

Chapter 2. Remains

Section 1. Overview of the Survey Area

The survey began in January 2010 by exploring the site of the burial rootings based on information of the rooted burials that was brought to the attention of the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts. The area that was plundered by burial rooters and lay strewn with ceramic fragments on the ground was mainly divided into eight zones, from No. 1 to No. 8, and a surface survey of artifacts and a surveillance of the landscape were conducted. As a result, an excavation survey was conducted at the zones No. 4, 6, 7 and 8 from where particularly large numbers of artifacts have been found, and which were deemed suited to the survey also from the topographical perspective. With respect to zones No. 6 and 7, a ground penetrating radar survey was conducted prior to the excavation survey.

Furthermore, upon learning from local interviews that a brown-glazed jar was also discovered from the school zone on the east side of the survey area, a ground penetrating radar survey and excavation survey were conducted at the school zone. The locations of the survey area are shown in Fig. 17.

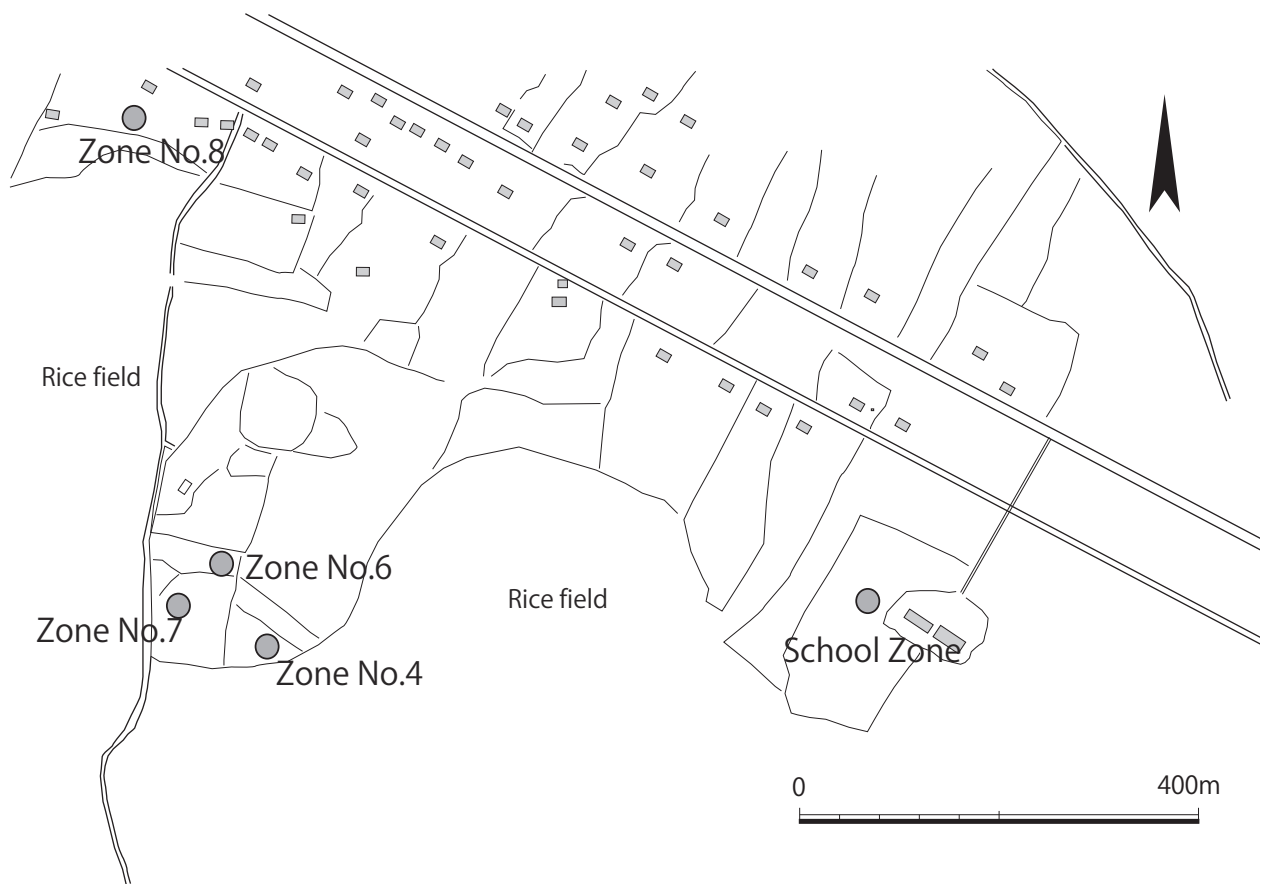


Fig.17 Map of Krang Kor site

Section 2. Remains at the Zone No. 4

Zone No. 4 was the site of concentrated burial rooting, particularly near the south boundary fence, and many pieces of ceramic ware lay scattered. Assuming that these pieces were items were grave goods buried in coffin burials, etc. the area around the pit made by burial rooters was demarcated as the survey zone. As a result, two burials were found from a $3\text{m} \times 3\text{m}$ trench. Hardly any artifacts, however, were found, since the burials had already been thoroughly rooted. Burial No.1 was 1.32m long and 0.78m wide, positioned in the north-northeast to south-southwest direction. Traces of a wooden coffin were found from inside the burial, measuring 1.10m long and 0.40m wide. Burial No.2 was 1.74m long and 0.82m wide, positioned in the north-northwest to south-southeast direction. Burial No.1 was a wooden coffin burial, but Burial No.2 was so extensively rooted that it is difficult to determine whether it was a dirt burial or coffin burial.



Fig.18 Remains of excavation in zone No.4

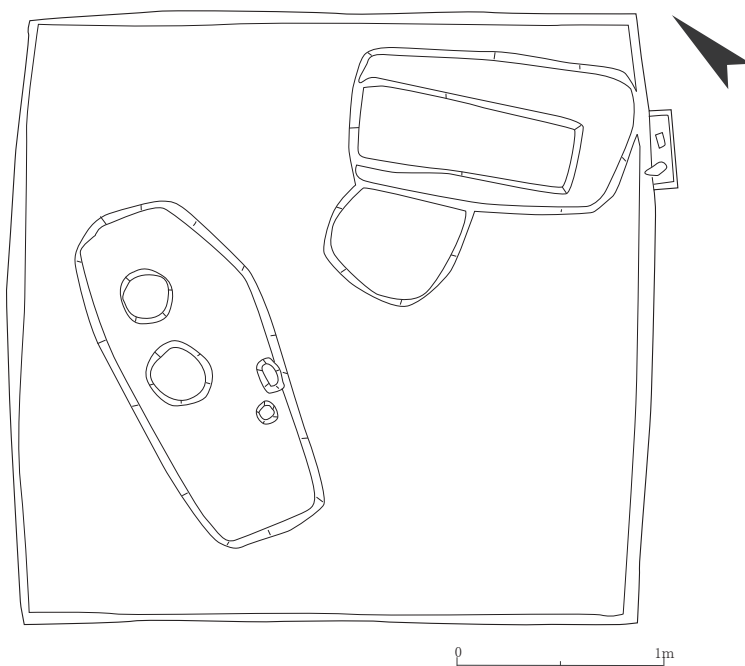


Fig.19 Horizontal plan of excavation in zone No.4

Section 3. Remains at zone No. 6

Trenches were dug in two places at zone No. 6. From the No. 1 trench, a ditch running in the north-south direction was found in the upper layer, but no other significant remains were discovered. At the No. 2 trench, an excavation was conducted with an expectation of finding architectural remains, as brick elements lay scattered on the ground. As expected, remains were found, which displayed a 27cm-wide, 6cm-deep groove in the center of a two-tier stack of bricks measuring 1.5m long and 1m wide. Burnt soil was deposited around the bricks, and the bricks were also burnt and had black surfaces. Taking into consideration the possibility that the groove was a vent hole and the surrounding area was a burial, it was assumed that the body of a deceased or a coffin was placed on the bricks and cremated. However, it should be mentioned that no remains of a cremation burial were found in the recent series of surveys. If the brown-glazed jar discovered by the villagers to date were cinerary urns, there is greater possibility that these remains are those of a cremation site.



Fig.20 Remains of excavation in zone No. 6 (from south)



Fig.21 Remains of excavation in zone No. 6 (from north)

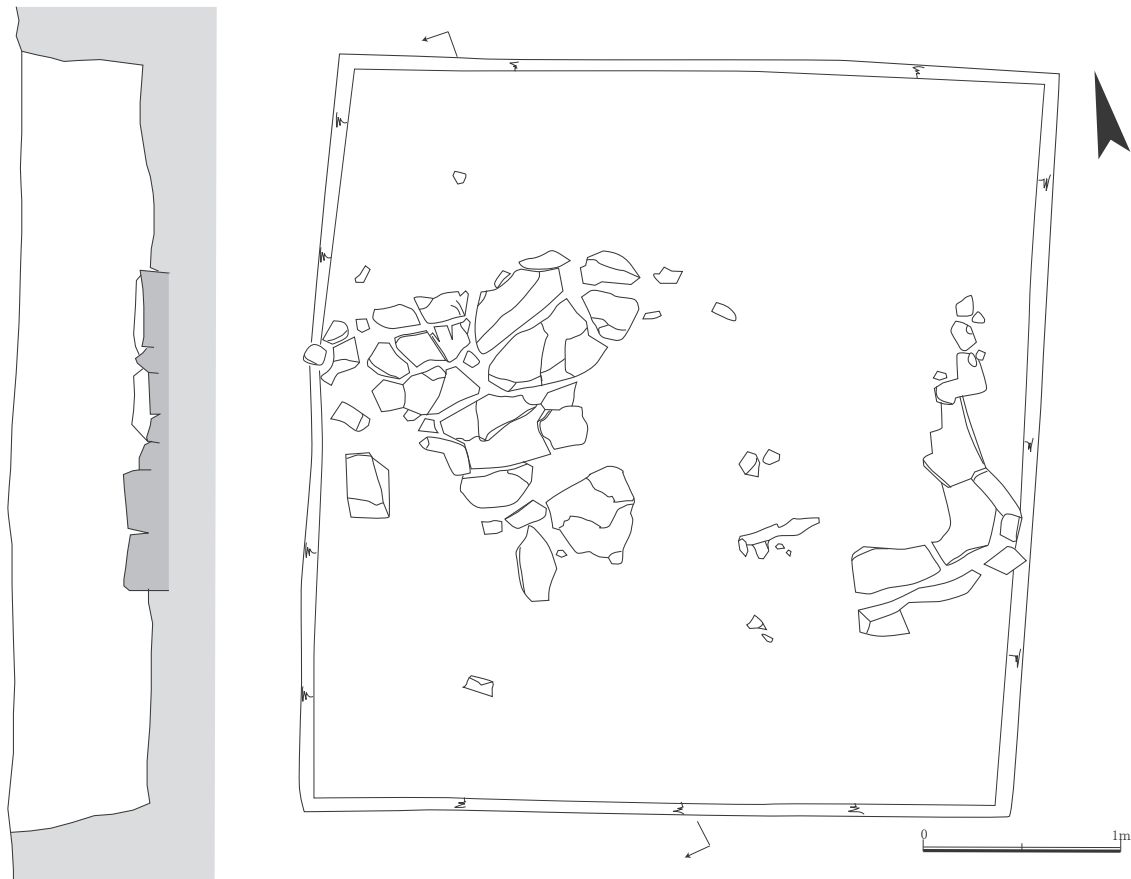


Fig.22 Horizontal plan of excavation in zone No. 6

Section 4. Remains at the Zone No. 7 and No.8

A ground penetrating radar survey was also conducted in zone No. 7, and a 2m × 2m trench was dug in places where a reaction was obtained. As a result, an oval burial with a roughly 60cm major axis and 20cm minor axis was found, filled with carbide.

Zone No. 8 is located within a village, unlike the zone No. 4, 6, and 7 that have so far been surveyed. According to the villagers, a Khmer brown-glazed stoneware jar with four lug-handles was discovered from an area immediately north of the survey zone, and that it contained human bones. The survey was thus conducted near the house where the discovery was made. No burial sites were found, however, although the entire strata were confirmed. Nevertheless, by conducting the survey, exposed surface items in the area were able to be sampled, surface artifacts that were collected by nearby villagers were able to be surveyed, and other artifacts that have so far been excavated were able to be examined.

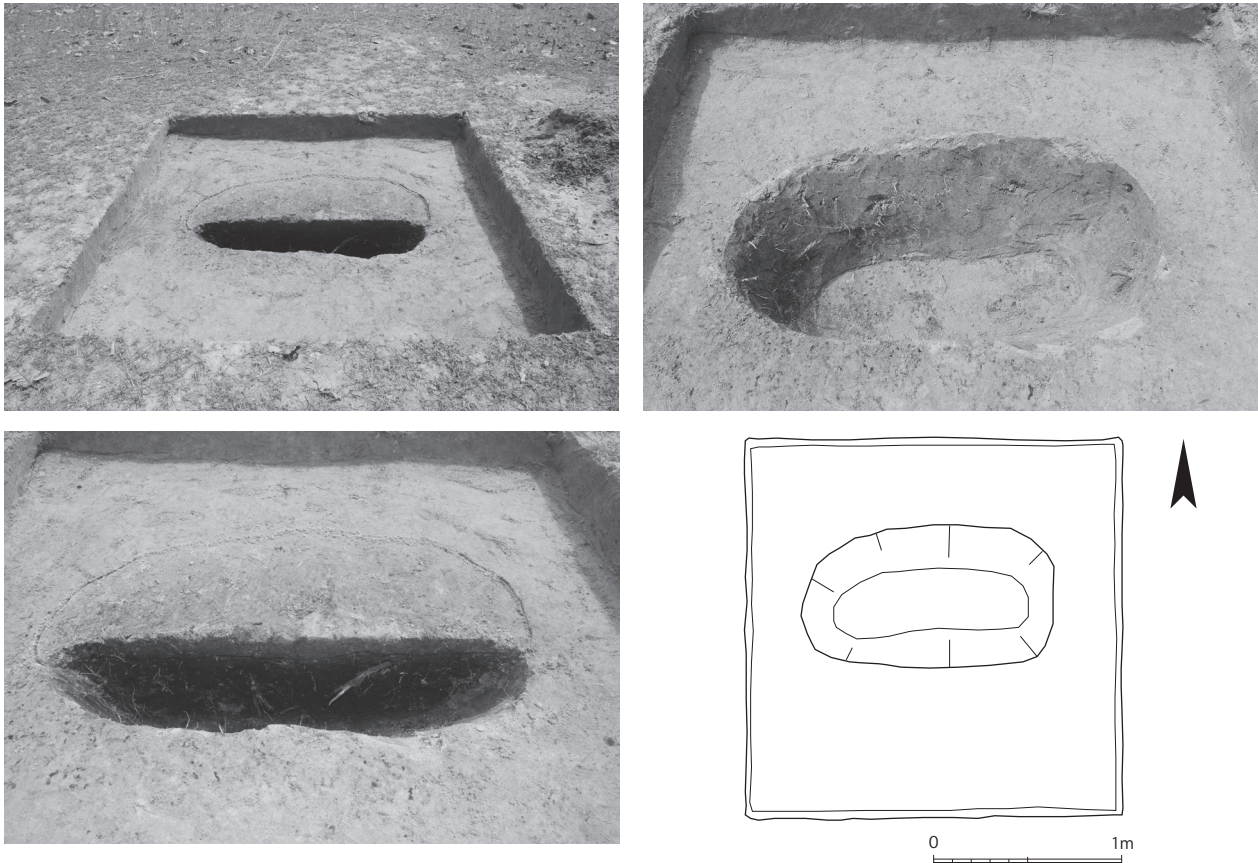


Fig.23 Pit in Zone No. 7 Upper Left:Trench in zone No.7 , Upper Right: Pit, Lower Left: Section of pit

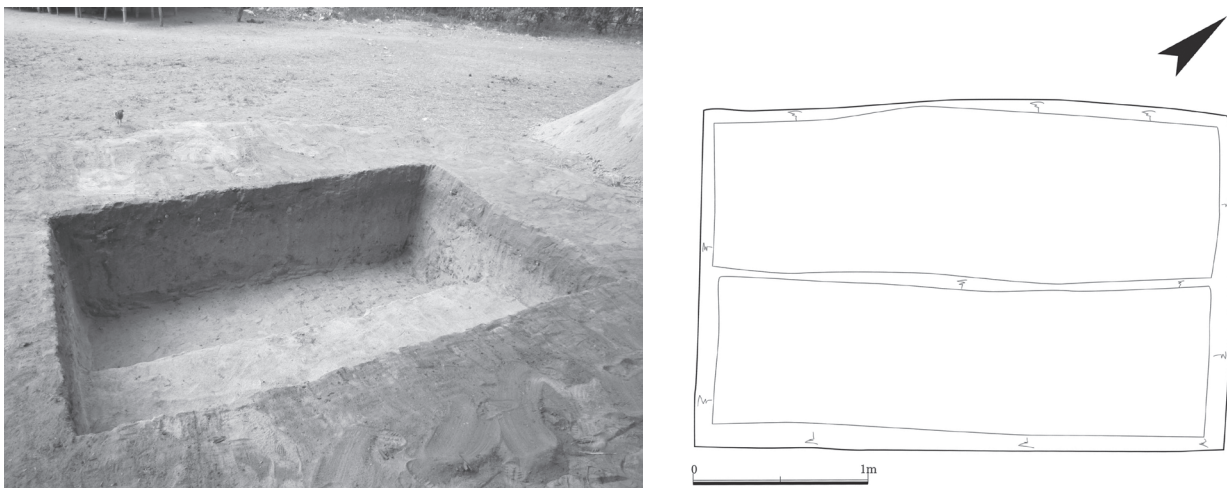


Fig.24 Trench in zone No.8

Fig.25 Horizontal drawing of trench No.1 in zone No.8

Section 5. Remains at the School zone

Trench Locations

In the school zone, a survey area was demarcated based on information acquired from school officials that brown-grazed jar have been discovered in the past. First, a $50\text{m} \times 20\text{m}$ area in the open space on the west side of the school was demarcated as the area for geophysical survey, following the lay of the land. As a result, a response was obtained on the south side of the survey area, so trench A was dug centered in the area where the response was obtained, measuring 4m east to west and 2m north to south. Since burial No.1 was found from this trench, new trenches were dug to its north and south. The one to the north, referred to as trench C, was long in the north-south direction, and was dug with the goal of discovering other burials near burial No.1. Trenches were also dug to the south of Burial No.1 and were referred to as trenches B and D. They were also dug with the goal of discovering more burials. Fortunately, as burial No.2 was discovered from trench D, the trench was expanded in the east-west direction to further excavate and completely expose burial No.2.

Trench C was planned to stretch 15m north to south, but due to time constraints, the excavation survey was conducted over two 5m-segments on the north and south sides. The south 5m-segment was referred to as trench C1, and the north 5m-segment as trench C2.

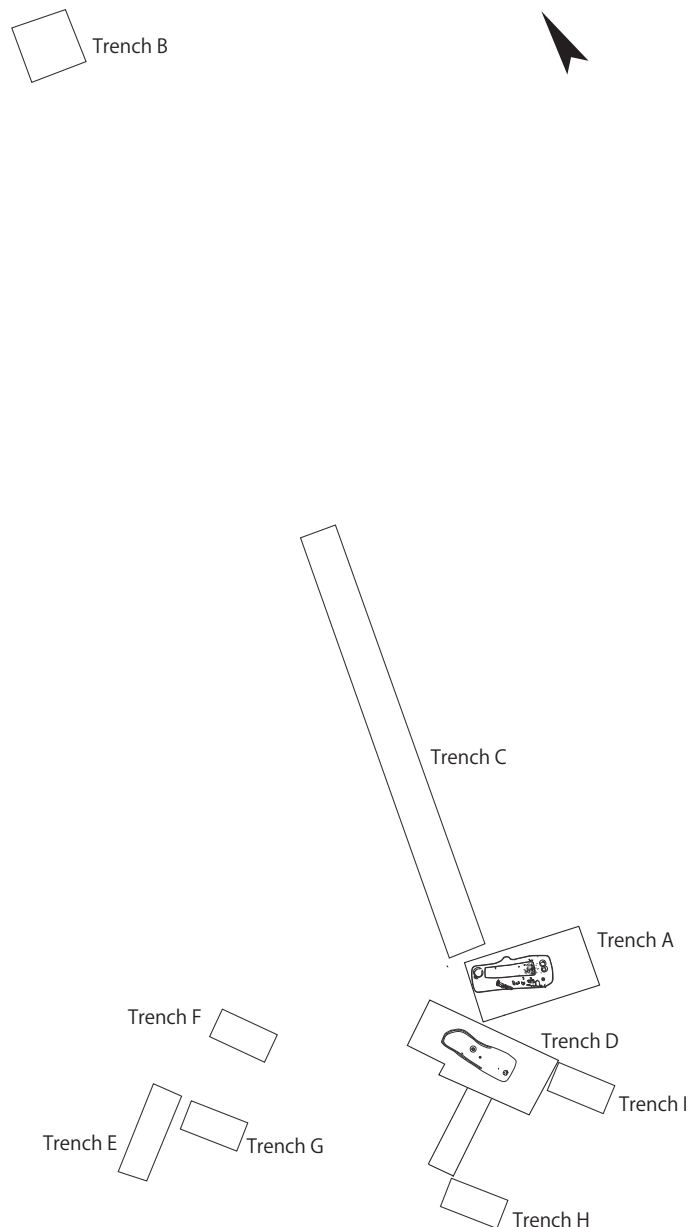


Fig.26 Location map of excavation Trench in school zone

Burial No.1

Burial No.1 was found in trench A at a depth of about 0.7m from the ground surface. It measures 2.66m long and 1.20m wide, and is positioned in the south-southeast to north-northwest direction. As traces of a wooden coffin measuring 1.64m long and 0.45m wide were found from the burial, it was assumed to be a coffin burial. No human bones were found, but judging by the arrangement of burial goods, it is thought that the head pointed in the east-southeast direction.

A variety of burial goods was found from the burial. A pair of earrings made of zinc and copper alloy was found on either side of the assumed position of the head, and a total of 118 blue and white small glass beads were scattered around the area from the head to neck. Two earthenware pots were placed on the southeast side of the assumed position of the head, and a similar pot that was slightly larger was placed at the feet. A iron knife was found on the outer side of where both arms were assumed to be positioned. A concentration of imported ceramics, all celadon, was found on the south side. They included a Chinese celadon plate with petaled rim and celadon bowl, and Si Satchanalai celadon plate. Only the Chinese celadon plate with petaled rim was found retaining its full shape, and the others were found as fragments from different locations. These imported ceramics are estimated to date from the mid to late 15th century. The entombed was probably an adult, judging from the size of the burial, but since no human bones have been found, the gender of the entombed cannot be known.

The burial is thought to be a coffin burial, as traces of a wooden coffin and burial goods were found. However, no wire nails or other such nails were found from around the traces of a wooden coffin, so it is highly likely that the coffin was hollowed-out or made of a combination of materials using organic binder. Additionally, since no human bones were found, there is the possibility that the buried bones were disinterred for secondary burial. However, taking into account the fact that no traces of re-digging holes were found that would normally be made when disinterring the remains, there is also the possibility that the site was a primary burial grounds.

Artifacts are thought to retain the conditions in which they were buried, but particularly with regard to ceramic ware, only one Chinese celadon plate with petal rim retained its full shape, and the other three?i.e., the Chinese celadon bowl and the Si Satchanalai celadon plate and bowl?were buried as fragments on the side of the coffin. The three pieces of ceramic ware that were found in fragmented form were all almost fully restored to their full shape, but are thought to have been buried after intentionally breaking them into fragments. With regard to the three round-bottom earthen ware pot ware that were excavated, two were placed at the position of the head and one at the feet. It is thought that they respectively contained different items. Glass beads were clustered at the head of the coffin, but some were also found from around the burial pit outside of the coffin. It is thought that they were sprinkled over the head of the body placed in the coffin at the very end, and that some fell outside



Fig.27 Horizontal drawing of Burial No.1

the coffin. The positions from where these burial goods were found and their conditions should shed light on burial manners and customs of the time to a certain degree, and should also make a large contribution to estimating the dating of each item as useful, comprehensive materials.



Fig 28 Burial No.1(from south)



Fig 29 Burial No.1(from north west)

Burial No.2

Burial No.2 was found in trench D. It is long-oval in shape, measuring 2.6m long and 0.9m wide, positioned in the east-southeast to west-northwest direction. Initially, trench D was dug as a narrow trench running in the north-south direction when the excavation was begun. However, because a blue and white bowl was discovered from the northern part of the trench and a burial was thought to exist, the trench was expanded in the perpendicular direction to uncover the entire burial pit, and the trench ultimately turned into a T-shaped trench. The shape of the burial pit was ambiguous near the blue and white bowl, but expanding the trench revealed its outline. Even so, the burial pit was irregularly shaped, and it was difficult to distinguish the wooden coffin, as was possible in Burial No.1. Thus Burial No.2 was assumed to be used for direct burial in the burial pit without using a coffin. As with Burial No.1, no human bones were found, but a number of burial goods were found in location that differed from those of Burial No.1.

Burial goods that were found included the following: a blue and white bowl produced in Jingdezhen, bronze bowl, bronze ring, bronze bracelet, seven glass beads, and an earthenware round-bottom pot. The blue and white bowl was stacked on top of the bronze bowl face down, and both were found in that condition. The bronze ring was discovered from inside the bronze bowl. The glass beads were found from the surrounding area, but were fewer in number compared to those in Burial No.1. These items were found from the east side of the burial pit, while an earthenware round-bottom pot ware was found from the west side. When considering the positions of the burial goods in Burial No.1, the side with the blue and white bowl and bronze bowl was probably the head, and the side with the round-bottom pot was probably the feet. A bronze bracelet was also found near the center of the burial pit, where the arms of the entombed were assumed to be positioned.

The blue and white bowl has a cross-flower pattern on the inside the bowl at the bottom, and can be estimated as dating from the late 15th century to early 16th century. Thus, there does not seem to be a large different in the dating of Burials 1 and 2. Burial No.2 was deep and the remains were in poor condition, so the burial pit was unable to be discovered in part at the position of the head. Neither were traces of a wooden coffin confirmed as in Burial No.1. Therefore, the burial goods could not be restored in detail as those in Burial No.1. Nevertheless, the basic composition is similar to Burial No.1, in that imported ceramics, bronze items and glass beads were placed at the head, an earthen ware pot was placed at the feet. Burials 1 and 2 are merely 1.2m apart at the closest, and the heads both point virtually east. They are thought to belong to a set of burials. No human bones existed, but as with Burial No.1, Burial No.2 indicate no signs of a removing the bones after buried, so it can be assumed that this two burials are original graves, and that its bones did not remain due to the sandy soil.

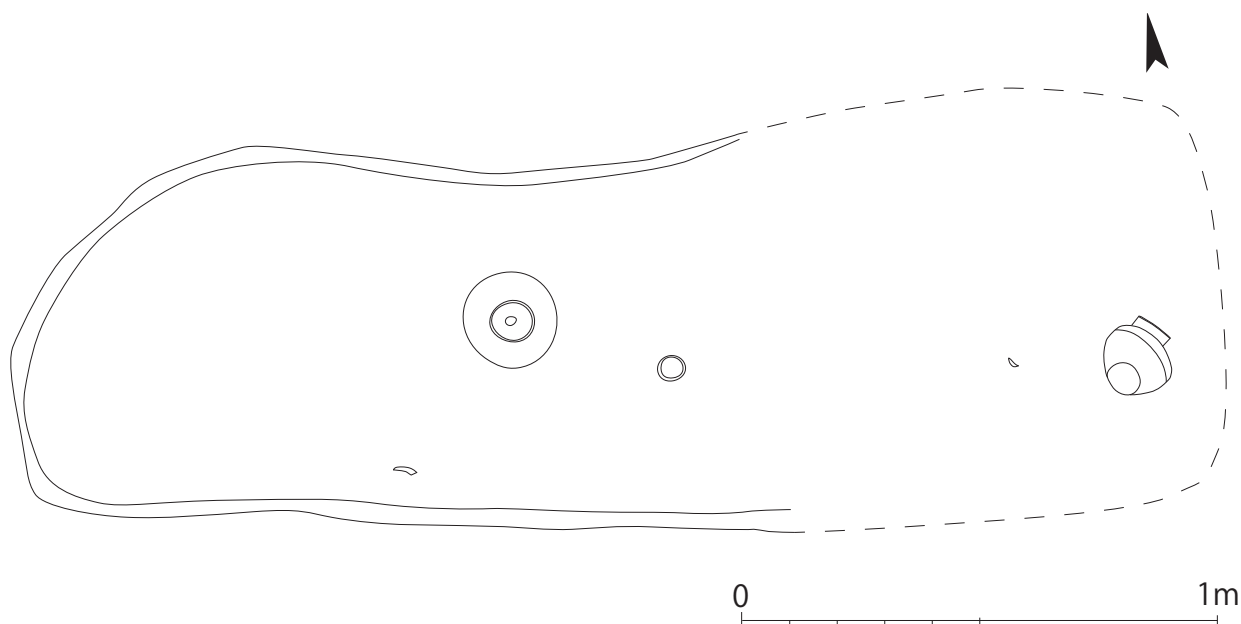


Fig.30 Horizontal drawing of Burial No.2



Fig.31 Blue and White Bowl excavated from Burial No.2



Fig.32 Bronze Bowl excavated from Burial No.2



Fig.33 Western part of Excavation Burial No.2

Trench C

Trench C was dug on the north side of the burials that is narrowly long in the north-south direction. Originally, more burials were hoped to be found following of the discovery of Burial No.1, but none were found. Nevertheless, large numbers of artifacts were discovered from the soil layer that gradually slopes down toward the south, including many fragments of earthenware, stone and clay bracelets, and paddling tools that were used to paddle and form earthenware. Since no remains were found, and the simple artifacts layer gradually slopes down toward the south, it is thought that an earthenware workshop existed further north of the trench, and that defects and production tools that were used in the workshop were discarded in the area.

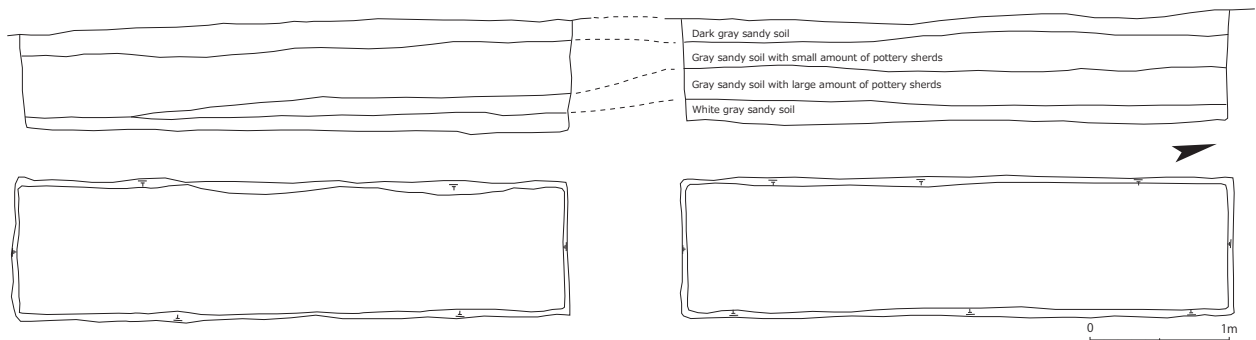


Fig.34 Horizontal and Section drawing of Trench C