

Appendix 1: Surviving records of human remains excavated at Winthill, 1954-6

As discussed in the main body of the text (above), the inhumations at Winthill were largely disregarded (although the recording of HR36 shows the investigators were perfectly able to excavate and photograph human remains if they so chose).

This means that with very little exception, it has not been possible to provide records of which bones survived in which burial.

The following is the summary of all evidence for the human remains encountered at Winthill.

Human remains 1

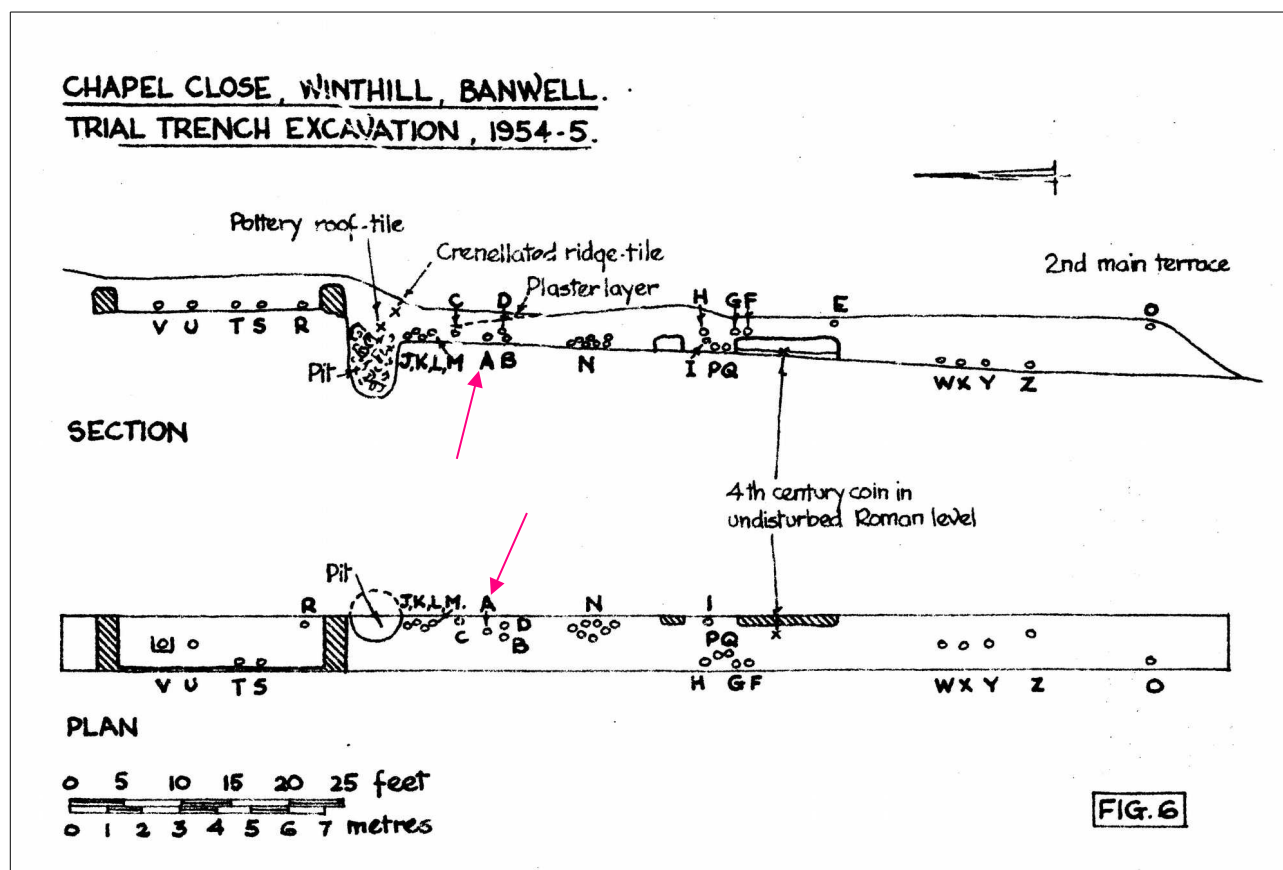
Formerly Skeleton A

Hunt 1964 text:

'...at a depth of about 2 feet 6 inches and 6 to 10 feet south of the tile, human bones occurred. These were jumbled and were mixed up with the mortary soil and charcoal fragments. A thin line of lime plaster could be traced about 1 foot above the bones, sealing then in.'

Human remains: (A)² Very thick skull fragments. Well worn teeth. Femur in original position and about 18 inches 457 mm. maximal length, indicating a stature of about 5 feet 6 inches...'

Hunt 1964 plan:



Photographs (next page)

These are extremely poor quality, and give little useful extra information.



Text on rear reads: Note white / lime plaster / layer above bones

Scale approximately 1/18th / Bones of Human / Skeletons in Chapel Close / Winthill,
Banwell A.C.G.A.S. (ex) / 22nd Aug 1954 / PHOTO BY J. W. Hunt / (Light / meter / size)

Bone report (Human remains 1)

Photograph shows left femur, patella and partial left ulna. Part of right femur visible (and possibly right patella). Not clear if skeleton had a stone surround.



Processed image

Discussion

This is the only known photograph of 'Skeleton A'. Although Hunt discusses the skull, it is not included in the photograph.

Human remains 2

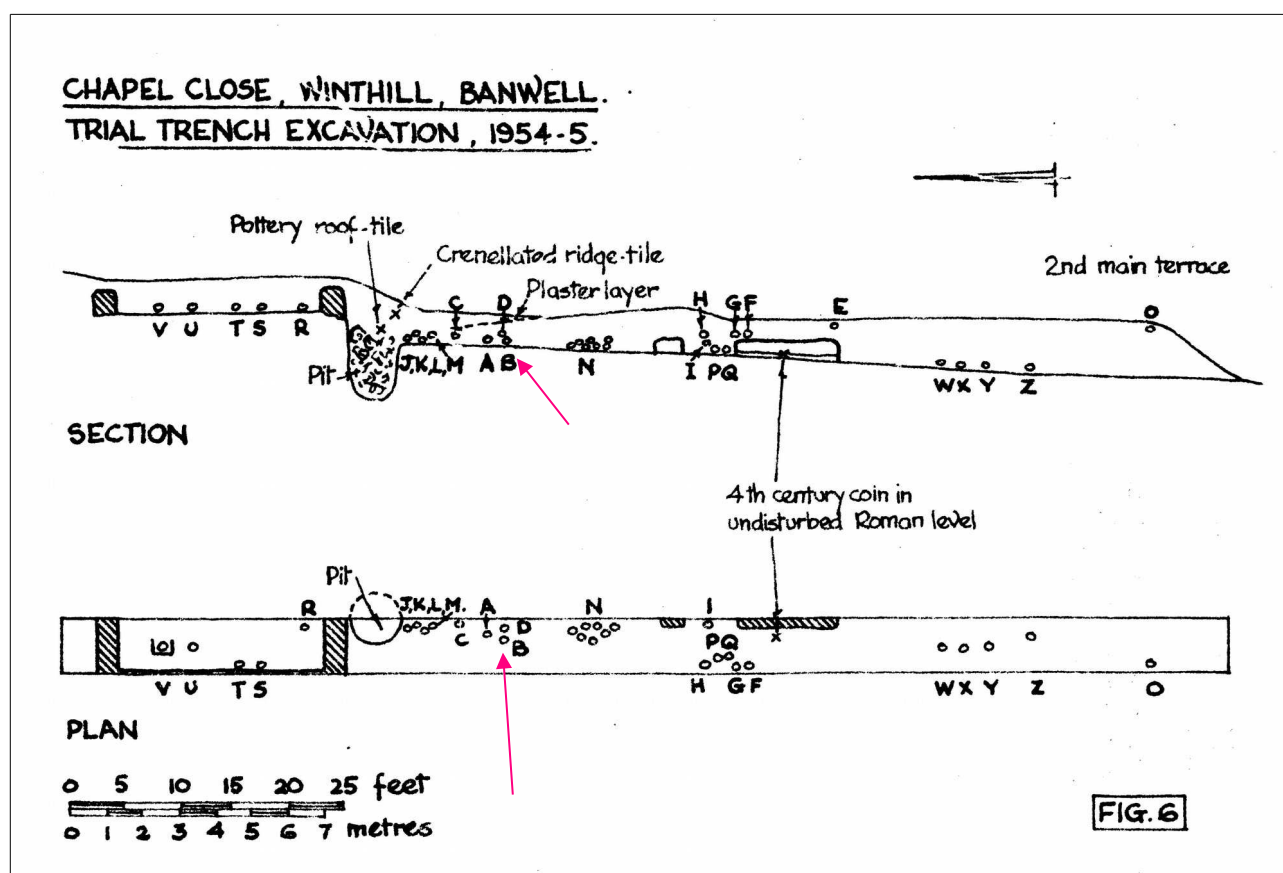
Formerly Skeleton B

Hunt 1964 text:

'... at a depth of about 2 feet 6 inches and 6 to 10 feet south of the tile, human bones occurred. These were jumbled and were mixed up with the mortary soil and charcoal fragments. A thin line of lime plaster could be traced about 1 foot above the bones, sealing then in.

Human remains:...Another burial (B) on the south side of this [A] was of a child of about 10 years old, 2 feet to 2 feet 6 inches deep...'

Hunt 1964 plan:



Photographs (next page):

The one photograph currently available was taken before the remains were properly excavated and cleaned.



It is assumed that 'skeleton B' refers to the barely visible bones on the right of the picture.

Text on rear of photographs reads:

Note white / lime plaster / layer above bones / Scale approximately 1/18th / Bones of Human Skeletons in Chapel Close / Winthill, Banwell A.C.G.A.S. (ex) / 22nd Aug 1954
PHOTO BY J. W. Hunt / (Light / meter / size)

Human remains 3

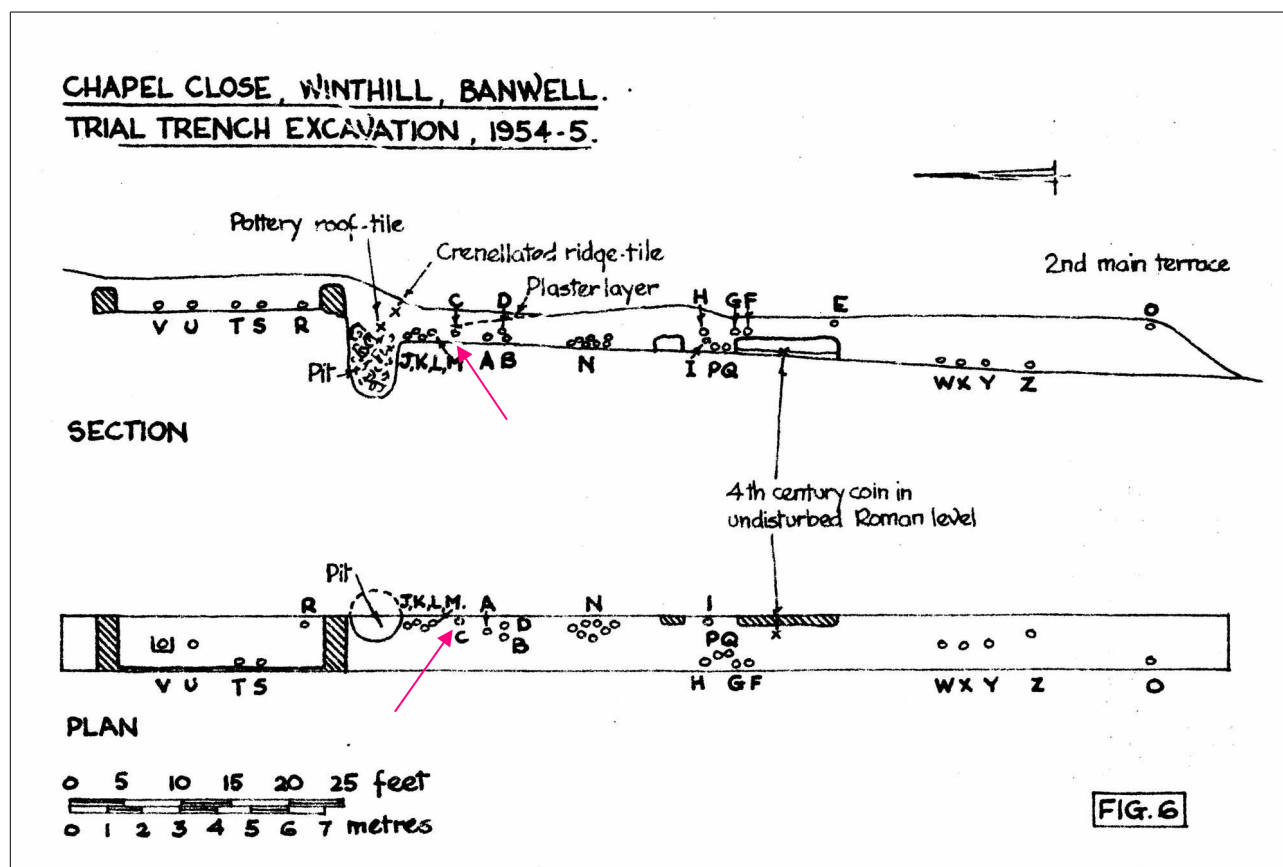
Formerly Skeleton C

Hunt 1964 text:

'...at a depth of about 2 feet 6 inches and 6 to 10 feet south of the tile, human bones occurred. These were jumbled and were mixed up with the mortary soil and charcoal fragments. A thin line of lime plaster could be traced about 1 foot above the bones, sealing then in.

Human remains: A third burial (C) was found on the north side of the first [Presumably human remains 1 / Skeleton A], and covered with a stone slab, but still just below the plaster layer.

Hunt 1964 plan:



Photographs: None known.

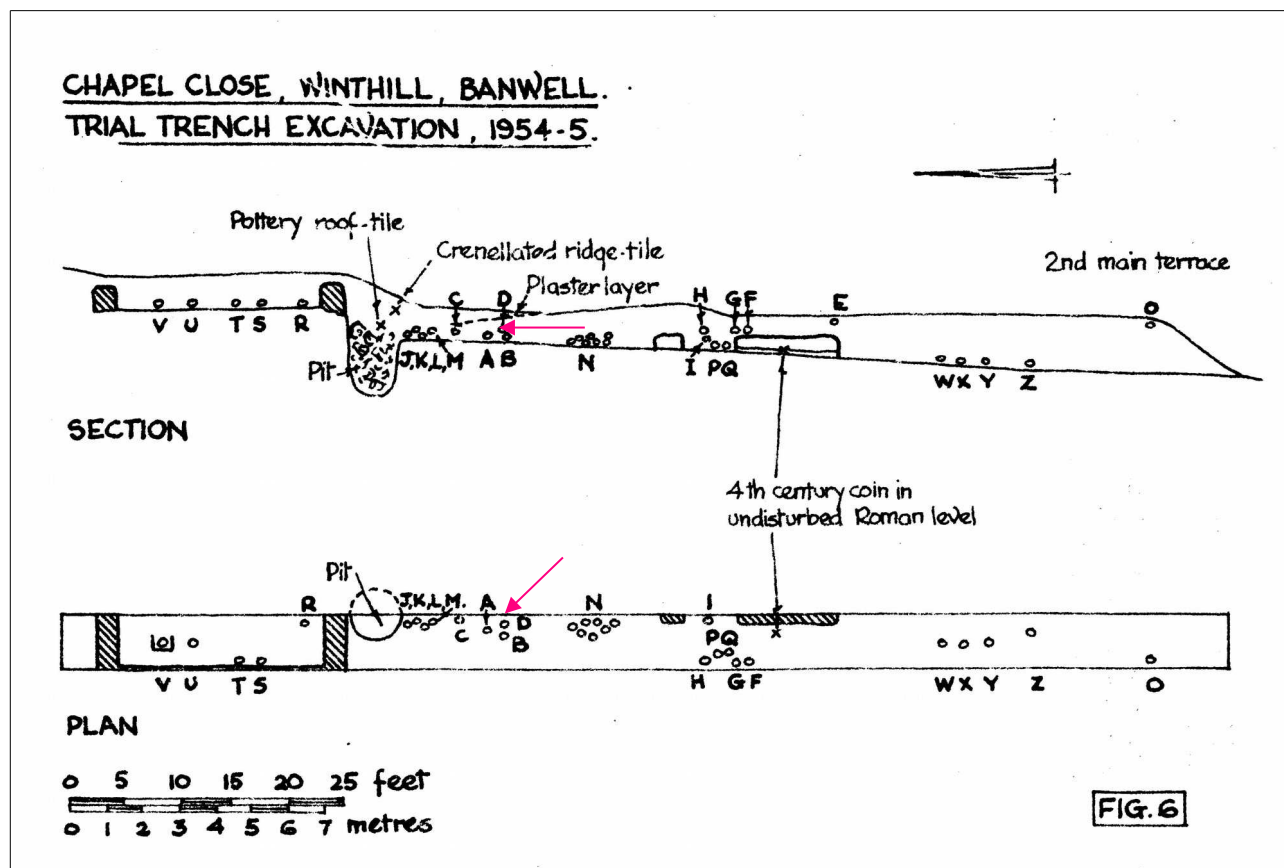
Human remains 4

Formerly skeleton D

Hunt 1964 text:

'More human remains were found in the same area as the others, including another child (D), 2 feet to 2 feet 6 inches deep'. This presumably means in the same area as 'skeletons A-C'.

Hunt 1964 plan:



Photographs: None known

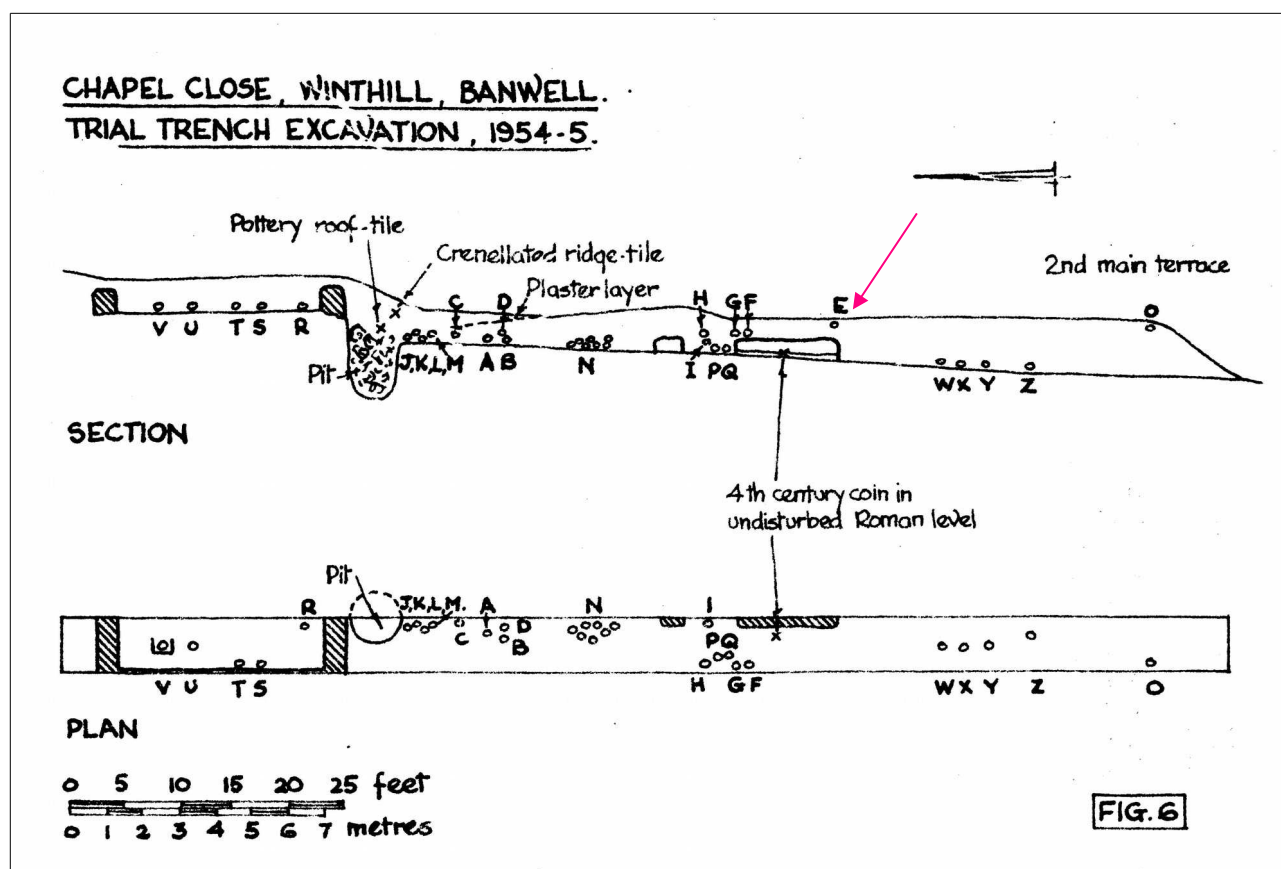
Human remains 5

Formerly Human jawbone E

Hunt 1964 text:

'...On 30th August the trench was widened to five feet, and it was decided to deepen it and extend it into the other terraces. Surface finds were much as before; Roman and medieval 14th century pottery, bronze fragments, a human lower jaw (E), skull fragments, some burnt human bones, nails, sheep-bones and oyster shells...'

Hunt 1964 plan:



Photographs: None known

Human remains 6

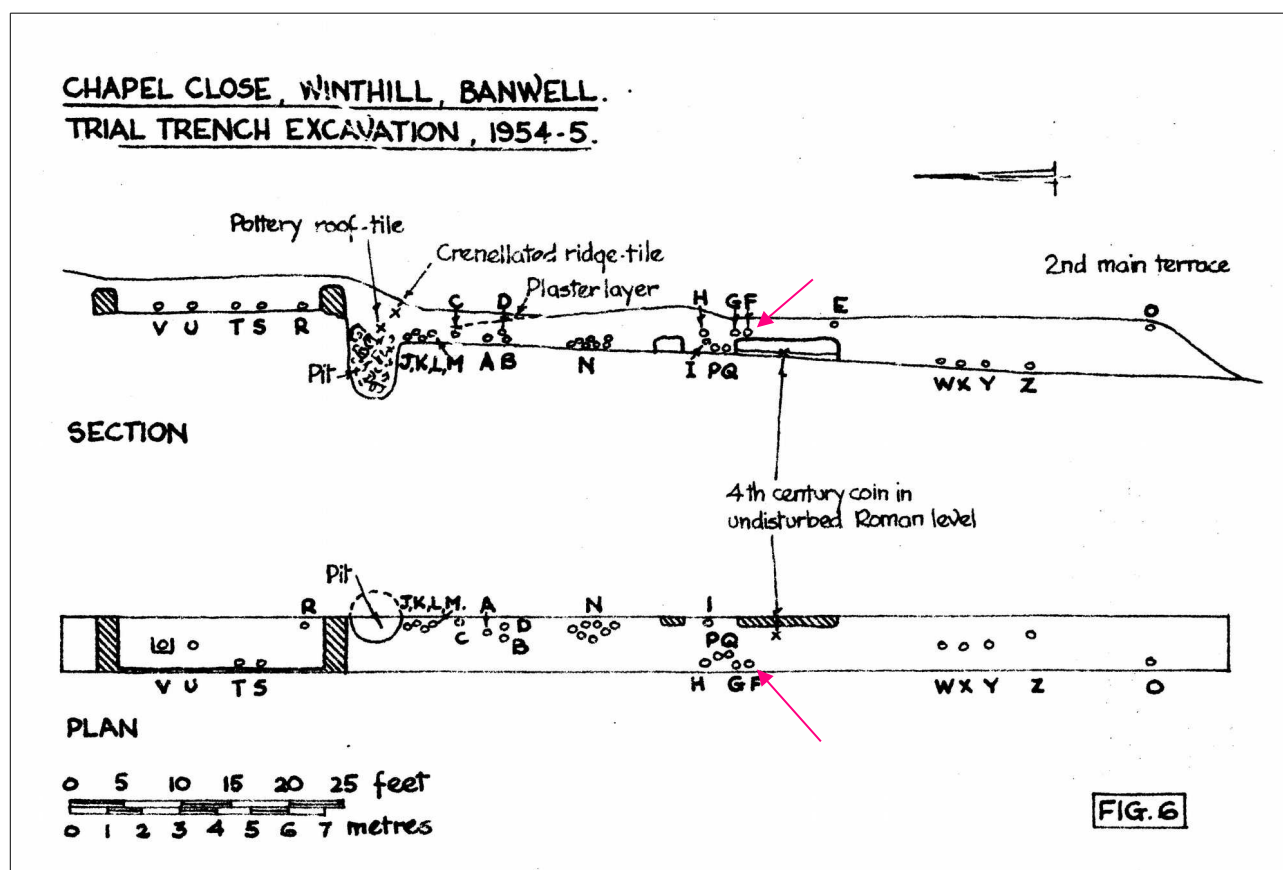
Formerly Skeleton F

Hunt 1964 text:

'In the south part of the trench, Roman building foundations were found, with associated portions of an undisturbed Roman level containing much pottery and a 4th century bronze coin. Two more burials (F and G) were found at a depth of 2 feet at the northern end of these foundations.'

Human remains: Skull fragments were reconstructible. The first was very thick and probably male, and measured approximately 178 mm. in length and 142 mm. in breadth - cranial index 79.7 (Mesaticranial bordering on brachycranial). No upper jaw.

Hunt 1964 plan:



Photographs: None known

Human remains 7

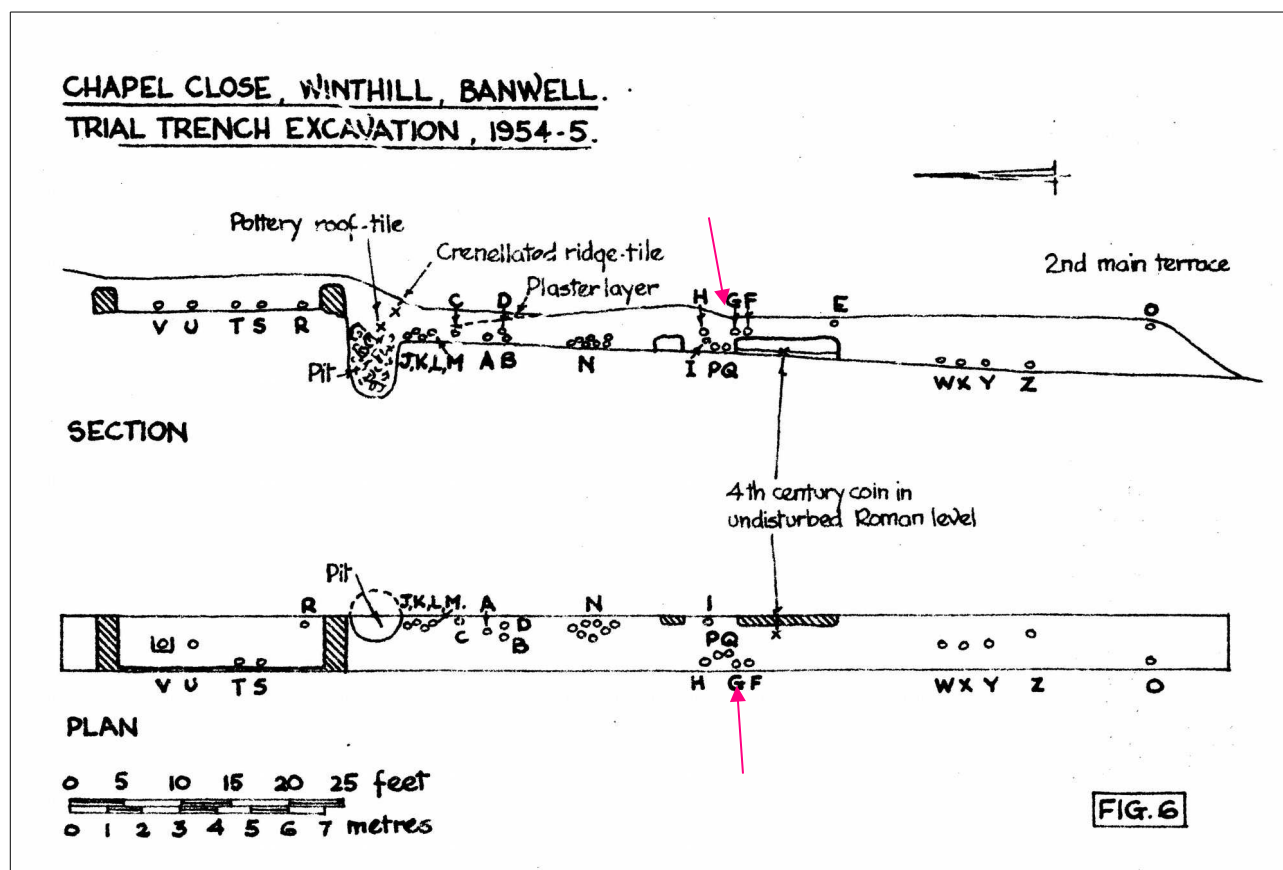
Formerly skeleton G

Hunt 1964 text:

'In the south part of the trench, Roman building foundations were found, with associated portions of an undisturbed Roman level containing much pottery and a 4th century bronze coin. Two more burials (F and G) were found at a depth of 2 feet at the northern end of these foundations.

The other skull was smaller and finer featured, possibly female, approximately 178 mm. in length and 135 mm. in breadth, cranial index 75.8 (Mesaticranial). Both upper and lower jaws well preserved, the lower having two decayed teeth.'

Hunt 1964 plan:



Photographs: None known

Human remains 8

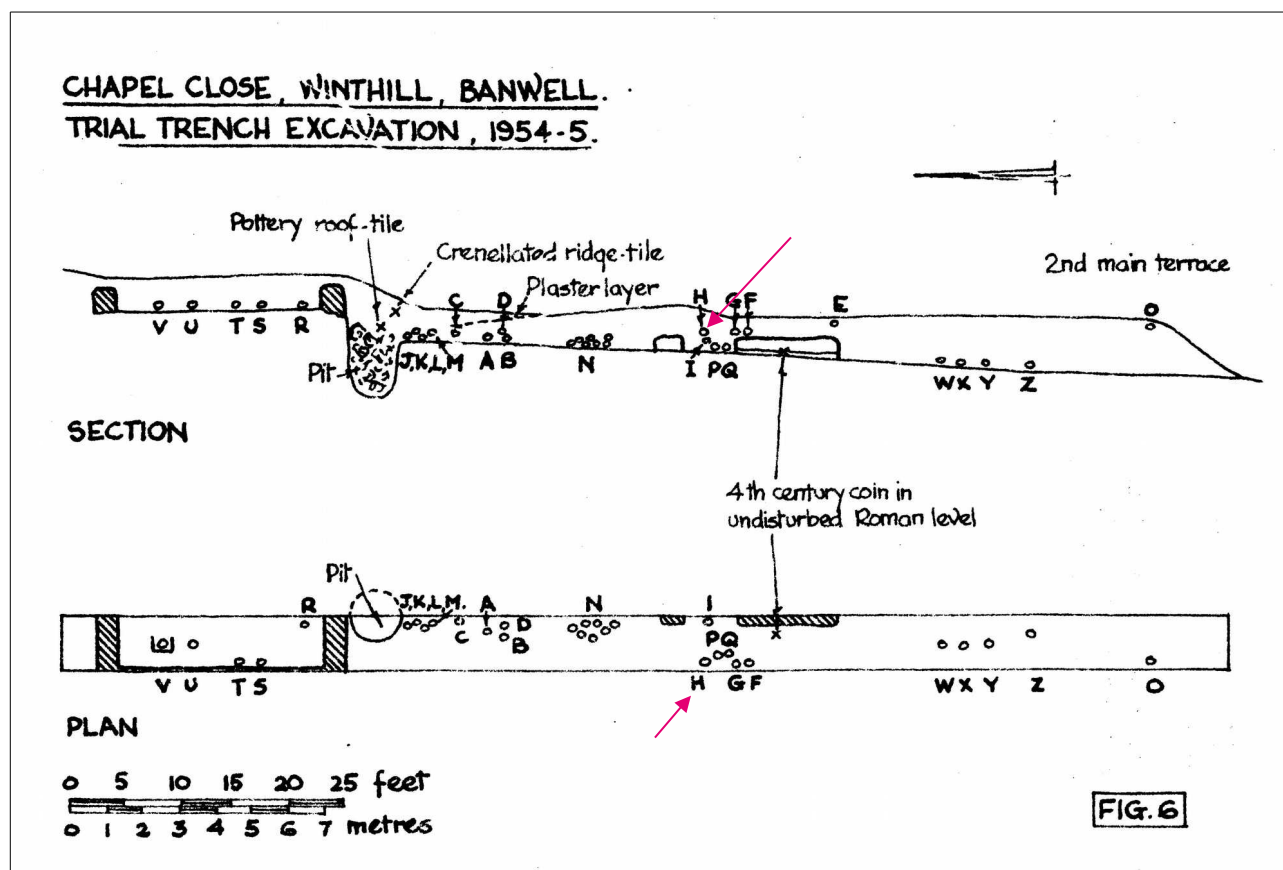
Formerly Skeleton H

Hunt 1964 text:

'A little to the north of these and on the same level, 2 feet deep, were further skeletons (H and I). The Roman foundations had been removed to admit the burials at that point.

Human remains: Complete skeleton of adult, probably female, about 5 feet 5.5 inches in height. Arms laid at side of body. 180 mm. in length and 142 mm. in breadth, cranial index 78.8 (Mesaticranial). The skull was propped up with pelvis from a previous burial in same place, femur of an individual about 6 feet in height being still in position between the tibias of complete skeleton (Skull in Museum)'.

Hunt 1964 plan:



Photographs: None known

Human remains 9

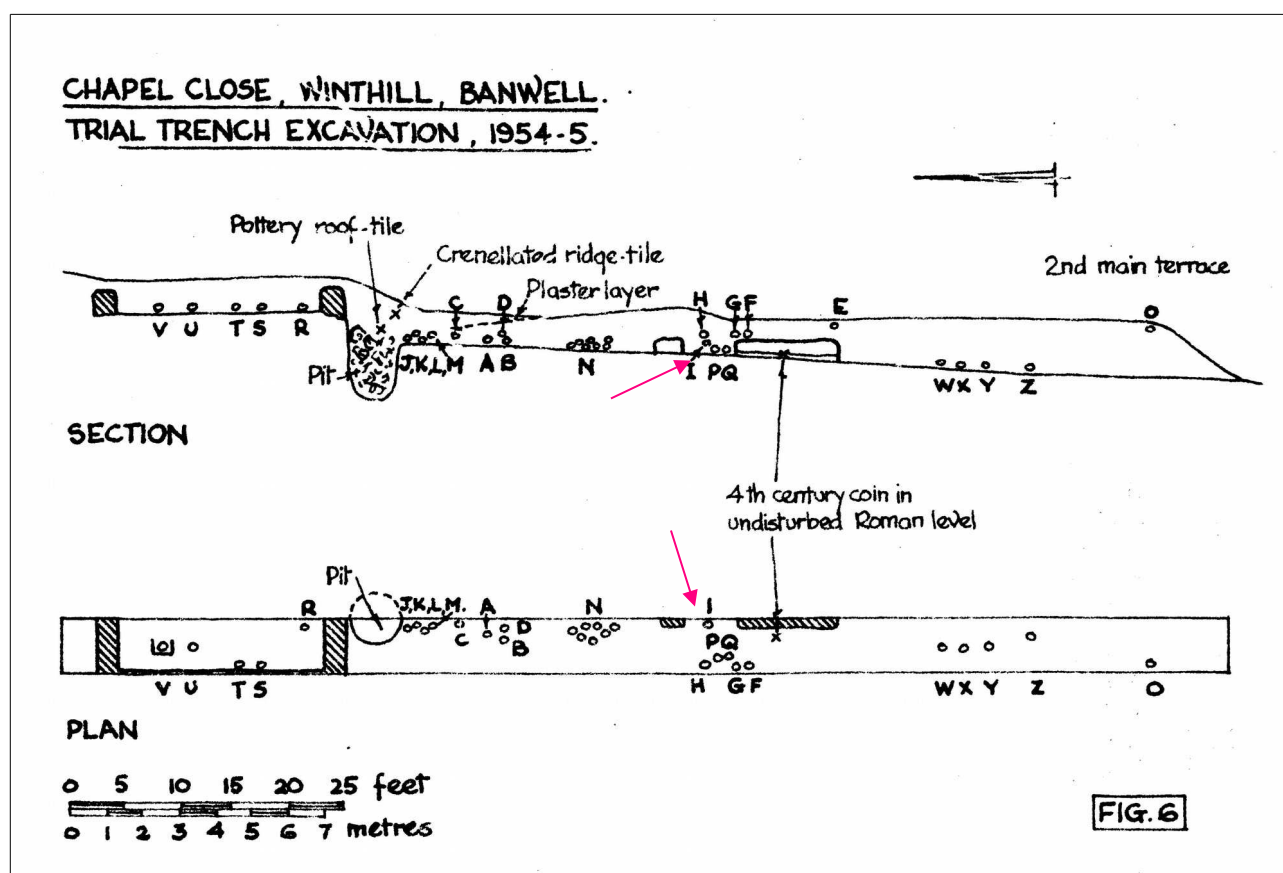
Formerly Skeleton I

Hunt 1964 text:

'A little to the north of these (HR 7 and 8) and on the same level, 2 feet deep, were further skeletons (H and I). The Roman foundations had been removed to admit the burials at that point.

The skull [of H] was propped up with pelvis from a previous burial in same place, femur of an individual about 6 feet in height being still in position between the tibiae of complete skeleton (Skull in Museum).

Hunt 1964 plan:



Photographs: None known.

Human remains 10-13, 50-51

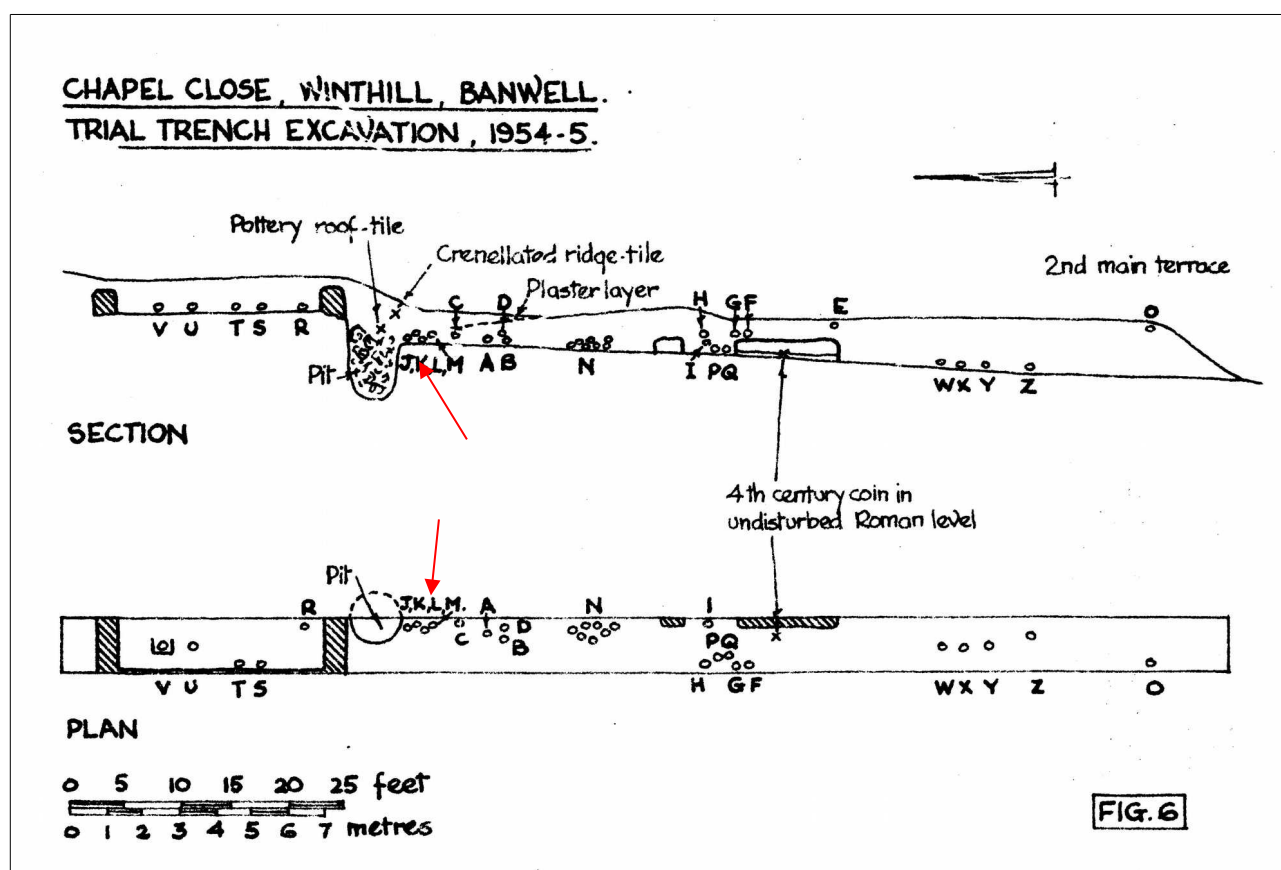
Formerly skeleton J, K, L, M

Hunt 1964 text:

'A little to the south of the 'well' at a depth of 3 feet solid rock was struck, and a piece of cup or jug handle (probably not Roman) lay on it, in the mortary rubble. In the area between this point and the edge of the 'well', more burials (J, K, L, M) were found at a depth of 2 ft., in a layer of soil beneath the mortary rubble, and extending down to solid rock.

Human remains: Much disturbed, Three adult femurs and three complete adult lower jaws. Two femurs. were each 14¼ ins. (375 mm.) and 15¼ ins. (400 mm.) maximal length, indicating statures of 4 ft. 6.5 ins. and 4 ft. 10 ins. respectively. Remains of a baby's skull also occurred. There were several pockets of charcoal, and a few of the ribs, still in their natural position, were partially burnt, apparently. One partial skull was about 149-150 mm. in breadth, cranial index probably over 80, male and of Beaker type. In the side of the trench were packed at least two other skulls, one of which, probably male, was 198 mm. in length and 145 mm. in breadth - cranial index 73.2, (doliochocranial), with evidence of a hooked nose and deep nasion depression. Other skull fragments were very thick. Some upper jaws had teeth worn right away'.

Hunt 1964 plan:



Photographs: None known

Human remains 14-20

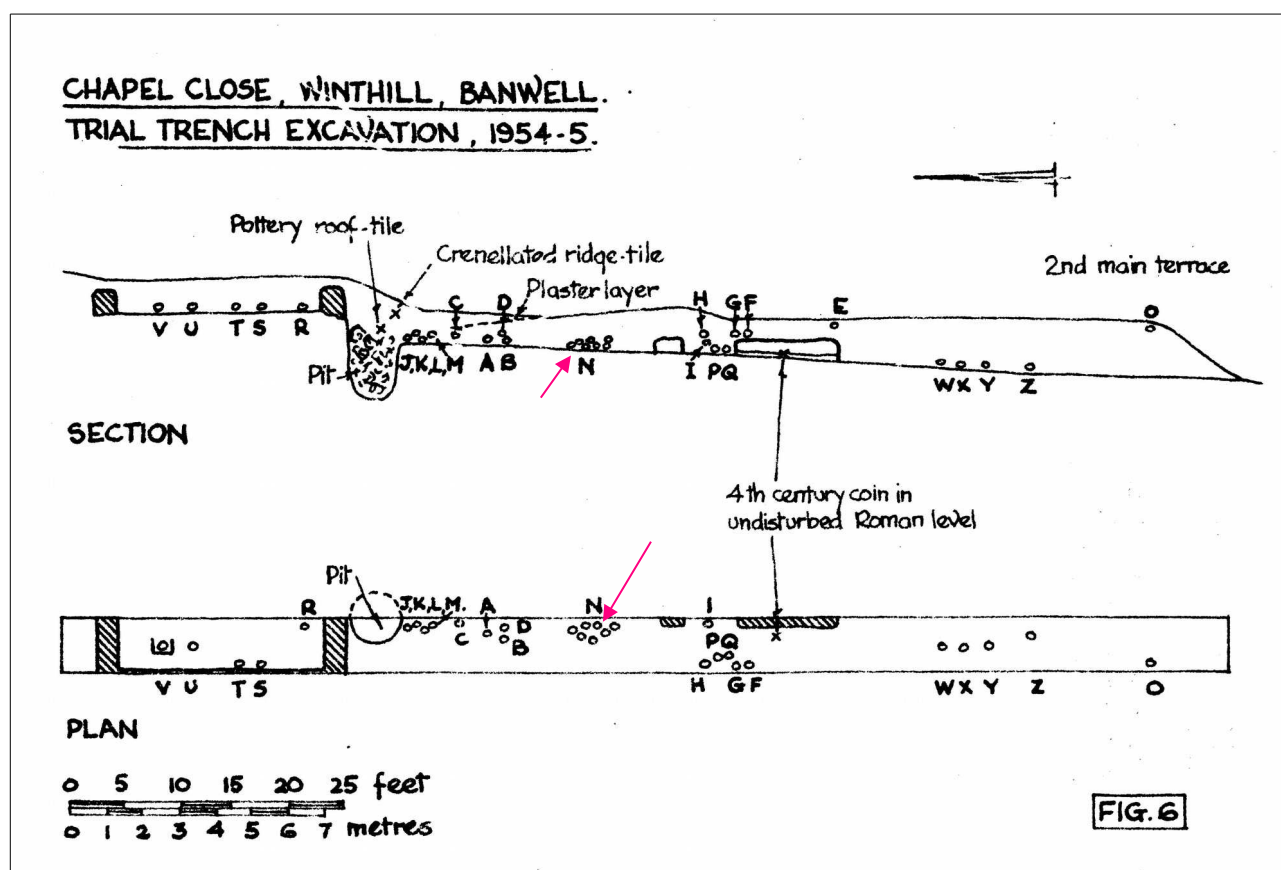
Formerly bone mass N

Hunt 1964 text:

'In the area between the first burial located (A) and the complete skeleton (H), six more burials were exposed in the trench (N). A fragment of medieval pottery was associated. Human remains overlapped one another, and only one skull was well preserved, but was damaged. It measured about (not certain) 178 mm. in length and 127 mm. in breadth - cranial index about 71, probably a child. A leg bone (tibia?) from amongst these was broken in life and not properly set, i.e. the ends had re-united in an overlapping condition. At least seven burials were represented.'

[Neither can the numbers be confirmed (6 or 7), but in the absence of photographs (at least) this entry is now not capable of being understood properly. I have assumed 7 burials to be correct]

Hunt 1964 plan:



Photographs: None known

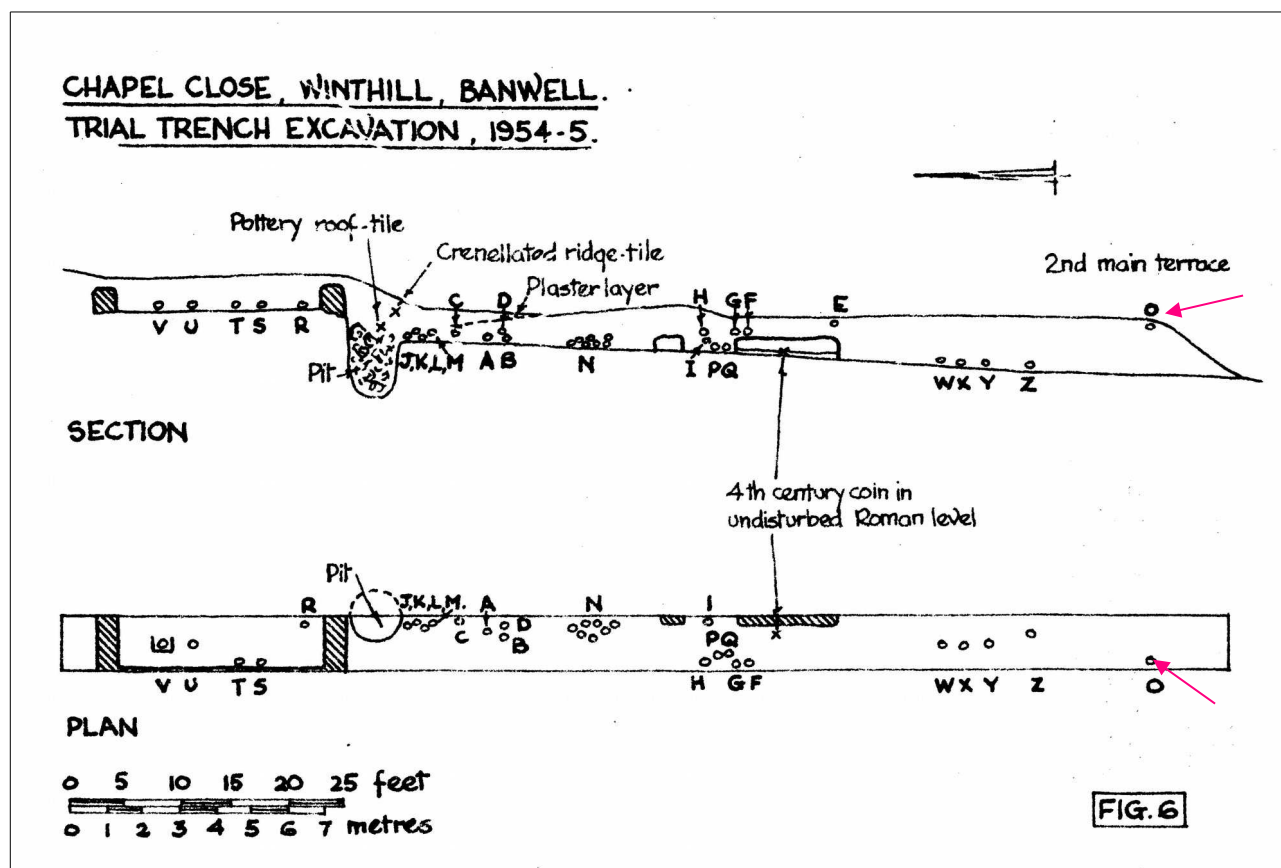
Human remains 21

Formerly skeleton O

Hunt 1964 text:

Human remains: On the edge of the lower terrace at the extreme south end of the trench, a right leg and pelvis (O) was exposed at a depth of 1 foot but the burial was disturbed.

Hunt 1964 plan:



Photographs: None known.

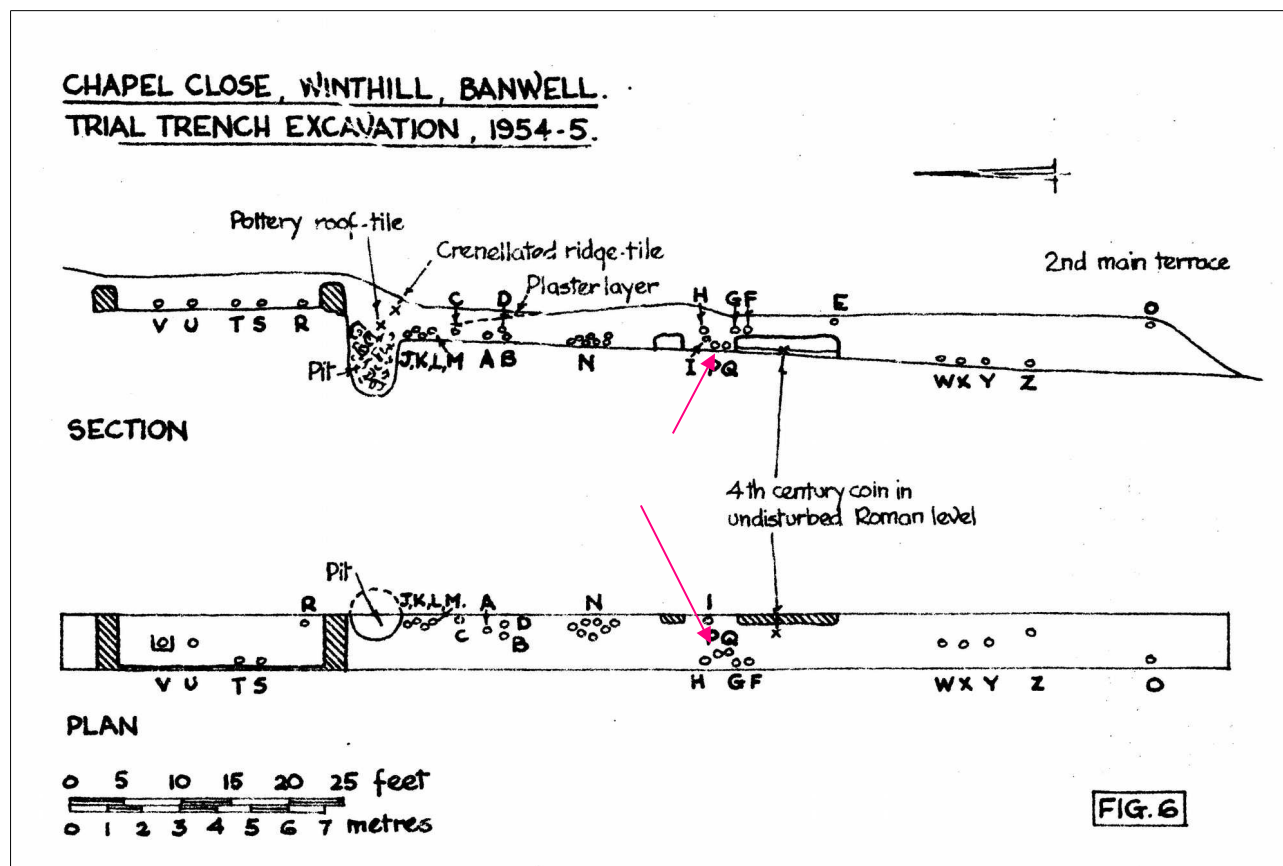
Human remains 22-23

Formerly Skeletons P & Q

Hunt 1964 text:

'Human remains: Two more burials (P and Q) were found, approximately where the two had been found on 18th September [presumably F and G], at greater depth, and almost below the buried Roman ground-level. The skulls were in small fragments'.

Hunt 1964 plan:



Photographs (on next page)



0004 Skeleton P (note stone lining of grave). Skull above is HR 24, not mentioned in text.

Human remains 24

The skull featured in the photograph below is not mentioned in Hunt 1964 (assuming that the two burials P & Q are Human remains 22-23).

Photographs



Human remains 24 (skull at top of photograph)



Skeleton P (and Q) (scale in inches)



Skull of skeleton P before full excavation



Skeleton P before full excavation



Skeleton P in 3-foot trench



Skeleton P





Skeleton P and skull HR52

Discussion

It is unclear whether these two burials are contemporaneous (clearly, the lower on photo 2 is a separate entity to the higher, and has its own stone lining). Hunt shows the two (P & Q) lying next to each other: clearly these two burials were in-line). The problem of the isolated skull then emerges: Hunt doesn't seem to mention an isolated skull.

Human remains 25-29

Formerly Skeletons R (now 25), S (now 26), T (now 27), U (now 28), V (now 29)

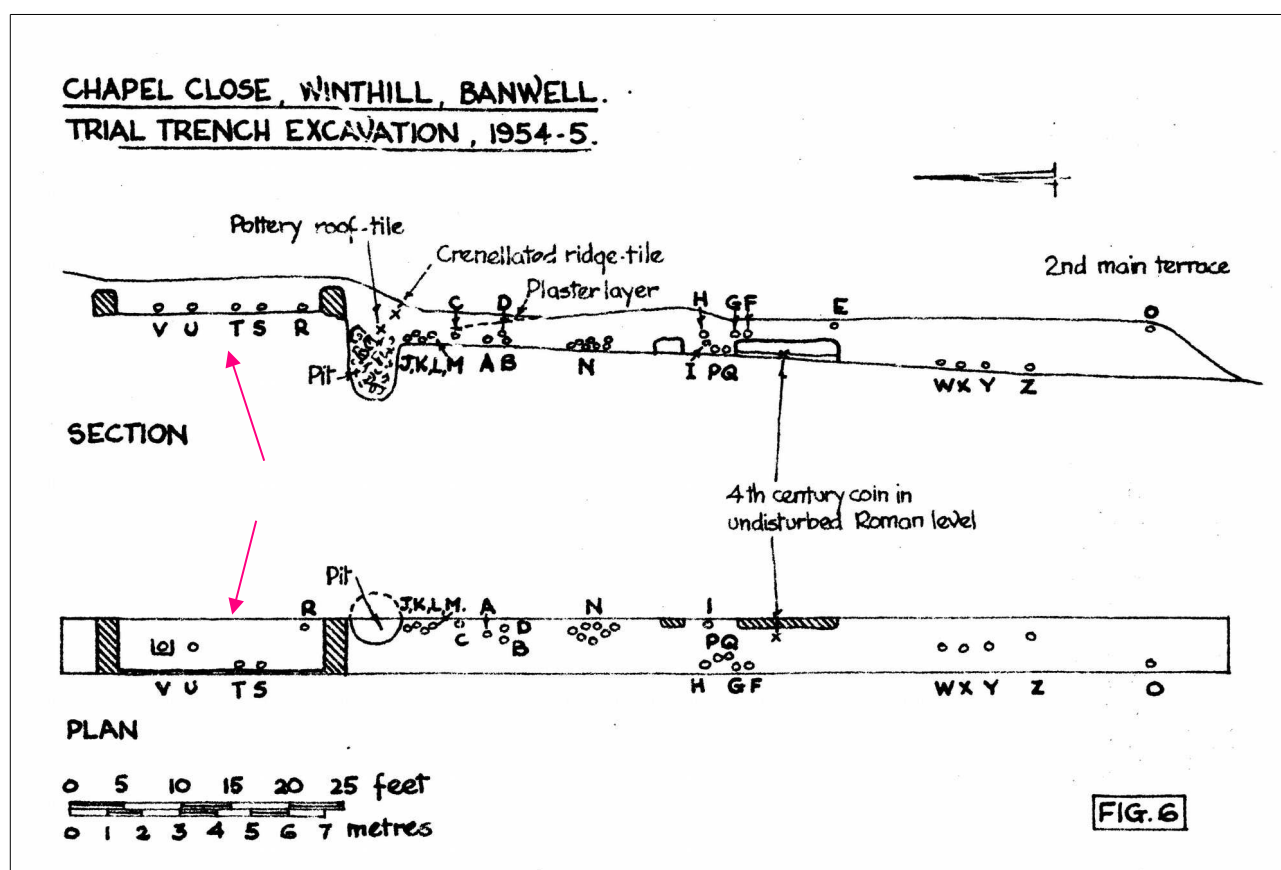
Hunt 1964 text:

'During December 1954, the trench was extended into the small terrace above the presumed wall. Human remains: Two more burials (R and S) were exposed in making this extension of the trench'.

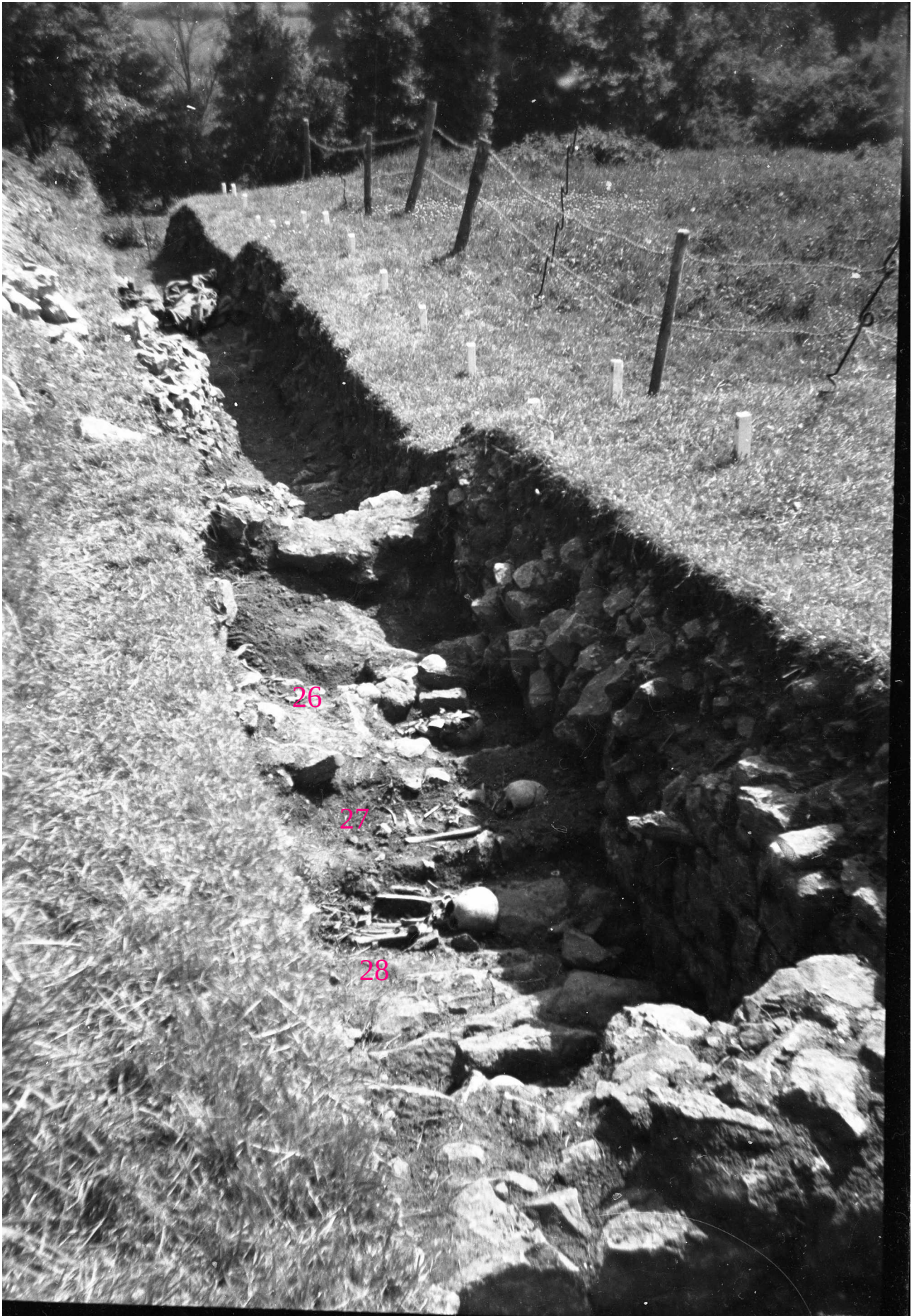
'The southern wall was mortared. and was a later construction than the north-south one. Within this room, and approximately on a level with the base of the walls, three more burials were revealed (T, U, V)...'

'Human remains: A total of five burials (R-V) were found in the room. Most of them appeared to have been edged round with placed stones, with each grave about 1.5 - 2 feet apart. Believed to be of individuals about 40 years old. The northernmost one (V), which was edged with extra large stones, had an unusual skull. The skull was small, low, and narrow, and almost cylindrical in appearance, with unusually developed brow ridges and large eye-sockets. The left side of the forehead had been pierced, though by what and when was uncertain. The pelvis and lower bones and arms were not removed. Measurements were not taken, but a photograph exists.'

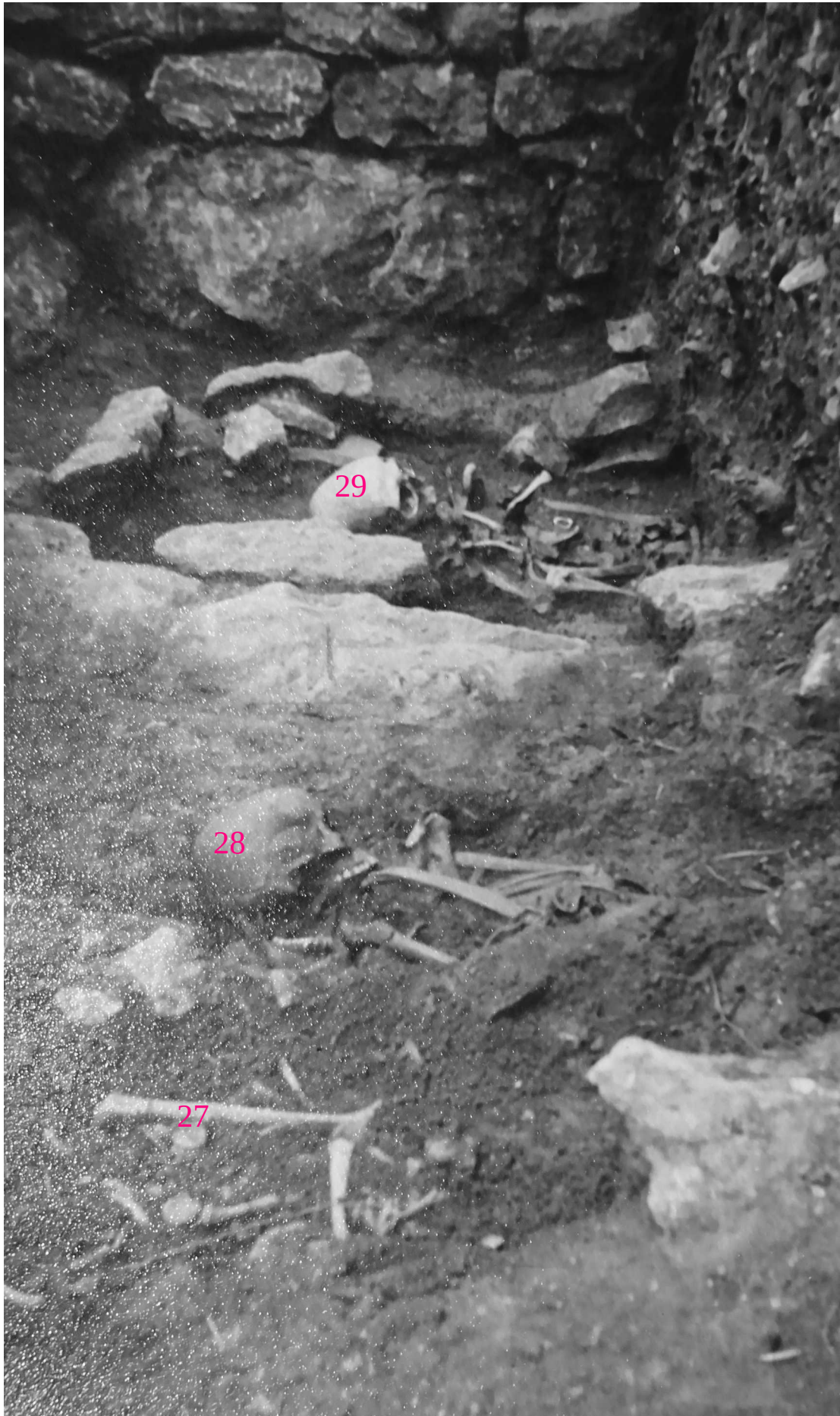
Hunt 1964 plan:

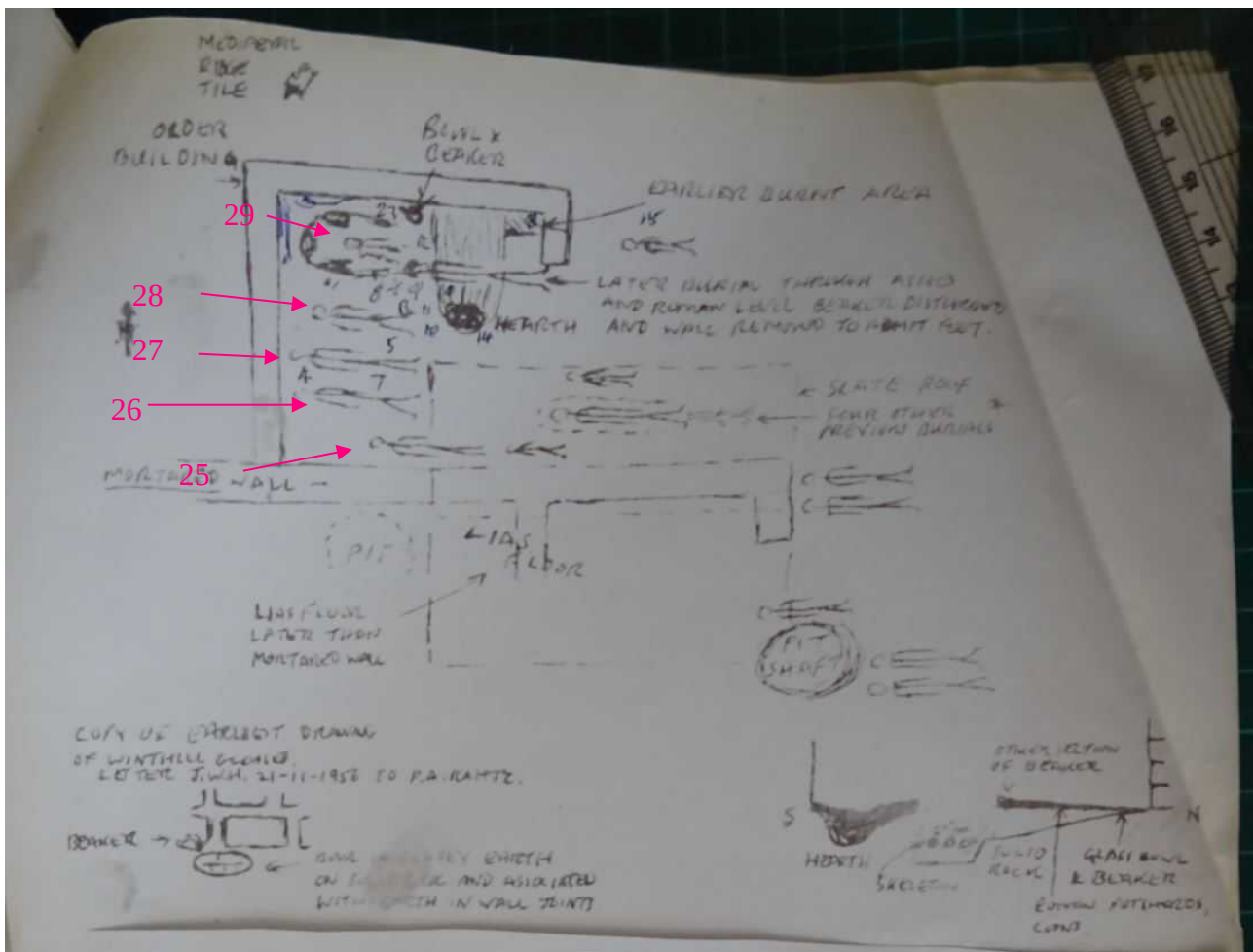


Photographs









Sketch (of unknown, post-1956 date)

Discussion

It was decided to discuss these as a group, since they were always photographed as such (with the exception of the one photograph of 29, formerly skeleton V).

Note Hunt states that 'most of them were edged around with placed stones' which seems a common factor in most of this cemetery. HR29 (V) is distinguished as a 'hyper-masculine' type skeleton, and also has larger stones for its edging. Coincidence? It is also the burial closest to the famous glass bowl, but no stratigraphic relationship can be established.

Human remains 30

No number or letter previously assigned

Hunt 1966 text:

'On July 18th and 21st [1956] pieces of human skull and some human bones were found (005) (disturbed burial in the SE corner of the excavation?)..' [1956 Grid A I]

No plan, photographs or other details known.

Human remains 31-32

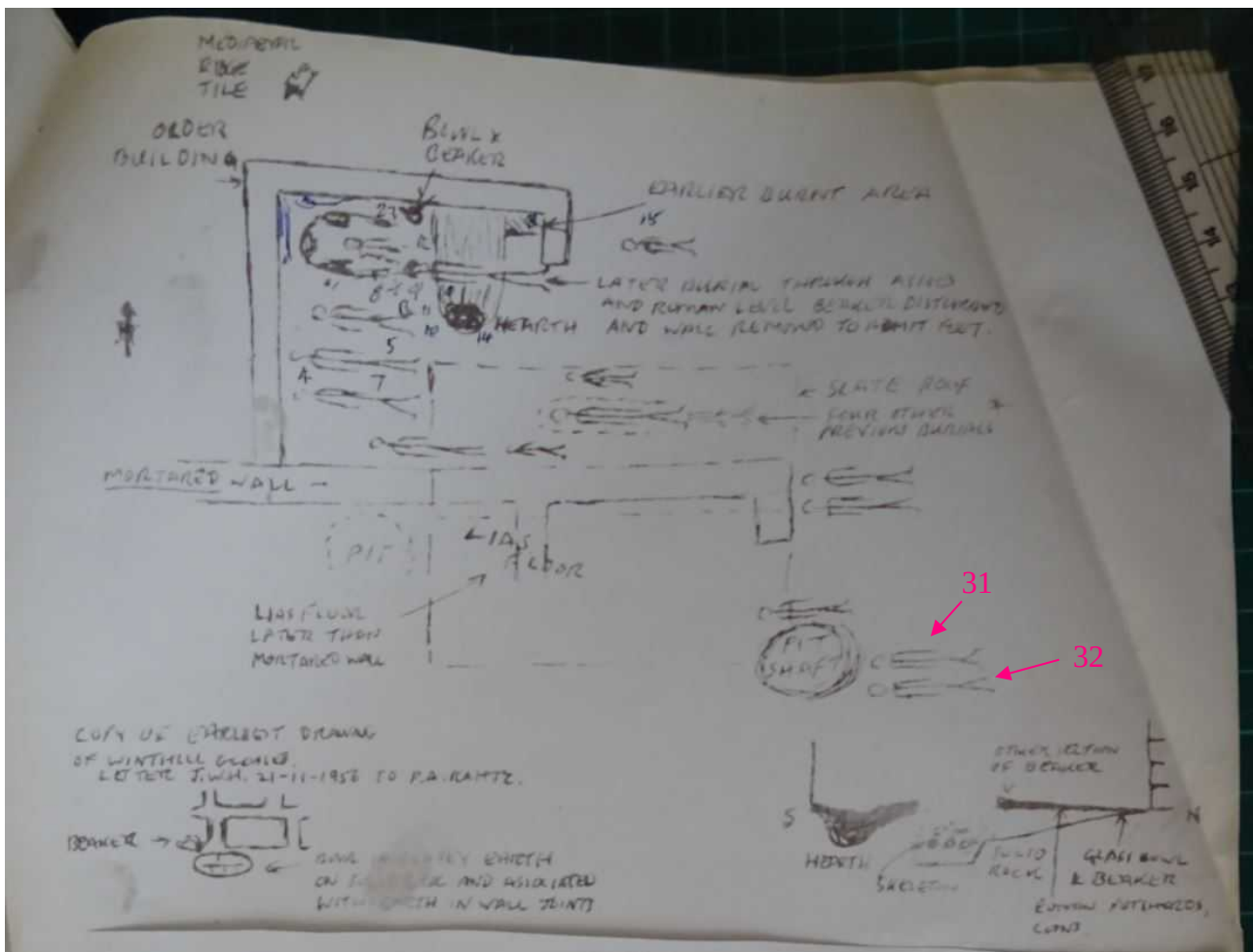
No previously assigned numbers or letters. From Grid A II.

Hunt 1966 text:

'...two human skulls (303;304) with stones placed around them were found in the eastern part of the excavation area, on July 11th [1956]. These were not skulls alone but the heads of two Christian burials like the others, but whose bodies extended eastward beyond the excavated area. Their manner of burial resembled the two found higher up in Grid B II...'

No plan or photograph known.

Sketch below probably represents HR 31-32 (among others).



Human remains 33

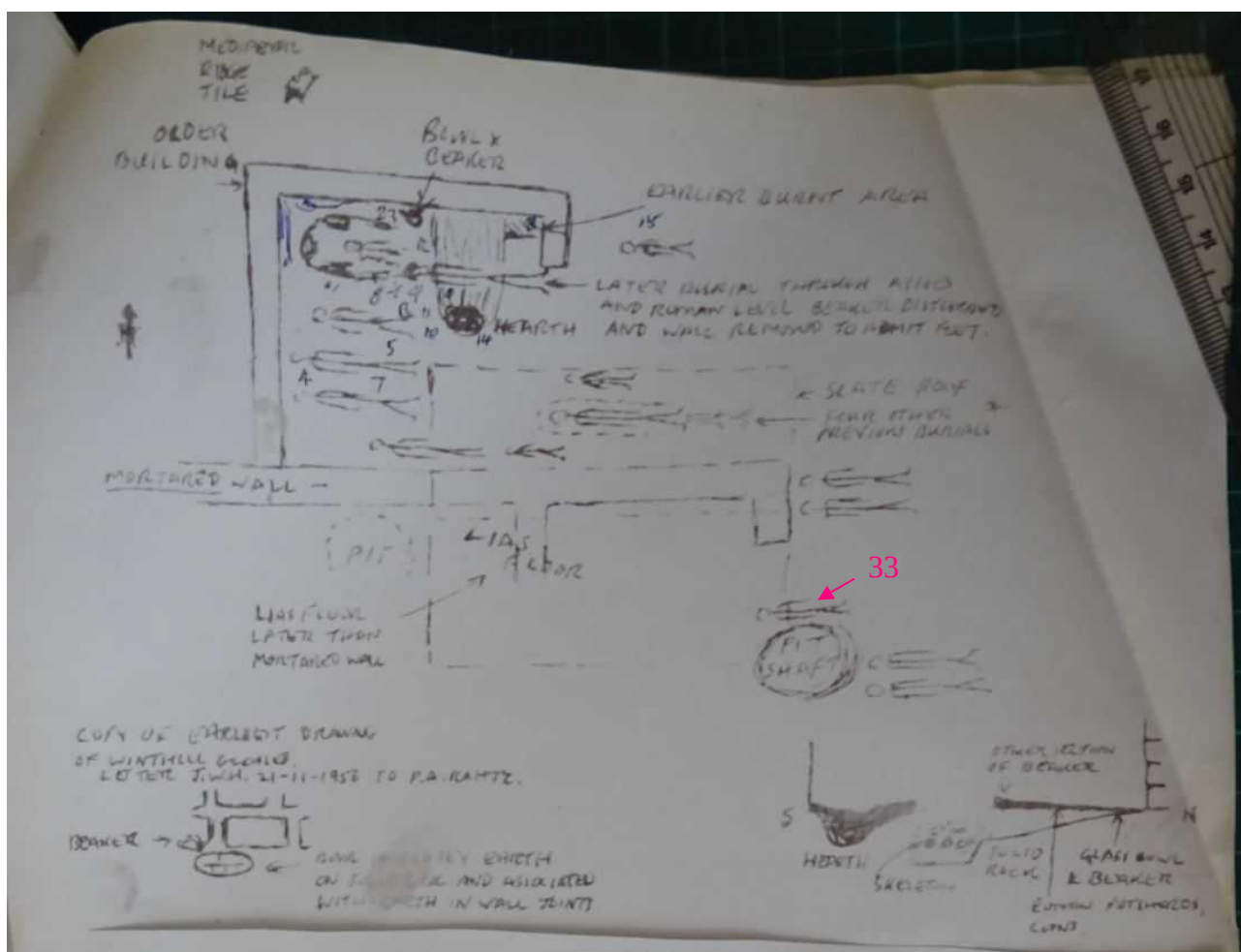
Not previously assigned any number or letter

Hunt 1966 text:

Remains of another Christian burial (305) (disturbed and lying on solid rock) was found against the north side of the excavation area [July 1956: Grid AII].

No photographs or plan known.

Sketch:



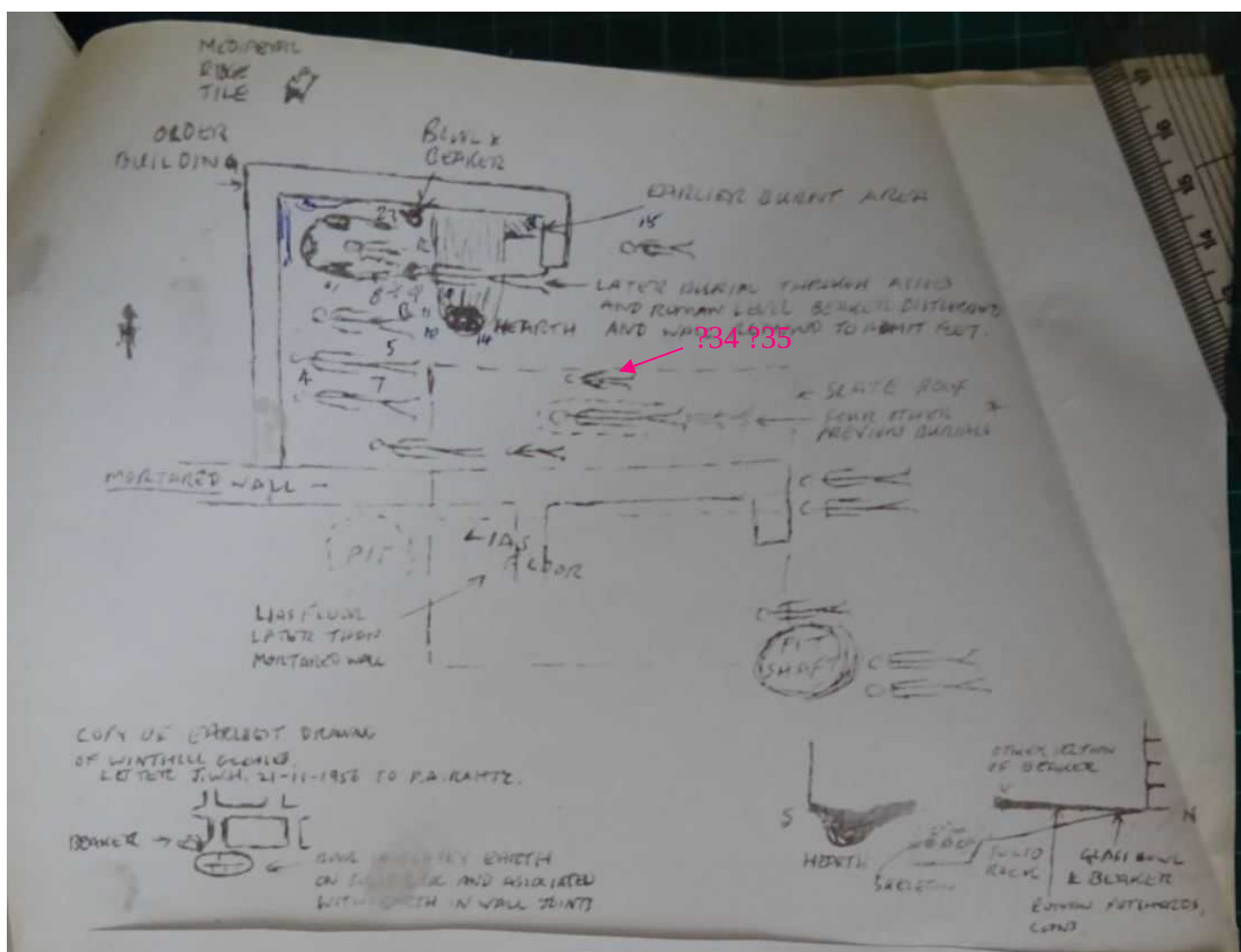
Human remains 34-35

Not previously assigned numbers or letters

Hunt 1966 text:

'On June 27th [1956: Grid B I] nails, bones, pottery and a flint were found, also the top of the a continuation of the E-W mortared wall located in the 1954-55 excavations (107). The bones were probably of one of two Christian burials of children'.

It is not clear whether the skeleton show in the sketch below represents one or both of these burials.



No known photographs.

Human remains 36

No previously assigned number or letter: this is the skeleton now in Axbridge Museum

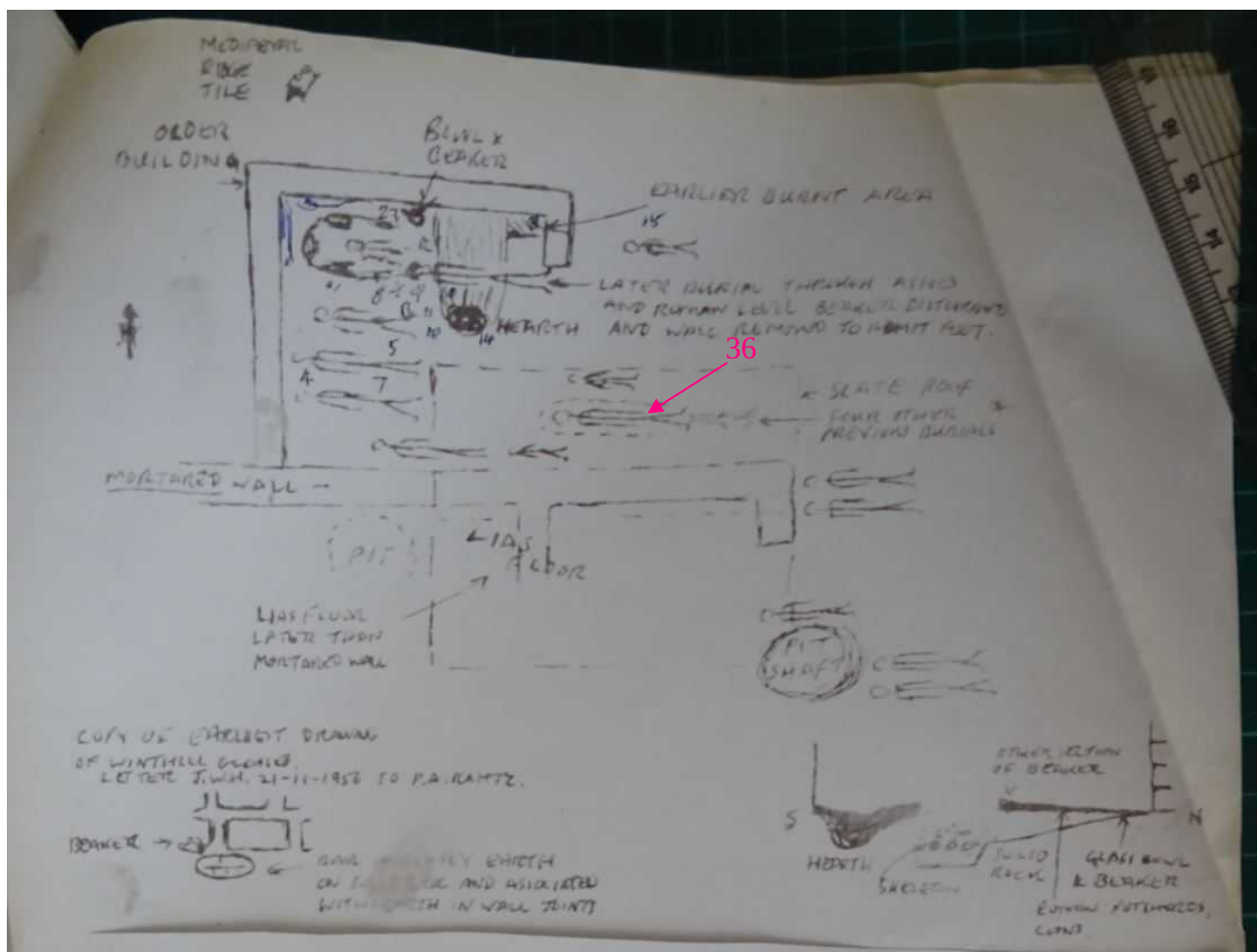
Hunt 1966 text:

'A complete adult human skeleton - the Christian burial of a man about 6ft tall - edged all around with small stones, was discovered in the central part of the excavation, on July 11th [1956] (104)...The adult skull was 197mm long and 143mm broad, i. e. long-headed, the cranial index being 72.5.'

'On August 22nd, the adult skeleton was treated with a special hardening fluid brought by Mr J Weare, and on September 1st the skeleton was removed in block form for reconstruction with in Axbridge Museum, with the stones in their correct position in their correct position around the burial. The burial had been made in a hollow in the solid rock. Part of the baulk between Grid B I and B II had to be removed to excavate the skull during this exhumation...'

'This was evidently a well-used burial place, and the exhumed one was the last adult burial, and this all was took place before the Mediaeval roof fell over the area.'

Sketch:



Photographs:



Skeleton HR 36 under excavations

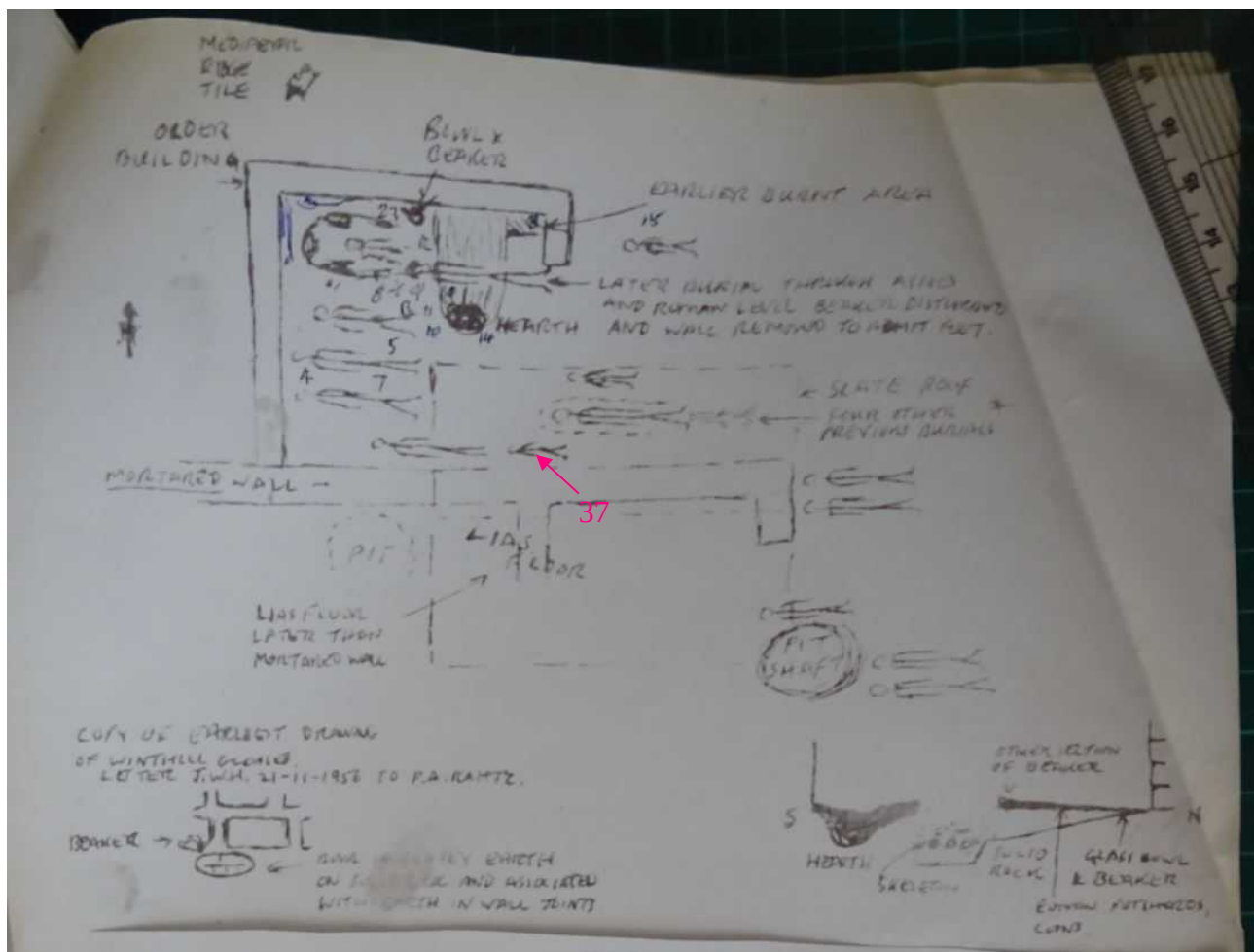
Human remains 37

No previously assigned number or letter

Hunt 1966 text:

'Part of another one [next to HR36], a child (105), was uncovered nearby [11th July 1956].

Sketch:



Photograph (next page):





'Georgina' slightly later. Photograph by H E Balch.

Human remains 38-41

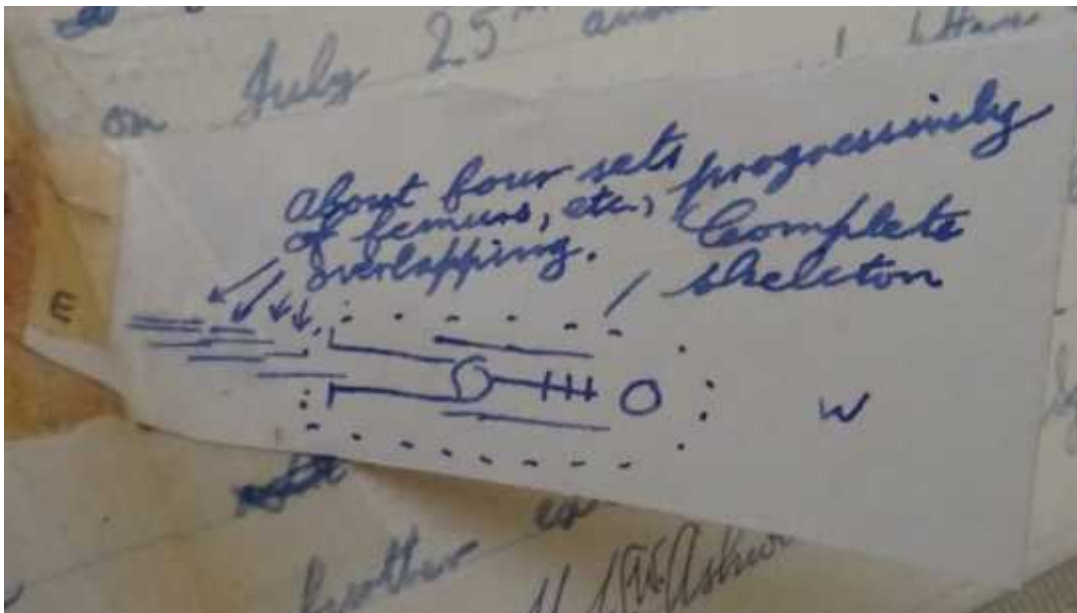
Not previously assigned numbers or letters

Hunt 1966 text:

'Part of the baulk between Grid B I and B II had to be removed to excavate the skull during this exhumation and it was observed that there were about four sets of [---] leg-bones (mostly adult) progressively overlapping one another way eastward from the adult burial (106)'. [August/September 1956]

No known photographs or plan.

Sketch:



Human remains 42

No previously assigned number or letter

Hunt 1966 text:

'..Below the turf (401) was the end part of the slate roof (402) and beyond this human remains (403) were found too..' [June 1956: Grid B II]

No known photographs, plans or sketches.

Human remains 43

No previously assigned number or letter

Hunt 1966 text:

'...on June 6th [1956: Grid B II] more human bones and potsherds were found...Presumably the human remains were from previously disturbed burials'.

No photographs, plans or sketches known.

Human remains 44

No previously assigned number or letter

Hunt 1966 text:

'...By June 27th more bones and pottery fragments had been unearthed [1956: Grid B II] ...Presumably the human remains were from previously disturbed burials'.

No photographs, plans or sketches known.

Human remains 45

No previously assigned number or letter

Hunt 1966 text:

'On July 11th, in following along the wall, it was found to turn abruptly southward (406), and against the foot of this southerly course, a Christian burial (407) edged round with stones (408) was discovered' [1956: Grid B II]

No photographs, plans or sketches known.

Human remains 46

No previously assigned number or letter

Hunt 1966 text:

'and on July 25th another (409) was found lying close by [\[Human remains 45\]](#) (husband and wife burials? see also Grid A II) [\[1956: Grid B II\]](#)

No photographs, plans or sketches known.

Human remains 47

No previously assigned number or letter

Hunt 1966 text:

'More potsherds, bones and ~~and another~~ a piece of glass were found during further excavation work, which continued until September 23rd. [\[1956: Grid B II\]](#)

No photographs, plans or sketches known.

Human remains 48

No previously assigned number or letter

Hunt 1966 text:

'Near the base of the eastern side of the excavation area the top of a somewhat juvenile Roman skull (205) was discovered on August 4th also pottery fragments. This was the head end of the Christian burial located in C II. [1956: Grid C I]

August 8th (502). Some bones were uncovered on the latter date, probably apparently foot-bones of the Christian burial (503) of a child located beneath the baulk between Grids C I and C II.

No photographs, plans or sketches known.

Human remains 49

No previously assigned number or letter

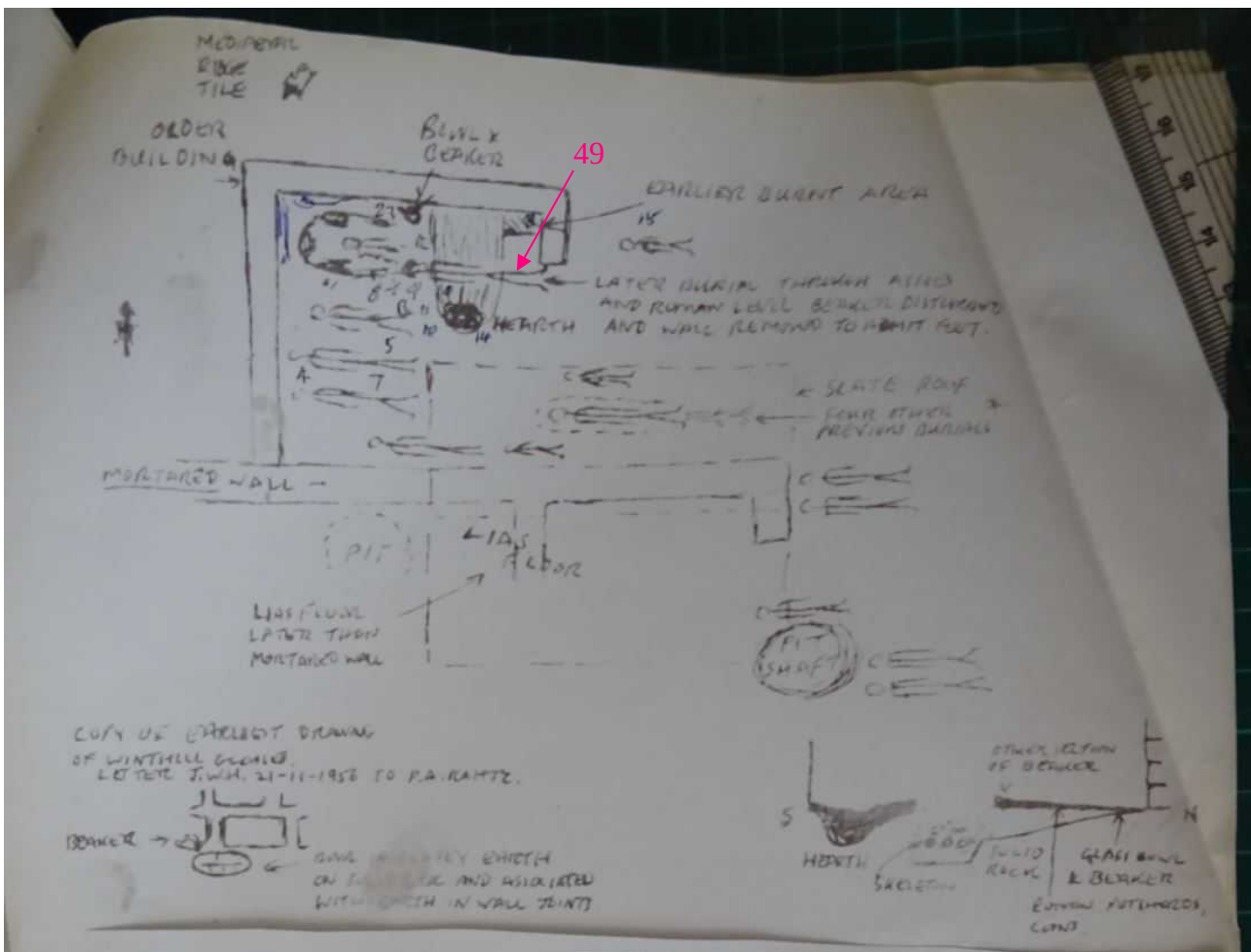
Hunt 1966 text:

Another Christian burial (210) lay in the centre of the grid, part of the southerly continuation of the east-west unmortared wall being removed to admit the feet. [1956: Grid C I]

The following day human remains - of a Christian burial (908) - were uncovered, those of the skeleton discovered in the centre of Grid C I, & whose burial (909) disturbed the charcoal layer.

No photographs or plans known.

Sketch:



Text reads 'LATER BURIAL THROUGH ASHES / AND ROMAN WALL BEAKER DISTURBED / AND WALL REMOVED TO ADMIT FEET'