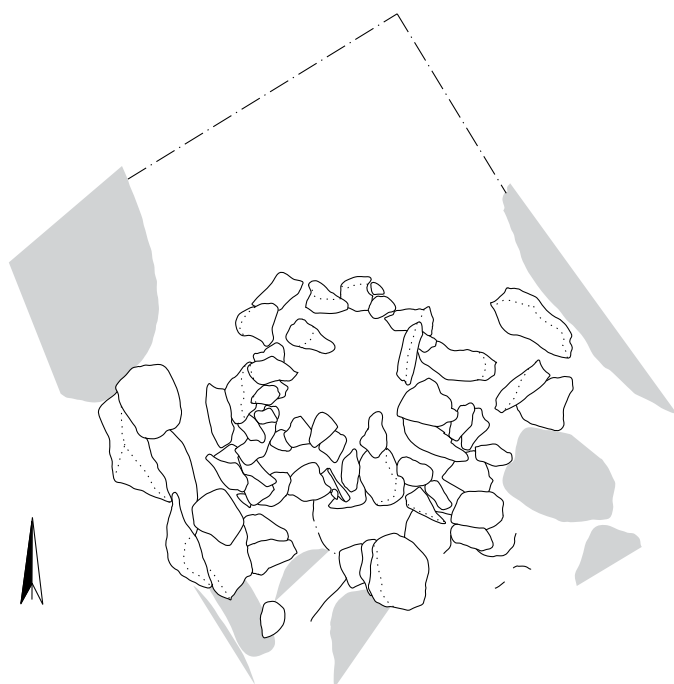


Figure 3O.91. Site 3-O-258, after excavation (scale 1:50).

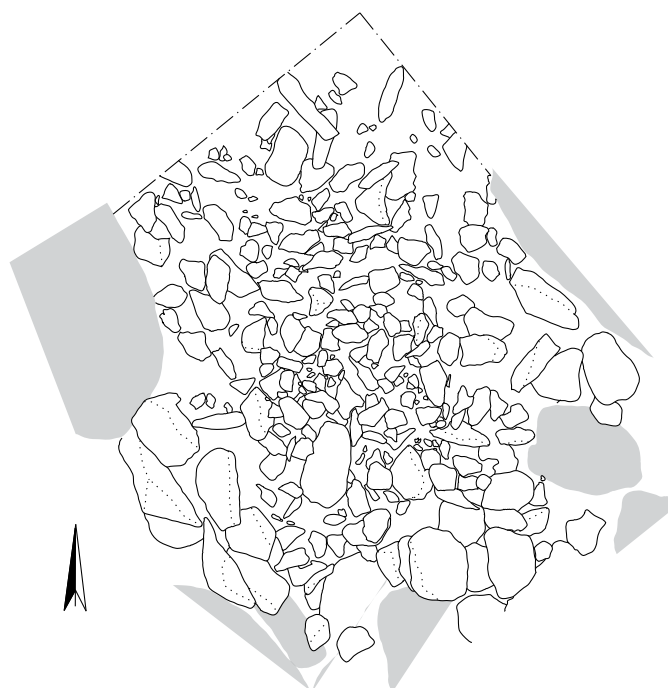


Figure 3O.92. Site 3-O-258, before excavation (scale 1:50).

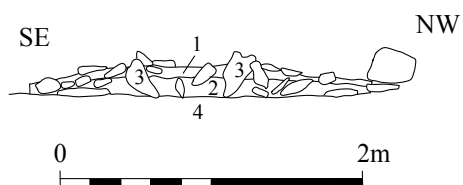


Figure 3O.93. Site 3-O-258, section (scale 1:50).

Site 3-O-259

Three features on this site were fully excavated. (1) and (2) were 3.15m apart with (3) a further 10m to the north.

(1) An oval stone pavement 1.1 x 0.97m in size abutting two small boulders deeply set into the surrounding silty matrix. The stones are pitched in rather than being placed to form a flat surface. Removal of the stones revealed a

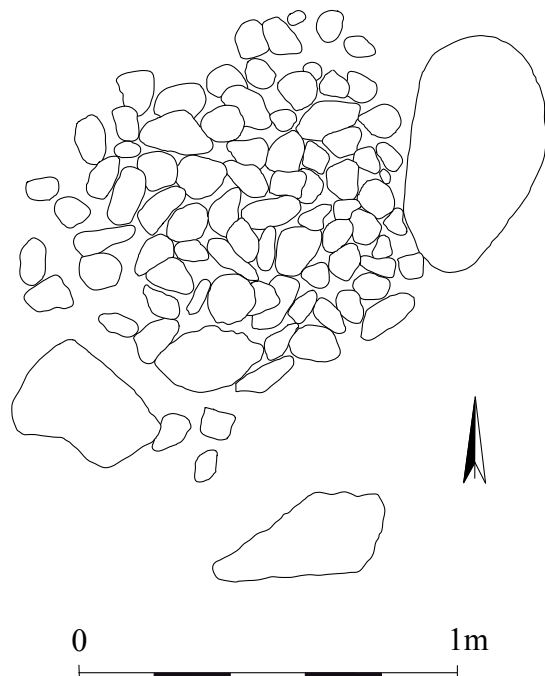


Figure 3O.94. Site 3-O-259, (1) (scale 1:20).



Plate 3O.78. Site 3-O-259, (1) half section of pavement looking north west.

(2) An oval stone pavement approximately 650mm in diameter. It sealed a layer of charcoal resting directly on the silty surface which had a water-formed crust.

(3) A sub-rectangular arrangement of a single layer of stones 1.6 x 0.6m in size and up to 250mm high. The stones lay directly on the silty surface.



Plate 3O.77. Site 3-O-259, (1) looking north east.

layer of charcoal 60mm thick under the northern and central part of the pavement. The hard horizontal surface on which the charcoal lay was burnt red indicating that the charcoal was formed *in situ* or that the charcoal was still hot when redeposited here – the amount of fire reddening is not considerable.

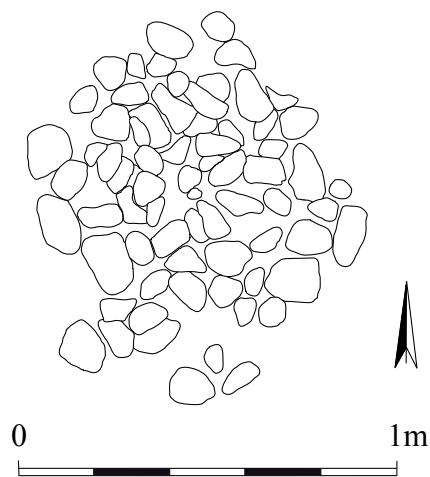


Figure 3O.95. Site 3-O-259, (2) (scale 1:20).

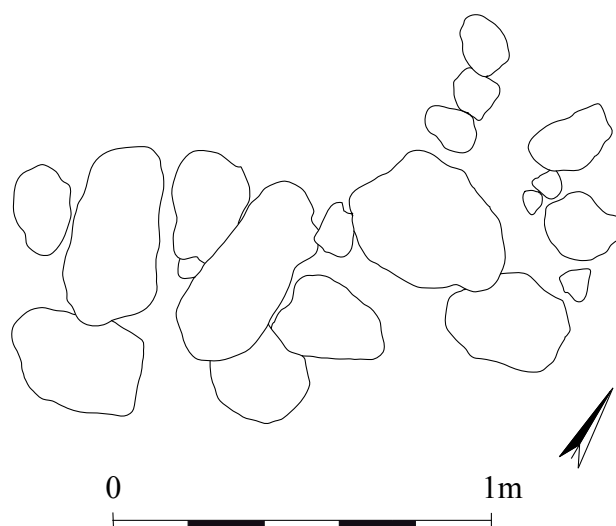


Figure 3O.96. Site 3-O-259, (3) (scale 1:20).



Plate 3O.79. Site 3-O-259, (2) looking north west.



Plate 3O.81. Site 3-O-259, (3) looking north east.

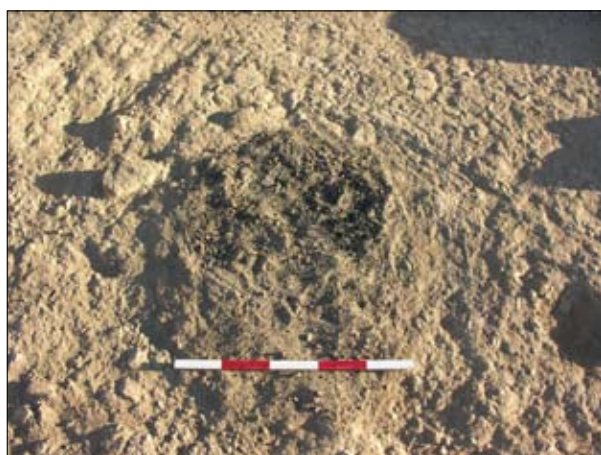


Plate 3O.80. Site 3-O-259, (2) after removal of the pavement.

Site 3-O-333

This site, located and surveyed in January 2006, was almost totally excavated in January 2007; the grave under the prominent tumulus, (1) was not investigated. It consisted of a number of features which fall into two groups that are functionally and perhaps chronologically distinct. Most of the features are probably to be associated with settlement activities while (1) and (2) were funerary

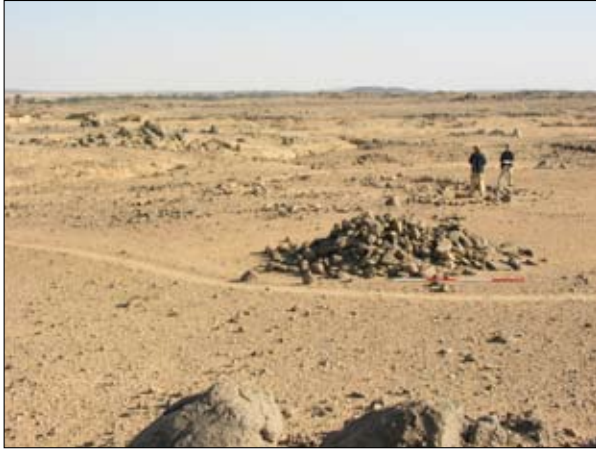


Plate 3O.82. Site 3-O-333, general view looking north north east across the site with tumulus (1) in the foreground.

monuments. The natural was a fairly loose silty sand with a crust forming its surface and attained a maximum depth of about 100mm. It was cut by 11 pits (Plate 3O.83).



Plate 3O.83. Site 3-O-333, general view looking south south west across the site after the excavation of the pits with tumulus (1) in the background.

Pit 8 [skeleton 17; L: 1m, W: 800mm, Depth: 260mm]
This pit was 'kidney'-shaped, its long axis aligned north-south. The sides were almost vertical rounding into the uneven base, the northern end of the pit being a little deeper than the rest of the cut. At the southern end bedrock was visible. It contained a small amount of disarticulated human bone in the northern part possible of a sub-adult (Figure 3O.97, Plate 3O.83). It was filled with soft earth within which were some additional bones. It was covered by another thin silty layer filling the very

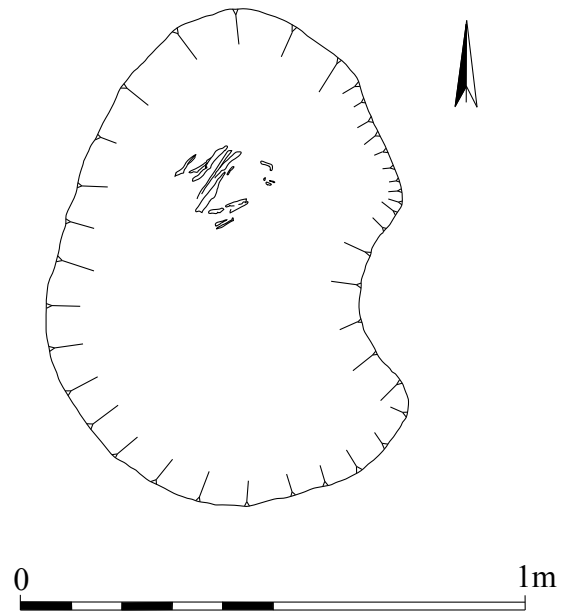


Figure 3O.97. Site 3-O-333, the grave, pit 8 with skeleton 17 (scale 1:15).



Plate 3O.84. Site 3-O-333, the grave pit 8.

shallow depression which extended to the south of the pit. This was sealed by the tomb monument, a roughly horse-shoe shaped setting of 11 stones on average 210 x 150 x 80mm in size embedded in the surface deposit (Plate 3O.85).



Plate 3O.85. Site 3-O-333, the stone feature (2) sealing grave 8.

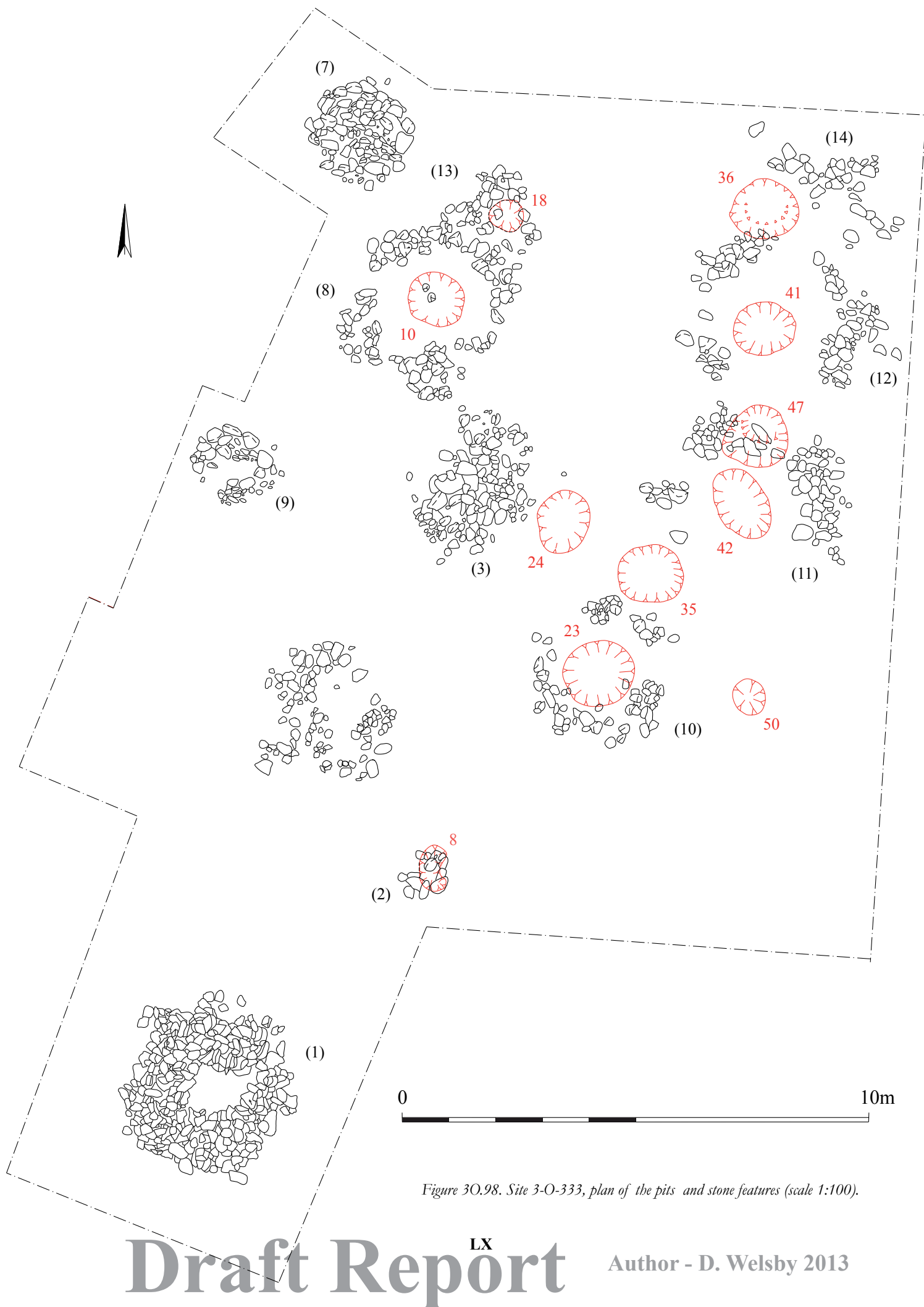


Figure 30.98. Site 3-O-333, plan of the pits and stone features (scale 1:100).

Pit 10 [L: 1.55m, W: 1.5m, Depth: 420mm]

This sub-circular pit has a gradual break of slope at the top of the cut, sides at between 50-60° rounding into the base. The first fill, up to 150mm thick may have been deliberately placed in the grave as it included inclusions of granite up to 40mm in size and a large stone towards the centre of the pit. The upper fill of loose sandy silt had a number of laminations within it and may have formed naturally. Overlying the upper fill and surrounding surface was a deposit [6] up to 70mm thick of loose earth with granite and quartz inclusions up to 50mm in size over an area of 4.1 x 4m. The stone structure (8) sat on this layer and may have served to protect it from erosion. The structure was a circular arrangement of stones 3.5 x 3.1m in size and one 'course' high laid in a careless manner up to several stones in width (Plate 3O.86). The pit sits centrally within the structure although stratigraphically



Plate 3O.86. Site 3-O-333, structure (8) associated with pit 10.

they do not appear to have been in use at the same time. However it is possible that 6 is the upcast mound from the pit's excavation and the fact that it appears to seal the upper fill of the pit may be the result of it having slumped/washed down over the central area of the structure. In the centre were three stones set into the surface in an arc. A donkey track in use at the time of excavation passed through the structure.

Pit 18 [L: 600mm, W: 500mm, Depth: 120mm]

The sub-circular pit has gently sloping irregular sides rounding into the uneven base. The fill is quite loose sandy silt with some laminations visible suggesting it formed naturally over a period of time. The pit lies in the centre of a sub-triangular stone structure 1.9 x 1.3m in size, formed of a single 'course' approximately two stones in width. The stones range from 480 x 200 x 180mm to 80 x 60 x 40mm.

Pit 23 [L: 1.7m, W: 1.4m, Depth: 340mm]

The oval pit was much deeper in its eastern part, 340mm as opposed to 230mm, and its east side is steeper than the gently sloping side to the west. Although the fill of silt bears the laminations suggesting it developed naturally some 'head'-sized stones within it must have been introduced by human or animal activities. As with pit 10 it appears to be stratigraphically isolated from the stone structure above by a layer up to 100mm thick, of loose

gravel and sand which is best preserved under the stones. As with pit 10 it may be pit upcast subsequently covering the pit fill. The structure with dimensions of 3.28 x 3.2m and a single 'course' high was constructed of blocks on average 320 x 180 x 150mm in size. It was a maximum width of 650mm (five stones).

Pit 24 [ø: 1.3m, Depth: 370mm]

A regular conical pit with the sides rounding into the base. It was filled with innumerable laminations of silty sand with an admixture of small graves particularly towards the edges. The gravel is presumably derived from the erosion of the break of slope down into the pit.

Pit 35 [L: 1.33m, W: 1.2m, Depth: 360mm]

An oval bowl-shaped pit with sloping sides. Two small stones lay on the bottom. It was filled with innumerable layers of silt and gravel.

Pit 36 [ø: 1.6m, Depth: 400mm]

Circular pit with a step on one side where the bedrock made further excavation difficult. The bottom of the pit was infilled with stones (Plate 3O.87) over which the silty fill with small gravel and laminations developed naturally. Sat on a layer of loosely compacted gravel was a roughly linear arrangement of stones (14) 3.7 x 1.5m in extent and one 'course' high.



Plate 3O.87. Site 3-O-333, pit 36.

Pit 41 [L: 1.45m, W: 1.2m, Depth: 420mm]

Regular oval pit with steep concave sides down to a step below which they steeply slope before rounding into the base. Five stones sat on the bottom of the pit and were covered by the fill of loose sandy silt.

Pit 42 [ø: 1.4m, Depth: 400mm]

Bowl-shaped pit with sides sloping between 65°-75° and rounding into the base. The first fill is thin lenses of silver sand along the western side of the pit. Above it is a maximum of 140mm of fairly loose silty sand with stone up to 60mm in size within it. The final fill is wind-blown and water-borne silts with laminations.

Pit 47 [L: 1.5m, W: 1.35m, Depth: 340mm]

The pit has steep sides to the west meeting the flat base at a sharp angle. To the east the sides slope a little more into a depression a little deeper than the base elsewhere. The depression is filled with many stones on average 350 x 150 x 100mm in size (Plate 3O.88). The rest of the fill

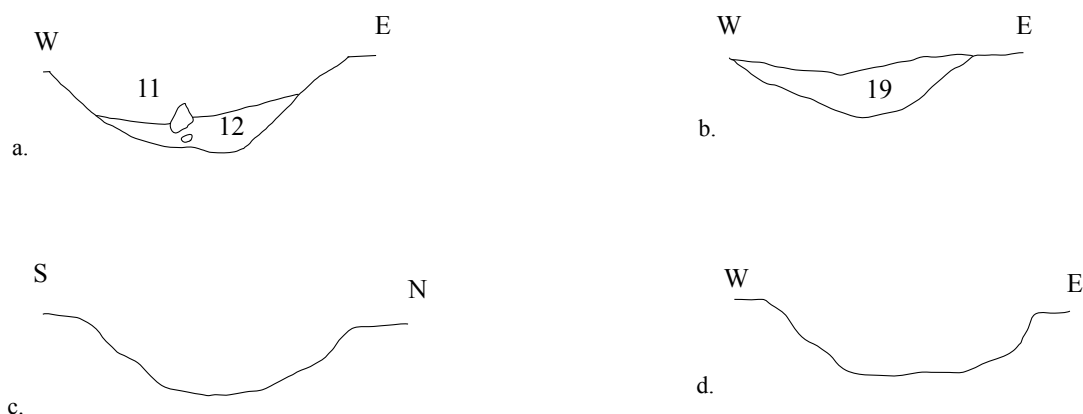


Figure 3O.99. Site 3-O-333, section of the pits (scale 1:40).
a. Pit 10; b. Pit 18; c. Pit 24; d. Pit 42.



Plate 3O.88. Site 3-O-333, pit 47.

is a loose mix of silt, sand and gravel.

Pit 50 [ø: 680mm, Depth: 100mm]

This small pit has gently sloping sides rounding into the irregular base. It was filled with sandy silt and some stone inclusions without obvious laminations.

Structures not associated with pits.

(3) a roughly circular concentration of stones 2 x 1.8m in size, mainly a single layer of stones but with a few piled on top in places.

(7) is a pavement of type P05 with nothing under it.

(9) roughly oval in shape (1.9 x 1.6m) delimited by a single layer of stones up to four stones wide. It is open to the south west.

(26) an oval structure delimited by a wall a maximum of 570mm thick formed of a single course of stones ranging from 380 x 300 x 270mm to 90 x 60 x 44mm in size.

Apart from the obvious tumulus of type FT04b and the burial found in pit 8 the function of the other pits and stone structures is unclear. Pits 10, 18, 23 and 41 appear to be associated with structures as may be pits 36 and 42 and in those cases the pit is surrounded by the stone ring. Pits 24, 35, 47 and

50 on the other hand had no associated stone elements. It could be that these are the earlier pits and that their associated stone structures were removed the stones being reused around other pits although no evidence for or against this hypothesis can be advanced. Likewise some of the stone features certainly did not cover pits. No artefacts were recovered from the pits nor any deposits which might suggest their mode of use. Many had been carefully dug and some had been partly infilled with stones while the final filling of them all seems to have been a natural process. The stone structures were insubstantial. Even if the stones forming them had collapsed the original walls can never have attained an appreciable height. No post-holes were observed so if timber elements were used they must have been insubstantial.

The tumulus both in its design and location is likely to be of *Kerma Moyen* date. The other grave is undatable but will have presumably contained a crouched inhumation aligned north-south or south-north.

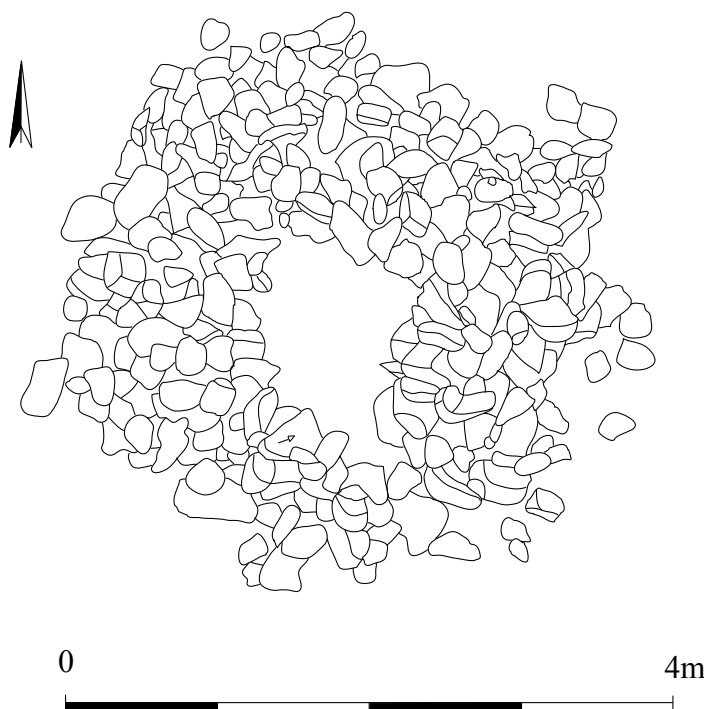


Figure 3O.100. Site 3-O-333, tumulus (1) (scale 1:50).

3-O-380

The excavations at this site were reported in detail in Welsby and Welsby Sjöström 2011. It consisted of a square tomb monument within which on the north side

the exterior rubble had been carefully placed up against the face of the monument.



Plate 3O.89. Site 3-O-380, plan view, photo mosaic.

was an east-west grave pit containing the burial of a cow accompanied with rich grave goods. In the centre of the monument was a square pit while a rectangular pit aligned north-south was found towards the south-west corner. On



Plate 3O.90. Site 3-O-380, general view of the monument, looking north east.



*Plate 3O.91.
Site 3-O-380, the east side
of the monument with pro-
jecting section of walling.*



*Plate 3O.92.
Site 3-O-380, detail of
the stone, glass and ivory
grave goods by the head of
the deceased.*



*Plate 3O.93.
Site 3-O-380, the pits
within the monument with
that in the centre half-
sectioned, looking east.*