

საქართველოს კულტურული
მემკვიდრეობის ძეგლები



№ 5

2004



საქართველოს მეცნიერებათა ეროვნული აკადემია
Georgian National Academy of Sciences

სიძველეთა დაცვისა და შესწავლის ცენტრი
Centre for Preservation and Studies of Antiquities

კულტურული ანთროპოლოგიის განვითარების საერთაშორისო ფონდი
Cultural Anthropology Development International Foundation

საქართველოს კულტურული მემკვიდრეობის ძეგლები
№5

Monuments of Georgian Cultural Heritage
№5

თბილისი
Tbilisi
2004

უკ (UDC) 902/904 (479.22
8295

წინამდებარე პუბლიკაცია წარმოადგენს წალკის მუნიციპალიტეტის სოფ. საფარ-ხარაბას (დღევანდელი სოფ. სამადლო) ჩრდილოეთით მდებარე სამაროვნზე 2003 წელს ჩატარებული არქეოლოგიური გათხრების დოკუმენტური ანგარიშის ინგლისურ ვერსიას.

სამაროვნზე საველე სამუშაოები მიმდინარეობდა 2003-2005 წლებში კომპანია BP-ის დაკვეთით. საველე სამუშაოებს აწარმოებდა ოთარ ლორთქიფანიძის არქეოლოგიური კვლევის ცენტრის თრიალეთის არქეოლოგიური ექსპედიცია (ხელმძღვანელი გ. ნარიმანიშვილი).

მხოლოდ 2003 წელს ჩატარებული სამუშაოების ანგარიშის ქართული ვერსია გამოქვეყნებულია ჟურნალის №4 ნომერში. №5 ნომერში იბეჭდება ამავე ანგარიშის ინგლისური ვერსია. №6 ნომერი მიეძღვნება 2004 წლის, № 7 კი 2005 წლის ივნის-აგვისტოში ჩატარებულ სამუშაოებს, 2005 წლის დეკემბერში გათხრების ანგარიში კი დაიბეჭდება ჟურნალის მე-8 ნომერში.

მთ. რედაქტორი

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ISBN 99928-0-794-6

ISBN 99928-0-795-4

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Goderdzi Narimanishvili

Report on Tsalka-Trialeti Archaeological Expedition

Field Activities

in September-November 2003

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Introduction

For the reported period the Expedition worked within the boundaries of Tsalka section of Baku-Tbilisi Ceyhan Oil Pipeline route, between KP 117-120 of the corridor. The mentioned section is located between Bashkoi (Bareti) and Safar-Kharaba (Baiburti) villages (pic.1).

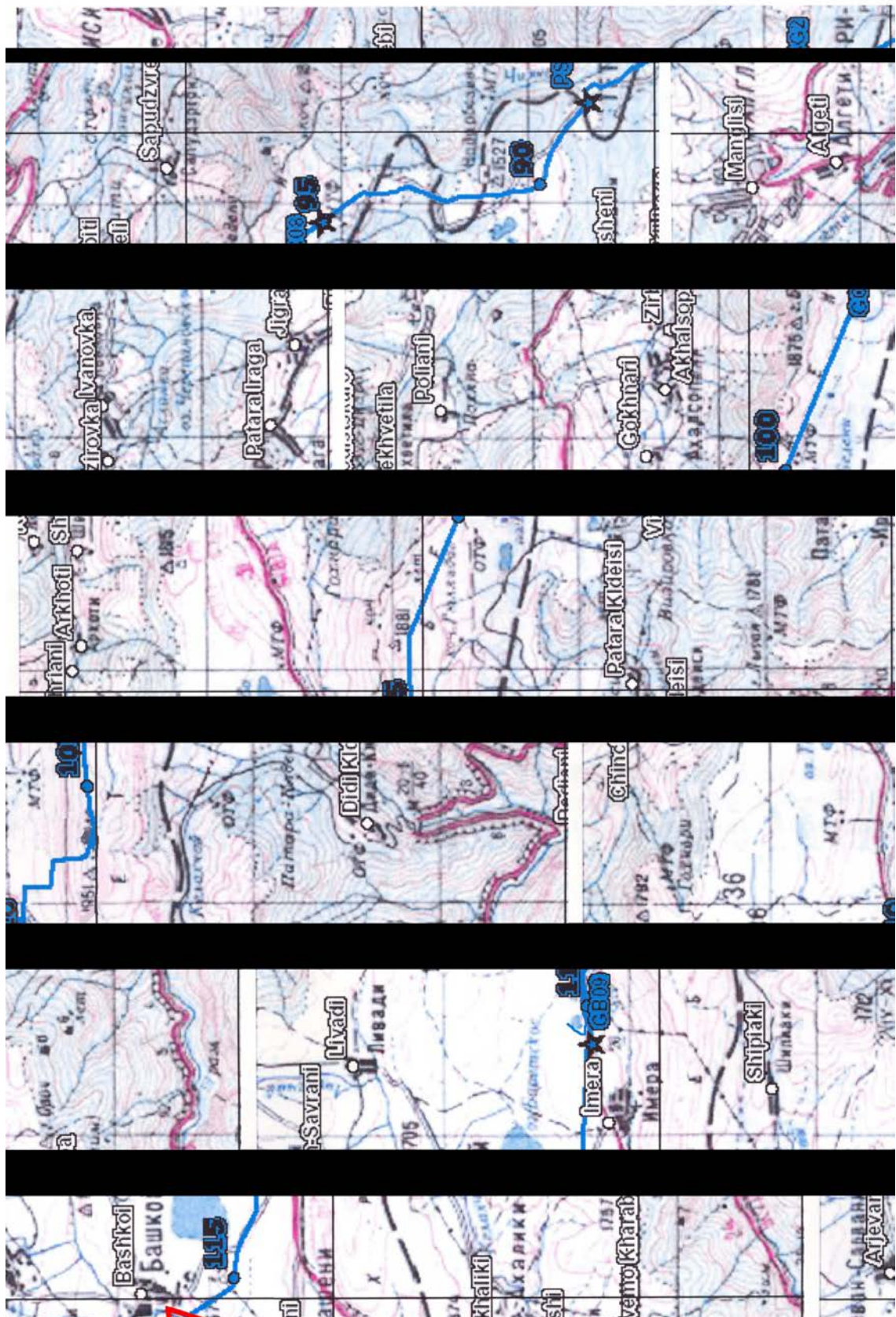
Three sections were under excavations (pic.2.).

The first one is located at KP – 117, 550, where the damaged barrow was excavated.

The second site, rather large stone mound was excavated at KP 118,550

Excavations of these two sites took place during the period of September 19-28 with the participation of the following personnel:

1. Narimanishvili G. (Head)
2. Gabunia M. (archaeologist)
3. Davlianidze R. (archaeologist)
4. Gvetadze J. (archaeologist)
5. Tkhoelishvili G. (assistant)
6. Giguashvili N. (assistant)
7. Tatishvili G. (architect)
8. Tevzadze Al. (topographer)
9. Vashakidze T. (manager)
10. Narimanishvili R. (driver)
11. Muskhiev A. (driver)
12. Paraskevova L. (cook)



Pic. 1 Tsalka Section of Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan Oil Pipeline Rote
 The Map with the Archaeological Sites Excavated in 2003

The third site is located north to Saphar- Kharaba village, at KP 119-120 of the pipeline corridor. Excavations were held in the period of October, 2 – November, 20.

The following staff was involved in field activities for different times:

1. Narimanishvili G.
2. Davlianidze R. (Archaeologist)
3. Akhvlediani D. (archaeologist)
4. Giunashvili G. (archaeologist)
5. Chikhladze V. (archaeologist)
6. Margvelashvili M. (archaeologist)
7. Sikharulidze A. (archaeologist)
8. Rcheulishvili G. (archaeologist)
9. Kakhiani K. (archaeologist)
10. Sadradze V. (archaeologist)
11. Kharabadze S. (assistant)
12. Japaridze I. (assistant)
13. Turiashvili D. (assistant)
14. Esakia V. (assistant)
15. Kurasbediani G. (assistant)
16. Mgeladze N. (assistant)
17. Berdzenishvili I. (assistant)
18. Kvachadze M. (assistant)
19. Pirtskhalava M. (assistant)
20. Margvelashvili M. (assistant)
21. Kadagidze N. (assistant)
22. Lomouri K. (assistant)
23. Khundadze N. (assistant)
24. Tatisvili G. (architect)
25. Melikidze Sh. (architect)
26. Chichinadze G. (architect)
27. Tevzadze Al. (topographer)

28. Kurdadze M. (manager)
29. Narimanishvili R. (driver)
30. Karibov B. (driver)
31. Muskhiev A. (drive)
32. Kniukhach S. (cook)
33. Paraskevova L. (cook)
34. Mavrangelov B. (watchman)
35. Muradov D. (watchman)



Pic.2. Baku- Tbilis-Ceyhan Oil Pipeline Rote at KP-117-122. Tsalka Region . View from the East.

Laboratory processing of the artefacts discovered in September-November 2003 were undertaken with participation of the following staff:

1. Narimanishvili G. (general supervision)
2. Ramishvili A. (chief)
3. Hsanshashvili N. (chief)
4. Davlianidze R. (chief)
5. Chkhonia A. (archaeologist)

6. Maisuradze B (archaeologist)
7. Margvelashvili M. (archaeologist)
8. Matiashvili N. (archaeologist)
9. Gamkrelidze G (archaeologist)
10. Chartolani Sh. (archaeologist)
11. Pirtskhalava M. (archaeologist)
12. Kiguradze N. (archaeologist)
13. Evansi I. (painter)
14. Titusville G. (painter)
15. Melikidze Sh. (painter)
16. Kharabadze S. (restorer)
17. Sadradze V. (restorer)
18. Ghlighvashvili E. (restorer)
19. Kalandadze N. (restorer)
20. Inanishvili G. (restorer)
21. Jorbenadze Kh. (assistant)
22. Mumladze M. (assistant)
23. Turiashvili D. (assistant)
24. Bendukidze O. (assistant)
25. Tamarashvili M. (assistant)
26. Rusishvili R. (assistant)
27. Esakia V. (assistant)
28. Khutsishvili M. (assistant)
29. Charkviani M. (assistant)
30. Pachikashvili (assistant)
31. Iremashvili S. (assistant)
32. Todria Z (assistant)
33. Kvachadze M. (assistant)
34. Astakhov V. (photographer)

Section No1

Mentioned site is located on the right bank of Bashkov-su river, west of Bashkovi village representing an open meadow (pic.2, tab. I). Villages Karakumi and Safar-Kharaba are adjusting to the area from the North and the East respectively.

Two barrows (XXIV and XXV) were excavated here in 1939 by В. Kuftin, dated III millennium BC. [Куфтин. 1941. стр. 101-105; Жоржикашвили, Гогодзе. 1974. стр. 12-13].

“Durna Tepesi” (XXIV barrow) is located 0.25 km. West of Bashkovi village, and 0.5 km South of Karakum village. The pipeline corridor passes 100m. North of the site. An infant’s skeleton was found in the barrow chamber, which seemed to be roofed by trunks. Burial goods contained two clay vessels, a copper awl and pin. Hearse remains (?) were found on the floor of the barrow chamber. [Куфтин. 1939. стр. 27 и сл.; Жоржикашвили, Гогодзе. 1974. стр. 13].

“Beyuk Aiu Tepesi” (XXV barrow) is located 0.25 km. West of Bashkovi village. Its stone mound is still noticeable 100 m. North of the Pipeline corridor. Hearse remains coupled with some black polished wessels were found in the barrow chamber. [Куфтин. 1939. стр. 27 и сл.; Жоржикашвили, Гогодзе. 1974. стр. 13].

Based on the story of the local resident, Alexsei Budagov В. Kuftin was seeking for one more burrow, the third and the lowest one located just between the first two, but he failed by that time. The barrow we excavated is located between the two (XXIX and XXV) barrows although it is slightly southwards to them.

Some small elevations can still be seen on the meadow. В. Kuftin himself defined one of such elevations with stone mound Northeast of “Dunia Tepesi”. There is Cairlari burialyard, located on the same meadow, near Safar-Kharaba current cemetery, where В. Kuftin excavated three tombs [Куфтин. 1939. стр. 27, 40-41].

The Barrow excavated at KP – 117,550

Basalt stone mound was revealed within the pipeline corridor during Balu-Tbilisi- Cheyhan pipeline construction activities (tab,1) Together with Ms. Hope Lininger, the head of BP Archaeological Monitoring Group, the place was observed and it became clear, that the stone mound was a part of the archaeological site.

The stone mound is located in the northern section of the corridor and falls within the territory of gas pipeline. It is heavily damaged, particularly its southern part.

Due to heavy damages it is hard to presume what the mound looked like. It is most likely the mound was not tall from the very beginning, as far as this section of the pipeline route (as the entire section passing through the Tsalka region) was observed several times prior to construction activities, and no stone mounds or other elevations were noticed. But the circumstance is to be considered, that the meadow is being constantly cultivated.



Pic.3 Remains of the Barrow excavated at KP- 117,550

General view from the Northwest



pic. 4. Damaged stone mound of the barrow excavated at KP-117, 550
General view from the North – East

Based on the features and outline we can suggest the diameter was around 10-12 meters (pic.3). It seems the whole internal space was covered by the stone mound (pic.4, 5; tab. II).



Pic.5 Remains of barrow stone mound and its circle
General view from the North

A burial chamber built of basalt slabs was revealed in the centre of the stone mound (pic.10), inclined on the North-South alignment. All four walls of the chamber are built of flat basalt slabs selected on purpose. All of them are accurately fitted to each other with no voids between them. Both, individual stones as well as the whole walls are stable and firmly tided (pic.6; Tab.II)



pic. 6. The Burial Chamber of the Barrow Excavated at KP-177,55

The burial chamber is horseshoe shape. Northern wall creates right angles with sidewalls, while the Southern wall is with

definitely rounded corners (pic.6 tab.III). There is one more characteristic feature of the southern wall – one row of stones is missing (pic.9). The bases of the rest three walls go deeper then the chamber floor level. As for the southern side, 0.1m. high ground step is left there. which serves to be the base for the stonewall. Each of the walls contains eight rows of basalt slabs (tab.III).



Pic.7 The spot, (perhaps the sacrificing, of funerary banquet square) revealed South of the burial chamber of the barrow excavated at KP-117, 550

This little construction has got an architectural shape with definite presence of aesthetic side as well.

There is one male buried in the burial, appr.50-60 years old. He is lying bent on the left side. His head is directed to South (tab.III). Just in front of his face there is a dish there (pic.9; Tab.VI, 1). Some beads were found in the central part of Western wall, on the floor level (Tab. VI, 2,3).

Cranial material was studied by K. Lomouri and L. Aslanishvili, PHD

South of the burial chamber, in a distance of 0,1-0.15m. a black spot was revealed (pic.7). It is 1,55 m. long and 0.8 wide. After careful examination and preparation it turned out to be a 0.1m.deep pit of the same size. Three fragments of untreated stone were found on its bottom (it is quite possible they were dropped there accidentally, when the pit was filled up with ground) together with bone tool made of a cattle rib, which fell into pieces when the attempt was made to pick it up (pic.8). The pit should somehow be related to the funeral ritual. The same explanation can be given to the potsherd pile of and obsidian flaks, revealed in a distance of 1,4 m. South of the pit. Unfortunately these places seem to be heavily damaged and thus it is hard to say anything else about them. Although it can be stated that some links between the edges of the burial chamber and the bottom of the ritual pit that the initial depths of the pit should have been 0.3-0.4 m. at least.



Pic. 8 “Sacrificing Square,” revealed at the burial chamber of the Barrow Excavated at KP- 117, 550 after the preparation.



Pic. 9 Burial Chamber of the Barrow Excavated at KP- 117.550

View from the North



Pic.10 Burial Chamber of the Barrow Excavated at KP- 117.550

This barrow, together with those ones unearthed on the bottom of Tsakla water reservoir have eloquently confirmed that information obtained during the excavation of burial chambers only are not enough for full –scale study of barrows.

The following artefacts were discovered in the burial chamber



Pic. 11. Barrow No.1 A dish (Inv.No. 3)



Pic. 12. Barrow No.1 A dish (Inv.No. 3)

1. A dish (No.3) made of brownish clay with brownish inner and blackish outer surfaces. The rim is slightly extended, with rounded edges. Rim and shoulder are separated by the groove. The shoulder is decorated with two knob-like ledges, oval-shaped in section (Pic.11, 12;tabVI, 1).
2. Bead (Inv.No.4), made of stone, cylinder –shaped, two pieces (Tab.VI, 2,3). Discovered at the Western wall, under a stone.

Following items were found within the stone mound:



Pic.13 Obsidian tools found within the Stone Mound of the Barrow

1. Scraper (Inv. No. 215)* 2. Chisel (Inv.No.211)* 3.Perforator (Inv. No.214)* 4. Chisel (Inv.No. 212)* 5. Perforator (Inv. No. 213)* 6.Lamella (Inv.No 217)* 7. Scraper (Inv. No. 216)

3. A chisel, (No.211), obsidian, made on the bases of a small splinter with a single blade (Pic. 13, 2; Tab.VII, 5. Discovered within the Section V₁².

4. A chisel, (No.212), obsidian, made on the bases of a medium size splinter with two blades (Pic. 13, 4; Tab.VII, 3. Discovered within the Section V₁.

5. A perforator (No.213), obsidian, made on the bases of lamella fragment. Dissymmetric blade is formed by the fine sharpening retouch (Pic.13, 5; Tab.VII, 4). Discovered within the Section V₁.

6. A perforator (No.214), obsidian, with dissymmetric blade and fine sharpening retouch (Pic.13, 3; Tab.VII, 7). Discovered within the Section V₁.

7. A scraper (No.215) obsidian, round in shape with retouch on the whole perimeter. (Pic.13,1; Tab.VII, 6). Discovered within the Section V₁.

8. A scraper (No.216) obsidian, oval in shape with differently directed retouched on the whole perimeter. (Pic.13,7; Tab.VIII, 8). Discovered within the Section V₁.

9. A lamella (No.217), obsidian, untreated, (Pic.13,6; Tab.VII, 9). Discovered within the Section V₁.

10. A curved splinter (No.218) with kine, sharpening retouch from one side Discovered within the Section V₁.

11. A flake (No. 219), obsidian, with some traces of fine sharpening retouch. Discovered within the Section V₁

12. Flakes (No. 220), obsidian, untreated, 36 pieces. Discovered within the Section V₁

13. Clay vessel fragments (No. 221), brownish burned, with coarse inclusions in clay. One of the fragments has got incised relief band. Discovered within the Section V₁

14. A sided scraper, (No.222), obsidian, made on the bases of a little chip. Discovered within the Section V₂

15. Clay vessel fragments (No. 223), brownish burned. Discovered within the Section V₂

16. A single-sided nucleus (No. 224), obsidian, small one, with pebble casing on one side. Discovered within the Section V₂

17. Flakes, (No.225) obsidian, different shapes, all are untreated, 13 pieces, Discovered within the Section V₂

The following artefacts were discovered beyond the stone mound:

18. Ribbed slab (No. 207), obsidian, untreated. Discovered within the Section IV₁

19. Flat nucleus (No. 208) obsidian, small in size, with two cut-off floors.
Discovered within the Section IV₁

20. Lamella fragment (No. 209) obsidian, untreated. Discovered within the Section
IV₁

21. Flakes (No. 210), obsidian untreated, 11 pieces. Discovered within the Section
IV₁

II Section

Stone Mound

While working at the barrow a stone mound has been revealed at KP- 118,775 of the pipeline corridor. The latter seemed to be more impressive in comparison to mound of the mentioned barrow.

It is located in the Southern part of the pipeline corridor. Soon after the excavations were launched, it became clear that only half of the stone mound fell within the corridor (pic. 14; tab.IV). After the consent of the local authorities had been received, the rest of the mound was unearthed consequently (pic.16).



Pic. 14. Stone mound revealed at KP 118,775. View from the West

The mound is built up by small and medium basalt stones, and is round in shape. Its diameter is 14 meter. The maximum height in the centre of the mound comes up to 0,75 m. It gradually declines towards the edges, so that its final height is 0,15-0,2 m.

Constructors have damaged Northern part of the mound – upper layer of the mound has been removed. It is well stated here, that mound edges are made of bigger stones.

Cromlech contours were outlined after the preparation (pic. 15; Tab V). After removing of upper layers of the stone mound (pic. 17) the cromlech was revealed at its full width (Pic.18), what comes up to 2.0 m.



Pic.15. The Stone Mound Revealed at KP118,775 after the Removal of its Upper Layers.
View from the North

Several obsidian flakes were unearthed during the preparation activities followed by consequent removal of stones. It is particularly worth to be mentioned that the querns were found in the southern part of the mound.

At the level of cromlech stones, within the internal space there were no more mound stones, but neither was there any trace of burial. That is why 0.4 m thick ground layer was cut off from the whole area (pic.19-21). This layer turned to be sterile. Two trenches were opened through the whole area afterwards, 0.5 m. deep and 0.8 m. wide each. They were inclined towards East-West and North-South alignments. Both of them were sterile as well. On the following stage the cromlech was removed and new trenches were opened beneath them. Finally, the whole territory of the stone mound was examined with the participation of heavy technique, but this method, in its turn failed to be fruitful as all previous ones.

Thus, despite the ideal shape of the stone mound revealed during the excavations (no matter it was partially damaged), no burial chamber was found beneath it. It is hard to doubt its ancient age and anthropogenic origin.



Pic.16. View of the Stone Mound revealed at KP- 118.775
General view of the Stone Mound Including its Southern Part after the Preparation and the Northern Part after the Removal of Upper Stone Layers. View from the Southeast.

It should be noted, that in the areas where barrows are concentrated (for example, on the bottom of the water reservoir) it is usual to meet round shaped stone mounds with no burials beneath them. B. Kuftin himself noticed such condition earlier. At that times easy solution was found for such situations- no number was given to such mound with thir incomplete documentation consequently.

Neither currently available data serves to be of a significant help in our attempts to explain the occurrence of such kind of structures. We can only presume, that they were built for some ritual or sacral purposes. Possibly, they were related to one particular tomb construction or to a group of tombs.



Pic. 17. The Stone Mound Revealed at KP118,775 after Partial Removal of its Upper Layers.
View from Above.



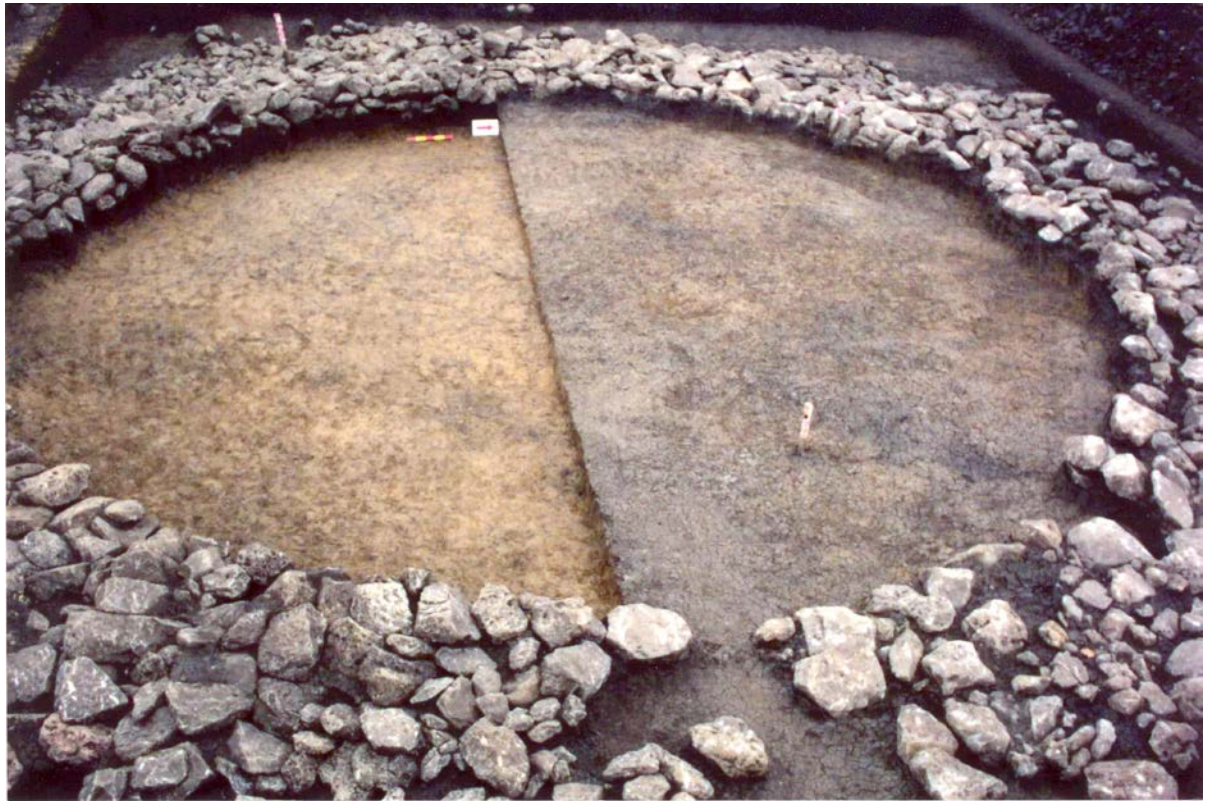
.Pic. 18. The Stone Mound Revealed at KP118, 775 after removal of its Upper Layers.
View from the West



Pic.19. The Stone Circle with its Internal Space with Three Layers of Removed Land. Stone Mound Revealed at KP118, 775 after Removal of its Upper Layers. View from the South



Pic.20 Stone Mound Revealed at KP118, 775. Internal Space of the Stone Circle. Detail



Pic.21 Stone Mound Revealed at KP118, 775. Internal Space of the Stone Circle. Detail.

If some analogies to the excavated structures are found, it may let us make some kind of future conclusions in that regard.

Material revealed within the stone mound:



a)



b)

Pic.22 . Quern Fragment (Inv.No.1) A) Working surface, B) The Bottom.

1. Quern Fragment (Inv.No.1) Basalt, boat- shaped (pic.22; Tab. VI, 5). Found in the South-Western corner of the section IV₃



Pic.22 A, Quern Fragment (Inv.No.2) A) Working surface, B) The Bottom
2) Quern Fragment (Inv.No.2) Basalt, boat- shaped (pic.22a; Tab. IV, 4). Found in the North-Eastern corner of the section IV₆



Pic.23. Stone Mound. A Stone Mortar (Inv.No.237).

3. A Stone Mortar Fragment (Inv.No.237). (Pic.23) Found in the Northeastern corner of the section IV₅.

4. Obsidian chisel (No.226), made on the bases of a large flake. Discovered within the section II₁₂.

5. Obsidian chisel with one blade, (No.227), made on the bases of a small flake. Discovered within the section II₁₂

6. Obsidian flake (No.228), made on the bases of medium flake. Has got trace of flaking on the rear. Discovered within the section II₁₂

7. Obsidian chisel with one blade, (No.229), made on the bases of a small flake. Discovered within the section II₁₂

8) Shapeless shards of a clay vessel (No.230) with brownish burn. . Discovered within the section II₁₂

9) Obsidian flake (No.231), made on the bases of a small nucleus. Discovered within the section II₁₂

10) Obsidian flakes (No.232), untreated, 28 peaces. Discovered within the section II₁₂

11) Obsidian chisel (No.233), made on the bases of a small lamella fragment. Discovered within the section II₁₂.



Pic.24. Stone Mound. Section II₁₂. 1) Chisel(Inv. No.234); 2. Nucleus (Inv.No.235); 3. Scraper (Inv. No. 236).

12) Obsidian chisel (No.234), made on the bases of a small pencil-shape nucleus (Pic.24,1; Tab.VII,10), with a single blade. Discovered within the section II₁₂.

13) Obsidian nucleus (No.235), with one cut-off floor. (Pic.24,2; Tab.VII,11).Discovered within the section II₁₂.

14) Curved obsidian scraper, (No.236) made on the bases of a small flake with confronting flaking on the whole perimeter (Pic.24,3; Tab.VII,1). Discovered within the section II₁₂.

III Section

Saphar-Kharaba Cemetery

The village of Saphar-Kharaba (Baiburti) is located at a point where rivers Geriak (Baiburt Chai) and Bashkov – Su interflow (pic25). There is a famous archaeological site known as Beshtasheni Cyclopean Settlement on the merging point of the rivers. The village itself is located 200 meters North of the site.



Pic.25 Baku-Tbilisi – Cheyhan Oil Pipeline Section Between KP-119-121
View from the West

New name (Saphar-Kharaba, Baiburt) was given to the village by current residents, Greeks, who were re-settled here from the Ottoman Empire in the XIX- the century. They re-occupied the remains of ancient Georgian village, Upper Beshkenasheni, (according to Vakhushti Bagrationi). There are some monuments of developed Middle Ages on the territory of the village, which were renewed or changed by Greeks. The very first archaeological excavations were executed here as early as in the end of the XIX and the beginning of the XX centuries. Ek. Takhaishvili undertook them, revealing medieval sites.

Three areas were under excavations round Saphar-Kharaba village in the 30-ies of the XX century. Archaeologists under the leadership of B.Kuftin worked on the following sites:

1. Three barrows (XII, XIII, XIV) and one stone mound at the place named “Baiburtun Garsi” [Куфтин. 1939. стр.3 и сл].
2. Three stone boxes near the current cemetery in 1939 ” [Куфтин. 1939. стр.27, 39-41; Жоржикашвили, Гогодзе 1974. стр. 11-12].

3. Four burials were excavated on the meadow (pic.27), representing the part of cemetery we've studied and are located at its the most western section. Hence, we would like to highlight some more details about this site.

Unfortunately, the part of B. Kuftin's dairy, dedicated to Baiburti burials is considered to be lost (diaries composed in 1937-1938). There is nothing significant in the diary of the year 1939 field season regarding those burials. [Куфтин. 1939.].

The scholar devoted a separate chapter to this cemetery in his monograph "Archaeological Excavations in Trialeti" – "The Bronze Age Cemetery with Stone Circles." Despite his statement, that "it is still hard to define the place for his cemetery due to insufficient level of study of similar sites" he still dated Baiburti cemetery as of the following to Middle Bronze Age epoch, but earlier then the Late Bronze-Early Iron Age pit – tombs of Beshtasheni [Куфтин.1941 стр.75-77].

Kuftin emphasized that the four burials contained rather poor with burial goods, limited to clay vessels only. No iron artefacts were found within them, the circumstance, why the burials were dated Bronze Age. Bit tombs roofed with large slabs have some common features with Beshtasheni burials, with one of its tomb in particular, that is Tomb No.32 at Beshtaheni. The method used for roofing drives us to an assumption, as if the stone pile might have represented a house, originally constructed just above the pit tomb.

Two of the Baiburtian burials, both large ones, are with stone circles around them, 15-18 m. of diameter each. Pits are wide enough, orientated to North. Almost no cranial remains were found within the burials. Only according to their tiny traces it can be defined that the buried person was placed with head to North. As usual 3-7 clay vessels were put near the head. They are absolutely different from the vessels discovered earlier. None of them have handles, all they are wheel shaped and despite their large sizes have eggshell ware. B. Kuftin states that "No place can be found for such kind of pottery among the South Caucasian cemeteries which are known to me up to date [Куфтин.1941 стр.75-77]. No other goods were discovered within the large burials but clay vessels. As for the smaller tombs, some white and blue faience beads coupled with perforated stone and copper-bronze pin were found within them. The pin has poleaxe shape head with openwork and incuts with a figure of Caucasian goat on the top.

Although the significance of material revealed at Baiburti cemetery was not disputable there chronological place had not been defined for a long time, until the moment, when E. Gogadze's work was published in 1972, where the scholar declares the following:

"The upper chronological edge for the Middle Bronze Age sites, is, in a certain sense, defined by the newest dates broadly recognized and accepted for the majority of the earliest West Georgian Late Bronze Age sites. The starting point of this period comes close to the middle of the II millennium BC. As for the barrows, typical for Trialeti, they might be considered as starting to differ from the late Bronze Age sites around this very moment (which is XV or XV-XIV cc. BC), if there is not to be presumed the existence of any significant transitional period in Trialeti. It is quite possible, that the earliest of the Late Bronze Age sites to be considered as more or less synchronous to sites considered as transitional ones, such as tombs of Baiburti type, yet they are not classified as a separate group of monuments. We can't tell much more about them, but it's more obvious the tombs discovered at Baiburti bent towards the Late Bronze Age. [gogaZe, 1972, gv.69].

The monograph published in 1974 [Жоржикашвили, Гогадзе. 1974ю стр.11-12] contains the map showing the barrows XX and XXI just for the place where Baiburti cemetery is

located. The monograph avoids mentioning of those barrows together with the materials coming out from them, except the explanation (commentary) to the map, where the legend used for them identifies the Middle Bronze Age barrows. Mr. E. Gogadze did not consider XX and XXI barrow goods in his earlier work published in 1972 either (there is nothing in it except the quotation mentioned above). The same publication (გოგაძე, 1972, გვ.95) refers only to the date of Baiburtin burials, given within the chronological diagram, so that no other information is available about those barrows.

It is possible that E. Gogadze considers XX and XXI barrows as Baiburtian burials (otherwise it remains unclear, why those burials were charted under the legend used for the Middle Bronze Age barrows), however there is no corresponding information throughout the text.

Another scholar, Mr. T. Abulashvili assimilates the barrows and Baiburtian burials and considers them as the same sites, saying that “ In his book “Archaeological Excavations In Trialeti” prof. B. Kuftin refers to Baiburti burials as to barrows XX and XXI, dated back to Late Bronze Age.” [აბულაშვილი, 2001, გვ.100]. T. Abulashvili himself refers to pg. 75-76 of prof. Kuftin’s mentioned monograph. Nothing of the kind can be found in B. Kuftin’s book (unfortunately, there are many other mistakes in Mr. Abulashvili’s publication, but this goes beyond of our topic). Just the opposite, the first chapter, where the same burials are discussed, is entitled as Survey of Findings of Iron and Late Bronze Age Cemeteries of Tsalka Plateau” while the ninth chapter, assigned to their description comes under the title of “ The Bronze Age Cemetery with Stone Circles”. Word “barrow” is not used in this section at all. B. Kuftin can not find any parallels to Baiburtian burials, and their burial goods not only within Trialeri area but even in the wider region. The author is extremely careful with finding of any similarities and connections for the burials of the mentioned type and compares them to Beshtasheni pit tombs only.

In case barrows XX and XXI are correctly charted on the map used for the purposes of Mr. E. Gogadze’s publication (however the map is drawn up by V. Tsilosani, under B. Kuftin’s supervision), than it’s possible to consider them as the same as the two large Baiburtian burials. Despite this fact, still there are some open questions regarding the mentioned above barrows.

Although B. Kuftin is careful while dating the Baiburt tombs, he precisely defines their place by putting them in between the final phase of the Middle Bronze and the earliest stage of the Late Bronze Ages.

Many scholars have discussed the issue of dating of Baiburti cemetery [QoriZe, 1955, 1959; Cubinishvili, 1957; Abramishvili, 1957, 1961; Gogadze, 1972- There is the date given for the site on the chronological scale, defined as year 1400 BC].

K. Pitskhelauri was the first scholar who studied all sites of late Middle Bronze and early Late Bronze Ages in complex [ფიცხელაური, 1973], and as a result of his research he managed to define a transitional period from the Middle to the Late Bronze Age, based on the existence of the several original features. On its turn this period was divided into three stages, all of them falling between 1450 – 1350 BC. According to this classification Baiburtian burials match for the second stage [ფიცხელაური, 1973 გვ. 145 - 146].

The tombs we excavated must be considered together with ones excavated by prof. Kuftin and thus, both of them could be dated back to the period, transitional from the Middle to the Late Bronze Age.

The cemetery is located North of Baiburti village and spreads on East-West alignment. River forms its natural boundary from the West. From this point the cemetery goes Eastwards for approximately 1,5 km in length, while its width ranges between 0,4-0,5 km.

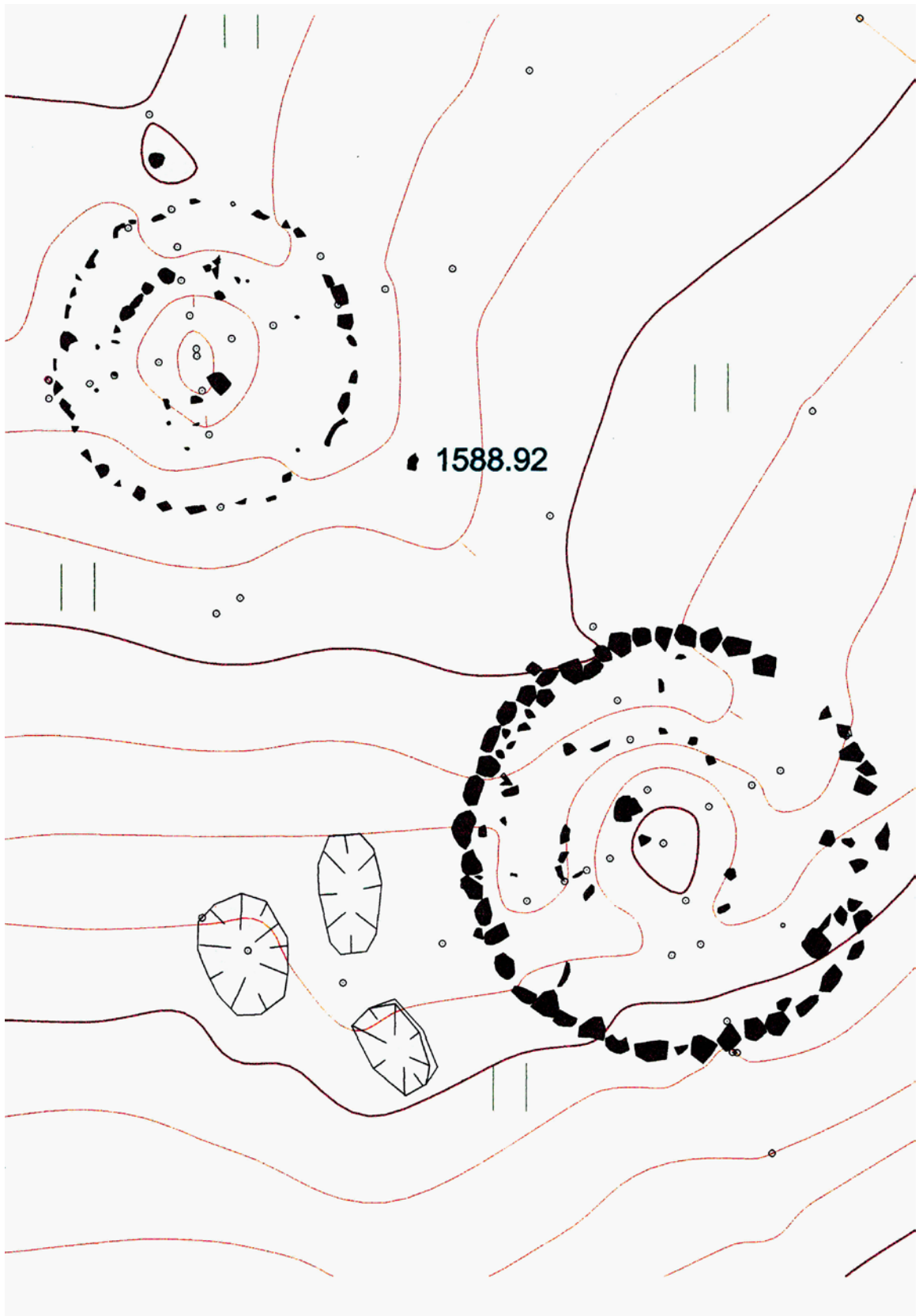
As it was already mentioned the four burials excavated by B. Kuftin are located in the westernmost section of the cemetery. It is impossible to restore numbering of the excavated burials. Contents of each of the burial are to be cleared out as well.

Burials excavated by proff. B.Kufrin are well noticeable even now. They are located on a little slope. Stone circles around the burials are fully preserved. Burial pit contours of the rest of the tombs are visible to some extent. The tomb with the large stone circle is located Southernmost. Diameter of its circle comes up to 19 meters (the lower tomb according to B. Kuftin). 12 meters Northwestwards of it there is the second tomb encircled with stone circle which is 14 meters in diameter (the upper tomb according to B.Kuftin) Pit tombs are located in a distance of 4 meters West of the tomb with the largest stone circle (pic.26).

Regarding the map attached to E. Gogadze's publication the XX barrow is drawn Southwards, but according to it the XXI barrow is located North-Eastwards of the first. As for the current situation, it is fully congruent to the picture we've described above.

The meadow, where the cemetery is located, is being used as a farmland for decades, causing permanent damage to the stone mounds above the burials. Although the impact has been significant, some stone mounds still remain there, what has eloquently been proven by revealing of existing stone mounds above the burials No. No.16,17, 20, 22 and 23, with more or less satisfactory level of preservation.

Existence of the settlement corresponding to the cemetery has been detected on the territory of Beshtasheni "cyclopean" settlement, where the cultural layer of XV-XIV cc. BC was excavated during the 1991-1992 field season.



Pic. 26. Tombs Excavated by B. Kufin. Topographic Layout Restored in 2003.

Saphar-Kharaba cemetery occupies the whole territory of Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline corridor. It is 1200m. long. Based on stone mound remains within the corridor the approximate amount of burials may reach seventy units. Provided that many stone mounds are lost irretrievably, the number of burials may be even higher.

The cemetery territory has been measured topographically and its general layout has been drawn. Several unexcavated burials coupled with 29 already excavated ones are charted there (Tab. IX-X).



Pic. 27. Construction activities on KP-120

In accordance to BP's request the expedition focused on full-scale studies of that particular section of the corridor where the pipeline itself was to be laid (pic.27) respectively, 8-12 meter wide strip was excavated. As a result of those works this section became clear of any archaeological sites. But still there are some sections that are to be studied in future – section of a country road connecting Saphar-Kharaba and Kariyaki villages and the strip designated as the route for the future gas pipeline. Not only already revealed and conserved burials are to be excavated here (section of the country road), but also some stone mounds and stone circles located in the Northern part of the pipeline corridor. In particular it should be noted that Northern section of burial No.23 still remains unexcavated (pic.263). The case is that some pipes were put just on that place, and for the safety purposes further excavations were considered unreasonable (pic.28).



Pic.28. Stone Mounds Revealed at KP-120

In conclusion, totally 29 burials were studied in full at Saphar- Kharaba cemetery with their description and burial goods catalogues as follows.

Burial No.1

The burial represents the pit tomb with the stone mound above.

Small, 0.30 m. high elevation was revealed above the modern land surface, representing a small stone mound with coal fragments.



Pic.29. Burial No. 1 general view from the South.

Burial pit itself (pic.29) is cut in the yellowish clay layer, while the black clay is used as filling substance. The burial is inclined on North-South alignment and is rectangular in shape with rounded corners (2,30X 1.40m. depth- 0.6m in Northern part, and 0,75 m. in the Southern part). There are clearly noticeable traces of used tools.

Dead person was lying in the centre of the burial, with the head to North, in foetal position – with curved extremities, on the right side. Cranial bones are fragmentary, lower jaw was found on thorax level. The dead was placed on the floor. Right upper extremity is curved in elbow joint with the palm in front of the face. Lower extremities and pelvis are fragmentary (pic.29, 30; Tab. XI). Presumably the person is around 40-50 years old.



Pic. 30 Burial No.1 General View from South

Eight units of clay vessels were put in three rows in the Northern part of the pit (pic.30).

There is a little black burned clay vessel in the first row, located in a distance of 0.2m.from the Northern wall (Inv.No.8). Four vessels are in the second row: a Baiburt type vessel made of red clay (Inv. No. 5) is located in a distance of 0,4 m. from the Northwestern corner.

Slightly South-eastwards of the latter there is black-burned clay jar (Inv.No.6), which is followed by the bowl (inv.No.10) Eastwards, which in its turn is located next to a deep bowl with wide mouth (Inv. No. 9). The distance between the last two vessels is 0.15 m. Three vessels form the third row: a black burned jar (Inv. No. 7) is located 0,5 m. West from the Eastern wall. The rest two vessels (Inv. No. 10-11) are overlapped by the shards of the above mentioned jar. Almost all vessels are broken.

Several groups of cornelian and glass beads were found within the thorax area. 1. 32 pieces of cracked cornelian beads (Inv. No.32) (most likely a bangle) around the left wrist joint . 2. Cornelian and glass beads (Inv. No.13) around the right wrist joint . 3. Several glass and cornelian beads were scattered around the thorax (Inv.No.15).

Cattle teeth were found near the western wall of the pit, at a depth of 0.65 m.

A skeleton, revealed in the Southwestern part of the pit, 0,65 m. from the Southwestern corner, has been defined as a sheep carcass³.

Some bone fragments, belonging to a small cattle (sheep or goat) (Inv.No.239) were found within the vessel No.5

Osteolytic material has been defined by Mr. O. Bendukidze, PHD

The following goods were found in the burial:



Pic.31. Burial No.1 A Jar (Inv.no.5)



Pic.32. Burial No.1 A Jar (Inv.no.5) Detail

1. A clay jar (No.5)(Pic.31; Tab. XIV, 5), brownish burned, with irregular burn. Clay has got pebble inclusions to some extent. Rim is extended

with rounded roll. Bulge body is sharply narrowing towards the bottom. The base is flat and narrow with beam like incised strips around it (Pic.32). Lengthwise strips are noticeable on the body. The jar contained sheep or goat bones (Inv. No.239).



Pic.33. Burial No.1 A jar. (Inv.No.6)

3. A clay jar (Inv. No.7)(Pic.34; Tab. XIII, 2), with brownish burn. Clay is with mica inclusions. Rim is extended, with rounded roll. Neck is very low. Body is bulge gradually narrowing towards the bottom, which is flat and narrow. The jar is decorated with 6 curved strips around the body. There is one more strip just under the neck. There are 18 spiral strips at the bottom. Discovered near the Northeastern corner of the burial.



Pic.34. Burial No.1 A jar (Inv.No.7).

3. A clay jar (Inv. No.7)(Pic.34; Tab. XIII, 2), with brownish burn. Clay is with mica inclusions. Rim is extended, with rounded roll. Neck is very low. Body is bulge gradually narrowing towards the bottom, which is flat and narrow. The jar is decorated with 6 curved strips around the body. There is one more strip just under the neck. There are 18 spiral strips at the bottom. Discovered near the Northeastern corner of the burial.



Pic. 35. Burial No.1 A pot (Inv.No. 8).

A clay pot (No.8) (Pic. 35; Tab. XII,5), with brownish burnt rim and side and black burn body and bottom. Clay is mixed with mica. Slightly extended rim is damaged. Side is wide. Three grooves are curved around the body with polished lines between them. Body is sharply narrowing towards the bottom, which is narrow and flat. Discovered near the Northwestern corner of the burial.



Pic. 36. Burial No.1 A bowl (Inv.No.9).

5.A clay bowl (No.9), (Pic.36; Tab. XIV, 4), with irregular brownish burn, made of mica mixed clay. The rim is extended, with rounded roll. Body is bulge, bottom is flat. There are four raised strips around the side and the body. Discovered near the Northwestern corner of the burial.



Pic. 37. Burial No 1 , A bowel (Inv. 10).

A clay bowel (Pic.37: Tab. XIV, 6), with blackish ware and light-brownish inner surface. Clay is mixed with mica. The rim is extended. Roll is flattened. Body is bulge. The bottom is flat. There are four raised strips around the side and the body.

A clay pot (No.11), (Tab. XIII, 3,4), heavily damaged. The ware is black, inner surface is brownish. Clay is mixed with mica. Discovered under the vessel No. 7.



Pic. 38. Burial No.1 A pot (Inv. No.12).

8. A clay pot (No12)(pic. 38: Tab. XIII, 2), with grey burn. Clay is mixed with mica. Rim is extended. The roll is round. Body is bulge. The bottom is narrow and flat. There are three raised strips around the body coupled with the concentric lines on the bottom. Discovered under the vessel No.7(from the South).



Pic. 39. Burial No. 1 Beads. (Inv.No.13).

Cornelian beads (No.13), (pic.39; Tab. XIV,1), 32 pieces (a bracelet was made of them). One bead is spherical, semi-transparent, the rest of them almost cylindrical, with irregular shape, semi transparent, are light reddish-brownish in colour.



Pic. 40. Burial No.1 Beads. (Inv. No.14)

10. Various beads, 23 pieces in total, (Pic. 40, Tab.XIV,2),(1 bundle) – 21 are cornelian, 1 is of sardonyx, 1 is of glass. All cornelian beads are semi-transparent, light red-brownish in colour. A sardonyx bead is brown, cylindrical in shape. Discovered around the thorax.



Pic. 41. Burial No.1 Beads (Inv.15)

11. Various beads (No. 15) (Pic. 41; Tab. XIV, 3), 22 pieces (1 bundle), 18 pieces - cornelian, 2 are of sardonyx, 1 is of glass, 1 is made of metal, perhaps bronze. All cornelian beads resemble cylinders, irregular in shape, semi-transparent, light red-brownish in colour. A sardonyx bead is brown and dark grey, cylinder –shaped, discovered around the thorax.
12. Obsidian flakes (No. 16), untreated, small in size, black in colour, transparent (Tab.XIV, 2-6). Were discovered within the vessel No5.
13. An obsidian nucleus, (No.17), untreated, black in colour, with covering on two sides (Tab. XV,1) Discovered within the vessel No7..



Pic. 42. Burial No.1 Goat or sheep lower teeth (Inv. No.239).

14. Small cattle (sheep or goat) lower teeth (No.239). Was discovered within the vessel No5. (Pic.42).

The following artifacts were found in the upper layer of the burial:

15. Yellowish-Brownish burned clay vessel shards (No.18).

Burial No. 2

The burial represents a pit tomb with the stone mound above.

Its outlines were revealed 0.30 – 0.35 m. beneath the modern land surface.

The stone mound is made of volcanic stones. Some of them were observable at a height of 0.90-0.95 m. above the ground surface.



Pic. 34. Burial No.2 general view from South.

The pit tomb (Pic.43; Tab. XVI) is cut in the yellowish clay layer, inclined on North-South alignment and is rectangular in shape with rounded corners (2,30X 1.70m. X 0.75).

Dead person was placed in the centre of the burial (pic.44), with the head to the North, in foetal position – with curved extremities, on the left side. It was impossible to define sex. Presumably the dead is around 40-45years old.

Unsystematically dispersed sheep skeleton was revealed at the northern wall of the burial (Inv. No.242). Presumably the person was lying with its head

to the North. Some fragments of cattle (Inv.No.242b) and pig bones (Inv. No.242a) were found here as well. Another skeleton of a sheep was found at the western wall of the burial. (Inv. No.240) Its bones seem to be removed as well.



Pic.44. Burial No.2 The burial chamber.

Five clay vessels were revealed in the burial. Two of them (No.19 and No. 20) were located in the Northwestern corner of the burial. Sheep cranium, found at the Western wall was put beneath the vessel No. 19. As for the vessel No.20 it was located above the cattle bones found near the Northern wall. Vessels No. 21 and 22 were revealed in the Northeastern corner of the burial, both with cattle bones beneath them. Vessel No. 23 was located at the head of the dead.

Around the right wrist joint some beads were found.

The following artifacts were found in the burial:



Pic.45 Burial No.2 A pot. (Inv.No.19)

1 A clay pot (pic.45; Tab. XVIII, 2) with black ware and brownish inner surface. Clay has got inclusions of tiny white substance. Rim is extended, roll is round, and neck is low. Body bulks out at the shoulder and narrows sharply towards the bottom, which is flat and narrow. The pot is decorated with two horizontal flumes around the shoulder. Discovered in the northwestern corner of the burial. The pot contained sheep or goat bones (Inv. No. 239).



Pic. 46. Burial No.2 A pot (Inv. No.20).

2. A clay pot (N0.20) (Pic. 46; Tab. XVII, 2) , grey burned, with fine grained inclusions in clay. Rim is extended, neck is low, and body is spherical. Vessel is decorated with one curved around strip just beneath the neck.

3. A clay pot (No.21) (Tab. XVII, 4,5), grey burned, with fine grained inclusions in clay. Some traces of horizontal lines are still visible. Discovered in the northeastern corner of the burial. The pot is heavily damaged.
4. An insufficiently burned clay pot (No.22) (Pic. 47, 1) with straw burned inside and outside surfaces, with fine grained inclusions in clay. Roll is round, rim is extended, and bottom is wide and flat. There are some noticeable horizontal flumes there. This heavily damaged artifact was discovered in the Northeastern corner of the burial. Cattle (perhaps of a bull) bones (Inv. No. 241) were put near the pot.

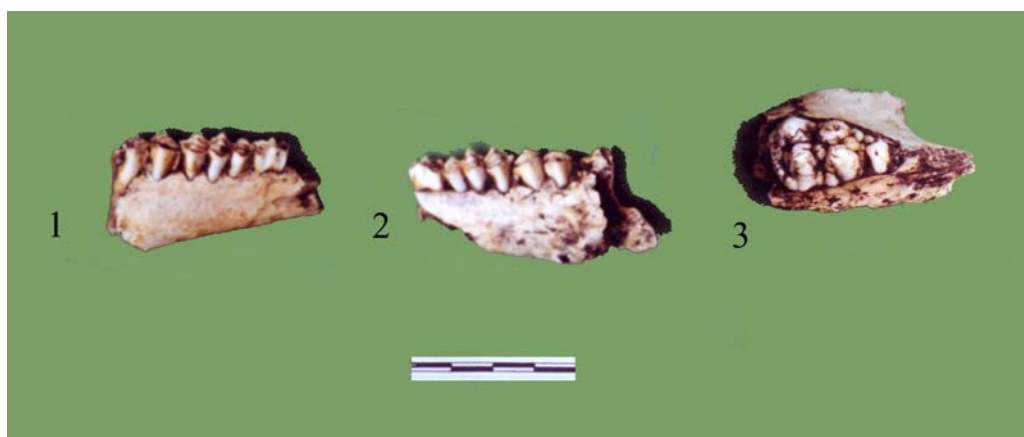


Pic.47 Burial No.2 A pot (Inv. No.23).

- 5) A clay pot (No.23) (Pic. 47, Tab. XVII, 3), with straw burned inside and outside surface, with black spots on the sides and body. Roll is round, rim is extended, neck is low. Two curved horizontal lines are visible on the body. Discovered near the cranial remains of the dead.



6. Beads (No.24), (Pic. 48; tab. XVIII, 1), cornelian, 20 pieces, cylinder or close to cylinder in shape, of irregular forms, semi-transparent, light – red –brownish in colour. Discovered near the right wrist joint.
7. Obsidian flake (No. 25) quadrangular, non-treated. Discovered at the middle of the Northern wall of the tomb, close to cattle bones.
8. Obsidian flake (No. 26), small in size, non-treated. Discovered at the middle of the Northern wall of the tomb, close to a cattle cranium.



Pic. 49. Tomb No.2.

1,2, Fragments of sheep lower jaw (Inv. No.240)

3. Fragments of domestic pig lower jaw (Inv.242b)

9. Fragments of small cattle (lamb) bones and lower jaw (No. 240). Discovered at the Western wall of the tomb (Pic. 49, 1, 2,).
10. Fragments of cattle (bull) bones (No. 241). Discovered at the Northeastern wall of the tomb.
11. Fragments of cattle bones (No. 242). Discovered in the Northern part of the tomb.
12. Fragments of small cattle bones (No. 242a). Discovered in the Northern part of the tomb.
13. Fragments of domestic big lower jaw (No. 242b). (Pic.49, 3)Discovered in Northern part of the tomb.

Tomb No.3

The burial represents a pit tomb (Tab. XIX).

The pit tomb(1,15 X 0.8. X 0.4 m) is cut in the yellowish clay layer, inclined on North-South alignment and is rectangular in shape with rounded corners, filled up with sticky, black clay soil. At a depth of 0.35 m teeth of a dead person were revealed in the central part of the Western wall.

No burial goods were found there.

Burial No.4

The burial represents a pit tomb (Tab. XX).

Several small stones were revealed on the top of the burial chamber. During the ground works related to the pipeline construction, construction contractors damaged the stone mound.

The rectangular burial chamber (1,70 X 0.90 X 0.70 m) is cut in the yellowish clay layer, has rounded corners and is inclined from the Northwest to the South east.

The dead is lying on the left side, with the head to Northwest. Skeleton is totally disintegrated with its parts scattered all over the burial. In this regard it is unlikely to restore the possible position of interment. Anthropology research shows the individual should be around 30- 40 years old.

Two clay vessels were found in the central part of the burial. Coupled with a small faience bead close to the lower extremities.

The following goods were discovered in the burial:



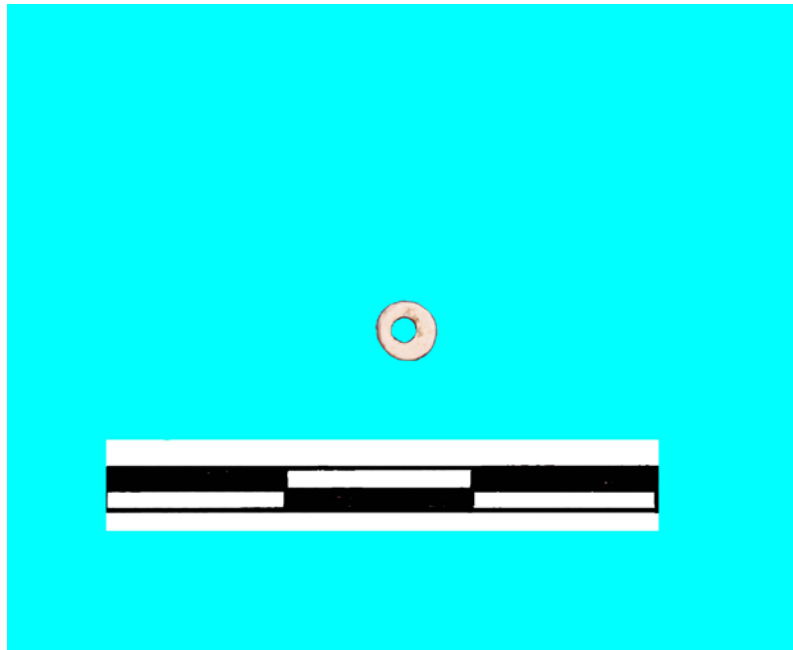
Pic. 50. Burial No. 4 A pot. (Inv. No. 27)

1. A clay pot (No.27)(Pic. 50; Tab. XXI, 2), with black burned ware. Clay is with inclusions of white fine substance. The rim is damaged, neck is low, bulge body sharply narrowing towards the bottom, which is narrow and flat. The vessel is decorated with two horizontal grooves around the shoulder and body.



Pic.51. Burial No. 4 A jug (Inv. No. 28)

2. A clay jug (No.28)(Pic.51. Tab. XXI, 1), with irregular burn, upper part including the shoulder is straw-burned, while the lower part is grey with traces of fire on it. The rim is extended with round roll. The jug has horizontal grooves on the roll, below the rim and on top of the inner surface. Two flattened handles are plastered on the shoulder with small round holes. Body gradually descends to narrow and flat bottom, decorated with slanting beam like incised strips. Discovered in the central part of the burial.



Pic. 52 Burial No.4 A bead (Inv. No.29)

3. A bead (No.29) of opaque glass (Pic.52, Tab.XXI, 3), 1 piece, cylinder in shape, rather small, light grey – matt-white in colour. Discovered in the Southwestern part of the burial.

Burial No.5

The burial represents the pit tomb with the stone mound above.

Medium size stones were revealed on the top of the pit tomb.

The trapezoidal burial chamber with rounded corners (length - 1,70 m. width – 1,0 m. to the Northeast and 1.3 m to the Southeast. Depth – 0.55 m.) is cut in the yellowish clay layer and is inclined from the Northwest to the Southeast (Pic. 53; Tab. XXII)..



Pic. 53. Burial No. 5. General view

One dead is buried in the centre of the burial, lying on the left side, with the head to the Northwest. Extremities are curved, especially lower ones, which are sharply curved. Left hand is curved so that the palm is situated in front of the shoulder. As for the right hand, it is curved as well with the palm on the hip (around the waist) (pic.54).



54. Burial No. 5. Burial chamber. Detail.

Two clay vessels were discovered in the Northeastern corner of the burial. Vessel No.30 is just over the other one –vessel No. 31 (pic.53) with a cattle bone (No.243) in it. A small vessel was found near pelvis (No. 32a). Cornelian and faience beads were found around the chest in vast amounts (No.32 – 43) (Pic.55). A cylinder shape seal was discovered

between the right elbow and ribs (No.30) (Pic.56). Small obsidian flake found under the clay vessel No. 44.

According to anthropologists the buried individual was around 35-40 years old.



Pic. 55 Burial No. 5 Burial chamber. Detail. .



Pic. 56. Burial No.5. Burial chamber. Detail .

The following artifacts were discovered within the burial: :



Pic. 57. Burial No. 5. A pot (Inv. No.30)



Pic. 58 Burial No. 5 . A pot (Inv. No.30) Detail

1. A clay pot (No. 30) (Pic. 57; Tab.XXIII, 3), with irregular straw burn. There are some noticeable dark grey spots on the body.

Clay is with mixture of white substance. Rim is extended, with round roll and very low neck. Body is almost spherical descending to the flat bottom. Body is decorated with fluted and scratched out lines (pic.58), coupled with slanting beam - like incised strips. Discovered in the Northwestern corner of the burial.



Pic.59. Burial No.5 A pot (Inv.No.31).

2. A clay pot (?) (No.31) (Pic.59; Tab.XXIII, 2), black burned outer surface, with inclusions of fine white substance in the clay. Rim is extended, with round roll and low neck. The vessel is carinated, ribs separate the shoulder, the neck and the body. There is a row of triangulars on the shoulder, curved by means of dotted ornamentation and fluted lines. Bottom is flat. A cross is outlined on the bottom by polished strips. Discovered in the Northwestern corner of the burial (near the head of buried person).



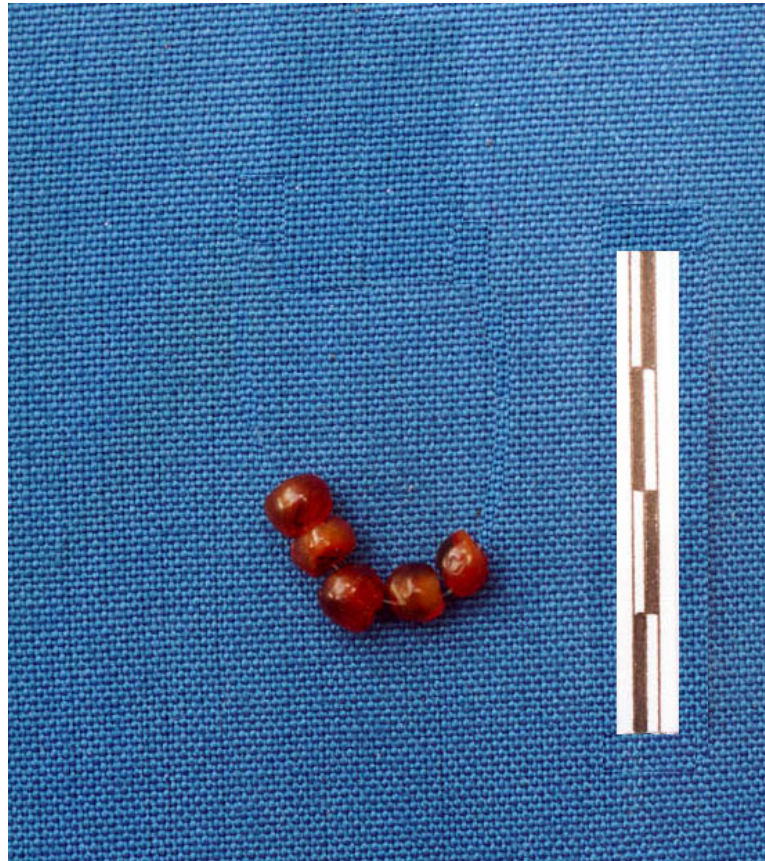
Pic. 60. Burial No.5 A small pot (Inv. No.31a)

3. A small, mounded clay pot (No. 31a) (Pic.60; Tab. XXIV, 11), with straw burned ware, bent invert rim, spherical body and flat bottom. An oval –shaped handle-like ledge is plastered on the body. Discovered at the hip of the buried individual. .



Pic. 61. Burial No.5 Beads (Inv.No.32) 5. A set of different beads, (No.33), (pic.62; Tab. XXIV, 22), 5 pieces; 2 pieces- spherical. 3 pieces of light brownish cylinder-like semi-transparent beads. Revealed while removal of the skull.

4. A set of different beads, (No.32), (pic.61; Tab. XXIV, 1-3), 19 pieces, (17 pieces – safe, 2- disintegrated into 5 parts); 10 pieces – cornelian, 5 pieces –glass, 4 pieces – metal (?). Cornelian beads are close to spherical or cylinder, irregular in shape. Two out the 5 glass beads are opaque, spherical shape, one is semi-transparent, blue, cylinder shape, one is grey, three-layered, one is light blue transparent. The metal bead is flat, dark grey, with a hole in the middle. The beads were found around the scull. One small quartz (?) flake was found together with the beads.



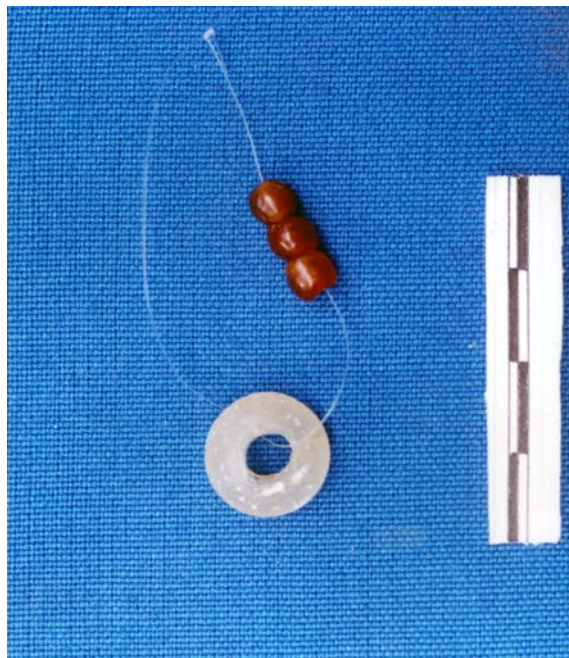
Pic. 62. Burial No.5 Beads (Ivn. No. 33).

5. A set of different beads, (No.33), (pic.62; Tab. XXIV, 22), 5 pieces; 2 pieces-spherical. 3 pieces of light brownish cylinder-like semi-transparent beads. Revealed while removal of the scull.



Pic. 63. Burial No.5 Beads (Inv. No.34)

6. A set of different beads, (No.34), (pic.63; Tab. XXIV, 4), 17 pieces. 15 pieces – cornelian, 1 piece –glass (?), 1 piece – metal (?). 14 pieces of cornelian beads are close to spherical, irregular in shape, semi-transparent, light red-brownish. One bead is opaque, of spherical shape, light brown. The beads were found around the neck and throat.



Pic. 64. Burial No. 5. Beads (Inv. No. 35)

7. A set of different beads, (No.35), (pic.64; Tab. XXIV, 9, 10), 4 pieces. 3 pieces – cornelian, 1 piece –glass. Cornelian beads are close to spherical, semi-transparent, light red-brownish. The glass bead is biconical (with mild edge), light –grey – white. Found at the left shoulder.



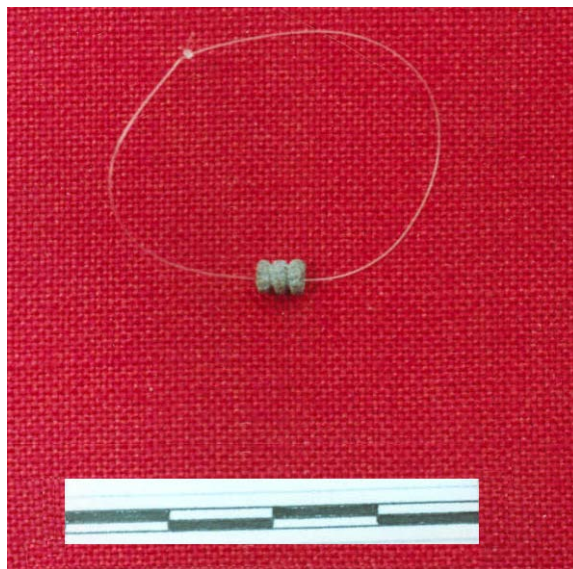
Pic. 65. Burial No. 5. Beads (Inv. No. 36)

8. A set of metal (?) Beads, (No.36), 7 pieces are safe and six are fragments (pic.65; Tab. XXIV, 16), flat, round plate with a hole in the middle, dark grey-dark green (rusted). The beads were found over the right shoulder, in the Northwestern part of the burial.



Pic.66. Burial No.5 Beads (Inv.No.37).

9. A set of metal beads, (No.37), (pic.66; Tab. XXIV, 17), 17 pieces are safe, 9 are fragmented. The beads were found around the neck and throat. Flat, round plate with a hole in the middle, dark grey-dark green. Were found between ribs.



Pic.67. Burial No.5. Beads (Inv.No.38)

10. One piece of grey bead, (No.38) (pic. 67, Tab. XXIV, 18), “ three layered” – cylinder-shaped with two curves around (curves are deep). Found between the clavicle and vertebra.



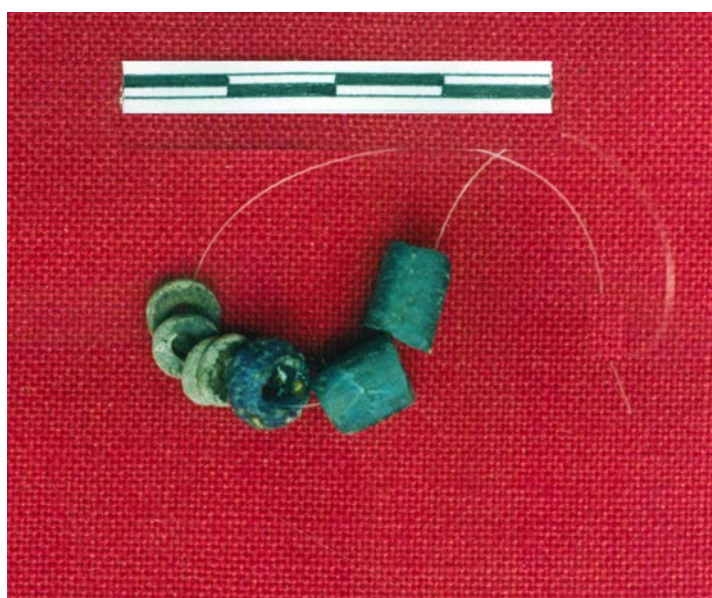
Pic. 68. Burial No.5 Beads (Inv.No.39)

11. A set of cornelian beads, (No.39), (pic.68; Tab. XXIV, 19), 8 pieces, close to spherical and cylinder in shape, semi-transparent, light red-brownish. One bead is opaque, of spherical shape, light brown. The beads were found at the left elbow.



Pic. 69. Burial No. 5. Beads (Inv. No.40).

12. A set of metal beads, (No.40), (pic.69; Tab. XXIV, 15), 17 pieces are safe, 5 are fragmented. The beads are dark grey, flat, round plates with smooth surface and whole in the middle. Were found between ribs and near the write wrist.



Pic. 70. Burial No.5 Beads (Inv.No.41)

13. A set of different beads, (No.41), (pic.70; Tab. XXIV, 12-14), 6 pieces. 2 pieces – glass (one bead if broken into two parts), 4 pieces –metal. One of the glass beads is opaque, dark blue, low cylinder like with convex surface. The other one is quadrihedral, semi-transparent, blue – dark sky- blue, separated into two pieces. Metal (?) beads are dark grey, flat, round plates with smooth surface and hole in the middle. Were found between ribs and near the write wrist.



Pic. 71. Burial No. 5 Beads (Inv.42).

14. Stone and glass beads, two pieces (No. 42), (Pic. 71; Tab. XXIV, 20, 21). Stone bead belongs to quartz group (cornelian), opaque, light brown, with grey spots, close to cylinder in shape. The edge is chopped-off (perhaps during its perforation?). A glass bead, cylinder- shaped, black- dark-blue, semi-transparent (?), irisaised (with small hollows on surface). Found between ribs.



Pic. 72. Burial No.5 Beads (Inv. No. 43)

15. Cornelian, glass and metal (?) beads, (No.43) (pic.72; Tab. XXIV, 5-8), 17 pieces are safe, 3 are fragmented, two of which belong to one of the bead. 7 beads are cornelian, 1 is glass, while 9 beads together with the three fragmented pieces are made of metal. Most of the cornelian beads are spherical, one of them resembles cylinder. All of them are semi-transparent and light reddish. The glass bead is of low cylindrical form with convex surface. It is blue, semi-transparent bead. Metal (?) beads are dark grey, flat, round plates with smooth surface and whole in the middle. One bead, which is represented with two fragments slightly differs from the rest of them – it is almost ball-shaped. Were found around the chest.



Pic. 73. Burial No. 5 A seal (Inv.No.44).
Display of the seal carving.



Picture 74. Burial № 5.
Seal (Inv. № 44).



Picture 75. Burial № 5. Seal (Inv. № 44).

16. Seal (№ 44), opaque glass (perhaps „faience“ or stone. (Visually it is difficult to define the material), cylindrical (the hole is directed along the height of the cylinder), with the picture - two kneeling men opposite to each other, holding the rod and the Caucasian goat; blue (surface - „the background“ - pinkish-gray, the hollow picture - blue); length - 21,5 mm, the diameter is between 8,5-9,5 mm, hole diameter- 3,5 mm. (the cylinder is oval in cross section) the surface is entirely covered with the hollow pictures (Picture 73-

75; table XXIII,1): on the right side (is described according to the original and not to the imprint) a man is depicted standing on his knees, the half face turned to the left, body - en face (Picture 75); in the right hand he holds the „rod“-s handle (Picture 73), left hand - bent at the waist, the right leg bent at the right angle, the left knee stands at the „foundation“.

The whole figure of Caucasian goat is depicted right half face; the Caucasian goat's both horns and all four extremities are presented; extremities two by two, are connected by the flutes. Caucasian goat stands of the „foundation“ (throne?), reflected by means of straight line and a couple of slanting crosses below it. The Caucasian goat and the kneed figure are separated by the „rod“ - upright directed handle ending by the slanting cross. Pictures are schematic - both sides bordered (at the top and at the bottom) by surrounding flutes (one flute on each side near the edges).

17. Flake (№ 45), obsidian, black color, small size. was discovered in the north-west corner of the burial , under the jug№ 30 .

18. cattle bone fragments (№ 243). Discovered in the jug № 30.

Burial № 6

Burial pit with stone mound (Picture 76-77; table XXV).

The mound is fragmentary &

Burial pit (Picture 78) is cut in yellowish clay layer inclined from the north to the south& The burial (1,9x1,35x1,1 m) is of the rectangular shape and has rounded corners& The walls of the burial are uneven^ pit is filled with solid black earth& the walls bear the traces of the used tools .



Picture 76. Burial #6 Stones rolled down in the burial chamber . II level.

The deceased is laid on the black color layer in the center of the burial, head to the north, with bent extremities, on the right side. Upper extremities are placed in front of the face. Length of the skeleton - 0,95 m, width at the cannon-bone - 0,43 m, the right shoulder bone length - 0,95 m, phalange length - 0,12 m, scull bones are severely damaged, the lower jaw is fallen to the chest, collar bone is moved 8 cm. On the scull's place dark brown stains can be seen.

Anthropological studies showed that the burial belonged to an of the 40-45 years old individual.



Picture 77. Burial № 6. Stones rolled down in the burial chamber . III level.



Picture 78. Burial № 6. Burial chamber. General view.

The jug stands in the north-western corner of the burial (№ 46), a small jug (№ 47) stands in a distance of 0,20 meters from the north-eastern corner and 0,17 meters from the eastern wall. Pottery is smashed.

There are beads behind the skull laying together, side by side from the east to the west, coupled with seals and eye-like bead, touching the skull (Picture79, 83-87).



Picture 79. Burial № 6. Burial chamber& Detail.

Four cornelian beads lie near of each elbow (№ 56, 57; Picture 91, 92). around the chest cornelian and faience beads are scattered (№ 58; Picture 93), with two oblong oval shaped beads among them. was discovered 2 bead fixers made of golden flat plates were discovered around the chest area (№ 54, 55; Picture 89, 90).

The following artifacts were discovered in the burial:



Picture 80. Burial № 6. Jug (inventory № 46).

1. Gray burn clay jug (№ 46), (Picture 80; table XXVI,5), with fine grained inclusions in clay. Rim is slightly extended, roll is flattened, neck is low, body is round, the bottom is flat. Decorated with fluted lines on the shoulder and three relief strips around the body. Discovered in the north-eastern part of the burial.



Picture 81. Burial № 6. Jug (inventory № 47).



Picture 82. Burial № 6. Jug. Detail (inventory № 47).

2. Straw- brownish burned clay jug (№ 47), (Picture 81; table XXVI,4),

with the extended rim and round roll. A flute is made below the rim together with incised slanting lines all around (Picture 82). Both inner and outer surfaces of the vessel are covered with slanting, horizontal and vertical fluted lines. Body is rounded, the bottom is flat, with beam like fluted lines. Discovered in the North-western corner of the burial.



Picture 83. Burial № 6. Bead (inventory № 48).

3. An opaque glass bead (?) (№ 48), (Picture 83; table XXVII,8), polychrome, 1 unit, one side is flattened and white oval is painted on the dark background, which black „eye“ inserted in it. Diameter- 13 mm., Thickness - 6 mm. Discovered behind the skull.



Picture 84. Burial № 6. Seal (inventory № 49).

4. Opaque glass (?) or stone (?) seal (?) (№ 49), (it is difficult to determine the material visually), dark gray-black, dense (directions of rows of the slanting flutes and the hole axis coincide)& It is low, rectangular parallelepiped in shape (Picture 84; table XXVII, 4). The bottom and its opposite edge are entirely covered with two rows of coniferous ornament, formed by means of four rows of opposite slanting flutes (with three slanting flutes in each row) (i.e. there are one and the same carvings on the seal face and back). Base sizes – 11,5 mm x 12,5 mm. Discovered behind the skull.



Picture 85. burial № 6. bead - seal (?) (inventory № 50).

5. One piece of bead-seal, made of round^ thick glass plate (?) (№ 50), (Picture 85; ეფიღუ XXVII,6). One side is flat (smooth surface with hardly noticeable, illegible grooves and deepening's – perhaps some traces of a base?),(possibly, of the technological nature?). This item has cone shape salience on the opposite site (along the whole length of the hole axis with possible schematic image of a human head en face?); semi-transparent, navy blue in color; diameter- 19-19,5 mm thickness - 3,5 together with the salience - 9 mm. Incomplete, flecked one side, at the very edge of the hole. Discovered behind the skull.



Picture 86. Burial № 6. Seal (inventory № 51).

6. Opaque glass (?) or stone (?), seal (?) (№ 51), (it is difficult to determine the material visually). Surface is green, gray in section (according to the broken part), dense, rectangular (close to the square shape), thick plate (Picture 86; table [XXVII,5](#);). Surfaces on the both sides are evenly (lightly) bulged, entirely covered with two rows of coniferous ornament, formed by means of four rows of opposite slanting flutes (with three slanting flutes in each row) (i.e. there are one and the same carvings on the seal face and back). Coniferous imprints are surrounded with grooves, making up a rectangular frame. There are rectilinear grooves on the sides of the plate as well (on its central axes). Discovered behind the skull.



Picture 87. Burial № 6. Seal (inventory № 52).

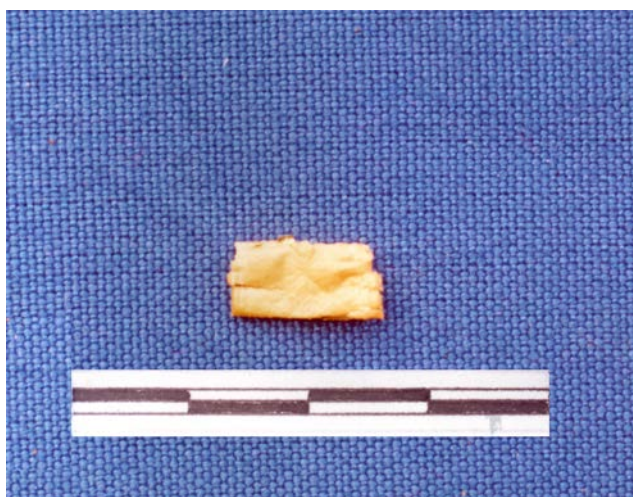
7. The seal is gray-brownish, opaque glass (?) or stone (?), seal (?) (№ 52), (it is difficult to determine the material visually). It is dense rectangular thick plate (Picture 87; table

XXVII,3); Both surfaces are entirely covered with two rows of coniferous ornament, formed by means of four rows of opposite slanting flutes (due to its fragmentariness, the exact number of grooves in each row is hard to be defined, although the directions of slanting grooves from one side and of the hole axes coincide). Coniferous imprints are surrounded with grooves, making up a rectangular frame. There are rectilinear grooves on the sides of the plate as well (on its central axes). Dimensions of this fragment are as follows: length - 12 mm; width – 9,5 mm; thickness - 5 mm; incomplete. Grooves are dimmed, smoothed on one side. Discovered behind the skull.



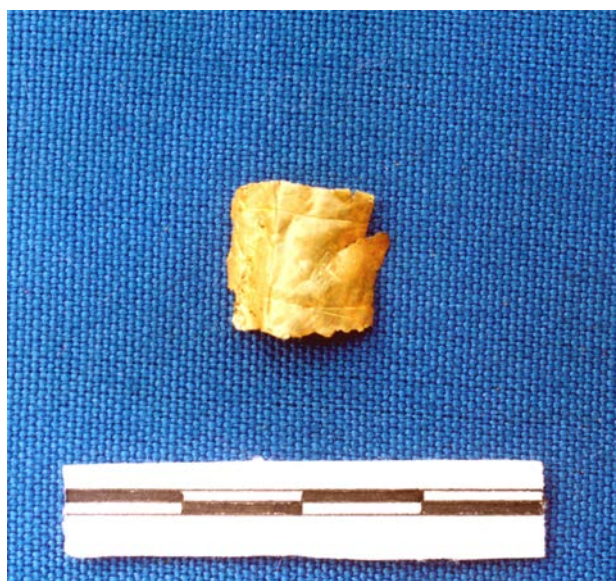
Picture 88. Burial № 6. Beads (inventory № 53).

8. Cornelian beads (No. 53), (Picture 88; tab. XXVI, 6), 12 pieces. One is cylindrical, semi-transparent, red-brownish. The rest are spherical, semi-transparent, light brown. Discovered behind the skull (near the seals).



Picture 89. Burial № 6. Gold plate (inventory № 54).

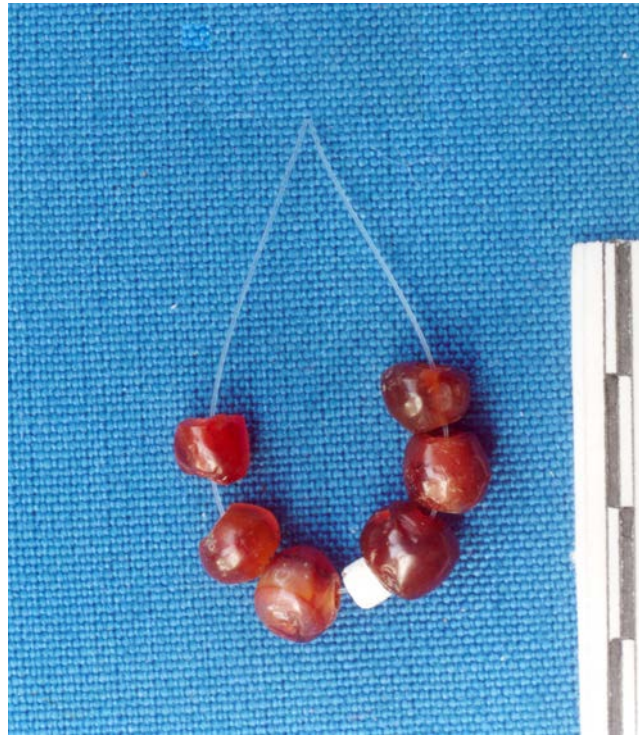
9. Two fragments of the golden plate (of a cylindrical bead ?) (No. 54), folded into two, with flecked edges (Picture 89; table XXVII, 2). Surface is polished, covered with intersecting dense dim lines (“flutes”) - rhombic net, encircled by the frame made of straight lines (image is dim). The longest of the fragments is 11 mm. with the largest (bent) width of one of the segments side - 6 mm. Discovered near the chest.



Picture 90. Burial № 6. Gold plate (inventory № 55).

10. Fragment of the golden opened plate (“cylindrical bead”) (No.55), with the only remaining clearly cut edge, the rest three edges are flecked (Picture 90; table XXVII,1). Surface is slightly smoothed; covered with intersecting dense dim lines (“flutes”) - rhombic net, framed by the bordering lines (image is dim and difficult to read).

The maximum length - 13 mm. , the utmost width - 12 mm. Gold is light yellow.
Discovered in the chest area.



Picture 91. Burial № 6. Beads (inventory № 56).

11. 7 pieces of cornelian, opaque glass (?), or faience beads (No.56). 6 of them are brown - reddish semi-transparent cornelian beads, close to spherical shape (Picture 91; table XXVI, 8). 1 piece of an opaque glass (?) or white faience cylindrical bead. Discovered near the right elbow.



Picture 92. burial № 6. beads (inventory № 57).

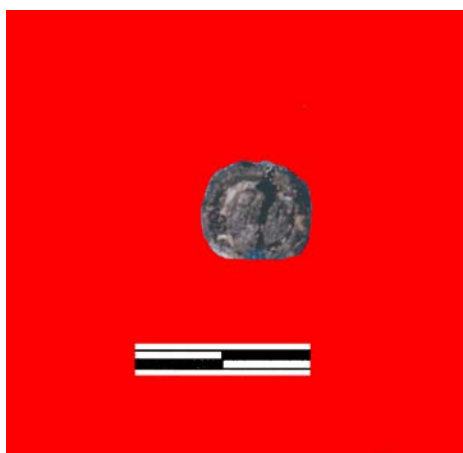
12. 11 pieces of cornelian beads (No.57), (Picture 92; table XXVI, 7), one is dark brown, the rest are light brown-reddish. All of them are semi-transparent, close to the spherical shape. Discovered near the left elbow joint.



Picture 93. Burial № 6. Beads (inventory № 58).

13. The cornelian pendant and beads of various substances (No. 58) (Picture 93; table XXVI, 1-3); The cornelian pendant is of equal sided triangle shape, with slightly thicker top and reach-through hole, semi-transparent, brown with light stains. Surface is smoothed and polished. Edges are distinct, straight lined. Height - 19 mm.

6 pieces of cornelian beads are spherical, semi-transparent, brown-reddish, with dark stains. 3 pieces are cylindrical, getting thicker to the middle. 19 units are close to cylindrical shape. A fragment of gagate cylindrical (?) bead . Two out of the three glass (?) beads belong to one bead (?), both are opaque, light gray-whitish. 2 fragments of metal beads belong to one grain-shaped, (cylindrical) bead, (?) (complete) . Discovered at the chest.

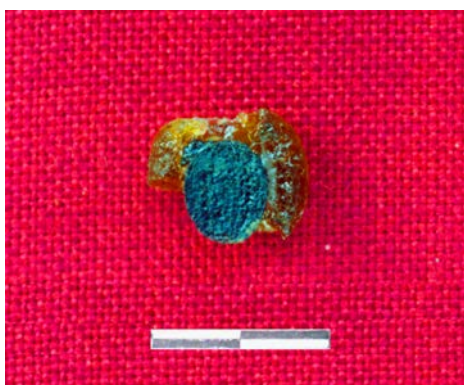


Picture 94. Burial № 6. Glass (?) bead (inventory № 59).



Picture 95. Burial № 6. Fragment of the glass (?) bead (inventory № 59).

14. Two pieces of glass beads (?) (No. 59), (Picture 94, 95; table XXVII 9,10), polychrome, one is safe, second is represented by two fragments. One bead, the “spherical”, is flattened on both sides along the width of the hole axis. Currently is only opaque, black in color. One side is simple, while the other side has got the round groove with missing different (white) color strip. Diameter- 12 mm; length along the hole axis - 11 mm., thickness - 6 mm. Possible shape and size of the second bead (separated into two fragments) is unrestorable. One opaque black and semi-transparent light yellow fragment is 7 mm., long and 5 mm. thick; the second fragment is opaque black.



Picture 96. Burial № 6. Glass bead (inventory № 60).

15. One fragment of polychrome semi-transparent light yellow and opaque black glass (?) bead (No. 60),(Picture 96; table XXVII,7). Both sides of the sphere-shaped bead is flattened of the whole width of the hole axes; The bead has got an opaque black round “plate” on the light yellow semi-transparent background from one side, with a groove around it (for the lines of different color).

Burial № 7

In a distance of 2,5 meters North of the burial № 13 black stain was revealed with clay vessel shards smashed by a bulldozer. This stain was numbered as burial № 7, but as excavations have consequently shown, the burial was destroyed.

Burial № 8

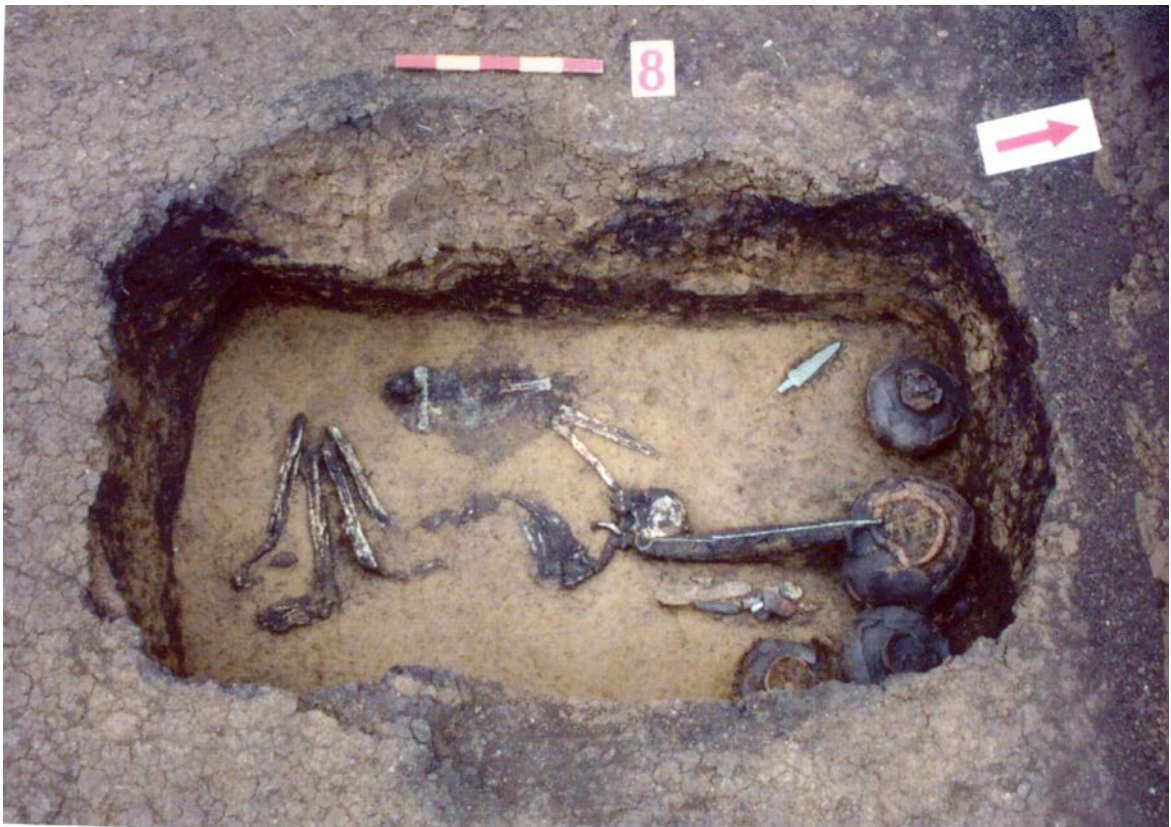
It is a pit tomb (table XXVIII).

Burial is cut in the yellow clay layer and is directed from the North to the South. Burial (2,0x1,15x 0,6 m) is rectangular with rounded corners (Picture 97)&



Picture 97. Burial № 8. General view.

The deceased is buried on the right side with the head to the north, extremities are curved; the right hand is bent, while the left one is apparently has disintegrated. The skull, right hand, partially ribs, cannon and shank bones and feet are well preserved . Skeleton occupies middle and southern parts of the burial (Picture 98).



Picture 98. Burial № 8. General view.



Picture 99. Burial № 8. Burial chamber. Detail..

Four clay vessels are located at the Northern wall (Picture 103) - three are along the wall (No.61, 62,63) and one (No. 64) is next to the vessel No.63, close to the Eastern wall.

Vessels are cracked, necks are moved inside. Vessel No. 63 is preserved better.

The latter has black ware and is decorated with grooves along the rim and body. It should've had three knob-like handles at the shoulder.



Picture 100. Burial № 8. Burial chamber. Detail.

T-shaped head of the rod-like bronze item with involuted body was rested on the rim of the vessel № 62 (Picture 100, 103-106, 113-115). The rod is approx. 0.57 m. long ended with the hook with its spike, pointed to the back of the head. Total length of the object is 62 cm (№ 66).

The bronze dagger (Picture 103,104,106,112) lies on the bottom, in the Northwest corner of the burial, with its spike pointed to the Northwestern corner. (No. 65).

The pile of instruments or tools containing stone, bone (Picture 127) and bronze items is located between the vessel № 64 and the bronze involuted body, dividing this part of the burial into two almost equal parts (Picture 99,101-105).

Two grinding stones are represented here: a big, cracked one made of yellowish, soft pebble, (№ 73) and relatively small, perforated one, made of a black stone (No.74). One arrow-head pointed to the East can be seen beneath of each of them: № 84 is under big grinding stone (No.73) and No. 83 arrow-head under the grinding stone No.74.



Picture 101. Burial № 8. Detail.



Picture 102. Burial № 8. Detail.

Stone items of special designation lie Northwards the grinding stones, above them: two flat stones cover the pile – the reddish (№ 79) and the gray (№ 78). Two pyramidal objects are located under them with perforated bases (№№ 75, 76). The same type object with perforated bottom (No. 80) made of pinky stone was found along the flat gray stone (No.77). The oblong flat stone object with hollow and widened side (No.78) was revealed under the letter.

The gray stone object (№ 81), is located under the flat stones (№№ 79, 80). There is another stone object made of white-gray stone (No.82), adjacent to the Western edge of the large grinding stone (No.73). The obsidian arrow-head (No. 85) can be seen under the pyramidal objects (No. No. 75,76).



Picture 103. Burial № 8. Detail.



Picture 104. Burial № 8. Detail.

Two lancet like bronze tools (№ 67 and № 68) with bone hafts were revealed under the pile of instruments.



Picture 105. Burial № 8. detail.

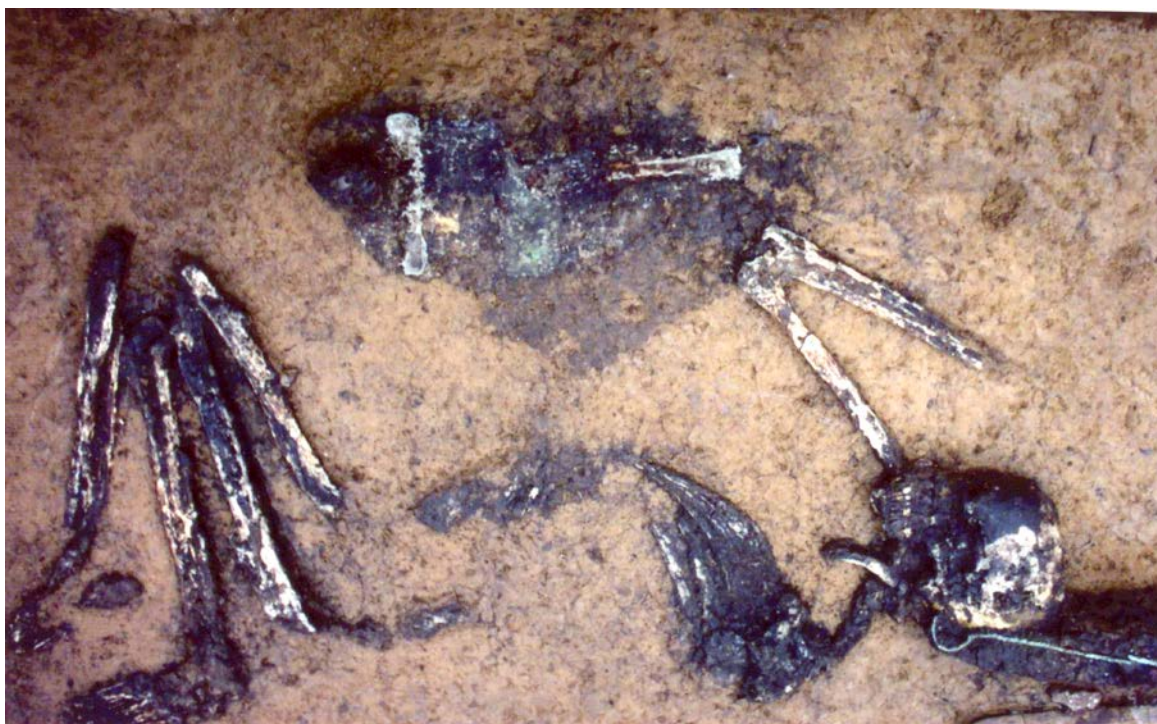


Picture 106. Burial № 8. Detail

Two bone objects (№№ 86 and 87) of the same type were discovered under this instruments .

The stain was noticed near the instrument pile, easily recognizable on the background of the existing soil. Possibly, the tools were kept in a special set or container, the presumption that is backed by close location of tools to each other at the moment of preparation.

The quiver was found along the deceased body (№ 69) under his bent elbow, at the western edge of the burial (Picture 106,107,118-122). The wooden quiver was covered with thin bronze coverings. The pile of obsidian arrow-heads were revealed at the upper edge of the hoop (Picture 123) (6 pieces № 70) all of them with outward spikes directed to the South. Five wooden arrow-barrels highlighted among the quiver remains must be regarded as a beam of arrows. One black obsidian arrow-head is located at the end of the quiver with its spike to the North (No.71), that is opposite to other arrowheads (Pic.124), what leads as to the conclusion, that this arrow possibly was put in the quiver with the arrow-head down (Pic.124). Remains of wood were revealed at the extension of the bronze hoops, at the place were the arrow-heads were found (No.70), coupled with rope-like imprints. The quiver was covered with a black substance, what is possible to be regarded as leather remains.



Picture 107. Burial № 8. Detail.

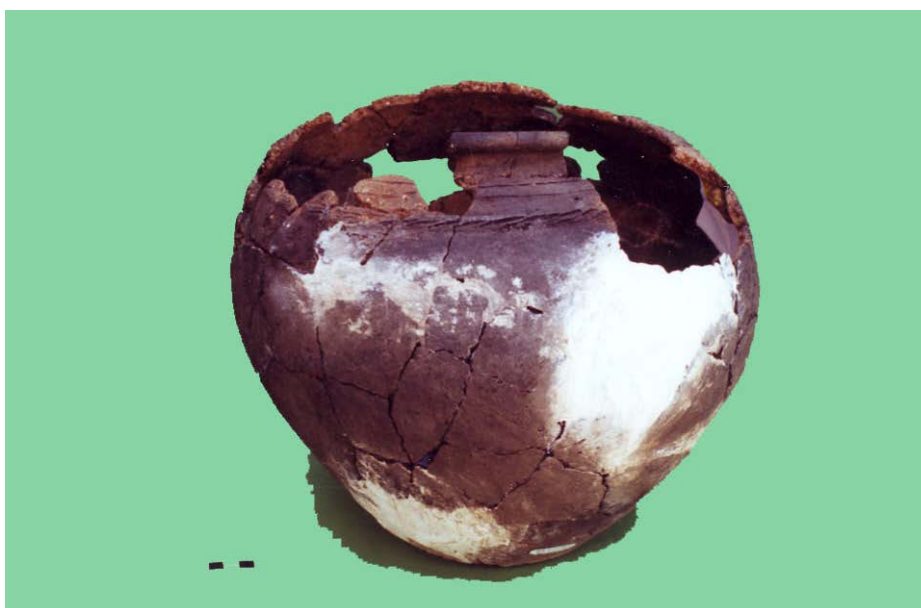
№ 62 Cattle bones were found within the clay vessel No.62. Traces of fire can be noticed on the vessel.

The following artifacts were discovered within the burial:



Picture 108. Burial № 8. Jug (inventory № 61).

1. The clay jug (No.61), (Picture 108; table [XXX,1](#)) with black ware and damaged rim. Neck and shoulder separated by the grooved strip. Body is blown out, narrowing towards the bottom, which is narrow and flat. Decorated with three raised strips around the body.



Picture 109. Burial № 8. Jug (inventory № 62).

2. The clay jug (№ 62), (Picture 109; table [XXX,2](#)), with gray- black irregular burn and fine white inclusions in clay. The rim is extended, roll is round, decorated by the raised strip all around the shoulder with two grooved strips noticeable above the latter. The blown out body is raised at the shoulder. Bottom is flat, with incised slanting beam-like bands towards the sides. Discovered in the buddle of the Northern wall.



Picture 110. Burial № 8. Hollow-footed jar (inventory № 63).

Black burned clay jar with a hollow foot. (№ 63), (Picture 110; table XXIX,1), Rim is extended, roll is round, neck is low, with groovier strips all around the shoulder and the body, that is spherical. There are three flat ledges on the body. Sides are descending towards the bottom, that is hollow-footed.



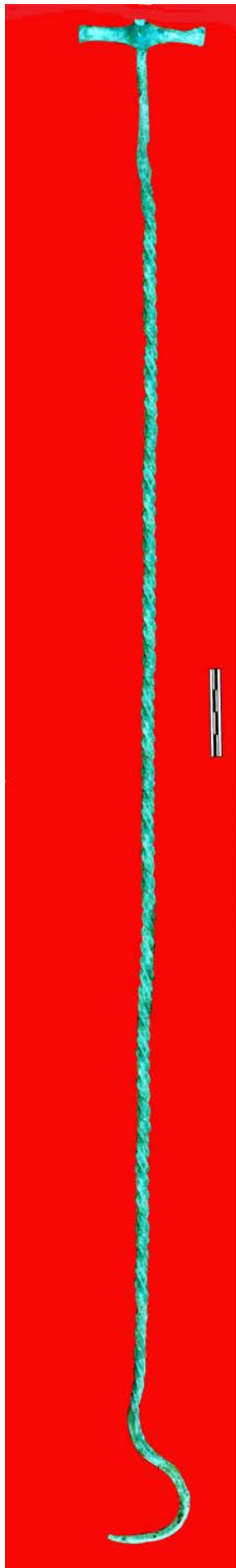
Picture 111. Burial № 8. Jug (inventory № 64).

4. Heavily damaged clay jug (№ 64), (Picture 111; table [XXX,3](#)) with black-brownish ware and tile-color inner surface. Rim is extended, roll is round. Discovered at the eastern wall of the burial.



Picture 112. Burial № 8. Bronze dagger (inventory № 65).

5. The bronze dagger (№ 65), (Picture 112; table XXXIV,2),
hafted, with rectified shoulders. Length – 21,5 cm, width at shoulders – 4,7 cm.



6. The rod - like bronze object (No. 66), (Picture 113; table

XXXIV, 1) with T -shaped head and involuted body, ending with the hook (Picture 113-115). Middle part of the head is slightly thickened and perforated. Body of a tool is fastened within the hole. At the upper part the body is round in cross-section (for the first 3-3.5 sm.), consequently followed by the quadrangular shape, and from the point of 4,5 cm below the body is involuted. This part of the object remains quadrangular in cross-section till the very end, where it is transformed into the hooked spike. Total length of this item is 62 sm. It is broken into two parts as follows: 42,5 +19,5 sm. The head was rested on the rim of vessel No.62, while the hooked spike was adjusted to the back of the head of the deceased.

Picture 113. burial № 8. bronze rod - like object (inventory № 66).



Picture 114. Burial № 8. Bronze rod like object. Detail (inventory № 66).



Picture 115. Burial № 8. Bronze rod like objects. Detail (inventory № 66).



Picture 116. Burial № 8. Bronze lancet like object (inventory № 67).

7. The bronze lancet like object (№ 67), (Picture 116; table XXXI,2), thin blade and four edged shaft narrowing to its end. The tool is broken into two parts close to the lower part of the blade (near the haft). The tool was provided with the bone shaft, fabricated on the base of a tubular bone. Discovered under the stone tools, just above the bone tools, within the tool pile.



Picture 117. Burial № 8. Bronze lancet like tool (inventory № 68).

8. The bronze lancet like tool (№ 68), (Picture 117; Table XXXI,1) with thin blade which becomes thinner towards the haft. The tool was provided with the bone shaft, fabricated on the base of a tubular bone. Discovered within the pile of tools.



Picture 118. Burial № 8. Detail. Quiver.



Picture 119. burial № 8. Detail. Quiver.



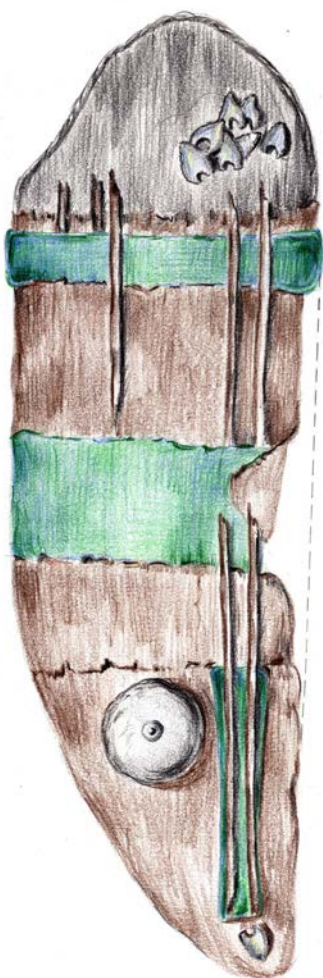
Picture 120. Burial № 8. Detail. Quiver.



Picture 121. Burial № 8. Detail. Quiver..



Picture 122. Burial № 8. Detail. Quiver..



Picture 123. Burial № 8. Quiver. Sketch

9. Bronze, wooden and leather fragments of the quiver (No. 69), (Picture No. 123; Table XXXII,1). The quiver lay face down on the bottom of the burial (Picture 118-122). One oblong side of the quiver that was parallel to the Western wall of the burial is straight, while the opposite side is rounded. The quiver was made of thin wooden piles, covered with ladder. Wooden remains helped to define the throat of the quiver, followed by a thin bronze plate (unit No.1) (Tab.XXXIII,1), found under wooden and leather remains, located parallel to the throat, just in a distance of 1,5 cm, from its upper edge.

The ends of the plates are bent upwards (towards the rear of the quiver) like hooks. A

plate was found at the end of the quiver (unit No.2) located along the straight side of the quiver and vertically in relation to the throat. A thin rectangular bronze plate (unit No.3)

(Tab. XXXIII, 2) was found parallel to the quiver throat and unit No.1. Close to the end of the quiver, next to the unit No.2 a round dome – shaped detail was discovered, with bulge-like salience in the middle (unit No. 4) (Tab. XXXIII, 4). Black round spot was noticed in a distance of 15 cm. off the quiver throat, encircled by the round raised rope-like border. Two arrow bunches were revealed along the whole length of the quiver. Both were situated upon the units Nos. 1,2,3 of the quiver. 7 pieces of the arrowheads were located Southward to the quiver throat (six were obsidian, one was made of flint)(Inv. Nos. 70-72). The quiver is heavily damaged and unrestorable. Was discovered at the Western edge of the burial, along the skeleton, just under the bent elbows.

The quiver was cut off together with the clod. Micro-spectral analysis of the quiver (units No. 1 and 4) revealed that unit No.1 conforms to bronze with tin as an alloying substance. Currently the metal core is almost through transferred into rust. Low specific portion of iron was defined in every sample. There was not defined any trace of metal in the unit No.4. Heterogeneity of the remained substance revealed during its survey under the microscope leads to assumption that it was some organic material currently weathered at an extant, that makes its identification impossible. Studies were executed at the National Research Center, Diagnostics and Utilization of Geology and Mineral Substances founded at the Chair of Mineralogy, Petrology and Geo-Chemistry of Georgian Technical University.⁴



Picture 123a . burial № 8. obsidian and elf-bolt

(inventory №№ 70,71).

10. Black obsidian arrow-heads (№ 70), (Picture 123s, 2-7; table XXXIII,7-12), 6 pieces, transparent, with trapezoid shape hollow bases. One of them is relatively long, well trimmed . Discovered at the throat of the quiver.

11. Gray- whitish elf-bolt (№ 71), (Picture 123s,1; table XXXIII,6), with trapezoid shape hollow bases. Discovered at the throat of the quiver.



Picture 124. Burial № 8. Obsidian arrow-head (inventory № 72).

12. Obsidian arrow-head (№ 72), (Picture 124; table XXXIII,13), 1 piece, black, transparent, trapezoid hollow bases. Discovered at the end of the quiver .



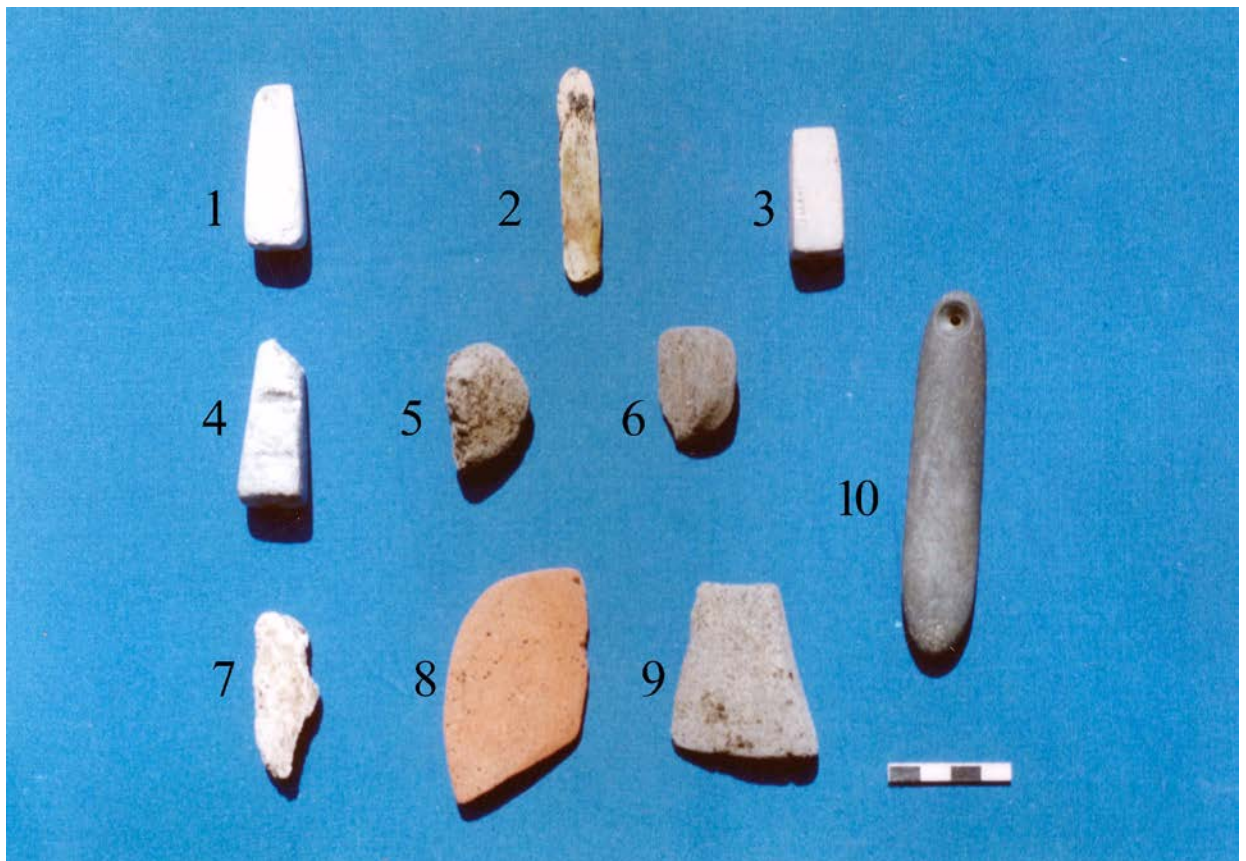
Picture 125. Burial № 8. Grinding stone (inventory № 73).

13. The sandstone grinding stone (№ 73), disintegrated into 6 fragments (4 big and 2 small), oval cross-section (Picture 125; table [XXXV,1](#)), with rounded ends. There are several residual spots caused by some black (?) substance. Discovered within the pile of tools, to be more accurate, between the vessel No.64 and involuted body of the bronze rod-like tool.



Picture 126. Burial № 8. Grinding stone (inventory № 74).

14. Grinding stone (№ 74), (Picture 126; table XXXVI,2) made of gray- black cobblestone, oval in cross-section. Reach-through hole is treated from the both sides with the symmetrical deepening of the sieve. Except of its direct destination the too was used as a mortar. This may be confirmed by the existence of numerous small hollows on its end.



Picture 127. Burial № 8. 1-10. Stone items firm the “instruments” pile.

(inventory №№ 74-82s).



Picture 128. Burial № 8. Stone object (inventory № 75).

15. Light gray, sinker shaped pyramidal stone tool, with missing top (№ 75), (Picture 127, 4; 128: table XXXVI, 4), quadrangular in cross –section. Surface is smoothed. Two bi-symmetric horizontal grooves are curved deeply in one of the edges. The bottom is untreated, with a curved strip on one side. The object is damaged with missing upper corner. There is a symmetrical round hole from the bottom throughout the body. The whole is not reaching - through. Discovered within the „instruments“ pile.



Picture 129. Burial № 8. Stone object (inventory № 76).

16. Gray-whitish, sinker shaped pyramidal stone tool, with missing top (№ 76), (Picture 127, 1; 129; table XXXVI, 3), quadrangular in cross –section. Surface is smoothed. Corners are rounded Surface is cracked (drip stone). The object is damaged, corner is missing. There is a round hole on the rear side. Discovered within the „instruments“ pile.



Picture 130. Burial № 8. Stone object (inventory № 77).

17. Light-gray, sinker shaped pyramidal stone tool, with missing top (№ 77), (Picture 127, 3; 130; table XXXVI, 1), quadrangular in cross –section. The object has a round hole, which is not reaching - through. On the edge of one of the sides there is a following sign (made by the help of engraving technique): six straight engravings are made on the straight slanting strip. Discovered within the „instruments“ pile.



Picture 131. Burial № 8. Grinding stone (inventory № 78).

18& Gray stone object (№ 78), with rounded edges and one narrowing side (Picture 131; table [XXXV,4](#)). There is a deep hollow close to an edge on one side. Edges are flattened and flaked. There are some hardly noticeable horizontal scratched out lines on the both sides. Presumably these lines represent traces of friction.



Picture 132. Burial № 8. Grinding stone (inventory № 79).

19. Grinding stones (№ 79), made of reddish pumice (Picture 127,8; 132; table XXXVI,4), is with smoothed surface and one rounded side. Edges on the opposite side are significantly thinner. Discovered within the „instruments“ pile.



Picture 133. Burial № 8. Grinding stones (inventory № 80, 81).

20. grinding (№ 80), drip gray stone (Picture 127,6; 133,2; table XXXVI,5), semicircle shape. surface double-sided . one side of the object is slightly damaged. discovered in a pile of „instruments“ under flat stones.

21. grinding (№ 81), drip gray stone (Picture 127,5; 133,1; table XXXVI,6), smooth surface, semicircle shape , one side is broken, discovered in a pile of „instruments“



Picture 134. burial № 8. grinding (inventory № 82).

22. grinding (№ 82), drip gray stone (Picture 127,9; 134; table XXXV,5), improper trapezoid shape , smooth surface . one side with adjusted surface , the second one is definitely thinned . discovered in a pile of „instruments“.



Picture 135. burial № 8. stone object (inventory № 82s).



Fig. 136. Burial No. 8. Obsidian arrow head (Inv. No. 83).

24. Arrow head (No. 83), obsidian (Fig. 136; Tab. XXXIII, 3), black, transparent. Fluted base with flaked edges. Discovered in the “tool pile”.

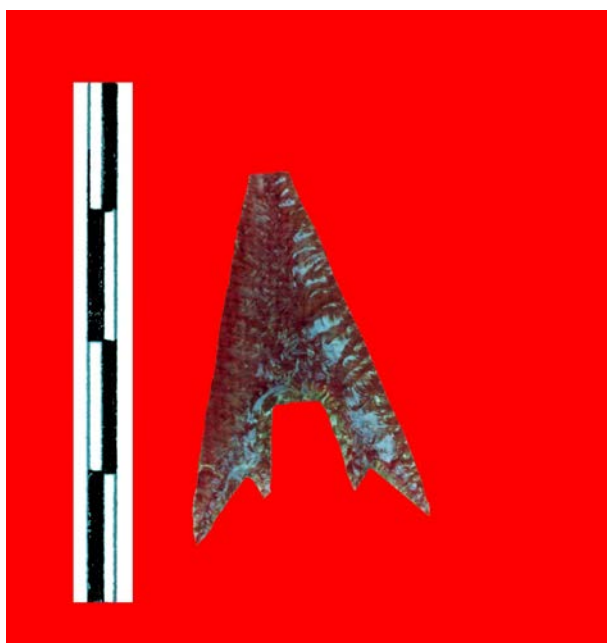


Fig. 137. Burial No. 8. Obsidian arrow head (Inv. No. 84).

25. Arrow head (No. 84), obsidian (Fig. 137; Tab. XXXI, 3), greyish, transparent, thin, triangular-shaped (small portion of the point is broken off); base is fluted in trapezoid widening outwards; at the inner side of the arrows has supplementary short pointed arrows. Edges are fine-flaked. Discovered in the “tool pile”.



Fig. 138. Burial No. 8. Obsidian arrow head (Inv. No. 85).

26. Arrow head (No. 85), obsidian (Fig. 138; Tab. XXXIII, 5), black, transparent. Remained in fragments. Discovered in the “tool pile”.



Fig. 139. Burial No. 8. Bone item (Inv. No. 86).

27. Bone item (No. 86), signs of burnishing remain on the surface. Cross section has quadrangular shape rounded at the top and bottom (Fig. 139; Tab. XXXIV, 3). Discovered in the “tool pile”.
28. Bone item (No. 87), remained in fragments, lower part is rounded (Tab. XXXIV, 4). Discovered in the “tool pile”.

Burial No. 9

Pit burial (Tab. XXXVII).

The burial is cut in the yellow colour ground and is filled with black loam. The chamber (1.7×0.9×0.7 m) is oriented south-north. The deceased is buried at the centre of the pit, with head pointed north, folded limbs, on the right side. The skeleton is heavily damaged.

The following four pottery vessels are situated in single row in the north side of the burial, along the wall: large, pink-burned vessel with “Baiburtic” ornament on the shoulder (No. 88), and west of it – three vessels located besides each other (Nos. 89, 90, 91). The vessels Nos. 89 and 90 are shading from southwards the vessel No. 91. The tumbler (No. 92) is leaned to the western wall of the burial, at the southeast corner.

The white and blue jots, presumably composing bracelet, are placed at the right upper limb.

Artefacts discovered in the burial:

1. Jar (No. 88), clay (Tab XXXVIII, 3), pinkish-burned, rim is everted, lip – round, shoulder and body are decorated by three embossed bands with indented ornaments. Heavily damaged. Discovered at the northeast corner of the burial.



Fig. 140. burial No. 9. Jar (Inv. No. 89).

2. Jar (No. 89), clay (Fig. 140; Tab. XXXVIII, 2), gray, with fine-grained temper in clay. Rim is everted, lip – round, neck – long and widened towards the shoulder, body – spherical. The band decorated by notched and fluted lines marks out the neck from the shoulder. The bands with indented ribs run around the body. Discovered at the northeast corner of the burial.



Fig. 141. Burial No. 9. Pot (Inv. No. 90)

3. Pot (No. 90), clay (Fig. 141; Tab. XXXIX, 3), black-burned, with mica temper in clay. Rim is everted, lip is round. The groove runs around rim beneath. Body is spherical, side and underside are partially missed. Body and shoulder are decorated by fluted bands (4 bands around the shoulder, and 3 – around the body). Discovered west of the vessel No. 89.



Fig. 142. Burial No. 9. Dish (Inv. No. 91).

4. Dish (No. 91), clay (Fig. 142; Tab. XXXIX, 4), beige-burned, rim is inverted, lip – round, fluted bands run around the shoulder and body. Underside is flat and wide. Discovered west of the vessel No. 90.



Fig. 143. Burial No. 9. Pot (Inv. No. 92).

5. Pot (No. 92), clay (Fig. 143; Tab. XXXVIII, 1), beige-burned, with black spots on the body. Side and underside are partially missed. Body is decorated by two bands with indented ornaments and fluted lines beneath. Underside is slightly rounded. Indented slanting lines are depicted at the underside edge. Discovered at the eastern wall of the burial, 0.2 m apart from the southeast corner.



Fig. 144. Burial No. 9. Beads (Inv. No. 93).

6. Beads and pendant (No. 93), opaque glass (Fig. 144; Tab. XXXIX, 1), various. Pendant – 1 item – flat “plate”, lower (major) part is semicircular-shaped; upper part is gradually thickening towards the hole, surface from the both sides is decorated by grooves.

Beads – 5 items; including 3 – sardonic, 2 – opaque glass, i.e. pasta. Sardonic beads – close to spherical-shaped, semitransparent, reddish-brown. One opaque glass bead is “granular-shaped”, has grooved surface, the grooves are oriented along the hole axes (13 grooves). Light green-greyish colour. The second bead – rhomb-shaped, surface is flat from the both sides, decorated by grooves. Discovered in the neck area of the deceased.



Fig. 145. Burial No. 0. Beads (Inv. No. 94).

7. Beads (No. 94), opaque glass (Fig. 145; Tab. XXXIX, 2), 41 items integrated and 3 fragmental; including one “granular”; surfaces are grooved, grooves are oriented along the hole axes. 40 full beads and 3 fragments of dark green colour, cylindrical, small-sized. Discovered at the right hand wrist of the deceased.



Fig. 146. Burial No. 9. Scraper (Inv. No. 95).

8. Scraper (No. 95), obsidian (Fig. 146; Tab. XXXVIII, 4), fluted, made by be-face retouch of very thin flake. Discovered at the south part of the burial, in upper layer.

Burial No. 10

Pit burial with stone mound.

The mound remains in fragments (Fig. 147; Tab. XL; XLI).

The burial pit cut into the yellow colour loam, is oriented north-south (Figs. 148, 149). Pit edges are not rectilinear. Burial sizes: length – 5.5m; width at the northern section – 1.1m, at the southern section – 1.50m; depth – 1.10m.

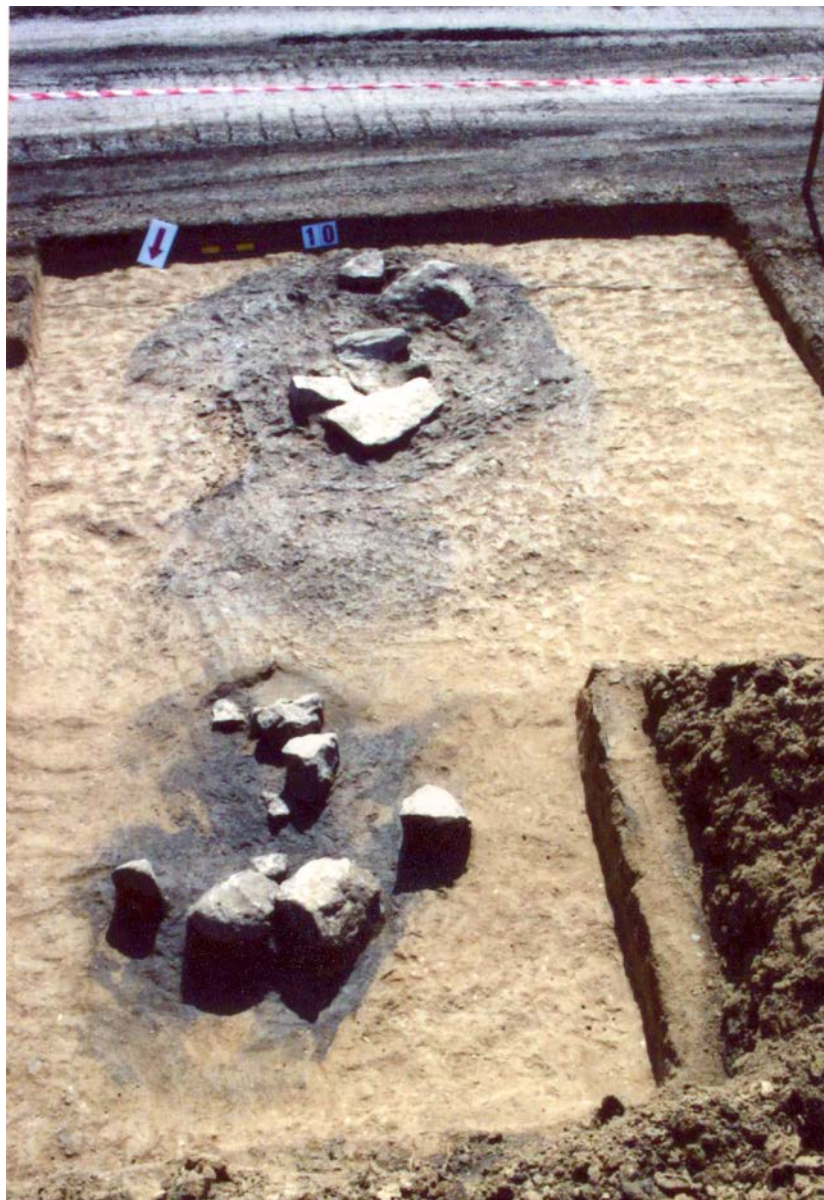


Fig. 147. Burial No. 10. The view after humus layer removal.

Burial No. 10 is used for inhumation. The deceased is oriented north-south, with head pointed north (Fig. 149). Presumably, the deceased was buried in bended position, on the

right side. The bones are very poorly preserved. The fragment of the jaw-bone, small parts of the upper limb bones, fragments of the canon bone and femur remains. Other parts of the skeleton are not identifiable (Fig. 150).

Small cattle (sheep?) bones were discovered at the head of the deceased, north. Also, sheep (?) bones remain at the centre and northern part of the burial. Cattle bones were discovered at the central part of the burial (Nos. 247-250): 2 barrel-shaped bones were into the pottery vessel (No. 98), and rib bones – west of it (Nos. 251, 252).



Fig. 148. Burial No. 10. Burial chamber after preparation. South view.

Pottery vessel No. 96 is situated at the deceased's legs. It is large, black-burned jar with spherical body.

Pottery vessels No. 97 is similar to vessel No. 96, but of smaller sizes.

Pottery vessel No. 98 is situated north of vessel No. 97. It is black-burned and has spherical body. The fragments of the barrel-shaped bones of the cattle were found inside this vessel (No. 251, 252).

Vessel No. 99 has the largest sizes, spherical body, and is made of thick black-burned clay. To the north the vessel is leaned to vessel No. 100. This vessel shape is similar to other vessels, but it is preserved relatively better.



Fig. 149. Burial No. 10. North view.



Fig. 150. Burial No. 10. Burial chamber. Detail.



Fig. 151. Burial No. 10. Detail.



Fig. 152. Burial No. 10. Detail.

Pottery vessel No. 101 is situated north of and, 0.30-0.35 m apart from the vessel No. 100. It is of relatively smaller sizes and is heavily crushed.

Besides the vessel No. 96, the pottery and osteological material was discovered at the centre of the burial and north of the deceased's skull. All of them were situated on the burial floor.

The undressed stone with volcanic origination was placed at the vessel No. 101.

One large (0.30×0.25 m) and four smaller stones laid at the southwest corner of the burial pit. No one of them has any signs of dressing or usage.

The vessels Nos. 97, 98 and 99 situated very close to each other (Figs. 151, 152) and were heavily damaged that made difficult their individual identification.

Artefacts discovered in the burial:



Fig. 153. Burial No. 10. Pot (Inv. No. 96).

1. Pot (No. 96), clay (Fig. 153; Tab. XLII, 3), black-burned, with fine-grained sparkling temper in clay. Rim is everted, lip – round, neck – very short, body – spherical, two embossed and two fluted bands run around the shoulder. Underside is flat. Discovered in the south section of the burial, at the legs of the deceased.
2. Pot (No. 97), clay, small-sized, heavily broken, black-burned, with fine-grained mica glass temper in clay. The embossed lines are visible on the shoulder. Discovered in the central part of the burial.



Fig. 154. Burial No. 10. Pot (Inv. No. 98).



Fig. 155. Burial No. 10. Pot. Detail (Inv. No. 98).

3. Pot (No. 98), clay (Fig. 154; Tab. XLII, 1), beige color, with black spots on the body. Rim is wide, lip – round, neck – very short. Body is wide, elevating at the shoulder and narrowing towards the underside. Underside is flat and wide, and has slanting notches on the surface (Fig. 155). Whole surface is decorated by fluted horizontal and slanting grooves. Slanting notches are on the shoulder and neck. Discovered in the central part of the burial.



Fig. 156. Burial No. 10. Jar (Inv. No. 99).



Fig. 157. Burial No. 10. Jar. Detail (Inv. No. 99).

4. Dish (No. 99), clay (Fig. No. 156; Tab. XLII, 2), brown-beige-burned, with fine-grained temper in clay. Rim is wide and everted, lip – round, neck – very short, shoulder is decorated by slanting notched ornaments, embossed dentate band and fluted horizontal lines (Fig. 157). Body is elevated at the shoulder – signs of the processing hub. Underside is flat and decorated by slanting notches and fluted lines. Discovered in the central part of the burial.



Fig. 158. Burial No. 10. Jar (Inv. No. 100).



Fig. 159. Burial No. 10. Jar. Detail (Inv. No. 100).

5. Jar (No. 100), clay (Fig. 158; Tab. XLII, 2), black, rim is everted, lip – round, neck – short. Body is spherical, elevated at the shoulder and narrowing towards the

underside. Underside is narrow and flat. Two fluted bands run long the lower part of the neck. Horizontal and slanting bands run in seven rows around the shoulder.



Fig. 160. Burial No. 10. Pot (Inv. No. 100).



Fig. 161. Burial No. 10. Pot (Inv. No. 100).



Fig. 162. Burial No 10. Pot (Inv. No. 101)

6. Pot (No. 101), clay (Fig. 160, Tab. XLIII, 1), black, rim is everted, lip – round, neck – long and widening towards the body. The neck is marked out from the body by fluted band. Body is round and narrowing towards the underside. The slanting fluted lines running around the body are composing triangle-shaped ornaments (Fig. 161). Underside is flat; presumably the vessel had a heel, which was broken off.

7. Lamella fragment (No. 102), obsidian (Tab. XLII, 3), undressed.

8. Fragments of the small cattle (lamb or kid) and cow skeletons (No. 244). Discovered at the pot No. 99.



Fig. No. 163. Burial No. 10. Fragments of the sheep or goat skeleton (Inv. No. 245).

9. Fragments of the skeleton of the semi adult small cattle (sheep or goat) (No. 245) (Fig. 1623). Discovered in the central section of the burial.

10. Femur and dorsals of the cattle (cow) (No. 246). Found in the pot No. 98.



Fig. 164. Burial No. 10.

1, 2 – Jaw-bones of the lamb or kid (Inv. No. 248a); 3 – Cattle phalange (Inv. No. 247); 4 – Fragment of the lamb skeleton (Inv. No. 249).

11. Fragments of cattle bones (ribs, part of the humerus, part of the lower side-bones block, phalange (Fig. 164, 3), femur fracture) (No. 247). Discovered at and north of the skull of the deceased.
12. Fragments of the humerus and ribs of the cattle (No. 248). Discovered north of the skull of the deceased.
13. Lower and upper jaw-bones of the small cattle (limb or kid) (No. 248a) (Fig. 164; 1, 2). Discovered north of the skull of the deceased.
14. Fragments of the kid's skeleton (No. 249, 250) (Fig. 164, 4). Discovered north of the skull of the deceased.



Fig. 165. Burial No. 10. Cattle (cow) femur (Inv. No. 251).

15. Cow femur (No. 251) (Fig. 165). Discovered inside the pot No. 98.

16. Cattle (?) ribs (No. 252). Discovered north of the skull of the deceased.

Burial No. 11

Pit burial (Tab. XLIV)

Burial is cut into the yellow color loam layer and is oriented north-south. Pit sizes are 1.07×0.75×0.16 m.



Fig. 166. Burial No. 11. General view.

One underage individual is buried in the burial. The skeleton is poorly preserved. Teeth and upper limbs remain (Fig. 166).

One small-sized pot was found at the north wall of the burial.

Artifact discovered in the burial:

1. Tumbler (No. 103), clay (Tab. XLVI, 1), brown-burned, with coarse-grained mica temper in clay. Incompletely burned. Discovered at the north wall of the burial.

Burial No. 12

Pit burial with stone mound (Tab. XLV).

The mound is damaged during pipeline trench excavation. The several stones of the mound remain. One from those – the large basalt stone (1.30×0.75×0.2 m) partially covered burial pit.



Fig. 167. Burial No.12. General View.

The pit burial (Fig. 167) is cut into the yellow loam, and is oriented north-south. Two deceaseds are buried in the burial, on the right sides, heads are oriented north, limbs are bended. Both skeletons were covered by thick black layer (presumably signs of fabric or leather). Presumably, the deceaseds were 40-45 year old.

The sizes of the burial pit: 1.55×1.15×0.45 m.

The beige-brown-burned pot (No. 104) was found at the north wall of the burial. Beige colour pottery vessel with false handles on the shoulder (No. 105) was situated north of it. The black-pinkish pot (No. 106) leaned against the vessel No. 105 at the east side. Black-burned pottery vessel (No. 107) was standing at the northeast wall of the burial.

Artefacts discovered in the burial:



Fig. 168. Burial No. 12. Pot (Inv. No. 104).

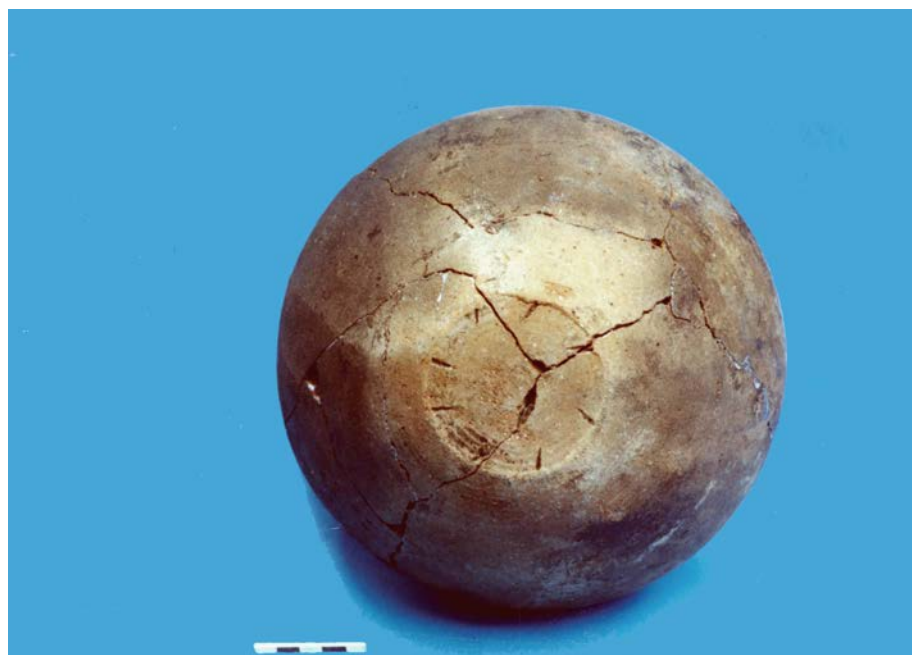


Fig. 169. Burial No. 2. Pot. Detail. (Inv. No. 104).

1. Pot (No. 104), clay (Fig. 168; Tab. XLVI, 2), beige-brown-burned, black coal-like spots are visible on the sides and body. Rim is wide and everted, lip – round. The slanting notched lines run along the short neck. The body is elevating towards the

shoulder, and narrowing towards the underside. Shoulder and body are decorated by slanting horizontal fluted lines. Underside is flat, narrow and has concentric lines and slanting arrow-shaped notches depicted on the surface (Fig. 169). Discovered at the north wall of the burial.



Fig. No. 170. Burial No. 12. Dish (Inv. No. 105).



Fig. No. 171. Burial No. 121. Dish. Detail (Inv. No. 105).

2. Dish (No. 105), clay (Fig. 170; Tab. XLVI, 4), beige-brown-burned, rim is inverted, lip – round. The horizontal fluted band runs around beneath the lip. Body is decorated by three fluted bands. Two parallel false handles with through holes (Fig. 171) are sculptured at the shoulder. The fluted lines run down the interior surface, from rim to body. Underside is flat and wide. Discovered at the vessel No. 104.
- 3.



Fig. 172. Burial No. 12. Pot (Inv. No. 106).

3. Pot (No. 106), clay (Fig. 172; Tab. XLVI, 5), beige-black-burned, with fine-grained temper in clay. Upper part is dissolved. Rim fragment with round lip was discovered among the skeletons of the deceaseds.
6. Pot (No. 107), clay, intensively dissolved, black. Rim fragment is representing the round, slightly everted rim. Surface is decorated by fluted lines. Discovered at the northeast corner of the burial.

Burial No. 13

Pit burial (Tab. XLVII).

The burial is cut into the yellow loam. In is distinguished by dark spot and here and there has stone inclusions (Fig. 173). The burial is oriented from the northwest to the southeast.



Fig. 173. Burial No. 13. The view after humus layer removal.

The burial chamber (Fig. 174) has rectangular shape (1.95×1.20×0,6 m). The deceased laid on the right side, with bended limbs, and head pointed north. The right hand was folded more than the left one and put close to mouth. The right leg was folded more than left as well. The skeleton of the deceased was fully situated on the burial floor. Only the left femur and canon bones were at 0.20 height from the floor. Anthropological investigations shown that the deceased was 45-50 years old male.



Fig. 174. Burial No. 13. General view.

The pot (Fig. 175; No. 108) was discovered in the north corner of the burial (at the head of the deceased). Alongside there were situated several stones (Nos. 110, 111, 112). One stone (No. 112) laid on the bones (supposedly belonging to cattle). The bronze dagger with wooden handle (No. 109) was placed in front of the deceased, at the south wall of the burial. Besides these, a fragment of the very thin bronze item revealed at the head of the deceased. This plate, as well as dagger, was situated 0.06-0.07 m above the burial floor. The dagger was placed with handle oriented north, and the deceased's hand was put on it. The fragment of the vessel's handle was discovered at the southwest corner, 0.20m above the floor. The cattle bones were found inside the pot No. 108.



Fig. 175. Burial No. 13. General view.



Fig. 176. Burial No. 13. Detail. Dagger.



Fig. 177. Burial No. 13. Detail. Dagger.



Fig. 178. Burial No. 13. Detail. Dagger.



Fig. 179. Burial No.13. Pot (Inv. No. 108).

Artifacts discovered in the burial:

1. Pot (No. 108), clay (Fig. 179, Tab. XLVIII,1), beige-burned, visible spots on the body, roughly processed, everted rim, flat lip, short neck, round body, flat underside. Fragments of imprinted ornaments remain on the shoulder. Arrow-shaped, slanting and notched lines run along the underside. Discovered in the northwest corner of the burial.



Fig. 180. Burial No. 13. Bronze dagger (Inv. No. 109).



Fig. 181. Burial No. 13. Bronze dagger. (Inv. No. 109).



Fig. 182. Burial No. 13. Bronze dagger after conservation (Inv. No.109).

2. Dagger (No. 109), bronze (Fig. 176-178, 180-182; Tab. XLVIII, 2-3), dagger blade has triangular shape, framed handle, fan-shaped blade, narrow hilt. Low ridges run down along the blade from the both sides, and are set within fluted frame-lines (duplicate dagger blade). The residues of thin wood plates remain at both sides of the haft with straight handle, ricasso is trapezoid-shaped. Discovered under the right hand of the deceased with north directed hilt.



Fig. 183. Burial No. 13. Grindstone (?) (Inv. No.111).

3. Grindstone (?). (No. 111), discovered in the northwest corner of the burial, at the pot. (Fig. 183, Tab. XLVIII,4).



Fig. 184. Burial No. 13. Grindstone (?) (Inv. No. 112).

4. Grindstone (?). (No. 112), discovered in the northwest corner of the burial, at the pot. (Fig. 184; Tab. XLVIII,5).

Burial No. 14

Circular mound. (Fig. 185, Tab. XLIX).

Arranged at 0.2-0.3 m depth from the present ground surface. The mound (diameter – 2 m) was composed by small-sized stones.



Fig. 185. Burial No. 14. Mound.

Burial chamber had not been detected under the mound.

Artifacts discovered in the mound:

1. Bead (No. 113), opaque glass (Tab. XLVIII,6), 1 item, dark gray, biconical. Discovered at the surface of the burial mound, in its central part.

Burial No. 15

Pit burial with circular mound (Tab. L).

The mound is damaged by constructor. Individual flat sandstone stones remain at the circle centre. Large stone is fallen down in the circle centre. (1.45×0.85×0.35 m).



Fig. 186. Burial No. 15. General view.

The burial (Fig. 186) was oriented from the northwest to the southeast. It had rectangular shape with rounded corners (2.20×1.10 ×0.35 m). The deceased was buried in the burial, at the left side with bended knees and northwest oriented head. Anthropological investigation revealed that buried person was 35-39 years old male.

Unevenly burned vessel was discovered at the north wall of the burial (No. 110). The signs of a coal were remained at the vessel's surface. Horizontal fluted lines and nail-shaped ornament run around the body. The vessel No. 120 (pot) was found at the northeast corner, 0.20 m apart from the vessel No. 119.

Between the deceased's skull and vessel No. 120 there were discovered sardonic and pasta beads. Sardonic beads and bronze plate perforated in the middle was found 0.69 m apart from occiput (presumably hairpin). The black solid substance was detected at the skeleton. Possibly, the deceased was wrapped into the leather blanket.

Artifacts discovered from the stone mound of the burial:

1. Fragments of the various vessels (No. 114), clay, red-burned. Medieval pottery sherds. Two fragments are glazed in green.
2. Choppers (No. 115), obsidian, 2 items. Made from oval-shaped flake. Have single working blade.
3. Drill (?) (No. 116), obsidian, made from medium-sized triangular flake. Point is flaked from the both sides.
4. Nucleus fragment (No. 117), obsidian, small-sized.
5. Flakes (No. 118), obsidian, 15 items, 12 – medium-sized, 3 – small-sized. Undressed.



Fig. 186. Burial No. 15. Pot (Inv. No. 119).



Fig. 187. Burial No. 15. Pot. Detail (Inv. No. 119).

Artifacts discovered in the burial:

6. Pot (No. 119), clay (Fig. 186, Tab. LI, 1), red and yellow burned, rim is everted and flat, neck – lowered, body – rounded, 2 slanting imprinted bands run around the shoulder. The body is covered by concentric flutes (Fig. 187). Underside has slanting arrow-shaped notches. Black spots on the body.



Fig. 188. Burial No. 15. Jar (Inv. No. 120)

7. Jar (No. 120), clay (Fig. 188, Tab. LI, 2), brown-burned, interior and exterior surfaces are beige-black color. Rim is everted, lip – rounded, neck – lowered, body is decorated by 5 fluted bands. Underside is flat.

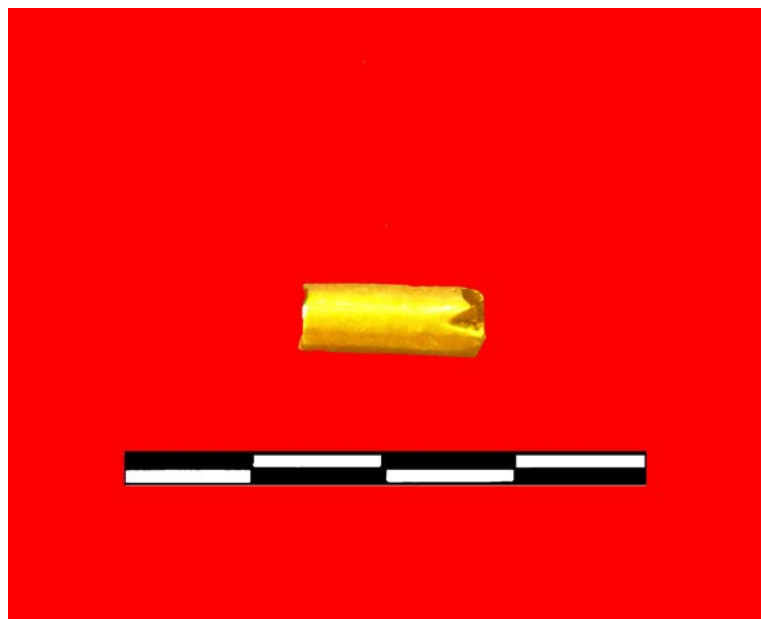


Fig. 189. Burial No. 15. Golden bead fixer (Inv. No. 121)

8. Bead, fixer (?), fragment (No. 121), golden (Fig. 189, Tab. LI, 4), cylindrical, simple – made by circular folding of the plate; surface is thoroughly burnished (invisible seam); edges are unevenly cut and broken off, cramped inwards from one side. Discovered at the occiput of the deceased.

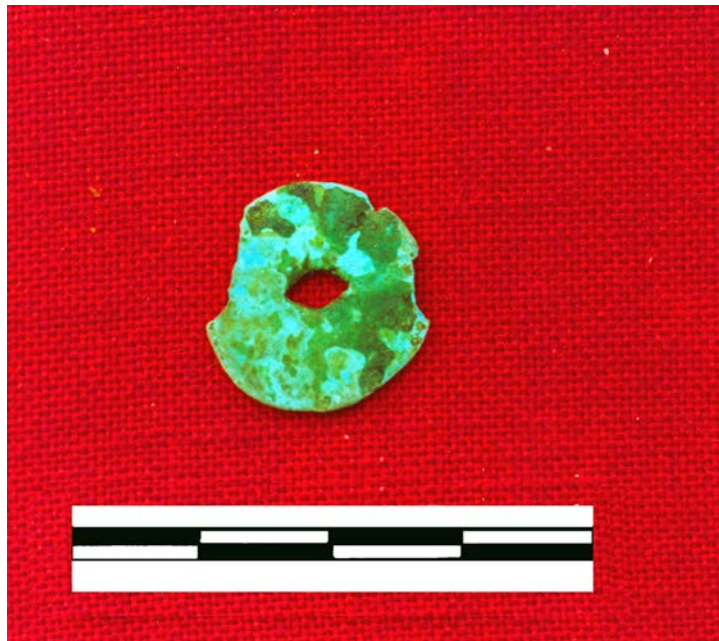


Fig. 190. Burial No. 15. Bronze plate (Inv. No. 122).

9. Plate (No. 122), bronze (Fig. 190, Tab. LI, 5), 1 item, circular, flat, simple; with oval-shaped hole in the centre. The largest remained diameter – 18 mm. Damaged – incomplete, broken off edges, surface covered by green patina. Discovered at the occiput of the deceased.

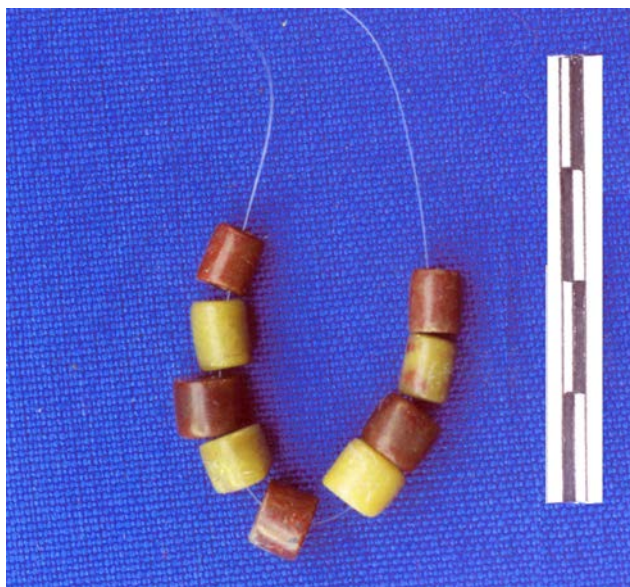


Fig. 191. Burial No. 15. Beads (Inv. No. 123).

10. Beads (No. 123), stone (quartz group), 9 items (Fig. 191, Tab. LI, 6); including 5 dark brown and 5 light brown items; cylindrical, surfaces are burnished. Found at the occiput of the deceased, adjacent to tubular bead fixer and bronze flat perforated plate.

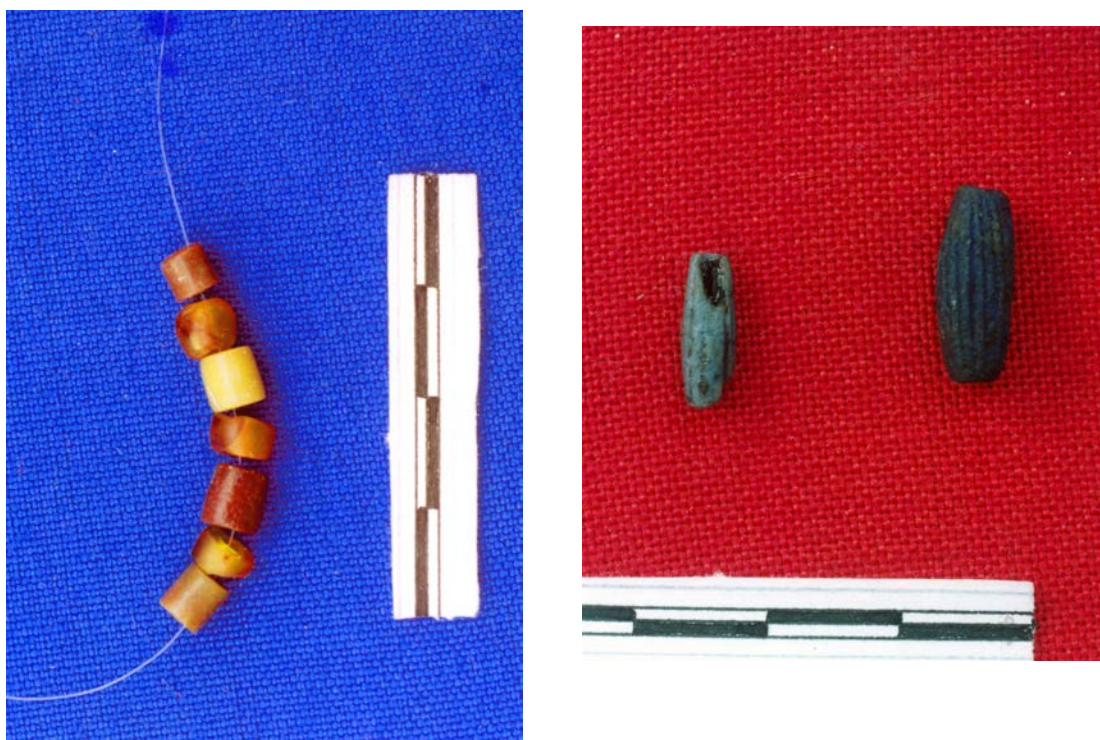


Fig. 192. Burial No. 15. Beads (Inv. No. 124).

11. Beads (No. 124), sardonic, stone (quartz group), glass; 9 full-sized and 8 fragmental items (Fig. 192, Tab. LI, 7-11), including 3 – sardonic, 4 – stone, 2 full size and 2 fragmental items – glass. Sardonic beads: 2 items – cylindrical, 1 – spherical, semitransparent, light brown with dark spots. Stone beads – cylindrical; 3 items – dark brown (with various tints), 1 item – light brown. Glass beads – opaque, dark blue, 2 items – “grain-shaped” – elongated along the hole axes; thickness increases towards the middle section at the both sides, surface is fluted (flutes are blurred), flutes are oriented along the hole axes (10 flutes are visible on one, and 19 – on other item), damaged – incomplete at both side edges (broken off); two fragments of the second bead are cylindrical and have concave surfaces.

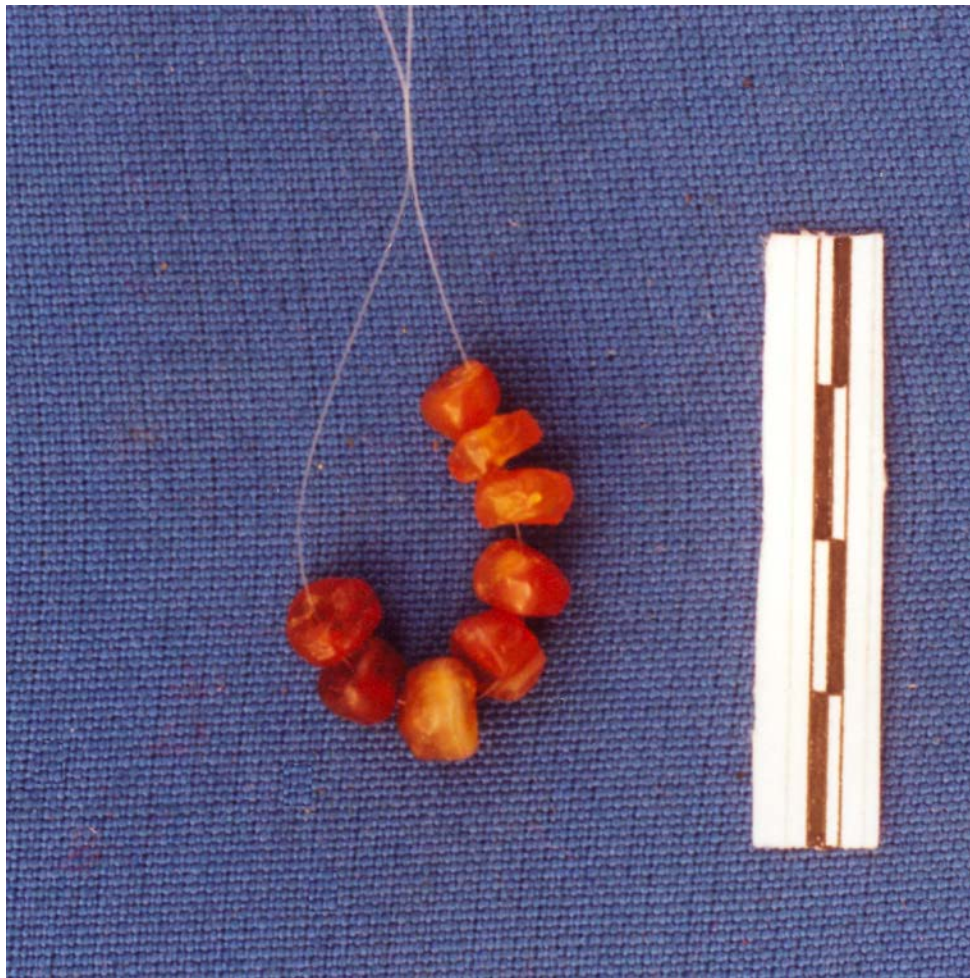


Fig. 193. Burial No. 15. Beads (Inv. No. 125).

12. Beads (No. 125), sardonic, glass, metal (?); 9 full-sized and 4 fragmental items, including 8 items – sardonic, 2 fragments – metallic (?), 2 fragments – glass. Sardonic beads have close to cylindrical, uneven shapes (Fig. 193, Tab. LI, 3); semi-transparent, light brownish (with various tints), with white (one bead) and dark spots on surfaces. Glass beads (2 bead fragments) are transparent, blue, cylindrical, concave. Metallic (?) beads (2 fragments) – flat, round plates, perforated at the centre; surfaces and cross sections are light beige color, surface is smooth. Discovered near the hands of the deceased.

13. Beads (No. 125a), sardonic – 3 items, quartz group – 3 items. Was found during lab investigation of the head skull.

Burial No. 16

Pit burial with circular mound (Fig. 194, Tab. LII, LIII, LIV).

Burial mound is represented by large boulders composing circle, with inner diameters: west-east – 2.5 m, and north-south – 2.56 m. Outer diameter of the circle is: east-west – 3.3 m, and north-south – 3.6 m.



Fig. 194. Burial No. 16. General view before opening.



Fig. 195. Burial No. 16. General view of the burial after opening

The mound composed by small-sized stones revealed within the circle, at northeast side, 0.5 m apart from the circle-line, which length from north to south was – 0.8 m, and from east to west – 0.7 m. Burial (?) pit was situated below the small mound, at 0.4 m depth (Fig. 195). This pit was oriented from north to south and had rectangular shape with rounded corners (1.35×0.6×0.2 m). Roughly burned and dissolved pottery vessel was discovered at the east section of the wall, at 0.22 m depth. Burial (?) pit was empty. Presumably, the burial is a cenotaph.

Burial No. 17

Pit burial with circular stone mound (Fig. 196, Tab. LII, LV, LVI).

The mound was composed by small and medium size stones. The cavity revealed after excavation of the upper layer. It was visible that the middle part of the mound was sunk into the burial chamber (supposedly due to roof collapse). After removing stones around this concave section, at 0.7 m depth, was discovered a mound composed by tightly placed oval-shaped stones, which longitudinal axis was oriented along the burial – from the northwest towards the southeast.



Fig. 196. Burial No. 17 prior opening. South view.

The burial have rectangular shape with rounded corners (1.80×1.20×1.10 m) (Fig. 197). A largish pot (No. 126) was discovered in the west side of the burial (Fig. 198). In adjacent and north, leaned to each other, there were placed largish black-burned semi-broken vessels (No. 127), small-sized black-burned tumbler (No. 128), and east of latter – black-burned jar (No. 129). Sardonic bead (No. 130) was discovered east and 0.3 m apart from vessel No. 127. A stone with unfamiliar shape is situated beneath the vessels. Another, the same type stone is placed near, in the north. Two small-sized stones revealed at the northeast corner.



Fig. 197. Burial No. 17. General View after opening.



Fig. 198. Burial No. 17. Burial chamber. General View.

Cattle bones were discovered at the northwest corner of the burial. Vessel fragments Nos. 126 and 127 were scattered around the middle. The brownish spot having uncertain origination was visible among stones. No signs of human's skeleton were detected.

Artifacts discovered in the burial:

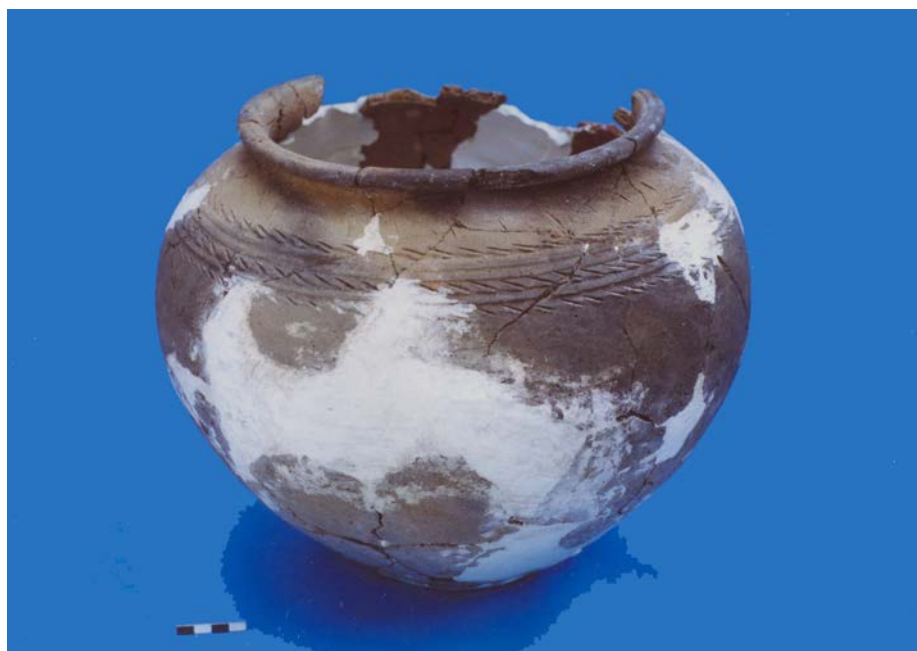


Fig. 199. Burial No. 17. Pot (Inv. No. 126).



Fig. 200. Burial No. 17. Pot. Detail (Inv. No. 126)

1. Pot (No. 126), clay (Fig. 199, Tab. LVII, 1), beige-burned, with fine-grained temper in clay and black spots on the surface. Rim is everted, lip – flat. Two fluted lines on the lip. Short neck, shoulder is decorated by slanting, horizontal impressed lines and

embossed bands (Fig. 200). Body is round, underside is flat. There are slanting impressed arrow-shaped lines on the underside. Discovered at the west part of the burial.



Fig. 201. Burial No. 17. Jar (Inv. No. 127).



Fig. 202. Burial No. 17. Jar (Inv. No. 127).

2. Jar. (No. 127), clay (Fig. 201, Tab. LVII, 3), black-burned, rim is damaged, body is convex, elevated at the shoulder and sharply narrowed towards the underside. Shoulder is decorated by horizontal fluted bands filled by wavy ornaments (Fig. 202). Underside is narrow and flat. Discovered in the north part of the burial.

3. Tumbler (No. 128), clay (Tab. LVII, 4, 5), black-burned, heavily damaged.



Fig. 203. Burial No. 17. Dish (Inv. No. 129).

4. Dish (No. 129), clay (Fig. 203, Tab. LVII, 2), black-gray-burned, fine-grained temper in clay. Rim is slightly everted. One groove runs down the rim. Body is round and has two fluted horizontal lines. Underside is flat.
- 5.

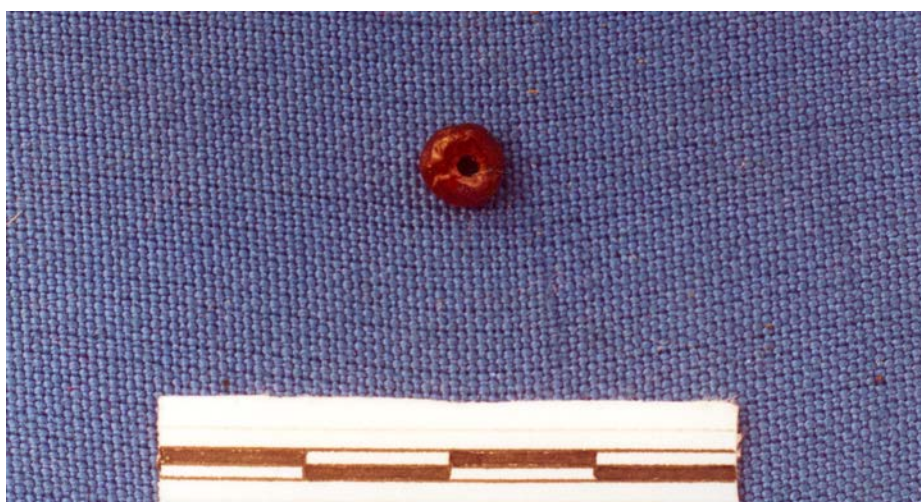


Fig. 204. Burial No. 17. Bead (Inv. No. 130).

6. Bead (No. 130), sardonic (Fig. 204, Tab. LVII, 6), 1 item, cylindrical, semi-transparent, reddish-yellowish.
7. Grindstone (No. 238), stone, fragment.



Fig. 205. Burial No. 17. Stone item (Inv. No. 110).

7. Grindstone (No. 110), (Fig. 205). Was discovered south of the pottery vessel.

Burial No. 18

Pit burial with stone mound.

The mound is damaged, several mound cover basalt boulders remain. Burial (Fig. 206, Tab. LII, LVII) has rectangular shape with rounded corners (1.5×0.95×0.6 m). It is oriented from the northeast to the southwest. Chamber is filled by black loam with fragments of pottery vessels and obsidian.



Fig. 206. Burial No. 18. General view after opening.

The deceased is buried at the centre of the burial, on the left side, with bended knees and north oriented head (Fig. 206).



Fig. 207. Burial No. 18. Detail.



Fig. 208. Burial No. 18. Detail.

The “Bauburt” type brown-burned pottery vessel revealed at the north wall of the burial (No. 131), which was placed on the pottery vessel No. 132. The black-burned pottery vessel was standing on the floor. Five-knob bronze pin (No. 133) was placed in front of the deceased’s chest, on the floor (Fig. 207). In the same place, there were discovered chalcedonic pebble (No. 140), pasta beads (No. 135, 136), cylindrical beads (No. 134) and tangerine-like pasta beads (No. 139; Fig. 208).

Artifacts discovered in the burial:



Fig. 209. Burial No. 18. Jar (Inv. No. 131).

1. Jar (No. 131), clay (Fig. 209, Tab. LIX, 7), intensively fragmented, brown-burned, clay is mixed with mica. Rim is everted, lip is rounded and has two fluted lines, short neck is decorated by wavy band, shoulder is decorated by two embossed twisted bands. Body is covered by thin concentric lines. Underside is flat and has short notches on the edge.

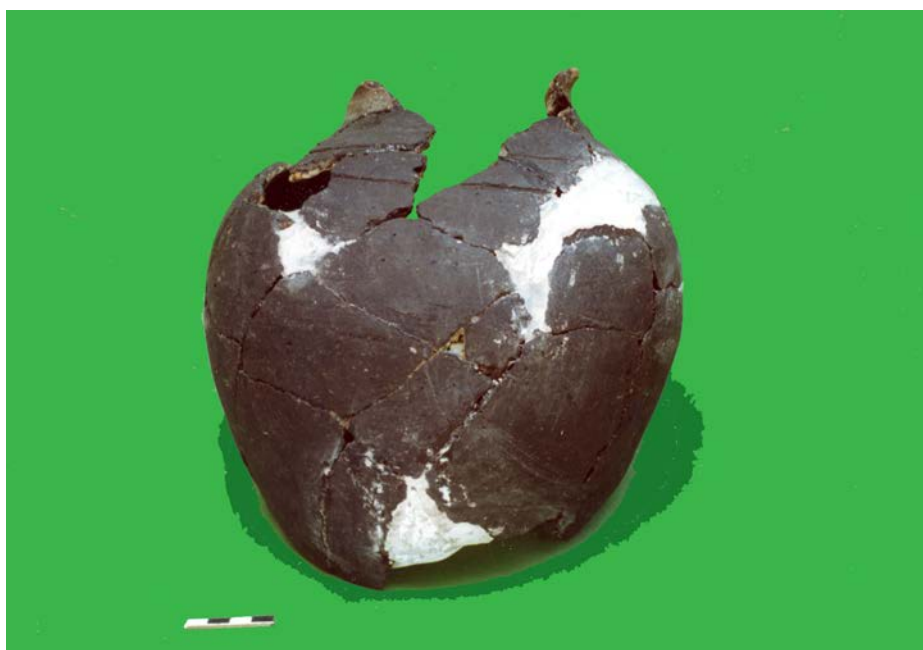


Fig. 210. Burial No. 18. Jar (Inv. No. 132).

2. Jar (No. 132, clay (Fig. 210, Tab. LIX, 10), black-burned, everted rim, rounded lip. Shoulder is decorated by three fluted lines.



Fig. 211. Burial No. 18. Bronze pin (Inv. No. 133).

3. Pin (No. 133), bronze (Fig. 211, Tab. LIX, 8), head having thickened “actuate” shape is decorated by 5 flat protrusions (4 are situated around the head, one – on the head). Hole has oval shape. Core is sharply narrowing towards the point. Middle part is slightly bended.



Fig. 212. Burial No. 18. Bead (Inv. No. 134).

4. Bead (No. 134), opaque glass (Fig. 212, Tab. LIX, 4), 1 item, dark green yellowish color; cylindrical, surface is fluted (7 grooves) (imitation of the small-sized tightly fitted beads series?). One side's edge is broken off.



Fig. 213. Burial No. 18. Beads (Inv. No. 135).

5. Beads (No. 135), opaque glass (Fig. 213, Tab. LIX, 5), entire earthen lump, small-sized cylindrical light whitish color opaque glass (pasta?) beads, tightly fitted.



Fig. 213a. Burial No. 18. Beads (Inv. No. 136).

6. Beads (No. 136), light whitish, opaque glass (“pasta”), small-sized, cylindrical (Fig. 213a, Tab. LIX, 6). (Picked out together with earthen lump).



Fig. 214. Burial No. 18 (Inv. No. 137).

8. Bead (No. 137), opaque glass (Fig. 214, Tab. LIX, 1), 1 item, cylindrical, simple-shaped, light blue, with gray spots.



Fig. 215. Burial No. 18. Bead (Inv. No. 138).

8. Bead (No. 138), opaque glass, 1 item, cylindrical (Fig. 215, Tab. LIX, 2), simple, green.



Fig. 216. Burial No. 18. Bead (Inv. No. 139).

9. Bead (No. 139), opaque glass, 1 item, light yellow color, “barrel-shaped”, fluted surface (Fig. 216, Tab. LIX, 3), grooves are fluted in parallel to hole axes (14 grooves, uneven distances between grooves).



Fig. 217. Burial No. 18. Chalcidonic pebble (Inv. No. 140).

10. Pebble (No. 140), chalcidonic (sardonic?), semi-transparent (Fig. 217, Tab. LIX, 9); pin color, with light brown spots; one side of the surface is convex, other – flat (processed?).

Burial No. 19

Pit burial with stone mound.

The mound is composed by large- and medium-sized stones. The mound has oval shape. It is oriented north-south and has sizes: north-south – 1.8 m, largest width from the east to the west – 1.35 m, height – 0.4 m. Black spot is visible around the mound, mainly extended in its western part.

The burial pit has rectangular shape with rounded corners (Fig. 218, Tab. LX), and is oriented north-south. It is (1.9×1.4×1.0 m) is cut within the yellow color loam.

One deceased is buried in the burial on the right side, with bended upper and lower limbs and north pointed head. The skeleton bones are almost completely dissolved and earthen. Upper and lower limb bones are preserved relatively better. Right hand is sharply bended, right hand is put closer to lower jaw and teeth; left hand is slightly opened and placed in front of the face.



Fig. 218. Burial No. 19. General view after opening.

According to anthropological investigations, buried person is 35-40 years old male.

Behind the deceased's head, at the northern wall of the burial, two pottery vessels were discovered. Vessel No. 141 (pot) is black. Embossed horizontal lines run down the shoulder. Vessel No. 142 (jar) is unevenly burned and has grayish color. Both vessels are broken and twisted east. The white glasslike pasta beads distributed in small groups were discovered on the burial floor at two locations. Group No. 1 located between right hand of the deceased and western wall, group No. 2 – between occiput and vessel No. 142 (jar) (Fig. 219).



Fig. 219. Burial No. 19. Burial chamber.

Artifacts discovered in the burial:



Fig. 220. Burial No. 19. Pot (Inv. No. 141).

1. Pot (No. 141), clay (Fig. No. 220, Tab. LXI, 5), black-burned, with mica temper in clay, everted rim, rounded lip, well-defined neck. Shoulder is decorated by 8 fluted bands. Discovered at the north wall of the burial.



Fig. 221. Burial No. 19. Jar (Inv. No. 142).

2. Jar (No. 142), clay (Fig. 221, Tab. LXI, 6), brown-burned, fine-grained obsidian temper in clay. Rim is everted, lip is rounded. Shoulder is decorated by 2 fluted bands

with internal notch series. Underside is flat. Body is decorated by thin fluted lines. Discovered at the north wall of the burial, east of the vessel No. 141.



Fig. 222. Burial No. 19. Beads (Inv. No. 143).

3. Beads (No. 143), stone and opaque glass (Fig. 222, Tab. LXI, 3, 4), 11 items; including 3 items – stone, one is dark brown and two are black, cylindrical; 8 items – opaque glass (steatite?), white, cylindrical. Discovered between occiput of the deceased and pottery vessel No. 142.

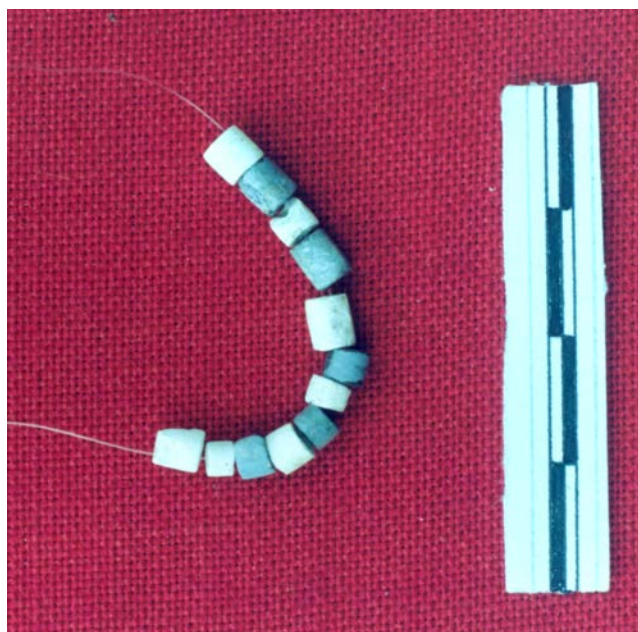


Fig. 223. Burial No. 19. Beads (Inv. No. 144).

4. Beads (No. 144), stone (?), opaque glass (?), 12 items (Fig. 223, Tab. LXI, 1, 2); including 7 items – white, 5 items – with greenish-gray surface (iridescent), interior surface is blackish (?), cylindrical. Discovered between upper limb of the deceased and western wall of the burial.

Burial No. 20

Pit burial with stone mound (Tab. LXII).

The quadrangle-shaped mound (13×16.5 m) is confined by single-row masonry of large basalt stones. Internal space is filled by smaller stones (Fig. 224). After removing upper layer of the quadrangle mound (Fig. 225, Tab. LXIII) located in central part, there were revealed burial outlines and overlaid stone mound (Fig. 226, 227).



Fig. 224. Burial No. 20. The view of the mound damaged during construction works within the energy corridor after preparation.

The burial is cut into yellow loam (Fig. 228) and is oriented from northwest to southeast.



Fig. 225. Burial No. 20. General view of the mound after preparation.



Fig. 226. Burial No. 20. The mound piled on the top of burial chamber.
II level.



Fig. 227. Burial No. 20. The mound piled on the top of the burial chamber. II level.



Fig. 228. Burial No. 20. Burial chamber. General view.



Fig. 229. Burial No. 20. Burial chamber, detail.

One deceased is buried in the burial, laid on the right side, with bended knees and northwest pointed head (Fig. 228, Tab. LXIV). Right hand is leaned against the forehead (Fig. 229), left hand is slid to the chest with bended elbow joint laid on hip-bone and leaned on the burial floor with fingers. The left cannon bone is placed over the right femur. The skeleton's length in bended position is 1.15 m, width – 0.85 m; humerus is 0.32 m long, spoke bone – 0.30 m, femur – 0.46 m, cannon bone – 0.41 m. According to anthropological investigations, buried human is 40-50 years old male.

Two pottery vessels revealed in the burial. The red-gray-burned jar (No. 145) is standing 0.35 m apart from the northwest corner, and 0.10 m apart from the second smaller vessel (No. 145) (intensively crushed).

Artifacts discovered in the burial:



Fig. 230. Burial No. 20. Jar (Inv. No. 145).

1. Jar (No. 145), clay (Fig. 230, Tab. LXV, 2), brown-burned, with visible black spots on the body. Rim is everted, lip – rounded. Two grooves run along the rim. The shoulder and body are decorated by fluted, wavy and embossed twisted bands. Cattle (bull or cow) bones were found inside the jar (No. 253-255).



Fig. 231. Burial No. 20. Pot (Inv. No. 146).

2. Pot (No. 146), clay (Fig. 231, Tab. LXV, 1), beige-black-burned, signs of mica temper in clay. Rim is everted, lip is rounded, neck is clearly detailed. The body is decorated by fluted bands. Underside is flat.
3. Cattle (bull or cow) teeth and humerus (Nos. 253, 254). Found inside the jar No. 145.



Fig. 232. Burial No. 20. Small cattle (sheep or goat) bones (Inv. No. 255).

4. Fragments of the small cattle (sheep or goat) bones (No. 255). Discovered on the burial floor (Fig. 232).

Burial No. 21

Pit burial with stone mound (Fig. 233, Tab. LXII, LXVI).

The mound was composed by various size stones and had approximate diameter 6 m.



Fig. 233. Burial No. 21. Stone mound.

The quadrangle-shaped spot appeared after removing central part of the mound (1.6×1.00 m), oriented from northwest to southeast.

The blackish-brown spot was cut down to 0.1 m depth into the yellow loam. Foot was leveled. Existence of the deceased's skeleton and inventory in the pit was not confirmed.

Burial No. 22

Pit burial with circular stone mound (Fig. 234, Tab. LXII, LXVII, LXVIII).

Circlestone is composed by largish stones. The northeast part of the circle is damaged. Inner space of the circle-stone is filled by large and medium size basalt stones. Inside the circle-stone, in the north part, presumably is remained residue of the internal circle's arc. Small size basalt mound is identified at the central part of the circlestone. Beneath is located rectangular chamber with rounded corners (1.5×0.95 m), oriented from northwest to southeast (Figs. 235, 236).



Fig. 234. Burial No. 22. The cromlech and stone mound remained on the top of the burial chamber.

The deceased was buried in the oval-shaped cavity cut at the bottom of the chamber (1.10×0.48 m). The deceased laid on the left side, head was oriented northwest, hands and legs were bended (Fig. 237, Tab. LXIX, LXX); leg finger phalanges were found at the southwest corner. The reddish color stone crumble (okra?) revealed near the bones. The opened bronze bracelet was found on the left wrist of the deceased (Fig. 243, No. 163).

According to anthropological investigations, buried person was 25-30 years old.



Fig. 235. Burial No. 22. General view after opening.



Fig. 236. Burial No. 22. General view after opening.

Pottery dish (No. 147) was discovered at the northeast longitudinal wall of the burial. It laid on the side. Baiburt type jar (No. 148) was placed northern, with tumbler (No. 150) put in. The black-burned jar (No. 149) was situated on the skull of the deceased. Besides these, in the burial there were discovered 2 stamps (No. 151) and sardonic (Nos. 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 162, 163, 165) and pasta (Nos. 152, 158, 159, 160, 164, 166) beads (Fig. 242, 243).



Fig. 237. Burial No. 22. Burial chamber. General view.

Artifacts discovered in the burial:



Fig. 238. Burial No. 20. Dish (Inv. No. 147).

1. Dish (No. 147), clay (Fig. 238, Tab. LXXI, 3), beige-black-burned, interior and exterior surfaces are black. Rim is everted, lip is flat. Shoulder is decorated by embossed lines. Underside is well-defined and has three concentric grooves.



Fig. 239. Burial No. 22. Jar (Inv. No. 148).



Fig. 240. Burial No. 22. Jar. Detail (Inv. No. 148).



Fig. 241. Burial No. 22. Jar. Detail (Inv. No. 148).

2. Jar (No. 148), clay (Fig. 239, Tab. LXXII, 1), brown-burned. Rim is everted and profiled. Shoulder and body are decorated by fluted wavy and slanting bands with short notches (Fig. 240). Lower part of the body, at the underside, is decorated by three embossed cordlike concentric circles (Fig. 241). Tumbler (No. 149) was put into the jar.



Fig. 242. Burial No. 22. Detail.



Fig. 243. Burial No. 22. Detail.



Fig. 244. Burial No. 22. Jar (Inv. No. 149).



Fig. 245. Burial No. 22. Jar. Detail (Inv. No. 149).

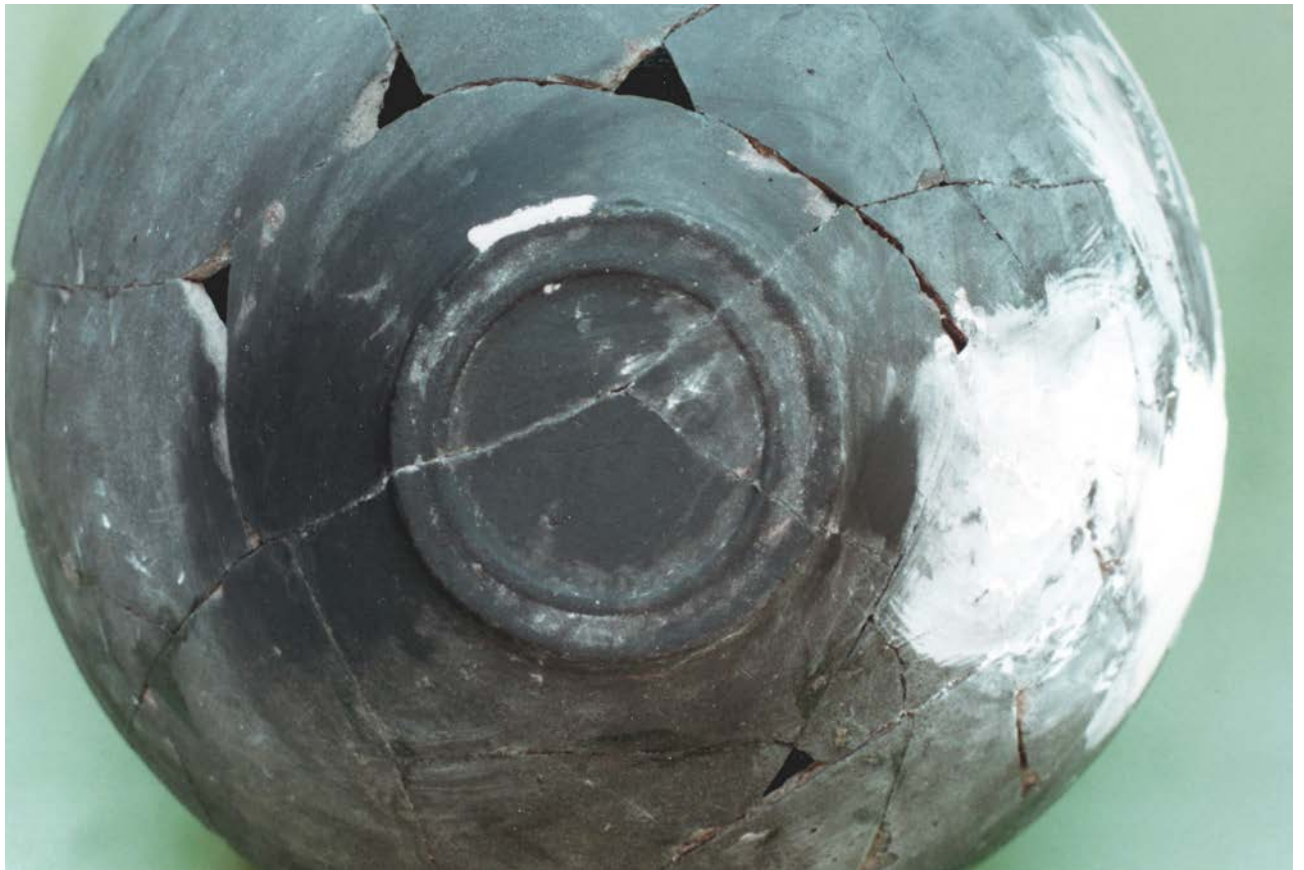


Fig. 246. Burial No. 22. Jar. Detail (Inv. No. 149).

3. Jar (No. 149), clay (Fig. 244, Tab. LXXI, 1), brown-burned, interior and exterior surfaces are black. Rim is everted, lip is rounded, long neck is distinguished from the shoulder by groove. Body and shoulder are decorated by embossed simple-shaped bands (Fig. 245). Underside is distinguished from body and is confined by embossed concentric circle (Fig. 246).



Fig. 247. Burial No. 22. Detail.



Fig. 248. Burial No. 22. Tumbler. Detail (Inv. No. 150).



Fig. 249. Burial No. 22. Tumbler. Detail (Inv. No. 150).

4. Tumbler (No. 150), clay (Fig. 248, Tab. LXXI, 2), yellowish-brown-burned. Upper and inner surfaces are beige-black. Rim is everted. Shoulder is decorated by fluted bands. Underside is well-defined, with concentric circle depicted on the surface (Fig. 249). Found inside the jar No. 148 (Fig. 247).

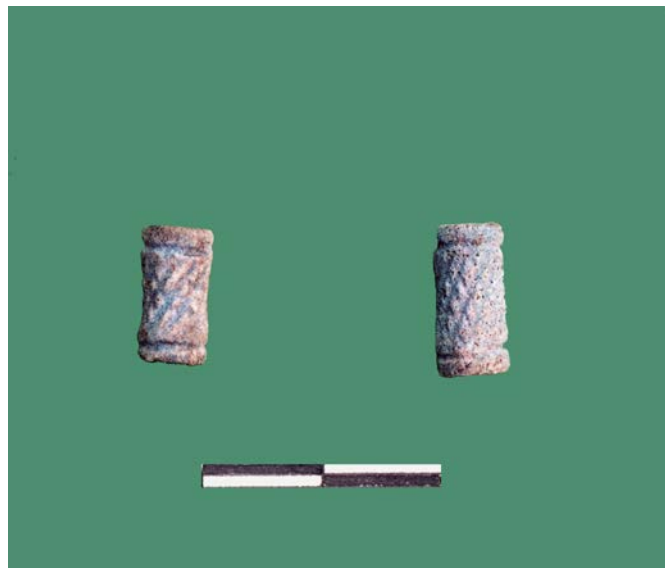


Fig. 250. Burial No. 22. Beads – seals (Inv. No. 151).

5. Beads – seals (No. 151), opaque glass, 2 items, cylindrical, beige-green color (Fig. 250, Tab. LXXIII, 7); fluted rhombic nets (with intercepting grooves), confined by encircling grooves (one encircling grooves at each edge) are depicted on the surfaces.

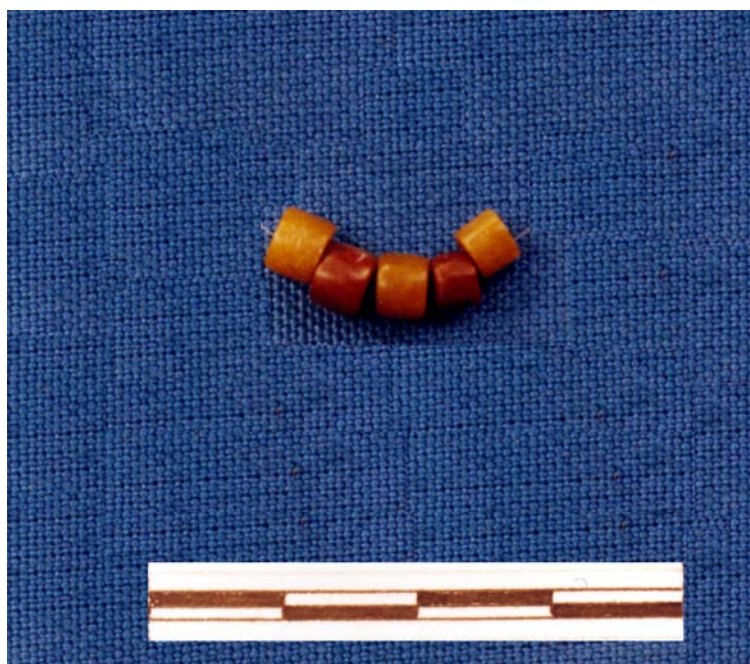


Fig. 251. Burial No. 22. Beads (Inv. No. 152).

6. Beads (No. 152), stone (quartz group), 5 items, opaque; including 3 items – dark brown, 2 items – light brown, cylindrical, surfaces are burnished (Fig. 251, Tab. LXXIII, 6).

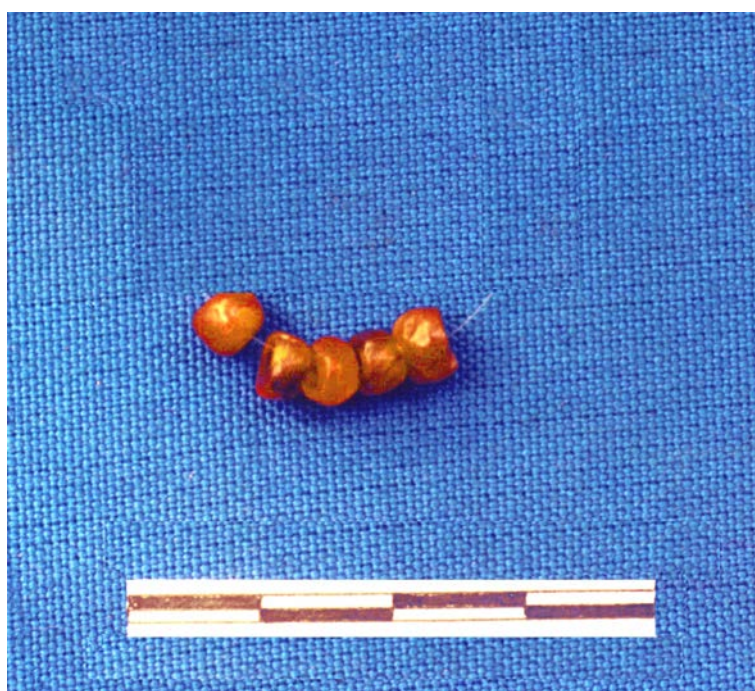


Fig. 253. Burial No. 22. Beads (Inv. No. 153).

7. Beads (No. 153), sardonic, 5 items (Fig. 252, Tab. LXXIII, 5); have uneven and close to cylindrical shapes; semi-transparent, light reddish-brown color.



Fig. 253. Burial No. 22. Beads (Inv. No. 154).

8. Beads (No. 154), sardonic (Fig. 253, Tab. LXXIII, 1), 19 items; including 5 items with spherical or close to spherical shapes; 12 items with close to cylindrical shapes; 2 items – elongated along the longitudinal axes of the hole, asymmetric. One of the spherical beads is semi-transparent, dark pink color, with black and white lines; one item – semi-transparent, brown, reddish, with black spots; three items – semi-transparent, light brown, with black spots. Beads having close to cylindrical shapes are of uneven pattern, semi-transparent, brown-reddish color (with various tints). Both beads – elongated along the longitudinal axes of the hole, asymmetrically thickened along the width (so called “pear-shaped”). One bead is semi-transparent, light brown, with white spots and black veins; other – opaque, and light brown.



Fig. 254. Burial No. 22. Bead (Inv. No. 155).

9. Bead (No. 155), sardonic (Fig. 254, Tab. LXXIII, 11), 1 item; elongated along the hole's longitudinal axes, asymmetrically thickened along the width (so called "pear-shaped"), semi-transparent, brown, with black spots.

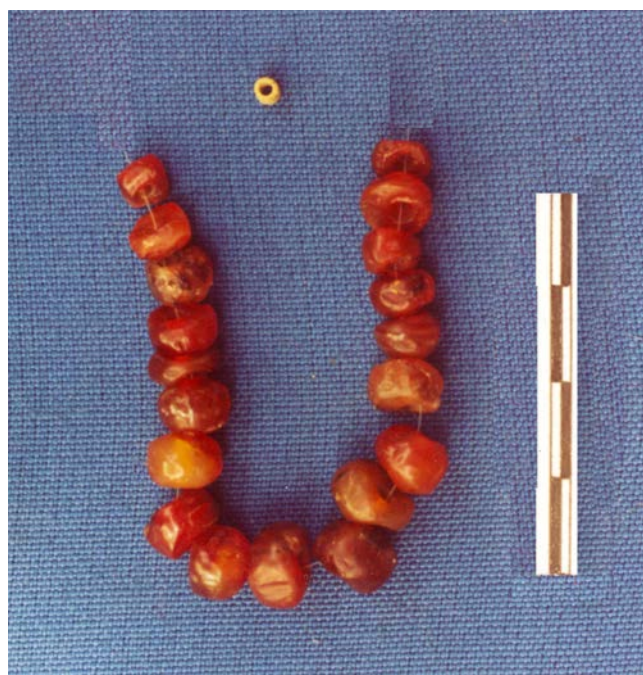


Fig. 255. Burial No. 22. Beads (Inv. No. 156).

10. Beads (No. 156), sardonic; 1 item glass, 19 items – sardonic; close to cylindrical and uneven shapes; semi-transparent, brown-reddish or light brown color, with dark spots (various tints). 1 item – opaque glass, cylindrical, light gray-yellowish (Fig. 255, Tab. LXXIII, 3, 18).



Fig. 256. Burial No. 22. Beads (Inv. No. 157).

11. Beads (No. 157), sardonic (Fig. 256, Tab. LXXIII, 4), 15 items, rounded, uneven-shaped; semi-transparent, brown-reddish (with various tints), with dark spots.



Fig. 257. Burial No. 22. Bead (Inv. No. 159).

12. Beads (No. 158), opaque glass (?), 2 items (Fig. 257, Tab. LXXIII, 16, 17); The first (dissolved) – shape is not recoverable; decorated by enfolded grooves (“crimped”), at present has light whitish color. Sizes are not determinable. The second – opaque glass, elongated along the hole axes, towards the middle part from the both sides gradually thickened; fluted surface – grooves are directed along the holes axes (grooves are indistinct, 13 grooves are identifiable), dark green, with white spots (iridescent).



Fig. 258. Burial No. 22 (Inv. No. 163).

13. Beads (various) (Tab. LXXIII, 13) (No. 159), glass, 1 item – opaque glass (1 fragment) and 3 lumps picked with earth. The fragment of the opaque glass (“pasta”) bead is cylindrical and brownish-pink color. Two “lumps” – belong to single beads (?), dissolved, (opaque glass?), shape is not recoverable; decorated by grooves (“crimped”), light gray-white color. One “lump” – remains (“imprint”) of three (?) beads. Fragmented, brownish-red color, shape and sizes are not determinable.
14. Beads (?) (No. 160), opaque glass (Tab. LXIII, 10), 2 fragments; flat, rounded, perforated at the centre; blackish, dark gray deposits on the surface.
15. Bracelet, fragmental (No. 161), bronze (Fig. 242, 243, Tab. LXXIII, 8), simple and oval-shaped core.

16. Bead (No. 162), sardonic, 1 item (Tab. LXXIII, 12), close to spherical shape; semi-transparent, light brownish-pink color.
17. Beads (No. 163), sardonic (Fig. 258, Tab. LXXIII, 2), 10 items, including 3 items having semi- or close to spherical and uneven shapes; semi-transparent, light brownish-red (pinkish), with dark spots (one with dark lines). 3 items having close to cylindrical and uneven shapes; semi-transparent, light brown-reddish. 4 items – elongated along the hole axes, cross section – asymmetrically thickened (so called “pear-shaped”). One bead – opaque, brown, with broken out cavities on the surface (natural cavities?). 3 beads – semi-transparent, light brownish-pink (2 items) and reddish (1 item), surfaces are burnished (small-sized cavities of natural origination are visible), with dark spots. One bead’s edge is partially broken off.
18. Bead fragment (No. 164), opaque glass (Tab. LXXIII, 20), decorated by grooves (“crimped”), light beige-whitish color.
19. Beads (No. 165), sardonic, 3 items, shapes are close to spherical (Tab. LXXIII, 15); semi-transparent, light brownish-pink. Opaque glass – represented in fragments (Tab. LXXIII, 14). Picked in earthen lumps – dissolved, the shapes are not recoverable.
20. Bead fragment (No. 166), opaque glass (Tab. LXXIII, 19), picked together with earth, cylindrical, covered by grooves (“crimped”).

Burial No. 23

Pit burial with circular stone mound (Fig. 259, Tab. LLXVII).

The burial was confined by circle (diameter – 14 m) composed by various size crushed stones. The mound was arranged above chamber (Fig. 260). After removing upper layer, appeared the second layer of the mound with large boulder at the centre (Fig. 261, 262; Tab. LXXIV). Elongated stones were placed at the eastern and western walls of the burial, one at each location (Tab. LXXV). The burial chamber is cut within the yellow clay layer and is filled by black color loam having dense consistence. Several obsidian flakes were discovered in the surface layer.

The burial (Fig. 263) is oriented from the north to the east. It has rectangular shape with rounded corners and is slightly widened towards the south.



Fig. 259. Burial No. 23. In relation to the pipeline route.

The deceased is buried in the southern side of the burial (Fig. 264, Tab. LXXVI), laid on the right side, with bended limbs and head oriented north. Legs are bended and folded right. Skull is faced east. Skeleton is in mess – crushed bones of upper limbs were placed behind the skull (presumable sizes of the skeleton: length – 1.1 m, width – 0.70 m; hip-bone length – 0.40 m, remained length of the cannon bone – 0.35 m).

According to anthropological investigations, buried human was 50-55 years old female.

Floor was elevated in the north part of the burial, and cattle (sheep?) bones were situated along the northern wall. Southward, on the floor, there were placed six pottery vessels (Fig. 265). A jar (No. 168) was found at the western wall, 0.65 m apart from it and 0.35 m above the floor. The dish (No. 167) was situated southward of latter, at 0.1 m elevation, in sidelong position. Uprturned pottery vessel was placed between those two vessels (No. 169), and southward of latter was placed a large jar (No. 171). Southeast of vessel No. 169, 0.3 m apart from the eastern wall, was situated black-burned large jar (No. 170). Below the vessel No. 167 was standing dish (No. 172). The signs of fire were detected inside the vessels Nos. 168 and 171.



Fig. 260. Burial No. 23. General view before opening. In the centre – upper “roof” slab (I Level).

The north part of the burial chamber were left unexcavated (Fig. 263), because of the pipeline pipes laid on the top. Due to safety reasons, we had not remove ground cover.

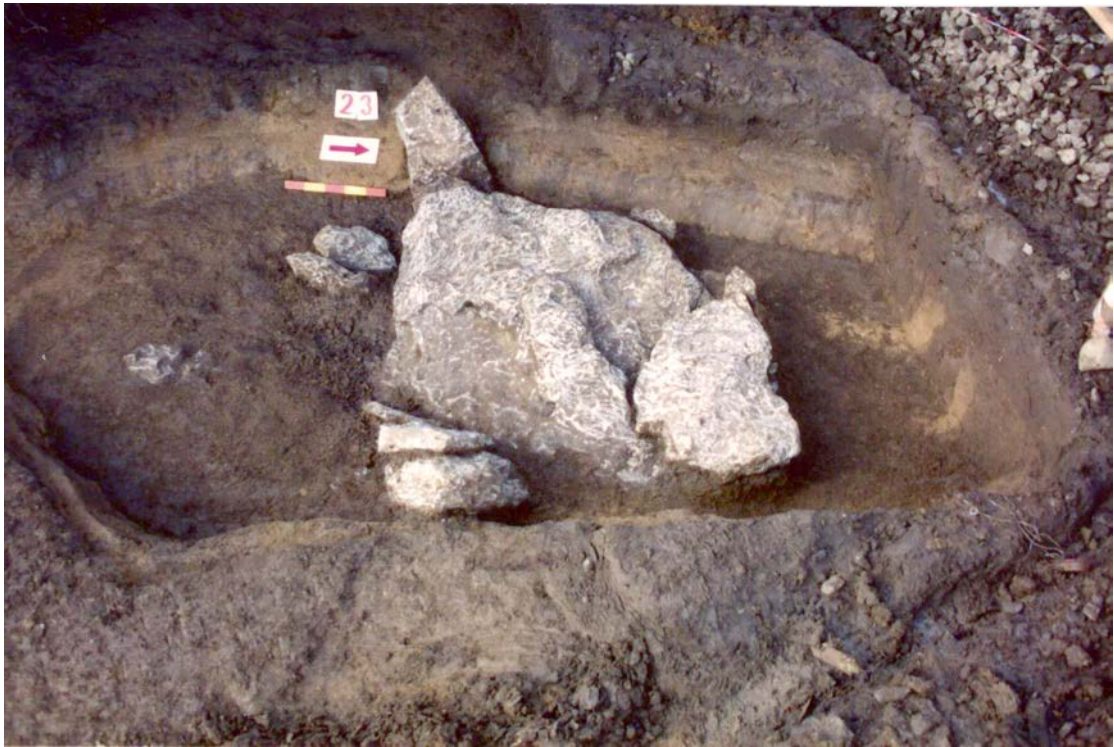


Fig. 261. Burial No. 23. Roof (?) slabs of the burial chamber. I Level.

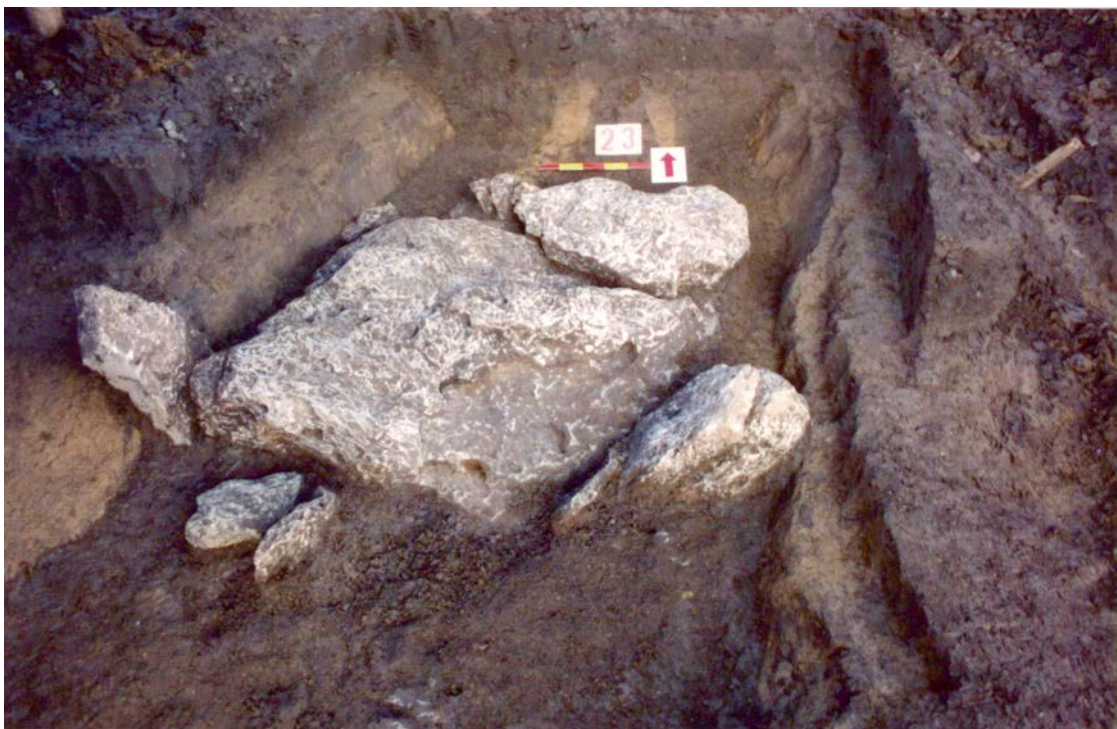


Fig. 262. Burial No. 23. Roof (?) slabs of the burial chamber. II Level.



Fig. 263. Burial No. 23. Burial Chamber. Chamber extension is visible, which goes under the pipe in unexcavated area.



Fig. 264. Burial No. 23. Detail.



Fig. 265. Burial No. 23. Detail.



Fig. 266. Burial No. 23. Detail.



Fig. 267. Burial No. 23. Detail. Central part.

Artifacts discovered in the burial:



Fig. 268. Burial No. 23. Dish (Inv. No. 167).



Fig. 269. Burial No. 23. Dish. Detail (Inv. No. 167).

1. Dish (No. 167), clay (Fig. 268, Tab. LXXVIII, 2), black, with fine-grained mica and obsidian temper in clay. Rim is everted, lip and body are round, with embossed

band on the body. Underside is flat with small hill. The hill is encircled by concentric lines at the top and bottom (Fig. 269).

2.



Fig. 270. Burial No. 23. Jar (Inv. No. 168).



Fig. 271. Burial No. 23. Jar. Detail (Inv. No. 168)

2. Jar (No. 168), clay (Fig. 270, Tab. LXXVII, 1), beige color, unevenly burned, with mica and fine-grained obsidian temper in clay. Rim is widened and everted, shoulder is gradually converted into the rounded body.
2. Jug (No 168), ceramic (pic. 270; table LXXVII, 1), sorrel, non-uniformly burnt, fine obsidian is mixed in the buff. With wide rim, the side is gradually turning round. The side is decorated with 2 wattled relief fillets and graven lines (pic. 271).



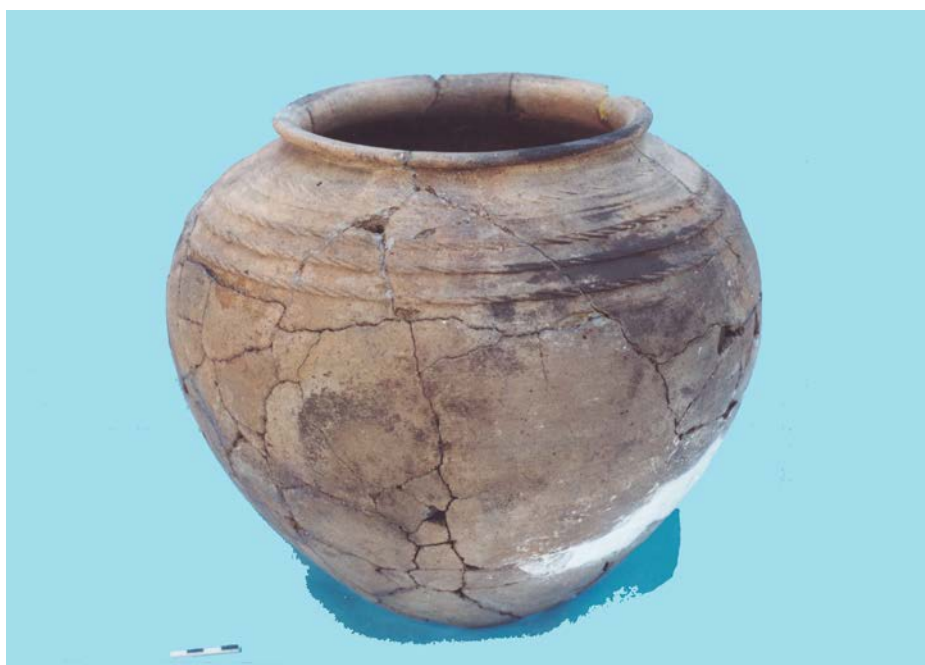
Pic. 272, burial No 23, pail (inv. No 169)

3. Pail (No 169), ceramic (pic 272; table LXXVIII, 1), sorrel, with open outturned rim, round sides, having 4 graven lines on the sides. Flat bottom, inside there are marks of mechanical effect.



Pic. 273. Burial No 23. Jug (inv. No 170)

4. Jug (No 170), ceramic (pic 273; table LXXVII, 2), burnt in black, with open rim, round sides, low neck, neck and sides are decorated with graven lines. Flat bottom, round body.



Pic. 274. Burial No 23. Jug (inv. No 171)



Pic. 275. Burial No 23. Jug. Detail (inv. No 171)

5. Jug (No 171) ceramic (pic 274; table LXXVII, 3), sorrel, non-uniformly burnt, black coal spots can be seen on the surface. With open rim, flattened sides, the shoulder is decorated with 3 wattle relief fillets and graven lines (pic. 275). On the surface there are marks of mechanical effect. The bottom of the item is missing.



Pic. 276. Burial No 23. Pail (inv. No 172)



Pic. 277. Burial No 23. Pail. Detail (inv. No 172)

6. Pail (No 172), ceramic (pic 276; table LXXVIII, 3), black, finely ground obsidian is mixed in the buff. With narrow, slightly flattened rim, shoulder and the body are decorated with graven fillets. It has 7 concentric graven lines on the bottom (pic. 277). Inside the item there are marks of mechanical effect.
7. Chip (No 173), obsidian (table LXXVIII, 4), medium size, non-processed. Was found next to the bones of a cow.
8. Chips (No 174), obsidian, 3 items – small, 1 item – bigger. Were found in the central part of the burial, 0.2m deep from the surface.

Burial = 24

In the North-East of the stone pile of the burial No 20 there was a big square made of stone plates. Since the above section of the stone pile was damaged, this square was considered to be the cover of the burial. After the plates were removed, the burial was not found under it.

Burial # 25

Burial pit.

The burial is damaged, the contours of the pit are blare, medium and small size stones, arranged from east to west were found on the northern side (pic. 278; table LXXIX). For the purpose of finding the pit of the burial a hole of 2.7x1.5m was dug. No skeleton was not found. From the edge of the stone pile to the north in 0.1m there was a big black vessel with thin walls found (No 176). To the west from there was a thick-walled vessel with brown bottom (No 175), in which there was a solar basin (No 178) and a pot with black and brown bottom with slightly open rim (No 177). There were also found fragments of other items.



Pic. 278. Burial No 25. The remainders of the burial chamber

The following items were found in the burial:



Pic. 279. Burial No 25. Pot (inv. No 175)

1. Pot (No 175), ceramic (pic. 179; table LXXX, 3), burnt in brown, with black spots. There is fine obsidian mixed in the buff. With open, flattened rim, low neck. On the shoulder two slanting graven lines and relief lines and graven lines on the body (mechanically made?) can be seen. The bottom is flat, decorated with slanting embossed radial lines.



Pic. 280. Burial No 25. Pot (inv. No 176)

2. Pot (No 176), ceramic (pic. 280; table LXXX, 5), with black surface and sorrel inside. There are fine admixtures in the buff. The item is badly damaged. The rim is missing. It has round body and flat bottom.



Pic. 281. Burial No 25. Pot (inv. 177)

3. Pot (No 177), ceramic (pic. 281; tab. LXXX, 6), black and brown. There is fine obsidian mixed in the buff. The item is badly damaged. The rim is open. The shoulder is decorated with embossed fillets.



Pic. 282. Burial No 25. Basin (inv. No 178)

4. Basin (NO 178), ceramic (pic. 282; table LXXX, 4), stramineous, there are fine admixtures in the buff. The rim is missing. It has round body; the sides are gradually going down to flat bottom. The item was found inside the item No 175.



Pic. 283. Burial No 25. Jar (inv. No 179)

5. Jar (No 179), ceramic (pic. 283; tab. LXXX, 1) burnt in grey, with open, round rim, high neck, widening down to the body. The body has graven line fillets. The body is rounded, bottom – flat. The item was found inside the item No 178.



Pic. 284. Burial No 25. Arrow-head (inv. No 179a)

In the surface layer close to the burial the following items were found:

6. Arrow-head (No 179a), flint (pic. 284; tab. LXXX, 2) brown, with yellow spots, triangular rim, with a tab.

Burial = 26

Burial pit with stone pile.

The stone pile is composed of bigger stones.

The burial pit (2.0x1.0x0.55m) is leaned down from north to south (pic. 285; tab. LXXXI), is filled with black clay-soil, in which there can be found pieces of broken crockery.

The deceased is buried with his head to the north, on his right side. The skull was bended inside. According to the anthropological study it was a 20-24 years old woman.

On the north of the burial there were four ceramic items on the floor: a pail burnt in black (No 180) – to the north from the skull of the dead; a jug polished in black (No 181) – at the middle of the northern wall of the burial; a baiburt type jug (No 182) – in the north-east corner of the burial; a basin (No 183) – between the ceramic items No 181 and No 182. An obsidian chip was placed behind the dead in 0.37cm; another chip was found under the skull.



Pic. 285. Burial No 26. Burial chamber, general view

The following items were found in the burial:



Pic. 286. Burial No 26. Pail (inv. No 180)



Pic. 287. Burial No 26. Pail. Detail (inv. No 180)

1. Pail (No 180), ceramic (pic. 286; tab. LXXXII, 2), burnt in black, there is gravel mixed in the buff, the rim is round, shoulder is decorated with graven lines, the body is rounded, gradually going down to flat bottom. It has a concentric relief line on the bottom (pic. 287). The item was found in the northern part of the burial, to the north from the skull.

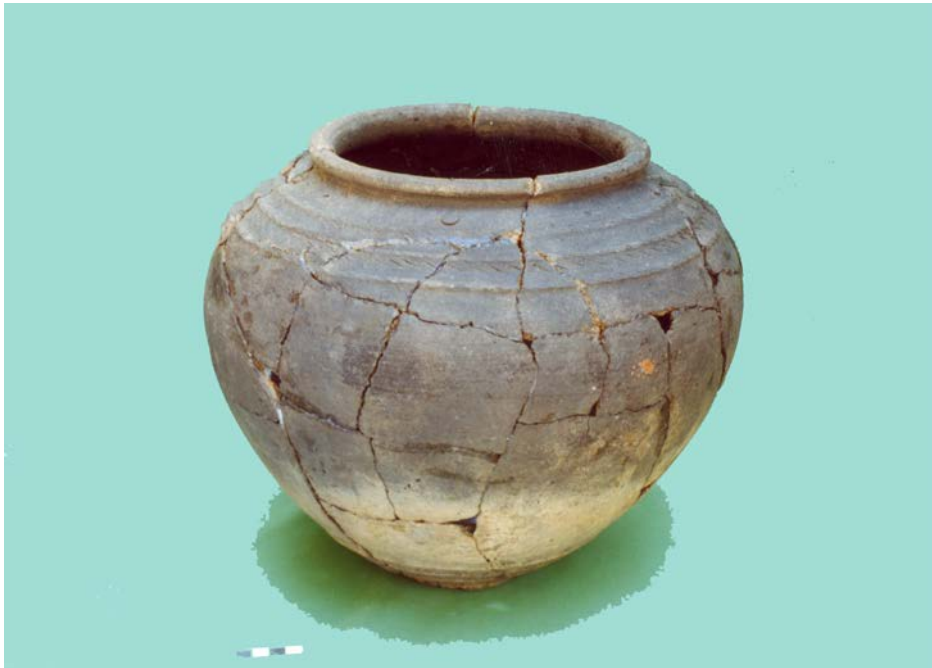


Pic. 288. Burial No 26. Jug (inv. No 181)



Pic. 289. Burial No 26. Jug. Detail (inv. No 181)

2. Jar (No 181), ceramic (pic. 288; tab. LXXXII, 3), burnt in black, rim is missing. With low neck, having graven waved lines on the shoulder (pic. 289). The body is egg-shaped, bottom is narrow and flat. Was found at the northern wall of the burial.



Pic. 290. Burial No 26. Jug (inv. No 182)



Pic. 291. Burial No 26. Jug. Detail (inv. No 182)



Pic. 292. Burial No 26. Jug. Detail (inv. No 182)

3. Jug (No 182), ceramic (pic. 290; tab. LXXXII, 1), sorrel-straw color, non-uniformly burnt. It has black spots on the shoulder, wide flattened rim, with graven fillets. The shoulder is decorated with three wattle relief fillets, in between of which there are graven wavy lines. It has 5 flattened knobs under the rim. The body is egg-shaped, lifted up at the shoulder, there are three wattle relief fillets (pic. 291), it has a small spin and two relief fillets on the bottom (pic. 292). The item was found in the north-east corner of the burial.



Pic. 293. Burial No 26. Small pot. (inv. No 183)

4. Small pot (No 183), ceramic (pic. 293; tab. LXXXII, 4), sorrel, with black spots. With open round rim. The bottom is rounded.



Pic. 294. Burial No 26. Obsidian tool (inv. No 184)

5. Tool (No 184), obsidian (pic. 294; tab. LXXXII, 6), black, transparent, with two oval blades. The item was found behind the deceased.



Pic. 295. Burial No 26. Solder pad fragment (inv. No 185)

6. Solder pad fragment (No 185), obsidian (pic. 295; tab. LXXXII, 5), black, transparent, a prismatic plate retouched askew. The retouch can be seen from the side of the body. The item was found next to the basin.

7. Chip (No 186), obsidian, black, transparent, medium size, not processed. The item was found under the skull.

Burial = 27

Burial pit with stone pile. The fill is damaged.

There were medium size stones on the top of the burial. The burial (pic. 296; tab. LXXXII) is leaned down from north-west to south-east.

The burial pit (2.0x1.3m) is of rectangular shape with rounded angles.

The burial (pic. 297) inhumative. Only one person is buried, with the head to the north-west, on the right side, with his extremities folded. The deceased is buried on the bottom of the burial-pit, in the middle. The skeleton bones are poorly preserved. The bones of the lower extremities and the left hand are better preserved. The skull is broken in pieces. The lower jaw is missing. According to the anthropological study this is an individual of 40-45 years.



Pic. 296. Burial No 27. General view

There were three ceramic items found at the northern and north-west walls of the burial. They were placed one next to the other. The item No 187 (pic. 298) was found at the

north-west wall of the burial, the item No 188 – at the northern wall; the item No 189 (pic. 300) was found at the northern wall of the burial.

Behind the head of the deceased, on the floor, close to the ceramic items, there was a stone mortar (pic. 301a), one side of which is missing.

In front of the breast of the deceased, on the floor, there was a white stamp (pic. 302), and near to the head – white *iotas* made of glass paste.



Pic. 297. Burial No 27. Detail

The following items were found in the burial:



Pic. 298. Burial No 27. Pot. (inv. No 187)



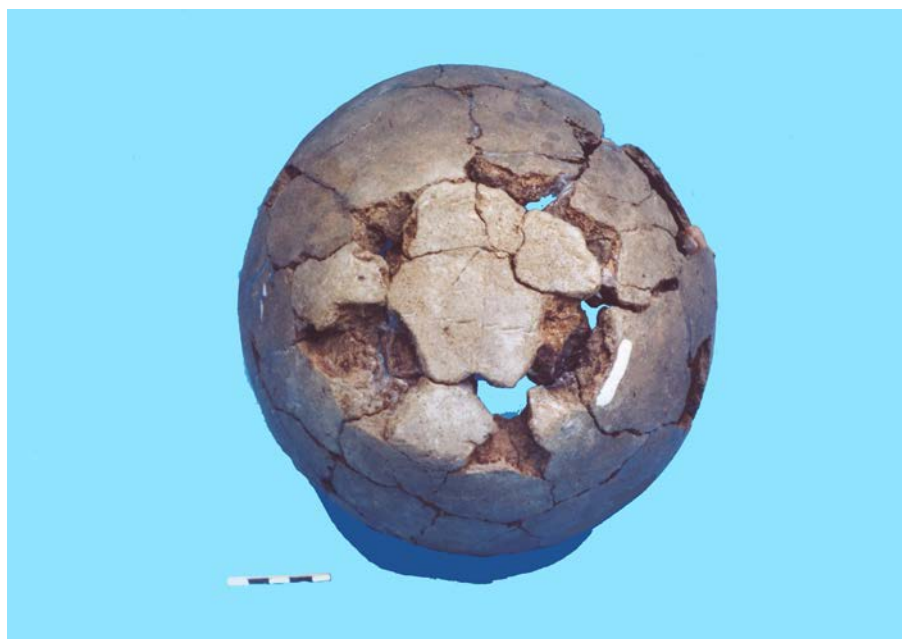
Pic. 299. Burial No 27. Pot. (inv. No 187)

1. Pot (No 187), ceramic (pic. 299; tab. LXXXIV, 6), burnt in sorrel-grey, with finely ground obsidian in the buff, the rim is missing, the neck is high, widening towards the body. There is graven line below the neck. The body is decorated with graven ornament made of rounded and vertical lines (pic. 298). The bottom is flat. the item was found in the north-east corner of the burial.

2. Small pot (No 188), ceramic (tab. LXXXIV, 4), strongly damaged, the surface bunt in black and brown, with fine admixture in the buff, rounded body and flat bottom. The item was found in the northern corner of the burial, between the items No 187 and 189.



Pic. 300. Burial No 27. Pot. (inv. No 189)



Pic. 301. Burial No 27. Pot. Detail (inv. No 189)

3. Pot (No 189), ceramic (pic. 300; tab. LXXXIV, 5), burnt in brown, with black spots on the body. It has white admixtures in the buff. Wide, open rounded rim, low neck, rounded body, lifted at the shoulder. There are horizontal lines on the shoulder. The bottom

is flat, with askew embossed lines and a cross on it (pic. 301). The item was found in the northern corner of the burial.



Pic. 301a. Burial No 27. Mortar. (inv. No 190), basalt

4. Mortar (No 190), basalt (pic. 301a; tab. LXXXIV, 2), small, with straight sides and flat bottom. One side was destroyed. The item was found behind the head of the deceased.



Pic. 302. Burial No 27. Stamp. (inv. No 191)

5. Stamp (No 191), non-transparent glass (pic. 302; tab. LXXXIV, 3), cylindrical, the surface is covered (fully?) with graven image – composed of rows of askew embossed lines directed one opposite the other; the image is bordered from both sides by a round graven line; the item is brown-grey. It was found on the floor, in front of the breast of the dead body.



Pic. 303. Burial No 27. Beads. (inv. No 192)

6. Beads (No 192), stone (chalcedony group) and non-transparent glass (pic. 303; tab. LXXXIV, 1), 36 parts are preserved in six fragments. Cylindrical; 4 of them are of stone, two are yellow, one – black and one – grey. The surface is polished; the rest is made of non-transparent glass, i.e. paste (?) or talc (?). The item was found around the skull.

Burial = 28

Burial pit.

The burial pit is cut in yellow clay soil; it is leaned down from north-east towards south-west. The pit was filled with black solid clay-soil (pic. 304). The burial (2.2x1.4x0.6m) is rectangular with rounded angles (tab. LXXXV), the walls are strained.



Pic. 304. Burial No 28. Contour of the burial chamber after removal of humus



Pic. 305. Burial No 28. Burial chamber after small excavation

In the center of the burial there is only one body (pic. 305), with its head to the north, with extremities folded, lying on the left side. The hands are placed in front of the face. Length of the body is 1.2m; length of the shoulder bone is 0.30m; length of the radius is 0.27m; heap bone remained is 0.45m, and the bootleg is 0.40m.

According to the anthropological study, it is a body of 35-40 years old woman.

In the northern part of the burial, in 20 cm to the north from the skull, in 0.2m from the western wall there are three ceramic items placed: jug (No 193), next to it to the east a big vessel No 194 and between them to the north there is another jug (No 195). Around the neck of the body there is a necklace made of cornelian beads (pic. 312), in the center of which there is one bigger bead. There were 24 beads on one side and 29 – on the other.

In the jug destroyed bones of cattle were found.

There were several pieces of obsidian in the surface layer of the burial.

Following items were found in the burial:



Pic. 306. Burial No 28. Jug (inv. No 193)



Pic. 307. Burial No 28. Jug. Detail (inv. No 193)

1. Jug (No 193), ceramic (pic. 306; tab. LXXXVII, 1), burnt in brown, with black spots on the surface and inside. With wide, open, flattened rim, which has graven fillet. The surface of the item is decorated with askew and horizontal graven lines (pic. 307). The body is egg-shaped, bottom – flat. The bottom is decorated with askew embossed lines. There concentric lines inside the vessel. The item was found on the north from the skull in 0.20m.



Pic. 308. Burial No 28. Jug (inv. No 194)



Pic. 309. Burial No 28. Jug. Detail (inv. No 194)

2. Jug (No 194), ceramic (pic. 308; tab. LXXXVI, 2), sorrel-straw color, non-uniformly burnt. With wide open and round rim. Upper and inner surfaces are decorated with graven askew and horizontal lines (pic. 309). It has horizontal embossments on the shoulder, the body is egg-shaped, bottom – flat, decorated with askew embossments. The item was found to the east from the item No 193.



Pic. 310. Burial No 28. Jug (inv. No 195)

3. Jug (No 195), ceramic (pic. 310; tab. LXXXVI, 4), black, the rim is missing, the body is round, lifted at the shoulder, gradually going down to the bottom. The shoulder is decorated with graven three fillets and waved ornament. The bottom is narrow and flat. The item was found in between the items No 194 and No 193, to the north.



Pic. 311. Burial No 28. Pail (inv. No 196)

4. Pail (No 196), ceramic (pic. 311; tab. LXXXVI, 3), burnt in sorrel and black, strongly damaged, with finely ground obsidian and other admixture in the buff. It has an open, round rim, rounded body. There is mark of mechanical effect inside.



Pic. 312. Burial No 28. Cornelian beads (inv. No 197)

5. Beads (197), cornelian (pic. 312; tab. LXXXVI, 1), 54, semi-transparent, light red-brown. 1 of them is elongated along the hole spin, flattened in width, from the both sides towards the central part gradually grows, it hexagonal, with polished surface. The rest 53 are, of irregular shape close to cylindrical. The item was found around the neck of the body.

In the surface layer of the burial the following items were found:



Pic. 313. Burial No 28. Obsidian solder pad (inv. No 198)

6. Solder pad fragment (No 198), obsidian (pic. 313; tab. LXXXVII, 3), black, transparent, a fragment of a prismatic plate, not processed.



Pic. 314. Burial No 28. Obsidian grater (inv. No 199)

7. Grater (No 199), obsidian (pic. 314; tab. LXXXVII, 2), brown, made at the lower end of a medium size chip. The blade is straight.

8. Chip (No 200), obsidian, black, transparent, small, with retouch on the body, on one side.

9. Chips (201), obsidian, black, transparent, 6 items, not processed, only one of them is shaped like a chopper.

Burial # 29

Burial pit. Arranged at the edge of the circle of the burial No 20 (pic. 316; tab. LXII, LXVII, LXVIII).

The burial was covered with three major stones (pic. 315). The stone on the north is broken into two parts. Total length of the covering stones is 1.6m, width – 0.9m, thickness

– 0.2m. It is leaned down from the north to the south. The southern stone of the plate is almost set against the southern wall of the circle of the burial No 22.



Pic. 315. Burial No 29. Stones fixed on the top of the burial chamber

After removing the covering plates (stones) at the depth of 0.50m in the humus layer broken crockery showed up (pic. 317; tab. LXXXVIII). Four ceramic items were compactly placed together. According to the placement of the items, the dimensions of the pit are as follows: from the north to the south – 0.8m, from the west to the east – 0.6m.



Pic. 316. Burial No 29. Stones fixed on the top of the burial chamber



Pic. 317. Burial No 29. General view

Crockery No 202 (jug) was found in the southern part, No 203 (pot) – in the western part, No 204 (jug) – in the northern part, and No 205 (small pot) – in the eastern part, fallen (pic. 318).



Pic. 318. Burial No 29. Detail

Under the crockery nothing like bones of a dead or any other inventory was found.

Burial No 29, or cenotaph, or the crockery found belongs to the burial No 22, the circle of the stones of which is set against the covering plates of the burial.

The following items were found in the burial:



Pic. 319. Burial No 29. Jug (inv. No 202)



Pic. 320. Burial No 29. Jug. Detail (inv. No 202)



Pic. 321. Burial No 29. Jug. Detail (inv. No 202)

1. Jug (No 202), ceramic (pic. 319; tab. LXXXIX, 1), sorrel, with black spots on the surface. There is finely ground admixture and obsidian in the buff. The rim is wide, open and flattened, with graven lines on it. The shoulder is decorated with 2 relief wattled fillets, embossed ornament and graven fillet (pic. 320). The body is egg-shaped, gradually going down to narrow and flat bottom. The bottom has embossed lines (pic. 321). The item was found in the southern part of the burial.

2. Pot (No 203), ceramic (tab. LXXXIX, 3), brown. There is finely ground admixture and obsidian in the buff. It is badly damaged. The rim is open and rounded, neck – low, the shoulder is decorated with embossed and graven lines. The item was found in the western part pf the burial.



Pic. 322. Burial No 29. Jug (inv. No 204)

3. Jug (204), ceramic (pic. 322; tab. LXXXIX, 2), sorrel-grey burnt, with open, rounded rim, the shoulder is decorated with graven fillet. The bottom is flat. The item was found in the northern part of the burial.



Pic. 323. Burial No 29. Small pot (inv. No 205)

4. Small pot (No 205), ceramic (pic. 323; tab. LXXXIX, 4), black, with small slightly open, rounded rim, round body, with plain relief fillet. The item was found in the western part of the burial

5. Chip (No 206), obsidian (tab. LXXXIX, 5), black, transparent, not processed. The item was found in the ceramic pot (No 202),

EXPLORATIONS

The expedition conducted exploration works mainly in connection with the earth works carried out during construction of BTC pipeline.

At KP 107 burials with stone circles were found. In the section of the energy corridor meant for gas pipeline, after the humus layer was removed, stone circles composed of big basalt stones can be noticed. Their diameter varies between 12 and 18 m.

Four more burials of the same type were found at KP 110.

Field archeological works are needed to be done on the both sites.

Besides the construction works in the energy corridor the process of construction of supplementary facilities is also going on. Major works have been done for arranging the access and by-pass roads for the corridor. These works are being conducted by Petrofak LTD Company. The expedition has visited all the sections, about which the company had officially notified the Archeological Research Center and where the earth works were planned. In most cases no archeological findings were verified skin-deep.

Unfortunately, there were cases (at the bend to the village Beshtasheni during construction of a warehouse a road belonging to the middle ages was damaged; the campus arranged close to Tsalka; warehouse erected at the bend to the village Akhaliki, etc), when archeological conclusion was not issued before the construction process was started.



Pic. 324. Estimated area of the sand-pit near Beshtasheni Village (KP115). View from the South.

In 2003 at the abandoned sand-pit (pic. 324) located between the villages Beshtasheni and Imera Petrofak LTD renewed extraction of sand without having agreed commencement of the works with the Archeological Research Center. Although the BP Environmental Team was preliminarily informed on existence of archeological and palaeontological monuments within the area of the sand-pit.

The sand-pit was operating in 30th – 40th of the XX century in connection with construction of Tsalka water reservoir. After that, during tens of years it practically did not operate at all.



Pic. 325. Sand-pit section. Southern elephant bones in the center.



Pic. 326. Sand-pit. Southern elephant bones

The Tsalka expedition has fixed two or three small tumuluses within the area of the sand-pit in 1990. In 2002 the expedition found palaeontological layer, located at the depth of 2.5-3.0m from the today's surface of earth and contains a lot of monumental materials (pic. 325). It must be specially noted that there was found a heap bone of a "southern elephant", which was berried in the lime stone massive (pic. 326). In 2003 palaeontological remainders were found (Acad. A. Vekua, Prof. D. Lortkipanidze) in the area adjacent to the sand-pit.

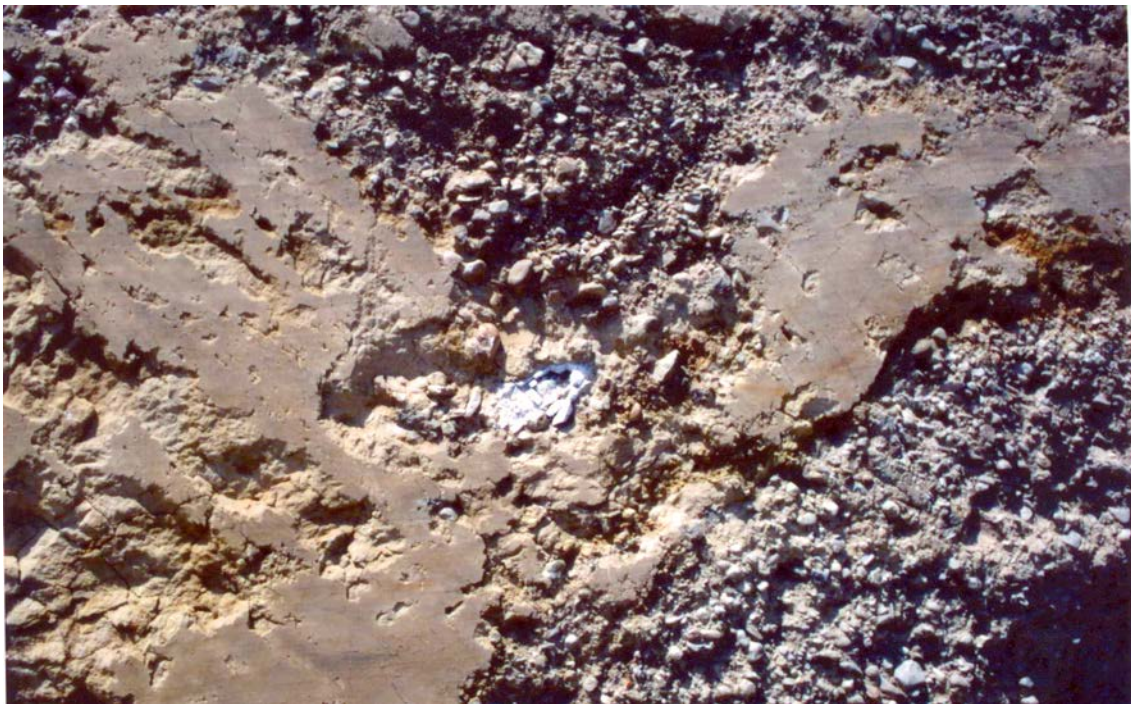


Pic. 327. Sand-pit. Southern elephant bones

Thus, archeological and palaeontological monuments were registered within the area of the sand-pit. Making the sand-pit operative again could be possible only after the above monuments were studied.



Pic. 328. Tsintskaro. Palaeontological monument, damaged while widening the road.



Pic. 329. Tsintskaro. Palaeontological remainders (horse bones)

While the road between the villages Tsintskaro and Darakovi was being widened by Petrofak LTD there was also found another palaeontological monument (pic. 328) – remainders of horse heap bones (pic. No 329).



Pic. 330. Darakovi Village. Damaged layers of the village remnants.



Pic. 331. Darakovi Village. Damaged layers of the village remnants.



Pic. 332. Tsintskaro, sand-pit. Damaged layers of the village remnants.

Due to the fact, that Petrofak LTD has left the bare walls of the sand-pit without any kind of erosion protection means, they are now collapsing and accordingly they archeological monument is also being destroyed (pic. 333). Therefore, it is necessary to either reinforce the section of the sand-pit or conduct archeological study of the monument.



Pic. 333. Tsintskaro, sand-pit. Damaged cultural layers.

From the KP 143 of the energy corridor LTD Petrofak has repaired also the by-pass road to Tabatskuri. The road from Thrialeti to Tabatskuri has been operative since ancient times. The road, paved with stone, which is still in place, was arranged in the middle Ages. In spite of the strong damages, the road was functioning till the nearest past. This road started at the village Kizil-Kilila and passed Sabidakhcha (Sapitiakhsho) and Tabatskuri Lake (pic. 334). LTD Petrofak was trying to fit the new road to the old one to avoid damage to the monuments. But as it turned out, this was only a nice wish or an enticement for those involved in preservation of cultural heritage. Road construction started so that the Archeological Research Center was not even notified. There was no and there is still no archeological conclusion, which is necessary to start or continue construction. Conclusions have been issued only for the small section of the road, which was cut towards the Tavkvetili Mountain, and for the territory of the sand-pit, where a whole group of tumuluses was verified.

Although LTD Petrofak has cut absolutely new sections of the road and damaged archeological monuments, it has still not responded to our official demand to observe the Georgian legislation.

The Bp Environmental and Archeological Monitoring Team have several times notified LTD Petrofak about the existing monuments and those damaged by construction of the by-pass road, they have even fenced them, but LTD Petrofak has always been careless about this information. Moreover, they reject existence of archeological monuments and by doing so they coarsely interfere into the competence of the Archeological Research Center and BP Environmental and Archeological Monitoring Team.

The way LTD Petrofak acts violates the Georgian Law on Preservation of Cultural Heritage, international law and conventions.

Meanwhile, the section of the by-pass road between KP143 and KP153 is very important and interesting in archeological sense.



Pic. 334. Sapitiakhsho. General view.

Within the area of Sapitiakhsho (pic. 334) in the 30th (B. Kuftin) and in 60th of XX century (O. Japaridze) up to 20 tumuluses dated I half of the II millennium BC were excavated. At the beginning of the Tabatskhuri Pass (pic. 334, 335) a Middle Ages village remnants are located. There is middle Ages church there (pic. 336), wall stones of which represent wonderful samples of lithotomic (pic. 337-340). This most interesting architectural monument has been remodeled and renewed many times. It is in quite poor condition today – the walls are falling down and the roof is leaking. Therefore, even a little impact can cause an irreparable damage for it. And the heavy machinery, which permanently moves to and fro in some three meters from it, increases this risk.



Pic. 335. Sapitiakhsho. General view of the Tumulus Valley.



Pic. 336. Sapitiakhsho (Sabidakhcha). Church.



Pic. 337. Sapitiakhsho. Church. Eastern façade (detail)



Pic. 338. Sapitiakhsho. Southern façade (detail)

Sapitiakhsho used to represent summer residence of antique and Middle Ages Kartli Nobles and therefore monuments reflecting these eras are also supposed to be found here.



Pic. 339. Sapitiakhsho. Entrance. Detail.

In the territory of the village remnants existence of ancient (Bronze Era) layers is verified by Menhir, erected here. To the same epoch belongs cyclopean wall (E8398412, No 4614052), destroyed by LTD Petrofak while cutting the new section of the road (pic. 348-353).



Pic. 340. Sapitiakhsho. Church. Detail.



Pic. 341. Sapitiakhsho. Tumulus (E8398619, = 4613413) General view



Pic. 342. Sapitiakhsho. Tumulus (E8398619, = 4613413) General view



Pic. 343. Sapitiakhsho. Tumulus (E8398035, = 4614236)



Pic. 344. Sapitiakhsho. Damaged Tumulus. (E8396640, = 4614513)



Pic. 345. Sapitiakhsho. Damaged Tumulus
(E8396738, = 4614489)



Pic. 346. Sapitiakhsho. Damaged Tumulus



Pic. 347. Sapitiakhsho. Tumulus with Stella



Pic. 348. Sapitiakhsho. The wall. (E8398412, = 4614052).

General view



Pic. 350. Sapitiakhsho. Wall. General view



Pic. 351. Sapitiakhsho. Wall. General view



Pic. 352. Sapitiakhsho. Wall. General view



Pic. 353. Sapitiakhsho. The wall damaged during road construction

During the road construction several tumuluses were damaged (pic. 341-347). Half of the stone pile of some of them is cut by bulldozer (e.g, E8394063 No 4613924; E8394771 No 4614106; E 8394727 N 4614 090, etc.).

In the area adjacent to the by-pass road re-operation of the sand-pits is also assumed. Together with BP representatives the expedition has visited the area of the sand-pits, where the group of tumuluses was verified (E 8394755 N 4614177; E 8394820 N 4614233; E 8394829 N 4614255; E 8394754 N 4614195; E8394740 N 4614173; E 8394726 N 4614172; E 8394628 N 4614168; E 8394366 N 4613911; E 8304356 N 4613909; E 8394349 N 4613905; E8394332 N 4613900; E 8394063 N 4613924; E 8394771 N 4614106; E 8394727 N 4614090). The data was handed over to **Petrofak**.

Within the zone of the by-pass road it is necessary to make topographic and architectural measurements and planning of the cyclopean wall and the defense system. Excavation of the tumuluses which stone piles are so damaged that anthropogenic or natural impact can destroy them.

The expedition conducted exploration also beyond the energy corridor.

In the zone of Tsalka water reservoir several new tumuluses and burials were registered. Among them one of the most important is a big burial found on the south of the village Santi, in the area of Beiuk-Thepe. The burials have chambers covered with big basalt plates. Several tens of such burials are located in 2-3m from one another. Skin-deep observation shows that the stone circles do not damage one another. Burials of such a type located on Tsalka Plateau were arranged at the end of Middle Bronze Era and the Beginning of the Late Bronze Era. It is not excluded that the above burial also belongs to this epoch.



Pic. 355. Avranlo. Ceramic vessel found occasionally



Pic. 356. Avranlo. Occasionally found materials



Pic. 356. Avranlo. Occasionally found materials



Pic. 357. Avranlo. Occasionally found materials



Pic. 358. Avranlo. Occasionally found materials



Pic. 359. Avranlo. Occasionally found materials



Pic. 360. Avranlo. Occasionally found materials

In the village Avranlo due to frequent occasional findings the expedition visited several families. Findings of Giorgi Ashkalov turned out to be of the most interest (pic. 345-360). In the 60th of the XX century he worked as a worker for Acad. O. Japaridze and he is still interested in archeology. In his collection there are plenty of materials belonging to the Late Bronze Era. Materials of the Early Bronze Era are mainly found in the cyclopean village remnants of Avranlo and those of the Late Bronze Era were found in his own or the neighbors' gardens. The materials of the Early Bronze Era originate from the village remnants, and those of the Late Bronze Era represent burial materials.

Giorgi Ashkalov handed over to the expedition all the materials found by him. These materials are presently kept in Tsalka Museum.

There in the village Avranlo a Kolkhian bronze axe was found, which is owned by Khvicha Gabunia. Unfortunately he refused to hand this item over to the expedition. We did not even have an opportunity to make a photograph.

**Recommendations and Conditions to be Necessarily Taken into Consideration
by BP**

1. Field archeological works have to be conducted at KP 107.
2. Archeological excavations have to be conducted at KP 110.
3. The area of the sand-pit located near the village Beshtasheni represents archeological and Palaeontological monuments. The sand-pit can be re-operated only after the above monuments are studied.
4. Due to the fact that LTD “Petrofak” has left the bare walls of the sand-pit located near the village Darakovi without any kind of erosion protection means, the walls are gradually going to ruin and consequently archeological monument is being destroyed. Therefore it is necessary to either reinforce the section of the sand-pit or conduct archeological study of the wall.
5. In the zone of the by-pass road running from KP143 to Tabatskuri it is necessary to conduct topographic and architectural measurements and planning of the cyclopean wall and defense system. Excavation of the tumulus, stone piles of which are so damaged that there is a threat of total destruction due to anthropological and natural impact.
6. Actions of LTD “Petrofak” is violating the Georgian law on Preservation of Cultural Heritage, international law and conventions. LTD “Petrofak” does not recognize the Convention of La-Valeta, to which Georgia, as well as France has joined.

I consider that BP must work out correctness of its contractor’s actions. Otherwise the Archeological Research Center will have to address the court.

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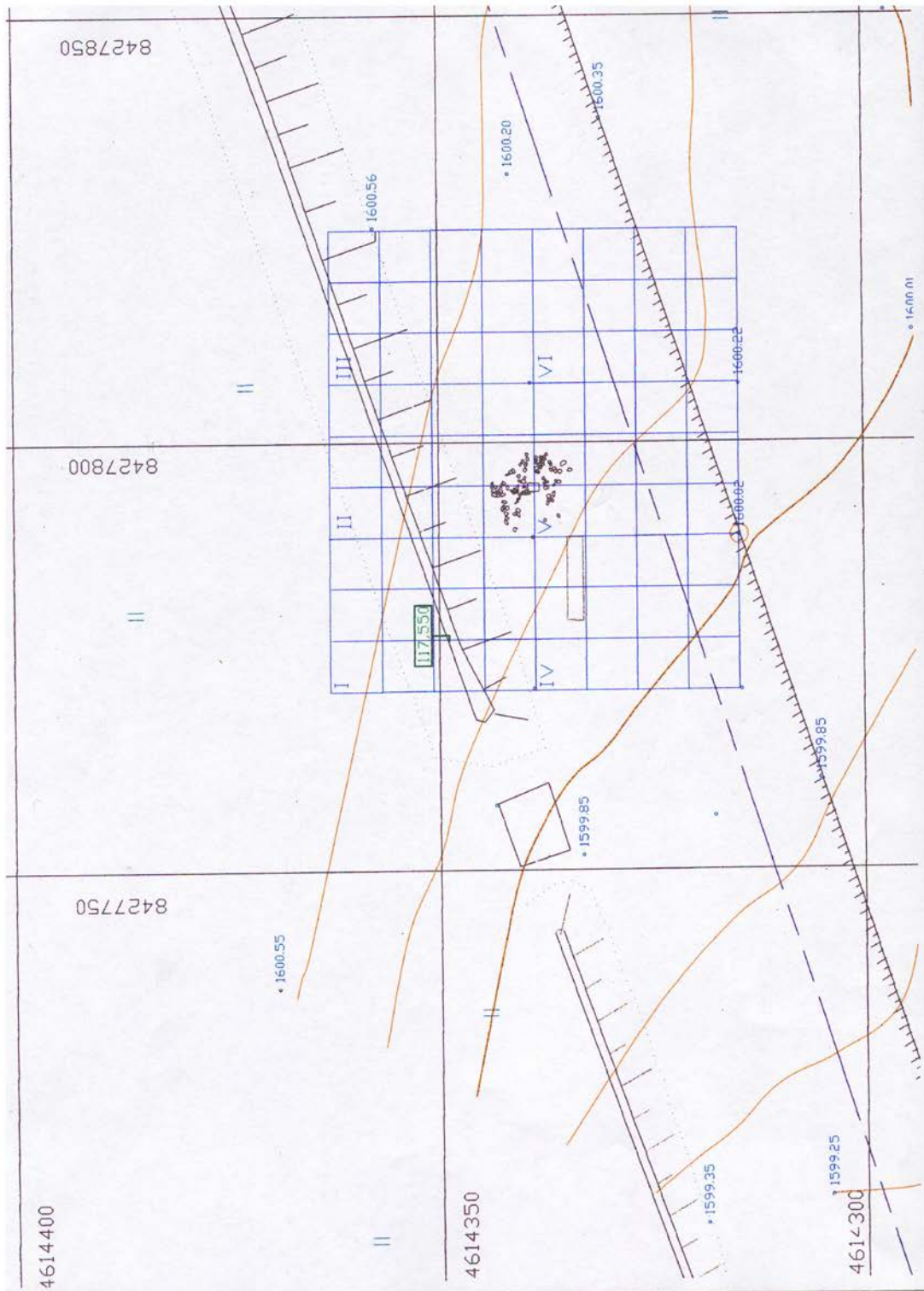
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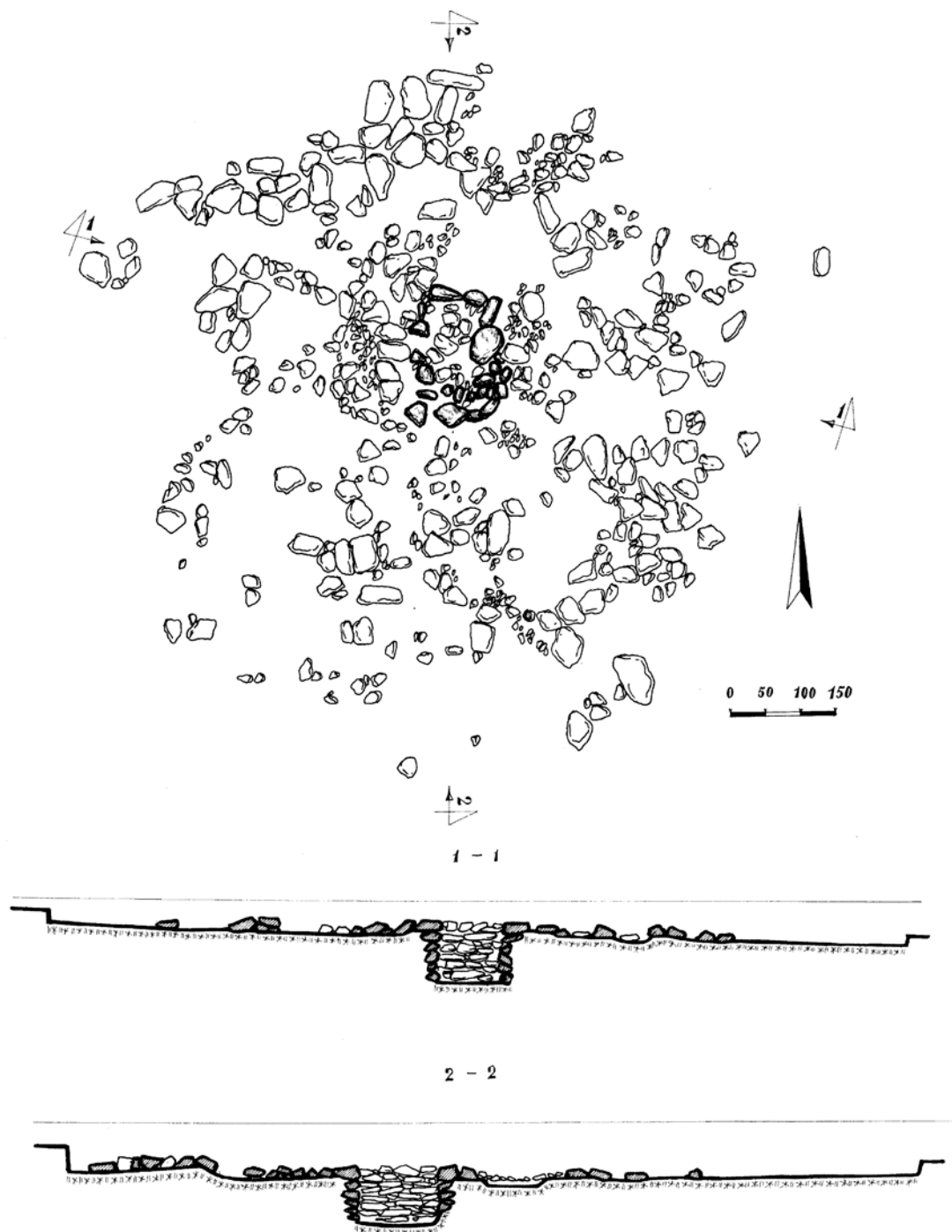
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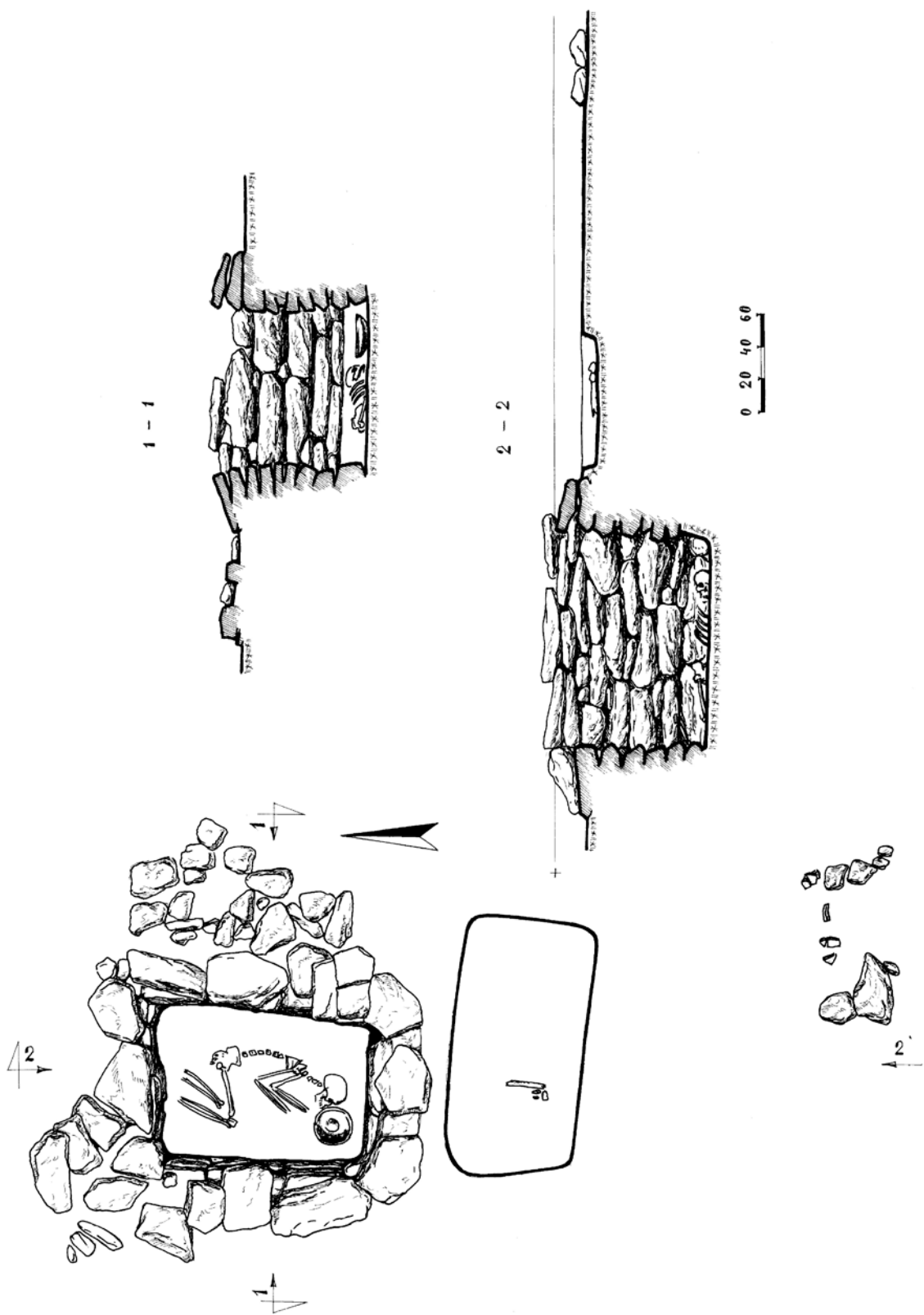
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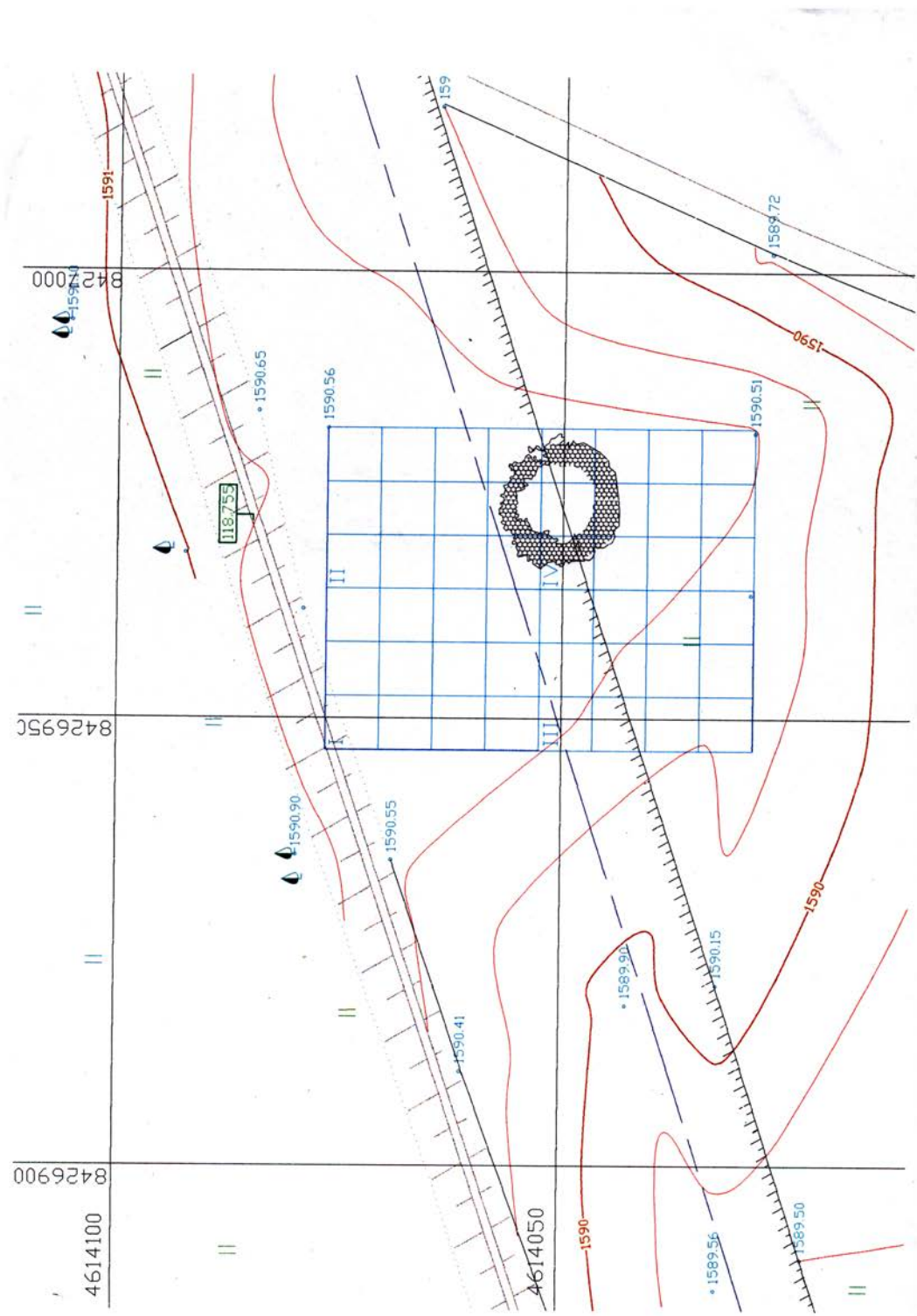
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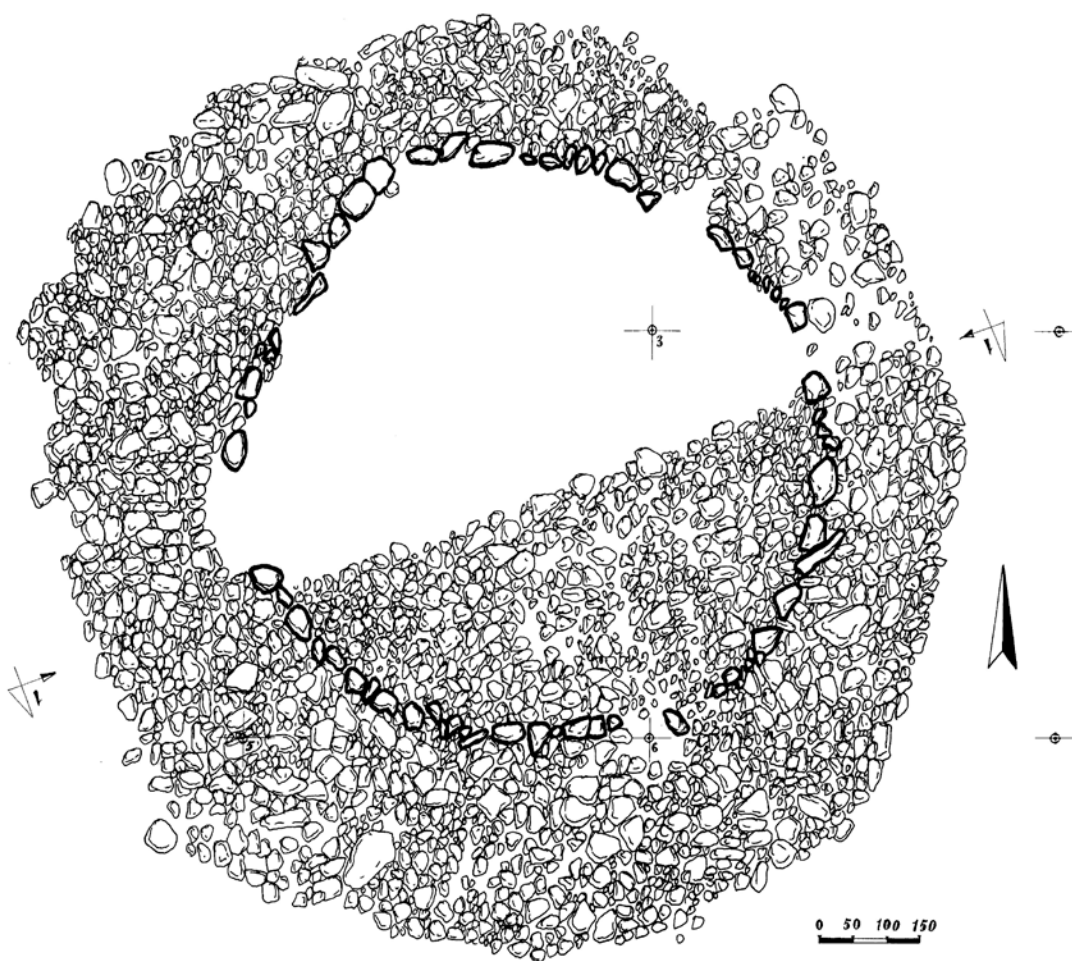
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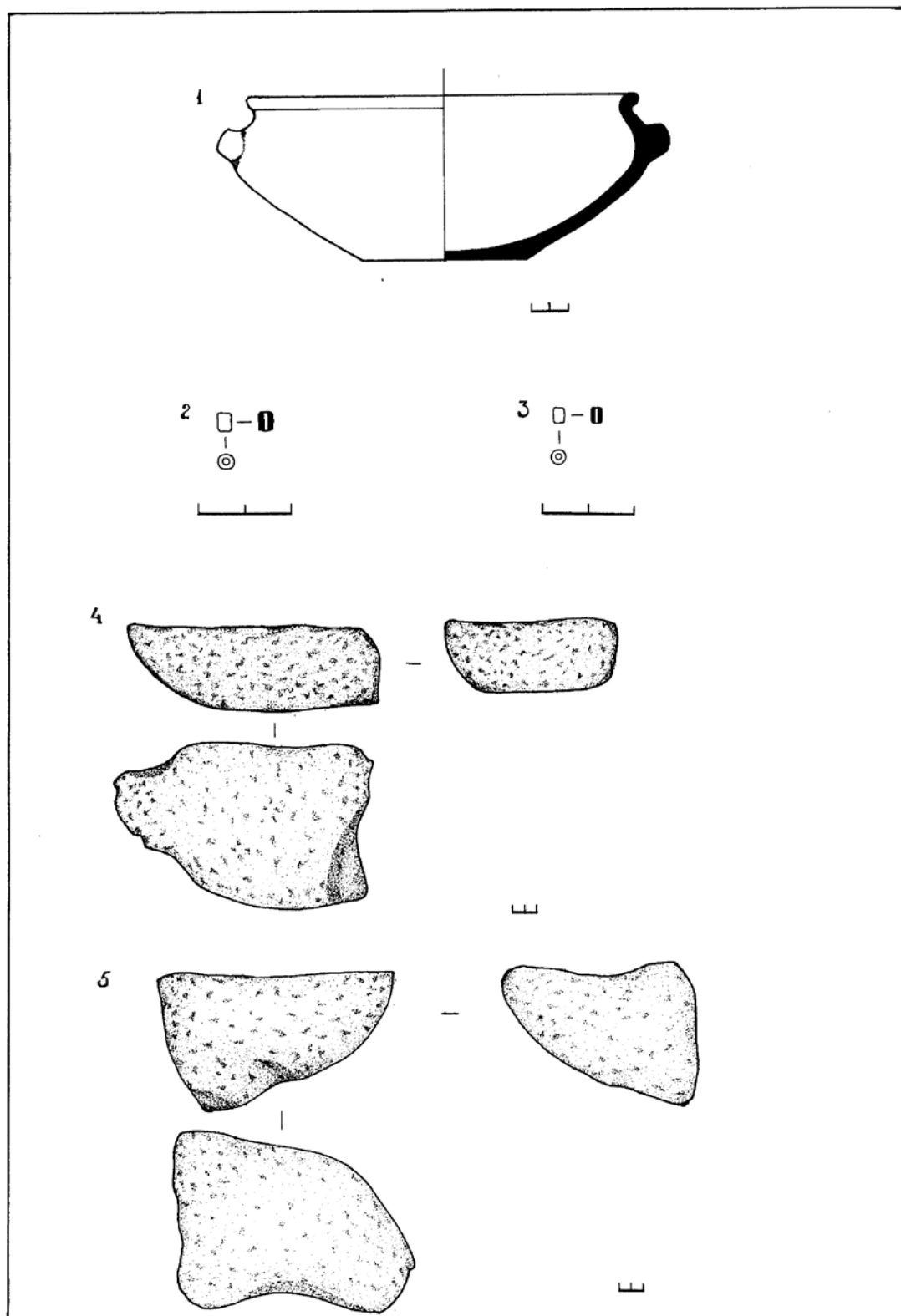


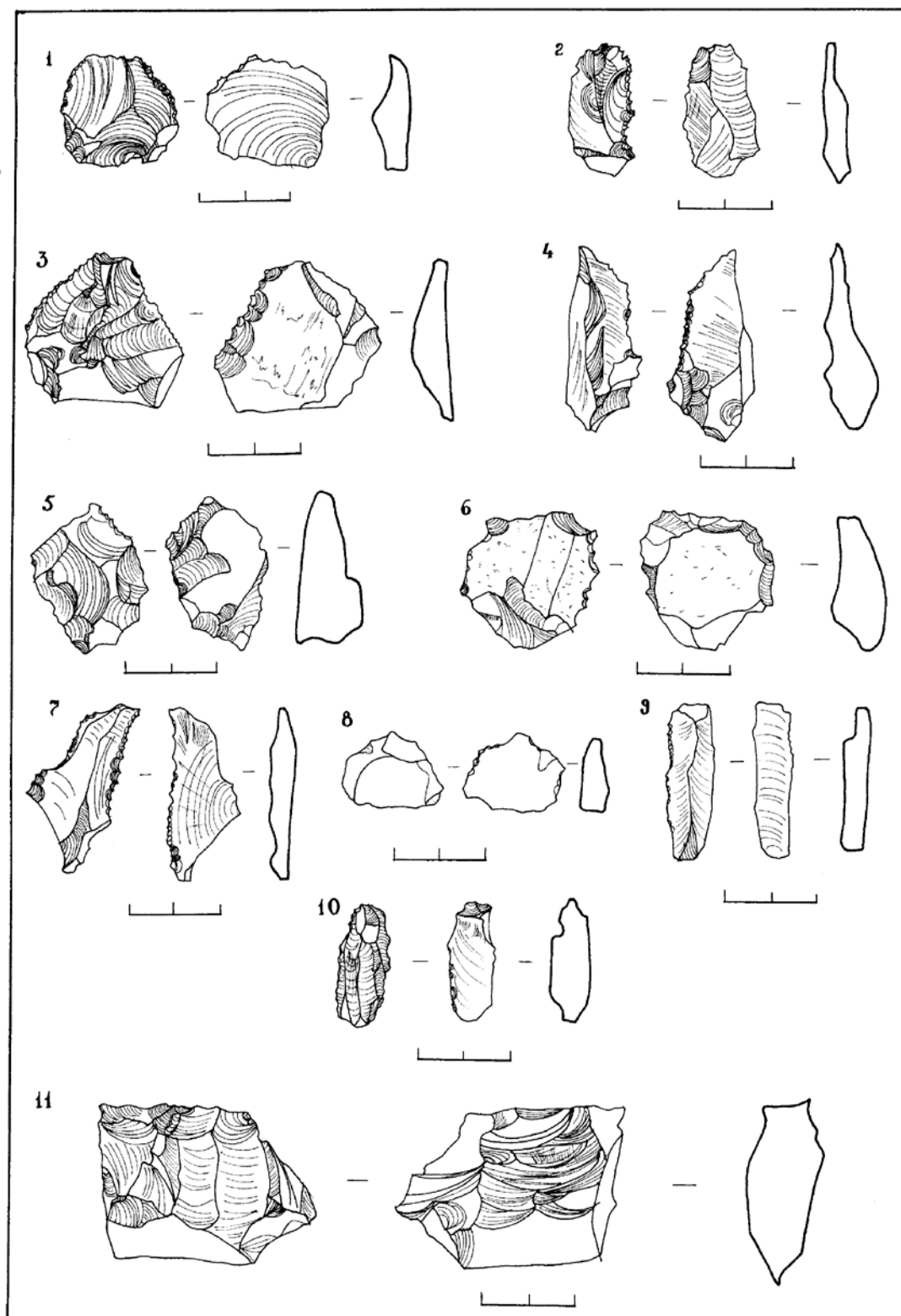


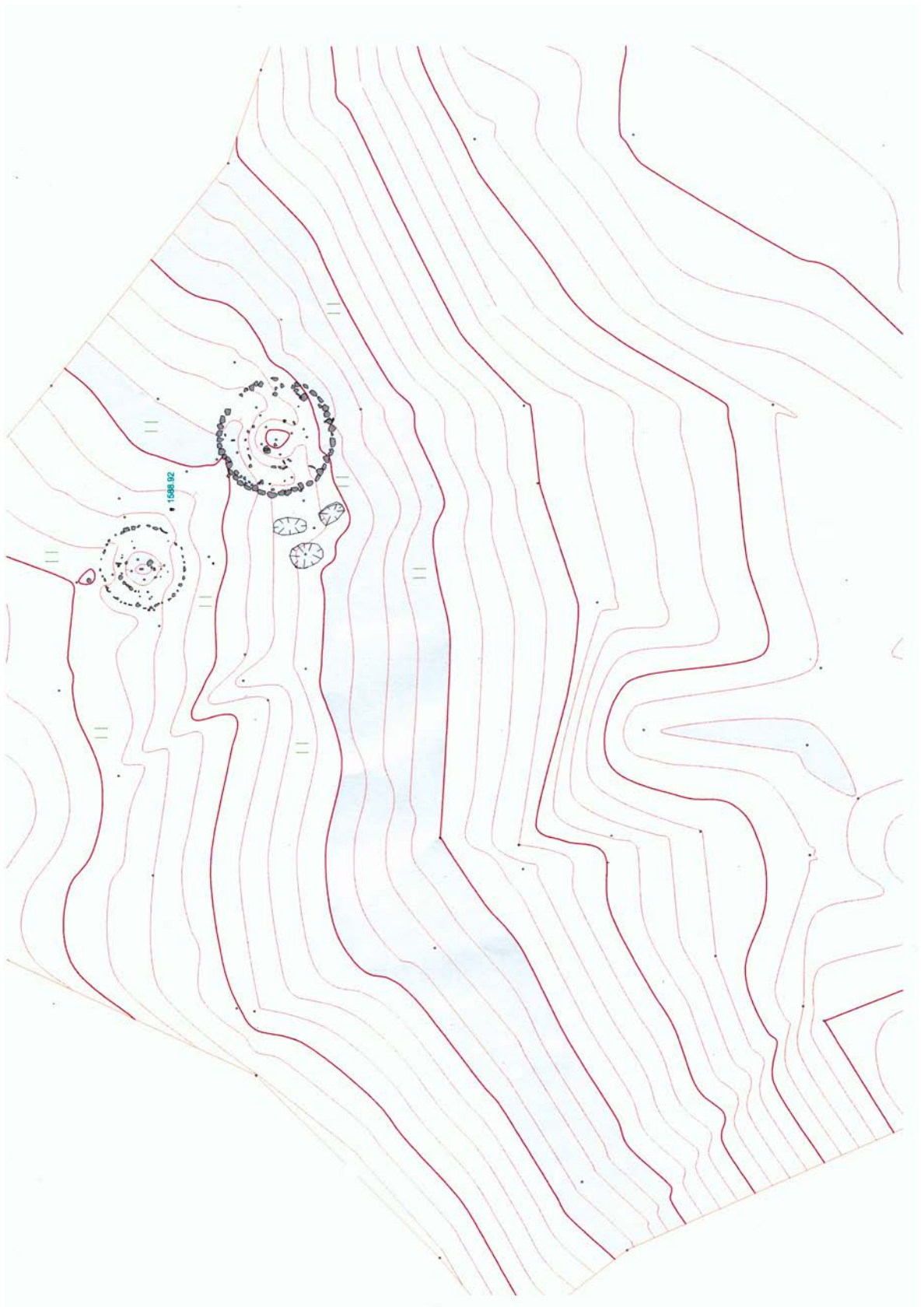


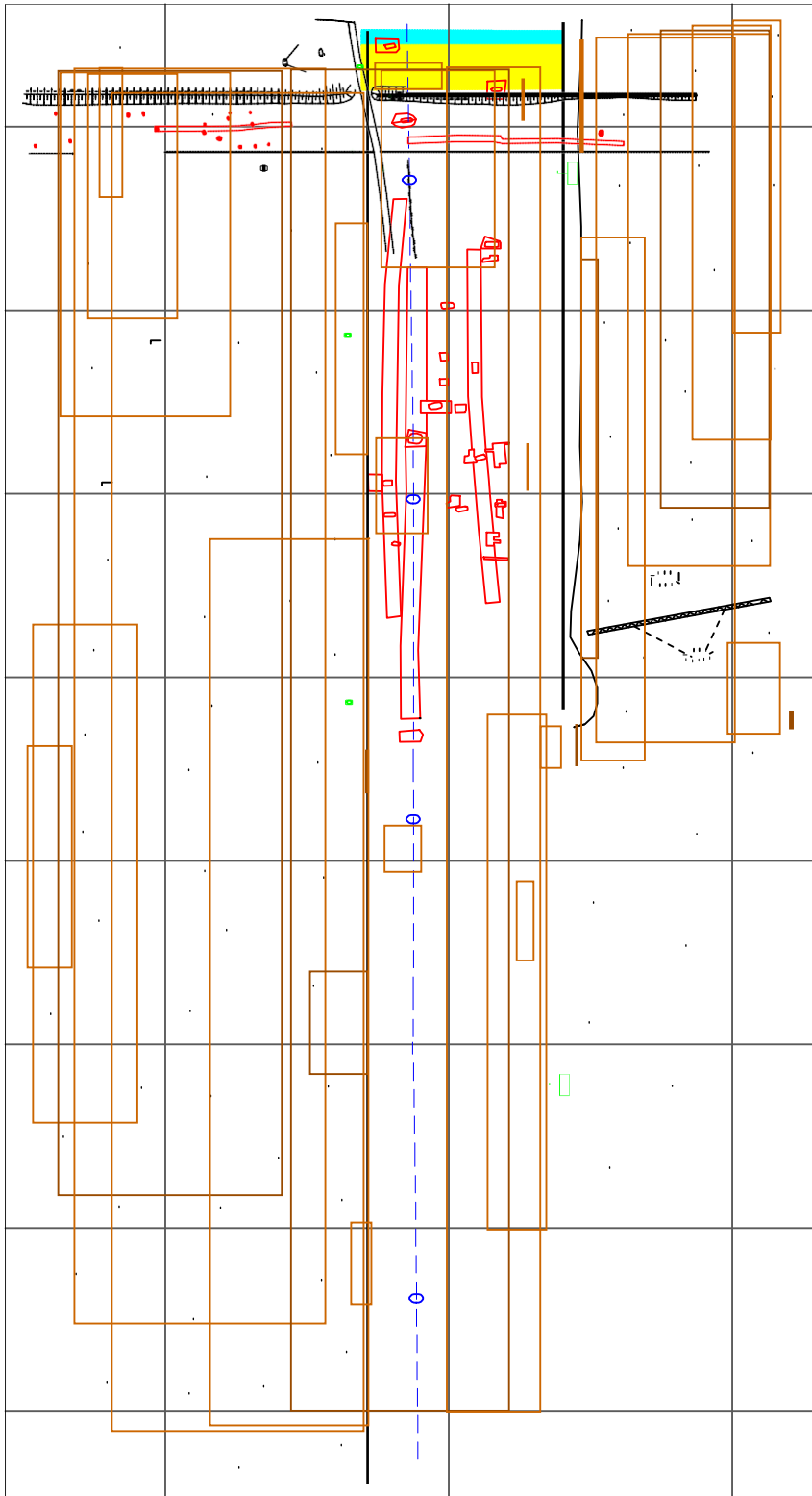
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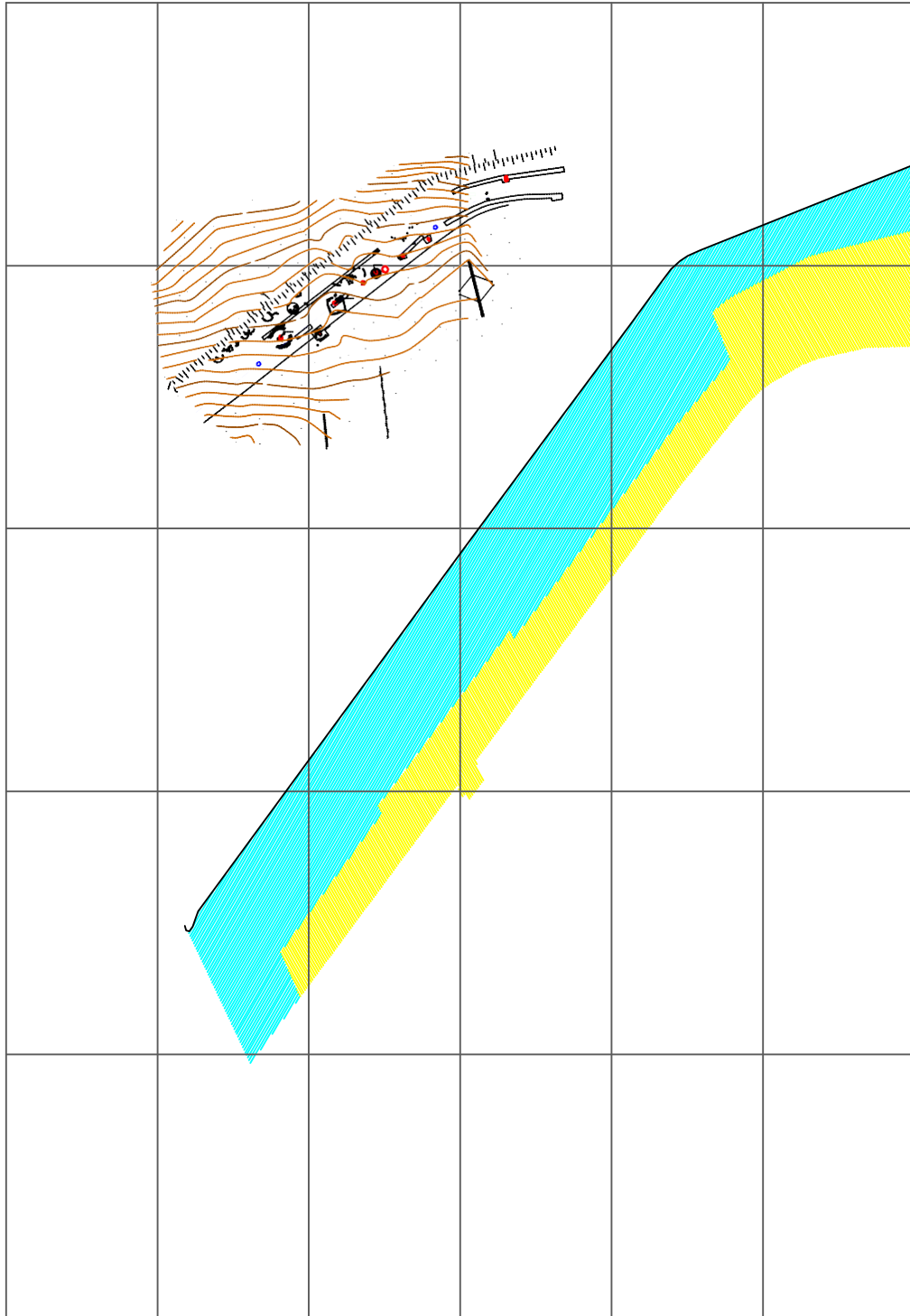


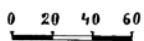
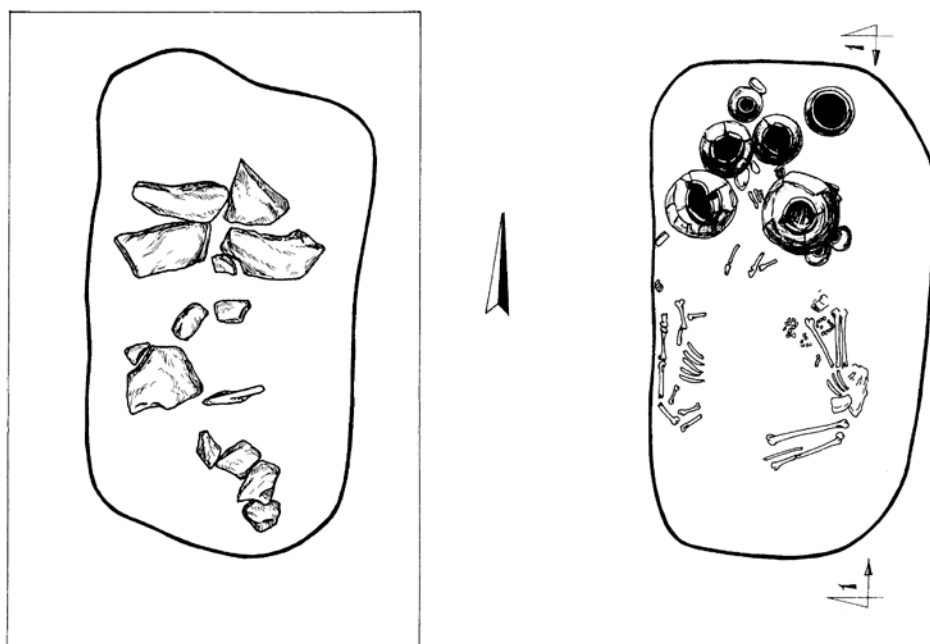




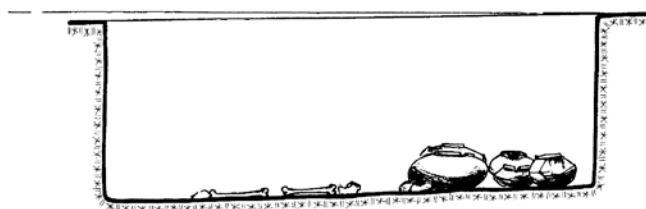


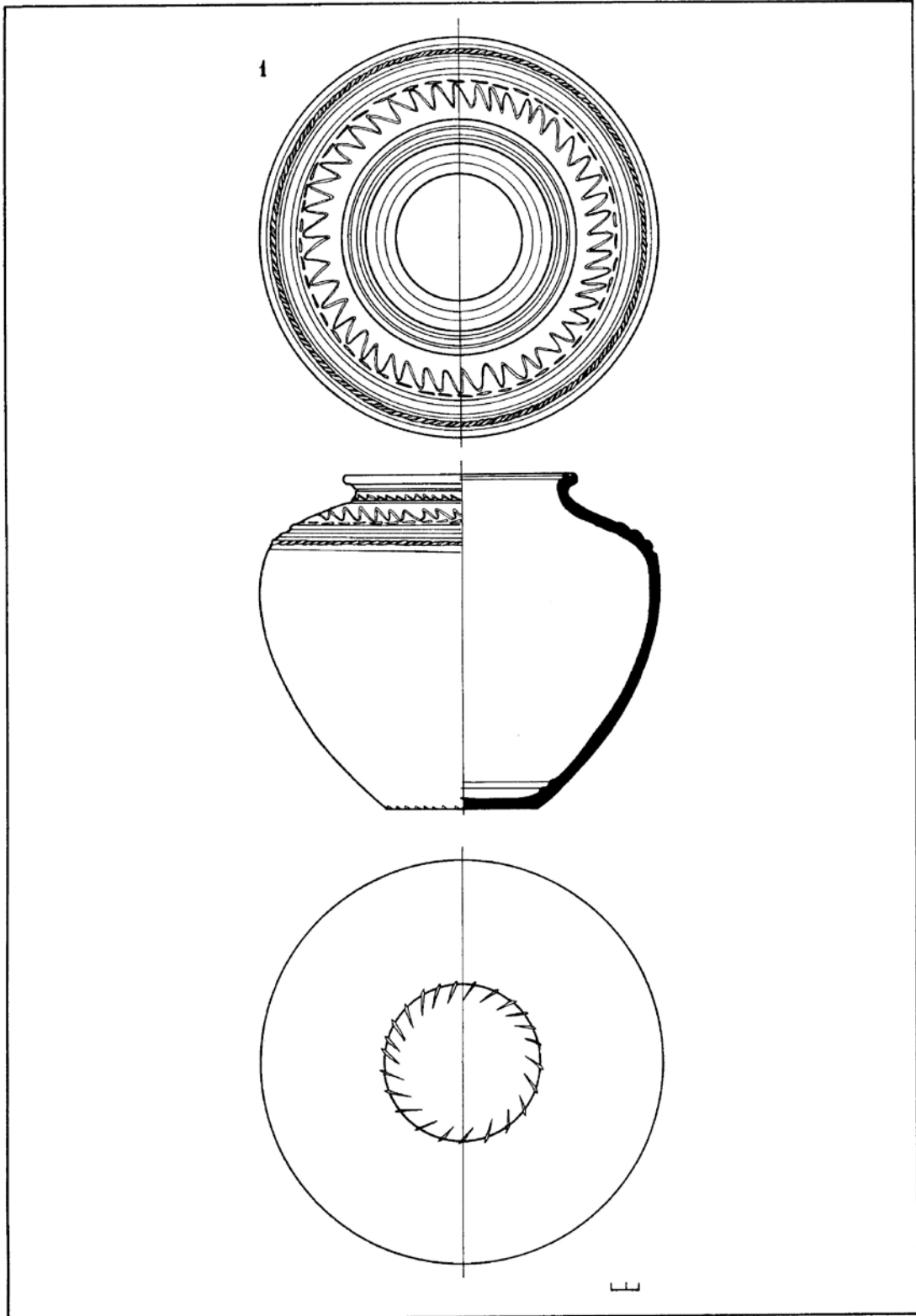


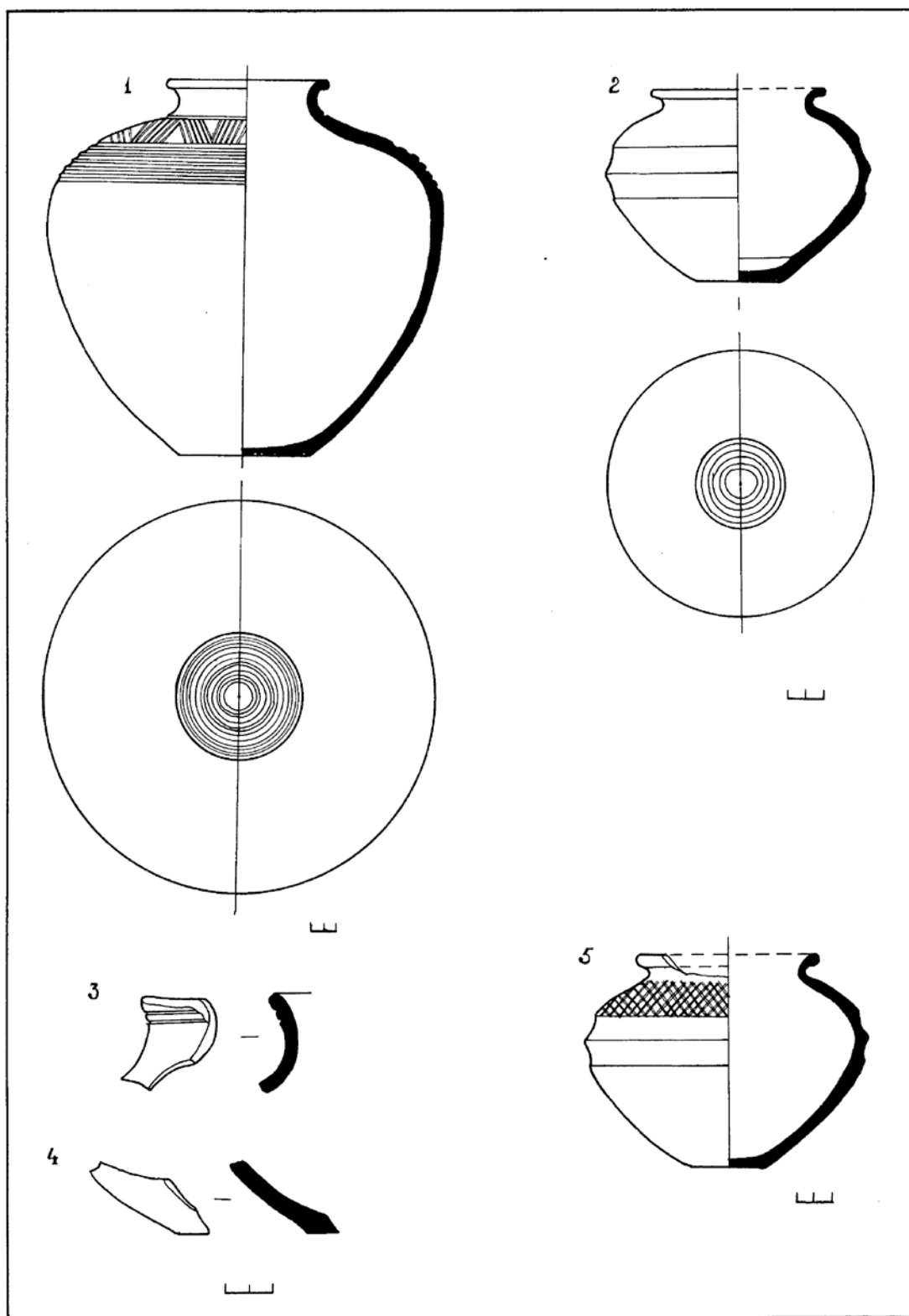


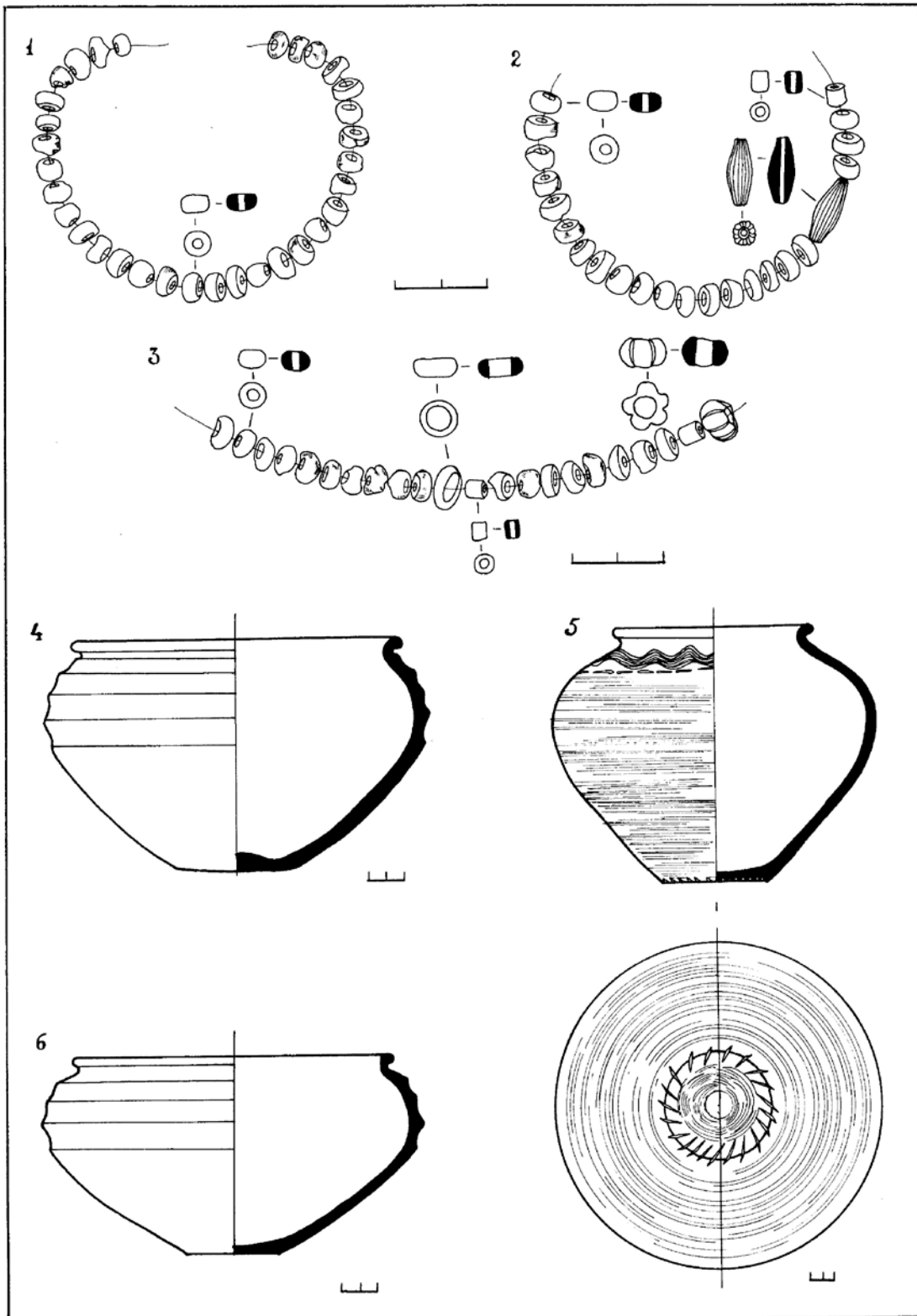


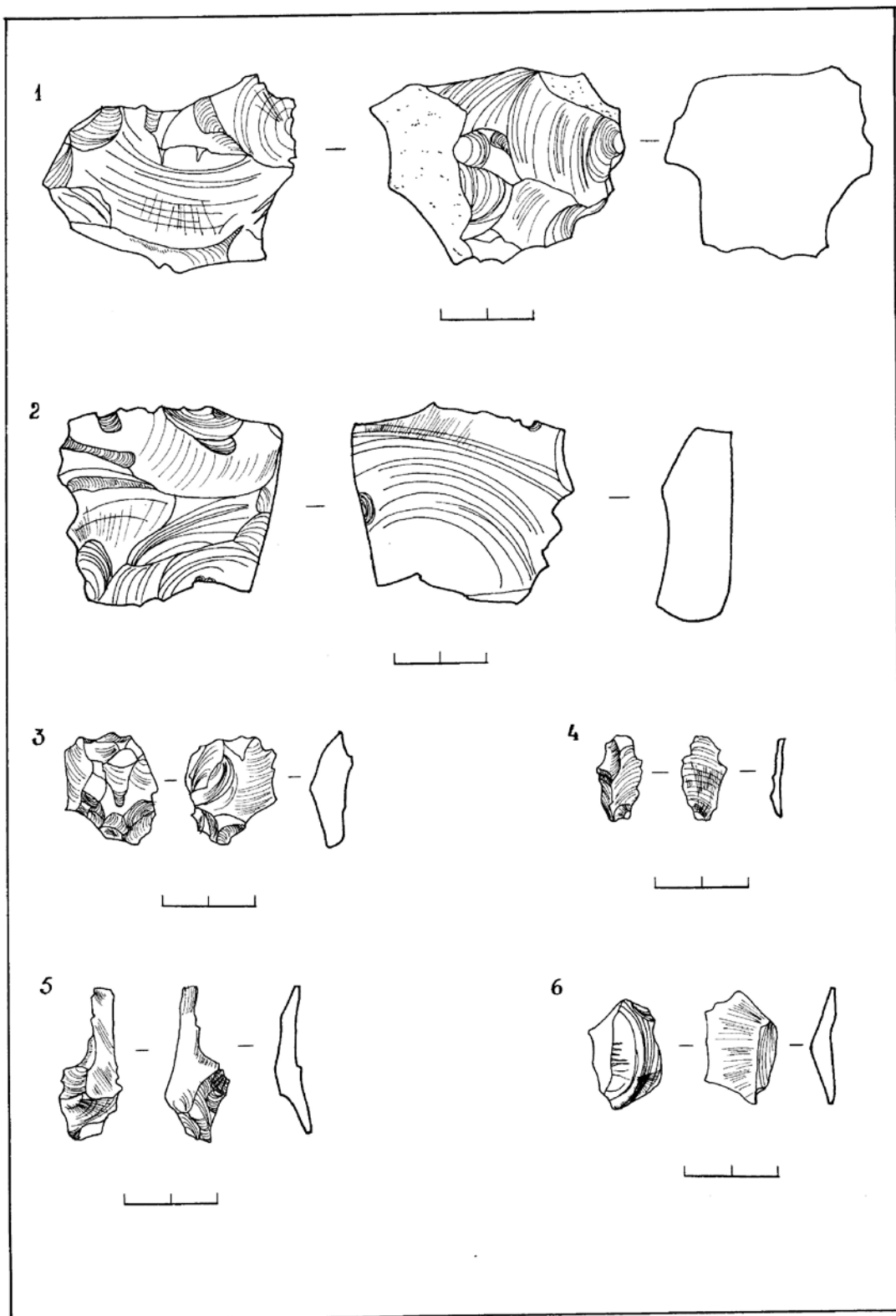
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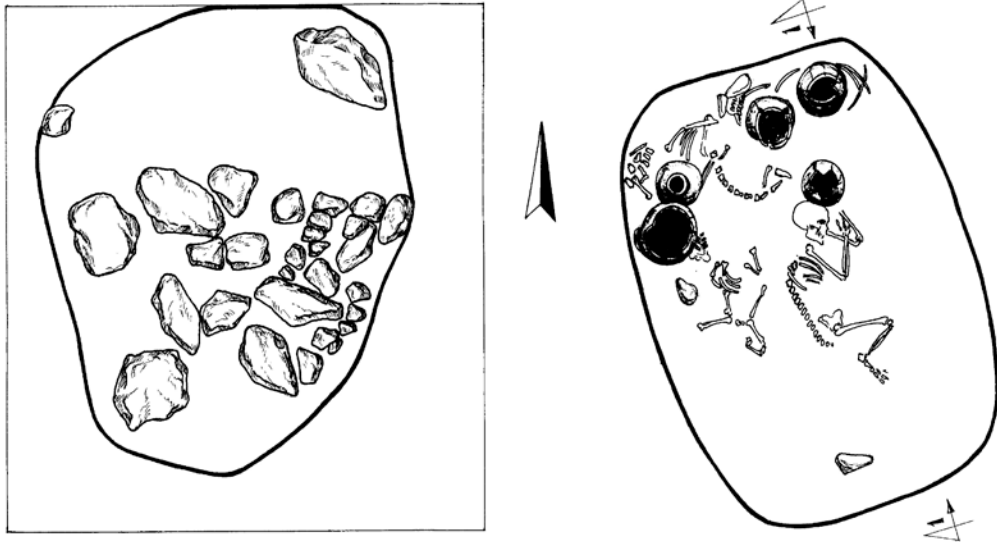




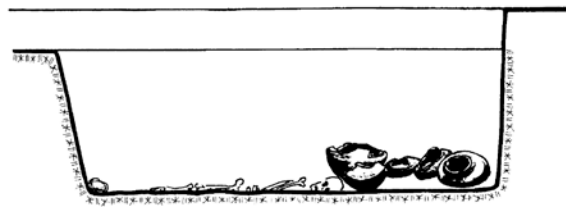




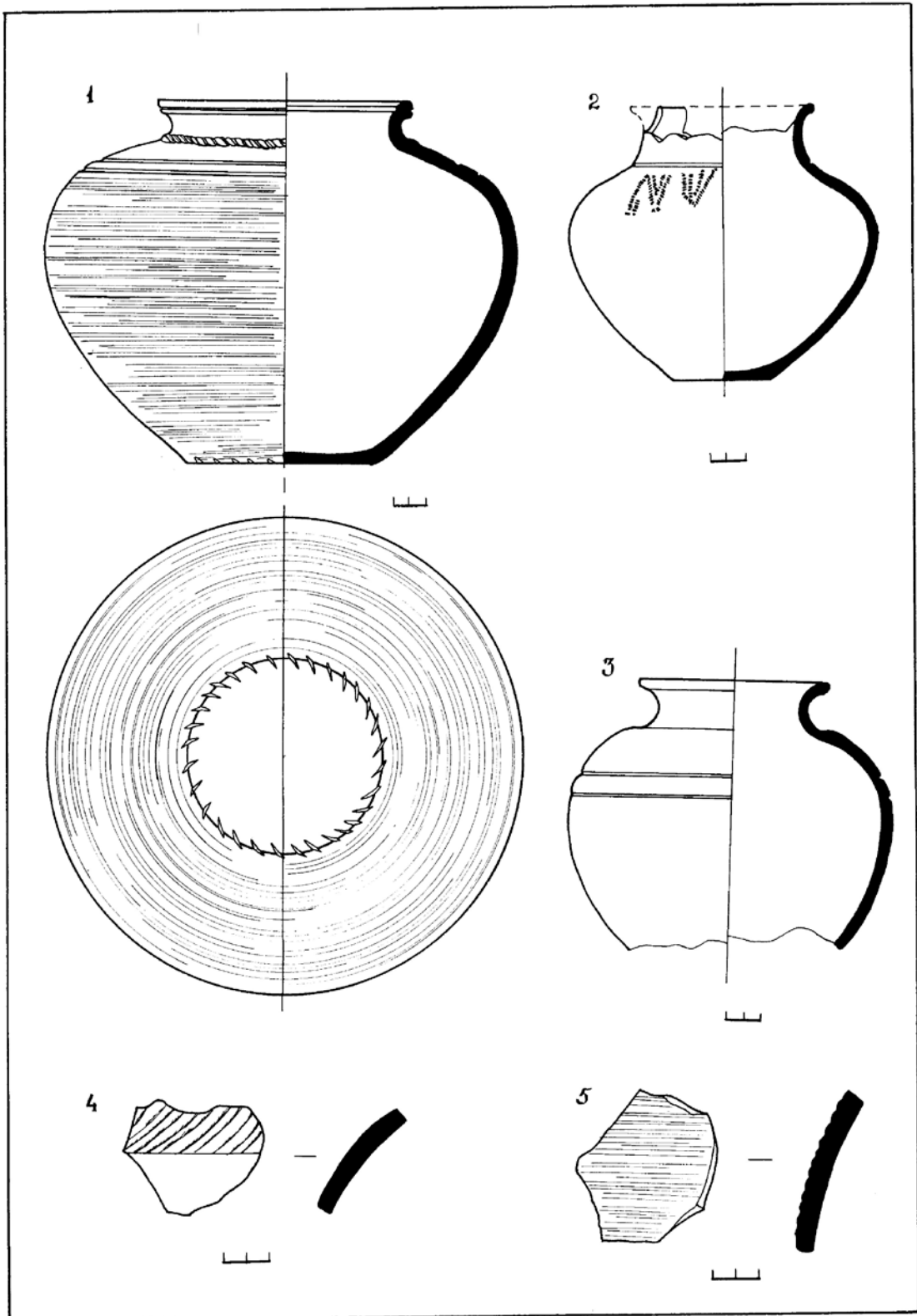


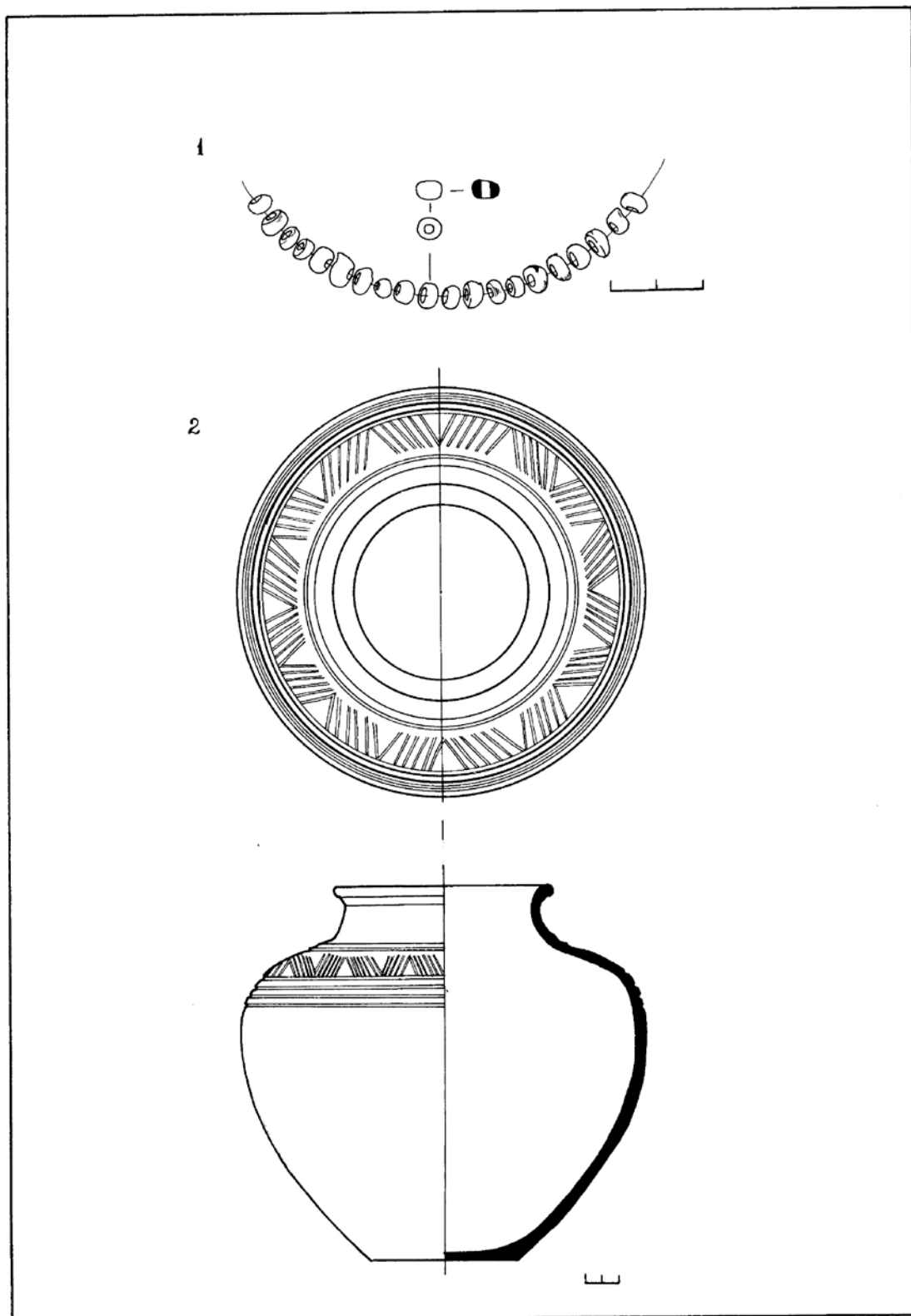


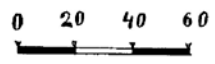
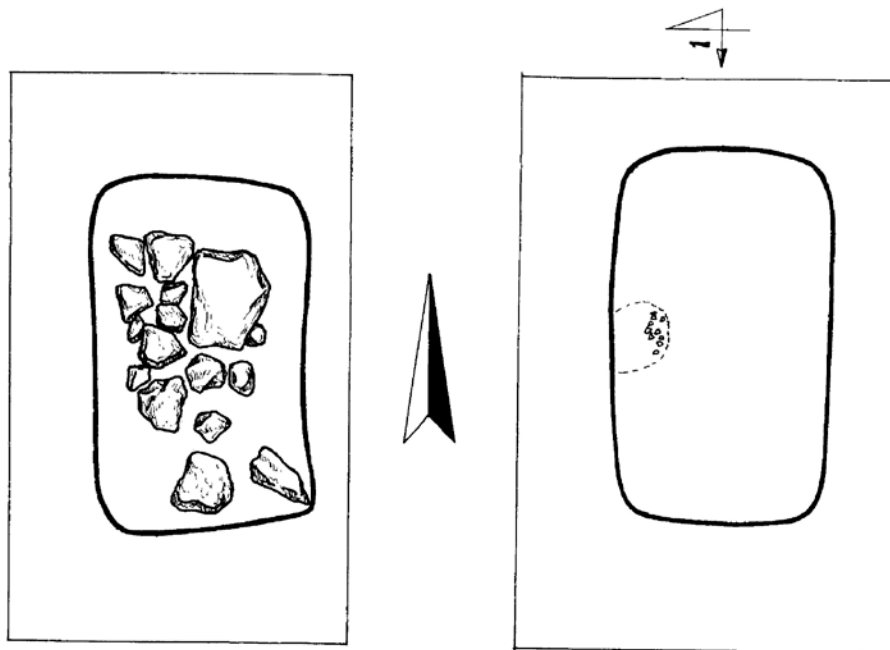
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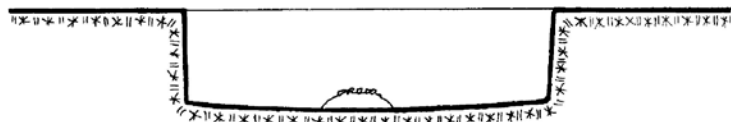
0 20 40 60

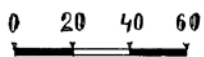
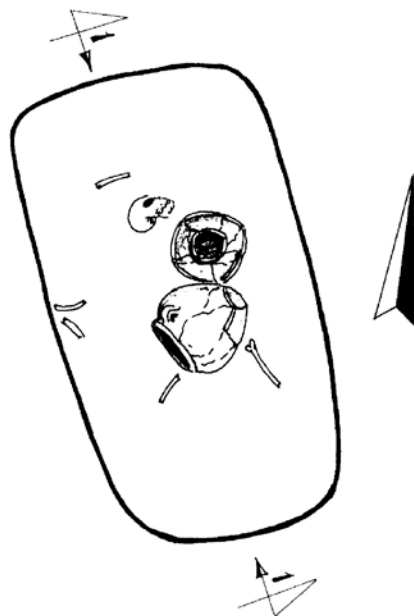






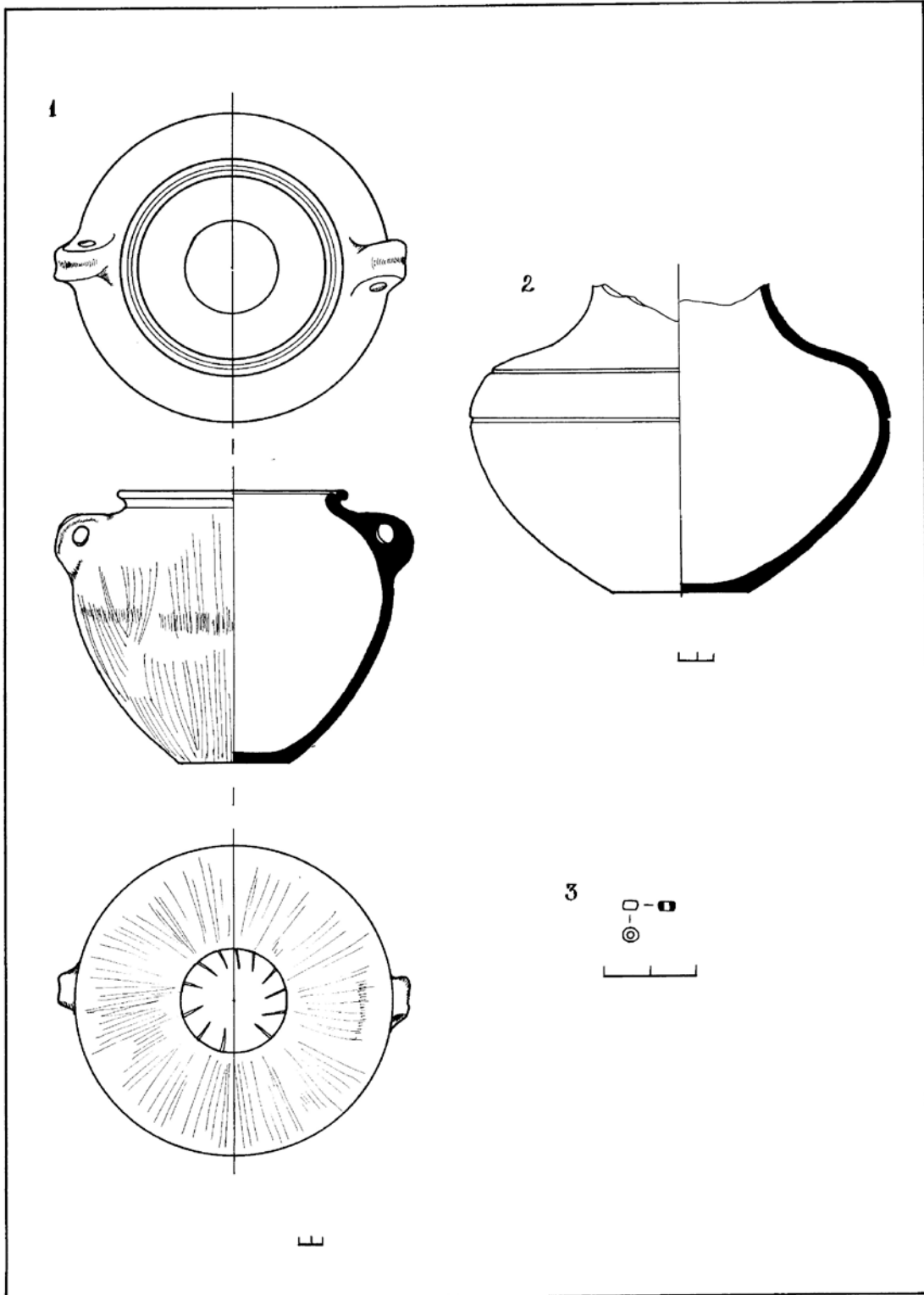
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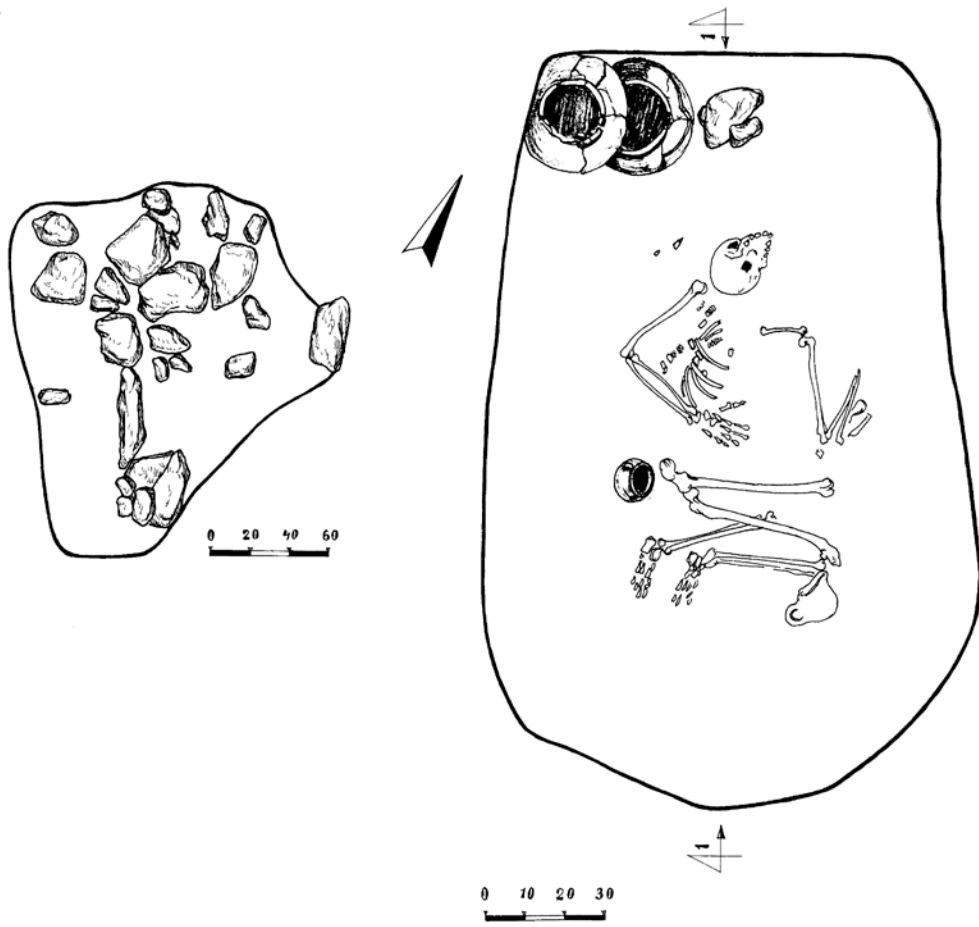




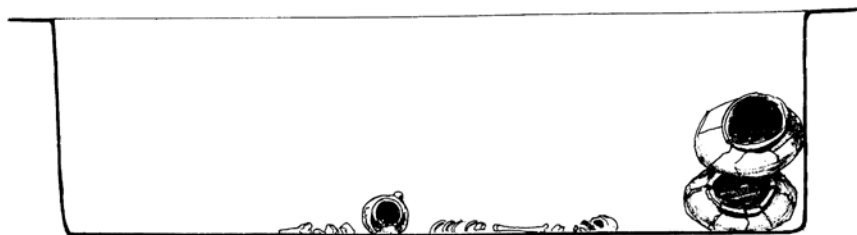
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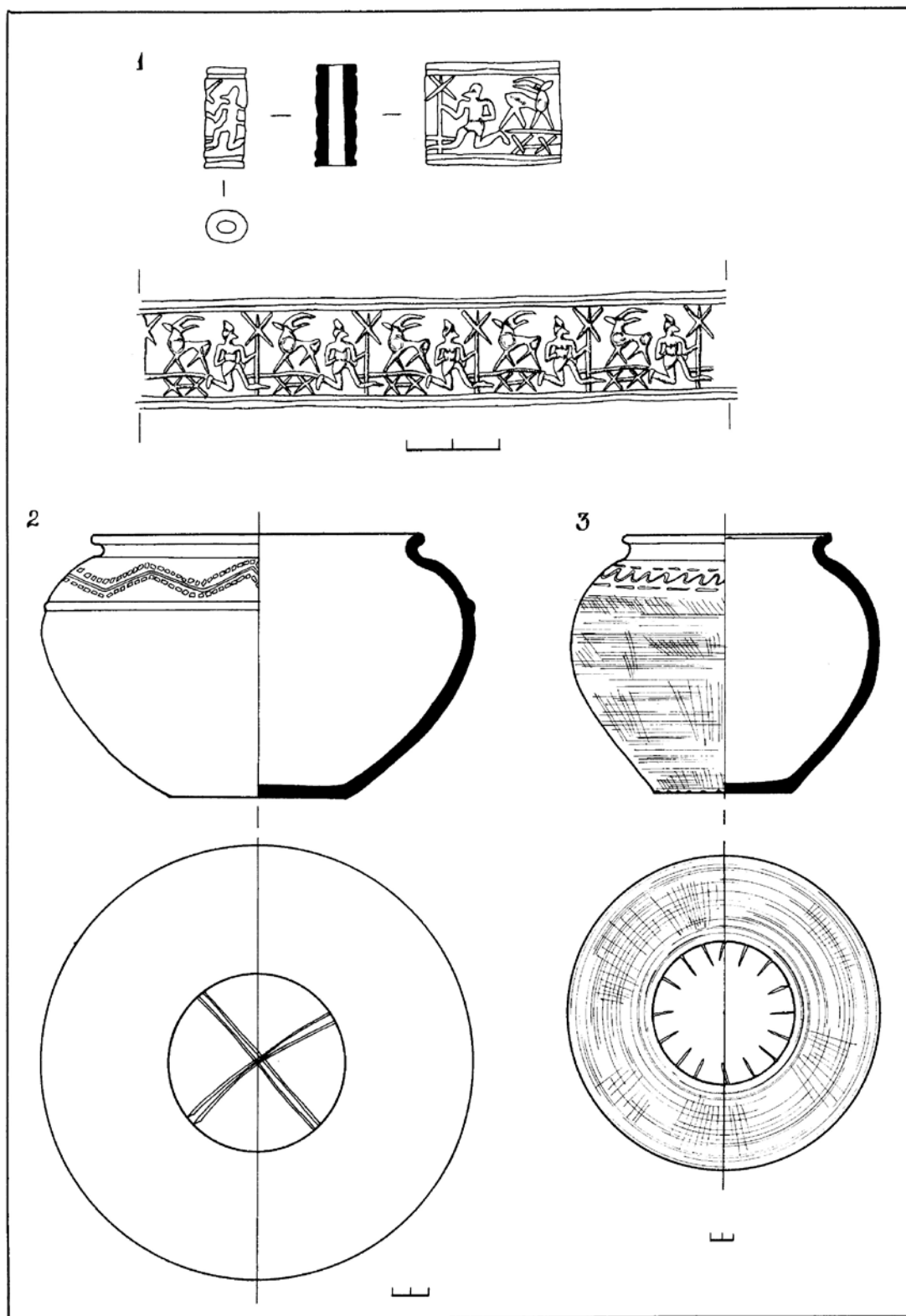


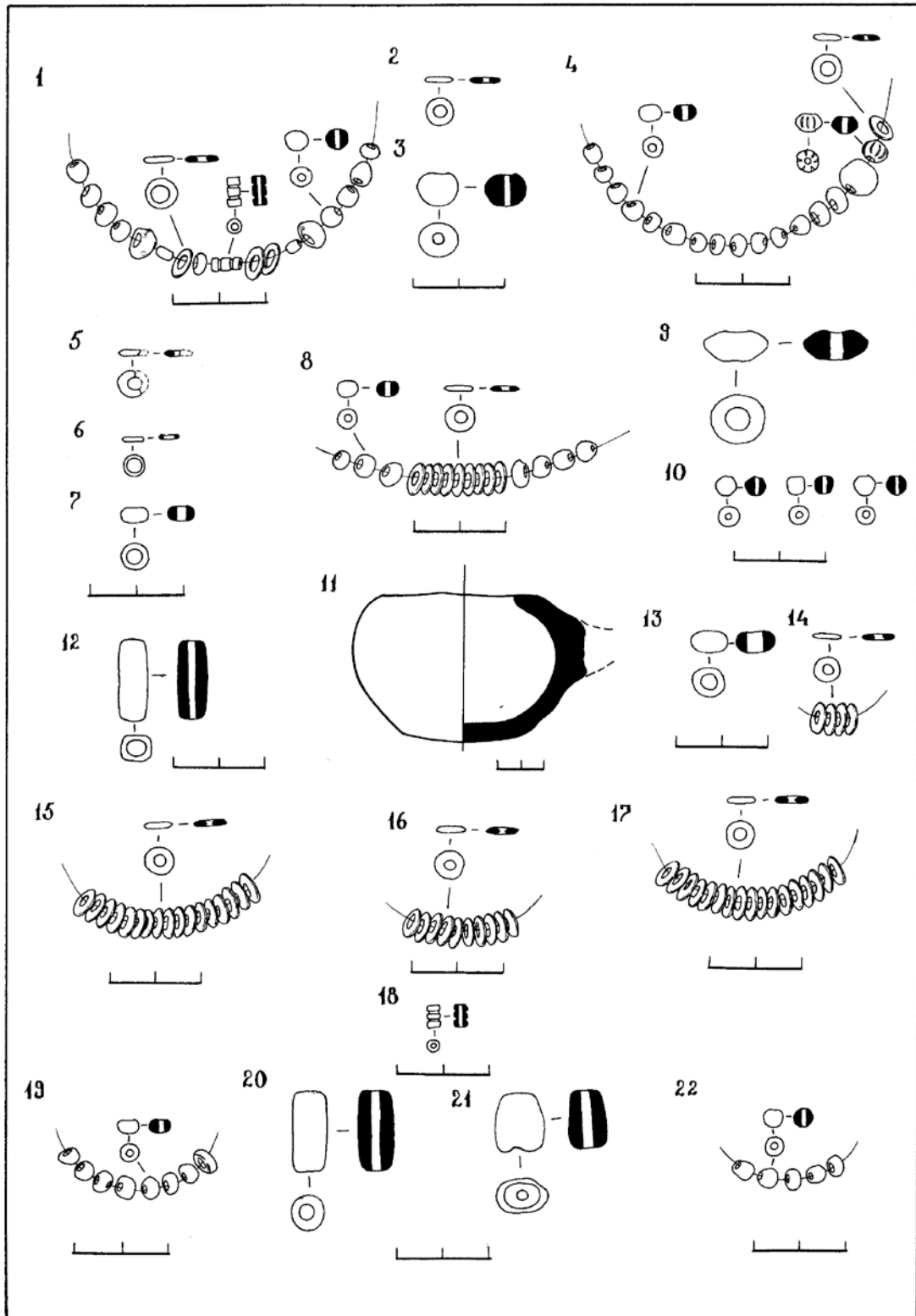


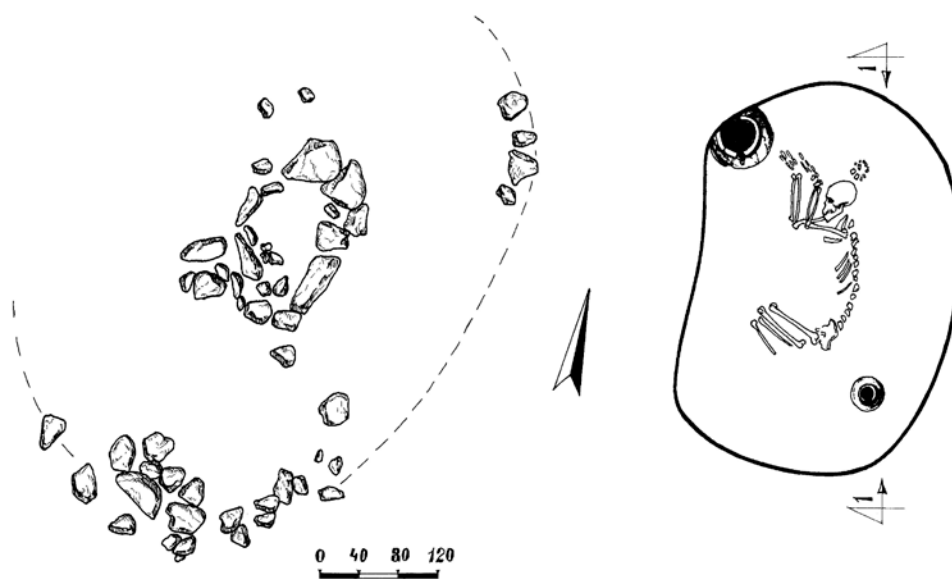


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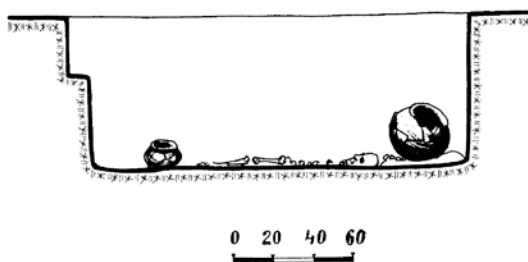


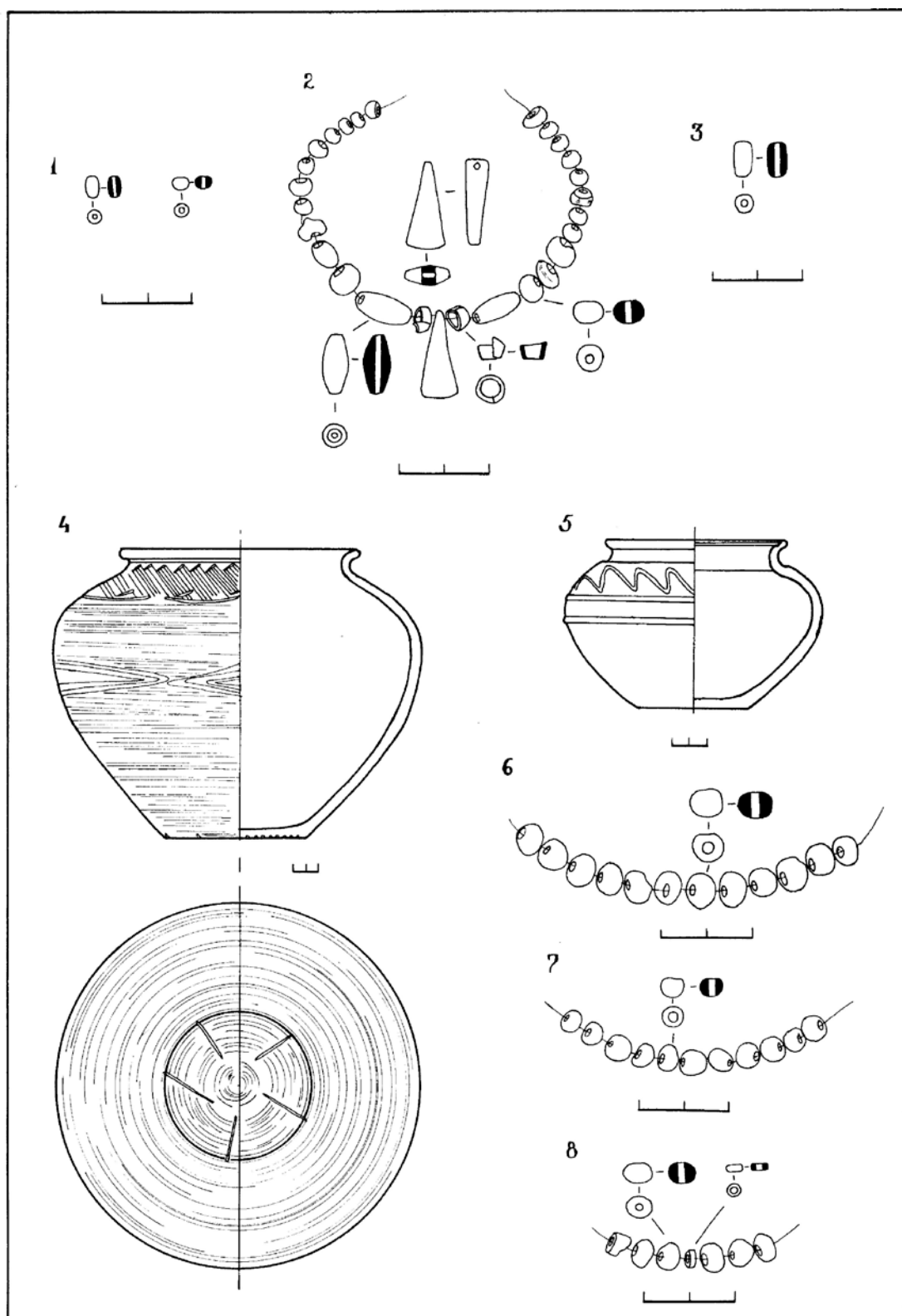


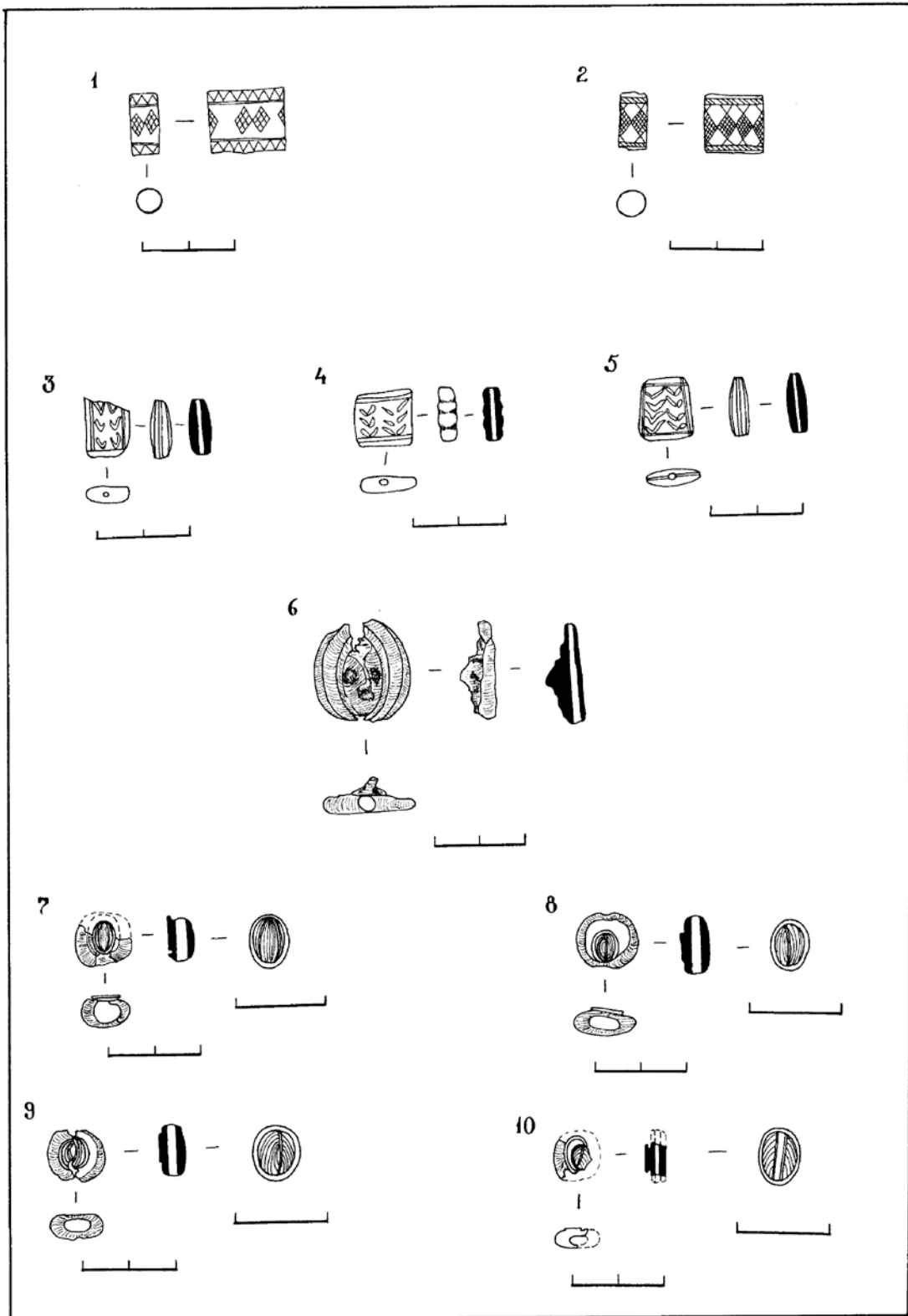


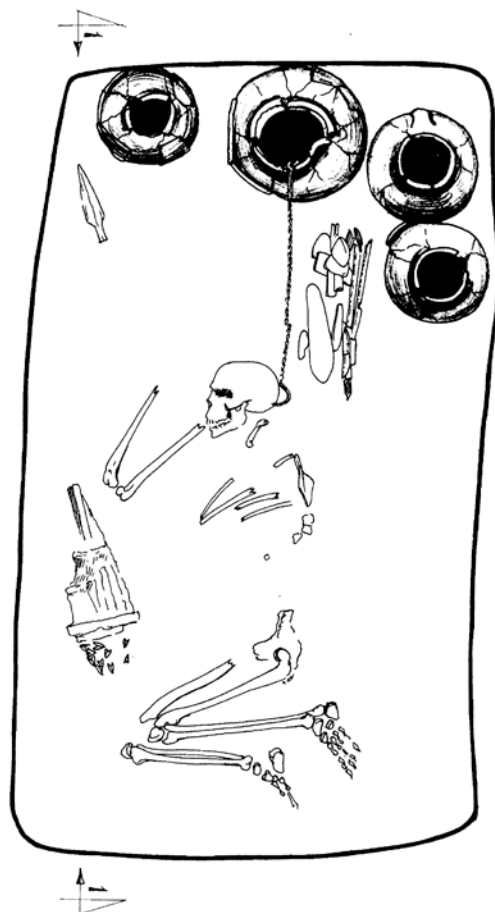


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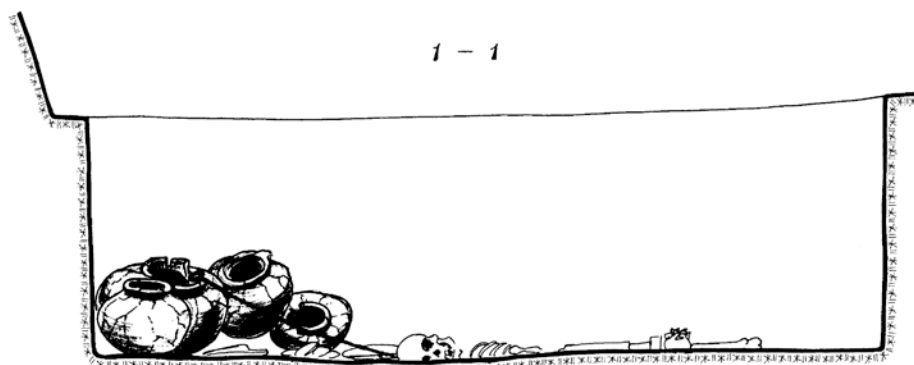


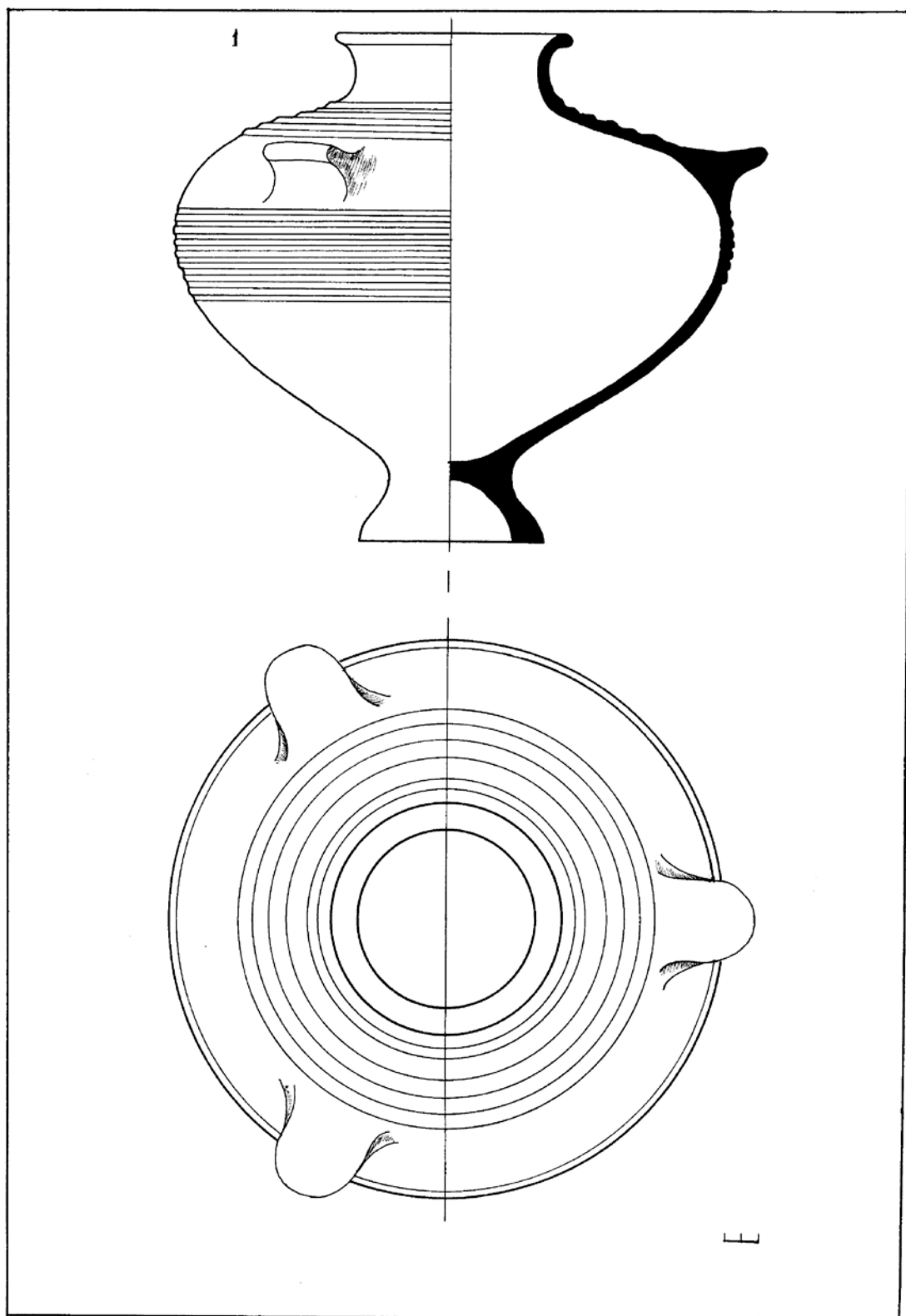


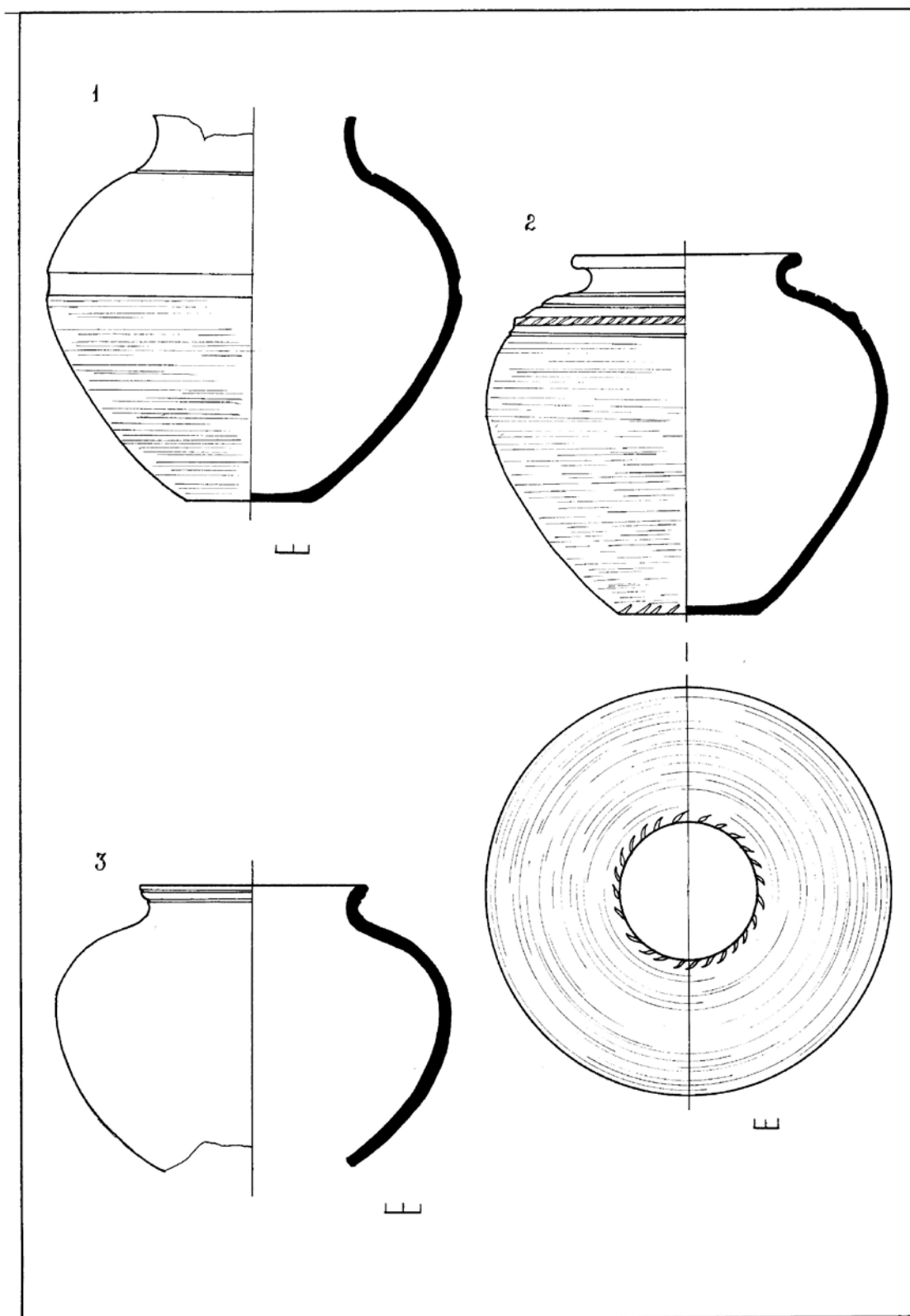


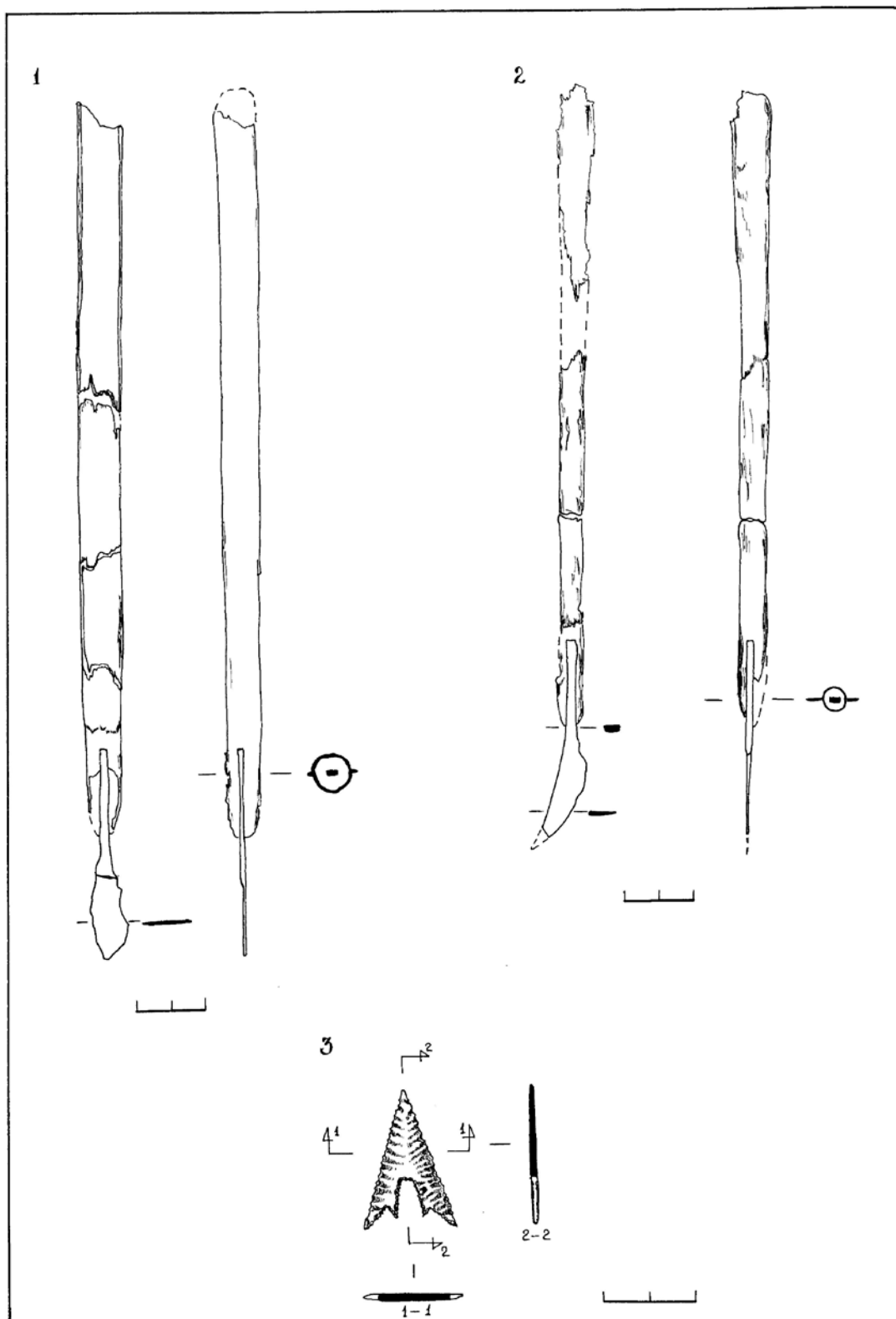


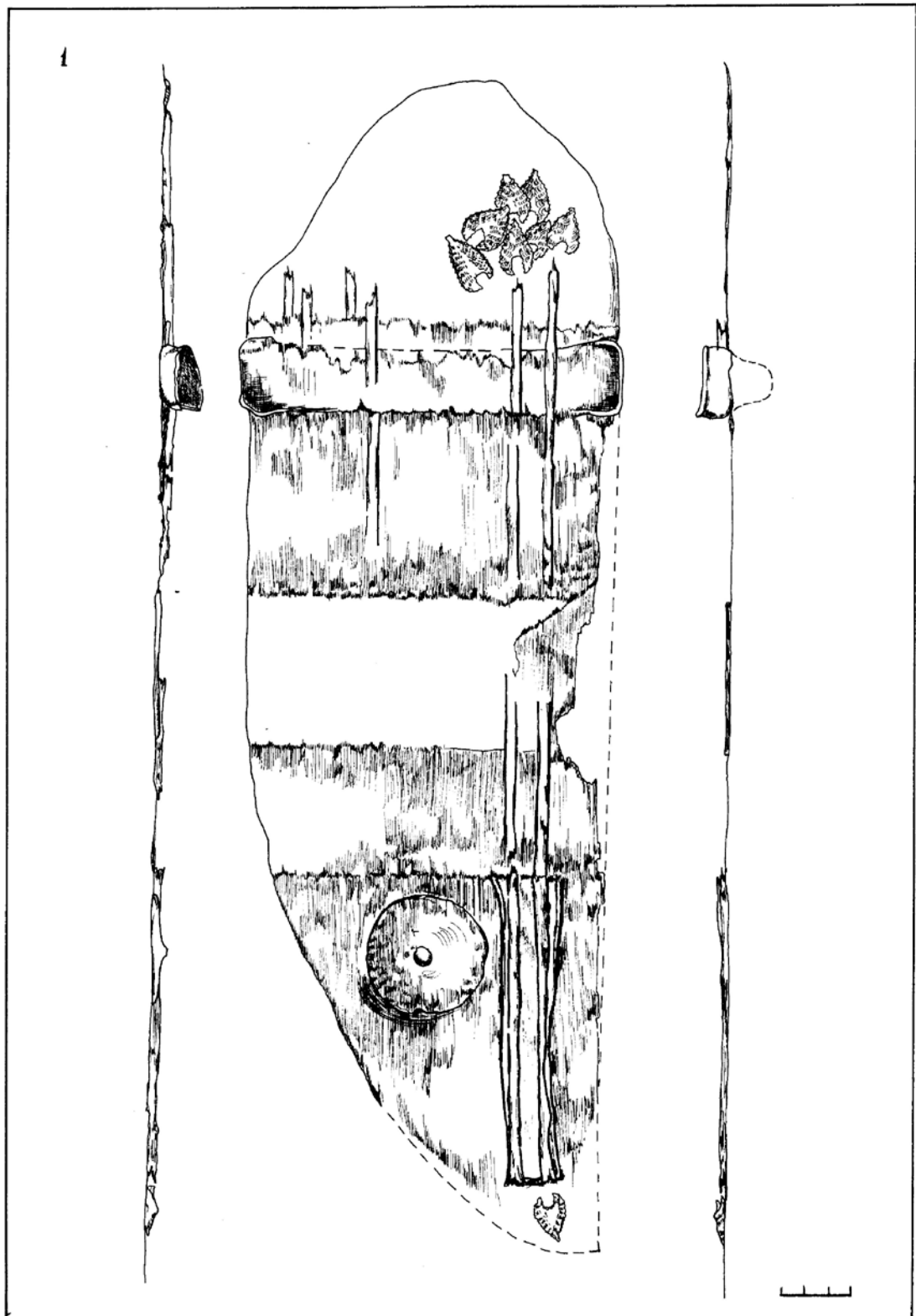
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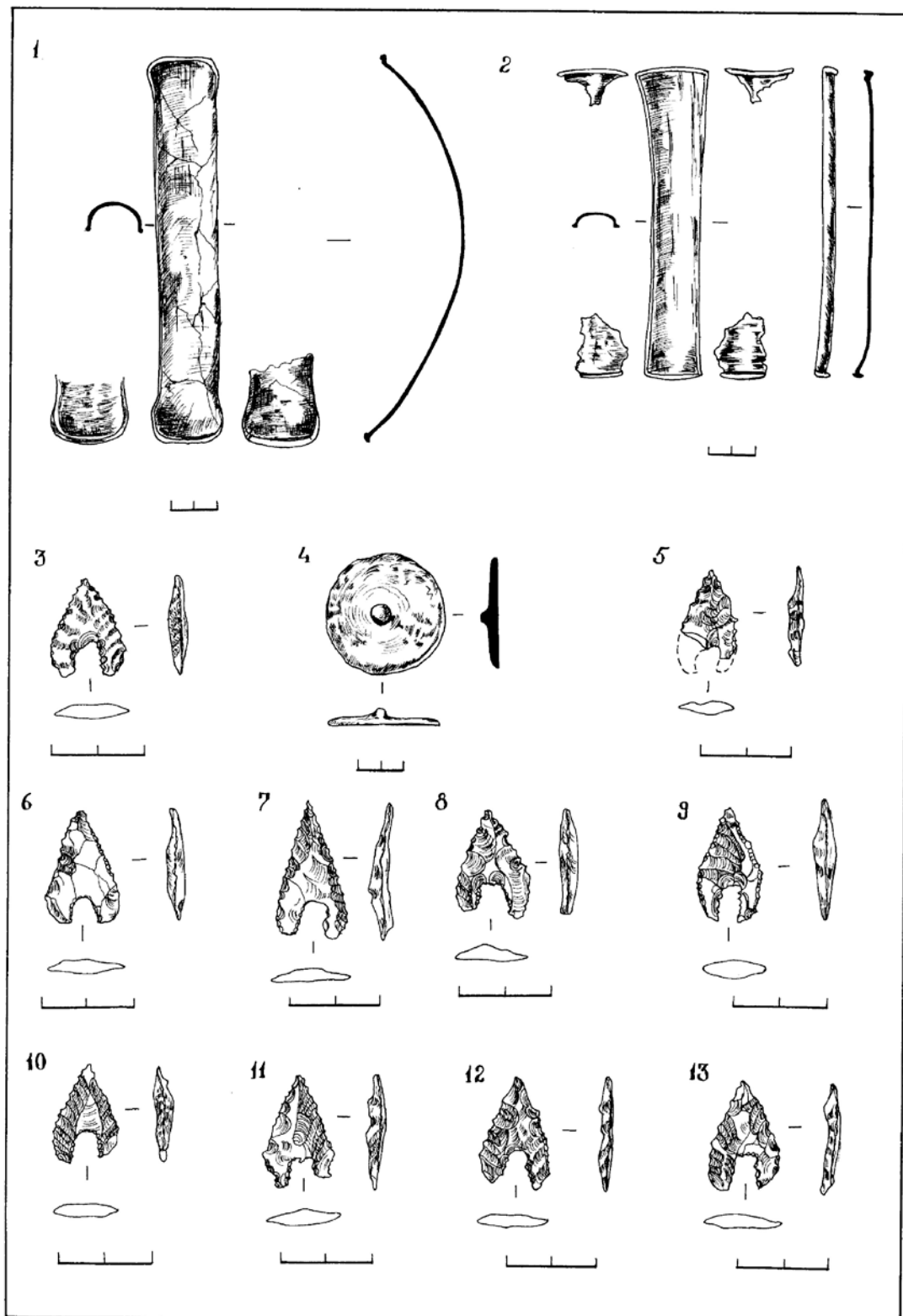


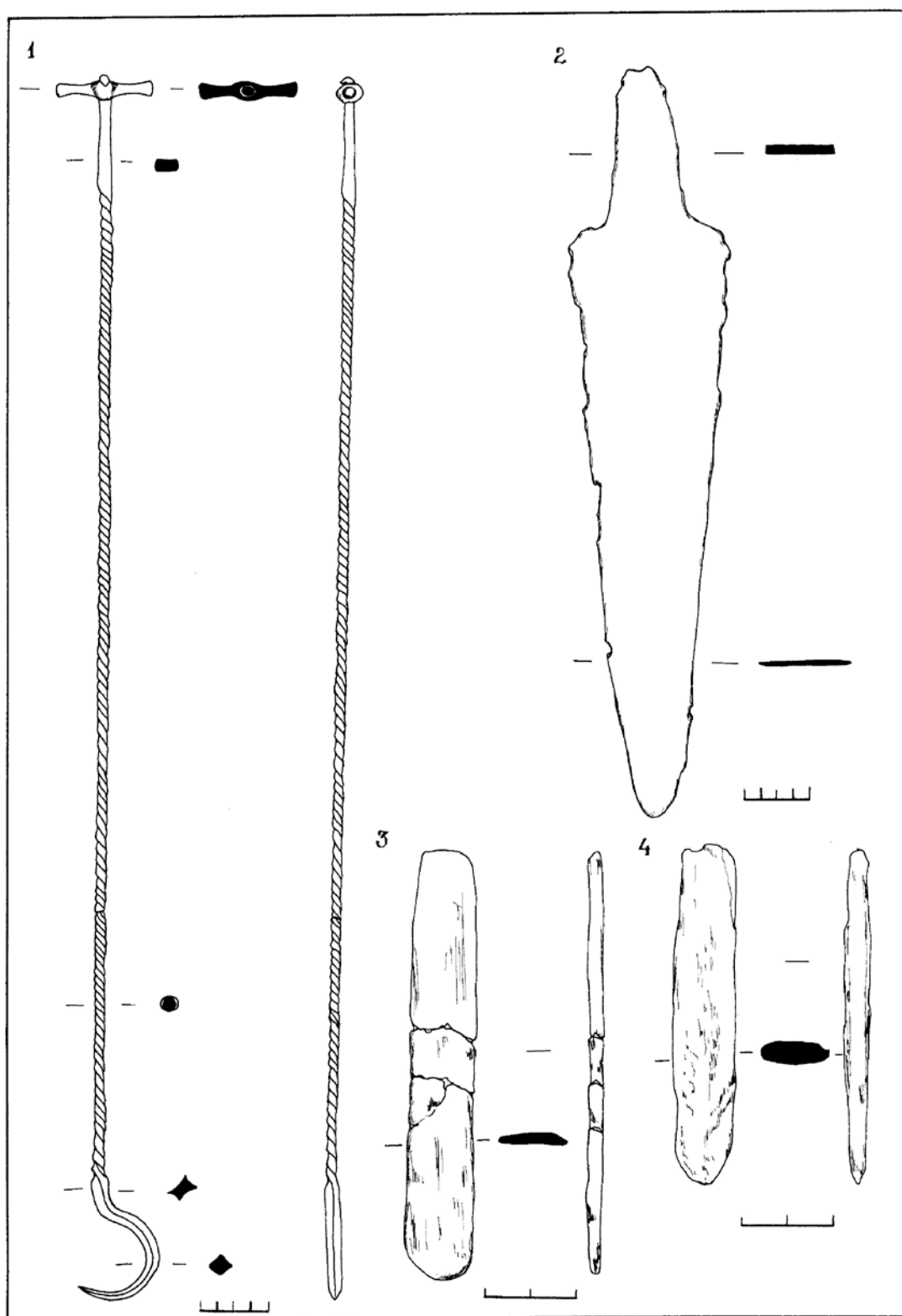


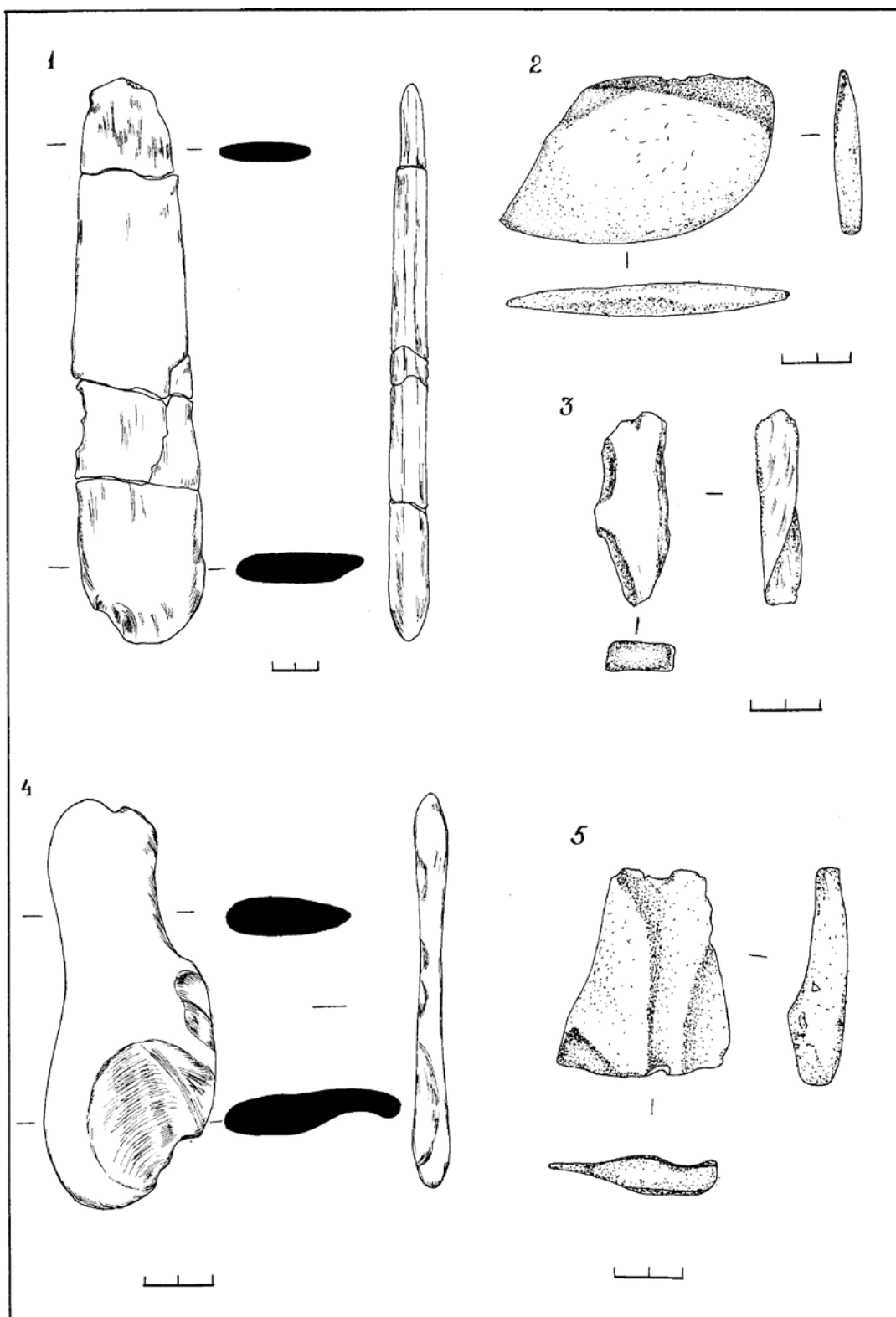


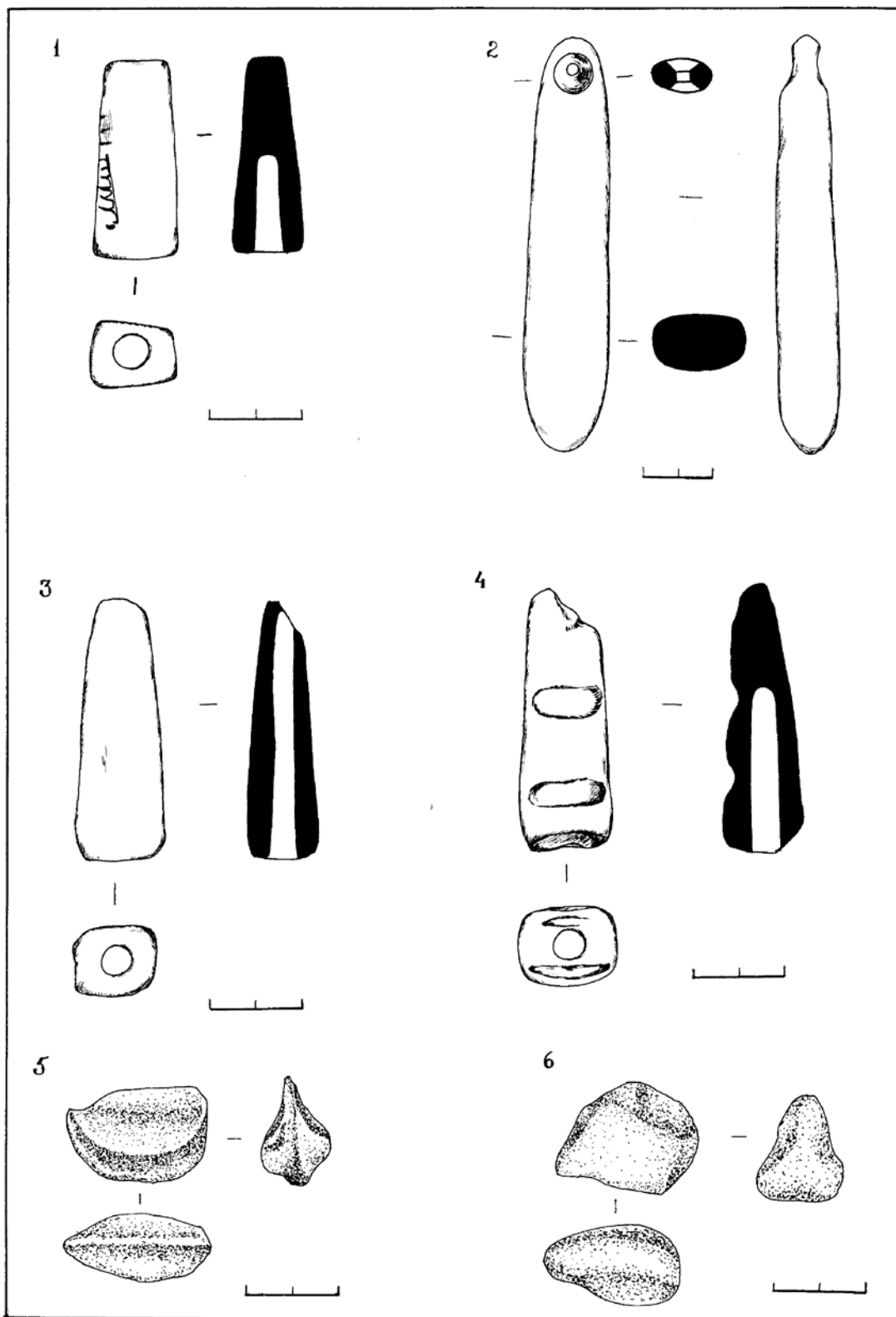


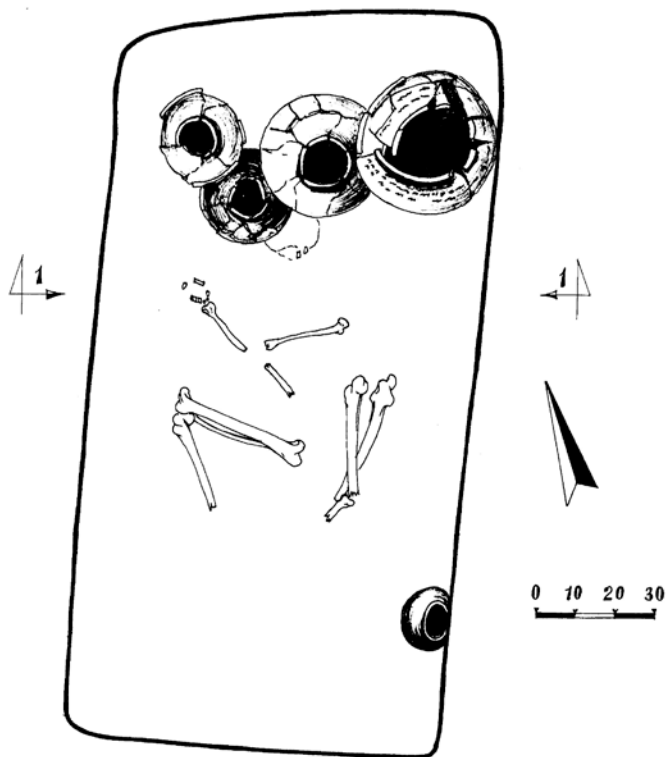




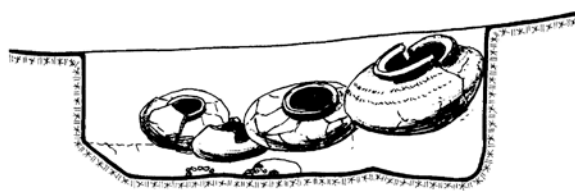


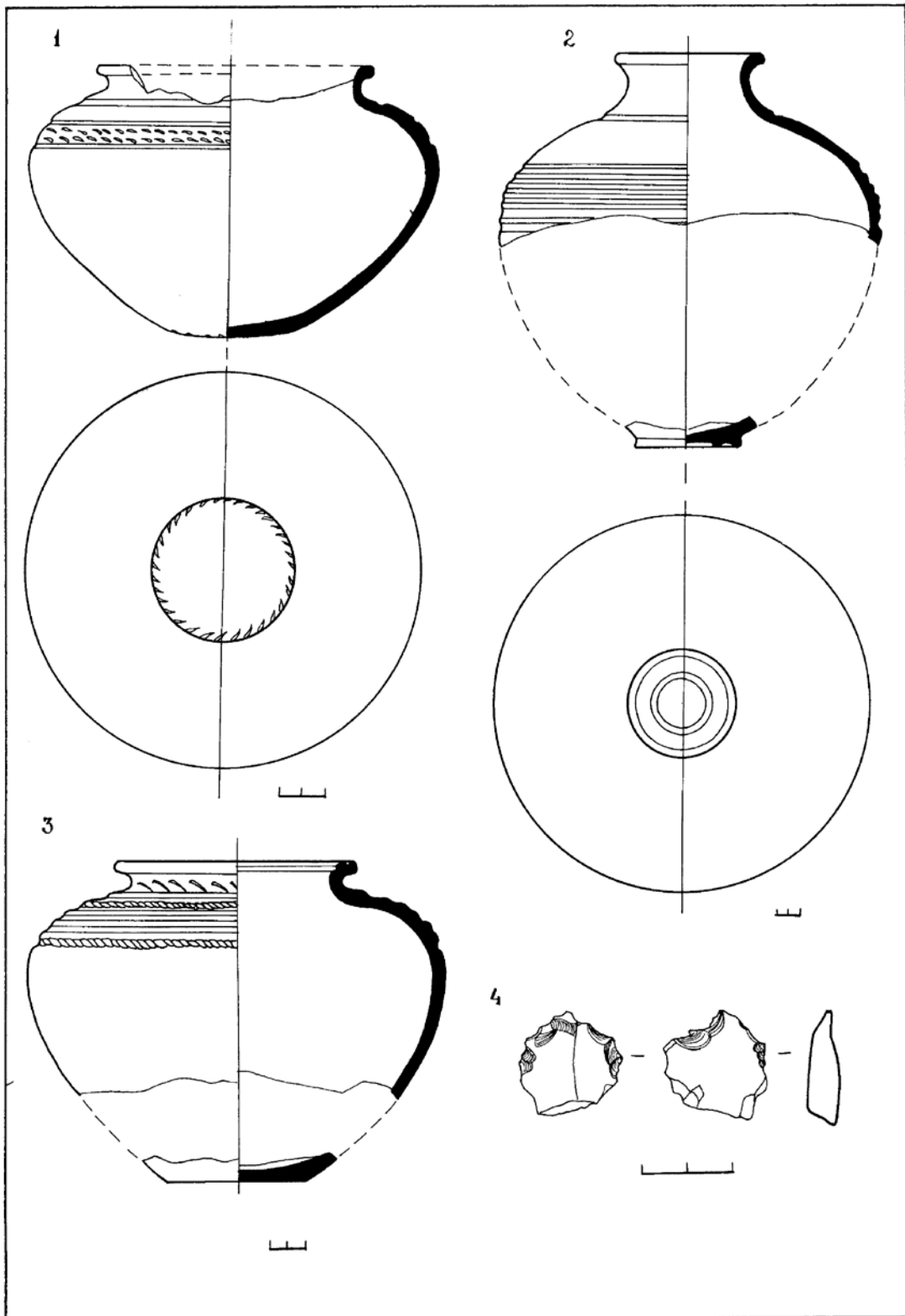


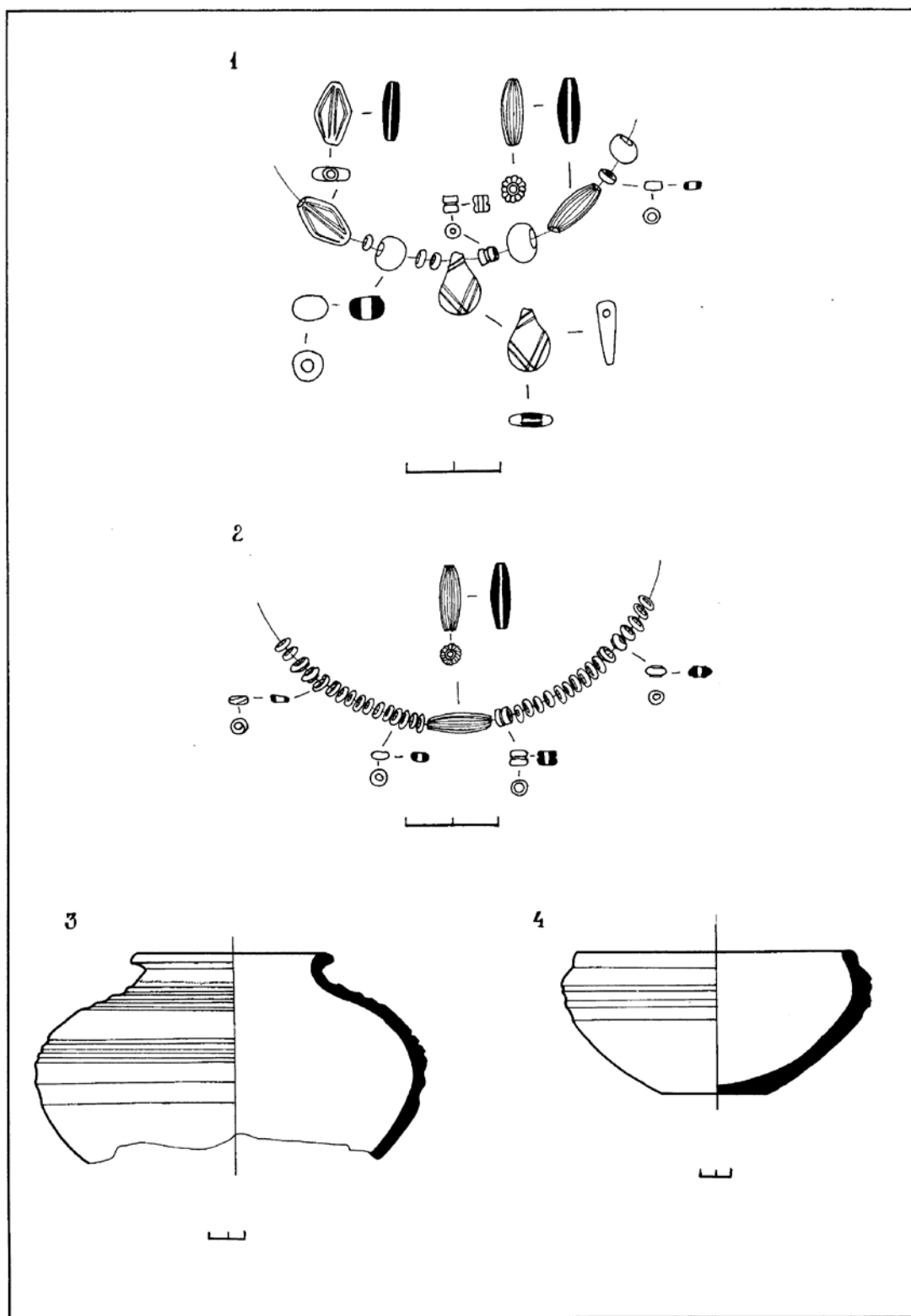


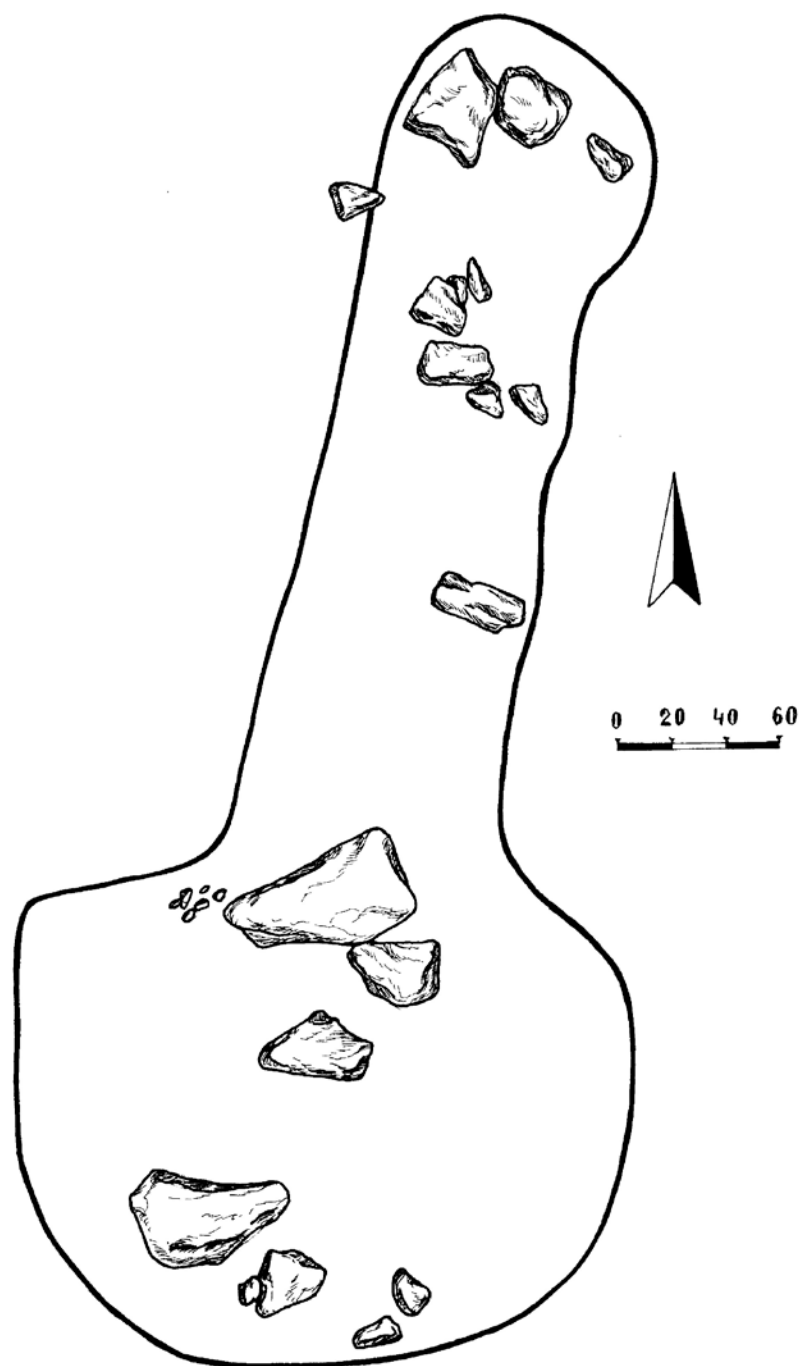


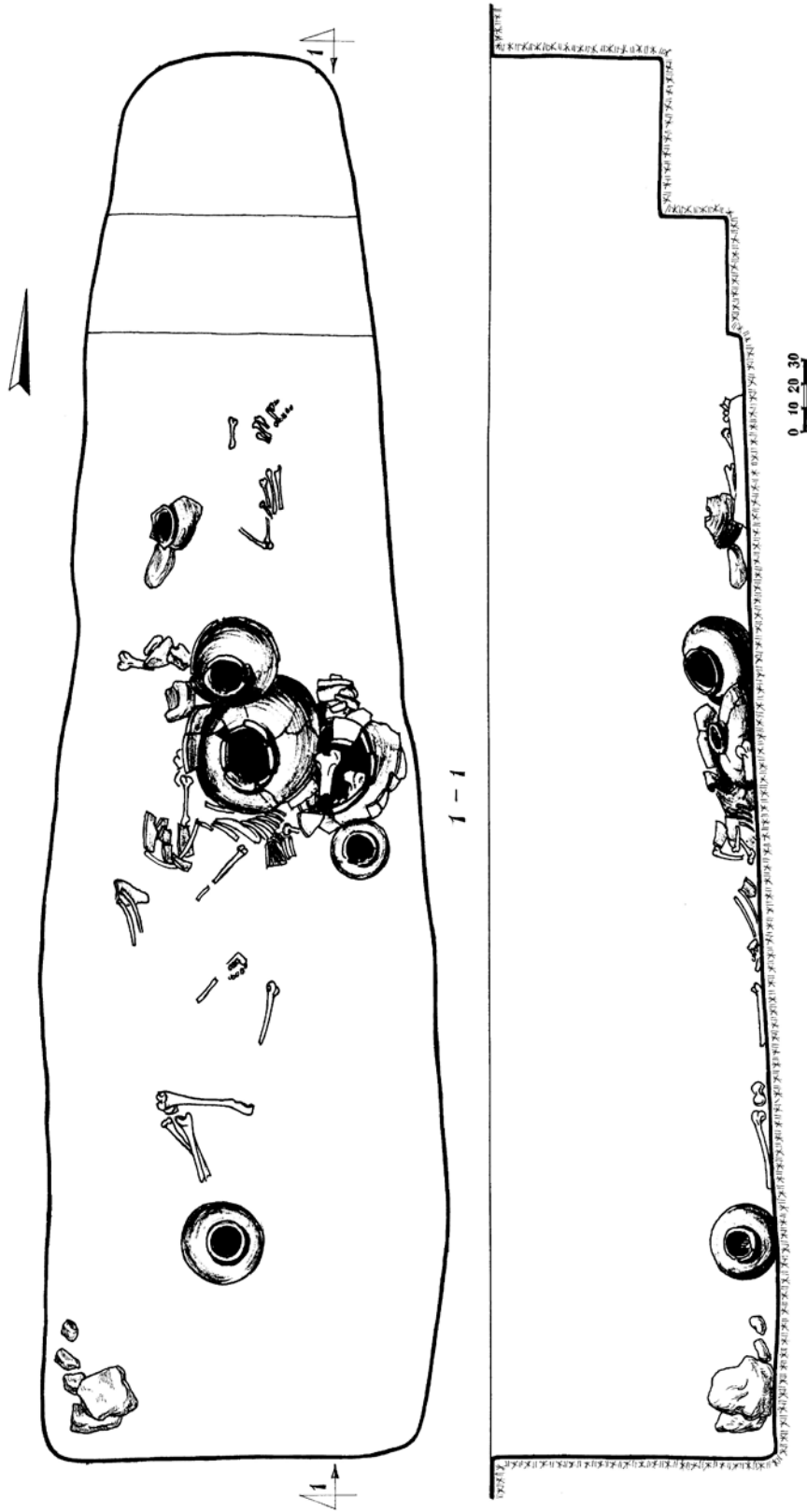
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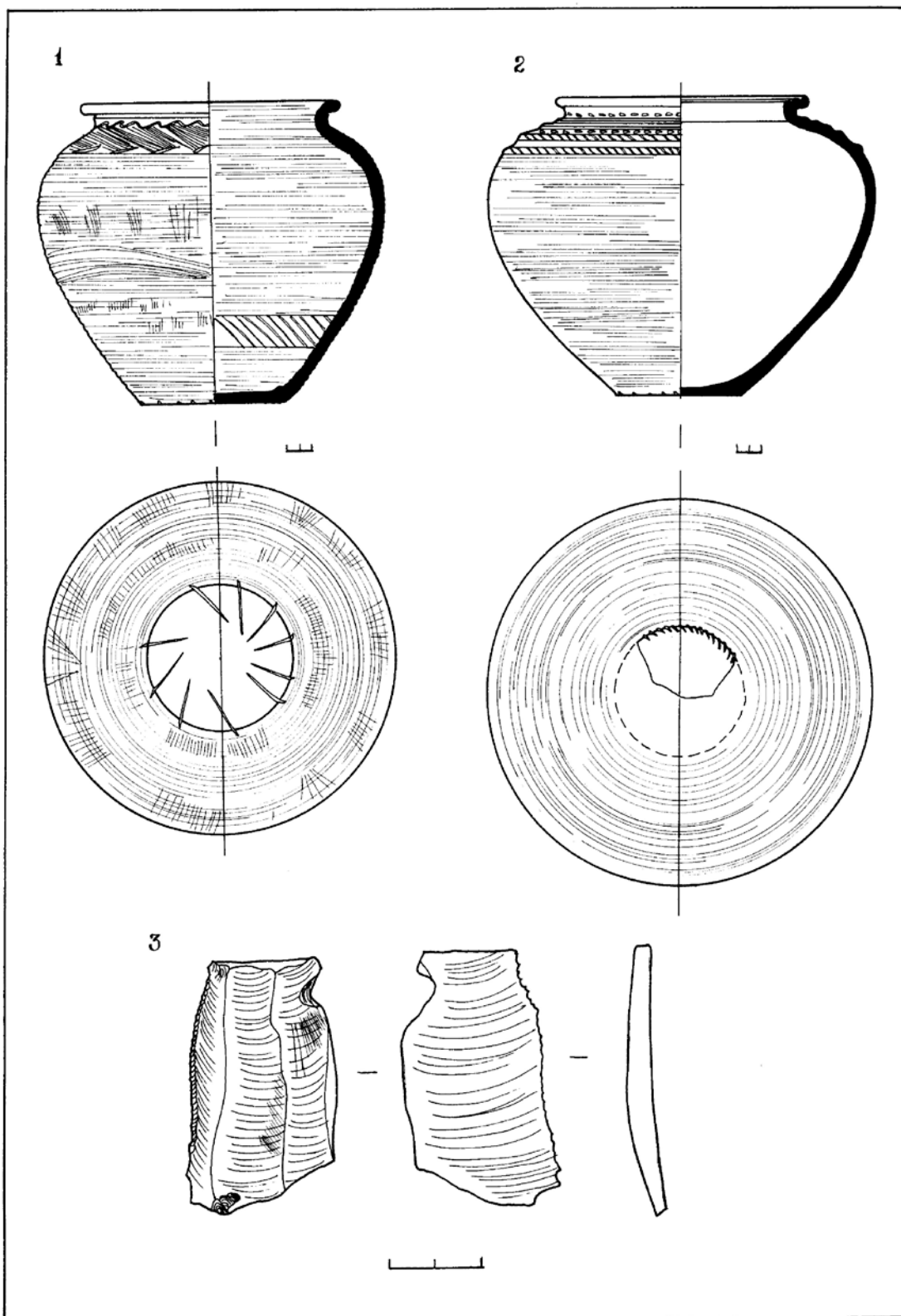


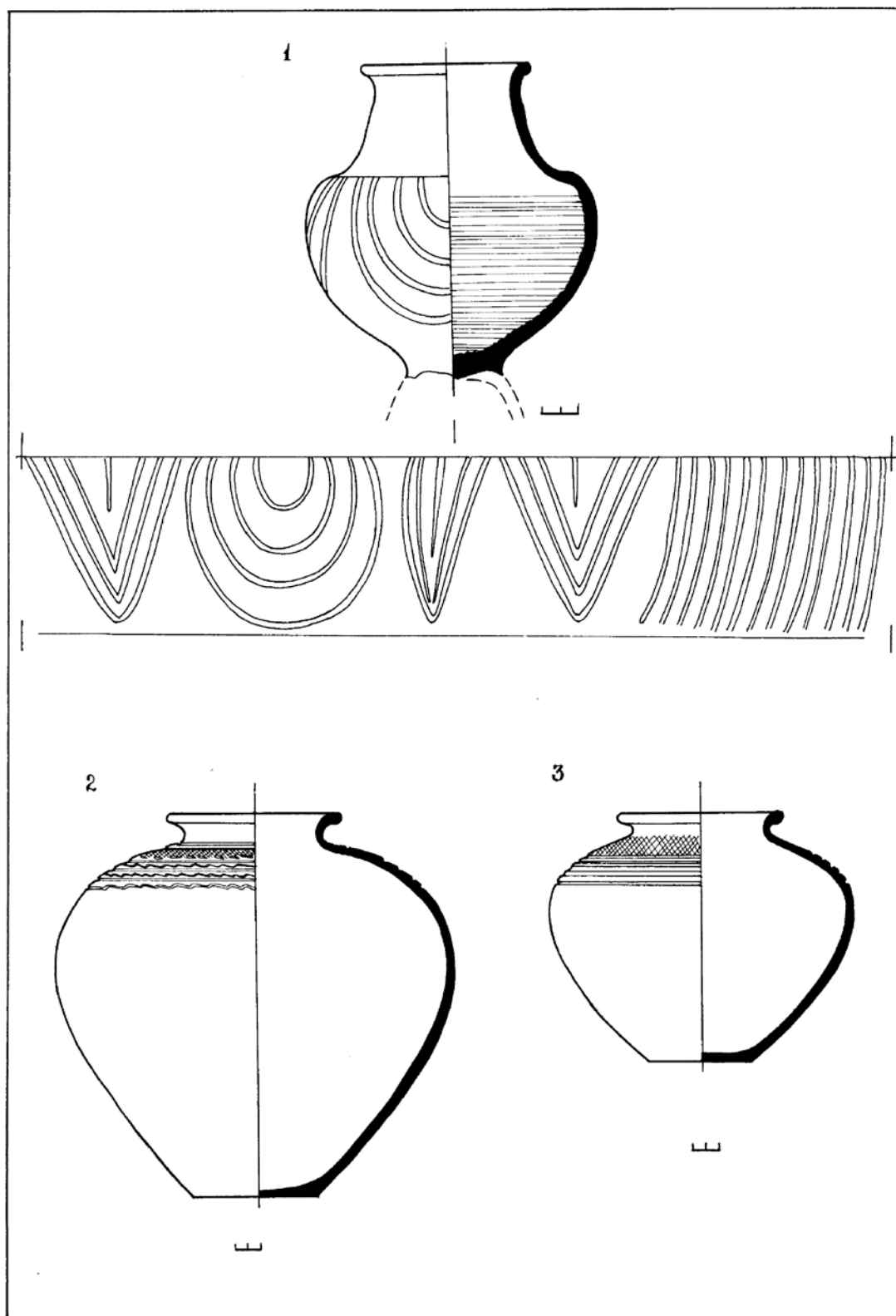


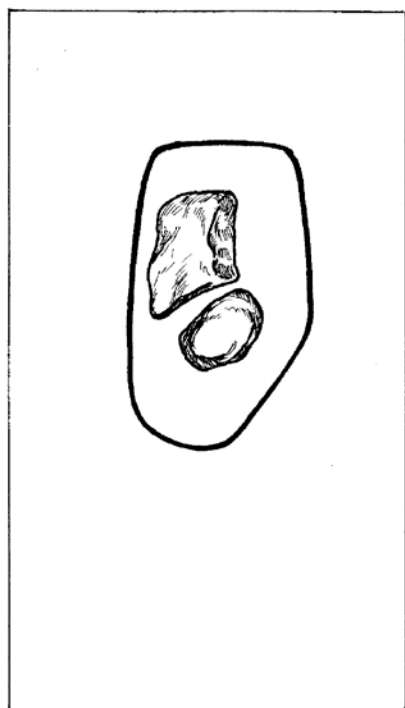




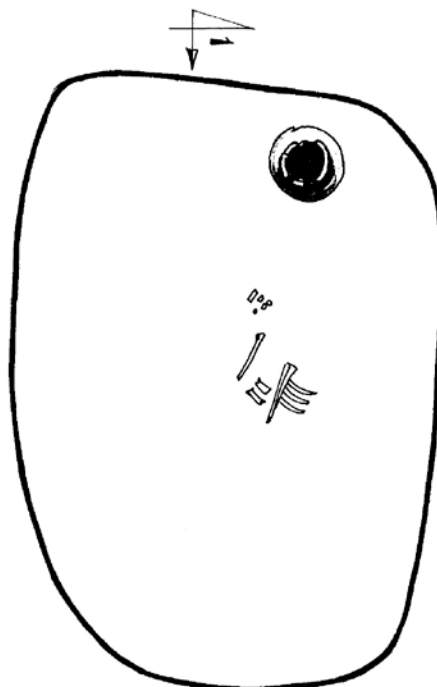






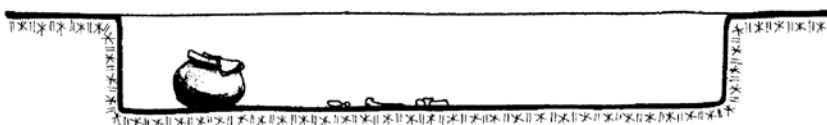


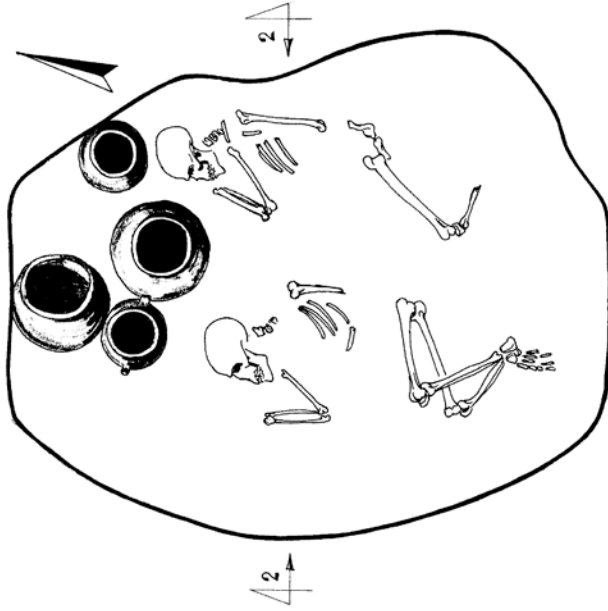
0 20 40 60



0 10 20 30

1 - 1

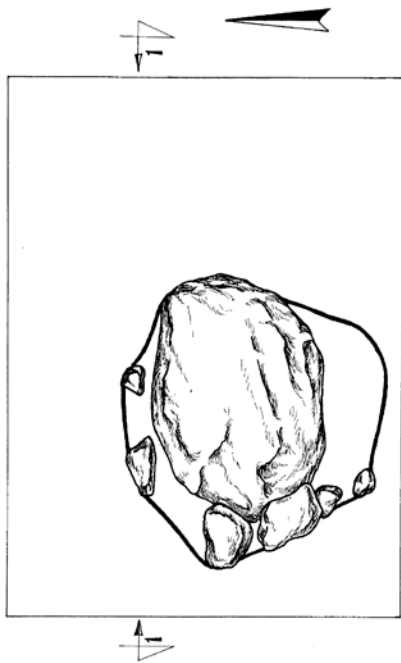




2 - 2



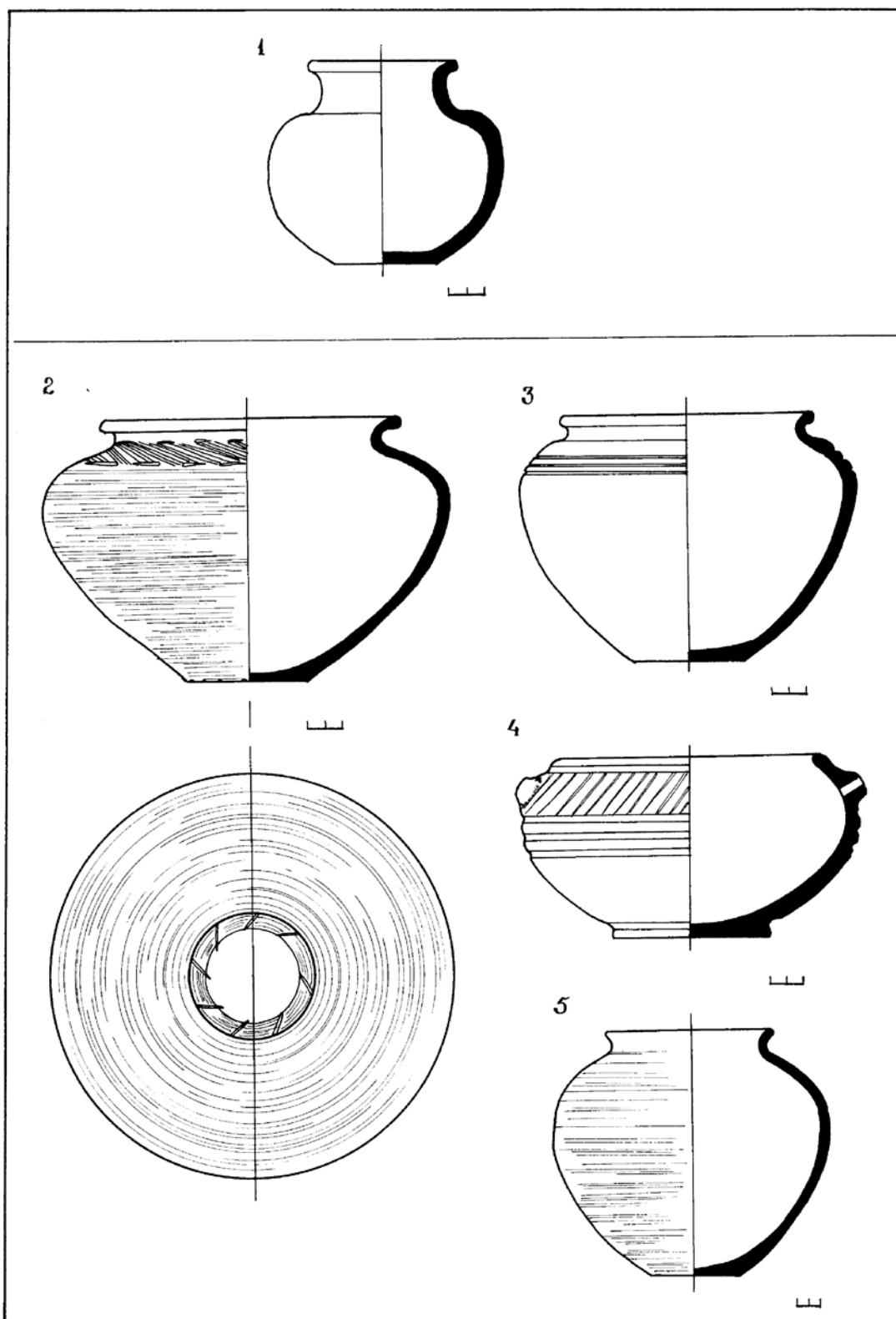
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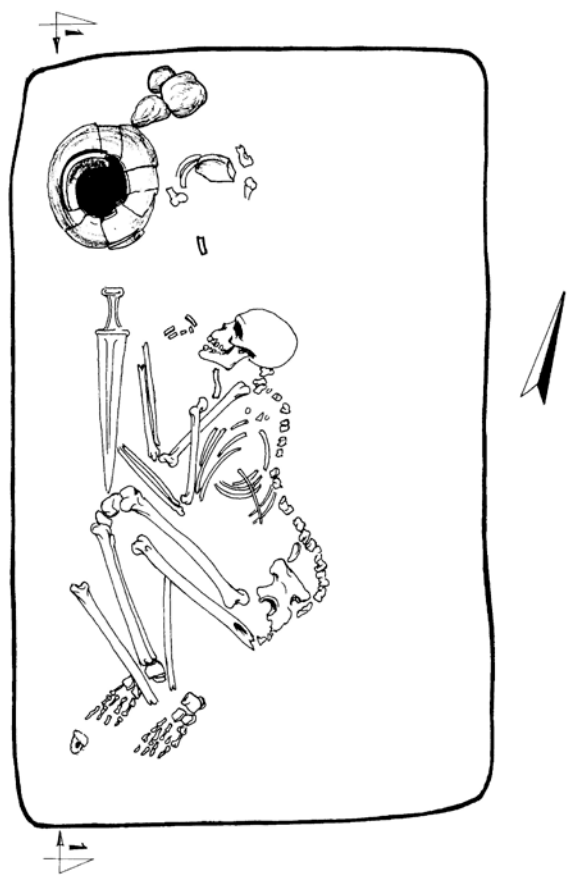


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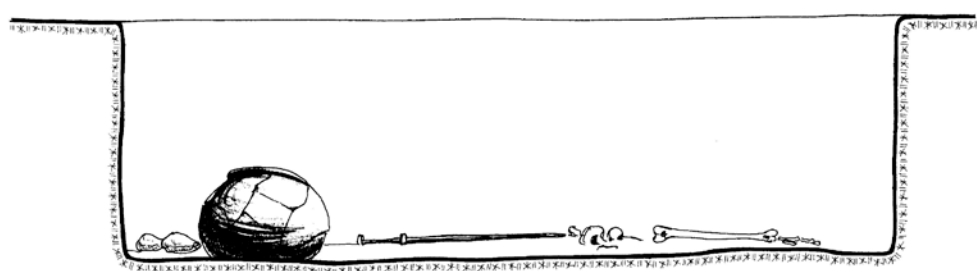


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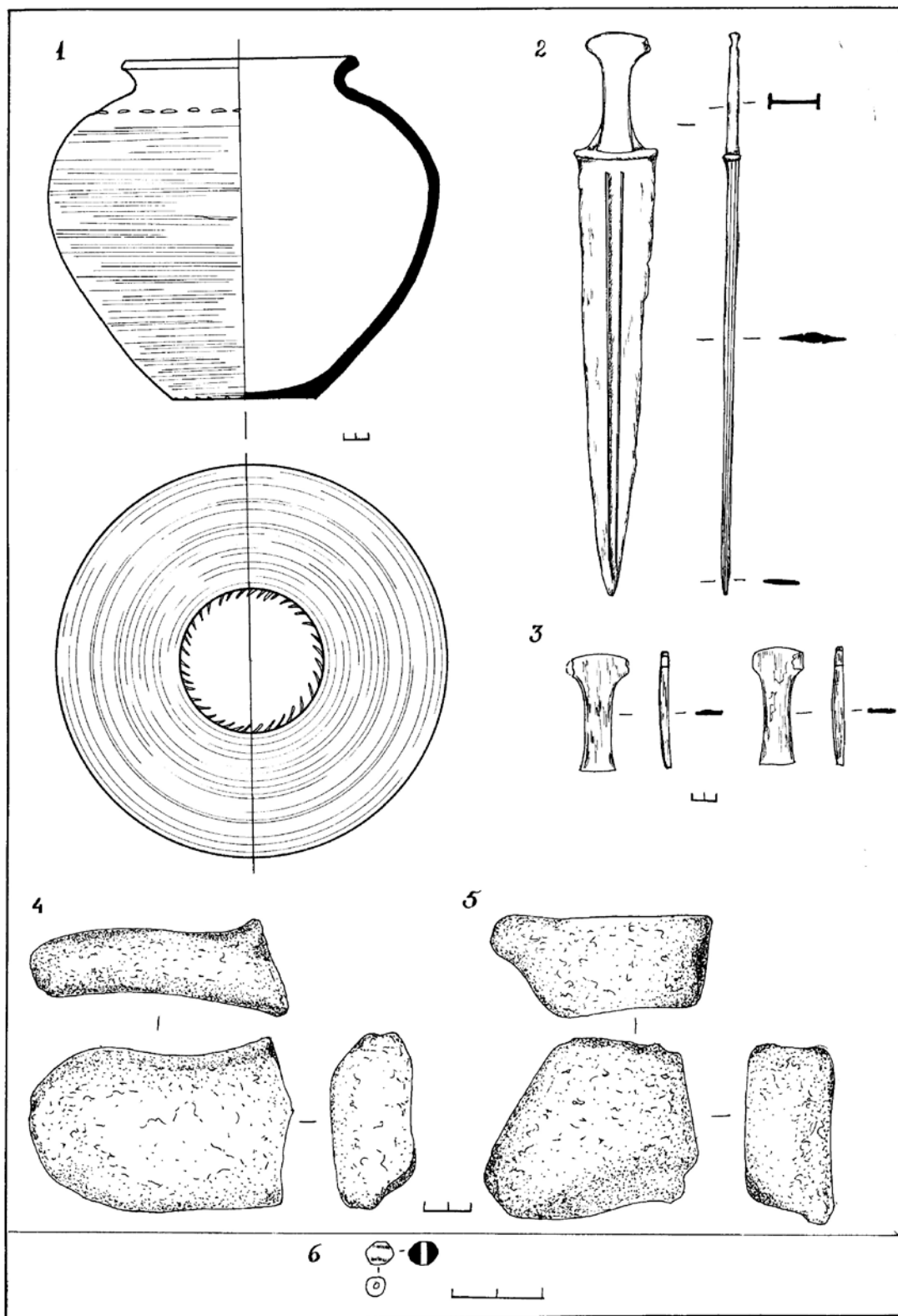


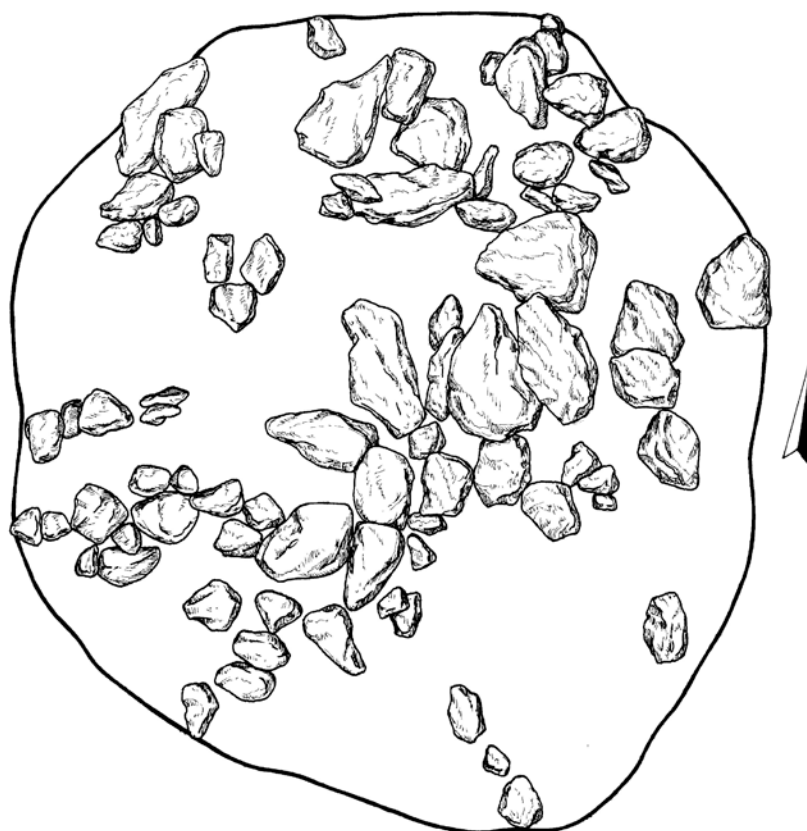


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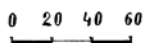
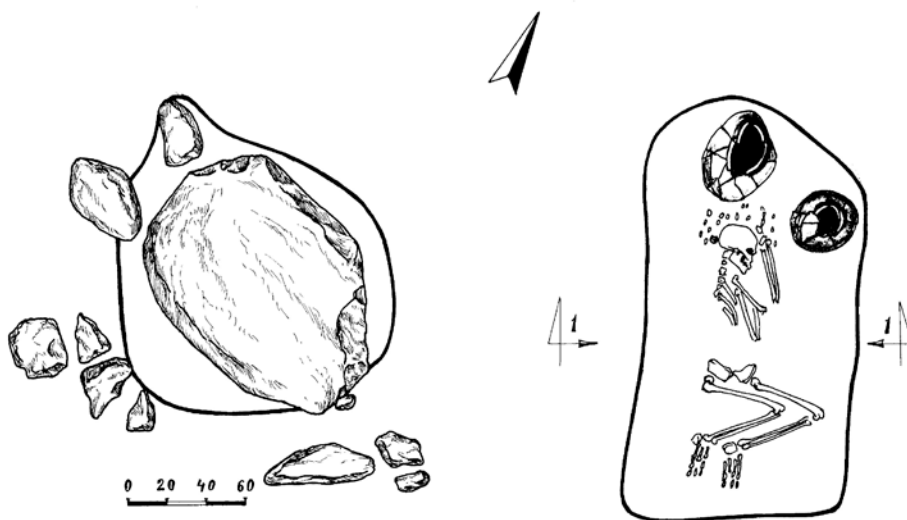
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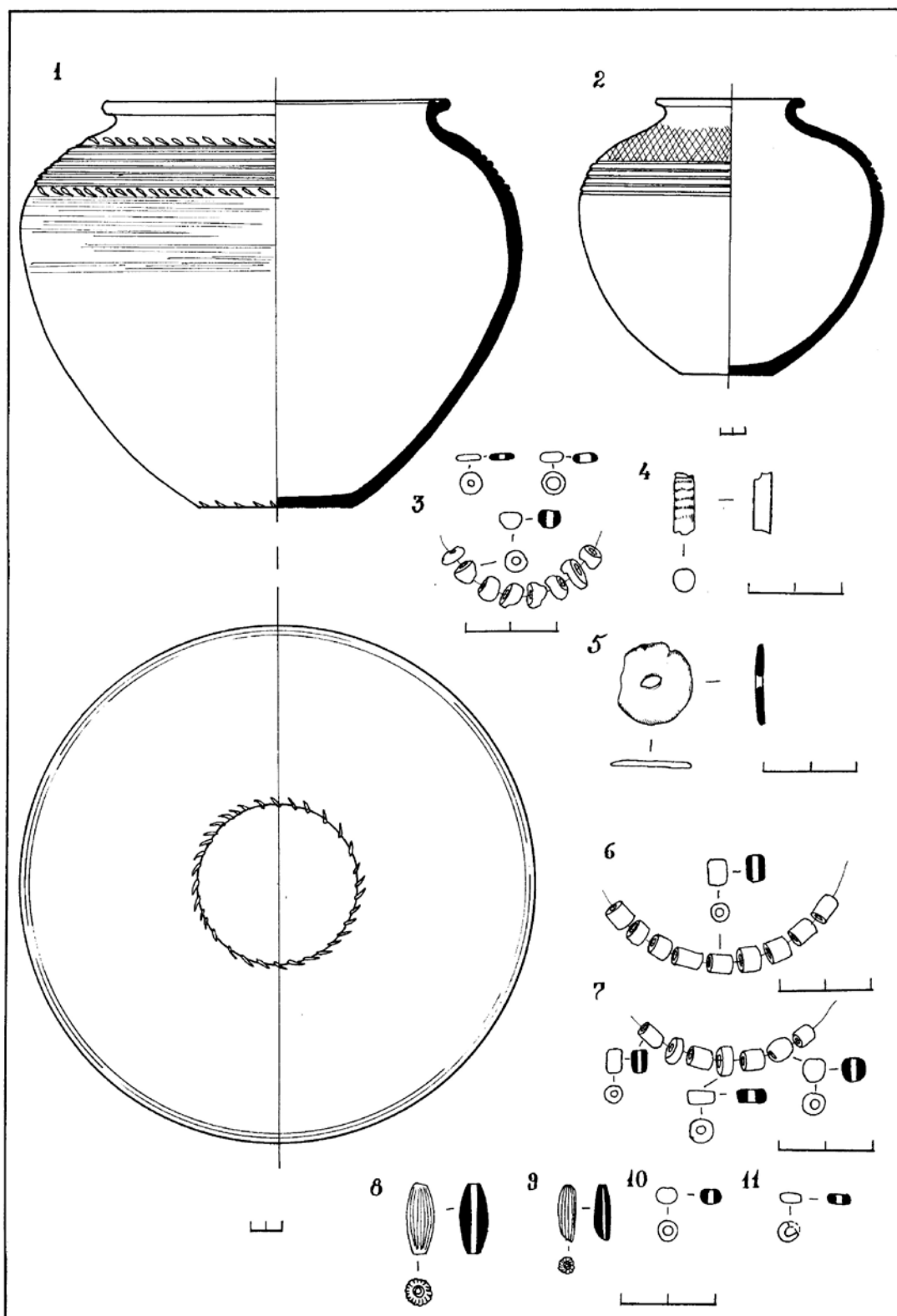
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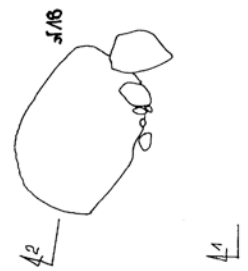
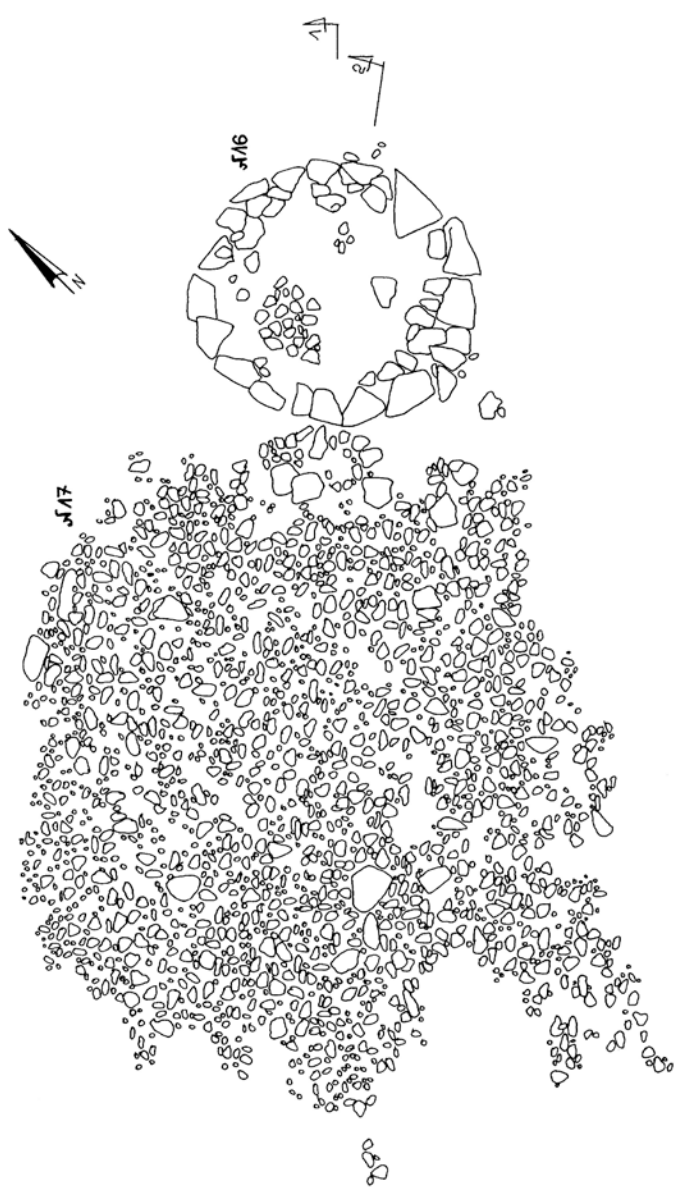
A horizontal scale bar with tick marks at 0, 10, 20, and 30 units.



1 - 1







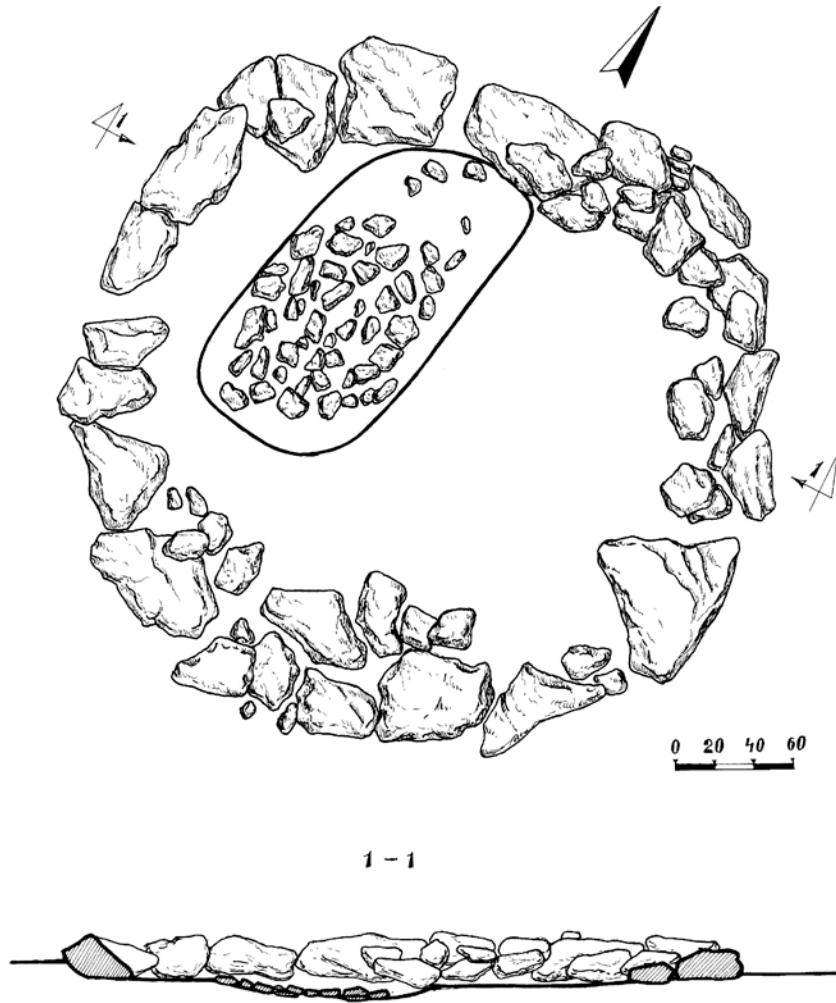
§фингалар 1-1

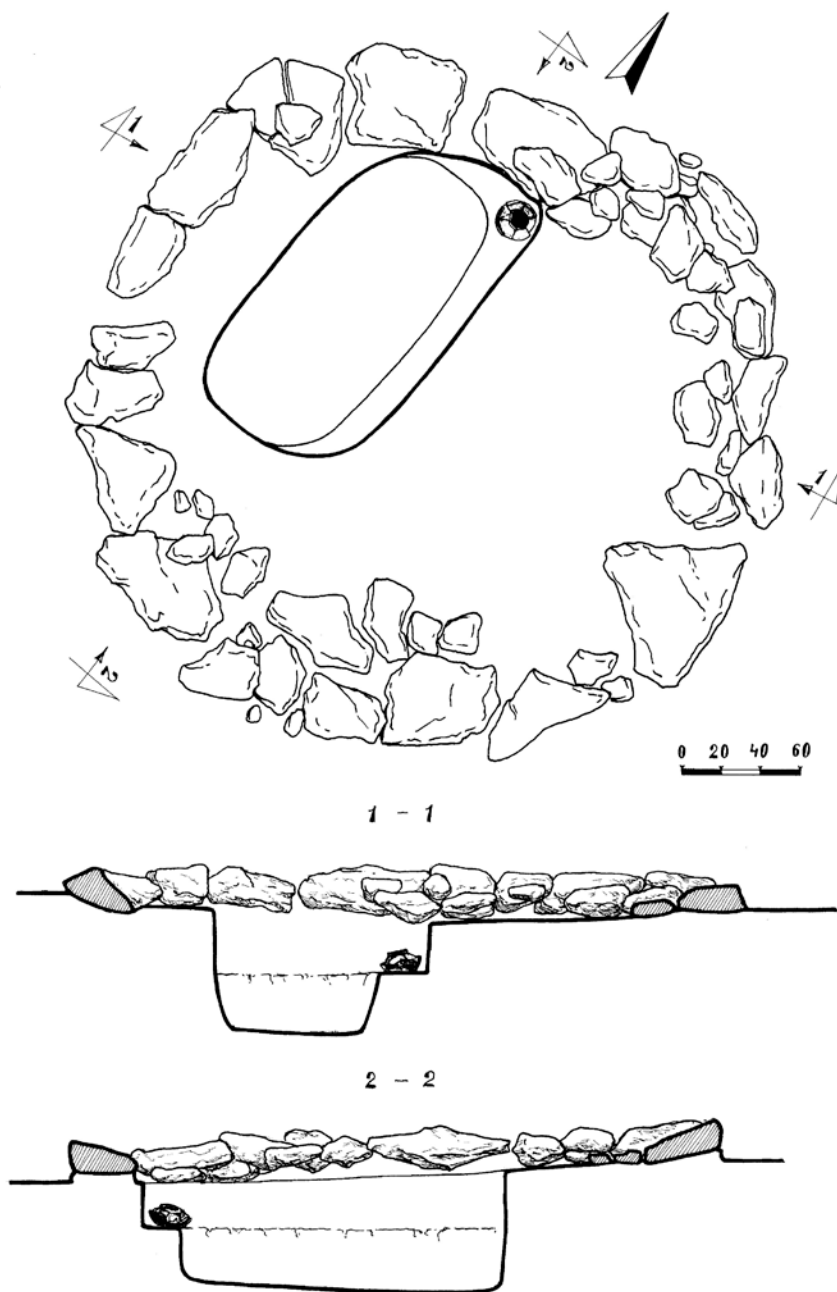


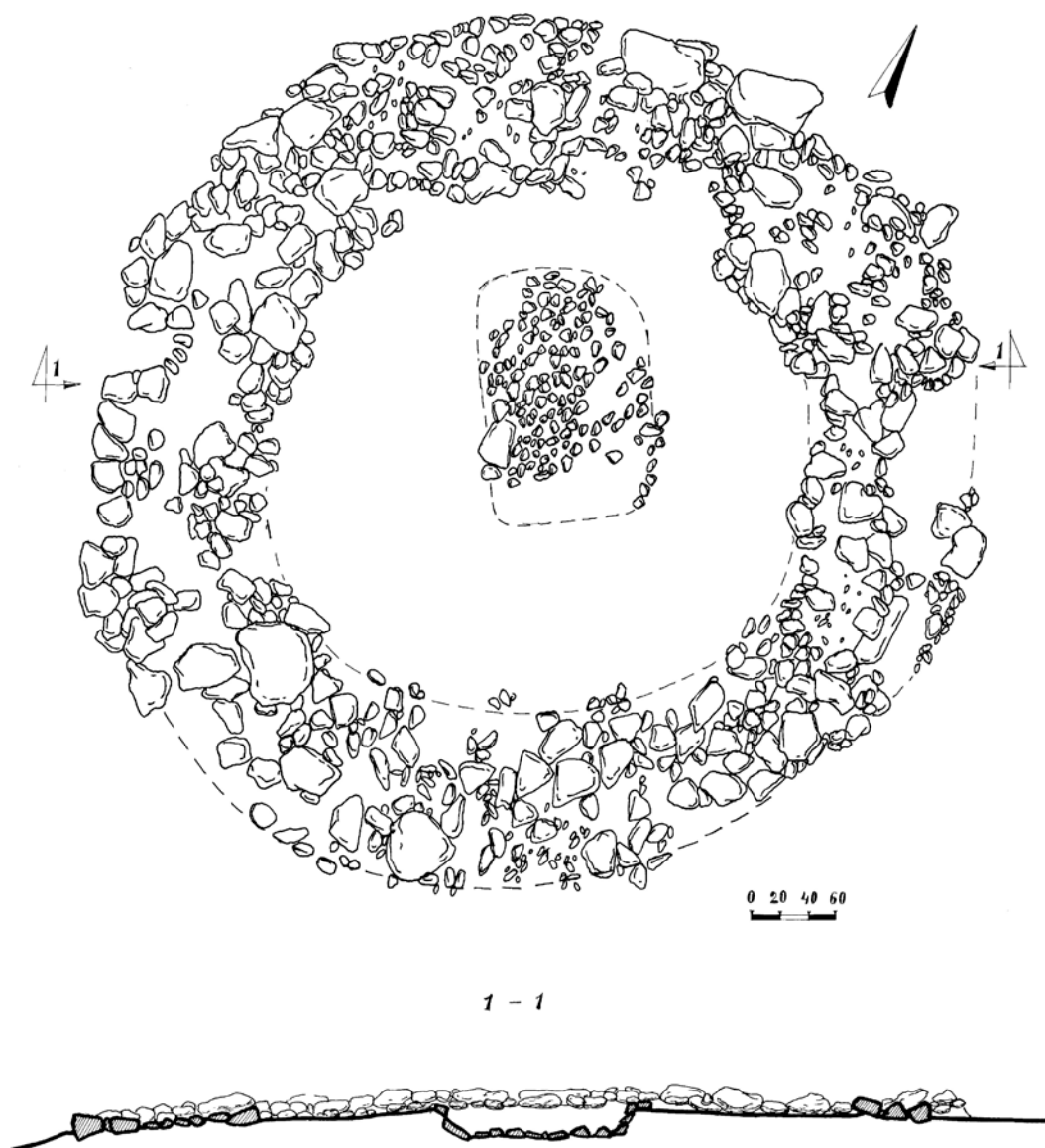
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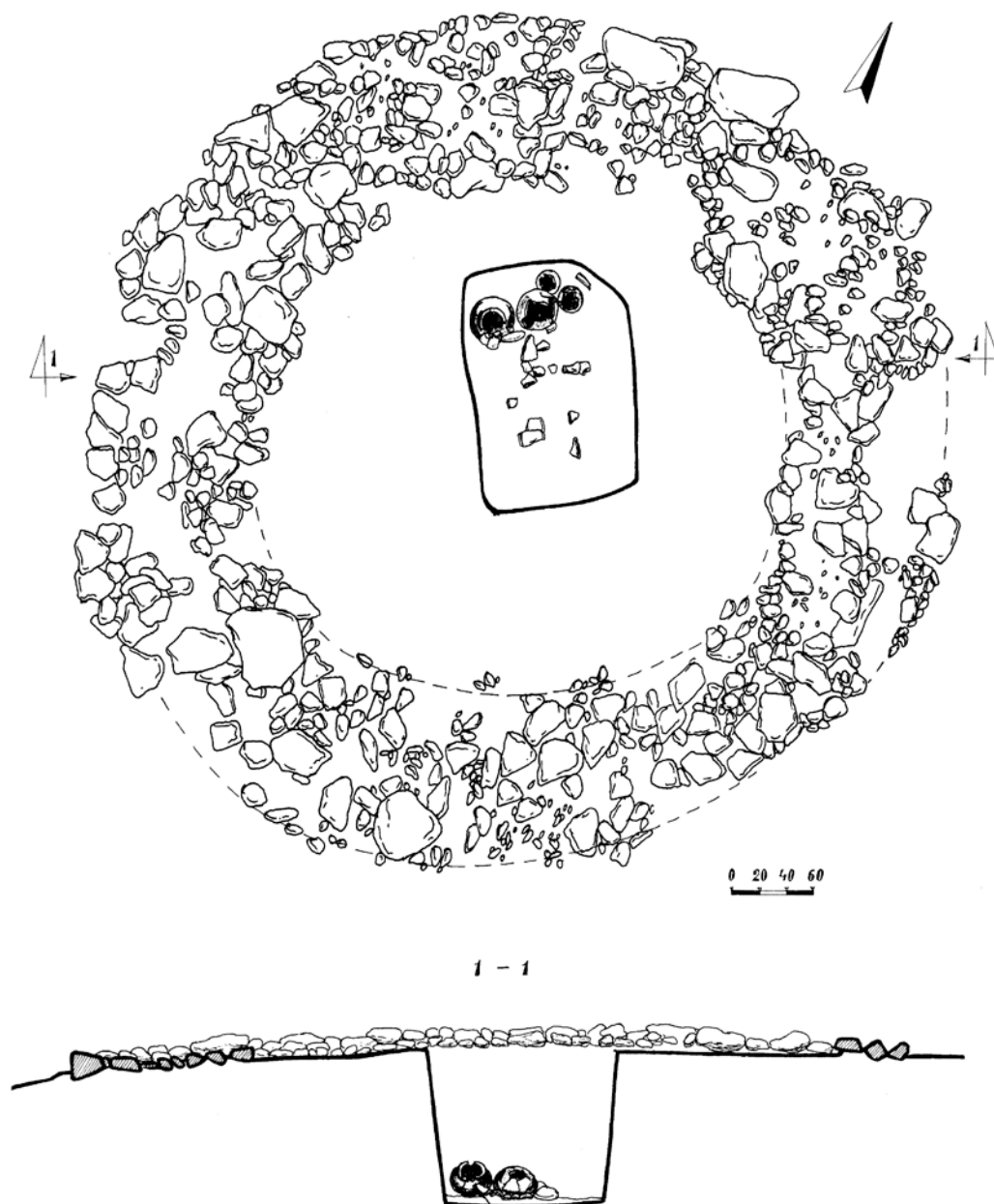


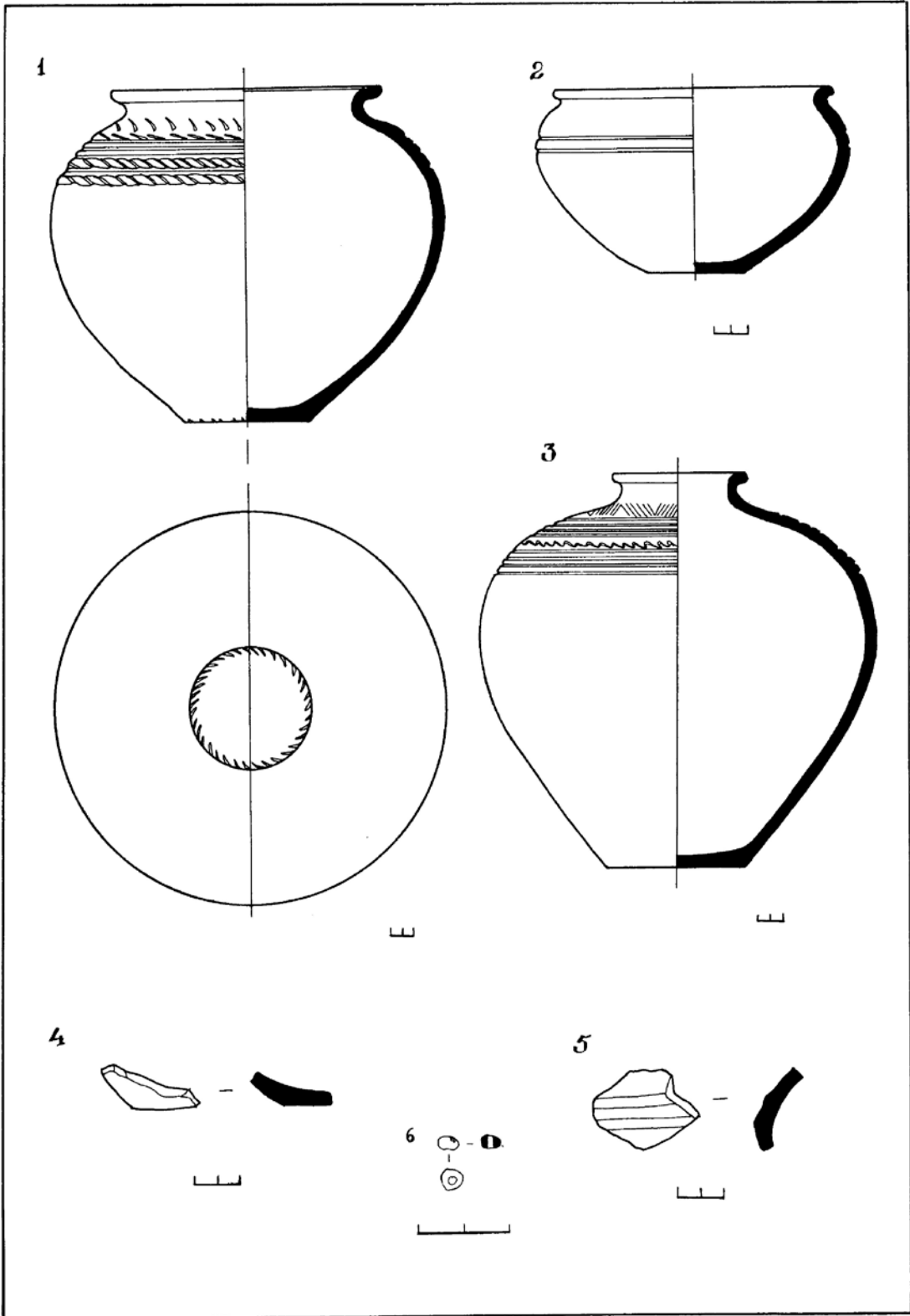
0 1 2 3 4 5 м

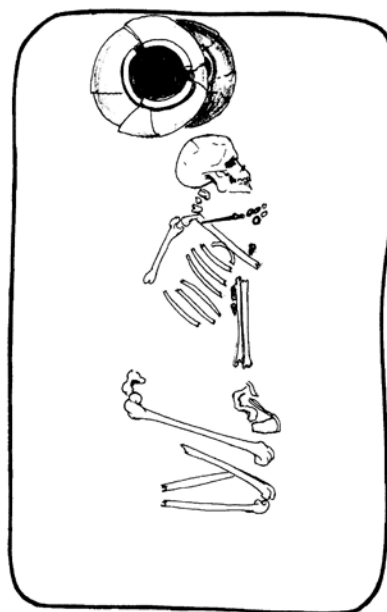
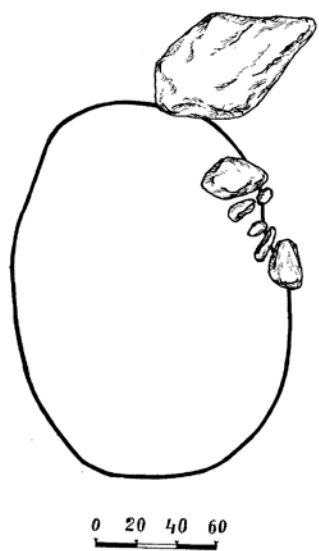




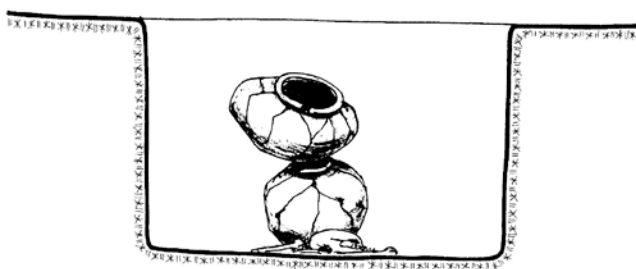


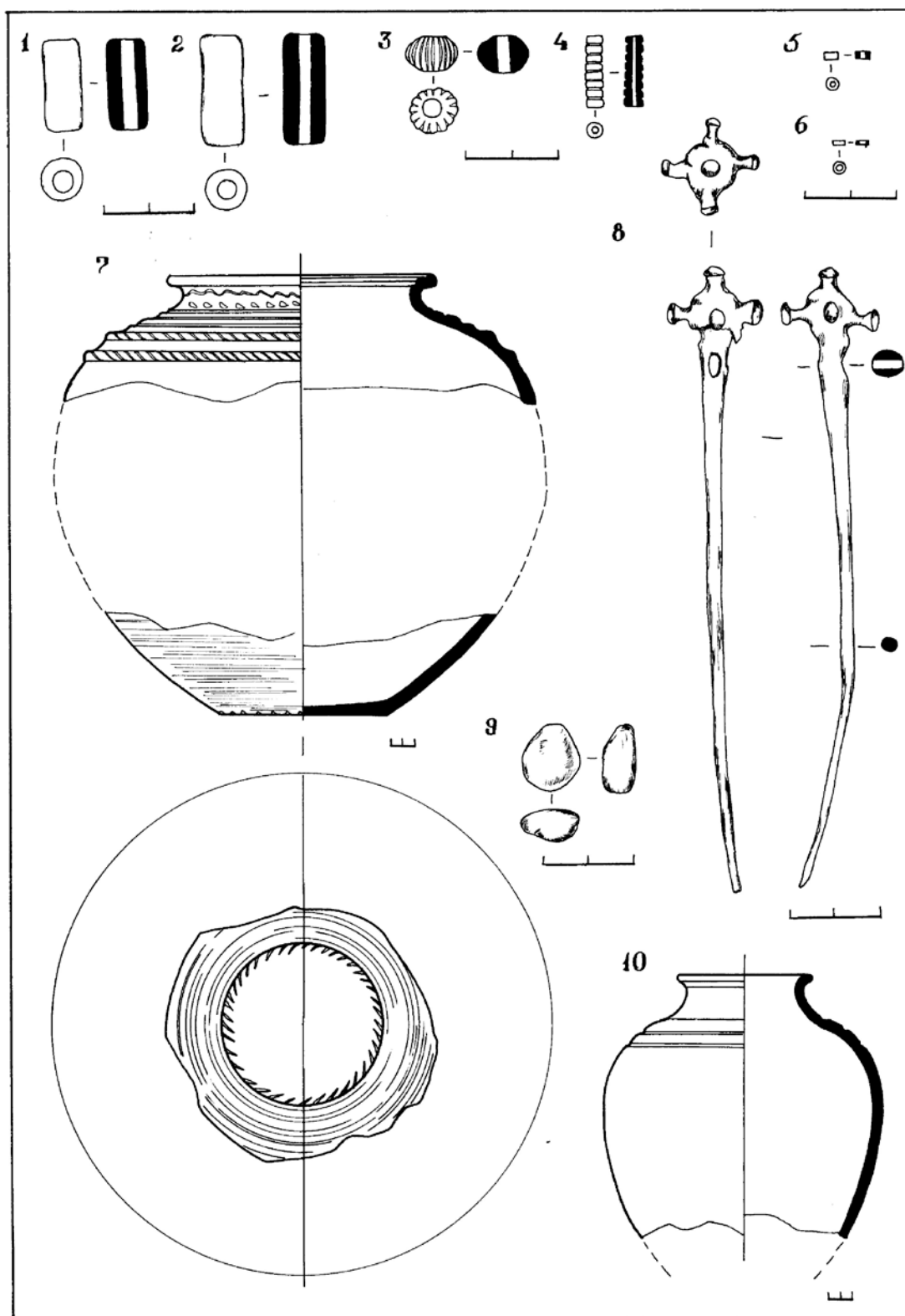


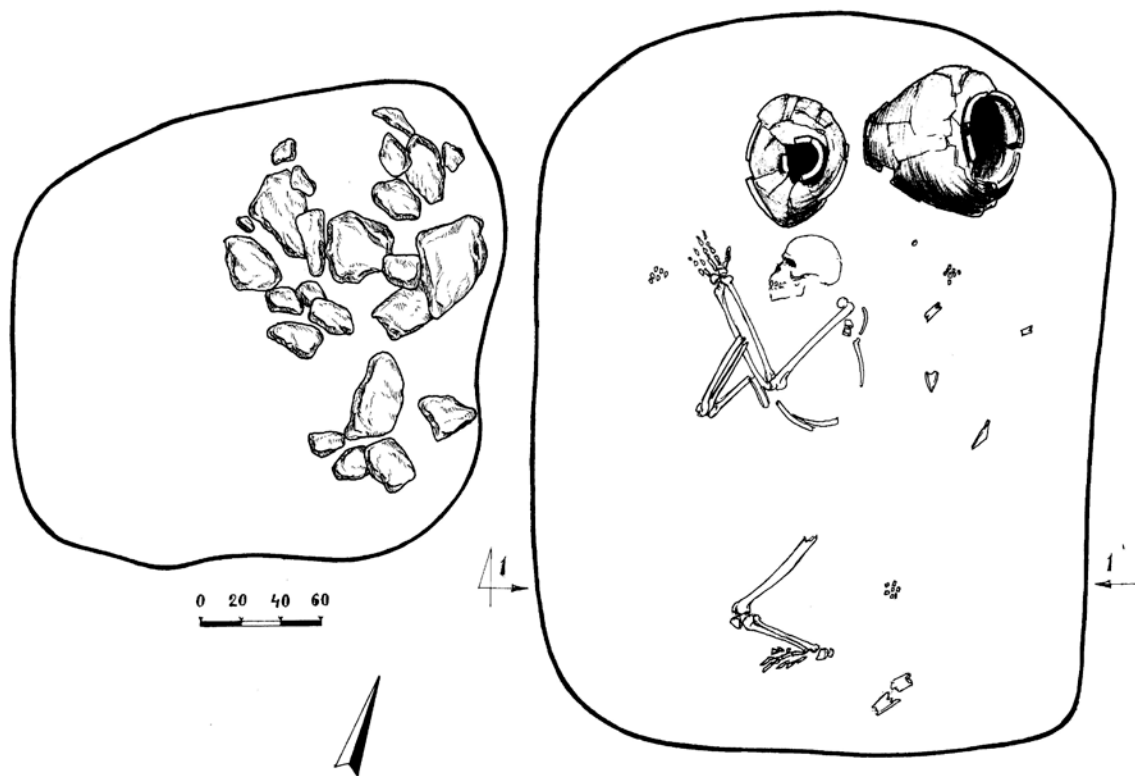




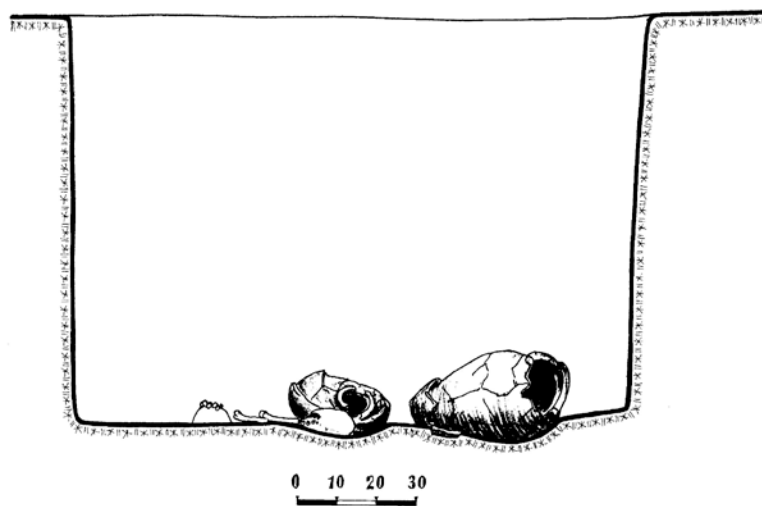
1 - 1

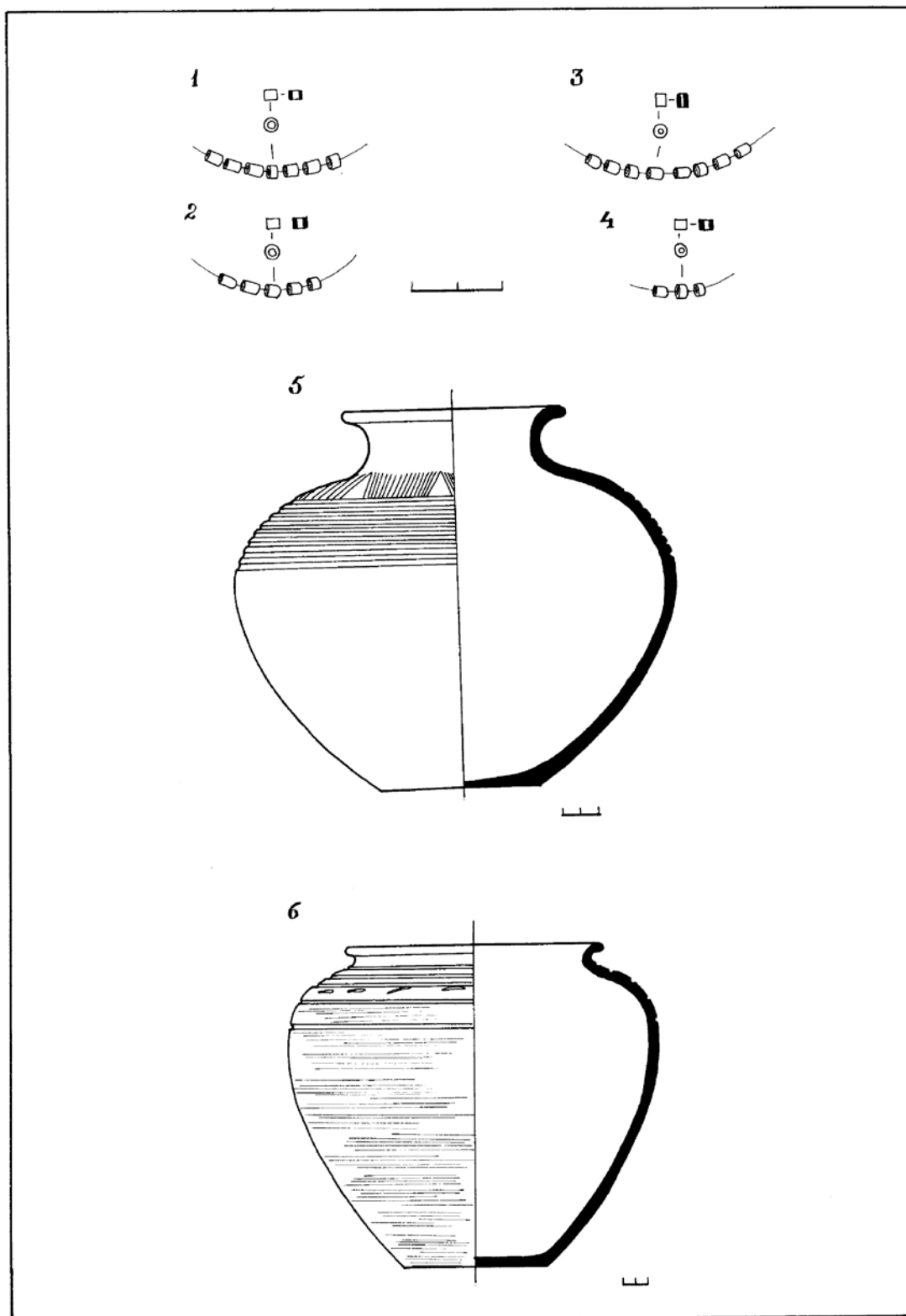




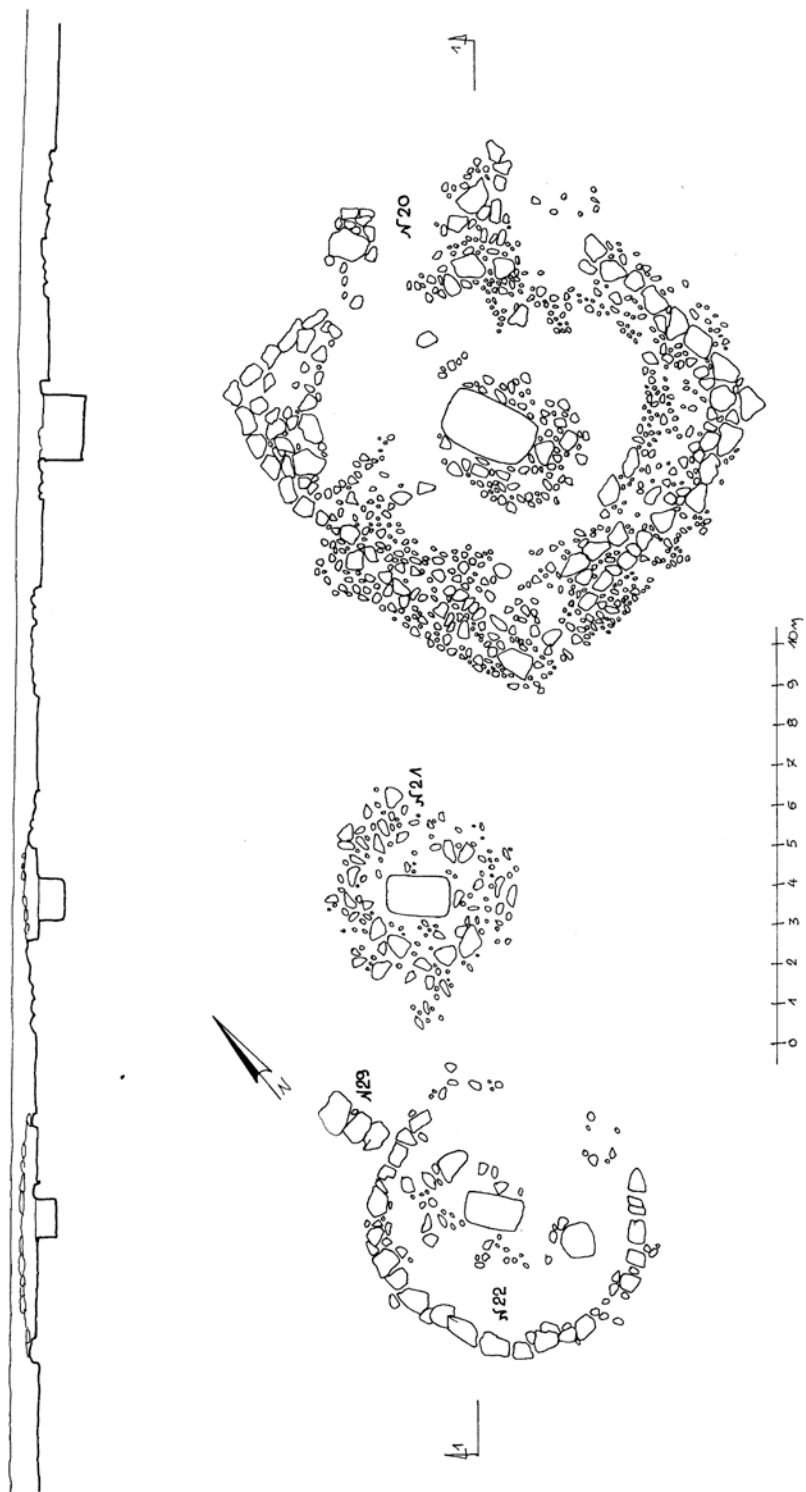


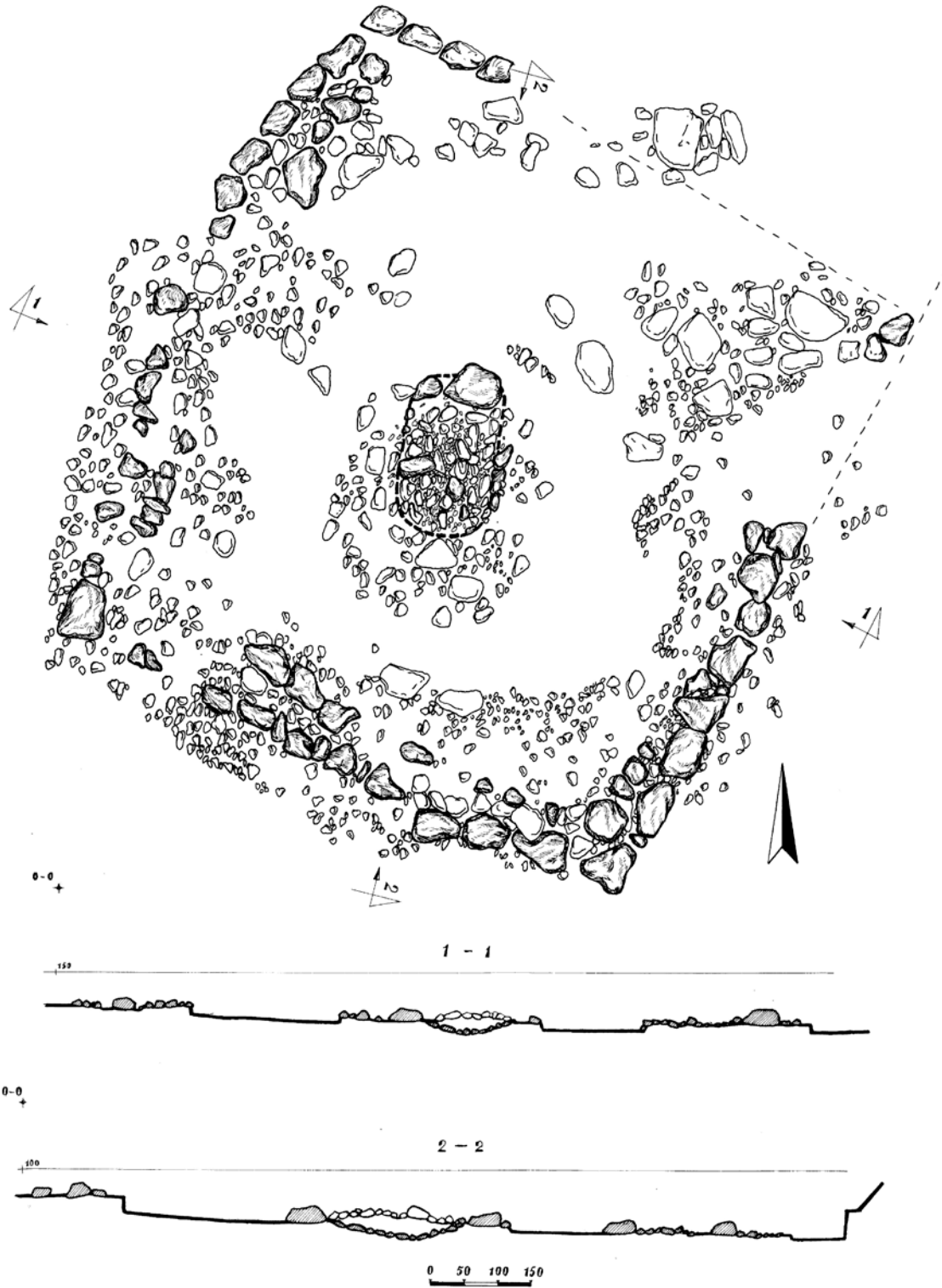
1 - 1

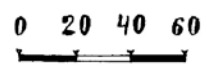
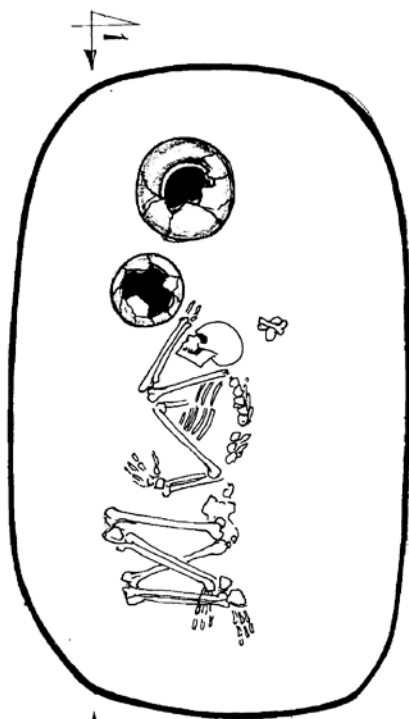




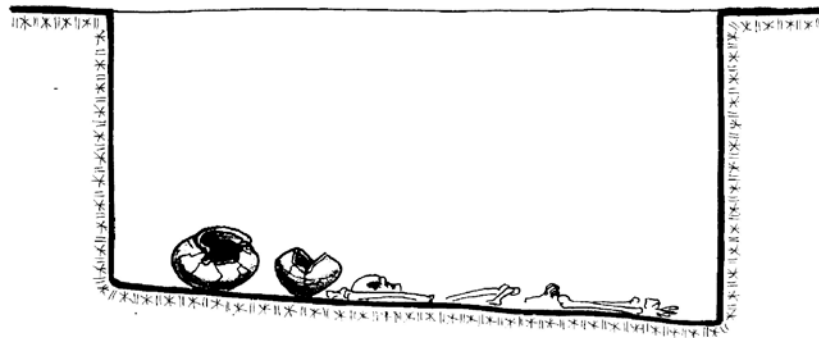
ფრაგმენტი 1-1

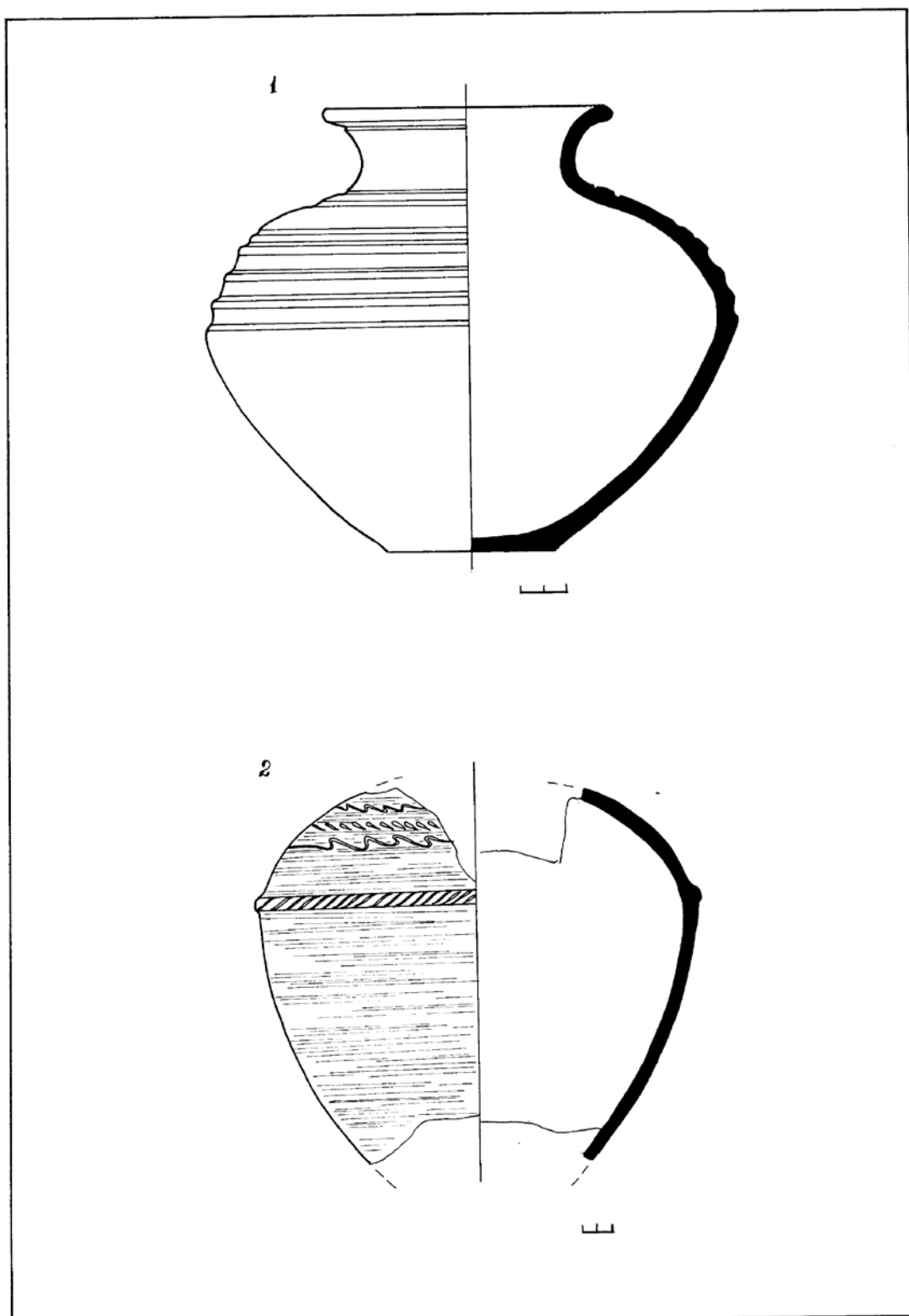


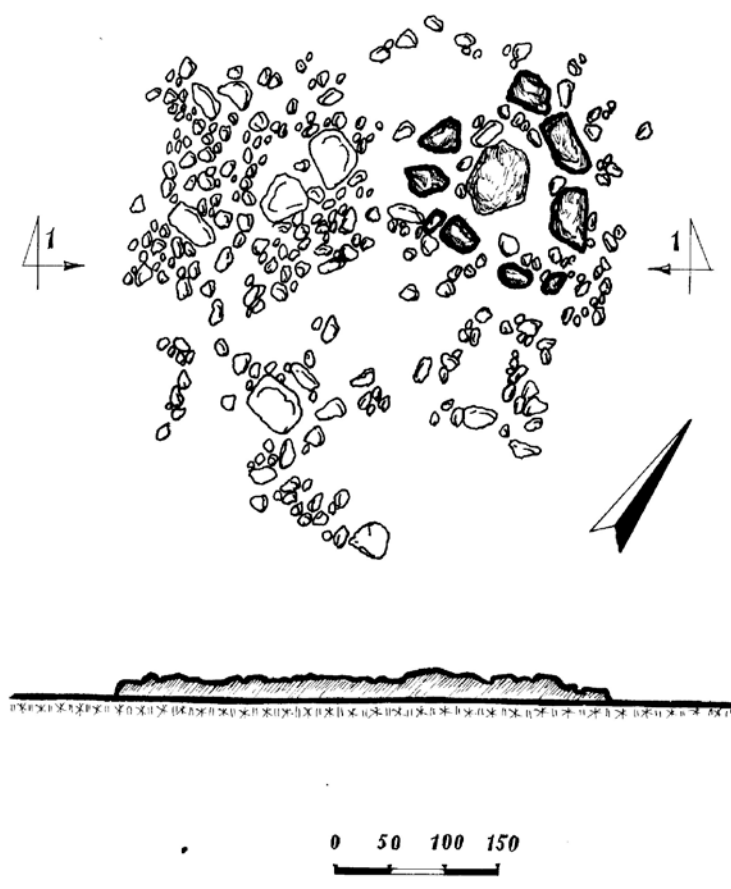




1 - 1







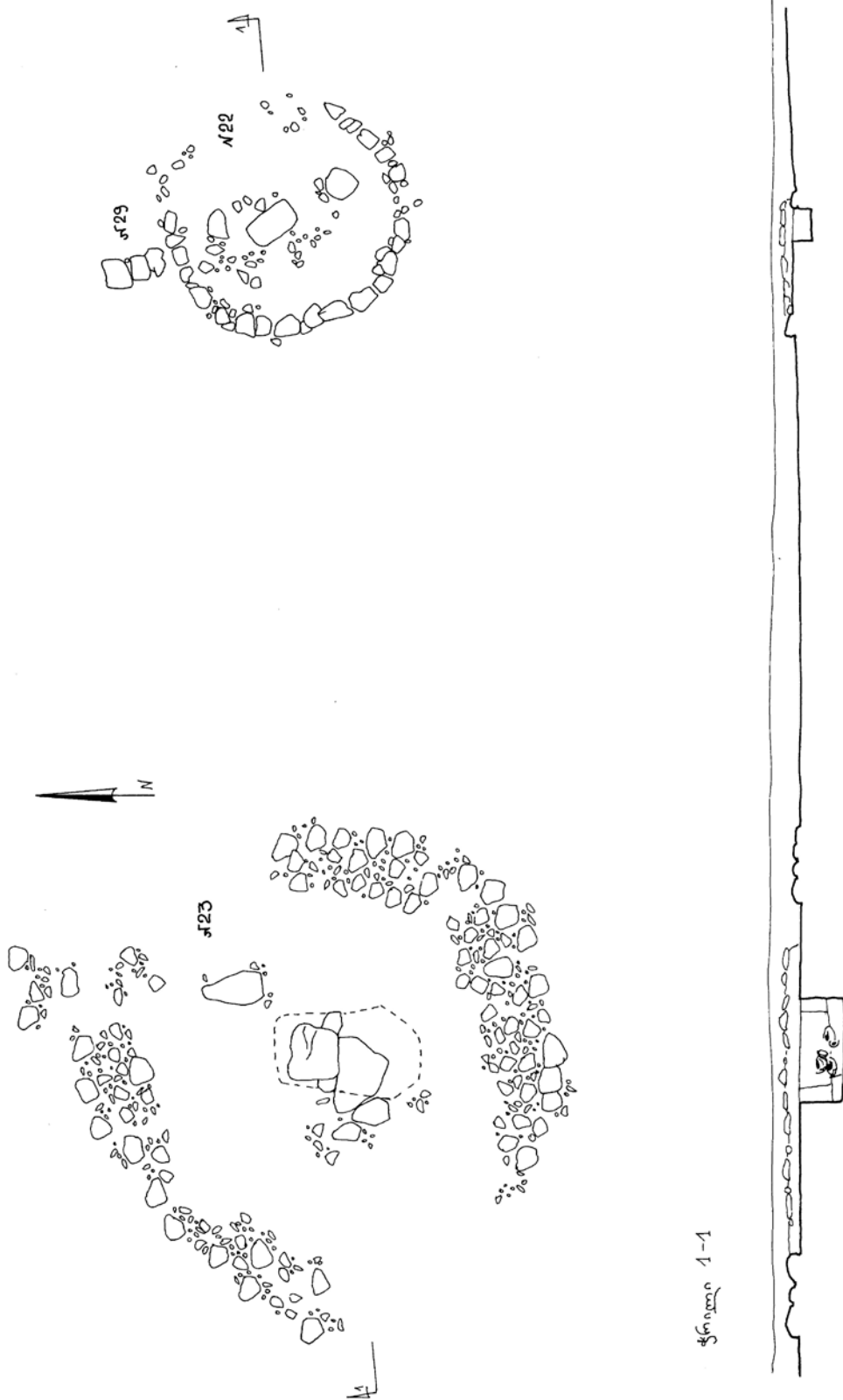
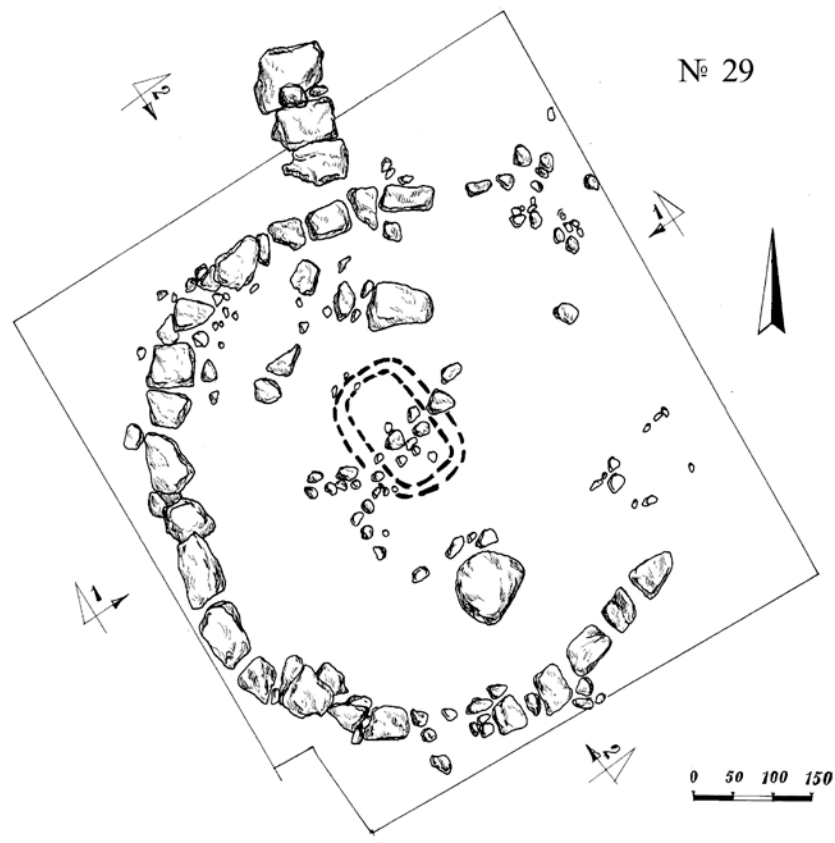


Figure 1-1



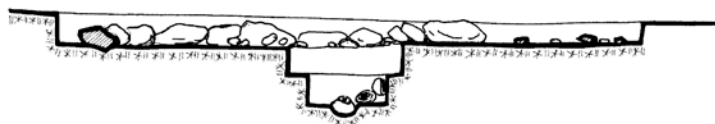
1 - 1



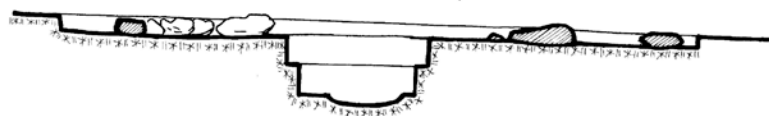
2 - 2

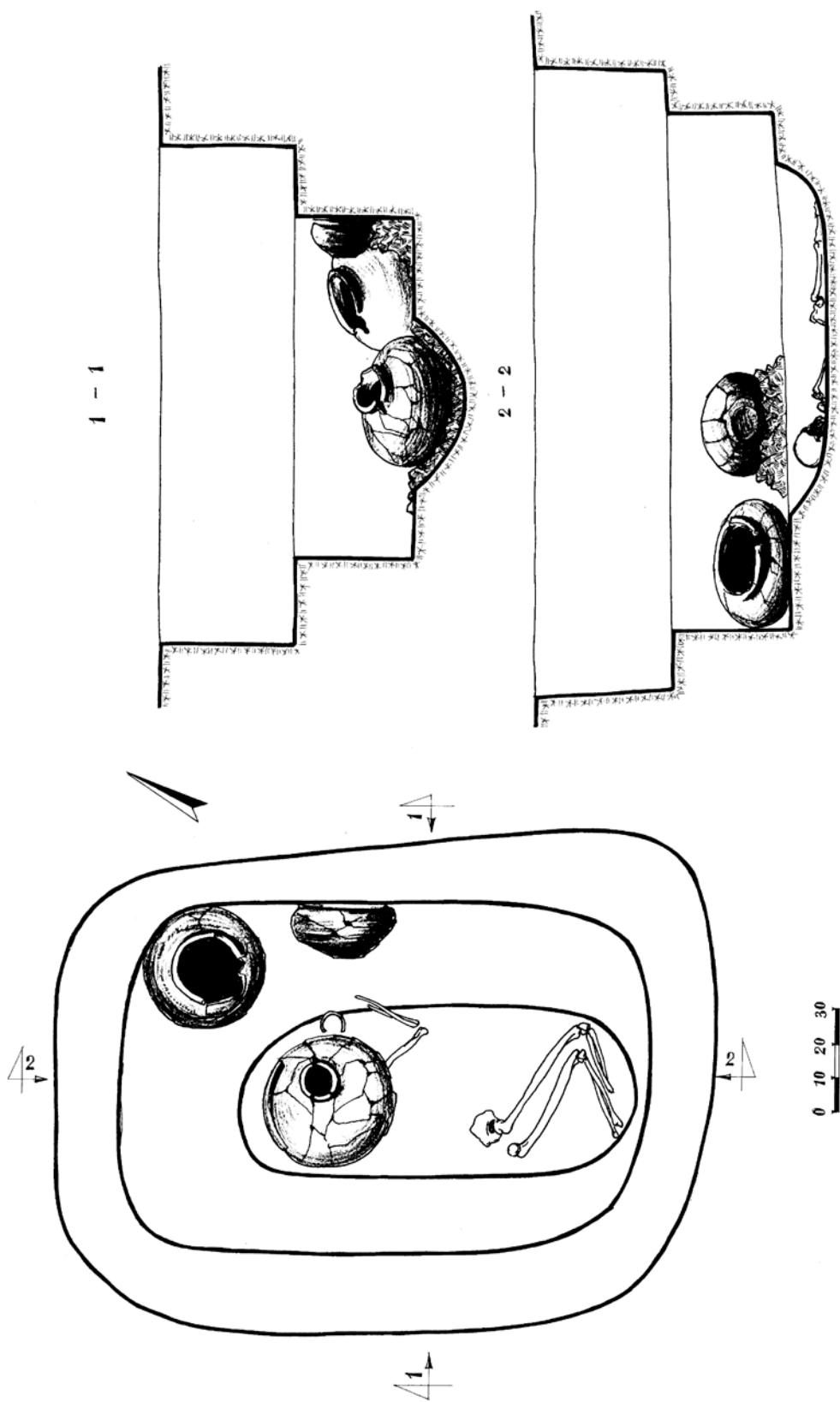


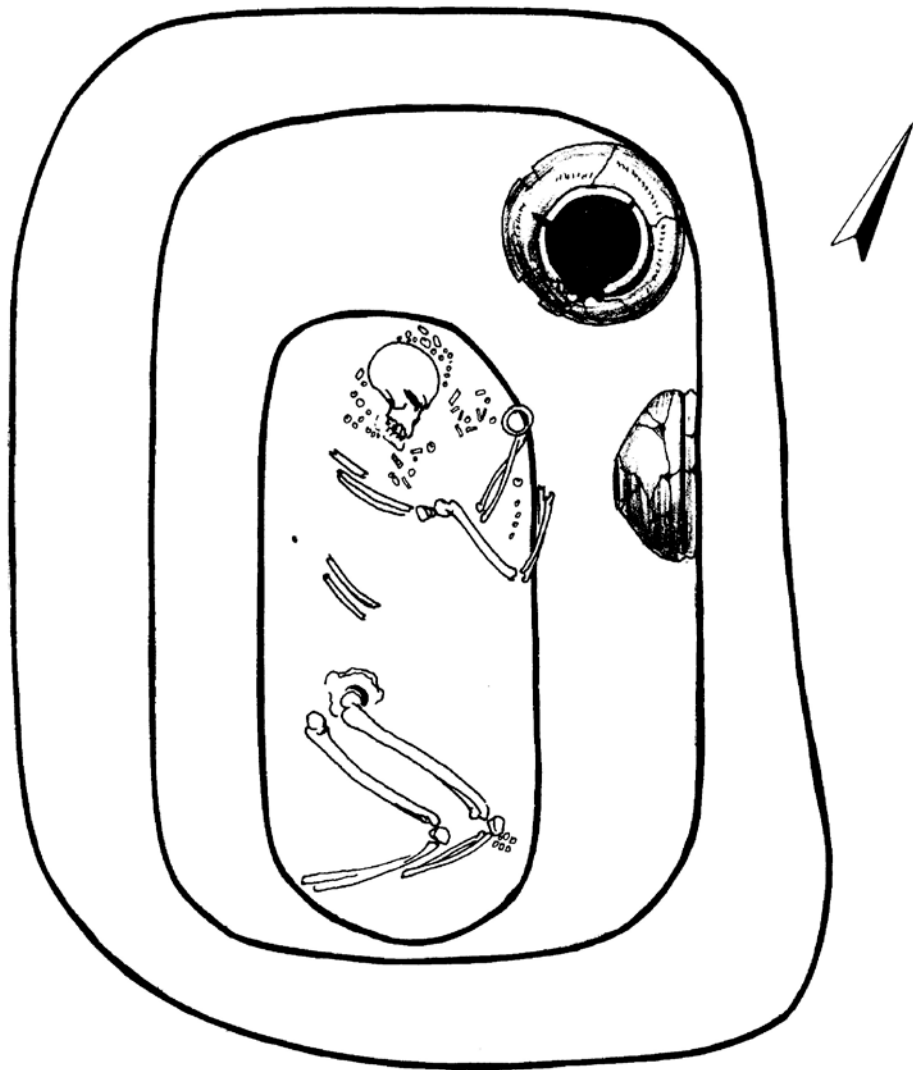
1 - 1 (A)



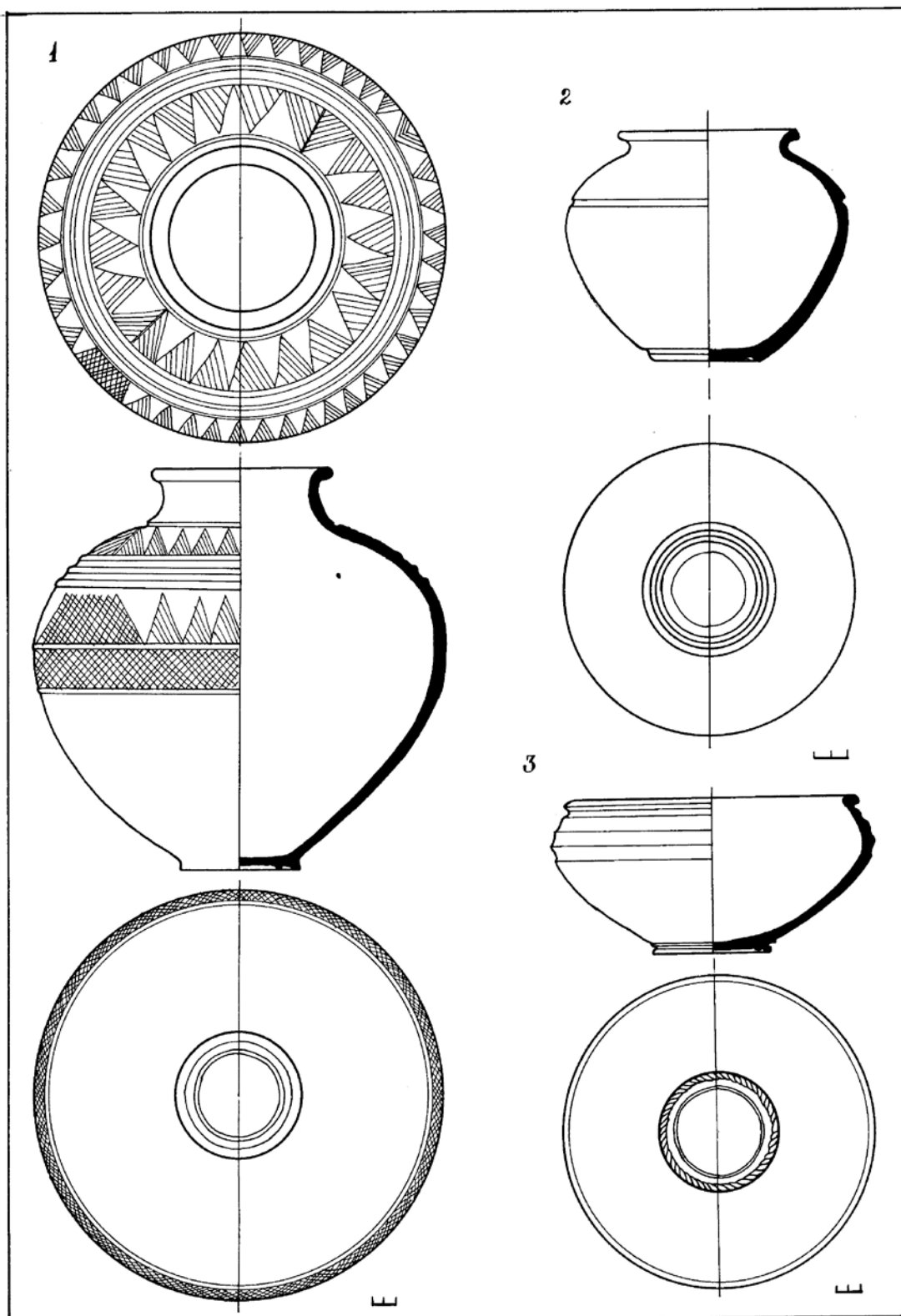
2 - 2 (A)

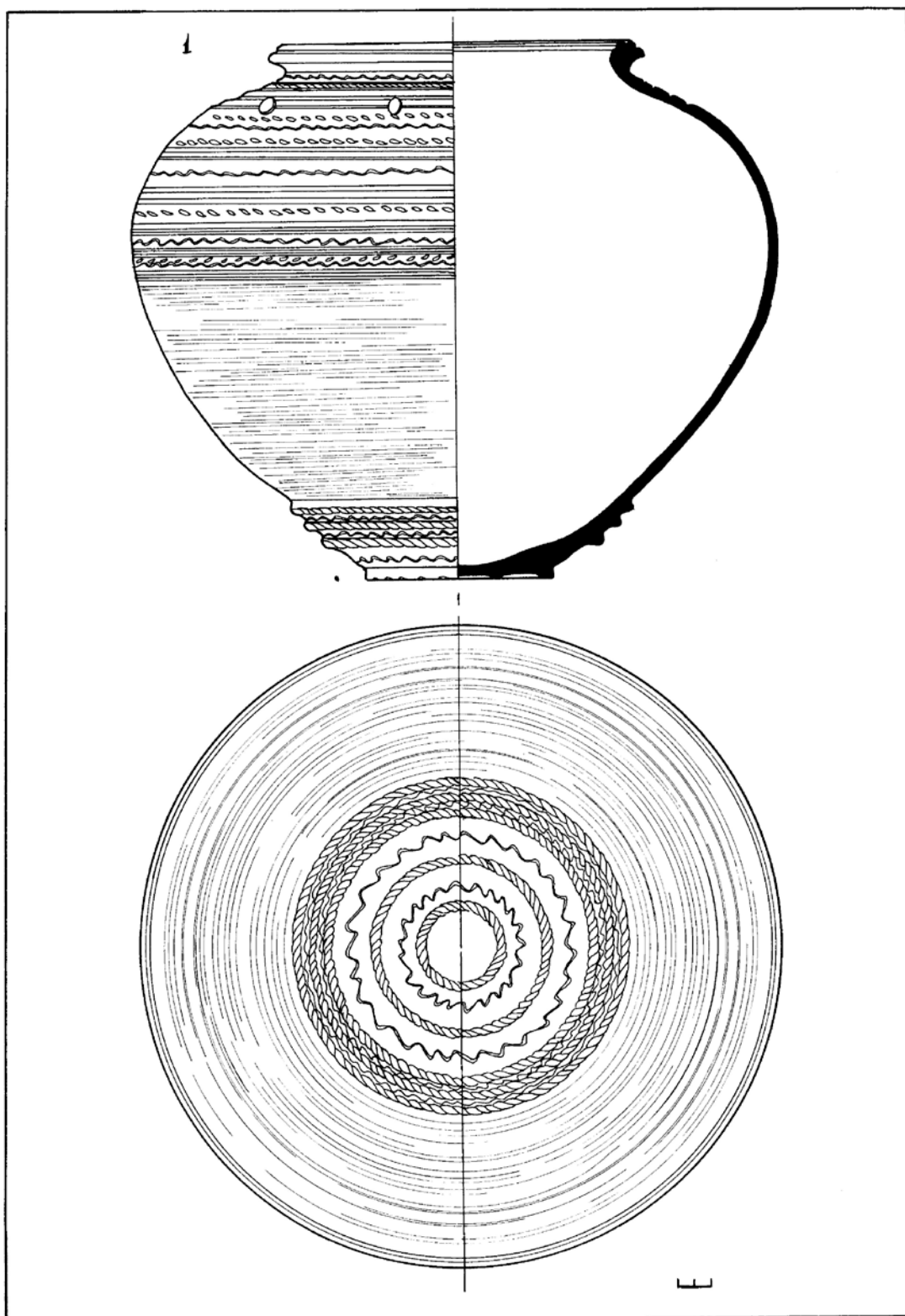


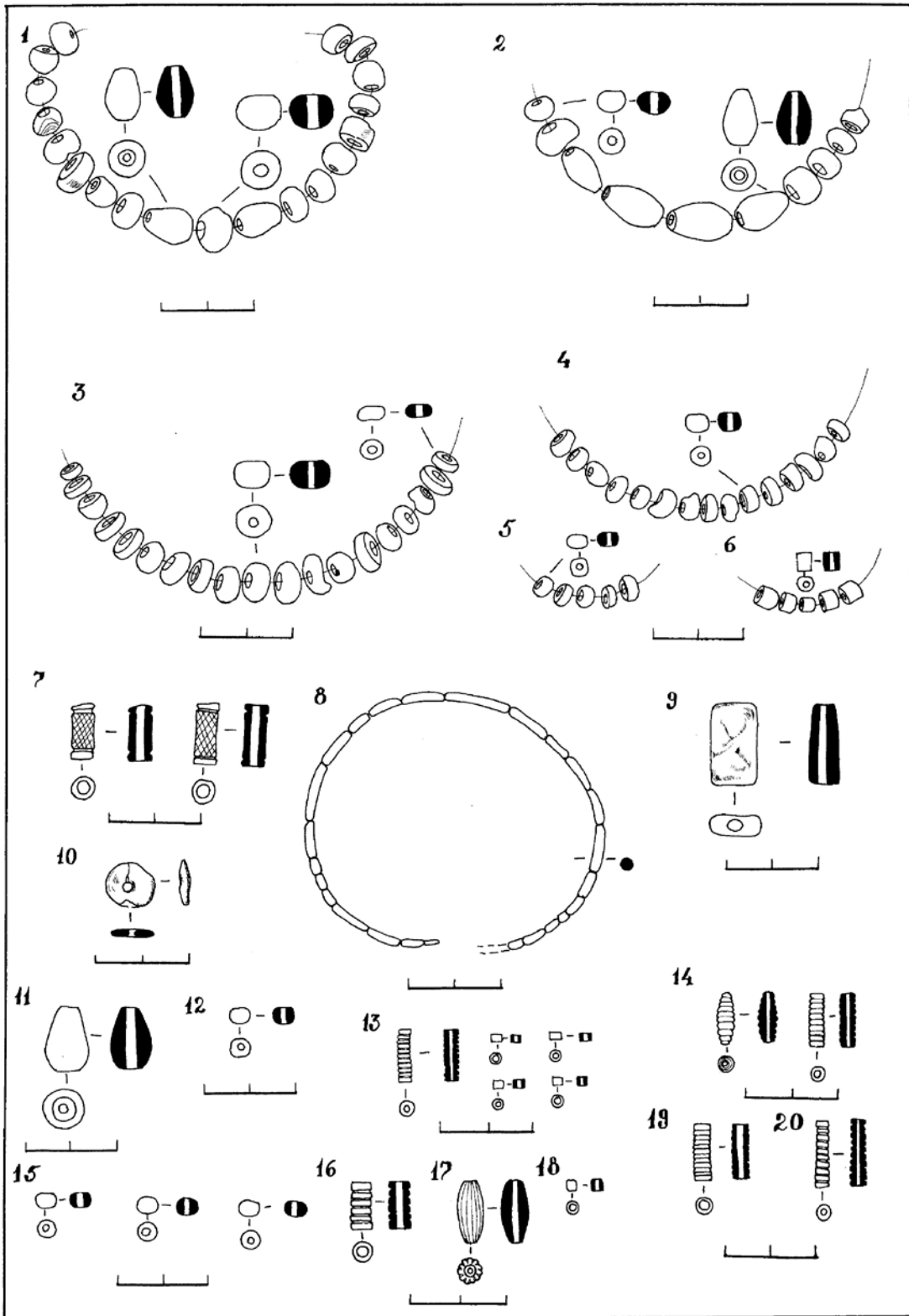


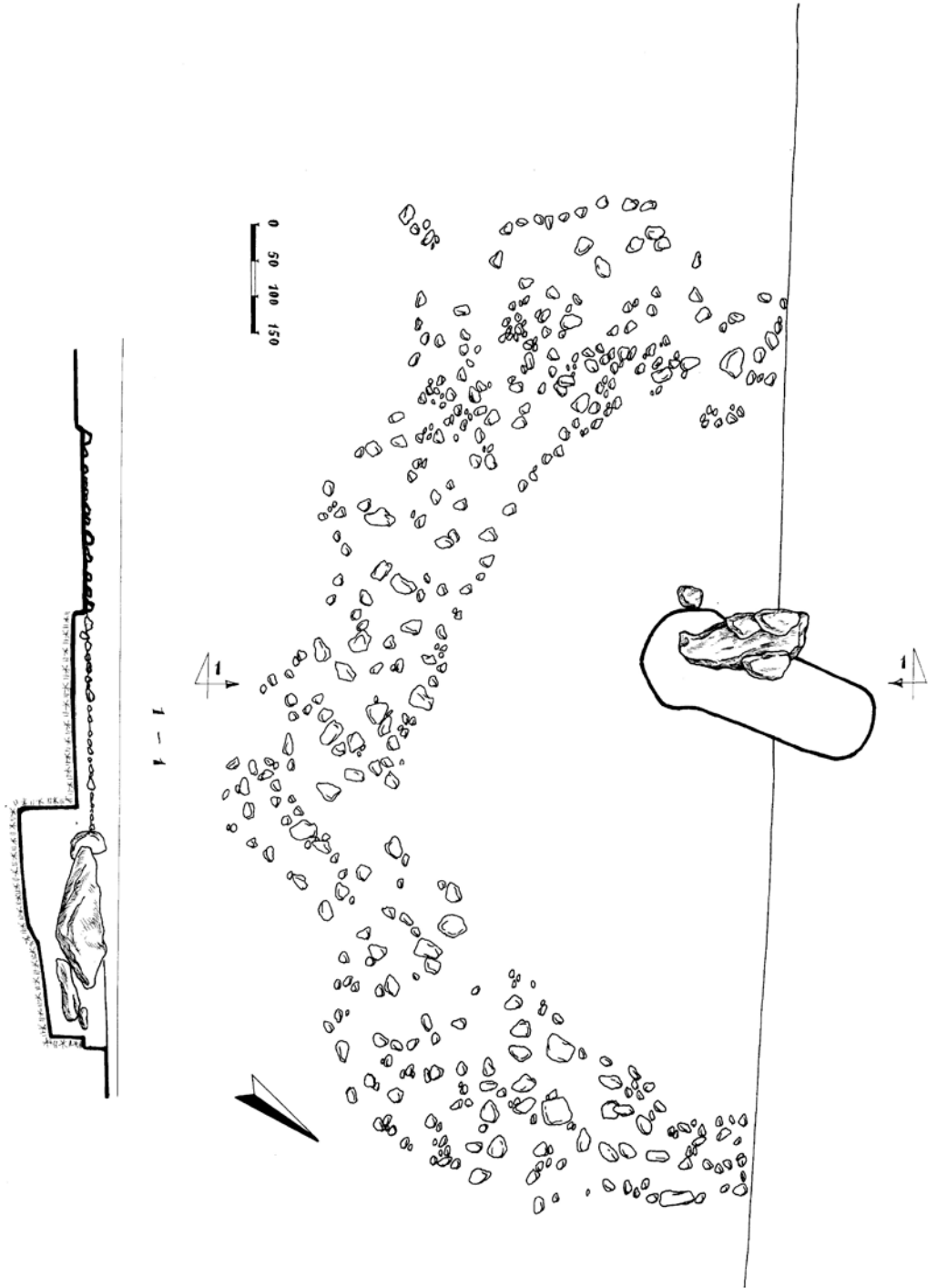


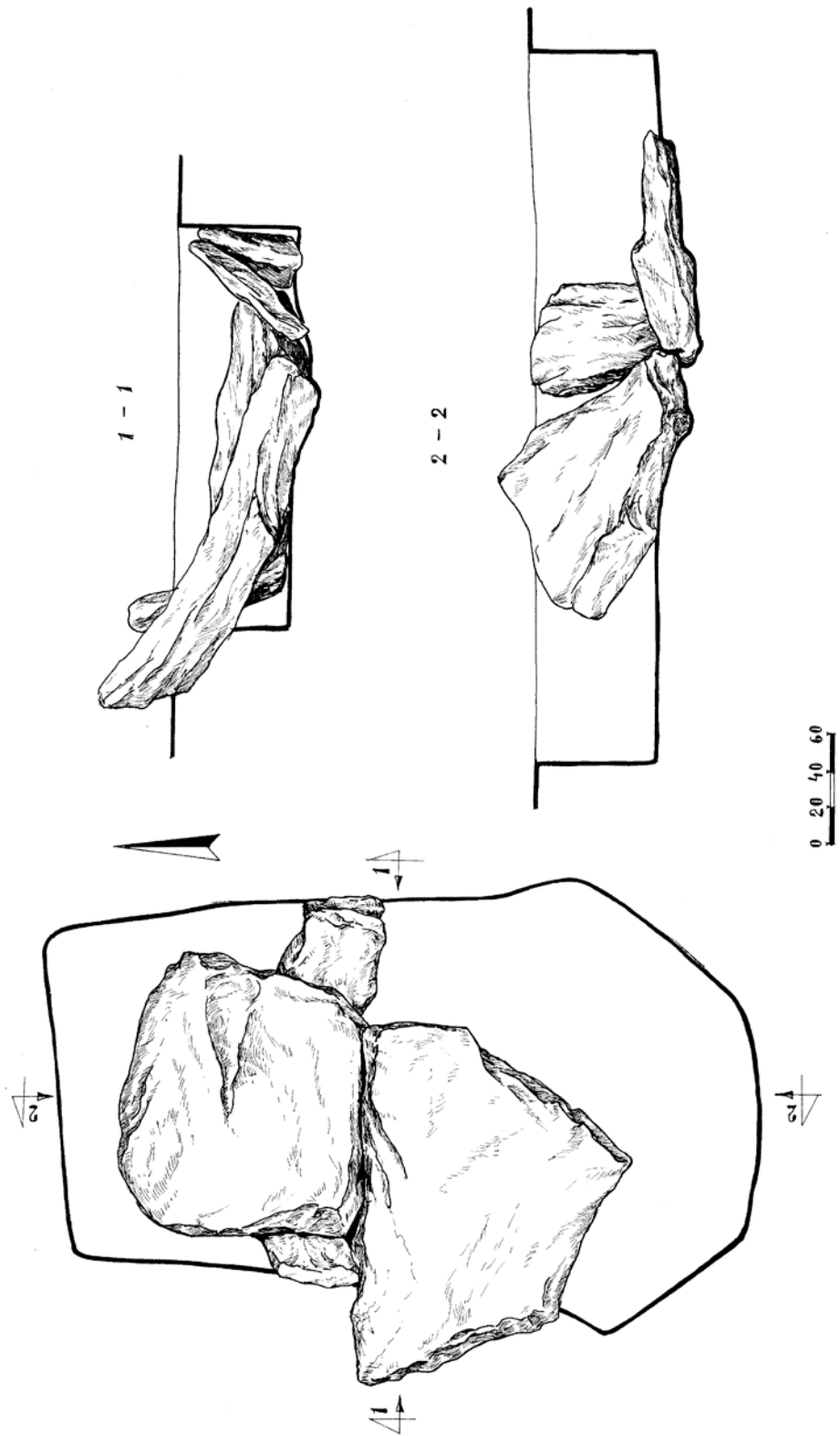
0 10 20 30

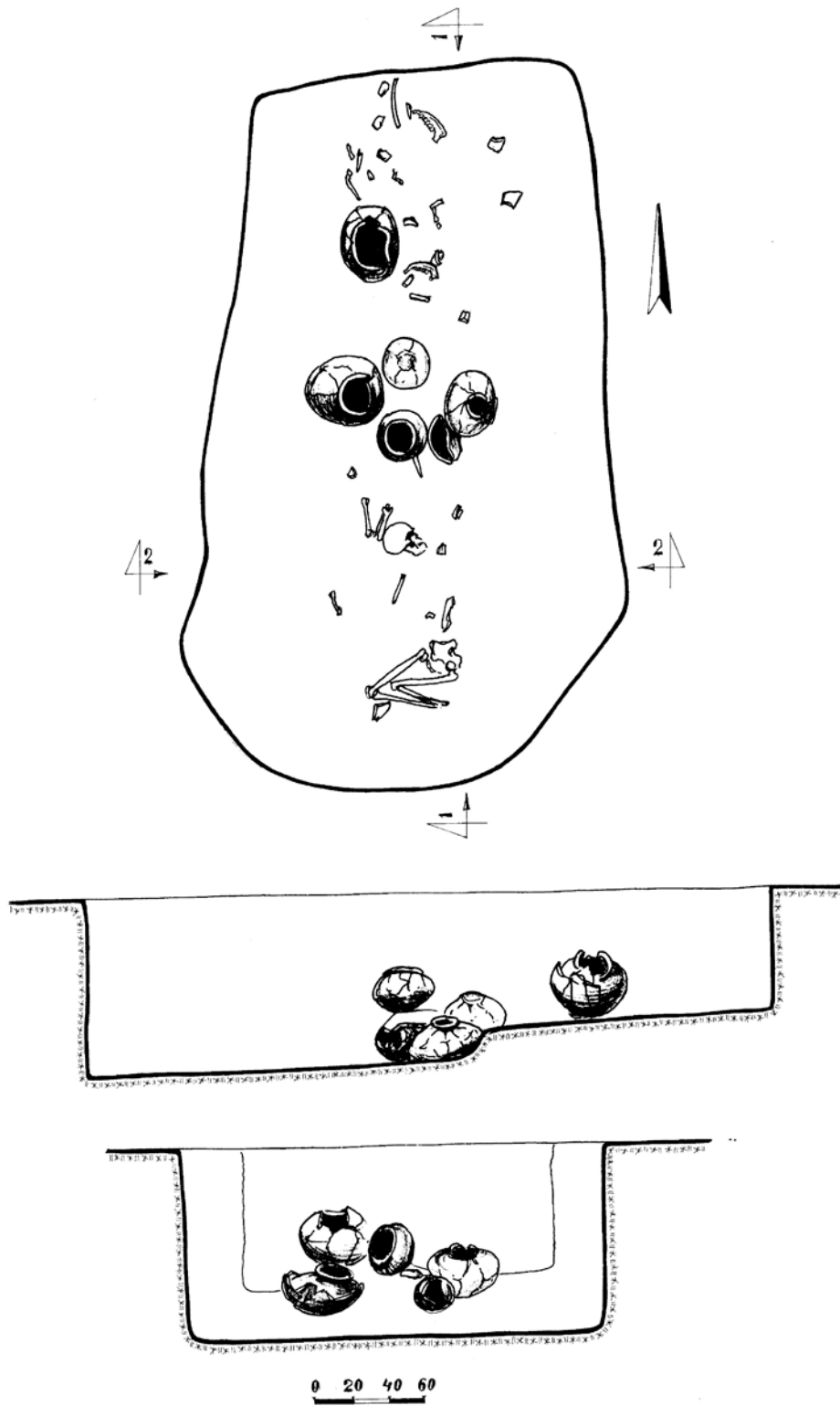


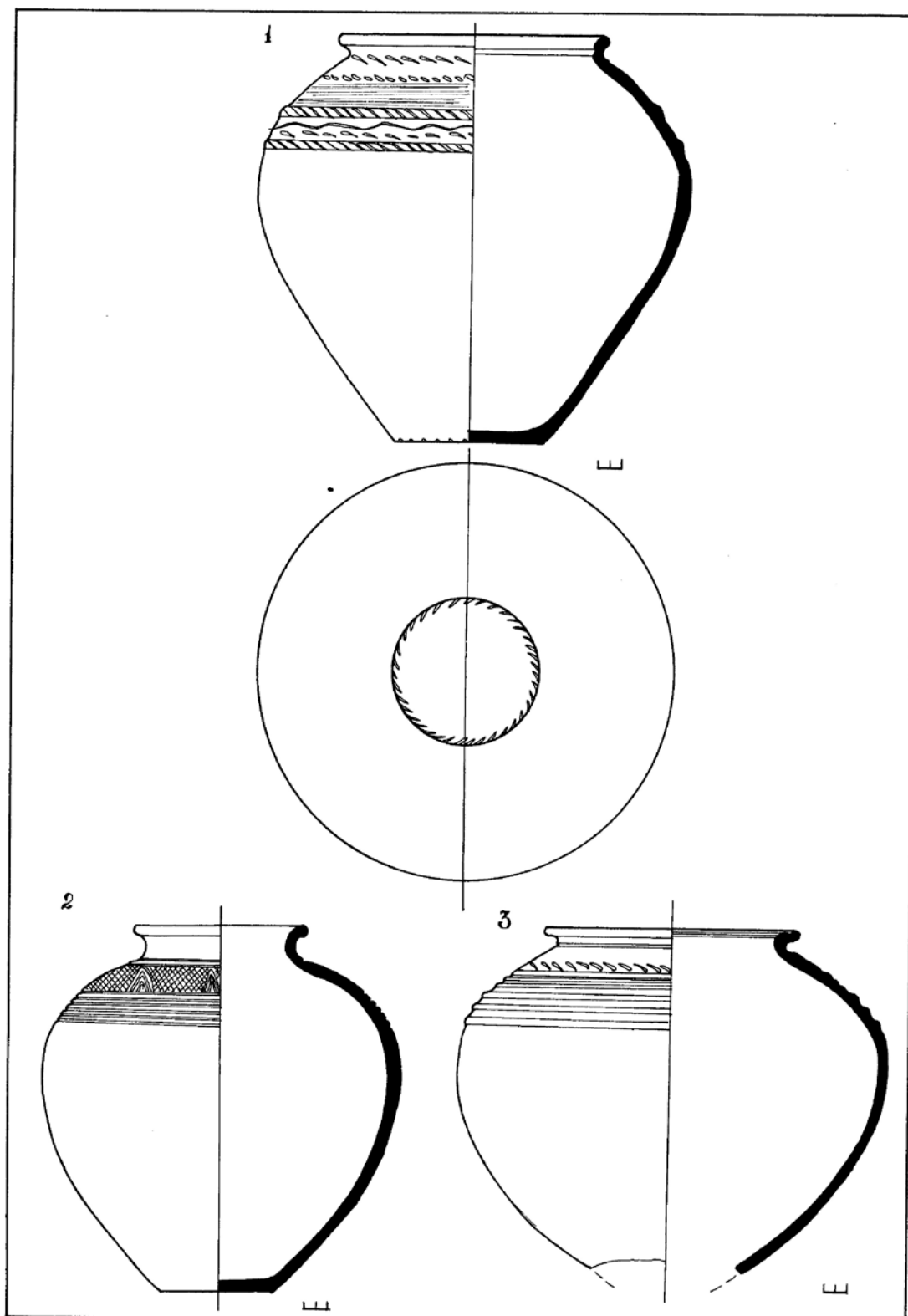


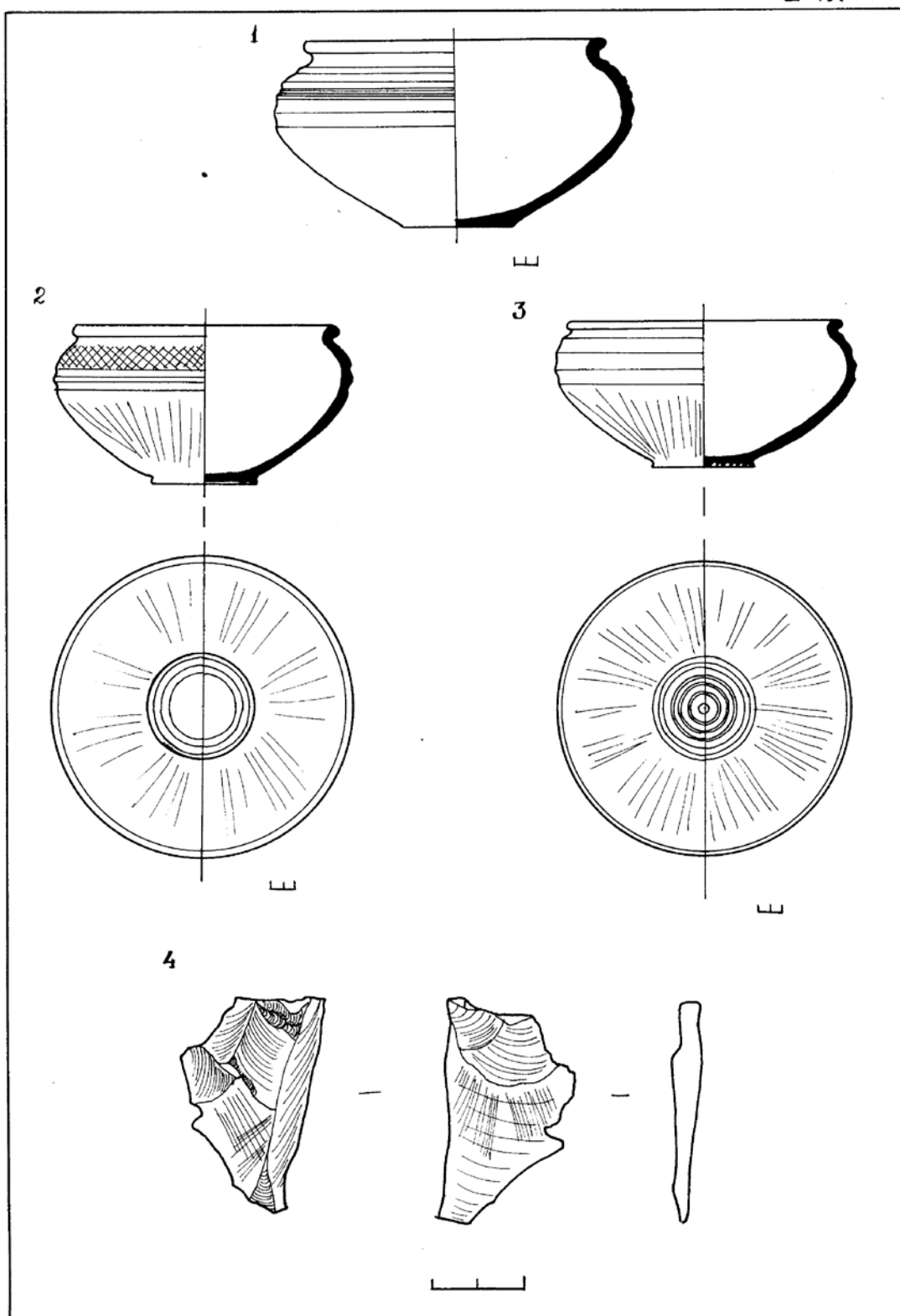








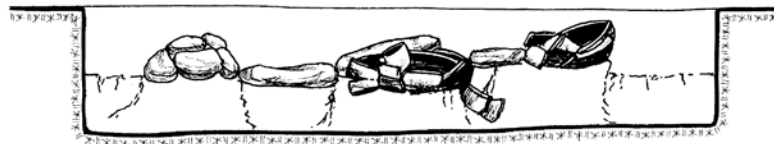


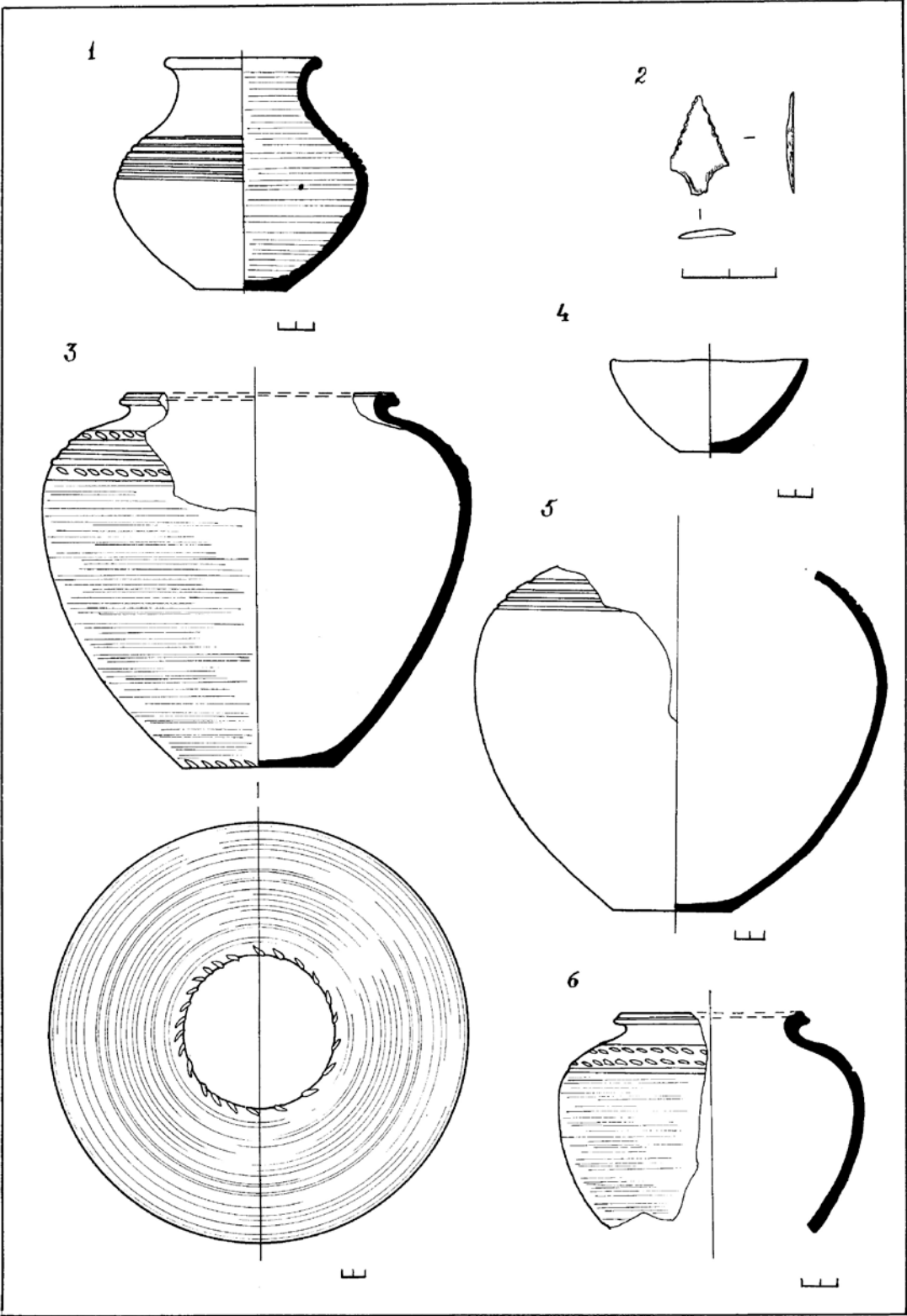


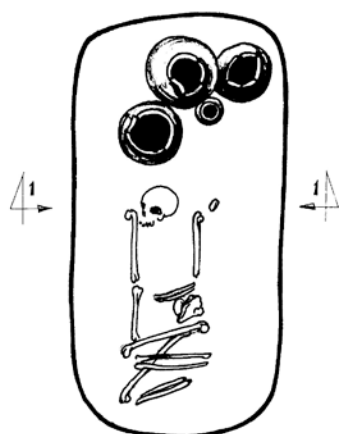
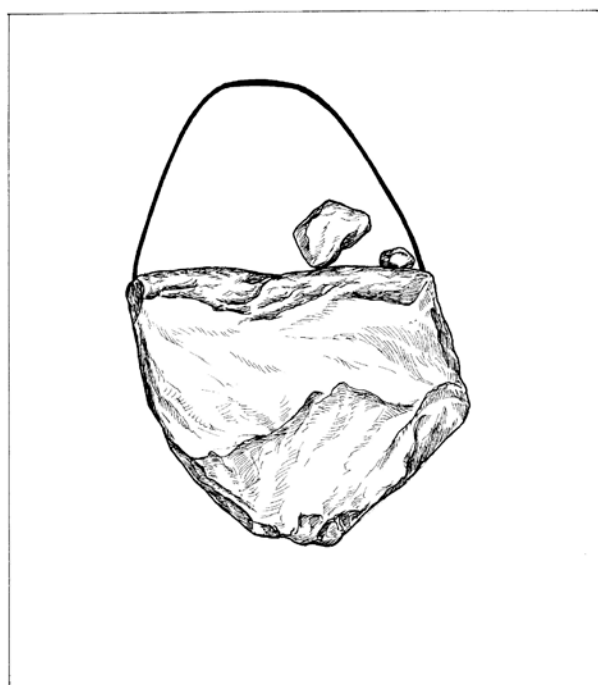


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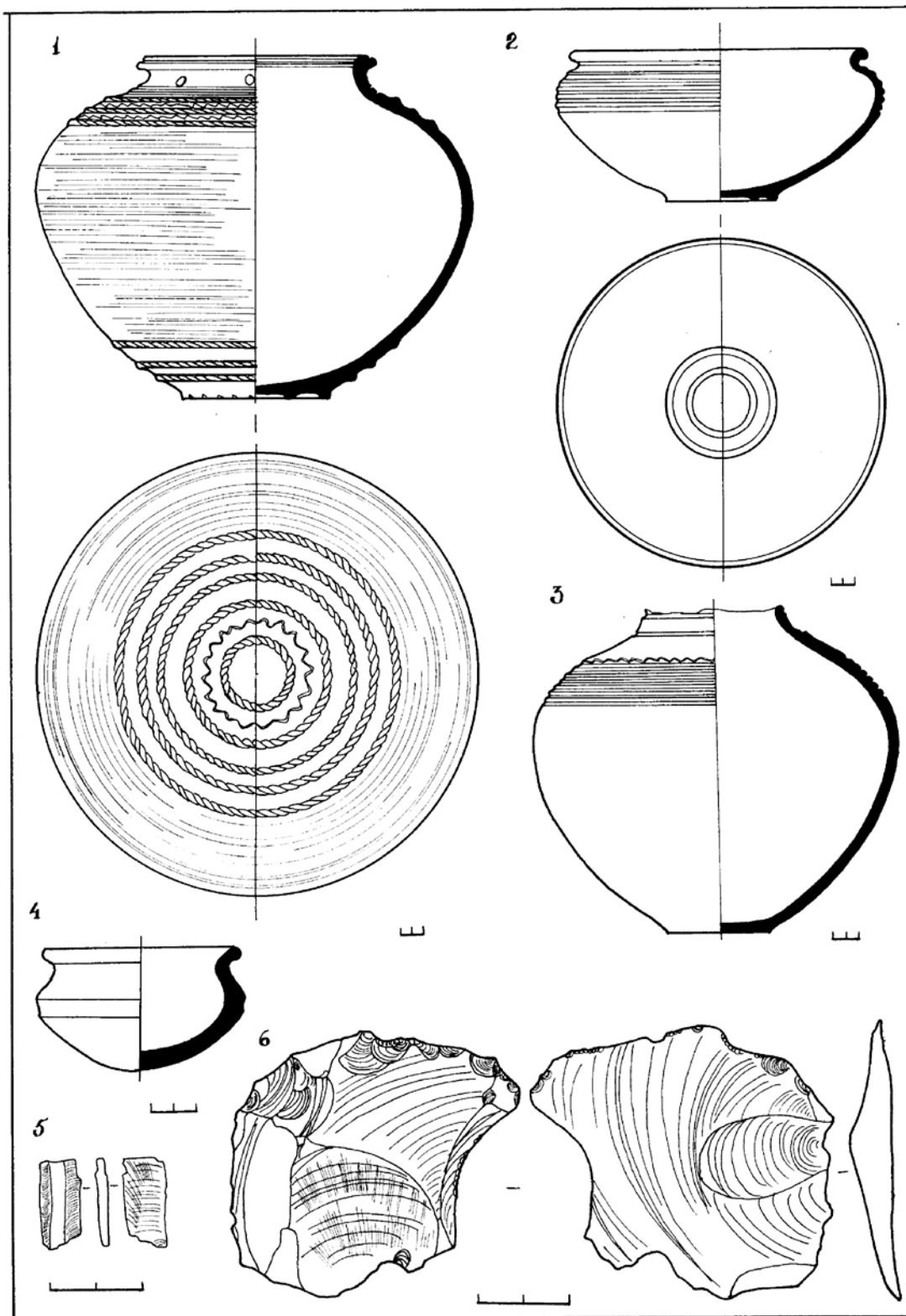
1 - 1

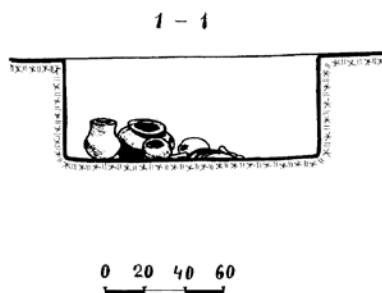
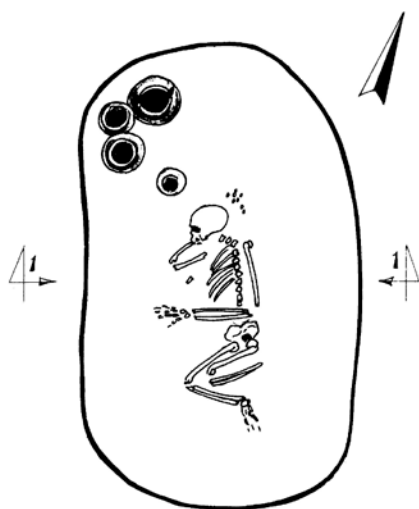


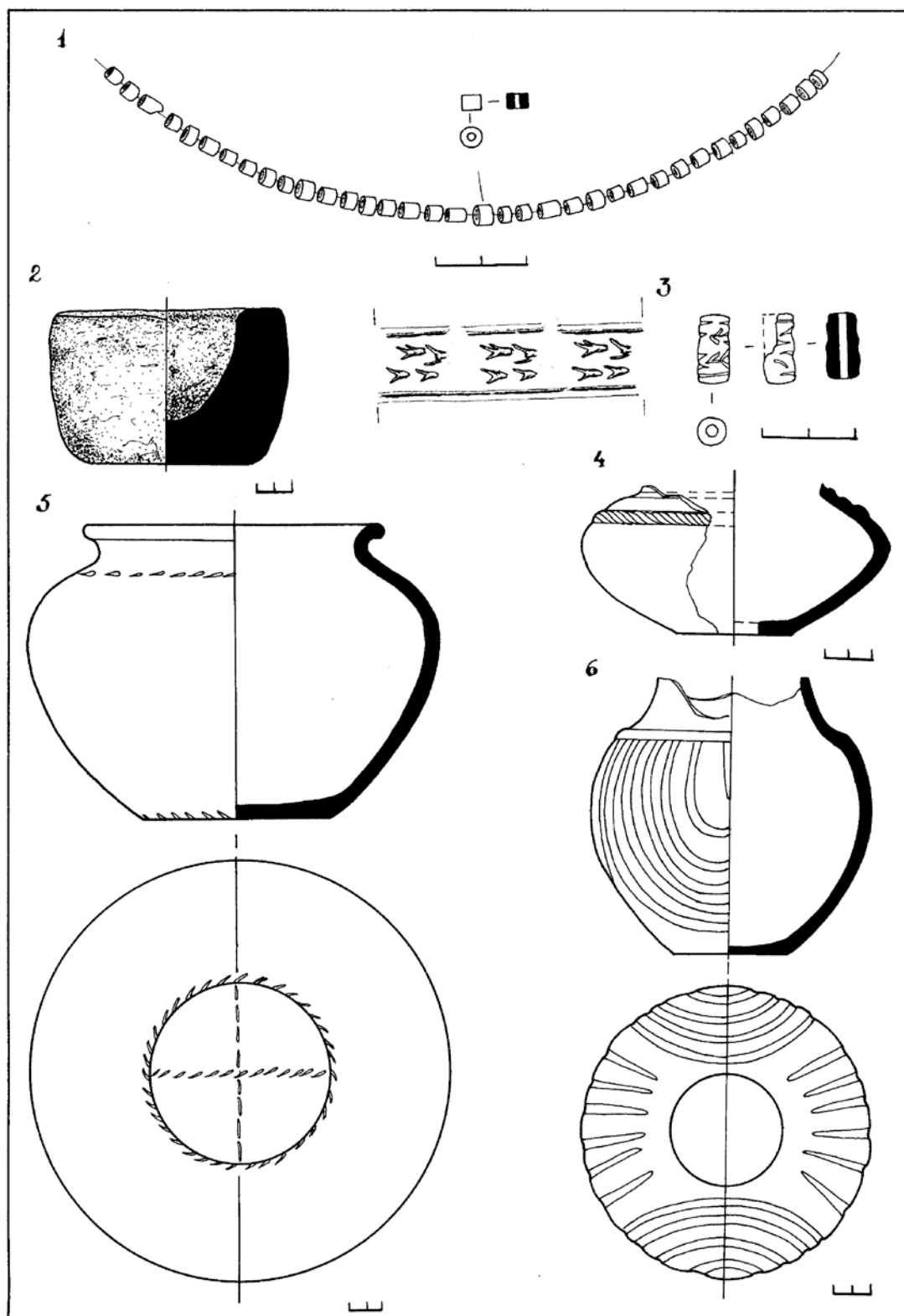


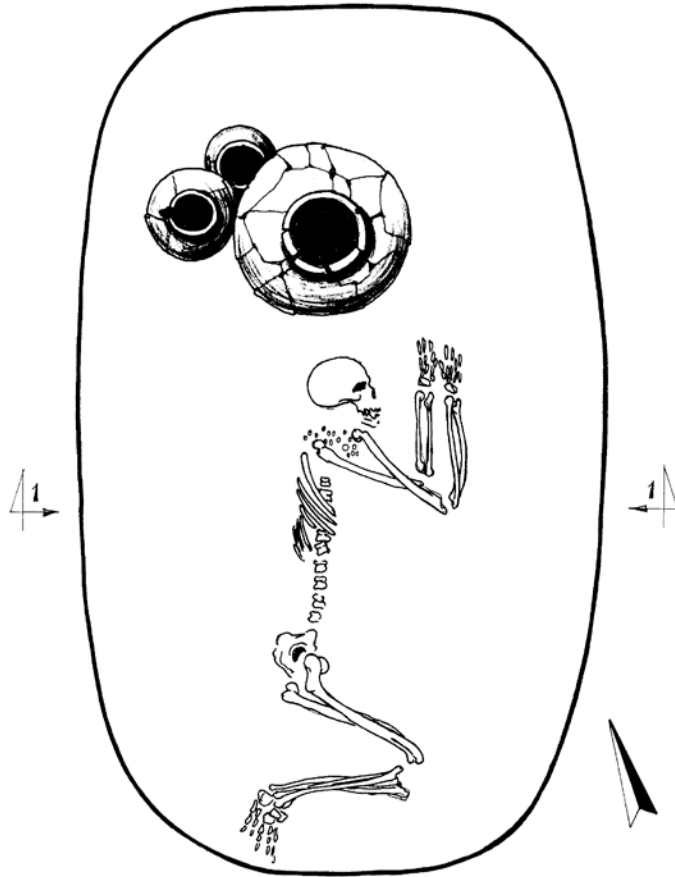


0 20 40 60

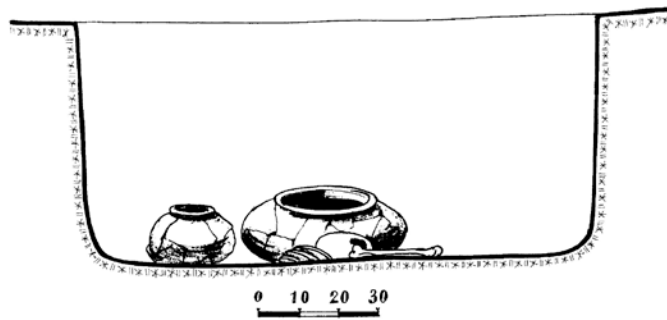


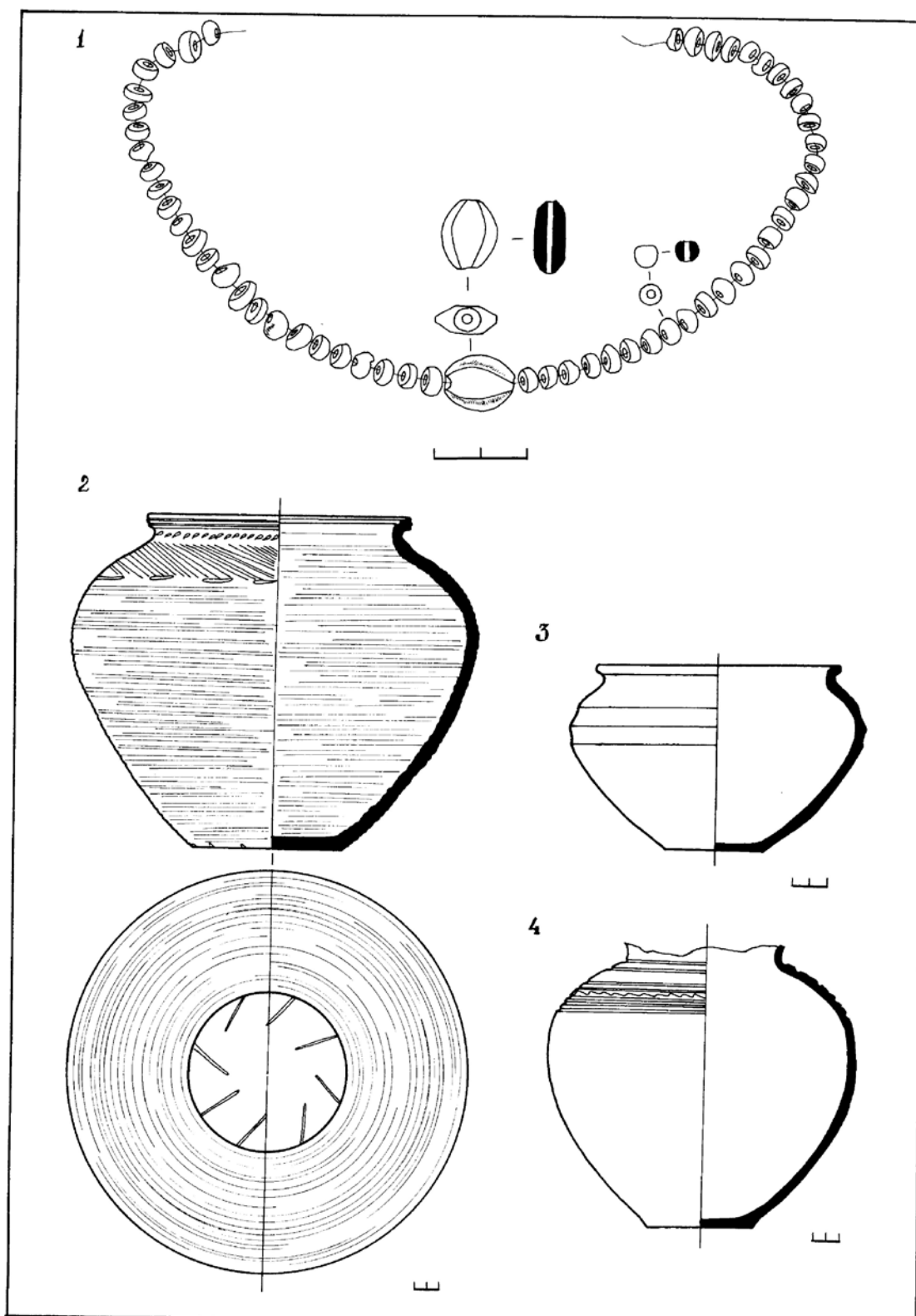


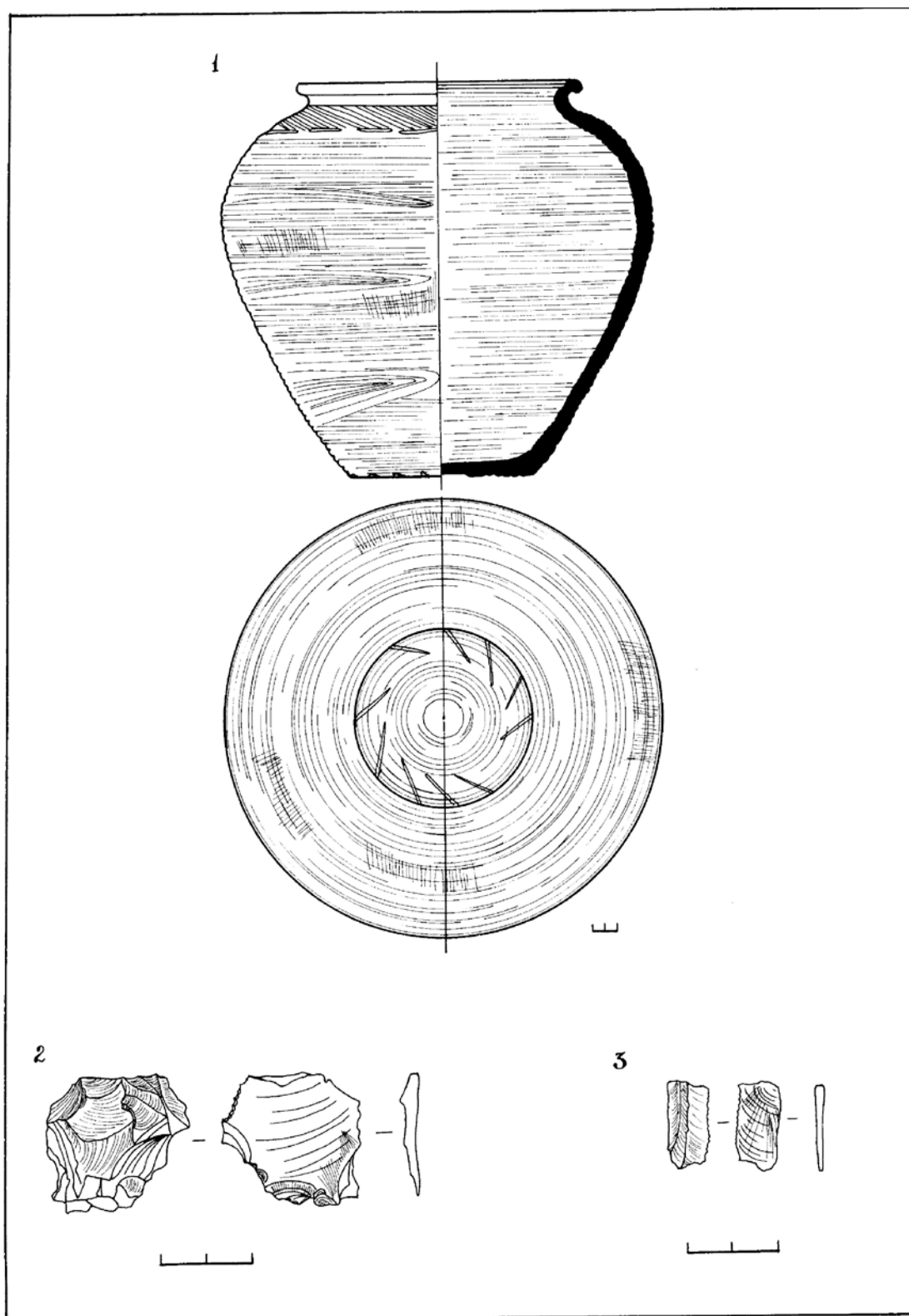


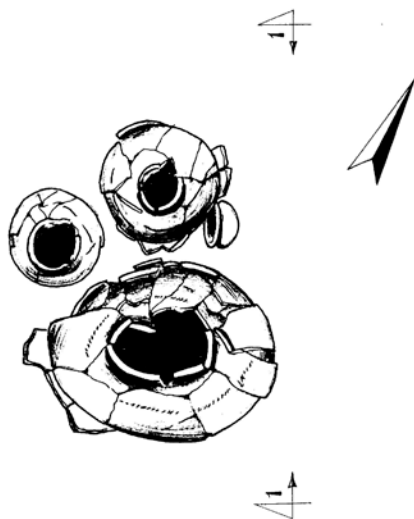


1 - 1





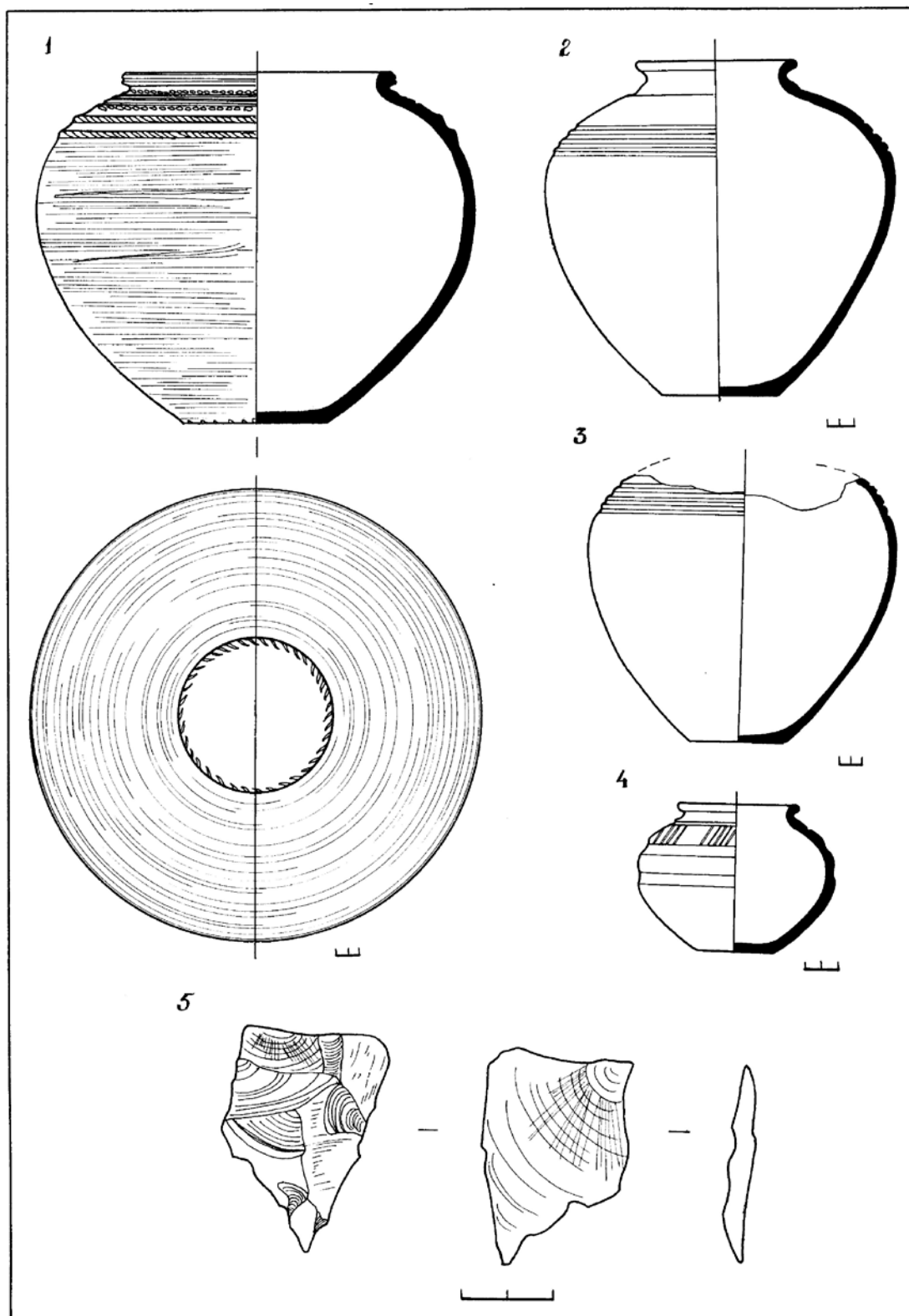




0 10 20 30

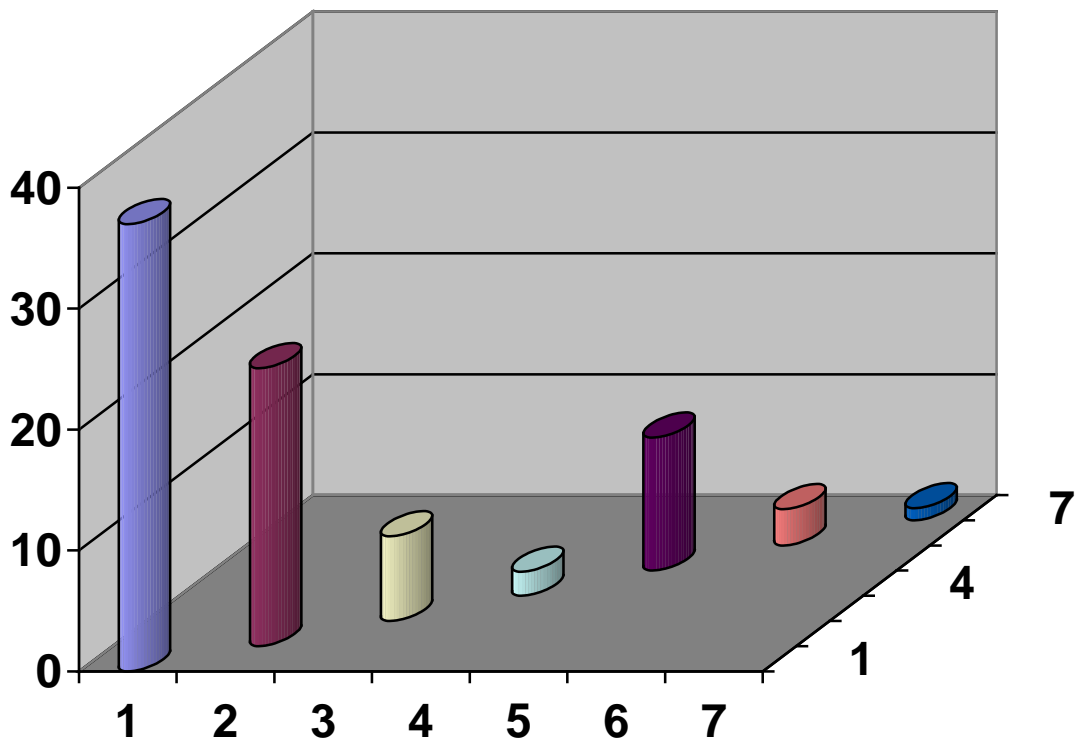
1 - 1





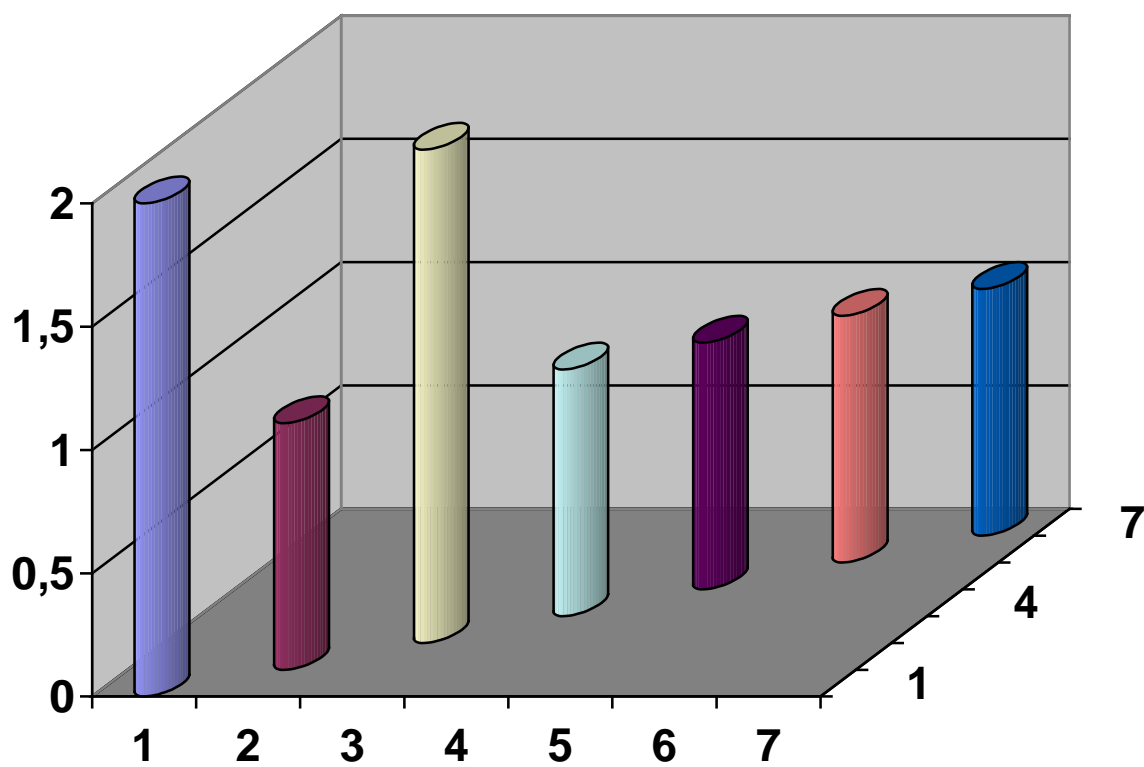
საზარ-სარაბას სამაროვანი
სტატისტიკური მონაცემები
№№ 1 - 29 სამარხებში აღმოჩენილი
არქეოლოგიური მასალა

I. კერამიკა



1. ქოთანი – 37; 2. ღერგი – 23; 3. კოჭობი – 7; 4. ჯამი – 2;
5. ბადია – 11; 6. ქილა – 3; 7. ღრუქუსლიანი ქილა – 1.
სულ: 78 ერთეული

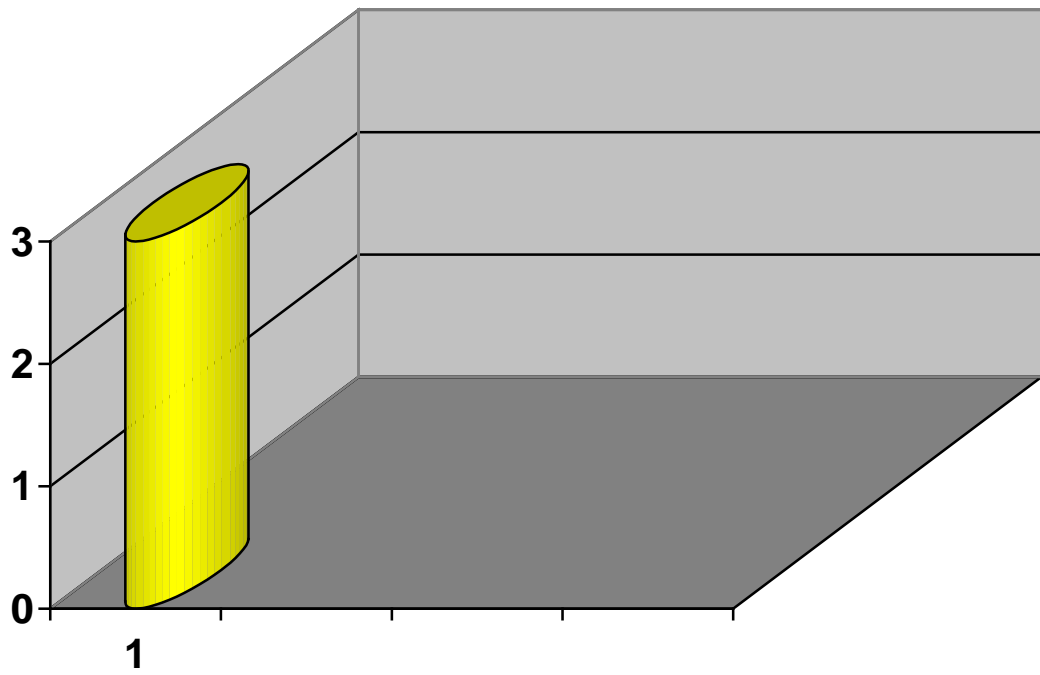
II. ბრინჯაოს ნივთიები



1. სატევარი – 2;
2. კვერთხისმაგვარი ნივთი – 1;
3. ლანცეტისებური იარაღი – 2;
4. სამაჯური – 1;
5. საკინძი – 1;
6. ფირფიტა – 1;
7. კაპარჭი – 1.

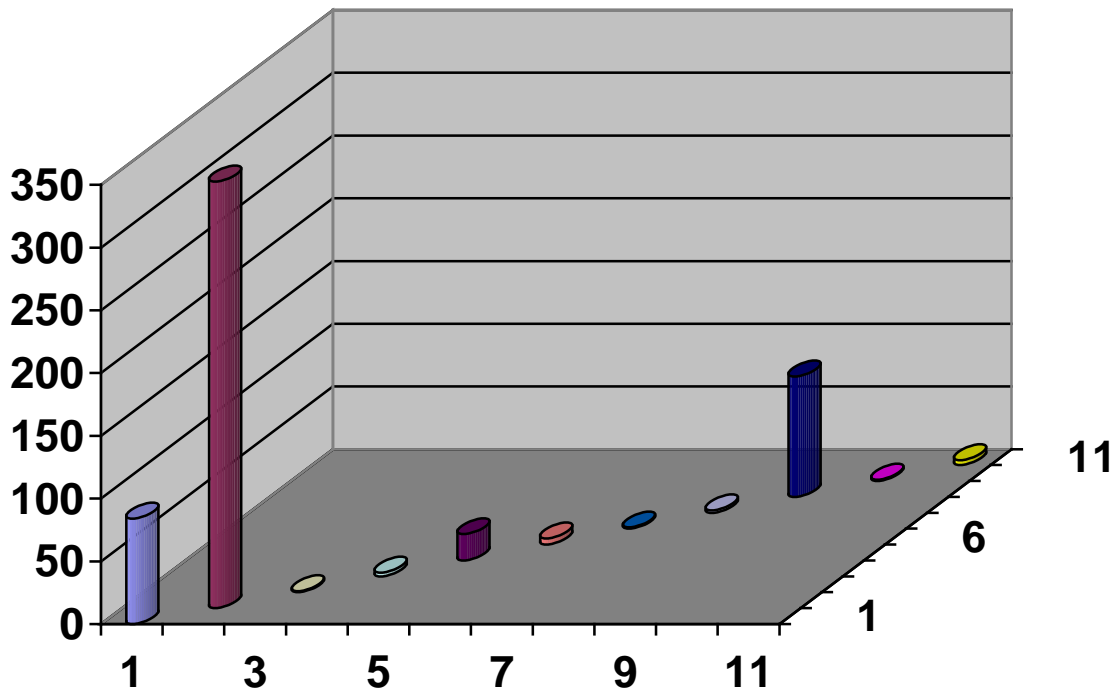
სულ: 9 ერთეული

III. ოქროს ნივთიერება



1. მძივის გარსაკრავი ფირფიტოვანი – 3

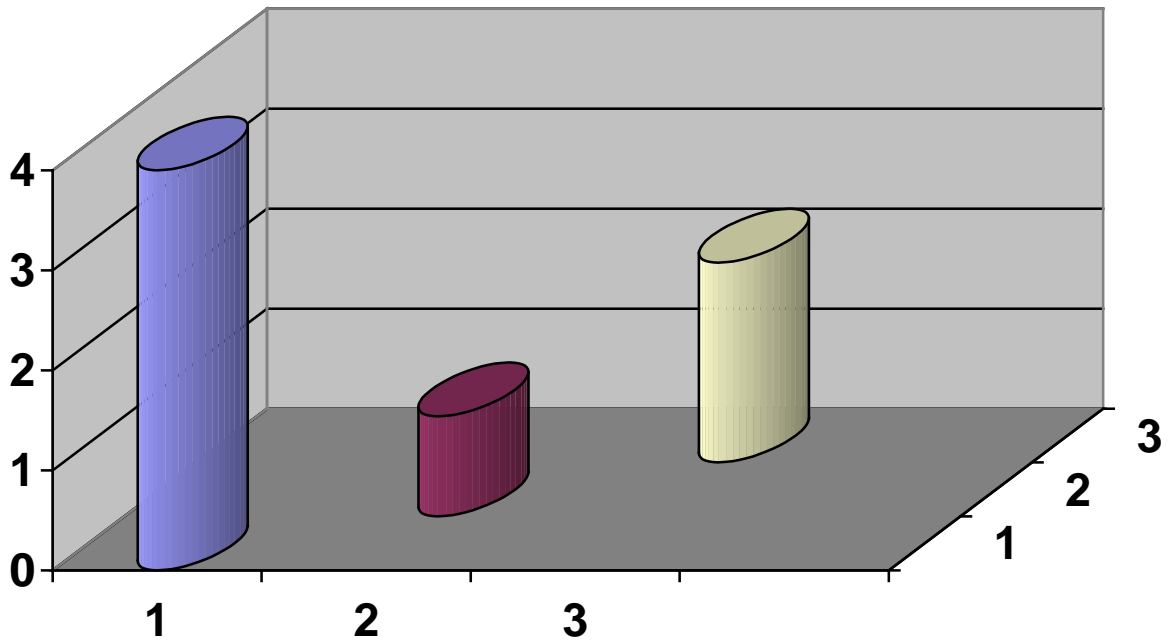
IV. მძივები



1. ლითონის (ბრინჯაო?) – 3;
2. სარდიონის – 340;
3. სარდიონის საკიდი – 1;
4. სარდონიქსის – 3;
5. კვარცის ჯგუფის – 2;
6. ქალცედონის ჯგუფის – 5;
7. გიშრის – 1;
8. მინის – 2;
9. გაუმჭვირვალე მინის – 96;
10. გაუმჭვირვალე მინის საკიდი – 1;
11. პოლიქრომული მინის – 4.

სულ: 519 ცალი და 39 ფრაგმენტი

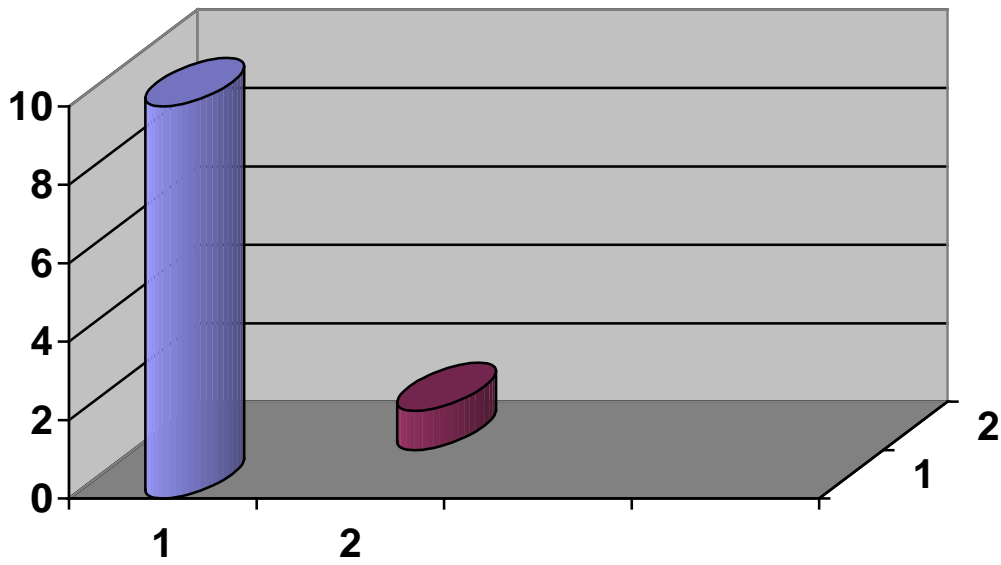
V. საბეჭდავები



1. გაუმჭვირვალე მინის – 4; 2. მძივი – საბეჭდავი, მინის – 1;
3. მძივი – საბეჭდავი, გაუმჭვირვალე მინის – 2.

სულ: 7 ცალი

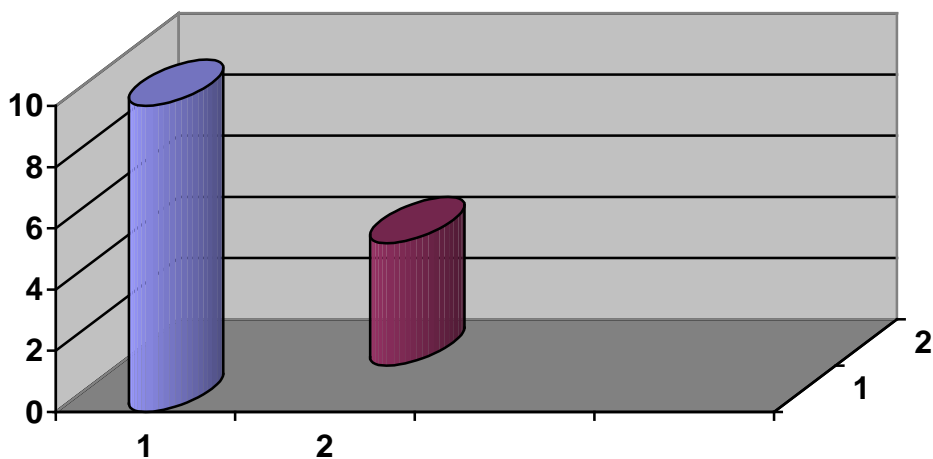
VI. ისრისპირები



1. ობსიდიანის – 10; 2. კაჟის – 1

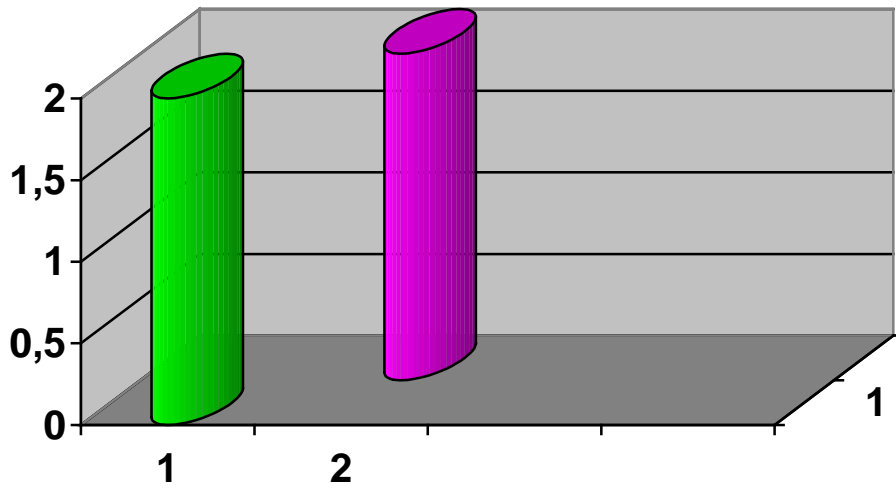
სულ: 11 ცალი

VII. ქვის ნივთები



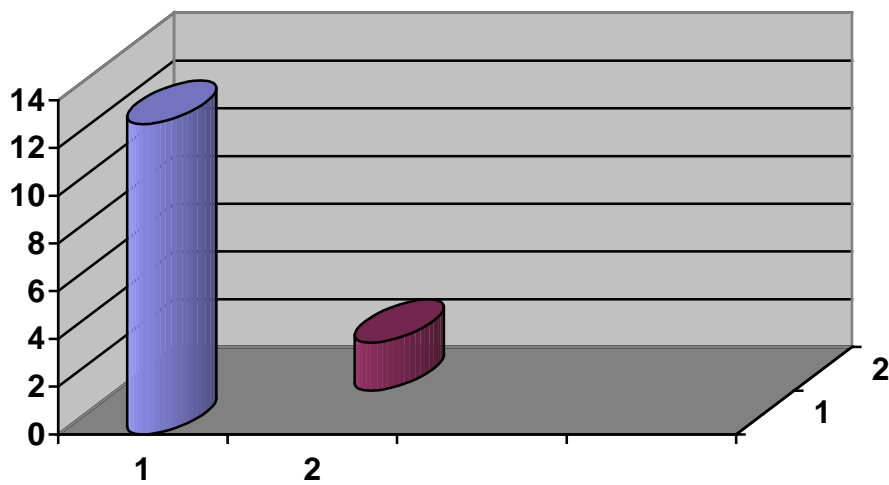
1. სალესი ქვები და ხელსაფქვავეები – 10; 2. გაურკვეველი დანიშნულების ნივთები – 4.

სულ: 14 ცალი
VIII. კვლის ნივთები



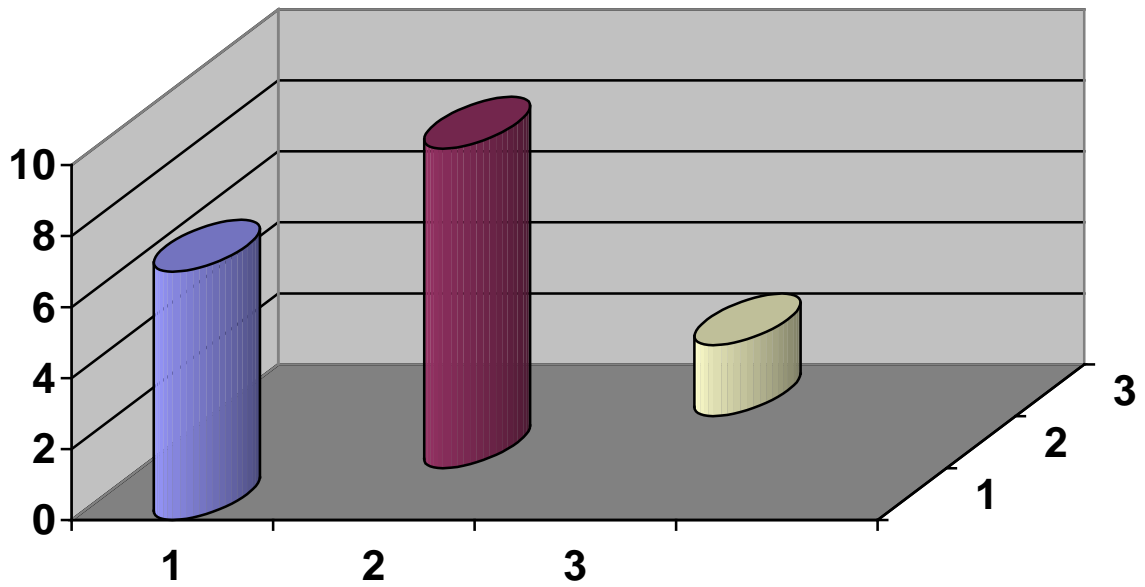
1. ფირფიტისებური ფორმის – 2; 2. ლანცეტისებური იარაღის ტარი – 2
სულ: 4 ცალი

IX. ობსიდიანი



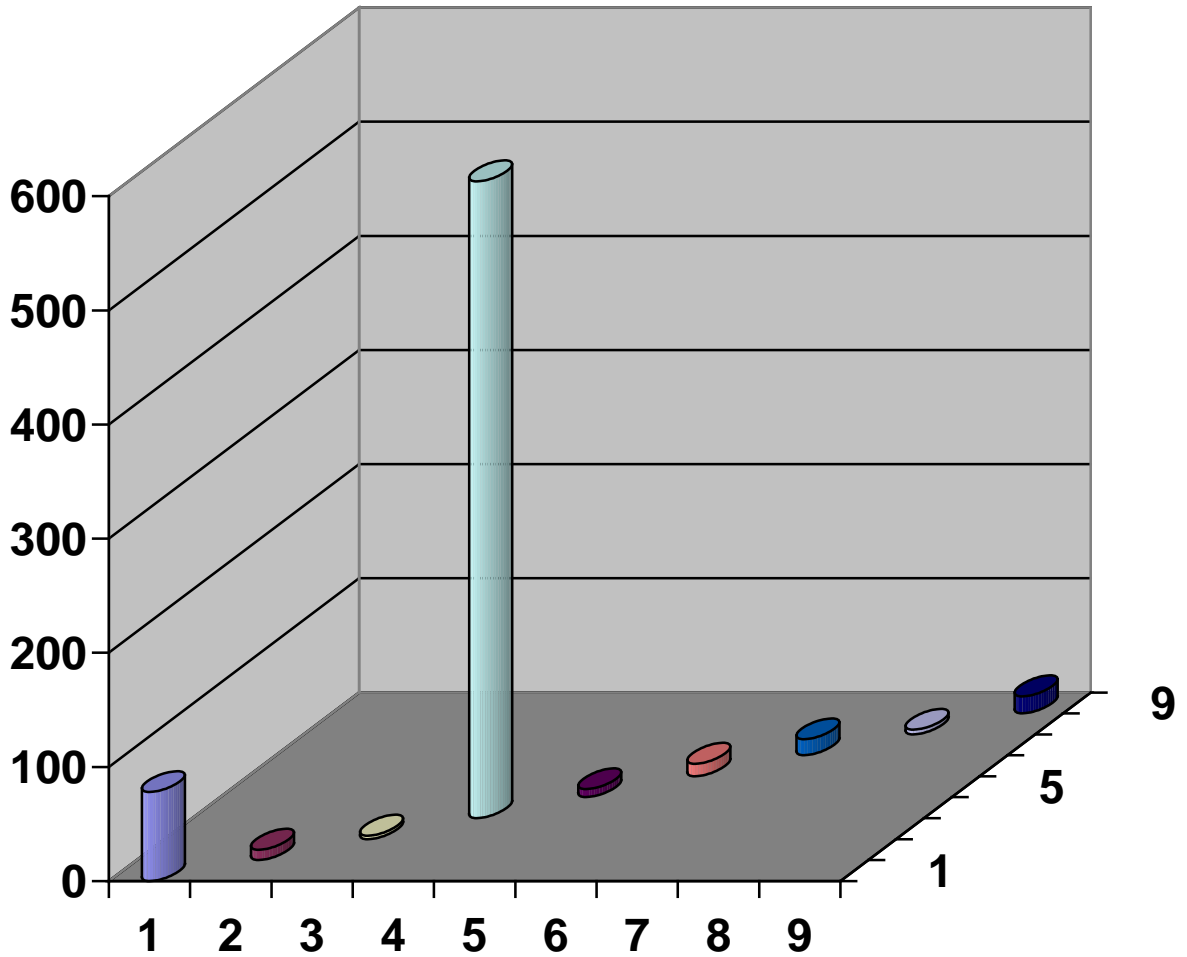
1. დაუმუშავებული ანატაკეცები – 13; 2. იარაღი – 2
სულ: 15 ცალი

სამარხების ზედაპირულ ფენაში აღმოჩნდა:



1. თიხის ჭურჭლის ფრაგმენტები – 7 ც
2. ობსიდიანის დაუმუშავებელი ანატაკეცები – 9 ც
3. ობსიდიანის იარაღი – 2 ც

საერთო სტატისტიკა



1. კერამიკა – 78; 2. ბრინჯაო – 9; 3. ოქრო – 3;
4. მძივები – 558; 5. საბეჭდავები – 7; 6. ისრისპირები – 11;
7. სალესი ქვები და ხელსაქვავები – 14; 8. ძვლის იარაღი – 4;
9. ობსიდიანი – 15.

