CHAPTER 7

PONT DRIFT (TPD 1/2)

1) General Characteristics of the site

The farm Pont Drift M.S. 12 lies on the Limpopo River 95 km west of Messina and 50 km north of Alldays. The site (co-ordinates 29°9'3" E, 22°13'52" S) lies in a raised valley on top of a long 30 metre high sandstone ridge running parallel to the Limpopo, which is about 1½ km to the north, the intervening distance forming part of a flat Mopane/ Acacia landscape.

The raised valley is surrounded by sandstone ridges, providing an area well sheltered from attack and the prevailing wind. The site can be reached from the north by climbing a precipitous but obvious path, while on the south-western side the valley opens up, with a good view to the south, which area is characterised by very hilly countryside covered with a mopane vegetation interspersed with *Combretum* and *Acacia* species. A less steep slope with numerous paths trodden into the rock leads down to an oval basin in which the adjacent site TPD 1/1 is located.

A large section of the site has been eroded away, with a gulley running across its whole length. Bedrock, littered with thousands of potsherds and bones, has been fully exposed in the south western part of the raised valley. Little vegetation in the form of trees and shrubs is found on the site, being limited to the surrounding rocky ridges, but a thick mat of blue buffalo grass (*Cenchrus ciliaris*) covers the whole deposit. On the northern side a large and obviously old baobab tree (*Adansonia digitata*) is to be seen. Table 78 gives a list of the vegetation found on and immediately around the side.

TABLE 78

Vegetation at Pont Drift TPD 1/2

Abutilon pycnodon Hochr.
Acalypa pubiflora Baill.
Adansonia digitata (L)
Commiphora edulis (Klotsch) Engl.
Croton menyhatii Pax
Ficus soldanella (Warb)
Grewia bicolor Juss
Melhania acuminata Mast.
Securinega virosa (Roxb ex Willd) Pax & k. Hoffm.

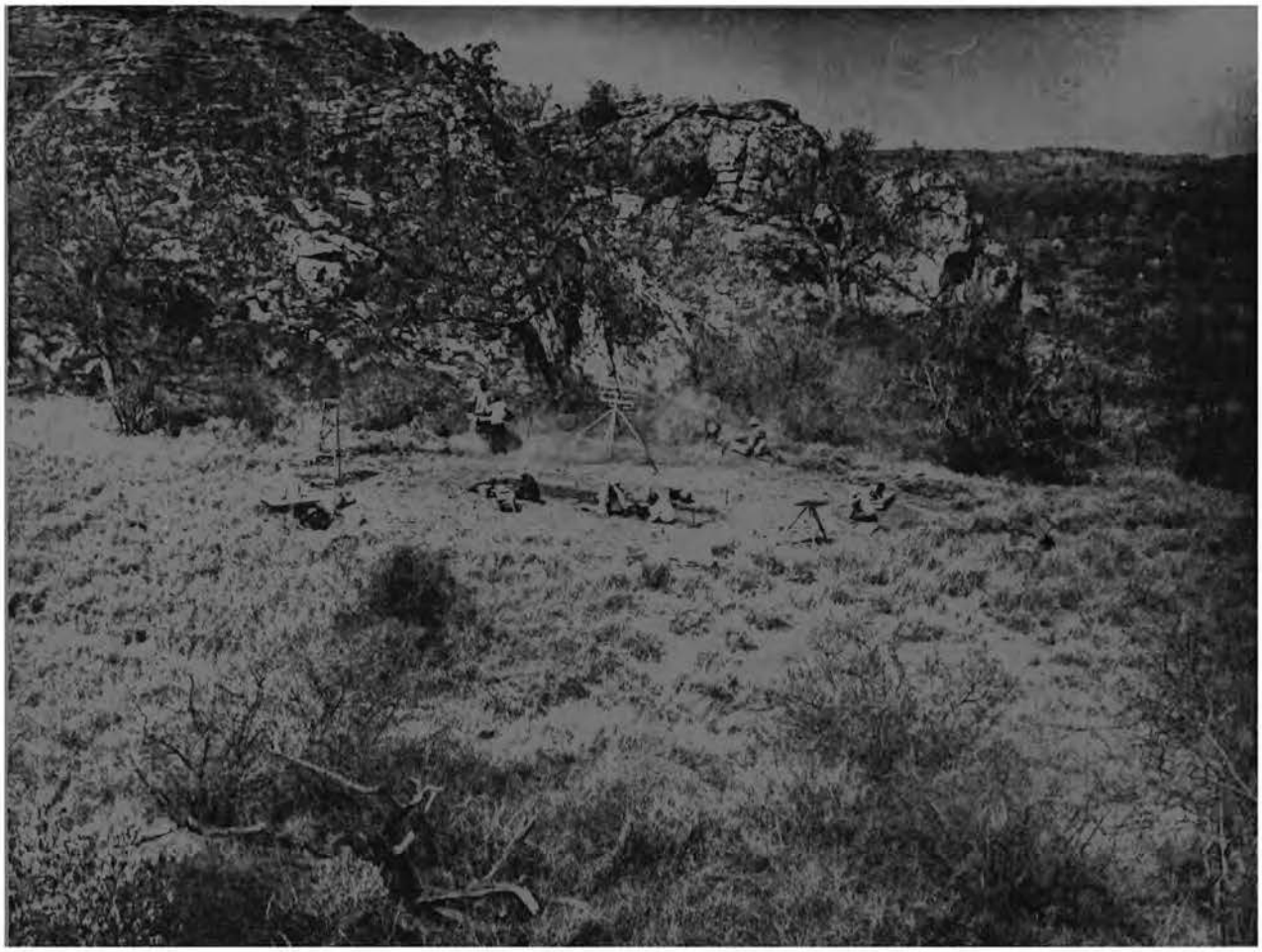


Plate 36

A view across the Pont Drift site, showing how the raised valley is surrounded by sandstone ridges. The adjacent site of TPD 1/1 is situated at the foot of the ridge on the right.

Figure 42

Pont Drift: Site map showing excavation and cross-section through erosion gulley

It is obvious that in the immediate vicinity of the site, there is little that can be utilized for food or firewood, and presumably the ancient inhabitants had to go further afield to find these necessities. To the south and to the north of the ridges there is today a plentiful supply of wood, in the form of Mopane, Leadwood, Acacia and Apple-leaf (*Lonchocarpus capassa*) trees. Diet would have been supplemented by fruit from the Marula (of which a plentiful supply exists) and baobab trees.

When the thick grass covering was partially removed, the uncovered section of the site was noticeably ashy, but little cultural material was found on the surface. The deposit was very shallow on the eastern end of the site, becoming thicker towards the central area, and diminishing in thickness towards the west, mainly as a result of erosion. A cross-section of the site shows that the deposit thickness is drastically reduced around the erosion gully, with a medium slope in this direction, showing that erosion has been taking place (See site map figure 42). In the excavation , the archaeological deposit was between 1,80 metres and 2,20 metres deep, with a further 30 to 50 cm of sterile sand before bedrock was reached.

The pottery analysis showed the site to be double component with an overlap in the centre. Unit 1 contained K2 pottery, while Unit 4 contained Zhizo pottery. Units 2 and 3 contained a mixture of Zhizo and K2 ceramics, with an increase in Zhizo as the depth increased.

No rodent disturbances were noted during the excavation.

2) The excavation

Originally a test trench of 2 x 6 metres divided into 2 x 2 metre squares was dug. It soon become obvious that the various gravel floors found in level 4 could not be satisfactorily explained, and the width of the trench was doubled. As work progressed additional squares were added. Altogether 8½ 2 x 2 meter squares were excavated. Figure 44 shows the layout and the square numbers.

Sixteen levels were dug, some of them arbitarily, and four main units were identified in the stratigraphy. Table 79 gives a resumé of these levels and their depth, colour and texture.

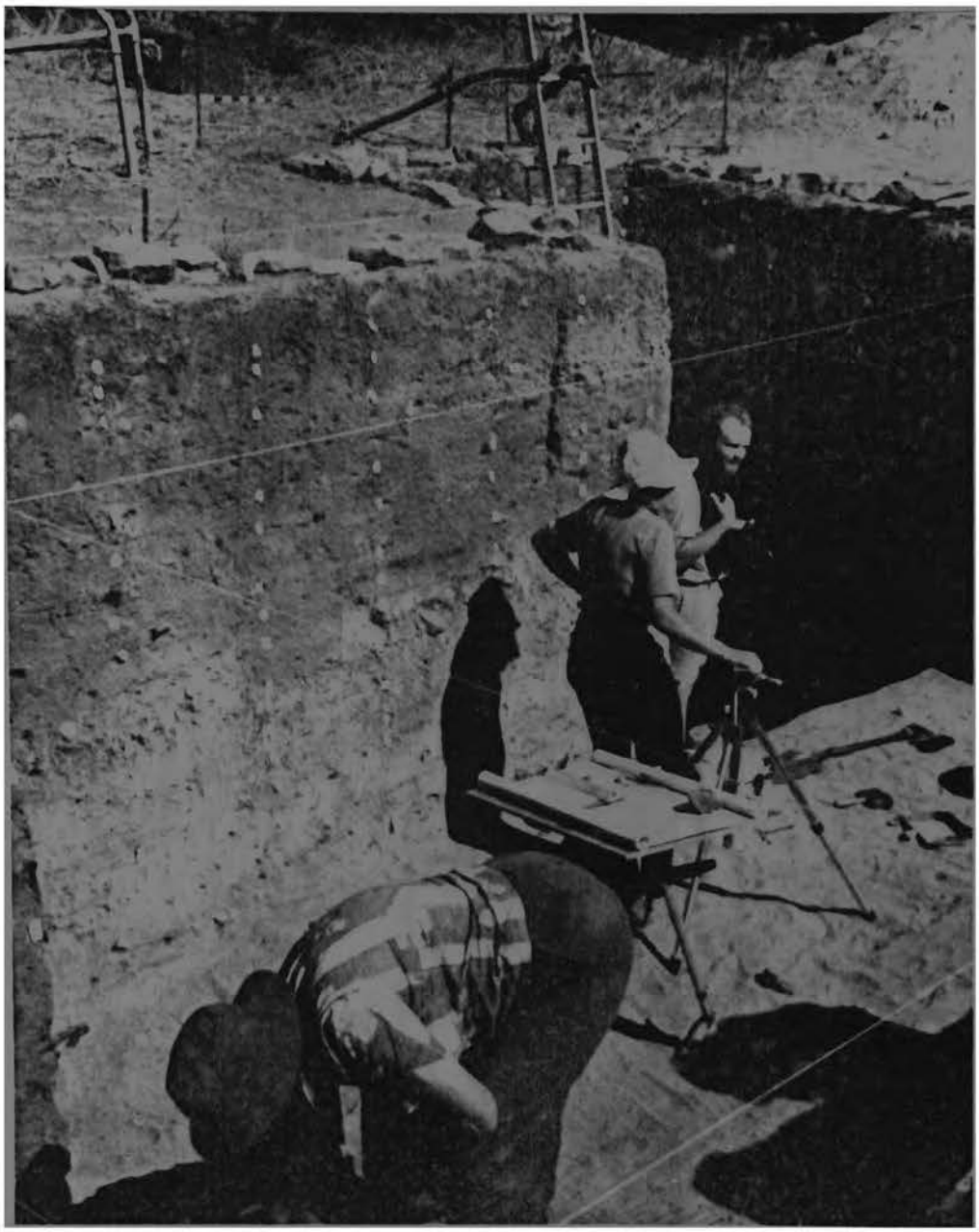


Plate 37

Pont Drift: General view of excavation showing the depth.

(Photo courtesy of Mr. J. Morgan)

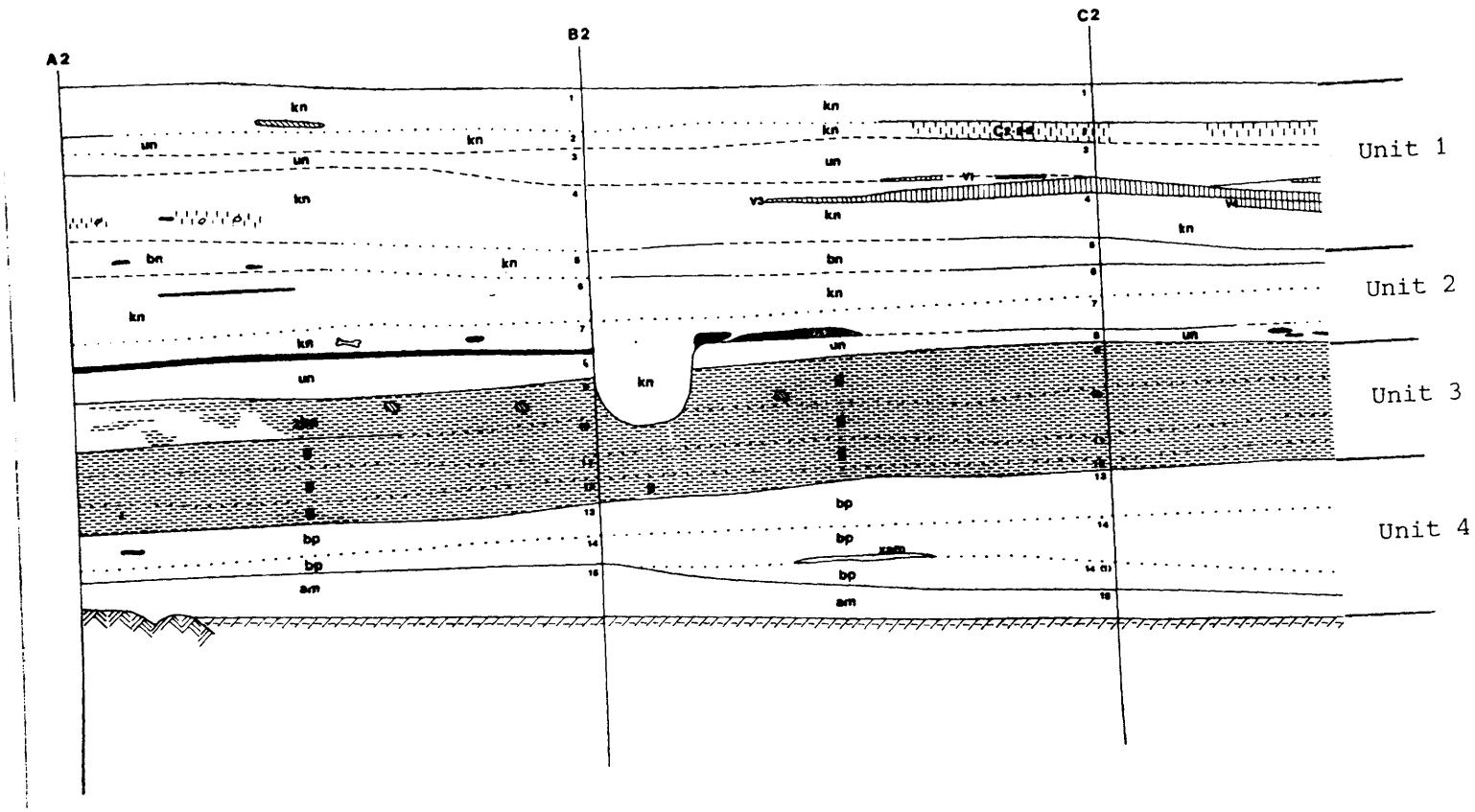


Figure 43

Pont Drift: Basic profile showing division into units

TABLE 79

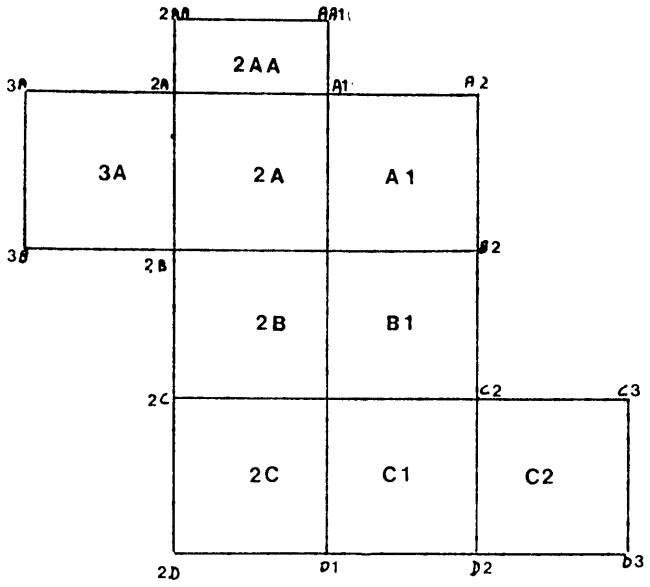
DETAILS OF PONT DRIFT LEVELS

Level		Depth (cm)	Colour and Texture
Unit 1	1	0 - 7	greyish-brown sandy soil
	2	7 - 16	greyish-brown sandy soil with gravel floors
	3	16 - 31	grey sandy soil with gravel floors
	4	31 - 57	greyish-brown sandy soil with gravel floors
Unit 2	5	57 - 66	grey sandy soil
	6	66 - 76	greyish-brown sandy soil
	7	76 - 86	greyish-brown sandy soil
	8	86 - 105	greyish-brown sandy soil
Unit 3	9	105 - 120	yellow dung
	10	120 - 138	yellow dung
	11	138 - 148	yellow dung
	12	148 - 166	yellow dung
Unit 4	13	166 - 178	grey ashy soil
	14	178 - 196	grey ashy soil
	14(i)	196 - 210	grey ashy soil
	15	210 - 217	white sand
	16	217 - 269	sterile white sand
Bedrock		269	

Part of square B1, and section of C1 close to line C2 - D2 contained loose gravel, that did not resemble part of an unconsolidated gravel floor. Immediately adjacent to this in Squares 2C and C1 lay a concentration of burnt hut rubble (C1.3.1). No other remains were associated with this rubble, other than a number of potsherds and bones. The hut rubble lay with the interior section up, and the polemarks could be clearly seen. All ran in the same direction, i.e. diagonally from C1 to D2. Little charcoal was found in between the daga lumps. The thickness of the level varied between 5 and 12 cm., and there was a pronounced increase in the amount of cultural material.

Figure 44

Pont Drift: Plan of excavation showing square and peg numbers



Level 1 consisted of soft greyish-brown sandy soil with extensive grass roots. Little cultural material was recovered, being pottery, bones and beads. Thickness varied between 5 and 15 cm.

Level 2 contained soft greyish-brown sandy soil and was arbitarily divided from level 1 in most squares except in parts of A1, B1, C1 and C2. In corner A2, a patch of yellowish-grey sandy soil was excavated, which extended in depth to the surface of level 4.

Squares B1, C1 and C2 contained patches of coarse, unconsolidated gravel (C2.2.2) between 7 and 10 cm thick. The size of individual gravel pieces was between ½ and 3 cm. The main concentration of gravel lay around peg C2. In corner C3 lay a small mound of burnt hut rubble. The edge of the mound ran in a circle about 1,40 metres from corner C3 and lay up against the gravel floor (C2.2.2) along line C2 - C3. The thickest point of the mound was at C3 (about 7 cm). There was an increase in the amount of cultural material recovered, although fewer beads came to light. Thickness of the level varied between 5 and 10 cm.

Level 3 consisted of grey sandy soil with a slightly granular texture

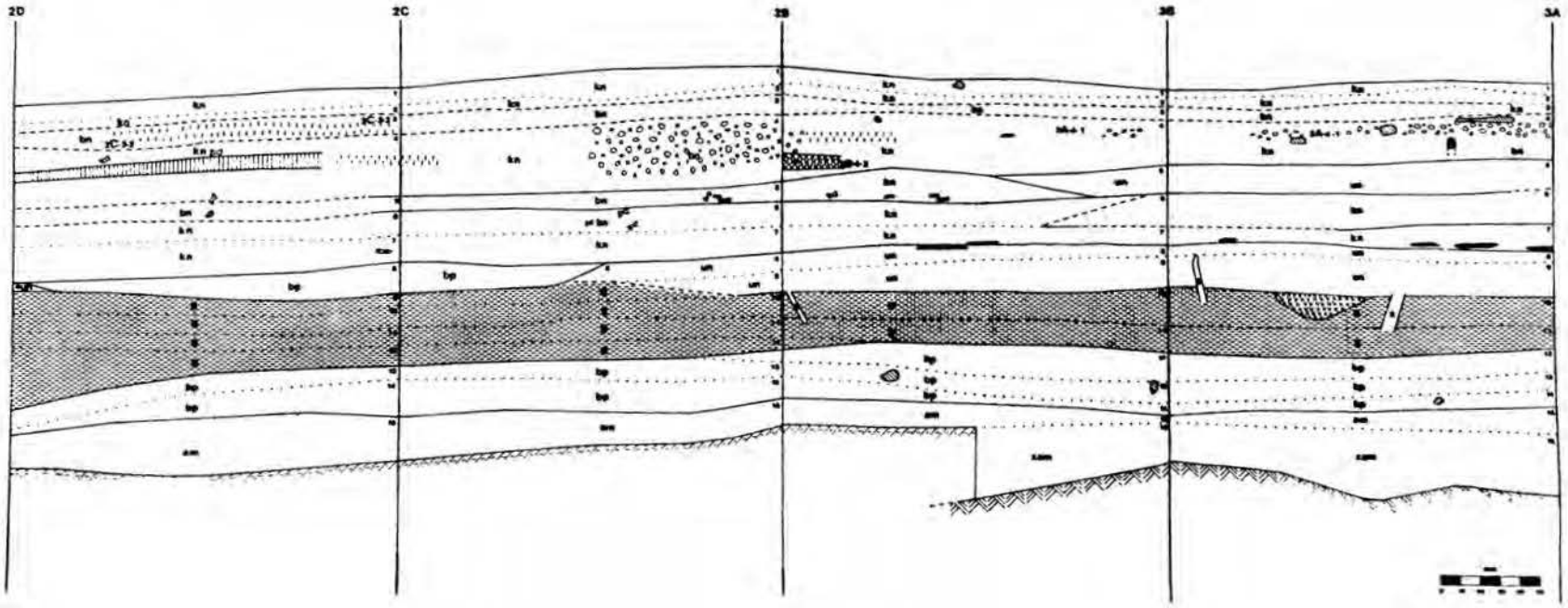


Figure 45

Pont Drift: Profile along wall 2D - 3A

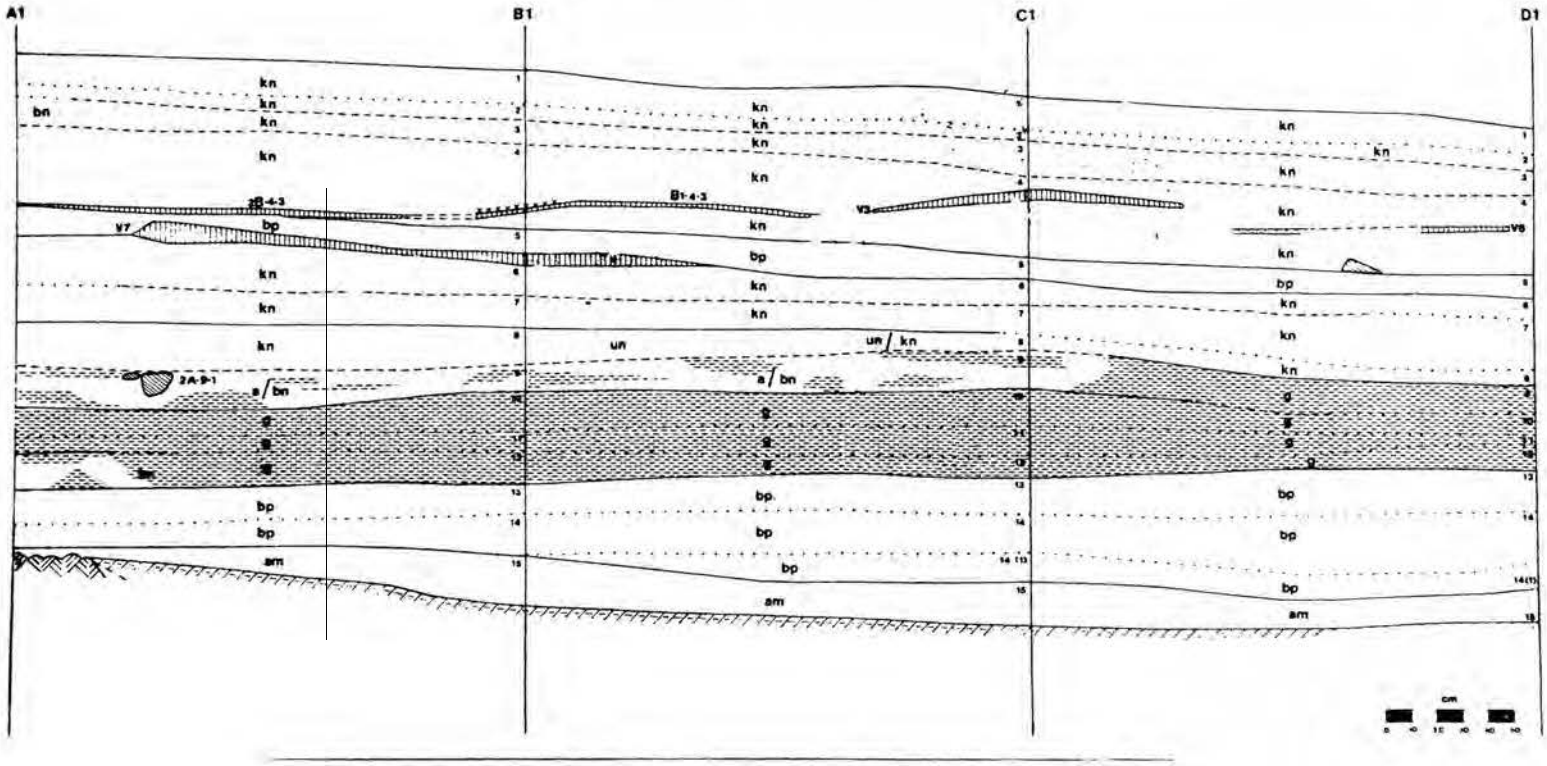


Figure 46

Pont Drift: Profile along line A1 - D1

Level 4 was the thickest level excavated, varying between 25 and 35 cm in thickness. Colour was greyish-brown with a sandy texture becoming granular in places. Various gravel floors were uncovered at different depths within the level, as well as the remains of four huts (See Table 80). The uppermost floor (V1) was a white consolidated gravel floor without a polished surface. It covered squares B1, C1 and C2 completely and extended into parts of A1, 2A, 2B and 2C. Thickness varied depending on the state of consolidation of the gravel, and was between 1 and 7 cm. Two stone structures, (C2.4.1) in corner D3, and (C1.4.1.2) along line D1 - D2, were found in association with the gravel floor.

Directly underneath V1 in squares A1 and B1 lay the remains of a probable hut floor (V2) with charred posts, the latter forming a division between a yellow sandy floor on the interior and a black sandy floor on the exterior. Both had been burnt. The polished surfaces were well preserved. Average thickness was about 3½ cm. The floor had crumbled in places, and a complete outline could not be found.

An unfired clay structure (2A.4.1) was uncovered in parts of squares 2A. 2B, and 3A. It was very friable and difficult to excavate, and consisted of a raised platform with a semi-circular moulded curb about 2 metres in diameter. A fragmentary sandy floor extended away from this structure. Two smooth oval stones, (2A.4.1.1 and 2A.4.1.2) lay together on this floor.

A white gravel floor without a polished surface (V3) was the following to be uncovered in squares B1, C1, and C2, and lay up against the burnt hut remains (2B.4.3 and 2C.4.2). The remains of the former covered squares 2AA and 2A entirely, and large parts of A1, B1, 2B and 3A. Its total diameter was about 4,20 metres. The hut remains (2C.4.2) lay in corner C1 of square 2C and consisted of a circle of charred posts 1½ metres in diameter, with a thin sandy floor that had been burnt brown. Adjacent to this circle, along lines 2C - 2D - D1 was a thick white gravel floor with an unsmeared surface. The area between the smaller hut and the larger hut contained loose pieces of gravel, and appeared to be disturbed. This was proved when a burial was encountered in level 5.

TABLE 80

RESUMÉ OF GRAVEL FLOORS AT PONT DRIFT

	DEPTH BELOW BASE LINE (LM)	SQUARE								
		A1	B1	C1	C2	2AA	2A	3A	2B	2C
Level 4	42									
	43									
	44	VI	VI	VI						
	45									
	46									
	47									
	48									
	49									
	50									
	51									
	52									
	53									
	54									
	55	V2	V2							
	56									
	57									
	58						2A.4.1	2A.4.1	2A.4.1	
	59									
	60									
	61									
	62									
	63									
	64									
	65									
	66									
	67									
	68		V3	V3	V3					
	69				V4					
	70				V8					
	71	2B.4.3	2B.4.3			2B.4.3	2B.4.3	2B.4.3	2B.4.3	
	72									V6
	73									
	74									
	75									2C.4.2
	76									
	77									
	78									
	79									
	80									
	81			V9	V9					
	82									
Level 5	83	V7	V7				V7		V7	
	84									

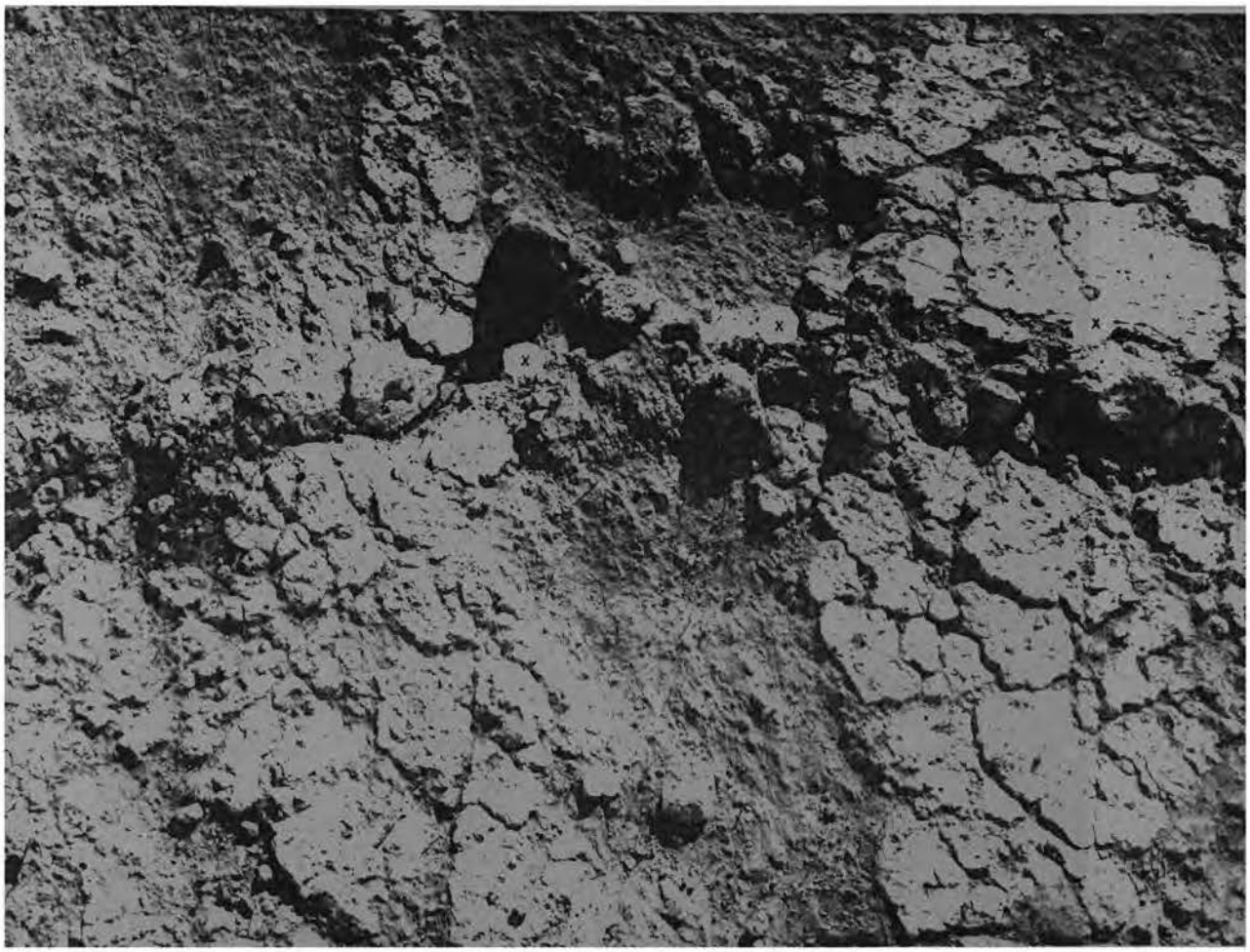


Plate 38

Pont Drift : Flcor V2 showing charred posts (at X) with the moulded floor in between. There is no indication of a plastered wall. A similar feature was noted from hut 2B.4.3.

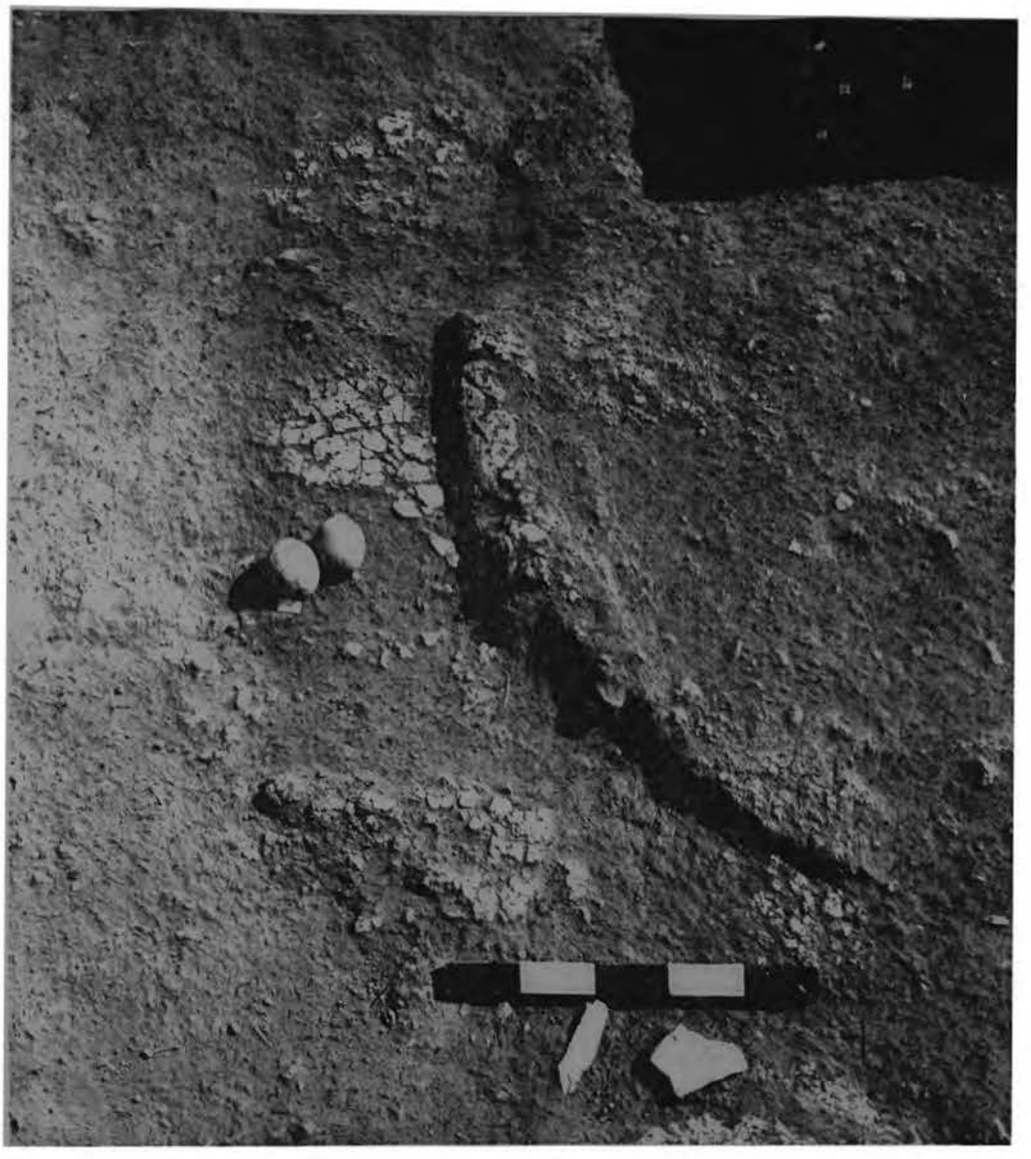


Plate 39

Pont Drift: Platform 2A.4.1 with a moulded daga curb, and a fragmentary floor on which two round stones are resting.

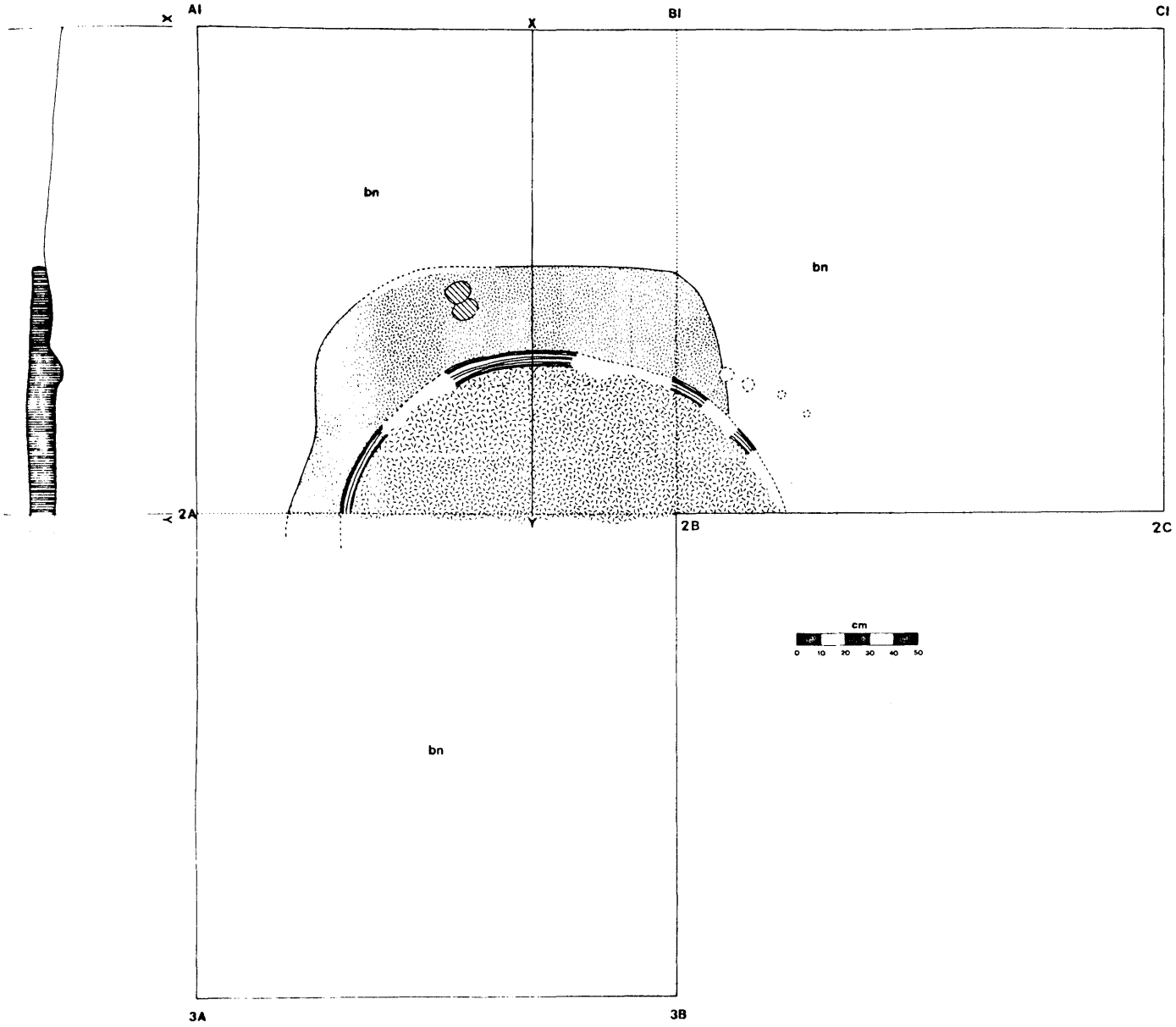


Figure 47

Pont Drift: Plan and cross-section of raised platform 2A.4.1

Plate 40

Pont Drift: Hut 2B.4.3 with adjacent storage hut 2C.4.2. The huts are surrounded by gravel floors except directly between the two huts, where the burial 2B.5.1 caused a disturbance.

A is the storage hut 2C.4.2. The circle of charred posts is shown by the white cards.

Point B is the step (wall?) seperating the rear storage area C from the front of the hut. The difference between the two sections is clear. At the rear (C) the burnt soil is in contrast to the smoothened gravel floor. The moulded floor between the posts of the inner circle at the rear of the hut is clearly visible, whereas at the front of the hut, no indication of the moulding occurs.

D is the entrance to the hut.

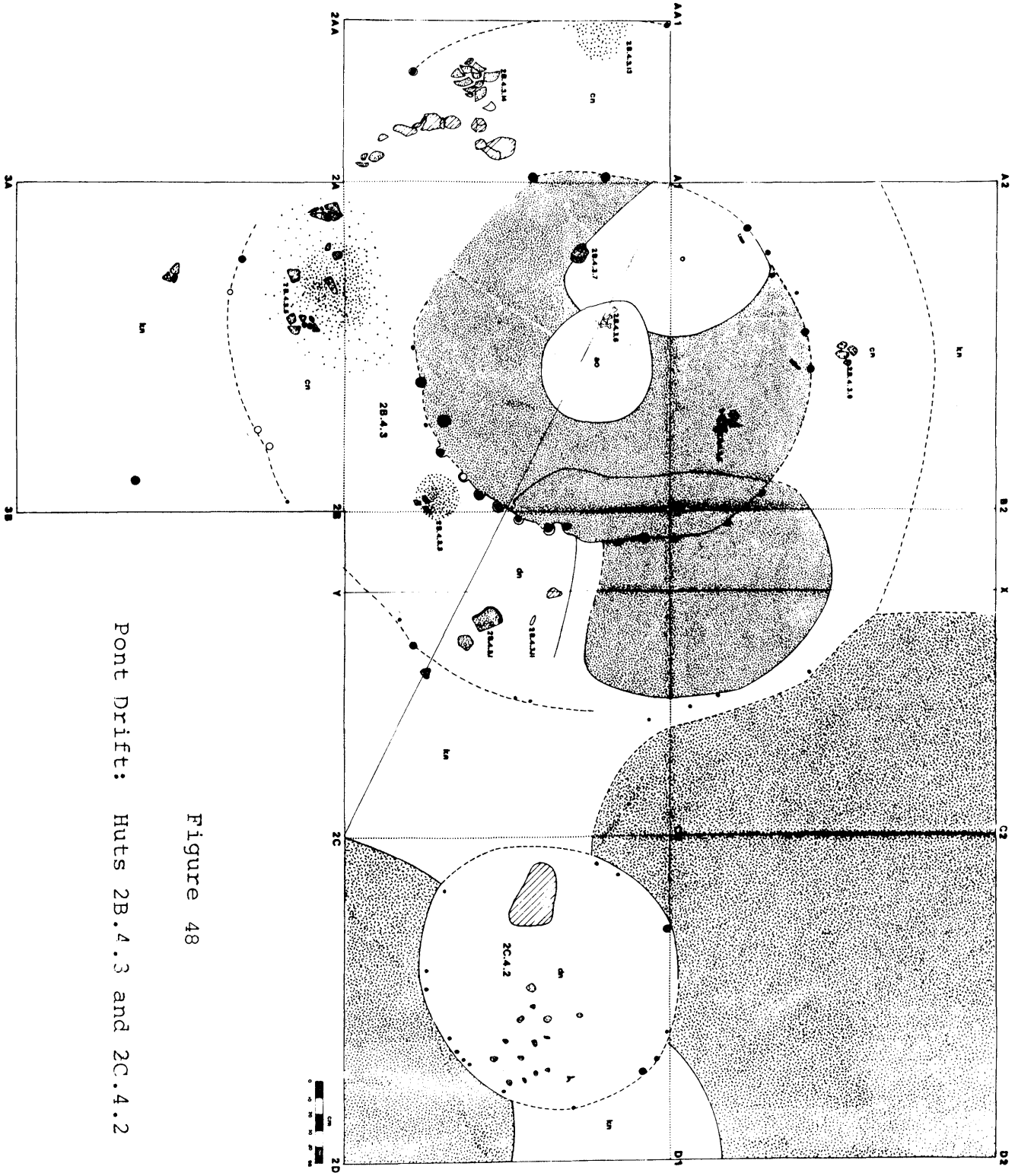


Figure 48

Pont Drift: Huts 2B.4.3 and 2C.4.2

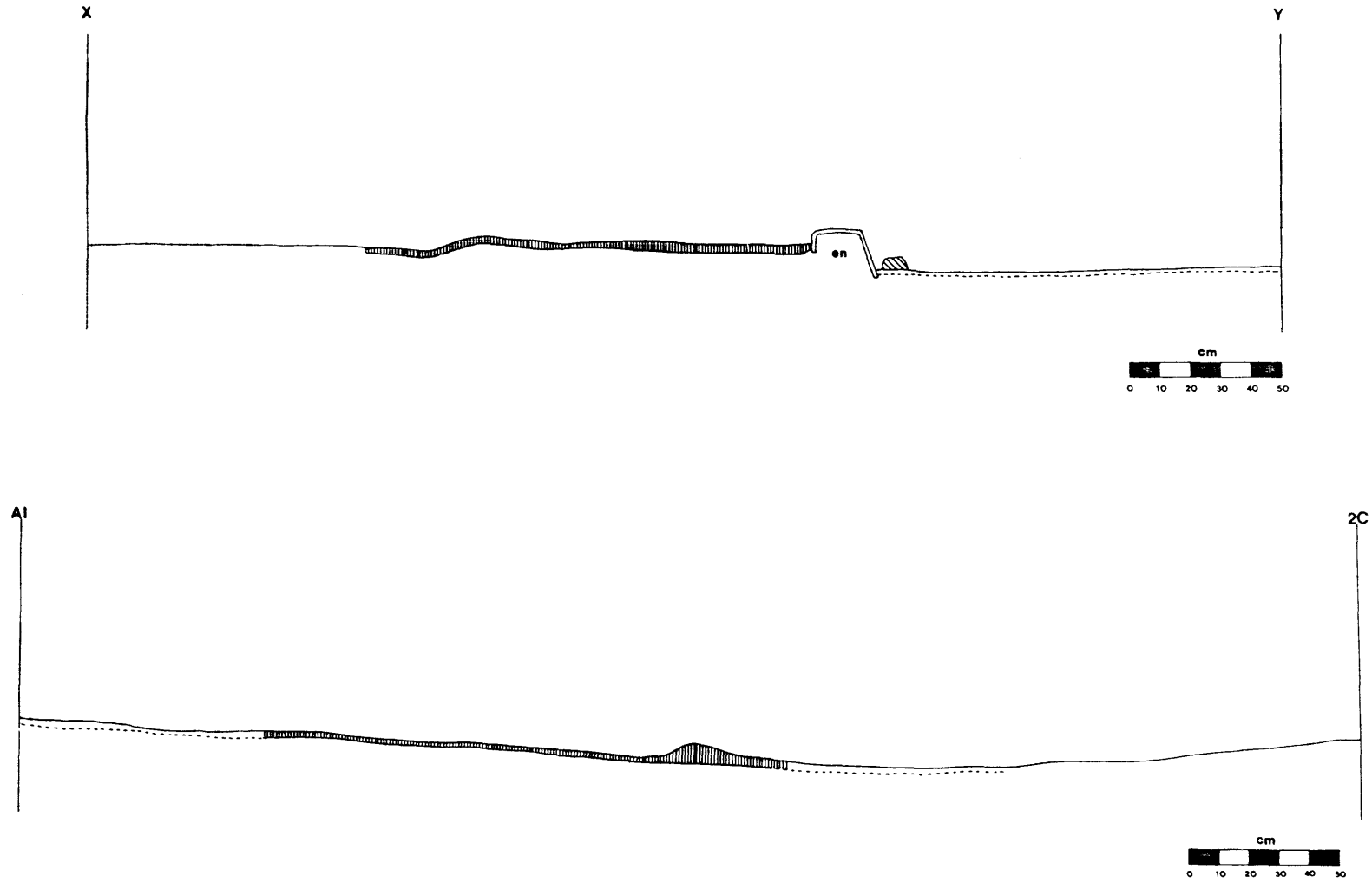


Figure 49

Pont Drift: Cross-sections of hut 2B.4.3

Immediately under floor V3, and covering approximately the same area was another white gravel floor (V4) with a thickness of between 3 and 6 cm.

All these gravel floors were of a similar gravel and consolidation varied within each floor. Certain areas were found to be well consolidated, while elsewhere in the same floor the gravel was loose.

A thin brown sandy floor 2 cm thick was found under floor V4 and covered most of square C2. A small ashy spot was on the surface of the floor. Underneath this, the floor was burnt showing that fire had been made on the floor, and that the ash had not been thrown there.

At the base of level 4, another white gravel floor (V9) was found in square C2, and consisted of two parts. The first was a well consolidated raised step with a polished surface, seven centimetres thick, 1,80 long and 60 cm wide, running in the form of a slight arc and at a slight angle to line C2 - D2. At D2, the corner of the step extending some 15 cm into square C1. The second part consisted of a layer of coarse loose white gravel some 5 cm thick lay around the step with an edge running nearly parallel to the direction of the step (See figure 50 and plate 41). The base of the stone structure (C2.4.1) was on the same level as the floor .

Level 5 varied in colour and texture. In square 3A, towards line 3A - 3B, it contained greyish-yellow sandy soil with material resembling dung in places. This gradually changed to grey ashy soil along line 2A - 2B. in square 2 B, the colour changed to grey sandy soil, as a result of the disturbance caused by the burial. Throughout the other squares the soil remained grey and ashy. Thickness varied between 7 and 19 cm. A depression with a depth of 32 cm in the middle was noted close to point D2, occuring mainly in square C1, but extending into C2 (See Profiles D1 - D3 and C2 - D2). This proved to be part of a pit that had settled. The depression was filled with grey ashy soil. Proportionally more cultural material was recovered than in level 4.

In square 2B, a child burial was found (2B.5.1). The skeleton was well preserved except for the crushed skull, and lay in the flexed position on the right side facing north. Several broken vessels had been placed closely around the body and lay partially on top of the bones. Glass beads were also noted. The grave infill contained numerous

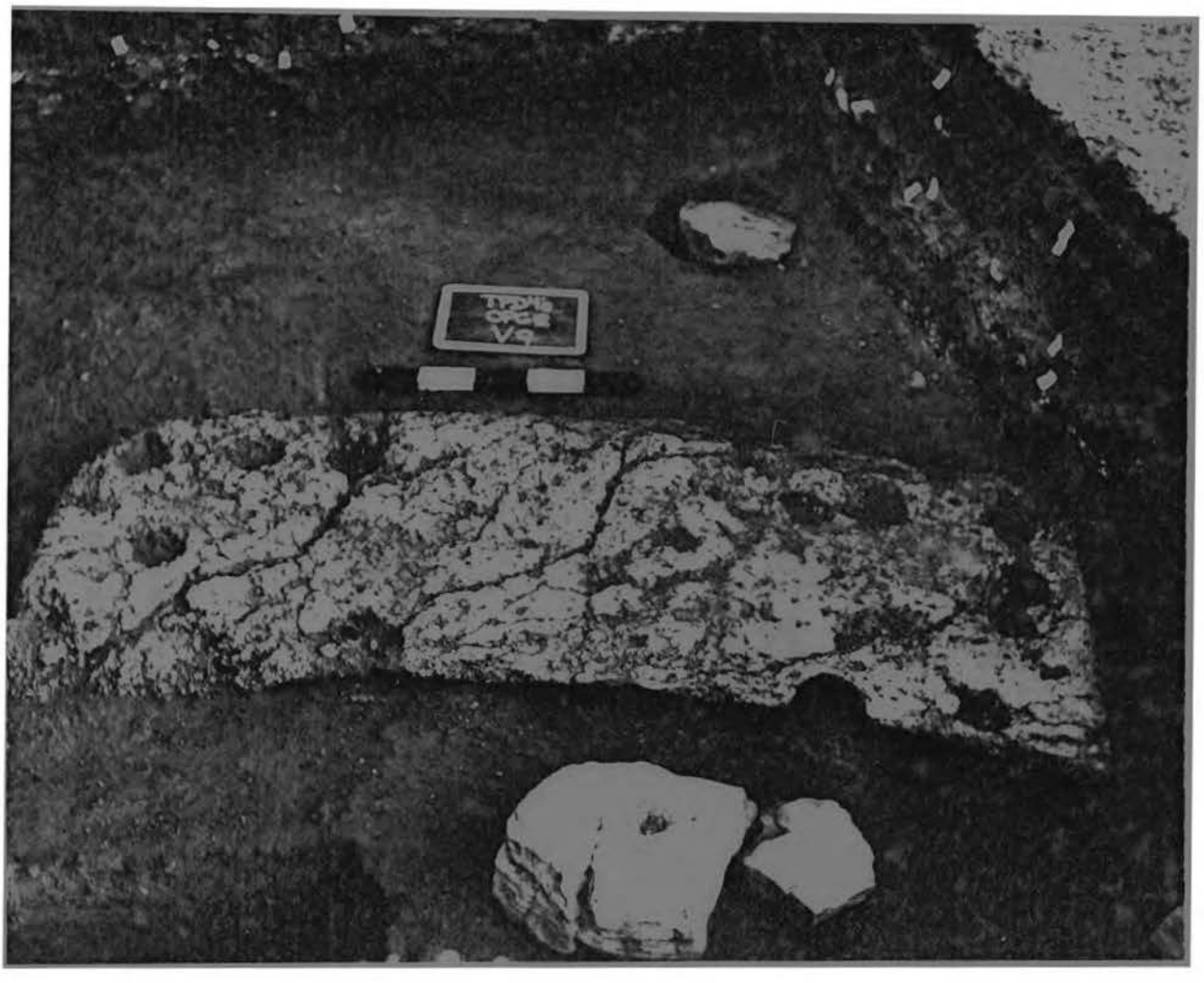


Plate 41

Pont Drift : Floor V9, showing post holes and sharply defined interior edge. The stone in the foreground contains a single dolley hole.

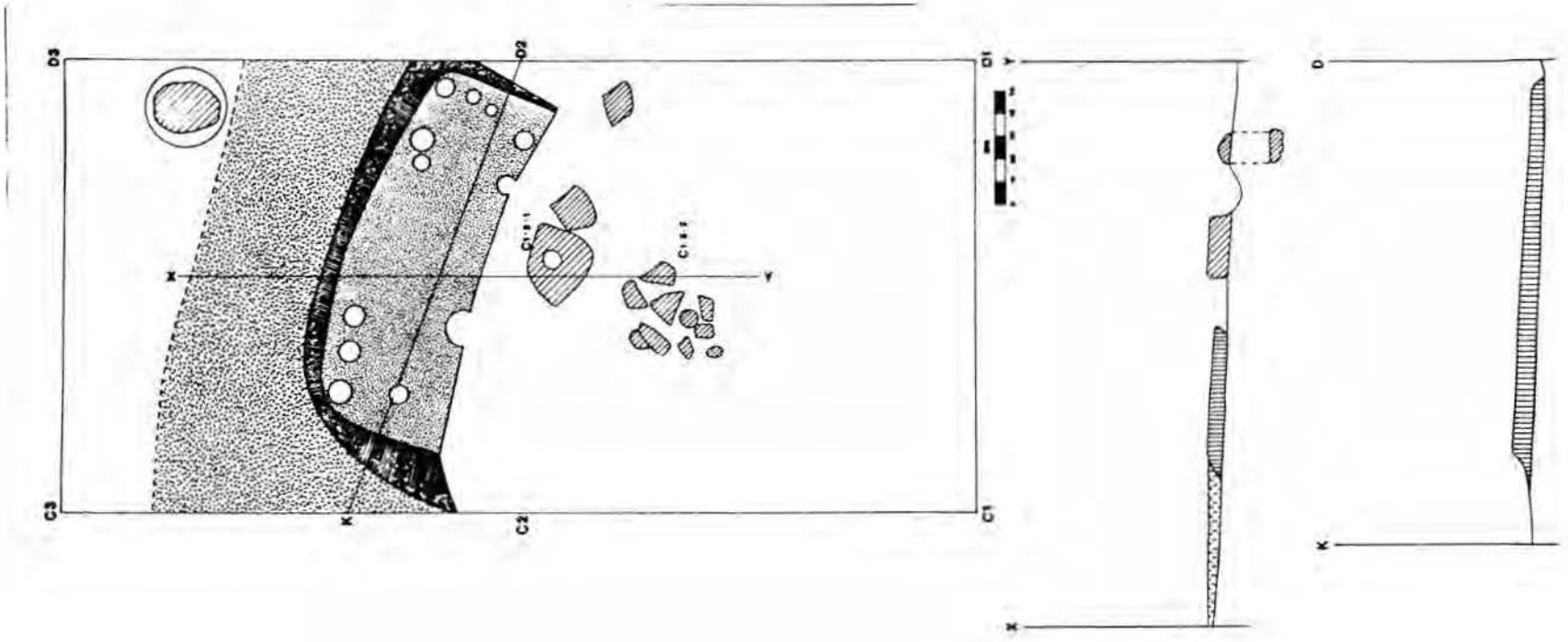


Figure 50

Pont Drift: Plan and cross-section of floor V9 showing close proximity of stone with dolley hole (C1.5.1) and collapsed stone-lined pit. (C1.5.2)

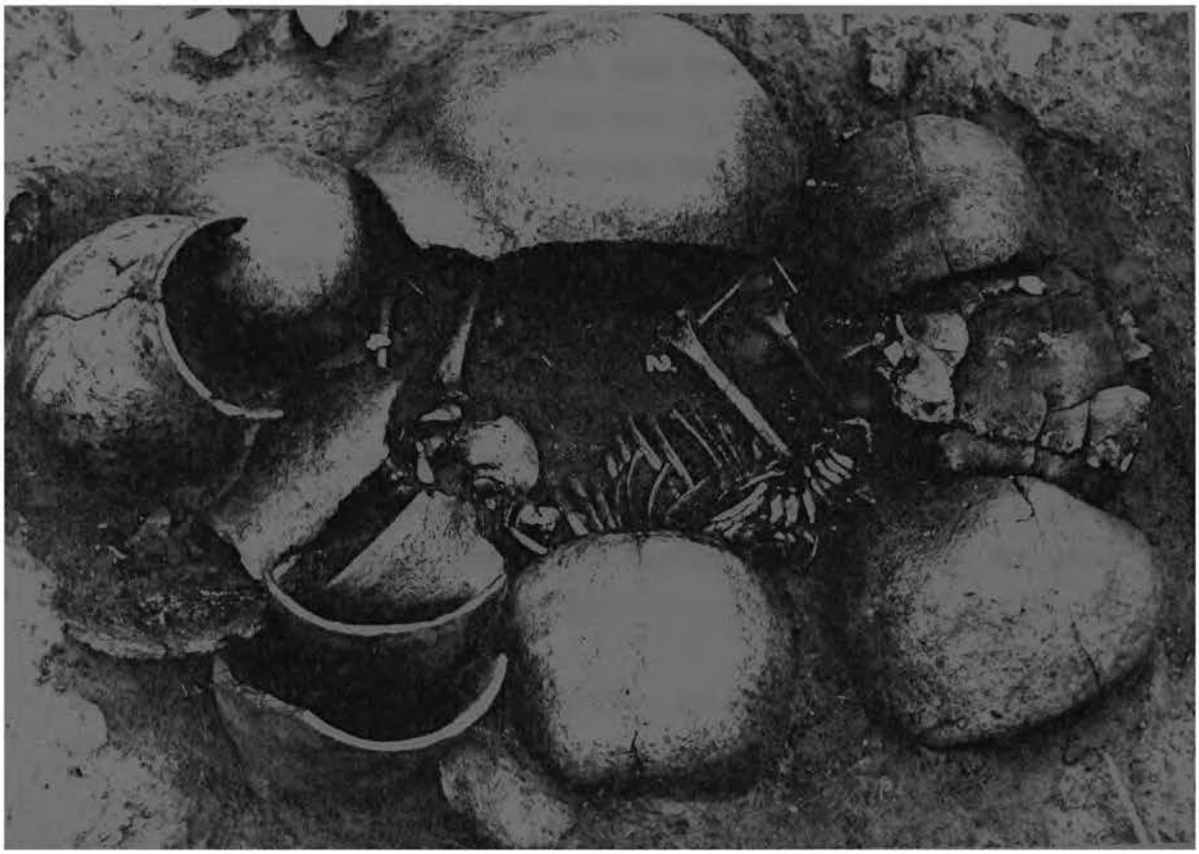


Plate 42

Pont Drift : Burial 2B.5.1 with grave goods.

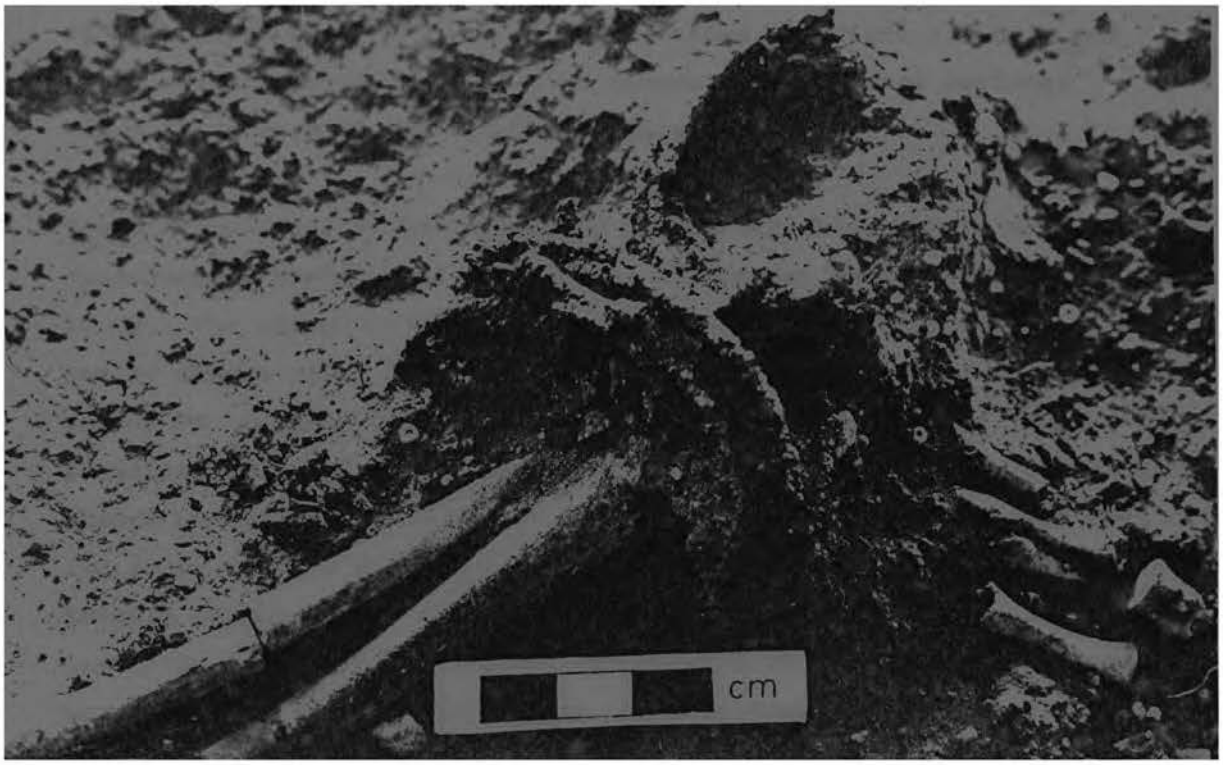


Plate 43

Pont Drift : Burial 2B.5.1 showing details of leg rings and beads.

bits of burnt hut rubble, showing that the burial could not be connected with the remains of hut 2B.4.3 There was no other indication out of which level the grave had been dug.

A coarse bluish-grey gravel floor (V7) formed the base of level 5 in parts of squares 2A, A1 and B1. Thickness varied between 2 and 7 cm, the thickest part being a 58 cm long moulded curb that ran parallel to line A1 - A2 (See profile A1 - C1 for other details). The surface of the floor had been polished, and as a result of it being rather crumbly, the complete outline could not be traced. A single grinding stone (A1.5.2) lay on the surface of the floor. No other finds could be associated with it.

Square C1 revealed a stone structure (C1.5.2) and a single stone mortar.

Level 6 contained greyish-brown sandy soil which was harder than in level 5. Hard patches with burnt surfaces and ash were found throughout this level, suggesting the frequent making of fires. Fewer potsherds and bones were recovered than in level 5, but more beads. Thickness varied between 10 and 25 cm, except in the depression at D2 where it decreased to about 5 cm. A single stone structure (3A.6.1) was found next to point 2A. Two flat stones with polished surfaces (2A.6.1 and 2A.6.2) were found in square 2A.

Level 7 consisted of greyish-brown sandy soil which was in most places considerably harder than in level 6. Thickness varied from 7 to 15 cm. The amount of cultural material remained unchanged. A single row of stones (3A.7.1) was uncovered in the upper part of the level in square 3A, running across the middle of the square more or less parallel to line 3A - 2A (See plate **47**). A whetstone (2C.7.2) with a V-shaped groove was uncovered in square 2C, next to a pock-marked flat stone (2C.7.3). In the same square but slightly deeper, a very oxidized and fragile copper-coated iron bracelet (2C.7.4) was removed in a plaster cast. In square C1 the remains of a string of turquoise glass beads was recovered. These lay next to the whetstone (2C.7.2).

In corner C3 a hollow filled with greyish-yellow ashy soil was designated C2.7.1 and excavated seperately (See profile C3 - D3). A small pit 30 cm deep and 40 cm wide was found next to point B2 (See profile

A2 - C2). No significant remains were found in either of these hollows.

Level 8 The surface of level 8 was characterized by a thin crust of hard sandy soil burnt dark brown which extended over large parts of the surface. The level contained soft yellow sandy soil, except towards corner D3 where it become greyish-brown. Thickness varied from 5 to 15 cm. In 2AA a large heap of stones was noted.

Level 8(i) was a lens of grey ashy soil that appeared along line 2D - 2B and extended only a short distance into the excavation. Maximum thickness was 15 cm. Few cultural remains were recovered.

Level 9 consisted of a yellow dung layer arbitarily divided into a 10 cm thickness. Part of the layer was very powdery, particularly around squares 3A and 2A. In the latter but particularly in 2AA, the dung became clearly mixed with grey sandy soil. Less cultural material was recovered, although bone fragments were numerous. In square 2A along line A1 - B1 a concentration of stones (2A.9.1) was excavated extending into square A1 adjacent to that corner.

The stones were not packed on top of each other and consisted of a few large stones with small ones inbetween.

Level 10 contained hard lumpy yellow dung with a dramatic decrease in cultural material. Thickness varied between 10 and 15 cm. In square 2AA and that part of square 2A closest to line 2A - A1 it was noted that the dung did not form a solid level, and was mixed with grey sandy soil. A pile of stones was observed close to the middle of 2AA. On excavating this, an unusual feature (2AA.10.1) was uncovered, consisting of numerous stones, bones, potsherds, and beads lying on top of a circular paved stone floor. This floor was covered by a thin layer of fine, brown consolidated gravel (See figure **56** and plate **48**).

Level 11 remained the same as level 10, from which it was arbitarily divided. There was a slight increase in cultural remains. Thickness varied between 10 and 15 cm. Level 11 was not excavated in 2AA as this square had been opened to uncover feature 2AA.10.1.

Level 12 still contained yellow dung, although it varied in texture from lumps to powdery yellow sandy soil. Thickness varied between 5 and

15 cm, except in corner 2D where a depression increased the thickness over 30 cm. In part of square 3A, the yellow sandy soil changed gradually into grey ashy soil, while in corner 2B of the same square three large stones were found lying on edge. No significance could be attached to this feature. In corner D2 of square C1 a disturbance was noticed and excavated as feature C1.12.1. This proved to be a circular pit containing several large stones and two thirds of a broken bowl (C1.12.1.1). The pit extended into level 14, at a depth of about 185 cm below the surface. On examination of the stratigraphy, it was found that the pit originated from level 8 and had been overlooked due to the mixture of dung in the fill. The depression noted in levels 5 and 6 had obviously been caused by the soil in the pit settling (See profiles D1 - D3 and C2 - D2 as well as Plate 50).

Level 13 consisted of very soft grey ashy soil with a large amount of charcoal. There was no significant change in the amount of cultural material recovered compared to level 12. Thickness varied between 10 and 18 cm.

Level 14 was arbitarily divided from layer 13 and contained very soft grey ashy soil with a large amount of charcoal. There was an increase in the amount of faunal material, although the amount of pottery remained much the same. Level thickness varied between 5 and 25 cm. In square 2B, running in a slight arc from corner B1 to midway along line 2B - 2C, was a scattered row of small to medium sized stones and three charred posts, whose diameters were 5, 7 and 9 cm each. The two larger posts were removed for dating, and labled 2B.14.1.2. There were no associated finds.

Level 14(i) was distinguished in squares C1 and C2 and parts of B1, 2B and 2C. Parts of this level were covered by a thin sterile white sandy layer, which appeared to have been washed in, possibly during heavy rain. The thickest part of the level was about 10 cm and contained soft grey ashy soil with charcoal. The amount of cultural material recovered was similar to level 14.

Level 15 contained soft white sand and was excavated to a depth of about 10 cm, when it was obvious that no more cultural material was being obtained. The white sand represents the original surface of the site, into which cultural remains were trodden. In square 2B, an oval pit

(2B.15.1) 1,40 metres by 1,20 metres was found and excavated to a depth of 40 cm. The pit contained three large stones and was filled with a mixture of white sand and grey ashy soil. It has presumably been dug from level 14. No other features or cultural material could be associated with the pit.

Level 16 To ensure that the white sand had not been washed in, two trenches of 1 x 2 metres were dug down to bedrock in squares 3A and C2. In the former, bedrock was reached after 30 cm, while in the latter, a further 70 cm of sterile sand was removed. No cultural material was found.

3) Analysis and Interpretation

a) Ceramics

i) Pottery

The Pont Drift Pottery has been analysed according to the same techniques used for Schroda. All decoration motifs and vessel shapes found, have been sorted into the standard series list of motifs and shapes used for the sites excavated in the Limpopo/Shashi Valley.

A total of 28314 sherds were recovered from the site. Body sherds consituted 25163 pieces or 88.9% of the sample, while undecorated rims tallied 1952 (6,9%) and decorated sherds 1199 (4,2%) pieces. When placed into the stratigraphic units, a clear picture emerges as is seen in table 81

Table 81

PONT DRIFT: Total Pottery sample

	Total	Percent
Unit 1	13779	48.7
Unit 2	6706	23.7
Unit 3	3564	12.6
Unit 4	4265	15.0
Total	28314	100.0

Nearly half of the sherds recovered were found in levels 1 - 4 (Unit 1) while the dung level showed, as could be expected, the lowest percentage.

Thirty-seven different vessel shapes were identified. In many cases only single examples of shapes could be identified. In spite of the low individual count per vessel shape, it was decided to keep them seperate instead of combining similar shapes, because it was felt that there was sufficient difference between each individual shape to warrant their separation.

The 1952 undecorated rims were divided into rims that were too small for vessel shape indentification, and those whose shape could be identified. The former catagory contained 867 unindentifiable sherds leaving 1085 that could be identified.

Undecorated Vessels

The 1085 undecorated identifiable sherds were divided into two broad catagories, namely those that could be identified according to the vessel shape list, and those that were identifiable only to basic vessel shape, i.e. bowls, beakers, beaker bowls and pots. The two catagories were labled 'identifiable' and 'indeterminate' respectively. Table 82 shows the numbers and percentage of undecorated vessels. The percentage is expressed as part of the grand total.

Bowls made up 61,1% of the undecorated sample, with pots returning 36,2%.

Looking at the individual units, a clear picture emerges as can be seen in tables 83 and 84.

It is noticable that the percentage of vessels is highest in Unit 1, and drops quickly unit by unit until in Unit 4 it is less than a quarter of that in unit 1.

Another interesting feature is that while beakers and beaker bowls are not an important part of the assemblage, they feature in all Units. The positions of the two pieces recovered from unit four were checked, and it seems unlikely that they were intrusions into the

TABLE 82

PONT DRIFT : Total of Undecorated Vessels

Vessel Shape	Number	%
Identified bowls	195	10,4%
Identified beakers	13	0,7%
Identified beaker bowls	11	0,6%
Identified pots	21	1,1%
Indeterminate bowls	468	23,9%
Indeterminate beakers	2	0,1%
Indeterminate beaker bowls	0	0
Indeterminate pots	375	19,2%
TOTAL	1085	55,6%
Totally unidentifiable	867	44,4%
GRAND TOTAL	1952	100,0%

unit by means of disturbances. This corresponds to what was found at Schroda, namely that beaker-like vessels are found in association with Zhizo pottery.

Twenty-six different vessel shapes were identified other than indeterminate pots, bowls beakers and beaker-bowls. These shapes were comprised of 2 beaker bowls, (7,7%) 3 beakers (11,5%) 15 bowls (57,7%) and 6 pots (23,1%). It is clear that the bowls were considered more important than all the other shapes combined in the Undecorated vessel class.

Table 85 gives a level by level breakdown of the numbers of different vessel shapes identified.

TABLE 83

PONT DRIFT: Totals of Identifiable and indeterminate Vessel shapes (undecorated)

Vessel Shape	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4	
Bowls	246	232	108	77	
Beakers	8	5	1	1	
Beaker bowls	4	4	2	1	
Pots	223	101	40	34	Total
Total	481	340	151	113	1085
Percentage	44,4	31,3	13,9	10,4	100,00

TABLE 84

PONT DRIFT : Undecorated vessels in each unit

Vessel Shape	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4
Identified bowls	51	87	36	21
Identified beakers	7	5	1	0
Identified beaker bowls	4	4	2	1
Identified pots	6	6	5	4
TOTAL	68	102	44	26
Indeterminate bowls	195	145	72	56
Indeterminate beakers	1	0	0	1
Indeterminate beaker bowls	0	0	0	0
Indeterminate pots	217	93	35	30
TOTAL	413	238	107	87

TABLE 85

PONT DRIFT : Total numbers of identified vessel shapes (Undecorated)

	Identified pots	Identified bowls	Identified beakers	Unidentifiable	Vessel Shape																									
					Beaker bowl		Beaker			Bowl																	Pot					
					43	42	39	40	41	31	30	20	21	29	28	32	22	35	24	27	26	38	25	33	16	18	3	6	17	15
Level																														
1	10	8		49	1																									
2	27	26		27			1			2	2	1	1												1					
3	82	72		142	1		1		1		2	4	3	6	3	1	1									1				
4	98	89	1	184	2		3	1		1	4	4	3	4	3	1		1	1	1	1	1				1	2	1		
5	50	55		81	1		1		1	3	2	2	3	8	2			1	1	1	1		3	1	1					
6	18	25		61	1	1			1		2		21	4	4			1			1		1			1				
7	15	38		71		1			1	1	8			1	3	1			1	1				2	1			1		
8	10	27		49			1					2	1	1					1					2				2		
9	13	24		42	1							1	2	4	3						1		1		1			1	1	
10	9	17		19	1		1					1	4		3	1								1	1					
11	7	14		12									2	2	2				1					1					1	
12	6	17		22									1	1	1			1			1			1						
13	10	22		29								1	2		2	1	1													
14	7	16	1	34		1						2			4						1			1	1			1		
14(i)	6	8		18							1				1															
15	7	10		27							1	1		1						1					2					
Total	375	468	2	867	8	3	8	1	4	7	22	29	43	32	32	5	2	4	5	4	6	1	5	9	8	3	2	1	5	2

Several facts emerge from the table. Beakers and beaker bowls were found in every level from 1 - 10, and again in level 14. Amongst the bowls, several shapes were found extending through most levels, although occuring rather sporadically in the lower levels. Two shapes (25 and 33) did not occur in units 3 and 4. A clear trend was observed in that several shapes disappeared in the upper levels.

A similar trend, but clearer, was found amongst the pots, where only one undecorated shape (16) occured in all units. The other shapes were found in only the upper or lower levels.

Decorated Vessels

The 323 decorated sherds that were analised, were also divided as described under undecorated vessels.

Table 86 gives details as to the numbers and percentages of the various catagories.

TABLE 86

PONT DRIFT : Decorated Vessels

Vessel Shape	Number	%
Identified Bowls	13	4,0
Identified Beakers	0	0,0
Identified Beaker bowls	3	0,9
Identified Pots	50	15,5
Indeterminate Bowls	2	0,6
Indeterminate Beaker bowls	8	2,5
Indeterminate Pots	236	73,1
TOTAL	323	100,0

Bowls were less prominent than in the undecorated sample, forming only 4,6% of the identifiable decorated sample. Pots formed 88,6% of the sample, while the remaining 6,8% was made up by beakers and beaker bowls.

It can thus be concluded that most pots were decorated, while the large majority of bowls were plain. Decorated beakers and beaker bowls are more common than undecorated, but form an insignificant part of the total.

The numbers of decorated vessels found in the individual units is shown in tables 87 and 88 .

TABLE 87

PONT DRIFT : Number of Decorated Vessels in each Unit

Vessel Shape	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4
Identified Bowls	6	7	0	0
Identified Beakers	0	0	0	0
Identified Bowls	2	1	0	0
Identified Pots	16	19	8	7
TOTAL	24	27	8	7
Indeterminate Bowls	1	0	0	1
Indeterminate Beakers	9	2	0	0
Indeterminate Beaker bowls	8	0	0	0
Indeterminate Pots	82	55	40	59
TOTAL	100	57	40	60

TABLE 88

PONT DRIFT : Totals of Identifiable and Indeterminate Vessel shapes (decorated)

Vessel Shape	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4	
Bowls	7	7	0	1	
Beakers	9	2	0	0	
Beaker bowls	10	1	0	0	
Pots	98	74	48	66	
TOTAL	124	84	48	67	323
Percentage	38,4%	26,0%	14,9%	20,7%	100%

The highest percentage of decorated sherds recovered remains in Unit 1 with Unit 3 registering the lowest percentage.

In units 3 and 4, with the exception of a single bowl (Unit 4) all decorated vessel shapes were pots.

Out of the 323 sherds, twenty shapes were identified other that the indeterminate pots, bowls, beakers and beaker-bowls. The shapes determine were 2 beaker bowls (10%) 7 bowls (35%) and 11 pots (55%)

Table 89 gives a level by level breakdown of the numbers of different vessel shapes identified. A clear picture emerges. Decorated bowls occur only in units 1 and 2. All decorated bowl shapes occur amongst the undecorated shapes.

Pot shapes 6, 1, and 3, are found with sufficient regularity throughout the excavation to say that they are standard vessel forms in both the Zhizo and Leopard's Kopje A levels. Shapes 6 and 3 are found amongst the undecorated vessels, but only from individual

TABLE 89

PONT DRIFT : Total numbers of Decorated Vessels as per level

Level		Unidentified pots	Unidentified beaker	Unidentified beaker bowl	Unidentified bowl	Shape																				
						Beaker bowls		Bowls							Pots											
						43	42	24	28	29	26	25	30	21	6	1	3	14	12	16	15	11	7	2	13
Unit 1	1	2																							
	2	15	3	4				1	1						1										
	3	21	1	2	1					1	1				2	1	2	1	1						
	4	44	5	2		1	1					1	1		1		3		2	1	1				
Unit 2	5	26											2	1	2	1	6			1					
	6	9	1				1			1	1						3								
	7	12	1						1						1	1									
	8	1										1			1	1	1					1			
Unit 3	9	15																							
	10	9													1		1						1	1	
	11	5													1										1
	12	11														1	1								
Unit 4	13	8			1												1								
	14	18													1		1								
	14i	14														2								1	
	15	19															1								
TOTAL		236	11	8	2	1	2	1	2	2	2	2	3	1	11	7	20	1	3	2	1	1	1	2	1

vessels found in level 4. This indicated that these vessel shapes were nearly always decorated. Conversely shape 16 which was common in most of the levels in the undecorated class, occurs only in levels 4 and 5 as single decorated vessels. This globular pot without an everted rim was thus seldom decorated.

When the total sample of identifiable decorated and undecorated pieces is examined according to the basic shapes of bowls, beakers beaker bowls and pots, it is of interest to note that the numbers of bowls and pots are virtually equal (48,4% against 48,2% respectively (See table 90). Beakers and beaker-bowls are negligible, forming 3,4% of the total.

TABLE 90

PONT DRIFT : Total of decorated and undecorated Shapes

Shape	Number	%
Bowls	686	48,4%
Beakers	26	1,8%
Beaker bowls	22	1,6%
Pots	682	48,2%
TOTAL	1416	100,00%

The ratio of bowls to pots is high, and compares well to that found at Icon (Hanisch 1979 p.79). It is normally accepted that the bowl/pot ratio is considerally lower as has been demonstrated under the Venda (13% bowls).

Decorative motifs

The master list of decorations compiled for all the sites excavated was used in the identification and coding of the Pont Drift ceramics.

This master list has been divided into various classes according to technique of decoration.

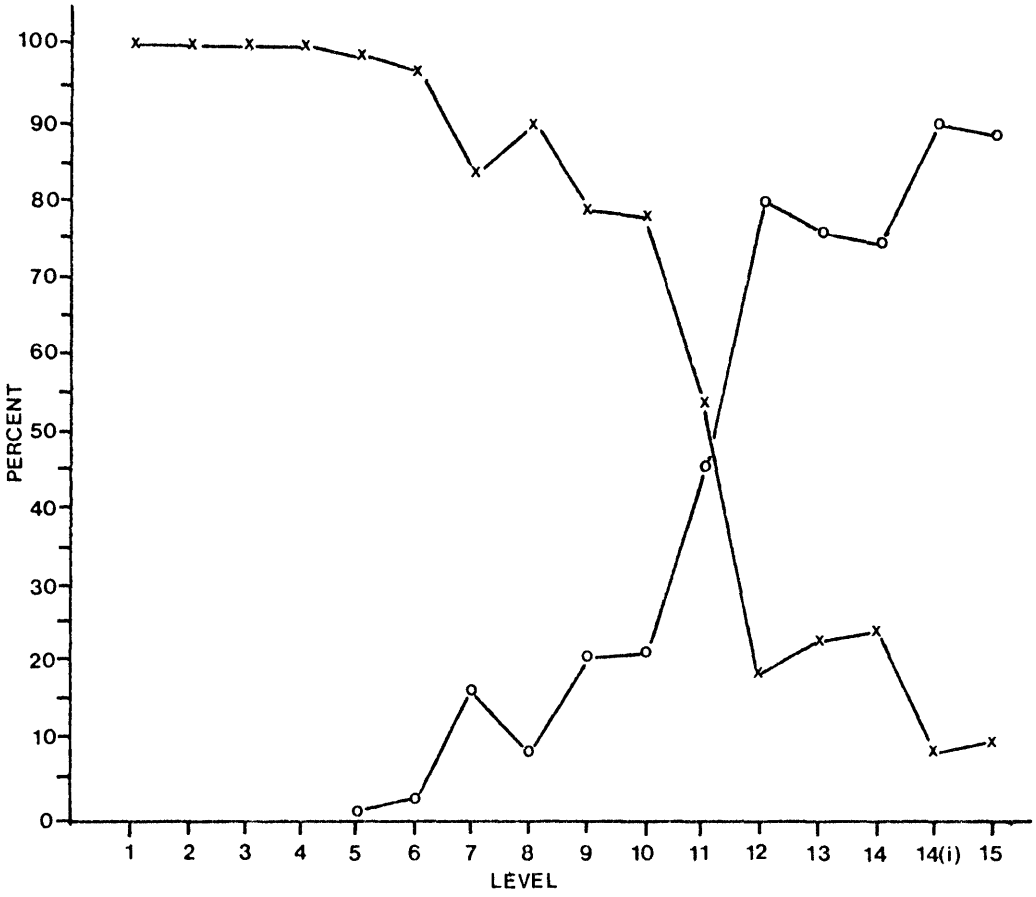
Sherds that were too small to allow the motif to be identified, were classed according to the technique used in decoration. When combined with the identifiable sherds, a clear picture is given of the stamp decoration combinations compared to pure incision. (See table 91). The results of table are given in graphic form in fig 51 .

It can be seen that stamp decorated ware occurs in units 2, 3 and 4. Unit 1 remains pure incision, and is clearly purely Leopard's Kopje A.

TABLE 91

PONT DRIFT : Technique Distribution

	Level	Stamped	%	Incised	%
Unit 1	1			56	100
	2			140	100
	3			169	100
	4			229	100
Unit 2	5	1	0,9	112	99,1
	6	1	2,6	37	97,4
	7	9	16,4	46	83,6
	8	4	9,3	39	90,7
Unit 3	9	10	20,4	39	79,6
	10	7	21,2	26	78,8
	11	11	45,8	13	54,2
	12	33	80,5	8	19,5
Unit 4	13	23	76,7	7	23,3
	14	54	74,0	18	25,0
	14(i)	53	91,4	5	8,6
	15	44	89,8	5	10,2



x = Incision
o = Stamping

Figure 51

Pont Drift: Change in decoration technique from stamping to incision

Unit 4 on the other hand, contains an average of 83,2% of stamp decorated ware. This would appear to be characteristic of the Zhizo in the Limpopo/Shashi Valley, where incision forms part of the tradition, as has been demonstrated from Schroda. The intermediate levels in units 2 and 3 show the change from the one technique to the other.

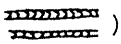
The change-over from stamp decoration to incision occurs in Unit 3, the dung level. The thickness of the dung implies large numbers of livestock, a characteristic normally associated with Leopard's Kopje A. However, the high number of Stamp decorated sherds indicate that the dung unit is connected with the Zhizo. The increase in incised ware in levels 9 and 10 can be attributed to the downwards migration of pottery from level 8.

In total 142 different decorative motifs were identified at Pont Drift, and were made up from the following catagories:-

Dentate stamping	(A)	16
Bangle stamping	(B)	6
Dentate stamping and incision	(C)	11
Incision	(E)	109

Less than a quarter (i.e. 23,2%) of the motifs were stamp decoration, indicating that a greater variety of incised motifs occurs.

Table 135 gives level by level detail of the motifs. It is obvious that there are few examples of each type, and in most cases, there being only one example.

The most common motif under the dentate stamping is the single line A1.1 (), followed by A4.4 () and A4.2 (). In the Bangle stamping catagory, B2.1 ()proved the most common. Other types were minimal, consisting of one or two examples. The combination of dentate stamping and incision produced C6.3 as the most popular motif. C6.3 () contains a band of 3 parallel lines of stamping with hatching between the upper two lines. It must not be confused with a neck/shoulder layout.

Amongst the incised motifs E4.9 () is found most frequently,

followed by E11.3 () and E1.2 (••••••••) E4.9 occurs continuously from level 9 to level 2, while E11.3 is found only in Unit 1. E1.2 occurs from level 5 to level 3. The stamped equivilant of E4.9 is A4.2 and is found from level 15 to 8. It seems probable that the underlying motif has remained unchanged throughout the levels, except for the technique change around levels 8 and 9.

The greater variety of decoration occurs in Unit 1 where 66 individual types could be recognized, all of which were incised.

In the following units, this variation decreased quickly, with only 8 incised motifs coming from Unit 4.

With regard to the dentate stamping, six different types of stamp were distinguished in the clay. These varied from different types of parallelogram to trapeziums and triangles. (See fig. 52). This indicates very clearly that the type of material used was probably a piece of calabash or similar material, into which teeth of any shape could be cut. No indication was found either in the excavation or on the pottery examined, of the use of clay stamps, such as has been recorded in Rhodesia. On three sherds from different levels, combinations of stamps were found. (See fig... 52)

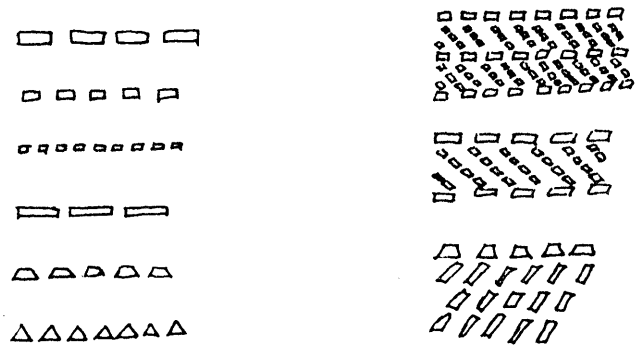


Figure 52
Pont Drift: Different types of stamp and combining thereof

The incision varied in depth and width, but this was rather due to the quality of decoration than to the use of different types of instrument. In units 1, 2 and 3 a few examples of engraved decoration

were noticed, i.e. on fired vessels, but no trend could be established.

Layout

The combination and position of decorations were divided into seven catagories for Pont Drift, namely shoulder, under rim, neck, base, rim/neck, rim/neck/shoulder and neck/shoulder.

Table 92 gives a summary of the layout, showing the position of stamp decorated and incised motifs for the various catagories, as were excavated in each level.

Several facts come clearly to light.

The neck of a vessel is the most popular position of decoration (54,8%). Stamp decoration in the neck is more common than in any other position. The accepted layout combination for Zhizo, namely rim/shoulder is not present at Pont Drift, but a limited number (1,6%) have a neck/shoulder layout.

Stamped decorations appear on the shoulder only, and vary from single lines to elaborate triangles. The neck remains the most common position, and it can therefore be safely assumed that at Pont Drift, the Zhizo characteristics differ somewhat from those described from Rhodesia.

It is also clear that some of the characteristics found in the lower (Zhizo) levels extend into the upper levels, although there is a change in decoration technique. Incised decoration on the shoulder, normally not associated with Leopard's Kopje A, continues through into Unit 1. Incision under the rim, again not generally associated with Leopard's Kopje A although not totally unknown in the tradition, is common at Pont Drift and appears to be an archaism relating to Zhizo.

Decorations at the base of vessels (normally beakers and beaker-bowls) are found in unit 1, while a single combination of incised rim/neck decoration came from level 4 in the same unit. Another interesting incised combination is found in Unit 2, level 6 where a bellied pot was decorated on the rim, neck and shoulder.

TABLE 92

PONT DRIFT : Layout Distribution

Level	Position of Decoration													
	S Shoulder	I	S Under rim	I	S Neck	I	S Base	I	S Rim/ Neck	I	S Rim/ Neck/ Shoulder	I	S Neck/ Shoulder	I
1		2												
2		4		3		12		7						
3		8		4		21								
4		11		8		35		7		1				
5		4		8		26								
6	1	3		5		6						1		
7		2		6	2	6								
8		3	1	1	1	7								
9			2	3	1	9								
10		1	1	3	1	7								
11	1		1	2	2	1								
12	1	1	3	2	4	2								
13	3		3	1	2								1	
14	5		2		7	5							1	
14(i)	5	1		1	6	1							3	
15	3		5	12										
TOTAL	19	40	18	47	38	138		14		1		1	5	321
%	5.9	12.5	5.6	14.6	11.8	43.0		4.4		0.3		0.3	1.6	100
Combined %	18.4%		20.2%		54.8%			4.4%		0.3%		0.3%	1.6%	100%

S = Stamped. I = Incised.

Similar incised combinations (i.e. rim/neck and neck/shoulder) were found during excavations at two other sites, namely Kommando Kop and Pont Drift TPD 1/1. (Hanisch n.d. unpublished report). Commando Kop is a Leopard's Kopje A site while at Pont Drift TPD 1/1, the levels from which the sherds come are mixed Zhizo/Leopard's Kopje A.

It is clear that the typical Zhizo layout, while less common than in Rhodesia, has continued into Leopard's Kopje A.

No clear trends emerge from the comparisons of position of decoration and motif, (See table 137), except for motif A1.1 (▱▱▱▱▱▱▱) which was the most common on the shoulder of vessels, and motif E4.9 (▨) which occured frequently under the rim or in the neck of vessels. In particular the latter is accepted as one of the standard layouts in Leopard's Kopje A, and occured from level 9 through to level 2 at Pont Drift.

When vessel shape is combined with decoration, no trends emerge. There is no preference for a single type of motif for a particular vessel shape. It is conceivable that the sample that could be definitely identified down to individual vessel shapes is too small (66 samples) and that with a larger sample, a clear pattern may emerge. Indeterminate vessel shapes, i.e. sherds that were not complete enough for certain identifications but had the complete decoration present, were also included in the comparason. The shapes used were unindentified pots, beakers, beaker-bowls and bowls. As could be expected no clear pattern was found, other than that more pots were decorated than bowls, beakers and beaker-bowls. Predominant motifs were once again A1.1 and E4.9. (See tables 136).

Rims

On examination of the rims, the same problems that were found in the Schroda sample were encountered, namely that variations in rim shape occured on the same sherd. For this reason no detailed study was made of the rim shapes. A variety of clearly different shapes exists, particularly among the bowls, but it is my feeling that the information forthcoming from such a study would be misleading.

Quality

Quality of finish and of decoration was also examined on individual sherds Tables 93 and 94 give the actual figures and percentages.

TABLE 93

PONT DRIFT : Quality of Finish

Degree	Level															
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	14(i)	15
1					1*											
2		4	6	7	3	2	1			1	1	1	2	3	2	3
%		16	18	11	8	14	6			8	14	8	20	13	12	15
3	2*	14	22	43	22	10	10	8	9	5	5	8	6	14	13	14
%		56	64	69	56	63	63	62	60	38	72	62	60	61	76	70
4		7	6	12	14	4	5	5	6	7	1	4	2	6	2	3
%		28	18	20	36	25	31	38	40	54	14	30	20	26	12	15
TOTAL		25	34	62	39	16	16	13	15	13	7	13	10	23	17	20
%		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

* Not included

In the graph indicating degree of quality of finish, two points come to light. From level 10 there is a decrease in the quality of finish degree 4 indicating that fewer vessels were poorly finished. At the same time, there is an increase in quality of finish degree 2 from level 8 on.

The greater percentage of vessels are finished to degree 3. This means that in the levels where incision became more popular, the quality of finish improved gradually. The lower levels (Unit 4) remained constant. It can thus be inferred that the quality of finish of the Zhizo pottery remained constant, while the Leopard's Kopje A pottery began with a poor quality of finish, but improved

noticeably in the upper levels.

TABLE 94

PONT DRIFT : Quality of Decoration

Degree	Level															
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	14i	15
1		1✱		2✱												
%																
2		6	5	12	1	2	2	1			2	2	2		2	
%		25	15	17	3	14	14	8			29	15	20		12	
3	2✱	16	26	45	31	13	13	11	14	12	4	10	8	20	14	19
%		67	76	75	79	80	80	84	93	92	57	77	80	100	82	95
4		2	3	4	7	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			1	1
%		8	9	6	18	6	6	8	7	8	14	8			6	5
TOTAL		24	34	60	39	16	16	13	15	13	7	13	10	23	17	20
%		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

✱ Not included

The quality of decoration shows several clear trends, with changes taking place in unit 3. The lower levels (11 to 15) show a definite decrease in the quality of decoration degree 3, with corresponding increase in quality of decoration degree 2.

This indicates that the quality of decoration on Zhizo vessels was improving. From level 10 upwards a clear change takes place, in that there is also a decrease in quality of decoration degree 3, but is this time coupled with the increase in incision. A corresponding increase is shown in the same levels in quality of decoration degree 2.

A clear break between Zhizo and Leopard's Kopje A is indicated in Unit 3. The quality of decoration and finish of the vessels in the combined Zhizo/Leopard's Kopje A levels was poor, but improved, particularly in Unit 1, which is associated with pure Leopard's Kopje A.

Classes

The sample is too small to be able to seriate into classes according to vessel shape, layout and motif, particularly as fequently only a single example of a certain motif would be recorded. To overcome this problem, all motifs were divided according to technique, i.e. into stamped and incised catagories which were then compared to vessel shape and layout. The results of this exercise are reflected in tables 95 to 99.

Table 95

Pont Drift: Vessel shape and decoration combined with "under rim" layout.

		Vessel Shape																
		Incised															Stamped	
	Level	1	3	12	13	16	21	24	25	28	29	42	43	Indt	Pot	Indt	Beaker	2 Indt Pot
Unit 1	1																	
	2							1		1							1	
	3			1							1				1		1	
	4		1						1				1		4		1	
Unit 2	5	1				1	1								5			
	6										1	1			2		1	
	7														4		1	
	8														1			1
Unit 3	9														3			2
	10	1													2			1
	11				1										1			1
	12		3												1			3
Unit 4	13														1			3
	14																	1
	14(i)														1			1
	15																	5

Table 96

Pont Drift: Vessel shape and decoration combined with "neck" layout

		Vessel Shape										
		Incised							Stamp			
	Level	1	3	6	7	11	12	Indt Pot	1	3	13	Indt Pot
Unit 1	1											
	2			1				11				
	3	1	3	2			1	15				
	4		1	1				33				
Unit 2	5		6	2				18				
	6		2					4				
	7		1					6				1
	8	1		1		1		4		1		
Unit 3	9							9				1
	10				1			6				1
	11							1			1	1
	12	1						1				4
Unit 4	13		3					4				2
	14											7
	14(i)							1				5
	15											12

Table 97

Pont Drift: Vessel shape and decoration combined with "neck/shoulder" layout

Level	Vessel Shape				
	Stamped				Indt
	1	2	3	6	Pot
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
13			1		
14				1	
14(i)	1	1			1
15					

Table 98

Pont Drift: Vessel Shape and decoration combined with "shoulder" layout

		Incised								Stamped	
	Level	3	12	14	15	16	26	Indt Pot	Indt Bowl	Indt Pot	
Unit 1	1							2			
	2							4			
	3			1			1	5	1		
	4	1	1			1		6			
Unit 2	5				1			1			
	6						1	3			
	7							2			
	8							3			
Unit 3	9										
	10							1			
	11									1	
	12							1		1	
Unit 4	13									3	
	14									5	
	14(i)							1		5	
	15									3	

Table 99

Pont Drift: Vessel shape and decoration combined with "base" layout

Level	Vessel Shape		
		Incised	
	42	Indet Beaker	Indet Beaker bowl
1			
2		2	4
3			1
4	1	3	2
5		1	
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			
14(i)			
15			

No stamped decoration.

From the tables it can be seen that clustering takes place mainly around the indeterminate shapes, with a spread throughout the defined vessel shapes.

There are, however, exceptions. In table 95 it can be seen that a number of indeterminate beakers are decorated under the rim, while table 99 indicates that the remainder are decorated around the base.

Vessel shape 3 combined with incision in the neck clusters clearly in levels 3 to 6 inclusive. Vessel shape 6 combines with incision in the neck clusters clearly between levels 2 and 8 inclusive. These latter two can be called classes.

Type Series

No clear type series for the Zhizo or Leopard's Kopje A traditions and be described from the limited sample recovered at Pont Drift. In summary, however, the characteristics of the two traditions are as follows.

a) Zhizo

Unit 4 contains what may be described as Zhizo pottery. It is stamp decorated and contains the vessel shapes 1, 2, 3, 6, 13 as well as indeterminate pots and bowls. Layout positions are under rim, neck, neck/shoulder and shoulder. Typically then a Zhizo vessel from Pont Drift is a pot with a single band of stamp decoration under the rim, in the neck or on the shoulder. Combinations of neck and shoulder occur but are comparatively rare.

b) Leopard's Kopje A

Pure Leopard's Kopje A is confined to unit 1, although it occurs predominately in the upper levels of unit 2. Associated vessel shapes are 1, 2, 3, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 (Pots), 21, 24, 25, 26, 28, 29 (bowls), 42, 43 (beaker bowls) and indeterminate pots, bowl, beakers and beaker bowls. Layout positions are under rim, neck, shoulder and base.

Typical Leopard's Kopje vessels from Pont Drift are pots with incised decoration under the rim, in the neck and on the shoulder; incised decoration under the rim, in the neck and on the shoulder; bowls with incision under the rim or on the shoulder; beakers with incision under the rim or at the base; and beaker bowls with incision at the base.

Two classes can be identified, namely vessel shapes 3 and 6 with incised decoration in the neck.

It is clear that incision under the rim and on the shoulder, play an important role at Pont Drift, and are more predominate than has been hitherto accepted for the southern branch of the Leopard's Kopje A tradition.

ii) Clay figurines

Only 12 figurine fragments were recovered at Pont Drift TPD1/2. Of these, 11 were found in Unit 2 and one in Unit 3. It is noteworthy that level 6 produced more than half of the total number of figurine pieces. Table 100 shows the spread throughout the excavation.

The reason for this proponderance of figurine fragments is not clear, as level six was not abnormally thick nor did it contain proportionally more cultural material than any other level. The pieces did not belong to a single figurine.

All fragments recovered are too small for satisfactory identification. One fragment form square 2AA level 6 resembled in shape and size one of the applied buttocks commonly found on stylized human figurines. Two decorated pieces were found. A cylindrical fragment from square 3A level 6 had two lines of stylus marks at 180^{o} to one another, while the intervening sections were filled crude incised arrow-like patterns. The second piece from B1 level 8 was also cylindrical, but was slightly curved in its length and had a single row of five stylus marks. Both decorated fragments may have been body parts of stylized human figurines.

It would seem that the art of figurine making at Pont Drift existed in the mixed levels, i.e. where Zhizo and Leopard's Kopje A occured together. It is significant that no figurine fragments were found in the pure K2 levels, bearing in mind that large numbers of figurine fragments were excavated at the K2 site itself.

iii) Other

Abraded Potsherds

A few abraded potsherds of indeterminate shape were recovered, usually with one or two sides showing sighs of use. These may have been used for the working of skins.

b) Metal Working

No evidence of iron or copper smelting was found. There was no large amounts of slag or ore, nor did the remains of furnaces come to light.

TABLE 100

PONT DRIFT : Distribution of Clay figurines

Level	Square								
	A1	B1	C1	C2	2AA	2A	3A	2B	2C
1									
2									
3									
4									
5							X		
6	X	X			X		XXX		X
7	X		X						
8		X							
9									
10									
11			X						
12									
13									
14									
14(i)									
15									

Tuyére fragments and pieces of slag were recovered from the excavation, and these are indicative of the reworking of metals rather than the smelting there of. Too few pieces were recovered to determine a definite trend, but from table 101 it would seem that there may have been a fairly even spread throughout the deposit.

Four tuyére fragments were recovered. Of these, two were the lower ends and showed vitrification; one was a body section; and the other was a funnel.

In total 56 pieces of metal were recovered, which can be divided into weapons, ornaments and unidentifiable pieces. No tools could be identified. Table 102 shows the spread of metalwork throughout the levels,

TABLE 101

PONT DRIFT : DISTRIBUTION OF SLAG AND TUYERE FRAGMENTS

LEVEL		SLAG	TUYERE
Unit 1	1		
	2		
	3		
	4		X
Unit 2	5	X	
	6		XX
	7		
	8	X	
Unit 3	9		
	10		
	11		
	12		
Unit 4	13	X	
	14	X	
	14i		
	15		X

excluding metal beads which will be discussed in a following section.

With exception of the copper-coated iron bangle and pure iron bangle, all the ornaments were made from copper. It is interesting that the copper spiral occurs only in the upper levels and particularly in association with K2 pottery in Unit 1. No copper spirals were found in association with Zhizo pottery in Unit 4, which is in contrast

TABLE 102

PONT DRIFT : DISTRIBUTION OF METAL

LEVEL	WEAPONS	ORNAMENTS					UNIDENTIFIABLE	
	Arrow-Head	Copper covered iron bangle	Copper bangle	Iron bangle	Copper spiral	Copper ring	Iron	Iron
Surfaca of Site					3			
Unit 1 1					6			
2			1					
3				1	6		2	
4					5		2	
Unit 2 5					1		2	
6							1	
7		1			1		6	
8							3	
Unit 3 9							1	
10								
11						1		
12								
Unit 4 13	1						7	
14	1							
14i								
15								

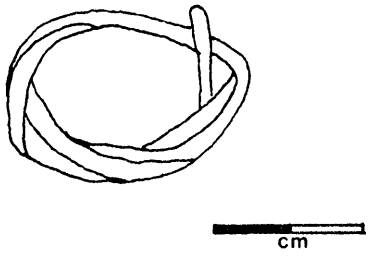
to the Zhizo settlement at Schroda.

All iron was heavily oxidized, and the shapes mostly unrecognizable. When compared to other sites, the number of identifiable pieces seems proportionally rather low, suggesting that conditions for the preservation of iron may not have been very suitable.

Two interesting ornaments were recovered. The first was a copper-covered iron bangle (2C.7.4) from square 2C level 7. This was very heavily oxidized and extremely fragile. The inside diameter was about 11 cm, with a thickness of 1,2 cm, and it appears that it was manufactured by winding an iron strip around a fibre core. A strip of copper was presumably then wound around the iron. This copper strip has disintigrated, but has left the iron with a clear green oxide coating. The second object was in the shape of a ring. It has been made by taking a very fine copper spiral wound round a fibre core, and twining this into the shape of a ring, with an inside diameter of nearly 20 mm and an outside diameter of about 30 mm. (See fig. 53)

Figure 53

Ring made from copper spiral from Pont Drift



c. Beads

The same bead analysis form used for the Schroda beads was used here. Information pertaining to type of bead, colour, condition, shape, diameter, thickness and size of perforation was recorded for each individual bead. Summaries were compiled from this information.

i) Glass

The site produced 626 glass beads. In contrast to Schroda, only 12 (1,92%) were so heavily patinated that their colour could not be determined. The number of glass beads declined drastically in the deeper levels. It was noticeable throughout that the beads were not as brittle and friable as those from Schroda.

Eight colours were determined, and were basically the same as those from Schroda, the exceptions being that no white beads were found at Pont Drift, while Schroda did not have Indian Reds.

As was determined at Schroda, turquoise beads were the most common. (83.2%)

Table 103 shows the different colours and percentages recovered at Pont Drift.

TABLE 103

PONT DRIFT : TOTAL NUMBERS OF GLASS BEADS

Colour	Number	Percentage
Turquoise	521	83,20
Light blue	2	0,32
Dark blue	4	0,64
Light green	28	4,48
Dark green	2	0,32
Black	6	0,96
Indian red	33	5,28
Yellow	18	2,88
Uncertain	12	1,92
Total	626	100,00%

As Pont Drift is not a single component site, each unit must be examined individually.

From Table 104 several facts emerge. Turqouise, light green and yellow beads occur in all units. Indian red beads occur in units 1-3,

TABLE 104

PONT DRIFT. TOTALS OF GLASS BEADS PER UNIT

	Turqouise	Light Blue	Dark Blue	Light Green	Dark Green	Black	Indian Red	Yellow	Uncertain	TOTAL	Percentage
Unit											
1	66	1		5		6	26	1	8	115	18,4
2	425	1		17			4	7	3	457	73,1
3	20		3	5	2		1	7	1	39	6,2
4	9		1	1				3		14	2,3
Total	520	2	4	28	2	6	33	18	12	625	100,00

light blue beads are found in units 1 + 2, while black occurs only in unit 1 (i.e. the pure L.K.A. levels).

It is interesting to note that the Zhizo levels in unit 4 contributed a very low percentage (2,3%) to the total number of glass beads. The 73,1% recorded in unit 2 is as a result of the very large number of torquoise beads found in levels 6 + 7 (99 and 280 respectively).

Of the four basic shape catagories provided for, three were filled. There were 392 cylindrical beads, 218 flattened and 16 garden rollers. The highest number of garden rollers came from level 7 where 9 were found, in addition to numerous fragments. Level 6 produced four garden rollers. It is significant that the presence of turqouise garden rollers corresponds with the levels that have large numbers of small turquise beads, and it would seem that these beads were used in the manufacture of garden roller beads.

TABLE 105

PONT DRIFT : THICKNESS OF GLASS BEADS

LEVEL	Bead thickness in mm.						
	0-1	1-2	2-3	3-5	5-8	8-12	7-12
1		14	16	2			
2		5	2	2			
3		12	12	2			
4	2	25	21				
5		18	12	1			1
6	1	35	61	1			4
7	1	125	145	10		3	6
8	14	14	16	2			
8i			1				
9			9	13			
10			2	2			
11		3	4	1			
12		1	2	1			
13		1	1	2			
14			1	2	1		
14i							
15			1	2			
16		1	2				
Total	4	254	308	43	1	3	12
Percentage	0,6	40,6	49,3	6,9	0,2	o,5	1,9

TABLE 106

PONT DRIFT : DIAMETERS OF GLASS BEADS

LEVEL	Bead diameter in mm.							
	0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-8	8-12	>12
1			24	7	1			
2			8	1				
3			15	10	1			
4		1	35	12				
5		2	24	6				
6		1	67	29	1			4
7		10	179	91	1		4	5
8			22	10				
8i				1				
9			11	4	7			
10			2	2				
11			6	3				
12			1	2	1			
13			2	1	1			
14			1	3				
14i								
15			2	1				
16		1	2					
TOTAL		15	401	183	13		4	9
Percentage		2,4	64,2	29,3	2,1		0,6	1,4

Another interesting fact is that the garden roller beads were found in levels 5, 6, 7, 11 and 13, that is in units two and three, which are associated with Zhizo pottery. No garden rollers or indication of the manufacture thereof were found in unit 1, i.e. in the pure Leopard's Kopje A levels.

93% of the beads showed no sign of weathering, and light weathering was recorded on 4,95% (31) of the beads. The lower levels (units 3 + 4) did not show an increase in weathering, although the Zhizo levels compare favourably in age to Schroda. It would appear then that deeper deposit protected the glass beads from deterioration caused by rapid and frequent changes of temperature and moisture as would be experienced in a shallower deposit such as that of Schroda.

A series of beads that is not included in the level analysis are those recovered from the skeleton 2B.5.1, as these beads do not belong to the level in which they occurred, but came from higher up.

Sixty-four glass beads were found with the skeleton; 61 of these were turquoise; 2 were Indian reds; and 1 was yellow in colour.

The diameter of the Pont Drift beads varies from 1 to more than 12mm., the larger sizes being garden rollers. The majority (93,5%) lay between 2 and 4 mm. throughout all levels. See table 106 .

Bead thickness varies from less than 1 mm to more than 12 mm, with the majority between 1 and 3 mm in size (89,9%). Most of the garden roller beads were larger than 12 mm. See table 105.

From tables 105 and 106 it can be seen that the glass beads are small in size. There is no significant change within the different units.

ii) Ostrich eggshell

974 Ostrich eggshell beads were recovered from the excavation, representing 38,4% of the total bead sample. This figure was pushed up by 563 beads found in feature 2AA.10.1 from level 10, which may have had a special significance which would not normally be reflected in the site.

TABLE 107

PONT DRIFT : DISTRIBUTION OF OSTRICH EGGSHELL BEADS.

LEVEL	Total	Ostrich eggshell	Complete	Broken	Lightly Weathered	Heavily Weathered	No Weathering	Burnt
Unit 1 1	21	21	19	2	7	8		6
2	6	6	5	1	5			1
3	32	32	31	1	13		1	18
4	99	99	97	2	70		5	24
Unit 2								
5	36	36	35	1	29		4	3
6	39	39	36	3	35		2	2
7	16	16	16		16			
8	10	10	9	1	3		5	2
Unit 3								
9	47	47	47		4		40	3
10	563	563	563		9	2	563	16
11	15	15	14	1			13	2
12	17	17	16	1	2		14	1
Unit 4								
13	32	32	30	2	8		23	1
14	28	28	27	1	9		19	
14i	2	2	2				2	
15	11	11	11		4		7	
Total	974	974	958	16	214	10	671	79

Table 107 gives the figures for eggshell beads level by level. It can be seen that except for level 10, the spread of ostrich eggshell beads throughout the deposit is fairly even.

Most of the beads (68,9%) showed no signs of weathering, with 22% recording light weathering. Seventy-nine beads (8,1%) were burnt. These came from all levels except 14 - 16. The thickness of the beads varied between 1 and 3 mm, with the majority falling between

TABLE 108

PONT DRIFT : DIAMETER OF OSTRICH EGGSHELL BEADS

LEVEL		Bead diameter in mm 0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-8	8-12
Unit 1	1				1	6	11	3
	2						5	1
	3				1	8	19	4
	4				5	38	54	2
Unit 2	5			1	1	19	14	1
	6				11	18	10	
	7				6	7	3	
	8			1	1	4	3	1
Unit 3	9				2	2	15	28
	10					2	94	467
	11					2	1	12
	12				1	3	3	10
Unit 4	13					5	9	18
	14					3	14	11
	14i					1	1	
	15				1	3	6	1
Total				2	30	121	262	559
Percentage				0,2	3,1	12,4	26,9	57,4

1 to 2 mm (98,5%). Bead diameter varied between 2 and 12 mm, with the emphasis falling on the larger sizes. See table 108.

Perforation diameter was also measured. No preference was observed in the side chosen for drilling, and in many cases the perforation was drilled from both sides. Perforation size varied from less than 1 mm to 4 mm with the majority (91,8%) falling into the 1-2 mm class,

TABLE 109

PONT DRIFT: PERFORATION DIAMETER OF OSTRICH EGGSHELL BEADS

	Level	Perforation diameter					
		0 - 1	1 - 2	3 - 4	4 - 5	> 5	NOT DRILLED
Unit 1	1		13	6	2		
	2		2	4			
	3		18	14			
	4	3	86	10			
Unit 2	5	1	28	7			
	6	5	30	4			
	7	1	4	1			
	8		9	1			
Unit 3	9		45	2			
	10		560	3			
	11	1	12	2			
	12		17				
Unit 4	13	1	29	2			
	14		22	5			1
	14i		2				
	15		7	4			
Total		12	894	65	2		1
Percentage		1,2	91,8	6,7	0,2		0,1

as is reflected in table 109 .

iii) Achatina

937 Achatina beads were found in all levels with peaks in level 6, 7, and 8. Of these 649 showed no signs of weathering (69,3%). Only five beads showed signs of heavy weathering, 199 (21,2%) were lightly

weathered, while the remaining 84 (8,7%) were burnt. The spread of burnt Achatina beads appears to be even throughout the levels. (See table 110).

When the amount of weathering on the ostrich eggshell beads is compared to that of the achatina, it can be seen that there is little difference. The difference in the weathering pattern noticed in the Schroda analysis does not apply to Pont Drift. It would seem that the weathering effect on the ostrich eggshell beads is less at Pont Drift than at Schroda, (22% against 37% respectively) while the light weathering of the Achatina beads was greater at Pont Drift than Schroda (21% against 11% respectively). This may be due to a change in the composition of the soil. No tests were done on the acidity or chemical composition of the soil, although soil samples were collected.

If the numbers of ostrich eggshell and Achatina beads are directly compared then it would appear that they were of equal importance at Pont Drift. However, if level 10 with its high number of eggshell beads is ignored, and a direct level by level comparison is made, then the importance of the eggshell beads diminishes, and a relationship of a little more than 2:1 develops. At Schroda, the Achatina outnumber the ostrich eggshell by nearly 6:1 The point is, however, that at both sites the Achatina beads predominate.

iv) Wood

A single well-preserved wooden bead was recovered from level 14(i). It is cylindrical in shape, with a diameter of between 5-8 mm, and a thickness of 8-12 mm. The perforation was made from both sides, and is 3 to 4 mm in diameter. The wood could not be identified without a microscope slide being made. It is darkish in colour, and quite dense. (*Combretum imberbe?*)

As far as could be ascertained, this is the first wooden bead that has been recovered from an Iron Age site in South Africa. Wooden remains are, of course, known from Late Stone Age sites.

TABLE 110

PONT DRIFT: DISTRIBUTION OF ACHATINA BEADS

Level	Total	Achatina	Complete	Broken	Light Weathering	High Weathering	No Weathering	Burnt
1	46	46	42	4	31	4		11
2	23	23	18	5	13		2	8
3	23	23	15	8	15		1	7
4	131	131	127	4	24		77	30
5	41	41	39	2	14		25	2
6	94	94	90	4	29		60	5
7	164	164	156	8	21		139	4
8	117	117	110	7	15		101	1
8i	3	3	3				3	
9	71	71	69	2	4		65	2
10	54	54	51	3	8		45	1
11	34	34	32	2	2		30	2
12	45	45	40	5	5		40	
13	32	32	30	2	4		25	3
14	23	23	23		4		16	3
14i	3	3	3				3	
15	12	12	11	1			11	1
16	21	21	18	3	10	1	6	4
Total	937	937	877	60	199	5	649	84

v) Metal

Only four metal beads were found. One of these was iron and the other three copper. Table 111 shows the position in the excavation from which they were recovered.

It can be seen that the three copper beads were found in the levels

TABLE 111

PONT DRIFT: DISTRIBUTION OF METAL BEADS

LEVEL		SQUARE								
		A1	B1	C1	C2	2AA	2A	3A	2B	2C
UNIT 1	1	x								
	2									
	3									
	4									
UNIT 2	5									
	6									
	7									
	8								o	
UNIT 3	9									
	10									
	11									
	12									
UNIT 4	13									
	14									
	14i									
	15		o				o			
	16									

x Iron

o Copper

associated with Zhizo pottery. These beads are disc-shaped, well preserved and measured between 7 and 9 mm in diameter and are slightly smaller than the Schroda copper beads.

The iron bead was cylindrical in shape and measured 6 mm in diameter.

d) Stone Artefacts

River pebbles occurred in most levels and in total 110 were recovered. These pebbles had no direct association with any features, and their use is uncertain, particularly in view of the fact that no gaming boards were found in the rock around the Pont Drift sites. The closest source of supply would have been the two small dry riverbeds, which are only a couple of hundred metres to the west of the site. Such stones could of course have been brought to the site from the Limpopo, which was utilized as is shown by the fish remains in the faunal analysis.

The major stone artefact type is a combination hammerstone/rubbing-stone of which 17 were excavated. Table 112 shows the spread of these tools throughout the excavation. Only a single hammerstone/rubbing-stone had a dimple on one side, possibly for breaking open marula nuts. The lower levels (unit 4) did not produce any such artefacts, although it is known that Zhizo peoples used them, for example at Schroda. The reason for the lack of these tools cannot be explained.

Several other large stone artefacts came to light. A large stone with a dolley hole in its centre was recovered from feature C1.5.1. The stone lay adjacent to a stone structure and a clay floor. The use of the dolley hole is uncertain, and the feature C1.5.1 should be interpreted as a unit.

Two whetstones with various numbers of small sharpening grooves in them were found (2A.6.1, A1.6.2).

An interesting whetstone (2C.7.2) was recovered from level 7 in square 2C. It was broken into three pieces, and had a 38 cm long sharpening groove in it. The groove was triangular in shape, deep on one side and becoming shallower across its length. This was the only sharpening stone of this nature recovered.

From 2C.7.3 came two large flat stones, each with pockmarks on one side only. Seventeen pockmarks were found on the first and twenty-one on the second, with diameters of about 1 cm in all cases. Presumably these stones were used as anvils for the breaking open of marula or similar nuts.

TABLE 112

PONT DRIFT: Distribution of Hammer/rubbingstones

Level	Square								
	A1	B1	C1	C2	2AA	2A	2B	2C	3A
1									
2				x					
3					x			x	
4						xxx			
5	x	xxx		x					
6						x			
7							x		
8									
9		x							
10					xx				
11									
12			x						
13									
14									
14i									
15									
16									

No grindingstone fragments were found, although the nature of marks on some of the hammer/rubbingstones suggests that they might have been employed as upper grindstones.

e) Structures

i) Clay and Gravel

Levels 4 and 5 contained the only true clay and gravel features. In level 10, feature 2AA.10.1 contained a gravel floor, but as it formed part of a different feature, it must be described and interpreted

within the context of that feature.

A brief description of the gravel floors and their association has already been given in the level by level description and in table 80

Floor V1. The first floor was a white, consolidated gravel floor covering several squares. It did not have a polished surface, except for a small section around D2. Two stone structures (C2.4.1 and C1.4.1.2), the use of which will be discussed later on, were found in association. There were no other distinguishing features. It would appear that the floor was a lapa floor, outside a hut. There was no indication of burning on the gravel, therefore it seems likely that the associated hut was either torn down or disintigrated naturally.

Floor V2. The second floor was found directly underneath floor V1 in Squares A1 and B1. It consisted of a sandy floor with a polished surface. A semi-circular row of charred posts existed in a section of the floor along line B1-B2. The interior section covering most of square A1 was burnt yellow, while the exterior was burnt black. No burnt hut rubble was found on top of the floor.

The complete hut circle could not be traced, nor could the outline of the sandy floor, as most of it was very friable. (See plate 38) A cross-section of the floor taken across the line of charred posts showed a clear increase of some three centimetres in the average floor thickness at the posts. Another noteworthy feature is that there is no break in the floor around the posts.

The usual practice in hutbuilding is to plant a series of fairly thick posts in a circle in the soil, and fill the gaps with thinner posts which are lashed to the thicker ones. Mud is usually then plastered either on the interior only or on both sides of the wooden framework. The floor is usually one of the last features to be made.

Bearing in mind that the charred posts are between 10 and 30 cm apart, with no indication of smaller posts in between, and that the floor extends up to and in betweenthe posts, it seems likely that no mud wall was built, and that the gaps between the posts were left open. Extra-

polation of the circle formed by the charred posts, gave a diameter of about 2,20 metres.

A second burnt-down hut with a similar feature was uncovered and will be described and interpreted under feature 2B.4.3.

A section of the above floor showing the charred posts was removed in a plaster cast to the Cultural History Museum, where it is available for examination.

Feature 2A.4.1. This feature took the form of a circular raised platform with a moulded daga curb with a polished surface. The diameter of the platform is approximately 2 metres. The whole structure showed no signs of burning, and was consequently rather friable, and could not be completely excavated. Assuming the platform to be circular, then less than half was excavated.

In front of the platform, sections of a polished sandy floor were excavated. Two egg-shaped stones were found on this sandy floor. (See fig. 47 and plate 39).

The platform was raised about 4 cm above the height of the front floor. The moulded curb was raised another 3 cm above this. (See profile X-Y on the plan). To the western side of this, i.e. square 2B, corner 2B, four possible postholes were found. Two of them bordered on to the edge of the front sand floor. Diameter of these two possible post-holes was 5cm each. Two smaller holes of 2 cm each were found adjacent to these. (see fig. 47). Extrapolation of the general direction followed by the line of holes suggests that these may have been a concentric circle of posts around the platform, running some 20 cm away.

The flimsy evidence at hand suggests a raised platform with a sandy floor partially surrounding it, with a wooden structure encompassing the platform, as suggested by the post holes. There is no evidence to show that the wooden structure was covered in clay (i.e. as in a hut) or that it formed a fence. It seems therefore logical to assume that a thatched roof would have been placed on top of the frame. The picture thus sketched shows a thatched roof on posts covering the plat-

form. The entrance could have been laid on the side where the external sandy floor was excavated.

The use again is purely conjectural. It is possible that such a structure was used as shelter against sun or rain during activities that were done outdoors. Küsel (pers comm) found that a shelter was erected over smelting furnaces in Rhodesia, to protect the operators from the sun.

Floor V3 Consolidated white gravel floor without a polished surface. Part of structure 2B.4.3.

Floor V4 Consolidated white gravel floor immediately underlying V3. Part of structure 2B.4.3.

Floor V6 Thick, consolidated, white gravel floor, also part of 2B.4.3.

Feature 2C.4.2. Small hut circle forming part of the total feature 2B.4.3.

Feature 2B.4.3 This feature is a part of a burnt-down hut with two concentric rings of posts with a series of lapa floors around it. The remains of a small burnt-down hut (2C.4.2) were found in this lapa. (See fig. 48 and plate 40).

The large hut was defined by two concentric rings of charred posts. The centre ring was 2,40 metres in diameter, and contained solid posts that varied in diameter between 4 and 6 cm. The outer ring measured 4,50 metres in diameter, and was made up of lighter posts, most of which were 2 to 3 cm. in diameter.

The inner ring contained a layer of burnt daga which was concentrated mainly in one half of the hut, although it was spread across the floor. On removal of this, a friable sandy floor of 2 to 3 cm thick was exposed, and which had burnt different shades of orange and brown. In the centre of the floor was a large circular lens of white ash, some 70 cm in diameter. Several bones were found in this ash (2b.4.3.6).

Approximately a metre seperated the inner ring from the outer. No burnt daga was found in this area, only black, sandy soil containing a lot of burnt organic material. A 15 cm high step with a twice polished surface was found on the western side of the inner ring. The top of the step was nearly level with a polished gravel floor with its surface burnt black. The step effectively cut the outer circle in half, and it is assumed that a corresponding step lay in the eastern half of the hut, although no indication was found. The southern section containing the gravel floor appears to be the entrance. A clear break of 80 cm was found in the line of charred posts at that point. The rear section of the hut, i.e. that half below the steps contained a lot of household utensils and food. A pot and two bowls were recovered, (2B.4.3.1, 2B.4.3.5 and 2B.4.3.14 respectively), all of them broken. One bowl (2B.4.3.5) contained charred seeds, possibly beans. Two other heaps of charred seeds were found. 2B.4.3.3 was a heap of charred grain, while 2B.3.13 were small seeds lying loosely about.

In the rear half of the hut it would appear that the wooden framework was not closed by clay. There are several reasons for this assumption; (1) less burnt daga was found in this section of the hut than in the front half; (2) the same pattern found in Floor V2 appears here, namely that the floor has been neatly smeared around the posts; and (3) it is unlikely that household utensils and food would be stored in an area that was difficult to get to. The front half of the hut did not contain any utensils or food.

It is clear that the front section was closed off by a clay wall, as is shown by the amount of burnt hut rubble that was lying here. Also the inner and outer floors did not join up on the same level as was the case in the rear half of the hut.

Adjacent to this hut, and about 1 metre to the west lay a second, smaller hut (2C.4.2) with a diameter of 1,50 metres. A thin brown sandy floor that had clearly been burnt was found, with a few loose potsherds and a large flat stone on its surface. Diameter of the charred posts varied between 2 and 4 cm, indicating a light structure. No burnt daga was found on top of or next to the floor.

Around these two huts lay a series of gravel floors (V3, V4, V6 and V8), the interpretation of which was difficult due to breaks in them caused by disturbances such as the burial 2B.5.1.

It is clear that the floors form a unit that is associated with the huts, in spite of the fact that they were originally excavated and numbered seperately. Floor V3 lies up against both huts, and directly on top of V4. In fact V3 is a resurfacing and slight extension of V4. The other floors are of the same type of gravel as V3/V4 and vary minimally in depth. V6 lies up against the other side of hut 3C.4.2 and would join up with hut 2B.4.3 and floor V3 were it not for the disturbance caused by the burial.

In the interpretation and reconstruction of the huts, I suggest the following:

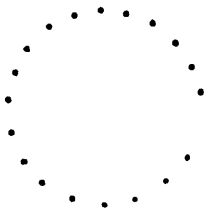
In the large hut it is clear that the outer ring of posts is too light to have been of any constructional value. The inner ring is more solid and could have supported a roof. There is no indication of an outer clay wall enclosing the storage area. Taking the large amount of burnt organic material into account that lay between the rings, it is probable that the grass roof of the hut touched the ground, and formed the outer wall. An opening in the roof would form the entrance, while the front interior/wall combined with a door would keep out rain and wind. It is not clear whether the step excavated was part of a wall blocking off the front from the rear or not. The posts holding up the roof were left open in the rear of the hut, so that the area between the two rings could be used for storage. Fire was made in the hut, as is witnessed by the central ash lens.

The type of hut described above is not unknown amongst present day Black people. An example of one has been erected at the Tsonga Kraal in north Eastern Transvaal. Other examples are known from further north in Africa.

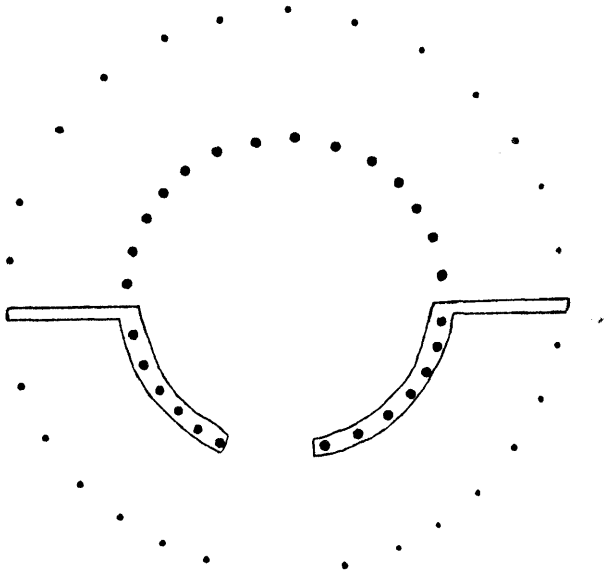
The hut was undoubtedly used by a woman, as is seen by the storage of utensils and food in the hut. The fire suggests cooking, which is a woman's task. A sausage of clay (2B.4.3.11) and a piece of

Figure 54

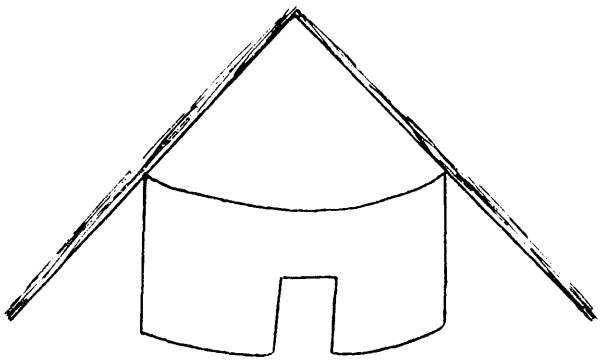
Reconstruction of Pont Drift huts



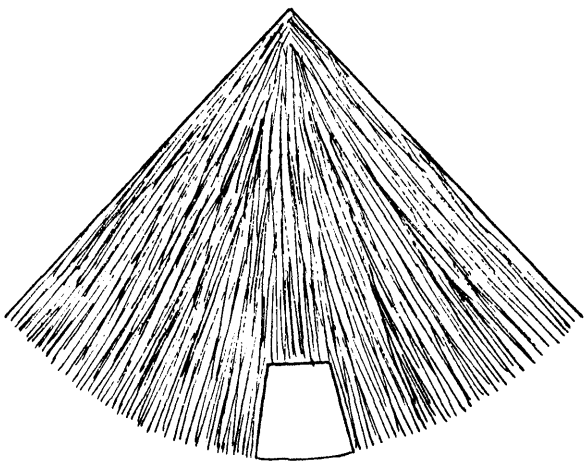
Storage hut C2.4.2



Plan of hut 2B.4.3



Cross-section of suggested
reconstruction of hut 2B.4.3



Front view of hut showing thatched roof toucing ground

clay resembling the base of a pot, into which a potsherd had been pressed (2B.4.3.7) were also found, implying that the woman might have been a potter.

The smaller hut is of a light structure. No indication was found of its use. It is possible that it was used for the storage of foodstuffs, but it is equally possible that the hut was used as a chicken coop, although present day practice is to raise the hut on stil s to ensure the safety of the fowls. Of course, with the settlement so high and inaccessible on the ridge, such a practice might have not been deemed necessary.

The picture conjured up then is of a woman's hut with its grass roof resting on the ground, a small, light adjacent hut also with its thatched roof, and a lapa floor around them.

Floor V9 This is the last floor belonging to Level 4, and consisted of a two part white, gravel floor in Square C2. The first part was a well consolidated raised step, 7 cm thick, 1,80 metres long and 60 cm wide. This ran in the form of a slight arc. The shape of the step on the inside, indicated that it was cast up against something. (See fig. 50 profile X-Y).

On top of the step, a series of post holes has been dug into the gravel. Five holes were found at one end, and seven at the other. There had been an attempt to space the holes in a uniform pattern.

The second part extended from the step for about 55 cm towards the outside, and was a coarse gravel floor without a polished surface, 6 cm thick where it lay against the step, but tapering off to 2 cm at its furthest point form the step.

The impression gained is of an entrance to a structure of some kind, that has long since disintigrated naturally. There was no indication of fire. The post holes indicate strongly that there must have been a wooden structure. The size and shape of the structure could not be determined, but the positioning of the postholes in the step suggests that the roof of the structure may have extended over the step.

Several stones in the interior lay on the same level as the base of the step, and were probably associated with the activities within the structure. One stone contained a single dolley-hole (C1.5.1) while another heap of stones (C1.5.2) proved to be a collapsed stone-lined pit. This pit will be discussed in detail in the following section on stone structures.

No further interpretation can be made about V9 and its probable structure.

Floor V7. Although floor V9 is numerically the last floor, V7 is in fact physically the last. It was a coarse, bluish-grey, gravel floor with a polished surface. It proved rather crumbly, and the complete outline could not be distinguished. A section of it has a moulded curb.

There were no indications of burning, nor any associated features. The floor is distinguished from the upper floors by virtue of its bluish-grey colour, the upper floors being made from white gravel.

The use and context of the floor could not be determined. The use of gravel floors appears to be a characteristic of the Leopard's Kopje A culture in the sandstone hills. The sandstone itself is the source of the gravel, and as soon as the sandstone hills are left, one finds that the other contemporary L.K.A. sites do not have these characteristic floors an example of this is Commando Kop. (Hanisch 1979 unpublished Report)

ii) Stone

Several stone contructions were unearthed. Three of these that form the same basic feature will be discussed together, while the rest will be in chronological order according to level.

Features C2.4.1, C1.5.2, and 3A.6.1 These can best be described as a series of stone-lined pits in different stages of disintigration. The basic characteristics are a hole in the ground with a depth of about 30 cm and a width of some 40 cm with a medium-sized flat stone at the bottom. The sides of the pit are lined with small flattish stones.

In all cases, ashy soil containing unburnt, decayed, white organic material was found in the pits. No bones, beads, potsherds or other material was ever recovered from the pits.

C2.4.1 was a complete pit. (See fig. 55 and plate 44). Outside diameter of the stone ring was 43 cm, with an inside diameter of about 23 cm. Depth was 32 cm. A medium-sized stone of about 20 by 25 cm was placed at the bottom of the pit.

C1.5.2 was associated with floor V9, and proved to be collapsed stone-lined pit. (See fig. 50) The structure was in very poor condition, the remaining section comprising two smallish flat stones at the base with three flat stones packed vertically around it. The diameter could not be determined, but the estimated depth was between 25 and 30 cm.

2A.6.2 was in a better state of preservation, having only partially collapsed (See plate 44). Outside diameter was about 35 cm while the inside diameter varied between 20 and 25 cm. A single elongated flat stone lay at the bottom. The depth of the section that had not collapsed was 16,5 cm.

These stone-lined pits are not unique to Pont Drift, others of identical shape and size having been found at Schroda and Commando Kop. Their use is a matter of conjecture, as they were not always found in the same context. In all cases, decomposed organic remains were found, but the nature of the material suggests that woody substances were placed in the pit and not things like leaves or seeds. It seems unlikely that the pits were used for storage of foodstuffs because of their small size. The shape and nature of the surface of the flat stones placed at the base of the pits did not give the impression of having done any work, for example had the pits been used for stamping grain, other seeds or meat. It is not impossible, however, that a small wooden mortar was placed in the hole, the stones serving to hold it in position.

Mortars embedded in the ground are not unknown, having been recorded from the Venda. Such mortars were made from either stone or wood, were usually planted in the ground close to the wall. (Van der Waal, 1977: 100). Plate 46 shows such a Venda mortar in use.

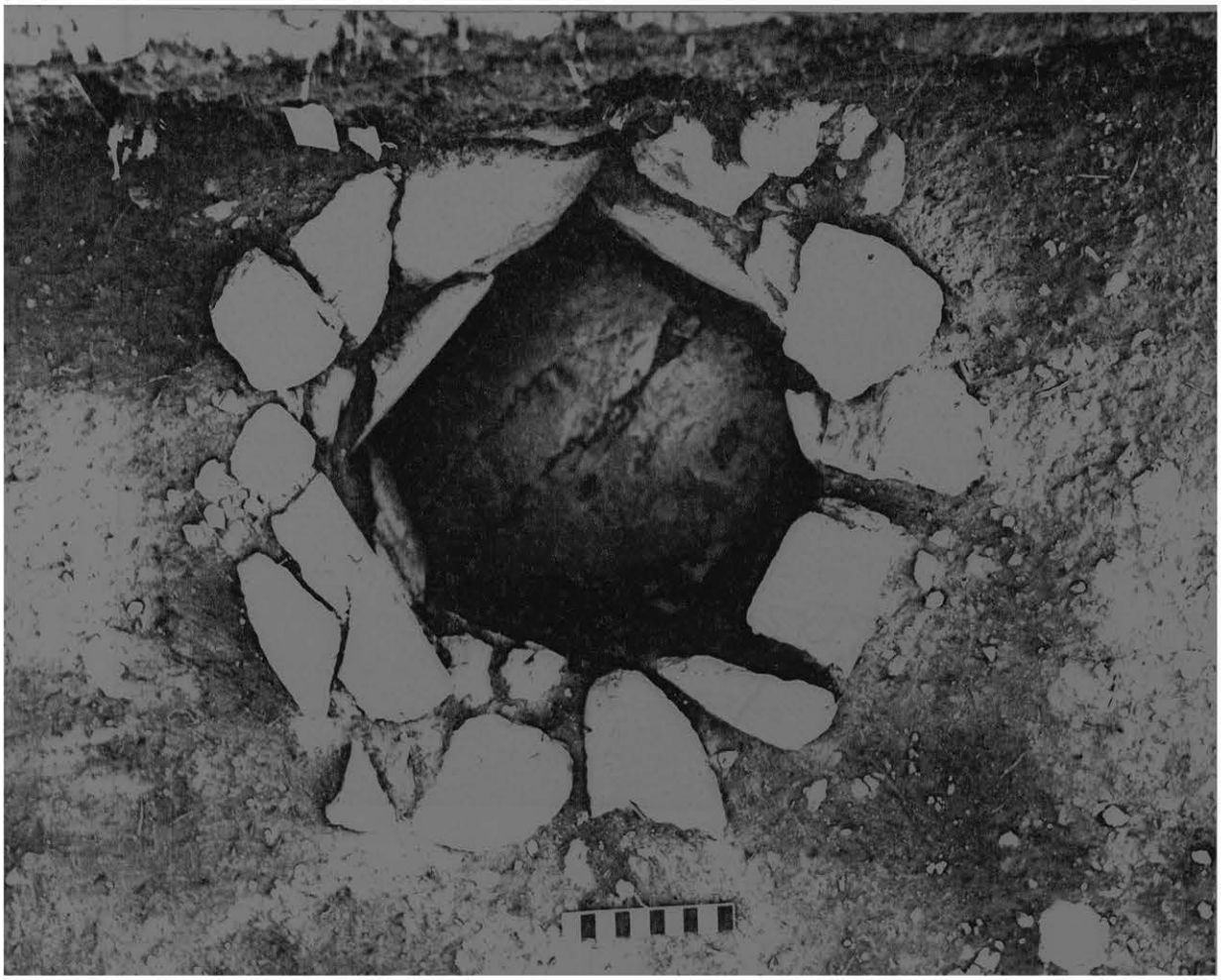


Plate 44

Pont Drift. Stone lined pit (C2.4.1) with large flat stone at bottom. Scale in cm.

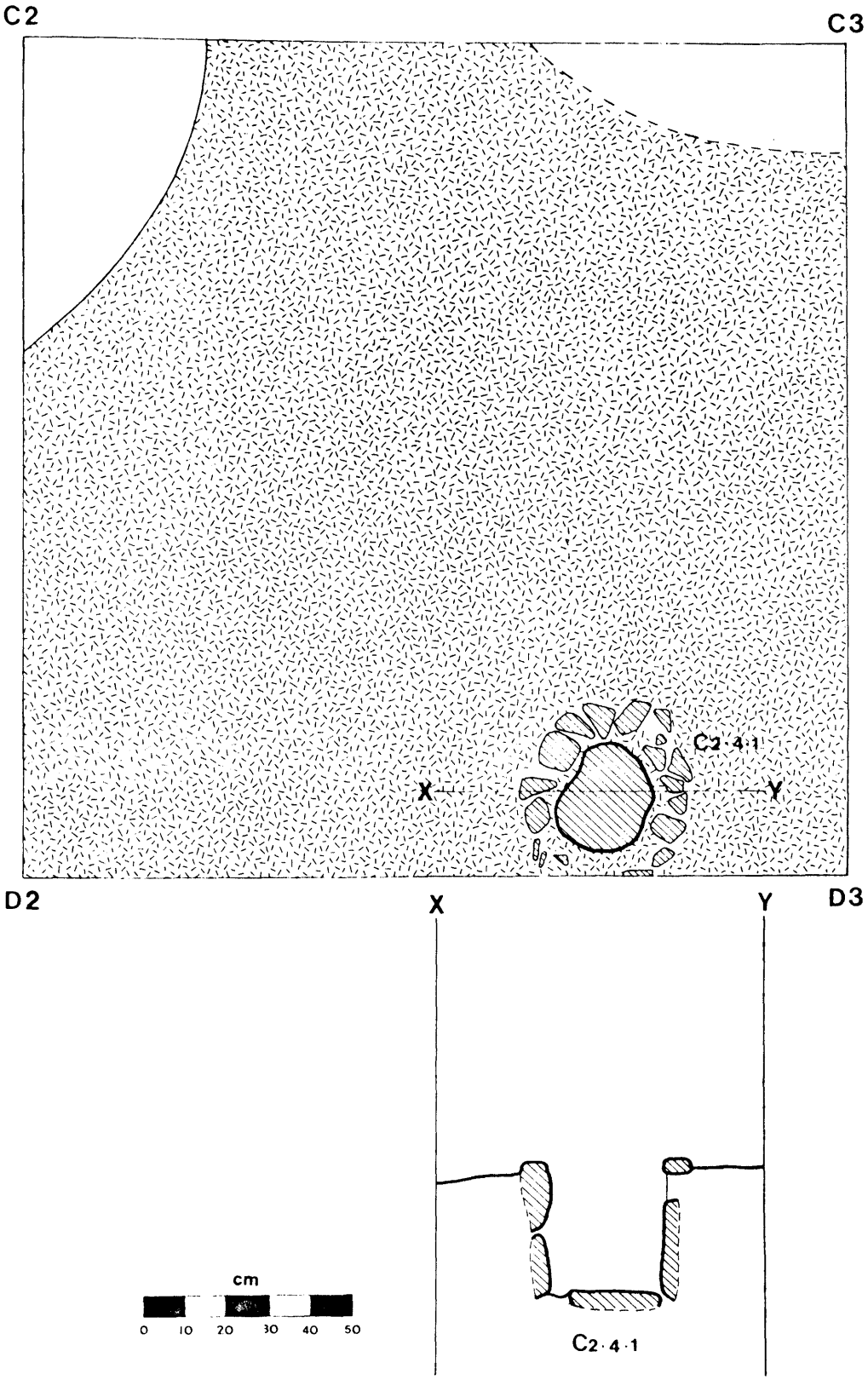


Figure 55

Pont Drift: Plan and Profile of stone-lined pit C2.4.1

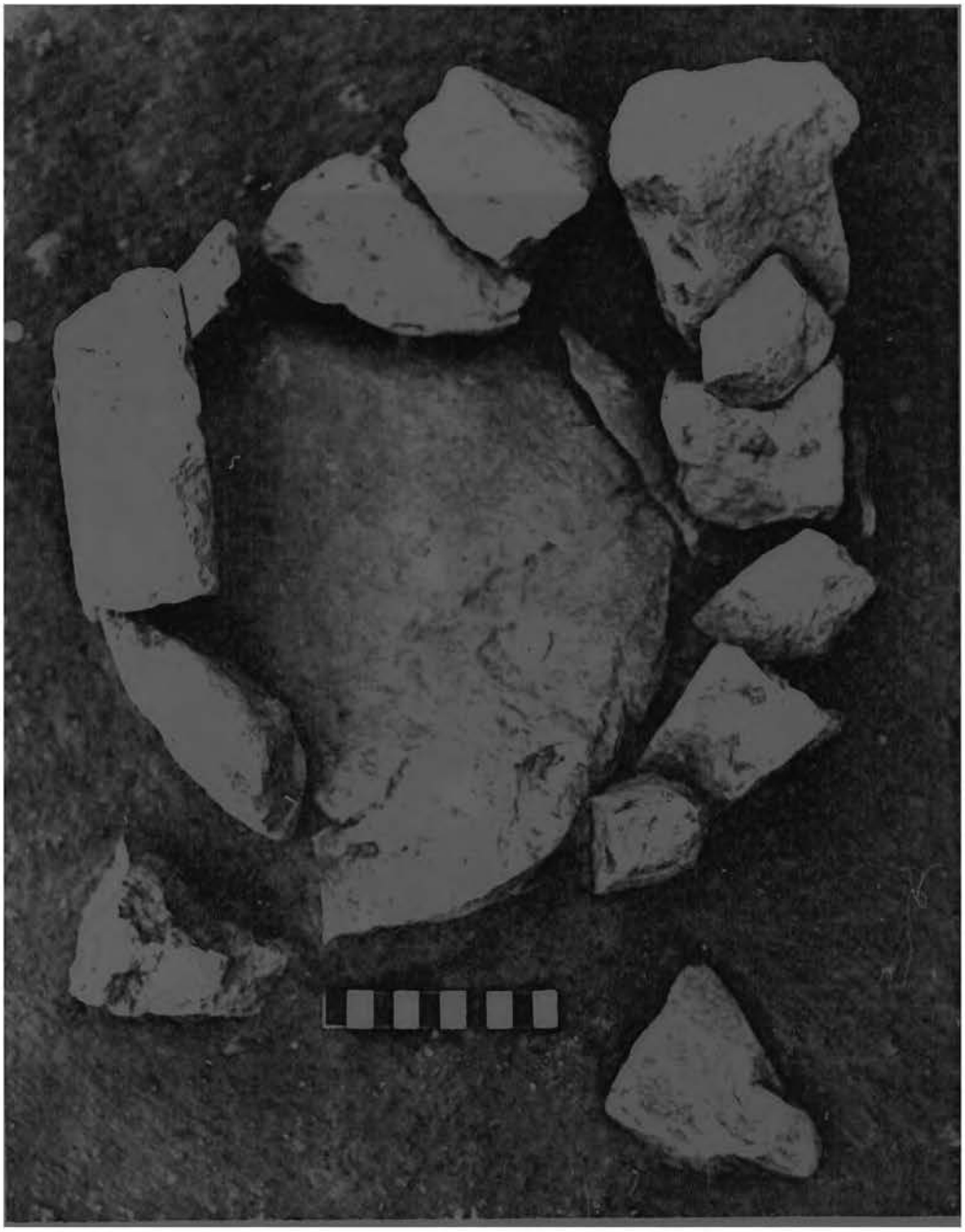


Plate 45

Pont Drift : The collapsed remains of the stone-lined pit 2A.6.2.

Plate 46

A Venda woman using an old type of mortar which is recessed into the floor

Feature 2AA.3.1 This consisted of a series of stones, loosely packed in a semi-circle that stretched across square 2AA. There were no associated finds.

Feature C1.4.1.2 was in the form of a crude semi-circle of stones along line D1-D2 in Square C1. Diameter was 50 cm. There were no associated finds, other than the gravel floor C1.4.1 which ran up against the circle.

Feature 3A.7.1 This was a straight line of stones, of various sizes, 1,55 metres in length. The row of stones was not associated with anything, and no explanation for its existence can be given.(See plate 47).

Feature 2AA.8.1 A pile of stones was uncovered in square 2AA slightly towards corner A1. The heap was about 83 cm in length and 45 cm in width, and contained a variety of small and medium sized stones. It would appear that this was associated with features found directly underneath in levels 9 and 10 (Plate 48).

Feature 2A.9.1 consisted of a 40 - 50 cm broad line of stones curving in a slight arc from close to the centre of square 2A towards corner A1 were it disappeared into the wall of the excavation along A1-A2. Part of this structure reappeared in square 2AA along line A1 - AA1. The structure was made up from medium-sized and small stones, with the latter in the majority.

The structure would appear to be associated with 2AA.9.1, both occuring at the same level. The full context is uncertain, and further excavation would be necessary to explain it.

Feature 2AA.9.1 This took the form of several medium-sized stones packed around a large stone. These lay directly below feature 2AA.8.1, but were seperated from one another by a layer of soil. Directly under this lay feature 2AA.10.1.

Feature 2AA.10.1 A strange feature was excavated in level 10, and covered most of square 2AA and nearly half of 2A. It consisted of a

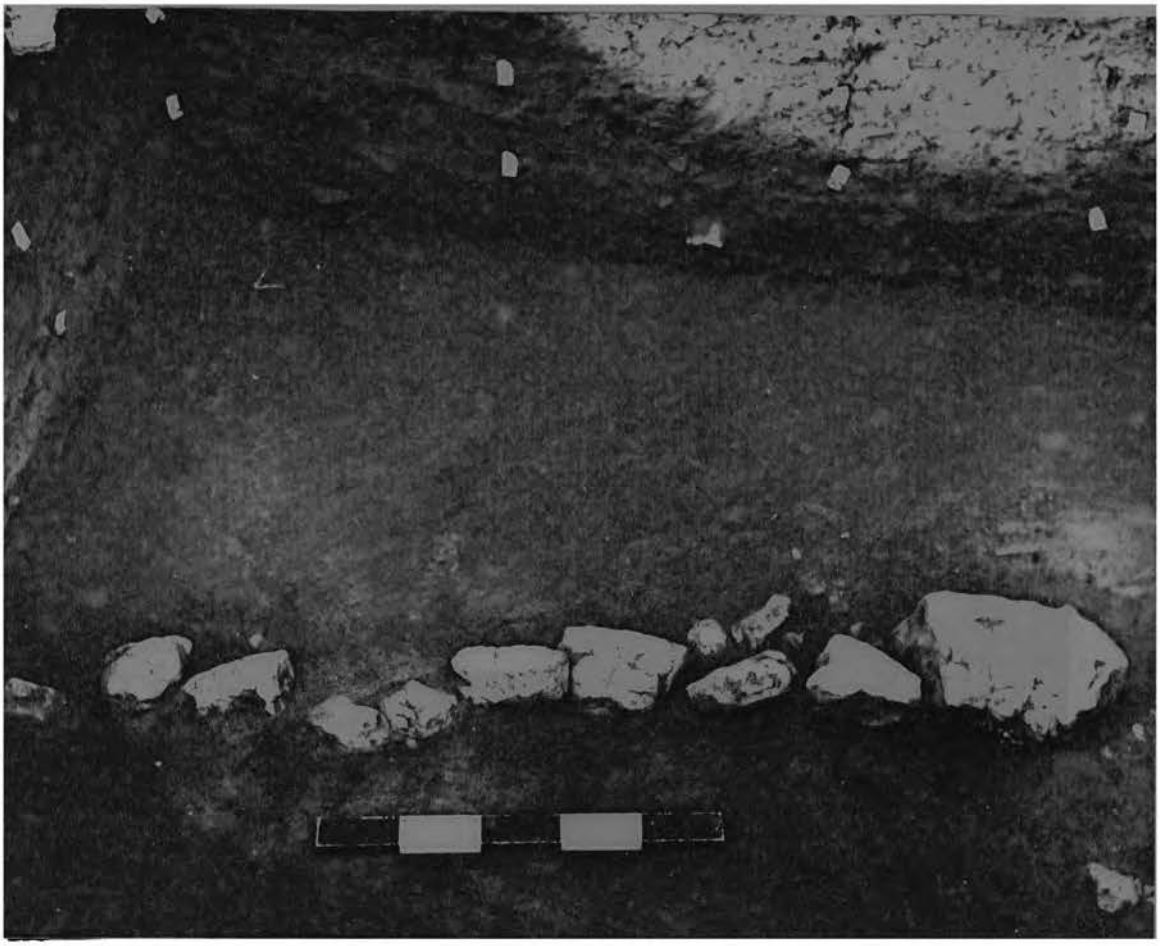


Plate 47

Pont Drift : Feature 3A.7.1. This is a straight line of stones, without any adjacent features.

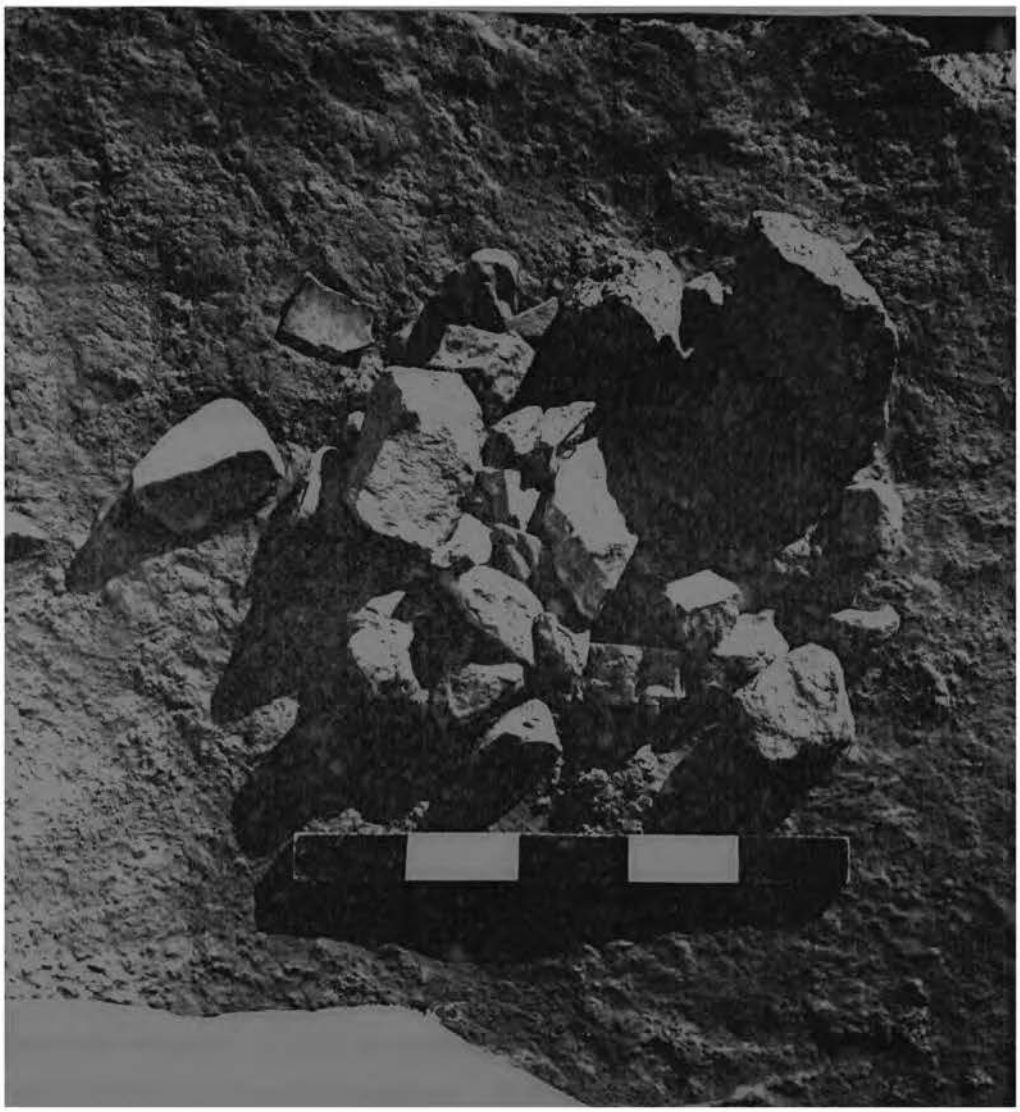


Plate 48

Pont Drift : The heap of stones (2AA.8.1.) that lay directly over the bowl in feature 2AA.10.1.

heap of stones on top of a gravel floor that was littered with potsherds, bones, ostrich eggshell beads and ash. This in itself was unusual, as the surrounding level (10) was pure yellow dung, with no intrusions.

A pile of large flat stones lay directly underneath 2AA.9.1, i.e. in the same position, but again a separating layer of soil was found between the two piles. Underneath these stones, a small hollow came to light containing the sherds of a crushed bowl. Strewn around this pile of stones were numerous potsherds, from several different vessels, as well as many animal bones. The shells of a tortoise and a landsnail were also found here. Mixed with some of this material was a lot of white ash, particularly towards corner AA1.

Underneath this lay a brown gravel floor, varying in thickness from 1 cm to 6 cm. This floor lay in turn on top of a paved floor made from many pieces of sandstone of 4 to 10 cm in size. These filled a rough circle of about 2 metres in diameter. The depression noted above continued into this paved floor.

Figures 56 and 57 , and plates 48 and 49 show details of the feature.

No complete vessels could be reconstructed from the sherds, except for the bowl found in the depression. The others, when reconstructed formed less than half of a vessel in each case. A single sherd of an unusual pot was found, with an exceptional and a-typical decoration (2AA.10.1.6)

Numerous bones were found, mainly in groups. An interesting bone tool (2AA.10.1.1) came from one of these groups.

The feature is complex, and to judge by the neat way in which the paved and gravel floors were made, it would seem to have required a certain amount of planning. Every item including the ash was deliberately placed on the floor. A bowl was placed in the depression and the large stones piled on top.

During the excavation, several facts were recorded that did not make sense.

Plate 48

Pont Drift : Feature 2AA.10.1 showing spread of artefacts, pottery, stones and faunal remains.

At point A the stratigraphy indicates the slope of the mound that covered the feature.

B is the pile of stones covering the bowl. It is also directly below the stones shown as feature 2AA.9.1.

C is the bone implement, D is a tortoise shell, and E is the remains of a young

At F, part of the paved stone floor has been exposed.

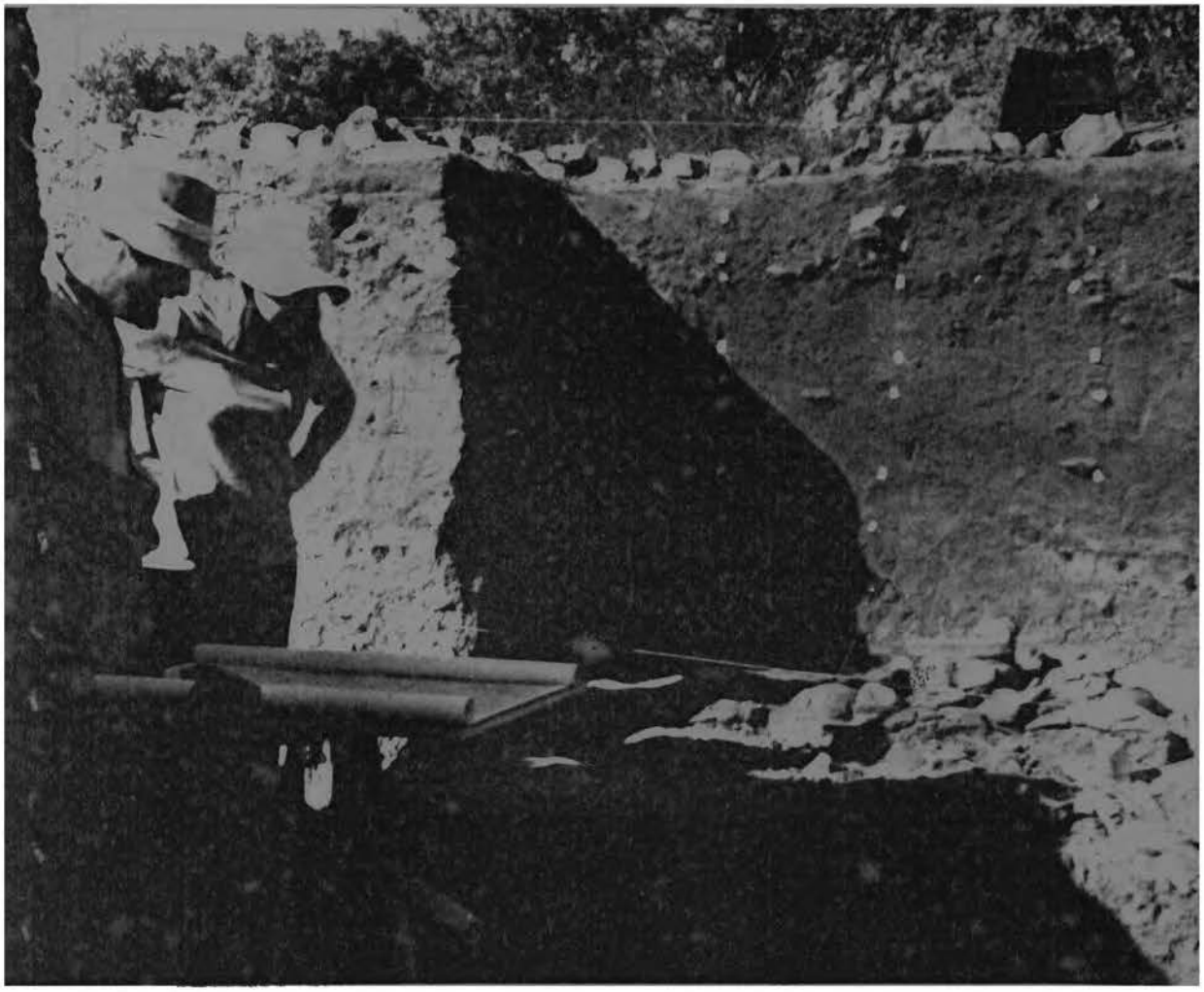
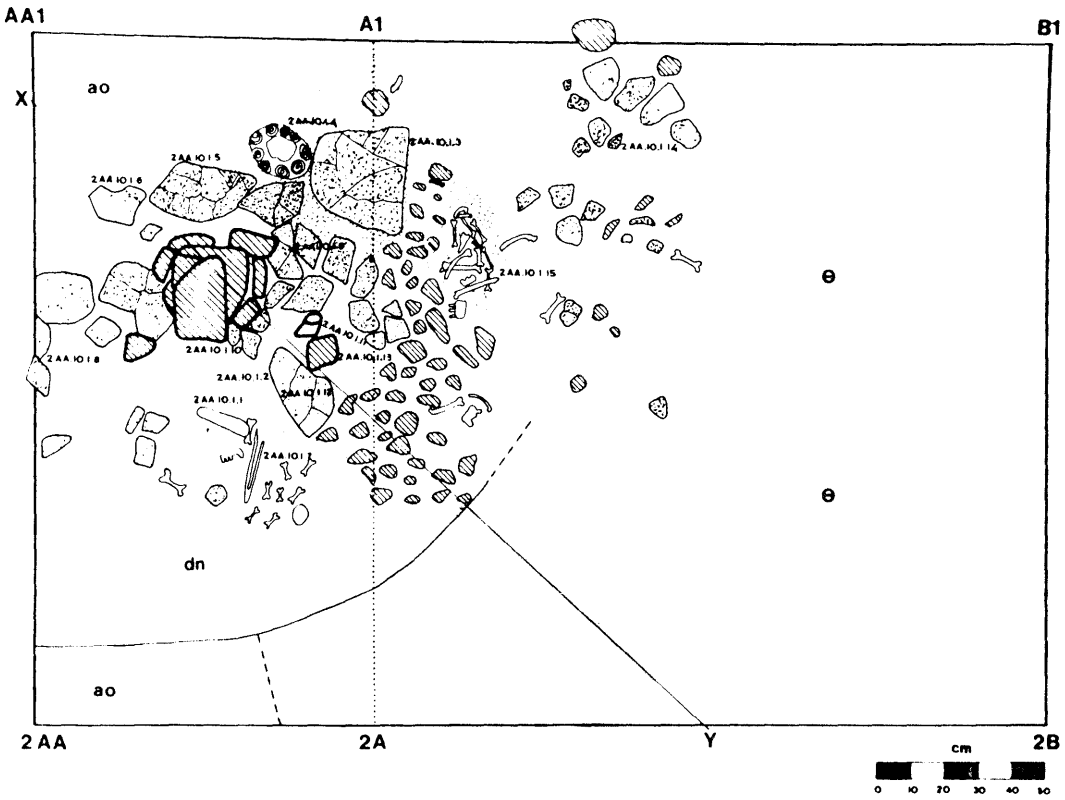


Plate 49

Pont Drift: The author and his wife documenting feature 2AA.10.1

(Photo courtesy of Mr. J. Morgan)



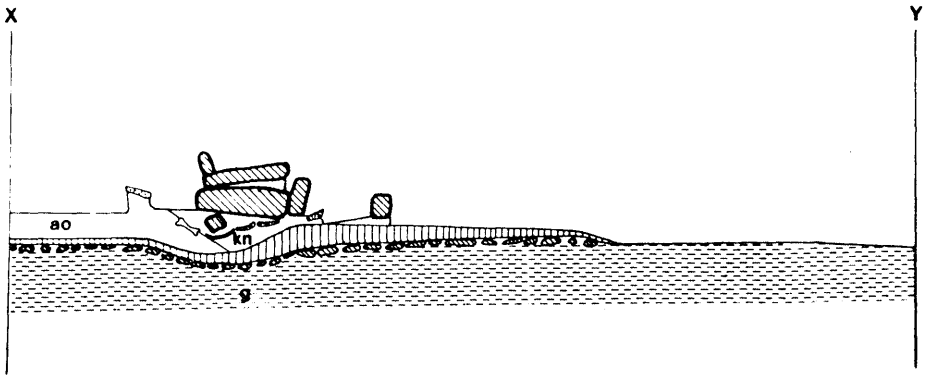


Figure 56

Pont Drift: Feature 2AA.10.1 showing plan and profile

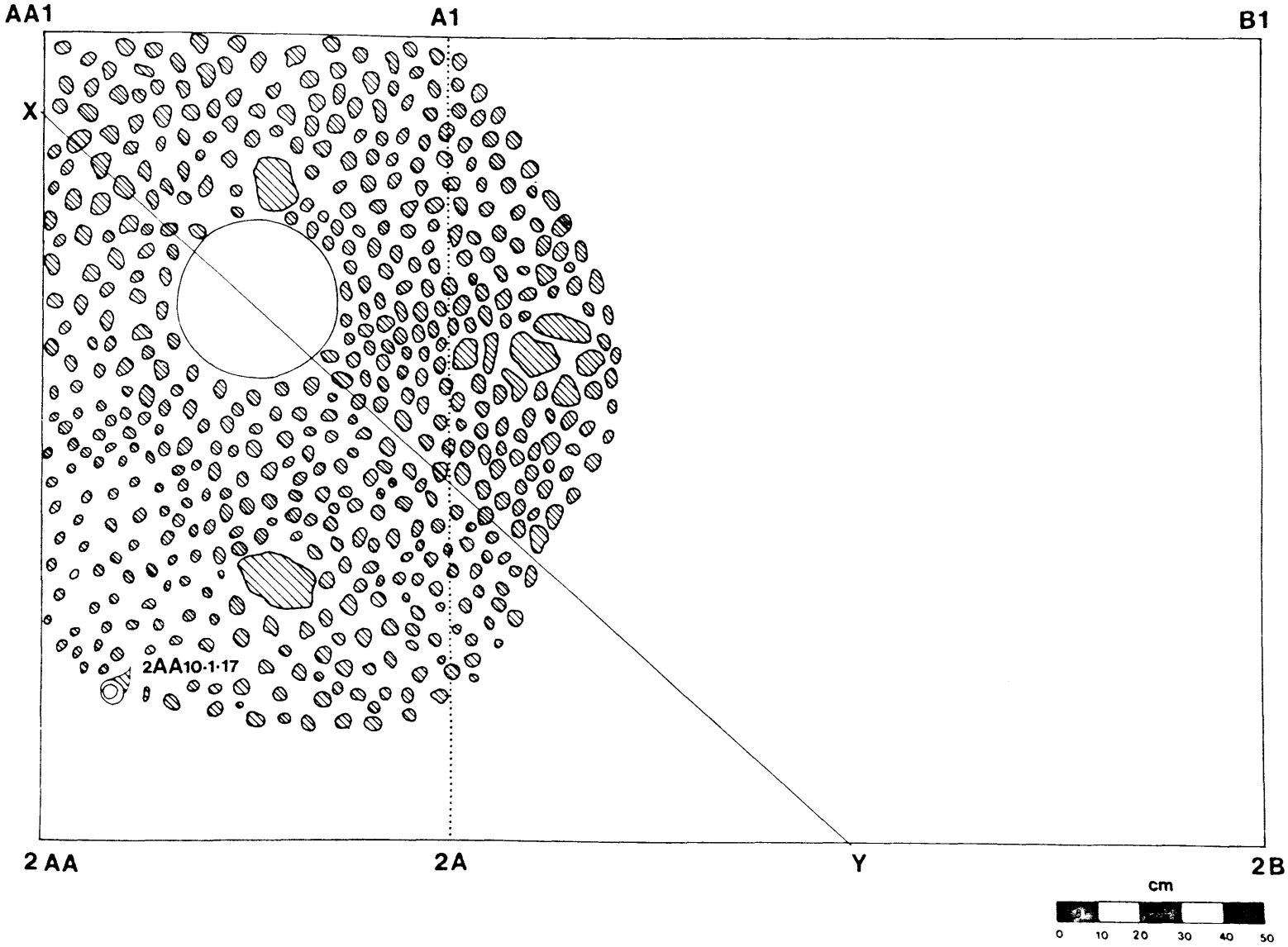


Figure 57

Pont Drift: Feature 2AA.10.1 showing paved stone floor at base. Central circle is hollow in which the bowl was found.

(1) The piles of stones that extended from Level 8 through to level 10 showed that at different times people had piled stones on exactly the same point, in spite of each pile being covered by a layer of soil. It seemed unlikely that the stones could have been so accurately placed over a period of time, unless the spot had been marked or the stones placed there at one time.

(2) The feature lay in a thick dung level, but yet was not covered by dung except at the edges.

(3) The feature had not been trampled by livestock.

(4) There was no indication that this was an intrusion from a higher level'.

Try to answer these questions, the feature and surrounding stratigraphy was very carefully examined.

The first point noted was that because of indistinct stratigraphy levels 7, 8 and 9 had been incorrectly excavated. The total feature had in fact been covered by a mound extending into level 7 and possibly into level 6 as well. (See Profile 2AA - AA1). The stones had therefore been piled, covered by soil, more stones added, again covered by soil, and then the final pile of stones with the final soil covering to form the mound. In other words, what has been individually described under features 2AA.8.1, and 2AA.9.1 are in fact part of 2AA.10.1.

The feature, then was clearly not an intrusion from a higher level, because the pit would have been totally filled and not have formed a mound. However the fact that it was not trampled or covered with dung was not explained.

On the further excavation of square 2A into level 11 the remains of two decomposed posts were found. Both of these were pointed, and had therefore been driven into the soil from higher up. The positions of the posts corresponded to the edge of feature 2AA.10.1.

It appears likely therefore that an area in the cattle kraal was cleared and the structure erected. To keep the livestock from trampling on it, a wooden fence was erected around it. The little bits of dung found around the edge of the feature would be consistent with the dung that

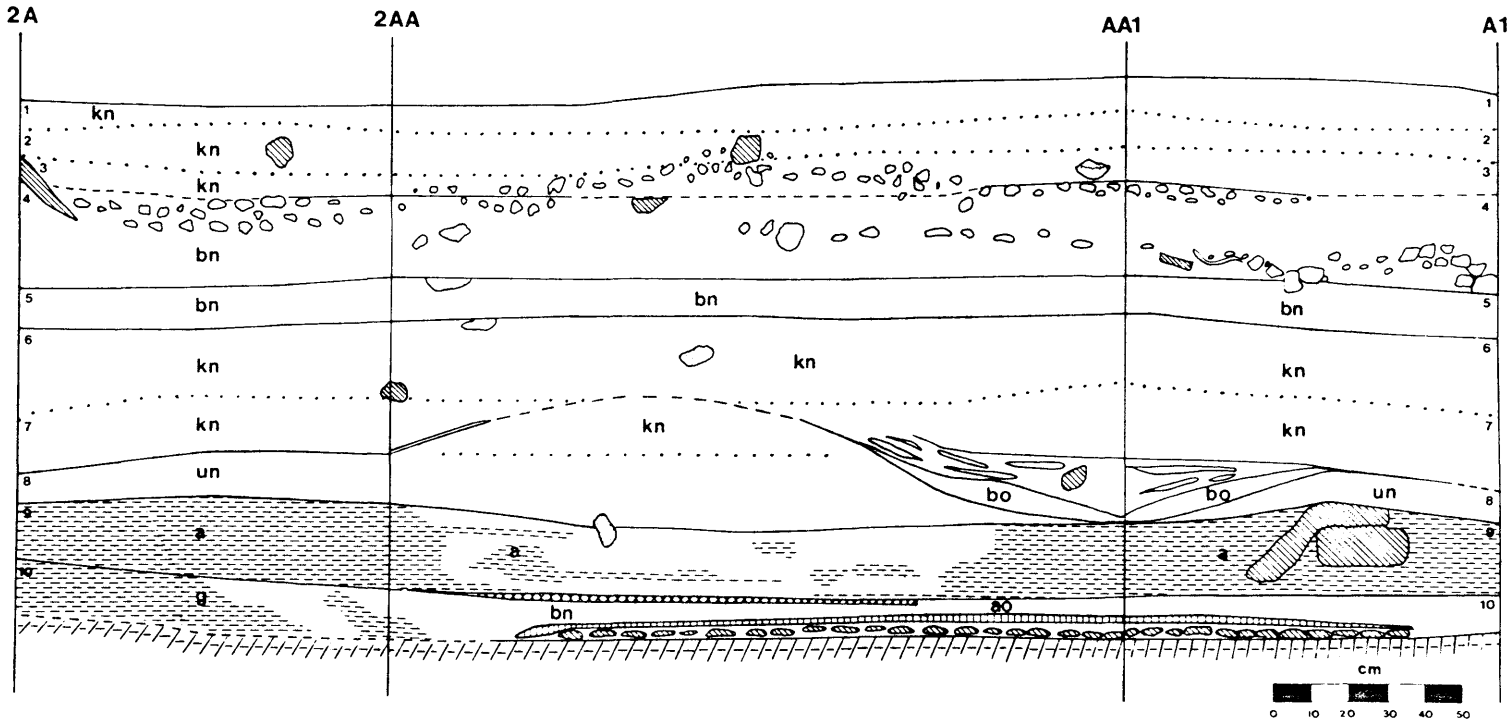


Figure 58

Pont Drift: Profile 2A - 2AA - AA1 - A1 with cross-section of feature 2AA.10.1 showing the mound that covered the feature. Note the disturbed dung level

filters through a livestock fence.

From the care taken with the construction of the feature as well as for its protection suggests that it was of importance. The elaborateness thereof and the positioning in the cattle kraal suggest a religious ceremony. The place would appear not to have been used frequently, otherwise it would not have been deliberately covered, and the state of preservation of certain items suggests that it was probably covered immediately the ceremony was over. It is, of course, likely that offerings were placed on the mound afterwards when ever thought necessary.

f) Fauna

The fauna from Pont Drift was analysed in detail by I. Plug of the Transvaal Museum. The complete faunal report is housed at that institution.

Each level was individually analysed, but the results in each unit were thrown together, as it was thought to be more meaningful.

In total 42404 bones were recovered from the site, of which only 12,4% were identifiable. Of these, just over a quarter showed signs of burning, with the highest individual percentages coming from units 1 (39,2%) and 4 (36,4%). Units 2 and 3 each showed less than 9%. Weathering, carnivore damage, and rodent damage was minimal, being on average in each case less than 2%.

Sixty-three species in total were identified from the faunal sample. When transcribed into the individual units, it become clear that unit 4 had the greatest variety (45 species) while as could be expected unit 3 (the dung level) had the least variety (28 species). Units 1 and 2 were fairly even with 41 and 40 species respectively.

Table 113 gives the total species list. Plug has divided the species into contributors and non-contributors to diet with the minimum number of individuals. The contributors to diet have been further divided into the activities leading to their utilization by man, namely, domesticated, hunted, snared, gathered and fished. The number of minimum individuals as given on the list is a purely arithmetical total and has still to

TABLE 113

Total Species list and Contributors to Diet

	Species	Unit 1 M. Ind	%	Unit 2 M. Ind	%	Unit 3 M. Ind	%	Unit 4 M. Ind	%	Total M. Ind	%
A.	Domesticated										
	Capra hircus	2		4		4		1		11	
	Ovis/Capra: adult	27		19		32		21		100	
	juvenile	11		14		9		17		51	
	Bos taurus: adult	13		15		13		10		51	
	juvinile	4		1		5		2		12	
	Total domesticated	57	8,23	53	7,79	63	9,09	51	7,34	225	32,47
B.	Hunted										
	Diceros bicornis (Black Rhino)	1		1						2	
	Equus burchelli (Zebra)	3		3		1		4		11	
	Hippopotamus amphibius (Hippo)	2		1						3	
	Giraffa camelopardalis (Giraffe)							1		1	
	Phacochoerus aethiopicus (Warthog)	1		1		1				3	
	Indet. suid							1		1	
	Sylvicapra grimmia (Grey duiker)	2		5		4		4		15	
	Raphicerus campestris (Steenbok)			1		1		1		3	
	Oreotragus oreotragus (Klipspringer)	1				1		3		5	
	Pelea capreolus (Grey Rhebok)	1								1	
	Aepyceros melampus (Impala)	2		1						3	
	Antidorcas marsupialis (Springbok)					1		4		5	
	Syncerus caffer (Buffalo)	1								1	
	Bov. I	3		4		2		4		17	
	Bov. II			1				1		2	
	Bov. III	3		1				3		7	
	Bov. IV			1						1	
	Struthio camelus (Ostrich)					1				1	
	Total hunted	24	3,46	20	2,89	12	1,73	26	3,75	82	11,83
C.	Snared										
	Orycteropus afer (Antbear)			1						1	
	Heterohyrax brucei (Yellow spotted dassie)	2								2	
	Procavia capensis (Rock dassie)			1				4		5	
	Lepus sp. (Hare)	1		7		5		5		18	
	Pronolagus sp. (Hare)							1		1	
	Indet. hare	5						3		8	
	Pedetes capensis (Springhare)	5		1		1		12		19	
	Indet. squirrel							2		2	
	Large rodent							2		2	
	Medium-sized rodent	5		10		3		6		24	
	Small rodent	8		4		2		3		17	
	Heron-sized bird							1		1	
	Guineafowl-sized bird	3		4		3		9		19	
	Dove-sized bird	3						2		5	
	Francolin-sized bird	1								1	
	Varanus sp.	3						8		11	
	Total snared	36	5,19	28	4,04	14	2,02	58	8,37	136	19,62
D.	Gathered										
	Achatina sp.	12		26		14		35		87	
	Freshwater Molluses	13		7		7		6		33	
	Tortoise	8		5		6		11		36	
	Snake	3		3		2		4		12	
	Total gathered	36	5,19	41	5,92	29	4,18	56	8,08	162	23,36

TABLE 113 Continued

	Species	Unit 1 M. Ind	%	Unit 2 M. Ind	%	Unit 3 M. Ind	%	Unit 4 M. Ind	%	Total M. Ind	%
E.	Fished										
	Clarias sp.	8		4				5		17	
	Indet. fish							6		6	
	Total fished	8	1,15	4	0,58			11	1,59	23	3,32
	Total non-domesticates	104	15,00	93	13,42	55	7,94	151	21,79	403	58,15
	Total domesticates and non-domesticates	161	23,23	147	21,21	188	17,03	202	29,15	628	90,62
F.	Non-Contributors to diet										
	Crocidura Silacea (Shrew)	1								1	
	Cerco pithecus sp. (Monkey)							1		1	
	Small Primate	1								1	
	Canis familiaris (Domestic dog)			1		1				2	
	Canis adustus (Side-striped Jackal)			1						1	
	Indet. Mongoose	1		1						2	
	Cynictis penicillata (Yellow Mongoose)							1		1	
	Indet. Feline	2								2	
	Large carnivore							3		3	
	Medium-sized carnivore	3		1		2		4		10	
	Small carnivore			1		1		2		4	
	Loxodonta africana (Ivory bangles)			2		2		1		5	
	Rattus rattus (house rat)			1						1	
	Struthio camelus (eggshell)	4		3		2		3		12	
	Small lizard	1		1						2	
	Indeterminate frog/toad							1		1	
	Small Terrestrial snail	2		2				1		5	
	Cypraea Sp.	1		3				1		5	
	Corbicula africana	1		3		2				6	
	Total non-contributors	17	2,45	20	2,89	10	1,44	18	2,69	65	9,38
	TOTAL	178	25,70	166	24,00	128	18,49	220	31,79	692	100,00

be adjusted to reflect the absolute minimum number of individuals. The revised tables will be published at a later date.

From the table several facts come to light.

The total number of domesticated individuals was 225 (32,47%) with the various units containing similar percentages.

In the 'hunted' category, several interesting specimens were identified in addition to the normal range of species. The two black rhino (*Diceros bicornis*) from units 1 and 2 are of interest because the black rhino is considered to be more dangerous than the white, and in any case would not be an easy animal to kill. A single grey rhebok was noted in unit 1, while one springbuck (*Antidorcas marsupialis*) was identified from Unit 3 with a further four coming from Unit 4. All these animals are not found in the area today.

An unusual specimen in the 'snared' category is the antbear (*Orycteropus afer*), the remainder being the normal types of animal or bird one would expect to find caught in snares or traps. When the units are compared to one another, it can be seen that the number of individuals increases noticeably in the 'snared' and 'gathered' categories.

It is obvious then, that in the Zhizo levels, there was a greater emphasis on gathering and snaring, while hunting remained the same and the contribution made by domesticated animals dropped slightly.

In terms of actual meat contribution this slight drop is minimal, as can be seen in table 114 .

The contribution made by domesticated animals is high, although not as high as recorded on the Greefswald sites. The dung level does not fit into the pattern of units 1, 2 and 4 in that the percentage of domesticated animals is very much higher that the other culturally related levels. This may in fact indicate an increase in numbers of domesticated animals at the site, and not be a difference resulting from sampling techniques.

TABLE 114

Pont Drift meat weight contributions per unit

CATEGORY	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4
Domesticated	82,8%	81,9%	92,5%	79,4%
Hunted	16,5%	17,1%	7,1%	19,1%
Snared	0,5%	0,9%	0,2%	1,2%
Gathered	0,1%	0,1%	0,1%	0,2%
Fished	0,1%	0,1%	0	0,1%

In spite of the increases shown in unit 4, snaring, gathering and fishing were of little importance to the different cultures concerned. It would suggest perhaps that many of these items were delicacies, rather than standard items of diet.

In all units, the non contributers to the diet formed less than 3% of the total. There were 25 carnivores, of which two were domestic dog, one each from units 2 and 3. Elephant is present on the site only in the form of ivory bangles. Plug (no date) suggests that the absence of bone and unworked ivory may indicate that the bangles were traded in to the site. For this reason, the elephant has not been included as a contributor to the diet.

It will be noticed that the ostrich is included twice on the list, as a contributor and a non-contributor. In the latter case, identification rested on eggshell pieces, which probably came from eggs that were collected from outside the site. The birds were obviously not brought back to th site to lay eggs. In the former case, a single bird was identified in unit 3 from a left femur.

An interesting find was a well-preserved skull of a house rat (*Rattus rattus*) at the base of unit 2 (level 8). This has previously been described (Plug, Dippenaar and Hanisch: 1979).

Rattus rattus is not indigenous to Africa, but has been recorded from sites further north in Africa dating to around 800 A.D. The house rat is found only in close association with human occupation. It is not a burrowing rodent, and as the level in which it was found showed no signs of disturbance, it must be accepted that the rat was directly associated with the inhabitants of Pont Drift.

This is the first record of the domestic rat in South Africa connected with the last phases of the Early Iron Age.

The importance of cattle, sheep and goats in the economy is obvious. The identification of cattle breeds such as was done at Schroda was not possible, however on the relationship of cattle to sheep goats it must be mentioned that the Zhizo levels (unit 4) had a lower than normal ratio (1:3). This contradicts to a certain extent what was found at Schroda, where the ration was 5:7.

ii) Bone and Shell implements

Bone implements were divided into formal and informal tools. Four catagories of formalized tools were recognized, while only a single catagory of informal tools was identified.

Awls: These are splinters or flakes usually of long bones, where one end has been sharpened to a crude point, presumably for piercing. Some of these awls had neatly polished points.

Twenty-three awls were found. Their relative positions in the excavations are shown in table 115 , where it can be seen that there was an even spread throughout the levels.

"Spatulas": Bone splinters of medium to large length in which one end has been abraded and polished to form a blunt or spatulate end. The use is uncertain. Eight such artefacts were identified, two of which were exceptional specimens.

The first came from square 2B level, and was numbered 2B.4.4. It was found underneath the gravel floor of hut 2B.4.3 near corner B1. The implement was made from a shoulder blade, with a length of 145 mm, and

a width at its widest point of 52 mm. The 'heel' of the tool is blunt, and fits well into the hand.

Table 114

PONT DRIFT: Awls

LEVEL		SQUARE A1	B1	C1	C2	2AA	2A	3A	2B	2C
Unit 1	1									
	2				1					
	3									
	4			1					1	
Unit 2	5			1						
	6		1				1			1
	7	1							1	3
	8			1						1
Unit 3	9		1							
	10						1			
	11								1	
	12								1	1
Unit 4	13									
	14		1	1			1			1
	14i									
	15									

It tapers off to form a fairly sharp working edge. The use is uncertain, but it would be an ideal tool for preparing skins.

The second tool was recovered from level 10 in square 2AA, where it formed part of feature 2AA.10.1, and was given the number 2AA.10.1.1. This was an exceptionally neat implement, made from a large long bone that had been split through the middle, and polished to shape. Length

is 170 mm and maximum width 55 mm. The bone has been exposed to heat and is dark brown in colour. The working edge has been ground nearly to knife-like sharpness. Numerous striation marks appear on the surface on both sides, at an angle to the length of the tool. The similarity to the above-mentioned tool (2B.4.4) is obvious. The use is uncertain, but it would be a very suitable tool for the preparation of skins and with its very sharp edge could quite conceivably even have been used to cut meat or sinews.

Table 116

PONT DRIFT: "Spatulas"

LEVEL		SQUARE								
		A1	B1	C1	C2	2AA	2A	3A	2B	2C
Unit 1	1									
	2									
	3									1
	4								1	
Unit 2	5									
	6									
	7									1
	8	1								
Unit 3	9									
	10					1	1			1
	11								1	
	12									
Unit 4	13									
	14									
	14i									
	15									

Table 116 shows the distribution of the tools in the deposit.

It is noticable that no "spatulas" were recovered from unit 4.

Needles: A pointed fragment of bone, usually polished, and pierced with one or two holes at the end opposite to the point.

Three needles were recovered from the excavation. None was complete as in all cases the point was broken. One of the needles had not been completed, as the eye was only partially drilled through (2B level 4). Table 117 shows the distribution.

Table 117

PONT DRIFT: Needles

Level		SQUARE A1	B1	C1	C2	2AA	2A	3A	2B	2C
Unit 1	1									
	2									
	3						1			
	4								1	
Unit 2	5									
	6									
	7									
	8									
Unit 3	9								1	
	10									
	11									
	12									
Unit 4	13									
	14									
	14i									
	15									

Flaked Tools: These are bone splinters from which flakes have deliberately been removed in a similar manner to stone tools.

Only two such semi-formalized tools were encountered. There is no doubt that the flakes were deliberately and not accidentally removed. Square A1 level 8 produced a bone fragment in which two notches had been made. Secondary splintering and the size of the notches suggests that the tool had been used as a notched scraper, possibly for shaping and preparing arrow shafts.

The second tool resembles to all intents and purposes a Late Stone Age Smithfield flake, the only difference being that stone was not used. It has an unfaceted platform and a slight bulb of percussion. The upper side shows several flake scars. The nature of this implement is such that it is so typical of a stone tool that is seems unlikely that it seems unlikely that it was made by chance. It was recovered from square 3A level 11, and is therefore about 1000 years old.

This opens the possibility of direct contact of Iron Age people at Pont Drift with Late Stone Age people. There are three Late Stone Age sites in the immediate vicinity of the Iron Age site, all of them less than ten minute's walk away. The closest one borders on to part of an adjacent Iron Age site. It was noticed here that the Late Stone Age scatter lies on top of the surface while potsherds lie embedded in the soil. This suggests, but is not confirmed, that Late Stone Age people inhabited the area after the Iron Age people had left the sites.

The position of the flaked tools are shown in Table 118

Informal bone tools: These consist of irregular bone flakes and splinters, usually small in size with small polished or abraded surfaces to which no specific function can be attached.

Table 119 shows the distribution of the fifteen informal tools throughout the excavation.

Table 118

PONT DRIFT: Flaked Tools

LEVEL		SQUARE								
		A1	B1	C1	C2	2AA	2A	3A	2B	2C
Unit 1	1									
	2									
	3			2						
	4			2		1				
Unit 2	5								1	
	6		1	1						
	7									
	8		1							1
Unit 3	9		1						2	
	10									
	11								1	
	12									
Unit 4	13									
	14								1	
	14i									
	15									

No conclusions can be drawn from the bone implements. There is no definite pattern, although it can be seen that fewer tools are found in unit 4 than in the other three. No reason can be given for this tendency.

No direct comparisons can be made with any other site in the Limpopo/Shashi Valley. The less formalized bone tools are similar to what was found at Schroda and other sites. The characteristic arrowheads and foreshafts are entirely lacking at Pont Drift.

Table 119

PONT DRIFT: Informal Tools

LEVEL	SQUARE								
	A1	B1	C1	C2	2AA	2A	3A	2B	2C
1									
2									
Unit 1 3			2						
4			2		1				
5								1	
6		1	1						
Unit 2 7									
8		1							1
9		1						2	
10									
Unit 3 11								1	
12									
13									
14								1	
Unit 4 14i									
15									

iii) Ornaments Bone and shell ornaments other than shell beads are rare at Pont Drift. Ivory was found, but as all ornaments are complete and no fragments were found, it seems likely that the ornaments were traded on to the site and not manufactured in in situ.

Bone: A fragment of bone in which three holes had been drilled came from 3A level 8. The complete shape of the ornament could not be ascertained, but it probably was a pendant.

Level 11 in square 3A produced a hoof of a small buck in which two holes had been drilled. It seems likely that this could also have been a pendant.

Tooth: Two modified teeth were found in square C2 level 5 and square B1 level 9. The former was an incisor with a single notch filed into the root, while the latter was also an incisor with two notches filed into either side of the root. Both are animal teeth that are well worn. The reason for the notches is not known, but it seems reasonable to assume that they were for ornamentation rather than a practical use. It is possible, of course, that the teeth were strung in necklaces, and the string was wrapped around the notches to prevent the teeth from slipping out.

Shell: A cowrie shell with its back removed, was found in Square A1 level 5. This is obviously a trade item, and used in a necklace.

An almost square fragment of Achatina shell was found in 2B level 9 with abraded edges and an incomplete hole. It was probably intended as a pendant.

Ivory: Eight pieces of worked ivory were recovered from different levels. All of them are parts of bangles. All of them are elongated in shape and thin. In many cases holes have been drilled in the pieces. (See fig. 59)

Table 120 shows the distribution throughout the excavation.

All the ivory except one piece, came from levels 7, 8 and 9. The exception came from Square 2C level 13. This piece was the only one where the hole had not been completely drilled through, suggesting that the bangles might have broken and were being repaired on site.

Similar armbands were found at K2. Voigt (1978) discusses these in detail, and suggests that the perforations were not made to repair the armbands, but rather to prevent them from breaking apart when cracks appeared. (pp 293 and 294)

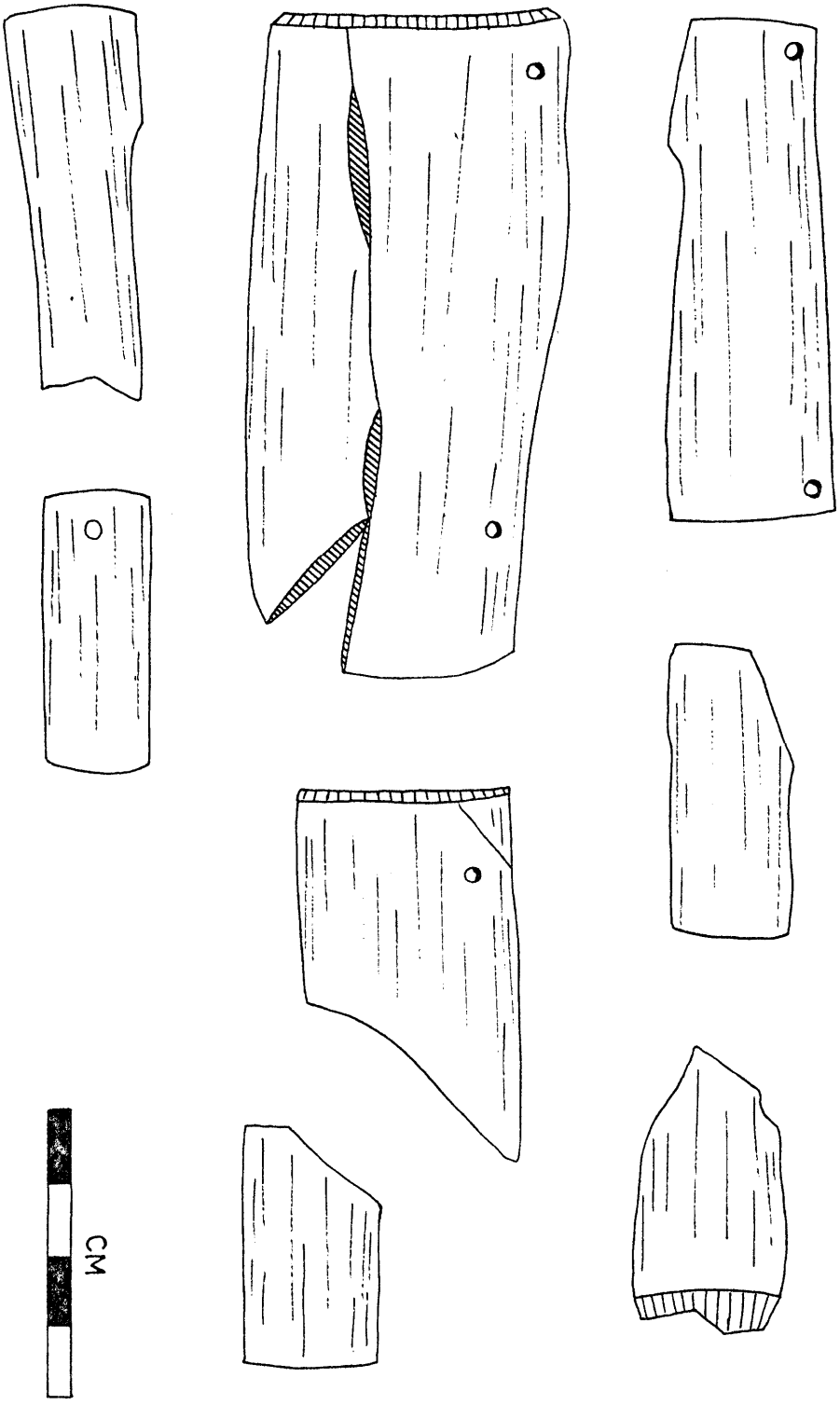


Figure 59

Worked Ivory from Pont Drift

Table 120

PONT DRIFT: Ivory

LEVEL		SQUARE								
		A1	B1	C1	C2	2AA	2A	3A	2B	2C
Unit 1	1									
	2									
	3									
	4									
Unit 2	5									
	6									
	7						1			2
	8	1						1		1
Unit 3	9	1								
	10									
	11									
	12									
Unit 4	13									1
	14									
	14i									
	15									

Voigt's evidence for this statement is sound, however it does not seem as though the Pont Drift people repaired their bracelets before they broke. The edges of two seperate armbands showed signs of abrasion as though they had been repaired, but could move slightly

The diameter of some of the armbands is very small, so that they could only have been worn by children. Here another possibility for the origin of the perforations come to light. It is possible that in order to fit onto a larger arm, that the bracelets were deliberately split

into several pieces which were then joined by leather thongs to give more play in the bracelets, thereby increasing their size to enable adult persons to wear them.

It would appear that the Pont Drift ivory armbands are slightly older than those from K2. At Pont Drift the armbands come from mixed Leopard's Kopje/Zhizo levels, while at K2 they are associated with Leopard's Kopje, although the similarity in type suggests similar origins.

g) Plant Remains

A few charred seeds were recovered from various levels, but the majority came from hut 2B.4.3. The material was sent to the Department of Botany, University of Pretoria, but unfortunately some of the samples were mislaid.

Domesticated grain

All samples of grain came from hut 2B.4.3, and are amongst the missing samples. From the descriptions, two of the types would appear to be *Eleusine* and *Pennisetum* species. The third is unknown.

Wild seeds

Charred seeds of *Sclerocarya caffra* (marula) were found in nearly every level most of them consisting of the little 'eye' covers. No other wild seeds were found.

The charred grain indicates that at least three types of cultivation took place. The area on top of the ridge is too small for this and obviously the agricultural activity must have taken place at another point close by.

h) Human remains

A single skeleton was recovered from Pont Drift. It was surrounded by a series of pots and was removed in a plaster cast to the museum, where the pots were removed so that the bones of the skeleton could be lifted and sent to Prof. Hertha de Villiers for identification.

On removal of half a vessel covering the legs, it was noted that several spiral iron bangles were around each leg, together with numerous turquoise beads. To preserve this, it was decided not to remove the legs and feet for identification. Consequently they are not noted in the report,

which is attached in Appendix A.

The skeleton is crushed and distorted, and represents an infant of 1½ to 2 Years. The facial skeleton was too fragmentary to permit identification of the population group.

Sex could not be determined with certainty, but a wide greater sciatic notch suggests a female. This corresponds to the ornamental evidence found with the burial. Bangles and beads are more often associated with girls and women than with boys and men.

i) Other important features

On Site

Pont Drift does not have the great variety and quantity of features in the surrounding rocks as does Schroda. A single shallow dolley hole was recorded on the northern side of the site, close to the point where the northern ascent ends.

In the excavation

Pits

The pits recorded at Pont Drift have been described, but not discussed. Several small pits were found in the profiles after excavation, having been inadvertantly overlooked. No indication of contents was found in the profiles, and it seems likely that these may not have had any great significance.

The single large pit that was discovered, C1.12.1 followed the pattern of those uncovered at Schroda, as well as one found at the adjacent site of Pont Drift 1/1. The pit had been dug in from an upper level, and contained several medium-sized stones and about two thirds of a broken bowl. No other cultural material was found, other than that can be ascribed to having been contained in the infill.

The purpose of the pit could not be determined. It contained no refuse, nor could any usable material, e.g. clay for pot manufacture, be recovered, as the levels into which it was dug contained sandy soil and dung.

Plate 50

Pont Drift : Pit C1.12.1 showing the contents.
The only cultural material recovered was the bowl.

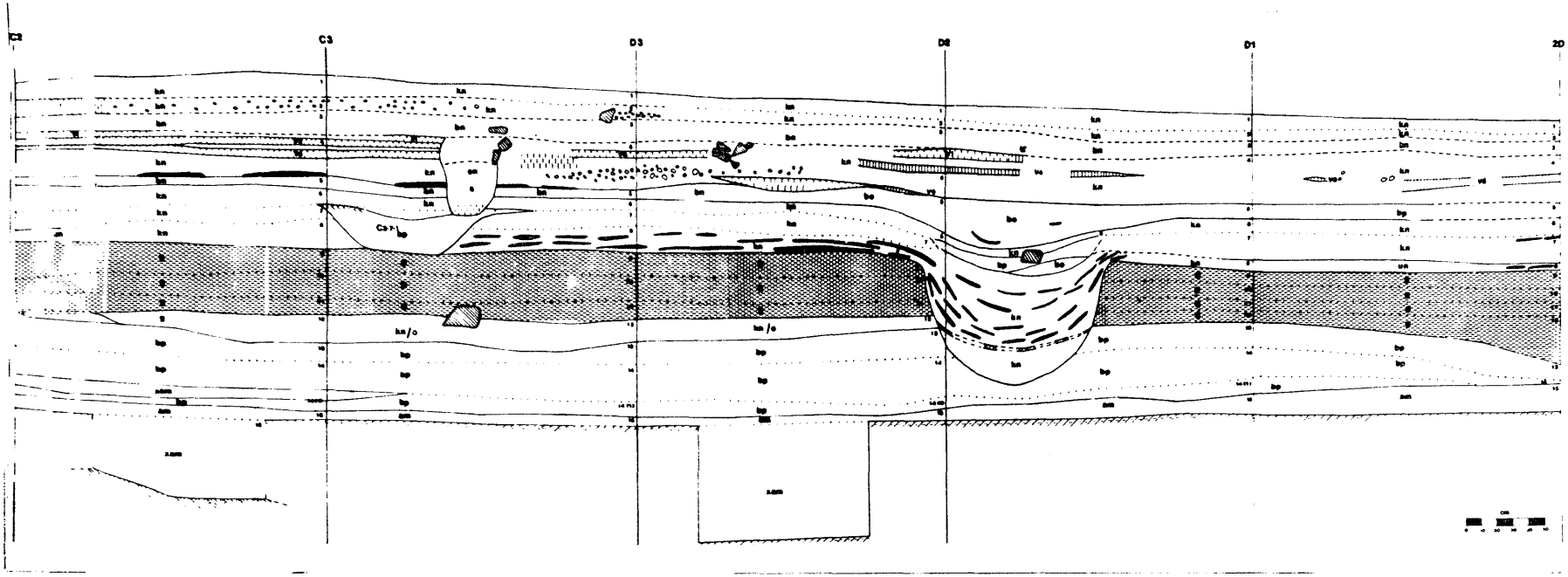


Figure 60

Pont Drift: Profile along wall C2 - 2D.

Gravel floors and pit are clearly visible.

4) Summary

a) The composition of the settlement

i) Formation of occupation levels

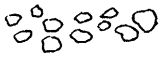
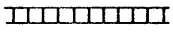
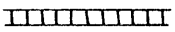
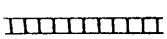
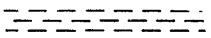
As has been clearly stated before, the Pont Drift occupation can be divided into four units, that span two different cultures. There does not appear to be a break in the sequence, and it would seem that the occupation of the site was continuous.

Seven occupation levels were identified, but as the area excavated was fairly small, it is to be expected that other levels exist, particularly in units 2, 3, and 4. The majority of the occupation levels were found in Unit 1, and formed a clear sequence with few breaks.

Table 121 shows the Pont Drift occupation level sequence.

TABLE 121

Sequence of Occupation levels at Pont Drift

Occupation Level		Feature Number	Description
1		C2.2.2	floor
2		2A.4.1	hut rubble
3		2B.4.3*	floor
4		V9	floor
5		V7	floor
6			dung
7		2B.14.1	charred posts

* 2B.4.3 include the associated gravel floors of V1, V2, V3, V4, V5 and V6 as well as hut 2C.4.2

To arrive at a true conclusion as to the occupation level formation at Pont Drift TPD 1/2, the adjacent sites, particularly TPD 1/1 should be taken into consideration. A trial trench has been dug in TPD 1/1, but no information exists about the other two sites, except

what has been gleaned from surface collections, namely that the sites all contain both Zhizo and Leopard's Kopje A pottery.

The reason why TPD 1/2 was chosen as a village site must lie in the good view that the raised valley has over the surrounding countryside, particularly in the direction ofthe Limpopo River. All the material forming the deposit was carried up. An interesting point in this connection is the formation of the dung level. From the thickness thereof, it seems probable that it was a cattle kraal, and that the animals were herded through the settlement on the southern side of the ridge and up to the raised valley by means of one of the less steep paths leading to the top.

The lower site, TPD 1/1, contained a small kraal, which was used for sheep and goats, the remains of a young goat having been found in the dung. This implies that there were two seperate kraals in existance.

It is difficult to find a reason for the herding of cattle up to the top of the ridge, when there apparently was no problem connected to the keeping of livestock below. The path to the top is steep, but not impossible for cattle. Sheep and goats, however, would have less difficulty in making the ascent and descent.

ii) Hut types

Two hut types were excavated, namely a storage hut and a living hut, in close proximity to one another.

The storage hut was a light structure with a diameter of 1,50 metres. It was of the cone-on-cylinder type, with a thatched roof. The fact that the hut had obviously burnt down but that no burnt clay was found, suggests that the walls may not have been plastered.

The living hut was of unusual type, in that two concentric circles of posts were found. Reconstruction thereof suggests that the thatch reached the ground. The roof construction was supported by the central circle of poles. Only the front section of the central circle was plastered. The rest of the framework was left

open for use as a storage area (see figure 54).

It seems unlikely that this type of hut was the standard type for the Leopard's Kopje A people. At K2 the standard hut appears to be a simple cone-on-cylinder type, with a single circle of posts. Meyer (pers. comm.) did find a single example of two concentric circles, but did not come to the same conclusion. He felt that the outer circle in fact supported the verandah of the hut. No evidence for this exists at Pont Drift, where the outer circle of posts is clearly too light to support any raised structure.

iii) Settlement Pattern

Little can be said about the on site settlement pattern at Pont Drift. It would appear that there were few living huts on top of the ridge, mainly because of lack of living space. These huts had smaller storage huts adjacent to them, connected by gravel lapa floors.

The spatial spread of occupation sites gives a picture of a large village that because of topographical features, has been broken into a series of smaller interlinked sites. These were occupied at the same time as Pont Drift TPD 1/2.

Figure 61 gives an indication of the spread of the sites. It must be mentioned that the total area was not mapped, and therefore the sketch is not completly accurate, nor to scale. Total distance from TPD 1/2 to TPD 1/4 is about 500 metres.

b) Dating

Two dates were processed for TPD 1/2 and one date for TPD 1/1.

At TPD 1/2, the dates came from the Zhizo and Leopard's Kopje A units. A charred post from level 14 in unit 4 gave a date of A.D. 810 $\pm$ 50 (Pta 1959). This fits in very well with the Schroda date, both being associated with Zhizo.

The upper levels (unit 1) were dated to A.D. 1110 $\pm$ 50 (Pta 1818) and are associated with pure Leopard's Kopje A. The sample was taken from a charred post from hut 2B.4.3.

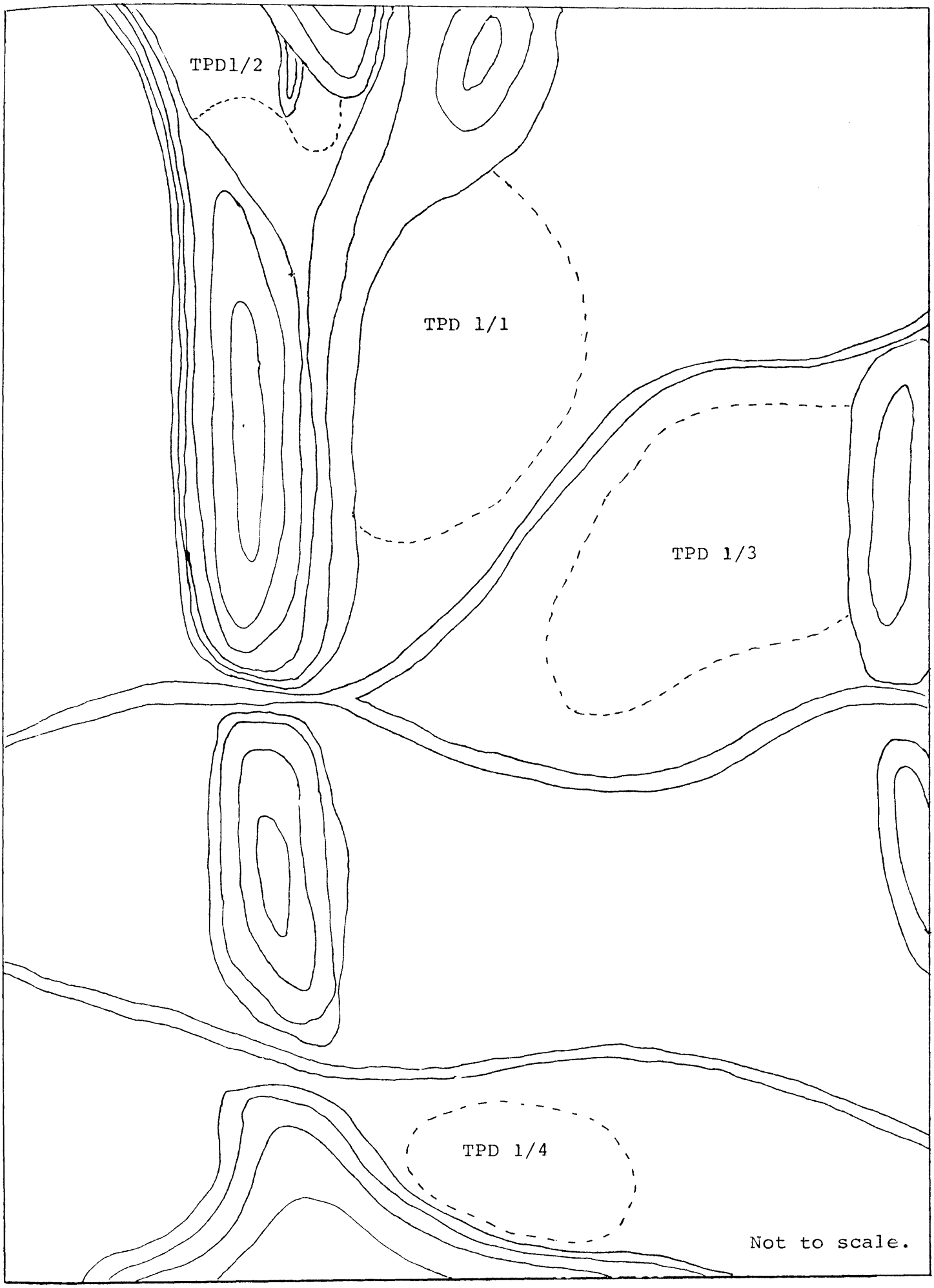


Figure 61

Map of the Pont Drift complex of associated sites.

The third sample, from TPD 1/1, was taken from charcoal in level 5 of the test trench. It is being included as it represents the mixed levels at TPD 1/1 and judging by the pottery analysis is comparable to unit 3 at TPD 1/2. The mixed Zhizo/Leopard's Kopje A level returned a date of A.D. 835 $\pm$ 50 (Pta 1961).

The order at Pont Drift forms a neat sequence, as is reflected in table 122.

TABLE 122

Dating sequence at Pont Drift

Unit	Pottery	Date
1	LKA	1110 A.D.
2	LKA/Z	
3	LKA/Z	835 A.D.
4	Z	810 A.D.

c) Economy

The primary source of food was from domesticates, but hunting, snaring and gathering made up a larger part of the diet (nearly 20% on average) than was the case at Schroda.

No evidence exists as to what veld foods were gathered, but it can be assumed that with the greater emphasis on hunting and collecting in the faunal analysis, that collecting of veld foods was a primary task. The only wild fruits that appear to have been collected are marulas.

Little difference exists between the Leopard's Kopje unit and the Zhizo unit, nor is there any great change in the mixed levels. The greatest change appears to be with regard to cultivated grain. All samples were recovered from the hut 2B.4.3 in the Leopard's Kopje unit, while the other units did not contain any domesticated plant remains.

Three different types of domesticated grain were found. This shows

that compared to the Zhizo people (e.g. at Schroda) the Leopard's Kopje people had access to a greater variety of domesticated plants.

Trade was confined to the importing of items into the site. No evidence exists that anything was specifically manufactured or collected for bartering. East coast connections are indicated by the presence of trade beads, as well as indirectly by the presence of the house rat (*Rattus rattus*) on site. The rat is not indigenous to Africa, and can only have been brought to the interior through trade with the East Coast. It is unlikely that there were trading connections with other black peoples to the north where *Rattus rattus* has been found (e.g. Zambia).

Other items that were traded in include copper and iron. Slag and tuyére fragments show that forging must have taken place on site, so that the iron and copper items might have been made locally from imported raw materials.

Ivory, in the form of bangles, appears to have been imported. Plug has reasoned that since no fragments other than the bangles were found at either of the Pont Drift sites, no ivory was brought to the site in raw form. Had this been so, then numerous fragments, i.e. 'offcuts' from the manufacturing of ornaments should have been recovered.

Trade appears to have been local in its sphere of influence, except for possible contact with the East Coast. More items appear to have been imported on to the site, than were manufactured or collected for export.