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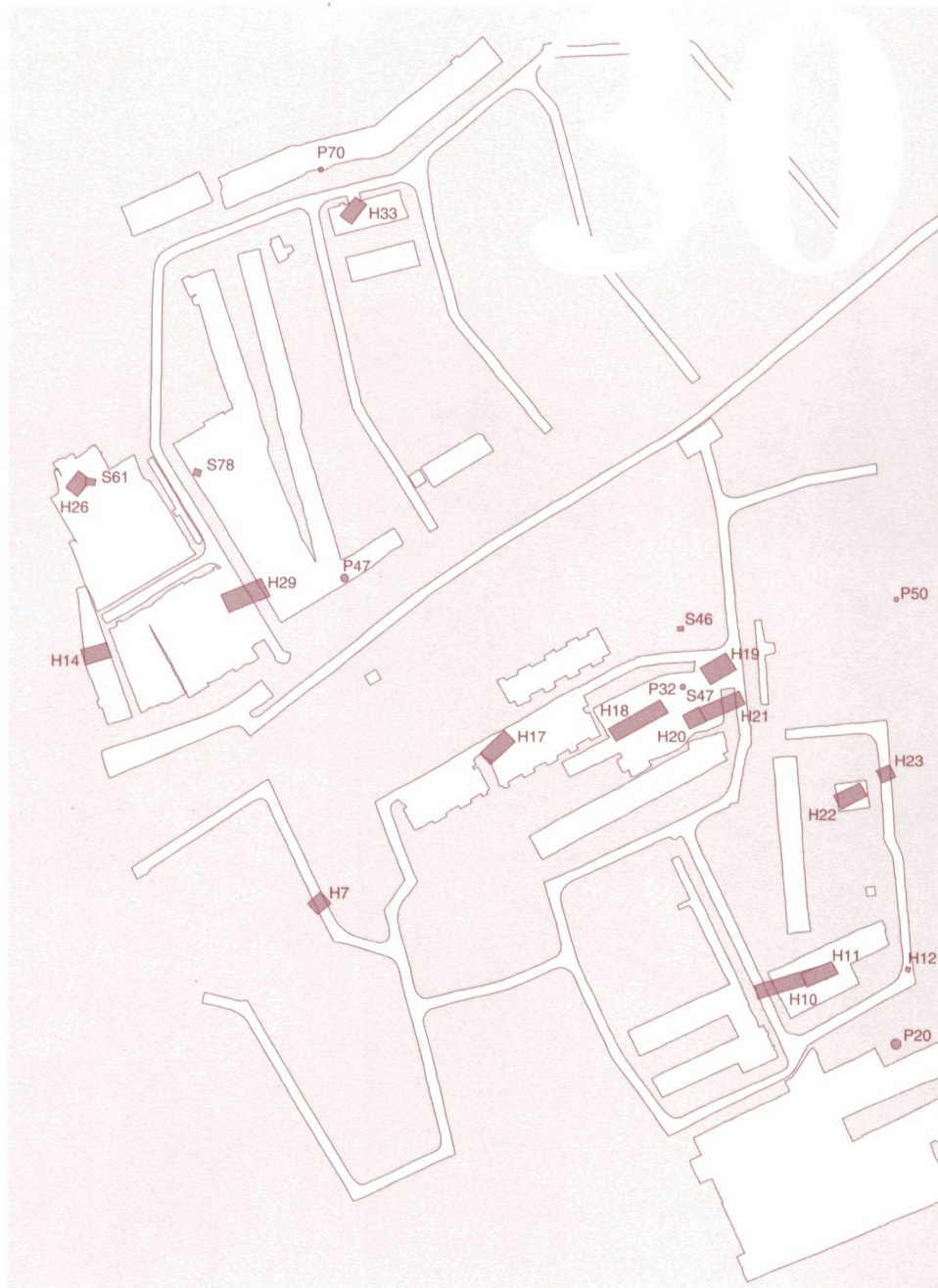
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THE USSEN PROJECT

THE FIRST DECADE OF EXCAVATIONS AT OSS

EDITED BY HARRY FOKKENS



LEIDEN UNIVERSITY 1998

To the local archaeologists who were our ears, eyes and hands:
Gerard van Alphen, Henk den Brok, Gerrit van Duuren, Mien van Eerd, Piet Haane,
Piet van Lijssel, Wil Megens, Ans Otten, Lex Pinkse, Piet de Poot and Gerard Smits.

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1. Introduction

This chapter will concentrate on the burial monuments. In addition, attention will be paid to another category of monuments, namely structures and isolated features which do not represent funerary monuments, but which can most probably be associated with ritual behaviour. So both categories have in common that they played some role in a religious context. As will become apparent in the following discussion, it is not always possible to assign a monument to either one of these categories. In several cases it proved impossible to determine whether the remains encountered represented a burial, a pottery deposit or a cult site. This is due partly to similarities in the shapes of the different monuments and partly to the employed excavation strategy and post-depositional processes. The latter two factors require further explanation. Not all the features to be discussed below were in the field recognised as ritual structures (R) of the kind intended here. In several cases no efforts were consequently made to unearth in their entirety monuments that had been partly exposed in trenches dug for the construction of roads. At least sixteen of the R monuments discussed in the catalogue were excavated, and hence recorded, in part only. The other complicating factor is post-depositional changes, in particular the disturbance of the old land surface caused by (post-) medieval ploughing. Many ditched enclosures were found to be 'empty', that is, no burial pit was found within them. In many cases the absence of a burial pit will be attributable to the aforementioned cultural formation processes, but there is always the possibility that there never was a burial pit. Monuments whose centres were in subrecent times disturbed by the digging of ditches to mark the boundaries of fields involve the same problem. In these cases it is impossible to arrive at a definitive interpretation.

Four concentrations of burials and related structures could be distinguished in the excavated area (*fig. 1*):

- A: a small group in the northeastern quadrant;
- B: a large group in the central part;
- C: a few monuments in the southwestern quadrant;
- D: a very large concentration in the southeastern quadrant.

Concentration D contains the most and the youngest burials (*fig. 2*). More than 200 burials were investigated in this area between 1977 and 1979. Radiocarbon dates obtained for charcoal from four burials in the southern part of this

concentration show that the first graves of this necropolis, which dates predominantly from the 1st and 2nd centuries AD, were dug in the Late Iron Age, possibly even the Middle Iron Age. These C14 dates are as follows:

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Ring ditch 204 (I3) | 2070 ± 35 BP (2σ: 170 BC - AD 10) |
| Square ditched encl. 154 (I4) | 2085 ± 30 BP (2σ: 178-32/20-6 BC) 2295 ± 65 BP (2σ: 518-180 BC) |
| Square ditched encl. 158 (I4) | 2125 ± 35 BP (2σ: 340-328/200-44 BC) |
| Square ditched encl. 180 (I4) | 2135 ± 55 BP (2σ: 362-282/258-32/20-6 BC). |

This cemetery will not be described any further here or in the catalogue, as it is being investigated in a study carried out in a different context (Hessing in prep.).

Together, the three other concentrations comprise not more than 58 monuments, 38 of which have a peripheral structure. Burned human bones, often only minute amounts, were found in only 23 cases. From the presence of peripheral structures of 'normal' sizes we know that many of the other monuments were also burials. What remains is a small number of monuments of which it is doubtful, at least, that they are to be interpreted as burials. Some indeed show such deviating characteristics, such as an exceptional size and/or a large quantity of finds, that they are more likely to have been cult sites.

Pottery was found in 34 of the 58 monuments discussed here. Fourteen monuments could be dated on the basis of this pottery. Four of the dates based on pottery characteristics were confirmed by radiocarbon dates. Various other monuments could be dated via intersections or via peripheral structures characteristic of one or more specific periods. Unfortunately a large number could not be dated at all.

Only one of the soil samples that were taken in six monuments was found to contain seeds (R26), but the sample was too small to allow any conclusions to be drawn.

2. Developments in space and time

2.1. BRONZE AGE(?) AND EARLY IRON AGE

Since the oldest settlement remains found at Ussen date from the Middle Bronze Age, if not earlier (see Schinkel, this

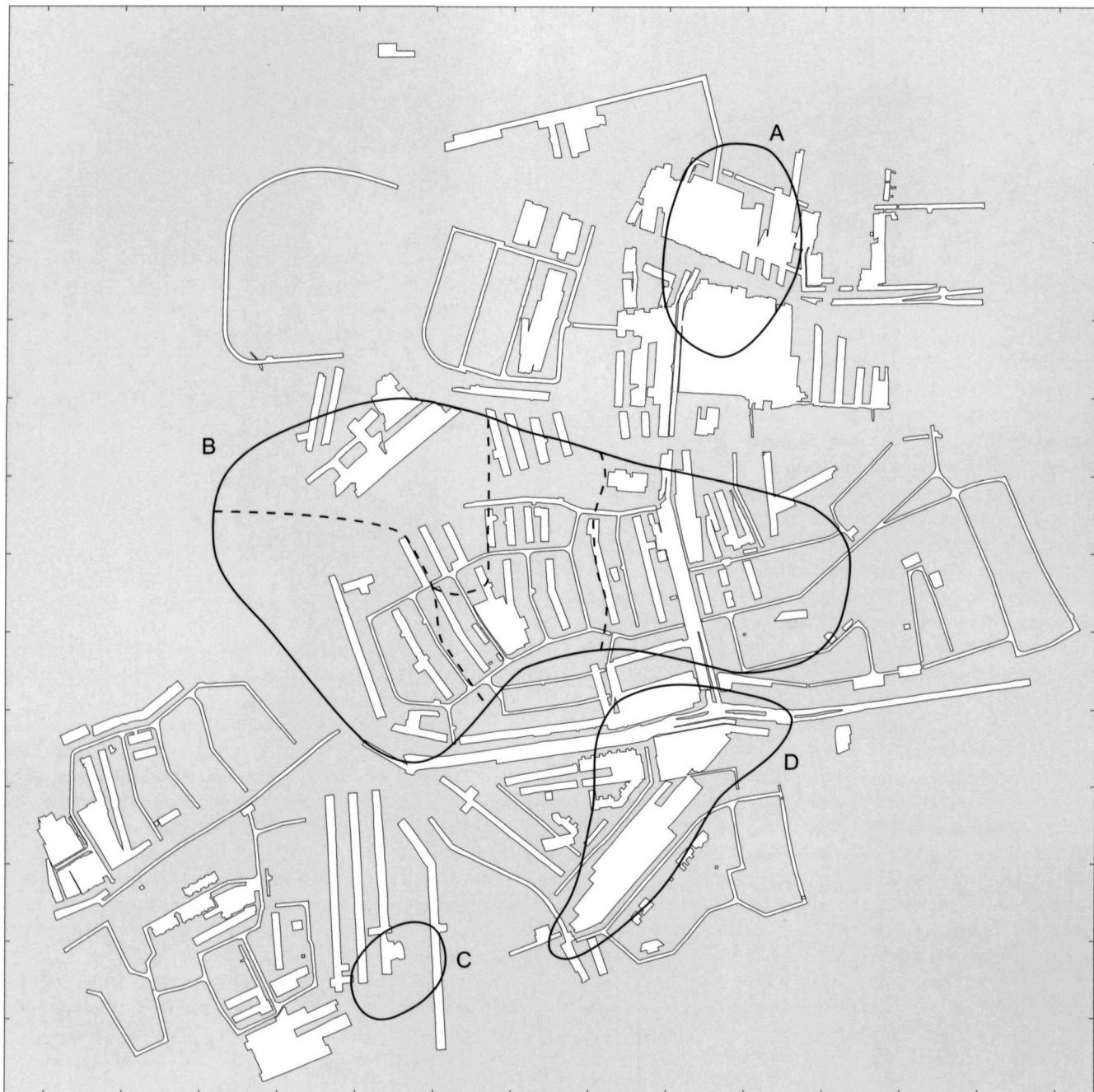


Figure 1. Survey of the distribution of burials and related structures from the Bronze Age, the Iron Age and the Roman Period at Oss-Ussen.

volume, section 5), we would expect burials from this period, too. None of the burial monuments could however be dated to this occupation phase with certainty. Two ring ditches with large diameters characteristic of this period (17 m) were found in the northern cluster (A), at a relatively short distance from the only house plan datable to this period (H125), but they may well be the peripheral structures of

Early Iron Age burials. The monuments in question are R43 and R45 (*fig. 3*). Only very small parts of the first were excavated and the second, irregular, ring ditch was intersected by a house plan from the Roman period (H98). The absence of rectangular burial pits at the centres of the monuments and, in the case of R45, the presence of postholes in the ditch suggest younger dates for these monuments. There



Figure 2. Distribution of the burials in cluster D. Most of the graves date from the Roman period. Certainly four, the numbered ones, can be attributed to the Iron Age.

seems to have been an entrance in both monuments, one slightly narrower than the other. The pottery from R45 also points to a date after the Bronze Age. The sherd of

thick-walled pottery tempered with ground quartz that was found in the ditch of R43 is most probably to be interpreted as contamination.

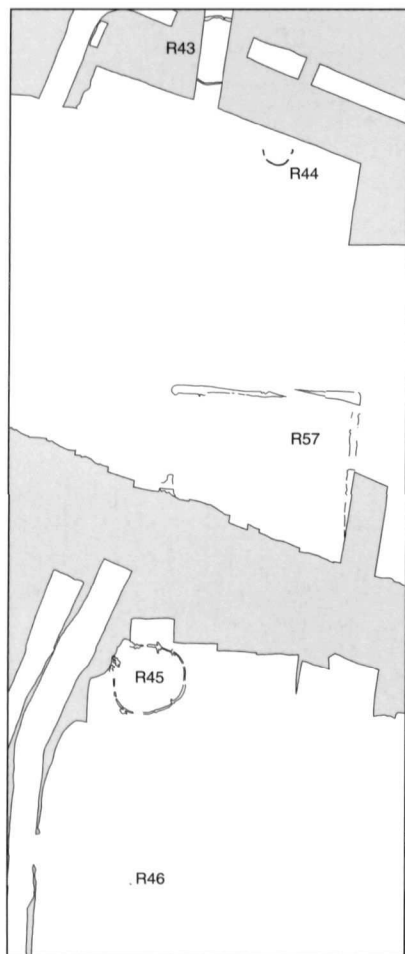


Figure 3. Distribution of the burials and a cult site (R57) in cluster A. Scale 1:2000.

The other three monuments of cluster A offered no clues to their dates. Ring ditch R44 and the pit with cremated remains R46 could not be dated (the fragment of a *tegula* found in R46 is presumably a later intrusion) and R57 undoubtedly dates from a much later period, namely the decades around the beginning of the Christian era.

Cluster B yielded a comparatively greater amount of dating evidence. The oldest monuments seem to be those unearthed in the northwestern part of this cluster (*fig. 4*), the most striking of which is without doubt R40, comprising an oval setting of postholes measuring 14.20×4.80 m. No burials were found. R40 belongs to what Verwers defined as 'non-circular monuments' (Verwers 1966a). He distinguished two groups of such monuments: long/narrow ditched enclosures of the Goirle type and short/wide ditched enclosures of the Riethoven type. The former, which he incidentally (incorrectly) interpreted not as burial monuments but as ritual fields

(*cf.* Lanting/Mook 1977: 137), are in his opinion datable predominantly to Ha B, the latter to Ha B and Ha C/D (Verwers 1966a: 54). The length of R40 comes close to the average length of the Riethoven monuments (16.60 m), whereas its width is more in line with the average width of the Goirle monuments (3.80 m). Its length/width ratio however definitely places it in the Riethoven group.

Most long graves are surrounded by a ditch. Palisaded enclosures, as observed around R40, are rarer. Examples are known from several places in the Netherlands. As can be seen in Table 1 (based on Roosens/Beex 1962; Verwers 1966b; *id.*, 1972: 22-24), the oval arrangement of posts found at Ussen is most probably datable to the Early Iron Age.

The nearby monument R41 may also have been oval. This was at least suggested by the excavated part of this monument, though it is not entirely certain. The monument's shape is to some extent reminiscent of that of two oval ditched enclosures that were found in the northern part of the urnfield of Valkenswaard (Brunsting/Verwers 1975: 61). R41 cannot be dated with any greater accuracy than Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age.

Features R29, R37 and R38, which were found to the west of R40, probably date from the same period, in particular the Early Iron Age. They consist of narrow, more or less circular ditches which originally contained thin posts. Cremated remains were found at the centre of R29 only; the centres of R37 and R38 were 'empty'. Burials surrounded by circular post settings are known from Veldhoven (Modderman/Louwe Kooijmans 1966), Someren (Modderman 1962-63), Hamont (Roosens/Beex 1965), Klein Ravels (Annaert/Van Impe 1985), Overpelt (Janssen/Van Impe 1987), Kaulille (Engels/Van Impe 1985) and other places. Table 2 presents a survey.

Lanting and Mook (1977: 138-139) associated these structures with the Early Iron Age. The radiocarbon date obtained for the mound of Overpelt-Lindel (2470 ± 75 BP: Janssen/Van Impe 1987: 166) and the *Schrägerandurn* that was found at the centre of barrow VI at Kaulille (Engels/Van Impe 1985: 35) agree well with such a date. Evidence obtained in recent research at Someren (Roymans/Kortlang 1993: 27; Kortlang 1998) and Mierlo-Hout (Roymans/Tol 1993: 47; Tol 1998) is not in conflict with a date in the Early Iron Age for the barrows surrounded by post settings or stakes set in a ditch. It would therefore seem that the Early Iron Age is the best date for the three post structures found at Ussen. The only unusual element is the northern entrance, as the peripheral structures of most Early Iron Age burials had an entrance in the (south)east. The barrows were presumably no longer recognisable as such by the Late Iron Age, as suggested by the presence of P155 in R29. A house was moreover built at the site of R37 and R38 in the Roman period (H53).

Ring ditch R39 lies between the above group of three burials and the oval monuments R40 and R41. From this we may

infer that this 10-11-m-large monument, which yielded no finds, was probably also dug in this period.

A few more burials datable to the Early Iron Age came to light a hundred metres further south. They are first of all a few simple pits, R15 and R17, of which the latter contained no cremated remains but a large part of a secondarily burned bowl. The other burials are a ring ditch with a diameter of 6-7 m and an opening in the southeast and a ring ditch with a diameter of 18 m. Neither monument was excavated in its entirety. The 39 sherds that were recovered from the smallest ring ditch – R31 – date from phase B of the Early Iron Age. The 17 sherds from the large ditch R16 may be of the same date or slightly younger (they could even date from the beginning of the Middle Iron Age).

2.2. MIDDLE IRON AGE

No more than four R monuments could be dated to the Middle Iron Age (phases E-H) on the basis of pottery characteristics. Most of these monuments lie in cluster B (figs 5 and 6), one lies in cluster C (fig. 7). They are two large square ditched

Table 1. Dimensions and dates of *non-circular monuments* of the Riethoven and Goirle types surrounded by a post setting.

| monument | type | dimensions | date |
|----------------|------|-------------|----------------|
| Haps (O2) | R | 20 × 6 m | Early Iron Age |
| Berghem (II) | R | 28 × 7 m | 680 ± 65 BC |
| Neerpelt (104) | G | 36 × 3.60 m | Early Iron Age |
| Neerpelt (111) | G | 25.50 × 3 m | Early Iron Age |

enclosures, one with an annex, one trapezium-shaped ditched enclosure and one flat grave. The most impressive are the large square ditched enclosures R26/26a and R49. Although similar structures with Early Iron Age dates are known from Flanders (De Laet *et al.* 1986), they did not make their appearance in the southern part of the Netherlands until in the Middle Iron Age. Early examples are known from Nijnsel (Hulst 1964) and Haps (Verwers 1972). The enclosures of Nijnsel are slightly smaller than those of Haps (3.50 × 4.30 m – 7.10 × 8.40 m and 10 × 10.50 m, respectively). At both

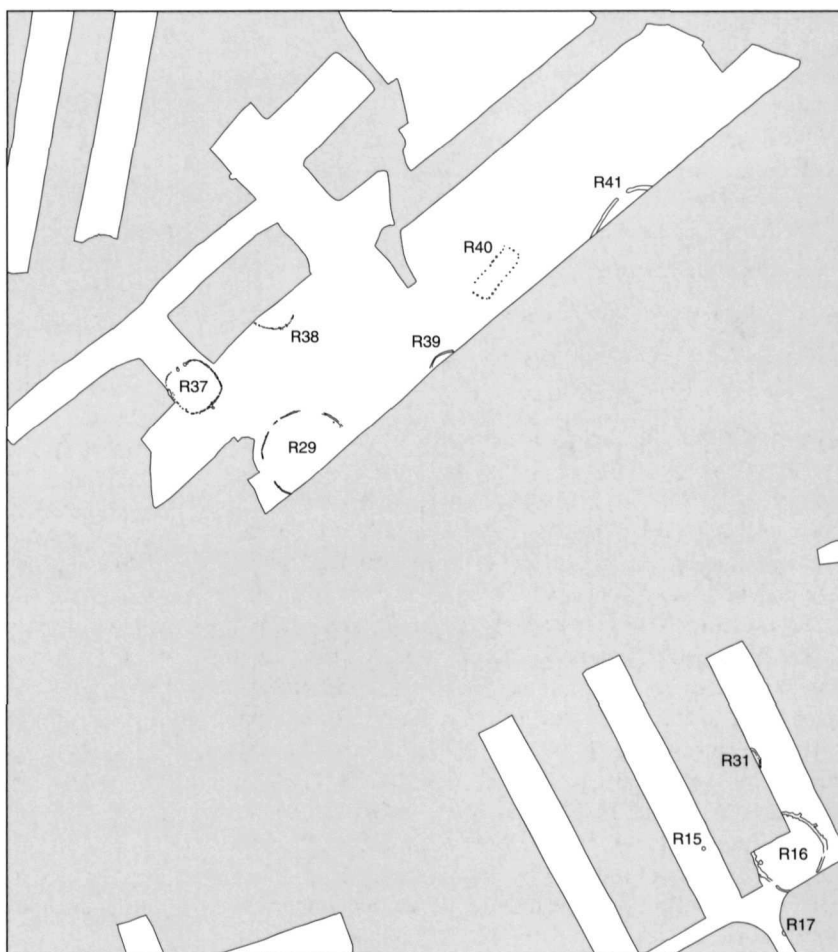


Figure 4. Distribution of the burials in the northwest of cluster B. Scale 1:2000.

Table 2. Survey of the structures and dimensions of circular post settings surrounding burials.

| site | number | structure | diameter |
|-----------------|--------|-------------------------------------|----------|
| Veldhoven | (100) | circle of stakes set close together | 15 m |
| Veldhoven | (101) | circle of widely spread posts | 10 m |
| Someren | | circle of posts set in pairs | 14 m |
| Klein-Ravels | (IV) | circle of posts set close together | 6 m |
| | (VI) | circle of posts set close together | 7 m |
| | (IX) | circle of posts set close together | 7 m |
| Hamont | (I) | circle of widely spread posts | 18.5 m |
| Overpelt-Lindel | | circle of widely spread posts | |
| Kaulille | (IV) | circle of widely spread posts | 16 m |
| | (VI) | circle of widely spread posts | 15 m |
| | (X) | circle of widely spread posts | 12 m |
| | (XI) | circle of widely spread posts | 10 m |

Nijnsel and Haps square ditched enclosures with single as well as multiple burials were found. Pottery was only very rarely recovered from the ditches (Nijnsel, burial 6). Postholes were virtually not observed either (only in Nijnsel, burial 8). Several conspicuous differences are observable between these monuments and the square ditched enclosures of Ussen: the latter are much larger, they are accompanied by postholes and far more finds were recovered from their ditches. So all in all the Ussen monuments are quite unusual.

R26 is the more complex (*fig. 5*). It is in fact a composite monument, consisting of a central structure measuring 32.5 × 33.5 m and a western annex (R26a) measuring 16 × 15/16.5 m. The largest enclosure had an entrance in the east, the smallest in the south. The fact that R26 was on all four sides

surrounded by a palisade (35 × 35 m), *i.e.* also on the side on which R26a was connected to it, suggests that R26 was built first and R26a was added to it at a later date. The finds from the fill of the ditch of R26 date from phase H, that is, from the first half of the 3rd century BC. A C14 date obtained for wood from P98 yielded a date of 370-172 BC (2σ).

The smaller square ditched enclosure definitely formed part of a burial monument, as indicated by the cremated remains found just off centre of the enclosed area, surrounded by the features of a mortuary house. It is however far from certain that the large square structure had the same function. The central part of this monument was completely disturbed in subrecent times, so we will never know for sure whether cremated remains were ever buried here.

Several aspects of this exceptionally large square however suggest that it had a non-funerary function. The first are the pits that were found in the ditch, one (P118) directly opposite the entrance, the other (P98) in the southeastern corner. The two pits are undoubtedly in some way associated with the square structure, because the fill of the ditch continued into the pits without any interruption. A second factor suggesting that the structure was not a burial monument is the many finds, in particular pottery, that were recovered from the ditch and the contemporary pits – over 3350 sherds in total. The majority of these finds came from the eastern stretch of the ditch, including the pit in the southeastern corner (*table 3*).

Much fewer sherds were recovered from indisputable burial monuments. By way of comparison: the ditch of the annex yielded no more than 10 sherds. The pottery is incidentally not in any way exceptional in terms of its composition; it includes only 37 wall fragments and 20 decorated rim fragments. Neither does the represented range of types based on Van den Broeke's sequence (1987a: *fig. 5*) differ appreciably from that of other assemblages from phase H. In other words, the pottery from the ditch does not represent some specially selected range (*table 4*). The other finds from the ditch comprise

Table 3. Survey of the numbers of pottery fragments found in the ditch sections and pits of R26.

| part of the ditch | number of sherds |
|-------------------|------------------|
| North section | 17 |
| West section | 102 (P118: 283) |
| South section | 779 |
| East section | 311 (P98: 1792) |

Table 4. Pottery from phase H (general), from R26 and R49, arranged according to the type of pot (*cf.* Van den Broeke 1987a, 32).

| phase/ monument | pot shape | | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------|------|-----|------|-----|----|
| | I | | II | | III | |
| | n | % | n | % | n | % |
| phase H | 71 | 19 | 126 | 34 | 174 | 47 |
| R26 | 50 | 20.5 | 65 | 26.5 | 130 | 53 |
| R49 | 8 | 10 | 22 | 30 | 45 | 60 |

indeterminable lumps of fired clay, fragments of three or four loom weights and four spindle whorls, iron slags and pieces of stone.

A third argument for assuming that R26 had some special function is the presence of the highly unusual square arrangement of posts R25, which was devoid of finds. This enclosure, which measures $25 \times 25/26$ m, was found to the west of R26, partly overlapping R26a. R26/R26a were not intersected at any point, but we may reasonably assume that the posts were not erected after R26a (and hence R26) had been dug, so it is probably an older structure. The fact that virtually no prehistoric burials with such a peripheral structure are known, certainly not of such a size – the closest parallel, excavated at Sibret-Villeroux in the Belgian Ardennes, measures only 8×8.5 m (Cahen-Delhayé *et al.* 1986) – makes it very likely that this is a non-funerary monument. The proximity of R26 suggests that the two are related. R25 could well be the predecessor of the large square ditched enclosure.

R26 has in the past already been compared to the quadrangular cult sites enclosed by a ditch and a bank known as *Viereckschanzen* and *sanctuaires de type belge*, which also date from the Iron Age (Van der Sanden 1987e: 73; Slofstra/Van der Sanden 1987: 156-157). The cult sites of the former category are known from southern Germany in particular, especially the federal states of Baden-Württemberg and Bavaria (Bittel 1978; Planck 1986; Schwarz 1960; *id.* 1975). Less well-known – and also less intensively investigated – are the *Viereckschanzen* of central and western France (*cf.* the various contributions in Buchsenschutz/Olivier 1989). Research into the German cult sites in particular has shown that these sites do not always comprise the same elements. Deep offering shafts were for example found at Holzhausen and Fellbach-Schmidlen, but not at Ehningen. The small buildings with a so-called ambulatory for which Holzhausen is well-known were not found at the cult site of Tomerdingen. Something that the aforementioned sites do have in common is that they all yielded very few finds. This has led to the conclusion that the offerings were mostly organic.

The second category, of ‘Belgian sanctuaries’, is known mostly from the northern part of France (Brunaux 1986: 16-38). The cult site of Gournay-sur-Aronde, which was excavated almost completely (Brunaux *et al.* 1985), is still the best-known example of these structures. It is this category that deserves most attention here.

The size of the square ditched enclosure of Oss is in keeping with that of the ‘Belgian sanctuaries’, much more so at least than with that of the *Viereckschanzen* (which are on the whole many times larger). The enclosure of the aforementioned cult site of Gournay, which was first used around the beginnings of the 3d century BC, for example measures 45×38 m; its entrance was in the middle of the eastern side. In phase 1 two rows of posts lying at right angles to one

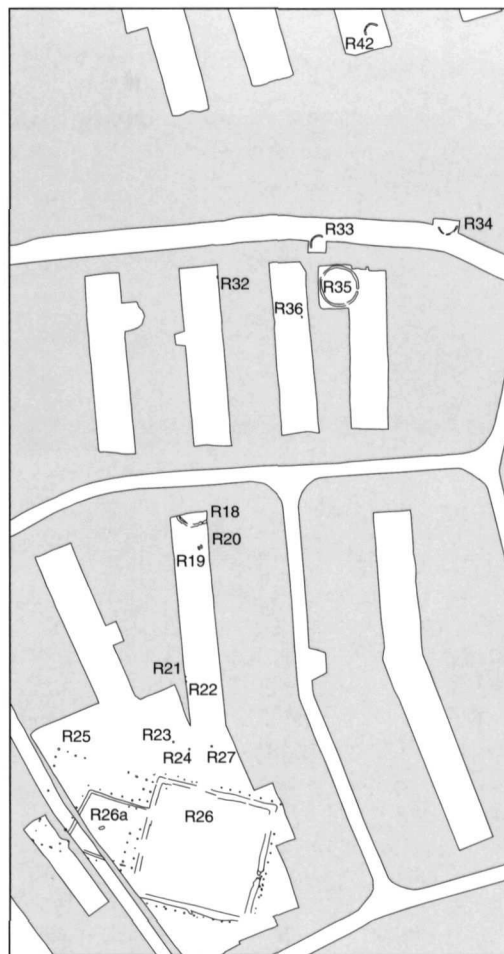


Figure 5. Distribution of the burials and a cult site (R26) in the centre of cluster B. Scale 1:2000.

another stood in the enclosed area pointing towards the four directions of the wind. In phase 2 (mid-3rd century BC) ten pits were dug here, nine arranged in a U-shape with its opening in the east, the tenth and largest, which was probably lined with wood, at the centre of the U. In this phase the ditch was lined with wood and a palisade was erected outside it, curving inwards at the entrance. From the mid-3rd century BC onwards many hundreds of votive offerings were deposited in the ditch, such as weapons, tools, animals and even human beings. The excavators assume that the offered cattle and horses were left to rot in the central pit before being deposited in the ditch. In later phases a small building stood over the central offering pit – first a semicircular structure (phase 3), and later a rectangular one (phases 4 and 5); other changes that occurred in the course of the 2nd and 1st centuries BC are the digging of a ditch outside the palisade and the falling into disuse of the first ditch, the *fossé à exposition*. Much less is

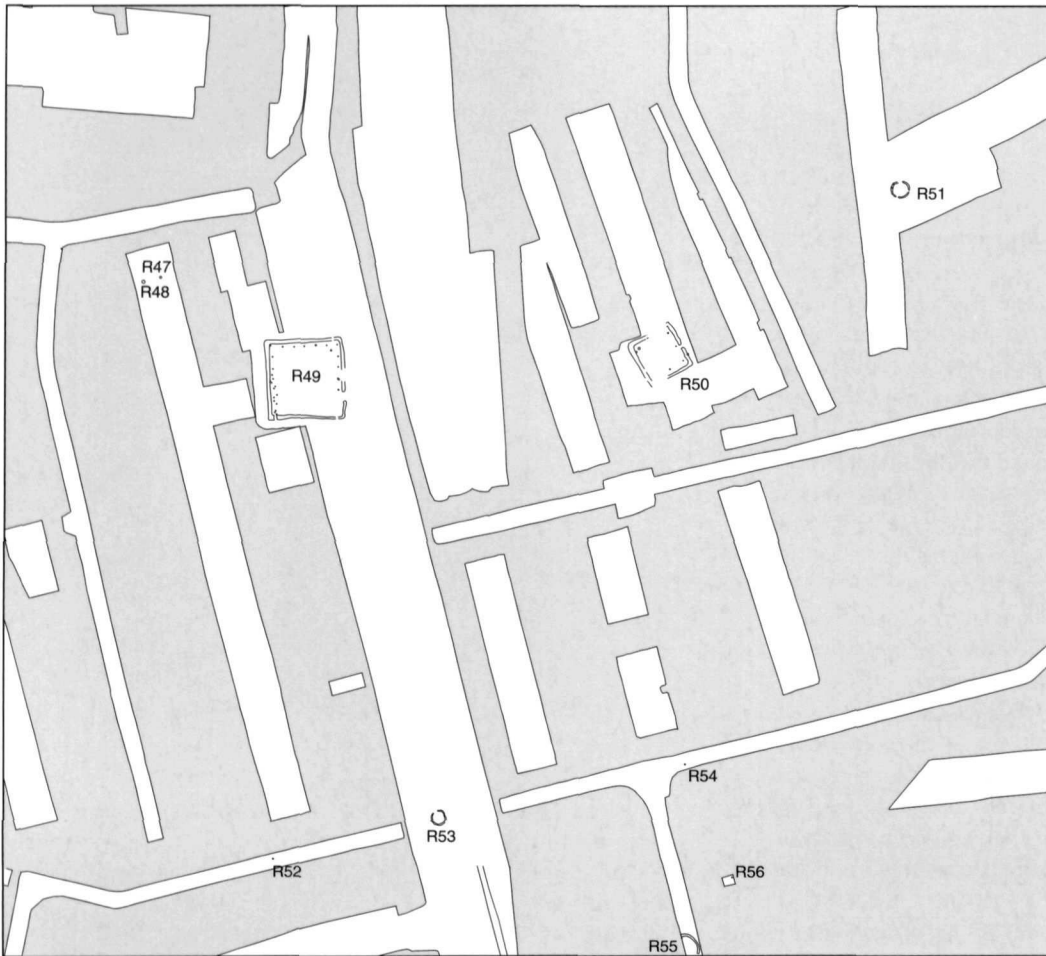


Figure 6. Distribution of the burials and a cult site (R49) in the east of cluster B. Scale 1:2000.

known about the other 'Belgian sanctuaries' from the La Tène period in northern France. Generally speaking, however, several of the elements observed at Gournay (ditches, pits, votive offerings) have been encountered elsewhere, too. But none of the other known sanctuaries seem to date as far back in time as that of Gournay.

A conspicuous similarity between R26 and the cult site of Gournay in its second phase is the combination of a ditch accompanied by a palisade on the outside. The two monuments do not differ much in chronological terms: the French one was dated to the mid-3rd century BC and R26 to phase H, *i.e.* between 300 and 250 BC.

What is thought to be another similar combination has recently been found at Kooigem in western Flanders (Termote 1987). In an Iron Age hill fort the excavators of this site unearthed a quadrangular ditched enclosure measuring 21.5×25.5 m. The ditch, which was not interrupted at any point, varied in width from 1.10 to 2 m; it was about 75 cm

deep. According to the excavators, it was probably accompanied by posts on the outside, set about 2 m apart. No postholes were observed along the western side; they had perhaps disappeared as a result of erosion. The postholes of a small building measuring 5×5 m were found in the northeastern corner of the enclosure. It is thought that a bridge across the eastern stretch of the ditch provided access to this building.

An exceptionally large number of finds came to light within the enclosure. The publication discussing the excavation writes that the surface had been raised by a thick layer of soil containing more than 9000 sherds of earthenware, including fragments of thick-walled roughened pottery, lavishly decorated pottery, unusual types like *Lappenschalen* and miniature cups, plus fragments of loom weights, a sling shot and a spindle whorl. The finds bear a remarkable resemblance to those that came to light at the Kemmelberg. Also worthy of mention, finally, is the 'funerary deposit' that was found halfway down the western side of the enclosing ditch,

comprising large fragments of at least seven earthenware pots, fragments of a bracelet made from sapropelite (?), a bronze buckle and part of a *fibula*.

Dating the ditched enclosure proved rather difficult (cf. Termote 1987; *id.* 1990). On the basis of the poor finds recovered from the primary fill it was initially assumed that the ditch was dug around the transition from the Hallstatt to the La Tène periods and that the layer of soil was deposited next, to fill up and obliterate the ditch, after which the pit for the 'funerary deposit' was dug (LT Ib) (Termote 1987: 68). It is now however thought that the layer containing the finds is older (LTIIa; 5th century BC) than the ditch (LTIIb; first half of the 4th century BC) (Termote 1990; *id.* 1990, pers. comm.) The funerary character of the deposit is now incidentally open to doubt, since it has been found that the bones derive from animals (Termote, pers. comm.).

With respect to the function of the ditched enclosure Termote wrote: 'The fairly unpractical situation on the sloping bank of the plateau implies that it cannot have been used as a settlement site or a cattle pen, while the absence of burial structures makes it unlikely that it had a funerary function (in the first phase at least). The general layout, the precise orientation and to a certain extent also the situation suggest that it was a cult site' (Termote 1987: 68, translated from the original in Dutch).

Besides the aforementioned similarities between the quadrangular ditched enclosures of Gournay, Kooigem and Oss there are of course also several differences. No traces of any building or a series of ritual pits were found in the enclosure of R26, unless the pits found in the monument's ditch were ritual pits. As for the offerings or votive deposits, the finds recovered from the ditch and the pits of R26 appear to be ordinary, everyday settlement refuse and differ markedly from for example the metal objects found in the *fossé à exposition* of Gournay. A similar contrast is observable in the faunal remains: the site at Gournay yielded an impressive amount of animal and even human remains, whereas that of Oss contained nothing more than a few small fragments of animal bones. These differences in finds may be partly attributable to differences in preservation: no remains of any animal offerings would have survived in the calcium-deficient soil of Oss, so no conclusions can be drawn from the virtual absence of such remains. And there are of course other factors that must be considered, too, such as the complexity of the society, the social level at which the cult site functioned and the material culture of the people who used the site. These factors will all have influenced the nature and number of the votive deposits. The Gournay cult site will undoubtedly have been of regional importance, considering its situation in a late La Tène *oppidum*; it may have been the sanctuary of a tribal group (*pagus*) (see also Roymans 1990: 73). The cult site of Kooigem, which is associated with a hill fort, will likewise

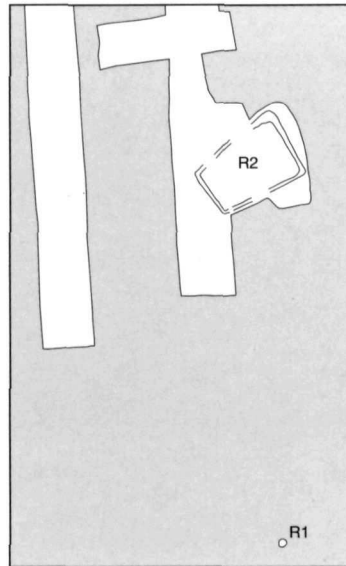


Figure 7. Distribution of the burials in cluster C. Scale 1:2000.

have had a supraregional function, with its building and its unusual painted pottery. The cult site of Oss however functioned on a lower level; it was used only by the farmers living in its immediate surroundings. Thanks to extensive research into the numerous wells and deep pits from this period (phase H), we are well informed about those farmers' simple material culture. It is not surprising that the finds recovered from R26 seem so ordinary.

The second square ditched monument that can be dated to (a late phase of) the Middle Iron Age with certainty lies about 250 m northeast of R26 (*fig. 6*). This monument, R49, is however smaller, measuring not more than 18.5 × 19 m, and its ditch is accordingly narrower and shallower. This ditch was also accompanied by a palisade (16 × 15.5/16 m), only this time inside the enclosure. Whether there was originally a palisade on the outside, too, is very uncertain. The 2-m-wide entrance lies in the southern half of the eastern side, as in the case of R26. No burial pit containing cremated remains was found at the centre. But this may mean nothing, as several burial monuments were found to be 'empty'. There are however indications that this monument had a non-funerary function.

The first are two postholes found within the enclosed area that yielded a remarkable quantity of secondarily burned sherds (87 and 20 fragments) dating from phase H. The fact that the line that can be drawn between these two postholes passes through the monument's centre could be coincidence. The many finds that were recovered from the ditch are a second indication that R49 is no ordinary funerary monument. The exceptionally large number of more than 1100 fragments

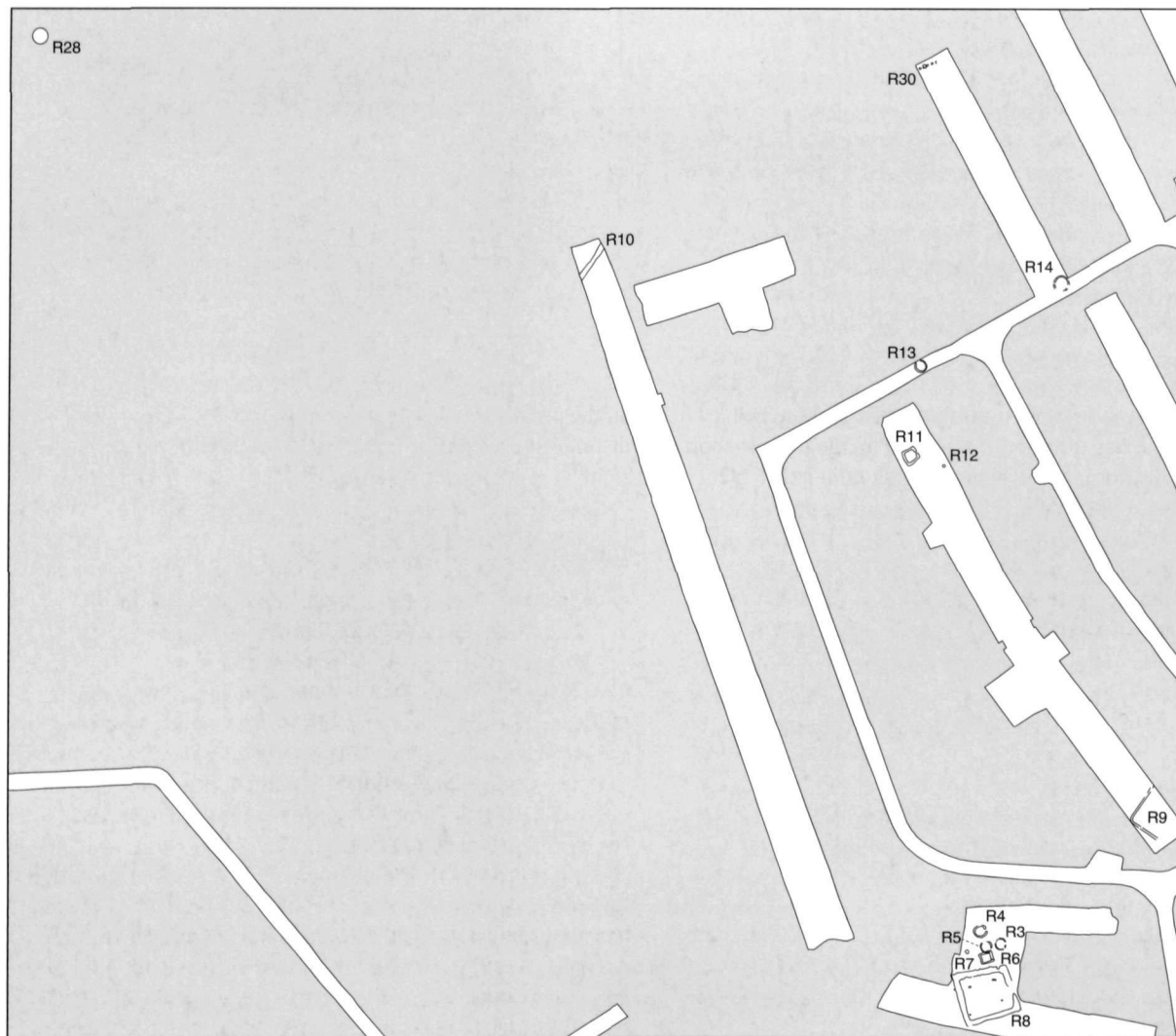


Figure 8. Distribution of the burials in the southwest of cluster B. Scale 1:2000.

of pottery were not evenly distributed across the ditch: more than three quarters was found in the western stretch. This pottery is not unusual as far as the represented range of types is concerned (*table 4*). In addition to pottery, the ditch also yielded fragments of a spindle whorl and several sling shots, plus a small amount of determinable animal bones, which were found to derive from cattle, pig and birds. Such animal remains are rarely or never encountered in ditches surrounding burials.

Especially when we consider the plan of for example the *Viereckschanze* of Ehningen (see Planck 1986: 352 for this plan), it is tempting to include the feature of the building measuring 1.90×1.90 m found in the northwestern quadrant (S206) in this discussion. It is however more plausible that this feature, and also that of the small building S207 found

directly to the west of it, represent outbuildings of H45, rather than structures that had a function in the ditched enclosure.

These considerations lead to the tentative conclusion that R49 is more likely to have been a cult site than a burial monument.

Seven flat graves were unearthed within a 50-m-long area to the north of R26 (*fig. 5*). Two of those graves, R23 and R24, contained pottery. The simple bowl that was found in R23 was most probably made in the Middle Iron Age, which makes it likely that the six other flat graves – R19, R20, R21, R22, R24 and R27 – were dug in the same period. The burials that were found to the north of these – a few large and small ring ditches (R18, R33, R34, R35, R42) and two flat graves (R32 and R36) – could not be dated; they may date from the Early, the Middle or the Late Iron Age. Considering the distribution of the

burials from the Late Iron Age (see below) it is least likely that these monuments date from this period.

The burials that came to light to the northwest and south of R49 could not be dated either. They are two flat graves, R47 and R48, which were found at a short distance from the presumed cult site, plus some flat graves (R52, R54 and R56) and ring ditches (R53 and R55) which were unearthed a little further away (*fig. 6*). An intersection showed that R55 must have been dug before the Late Iron Age, but that is all that can be said about these burials.

The fourth monument that could be dated to the Middle Iron Age on the basis of the associated finds is R2, one of the two features which together constitute cluster C (*fig. 7*). R2 is a trapezium-shaped southwest-northeast oriented ditched enclosure measuring 20.80 × 15.50/10.20 m, the longest short side lying in the northeast. Its length/width ratio is 2:1.5/2:1; its total area measures 268 m². The entire central part had been disturbed, so it is not known whether there was a burial pit here originally.

The finds recovered from the ditch, which widens substantially in the northeastern corner, consist of 68 sherds, a spindle whorl and a very small amount of animal bones. They yield a date in phase H. The monument was intersected by a pit, P23, with a depth of about 90 cm, which contained remains dating from the Late Iron Age phase K. At the bottom of this pit was a complete pot, which had been placed upside down.

It is not so easy to determine the function of this trapezium-shaped enclosure. No parallels are known from this region. The monument's shape can at most be said to be reminiscent of the short variant of the long graves of the Riethoven type, from which it however differs clearly in its exceptional width and its angular plan. Closer parallels are to be found in northern France, for example at Arcy Romance (Ardennes), whose excavator discovered a trapezium-shaped ditched enclosure measuring 27 × 17/14.5 m (Lambot, written comm.). The entrance was in the northern short side. Nine Late Iron Age (LT D1) cremation burials were found within this enclosure. No entrance was observed in the Oss enclosure; there probably never was one. A large part of the monument had been destroyed by a subrecent ditch, but if there had been an entrance it would undoubtedly have been situated in the eastern side, as in the other Middle Iron Age structures.

An alternative interpretation is that R2 was a cult site, in which case the arrangement of posts whose features were observed within the enclosure may have had a ritual function, as arrangements of postholes are often encountered in such enclosures (Brunaux *et al.* 1985: 94-95; Slofstra/Van der Sanden 1987: 147-148). But this is not a satisfactory explanation. The ditch yielded a relatively large number of sherds, but no way near as many as were found at the presumed cult sites R26 and R49. So all in all it is impossible to say whether R2 was a funerary monument or a cult site. All that we know for

certain is that the monument differs in shape from both the burials and the cult sites of Ussen, and that its apparent relation to P23 is purely coincidental, because the two features are separated by a chronological gap of some 200 years.

R1, which was discovered in the 1940s, must have come to light about 80 m further south. There is no doubt about it that this monument was a burial; it may have been covered by a mound. The vague and somewhat contradictory description of the urn which has disappeared since the excavation unfortunately provides no clues to the monument's date.

2.3. LATE IRON AGE

All of the monuments dated to the Late Iron Age were found on the periphery of the central cluster B. Two groups can be distinguished. The largest is that which was found to the southwest of cult site R26 (*fig. 8*). The most striking element in this group is the quadrangular ditched enclosure R8, within which was a large square arrangement of posts. This slightly trapezium-shaped monument measures 15 × 14.20/12.60 m. Its entrance was in the northeast. Cremated remains were found not at the centre of this structure, but in the ditch, accompanied by a considerable amount of pottery: 127 fragments in total. The majority of the sherds came from the eastern and western stretches of the ditch. Interesting is that fragments from different ditch stretches could be fitted together. The range of types represented and the C14 date obtained both place this monument in the Late Iron Age (phases K-L; 156-140/120 BC - AD 6 (2σ)).

The finds recovered from the ditch bear some resemblance to those from cult sites R26 and R49. Besides sherds of pottery they include (fragments of) querns, loom weights and animal (cattle) bones. The monument's dimensions are moreover much larger than those of four nearby, and undoubtedly contemporary, ditched enclosures (which, in view of their 'normal' sizes must have definitely enclosed burials); they could all four easily fit inside R8. The cremated remains found in the ditch however make it very likely that this is a (relatively large) burial monument. The postholes found within the enclosure do not disagree with this. Comparable arrangements of postholes are known from monuments elsewhere which can only be interpreted as burials (Nijnsel: Hulst 1964: 77; Bladel: Roymans 1982: 100). The dimensions of R8 are comparable with those of the Late Iron Age square monument that was excavated near Knesselare, in the eastern part of Flanders in 1996 (Vermeulen/Hageman 1997). Within the enclosure, measuring 15.6 × 14.8 m, four cremation burials were observed and another two were found in the ditch. The excavators found a posthole at each of the outer corners.

The aforementioned smaller burials that were found to the north of R8 comprise three ring ditches with entrances in the northeast (R4), east (R3) and southeast (R5), a square ditched enclosure with a narrow entrance in the southeastern corner

(R6) and a flat grave (R7). Two of these burials have been dated. The C14 date obtained for R6 yielded a date of 178-32/20-6 BC (2 σ). This date is supported by the pottery sherds that were found in the ditch, most of which belonged to a single pot dating from the Late Iron Age. This monument was partly overlapped by ring ditch R5, which must hence be younger. The other three burials could not be dated directly, but their positions relative to R5 and R6 suggest that the entire group dates from the same period.

Also of Late Iron Age date is R10, part of a ditch that was found 200 m further northwest. The 11.50-m-long ditch stretch may have been (part of) the southern side of a quadrangular monument. Whether this monument was a funerary structure can no longer be determined, but this is doubtful in view of the remarkably large number of finds that were recovered from the ditch, especially when we consider that they represent only a small part of a much larger assemblage. Most striking, besides the relatively large number of pottery sherds (157), are the fragments of a glass La Tène bracelet and a bronze rod. Glass bracelets are incidentally known from burials in the Netherlands (Bloemers 1975: 40-41), Belgium (De Boe 1986: 26) and Germany (Hinz 1974: 248-249; Reichmann 1979), mostly in the form of burned fragments encountered among the cremated remains (*cf.* also Janssens 1977: 14, 21, for examples from the Roman period). The fragment of a bracelet from R10 had not been in contact with fire.

Monuments R9, R11, R12, R13, R14 and R30, which came to light between the Late Iron Age structures discussed above and those from the Early and Middle Iron Age, could not be dated to a single period, with the exception of R12, a pit that contained over 50 sherds of a 44-cm-large pot which was dated to phases K-L. Whether this pit is a burial is highly questionable. It may also be a ritual pottery deposit, comparable with for example the pits found within the enclosure of R49. Also uncertain are the original shape and function of the palisade stretch R30. The two square ditched enclosures R9 and R11, measuring 16(?) \times 15(?) m and 4 \times 4.20/3.40 m, respectively, must have been dug in the Middle Iron Age or the Late Iron Age. R9 is one of the few square structures at whose centre cremated remains were found.

The westernmost ring ditch R28 could not be dated either. The overlapping ditch that was dug to mark the boundaries of a yard(?) in the Roman period indicates that the burial was by that time probably no longer recognisable as such.

The Late Iron Age is also represented in another place, namely in the eastern part of cluster B (*fig. 6*), some 550 m from the group discussed above. R51, a ring ditch with an entrance in the north, contained the remains of several decorated vessels from phases K-L, which had been deposited in the ditch to the west of the entrance. The C14 date obtained for this pottery covers a wider timespan, including part of the

Middle Iron Age (391-106 BC (2 σ)), too, than indicated by the typological features of the pottery.

The ditch of the severely disturbed square monument R50 measuring 11.80 \times 11.80 m which came to light to the west of R51 yielded too few finds – no more than 15 sherds and an iron rod – for dating purposes. Like R4 and R8, R50 had an entrance in the northeast. This makes it very likely that the monument dates from the Late Iron Age. Another aspect reminiscent of R8 is the simple arrangement of posts observed within the enclosure, except that it comprised eight instead of four posts. The aforementioned scarcity of finds agrees very well with what is known about burial enclosures, so there is no reason to doubt an interpretation of this structure as a funerary monument.

2.4. LATE IRON AGE(?)/ROMAN PERIOD

The last and youngest monument to be discussed here is R57, in cluster A (*fig. 3*). Of all the monuments covered in this chapter this is the largest and most intriguing, but also the least completely investigated and the most severely affected by post-depositional processes. This ditched enclosure, which was undoubtedly square, will have measured at least 45 \times 40 m, possibly even 45 \times 45 m. No convincing evidence for an entrance or an internal or external flanking palisade was found in the excavated part. The orientation of the 11-m-long row of postholes observed in the southern half of the enclosure, parallel to the northern ditch stretch, suggests that this row is associated with the ditched structure. The finds recovered from the ditch comprise a complete, 4-cm-high bowl of hand-made pottery, 300 fragments of native pottery, 47 fragments of Roman pottery, fired clay, animal bones (cattle, pig, sheep/goat and dog), a grindstone, iron slags and a nail. The datable native pottery sherds and the imported pottery both point to the Roman period.

In a previous study it has been argued that R57 bears a resemblance to the Roman-period quadrangular monuments that have been found in other parts of the Meuse-Demer-Scheldt area (Slofstra/Van der Sanden 1987). The enclosures in question were excavated at Alphen (Van der Sanden/Van der Klift 1984), Hoogeloon, Neerharen-Rekem (De Boe 1985), Wijnegem (Cuyt 1985) and Wijshagen (Maes/Van Impe 1986). These monuments differ from one another in some respects, that is, they do not all show exactly the same characteristics, but they nevertheless have enough in common to be regarded as a single class of archaeological monuments, namely that of the simplest, local cult sites (Slofstra/Van der Sanden 1987: 147-148).

R57 is certainly not the best example of the six rural cult sites. This is due partly to the incompleteness of the plan and partly to the features from the Roman period that intersect the ditch. In particular the fact that houses – H101, H116 and H117 – were later constructed at the site of the ditched

structure led to criticism of its interpretation, because this is rarely or never observed at cult sites (Derks 1988: 46-47; *id.* 1998: 156). This is certainly correct: cult sites were often respected after they had fallen into disuse, but until a better explanation is proposed for R57, the original interpretation in my opinion remains the best.

The problem of the intersections once again raises the question in what period the cult site was in use. The high percentage of native pottery found in both the ditch and the overlying house plans originally led to the conclusion that it can have been used for only (an unknown) part of the 1st century AD (Slofstra/Van der Sanden 1987: 133, 135). A dendrochronological date obtained for the stub of a roof support from H101 however sheds some doubt on this assumption.

The youngest annual ring in the roof support dates from 11 BC, but this date tells us nothing about the year in which the tree was felled because the support contained no sapwood. In total, 90 rings were counted, which means that we must allow for another 20.4 ± 6.2 sapwood rings (Hollstein 1980). If *only* the (softer) sapwood rings were removed when the roof support was carved, this must mean that the tree was felled between AD 3 and 16. If the timber was then used in the construction of the house immediately or shortly after the felling, the cult site must have gone out of use at an early date, possibly in the second decade AD already. But this is by no means certain. Besides the sapwood, (an unknown) part of the heartwood may have been carved away, too, or the support may have been carved from old, previously used wood. In both cases the support's actual age would be younger. A second stub of a post from H101 could unfortunately not be dated, so we have no further evidence to help solve this question.

If R57 indeed fell into disuse in the first half of the 1st century, the next question is whether it may have been built in the Late Iron Age, *i.e.* in the last decades BC. Again no definitive answer can be given. It is theoretically possible that the ditch was dug before the beginning of the Christian era without any pottery typical of the Late Iron Age having been deposited in it.

A last question is whether the finds recovered from the ditch agree with the hypothesis that the cult site went out of use at an early date. The majority of the finds, including the native pottery, but also the greater part of the imported ware, could not be accurately dated. They could very well date from the first decades of the first century. A portion of the Roman pottery is definitely younger (Drag. 27, Drag. 18/31?, Stuart 110A and the greyish white coarse ware). The sherds in question may however have ended up in depressions still remaining here and there in the fill of the former ditch during the later occupation of this area.

3. Conclusion

The collection of prehistoric burials and related structures discussed above does not agree with the picture familiar to us

from many Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age cemeteries in the southern part of the Netherlands (for some recent examples see Bloemers 1993: 15; Roymans/Tol 1993:45; Roymans/Kortlang 1993:28). At Oss the excavators found no burials lying close together, but widely scattered ring ditches, square ditched enclosures and flat graves. This impression of a widely scattered layout is certainly not due to the many areas that were not investigated. Nothing of any interest was observed in the many building and road trenches that were dug within the area of cluster B. Any round or square enclosure lying here would definitely have been discovered. An area distinctly devoid of structures can for example be distinguished between R26 and the burials found to the north of it on the one hand, and the burials around R49 on the other.

This scattered distribution and the fact that large areas were not excavated make it impossible to estimate the number of burials originally dug here. The monuments are incomplete in other respects, too. Cremated remains were found in only a small number of monuments (23). Interestingly, most of the determinable remains were found in flat graves. The age of the deceased could be established in eight cases, the sex in only two (*table 5*). These numbers are too small to allow us to infer any relations between the age and sex of the deceased and the shape and size of the burial. The funerary structures of Oss-Ussen are too incomplete and too severely eroded to be able to play any role in answering questions on demographic issues. What we do know for sure, however, is that the small number of burials is out of all proportion to the large quantity of settlement evidence (such as house plans, *etc.*) available on this period.

Hardly any grave goods were found in the relatively small number of burial pits. In three cases the remains were accompanied by a small pot (R17, R23 and R24); a small number of other pits contained one or more sherds. Metal or glass grave goods were altogether absent. The cremated remains will have been scattered in the pit or wrapped in a piece of fabric. The only urn found in this area came to light over 50 years ago (R1).

The spatial development of the cemetery – or rather the cemeteries – can be sketched in broad outline only. The oldest, and most heterogeneous, centre, comprising flat graves, round and oval palisaded enclosures and round and oval ditched enclosures, lies in the northwest. The burials in question probably all date from the Early Iron Age (7th-6th centuries BC). Their distribution plan strongly suggests that a large number of burials from this period have remained undiscovered. Two large ring ditches which were found over 500 m to the northeast, in cluster A, may date from this same period.

To the south and southeast of the oldest centre lie the Middle Iron Age structures: at least one flat grave (but probably a whole series) and three square enclosures which have been interpreted as cult sites (R25, R26 and R49). Pottery and an

Table 5. Survey of the R monuments in which cremation remains were found. (p) = cremation remains from peripheral structure; + = cremation remains observed (determination: M.L.P. Hoogland).

| R | type | weight (g) | sexe | age | animal bone | remarks |
|-----|------------------------|------------|--------|------------------|-------------|------------------------------|
| 1 | urn | + | | | | |
| 6 | quadrangular ditch (p) | 4 | | | | |
| 7 | flat grave | 1 | | | | |
| 8 | quadrangular ditch (p) | 14 | | | | |
| 9 | quadrangular ditch | 135 | | 14/21-35 | | |
| 14 | circular ditch (p?) | + | | | | |
| 15 | flat grave | 6 | | | | |
| 19 | flat grave | 2 | | | | |
| 20 | flat grave | 1 | | | | |
| 21 | flat grave | 59 | | >14/18 | | |
| 22 | flat grave | 98 | | adult | | |
| 23 | flat grave | + | | | | |
| 26a | quadrangular ditch | 7 | | | | |
| 27 | flat grave | 19 | | | | |
| 29 | circular ditch | 222 | male | >18/21 | | |
| 32 | flat grave | 11 | | child/adolescent | | |
| 36 | flat grave | 37 | | >21 | | |
| 46 | flat grave | 96 | | >21 | | |
| 47 | flat grave | 657 | female | 25-40 | bird | arthrosis of lumbal vertebra |
| 48 | flat grave | 3 | | | | |
| 52 | flat grave | + | | | | |
| 54 | flat grave | ? | | | | |
| 56 | flat grave | 50 | | | | |

intersection date the structures to the 4th-3rd centuries BC. These cult sites bear some resemblance to ritual monuments found in northern France, Belgium and, to a lesser extent, southern Germany, but they functioned on a lower (local) level.

The earthenware vessels that were recovered from the ditches of R26 and R49 are probably to be interpreted as containers of votive offerings or as the remains of ritual meals. The small amounts of bone probably represent animal offerings. The larger of the two is R26. The ditch may have been concealed from sight by a wattle fence. The soil that was dug from the ditch was probably used to construct a bank inside the ditch. No evidence for a building was found within the enclosure. R25, a square enclosure marked out by ten postholes per side, was probably the predecessor of R26. Interestingly, the *Viereckschanze* of Holzhausen shows a similar development from a palisaded to a ditched enclosure (Schwarz 1975). The enclosed area of R25 may likewise have been secluded from the profane outside world by a wattle fence.

Nothing can be said about the nature of the cult with any certainty, but the fact that a burial, which was likewise surrounded by a palisade and hence presumably also hidden from direct observation, was at some later date added to R26 suggests that the worship of ancestors was a fundamental aspect

of the ritual. This is also suggested by the positions of R26 and R49, in a cemetery. A similar association between a cemetery and a cult site is also observable in many of the *Viereckschanzen* of southern Germany (*cf.* Bittel 1978).

About 500 m further south, in cluster C, lies an isolated trapezium-shaped ditched enclosure dating from the same period, of which it is not certain what it represents. And, finally, there is a possibility that some of the burials of cluster D date back to the Middle Iron Age.

Three centres are known from the Late Iron Age. Two lie on the periphery of cluster B, one in the west, the other in the east. The third centre lies in cluster D. These three centres are separated by more or less equal distances – approx. 300-500 m. They include ring ditches, large and small square ditched enclosures and flat graves. The radiocarbon dates obtained for these burials range from the 3rd until the end of the 1st century BC. One monument (R10) may have been a cult site, but that is not certain.

The ring ditches and square ditched enclosures from this period may be termed exceptional. Excavations elsewhere in the Netherlands and surrounding areas have brought to light mainly burials without peripheral structures (Valkenburg-Vroenhof: Bloemers 1975; Wessem: Louwe Kooijmans/Smits in Willems 1985; the Lippe estuary: Reichmann 1979; Neerharen-Rekem: De Boe 1986; Ursel:

Bourgeois *et al.* 1989). So at Ussen the tradition of surrounding some burials by ditches evidently continued uninterrupted into the Roman period.

The youngest monument, excluding the Roman-period burials in cluster D, is cult site R57, which was found inside the ditch enclosing the Westerveld settlement. We do not know what this cult site may have looked like. The sand dug from the ditch may have been used to construct a bank inside the enclosure. Within the enclosed area was a row of posts which, as we know from comparable monuments elsewhere in the Meuse-Demer-Scheldt area, played an important part in the cult. When the cult site was constructed is archaeologically virtually indeterminate; it may have been before or after the beginning of the Christian era. The monument appears to have been used for only a short length of time. The fact that houses were built on the sacred site in the first half of the 1st century AD must imply a conscious, radical break with the past.

4. Catalogue of funerary and related structures

Between 1976 and 1986 a large number of burials and closely related structures were found at Oss-Ussen. Four clusters of different sizes were distinguished. The best-known is the expansive cemetery dating predominantly from the Roman period, which was exposed in the southeastern part of the area where the new houses were to be built (cluster D). This necropolis will be discussed elsewhere, in a different context (Hessing in prep.), so only the 58 ritual structures of clusters A, B and C will be described in this catalogue. Among these structures is one which came to light long before excavations were started in this area (R1).

38 of the monuments were enclosed by a ditch and/or postholes (table 6). Some of the twenty other structures may have been enclosed originally, too. 34 of the monuments described below yielded ceramics. Both burial pits and ring ditches are known from all of the Iron Age phases. As only few of the quadrangular enclosures have been dated, we do not know for sure whether these monuments of this type were not used before the Middle Iron Age. The most important monuments are shown in figures 9-26.

R1

An urn containing cremation remains was discovered in a clearly visible elevation during digging operations most probably carried out in the 1940s in a meadow north of the Amsteleindstraat. An article in a local newspaper describes the urn as being of 'coarse, grey ware.. with thin walls'.¹ The burned human remains were investigated shortly after their discovery by an unknown individual who concluded that they 'derived from a man aged about 20'. The urn was dropped and fractured soon after and the sherds and the cremation remains were cleared away.² This find cannot be dated.

R2

R2 is a trapezium-shaped ditched enclosure. Across its south-west-northeast axis this monument measures 20.80 m (fig. 9). Its smallest and largest widths are 10.20 and 15.50 m, respectively, its overall area being approx. 268 m². The ditch was found to vary in depth from 35 to 60 cm and in width from 60 to over 200 cm (the largest width and depth were measured in the northeastern corner). Six postholes were observed within the enclosure, whose centre was intersected by a subrecent ditch. Finds were collected from the fill of the ditch in several places. Find number 2568 comprises 68 pottery sherds, part of a spindle whorl and small amounts of tephrite and animal bone (deriving from a small animal). Date: phase H of the Middle Iron Age.

The trapezoid monument was found to be intersected by P23, a pit of type B. The finds that were recovered from this feature, among which are more than 200 fragments of hand-made pottery, are datable to phase K of the Late Iron Age.

R3

R3 is a shallow ring ditch with a diameter of approx. 2.80 m and an opening in the east. Nothing was found in the ditch other than a little charcoal. No cremation remains were found within the enclosure.

R4

R4 is a shallow ring ditch with a diameter of approx. 3.30 m and an opening facing northeast. Three wall sherds (find

Table 6. Survey of the shapes, dimensions and dates of the ritual monuments. MBA = Middle Bronze Age (?); EIA = Early Iron Age; MIA = Middle Iron Age; LIA = Late Iron Age; IA = Iron Age; Rp = Roman period.

| shape | number | dimensions (m) | area (m ²) | date | (number) |
|-------------------------------|--------|----------------|------------------------|------------|----------|
| pit | 20 | | | EIA - LIA | (5) |
| ring ditch | 22 | 2.8-30 | 6.2-706.9 | MBA? - LIA | (6) |
| quadrangular ditch | 12 | 3×3.2-45×45 | 9.6-2025 | MIA - RP I | (6) |
| trapeze-shaped ditch | 1 | 20.8×10.2/15.5 | 268 | MIA | (1) |
| quadrangular setting of posts | 1 | 25×25/26 | 625/650 | - | |
| oval setting of posts | 1 | 14.2×4.8 | 63.2 | - | |
| palisade | 1 | 4.5 | | IA | (1) |
| total | 58 | | | | (19) |

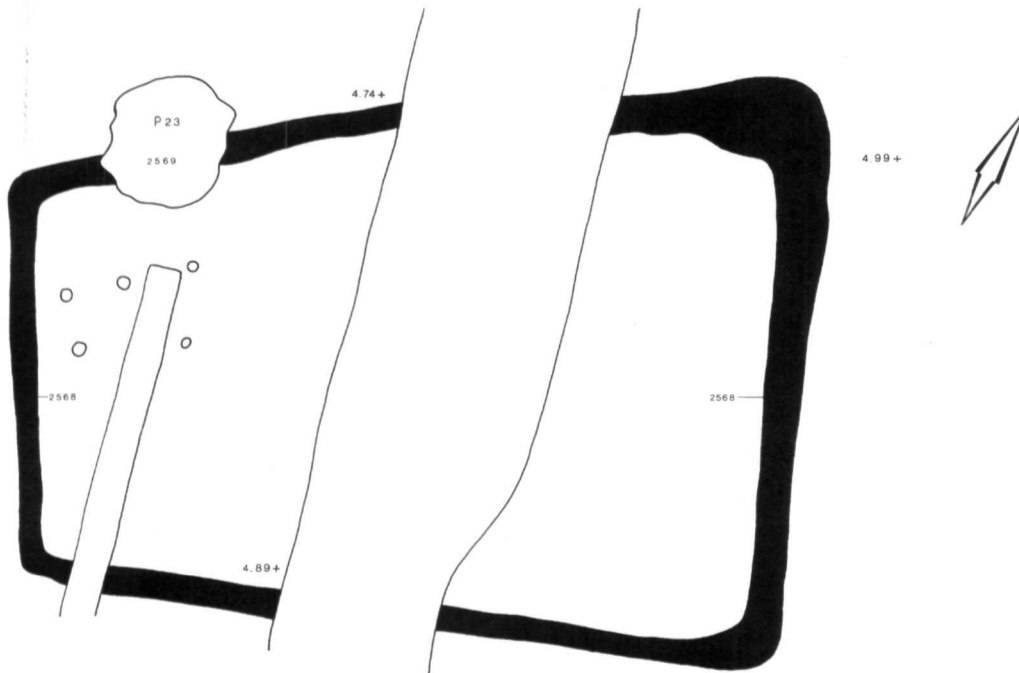


Figure 9. Trapezoidal ditched enclosure R2. Scale 1:200.

number 3724) were found to the south of this entrance. No traces of a burial pit were found at the centre.

R5

R5 is a shallow ring ditch, part of which had been disturbed by another feature, with a diameter of approx. 3 m and an opening facing southeast. The monument most probably dates from the Late Iron Age, because R5 intersects R6.

R6

R6 is a quadrangular ditched enclosure whose sides measure approx. 3.20×3.00 m (*fig. 10*). There was a gap between the 40-60-cm-wide ditches in the southeastern corner. Small amounts of cremation remains (find numbers 3712 and 3713), charcoal (find numbers 3715 and 3717) and hand-made pottery (find numbers 3711, 3714 and 3716; 30 fragments in total, 24 of which probably derive from the same vessel) were found in the ditch, whose greatest depth was 28 cm. A C14 date obtained for the charcoal yielded a date of 2085 ± 30 BP (GrN-10731), which means that the monument was built in the Late Iron Age.

R7

R7 is a pit with a surviving depth of 6 cm, which yielded cremation remains.

R8

R8 is a quadrangular ditched enclosure whose sides measure $15 \text{ m} \times 12.60/14.20$ m (*fig. 11*). There was an opening in the north-

east, next to a recent ditch-shaped disturbed area. The ditch's depth varied from 50 to 80 cm, its width from 110 to 180 cm. Postholes were observed within the enclosure. Their positions and uniform depths indicate that they are related to the ditched enclosure. They marked out a quadrangle measuring approx. 6.00×6.50 m. Traces of burning were observed just outside this quadrangle. All four sides of the enclosure yielded finds.

Eastern side: find number 3644: 51 sherds, 90 g of tephrite, 750 g of stone and a little charcoal.

Southern side: find number 3645: 14 sherds, 351 g of tephrite, 1030 g of stone and 2 g of clay.

Western side: find number 3649: 46 sherds, 170 g of tephrite, 1200 g of stone and a fragment of what was probably a loom weight; find number 3650: fragment of wood (*Pinus*); find number 3651: charcoal.

Northern side: find number 3646: 16 sherds, 520 g of stone and 115 g of unburned animal bone (bovine, large animal); find number 3647: charcoal; find number 3648: 14 g of cremation remains.

A few of the 127 pottery sherds had been secondarily burned. Interestingly, sherds from different sides of the enclosure could be refitted. The pottery dates from phases K-L of the Late Iron Age. A C14 date obtained for the charcoal (find number 3647) yielded a date of 2065 ± 25 BP (GrN-16047).

R9

R9 is a quadrangular ditched enclosure disturbed by several subrecent ditches, less than half of which could be excavated.

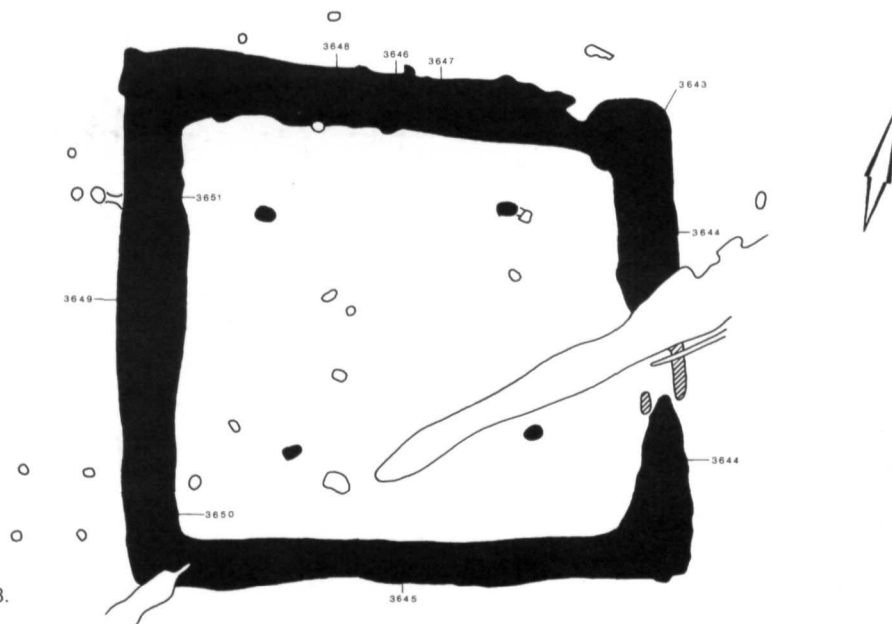


Figure 11. Quadrangular ditched enclosure R8. Scale 1:200.

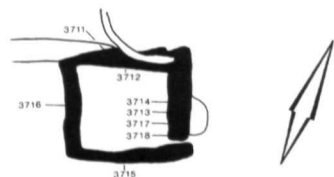


Figure 10. Quadrangular ditched enclosure R6. Scale 1:200.

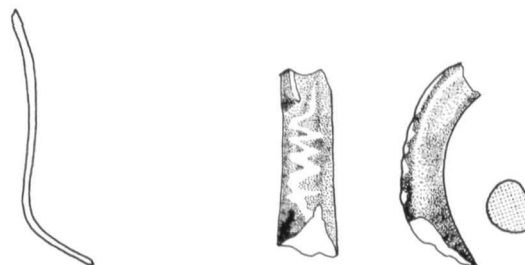


Figure 12. Bronze rod (scale 1:2) and fragment of a blue glass bracelet (scale 1:1) from R10.

The surviving depth of the ditch was 28 cm, its width varied from 50 to 60 cm. The ditch yielded four sherds and a small piece of burned animal bone (large animal; find number 3306). If the cremation remains (find number 3305) that were found within the enclosed area were originally buried at the centre of the monument, the monument will have measured 15 × 16 m.

R10

R10 is a ditch which possibly formed part of a quadrangular ditched enclosure. The ditch was oriented southwest-northeast; it was about 30 cm deep and could be followed for 11.50 m. A relatively large number of finds were recovered from this stretch (find number 3701): 157 sherds, 7 g of clay, 29 g of tephrite, 144 g of stone, 1 fragment of an unburned, blue, glass La Tène bracelet decorated with yellow glass filament

(type 3b) and finally an 8.5-cm-long bronze rod (*fig. 12*). Date: phases J-L of the Late Iron Age.

R11

R11 is a quadrangular ditched enclosure whose sides measure 4.00 × 3.40/4.20 m; there was a small opening in the north-eastern side. The ditch varied in width from 50 to 80 cm. Its depth did not exceed 25 cm. No cremation remains or pottery sherds were found, so the monument could not be dated.

R12

R12 is a pit with a diameter of 50 cm and a surviving depth of 30 cm. The pit contained 54 sherds (find number 3314), 'stacked... so they cannot derive from a pot fractured in the ground'.³ More than 50 sherds derive from a single, large pot with a height of 44

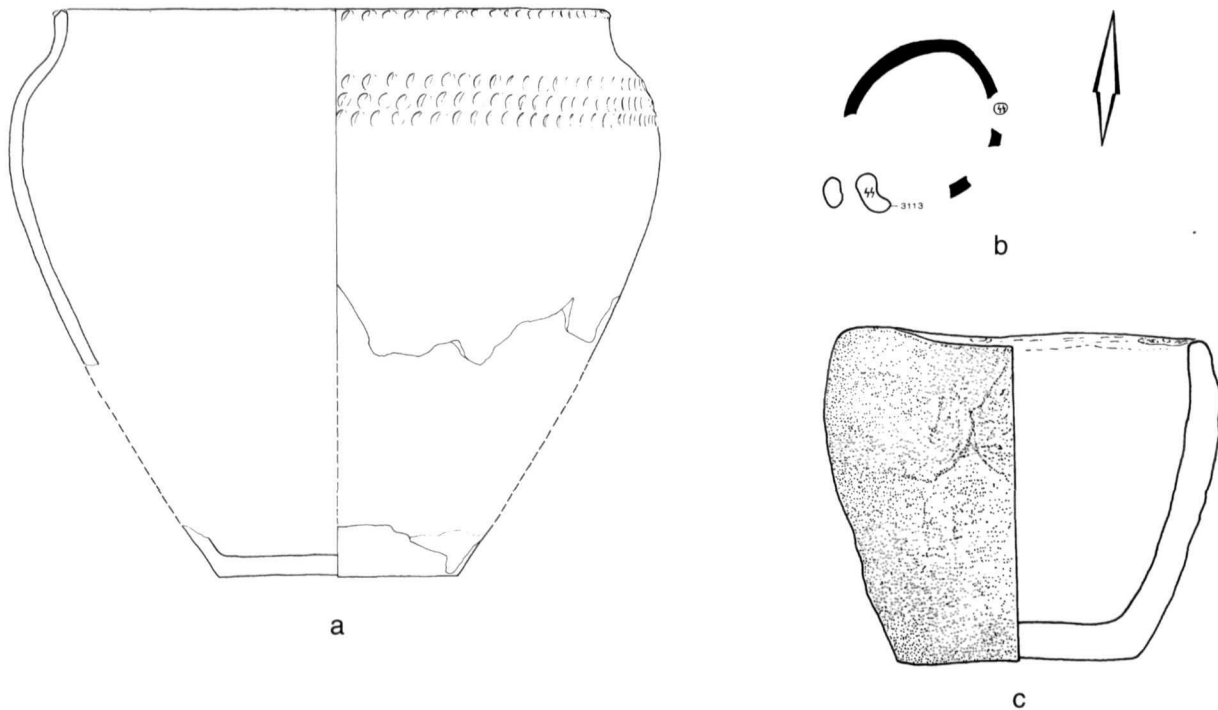


Figure 13. a: Pot (reconstructed) from R12. Scale 1:6; b: Ring ditch R14 with cremation remains. Scale 1:200; c: Complete bowl from R23. Scale 1:2.

cm and a rim diameter of 42 cm, dating from the Late Iron Age (phases K-L; *fig. 13*). No cremation remains were observed.

R13

R13 is a ring ditch with a diameter of 3.20 m and an opening in the north. Two shallow discoloured patches were observed within the enclosure. The ditch was less than 10 cm deep. One sherd was recovered from the ditch (find number 1448).

R14

R14 is a ring ditch, some parts of which had disappeared, so we do not know where its opening was (if there was one) (*fig. 14*). The monument has a diameter of approx. 4 m. Burned bones were found in two places (find number 3113); they seemed to have been deposited in separate pits, though they may have been deposited in the ditch first, and have ended up in the pits later.

R15

R15 is a shallow pit which yielded eight sherds and 6 g of burned bones (find number 3137). The pottery is datable to the Early Iron Age.

R16

R16 is a ring ditch, a few small parts of which could not be excavated. The ditch was 40-60 cm deep and 50-100 cm

wide. The monument had a diameter of about 18 m; it is not certain whether there was an opening in it. Part of the ditch described an irregular course. Animal burrows were found at the centre of the enclosure. They can be seen to indicate that there was a mound there originally. No finds were recovered from the small pits found within the enclosed area, but seventeen sherds were collected from the ditch (find number 3134). Their quality and finish point to a date between phases B and F.

R17

R 17 is a pit that yielded, among other finds, three-quarters of a secondarily burned bowl (height 12.5 cm, rim diameter 18 cm; find number 1451). The rest of the pottery was not very diagnostic either; the one fragment tempered with grit seems to suggest a date in the Early Iron Age.

R18

R18 is a ring ditch with a diameter of approx. 11 m, only the southern part of which could be excavated. An opening was observed in this approx. 70-cm-wide and 5-21-cm-deep ditch stretch. Only one sherd (find number 3233) was found in the ditch. Fourteen sherds of native ware, including a fragment of a cream-coloured salt container, were recovered from the medieval (?) ditch that intersected this ring ditch.

R19

R19 is a pit with a surviving depth of 10 cm. It contained a very small amount of burned bone and one pottery sherd (find number 3231).

R20

R20 is a pit with a depth of 10 cm which yielded nothing but burned bone (find number 3230).

R21

R21 is a pit with a depth of 10 cm which contained cremation remains (find number 3203).

R22

R22 is a pit with a surviving depth of only 6 cm which contained cremation remains (find number 3200).

R23

R23 is a pit with a depth of 15 cm; an intact bowl of native ware was found standing in the pit (find number 3347; *fig. 15*). Cremation remains were found in a secondary position in animal burrows nearby. Date: Middle Iron Age.

R24

R24 is a pit with a surviving depth of 20 cm in which stood a small bowl of native ware (find number 3341; now lost); no cremation remains were found.

R25

R25 consists of traces of postholes arranged in a square measuring 25 × 25/26 m. Some of the postholes had been destroyed by the digging of ditches in recent times; a few others lay just outside the limits of the excavated area. The depths of the 27 observed postholes vary from 15 to 40 cm. A shallow, oval discolouration was observed approximately at the centre of the enclosed area, but it was not clear in what way it was related to the enclosure. No finds were recovered from the postholes. The monument did not intersect R26/26a.

R26

R26 is a large quadrangular ditched enclosure immediately to the east of R25 measuring 32.5 × 33.5 m (*fig. 14*). Part of the monument had been severely disturbed by two southwest-northeast ditches. There was an opening in the eastern side, slightly to the south of the centre; the ditch became shallower towards this opening. The width of the ditch varied from 1.00 to 1.70 m, its depth from 40 to 70 cm. The ditch's vertical section was more or less V-shaped in some parts and funnel-shaped in others (*fig. 16*). Postholes with depths of 10-38 cm were observed about 1 m from the outside of the ditch on all four sides of the monument. This palisade, which measured 35 × 35 m, must have comprised 52 posts.

Also worthy of mention are two pits of types B and D that interrupted the ditch. P98 (D) was found at the southeastern corner, P118 (B) in the western side, opposite the entrance. Both pits were about 125 cm deep and in both cases the fill of the ditch was clearly found to continue in the pits, implying that the pits formed part of the monument and must have been in use at the same time as the ditch (*cf. fig. 15*). Parts of some of the postholes had disappeared as a result of erosion of the edges of the pits; the hole at the southeastern corner had even disappeared altogether.

The enclosed area was almost entirely devoid of prehistoric features. A few postholes were unearthed in this area, but they did not seem to be related in any way. As the entire monument is diagonally intersected by a wide ditch we will never know what originally lay at its centre.

The fill of the monument's ditch was found to contain many finds. They will be listed first, per side of the monument, after which the contents of the two pits will be discussed. It should be added that the finds recovered from P98, which were concentrated halfway down the fill, were not collected separately from the finds from the adjacent eastern stretch of the ditch (find number 3340).

Southern side: find number 3339: five sherds; find number 3319: 435 sherds, 456 g of clay, one spindle whorl, fragments of one or two loom weights, 233 g of iron slag and 1140 g of stone; find number 3344: 339 sherds, 48 g of clay, 54 g of iron slag, 216 g of tephrite and 198 g of stone.

Western side: find number 3349: twelve sherds and 1 g of tephrite; find number 3350: 51 sherds, 29 g of clay, 36 g of tephrite and 193 g of stone; find number 3320: 39 sherds, 39 g of clay, 425 g of stone.

Northern side: find number 3345: seventeen sherds, one fragment of a loom weight.

Eastern side: find number 3188: 311 sherds, 155 g of clay, two spindle whorls, 185 g of stone and 39 g of burned and unburned animal bone (bovine, large or small animal).

P98: find number 3340: 1792 sherds, 243 g of clay, fragments of a spindle whorl and a loom weight, 2081 g of lumps of clay with flat sides (from a floor?), 24 g of iron slag, 1444 g of stone and 2.5 g of unburned animal bone (small animal).

P118: find number 3348: 283 sherds, 435 g of clay, one spindle whorl fragment, 56 g of iron slag and 2638 g of stone.

Palisade: find numbers 3182-3185: four sherds.

The pottery from both the ditch and the two pits dates from the Middle Iron Age phase H. A C14 analysis of wood recovered from P98 yielded a date of 2200 ± 35 BP (GrN-11132).

R26a

R26a is a more or less U-shaped ditched enclosure with its 'opening' facing east (*fig. 14*). The 16.5-m-long northern side was connected to the western side of the monument discussed above. Surprisingly, the 16.5-m-long western side of this

R27

R27 is a pit with a surviving depth of 10 cm. Nothing other than cremation remains was found in this pit (find number 3197).

R28

R28 is a ring ditch with a diameter of approx. 4.20 m. The ditch was 50 cm wide and 18-30 cm deep. It yielded only one fragment of native ware and one fragment of Roman pottery (find number 4024). The latter find probably ended up in the ring ditch when a ditch marking the limit of a yard (?) was dug across it in the Roman period.

R29

R29 is a very shallow, narrow ring ditch in which postholes were observed in several places (*fig. 17*). This monument, which was excavated in part only, had a diameter of about 21.50 m. The ditch was interrupted in two places, probably as a result of digging in a recent past. At the centre of the enclosure was a pit containing two sherds of native ware and one fragment of post-Roman pottery plus an amount of burned human remains (find numbers 1748 and 1749, respectively). Several other old features were observed within the enclosed area: numerous postholes, a small patch of charcoal and a Late Iron Age pit, P155. As far as this monument's date is concerned, all that can be said with certainty is that the ditch was dug before the Roman period; this can be inferred from the fact that it was intersected by well P154. The presence of P155 suggests that the ditch was dug even before the Late Iron Age.

R30

R30 consists of five postholes, with depths of 10-20 cm, which formed part of a palisade whose original shape is unknown. The two sherds that were recovered from this 4.5-m-long row (find numbers 3104 and 3105) date from the Iron Age.

R31

R31 is a ring ditch, only a small part of which was excavated. The ditch was 10 to 30 cm deep and approx. 40 cm wide. The enclosure will originally have had a diameter of about 6 to 7 m. There seems to have been an opening in the south-east. Whether the two 35-cm-deep postholes which were observed when the ditch was sectioned are in any way related to the monument is not clear. The ditch yielded 39 sherds (find number 3148), dating from the Early Iron Age phase B.

R32

R32 is a cylindrical, 42-cm-deep pit, which contained a small concentration of cremation remains at a depth of 35 cm (find number 3325).

R33

R33 is a part of a ring ditch with a diameter of 4.20 m. The ditch has a maximum depth of 18 cm. An opening was clearly visible in the northeast. No traces of a burial pit were found at the centre of the enclosure. The ditch was devoid of finds.

R34

R34 is the southern part of a shallow ring ditch with a diameter of over 5 m. The opening observed in the south does not seem to be original.

R35

R35 is a ring ditch with a diameter of 10.80 m, which was excavated in its entirety. The ditch was 50 cm wide and at most 25 cm deep; it became shallower towards the opening, in the southeast. It was not certain whether the features observed within the enclosure were associated with the monument. No finds were recovered.

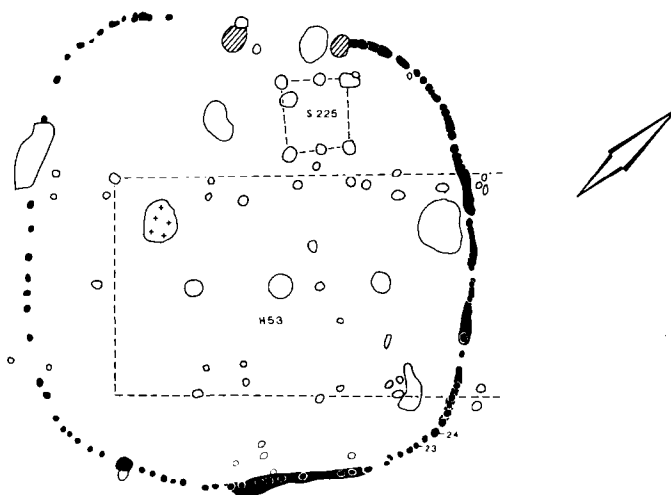


Figure 18. Quadrangular ditched enclosure with rounded corners R37. Scale 1:200.

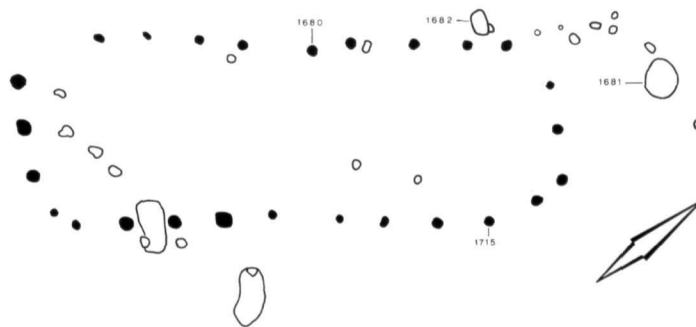


Figure 19. Oval arrangement of posts R40. Scale 1:200

R36

R36 is a pit with a surviving depth of 10 cm, which contained a small amount of burned human remains (find number 3268). The pit had been partly disturbed by a (post-)medieval ditch.

R37

R37 is a shallow, narrow ditched enclosure in the shape of a square with rounded corners (*fig. 18*). Postholes set at short intervals were observed in the ditch. In the south and west, the ditch was no longer visible and only the postholes could be recorded. The monument measured 12 × 12 m and seems to have had an opening in the northwest. In addition to the features of H53 and S225, a shallow, approximately rectangular pit containing charcoal particles was found within the enclosure. No cremation remains were observed.

The few finds recovered from the postholes comprise: find number 23: two sherds of native ware and one sherd of Roman pottery; find number 24: one sherd of Roman pottery. No date may be inferred from the Roman sherds, as they are without doubt contaminants from a period when people had forgotten there was ever a burial here and used the site for occupation.

R38

R38 is a shallow, narrow ditched enclosure in the shape of a square with rounded corners, only one quarter of which was excavated. The monument is in every respect comparable with R37, also in terms of its dimensions. Odd is the absence of postholes in the southeastern part. The monument's centre lay just outside the limits of the excavated area. One of the postholes yielded four sherds of native ware which could not be dated (find number 26). This monument was also intersected by H53.

R39

R39 is a part of a ring ditch with a diameter of 10-11 m. There may have been an entrance in the northeast, but this is not certain.

R40

R40 is an oval enclosure marked out by postholes measuring 14.20 × 4.80 m (*fig. 19*). The enclosure was oriented south-

west-northeast. The 26 postholes varied in depth from 2 to 45 cm. With the exception of one pair, the posts of the long sides were not set exactly opposite one another, unlike those of the short sides. Two undatable sherds of native pottery were found (find numbers 1680 and 1715).

R41

R41 is a part of possibly a slightly oval ring ditch. It is difficult to say what diameter this enclosure originally had as only a small part of the approximately 30-cm-deep ditch was excavated. Its maximum diameter may have been around 30 m. The finds, 30 sherds and a lump of clay with one flat side, could not be dated (find number 1732).

R42

R42 is a ring ditch with a diameter of 4 m, the southeastern part of which had disappeared. Two postholes were observed in the ditch.

R43

R43 consists of parts of a ring ditch with a diameter of approx. 17 m. The ditch was 50 cm wide, 22-30 cm deep in the north, where it contained a very narrow opening, and only 6 cm deep in the south. No burial was found at the centre of the enclosure. The one sherd that was recovered from the ditch's fill dates from the Middle Bronze Age (find number R75).

R44

R44 is a very narrow, shallow ring ditch, the northern half of which had disappeared. Its diameter was 7.30 m. Postholes were observed in the ditch.

R45

R45 is a ring ditch with a diameter of 17 m which was not truly circular. The ditch was only a few centimetres deep in parts. The northwestern part was rather unclear. A few openings were visible here, and there must have been posts in the ditch. Part of the centre of this monument had disappeared

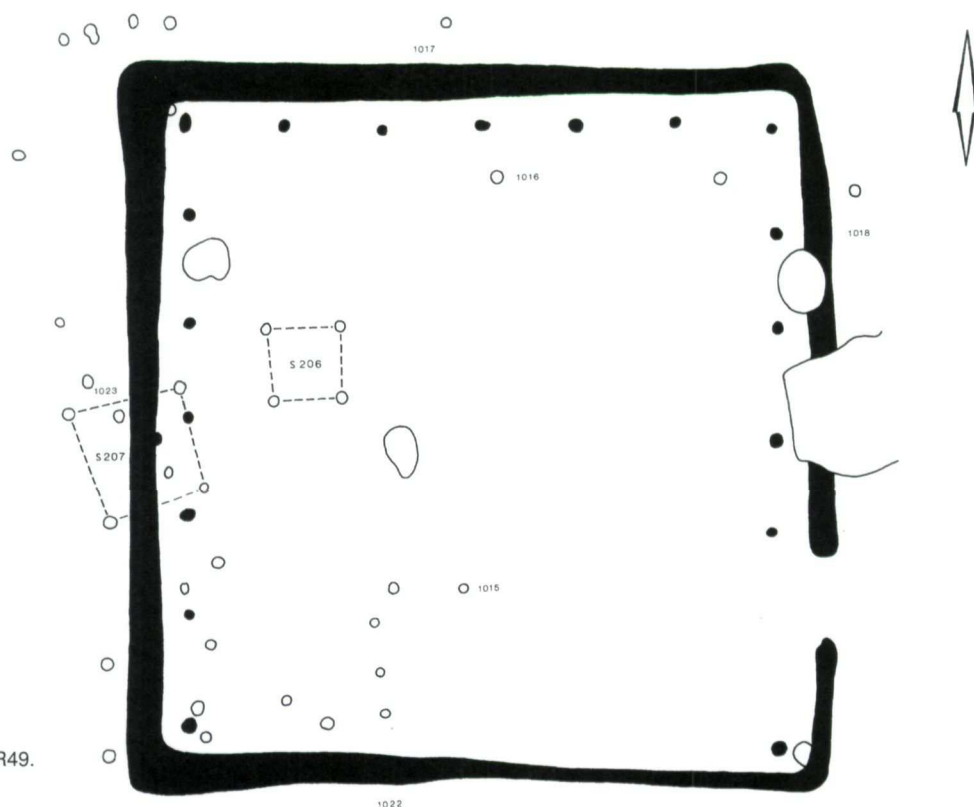


Figure 20. Square ditched enclosure R49.
Scale 1:200.

beneath a subrecent ditch. Iron Age finds were recovered from the ring ditch in three places. Find number 5552: one sherd; find number 5573: eight sherds; find number 6461: one sherd. The ditch was intersected by two features, one of which (H98) definitely and the other (S409) possibly date from the Roman period. The ring ditch must consequently have been dug well before that period.

R46

R46 is a pit with a depth of no more than 5 cm, which contained cremation remains, charcoal, two sherds of native ware and one fragment of a *tegula* (find numbers 5513 and 5514).

R47

R47 is a pit with a depth of 20 cm which contained an exceptionally large amount of burned human bones (find number 3167).

R48

R48 is a pit with a depth of 44 cm which contained a very small amount of burned bone (find number 3168).

R49

R49 is a quadrangular ditched enclosure measuring 18.5 × 19 m (*fig. 20*). The width of the ditch varied from 30 to

100 cm, its depth did not exceed 40 cm. There was a narrow opening in the eastern side, about 4 m from the southeastern corner. Postholes with depths of 5-25 cm were found to accompany the ditch on the inside, except along the monument's southern side, but this could be due to the fact that the level of the surface exposed in the excavation was somewhat lower there (*cf.* the ditch's width). In some places postholes were observed on the other side of the ditch, too (at the southwestern and northeastern corners), but they are so few in number that it is unlikely that they represent the last remaining features of an outer palisade. Various postholes and shallow discoloured patches were observed within the enclosure, of which the following are worthy of mention:

1. a pit with a depth of only 30 cm, which contained 87 sherds, the majority of which had been secondarily burned, and a few lumps of clay (find number 1016). Two pieces of clay of a brick colour were clearly rounded; one was with out doubt a rim. It was 2.5-3 cm thick with a slightly curvy, finger-pinched profile. The rim had a diameter of approx. 25 cm (*fig. 21*);
2. a 10-cm-deep pit which contained twenty sherds, the majority of which had been secondarily burned (find number 1015);
3. a 14-cm-deep pink discolouration caused by fire to the west of the centre;

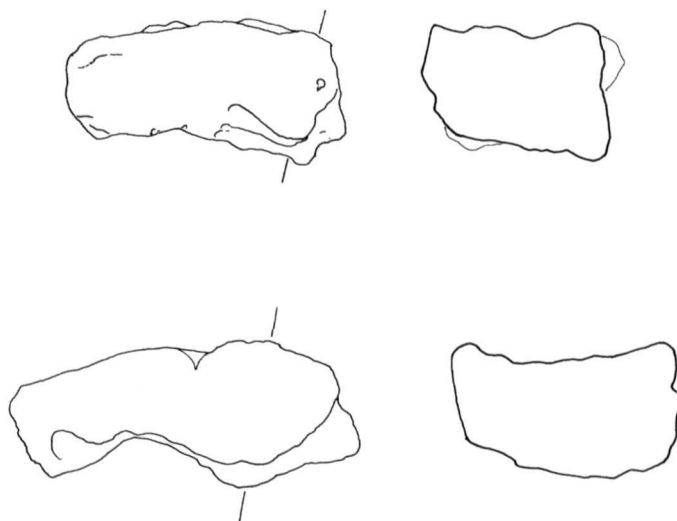


Figure 21. Top view and cross-section of two fragments of a wavy rim, possibly from a hearth. Scale 1:2.

4. the features of two structures, S206 and S207 (type IA).

Part of the latter lay outside the enclosure, so this structure must date from a later or earlier period.

The ditch yielded an exceptionally large number of finds, including over 1100 pottery sherds.

Northern side: find number 1017: 265 sherds, 42 g of clay, part of a spindle whorl and 535 g of stone; find number 1018: 24 sherds.

Southern side: find number 1022: 140 sherds, 150 g of clay, a fragment of a sling shot, 4 g of tephrite, 131 g of stone, 24 g of unburned animal bone (bovine, pig).

Western side: find number 1023: 743 sherds, 110 g of clay, one complete and one half of a sling shot, 175 g of stone and 61 g of burned and unburned animal bone (bovine, bird, large animal).

Only a few of the sherds recovered from the ditch had been secondarily burned. As in the case of R8, sherds from different parts of the ditch could be refitted. The finds are datable to phase H of the Middle Iron Age.

R50

R50 is a quadrangular ditched enclosure measuring 11.80×11.80 m (fig. 22a). The ditch varied from 50 to 100 cm in width and from 25 to 46 cm in depth. The narrow opening observed in the ditch faced northeast. A group of – most probably – eight posts stood within the enclosure. The depths of the postholes varied from 26 to 40 cm. These postholes marked out a feature measuring 7.90×7.60 m. A large part of the ditched enclosure, including its centre, had been destroyed by the digging of a ditch. Finds were discovered in the monument's ditch in only one place, notably the northwestern corner: (find number 3491): 15 sherds and a fragment of an iron rod with a rectangular cross-section (length 2.5 cm; diameter 8 mm). The remains could not be dated.

R51

R51 is a ring ditch with a diameter of approx. 4.20 m and an opening in the north (fig. 22b). The ditch varied in depth from 5 to 16 cm. The remains of several decorated pots were found at two points in the stretch of the ditch to the west of the opening (find numbers 3765A and B). The field drawing specifies: pot lying on its belly (3765A) and compressed pot (3765B). Nothing but charcoal particles (find number 3766) was found in the eastern stretch. A C14 date obtained for this charcoal yielded a date of 2210 ± 60 BP (GrN-16048). Cremation remains were found neither at the centre of the enclosure nor in the ditch. The pottery is datable to phases K-L of the Late Iron Age.

R52

R52 is a pit with a surviving depth of 20 cm, in which cremation remains are said to have been found (find number 1372, now lost).

R53

R53 is a ring ditch with a diameter of 3.60 m. The ditch had a maximum depth of 12 cm. Two openings were observed, a narrow one in the southeast and a (coincidentally?) wide one in the northwest. No cremation remains or sherds were found.

R54

R54 is a pit with a depth of 6 cm. The cremation remains that were recovered from this pit are now lost (find number 1480).

R55

R55 is part of a ring ditch with a diameter of 6-7 m. The ditch may have had an opening in the southeast. To the east of this assumed entrance the ditch was only 4-7 cm deep, so it is not surprising that no traces of the ditch were found to the west of

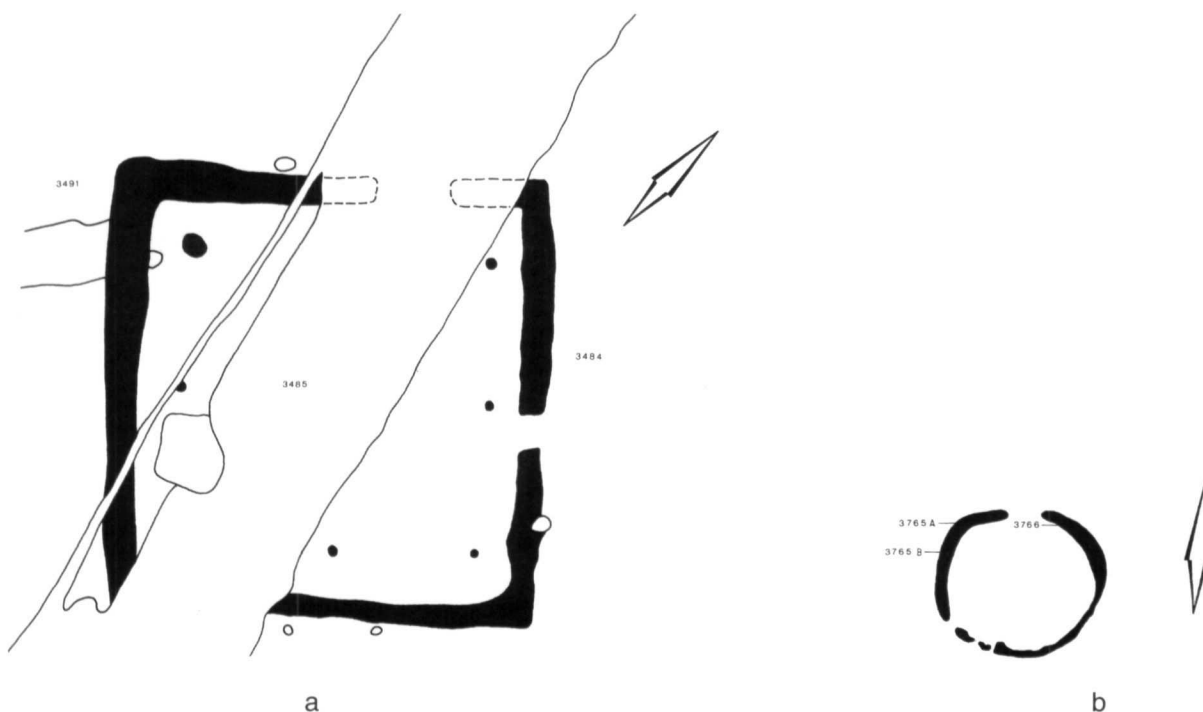


Figure 22. a: Quadrangular ditched enclosure R50. Scale 1:200; b: Ring ditch R51. Scale 1:200.

the opening. This ditch must have been dug before phase H, which is the date of the finds that were recovered from P104, which intersected the ditch.

R56

R56 is a pit with a depth of 19 cm, which yielded two sherds and a few cremation remains (find number 3756).

R57

R57 is a large part of a definitely quadrangular ditched enclosure lying within the Roman-period Westerveld settlement. Unfortunately this monument could not be excavated in its entirety (fig. 23) as its southern part lay beneath the Gewandeweg and was hence inaccessible for research. The condition of the part that was exposed, over a period of six years, was far from optimum: numerous features from later times had obliterated parts of the enclosure. Besides three Roman-period house plans (H101, H116, H117) they are a number of north-west-southeast and east-west oriented ditches dating from the Middle Ages and later times and a large recent disturbance in the west. The original length of only the northern side of the east-west oriented enclosure could be measured; it was found to be over 45 m long. In the east, the ditch could be followed over only 35 m and in the west over no more than 5 m. The very poor visibility of the ditch's feature in the west made it very difficult to interpret the situation on that side, so it is not

certain whether there was indeed an entrance in the northwestern corner, as the drawing seems to suggest. The ditch's original width was about 2 m, its maximum depth 80 cm. Its section varied from bowl-shaped to fairly rectangular. The fill also varied considerably, from light grey to brownish black. In some places 19-cm-wide spade marks were visible in the floor. The monument's exact size could not be determined. The available data – east-west side measuring 45 m, north-south side measuring at least 40 m – yield a minimum area of 1800 m². If the monument was originally square, another 225 m² must be added to this.

The ditch yielded a total of 347 pottery sherds and one intact vessel.

Eastern side: find number 9022: eight fragments of native ware and 9 g of clay; find number 9035: seven fragments of native ware; find number 9049: sixteen fragments of native pottery and 19 g of unburned animal bone (bovine).

Northern side: find number 9062: 46 fragments of native ware, one fragment of *terra nigra*, one fragment of thick-walled pottery (*amphora*), one fragment of beige pottery tempered with grog, 288 g of clay with a flat side, one iron nail and 60 g of unburned animal bone (bovine, pig, sheep/goat, dog, large animal); find number 9063: 70 fragments of native ware, one fragment of *terra nigra*, six fragments of thick-walled pottery (4× *amphora*, 1× Stuart 149 *mortarium* and 1× Hofheim 50/51 *amphora*-like flagon), two fragments of

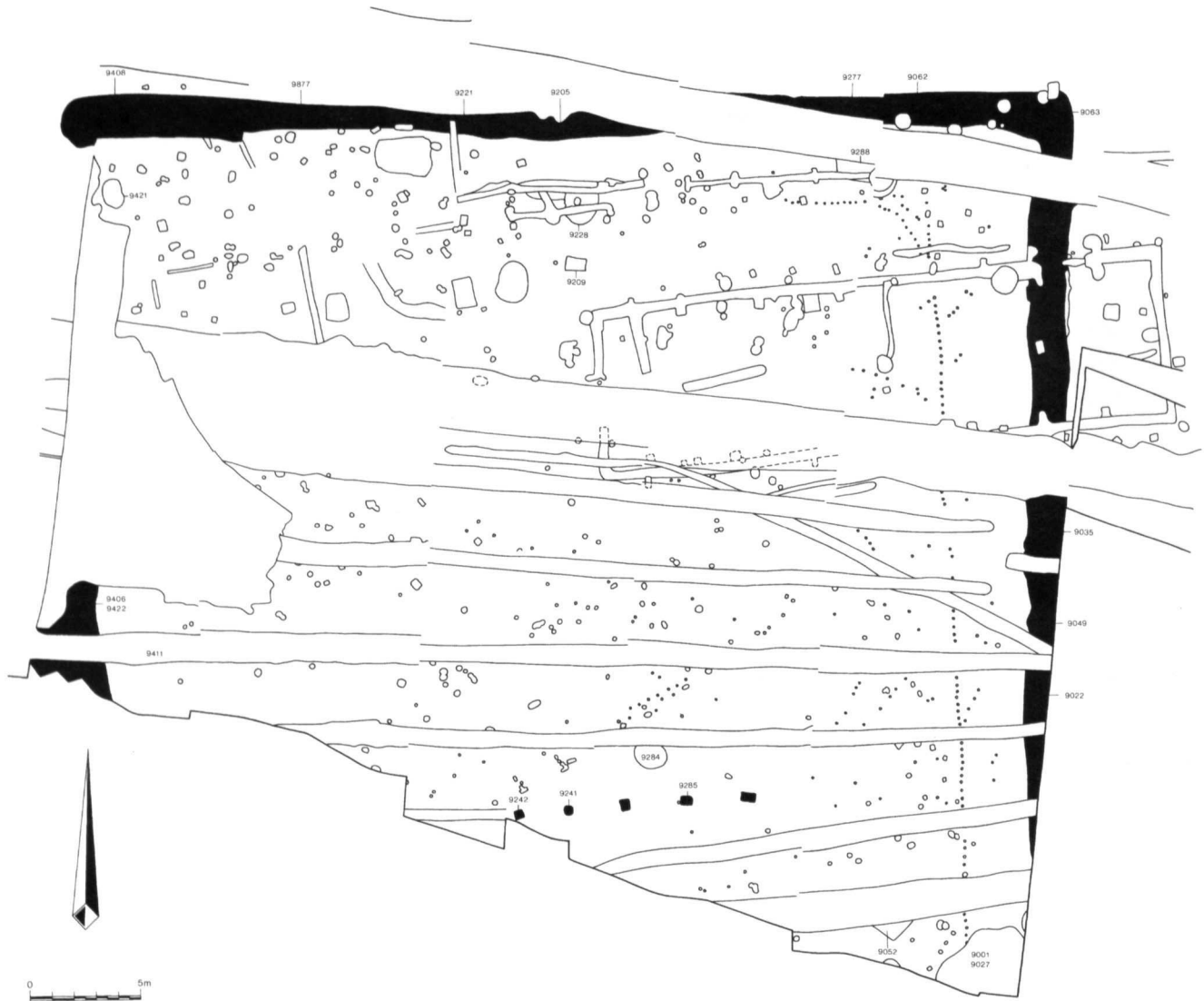


Figure 23. Possibly quadrangular ditched enclosure R57 with a row of postholes in the enclosed area.

beige pottery tempered with grog, four 'miscellaneous' fragments and 63 g of unburned animal bone (bovine, sheep/goat, large animal, small animal); find number 9205: 22 fragments of native ware, one fragment of thick-walled pottery (*amphora*), one fragment of beige pottery tempered with grog, three 'miscellaneous' fragments and 9 g of unburned animal bone (sheep/goat, large animal); find number 9277: 43 fragments of native ware, one fragment of *terra nigra*, one fragment of smooth-walled pottery and one fragment of rough-walled pottery, 9 g of clay, 388 g of iron slag, one grindstone and 13 g of unburned animal bone (bovine).

Western side: find number 9406: 23 fragments of native pottery, two fragments of *terra sigillata* (1 × Dr 18/31?,

Central or East Gaulish; 1 × Dr 27, South Gaulish), one fragment of *terra nigra*, one fragment of smooth-walled pottery (Stuart 110A flagon), one fragment of beige pottery tempered with grog (*dolium*), two fragments of greyish white coarse pottery and nine 'miscellaneous' fragments; find number 9408: 25 fragments of native ware and one intact bowl (fig. 116), one fragment of thick-walled pottery (*amphora*), three fragments of beige pottery tempered with grog (1 × *dolium*, 1 × *mortarium*), two 'miscellaneous' fragments, 19 g of clay, 8 g of tephrite and 12 g of unburned animal bone (bovine); find number 9877: 40 fragments of native ware, one fragment of beige pottery tempered with grog, 144 g of iron slag and 14 g of unburned animal bone (bovine).

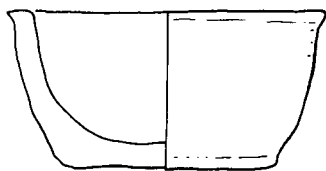


Figure 24. Complete bowl from R57. Scale 1:2.

Of the features found within the enclosure only the 11-m-long row of five postholes that came to light in the southern half can with some degree of certainty be regarded as part of the original monument. The depths of the postholes varied from 40 to 70 cm. Their shape, colour and contents (find numbers 9241, 9242 and 9285: 3, 2 and 1 fragment(s) of native ware, respectively) point to a (relatively early) date in the Roman period. The row's orientation moreover corresponds to that of the northern – and undoubtedly also the southern – side of the enclosure.

Whether the palisade consisting of thin posts (F91) that was observed on the inside of the eastern and part of the northern sides was in any way associated with the monument, for example by marking a bank between that palisade and the ditch, is far from certain. The fact that traces of the palisade were *not* observed along the western and the rest of the northern sides of the enclosure is not a decisive argument. The features that were recognised were so vague and shallow that the excavators may easily have overlooked those of other postholes in other excavation trenches. More important is that the palisade does not run entirely parallel to the ditch: the two lie somewhat further apart in the north. So it could well be that the palisade served to mark the boundary of the yard of

the Late Iron Age house (H100) that was also found within this enclosure.

In addition, a number of stray pits were excavated within the enclosure. Whether pits P315, P316, P398, P400, P430 and P449 were directly related to the quadrangular enclosure is of course difficult to say. In chronological terms they may well have been. If these pits indeed had some function in the monument, then that would be an argument against associating the aforementioned palisade of thin posts with the enclosure, for one of the pits lies between the ditch and that palisade, while another even intersects the palisade.

The finds recovered from the ditch, in particular the high percentage of native ware, point to a date in the 1st century AD. Only two sherds, a fragment of *terra sigillata* and the neck of a flagon of type Stuart 110A, can be dated to a later period with certainty. They were both found in the same western part of the ditch.

notes

- 1 Article written by Bernard Daniëls in 'De Sirene', a newspaper for Oss and its environs, on 22 February 1948.
- 2 According to written information provided by G.H.J. van Alphen on 13 June 1988. Van Alphen also located the findspot.
- 3 Note in excavation report of 22-8-1979.

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| | | | |
|----|---|----|---|
| 1 | find number | 11 | body decoration comb |
| 2 | native pottery | 12 | body decoration w. grooves |
| 3 | local handmade pottery | 13 | body decoration finger tip or nail impressions |
| 4 | rims | 14 | body decoration finger tip or nail impressions with pattern |
| 5 | rim decoration | 15 | not roughened fragments |
| 6 | rim decoration w. finger tips | 16 | roughened fragments |
| 7 | rim decoration w. nail or spatula impressions | 17 | temper coarse mineral |
| 8 | rim decoration w. grooves | 18 | not local creme pottery |
| 9 | rim decoration complex | 19 | maximal number of pots |
| 10 | body decoration | 20 | remarks |

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | |
|-----------|------|------|-----|----|----|---|---|----|---|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|----|----|------|---|---|
| R1 | – | 1 | ? | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | 1 | |
| R2 | 2568 | 70 | 70 | 6 | – | – | – | – | – | 4 | – | 2 | 2 | – | 29 | 17 | – | – | – | 68 | |
| R4 | 3724 | 3 | 3 | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | 1 | 1 | – | – | – | 3 | |
| R6 | 3711 | 1 | 1 | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | 1 | |
| | 3714 | 26 | 26 | 1 | 1 | – | – | – | 1 | – | – | – | – | – | 18 | 2 | – | – | – | 3 | |
| | 3716 | 3 | 3 | 1 | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | 3 | – | – | – | – | 3 | |
| R8 | 3644 | 63 | 63 | 9 | 1 | – | 1 | – | – | 19 | – | 6 | 2 | 1 | 53 | 9 | – | – | – | 51 | min. 5 fr. sec. burnt |
| | 3645 | 14 | 14 | 1 | 1? | – | – | 1? | – | 1 | – | 1 | – | – | 10 | 3 | – | – | – | 14 | 3 fr. sec. burnt; 1 fr. with foot ring |
| | 3646 | 16 | 16 | 3 | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | 14 | 1 | – | – | – | 15 | 1 fr. sec. burnt; 1 fr. with foot ring |
| | 3649 | 46 | 46 | 2 | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | 32 | 2 | – | – | – | 46 | 1 fr. sec. burnt |
| R9 | 3306 | 4 | 4 | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | 1 | – | – | – | 4 | |
| R10 | 3701 | 158 | 158 | 9 | 3 | 1 | – | 2 | – | 12 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 88 | 47 | 23 | – | – | 158 | |
| R12 | 3314 | 53 | 53 | 3 | 3 | 3 | – | – | – | 4 | – | – | 4 | – | 27 | – | – | – | – | 2 | |
| R13 | 1448 | 1 | 1 | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | 1 | – | – | – | – | 1 | sec. burnt |
| R15 | 3137 | 8 | 8 | 4 | 2 | – | 2 | – | – | 1 | – | – | 1 | – | 7 | 1 | – | – | – | 7 | |
| R16 | 3134 | 17 | 17 | 3 | 1 | – | 1 | – | – | 1 | 1 | – | – | – | 10 | 7 | – | – | – | 17 | |
| R17 | 1451 | 7 | 7 | 2 | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | 7 | – | 1 | – | – | 7 | 1 fr. sec. burnt |
| R18 | 3233 | 1 | 1 | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | 1 | |
| R19 | 3231 | 1 | 1 | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | 1 | – | – | – | – | 1 | |
| R23 | 3347 | 1 | 1 | 1 | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | 1 | – | – | – | 1 | |
| R24 | 3341 | 1 | 1 | 1 | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | 1 | |
| R26 | 3339 | 5 | 5 | 1 | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | 4 | 1 | – | – | – | – | 5 | |
| | 3319 | 435 | 432 | 44 | 1 | – | – | 1 | – | 6 | – | 2 | 4 | – | 142 | 201 | – | 3 | 435 | 8 fr. sec. burnt | |
| | 3344 | 339 | 280 | 36 | – | – | – | – | – | 3 | – | – | 3 | – | 123 | 86 | – | 59 | 339 | 1 fr. with foot ring | |
| | 3349 | 12 | 12 | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | 3 | 5 | – | – | – | 12 | |
| | 3350 | 51 | 51 | 6 | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | 26 | 19 | – | – | – | 51 | |
| | 3320 | 39 | 39 | 7 | – | – | – | – | – | 1 | 1 | – | – | – | 10 | 12 | – | – | – | 39 | 4 fr. sec. burnt |
| | 3345 | 17 | 17 | 2 | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | 9 | 5 | – | – | – | 17 | 1 fr. sec. burnt |
| | 3188 | 311 | 311 | 43 | 4 | 2 | – | 2 | – | 2 | 1 | 1 | – | – | 162 | 99 | – | – | – | 311 | 1 fr. with holes |
| | 3189 | 72 | 72 | 9 | – | – | – | – | – | 1 | 1 | – | – | – | 35 | 32 | – | – | – | 72 | |
| P98/3340 | 1792 | 1755 | 237 | 15 | 13 | 1 | 1 | – | – | 22 | 4 | 1 | 16 | – | 733 | 867 | – | 37 | 1787 | 1 fr. with holes; 1 fr. with foot ring; 1 fr. with hole | |
| P118/3348 | 283 | 283 | 31 | – | – | – | – | – | – | 2 | – | – | 2 | – | 128 | 65 | 1 | – | – | 283 | 7 fr. sec. burnt |
| | 3182 | 1 | 1 | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | 1 | |
| | 3183 | 1 | 1 | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | 1 | – | – | – | – | 1 | |
| | 3184 | 1 | 1 | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | 1 | |
| | 3185 | 1 | 1 | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | 1 | |
| R26a | 3351 | 9 | 9 | 2 | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | 3 | 4 | – | – | – | 9 | |
| | 1452 | 1 | 1 | 1 | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | 1 | – | – | – | – | 1 | |
| R28 | 4024 | 1 | 1 | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | 1 | – | – | – | – | 1 | |
| R29 | 1748 | 2 | 2 | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | 2 | – | – | – | – | 2 | |
| R30 | 3104 | 1 | 1 | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | 1 | – | – | – | – | 1 | |

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | |
|-----|-------|-----|-----|----|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|----|----|----|-----|---|
| | 3105 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 | |
| R31 | 3148 | 39 | 39 | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | 1* | - | - | - | - | 10 | 20 | - | - | - | 39 | * with impressions |
| R37 | 23 | 2 | 2 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 2 | |
| R38 | 26 | 4 | 4 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | 4 | |
| R40 | 1680 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 | |
| | 1715 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | |
| R41 | 1732 | 31 | 30 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 15 | 5 | - | - | - | 31 | 1 fr. atypical salt container |
| R43 | R75 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | Middle Bronze Age |
| R45 | 5575 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | |
| | 5552 | 8 | 8 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | 8 | |
| | 6461 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | |
| R46 | 5514 | 2 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 2 | |
| R49 | 1017 | 265 | 265 | 36 | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | 2 | - | - | - | 99 | 136 | - | - | - | 264 | |
| | 1018 | 24 | 19 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 9 | 10 | - | - | 1 | 24 | 2 fr. atypical salt container |
| | 1022 | 140 | 140 | 10 | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | - | 2 | - | 50 | 60 | - | - | - | 139 | |
| | 1023 | 743 | 738 | 92 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 10 | 2 | 2 | 2 | - | 237 | 430 | - | - | 4 | 740 | 1 fr. atypical salt container 2 fr. with holes; |
| | 1015 | 20 | 20 | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 6 | 7 | - | - | - | 17 | number sec. burnt min. 11 fr. sec. burnt |
| | 1016 | 87 | 87 | 11 | 2 | - | - | 2 | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | 28 | 41 | - | - | - | 83 | ca. 45 fr. sec. burnt |
| R50 | 3491 | 15 | 15 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 12 | 3 | - | - | - | 15 | |
| R51 | 3765a | 29 | 29 | 2 | 2 | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | 13 | - | - | - | - | 22 | |
| | 3765b | 50 | 50 | 2 | - | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | 26 | - | - | - | - | 1 | |
| R56 | 3756 | 2 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | 1 | |
| R57 | 9022 | 8 | 8 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 5 | 3 | - | - | - | 8 | |
| | 9035 | 7 | 7 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 6 | 1 | - | - | - | 7 | |
| | 9049 | 16 | 16 | 2 | 2 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 11 | 4 | - | - | - | 16 | |
| | 9062 | 46 | 46 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | 2 | - | - | - | 41 | 5 | 1 | - | - | 46 | |
| | 9063 | 70 | 70 | 8 | 2 | - | 2 | - | - | 5 | 2 | 1 | - | 1 | 58 | 5 | - | - | - | 70 | |
| | 9205 | 22 | 22 | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 16 | 1 | 1 | - | - | 22 | |
| | 9277 | 43 | 43 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | 32 | 5 | - | - | - | 43 | |
| | 9406 | 23 | 23 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | 18 | 3 | - | - | - | 23 | |
| | 9408 | 26 | 26 | 5 | 1 | - | - | - | - | 3 | 1 | - | 2 | - | 23 | - | - | - | - | 26 | complete bowl (φ 8,4 cm) |
| | 9877 | 40 | 40 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | 1 | 25 | 1 | - | - | - | 40 | |
| | 9241 | 3 | 3 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | 2 | - | - | - | - | 3 | |
| | 9242 | 2 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 2 | |
| | 9285 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 | |