

A PREHISTORIC ROUTE AND ANCIENT CART-TRACKS IN THE *GEMEENTE* OF ANLOO (PROVINCE OF DRENTHE)

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ABSTRACT: An investigation of a possible linear pattern of burial mounds north of Eext in the *gemeente* of Anloo led to surprising results. Not only a prehistoric route could be reconstructed by means of a string of grave monuments; along this route a number of settlements were also located and old excavation results appeared to fit meaningfully in this arrangement of funerary monuments. Furthermore, during field-survey an ancient road was discovered, which could be traced over some distance along this row of grave mounds. Moreover, on three locations in this area sub-recent cart-tracks were uncovered.

KEYWORDS: North-East Drenthe, burial monuments, prehistoric route, old fossil road, sub-recent cart-tracks.

1. INTRODUCTION

Not many people take the trouble to travel on foot from the Galgwandenveen north of the village of Eext, through the woods and across Anloo's Molenes to the megalithic tomb (*hunebed*) known as D8; but those who do will come across a number of tumuli scattered in the landscape in a seemingly random way. If, however, we map these burial mounds together with all the funeral monuments that are known to have disappeared, a remarkable linear pattern emerges. Between Eext and Anloo, and continuing towards *hunebed* D8, a more or less uninterrupted alignment of monuments becomes apparent (figs. 1 and 2). It is a generally accepted interpretation that such linear patterns of burials correspond with ancient trackways. Via these monuments it should thus be possible to trace the course of an old route. It is highly probable that the stretch from Eext to *hunebed* D8 forms part of a north-south through route running along the northern part of the Hondsrug ridge. As it is only the 6-km stretch between Eext and *hunebed* D8 that can be reconstructed convincingly, only this part of it will be discussed here.

The oldest relics along the route date back to the TRB (*Trechterbeker* = Funnel Beaker) Culture; the most recent grave dates from the Late Iron Age. Along the line of tumuli a fossil cart-track, most probably older than Early Medieval, could be traced over a length of about 2 km (figs. 4 and 5).

In order to gain insight also into the distribution

and dating of other graves that were not along the route, the author has made an inventory of all known Neolithic, Early and Middle Bronze Age burials in the *gemeente* of Anloo, an area with a rich prehistoric past. To this end the field drawings, excavation journals, photographs, *etc.* kept at the Biologisch-Archaeologisch Instituut at Groningen were consulted. All monuments are discussed in the Appendix.

Plans, based on the original excavation drawings, and drawings of small finds are also provided for grave monuments which were previously unpublished or inadequately published.

2. RECONSTRUCTING ANCIENT TRACKWAYS

These days, the countless roads are an important element in the scenery. In the past, however, the road network would have played a far less dominant role in the landscape. If we examine the historical development of the road network, the oldest lines of communication cannot have been much more than seasonal pathways, along which hunters and gatherers migrated from one camp to the next. This 'infrastructure' would have been the basis from which, from the Neolithic, a network of tracks was able to develop. Presumably, the road pattern initially consisted of short stretches connecting neighbouring settlements. Apart from the more sedentary ways of life of farming communities, the

gradual development towards a market economy with the resulting increase in goods transportation must have been the stimulus for the development of a road network proper. Part of the goods transportation must have taken place on inland waterways and possibly even along the coast.

In reconstructing ancient trackways, three lines of research should be combined with field-work in order to ensure optimum results (Bakker, 1976). These are:

1. *Historical geography* (Denecke, 1969; a.o.). This involves the recording of old roads by means of features typically associated with road traffic, such as bridges, turnpikes, and wayside inns. Important sources of information are old maps, archives, field-names, and aerial photographs. Remains of roads are investigated in the field. Intensive use of a specific stretch of road could result in a sunken lane. This is because travellers preferred keeping to the beaten track: this made for greater speed and less risk of losing the way. Wherever the soil was soft and it was possible to turn aside, a series of parallel lanes was likely to develop. When a track became impassable a new one would be made alongside. Such a pattern of parallel cart-ruts covers for instance the entire eastern part of the Balloërveld heath. A similar system of cart-tracks is also to be found in the Strubben/Kniphorstbos near Anloo. These groups of cart-tracks are the remains of parts of the inter-regional route from Coevorden to Groningen, one branch of which went by way of Rolde, Balloo and Gasteren, and the other along the Hondsrug via Borger and Anloo.

2. *Physical geography*. The configuration of the terrain is an important factor in the course that roads take. It was according to the principle of minimum effort that prehistoric trackways came into being; the shortest, fastest, and most efficient route was opted for. From a transport point of view the landscape may be divided into two types: the traffic-friendly and the traffic-hostile. In this region the former consists of the higher, drier grounds. The only danger in using the high sandy areas was that intensive use might cause the destruction of the vegetation cover and result in sand drift. Zones hostile to traffic, such as marshy valleys, peat-bogs, drift-sands and forests—in the forested Veluwe region highwaymen were active right into the 19th century—were avoided as much as possible. As it was not always feasible to avoid all these, the most convenient course would be selected. On the whole, valleys were crossed at their narrowest point. These crossing places often remained in use for many

centuries, and have since been provided with a bridge or causeway. For this reason, there is often continuity of the road pattern.

3. *Archaeological geography*. From distribution patterns of lost settlements, wayside monuments, or prominent linear distributions of finds, it is sometimes possible to trace ancient trackways. For the prehistorian, this mostly means tumuli marking a route. In a number of cases, megalithic tombs are the oldest monuments along these through routes. Apart from old topographical maps, aerial photographs can play an important part in locating archaeological objects as well. Extrapolating from the sites of excavated and levelled barrows, one may sometimes be able to locate lost tumuli, when conditions are favourable and the layer of humic topsoil is not too thick.

In some cases and at a smaller scale, the course of roads may be deduced from other archaeological features. Thus, in settlement excavations in the Netherlands, road patterns have been reconstructed from the traces of fences, and the position and orientation of houses (Wijster: Van Es, 1965; Odoorn: Waterbolk, 1973; Kootwijkerzand: Heidinga, 1976). Field boundaries and/or the siting of a Celtic Field may also afford insight into ancient trackways (Vaassen: Brongers, 1972/1976; Hijken: Harsema, 1982: fig. 7). In some urnfields in the north of the Netherlands, tracks have been shown to be contemporary with, and in some cases to antedate, the cemetery (Kooi, 1979: pp. 152, 156, 158; Sleen, Noordbarge, Anloo, Gasteren, Vleder).

Thus, in reconstructing ancient routes, the prehistorian is largely dependent on recognizing a linear relation among grave monuments. Müller (1904) was the first archaeologist to suggest a connection between the long alignments of tumuli, often linked with old cart-tracks, in Jutland, and prehistoric routes. In a number of places in northwest Germany such strings of burial mounds were also recognized, often coinciding completely or in part with old high-roads or *Ochsenwege* (Hinz, 1950/1951; Kersten, 1951; Röschmann, 1963; Marschalleck, 1964; a.o.).

A fine example of the link between a road and a line of tumuli is described by Lincke (1939). A string of funeral monuments—the oldest among them are reckoned to be of TRB origin; most of them, however, were constructed in the Bronze Age—leads towards a wooden trackway across the peat near Meckelstedt, Kr. Wesermünde. The wooden road, dating from the (Early) Bronze Age,

traverses the most low-lying part of a valley and connects the sandy rising grounds with a long and narrow sandy ridge. Here we are dealing with a route that was used as far back as TRB days. As the valley gradually filled with peat, the wooden trackway was constructed of planks and thin logs.

The first to pay attention to prehistoric tracks in the Netherlands was the amateur archaeologist Beijerinck (1932). His survey of 'migration routes' of the Mesolithic and Neolithic in the northern Netherlands, based on the then-known sites which he connected up by drawing lines, is, however, rather hypothetical.

Beex (1952) associates some tumuli lying in a row along the small lake called Huismeer near Knegsel (province of Noord-Brabant) with an ancient route. The barrows are situated along the crest of a narrow cover-sand ridge, hemmed in between the fen and a small stream-valley. Taking into account the lie of the land, the old track would have had to run immediately alongside the barrows. The fact that these mounds are aligned does not necessarily imply that they were constructed along a trackway. However, the Antwerpse Baan, an old through route connecting the city of Antwerp with East Brabant, most probably ran along the very foot of the grave mounds. A number of other prehistoric sites, such as urnfields, have also been located along this road.

Glasbergen (1954: p. 174, fig. 76) in his dissertation states that the necropolis of Toterfout-Halve Mijl, which extends over a length of 2 km, is very likely to have been laid out along a prehistoric trackway, in view of its having developed from several nuclei.

With a soil map of south-east Drenthe onto which he projected the archaeological data as a starting point, Wieringa (1958) outlines a possible prehistoric road pattern for this area. The dominant theme in his study is the connection between soil characteristics and prehistoric remains.

Hijzeler (1961; 1966) also discusses prehistoric trackways. On finding that a number of funeral monuments and cemeteries is situated close to old, still used, unmetalled roads, he rushes to the conclusion that the latter must be "very ancient migration and cemetery roads".

Kooi (1979: p. 167) arrives at a reconstruction of the road network in south-eastern Drenthe during the Late Bronze and Early Iron Age, by analyzing the orientation of graves in urnfields and of 'certain rows of barrows'.

Nonetheless, the first wholly convincing prehis-

toric route in the Netherlands, marked by tumuli, was recorded by Modderman (1955) southwest of Epe in the Veluwe region. In his comprehensive article on trackways, Bakker (1976: fig. 11) published a map showing the distribution of these mounds. It even proved possible to distinguish two side-roads. The oldest burial along one of the side-roads dates from the Single Grave Culture.¹

The second unmistakable prehistoric route in the Netherlands is the stretch between Eext and *hunebed* D8.

3. THE TRACK BETWEEN EEXT AND *HUNE-BED* D8 (FIGS. 1 AND 2)

3.1. Geomorphology

The track traverses a landscape that forms part of the relatively flat Hondsrug plateau, which is bounded on the west by the Drentse A river and its tributary the Rolder Diep, and on the east by the Hunze valley. In some places, valleys were cut into the Hondsrug, which later filled up to some extent with fluvio-periglacial deposits and cover-sand. During the Holocene, peat was formed in these low-lying parts. In this valley system the Drentse A and the Rolder Diep have as tributaries the Anlooër Diepje and the Scheebroeker Loopje, the erosion system thus reaching to just west of Eext. In wide areas of the Hondsrug, the underlying boulder-clay almost reaches the surface. The cover-sand deposits, consisting of fine sands varying in silt content, further define the relief. Moreover, the area has some depressions and pingo remnants, of which the Galgwandenveen, also known as Eexter Visplas, is one.

3.2. A survey of graves and settlements along the track

In figures 1 and 2 the more or less uninterrupted alignment of monuments between Eext and Anloo, continuing towards *hunebed* D8 in Kniphorstbos north of Anloo is clearly visible. The linear pattern of graves is only interrupted by the *essen*. These open fields have for centuries been fertilized with a mixture of manure and sods, litter, or sand. In this way a *plaggen* soil could develop, sometimes reaching a considerable thickness. The gaps in the row of burials thus may one day be filled in with tumuli that were levelled long ago and remains of which may yet be found beneath the *plaggen* soil. Inspec-

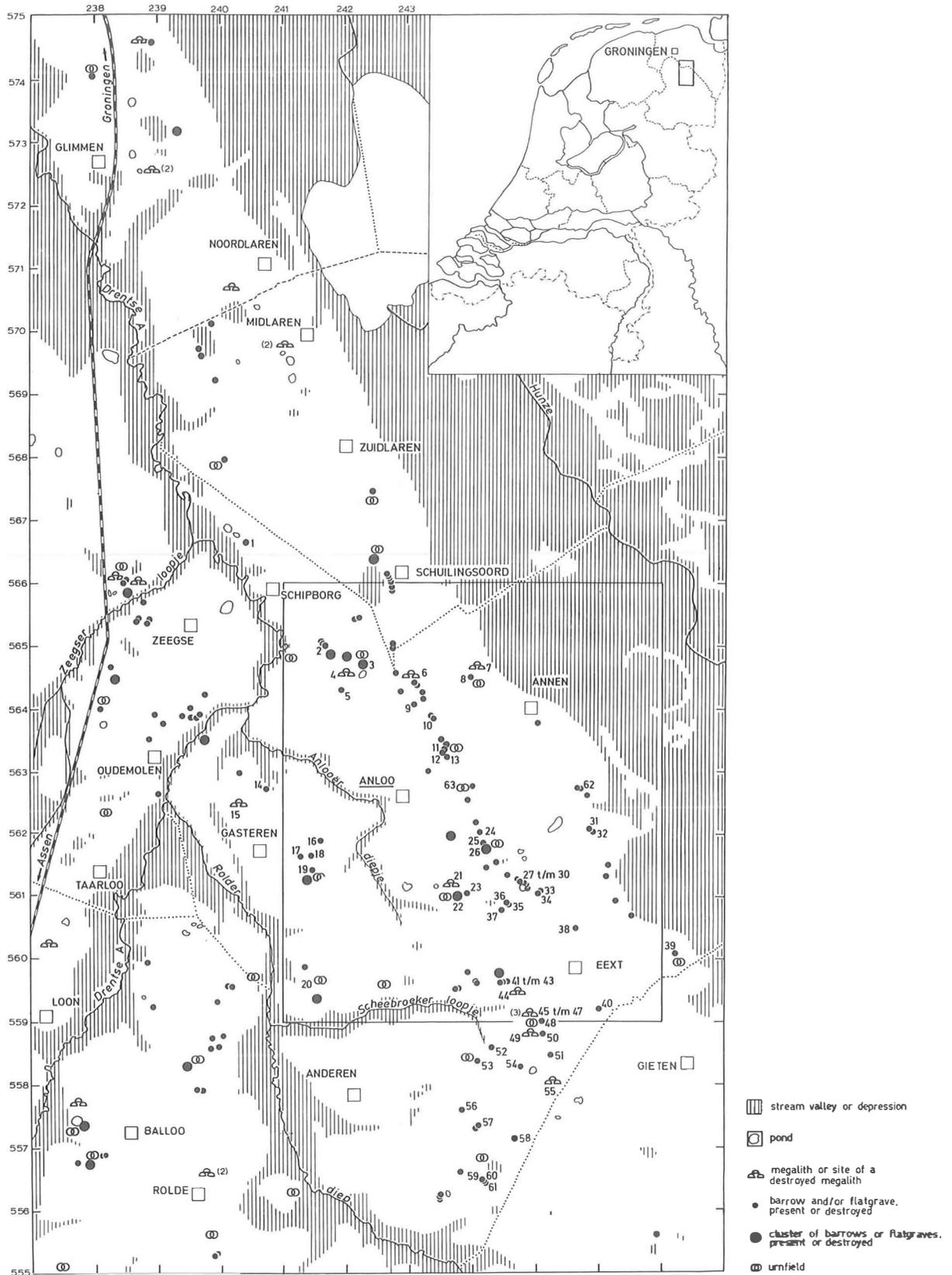


Fig. 1. Distribution of funerary monuments in north-east Drenthe. The area in the smaller rectangle corresponds to that in figure 2. Drawing S.W. Jager.



Fig. 2. Alignment of funerary monuments north of Eext. The area in the smaller rectangle corresponds to that in figure 4. Drawing S. W. Jager.

Table 1. List of excavated or datable monuments marking the prehistoric route between Eext and *hunebed* D8.

Monuments	MN/LN	Late Neolithic		EBA	EBA/ first half MBA	MBA		LBA/ earlier IA	Later IA/ Roman period
	TRB	Single Grave	A00			BB	first half		
6. Anloo, <i>hunebed</i> D8	+								
9. Anloo, tumulus II (1952)		+							
10. Anloo, tumulus I (1952)		+			+				
11. Anloo, tumulus		+						+	
12. Anloo, tumulus II		+			+				
13. Anloo, tumulus I					+				
63. Anloo, cemetery Molens							+	+	+
24. Eext, tumulus Eexterstrubben II							+		
25. Eext, tumulus Eexterstrubben I							+		
26. Anloo, excavation Evertsbos	+	+	+	+				+	+
27. Eext, tumulus I		+			+				
28. Eext, tumulus II					+				
29. Eext, tumulus III					+				
30. Eext, tumulus Galgwandenveen I		+							
33. Eext, tumulus Schuilingsbosje				+	+				
34. Eext, tumulus Galgwandenveen III		+			+				
38. Eext, tumulus 't Witzand							+		

ting this route from the air has not yet resulted in new tumulus sites. In other places, however, such reconnaissance flights have been very useful indeed in locating levelled barrows.

Table 1 lists the excavated or datable monuments marking the prehistoric route. The following criteria were applied in dating the graves from the Early and Middle Bronze Age when characteristic grave-goods were absent or radiocarbon dating was not possible.²

Early Bronze Age/first half of the Middle Bronze Age. A number of burials under 'structureless mounds' (Lanting & Mook, 1977: p. 113), e.g. mounds without encircling features near the edge. In some cases circular stonepackings in the mound are present. We must take into account, however, that mounds with a circular stonepacking, barrows, mostly consisting of yellow sand, constructed over burials in shallow pits or on the original ground level, and *Brandskeletgräber* under structureless tumuli principally date from the first half of the Middle Bronze Age.

First half of the Middle Bronze Age. To this period we can date tumuli with an encircling ditch (Lanting & Mook, 1977: p. 113).

Second half of the Middle Bronze Age. Tumuli with a single or multiple circle of posts at their foot are typical for this period (Lanting & Mook, 1977: p. 144).

In the archaeological investigations along this track, the excavations carried out by Waterbolk north-west of Eext in 1957/1958 play an important part. Apart from Beaker graves and an urnfield, the site provided evidence of prolonged occupation (fig. 3: no. 26).

TRB Culture. To begin with, the excavations revealed the traces of a threefold fence. Waterbolk (1960, p. 83) interpreted the palings as a cattle enclosure of the Single Grave Culture. This was completely in keeping with the ideas of those days, when the Single Grave Culture was seen as one of farming communities (Van der Waals & Glasbergen, 1959: p. 107). From the distribution of TRB finds, however, it becomes clear that this is an enclosed TRB settlement of the Early Havelte E2 phase.³

Beaker Cultures. The oldest Beaker burials along the track are graves D and E. Apart from these Single Graves, three more Beaker burials were uncovered. Two of these, graves B and C, may be

assigned to the AOO group on the grounds of their grave-goods. Grave A contained no finds, but may be reckoned to be of the same group because of its location and orientation. Waterbolk (1960: p. 83) used, among other things, the more or less parallel orientation of the graves and the palisade as an argument in dating the latter. This parallelism is now accounted for by the presence of a road. Beaker sherds, among which is one of a Maritime Bell Beaker (private collection of J.E. Musch), were found all over the excavation site, and point to the presence, here or near by, of a Beaker settlement in the Late Neolithic.

Early Bronze Age. From a number of settlement pits, with Barbed Wire pottery dating to the Early Bronze Age, it was possible to roughly determine the position of the houses, *i.e.* more or less parallel to a road.

Middle Bronze Age. During this period, the site was in use as arable land.

Late Bronze Age. The excavation also revealed a small urnfield. On the basis of two groups of burials, both forming straight lines, Kooi (1979: p. 156, fig. 153) later postulated a cross-roads here. The present author does not consider the road running east-west a convincing one. However, it turned out that a large part of the north-south road was (unwittingly) recorded by the field technicians. It appears in the field drawings partly as a dark smudgy zone in the southern part, partly as interruptions (*e.g.* places where 'dirty' soil was dug away in an attempt to improve to visibility of the traces) in the enclosure fences in the northern part of the excavation. Unfortunately, the road was not recorded photographically. The sections drawn from the baulks do not reveal any trace of a 'road surface' either; what was visible in the horizontal surface must have been the last remnant of the trackway.

A chance to follow this road further came up just prior to the completion of this article, when the adjacent parcel on the north, which had been under grass for years, was ploughed. This also provided an opportunity to document the north edge of the urnfield. The excavation yielded in the first place a long bed of type Gasteren situated along the west side of the road. Its central grave consisted of an unurned cremation. The grave pit also contained charcoal. The ditch surrounding the long bed was not found; presumably it had entirely been ploughed away, and only the deeper postholes and the central grave remained. Just to the west of it, two more cremations were found. Directly to the north of Waterbolk's excavation cutting a flat grave was

found in which a coffin with extended shadow skeleton showed up. At the bottom of this grave pit charcoal was collected for a ^{14}C determination, which gave a Middle Iron Age-date (GrN-14333: 2380 ± 120 B.P.). Similar (not-dated) graves for instance are known from the urnfield of Lauder-marke (Van Giffen, 1935).

The long bed appeared to join onto Eext, tumulus Eexterstrubben I (no. 25), which was excavated in 1954. This grave mound, which is also part of the row of burials along the west side of the road, was actually the northern edge of the cemetery. The road showed itself beside this tumulus as an iron-pan-infiltrated zone with podsolized wheel-tracks. The track continues on toward the north in the direction of Eext, tumulus Eexterstrubben II (no. 24).

The above-mentioned urnfield of site 26 seems to be not the only one along this route. Strong indications for the presence of a second one were found north-east of Anloo. In 1938 some Late Bronze Age urns were found as secondary interments in a Late Neolithic burial mound (no. 11) during reclamation work. In the spring of 1986 on the flank of a wind hollow close to this burial mound some sherds belonging to a single pot, probably an urn, were found. A small-scale excavation, along the edge of the hollow, revealed the remains of a ditch, which once had formed the periphery of a low, small mound (Jager, in press).

In some cases heaps of cremated bones without cinerary urns were found as secondary interments in burial mounds of the Late Neolithic, Early or Middle Bronze Age (nos. 12 and 27). We should keep in mind, however, that these cremations cannot be dated with any accuracy, and may even date from the Roman period. That was demonstrated in the case of the small cemetery (no. 63), shown in figures 1 and 2 as the symbol of an urnfield, that was discovered beside the prehistoric route, at the edge of the Anloo Molenes. Four small pits were found to contain cremated bones. In one case, the ashes has been placed in a *Kümmerkeramik* pot. In this excavation a so-called *Brandgrube* was also uncovered which contained a piece of corroded iron. Two pits and the *Brandgrube* were radiocarbon dated. As is evident from these ^{14}C dates and the finds, a small ridge was here in use as a cemetery both in the beginning and end of the Middle Bronze Age and in the Late Iron Age.

The presence of potsherds and flints on the old surface beneath tumuli or in the mound's body indicates that a settlement must have existed there

or in the immediate vicinity. Settlements material was found under the following barrows:

1. Anloo, tumulus I (no. 10)–Pot Beaker sherds. In the neighbourhood of this mound, TRB material and Barbed Wire sherds were found.
2. Eext, tumulus I (no. 27)–TRB sherds.
3. Eext, tumulus Galgwandenveen I (no. 30)–TRB sherds and a sherd of a Maritime Bell Beaker.
4. Eext, tumulus 't Witzand (no. 38)–Bell Beaker sherds. Moreover, in the field immediately north of this tumulus, TRB material came to light.

East of the burial mounds 11, 12 and 13 surface finds indicate to locality of settlements of TRB and Single Grave Cultures. A Celtic Field of the Middle and Late Iron Age has been localized to the west of the same tumuli with the help of aerial photographs (Brongers, 1976: pp. 96, 97; sheet 12 East-Anloo no. 1). Surface finds comprise material from the Iron Age and the earlier part of the Roman period (Jager, in press).

3.3. Period of use

As we have seen above, the grave monuments which mark a prehistoric road, and the settlement traces alongside it, are the most important documents in determining its period of use. Thus, we can determine that the oldest cultural remains along the road segment between Eext and *hunebed* D8 are from the period of the TRB Culture. The road was in any case then in use. Subsequently we find traces of burials and/or settlements along this stretch up to Roman times. So we may conclude that the road along the tumuli continued in use at least until the Roman period.

3.4. The trackway in a wider perspective

The stretch between Eext and *hunebed* D8 is very likely to have been a section of a north-south route along the northern part of the Hondsrug. Near *hunebed* D8 a side-road seems to fork off, leading along a string of burials on the uneven ground east of the Schipborger Meer, which was reclaimed fairly recently. It is quite possible that around 1920 the reclamation works destroyed some barrows that lay between this row of burials and two tumuli, of which one has been levelled, north-west of *hunebed* D8, immediately east of the modern main road. The site was levelled in such a thorough-going way that any traces of such barrows are hard to locate. Another branch probably traverses the western slope of the Hondsrug. Between *hunebed* D8 and

Schipborg a linear pattern of tumuli is blurred by a number of clusters. Although the majority of these clustered tumuli date back to the Iron Age, there is evidence that there are some older ones among them.

Both routes can be followed northward by means of a few aligned monuments. One would be inclined to interpret the distribution pattern as a joining-up of the two branches from the Noordlaren *hunebed* onward, beyond which the northerly peat area could be passed via a central narrow sandy ridge. The northernmost link of this route would then be marked by the Harenermolen tumulus. To the south, the track probably continues towards tumulus no. 40 (Eext, tumulus Gieterstraat) and may run past a few aligned monuments south of Gieten.

Examination of the distribution of tumuli south-west of Eext does not reveal a clear pattern. Possibly the details of relief determined the location of some of these barrows, or ancient trackways that can no longer be traced. The concentrations of tumuli beside the Drentse A near Oudemolen and the Zeegser Loopje north-west of Zeegse point to fords in these streams.

If we examine the location of the grave mounds along the east flank of the Hondsrug, we find here two cemeteries of the phase transitional between the urnfields and the pyre mounds (Kooi, 1979: pp. 120-124, 153). Together with a number of burial monuments that form more or less a diffuse row, this suggests a second route, which, taken together with the older grave monuments, was already in use in the Neolithic. It therefore seems probable that at the same time a second route ran along the east flank of the Hondsrug, partly coinciding with the Oude Groningerweg.

4. THE RELATION SETTLEMENT, BURIAL AND ROUTE

The question of the topographical and social relationship between settlements and burials is an interesting one. However, very little is known on this subject. One needs a clear view of the topographical position of both settlement and cemetery if one is going to discuss the distance between the two; but which settlement belongs to which barrow or cemetery? On the whole, data on the one or the other are lacking, or too ambiguous to permit satisfactory conclusions. The problem is aggravated where burials are dispersed, or where settlements shifted or migrated altogether. Here follow some investiga-

tions in which it was possible to link settlement and burial in the Neolithic and the Bronze Age.

Near Elp, a tumulus with a post circle was excavated, which was found to be related to a Middle and Late Bronze Age settlement. Within the settlement complex, a small Middle Bronze Age cemetery was also uncovered, with flat graves (Waterbolk, 1964). Although the settlement area concerned was presumably not occupied continuously, and that the settlement moved to another location whenever the land locally was exhausted, and returned later, it is probable that the tumulus and the flat graves belonged to an early phase of the settlement, and were thus situated a short distance from the houses.

Near Angelsloo-Emmerhout around fifty house plans of the Middle and Late Bronze Age were uncovered on a narrow cover-sand ridge running north-south over a length of about 1 km. At the southern end of the settlement complex, a tumulus of the same period was excavated, as well as a small urnfield. More ploughed-out barrows lay scattered in the vicinity (Van der Waals & Butler, 1976).

Hulst (1969) mentions a distance of 500 to 600 m between settlement and funeral monument in Elst (province of Utrecht); the relation between the two is not wholly convincing, however.

Casparie and Groenman-van Waateringe (1980), in their palynological research on Dutch burial mounds from the Neolithic and the Early (and Middle) Bronze Age, discovered that most pollen spectra under these tumuli reflect human activity. From this fact the authors draw the conclusion that most barrows were constructed close to a settlement. Conclusion: it seems reasonable to suppose that the dead were usually buried in the vicinity of the settlements.

Among other things, the distribution of surface finds allows us to sketch a rough outline of the settlement areas in the Neolithic and the Early and Middle Bronze Age in the *gemeente* of Anloo. The majority of the known settlements were situated on the edge of the plateau along the valleys and on the rising ground wherever water was available. A striking feature of their distribution is the scarcity of TRB habitation along the plateau's margins. Settlements of this culture seem to have been concentrated on the higher parts of the Hondsrug. We should, however, take care when drawing conclusions from such distributions as it has not been possible to collect surface finds from some areas such as woods and *essen*. We should also realize that our overview of burials in the Anloo area is not complete. The

author therefore does not think that the available data on settlements and burials are sufficient for the purpose of comparison. In any case, the route connected a number of settlements. Also, it is quite likely that the construction of some tumuli along its course required the burning of the vegetation in order to clear a space. Tumulus I and tumulus Galgwandenvveen III, both in Eext (nos. 27 and 34), bear witness to this. The old surface under these barrows contained hardly any pollen, but some carbonized material was present (Casparie & Groenman-van Waateringe, 1980: pp. 16, 17 and 44; no. 19 and 20).

When we look at the distribution pattern of burial monuments in general, our attention is drawn to larger and smaller clusters of monuments apart from the alignment along the route and some isolated graves. A desire to mark one's territory by claiming a certain area as a formal cemetery may explain the custom of constructing groups of barrows, burying several dead in common, so-called family mounds, and creating urnfields. Though this motive may in some cases have played a role in burying the deceased along a road, other notions probably counted more heavily. That these mounds along a route should have been intended as beacons for weary travellers in danger of getting lost during foul weather, does not seem a satisfactory explanation. The fact that, for instance, the five Beaker graves, excavated in 1958 had not been covered with a mound, or at most with very small, low ones, would rather argue against this view. Comparison of the grave-goods from the Single Graves along the track with those of other Single Graves from the Anloo area does not reveal a clear difference in social status. Presumably it was a religious notion that underlay the phenomenon.

5. ANCIENT CART-TRACKS (FIGS. 4 AND 5)

5.1. The track along the string of grave monuments

Thanks to information provided by the amateur archaeologist H.J. Homan of Eext, and to the attentiveness of J.H. Zwier, draughtsman at the B.A.I., fossil cart-tracks were discovered in the bank of a modern boundary ditch along the southern edge of the Noordes of Eext. The old tracks, which follow the alignment of tumuli, could be pursued over a length of c. 2 km (fig. 4).

In the Noordes and some distance into the Haverlanden, the course of the road could be recorded by

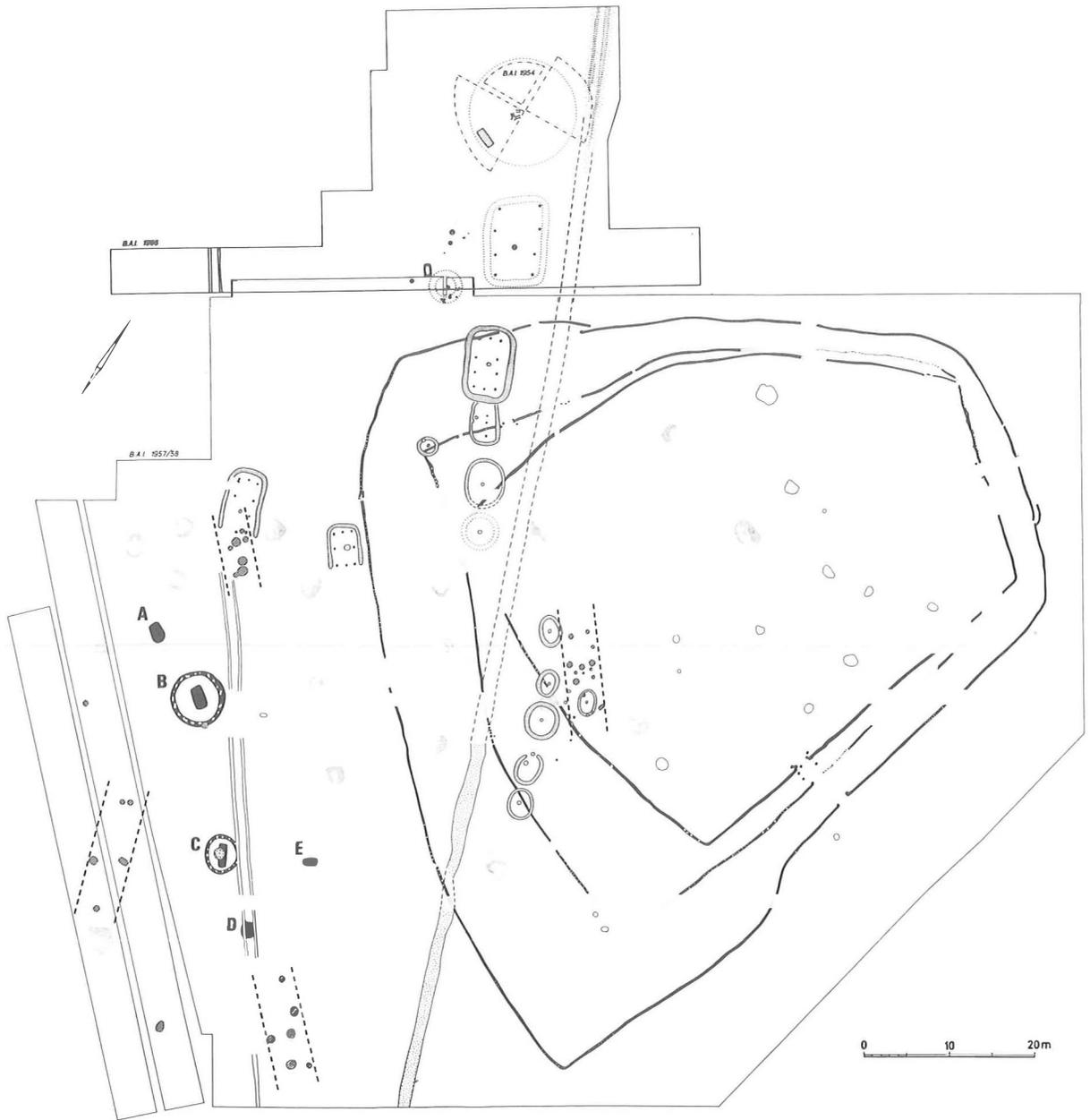


Fig. 3. Combined plans of the excavations of 1954, 1957/58 (with some additions of the author) and 1986. Drawing H.R. Roelink/J.H. Zwier.

digging a series of trenches. Beneath the *plaggen* soil, the nature of the traces was rather variable. In the north of the Noordes, the track shows up as a dark, blotchy zone, 1.50-1.70 m wide. Near the present-day cemetery of Eext the road is c. 2 m wide, and has wheel-ruts in which a podsol profile has developed, with a grimy, somewhat humic strip between the ruts, which may have served for walking on.

In the Haverlanden area the track looks quite different. The ruts, here visible as dark, podsolized lines, fan out towards the south-east. Of these divergent tracks, one was pursued by the excavators: towards the south, the ruts gradually became shallower. In the last trench they could only be recognized from the zones of iron accumulation. A few metres farther on, the visible traces had disappeared altogether. Trenches along the southern and

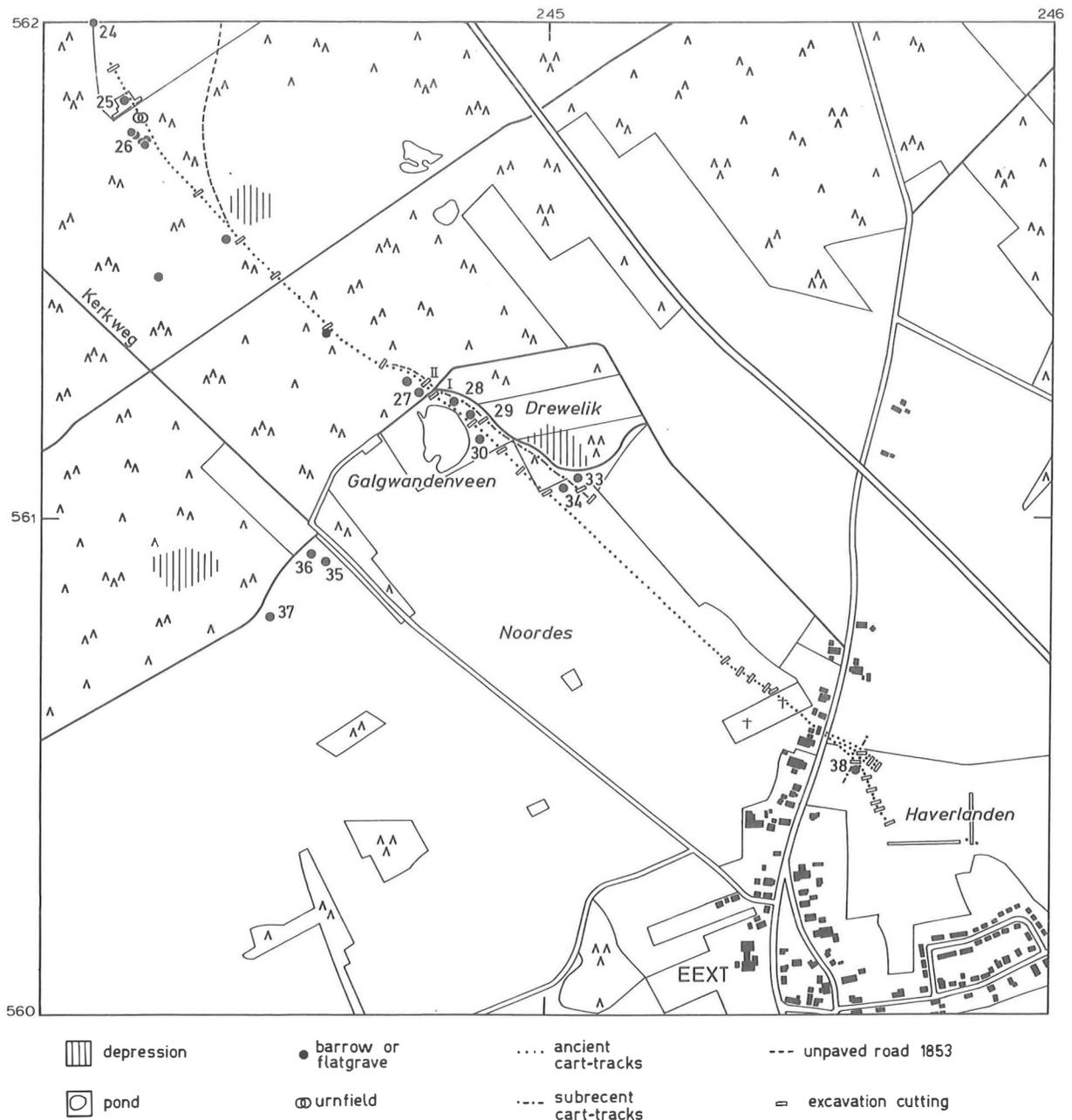


Fig. 4. The ancient trackway and two of the three sub-recent roads. Drawing S.W. Jager.

eastern edges of this field revealed nothing but one single wheel-rut in the south-eastern corner.

Towards the north, research was continued in the woods belonging to the forestry of Anloo. Here we were restricted to digging trenches along the paths and in unplanted lots, as the soil in the wooded parts had been ploughed over, down to the B2 horizon. Nonetheless, the track could be followed

over a considerable distance. Near the Galgwandenveen it manifests itself as a hollow lane, marked by a substantial leached horizon with thick iron pan beneath it. The sunken lane has a fill of thin humic layers alternating with (wind-blown) sand (fig. 5: I). The route passes between the Galgwandenveen and Eext, tumuli II and III (no 28 and 29), and is still visible in the form of a depression in the terrain.

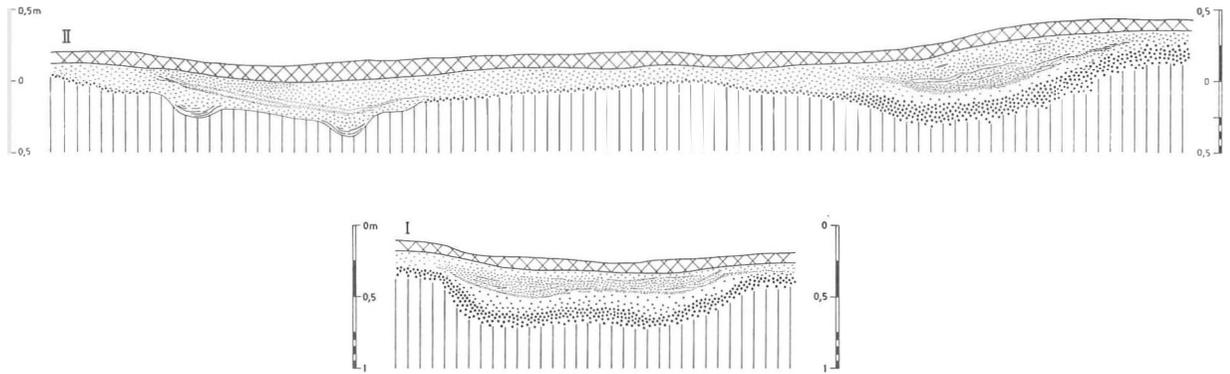


Fig. 5. I. Northern section, cutting through the ancient trackway.
II. Southern section, cutting through the ancient trackway and the sub-recent cart-ruts. Drawing S.W. Jager.

Van Giffen, excavating in 1937, never noticed the hollow road, even though it passes immediately beside the mounds. His sections stopped just short of the trackway.

A little north of Eext, tumulus I (no. 27) our track coincides with an old unmetalled road that was recorded by the Ordnance Survey of 1853. At the turn of the century this road was no longer shown on military maps, but it is recognizable even now as a strip of meadow-grass among the heather. The ancient track coincides with this sandy road for some distance. In the woods the last observation of the ruts was made c. 100 m south of the site of Waterbolk's excavation of 1957 and 1958. An attempt to expose the road along the southern margin of the excavation cutting was unsuccessful. That the road connects up with the dark stripe running through the urnfield is confirmed by a recent excavation in the parcel directly north of Waterbolk's excavation; here the continuation of the road was documented (fig. 3). To the north the road runs in the direction of Eext, tumulus Eexterstrubben II (no. 24). The gauge of the carts using this track was around 1.00-1.10 m.

5.2. Dating

Although it is rather difficult to ascertain the age of this track, the following facts support the idea of its being a very ancient one.

1. In the investigation of Eext, tumulus 't Witzand (no. 38), cart-tracks were uncovered that belonged to this road. The ruts cut across the foot of the barrow and then make a slight turning towards the south-east. Here a grave was cut through the track. This grave, forming part of a little group of

secondary burials in the edge of the tumulus, is the only one to have a deviating orientation. The others were oriented in a radial fashion. Three of the graves revealed bone remains; in two cases the posture of the body could be observed, *i.e.* extended, on its back. In the three graves the dead person had been buried with his or her head towards the west. None of the graves contained any grave-goods. On the basis of the preservation of the bone material, an Early Medieval date seems most probable.

2. In the Noordes the cart-ruts were sampled for the purpose of pollen analysis. Although perhaps not fully comparable with a buried surface under a tumulus, there is, as with grave mounds, a buried soil profile. The result of the pollen counts is presented in table 2 (in percentages). From this investigation it appears that the track belongs to a period in which heather still predominated in the area. The higher cerealia-type values in the pollen spectrum of the deepest layer of *plaggen* soil are accounted for by *Secale* (rye), this being dependent on wind pollination and the only species likely to reach such counts. Most probably the track was in use before the widespread introduction of rye cultivation.

3. From research in the Provincial Archives in Assen, it is clear that field names such as Drevell (Drewelik), Galgwand, Botterman, Boomboschen, Quenkeler (Kwenkelaars) and Quoothorns—the fields that cover the track—were already in use in 1642 when the arable lands were surveyed and taxed. The fields themselves, however, must have been in use from a far earlier date.

Conclusion. The above-mentioned facts make an origin of this track before 700-800 A.D. quite likely.

Table 2. The result of the pollen analysis (in percentages) of the bottom of the *plaggen* soil and the cart-ruts in the Noordes.

Percentages	<i>Plaggen</i> soil	Cart-ruts
Gramineae	37.7	17.8
Cerealia-type	14.0	1.4
<i>Rumex</i>	12.1	4.7
Ericaceae	7.1	40.2
<i>Alnus</i>	2.9	9.2
<i>Betula</i>	1.0	0.9
<i>Pinus</i>	1.0	0.8
<i>Corylus</i>	0.6	2.4
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	0.5	1.1
<i>Quercus</i>	0.2	3.3
<i>Potentilla</i> -type	0.2	-
Liguliflorae	0.2	1.3
Tubuliflorae	0.2	1.5
Caryophyllaceae	0.3	0.2
<i>Centaurea cyanus</i>	0.2	-
<i>Fagopyrum</i>	0.1	-
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	0.1	0.1
<i>Spergularia</i>	0.1	-
<i>Ulmus</i>	-	0.5
Umbelliferae	-	0.1
<i>Ranunculus acer</i> -type	-	0.3
<i>Mentha</i> -type	-	0.4
<i>Dryopteris</i>	0.3	-
<i>Pteridium</i>	0.1	-
<i>Lycopodium</i>	0.1	-
Unidentified	19.1	12.5

As has been said before, the track, or at least those parts that were excavated in the Anloo forestry and in the Molenes, has the appearance of a proper road. In the Haverlanden, however, it splits into a number of separate cart-tracks. Apart from the possibility that here it was simply easier to turn aside, this could indicate a point where the road forked into various directions. Maybe the tracks turning towards the south-east headed for three Roman-period settlements, which were located south, east and south-east of Eext; two by excavations (Van Giffen, 1934; 1937a; Van Es, 1964), one by surface finds. As the track towards the north joins on to the dark zone across the urnfield, the road's being in use as far as back as the Late Bronze Age should be taken as a serious possibility.

To date the tracks on the basis of width is problematical. Hayen's recent study of wooden trackways across bogs and cart debris preserved in the peat shows that Neolithic carts had a gauge of around 1.50 m. In the Bronze Age this was reduced to about 1.20 m, which remained the usual width throughout prehistory. During the Middle Ages, however, gauges of around 1.50 m were re-introduced (Hayen, 1985: pp. 34-37). The common 1.20 m gauge thus is a nuisance for dating purposes.

Also our knowledge of gauges of the past, of their spatial distribution and of their permanence is (still) insufficient to allow us the use of track width as a criterion for dating.

There are a few dated gauges in the Netherlands. In excavating the Carolingian settlement site in the drift-sands near Kootwijk, it was found that the inhabitants employed vehicles with different gauges. In the settlement, tracks with a 1-m gauge were uncovered; however, part of an axle, recovered from a well, shows that carts with a gauge of c. 1.40 m were also in use (Heidinga, 1976).

In the north of the Netherlands, large-scale settlement excavations revealed cart-tracks in some cases. In Wijster, ruts were uncovered in the northern part of a Roman-period settlement (Van Es, 1965: Plan X, 1 and 2). It is highly probable that these date to the same period, or the Early Middle Ages. The wheels had been c. 1.20 m apart. In continued research at Odoorn, where Waterbolk had excavated the major part of an Early Medieval settlement in 1966, wheel-tracks appeared that belonged to the settlement. Here too, the gauge is about 1.20 m (not published).

Furthermore, a cart-track was uncovered in the excavation of a road paved with stones in the valley of the former rivulet Voorste Diep; it had a width of 1.10-1.25 m. This road must have been in use between the late 10th and the middle of the 11th century (Casparie *et al.*, 1983).

5.3. Other excavated cart-tracks north of Eext

In recording the course of the very ancient track in the northern edge of the Noordes, sub-recent ruts were recognized in the steep bank of a boundary ditch. These have a fill of fine layers of washed-in sand. This track heads for the edge of the old *es*. To the north, it joins up with the sandy road of 1853. In profile II (fig. 5), its relation with the ancient track is demonstrated. Near the Galgwandenveen this sub-recent road is visible on the eastern flank of the pingo rampart, resembling a terrace. The sub-recent ruts show a gauge of 1.10 m.⁴

This excavated track must be the same as the road described by Kluiving in his book on the *boermarke* of Eext: "It seems that an ancient road used to run from the northern end of the village along the *es* and between the Dreweling fields and the Galgwanden, across the heath towards the Anloo coppice and the village of Anloo" (Kluiving, 1969: p. 98). Presumably Kluiving bases his description on oral tradition.

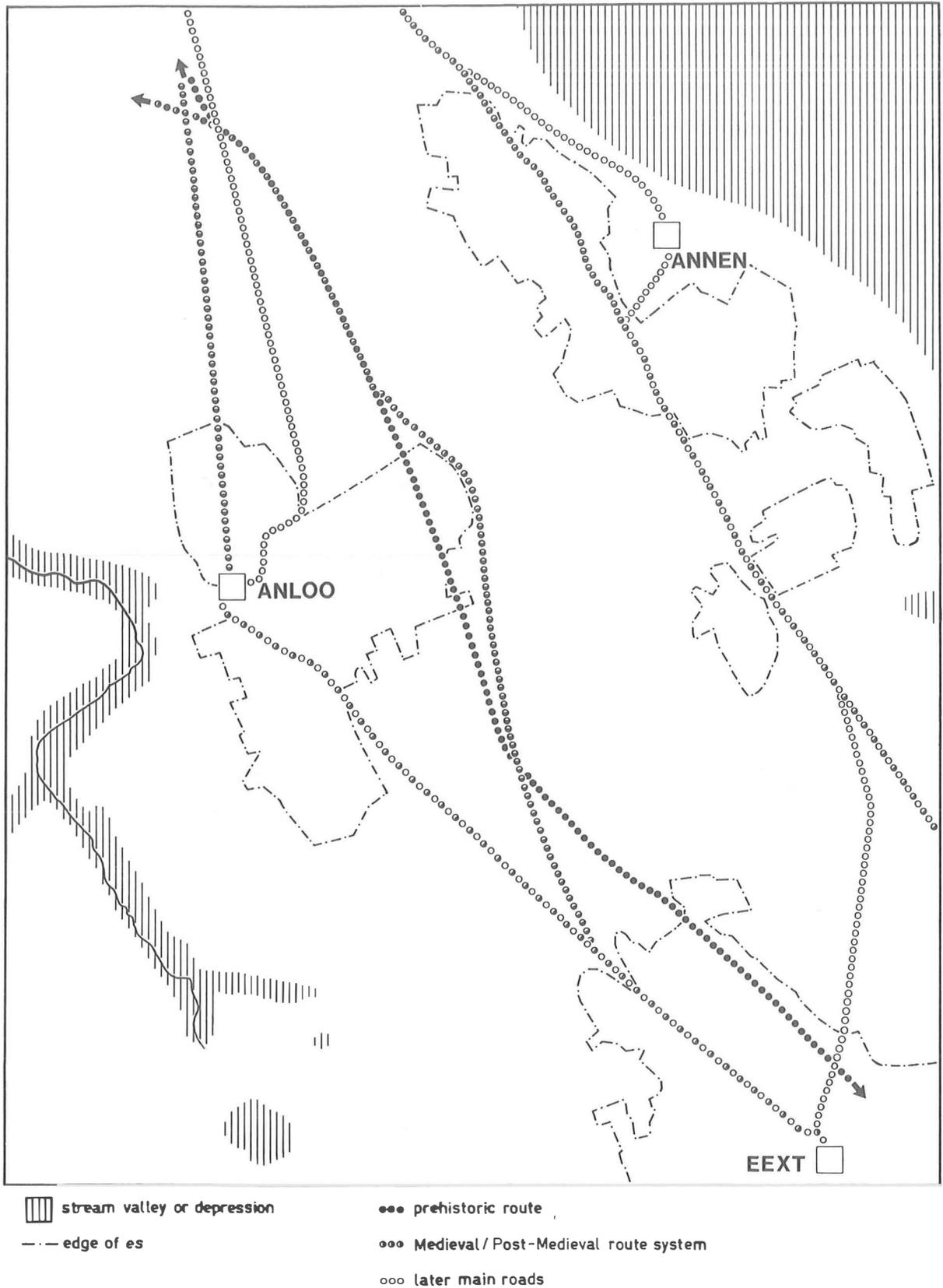


Fig. 6. A reconstruction of the through connections on the Hondsrug north of Eext throughout the ages. Drawing S.W. Jager.

A second sub-recent road appeared in Eext when tumulus 't Witzand (no. 38) was investigated. To the west of the barrow site, a hollow road was uncovered, which probably joins up with an existing or former road leading into the Hunze valley. This hollow lane, with a 1.20-1.30 m gauge, runs parallel to a boundary ditch that was last recorded on the Ordnance Map of 1853. Just north of the barrow, these sub-recent ruts cut across the older ones.

A third road was uncovered in the excavation of a small cemetery at the edge of the Molenes at Anloo (no. 63). Here, on the east side of a narrow cover-sand ridge, at the bottom of a road depression filled with wind-blown sand and plough soil, a cart-track was found which was visible as somewhat ironpanned tracks with local fine layers of washed-in sand. The track width was c. 1.20 m. Toward the south this road could not be pursued. To the north the cart-tracks may head in the direction of Anloo, tumuli I and II (no. 13 and 12). Presumably this road was part of a route along the eastern edge of the Molenes, and the cart-tracks have disappeared under the *es* in a later extension of the cultivated area.

6. SYNTHESIS (FIG. 6)

As has become evident from the burials and settlements along the stretch between Eext and *hunebed* D8, the prehistoric route was at least in use until the Roman period. There was a change in the course of this period or the Early Middle Ages; presumably partly because of the shifting of the predecessors of the present-day villages of Eext and Anloo, though this is hard to prove on the basis of finds, and the growing importance of Anloo. Besides settlements from the Roman period S, E and SE of Eext, and some finds from the earlier part of the Roman period east of Anloo, potsherds from the Roman period have been found in the centre of Anloo. Finds from the Early Middle Ages are practically lacking in the vicinity of these villages. We may assume that in the course of the Carolingian period these settlements correspond with the present-day location of Eext and Anloo. Another factor that may have influenced traffic to divert its route was the creation of the *essen*.

The ancient trackway was in all probability abandoned about that time and re-routed to the Kerkweg. When the fields in which the tracks now lie were brought into cultivation and ploughed

over, the trackway must already have been out of use for some considerable time, as is evident from the podsolization under the old ruts, which were later covered by the *plaggen* soil. To the north of the *es* traffic followed this road toward Anloo, or fanned out over waste ground to pass the Molenes of Anloo to the east. Aerial photographs from the 1950's point in this direction. Because of ploughing and afforestation traces of cart-tracks between Eext and Anloo have largely disappeared. To the north of Anloo, in the Kniphorstbos, we located the eastern branch in the form of multiple cart-tracks, which show a clear connection with the burial mounds. The traces of lively traffic that once passed over the heath determine in part the landscape in this area (Jager, in press). These cart-tracks derive for the most part from the Middle Ages or later, and belong to the easterly branch of the inter-regional route from Coevorden to Groningen by way of the Hondsrug. Thus we can postulate that the prehistoric route between Eext and Anloo was probably abandoned in the course of the Roman period or the Early Middle Ages. To the north-east of Anloo traffic also continued centuries long to follow the track along the burial mounds, until the traffic ran exclusively via Anloo.

On the map of Drenthe by Pijnacker (1634) the principal connection Eext-Anloo-Zuidlaren more or less coincides with the Kerkweg and the Oude Zuidlaarderweg. As has already been stated, the Kerkweg is as such much older. It is very probable that this road goes back as far as the Early Middle Ages. The name, which refers to the church of Anloo, also points in this direction. This church was originally the only church in the area, and may have been founded as early as the 8th or 9th century. Moreover, Charlemagne prescribed in 785, when he swayed the sceptre over the Frankish empire, that the dead had to be buried near the churches and the transport of the deceased should take place over dictated roads. The Kerkweg might be interpreted as such a funeral road, along which the dead were brought to the churchyard of Anloo. How far back in time the Oude Zuidlaarderweg goes is difficult to say. In addition to the group of cart-tracks which coincides with the row of burial mounds, another set of cart-tracks leads from the village of Anloo in the direction of *hunebed* D8. These cart-track sets can be regarded as the predecessors of the Oude Zuidlaarderweg. Be this as it may, it appears from the Pijnacker map that the chief connection was by way of Anloo in the 17th century; and so by that time the centuries-old

trajectory along the burial mounds was no longer in use as the principal through connection.

On the Napoleonic map of 1812, a second through route is shown, namely an easterly route from Gieten along the Oude Groningerweg, east of Eext, to Annen and Zuidlaren. But the fact that the main route ran via Eext and Anloo in the 17th century indicates that the Oude Groningerweg then had a less important role for road traffic. This road survives, in part, as an unmetalled road. The disused northern part may still be recognized as a sunken lane. The Gieten-Zuidlaren route via Eext and Annen became increasingly important in the 19th century, probably stimulated by the development of the village of Annen. From around 1856, when this stretch was metalled, the Kerkweg, the Oude Zuidlaarderweg, and the Oude Groningerweg, all three unmetalled roads, were no longer used for anything but local traffic.

What was the function of the road mentioned by Kluiving in this road system? This track can be regarded as a more recent version of the pre-*es* road and was no more than a local connection between Eext and Anloo. Presumably the old trackway was still clearly recognizable north of the Noordes in the days of this road's construction. This would explain the partial merging of Kluiving's road/the 1853 unmetalled track with the ancient trackway.

When, around 1846, the common land along the eastern edge of the Noordes open field was laid down to grass, Kluiving's road was shifted to follow the new boundary of cultivated land. The present unmetalled road thus may well be regarded as its successor.

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8. NOTES

1. The author agrees with A.E. Lanting (1982: p. 130; note 5) that the denotation Single Grave Culture (*Enkelgrafcultuur*, EGK) is preferable to Protruding Foot Beaker Culture (PFB).
2. For the dating of Beaker graves and graves of the Barbed Wire phase, the reader is referred to Lanting and Van der Waals (1976), and Lanting (1973), respectively.
3. In his article dealing, among other things, with the location of *hunebedden*, TRB flat graves and TRB settlements in part of Drenthe, in relation to the 1:50.000 Soil Map of the Netherlands, Bakker (1982: p. 103, fig. 9) stresses the unusual position of Anloo's enclosed TRB settlement. It is unique in lying in a zone pedologically coded Hn23X-VI, *i.e.* in an area of *veldpodzol* (typical 'humic' gley-podzol) soils in loamy fine sand with boulder clay or 'pot clay' beginning at 40 to 120 cm below the surface, and an average highest groundwater level at 40 to 80 cm below the surface. The other known TRB settlements seem to have preferred the higher *haarpodzol* (humus podzol) soils of fine sand, poor in loam, with an average highest groundwater level at least 80 cm below the surface (code: Hd 21-VII).
4. The enclosed TRB settlement is also mentioned by Harsema (1982: pp. 150-153) in his article on location factors on the Drenthe plateau in prehistory. He discusses the attractiveness of the site in terms of landscape features and soil characteristics. In view of this settlements's location at a point where the underlying boulder-clay even reaches the surface in places, the present author would like to add a third, even more decisive, factor: the crucial importance of the road.
4. This gauge does not accord with the measurements carried out by Oudemans on old farm carts and drays in the province of Drenthe and elsewhere. The gauges of the carts from Drenthe ranged between 1.18 and 1.36 m (Oudemans, 1926: pp. 32-33).
5. Van Giffen mentions this find in his discussion of the grave goods from the Onnen beehive grave. Apart from a Single Grave beaker of type 1d, this burial yielded a small undecorated beaker bearing a strong resemblance to that of Gasteren/Anderen.

The following Late Neolithic, undecorated small beakers are also known from the Netherlands: 1. Beilen: found in a ploughed field, possibly associated with an 'amphora' and presumably from a flat grave (Van der Waals, 1964: p. 181, fig. 7); 2. Oudemolen, tumulus 13: from a grave, associated with a Bell Beaker (unpublished); 3. Drijber, 'Otterberg' tumulus II: from a grave, associated with a Bell Beaker (Lanting, 1973: pp. 273-275, fig. 14); 4. Hijkerfeld: from a Single Grave Culture child's grave (Bloemers *et al.*, 1981: p. 50); 5. Eexterhalte, tumulus a: from a grave (see No. 59); 6. Borger, tumulus Drouwenerweg 1: from a Single Grave Culture child's grave. This small grave, surrounded by a foundation trench, was one of two contemporaneous primary interments under a barrow. The foundation trench mentio-

ned joined up with a larger one surrounding the central principal grave. The latter contained a type B battle axe, 2 flint axes, a flint blade and 8 arrowheads of which 4 were transverse and 4 tanged without barbs (unpublished).

6. Although the little beaker carries this inventory number, it was erroneously entered in the books as 1937/VI 118.
7. Present inventory numbers: 1928/VII 3, 4, 5, 5a, 6, 7, 7a and 7b.
8. Present inventory numbers: 1928/VII 5 and 5a.

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APPENDIX: Graves of the Neolithic and Early and Middle Bronze Age in the gemeente of Anloo, province of Drenthe

1. *Schipborg*, TRB flat grave cemetery. Dutch National Grid reference: 240.41/566.63, 1:25.000 map, sheet 12E Zuidlaren. Waterbolck, 1958: pp. 6-7. Levelling works on a steep cover-sand ridge situated between the Drentse A valley and a parallel zone of marshy depressions, brought to light two Funnel beakers, an undecorated bowl and a small, undecorated shouldered vessel. All but one of these were acquired by the Provinciaal Museum of Assen in 1942. Further investigations provided no additional finds. No settlement remains were found, therefore the finds probably were grave-goods from one or more flat graves.
2. *Schipborg*, tumulus III (fig. 7). Sheet 12E: 241.67/565.02. Van Giffen & Glasbergen, 1954 (short reference). This barrow, situated on a small, fairly steep cover-sand ridge was investigated by Van Giffen in 1952. As its central

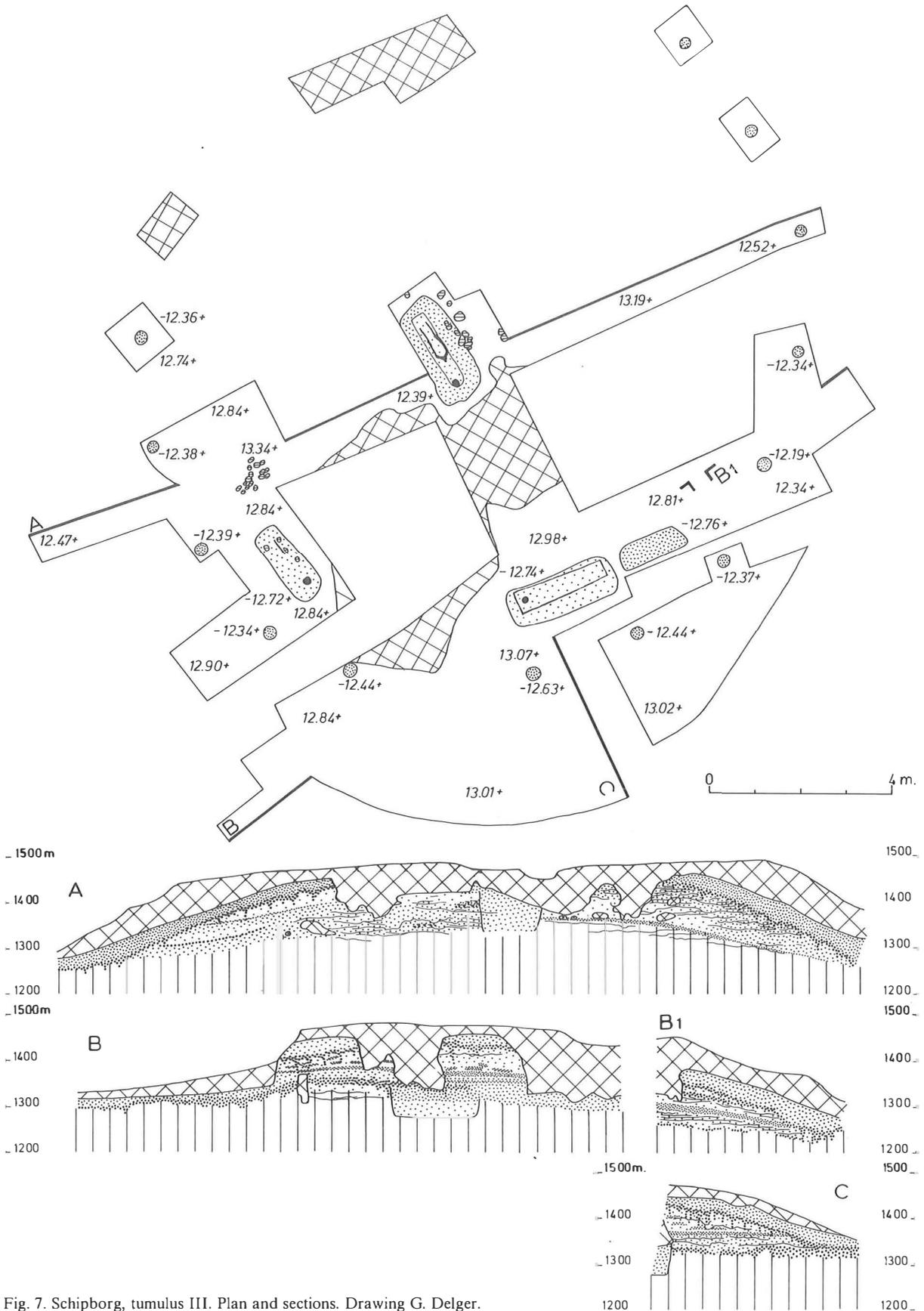


Fig. 7. Schipborg, tumulus III. Plan and sections. Drawing G. Delger.

part was very badly damaged, only two exploratory trenches were dug, with a roughly WSW-ENE orientation. In the northernmost trench, of which the north section (A) was recorded, part of a burial (grave A) was uncovered. The other trench also cut into a grave; the western part of its southern section was documented (section B). In the eastern part of the tumulus, the latter trench was subsequently made to run parallel to the former; this revealed a third grave. The northern section of this adjusted trench was also recorded (B1), and forms a continuation of section B. The part south of the southern trench was then removed, with the exception however of a baulk running NNW-SSE. The western section of this baulk was drawn (section C). The bottom of the trench showed some postholes; a number of small pits were dug to further document the post circle. To the north, the foot of the barrow was found to be disturbed, probably by the construction of the cycle-path. Postholes were not found here. During the search for postholes another grave was found in the western foot of the mound. After the excavations, the tumulus was restored.

The sections. In section A the old surface lies at 12.60 m to 13.65 m above NAP (Dutch Ordnance Datum). East of grave A it can be observed as a dark band of c. 8 cm width, with occasional charcoal flecks in it. West of the grave, the old surface is hardly recognizable. In the flank of the mound, however, two periods may be distinguished. Their interface becomes blurred towards the centre of the barrow. The burial pit, reaching down to just below the old surface, belongs to period 2. The top of the primary mound is probably to be found left of the grave, immediately beneath the yellow sand and the charcoal; the yellow sand having come from the grave pit. Immediately east of the grave, the foot of the primary mound seems to join the old surface. Here the body of the barrow is all part of the secondary construction. In sections B and B1, the old surface lies between 12.65 and 13.90 m above NAP and shows a well-developed soil profile. The latter consists of a humic horizon of 10 cm thickness, and a 20 to 60 cm eluvial horizon, below which is iron-pan of varying thickness. The soil profile has also developed in grave B and thus blurs the grave's vertical sides. The iron-pan, however, is sharply interrupted by the eastern edge of this grave, only to reappear, less well-developed, at the foot of the mound. Here too, the barrow's body is of period 2. Section C shows the foot of the second-period barrow, with a tip of grave B.

Interpretation: from the field-drawings the conclusion may be drawn that this is a two-period barrow. *Period 1* is marked by a low mound of spotted grey sand with infiltration veins and a 12 m diameter. The primary grave is likely to have been the westernmost burial within the post circle. The grave is rounded-rectangular in outline, oriented NW-SE, and measures 1.80 m by 0.60-0.70 m. Its bottom lies only a little below the old surface. In the grave, in which no goods were found, the head and right lower leg of an extended body were observed as a silhouette. *Period 2* consists of yellowish-grey sand with sods. By this raising, the barrow was given a height of c. 1.20 and a 16-17 m diameter. This covering mound does, however, lie eccentric in relation to the primary barrow, having a bias towards the east. The single, widely-spaced post circle with its 15 m diameter most probably belongs to period 2. Of the postholes, 13 were documented. To the north, they seem to have been disturbed. The posts were regularly spaced, but to the south-west the distance between one pair of posts was wider. It is unlikely that one posthole should have been missed out here, as the stains in the sand were quite distinct. This opening may be an entrance of some kind. The circle must have consisted of 17 or 18 posts. The post circle as reconstructed centres on the eastern edge of grave A. This rounded-rectangular pit, oriented NNW-SSE and measu-

ring 2.40 by 1.00 m, had been cut into the foot of the primary mound and just into the old surface. Within the pit, the outline of a tree coffin could be seen, as well as those of an extended body of which only the backbone was less clearly visible. Some erratics had been put in the fill of the pit and along its eastern side, for the purpose of supporting the coffin. No grave-goods were found.

Although grave B, like the primary grave of period 1, would seem to be a tangential secondary burial within the post circle of period 2, it cannot have been cut into the barrow. This is obvious when we see the soil profile of the old surface continuing, without interruption, into the grave pit. Apparently, this is a flat grave, dating from before period 2. The pit, rounded-rectangular, oriented WSW-ENE, measuring 2.40 by 0.90 m, and c. 0.70 m deep, contained a coffin that had been placed against its northern wall. Only the outlines of a skull were observed. Probably, the body had been buried in an extended position. The (child's) grave, 0.40 m east of grave A, measuring 1.40 by 0.50 m, had the same orientation and depth. Although this grave does not appear in a recorded section, this most probably was also a flat grave.

Dating of period 1: Early Bronze Age/first half of the Middle Bronze Age.

Dating of flat graves: in any case before the second half of the Middle Bronze Age.

Dating of period 2: second half of the Middle Bronze Age.

3. *Schipborg*, tumulus d, Sheet 12E: 242.29/564.72.

Waterbolk & Glasbergen, 1957, pp. 33-34.

In 1954, Waterbolk investigated the remains of a barrow in the military training grounds near Schipborg. The soldiers had levelled the mound, but its circumference was still visible where the podsol horizons came to the surface. At the centre, a rounded-rectangular to oval foundation trench, orientated WNW-ESE with outer dimensions of 4.20 by 2.60 m, c. 0.20-0.60 m wide and 0.30-0.50 m deep, showed up. At a point where this seemed to widen, to the north-east, some charcoal was collected. This had a radiocarbon age of 5480 ± 70 B.P. (GrN-11917). Although Waterbolk saw this 'widening' as part of the trench, the too-old ^{14}C date suggests it is an older, possibly settlement, pit. Within the trench, no grave had been dug. We must assume that the grave had been on the old surface. Only a few years ago, J.A. Bakker was shown a small flint axe and a battle axe by Mrs. Ballintijn of Amstelveen. These had been found by Mr. and Mrs. Ballintijn, among the sand that had been tipped away by the soldiers. Both finds point to a Single Grave. In the edge of the mound, quite near the foot, Waterbolk found another ditch. This one was secondary to the Neolithic barrow. Most probably the ditch surrounded a secondary burial of the Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age. In the neighbourhood of the investigated tumulus remains are several small and low mounds, which are part of an urnfield.

Finds (both in private collection).

Battle axe (fig. 8) of green, white-speckled stone; probably diorite. Cutting edge slightly extended downward. In section it is rounded-rectangular on the fore side of the shaft-hole; and practically oval towards the butt. This undamaged specimen is a somewhat atypical H-hammer (pers.comm. A.E. Lanting). Length: 13 cm; greatest width: 5.5 cm; the shaft-hole, at a distance of 3.9 cm from the butt, has a 2.1 cm diameter.

Small axe (fig. 8) of opaque pale grey flint with paler and darker stains. Both faces polished practically all over; the narrow sides only partially polished. One face has some flaking near the cutting edge. Rectangular section; both faces convex. Length: 7.8 cm; greatest width (at the cutting edge): 3.9 cm; greatest width of the narrow sides: 1.9 cm. Dating: Single Grave Culture.

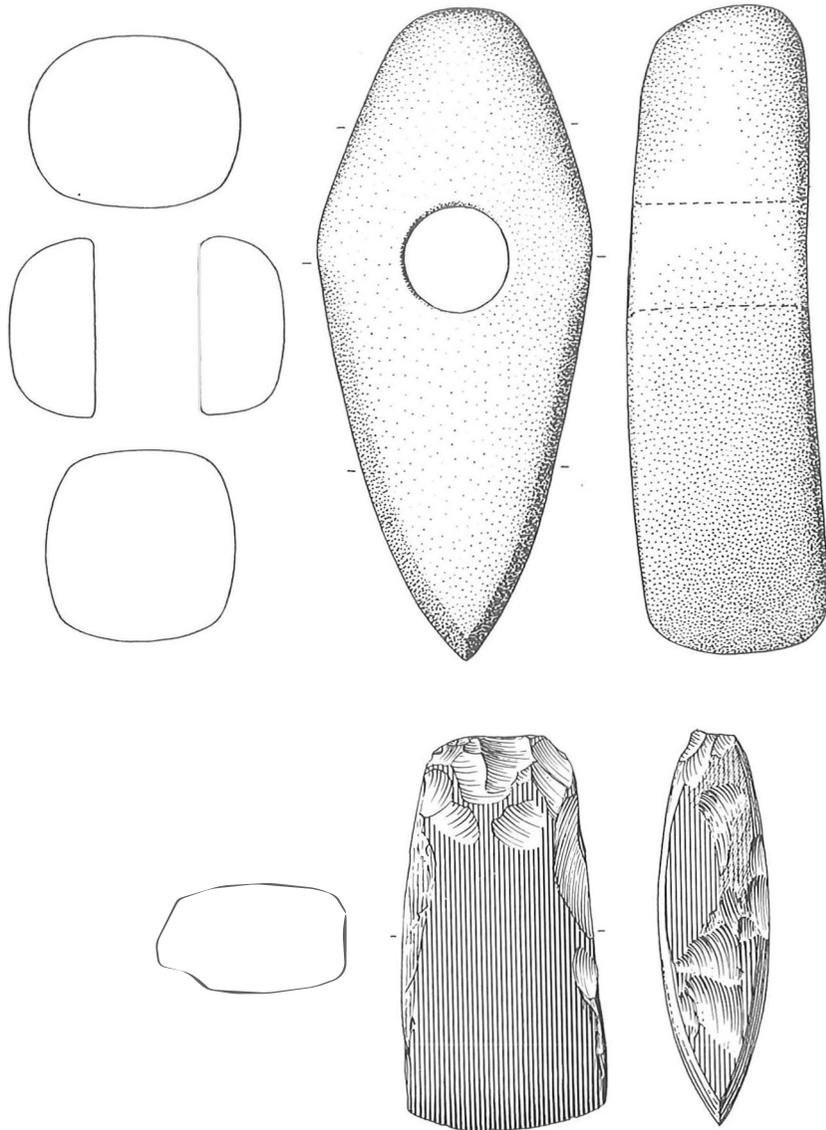


Fig. 8. Schipborg, tumulus d. Battle axe of type H and small axe from the disturbed primary grave. Drawing H.R. Roelink, scale 2:3.

4. *Schipborg, hunebed D7*. Sheet 12E: 241.97/564.60. Van Giffen, 1925/1927. Not investigated.
5. *Schipborg, Beaker graves near farmstead 'De Schipborg'*. Sheet 12E: c. 241.9/564.3. Van der Waals, 1962: figs. 20, 22 and 23. During ground improvement works a little east of 'De Schipborg' farm in 1959, labourers hit upon a Single Grave beaker of type Ia, together with a flint flake and blade. Further details of the find circumstances are not known. Apart from the flint flake, which is presumably to be regarded as settlement debris, these finds form a set of grave-goods from a Single Grave. Traces of any barrow would have disappeared long before, as the site had been reclaimed from heathland in 1910. From the same site a Bell Beaker is known which was found together with a greenstone axe and an axe fragment that had been used as a

percussion stone, in a pit that was distinctly recognizable as such. The dimensions and orientation of this pit are unknown; its depth must have been c. 0.60-0.70 m. The Bell Beaker displays a rather unusual regional style (pers. comm. J.N. Lanting). From the fact that the axe fragment had been in use as a percussion stone, Van der Waals (1962: p. 236) drew the conclusion that the pit must have belonged to a settlement, as no Bell Beaker graves with axes were known to him then. Now, however, we do know some Bell Beaker graves containing an axe or axe fragment, *i.e.* those at Lunteren, Soesterberg (Butler & Van der Waals, 1966: fig. 13b and 14) and Fochteloo (Lanting & Van der Waals, 1976: fig. 23). Thus it is not unlikely that the Schipborg pit was a grave after all. In 1960, the B.A.I. investigated the adjoining parcel to the north, prior to further levelling works. Stray-surface finds promised a TRB settlement here. Apart from TRB pottery of the Mid-Havelte phase there

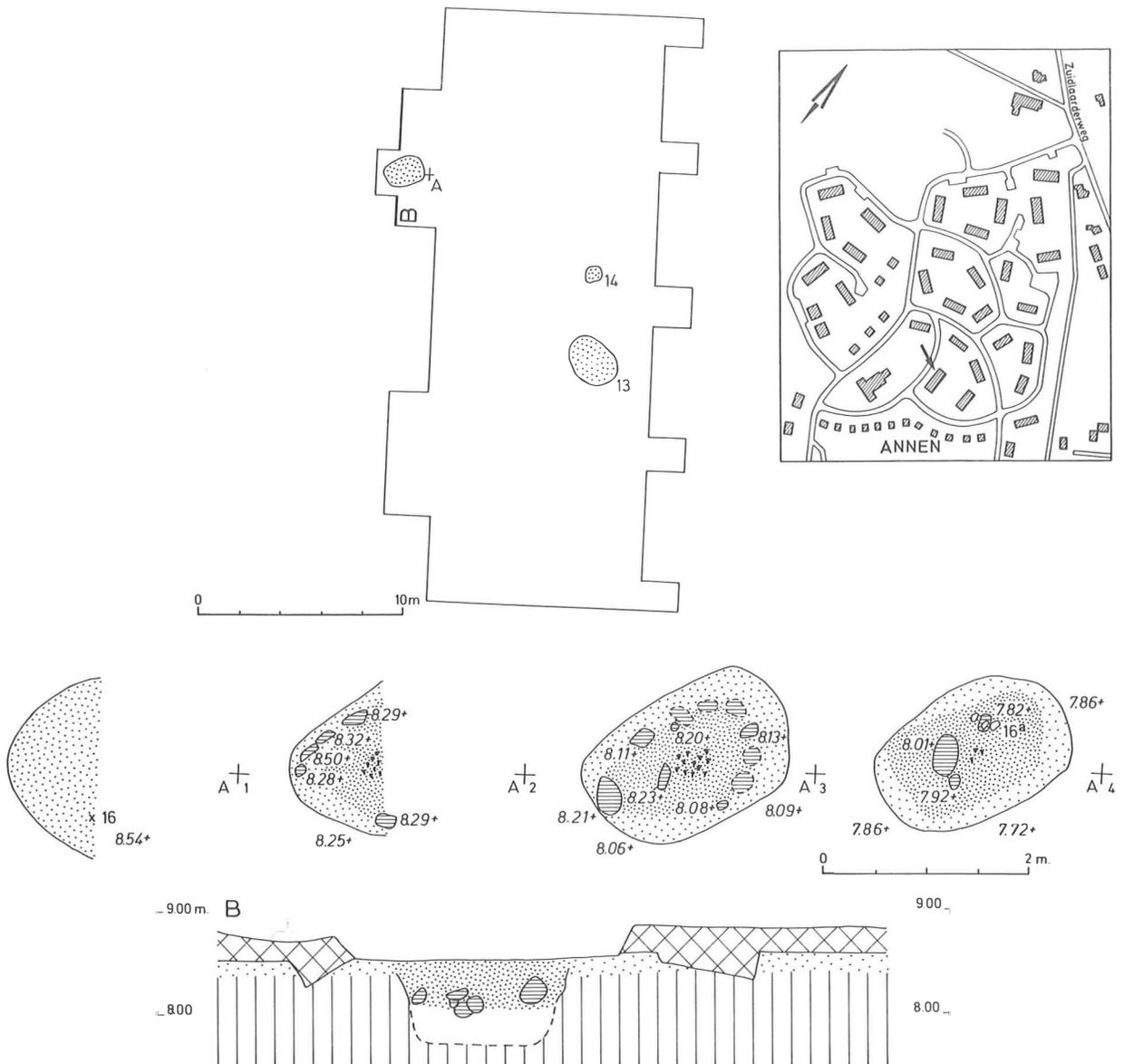


Fig. 9. Annen, Beaker burial Holtkampen. Situation, details of grave and section. Drawing S.W. Jager/G. Delger.

were many sherds of undecorated Late-Havelte ware. On the same site some Late Neolithic beaker sherds were found also. The bulk of the finds, however, consisted of Barbed Wire potsherds.

Dating of Beaker grave I: Single Grave Culture.

Dating of possible Beaker grave 2: Bell Beaker Culture.

6. *Anloo, hunebed D8* (Kniphorstbos). Sheet 12E: 242.96/564.47.

Van Giffen, 1925/1927.

Not investigated.

7. *Annen, hunebed D9*. Sheet 12E: 244.02/564.67.

Van Giffen, 1925/1927.

Excavated in 1952, unpublished.

8. *Annen, Beaker grave Holtkampen* (fig. 9). Sheet 12E: 243.96/564.48.

Harsema, 1976.

In 1974, the fields known as Holtkampen were made into a building site for the expanding village of Annen. In one of the building pits part of a grave was exposed. On the surface, which here was c. 8.15 m above NAP, Zigzag beaker sherds were found in secondary position. Only the lower part of the beaker was retrievable. In the side of the building trench some boulders were seen to be present in the fill and along the wall of the burial pit. This section was recorded. Subsequently it was cut into, and the undisturbed part of the grave was excavated down to the building pit's bottom level. The side of the building trench produced one more sherd of the beaker, from the top of the grave's fill. Most likely, the top half of the beaker must have been ploughed out before the remainder of the vessel was disturbed by the builders' digging. At a level of c. 8.05 m above NAP the whole of the grave was drawn. The

rounded-rectangular pit, measuring 2.10 by 1.30 m, was oriented SW-NE. In the fill was recorded a more or less oval circle of stones, with inner dimensions of c. 1.30 by 0.80 m. Within this stone structure the soil was a little darker in colour than at the sides of the pit. At the centre, charcoal was encountered. A sample of this was radio-carbon-dated 4165 ± 45 B.P. (GrN-11918). The border of stones was situated between 8.30 and 8.00 m above NAP. At 7.82 m, the sherds of a second beaker were found lying close together. These fragments, forming a virtually complete beaker, lay at the western long side of an irregularly oblong dark stain of 1.20-1.60 by 0.90 m, which showed up distinctly at this level. The bottom of the grave pit lay at c. 7.72 m. A continuous, vague, orange illuvial horizon below the arable topsoil was what had remained of the original soil profile.

Interpretation. We are probably dealing with a burial in which the beakers were placed at different levels in the burial pit. The darker soil within the oval of stones, which becomes narrower as it deepens, points to a coffin. One beaker may have been placed on top of the latter, while the other may have been inside it. Presumably, the stones served to support the coffin's wooden walls.

Finds (Provinciaal Museum Assen)

1974/I 16 (fig. 10): sherds of a light brown Single Grave beaker. Only its foot and belly could be restored. The fabric has a fine sand temper. Decoration partly covering the belly, consisting of a zigzag pattern filled in with pairs of parallel lines all slanting the same way. Slightly protruding foot and concave base. Diameter of the belly: 11.1 cm; of the foot: 6.1-6.3 cm.

1974/I 16A (fig. 10): small Single Grave beaker of ochre ware, tempered with fine sand. The decoration reaches down almost to the greatest circumference, and consists of eight horizontal rows of oblique impressions (type 1e). Markedly protruding foot and flat base. Height: 13.6-13.9 cm; diameter of mouth: 10.5-11.1 cm; of belly: 9.8-10.1 cm; of foot: 5.4-5.7 cm.

Dating: Single Grave Culture.

9. *Anloo*, tumulus II (1952; fig. 11). Sheet 12E: 243.08/564.04.

Van Giffen & Glasbergen, 1954 (short reference).

This tumulus, with a well-developed podsol profile and badly damaged by burrowing animals, was excavated by Van Giffen. He dug trenches crosswise across the barrow and opened up the central part. Also, the south-western quadrant was completely excavated. After the investigations, the tumulus was restored. It had been constructed in a single phase, out of orange sand, with a diameter of c. 12 m and a height of 0.60 m. Later deposit of drift-sand increased the height to 0.90 m. The old surface beneath it was not clearly recognizable, but would have been at c. 9.95 m NAP. Under the mound, two graves were found.

Grave 1. This lay 1.50 m west of the southern baulk and 1.20 m south of the western baulk, and was marked by a crushed Single Grave beaker at the level of the old surface (no. 2). Van Giffen interpreted this as a secondary burial.

Grave 2. Under the southern baulk, at the centre, lay a second grave. This shallow, rounded-rectangular pit was oriented north-south and measured c. 1.70 by 0.80 m. It had been filled-in with grey sand with charcoal flecks. Along the west and south edges of the grave some stones had been piled up. Van Giffen considered this grave, devoid of grave-goods, to be the primary grave.

Interpretation. The field drawings and photograph suggest that the barrow contained two primary graves, *i.e.* one on the old surface, of which neither dimensions nor orientation could be ascertained, but which contained a Single Grave beaker of type 1d, and one in a shallow, north-south oriented pit. There are no clear indications for grave 2 to have been dug into the body of the tumulus; the excavators

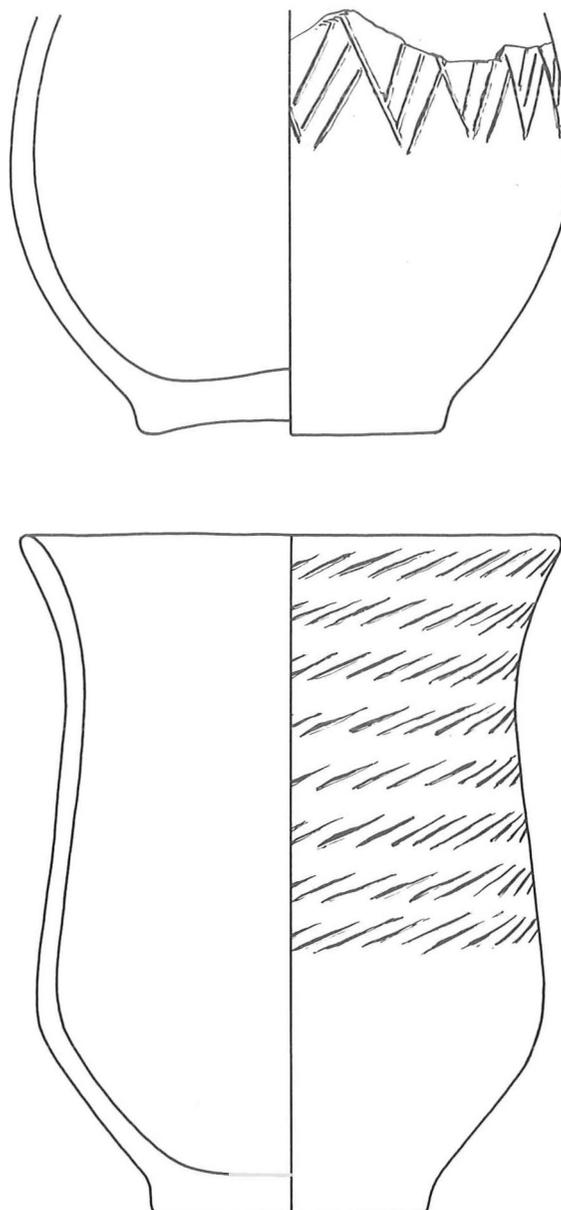


Fig. 10. Annen, Beaker burial Holtkampen. Zigzag beaker and Single Grave beaker of type 1e from the grave. Drawing H.R. Roelink, scale 2:3.

were of the same opinion. It is very unlikely, although theoretically possible, that grave 1 was a secondary burial. Single Grave burials deviating by more than 45° from the preferred east-west orientation occur sporadically in the Netherlands (Kleunveld near Peeloo (Van Giffen, 1938); Hoogeloo near Noordbarge, grave I (unpublished), Kruidhåarsveld, grave D (Van Giffen, 1937b); Lieveren (unpublished)). In the Netherlands, tumuli such as this one, with contemporaneous Single Graves, are unknown. Two instances are reported from Germany, however: in Goldbeck, Kr. Stade in Niedersachsen (Deichmüller, 1963), and in Neheim-Höingen, Kr. Soest in Westphalia (Albrecht,

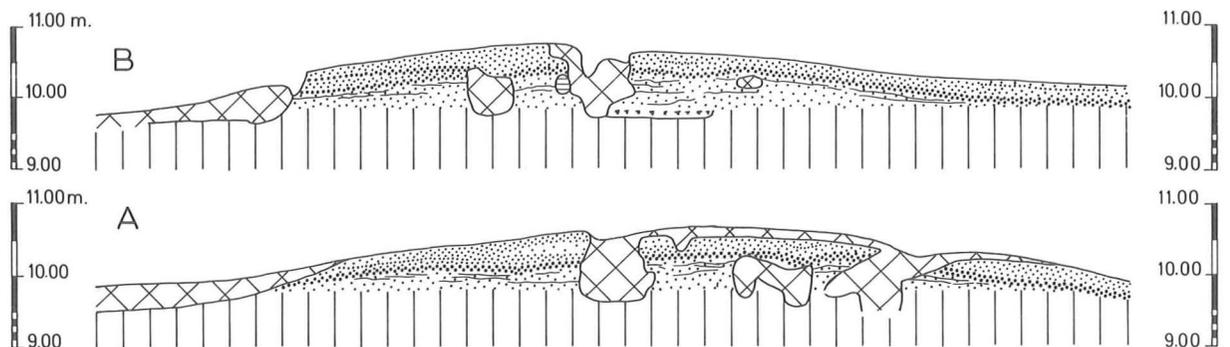
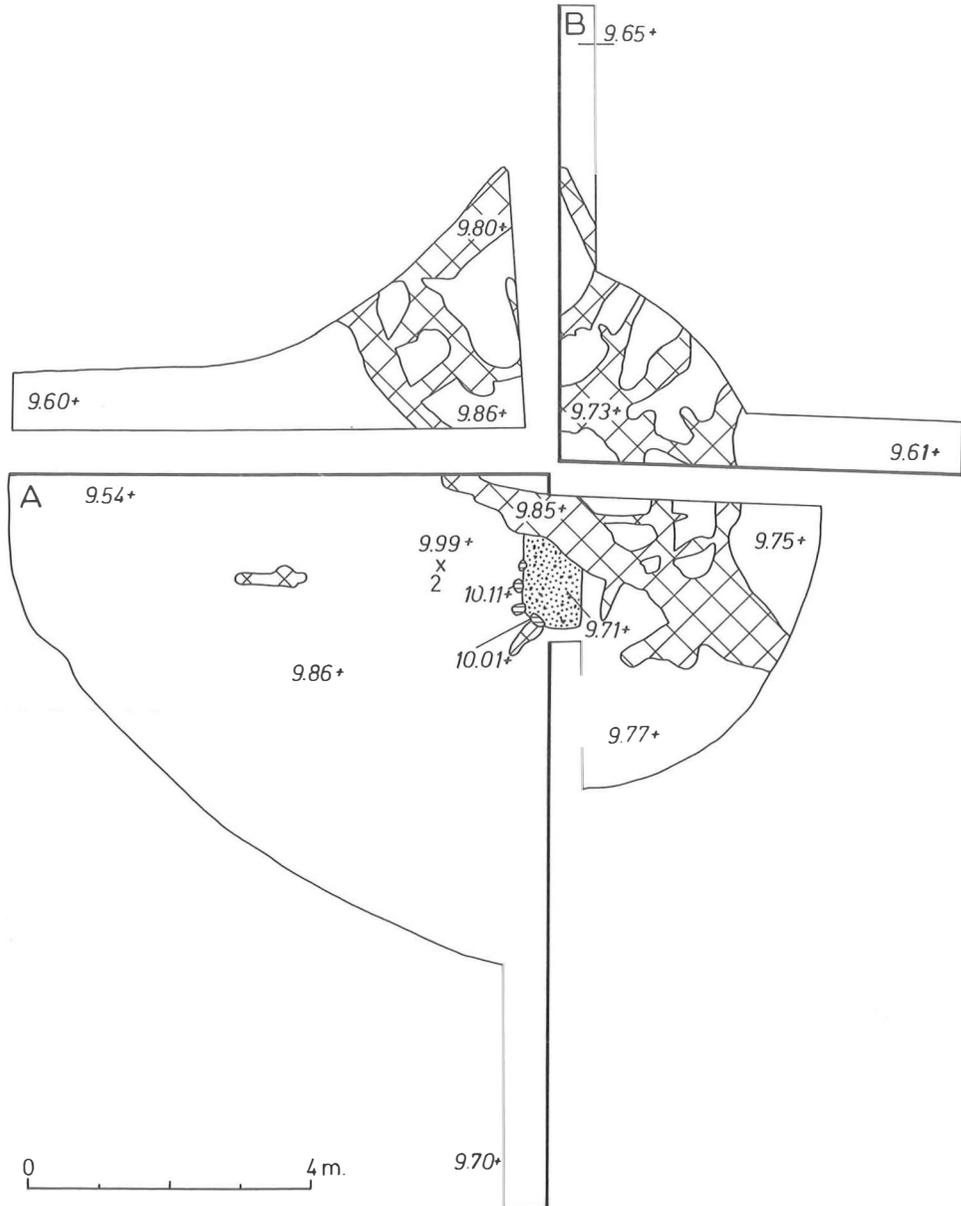


Fig. 11. Anloo, tumulus II (1952). Plan and sections. Drawing G. Delger.

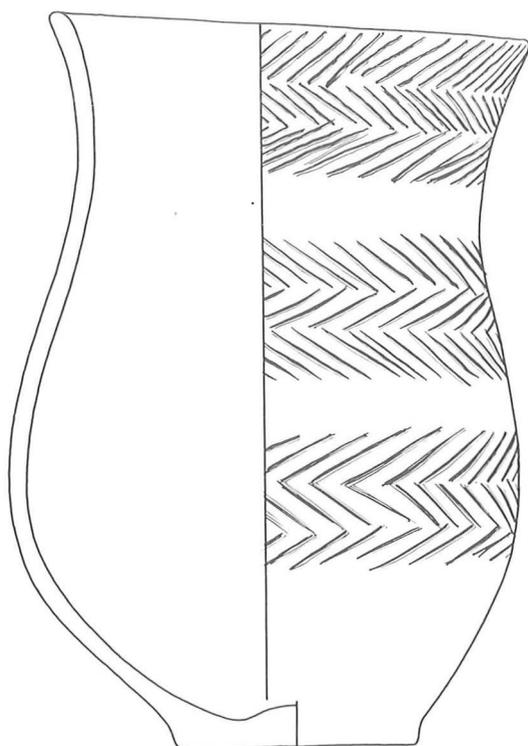


Fig. 12. Anloo, tumulus II (1952). Single Grave beaker of type 1d from 'grave' 1. Drawing H.R. Roelink, scale 1:2.

1934: pp. 87-92). In both cases these were 'joint graves' however, the bodies lying side-by-side.

Find (Provinciaal Museum Assen; no inventory number). Beaker (fig. 12) of ochre ware, tempered with fine sand. S-shaped profile; drawn-out neck; asymmetrical belly; narrow, only slightly protruding foot; flat base. Decoration: three horizontal zones, each consisting of a threefold series of oblique impressions, herringbone-wise, reaching down to below the greatest circumference. Height: 18.8-19.5 cm; diameter of mouth: c. 13 cm; of belly: 13.2-13.6 cm; of foot: 6.2-6.4 cm.

Dating of grave 1: Single Grave Culture.

Dating of grave 2: probably Single Grave Culture.

10. Anloo, tumulus I (1952; fig. 13). Sheet 12E: 243.37/563.83. Van Giffen & Glasbergen, 1954 (short reference); Lanting & Van der Waals, 1976: p. 47, fig. 30.

This tumulus was investigated by Van Giffen in 1952. It was something of a battered barrow: the centre had been disturbed down to below the old surface in places, the foot was found to have been dug over on a large scale by stone-diggers, the southern flank was crossed by a track, and part of the barrow was covered with drift-sand. Van Giffen adopted a modified version of his quadrant method; using a grid with axes running NW-SE and SW-NE, he omitted the southeastern baulk but left a third baulk in the eastern half of the tumulus, parallel to the SW-NE baulk and at a distance of 2.80 m from the latter. After the excavations, the tumulus was restored.

Period 1. The period 1 mound had been built of orange sand and had a height of 1.20 m. Its diameter was c. 11 m. A brownish horizon, 10-20 cm thick, marked the old surface under the mound (c. 10.95 m above NAP). At the centre,

the primary grave was still to be observed, surrounded by an intermediary ditch. This ditch had a width—at the highest recorded level—of 0.40 to 0.70 m, and an outer diameter of c. 3.20 m. It measured some 0.80 m in depth. No postholes were observed in it. The grave itself appeared as a rounded-rectangular pit of 1.30 by 1.00 m, oriented WNW-ESE. A stain within the pit, of similar shape, and measuring 1.20 by 0.50 m, most probably results from a coffin. Furthermore, the grave revealed the silhouette of a body lying in a flexed position on its right side, head towards the west. The enamel of some molars survived. Behind the head, the cutting edge touching it, lay a greenstone axe. A flint flake found between the upper part of the legs probably came into the grave pit by accident. The grave's depth was c. 0.80 m. Within the foundation trench no old surface could be recognized; probably the ground had been dug away here. Some yellow sand covered the actual grave; this may originate from the ditch, which would imply that the grave had been filled-in before the ditch was dug. In the centre of the primary mound, a number of erratics lay scattered on, or a little above, the old surface. Here and there on its talus, some charcoal was found.

Period 2 produced a covering mound of yellowish sand with infiltration veins. This raising increased the diameter to c. 20 m, and the height to c. 1.90 m. At the foot of this mound lay a packing of small stones, which had partly been made off with by stone-diggers. In the top of the barrow, some of them lying on the primary mound, a number of stones were uncovered. Maybe they are the remains of a stone cist. The central part of the tumulus was too badly damaged, however, to ascertain this. Sherds of Pot Beakers were found in and under the mound, suggesting habitation at the spot or close by.

Find (Provinciaal Museum Assen) 1966/V 4a (= 6a; fig. 14): axe of dark green dolerite, speckled pale-grey, rectangular in section. Both faces, slightly convex, faceted here and there along the edges; narrow sides flat and straight; butt end thick and rounded, damaged end face. Length: 10.7 cm; greatest width, at the cutting edge: 5.1 cm; greatest width of narrow side: 1.9 cm.

1966/V 4b (= 6b; fig. 14): wide flake of translucent, grey-brown flint. Width: 3.0 cm; height: 1.8 cm.

Dating of period 1: Single Grave Culture.

Dating of period 2: Early Bronze Age/first half of the Middle Bronze Age.

11. Anloo, tumulus. Sheet 12E: 243.60/563.40.

Glasbergen & Harsema, 1970.

In 1958, a five-year-old boy from Anloo dug up some beaker sherds at the edge of a drift-sand area a little north-east of Anloo. Following this event, Glasbergen investigated the find-spot and found the major part of a beaker *in situ*, in a grave that had been largely ploughed-out. The Single Grave beaker was of type 1b with some 1c traits, and not a 1d beaker as Glasbergen thought. The two zones of herringbone decoration round the base are a striking feature. Initially it was believed to be from a flat grave, until G. Delger, draughtsman at the B.A.I., discovered during documentation activities, that a battle axe had been found on the very same spot. Apparently, according to its finder, a small knoll had been levelled in 1938, from which some Late Bronze Age urns, a battle axe (type D) and a flint blade had emerged. Thus it is highly probable that beaker, battle axe and blade originate from the same burial: a shallow grave pit covered by a small, low mound, in which later some urns were deposited.

Dating: Single Grave Culture.

12. Anloo, tumulus II (fig. 15). Sheet 12E: 243.58/563.35.

Brunsting, 1943.

In September 1941, a tumulus threatened by reclamation

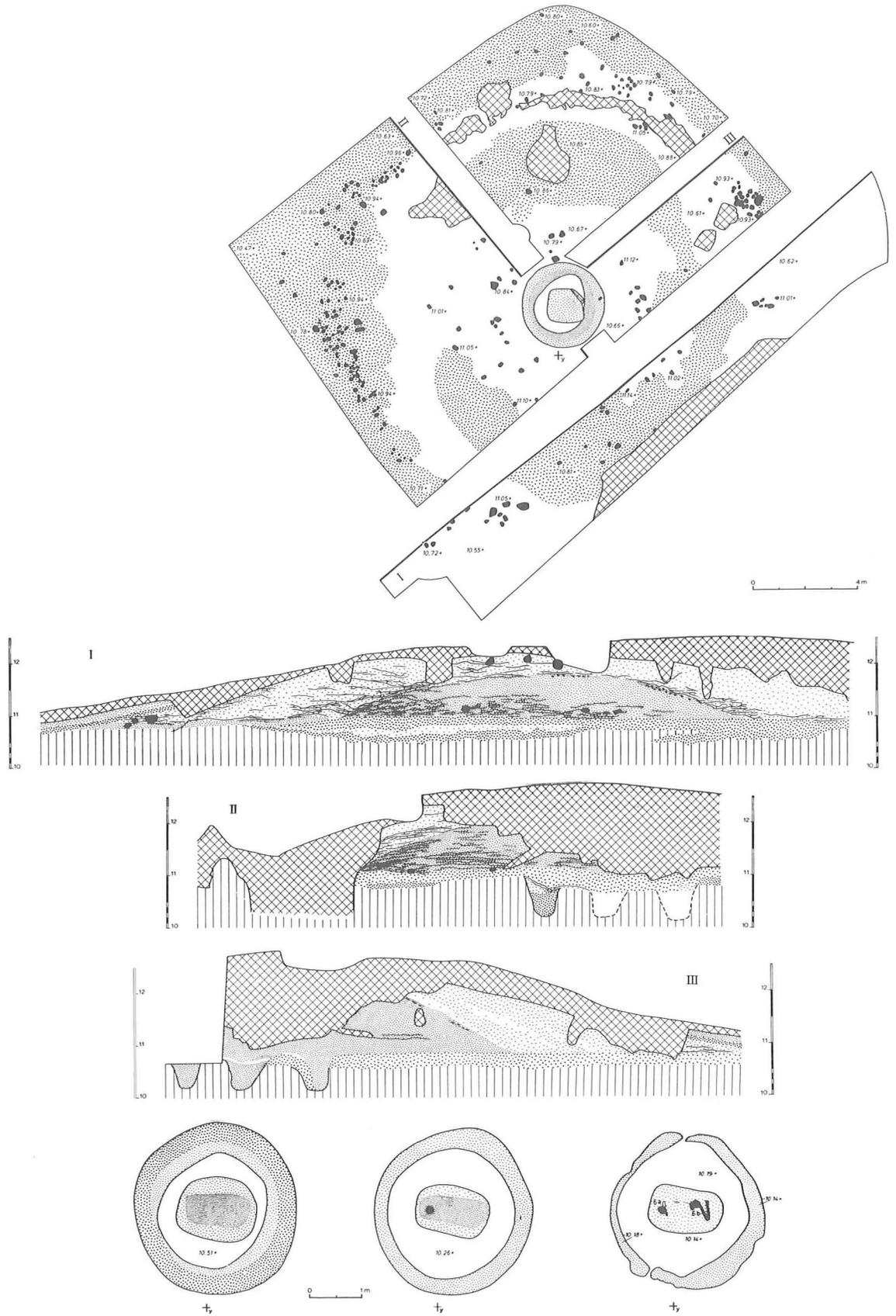


Fig. 13. Anloo, tumulus I (1952). Plan, sections and details of the central primary grave. Drawing G. Delger.

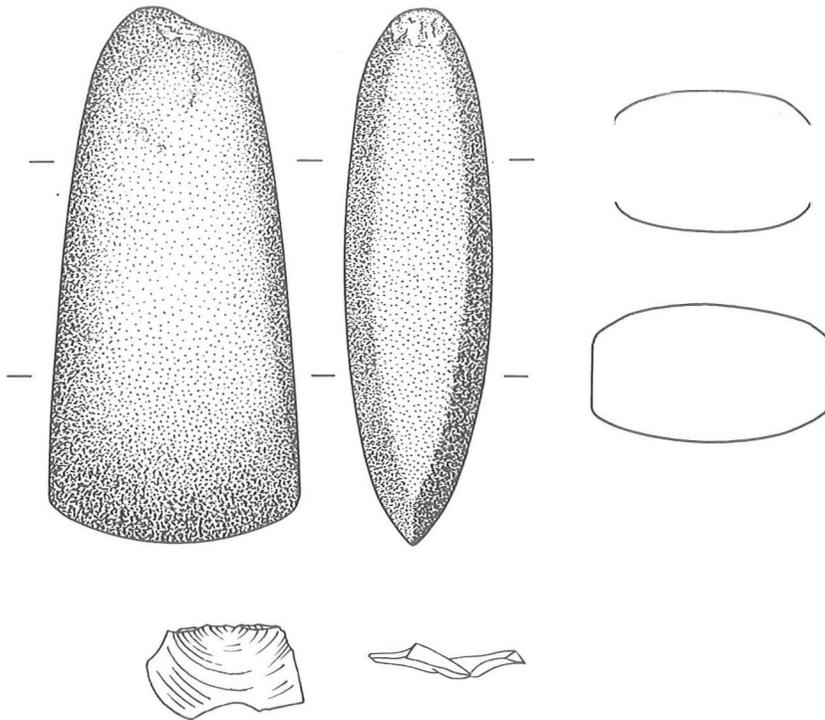


Fig. 14. Anloo, tumulus I (1952). Axe and flake from the grave. Drawing J.M. Smit, scale 2:3.

works was excavated by Brunsting. The tumulus, 2.30 high and c. 18 m in diameter, was investigated according to the quadrant method. Three phases of construction could clearly be distinguished.

Period 1 produced a low (0.60 m) mound with a c. 8.50 m diameter, raised of yellowish sand on a surface that was observed as a somewhat humic, narrow dark band. This old surface lay at c. 16 m above NAP. In the primary grave, a rounded-trapezoid pit oriented NW-SE and measuring 2.10 by 1.00-1.50 m with a depth of 0.55 m, a blurred silhouette was visible. The flexed body had been lying on its right side, with its head towards the north-west. This was not clearly documented in the field notes, but could be inferred from a photograph. At the bottom of the pit, to the north-west, a Single Grave beaker of type 1e was found. The presence of charcoal fragments along the long sides of the pit suggests a coffin of charred wood. Half-way along the western section, some sand lying on the old surface was recognized as being from the grave pit.

Period 2. The first capping mound was constructed of sods and had a thickness of about 0.75 m. In the primary mound a podsol profile had already been developing. The period 2 grave had been cut some 0.80 m deep into the top of the primary barrow, and measured 1.85 m by 1.00-1.25 m, with a WNW-ESE orientation. Along its edges and inside the pit some stones were found; grave-goods were absent.

Period 3. The second addition consisted of yellow sand and sods. A stonepacking once surrounded the foot of this mound, but it had later been dug away to a large extent. On the west side only, part of it survived. The grave belonging to this phase was found to have been cut into the previous addition to a depth of c. 0.55 m. This pit, which appeared in the centre of the southern section, was not recorded. The grave contained no artefacts. In the very top of the tumu-

lus, three cremations were uncovered, one of them a small *Brandskelettgrab* (1.10 by 1.40 m), which had largely been disturbed by a later cremation burial.

Find (Provinciaal Museum Assen) 1941/IX 3 (fig. 16): heavy, fairly thick-walled beaker of pale-brown ware, tempered with fine sand. S-shaped slightly carinated profile; flat base. Decoration down to the carination, consisting of eight horizontal bands of oblique spatula impressions of irregular depth. Height: 19.2-19.6 cm; diameter of mouth: 14.5-15.1 cm; of belly: 15.0-15.8 cm; of base: 7.0-7.4 cm.

Dating of period 1: Single Grave Culture.

Dating of period 2: Early Bronze Age/first half of the Middle Bronze Age.

Dating of period 3: Early Bronze Age/first half of the Middle Bronze Age.

13. Anloo, tumulus I. Sheet 12E: 243.64/563.27.

Van Giffen, 1941a.

In 1939, Van Giffen undertook a rescue excavation on a tumulus due to be destroyed in the course of reclamation activities. The tumulus, which was 1.30 high and had a diameter of c. 14 m, was investigated according to the quadrant method. On the east and north-east, the barrow was covered by a layer of drift-sand. At its centre, a recent disturbance reached down to below the old surface. Although a two-period construction is suggested by infiltration veins in the core of the mound and by dark patches probably representing humic sods in its talus, the author believes it to be a single-period barrow, raised on a low natural knoll. On the old surface, visible here and there in the sections as a vague and thin humic horizon (at c. 12.65 m above NAP), some stones were present. The central grave presented itself as a dark stain with charcoal flecks, and had hardly been dug into the ground. It had been disturbed in part, and no grave-goods were found.

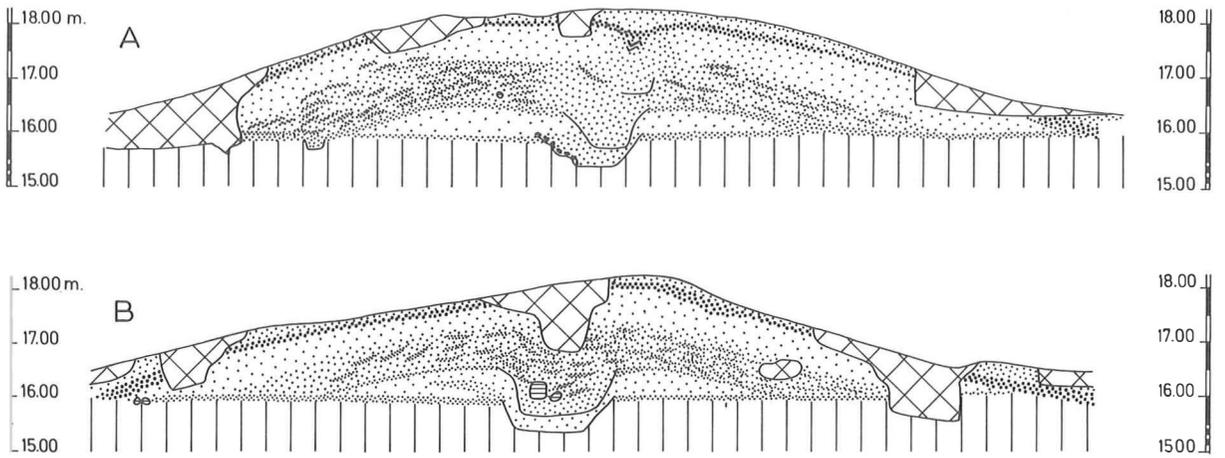
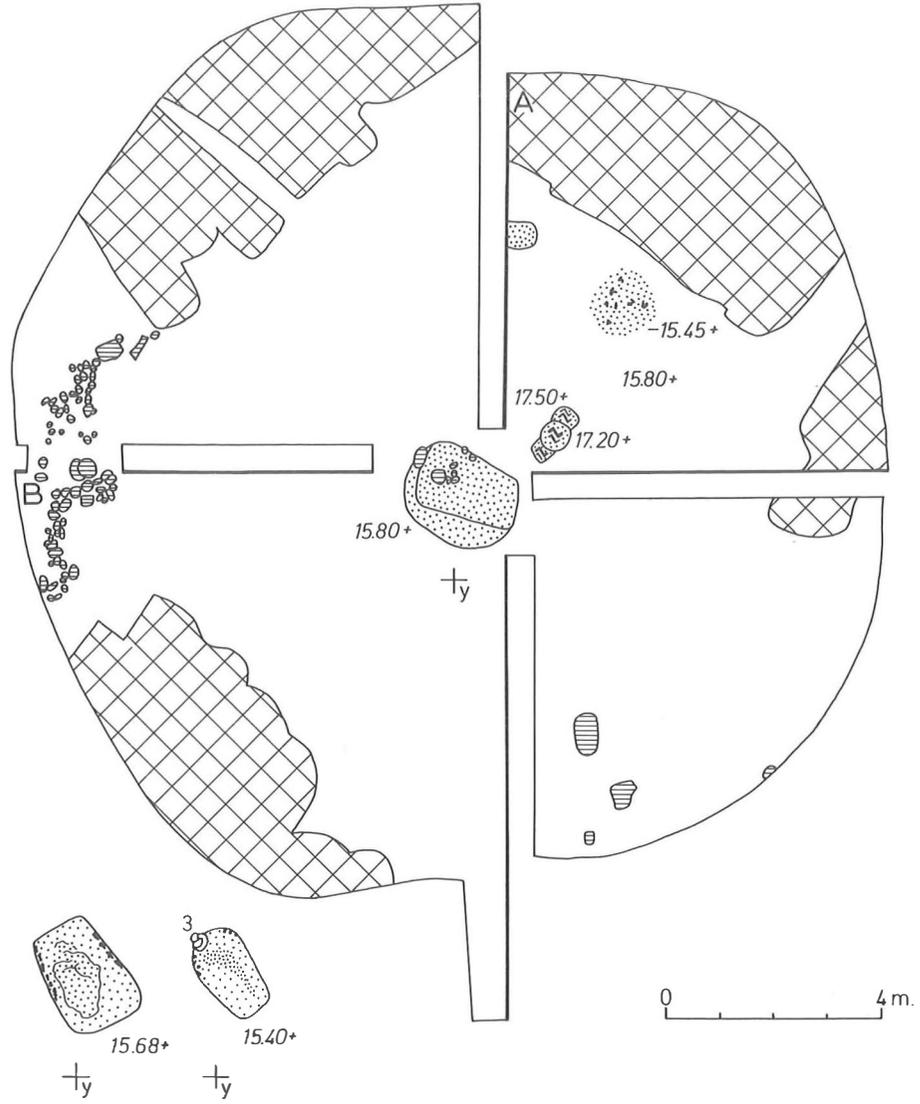


Fig. 15. Anloo, tumulus II. Plan and sections. Drawing G. Delger.

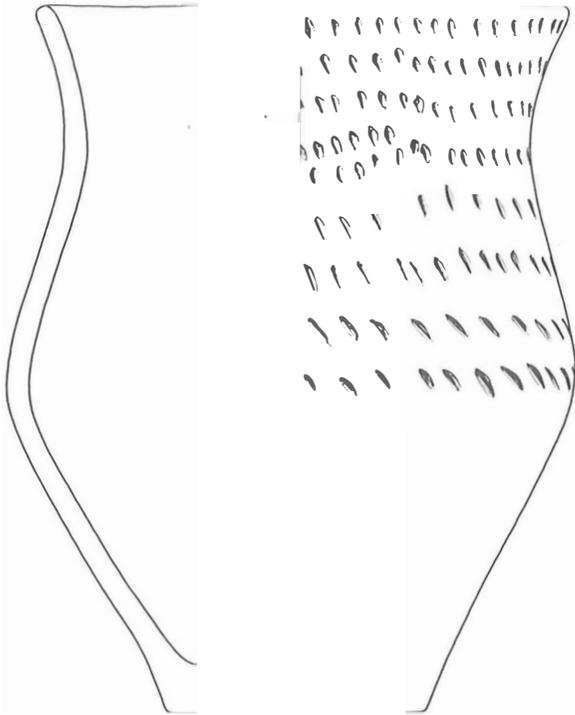


Fig. 16. Anloo, tumulus II. Single Grave beaker of type 1e, from the primary, principal grave. Drawing H.R. Roelink, scale 1:2.

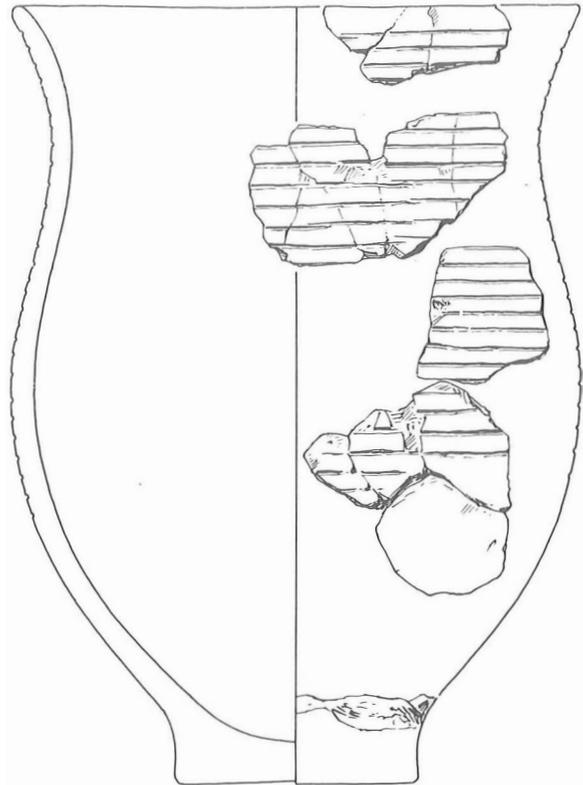


Fig. 17. Gasteren. Barbed Wire beaker from a barrow levelled in 1937. Drawing H.R. Roelink, scale 1:2.

Dating: Early Bronze Age/first half of the Middle Bronze Age.

14. *Gasteren*, tumulus (1939). Sheet 12E: 240.73/562.70. Van Giffen, 1941b; Lanting, 1973: pp. 260-261. Van Giffen believed this tumulus to have been built up in two phases, but Lanting was able to show that it was, in fact, a three-period construction.
- Period 1.* The primary mound was constructed of grey sand containing charcoal flecks, on old arable land. Its diameter was c. 9 m, its height c. 0.80 m. The grave, measuring 2.50 by 1.50 m, had a depth of c. 0.25 m and a NW-SE orientation. In the western corner of the grave, a Barbed Wire vessel was found, upside-down.
- Period 2* saw the barrow raised with yellowish sand. This gave it a 12-13 m diameter and a height of 1.30 m. The burial belonging to it was a *Brandskelettgrab*.
- Period 3* brought another covering mound of yellowish sand. This addition resulted in the mound's growing to 1.80 m in height and c. 17 m in diameter. The period 3 grave was observed in the centre of the western section only. It was about 60 cm deep. The peripheral structure in this phase consisted of a closely-spaced, mostly threefold circle of thin stakes.
- Dating of period 1: Early Bronze Age (Barbed Wire phase).
 Dating of period 2: Early Bronze Age/first half of the Middle Bronze Age.
 Dating of period 3: second half of the Middle Bronze Age.
15. *Gasteren*, *hunebed* D10. Sheet 12G Gieten: 240.23/562.47. Van Giffen, 1925/1927. Not investigated.

16. *Gasteren*, tumulus. Sheet 12G: c. 241.6/561.9. Unpublished.

In the national daily paper *Algemeen Handelsblad* of 23 May 1937, a short article drew attention to the finding of a beaker and cremated remains, in a small tumulus lying in a heathland plot south of the Gasteren-Anloo road, opposite 'De Volharding' farm. The beaker is decorated down to below its widest circumference with horizontal grooves running round it. Although it is not a Barbed Wire design proper, the vessel's shape, fabric and temper assign it to the Barbed Wire phase (J.N. Lanting, pers. comm.). Presumably the beaker came from a cremation burial.

Find (Provinciaal Museum Assen).

1937/V 2 (fig. 17): sherds of a flat-based beaker with an S-shaped profile. The granite-tempered ware, orange-red to reddish brown on the surface, has a red core. The decoration, reaching down to cover the greater part of the belly, consists of horizontal grooves.

Dating: Early Bronze Age (Barbed Wire phase).

17. *Gasteren*, tumulus 44 (1939). Sheet 12G: 241.27/561.64. Van Giffen, 1945.

This structureless single-period barrow with a 16 m diameter and a height of c. 1.50 m was built of yellowish sand with infiltration veins. The top 0.50 m of the mound had been dug over. The old surface, which shows as an indistinct brownish horizon, was situated at c. 13.70 m above NAP. The excavations, headed by Van Giffen, who was assisted by Brunsting, were carried out according to the quadrant method. The north-western quadrant, which was not opened, still remains standing. The grave, resting on the old

surface, was visible as a dark stain in the centre of the mound. Charcoal collected in this area, a little above the old surface, had a radiocarbon age of 3810 ± 60 B.P. (GrN-13087). In the body of the tumulus a couple of sherds were found, decorated in Barbed Wire style, with widely-spaced 'barbs'.

Dating: Early Bronze Age/first half of the Middle Bronze Age.

18. *Gasteren*, tumulus 43 (1964). Sheet 12G: 241.43/561.67. Harsema & Ruiter, 1966.
This two-period tumulus was excavated by Van der Waals. It belongs to a large cemetery south-east of Gasteren, as do tumuli 37 and 44. The barrow's southern half had largely been blown out by the wind, so that only the north-western and north-eastern quadrants and a 1 m wide strip south of the east-west baulk remained available for investigation. A c. 0.80 m thick layer of fine, layered drift-sand covered the eroded barrow, the central part of which had virtually been levelled by recent disturbance. The investigations were followed by restoration.

In *period 1*, a mound with a core of pale sand and a cover of grey, humous sand was constructed on old arable land (at c. 11.60 m above NAP). This primary mound had a diameter of about 16.50 m; its height could no longer be assessed. Its peripheral structure consisted of a somewhat oval ditch, 0.80-1.20 m wide and 0.50-0.60 m deep. The central grave, an oval discolouration of 2.20 by 1.30 m, was oriented north-south and had a depth of c. 0.70 m. No grave goods were found.

Period 2. The secondary mound, with an 18 m diameter, had a circular ditch of 0.60 m width and a depth of c. 0.50 m. At the time of this secondary construction, no clear soil profile had yet been able to develop in the primary mound; only a thin organic layer was visible, especially above the ditch that surrounded the primary mound. In relation to the latter the secondary mound had been placed eccentrically. On the west, 0.40 m separated the two circular ditches; this amounted to 4 m on the east. The central grave belonging to the second phase was not found. However, two *Kümmerkeramik* pots and a cremation were uncovered in the tumulus. Moreover, a rabbit-hole yielded part of a pair of bronze tweezers, probably belonging with the cremation.

Dating of periods 1 and 2: first half of the Middle Bronze Age.

19. *Gasteren*, tumulus 37. Sheet 12G: 241.45/561.43. Van Giffen, 1945.
Van Giffen excavated this barrow, with a 10-m diameter and a height of 0.50 m, in 1939; using the quadrant method. The single-period barrow had been constructed of dull grey sand. The old surface which lay at c. 13.40 m above NAP, showed signs of incipient podsolization. At the foot of the barrow, traces of a single, widely-spaced post circle were identified. The circle comprised nine posts and had a diameter of 9.20-9.60 m. Two smaller postholes, one of which appeared in the middle of the southern section, also are connected with the construction of the mound, although they do not belong to the post circle. The principal grave was in a somewhat eccentric position. Its burial pit was oriented NNW-SSE, 1.60 m long, 0.70 m wide, and 0.60 m deep. Inside it, a tree coffin could be traced out, containing cremated remains. At the bottom of the shaft, a shallow trench along its edges, containing darker soil, showed the traces of 29 stakes of varying thickness. Evidently, the walls had been lined with sticks. A great deal of charcoal was found on the old surface surrounding the grave, under the yellow sand that had come from the pit. Three small postholes, forming a rectangle of 1.80 by 0.90 m of which the north-east corner was obliterated when the grave was dug, form the remains of a mortuary house. Within the post

circle, four tangential secondary burials were observed, all of them showing traces of tree coffins. In one of them, the outline of a skull could be recognized. Two graves were found to contain *Kümmerkeramik* pots, one of them with a cordon below the rim.

Dating: second half of the Middle Bronze Age.

20. *Gasteren/Anderen*, tumulus. Sheet 12G: grid square 241.5/559.5.
Van Giffen, 1930: p. 127.

In 1923 J. Smallenbroek donated a small undecorated beaker to the Provincial Museum in Assen, recorded as "found in a tumulus during the construction of the Gasteren-Anloo road, in the *gemeente* of Anloo". Clearly there was some doubt about the accuracy of this provenance, as this statement was entered in the museum's inventory books followed by a question mark. Later inquiry did, in fact, reveal that the beaker must have been found when the Gasteren-Anderen road was metalled in 1922. Smallenbroek had been an engineer employed as a site supervisor in the construction of this road. It is quite likely that the beaker came from a barrow that was used as a source of sand for raising the roadway. Although a number of levelled tumuli have been located along the road, or at a short distance of it, no further details were gained about the beaker, which may be attributed to the Single Grave or Bell Beaker Culture.⁵

Find (Provinciaal Museum Assen)

1923/IV 3 (fig. 18): practically intact, small undecorated beaker. Thin-walled, ochre to reddish ware, tempered with fine sand. S-shaped profile, flat base, rounded rim with partially folded lip. Height: 7.2-7.4 cm; diameter of mouth: 6.0-6.3 cm; of belly: 6.3-6.5 cm; of base: 3.7-3.8 cm.

21. *Anloo, hunebed* D11 (Evertsbos). Sheet 12G: 243.60/561.18.
Van Giffen, 1925/1927.
Not investigated.
22. *Eext*, tumulus 2 (1927). Sheet 12G: 243.77/561.04.
Van Giffen, 1944c.
The tumulus is one of a group of eight (fig. 19). The site

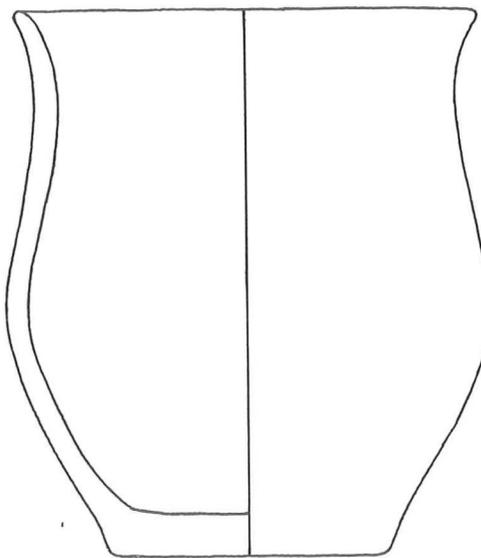


Fig. 18. *Gasteren/Anderen*. Small undecorated beaker from a levelled barrow. Drawing H.R. Roelink, scale 1:1.

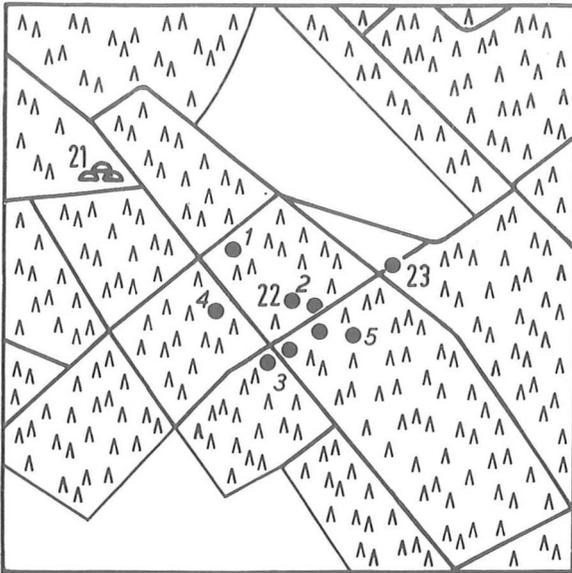


Fig. 19. Map showing the location of Eext, tumulus 2 (1937). Drawing S.W. Jager.

having been ploughed already in the course of its reclamation from heathland, and the barrows ravaged by treasure-hunters, Van Giffen confined himself to sinking some test-pits into five of the ruined mounds. The summary nature of these investigations thus did not permit proper documentation of the eight tumuli. Tumulus 2 was a two-period barrow: a primary mound of yellow sand, covered by one built up out of sods. In the central, primary grave was found a Single Grave beaker of type 1a. Some of the other barrows probably also date from the Neolithic, judging from their structure. In tumulus 3 an earlier disturbance had already revealed a thick-butted flint axe. This specimen is broken, and slightly damaged at its cutting edge. From tumulus 4 an urn came to light.

Dating of tumulus 2: period 1: Single Grave Culture; period 2: Bronze Age.

23. *Eext*, Beaker grave (1958). Sheet 12G: 243.89/561.07. Waterbolk, 1959: fig. 3.

In the digging-up of a woodland track, a Single Grave beaker was brought to light. With it, a flint flake was unearthed. The beaker's decoration consists of four more-or-less horizontal bands of impressions below the rim. On one side, the bands cross each other. It is difficult to fit this beaker into the Single Grave type sequence. According to the labourers, the beaker was discovered at a depth of about a metre. Waterbolk, who carried out a follow-up investigation, concluded that there had been no tumulus, as the podsol profile was unchanged at about 3 m from the find spot. Outlines of a grave were no longer to be observed.

Dating: Single Grave Culture.

24. *Eext*, tumulus Eexterstrubben II (fig. 20). Sheet 12G: 244.09/562.00. Unpublished.

This mound, which had a diameter of c. 8 m and a height of 0.70 m was investigated in April 1954. In its centre a recent disturbance reached to below the old surface. The eastern part of the barrow was excavated without leaving any baulk. Subsequently the N-S section was recorded. The

western part was investigated leaving a western and a northern baulk. This appears to be a single-period mound with a core of homogeneous, very humic, even peaty soil, covered with a layer of humic sods mixed with sand. The interface is marked by a thin sandy band, seen in the middle of the northern section. Under the barrow, the old profile consisted of a thin humic layer, a 10-cm eluvial horizon and an illuvial one. The old surface was at c. 18.15 m above NAP. No central burial was found; however, a tangential secondary grave appeared at the foot of the mound. This rounded-rectangular pit was recorded as a stain of 2.30 by 0.90 m with a depth of c. 0.60 m. On the old surface, at the barrow's centre, lay a concentration of charcoal, which was sampled and found to have a ^{14}C age of 3370 ± 25 (GrN-11906).

Dating: first half of the Middle Bronze Age.

25. *Eext*, tumulus Eexterstrubben I (fig. 21). Sheet 12G: 244.17/561.85. Unpublished.

This badly damaged barrow was excavated by the quadrant method, at the end of March 1954. It was situated in ploughed heathland, a little north of the site where Waterbolk was to excavate in 1957 and 1958. Although a humic horizon seems to indicate two construction phases, the fact that this dark band reappears in the middle of the eastern section as a discontinuous layer of humic sods, makes a single-period construction more likely. The core of the barrow consisted of yellow sand with few sods; at its foot were very humic sods. The mound had an 11-12 m diameter and was c. 0.90 m high. The old land surface beneath it had a well-developed soil profile, consisting of a thin humic layer, a 10-cm eluvial horizon and an illuvial zone. Its surface lay at c. 16.90 m above NAP. The central burial was a cremation lying on the old surface with some 40 cm thick, charred timbers framing it on the south. Charcoal from the latter had a radiocarbon age of 3385 ± 25 B.P. (GrN-11905). In the southwestern quadrant, a tangential secondary burial was uncovered, at 2.40 m from the central grave. The shape of this pit was rounded-trapezoid, 2.00 m long, 0.50-0.70 m wide, and c. 0.40 m deep. The southeastern quadrant was not investigated. This part of the levelled barrow was exposed in the excavation of 1986. However, no more tangential burials came to light.

Dating: first half of the Middle Bronze Age.

26. *Anloo*, Beaker burials in Evertsbos (fig. 3). Sheet 12G: 244.20/561.77. Waterbolk, 1959; 1960.

In 1957 and 1958 Waterbolk investigated a site north-west of Eext, where surface finds indicated a TRB settlement. The excavations yielded a number of interesting results. First, there were traces of a threefold enclosure. Waterbolk's initial opinion, that this represented a Single Grave cattle *kraal*, is no longer tenable. The distribution of TRB pottery largely coincides with the enclosed area. Thus, its interpretation as an enclosed TRB settlement is a far more obvious one (Early Havelte E2 phase; Bakker, 1979: p. 184). Apart from stray finds of Beaker pottery, five Beaker burials were found. These are:

Grave A (fig. 22). The present-day surface over this grave was between 17.40 and 17.50 m above NAP. Under the arable layer was visible an irregularly-shaped, rounded-rectangular to oval grave, oriented NW-SE and measuring 2.40 m by 1.40-1.60 m. In its centre an oval, pale discolouration was seen. At a lower level the pit was oval, 2.20 by 1.30 m; while at the bottom, at 1.60 m below today's surface, it was more-or-less rectangular, 1.70 long and 0.80-0.90 m wide. There a coffin had been placed on at least four pieces of timber lying across the floor. The coffin's length had been 1.60 m and its width 0.70 m. Charcoal from a charred coffin wall had a radiocarbon age of 4195 ± 70

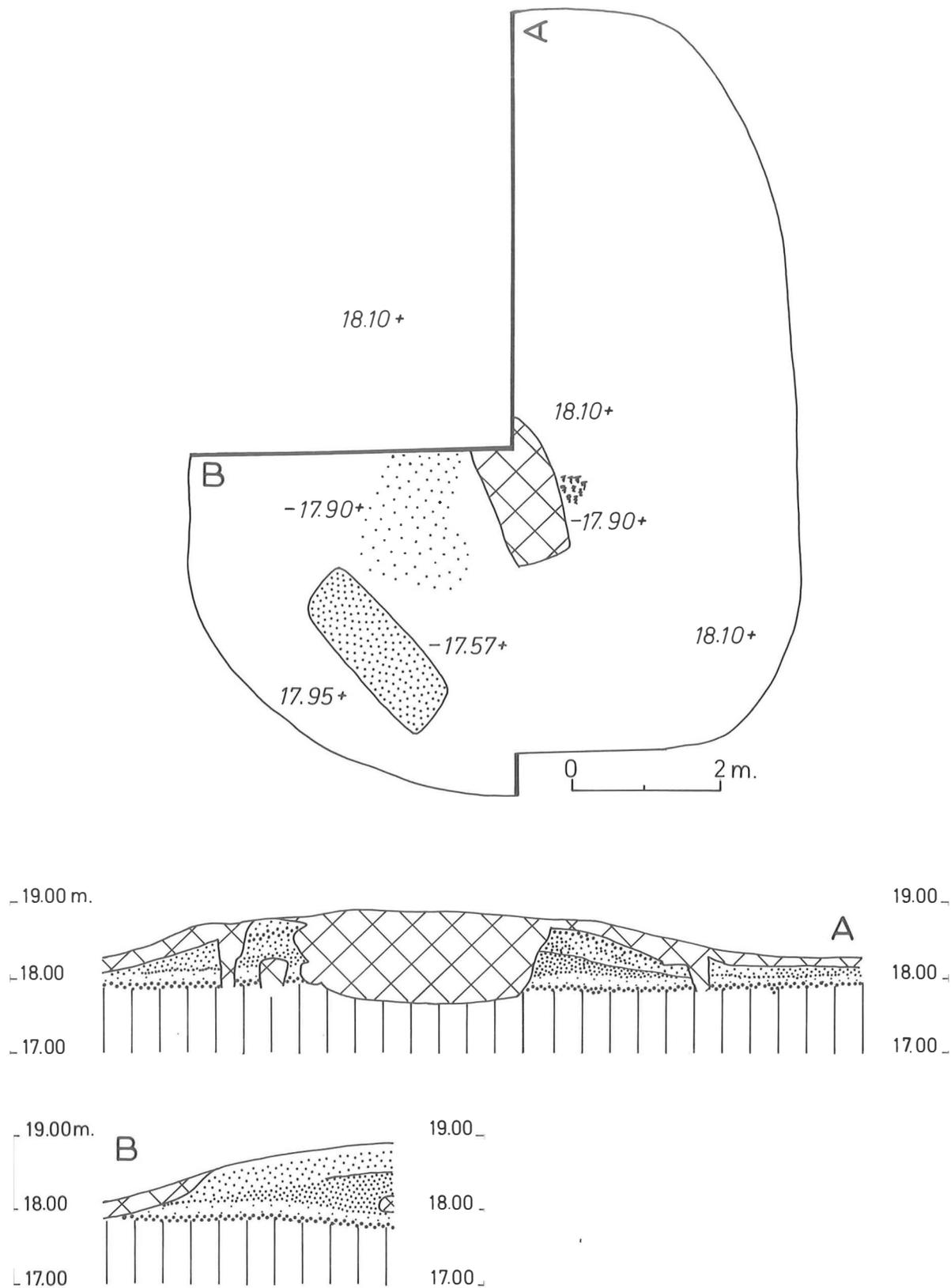


Fig. 20. Eext, tumulus Eexterstrubben II. Plan and sections. Drawing G. Delger.

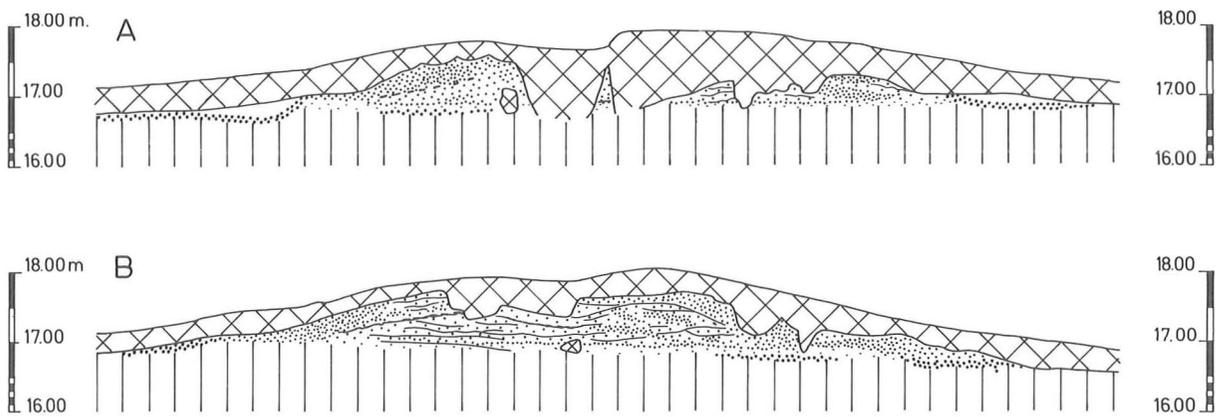
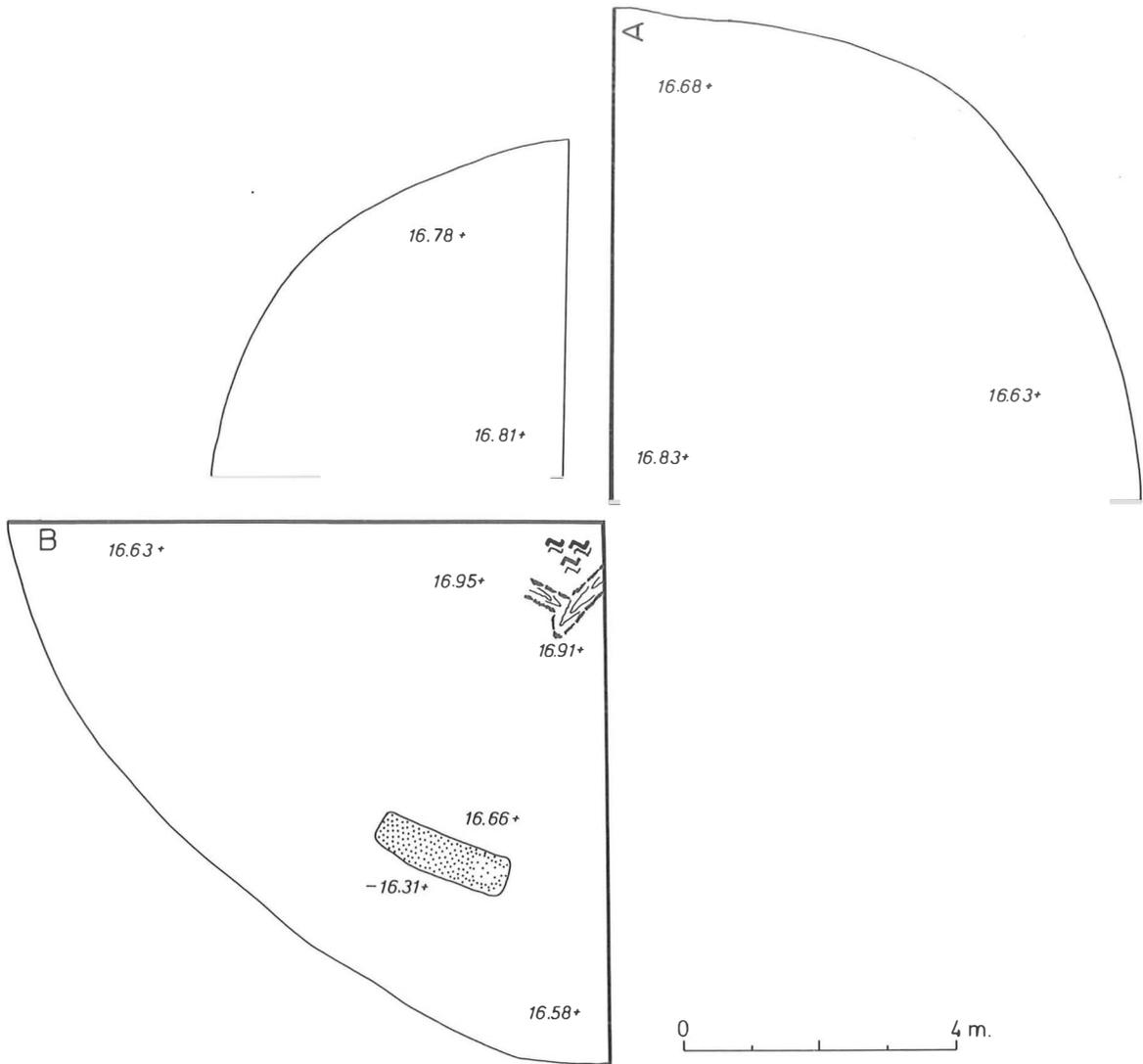


Fig. 21. Eext, tumulus Eexterstrubben I. Plan and sections. Drawing G. Delger.

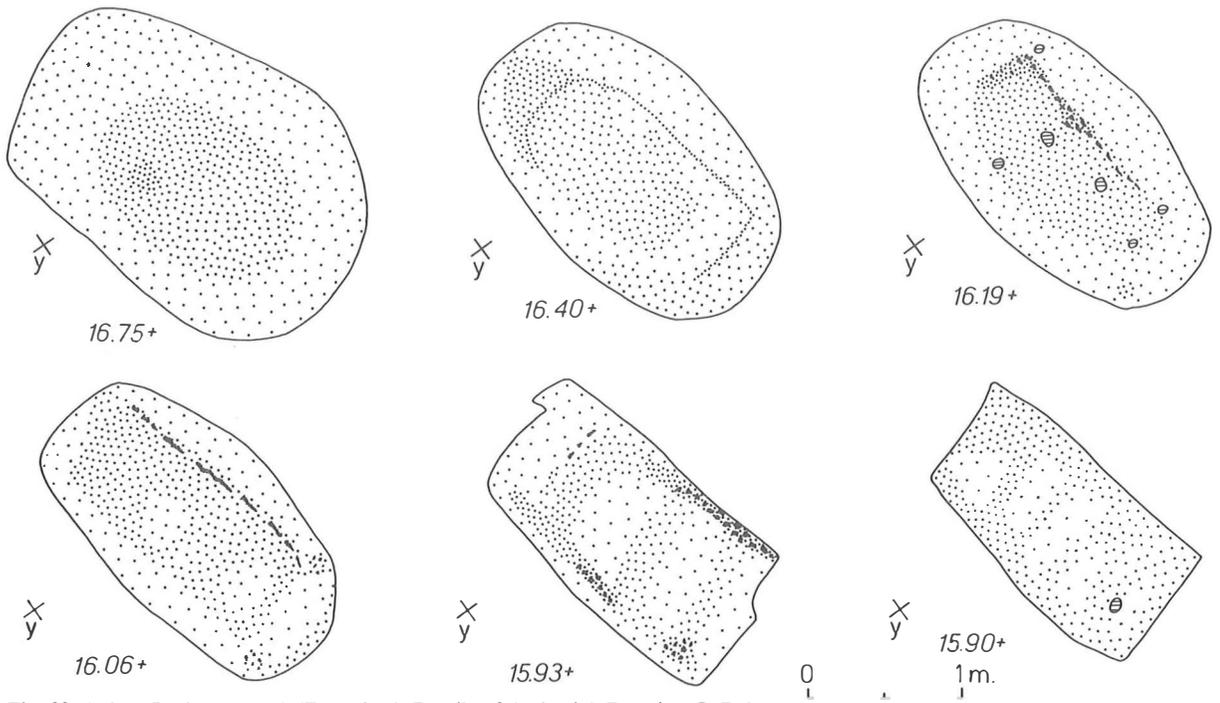


Fig. 22. Anloo, Beaker grave A (Evertsbos). Details of the burial. Drawing G. Delger.

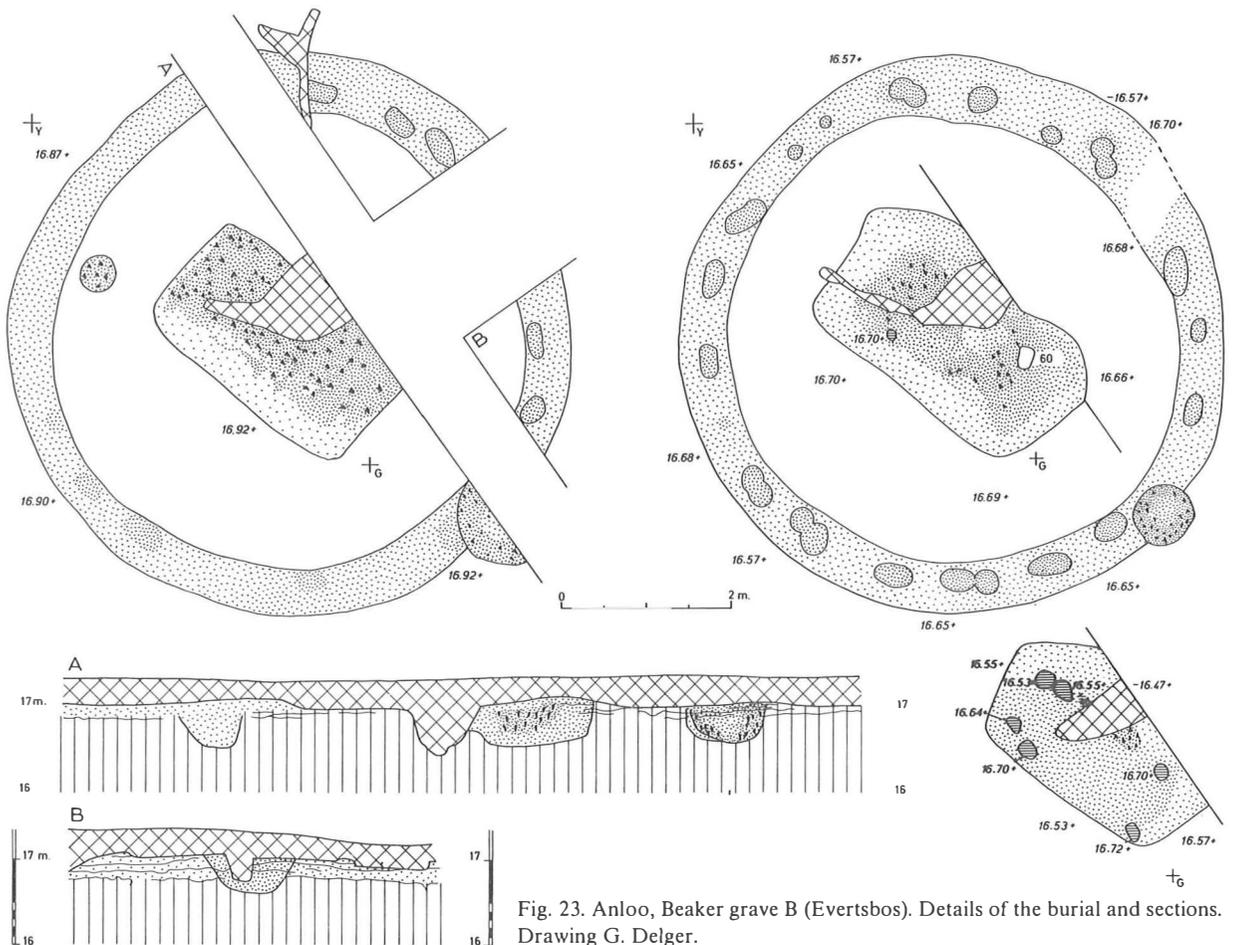


Fig. 23. Anloo, Beaker grave B (Evertsbos). Details of the burial and sections. Drawing G. Delger.

B.P. (GrN-1965; Lanting & Mook, 1977: p. 89). No artefacts were found in the grave. Orientation and position of this burial make it comparable to those of the AOO group, to which it should probably be assigned.

Grave B (fig. 23). At grave B, the present-day surface lay at a level of 17.35 m above NAP. At 16.90 m, the grave showed as a rectangle of 2.80 by 1.60 m, oriented NW-SE. A great deal of charcoal covered this surface, a narrow strip along the western edge excepted. This could have been a charred coffin top. Deeper, at 16.70 m, the grave seemed to widen to 3.10 by 1.90 m; this is probably due to erroneous observation at a higher level. A recent disturbance cut into it, down to below the bottom of the shaft. In the grave, the coffin manifested itself as a patch of charcoal, measuring 2.40 by 1.20 m. A concentration of this, probably still part of the coffin's lid, was sampled for radiocarbon dating (GrN-851: 4140 ± 70 B.P.; Lanting & Van der Waals, 1976: p. 40). At c. 16.57 m above NAP, the coffin was still visible, as an oblong pale greystain of 2.00 by 1.20 m. At this level, charcoal from the coffin's wall was found along its north-eastern side. Stones serving to support the coffin were uncovered in the pit, which descended to some 90 cm below the present-day surface. On one of the stones lay sherds of two AOO beakers of types 2IIb. As the major part of these beakers was missing, they were probably broken before being buried. The grave was surrounded by a foundation trench with an outer diameter of 6.40-6.60 m, and a width of 0.50-0.80 m. 19 posthole stains were counted in this ditch. No. 20, hidden under the baulk, was not recorded. By their shapes, 14 of them indicated the use of multiple posts. The ditch had been dug to c. 0.80 m below today's surface. On the south, it was cut by a round pit, which was full of sand burnt red and charcoal. This had the same depth as the ditch itself.

Grave C (fig. 25). The present-day surface was at c. 17.35 m above NAP here. At c. 16.91 m the grave appeared as a rounded-rectangular pit of 2.70 by 1.10 m, oriented NNW-SSE. At a level of 16.85 m, the dimensions were 3.00 m and 0.90-1.00 m, so that an observation error similar to that in grave B is likely to have occurred. No traces of a coffin or a body silhouette were encountered, but an AOO beaker of type 2IIb had been buried with the deceased. The bottom of this grave was at c. 16.70 m above NAP. Charcoal from a pit that had been dug through the grave, even disturbing its bottom, was found to have a radiocarbon age of 3965 ± 50 B.P. (GrN-1976; Lanting & Van der Waals, 1976: p. 40), which may be regarded as a *terminus ante quem* for the burial. The grave was surrounded by a somewhat oval foundation trench with a 4.10-4.60 m outer diameter and a width of 0.35-0.50 m. Its depth in relation to today's land surface was 0.75-0.90 m. In its fill, sixteen more-or-less round postholes were observed; they could be traced all the way down to the bottom of the ditch.

Grave D (fig. 27). At grave D the present-day land surface was c. 17.30 m above NAP. Below the arable layer, grave D showed as an oval stain measuring 1.90 by 1.70 m. As it deepened, it gradually became rounded-rectangular, measuring 1.70 by 0.75 m at a level of 16.19 m. It had an east-west orientation. Reckoned from today's surface, it was 1.30 m deep. The grave-goods consisted of a Single Grave beaker of type 1a, a flint blade, a flint blade axe and a sandstone whetstone.

Grave E (fig. 29). At 16.61 m above NAP, some 60 cm below the surface, the grave appeared as a rounded-rectangular to oval pit, oriented WSW-ESE and measuring 1.75 by 1.00 m. At this level some charcoal, probably from a coffin, was collected; this was radiocarbon dated 4420 ± 75 B.P. (GrN-1855; Lanting & Van der Waals, 1976: p. 39). At a lower level, the pit had an irregular circumference. It contained a fine Single Grave beaker of type 1a.

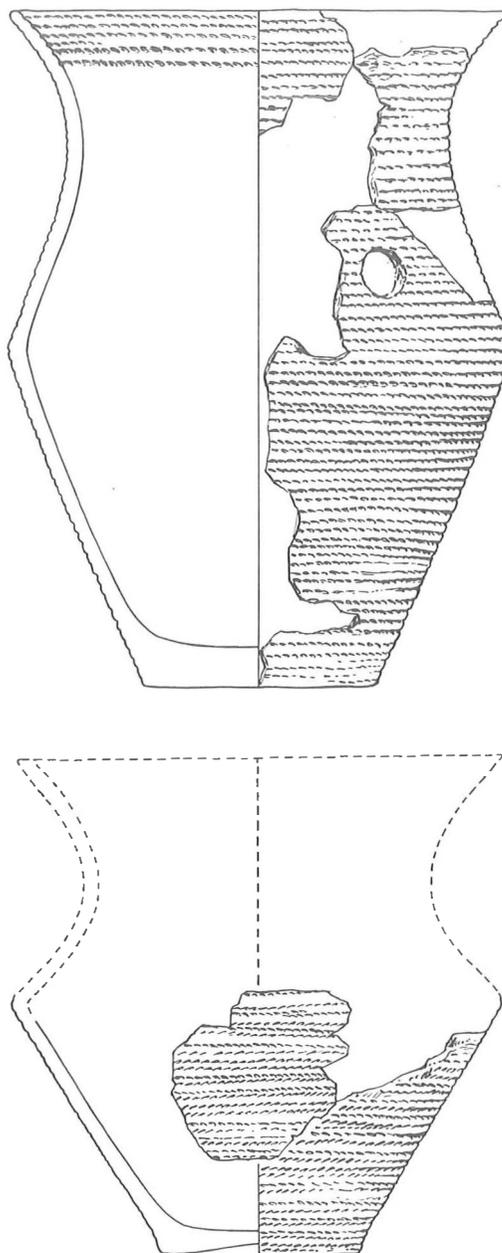


Fig. 24. Anloo, Beaker grave B (Evertsbos). AOO beakers of type 2IIb, from the grave. Drawing H.R. Roelink, scale 1:2.

Some flint flakes, as found in grave D also, are considered to be settlement waste. The bottom of the burial pit was at 16.38 m above NAP.

Whether tumuli had ever been present over these graves is doubtful. Considering their close spacing, such monuments could not have been very large ones. Any low mounds might already have been ploughed out during the Middle Bronze Age. Grave D and the trench round grave C are cut by cart-ruts. Further finds on the site were traces of Early Bronze Age occupation and a Late Bronze Age urnfield.

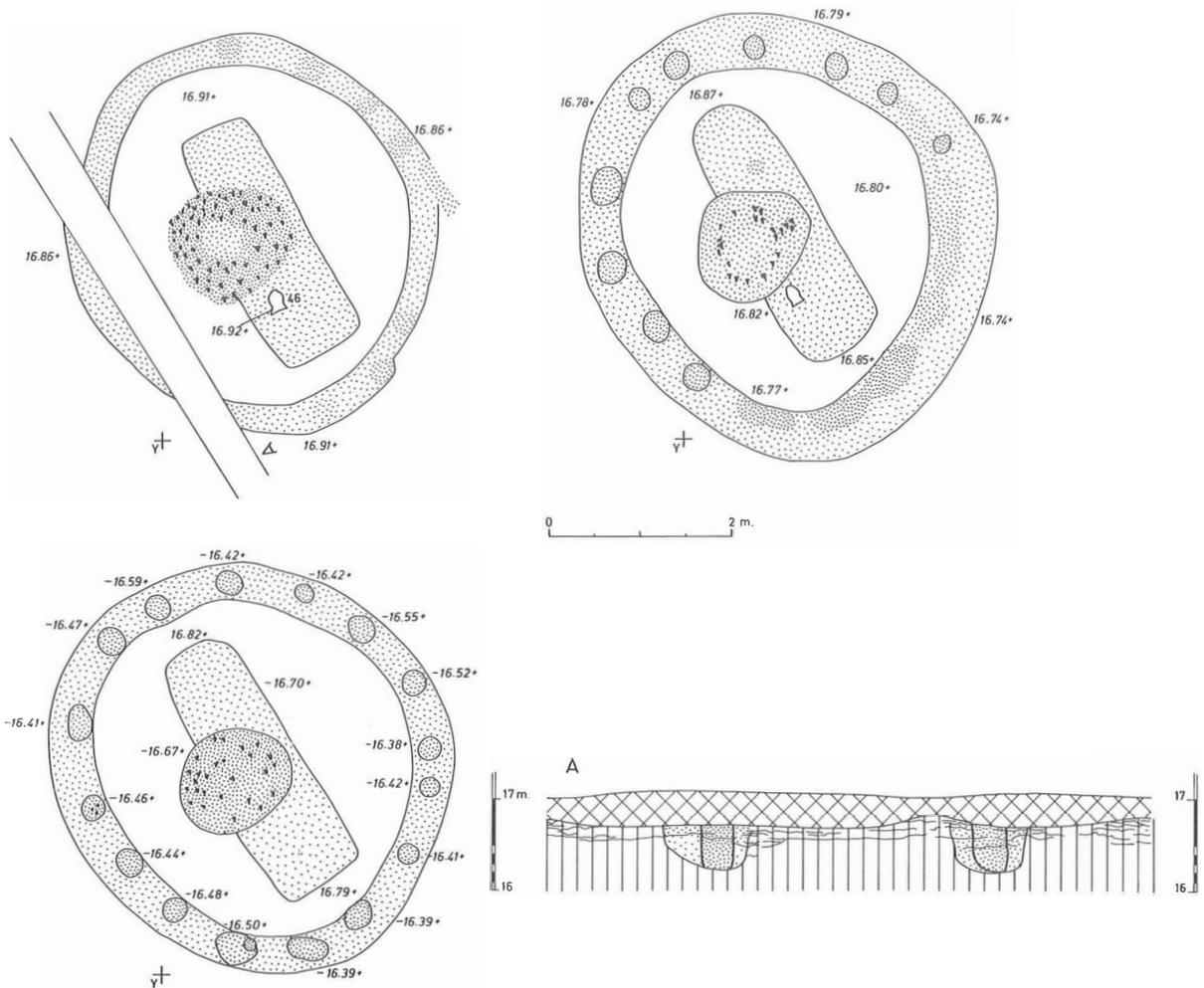


Fig. 25. Anloo, Beaker grave C (Evertsbos). Details of the burial and section. Drawing G. Delger.

Finds from grave B (Provinciaal Museum Assen).

1958/VIII 60a (= 49a; fig. 24): sherds of a thin-walled leather-brown AOO beaker of type 2IIb, which could be reconstructed. Temper: probably fine sand. Biconical, fairly sharply carinated belly. Strongly everted rim, with rounded tip. Flat base. The decoration consists of horizontal cord impressions, covering the whole vessel. This ornamentation is also found inside the rim, and consists of five to six impressed lines. Waterbolk, erroneously, shows only two in his article of 1960 (fig. 32). Height: c. 18 cm; diameter of mouth c. 13 cm; of belly: c. 13.3 cm; of base: 6.2 cm.

1958/VIII 60b (= 49b; fig. 24): AOO beaker, type 2IIb, of thin-walled, leather-brown ware, tempered probably with fine sand. Only the base and lower part of the belly could be reconstructed. Waterbolk shows a large separate sherd (fig. 32), which in fact fits on to the beakers' bottom half and which had broken off at the sharp carination. Decoration consists of irregular cord impressions, applied in pairs. Diameter of belly: c. 13 cm; of base: 5.2 cm.

Find from grave C (private collection of Mrs. A.A. Suringar-Everts of Assen).

No. 46 (fig. 26): almost complete AOO beaker of type 2IIb, leather-brown. Biconical belly and gradually everted rim,

flattened at the top. Flat base. The vessel is decorated all over with horizontal cord impressions. These were also applied to the flattened rim, and the same piece of string was used to impress three or four more lines on the inside of the rim. Height: 21 cm; diameter of rim: 14 cm; of belly: 13.6 cm; of base: 8.2 cm.

Finds from grave D (Provinciaal Museum Assen)

1958/VIII 36a (fig. 28): Single Grave beaker of type 1a, fired to ochre and reddish-brown blackish in parts. The temper consists of fine sand. The inside shows that the pot was coil-built. About one-third of the vessel could be restored. S-shaped profile with partially folded lip. Markedly protruding foot, and flat base. The decoration, down to just above the widest circumference, consists of irregular cord impressions, in pairs, which are quite shallow in places. The lower edge of the decorated area is marked by a series of sharp spatula impressions. Height: 17.6-18.0 cm; diameter of rim: 13.0-14.3 cm; of belly: 13.0-13.2 cm; of foot: 5.8-6.0 cm.

1958/VIII 36b (fig. 28): small blade axe of blue-grey to pale grey, fine-grained flint. The dorsal face shows two blade negatives. The dorsal as well as the ventral face have been polished near the cutting edge on a fine-grained stone. The

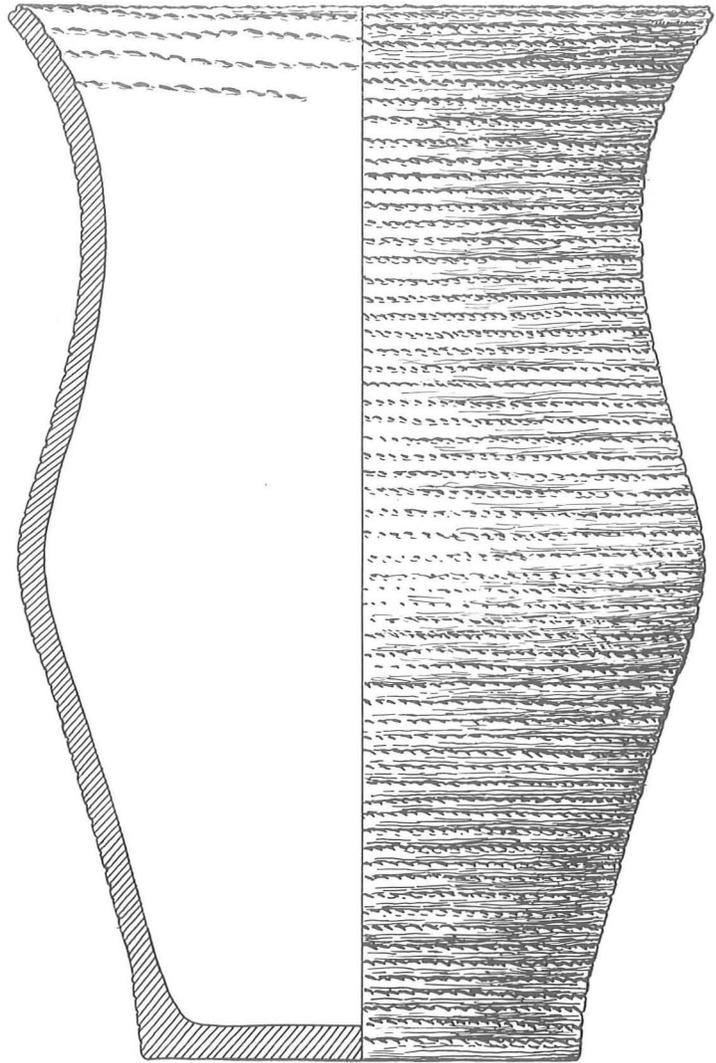


Fig. 26. Anloo, Beaker grave C (Evertsbos). AOO beaker of type 2IIb from the grave. Drawing H.R. Roelink, scale 2:3.

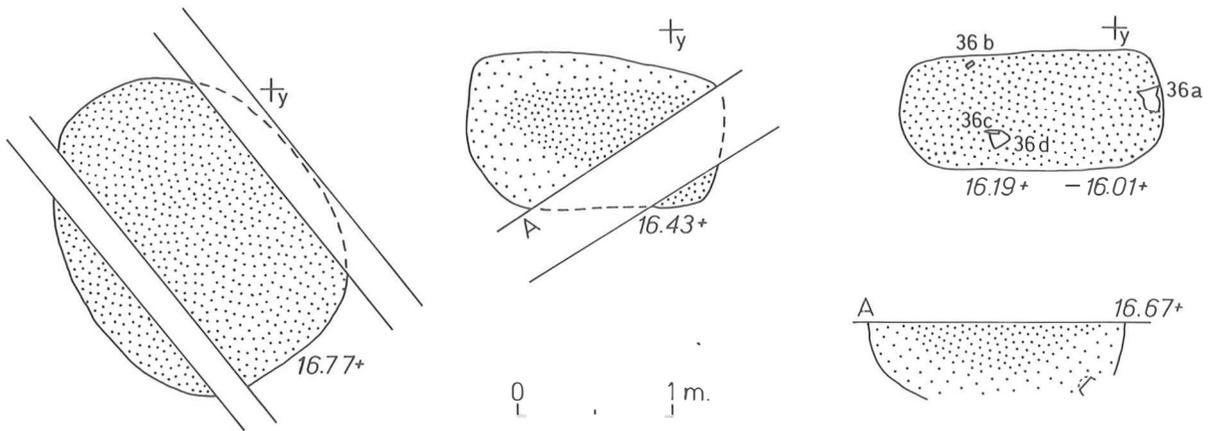


Fig. 27. Anloo, Beaker grave D (Evertsbos). Drawing G. Delger.

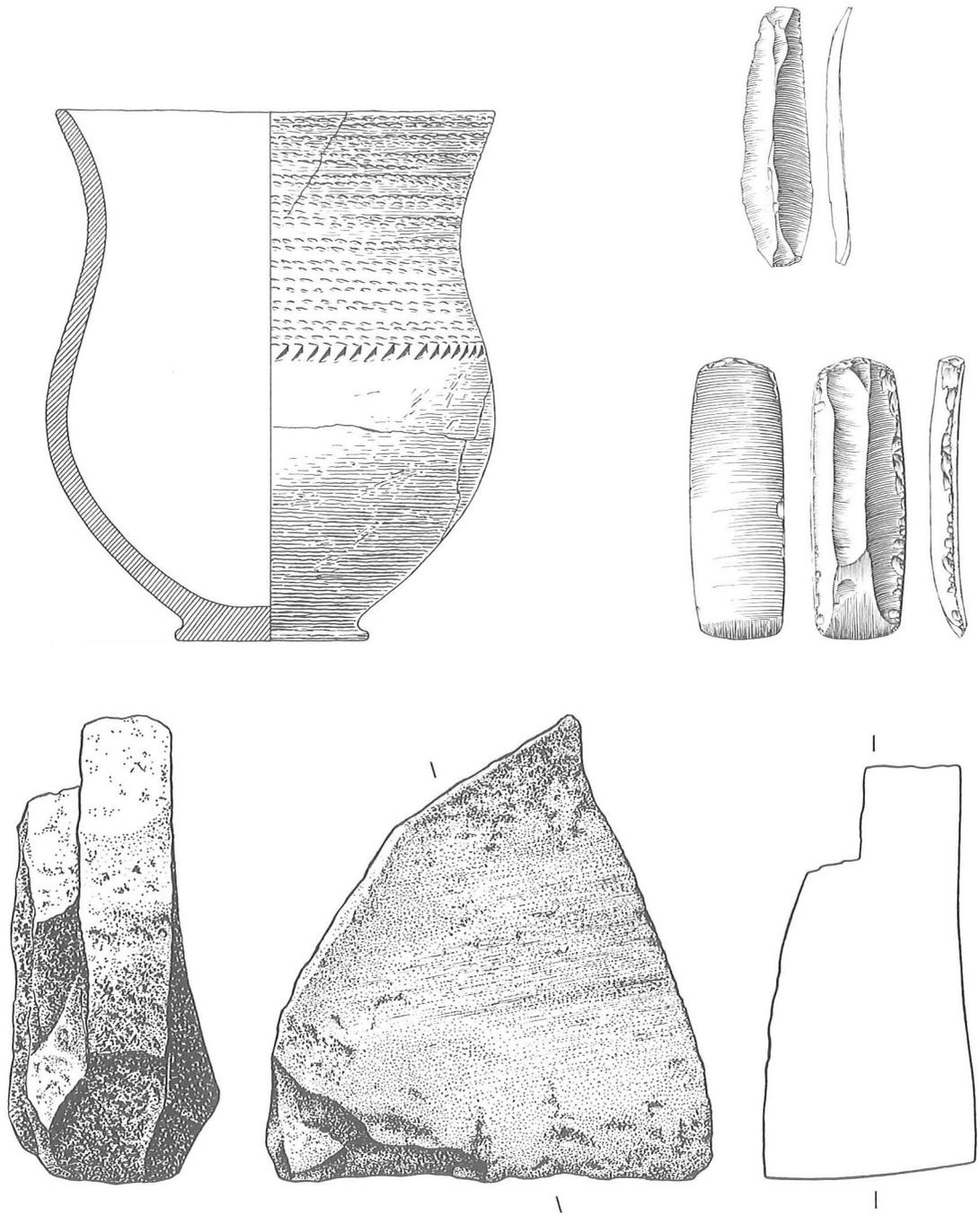


Fig. 28. Anloo, Beaker grave D (Evertsbos). Single Grave beaker of type 1a, small blade axe, blade and whetstone from the grave. Drawing H.R. Roelink, scale 1:2.

transition between the faces is an edge of only a few millimetres' width; ground on coarser stone. Butt rounded and partially polished. Length: 8.3 cm; greatest width: 2.9 cm; greatest thickness 0.9 cm.

1958/VIII 36c (fig. 28): small blade of grey, fine-grained flint. On the dorsal face two blade negatives are visible. Length: 7.6 cm; greatest width: 2.1 cm; greatest thickness: 0.5 cm.

1958/VIII 36d (fig. 28): triangular (when seen from above) whetstone of reddish- to greyish- brown, very fine-grained sandstone.

Find from grave E (private collection of Mrs. A.A. Suringar-Everts of Assen).

No. 51(a)(fig. 30): Single Grave beaker, type 1a, of leather-brown, in parts blackish, ware. S-shaped profile with a rather wide belly; flat base. Decoration not reaching

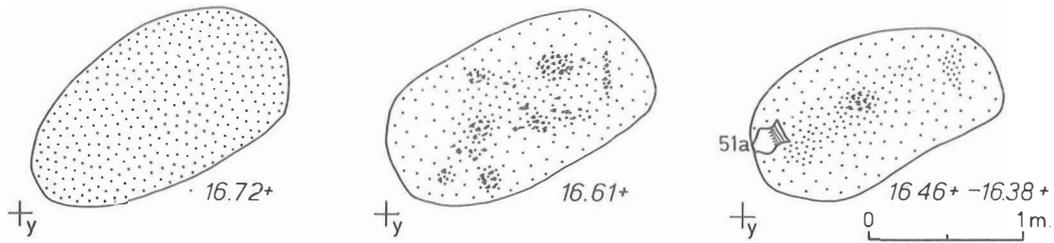


Fig. 29. Anloo, Beaker grave E (Evertsbos). Drawing G. Delger.

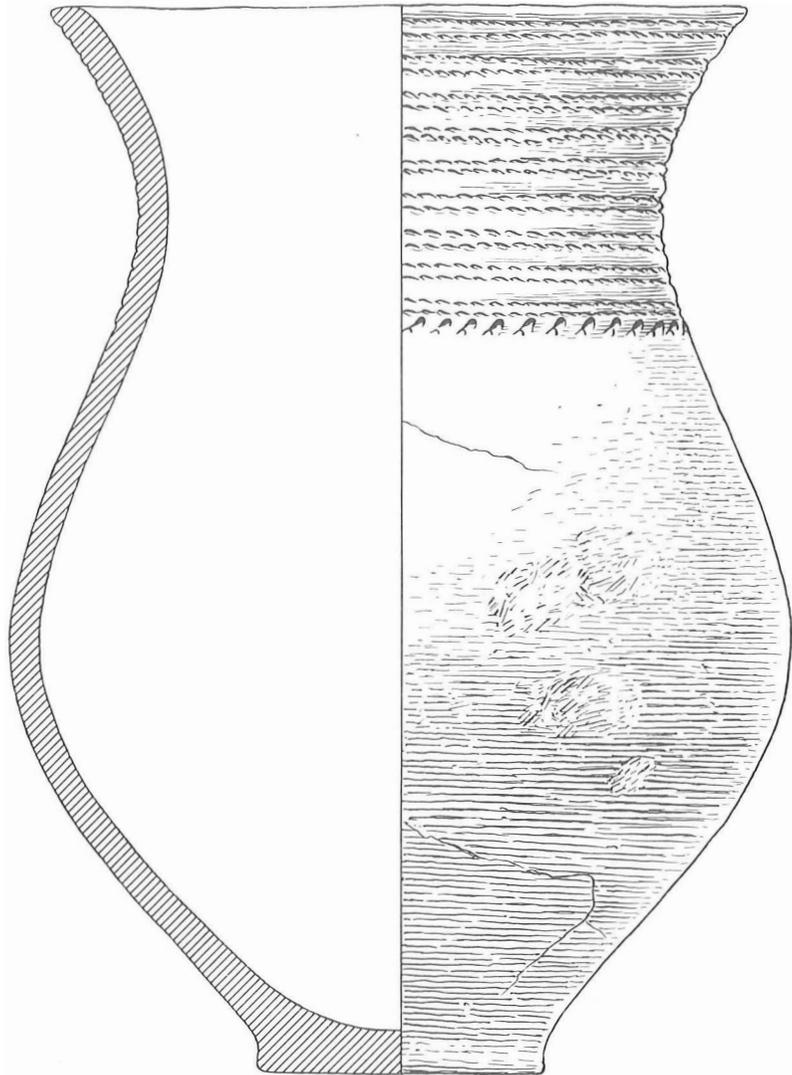


Fig. 30. Anloo, Beaker grave E (Evertsbos). Single-Grave beaker of type 1a, from the grave. Drawing H.R. Roelink, scale 2:3.

beyond the neck, consisting of nine pairs of cord impressions, beneath which a row of short, vertical to oblique spatula marks. Height: 21.2 cm; diameter of mouth: 13.8-14.4 cm; of belly: 14.8-15.0 cm; of base: 5.9 cm.

Dating of grave A, B and C: AOO group.
 Dating of grave D and E: Single Grave Culture.

27. *Eext*, tumulus I (1937). Sheet 12G: 244.75/561.25.
 Van Giffen, 1939; Waterbolk & Glasbergen, 1957: fig. 15.

When, in 1936, two amateur archaeologists unearthed the sherds of a Zigzag beaker, a battle axe of type P1, a small flint axe, and a Grand-Pressigny dagger—obviously goods from a Single Grave—from a tumulus north of the Galgandeven, Van Giffen decided to investigate the barrow's structure. After the quadrant-method excavation, the barrow was restored.

Period 1. The initial mound was 1.10 m high, some 18 m

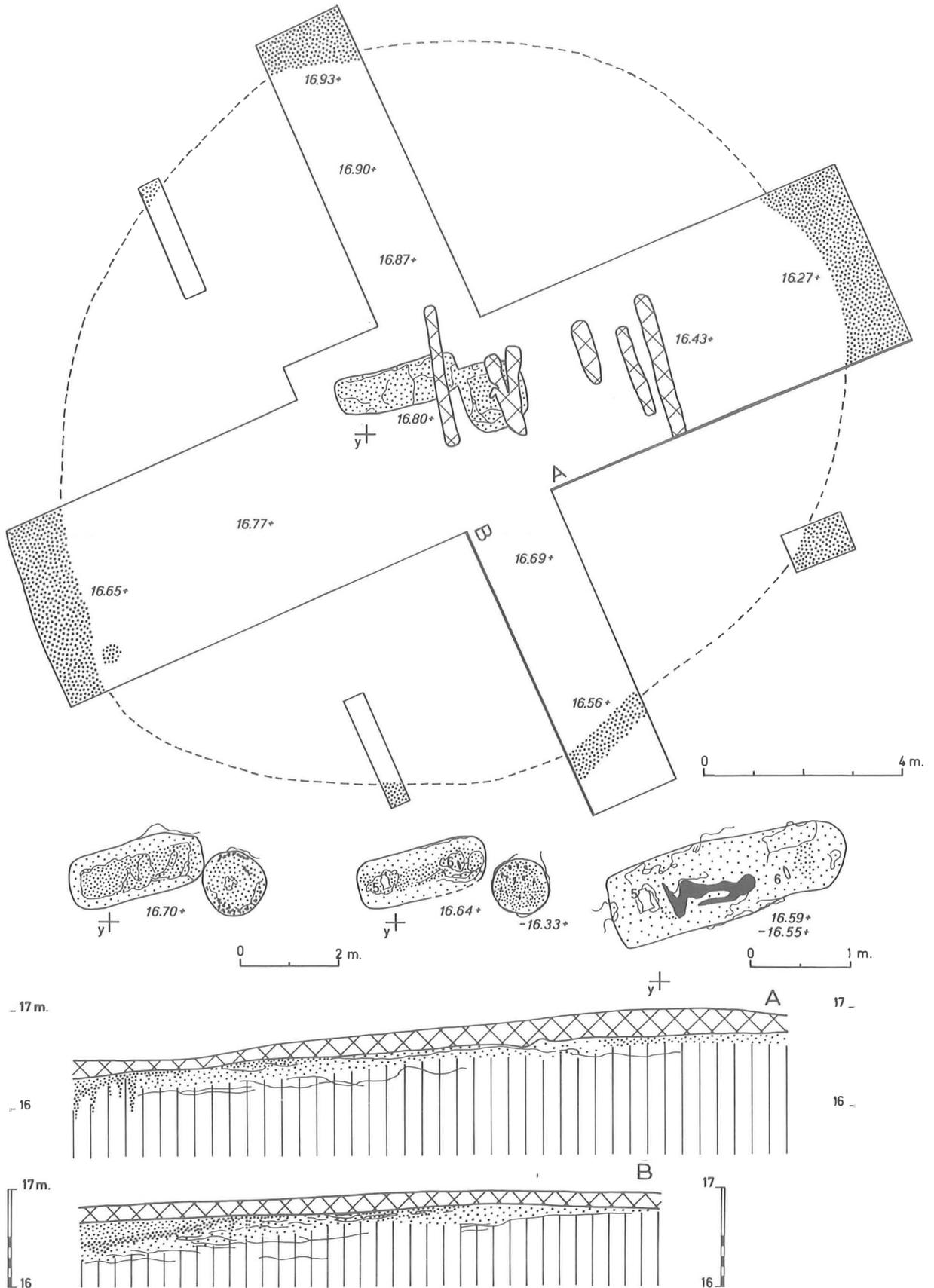


Fig. 31. Eext, tumulus Galgwandenveen I. Plan, details of the burial and sections. Drawing G. Delger.

in diameter, and built of yellow sand. Beneath the old surface, which was at 16.50 to 16.60 m above NAP, the soil profile showed an indistinct humic horizon over a clear eluvial horizon, and blotches of illuvial iron. The primary grave had for the most part been disturbed by the treasure-hunters, and was only partly visible in the excavation. It had been on the old surface. Round it, under the foot of the primary mound, was a wide foundation trench with an outer diameter of 12.00-12.40 m. In section, the trench was rounded V-shaped, 0.70-0.90 m wide and 0.25-0.75 m deep. In its fill, 52 postholes appeared. Charcoal collected from one of these was radiocarbon-dated 4145 ± 30 B.P. (GrN-6727; Lanting & Van der Waals, 1976: p. 40).

Period 2. The yellow-grey secondary mound was built of sods. This gave the tumulus a 19-m diameter and a height of 2.40 m. A grave containing cremated remains, which was observed only in the middle of the northern section, was assigned to the same period by Van Giffen. In this, he was mistaken: the shaft had been sunk from the top of the tumulus and descended some 30 cm into the primary mound. The shaft with the cremation must be of a later date. No central grave was found for period 2; it was probably destroyed by the diggers mentioned earlier. In the foot of the tumulus, in the north-west as well as the north-east quadrants, rectangular, radial pits were uncovered. These two resemble the radial secondary graves cut into the foot of the 't Witzand tumulus (no. 38). A little below the old surface, within the foundation trench, some decorated TRB sherds were retrieved. A Scandinavian flint dagger, discovered in the iron-indurated sand under the edge of the secondary mound, was a nice surprise for the archaeologists. It belongs to type II and dates to the Early Bronze Age.

Dating of period 1: Single Grave Culture.

Dating of period 2: Early Bronze Age/first half of the Middle Bronze Age.

28. *Eext*, tumulus II (1937). Sheet 12G: 244.82/561.23. Van Giffen, 1939.

Together with tumulus I, two more barrows lying on a pingo rampart east of the Galgwandenveen were excavated. The northernmost, which was restored after its investigation by the quadrant method, turned out to be of single-phase construction with a border of stones. Its diameter was 13 to 14 m, and its height 1.10 m. Thin layers of drift-sand had accumulated on its lee side. The tumulus, consisting of yellow-grey sand, lay on the north-east flank of the pingo rampart, as did most of its stone border also. The old surface, between 17.00 and 17.70 m above NAP, had in its profile a leached horizon over a yellow-brown illuvial zone. A discolouration was all that remained of the central grave. It had not been dug into the old surface. To the north and east of it, a widely-spaced semicircle of stones accompanied the grave. Within the stonepacking, on the south-west flank of the rampart, an arrowhead with a concave base was found.

Dating: Early Bronze Age/first half of the Middle Bronze Age.

29. *Eext*, tumulus III (1937). Sheet 12G: 244.85/561.21. Van Giffen, 1939.

This oval tumulus, measuring 13 by 9 m, and 1.10 m high, closely resembled tumulus II in its structure and location. It too was a single-phase construction, with a stonepacking. The barrow was excavated with the exception of a continuous NNW-SSE baulk, an east-west baulk of which the western part made a sharp turn towards the south-west, and a NW-SE baulk bisecting the north-western part of the mound. Only the NNW-SSE section was recorded in field drawings. The excavations were followed by the barrow's restoration. The body of the tumulus consisted of yellowish sand with infiltration veins. Below the old surface, which

lay at 16.85 to 17.60 m above NAP, the soil profile showed a thin humic layer, a 10-cm eluvial horizon and an illuvial zone. To the west and north, the foot of the barrow contained a fragmentary stonepacking. The centre had been recently disturbed; no central grave was found. It is likely to have also been on the original land surface.

Dating: Early Bronze Age/first half of the Middle Bronze Age.

30. *Eext*, tumulus Galgwandenveen I (1970; fig. 31). Sheet 12G: 244.87/561.15.

Lanting & van der Waals, 1971.

The ploughed-out relics were all that remained of this monument. It had lain in arable land on the south-east flank of the Galgwandenveen pingo rampart. Under the arable layer on the flank of the rampart, the old land surface was still visible, if only just, as a thin grey horizon. The tumulus had a diameter of c. 16 m and had probably been built in a single period. The grave itself, WSW-ENE oriented, was rounded-rectangular, measured 2.80 by 1.10 m, and was 0.30 m deep. The bottom of the grave lay at c. 16.55 m above NAP. In the grave, a silhouette was observed: the body had been lying in a flexed position on its left side, head to the east and thus facing south. The dead person had been given as grave-goods a Single Grave beaker of type 1e and a flint blade 12.3 cm long. The south-east corner of the grave just touched a round pit. This had a diameter of 1.30 m and a depth of 0.55 m. Its fill consisted of charcoal and red-burnt sand; radiocarbon dating gave an age of 3930 ± 45 B.P. (GrN-8254). Before the excavations were begun, a sherd of a Maritime Bell Beaker was found on the spot. It is quite possible that this had been ploughed up from the old surface. Moreover, TRB sherds were found in the subsoil of the levelled barrow.

Finds (Provinciaal Museum Assen)

1970/XII 5 (fig. 32): fine, slender Single Grave beaker of yellow to reddish-brown ware, blackened in places and with a black core. Fine sand temper. Graceful, S-shaped profile, and somewhat concave base with a markedly protruding foot. The decoration, which was applied with great care, consists of ten horizontal bands of short oblique lines, and stops short of the greatest circumference. Height: 21.4-21.7 cm; diameter of rim: 14.8-15.2 cm; of belly: 13.4-13.7 cm; of foot: 6.9-7.0 cm.

1970/XII 6 (fig. 32): blade of beige- to brownish-grey, fine-grained flint. Sharply curved lower half; the tip is missing. On the dorsal face two blade negatives are visible. Towards the distal end the edges show fine retouch. Length: 12.3 cm; greatest width: 3.3 cm; thickness: 0.8 cm. Dating: Single Grave Culture.

31. *Eext*, tumulus b. Sheet 12G: 245.83/562.08.

Waterbolk & Glasbergen, 1957: pp. 27-32.

Already in 1923 this tumulus had been dug by an amateur archaeologist, which had resulted in some interesting finds, such as a Grand-Pressigny dagger and a Zigzag beaker. As the parcel containing the scarred barrow was due to be brought into cultivation, an excavation was carried out in December 1955. The single-period tumulus with its c. 16-m diameter and height of at least 1.10 m, had been built on a soil with an eluvial horizon of 15 cm thickness and an orange-yellow illuvial horizon. The old surface lay at 10.00 to 10.10 m above NAP. Its body consisted of dirty yellow sand with sods. Beneath the mound, a foundation trench was uncovered with an inner diameter of 2.00 m, a width of 0.50-0.60 m and a depth of 0.70-0.80 m. The ground that had come out of it surrounded it as a low bank. Within the trench, a little above the old surface, was found a cake of charcoal, 10 cm thick and 1.00 m across, which seemed to continue into a practically cylindrical pit, cut into the soil to a depth of c. 0.60 m. A sample of this charcoal was found to have a radiocarbon age of 3880 ± 40 B.P. (Lanting & Van

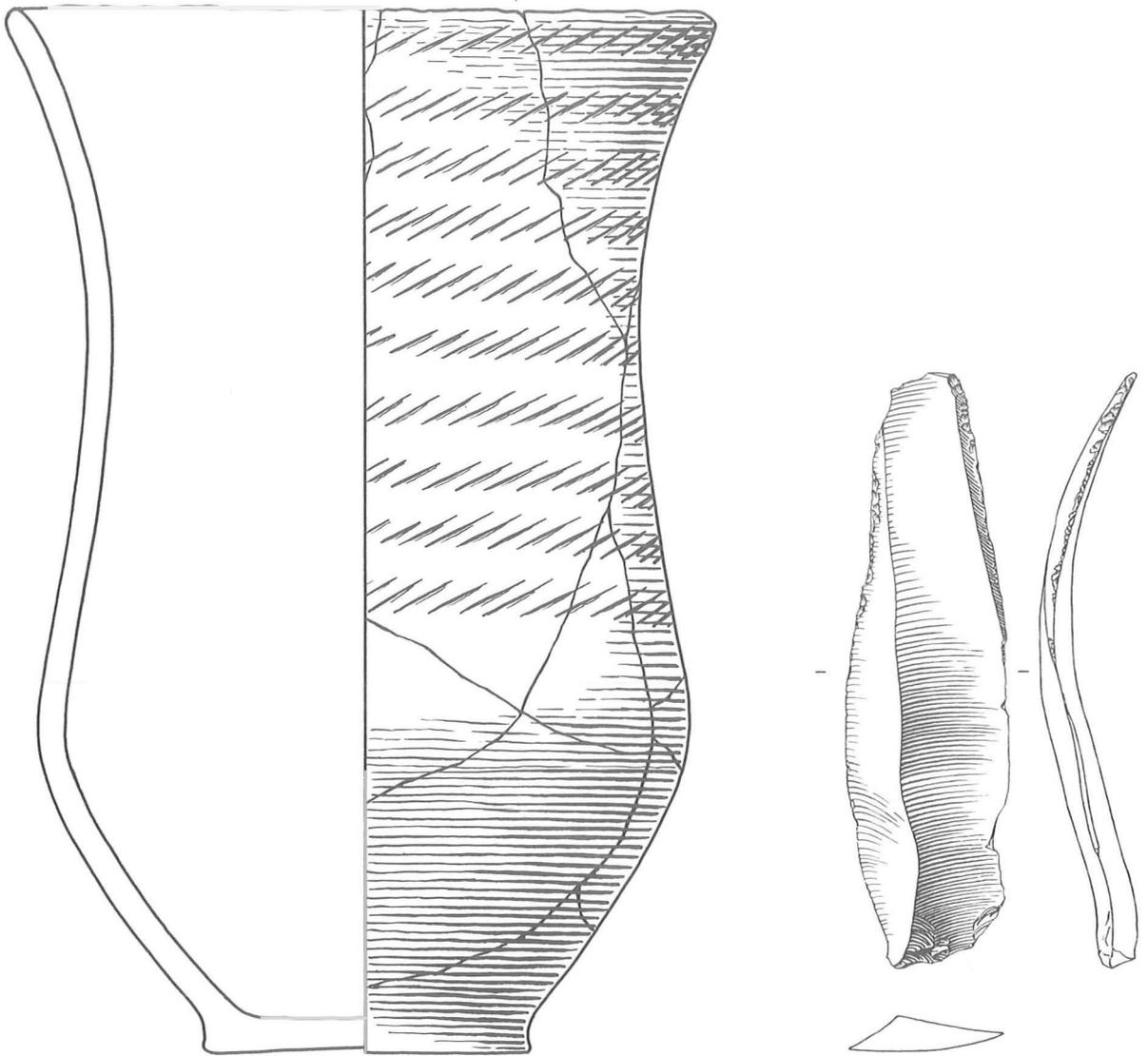


Fig. 32. Eext, tumulus Galgwanderveen I. Single Grave beaker of type 1e and flint blade, from the grave. Drawing J.M. Smit, scale 2:3.

der Waals, 1976: p. 40). The interpretation of the charcoal cake and pit remains uncertain; probably they are secondary to the barrow. In that case, the date mentioned should be regarded as a *terminus ante quem*. No traces of a burial were observed. When the old surface within the ditch was investigated, however, a battle axe of type H was found. This convincingly proved the grave to have been on the old surface.

Dating: Single Grave Culture.

32. Eext, tumulus c. Sheet 12G: 245.89/562.03.
Waterbolk & Glasbergen, 1957: pp. 32-33.

In the course of tumulus b's excavation, another was discovered at a distance of some 50 m from it. Most of this barrow had been ploughed out; its remaining height was hardly 40 cm. The old soil profile beneath it consisted of an eluvial horizon c. 8 cm thick, and an indistinct orange-yellow illuvial horizon. The old surface lay at around 9.70 m above NAP. In the excavation, the central grave was

visible as a rounded-rectangular pit 2.30 by 1.20 m, with a WSW-ENE orientation. Its depth was 0.65 m. In the north-western corner of this burial, a Single Grave beaker of type 1c was uncovered.

Dating: Single Grave Culture.

33. Eext, tumulus Schuilingsbosje. Sheet 12G: 245.06/561.08.
Van Giffen, 1941c; Lanting, 1973: p. 230.

In July 1939 this tumulus was excavated by Van Giffen. It was situated on a dune-sand ridge, in very uneven terrain. The investigations were carried out by cutting two trenches crosswise across the mound, and by opening up the north-west quadrant in order to expose all of the primary grave. The barrow was restored afterwards. It was found to be a two-period tumulus.

Period I consisted of a low mound, c. 9 m in diameter, of dirty yellow sand with few sods in it. The old surface was at 17.75 to 18.20 m above NAP; under it a brown horizon of 20 cm thickness, with some marbling due to infiltration,

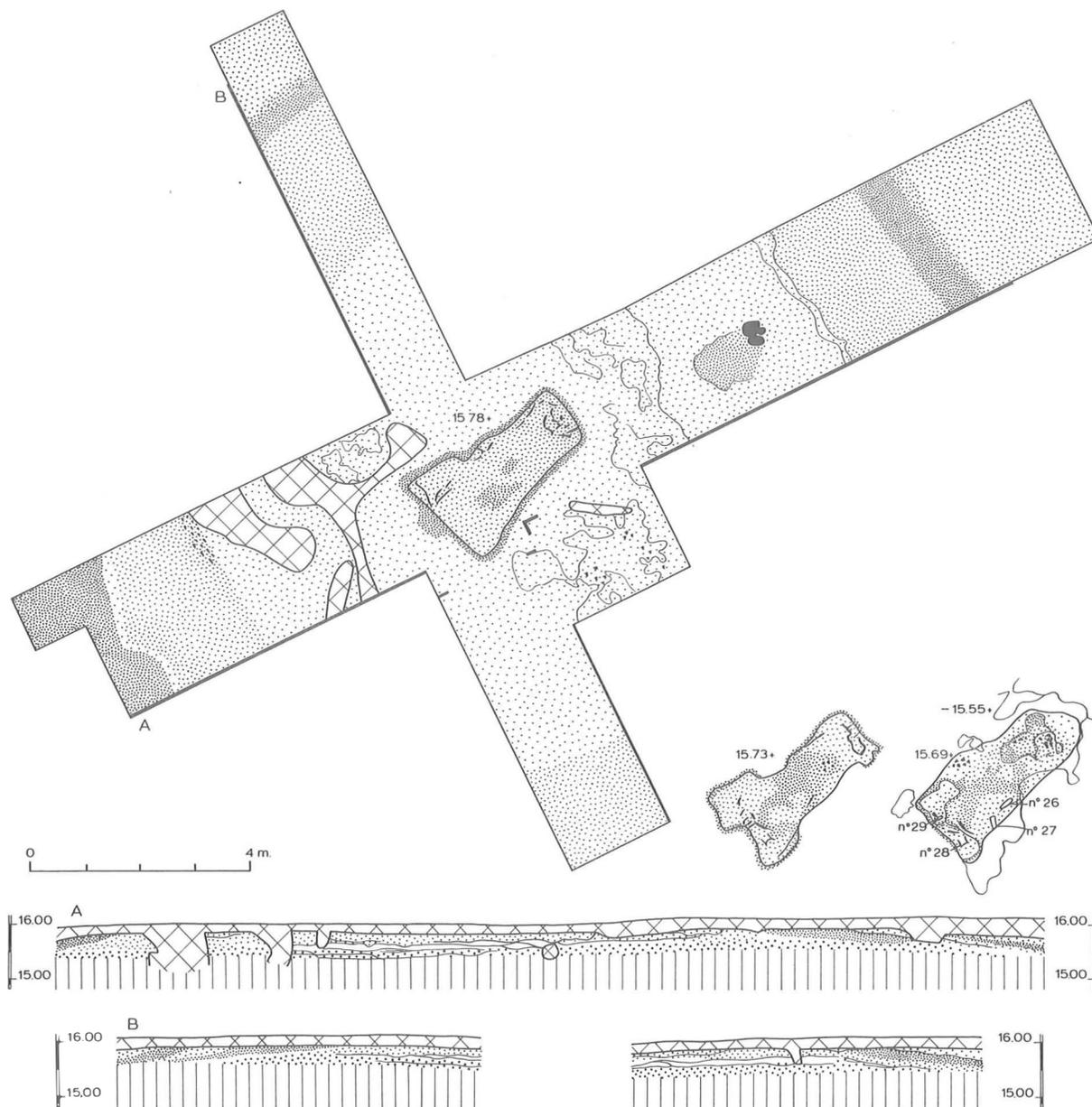


Fig. 33. Eext, tumulus Galgwanderveen III. Plan, sections and details of the primary grave. Drawing G. Delger.

was visible. Around the primary grave, on the old surface, lay the yellow sand from its pit. The grave was oriented NNW-SSE, rounded-rectangular, 2.10 by 1.25 m, and 0.85 m deep. Along the sides lay boulders, which had served to support the coffin. Some stones were present also on top of the grave. In the grave, a silhouette appeared, representing a body lying on its left side in a crouched position, head to the SSE. The chin rested on one of the hands.

In *period 2*, the mound had been raised with sods. By this addition, it grew to a height of 1.10 m and a diameter of some 16 m. The interface with the primary mound was recognizable by a thin humic layer in the top of the latter. The secondary mound lay a little eccentric in relation to its predecessor. The grave belonging to it was north-south

oriented, rounded-rectangular in shape, and measured 1.50 by 1.10 m. It had been cut into the primary mound, the shaft reaching to a little below the old surface. Seven erratics lay on top of the pit. Only cremated remains were found in the grave, of which only the horizontal outlines were drawn.

Dating period 1: Early Bronze Age (Barbed Wire phase).
 Dating period 2: Early Bronze Age/first half of the Middle Bronze Age.

34. Eext, tumulus Galgwanderveen III (1970; fig. 33). Sheet 12G: 245.03/561.06.

Lanting & Van der Waals, 1971; 1976: fig. 6.

This was a ploughed-out tumulus, about 250 m southeast of the Galgwanderveen, and at the edge of the Noordes of

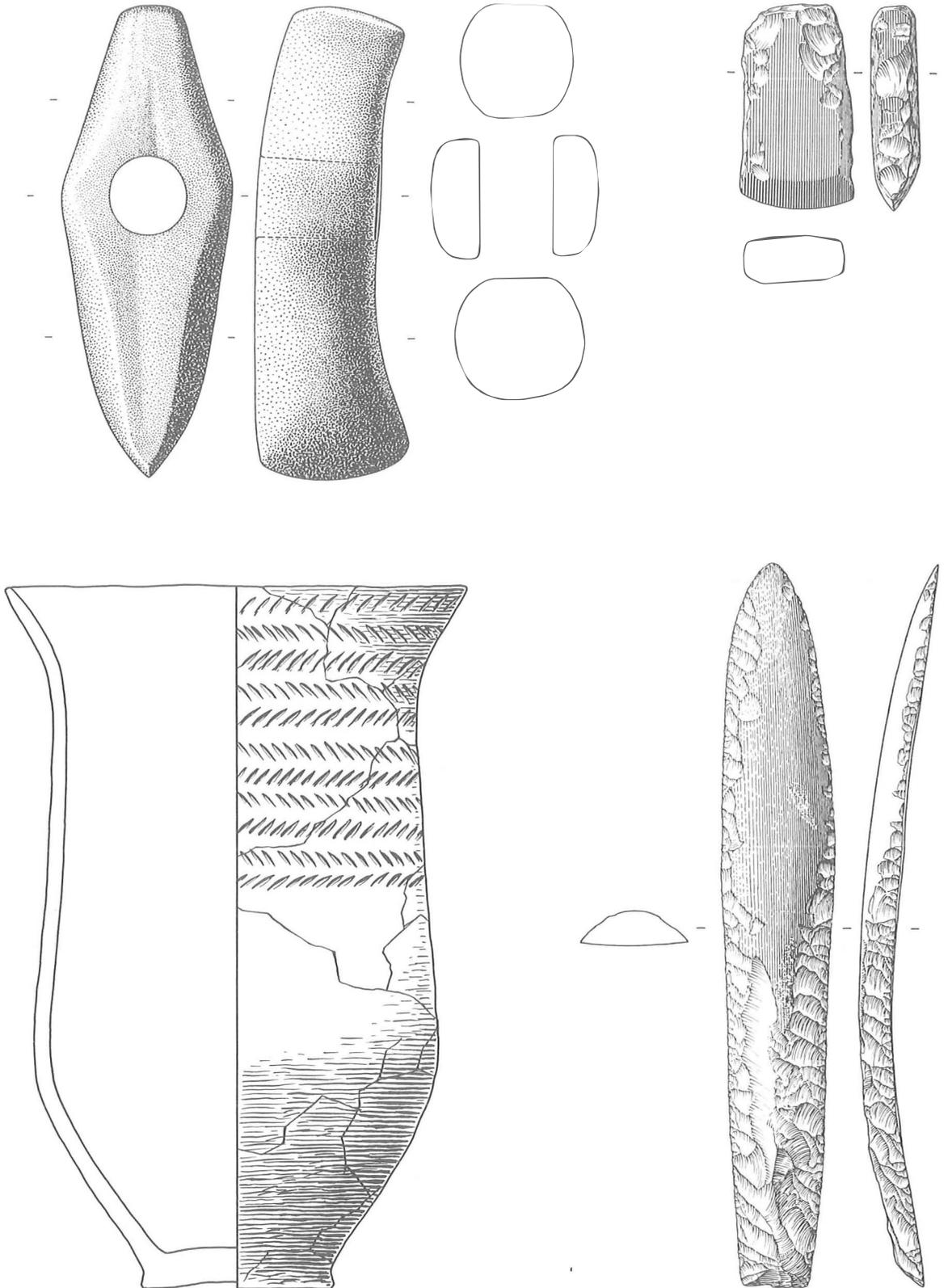


Fig. 34. Eext, tumulus Galgwanderveen III. Single Grave beaker of type 1d, type H battle axe, small flint axe and GP-dagger from the primary grave. Drawing J.M. Smit, scale 1:2.

Ext. It was crossed by a NW-SE trench 17 m long and 3 m wide. Where the grave was encountered, a small side trench was added at right angles to the first. Beneath the arable layer enough had remained of the mound's body to allow conclusions about the barrow's construction. It was a three-period tumulus with a diameter of 16 to 17 m.

Period 1. A yellow sand mound, c. 10 m across, lay on a soil with a white eluvial horizon of c. 10 cm thickness, and an orange illuvial zone. Here and there, some very faint traces of a thin humic layer could be observed. The old land surface lay at c. 15.65 m above NAP. Even above this level, the primary grave pit was shown up by a roughly rectangular pattern of infiltration stains, and charcoal. It had been cut some 10 to 20 cm into the old surface, and had a NE-SW orientation. The bits of charcoal are likely to be the remains of a charred coffin, measuring about 2.80 by 0.90 m. Evidently, the coffin had not sunk below the old surface. The grave-goods comprised a Single Grave beaker of type 1d (herringbone design), a type H battle axe, a small flint axe and a Grand-Pressigny dagger. Two radiocarbon dates were obtained from the charcoal: 3935±35 B.P. (GrN-6368) and 3940±30 B.P. (GrN-6635) (Lanting & Van der Waals, 1976, pp. 39-40).

Periods 2 and 3. At the foot of the ruined barrow, two phases of enlargement could be clearly identified. Both additions were structureless. No graves were found.

Finds (Provinciaal Museum Assen).

1970/XII 26 (fig. 34): Grand-Pressigny dagger of fine-grained, slightly transparent flint, brownish-yellow with grey-white specks and some coarse inclusions. Slightly curved lengthwise. Ventral face flat to slightly convex; dorsal face ground down to make the blade thinner. Hilt-blade transition marked by a series of parallel marginal retouches. The end of the hilt straight and with quite steep retouch; the edges of the blade finished with fine retouch. Upper face of the blade polished and convex, its sides evenly curved. The blade near the hilt rounded-triangular in section. Length: 23.7 cm; greatest width: 3.7 cm; greatest thickness: 1.3 cm.

1970/XII 27 (fig. 34): battle axe of fairly coarse-grained dolerite. Upper side ground concave; axe end straight, slightly curved towards the cutting edge, butt end curved more strongly. Cutting edge, and, to a lesser degree, hammer head, extended downwards. The battle axe is rounded-rectangular to round in section. Length: 15.4 cm; greatest width: 5.5 cm; diameter of shaftthole: 2.4-2.6 cm; shaftthole at 5.1 cm from the butt end.

1970/XII 28 (fig. 34): sherds of a beaker with S-shaped profile; fairly concave base with a markedly protruding foot. Only the foot and one side of the beaker could be restored. The fabric, reddish-brown to blackish in colour, was tempered with fine sand and crushed pottery. The decoration, applied to the top half of the beaker, consists of eleven horizontal bands of impressions, forming a herringbone design. Height: 22.2-22.6 cm; diameter of foot: 6.3-6.4 cm.

1970/XII 29 (fig. 34): small axe of beige-grey, fine-grained flint with some coarser inclusions. Rectangular in section, both faces slightly convex, heavily ground-down near the cutting edge, narrow sides straight and partially polished. On one face, some gloss indicates hafting. Butt face virtually flat and partially polished. Length: 6.7 cm; greatest width, at cutting edge: 3.7 cm; greatest width of the narrow sides: 1.2 cm.

Dating of period 1: Single Grave Culture.

Dating of period 2 and 3: Early Bronze Age/first half of the Middle Bronze Age.

35. *Ext.*, tumulus Kerkweg 3 (1970). Sheet 12G: 244.56/560.90.
Lanting, 1973: pp. 270-271.

Of this tumulus only the levelled remnants survived. It was found to have two phases of construction.

Period 1: a mound probably 15 m across. The soil it stood on contained a thin humic layer, a 20 cm eluvial zone and a poorly-developed illuvial horizon. The old surface lay at 18.05 to 18.25 m above NAP. The central grave, oriented east-west, had a depth of 0.65 m. The rounded-rectangular pit was 3.40 m long and 1.60 m wide. Inside the grave, the coffin had been supported by a construction of stones. Charcoal from the coffin had a radiocarbon age of 3760±35 B.P. (GrN-6340). The grave-goods were formed by two battle axes of Emmen type, one of which was an unfinished, atypical specimen.

Period 2 was marked by an addition of yellow sand, which was visible only on the south side. No grave belonging to it was found. As a peripheral feature it had an interrupted circular ditch with an inner diameter of some 20 m, a width of c. 1 m and a c. 0.80 m depth. The ditch only showed up at a fairly low level, as a well-developed podsol profile had covered the whole barrow thereby partly obliterating the traces of the ditch.

Dating of period 1: late Bell Beaker Culture.

Dating of period 2: first half of the Middle Bronze Age.

36. *Ext.*, tumulus Kerkweg 2 (1970). Sheet 12G: 244.54/560.92.

Lanting, 1973: pp. 264-265.

This site contained the levelled remains of a single-period tumulus. It had been built on well-podsolized soil; the old surface lay at c. 17.75 m above NAP. The east-west, central grave was 2.60 m long, 1.40 m wide, and 0.70 m deep. Remains of a coffin were found inside it. Charcoal from these was C14-dated to 3670±35 B.P. (GrN-6367). A small, flat, triangular knife of flint had been given to the deceased. Only on the south had part of the original stone border survived. West of the grave, within the border, sherds of a Barbed Wire beaker were found lying on the old surface. Dating: Bell Beaker Culture to Early Bronze Age transition (Barbed Wire phase).

37. *Ext.*, tumulus Kerkweg 1 (1970; fig. 35). Sheet 12G: 244.45/560.80.

Lanting & Van der Waals, 1971.

This tumulus too had been levelled. It had been ploughed out to below the old land surface. The barrow probably had a diameter of about 12 m. The central grave, oriented NE-SW, was oval, measuring 1.60 by 1.20 m, and had a depth of 0.70 m. The bottom of the grave lay at c. 17.45 m above NAP. There a vague silhouette appeared, of a crouched body lying on its right side, its head to the south-west. No grave-goods were found.

Dating: probably Single Grave Culture.

38. *Ext.*, tumulus 't Witzand (fig. 36). Sheet 12G: 245.62/560.49.

Jager, 1985.

The bottom slice of this tumulus, which had survived under the arable layer, was excavated in 1983, according to the quadrant method. The barrow probably had not been levelled until the late 19th century, as two boundary ditches on the Ordnance Survey map of 1853 stop dead at this point instead of joining up. This two-period barrow was built on a podsol profile comprising a greyish humic zone 8 to 12 cm thick, a pale grey eluvial horizon of c. 4 cm and a brownish illuvial horizon. In places, the interface between the subsoil and the mound's base was accentuated by a thin layer of charcoal. The old surface lay at c. 18.30 m above NAP. Beneath it, plough scratches were recognized.

Period 1 in the barrow's construction left a mound of yellowish to grey-brown sand, surrounded by a ditch. The latter is somewhat angular and asymmetrical. Its inner diameter is 8.80 to 10.50 m, its width varies from 0.50 to c. 2.20 m, and its depth between c. 0.20 and 1.10 m. The ditch

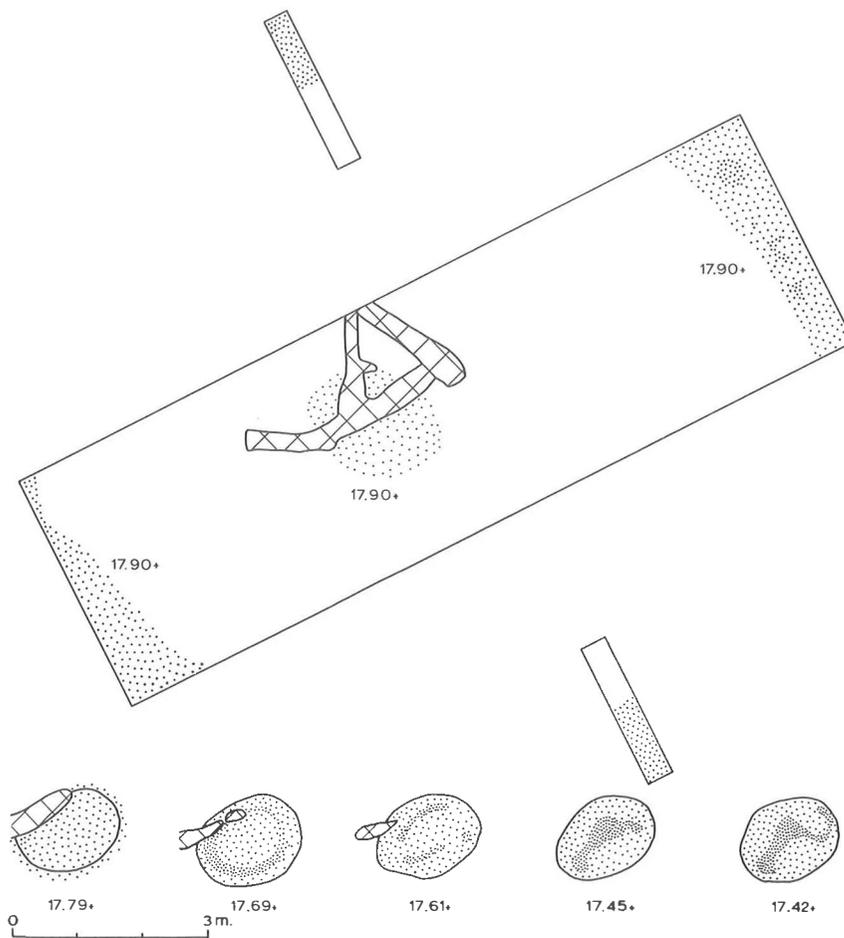


Fig. 35. Eext, tumulus Kerkweg I. Plan and details of the grave. Drawing G. Delger.

shows a curious anomaly: in the south-eastern quadrant it is very narrow and shallow; in the north-east quadrant it is absent over a 3 m stretch, beyond which it continues as a very shallow ditch. Then suddenly it attains its greatest width and depth. Immediately beneath the arable layer, some stones and hollows of ploughed-out stones marked the spot of the central grave. It must have been a very shallow one, with stones along its sides. In the middle of the northern section, the burial pit may be indicated by an interruption of the humic horizon, but no discolouration was visible from above. The grave thus must have been almost on the old surface. The distribution of the stones, and the hiatus in the humic horizon, give the grave a length of c. 2.80 m and a width of c. 1.20 m. Its orientation would have been c. NNE-SSW. Under the western baulk, immediately against the primary grave, a shallow pit was observed which may be older than the barrow. Its fill consisted of grey sand with charcoal flecks. In the southwestern quadrant, a rounded-rectangular pit which partly cuts into the ditch may be a tangential child's grave, although no further evidence was found for this assumption. Its dimensions were 1.20 by 0.50-0.60 m; its depth 0.80 m. Charcoal from the encircling ditch was radiocarbon-dated to 3585 ± 30 B.P. (GrN-12266).

Period 2 also produced an encircling ditch. This, however, was partly hidden in the iron-pan at the foot of the mound, and only manifested itself clearly at a fairly deep level. This ditch had an inner diameter of 15.80-16.80 m, a

width of 0.90-1.40 m, and a depth of 0.70-0.80 m. In the north-western quadrant it had a narrow, 20 cm interruption. *Period 2* lies a little eccentric in relation to the first period: on the north the second ditch cuts through the first, while to the south the ditches are 3.10 m apart. An almost cylindrical pit in the north-east quadrant was visible immediately under the arable layer, and must therefore have been dug from a higher level. It may also belong to the second phase. Just under the arable layer, it measured 1.20 by 1.30 m; from this level it extended downward another metre. Nothing was found in it. The central grave of *period 2* remained undetected.

Moreover, a dozen later burials were uncovered in the slope at the foot of the barrow. Most probably, they are Early Medieval. In three of them, bone remains were still present, which showed that the bodies had been lying head to the west, feet 'downhill'. In two cases they could be seen to have been in an extended, supine position. All graves but one were radially oriented; none of them contained artefacts. The grave with the contrasting orientation cuts into a cart-track that runs across the flank of the mound. The ruts belong to an ancient road, which was recorded over a length of about 2 km. To the west of the tumulus, some sub-recent tracks also appeared.

Dating of *period 1* and *2*: first half of the Middle Bronze Age.

39. Eext, Beaker grave Vijzelkampen. Sheet 12G: 247.2/560.1. Unpublished.

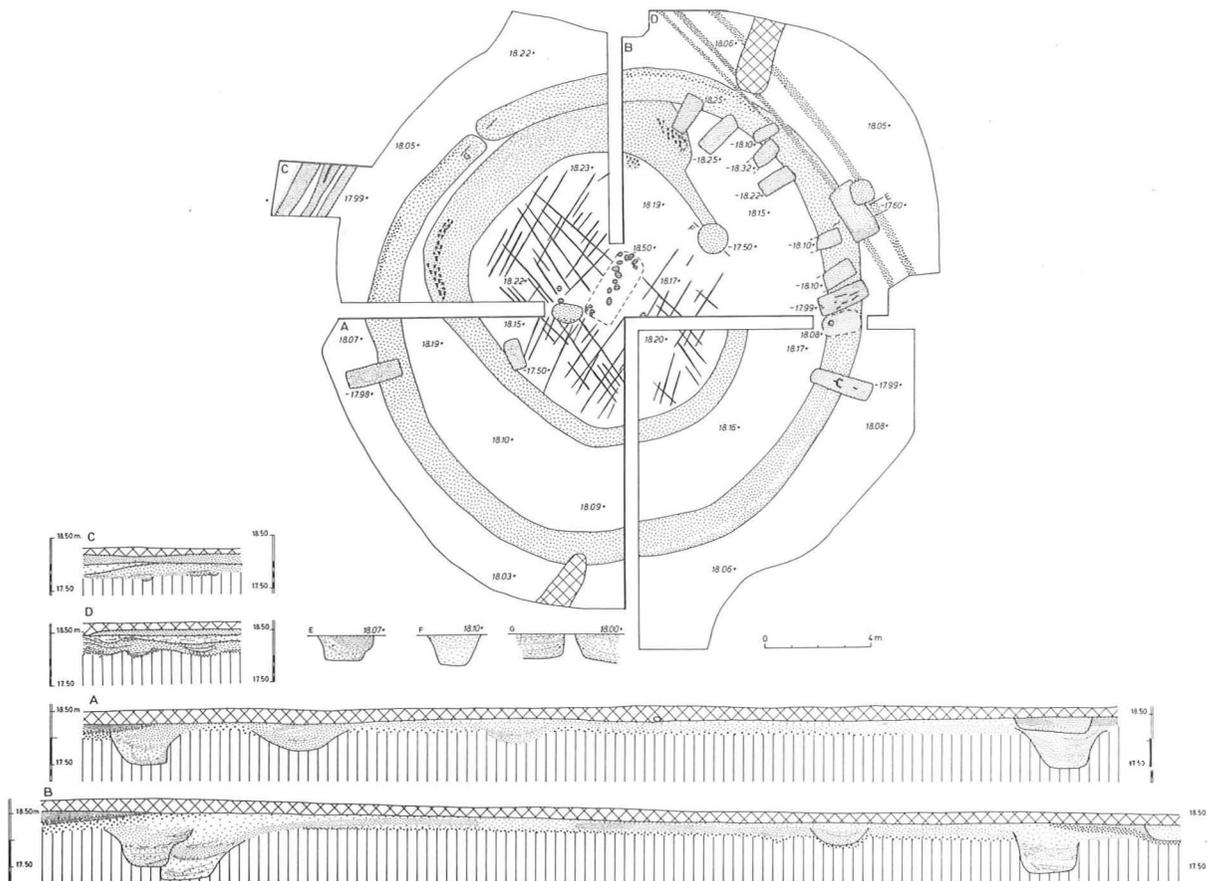


Fig. 36. Eext, tumulus 't Witzand. Plan and sections. Drawing G. Delger.

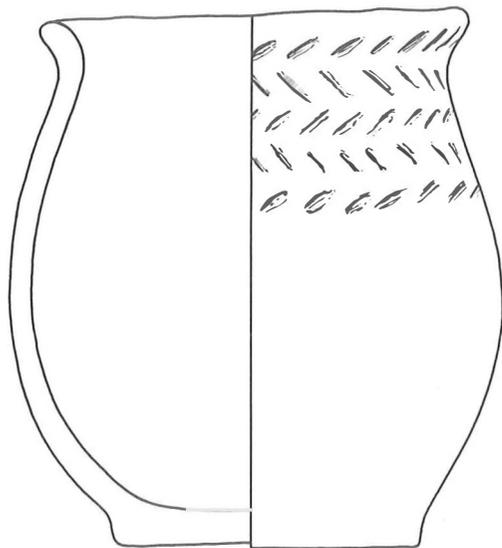


Fig. 37. Eext. Single Grave beaker of type 1d, from the Vijzelkampen. Most probably from a destroyed Beaker grave. Drawing H.R. Roelink, scale 2:3.

In 1937 the Provinciaal Museum in Assen bought a small Single Grave beaker of Mr. Doddema of Eext. The beaker's provenance was Mr. Doddema's sand pit in the Vijzelkampen. Nothing is known about the circumstances. The beaker is likely to have accompanied a Single Grave burial.

Find (Provinciaal Museum Assen).

1937/V 1⁶ (fig. 37): small, virtually intact Single Grave beaker, type 1d, of yellowish-brown, rather thick-walled ware with fine sand temper. S-shaped profile, with a high waist, wide belly, and almost flat base with markedly protruding foot. Decoration below the rim, consisting of five more-or-less horizontal bands of ill-defined oblique lines forming a herringbone design. Height: 10.5-10.8 cm; diameter of mouth: 8.4-8.7 cm; of belly: 9.7-9.9 cm; of foot: 5.9-6.3 cm.

Dating: Single Grave Culture.

40. Eext, tumulus Gieterstraat (1982; fig. 38). Sheet 12G: 246.00/559.23.

Lanting, 1984.

At the outset of the excavations, this tumulus was found to be in a very bad condition: the south-eastern quadrant had largely been removed and subsequently used as a rubbish dump; a large part of the western half had been ploughed-out, as the barrow had been in a wooded bank forming a field boundary; in the centre a recent disturbance reached down to below the bottom of the primary grave; some stout trees had sunk their roots into the mound, and

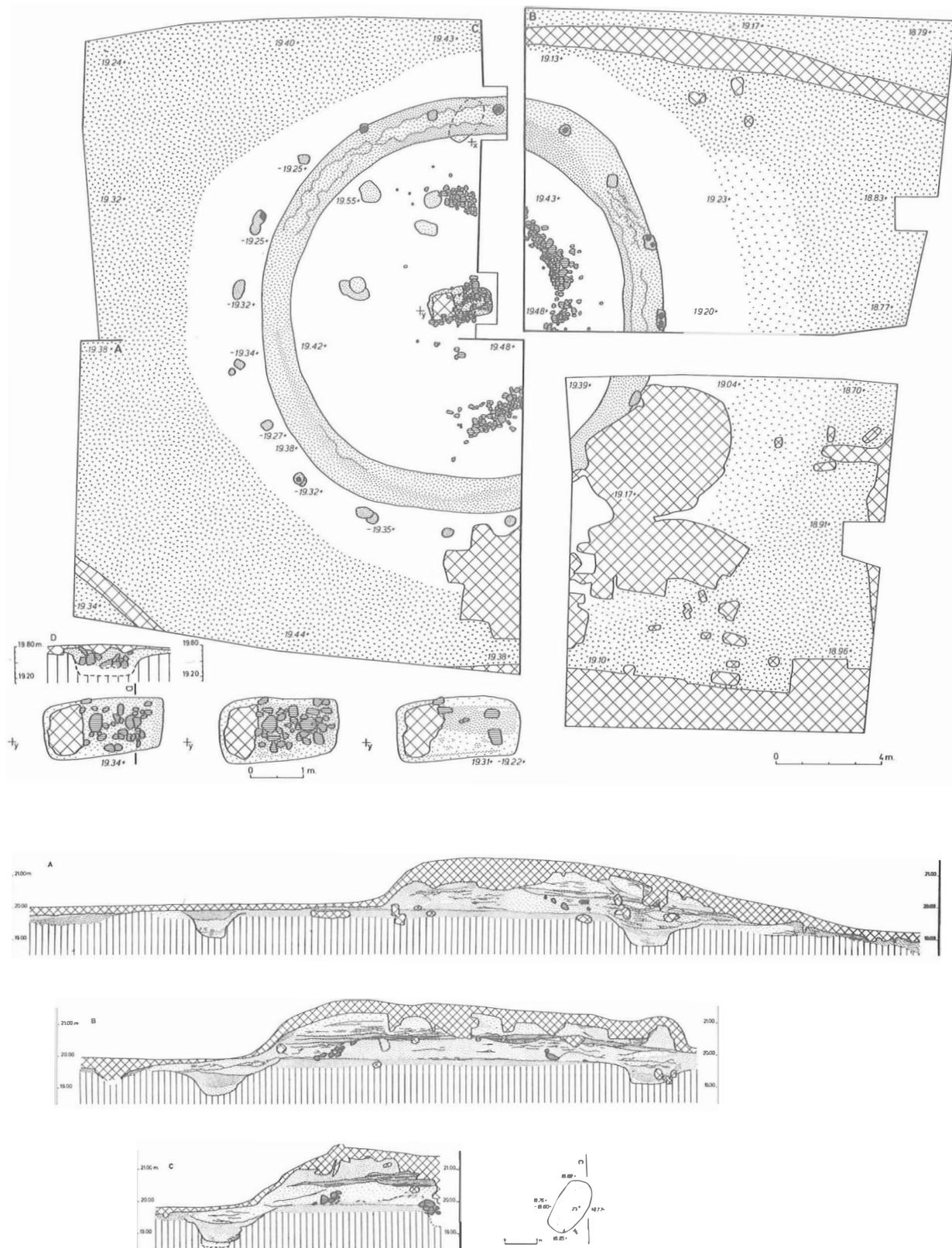


Fig. 38. Eext, tumulus Gieterstraat. Plan, sections, and details of the central primary grave and the Beaker burial. Drawing G. Delger.

even during the excavations it proved to be something of a rabbit-warren. The two-period tumulus was investigated according to the quadrant method.

Period 1. The primary mound had been built of dull yellowish-brown sand with sandy sods, on old arable land. The fossil soil profile showed a thin humic layer, accentuated in places by an accumulation of infiltrated material, and a brownish-grey layer of 20 cm thickness. The old surface lay at 19.80-19.90 m above NAP. This barrow, somewhat flattened at the top, had a height of 0.70-0.80 m. Initially, this primary mound had been enclosed by an encircling ditch at its foot, but this had been filled in shortly after, when the barrow was expanded. The ditch had a rounded V-shaped section; its sides had crumbled almost all around. In the bottom fine layers of silt had accumulated with yellow sand and darker material, both from the tumulus, followed by large lumps of dark ground, and then by soil of the same colour and texture as the mound's body. The ditch's outer diameter was about 15.80 m, its width 1.40-2.20 m, and its depth 0.70-1.15 m. The mound itself must have been about 19 m across. Around the grave, in the body of the mound, a stone packing with a diameter of 8 m was found; in the western half it had largely disappeared, which is probably due to the activities of stone-diggers. Two disturbances correspond closely with the stone circle. Yellow sand from the burial pit, surrounded the grave as a little bank. The middle of the western section gave a good view of how the sand had been thrown onto the old surface, the dim-coloured layer first. The grave's orientation was almost east-west; its shape rounded-rectangular and its dimensions 2.20 by 1.10-1.20 m. The western end had been disturbed. Here, the stones heaped onto the grave had also disappeared in the disturbance which reached to below the bottom of the grave. Although this could not be ascertained, most probably a tree coffin containing the body had rested on some stones, in an eccentric position near the northern wall of the shaft. The bottom lay at 19.22 m above NAP. No grave-goods were found. Charcoal gleaned from the sand of the pit's fill was radiocarbon-dated (GrN-11742): 3665±30 B.P. As the grave itself contains hardly any charcoal, it is quite likely that this rather great age is to be explained by the grave's having been dug through a pre-existing hearth. Under the mound another patch of charcoal was uncovered.

Period 2. The secondary mound was constructed of grey sand and sods. This gave the tumulus its height of 1.70 m and its 21 m diameter. The individual sods, overlapping like roof-tiles, could be vaguely discerned, especially a layer of thick humic sods in the north-eastern slope. Quite probably, the primary mound was flattened before being added to: in its top the thin organic layer, visible on its slopes, is missing. There was only a 10-20 cm thick eluvial horizon, with secondary leaching also, set off by thick infiltration veins. The flattening is clearly illustrated in the sections of the south and east baulks, by a thin organic layer on the slope, meeting the eluvial horizon's upper vein at an angle. This period's peripheral structure was formed by a regular, single, widely-spaced post circle, set into the slope of the primary mound. The circle had a diameter of about 16 m; 17 of its postholes were identified; originally, it must have comprised 19 posts. Some of the posts had been set in the ditch fill; but to the south-west especially, they were just outside the ditch. Double postholes—in one case maybe even a triple posthole—indicate repairs carried out on the circle. In the north-eastern quadrant, the posts' cores contrast sharply with the yellow sand fill of the double postholes and their accompanying infiltration veins. The second-period grave was missing. There was, however, a recent disturbance just beside the centre-point of the post circle, so presumably the grave had been destroyed by it. In

the bottom of the disturbed ground some cremated remains were found, which might have come from the lost grave. But they might also belong to a later burial of the Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age. In the slope of the tumulus a ditch had been cut right down to, or even into, the primary mound's surface. This ditch, U-shaped in section, had a fill of pale yellow sand with infiltration veins. Its diameter was 14-15 m; its bottom lay at 20.00-20.30 m above NAP. In the primary mound's body and its subsoil, pottery and flint were encountered, among them Bell Beaker fragments and TRB sherds of Drouwen A phase. They point to occupation on this site or in the immediate vicinity.

In the digging of a small trench across the ditch along the western section of the north baulk—for the purpose of obtaining a section of the ditch fill—two small vessels from a Beaker flat grave were hit upon. They were broken by the spade, but sieving the spoil brought to light all fragments. The spot where they had been, close together, was clearly at the middle of the eastern side of a grave. Although the latter had largely been destroyed by the cutting of the circular ditch, its circumference could be clearly established. The burial pit was visible only in the layered cover-sand subsoil, and had to be recorded in four parts, at different levels. It was NE-SW oriented, and rounded-rectangular with a curved eastern long side. Its length was 1.80 m, its width 0.90-1.00 m. The pit's fill consisted of pale yellowish-grey sand, here and there containing grey patches with charcoal flecks in them. No traces of a coffin or a body silhouette were observed. The bottom of the burial pit lay at c. 18.60 m above NAP. There was no sign of a foundation trench.

Finds (Provinciaal Museum Assen)

1982/XII 23a (fig. 39): small AOO beaker of type 2IIb, reconstructed from sherds, of ochre to reddish-brown, in parts yellowish-black ware with a black core. Fine sand temper. S-shaped profile and almost flat base. The decoration on the inside of the rim consists of five horizontal cord impressions. Probably broken when the encircling ditch was dug. Height: c. 11.5 cm; diameter of rim: c. 10.5 cm; of belly: c. 8.6 cm; of base: 5.7-5.8 cm.

1982/XII 23b (fig. 39): small polypod bowl, with six feet, yellowish to dirty-yellow ware with a black core; tempered with fine sand and crushed pottery. The decoration consists of three or four horizontal bands of short, deep, oblique spatula impressions. Height: c. 4.7 cm; diameter of rim: c. 10 cm.

Dating of Beaker grave: AOO group.

Dating of period 1: first half of the Middle Bronze Age.

Dating of period 2: second half of the Middle Bronze Age.

41. *Ext.*, tumulus Bergakkers I (1971; fig. 40). Sheet 12G: 244.44/559.63.

Lanting & Van der Waals, 1971.

This tumulus lying in arable land, had completely lost its body. Today's surface lay at c. 16.40 m above NAP. The barrow had measured c. 18 m across. At its centre, under the arable layer, a rounded-rectangular foundation trench manifested itself, 0.25-0.40 m wide, oriented east-west and with inner dimensions of 2.30 by 1.40 m. To the west, the little trench showed a curious widening. In this widening a piece of charred plank was sampled for C14-dating: 4170±50 B.P. (GrN-11921). In the bottom of this trench (0.40-0.50 m under the present surface), eleven, maybe twelve, small postholes appeared. At this level, the foundation trench showed a small interruption on the south-west side. Probably the trench is what remained of a small beehive grave with its bottom on or just below the old surface. Any grave-goods would have disappeared when the land was brought into cultivation. Especially south and west of the tumulus, a great deal of TRB material was found.

Dating: Single Grave Culture.

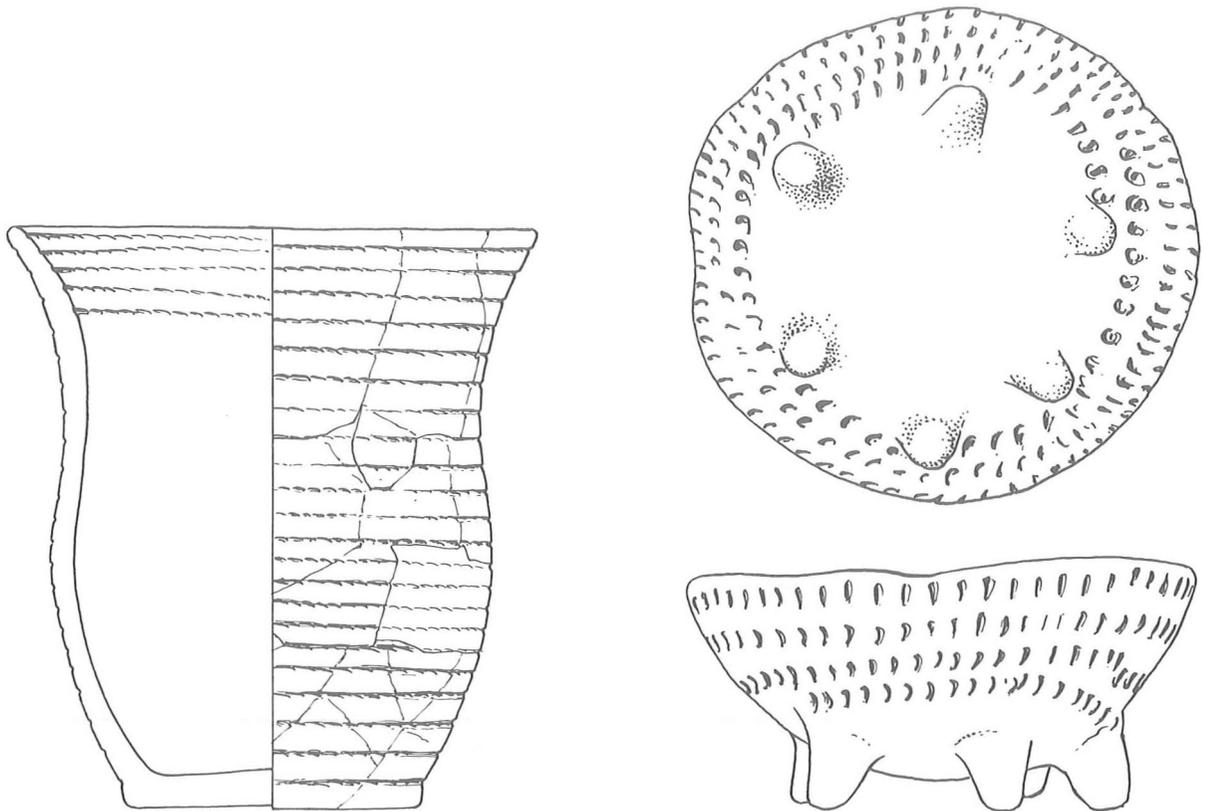


Fig. 39. Eext, tumulus Gieterstraat. Small AOO beaker of type 2IIb and polypod bowl from the Beaker flat grave. Drawing H.R. Roelink, scale 2:3.

42. *Eext*, tumulus Bergakkers II (1971; fig. 41). Sheet 12G: 244.47/559.65.

Lanting & Van der Waals, 1971.

This tumulus had been levelled and ploughed out to below the old surface. Of the old soil profile, only part of the eluvial horizon survived. The tumulus was a four-period construction.

Period 1: the mound had a peripheral structure consisting of a regular, threefold post circle with an outer diameter of c. 10 m. No grave belonging to this phase was found; it may well have been on the old surface and thus been ploughed out. However, four postholes at the centre showed the position of a mortuary house, measuring 1.70 by 0.80 m.

Period 2 was marked by an encircling ditch with a rounded V-shaped section, an inner diameter of c. 10 m and a width of 1.20-2.00 m. It must have been about 1 m deep. In its construction the postholes of the northern part of the old post circle were cut through. In the south-eastern quadrant the inner edge of the ditch was lined with yellow sand, contrasting with the ditch's dark, grey fill. Obviously the ditch had been deepened at some point. This is confirmed by a section in the south-east quadrant: two ditch bottoms are clearly recognizable here. No central grave was found for period 2.

Period 3 saw a peripheral structure of 15 widely-spaced posts forming a single circle. A number of the postholes showed a yellow fill round a dark core. The circle's diameter was c. 13 m. The ten tangential burials, of which five had been dug into the ditch fill partly or completely, most probably belong to this period. In view of their small

dimensions, two of them are likely to be children's graves. One grave lay well within the foot of the barrow. In all ten, traces of tree coffins were observed: in five of them, the pattern of iron accumulation showed the contours of extended bodies.

Period 4: a double circle of closely-spaced posts, with an outer diameter of c. 15 m, enclosed the barrow in this phase. On the north, the postholes disappeared from view, the posts having been set into the now lost tumulus body.

In the SW quadrant, a Beaker burial was discovered that had partly been destroyed by the encircling ditch, by a tangential burial and by nine postholes of the threefold post circle. As it is in an eccentric position in relation to the tumulus, it probably was a flat grave. The grave had a WNW-ESE orientation and probably a rounded-trapezoid circumference. It was 2.45 m long and 1.20 m wide at its eastern end. Along the northern side and following the edge of the pit at the western end, a coffin wall appeared. Charcoal from this had a C14-age of 3945 ± 40 B.P. (GrN-6349). Less distinctly, a silhouette was seen. It showed a body in a flexed position, on its right side, head to the west and facing south. Grave goods lay in front of the stomach: a crushed Single Grave beaker of type 1b; a flint knife, 9.6 cm long, which had lost its tip before burial; and a blade-like flint flake, which was presumably not deliberately deposited with the body, but got into the grave pit by accident. The bottom of the grave lay at 0.60-0.70 m below the present surface.

Finds (Provinciaal Museum Assen).

1970/XII 17a (fig. 42): small beaker of yellowish-brown ware, slightly burnt black in part. Fine sand temper, S-

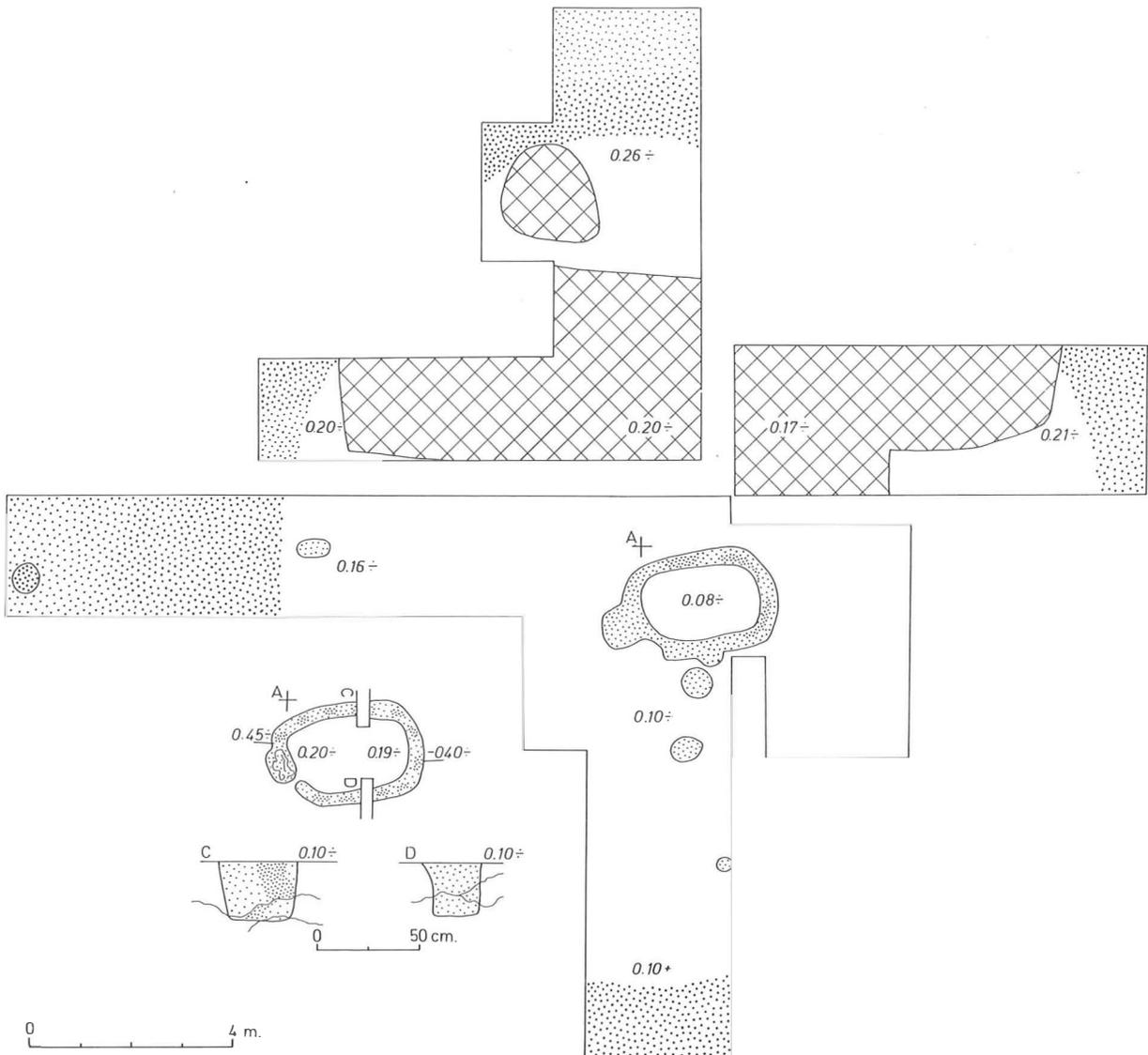


Fig. 40. Eext, tumulus Bergakkers I. Plan and section. Drawing G. Delger.

shaped profile, somewhat asymmetrical belly and flat base. The decoration consists of five horizontal grooves applied to the vessel's upper half. Height: 13.8-14.1 cm; diameter of rim: c. 11 cm; of belly: 10.8-11.2 cm; of base: 5.2-5.5 cm. 1970/XII 17b (fig. 42): knife of beige-grey, fine-grained flint. The tip is missing. Pronounced percussion bulb, irregular retouch along the edges. Length: 9.6 cm; greatest width: 2.6 cm; greatest thickness: 1.0 cm. 1970/XII 17b (fig. 42): blade-like flake of golden brown, somewhat transparent flint. The distal end is missing. Length: 3.9 cm; greatest width: 1.5 cm. Dating of flat grave: Single Grave Culture. Dating of periods 1 and 2: transition of first half of the Middle Bronze Age to second half of the Middle Bronze Age. Dating of periods 3 and 4: second half of the Middle Bronze Age.

43. *Eext*, tumulus Bergakkers III (1971; fig. 43). Sheet 12G: 244.55/559.66.

Lanting & Van der Waals, 1971.

This tumulus also had been levelled and ploughed out to below the old surface. In the centre, part of the orange illuvial horizon remained of the old soil profile; towards the edges an eluvial horizon had survived in part. At the centre, the recent digging of a pit with a 2-m diameter had brought to light some cremated remains and three sherds of what had probably been a *Kümmerkeramik* pot.

Period 1. The barrow had had an encircling ditch with an inner diameter of c. 9.20 m and a width of c. 0.50 m. Its depth was 15-20 cm below today's surface layer. In its grey fill, sods were vaguely recognizable, which suggests the ditch's having been filled in deliberately. In that case it could have been a foundation trench in the foot of a Neolithic barrow. However, another possibility is that the encir-

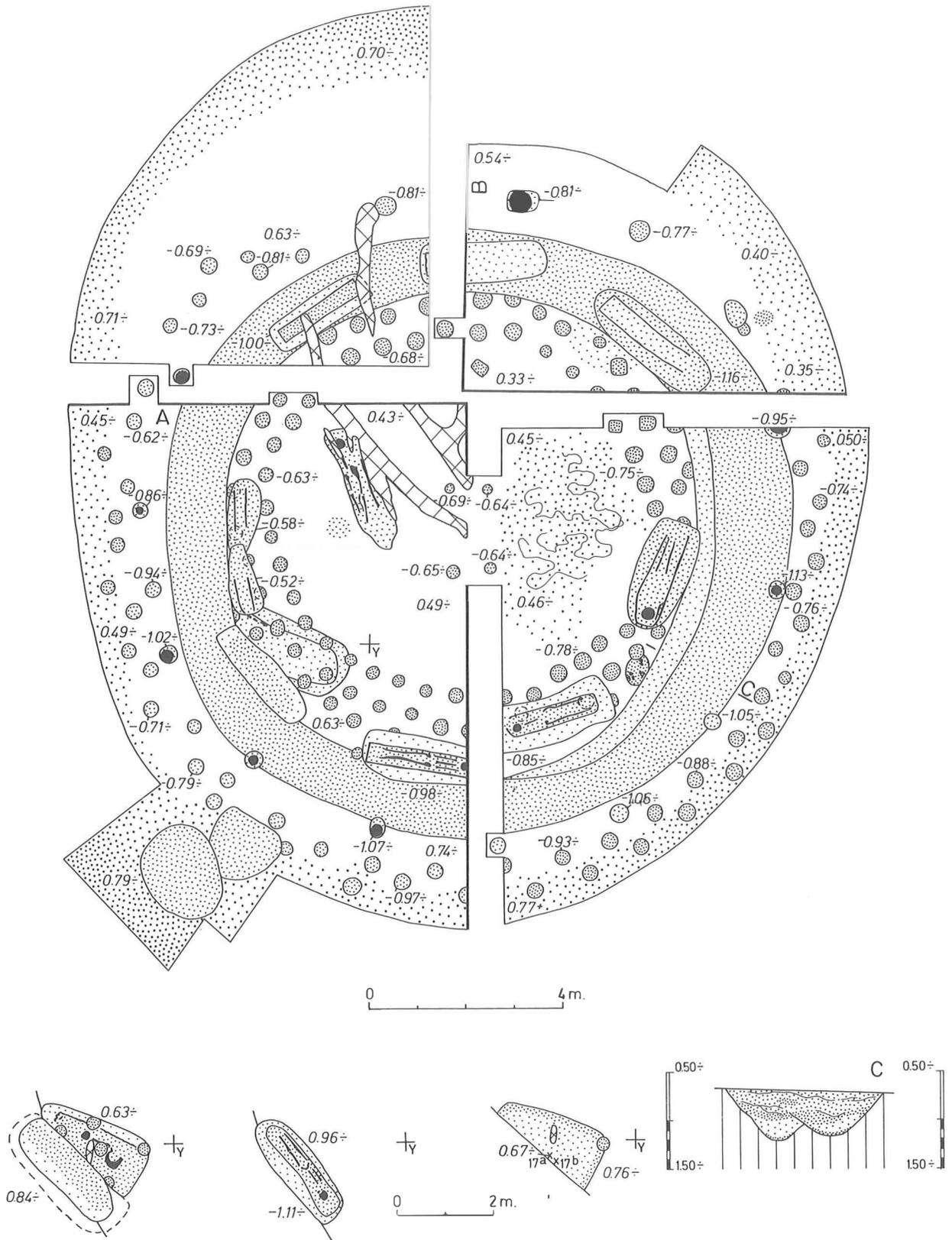


Fig. 41. Eext, tumulus Bergakkers II. Plan, sections and details of the Beaker burial. Drawing G. Delger.

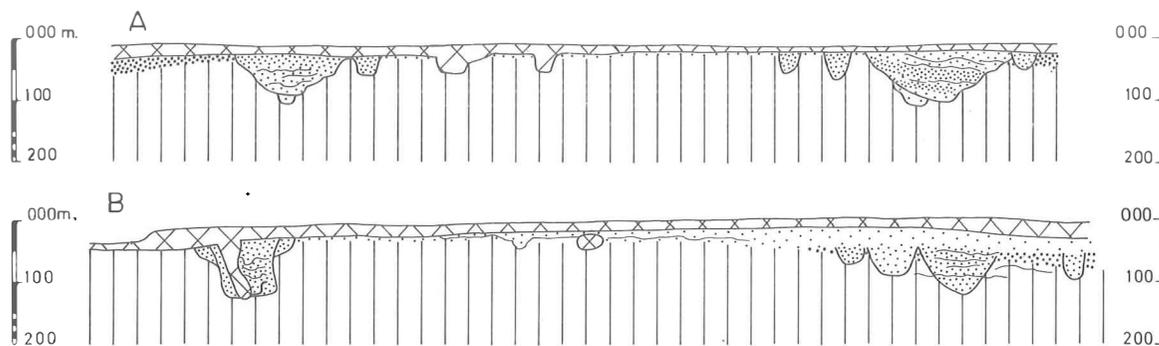


Fig. 41 (continued).

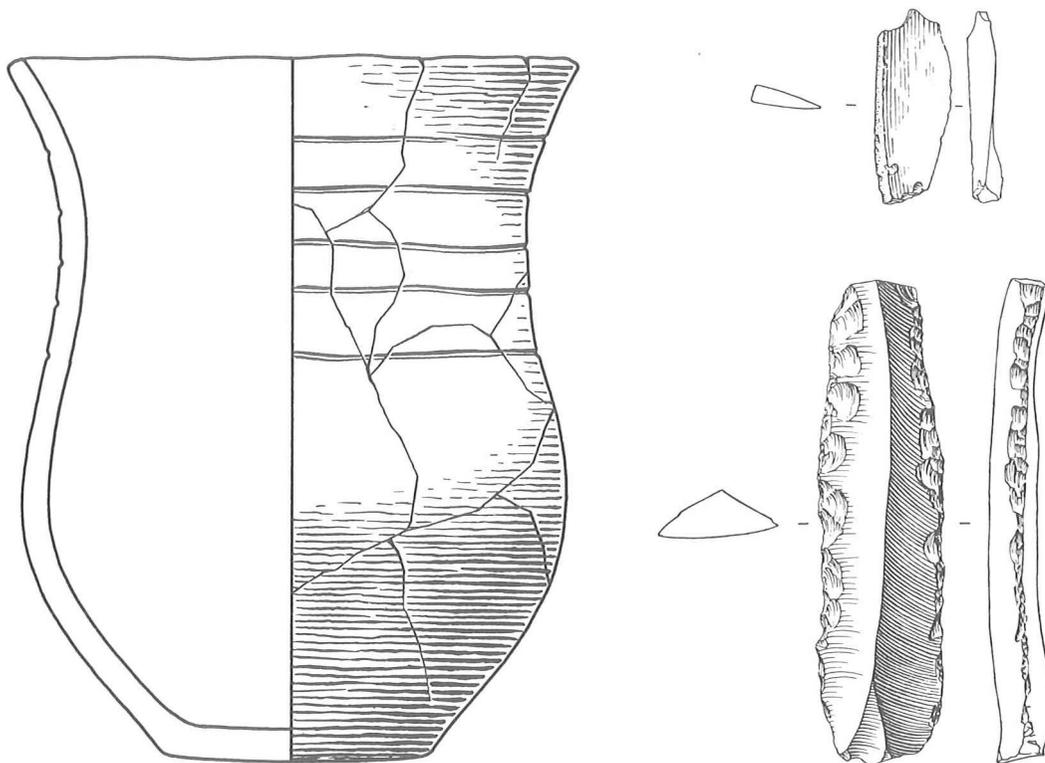


Fig. 42. Eext, tumulus Bergakkers II. Single Grave beaker of type Ib, knife and flake from the Beaker flat grave. Drawing J.M. Smit, scale 2:3.

cling ditch was the peripheral structure of a barrow built in the first half of the Middle Bronze Age, and that it was back-filled for obscure reasons (cf. Eext, tumulus Gieterstraat, no. 40). The burial belonging to it was not found; probably it was a shallow grave, destroyed by the recent disturbance.

Period 2 had a peripheral structure of 12 widely-spaced posts forming a single circle with a diameter of c. 11.50 m. A number of the postholes had a dark core in their fill, some even with charcoal. This had a radiocarbon age of 3240 ± 35 B.P. (GrN-6747). A tangential burial, cutting period 1's ditch, belongs to period 2. In this grave, a tree coffin with the silhouette of an extended body appeared. The primary grave of period 2 was not located. At the

centre of the site, south of the recent disturbance and partly cut by it, an L-shaped stain accentuated by heavy iron accumulation manifested itself. It may have formed beneath two, more or less rectangular, grave pits. As the centre-point of the post circle lies at the edge of the stain's NW-SE oriented leg, the latter may be what remains of period 2's lost grave. Finally, part of an encircling ditch was uncovered. This had an outer diameter of c. 16 m, a width of 0.60-0.80 m and a depth of 0.55-0.70 m below today's arable layer. The ditch may date to the Late Bronze or Early Iron Age.

Furthermore, two Beaker flat graves appeared in the barrow site.

Flat grave 1 lay in the south-western quadrant and was

- Dating of period 1: Bell Beaker Culture or first half of the Middle Bronze Age.
 Dating of period 2: second half of the Middle Bronze Age.
44. *Eext, hunebed* D12 (Kampakkers). Sheet 12G: 244.70/559.50.
 Van Giffen, 1925/1927.
 Not investigated.
45. *Eext, hunebed* D13b. Sheet 12G: 244.90/559.19.
 Van Giffen, 1944b.
 In 1927 van Giffen discovered the remains of two small *hunebedden* immediately WNW of the Eext 'burial-vault' (no. 47). The two megalithic tombs had been destroyed long before, and their sites were recognizable only as patches of rock-waste. The investigation of D13b did not yield much information. Apart from some TRB material, the sherds of an early Bell Beaker of type 2Ib were retrieved.
46. *Eext, hunebed* D13c (1927). Sheet 12G: 244.86/559.13.
 Van Giffen, 1944b.
 Here it proved possible to reconstruct the plan of the small destroyed *hunebed*. The finds consisted of TRB material and two beaker sherds with zones of cord ornament.
47. *Eext, hunebed* D13 ('the Eext burial-vault'). Sheet 12G: 244.92/559.10.
 Van Giffen, 1925/1927; 1943.
 This *hunebed* with steps leading down into it—unique in the Netherlands—was investigated by Van Giffen in 1927. In the 18th century, however, the antiquary Mr. van Lier had preceded him, so that the 1927 excavations yielded hardly any finds.
48. *Eext, tumulus* III (1927). Sheet 12G: 245.08/559.02.
 Van Giffen, 1944d.
 This tumulus was examined from a trench 1 m wide, running north-south, which was widened at the centre in order to lay open the principal grave. The mound was 16 m across, 1.40 m high, and consisted of yellow-brown sand with infiltration veins. The fossil soil profile showed no signs of podzolization; its surface lay at c. 18.20 m above NAP. The central grave was rounded-rectangular in shape, 2.10 by 0.95 m, and had been dug c. 0.40 m into the soil. Its orientation was WSW-ENE. Some erratic stones covered the grave, in which no artefacts were found. A hand-written note (among van Giffen's collected works, no. 93) by Mr. Essing of Eext, amateur-archaeologist in the thirties, and correspondent of the Provinciaal Museum at Assen, says that levelling the barrow revealed a tangential secondary burial in the north-eastern quadrant. In this grave a particularly fine tree coffin appeared. It was photographically recorded (B.A.I. 1932b: 166-167).
 Dating: first half of the Middle Bronze Age.
49. *Eext, hunebed* D13a. Sheet 12G: 245.03/558.85.
 Van Giffen, 1944a; Bakker, 1979: p. 155.
 Site spotted in 1923 and dug over by the discoverer. Later investigations therefore revealed little more than a number of boulders, several TRB sherds, and a virtually intact collared flask. Judging from the pottery (phase C, possibly also B, and at any rate G) Bakker thinks that Van Giffen was wrong in believing the grave to have been a stone cist, and that it is more likely to have been a small *hunebed*, dismantled long ago. However, as not a single trace remained visible in the ground, a shallow stone cist seems the more plausible explanation.
50. *Eext, tumulus* IV. Sheet 12G: 245.10/558.01.
 Van Giffen, 1944e.
 Early in 1930, this oval tumulus, oriented north-south, was threatened by reclamation works. The rescue excavations were carried out according to the quadrant method with double east-west baulks. The mound, 16 m long, 7 m wide and c. 0.50 m high, consisted of dirty-yellow sand on a subsoil that lacked a clear soil profile. The old surface lay at c. 17.50 m above NAP. In the north-eastern 'sextant' a widely-spaced stone packing was encountered. In the north-western sextant was a grave, oriented WSW-ENE, with stones heaped onto it and beside it on the north. The pit was 2.15 m long, 0.90 m wide and c. 0.40 m deep. The middle-western sextant yielded a badly weathered battle axe of Emmen type, from the body of the mound.
 Dating: Early Bronze Age/first half of the Middle Bronze Age.
51. *Eexterhalte, tumulus* (1975). Sheet 12G: 245.24/558.48.
 Harsema, 1977.
 This tumulus had lost its third dimension. As soon as the arable layer had been peeled away, three grave pits and the six postholes of a widely-spaced post circle showed.
 The grave of *period 1* was rectangular to oval in shape, measuring 1.50 by 1.10 m, and c. 0.80 m deep under today's arable layer. It was oriented SW-NE. Its fill showed a dark edge surrounding a lighter-coloured centre of 1.30 by 0.50-0.70 m. This colour contrast probably points to the presence of a coffin. Inside it, the silhouette was observed of a flexed body lying on its right side, head to the south-west. Some enamel of the molars was still present. Touching the cranium, a 10-cm flint blade was found upright, point down.
 In *period 2* the barrow had a diameter of 15-16 m, as could be seen from the iron pan perimeter. With it belongs a widely-spaced, single post circle with a diameter of 11.60-12.40 m. Charcoal from one of the postholes was radiocarbon-dated to 3790±60 B.P. (GrN-11919), which is much too early. Within the post circle were uncovered, side-by-side, two tangential burials. The outer grave was seen to contain a tree coffin. Along its walls were two supporting stones. The inner grave quite probably had a similar coffin: there were marks in it pointing to recently extracted stones.
 Dating of period 1: Single Grave Culture.
 Dating of period 2: second half of the Middle Bronze Age.
52. *Eext, tumulus* (1938). Sheet 12G: 244.30/558.61.
 Van Giffen, 1940 (short reference).
 In 1928 the Provinciaal Museum of Drenthe in Assen acquired a number of finds that were said to have come from this tumulus and from one a little further to the south-east (inv.nos.: 1928, 13-15, 17, 25-28).⁷ The three barbed flint arrowheads, fragments of a small bronze dagger, and two urns had been found in a barrow (see no. 53) west of the Eext burial-vault (no. 47), while 2 other urns (inv.nos. 1928, 27-28)⁸ were said to have been found in this 'barrow a little to the west of the tumulus mentioned under inv.nos. 13-15, 17, and 25-26'. Almost certainly, the barrows were mixed up, and probably the 2 urns came from secondary burials in this tumulus (no. 52). A short while after this acquisition, the centre of this barrow was examined, without any of the findings being recorded. No artefacts were discovered. In 1938, the mound having been levelled meanwhile, its remains were re-investigated. These excavations revealed nothing but a patch of charcoal in the north-eastern quadrant. The diameter of this grey-sand tumulus had been about 10 m.
 Dating: Early Bronze Age/first half of the Middle Bronze Age.
53. *Eext, tumulus* (1940). Sheet 12G: 244.07/558.40.
 Brunsting, 1942.
 Very probably, 3 barbed flint arrowheads, fragments of a small bronze dagger and 2 urns, sold to the Provinciaal Museum in Assen in 1928, had been dug out of this tumulus (see no. 52). Only the south-eastern half of the mound, which lay on a field boundary, survived. As these remains were due to be destroyed in the course of reclamation works, it was decided to excavate them. In the centre, a deep recent pit reached down to below the bottom of the central grave. The barrow was found to have been constructed in a single phase. The soil profile below it showed a

well-developed profile, consisting of a humic layer, a 10 cm thick eluvial horizon and an illuvial zone. The body of the mound had been built out of sods, with sand from an encircling ditch thrown up against it. The mound's diameter was c. 16 m; its height 1 m. In its centre was a burial shaft, the circumference of which could just be discerned outside the recent disturbance. Its orientation was NNW-SSE; its dimensions were 3.00 by 1.25-1.75 m and its depth c. 0.70 m. Around this pit, yellow sand lay about on the old surface. Inside the grave, traces of a tree coffin could be seen along the eastern side. The northernmost 30 cm of the pit had been deepened by another 0.30 m. In the fill of this little 'extra grave' a shadow silhouette was observed; the position of the body was no longer to be ascertained, however. The barrow's peripheral structure consisted of an encircling ditch with an inner diameter of c. 11.80 m, a width of c. 1.80 and a depth of c. 0.70 m. In the south-west quadrant a cremation came to light. It was said that a small urn had been found when the north-west half was levelled, but this had been lost. This brings the number of secondary burials in the tumulus up to 3, probably even 4.

Dating: transition of the Early Bronze Age to the first half of the Middle Bronze Age.

54. *Eext*, tumulus 'Huttenheuvel'. Sheet 12G: 244.76/558.25. Van Giffen, 1930: pp. 140-142; fig. 109.

In 1926, only part of this tumulus was opened up, in a 4 by 4 m excavation. Van Giffen was short of funds for carrying out the investigations in a more satisfactory way. Thus, no sections were drawn either. The barrow's owner had been digging part of it away, which had necessitated excavation. At the start, the north-eastern part was found to have been destroyed, the disturbance reaching deep into the subsoil. Therefore, the excavation had to be located a little to the west of the mound's centre. The old surface lay at c. 17.20 m above NAP; the mound was 16-18 m across and c. 1.20 m high. The photographs taken at the time show a single-period construction. Under it, Van Giffen encountered an oval 'ditch', interrupted on the east. In the photos, however, this more closely resembles a round to oval pit, measuring 2.90 by 2.50 m. Towards the bottom, the pit became smaller. At a deeper level, c. 16.50 m above NAP, rectangular traces manifested themselves, but these were not recorded photographically. Van Giffen interpreted these stains as the remains of a hut-like construction within the barrow, in which the dead person had been laid to rest. In fact, it probably is an old settlement pit that has nothing to do with the barrow. At various levels against the north and south sides of the pit, sherds were found belonging to a so-called *Wellenband* pot of the Single Grave Culture. From the position of the sherds it can be concluded that the pit had probably been c. 0.65 m deep. The rectangular stains may have been caused by leaching from the pit. In 1928 the Provinciaal Museum in Assen acquired a small flint axe, a battle axe of type A/B, and a flint blade 12.3 cm long, which the barrow's owner had found 'at the foot of the mound'. Among archaeologists this would be interpreted as 'at the edge of the mound', but it cannot be ruled out that the man meant 'the base of the mound'. In that case, it would point to a grave at ground level, and the finds might be from the principal burial. This suggestion is supported, although not proved, by some of the photos, in which the pit's south and east walls are seen to have sagging veins of infiltration. These could be indicative of an intermediate ditch. Such a ditch was not observed in the excavation, however. Thus there are indications that the central grave may have been immediately south-east of the excavated area, in a somewhat eccentric position under the mound. Probably the grave-goods appeared during the final demolition of the barrow remains, but no further details are known.

Finds (Provinciaal Museum, Assen).

1928/IV 1 (fig. 44): rather short, squat battle axe of grey-green, somewhat weathered very fine-grained dolerite. Top slightly convex; also slightly curved lengthwise. Underside convex, ground somewhat hollow round the shaft-hole; almost straight lengthwise, extended downwards towards the cutting edge. In section the axe end is virtually oval; the butt end of the battle axe is rounded-rectangular in section. Length: 14.5 cm; greatest width: 6.4 cm; diameter of shaft-hole: 2.1-2.2 cm at a distance of 4.7 cm from the butt.

1928/IV 2 (fig. 44): slender, slightly curved blade of beige-grey to blue-grey, fine-grained flint. It was struck off a pyramidal core; its distal end, which shows natural re-touch, curving inward. Length: 12.3 cm; greatest width: 1.8 cm; greatest thickness: 0.6 cm.

1928/IV 3 (fig. 44): small axe of beige-grey flint with some yellowish bands. Faces slightly convex; narrow sides almost flat and only partially polished. One of the sides is concave lengthwise. Rectangular section. The end is levelled to a thin and rounded butt. Slightly damaged cutting edge. Length: 10.3 cm; greatest width, at cutting edge: 4.7 cm; greatest width of narrow sides: 1.5 cm.

Dating: Single Grave Culture.

55. *Eext*, *hunebed* D14 (Eexterhalte). Sheet 12G: 245.20/558.02.

Van Giffen, 1925/1927; Bakker, 1979: p. 155.

This passage grave was investigated by Van Giffen in 1927, but its pottery was not published. The earliest pottery dates to TRB phases Drouwen B and C. Much of the incised ware, however, belongs to later phases.

56. *Eext*, tumulus 'Hillig Meer'. Sheet 12G: 243.81/557.61. Van Giffen, 1941d.

This tumulus, threatened by reclamation works, was investigated in 1939, from two trenches cut into it crosswise. Subsequently, only the south-west quadrant was excavated as a whole. The mound's centre had been disturbed to below the old surface. The latter lay at c. 16.95 m above NAP. The single-phase barrow had been built on hardly podsolized soil, and consisted of yellowish sand strongly marbled with infiltration veins. Its diameter was c. 14 m, its height c. 1.50 m. In its slope, some humic patches probably were the remains of sods. The central grave, arranged on the old surface, could still be vaguely discerned as a somewhat rounded stain.

Dating: Early Bronze Age/first half of the Middle Bronze Age.

57. *Eext(erhalte)*, tumulus 'De Ketenberg'. Sheet 12G: 244.09/557.38.

Van Giffen, 1930: pp. 45-50; Lanting, 1973, pp. 237-238.

This tumulus had been built on a natural knoll. Its body, badly damaged by recent digging, and by wind erosion on its south-east, was investigated in 1927 by Van Giffen, who cut some exploratory trenches and opened up the centre. In 1948, Halbertsma excavated most of the north-east, north-west, and south-west quadrants. A small area in the south-east quadrant was also opened. Finally, the barrow was restored to its original shape.

Period I. A mound of white sand, with a 14-15 m diameter and a height of 0.40 m, stood on natural knoll with a soil profile showing an indistinct, pale grey band of c. 10 cm thickness and a poorly developed illuvial horizon. The old surface lay at 15.60-16.00 m above NAP. The grave belonging to this phase was oriented SW-NE. At the bottom of the burial pit its dimensions were 1.40 by 0.80 m. A chaotic pattern of heavy infiltration bands limited the possibilities of observation at higher levels; probably the pit was somewhat larger there. Its depth was c. 0.80 m. In the bottom, the silhouette appeared of a body in a flexed position on its right side, head to the south-west. The grave-goods consisted of a Single Grave beaker of type Ia,

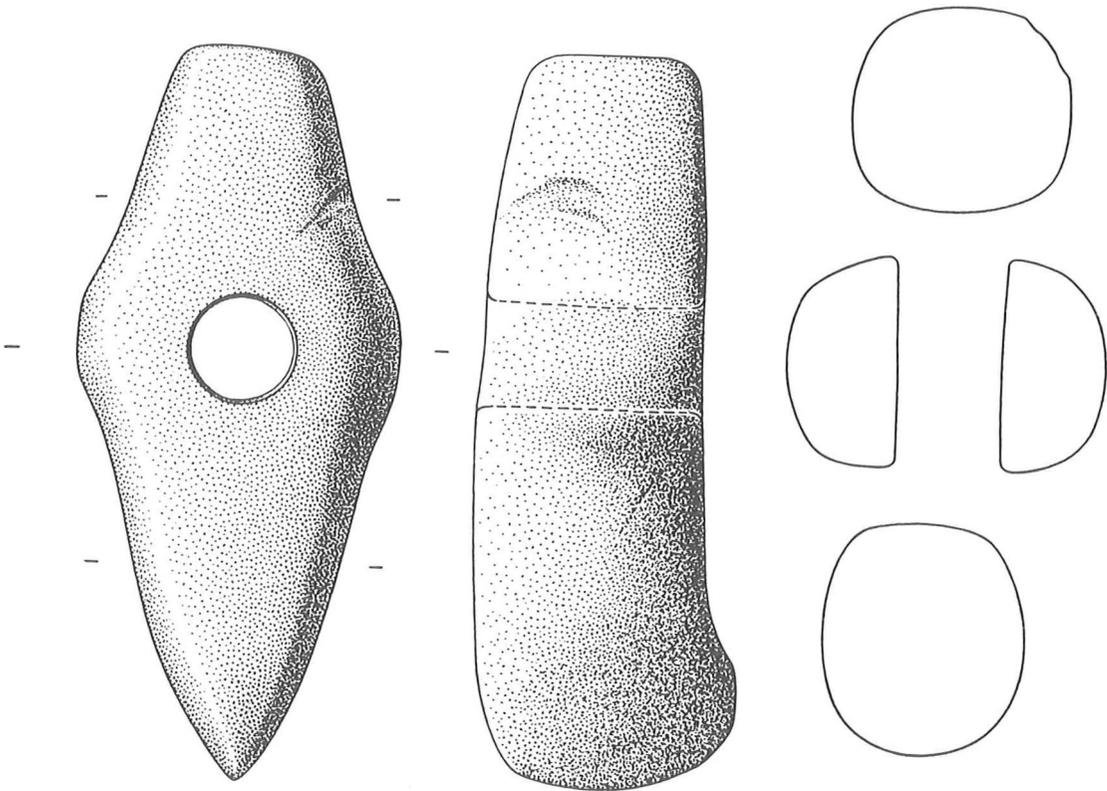
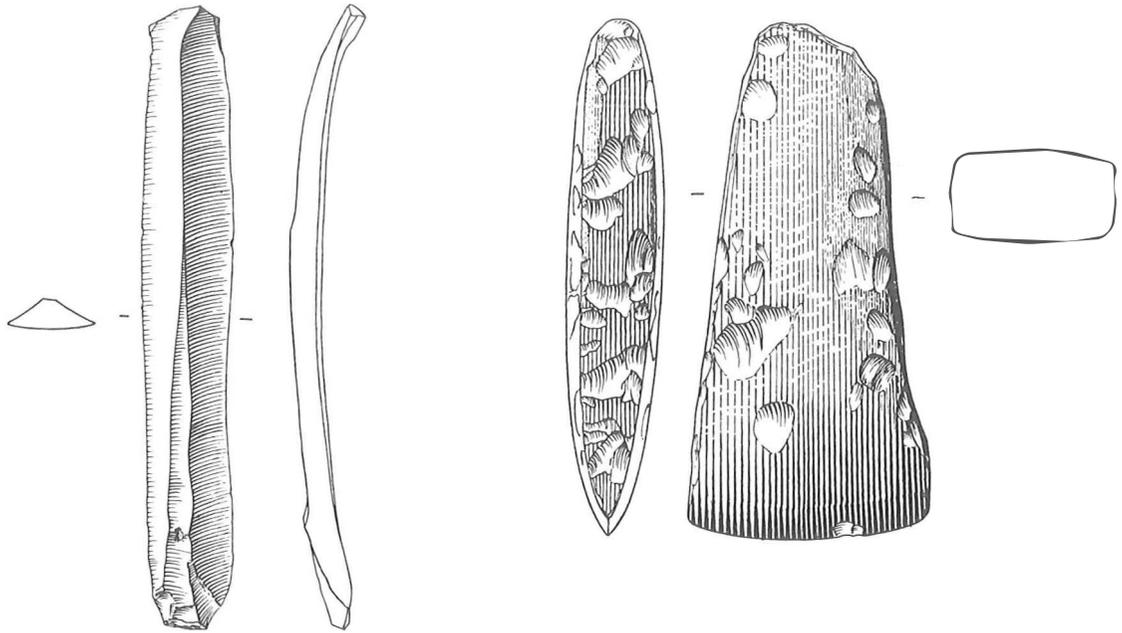


Fig. 44. Eext, tumulus 'Huttenheuvel'. Battle axe of type A/B, flint blade and flint axe, most probably from the primary principal grave.
Drawing J.M. Smit, scale 2:3.

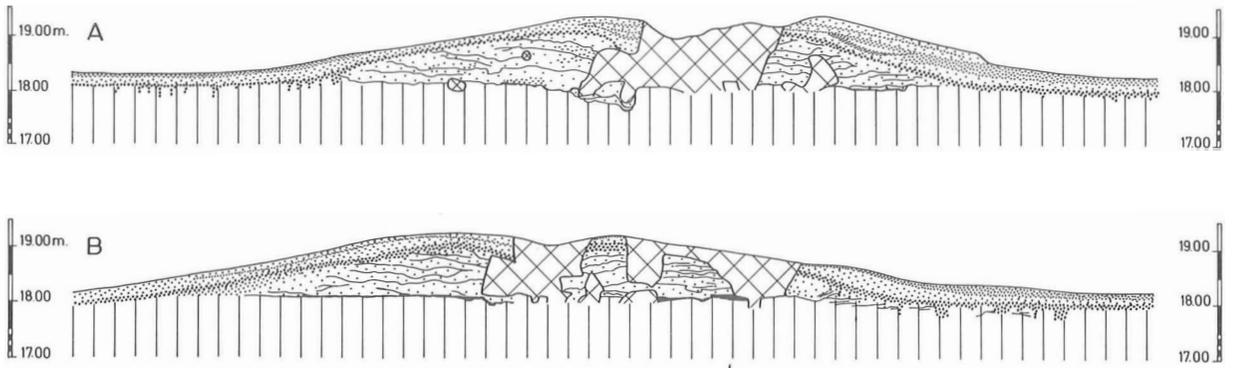
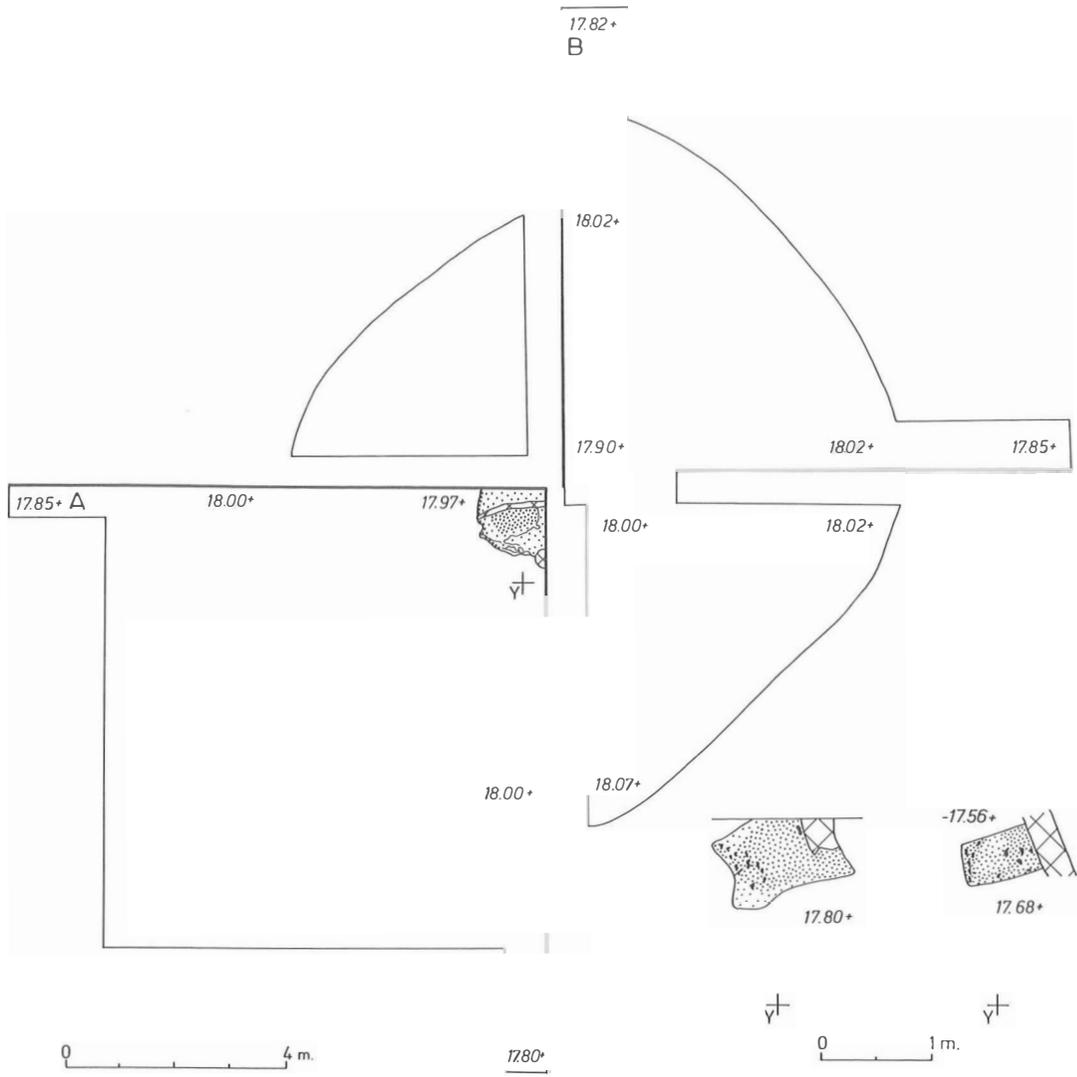


Fig. 45. Eexterhalte, tumulus. Plan and sections. Drawing G. Delger.

a type B battle axe, a small flint axe, and a flint blade. Surrounding the grave, a foundation trench had been dug, U-shaped in section, c. 0.90 m deep, 0.40-0.50 m wide, with an inner diameter of 3.50-3.60 m. In it, 19 posthole stains were observed. The original number of posts must have been about 40.

In *period 2*, the barrow was capped by a secondary mound of sods and yellow sand. This brought its diameter up to c. 20 m and its height to c. 1.60 m. In the top of the primary mound, a faint soil profile had developed, visible as a grey layer, 10 cm thick. The sod addition was a little eccentric in relation to the *period 2* grave. This pit, with a NE-SW orientation, measured 1.80 by 1.00 m and was c. 0.60 m deep. Inside it a coffin had been burnt *in situ*. The body had been buried in a crouched position on its left side, head to the north-east. The carbonized coffin with the calcined skeleton was encased in plaster of Paris and lifted. As yet, the contents have not been completely investigated; therefore any grave-goods in it are yet to be discovered. Charcoal from the coffin was C14-dated to 3765±55 B.P. (GrN-1676). The purpose of two patches of stone capping, one on the slope of the primary mound and another within the second-period addition in the north-east quadrant remains obscure. Beneath the tumulus, mainly under the foot of the secondary mound, traces (postholes, *etc.*) were encountered that may belong to a settlement. The configuration of the latter was such that their being part of a post circle is out of the question.

Dating of *period 1*: Single Grave Culture.

Dating of *period 2*: Bell Beaker Culture.

58. *Eexterhalte*, tumulus (fig. 45). Sheet 12G: 244.68/557.17. Unpublished.

The centre of this structureless barrow was found to have been badly disturbed, when it was excavated in 1954 by Van Giffen, who applied the quadrant method. The old surface was at c. 18.10 m above NAP, the soil profile beneath it consisted of a thin dark layer, accentuated by infiltration along its top. The single-period mound itself consisted of dull yellowish-brown to orangesand with infiltration veins. It measured 13.50-14.50 m in diameter, and c. 1.20 m in height. In the south-west quadrant, part of the central grave, oriented WSW-ENE, remained visible. At the highest level the pit's outline was blurred by a chaotic pattern of infiltration veins. At about 0.30 m below the old surface, the pit was irregularly shaped, with a width of c. 0.75 m. Its fill for the most part consisted of sand burnt red. At the level mentioned, some charcoal, probably from a coffin, was collected for radiocarbon dating: 3490±40 B.P. (GrN-11920). Towards the bottom, which lay at c. 17.55 m above NAP, the pit narrowed. Its length could not be ascertained.

Dating: transition of the Early Bronze Age to the first half of the Middle Bronze Age.

59. *Eexterhalte*, tumulus a (1954). Sheet 12G: 244.17/556.52. Waterbolk & Glasbergen, 1957; Lanting, 1973, p. 230. Waterbolk and Glasbergen interpreted tumulus a as a two-period construction. The primary mound covered a Beaker grave and its somewhat oval foundation trench. To the second phase belonged a central grave with the silhouette of an extended body, a secondary mound with a 'ritual pit' beneath its foot, and a single, widely-spaced post circle which had been set into the barrow's slope. Moreover, three cremations were found, two of them in urns. Lanting, however, was able to show that this was a three-period tumulus.

Period 1's tumulus had a 10 m diameter and a height of 0.50 m. It consisted of yellow sand. The fossil soil profile showed a greyish horizon, 0.15-0.20 m thick. The primary grave, lying eccentrically and surrounded by a foundation trench, had a NW-SE orientation and appeared as an oval

pit 1.40 by 1.10 m, with a depth below the old surface of c. 0.40 m. A small, undecorated Bell Beaker accompanied the deceased. The oval foundation trench had an outer diameter of 3.00 to 3.40 m, a width of c. 0.30 m, and a depth of c. 0.50 m below the old surface. No traces of posts were found in it.

Period 2. The barrow was raised with yellowish-grey sand, giving it a diameter of c. 16 m and a height between 1.00 m and 1.30 m. The problem here is the fact that the well-developed podsol profile renders unrecognizable any indication of a possible second sand capping. In the top of the primary mound also a soil profile was visible: a greyish horizon c. 10 cm thick with a thin humic layer containing some infiltration here and there. A recent pit in the centre had largely destroyed the grave belonging to *period 2*. Also, a small part of it was cut away in the excavation of the south-west quadrant. The pit was NW-SE oriented, 2.30 m long, 1.60 m wide, and c. 0.30 m deep. At the bottom, the silhouette of an extended body appeared, head to the south-east. A thin trace of charcoal, higher up in the fill, may be part of a charred coffin wall. Charcoal from the burial pit was C14-dated to 3485±45 B.P. (GrN-6726). In the south-east quadrant, within the foot of the tumulus and in line with the grave, near its head end, a pit was uncovered with a diameter of 1.70 m and an equal depth. This 'ritual pit' contained some small sherds, one of them with Barbed Wire decoration. This pit constitutes a *terminus post quem* for *period 2*.

Period 3 was not identified from an addition to the barrow; if there were an additional layer of sand, heavy podsol profile would conceal any sign of it. The widely-spaced, single post circle belongs to this phase. The posts had been dug into the second-period tumulus slope. The circle's diameter measured c. 11.70 m. Quite likely, the main grave belonging to this phase is formed by the unurned cremation found just beside the centre point of the post circle. Finally, a couple of Middle Iron Age secondary burials were brought to light.

Dating of *period 1*: Bell Beaker Culture.

Dating of *period 2*: Early Bronze Age (Barbed Wire phase).

Dating of *period 3*: second half of the Middle Bronze Age.

60. *Eexterhalte*, tumulus II. Sheet 12G: 244.19/556.51. Van Giffen, 1942.

In the autumn of 1940, Van Giffen investigated two tumuli, or rather their remains, south of the unmetalled Rolde-Gasteren track. The northern barrow, which was completely ploughed-out and the centre of which had been disturbed to below the old surface, was investigated because two urns had been found in it. The mound had been surrounded by a circular ditch, with a V-shaped section, an inner diameter of c. 6.50 m, a width of 1.20-1.50 m and a depth of 0.75-1.00 m. The remains of the mound consisted of yellow sand, built onto a soil that showed no signs of podsolization. No central grave was found; probably it had been on the old surface. In the north-west quadrant a secondary interment in the form of a *Brandskelettgrab* was uncovered. Dating: first half of the Middle Bronze Age.

61. *Eexterhalte*, tumulus I (1940). Sheet 12G: 244.20/556.47. Van Giffen, 1942.

This two-period tumulus, the body of which had largely been ploughed-out, was investigated according to the quadrant method. In its centre, a recent disturbance had cut into the primary grave.

Period 1: a yellow sand mound with a diameter of c. 8 m and a height of 0.50-0.60 m. Beneath it the soil profile consisted of a thin organic layer, a vague eluvial horizon c. 10 cm wide and an illuvial horizon. The rounded-rectangular central grave, measuring 2.50 by 1.00-1.20 m, was c. 0.50 m deep. Its orientation was WSW-ENE. Of the body, which had been buried on its right side with its head

to the west, facing south, the silhouette of the upper part and head were all that remained to be seen; the enamel of six molars constituted the tangible remains. The grave-goods comprised a narrow, rectangular flint blade with a length of 9.4 cm, and a flint blade, 15.7 cm, with a retouched point. The south-eastern part of the burial pit had been disturbed, so that any further grave-goods were lost. In the south-east quadrant some sherds of a Single Grave beaker type 1b were recovered.

Period 2 was a construction of sods. Some charcoal had been lying on the primary mound. A circular ditch, V-shaped in section, surrounded the secondary barrow; it had an inner diameter of c. 10 m, a width of 1.20-2.00 m, and a depth of c. 1.00 m. In the north-west quadrant, the ditch was interrupted over a length of c. 1.50 m. Some dirty-yellow silt had been washed into the bottom. Higher up, the fill was greyish and wind-deposited. The grave belonging to period 2 had been cut from the top of the primary barrow, some 50 cm into it. Its width was 1.00 m, its length could no longer be ascertained. The pit, which contained scattered

cremated remains, was NNE-SSW oriented. In the south-west quadrant, a small cremation burial was uncovered. Dating of period 1: Single Grave Culture.

- 62. Dating of period 2: first half of the Middle Bronze Age. *Annen*, tumulus I. Sheet 12E: 245.73/562.72. Unpublished.

In the 1954 edition of the map indicated above, two tumuli are shown south of the Kampakkers in a heathland parcel south-east of Annen. According to the field diary (22 November 1954, no. 18) of the B.A.I. draughtsman H. Praamstra, the two mounds had been seriously damaged previously. A third barrow, south-east of these two, had already succumbed to reclamation by then. A more recent edition of 1970 shows the parcel to be under cultivation, without a trace of the tumuli. During a reconnaissance flight that the author made together with Ms. W. Metz-de Vries (I.P.P. Amsterdam), the easternmost of the two was rediscovered from marks in the freshly-ploughed soil. The site was investigated in October 1984. At the centre of the completely levelled mound, some recent pits were revealed,

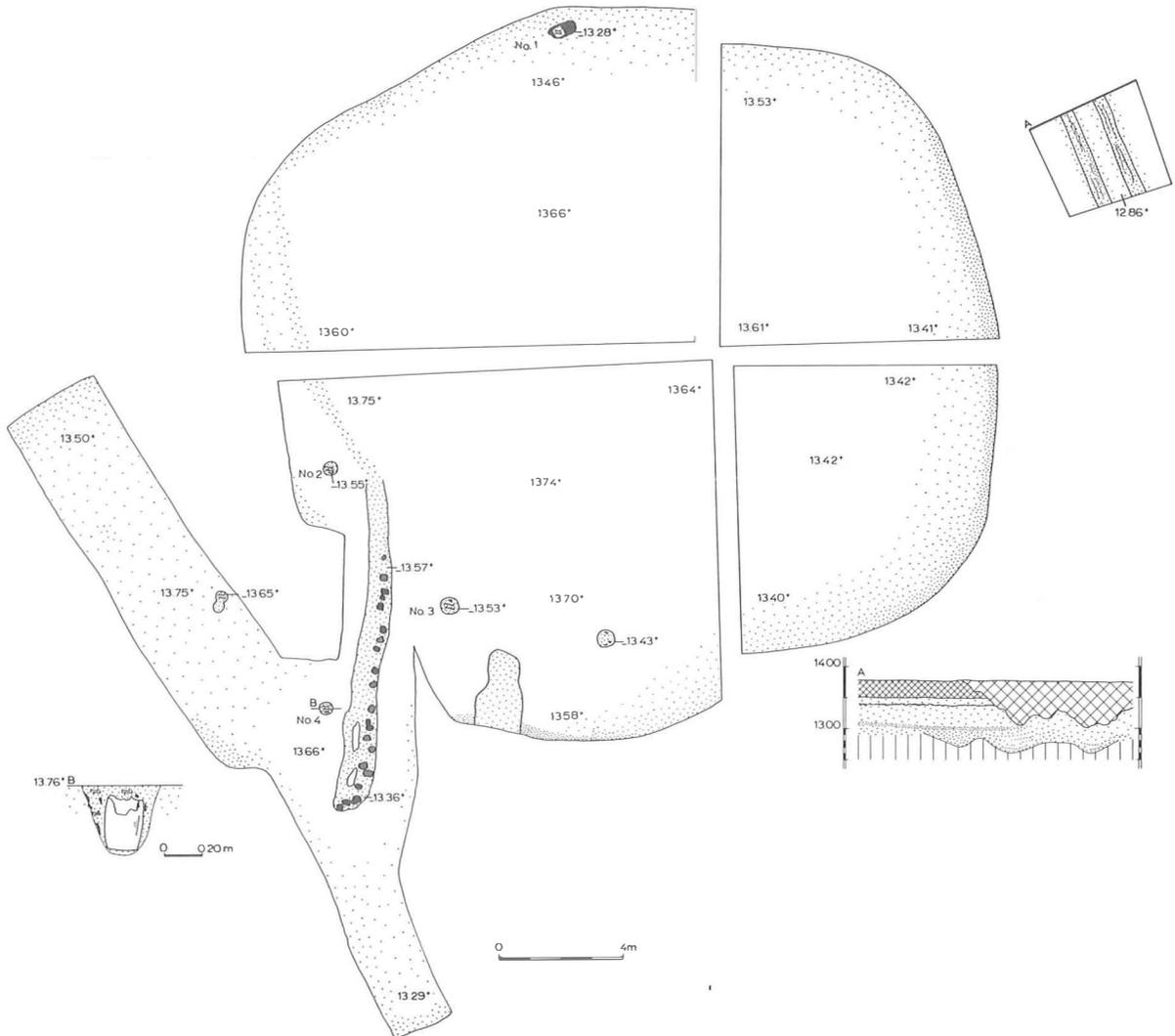


Fig. 46. Anloo, cemetery Molenes. Plan and sections. Drawing J.H. Zwier.

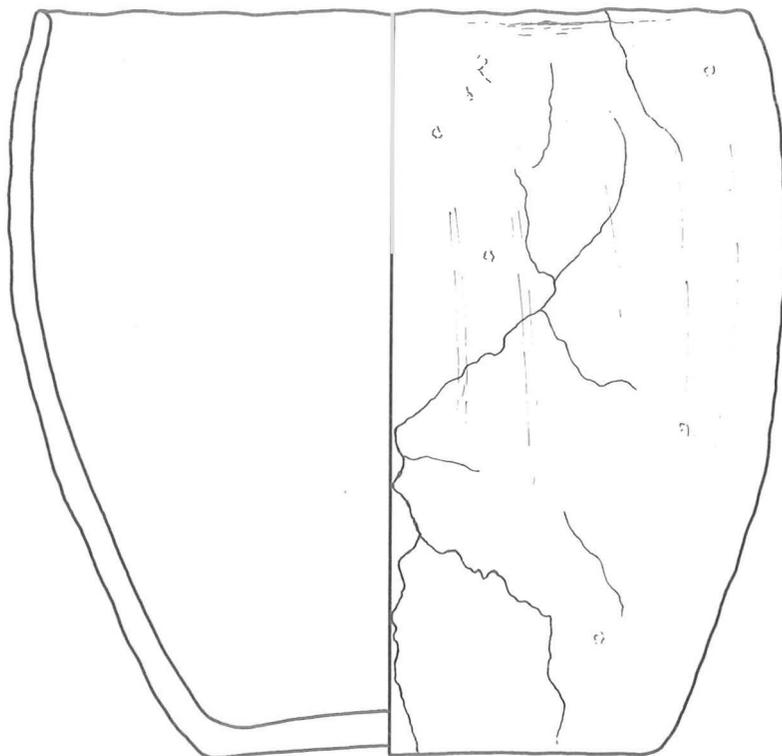


Fig. 47. Anloo, cemetery Molenes. *Kümmerkeramik* pot from one of the grave pits. Drawing S.W. Jager, scale 1:2.

one of them just where the primary, central grave was expected to be. Beside this disturbance, a tiny piece of old surface was found to have survived. The fossil soil profile consisted of a grey eluvial zone, c. 20 cm thick, with some veins due to infiltration from the barrow, and below it an orange-yellow illuvial horizon. Judging by this soil profile and the absence of a peripheral structure, this tumulus with its 15-16 m diameter should probably be dated to the Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age.

Dating: Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age.

63. *Anloo*, cemetery Molenes (fig. 46). Sheet 12E: 243.93/562.23.

Unpublished.

In the autumn of 1985 a small excavation was carried out at the edge of the Molenes at Anloo. Occasion for the excavation was the occurrence of a yellow colour patch in the field, which could indicate a ploughed-out tumulus. The existence of a tumulus could, however, not be confirmed. But in the course of the excavation 5 small pits, of which 4 with cremation remains, were found. In one case the cremation had been deposited in a *Kümmerkeramik* pot. As the pot was too small to contain all the cremation remains, the remainder was scattered in the grave pit. Charcoal samples from this modest grave and loose ashes from one of the

other burials (no. 3) were found to have a radiocarbon age of respectively 2945 ± 35 B.P. (GrN-13549) and 3460 ± 60 B.P. (GrN-13335). In this excavation, a more or less rectangular pit was also uncovered, full of charcoal and cremated bone. A charcoal sample was ^{14}C dated (GrN-13336: 2115 ± 35 B.P.). This grave, a so-called *Brandgrube*, contained an elongated, somewhat bent, piece of corroded iron, which had probably been a cramp joining two planks. The little cemetery was situated on a small cover-sand ridge. When the latter was partly levelled, some of the graves, lying on the slopes, had been left intact.

On the east side of the cover-sand ridge, cart-tracks were uncovered with a wheel distance of c. 1.20 m. The significance of the dark 'ditch' containing a row of stones at the SW side of the excavation pit is for the present unclear.

Find (not yet with inventory number)

Complete barrow-shaped *Kümmerkeramik* pot (fig. 47); leather brown surface with drying cracks, tempered with coarse granite grits. The rim is bevelled internally. The exterior has smoothing vertical stripes. Height: 19.2-19.8 cm; diameter of rim: 15.7-19.2 cm; of base: 11.5 cm.

Dating of the cemetery: includes at least the beginning and end of the Middle Bronze Age and the Late Iron Age.