The Raunds Area Project

# A Neolithic and Bronze Age Landscape in Northamptonshire

Volume 2 Supplementary Studies

Jan Harding and Frances Healy

ENGLISH HERITAGE

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## Volume 2 Supplementary Studies

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*Frontispiece* A reconstruction by Judith Dobie of the primary features of the Long Barrow. The opium poppies in the foreground were represented by seeds preserved in the waterlogged fills of the ditches that flanked the mound subsequently built over these features.

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# Preface

The Raunds Area Project was one of the major fieldwork initiatives of the 1980s. Although prompted by the need for large-scale rescue excavations, it broke new ground by linking these to an integrated investigation of local landscape history, which incorporated fieldwalking, earthwork and geophysical survey, environmental investigations and documentary research. Partnership between English Heritage and the Northamptonshire Archaeology Unit brought the benefits of complementary expertise and resources. The initial emphasis of the project was on landscape development from the late Iron Age onwards, in keeping with what was then known of the archaeology. But the progressive discovery of Neolithic and Bronze Age monuments concealed and preserved beneath a blanket of alluvium covering the floor of the Nene valley transformed perceptions of the area's prehistory. It is this pre-Iron Age evidence that is presented here.

Human presence at Raunds spans the transition from the hunter gatherer lifeways of the 5th millennium BC to the livestock-rearing and monument-building of the early 4th millennium. Importantly, the earliest monuments were, with one exception, not the long barrows and causewayed enclosures already well known from the same period. Rather, they were of diverse form, unimposing, and almost devoid of human remains, deliberately placed artefacts, or animal remains. This emphasises the extent to which valley-floor locations can expand our understanding of the period, and the extent to which contemporary use of different topographies may have been complementary rather than uniform. Much later, at the turn of the 3rd and 2nd millennia BC, the evidence highlights the complexity of funerary practice and associated activities. Raunds also makes a unique contribution to the understanding of early Bronze Age society and its funerary rites, in the form of a barrow mound piled high with the skulls of almost two hundred cattle.

This publication brings these and many other threads of evidence together. It also explores one of the directions that archaeological publication can now take, as it both synthesises a large body of evidence and makes it accessible in digital form, putting the reader in a position to analyse and reinterpret the data.

# Acknowledgements

Fieldwork by the Central Excavation Unit was funded entirely by English Heritage; fieldwork by the Northamptonshire Archaeology Unit was jointly funded by Northamptonshire County Council (Planning and Transportation Department), English Heritage, the Manpower Services Commission and the Training Commission. Fieldwork by the Oxford Archaeological Unit was funded by ARC, as were the initial site narrative and assessment. With this exception, post-excavation has been entirely funded by English Heritage, whose long-term support for the project is gratefully acknowledged.

The principal excavators were Andy Chapman, Tony Baker, Phil Voice, Dave Windell and Jo Woodiwiss (West Cotton); Claire Halpin (Irthlingborough); David Neal (Stanwick); John Moore, Mark R Roberts and Graham Keevill (Redlands Farm); and Frances Blore (Stanwick 1991–2). They and their teams worked hard and long, often in difficult circumstances, to extract and record the information that has proved such a rich resource. A particular mention must be made of Dave Windell, who was the director of the West Cotton excavations throughout the fieldwork stage and was therefore responsible for keeping the excavations and the team on track, and for dealing with the complexities of the funding and politics inevitably associated with such a complex operation. Assistance with machinery and co-operation was provided by ARC Ltd (now Hanson), and many local organisations, including Raunds Town Council and Wellington Tannery, also provided assistance. Thanks are also due to the residents of Raunds and Stanwick, who showed interest and good will towards both the work and the excavators.

In post-excavation, Jon Humble, who led the project from 1991 to 1997, pushed the analysis of the Irthlingborough archive forward, infusing enthusiasm and direction into what must at times have seemed endless tasks. He has subsequently been unfailingly helpful and supportive. His assistants were initially Aidan Allan and subsequently Stéphane Rault, who accomplished the project's move to Newcastle, providing much-needed knowledge and continuity. In Newcastle, Denise Wilson, Glyn Goodrick and the entire staff of the Department of Archaeology (now part of the School of Historical Studies) have provided practical support.

The form and content of this publication owe much to Tim Williams. Alex Gibson, who monitored the publication project, has provided positive and practical support. His capacity for cutting confidently and unsentimentally through problems has been an invaluable asset.

Assembling the results of parts of a larger project, itself undertaken by three separate organisations, had inherent problems, which could not have been overcome without a generous and unflagging flow of help and information from Andy Chapman and Steve Parry of Northamptonshire Archaeology; Vicky Crosby, Liz Muldowney, Brian Attewell and Ed McSloy of English Heritage; Angela Boyle, Philippa Bradley and Alistair Barclay of Oxford Archaeology; and Claire Halpin of Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust.

The data became manageable thanks to its integration into a single GIS-ready digital archive by Dominic Powlesland and Anthony Beck, who have given unstintingly of their time and patience in overcoming problems and making it possible to examine the area and its landscape in ways that would otherwise have been impossible.

Alex Bayliss has provided the chronological framework that underpins and shapes the whole work.

All the specialist contributors have added depth and perspective to the narrative. We appreciate the endurance of those who have stayed with the project for many years: Mark Robinson from the first, David Tomalin from 1986, and Gill Campbell from 1988. The labour of recording a lithic assemblage of over 20,000 pieces fell largely to Peter Makey. Torben Bjarke Ballin rose to the challenge of writing it up.

The staff of English Heritages's Graphics Office have also been involved throughout, John Vallender having produced some of the first and last illustrations to be completed. In his role as Graphics Manager he has grappled successfully with the integration of graphics of varying vintage and in varying media and with source material and briefs of varying quality, as well as managing to programme a large body of work in the face of many conflicting demands on the Office's time. The skill, good humour, patience and forbearance of the entire Graphics Office are wholeheartedly acknowledged.

The project could not have been placed in its surrounding landscape had not Glenn Foard, Christine Addison and Susan Freebrey of Northamptonshire Heritage and Ben Robinson of Peterborough City Council provided SMR data and support and given generously of their time in problem-solving and question-answering. It was particularly welcome that Bob Bewley of English Heritage agreed to reschedule the National Mapping Programme for Northamptonshire to prioritise the Raunds study area. Alison Deegan of the NMP has since been generous with advice and information, and Jacqueline Minchinton, Records and Resources Management Officer of Northampton Museum and Art Gallery, has kindly provided information about excavations by Dr Robb at Redlands Farm.

Many other friends and colleagues have provided information and support, and thanks are extended to all of them, especially to Dr Robert Shiel of the University of Newcastle for advice and help on the soils of the area; to Dr Charly French of the University of Cambridge for providing a text of the Etton Landscape monograph in advance of its publication; to Peter Marshall for comment on the use of radiocarbon dating; and to an anonymous referee for generous and constructive comments on the draft.

The Visitors of the Ashmolean Museum have generously provided the photographs of bracers attributed to petrological group VI used in Panel 4.2 and in SS3.7.1 and the University of Cambridge Collection of Air Photographs has provided the photograph reproduced as Figure 3.63.

*Philippa Bradley* would like to thank Jon Humble for discussing his unpublished results and for providing the flint

recording system. She is grateful to all the specialists who worked on material from the long barrow for their hard work and for many fruitful discussions about their results, and to Alistair Barclay for commenting on earlier versions of the Long Barrow text. She is also grateful to Francis Pryor for photographs of the flint axe and worked wood from the Long Barrow and to Michael Dudley, formerly of the Ashmolean Museum, for photographs of grave goods from the same monument.

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*Andy Chapman* would like to thank all the 300 individuals who worked at West Cotton during the five seasons of fieldwork on both the prehistoric and medieval sites.

*Simon Davis* has been fortunate in having had the help of numerous people while studying the strange and perhaps unique faunal assemblage from Barrow 1. In particular he is most grateful to Roger Jones of the Ancient Monuments Laboratory, and Claire Halpin, Jon Humble and Nicholas Balaam of the CEU who kindly produced the spatial plots of finds at Irthlingborough and who provided me with much advice. Sebastian Payne suggested a method for recording the wear stages of cattle maxillary teeth and for measuring their circumferences. He also read several earlier versions of the report and offered many useful suggestions. Caroline Grigson of the Odontological Museum, Royal College of Surgeons drew his attention to several useful references in the literature. John Mack and Nigel Barley of the Museum of Mankind introduced him to some of the customs practised by people in Africa and Madagascar today. He has had useful advice concerning burial practices in the Classical world from Robert Cook of Cambridge, Michael Jameson of Stanford University, California and Crawford Greenewalt of the University of California at Berkeley.

He is also grateful to Claire Halpin for entrusting him with the horse mandible from Barrow 3, to Sebastian Payne for commenting upon an earlier version of his report on it, and to Vera Eisenmann who taught him much about equid teeth.

The late *Glynis Edwards* was grateful to Bridget Ibbs, Peter Meehan and the late Colin Slack, who, together with her, undertook conservation of selected artefacts.

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*Stuart Needham* benefited from comments and information from Alison Sheridan, including news of the new Beech Hill House date funded by the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. Jan Lanting and his colleagues are to be thanked profusely for offering to date the critical burial context for dagger and pommel, while Frances Lynch kindly provided the other highly relevant new date for Bedd Branwen grave H. He also thanks Glynis Edwards and David Dungworth for their identifications of hilt remains and alloy composition respectively.

*Andrew Payne's* geophysics report could not have been written without the contributions of Mark Cole, Peter Cottrell, Neil Linford, Paul Linford and Gregory Fookes to the survey programme in the fieldwork and data-processing stages, and also the support of Andrew David. Mark Cole originally produced a report on three of the barrow sites and the more detailed account subsequently published here draws substantially on Mark's earlier assessments of the results with some modification where necessary in the light of additional information from the excavated barrows. The section on the Cotton 'Henge' is based on information kindly provided by Jon Humble. The assistance of Eddie Lyons during the production of the digital graphics is also gratefully acknowledged.

# Summary

In the course of the Raunds Area Project and subsequent excavations some 3.5km of the floor of the Nene valley were investigated, including more than 20 Neolithic and Bronze Age monuments, most of them previously obscured by later archaeology and by Saxon and early medieval alluvium. The record begins with a slight human presence in the early Holocene, which became progressively more marked. By around 5000 Cal BC, one spot at the confluence of the Nene and a tributary had long been a regular stopping-place, where flint was knapped and tools suitable for a whole range of domestic tasks were discarded once they were blunted and finished with. Beyond this site, there was intermittent activity all along the well-wooded valley.

Soon after 4000 Cal BC Neolithic artefacts began to be discarded at the same confluence and, within a couple of hundred years, a landmark had been built there – the Long Mound, about 135 metres long, 18 metres wide and perhaps 1.5 metres high. Its scale means that its construction could have been a communal event, bringing together perhaps 50 or a 100 people. Indeed, the pattern of stakeholes beneath it suggests that it was divided into hurdle-defined compartments, each of which could have been built by a different group. It was built of turf, cut from an area of something like 100m by 100m, which can only have been the product of grazing. In other words, livestock were being kept by about 3800 Cal BC, and had already begun to alter the vegetation. Three other monuments, the Long Barrow, the north part of the Turf Mound, and the Avenue, were also built in the first half of the 4th millennium.

The plants, insects and pollen from waterlogged bottoms of the Long Barrow ditches indicated that it stood in a lightly grazed clearing in recent cleared woodland. Opium poppy seeds expand the range of ultimately near eastern plant species introduced to Britain in the 4th millennium. Also in the ditch were clusters of woodchips and offcuts from the construction of the revetment. The flint axehead used to do the job had been left at the barrow, its battered and damaged cutting edge precisely fitting some of the cutmarks on the wood. In the narrower, lower end of the barrow was a burial chamber, built of small limestone slabs, in which were weathered fragments of a single human long bone.

By 3000 Cal BC a chain of five or six diverse monuments stretched along the river bank (the Long Mound, the Long Enclosure, the Turf Mound, the Causewayed Ring Ditch, the Avenue, perhaps the Southern Enclosure, and the Long Barrow). There is little sign that people lived here, rather that they lived nearby, possibly on the valley sides, pasturing their herds among the monuments and visiting them more formally when occasion demanded. For the next 500 years or more, both people and their animals seem to have come to the valley bottom less often. Trees grew on and around some of the monuments; late Neolithic artefacts were scarce; and the only site definitely dated to this period was the Riverside Structure, a timber platform at the edge of a channel of the Nene, into an upper layer of which cattle bones and a couple of human long bones were either washed by the river or deliberately deposited. The focus of ceremonial activity may have shifted to a little-understood monument, the Cotton 'Henge', which survives as two concentric ditches on the occupied valley side.

By about 2200 Cal BC the valley was more heavily grazed and less wooded than ever before. At this stage, monumentbuilding accelerated. Except for the Segmented Ditch Circle, the new monuments were round barrows – at least 20 in all, nine of which were excavated. Two of them covered post- and stake settings. Unlike the earlier monuments, almost all contained burials, some of them richly furnished. The most outstanding is a male inhumation in Barrow 1, accompanied by numerous artefacts, some of them exotic, covered first by a limestone cairn, and then by a heap of about 200 cattle skulls, which were already defleshed when brought to the grave. The barrows were progressively enlarged, as cremation gradually became the normal burial rite. The valley bottom remained uninhabited, while settlement on the valley sides became more marked and activity began to extend onto the surrounding Boulder Clay plateau. Cremations continued to be buried in and around the mounds down to about 1000 Cal BC, by which time two overlapping systems of paddocks and droveways had been laid out. The terrace began to be settled when these had gone out of use, in the early 1st millennium Cal BC.

# Résumé

Au cours du projet d'étude de la région de Raunds, et des excavations qui ont suivi, on a examiné quelques 3,5 km du fond de la vallée de la Nene, y compris plus de vingt monuments, datant du néolithique et de l'âge du bronze, dont la plupart était demeurée jusque là dissimulée par une archéologie postérieure et des alluvions datant de la période saxonne et du début du Moyen-Âge. Les premiers indices consistent en une légère présence humaine au début de l'Holocène, qui s'est progressivement accentuée. Dès environ 5000 ans cal av. J.-C., un endroit, à la confluence de la Nene et d'un de ses affluents, constituait depuis longtemps une halte régulière, où on débitait le silex et où on rejetait des outils, propres à toute une variété de tâches domestiques, une fois qu'ils étaient émoussés et qu'on en avait fini avec eux.

A l'extérieur de ce site, il y avait des signes d'activité intermittente tout au long de cette vallée bien boisée. Peu après 4000 ans cal av. J.-C. des objets manufacturés néolithiques commencèrent à être rejetés à cette même confluence et, en l'espace de quelques centaines d'années, on y avait construit un site remarquable, le '*Long Mound*' (Long Tertre), d'environ 135 mètres de long sur 18 mètres de large et peut-être 1.5 mètres de haut. Ses dimensions signifient qu'il se pourrait qu'il soit le résultat d'un travail collectif, rassemblant peut-être cinquante ou cent personnes. En fait, la disposition des trous de pieux que l'on a trouvés en-dessous, donne à penser qu'il était divisé en compartiments, délimités par des claies, il se pourrait que chacun de ceux-ci ait été construit par un groupe différent. L'ouvrage était construit de mottes de gazon, levées sur une aire d'environ 100 m. sur 100 m. qui ne pouvait être autre chose que le résultat de pâturage. En d'autres termes, on élevait du bétail vers environ 3800 ans cal av. J.-C., et les animaux avaient déjà commencé à modifier la végétation. Trois autres monuments, le '*Long Barrow*' (Long Tumulus), la partie nord du '*Turf Mound*' (Tertre à Mottes de Gazon) et l'''*Avenue*', furent également construits dans la première moitié du 4ème millénaire.

Les plantes, les insectes et le pollen provenant des fonds imbibés d'eau des fossés du '*Long Mound*' indiquaient qu'il se dressait dans une clairière légèrement pâturée dans un bois récemment dégagé. Des graines de pavots à opium viennent augmenter la gamme d'espèces de plantes, originaires du Proche-Orient, introduites en Grande-Bretagne au 4ème millénaire. Se trouvaient également dans le fossé des amas decopeaux et de morceaux de bois rejetés, provenant de la construction du revêtement. La tête de hache en silex utilisée pour accomplir cette tâche avait été laissée sur place, son côté tranchant, bossué et endommagé, correspondant exactement à certaines des traces de coupure sur le bois. A l'extrémité plus étroite et plus basse du tertre se trouvait une chambre funéraire, construite en petites dalles de calcaire, dans laquelle on a découvert des fragments, qui avaient été exposés aux éléments, d'un seul os long humain.

Dès 3000 ans cal av.J.-C. une chaîne de cinq ou six monuments différents s'étendait le long de la rive (le *Long Mound*, le *Long Enclosure*, le *Turf Mound*, le *Causewayed Ring Ditch*, l'*Avenue*, et peut-être le *Southern Enclosure* et le *Long Barrow*). Il n'existe que très peu de témoignages de la présence de populations à cet endroit, il est plus probable qu'elles habitaient à proximité, peut-être sur les versants de la vallée, faisant paître leurs troupeaux parmi les monuments et s'y rendant plus cérémonieusement quand les circonstances l'exigaient. Pendant les cinq cents années qui ont suivi, voire plus, il semble que populations et animaux soient tous deux venus moins souvent au fond de la vallée. Des arbres poussèrent sur et autour de certains des monuments; les objets manufacturés de la fin du néolithique étaient rares, et le seul site qui date, sans aucun doute, de cette période était la *Riverside Structure* (Structure de Bord de Rivière), une plateforme en bois, au bord d'un chenal de la Nene, dans une couche supérieure de laquelle furent apportés par la rivière, ou déposés délibérément, des ossements de bétail et une paire d'os longs humains. Il se peut que le foyer des activités cérémonielles se soit déplacé vers un monument mal compris, le *Cotton 'Henge'*, qui a survécu sous la forme de deux fossés concentriques sur le versant occupé de la vallée.

Dès environ 2200 ans cal av. J.-C. la vallée était plus intensément pâturée et moins boisée qu'à aucune autre période de son histoire. A ce stade, la construction de monuments s'accéléra. Mis à part le *Segmented Ditch Circle* (Cercle à Fossé Interrompu), les nouveaux monuments consistaient en tumulus ronds, – au moins vingt – dont neuf furent excavés. Deux d'entre ces tumulus couvraient des emplacements à poteaux et pieux. Contrairement aux monuments plus anciens, presque tous contenaient des sépultures, dont certaines étaient accompagnées d'un riche mobilier. La plus remarquable était une sépulture mâle dans le *Barrow* 1, accompagnée de nombreux objets, certains exotiques, recouverte d'abord d'un cairn calcaire, puis d'un tas d'environ deux cents crânes de bétail, qui avaient été décharnés avant d'être apportés sur la tombe. Les tumulus furent progressivement agrandis, au fur et à mesure que l'incinération devenait le rite funéraire normal. Le fond de la vallée resta inhabité, tandis que l'occupation des flancs de la vallée devenait plus marquée et que l'activité commençait à déborder sur le plateau de Boulder Clay. On continua à enterrer les incinérations dans et autour des tertres jusqu'à environ 1000 ans cal av. J.-C., date à laquelle deux systèmes concomitants d'enclos à animaux et de chemins de passage de bétail avaient étémis en place. La terrasse commença à être occupée quand ceux-ci furent devenus caducs, au début du 1er millénaire av. J.-C..

**Traduction: Annie Pritchard**

# Zusammernfassung

Im Zuge des Raunds Area Projekts und der damit verbundenen Ausgrabungsarbeiten wurden an die 3,5 km der Bodenfläche des Nene-Tales untersucht. Dazu gehörten auch mehr als 20 Grabmäler aus Neolithikum und Bronzezeit, von denen die meisten in der Zwischenzeit durch spätere archäologische Arbeiten und durch sächsische und mittelalterliche Ablagerungen verdeckt worden waren. Die Aufzeichnungen beginnen mit einer spärlichen menschlichen Präsenz im fruhen Holozän, die allmählich zunahm. Um etwa 5.000 v. Chr. hatte sich eine Stelle am Zusammenlauf von Nene und einem Nebenfluss zu einer regelmäßigen Lagerstätte entwickelt, wo Feuerstein gebrochen und Werkzeuge fur die verschiedensten häuslichen Zwecke weggeworfen wurden, nachdem sie stumpf und unbrauchbar geworden waren. Auch uber diese Stelle hinaus sind uber die gesamte Länge des bewaldeten Tales hin immer wieder Nachweise menschlicher Aktivität zu finden.

Bald nach 4.000 v. Chr. wurden am selben Zusammenfluss neolithische Artefakte entsorgt und es entstand im Lauf einiger Jahrhunderte eine Wall-Graben-Anlage, Long Mound genannt, mit einer Länge von ca. 135 Metern, einer Breite von 18 Metern und einer Höhe von etwa 1,5 Metern. Aufgrund ihrer Größe ist anzunehmen, dass es sich dabei um ein Gemeinschaftsprojekt gehandelt hat, an dem an die funfzig bis hundert Menschen beteiligt waren. Die tiefliegenden Pfahllöcher lassen darauf schließen, dass der Wall-Graben in durch Flechtwerk getrennte Abteilungen unterteilt war, von denen eine jede möglicherweise von einer anderen Gruppe gebaut worden war. Errichtet wurde der Wall-Graben auf einer Rasenfläche, die aus einem etwa 100m x 100m großen Areal geschnitten wurde, bei dem es sich zweifelsohne um Weideland gehandelt haben muss. Das bedeutet in anderen Worten, dass die Menschen um 3.800 v. Chr. bereits Vieh gehalten haben, das zu diesem Zeitpunkt begonnen hatte, die Vegetation zu verändern. Drei weitere Grabmäler, Long Barrow, der nördliche Teil von Turf Mound und Avenue, wurden ebenfalls in der ersten Hälfte des vierten Jahrtausends errichtet.

Pflanzen, Insekten und Pollen im wasserdurchtränkten Boden der Gräben des Long Barrow weisen darauf hin, dass das Hugelgrab auf der leicht abgegrasten Lichtung einer jungst abgeholzten Waldung stand. Mit den Samen des Opiummohns wird das Spektrum der nahöstlichen Pflanzenarten, die im vierten Jahrtausend auf den britischen Inseln eingefuhrt wurden, noch erweitert. Im Graben befanden sich außerdem Holzteilchen und Schnittabfälle vom Bau der Auskleidungen. Eine zu diesem Zweck verwendete Flintaxt war im Hugelgrab zuruckgeblieben. Ihre abgenutzte und lädierte Schnittkante passt genau in einige der Schnitte im Holz. Das schmälere, niedrigere Ende des Hugelgrabes war eine aus kleinen Kalksteinplatten gefugte Grabkammer, in der die verwitterten Fragmente eines einzigen menschlichen Röhrenknochens gefunden wurden.

Um 3.000 v. Chr. erstreckte sich bereits eine Reihe von funf bis sechs verschiedenen Grabmälern entlang dem Flussufer (Long Mound, Long Enclosure, Turf Mound, Causewayed Ring Ditch, Avenue, möglicherweise Southern Enclosure und Long Barrow). Es gibt kaum Anzeichen dafur, dass Menschen hier gelebt haben. Wahrscheinlicher ist, dass sie sich in der Nähe, möglicherweise an den Talseiten, angesiedelt hatten und ihre Herden zwischen den Grabmälern weiden ließen. Die Grabmäler besuchten sie dann zu den jeweils dafur bestimmten Anlässen. Es hat den Anschein, dass Mensch und Vieh während der nachfolgenden funf Jahrhunderte und auch etwas später, den Talboden weniger oft aufsuchten. Um die Grabmäler herum und auf diesen wuchsen Bäume, und Artefakte aus spät-neolithischer Zeit sind selten. Die einzige Stätte, die auf diese Zeit zuruckgeht, ist die Riverside Structure, eine hölzerne Plattform am Ufer eines Kanals der Nene, wo in einer oberen Lage Rinderknochen und etliche menschliche Röhrenknochen gefunden wurden, die entweder vom Flusswasser angeschwemmt oder absichtlich dorthin verbracht wurden. Das Zentrum der zeremoniellen Aktivitäten hatte sich möglicherweise auf ein bisher noch wenig verstandenes Monument, das Cotton 'Henge', verlagert, das auf der bewohnten Talseite als zwei konzentrische Gräben uberdauert hat.

Um etwa 2.000 v. Chr. war das Tal bereits stärker abgegrast und weniger bewaldet als fruher. Zu diesem Zeitpunkt nahm der Bau von Grabmälern zu. Außer dem Segmented Ditch Circle handelte es sich bei den neuen Monumenten um runde Hugelgräber, von denen mindestens 29 ausgegraben wurden. Zwei davon hatten einen Pfeilerunterbau. Im Gegensatz zu den fruheren Grabmälern enthielten fast alle Grabuberreste, von denen einige reich ausgestattet waren. Vorrangig darunter ist eine männliche Hockerbestattung in Barrow 1, umgeben von zahlreichen Artefakten, einige davon recht exotischer Art, die zuerst von einem Hugel aus Kalksteinen und dann von einem Haufen von etwa 200 Rinderschädeln abgedeckt war, wobei die Schädel bereits abgefleischt waren, bevor sie in das Grab kamen. Als die Leichenverbrennung zum ublichen Beisetzungsritus geworden war, wurden die Hugelgräber nach und nach vergrößert. Der Talboden blieb weiterhin unbewohnt, während die Siedlungen an den Talseiten zunahmen und sich schließlich auch auf das umliegende Tillitplateau ausbreiteten. Bis etwa 1.000 v. Chr. wurden die Feuerbestattungen in den oder um die Grabhugel herum beigesetzt, und zu diesem Zeitpunkt waren auch bereits zwei einander uberschneidende Systeme von Gehegen und Viehpfaden angelegt worden. Die Terrasse wurde im ersten Jahrtausend v. Chr. allmählich besiedelt, nachdem diese Systeme nicht mehr genutzt wurden.

**Übersetzung: Ingrid Price-Gschlössl**
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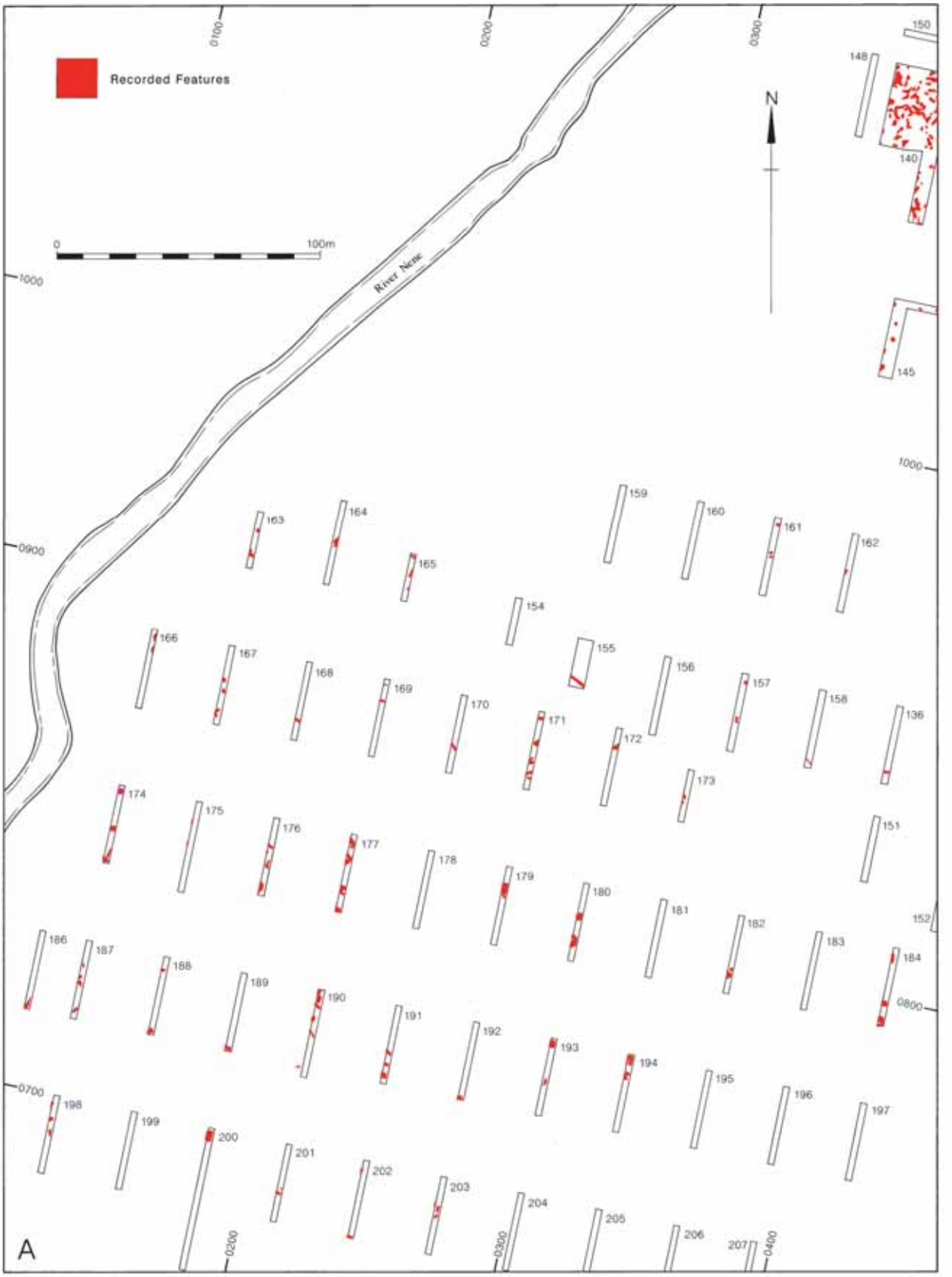
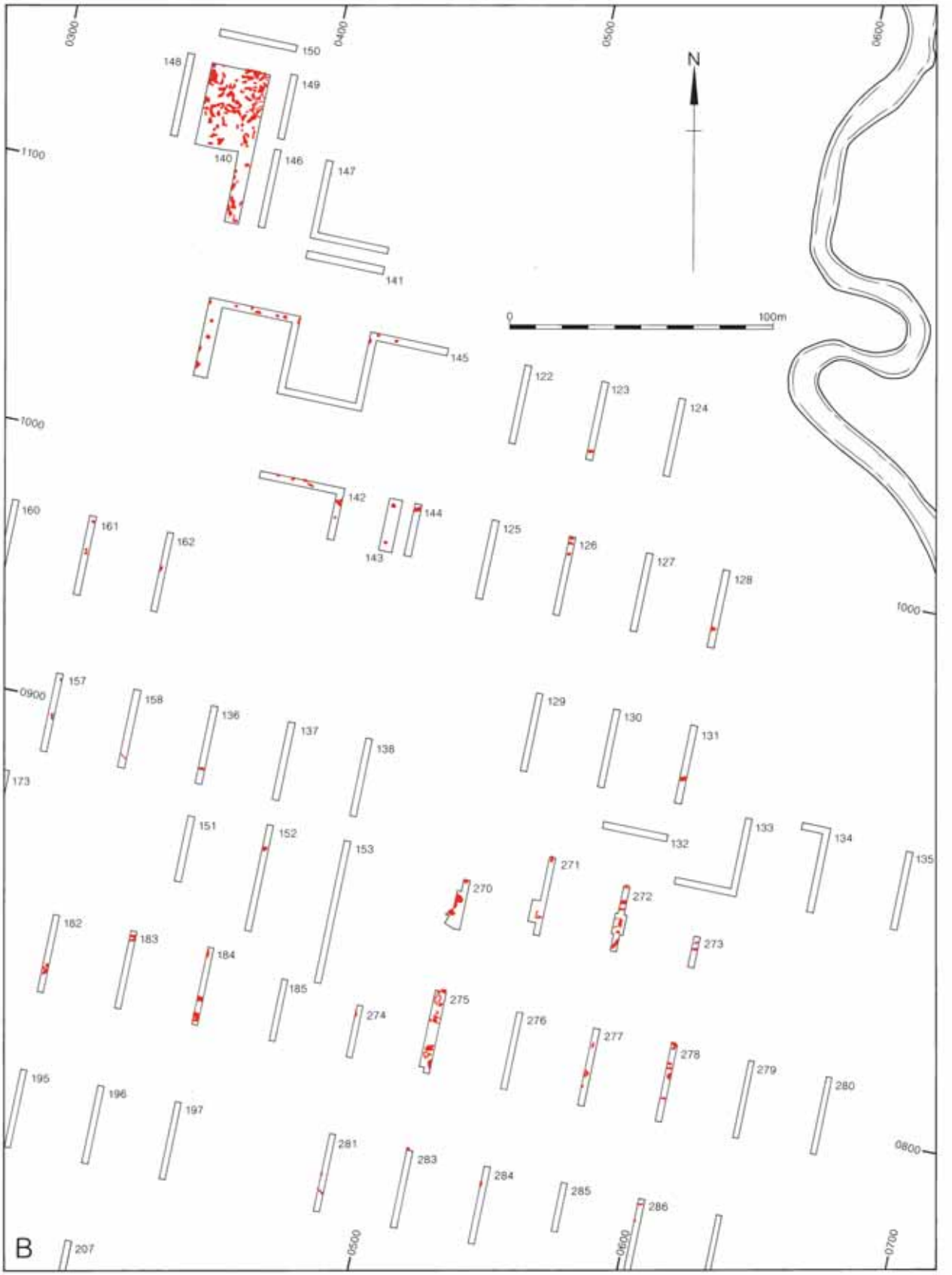
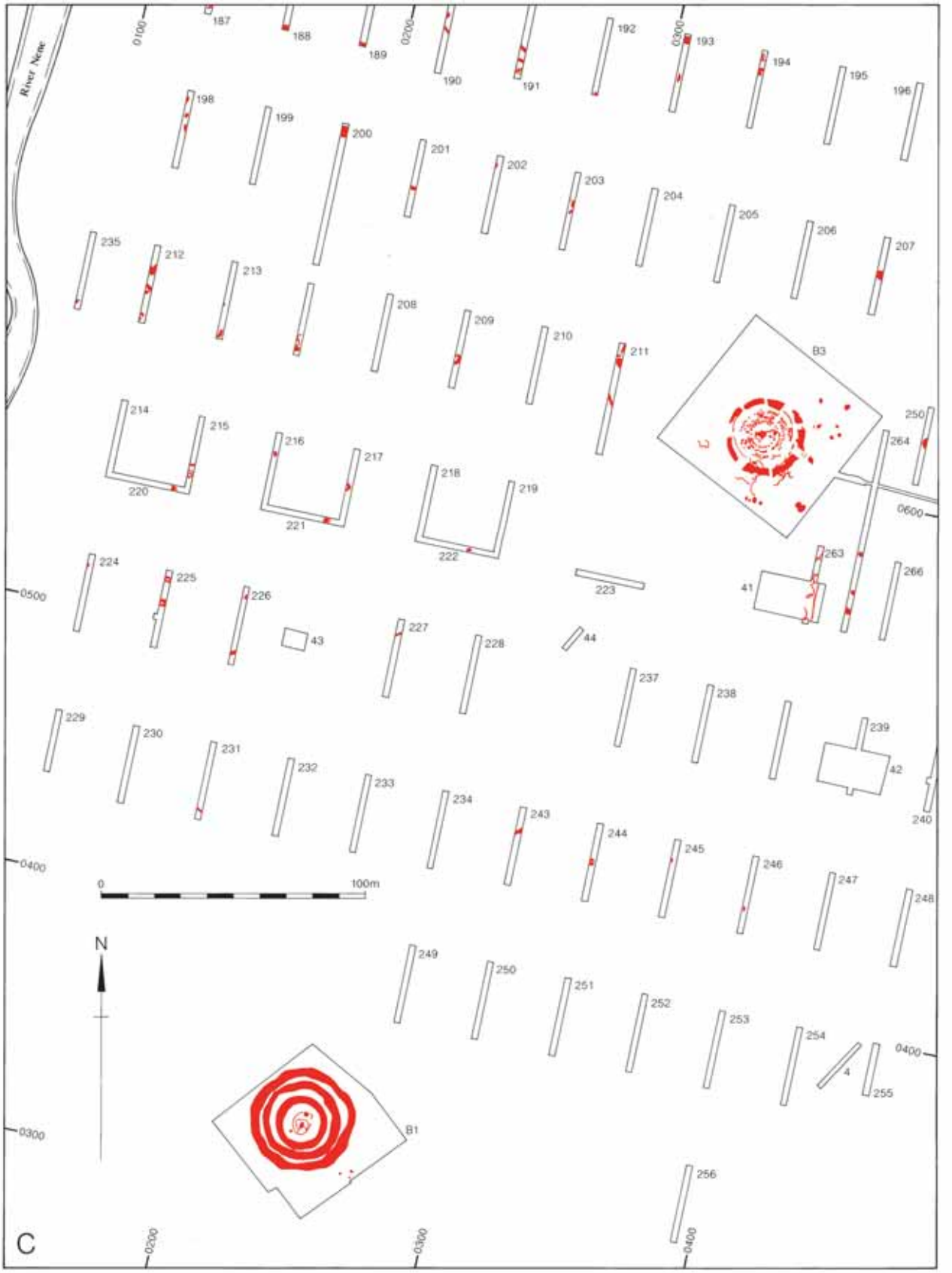
*SS1.1 Irthlingborough Island. Key to trench plans*




*SS1.2 Irthlingborough Island. Trenches in north-west*




*SS1.3 Irthlingborough Island. Trenches in north-east*




*SS1.4 Irthlingborough Island. Trenches in south-west*


*SS1.5 Irthlingborough Island. Trenches in south-east*

# A note on radiocarbon dates

Simple calibrations, which relate the radiocarbon measurements directly to the calendrical time scale, have been calculated using the dataset published by Stuiver *et al* (1998) and the computer program Oxcal version 3.5 (Bronk Ramsey 1995; 1998; forthcoming). The calibrated date ranges cited in normal type have been calculated according to maximum intercept method of Stuiver and Reimer (1986). They are quoted at 95% confidence in the form recommended by Mook (1986), with end points rounded outwards to ten years. The estimated date ranges quoted in italics are derived from the mathematical modelling of the archaeological chronology and are posterior density estimates (SS6). Laboratory numbers are quoted in italics where they refer to posterior density estimates, and in normal type where they refer to samples or to simple calibrated date ranges. Weighted means have been taken from replicate measurements before calibration (Ward and Wilson 1978).

# Note sur la datation a radiocarbone

De simples calibrations, qui font correspondre les mesures au radiocarbone directement à l'échelle calendaire, ont été calculées avec l'aide de données publiées par Stuiver et al (1998) et du programme informatique Oxcal version 3.5 (Bronk Ramsey, 1995; 1998; à paraître). Les gammes de dates calibrées données en caractères normaux ont été calculées suivant la méthode d'inclusion maximum de Stuiver et Reimer (1986). Elles sont citées avec un taux de confiance de 95% sous la forme recommandée par Mook (1986), les extrémités étant arrondies vers l'extérieur à la dizaine d'années. Les gammes de dates estimées citées en italiques sont dérivées d'un modèle mathématique de chronologie archéologique et sont des estimations de densité postérieure (SS6). Les nombres du laboratoire sont cités en italiques quand ils renvoient à des estimations de densité postérieure, et en caractères normaux quand ils renvoient à des échantillons ou à de simples gammes de dates calibrées. Les moyennes pondérées proviennent de mesures répliquées avant calibration (Ward et Wilson 1978).

**Traduction: Annie Pritchard**

# Anmerkungen zur Radiocarbondatierung

Einfache Kalibrierungen, die einen direkten Zusammenhang zwischen den Radiocarbon-Messungen und der kalendarischen Zeitmessung herstellen, wurden anhand des von Stuiver u. a. (1998) veröffentlichten Datensatzes und des Oxcal Computerprogramms Version 3.5 (Bronk Ramsey 1995; 1998; erscheint demnächst) errechnet. Die in Normalschrift angegebenen kalibrierten Datenspannen wurden gemäß der Maximum Intercept Methode von Stuiver und Reimer (1986) errechnet. Sie werden mit einer statistischen Sicherheit von 95 % in der von Mook (1986) empfohlenen Form angegeben, wobei die Endpunkte auf die nachfolgenden zehn Jahre aufgerundet wurden. Die in Kursivschrift gegebenen Datenschätzungen wurden der mathematischen Modellierung der archäologischen Chronologie abgeleitet und sind a-posteriori-Schätzungen (SS6). Labornummern erscheinen kursiv, sofern sie– sich auf a-posteriori- Schätzungen beziehen, und in Normalschrift, wenn es sich um Momentwerte oder einfache kalibrierte Datenbereiche handelt. Gewichtete Mittel wurden vor der Kalibrierung von Wiederholungsmaßen errechnet (Ward and Wilson 1978).

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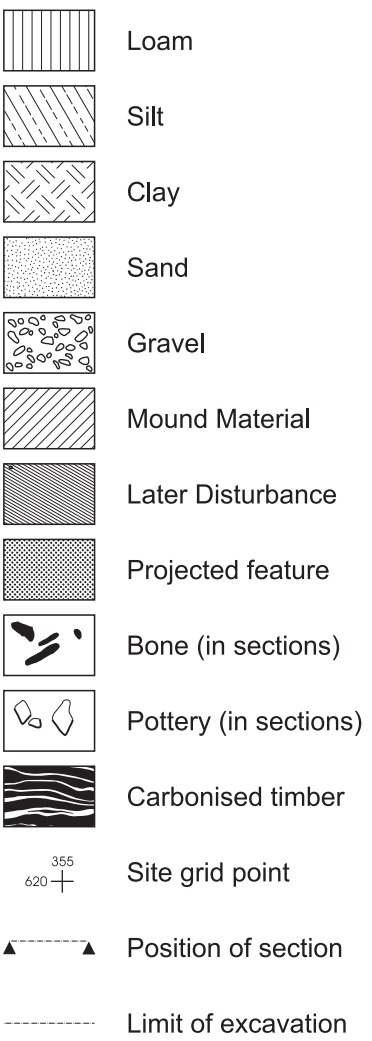


*SS1.6 Principal plan and section conventions*

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