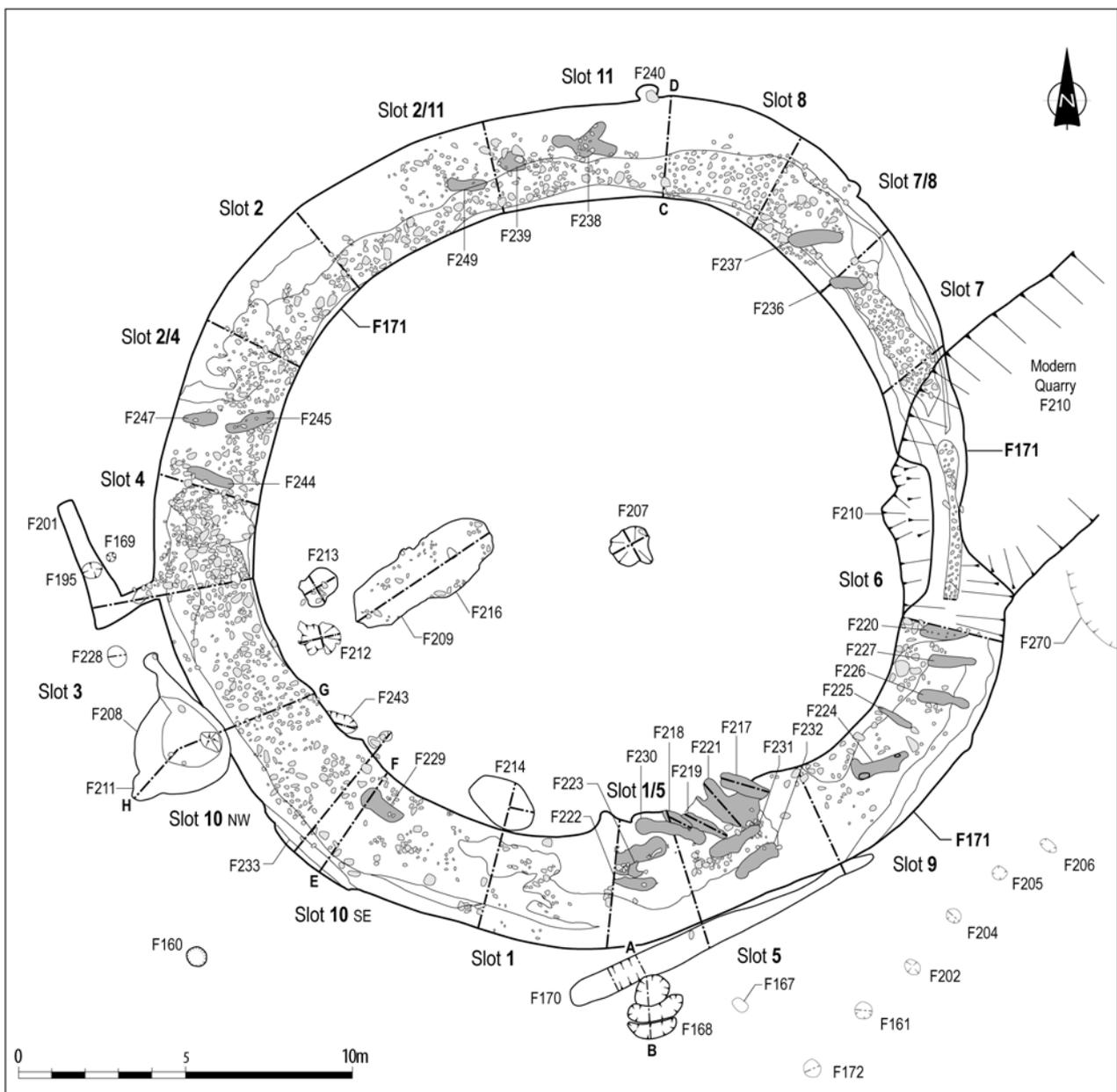


4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

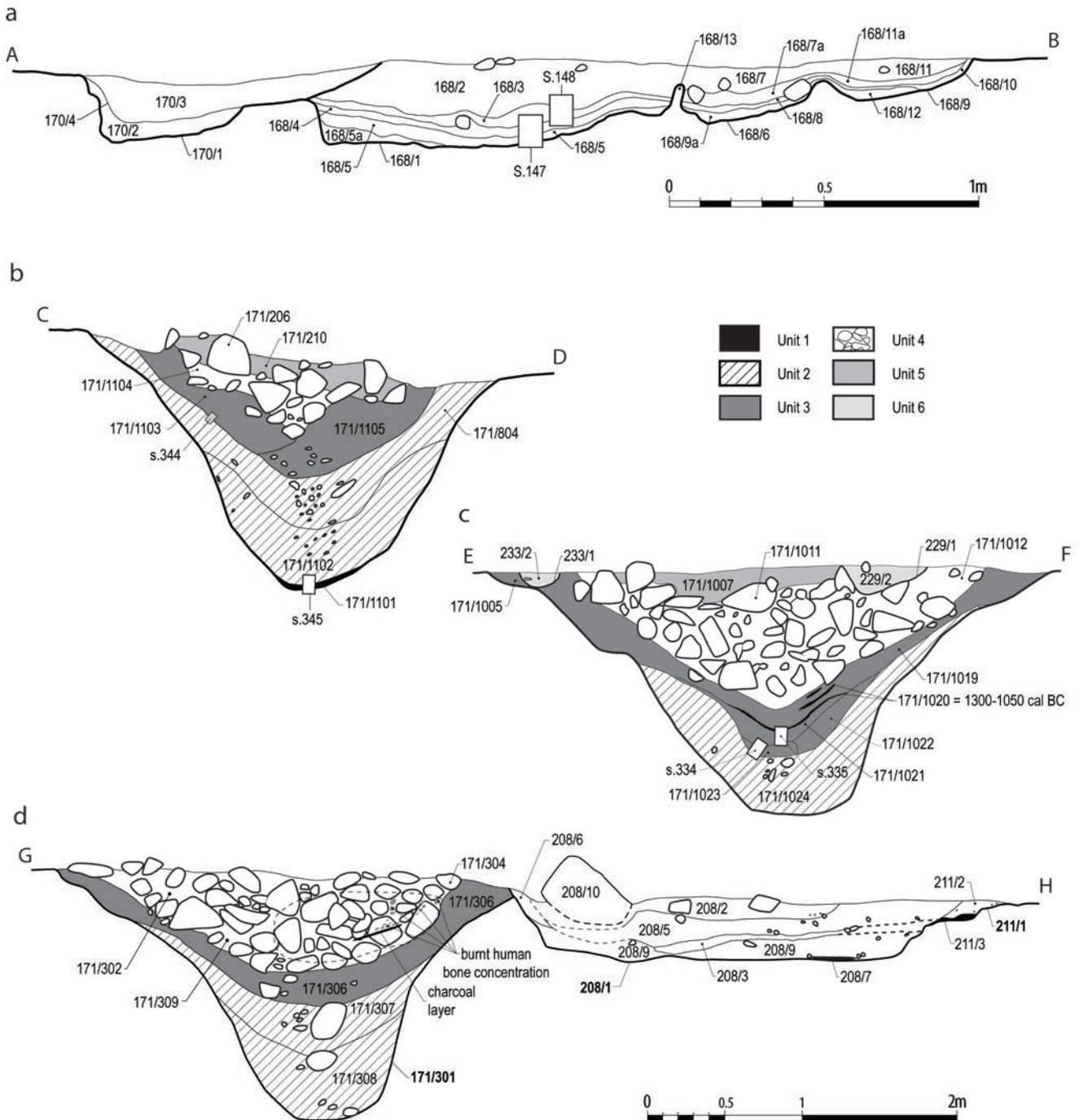
4.1 General

The Kiltaraglen development lay within improved pasture grass fields bounded variously by stone walls, hedges and fences, along which were ditched drains and stunted trees. These fields have not recently been ploughed and Home Farm itself is no longer an operational farm. The homogeneous topsoil was an average of 0.3m deep. Stone-filled field drains, occasionally containing ceramic pipes,

were recorded. No traces of either rig-and-furrow or lazy-beds were identified. Archaeological remains were concentrated on the broad ridge leading north-west from Storr Road (*illus 2*) and no soils were preserved between the topsoil and natural subsoil in that area. This subsoil contained frequent basalt cobbles and boulders, often degrading, and was predominantly an orange-grey mixed boulder clay, with water draining relatively easily though interleaving deposits of gritty, sandier material and clay-silt.



*Illus 4 Pre-excitation plan of the circular enclosure showing Slots 1–11, features cut into the upper fills and the location of sections on *illus 5**



Illus 5 Sections through (a) ditch F170 and Beaker Pit F168, and the enclosure ditch F171 (b) slot 8 E facing, (c) slot 10 SE facing, and (d) slot 3 NW facing with pits F208 and F211

Natural boulders protruded from the subsoil in places and these were often heavily plough-scored. Both the vertical and horizontal edges of most cut features had developed a thick deposit of iron-pan, inhibiting drainage but making them very easy to trace during excavation. In addition, slight shrinkage/compaction of the fills over time had allowed a very thin band of brown silt and rootlets to permeate down vertical and angled cuts against the iron-pan.

The excavation identified 270 individual features

and although some were revealed to be agricultural in origin, produced either where protruding stones had been plucked out by the plough or where they had been dug out by hand to enable ploughing, many formed coherent sites (*illus 3*). They included:

- a circular ditched enclosure with later Bronze/Iron Age features;
- two Late Bronze Age unenclosed post-built roundhouses, one with a ring-ditch structure within it;

- three post-alignments and a ditch enclosing a post-setting;
- two features characteristic of ‘miniature’ souterrains;
- pits containing ferrous metalworking debris;
- pits containing Beaker pottery.

4.2 Neolithic pottery

A rim sherd of finely decorated Hebridean Late Neolithic pottery was recovered from the banded topsoil close to the enclosure. None of the excavated features could be ascribed either by artefacts or by radiocarbon to this period and the source of the pottery remains unknown.

4.3 Early Bronze Age pits

Two pit features contained Beaker pottery. The first (F134, *illus 3* and 23b) appeared to have been part of a curving alignment of eight or nine (excluding F116) otherwise undated features which are further described below (*Section 4.8*). F134, at the eastern end of the alignment was circular, measuring 0.45m in diameter and 0.2m deep. Location clearly mattered as its excavation involved the partial quarrying of a substantial basalt boulder. The cut (134/1) had a flat base and the sides rose at 45° before becoming vertical. A primary fill of sterile redeposited natural subsoil (134/3) underlay an upper fill (134/2) of red-brown silt and charcoal which contained two decorated sherds of Beaker pottery. The vertical-sided and flat-based nature of the boundary between these contexts suggests either that 134/2 was a post-pipe or that it had been shaped by an organic container within it. Radiocarbon dating of alder charcoal in 134/2 (*Section 6.5*) resulted in determinations of between 2550 and 2200 cal BC at 2σ .

The second feature (F168, *illus 4*) was much more complex. It was situated on the southern edge of enclosure F171, but was separated from it by a short linear ditch (F170) which was revealed by excavation to cut both features. F168 measured 1.9m by 1.4m and was aligned close to north–south. It was formed from three distinct elements (168/1, 6, 9) which consisted respectively of an oval scoop with two conjoined kidney-shaped scoops to the south. In section (*illus 5a*), the fills, though interrupted by the undulating nature of the three scoops, clearly indicated that the feature had been filled as one. The fills consisted of a primary deposit (168/5, 5a, 9a, 12) of yellow-buff silt which might be a product of erosion and suggest that the pit lay open for a period of time. The primary deposits were overlain by dark red-brown charcoal-rich silt (168/4, 8, 10) which underlay a similar deposit without charcoal (168/3, 7a, 11a). The upper fill (168/2, 7, 11) consisted of red-brown silt. Beaker pottery (112 sherds representing 47 vessels) was recovered from contexts within these fills, as were 14 mudstone lithics,

some displaying quite exceptionally regular retouch skills. Phosphate levels from samples taken from the section (Samples 147–8, *illus 5a*) demonstrated enhanced values roughly equivalent to those from possibly domestic settings, but did not indicate sufficient enhancement to suggest a burial was formerly present.

Two radiocarbon dates were obtained from wood charcoal mixed with the Beaker pottery in F168/4 (*Section 6.5*), and show that this deposit almost certainly did not form before 2550 cal BC. A chi-squared test indicates that the dates are not significantly different from those of Pit F134.

4.4 Circular enclosure

The enclosure was located on a slight east-facing slope, just off the broad crest of the ridge (*illus 4, 6*). It measured between 19.5m and 20.2m internally and 26m externally, giving an average diameter of 3m for the continuous ditch, which averaged 1.5m deep. The feature was excavated in segments (designated ‘slots’, see *illus 4*). A modern quarry (F210) had cut into the eastern side of the enclosure.

Although nearly circular in overall dimensions, straighter sections were revealed on the enclosure’s south and south-west sides, with a slight narrowing on the north-east. To the west, where the feature approached a large circular pit (F208), it appeared to narrow and deviate slightly from its smooth arc (*illus 7*).

The feature was cut through boulder clay (003) containing lenses of both stiff impermeable clay and softer sand through which water rapidly percolated. The upper part of the ditch’s profile (*illus 5b–d*) sloped at an angle of 45°, with the base being U-shaped. Cobbles and massive boulders were frequently encountered and it was clear that these had been either broken up sufficiently to allow the excavation of the ditch, leaving jagged edges exposed in its sides, or they had been levered out whole and the resulting cavity filled with excavated material to maintain the ditch’s intended profile. In three locations, further information was gained. In Slot 6, a slightly protruding boulder had what appeared to be the scar of a metal adze/chisel-type tool on its surface. In Slot 9, what may be the scar of an antler-tine pick was recorded in a layer of soft clay. In Slots 7 and 7/8, the natural subsoil surface was exceptionally compact and here, the intended smooth arc of the outer edge of the ditch had been pecked out to form a narrow guiding slot or groove. Later, when the main ditch excavation work took place, the compaction of the subsoil apparently defied the efforts of the workers and the ditch was allowed to narrow, reducing the requirement to excavate the compact subsoil and leaving an unexcavated baulk between the initial pecked slot and the ditch itself.

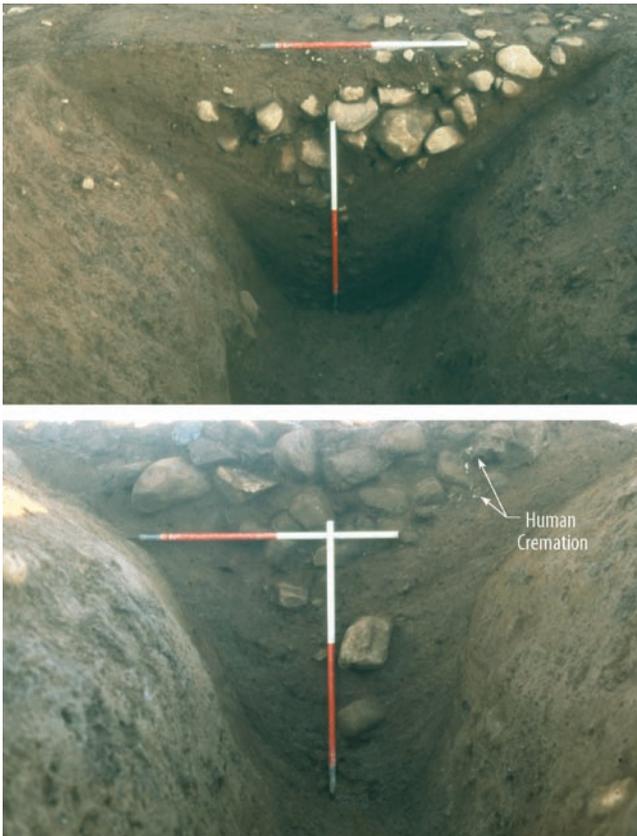
In overview, the fills of the ditch consisted of redeposited natural subsoil (Unit 2) in the base, with soil (Unit 3), varying volumes of stones (Unit



Illus 6 Elevated view of the circular enclosure from the south-west



Illus 7 The enclosure ditch F171 bending to avoid a circular pit (F208) with the slot 10 NW section in the background



Illus 8 Sections of Slot 2 (top) and Slot 3 (bottom) with the human cremation indicated

4), and further soil (Unit 5) forming a sequence of upper levels. Representative section drawings from Slots 3, 10SE and 11 (*illus 5b-d*) and photographs of Slot 2 and 3 sections (*illus 8*) are presented. As the enclosure was constructed on a slight north-east-facing slope and the ditch was a relatively constant depth, water would have tended to accumulate in the north-eastern arc and this portion of the ditch (Slots 7-8, 11) was the only place where what may be described as primary deposits (Unit 1) were preserved. These took the form of laminated deposits of buff and creamy-yellow silt with a maximum depth of 0.05m. No artefacts or environmental remains were recovered from these primary fills, and their excavation was hindered by both frequent rain and constant water seepage from the natural subsoil which required pumping out daily.

Unit 2 consisted of a deep layer or layers of buff/yellow-brown redeposited natural subsoil, from which all stones larger than around 100mm in diameter appeared to have been removed, a suggestion stemming from the frequency of larger rocks and boulders in the material through which it was cut. Unit 2 sediments had entered the ditch from both sides, since tip-lines that demonstrated this were apparent in most of the sections and the larger clasts had accumulated along the longitudinal axis of the ditch. Soil micromorphological analysis (Sample 344, *illus 5b*) suggests that Unit 2 represents bioturbated bank material. It also suggests that there

was a hiatus in the process of infilling before Unit 3 entered the ditch.

Unit 3 deposits were of a different nature to the gritty redeposited natural subsoil below, being characterised by a change to pinkish or reddish-brown silt with charcoal flecks. An increase in organic content was identified through soil micromorphology and these deposits were visibly more 'soil-like' than those of Unit 2. Nevertheless, Unit 3 sediments are still interpreted as being backfilled, although the method and source may change. The sections indicate that, with the exception of Slot 10NW, these deposits either entered the ditch from both sides or from the exterior. Radiocarbon dates were obtained from charcoal deposits within Unit 3 in Slot 6 (171/609) and Slot 10SE (171/1020). These indicate that the charcoal within Unit 3 was almost certainly burnt between 1310 and 1020 cal BC (2 ; *Section 6.5*).

Overlying the Unit 3 deposits in all slots was an enormous volume of often-voided basalt cobbles and boulders (Unit 4). These were not, however, evenly distributed around the circumference, with the highest number being found around the western arc of the ditch in Slots 10, 3, 4, 2/4, and 2 (*illus 4*). Fewer were recorded in the south-eastern arc, within Slots 7, 6, 9, 5 and 1/5. Examining the origin of these stones indicates that in many of the sections, the stones filled the entire upper centre of the ditch (eg *illus 7*) and consequently it is uncertain whether they entered the ditch from the interior and/or the exterior of the enclosure. In Slot 4, the section between it and Slot 3 was the only one to suggest infilling from the exterior of the enclosure whereas, in Slots 2 (*illus 8a*), 6, 5, 9 and 1, infilling appeared to occur from the interior. In Slot 3, a quantity of burnt human bone (171/303, *illus 8*) was recovered from amongst the stones and this was dated (GU-17480-1, *Table 15*) to around 2000 cal BC, suggesting incorporation of material from an earlier feature at this time. Soil deposits (Unit 5) overlay the stones in Slots 2, 11, 8, 6, 5, 1 and 10SE and again, the sections show no consistent source for this material.

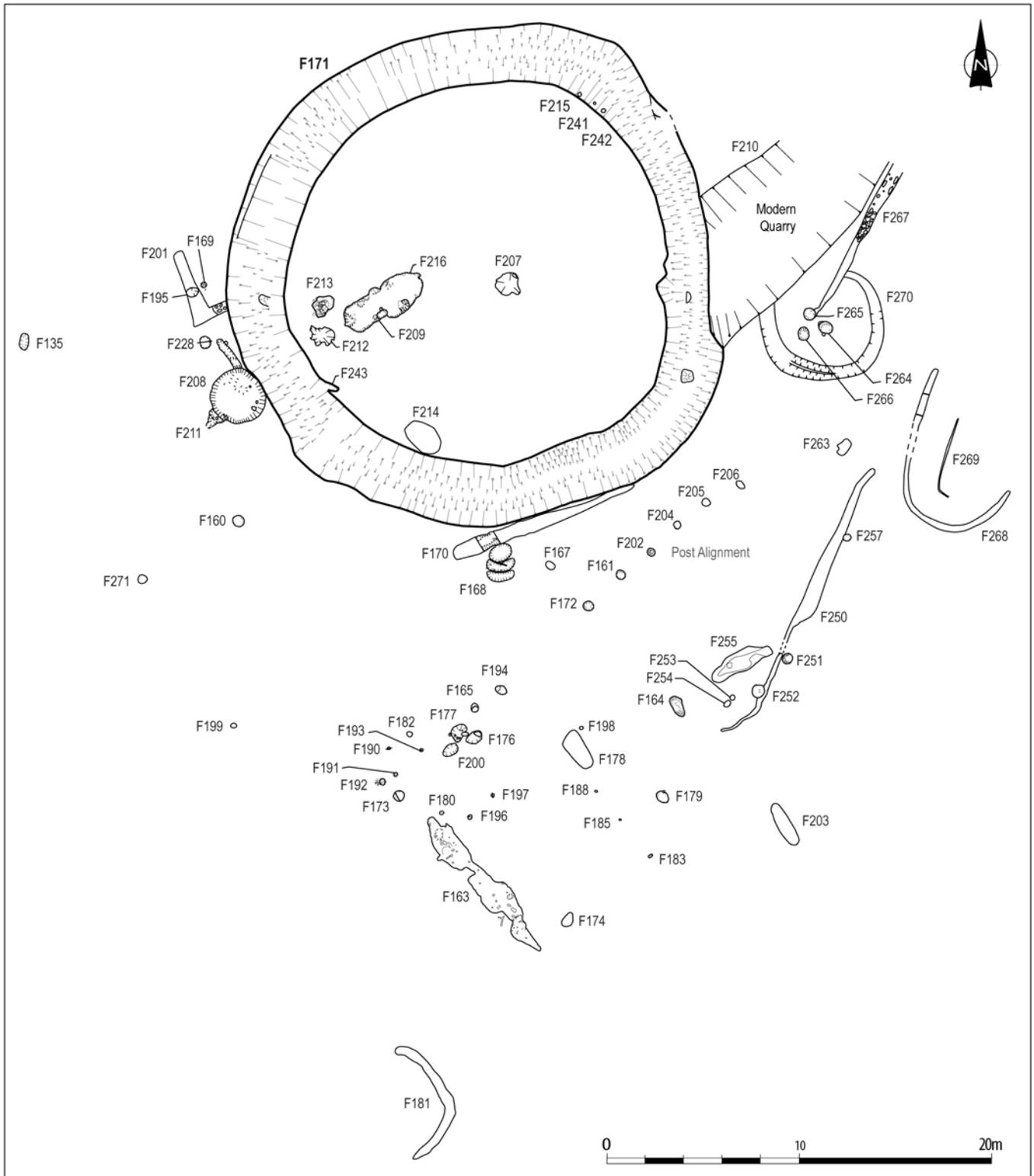
Artefacts were unevenly distributed. Pottery, mostly Late Bronze Age, was recovered from a number of contexts in Units 3 and 5 in the south and south-east around Slots 5 and 9 (171/502, 66 sherds; 171/903, 46 sherds; 171/904, 42 sherds) and in Slot 4 (171/405, 28 sherds) in the west. Lithics came from Slot 9 and Slots 3-4. Where the distribution of pottery within the ditch showed a pattern, the majority of the sherds were found towards the inner edge of the feature. A pottery sherd from Slot 10, Unit 5 may be from the same vessel as a sherd from Pit F168. Burnt bone was concentrated in Slots 3, 4 and 10, with part of a disturbed or redeposited human cremation being recovered from Slot 3. Six coarse stone tools were evenly distributed around the ditch circuit. No metalwork or substantive evidence for the use of metal tools during the excavation of the ditch was found, other than that described above.

4.4.1. Features associated with the enclosure ditch

Features described here include those wholly or partially cut into the upper fills of the enclosure ditch and those sealed by its fills, as well as a large circular pit (F208) and an L-shaped ditch (F201) to the west of the enclosure ditch (illus 4, 9).

Three small pits (F215, F241-2, illus 9) were

recorded on the inner face of the north-east side of the ditch. All were sealed beneath the Unit 5 fills and it is not possible to say whether they were truncated by the excavation of the ditch (and hence were of greater antiquity than the ditch) or whether they were contemporary with it. All were 0.5m below the lip of the ditch cut and, if earlier than the ditch, were on the same alignment. F215 was oval, 0.35m



Illus 9 Post-excavation plan of the enclosure (F171) showing F215, F241-2 and the features to the south-east



Illus 10 F171 and F208, detailed view of the ditch (unexcavated on the right) avoiding the pit (excavated on the left)

by 0.25m in surface area, and 0.15m deep. A possible packing stone was preserved and this pit contained a single fill. F241 and F242 were located 1m and 1.5m to the south-east and both were slightly smaller than F215, surviving as little more than ledges in the slope of the ditch. No artefacts were recovered.

F243 (*illus 9*), appearing as half of an originally oval pit, was located on the inner lip of the western sector of the enclosure. Although its alignment and dimensions were reminiscent of Unit 6 features, which are shown on *illus 4*, this pit appeared to be cut by the enclosure ditch and was filled with a brownish-pink gritty silt, contrasting with the Unit 6 fills of grey-brown or red-brown silty clay.

Following the infilling of the ditch, a series of 23 irregular but predominantly sausage-shaped features (Unit 6; F217–27, F229–32, F236–9, F244–5, F247, F249, *illus 4*) were formed. Both stone-based (Unit 4) and soil-based (Unit 5) ditch fills were disturbed by these features and in some cases the irregularity of the features may well stem from the nature of the deposits into which they were cut. Nevertheless, they were concentrated in the (less stony) southern portions of the enclosure ditch and, with the exception of F217 and F221, lay wholly within the ditch (*illus 4*). The pits were between 1.1m and 2.1m in length, between 0.25m and 0.5m in width and between 0.1m and 0.3m deep. Alignments

varied, with F231–2 being close to WSW–ENE but most were around north-west to south-east. As the fills of these features were notably darker than the underlying ditch fills, they probably did not involve a simple process of excavation and rapid redeposition of the excavated material. Five sherds of later prehistoric pottery were recovered from F232. What may be degraded long bones were recovered from F238, but these were not identifiable to species, and animal teeth were recovered from F245. Radiocarbon dates were obtained from the basal fill of F245 and may provide a useful *terminus ante quem* for the filling of the ditch. They calibrate to 760–400 cal BC at 2σ (*Section 6.5*).

F170 and F233 were ditches recorded on the south and south-west sides of the enclosure. Both appeared to mark the approximate outer edge of the main ditch but F170 lay just outside the arc whereas F233 was just within it. Ditch F233 was 3.8m in length and a profile is shown on *illus 5c* where it cut ditch F171 in Slot 10. Three sherds of prehistoric pottery were recovered from its homogeneous brown fill. Ditch F170 was 10m in length, 0.95m in maximum width and tapered slightly towards the east. A depth of 0.2m was recorded and the profile (*illus 5a*) suggests it was re-cut (170/4) at some stage. The upper fill of this feature was similar in nature to that in most of the Unit 6 features. F170 cut the upper fills of Pit

F168 (illus 5a) and, as did F233, the Unit 3 fill of the enclosure ditch. Four sherds of later prehistoric pottery were recovered from it.

To the west of the enclosure, Pit F211 was 0.8m in length, 0.3m in width and 0.1m deep. Originally wider and perhaps circular, it contained a surface fill of pinkish-brown silt (211/2) over a basal deposit of charcoal (211/3). Both in plan (illus 4) and in section (illus 5d) it appears to have been cut through by the much larger pit (F208). Four samples of birch and hazel charcoal from 211/2–3 were dated to 990–1210 cal AD at 2 σ (Section 6.5).

Pit F208 lay just outside the enclosure ditch, which appeared to kink slightly inwards to avoid it (illus 7, 9–10). It was noticeable however that the upper fill of the pit (208/6) cut the Unit 3 fill of the ditch (illus 5d). Pit F208 was circular and had a diameter of 2.8m with a depth of 0.4m. An irregular projection to the north was shallow and may be natural. After F208 cut Pit F211, it may be that charcoal eroded from the exposed section onto the floor of the pit (208/7) prior to the deposition of its primary fill (208/9). This argument is based on the wood charcoal species, either birch or hazel, and on the fact that all six dates (F208/F211, Section 6.5) pass a chi-squared test and could all therefore derive from the same event. An orange-brown gritty silt formed the primary fill; this was overlain by a lens of redeposited natural subsoil (208/3). Over this was a further deposit of orange-brown gravelly silt (208/5) and the upper fill was a dark orange-grey smooth clay-silt (208/2). Prior to excavation, a massive irregular boulder (208/10) with dimensions of 0.75m by 0.5m lay loosely on the surface of the feature and it may be that this was disturbed during bulldozer removal of topsoil from either feature F212 or F213, both of which are interpreted as being stone sockets. Seven sherds of prehistoric pottery were recovered from fills 208/5–6, and 208/5 contained small quantities of burnt bone. A single lithic was recovered from 208/2. Birch charcoal from 208/7 was dated (GU-17476–7) to 1020–1210 cal AD at 2 σ (Table 15), contemporary with the dates from Pit F211.

Just 3m to the north of F208 was a very shallow L-shaped feature (F201, illus 4). This measured 5m in length and was less than 0.1m deep, with a heavily iron-panned base. The upper fill of the enclosure ditch extended into this feature but over most of its length, only a linear deposit of iron pan denoted its course and no fill survived. Midway along it, a small pit (F195) appeared to have been cut into its base and its fill (195/2) included smithing waste. A second small pit (F169) was recorded 0.5m to the east on the edge of F201 and this also contained smithing waste (McLaren below).

4.4.2. Features enclosed by Ditch F171

Ditch F171 enclosed five features (F207, F209/216, F212–4, illus 4, 9). None of these could be related to

it stratigraphically and it may be that none were contemporary with the ditch.

Pit F207 (illus 11a) lay near the centre of the enclosure. It measured around 1.3m by 1.1m and was 0.1m deep. The effects of topsoil removal, heavy rain, and two episodes of hand-cleaning had the effect of removing much of the feature and causing damage to the sides but two fills (207/8 over 207/2) survived. A number of medium and large cobbles (207/9) were concentrated near the centre but formed no clear pattern. No finds were recovered.

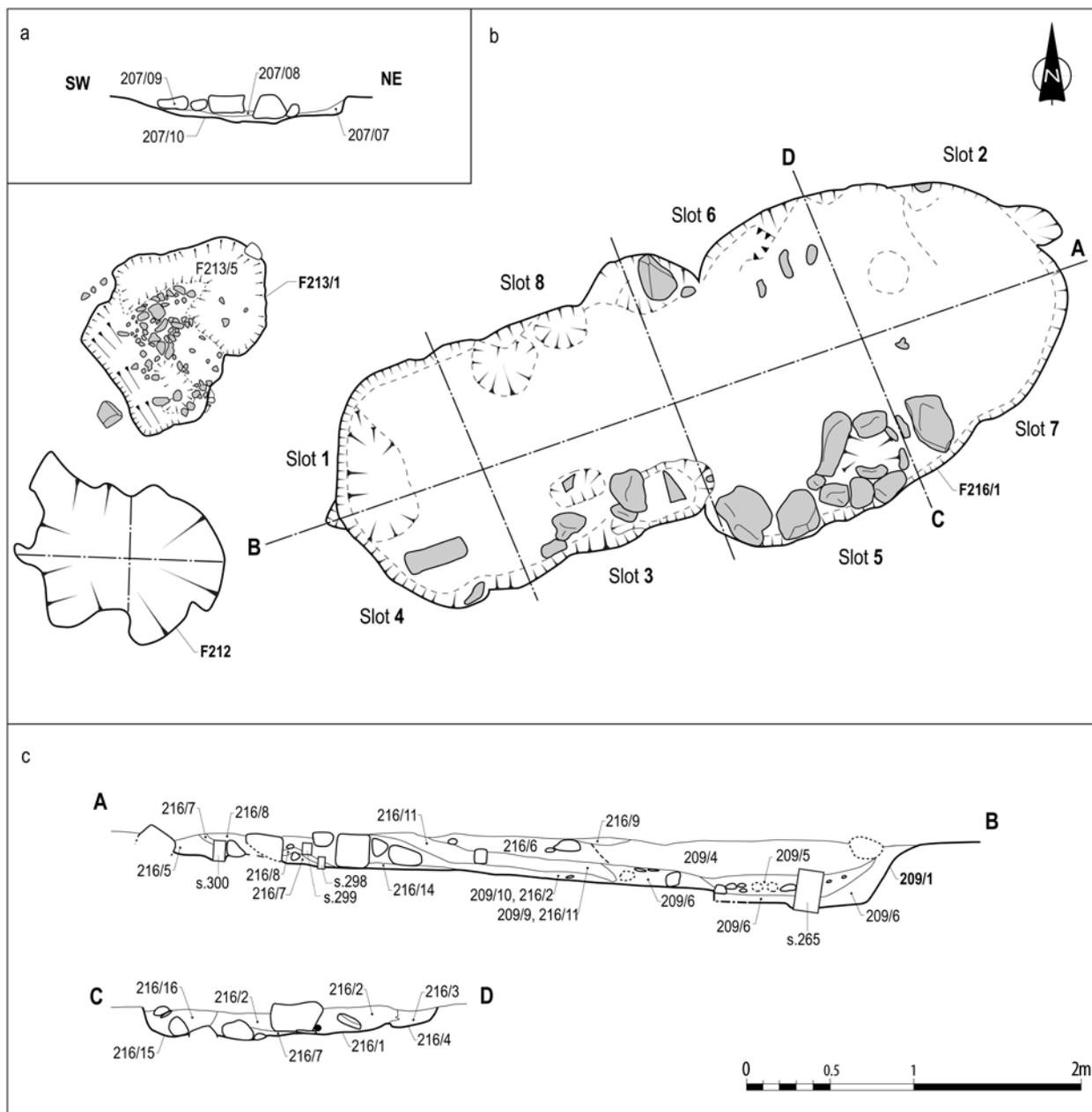
Pit F214 measured 1.8m by 1.25m and was 0.1m deep. Two fills were preserved, both consisting essentially of charcoal-flecked pinkish-brown silts with occasional small stones. No finds were recovered.

The most significant internal feature (F209/216, illus 4, 11b) was allocated two feature numbers as it appeared that two intercutting pits were present. Together, they measured 4.5m in length, between 1.4m and 1.9m in width and, at most, 0.4m in depth. The fills of F209 post-dated those of F216 (illus 11b), but they did not indicate that two distinct features were present. Several shallow depressions in the base of the feature around the perimeter may have been stone-holes and although their purpose is unclear, their fills appeared (216/16, illus 11c) to be more recent than the remainder. Overall, none of the fills was useful in determining a function for this feature. No pottery was recovered but one lithic and three coarse stone tools were recorded. A radiocarbon determination from barley grains in 216/2, a deposit of peat ash and charcoal overlying the primary fill, gave a result of 760–400 cal BC at 2 (Section 6.5), comparable with those from the features cutting the upper fill of the enclosure ditch. Depositional analyses show that 216/2 is the product of low-temperature fires and that combustion did not take place within the feature.

Between F209/216 and the enclosure ditch were two features (F212–3), both around 1.5m by 1m in surface area. Both were irregular in plan, contrasting with the circular post-pipes in other features and these invited the possibility that they once contained stones. F213 measured 1.2m by 1m and was at most 0.15m deep. Shown on illus 11b after the removal of mixed upper fills (213/2–3), these overlay deposits of small rounded cobbles (213/5) and what may be packing stones (213/4). F212 contained similar deposits. Both are interpreted as the sockets for perhaps stubby standing stones. Both features are undated but F212 contained a single later prehistoric pottery sherd, the context of which may indicate it was deposited after the putative stone was removed.

4.5 Roundhouse 1

Elements of this structure (illus 3) were first discovered during the evaluation and, although the full significance of the features encountered was not recognised, they were instrumental in HCAU requiring

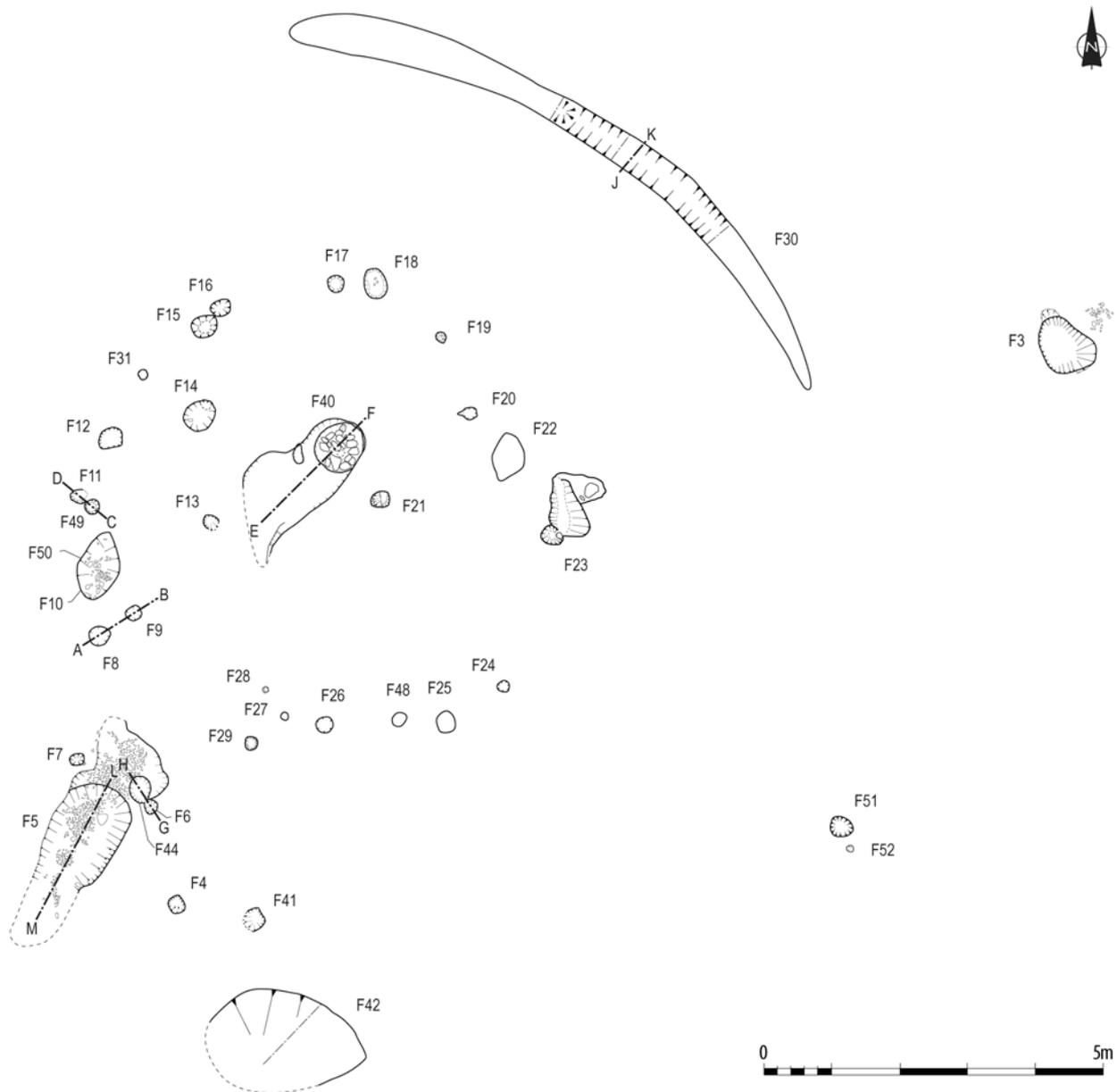


Illus 11 (a) Section of F207; (b) post-excavation plan of F213 and pre-excavation plan of F209/F216; (c) F209/F216 sections

a watching brief during topsoil removal. The timber roundhouse was located on gently sloping west-facing ground around 100m to the west of the ridge on which lay the enclosure, the second roundhouse, and many of the other excavated features. There were no clearly associated remains in the intervening space and the structure appeared to be unenclosed. Topsoil was removed entirely by a tracked excavator with a flat-bladed bucket and this was to the benefit of the site as many of the features were insubstantial and may have been badly damaged by the passage of a bulldozer. No buried soils, floor/occupational surfaces or midden deposits were preserved.

Site clearance exposed an irregular sub-circular

setting of 22 rather unevenly spaced post-holes (F8–9, F11–12, F15–29, F31, F48–49; *illus 12*) with a typical spacing of 1m. Plough truncation may account for a notable gap of over 2m between F23 and F24. This post-ring surrounded three further post-holes (F13–14, F21). What appeared to be a large slightly off-centre post-hole or pit (F40) with an irregular ‘tail’ on the south-west side pointed towards a linear feature (F5) which was flanked by post-holes (F6, F7) and protruded 1.5m beyond the arc of the perimeter posts. This is interpreted as a sunken entrance passage and what may be the receptacle for a door post (F44) was recorded within it between F6–7. This entrance faced south-west. An

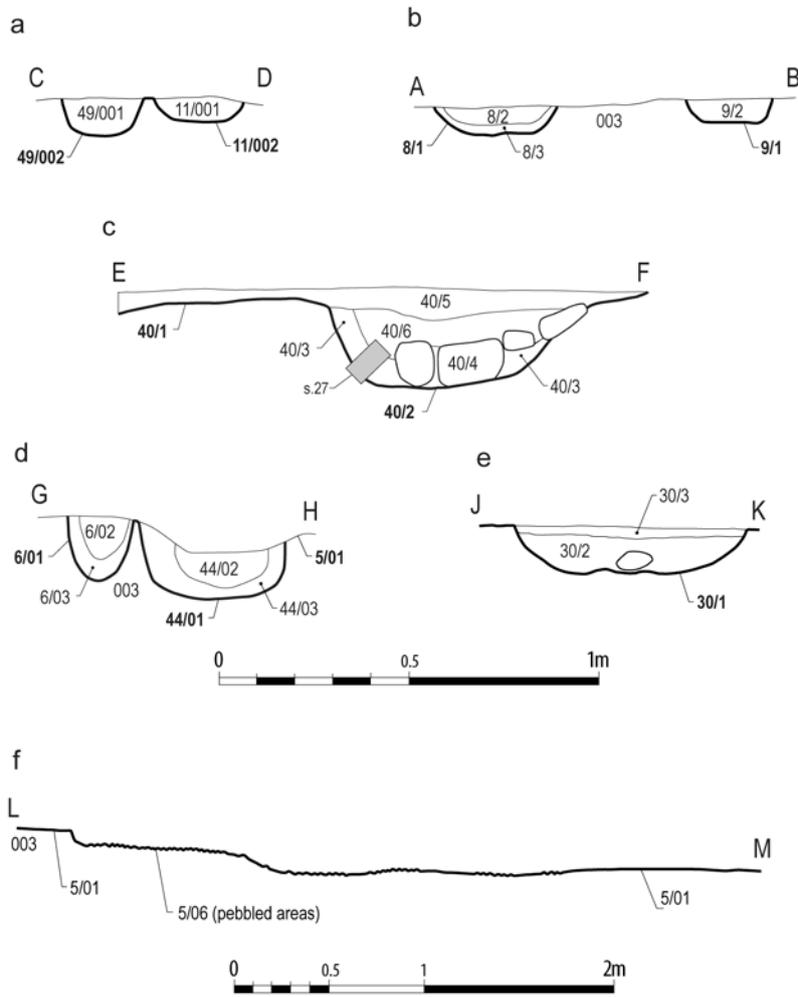


Illus 12 Plan of Roundhouse 1

oval feature (F10, F50) lay on the western perimeter of the structure. Two further post-holes (F4, F41) and a possible pit (F42) were recorded to the south-east of F5 and a portion of a curvilinear ditch (F30) was preserved 3m to the north-east (upslope). Two isolated features (F51–F52) lay 5m to the south-east and a pit (F3) containing charcoal and fire-cracked stones lay 7m to the east, just outside the projected arc of ditch F30 and adjacent to a small pebbled surface (F53). Around 15m to the west of the roundhouse, a second pit (F47, not illustrated) in the lee of a large boulder contained similar material.

The somewhat irregular post-ring (F8–9, F11–12, F15–29, F31, F48–49) defined what is assumed to be the internal area of the roundhouse, giving it a diameter of around 6m. Individually, the features

were circular or near circular and had vertical sides with flat bases. Diameters varied from 0.1m to 0.4m and they averaged 0.1m deep (F8–9, F11, F49, *illus 13a–b*). No packing stones were present. The predominant fills consisted of a homogeneous red-brown clay-silt with charcoal flecks although several features retained a thin deposit of yellow-brown redeposited subsoil at the edges which may be packing material. The appearance of this material on both the sides and bases suggests it is not merely subsoil eroded from the edges. Pairing of some of the posts indicates post replacement during the lifetime of the building, eg F11/49, F15/16. Lithics were recovered from F7 and F22. Of the three internal post-holes, F13 and F21 were, in terms of diameter, depth and fill, not dissimilar from those in



Illus 13 Sections from features in and around Roundhouse 1

the outer circle whereas F14, at 0.5m by 0.4m was slightly larger.

The central feature (F40, *illus 13c*) measured 0.7m in diameter and had a depth of 0.3m. Below fills (40/5–6) of similar nature to the post-holes was a lower fill (40/3) of charcoal-rich clay-silt and a number of jumbled reddened stones (40/4), which may be packing stones. No artefacts were present but charcoal was recovered and Kubiena Tin samples of the fill were taken with a view to depositional analyses. Post-excavation work identified the charcoal as being mainly of alder and hazel. Radiocarbon dates from birch and willow charcoal gave a date of 1310–1050 cal BC at 2 (*Section 6.5*). Depositional analyses (Ellis *below*) revealed that the combustion took place at a low temperature typical of domestic fires. It had not been burned where it was found and a post-hole interpretation for the feature, as opposed to a hearth, is likely.

The outer end of the sunken entrance passage (F5) to the south-west of the post-arc had been damaged by an evaluation trench, but a length of

3.6m, width of at most 1.25m and depth of 0.2m were recorded, with a slight narrowing where it passed between post-holes F6–7 and door post F44 (*illus 13d*). It contained fills (F5/1–5) of essentially charcoal-flecked red-brown clay-silt which overlay and sealed the putative door-post (F44) and a fine pebbled base which included two clearly defined steps (*illus 13f*). Five lithic artefacts were recovered from the feature, which may be attributed to the volume of material it contained (when compared to the smaller and shallower post-holes) rather than any deliberate deposition in that area, but there was notably little palaeoenvironmental content. No pottery was recovered.

An oval feature (F10) with a length of 0.8m and width of 0.6m was less than 0.1m deep. The base was found to be partly covered by a layer of blueish small pebbles pressed into the natural boulder clay (003) and this surface may be an earlier feature, later incorporated into the perimeter. No artefacts were recovered.

On the gentle slope above the post-circle and approximately concentric with it, a portion of a

curvilinear ditch (F30) was recorded. Seemingly truncated at either end, the ditch was at most 0.5m wide and 0.2m deep (illus 13e). It contained two fills from which no artefacts were recovered.

4.6 Roundhouse 2

This two-phase structure was located towards the northern end of the low ridge (illus 3). It was not located exactly on the apex of the ridge, but on a slight west-facing slope. It comprised a complex of predominantly circular features and a horseshoe-shaped curvilinear ditch (illus 14–15) which on spatial and depositional grounds represent the remains of two successive phases. Excavation indicated that a Phase 1 structure, comprising a 9m diameter post-circle, porch and internal pits, was succeeded by a Phase 2 structure characterised by a ring-ditch with internal features (illus 15 and 16a). All features except F155 underlay topsoil and except where inter-cutting was recorded, no stratigraphic relationship among them was present. No ring-groove or stake-arc concentric with the post-ring was present and no floor surfaces

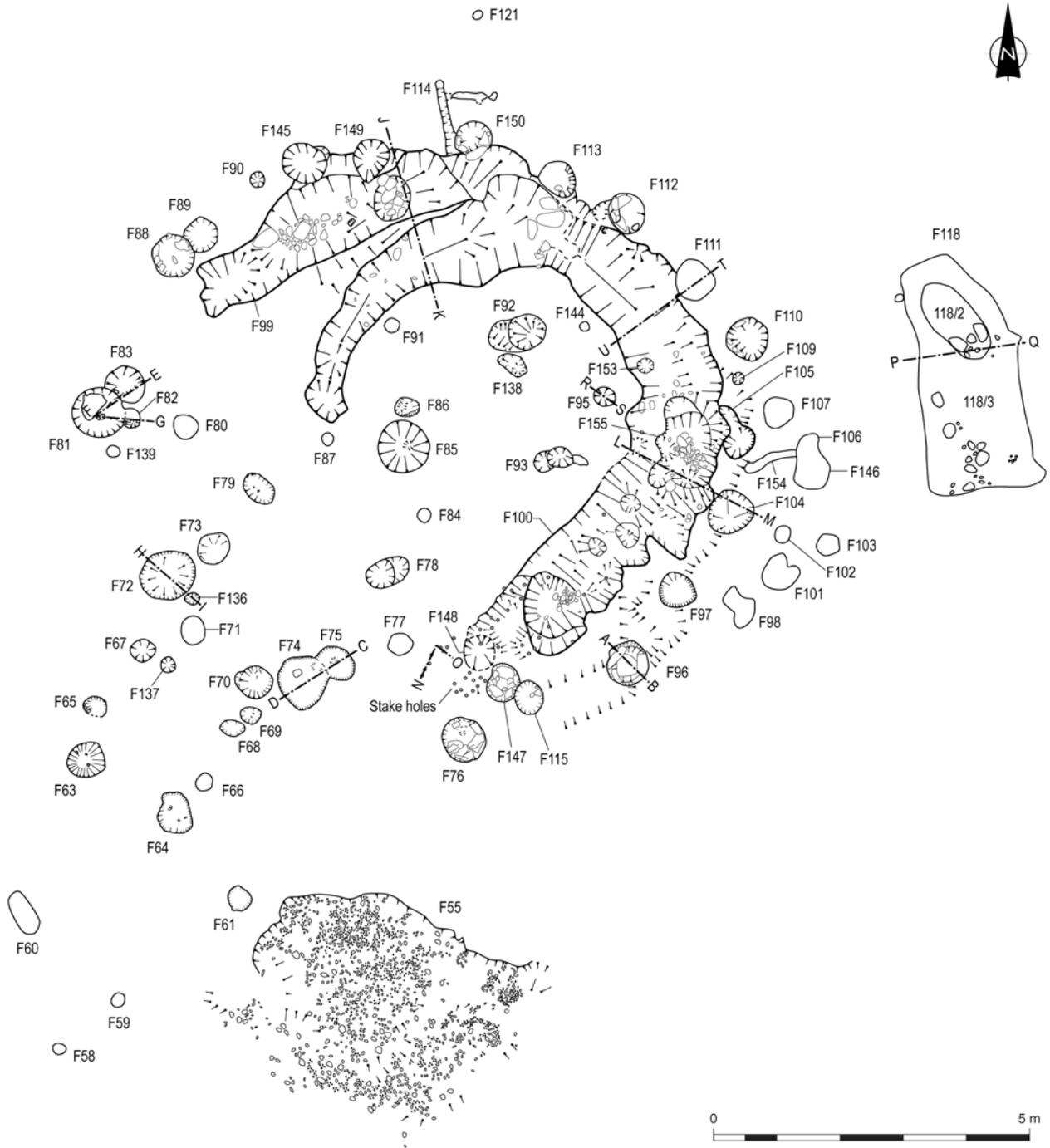
survived. Deposits potentially formed from occupation/midden remains were almost entirely confined to F100, the secondary ring-ditch. As with the more vestigial Roundhouse 1, most of the features had a thick iron-pan adhering to their cuts and in many cases, a very thin (c 1mm) band of brown silt had been deposited within this.

4.6.1 Phase 1 structure

The primary structure, including its post-ring and porch or extended entrance passage as well as the central and other pits, comprises features F63–F76, F78–F83, F85, F88–F90, F96–F97, F104–F105, F110, F111, F112, F113, F136, F137, F145, F149 and F150 (illus 15). Prior to the removal of fills associated with the secondary ring-ditch structure, part of internal feature F99 and the whole of its mirror-image F155 were invisible. Once exposed, the primary structure can also be placed within the ring-ditch class of roundhouses. A large circular feature (F85), not clearly a post-hole, but not a hearth, lay almost exactly in the centre. A shallow gully (F114) was



Illus 14 Pre-excavation view of Roundhouse 2 in the background from the south, showing the different fill characteristics. The pebbled surface F55 is in the foreground.



Illus 15 Roundhouse 2 plan

recorded on the left side of the structure (viewed from the entrance) and a mirror image gully (F154) was on the right side. Other features to the right (F98, F101-3, F106-7, F109, F118, F146) had no clear function and, depending on the interpretation of the remains, may not be associated with this structure. There was no trace of a second post-arc or ring-groove concentric with and external to the post-ring.

The post-circle included post-holes (F72-6, F81, F83, F88-90, F96-7, F104-5, F110-3, F115, F145,

F147, F149-50). Impressive excavations in their own right, forming these features in the compact natural boulder clay subsoil frequently required the partial quarrying or extraction of any large stones encountered in the process. With the exception of F90, these were clearly formed to hold large posts with diameters of around 0.25-0.4m but few had a clear post-pipe. Depending on whether these features are all seen as primary elements of the post-ring, a spacing between posts of around 3m is indicated. The recorded fills varied considerably.



Illus 16 Post-holes F96 (top) and F147 (bottom) showing the in-situ packing stones

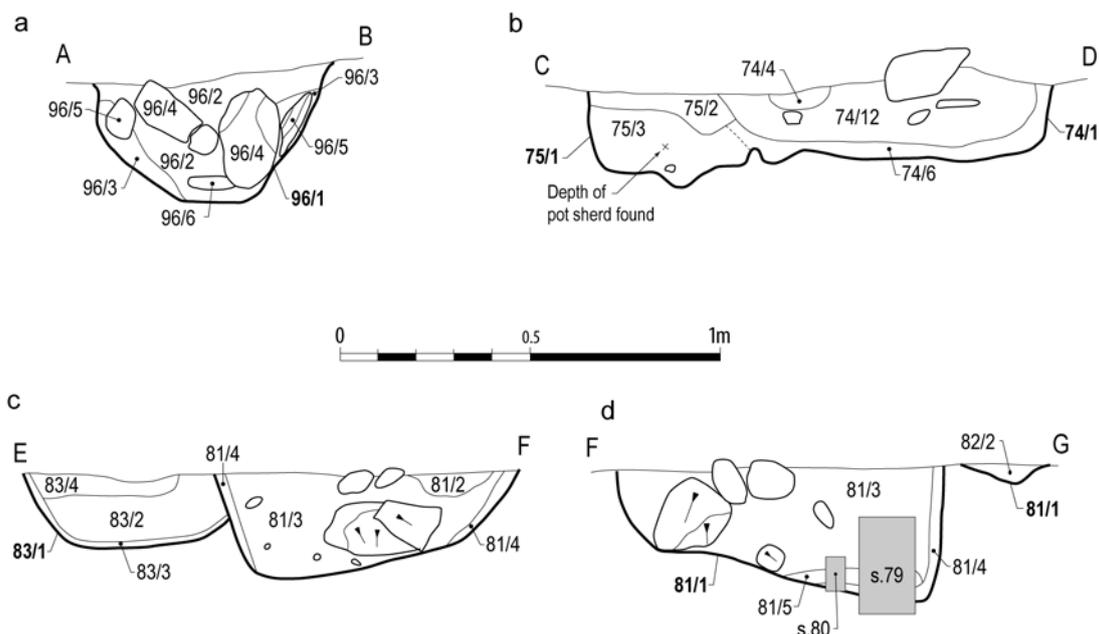
Table 1 shows the characteristics of the features and their interpretation following the fieldwork and the post-excavation process.

Few of these post-holes contained clear field

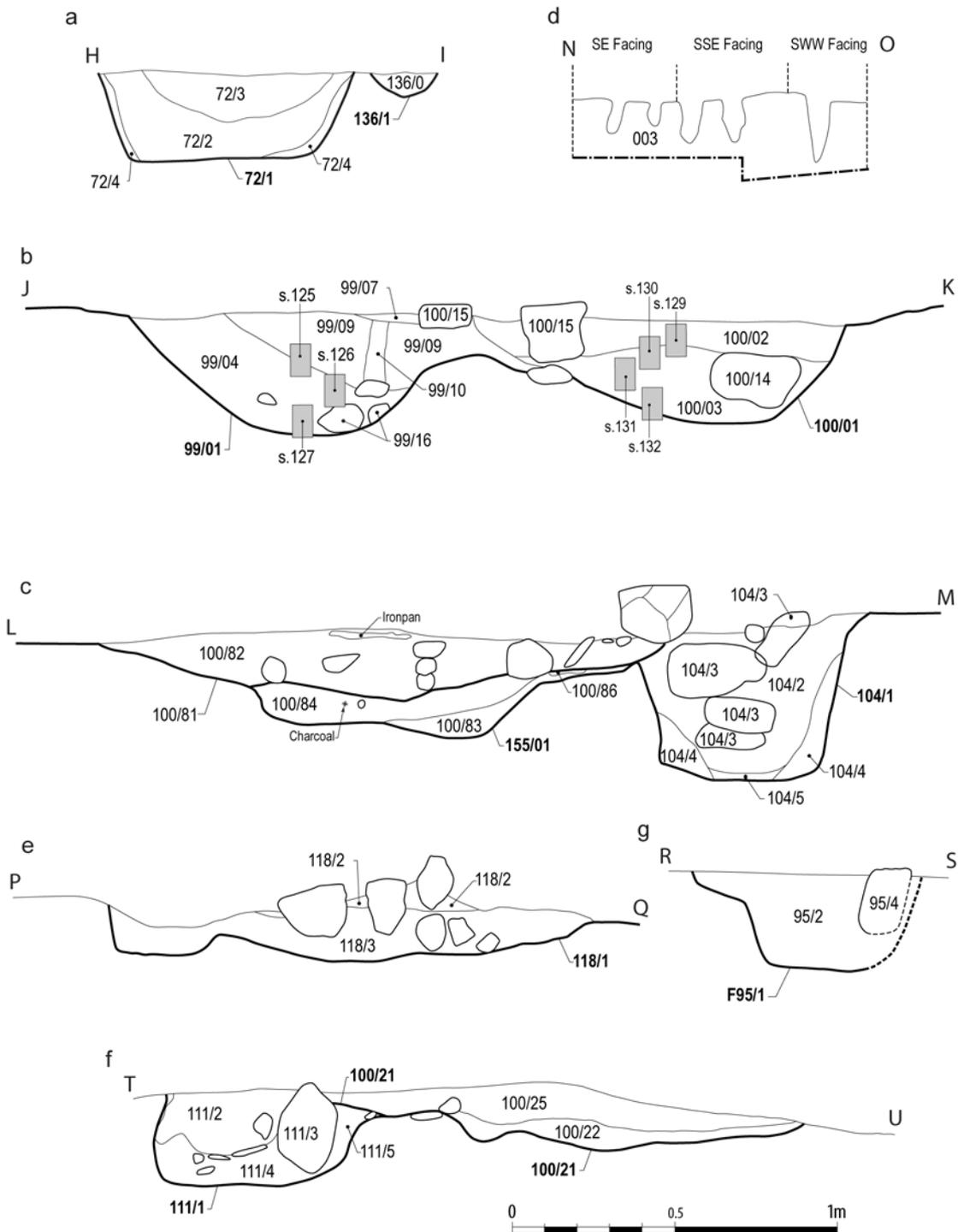
evidence of a post-pipe and in most some of the packing stones appeared to be disturbed or missing, suggesting that the post had been pulled over or otherwise withdrawn. Some had no stone content at all, suggesting complete dismantling for either cultural reasons or for the re-use of materials. Examples of post-holes with in situ packing stones include F96 (*illus 16, 17a*) and F147 (*illus 16*). In the former instance, the upper portion of the feature was choked with jumbled stones (96/4, *illus 17a*), rather more than would be needed for packing purposes, and this was also noted in features 112, 150. F105 was substantially shallower than the post-holes on either side but as it was no shallower than some others, this may not be significant.

The evidence suggests that the structure had had a substantial life, as several post-holes (F75, F83, F89, F147) had had replacements or bolstering posts (F74, F81, F88, F115) placed against them (*illus 17c-d*).

Analysis of the F81 fills (Sample 80, *illus 17d*; Ellis *below*) provides a cautionary postscript to the on-site interpretations, which in this case suggested post withdrawal as there was no coherent post-pipe and few packing stones, none clearly in situ. Micromorphology suggests that although the feature had been affected by soil biota, the evidence is that the post was scorched to aid its preservation prior to insertion, before being allowed to rot in situ. This careful preparation of what was a replacement post (for F83) suggests that it was not an ad-hoc or crisis-driven repair but rather part of a planned maintenance of the structure. Sample 80 also showed the post-pit may then have been left open for a period of time before the post was inserted, perhaps roofless whilst other site preparation work was undertaken.



Illus 17 Roundhouse 2, sections of post-holes



Illus 18 Roundhouse 2, ring-ditch and other sections

Pottery was found in F75–6 and fragments of antler in F76. A single lithic was recovered from F83 and a hammerstone from F88. No artefacts were recovered from the red-brown fills of the post-pipes, and charcoal consisted almost entirely of flecks. Sufficient birch and alder charcoal was however recovered from the fill of the post-pipe in post-hole F81 to provide radiocarbon dates spanning 1260–920 cal BC at 2 (Section 6.5). A caveat is that 81/3 appears to represent a rotted in situ post-pipe and

the processes by which charcoal might have become incorporated (other than by charring of the post itself) are unclear. Several features had irregular edge damage which may result from crude extraction of the post.

The entrance passage (illus 15) faced south-west and appears to have extended as far into the interior of the structure as post-holes F78–9 which would, perhaps, represent a substantial thickening of the structure’s perimeter around the entrance. If this

Table 1 Roundhouse 2, characteristics of perimeter post-holes

Feature	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Post-Pipe	Packing Stones	Interpretation
<i>Possible primary posts</i>					
F72	0.75	0.25	No	No	Post withdrawn & structure dismantled
F73	0.50	0.15	No	No	Post withdrawn & structure dismantled
F74	0.85	0.20	Unclear	Not in-situ	Post withdrawn?
F75	0.45	0.20	No	No	Post withdrawn & structure dismantled
F88	0.70	0.20	No	Yes, some in-situ	Post withdrawn
F89	0.45	0.15	No	No	Post withdrawn & structure dismantled
F96	0.60	0.35	No	Yes in-situ	Post withdrawn? & stones added
F104	0.70	0.45	Unclear	Yes, some in-situ	Post withdrawn
F110	0.65	0.35	No	Yes, some in-situ	Post withdrawn
F112	0.55	0.40	No	Yes, some in-situ	Post withdrawn? & stones added
F115	0.55	0.15	No	No	Post withdrawn & structure dismantled
F145	0.60	0.35	No	No	Post withdrawn & structure dismantled
F147	0.55	0.25	Yes	Yes in-situ	Post rotted
F150	0.60	0.55	No	Yes, some in-situ	Post withdrawn? & stones added
<i>Possible secondary posts</i>					
F76	0.75	0.35	Unclear	Yes, most in-situ	Post withdrawn?
F81	0.80	0.30	Unclear	Yes, some in-situ	Post rotted
F83	0.55	0.20	Unclear	No	Post rotted?
F97	0.50	0.25	Yes	Yes, some in-situ	Post rotted
F105	0.60	0.15	No	No	Post withdrawn & structure dismantled
F111	0.60	0.30	No	Yes, some in-situ	Post withdrawn
F113	0.50	0.30	No	No	Post withdrawn & structure dismantled
F149	0.50	0.30	No	Yes, some in-situ	Post withdrawn

had been the case, the internal area would not have been circular, but rather would have had a D-shaped internal plan. Measured from the assumed outer end (F63–4), the passage has a length of 3.6m to the inner end of the projected perimeter post arc (F72, [illus 18a](#), F74) and 5.5m to F78–9. The outer end had a width of 1.2m and it expanded to 1.6–1.8m before narrowing again to 0.8m where it passed through F70–71 and, assuming all features were contemporary and part of the entrance passage, it may be that a door was located at this point. If this was the case, F136 may be nominated as a possible candidate for the door post as its position on the left of the passage on entering is not replicated by a feature on the opposite side of the passage. Worthy of mention is that the assumed door-post in Roundhouse 1 was on the right of the passage on entering.

Internal features were restricted to a circular near-central feature (F85) which was not clearly a post-hole, two elongated pit features (F99, F155) lying just inside the post-arc on opposite sides of the structure and a number of stake-holes. F152–53 consisted of shallow scoops in the base of F100 and may merely be a result of stones being removed during excavation.

Pit F99, at the northern edge of the structure was 4.6m in length and 1.3m in maximum width. [Illus 18b](#) shows the section, with a layer of reddened cobbles (99/16) partially covering the base being overlain by reddish-brown silt incorporating frequent charcoal flecks (99/4). This overlay the fills of post-hole F149 (not shown) and so must have been deposited after the abandonment/dismantling of that feature. The upper fill consisted of a layer of yellow-brown redeposited natural subsoil (99/9) deriving from the excavation of the adjacent Phase 2 ring-ditch (F100). This deposit had been cut by (or formed around) what may be the slot for a vertical plank or beam (99/10) with a length of over 0.5m. Unless the reddened cobbles can be taken as evidence for fire, no indication as to the function of the feature was forthcoming. Radiocarbon dates obtained from carbonised barley in F99/4 (GU-17452–3, [Table 15](#)) of 1190–930 cal BC and 530–380 cal BC at 2 σ . These dates are statistically significantly different (see [Section 6.5](#) for further consideration).

Pit F155, opposite F99 at the south-eastern edge of the structure, was overlain and badly truncated by the Phase 2 ring-ditch and only a length of 1.5m, width of 1.1m and depth of 0.2m survived. As in

F99, a deposit of reddened cobbles (100/84) partially covered the base and these were overlain by brown and red-brown silt (100/83, *illus 18c*).

Stake-holes were concentrated in the southern part of the structure, with most lying within or adjacent to F100. Forty-two examples were recorded within the triangle formed by F75, F78 and F96 (*illus 15*). These formed no clear patterns but sections (*illus 18d*) confirmed their authenticity, with reasonably regular profiles and depth of between 0.1m and 0.2m. Their association with one or other structure is also unclear, although their dark fills were more consistent with those in the secondary ring-ditch.

On the basis of their red-brown charcoal-flecked fills, linear slots (F114, F154) and irregular scoops (F98, F101–F103, F106–F107, F109, F146) may be associated with, or earlier than, the post-built structure. Slot 114 had 45° sides and a flat base. Although tangential to the arc of post-holes, a short extension ran for 0.6m to the east. The main portion appeared to cut across the edge (constructional deposit) of post-hole F150 in the north of the structure and in plan it appeared to cut fill 99/4 and to be overlain by 99/9 (*illus 18b*). Sequentially, this would place it between the abandonment of the earlier structure and prior to initial excavation of the second. At 1.2m, F154 was a shorter tangential slot and appeared to run into shallow pits F106/146 to the east. The western end was cut by the ring-ditch F100.

4.6.4 External features

Seven shallow scoops, F98, F101–F103, F107–F109 and F106/146, clustered just outside the arc of posts. Fragments of hammerscale and iron slag (or cramp?) were recovered from F109 but none of the other pits contained evidence of function. Some 2.5m to the east, a substantial but shallow feature (F118, *illus 18e*) measuring 3.8m by 1.6m was filled with stones and charcoal-flecked soil (118/2–3) and a further 4m beyond was F120, a small pit. To the north of the structure, F121–122 appeared to be isolated small post-holes.

Similarly, F58–61, isolated beyond the end of the entrance passage, contained no evidence of function although three of these formed a line.

Two metres to the south of the structure, F55 (*illus 15*) was a large, sub-circular scoop measuring 4.5m by 4m. It was terraced into the slight slope to create a level surface, with the cut being 0.1m deep on its north-eastern side. In terms of depositional characteristics the red-brown charcoal-flecked fill (55/2) associates this feature with the fills of the primary structure and it included five mudstone lithics and a presumably intrusive shard of glass. This deposit overlay a finely pebbled surface (55/4), strongly reminiscent of that in the bases of F5, the Roundhouse 1 entrance passage and F50, an internal feature within that structure. Concreted by thick iron-pan, the pebbled surface incorporated a further eleven mudstone lithics. Sixteen of the eighteen lithics asso-

ciated with the two structures were therefore found in F55, which may therefore be a work surface.

4.6.3 Phase 2 ring-ditch structure

The Phase 2 ring-ditch structure (*illus 14–15*) was eccentrically positioned within the earlier roundhouse and was orientated with the open end some 15° to the north of the primary structure's entrance. The irregular horseshoe of the ditch (F100) enclosed an internal area of 4.6m north–south by 4.6m east–west. Overall, including the width of the ditch, dimensions of 7m by 6.5m were recorded.

Features clearly or probably associated with this structure were all within the internal area and these included F84, F86–7, F91–5, F138 and F144. A characteristic of all was their dark grey-brown to black fills which contrasted with the red-brown and yellow-brown fills of features associated with the roundhouse. *Illus 14*, taken from the south, with F55 in the foreground, clearly shows the differentiation between the dark fills of the ring-ditch and the lighter fills of the earlier features. In addition to these spatial and depositional differences between the structures, F100 cut several of the earlier roundhouse features.

The ring-ditch F100 was at most 1.5m in width and a maximum depth of *c* 0.4m was recorded. In plan, it narrowed to a well-defined terminal on the west side, whereas the south terminal was wider, shallow and irregular. At all points the feature was characterised by a heavily iron-panned base which was easy to trace during excavation. The base was also relatively level, with little sign of any segmental construction. The profile, especially around the eastern portion, was generally steep on the outer edge and more gently sloping on the inner, although this became steep-sided and U-profiled at the western terminal. The base of this western terminal deepened into a possible pit and here the deposits (100/41–2) appeared to overlie those within the main fill of the ditch (100/03). It is therefore possible that a post was located at this terminal.

The excavation of F100 aimed to examine the relationship between it and the post-holes (F97, F104, F111–3 and F149) on its eastern side where they appeared in plan to be cut by the ring-ditch.

The deposits in the ring-ditch consisted of a basal fill (100/3) of brown gritty silt within which were streaks/lumps of pink and orange peat ash and small pieces of charcoal. These were overlain by a dark-brown/black upper fill (100/2) of similar gritty silt minus the peat ash inclusions. Stones (100/14–15), often on edge, were concentrated in the northern part of this feature. Thin-section analysis of these fills indicates that peat turves and wood were both utilised as fuel in low temperature domestic fires, with carbonised peat also being present. Phosphates (Samples 129–32, *illus 18b*) were enhanced to levels associated with human or animal enrichment of the soil. Five radiocarbon determinations from F100

were obtained and the results show that the wood was burnt between 1190–830 cal BC at 2 (Section 6.5).

The ring-ditch truncated both the edges and fills of post-holes F111 (illus 18f), F112 and F113 although the presence of jumbled stones in F112 ensured a less obvious separation between the fills in this section. It was not possible to determine the relationship between the post-hole (F105) and the ditch (F100) as the crucial part of the section had been affected by repeated heavy rain, surface water flows and erosion. It did however demonstrate that the ditch had truncated Pit F155 which had previously been invisible. However, a further section in this area (illus 18c) showed the ditch cutting the edge and fill (104/2) of post-hole F104 and Pit F155. Again, the dark fills of the ditch contrasted with the red-brown fills of the pit (100/83–4).

Artefacts from F100 included two good-sized sherds of prehistoric pottery (recovered on opposite sides of the ditch), including a rim sherd with a rounded rim profile, four hammerstones, fragments of burnt bone, a lithic and a lump each of either iron slag or fuel ash slag (cramp). A shard of modern glass is clearly intrusive and probably results from stones being plucked out during ploughing.

Features framed by the ring-ditch (F84, F86–7, F91–5, F138, F144; illus 15) formed no regular patterns although F84, F87, F91, F93–F95 and F144 were located close to the inner edge of the ring-ditch and formed a partial and irregular oval. None of these internal features would, in isolation, be easily

interpreted as post-holes. All were characterised by darker and more homogeneous fills than features associated with the post-circle but akin to those in the ring-ditch. Charcoal was commonplace but of small size. Two ceramic sherds were found in F92.

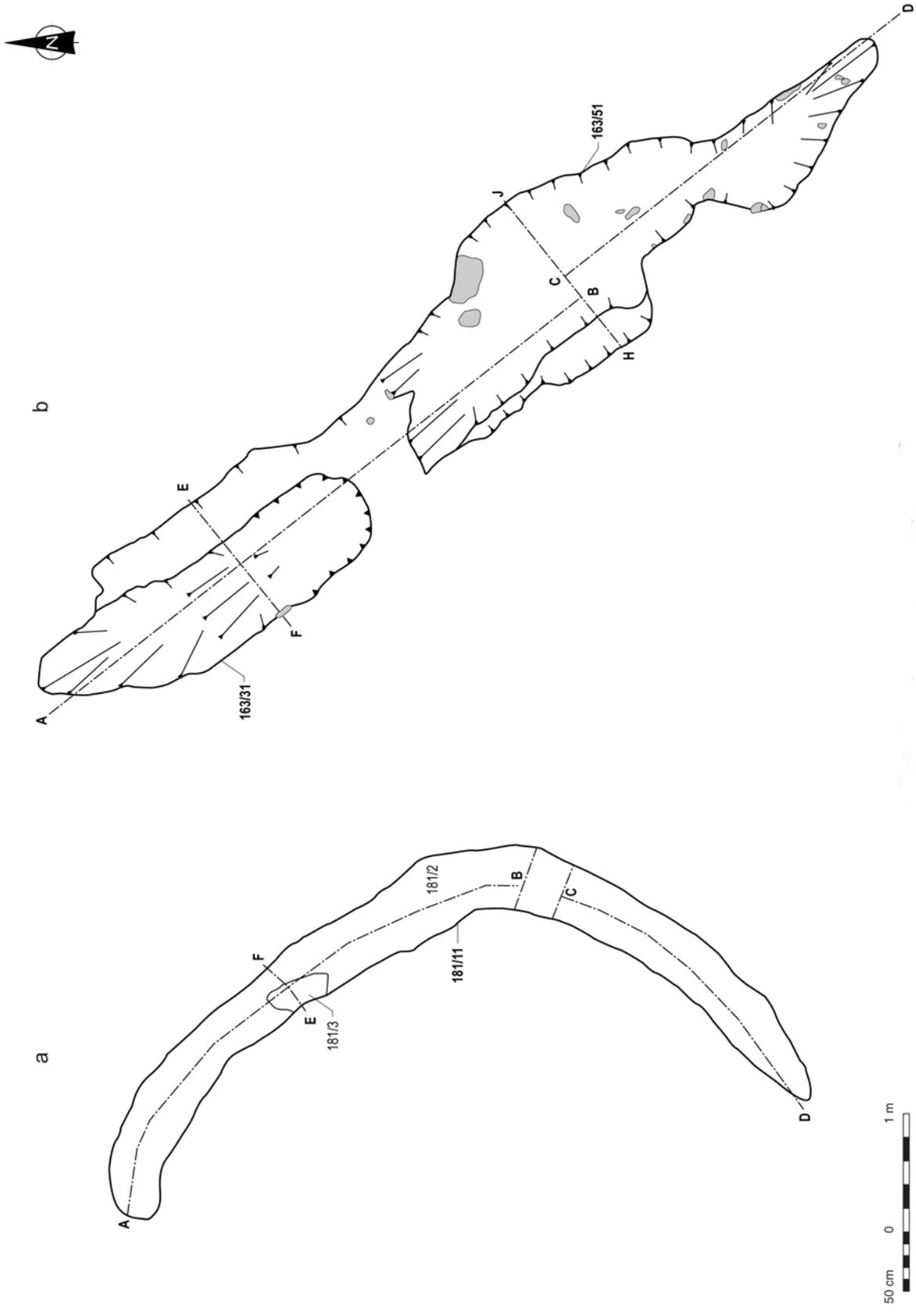
F95 (illus 18g) was steep-sided and flat-based with a slight step on the north-west side. It contained a single fill (95/2) of dark brown silt which contained a fragment of antler. Two packing stones (95/4) were preserved. F87 and F93–4 were very shallow and round-based with a single fill in each. F91 and F144 were also shallow and round-based with dark silty fills. F86 was larger, with near vertical sides and two fills. No post-pipe was present and there were no packing stones. F92 and F138 may have been a single feature. Both were irregular in profile but both contained two fills, with dark brown silt overlying compact redeposited natural subsoil.

4.7 Miniature souterrains

Two negative features (F163, F181, illus 9, 19–20) were recorded on almost level ground 25m to the south of the enclosure. Separated by 10m, the former marked the southerly extent of a number of stratigraphically unrelated features whereas the latter appeared isolated. Once topsoil was removed, the striking resemblance of F181 to a small version (micro-souterrain) of a standard-sized souterrain was remarked upon whereas F163, though sharing some of the former's traits,

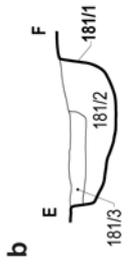
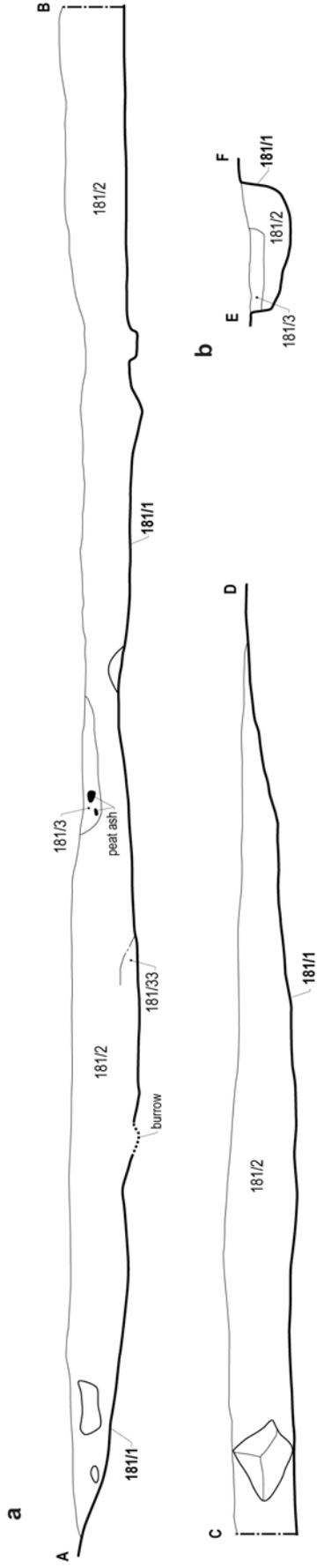


Illus 19 Post-excavation view of souterrains F163 and F181

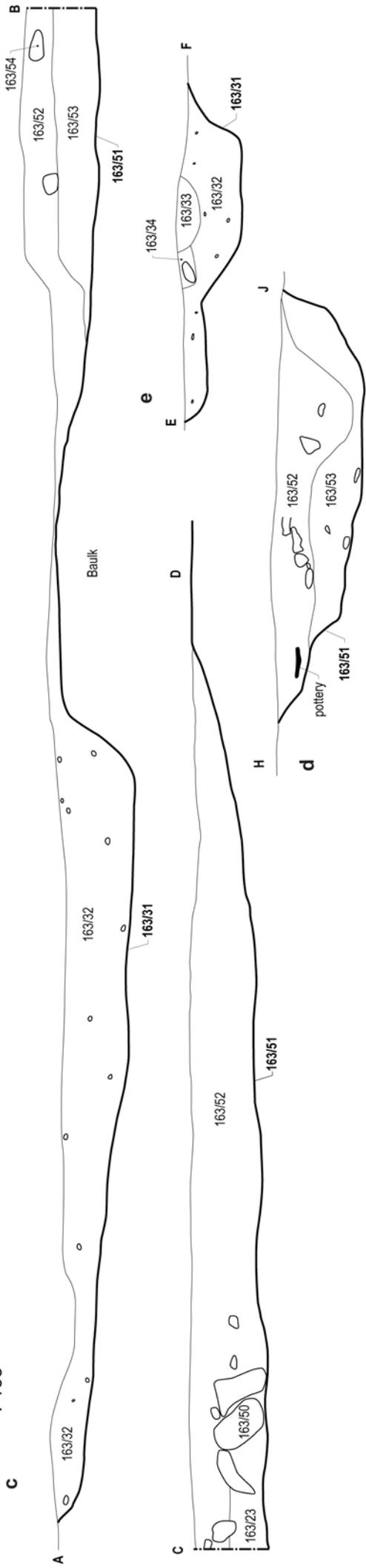


Illus 20 Plan of souterrains F163 and F181

F181



F163



Illus 21 Sections of souterrains F163 and F181

including fill characteristics, was of different morphology.

F181 was curving in plan, with a length of almost 8m and a width of at most 0.6m. Six slots were excavated. Each end sloped gently down to the flat base at a depth of 0.2m (*illus 21a*) whereas the sides were near-vertical (*illus 21b*). Some burrow-related disturbance was apparent. Over much of the feature, a single deposit of homogeneous mid-brown sandy clay-silt with occasional gravel-sized stones was present although localised surface deposits of dark-brown or red-brown material were present. The latter's colour was seen to derive from the presence of peat ash. In section B-C, a lump of red-orange silty clay was recorded. No deposits relating to the primary function or structure of the feature were present and the fills appeared to be both post-abandonment in nature and analogous to those in F163. The feature yielded a single sherd of later prehistoric pottery, a lithic and a slightly heat-affected hammerstone.

The second feature (F163; *illus 20a*) was 9m in length and aligned north-west to south-east. It consisted of two distinct 'compartments', separated by a baulk of natural subsoil (*illus 21c*). The compartments were accessed from either end of the feature. The south-eastern compartment was 5.2m in length, 1.6m in maximum width and 0.3m deep. The north-eastern edge was steep-sided from the subsoil surface whereas that to the south-west (on the left after entry) had an intermediate level or step, which could be a shelf. The assumed entrance sloped gently down into the flat interior and a constriction midway from the south-east end. With a width of 0.5m this would have restricted the penetration of light into the interior. As with F181, all the fills are interpreted as post-abandonment in nature. A single fill (163/12) consisting of a mottled grey-brown friable silt was present outside (south-east of) the constriction. Within the compartment, a similar deposit (163.52) overlay a primary fill of

stony orange-brown clay-silt (163/53, *illus 21d*). Deposit 163/52 yielded 142 closely grouped sherds of prehistoric pottery representing 9 vessels, some with finger-impressed decoration under the rim, one lithic, an iron object with visual similarities to a pair of tongs, and a lump of iron slag. Birch and alder charcoal from close to the pottery (163/52) was dated to 1050–1270 cal AD at 2 (*Section 6.5*).

The compartment to the north-west was 3.1m in length and the assumed entrance also sloped gently into the interior, opening out from 0.5m to 1.2m in width. A shelf-like step was again preserved on the left. Apart from this step, the sides and end of the compartment (*illus 21e*) were steep. Internal deposits consisted of localised upper fills of dark brown silt and yellow-grey silty clay (163/33–4, not shown) over an extensive lower fill of homogeneous dark-brown to black mottled clay-silt (163/32). Four prehistoric pottery sherds were recovered.

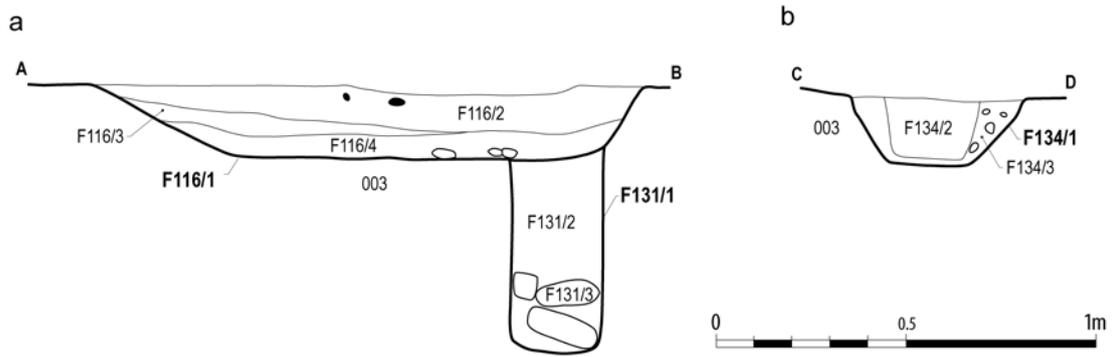
4.8 Pit F116 and curving feature group

Eighteen metres to the south-east of the ring-ditch (F100) and 30m north-west of the enclosure F171, a group of eleven pits (F116–7, F123, F125, F127–9, F131–2, F134, *illus 22*) of varied date and morphology were recorded. Excepting F132, these formed a gentle arc with a length of 17m.

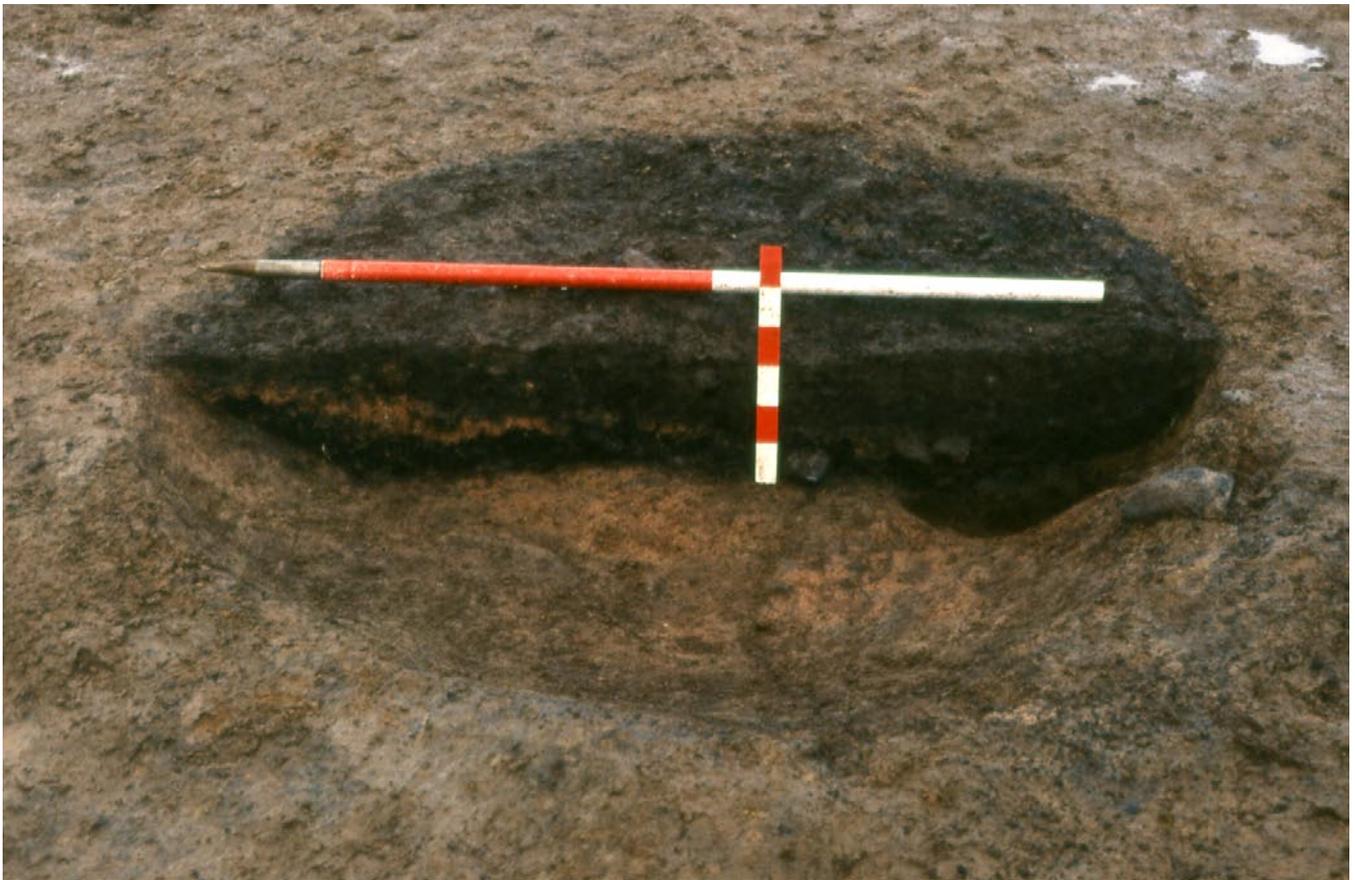
At the western end of this alignment was F116, its black fill standing out once the topsoil was removed. The feature was circular, with a diameter of 1.3m. Slightly irregular in profile (*illus 23a*), it was 0.2m deep and the flat base was reddened (*illus 24*). Three fills were recorded. An upper deposit (116/2) consisted of mixed grey/black/brown silt containing inclusions of charcoal, associated with very high quantities of carbonised oat and barley seeds and assorted ferrous metalworking remains, later identified as both slag and furnace-base. This overlay a lens of orange-brown redeposited silt (116/3). The basal fill consisted of



Illus 22 Post-alignment to the north-west of enclosure F171 and Pit F116



Illus 23 Pits F116, F131 and F134 sections



Illus 24 F116 section showing the reddened natural subsoil in the base

charcoal-rich silt (116/4) without obvious metalworking remains. A sherd of highly vitrified prehistoric pottery was recovered during the sample processing. The feature was notable for the quantity of carbonised seeds (over 45,000) and their association with the metalworking debris in a redeposited context. Although the constituents of the pit appeared to be unrelated to its primary function, the reddened base may be indicative of a heat-generating process being the primary function of the pit.

Four radiocarbon dates were obtained, two each from the upper and lower fills. These show firstly that the deposits were burnt between 1280 cal AD and 1420 cal AD at 2σ (Section 6.5) and that there was little or no difference in their dates of combustion, which is significant as there was no metalworking constituent in the lower fill.

Extending below the base of the pit, and clearly truncated by it, was a very substantial post-pipe (F131, *illus 23a*), the surviving portion of which

was 0.6m deep and it was clearly formed to accept a snugly fitting post without the need for packing stones, at least in the base. Several stones with surrounding voids (131/3) lay in the base of this pipe under loose soil (131/2) and the post is therefore likely to have been withdrawn.

Moving east, F123 and F125 were probably less substantial post-holes. F117 had a surface width of 0.85m and a depth of 0.9m. In section, the post-pipe (117/2) within it measured 0.3m in diameter. Packing stones (117/4) rested on a ledge halfway down the cut and required two people to remove them, such was their size. No finds were recovered. F127 was 1m from F117 and took the form of a sub-circular pit (127/1) with a width of 0.65m and depth of 0.55m. The feature appeared to have been backfilled as it contained layers of yellow-brown redeposited subsoil (127/2, 6) separated by a lens of red-brown soil (127/5). Later, the feature was cut (127/7) by a circular post-pipe which fitted snugly around the post (as F131) and tapered gently from 0.3m diameter on the surface to 0.2m in the base. The post had seemingly been withdrawn and the socket contained several large stones (127/4), far too large to have fitted around the post, with voids in the base below. No finds were recovered. F128–9 appeared to be smaller post-holes. F132 protruded

from the inner (concave) side of the alignment and may have been a disturbed post-hole.

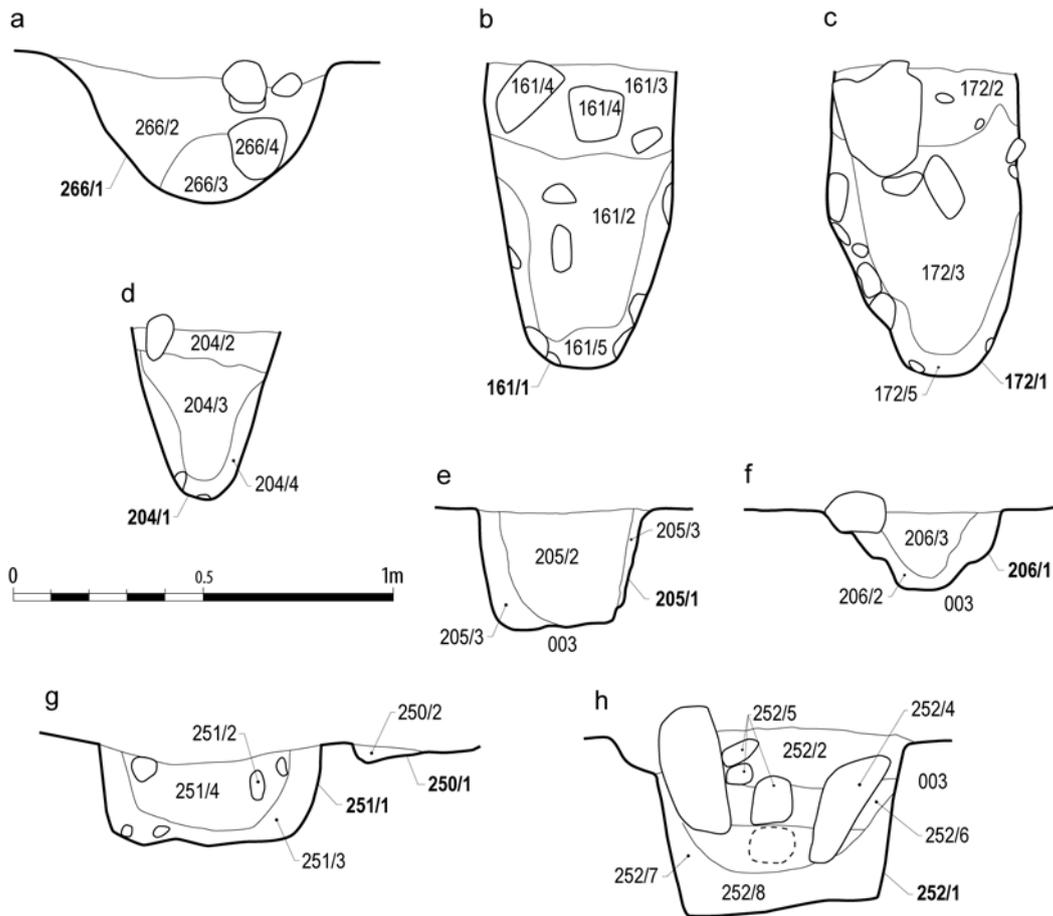
F134 (*illus 23b*), at the eastern end of the alignment has been dated to the Early Bronze Age and is described above (*Section 4.3*).

4.9 *Post-setting within the circular ditch to the south-east of enclosure F171*

A setting of three closely-grouped post-holes (F264–6) surrounded by a shallow ditch (F270, *illus 9, 25*) with a diameter of around 4m was recorded to the south-east of the enclosure (F171). The northern extent of the ditch had been truncated by both a modern quarry (F210) and by a 19th-century linear trackside ditch (F267). Only the heavily iron-panned base of the ditch survived and this had a width of 0.8m on its southern side, whereas the remainder was 0.5m wide. Centrally placed within the enclosed area, the post-holes forming the setting were 0.4m or less apart, 0.5m in diameter and of a similar depth. Feature 266 is representative and is shown in *illus 26.1*. No finds were recovered and there was little identifiable environmental information in the fills. Generally though, the nature of these fills were consistent with other, demonstrably prehistoric, post-holes.



Illus 25 Elevated view from the east showing the enclosure ditch (F171) on the right with the post-setting (F264–6) bottom right with the post-alignments centre and left



Illus 26 Post-setting and post-alignment sections

4.10 Post alignments to south of enclosure F171

Two fairly clear post-alignments of uneven length (illus 9, 25, 27), both featuring what may be an inturned angle or narrowing at their eastern extent, were recorded 3m and 12m to the south of the enclosure ditch (F171) on a north-east to south-west alignment. The northern alignment had a length of 18m and the southern 17m. Generally, the individual features measured 0.3–0.5m in width but F251–2 reached 0.6m. Depths were more varied, ranging from 0.2m to 0.8m. Both widths and depths increased towards the mid-point of each alignment. The identification of these alignments as a distinct feature group relies on the spatial relationships between features within each alignment, their roughly parallel nature and similarities in fill characteristics. It is recognised that they are of unequal lengths and that substantial (though consistent) gaps occur in both alignments. Fill characteristics mirrored many of the features forming Roundhouse 2 and, on analogy with that structure, the posts are interpreted as having decayed in situ.

The alignment closest to the enclosure consisted of eight unevenly-spaced post holes (from south-west

to north-east: F165, F194, F172, F161, F202, F204–6). Whilst the north-eastern extent of the alignment was readily apparent, the south-western end lay within a concentration of more ephemeral features to the north of F163 and was less clear. However, post-holes F194 and F165 were the only features in the area to have the characteristic red-brown charcoal flecked fills present in the remainder of the alignment. Spacing between individual posts was consistent over most of the 18m length, with the five post-holes at the north-eastern end all having a c 2m gap (centre to centre). Six metres separated F172 and F194 with nearly 2m between F194 and F165. Representative sections are shown in illus 23b–f.

Most of the features contained what appeared to be in situ packing stones and a clear post-pipe was present in all. Notable individual characteristics included what appeared to be an angled post setting in F194, with the post seemingly set at an angle of 45° from the vertical, although this could result from the removal of a large stone from the edge of the feature. Feature 165 had a sharp step midway up the profile reminiscent of F117 in the post-arc to the north-west (Section 4.8). A single pottery sherd was recovered from F204 but no organic material



Illus 27 Elevated view from the west showing post-alignments to the south of the enclosure

suitable for radiocarbon dating survived the wet-sieving process.

The second alignment lay 9m to the south-east of the first and consisted of four post-holes (F179, F252, F251, F257, *illus 26.7–8, 28*). Again, the characteristic red-brown fills of these features stood out from those nearby. This alignment covered a length of around 17m but the distances between individual features varied markedly albeit with a certain regularity. Two metres separated the central features (F251–2), with 7.5m between the post-holes at either end and those in the centre. The inturned angle at the north-eastern end (15°) was almost identical to that at the north-eastern end of the northern alignment (16°).

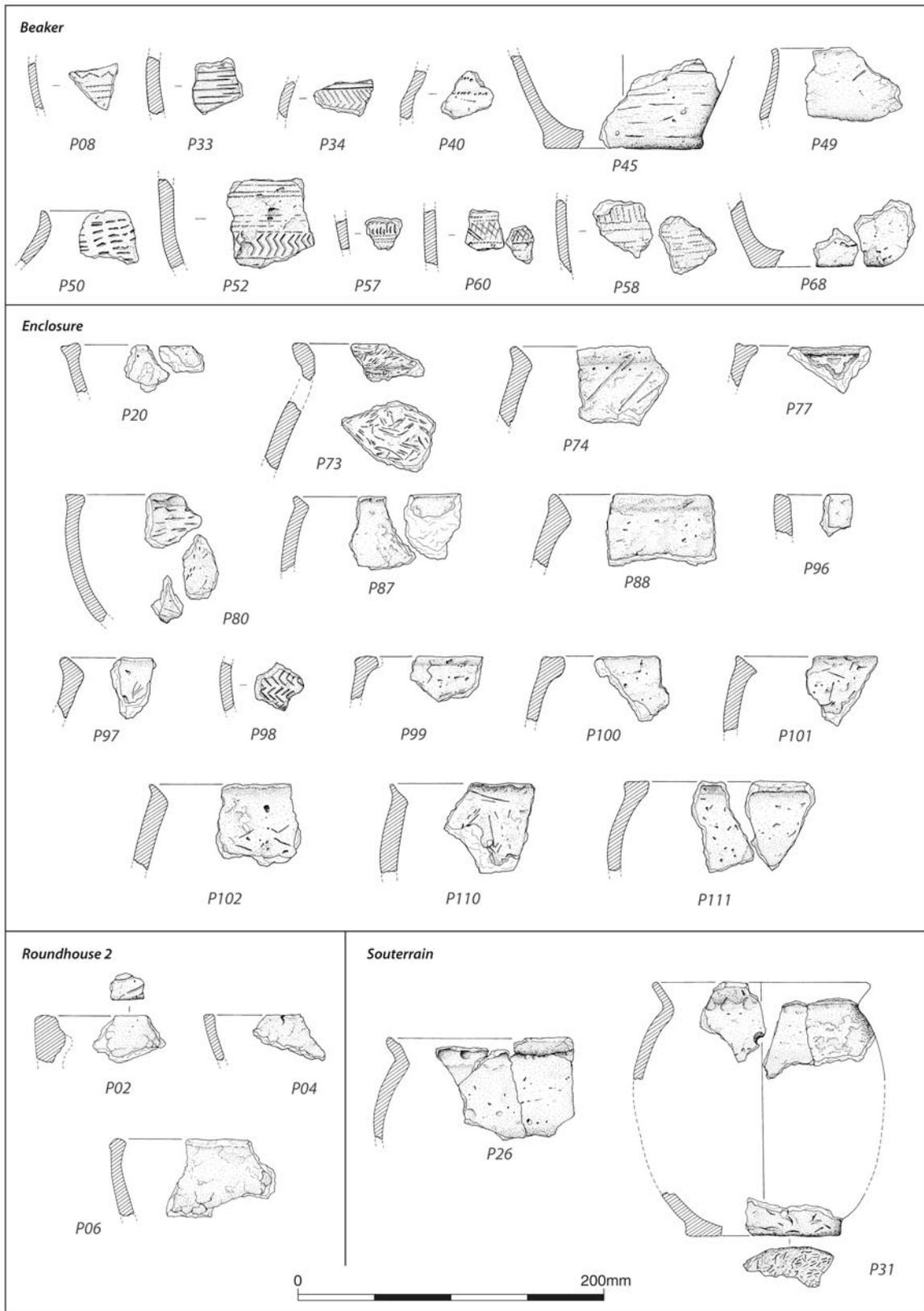
4.11 Other features to the south of the enclosure *F171*

Twenty-nine features (*illus 9*) that could not be related to any of the feature groups so far described were recorded to the south of the enclosure. These comprised F164, F167, F173–4, F176–8, F180, F182–3, F185, F188, F190–3, F196–200, F203, F250,

F253–5 and F267–9. The modern quarry F210 is not included and will not be further discussed.

To the north and east of miniature souterrain F163, a group of 25 features was recorded. These were concentrated in the area between F163 and the south-western extent of the post-alignments but extended with decreasing density as far east as F203 and F255. All are interpreted as either pits or small post-holes. Several contained red-brown silty fills, similar to those in the post-alignments and elsewhere, with others having brown or dark brown gritty silt with occasional rounded cobbles. No finds were recovered. F198 was shallow but had a red-brown fill and was roughly equidistant between the post-alignments. F174 contained quantities of blue-black silt which appeared to be degraded charcoal, as did F255, and the latter also contained the only carbonised wheat grain recovered from the entire site. No patterns can readily be distinguished from the plan of these remains and their varied dimensions suggest they are not all contemporary. Nevertheless, their spatial association with F163 may indicate that some, at least, have an association with that feature.

The linear features not included above (F250,



Illus 28 Pottery

F267–F269) may form a second feature group. These were notable in that they contained homogeneous and wet brown silty fills which resembled topsoil and contained a number of modern finds. Several also contained fragments of burnt bone. The bases of these features were not iron-panned in the way of the prehistoric remains and all are considered to be relatively modern. Several stone holes (not illustrated) containing modern ceramics were also recorded nearby. Features 250 and 267 were parallel linear ditches on the same alignments which, if continued, show a separation of 6m and may therefore be drainage gullies flanking the 19th-century track shown crossing this area. The appearance of these features coincides with an increasing slope to the east, and their incomplete nature must be the result of severe truncation of the flat ground to their west, a result of both ploughing and the use of a bulldozer for initial site clearance. Feature 250 managed to cut post-holes F251–F252 and F257, with F267 cutting F270, the circular ditch enclosing the post setting F263–F265. More enigmatic were F268–9. These took the form of a truncated U-shaped ditch (F268) within which at a distance of 1.5m was a concentric palisade slot (F269): on spatial grounds these appear to have been related. It was notable that the north-western arm of F268 was almost parallel with ditch F250 and both contained 19th-century ceramics. Both the artefacts and the fill characteristics suggest they are modern, but the morphology is typical

of more ancient remains and is slightly reminiscent of F181 to the west. If modern, F268–9 may be associated with animal management, perhaps for the shedding of sheep after lambing or during shearing.

4.12 Features to the west of the enclosure F171

This relatively flat area was largely devoid of archaeological remains. Features adjacent to the enclosure have been discussed above and only F135, F160, F228, F271 (*illus 9*) remain to mention.

F160 and F228 (*illus 5* lower left, *illus 7* extreme right) were both substantial post-holes containing depositional and morphological similarities to other large post-holes in the post-alignments and Roundhouse 2. F160 was isolated and measured 0.7m in width and 0.55m in depth. No post-pipe was preserved but the fills resembled those in other post-holes, being either yellow-brown silt or red-brown charcoal flecked silt. F228 was close to the enclosure and measured 0.6m in width and 0.55m in depth. A possible post-pipe was present in plan and in section within the upper part of the fill, but much of the feature contained redeposited yellow-brown subsoil, probably packing material. Two small pottery sherds were recovered.

F135 was an isolated pit containing quantities of charcoal and F271 was a pit containing a red-brown fill. No artefacts were recovered.