

# Excavations in grid square 4-M

## The Excavations

A range of sites discovered during the 2004/5 survey season was sampled during the winter of 2005/6, and in December 2006.

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

## Site 4-M-53

During the 2006-7 season the Peruvian team began the excavation of this large cemetery, work brought to a dramatic halt when the SARS teams were ordered to cease their activities. Those tombs at that time under excavation had to be abandoned.

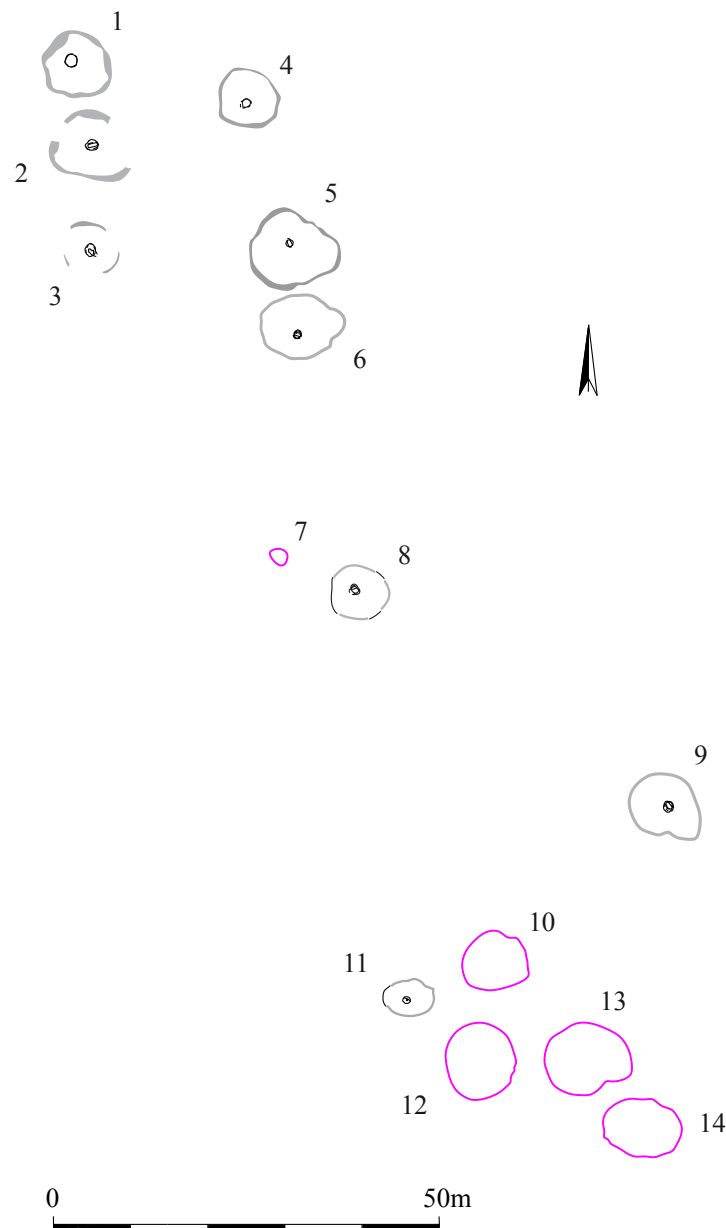


Figure 4M.1. Site 4-M-53. Plan of the excavated tumuli in the southern part of the cemetery designated by grave number (scale 1:1000).

## Tumulus 4

**Grave 11** [skeleton 111, Grave cut – vertical shaft L:80mm, W:940mm, Depth:1.06m – chamber L:1.25m, W:1.02m. Monument – Tumulus (4) L:6.6m, W:5.6m, H:450mm]

The grave shaft was circular reduced at the bottom to a trapezoidal opening (730 x 400mm) which gave access into the offset burial chamber extending under the south west and north west walls of the shaft. The body of an **adult .....** was largely articulated. It lay on its left side in a contracted position oriented south east to north west with the head to the south east facing south west. The left arm was bent and placed under the skull and right arm over the left. The feet were placed together. Associated with the body were beads, metal and charcoal. During excavation the body was found under an organic blackish deposit along with fragments possibly of a blanket or a leather basket. The mouth of the chamber was sealed with stones and infilled with earth up to the surface.

*Material associated with the grave*

### Jewellery

SF:1678 – beads, ostrich eggshell

### Metalwork

SF:1679 – artefact, metal

### Pottery

bowl (Type 972x)

### Sample

carbon

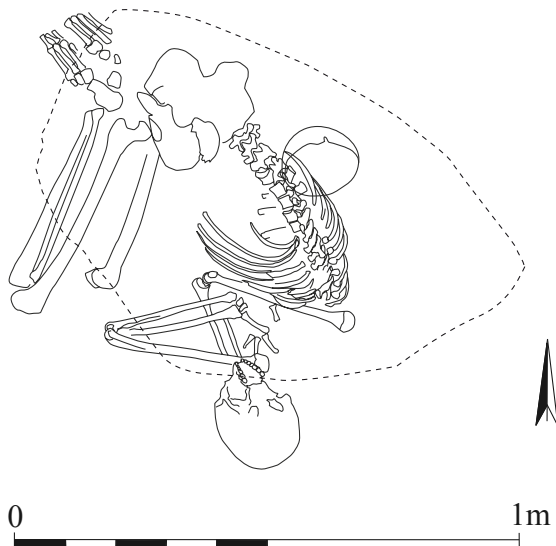


Figure 4M.2. Site 4-M-53. Grave 11 – the burial chamber. At the time the excavations were abandoned a plan of the extent of the chamber had not been made (scale 1:15).

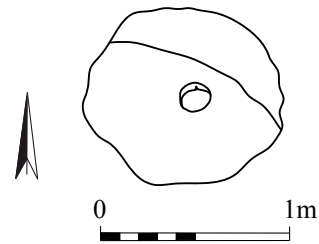


Figure 4M.3. Site 4-M-53. Grave 11 – the descendant (scale 1:40).

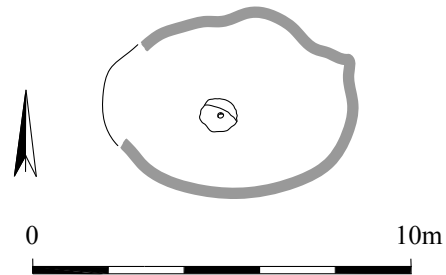


Figure 4M.4. Site 4-M-53. Tumulus (4) (scale 1:200).



Plate 4M.1. Site 4-M-53. Grave 11 – the shaft and burial chamber.



Plate 4M.2. Site 4-M-53. Tumulus (4).

## Tumulus 6

**Grave 9** [skeleton 109, Grave cut – vertical shaft L:1.3m, W:1.24m, Depth:620mm – chamber L:1.42m, W:850mm. Monument – Tumulus (6) L:8.6m, W:8.1m, H:??mm]

The grave was a circular shaft in the flat floor of which was dug a rectangular pit (730 x 400mm) opening out and undercutting the south east, south west and north west sides of the shaft. The body of an ..... was totally disarticulated. Presumably like the grave under Tumulus (21) the mouth of the burial chamber had been sealed with stone slabs.

*Material associated with the grave*

### Jewellery

SF:1677 – beads, from grave fill

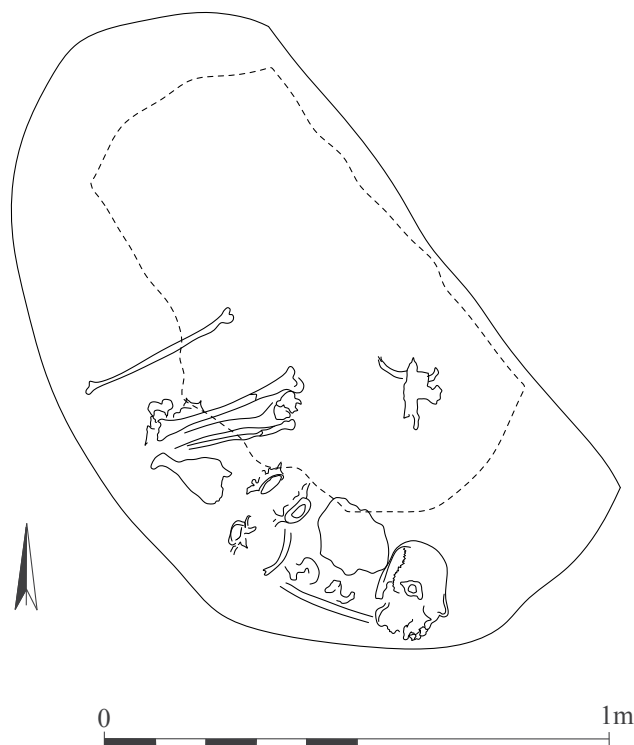


Figure 4M.5. Site 4-M-53. Grave 9 – the burial chamber (scale 1:15).

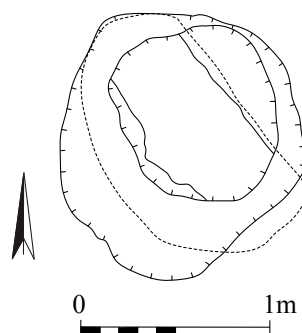


Figure 4M.6. Site 4-M-53. Grave 9 – the descendancy (scale 1:40).

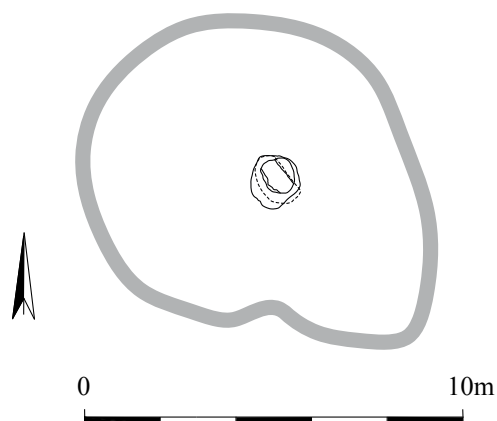


Figure 4M.7. Site 4-M-53. Tumulus (6) (scale 1:200).

Plate 4M.3. Site 4-M-53. Grave 9 – the shaft and mouth of the burial chamber.



## Tumulus 16

**Grave 8** [skeleton 108, Grave cut – vertical shaft L:1.4m, W:0.9m, Depth:1.06m – chamber L:1.39m, W:790mm. Monument - Tumulus (16) dimensions uncertain]

The grave shaft was oval aligned with its long axis north west to south east. At the bottom it was reduced in size and a sub-rectangular hole (1.1 x 0.92m) dug towards the southern end of the shaft gave access into the oval burial chamber which undercut the west side of the shaft and was aligned with its long axis east-west. The body of an ..... was much disturbed but at a time when some soft tissue remained as some parts were articulated; the vertebrae and ribs, as well as the left leg and foot. It had possibly been aligned west to east in a flexed position, lying on its left side.

The pit covered with cover with stone slabs and sealed completely with soil.

*Material associated with the grave*

Jewellery

SF:1674 – beads

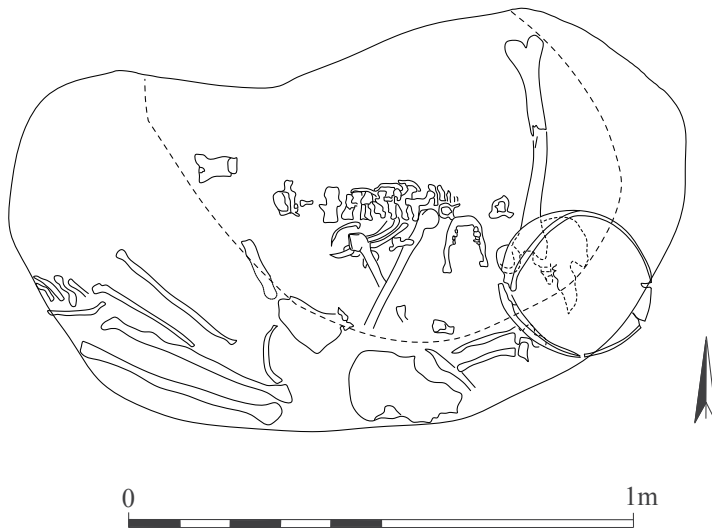


Figure 4M.8. Site 4-M-53. Grave 8 – the burial chamber (scale 1:15).

SF:1675 beads, glass

SF:1676 beads, ostrich eggshell

Pottery

bowl (Type 976x)

*Plate 4M.4. Site 4-M-53. Grave 8 – the shaft and mouth of the burial chamber.*

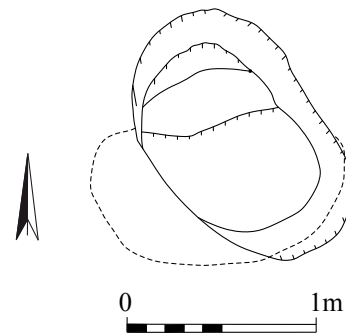


Figure 4M.9. Site 4-M-53. Grave 8 – the descendant (scale 1:40).

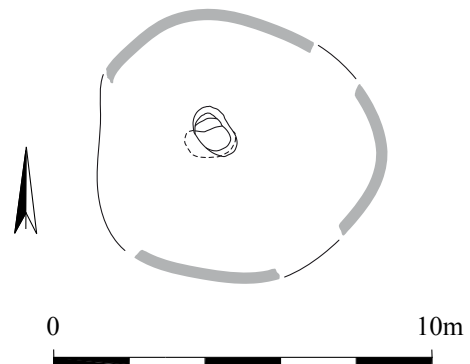


Figure 4M.10. Site 4-M-53. Tumulus (16) (scale 1:200).



## Tumulus 19

**Grave 6** [skeleton 106, Grave cut – vertical shaft L:1.1mm, W:0.84m, Depth:740mm – chamber L:1.55m, W:900mm. Monument – Tumulus (19) L:11m, W:9m, H:500mm]

The grave was a circular shaft in the flat floor of which was dug a rectangular pit (opening out and undercutting the south, east and west sides of the shaft). The body of an ..... was totally disarticulated. Presumably like the grave under Tumulus (21) the mouth of the burial chamber had been sealed with stone slabs.

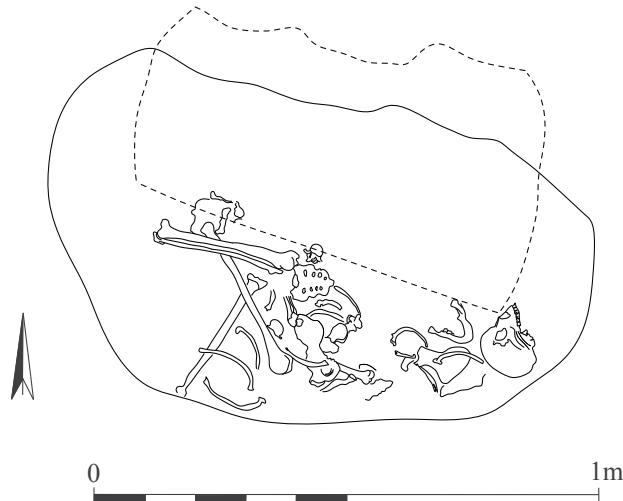


Figure 4M.11. Site 4-M-53. Grave 6 – the burial chamber (scale 1:15).

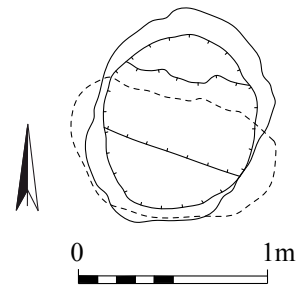


Figure 4M.12. Site 4-M-53. Grave 6 – the descender (scale 1:40).

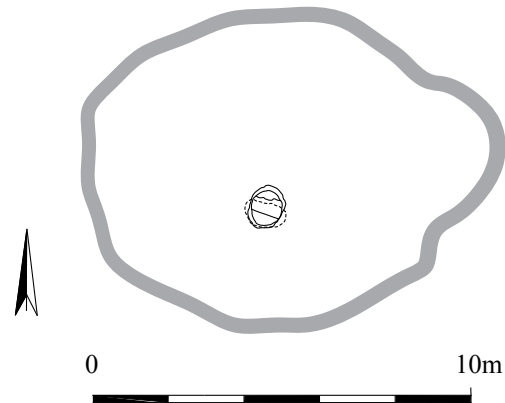


Figure 4M.13. Site 4-M-53. Tumulus (19) (scale 1:200).



Plate 4M.5. Site 4-M-53. Grave 6 – the shaft and mouth of the burial chamber.

## Tumulus 20

**Grave 3** [skeleton 103, Grave cut – vertical shaft L:1.6m, W:1.26m, Depth:1.16m – chamber L:960mm, W:580mm. Monument – Tumulus (20) L:8m, W:7.8m, H:200mm]  
The grave shaft was an irregular shape on the surface and access through its floor into the burial chamber was likewise irregular (600 x 550mm), perhaps the result of the later robbing activities. The body of an ..... was much disturbed. Fragments of pottery were found in the fill. Originally the mouth of the burial chamber may have been sealed with stone slabs.



## Material associated with the burial

### Pottery sherds

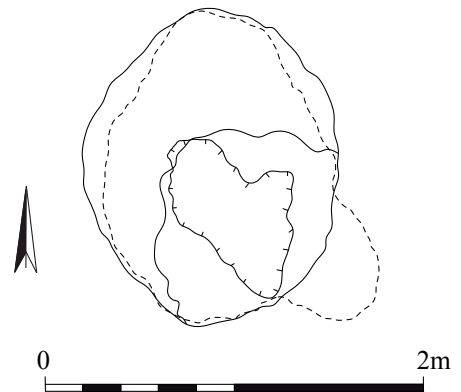


Figure 4M.15. Site 4-M-53. Grave 3 – the descandary (scale 1:40).

Figure 4M.14. Site 4-M-53. Grave 3 – the burial chamber (scale 1:15).

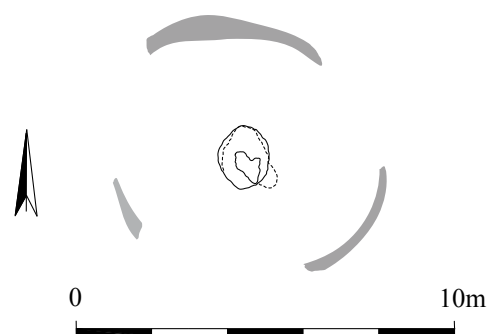


Figure 4M.16. Site 4-M-53. Tumulus (20) (scale 1:200).

Plate 4M.6. Site 4-M-53. Grave 3 – the burial chamber (scale 1:15).

## Tumulus 21

**Grave 5** [skeleton 105, Grave cut – vertical shaft L:870mm, W:840mm, Depth:1.15m – chamber L:1.1m, W:500mm. Monument – Tumulus (21) L:13.2m, W:10.7m, H:650mm]

The grave was a circular shaft to a depth of approximately 500mm. In the flat floor of the shaft was dug a rectangular pit (1.03 x 0.44m) with rounded ends undercutting the shaft a little at both ends. The body of an ..... was completely disturbed and no bones were articulated. Bones

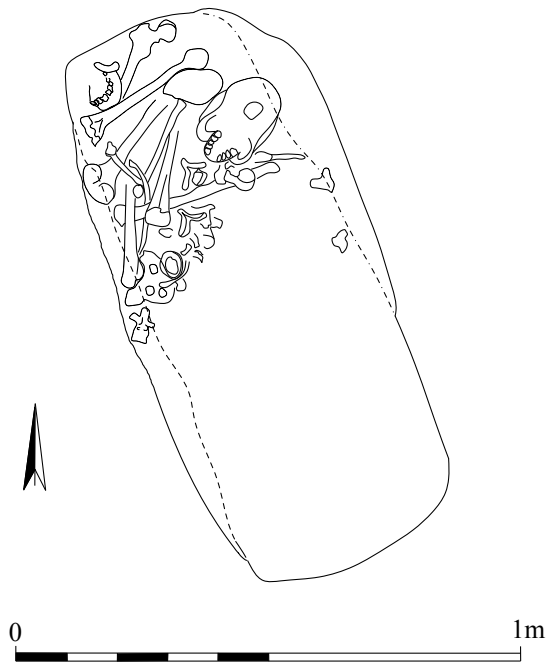


Figure 4M.17. Site 4-M-53. Grave 5 – the burial chamber (scale 1:15).



Plate 4M.7. Site 4-M-53. Grave 5 – the burial chamber with disarticulated skeleton.

were piled at the north end of the burial chamber. Large stone slabs had been laid transversely across the mouth of the burial chamber to close the grave and covered in earth.

*Material associated with the grave*

Jewellery

SF:... – beads

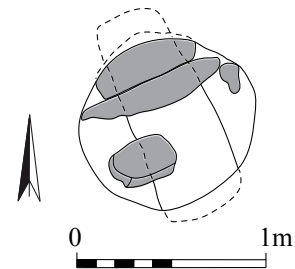


Figure 4M.18. Site 4-M-53. Grave 5 – the descendant (scale 1:40).

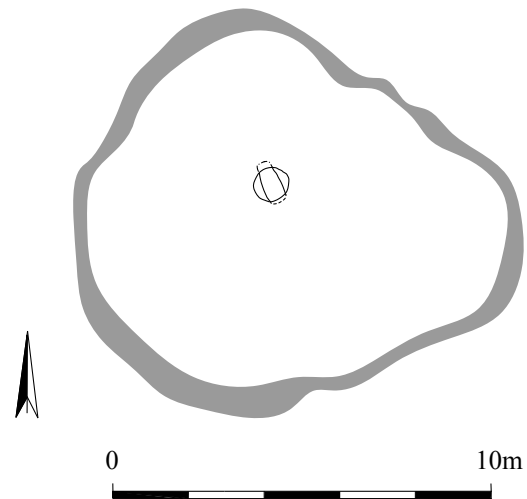


Figure 4M.19. Site 4-M-53. Tumulus (21) (scale 1:200).



Plate 4M.8. Site 4-M-53. Grave 5 – two blocking slabs in situ sealing the mouth of the burial chamber.

## Tumulus 30

**Grave 4** [skeleton 104, Grave cut – descender L:1.4m, W:1.1m, Depth:700mm – chamber L:1.3m, W:750mm. Monument – Tumulus (30) L:8.5m, W:8.1m, H:350mm] The grave shaft was a regular circle giving access to an irregular much larger roughly oval burial chamber. The skeletal remains of an ..... were very much disturbed, and only fragments were found in the fill the tomb apart from a lower leg and articulated foot which may be *in situ* (Figure 4M.20). If this is the case the body will have been aligned roughly east-west placed in a flexed position on its left side facing south. No grave goods survived in the chamber but sherds came from the fill. In the upper fill of the grave pit near the surface was a substantially complete beer jar (Figure 4M.21, Plate 4M.9) which had been damaged where it protruded above the level of the original ground surface.

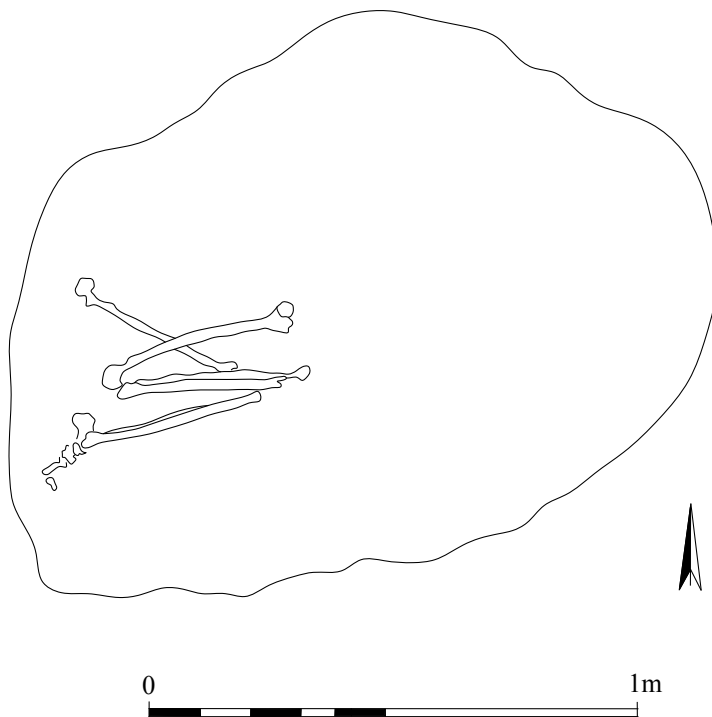


Figure 4M.20. Site 4-M-53. Grave 4 – the burial chamber (scale 1:15).

### Material associated with the grave

#### Pottery

beer jar (Type 5018x)

Plate 4M.9. Site 4-M-53.  
Grave 4 – the upper fill of the  
descender with the  
beer jar.

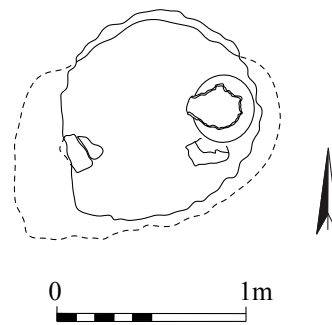


Figure 4M.21. Site 4-M-53. Grave 4 – the  
upper fill of the descender with  
the beer jar (scale 1:40).

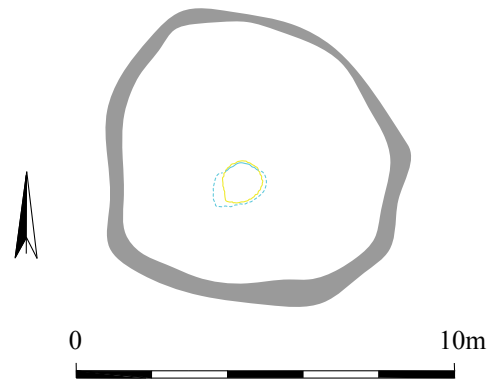


Figure 4M.22. Site 4-M-53. Tumulus (30)  
(scale 1:200).

## *Tumulus 31*

**Grave 2** [skeleton 102, Grave cut – descender L:1.49m, W:1.47m, Depth:1.3m – chamber L:1.56m, W:870mm. Monument – Tumulus (31) L:11.5m, W:9.5m, H:400mm] The circular shaft gave access, at a depth of 500mm below the surface, via a sub-rectangular opening in its floor aligned approximately east-west, to the burial chamber which was slightly enlarged towards the floor. The skeleton of an ..... was completely disarticulated, although the bones remained in a good state of preservation. Following the burial the mouth of the burial chamber was closed with large stone slabs, placed transversely across it which were then sealed with earth.

*Material associated with the grave*

### Jewellery

SF:1672 – beads, glass

### Pottery

sherds

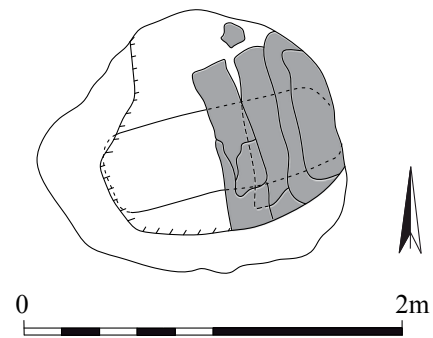


Figure 4M.23. Site 4-M-53. Grave 2 – the descender (scale 1:40).



Plate 4M.10. Site 4-M-53. Grave 2 – the burial chamber.

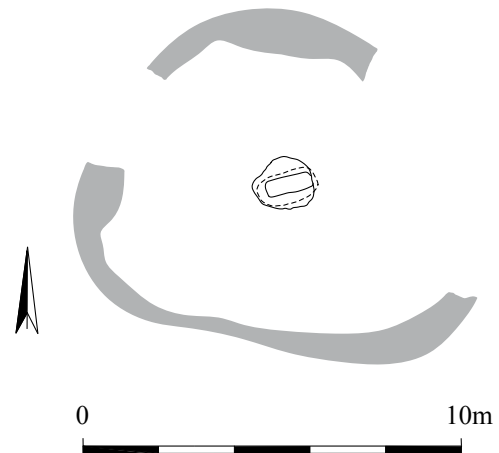
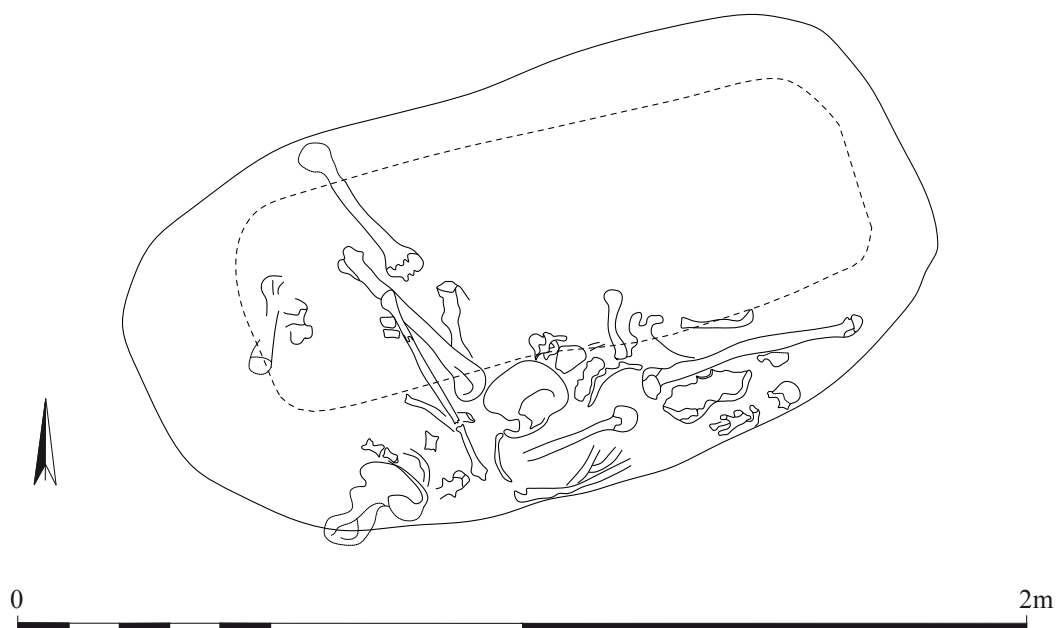


Figure 4M.24. Site 4-M-53. Tumulus (31) (scale 1:200).





*Figure 4M.25. Site 4-M-53. Grave 2 – the burial chamber (scale 1:15).*

*Plate 4M.11. Site 4-M-53.  
Grave 2 – the descenday  
with slabs in situ blocking  
the entrance to the burial  
chamber.*



## Tumulus 32

**Grave 1** [skeleton 101, Grave cut – vertical shaft L:1.7m, W:1.4m, Depth:1.58m – chamber L:1.5m, W:1.14m. Monument – Tumulus (32) L:9.7m, W:8.4m, H:300mm] The grave shaft was cylindrical. The body of an ..... was placed on its left side in a flexed position and oriented east-west facing south. The arms were flexed, the hands in front of the face. There was red staining by the feet. A stone ring was located by the right hand and there were concentrations of white beads by the ribs, at the shoulder blade, between the left forearm, the latter probably part of necklaces and bracelets. One of the phalanges of the right hand had a metal ring, together with a textile fragment, and a second metal ring was placed on another phalanx.

Looting of the grave had disturbed the body and the grave goods; loose and scattered bones were found at a higher level.

### *Material associated with the grave*

#### Jewellery

- SF:1664 – earring on ribs, left size
- SF:1665 – toe rings on right foot
- SF:1666 – toe ring on left foot
- SF:1669 – finger ring, metal with textile
- SF:1670 – finger ring, metal
- SF:1671 – beads, ostrich eggshell

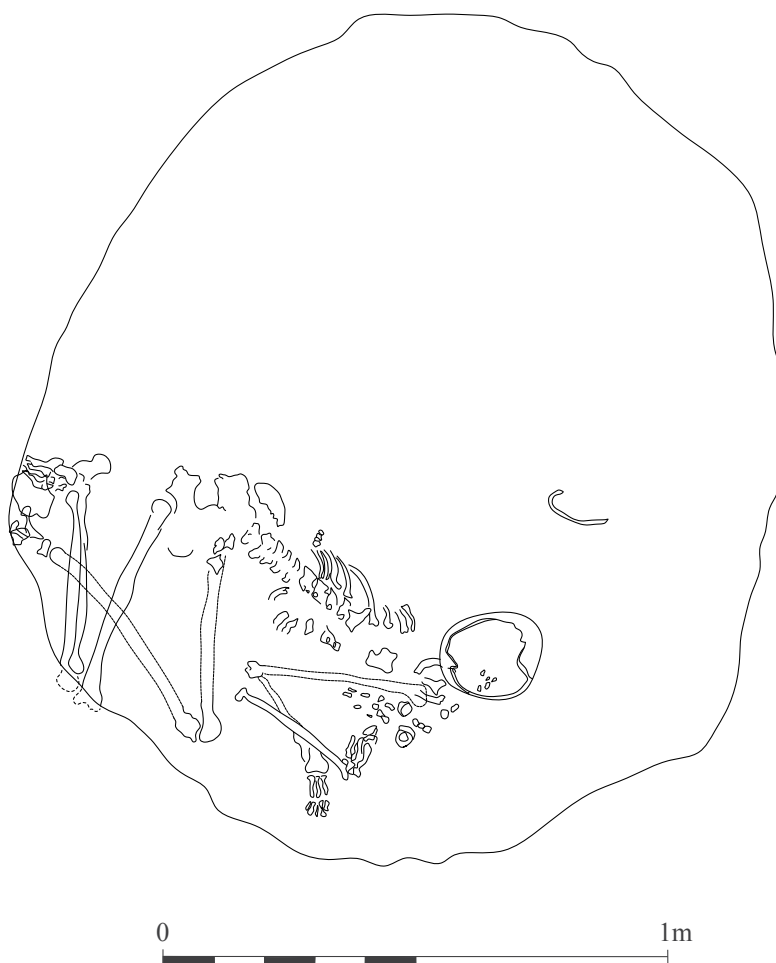


Figure 4M.26. Site 4-M-53. Grave 1 – the burial chamber (scale 1:15).



Plate 4M.12. Site 4-M-53. Grave 1 – the burial chamber.

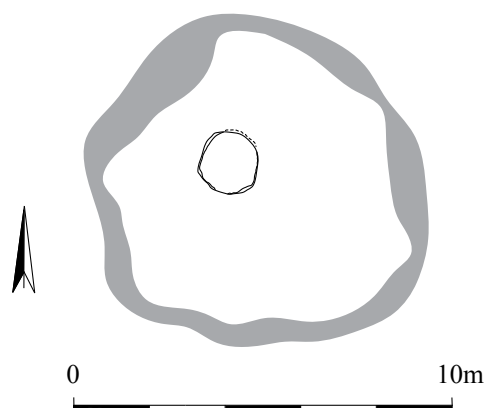


Figure 4M.27. Site 4-M-53. Tumulus (32) (scale 1:200).

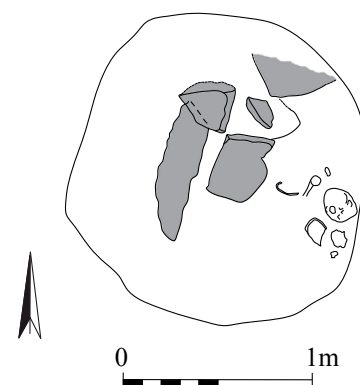


Figure 4M.28. Site 4-M-53. Grave 1 – the descender (scale 1:40).

#### Weaponry

- SF:1667 archer's loose, stone

#### Pottery

- Type 46x
- Type 57x
- Type 59x
- Type 62x
- Type 971x

A sherd from a pottery vessel of type 1025x came from an unspecified location.

## Site 4-M-79

The excavation of this village which was according to a local informant occupied into the 1940s was brought to a halt when the team were forced to vacate the area. What follows, therefore, is a very unsatisfactory report on the results of excavation which in no case were completed.

The seven stone built houses within the settlement were investigated in detail. No stratigraphic link between the structures could be made. For the general discussion of the site and dimensions of the buildings see the gazetteer (pgs XXXVI-XXXVIII).

**Building (1)** was constructed on a slope down from south east to north west. To make the structure more stable the north-west wall was much thicker than the other walls at the base and had a battered outer face. It was entered from up the slope through a doorway with a stone threshold (Figure 4M.29) and provided with a floor with a hard compacted surface of silt which served to level up the interior. Excavation was not carried below this surface. The internal wall was built on this surface and was associated with a thick deposit, at least 200mm, of animal dung and floral material (Plate 4M.13). On the south side of the partition wall its collapsed rubble partly sealed the deposit.

**Building (2)** abuts the eastern side of (1) (Figure 4M.29). Whereas its northern and part of its eastern walls survive to a height of 1.5m the whole of the southern wall is no more than 300mm high. If there was an entrance it must have been somewhere along this wall. The eastern angle utilised a large boulder. The lowermost deposit uncovered within was degraded granite immediately above the bedrock. It was sealed by a deposit which partly levelled up the slope, of sand and gravel. No occupation deposits were noted.

**Building (3)** (Figures 4M.30 & 4M.31) – only the surface of what may have been the lowest occupation surface was revealed. Cut into this was a pit 350mm in diameter



Plate 4M.13. Site 4-M-79, building (1) wall 14, rubble and deposit of animal dung.

containing a pot which was not recovered. It was sealed by approximately 150mm of animal dung within which were two alignments of large stones, 1.35 and 1.5m in length (Plate 4M.14).

**Building (4)** – the south wall of the structure runs over a low bedrock outcrop which may have been utilised internally as a *mastaba* (Figure 4M.32 & 4M.33). Abutting the north wall was a semicircular feature [6] delimited by a wall of *jalous* and granite covered by a mud-plaster rendering 750 x 450mm in size (Plate 4M.17). It was probably associated with the earliest surface revealed, of sandy silt. On this floor against the north-west wall was a discrete area of ash and charcoal [18] 1 x 0.6m in extent; the wall at this point was reddened by heat. There were also other less clearly defined spreads of ash. In the centre of the room was a possible post-hole [19] 350mm in diameter and further north a pit [21] 250mm in diameter containing a pottery vessel. All these features were covered by a thin deposit of both fine and coarse sand along with rubble from the walls.

**Building (5)** (Figure 4M.34 & 4M.35) – the south-western wall stands to a height of about 800mm but elsewhere the wall is largely of one course of big stones (Plate 4M.18). The absence of rubble in the vicinity suggests that this was the original form of the building. Within and immediately outside the building to the north east are extensive deposits of ash

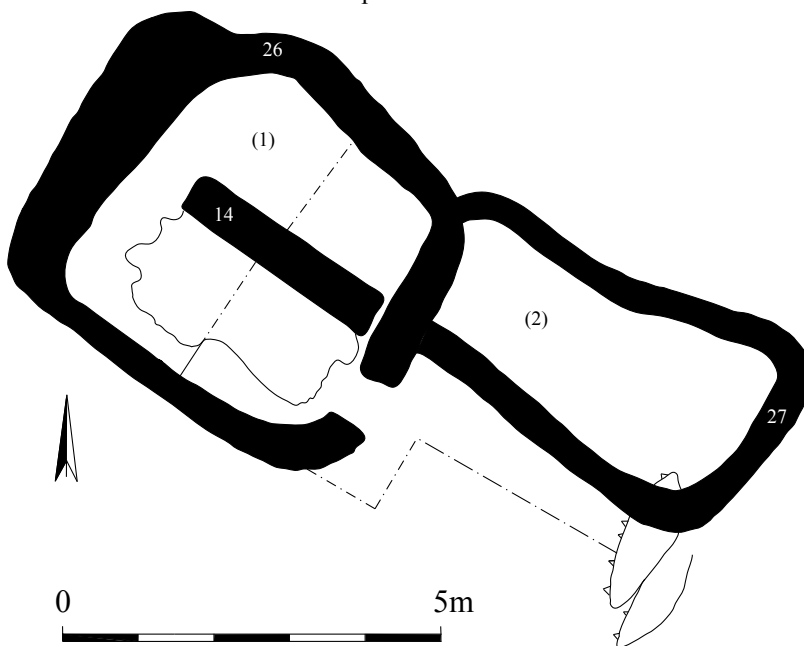


Figure 4M.29. Site 4-M-79, buildings (1) and (2) (scale approximate 1:100).

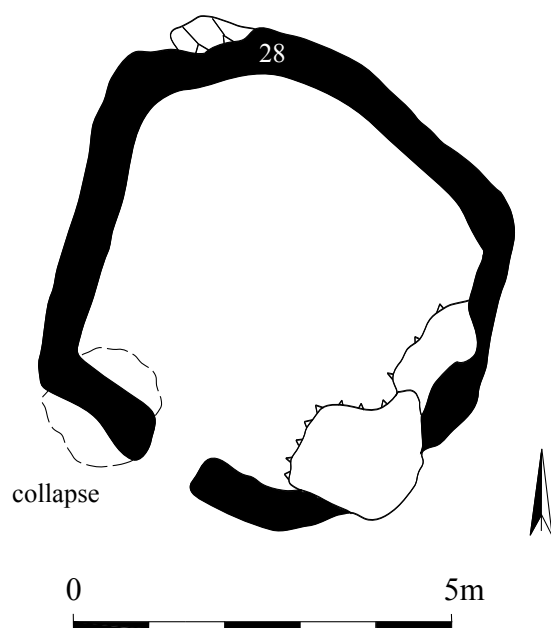


Figure 4M.30. Site 4-M-79, building (3)  
(scale approximate 1:100).



Plate 4M.14. Site 4-M-79, building (3) interior,  
surface 7, 'walls' 8 and 9.

(Plate 4M.19) which are sealed by aeolian deposits with an amount of goat dung within.

**Building (6)** (Figures 4M.36 & 4M.37) – The building is roughly circular in plan with the wall on one side of

the entrance overlapping that on the other. Running up to the doorway is a curved path delimited by the wall of the structure on one side and by a kerb of boulders on the other. Only discrete fragments of a floor surface [10] were

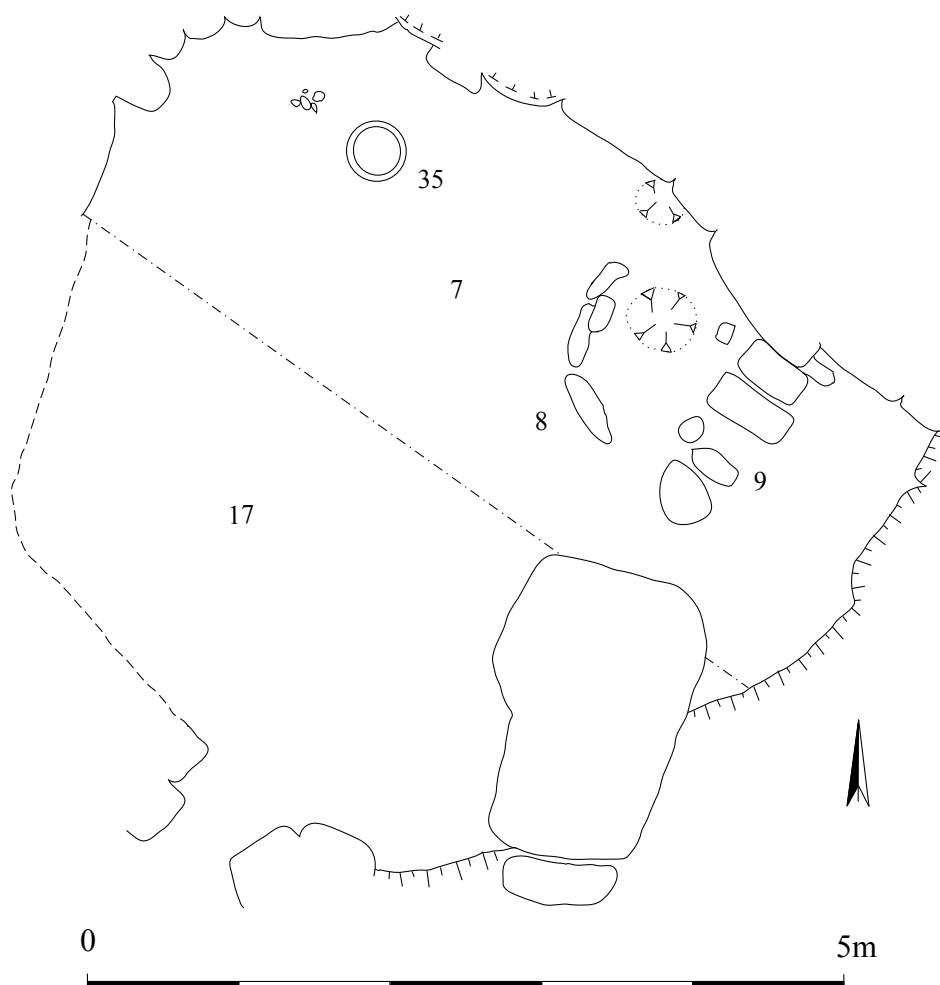


Figure 4M.31. Site 4-M-79, building (3) interior (scale 1:50).





Plate 4M.15. Site 4-M-79, building (4) doorway and surface 5.



Plate 4M.16. Site 4-M-79, building (4) surface 5.

preserved within the structure, of clay/silt. It was sealed by a deposit of goat dung up to 200mm thick in places and wind-blown sand.

**Building (7)** being built on a slope had a flight of three rough steps giving access up to the doorway (Figure 4M.38 & 4M.39). Excavation was interrupted immediately after the floor surface within was exposed (Figure 4M.38, Plate 4M.22). On this were areas of burning and pottery sherds while a pottery vessel had been inserted into the floor. In some areas the bedrock pavement is visible. The surface was sealed by sand and a little rubble (Plate 000).

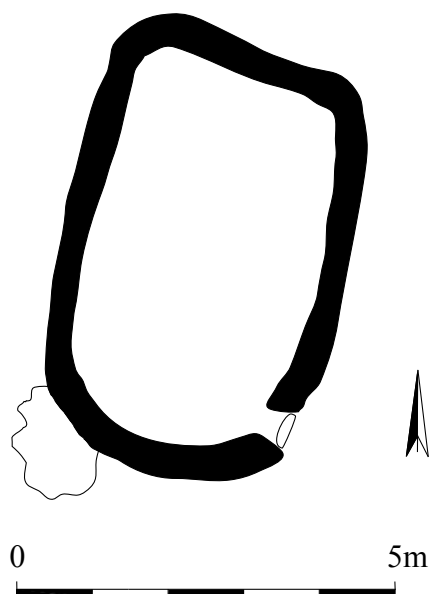


Figure 4M.32. Site 4-M-79, building (4) (scale approximate 1:100).

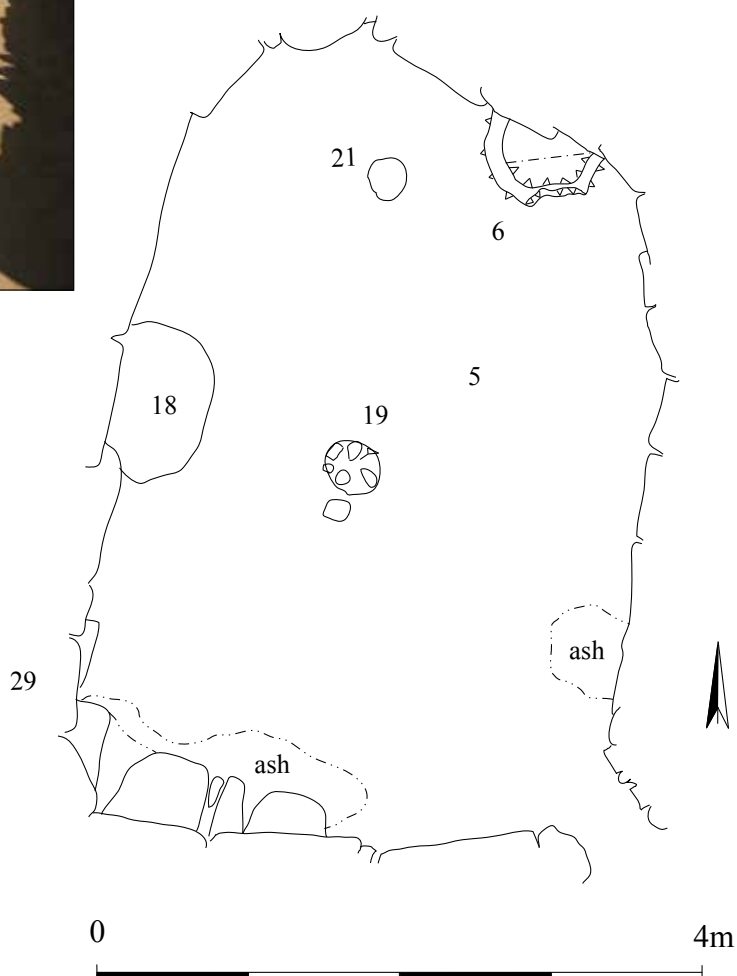


Figure 4M.33. Site 4-M-79, building (4), plan of the excavated interior (scale 1:50).





Plate 4M.17. Site 4-M-79, building (4) 6.

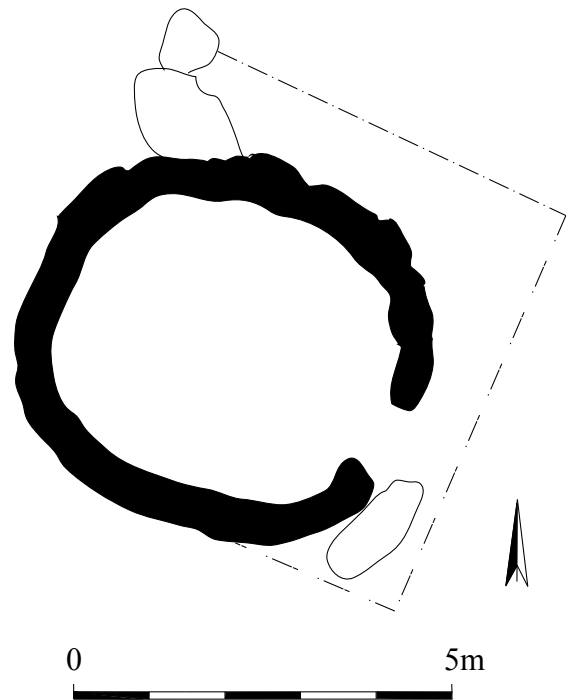


Figure 4M.35. Site 4-M-79, building (5)  
(scale approximate 1:100).

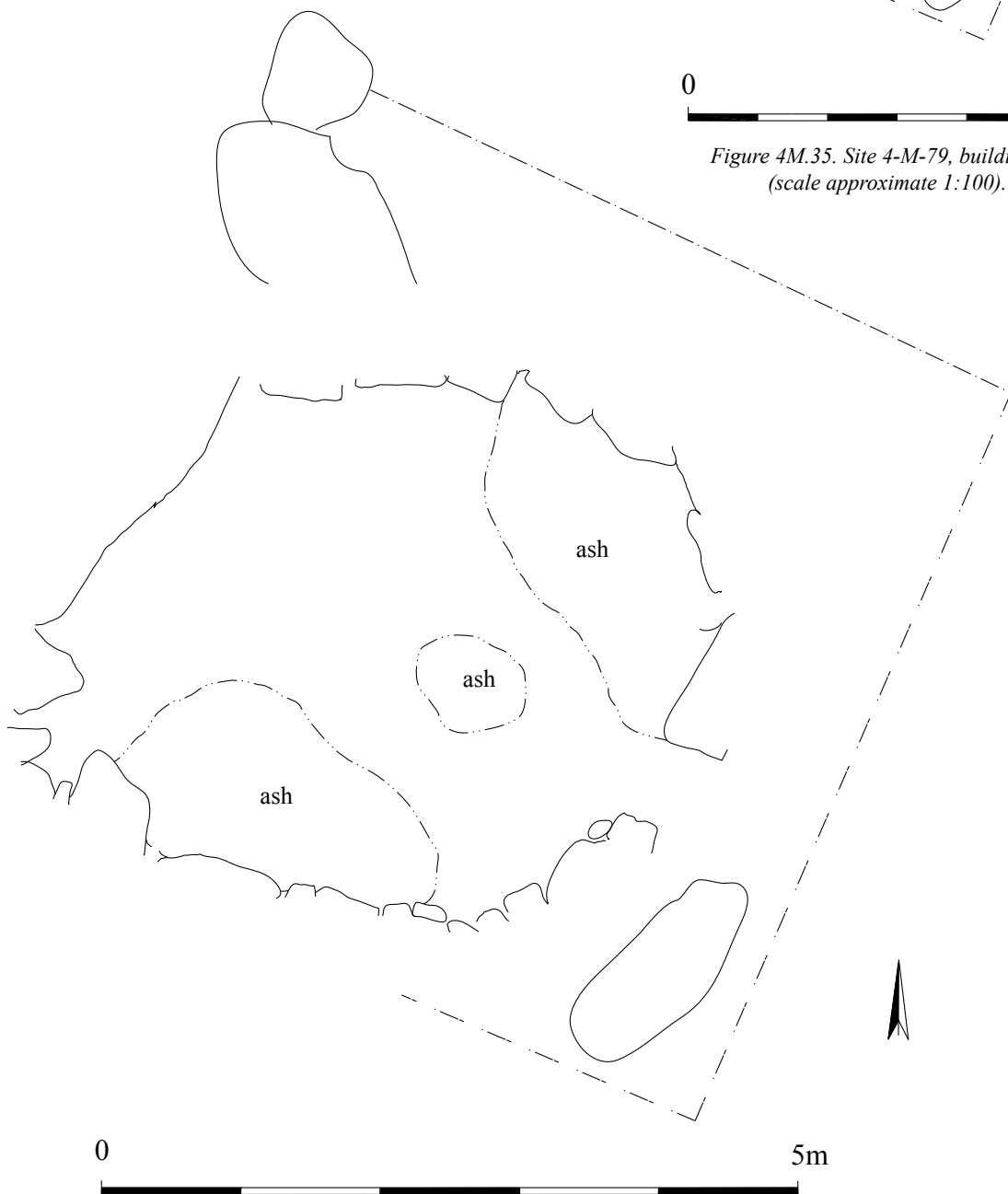


Figure 4M.34. Site 4-M-79, building (5), plan of the excavated interior (scale 1:50).



*Plate 4M.18. Site 4-M-79, building (5).*



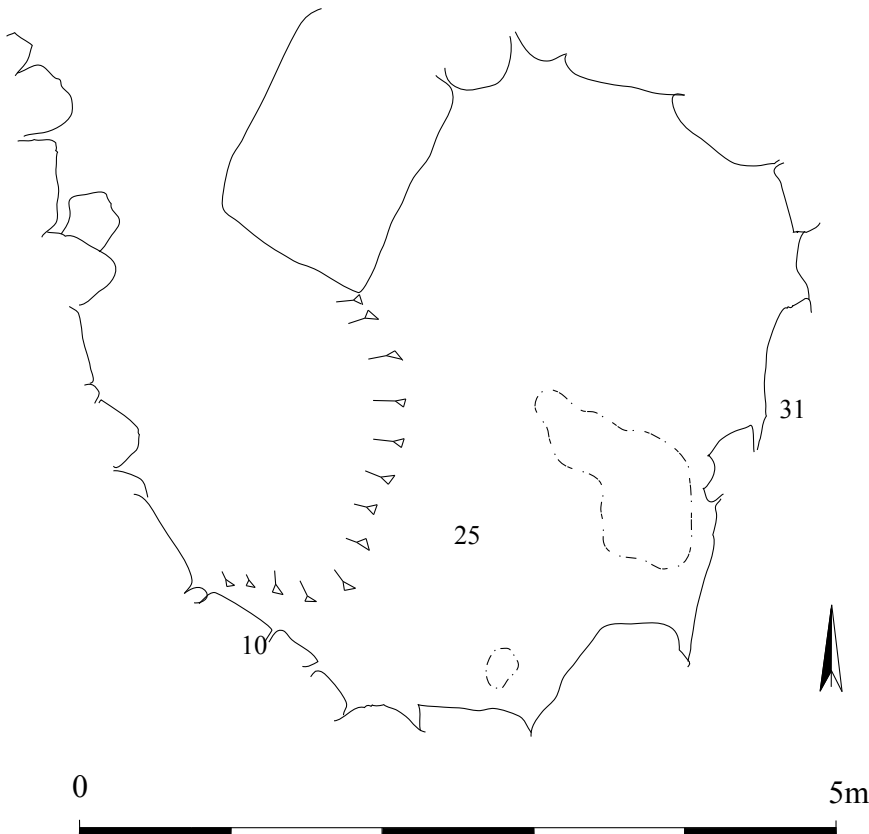
*Plate 4M.20. Site 4-M-79, building (6), surface 10.*



*Plate 4M.19. Site 4-M-79, building (5), surface 11, looking north east.*



*Plate 4M.21. Site 4-M-79, building (6), surface 10.*



*Figure 4M.36. Site 4-M-79, building (6), plan of the excavated interior (scale 1:50).*

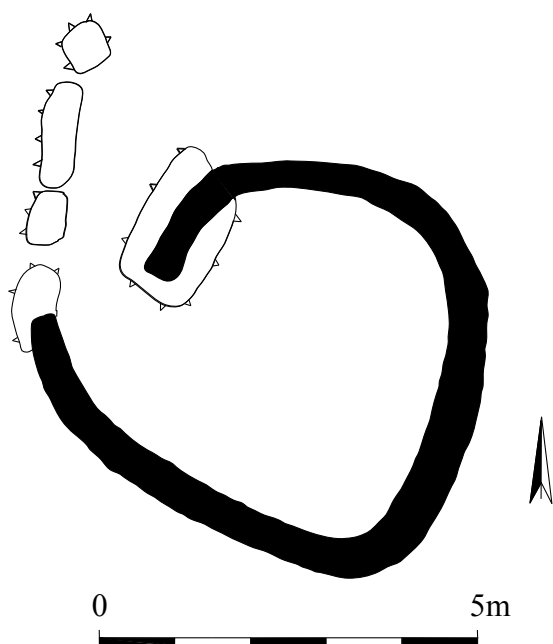


Figure 4M.37. Site 4-M-79, building (6)  
(scale approximate 1:100).



Plate 4M.22. Site 4-M-79, building (7), surface 11,  
looking south south west.

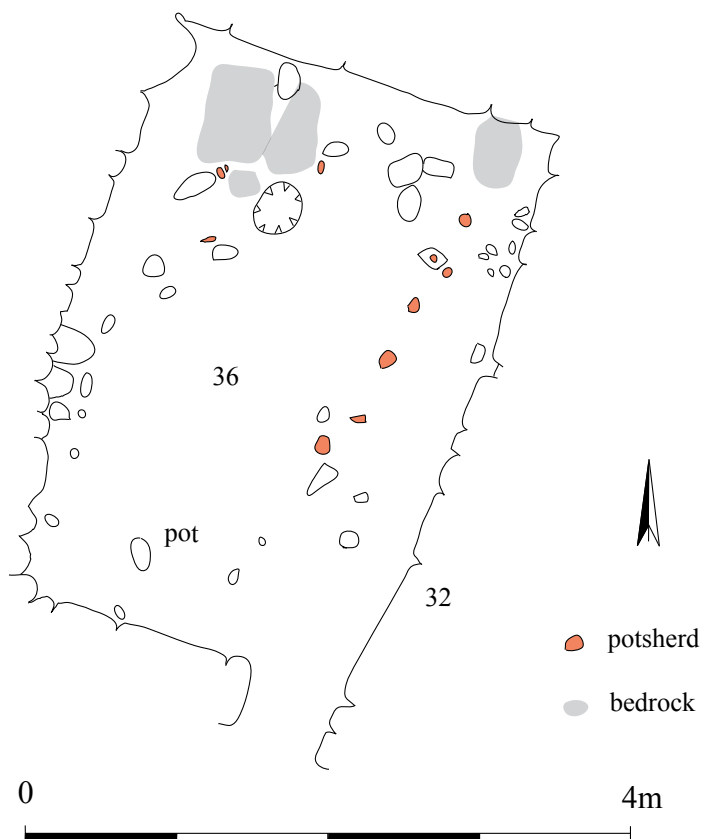


Figure 4M.38. Site 4-M-79, building (7), plan of the  
excavated interior (scale 1:50).

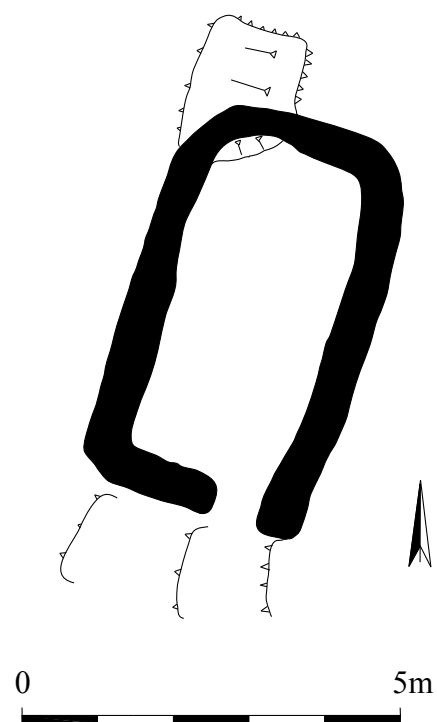


Figure 4M.39. Site 4-M-79, building (7)  
(scale approximate 1:100).



## Site 4-M-142

### *Location*

The cemetery sits on the alluvial plain in what was probably at one time a palaeochannel (Plate 4M.23). The presence of post-Meroitic tumuli at site 4-M-53 a little over 300m to the south south west indicates that no major Nile flow has occupied the channel for at least the last 1500 years. Towards the northern edge of the plain the ground



*Plate 4M.23. Site 4-M-142. General view of the cemetery under excavation looking south.*

risers before falling steeply into a narrow valley adjacent to a small *jebel*. Through this valley ran the vehicle track from the west to ed-Doma. By the edge of the scarp the plain is sculpted by water action into a number of very low rounded mounds. The cemetery sites on the rising ground and on the low mounds right up to the scarp. The valley, if present in the medieval period, has certainly widened to the south since then as a number of the grave monuments have been undermined and partly fallen down the slope. It is possible that the cemetery originally extended further to the north with graves being totally removed by erosion.

### *Description of the cemetery prior to excavation*

Thirty seven tomb monuments were clearly visible during the initial survey of the site in February 2005 (Figure 4M.40, Plate 4M.24). Of these 28 were box graves of a form typical of burials dated to the Christian period. Four monuments were badly disturbed by many have been of the same type. The monument associated with grave 122 was unusual having a kerb of stones forming a small enclosure around it. A row of five grave monuments were almost certainly burials of Muslims (Plate 4M.25). Immediately to the south of the main cluster of box graves was a sparse scatter of stones, probably the remains of further Muslim grave monuments with head and foot stones. None of these were investigated.

### *Summary*

Of the 34 graves excavated (Figure 4M.41, Plate 4M.26) all contained a single individual; 33 skeletons were retained for study, the Muslim in grave 166 was not lifted.



*Plate 4M.24. Site 4-M-142. Detail of box-grave monuments (9), (4), (8) and (3) looking east.*



*Plate 4M.25. Site 4-M-142. Monuments (23) to (25), one of which certainly covered a Muslim burial, looking north east.*



*Plate 4M.26. Site 4-M-142. General view of the south-eastern part of the cemetery after excavation looking south east.*



Figure 4M.40. Site  
4-M-142. Grave  
monuments  
(scale 1:200).

As is typical in the region the grave cut was a long narrow steep-sided pit with the body laid in a flexed or extended supine position (Plates 4M.27, 4M.28 & 4M.32-34), the head to the west or south west apart from the Muslim who had **his/her** head to the east (Plate 4M.29). Probably all the bodies were wrapped in textile fragments of which survive in a number of cases as did substantial amounts of soft body tissue (Plates 4M.30 & 4M.31). Grave goods were rare, the individual in grave 135 was accompanied by a pendant and wore a copper-alloy earring, a pendant cross was placed with the body in grave 9 and a copper-alloy finger ring was worn by the individuals in graves 45 and 194. Another copper-alloy ring was unprovenanced.

To confirm the identification of the group of five graves considered to be Islamic burials one was investigated. The body was laid in a typical arrangement for an Islamic burial (Plate 4M.29) and was re-covered

By far the bulk of the graves were provided with a roof of stone slabs over the body (Table 4M.1), whether supported on ledges (Plates 4M.27 & 4M.31-33) which reduced the width of the grave in its lower part or set into grooves cut into the vertical grave sides. In grave 13 another method of support was used; upright slabs either side of the body against the sides of the grave on which the slabs rested (Plate 4M.34). The roofing slabs are often carefully placed adjacent to each other (Plate 4M.35) but





*Plate 4M.27. Site 4-M-142. Grave 45, flexed supine skeleton in one of the largest graves in the cemetery, looking west.*



*Plate 4M.29. Site 4-M-142. Grave 166 looking east.*



*Plate 4M.28. Site 4-M-142. Grave 57 flexed supine skeleton looking west.*



*Plate 4M.30. Site 4-M-142. Grave 137, very well preserved textile wrapping skeleton 157.*



*Plate 4M.31. Site 4-M-142. Grave 41, naturally mummified body, 'skeleton' 72, looking west.*



*Plate 4M.33. Site 4-M-142. Grave 182 with stone slabs around the skull of skeleton 191, looking west.*

*Plate 4M.32. Site 4-M-142. Grave 77, prominent ledges to support the roof over the burial chamber looking west.*



Figure 4M.41.  
Site 4-M-142.  
Excavated graves  
(scale 1:200).

in graves 9 and 13 the cover slab over the head was the last to be put in place and sits on the slabs covering the rest of the body (Plate 4M.36). Small stones covered the interstices and occasionally a thick layer of stones was provided (Plate 4M.37). Incorporated within the structure of the box grave over grave 182 was a single row of large stones (Plate 4M.38). These served the seal the top of the grave cut and replicate the burial chamber roofing found at a lower level.

Excluding the Islamic grave only eight graves have no roofing. One of these is the very shallow grave of a neonate, grave 193. Three are provided with a protection for the head of the deceased made from stone slabs (Plates 4M.33, 4M.39 & 4M.41) while a fourth has the slabs to the side of the head but no lintel. Only three graves had

the earthen fill set directly onto the body.

The presence of a head stone in grave 117 is unique in the cemetery (Plate 4M.40). Set immediately against the west end of the grave behind the skull it will have extended up amongst the stones roofing the chamber but not to the surface.

Grave 120 is particularly unusual. The tomb monuments remained *in situ* making it highly unlikely that the grave had been disturbed after the burial was inserted. In light of this the position of the skeleton is very odd. The skeleton is divided into four articulated parts – torso, head and arms – the individual legs – the pelvis and lower spine (Plates 4M.41 & 4M.42). There is no evidence that the body was cut into pieces but it is clear that some soft tissue remained to keep the bones in articulation when





*Plate 4M.34.  
Site 4-M-142.  
Grave 13  
lined with  
stone slabs to  
support the  
roof over the  
burial cham-  
ber; looking  
west.*



*Plate 4M.35. Site 4-M-142. Grave  
182, stone slabs over burial  
chamber; looking west.*



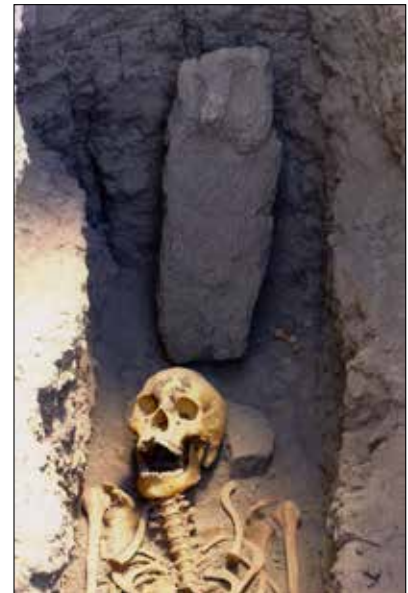
*Plate 4M.36. Site 4-M-142.  
Grave 13, stone slabs over  
burial chamber; looking east.*



*Plate 4M.37. Site 4-M-142. Grave  
139, slabs and stones forming the  
roof over the burial chamber;  
looking west.*



*Plate 4M.39. Site 4-M-142. Grave  
64 stones protecting the skull of  
skeleton 73, looking west.*



*Plate 4M.40. Site 4-M-142. Grave 117,  
skeleton 138 and headstone, looking  
west.*



*Plate 4M.38. Site 4-M-142. Grave 182,  
row of stones after removal of the monu-  
ment, looking east.*



*Plate 4M.41. Site 4-M-142.  
Grave 120, skeleton 129,  
looking west.*



*Plate 4M.42. Site 4-M-142. Grave 120,  
skeleton 129, detail showing the  
rotated pelvis.*

TABLE 4M.1. CEMETERY 4-M-142, SUMMARY DATA.

Grave no.	Skeleton no.	Position	Orientation <sup>1</sup>	Head covering	Blocking	Age	Sex	Monument type
9	76	extended supine	93° W-E		slabs	juvenile		FF03c
13	91	extended supine	73° W-E		slabs	juvenile		FF01a
16	18	extended supine	72° W-E	2 slabs flanking skull		adult		FF03c
38	67	extended supine	52° W-E		slabs/stones	juvenile		FF03c
39	89	extended supine	70° W-E		slabs	adult		FF03c
40	74	flexed supine	91° W-E		slabs	juvenile		FF03c
41	72	extended supine	66° W-E		slabs	adult		FF03c
43	88	extended supine	80° W-E		slabs	juvenile		FF03d
44	90	extended supine	79° W-E		slabs/stones	adult		FF03c
45	85	flexed supine	74° W-E		slabs	adult		FF03d
54	114	flexed supine	79° W-E		slabs	child	?	FF03c
56	84	extended supine	92° W-E		slabs/stones	child	?	FF03c
57	87	flexed supine	84° W-E		slabs	child	?	
59	128	flexed supine	65° W-E		slabs	child	?	FF?
64	73	extended supine	73° W-E	stone				FF03d
77	125	extended supine	72° W-E		slabs	adult		FF03d
79	126	extended supine	59° W-E		slabs	adult		FF03d
117	138	extended supine	63° W-E		slabs/stones	adult		FF03d
120	129	?	58° W-E	stone		adult		FF03d
122	130	extended supine	68° W-E	stone		adult		FF03d
131	161	extended supine	68° W-E		slabs	child	?	?
133	188	extended supine	92° W-E		slabs/stones	child	?	?
135	157	extended supine	54° W-E		slabs	adult		FF03d
137	163	extended supine	44° SW-NE		slabs	child	?	FF03d
139	190	extended supine	41° SW-NE			child	?	?
164	177	extended supine	73° W-E		slabs	child	?	?
166	178	extended right side	93° E-W			juvenile		FF02f
168	174	extended supine	32° SW-NE			child	?	?
170	195	extended supine	45° SW-NE		slabs	adult		?
172	179	extended supine	59° W-E			adult		?
182	191	extended supine	72° W-E		slabs	adult		FF03d
193	197	?	71° W-E			neonate	?	FF03d?
194	209	extended supine	71° W-E		slabs	adult		FF03d
201	208	extended supine	68° W-E		slabs	infant	?	FF03d

it arrived into the position as found. One might suggest that this represents a reburial and that during the process the already extensively decomposed body broke into four parts which were placed roughly in their correct anatomical relationship in the new grave.

The graves cluster into a number of groups. The main group of 21 graves are all aligned between 52° and 93°. Further to the north is another group with graves aligned between 32° and 71°. The third group is the Islamic burials, the single grave excavated was oriented at 93°; the alignment of the tomb monuments of the other four suggest that the graves they covered had a similar orientation. Many

of the graves are set in well defined east-west rows and their tomb monuments in some cases are so close as to abut their neighbours. The monuments do broadly reflect the size of the underlying grave which in turn is related to the physical stature of the deceased. The longest grave is 2.8m with 13 over 2m long at the surface, while the deepest is 1.34m.

In the central part of the cemetery the alluvium was in places fire reddened. This was a discolouration of the surface; no features associated with it could be identified.

### *Grave inventory*

**Grave 9** [Skeleton 76, Grave cut L:1.5m, W:400mm, Depth:740mm. Monument (11) – L:1.79m, W:1.14m, H:580mm]

A sub-rectangular grave with vertical sides to a depth of between 480mm and 570mm. At that level are ledges running along both sides of the grave, on the north side 30-50mm wide, on the south side 50-80mm wide. These narrowed the grave to 170-270mm for a depth of 150-190mm. The body of a **juvenile** was placed in an extended supine position with the head resting against the end of the grave, the chin on the chest. The left arm is extended with the hand on the left femur, the right arm below the elbow crosses the body with the hands together (Figure 4M.42). Stone slabs abutting each other were laid transversely across the grave sat on the ledges and a few small stones filled the interstices (Figure 4M.43). Over the head a large slab rested on the ledges and on top of the slab to the east while at the other end of the grave small stones sat on the slabs. The grave was filled with earth some of which had percolated through the roof filling the grave chamber.

The grave was marked by a rectangular monument of MDASP type FF03c with an outer revetment of three courses of stones.

*Material associated with the grave.*

#### Jewellery

SF:61 – pendant cross, iron - associated with the body

**Grave 13** [Skeleton 91, Grave cut L:1.32m, W:450-470mm, Depth:420mm. Monument (7) – L:1.01m, W:780mm, H:190mm]

A rectangular grave with rounded ends. All the sides are straight but slope in markedly. The body of a **juvenile** was laid in an extended supine position with the arms by its sides, the left hand under the pelvis (Figure 4M.42). Flanking the body and partly resting on it were three stone slabs to the north and four to the south set on edge (Plate 4M.34) which supported a roof of slabs. Those towards the centre of the grave were laid transversely, a large slab rested on one of these covering the head (Figure 4M.43, Plate 4M.36). Covering the slabs up to the level of the upper surface of the slab over the head was a layer of small stones 50-170 x 50-100 x 30-50mm in size. The grave was infilled with earth.

The grave was marked by a rectangular monument of MDASP type FF01a constructed of large stones which left very little space within the rectangle.

**Grave 16** [Skeleton 18, Grave cut L:1.34m, W:140-220mm, Depth:530-640mm. Monument (2) – L:1.66m, W:1.05m, H:460mm]

A narrow oval grave containing the extended supine burial of an **adult** ..... with the arms alongside the body, the hands resting on the femurs (Figure 4M.42). Textile was found wrapped around the right wrist. Two stone slabs flanked the head. The grave was infilled with earth within which was some organic material.

The grave was marked by a rectangular monument of MDASP type FF03c with an outer revetment of two courses of stones.

**Grave 38** [Skeleton 67, Grave cut L:1.3m, W:280mm,

Depth:600mm. Monument (13) – L:1.65m, W:1.04m, H:420mm]

A narrow oval grave tapering to a point at its west end. The end walls slope inwards. Along the south side is a ledge 40-70mm wide. The partially mummified skeleton of a **juvenile** is laid in an extended supine position with the arms extended and the hands resting on the pelvis. The left leg is slightly flexed with the left foot resting on the right (Figure 4M.42). Resting partly on the ledge were some large slabs and many smaller stones forming a very irregular covering of the grave chamber (Figure 4M.43). The grave was infilled with soft earth which had percolated into and filled the chamber.

The grave was marked by a rectangular monument of MDASP type FF03c with an outer revetment of two courses of stones.

**Grave 39** [Skeleton 89, Grave cut L:2.25m, W:500mm, Depth:1.08m. Monument (10) – L:3.17m, W:2.09m, H:770mm]

A long narrow grave with sloping and irregular ledges along both sides from 90-140mm wide between 210mm and 340mm above the floor of the grave. The floor of the grave was between 260mm and 370mm in width. The extended supine inhumation of an **adult** ..... was partly mummified. The upper arms were alongside the body, the left arm is flexed at the elbow and extends under the body, the hand being beneath the pelvis (Figure 4M.42). Stone slabs, most set transversely, rested on the ledges on which were many small stones filling the interstices. The grave cut was infilled with soft earth.

The grave was marked by a rectangular monument of MDASP type FF03c with an outer revetment of up to six courses of stones.

*Material associated with the grave.*

#### Organic

SF:72 basketry wrapped in leather - from the grave fill

**Grave 40** [Skeleton 74, Grave cut L:1.69m, W:400mm, Depth:790mm. Monument (7) – L:2.51m, W:470mm, H:540mm]

At a depth of 500mm below the surface are ledges along both sides 100mm wide and a maximum of 300mm above the bottom of the cut. The body of a **juvenile** was placed in a flexed supine position. The legs, flexed at the knees, had collapsed against the south side of the grave. Abundant textile covered the body masking the left arm, the right arm was alongside the body (Figure 4M.42). Behind the head was a pile of several small stones which tipped the skull forward. A carefully constructed roof of stone slabs rested on the ledges with interstices along the south side covered with small stones. The grave was filled with a hard deposit of earth.

The grave was marked by a rectangular monument of MDASP type FF03c with an outer revetment of up to three courses of stones.

*Material associated with the grave.*

#### Jewellery

SF:73 – bead, wood - from the grave fill

**Grave 41** [Skeleton 72, Grave cut L:2.04m, W:550mm, Depth:900mm. Monument – L:2.8m, W:1.5m, H:650mm]



The grave had, at a depth of between 720mm and 790mm, uneven ledges on both sides 90mm wide. The skeleton of an **adult** ..... retained much of its skin (Plate 4M.31). It was laid in an extended supine position with the hands together on the pelvis (Figure 4M.42). Resting on the ledges were several large irregular-shaped slabs with small stones on them covering the interstices. The large slab at the east end, over the feet, rested on the slab to the west. The grave was filled with soft earth.

The grave was marked by a rectangular monument of MDASP type FF03c with an outer revetment of up to six courses of stones. Pot sherds were recovered from within the monument [29].

**Grave 43** [Skeleton 88, Grave cut L:1.75m, W:370mm, Depth:000mm. Monument (4) – L:2.19m, W:1.03m, H:540mm]

The grave cut tapers along its length towards the west end. Cut into each side was a groove which served to form ledges, on the south side 30-60mm wide, on the other 50-70mm wide. The ledges were between 160mm and 210mm above the floor of the grave. The body of a **juvenile** was placed in an extended supine position with the arms alongside the body and the head tipped forward and angled left (Figure 4M.42). The transverse slabs forming the roof were overlain by a longitudinal slab towards the east end and medium-sized stones further to the west.

The grave was marked by a rectangular monument of MDASP type FF03d. It had an outer revetment of up to four courses of stones.

*Material associated with the grave.*

#### Jewellery

SF:466 – ring, copper alloy - associated with the body.

**Grave 44** [Skeleton 90, Grave cut L:2.23m, W:350mm, Depth:940mm. Monument (14) – L:3.13m, W:1.82m, H:720mm]

Long narrow grave cut with a pronounced embayment on the south side extending as deep as the stone slabs, probably the result of animal disturbance. The body of an **adult** ... is laid in an extended supine position with the arms along side the body. The left arm is flexed at the wrist with the hand on the pelvis. The head is turned to the left. Some traces of textile and skin remain on the thorax (Figure 4M.42). The body was covered in a mass of stone slabs (330-350 x 200 x 30-100mm) forming a layer rather than a roof. This was overlain by another layer of smaller stones (av. 280 x 120 x 100mm) sealed by the soft earth fill.

The grave was marked by a rectangular monument of MDASP type FF03c with an outer revetment of up to six courses of stones.

**Grave 45** [Skeleton 85, Grave cut L:2.62m, W:600mm, Depth:1.34m. Monument (3) – L:2.73m, W:1.32m, H:740mm]

This large grave had ledges along both sides at a depth of 980mm below the surface. That on the north side was 120-160mm wide, the other was 130mm wide, at 360mm above the grave floor. The body of an adult .... was laid in a flexed supine position (Figure 4M.42, Plate 4M.27). During the decomposition of the body the legs have fallen

to the right coming to rest against the wall of the grave. The upper arms are alongside the body. Both are flexed at the elbow and the hands are placed next to each other on the pelvis. The head is tilted down and to the right. There is a plain metal finger ring on the fourth digit of the left hand. Resting on the ledges is a carefully constructed roof of slabs (620-700 x 240-260 x 110mm) with some small stones sealing the interstices. The upper fill of the grave was soft earth.

The grave was marked by a rectangular monument of MDASP type FF03d with an outer revetment of up to four courses of stones. Skull fragments were found within the monument [24].

*Material associated with the grave.*

#### Jewellery

SF:466 – ring, copper alloy

**Grave 54** [Skeleton 114, Grave cut L:1.35m, W:350mm, Depth:690mm. Monument (12) – L:2.27m, W:1.11m, H:580mm]

The small oval grave had grooves cut into each side to form ledges. It contained the skeleton of a **child** in a slightly flexed supine position with the head tipped forward. The arms are slightly flexed at the elbows, the hands on the pelvis. The legs are slightly flexed at the knees, and the feet are vertical against the end wall of the grave. A little soft tissue and textile survived (Figure 4M.44). Resting on the ledges was a carefully constructed roof of six large slabs (360-470 x 190-240 x 30-70mm). The upper fill was a loose gritty calcareous soil silt from which had percolated down to fill the grave chamber.

The grave was marked by a rectangular monument of MDASP type FF03c with an outer revetment of up to four courses of stones.

**Grave 56** [Skeleton 84, Grave cut L:1.25m, W:450mm, Depth:000mm. Monument (8) – L:1.82m, W:1m, H:410mm]

The ends of this grave sloped markedly into the bottom and ledges ran along both sides. Resting against the south side of the grave at the west end was a large stone slab (430 x 280 x 80mm) set upright. The body of a **child** was buried in an extended supine position resting against the slab. The legs were crossed at the knees, the right over the left. The right arm was parallel to the body, the left was flexed at the elbow (Figure 4M.44). On the ledges was a roof of stone slabs with other slabs and small to large stones piled on top. The grave was filled with a loose gritty calcareous soil.

The grave was marked by a rectangular monument of MDASP type FF03c with an outer revetment of up to two courses of stones. Pot sherds were recovered from within the monument [23].

**Grave 57** [Skeleton 87, Grave cut L:1.85m, W:430mm, Depth:850mm. Monument (9) – L:1.95m, W:1.08m, H:320mm]

The narrow grave had grooves in its side walls forming ledges 50-80mm in width, between 210mm and 350mm above the floor of the cut. The body of a **child** was laid in a flexed supine position, the legs having subsequently collapsed to the right. The head is turned sharply to the



Figure 4M.42.  
Skeletons in  
graves 9 to 45  
(scale 1:15).

left and angled forward, the upper arms are alongside the body with the hands on the pelvis (Figure 4M.44, Plate 4M.28). Large slabs, some set transversely, other approximately circular in shape rest on the ledges with small stones in the interstices. The grave is filled with a loose gritty calcareous soil.

The grave was marked by a rectangular monument of MDASP type FF03c with an outer revetment of up to four courses of stones.

**Grave 59** [Skeleton 128, Grave cut L:1.14m, W:410mm, Depth:600mm. Monument (17) – L: 1.8m, W:1.7m, H:270mm]

The upper part of this grave has been removed by erosion towards its eastern end where the slab roof is on the level of the surrounding surface. The north side of the grave has vertical walls down to a flat ledge 140-200mm in width. The south wall is convex with a groove 60-80mm wide forming a ledge. The flexed supine body of a **child** has the skull turned to the right and tilted forward. The upper arms are parallel with the body, the hand on the pelvis (Figure 4M.44). The chamber was roofed with large slabs up to 400mm in length with small stones filling the interstices. The grave was filled with a loose gritty calcareous soil the silty component having percolated down to fill the grave chamber.

The grave was marked by a rectangular monument of uncertain type it having been much destroyed by erosion. It was presumably similar in form originally to the FF03c and FF03d monuments elsewhere in the cemetery.

**Grave 64** [Skeleton 73, Grave cut L:2.1m, W:420mm, Depth:1.07m. Monument (6) – L:2.36m, W:1.29m, H:740mm]

The narrow rectangular grave with rounded ends contained an extended supine skeleton of an **adult** with the skull turned a little to the left and tilted forward. The right arm lies alongside the body, the left arm is flexed at the elbow with the hand on the pelvis. The skull is flanked by two small stone slabs with a third laid flat across them above the skull (Figure 4M.44, Plate 4M.39). The grave was infilled with loose gravelly calcareous soil. The grave was dug into the sloping ground and is this approximately 200mm shallower at its eastern end.

The grave was marked by a trapezoidal monument of MDASP type FF03d with an outer revetment of up to two courses of stones.

**Grave 77** [Skeleton 125, Grave cut L:2.1m, W:620mm, Depth:1.13m. Monument (16) – L:3.05m, W:1.84m, H:590mm]

A rectangular grave with slightly sloping ledges along both sides 90-120mm in width between 270mm and 310mm above the base of the cut. The extended supine **adult** was laid in the grave measuring 210-350mm wide at the bottom (Plate 4M.32). The right shoulder is shrugged up, the upper arms are parallel to the body with the hands on the pelvis. Some skin and textile are preserved particularly at the feet where there are many lengths of binding (Figure 4M.44). A roof of large stone slabs up to 540mm in length rests on the ledges with a few smaller stones over the interstices. The fill consists of a loose gritty calcareous soil.

The grave was marked by a rectangular monument of MDASP type FF03d with an outer revetment of up to five courses of stones. Amongst the stones on the top is quartzite gravel.

**Grave 79** [Skeleton 126, Grave cut L:2.2m, W:620mm, Depth:890mm. Monument (15) – L:3.31m, W:1.87m, H:780mm]

The rectangular grave had irregular ledges along both sides at a depth of about 600mm below the surface, 40-90mm wide to the south and 160mm wide and sloping to the north. The extended supine skeleton of an **adult** had its upper arms alongside the body, the hands next to each other on the pelvis (Figure 4M.44). Eight large slabs up to 600mm in length rested on the ledges with a few smaller stones blocking the interstices. The upper fill was of loose gritty calcareous soil the fine silt component had percolated down into the chamber where clear water deposited layers were visible.

The grave was marked by a rectangular monument of MDASP type FF03d with an outer revetment of up to five courses of stones.

*Material associated with the grave.*

Pottery  
– [80]

**Grave 117** [Skeleton 138, Grave cut L:2.22m, W:500mm, Depth:1.29m. Monument (35) – L:2.36m, W:1.78m, H:750mm]

The rectangular grave had rounded ends at the surface, at the bottom the west end was squared off. The ledges along both sides taper markedly to the east; 140mm to 100mm and 150mm to 80mm. The extended supine skeleton of an **adult** is slightly bent along its length, the pelvis being a little to the north of the rest of the body. The upper arms are parallel with the body, the hands rest on the pelvis (Figure 4M.44). The head is slightly tilted to the left. Immediately adjacent to the head on its right side is a small slab against which it rests. Set almost vertically against the west end of the grave is a tall narrow slab (550 x 180 x 110mm) (Plate 4M.40). Resting on the ledges were seven large slabs (max. 520 x 460mm) with many other slabs and smaller stones resting upon them. The fill above was compacted sand with numerous small granite gravels and calcareous inclusions.

The grave was marked by a trapezoidal monument of MDASP type FF03d with an outer revetment of up to four courses of stones.

*Material associated with the grave.*

Organic  
Wood – [119]

**Grave 120** [Skeleton 129, Grave cut L:2.17m, W:520mm, Depth:800mm. Monument (36) – L:2.61m, W:1.87m, H:1.09m]

The rectangular grave had rounded ends and vertical sides apart from the east end which slopes down at an angle of approximately 45°. It contained the body of an **adult**. The upper part of which is supine, the pelvis is rotated through 90° anti-clockwise while the legs are slightly flexed and rest on their right side (Figure 4M.44, Plates 4M.41 & 4M.42). The upper arms lie parallel to the torso

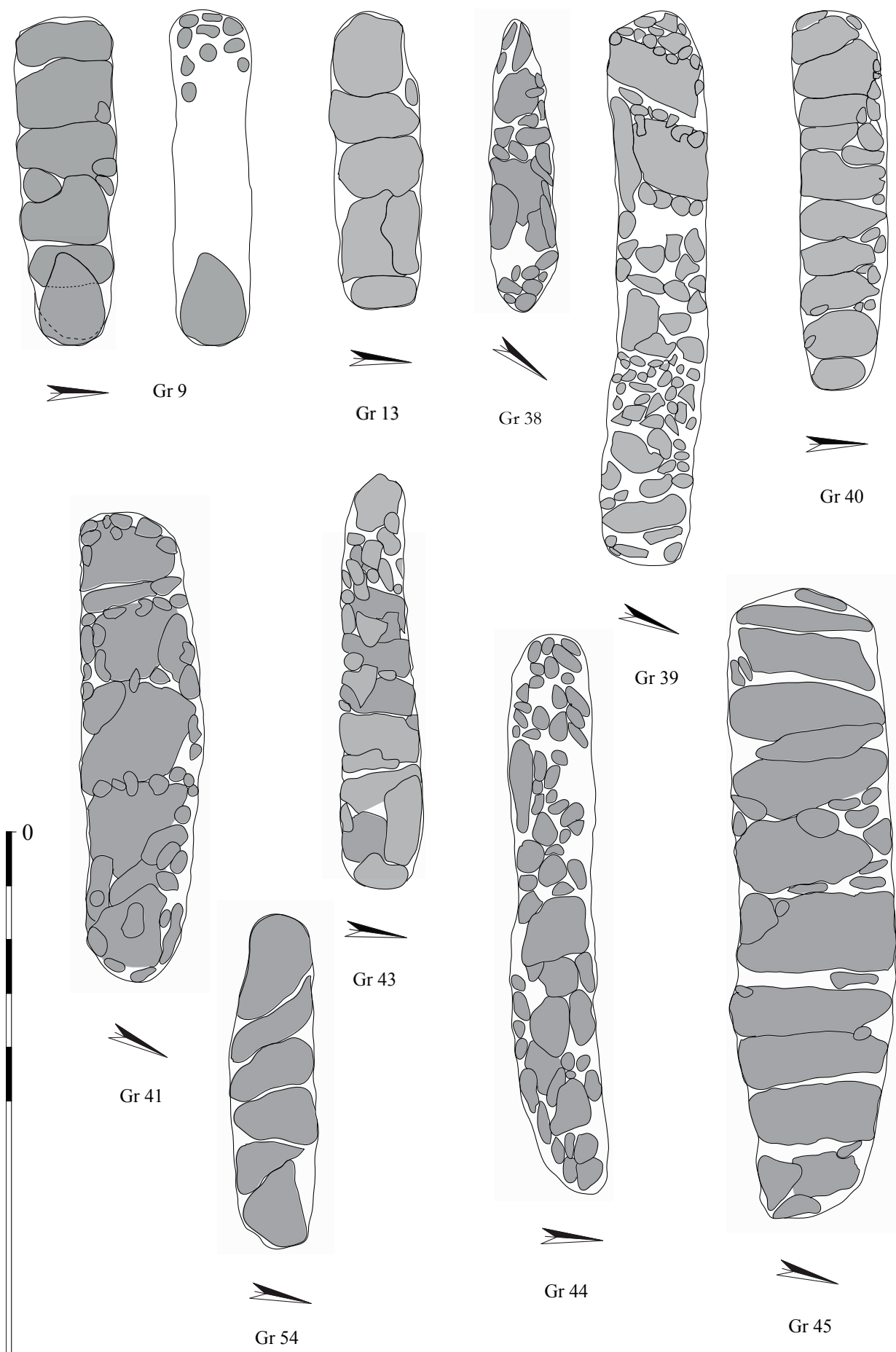


Figure 4M.43. Plan of graves 9-54 at the level of the burial chamber roof (scale 1:20).



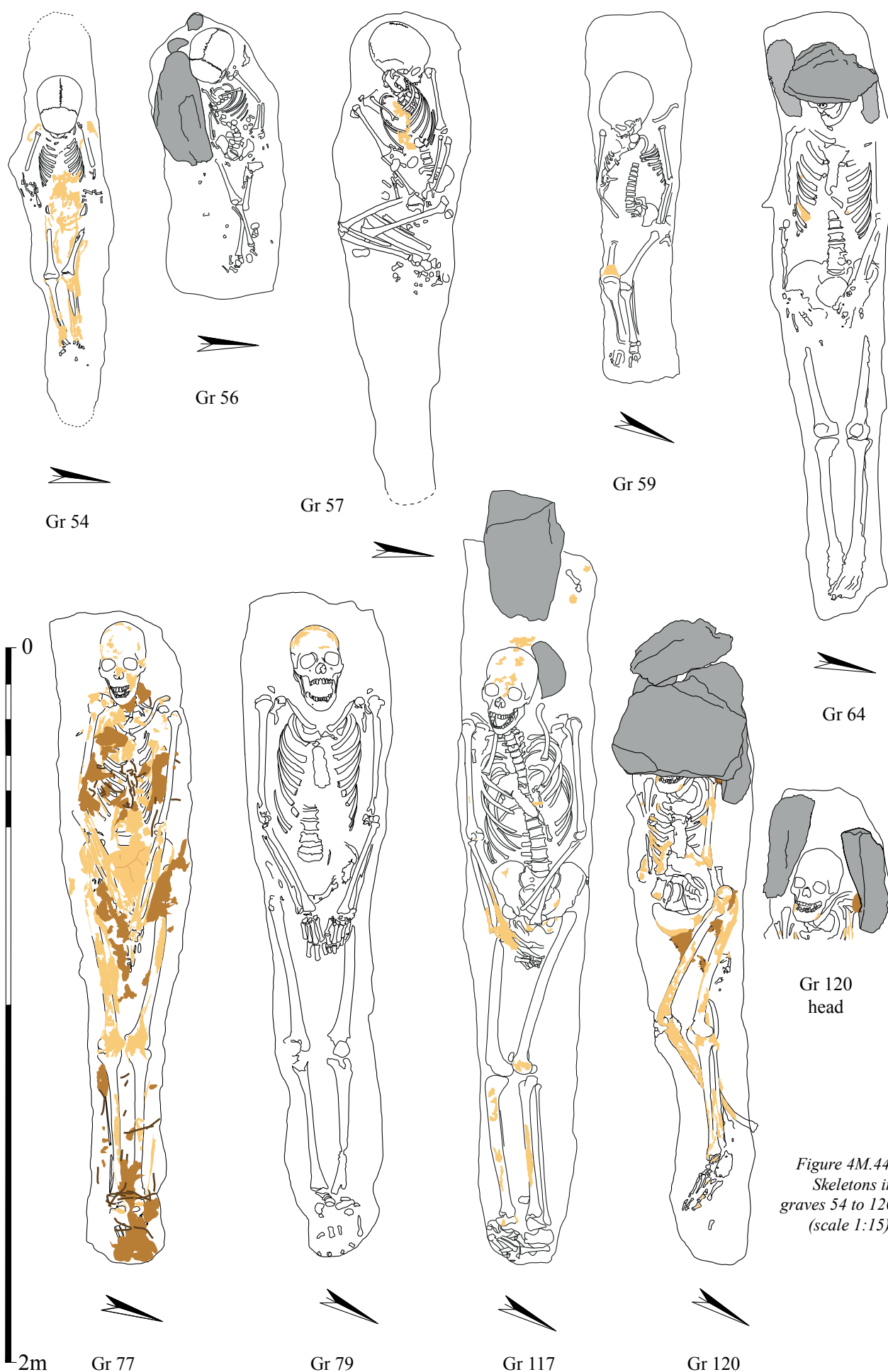


Figure 4M.44.  
Skeletons in  
graves 54 to 120  
(scale 1:15).



with the left lower arm under the pelvis. The right lower arm is placed on the right humerus with the hand next to the head. Two small slabs on edge flank the skull across which was laid a flat slab 320 x 270mm in size and a slab (230 x 80mm) was set on edge upon it against the west end of the grave (Plate 4M.42). The upper fill was of loose gravel with calcareous inclusions.

The grave was marked by a rectangular monument of MDASP type FF03d with an outer revetment of up to three courses of stones. It has slightly collapsed down the slope on its northern side.

**Grave 122** [Skeleton 130, Grave cut L:2.18m, W:390mm, Depth:?. Monument (34) – L:3.71m, W:1.64m, H:810mm] Oval grave narrowing towards its eastern end. It contained an extended supine **adult** .... with its arms alongside the body, the hands over the upper thighs. Some fragments of textile and skin remain (Figure 4M.46). Three slabs set on edge formed a box to either side and above the head across which was laid a fourth slab (340 x 180 x 40mm). The grave was filled with a loose fill of compact lumps of sandy silt.

The grave was marked by a rectangular monument of MDASP type FF03d with an outer revetment of up to four courses of stones. It has slightly collapsed down the slope at its western end. Surrounding the monument and 600mm from it was a ring of a single row of stones delimiting an area 4.39-4.17 x 2.82-2.79m.

*Material associated with the grave.*

#### Pottery

[123]

**Grave 131** [Skeleton 161, Grave cut L:1.5m, W:360mm, Depth:810mm. Monument (19) – L:1.72m, W:1.56m, H:140mm]

A rectangular grave with rounded ends. At a depth of 570-600mm were two grooves dug along the sides, 70-120mm wide to the north and 50-80mm wide to the south. The extended supine skeleton of a **child** had its upper arms parallel to the body, hands on the pelvis (Figure 4M.46). The roof was carefully constructed of stone slabs up to 420 x 250mm in size. The grave was filled with a loose gritty calcareous soil.

The monument here is ill-defined being nothing more than a concentration of stones. The dimensions given do not represent the size of the original monument.

**Grave 133** [Skeleton 188, Grave cut L:1.22m, W:460mm, Depth:800mm. Monument (18) – L:1.86m, W:1.8m, H:?.] Rectangular grave with a slightly sloping south side. At a depth of 600mm, a maximum of 200mm above the base of the cut were ledges on each side 80-100mm and 50-70mm wide. The extended supine skeleton of a **child** had its upper right arm parallel to the body, the hand on the pelvis, the left arm was alongside the body (Figure 4M.46). A well constructed roof of six stone slabs formed the roof. On these at the west end was a very large round stone with a thin slab set on edge next to it. Also resting on the slabs was a thick layer of small stones (Figure 4M.45). Above the grave was filled with loose gritty calcareous soil, loose soft silt from which had percolated down to fill the burial chamber

The monument here is ill-defined having collapsed down the slope to the west. It is nothing more than a concentration of stones. The dimensions given do not represent the size of the original monument.

**Grave 135** [Skeleton 157, Grave cut L:1.96m, W:460mm, Depth:700mm. Monument (26) – L:3.3m, W:1.3m, H:630mm]

The rectangular grave with rounded ends only had a ledge along its north side 50-80mm wide at between 300mm and 360mm above the bottom of the cut. The extended supine inhumation of an **adult** .... has its upper arms parallel to the body, hand on the pelvis. The skull, which was turned to the left, was devoid of organic material while the rest of the body was covered in very well preserved textile underneath which parts of the mummified soft tissue could be seen (Figure 4M.46). A layer of stone slabs (average size 280 x 250 x 80mm) formed a roof with a few small stones over the interstices sealed by silty fill with calcareous inclusions. Some of the silt had percolated down filling the burial chamber.

The grave was marked by a trapezoidal monument of MDASP type FF03d with an outer revetment of up to four courses of stones.

*Material associated with the grave.*

#### Jewellery

SF:465 – earring, copper alloy,

SF:70 – pendant, copper alloy and iron - associated with the body.

**Grave 137** [Skeleton 163, Grave cut L:1.37m, W:320mm, Depth:560mm. Monument (27) – L:2.1m, W:1m, H:390mm]

An oval grave with ledges 60-89mm wide along both sides at a depth of between 350mm and 420mm from the surface. The grave was a maximum of 190mm deep below the ledges. The extended supine burial of a **child** had its upper arms parallel to the body, the hands next to each other on the pelvis. The body had been wrapped in textile and leather (Figure 4M.46, Plate 4M.30). A layer of small slabs varying greatly in size, some set transversely, roofed the burial. The upper fill was of silt with calcareous inclusions; the silt had percolated down filling the burial chamber.

The grave was marked by a rectangular monument of MDASP type FF03d with an outer revetment of up to three courses of stones. The eastern edge has collapsed down the slope.

**Grave 139** [Skeleton 190, Grave cut L:1.22m, W:270mm, Depth:490mm. Monument (28) – L:2.1m, W:1.58m, H:200mm]

The rectangular grave with rounded ends has a ledge 50-70mm wide along the south side and a groove on the other side forming a ledge 70mm wide, both between 150mm and 210mm above the base of the cut. The partially mummified body of a **child** was laid in an extended supine position with the arms alongside the body (Figure 4M.46). Resting on the ledges were five slabs one resting partly on another. These were sealed by a layer of small stones (average size 200 x 120 x 40mm) (Plate 4M.37) above which the grave was filled with silt and calcareous inclusions.

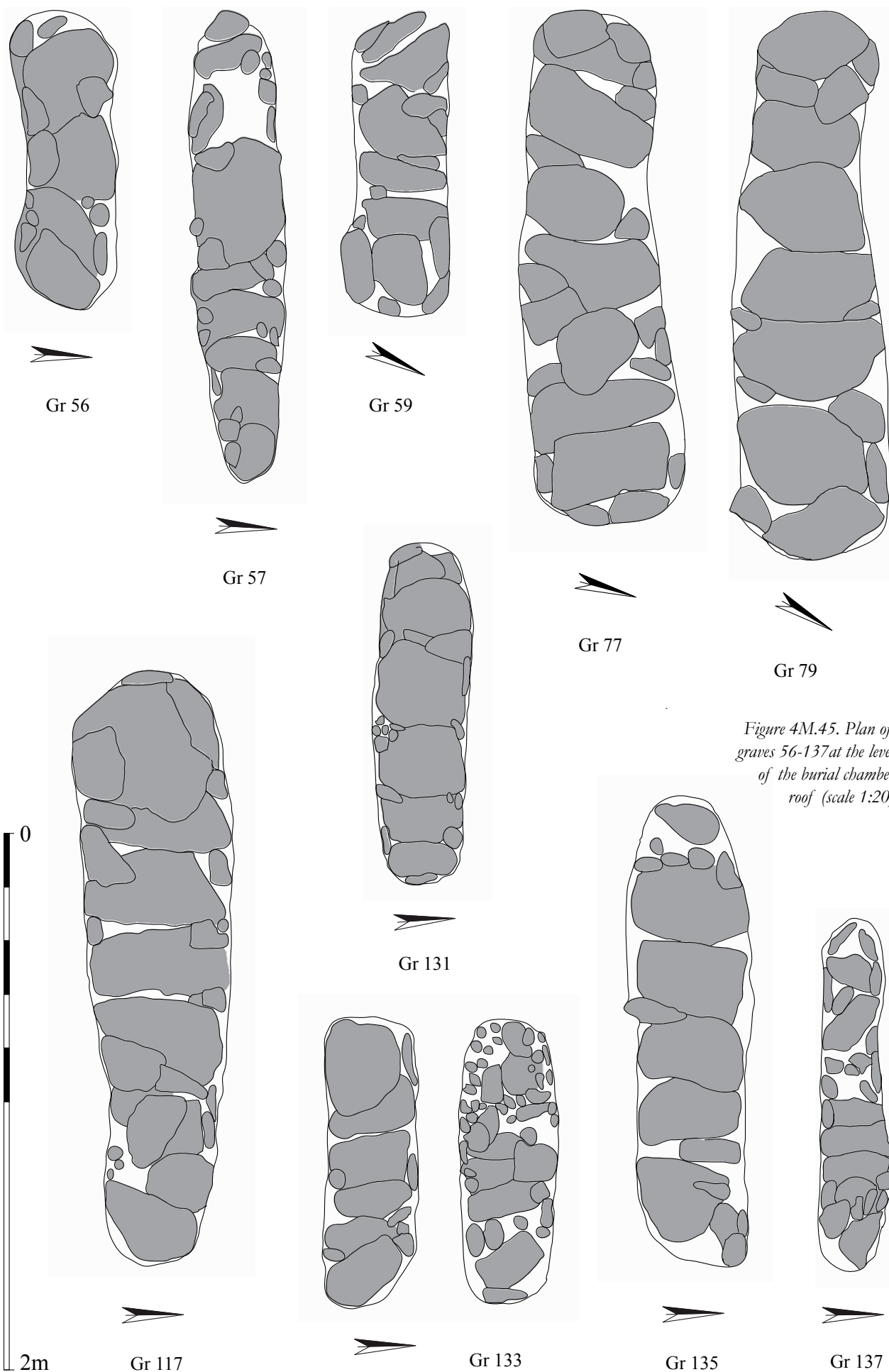


Figure 4M.45. Plan of graves 56-137 at the level of the burial chamber roof (scale 1:20)

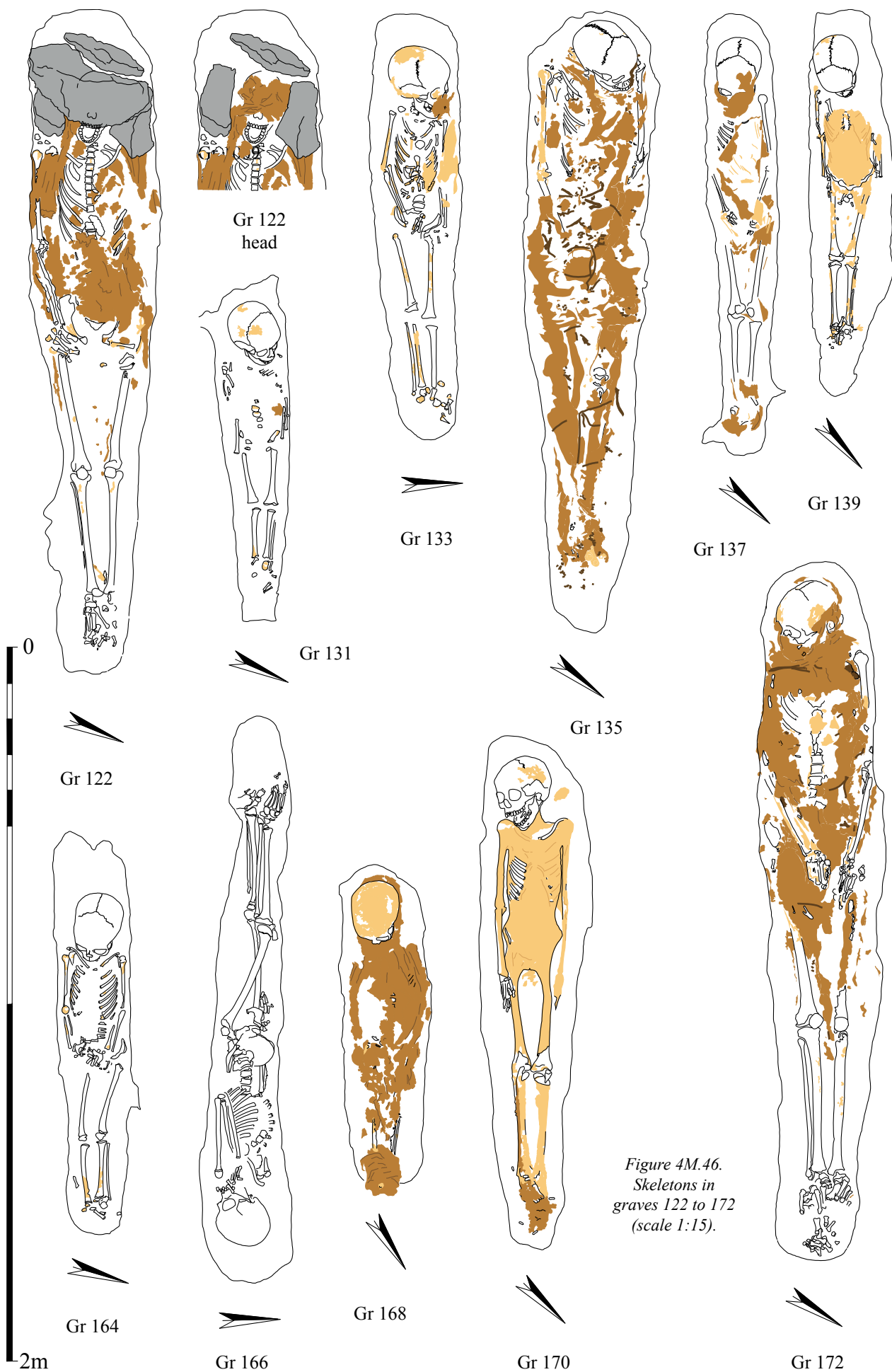


Figure 4M.46.  
Skeletons in  
graves 122 to 172  
(scale 1:15).

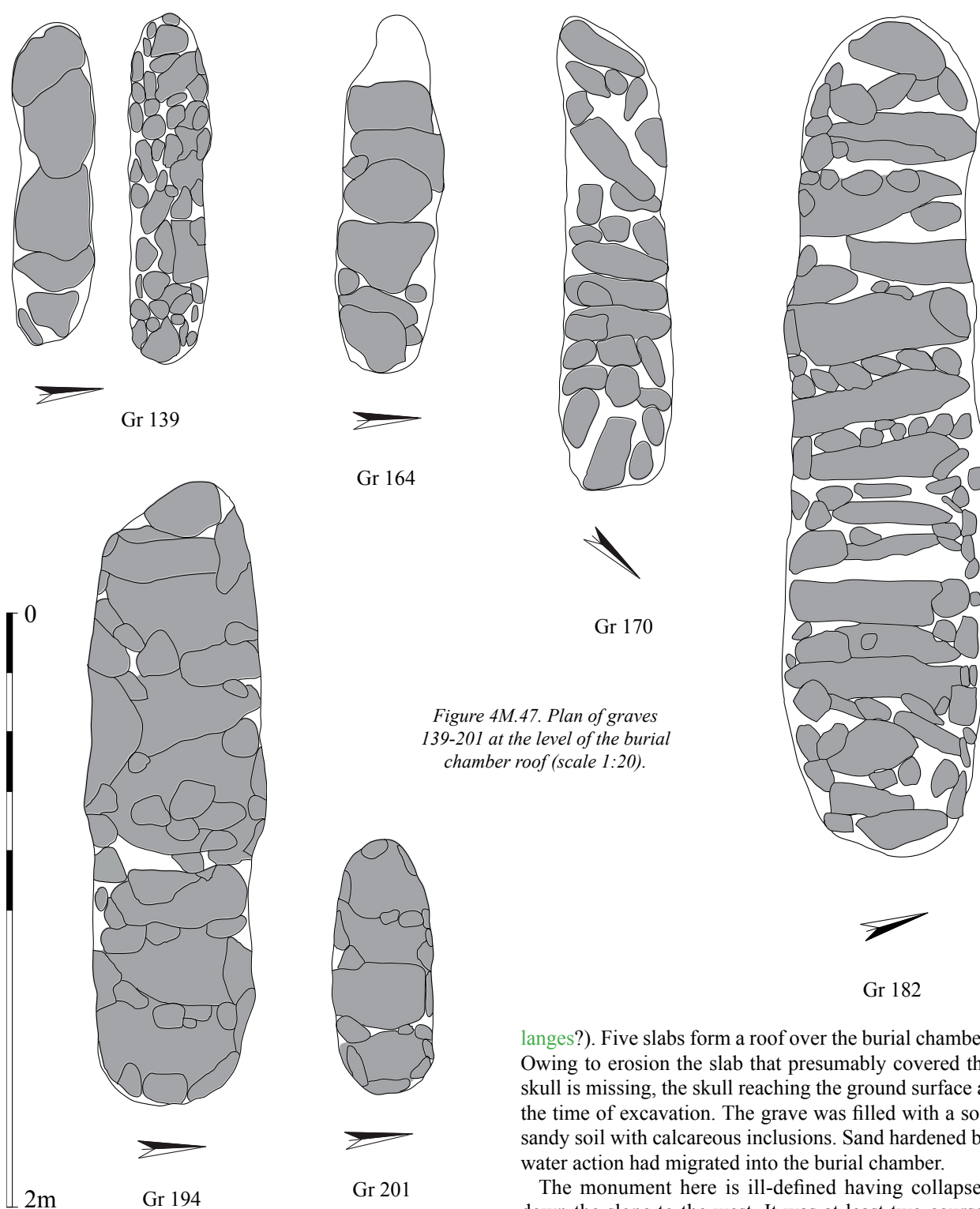


Figure 4M.47. Plan of graves 139-201 at the level of the burial chamber roof (scale 1:20).

The monument here is ill-defined having collapsed down the slope to the east. The dimensions given do not represent the size of the original monument.

**Grave 164** [Skeleton 177, Grave cut L:1.26m, W:350mm, Depth:480mm. Monument (20) – L:1.54m, W:1.5m, H:400mm]

The sides of this oval grave are undercut in their upper part to form ledges on both sides 80-120mm and 70-100mm wide. The extended supine skeleton of a **child** has the upper arms parallel to the body, the hands on the pelvis. The head is tipped forward (Figure 4M.46). On the left side of the chest were some animal bones (**pig pha-**

**langes?**). Five slabs form a roof over the burial chamber. Owing to erosion the slab that presumably covered the skull is missing, the skull reaching the ground surface at the time of excavation. The grave was filled with a soft sandy soil with calcareous inclusions. Sand hardened by water action had migrated into the burial chamber.

The monument here is ill-defined having collapsed down the slope to the west. It was at least two courses high. The dimensions given do not represent the size of the original monument.

**Grave 166** [Skeleton 178, Grave cut L:1.67m, W:420mm, Depth:260mm. Monument (23) – L:1.83m, W:510mm, H: ?mm]

Very shallow oval grave tapering towards the west end. The extended inhumation of a juvenile was laid on its right side, the right arm extended under the body, the left leg crossed over the right at the thigh. The left arm is tightly flexed at the elbow, the hand touching the face. The head is rotated so that it is facing backwards (Figure 4M.46, Plate 4M.29). It was sealed by sand and water-hardened



silt beneath the slabs of the monument.

The grave was marked by a line of stones of MDASP type FF02f.

As the burial attitude suggested that this grave was of Islamic date the skeleton was left *in situ* and reburied.

**Grave 168** [Skeleton 174, Grave cut L:1m, W:280mm, Depth:400mm. Monument (29) – L:2.2m, W:1.36m, H:?] The oval grave contained the extended supine body of a **child** covered in textile much of which survives apart from on the head (Figure 4M.46). It was sealed by the fill of silt and sand with calcareous inclusions.

The monument here is ill-defined having collapsed down the slope to the north and west. The dimensions given do not represent the size of the original monument.

**Grave 170** [Skeleton 195, Grave cut L:1.7m, W:390mm, Depth:?. Monument (33) – L:2.3m, W:1.8m, H:?] The oval grave tapers towards its eastern end. It contained the extended supine body of a **sub-adult/adolescent** ..... with its arms alongside the body and its head turned to the right. It is naturally mummified retaining large areas of skin (Figure 4M.46). The western end of the grave is covered by three stone slabs which are sealed by another layer of slabs (Figure 4M.47) extending over the whole grave. This grave appears to have been much truncated by erosion; these stone slabs being on the ground surface at the time of excavation. Soft earth lay under the slabs on the body.

The monument here is ill-defined having collapsed down the slope to the north. The dimensions given do not represent the size of the original monument.

**Grave 172** [Skeleton 179, Grave cut L:2.06m, W:340mm, Depth:630mm. Monument (32) – L:1.75m, W:1.15m, H:?]

The rectangular grave with rounded ends contained an extended supine body of an **adult** .... The upper arms are parallel to the body, the hands on the pelvis. The head is turned to the right. Some skin and much textile survive on the face, torso and upper legs (Figure 4M.46). The grave was filled with silt including calcareous inclusions.

The monument here is ill-defined having collapsed down the slope to the north. The dimensions given do not represent the size of the original monument.

**Grave 182** [Skeleton 191, Grave cut L:2.8m, W:620mm, Depth:1.2m. Monument (1) – L:3.4m, W:2.26m, H:590mm]

The rectangular grave had ledges along each side 100-160mm and 160-230mm in width between 300mm and 410mm above the bottom of the cut. It contained an extended supine skeleton of an **adult** ..... with its arms alongside the body, the hands on the thighs. The head was turned to the right and protected on both sides and behind by three slabs set on edge (Figure 4M.46, Plate 4M.33). The burial chamber was carefully roofed with 13 large slabs set transversely with smaller stones covering the interstices (Figure 4M.47, Plate 4M.35). The grave was filled with loosely packed lumps of hard calcareous soil. Silty soil had been moved by water action through the roofing to fill the chamber below. At the surface it was partly sealed by stones only at each end of the grave.

The grave was marked by a rectangular monument of

MDASP type FF03d. What must have been an impressive monument has been extensively disturbed, much of its elevation toppled to the north. Up to three courses of its outer revetment remained. Beneath the tumble was a human skull [5]. Beneath the box grave superstructure on the surface of the grave fill and standing proud of the surface was a row of stones abutting each other over a distance of 3.6m, many slabs set transversely (Plate 4M.38).

**Grave 193** [Skeleton 197, Grave cut L:1.1m, W:500mm, Depth:250mm. Monument (30) – L:1.46m, W:1.24m, H:370mm]

The small sub-rectangular grave was a shallow bowl-shaped depression east-west containing the skeleton of a **neonate/newborn child** wrapped in textile (Figure 4M.46). The grave was filled with soft soil.

The grave was marked by a trapezoidal monument of MDASP type FF03d which also partly overlies grave 201.

**Grave 194** [Skeleton 209, Grave cut L:2.3m, W:500mm, Depth:500mm. Monument (31) – L:3.5m, W:1.45m, H:620mm]

The rectangular grave with rounded ends has ledges 140-200mm and 110-250mm wide along both sides and also around the east end. They are approximately 220mm above the floor of the grave. It contained the extended supine skeleton of an **adult** ..... with the upper arms parallel to the body, the hands on the pelvis. The head is turned to the right and tilted a little forward. Textile and skin survive over extensive areas of the body (Figure 4M.46). The burial chamber was roofed with large slabs with small stones filling the interstices. These were sealed by a deposit 140-200mm thick of a gravelly soil. Sat on this at the west end of the grave were three large slabs. The grave was then filled with soft soil containing an admixture of gravel. Soft soil had percolated through the roof to fill the burial chamber.

The grave was marked by a rectangular monument of MDASP type FF03d with an outer revetment of up to six courses of stones. The western edge has collapsed down the slope.

*Material associated with the grave.*

#### Jewellery

SF:2090 – ring, copper alloy - associated with the body.

**Grave 201** [Skeleton 208, Grave cut L:920mm, W:400mm, Depth:550mm. Monument (30) – L:1.46m, W:1.24m, H:370mm]

The oval grave has ledges along both sides 70mm and 70-110mm in width and around the east end. The ledges are between 230mm and 270mm above the floor of the grave. It contained the extended supine burial of an **infant** with the upper arms alongside the body and certainly with the right hand on the pelvis. The head is turned a little to the right and tipped forward. Much textile survives on the lower part of the body (Figure 4M.46). A roof of four stone slabs rested on the ledges, the interstices covered by small stones. These were covered by a layer of gravelly soil and the upper fill was very soft soil. Further soft soil had percolated into and filled the burial chamber.

The grave was marked by a trapezoidal monument of MDASP type FF03d which also partly overlies grave 193. It has an outer revetment of up to three courses of stones.