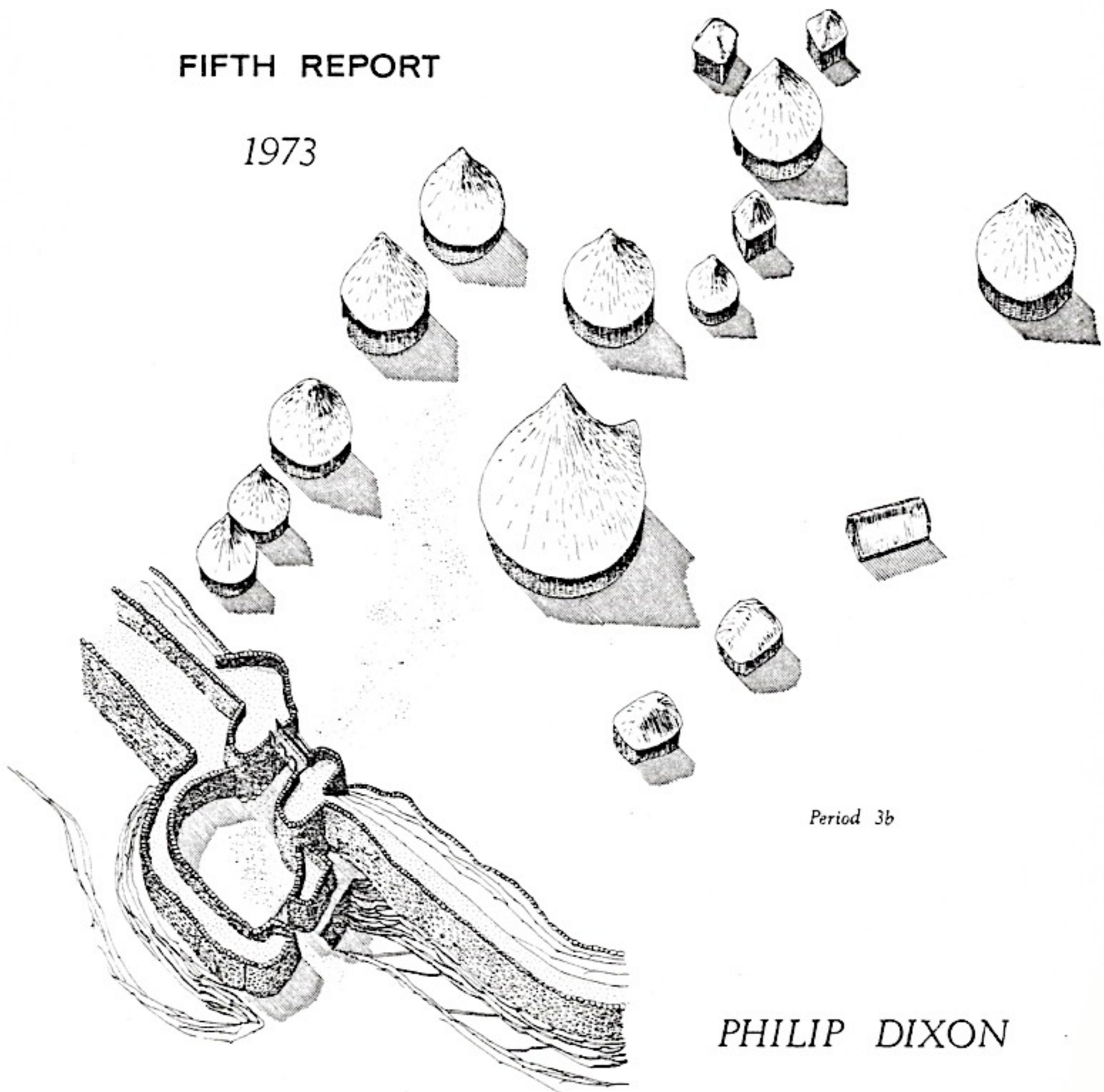


CRICKLEY HILL

FIFTH REPORT

1973



Period 3b

PHILIP DIXON

SUMMARY

The fifth year of excavations concluded the work of previous seasons in the area behind the hillfort entrance. The layout of part of two successive settlements can now be reviewed: in the first phase of hillfort occupation a timber-laced rampart with narrow, timber-sided entrance defended rows of long aisled houses and a number of small buildings. This settlement, which perhaps dates to the seventh or sixth century B.C, was destroyed by fire. The second settlement, fortified by a massive stone wall and towers, was dominated by a large round house, with smaller round and subrectangular buildings clustered in a rough circle. This combination of large and small round houses in a single settlement does not appear to have been recorded elsewhere. The occupation was ended by destruction apparently not later than the sixth or fifth century B.C.

The work was again made possible by the generous support of the Gloucestershire College of Art and Design, in Cheltenham, and by a grant from the Gloucestershire County Council; we owe our thanks to these; and to the owner of the land, Tom Morris, for permitting us to excavate. Muir-Hill Ltd., of Gloucester, lessees of the quarry, kindly allowed us access through it to the fort, and were most helpful to us.

We are most grateful to the County Valuer's Department of the Gloucestershire County Council for permitting us to live in the County Training Centre, Ullenwood, during the excavation, and to Mr. and Mrs. Marcinkiewicz for their constant kindness to us during our stay there. Tony Watts, who has been responsible for the excavation catering for several years, has taken up new duties in London, but we continue to have the benefit of his specialist guidance, and this, like all his previous hard work, is of great importance to us. Paul Caddy successfully catered for us this year.

We would like to take this opportunity of expressing our gratitude to the local and other firms who have helped us in various ways, including Chelhire Ltd., its proprietor, Mr. E.E.Jasper, and Mr. John Kear, whose special skill as a JCB operator has relieved us of many worries; Repro Services of Cheltenham, printers of the text of this and other papers issued by us; Holton Studios for their careful preparation of the litho plates for the illustrations; Fred Stephens Ltd.; J. Jones and Son.; Sharpe and Fisher (Builders Merchants) Ltd.; Central Motors, Gloucester; A.C. Hands Ltd; G.A. Willetts Ltd.; Swanbrook Transport. All these have made our work considerably easier.

The work is planned to continue for several more seasons, and requires volunteers and adequate financing to supplement the generous help from Gloucestershire County Council and the Gloucestershire College of Art and Design. Any donations should be made out to the Crickley Hill Excavation Fund, and sent to the Secretary of the Excavations, Mr. R.D.A. Savage, Gloucestershire College of Art and Design, Pittville, Cheltenham, Glos, GL52 3JG, from whom further copies of these notes, and copies of the notes on previous seasons, may be obtained.

Anyone interested in taking part in future seasons of excavation in this series should get in touch with Mr. Savage at the address given (Telephone : Cheltenham 32501).

CRICKLEY HILLFIFTH REPORT 1973

The fifth season of excavations at Crickley Hill lasted from 6 July to 28 August 1973. About 180 volunteers took part, supervised by Clive Anderson, Andrew Crabtree, Robin Hall, Fachtna McAvoy, Alice Pandrich, and Jennie Tinker; Terence Courtney was assistant director, and the Finds Supervisor was Elizabeth Platts. To all of these I am most grateful for their painstaking work.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Crickley Hill, 4 miles south of Cheltenham, forms part of the Cotswold escarpment. The prehistoric works run approximately north and south between the edges of relatively modern quarries, cutting off the end of the hill from higher ground to the east. Excavations between 1969 and 1971, summarized in the previous Interim accounts, exposed the entrance and part of the rampart of a later prehistoric hillfort. During the 1971 and 1972 seasons work on the eroded western bank showed that this part of the site was occupied during the Neolithic period, and that the bank itself was the latest phase of a multi-period Neolithic enclosure.

Between 1971 and 1973 an area of about 4800 square metres was stripped by hand in the area between the outer and inner banks, immediately behind the entrance to the hillfort. By the close of last season the stripping here had cleared the ground from the hillfort rampart westwards to the eastern edge of the Neolithic enclosure and from the fence which marks the southern limit of the quarry land northwards to the edge of the slope of the hill. In this area some features clearly belonged to the main Neolithic banks and a number of postholes could not be certainly associated; most of the occupation, however, could be linked with the hillfort rampart, and the relative phasing based in 1969 on the rampart sequence, and modified in 1972 to include the Neolithic periods, still serves as an adequate framework for the site.

Neolithic	1a	pre-bank occupation
	1b	first enclosure ditches
	1c	occupation in the 1b ditches
	1d	second enclosure ditch
	1e	occupation below the hillfort rampart (may be identical with one of the preceding periods).
Hillfort	2	timber-laced rampart and inturned entrance
	3a	rebuilt rampart after destruction
	3b	rampart modified, and entrance massively rebuilt.
Open site	4	Occupation, probably transient, after a second destruction of the hillfort.

In the present report an opportunity is taken to present some of the evidence which relates to the hillfort occupation : the results of work on the Neolithic areas will be examined in later reports. Because of the thin soil cover on the top of the hill evidence for buildings comes almost entirely from postholes (analysis of finds cluster will be presented in a future report). Most of the postholes form obvious groups, and to each group a reference letter (A-D) and a number has been given, to enable easy identification (see fig. 17). Ascription to a class involves a measure of interpretation :

<u>Group A</u>	Long rectangular houses
<u>Group B</u>	Round houses
<u>Group C</u>	Square structures
<u>Group D</u>	Other posthole settings

The figures which make up the main body of this report have been arranged to aid evaluation of the suggested interpretations. Each group has been drawn in plan to a uniform scale and all postholes in the vicinity included. In almost all cases a block diagram to the same scale as the plan shows the relative heights of the tops and bottoms of the postholes. All posthole sections are drawn to a uniform scale, with drawing conventions as shown in fig. 1. Those drawings initialled PB are the work of Patricia Borne for whose help I am most grateful; the others are drawn by me, in both cases from the original surveys and drawings of the supervisors whose initials are shown, or under their direction.

2. THE BEDROCK SURFACE

The appearance of the bedrock (a limestone, Lower Inferior Oolite) varies greatly across the site, often even over a short distance. Around A2, A6 and D7 bedrock is flat and quite firm, but within the area so far excavated three major lines of structural weakness

have led to disturbance in the rock. One, running northwest from B2 underlies most of B4 and at the northeastern corner of A5 is joined by another which runs from the entrance area westwards, underlying part of C1 and A3. A third fracture runs east-west along the centre of the hill below the Neolithic banks. These fractures ('gulls') vary from less than a metre to over 10 metres in width, and are linked by a network of small fissures. Narrow fractures are frequently void, but when wide they have been filled by eroded limestone whose appearance is that of coarse-grained sand but whose consistency varies from compacted sand to that of the solid rock itself. These areas frequently show marks of the stakes which in other parts must have failed to penetrate bedrock, but they have in places been much disturbed by burrowing animals, and by roots whose progress has been aided by the thin horizontal laminae (produced by frost action) which constitute the upper metre or so of the surface of the hill. As a result there are several areas in which the identification of postholes cannot be certain, principally at the northeast corner of A5, the western half of B6, and parts of B5. On the plans this disturbance is shown by stippling: the heavier stipples indicate posthole-like areas which cannot, for lack of packing stones, burning, or clear signs of cutting, definitely be considered postholes.

3. THE PHASING OF THE RAMPARTS

The rampart sequence shown in 1969-71 has been illustrated in plans and sections (Dixon 1969, fig. 2; 1970, figs 3-5,7; 1971, fig. 3). The division into three phases of construction was supported by the stratification of the postholes of the entrance (see fig. 3). At the bottom of the large posthole for the gatepost (10) was a packing of unburnt stones in silt (layer 5); above it lay large and small burnt stones and patches of slaked quicklime (layer 4), apparently the collapse of the packing of the post after burning. In layer 3 were included patches of yellow-brown silt - a mixture of burnt material and soil washed into the posthole. Into this posthole 10a had been cut: this contained charcoal and yellow silt washed from the burnt core of the Period 2 rampart. Another posthole (12) had been cut into the infill of posthole 10a, and was associated with the Period 3b bastion. In the slot which ran to the east of posthole 10 three post-settings (14, 64 and 62) had intruded through the rubbish which had accumulated in the slot after the burning of the period 2 rampart and matched slots in the face of the period 3b rampart. In the corresponding gatepost hole the original lower packing (layer 11) was covered by a silt and stone infill which seemed to be rubble behind the first vertical packing of the hole in period 2. A separate infill (layer 9) contained burnt material, and thus post-dated the period 2 destruction: it seemed to have been packed in to support posthole 6c, against whose post a wash of burnt lime (layer 3) had accumulated. At this stage a new and much larger posthole (6a) was cut in the southern end of the main posthole, extending to the bottom of the cut hole and removing part of the original packing: the packing for the post was made up of layer 6 and layer 2, and the post rested against the wall of the period 3b bastion, which now obscured the earlier posthole, 6c. The sequence in the entrance is thus clear: the large gateposts and

the slots link with the timber-laced rampart; the recut postholes 10a and 6c were cut in the burnt material of the period 2 destruction, but were overlain by the period 3b bastions, and so date to period 3a; finally, the latest of the postholes cut into the large gatepost holes, and those in the slots, were fitted into the bastions, and were thus of period 3b.

4. THE PHASING OF THE INTERIOR

The period 3b road surfaces which overlay postholes 25 and 27 (see fig. 3) continued into the interior, and can be seen sealing postholes of structures A2 and A6 (figs. 5 and 7). These buildings thus predate period 3b, and the correspondence in the alignment of A2 with the hollowed roadway through the period 2 entrance establishes that this structure belongs to period 2. The similar position of A1 on the north side of the road indicates that it too should be included with A2 in period 2, and the hypothesis is confirmed by the intersection of these buildings with structure B1: the crucial postholes here are 545 in the A2 group, which was clearly earlier than the B1 posthole 531 (fig. 5), and 516 in the A1 group, shown in fig. 4, which was sealed by the redeposited stones of the platform around B1, a platform which also sealed the A2 postholes to the west of 545 and 546.

Stratification behind the rampart showed that the square structures C6-C8 belonged to period 2, and the inter-cutting postholes at 472 (figs 11, 15) proved that C1 predated B1: less certainly the juxtaposition of A4 and the porch of B1 indicates that the two are not contemporary. The position of A5 and A3 in this sequence cannot be demonstrated, but the similarity in layout and alignment between them and the known structures of period 2 allows a very probable ascription of these groups too to this period.

Of the other structures only B1 can be firmly linked with the rampart: the period 3b road bends to avoid it and stratification shows it to be later than period 2 buildings. B1 was thus standing during period 3b, and its clear destruction by fire is surely to be seen as part of the general burning of the 3b defences; the house belongs to a point within period 3 before the laying of the cobbles, and could quite well have been erected during the Phase 3a: how this first phase of period 3 ended is not clear, and it has been suggested that some such rebuilding as the 3b entrance had been projected in 3a (Dixon 1971, 2). But the presence of charcoal in the 3a postholes 6c and 10a (fig. 3) may well imply a destruction between the two general burnings rather than a clearance of the area during the 3b rebuilding. In such circumstances it is better to treat the second settlement as of period 3 without subdivision.

The attribution to period of the other roundhouses is less obvious: none is in a stratigraphic relationship with any other structure, and only B6 lies rather too close to an early building for them to be contemporary. But in B3, B4, B6, D2, D3, D9 and D10 a series of well-preserved hearths give an indication of sequence. The class A structures have lost some of their original surface through later traffic wear and erosion, and only A7, protected by silting from the Neolithic bank beside it, has preserved its hearth. In A1 the

hearth itself had been worn away, leaving only the burnt bedrock beneath. Wear had damaged some of the roundhouses too: B2 had been crossed by a modern cart track and B1 and B5 retained only their horizontal burnt hearthstones. The other roundhouses had distinctive hearths whose hearthstones, sometimes slightly recessed into a shaped hollow, were surrounded by a rectangular setting of upright stones whose tops protruded into the modern turf. In view of their fragile construction it is unlikely that there could have been any significant amount of traffic on the site since their use and abandonment, and so the hearths and the structures they served should be attributed to period 3b, the final phase of the hillfort. It follows that the four very similar hearths in the area of the Neolithic banks should equally belong to the last phase of occupation (for these see Dixon 1972, figs 2, 4).

Only one of the other structures, C5, can be identified as late; the proximity of its north-western post to the wall line of A5 makes contemporary use implausible (fig. 16). Attribution of the other four-post settings in this area to the final phase is based on their similarity in size to C5, and more tentatively on the coherence of their planning as a cluster around the late roundhouse B6.

The evidence as at present understood is summarized in fig. 1; here the presence or absence of a variety of features and associations highlights the contrast between the rectangular buildings and the roundhouses. At this stage in the excavations one aspect of the site which has not much figured in the discussion emerges strongly, the contrast in planning between the period 2 settlement and that of period 3. The early houses dominate the entrance and run in comparatively regularly-oriented rows towards the large house. The visitor to the 3b settlement, on the other hand, once past the looming gate passage, would be in an open space, over 20 metres broad, with his view to the west blocked by the massive roundhouse, whose apex would have been visible from outside the fort, placed firmly in the axis of the entrance but with its porch turned to the west. The smaller roundhouses, and other buildings such as those sketched on the cover of this report, closed in at north and south. Each settlement contained one large house and a number of smaller houses but the evidence will not allow us to distinguish in our interpretation of the site as a whole between the palace of a chief surrounded by his dependants and the meeting-place of an agricultural community, nor, with less than a quarter of the hilltop excavated, can we be sure of the extent of the settlements or the numbers of the inhabitants.

5. THE PERIOD 2 STRUCTURES

The structures of class A, some certainly, all probably of period 2, were in 1972 interpreted as three-aisled houses (Dixon 1972, 6-7); further evidence for this was recovered in 1973. Only part of the largest house, A5, had been excavated in 1971 and 1972; during the 1973 season much of these old cuttings was

re-opened and the unexcavated area around them stripped, in the hope of recovering traces of the sleeper beams for the outer walls, postulated in 1972. In the new cuttings to the south of the main posts of A5 a row of small postholes was found running parallel to the axis of A5 (see figs. 8 and 9). Examination of the north side of A5 revealed that what had been taken in 1972 to be bedrock was in fact the bottom layer of the cobbling shown in Dixon 1973, fig. 1. Beneath this lay another row of small postholes, made more obvious by traces of soil washed into them during the winter; the same washed soil showed up the tops of further large postholes (1400, 1402-5). The extreme western bay has not been re-examined, and thus 1420 and 1407 are not necessarily the western limits of the outer lines.

Old and new postholes together make a coherent plan, and it seems very difficult not to regard them as all parts of the same building. The wide and deep postholes form two somewhat irregular lines and from their size suggest roof-carrying members. Traces of the post-pipes survived in 431 and 436 (fig. 9); the posts here seem to have been at least 20-25 cms in diameter, and were not placed centrally in the holes: the same seems to be true of 239, 430 and 434 (compare A6 (fig.7)). The irregularities in alignment may in this way have been smoothed. Some must still remain; but a regular roof structure could easily have been erected if the longitudinal roof members rested on tie beams across the width of the building, and not directly on the tops of the posts. Evidence for such tie beams could be sought in the comparatively uniform pairing of aisle posts. The wall lines are marked by small postholes; these outline a slightly boat-shaped house 24m40 in length and varying in width from 9m in the centre to 8m at the gable ends. While they need have borne no relationship with the framing of the roof, it is interesting to note that the wall posts form six complete pairs across the building, at an average of 2m centres, and could have supported the feet of rafters whose spacing was independent of the main lines of aisle posts. At the north eastern corner of the structure tree roots had disturbed the rock to a depth below the expected level of the wall posts and none with certainty could be identified.

Variations occur within the structure, the most obvious of which is the extra pair of posts in bay 3, 1400 and 1402; there is no reason to suppose that these were replacements for the posts in the adjacent postholes, and some structural explanation is needed. Signs of burning on the bedrock within this bay may have been the vestiges of a hearth, and the duplication of posts may thus indicate a change in the roof structures (for example, the absence of tie beams) over a living area. Further westwards a most interesting row of broad shallow postholes (1403, 1404, 1405) lay along the central axis of the house, parallel to the outer walls but not to the aisle posts, which in this area showed their greatest irregularity. These central postholes did not correspond with the spacing of the aisle posts and so could not be associated with their framing; they may have supported a raised floor, such as that for an internal granary or second storey, taking only vertical pressure, for which shallow holes would be quite suitable.

But the fact that they lie along the axis of the building with little reference to the aisle posts suggests that they were placed to support the ridge, and, indeed, that A5 had a solid ridge piece. It is here perhaps relevant that 1403-5 were shallow even in comparison with some of the wall posts, for it is possible that they held posts inserted to support a sagging roof, whose construction had here been made awkward by the bowed sides and unstable because of the irregular aisle posts.

Structure A5 has been discussed at some length because more evidence survives for this than for the other class A buildings. In size of postholes, and spacing and width of bays the whole class is uniform, and the detailed evidence from A5 should be applicable to the other houses of its class.

The south aisle of A1 (fig. 4.) was delimited by the edge of the period 2 roadway. Like A5 a boat-shaped house, the bowing here was emphasized by the massive postholes in the centre bays and the much slighter posts of the gables. One posthole, 507, is not drawn in section; it was visible as a burnt patch on the surface, but had been cut into a joint, and posthole and packing stones had collapsed into the void. The hearth within A1 was represented by a large patch of heavily burnt bedrock, in the centre of the middle bay, the same position as the better preserved hearth in A7 (fig. 10). No evidence for hearths was found in A2, A3, A4, or A6, but sufficient erosion had taken place to eliminate such features. The postholes of the outer walls of A5 have not been paralleled in the other houses of class A. It may be that the structural problems involved in the largest of the houses required, or seemed to require, earth-fast posts in the outer walls which in other structures were framed on sill beams upon the old ground surface. Indeed, the failure to identify the wallposts of A5 during the initial excavations (though 1407/231 and 1408/235 were in fact found in 1971) lends colour to a suspicion that such small postholes were not recognized in the other houses too. This was checked in 1973, with negative results, in the case of A6, but cannot yet be ruled out for the other houses.

Four square structures (C1, C6-8) have now been ascribed to period 2. The only ones requiring comment at this stage are C7 and C8, stratified behind the period 2 rampart, for they could be combined into a single class A building such as A4 or A6. The distance between the centres of the postholes does indeed fall within the average spacing of class A bays, but C7 and C8 are separated by a gap nearly 1m wider than the measurements within the buildings, and the postholes themselves are shallower and narrower than those generally found in class A. In these circumstances, it seems reasonable to treat them as separate square buildings comparable to C6, the slightly larger square structure to the south of the entrance passage. Such buildings could serve as guardhouses or even as platforms behind the rampart. Similarly, A4 and A6 could easily be treated as two pairs of adjacent square structures but here, despite some irregularity, the consistent spacing of the bays and the greater size of the postholes makes the interpretation

6. THE PERIOD 3 STRUCTURES

Less controversy surrounds the identification of a number of roundhouses, arranged around the single large roundhouse B1, all reasonably seen as belonging to period 3. B1 is securely dated to this period (figs. 11, 12; for a brief discussion see Dixon 1972, 7). The house is one of a type familiar in Wessex, both in scale and in the symmetry of its planning (see Harding 1974, 37-42), and like all but Little Woodbury the roof had no visible supports within the main post circle, whose diameter of 11m20 is a considerable space to roof in a single span. The smaller roundhouses fall into three groups. The simplest, B3 (fig. 13), seems to have been raised solely on wall posts; structural stability would depend on adequate jointing of the upper members. The two large postholes 1250 and 1251 were in no position to be structural members and presumably were the free-standing supports of, for example, a frame or loom.

In the second group, which consists of B2, B5 and probably B6 (figs 13, 14, 12), the wall posts were a little more widely spaced, and the weight of the roof seems to have been taken on a square of internal posts set in deeper postholes. B5 was almost symmetrical with a central hearth and an entrance porch very probably indicated by 1338 and 1346 and a corresponding pair lost in tree-root disturbance. Similar disturbance seems to have removed the northwest internal post of B6 (fig. 12); here the clear porch posts, three of the internal supports, and traces of the wall line provide evidence for a close parallel to B5. Reconstruction of the larger roundhouse, B2 (fig. 13), is made problematic by the eccentric placing of the internal square, but the position of 1312 suggests that the house, by accident or design, was not round but oval.

The third type of roundhouse, B4, is more complicated. In figure 14, a circle has been drawn in the most likely position for the wall line. The southern part of the line, across a gull, had been much interfered with by rabbits, but the soft gull material yielded traces of a number of postholes, some of which may predate B4; from these, however, no really credible alternative plan can be produced, and it is possible that they represent approximately concentric rings of additional supports. The most likely position of the porch is to the SSE, where postholes in three groups of three may have formed a double entry. The hearth was placed well off-centre, surrounded by four substantial postholes, presumably supports for a framework. The hearth itself was heavily burnt, and, to the south, a rough platform of stones (800) showed intense burning, which had reduced stones and bedrock to quicklime, a temperature perhaps in the region of 1200°C. The burning, position of the hearth and the apparent multiplication of postholes distinguishes B4 from the other structures so far uncovered, and one may well see this roundhouse as a workshop.

A group of four-post structures (C2-4) has been provisionally ascribed to period 3 (fig. 16). The only clear evidence of sequence comes from C2, which could not be contemporary with A5. It is an assumption, probably acceptable, that C2 belongs to period 3 and not to a sub-phase of period 2, but the evidence for C3, and C4 is less satisfactory: postholes and spacing closely resembled those of C2 and the tops of the postholes themselves were easily visible immediately below the modern sub-soil, not sealed like many period 2 holes by re-deposited limestone. The slightly haphazard arrangement around B6 is perhaps more in accord with the planning of the period 3 settlement than with the clear alignments of period 2. C4 was almost certainly a two-period structure, both phases perhaps within period 3. The four-post structure C5 at the back of the Neolithic bank (fig. 16.) may have been associated either with A7 (period 2) or with D11 and the adjacent rectangular hearths, all probably of period 3 (for location see Dixon 1972, fig 2).

7. OTHER POSTHOLE GROUPS

These postholes are shown in fig. 17; they fall into three classes: groups which are probably houses of period 3, groups which are probably houses, but of no certain period, and groups which are probably not houses.

D1, D2, D3, D9, D10 and D11 probably belong to period 3. The first four contained rectangular hearths of the same appearance as those in the small roundhouses: but neither D1 nor D2 were associated with a sufficient number of postholes to produce satisfactory house plans. The southern side of D1 had been disturbed, and some holes perhaps lost. D2, however, seemed little damaged and the problem here was made more obvious by a neatly laid area of cobbling, heavily worn, which was stratified into the same layer as the hearth, and presumably represented the porch of D2. A rough semi-circle of burning to the south of the hearth was perhaps associated, but none of the postholes in this area could be linked with these features. It is thus difficult to avoid the conclusion that D2 (and perhaps D1) was a building wholly framed on the ground surface. D11 has already been illustrated and discussed (Dixon 1972, 3-4, fig.4), and buildings of similar size and shape could be inferred from the cluster of postholes at D3 and D10. D9, five postholes and a hearth of normal rectangular pattern, presumably represent a small trapezoidal building of period 3.

Clusters of postholes at D5, D7 and D8 may have been irregular structures, perhaps of period 2: postholes of D5 at least were concealed by re-deposited limestone slabs in the same way as many of the period 2 postholes; a hole at the north east corner could have been missed.

In addition to these groups a number of postholes can be given no satisfactory grouping: D6 was a paved area of heavy burning irregularly surrounded by postholes, one of which showed two and another three passes of cutting. A possible interpretation would be an outdoor fire with a windscreen. Not all the postholes of

D3 and D8 were contemporary, and here and elsewhere it is possible to pair postholes into phases of screens or of drying racks. D4, an odd line of five postholes at regular centres could have been a fence or screen, but it is of interest to notice that small patches of burnt stones lay on either side parallel to and some 2m from the postholes: D4 may thus have been a rectangular building about 9m by 4m, whose roof was supported by poles to the ridge.

8. RADIOCARBON DATING

Four radiocarbon dates have been obtained from the Carbon-14/Tritium Measurements Laboratory, Harwell.

HAR-391	2520 \pm 90	before present (bp)
HAR-392	2590 \pm 60	bp
HAR-393	2310 \pm 70	bp
HAR-394	2350 \pm 80	bp

The first measurement was of a gatepost in the period 3b entrance; the post was of oak and originally about 30 cms diameter; some growth allowance is clearly necessary, perhaps as much as half a century. The remaining three dates come from thin branches (3-5 cms diameter) in the lacing of the period 2 rampart: 392 and 393, indeed, came from contingent pieces of charcoal.

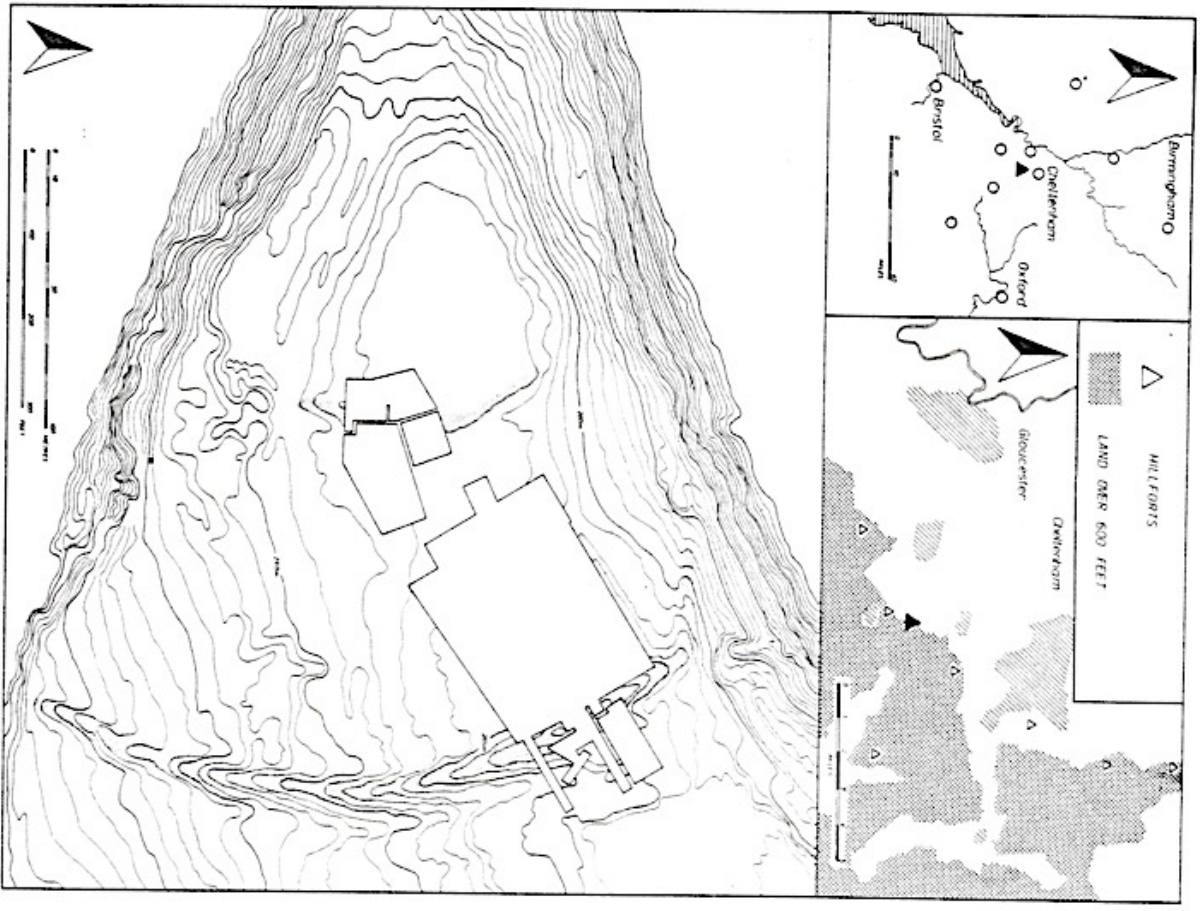
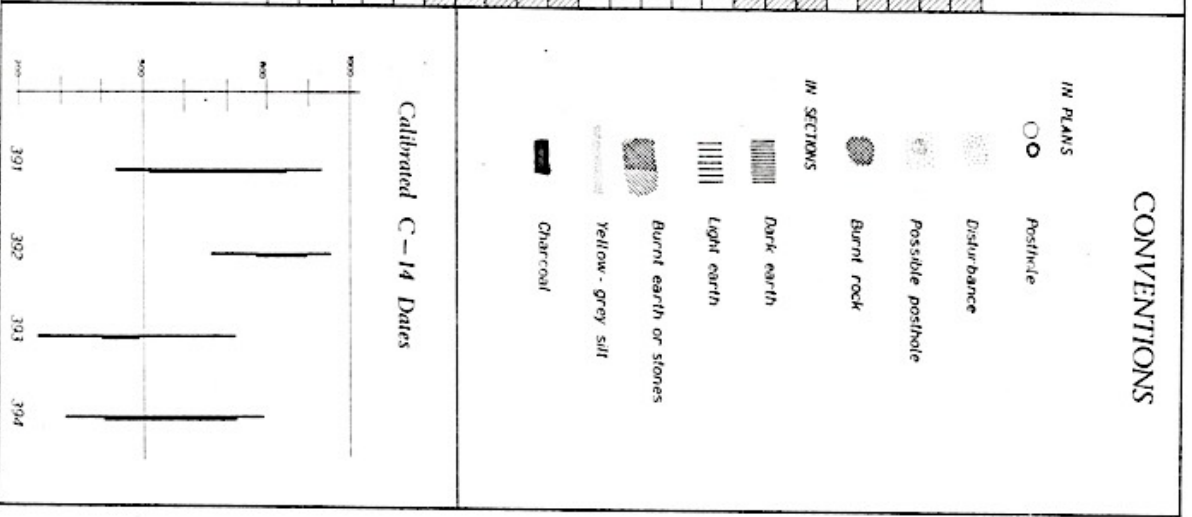
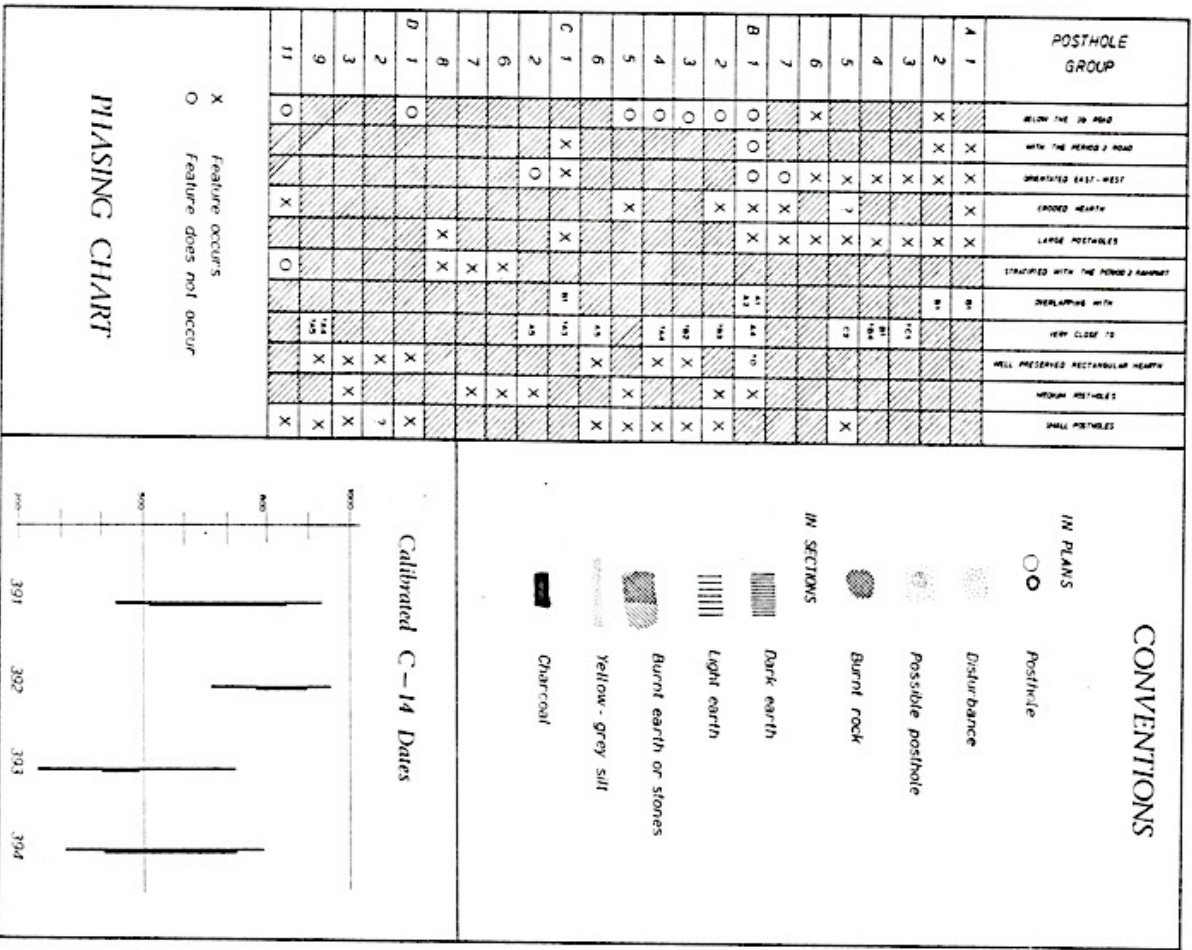
These raw radiocarbon determinations must be calibrated to produce dates in calendar years, but no single calibration curve has as yet been pronounced acceptable. Some tentative discussion is clearly desirable, and for this the most recently published calibration (Ralph *et al.*, 1973) has been used. The table in fig. 1 is a graphic presentation of the calibrated dates. The likelihood that the real date of the felling of the sample lies at any point within the central section of the date span is 66%: this is the figure quoted as a deviation from a central date as cited above. That the real date lies within the next broadest span is 95% probable, and that it lies within the widest span is 99% probable. An unacceptable risk is involved in assuming that the real date lies within the single deviation bracket (one in three fall outside); better practice is to adopt two standard deviations: thus 2520 \pm 90 bp is not 2610-2430 bp but 2700-2340 bp.

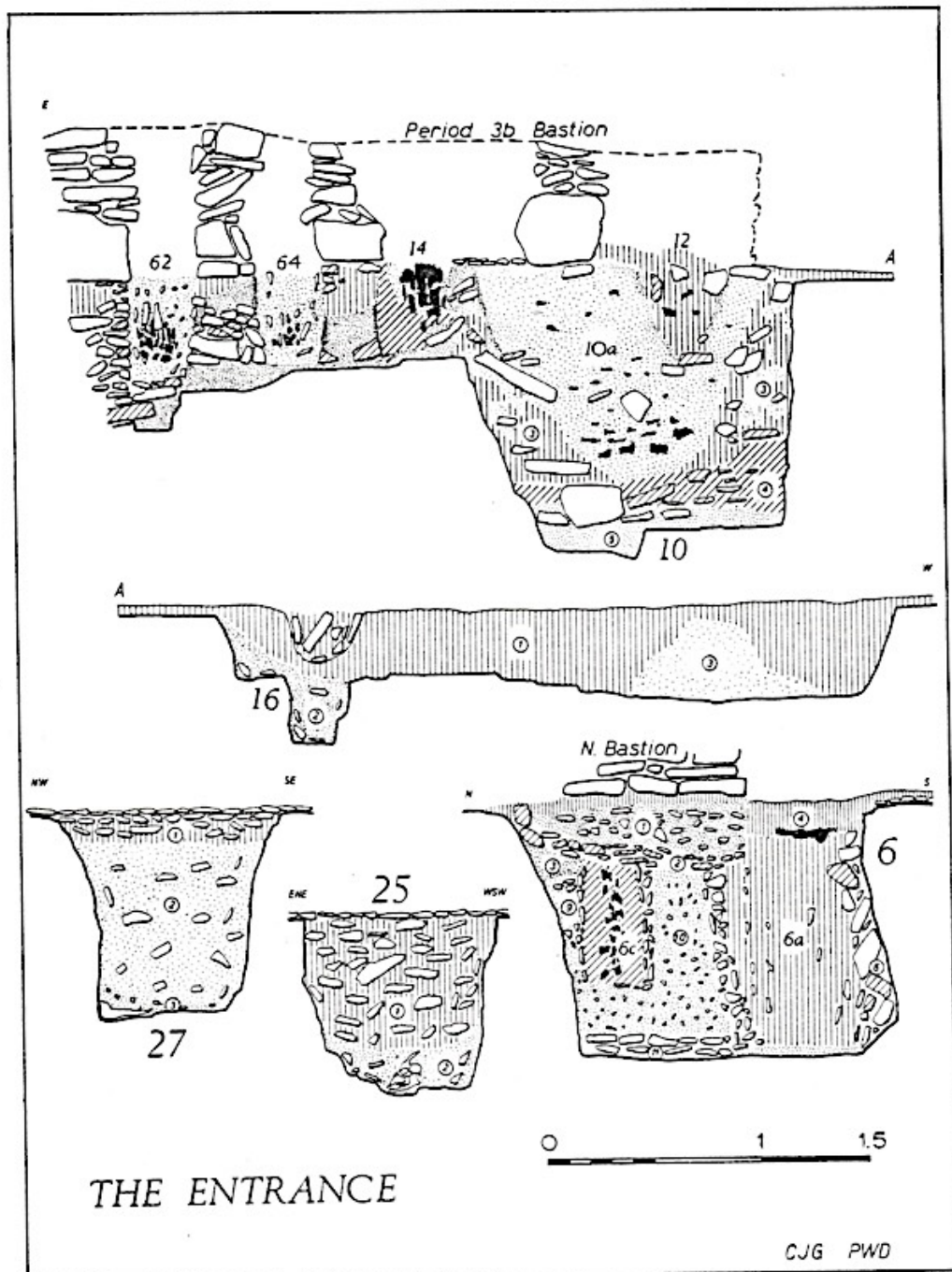
The gatepost (HAR-391) thus may be dated to a point in the range 930-440 B.C., after calibration; but because of the wide spread of dates a problem arises in the interpretation of the period 2 determinations. It is certain that samples HAR-392 to 394 derive from the same horizon, the construction of the period 2 rampart, and it should be noticed that all dates when calibrated at two standard deviations overlap between 730 and 660 B.C. If by a possible alternative method the period 2 dates are combined in a single measurement (2417 \pm 41 bp) the span becomes 640 - 425 B.C. In view of the possibility of contamination of one or other of the

samples more Carbon-14 dates are clearly necessary to resolve this difficulty: one may, in the meantime suggest that the hillfort occupation is unlikely to have begun before the eighth century B.C. and that the abandonment of the site took place before the end of the fifth century.

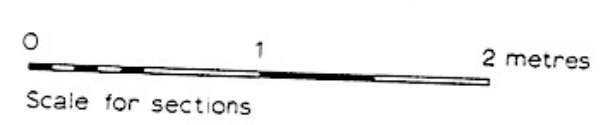
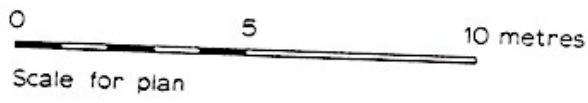
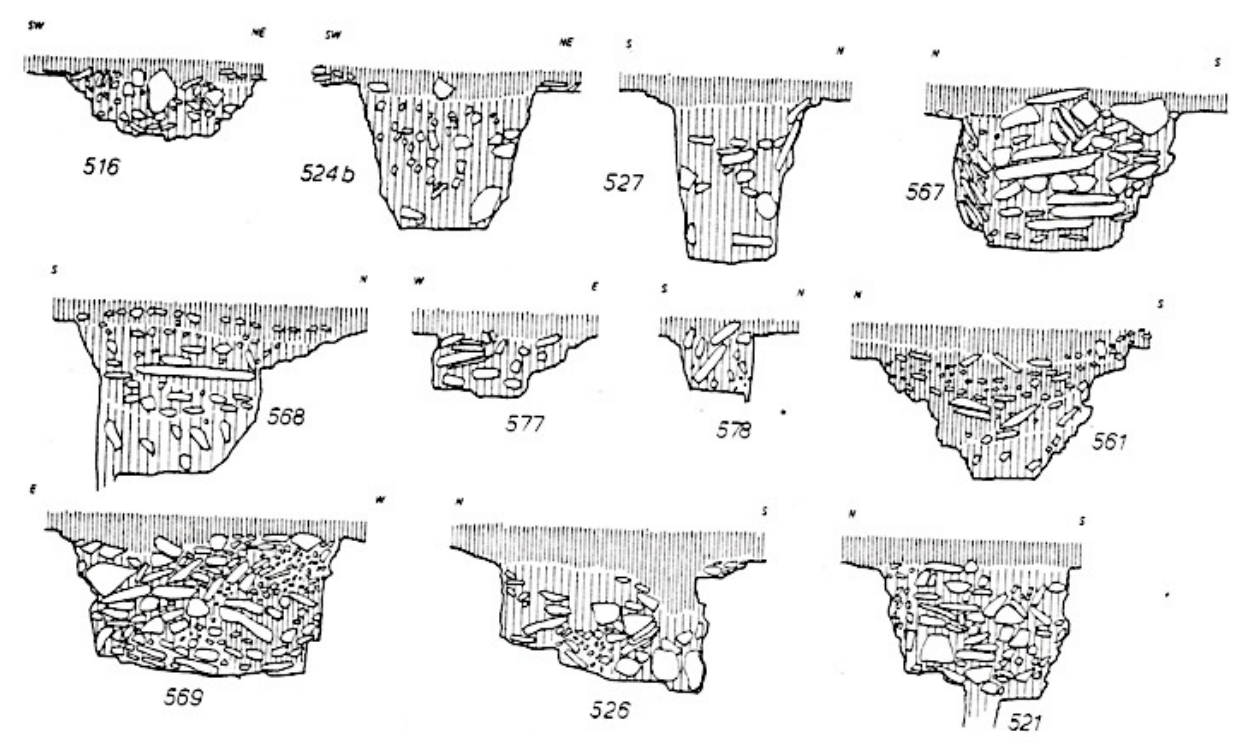
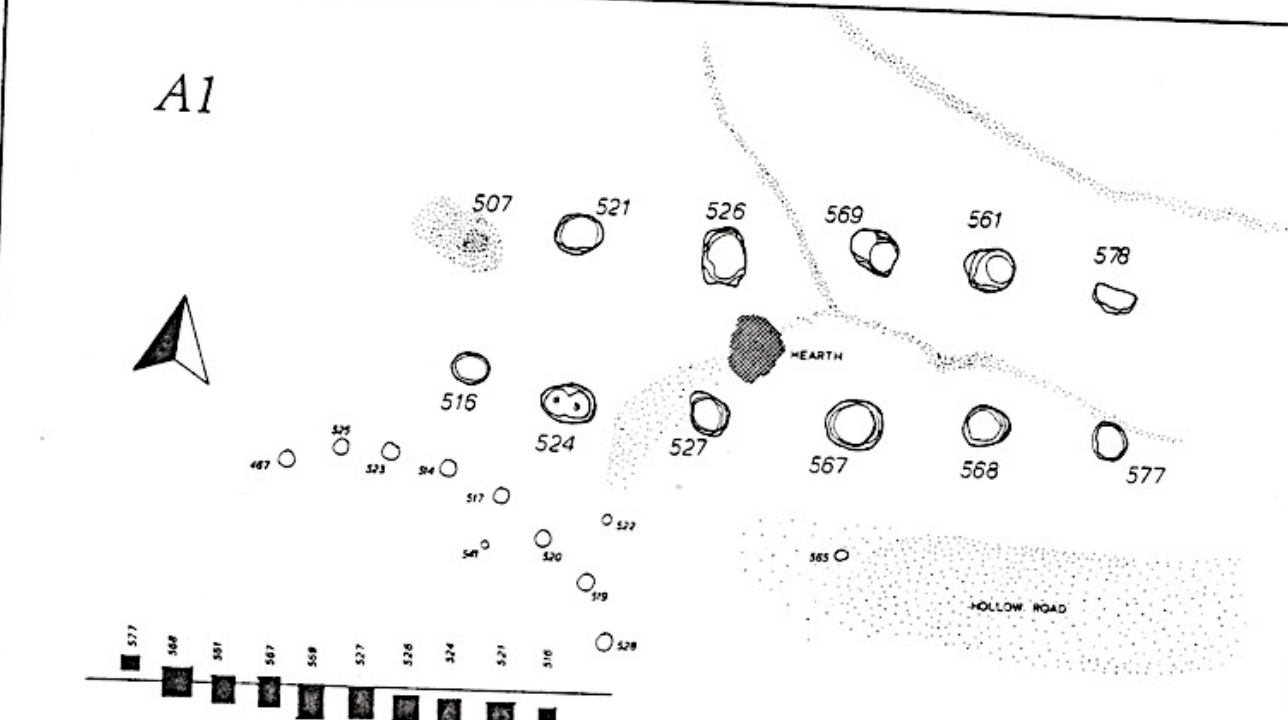
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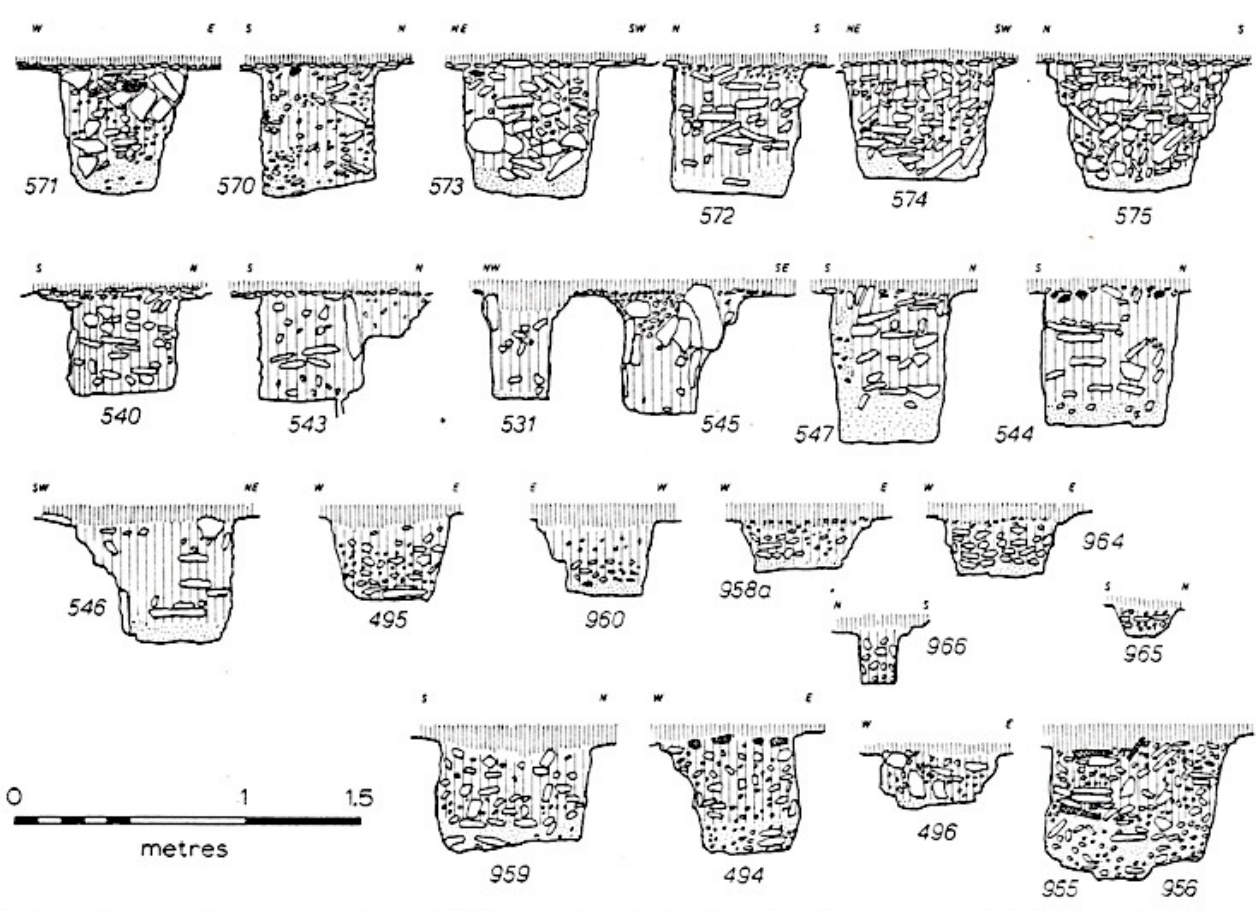
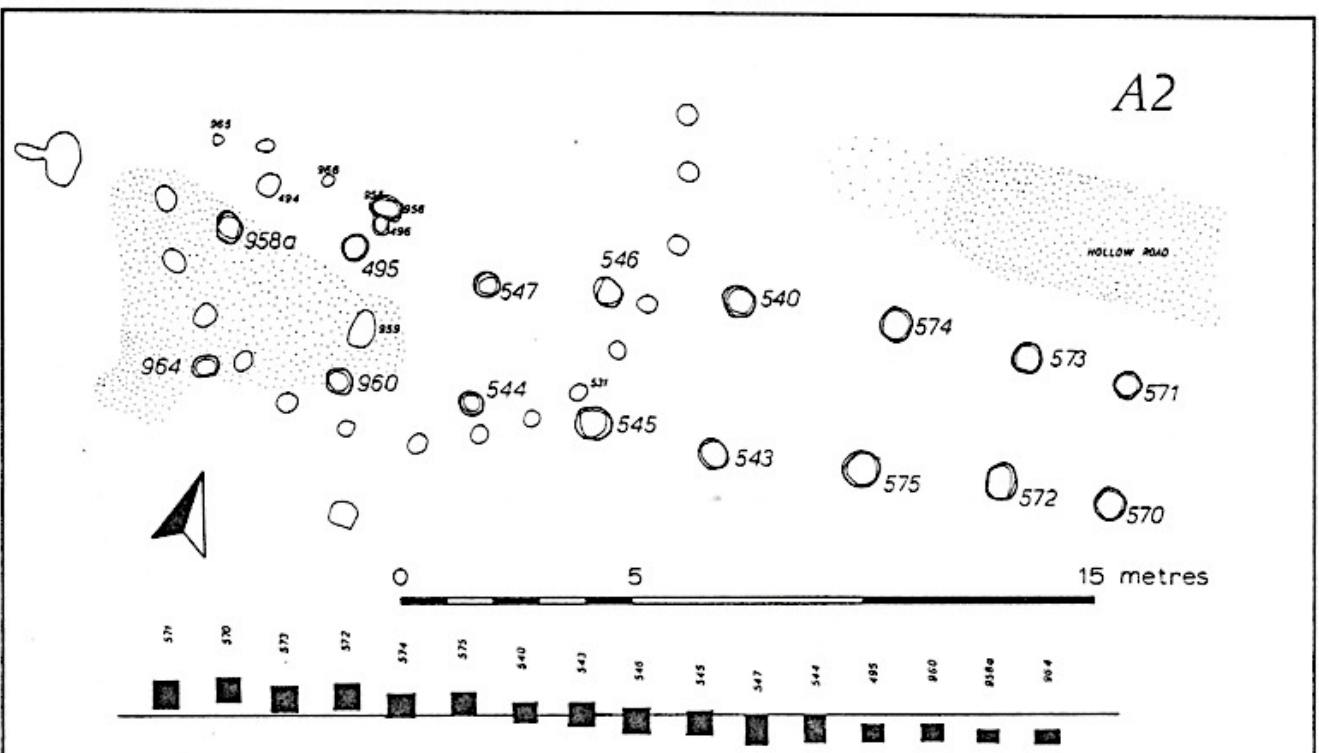


A1

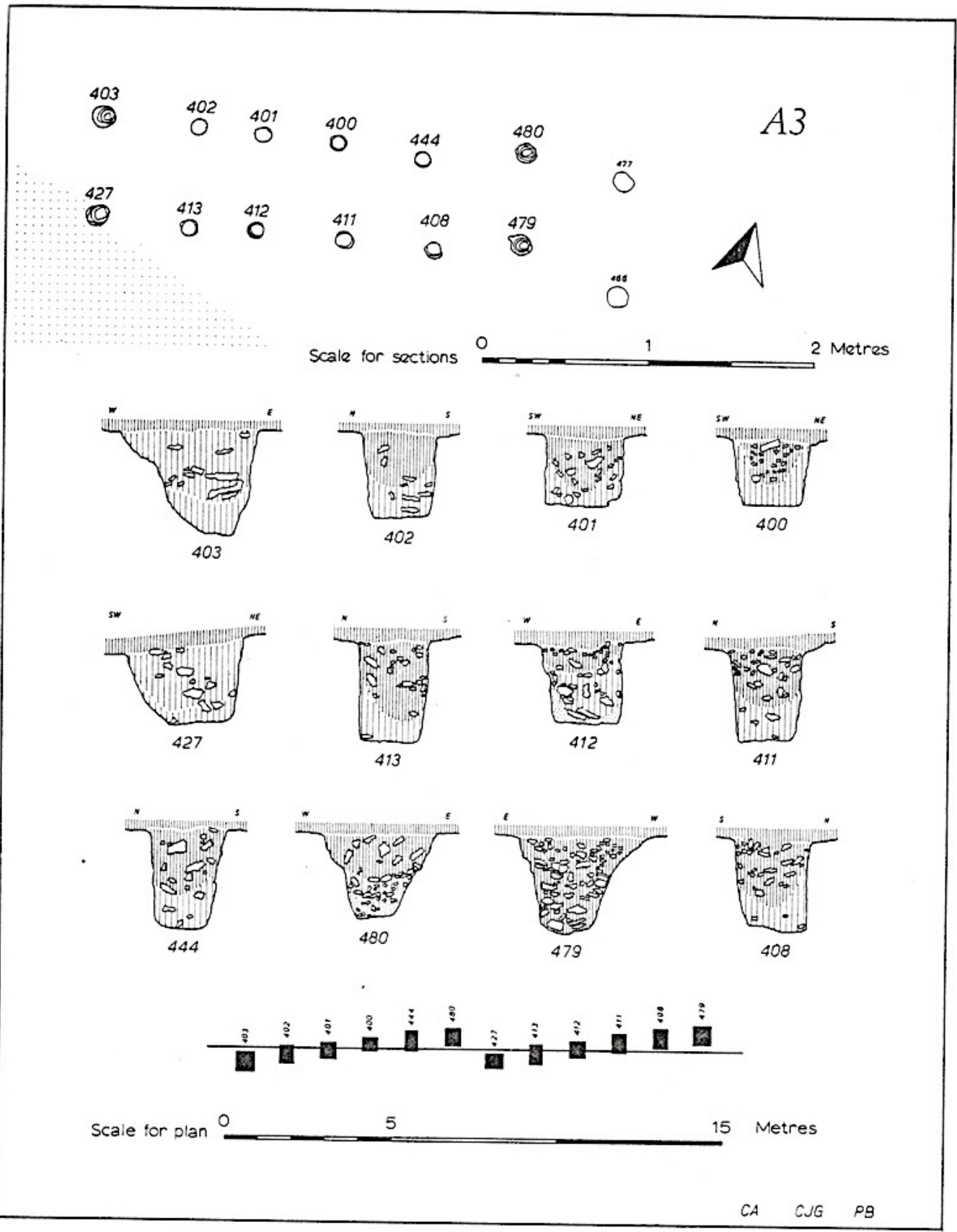


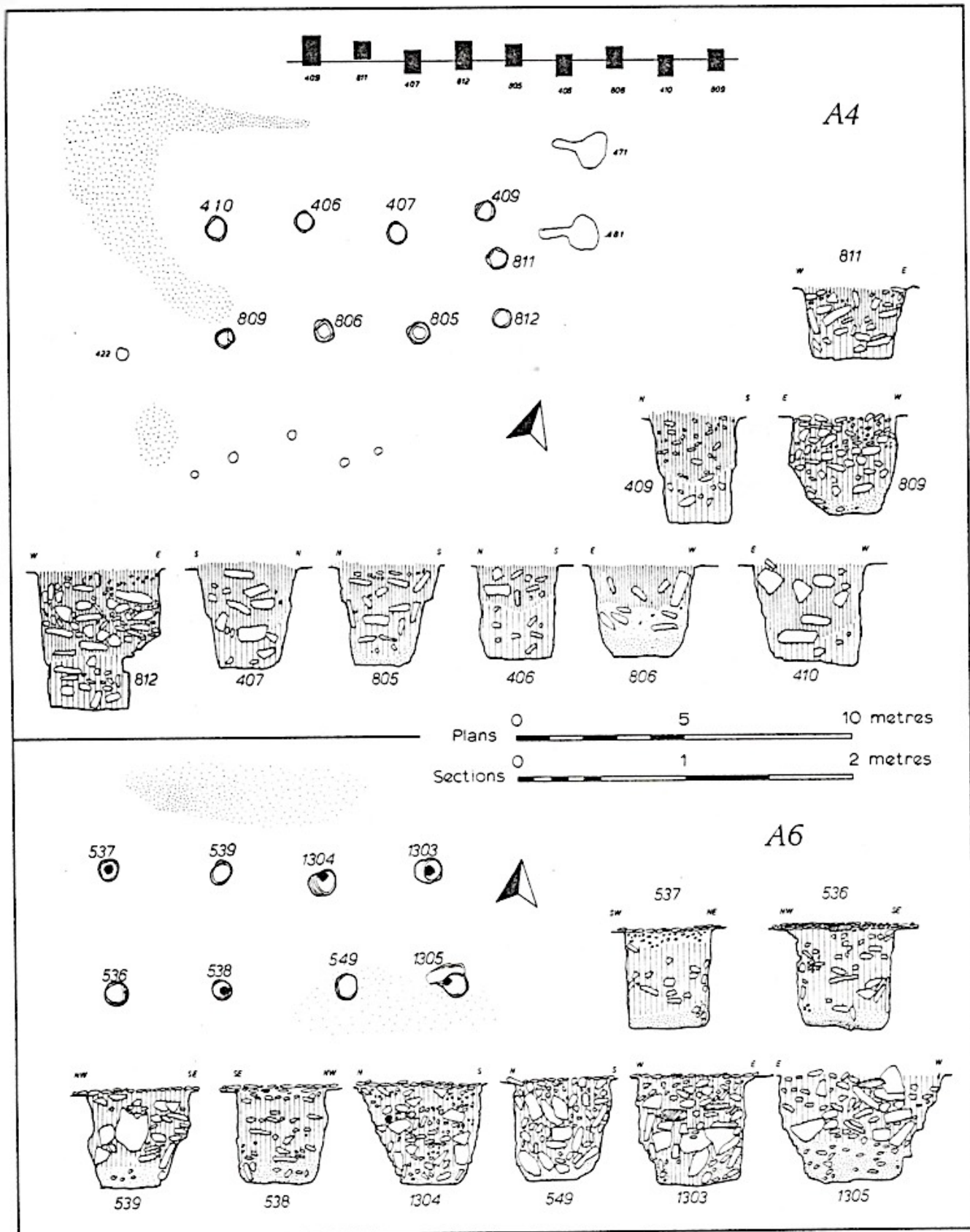
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A2



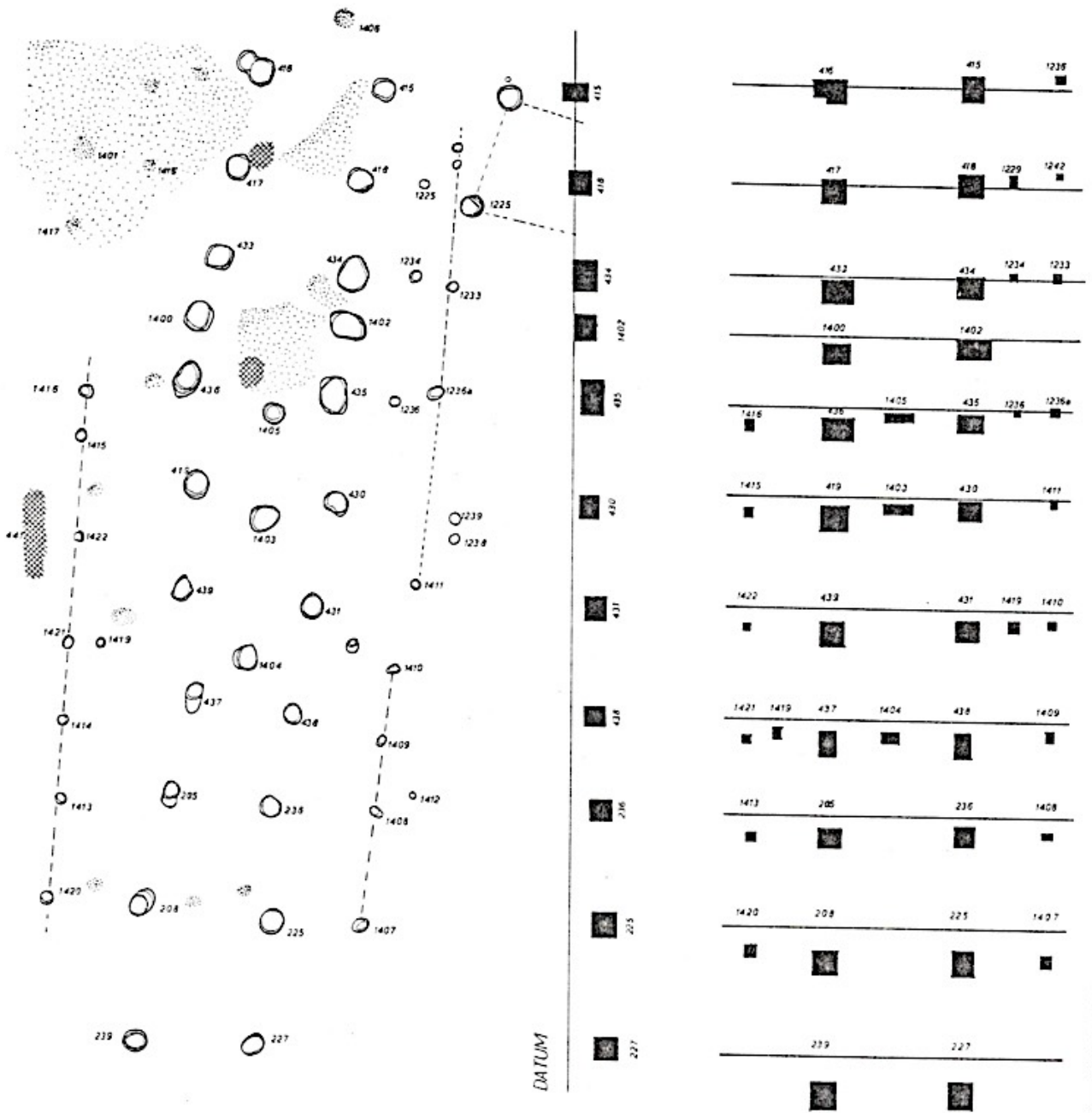
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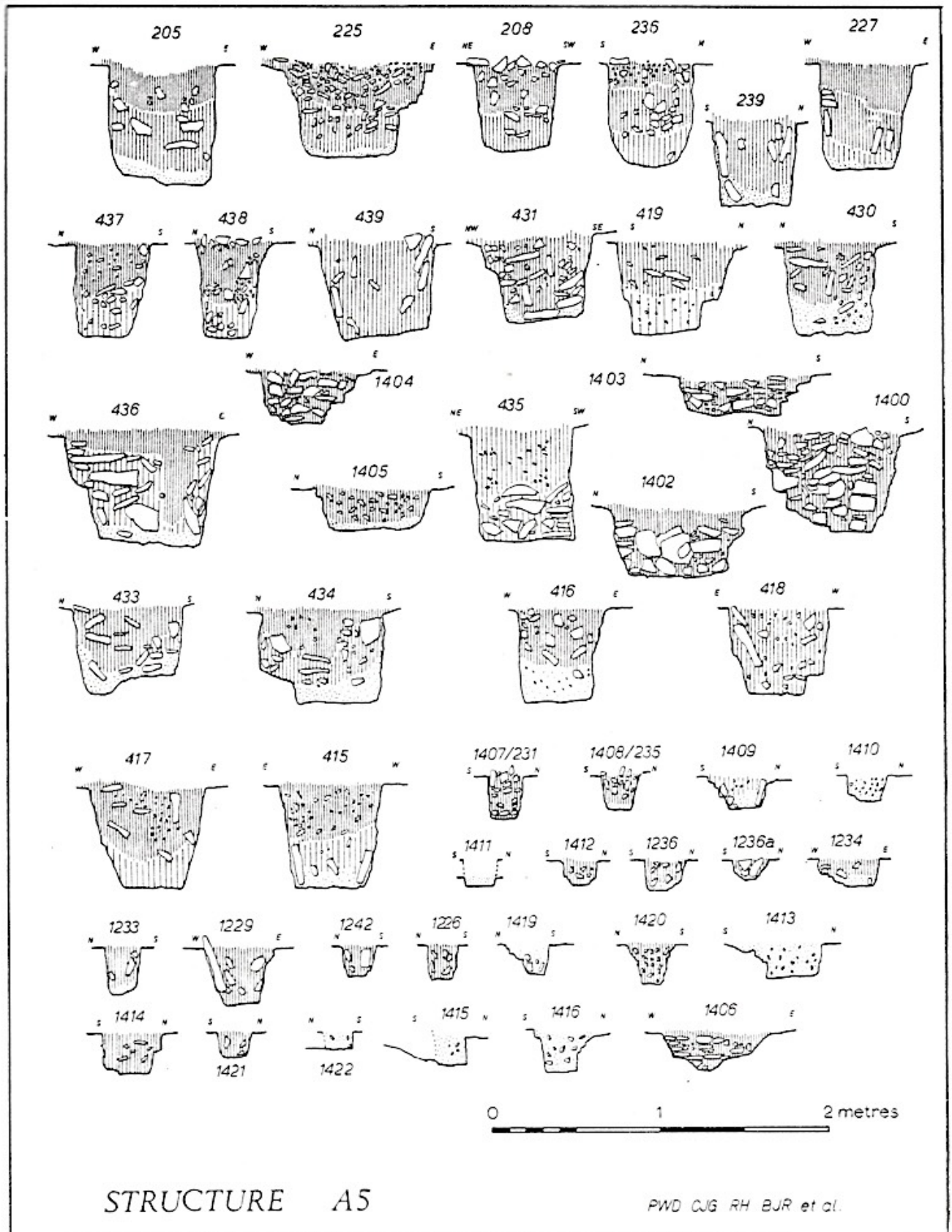


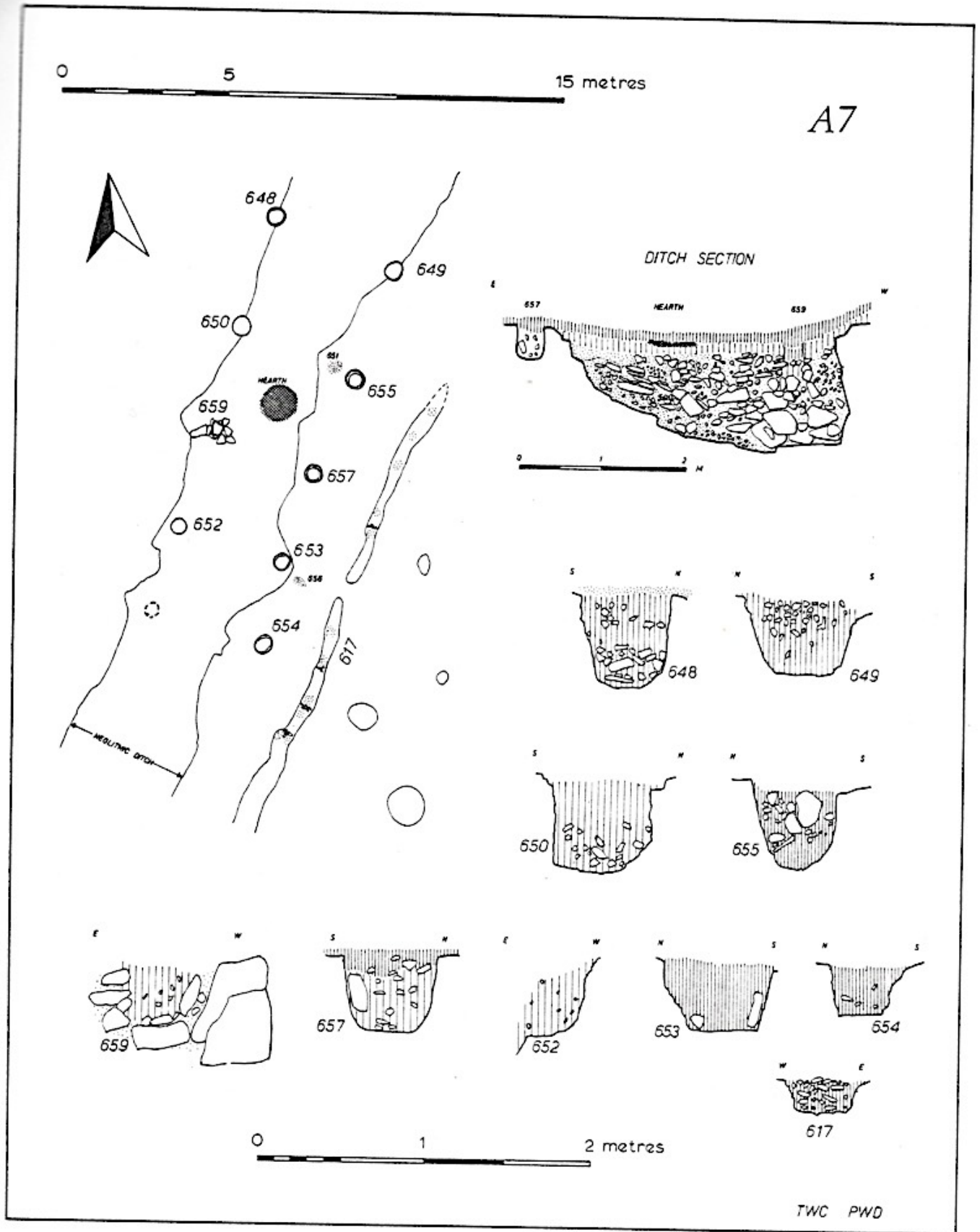
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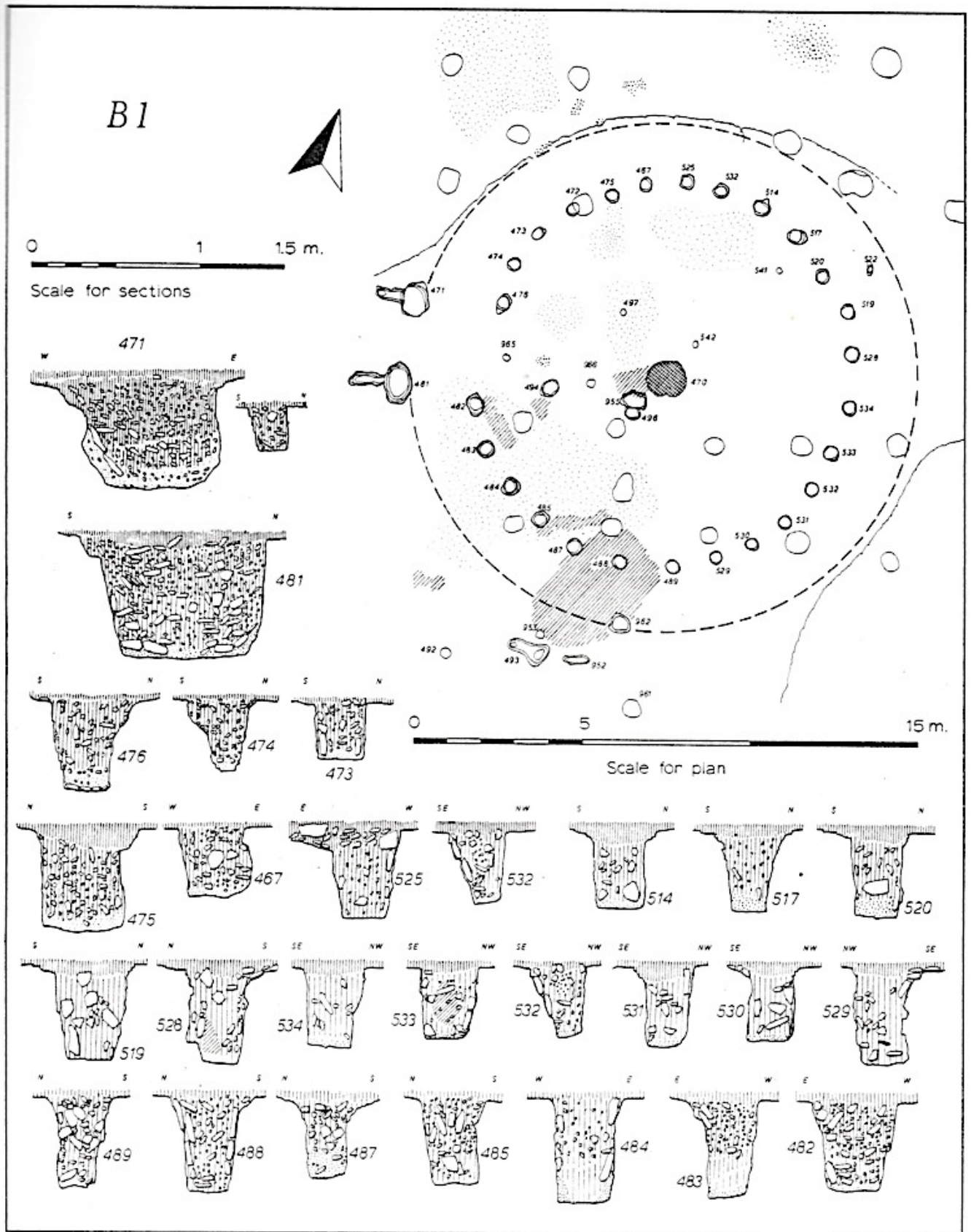
STRUCTURE A5



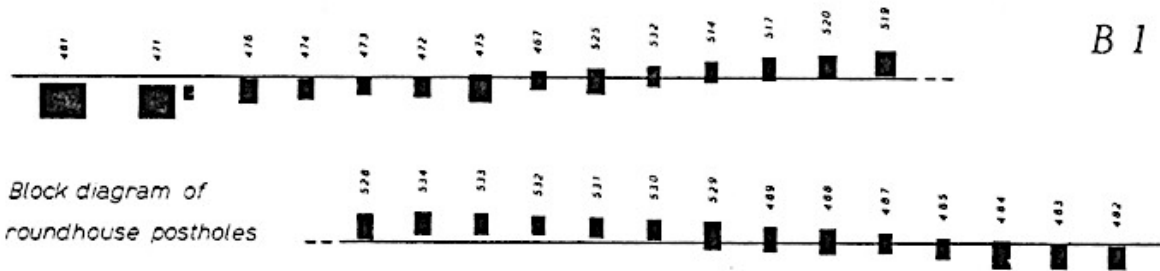
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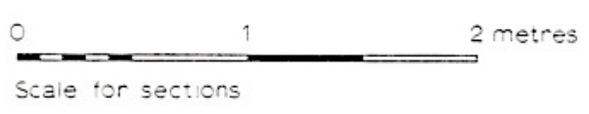
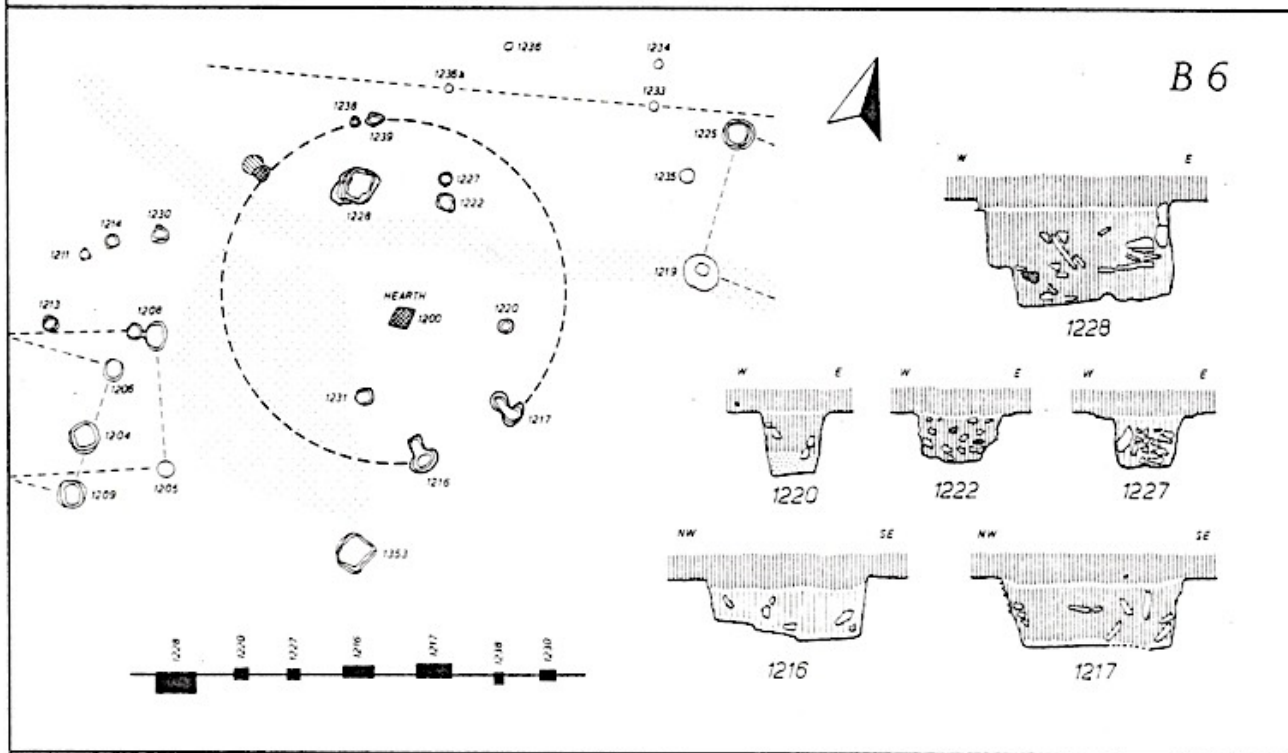
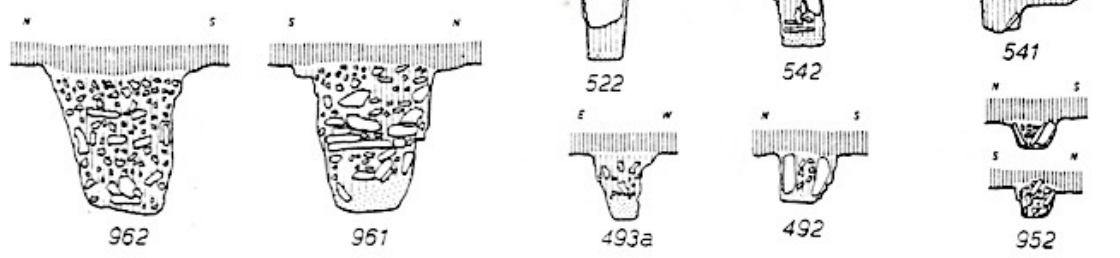




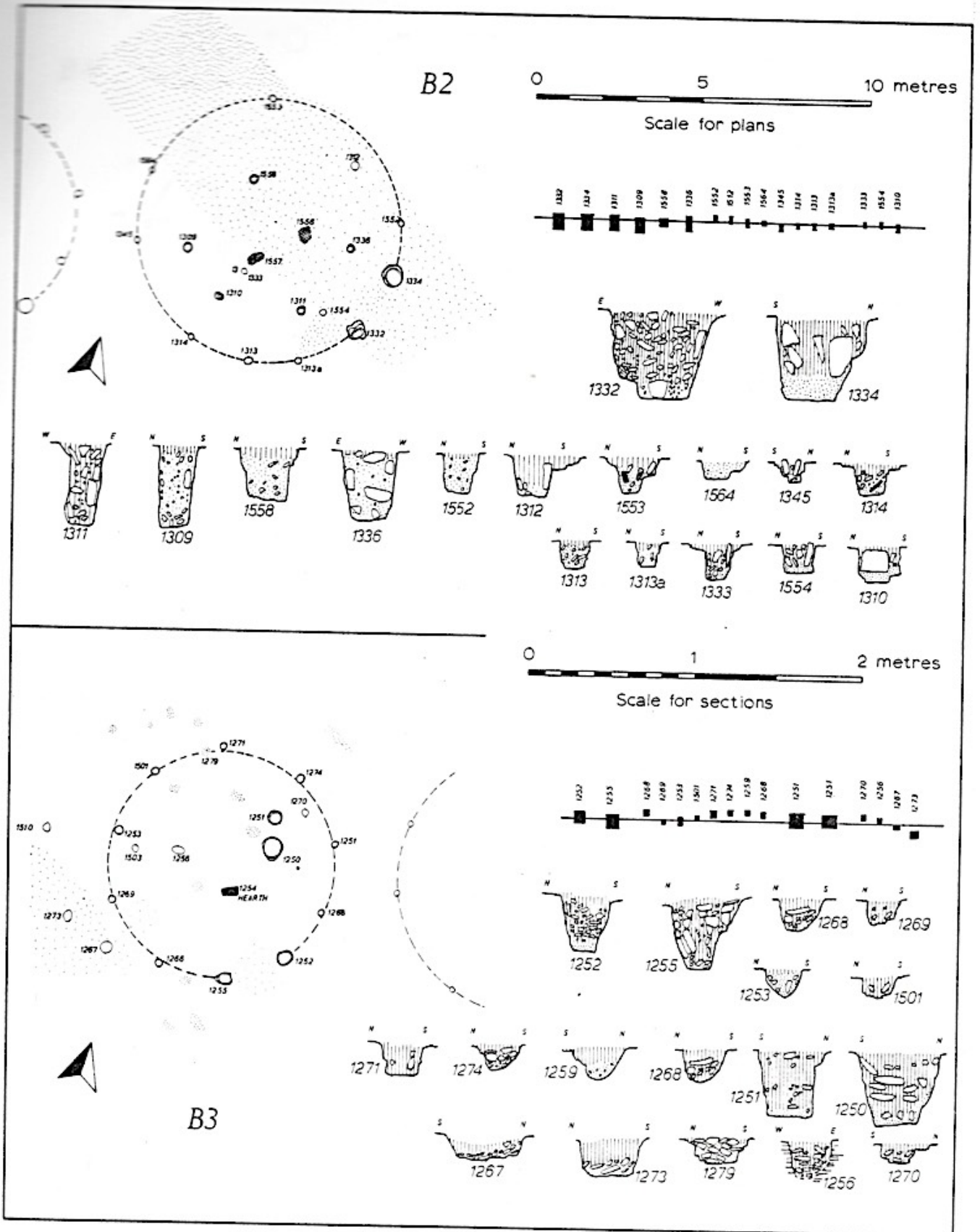
CA SRHB PWD



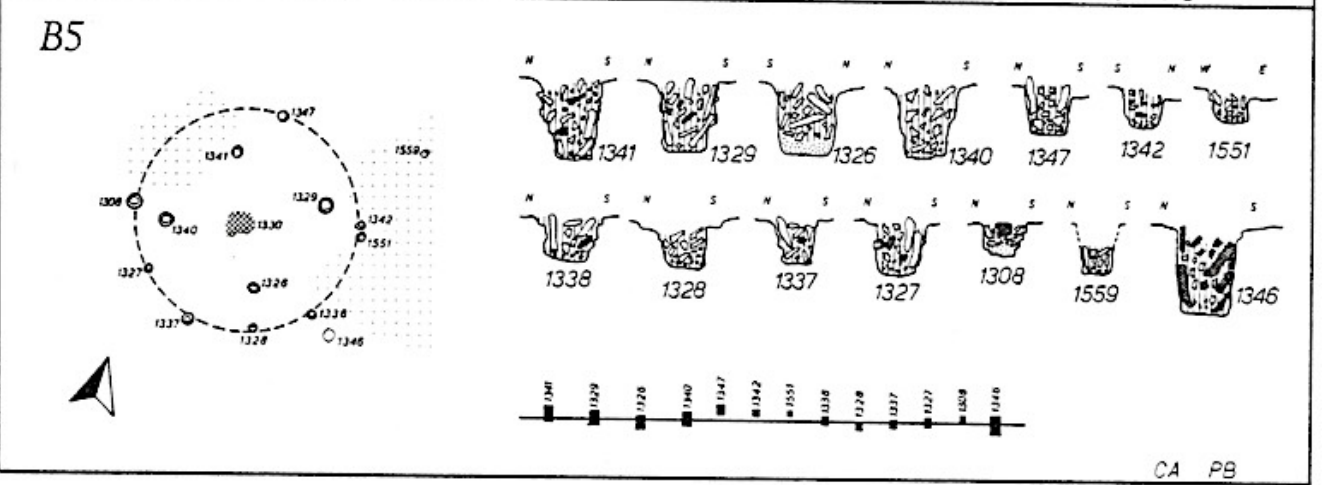
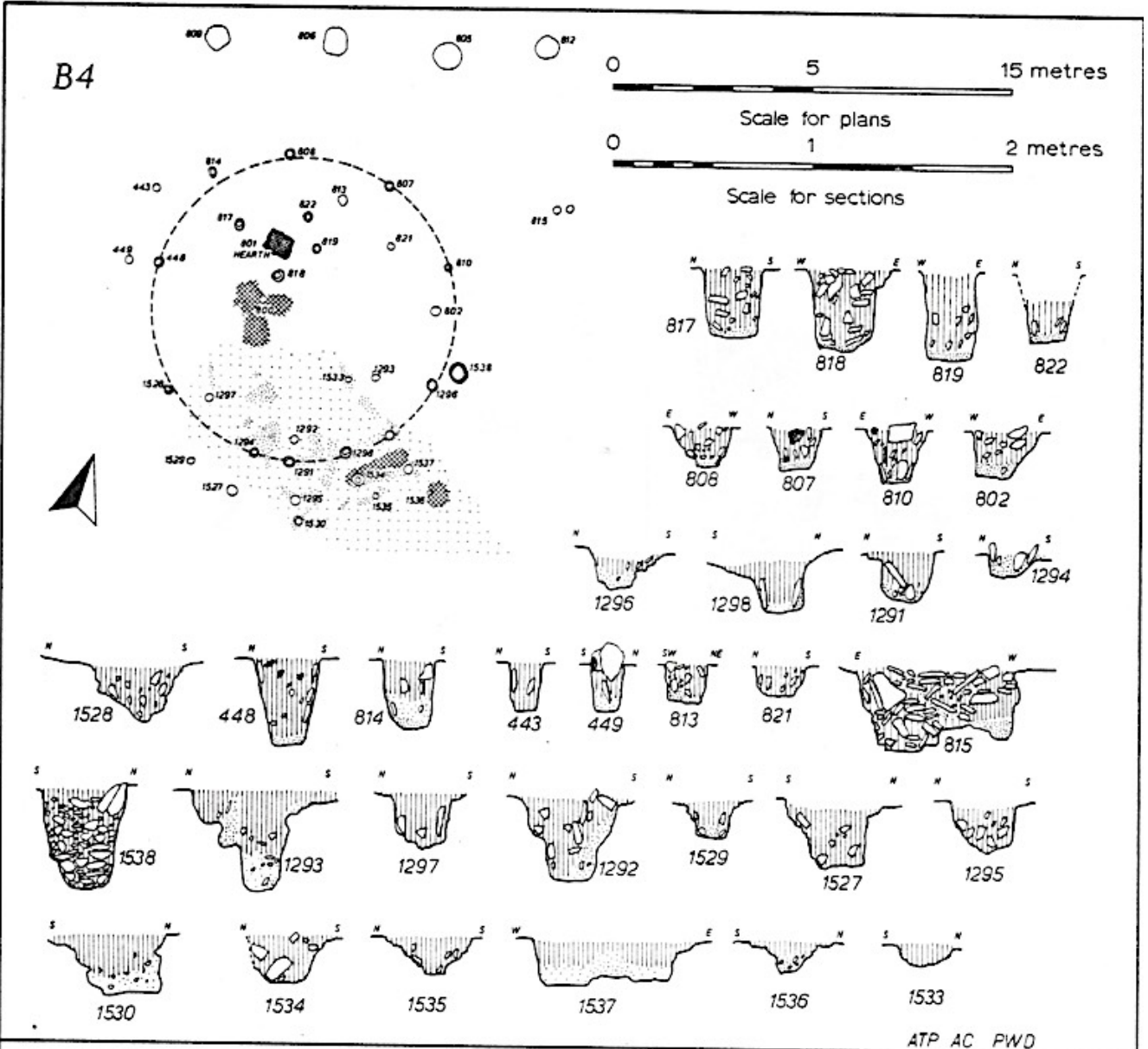
Other postholes within and near B 1

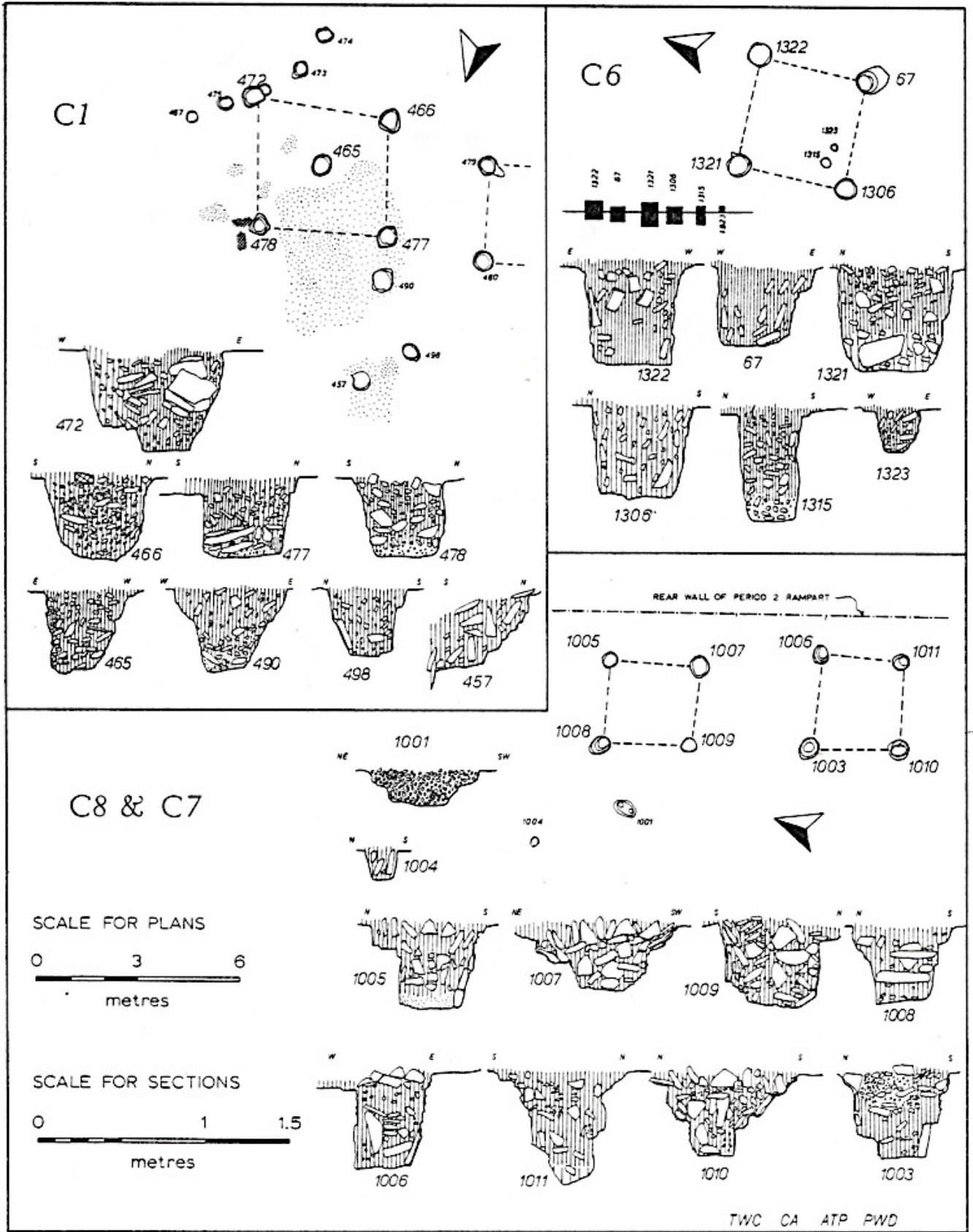


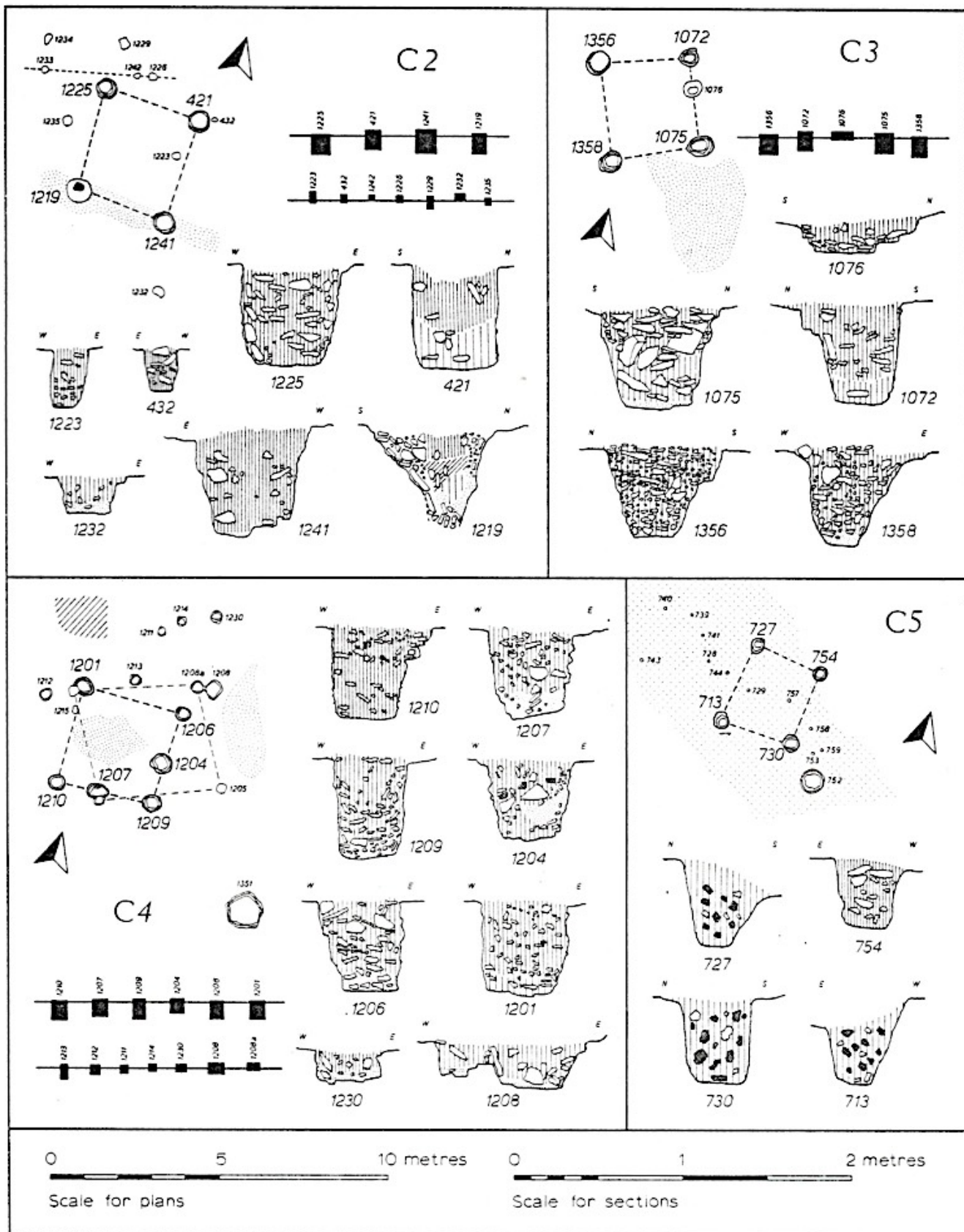
SRHB CA RH PB



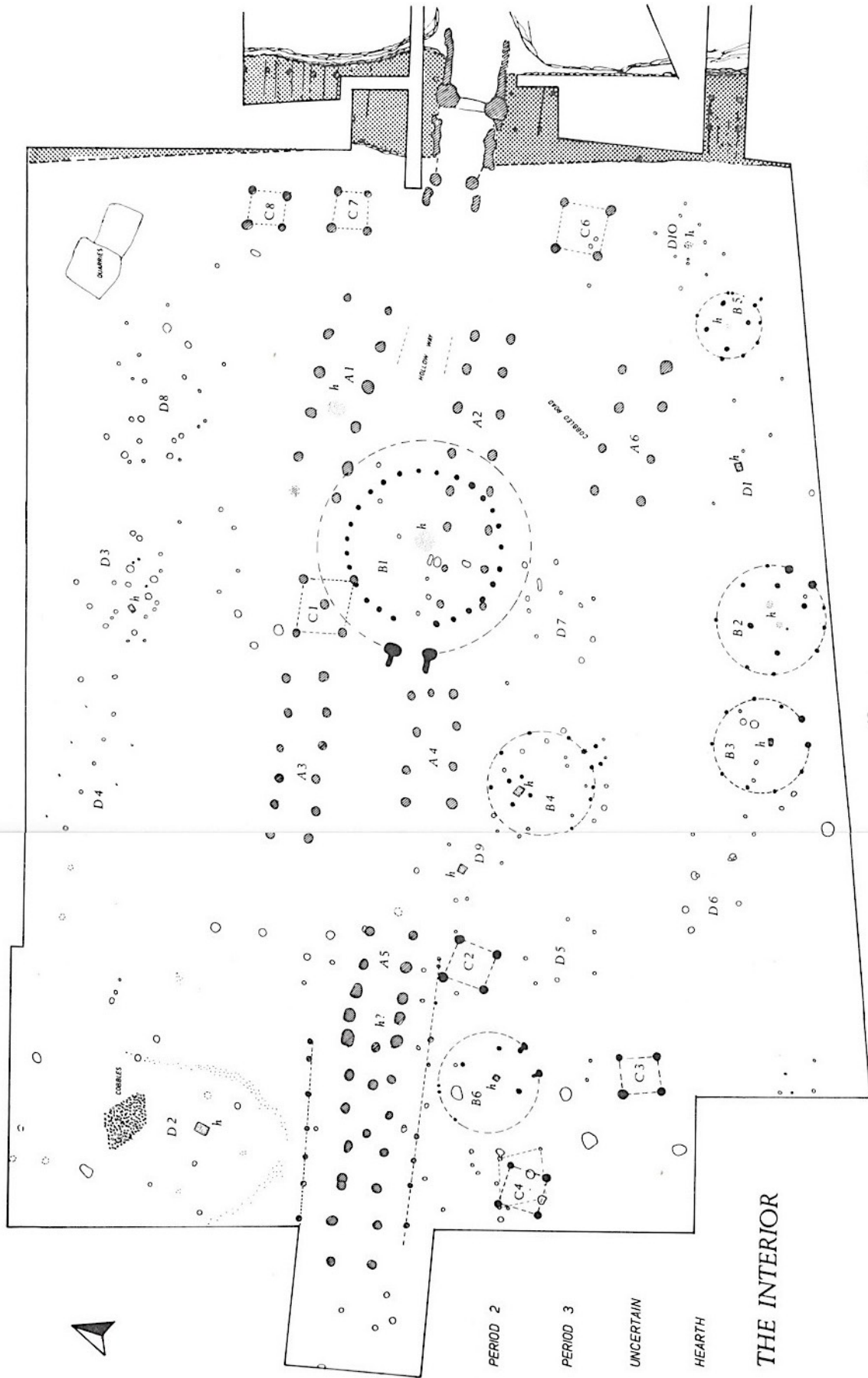
PWD CA AC et al.







CJG MH RH JT FMCA PB



POSTHOLES

- ◐ PERIOD 2
- ◑ PERIOD 3
- UNCERTAIN
- h HEARTH

THE INTERIOR

