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The archaeology of the stone walled settlements in the Eastern Transvaal, South Africa

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Declaration

I hereby declare that this dissertation is my own work unless otherwise acknowledged, and has not been submitted for a Masters Degree at any other University.



D.P. Collett

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I would like to thank Mr. F. Zenner and Mr. H. Espag for permission to excavate on their farms. Students from the University of the Witwatersrand, Mr. J.F. Chatterton and Miss C.S. Harcourt helped with the excavations at 2530 AD 10 and 2530 AD 4. Nestlé (Pty.) Ltd. generously provided supplies and my uncle, Mr. A. Clifford helped to oil the excavations. The Lydenburg town council subsidized my accommodation. The University of the Witwatersrand awarded me a Senior Bursary, without which this work could not have been completed. I am deeply grateful to Mr. and Mrs. W. Judson and Miss H. Espag for their hospitality and support during the excavations.

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Mrs. J. Howard-Tripp typed the drafts and the final dissertation. I would also like to thank the trigonometrical survey for permission to publish the aerial photographs.

ABSTRACT

Two approaches, settlement typology and ceramic typology, have been used to construct sequences in the South African later Iron Age. The Badfontein valley was selected to test whether ruin plans contained enough stylistic information for sequence construction. Stone walled sites in this valley belong to either a complex or a simple plan form. Four complex ruins, two simple ruins and two terraced areas were excavated. All of the ruins and terraces belong to a single phase of one Iron Age culture. These findings indicate that style and function are confounded in ruin plans and that sequences should be constructed from ceramic variability.

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INTRODUCTION

Iron Age research in South Africa is still in its infancy and therefore focused on *culture history*, the definition of cultural entities in time and space. Generally, Iron Age entities have been defined either by differences between pottery assemblages or the plans of stone walled *ruins*, and these two approaches tend to be considered as mutually exclusive. Ethnographic work in southern Africa has demonstrated that individual ethnic groups, at least at the level of major linguistic divisions, have particular styles of pottery decoration (Huffman 1979; Lawton 1967; Schofield 1948), and the use of ceramics to define archaeological entities is widespread. The ruin typology approach assumes that each type is associated with a different period or people (Mason 1968), and it has even been suggested that stone wall typology is a more sensitive indicator of culture than *ceramics* (Maggs 1979). A correlation between ceramics and ruin plans has been found in the Orange Free State (Maggs 1976a, 1976b), and it is possible that these two artefact groups *should be seen as variables* within a polythetically defined culture. The polythetic approach (Clarke, 1978), however, ignores an important distinction between different groups of artefacts. *Any artefact may contain* information about a number of variables, for example technology, economy and sociology (Binford 1962), but the amount of information on any one aspect may be limited. The most *important* form of variation for the definition of archaeological entities is stylistic because it reflects cultural norms. The choice between two

artefact groups is not solved by the polythetic model unless both contain the same amount of stylistic and non stylistic information. The purpose of this project is to test the utility of settlement typology for sequence construction by determining the association between ruin plans and ceramic assemblages in a specific area, the Lydenburg district of the eastern Transvaal. The area is particularly suitable because stone-walled sites are numerous and easily visible on aerial photographs. Moreover, the Iron Age archaeology of the area is relatively well known (Evers 1975; Inskeep and Maggs 1975; Laidler 1932, 1938; Marker and Evers 1976), and several types of ruin have been noted (Mason 1968; Marker and Evers 1976).

Ruin types were defined after an aerial photograph and ground survey and the correlation between ruin types and ceramic phases was determined by excavating a representative sample of each ruin type. The ceramics were classified and placed in a sequence. The relationship between the ruins and phases in the sequence was then examined. In addition settlement patterns were investigated and this information was integrated with the culture historic framework to provide an insight to the adaptation of the ruin builders to the area.

All of the selected sites were excavated by traditional methods. Trenches were located over surface indications of features, concentrations of potsherds or against stone walls. In a number of cases trenches were used to sample subdivisions of the stone ruins. The sizes of individual trenches were not standardized. The features and pottery concentrations in each trench were mapped by offset measurements, and a plane table survey was used to map the position of trenches in relation to the stone walls. Vertical control was maintained through the use of a mixture of natural stratigraphic levels

ENVIRONMENT

The Badfontein valley (25°20'N, 30°20'E) lies midway between the towns of Lydenburg and Machadodorp and forms part of the upper catchment of the Crocodile River which flows eastwards through the southern end of the valley. On the west the valley is bounded by the Dullstroom heights which rise to an altitude of 2000 m and to the east the Transvaal Drakensberg reach a height of 2100 m. The Dullstroom heights consist of the Magaliesberg quartzites and sills overlying Daspoort shales, and both components belong to the Pretoria series of the Transvaal system. The Transvaal Drakensberg is capped by Magaliesberg shales and sills again overlying Daspoort shales (Button 1973; Marker and Evers 1976; Visser and Verwoerdt 1950). A dense swarm of dykes probably belong to the bushveld igneous system (Marker and Evers 1976), and schistose talc as well as zones of mineralization occur along some of these (pers. obs.). The region was subjected to considerable tertiary uplift, and this coupled with active erosion has given rise to a multiplicity of erosion bevels producing a characteristic stepped topography.

Rainfall and temperature show marked seasonal variation. Most rainfall occurs in the summer months, between October and April, with a yearly average of 600 mm (Weather Bureau 1978). Temperature also shows seasonal fluctuations with frequent frosts in the winter months.

The area is within the eastern variation of the Rankenveld, a sour

veld (Acocks 1975). On rocky areas the veld type is more similar to the central variation of the Bankenveld, another sour veld type. The area is not good for the winter grazing of cattle (Acocks 1975; pers. obs.) although it appears to be good farming land.

STONE RUIN SURVEY

Aerial photographs on a transect between Carolina and Lydenburg were examined in detail. The northern end of the Badfontein valley had a high density of ruins and so this area was chosen. Settlement location was analysed at two levels, (1) the location of settlement complexes defined as discrete areas with ruins, cattle tracks and terraces, and (2) the distribution of individual ruins in a settlement complex.

Settlement complexes on trigonometrical survey aerial photograph series 481 number 068 were plotted on a 1:50 000 map of the area (Fig. 1). Each settlement complex was designated by a letter. Most of the settlements were located on valley footslopes between 1200 m and 1500 m. Three settlements B, E and I lay on major erosion bevels above the footslopes. Settlement E was the highest settlement in the area with a maximum altitude of 1650 m. Settlements tended to occur on gentle slopes.

Most settlement complexes were built located on west facing slopes but this preference may have been determined by water availability because there are few streams near the east facing slopes of the valley. To clarify this question it is necessary to control for proximity to water and this can be done by comparing the proportion of aspects utilized with the proportion of each within a certain distance from perennial water. The maximum distance from a settlement to the

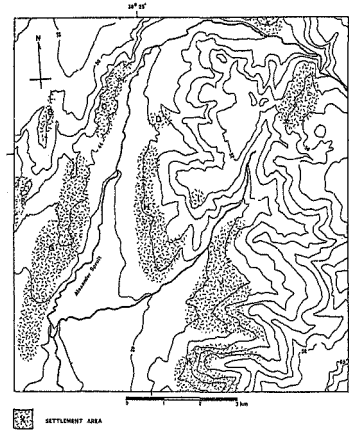


Fig. 1. Settlements at the northern end of the Badfontein valley.

nearest available water was about 3 km (Table 11, and this was used to define the comperison area. A 1 mm grid was placed over the map of the area, and the number of squares on each aspect for all slopes as well as occupied slopes, were counted and converted to percentages. A Chi-square test was used to compare the proportion of each aspect utilised with the amount available and a significant difference was found (X^2= 5,07 of = 3 $p<0,05$). West aspect slopes were over represented, and north and south facing slopes were only occupied at chance levels (Table 2). The present results have demonstrated that at least three variables were important constraints on site location: (1) the presence of nearby perennial water, (2) gentle slopes and (3) slopes with a westerly aspect. No attempt was made to assess the relative importance of each variable.

Table 1. Distance in Kilometres from the furthest points of settlements to the nearest modern perennial water source.

Settlement	D	C	I	E	H	A	K	G	B	F	J
Distance	0,80	1,00	1,15	1,25	1,30	1,40	1,45	1,60	2,75	2,80	2,90

Table 2. The percentage area of settlements on slopes of different aspect compared with the availability of these aspects.

Aspect	N	S	E	W
% utilized	11	14	25	50
% available	12	13	36	40

The analysis of settlement complex location ignored typological differences between ruins. A second analysis examined the location of ruins within a settlement. The analysis may be confounded by inadequate control over temporal or functional variables, and so ruin

types were defined and analysed separately in an attempt to control these variables.

Aerial photographs (Plate 1) were used to isolate attributes that appeared to be diagnostic of ruin plans, and four attributes were isolated:

(1) two or more contiguous circular or sub circular enclosures

(2) a single circular enclosure

(3) a continuous wall surrounding attributes 1 or 2

(4) walls joining attribute 3 to attributes 1 or 2

After a ground survey in the Machadodorp (Rietfontein 365JT; Rietvlei 375JT; Schoongesicht 364JT), Lydenburg (Doornkop 61JT; Klingbeil Nature Reserve, Langdraai 85JT; Rietfontein 64JT; Rooidraai 34JT) and Badfontein valleys (Badfontein 114JT; Donkerhoek 113JT; Klipspruit 86JT; Rietfontein 88JT, 89JT, 90JT; Rustenburg 108JT; Waterval 120JT), attributes 3 and 4 were eliminated because they could not always be separated from stone terraces. The two attributes that remained were each designated as a ruin type:

(a) Complex ruins - two or more contiguous circular or sub circular enclosures;

(b) Simple ruins - a single circular enclosure

These ruin types were sampled in the excavation programme.

A single settlement, G, was used in the analysis of within settlement patterns. Three grid sizes, 5 mm, 5 x 10 mm and 10 mm, were placed over a specially prepared map (Fig. 2), and a quadrat analysis was completed for each grid size. Complex ruins showed a significant degree of nucleation at each quadrat size, but simple ruins had a random pattern (Table 3).

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Plate 1. Aerial photograph of the northern end of the Badfontein valley; part of trigonometrical survey photograph series 481 Number 068.

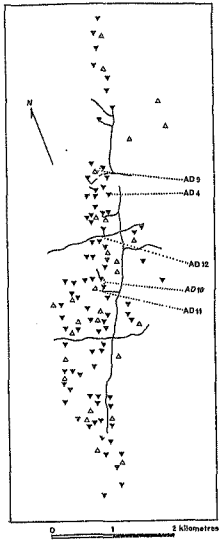


Fig. 2. Map of settlement G showing the distribution of the two ruin types.

Table 3. Degree of nucleation at different quadrat sizes for the two ruin types in settlement G.

Ruin		TYPE 1			TYPE 2	
Quadrat Size	5 x 5	5 x 10	10 x 10	5 x 5	5 x 10	10 x 10
Variance	1,17	2,68	9,39	0,22	0,50	1,04
Mean	0,97	1,79	3,79	0,26	0,60	1,21
Variance/Mean	1,41	1,50	2,48	0,83	0,83	0,86
X^2	133,95	70,50	57,04	78,85	39,01	19,78
df	95	47	23	95	47	23
Significance	p<0,05	p<0,02	p<0,05	NS	NS	NS

The presence of ruins with robbed walls close to ruins with intact walls suggested that nucleation may have resulted from repeated occupation of particular areas in a settlement.

EXCAVATIONS

PART I: COMPLEX RUINS

Site 2530 AD 10 (A and B)

The two ruins (Plate 2) were in the centre of settlement G (Fig. 2). They were 80 m apart on an erosion bevel between two dykes. Surface daga and potsherds occurred without a major break between the two ruins.

Both ruins consisted of a central enclosure with semi-circular lobes attached to the outside (Fig. 3). The number of lobes was not standard, and ruin A had more than ruin B. The central enclosure of ruin A was also larger. Two entrances to the main enclosure occurred in both ruins, but the cattle tracks led off in opposite directions, to the north in ruin A and to the south in ruin B. In both ruins the second entrance was blocked by collapsed wall. In addition to the common features ruin A had two small semi-circular enclosures inside the central enclosure. Other features between the ruins included terraces, single stone lines, a polyhedral enclosure and seven partly buried circular stone piles.

Eight trenches were excavated. They ranged in size between one and fifty six square metres (Table 4).

THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE STONE WALLED SETTLEMENTS IN THE EASTERN TRANSVAAL, SOUTH AFRICA

David Phillip Collett

A Dissertation submitted to the Faculty of Science,
University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg,
for the Degree of Master of Science

Johannesburg 1979

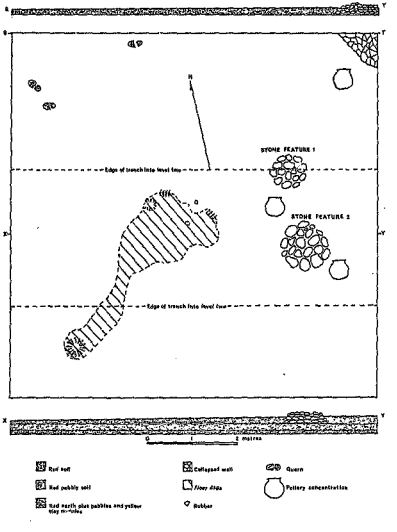


Fig. 4. Site 2530 AD 10 (A and B) plan of features in trench 1.



Plate 2. Site 2530 AD 10 (A).

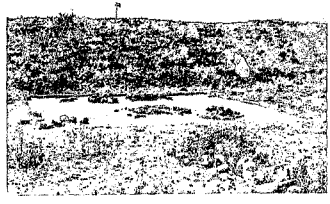


Plate 3. Site 2530 AD 10 (A and B), trench 1, showing Floor 1 and Stone features 1 and 2.

spherical diabase cobbles was located at the southern end of the floor, and a sunken bowl with carbonized seeds (Sorghum sp.) was near the northern edge. Two small sections of kerb, roughly triangular in cross section, occurred at the eastern and northern limit of the daga. The floor was probably the veranda of a hut but the diameter could not be reconstructed.

Floor 2. Trench 2 was located over a daga floor, 1,16 m long and 1,04 m wide (Fig. 5; Plate 4). A sunken bowl, only partially preserved was situated on the west side of the floor. A number of carbonized seeds (Sorghum sp.) were recovered from this bowl. The eastern edge of the floor had a raised kerb. The floor was probably the remains of a veranda about four metres in diameter. The floor was overlayen by pole impressed wall daga.

Floor 3. The badly disturbed remains of a floor occurred in an arc in the northwest corner of trench 3 (Fig. 6). No limit to the floor could be found due to the disturbance. This was possibly another veranda but no definite interpretation could be made.

Floor 4. A small oval patch of floor, 40 x 10 cm was found in the northwest corner of trench 6. This feature could not be interpreted (Fig. 7).

Stone feature 1. A circular arrangement of stone, 80 cm in diameter and about 25 cm tall, occurred 1,60 m to the northeast of floor 1 (Fig. 4; Plate 2). This was probably a grain bin stand.

Stone feature 2. A second circular arrangement of stones, 1,15 m in diameter and about twenty eight centimetres high, occurred 2 m to the south of stone feature 1 (Fig. 4). This was also interpreted as

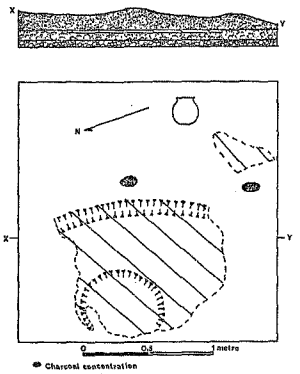


Fig. 5. Site 2530 AD 10 (A and B) plan of features in trench 2.



Plate 4. Site 2530 AD 10 (A and B), trench 2, showing Floor 2.

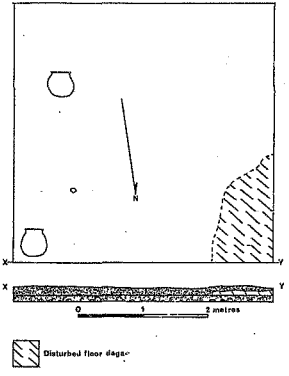
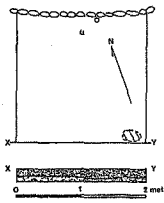
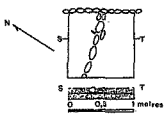


Fig. 6. Site 2530 AD 10 (A and B) plan of features in trench 3.



o-o Iron rings

Fig. 7. Site 2530 AD 10 (A and B) plan of features in trench 6.



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Fig. 8. Site 2530 AD 10 (A and B) plan of features in trench 5.

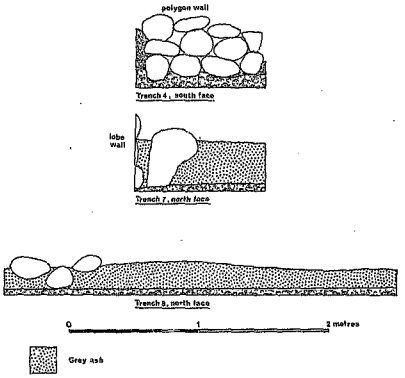


Fig. 9. Site 2530 AD 10 (A and B) sections of trenches 4, 7 and 8.

a grain bin stand.

Midden 1. An ashy deposit containing pottery, bone, iron and worked soapstone was found in the large stone lobe of ruin A. Trenches 7 and 8 were placed in this feature.

The close association between floor 1 and stone features 1 and 2 suggested that they formed a household unit. While stone features appeared to be associated with huts, huts were not always associated with stone features, e.g. floor 3. A minimum of nine huts was obtained by adding the excavated floors to surface daga concentrations and unexcavated stone features which were not associated with surface daga or excavated floors.

FINDS

Pottery

Pottery from levels 1 and 2 provided a total sample of 1605 sherds from a minimum of 92 vessels and an additional 17 vessels or vessel fragments were surface collected. Two ring bases were recovered from the excavations and 5 more from the surface (Fig. 10). Only trenches 1 and 2 contained pottery in level 2.

Three profile forms were recognized (Fig. 11). Form I occurred as both bowls and jars and had an inward inflection point below the rim. Form II had an outward inflection point about half way down the vessel. Form III had no obvious inflection point and was an open bowl.

Four layout modes occurred:

(i) decoration on the rim.

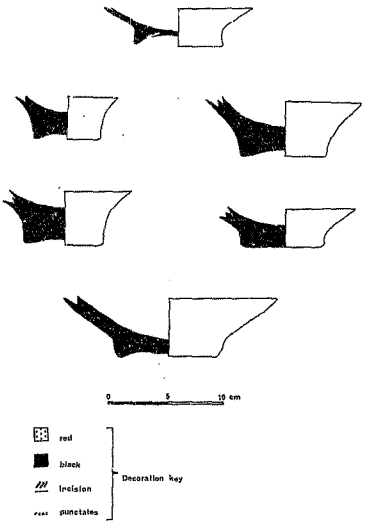


Fig. 10. Site 2530 AD 10 (A and B) ring bases.

and arbitrary five centimetre spits.

The pottery from all levels of a site was analysed as a single unit. Types were defined by a modal analysis based on variation in three dimensions, vessel profile, layout and decoration. Each dimension contained one or more modes. Profile modes were defined by the direction and order of inflection points from the rim, and the orientation of the rim was ignored. Layout modes were identified by the consistent placement of bands or isolated motifs on particular parts of a vessel. The decoration modes were determined in two ways. First, vessels with a consistent theme of decoration, similar motifs in the same order, were grouped as a single decoration mode. Secondly, when different motifs occurred together in the same band, they were classed as the same mode when they occurred separately on other vessels. The intersection of a decoration, layout and profile mode defined a pottery type.

The analysis of faunal remains was confined to teeth because these could be assigned to a genus or species. The remaining material was not classified. The diagnostic remains were assigned to the left or right side of the body and placed within age classes based on eruption and wear patterns. The sum of the most frequently occurring tooth within each age class gave the minimum number of individuals for the species. The comparative material was housed in the Archaeology Department, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, and the Transvaal Museum, Pretoria.

Finally, slag was analysed by the methods suggested by van der Merwe (1978).

and arbitrary five centimetre spits.

The pottery from all levels of a site was analysed as a single unit. Types were defined by a modal analysis based on variation in three dimensions, vessel profile, layout and decoration. Each dimension contained one or more modes. Profile modes were defined by the direction and order of inflection points from the rim, and the orientation of the rim was ignored. Layout modes were identified by the consistent placement of bands or isolated motifs on particular parts of a vessel. The decoration modes were determined in two ways. First, vessels with a consistent theme of decoration, similar motifs in the same order, were grouped as a single decoration mode. Secondly, when different motifs occurred together in the same band, they were classed as the same mode when they occurred separately on other vessels. The intersection of a decoration, layout and profile mode defined a pottery type.

The analysis of faunal remains was confined to teeth because these could be assigned to a genus or species. The remaining material was not classified. The diagnostic remains were assigned to the left or right side of the body and placed within age classes based on eruption and wear patterns. The sum of the most frequently occurring tooth within each age class gave the minimum number of individuals for the species. The comparative material was housed in the Archaeology Department, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, and the Transvaal Museum, Pretoria.

Finally, slag was analysed by the methods suggested by van der Merwe (1978).

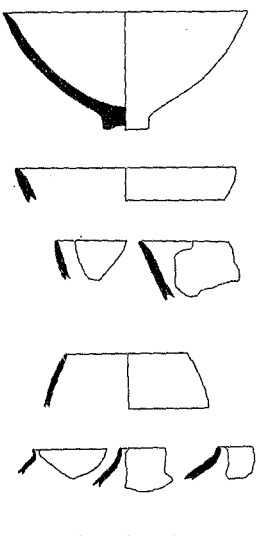


Fig. 14. Site 2530 AD 10 (A and B) undecorated vessels from Component A.

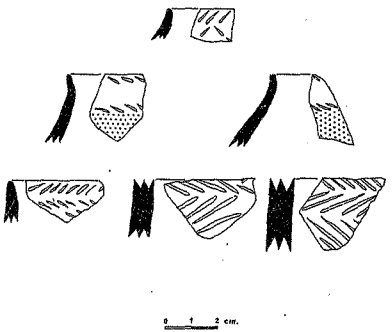


Fig. 15. Site 2530 AD 10 (A and B) decorated vessels from Component B.

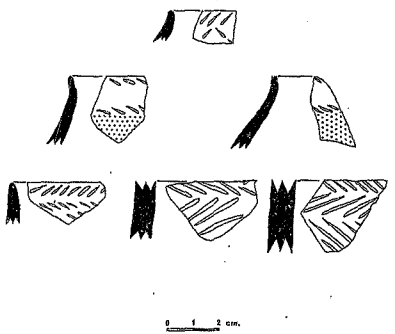


Fig. 15. Site 2530 AD 10 (A and B) decorated vessels from Component B.

Type 8: form XII; layout 3; motif B. An open bowl with a band of oblique incision, punctates or herringbone below the rim and an incised chevron on the shoulder. Black could occur above and red below the chevron.

Type 9: form indeterminate; layout 2; motif F. A vessel with a band of hatching below the rim and interrupted incised lines going from the band towards the base.

Type 10: form I; layout 3; motif D. A recurved jar with a band of hatching below the rim, a second band of hatching on the shoulder and red colour below.

Type 11: form indeterminate; motif E. Sherds with multiple bands of oblique or alternating oblique incision.

A clear separation of types occurred between levels 1 and 2 (Table 5) although a number of fragments from level 2 could be assigned to classes found in level 1. It would seem that component B was mixed. The sherds of type 10 and 11 vessels were abraded while fragments of types that could be assigned to component A classes were not heavily worn. The surface collection and component A types were similar and formed one assemblage.

Fauna

All bone identifiable to species level came from trench 8 level 1. A minimum of four Bos taurus, two juveniles and two adults, and two Ovicaprids, both adult, were present (Table 6). No wild animals could be identified. A small quantity of badly preserved bones were recovered from trenches 1, 2, 3 and 6.

Metal

Six pieces of iron were recovered (Table 7, Fig. 16). An iron razor, 8,6 cm x 2,0 cm was found on the surface to the west of ruin B. The tang was 4,5 cm long and circular, the blade was flat and elliptical.

Two iron rings - one prised open - an adze and a spear-head were

Table 5. Distribution of pottery types by levels and trenches, 2530 AD IG (A and B)

Component	Trench	Level	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2/3	3/4	2/3/4	3/4/8	2/3/4/8	TOTAL
	-	Surface		1	4		1		6							5			17
	1	1			1			3	4	1					1	11			21
	2	1						1	1										2
A	3	1			1			1	1					7		1	1		12
	4	1	1																1
	5	1			1														1
	6	1						1	1									1	3
	7	1						1	2							3	1		7
	8	1		1	2	1		4	3	1					1	11			24
	1	2						6			1	4	3		2	3			19
B	2	2							1				1						2
TOTAL			1	2	9	1	1	17	19	2	1	4	4	7	4	34	2	1	108

associated with Component A. All these pieces were only slightly rusted. The rings had a diameter of about 2,0 cm and were made from wire about 2,0 mm in diameter. They were probably finger rings. The adze was wedge-shaped with a rectangular cross section. The wide end had been flattened to form the working edge. It was 8,8 cm x 2,0 cm. The spear-head had a leaf shaped blade. The tang was 11,5 cm long with a circular cross section. The blade was 16,6 cm x 3,1 cm.

A small piece of heavily rusted iron, roughly rectangular was recovered from trench 1 level 2. It was 2,8 cm x 1,6 cm and was probably the blade from a razor.

Table 6. Bone identifiable to species level. All bones from trench 8 level 1, 2530 AD 10 (A and B).

Bone	Species	Wear	Age	Minimum No
RM2	Bos taurus	light	Adult	1
RP2	Bos taurus	Medium to heavy	Adult	1
LDP4	Bos taurus	Medium to heavy	Juvenile	1
LDP4	Bos taurus	Heavy	Juvenile/Adult	1
M_3	Bos taurus	Unerupted	Juvenile	
LP_4	Ovis/Capra	Medium to heavy	Adult	1
LP3	Ovis/Capra	Heavy	Adult	1

Table 7. Iron from 2530 AD 10 (A and B)

Trench	Level	Razor	Adze	Ring	Spear
	Surface	1			
5	1		1		
6	1			2	
8	1				1
1	2	1			
Total		2	1	2	1

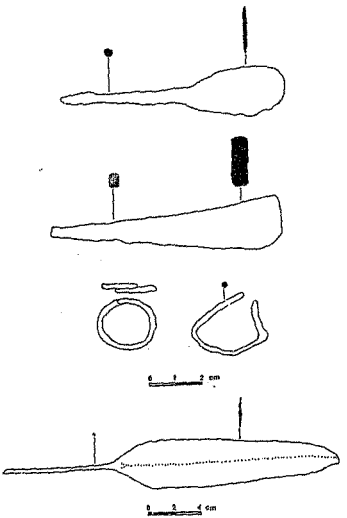


Fig. 16. Site 2530 AD 10 (A and B) iron objects.



Fig. 17. Site 2530 AD 10 (A and B) worked soapstone.

Stone

Two pieces of worked soapstone and two stone flakes were recovered (Table 8). A soapstone bead with a diameter of 1,1 cm and wedge shaped in cross section was found on floor 2 (Fig. 17). A soapstone lozenge, *sub triangular in cross section* and 2,1 cms long was found in midden 1 (Fig. 17).

Table 8. Excavated worked stone, 2530 AD 10 (A and B)

		Soapstone		Stone flakes
Trench	Level	Bead	Lozenge	
2	1	1		
8	1		1	
1	2			2
TOTAL		1	1	2

An abraded stone flake, triangular in plan, came from level two of trench 1. A Late Stone Age thumb nail scraper came from the same deposit and was also worn.

Rubbers and querns were found on the surface. Two broken querns and a rubber were found on the surface of trench 1. One type of quern had a large oval rubbing surface and was made on diabase. A second type was smaller and had a long narrow depression which was usually ochre stained (Table 9). These were also made on diabase. The rubbers were slightly larger than 10 cm and had one to two rubbing surfaces.

Table 9. Quern types, 2530 AD 10 (A and B).

Trench	Level	type 1	type 2
1	1/Surface	1	1
	Surface	5	7
TOTAL		6	8

Site 2530 AD 4

The ruin (Plate 5) was situated at the n[illegible] end of settlement G (Fig. 2). A small similar ruin occurred 50 m to the north.

The central enclosure was 16,6 m in diameter. Two low, collapsed stone walls ran for 14 m to the northwest of the single entrance to the central enclosure. Five stone semi circles were attached to the central enclosure (Fig. 18). A sixth horse-shoe shaped enclosure was formed by a wall running from the cattle track parallel to the main enclosure wall.

A small isolated stone semi circle was situated 20 m to the west of the ruin. Two circular stone piles, but no surface daga concentrations, were found. Terracing occurred on all sides except the north. A shallow donga occurred to the southwest of the ruin.

Nine trenches were excavated. They ranged in size between 1 and 25 m^2 (Table 10).

Table 10. Trench sizes for 2530 AD 4, in square metres.

Level	Trench									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	TOTAL
1	25	4	20	4	1	1	1	4	4	62
2	10	4	20	4	1	1	1	4	4	47

Stratigraphy

Two stratigraphic units were recognised (Figs. 19, 20, 21) and the generalized stratigraphy was:

EXCAVATIONS

PART 1: COMPLEX RUINS

Site 2550 AD 10 (A and B)

The two ruins (Plate 2) were in the centre of settlement G (Fig. 2). They were 80 m apart on an erosion bevel between two dykes. Surface daga and potsherds occurred without a major break between the two ruins.

Both ruins consisted of a central enclosure with semi-circular lobes attached to the outside (Fig. 3). The number of lobes was not standard, and ruin A had more than ruin B. The central enclosure of ruin A was also larger. Two entrances to the main enclosure occurred in both ruins, but the cattle tracks led off in opposite directions, to the north in ruin A and to the south in ruin B. In both ruins the second entrance was blocked by collapsed wall. In addition to the common features ruin A had two small semi-circular enclosures inside the central enclosure. Other features between the ruins included terraces, single stone lines, a polyhedral enclosure and seven partly buried circular stone piles.

Eight trenches were excavated. They ranged in size between one and fifty six square metres (Table 4).

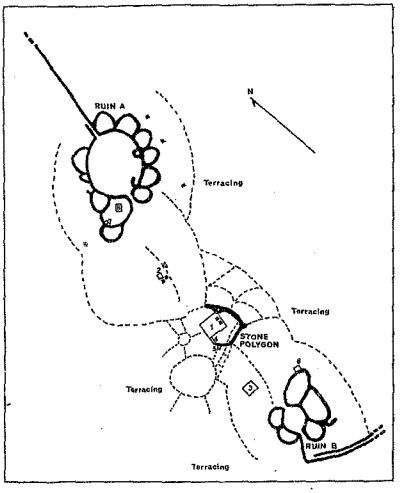


Fig. 3. Site plan of 2530 AD 10 (A and B).

Table 4. Trench sizes for 2530 AD 10. The sizes are in square metres.

Trench	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	TOTAL
Level									
1	56	4	16	3	1	4	1	18	103
2	24	4	16	3	1	4	1	18	71

Stratigraphy

In all cases three stratigraphic units were recognised: (1) a red brown soil, (2) which graded through a pebbly level into (3) a red earth containing pebbles, *ferricrete concretions and yellow clay* nodules. (Figs. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9). In trenches 7 and 8 a light brown ashy deposit replaced unit 1 (Fig. 9). The generalized stratigraphy was:

Level 1 ~ red brown soil 0-10 cm

Level 2 ~ red brown to red earth, pebbles 11-14 cm

Level 3 ~ red earth, pebbles, ferricrete and clay nodules 14 cm

The base of most stone walls rested on level 2 (Figs. 4, 8, 9) but in trench 4 the wall rested on level 1 on the inside and in level 2 on the outside (Fig. 9).

Two archaeological components were recognised. Component A occurred in level 1 while component B, represented by weathered sherds and stone tools, occurred in level 2. Level 3 was sterile.

Features: component A.

Floor 1. A daga floor, 4,40 m x 1,40 m lay under pole-impressed wall rubble in trench 1 (Fig. 4; Plate 3). A raised firebowl, with three

Level 1 - red soil 0-12 cm

Level 2 - red pebbly soil, bedrock outcrops 12 cm

In the excavated area, wall bases rested on top of level two.

Features: component A

Floor 1. A small patch of floor daga, roughly rectangular, 12 x 7 cm occurred in level 1 of trench 3. Two pieces of slate occurred at the same level to the north of the floor. Carbonized seeds of Sorghum and ow peas (Vigna sp) were recovered between the two pieces of slate ig. 20). The slate and floor were probably part of a veranda. Two bone scraps were also found in this level.

Stone Feature 1. A sub triangular stone feature occurred in level 1 of trench 1. It was about 85 cm ' diameter and was probably a grain bin stand (Fig. 19). The oen unexcavated stone feature, plus the excavated grain bin stand and floor indicate that there were a minimum of three huts around the ruin.

FINDS

Pottery

A minimum of twenty vessels, represented by 1025 shards, were recovered from the excavations. A single ring base came from trench 4 level 1, (Figs. 22, 23). The assemblage was divided into five types by modal intersection:

Type 2: form I; layout 2; motif A. A recurved jar or bowl with herringbone, oblique hatching or punctates below the rim

Type 3: form I; layout 3; motif B. A recurved jar or bowl with a band of oblique incision, herringbone or punctates below the

rim and an incised chevron or arcade on the shoulder. Black colouring may be present above the arcade and red below.

Type 6: form I; motif G. An undecorated recurved jar or bowl.

Type 7: form III; motif G. An undecorated open bowl.

Type 11: form indeterminate; motif E. A sherd with multiple bands of alternating oblique incision.

A clear stratigraphic separation of types occurred (Table 11), with type 12 restricted to component B. The surface material belonged to the Component A assemblage.

Table 11. *Distribution* of pottery types by levels and trenches, 2530 AD 4.

			TYPES					FRAGS.	Total
nent	Trench	Level	2	3	6	7	11	2/3/4	
	1	1	2	-	1		-	4	7
	2	1	-	1			-	1	2
	3	1		-	1	1	-	2	4
A	4	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
	7	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	1
	8	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
	9	1	1	-	-	2	-	-	3
B	1	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
			1	3	3		1	8	20

Stone

Six stone flakes came from trench 4 level 2.

A number of rubbers and querns were found on the surface. Querns tended to have a large elliptical to rectangular depression on one side. Rubbers tended to be larger than 10 cm. They could have one or two smoothed surfaces. The querns were made from diabase boulders, and both diabase and quartzite cobbles were used for rubbers.

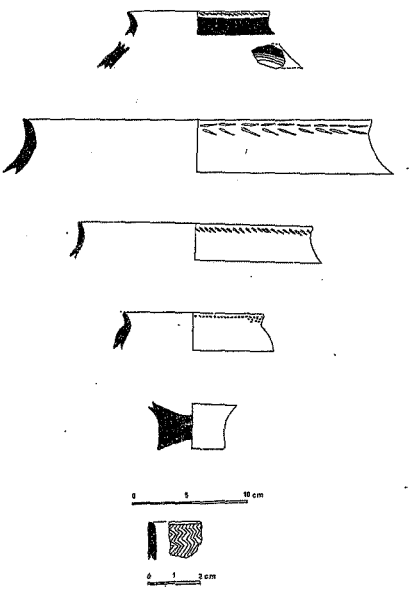


Fig. 22. Site 2530 AD 4, decorated vessels and ring bases.

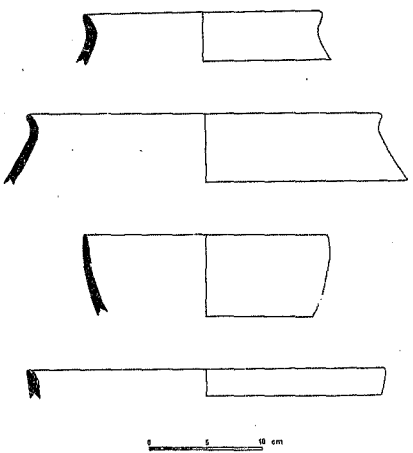


Fig. 23. Site 2530 AD 4, undecorated vessels.

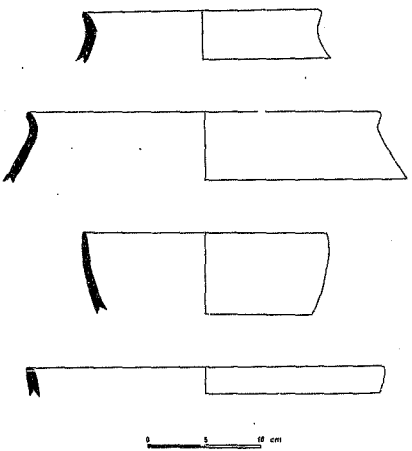


Fig. 23. Site 2530 AD 4, undecorated vessels.

Site 2530 AD 9

The site had both a complex and simple ruin and were situated at the north end of settlement G. The complex ruin was located on an east slope to the crest of the spur. It was on a flat piece of ground, probably an erosion bevel. To the west of the ruin was a diabase dyke which fell sharply with a drop of about 4 m. The simple ruin was situated on the west facing slope about 7 m from the dyke.

The central enclosure of the complex ruin (Fig. 24) had a single west facing entrance. Seven semi circular enclosures were attached to the central enclosure. The walls were less than 1 m high. A raised platform, about 15 m x 5 m, occurred next to the dyke. No stone features were associated with this ruin.

The simple ruin was roughly elliptical and about 7 x 4 m with no visible entrance. The walls had collapsed around most of the enclosure. Terracing occurred on all sides except to the west. A second complex ruin was situated to the south west.

Six trenches were excavated, ranging between 1 and 18 m^2 (Table 12).

Table 12. Trench sizes for 2530 AD 9, in square metres.

Level	Trench						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
1	18	4	1	1	1	1	26
2	18	4	1	1	1	1	26

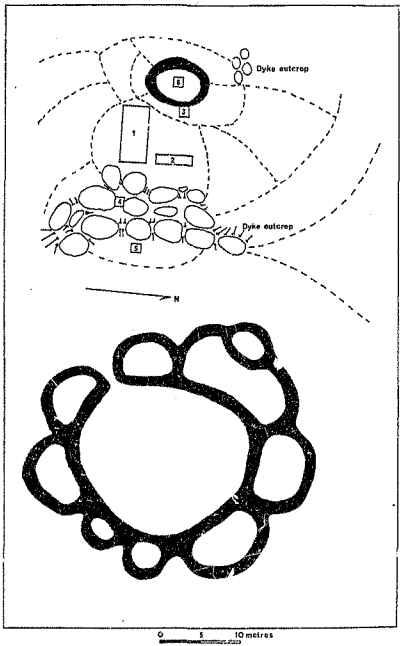


Fig. 24. Site plan of 2530 AD 9.

Stratigraphy

Two stratigraphic units were recognised (Figs. 25, 26) a red soil and a red pebbly earth Level 2 did not occur in trench 5 and level 1 lay directly on bedrock. In a trench placed against the stone wall of the simple ruin, the wall rested on top of level 2. The generalized stratigraphy was:

Level one - red soil	0-7 cm
Level two - red pebbly earth	7 cm

The two components, A and B, matched the levels.

Features: Component A.

A small patch (7 cm diameter) of floor occurred in trench 5 level 1 (Fig. 25). This feature could not be interpreted.

A large number of sherds were recovered from the east end of trench 1 and the south end of trench 2. A few pieces of bone came from each trench. Although the deposit was not ashy, the concentration probably represented a midden.

FINDS

Pottery

A total of 832 sherds were recovered from a minimum of ten vessels. One of these vessels came from trench 1 level 2. Four types were represented (Fig. 27):

Type 2: form 1; layout 2; motif A. A recurved jar with a band of *oblique incision herringbones* or punctates below the rim.

(ii) a band below the rim.

(iii) a band below the rim, a band on the shoulder and colour below.

(iv) a band below the rim, a band on the shoulder followed by another band.

Seven motif modes were present (Fig. 12):

(A) herringbone, one or two lines of oblique incision or punctates.

(B) herringbone, one or two lines of oblique incision or punctates; black colour which was not always present; an incised chevron or arcade followed sometimes by red colouring.

(C) *the same as B* with isolated triangles below the chevron.

(D) a band of oblique incision; a space: a band of oblique incision followed by red colouring.

(E) *multiple* bands of oblique or alternating oblique incision.

(F) oblique incision with discontinuous incised lines going towards the base. The motif is incomplete as it is based on a fragment.

(G) no decoration.

The intersection of modes on the three dimensions produced eleven types (Figs. 13, 14, 15).

Type 1: *form indeterminate; layout* 1; motif A. A vessel with herringbone on the rim.

Type 2: form I; layout 2; motif A. A recurved jar or bowl with herringbone, oblique hatching or punctates below the rim.

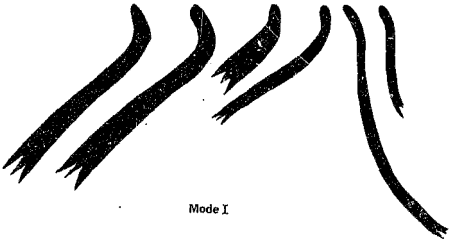
Type 3: form I; layout 3; motif B. A recurved jar or bowl with a band of oblique *incision, herringbone* or punctates below the rim and an incised chevron or arcade on the shoulder. Black colouring may be present above the *arcade and* red below.

Type 4: form I; layout 4; motif C. The same as Type 3 but isolated black coloured triangles below the arcade.

Type 5: form II; motif G. An undecorated inturned bowl.

Type 6: form I; motif G. An undecorated recurved jar or bowl.

Type 7: form *III; motif G.* An undecorated open bowl.



Mode I



Mode II



Mode III

Fig. 11. Profile modes.

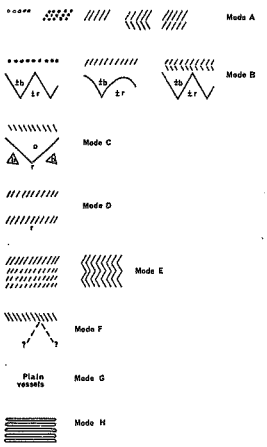


Fig. 12. Decoration modes.

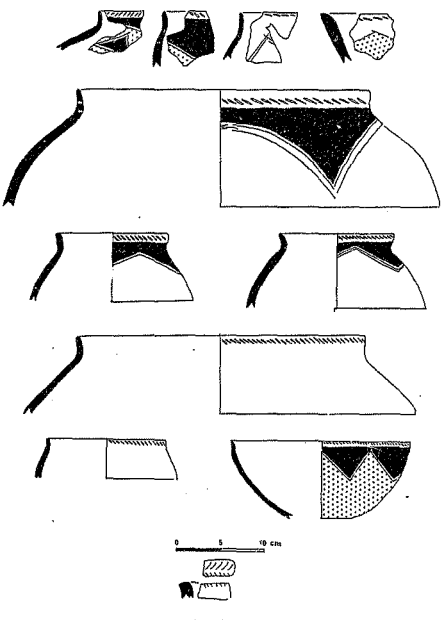


Fig. 13. Site 2530 AD 10 decorated vessels from Component A.

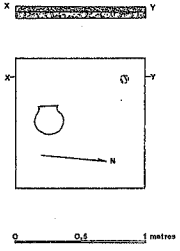


Fig. 25. Site 2530 AD 9, plan of features in trench 5.

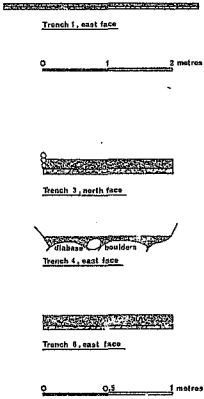


Fig. 26. Site 2,30 AD 9, sections of trenches 1, 3, 4 and 6.

Type 3: form I; layout 3; motif B. A recurved jar with a band of oblique incision, herringbone or punctates below the rim and an incised chevron or arcade on the shoulder. Black could occur above and red below.

Type 6: form I; motif G. An undecorated recurved jar.

Type 11: form indeterminate; motif E. A sherd with multiple bands of alternating oblique incision.

A clear separation of types occurred between component A and B (Table 13).

Table 13. Distribution of pottery types by levels, 2530 AD 9.

			TYPES						
Component	Trench	Level	2	3	6	7	11	2/3/4	TOTAL
	1	1		2	1	1		3	7
	2	1	1						1
A	3	1							-
	4	1		1					1
	5	1	1						1
	6	1							-
B	2	2					1		1
TOTAL			2	3	1	1	1	3	11

Stone

Two broken querns occurred on the surface of trench 1. They both had a large deep, oval rubbing surface. A single ochre stained quern with a long narrow depression was found on the surface north of trench 2.

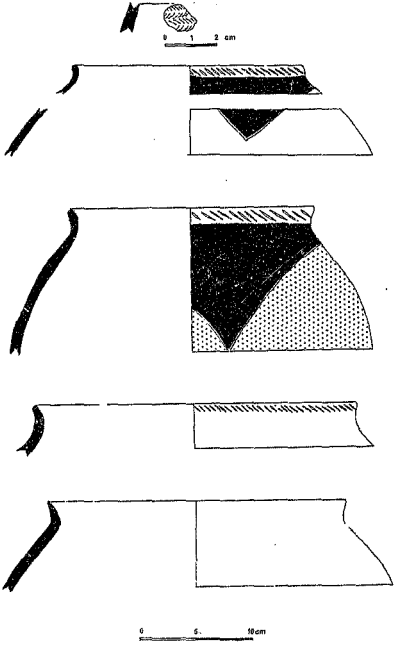


Fig. 27. Site 2530 AD 9, pottery.

Site 2530 AB 16

The ruin was situated in settlement D on a small spur at the end of an erosion bevel on the west facing slope.

The central enclosure was small, 7,50 m in diameter, with seven semi circular stone lobes attached to the outside (Fig 28). A single southeast facing entrance had a cattle track which ran up-slope. A high wall, about 1,2 m tall ran from the south wall of the cattle track around the site but had collapsed in places and could not be traced over its whole course. The enclosing wall had a diameter of about 35 m. Between the enclosing wall and the low terrace wall were numerous terraces forming internal division. An entrance was located at the southern end of the enclosing wall.

A small cluster of five adjacent enclosures was attached to the outside wall on the west of the site. A wall with a diameter of about 5,5 m encircled these enclosures. Three stone mounds occurred between the cluster of enclosures and the encircling wall.

Seven trenches were excavated, ranging between 1 and 6 m^2 (Table 14).

Table 14. Trench sizes for 2530 AB 16, in square metres.

Level	Trench							TOTAL
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
1+2	6	4	6	2	2	2	1	23
3	6	4	6	2	2	2	1	23

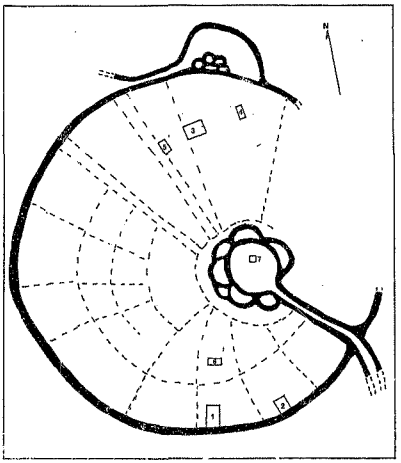


Fig. 18. Site plan of 2530 AB 16.

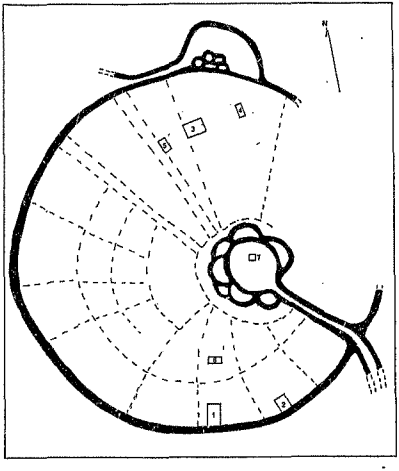


Fig. 28. Site plan of 2530 AB 16.

Stratigraphy

Three stratigraphic units were recognised. Level 1 was a humic layer which occurred in trench 6 (Fig. 29). Level 2 was a red pebbly earth, and level 3 was red pebbly earth with yellow clay nodules.

The generalized stratigraphy was:

Level 1 - humic layer	0-3 cm
Level 2 - red pebbly earth	0-9 cm
Level 3 - red pebbly earth with clay nodules	9 cm

In trenches 1 to 3 the stone walls rested on the junction between levels 2 and 3. All cultural material was recovered from level 2.

The cultural remains were concentrated near walls built across slopes. This indicated that the site had been eroded and that the small finds were not in primary context.

FINDS

Pottery

A minimum of ten vessels were represented by 112 sherds. Only five vessels could be assigned to particular types (Table 15).

Type 2: form I; layout ; motif ; A recurved jar with a line of herringbone oblique incision or punctates below the rim.

Type 6: form I; motif G; a plain recurved jar.

Type 7: form III; motif G; an undecorated open bowl.

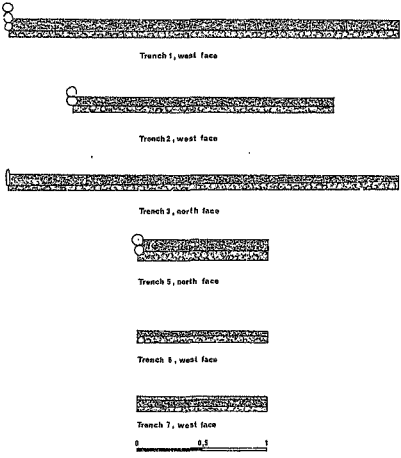


Fig. 29. Sice 2530 AB 16, sections of trenches 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7.

Table 15. Pottery types from 2530 AB 16.

		Types			Fragments	
Trench	Level	2	6	7	2/3/4	TOTAL
1	2	1		1		2
2	2		1	1		2
3	2			1	1	2
4	2				3	3
5	2				1	1
6	2					
7	1+2					
TOTAL		1	1	3	5	10

Stone

Five abraded stone flakes were recovered from the same stratigraphic unit as the pottery (Table 16). Seven querns and three rubbers were found on the surface. The querns had large oval polished depressions. The rubbers had a single smoothed surface. Rubbers and querns were made on diabase.

Table 16. Distribution of stone flakes.

Level	Trench			TOTAL
	1	2	3	
2	2	2	1	4

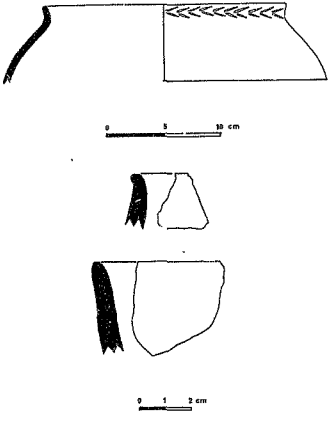


Fig. 30. Site 2530 AB 16, pottery.

PART II: SIMPLE RUINS

Site 2530 AD 11 (A)

The ruin (Plate 6) was situated 76 m to the southwest of 2530 AD 10 (B) and was built on the same erosion bevel as 2530 AD 10. The stone enclosure was roughly egg shaped with low (1 m) stone walls. A single south west facing entrance had a large diabase boulder in front of it (Fig. 31). The enclosure was about 11 m x 9 m. Three low stone piles, probably collapsed walling, occurred inside the enclosure. Low stone terraces (15 cm high) joined on to the enclosure.

Five trenches were excavated, ranging between 1 and 16 m^2 (Table 17).

Table 17. Trench sizes for 2530 AD 11/A. Sizes are in square metres.

Level	Trench					
	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL
1	-	0,25	1	1	1	3,25
2a	-	0,25	1	1	1	3,25
2b	16	2	2	1	1	22
3	16	2	2	1	1	22

Stratigraphy

Three stratigraphic units were recognized (Figs. 32, 33). Level 1 was a humic layer. Level 2 was a red brown soil and level which graded into level 3, a red brown pebbly earth. Level 1 occurred in all trenches

except trench 1. Level 2 was divided into two units, level 2a which terminated at the base of the stone walls and level 2b between the base of the walls and level 3. Level 2a was absent from trench 1 which had been eroded to below the level of the terrace wall. The terrace walls were all at the same level and appeared to have been built on the ground surface (Fig. 33).

The generalized stratigraphy was:

Level 1 - humus	0-5 cm
Level 2a - red brown soil	5-12 cm
Level 2b - red brown soil	12-20 cm
Level 3 - red pebbly earth	20 cm

Two components occurred. Component A was recovered from level 2b while Component B, represented by a single weathered sherd and a few stone tools occurred in level 3.

Features: Component A.

A small oval patch of floor (10 x 7 cm) occurred in level 2b of trench 1. (Fig. 33). This feature could not be interpreted. A concentration of charred small twigs occurred about 1,5 m to the southeast of the floor. Pottery and a small piece of slag were found next to this feature.

FINDS

Pottery

A total of 122 sherds from twelve vessels were recovered. A new motif mode, mode H occurred and consisted of parallel lines of broad line incision. Four types were defined by modal intersection (Fig. 34).

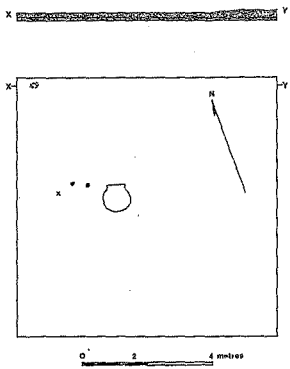


Fig. 32. Site 2530 AD 11 (A), plan of features in trench 1.



Trench 2, east face



Trench 3 east face



Trench 4, north face



Trench 5, east face

0 0,5 1 metres

Fig. 33. Site 2530 AD II (A), sections of trenches 2, 3, 4 and 5.



Trench 2, east face



Trench 3 east face



Trench 4, north face



Trench 5, east face

0 0.5 1 metres

Fig. 33. Site 2530 AD 11 (A), sections of trenches 2, 3, 4 and 5.

Type 3: form I; layout 3; motif B. A recurved bowl with a line of herringbone punctates or oblique incision below the rim and an incised chevron or arcade on the shoulder Black could occur above the chevron and red below.

Type 6: form I; motif G. An undecorated recurved jar

Type 7: form III; motif G. An undecorated open bowl

Type 12: form indeterminate; motif H. A sherd with parallel lines of broad line incision.

A clear stratigraphic separation of types occurred and type 12 was confined to Component B (Table 18).

Table 18. Distribution of Types by levels, 2530 AD 11 (A).

Component	Trench	Level	3	6	7	12	2/3/4	TOTAL
	1	2b	2	1	3		2	8
	2	2b					1	1
A	3	2b			1			1
	4	2b			1			1
	5							
B	1	3				1		1
TOTAL			2	1	4	1	3	12

Metal

A piece of slag, which weighed 60 g, was recovered from level 2b of trench 1. The slag had a positive reaction for iron and no reaction for copper.

Stone

Four stone flakes came from level 3 of trench 1. The flakes were abraded and came from the same level as the Type 12 vessel.

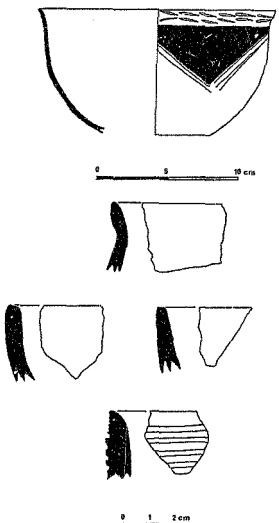


Fig. 34. Site 2530 AD 17 (A), pottery.

Site 2530 AB 14

This site was at the west end of Settlement D on a west facing slope. The stone walls were on a steep slope, but the west end appeared to have been artificially levelled (Fig. 35). The ruin consisted of a small central enclosure, 4,3 m in diameter surrounded by an enclosing wall. The small central enclosure was joined to the surrounding wall by low stone lines, and a number of internal divisions occurred. The ruin was surrounded by collapsed terrace walls.

Eight trenches were excavated. They ranged in size between 0,25 and 7 m^2 (Table 19).

Table 19. Trench sizes for 2530 AB 14, in square metres.

Level	Trench								
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	TOTAL
1	7	1	2	3	1	1	1	0,25	16,25
2	7	1	2	3	1	1	1	0,25	16,25
3	7	1	2	3	1	1	1	0,25	16,25

Stratigraphy

Three stratigraphic units occurred in all the trenches (Fig. 36):

Level 1 - red soil with few pebbles	0-10 cm
Level 2 - red pebbly earth	10-18 cm
Level 3 - red pebbly earth, clay nodules and diabase boulders	18 cm

The stone walls rested in level 2. A single cultural component occurred

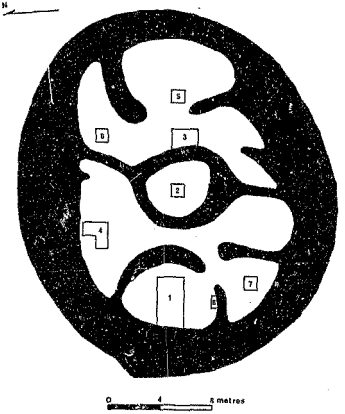


Fig. 35. Site plan of 2530 AB 14.

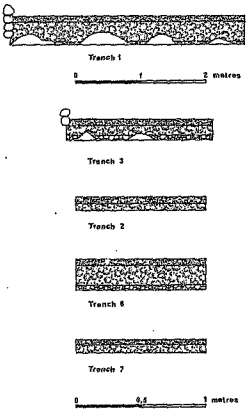


Fig. 36. Site 2530 AE 14, *sections* of trenches 1, 2, 3, 6 and 7.

in level 1.

FINDS

Pottery

A total of seven undecorated sherds were recovered from three of the trenches. The other trenches were sterile (Table 20).

Table 20. Distribution of sherds, 2530 AB 14.

	Trench								
Level	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	TOTAL
1	2	-	-	3	1	-	1	-	7

Stone

A rubber was found on the surface next to the central enclosure. It had a single smoothed surface.

PART III: CATTLE TRACKS AND TERRACES

Site 2530 AD 11 (B)

The second site of 2530 AD 11 was a terraced area on a steep slope. No discernable break in the terracing occurred between the enclosure and the excavated area, some 40 m from the ruin (Fig. 37). The terraced area had several sub rectangular and polygonal enclosures. Unlike the terraces around 2530 AD 11 (A), the walls were well built and up to about 1 m high.

Three 1 m^2 trenches were excavated.

Stratigraphy

Three stratigraphic units occurred (Fig. 38).

Level 1 - red soil	0-3 cm
Level 2 - red pebbly soil	3-7 cm
Level 3 - red pebbly earth with ferricrete and clay nodules	7 cm

Trenches 1 and 2 were located on either side of a stone wall. The base of the wall in trench 1 (and 3) rested in level 2 and was above the base of the wall in trench 2, which lay in level 3.

Site 2530 AD 12

The cattle track was located in the centre of Settlement G. The walls were just over 1 m high and the track was 6,5 m wide. The track ran

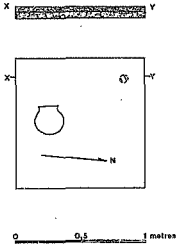


Fig. 25. Site 2530 AD 9, plan of features in trench 5.

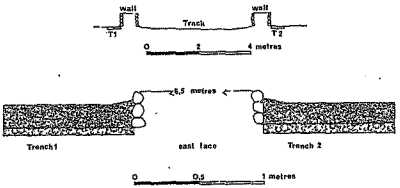


Fig. 39. Site 2530 AD 12, sections of trenches 1 and 2.

INTER SITE COMPARISONS

The assemblages were compared to show the similarity between the ceramics recovered from the stone ruins. Only decorated types were compared because those contain the most stylistic information. The Component A assemblages were clearly related and different from the Component B collections (Table 21).

Table 21. Inter site comparison of decorated types.

Component	Site	TYPES							
		1	2	3	4	8	9	10	11	12
A	2530 AB 16	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2530 AD 11 (A)	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2530 AD 9	-	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2530 AD 4	-	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2530 AD 10 (A and B)	1	2	9	1	2	-	-	-	-
B	2530 AD 10 (A and B)	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	4	-
	2530 AD 4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	2530 AD 9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	2530 AD 11(A)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

Component A

The largest assemblage, 2530 AD 10 (A and B) produced the most decorated types, but individual types from other component A assemblages corresponded with types from the large assemblage. Two sites, 2530 AB 16 and 2530 AD 11 (A) had only one decorated type. Excavations at these sites were small because one, 2530 AB 16, was badly eroded and

at other, 2530 AD 11 (A), features pre dated the walls.

A clearer grouping of the Component A assemblages was found if decoration modes were compared (Table 22). Only one decoration mode was missing from 2530 AD 4 and 2530 AD 9 and this mode was only found once. Situs 2530 AB 16 and 2530 AD 11 (A) have only one decoration mode each but this was due to small sample sizes.

Table 22. Comparison of decoration modes for Component A assemblages.

	MODE		
Site	A	B	C
2530 AB 16	X	-	-
2530 AD 11 (A)	-	X	-
2530 AD 9	X	X	-
2530 AD 4	X	X	-
2530 AD 10 (A and B)	X	X	X

DISCUSSION

The present excavations have demonstrated that all of the ruins belong to a single phase of one Iron Age culture. The evidence from pattern assemblages and the stratigraphy of the ruins is clear on this point, and the differences in the ruin types, therefore, cannot be ascribed to different peoples.

The ceramic analysis showed that all the component A assemblages are related. These assemblages clearly belong within the historic Pedi tradition, since the type system and individual modes match examples purchased in the 1940's (Huffman 1979; Lawton 1967). For the purposes of this dissertation the component A assemblages will be called Marateng, the name of a mountain to the west of the Badfontein valley. Marateng pottery includes two types described by Laidler (1932, 1938), the ST_1 and ST_2 pottery described by Schofield (1948) and the assemblages recovered from stone ruins by Evers (1975). The component B collections were clearly different from Marateng pottery, and type 11, with multiple band decoration, and type 12, with parallel broad line incision, are clearly related to the Sterkspruit/Klingbeil facies (S/K) of the first millenium AD (cf Evers in prep.; Inskeep and Maggs 1975). Type 10 also may be related to S/K pottery, but the collection was not in primary context.

The stratigraphic sequence in all sites was similar. Marateng pottery was associated with stratigraphic unit 1, and S/K with unit

2. In most instances the ruin walls, terraces and cattle tracks rested on top of level 2. They are therefore younger than S/K pottery and associated with Marateng ceramics. A few walls extended into level 2 or rested on top of level 3 (2530 AD 10 (B), 2530 Ab 11 (B) 14), but in these cases other parts of the walls rested on top of level 2, and they must also be associated with Marateng ceramics. The different levels of the walls indicated that some open areas had been intentionally levelled (2530 AD 10 (B), 2530 AD 11 (B), a practice previously recorded only for hut floors (Marker and Evers 1976).

A slightly different situation occurred at 2530 AD 11 (A). Here the Marateng ceramics and an associated floor were recovered from a stratigraphic unit below the base of the walls, and there are three possible explanations. First, the floor may be associated with 2530 AD 10 (B), even though it is some distance away. This would indicate that huts were more numerous or more dispersed than previously thought (Evers 1975). The hut remains between 2530 AD 10 (A) and 10 (B) indicated that this is possible. Secondly, the floor could be part of a field hut which belonged to a ruin older than 2530 AD 10 (B) and some distance away. Finally it may indicate that the beginning of the Marateng pottery phase pre dates the stone walls. No attempt was made to test these hypotheses because this would have required large scale excavations beyond the scope of the present project.

The two ruin types belong to the same phase, and the different plans probably relate to different functions. Only the complex ruins were coupled with huts, and these units were obviously homesteads. The simple ruins were associated with field terracing and, judged from their form, most probably were enclosures for small stock. The similarity between Marateng and Pedi ceramics suggests that the Pedi can be used to provide ethnographic parallels for the different ruin

types. Amongst the Pedi large stock are kralled in the middle of homesteads, and this corresponds to the complex ruins. On the other hand, small stock are kept separate from cattle, and their pens are not a functional part of homesteads (Monnig 1967). This is analogous to the simple ruins which show a random dispersal through a settlement. In addition, cattle graze away from the villages, while sheep and goats graze between the fields (Monnig 1967) this is duplicated in the Marateng phase where homestead enclosures are connected by track ways to the outside of settlements, but the simple ruins are not.

Unlike the simple ruins, the homesteads show a strong nucleation which probably was a result of several factors. (A) Even though settlements tend to be located on gentle slopes, the amount of relatively flat ground within a settlement is limited. Robbed stone walls next to extant walls demonstrate that some of the nucleation was a result of the repeated use of these microzones. (B) In addition homesteads were probably nucleated synchronically. This is supported by the hut remains between 2530 AD 10 (A) and 10 (B), which do not show evidence for two building phases. A synchronic clustering may have been due to the clustering of sites on the flatter microzones, or it may represent a larger sociocultural unit than the homestead, such as a lineage within the settlement. (C) The final factor is economic. Considerable time and effort was needed to erect the cattle tracks, and they appear to be major routes in the settlements. Rather than build new ones to a homestead, homestead sites were probably chosen close to a track.

Both settlement location and ruin patterns are the result of adaptation to the area by subsistence farmers. Each settlement appears to have been a dispersed village with clusters of homesteads located within terraced fields. The tracks would have protected fields from

cattle, which grazed outside settlements. Small stock probably grazed between the fields. The location of settlements seems to have been constrained by fairly obvious factors, such as proximity to perennial water and the use of gentle slopes. The preference for west facing slopes was probably dictated by temperature changes. At the present time, east aspect slopes are covered by shadow in the early afternoon, with a consequent drop in temperature, and in winter these slopes are the most prone to frost.

The present study provides a clear statement on the utility of the ruin typology approach to sequence construction. The ruins were not all homesteads, and their forms were related to the functional uses they were put to by one culture. Further, an habitation ruin in one area may look similar to a ruin with a different function in another area. The majority of homesteads in the Tugela basin have a simple circular enclosure (Maggs 1979), similar to the simple ruins in the present study area associated with small livestock. Furthermore, the historic Pedi are known to have had cattle posts located away from villages, which had different ground plans from the villages (Monnig 1967). These variants would be separated into different cultural groups if ruin plans were given cultural status. These points do not negate the fact that in some instances ruin plans are culturally determined (Maggs 1976a, 1976b), but they demonstrate that ruin plans in themselves are not sufficient to define a cultural entity because function and style are confounded. Minimally, the presence or absence of huts must be considered. Stylistic variation in ceramics (Huffman 1979; Lawton 1967) is still the best determinant of archaeological entities in the African Iron Age, and ceramic sequences provide a framework within which variation in settlement typology can be explained.

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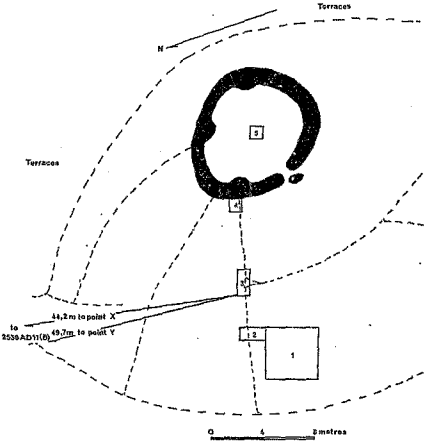


Fig. 31. . Site plan of 2530 AD 11 (A).



Plate 6. Site 2530 AD 11 (A).

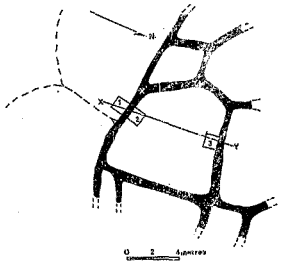


Fig. 37. Site plan of 2530 AD 11 (B).

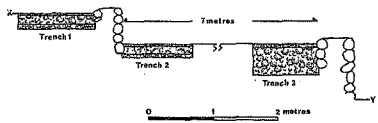


Fig. 36. Site 2530 AD 11 (B), sections of trenches 1, 2 and 3.

from east to west (Fig. 2).

Two 1 x 1 m trenches were excavated against the outside of the cattle track walls (Fig. 39).

Stratigraphy

Two stratigraphic units were recognized (Fig. 39).

Level 1 - red soil	0-18 cm
Level 2 - red pebbly soil	18 cm

The stone walls rested on top of level 2. No cultural material was found.

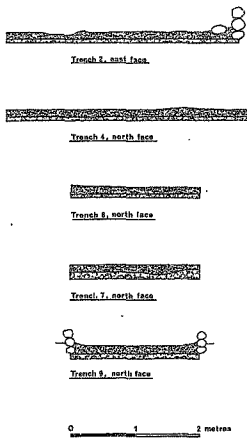


Fig. 21. Site 2530 AD 4, sections of trenches 2, 4, 6, 7 and 9.

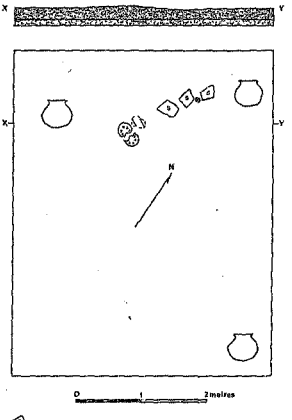


Fig. 20. Site 2530 AD 4, plan of features in trench 3.

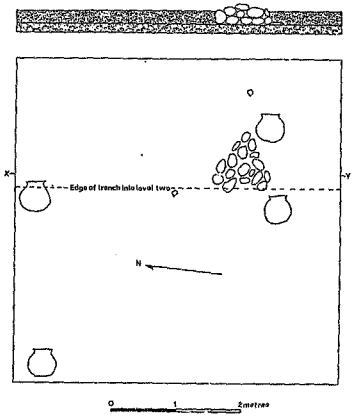


Fig. 19. Site 2530 AD 4, plan of features in trench 1.



Plate 5. Site 2530 AD 4.

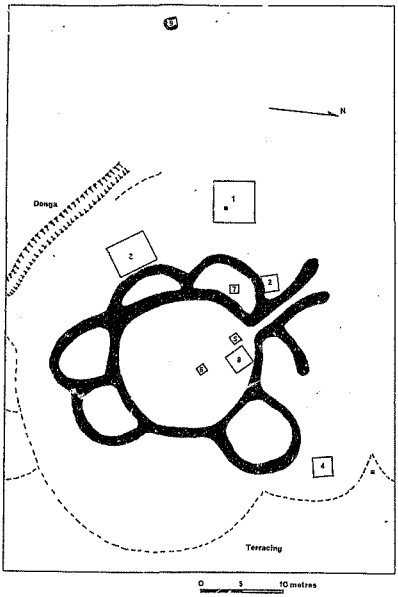


Fig. 18. Site plan of 2930 AD 4.

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