

# The Merowe Dam Archaeological Salvage Project

## Provisional type series of monuments

*Zbigniew Borcomski*

*Derek Welsby*

The aim of this, as of all type series,<sup>1</sup> is to attempt to remove as much as possible subjectivity in the description of the monuments observed during survey activities by a wide range of archaeologists coming from many different backgrounds and with widely varying experience of, and expertise in, the archaeology of the Fourth Cataract region. The monuments are arranged in a logical manner to aid their location within the type series. As with any archaeological typology peoples' perception of the most logical arrangement varies and different threads of logic are available and equally valid. However, the actual positioning of a monument type within the hierarchy of the type series, although perhaps a minor irritation to some colleagues, is of no significance.

The underlying reasoning behind the arrangement of the type series is to allow the fieldworker to rapidly find the location of the type being recorded so that a type number can be assigned to it. The proximity or distance apart of particular types in the series does not have any cultural or chronological implications. This is basically a form typology although such a rigid criterion is modified occasionally by the use of common sense and an awareness of the general state of knowledge of the archaeology of the region. Some of the types are very specific to a certain time period or are associated with a particular cultural assemblage. Others may be found in several different periods.

In the light of the very considerable amount of survey conducted so far in the Fourth Cataract region it is expected that at least one of most of the types of monument existing there has been observed and is included in the type series. There are, of course, a number of unique features which may not as yet be in the series. The series is designed so that new types can be added as the work progresses.

The series is basically divided into two categories, funerary and non-funerary structures. Rock art and rock gongs are excluded. With a number of monument types there can be no certainty, apart from after excavation, that one is dealing with a funerary or non-funerary structure. However, in such cases one must take into account the context. A feature which, from its character may be funerary, set in amongst what are obviously funerary monuments, would generally be assumed to also be funerary and would be given a type number accordingly. Of course a written description in such cases where there is doubt should be appended to the type number. With isolated monuments where the character cannot be ascertained one would give both the funerary and non-funerary type number e.g. FC01a/SS11.

On occasion mistakes and misidentifications will be made. The only way to avoid this would be to excavate every feature observed, something which is clearly impossible. The type series approach is far from perfect but is vastly better than every monument being described with a written description which would vary from one researcher to another. It is also likely that even the same researcher may well describe the same monument in a different way depending on their mood on the day and especially in the light of a greater awareness of the range of monument types as they become more familiar with the region.

This series is based principally on the work undertaken by the Gdańsk Archaeological Museum on the right bank of the Nile between Kareima and Abu Hamed in the years 1995-2005 and that of the Sudan Archaeological Research Society in its concession on the left bank and islands between

Amri and Kirbikan, 1999 – 2007. It has also seen input from a number of other colleagues whose suggestions have been given consideration and whose types have been incorporated into the series where appropriate. The series as it stands is far from perfect but it is hoped that it will be a useful tool in the field and will assist with the publication of the results allowing comparison between the many different reports which will be the end result of the activities of the missions who have contributed to the Merowe Dam Archaeological Salvage project.

Scales give on the figures give an indication of the order of magnitude of the monuments.

---

<sup>1</sup> For a detailed discussion of these see Adams and Adams 1991.

## Notes on the tables

Previous type – Type numbers already assigned to monument types by Welsby (2003, 8-9, 122; 2005) and Paner and Borcowski (2005).

\* See the plates for a photograph of the type.

Period - the cultural/chronological phase has only been indicated where the monument types can be confidently assigned. Further research will allow much more information to be added here. There has recently been a suggestion that in the Fourth Cataract the use of the cultural terms *Kerma Ancien*, *Moyen* and *Classique* may not be appropriate and should be replaced by Old Kush I, II and III (Kolosowska *et al.* 2003). As these have been assigned the same dates the older terms are retained here for convenience.

Abbreviations use for the different periods/cultural phases:-

<i>KA</i>	<i>Kerma Ancien</i>	<i>KM</i>	<i>Kerma Moyen</i>	<i>KC</i>	<i>Kerma Classique</i>	NK	New Kingdom		
N	Napatan	M	Meroitic	PM	Post-Meroitic	C	Christian	I	Islamic

## Funerary structures

### Tumuli (Figures 1-3)

MDASP	Description	MDASP subtype	Previous Type	Description	Period
<b>FT01</b>	Gravel mound	FT01a	Welsby T.I Paner I.1	Circular, usually over 5m in dia	
		FT01b	Welsby BB8	Oval and small	C
		FT01c	Welsby BB7	Rectangular and small	C
<b>FT02</b>	Low or flat tumulus with a stone kerb	FT02a*	Welsby T.II	Outer kerb, single row of stones delimiting mound	
		FT02b	Paner I.2	Two or more rows of stone, only one stone high	
		FT02c*	Welsby T.IIb	Small, 1-2m dia, large stone kerb, stone covered very shallow mound	KC
		FT02d*	Welsby T.IIa	Outer and inner kerb, single row of stones	KC
		FT02e*		Outer kerb, single row of stones, no mound	KC
		FT02f*		Core of stone on very low mound revetted with small black slabs to a height of 150mm. Surface within stone ring covered with quartz gravel and black, red, yellow and white pebbles	KC
<b>FT03</b>	Ring of piled rubble, infilled by low mound, large size	FT03a	Paner I.3?	Surface of mound with a scatter of stones	
		FT03b*	Welsby T.VI	Surface of mound largely devoid of stones	PM
<b>FT04</b>	Ring of piled rubble several courses in height, much smaller than FT03	FT04a	Paner II.1	No earth fill (occasionally aeolian sand fill)	
		FT04b*	Welsby T.V	With earth-filled centre usually well below the level of the stone ring	KM, 'Pan Grave', C
		FT04c*	Welsby T.Va	Circular rubble monument with a vertically-sided chamber within. No evidence for corbelling. Could be confused with a ruined dome grave or a tumulus of MDASP type FT04 a or b.	
<b>FT05</b>	Stone revetted, flat topped, usually 3m and more in diameter, revetment carefully constructed	FT05a*	Welsby T.III		PM
		FT05b		As FT05a but with small ring of stones on top of earth fill in centre	
<b>FT06</b>	Stone revetted, sloping top, pointed end much higher, revetment carefully constructed	FT06a	Welsby T.IV Paner I.5	Egg-shaped, revetment higher towards point	PM
		FT06b*		Egg-shaped, revetment higher towards point with 'lamp box' at point cf. RF05	
		FT06c	Welsby T.IVa	Semi-circular projection at point, revetment higher towards point	

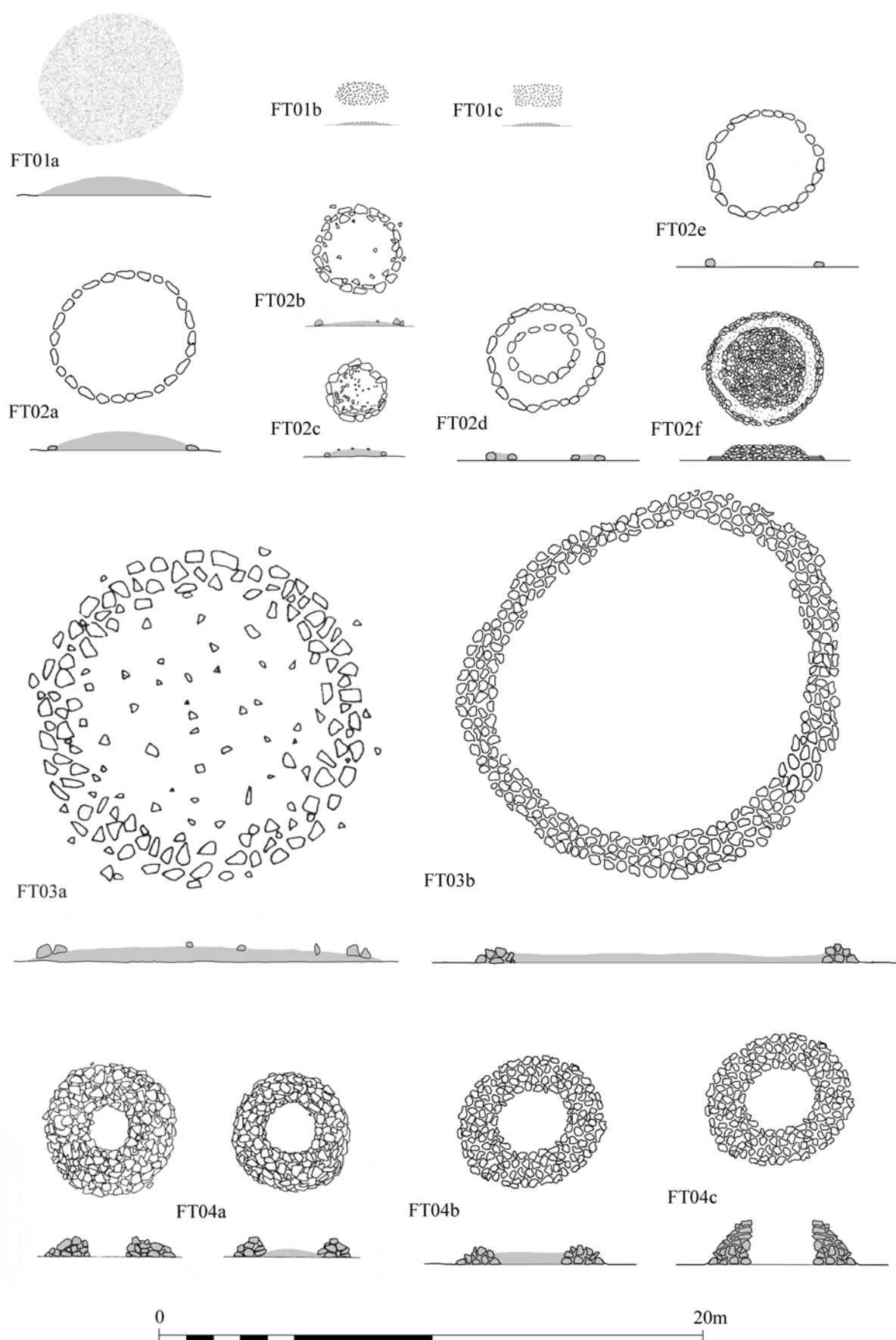


Figure 1. Tumuli

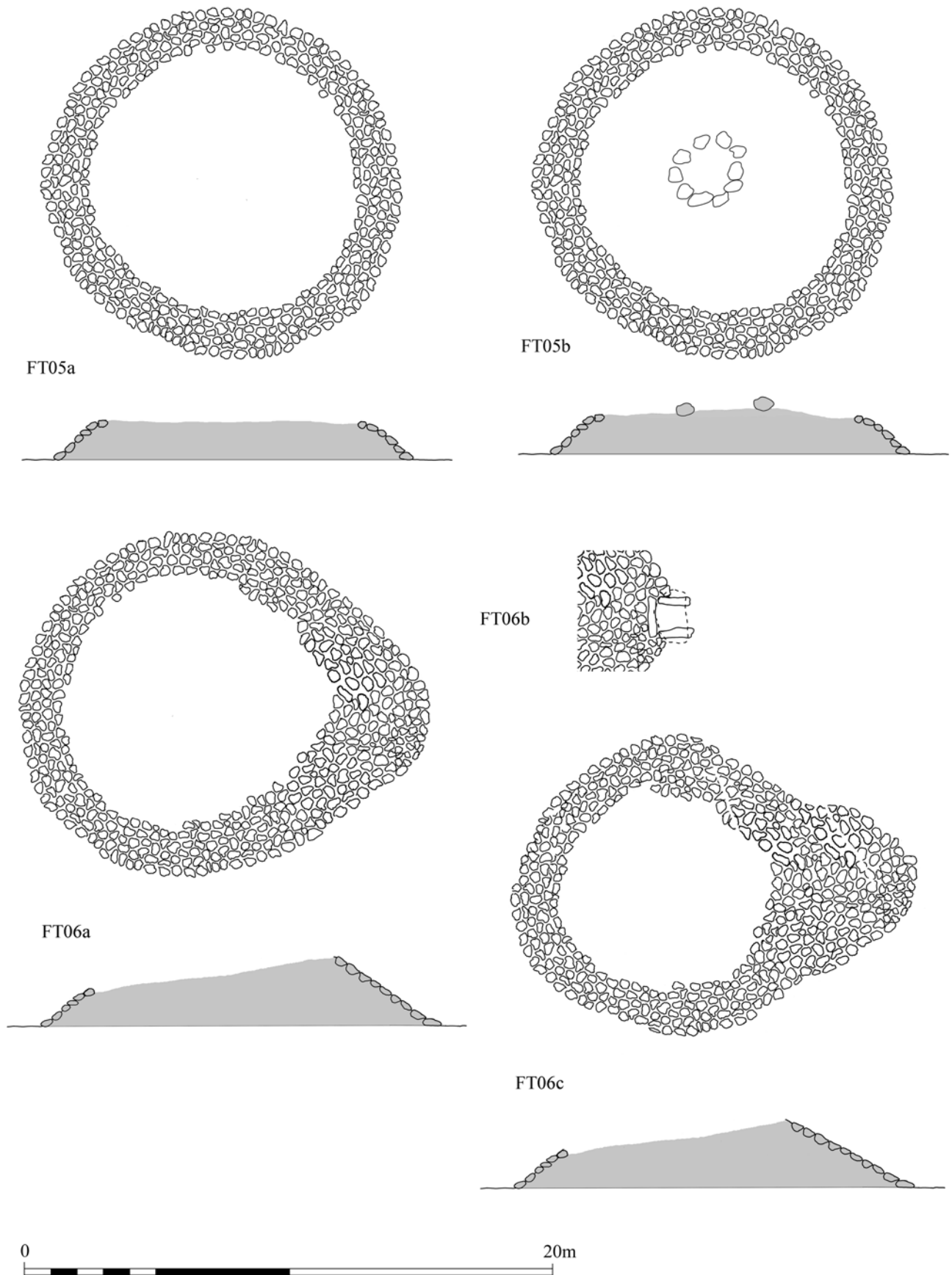


Figure 2. Tumuli

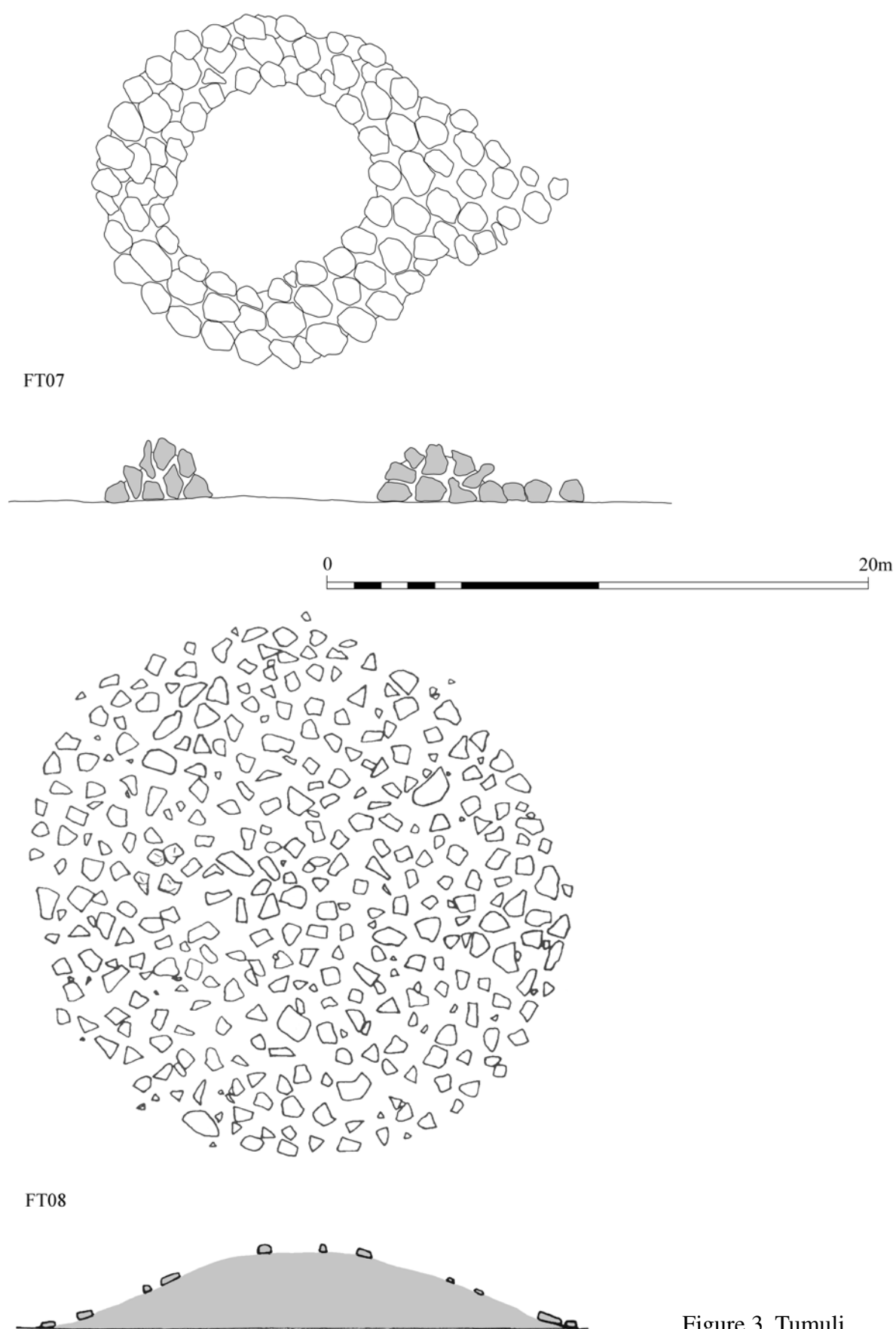


Figure 3. Tumuli

MDASP	Description	MDASP subtype	Previous Type	Description	Period
<b>FT07</b>	Ring of piled rubble several courses in height, egg-shaped, no earth fill			Combines elements of Types FT04a and FT06a	
<b>FT08</b>	Shallow dome-shaped mound covered in stones		Paner I.6		

### Dome graves (Figure 4)

MDASP	Previous type	Description	Period
FD01*	Welsby T. VIIa Paner fig. 37.2	Free-standing dome grave	NK, N
FD02	Welsby T.VII Paner figs 37.3 & 37.4	Dome grave utilizing some outcrops/bedrock	NK, N
FD03	Paner figs 37.6 & 37.7	Semi-dome grave built against an outcrops/boulder	NK, N
FD04	Paner fig. 37.5	Sub-square to circular crevice capped by a corbelled dome	

### Crevice graves (Figure 4)

MDASP	Description
FR01*	Crevice in bedrock/between boulders closed off at one end by natural rock, at the other by a built wall and capped with stones
FR02	Crevice in bedrock/between boulders closed off at both ends by a built wall and capped with stones

### Frames, pavements and boxes (Figures 5a and 5b)

MDASP	Description	MDASP subtype	Previous Type	Description	Period
<b>FF01</b>	Rectangle marked out by a single row of bricks/ blocks	FF01a*	Welsby BB2	Outline of stone blocks	C
		FF01b	Welsby BB11	Outline of brick	C
		FF01c		Outline of mud bricks, open at east end	C
<b>FF02</b>	Pavement	FF02a*	Welsby BB10	Rectangular, of mud bricks set on edge, central spine of stretchers, flanked by single rows of headers	C
		FF02a1		2 rows of mud-brick headers	C
		FF02b*	Welsby BB3	Rectangular, of stone	C
		FF02c	Welsby BB12	Rectangular, of red brick	C
		FF02c1		Rectangle, of red bricks infilled with mud bricks	C
		FF02c2		Rectangle of half bricks on edge, interior filled with silt/sand & stone	C
		FF02d	Welsby BB9	Oval, of stone	C
		FF02e	Paner II.5	Circular, of stone	
		FF02f*		Stone slabs set as headers over grave cut	C, I
		FF02g		Stone slabs set as headers over grave cut, smaller stones & brick fragments forming rectangular monument	C
		FF02h		kerb of stones set on edge, interior filled with smaller stones & gravel	C
		FF02i		single layer of small stones, large stones set upright at east & west ends	C

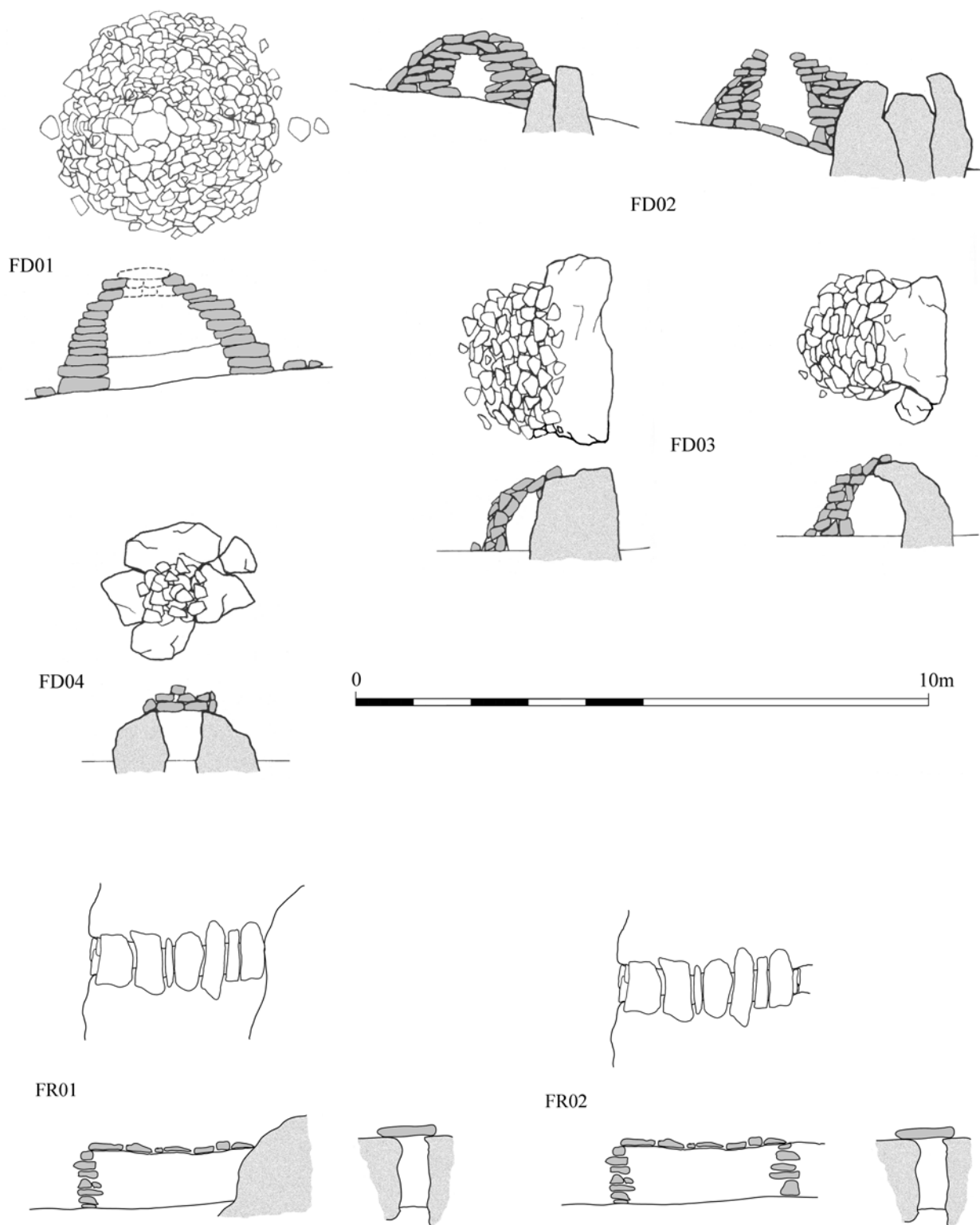


Figure 4. Dome and crevice graves

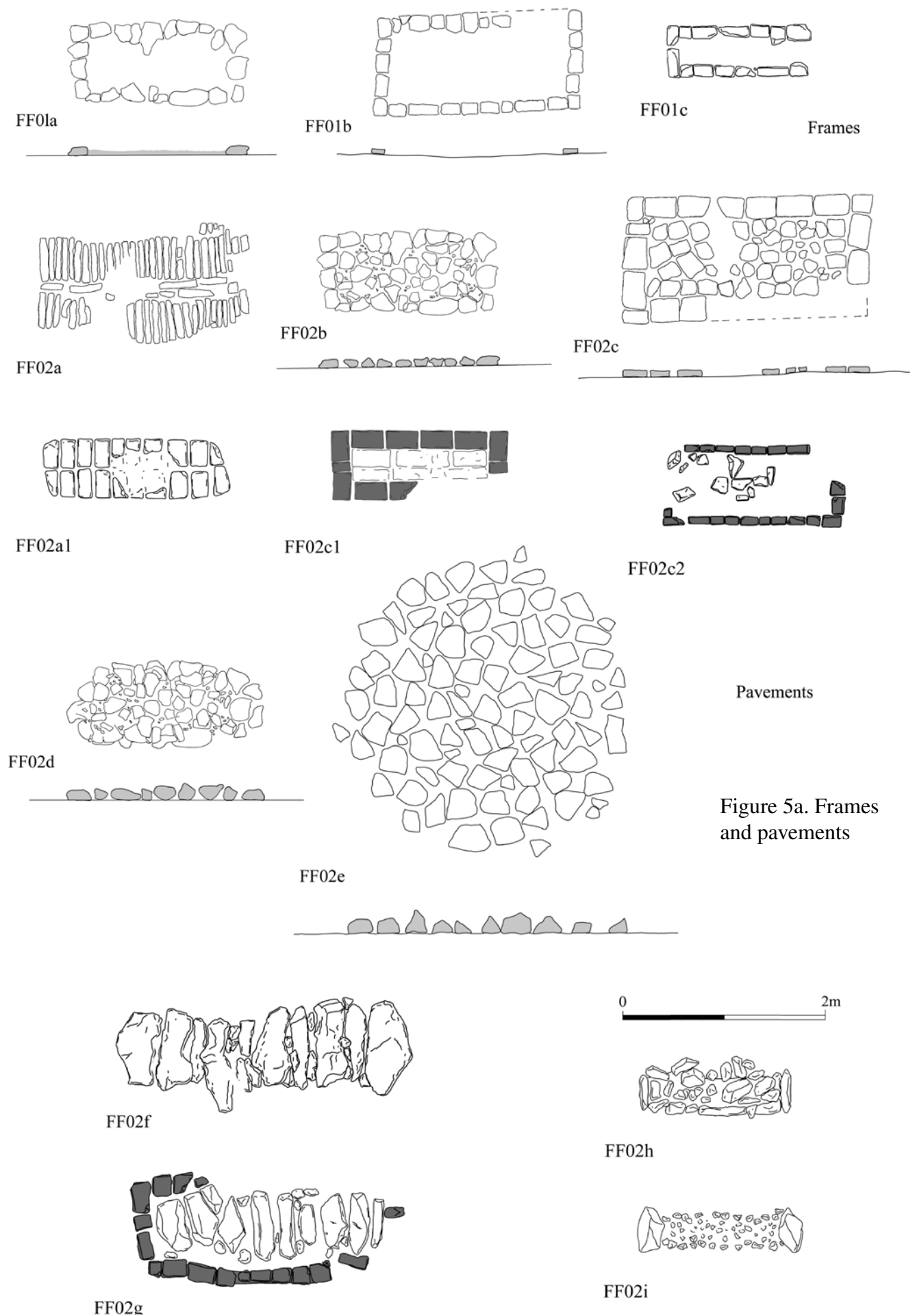
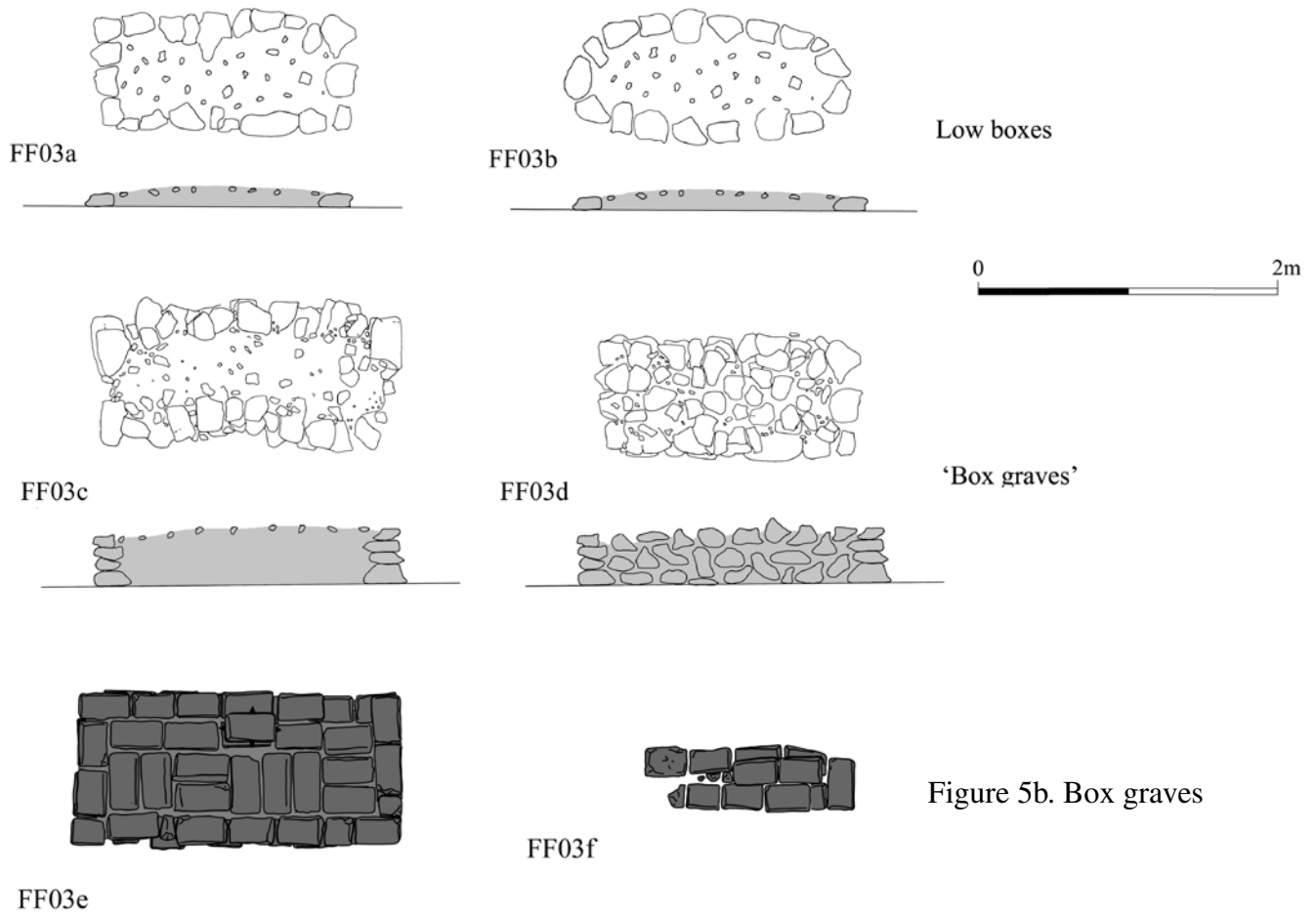


Figure 5a. Frames and pavements





MDASP	Description	MDASP subtype	Previous Type	Description	Period
FF03	'Box graves'	FF03a	Welsby BB1	Rectangle marked out by a single row of stone blocks, infilled with earth and gravel	C
		FF03b	Welsby BB6	Oval marked out by a single row of stone blocks, infilled with earth and gravel	C
		FF03c*	Welsby BB4 Paner II.11	Rectangle marked out by a several courses of stone blocks, infilled with earth and gravel	C
		FF03d*	Welsby BB5 Paner II.10	Rectangle marked out by a several courses of stone blocks, infilled with stone blocks	C
		FF03e		outer face of red bricks, interior of red bricks, minimum of 3 courses high. White plaster rendering present	C
		FF03f		2 rows of red-brick stretchers at least 2 courses high	C

Figure 6. Cairns

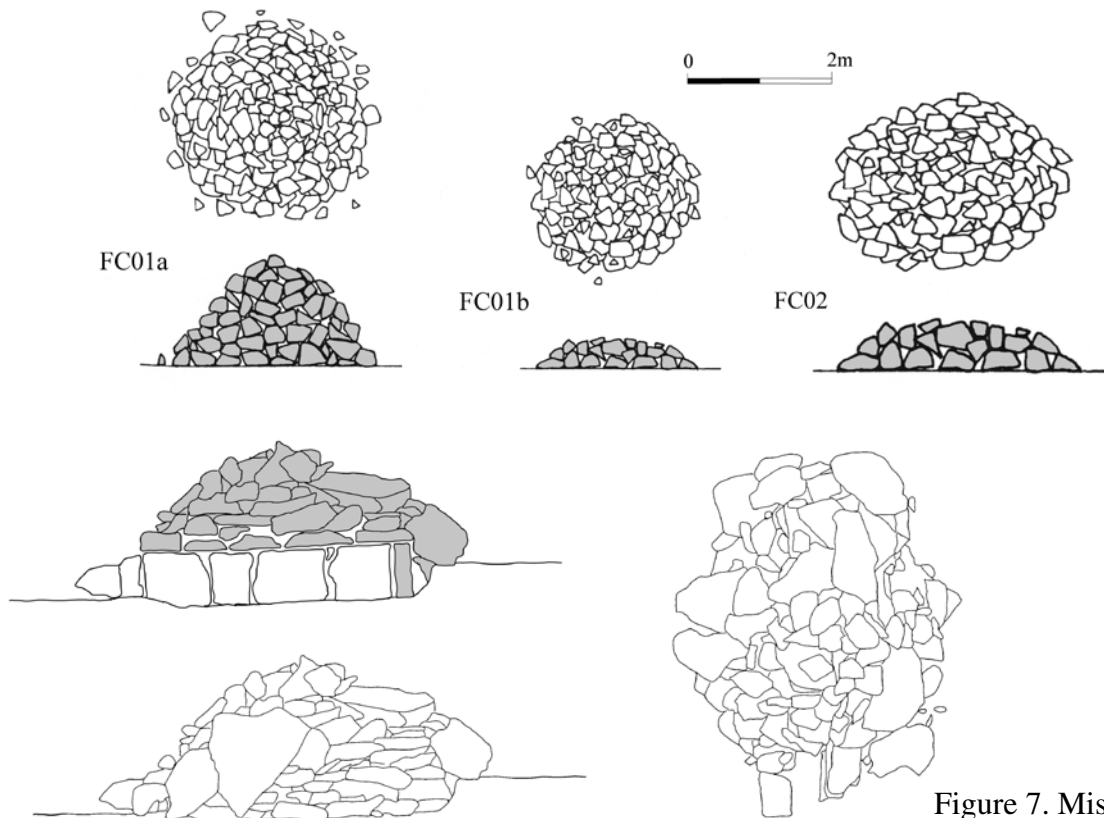
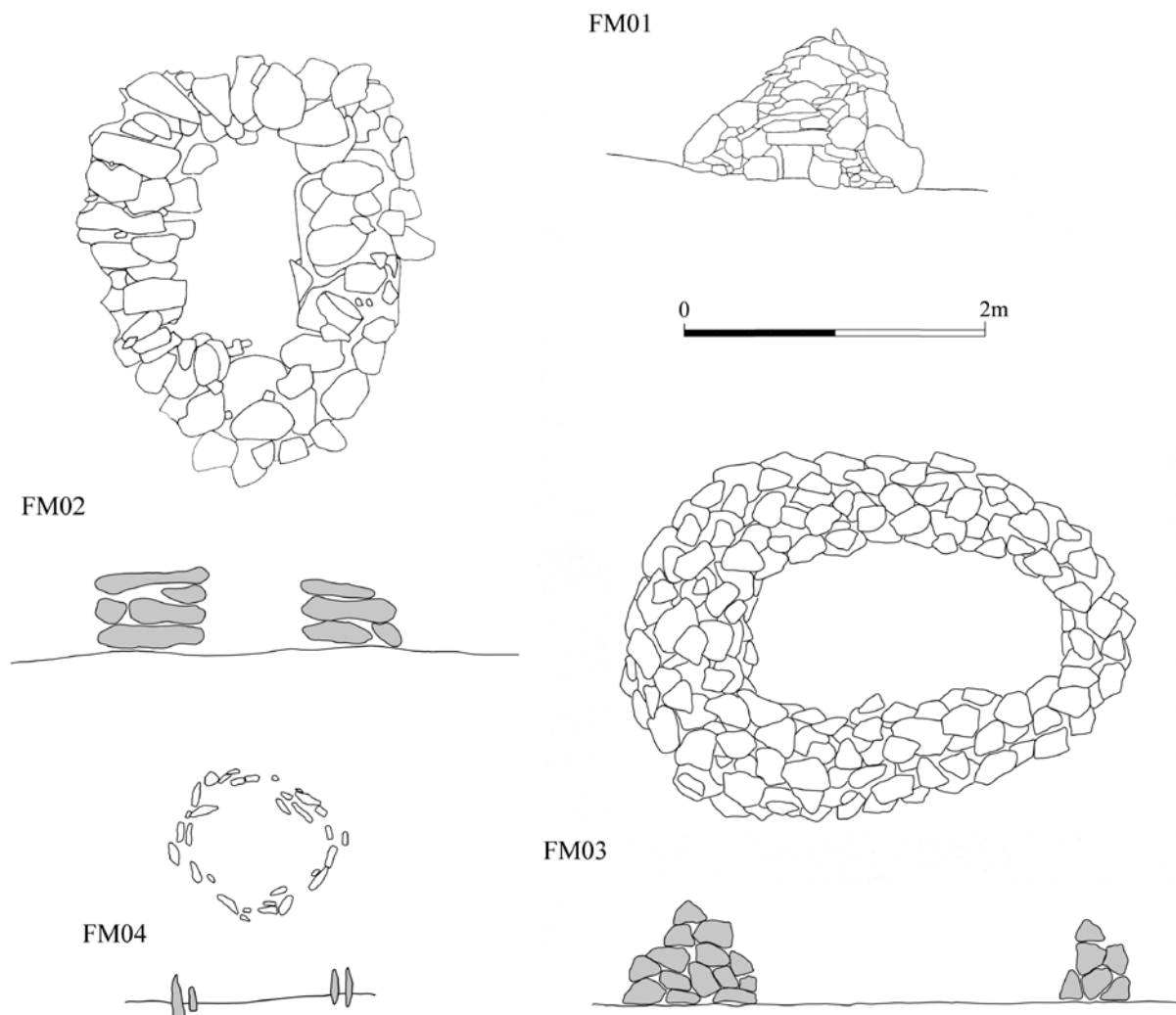


Figure 7. Miscellaneous funerary monuments



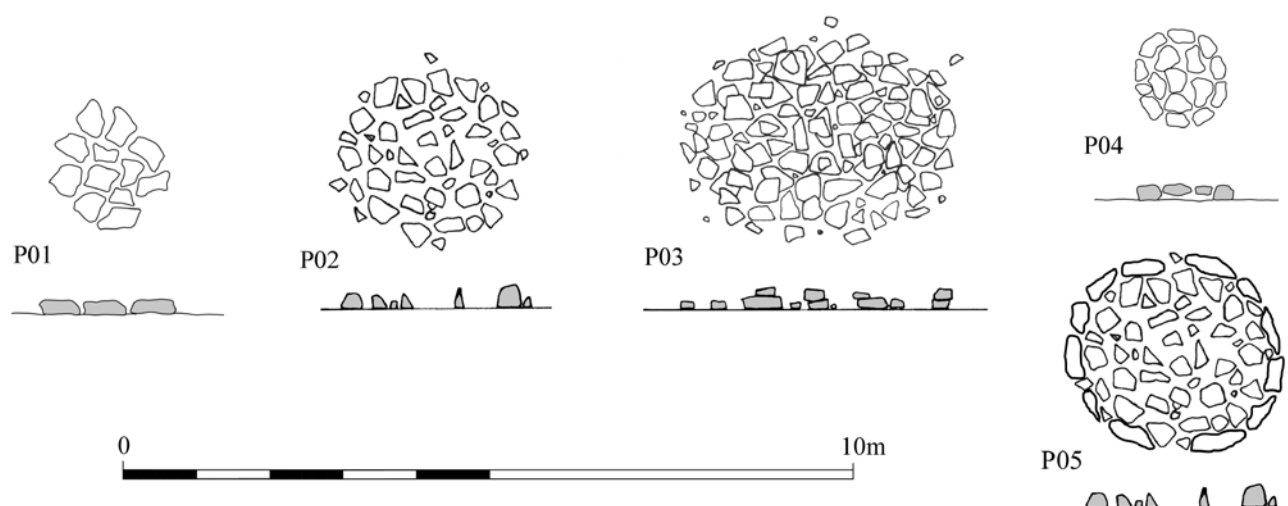


Figure 8. 'Pavements'

### Cairns (Figures 6)

MDASP	Description	MDASP subtype	Previous Type	Description	Period
FC01	Circular cairn	FC01a	Welsby T.VIII Paner II.2	Roughly conical in form	KM
		FC01b	Paner II.4	Shallow dome-shaped	Kerma M
		FC01c*		As FC01a but around 5m in diameter	
FC02	Oval cairn		Paner II.12		

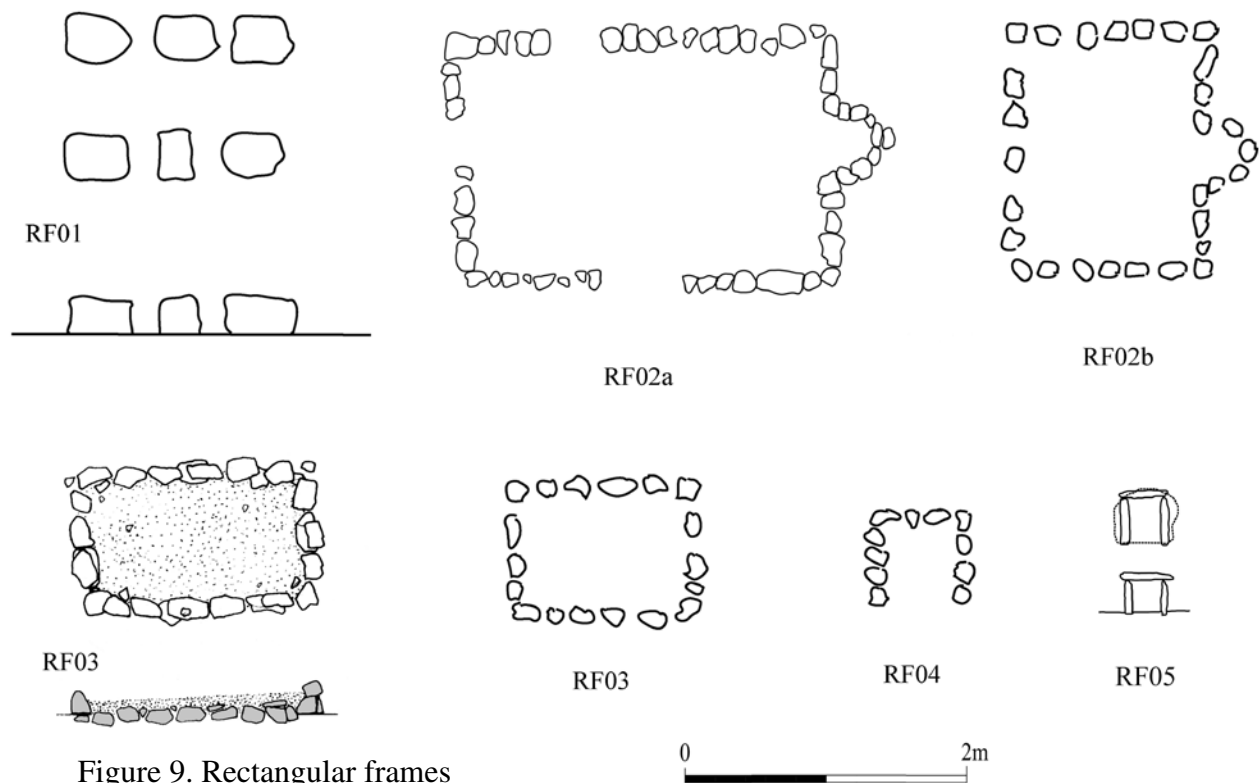
### Miscellaneous funerary monuments (Figure 7)

MDASP	Previous type	Description	Period
FM01*		Tunnel grave, a slab-lined cist open at one end, sometimes utilising a shallow natural crevice. The cist, covered in slabs, is enclosed in an oval cairn. Although some certainly used for burials a function as a 'jackal' trap has also been suggested	
FM02*	Welsby T.IX	Oval monument made from slabs arranged radially with a vertical-sided chamber within	N
FM03	Paner fig. 36.8	Oval monument made from a pile of rubble	
FM04*		One or more concentric rings of small stone slabs set vertically into the ground	KA

## Non-funerary structures

### 'Pavements' (Figure 8)

MDASP	Previous type	Description
P01*	Welsby S.Vb	A single layer of stone slabs forming a small irregular stone pavement
P02		A single layer of stones forming a roughly circular 'pavement' but without the flat surface of type P01
P03*		A single layer of stones forming a roughly oval 'pavement' but without the flat surface of type P01
P04*	Welsby S.Va	A single layer of stone slabs with a kerb of stones around the edge forming a small circular stone pavement
P05		As P02 but with kerb as P04



### Rectangular 'frame' (Figure 9)

MDASP	Description	MDASP subtype	Previous type	Description	Period
RF01*	Two parallel rows of large stones, the base of a storage structure, the stones used to support horizontal timbers or the support for the living platform in a nomad's hut		Welsby S.IV		I
RF02	Rectangular setting of a single row and course of stones with a projection to the east	RF02a*		With 'entrances' to north and south - a church or <i>masjid</i>	C? IP
		RF02b	Welsby S.VIa	A <i>masjid</i> ?	I
RF03*	Rectangular setting of a single row and course of stones		Welsby S.VIb		PM
RF04*	Rectangular setting of a single row and course of stones open to one side		Welsby S.VIc		
	Square/rectangular box, sides upright slabs, slab forming roof, open to 1 side				

### Circular and oval stone settings (Figure 10)

MDASP	Previous type	Description	Period
CS01*	Welsby S.I	Carefully constructed ring of stones, threshing floor	I
CS02	Paner fig. 29.1	Ring of a single row of stones with a small circular stone feature in the centre – to support a post?	
CS03*	Paner fig. 26.3	Ring of a single row of stones with a shallow circular depression in the centre	
CS04*	Welsby S.XIII	A very low mound of earth and gravel surrounding a central shallow depression, often very regular	

<b>CS05</b>	Paner fig. 26.4	Oval ring of a single row of stones	
<b>CS06</b>	Paner fig. 26.1	Small oval ring of a single row of stones	
<b>CS07</b>	Paner fig. 26.6	Oval ring of stones with large and small stones, the latter not always a single row or course	
<b>CS08*</b>	Welsby S.IIa	Small ring of a single row of stones, often spaced some distance apart	
<b>CS09*</b>	Welsby S.IIb	Small ring of more than one row of stones set close together	
<b>CS10</b>	Welsby S.IIIa	Very small ring of a single row of stones	
<b>CS11*</b>	Welsby S.IIIb	Very small 'horse-shoe' shaped setting of a single row of stones	

### Free-standing structures (Figure 11)

MDASP		MDASP subtype	Previous type	Description	Period
<b>SS01*</b>			Welsby S.Xa	Small circular-walled feature	
<b>SS02*</b>			Welsby S.Xb	Small 'horse-shoe' shaped walled feature, similar features now constructed as rabbit traps	
<b>SS03*</b>				Circular-walled feature, sometimes one of many conjoining features	
<b>SS04*</b>				Circular-walled feature, walls of stone slabs	N
<b>SS05*</b>				Circular-walled feature, walls of stone slabs, interior infilled with stone	
<b>SS06</b>	Circular hut	SS06a*	Welsby S.XI	Low-walled circular feature often with an opening on the south side. Often associated with pottery	
		SS06b*		Circular to sub-rectangular building often with a doorway on the south side with a stone-slab lintel. Well preserved examples are capped in <i>jalous</i>	I
<b>SS07</b>			Paner fig. 26.5	Low-walled oval feature with an opening on one side	
<b>SS08</b>			Paner fig. 29.2	Rectangular building with an opening in the centre of one side	C, I
<b>SS09</b>			Paner fig. 29.3	Rectangular building with an opening adjacent to one corner	C, I
<b>SS10*</b>			Welsby S.XII	A low wall forming an arc frequently on its south side. A shelter/wind break	
<b>SS11*</b>	Cairn		Paner fig. 29.6	Identical in form to MDASP FC01 but not in a funerary context	

### Structures abutting bedrock (Figure 12)

MDASP	MDASP subtype	Previous type	Description
<b>SB01*</b>		Welsby S.IIIc	Very small ring of stones abutting a rock outcrop/boulder
<b>SB02</b>	SB02a	Welsby S.IXa	Small circular walled feature built up against a rock outcrop/boulder
	SB02b		Small walled feature with entrance built up against a rock outcrop/boulder
<b>SB03*</b>		Welsby S.IXb	Small feature formed by constructing two walls within a fissure in a rock outcrop or between boulders
<b>SB04*</b>		Welsby S.IXc	Small feature formed by constructing a wall across the end of a fissure in a rock outcrop or between boulders
<b>SB05*</b>		Welsby S.VIII	Curvilinear enclosure built up against a rock outcrop or boulder. Often no entrance visible - rock shelter or stock enclosure?
<b>SB06</b>		Welsby S.VII	Large curvilinear enclosure built up against a rock outcrop or boulders. Often no entrance visible - stock enclosure?
<b>SB07</b>		Paner fig. 26.8	Rectangular enclosure built up against a rock outcrop. No entrance visible - stock enclosure?

### Linear features (Figure 13)

MDASP	Previous type		Description
LN01	Welsby S.IIc	LN01a*	Single row of stones forming a linear feature, often running across small depressions
		LN01b*	Narrow and roughly constructed stone wall up to a few courses high forming a linear feature, often running across small depressions
LN02		LN02a*	A substantial but low wall, stone-faced rubble construction, often running for hundreds of metres – ‘boundary wall’
		LN02b	A substantial but low wall of rubble construction - a linear pile of stones - often running for hundreds of metres – ‘boundary wall’
LN03*			A substantial but low wall, stone-faced rubble construction, frequently with the facing stones placed as headers. They are often well over 1m thick and run across seasonal river channels – ‘river wall’

### Bibliography

- Adams, W. Y. and E. W. Adams 1991. *Archaeological Typology and Practical Reality. A Dialectical Approach to Artefact Classification and Sorting*. Cambridge University Press, New York, Port Chester, Melbourne, Sidney.
- Kołosowska, E., Mahmoud el-Tayeb and H. Paner 2003. ‘Old Kush in the Fourth Cataract Region’, *Sudan & Nubia* 7, 21-25.
- Paner, H. and Z. Borcowski 2005. ‘Gdańsk Archaeological Museum Expedition. A Summary of Eight Seasons’ Work at the Fourth Cataract’, in H. Paner and S. Jakobielski (eds). *Proceedings of the Archaeology of the Fourth Nile Cataract Gdańsk - Gniew/ 23-25 July 2004*, Gdańsk Archaeological Museum African Reports 4, 89-115.
- Welsby, D. A. 2003. *Survey above the Fourth Nile Cataract*. Sudan Archaeological Research Society Publication No. 10, London.
- Welsby, D. A. 2005. ‘The Merowe Dam Archaeological Salvage Project. Survey in the Vicinity of ed-Doma (AKSE), 2004-2005’, *Sudan & Nubia* 9, 2-8.

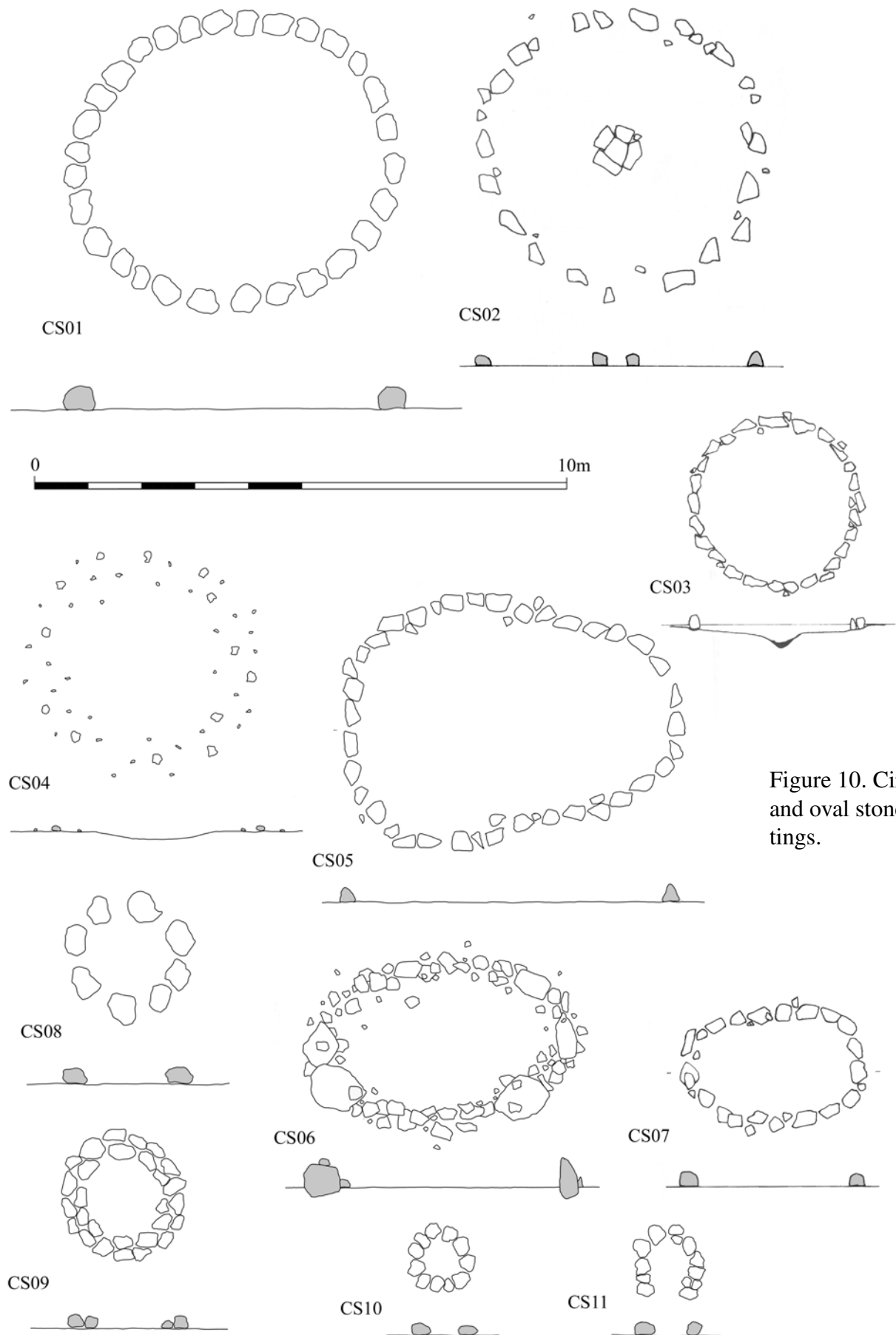


Figure 10. Circular and oval stone settings.

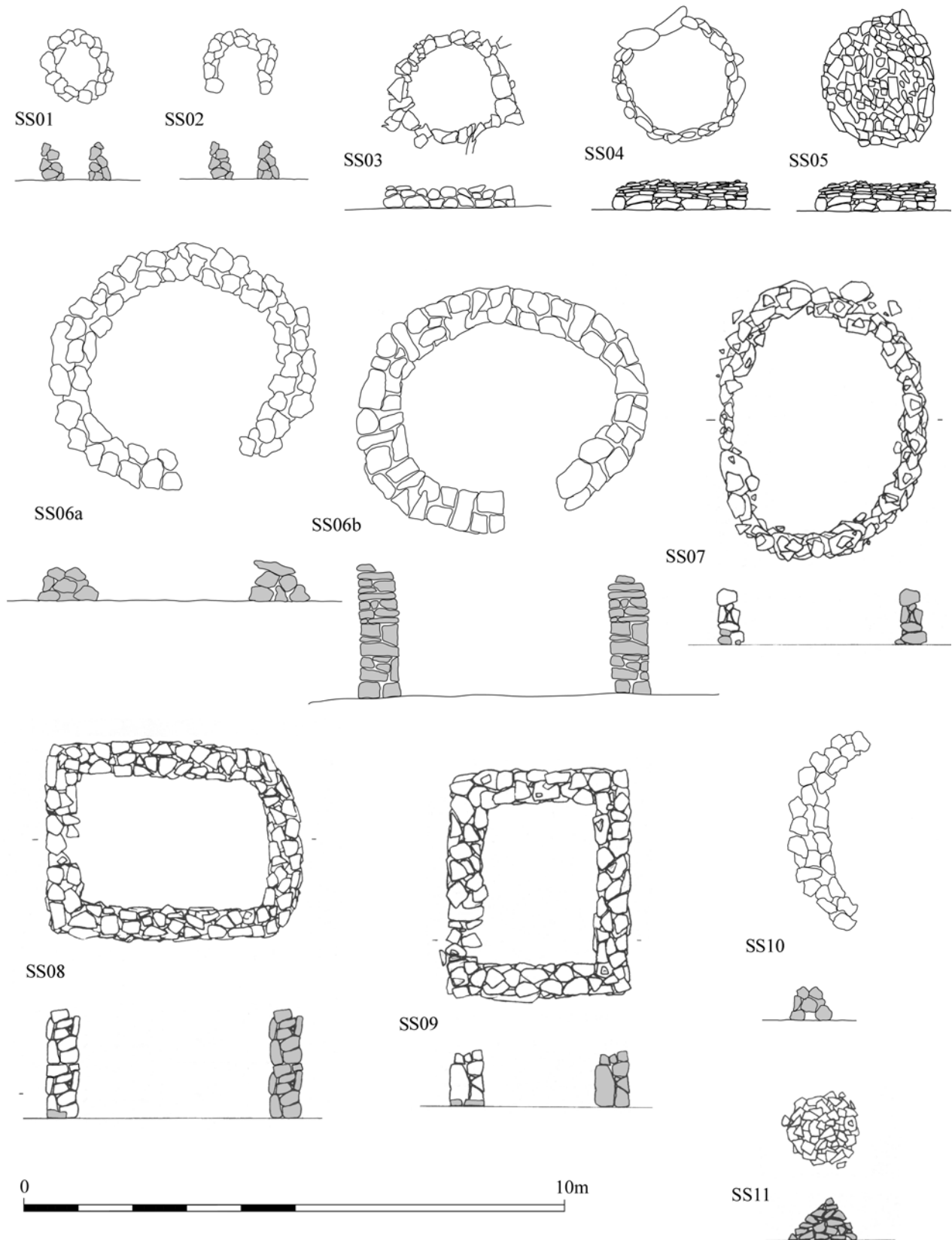
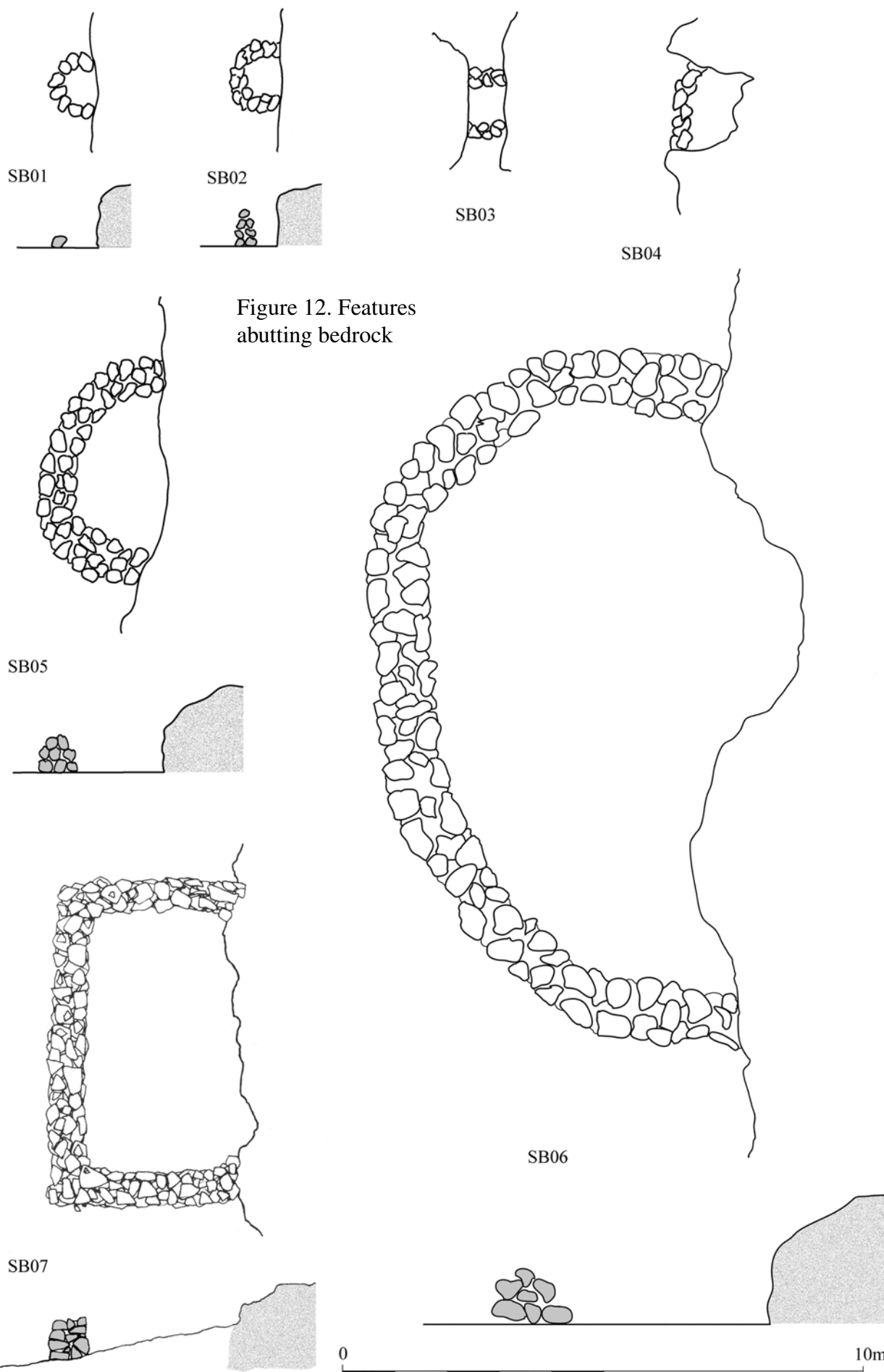


Figure 11. Free-standing features.





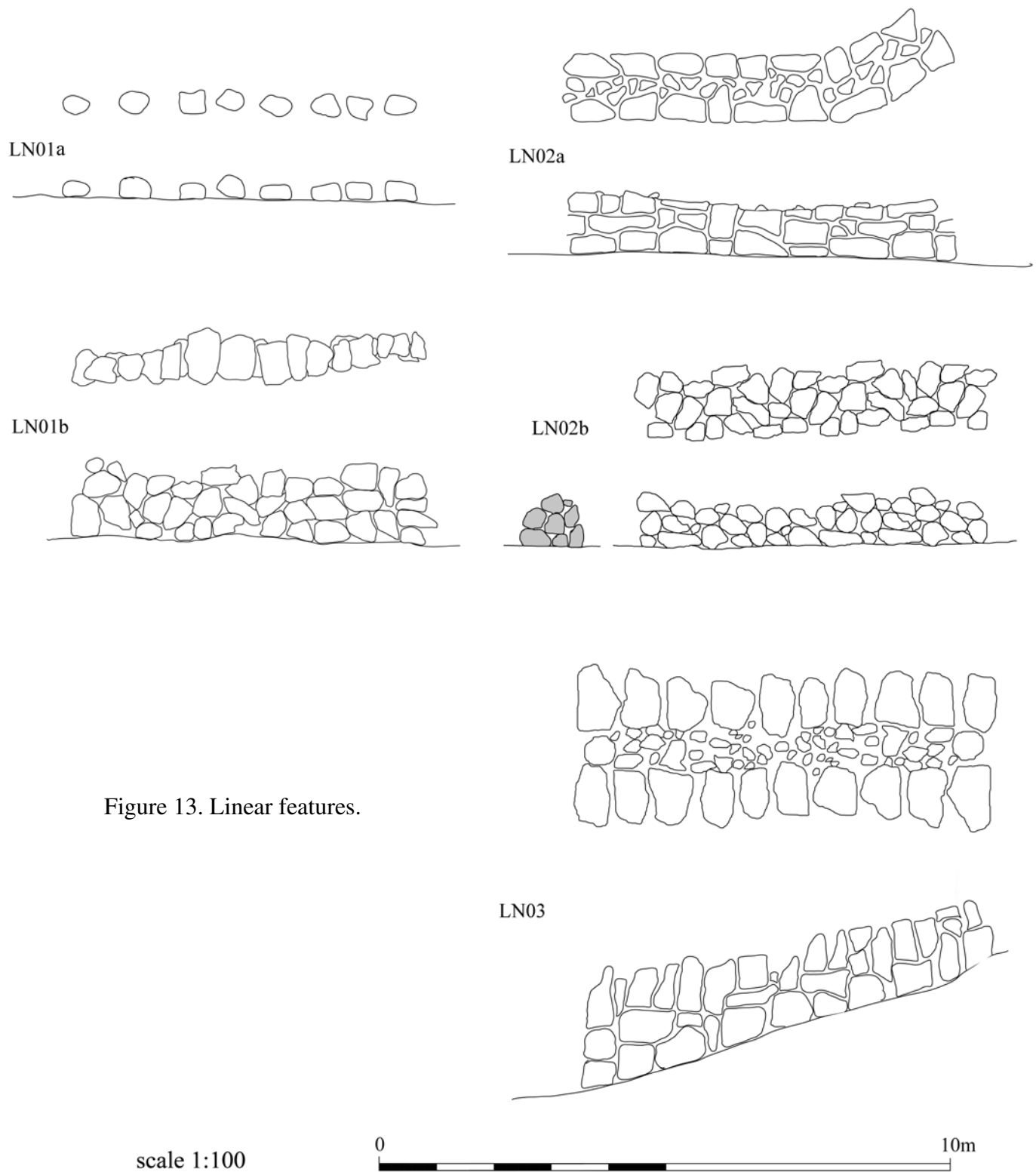




Plate 1. Funerary features - tumuli





Plate 2. Funerary features - tumuli, dome and crevice graves and a cairn.



Plate 3. Funerary features - frames, pavements and boxes.





Plate 4. Funerary features - tunnel grave and other types.



Plate 5. 'Settlement' features - pavements.

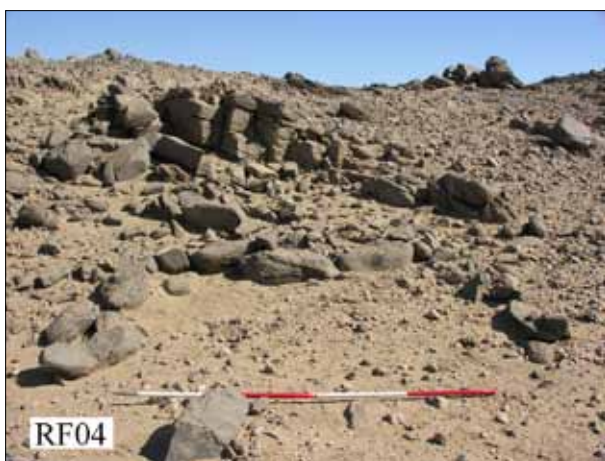


Plate 6. 'Settlement' features.





Plate 7. 'Settlement' features.





Plate 8. 'Settlement' features.



Plate 9. 'Settlement' features.





Plate 10. 'Settlement' features.



Plate 11. Linear features.