

**L'INSTITUT D'ARCHEOLOGIE
DE L'UNIVERSITE JAGELLONNE DE CRACOVIE**

**RECHERCHES ARCHEOLOGIQUES
NOUVELLE SERIE 1**

KRAKÓW 2009

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Kraków 2009

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MISE EN PAGES
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EN COUVERTURE
Trois figurines d'ivoire de site prédynastique de Tell el-Farkha

ADRESSE DE LA REDACTION
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www.archeo.edu.uj.pl/ra

ISSN 0137-3285

Cette publication est financée aux moyens destinés à l'activité statutaire
de la Faculté d'Histoire de l'Université Jagellonne

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Joanna Dębowska-Ludwin

The catalogue of graves from Tell el-Farkha

The site of Tell el-Farkha is located in the Eastern Nile Delta, Egypt, 120 km NE to Cairo. It is under the investigation of the Polish Expedition to the Eastern Nile Delta since 1998 (Chłodnicki, Ciałowicz 2002: 89–117; Ablańowicz *et al.* 2004). Up to now research revealed seven occupational phases on the site. The most important for the following study are the last three ones corresponding to the age of burials registered at the Eastern tell.

The cemetery in Tell el-Farkha was found on the E tell. Fieldworks on the necropolis are carried out since 2001. Discoveries revealed 53 graves and one mastaba, so far (Pl. 1). The burials can be divided into four main categories¹, basing on general features of their construction, typical offerings and their orientation. The oldest graves in Tell el-Farkha belong to the first group (Pls. 2, 3). They are to be dated to the end of Dynasty 0 (Naqada IIIB–C1) and the beginning of the First Dynasty (Naqada IIIC1–2). They apparently belonged to Tell el-Farkha's middle class. Economic status of people buried in graves of this group is confirmed by differentiation in offerings assemblage. Each of these rather large mudbricked structures was

erected employing significant effort, carefully lined with mattings and often secured with a massive superstructure. Some of them display also extra architectural features like: additional storage chamber, so-called annexes, bottom burial niche or particularly massive walls. Graves of the second type (Pl. 4) are rarely equipped with objects. They are interpreted as belonging to people of the society's lower group and dated to the end of the First Dynasty (NIIIC2–NIIID). However, most of them is rectangular in shape and lined or paved with mudbricks, the main difference revealing in smaller measurements and lesser effort invested in their construction (twisted, thin walls, lack of any traces of preserved superstructures). Although much poorer in form, graves of this part of Farkha's population seldom are simple pits (in this group always of clear shape and lined with mattings), which become popular not before later period. The third group of graves (Pl. 5) consists of simple pit burials (sometimes oval but chiefly their exact shape remains undefined) rarely lined with mattings and devoid of any offerings. This group of graves is dated only by its archaeological relation to the Old Kingdom structures, most probably to the end of Early Dynastic Period. Lack of grave goods should be regarded the main reason, thanks to which the majority of burials assigned to this category was found undisturbed. The

¹ After three following seasons of fieldworks at the cemetery, the division proposed in the article has changed much. The updated version, based on the most recent research, will be published soon.

rest of them being damaged by later building activity in the settlement but not robbery as it was the case of previously described groups of graves. Finally, graves of the fourth group (Pl. 6) are the youngest on the site and create a separate necropolis that was founded on ruins of a poor settlement. The present state of research does not enable to define its actual range. All graves of the group were found in the uppermost layers of the tell, just beneath its surface. They were simple pits furnished with nothing but a few beads or some pottery fragments, typical for the Old Kingdom times. Bodies were oriented along the E-W axis, their heads always to W. The deceased were lying in a straight position mostly on their right side.

The majority of graves registered in Tell el-Farkha are single burials, while double ones – mostly women with children – consist only a small percentage of the whole number. Bodies were buried in a contracted position on their left or right side in the Predynastic Period or straight on their right side in the Dynastic Period. The orientation of deceased varies, as their heads were found pointing to the south, east, west and most frequently to the north. Most of the Tell el-Farkha graves were found undisturbed.

Particular categories of offerings are investigated in details by the Tell el-Farkha team members and we soon expect their publication. Anthropological analyses were done by M. Kaczmarek, A. Rewekant and M. Skrzypczak (2006). In the following table all graves registered on the site were gathered. There was also marked to which group of graves every burial belongs. The grave labelled no. 10 represents a mastaba type and will be the subject of a separate publication, therefore it is not mentioned in this article. It is also worth to mention that the mastaba is the oldest sepulchral structure on the whole site and most of other graves were found dug out in its ruins or in the overlying layers.

Table 1.

GRAVE NO.	CONSTRUCTION TYPE	BURIAL	GROUP
1	pit lined with mudbricks	double	I
2	pit lined with mudbricks	single	I
3	pit lined with mudbricks	single	I
4	pit lined with mudbricks	single	I
5	pit lined with mudbricks	single	I
6	free-standing, mudbricked	single	I
7	pit lined with mudbricks	double	I
8	simple pit, bottom paved with mudbricks	single	I
9	pit lined with mudbricks	single	I
10	mastaba		
11	simple pit	single	III
12	pit lined with mudbricks	single	II
13	simple pit	single	III
14	pit lined with mudbricks	single	I
15	simple pit	single	IV
16	simple pit	single	IV
17	simple pit	single	III
18	simple pit	single	III
19	simple pit?	single	III
20	pit lined with mudbricks	single	II
21	pit lined with mudbricks	single	II
22	simple pit	single	III
23	pit lined with mudbricks	double	II
24	pit lined with mudbricks	single	II
25	simple pit	single	III
26	pit lined with mudbricks	single	I
27	pit lined with mudbricks	single	II
28	simple pit	single	III
29	pit lined with mudbricks	single	II
30	pit lined with mudbricks	single	II
31	simple pit	single	III
32	simple pit	single	II
33	simple pit, partially lined with mudbricks and mud	single	III
34	simple pit	single	IV
35	simple pit	single	IV
36	simple pit	single	IV
37	simple pit	single	IV
38	simple pit	single	IV
39	simple pit	single	IV
40	simple pit	single	IV
41	simple pit	single	IV

Table 1. Continuation

GRAVE NO.	CONSTRUCTION TYPE	BURIAL	GROUP
42	simple pit	single	IV
43	simple pit	single	IV
44	simple pit	single	IV
45	simple pit	single	IV
46	simple pit	single	IV
47	simple pit	single	IV
48	simple pit	single	IV
49	simple pit	single	III
50	pit lined with mudbricks	single	I
51	unexplored		
52	simple pit	triple	III
53	simple pit	single	III
54	unexplored		

The catalogue

Grave no. 1

Condition: undisturbed. Localization: tell E, trench 44b. Level (above sea): top 6.84 m; bottom 4.8 m; (below surface): approx. 0.4 m. Construction type: rectangular pit lined with mudbricks. Total measurements: 2.3 m long; 1.2 m wide; 2.04 m deep (max.). Superstructure: mudbrick cover with a central recess – 2.3 m long; 1.2 m wide; 1 m high (as preserved). Substructure: single chamber – 1.9 m long; 1 m wide; 1.04 m deep (max.). Offerings: 6 pottery vessels, fragments of burnt animal bones.

Burial: double. 1. Sex: female. Age: adult (over 20 years old). Body position: contracted, left side, head to N. Bones preservation: weak. 2. Sex: unknown. Age: 0–1 year old. Body position: unknown. Bones preservation: very weak.

Description: the mudbrick superstructure was very thick and considerably larger than the burial chamber. It had in its centre a rectangular pit, filled with brown earth mixed with potsherds. The grave goods had been placed close to the body's feet, in the southern section of the burial chamber. The

chamber had been lined along all the walls, including floor and roof, with a mat preserved as white fibres.

Grave no. 2

Condition: disturbed. Localization: tell E, trench 44b. Level (above sea): top 6.81 m; bottom 4.8 m; (below surface): approx. 0.4 m. Construction type: rectangular pit lined with mudbricks. Total measurements: 2.6 m long; 1.3 m wide; 1.99 m deep (max.). Superstructure: compact mudbrick cover – 2.8 m long; 1.65 m wide; 0.67 m high (as preserved). Substructure: single chamber – 2.22 m long; 0.96 m wide; 1.32 m deep (max.). Offerings: 21 pottery vessels, 2 small bone vessels (found inside jar no. 8 – E/01/7, E/01/8), 1 ceramic cone (a possible gaming piece – E/01/9), 1 stone bowl (E/01/3), 1 pestle, 1 large almost square palette (E/01/4) with grinder (E/01/5), small carnelian beads (E/01/6) and 434 fragments of burnt animal bones (remains of food offerings discovered in and around the crushed pots).

Burial: single. Sex: female. Age: 30–40 years old. Body position: not fully anatomical, on its back, head to N, face to E. Bones preservation: weak.

Description: the structure is very similar to that of grave no. 1 but larger and also equipped with significantly more valuable funerary goods mostly arranged along the northern, southern and eastern walls of the burial chamber. The grave was secured with a compact and rectangular layer of mudbricks. Upon and just beneath the skeleton the remains of a mat could be observed. The way in which the body was found is of great interest. It was discovered lying on its back, the head turned to face NE, the legs translocated. They had been squeezed in between the vessels and the eastern wall of the burial chamber. This may indicate that the woman died some place away from the neighbouring settlement at Tell el-Farkha or that for

some other reason a longer period of time elapsed between the moment of her death and the actual burial.

Grave no. 3

Condition: disturbed. Localization: tell E, trench 44a/54c. Level (above sea): top 7.01 m; bottom 6.31 m; (below surface): approx. 0.1 m. Construction type: rectangular pit lined with mudbricks. Total measurements: 2.66 m long; 1.4 m wide; 0.7 m deep (max.). Superstructure: none. Substructure: single chamber – 2.4 m long; 1.1 m wide; 0.7 m deep (max.). Offerings: 18 pottery vessels, 113 fragments of burnt animal bones.

Burial: single. Sex: female. Age: adult (over 20 years old). Body position: contracted, left side, head to N. Bones preservation: weak.

Description: In the northern part of the burial chamber vessels had been stacked in layers one on top of the other. The rims of the biggest jars were covered with white, organic rests of a mat and were visible immediately below surface. The skeleton had been originally wrapped in a mat similar as mentioned above. Underneath the human bones a layer of mud was recovered, possibly intended as floor for the chamber. In the immediate vicinity of the grave a fragment of a cylindrical seal impression was also found.

Grave no. 4

Condition: undisturbed. Localization: tell E, trench 43b/53d/54c. Level (above sea): top 6.49 m; bottom 5.84 m; (below surface): approx. 0.1 m. Construction type: rectangular pit lined with mudbricks. Total measurements: 4.13 m long; 2 m wide; 0.65 m deep (max.). Superstructure: none. Substructure: 2 chambers; northern chamber – 0.9 m long, 1.5 m wide, 0.65 m deep (max.); burial chamber – 2.4 m long, 1.58 m wide, 0.55 m

deep (max.). Offerings: 36 pottery vessels, 1 stone bowl (E/03/7), 1 stone bead (E/03/8), 1 fragment of a stone palette (E/03/2).

Burial: single. Sex: male. Age: 30–40 years old. Body position: contracted (partly dismembered), left side, head to N. Bones preservation: medium.

Description: it is a big two-chamber tomb. The skeleton had been placed in the southern chamber on a kind of mudbrick-catafalque and was discovered in a position not entirely anatomical: crushed and dislocated skull, vertebrae in front of the face, phalanges thrown round the body. The offerings (mostly pottery jars of medium dimension and rather small bowls) were largely stacked in a few layers one on the other's top in the smaller, northern chamber. Both rooms had been covered with mats, remains of which were unearthed in a form of white fibres.

Grave no. 5

Condition: disturbed. Localization: tell E, trench 54a/64c. Level (above sea): top 7.59 m; bottom 6.2 m; (below surface): approx. 0.1 m. Construction type: rectangular pit lined with mudbricks. Total measurements: 4.65 m long; 2.25 m wide; 1.39 m deep (max.). Superstructure: none. Substructure: 2 chambers; burial chamber – 2.7 m long, 1.9 m wide, 1.39 m deep (max.); southern chamber – 1.3 m long, 1.54 m wide, 0.9 m deep (max.). Offerings: 34 pottery vessels, 1 limestone bead (E/02/65), 1 flint knife or sickle (E/02/62), burnt animal bones, charcoal.

Burial: single. Sex: male. Age: 30–35 years old. Body position: contracted, left side, head to N. Bones preservation: medium (secondarily burnt).

Description: the grave had been robbed already in antiquity. The plunderers set fire to the matting and other perishable material in the main chamber, but some pottery

vessels, apparently considered worthless, had been thrown outside. They were found east of the grave on a level close to that of the burial itself, suggesting that the grave was above surface at the moment of looting. The smaller southern chamber was found with pottery and had apparently not attracted the attention of the looters. 1 vessel was found in the eastern wall of the construction and 4 other in a kind of passage in the wall separating both chambers. A significant amount of charcoal concentrated in the north eastern corner of the southern chamber suggests that there have been some objects made of organic material, which are at present impossible to identify. Thanks to the burning of the main chamber, the human remains were found in slightly better condition compared to the other graves.

Grave no. 6 (Fig. 1)

Condition: undisturbed. Localization: tell E, trench 54d. Level (above sea): top 7.08 m; bottom 5.13 m. (below surface): approx. 0.1 m. Construction type: mudbricked, rectangular, free-standing and massive. Total measurements: 3.45 m long; 2.56 m wide; 1.95 m deep (max.). Superstructure: compact mudbrick cover – 3.45 m long; 2.56 m wide; 0.5 m high (as preserved). Substructure: single chamber – 2.02 m long; 1.44 m wide; 1.45 m deep (max.). Offerings: 20 pottery vessels, 1 necklace of limestone (E/02/49A) and carnelian beads (E/02/50B), 1 stone pendant (E/02/51C) with 1 thin golden leaf (E/02/52D).

Burial: single. Sex: unknown. Age: 10–12 years old. Body position: contracted, left side, head to N. Bones preservation: weak.

Description: Grave no. 6 differs from the other graves of Tell el-Farkha by its almost square shape and massive brick walls 0.5 m wide. A brick cover placed on top of the grave had additionally secured the whole of this absolutely undisturbed structure. The

body had been placed on a kind of catafalque made of dark mudbricks and was surrounded by pottery vessels. The body and the vessels had been covered with a mat. Judging by value of the grave goods, the child must have been a member of a significant and wealthy family, which could afford to offer a necklace consisting of small red carnelian beads combined with white limestone beads and a triangular stone pendant covered by a thin golden leaf. The layers overlying the grave revealed among numerous thick and rough potsherds also an interesting seal impression and one more stone pendant of a completely different shape.

Grave no. 7 (Fig. 2)

Condition: disturbed. Localization: tell E, trench 54a/b/c/d. Level (above sea): 6.95 m top; bottom 6 m; (below surface): approx. 0.2 m. Construction type: rectangular pit lined with mudbricks accompanied by “annexes”. Total measurements: 3.8 m long; 1.6 m wide; 0.95 m deep (max.). Superstructure: none. Substructure: single chamber – 3.4 m long; 1.4 m wide; 0.95 m deep (max.). Offerings: 39 pottery vessels, fragments of a travertine/calcite jar (E/02/22, E/02/23, E/02/24), 1 fragment of a round palette with a hole (E/02/16), 1 pottery gaming piece (E/02/18), carnelian beads (E/02/47A), 1 fragment of a golden leaf (E/02/48B), 1 rhinoceros rib, 2 cattle horns, other animal bones.

Burial: double. 1. Sex: female. Age: 25–35 years old. Body position: contracted, left side, head to N. Bones preservation: very weak. 2. Sex: unknown. Age: 8–9 years old. Body position: contracted, left side, head to N. Bones preservation: very weak

Description: this grave is especially worth noticing because of its architecture. It consists of an elongated rectangular burial chamber, lined with a single row of mudbricks, from its eastern side connected to a

system of so-called “annexes” (small mudbrick chambers creating additional space for grave goods). Many pottery vessels have been found in this grave, despite the fact that it was already robbed in antiquity. This caused a certain disorder which is especially noticeable in the position of the crushed pots unearthed in the “annex”. The largest jars had been placed in the southern part of the chamber, the smaller vessels in the northern part and in one of the so-called “annexes” as well as around and beneath the bodies. The “annex” with 16 pottery vessels deserves a closer look because here were also found small fragments of a stone jar (possibly the same vessel broken into pieces) and two cattle horns preserved with a fragment of the skull. One may accept that some kind of jewellery, unfortunately robbed, was present as well, because of recovery of a tiny fragment of a gold leaf and 4 carnelian beads. The grave comprised numerous animal bones among them a cobra *Naja haje* skeleton (Abłamowicz 2004, 74) and also a rhinoceros rib with a probably worked edge. The whole burial had been covered with well preserved mats, one of them over the bodies and their grave goods, the two others lining the walls and the bottom of the construction.

Grave no. 8

Condition: undisturbed. Localization: tell E, trench 54c. Level (above sea): top 6.69 m; bottom 6.39 m, (below surface): approx. 0.1 m.

Construction type: round pit, bottom paved with mudbricks. Total measurements: 1.3 m in diameter; 0.3 m deep (max.). Superstructure: none. Offerings: none.

Burial: single. Sex: male. Age: 45–55 years old? Body position: contracted, left side, head to N. Bones preservation: weak.

Description: the grave was situated in a small space between the south-western

corner of grave no. 7 and the north-eastern corner of grave no. 4, almost immediately below the present surface. The grave consists of a simple round pit, the bottom of which is lined with two circular layers of mudbricks with sand inclusion. The skeleton was so tightly contracted that a tight binding of the body seems to be the only possible explanation. Remarkably, the deceased was not accompanied by any kind of goods, if not for a single ceramic cone found right above the grave.

Grave no. 9 (Fig. 3)

Condition: undisturbed. Localization: tell E, trench 55a/c. Level (above sea): top 6.87 m; bottom 4.51 m; (below surface): 0.74 m. Construction type: rectangular pit lined with mudbricks. Total measurements: 4.13 m long; 2.18 m wide; 2.36 m deep (max.). Superstructure: massive thick cover with a central niche, measurements: 4.13 m long; 2.18 m wide; 1.07 m high (max.). Substructure: 2.04 m long; 0.96 m wide; 1.29 m deep (max.). Offerings: 27 pottery vessels (3 wine jars, 4 jars of middle height, 4 small jars with flat body, 9 cylindrical vessels, 6 bowls, 1 miniature vessel), 2 geometric cosmetic palettes of schist (E06/66; E06/67), 1 stone bowl of basalt (E06/61) and 1 of alabaster (E06/62), 1 bone spoon (E06/63), 53 beads of carnelian found on the right hand and by the left heap (E06/78), 1 bead of faience (E06/78), 1 fragment of a pottery miniature vessel and probably some ochre.

Burial: single. Sex: male. Age: 40–50 years old. Body position: contracted, left side, head to N. Bones preservation: very weak.

Description: this burial deserves attention because of its undisturbed condition, in which it was discovered, its interesting architecture and diverse offerings. Matings that inlayed walls of a very deep burial

chamber were also perfectly preserved. Its massive mudbrick superstructure with a central recess was oriented along the N-S axis with a small declination to E. It was preserved to the height of over 1 m and was nearly touching another neighbouring tomb's superstructure. Ca. 0.5 m beneath the superstructure's top and on its eastern side an external wall was built ca. 0.7 m wide and ca. 0.5 m high. The face of the wall had a wavy outline, while the whole wall was clearly separated from the superstructure with a light joint. It seems possible that the complete structure was thoroughly plastered in this way. The burial chamber was trapezoid in section, visibly narrowing to its bottom. An interesting set of offerings was deposited in the grave. Pottery vessels were grouped by its shorter walls, cylindrical jars and palettes were placed on the body. On the deceased right forearm there was some carnelian beads registered – probably composing a bracelet. Although the burial was undisturbed, the skeleton was badly preserved, legs in particular. The deceased was lying on a mat on which close to the body's back a layer of most probably ochre was found.

Grave no. 11

Condition: undisturbed. Localization: tell E, trench 74c. Level (above sea): top 7.17 m; bottom 7.08 m; (below surface): approx. 0.92 m. Construction type: simple pit. Total measurements: 0.7 m long; 0.4 m wide; 0.09 m deep (max.). Superstructure: none. Offerings: none.

Burial: single. Sex: female. Age: 35–40 years old. Body position: contracted, left side, head to N. Bones preservation: very weak.

Description: the skeleton was found in a small, very dusty pit of indistinct edges. The burial had been placed beneath younger mudbrick constructions of economic

character. No other dating hints were recorded, hence it is believed that the grave should be connected to the older phase of the tell.

Grave no. 12

Condition: disturbed. Localization: tell E, trench 64a/74c. Level (above sea): top 6.98 m; bottom 6.37 m; (below surface): approx. 0.7 m. Construction type: rectangular pit lined with mudbricks. Total measurements: 1.8 m long; 1 m wide; 0.61 m deep (max.). Superstructure: none. Substructure: single chamber – 1.6 m long; 0.8 m wide; 0.61 m deep (max.). Offerings: 6 pottery vessels, 1 stone bead (E04/47), fragments of clay jar stoppers (E04/42).

Burial: single. Sex: male. Age: 20–25 years old. Body position: dismembered, head to S? Bones preservation: weak.

Description: the skeleton was dismembered, not in an anatomical arrangement and many its parts were missing. Probably, the head was pointed to S. Vessels were found in two layers, the upper one consisting of items which might originally belong to the neighbouring grave no. 20 (bowl no. 3 from grave no. 12 matches bowl no. 7 from grave no. 20). The whole burial creates impression of a cemetery dump.

Grave no. 13

Condition: undisturbed. Localization: tell E, trench 54b. Level (above sea): top 7.49 m; bottom 7.26 m; (below surface): approx. 0.5 m. Construction type: simple pit. Total measurements: 0.8 m long; 0.4 m wide; 0.23 m deep (max.). Superstructure: none. Offerings: none.

Burial: single. Sex: female. Age: 25–35 years old. Body position: contracted, right side, head to W. Bones preservation: quite good.

Description: a very simple construction, no offerings and no pit's edges traceable.

The quite untypical orientation of the body as well as relatively good state of human bones' preservation point to a younger date of the grave, possibly the transition between the Early Dynastic period and the Old Kingdom.

Grave no. 14

Condition: severely damaged. Localization: tell E, trench 64c. Construction type: pit lined with mudbricks? Total measurements: unknown. Superstructure: none. Substructure: unknown. Offerings: 2 pottery vessels.

Burial: single. Sex: unknown. Age: unknown. Body position: unknown. Bones preservation: weak.

Description: the construction had been severely damaged probably by the neighbouring grave no. 5, so almost nothing, except a single row of mudbricks (1.7 m long, oriented EW) and two crushed vessels survived. However, the most intriguing feature of the grave is the localization of human bones. Only skull was recorded and, what is more, inside one of the vessels.

Grave no. 15

Condition: undisturbed. Localization: tell E, trench 75c. Level (above sea): top 8.44 m; bottom 8.37 m; (below surface): approx. 0.15 m. Construction type: simple pit. Total measurements: 1.6 m long; 0.4 m wide; 0.1 m deep (max.). Superstructure: none. Offerings: none.

Burial: single. Sex: male. Age: 30–40 years old. Body position: stretched, right side, head to W. Bones preservation: very good.

Description: the splendid state of bones' preservation and perfectly anatomical arrangement of the skeleton make impression that it should be regarded as much younger than the other graves of Tell el-Farkha. The straight position of the deceased, its orientation and the good state of bones'

preservation suggest the Old Kingdom date of this grave.

Grave no. 16 (Fig. 4)

Condition: undisturbed. Localization: tell E, trench 75a. Level (above sea): top 8.18 m; bottom 7.98 m; (below surface): 0.3 m. Construction type: oblong and oval simple pit. Total measurements: 1.7 m long; 0.6 m wide; 0.2 m deep (max.). Superstructure: none. Substructure: 1.7 m long; 0.6 m wide; 0.2 m deep (max.). Offerings: sickle blades, a grain (?), 2 pottery counters (E06/1; E06/14), a seal impression (E06/4), a bead of faience (E06/8).

Burial: single. Sex: male. Age: 30–35 years old. Body position: straight, left side, head to W. Bones preservation: good.

Description: the grave was oriented along the WE axis. Its outline was only partially visible. The poor offerings and the straighten position of the deceased together with stratigraphy point to the Old Kingdom date of the burial.

Grave no. 17

Condition: undisturbed. Localization: tell E, trench 74c. Level (above sea): top 7.32 m; bottom 7.17 m; (below surface): approx. 0.83 m. Construction type: simple pit. Total measurements: 0.7 m long; 0.6 m wide; 0.15 m deep (max.). Superstructure: none. Offerings: together with grave no. 18 – fragments of seal impressions (E04/29, E04/30, E04/31), fragments of clay jar stoppers (E04/45).

Burial: single. Sex: female. Age: 18–23 years old. Body position: contracted, left side, head to W. Bones preservation: very weak.

Description: the very decayed burial was found next to a mudbrick wall of structure no. 13 and merely 0.5 m from much alike grave no. 18. It seems that the burials were not in connection to the

building, which should be regarded as of younger date. It is uncertain if the fragments of seal impressions recorded in both presently inseparable though probably self-contained pits are in actual relation with the graves.

Grave no. 18

Condition: undisturbed. Localization: tell E, trench 74d. Level (above sea): top 7.42 m; bottom 7.35 m; (below surface): approx. 0.83 m. Construction type: simple pit. Total measurements: 0.8 m long; 0.3 m wide; 0.07 m deep (max.). Superstructure: none. Offerings: together with no. 17 – fragments of seal impressions (E04/29, E04/30, E04/31), fragments of clay jar stoppers (E04/45).

Burial: single. Sex: male. Age: 20–25 years old. Body position: contracted, slightly turned to its right side, head to N. Bones preservation: very weak.

Description: the very decayed burial was found next to a mudbrick wall of structure no. 13 and merely 0.5 m from much alike grave no. 17. It seems that the burials were not in connection to the building, which should be regarded as of younger date. It is uncertain if the fragments of seal impressions recorded in both presently inseparable though probably self-contained pits are in actual relation with the graves.

Grave no. 19

Condition: unknown. Localization: tell E, trench 64c. Level (above sea): top 7.27 m; bottom 7.17 m; (below surface): approx. 0.45 m. Construction type: simple pit? Total measurements: 0.2 m long; 0.16 m wide; 0.1 m deep (max.). Superstructure: none. Offerings: none.

Burial: single. Sex: male? Age: adult. Body position: solitary skull, probably oriented NS, facial part up. Bones preservation: very weak.

Description: only solitary skull was recorded. It was lying its facial part up in a dusty pit on a mat. Below the matting a compact bricked level was found covering the whole trench surface.

Grave no. 20

Condition: disturbed. Localization: tell E, trench 64a. Level (above sea): top 7.32 m; bottom 6.37 m. (below surface): approx. 0.3 m. Construction type: rectangular pit lined with mudbricks. Total measurements: 1.8 m long; 1.14 m wide; 0.95 m deep (max.). Superstructure: none. Substructure: single chamber – 1.66 m long; 0.96 m wide; 0.95 m deep (max.). Offerings: 18 pottery vessels, 1 unidentified stone object, 1 pottery idol (E04/35), 1 counter? (E04/65), fragments of clay jar stoppers (E04/38, E04/40, E04/46).

Burial: single. Sex: male. Age: 40–45 years old. Body position: contracted, right side, head to N. Bones preservation: weak.

Description: a rather small construction. The offerings consist mostly of pottery, though in an interesting set. The majority of pots was found crushed and dumped over the lower part of the skeleton in the southern section of the burial chamber.

Grave no. 21 (Fig. 5)

Condition: undisturbed. Localization: tell E, trench 64a/c. Level (above sea): top 7.43 m; bottom 6.37 m; (below surface): approx. 0.32 m. Construction type: rectangular pit lined with mudbricks. Total measurements: 2.6 m long; 1.28 m wide; 1.06 m deep (max.). Superstructure: 2.6 m long; 1.28 m wide; 0.11 m high (as preserved). Substructure: single chamber – 2.26 m long; 1.16 m wide; 0.95 m deep (max.). Offerings: 10 pottery vessels, 1 fragment of a stone vessel (E04/55), fragments of clay jar stoppers (E04/39), animal bones.

Burial: single. Sex: male. Age: 35–40 years old. Body position: contracted, left side, head to N. Bones preservation: weak.

Description: the grave goods consist of relatively few pottery vessels representing common and uninteresting types. However, careful distribution of the pots (the biggest in the southern section of the chamber, while the rest of them in the northern one) and at least partially preserved superstructure with a thick mudbrick cover protecting the burial make the grave one of the most interesting in Tell el-Farkha.

Grave no. 22

Condition: undisturbed. Localization: tell E, trench 74b. Level (above sea): top 7.17 m; bottom 6.98 m; (below surface): approx. 0.98 m. Construction type: simple, oval pit. Total measurements: 0.94 m long; 0.64 m wide; 0.19 m deep (max.). Superstructure: none. Offerings: none.

Burial: single. Sex: male. Age: 35–45 years old. Body position: contracted, right side, head to E. Bones preservation: medium.

Description: a very simple burial, without any traces of mattings or offerings. The head was found on a much higher level than the rest of the body, the feet pressed against the pit's northern side. The grave was discovered beneath younger mudbrick constructions, unrelated to the cemetery. No other dating hints were recorded.

Grave no. 23 (Fig. 6)

Condition: disturbed? Localization: tell E, trench 64d. Level (above sea): top 7.16 m; bottom 6.4 m; (below surface): approx. 1.02 m. Construction type: roughly rectangular pit lined with mudbricks. Total measurements: 2.5 m long; 1.26 m wide; 0.76 m deep (max.). Superstructure: none. Substructure: single chamber – 2.24 m long; 1.1 m wide; 0.76 m deep (max.). Offerings:

8 pottery vessels, steatite beads (E04/84), 1 unidentified metal object (E04/51), fragments of clay jar stoppers (E04/36).

Burial: double. 1. Sex: female. Age: 20–30 years old. Body position: contracted, probably right side, head to S. 2. Sex: unknown. Age: 15–18 years old. Body position: difficult to ascertain, head to S. Bones preservation: weak.

Description: the grave goods were insignificant (with the exception of few beads found in vessel no. 7 and the unidentified metal object) being placed on the deceased, in the northern section of the chamber and – the biggest jars only – in its southern part. Both skeletons were discovered lying very close to each other, unfortunately the weak state of bones' preservation – particularly the younger one – makes impossible to ascertain the original position of the bodies. Ones again the construction had been carelessly built, having its walls irregular and twisted.

Grave no. 24 (Fig. 7)

Condition: undisturbed. Localization: tell E, trench 54b/64d. Level (above sea): top 7.12 m; bottom 6.1 m; (below surface): approx. 0.6 m. Construction type: rectangular pit lined with mudbricks. Total measurements: 2.46 m long; 1.6 m wide; 1.35 m deep (max.). Superstructure: 4.5 m long; 3 m wide; 0.33 m high (as preserved). Substructure: single chamber – 2.12 m long; 1.4 m wide; 1.02 m deep (max.). Offerings: 24 pottery vessels, 1 stone grinder, 1 deposit consisting of bone implements (1 complete representation of a fish, fragments of 2 other fish, 3 partly preserved bone miniature vessels – E04/67), 2 bone awls (E04/48, E04/50), fragments of a clay jar stoppers (E04/37).

Burial: single. Sex: female. Age: 20–25 years old. Body position: unclear (probably contracted, left side), head to N. Bones preservation: very weak.

Description: the grave was discovered undisturbed (secured with a covering mat), though the burial and its offering were severely damaged. In general, the grave goods are quite numerous, but they represent an average set of pottery types. Again, the largest storage jars had been placed in the southern part of the chamber, while the smaller ones in its northern section. The most interesting elements of the offering are bone implements: 2 awls (one complete) and so called deposit, that is at least 3 miniature cylindrical vessels and 3 figurines or plaques in a form of fish. The skeleton was badly preserved and partially dislocated.

Grave no. 25 (Fig. 8)

Condition: undisturbed. Localization: tell E, trench 64a. Level (above sea): top 6.91 m; bottom 6.75 m. (below surface): approx. 1.05 m. Construction type: simple, oval pit. Total measurements: 0.88 m long; 0.56 m wide; 0.16 m deep (max.). Superstructure: none. Offerings: none.

Burial: single. Sex: male. Age: 35–55 years old. Body position: contracted, left side, head to N. Bones preservation: weak.

Description: the burial itself was found in a very weak condition, though the little pit had clear edges carefully lined with mattings. Particularly well preserved was the matting covering the whole grave from above.

Grave no. 26 (Fig. 9)

Condition: undisturbed. Localization: tell E, trench 63d. Level (above sea): top 6.86 m; bottom 6.23 m; (below surface): approx. 0.1 m. Construction type: rectangular pit lined with mudbricks and with a kind of bottom niche for the burial. Total measurements: 2.06 m long; 1.1 m wide; 0.63 m deep (max.). Superstructure: none. Substructure: main chamber – 1.8 m long; 0.88 m wide;

0.63 m deep (max.) bottom niche – 1.08 m long; 0.5 m wide; 0.2 m deep (max.). Offerings: 19 pottery vessels, steatite beads (E04/77), 1 flint knife, animal bones (food offerings).

Burial: single. Sex: male. Age: 35–40 years old. Body position: firmly contracted, left side, head to N, face to E. Bones preservation: medium.

Description: the grave revealed an interesting set of offerings – many miniature vessels, numerous bowls placed beneath the biggest jars and crushed by them. The skeleton had been so tightly fit in the bottom niche, that it is impossible to unhesitatingly define its original position. All vessels were found beyond the niche.

Grave no. 27

Condition: disturbed. Localization: tell E, trench 63b. Level (above sea): top 6.99 m; bottom 6.61 m; (below surface): approx. 0.1 m. Construction type: rectangular pit lined with mudbricks. Total measurements: 1.5 m long; 0.86 m wide; 0.38 m deep (max.). Superstructure: none. Substructure: single chamber – 1.34 m long; 0.7 m wide; 0.38 m deep (max.). Offerings: 1 pottery vessel, 1 fragment of a clay jar stopper with a textile impression (E04/68).

Burial: single. Sex: male. Age: adult. Body position: contracted, left side, head to S, not fully anatomical. Bones preservation: weak.

Description: the grave had been equipped only in a nominal way; its construction was rather simple having its lined walls low and narrow. The skeleton was found in a dislocated, though there was no sign of robbery recorded.

Grave no. 28 (Fig. 10)

Condition: undisturbed. Localization: tell E, trench 63b. Level (above sea): top 6.99 m; bottom 6.89 m. (below surface): approx.

0.1 m. Construction type: roughly oblong pit. Total measurements: 0.76 m long; 0.5 m wide; 0.1 m deep (max.). Superstructure: none. Offerings: none.

Burial: single. Sex: female. Age: 20–25 years old. Body position: contracted, left side, head to N. Bones preservation: medium.

Description: a very simple and poor burial. The small pit had clear edges, carefully lined with mattings. No offerings were recorded except an isolated piece of rough pottery in the filling.

Grave no. 29

Condition: undisturbed. Localization: tell E, trench 63a. Level (above sea): top 6.83 m; bottom 6.62 m. (below surface): approx. 0.1 m. Construction type: rectangular pit lined with mudbricks. Total measurements: 1.5 m long; 0.78 m wide; 0.18 m deep (max.). Superstructure: none. Substructure: single chamber – 1.35 m long; 0.6 m wide; 0.18 m deep (max.). Offerings: 1 bead (E04/71).

Burial: single. Sex: female. Age: adult. Body position: contracted, right side, head to S. Bones preservation: very weak.

Description: although the grave had been lined with bricks, lack of offerings (with exception of the single bead) makes it rather poor. Similar is its state of preservation.

Grave no. 30 (Fig. 11)

Condition: undisturbed. Localization: tell E, trench 73d. Level (above sea): top 6.8 m; bottom 6.23 m; (below surface): approx. 0.1 m. Construction type: rectangular pit lined with mudbricks. Total measurements: 1.9 m long; 1.06 m wide; 0.57 m deep (max.). Superstructure: none. Substructure: single chamber – 1.72 m long; 0.8 m wide; 0.57 m deep (max.). Offerings: 3 pottery vessels, 1 fragment of a seal impression (E04/82).

Burial: single. Sex: male. Age: 20–25 years old. Body position: contracted, left side, head to N. Bones preservation: medium.

Description: the grave represents a more elaborated kind of construction, though it had been rather carelessly built, what is clear when considering its twisted walls and hardly interesting offerings.

Grave no. 31

Condition: disturbed. Localization: tell E, trench 73d. Level (above sea): top 6.63 m; bottom 6.51 m; (below surface): 0.36 m. Construction type: simple, roughly oblong pit. Total measurements: 0.7 m long; 0.32 m wide; 0.12 m deep (max.). Superstructure: none. Offerings: none.

Burial: single. Sex: unknown. Age: 5 years old. Body position: contracted, left side, head to W. Bones preservation: very weak

Description: a very simple construction, lined with mattings, unfortunately badly disturbed by another pit of dusty filling. The bones were in a very poor condition, partly burnt, probably thanks to the later cutting.

Grave no. 32

Condition: undisturbed. Localization: tell E, trench 73d. Level (above sea): top 6.62 m; bottom 6.47 m; (below surface): approx. 0.25 m. Construction type: roughly rectangular pit. Total measurements: 1.02 m long; 0.65 m wide; 0.15 m deep (max.). Superstructure: none. Offerings: none.

Burial: single. Sex: male. Age: adult. Body position: contracted, left side, head to N. Bones preservation: medium.

Description: the unusually good state of mattings' preservation deserves extra stressing. Mats were recorded as white fibers covering the burial and lining the pit's bottom. Quite untypical is also the rectangular shape

of the pit itself, which chiefly implies the usage of mudbricks.

Grave no. 33

Condition: undisturbed. Localization: tell E, trench 84d. Level (above sea): top 6.18 m; bottom 6.08 m; (below surface): approx. 2.2 m. Construction type: oval pit, partly lined with mudbricks and thin layer of mud. Total measurements: 1 m long; 0.9 m wide; 0.15 m deep (max.). Superstructure: none. Offerings: none.

Burial: single. Sex: female. Age: 20–25 years old. Body position: contracted, left side, head to E. Bones preservation: very weak.

Description: the burial was found on a relatively low level and far to N, considering the localization of the rest of the graves recorded in Tell el-Farkha. Equally puzzling is the context of the burial surrounded by mudbrick-constructions which had no relation to the cemetery itself but to everyday life-settlement-activity. The deceased had been placed in a rather large pit partly lined with few mudbricks and partly plastered with a thin layer of mud. Its filling was unusually compact. The whole burial had been covered with matting. No objects, except few sherds in the filling, were recorded.

Grave no. 34

Condition: undisturbed. Localization: tell E, trench 65a. Level (above sea): top 8.33 m; bottom 8.21 m; (below surface): 0.13 m; Construction type: simple pit burial. Total measurements: 0.76 m long; 0.34 m wide; 0.12 m deep (max.). Superstructure: none. Substructure: 0.76 m long; 0.34 m wide; 0.12 m deep (max.). Offerings: none.

Burial: single. Sex: infans I. Age: 18 months old. Body position: straight, right side, head to W. Bones preservation: good.

Description: A child burial, the outline of the pit was untraceable. There were some

pottery fragments found by the body but presumably they were not intentionally deposited as offerings. The straight position of the deceased, its orientation and the good state of bones' preservation suggest the Old Kingdom date of this grave.

Grave no. 35

Condition: undisturbed. Localization: tell E, trench 75a/b. Level (above sea): top 8.43 m; bottom 8.25 m; (below surface): 0.01 m. Construction type: oblong and rectangular simple pit. Total measurements: 0.98 m long; 0.30 m wide; 0.18 m deep (max.). Superstructure: none. Substructure: 0.98 m long; 0.30 m wide; 0.18 m deep (max.). Offerings: none.

Burial: single. Sex: child. Age: 2–3 years old. Body position: straight, right side, head to W. Bones preservation: good.

Description: A child burial, its regular outline was shaped as an oblong rectangular with a rounded western edge. The grave was registered just beneath the tell's surface. The straight position of the deceased, its orientation and the good state of bone preservation suggest the Old Kingdom date of this burial.

Grave no. 36

Condition: undisturbed. Localization: tell E, trench 75a. Level (above sea): top 8.44 m; bottom 8.32 m; (below surface): 0.01 m. Construction type: simple pit. Total measurements: 0.8 m long; 0.22 m wide; 0.12 m deep (max.). Superstructure: none. Substructure: 0.8 m long; 0.22 m wide; 0.12 m deep (max.). Offerings: none.

Burial: single. Sex: infans I. Age: 18 months old. Body position: straight, right side, head to W. Bones preservation: good.

Description: A child burial, the pit's outline was untraceable. The body was oriented along the W-E axis, the left hand was straight, the right palm under the head. The

position of the deceased, its orientation and the good state of bone preservation suggest the Old Kingdom date of this grave.

Grave no. 37

Condition: undisturbed. Localization: tell E, trench 75c/d. Level (above sea): top 8.21 m; bottom 8.04 m; (below surface): 0.25 m. Construction type: oblong and rectangular simple pit. Total measurements: 2 m long; 0.48 m wide; 0.17 m deep (max.). Superstructure: none. Substructure: 2 m long; 0.48 m wide; 0.17 m deep (max.). Offerings: 1 bead of limestone.

Burial: single. Sex: male. Age: 35–45 years old. Body position: straight, partially on his stomach and partially on his right side, head to W. Bones preservation: good.

Description: the pit's outline was clearly visible, particularly in its eastern part – an oblong rectangular with rounded shorter walls. The pit was V-shaped on its section. The single piece of offering was a bead of limestone which was found close to the deceased feet. The orientation of the grave as well as straight position of the body and the good state of bones' preservation suggest the Old Kingdom date of this grave.

Grave no. 38

Condition: disturbed. Localization: tell E, trench 75b. Level (above sea): top 8.4 m; bottom 8.26 m; (below surface): 0.03 m. Construction type: simple pit. Total measurements: 1.2 m long; 0.36 m wide; 0.14 m deep (max.). Superstructure: none. Substructure: 1.2 m long; 0.36 m wide; 0.14 m deep (max.). Offerings: none.

Burial: single. Sex: Juvenis. Age: 14–16 years old. Body position: straight on its stomach, head to W. Bones preservation: good.

Description: this was most probably a child burial, unfortunately incomplete – feet and knees are missing, scull is severely

damaged. The deceased was placed in an untypical way on its stomach. The pit's outline was untraceable. The orientation of the grave together with the position of the body and the good state of bones' preservation suggest the Old Kingdom date of this grave.

Grave no. 39

Condition: undefined. Localization: tell E, trench 75b. Level (above sea): top 8.41 m; bottom 8.33 m. (below surface): 0.07 m. Construction type: simple pit. Total measurements: 0.3 m long; 0.24 m wide; 0.08 m deep (max.). Superstructure: none. Substructure: 0.3 m long; 0.24 m wide; 0.08 m deep (max.). Offerings: none.

Burial: single, secondary. Sex: Infans I. Age: 24 months old. Body position: unanatomical, undefined. Bones preservation: good.

Description: a small deposit of bones arranged in an unanatomical position. Most of them were long limbs bones of a child and a few vertebrae and phalanges. The scull is missing, the pit's outline was untraceable. It seems possible that the bones were buried in a bag or another container of some organic material. The good state of bones' preservation as well as their location in the uppermost stratum suggest the Old Kingdom date of this burial.

Grave no. 40

Condition: undisturbed. Localization: tell E, trench 65b. Level (above sea level): top 8.19 m; bottom 8.09 m; (below surface): 0.09 m. Construction type: oblong and oval simple pit. Total measurements: 0.78 m long; 0.3 m wide; 0.1 m deep (max.). Superstructure: none. Substructure: 0.78 m long; 0.3 m wide; 0.1 m deep (max.). Offerings: none.

Burial: single. Sex: Infans I. Age: 6–9 months old. Body position: straight, right side, head to W. Bones preservation: good.

Description: an infant burial, the pit was shaped as an oblong oval and its outline was clearly visible. Orientation of the body along the W-E axis. The orientation of the grave as well as straight position of the body and the good state of bones' preservation suggest the Old Kingdom date of this grave.

Grave no. 41 (Fig. 12)

Condition: undisturbed. Localization: tell E, trench 75d. Level (above sea): top 8.24 m; bottom 8.04 m; (below surface): 0.17 m. Construction type: simple pit. Total measurements: 1.68 m long; 0.26 m wide; 0.2 m deep (max.). Superstructure: none. Substructure: 1.68 m long; 0.26 m wide; 0.2 m deep (max.). Offerings: none.

Burial: single. Sex: male. Age: 35–45 years old. Body position: straight, right side, head to W. Bones preservation: good.

Description: a burial of an adult man. His skull and pelvis are well preserved. Close to the skeleton that was oriented along the W-E axis there were some fragments of the Old Kingdom pottery found. The pit's outline was untraceable. The straight position of the deceased, its orientation, the pottery and the good state of bones' preservation suggest the Old Kingdom date of this grave.

Grave no. 42

Condition: undisturbed. Localization: tell E, trench 75b. Level (above sea): top 8.04 m; bottom 7.91 m; (below surface): 0.42 m. Construction type: simple pit. Total measurements: 0.8 m long; 0.2 m wide; 0.13 m deep (max.). Superstructure: none. Substructure: 0.8 m long; 0.2 m wide; 0.13 m deep (max.). Offerings: none.

Burial: single. Sex: Infans I. Age: 24 months old. Body position: straight, right side, head to W. Bones preservation: good.

Description: an infant burial. The skeleton was relatively well preserved, the pit's

outline was untraceable. The body was oriented along the W-E axis. The orientation of the grave as well as straight position of the body and the good state of bones' preservation suggest the Old Kingdom date of this grave.

Grave no. 43

Condition: undisturbed. Localization: tell E, trench 75a. Level (above sea): top 8 m; bottom 7.83 m; (below surface): 0.41 m. Construction type: simple pit. Total measurements: 0.7 m long; 0.35 m wide; 0.17 m deep (max.). Superstructure: none. Substructure: 0.7 m long; 0.35 m wide; 0.17 m deep (max.). Offerings: 1 stone vessel (E06/64).

Burial: single. Sex: Infans I. Age: 16–18 months old. Body position: straight in general, right side, legs slightly bent in knees, head to W. Bones preservation: weak.

Description: an infant burial, visibly weaker preserved. The pit's outline was untraceable and the body oriented along the W-E axis. The general position of the deceased, its orientation and location suggest the Old Kingdom date of this grave.

Grave no. 44

Condition: undisturbed. Localization: tell E, trench 75b. Level (above sea): top 8.17 m; bottom 8.05 m; (below surface): 0.27 m. Construction type: simple pit. Total measurements: 0.6 m long; 0.2 m wide; 0.12 m deep (max.). Superstructure: none. Substructure: 0.6 m long; 0.2 m wide; 0.12 m deep (max.). Offerings: none.

Burial: single. Sex: Infans I. Age: 16–18 months old. Body position: straight, right side, head to W. Bones preservation: good.

Description: an infant burial, the pit's outline was untraceable. One hand was bent in the elbow. The body was oriented along the W-E axis. The orientation of the grave together with the position of the

body and the good state of bones' preservation suggest the Old Kingdom date of this grave.

Grave no. 45

Condition: undisturbed. Localization: tell E, trench 75c. Level (above sea): top 7.92 m; bottom 7.81 m; (below surface): 0.47 m. Construction type: simple pit. Total measurements: 0.8 m long; 0.3 m wide; 0.11 m deep (max.). Superstructure: none. Substructure: 0.8 m long; 0.3 m wide; 0.11 m deep (max.). Offerings: none.

Burial: single. Sex: Infans I. Age: 18 months old. Body position: straight, right side, legs slightly bent in knees, head to W. Bones preservation: weak.

Description: an infant burial, badly damaged, probably secondarily as a result of its exposition to an intense drying. The body was oriented along the W-E axis. The straight position of the deceased, its orientation and localization suggest the Old Kingdom date of this grave.

Grave no. 46

Condition: undisturbed. Localization: tell E, trench 75b. Level (above sea): top 8.14 m; bottom 7.99 m; (below surface): 0.24 m. Construction type: oblong and probably close to rectangular simple pit. Total measurements: 0.98 m long; 0.3 m wide; 0.15 m deep (max.). Superstructure: none. Substructure: 0.98 m long; 0.3 m wide; 0.15 m deep (max.). Offerings: fragments of a single pottery bowl, 1 fragment of a seal (E06/68).

Burial: single. Sex: Infans I. Age: 24 months old. Body position: straight, right side, head to W. Bones preservation: good.

Description: a small child burial in a position slightly turned to its stomach, one palm under the head. The pit's edges were nearly untraceable, but within it close to the child's

feet there was a fragment of a bowl typical for the Old Kingdom. The body was oriented along the W-E axis. The orientation of the grave as well as straight position of the body and the good state of bones' preservation suggest the Old Kingdom date of this burial.

Grave no. 47

Condition: undefined. Localization: tell E, trench 75d. Level (above sea): top 8.10 m; bottom 7.94 m; (below surface): 0.18 m. Construction type: simple pit. Total measurements: 0.4 m long; 0.2 m wide; 0.16 m deep (max.). Superstructure: none. Substructure: 0.4 m long; 0.2 m wide; 0.16 m deep (max.). Offerings: none.

Burial: probably secondary, single. Sex: Infans I. Age: 9 months old. Body position: partially unanatomical, head to S-W. Bones preservation: good.

Description: an infant burial with clearly visible pit's edges. Bones were partially disorganized, probably even primarily it was not a burial in the fully anatomical position. The skull was turned to S, while the whole grave was oriented along the NE-SW axis. The good state of bones' preservation as well as their localization suggest the Old Kingdom date of this grave.

Grave no. 48

Condition: disturbed. Localization: tell E, trench 75b. Level (above sea): top 8.06 m; bottom 7.79 m; (below surface): 0.32 m. Construction type: oblong and nearly rectangular simple pit. Total measurements: 1.54 m long; 0.4 m wide; 0.27 m deep (max.). Superstructure: none. Substructure: 1.54 m long; 0.4 m wide; 0.27 m deep (max.). Offerings: none.

Burial: single. Sex: Juvenis. Age: 17–20 years old. Body position: probably straight, right side, slightly turned to the stomach, head to W. Bones preservation: good.

Description: an interesting case. First, there was a loose scapula and a rib without any traceable outline of the grave or of any other bones. Then, 10 cm below, exactly beneath the scapula the skull was found and a level deeper the outline of the grave pit. The head was divided from the rest of the body just after the third cervical vertebra but without its damage. The skeleton was incomplete – one hand and the chest are missing. Since some parts of the body were found outside the grave pit, it seems possible that the burial was primarily in anatomical position, then disturbed not long after the funeral (the hand bones together with phalanges were found in their proper position). The body was oriented along the W-E axis. The good state of bones' preservation and their location suggest that the burial should be dated to the Old Kingdom period.

Grave no. 49

Condition: damaged by animals. Localization: tell E, trench 55a. Level (above sea): top 7,60 m; bottom 7,41 m; (below surface): 0,55 m. Construction type: simple pit. Total measurements: 0.8 m long; 0.4 m wide; 0.19 m deep (max.). Superstructure: none. Substructure: 0.8 m long; 0.4 m wide; 0.19 m deep (max.). Offerings: probably 1 fragment of a seal impression (E06/21).

Burial: single. Sex: male? Age: adult. Body position: contracted, left side, head to N. Bones preservation: weak.

Description: a severely damaged adult burial, the chest and pelvis in particular. The pit's edges were nearly untraceable, while the body was oriented along the N-S axis.

Grave no. 50 (Fig. 13)

Condition: undisturbed. Localization: tell E, trench 55a/b/c/d. Level (above sea): top 7.63 m; bottom 5.23 m; (below surface): 0.38 m. Construction type: rectangular, two-chamber pit lined with mudbricks with

mudbricked superstructure. Total measurements: 4.92 m long; 2.36 m wide; 2.4 m deep (max.). Superstructure: massive mudbrick cover, probably freestanding, 4.92 m long; 2.36 m wide; ca. 0.9 m high (max.). Substructure: 2 chambers – northern chamber: 1.5 m long; 0.86 m wide; 0.79 m deep (max.); southern chamber: 1.25 m long; 1.2 m wide; 0.92 m deep (max.). Offerings: 37 pottery vessels (35 small jars, 2 bowls), 11 stone vessels, probably of alabastre and sandstone (?) (1 large plate – E06/48 – and 1 cylindrical jar – E06/46, 2 small cylindrical jars – E06/40, E06/45, 1 bowl – E06/47, 2 spindle-shaped miniature vessels – E06/41; E06/42; 3 miniature jars with straight arms – E06/36; E06/37; E06/39; 1 small jar – E06/43), 1 bowl of basalt's fragment (E06/75), 1 impression of a decorated seal, 1 seal impression's fragment (E06/59), 1 bead of faience (E06/23), 1 rattle's fragment (E06/16), 1 faience object's fragment (E06/17), 1 pottery counter (E06/57) and a deposit of 5 pottery granary models (E06/31; E06/32; E06/33; E06/34; E06/35).

Burial: single. Sex: male. Age: adult. Body position: tightly contracted, left side, head to N. Bones preservation: very weak.

Description: the superstructure was preserved to the height of ca. 0.9 m – a massive, very compact cover of light sand and mudbricks in a very regular rectangular shape, oriented almost ideal along the N-S axis. A clear break between the superstructure and the top of the substructure walls measuring ca. 0.4 m of height was registered. The substructure was slightly dislocated to the E, still there is no doubt that both parts create the same structure. In the middle of the layer between the super- and substructure there was a deposit of 5 pottery objects found. Presently, they are interpreted as granary models.

The offerings were grouped along the southern wall of the southern chamber

– three layers of pottery jars in a very similar shape as well as a deposit of stone vessels concentrated in the chamber's NE corner. One bowl was found on the top of the substructure walls, while a plate of alabaster, 1 jar and a pottery bowl in a niche in the eastern wall of the northern chamber. Directly by the body there were no objects registered. Both chambers were covered with some poorly preserved mats, also inlaid with matting – parts found in the corners where mats were turned up on the walls belong to the best preserved.

Grave no. 52

Condition: undefined, probably damaged by later building activity above the burial pit. Localization: tell E, trench 65b. Level (above sea): top 7.42 m; bottom 7.13 m; (below surface): 1.04 m. Construction type: simple pit. Total measurements: 0.86 m long; 0.7 m wide; 0.29 m deep (max.). Superstructure: none. Substructure: 0.86 m long; 0.7 m wide; 0.29 m deep (max.). Offerings: pottery fragments, 1 bead of faience, 1 quern stone close to the second body's head.

Burial: multiple. 1. Sex: female? Age: Adult. Body position: unclear, probably contracted, left side, head to E. 2. Sex: female? Age: Adult. Body position: contracted, left side, head to S. 3. Sex: male? Age: Adult. Body position: undefined. Bones preservation: weak.

Description: a multiple burial, bones in a weak state of preservation deposited in an unclear position. The best preserved was skeleton no. 2 – a visibly anatomical position, the left hand slightly moved from its

original place. Over deceased no. 2 there was skeleton no. 1 deposited – poorly preserved, her head was placed on a large pottery bowl fragment. A fragment of pelvis and one leg most probably belong to this deceased. Then, the worst preserved was skeleton no. 3 – only the skull and some very grated teeth. The pit's outline was untraceable. The burial was registered beneath narrow walls of structure no. 70 of a typically utility function.

Grave no. 53

Condition: disturbed. Localization: tell E, trench 65b. Level (above sea): top 7.42 m; bottom 7.31 m; (below surface): 0.93 m. Construction type: oval simple pit. Total measurements: 0.5 m long; 0.36 m wide; 0.09 m deep (max.). Superstructure: none. Substructure: 0.5 m long; 0.36 m wide; 0.09 m deep (max.). Offerings: a few pottery fragments.

Burial: single. Sex: female? Age: Adult. Body position: probably contracted, left side, head to N. Bones preservation: weak.

Description: an incomplete burial – only a fragment of the pelvis and one leg was preserved. It was probably disturbed as a result of later building activity above the burial pit (walls of structure no. 70), maybe even originally the burial was not thoroughly anatomical. The pit itself was nearly untraceable, possibly, its bottom was plastered with a thin layer of mud. The pottery found over the bones do not have to consist the grave offerings. Nevertheless, the poor state of the grave preservation disables any further opinions in the field.

Katalog grobów z Tell el-Farcha

Cmentarzysko w Tell el-Farcha (wschodnia delta Nilu) znajduje się na wschodnim wzgórzu (tzw. tell E), jednym z trzech składających się na całe stanowisko. Nekropola została odkryta w roku 2001

i od tego czasu prowadzone są tam systematyczne prace wykopaliskowe. Do roku 2006 badania przyniosły odkrycie 53 grobów i jednej tzw. mastaby. Na podstawie ogólnych cech ich konstrukcji, typowego zestawu darów grobowych i ich ułożenia względem stron świata dotychczas odsłonięte pochówki można podzielić na cztery kategorie. Najstarsze groby z Tell el-Farkha, datowane na koniec dynastii 0, tworzą grupę pierwszą. Niewątpliwie należały one do majątnej klasy średniej, która mogła sobie pozwolić na znaczny wysiłek konstrukcyjny widoczny na przykładzie starannie wykończonych grobowców z suszonej cegły mułowej i pieczołowicie nakrytego matami ciekawego wyposażenia. Groby należące do drugiej kategorii związane są z końcem czasów dynastii I, a pochowani w nich ludzie reprezentowali zdecydowanie niższy status majątkowy niż poprzednio. Pochówki tej kategorii rzadko zawierają wyposażenie, ich forma architektoniczna jest także mniej wypracowana – pokrzywione, cienkie ścianki, brak śladów obecności struktur naziemnych. Na trzecią kategorię grobów składają się proste pochówki jamowe pozbawione wyposażenia, czasami tylko wykładane matami. Ta grupa pochówków datowana jest na koniec okresu wczesnodynastycznego tylko dzięki ich pozycji stratygraficznej względem struktur mieszkalnych z okresu Starego Państwa. Wreszcie, czwarta kategoria odpowiada najmłodszym grobom znalezionym na stanowisku. Są to proste groby jamowe, z reguły także pozbawione wyposażenia, jednak wyraźnie odróżniają się od poprzednich ułożeniem ciała zmarłych w pozycji wyprostowanej na boku (wcześniej zawsze była to pozycja skurczona), głową zwróconych w kierunku zachodnim (poprzednio przeważał kierunek północny). Te najmłodsze groby znajdują się na samym szczycie wzgórza, niemal bezpośrednio pod jego powierzchnią i na podstawie nielicznych fragmentów ceramiki znalezionych przy zmarłych datowane są na okres Starego Państwa.

Artykuł zawiera także szczegółowy katalog wszystkich grobów z Tell el-Farkha przebadanych w latach 2001-2006.

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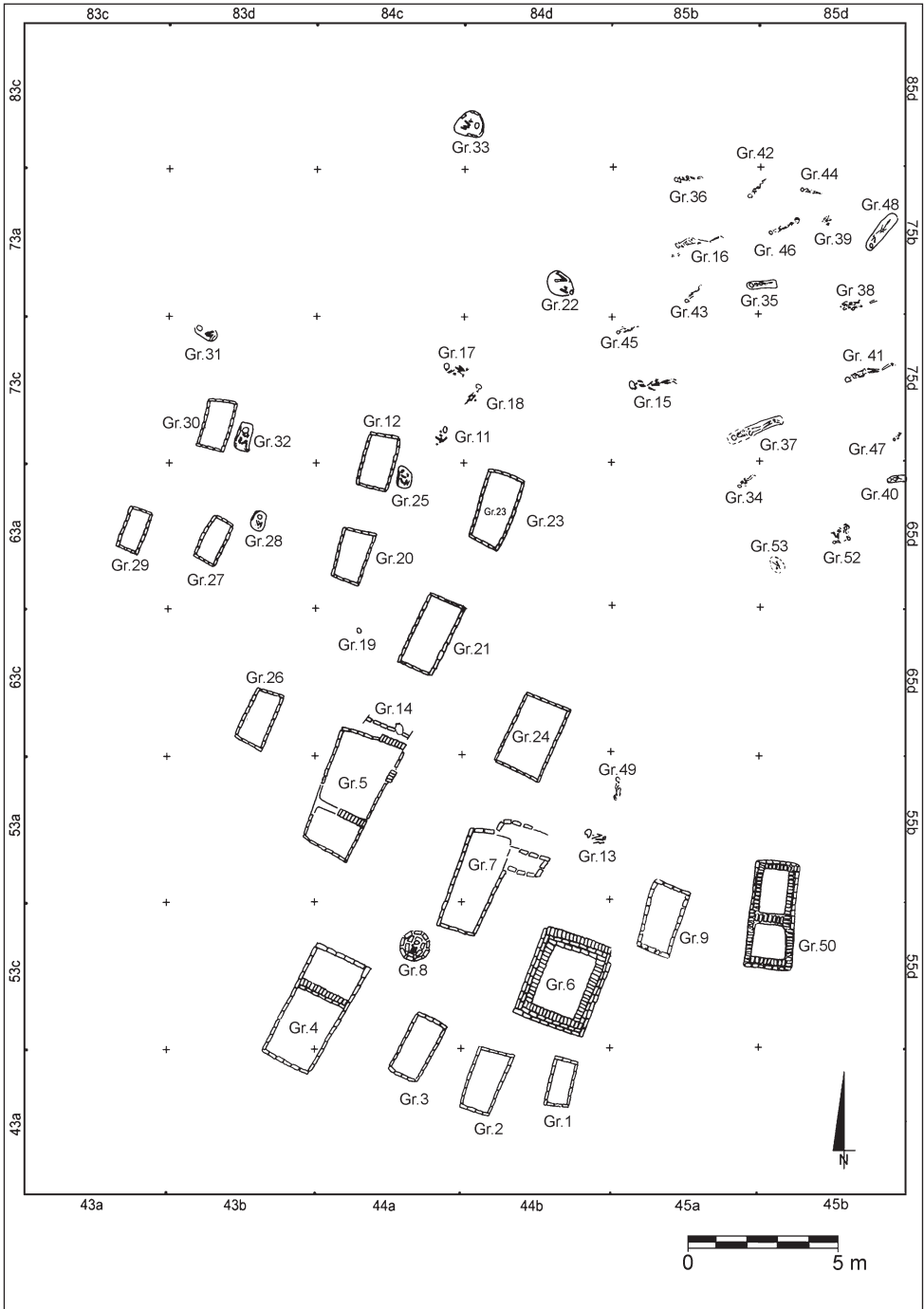


Plate. 1. Plan of the cemetery in Tell el-Farkha

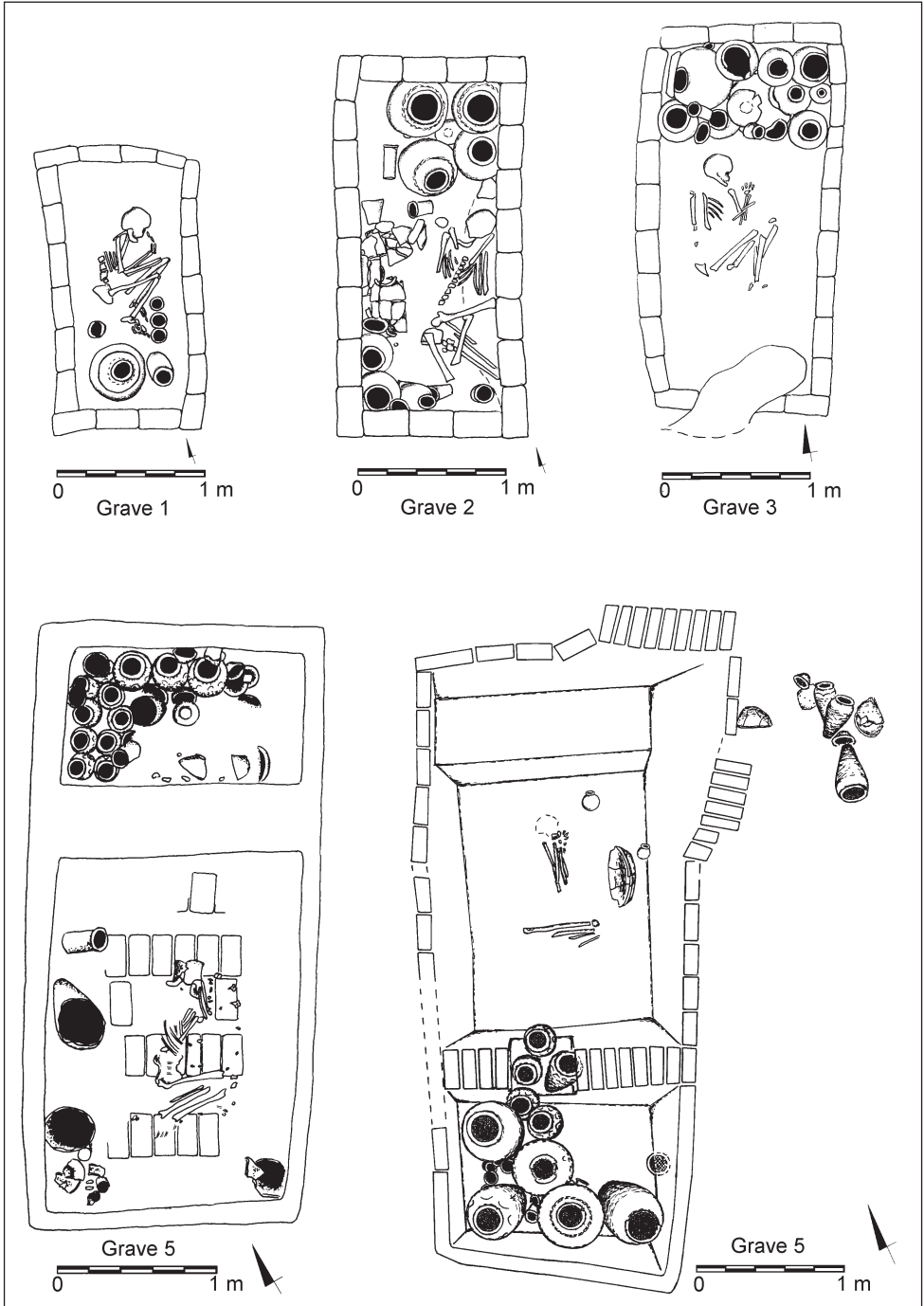


Plate. 2. The first category of graves

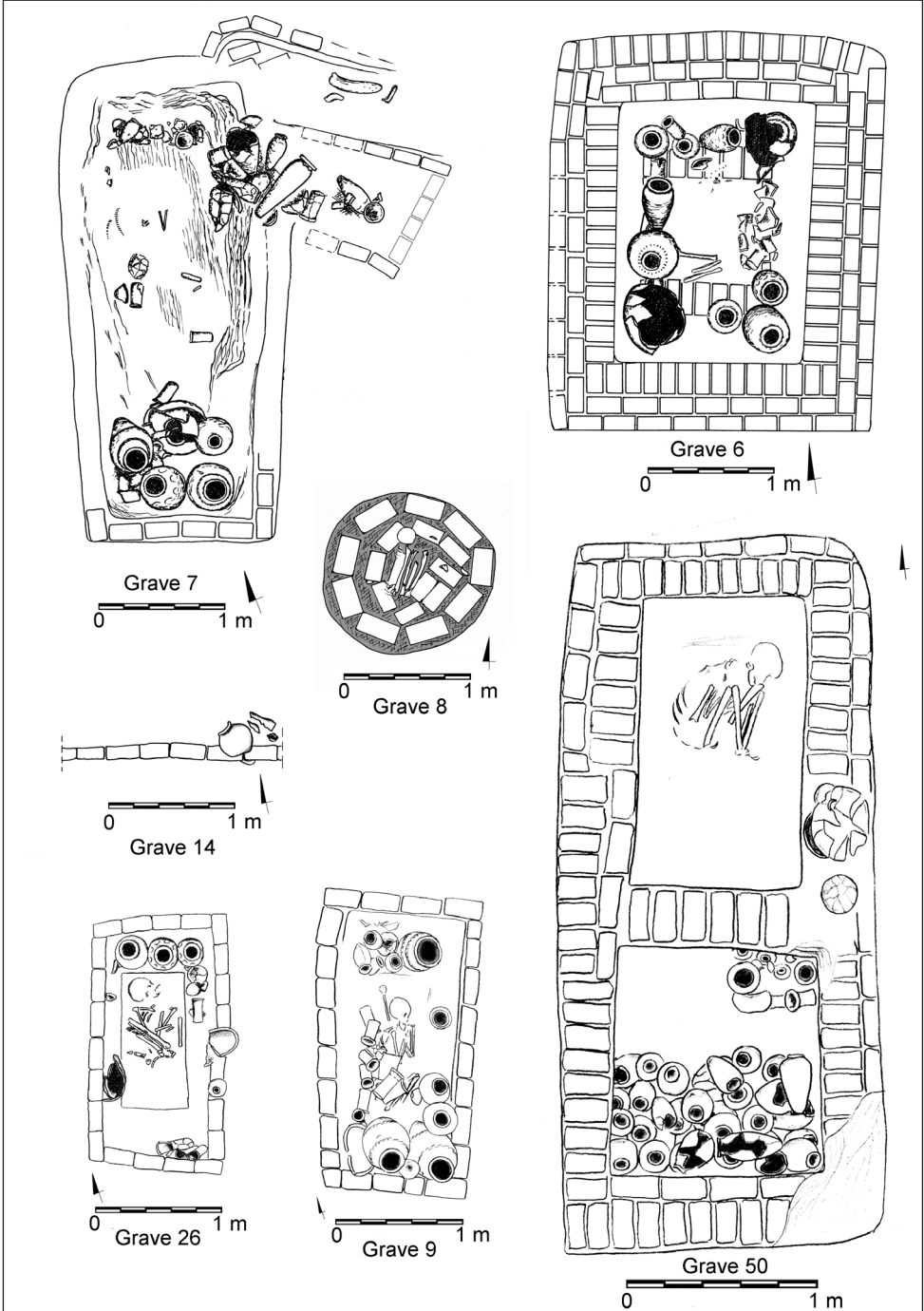


Plate. 3. The first category of graves

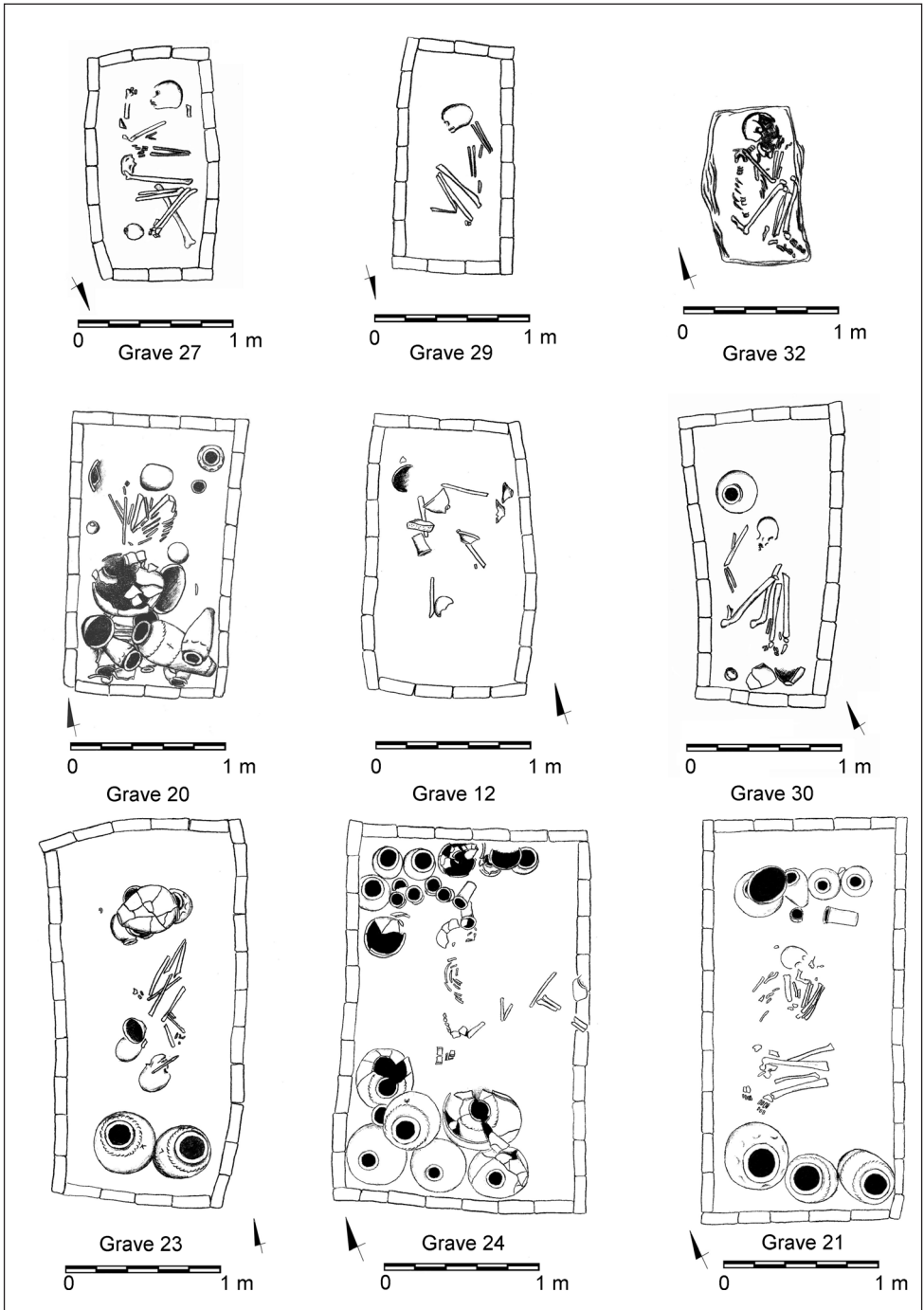


Plate 4. The second category of graves

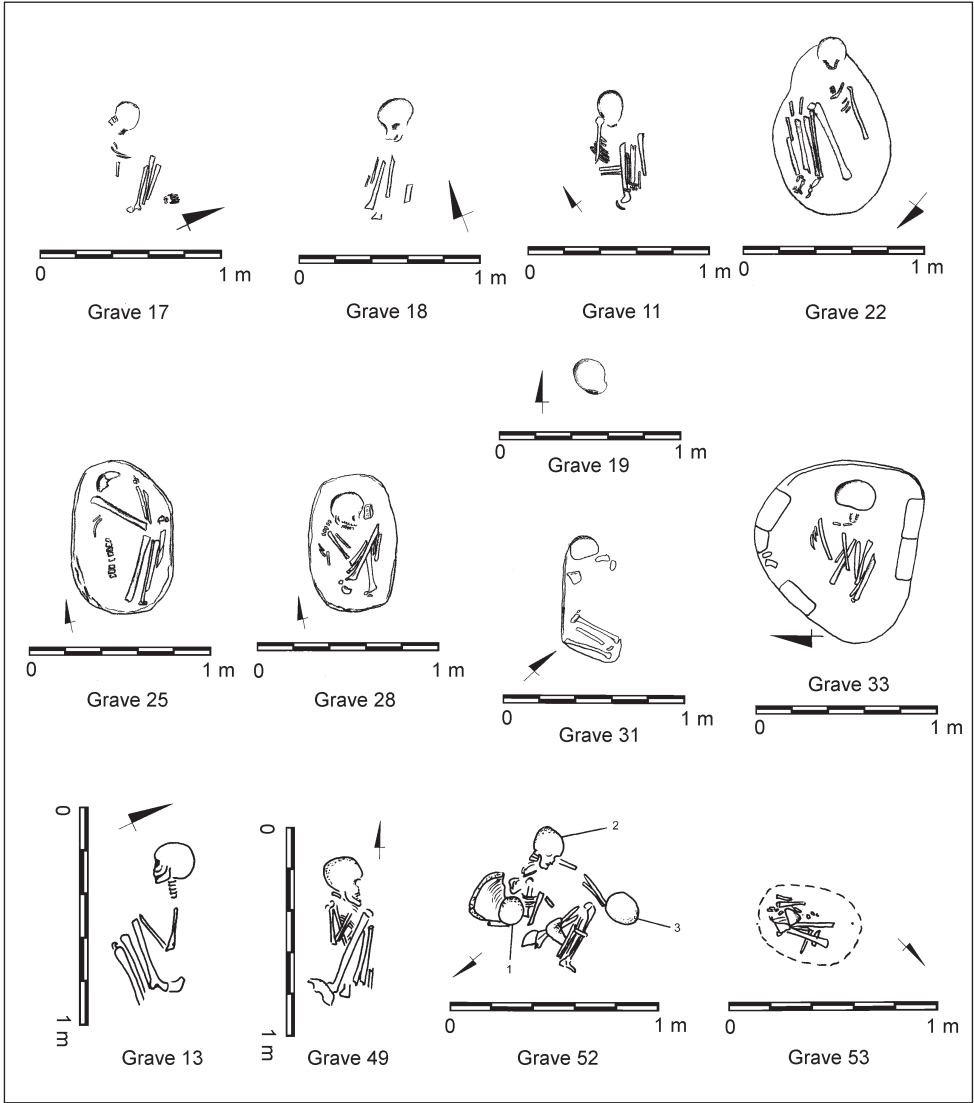


Plate 5. The third category of graves

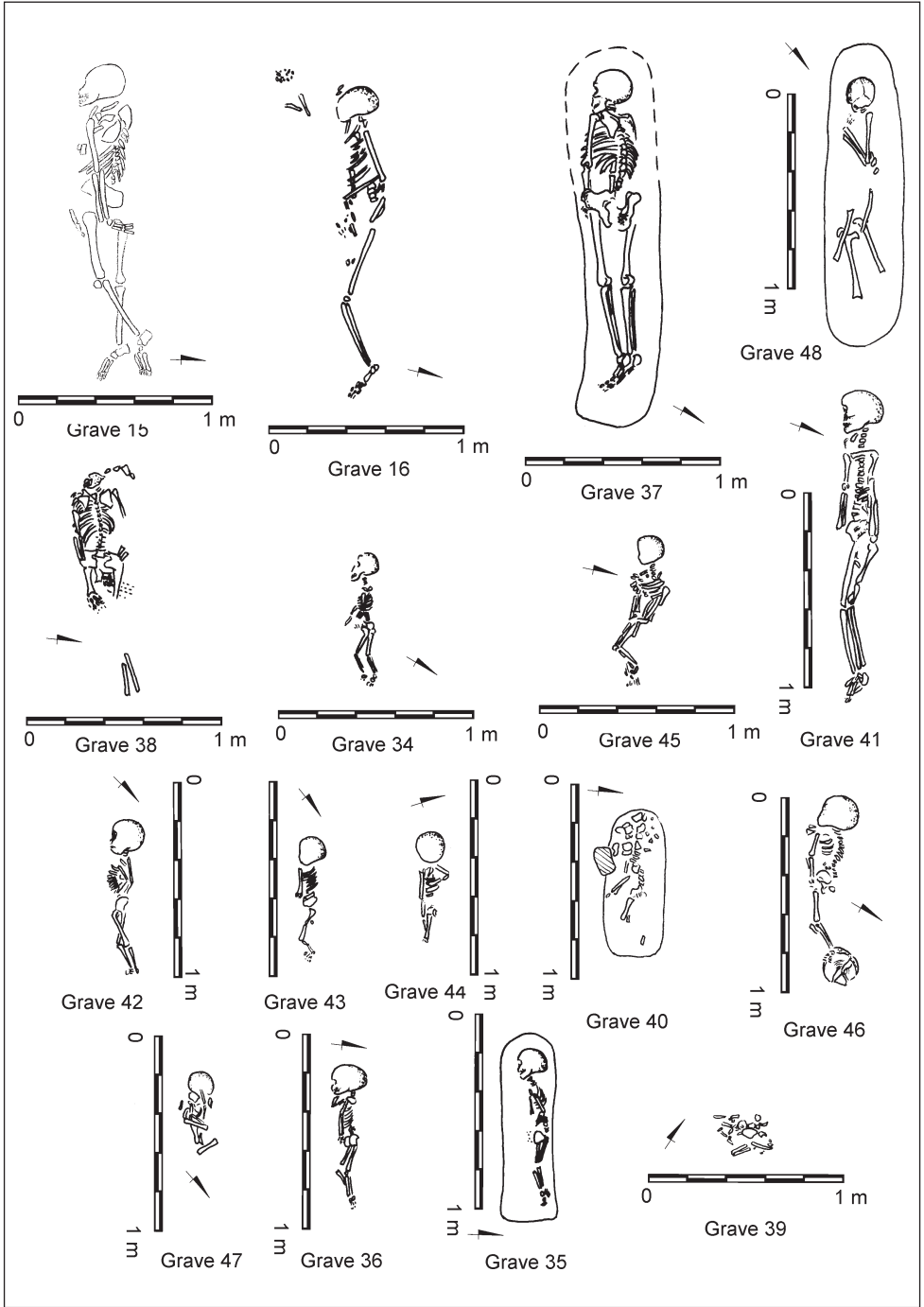
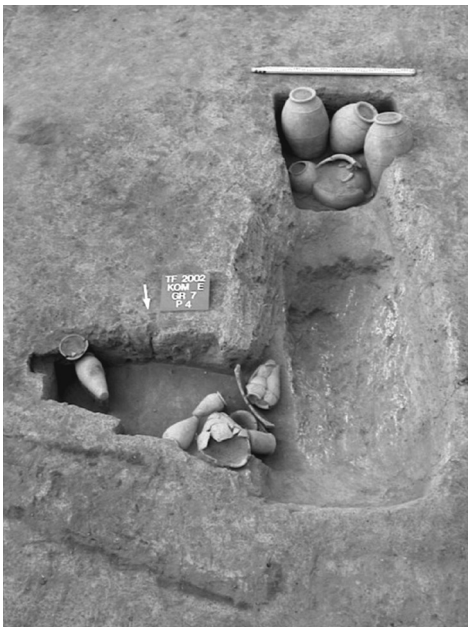


Plate. 6 The fourth category of graves



TF 2002
KOM E
GR 6
P - 8

Fig. 1. Grave no. 6



TF 2002
KOM E
GR 7
P 4

Fig. 2. Grave no. 7



GR 9
POZ 5

Fig. 3. Grave no. 9

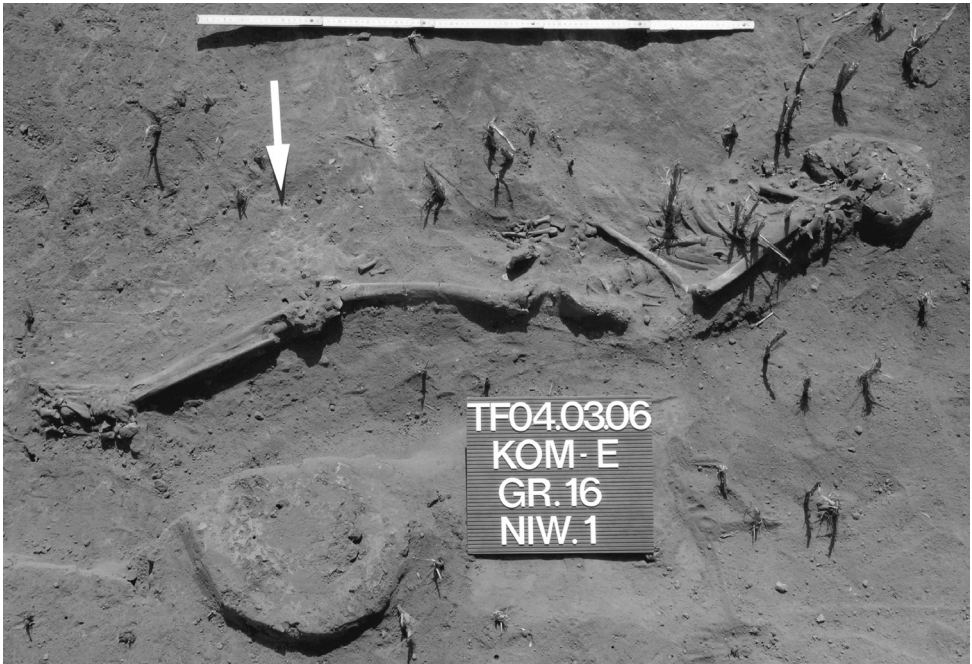


Fig. 4. Grave no. 16



Fig. 5. Grave no. 21



Fig. 6. Grave no. 23



Fig. 7. Grave no. 24



Fig. 8. Grave no. 25



Fig. 9. Grave no. 26

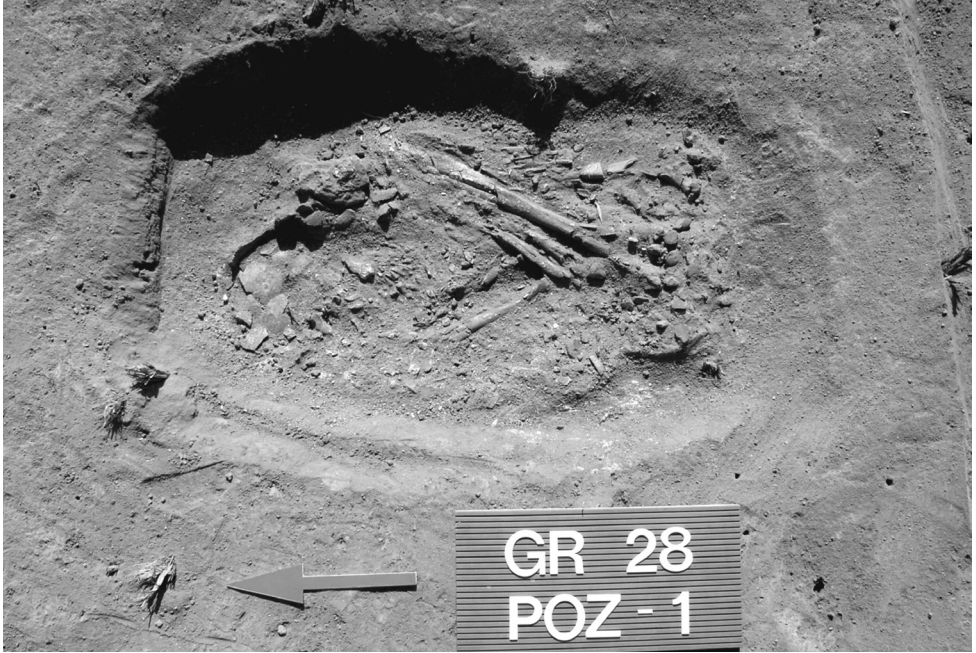


Fig. 10. Grave no. 28



Fig. 11. Grave no. 30

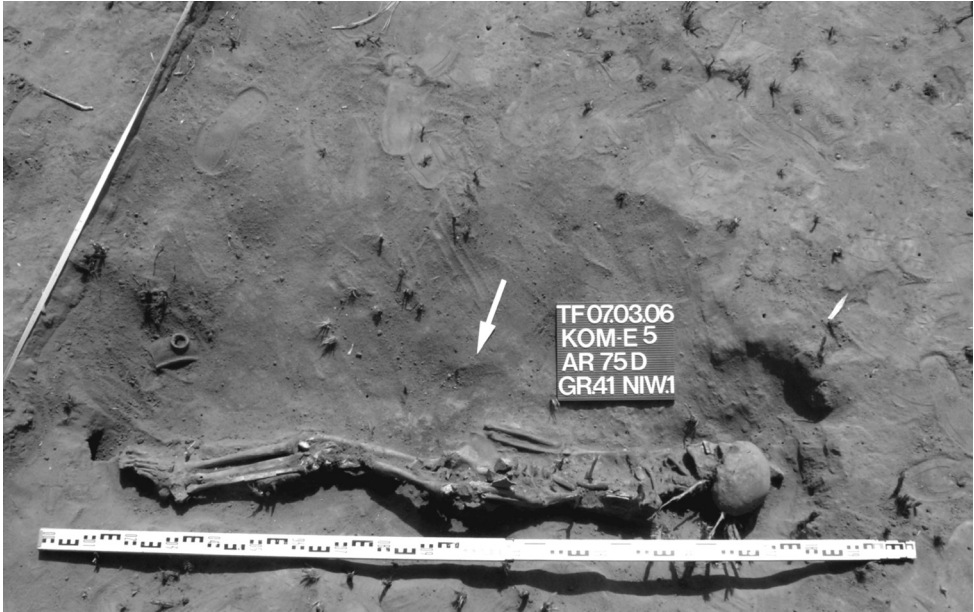


Fig. 12. Grave no. 41



Fig. 13. Grave no. 50