

### 3 BEHAVIOUR: CATALOGUE OF SPECIAL DEPOSITS by Cynthia Poole

#### 3.1 Special deposits in pits

##### *P402 Phase: EIA*

**2b** B<sup>o</sup> R53-D10 Description: Special deposit of large flint nodules up to 200 mm size deliberately placed as a single layer over the pit base.

##### *P403 Phase: MIA*

**7** B<sup>o</sup> R53-D10 Description: Two large flint nodules 200 and 280 mm were lying on the pit base under the overhang one on the NE and one on the ESE.

**3/1** 3<sup>o</sup> R51, R45, R71 Description: Small group of objects set peripherally, close to the east edge of the pit. Some large sherds of pottery, identified as seven sherds of saucepan pot, were lying flat with the interior surface uppermost and a leg bone (equid) resting on top of this. Between these and the pit was a large broken block of quern. (The finds labelling suggests the deposit lay at the interface of layers 1 and 3.)

##### *P405 Phase: MIA*

**5/6a** 1<sup>o</sup> R38, R39 Description: An inverted cattle skull was placed peripherally against NE wall of pit under the overhang (before its erosion). A mandible, also cattle, lay a short distance to the north, lying flat with mouth to E.

**5** 2<sup>o</sup> R53 and R50 Description: Several large sherds of pottery appeared in the section. One appeared to be partly overlain by a large flint nodule 200x150 mm and these may have formed a special deposit placed against the north pit wall. Layer 5 does not represent a single collapse of chalk shatter, but several smaller scale erosion events, between which the pot and flint could have been placed.

##### *P406 Phase: MIA*

**6** B<sup>o</sup> R53-D10 Description: Deliberate deposit of stones on pit base composed of large angular flint nodules c.150 mm, up to 260 mm. Quern assigned to (5) could be part of this deposit.

**5b/3** 1<sup>o</sup> R39, R54 Description: Animal bones visible in section at interface of layers 3 and 5, or in top of 5. The deposit occupied the west half of the pit with a mandible in the centre and with a scapula, limb bone and other bones close by. A large flint nodule had been placed at the south end of the group partly over one of the bones. The bones have been identified as cattle mandible, pelvis and scapula; equid humerus and scapula; sheep/goat maxilla.

**2** 3<sup>o</sup> R71 Deposit of ovicaprid leg bone, apparently labelled on site as a deposit but no description or plan made.

**1** 3<sup>o</sup> R39 Deposit of sheep/goat mandible, apparently noted on site as a deposit but no description made.

##### *P407 Phase: LIA-Ro*

**5** B<sup>o</sup> R53-D10 Description: A line of at least 5 flint nodules 80-170 mm had been placed in a line across the centre of the pit on the base.

##### *P408 Phase: MIA*

**16a** B1<sup>o</sup> R35 x6, R39 x2, R71 Description: Deliberately placed animals: the written notes record that these appeared to comprise 4 individual puppies set at close intervals around the E-NE edge of the pit on each of which had been deliberately placed a flint nodule.

Another five or six puppies and a larger young dog were observed close to the W-NW edge also with flint nodules on top, though whether placed separately or in a group was not recorded, though some large flints shown on the plan may imply the same individual arrangement. The bone analysis has shown that assigned to this layer were four neonates, which can reasonably be equated with the NE group and two juvenile/adult dogs, which probably represent the NW group. Other bones from this deposit included horse leg bones and a sheep and a cattle mandible.

**15** B2° R53-D10 Description: Large flint blocks up to 250 mm had been placed across the base of the pit, but not to form a continuous layer. Some had clearly been placed upon the puppy remains.

**12a** B3° R35 x22, R36 x3, R38, R39 x4, R71 Description: Deliberately placed deposits of several animal remains were found: these included a horse skull placed under the overhang against the NE wall of the pit inverted with the nose to the E. A conglomeration of bones in the eastern quadrant was interpreted on site as a partial animal and a leg or parts of several animals. The bone analysis suggests it was a group of horse/equid legs or partial legs. An arc of small bones around the north edge against the pit wall formed a group of complete or partial dog skeletons, representing 18 neonates and 4 juvenile/adult dogs.

**12b** B4° R53-D10 Description: A scatter of large flint nodules was placed over the partial skeleton and a few had possibly been placed around the north edge over the small bones.

**12c** B5° R35, R53, R36 x3, R38, R39 x4, R71 Description: Special deposit of a complete dog skeleton lying slightly off-centre to the north resting on its right side with the spine aligned NE-SW with the head to the NE. The rear legs are stretched out to the west, the front legs bent closer to the thorax. Some large long bones under its feet are disturbed cattle and possibly horse legs. A large flint nodule, which may originally have been placed on the dog's haunches, was resting adjacent to its pelvis when excavated.

Other bone associated with these deposits included a second horse skull, mandibles of goat, sheep, sheep/goat and cattle and a sheep/goat radius.

These deposits occurred in the lowest levels of primary chalk shatter.

**4b/4c** 3° R39, R53 Description: Placed centrally at the interface of layers 4b and 4c were one and possibly two mandibles of cattle or horse lying flat one in the SE quadrant (mouth to E) and a partial one in the NE quadrant. A large flint nodule 200 mm had been placed in the centre of the pit.

**1a** 3° R39 Description: A cattle mandible was placed on the west side of the pit, in an intermediate position between centre and sides, the mandible lying flat with mouth pointing to NE. Within layer 1.

#### *P410 Phase: E Ro*

**1** 3° R39 x4 Description: Two mandibles were found within the top layer. One placed close to the E/NE edge was observed in section and planned. The other was lying flat in an intermediate position towards the SE side of the pit. Post-excavation analysis identified 2 horse, 1 cattle and 1 red deer mandible present at this level.

#### *P411 Phase: EIA-MIA*

This small beehive pit was packed with large quantities of bone and large flints to such an extent that it was difficult to record the arrangements *in situ*.

**3** B° R36 Description: Visible in the section drawing are a couple of large bones placed centrally on the pit floor. These can be equated with a cattle leg and horse radius in the bone record.

**3** 1° R39, R38, R36, R54 Description: A large quantity of apparently disarticulated animal bone occurred in this layer. Special deposits identified during bone analysis include a cattle mandible, a pig mandible and sheep/goat skull and leg.

**2** 2° R53/D10, R38, R54, R51 Description: Large flint blocks and nodules averaging 100-180 mm, but one particularly large rectangular flint 340x220 mm in the centre. The flints were tightly packed with a large quantity of (?dis-)articulated animal bone packed between including 3 skulls with mandibles of cattle, sheep and sheep/goat, leg bones and other bone. A few large sherds of broken pot were noted close to the east wall.

**1/2** 3° R52 Description: Deposit of a couple of large blocks of daub placed peripherally against the NW wall at a depth of 0.35 m at the interface of layers 1 and 2. The daub from this deposit all appears to be lower oven walls including part of the stokehole.

**1** 3° R54, R36 This layer also contained a large quantity of apparently disarticulated animal bone, which according to bone analysis includes ?partial cattle, equid and sheep/goat legs.

*P413 Phase: MIA*

**7** B0° R51 Description: Pottery analysis suggests that four sherds of decorated saucepan pot including the rim may have been a special deposit.

**7/6** B1° R38 Description: Placed peripherally against the NW wall under the overhang 0.1 m from the basal angle was an inverted partial cattle skull, resting on the surface of layer 7 and covered by 6.

*P414 Phase: EIA/early MIA; 3° & T° Phase: MIA*

**7** 1° R38 A partial cattle skull was noted as a special deposit during excavation, but no description was made.

**11/12/9/7** 1° R41 Description: Deposit of at least 4 large chunks of pottery (SD2, 3 and 5), all from the same pot, placed at intervals peripherally around the pit edge under the overhang. One large sherd was visible in section lying on its outer surface against the primary chalk shatter (8). These were very large sherds from a large jar, including the rim.

**11/6** 1°/2° R50 Description: The pedestalled base of a pot (SD4) was placed probably at the interface of layers 6 and 11 close to the NW side of the pit, slightly higher than the large jar.

**05** 2° D09/R52, R35 Description: Large deposit of daub forming a mound in the middle of the pit and extending to the pit sides. It comprised reddish yellow or brown daub, largely decomposed but with some recognisable individual fragments, and containing occasional small chalk and flints 50-80 mm. A complete rook/crow identified during bone analysis is likely to be a special deposit.

**2** 3° R50? A perforated basal potsherd may be a special deposit.

**2/1** 3° R36, R38 Some leg bones were noted in an intermediate position towards the S edge of the pit. Probably placed in the base of layer 2 or at the interface of 2 and 3. The bone identified on site as special deposits were bones of cattle leg and partial skull. The post-ex analysis also indicated various equid, cattle and ovicaprid leg bones occurred in layer 2.

**1** T° R51 Description: A large part of a broken pot (SD1) had been placed in the north-east quadrant towards the pit edge in the top of the layer. The close concentration of the sherds may indicate it was placed in a small hole deliberately created in the pit fill.

*P418 Phase: MIA*

**1a** T° R32 Description: Infant burial: articulated skeleton of a neonate, placed in the north-east quadrant fairly close to the pit wall. The body was placed in a crouched position lying on its L side aligned NE-SW with the head to the NE. The skull has been badly crushed

(post-burial). Presumed to be a special deposit placed in the top of the pit before final levelling of the pit. From its depth it was possibly placed at the interface of layers 1 and 2. No cut was noted to suggest this was a later inserted burial (of e.g. Roman date).

**1** T<sup>o</sup> R39 Description: Mandible (horse) placed in the centre of the pit lying flat and aligned roughly E-W. In addition the bone analysis showed there were in total five horse mandibles representing 5 individuals from this layer.

#### *P419 Phase: MIA*

**6/7** B1<sup>o</sup> R39 Description: Two cattle mandibles one without any teeth had been placed lying on the surface of (7) under the overhang close to the NW side. Burning on the upper surface of the one seen in section may indicate the overlying layer was tipped in whilst still hot. A third cattle mandible was identified during the bone analysis. Three animals are represented.

**5/6** 2<sup>o</sup> R37, R39, R59 Description: Several deposits of animal bone had been placed at the interface of layers 5 and 6 or possibly within the top of layer 6. Close to the centre but slightly SW lay a mandible with a bone comb beside it. Against the SW wall under the overhang was a pelvis; against the NW wall 3 articulated vertebrae; and against the E-NE side a partial thorax of vertebrae and ribs. The post-excavation analysis of the bone suggests that this was a semi-complete sheep/goat and the placing in the pit indicates that it was dismembered and placed around the sides of the pit.

**4a** 2<sup>o</sup> R37 Description: A sheep skull with several articulated vertebrae was placed peripherally against the pit wall in the SW sector. (Removed before any detailed record or sketch plan made.) The bone analysis suggests that this was a semi-complete sheep.

**4b** 2<sup>o</sup> R53/D10 Description: A ring of large flint nodules c.150-250 mm was placed around the outer edge of the pit at the interface of 3/4 or in the top of layer 4.

**3a** 2<sup>o</sup> R38, R36 Description: A dog skull was placed inverted peripherally, close to the NE side together with a scatter of other bone. A group of apparently disarticulated bone occurred under the overhang against the NW side. This was probably the lower limb of sheep/goat and part of the spine and was probably an articulated deposit, according to the bone analysis.

**1/2** 3<sup>o</sup> R37 Description: The analysis of the animal bone from layers 1 and 2 suggests another deposit of a partial sheep/goat was present, possibly placed at the interface of layers 1 and 2.

#### *P421 Phase early MIA*

**3a** 3<sup>o</sup> R41 Description: Possible special deposit of whole broken pot. Much of a single vessel was noted during analysis and is likely to be a special deposit. A large sherd of pottery appears in section at the top of layer 3 and may equate with this deposit. Pottery: early MIA (cp4/5).

**1** T<sup>o</sup> R36 Description: The analysis of the animal bone suggests the presence of an articulated cattle leg within this layer.

#### *P422 Phase EIA*

**4** B1<sup>o</sup> R53/ D10/R45 Description: Deposit of large chalk blocks and flint nodules, some burnt, all of similar size c.100-200 mm and pieces of broken saddle quern stones c.200-300 mm. Although they were scattered across the whole of the pit base they were most dense in the northern half. One of the chalk blocks had tool marks and one of the flints may have been used as a rubber. The oven daub fragments assigned to layer 5 were probably placed within the rubble.

*P424 Phase MIA*

**2** B<sup>0</sup> R50 Description: A large sherd from the rim of an EIA jar may be a special deposit placed on the pit base or within layer 2. It was not observed *in situ*.

**1a** 3<sup>0</sup> R39 Description: Within layer 1 towards the top of the layer against the NW pit wall was placed a horse mandible lying flat parallel with the wall. A large flint nodule occurred in the SW quadrant, but need not be significant. The mandible of a roe deer also occurred within layer 1 but was not observed *in situ*.

*P425 Phase MIA*

**10** B0<sup>0</sup> R53-D10, R52 Description: About 6 large flint nodules c.200 mm size closely set to form a small cairn were placed on the pit base, packed around with a mound of compacted puddled chalk to form a rounded dome almost in the pit centre. A large quantity of oven daub came from layer 10 and probably formed an integral part of the special deposit, but there is no note on its position and whether it occurred in both 10 and 10a.

**10a** B1<sup>0</sup> R53-D10 Description: Four large flints 200-400 mm and a couple of smaller stones packed close together with a tabular block laid flat on top formed a central mound on the pit base. Small rounded chalk in puddled chalk was packed around the base and extended over the top of 10. A thin layer of silt separated the two phases of 10 and 10a.

**9c** B2<sup>0</sup> R38, R53/D10 Description: A ring of large flint nodules 100-300 mm was set around the outer edge of the pit interrupted by gaps, but were most continuous around the northern half. A very broken horse skull was placed alongside the pit wall under the overhang in the S quadrant. The skull was set upright with the mouth to the east.

**7** 2<sup>0</sup> R39 Description: Two sheep mandibles were identified during analysis as possible special deposits.

**5** 3<sup>0</sup> R51 Description: Sixteen sherds from a single vessel identified during analysis could be a special deposit.

**4** 3<sup>0</sup> R50 Description: Placed within layer 4 was a large sherd of pot lying flat on its outer surface in a patch of charcoal, which may have represented one or two carbonized timbers. Also associated was a patch of oven daub. The pottery analysis identified from this layer a sherd of rare D34 handled vessel of cp3-5. However, it is uncertain whether this can be equated with the special deposit.

**3** 3<sup>0</sup> R39 Description: Within the layer two pieces of mandible had been placed close to the pit wall under the overhang, both lying flat, one each alongside the N wall and the E wall. A mandible of red deer was identified and equated with these pieces. A scatter of other animal bones was noted at this level, but do not appear to have any special significance.

**2/3** 3<sup>0</sup> R53-D10 Description: Two large flint nodules 0.2 and 0.3 m long were placed against the pit wall in the SW quadrant. The flints were resting on the surface of layer 3 and covered by 2.

*P428 Phase EIA*

**2/3** 1<sup>0</sup> -2<sup>0</sup> R71 Description: Possible special deposit of large leg bone showing in section placed in the centre of the pit resting on surface of 3a; it is equated with an equid femur.

*P434 Phase MIA*

**16/17** 1<sup>0</sup> R51 Description: Several large fragments of saucepan pot, including rim sherds, mostly lying on their outer surface. Fragments of daub and bone were also noted at the same level. The artefacts occurred on the surface of (17) and were covered by (16). One was against the south pit edge and another large sherd in an intermediate position in the SE quadrant.

**3** 3° ?R36 Description: Possible special deposit of partial cattle limb – lower part of rear leg.

*P438 Phase EIA*

**2a** 3° R38 x2, R39 Description: Two skulls or partial skulls were deposited peripherally one against the NE wall (Deposit 2) and one against the SE wall (Deposit 3) at the base of layer 2 (or possibly in 4 as it is recorded at a depth of 0.37 m, which on this side would put it in 4). The latter appeared to be lying within the animal disturbance and may be displaced or may be an animal that died in the burrow (depending on species). A sheep mandible was associated with deposit 2. [Deposit 3 was not identified during the bone analysis and appears to have been lost unless both deposits were parts of the same skull.]

**1b** 3° R50 Description: Resting on the surface of (2) and covered by (1) a number of large joining potsherds from a single pot had been placed slightly off-centre to the S in an intermediate position. A large flint c.200 mm occurred immediately to the N of these.

*P440 Phase EIA*

**2** 3° R32 Description: Complete, articulated human female skeleton lying in a crouched position on its front/left side with the legs tightly drawn up to the body and arms tight against chest. The head was to the NE and lying on its left side. Deliberately placed burial: unclear whether it was placed in the top of a partly filled pit or whether a grave was deliberately dug into the pit top. This should perhaps be regarded as a conventional burial rather than a special deposit.

*P441 Phase: EIA – early MIA*

**6b** B1° R52, R39, R71, R50 Description: Deposit VI: large blocks of daub, a few flint nodules, a limb bone (cattle femur) and jaw bone (part of pig skull) were observed on the pit base. A large fragment of jar from this level is also likely to be a special deposit.

**5a** 1° R53/D10 Description: A group of large flint nodules up to 260 mm size were deliberately placed on the pit base, probably after deposition of 6, but could possibly pre-date it (in which case they are likely to be contemporary with 6b).

**5** 1° ?R52, ?R53 Description: The daub was mainly concentrated in the SW quadrant near the pit edge and extending into the pit centre. A possible special deposit (Deposit V) of large stones (?chalk), long bones, a ?mandible and a block of daub was noted.

**4/5** 1° R51, R39, R36, R38 Description: Deposit VIII: deposit of articulated horse legs (1 fore and 1 hind leg), five mandibles (4 sheep, 1 horse), dog skull and sheep/goat mandible and skull, a scatter of ribs and other bone and several large potsherds in the east quadrant close to the pit wall. The leg was placed on the S-SW side close to the pit wall. Following analysis the largish potsherds were not thought to be anything special.

**2/4** 1° R36, R39, R38, R51, R53/D10 Description: Deposit VII: deposit of large angular flint nodules up to 0.25 m arranged peripherally around the pit edge on the N side together with a number of bones including sheep lower leg, horse limb(s), a mandible and articulated vertebrae of a large mammal (horse, cattle etc), a partial cattle skull and 4 cattle mandibles. One largish pottery rim sherd coated in burnt material could be a special deposit: it joins with sherds from Deposit III.

**2** 2° R36, R39, R54 Description: Deposits III and IV: around the pit edge several deposits of animal bones were noted and probably coincide with the animal bone visible in section on the SW side. The bone was mostly concentrated around the pit edge. Deposit III includes two mandibles and some pottery, but is mostly disarticulated animal bone. Deposit IV has several limb bones and may include an articulated leg, plus other scattered bone and supposedly a clay TOB. No subdivisions are apparent within (2) suggesting rapid deposition

of the layer. Some potsherds associated with Deposit III join with the sherd noted in Deposit VII, but there is nothing special to indicate the pottery is a special deposit in its own right.

**2b** 2° R39, R36 Description: In the shallow hollow formed by (2) and (4) in the pit centre was a deposit of charcoal fragments, ash and a few burnt flints together with Deposit II, which consisted of several bones including a mandible and possible leg. Pottery associated with this deposit consisted of a few scrappy sherds and were not a special deposit in their own right.

**2a** 2° D09/R52, R50 Description: Deposit I of oven daub together with charcoal and ash. A large potsherd in section could be part of this deposit; however, the only pottery labelled as Deposit I were found in analysis to be a few scrappy sherds and not a special deposit in their own right.

#### *P442 Phase EIA – early MIA*

**15a** B1° D10/R53, R51, R42 Description: A scatter of flint nodules 120-200 mm were placed around the edge of the pit as well as a group over the top of and within a mound of chalk fragments in puddled chalk in the pit centre, which measured c.0.95 m diameter. In addition various artefacts were placed around the edge of the pit under the overhang including a chalk weight (SF3432) and chalk spindle whorl (SF3433), partial broken pot and a few flint nodules. Pottery (nos. 4 and 5 on the plan) following identification was not regarded as intrinsically special, but another large sherd of a jar was thought to be a special deposit. Some of the pottery was placed peripherally against the SE side, but the other sherds were more centrally placed the largest slightly off-centre between two large flints.

**13b** 1° R36 x2, R38/R39 x2 Description: Placed at a depth of 1.63 m, probably at the base of layer 13 was a deposit of ?disarticulated bone, set slightly off-centre to S and W of centre and two large flint nodules on the SE side of the bone. Small flecks of charcoal occurred in the vicinity of the bone. The bone analysis indicates this comprised a cattle skull, mandible and rear leg, and a dog skull, mandible, front and rear leg.

**12** 1° R39 Description: A mandible and other bones were placed in the pit centre at the junction with 6.

**10c** 2° R38 x2, R37 x2, R71 Description: Deposit D – a scatter of ?semi-articulated animal bone placed slightly off-centre to the NE directly below deposit C. Bone analysis suggests this group comprises two partial sheep/goat, a cattle skull (?partial) with mandible and leg bones, a dog skull with mandible and equid femur.

**10b** 2° R38, R39, R71, R45 Description: Deposit C – placed slightly off-centre to the SE were two cattle mandibles with a fragment of greensand quern stone, a few burnt flints and a scatter of other bone. This appears to comprise cattle scapula, sheep/goat tibia and medium mammal rib and vertebra. A few scrappy sherds of pottery occurred with the bone.

**8a** 2° R38 x4, R71 Description: Deposit B – three cattle skulls were placed in the centre of the pit with a scatter of other bones to the NW of them. The skulls were placed upright and one at least had the mandibles present below the skull. A large flint had been placed alongside and a lens c.1 m diameter of large burnt flints plus several greensand fragments c.100 mm directly overlay or were packed around the skulls. Also present were some cattle leg bones. The bone analysis indicates a fourth skull was present also.

**4/5** 3° D10/R53, R45, R38 x2, R71 Description: Deposit A – several large bones were apparently associated with a number of quern fragments. There is no description, though a sketch plan shows the bone in the centre of the pit, but there is no indication of what type of bone was present, though there appears to be several articulated vertebrae, some leg bones and possibly a skull and pelvis. The depth of this deposit given as 0.9 m would place it at the base of (5) or interface of (5)/(6) as the layers appear in the section drawing; however,

the plans are clearly labelled 4/5. The bone analysis indicates the bone comprised sheep, horse and cattle leg bones and two cattle skulls (?partial).

**2**      3<sup>o</sup>      R36 Description: Bone analysis indicates a partial equid leg was present.