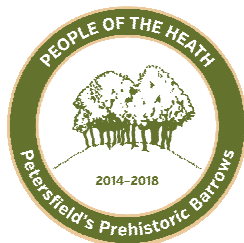




**Report on the Archaeological Excavation of
Barrows 1, 4, 14 & 19
Petersfield Heath, Petersfield, Hampshire**

April 2018



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NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This document sets out the results from archaeological excavations carried out into Barrows 1, 4, 14 & 19, Petersfield Heath, Petersfield, Hampshire, carried out as part of the People of the Heath Project under the auspices of Petersfield Museum. The project aims to investigate the history and prehistory of Petersfield Heath, and is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the South Downs National Park Authority. The archaeological work was carried out from 27th June – 28th July 2017.

Barrow 1 proved to be a bowl barrow, with a turf stack core overlain by sands excavated from an encircling ditch

Barrow 4 consists of a circular bank and ditch enclosing an area containing at least one internal mound. The excavations were not able to prove whether the enclosing bank and ditch pre- or post-dated the mound. Evidence was recovered for a previous antiquarian excavation into the mound.

Barrow 14 is an enclosure barrow previously excavated in 2016. Further investigation revealed the presence of a Bronze Age cremation urn within its interior, suggesting that at least part of the monument's function was related to burial.

Barrow 19 is another enclosure barrow first examined in 2016. This season's work revealed the presence of two tree-trunk coffins within pits in its interior, together with a second inverted cremation urn. Sections across the ditch were re-opened on its north and south sides, exposing a small section of charred wickerwork in association with a large Bronze Age potsherd, and waterlogged wood at its base.

PROJECT BACKGROUND



Figure 1 Site location. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. License number: AL100036068

1. Petersfield Museum has received funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) for a four-year project to understand and conserve the prehistoric barrow cemetery on Petersfield Heath. The museum has appointed Dr. Stuart Needham (independent researcher) and George Anelay (West Sussex Archaeology Ltd) to direct the project, which involves local volunteers in most aspects of the project's fieldwork. The Heath is owned by the Petersfield Heath Trust and managed by Petersfield Town Council.
2. The 21 previously accepted barrows on Petersfield Heath are all Scheduled Monuments and as such Scheduled Monument Consent is needed for any intrusive fieldwork impacting upon them. A Written Scheme of Investigation was drawn up by West Sussex Archaeology Ltd (WSA 2017a) to accompany and inform the successful applications for Scheduled Monument Consent relating to the excavation of Barrows 1, 4, 14 & 19 (Scheduled Monument Nos. SM32526 [1], SM32528 [4], SM32536 [14] & SM32538 [19]).
3. This report details the results of the sixth and final archaeological excavation. It was carried out from the 27th June - 28th July 2017 by volunteers under the supervision of George Anelay (Barrow 19), Anthony Haskins & Nick Gilmour (Barrow 1), Ken Mordle (Barrow 4) and Nick Thorpe (Barrow 14), and under the overall direction of George Anelay of West Sussex Archaeology Ltd. The project archive will be deposited with Hampshire Museums Service.

WEST SUSSEX ARCHÆOLOGY

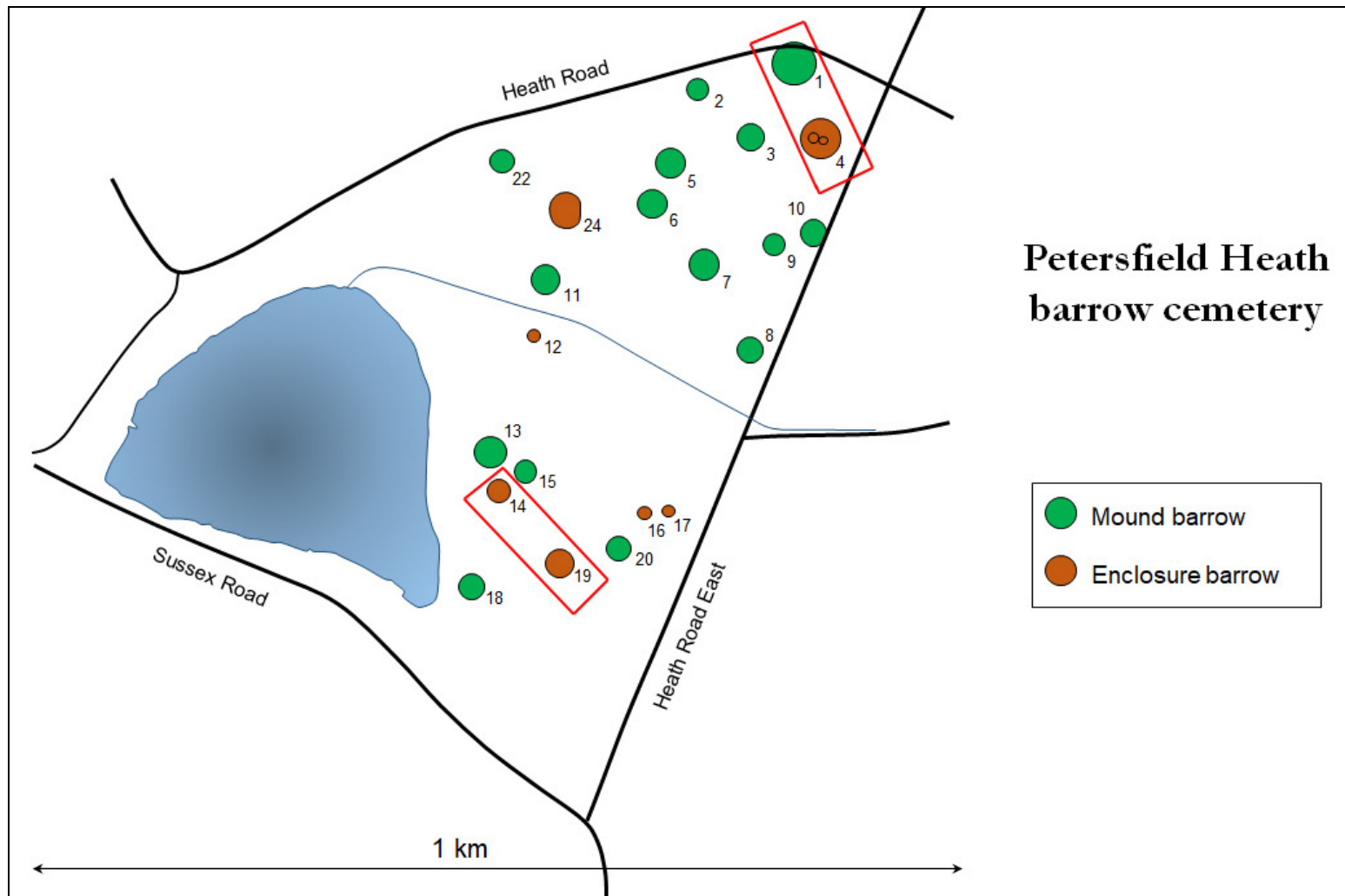


Figure 2 Schematic plan of the barrow cemetery on Petersfield Heath.
Barrows 1, 4, 14 & 19 are boxed in red

4. Petersfield Heath is situated on the eastern side of the town of Petersfield in Hampshire (see Fig.1). The underlying geology of the site is of Folkestone sandstone, Upper Marehill mudstone and Upper Pulborough sandstone, all of the Lower Greensand series. In addition roughly half the Heath is covered by superficial deposits, including a band of Sussex Rother Terrace deposits around its southern and western sides and a block of Head deposits in the area of the lake and its outflow. The excavated barrows are positioned as follows (see Fig.2):
 - Barrow 1 lies c.500m to the north-east of the lake on Petersfield Heath, at 59m aOD and is centred at OS grid reference SU 7582 2325.
 - Barrow 4 lies c.475m to the north-east of the lake on Petersfield Heath, at 57m aOD and is centred at OS grid reference SU 7584 2317.
 - Barrow 14 lies c.60m to the east of the lake on Petersfield Heath, at 59.5m aOD and is centred at OS grid reference SU 7550 2279.
 - Barrow 19 lies c.120m to the east of the lake on Petersfield Heath at 59.5m aOD and is centred at OS grid reference SU 7556 2271.

OBJECTIVES

1. The overarching archaeological objectives of this project fall into four main categories: first, to clarify better the spatial extent of individual monuments; secondly to understand better their condition and the risks they are subjected to; thirdly to establish the constructional character and date of a variety of the monuments, including all of the five or six different types present; fourthly to piece together as full and as long as possible a palaeo-environmental history for the immediate environs and the local catchment.
2. With specific reference to Barrow 1, regarding the first objective, the excavation aimed to clarify how much of its current profile is a result of post-construction slumping or damage and to establish its earlier form, in particular to determine whether it is indeed a bell barrow in the strict definition - that is, having a level berm between mound foot and encircling ditch, and whether an external bank had existed. The excavations into Barrow 4 were intended to establish its exact form. While traditionally it has been regarded as a variant disc barrow, in the context of this region there are other ways of thinking about its form. In particular, we were interested to discover whether the extant morphology is a product of two or more phases, the main, eccentric mound being earlier or later than the enclosure earthwork, and to confirm the existence of a very low mound noted by Stuart Piggott at the centre. In the case of Barrows 14 and 19, previous work by this project has already established their general form and the reasons for re-excavation are given below.

3. Barrows have frequently suffered past disturbance as a result of tree growth, animal damage and human action. The fact that these three factors can have a significant impact upon the monuments on the Heath has already been demonstrated in the case of all the barrows excavated so far as part of this project. Barrow 1, as the largest on the Heath, has been subjected to serious animal burrowing in the past and the resulting damage is still evident on the surface in places. It is also the site of a number of the large pines planted on the barrows in the 18th or 19th centuries. Barrow 4, like the other low enclosure barrows located on the Heath, has been a victim of neglect and human disturbance. In particular its ditch now only survives along its south side as an earthwork feature, some large oak trees grow upon its bank, and a probable later hollow has interrupted its circuit on the east side. It was hoped that establishing its full dimensions, in particular the circuit of the ditch, which is currently the route of a footpath on one of its sides, would lead to improved management of its surviving sub-surface features. In addition it was intended to assess the level of intrusion caused by suspected previous investigations into its larger internal mound.
4. Thirdly the constructional character and date of Barrows 1 and 4 was to be established by the cutting of continuous sections into critical parts of the monuments. This would ensure not only that all the main structural components had been exposed for recording, but would also give prospects for the recovery of material for radiocarbon dating from key deposits. In addition, such sections would seek to meet the fourth objective by enabling the collection of a comprehensive series of palaeo-environmental samples from each of the barrow deposits.
5. In the case of Barrow 14, the excavation of other enclosure barrows on the Heath had highlighted how little we understand these monuments belonging to a class that has seen little attention for the past 70 years. Barrows 16 & 17, which share the closest similarities of form with Barrow 14, may never have received deposits of human bone. Small charcoal-rich pits seemed to be one of the key features of both these and Barrow 14. It was therefore proposed to further investigate the interior of Barrow 14, to obtain a better characterisation of its interior feature suite in order to make more secure comparisons.
6. In the case of Barrow 19, the excavations of 2016 did not allow sufficient time to adequately investigate the outer ditch and a large central feature or features. It was intended to return this season to complete this work. The previous sections across the outer ditch were narrower than planned, and significant features were therefore left unresolved, including an angular cut into the partially backfilled southern ditch, and a large sherd of Bronze Age pottery, part of which was recovered in a column sample. The central pit was also only partially investigated, and its further excavation was considered key to understanding the date, sequence of development and use of this monument.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

1. Petersfield Heath is home to one of the most impressive and diverse barrow cemeteries in the South-East of England. The complex is considered to be of national importance and 21 barrows, mainly probably dating to the Bronze Age, have the highest level of state protection as Scheduled Monuments. An additional site (Site 24) has since been dated to the Early Bronze Age by the People of the Heath project, while an early 19th century map suggests that the cemetery once extended to the east of Heath Road East in an area now covered by housing. The barrows comprise a mix of 'styles', some of them specialized forms that are rare outside Wessex. The cemetery has not been studied comprehensively since the 1920s, when archaeologist Stuart Piggott, initially as a student at Churchers College, added several low-profile monuments to the more obvious barrows mapped by the Ordnance Survey and produced an overall plan of the cemetery. His plan was subsequently published by Leslie Grinsell in his overview of Hampshire barrows in the *Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club* (Grinsell 1939) (see Fig.3).

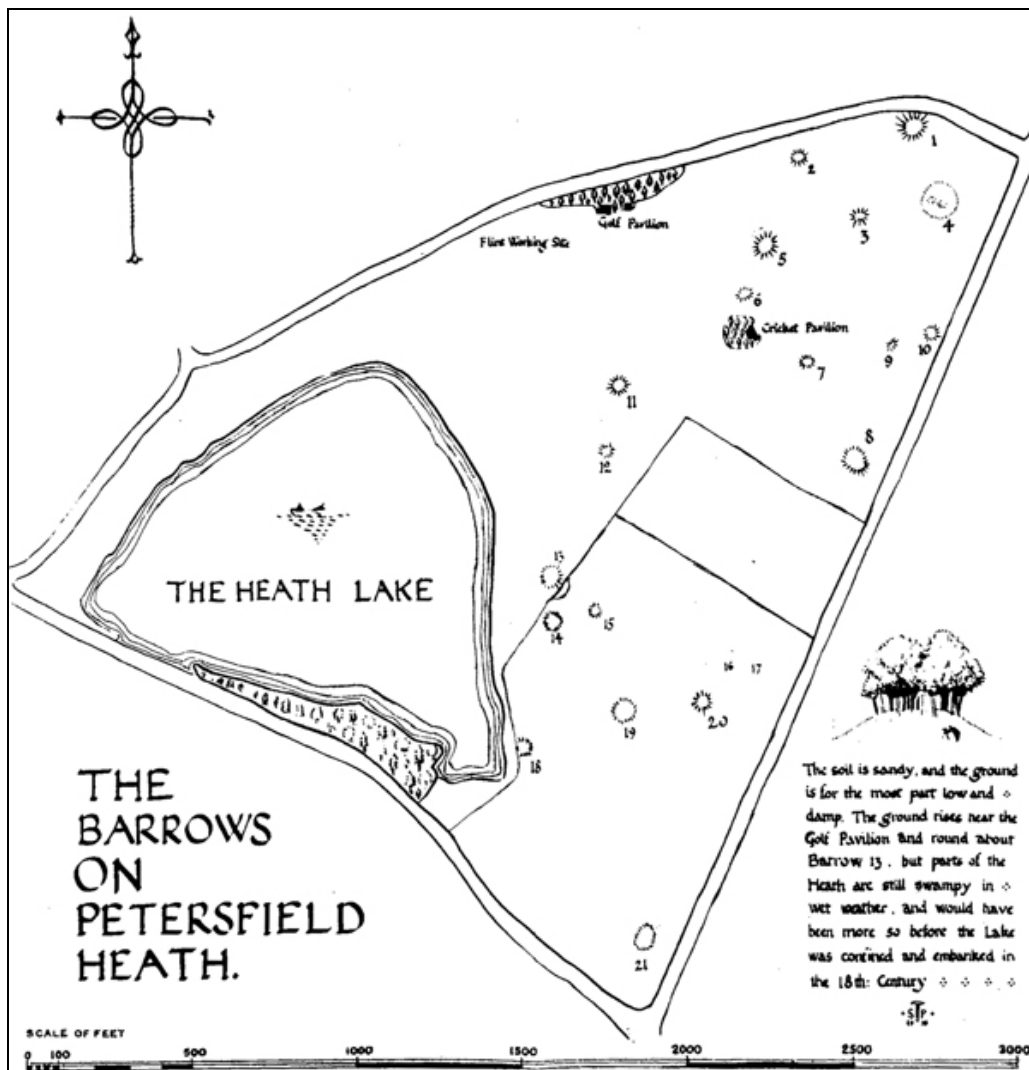


Figure 3 Piggott's plan of the barrows on Petersfield Heath

2. Barrow 1 was identified by Piggott as a possible bell barrow, 8 ft high and 140 paces in circumference. He identified traces of an outer bank, ditch and berm. A topographical survey undertaken as part of the project in 2017 indicated that the barrow mound was c.2.2m high and c.35m in diameter. A ditch is now only clearly discernible on its south-western side, close to the base of the mound.
3. Barrow 4 was identified by Piggott as a disc barrow with an external ditch. He noted the presence of two tumps in the interior. The larger one, which is well offset to the west, showed signs of having been previously dug into, while the smaller, more central one, was very low. A topographical survey undertaken as part of the project in 2015 indicated that the barrow is c.37m in diameter from bank top to bank top. The larger internal mound is c.0.5m high, but the lower is barely discernible. A geophysical survey was undertaken in 2014, preparatory to this project, which confirmed that the larger mound may have been previously dug into.
4. Barrow 14 was identified by Piggott as a saucer barrow, again followed by Grinsell. Its diameter was recorded as c.25m, including the encircling ditch and external bank. No central mound or raised area was discernible on a topographic survey carried out in 2015, therefore this classification is open to question, although tree-root disturbance may have altered the topography at a fine scale. A geophysical survey undertaken as part of the project in April 2015 clearly identified the encircling ditch in the southern half, but the results were more obscure to the north.
3. Barrow 19 was described by Piggott as an intermediate between a disc and a saucer barrow. He recorded its bank as measuring 26 paces in diameter with an external ditch and remains of an internal tump. A topographical survey undertaken as part of the project in 2015 indicated that the bank was c.20m in diameter, with the external ditch giving an overall measurement of c.25m. A rectangular depression noted within the circle of the bank is considered to be probably modern in date, and indeed disturbance in the centre can be seen on aerial photographs back to the 1920s, although, as mentioned above, Piggott thought a tump was present. A geophysical survey undertaken in 2014, as part of this project, had already clearly indicated the bank, ditch and central depression.
5. The first excavation carried out as part of the current project was undertaken in September 2014 and included the cutting of a single trench into Barrow 11. This trench ran from the centre of the barrow to beyond its outer edge, and it revealed that the barrow was entirely of turf construction with no surrounding ditch. An artefact assemblage recovered from close to the centre of the barrow was almost certainly related to a burial, although no human remains were encountered, and the feature within which they were found extended beyond the

excavated trench. A radiocarbon date of 1885 - 1690 cal BC (95% probability) was obtained from charcoal associated with the assemblage (WSA 2015).

6. The second excavation was undertaken in June 2015 and involved the cutting of a trench into each of Barrows 18 and 21. The "L"-shaped trench excavated into Barrow 18, which ran from the centre of the barrow to beyond its outer edges, revealed that the barrow was of turf construction with no surrounding ditch. No features or artefacts associated with the barrow were recovered from within the trench save for a single ferruginous sandstone block from within its turf stack. The trench excavated into Barrow 21, which ran across the monument and beyond its outer edges, revealed it to be a natural sand mound (WSA 2016).
7. The third excavation was undertaken in September 2015 and involved the cutting of trenches into Barrows 12, 13 & 14. A sewer-main trench previously dug through the site of Barrow 12 was re-opened and its sections fully recorded. The barrow ditch was found to survive to either side, buried under a thin overburden. Small areas of excavation explored the ditch and two other features. No internal mound was evident and the former external bank had largely been levelled. A single trench was excavated into Barrow 13, running from the centre of the barrow to beyond its outer edge, which revealed that the barrow was of turf construction with an encircling ditch, dug after the turf stack had been formed. A burial pit, which had just escaped being found by earlier investigators, was excavated from close to the centre of the barrow containing a cremation, probably contained within a fabric bag with a wooden handle, and an associated artefact assemblage. A single trench was excavated into Barrow 14, running across the centre of the monument and beyond its outer edges, which revealed that it consisted of a single ditch and external bank, with no internal mound. An oval pit and a post-hole were excavated close to the centre of the monument, the former containing a significant quantity of charcoal (WSA 2016).
8. The fourth excavation was undertaken in April/May 2016 and involved the cutting of trenches into Barrows 8, 16 & 17. Barrow 8, initially thought to be a possible oval barrow or two conjoined bowl barrows, was revealed to be a single low bowl barrow placed upon a natural, oval rise. It was again of turf construction, with no encircling ditch. Under the turf stack, and probably to the north-west of its centre, a Collared Urn was found, placed within a pit only slightly larger than the urn itself. To the north of this a spread of burnt wood was found, also sealed beneath the barrow stack, which extended beyond the limits of the excavation. Barrows 16 & 17 were of similar dimensions and construction to one another, both consisting of a circular ditch of small diameter with low external bank and no internal mound. The only likely contemporary features found within them were two shallow semi-circular pits cut into the internal sides of the ditch of Barrow 17 and one

in a similar location in Barrow 16; each of these features had neighbouring small, shallow rectangular pits, which are less certainly contemporary. All three of the semi-circular pits contained a layer of charcoal at their base and, in addition, there was a significant quantity of further charcoal spread along the base of the ditch in Barrow 17 (WSA 2017b).

9. The fifth excavation was undertaken in September 2016 and involved the cutting of trenches into Barrows 9, 10 & 19, and the re-opening and extension of part of the 2014 trench into Barrow 11. Barrow 9 was shown not to have an encircling ditch and was constructed at least partially of an brown/orange silt, rather than turves. Barrow 10 was shown to be a ditchless bowl barrow of turf construction, badly damaged by later disturbance, most noticeably a disused badger's sett. The excavation of Barrow 19 revealed it to be an enclosure barrow with a substantial external ditch. An urned cremation burial was excavated close to the foot of the internal bank, and a large central pit was partially investigated. The re-excavation of Barrow 11 confirmed that the probable burial deposit excavated in 2014 had not extended much further and that no bones had survived (WSA 2017b).

RESULTS

Barrow 1

1. A single trench was excavated into Barrow 1, 23m long and 3m wide, orientated north-east to south-west and running from the crest of the barrow's flat summit to beyond its base. At the base of the excavated trench the underlying natural proved to be composed of a greenish/yellow sand (14), which darkened to yellow/orange towards its surface. Above this lay a deposit of pale grey sand (15), up to c.0.1m thick, capped, where it survived under the overlying barrow mound, by a buried soil (16), up to 0.07m thick, composed of black humic sand. The surface of the pale grey sand sloped upwards from the south-west end of the trench, with a projected increase in height of 0.65m to the north-east end. This presumably indicates the pre-barrow topography, as it rises towards the ridge which runs along the north and west sides of the Heath.

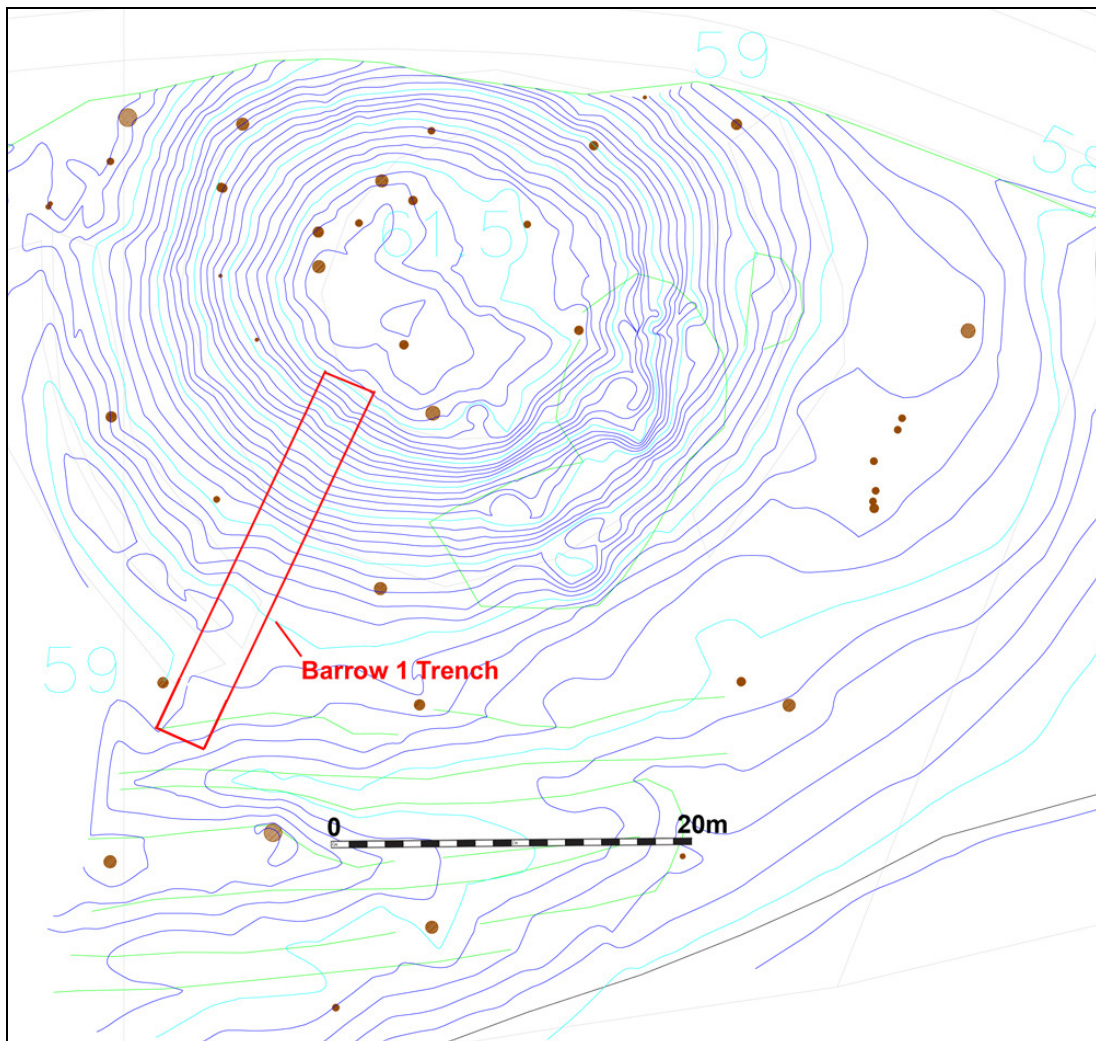


Figure 4 Location of the trench into Barrow 1, overlain on topographic survey. North is to the top of the image

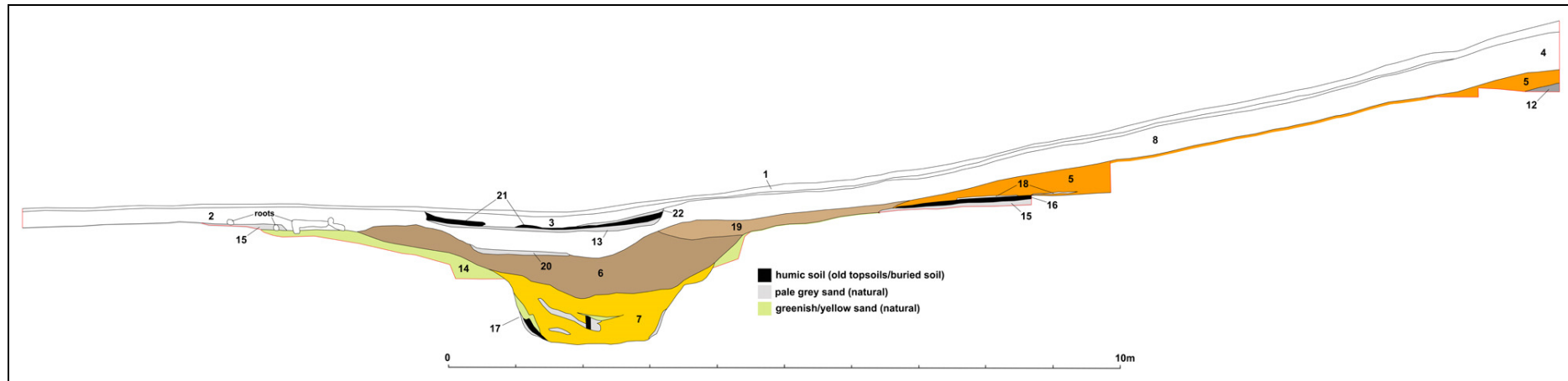


Figure 5 Section along the whole length of the north-west side of the trench into Barrow 1



Figure 6 The north-west face of the trench into Barrow 1

2. At the north-eastern end of the trench, the lowest layer exposed consisted of a mottled black and grey sand (12), showing the clear profile of decayed turves. Only the upper c.0.6m of this deposit was exposed in the trench, but it is probable, by analogy with the other previously excavated barrows on the Heath, that it comprises the core of the barrow, and is likely to sit upon the buried soil (16). Should this be the case, and the slope of the underlying natural remains consistent, then the turf stack would be c.1.4m high.
3. Overlying the turf stack was a layer of orange sand (5), which extended from the north-east end of the trench along its length for a distance of c.10m. Where this layer had been excavated to its base, it was found to sit directly upon the buried soil (16), indicating that its spread exceeds that of the turf stack beneath, which lies further into the barrow beyond a step in the trench (see Figures 5 & 6). The orange sand (5) almost certainly originates from a substantial ditch [17], whose inner lip lay c.2m to the south-west. Towards the base of the orange sand (5) thin layers of pale grey/orange sand (18) were revealed, these may be dumped deposits of the natural pale grey sand (15) taken from above the orange sand as the ditch began to be excavated and then incorporated into the barrow mound.
4. The original dimensions of the ditch [17] itself are difficult to determine with any certainty due to subsequent erosion of its sides. As it appeared in the excavated section, the surface of the geology begins to artificially drop only c.0.5m from the edge of the barrow mound, and rises back to its proper level again c.7.5m to the south-west. However, judging by the nature of the ditch's lower fills, there has clearly been a significant amount of slumping from the sides into the base of the ditch. If the lower slopes of the ditch, which rise at a 55° angle, were taken as representing more nearly its original profile and if these were projected upwards, then it would give a ditch of c.3.5m width, and c.1.8m depth. This would also give a distance of c.2.3m between the edge of the mound (in its current weathered form) and ditch's inner lip, after the ditch material had been dumped over the pre-existing turf stack (12). The gap between that turf stack and the ditch's lip would therefore have been over 5.55m. The base of the ditch was relatively flat, with a width of c.1.5m.
5. The material filling the ditch divided broadly into two layers, a lower one (7) consisting of an orange sand with dark brown patches and lenses of greenish/yellow, pale grey and black sand, and an upper one (6) consisting of a mottled orange and dark brown sand. The distinct larger lenses within the lower fill (7) clearly represented more substantial slumps from the ditches sides, some of the natural greenish/yellow sand (14), some of its overlying pale grey sand (15) and some of the old topsoil/buried soil (16), while the bulk of the fill resulted from steadier erosion. The principal difference between the upper and lower fills is the percentage of darker sand, the latter likely to reflect a higher humic content. If this is correct, then it is probable that the lower fill (7)

accumulated over a relatively short period of time, perhaps a matter of weeks or months, with the upper fill (6) representing the much slower, humic rich build-up of the centuries that followed. On the inner side of the ditch a further upper fill (19) was recorded, of a similar composition to that below (6), but of a slightly paler colour. This deposit fills the space between the ditch and the barrow mound. In addition a localised layer of pale grey sand (20), partially filling the slump in the surface of the ditch fills, is possibly a patch of wind-blown sand.



Figure 7 Ditch [17], looking north-west

6. Above all the foregoing deposits was a spread of dark brown sand (2, 4 & 8) which covered the orange sand (5) of the barrow stack, the ditch fills and the pale sand (15) to the south-west. Interpretation of this deposit is hampered by the fact that it has almost certainly undergone a degree of leaching and root disturbance, which has had the effect of creating a largely uniform layer from what were probably originally a number of separate ones. Where this spread lies over barrow stack (4 & 8), it would have developed from the upper part of the orange sand (15), giving the barrow a total height of c.2.15m, before the action of roots and leaching have altered its colour. To the south of the ditch [17], this layer (2) is presumably a long-standing soil profile developed on the underlying natural, while over the ditch, the same layer (8) may be a soil profile that had developed from the sediment that had weathered into the ditch. Over the latter, a slight remaining depression was filled with layers of pale sand (13 & 22) and humic sand (21), underlying more recent leaf mould (3 & 1). No evidence was found for an external bank.

Barrow 4

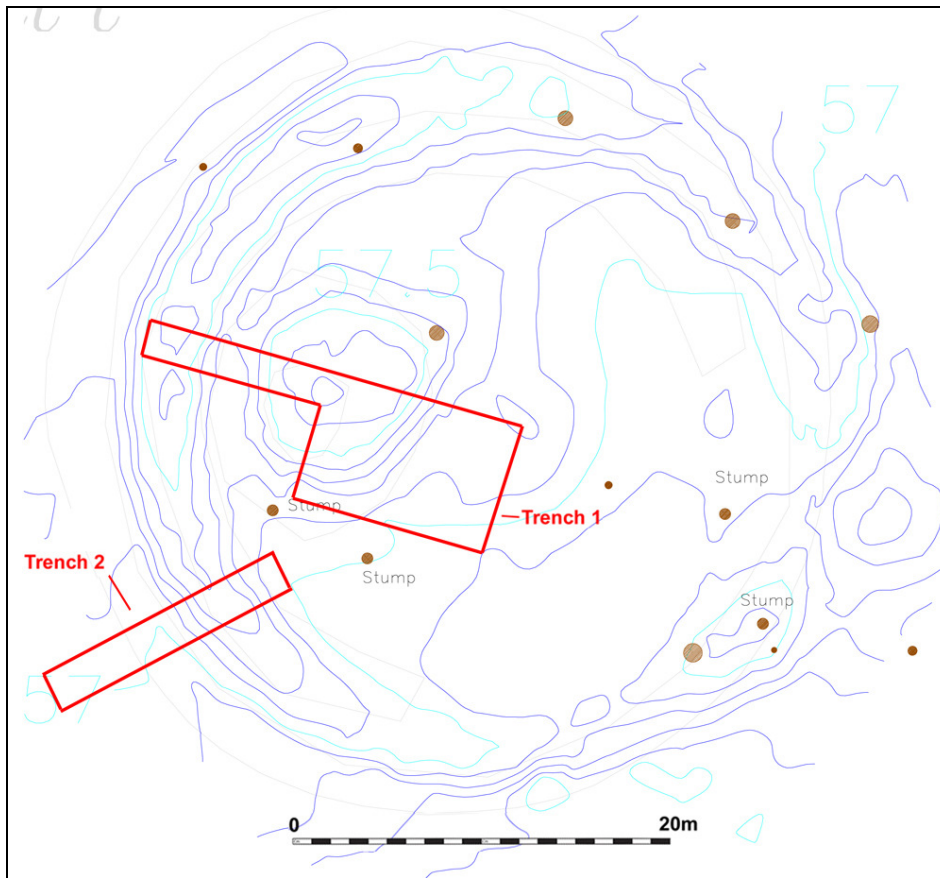


Figure 8 Plan of Barrow 4 showing the location of the excavation trenches in red, overlying the topographical survey. North is to the top of the image.

1. Two trenches were excavated into Barrow 4. Trench 1 was orientated west-north-west to east-south-east and was 7m wide and 11m long. A projection 10 long and 2m wide extended off its north-west corner. Trench 2 was orientated south-west to north-east and was 10.7m long and 2m wide. Trench 1 was positioned to cut into a possible small central mound, the more prominent western mound and the barrow's bank on its western side. Trench 2 was positioned to section the barrow's ditch and bank.
2. The natural undisturbed geology at the base of the trench was composed of three layers. The lowest was a yellow/orange/grey clay/sand (54) which extended beyond the base of the trench, towards its surface it darkened to become more consistently orange. Above this was a layer of dark brown clay/sand (19), up to c.0.15m thick, which appears to cap the underlying orange clay/sand (54). The uppermost natural layer was composed of a pale grey sand (18), up to c.0.15m thick. Above all these was a buried soil (17), up to c.0.1m thick, which formed the land surface until the barrow was created. In a number of places under the later barrow stack, the buried soil (17) and pale grey sand have been stained to a dark brown colour by leaching from the overlying turves.

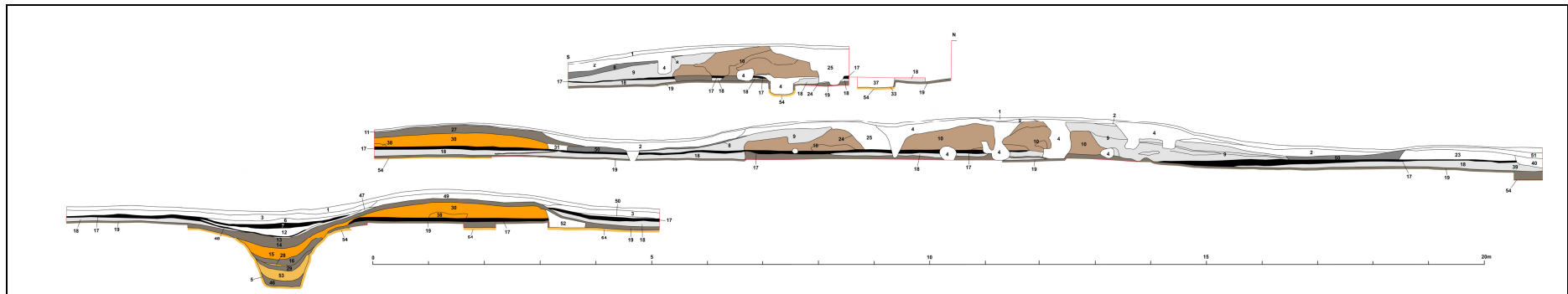


Figure 9 Sections across Barrow 4. Section 1 is at the top, Section 2 in the centre and Section 3 at the bottom left (see Figure 11 for locations)



Figure 10 Section through the large mound, looking north-east

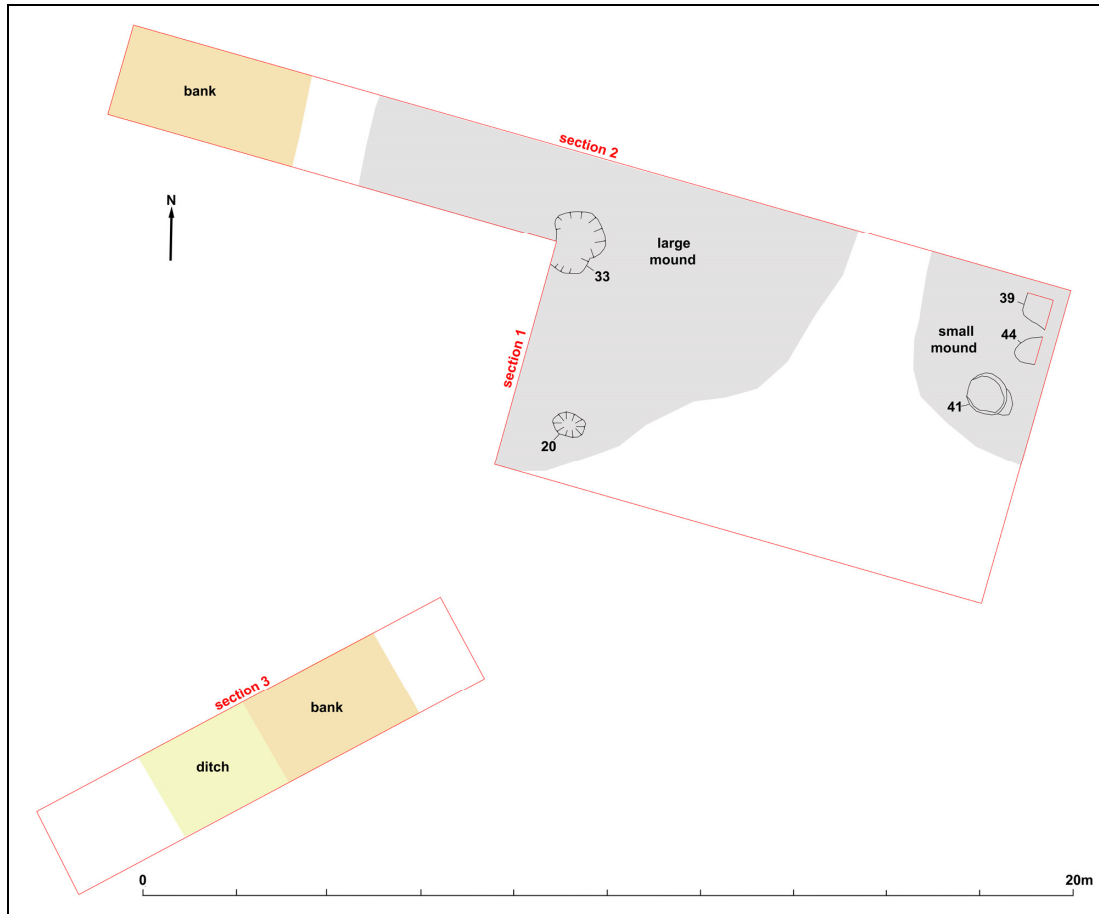


Figure 11 Plan of Trenches 1 & 2, showing features under the mounds

3. Cutting through the buried soil and its underlying geology was the barrow ditch (5). This was c.2.6m wide and c.1.05m deep, with a flat base, c.0.6m wide, and sides sloping at c.70°. On the inside of this, a bank (30 & 38) had been formed, composed of the material excavated from the ditch. The bank was c.0.25-0.3m high and c.3.m wide. The inside edge of this bank, in both sections across it, ended relatively abruptly, with a discrete deposit of disturbed sand (31 & 52) against it. It is difficult to be certain what this deposit represents, but its position suggests it might have once been some form of limited revetment to the rear of the bank, possibly composed of a stack of turves and/or a low mound of sand; that within Trench 1 (31) resembling more the former, whereas that in Trench 2 (52), the latter.
4. The material filling the ditch was composed of sands eroded from its sides, and the adjoining land surfaces and bank. At the base was a layer of mainly brown sand (46), but with lenses of yellow/grey sand, c.0.1m thick. This presumably largely originated from the dark brown sand natural (19). Above this was a thicker layer of yellow/grey sand (53), c.0.18m thick, which probably represents the collapse and erosion of the lower ditch sides. This was capped by two layers of brown sand (29 & 16), c.0.2m thick in total, the lower being the darker, separated by a thin deposit of yellow/grey sand (28). It is probable that these

again represent slumping down the sides of the ditch, although the presence of a thin lens of more humic material at the surface of layer 29 might suggest a period of stability, with the establishing of a thin soil. Above these layers was a mottled deposit of brown and orange sand (15), c.0.2m thick, which rises up the inner side of the ditch to meet the outer edge of the material comprising the bank. It is likely, therefore, that it is at least in part composed of sands slumping downwards from the bank. This layer was sealed by a deposit of dark brown sand, c.0.2m thick, the lower part of which contained frequent patches of iron enrichment (14), which were largely absent from the upper part (13). The layer rose up the sides of the ditch to meet and blend with, on the exterior, the dark brown natural (19), and on the interior, the dark brown sand covering the bank.



Figure 12 The ditch and bank, looking north

5. The upper fills of the ditch were of a noticeably different character to those below. They consisted of alternating layers and lenses of pale grey/brown sand (47, 12 & 6) and black humic sand (48 & 7). On the interior these ran up the outer side of the bank before running out just short of its summit, while on the exterior they merged with the natural pale grey sand (18) and buried soil (17). These layers presumably represent periods of stability (the humic lenses) alternating with wind-blown or water-washed sands (the pale sand lenses). On the inside of the bank the natural sand (18) again rose up over its inner edge, presumably as a result of wind action, with a buried soil (17) covering it and then being overlain in turn with another thin layer of pale sand (50).
6. Sitting above the buried soil (17) within the circuit of the bank and ditch was a mound, c.11.5m in diameter and c.0.55m high. There was no direct stratigraphic relationship between the bank and the mound, and it must therefore remain uncertain as to which preceded the other, or whether they were broadly contemporary. As with all the other mounds within the cemetery this one was constructed of turves, however these had a higher sand content, perhaps reflecting a scarcer topsoil at the

location from which they were dug or that turves were only used in part, with the underlying natural making up the remainder. In addition there seems to have been at least two sources for these turves, the lower mound (10) consisting mainly of those with a dark brown sand below the topsoil, while the upper mound (9), principally spread around its sides, consisting of those with a pale grey sand below. There was no evidence for a significant time lapse between the laying down of the two turf types, in that no intervening layer was noted and upper surface of the lower layer (10) was not in any sense even, as might be expected from a finished smaller mound, and so it is probable that the whole mound was formed in a single building episode.

7. Sealed under the outer part of the mound (9), towards the south-west corner of the trench, was an oval pit (20), c.0.7m east-west, c.0.5m north south and c.0.24m deep. Its upper fill (21), c.0.12m thick, was composed of the pale grey sands of the mound above (9). Its central fill (22) consisted of a black/brown sand with lighter brown mottling, c.0.1m thick, and containing a significant quantity of charcoal. The lowest layer (32), c.0.02m thick, was a black sandy clay. The pit had been cut through the buried soil (17) and underlying pale sand (18), with its base sitting just below the surface of the dark brown sand (19) beneath. It is likely that the pit was filled with its charcoal-rich contents at a point only shortly before the pale sand of the outer barrow mound (9) was deposited, since there was no intervening layer indicative of sand slumping or humic build-up. It is not clear what the purpose of this pit was, but the association of charcoal-filled pits with the barrows of the Heath cemetery has been noted before.
8. Overlying the mound, where it had not been disturbed, was a dark humic soil (8), presumably forming after it had been constructed. Between the mound and the bank, and to the east of the mound, was a further layer of humic soil (50) which may have developed at the same time as that covering the mound (8).
9. The mound appears to have been the victim of an antiquarian excavation, with a rectangular trench (24), orientated north-west to south-east, c.1.6m wide and at least 5.5m long, running across its centre. It would appear that the excavators had at least some understanding of the archaeology, since the base of the trench followed the surface of the buried soil beneath the barrow, with the exception of one area where they had dug a deeper pit (33 in Fig.11), c.1.4m long and c.1m wide, to a depth of c.0.2m below the surface of the buried soil. It is possible that this marks the spot where they encountered an archaeological feature buried beneath the barrow stack, and although it would seem too shallow as a pit for a cremation urn, it may possibly have contained another form of burial. No prehistoric artefacts were found in its backfill.



Figure 13 Trench 1 after the removal of the upper sand layer (9) of the mound. The charcoal-rich pit (20) can be seen at the bottom left. The lighter grey backfill of the antiquarian excavation can be seen under the ranging pole. (Image courtesy of Dom Escott)

10. To the east of the main mound (9 & 10) and lying broadly central to the encircling bank and ditch, was a second much lower mound, noted by Piggott and recorded by the topographic survey. Upon excavation this was found to be a somewhat ambiguous feature consisting of a layer of grey/brown sand with lenses of paler and darker sand visible in places (23). It had been much disturbed by rooting, and was cut by two later shallow pits (39 & 44) filled with a mottled grey sand (40 & 45). Both the pits and the grey/brown sand (23) were in turn overlain by another layer of grey sand (51). The low mound (23) extended c.2.6m along the northern baulk of Trench 1, and c.3.5m along its eastern edge. A third pit (41) was revealed when the mound was removed, again filled with a layer of mottled grey sand (42), above another of dark grey sand (43). It was irregular in plan and only 0.09m in depth, with an evenly curved base. No artefacts were recovered from within the mound or the pits.



Figure 14 The disturbed surface of the possible turves to the small mound, looking north-east

11. The excavation of the south-west quadrant of this second smaller mound has failed to clarify its nature. It might be the remains of a man-made tump, an identification perhaps supported by its central location, and the possibility that the lensing noted in its make-up could be the remains of turves, but its disturbed nature makes this uncertain. It is possible that the excavation of the remaining three quadrants might add some clarification, before the effects of further root disturbance removes all definition to its composition.
12. Overlying all these earlier features and deposits was a layer of red/brown peaty soil (2 & 3) composed of decayed vegetation, which merged with the modern leaf mulch above (1). In a number of the places this peaty soil, and to varying degrees the layers below, were found to have been disturbed by root action and animal burrowing (4). The latter having a particularly noticeable impact upon the larger barrow mound.

Barrow 14

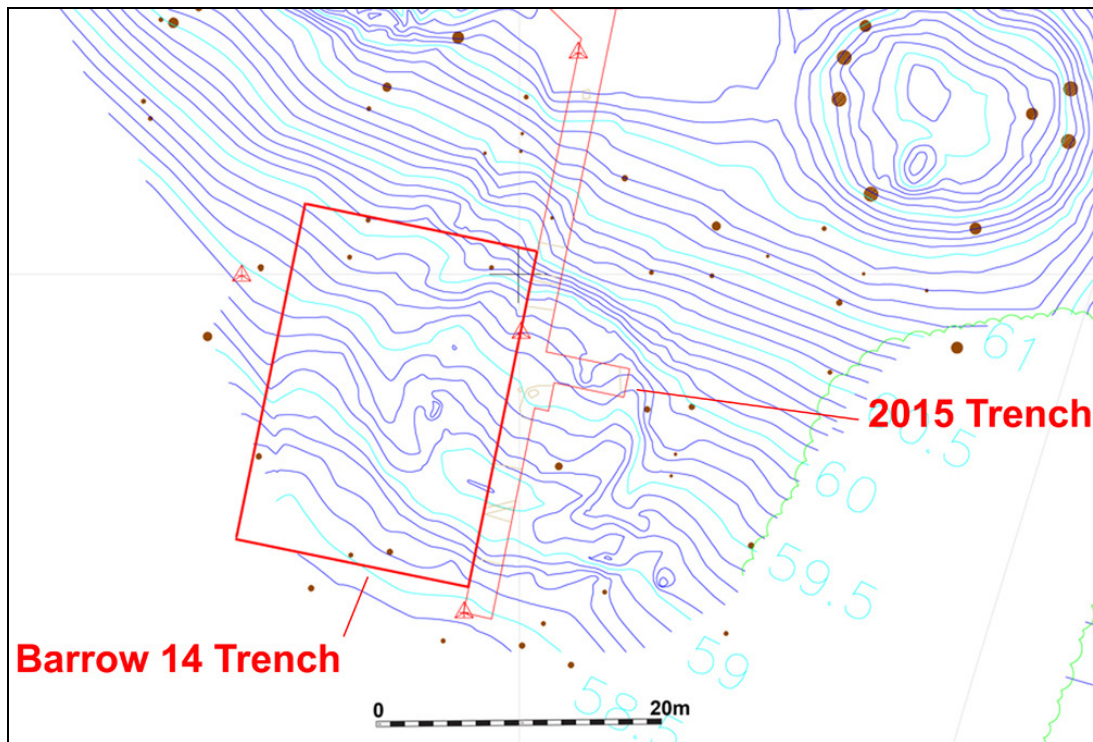


Figure 15 Plan of Barrow 14 showing the location of the excavation trench in red, overlying the topographical survey. The excavation trench from 2015 is also shown. North is to the top of the image.

1. A single trench was excavated over Barrow 14, 11.9m north-east to south-west and up to 6.4m north-west to south-east, covering the western half of the interior area defined by the enclosing bank and ditch. An extension, 1.5m wide, was added to its western side to provide a section across the bank and ditch (see Fig.16). This extension also enabled a measurement to be taken between the inside lips of the barrow from east to west, allowing a comparison with that taken in 2015 from north to south. The latter measurement had been c.11.65m, whereas that taken in 2017 was c.12.75m, demonstrating that the interior of the monument was not an exact circle.
2. Within the interior of the encircling ditch, the deposits proved to be of a similar nature to those found in 2015. The geology consisted of underlying orange/brown sands capped by a layer of pale grey/buff fine sand (1426). Above this was a disturbed layer of dark to light grey sand (1402 & 1409), up to c.0.15m thick, under the modern leaf mulch (1401). The shallow nature of the deposits above the natural sands, never more than 0.2m thick, has meant that any root, animal or human activity, even of a comparatively un-invasive nature, has broken-up and intermixed the sands above. This is reflected in the numerous shallow patches of differently shaded sand found within layers 1402 & 1409.

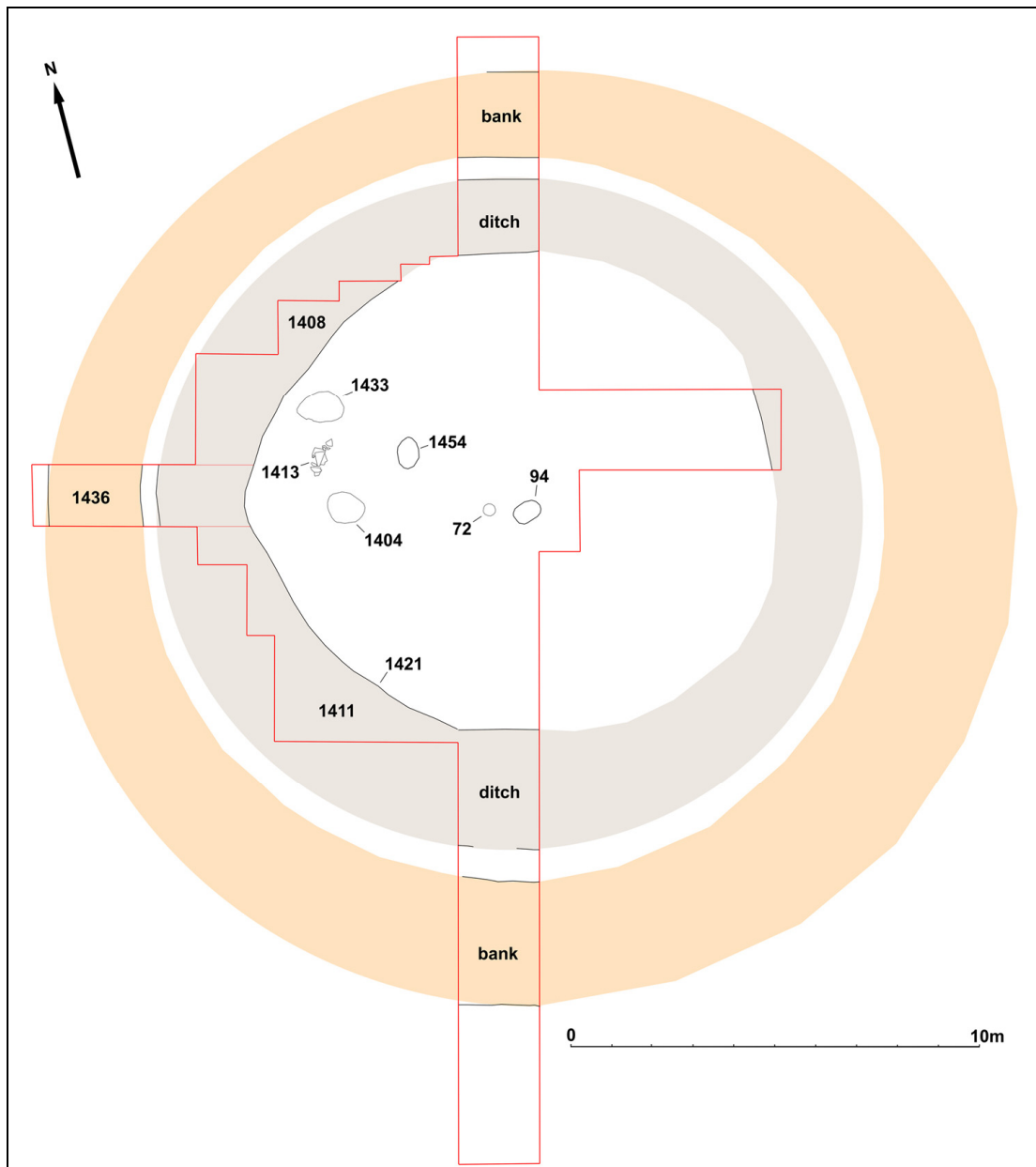


Figure 16 Plan of the trenching over Barrow 14 in both 2015 and 2017

3. Four features were found within the interior of the encircling ditch: three pits (1404, 1433 & 1454) and one spread of sandstone blocks (1413). Pit 1404 was clearly of modern origin, being filled with beer cans and bottles, and is presumably the result of a recent party within the monument. Pit 1433 had been cut from a level within the mixed sands of 1402/1409, was 1.15m east-west, 0.75m north-south, and only 0.09m deep, and was filled with a dark grey sand (1424). No dateable artefacts were recovered from within it.
4. The spread of sandstone blocks (1413) is rather more enigmatic. They appear to have sat within or above a meandering narrow trench cut partly into the underlying natural sand, which is probably either an animal burrow or the outline of a decayed tree root. If the former, then it may be that they were deliberately placed to seal up an animal burrow.

While it is possible that the presence of the burrow/root hole is coincidental, and that these stones were placed upon a past ground surface as a purposeful deposit, their broadly linear alignment along the burrow/root hole would make this less likely.



Figure 17 The spread of sandstone blocks (1413), looking west. The probable animal burrow can be seen under the stones, running to the left and right. Pit 1404 is in the left foreground.

5. The fourth pit (1454) contained a Bronze Age cremation urn. The pit was c.0.65m north-south, c.0.4m east-west and c.0.30m deep. It contained an upper fill (1464) of mixed grey/buff and dark grey sands, c.0.05m deep, above the main fill (1440) of dark grey sand, containing frequent charcoal. The urn itself did not sit directly upon the base of the pit, indicating that the latter had been part filled with sand and charcoal before the urn was interred. Towards the base of the urn, on its northern side, and positioned close up against it, a faience bead had been placed.
6. Pit 1454 had itself been cut into the upper fill of an earlier pit (1465), c.0.8m north-south, c.0.5m east-west and c.0.45m deep. This was filled with a buff sand (1466). It is probable that this pit pre-dates the interment of the urn, its size and shape suggesting that it might once have contained a post, although no surviving post-pipe was noted.

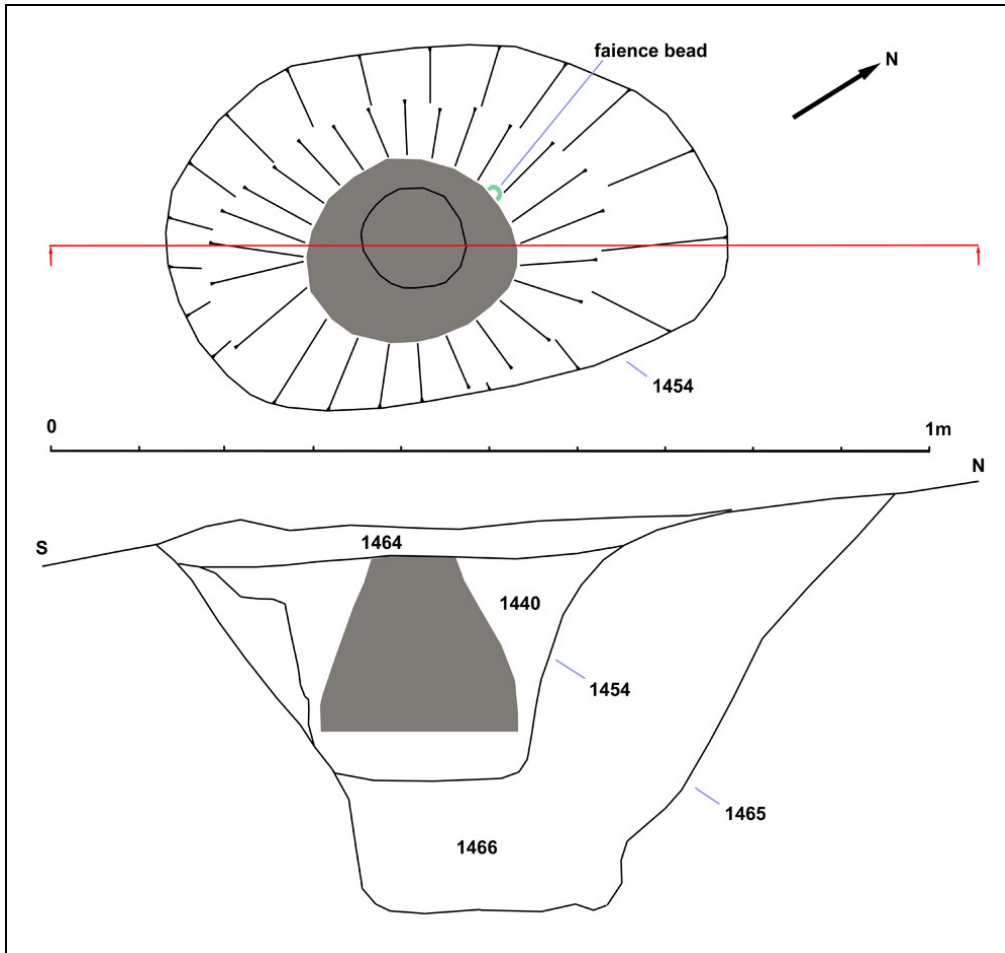


Figure 18 Pits 1454 and 1465



Figure 19 The urn in Pit 1454, looking east

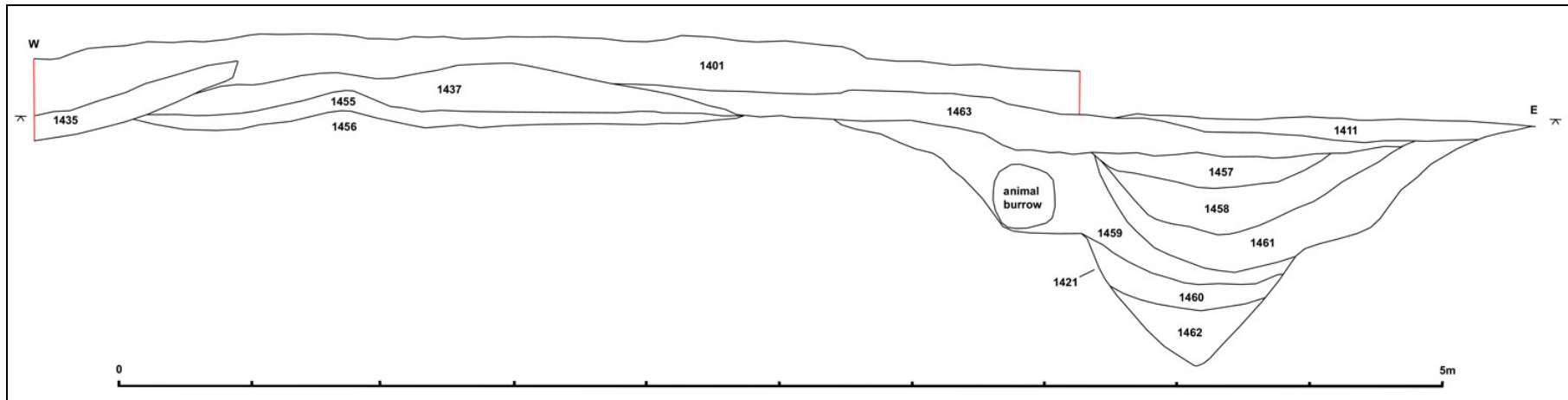


Figure 20 Section across the bank and ditch in the northern face of the extension trench over Barrow 14

7. The westwards extension of the trench enabled a further section to be cut across the encircling bank and ditch, to add those dug in 2015. The ditch (1421) at this point proved to be “v”-shaped, c.2.6m wide and c.0.9m deep, with sides sloping at c.50°. This confirmed the uneven dimensions of the ditch, noted in 2015, where the two sections recorded ranged from 1.9 - 3m wide, and 0.6 - 0.8m deep.
8. The lower ditch fills (1462, 1460 and 1459) were composed of a mix of humic and natural sands eroded off the ditch edge. Above these were three deposits of pale grey and darker sands (1457, 1458 & 1461) which would appear to have filled a later intrusion into the ditch, probably a tree-bowl. Above all these fills, and lapping over the bank’s inner edge, was a layer of pale grey sand (1463).
9. The bank was c.2.2m wide and up to 0.2m high, separated from the outer lip of the ditch by a narrow berm of c.0.4m. Below the bank a buried soil (1455), less than c.0.1m thick, was preserved, and rising up over its western edge was a layer (1435) of pale grey re-deposited natural sand, similar to that found against the inner side (1463). The bank itself was composed of the yellow/brown natural sands (1437) dug out from the ditch.

Barrow 19

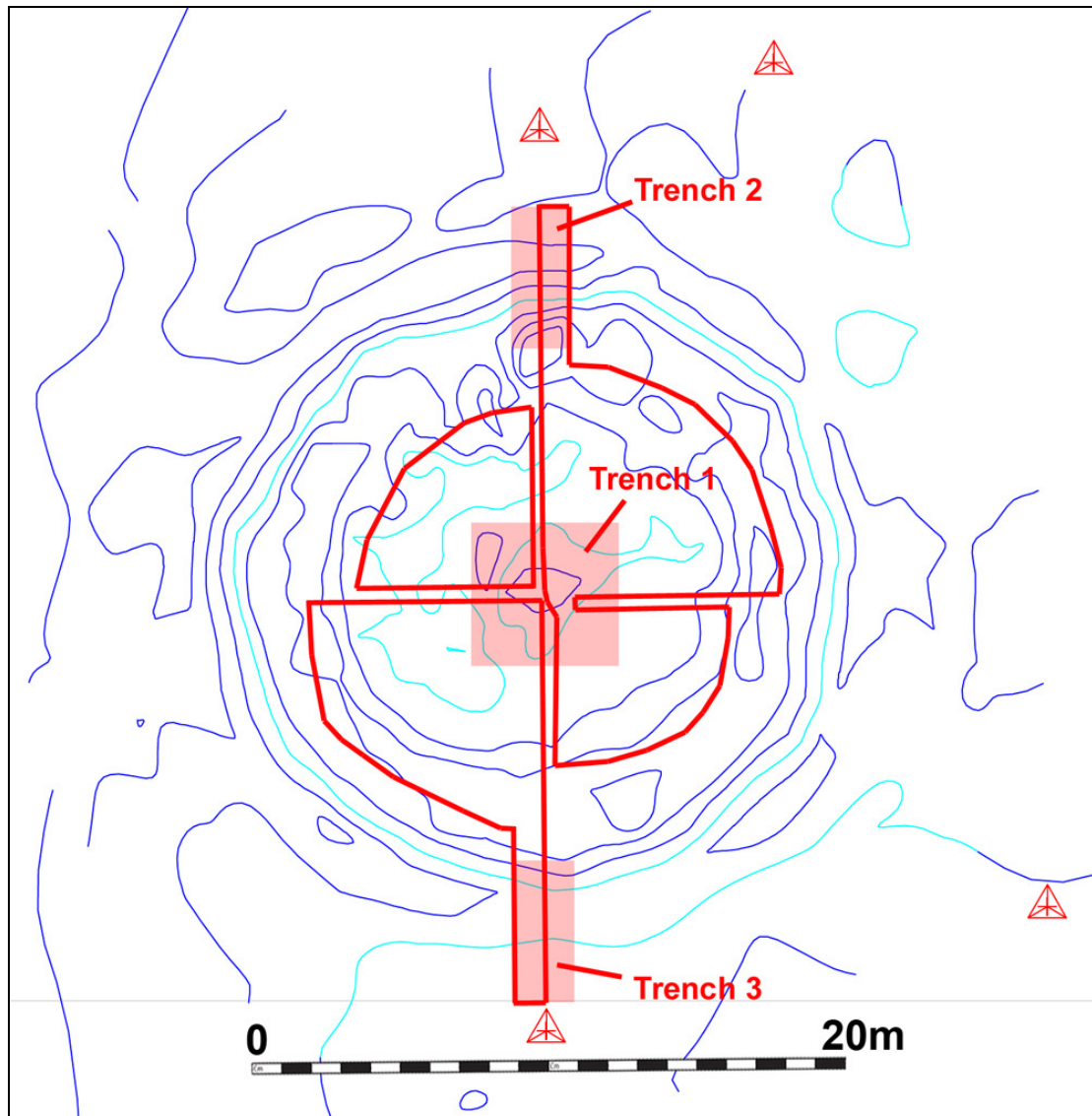


Figure 21 Plan of Barrow 19 showing the location of the excavation trenches in pink, overlying the topographical survey. The excavation trench from 2016 is also shown, in red. North is to the top of the image.

1. Three trenches were excavated into Barrow 19, all continuing the investigation of features first revealed in the previous season's work in 2016. Trench 1 was placed over a large pit in the centre of the barrow and was 4.3m north-south and 3.9m east-west. Trench 2, over the barrow's ditch to the north, was 3.75 long and 2m wide, and Trench 3, over the barrow's ditch to the south, was 4m long and 2m wide.

Trench 1

1. The central pit in Trench 1 proved to be two inter-cutting features. The northern [405] being the earlier and larger of the pair, at c.3.7m long and c.1.35m wide, orientated east-north-east to west-south-west, and of broadly rectangular shape. The other [406] lay immediately to the south, partially cutting into the upper fills of its predecessor, and was c.2.15m long and c.1.25m wide, orientated east-west and of a more oval shape. Time did not permit the full excavation of both pits, therefore a decision was made to concentrate upon completing that of the later southern pit [406], with only the upper levels of the northern being removed. Due to the complex and often poorly defined nature of the deposits within the pits, a strategy was adopted of reducing the fills in 0.1m spits, recording and photographing what was revealed at each level. A narrow trench excavated across both pits in 2016 was later shown to have stopped at about half the full depth of the oval pit [406]. Both pits were cut through a dark grey humic sand (9 & 12), overlying the natural sands and clays, which probably equates with the topsoil at the time.
2. The uppermost levels covering both pits had largely been removed during the 2016 season, with exception of those parts preserved in the remaining narrow baulks. These layers, below the modern turf and topsoil (1, 2 & 7), consisted of sandy soils of a comparatively modern date (74 & 16), an underlying slower-forming peaty soil (8), and then a wind-blown or rain-washed pale grey re-deposited natural sand (75 & 76). Together these filled the hollow left by the slumped original fills of the pits below. The re-deposited natural sands (75 & 76) are presumed to have formed comparatively quickly with the overlying peat (8) representing the accumulation of more humic deposits over a longer period. The sandy soils above (74 & 16), which contained frequent fragments of modern pottery, glass and tile, may have been dumped in a convenient hollow in order to dispose of unwanted spoil, or they may be the backfill of a rather shallow deliberate excavation.



Figure 22 Urn 401 in the upper fill of Pit 406, looking south-west

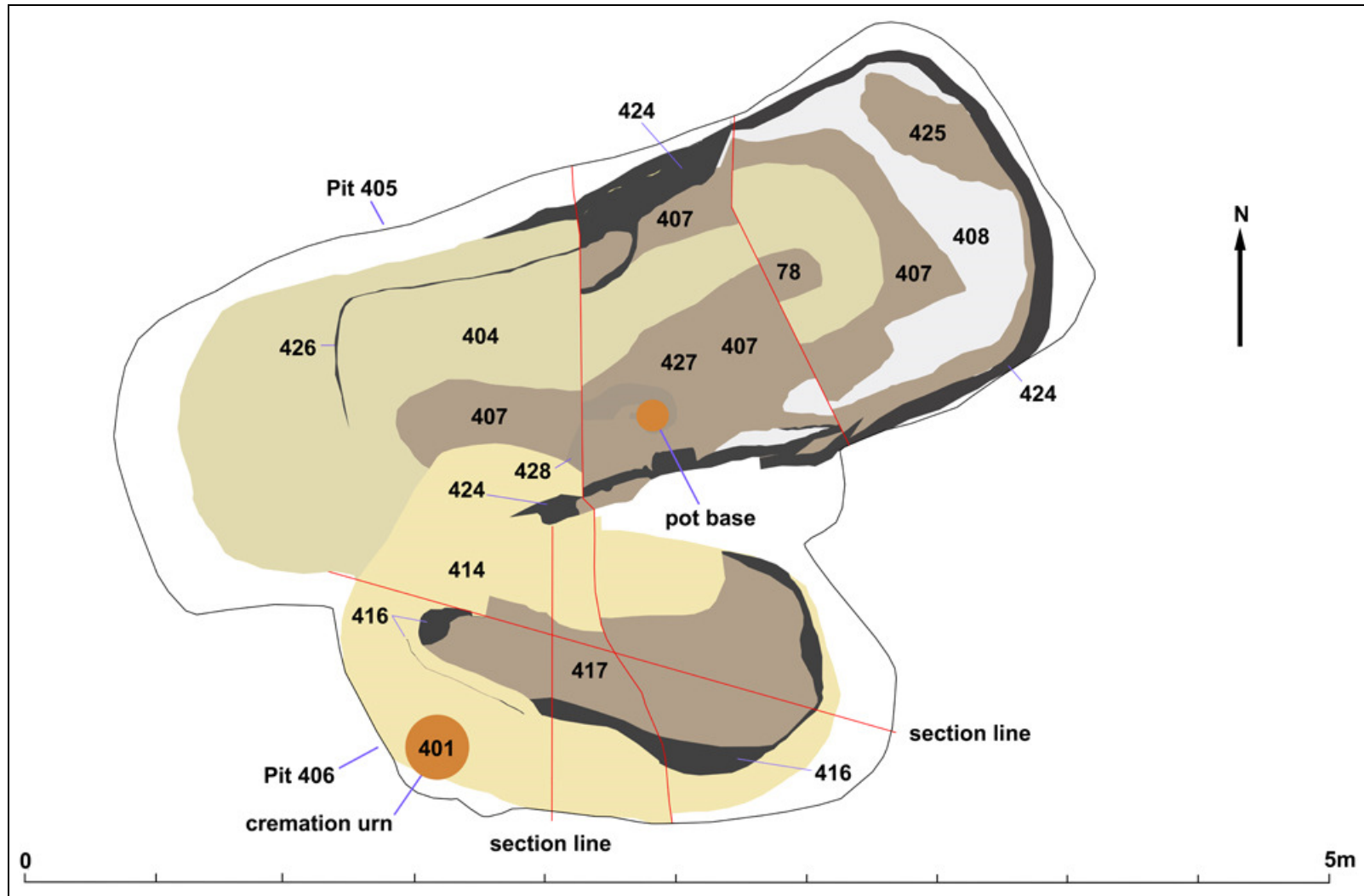


Figure 23 Plan of the fills of central pits within Barrow 19, at approximately half their depth



Figure 24 The central pits within Barrow 19, at approximately half their depth, looking north-east

3. Cut into the surface of the fill (414) of the oval pit [406], against its south-west side, was a much smaller oval pit [402], c.0.35m east-west, c.0.25m north-south and c.0.4m deep, containing an inverted Bronze Age cremation urn (401). The fill (400, 403, 409, 411 & 413) of the pit around the urn was of a darker silty sand than that (414) of the larger oval pit into which it had been cut. This urn had clearly been inserted into the large oval pit [406] after it had been completely backfilled.
4. The larger oval pit [406], whose depth proved to be c.1.4m, was filled with two very distinct deposits. Around its sides was a mottled fill of light and dark brown sands containing frequent small to medium yellow/grey clay lumps (414). This fill surrounded a central deposit of dark brown sand with only occasional small to medium clay lumps (417). The latter fill was of irregular dimensions in the upper parts of the pit, but with depth became increasingly consistent and defined, resulting in a rectangular shape, aligned east-west, c.1.5m long and c.0.4m wide. The division between these two fills (414 & 417) was marked, from a point c.0.9m above the base, by lines of black/brown silty clay (416), varying in width from less than 0.01m to 0.1m. At the base of the pit these lines widened to become a continuous layer, roughly rectangular in shape, encompassing an area c.1.55m east-west and c.0.65m north-south, along the outer edges of which large lumps of pale yellow clay were spread at irregular intervals.
5. A block, c.0.4m long, cut from the south side of these lines (416) at their eastern end, was micro-excavated off-site. This revealed that the lines were the meandering remains of highly decayed wood, in some cases forming more than one broadly parallel line, but all reduced to little more than a stain. Further small patches of decayed wood were noted alongside these more continuous lines. Some of the lines may represent the harder wood leading up to knots in the trunk of a tree, hence their comparatively better preservation. The maximum depth of these harder lines provides a minimum width for the original wood in which they were embedded of c.0.09m.



Figure 26 The sand block cut from 416 showing one of the better preserved lines

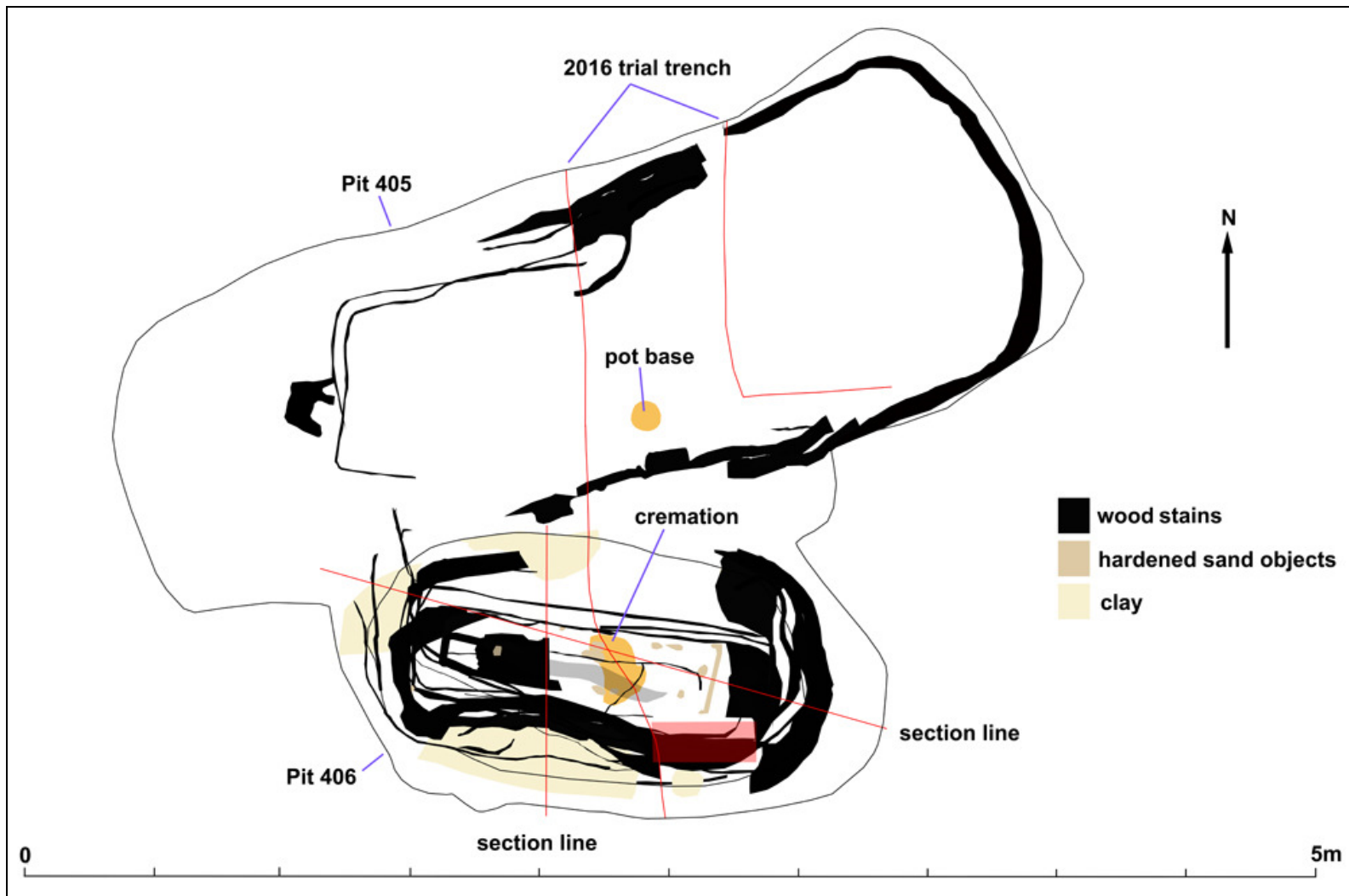


Figure 27 Plan of the spread of wood stains across all spits within both pits. The block cut from those in Pit 406 is shown in red.



Figure 28 The base of the coffin in Pit 406, looking south. The pile of cremated bone is just behind the scale, the stain marking the base of the coffin partially exposed to the right, and the cut block to the rear left.

6. The overall dimensions of the spread of darker lines (416), their distribution, and the minimum thickness of those examined by micro-excavation, suggests that they are probably the remains of a substantial section of hollowed-out tree trunk, c.1.5m long, at least 0.65m wide and as much as 1m high. The internal space would appear to be c.1.2m east-west and c.0.4m north-south. The thickness of the walls of this timber are harder to estimate due to the amount of decay, but clearly they were at least 0.09m, and may well have been close to 0.125m if the internal width is subtracted from the estimated external dimensions. It would appear that the base was slightly curved, presumably being left undressed, as opposed to the straighter sides. Unfortunately the uneven state of preservation of the wood remains did not allow for an estimate of total width to be made based upon the angle of curvature. The large clay lumps around the base of this presumed tree trunk may have been used to support it as it was placed on the base of the pit.
7. Within the base of this hollowed out tree trunk, roughly in the centre, what appeared to be cremated bones began to be exposed. At this point excavation here was halted and the remaining basal deposit lifted as two blocks for off-site excavation. It is not yet known whether grave goods or other materials are present. Although, as noted elsewhere, the aggressive quality of the surrounding geology, together with the fluctuating water-table, is likely to have dissolved any organic remains, and possibly any metalwork.
8. It would appear that the sequence of deposition began with the placing of the tree trunk within the base of the pit, with the large lumps of clay either already in place, or tucked down its sides once it was in position. Following this it is probable that the space around the trunk was filled with the spoil which had been emptied out of the pit when first dug. It is assumed that the cremation and any associated grave goods were placed within the trunk subsequently. The marked difference between the material filling the tree trunk and that around its outside, suggests that the same spoil was not used to infill it. Instead a much darker silty sand, with considerably less clay was utilised. This might suggest an interval between the initial interment and the infilling of the tree trunk coffin, with a new source of soil being sought and used for the later closure.
9. The insertion of the inverted cremation urn (401) into the oval pit could feasibly have been carried out before the coffin was infilled. There is indeed a marked similarity between the fills of the cremation urn pit and that within the tree trunk. Once the coffin had been closed, the processes of its decay began. It would appear that the void, created by the gradually disappearing wood, led to a blurring of the trunk's original shape, particularly higher up the pit, with the north side being particularly badly affected, possibly as a result of the less stable material filling the pit to the north, which seems to have compacted the deposits in the oval pit southwards. The disappearance of so much

wood, together with the natural settling of the fills within the pits, could well have created the central crater within the barrow, which survived, at least in part, into modern times.

10. As has already been stated, the excavation of the larger rectangular pit [405] to the north was not completed. Of the ten spits which were necessary to reach the base of the oval pit [406], only two were removed from the rectangular pit's eastern end and four at its western, while the base of the intervening 0.6m wide 2016 trial trench, equivalent to five spits deep, was not lowered further.
11. The excavated fills of this earlier pit [405] consisted of an upper layer of mottled mid-brown sand (78), containing occasional pale grey sand patches, overlying a mottled light brown sand (404), with frequent small to medium yellow/grey clay lumps, which in turn seems to overlie a layer of mottled mid-brown sand (407), again with frequent clay lumps. At the eastern end of the pit, layer (407) was surrounded by a band of pale grey sand (408), the latter increasing in width as it deepened, inside a second band of grey/brown sand (425). At the lowest visible level these fills (408 & 425) were themselves encompassed within a black/brown band of silty clay (424), which followed the pit's outer edge for c.2 – 2.4m to west before fading out. In addition the lowest spit at the western end revealed a second thinner band of black/brown silty clay (426), within layer (404). Both these bands of silty clay (424 & 426) bore a close resemblance to those found in Pit [406], and are almost certainly also the very decayed remains of wood.
12. It would seem probable that the large rectangular pit [405] contains another tree trunk coffin similar to that in Pit [406]. Its upper outline would seem to be represented by the inner band of silty clay (426) visible at the western end of the pit, giving a width of at least 0.7m. Its length can be roughly estimated by the extent of layer (78), which would appear to occupy the space left by the slumping of the coffin's primary fills, suggesting something in the region of 2m long. Unlike Pit [406], there was no clear distinction between the material outside this presumed coffin and that inside it, although only the upper parts of its fills were exposed.
13. The presence of the thicker band of silty clay (424) is unique to Pit [405], no such deposit being noted against the sides of its neighbour [406]. A close examination of this band, in the lowest exposure within the 2016 trial trench, revealed that it formed a wavy line, with periodic rectangular thickenings. This structure would be consistent with a wickerwork fence retained at intervals by rectangular-section posts; the whole forming a lining to the pit. The fact that it appeared to end, or deepen, two-thirds of the way along the pit, suggests that it was the pit's eastern end that was buttressed in this fashion. This could explain the presence, only at the eastern end of the pit, of the Fills (408) & (425), which would again seem to slope down to the west under the later coffin fills (404 & 407).



Figure 29 The silty clay band 424 around the edges of Pit 405, looking east. To the right they are better preserved, and show the rectangular thickenings. To the left they survive less well, but their corrugated impression can be clearly seen in the pit sides.



Figure 30 The pot base in Pit 406, looking north-west. The darker fill (427 & 428) can be seen around it.

14. It is possible that this wicker fence held back the pits sides to enable the lowering in of the presumably heavy tree-trunk coffin from its western end, with the adjacent sloping fills forming an improvised ramp down which it could slide. This would also explain the unusually large size of the pit as a whole, since it needed to accommodate both the coffin and the ramp. The lack of such an arrangement in the neighbouring oval pit [406] indicates that a different approach was used, perhaps partly because a smaller tree trunk was involved. In this case the coffin may have been lowered in from the north, since here the pit sides were less vertical.

15. At the base of the 2016 trial trench, towards the southern edge of the rectangular pit [405], the base of a Bronze Age pot was found. The sand (427) immediately around this pot base was of a darker colour to the neighbouring Fill 404, suggesting that it lay within a feature cut into the infilled Pit 405. Subsequent examination of this pot base has indicated that it was broken in antiquity, and buried in that state.

Trench 2

1. The north trench was opened in order to record a section across the barrow ditch at this point and to further investigate a large sherd of Bronze Age pottery observed in the 2016 section. Below the current turf and peaty soil (28), was layer of dark humic sand (429) above a dark grey sand (430), the former probably representing an earlier topsoil, the latter a mix of humic and wind-blown sands. Below these the remaining ditch fills would appear to have eroded from the sides of the ditch, being composed of the same sands and clays that were exposed in alternating bands in its walls.

2. The ditch was c.1.5m deep and 2.7m wide, with its sides, towards the base, sloping at c.65° - 70°. Allowing for the collapse of material from the ditch sides, probably primarily from its upper levels, it is estimated that the ditch would have been originally c.1.5m wide at the surface. The existing base is slightly concave and c.0.45m wide. The section across the ditch in Trench 3 had the same dimensions, save that the base was slightly narrower at c.0.3m.

3. The large sherd of pottery was found to lie alongside a scatter of decayed and partially charred wood fragments and to overlie what appear to be mineral-replaced organics, the whole spread covering an area c.0.4m north-south and c.0.3m east-west. This spread sat within a layer of mid-dark brown sand approximately mid-way down the ditch's fills. It is probable that much of the infilling of the ditch occurred within a short time of its original excavation, given the unstable nature of the sides, and so there may have been only a limited interval between this and the deposition of the pottery and wood fragments. A preliminary analysis of the wood fragments suggests that they may have formed part of a wattle panel.

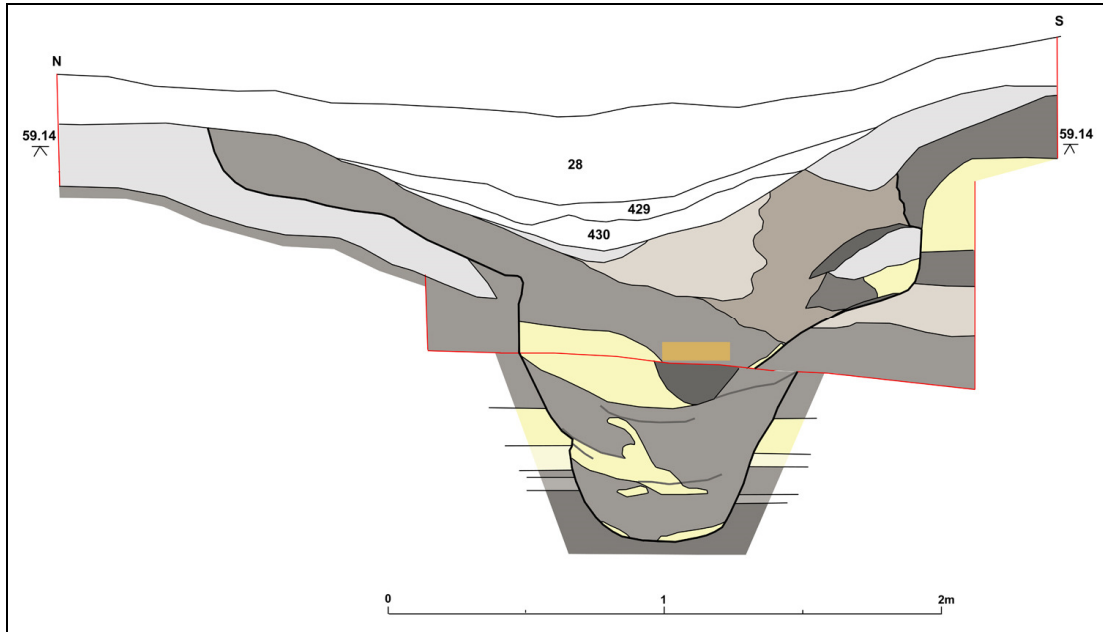


Figure 31 West facing section in Trench 2, the position of the potsherd and wood fragments is marked in orange.



Figure 32 West facing section in Trench 2, looking east



Figure 33 The sherd of pottery (on the right) and wood fragments in the north ditch, looking west.

Trench 3

1. The south trench was opened in order to record a section across the barrow ditch at this point and to further investigate an apparent square-cut feature observed in 2016. The upper layers in the ditch were as those recorded in 2016, below the current turf and peaty soil (1), was layer of dark humic sand (25) above a pale grey sand (24), the former probably representing an earlier topsoil, the latter wind-blown sands. Below these was a dark brown sand (26) which merged with that overlying the barrow bank to the north, and is probably a slow-forming humic soil forming over both bank and ditch. This lay above a mottled orange sandy clay (49), similar to the material of which the bank is composed, and which may result from the latter's slumping or deliberate slighting.
2. The lower ditch fills would appear to have eroded from the sides of the ditch, being composed of the same sands and clays that were exposed in alternating bands when it was emptied. It is evident that some of this erosion occurred more gradually, but in other places significant collapses have occurred. It is this last process which is likely to have created the supposed square-cut feature noted in 2016. Further investigation of this feature revealed it to consist of two parallel blocks of material, the southern being composed of dark brown humic sand, the northern of a pale grey sand, containing a band of natural flints. The blocks proved to be c.1.2m long, c.0.3m deep and c.0.2m wide, the whole curving slightly with the ditch edge.

3. It had been initially thought that the dark block might be the decayed remains of a timber, possibly revetting the steep sides of the ditch, however its limited extent and shallow depth make this unlikely, and do not explain the pale sand to the north. It would seem more likely that it is a 1.2m length of ditch lip which has collapsed, the band of flints giving some support to this theory, since the natural pale sand to the north and south of the ditch contains just such a layer of flints within it.

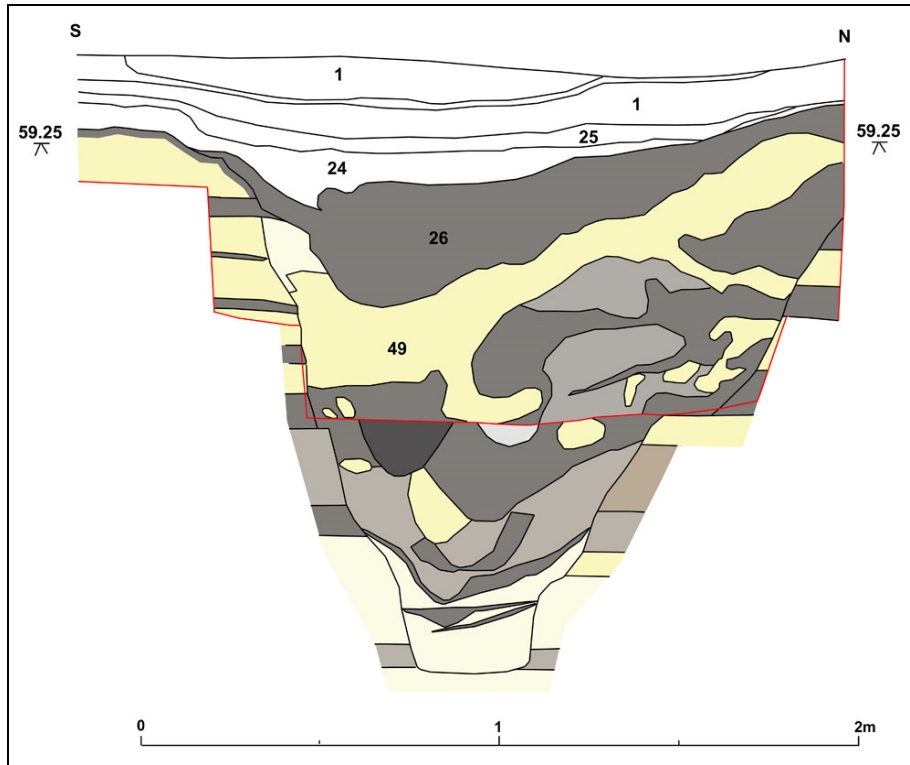


Figure 34 East facing section in Trench



Figure 35 East facing section in Trench 3, looking west



Figure 36 The pale grey and dark brown blocks in the south ditch, seen just to the right of the scale, looking east

CONCLUSION

Barrow 1

1. With regard to its form, the key question with regard to Barrow 1 was to confirm whether it was indeed a bell barrow, the only one previously identified as such within the cemetery. The results indicate that it is not, certainly in terms of the classic Wessex typology, for the gap between the ditch and mound is small and sloping. It is instead parallel to the other previously excavated ditched barrow on the Heath, Barrow 13, which was similarly first formed of a turf stack, before being enclosed within an encircling ditch, with the material from the latter piled up over the former. The lack of a soil horizon between the turf stack and the covering orange sand, where this interface was seen near the mound's top, suggests there was no significant gap in time between these construction phases.
2. The distinctive feature of Barrow 1 remains its size, not in terms of its original turf stack, which could be smaller than that of Barrow 11, but in its finished form, once the spoil from the ditch had been placed over it. This bulk is enhanced by its position on the crest of a natural ridge.
3. No material suitable for radiocarbon dating was recovered from the excavated trench, but paleo-environmental samples were taken to enable the reconstruction of the Bronze Age environment.

Barrow 4

1. It had been hoped that the excavation of this barrow would determine whether it comprised two separate, superimposed monuments. In the event, no direct relationship was visible between the larger internal mound and the enclosure bank, neither was the central small mound shown beyond doubt to be a man-made feature, although it is suggested by the nature of its composition and spread.
2. The excavation of Barrow 4 did discover evidence for probable antiquarian investigation, in the form of a single trench crossing the centre of the larger mound. This is only the second confirmed example in the cemetery, the other being into Barrow 13.
3. A sample of charcoal, taken from the oval pit sealed under the larger mound's upper turf layer, should provide a radiocarbon date for one phase of its construction, but no suitable material was recovered from either the enclosure's bank or ditch, or from under either mound. Paleo-environmental samples were recovered from both the larger mound and the bank/ditch, which should enable the reconstruction of the Bronze Age environment.

Barrow 14

1. The principal objective in re-visiting Barrow 14 was to widen the area of investigation within the interior of the monument, in an attempt to get a clearer idea of what its function might have been. The discovery of a Bronze Age cremation urn within its north-west quadrant quashed any notion that barrows of this form were not associated with burials, although this does not necessarily imply that the burial was its primary purpose.

Barrow 19

1. The trenches cut into Barrow 19 in 2017 aimed to continue the investigations begun in 2016. A section across the north ditch was re-opened and extended, primarily to further examine a large sherd of Bronze Age pottery observed in 2016. This proved to be part of a smaller cluster of objects, which, in addition to the potsherd, included the probable remains of part of a wicker panel. The origin or purpose behind this deposit is not clear.
2. The 2016 section across the south ditch was also re-opened and extended, in order to investigate more fully a presumed angular cut into the ditch fill. This is instead almost certainly merely a larger block of collapsed ditch edge, consisting of the adjacent humic topsoil and the underlying pale sand. However, an important deposit of waterlogged wood was found in the ditch's base which will be valuable for dating and environmental reconstruction.
3. The return to the central pit found in 2016 proved to be of rather greater interest. This feature was revealed to be, in fact, two large partially intercutting pits, one oval, and the other rectangular. Both are thought to have contained tree trunk coffins. Only the former could be completely excavated, its coffin proving to contain a cremation deposit. Cut into the fill of the oval pit was a further, smaller, pit, containing a Bronze Age cremation urn.
4. These three burials, added to the cremation urn found in 2016, make Barrow 19 a sharp contrast to the other monuments investigated as part of this project, where at most only one burial *per* barrow was found. It is quite possible that this is due solely to it being the most completely excavated, although it may mark it out as more significant than some, or all, of the others that make up the cemetery.

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