

Death as an architect of societies

Burial and social identity during the Viking Age
in South-western Scania

APPENDIX

Lunds University
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Master Thesis in Archaeology – ARKM21.

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Spring Semester 2014

Contents

Appendix	2
Introduction	2
Ljungbacka	2
Site Location:	2
Excavation history and method	2
Önsvala	23
Site Location:	23
Research history and method	23
Råga Hörstad	30
Site Location:	30
Excavation history and method	30
Stävie	41
Site location:	41
Research history and method	41
Trelleborg “Vannhög”	55
Site location:	55
Research history and method	55
Norrvidinge	60
Site location:	60
Research history:	60
Literature list	68

Appendix

Introduction

Appendix includes description and the excavation history of sites, together with short description of the burials. The graves displaying different signs of ritualised practice are described. When necessary redrawn field documentation or illustrations from the reports are included to present the data in a comprehensive way. In some cases interpretation of the burial context is added.

Abbreviations:

LUHM – Lunds Universitets Historiska Museet

Ljungbacka

Site Location:

Site is located in the northern part of Locarp, in Oxie hundred, around 8,5 km from the coast. It situated 35–37 m above the sea level, next to a bronze age mound called “Grötehög”. The soil at the site consists from sandy clay (Samuelson 1998, 5). To the West from the burials probably an ancient road was located (Samuelson 1998, 8) leading from Lund in the North to Trelleborg in the South (Samuelson 2001, 90).

Excavation history and method

First excavations were conducted in 1976 by Malmö Museum due to construction of an industrial railroad connecting Fosie to Mariedal. In this formerly agricultural area, trenches were located to the north of the burial mound. 14 inhumations and 74 cremation graves were found (Samuelson 1998, 6; Salomonsen 1976).

Another cremation grave was discovered in 1979, around 150 m to the South-west from the burial mound also discovered during this year (Samuelson 1998, 6). Between 1980 and 1981 three rectangular plots in the vicinity of the burial mound were excavated by the Malmö Museum, due to the development of the industrial area, and another inhumation grave and 9 more cremation graves were found. During these years another two cremation graves were discovered because of digging trenches for cables (Samuelsson 1998, 6). From 1985 to 1987 two more areas, located to the north of the industrial railroad were excavated, and in result, 16 more inhumations and 75 more cremation graves were discovered (Samuelsson 1998, 6).

191 graves in total, located around the burial mound were discovered, from which 31 are inhumations and 160 are cremation graves (Samuelsson 1998, 6). One cremation grave can

be dated to the Late Bronze Age on the basis of the vessel used as a burial container, one inhumation can be dated to the Vendel Period, but majority of the inhumation graves probably belongs to Viking Age (Salomonsen 1976; Samuelson 2001, 99; Svanberg 2003b, 290). The site hasn't been completely excavated and is now an area that is under antiquarian protection (Samuelson 2001, 90). In the vicinity of the area, a large number of Late Iron Age settlements that correlates chronologically with the use of the burial ground has been discovered (Samuelson 2001, 103).

G1

Pit description: irregular oval pit measuring 1,6 x 0,8 m and around 38 cm deep, cut by grave 255

Fill: It was composed of humus and soot with mixing of burned bone, including 11,8 g from human and around 25 stones measuring from 5 to 20 cm

Burial: A skeleton was positioned on axis N–S. Discovered in the grave were: an iron knife and a sandstone spindle whorl with diameter 3,9 and high 1,6 cm

G2

Pit description: irregular oval pit measuring 1,75 x 1,05 m and around 50 cm deep, cut by cremation graves 150 A and 150 B

Fill: consisted from humus, with large mix of soot. In two places concentrations of burned bone and charcoal were discovered with 0,5 g of burned bones identified as human.

Burial: Discolourations from the coffin, around 55cm width were discovered in North-western part of the burial. In the bottom remains of the skeleton, aligned on axis NW–SE with the skull towards NW were found (Samuelsson 1998).

Interpretation: First, the person was buried in an inhumation pit, later a cremation burial was placed over the inhumation grave, cutting through it.

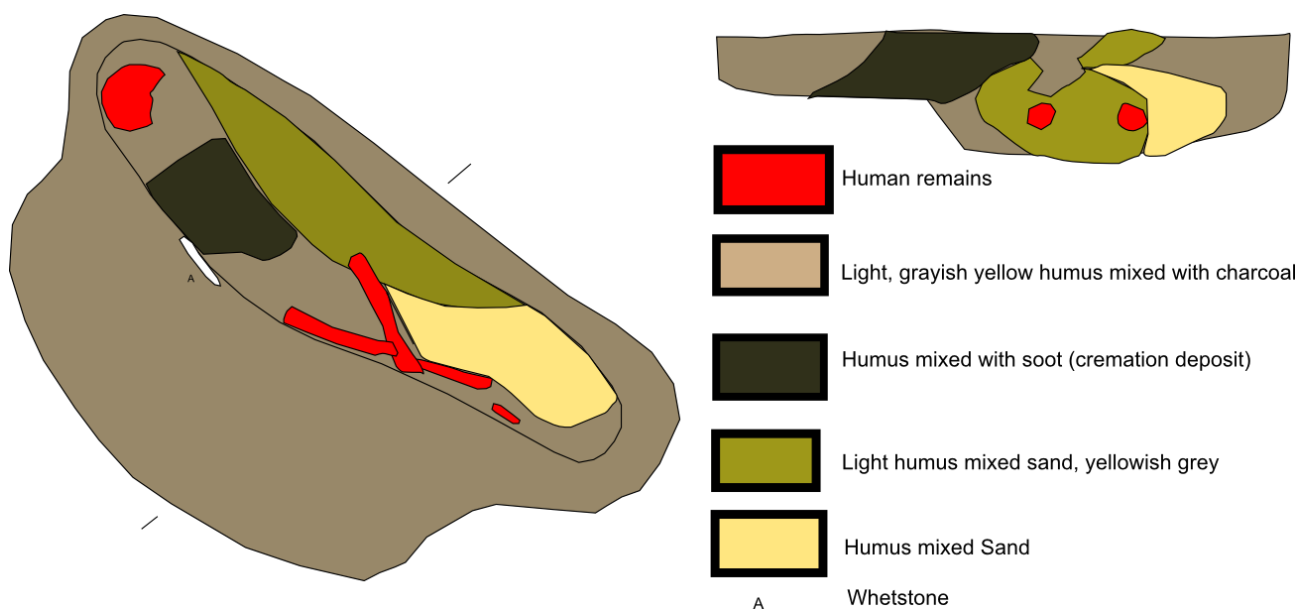


FIG. 1 PLAN AND SECTION OF LJUNGBACKA G2 (REDRAWN FROM FIELD DOCUMENTATION STORED AT MALMÖ MUSEUM)

Pit description: Irregular oval pit measuring 2,05 x 1,3 m and around 95 cm deep

Fill: Consisted of light-coloured humus mixed with soot. Burned bones were found, from which 3,8 g identified as human, as well as three stone blocks, around 50 to 60 cm big and around 15 smaller stones.

Burial: A discolouration from decomposed skeleton was discovered at the bottom level of the pit, placed in supine position on axis WNW–ESE with the head towards WNW. Finds included two iron knives, 9 g and of pottery (Samuelsson 1998)

Interpretation: Cremation remains were deposited during the inhumation burial, the grave was marked by stone setting or a mound, that covered the stones. The stones later sunk into burial.

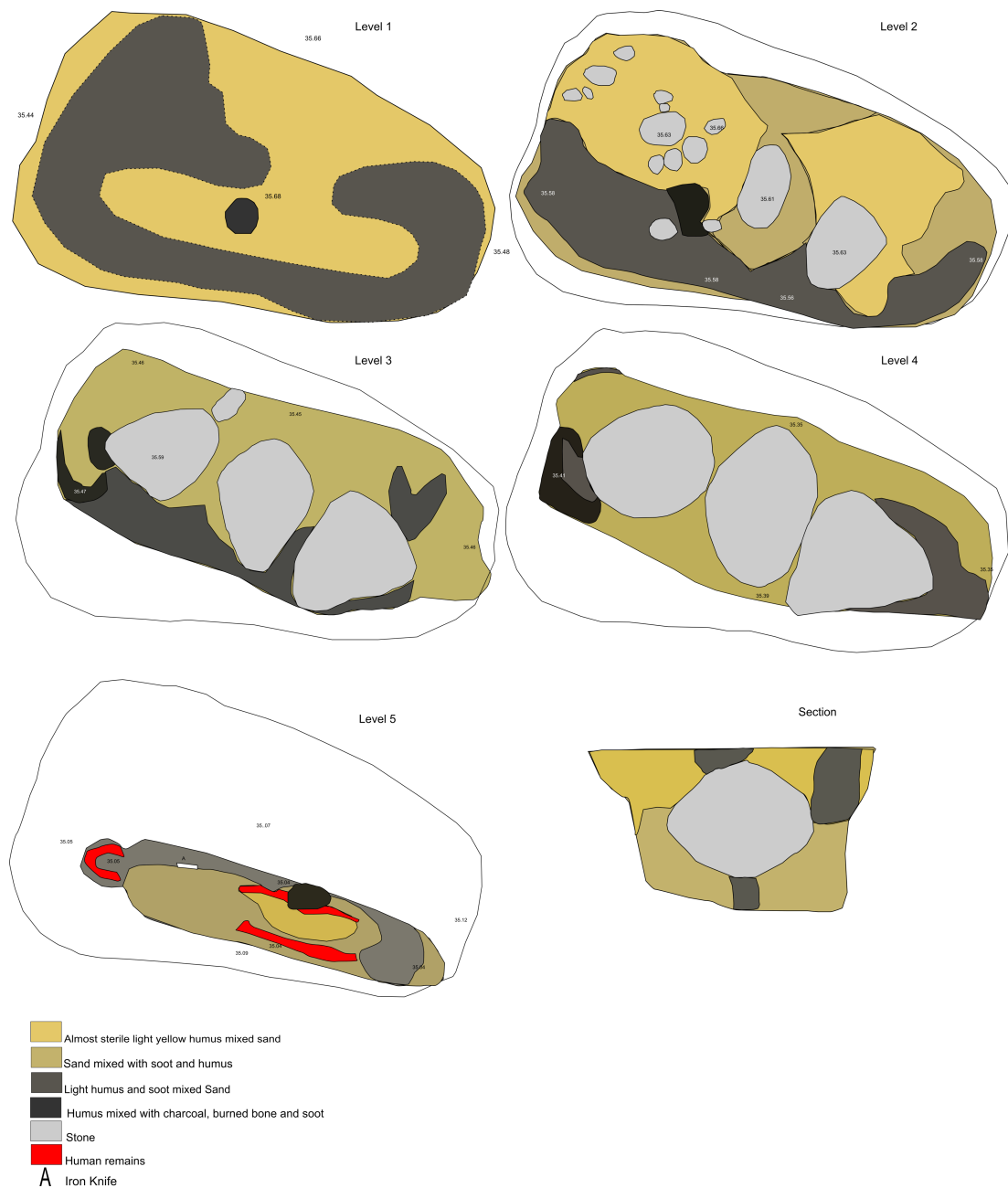


FIG. 2 LJUNGBACKA G3 LEVELS 1–5 WITH SECTION (REDRAWN FROM FIELD DOCUMENTATION STORED AT MALMÖ MUSEUM).

G4

Pit description: Irregular rectangular pit 2,3 x 0,8 m and around 60 cm deep, cut by cremation grave 155

Fill: It consisted of light humus mixed with soot, in it six stones measuring from 20 to 40 cm were found

Burial: In the bottom a vague discolouration from decomposed skeleton was found, probably positioned on axis NE–SW (Samuelsson 1998)

Interpretation: Cremation burial was placed as overlaying grave on earlier inhumation.

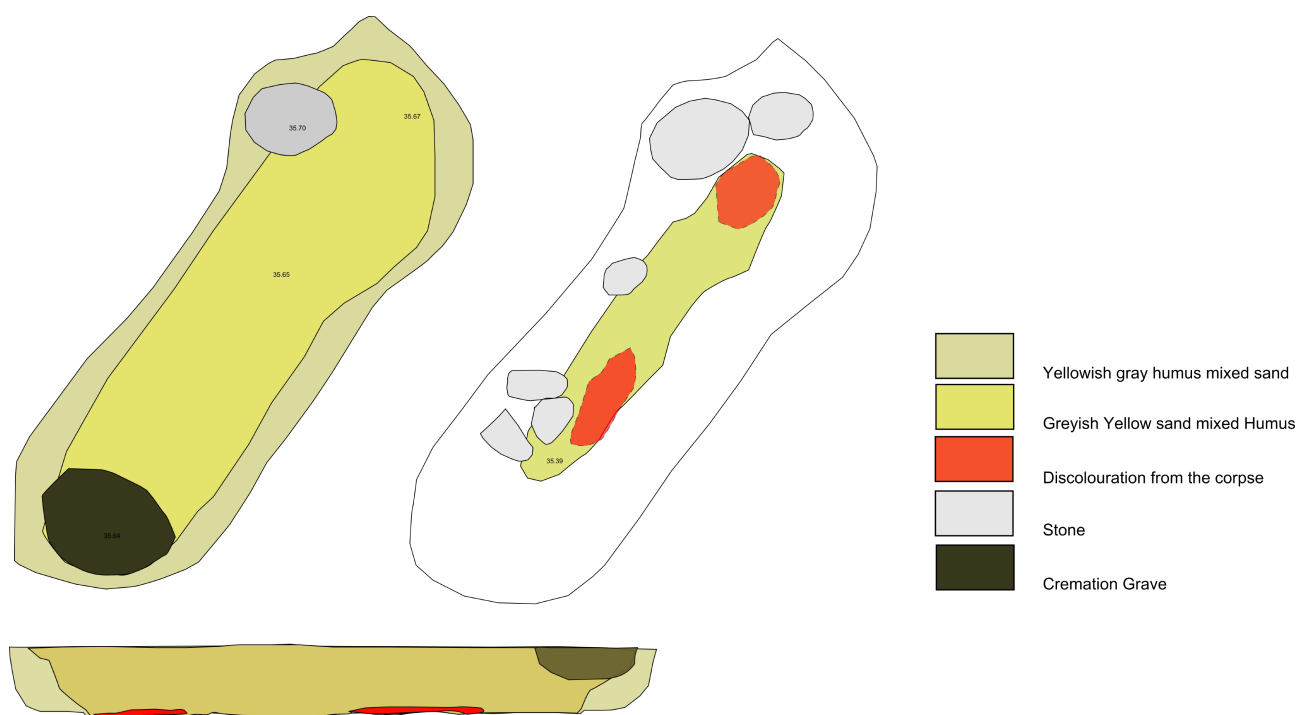


FIG. 3 LJUNGBACKA G4 LEVELS 1–2 WITH SECTION (REDRAWN FROM FIELD DOCUMENTATION STORED AT MALMÖ MUSEUM).

G5

Pit description: Irregular oval pit measuring 1,8 x 0,8 m and around 50 cm deep

Fill: It consisted from light humus with mix of soot and charcoal with burned bones (including 3,4 g identified as human) in the central part of the grave, with around 20 stones 5 to 10 cm big.

Burial: In the bottom of the pit only teeth from a individual aligned on axis NE–SW, with the head towards NO were found. An iron knife and 3 g. of pottery were found in the grave (Samuelsson 1998).

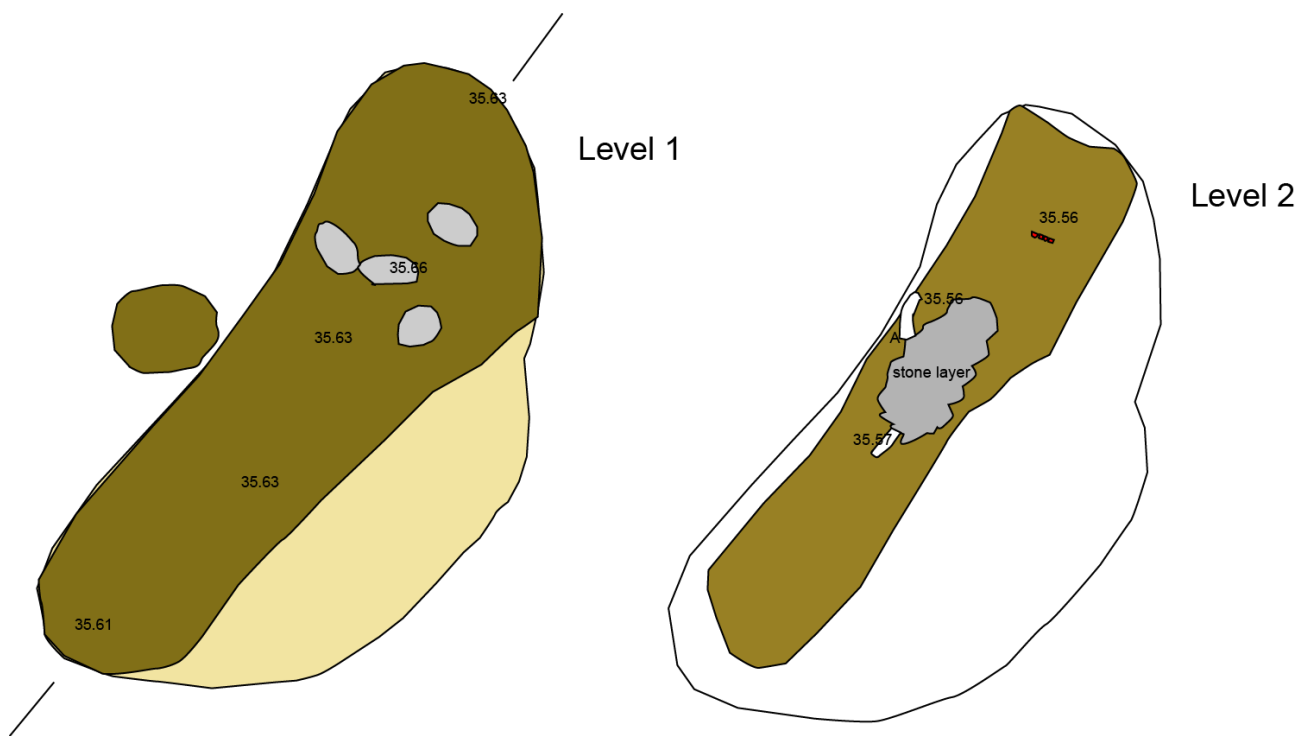


FIG. 4 LJUNGBACKA G5 PLAN OF THE GRAVE (REDRAWN FROM FIELD DOCUMENTATION STORED AT MALMÖ MUSEUM).

G6

Pit description: Irregular rectangular pit measuring 2,85 x 1,05 and around 1 m deep, cut into by burials 116 - 120

Fill: It consisted of light humus with mix of burned bones (0,9 g identified as human) and around 14 stones measuring between 5 to 10 cm. In the western part of the grave three distinctive discolouration measuring from 0,1–0,25 x 0,1–0,05 m found, with filling from fat organic humus, in two of them burned bones were found.

Burial: A discolouration from the coffin was discovered measuring 2,43 x 0,75 m, in its boundaries a discolouration from a skeleton was found, placed on axis WNW – ESE (Samuelson 1998)

Interpretation: In the inhumation burial cremation related material was deposited in organic containers during the ceremony resulting in square shaped deposits visible at level 3. The deposits were placed outside the coffin, in annex to the proper burial pit. The dead was placed in the coffin. After the funeral three cremation deposits were overlaid on the burial.

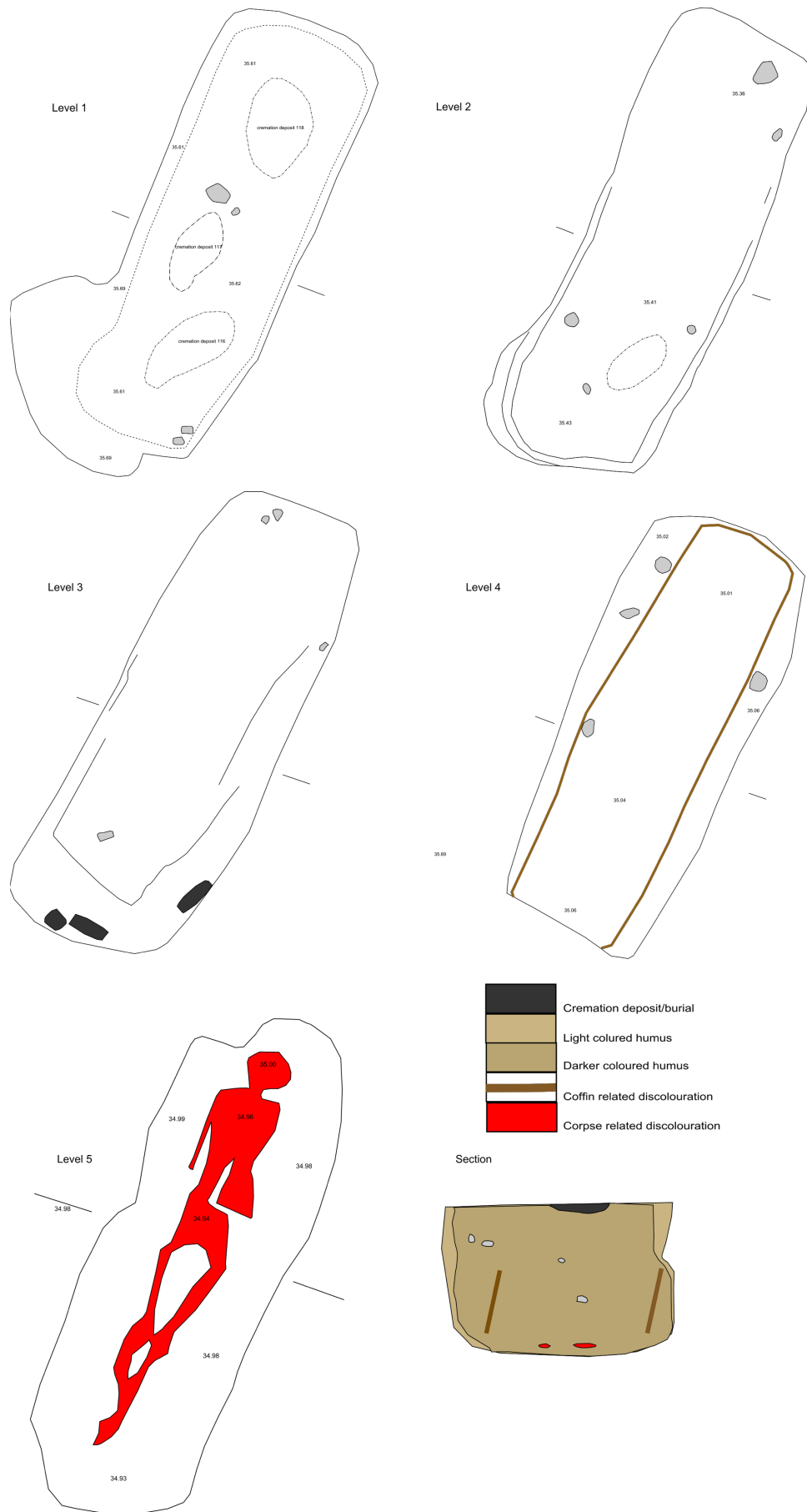


FIG. 5 LJUNGBACKA G6 LEVELS 1-5 WITH SECTION (REDRAWN FROM FIELD DOCUMENTATION STORED AT MALMÖ MUSEUM).

Pit description: Irregular rectangular pit measuring 1,35 x 0,6 m, around 12 cm deep. In southern part destroyed by later pit.

Fill: It consisted of humus

Burial: A skeleton of adult individual, with bent legs aligned on axis NE–SW, with head towards NO east was found. Additionally teeth from a child were discovered. Grave goods consisted from a spindle whorl from soapstone, 2,6 in diameter and 1,6 cm high (Samuelsson 1998)

Interpretation: From the amount of human remains it impossible to judge if the burial was a double burial of an adult and a child or was it a deposition of a part of skeletonised corpse. The discolouration, interpreted as possible trace of a shroud by Samuelsson (1998) might in fact be related to decomposition of the corpses. The fragmentary state of human remains prevents from drawing any conclusion. The later feature might be an accidental damage, since it only partially cuts through the burial.

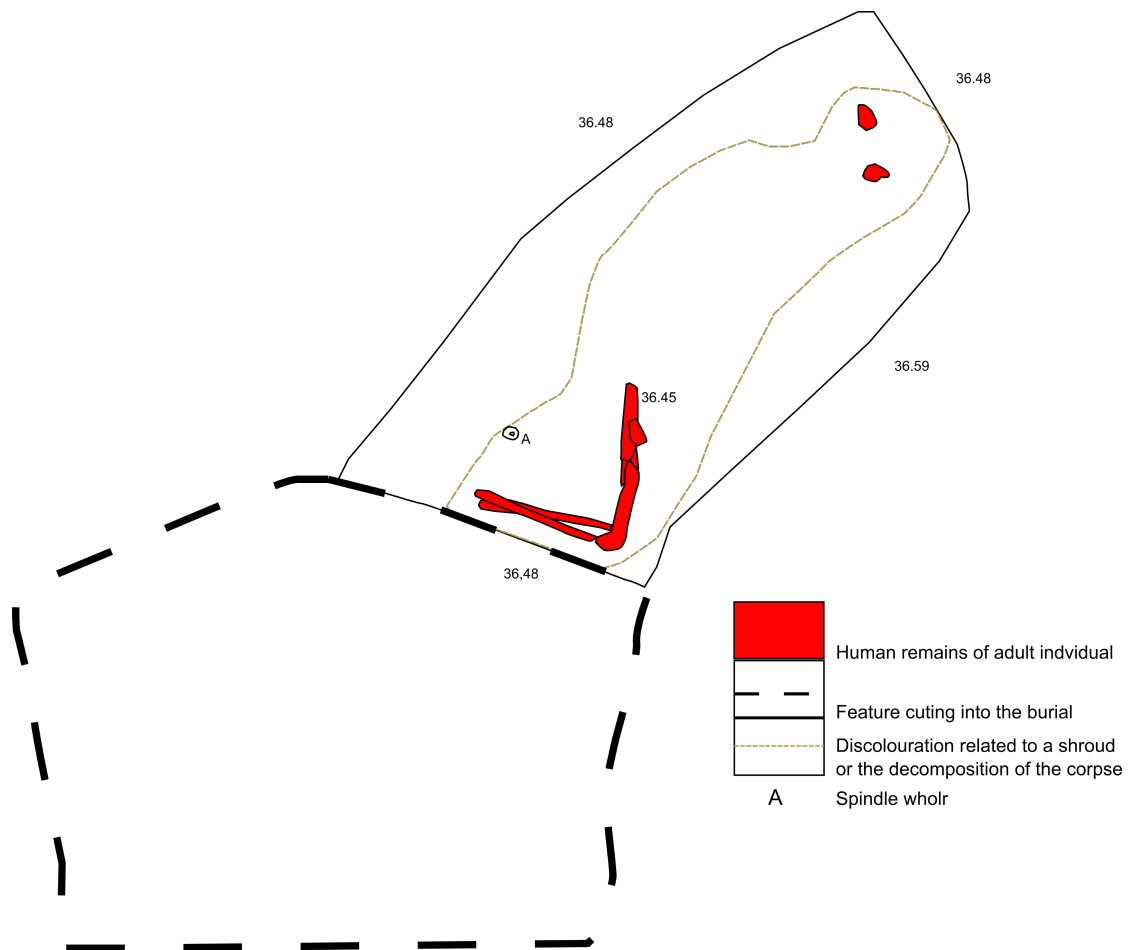


FIG. 6 LJUNGBACKA G7, A POSSIBLE DOUBLE BURIAL DAMAGED BY LATER FEATURE (REDRAWN FROM FIELD DOCUMENTATION STORED AT MALMÖ MUSEUM).

G9

Pit description: Oval pit measuring 1,5 x 0,9 m and 19 cm deep. On its top layer visible possible marks after four large stones

Fill: consisted of humus mixed with charcoal and burned brunches or planks

Burial: no information about human remains. Finds included an iron rivet and a knife (Samuelsson 1998)

Interpretation: Pyre related material was deposited in the grave during the funeral ritual. Burial was later marked by a stone setting, that was removed.



FIG. 7 LJUNGBACKA G9 LEVEL 1 WITH VISIBLE STONE IMPRESSIONS AND LEVEL 2 WITH VISIBLE REMAINS OF THE PYRE MATERIAL (REDRAWN FROM FIELD DOCUMENTATION STORED AT MALMÖ MUSEUM)

G15

Pit description: Oval pit measuring 1,97 x 1,05 m, around 43 deep, damaged by later pit

Fill: It consisted of light humus, with noticeable pit cutting through the whole depth of the grave

Burial: no information about human remains was recorded, an iron knife was found (Samuelsson 1998)

Interpretation: The burial was reopened and refilled. The human remains decomposed completely or were taken out and reburied at different place

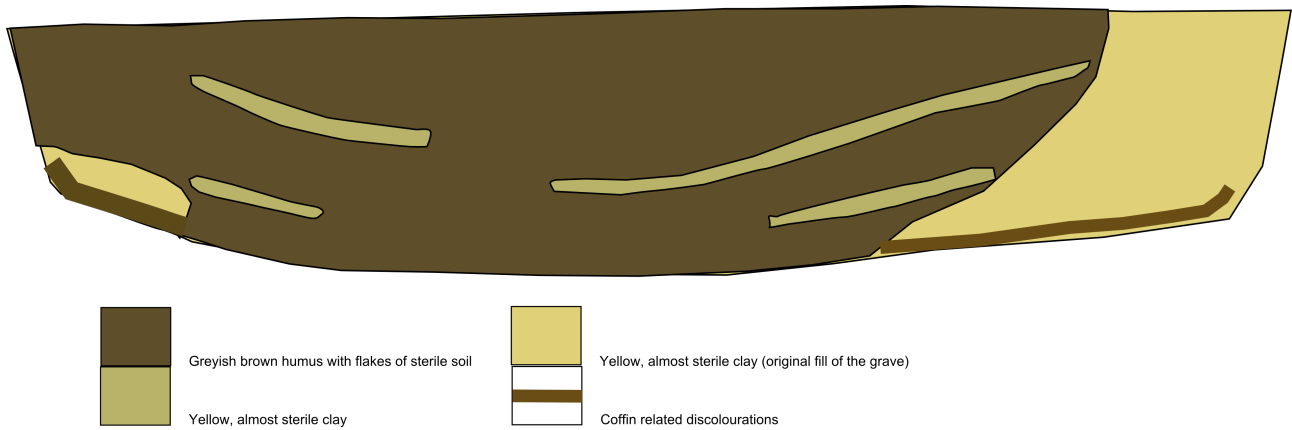


FIG. 8 LJUNGBACKA G15 SECTION WITH VISIBLE SIGNS OF REOPENING OF THE BURIAL (REDRAWN FROM FIELD DOCUMENTATION STORED AT MALMÖ MUSEUM)

G16

Pit description: Irregular oval pit measuring 2,19 x 0,85 m and 26 cm deep

Fill: consisted of light humus with a mix of charcoal and burned bones

Burial: In the lower levels a discolouration form a tree trunk coffin was visible, measuring 1,6 x 0,7 m. No traces of human remains identified. An iron knife (fig.17 A) and an unidentified iron object (fig.17 B) were found.

Interpretation: The cremated remains had to be deposited during the ceremony since they do not form any distinct concentrations, and no signs of post funeral intrusions are visible.

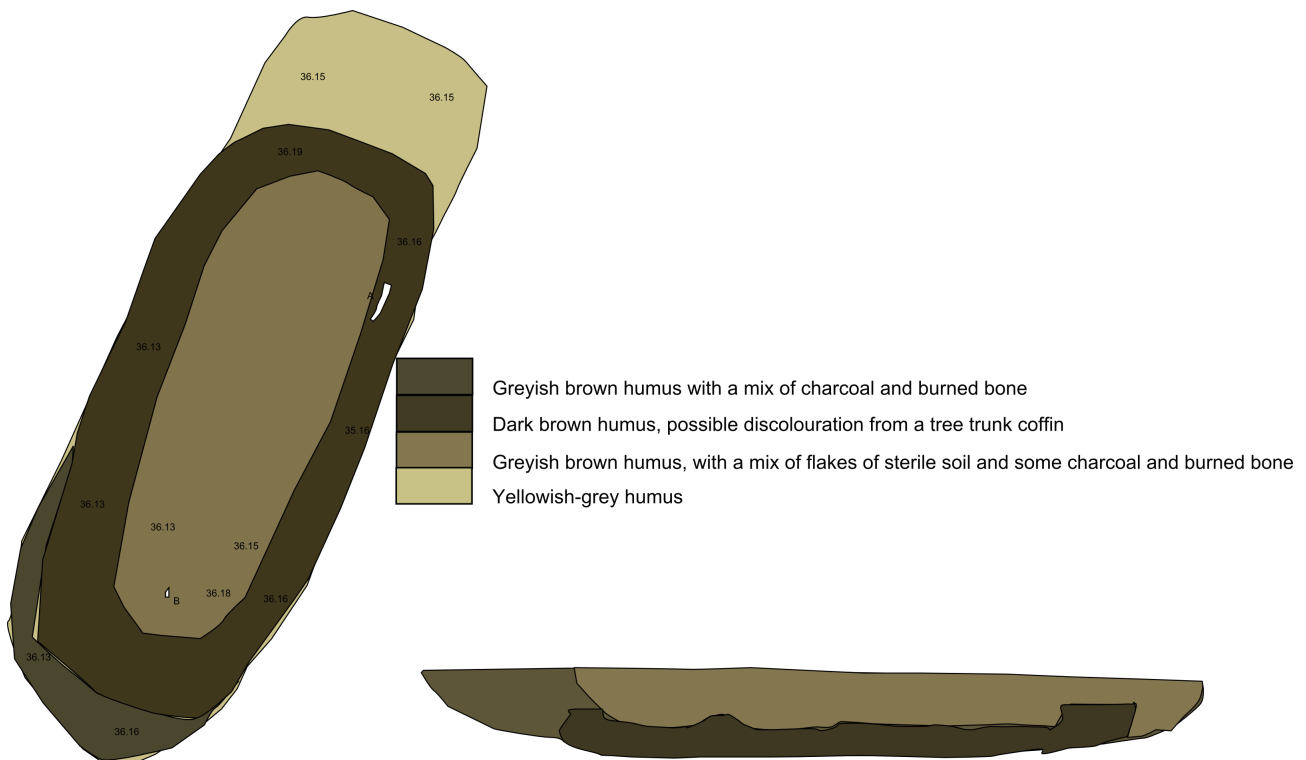


FIG. 9 LJUNGBACKA G16 LEVEL 2 WITH THE VISIBLE COFFIN OUTLINE (REDRAWN FROM FIELD DOCUMENTATION STORED AT MALMÖ MUSEUM).

G17

Pit description: an oval pit measuring 1,65 x 0,69 m and around 20 cm deep

Fill: consisted of humus. In the lower level of the burial four rectangular black discolourations filled with burned bones was observed.

Burial: A discolouration from the coffin was observed, as well as discolouration from a decomposed skeleton, from which only teeth in NNE part of the burial remained. It was aligned on the axis NNE–SSW on side, with the legs slightly bent (Samuelsson 1998)

Interpretation: A person was buried in the coffin. During the burial ceremony the cremation deposits, probably in some form of organic container were placed in the burial. It seems that they were placed in or on the coffin.

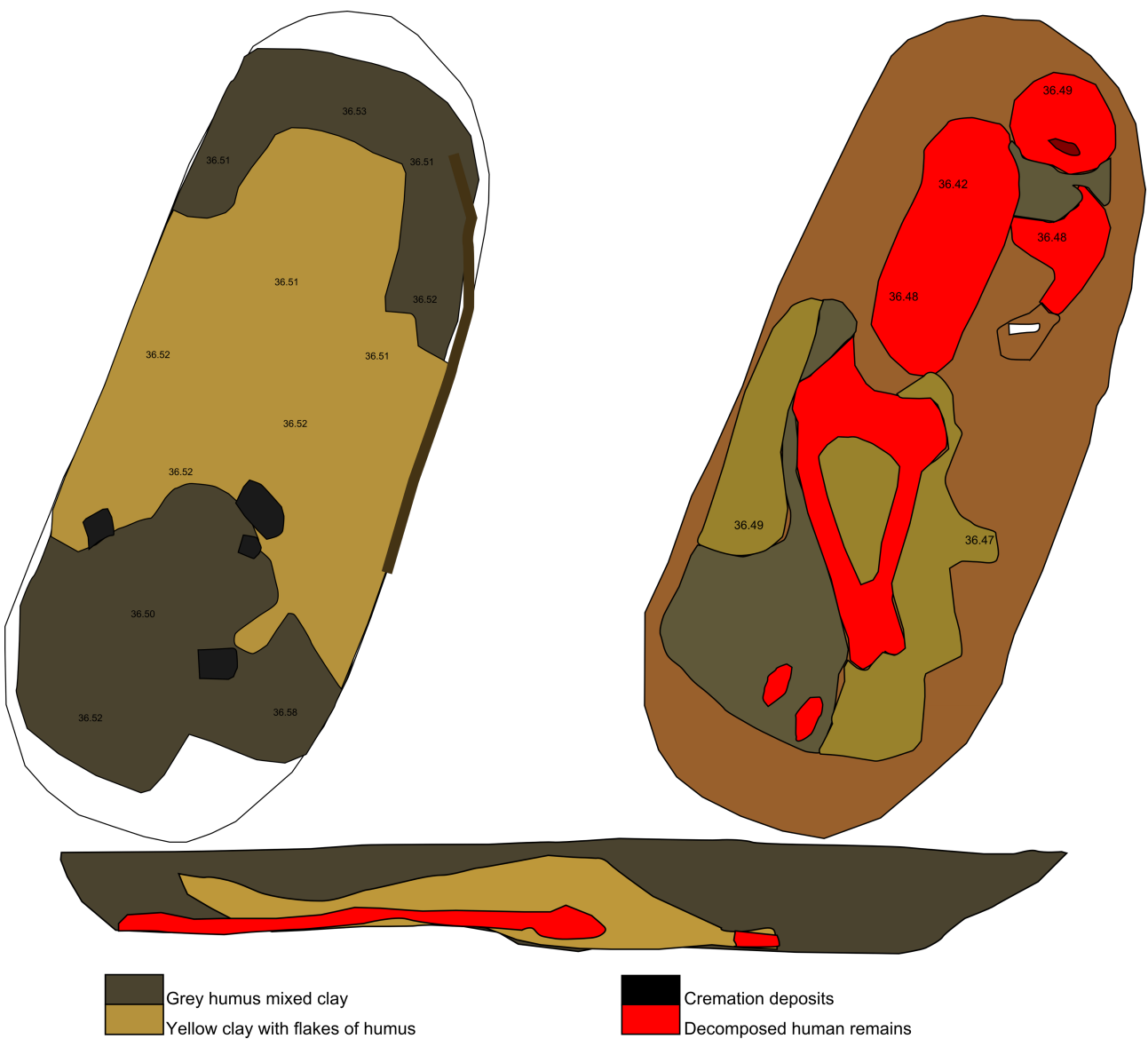


FIG.10 LJUNGBACKA, LEVELS 2 AND 3 OF BURIAL G17. ON LEVEL 2 DISCOLOURATION FROM THE COFFIN AND THE CREMATION DEPOSITS ARE VISIBLE (REDRAWN FROM FIELD DOCUMENTATION STORED AT MALMÖ MUSEUM).

Pit description: A rectangular pit with rounded corners measuring 2,55 x 1,23 m around 90 cm deep. Through it cremation burials 195 A–B cut.

Fill: it consisted of humus mixed with charcoal and small concentration of burned bones (from which 20,8 g identified as human)

Burial: In the lower level of the burial a skeleton of a young male, around 19–20 years old was placed on side in a coiled position, aligned on axis NNE–SSW. Grave Goods consisted of a bead of a rolled bronze plate, a small piece of bronze plate, a Petersen type M axe head, an iron strike a light, an iron knife, an iron rivet, a whetstone with a hole for hanging and unburned bones of a lamb (Samuelsson 1998)

Dating: The axehead dates the burial to the 10th c. (Svanberg 2003b)

Interpretation: The man was buried without the coffin, in a large pit. During the filling in of the burial some cremated bones were deposited. Later two cremation deposits were placed as overlays on the top of the grave.

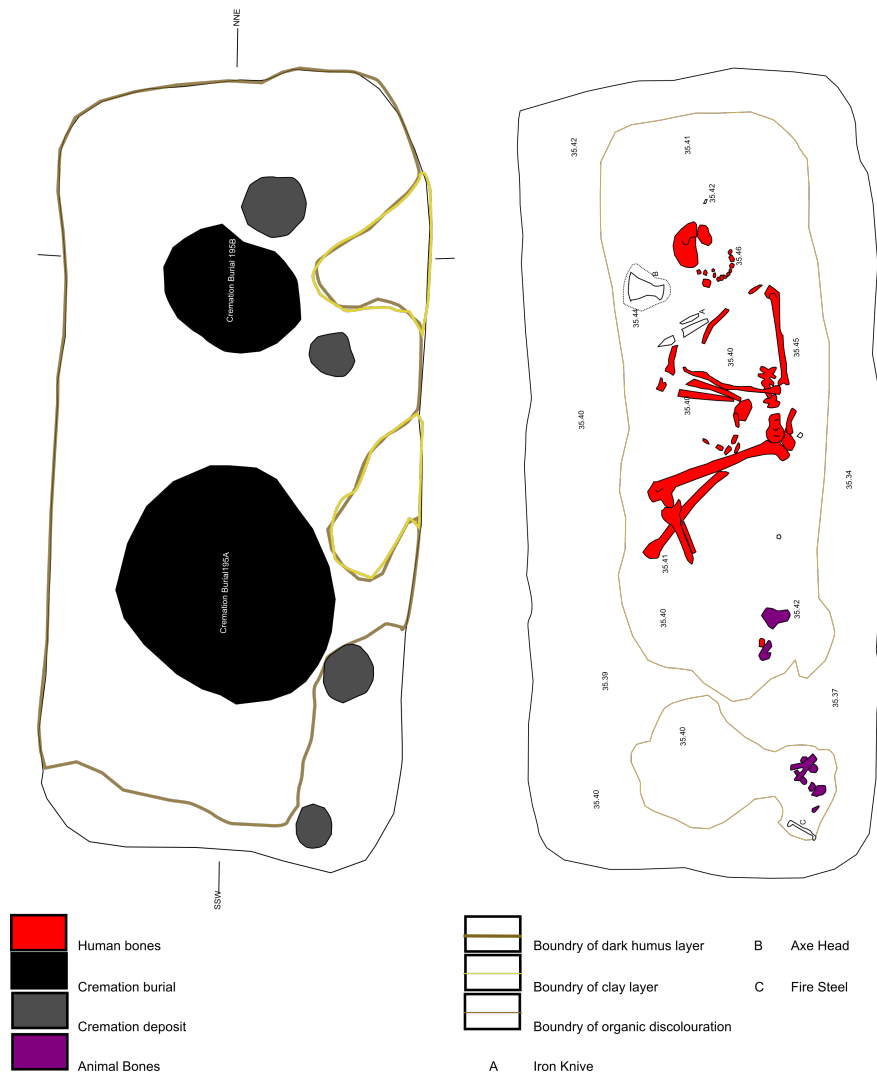


FIG. 11 LJUNGBACKA G18 LEVELS 1 AND 2. ON THE LEVEL 1 THE INTERSECTING CREMATION BURIALS AND CREMATION DEPOSITS PLACED DURING THE FUNERAL ARE VISIBLE (REDRAWN FROM FIELD DOCUMENTATION STORED AT MALMÖ MUSEUM)

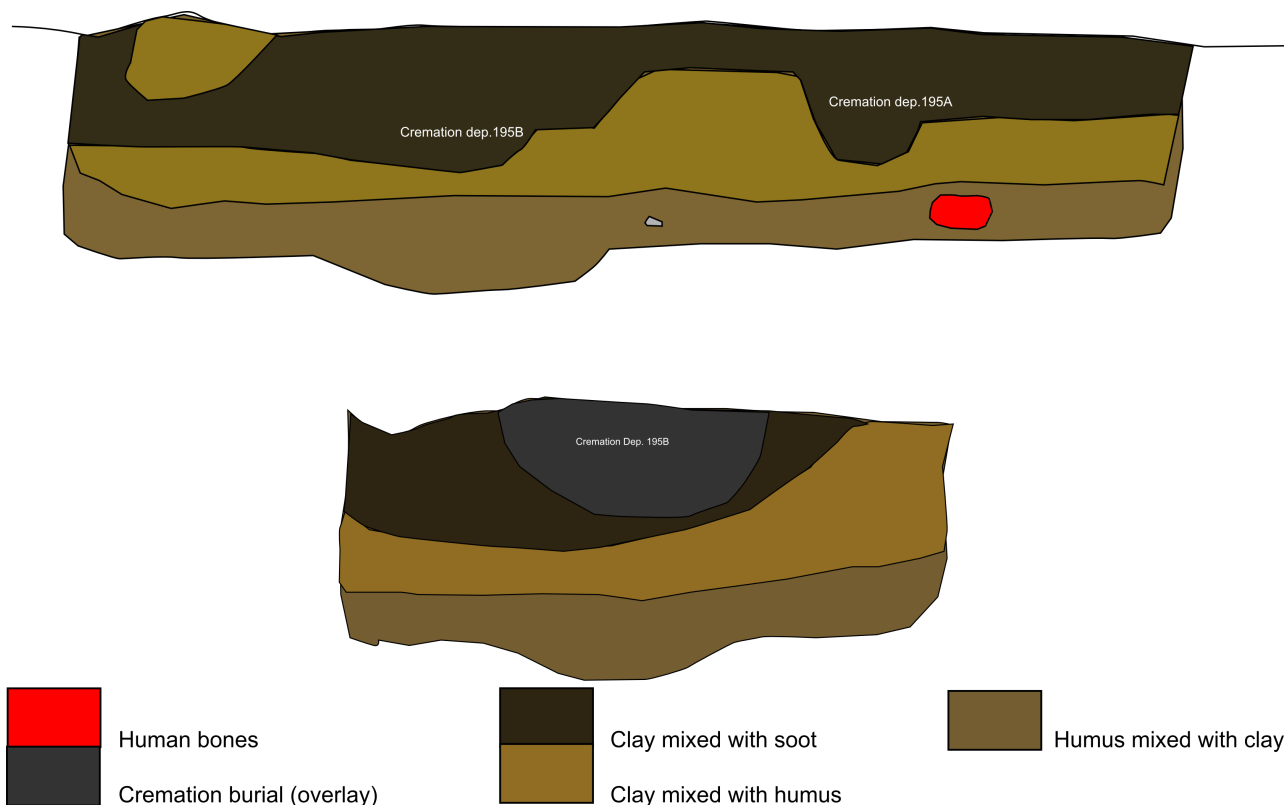


FIG. 12 SECTIONS THROUGH GRAVE G18 (REDRAWN FROM FIELD DOCUMENTATION STORED AT MALMÖ MUSEUM).

G19

Pit description: rectangular pit with rounded corners measuring 1,85 x 0,65 m and around 70 cm deep

Fill: consisted of humus mixed with charcoal and burned bones (including 3,1 g identified as human).

Burial: Only teeth remains form the skeleton, probably place on axis WNW–ESE, in the burial an iron knife and 32 g of pottery were found.

G20

Pit description: A rectangular pit with rounded corners measuring 2,26 x 0,75 m and around 80 cm deep

Fill: consisted of soot mixed humus with mix of charcoal and burnt bones (including 0,8 g identified as human)

Burial: No remains of skeleton found at the bottom of the pit, probably aligned N–S. Grave goods included two iron nails and 20 g of pottery.

G21

Pit description: Exact shape unknown, the grave was damaged during the topsoil removal, the pit measured around 2,26 x 0,75 m and was had 10 cm of original depth preserved

Fill: It consisted from humus, in which stones 5 to 10 cm were encountered, as well as black discolouration measuring 50 x 30 cm, in which burned bones were found.

Burial: The pit was aligned on axis NW–SE, in it two scattered remains of individuals one aged between 18 to 25 and another 25 to 35 were found. In the burial a bronze penannular brooch, an iron knife, a whetstone, an iron nail, an unidentified iron item and a pottery vessel were found (Samuelsson 1998).

Dating: Penannular brooch dates the burial to the 10th c. (Svanberg 2003b).

Interpretation: The shape of the damaged pit suggest that the context is in fact formed by two intersecting burials, damaged during the topsoil removal.

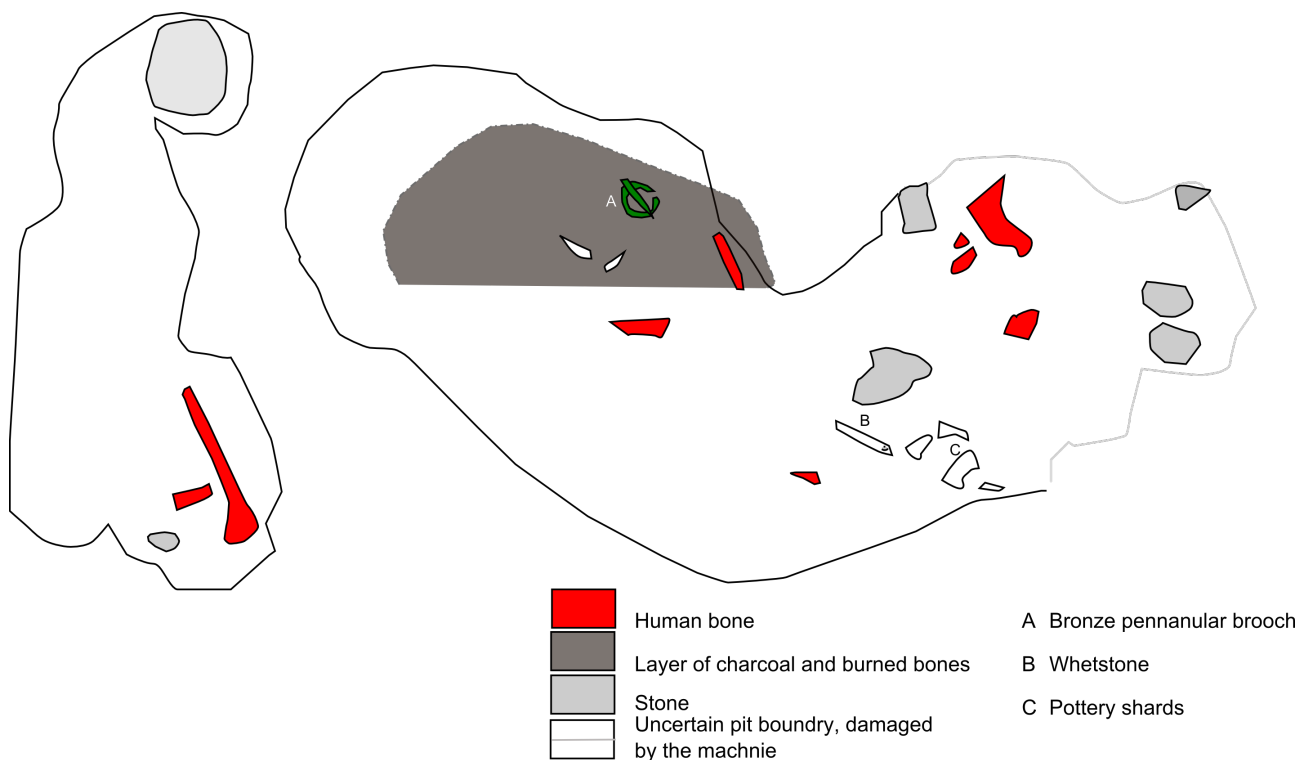


FIG 13. LJUNGBACKA G21, PLAN OF THE PIT (REDRAWN FROM FIELD DOCUMENTATION STORED AT MALMÖ MUSEUM).

G22

Pit description: The pit was damaged by a later feature, the preserved dimensions were 0,85 x 0,8 m and around 20 cm of depth.

Fill: It consisted from humus with a mix of charcoal and burned bones

Burial: Only teeth remained from the skeleton, it allowed for age estimation to determine that the individual was around 20 years old. The pit was aligned on axis NNE–SSW. A clasp knife and a regular iron knife were found.

G23

Pit description: oval pit measuring 1,65 x 1 m, and around 90 cm deep, damaged in the upper parts.

Fill: consisted of humus mixed with charcoal and burned bones (4,3 g identified as human). In upper parts of the fill at least one skeleton of a man, aligned on axis WNW–ESE, with cranium possibly placed between the legs was found.

Burial: On the bottom of the pit another skeleton was found buried in supine position aligned on axis, its sex was estimated as male and age to be around 30–40 years. It was buried with the skull towards WNW. Near its feet a pair of iron spurs with copper inlays were found with buckles to fasten them to shoes. Other finds consisted of two iron knives (one next to the skeleton in the fill of the burial), a whetstone and two unidentified iron artefacts (Samuelson 1998).

Dating: The spurs date the burial for 950 to 1050 (Svanberg 2003b)

Interpretation: Burial is traditionally interpreted as the simultaneous burial of a master with a slave. The upper skeleton is preserved only fragmentary and possibly remains from one more individual were recovered from the context. The position of the spurs in the lower burial might indicate that they were placed on the feet of the individual II, and were not worn by the deceased, however it might be also related to the shape of the burial pit, as the feet were leaning against it wall. The skull fragments recorded in upper layer of the burial might be related to the individual II, however, it is doubtful on a basis of the difference of levels, if they are not related, they would belong the third individual (Nilsson 1994, 22–23).

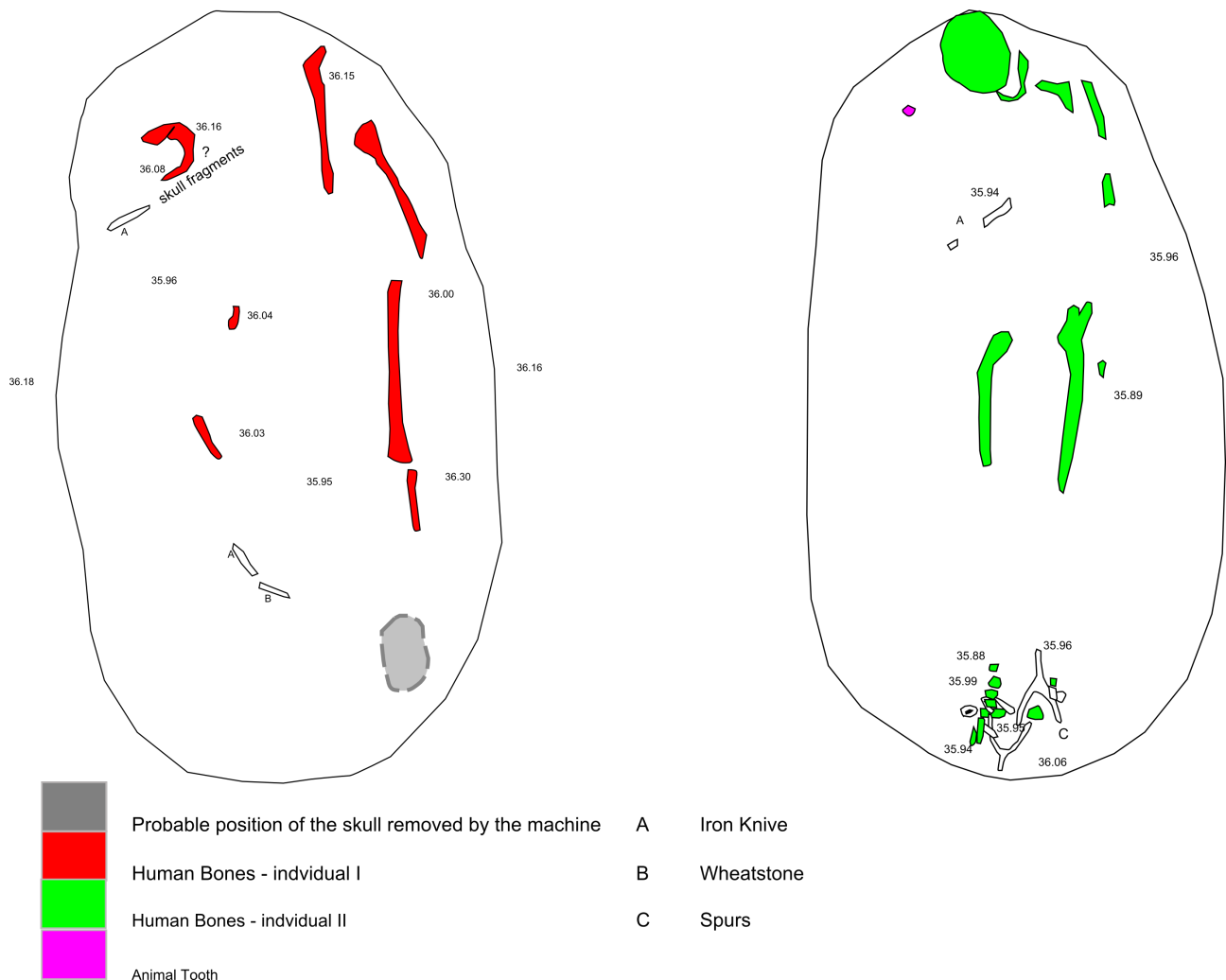


Fig. 14 Ljungbacka G23 level 1 and level 2. (redrawn from field documentation stored at Malmö Museum)

G24

Pit description: feature was damaged in the souther part by later pit and also damaged during the topsoil removal. It was in a shape of a rectangle with rounded corners, measuring 1,65 x 1,05 m and 80 cm deep.

Fill: It consisted of humus, In the upper layers of it parts of at least one skeleton and two concentrations of charcoal and burned bones found (6,4 g identified as human).

Burial: in the bottom of the pit a skeleton of a middle aged man was buried in supine position. Grave goods consisted of unidentified iron artefact (Samuelsson 1998).

Interpretation: Despite disturbances it is possible to establish that at least one individual on level 1 was buried in a coiled position. Skeleton was probably later disturbed by the two cremation deposits. This would mean that the deposition of cremated remains took place after the funeral. Due to disturbances it is impossible to conclude if the burials of upper and lower individuals was simultaneous. The lower individual was probably buried without coffin.

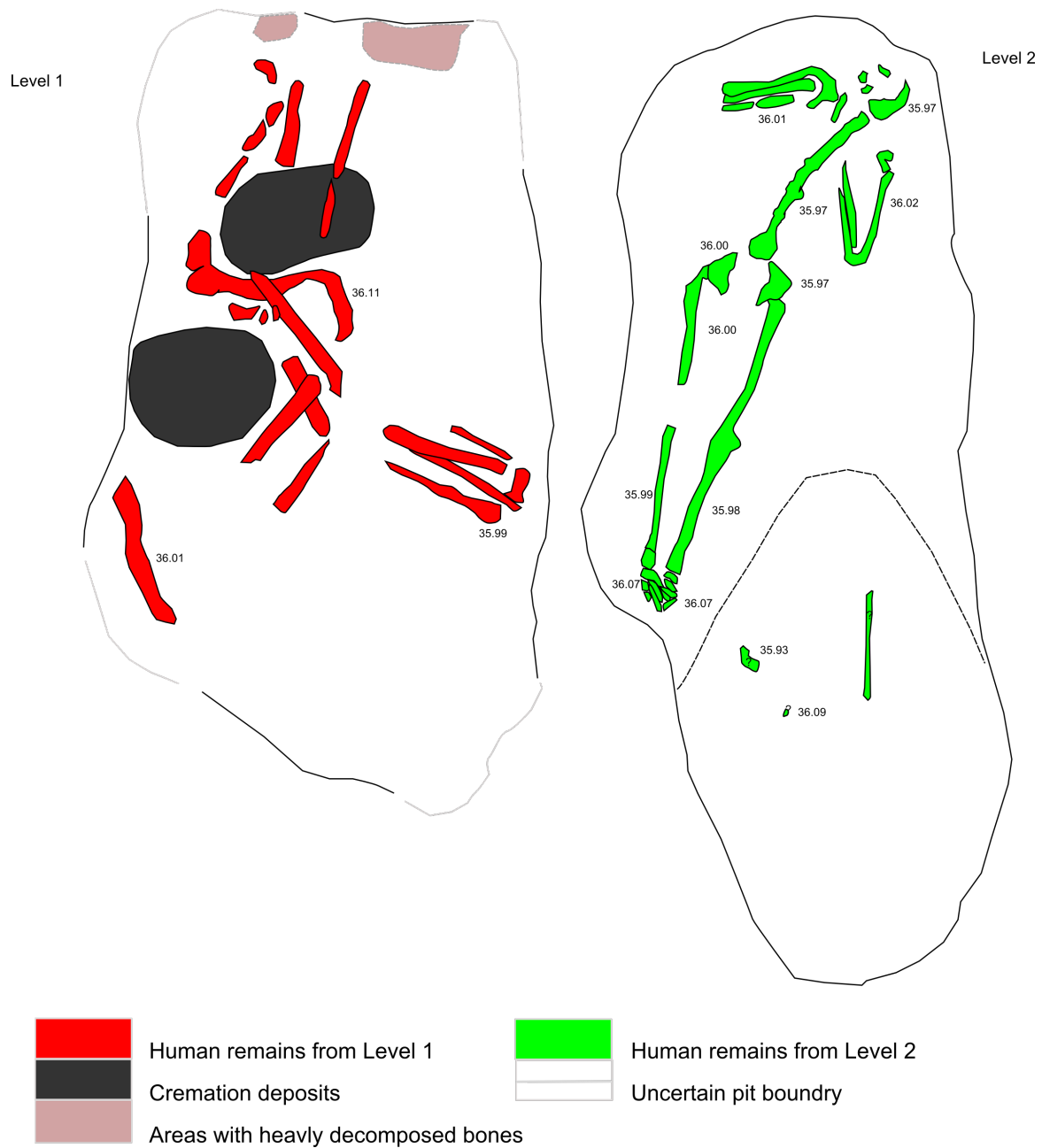


FIG. 15 LJUNGBACKA G24 LEVELS 1 AND 2. ON LEVEL 1 TWO CREMATION DEPOSITS ARE VISIBLE (REDRAWN FROM FIELD DOCUMENTATION STORED AT MALMÖ MUSEUM).

Pit description: irregular pit, measuring 2,05 x 1,8 m and 80 cm deep placed over G26 B

Fill: It consisted of humus

Burial: In the southern part of the pit a skeleton of a man around 50 to 60 years old was found lying on his back with its legs and hands bent. It was buried with cranium towards S. In the western part of the pit scattered parts of skeleton of another younger man were found. Artefacts found in the pit included two iron keys, an iron knife, two unidentified iron objects and a whetstone (Samuelson 1998).

Dating: The occurrence of keys date the burial to the Viking Age (Svanberg 2003b)

Interpretation: The burial was originally interpreted as simultaneous, and possibly also simultaneous with 26 B. The connection to 26B is doubtful. The preservation level of skeletons from 26A differs dramatically, and what is unusual, the skeleton of the older man is in better condition. It can point towards the explanation that the feature is a result of two burials that were interesting, as the deeper position of the skeleton of individual 1 does not provide explanation for its incredibly well preserved articulation or the state of bones.

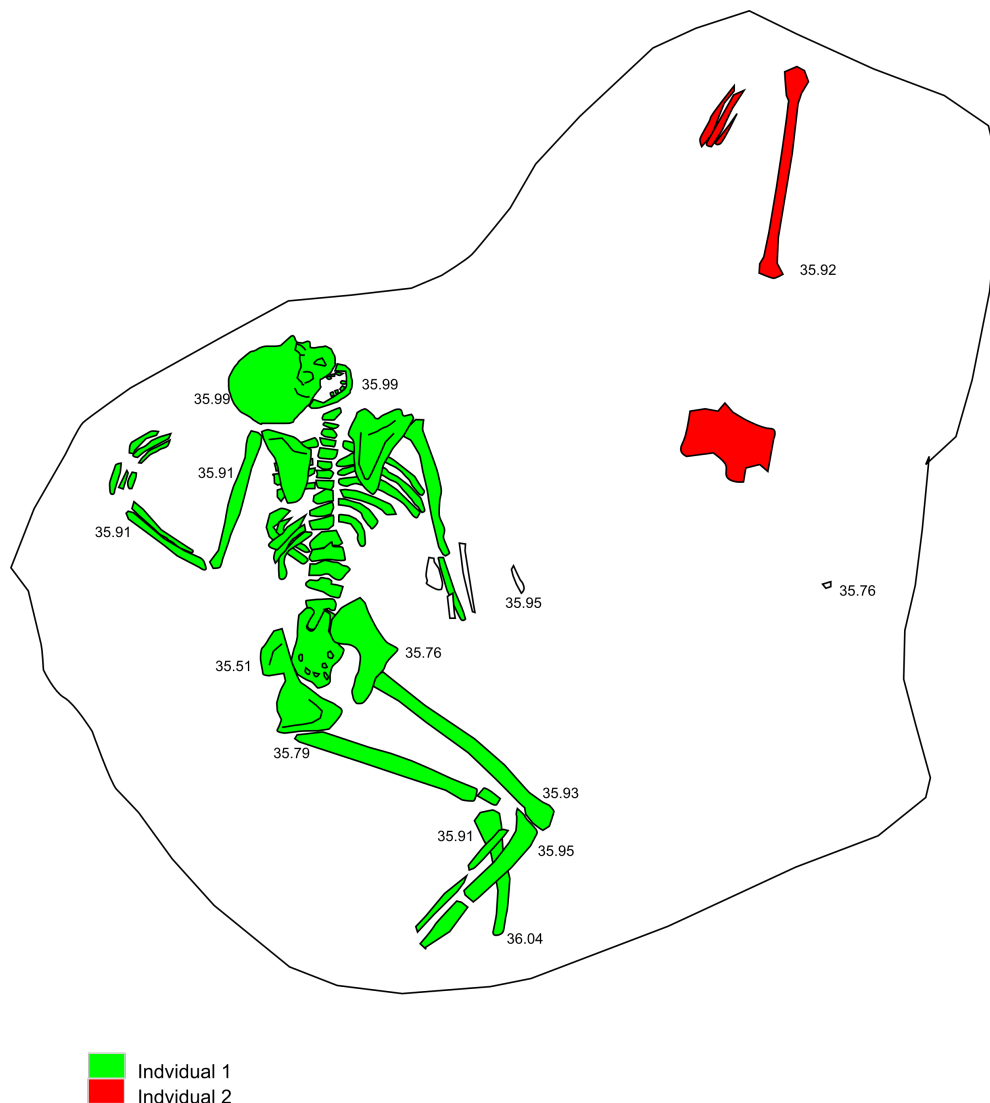


FIG. 16 LJUNGBACKA G26 A (REDRAWN FROM FIELD DOCUMENTATION STORED AT MALMÖ MUSEUM)

G26 B

Pit description: a rectangular pit 2,05 x 1 m and around 1 m deep, located under G26 A.

Fill: consisted of humus

Burial: in the lower levels of burial visible traces of coffin, around 1,65 x 0,65 m large, in it a woman around 45–55 years old was placed in supine position, aligned on axis E–W with head to W. Finds included an unidentified iron artefacts, an iron knife, a hair pin, a white glass bead, a whetstone, a soapstone spindle whorl with diameter 3,4 cm and height 1,2 cm and a bone needle (Samuelson 1998).

Interpretation: Due to the visible damage to the skeleton: the lack of right tibia and fibula and the spread of the phalanges of left hand it is possible to exclude that the burial was simultaneous with G26A. The Individual 1 from that burial would be placed directly over the lower legs of the woman buried in G26b, probably, when the pit was buried for this person, the bones were removed. There are however no section drawings to support this hypothesis. The left hand of the individual was probably moved, as phalanges derived from it are spread near the pelvic region of the burial and near the skull. The rest of articulation of the upper left limb is preserved, what can point towards conclusion that disturbance took place couple of weeks after the funeral, when persistent ligaments were still holding the bones in anatomical order. This disturbance might be related to the burial of the individual 2 from G26A. Possibly three successive funerals had taken place at the spot.

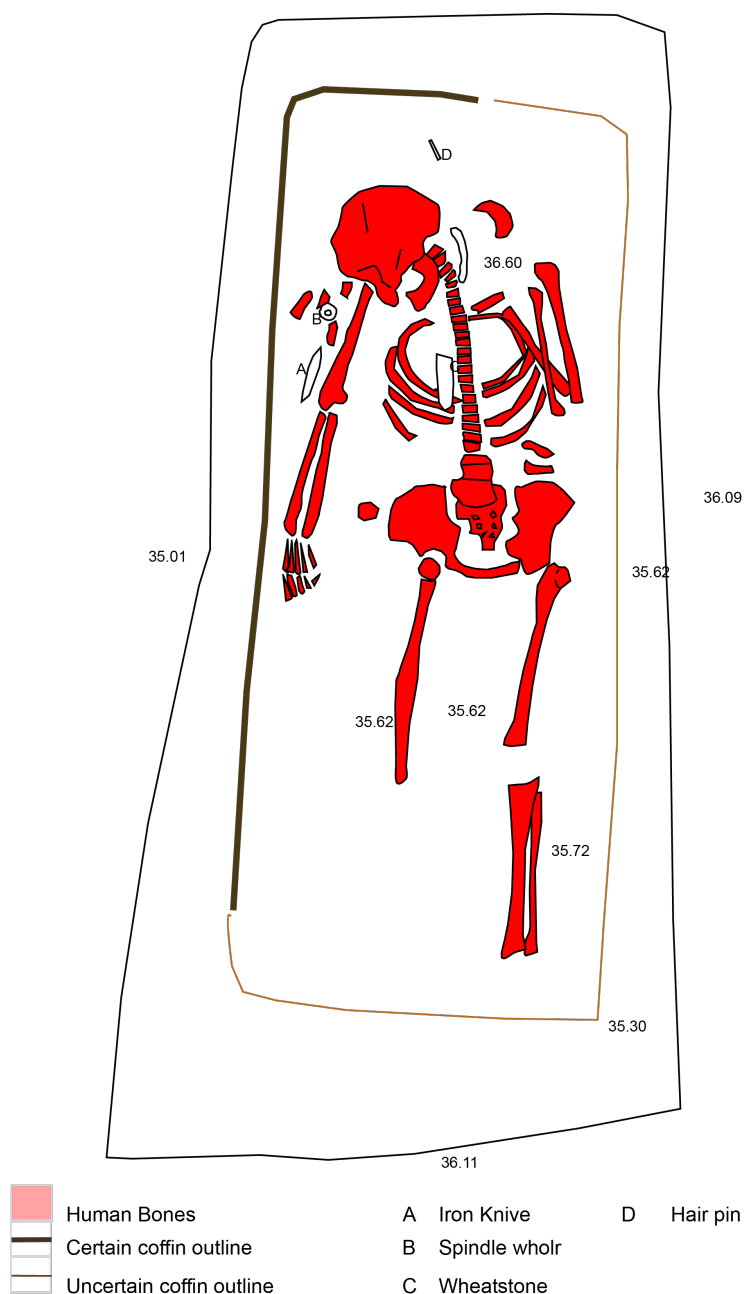


FIG. 17 LJUNGBACKA G26B (REDRAWN FROM FIELD DOCUMENTATION STORED AT MALMÖ MUSEUM)

Pit description: a rectangular pit 2 x 0,9 m and 90 cm deep

Fill: it consisted of humus mixed with charcoal, in the upper layers of it nine stones, measuring from 10 to 20 cm were found.

Burial: In the bottom of the grave discolouration from the coffin was visible, measuring 1,93 x 0,53 m. In the coffin a skeleton of a woman, around 70 years old was found, buried supine with hands crossed over hips and skull towards WNW. The burial was aligned WNW–ESE. Finds included an iron knife and three iron nails.

Interpretation: The nails found in the burial seems to indicate the presence of the coffin. The fact that patellas had not fallen from their positions of inequilibrium proves that decomposition took place in the filled space. Two scenarios are possible – the use of low quality coffin that allowed penetration by the sediment or the nails derive from some other objects. The verticalization of clavicles points towards presence of some sort of constraint in burial – it can indicate that a shroud was used, or that the pit was narrow.

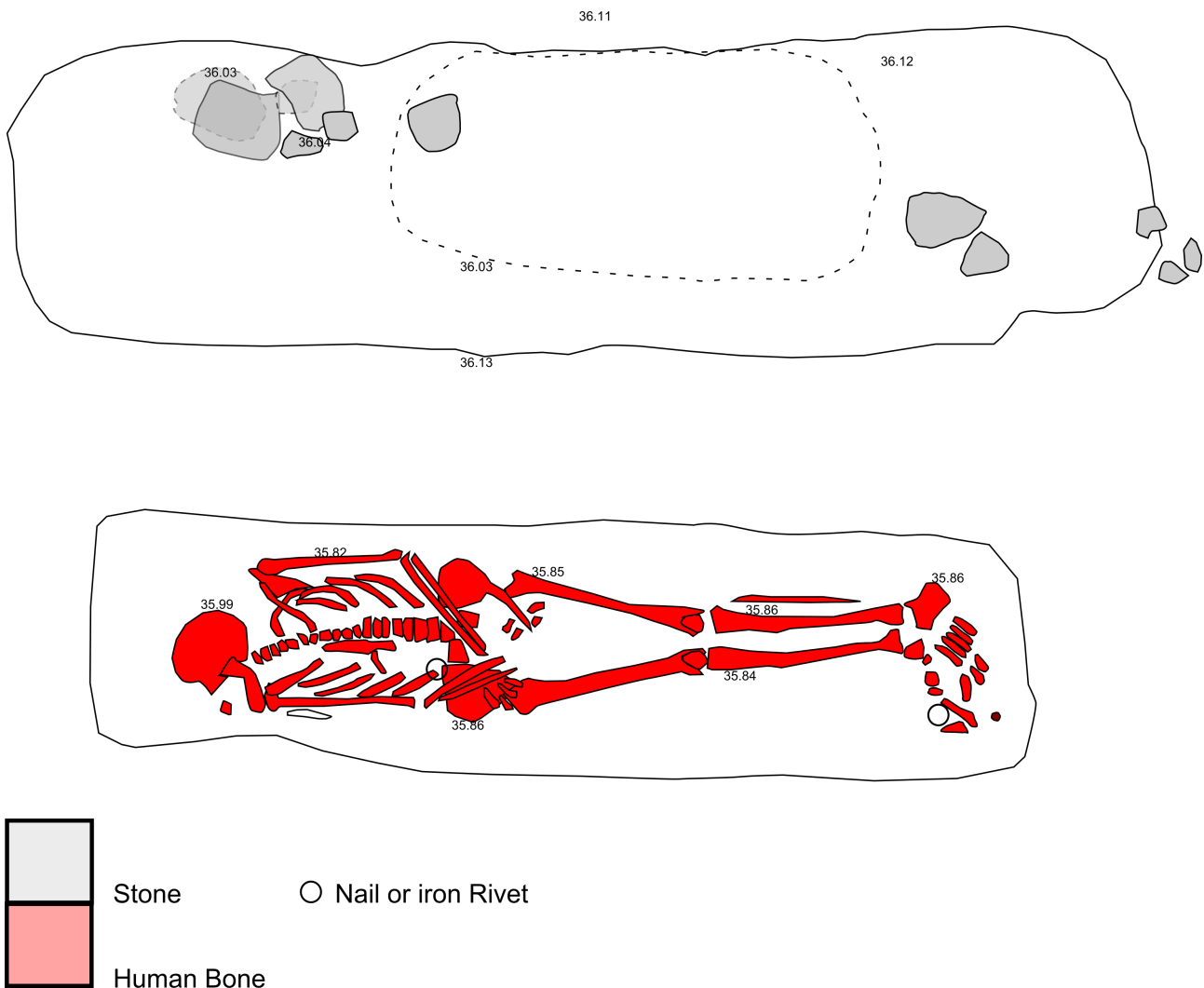


FIG. 19 LJUNGBACKA G29 LEVEL 1 AND LEVEL 2 (REDRAWN FROM FIELD DOCUMENTATION STORED AT MALMÖ MUSEUM).

Pit description: a rectangular feature with rounded corners 1,8 x 1,2 m and 1 m deep. The pit has been cut by a later feature.

Fill: It consisted from humus mixed with soot and single stones. Burned bones were found in the fill (including 15, 4 g identified as human)

Burial: At the bottom of the grave a skeleton of a woman around 25–30 years old has been found, buried aligned on axis W–E, with head towards west. Finds included two iron objects and a bead made of yellow glass.

Interpretation: The intersecting feature seems to be unrelated to the burial.

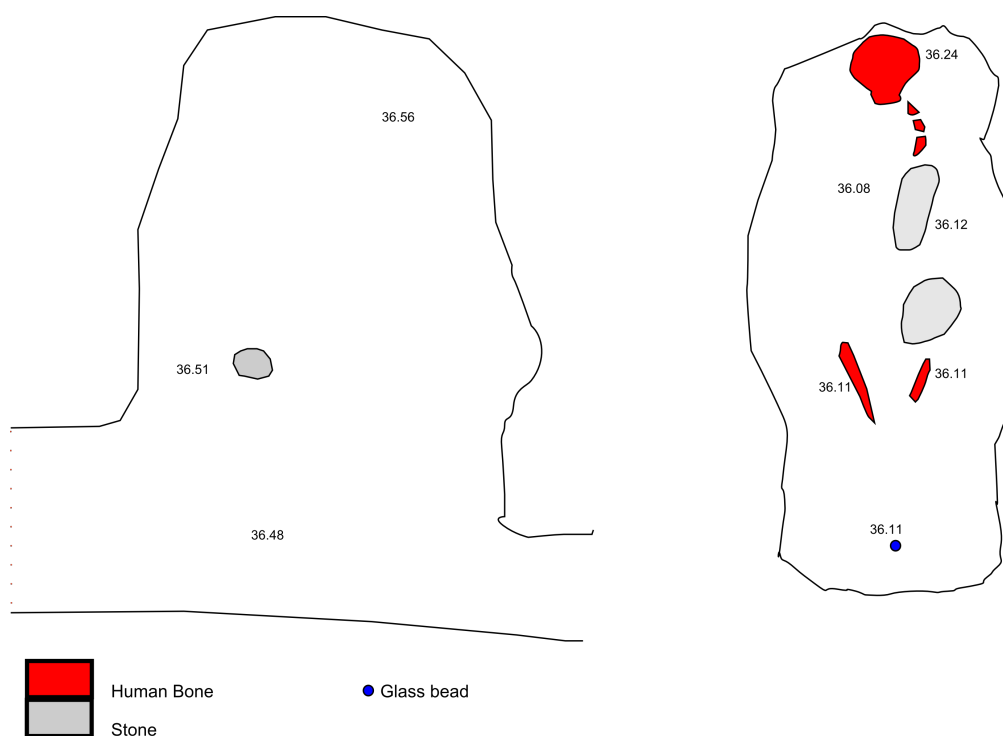


FIG. 20 LJUNGBACKA G30 LEVEL 1 AND LEVEL 2. ON LEVEL 1 THE DAMAGED DONE BY THE DITCH IS VISIBLE (REDRAWN FROM FIELD DOCUMENTATION STORED AT MALMÖ MUSEUM).

Önsvala

Site Location:

The cemetery was located on a western part of ridge with a highest point of around 24 m. over the sea level, on the outskirts of Staffanstorp, between Önsvala and Torreberga. A road runs to the east of it, nearby, to the east of the ridge a stream is located (Larsson 1981a, 129; Petersson 1970, 45).

Research history and method

The site was excavated between 1968–1970, due to gravel extraction that was going on in the area (Larsson 1981a, 129; Petersson 1970, 45). The research during to first years was conducted by Lund University, from 1970 by UV Syd. Area of around 300x200 m was excavated. A traces of pit houses from the Bronze Age, Roman Iron Age and Viking Age were found, and a late iron age burial ground was discovered. Spatial and chronological relation between two site functions remains unclear, as the excavations were conducted in a rescue manner. Time constraints did not allow to excavate the settlement part completely and the damage caused to the site by the gravel extraction made delimitation of the cemetery area from west, north and south impossible (Larsson 1981a, 130). 26 inhumation graves were documented.

Grave 5

Pit description: it was oval measuring 2,5 x 1,7 m around 50 cm deep

Fill: it was composed of dark brown sand. A layer of soot discovered above the skeleton, with small amount burned bone, put possibly not human

Burial: traces of coffin, measuring around 1,6 x 0,7 m discovered in the northern part of the burial oriented on the axis WNW–ESE. Skeleton of the deceased completely decomposed. In the western part of the grave a bead made out of blue glass was found, as well as a large piece of charcoal. In middle part of the grave an iron knife was found (Larsson 1981a).

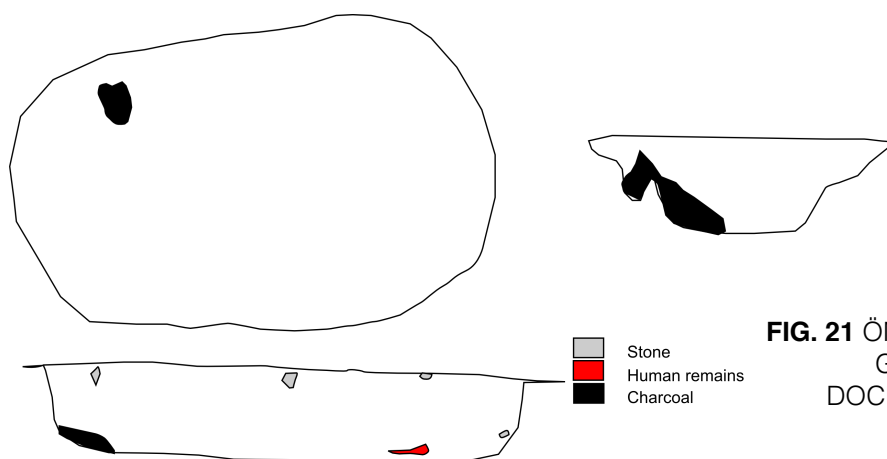


FIG. 21 ÖNSVALA, SECTION AND PLAN OF GRAVE 5 (REDRAWN FROM FIELD DOCUMENTATION STORED AT LUHM)

Grave 9

Pit description: Oval, measuring 2,6 x 1,2 m, around 50 cm deep (Svanberg 2003b, 289).

Fill: in the fill a layer of burned human bones and soot, including cranium parts found around 0,5 cm over the skeleton in the bottom (Larsson 1981a, 181)

Burial: Skeleton in supine position, oriented on the axis E–W with head to the W was found. A fragmentary preserved knife and a pottery shard were found (Svanberg 2003b, 289).

Grave 11

Pit description: It was a rectangular pit

Fill: consisted of grey and greyish brown sand.

Burial: the dead was placed in a coiled position on side in a coffin with right angle corners. The skull of the skeleton was removed when later burial 12 was dug. Next to the upper arm of the buried person a bronze brooch was found. Two more ringed pines were discovered in the burial Next to the elbow a spindle whorl was discovered. Next to the clavicle area and neck area remains of necklace of 18 beads were found. Next to the left arm an iron knife was discovered. The grave is dated to the Vendel Period on basis of the brooch (Larsson 1981a)

Grave 12

Pit description: it was oval measuring 1,6 x 1,4 m, bottom measuring 1,1 x 0,8 m, 90 cm deep. Cuts in to grave 13 with its southern part and into grave 11 with northern.

Fill: 18 stones around 20–70 cm large were placed on the buried individual

Burial: the dead was placed on the side on the axis NE–SW with head to the NE with legs bent towards the chest and arms bent in the direction of the legs. Skull and arms placed a bit higher level than the rest of the burial indicating that the pit was too small for the individual. Unidentifiable iron fragments were found near the tight of the deceased and oxidised traces of organic matter near the pelvic region (Larsson 1981a).

Dating: Late Viking Age because of the stratigraphic position above grave 13 (Svanberg 2003b)

Grave 13

Pit description: damaged by the excavators during the topsoil removal and by later feature cut into it. Remaining parts of the pit measured 1 x 0,8 m and were 20 cm deep. With the grave structure probably some external demarcation associated, as near the pit four that might be connected to a stone setting were located.

Fill: In the upper part of the fill small amount of bones found, that might be connected to the burial 12.

Burial: In the northern part of the grave a skull was found, no other remains encountered. Under the mandible remains of a string on which a little round bronze bell was hanged, next to it four beads of white glass, two of blue glass and one made out of amber were found (Larsson 1981a).

Dating: The occurrence of the beads dates the burial to the Viking Age (Svanberg 2003b)

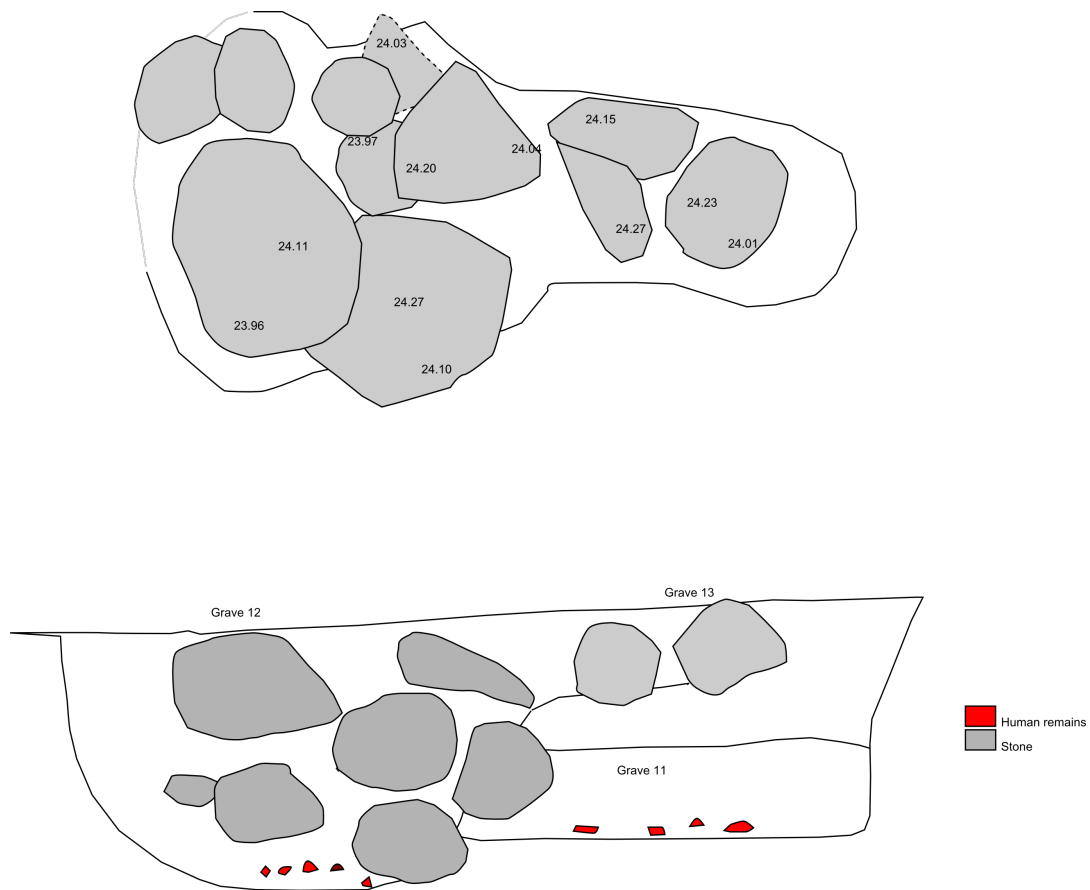


FIG. 22 ÖNSVALA, SECTION THROUGH GRAVES 11,12 AND 13 (REDRAWN FROM FIELD DOCUMENTATION STORED AT LUHM)

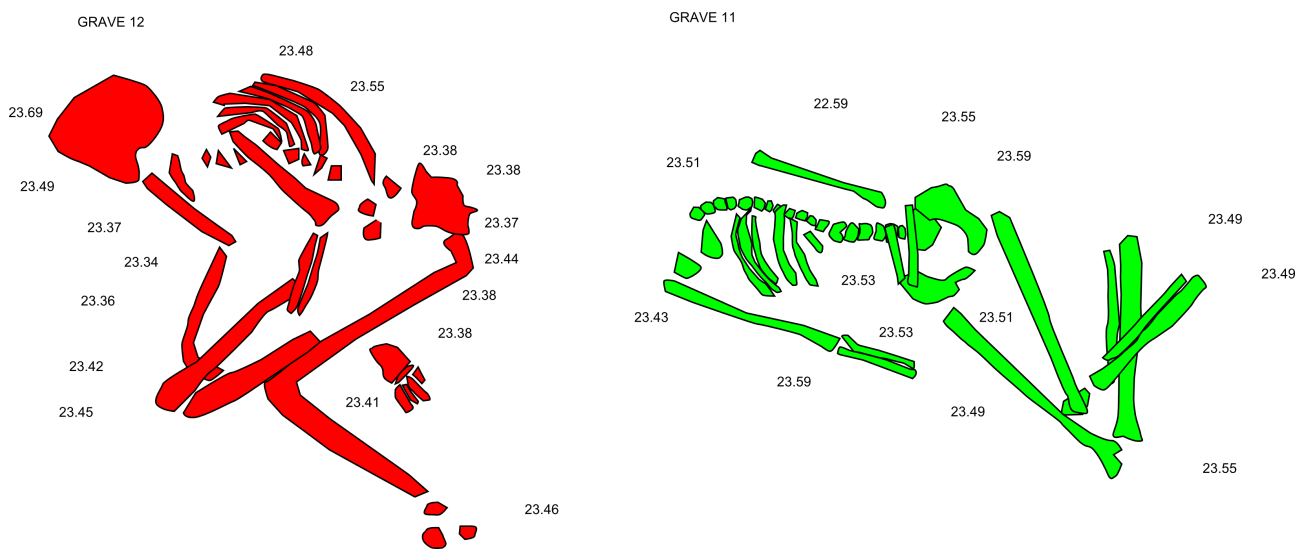


FIG. 23 ÖNSVALA, POSITION OF SKELETONS IN GRAVES 11 AND 12 (REDRAWN FROM FIELD DOCUMENTATION STORED AT LUHM)

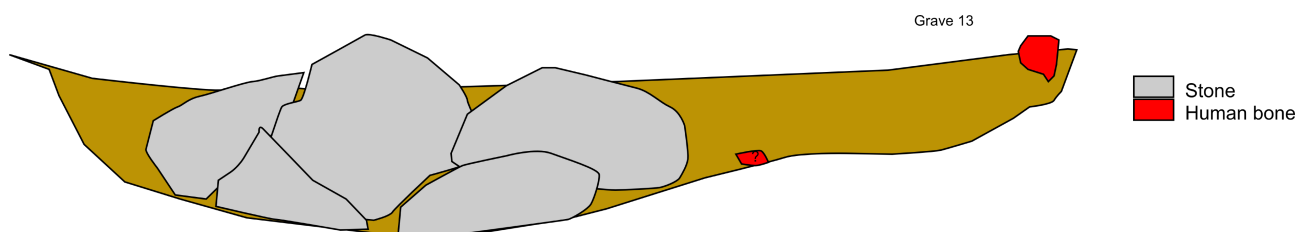


FIG. 24 ÖNSVALA, SECTION THROUGH GRAVE 13 (REDRAWN FROM FIELD DOCUMENTATION STORED AT LUHM)

Grave 16

Pit description: measuring 2,2 x 1 m, around 40 cm deep.

Fill: composed mainly grey humus mixed sand. Above the grave bottom five stones measuring from 20 to 50 cm were found in the central part of the grave (Larsson 1981, 140). Possibly human burned bones were found in the burial (Persson & Persson 1981)

Burial: was oriented on the axis NE–SW. Traces of decomposed wood were encountered, probably from a coffin measuring 1,7 x 0,8 m. Skeleton was mostly decomposed, placed with the head towards the north east. Two fragments of iron object and a rim piece of pottery vessel were found in the grave.

Dating: C14 dating of the skeleton indicted that it was buried during the Viking Age (Svanberg 2003b)

Grave 20 and 21

Pit description: it was damaged by probably successive burials and probable reopening 3,6 x 2,8 m The pit had uneven bottom: northern part of the feature was around 30 cm deep, the southern it was around 1 m in the deepest part.

Fill: Five very large stones were placed over the southern part of the feature.

Burials: In the northern part (grave 20) a skull with remains of decomposed skeleton was found. in the souther part a discolouring measuring 1,8 x1,2 m probably from the coffin, in it scattered remains of skeleton found. Both graves was probably aligned along NNE–SSW axis (Larsson 1981a)

Interpretation: Excavators interpretation is that a new grave was cutting in to the older south western part, destroying it. Later a pit has been dug northern part of the younger grave.

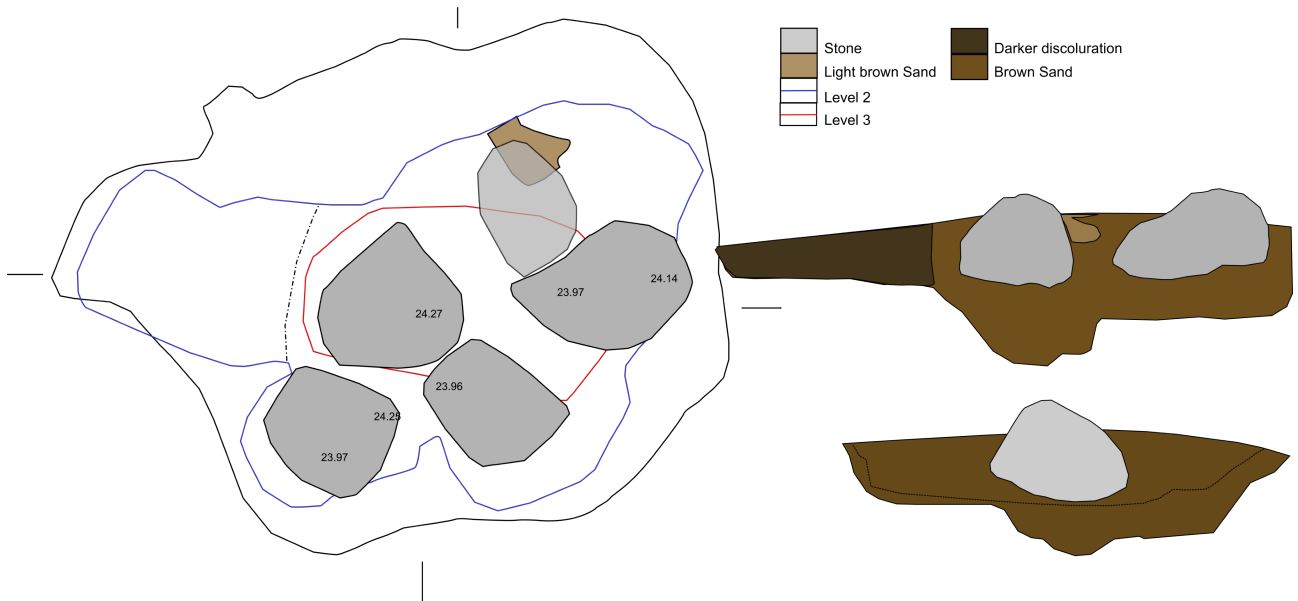


FIG. 25 ÖNSVALA, PLAN AND SECTION THROUGH BURIALS 20 AND 21 (REDRAWN FROM FIELD 24 DOCUMENTATION STORED AT LUHM)

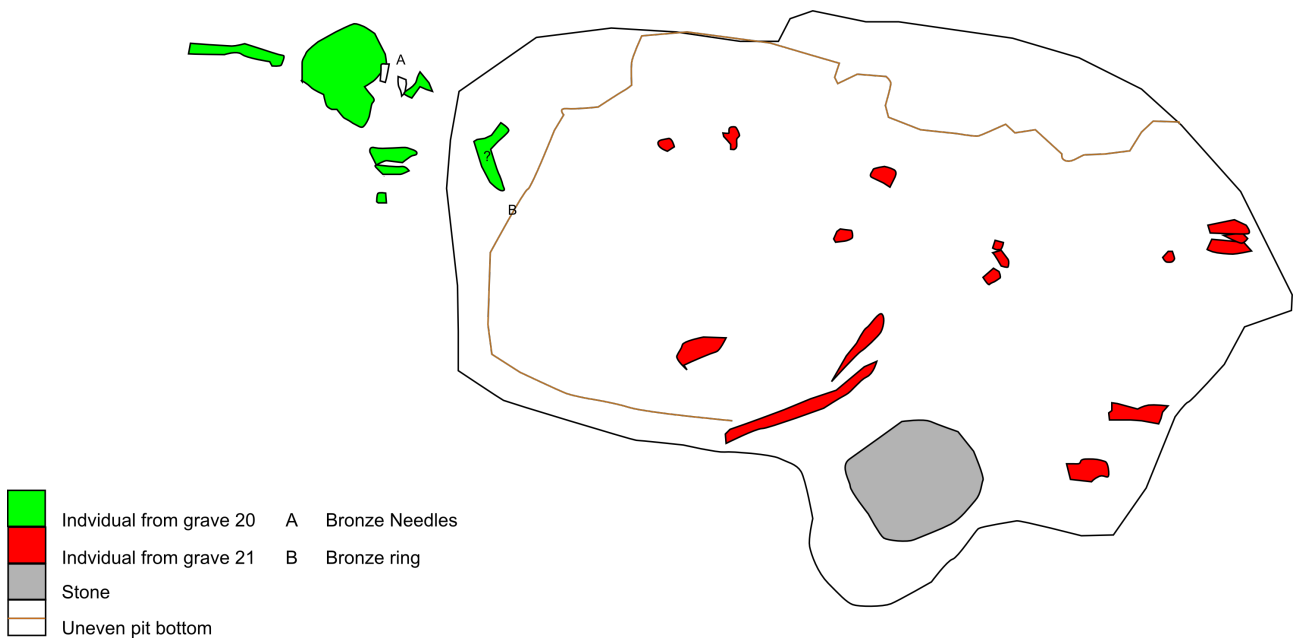


FIG. 26 ÖNSVALA, PLAN OVER THE LEVEL 3 OF BURIALS 20 AND 21 (REDRAWN FROM FIELD DOCUMENTATION STORED AT LUHM)

Grave 22

Pit description: It measured 1,5 x 0,8 m and was around 40 cm deep. Through it north part later burial cut.

Fill: consisted of brown humus mixed with sand

Burial: The corpse was placed on axis N-S, in the crouched position, next to one of its arm an iron knife was placed. Due to the cutting by the later burial the cranium was removed from the burial, but the mandible remained. The grave is dated to the Vendel Period (around year 550) through c14 dating (Larsson 1981a).

Grave 23

Pit description: It was oval and measured 1,3 x 0,5 m. It was around 40 cm deep, cutting through the northern part of burial 22.

Fill: consisted of brown humus blended sand.

Burial: Corpse were placed in crouched position with head in the north west on the axis NWN – ESE. The feet were a bit lifted above the bottom of the grave as well as the chest on which the head have been rested, the arms have been folded in front of the corpse. Excavators interpret this as the attempt to accommodate the corpse in the narrow, short pit. In the grave two beads, one from glass and other from not identified yet material were found in the neck region of the skeleton. Two objects, possible needle cases were also located in the burial.

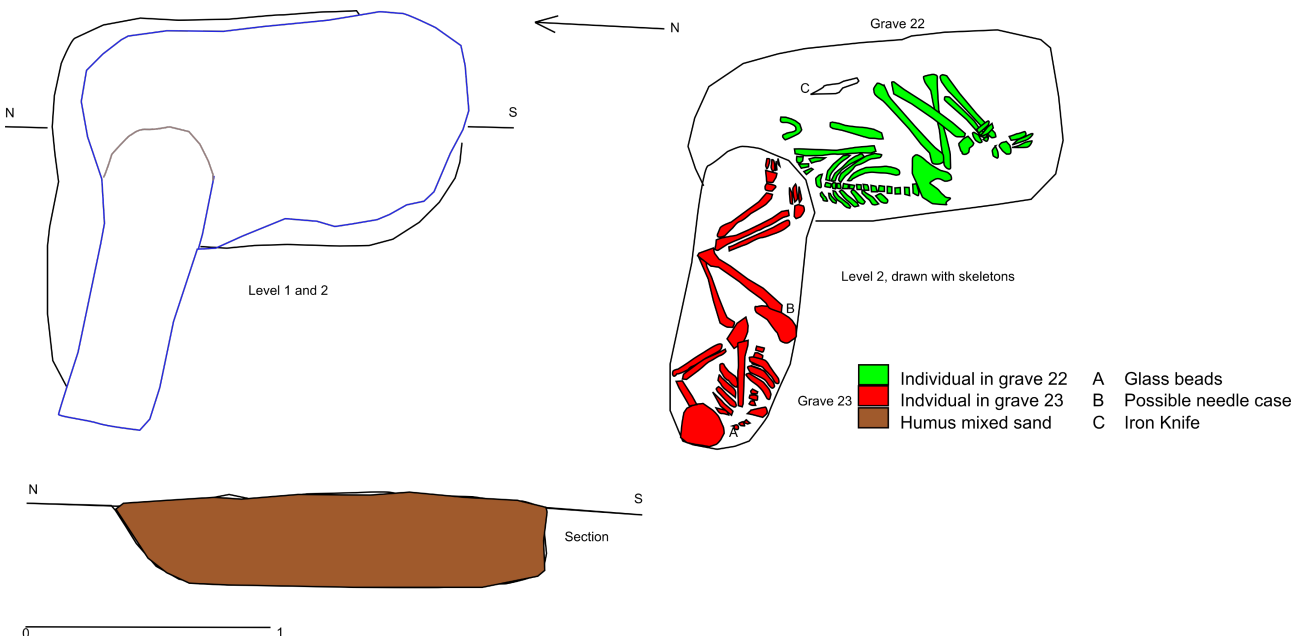


FIG. 27 ÖNSVALA, PLANS AND SECTION OF GRAVES 22 AND 23 (REDRAWN FROM FIELD DOCUMENTATION STORED AT LUHM)

Råga Hörstad

Site Location:

The cemetery was located outside the town of Asmundtorp, near contemporary road leading to Landskrona. It was located within the geological region of Baltic moraine, on sandy clay soils (Strömberg 1968, 2). In the eastern part of the site a gravel pit was located, that destroyed an unknown number of burials (Strömberg 1968, 3). The site was located in a vicinity of many settlement sites from stone, bronze and iron age, some of them less than 100 m away. Viking Age sated pit houses were located in the area of present day village (Strömberg 1968, 63) It was located near a small stream (Strömberg 1968, 2).

Excavation history and method

Around 50 centimetres thick layer of soil was removed by using the machines, as excavators noted, it could result in destruction of unknown number of burials (Strömberg 1968, 3). Skeletons were examined by anthropologist (Strömberg 1968, 3).

Grave 2

Pit description: It was a rectangular with rounded corners 1,7 x 0,5 m. Its depth was around 80 cm.

Fill: Composed from sand mixed with humus, with visible pieces of charcoal. In the fill pieces of skeleton of a middle age man, as well as piece of burned pottery and some pieces of flint were discovered.

Burial: a skeleton of middle age woman, buried in a supine position, partially preserved was discovered at the bottom of the burial. The burial was oriented on axis NNW–SSE. Equipped with a D-formed buckle found in the waist region, and a knife and a whetstone located near the upper part of the right femur (Strömberg 1968, 6).

Interpretation: Because of the fact of the skeletal remains in the fill the burial can be a case of reuse, an overlay or the remains might be related to a later deposit. The finds from the fill was not drawn on a plan and there are not enough information to reach any conclusion.

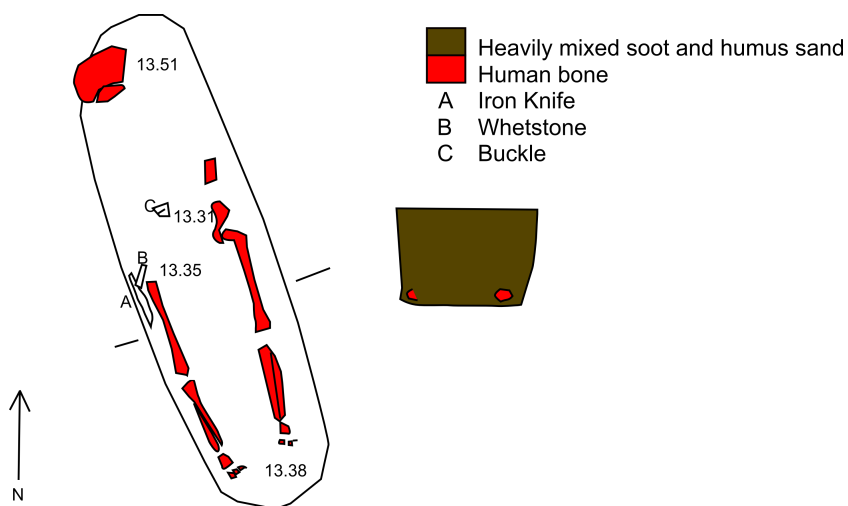


FIG. 29 RÅGA HÖRSTAD, PLAN AND SECTION OF GRAVE 2 (FROM: STRÖMBERG 1968)

Grave 3

Pit description: It was an irregular pit with, dimensions 1,95 x 0,75 m, around 90 cm deep. In the western part in an extension was dug measuring 60 x 90 cm.

Fill: Composed from sand mixed with humus and charcoal fragments, in the extension the filling composed mostly from soot. Nine potsherds, from which one is handle of a pot, four burned clay pieces, teeth of a horse and a cow were found . In the higher level, around 15 cm, over than the burial, a human mandible was found .Over the head of the buried person, on a level around 30 cm higher than the burial a stone with diameter 56x33x33 was found.

Burial: A person was buried in supine position, next to its right lower arm an iron knife was found (Strömberg 1968, 7) .

Interpretation: The soot layer has to be simultaneous with the burial, since there are no traces of pits in the profile. The additional human mandible must have been deposited during the later stage of the funeral, while the burial was filled.

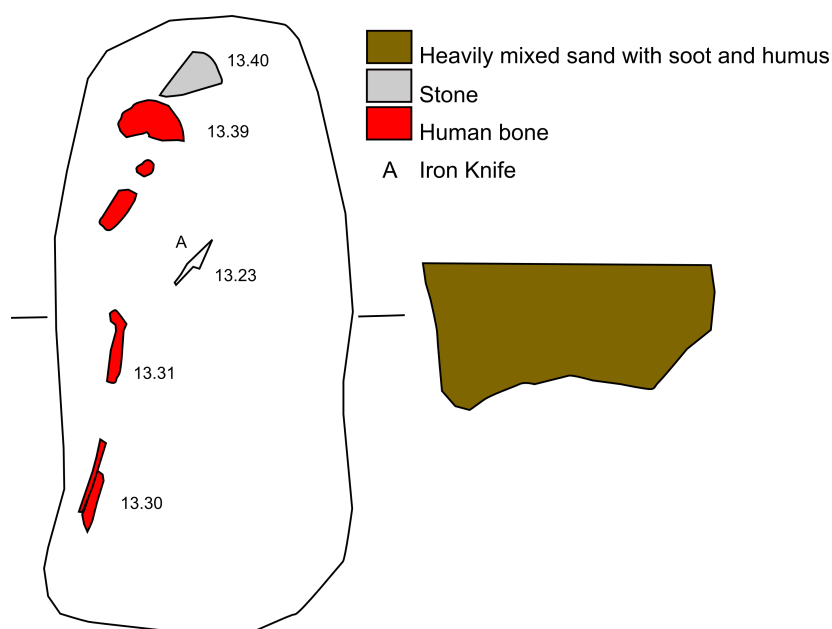


FIG. 30 RÅGA HÖRSTAD, PLAN AND SECTION OF GRAVE 3 (FROM STRÖMBERG 1968)

Grave 4

Pit description: Oval pit, that measured 1,75x06 m and was 75 cm deep. Oriented N–S

Fill: Consisted of humus mixed with sand with a large addition of soot. In it a piece of flint and two burned bone fragments were found, possibly from human, according to the excavators. In the southern part of the grave a large stone was found, around 25 cm over the skeletons lower leg bones.

Burial: Skeleton of probably a man, buried supine. Near its left lower arm a iron knife was found, next to a whetstone with a hole for hanging. Next to the right elbow of the man a bottom piece of a pot was found, and next to right shin another pot shred was located (Strömberg 1968, 6–8).

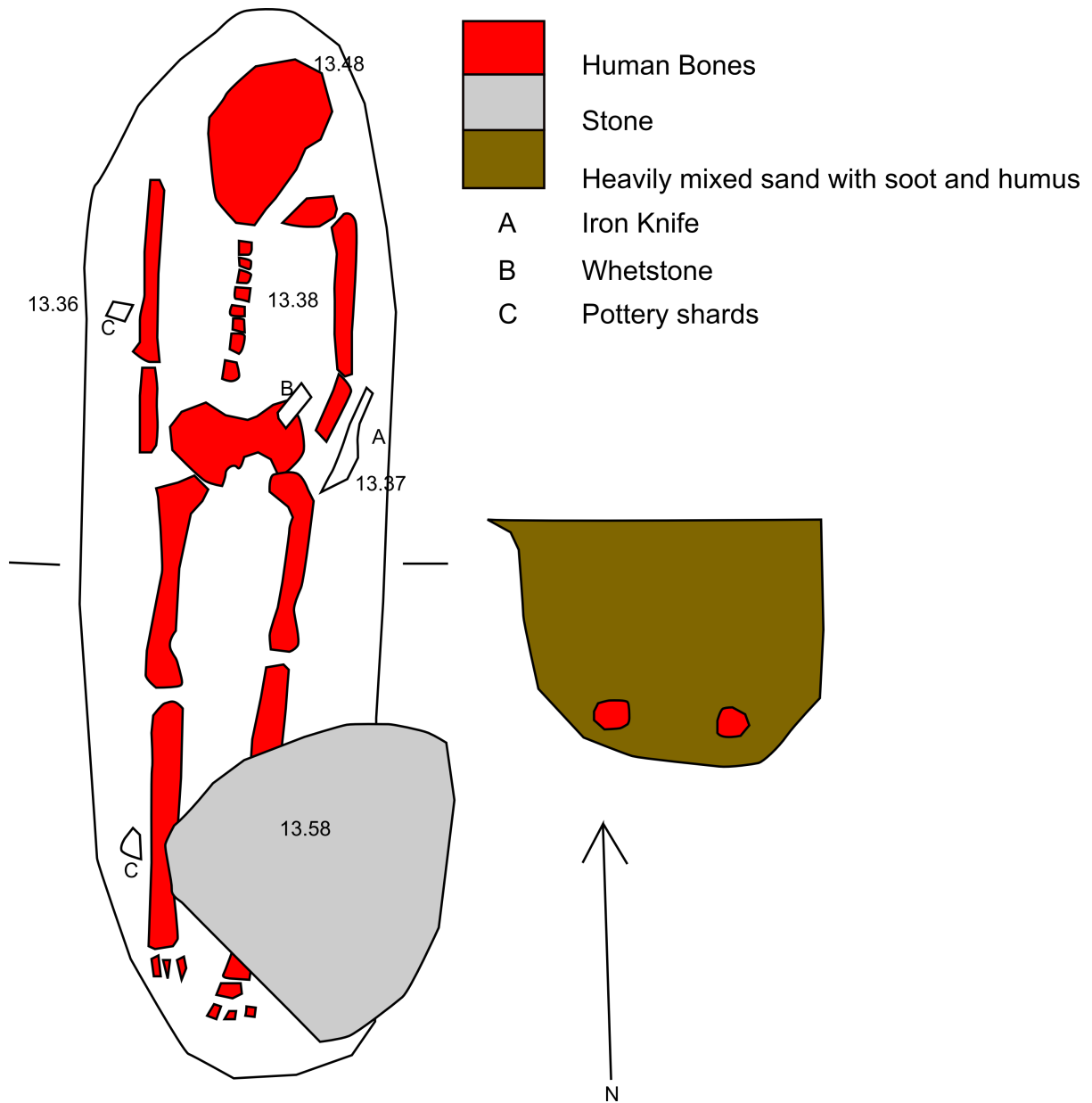


FIG. 31 RÅGA HÖRSTAD, PLAN AND SECTION OF GRAVE 4 (FROM: STRÖMBERG 1968)

Grave 5

Pit description: It was a rectangular pit with rounded corners, measuring around 1,85 x 0,9 m, around 90 cm deep. Oriented N–S.

Fill: Consisted of sand with a large mix of humus and soot. In the filling a tooth of a man was found, as well as 25 pieces of burned bones, probably also from human, as well as a burned tooth from a cow with seven potshards, two burned pieces of clay and two damaged by fire flints.

Burial: A skeleton of a man was found with signs of damage by fire, buried on his back. In the region of the stomach area of the deceased an iron knife (in to pieces) was found, with its tip pointing in the direction of the head of the buried man. (Strömberg 1968, 9–10).

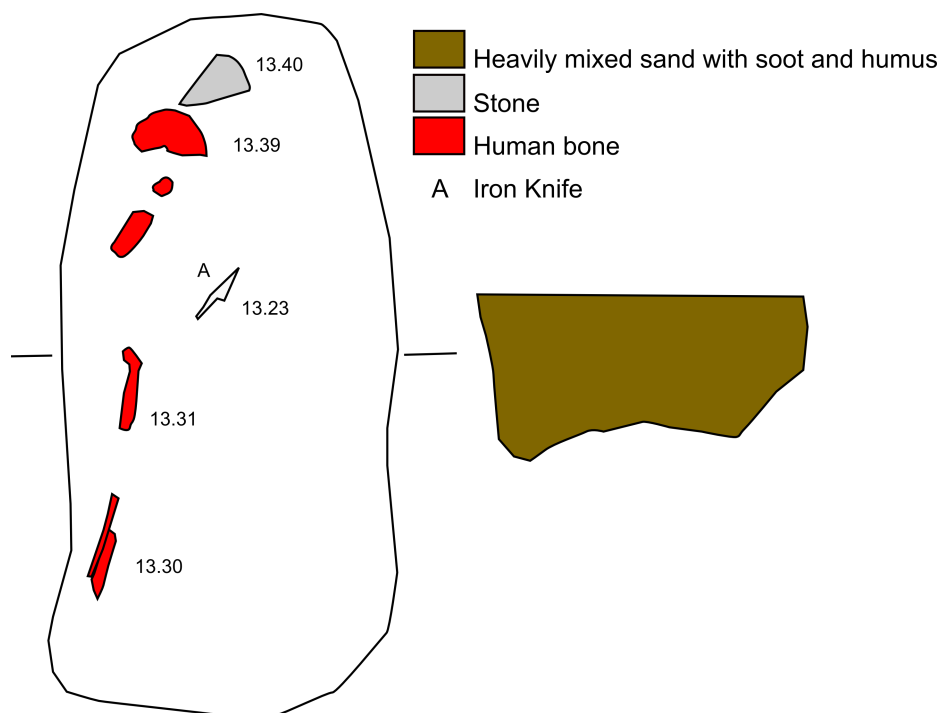


FIG. 32 RÅGA HÖRSTAD, PLAN AND SECTION OF GRAVE 5 (FROM: STRÖMBERG 1968)

Grave 6

Pit description: It was an irregular pit of 2,2 x 1,4 m and around 50 cm deep. Oriented N–S. According to the excavators, the grave cuts into the older grave. Because of that another older cut was visible 2,15x1,5 m, that exceeded over the northern part of grave. 50 cm to the west of the grave and around 40 cm from its northern boundary a posthole was found with dimensions 22x22 and 32 cm deep.

Fill: The filling was composed of sand and soot. In it a part of cranial bones of a human were found. In the filling of a grave 53 potsherd have been found. In the earlier cut 20 other potshards were found, from which some were identified as neolithic, as well as 8 pieces of flint.

Burial: A person was buried on back. In south eastern part of the grave a skeleton of a dog was found. A ring pin of bronze was found in the vicinities of the neck area of the skeleton. In the waist area of the deceased an iron knife was found, with its tip pointing to the direction of the foot of the buried person. Next to shin bone of the skeleton another knife was found, with its blade pointing to the direction of its head (Strömberg 1968, 10–11).

Dating: The larger knife can be dated to the beginning of the Viking Age (Svanberg 2003b)

Interpretation: The grave might have been a chamber grave but there was no signs of wooden constructions in it. The cranial fragments might derive from older burial or might have been deposited during the funeral. The finds from the fill were not drawn, so it can be a destructive overlaying burial but it is impossible to reach a conclusive interpretation in light of available evidence.

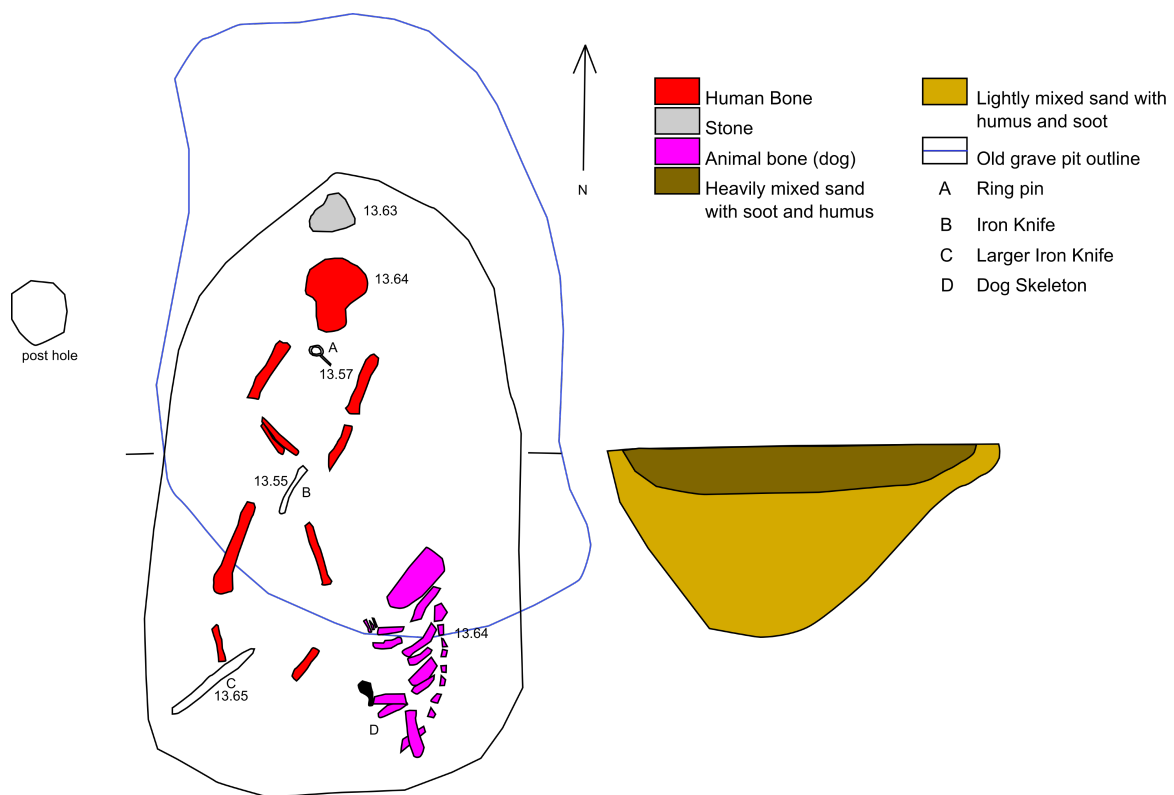


FIG. 33 RÅGA HÖRSTAD, PLAN AND SECTION OF GRAVE 6 (FROM: STRÖMBERG 1968)

Grave 7a

Pit description: It was an oval pit measuring 2,4 x 1 m and it was 60–65 cm deep. It was connected by a slight intersection with grave 7b

Fill: No finds, consisted of sand heavily mixed with humus and soot.

Burial: A middle age or older man was buried in supine position, Next to his right upper arm a knife and whetstone were found. The burial was oriented on east-west axis (Strömberg 1968, 12)

Grave 7b

Pit description: It was an oval pit measuring 2,1x1 m and it was around 65–70 cm deep. The pit was slightly intersecting with burial 7a

Fill: consisted of heavily mixed with soot and humus sand.

Burial: A middle aged man was buried in supine position. Next to his right side an iron knife was found.

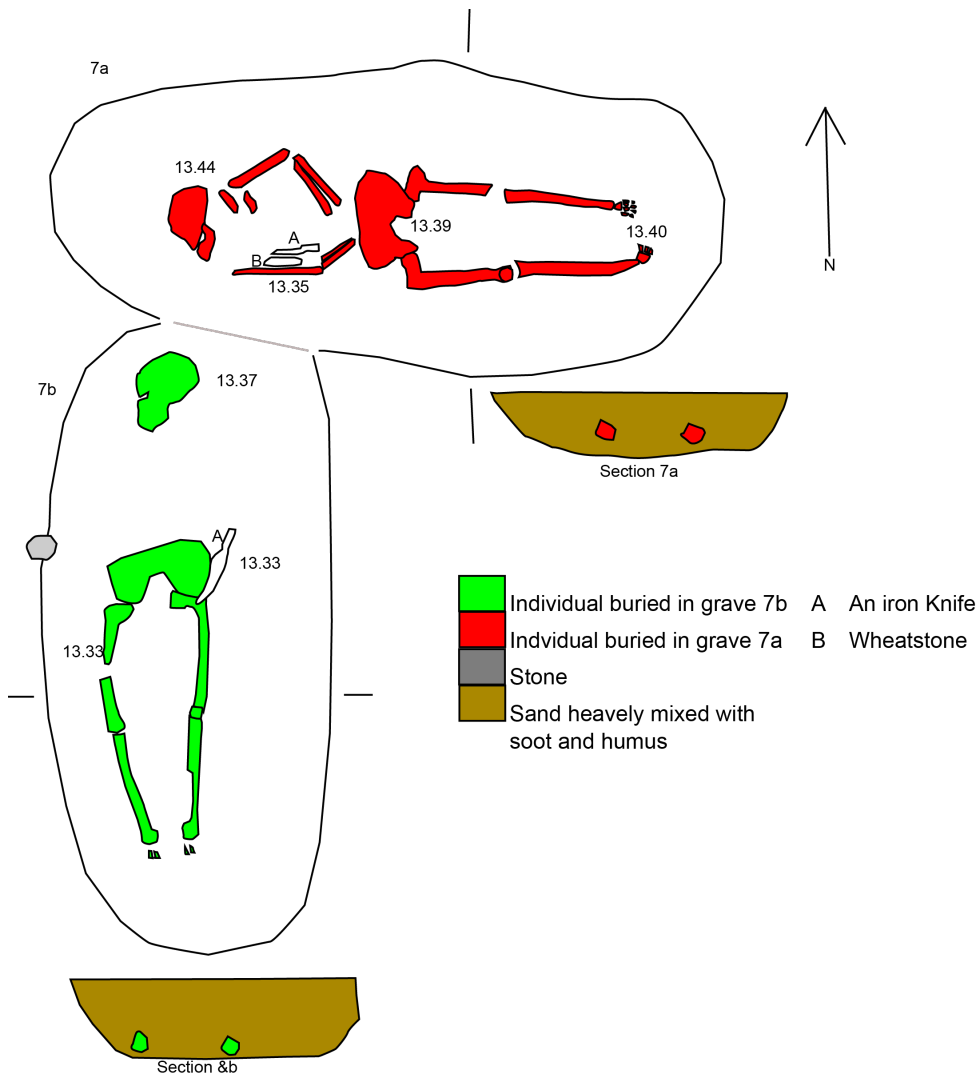


FIG. 34 RÅGA HÖRSTAD, PLAN AND SECTION OF BURIALS 7A AND 7B (FROM: STRÖMBERG 1968)

Grave 10

Pit description: Initially the cut appeared as being 2x1 m. It was connected to the cut of the grave no. 11, but on lower level the pit became smaller. The grave was established on axis N-S. The pit was around 80 cm deep.

Fill: it consisted from burned bone pieces, possibly human, 6 potshards, 20 flint pieces and one polished flint piece.

Burial: A skeleton of probably middle aged woman was found lying on a back, around her traces of a coffin or a log-coffin were found (dimensions 1,7m x 0,56m). On the pelvic region of the skeleton a knife, with a tip pointing towards the skull, and a whetstone were found (Strömberg 1968, 13)

Grave 11

Pit description: Initially discolouration of soil connected to the burial was 1,8x1 m, and was connected to grave no. 10. At Later stages of the excavation an outline of a coffin was observed. The grave was around 60 cm deep, and was oriented on axis N-S.

Fill: It consisted of humus mixed with sand, in it a concentration of burned human bones discovered. Three stones were found near, one of them placed on the cremation layer. A piece of pottery and three pieces of flint were found in upper layers of the burial.

Burial: Buried person was placed on its back in the coffin or a tree trunk, that was round bottomed. It was 1,8 long and 0,6 m width. Next to right arm of a skeleton a knife and a whetstone was found. Near the neck region of the skeleton an amber bead was found, two further glass beads, one blue and other dark green with lines of red, yellow and white glass

where found together with traces of wool in a concentration below the neck region (Strömberg 1968, 13).

Interpretation: The cremation deposit might be the later overlaying cremation burial or simultaneous deposit with the funeral. The fact that it was cutting through the wall of the pit supports the hypothesis that it was created during a separate event.

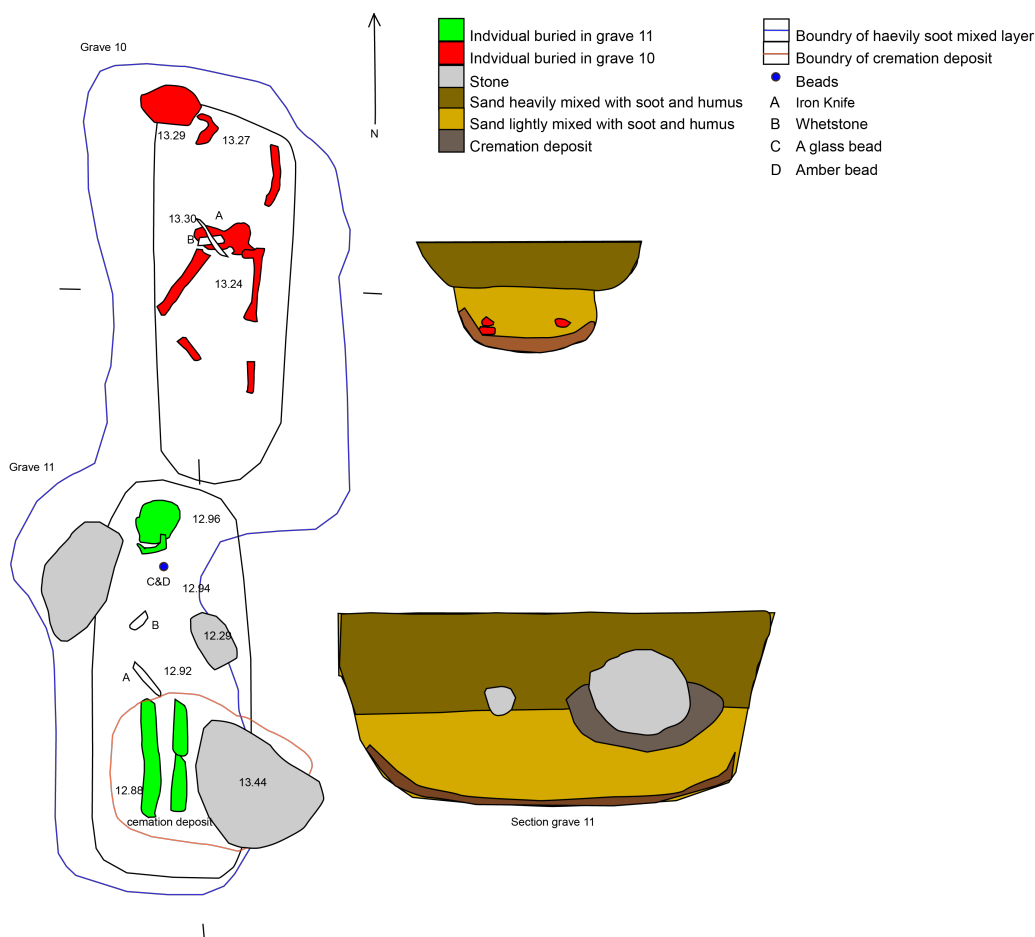


FIG. 35 RÅGA HÖRSTAD, SECTION AND PLAN OF BURIALS 10 AND 11 (FROM: STRÖMBERG 1968)

Grave 12

Pit description: an oval cut 1,95 x 0,8 m around 75 cm deep. Oriented on axis N–S

Fill: consisted of soot, sand, fire cracked stones and charcoal. In the filling human teeth, cow bone, pig bone and a bone from a small bovid were found, as well as 9 potshards, 4 pieces of burnt clay and a piece of spindle whorl or a handle. Additionally 12 pieces of flint refuse and a stone with two polished surfaces were discovered in the burial.

Burial: A skeleton of a man around 25 years old was buried lying on his back with his legs crossed, traces of coffin 1,8x60 cm were visible. After the skeleton was removed, the outline indicated a container with rounder bottom was visible. In the northern corner of the burial pit a knife was located, next to it a whetstone was found. Another whetstone was placed next to the left side of the skull. It was one equipped with a hole for hanging, in this case two holes and a remains of third were visible.

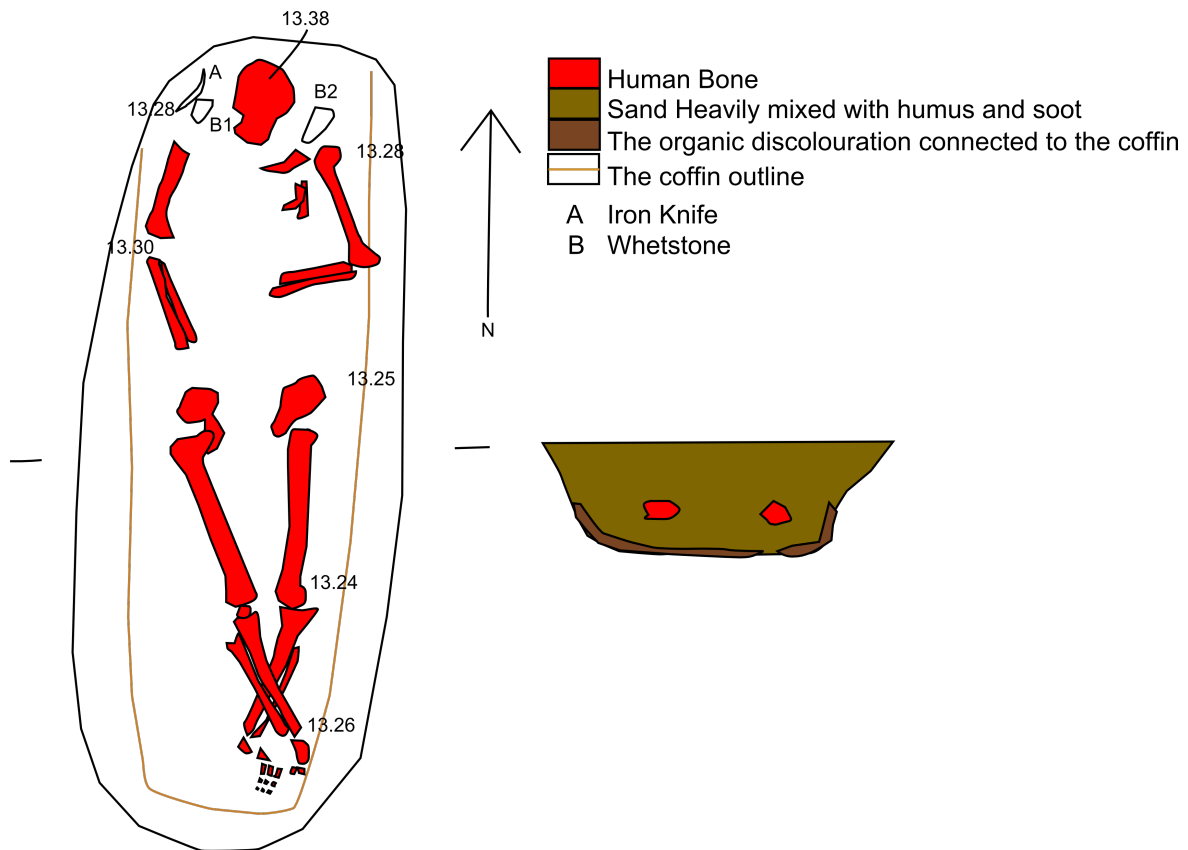


FIG. 36 RÅGA HÖRSTAD, PLAN AND SECTION OF BURIAL 12 (FROM: STRÖMBERG 1968)

Grave 15

Pit description: Pit boundaries described by excavators as 2,7 x 1,06 m. The burial was around 1 m deep. It was oriented on the axis SW–NE.

Fill: consisted of black coloured sand. In the filling parts of human skeleton were found, cow teeth, 8 potshards, 7 burned pieces of clay, a fragment of flint core, a piece of the flint axe and a flint scraper.

Burial: A person around 25 years old was buried on the back. There were visible traces of a container, held together by iron rivets. Excavators interpreted it as the coffin with a rounded bottom, but probably it was a cart body. It was 2,3 m long and 65 cm width. In the burial a knife was found around the pelvis region of the skeleton, on its right side, with the blade point towards the skull, together with an iron buckle and a fire steel with revolute ends. Refuse from flint production were placed near the left side of the skeleton. Also near the pelvis of the skeleton, above its right side, a whetstone was located, a small iron plate was located near the fire steel. Small unidentified iron artefact was placed above the pelvis. Metal elements form the coffin/wagon body were also found, including a bent iron rod and 34 rivets and spikes with square heads and 4,5–6,5 cm long (Strömberg 1968, 18–20).

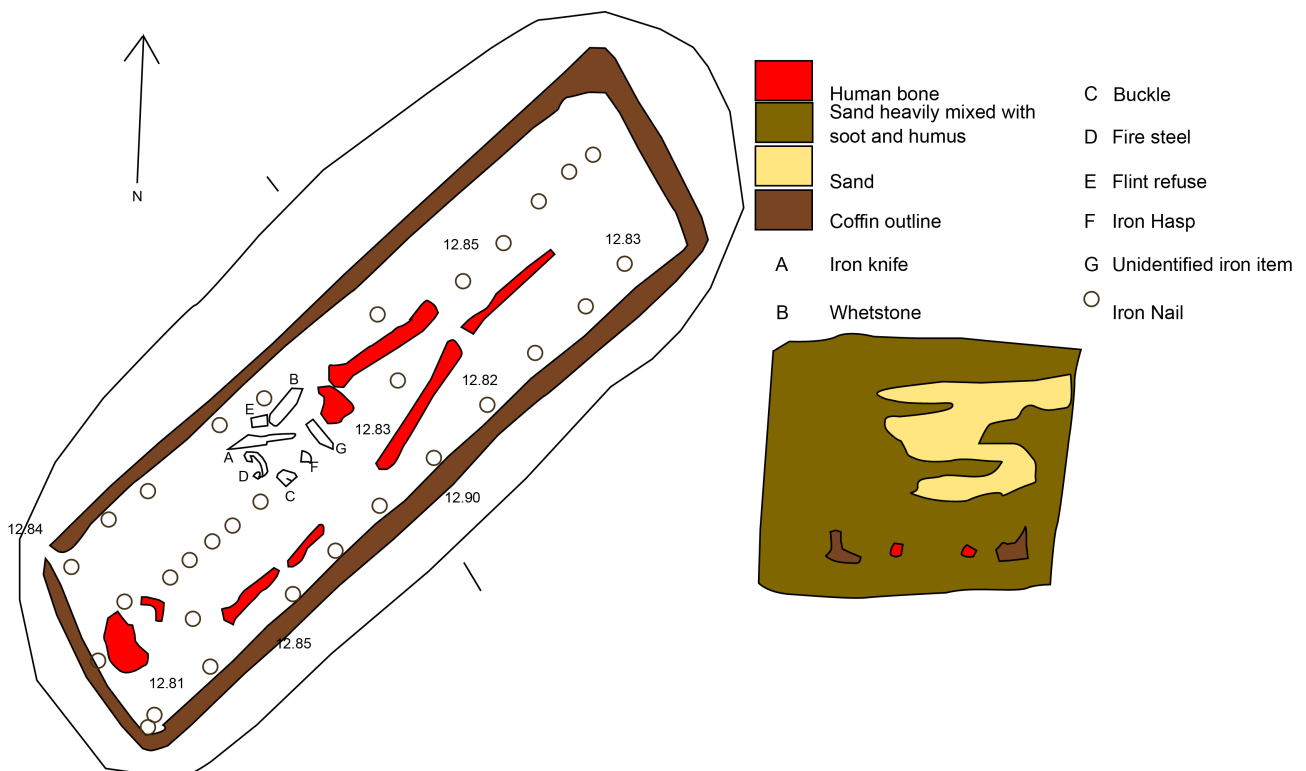


FIG. 37 RÅGA HÖRSTAD, SECTION AND PLAN OF GRAVE 15 (FROM STRÖMBERG 1968)

Grave 18

Pit description: An oval pit 2,26 x 0,7 m and around 65 cm deep. Oriented S–N.

Fill: The filling consisted of soot and humus blended sand. In it human bones, as well as bones from cattle or a horse were found. Nine potshards and six flint refuses were also found.

Burial: A skeleton of a man was placed in supine position. The skeleton displayed signs of illness such as fuisse of last lumbar vertebrae and sacrum, outgrowths in right tibia, and rough surfaces of right femur and right fibula. In north-western corner of the grave a nail with a rounded head was found, next to the right arm of the skeleton cattle bones were found (Strömberg 1968, 20)

Interpretation: The orientation with the head towards south and the unusual high position of the skeleton in the burial should be noted. However due to the lack of recording the position of other human remains from the fill of the burial it is impossible to reach any conclusions to explain this unusual situation.

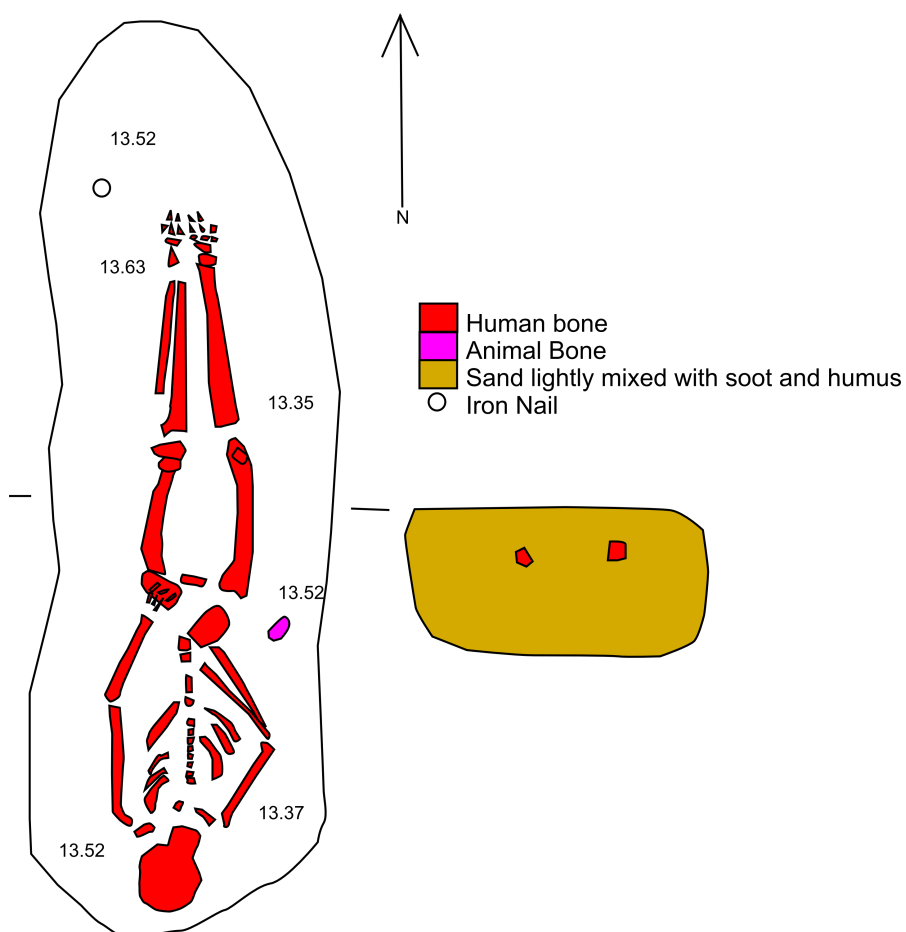


FIG. 38 RÅGA HÖRSTAD, PLAN AND SECTION OF GRAVE 18 (FROM STRÖMBERG 1968)

Grave 26

Pit description: It was an irregular pit 1,82 x ca. 1 m, 60 cm deep. Oriented on the axis N–S

Fill: It consisted of soot and humus blended sand, in the west corner a concentration of charcoal soot and fire burned stones was found. 4 potshards and 10 pieces of flint were recovered from the filling.

Burial: Probably a teenage person was buried in supine position. Four iron fragments with traces of wood were found, from which, one found in the chest area of the skeleton might be a knife. Also a corroded iron nail was found (Strömberg 1968, 23).

Interpretation: The cremation deposit might be a result of later action as it cuts through the whole fill of the grave.

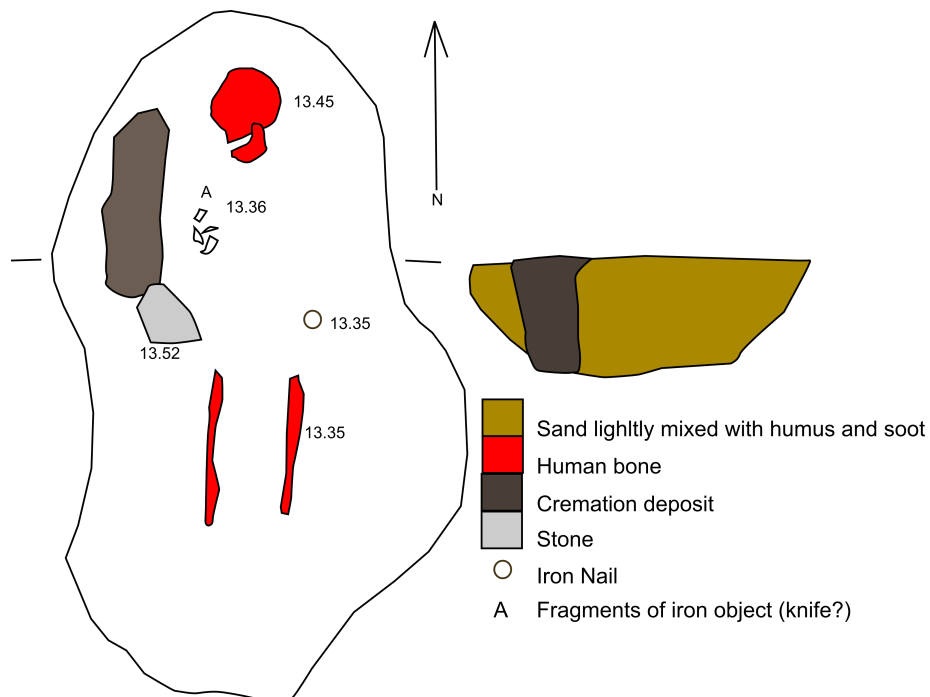


FIG. 39 RÅGA HÖRSTAD, PLAN AND SECTION OF GRAVE 26 (FROM STRÖMBERG 1968)

Stävie

Site location:

The cemetery was located on 1,3 km long and around 300 m width sandy plateau stretching along the Kvälingeån, around 250 m to north west from the river, on the outskirts of Furulund. The graves are located on the level between 11 to 13 meters over the sea level. The plateau is in a large part covered by forest, but it is also used for agriculture and for pastures (Nagmér 1979, 3).

Research history and method

Site was excavated between 1973 and 1975 by UV syd in connection to gravel extraction. Totally 35000 square meters were excavated. In addition to 69 inhumation graves from Iron age registered on the site, remains from settlements dating back to Neolithic were discovered. During machine topsoil removal a large number of graves were damaged (Nagmér 1979, 3–5).

Grave A10

Pit description: It was oval pit measuring 1,5 x 0,8 m and 10 cm deep. The pit cut through A11

Fill: Consisted of brown sand

Burial: oriented on axis NW–SE, parts of leftover arm and teeth from a skull found in the north-western part of the grave, most of the bones almost completely decomposed. Near the chest area of the skeleton pottery shards found. In south eastern part of the grave bones from cranium and other parts of skeleton from A11 found (Nagmér 1979).

Dating: The pottery vessel found in the grave can be dated to the Viking Age (Svanberg 2003b).

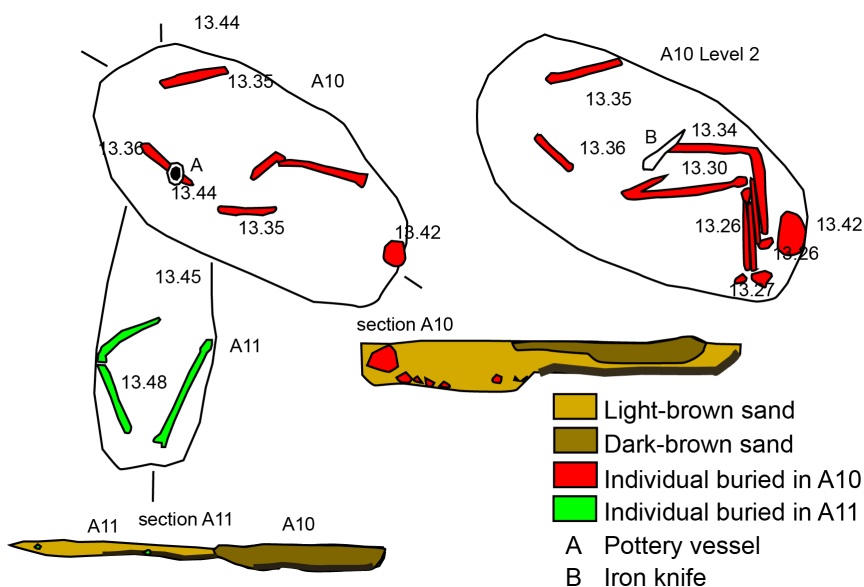


FIG. 40 STÄVIE, PLANS AND SECTIONS OF INTERSECTING BURIALS A10 AND A11 (FROM: NAGMÉR 1979)

Grave A11

Pit description: It was oval pit measuring 1 x 0,5 m and 8 cm deep. Damaged by later grave A10

Fill: It consisted of sand. On the bottom of the pit traces of organic material, possibly from a coffin were discovered

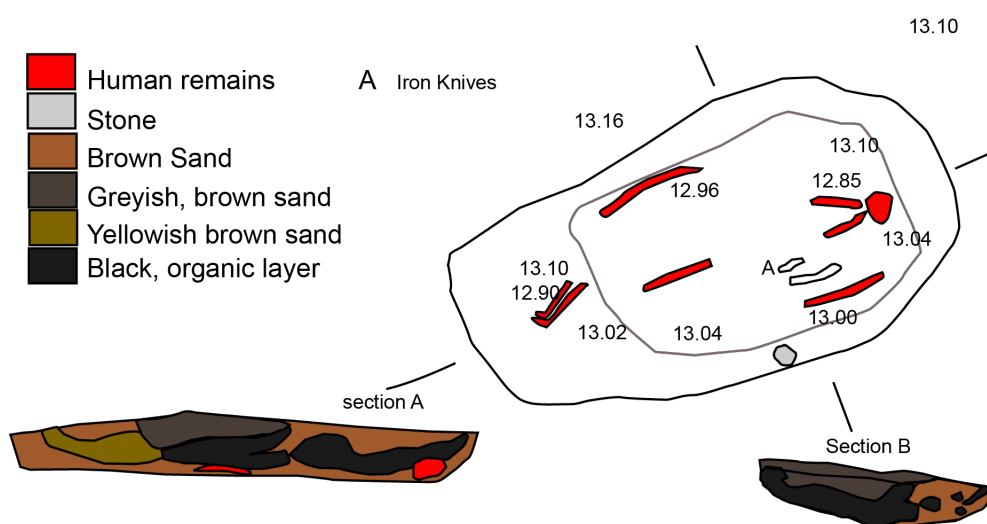
Burial: Excavators discovered only small traces of skeleton. Body was probably placed the left side with head to the North (Nagmér 1979).

Grave A18

Pit description: it was an irregular pit measuring 2,1 x 1,1 m. It was around 26 cm deep

Fill: It consisted from greyish black sand mixed with organic material, judging from profile drawing, possibly a pit was dug in the fill of the burial.

Burial: Remains of skeleton placed on axis NE–SW, with the head towards north east were found. Decomposed and disarticulated. Near the left arm of the deceased two iron knives have been found (Nagmér 1979).



Grave A20

Pit description: The pit measured 1,62 x 0,85 m and was around 32 cm deep

Fill: composed dark brown and grey brown sand, from a profile drawing it is visible that a pit was dug in the fill of the burial

Burial: Skeleton was placed on the right side on axis NW–SE, probably on the right side with bent legs and hands placed near the body and head to the west. In north-western part of the burials some teeth have been preserved, around 30 cm from them a bronze trefoil brooch has been discovered, covered in textile remains. In north eastern part of the grave an iron knife has been found (Nagmér 1979).

Dating: The trefoil brooch found in the burial indicates deposition during the Viking Age (Svanberg 2003b).

Grave A21

Pit description: It was an irregular pit 1,68 x 0,66 m and around 23 cm deep

Fill: It was composed from brown and dark brown sand, through the central part of the feature a post hole with dimensions 20 by 30 cm and depth of 45 cm cut.

Burial: Individual was buried in supine position on axis NNW–SSE, skeleton mostly decomposed and disturbed by the posthole. around the chest area. A pottery shard has been found in the burial. Skeleton's skull was placed towards NNW. Organic material remains in burial suggest that the body was placed in a coffin (Nagmér 1979).

Dating: A piece of ceramic vessel found in the burial can be dated to the Viking Age (Svanberg 2003b)

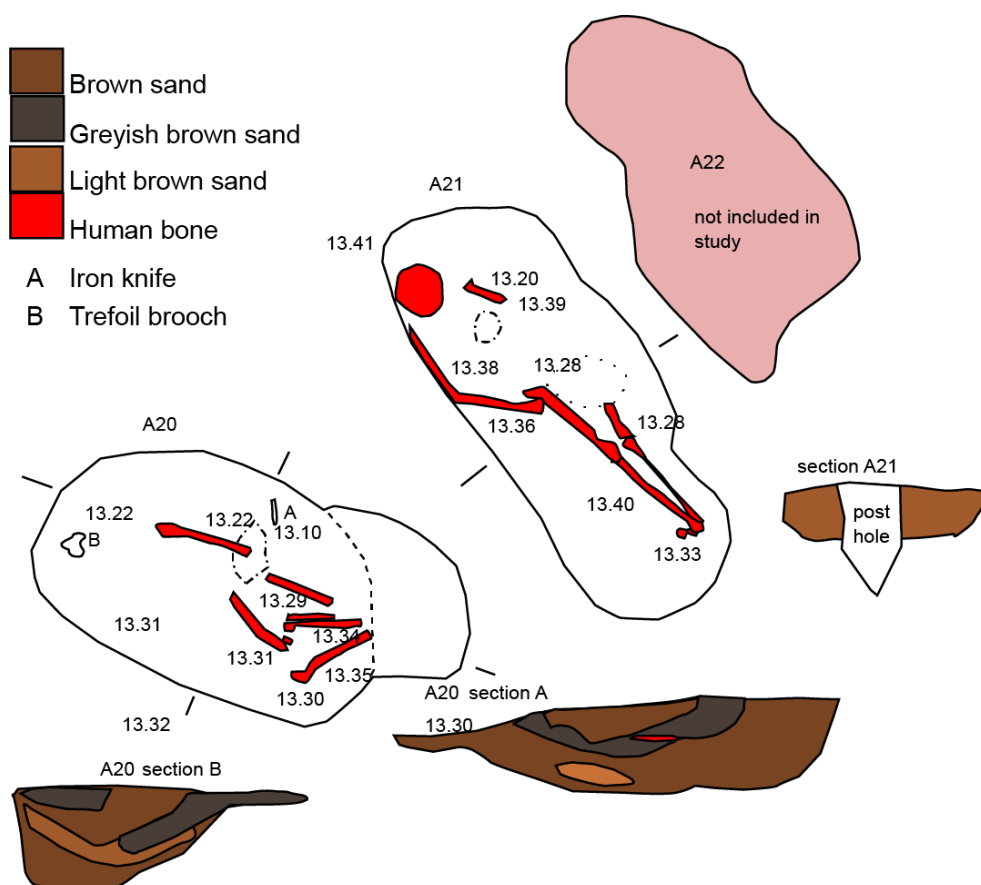


FIG. 42 STÄVIE, PLANS AND SECTIONS OF BURIALS A20 AND A21 (FROM: NAGMÉR 1979)

Grave A32

Pit description: It was a rectangular pit with top levels damaged during the topsoil removal, measuring 1,9 x 0,85 m, and around 23 cm deep.

Fill: Consisted of dark brown sand

Burial: Bodies aligned on E–W axis. Two skulls were found in the burial, one in the eastern part of the burial, second in the western. Western cranium on a level 20 cm higher than the eastern. A nail was found in the middle part of the pit, near the southern edge, that can

indicate that the coffin was used, on the same level as the eastern skull. (Nagmèr 1979) No evidence of non-simultaneous deposition was observed by Nagmèr.

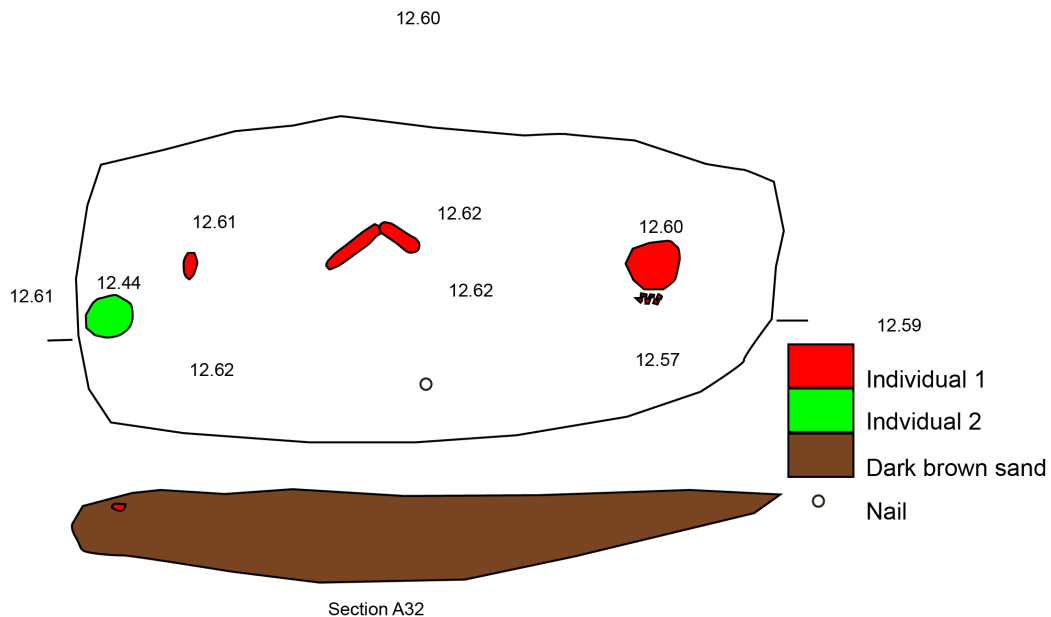


FIG. 43 STÄVIE, PLAN AND SECTION OF BURIAL A32 (FROM: NAGMÉR 1979)

Grave A57

Pit description: It was a rectangular pit measuring 1,4 x 1,1 m and 34 cm deep, placed over A58, cutting slightly in its top part.

Fill: consisted of dark brown sand.

Burial: skeleton was placed on axis NNW–SSE, it was decomposed and disturbed. Parts of Cranium were preserved in northeastern corner of the pit (Nagmèr 1979).

Grave A58

Pit description: narrow rectangular pit measuring 1,66 x 0,4 m and around 35 cm deep. Cut in to by A57, and originally covered by 0,5 m layer of sand.

Fill: consisted from brown sand

Burial: a decomposed skeleton was discovered laying on axis E–W, with the skull in the western part of the grave. In the place where probably the left arm of the deceased would be placed a knife and a whetstone were found. Near the middle of the grave, probably near the original pelvic region an iron buckle was found (Nagmèr 1979).

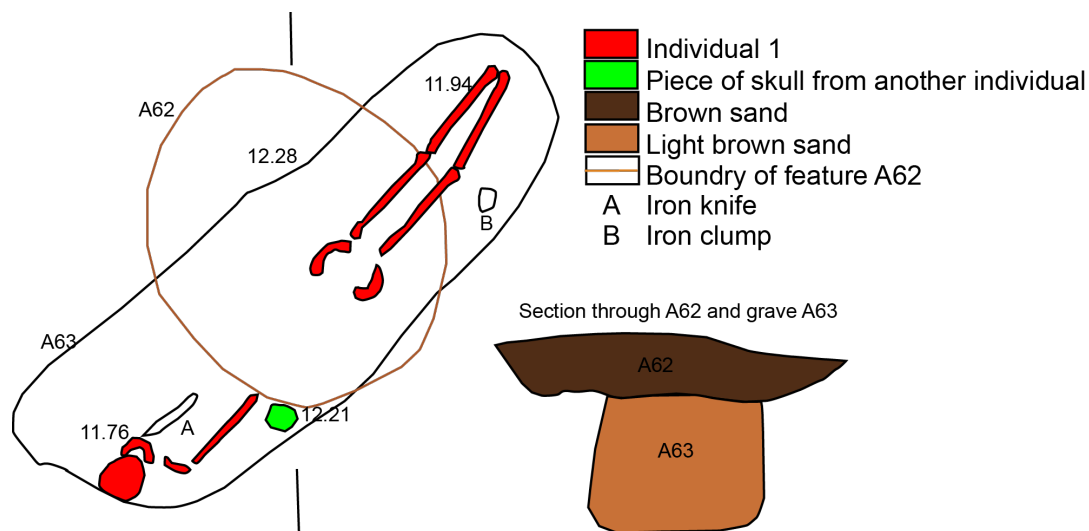


FIG. 44 STĂVIE, PLANS AND SECTION OF BURIALS A57 AND A58(FROM: NAGMÉR 1979)

Grave A63

Pit description: It was an irregular pit measuring 2,45 x 0,9 m and around 54 cm deep, in the middle part cut by the feature A62 – a roughly round pit of 1,34 m diameter and 24 cm deep filled with brown sand.

Fill: consisted of light brown sand

Burial: Decomposed skeleton was found lying on axis NE–SW, partially disturbed by the A62, with head placed south-western part of the grave, in the south-eastern part parts of cranium belonging to other individual were found around 50 cm higher than the first skeleton. In the region where a chest of the buried individual would be placed an iron knife was found, another iron clump was located near the right knee (Nagmér 1979).

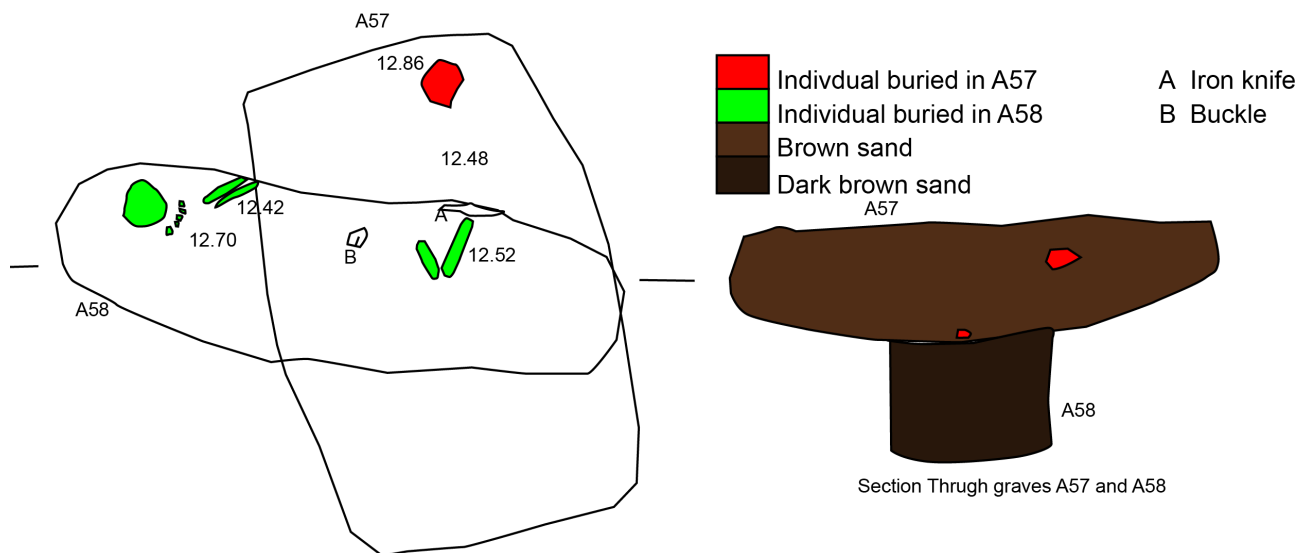


FIG. 45 STÄVIE, PLAN AND SECTION OF BURIAL A63 WITH FEATURE A6 ON TOP OF IT (FROM: NAGMÉR 1979)

Grave A66

Pit description: It was an irregular pit measuring 1,9 x 0,8 m around 32 cm deep, the profile of the pit shows irregular bottom, much more shallow in its eastern part.

Fill: consisted of dark brown sand.

Burial: According to the excavators the feature was a result of two successive burials. During placing of the second body, remains of the first were thrown back into the pit. Two crania were discovered in the burial in the south western part of the pit, aligned on axis NNE–SSW. There was around 10 cm difference between the skull 1 and skull 2 in level, as well as between the scattered remains of the bones (Nagmér 1979).

Grave A67

Pit description: It was a rectangular pit measuring 1,6 x 0,9 m around 40 cm deep, it was damaged during the topsoil removal. Profile drawing might indicate two successive burial episodes.

Fill: consisted of dark brown sand

Burial: Two crania were discovered in the burial, next to each other in the south western part, as well as one of the bones from lower limb in the north eastern part. There is around 10 cm difference between the levels of cranium placed in the burial, the one more to the east was placed 10 cm higher than the more western one. On a similar level to the eastern skull a pottery vessel was found. In the bottom of the pit remains of organic decomposed matter probably belonging to a coffin were found. An iron knife was discovered in the north-western part of the burial (Nagmér 1979).

Dating: A pottery vessel found in the burial can be dated to the Viking Age (Svanberg 2003b)

Grave A68

Pit description: Pit was severely damaged during the topsoil removal, cutting into A69. Remains of the grave cut measured 1,3 x 1,1 m and were around 20 cm deep.

Fill: consisted of brown sand.

Burial: Traces of decomposed skeleton were found, probably buried supine on an axis NE – SW. On the bottom of the pit remains of organic material were found, indicating possible use of coffin (Nagmér 1979).

Grave A69

Pit description: Pit partially was damaged by A68. It was roughly rectangular measuring 2,1 x 0,9 m it was around 45 cm deep.

Fill: It consisted dark brown sand

Burial: A cranium, parts of spine and femora and fibula were found, all the bones decomposed and heavily disturbed by tree roots. The skeleton was probably buried in supine position, aligned on axis NE–SW. Next to the left femur an iron knife was found. On the bottom of the pit a thick layer of decomposed organic material have been found suggesting a use of coffin (Nagmér 1979).

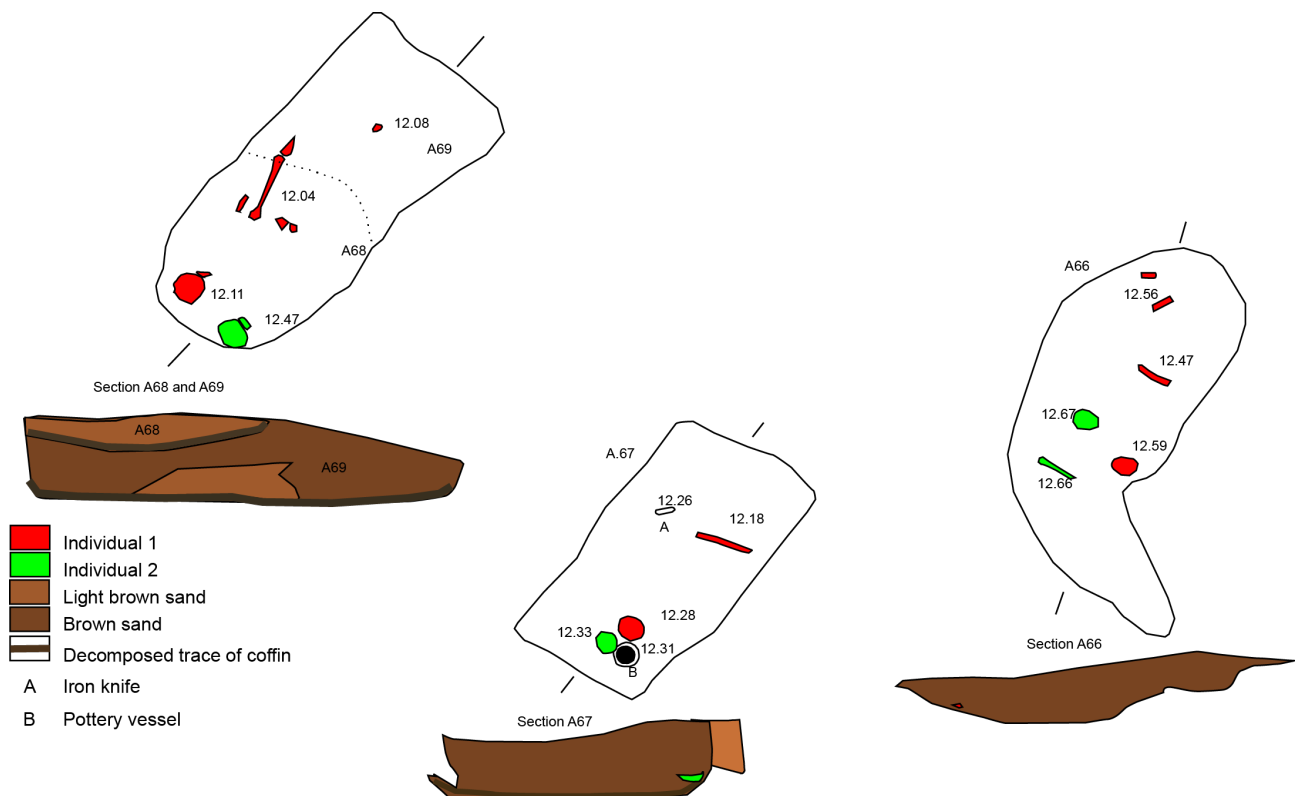


FIG. 46 STÄVIE, PLANS AND SECTIONS OF BURIALS A66, A67, A68 AND A69 (FROM: NAGMÉR 1979)

Grave A71

Pit description: It was a roughly rectangular pit measuring 1,66 x 0,8 m around 56 cm deep

Fill: It consisted of brown sand. In its upper layers remains of skeleton, placed with its legs bent and arms along the body were found, aligned on the axis NE–SW, with head towards SW. In the neck area of the remains an iron knife was found.

Burial: in the bottom of the pit there were no traces of any human remains, but another iron knife was found. Excavators believe it was a double burial (Nagmèr 1979).

Grave A72

Pit description: It was a long, narrow, oval pit measuring 2 x 0,7 m and 69 cm deep.

Fill: It was composed mainly from yellow sand with dark streaks, into it a layer of brown sand is cutting, near the bottom of the profile, around the lower middle section a layer of dark brown sand is visible. In the fill also remains of human skeleton were encountered, spread without anatomical order.

Burial: At the bottom of the pit remains of an individual buried with head to the SW were encountered. Probably aligned on axis NE–SW (Nagmèr 1979).

Interpretation: Judging from the section, possible deposition of unburned human remains or successive overlay burial that damaged the lower grave could be suggested.

Grave A73

Pit description: It was a roughly oval pit measuring 1,8 x 0,75 m around 27 cm deep

Fill: The fill of the burial consisted of brown sand, in it scattered remains of a skeleton were found, around 10 cm above the burial in the bottom of the pit.

Burial: Remains of an individual buried with head towards the SW, probably aligned on the axis NE – SW. An iron knife were found in the south-western part of the burial, around the chest area of buried individual. Excavators suggest successive burials, during the second event the original burial in their opinion would be removed and placed in the fill (Nagmèr 1979).

Grave A75

Pit description: Pit measured 1,48 x 0,86 m and was preserved to the depth of 17 cm. The feature was damaged during the topsoil removal. It was cutting into feature A74, that probably was also a grave, however it was almost completely destroyed.

Fill: It consisted of brown sand

Burial: In the bottom of the pit only parts of lower limbs of skeleton and an iron knife were found, pit was aligned on axis WNW–ESE (Nagmèr 1979, 47).

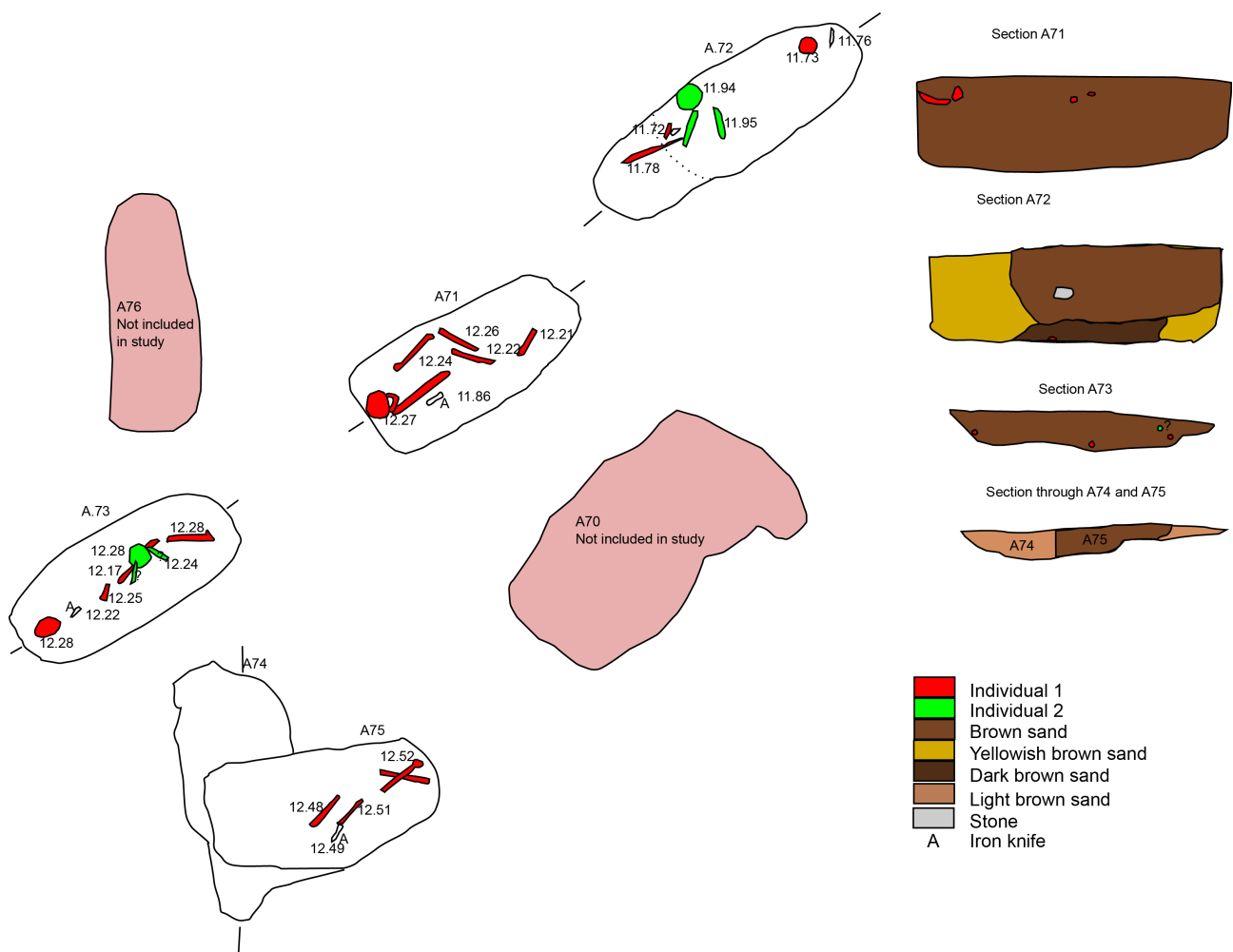


FIG. 47 STĂVIE, PLANS AND SECTIONS OF BURIALS A71, A72, A73 AND A75 (FROM: NAGMÉR 1979)

Grave A80

Pit description: It was an irregular pit measuring 2 x 0,72 m and around 26 cm deep, with its SW part cutting through NW part of A83.

Fill: It consisted from dark brown Sand. A part of cranium of another individual found near the eastern wall of the pit, on a level around 10 cm higher than the more complete skeleton.

Burial: In the bottom of a pit a decomposed skeleton was found, buried in the supine position. Parts of cranium, teeth and vertebrae as well as lower limbs were preserved. An iron knife was found near the western wall of the pit, in the leg region of the skeleton (Nagmér 1979).

Grave A83

Pit description: It was an irregular pit, in the northwestern part cut into by A80. Measuring 1,6x 1,3 m and 27 cm deep

Fill: It consisted from dark brown sand.

Burial: In the bottom of the pit decomposed remains of a skeleton, from which a left arm and fragmentary remains of skull were preserved. Near the probable chest region a remains of tinder were found (Nagmér 1979).

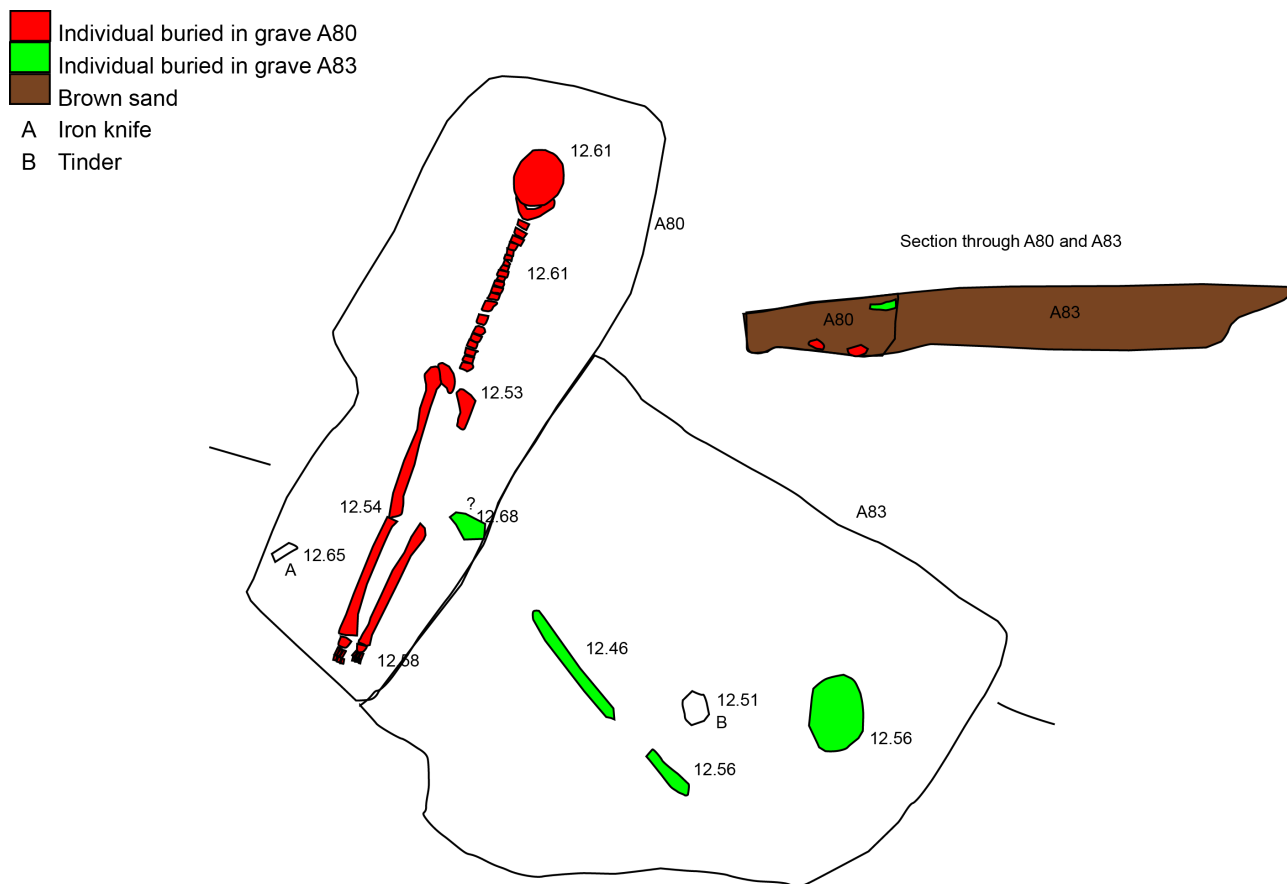


FIG. 48 STĂVIE, PLAN AND SECTION OF BURIALS A80 AND A83 (FROM: NAGMÉR 1979)

Grave A85

Pit description: It was an oval pit damaged during the topsoil removal, measuring 2 x 0,85 m and with 34 cm of depth preserved

Fill: It consisted from brown sand.

Burial: Traces of three almost completely decomposed skeletons were found, aligned on the axis N–S. Two crania found in the northern part of the grave and one in the southern. According to excavator, the fact that they are placed on the roughly same level points to simultaneous deposition. Two iron knives and a buckle were found in the burial (Nagmér 1979).

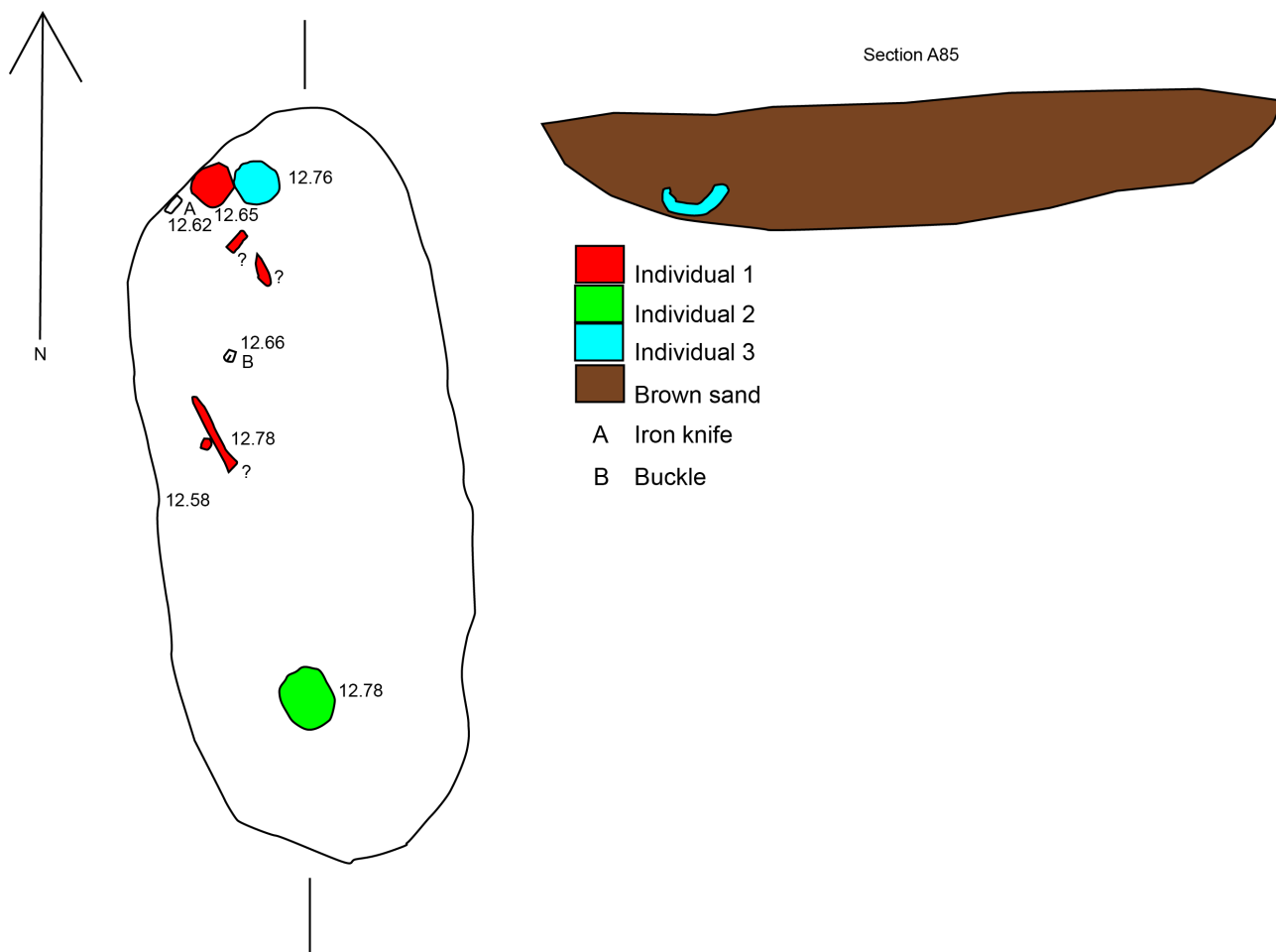


FIG. 49 STĂVIE, PLAN AND SECTION OF BURIAL A85 (FROM: NAGMÉR 1979)

Grave A91

Pit description: It was an oval pit measuring 1,2 x 0,8 m and around 30 cm deep, in its northern part damaged during the topsoil removal

Fill: consisted from brown sand.

Burial: Remains of two individuals found, one in the bottom of the pit, its remains were spread in the fill in the southern part of the grave and skull was placed in the northern part of the grave. Second body was placed with its head to the north, on a side in a coiled up position around 10 cm higher than the original position of remains of the individual 1 (Nagmér 1979).

Interpretation: Possibly an older burial pit was used for a burial. The bones of the first person buried were deposited in southern end of the pit. Other possibility is that the additional bones were deposited in the pit during burial of individual 1

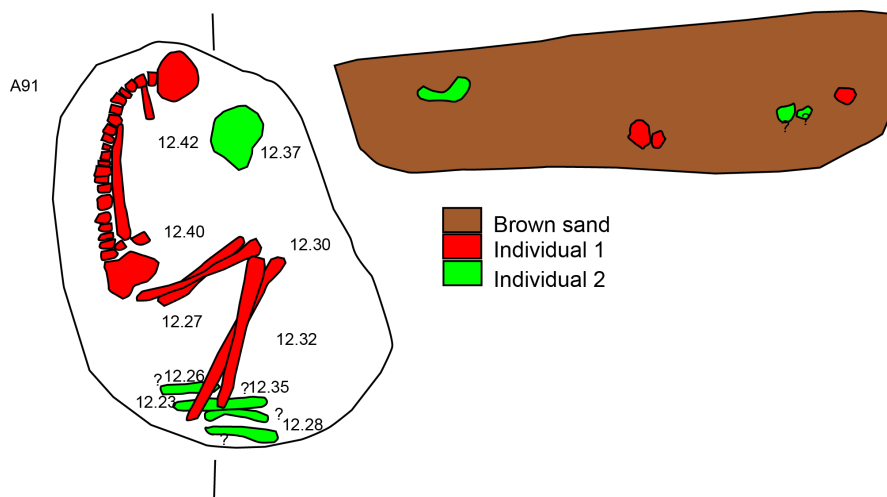


FIG. 50 STÄVIE, PLAN AND SECTION OF BURIAL A91 (FROM: NAGMÉR 1979)

Grave A97

Pit description: It was damaged during the topsoil removal and A98. An oval pit measuring 1,2 x 0,8 m, only 10 cm of original depth preserved

Fill: it consisted of brown sand

Burial: Parts of lower limbs discovered in the NNW part of the grave. It indicates that the burial was aligned on axis SSE–NNW. Possible discolourations from the coffin visible in the profile (Nagmér 1979).

Grave A98

Pit description: It was oval, measuring 1,3 x 0,6 m and around 19 cm deep. Feature damaged during the topsoil removal.

Fill: it consisted out of brown sand

Burial: decomposed skeleton was placed on side in a coiled position with the head to ENE lying on axis ENE–WSW. Possible discolouration from the coffin visible in the section (Nagmér 1979).

Grave A99

Pit description: It was a rectangular pit measuring 1,68 x 0,8 m and around 55 cm deep. In the southern part cut by the eastern part of A100

Fill: It consisted of brown Sand

Burial: A decomposed skeleton buried in the coiled position with head towards N, aligned on axis N–S was found. Next to it's right over arm an iron knife was found (Nagmér 1979)

Grave A100

Pit description: It was damaged during the topsoil removal. It was an irregular pit, measuring 1,5 x 0,9 m and around 37 cm deep. With its eastern part it cut into the southern part of A99

Fill: It consisted of black sand.

Burial: An individual was placed on its back on the axis E–W, with head towards W. Near the chest region and iron knife was found (Nagmér 1979).

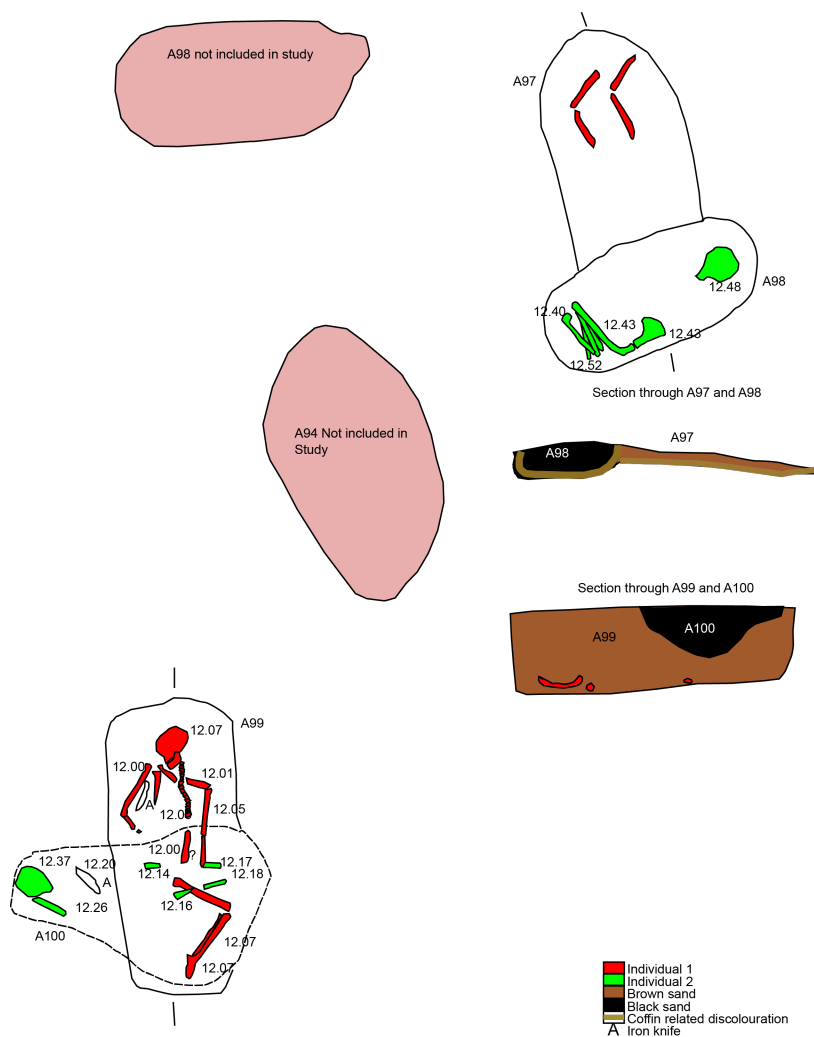


FIG. 51 STÄVIE, PLANS AND SECTIONS OF BURIALS A98, A97, A99 AND A100 (FROM: NAGMÉR 1979)

Grave A117

Pit description: The feature was damaged during the topsoil removal. Remaining part measured 0,8x0,6 m and was 16 cm deep. The pit was further damaged by intersecting grave A118.

Fill: It consisted from dark brown sand.

Burial: No skeletal remains were encountered. The burial was aligned on E–W axis, and traces of coffin were discovered at the bottom (Nagmèr 1979).

Grave A118

Pit description: The feature was damaged during the topsoil removal. Remaining part measured 1,4 x 0,56 m and was 19 cm deep.

Fill: It consisted of dark brown sand.

Burial: Traces of coffin and an iron knife were discovered at the bottom of the burial. No traces of human remains were encountered (Nagmèr 1979).

Grave A187

Pit description: It was a rectangular pit 1,81 x 0,7 m around 32 cm deep

Fill: It consisted primarily from layer of brown sand, in the layer, as the profile indicates a pit was dug, later filled with dark brown sand.

Burial: An individual was buried in supine position aligned on axis NE–SW, with head towards west (Nagmèr 1979).

FIG. 52 STĀVIE, PLAN AND SECTION OF BURIAL A187 (FROM: NAGMÉR 1979)

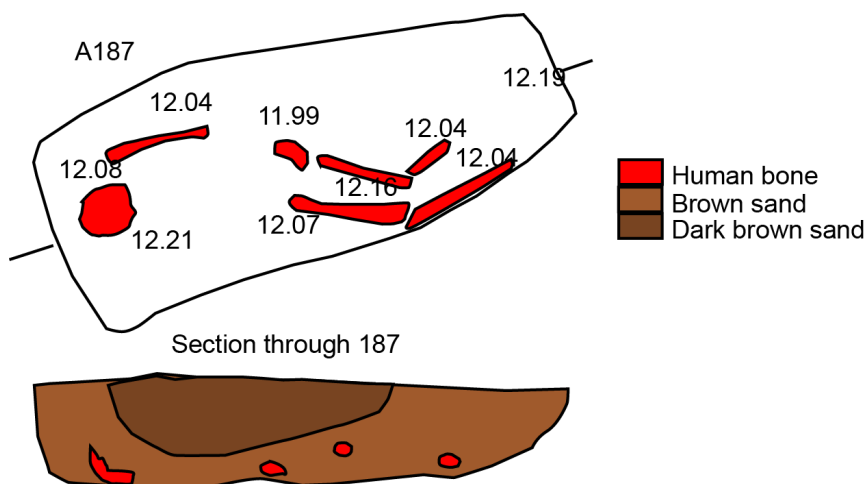


FIG. 52 STĀVIE, PLAN AND SECTION OF BURIAL A187 (FROM: NAGMÉR 1979)

Trelleborg “Vannhög”

Site location:

Site is located in the north-western part of the present day city of Trelleborg, on ridge consisting of gravel located on an east–west axis (Arcini & Jacobsson 2008, 2).

Research history and method

First recorded discovery at the site took place in 1916 when Otto Rydbeck inspected an inhumation grave discovered during the gravel extraction. Further excavations took place 1930, under supervision of Axel Andersson, who reported on 30 skeletons found in the area since 1870. In 1953 excavations were conducted by Mats Petterson, who discovered 14 burials. In 1990, 2000 and 2004 excavations were conducted by UV Syd (Arcini & Jacobsson 2008, 2–3).

Over the years 40 burials were documented and excavators estimates that there was at least another 40 destroyed by the gravel extraction, the site is not completely excavated (Arcini & Jacobsen 2008, 3). One possible cremation grave was found (Hanson 1993, 3) The site was used from the Vendel Period through the Viking Age according to C14 dates (Carlie 2008, 113).

The cemetery is located around 1 km from the site of a fortes from the Viking Age, established in around 950 and in later part of 10th c. converted to ring fort of Trelleborg type, to be abandoned at the beginning of 11th c (Arcini & Jacobsson 2008, 2; Carlie 2008, 116). It is also located between the coastal settlement form around the year 700 that was abandoned around 950 and a settlement site at Västervång, that might have been a smaller scale site with some elite connections during the Viking Age (Carlie 2008, 118). The coastal settlement was probably a trading place, but it is not clear if with regional or more interregional connections. To the area of the site a road has lead, probably having its origin at Uppåkra (Carlie 2008, 116). The relation between the road and the burial ground is still not known.

Burial 12

Pit description: Irregular, around 1,35 m width, no information about the length, situated above burial 13

Fill: no information

Burial: Skeleton was placed on a left side, aligned on axis NNW–SSE with head towards the North was found. It was probably placed in a six edged coffin measuring 1,85 x 1 m. Grave goods consisted of an ornamented bronze buckle with remains of textiles and a strap end of bronze of Carolingian origins (Svanberg 2003b).

Burial 13

Pit description: Oval pit measuring 1,85 x 0,77 m, situated under the burial 13

Fill: No information

Burial: Skeleton was buried in supine position on axis NNW–SSE with head towards NNW, in observable outline of coffin, measuring 1,6 x 0,5 m. Grave goods consisted of iron knife and a nail, probably from the coffin (Svanberg 2003b)

Burial II (1990 excavations)

Pit description: Oval, measuring 2,06 x 1,15 m and 75 cm deep.

Fill: It consisted with dark brown sand mixed with gravel. In it spread loosely remains of a skeleton of a man around 25–30 years were found. Also in the grave fill an iron knife was found (Hanson 1993, 5)

Burial: Skeleton of a woman aged between 20–23 years, buried in supine position on axis WNW–ESE. Grave goods consisted of a knife.

Interpretation: The pit was reused for burial, at least two years after deposition of first individual, whose remains were later thrown into the pit (Hanson 1993, 5). Eventually the bones were deposited simultaneously in a loose manner during the burial of the deceased found at the bottom of the feature. Not all the bones from individual 1 were present in the burial.

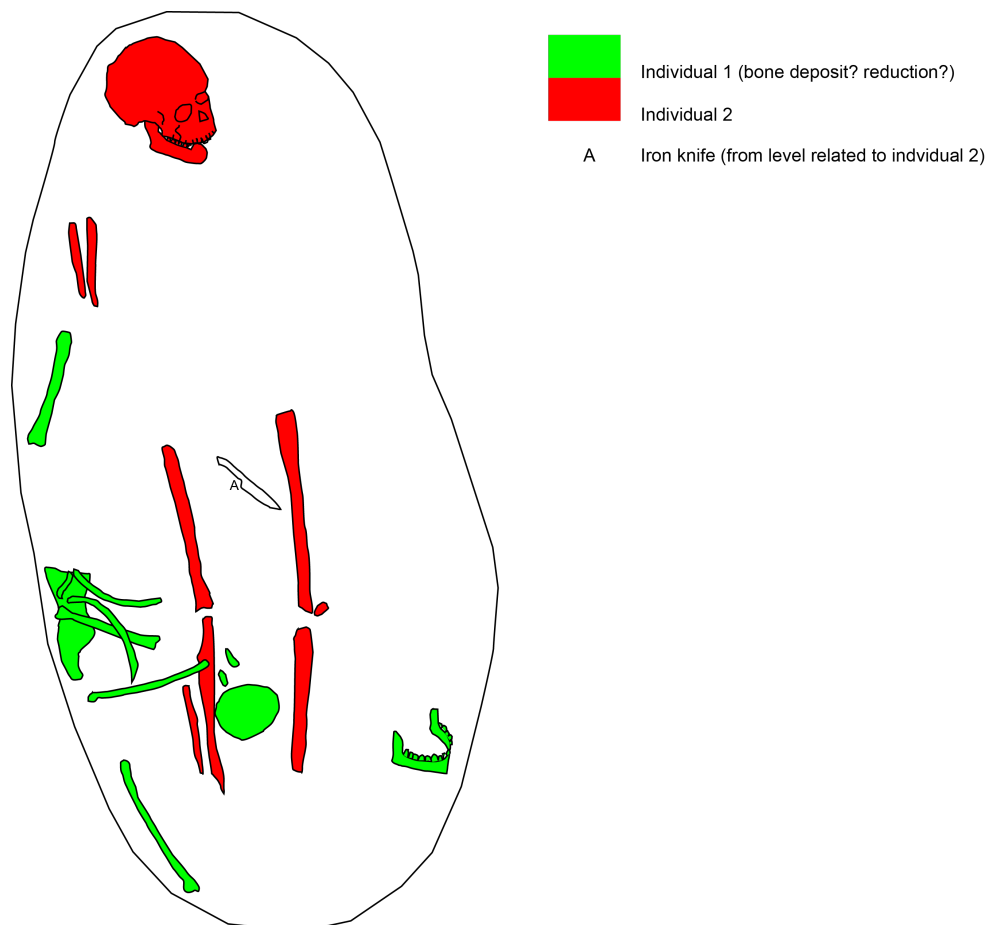


FIG. 53 TRELLEBORG, PLAN OF BURIAL II (FROM HANSON 1993)

Burial III and IV (1990 excavations)

Pit description: The pit surrounded by remains of an edge ditch of a burial mound of diameter of approximately 8 m. The pit measured 2,35 x 1,30 m. Second individual buried in a pit measuring 2,35 x 0,9 m. Features were intersecting.

Fill: In fragments of animal bones were found. The overlaying burial was damaged by ploughing (burial 3)

Burial: A skeleton of a man, around 45–50 years old was found, displaying signs of many lesser fractures on the bones that healed, probably related to fighting. He was buried in a rectangular coffin on axis N–S with head towards N. On his front teeth horizontal artificially made lines were visible. The man was buried with a small iron knife and a whetstone (burial 4) (Hanson 1993, 5–6).

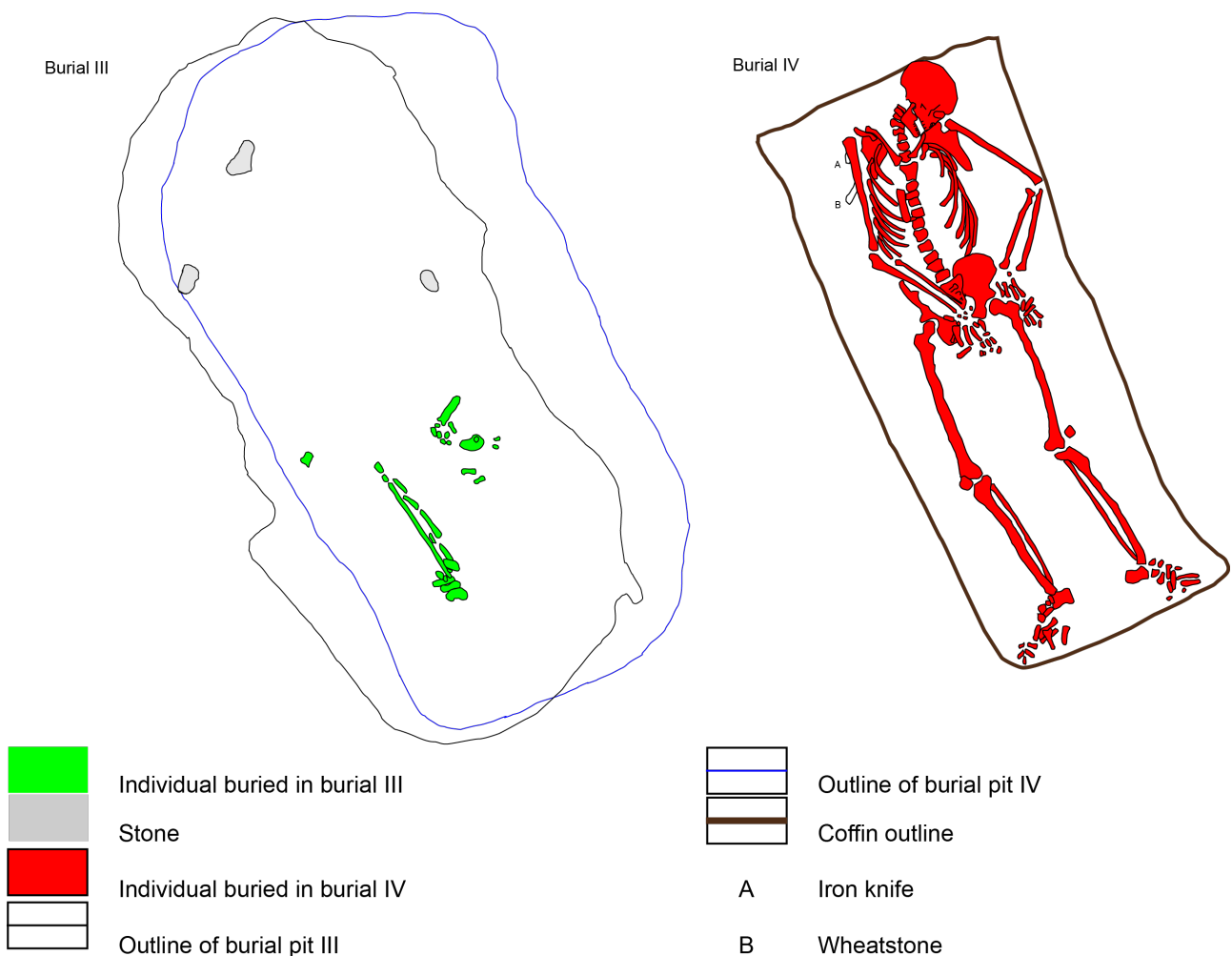


FIG. 54 TRELLEBORG, PLAN OF OVERLAYING BURIALS III AND IV (FROM HANSON 1993)

Burial A200

Pit description: It was an oval pit measuring 2,25 x 1,05 m. It was located above burial 307

Fill: In the filling of the burial animal bones were found, according to excavator, they are related to settlement material found on the site. Two large stone were found in upper layers of the burial,

Burial: Individual was buried in a supine position with slightly bent knees, on axis E–W and head towards W. In the burial a bone needle and an iron knife were found (Hellerström 2005, 10)

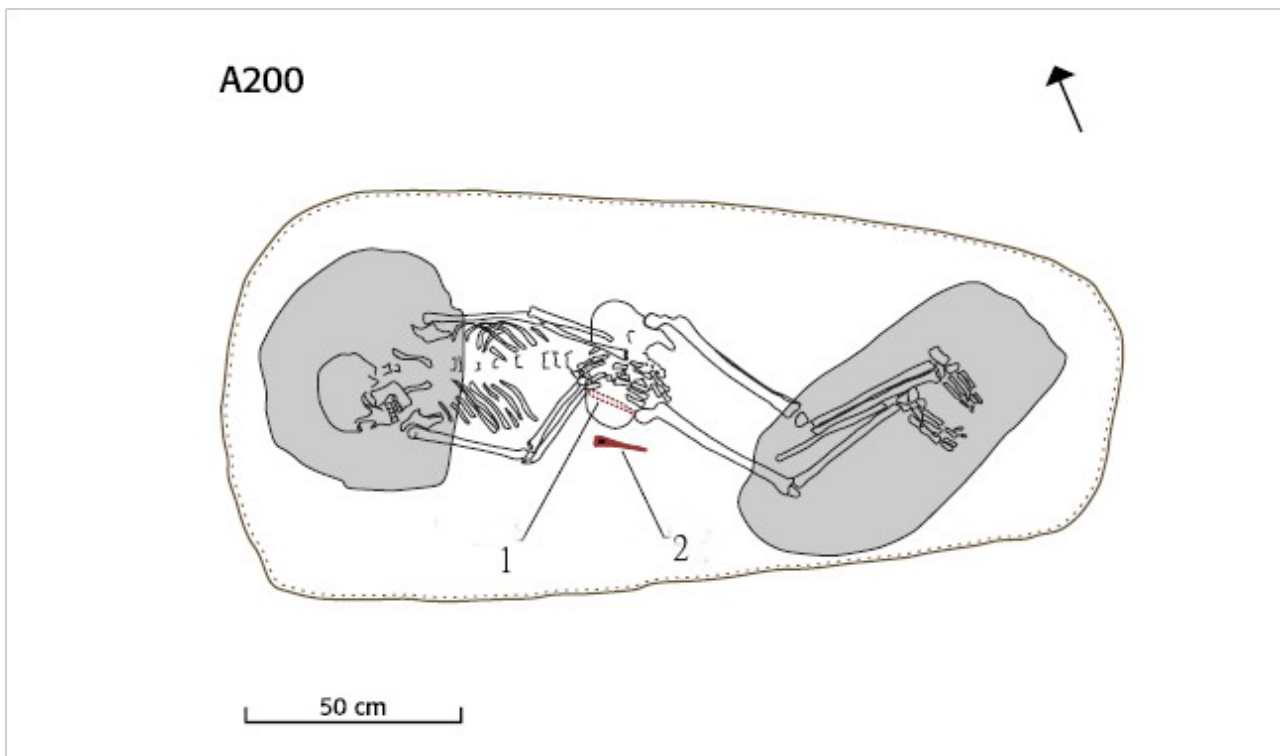


FIG. 55 TRELLEBORG, PLAN OF A200. 1 – IRON KNIFE, 2 – BONE NEEDLE (FROM: HELLERSTRÖM2005, 10)

Burial A307

Pit description: Person was buried in an oval pit measuring 1,7 x 0,5 m.

Fill: No information

Burial: Corpse were placed in a supine position, on east-west axis, with the head towards west. In the burial an iron knife was found next to deceased's torso, a bone needle next to the skull and a pottery vessel near the legs (Hellerström2005, 10).

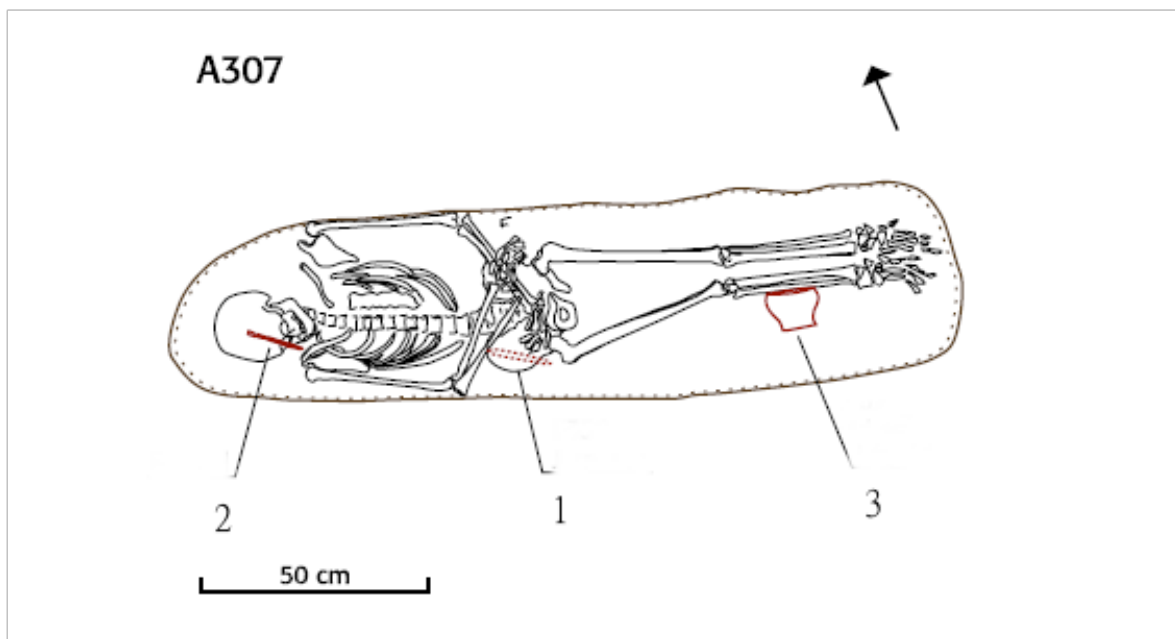


FIG. 56 TRELLEBORG, PLAN OF A307. 1 – IRON KNIFE, 2 – BONE NEEDLE (FROM: HELLERSTRÖM2005, 10)

Burial A626

Pit description: It was a round pit measuring 1,05 x 0,85 m

Fill: In the filling of the burial burned animal bone was found, according to the excavator it could derive from an earlier hearth that was damaged during the grave digging

Burial: Individual was buried with the head towards west, but the skeleton was preserved only fragmentary

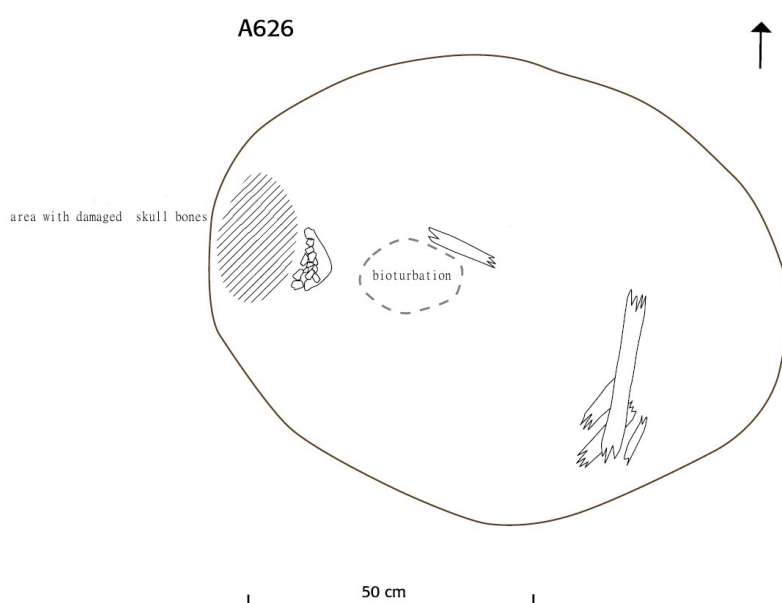


FIG. 57 TRELLEBORG, PLAN OF A626 (FROM: HELLERSTRÖM2005, 10)

Norrvidinge

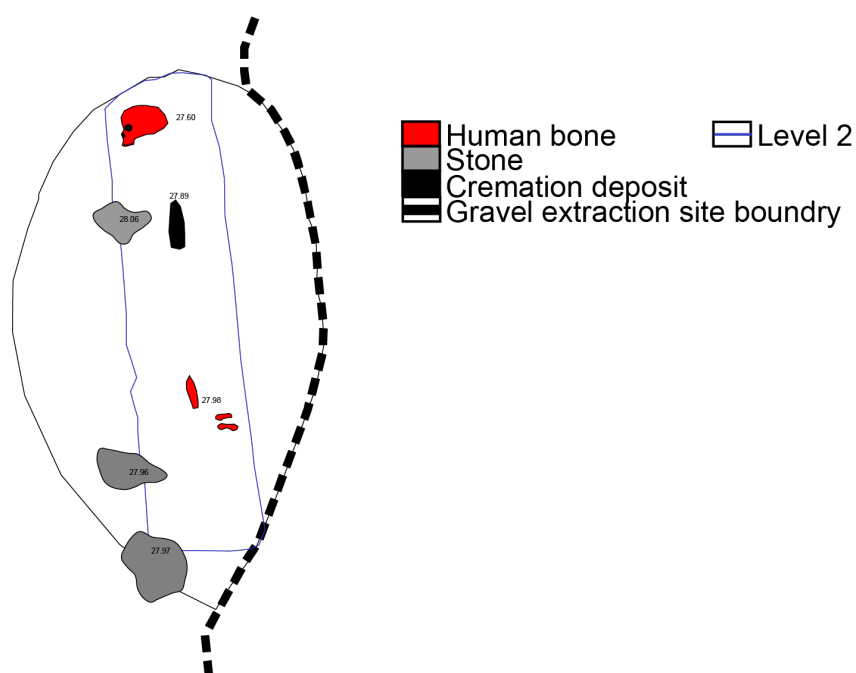
Site location:

The site is located on eastern edge of the village of Norrvidinge in a direction of Håstenslöv, nearby there is a small stream located, and site seems to be placed on an elevated terrain.

Research history:

The site was used for gravel extraction since 1930'. It was excavated by Lund University Historic museum and institute of archaeology in Lund in years 1963 – 1967 under supervision by Ingeborg Tilander. Additional excavations were made by Johan Callmer in 1971 (Svanberg 2003b, 284). Around 70 inhumation burials were registered, that can be probably dated to younger Iron age, one probable cremation burial was discovered in 1966, under a mound there was a cremation layer with a spindle whorl and a whetstone. Traces of bronze age settlement were discovered, consisting of hearths, post holes and pits (Tilander 1963a, 40; Tilander 1965). There are information about signs of burnet coal or bones damaged by fire on some of the skeletons, but as site remains unpublished it is impossible to clarify the information at this point (Lindskog 1966, 42). Before the excavations there were four damaged mounds. Site was investigated by M.Strömberg who discovered a late neolithic grave and a grave with an urn (bronze age?) in 1955 (FMIS). The iron age part of the site is mainly date to the 10th c. but there are some burials that are probably from the first half of 11th c.

Grave 3



Pit description: Oval pit measuring 2x 1,1 m. On lower pit becomes rectangular

Fill: There was a spot with cremation related material discovered on a higher level than the skeletal remains

Burial: At the bottom of the pit remains of a skeleton, including a skull were discovered. According to Svanberg a pottery vessel was found in the grave (2003b, 284)

FIG. 58 NORRVIDINGE, PLAN OF GRAVE 3 (DRAWN FROM FIELD DOCUMENTATION STORED AT LUHM ARCHIVES)

Grave 16

Pit Description: Oval pit measuring 2 x 1,5 m, around it possible edge ditch of a burial mound.

Fill: consisted of sand mixed with humus of different shades of brown.

Burial: possibly two buried individuals, two iron knives were found, a whetstone, a ceramic vessel and a handle for a wooden vessel were found. Burial aligned on axis NS. Traces of wooden coffin or coffins were visible at the bottom level and in the section.

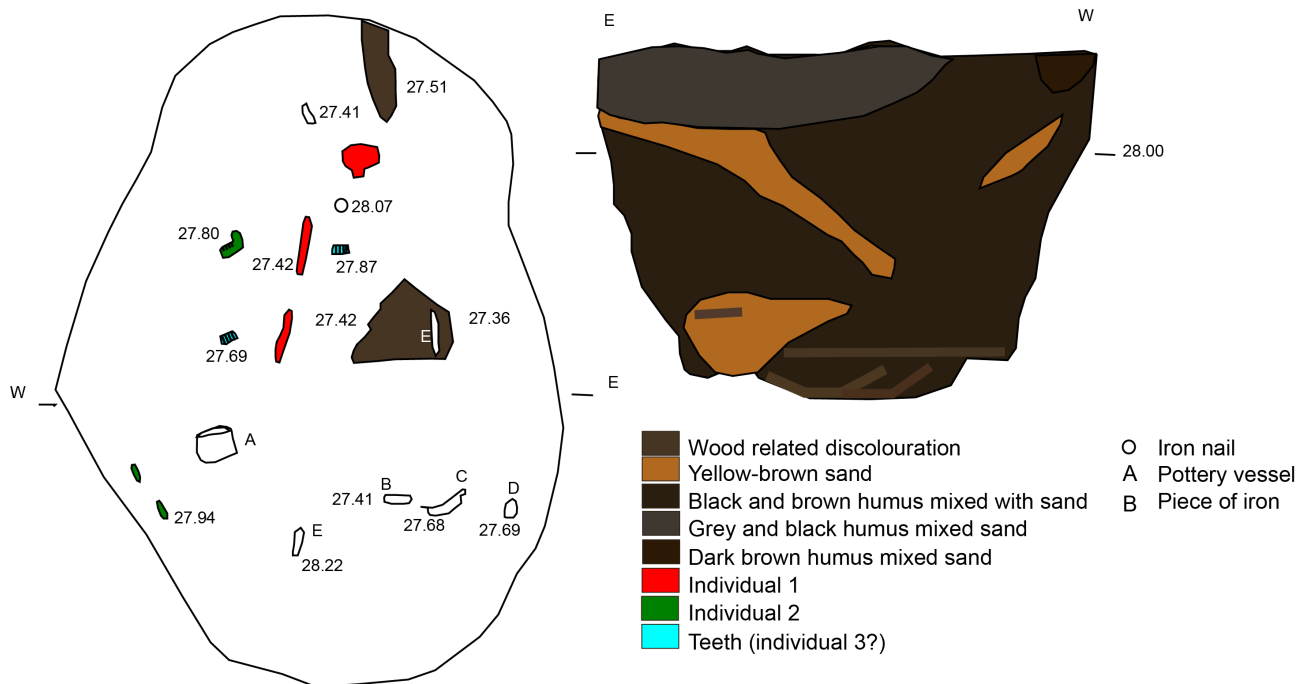


FIG. 59 NORRVIDINGE, PLAN AND SECTION OF BURIAL 16 (REDRAWN FROM FIELD DOCUMENTATION STORED AT LUHM)

Grave 18

Pit description: Oval, measuring 3,3 x 2,6 m, on lower levels rectangular and 2,6 x 2 m. Surrounded by the edge ditch of a mound. The grave 21 cuts in to the edge ditch.

Fill: Ten large stones were found in the upper level of the fill of the burial. Two flakes of cremation deposits were found as well

Burial: Skeleton was only partially preserved, 10 beads were discovered as well as a weaving sword, around 20 nails and textiles with possible woven with inlays of silver thread were. The wood discolouration and nails can point to the possibility that some sort of container was used to bury the corpses.

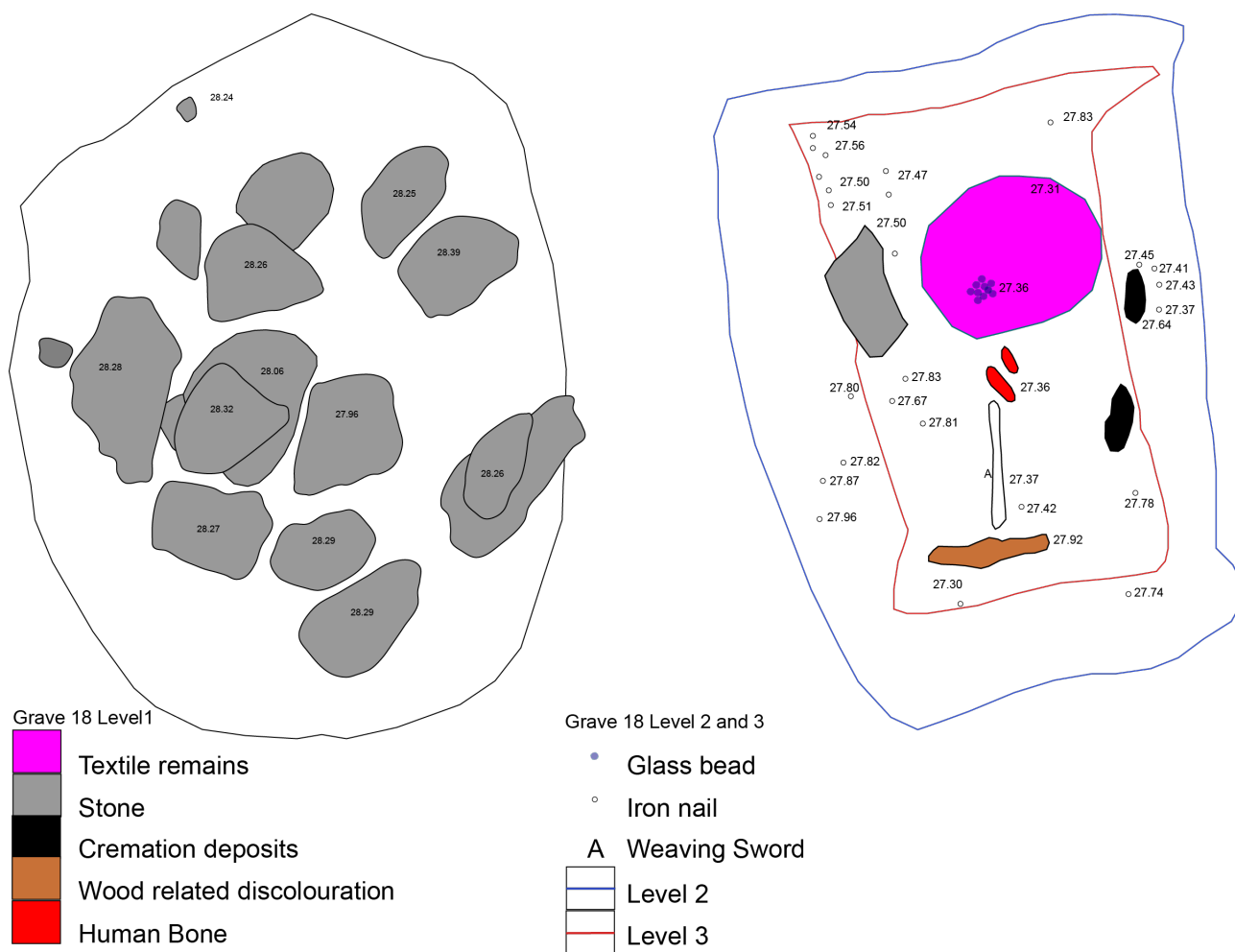


FIG. 60 NORRVIDINGE, PLAN OF LEVEL 1–3 OF GRAVE 18 (REDRAWN FROM FIELD DOCUMENTATION STORED AT LUHM)

Grave 19

Pit description: Oval, measuring 2,6 x 2 m, cuts in to burial 20, becomes rectangular on the lower levels and measures 2,1 x 1,4 m. Possible signs of chamber construction were discovered.

Fill: Several large stones were encountered in the fill of the burial.

Burial: A skeleton with head towards NW, aligned on axis NW–SE was discovered, grave goods consisted of iron knife.

Dating: burial postdate the burial 20, so it must be dated to the Viking Age (Svanberg 2003b).

Grave 20

Pit description: rectangular measuring 2,1 x 0,8 m cutting in to the edge ditch of grave 18 and is cut into by grave 19

Fill: no information

Burial: A skeleton was discovered, aligned NNE–SSW with the head towards NNE, in a discolouring related to the coffin measuring 1,8 x 0,45 m. Finds included a gilded pendant of gold – imitation of Terslev, a metal mount connected to wooden vessel, spindle whorl and a glass smoother.

Dating: The pendant can be dated for the second half of 10th c. up to second half of 11th c. (Svanberg 2003b).

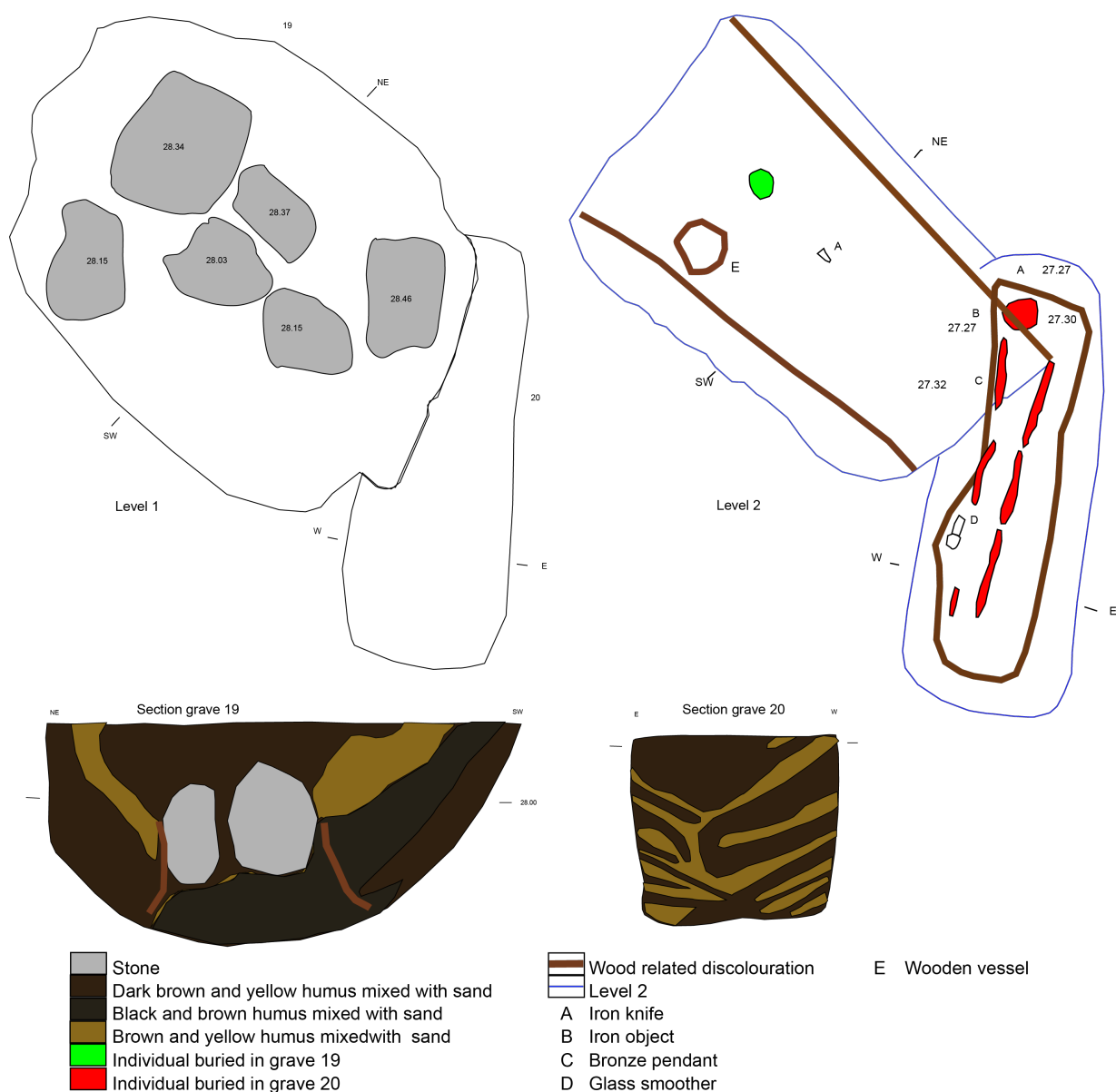


FIG. 61 NORRVIDINGE, PLAN AND SECTION OF BURIALS 19 AND 20 (REDRAWN FROM FIELD DOCUMENTATION STORED AT LUHM)

Grave 21

Pit description: Rectangular, measuring 0,8 m width, no data about the length. Damaged in its southern part. The pit is cutting into the edge ditch of the mound associated with grave 18.

Fill: It consisted of black and brown humus mixed sand

Burial: A skeleton was found aligned on axis N–S with the head towards N. The discolouration from wood were visible at the bottom of the pit. A knife was found in the burial. The nail and traces of wood suggest that the burial was in a coffin.

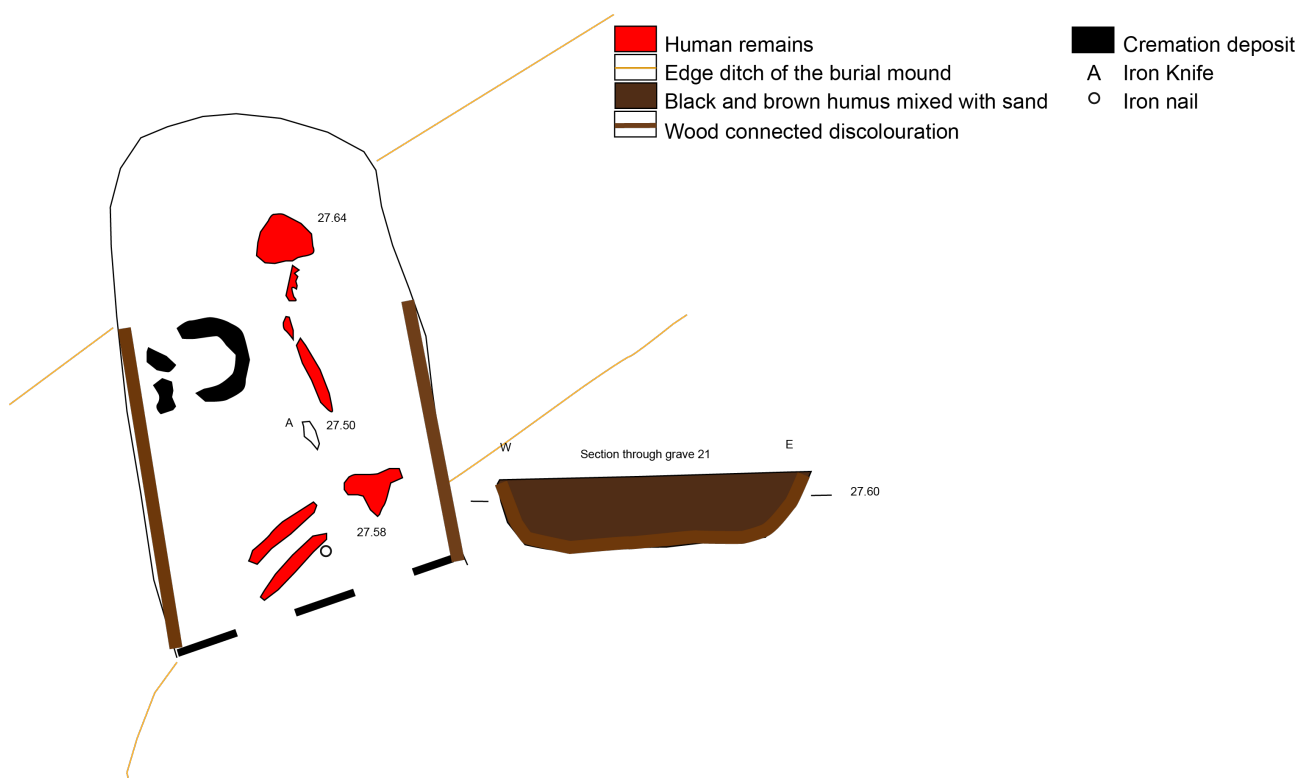


FIG. 62 NORRVIDINGE, PLAN AND SECTION OF GRAVE 21 (REDRAWN FROM FIELD DOCUMENTATION STORED AT LUHM)

Grave 22

Pit description: an oval pit 2 x 1,4 m cut in to the edge ditch of burial mound connected to burial 18

Fill: consisted of different layer of humus blended sand

Burial: A skeleton was buried aligned on axis N–S with head towards N. Wood colourings were visible at the bottom of the grave. A whetstone and fragments, possibly from an iron knife were found in the burial. Wood discolourations might indicate that wooden vessel was placed in the burial.

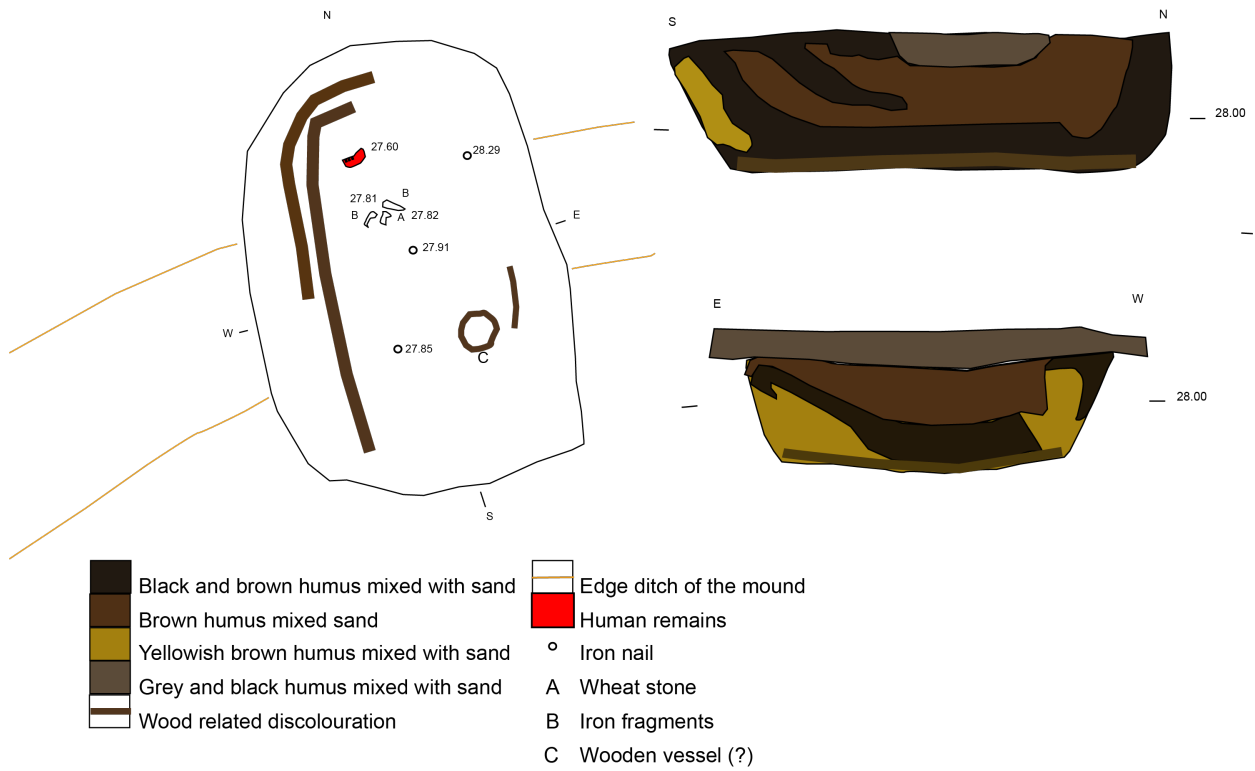


FIG 63. NORRVIDINGE, PLAN AND SECTIONS OF GRAVE 22 (REDRAWN FROM FIELD DOCUMENTATION STORED AT LUHM)

Grave 24

Pit description: Initial discolouration was irregular. Level 2 was an oval pit measuring 2.6x2.1 m (Svanberg 2003b).

Fill: consisted from humus mixed sand. In the top part of the fill four large stones were discovered. Under the stone layer a hearth or possible hearth grave was discovered.

Burial: Only tooth enamel was discovered in the norther part of the burial. The corpse was probably originally placed in a coffin. In the burial a ceramic vessel a knife and an Arabic silver coin were found, as well as possible wooden vessel.

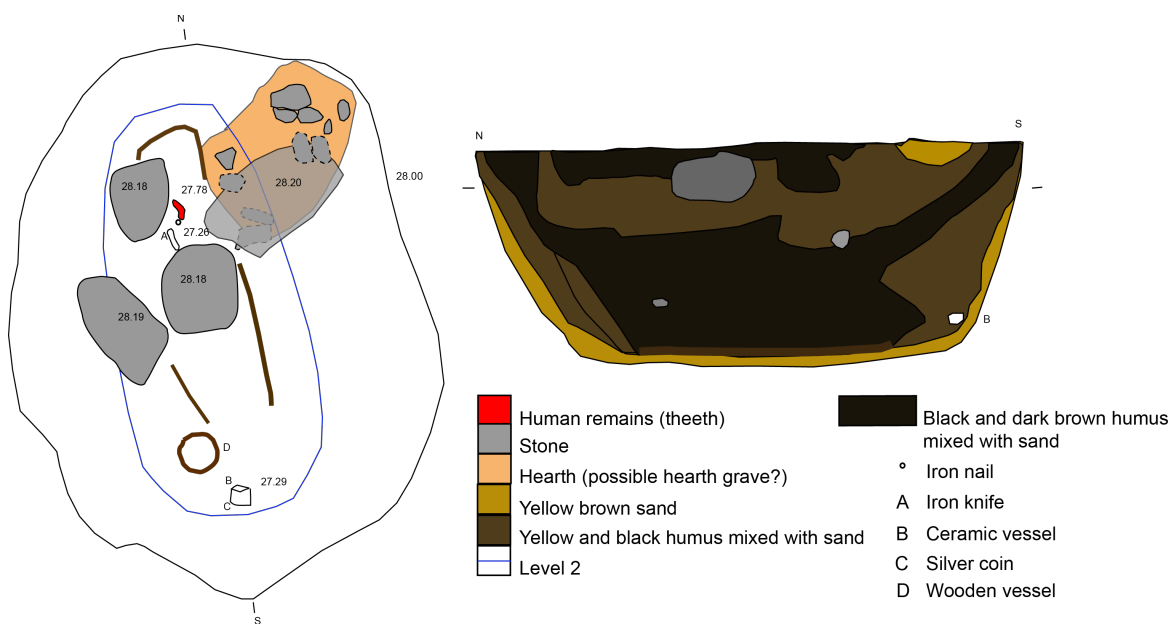


Fig. 64 Norrvidinge Plan of levels 1 and 2 and section of grave 24 (redrawn from field documentation stored at LUHM)

Grave 55

Pit description: The upper levels of the pit were irregular, measuring 2,6x1,2 m. But probably the original pit was rectangular, and the discovered outline was related to the fact that the burial was reopened

Fill: It consisted of humus mixed with sand. In the upper layers of the cut large rocks were found – they can derive from a stone setting that might have been damaged during reopening of the burial. It is visible that the pit was dug in to the burial, and a spearhead was trusted in to the grave.

Burial: Only a skull was found at the bottom of the grave, in side discolourations indicating that the corpses were laid down in a coffin. The body was oriented on E–W axis.

Dating: The spearhead dates the burial to the Viking Age (Svanberg 2003b).

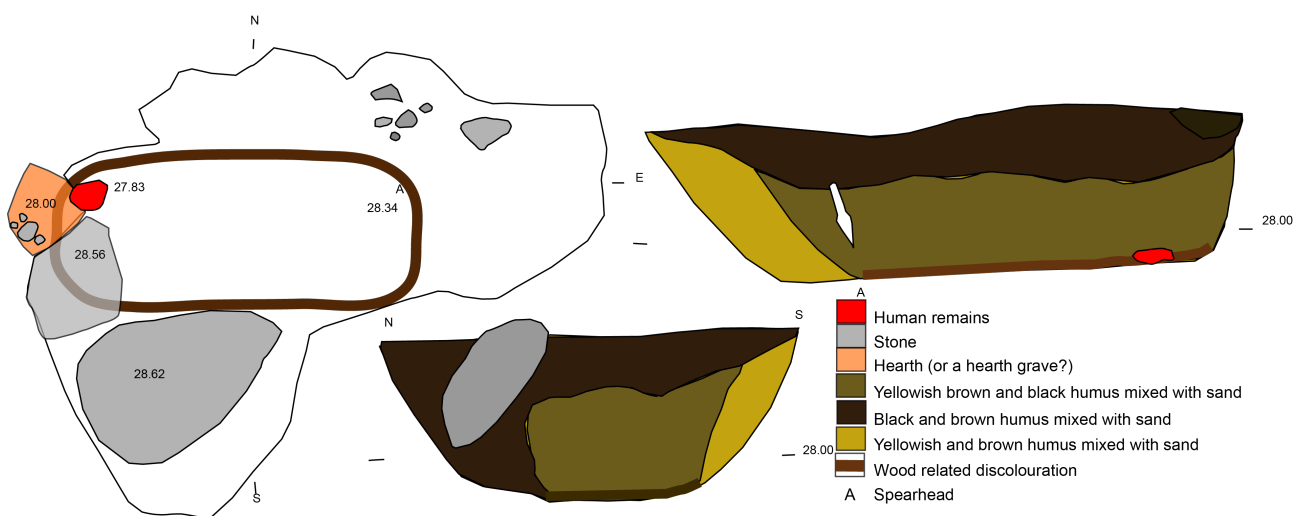


Fig. 65 Norrvidinge, Plan and Sections of grave 55 (redrawn from field documentation STORED AT LUHM)

Grave 59

Pit description: It was an irregular pit measuring 1.7x1,2.

Fill: In the filling, on the level higher than the skeletal remains two charred logs were encountered.

Burial: From individual only a skull remained in the northern end of the coffin outline registered at the pit bottom. Also in the outline an iron key, two nails and a glass bead was found Svanberg mentions two bronze rings, but they were not marked on the drawing (Svanberg 2003b).

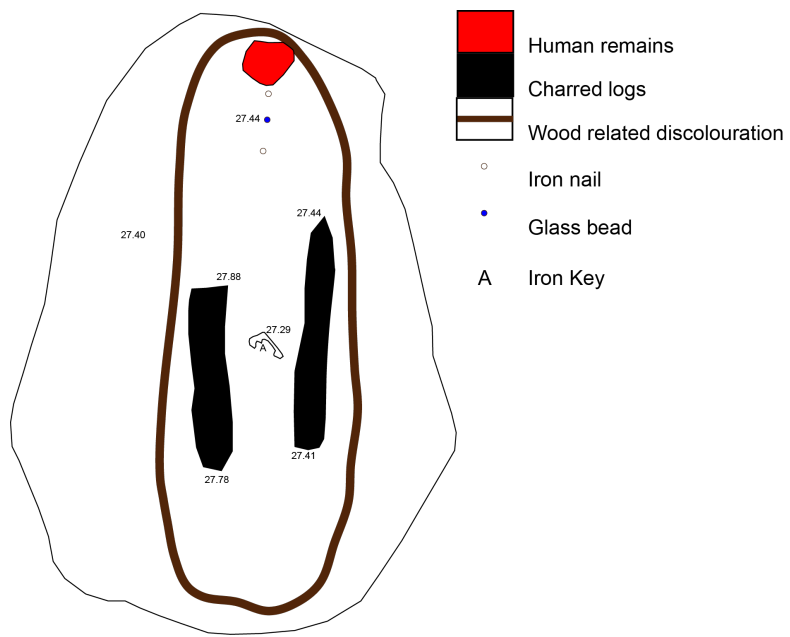


FIG. 66 NORRVIDINGE, PLAN OF GRAVE 59 (REDRAWN FROM FIELD DOCUMENTATION STORED AT LUHM)

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