

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF BARBADOS: 1985-87

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During 1984 the Director of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society invited the Field Archaeology Unit of the Institute of Archaeology, University of London, to undertake a survey of prehistoric Barbados. Following a pilot survey during December 1984 (Drewett 1985) a joint Institute of Archaeology-Barbados Museum project was established. The Archaeological Survey of Barbados is planned as a five year project in the first instance. All artifacts recovered will be deposited in the Barbados Museum and interim reports are being published in the Journal of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society.

THE PROJECT RESEARCH DESIGN

The importance of island habitats in helping archaeologists to understand the mechanisms producing cultural change in small human groups is now well established in archaeology (Evans 1973). Barbados is a small island situated well to the east of the Lesser Antilles in the Caribbean Sea. Its somewhat isolated location makes it particularly good as a laboratory for the study of cultural change. Professor I. Rouse had identified four main levels of interpretation of archaeological data when attempting a study of cultural change (Rouse 1977). This project will concentrate on his primary and secondary levels. His primary level involves a study of the nature of the remains through their collection and identification or classification, together with a study of the context of the remains through survey and excavation. His secondary level involves a study of the identities of the peoples involved through the classification and identification of the assemblages, and a study of changes in peoples' identities through the dating of the assemblages and a study of their distribution.

In practical terms the project is designed under four main sections:

- (a) Artifact Study. It is proposed to undertake a detailed study of existing collections, both on Barbados and elsewhere, and attempt to quantify materials and artifacts of different types from different sites. It may be possible to use microwear techniques to study evidence for use of the conch tools. A petrological study of a sample of the stone axes and pottery will be undertaken in an attempt to locate their sources and so establish redistribution networks.
- (b) A field survey of known sites will be undertaken to establish their date, function and state of preservation. A systematic survey of coastal regions will be undertaken to locate new sites. This will be followed by surveys of sample areas inland to locate sites. A sample of all sites located will be surveyed in detail, producing both contour surveys and systematic surface artifact collections.

- (c) A sample excavation of one or more sites of each type located will take place to establish a sequence of occupation. This will be followed by area excavation within one or more sites to establish the range of activities and spatial distribution of activities within the settlement. Particular emphasis will be placed on the recovery of economic and environmental data.
- (d) A comparative study of material from adjacent islands will be made to establish sources of imported artifacts, patterns of redistribution between islands and possible routes of migration between islands.

THE 1985/86 FIELD SURVEY

The basic field survey undertaken during the winter of 1985/86 involved a systematic field walk around all 74 km of the coast of Barbados. This was undertaken by pairs of field archaeologists searching an average of 4 km a day for eight days. Each pair had known sites marked on a 1:10,000 scale field map. Sites located were recorded on the map and details entered on a pro forma ready for input into a computerized record. At each site a grab sample of artifacts was taken and these were analysed to suggest at least a final date for occupation of the site. Two sites, Chancery Lane and Heywoods, were returned to and gridded surface artifact collections made. A limited start was made on an inland survey with an examination of seven west coast watercourses and the Greenland Valley.

As of 1986, 56 sites were known to the project, either from published sources, personal communication or primary field survey. The bulk of the information on the west and south coast sites derives from secondary sources and those on the north and east coasts from the project's field survey (Fig. 1).

A preliminary analysis of the location of coastal sites would suggest that availability of fresh water and marine access are the two crucial elements in site location. Defence may have also been a significant factor in the location of late sites, with many on promontories or cliff tops. The two major sites of Chancery Lane (1) and Heywoods (19) have a similar location although post-settlement transformation processes have substantially changed the landscape at Heywoods. Originally both sites appear to have been between sand dunes and a salt water marsh, providing a degree of protection but also access to extensive marine and marsh resources.

The inland survey is at a very preliminary stage. The only known major inland site is at Greenland (Taylor 1986). Early references suggest sites at St. Lukes Gully and Three Houses (Barton 1953) while sherds of pottery and shell tools from a cave at Mapps (Lange and Handler 1980) suggest some use of caves by the prehistoric population. The 1985/86 field survey concentrated on a survey of the main east coast watercourses and the Greenland valley. No prehistoric artifacts were located in any of these areas.

THE 1985/86 EXCAVATIONS

Sample excavations were undertaken at two sites during the 1985/86 field season. The aim of the excavations was to attempt to establish whether the two major sites at Heywoods on the west coast and Hillcrest on the east coast had any surviving stratigraphy from which a chronological sequence could be established. This could then be compared with the sequences obtained from south coast sites by Dr. R. Bullen in the 1960s (Bullen and Bullen 1968). At the same time samples of environmental and economic data were obtained from the sites using both wet and dry sieving with mesh sizes down to 1 mm. With the exception of the larger animal bones identified by Dr. O. Bedwin, samples of fish bones identified by Dr. E.S. Wing, and the larger marine shells identified by Caroline Cartwright, these data await analysis; likewise detailed artifact lists will appear on completion of their analysis, in future reports.

Heywoods Excavation (Figs. 2 and 3)

The site at Heywoods covers an area of some 300 m along the coast immediately north of the Heywoods Holiday Village with pottery spreads inland for about 150 m. Two major transformation processes appear to have taken place since the site was deserted by its prehistoric population. Firstly the area has been extensively cultivated, perhaps to a depth of some 60 cm, for sugar cane. Historic material in the plough soil consisted of a variety of post-Medieval European wares including Frechen stonewares and tin glazed earthenwares, local Barbadian wares and clay pipes. A George V silver shilling (1916) brings this material into the present century. The second major transformation of the site was the construction of the coast road which appears to have resulted in beach or dune material being dumped on its western side. Six trenches, each 2 m x 1 m, were excavated: two on the sand dune or beach deposit west of the old coast road and four at right angles to the sea across the site. To these data was added the information obtained by recording the section of a recently dug water hole between Trenches 2 and 3, and of a pipe trench dug on the west side of the new road north-east of Trench 5 (X on Fig. 2). All finds recovered during the excavation were recorded both by archaeological context (e.g., layer) and in arbitrary 10 cm spits. This procedure was adopted as some contexts (e.g., context (1) in Trench 6) were over 1 m deep.

Trenches 1 and 6 were excavated through beach and dune material. Although prehistoric material was found in all levels it is probable that the material is all part of the same assemblage, deposited in accumulating sand which has since been subjected to transformation processes. Historic material was also present throughout contexts (1) and (2) in Trench 1 and context (1) in Trench 6. At a depth of 50 cm in Trench 6, for example, was discovered a clay pipe base stamped with "EB". This was probably made by Edward Bird, an English pipe maker working in Amsterdam between 1630-65. Likewise historic animal bones including *Bos*, *Sus*, *Canis*, and *Ovis/capra* were found down to depths of 75 cm.

The prehistoric material does, however, appear to be all of the Suazoid tradition, consisting of roughly made coarse ware. Characteristic types

included griddle sherds, legs from footed bowls and rims with finger-mark decoration (Fig. 3). Associated with this material were six conch shell adzes and a range of small conch pieces (Fig. 3). A fine-grained micaceous sandstone 'knife' and fragments of sandstone from grinding and smoothing tools indicate movement of resources, perhaps from the east of the island.

A wide range of shells came from all levels in Trenches 1 and 6. These included Queen Conch (*Strombus gigas*), West Indian Top Shell (*Cittarium pica*), Jewel Box (*Chama* sp.), Chiton (*Chiton* sp.), Cone Shell (*Conus* sp.), Beaded Periwinkle (*Tectarius muricatus*), Virgin Nerite (*Neritina virginea*), Cowrie (*Cypraea* cf. *cervus*), Lucina (*Lucina* sp.), Keyhole Limpet (*Fissurella* sp.), Surf Clam (*Mactra* sp.) and Star Shell (*Astraea* sp.). Crab and fish remains recovered by 1 mm sieving included parrot-fish and tuna.

Trench 2 only revealed 38 prehistoric sherds but this trench was badly disturbed by a Historic Period trench (Fig. 8, Trench 2, context (3)). The section suggests that this area represents the ploughed-down remains of the landward side of sand dunes. Thus the main prehistoric element from this area may have been removed. The majority of the pottery is Suazoid, similar to that from Trenches 1 and 6, but a few sherds could be slightly earlier than the main assemblage. The number of prehistoric potsherds increased to 179 in Trench 3 but rapidly declined to five in Trench 4 and none in Trench 5.

A tentative interpretation of the soil profiles at Heywoods suggests sand dunes/beach material (Trenches 1-3) holding back a salt water lagoon (Trenches 4-5) with perhaps intermittently a habitable or cultivable area between (Trench 3). On a developing beach or dune system a late prehistoric community cooked cassava and perhaps ate shellfish and fish, discarding their waste close by.

Hillcrest Excavation (Figs. 4 and 5)

Unlike the low-lying site at Heywoods, with a rise of less than 3 m above sea level across the entire site, the site at Hillcrest on the east coast is situated on a promontory some 20-35 m above sea level. Five trenches, each 1 m², were excavated down to the natural bedrock of globigerina and radiolarian-rich cream and white marls of the Oceanic Group. The limited evidence obtained from the five test trenches suggests an early settlement on the promontory. Pottery sherds of 'modified' Saladoid type were found in all trenches except Trench 3. Stratified above these in Trenches 1 and 2 were coarse Suazoid sherds. The greater depth of deposit in Trenches 1 and 2 compared with 3 and 4 may be explained by Suazoid agriculture on the fairly level area south of Trench 1, resulting in soil movement into the slight hollow where Trenches 1 and 2 were excavated.

Trenches 1 and 2 both produced conch adzes from 30-40 cm, while a conch scoop and two adzes were found on the surface (Fig. 5). All trenches produced some sea food refuse including Queen Conch, West Indian Top Shell, Virgin Nerite, Star Shell, Beaded Periwinkle, Chiton and Cone. With the exception of 20 West Indian Top Shells from the Suazoid context in Trench 4, all were represented by few examples and some may have been carried to the promontory by birds rather than man. A number of fragments of sand

stone from Trenches 4 and 5 are probably derived from the underlying bedrock, but may have been utilized by man. Two pieces from Trench 5 (at 60 cm) were burnt.

The excavations at Hillcrest, together with surface collection in the areas of Trench 5 (Site A) and Trench 4 (Site B), plus material collected by Mr. J. Baulu between the 30 and 35 m contours south-west of Trench 1 (Fig. 4), indicate widespread use of the Hillcrest promontory by prehistoric man. This may be divided into at least two phases, a 'modified' Saladoid phase and a Suazoid phase. Clarification of the nature of activity in this area must, however, await further excavation.

1987 EXCAVATIONS, CHANCERY LANE

The prehistoric site at Chancery Lane (Fig. 6) is situated on low sand dunes towards the middle of Long Bay on the southern coast of Barbados. The sand dunes hold back a salt marsh with a degraded cliff line to the north-west. Prehistoric artifacts have been found over the last 50 years in an area some 500 x 50 m. Previous excavations include those in the 1930s by Mr. E.M. Shilstone (Taylor 1986), Mr. N. Connell in 1948 (Taylor 1986), Mr. Clarke Holman in the 1950s (pers. comm.) and Dr. R. Bullen in 1966 (Bullen and Bullen 1968). The purpose of the 1987 excavation was to obtain a detailed stratigraphic sequence of artifacts and economic data from what appeared during the 1986 survey to be the most deeply stratified site on the island (Drewett 1987).

Four trenches (4 x 3 m) were excavated at right angles to the sea towards the centre of the spread of surface artifacts. This provided data on the natural development of the site in addition to its archaeological sequence. The trenches were numbered I-IV, crossing the site from north-west to south-east.

Trench I consisted of some 40 cm of light grey clayey sand resting on a shelf of natural sand rock. Four burials, three in natural hollows and one in a dug pit, were located. The four burials were studied by David Rudling. He reports that Burial 1 was very disturbed but was an adult. Burial 2 was also badly disturbed but appeared to be of an adult male, flexed and lying on its side. Burial 3 lay on its back with arms extended by its side. The skeleton was that of a male who had died in his mid-20s. The best preserved burial (4) was in a flexed, sitting position in an artificially dug pit (Fig.7). The oval pit was directly above a deeper hole, perhaps dug as a water hole. The skeleton appears to be of a mature female, perhaps aged 45-55 years at death. The only other feature in Trench I was a deep water hole in the south-east corner.

Trench II was excavated 15 m south-east of Trench I. Trench II contained 1.5 m of fine light grey windblown sand above a sand rock platform. No man-made features were located, but clearly the area had been used to dump domestic rubbish including pottery and shellfish refuse.

Trench III, although only 60-80 cm deep, revealed the most complex stratigraphy on the site. The trench is clearly within an area intermittently occupied from Saladoid through to Suazoid times. Two post holes

almost certainly represent timber uprights from a house (Fig. 7). Prehistoric features include a shallow pit, perhaps dug for storage. In the 17th century A.D. a clay pipe was broken into a shallow pit located against the north-western edge of the trench. Trench IV, excavated 17 m south-east of Trench I, contained entirely natural beach sand with no artifacts, suggesting recent sand dune and beach deposition.

The excavations in Trenches I-III yielded 28 shell artifacts identified by C.R. Cartwright. The 15 conch shell (*Strombus gigas*) axes/adzes are subdivided thus: Type I, 6; Type II, 4; Type III, 3; and Type IV, 2 specimens (Fig. 8). Other artifacts manufactured from conch include hammerstone fragments and miscellaneous dressed conch pieces (3 each), 'scrapers' (2), a 'spatula', a 'punch', and a bead. One *Cypraeacassis testiculus* (Baby Bonnet) with fractured apex exhibited a horizontal slit towards the base of the body whorl, and a similar basal slit was found on a specimen of *Terebra cinerea* (Cockspur).

The varied utilization of *Strombus gigas* is well-known at Chancery Lane and the current material proves no exception, both for functional and decorative purposes. In addition to the slit *Cypraeacassis testiculus* and *Terebra cinerea* specimens, it is feasible that other fractured or modified marine mollusc specimens now classifiable as food refuse may originally have been functional debris. Some may formerly have had a dual role as functional or decorative objects. Examples include *Chama* sp. and split *Cittarium pica*, which may have been receptacles, as well as *Mactra* sp. and *Cypraea* sp., which may have been scrapers/spoons/spatulae, etc.

The excavations of Trenches I-III produced 45 pieces of stone. Nine of these are fine-grained sandstone 'knives', two are sandstone rubbers and one is possibly a zemi. Another fine-grained sandstone object cannot be functionally attributed. Apart from one 'cherty' flake, the rest of the material comprises 31 sandstone fragments (possibly artifactual) of which six are fine-grained and seven are coarse-grained. It seems likely that the artifactual material illustrates the repertoire of activities such as smoothing, rounding, polishing, grinding and rubbing, as well as hammering, cutting, and sharpening. Some of these fragments may relate directly to the manufacture of shell tools and pottery.

Surviving food refuse consisted mainly of shellfish and fish bones. Substantial quantities of fish bones were recovered using a 1 mm sieve. Although not yet examined in detail, they include the diagnostic jaw and throat-jaws of the parrot-fish. Land mammals included two jaws of the domesticated Indian dog.

Shellfish included *Cittarium pica* (West Indian Top Shell), *Strombus gigas* (Queen Conch), *Chama congregata* (Jewel Box), *Cypraea* sp. (Cowrie), *Chama* sp., *Charonia variegata* (Trumpet Triton), *Purpura patula*, *Tonna* sp., *Melongena melongena*, *Cypraeacassis testiculus* (Baby Bonnet), *Cypraea zebra* (Cowrie), *Codakia orbicularis*, *Phacoides pectinatus*, *Turricula imperialis* and *Fissurella nodosa*. In addition, many fragments of sea urchin and crabs were located in several contexts, together with carbonized coconut shell (*Cocos nucifera*).

THE POTTERY, CHANCERY LANE 1987, by Mary Hill Harris

Over 6000 sherds were present in the three non-sterile trenches excavated in 1987 at Chancery Lane. Most were examined during the field season. The object of studying the sherds was not only to use diagnostic sherds of known cultural types to date the layers of deposits, but also if possible to establish ware categories for use in Barbados, since those Bullen developed on Grenada (Bullen 1964) might or might not be applicable here. It was hoped in particular to throw light on the distinction between Calivinoid and Suazoid wares and to see whether these wares do in fact represent different cultural periods. For the moment Calivinoid and Suazoid will be referred to as if they were chronologically distinct phases of the period between A.D. 650 and the Conquest. Whether or not such use of the terms is valid according to this year's finds will be discussed later.

As usual, decorated or other clearly diagnostic sherds were in a small minority. The plain pottery was initially sorted by eye into about 18 groups on the basis of surface finish and colour and paste colour. Not all of these proved to vary in any significant way according to layer, and probably only about half of them can count as useful ware types. In particular, the distinction between rough-surfaced and polished-surfaced wares seemed to depend more on conditions of erosion and surface adhesions than on basic fabric. No "rough, crude" Suazoid ware could be certainly distinguished. Microscopic work was not possible during this field season, but it may be that such examination will further sort out otherwise indistinguishable sherds. Cream-slipped, red-slipped and fawn-slipped wares were distinguished and their proportions seem to vary through time, as do those of wares with a scratched surface. Scratched ware could be divided into several sub-types: the usual fairly thick, rough scratched ware; a ware which was scratched but with a cream slip applied over the scratches, which one suspects may have been made to help the slip adhere; and a thinner, dark brown ware quite smooth or even polished underneath the scratching. One sherd of slipped-and-scratched ware actually showed Caliviny Polychrome paint over scratching (Fig. 8, 3).

Sherds were also measured and 6 thickness codes defined: 0-5 mm, 5-7 mm, 7-10 mm, 10-12 mm, 12-15 mm, and over 15 mm. (Sherds exactly 5, 7, 10, 12 or 15 mm thick were included in the larger thickness category.) These proved useful distinctions and the thinner wares are more frequent in earlier layers. Decorated sherds were studied individually and the changing frequency of decorative techniques noted. Rims and forms are still in process of analysis to see how they vary according to period.

Twenty-two sherd samples were brought home for microscopic analysis. They were examined by Caroline Cartwright and Mary Hill Harris, and thin sections are being prepared by Caroline Cartwright. Most of the samples were selected because they showed some unusual feature, and perhaps partly for this reason, certain differences are apparent between them and the sherds studied during 1985 in the Barbados Museum and reported in the *Journal of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society* (Drewett 1987).

The most notable difference is the presence of calcareous temper (possibly crushed coral) in about half the sample sherds. It was almost completely absent in the sherds previously studied. Other new elements were vegetable-matter inclusions (in a sherd selected because of its unusual light feel) and grog temper. The grog appeared to be composed of a ware identical to another of our sample sherds.

The characteristic brown-sugar paste (with inclusions primarily of quartz and iron minerals) and the evenly-ground-quartz-tempered ware, both of which were reported previously (Drewett 1987), were present in a number of our samples, of several different macroscopic ware types.

The sample sherds selected in 1987 show a broader repertoire of pastes than was previously known. In the next field season it is proposed to examine microscopically representative sherds of the ware types which have emerged in this year's sorting, and to examine enough of the undistinguished plain wares to see whether differences can be distinguished microscopically.

Trench III

The clearest and most extensive stratigraphy was apparent in Trench III, which also had the largest number of sherds (3255). Loose sand layers (contexts (1), (2), and (4)) overlay a compacted floor ((3), covering (5)). Pottery was abundant from a depth of 20 cm down to the bottom of (5). Pits and post-holes did not contain significant amounts of pottery.

Wares (Table 1): Modern or historic sherds were present only in the upper sand layers above 20 cm, except for a clay pipe in the context (7) pit. The cream-slipped ware (Type H) which has been associated with the Caliviny period (and on which Caliviny Polychrome painting is most often found) is most common in the lower sand layers of context (4) and in context (2), but its next highest frequency occurs in context (5). It is less common in context (1). Red-slipped ware (Type Y) is significantly more frequent in context (5) than in the later layers, with its next highest frequency in (3). Scratched ware (Type F) is almost absent in context (5), but is constantly present in low proportions in other layers up to 10 cm. Slipped and scratched (Type SS) shows a similar spread, with its highest frequency in the lowest part of context (4). The changing frequency of scratched wares more or less parallels that of cream-slipped wares.

Thickness codes (Table 2): Wares under 5 mm thick were most frequent by a substantial proportion in context (5), decreasing in frequency through (3) and (4), and at their lowest in context (2) and the upper layers of (1). Wares 5-7 mm thick are more frequent than those 7-10 mm thick in (3) and (5), with 7-10 mm wares predominating in (4), (2) and (1). Wares thicker than 10 mm are most frequent in the upper layers of (1), (2) and (4).

Decoration (Table 3): The classic marker for early (Cedrosan) Saladoid is Zoned Incised Cross-hatch. A single sherd with Zoned Incised Cross-hatch cut in a polished surface was found in context (5) (Fig. 8, 1). Among

the thin wares, another possible marker for early Saladoid is fine-line incision, and in particular Bullen's "Interior Incised" type (Fig. 9, 1). Five Interior Incised sherds were found in (5), one in (3), one in (4) just above context (5), and one in (1) 10-20 cm. It has been claimed that because of its internally thickened rim Interior Incised dates to A.D. 650 or later. Our excavations seem rather to place it firmly in the Saladoid phase. Whether it is an early Saladoid marker cannot be certainly determined at this stage, but future absolute dates may give us a clue. Of the 31 other fine-line-incised sherds, 16 were found in context (5), 4 in (3) and 2 in the sand less than 10 cm above (5), with the others in the other loose sand layers.

White-on-red painting is another early Saladoid marker. The white paint is always very fugitive and all the examples found by us at Chancery Lane are no better than possible. Of the seven from Trench III, none were found in context (5); three were found in the floor (3), two in the upper sand layers, and two in the historic pit (7).

Turning to later forms of decoration, a diagnostic type which never forms more than a small minority of sherds is Caliviny Polychrome (Fig. 9, 2). This paint too is prone to disappearing under conditions of wear, and many examples are doubtful. Its presence is strongest in context (4), then (1), with a reduced frequency in (3) and near-absence in (5). Barbados Incised Rim (Fig. 9, 3), a characteristic form of incised cross-hatch decoration which appears on the shoulders of thick, fairly coarse *cazuelas*, is also a minority type. Its greatest frequency is at a depth of 20-30 cm in both contexts (1) and (4). It does not appear in (3) and there are one and one possible in (5). Although the sample is very small, its appearance in Trench III seems to parallel that of Caliviny Polychrome rather than either the earlier Saladoid/Barrancoid forms most frequent in the compacted layers, or the later Suazoid finger-marked sherds (Fig. 9, 4). These last appear in Trench III only above 20 cm, in contexts (1) and (2). Scratching, usually considered another Suazoid characteristic, is not limited to the upper layers in Trench III. It is not present in the top 10 cm of Trench III (though a finger-marked sherd is); it is present in small quantities through all layers down to context (5), and definitely underlies finger-marking as a decorative technique.

The number of sherds showing details of vessel form (other than rim type) is so small that only rough impressions of frequency can be given. In Trench III flaring bowls are most common in contexts (3) and (5). Inturned bowls reach their highest frequency in the lower sand layers. Massive forms appear only above 20 cm (with a single possible sherd in context (3)).

Typically Saladoid concavo-convex or flat-flanged rims appear only in contexts (3) and (5). Palo Seco type flanged rims are most common in context (3), with Erin type triangular flanges mostly occurring in (3), (5), and (4) just above (5). The few rim lugs appear only above 20 cm. A single flat base appears in (1) 10-20 cm and the other 24 are all in (4), (3), (5) and (11), a pit similar to context (5). Concave bases also appear most frequently in (3) and (5). The distribution of the 7 ring bases, both high and low, appears random. One broken foot appears in III (5), and two

shouldered feet between 20 and 30 cm. D-shaped handles, common in Saladoid/Barrancoid times, occur most frequently in (5) but also in (4) 20-30 cm.

Two possible pot stands, three incense burners and three "cassava-cakes" appear in the 10-20 cm layer in contexts (1) and (2). An additional possible incense burner was found in context (4). Three footed griddle sherds were found, all above 20 cm.

A sherd from context (5) (Fig. 8, 2) has an incised tortoise-shell pattern and may have been part of an effigy vessel. An upward-looking rim lug representing a human or animal face (Fig. 9, 5) was found in (1) 10-20 cm.

One of the few modern/historic sherds (III (1) 10-20 cm) (Fig. 9, 6) is worthy of mention because, although wheel-made, its rim profile outlined by a groove is very similar to prehistoric ones.

Trenches I and II

Trenches I and II will be mentioned only briefly. A small number of sherds from the lower layers of these trenches remained unexamined through lack of time, and of the sherds analysed by far the largest proportion are post-650 A.D. The contexts are not clearly distinguished on the basis of their sherd content, nor for most features is there a clearly marked vertical distribution pattern through the 10-cm spits.

Trench II. In Trench II, with a depth of 160 cm, no Zoned Incised Cross-hatch was found. A single Interior Incised sherd was found at the top of context (2) (100-105 cm). The 80-90 cm layer had by far the largest number of sherds and both finger-marking and total scratching reach their highest frequency in this layer. Thin sherds (<5 mm) are rare, but somewhat more common in context (2) than in (1); thick sherds (>10 mm) are distinctly more frequent above 80 cm. Flaring bowls appear most often in the lower layers, ring and pedestal bases seem to have random distribution, and shouldered feet and scars of feet appear between 70 and 90 cm.

An unusual scalloped rim of a shallow bowl of cream-slipped ware was found between 60 and 70 cm (Fig. 9, 7). Context (2) 110-120 cm also featured a sherd with a cross-hatched design cut in deep-V incision into a red slip (Fig. 9, 8), which looks neither quite like Zoned Incised Cross-hatch nor like Barbados Incised Rim, which is usually found in rough-surfaced wares.

Trench I. Trench I also has mostly late pottery, with no early Saladoid techniques so far found. Caliviny Polychrome appears, rarely, in the lower layers. The thickest wares are somewhat more frequent in the higher layers.

Trench I contained a number of burials and partial burials, three of which had associated pottery which may help us to date them (and, with radiocarbon dates, vice versa). Unfortunately neither whole pots nor large quantities were present, and only limited amounts of decorated pottery.

Burial 1 has a fingernail-marked sherd (Fig. 9, 9), a possible shouldered foot, and two sherds of pedestal bases. One sherd has possible traces of zoned red paint. Cream-slipped ware sherds are present, as are both natural-fawn-slipped and red-slipped, though these are in lower frequencies. Sherds under 5 mm are not present, and 7-10 mm is the single most common thickness. Most of these characteristics fit into a Calvinoid cluster, though fingernail marking is normally called Suazoid. The co-presence of cream-slipped ware and fingernail marking presents another argument against the firm chronological division of Calvinoid and Suazoid.

Burial 2 (23 sherds) also has a fairly high proportion of cream-slipped ware, with a low presence of red-slipped ware. It too lacks sherds under 5 mm thick, and has 7-10 mm as its most common thickness. Its single most diagnostic sherd, from a rough footed bowl with fingertip impressions in the rim, is Suazoid.

Burial 4 (28 sherds) is harder to assign to period. Cream-slipped sherds are still frequent (no fawn- or red-slipped are present); there is a single sherd <5 mm but 7-10 mm is still the single most common thickness. There are no decorated sherds, and a single D-shaped handle is not diagnostic enough to assign Burial 4 to a specific period.

Summary

The macroscopic sorting carried out in the field was partially successful in distinguishing ware types with diagnostic value, though not all of the easily recognised types changed through time in any recognisable pattern. The three slipped types (cream, natural, and red) showed changes of proportion according to depth, though the presence of cream slip both in the earliest context of Trench III and, in one case, on a finger-marked sherd, means that it cannot be equated with a limited (Caliviny) period. The existence of a ware combining scratching and cream slip was established. Sherd thickness also proved to vary significantly through time, as did certain decorative techniques.

In Trenches I and II there is as yet only slight evidence for development from an early to a late ceramic style, and late (Calvinoid/Suazoid) sherds are in the majority. Burials 1 and 2 in Trench I each contain finger-marked sherds of Suazoid type.

In Trench III there is clear evidence for occupation over a time period stretching from Saladoid to late prehistoric. The context (5) deposits underneath the compacted layer, with their high proportion of thin wares and red-slipped wares, and decorative techniques such as red paint, grooves, the combination of the two, and fine-line incision including in particular the "Interior Incised" type, can be described as Saladoid/Barranoid or modified Saladoid. The single Zoned Incised Cross-hatched sherd hints at the occupation's having begun very early in the Saladoid period.

The compacted layer itself falls in most categories neatly between the deposits below and above. The combination of grooves with red paint is

most frequent in this level. It has the appearance of a transition stage between Saladoid/Barrancoid and Calivinoïd.

In the loose sand of contexts (1), (2) and (4) red paint decreases from bottom to top, and thicker wares are common throughout. Sherds with fingernail or fingertip impressions confirm the late-date occupation of the layers above 20 cm. Scratched and slipped-and-scratched wares occur throughout the loose sand layers and cannot be used for dating these later layers. Both cream slip and Caliviny Polychrome seem to be at their most common between 20 and 40 cm and clearly underlie the finger-marked sherds.

Is it possible on the basis of our 1987 excavations to decide whether Calivinoïd and Suazoid are separate chronologically in Barbados? Calivinoïd and Suazoid pottery share many forms and have been distinguished by Bullen on the basis of paste (as seen in Grenada) and decoration. Cream slip and Caliviny Polychrome paint were assigned by him to Calivinoïd and rough paste, thick sherds, scratching and finger-marking to Suazoid. As has been said, macroscopic distinction between Calivinoïd and Suazoid paste was not possible, so we are left with the surface techniques. Finger-marking, limited to the top layers in all 3 trenches, definitely overlay both Caliviny Polychrome and, largely, cream slip and scratching. Scratching paralleled cream slip in distribution except that cream slip was present even in the early contexts. It appears that scratching cannot be counted as diagnostic of Suazoid, nor cream-slipped of Calivinoïd. On the evidence of our Chancery Lane finds, Caliviny Polychrome as a technique precedes finger-marking, but there are not enough other differences in the wares produced in Barbados after A.D. 650 to say there are two distinct periods, and certainly not enough to postulate the arrival of a new people.

INTERIM CONCLUSIONS

It is perhaps premature even to start considering conclusions about the nature of prehistoric settlement on Barbados. What is clear from the work of this project is that Barbados, although having excellent artifactual collections, lacks any adequate stratigraphic or spatial database. It also lacks virtually any environmental or economic data. It is to provide this database that this project was established. The task will not be easy because of the extensive post-depositional transformation processes evident at all sites identified.

Of the primary settlement of Barbados we have only tantalizing hints. Saladoid movement into the Lesser Antilles probably took place about 100 B.C. Odd, unprovenanced sherds from the Harrison's Cave and Barbados Museum collections, together with a sherd from Chancery Lane, may be 'pure' early Saladoid. If so, it is not impossible, although at present unlikely, that man was present in Barbados at some stage during the period 100 B.C. - 350 A.D. An even earlier pre-ceramic stage also remains possible, although for this there is currently absolutely no evidence.

The first extensive settlement of Barbados is represented by pottery of the Saladoid/Barrancoid tradition with a likely date of c. 350-650 A.D. The nature of this settlement is uncertain. Currently identified densities of Saladoid/Barrancoid pottery are extremely low, but are perhaps more

widespread than formerly thought. There is no real evidence that the Saladoid/Barranoid settlement of Barbados was other than transitory.

The main settlement of Barbados, or rapid population expansion from the Saladoid/Barranoid population, took place in the period c. 650-1100 A.D. Locally developing ceramic styles include griddles, suggesting cassava cultivation, which in turn perhaps indicates more permanent settlement. Direct evidence for cassava cultivation does, however, remain minimal. This is hardly surprising as the likely archaeological traces of cassava cultivation are minimal (Yde 1965). The equipment needed for planting, peeling, grating, pressing, drying and sifting can all be made of organic materials unlikely to survive in a tropical climate. The small mounds of earth prepared for planting of stems from a previous cassava crop may, however, have been made with the shell adzes. Microwear studies may, at least, establish whether any have been used for such digging. In the absence of sharp chips of stone, coral or shell chips bedded into wood to make simple graters may survive. Griddle plates are, however, likely to be the only conclusive surviving evidence of cassava cultivation.

It is really only from the final phase of Barbadian prehistory, the Suazoid (c. 1100-1500 A.D.), that we have any reasonable database and this is limited to artifactual and economic data. No complete structures have been located and nothing is known about settlement morphology or development.

The Suazoid peoples of Barbados grew cassava, as evidenced by griddles, caught fish (e.g., Wing 1968) and collected shellfish (this report). It may be assumed that they also hunted and collected wild plants. Evidence for craft activity survives in the form of worked shell, ceramics and a little worked stone. The bulk of all craft activities must, however, have utilized organic materials to make baskets, hammocks, canoes, fish traps, bows, arrows and all the other equipment known to have been used by Amerindians in the ethnographic present (Yde 1965). None of this equipment will survive in the archaeological record unless desiccated or waterlogged.

It is likely that the prehistoric population of Barbados vanished between 1500 and 1536 (Barton 1953:27). By the time of the English settlement of 1627 no Indians are recorded on Barbados. However, soon after European settlement, Indians are referred to again (Augier and Gordon 1962:8). Is some of the Suazoid material from Heywoods, for example, Indian of the Historic period? Is the stratigraphic association with 17th century European clay pipes and pottery real rather than the result of post-depositional mixing?

Hopefully, with new data recovered from this survey we may be able to move on from the description, classification and dating of sequences into a consideration of prehistoric settlement morphology and patterns, economic patterns including redistribution networks, and a consideration of how prehistoric man lived on Barbados rather than simply when and where.

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FIGURE 1 LEGEND: PREHISTORIC SITES ON BARBADOS

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Chancery Lane, Christ Church | 29. Silver Sands, Christ Church |
| 2. Sam Lords, St. Philip | 30. Cluffs (Site B), St. Lucy |
| 3. Palmetto Bay, St. Philip | 31. Cluffs (Site C), St. Lucy |
| 4. Culpepper Island, St. Philip | 32. East Point, St. Philip |
| 5. Conset Bay, St. John | 33. Hillcrest (Site B), St. Joseph |
| 6. Andromeda Gardens, St. Joseph | 34. Cattle Wash, St. Joseph |
| 7. Hillcrest (Site A), St. Joseph | 35. Martins Bay, St. John |
| 8. Pico Teneriffe, St. Peter | 36. Littlegood Harbour, St. Peter |
| 9. Cove Bay, St. Lucy | 37. Cuckold, St. Lucy |
| 10. The Landlock, St. Lucy | 38. Laycock Bay, St. Lucy |
| 11. Pie Corner, St. Lucy | 39. Chandler Bay (Site A), St. Lucy |
| 12. Indian Mound, St. Lucy | 40. Chandler Bay (Site B), St. Lucy |
| 13. Goat House Bay, St. Lucy | 41. Kings Bay, St. Lucy |
| 14. Sandy Hill, St. Lucy | 42. Jones Bay (Site A), St. Lucy |
| 15. Horseshoe Bay, St. Lucy | 43. Jones Bay (Site B), St. Lucy |
| 16. Cluffs (Site A), St. Lucy | 44. River Bay, St. Lucy |
| 17. Stroud Point, St. Lucy | 45. Sandy Hill, St. Lucy |
| 18. Maycocks Bay, St. Lucy | 46. Lower Crab Hill, St. Lucy |
| 19. Heywoods, St. Peter | 47. Kitridge Bay, St. Philip |
| 20. Speightstown, St. Peter | 48. Cave Bay, St. Philip |
| 21. Holetown, St. James | 49. Round Rock, Christ Church |
| 22. Fresh Water Bay, St. Michael | 50. Green Garden, Christ Church |
| 23. Brandons, St. Michael | 51. The Chair, Christ Church |
| 24. Indian River, St. Michael | 52. Mapps Cave, St. Philip |
| 25. Beckles Spring, St. Michael | 53. Greenland, St. Andrews |
| 26. Maxwell, Christ Church | 54. St. Luke's Gully, St. George |
| 27. Oistins, Christ Church | 55. Three Houses, St. Philip |
| 28. South Point, Christ Church | 56. Conset Beach, St. John |

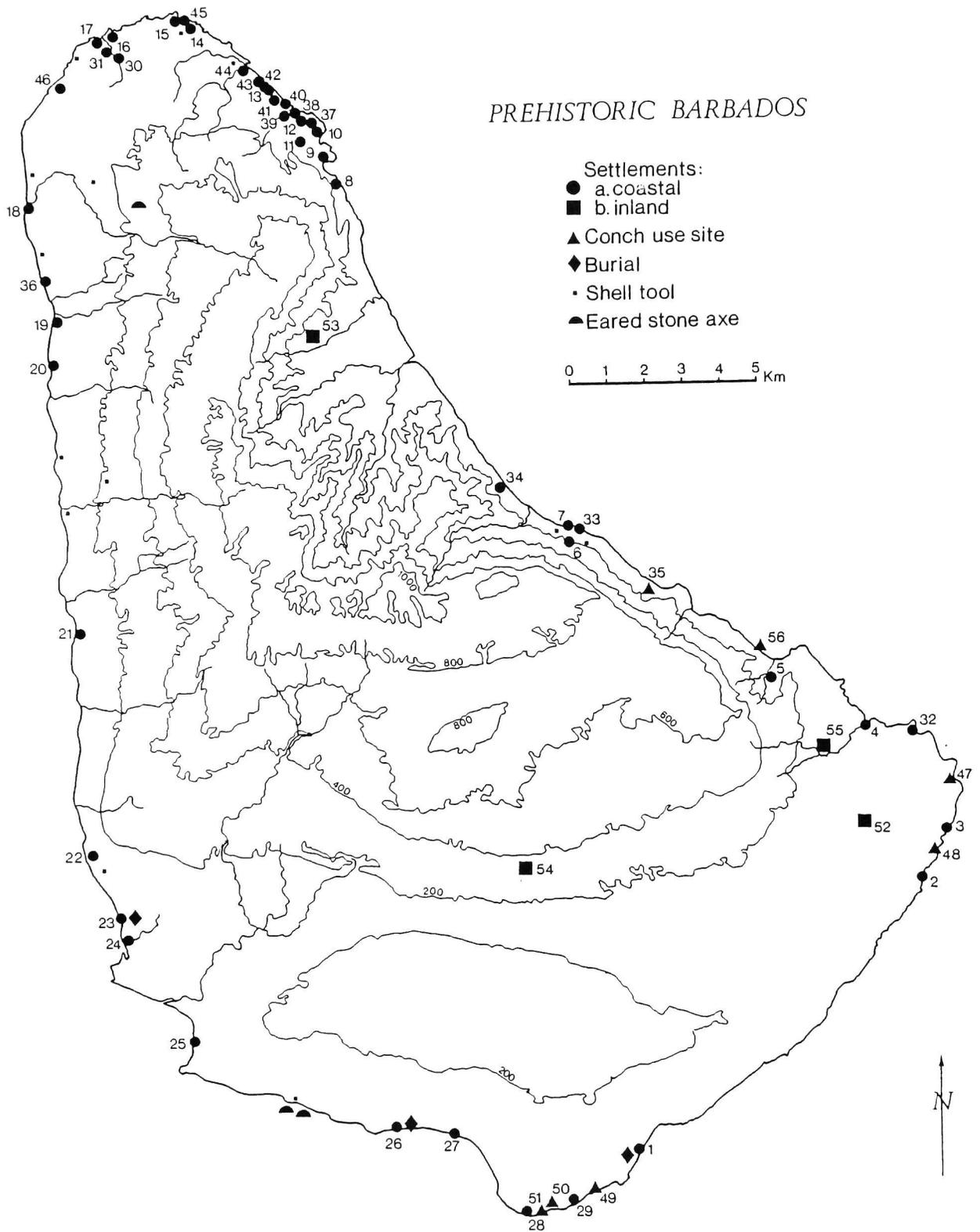


Figure 1. Prehistoric sites on Barbados (see legend on opposite page).

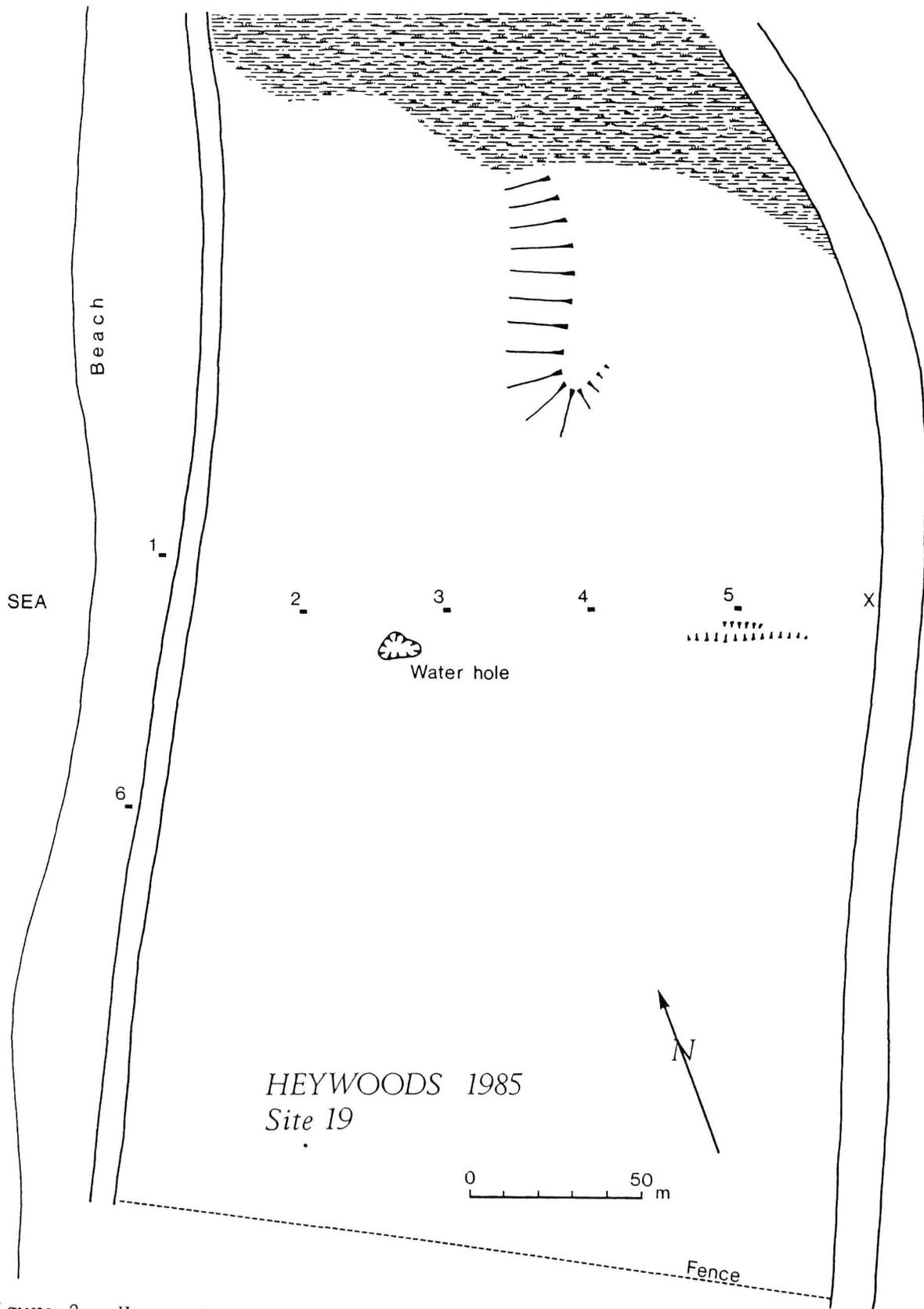


Figure 2. Heywoods excavation, 1985. Site plan, Trenches 1-6.

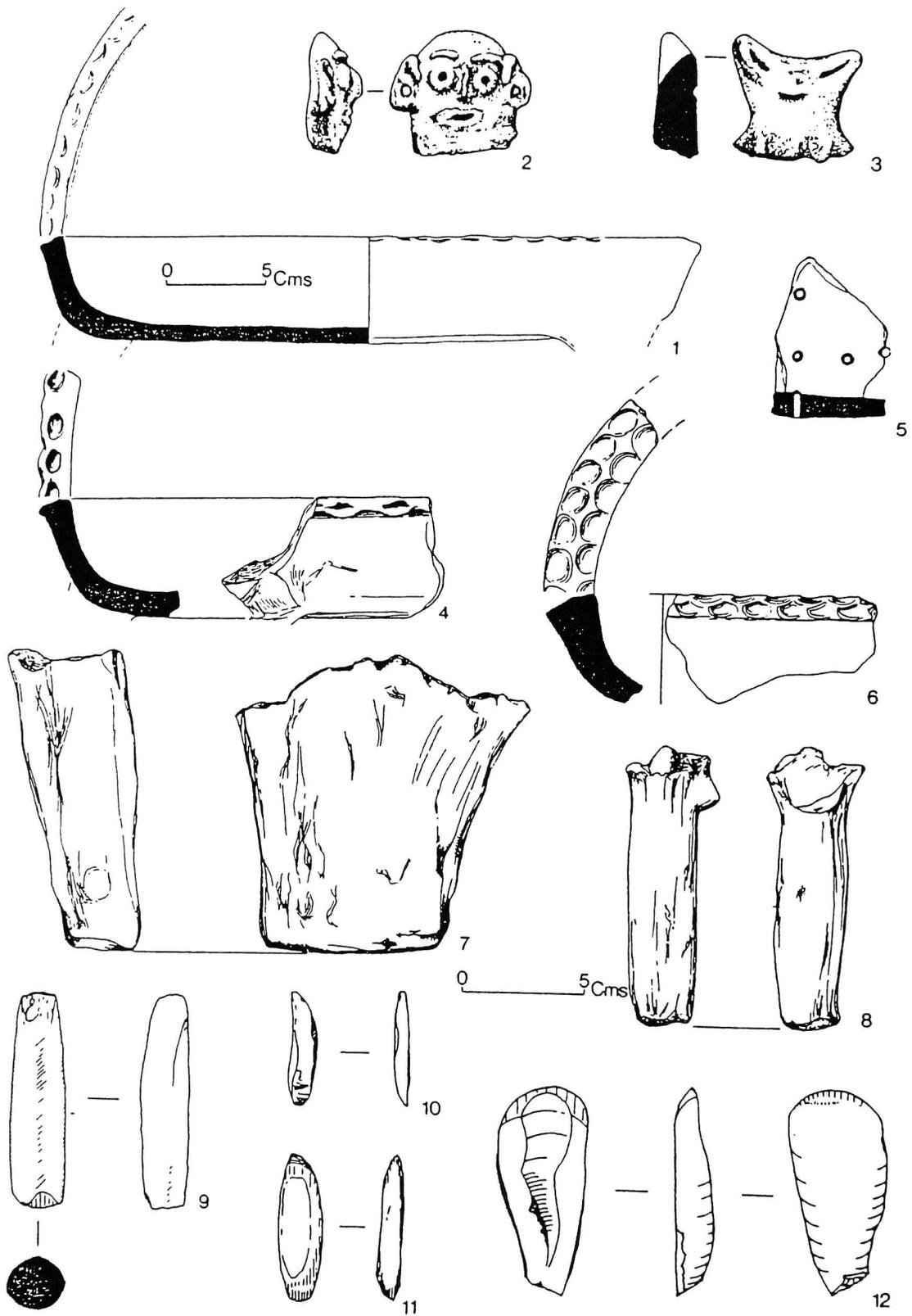


Figure 3. Heywoods excavations, 1985. Suazoid pottery (1-6), carved conch pieces (7-11), and conch adze (12).

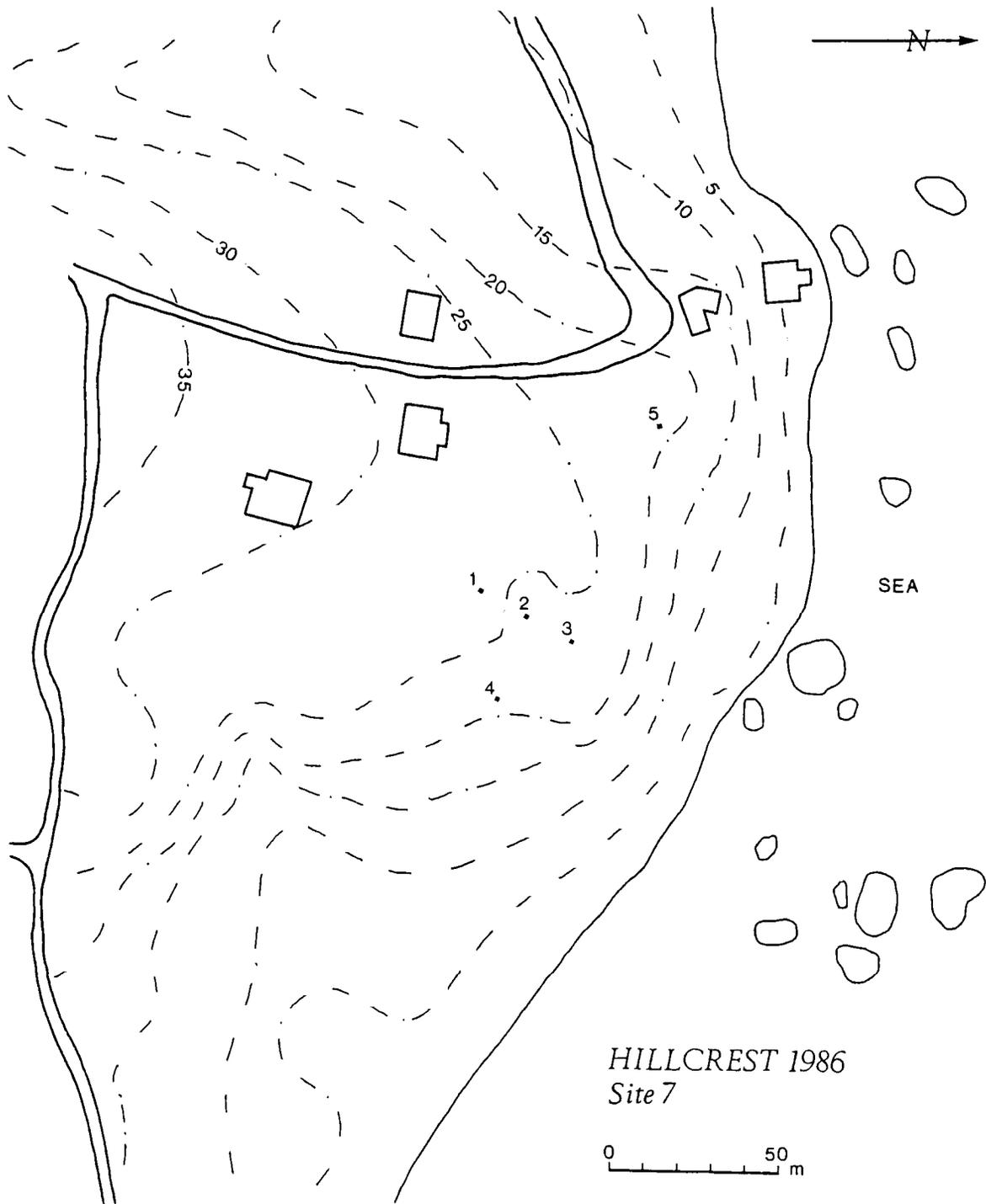


Figure 4. Hillcrest excavations, 1986. Site plan, Trenches 1-5. Contours at 5 m intervals.

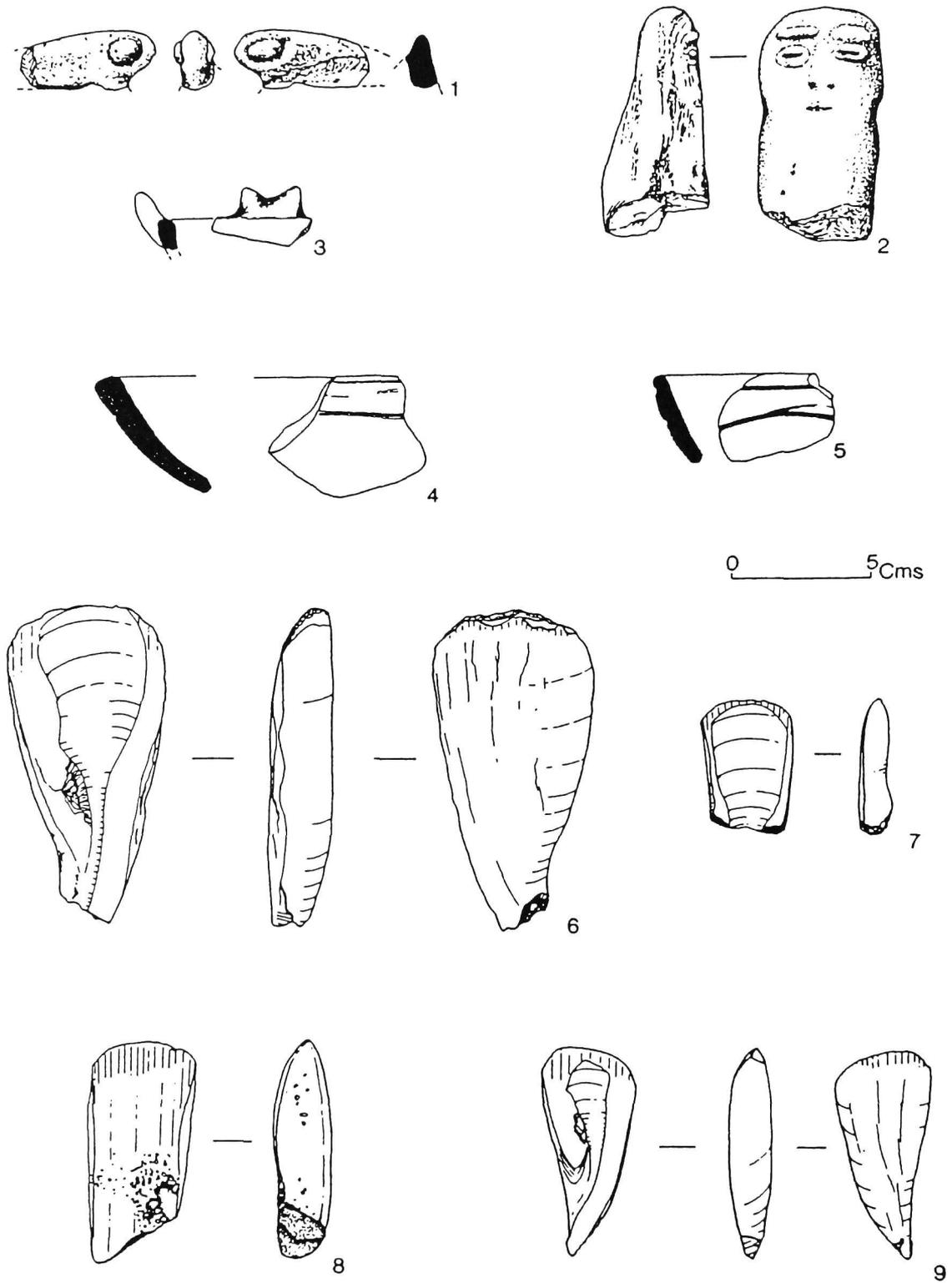


Figure 5. Hillcrest excavations, 1986. Suazoid adornos (1-3), Saladoid-Barrancoid (4-5), and conch adzes (6-9).

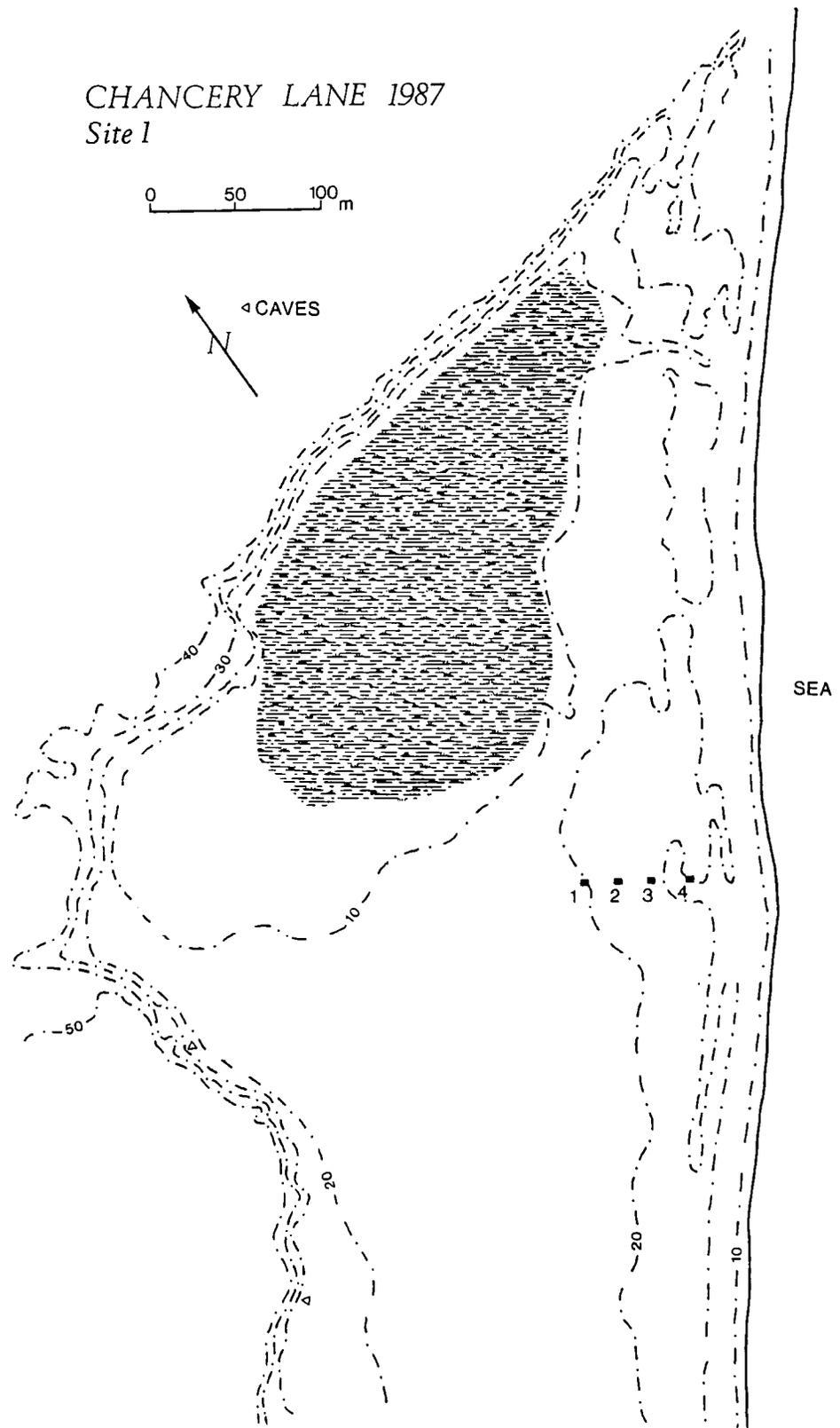
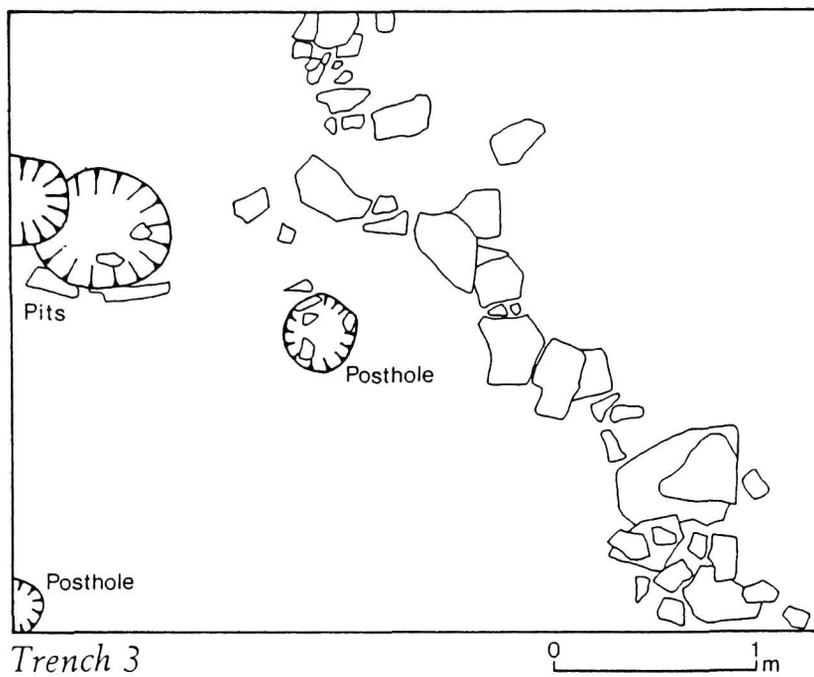


Figure 6. Chancery Lane excavations, 1987. Site plan, Trenches 1-4.



*Burial 4 in
Trench 1*

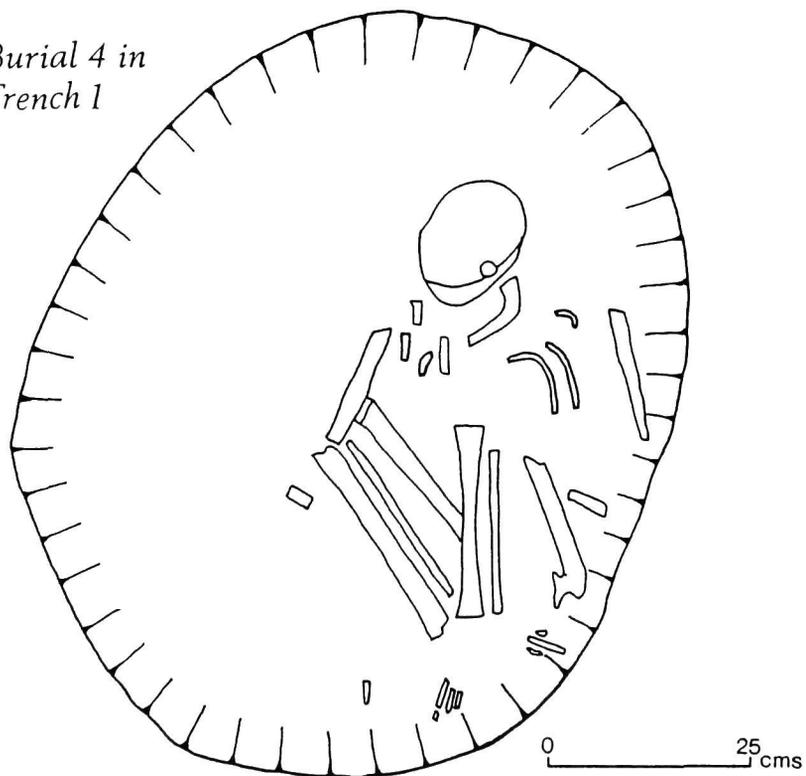


Figure 7. Chancery Lane excavations, 1987. Top: Plan of features in Trench III. Bottom: Plan of flexed burial 4 in Trench I.

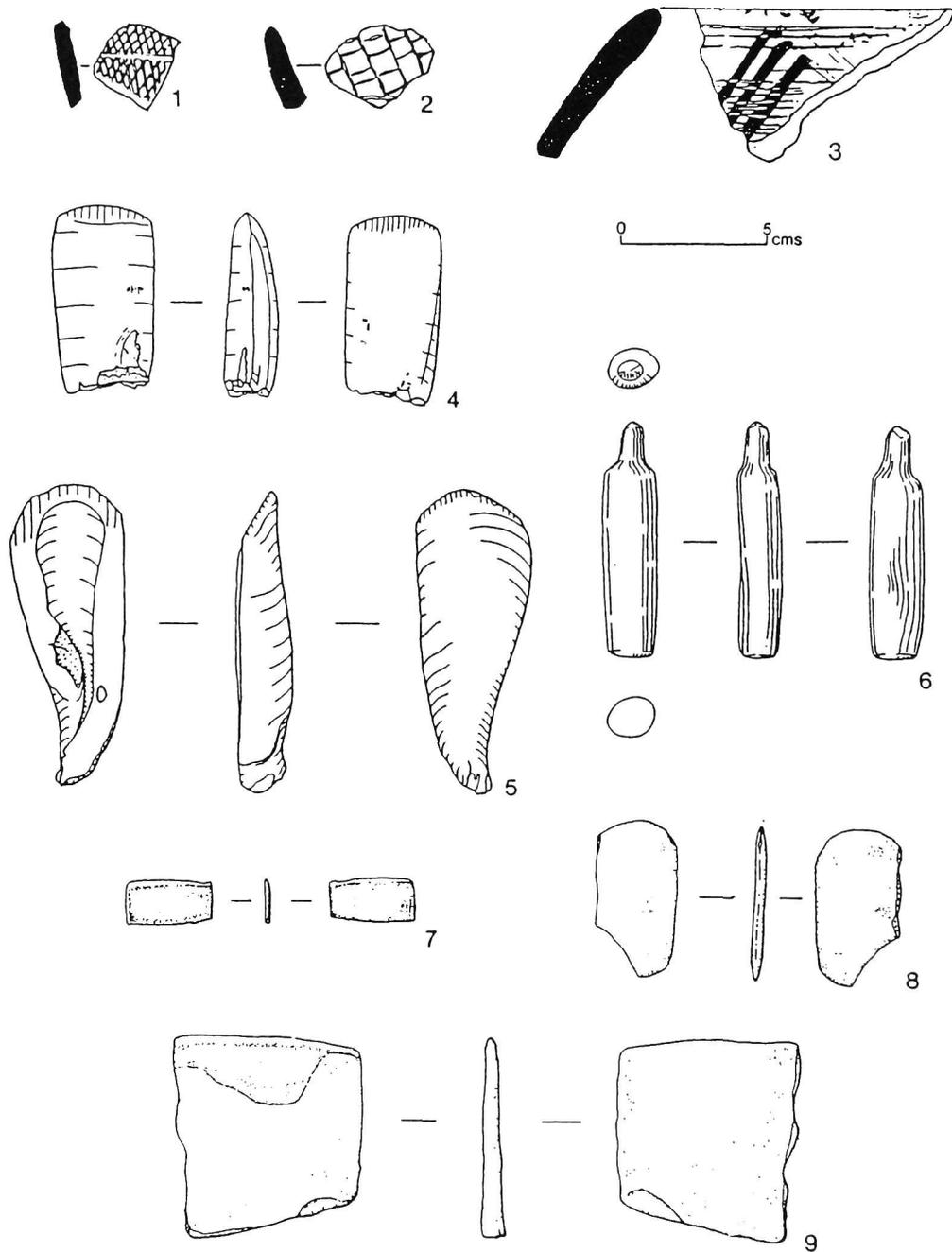


Figure 8. Chancery Lane excavations, 1987. Pottery, zone incised cross-hatch (1); pottery, incised tortoise-shell pattern (2); pottery, polychrome painted on cream slip over scratching (3); conch shell adze/axe, Type 3 (4); conch shell adze/axe, Type 4 (5); shell 'punch' (6); and stone 'knives' (7-9).

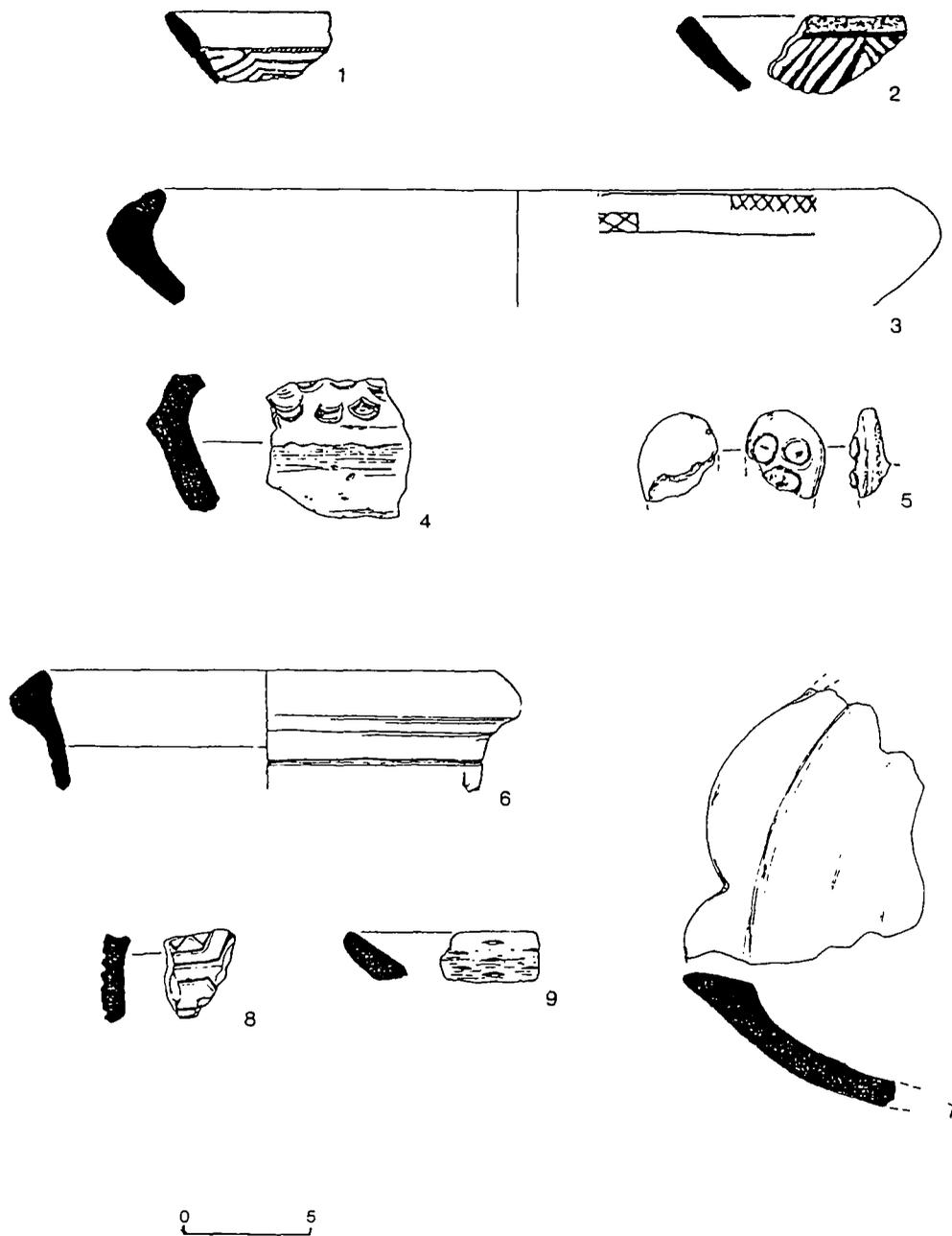


Figure 9. Pottery: (1) "Interior incised" sherd, Barbados Museum; (2) Caliviny polychrome sherd, Chancery Lane, Trench III, Context 1, 10-20 cm; (3) Barbados incised rim, Chancery Lane, Trench II, 80-90 cm; (4) finger-marked sherd, Chancery Lane, Trench III, Context 2, 10-20 cm; (5) adorno, Chancery Lane, Trench III, Context 1, 10-20 cm; (6) wheelmade rim sherd, Trench III, Context 1, 10-20 cm; (7) scalloped rim sherd, Trench II, Context 1, 60-70 cm; (8) sherd with deep-V cross-hatch, Trench II, Context 2, 110-120 cm; (9) fingernail-marked sherd, Trench I, burial 1.

TABLE 1

Trench III - Percentage of Ware Types by Layer

CONTEXT	# of SHERDS	U	M/H	LN	TJ	P	W	H	X	Y	Q	B	F	SS	PS	R	G	Others	
(1) 0-10 cm	98	13	9	38	17		2	4	4	6	3		-			2		-	
(1) 10-20 cm	817	4	4	45	15	3	2	9	3	2	2	4	3	1	-	2	3	-	
(1) 20-30 cm	184	4	x	44	21	1	1	7	x	5	5	8	1	1	-	1		-	
(2) 10-20 cm	157	6	3	35	18	1	2	13	1	1	6	1	1	1	8	1	-		
(4) 20-30 cm	226	8		41	12	2	4	16	2	2	2	5	3	1	1		1		
(4) 30-40 cm	108	2		40	17	-	2	17	1	2	6	7	3	1		-	4		
(4) 0-10 cm above (5)	61	3		44	15	5	2	15	5	2	2	3	-	3	-	-	2	-	
(3)	362	6		34	14	1	7	8	6	7	-	8	2	x	-		5?		
(5)	788	3		31	10	2	5	11	4	17	x	11	x	x	-	2	1		
(9)	33		-	54	3		18	3	3	3		9	9	-		-			
(11)	17		-	29	18	-		6	6	29		-	-	-		-		-	

(7)	10	-	10*	20		10			20	20	-	20	-		-		-		
(8)	2	-		50			-		-	50					-		-	-	
(13)	13			8	-	8	8	8	8	8	8	46		-					
(14)	11		-	9	36			18		18		18		-	-	-		-	
(19)	5	20	-		20	-		-		20		40	-		-	-			

* The historic sherd in context (7) is a clay pipe.

x	less than 1%	U	unidentifiable	Q	a very thin black-paste ware with white surface
M/H	modern or historic	P	polished, fairly thin dark red-brown ware	R	very rough, thick ware
LN	rough-surfaced	W	thin wares with no other distinguishing feature	G	griddles
TJ	smooth-surfaced	H	cream-slipped	Other	all other wares. The ones present in context (11) are of a very light, porous ware (see section on microscopic analysis)
SS	slipped and scratched	X	natural-fawn-slipped		
PS	polished and scratched	Y	red-slipped		

TABLE 2

CONTEXT	# of SHERDS	Trench III Thickness Percentages by Layer						Unmea- surable	Unidenti- fiable
		<5 mm	5-7	7-10	10-12	12-15	>15		
(1) 0-10 cm	98	2	23	24	11	9	2		13
(1) 10-20 cm	817	4	26	29	15	11	7		4
(1) 20-30 cm	184	3	21	39	26	4	1	2	4
(2) 10-20 cm	157	1	15	33	34	6	1	2	6
(4) 20-30 cm	226	6	31	26	18	5	3	3	8
(4) 30-40 cm	108	4	28	32	18	6	3	6	2
(4) 0-10 cm above (5)	61	3	18	46	10	20	-	-	3
(3)	362	10	36	29	8	4	x	1	6
(5)	788	14	38	30	7	4	2	2	3
(9)	33	18	24	24	30	3		-	
(11)	17	12	59	29			-	-	

(7)	10	30	30	10	20			10	-
(8)	2	-	50	50			-	-	
(13)	13	23	69	8			-	-	
(14)	11	9	73	9		9	-	-	
(19)	5	20	60				-	-	20

TABLE 3

Trench III Percentages of Decorative Techniques by Layer

CONTEXT	% OF TOTAL DECORATED	Monochrome red	Zoned red	White-on-red	Caliviny Polychrome	Other polychrome	Grooved & painted	Groove delineating rim	Grooves & modelling	Other grooves	Total grooves	Deep-V incision	Scratched incision	Fine-line incision	Interior Incised	ZIC	Barbados Incised Rim	Finger-marked	Other
(1) 0-10 cm	7%	1			-		3					1		1					1
(1) 10-20 cm	6%	0.1		?0.2	1	0.4	0.5		0.2	1.2	2	0.1		0.5	0.1		0.2		0.1
(1) 20-30 cm	9%		?1		?1.6		1.6	1		1.6	2.7		-	0.5			0.5		
(2) 10-20 cm	3%						-			2	2		0.6			-			0.6
(4) 20-30 cm	9%	0.4	1		2		1			2	2	0.4		0.4	-		0.4		
(4) 30-40 cm	9%	1	1		2	1	1		-	1	1		-	?2		?1			1
(4) 0-10 cm above (5)	20%	2								5	5			3	2	-			2
(3)	11%	2		?0.6	?0.8		3			3	3	0.2	-	1.1	0.2				
(5)	12%	0.5	1.3		?0.1	0.2	1			7	7	0.4	-	2	0.6	0.1	?0.2		0.5
(9)	24%						6	3		3	6		3						
(11)	29%						6	6		18	24								

(7)				p															
(8)								p			p								
(13)																			
(14)										p	p	-							
(19)																			-

Presence or absence of technique shown only for these contexts as samples are so small.

N.B. Although the figures given for percentages of total sherds decorated include organic blackening on the interior or exterior of the vessel, figures for this blackening have not been included in the table. Percentages quoted are of the total number of sherds.