

Archaeological Excavations of Palippotāna Megalithic Burials

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Introduction

The exploration yielded by Department of Archaeology and Heritage Management Studies of Rajarata University Sri Lanka is the megalithic burial Palippotāna, located in No.224 Ratmalgahawewa Palippotāna Grama Niladhari Division of Kahatagasdigiliya Provincial Secretariat Division in Anuradhapura district in 2020. The site code as, “The archaeological exploration of Kahatagasdigiliya – Ratmalgahawewa- Palippotāna Megalithic Burials of Proto-historic phases around upper Ma Oya basin and upper Malwatu Oya basin RUSL/PP/EXP1/2020”. Exploration was conducted based on some research problems as follows;

1. Was there any conceptual background at the orientation of the burials in the burial site? If it is, can we identify such adjacent remains from the interior of the burial?
2. Is it representing a burial rite from the symbol of cup existed during the megalithic burial tradition? What is that? Can we identify the material culture from the burial deposits?
3. Is it an adaptation of new burial architecture of using double orthostats parallelly known to as Menhir, to our country? If not what is that burial structure? What are the burial rites relate with?
4. Is it portraying any significant socio-cultural features of human groups from the archaeological evidences found in the burial ?

Many important factors on establishment of settlements during the Proto-historic phase, are endangered as this archaeological site has been deteriorating in great extent. Considering the research aims of the Palippotāna megalithic burial,

1. Gain the radio carbon dating's for Palippotāna megalithic burial.
2. Conduct a study on the strata of the burial site.
3. Collect data through an archaeological excavation, to study the distribution pattern of the burials and its relationship of proto-historic phase in intermediate river basins.
4. Identify the burial structure of double orthostats without the capstone.

5. Provide an exploration and excavation training for Archaeology undergraduates of Rajarata University.

After the exploration, an excavation was conducted further at the Palippotāna megalithic burial. The field name for the excavation titled as “The archaeological excavation of Kahatagasdigiya – Ratmalgahawewa- Palippotāna Megalithic Burials of Proto-historic phases around upper Ma Oya basin and upper Malwatu Oya basin RUSL/PP/EX/2020”.

Organization and the Proceeding

Conducting the excavation – Professor D. Thusitha Mendis

Senior Lecturer Thilanka Manoj Siriwardana

Academic, non-academic and group of students

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Mr. H. M. C. R. Abeyrathna (Photographer)

Location of the site of the excavation

The recorded burials during the exploration, numbered as 12, 15 and 13 which were selected for the excavation According to the plan of the burial, No. 12 recorded a Cist burial whereas the absolute location 8.52254852, 80.6688265. The excavation was conducted under the code of RUSL/PP/EX1/2020. It is identified as a rectangular cist burial and a well preserved capstone. The right orthostat is small in size and it might be opened for several times for the burial rites. Though the four orthostats flexed, the burial was not totally overturned. The burial No. 15 vertically erected as parallel double orthostats without a capstone. This type was first recorded by Ranjith Dissanayake at Karagahawela area in Monaragala, but not excavated (Dissanayake,2018). This burial is very significant burial type

recorded in Sri Lanka and excavated by University of Rajarata for the first time. It is identified with an absolute location of 8.52245559, 80.66874884 and entitled as a code called RUSL/PP/EX2/2020. The absolute location was recorded as 8.52256892, 80.66882895 in burial No. 13 is a square cist without a capstone consisting the code RUSL/PP/EX3/2020.

Preparation of the land for the excavation.

An area of 4×3m was selected for the archaeological excavation and the Vertical Excavation Method was used at the site of RUSL/PP/EX 01/2020. For the easiness 12 subareas were re-divided and each carried 1×1m. The respective subareas were named as A, B, C, D from north to south and 1, 2, 3 from east to west. RUSL/PP/EX 02/2020 was expanded in 4×4m area and 16 subareas were re-devided. The sub areas were named as A, B, C, D from North to South and 1,2,3,4 from east to west. The excavation of RUSL/PP/EX 03/2020 was with an expansion of 3×3m area and devided in to 9 subareas. Subareas identified as A, B, C were from West to East and 1, 2, 3 expanded from South to North.

Excavation Methodology

All the excavated areas oriented for North as 4×3m, 4×3m and 3×3m respectively and each subarea was divided into 1m² for the betterment of recording. The subareas entitled as A, B, C, D from north to south and 1, 2, 3 from east to west. Horizontal excavation method was used to excavate and context method was used to remove the soil. The excavation RUSL/PP/EX2/2020 limited to B2, C1, C2 and D2 subareas. The excavation RUSL/PP/EX3/2020 limited to the burial core.

Soil removal method

Context System which was founded by Edwerd C. Harris was used at Palipbothana megalithic site, as the soil removal method. Every natural or cultural phenomenon was considered as a context and a number was given. At the end of the excavation, the connection between the upper and lower strata was interpreted using the Matrix Chart.

Recording methodology

In this excavation following methods were used for data recording.

Measured plans

Cross-section

Three-dimensional images

Context sheets

Find cards

Coordinates

Samples

Photographs and videos

Description of the Contexts in RUSL/PP/EX1/2020 Excavation

Context Number 01

It consisted the capstone of the cist burial, made of granite gneiss which was naturally broken from the bed rock. Capstone had broken into three parts and the main stone splint recorded 207cm in length and 154cm in breadth. The stone splint with the minimum thickness of 10cm and maximum thickness 30cm was located at A2, B1, B2, B3, C1, C2 and C3 subareas. Other part remained at the subarea C3 with 9× 10cm. The capstone was slightly deteriorated, and faulting appeared at the weak mineral strips in the rock as a result; few cracks viewed on the rock. Four circular dips recognized on the capstone as artifacts, which was identified as cup symbol; imagined it would be a burial rite. From north-west to south-west of the capstone three cup symbols aligned in the same direction and the huge separated rock part of the capstone comprised another cup symbol. The plan portrays them as CM1, CM2, CM3, and CM4 respectively.

Context Number 2

The surface carbonic soil layer on the excavation area is context number two. This dry loose soil layer expands via the whole area with a thickness of a centimeter. It constitutes 90% of silt and 10% of carbonic remains. The context indicates the soil colour as 5YR 3/3 Dark Reddish Brown and no archaeological evidences found since this is the humus layer.

Context Number 3

This layer composed of soil layer with sand, clay and silt. It is a wet hard layer with 2.5YR 3/3 Dark Reddish Brown soil colour. The subareas of A1, A2, A3, B1 and C1 were filled with termites and no longer excavated those areas. Pottery wares, pottery sherd and coal found from the layer manifesting the human activities during the contemporary period. This layer shows many facts on burial rituals related with the burial. The layer records 60- 63cm thickness and layer was removed after getting the samples.

Context Number 4

A piece of granite gneiss of 13×18cm was identified as the context number four. It locates at the left side of the northern orthostat with in A2, A3 and B3 subareas. This rock which is quadrilateral in shape, expands up to the layer of context number 3, belonged to the soil layer of context number 6.

Context Number 5

The pottery remains found from the soil layer of context number 3, named as the context number 6. It appeared as a red ware urn or pot and 26 fragments of the body founded, but no rim parts. It can be imagined that this pot might have been used for the ritualistic purposes in the burial. No other artifact or eco-fact was found from the layer. It was at a depth of 30cm from the surface.

Context Number 6

A fine, slightly loose layer expanded in the whole excavated site. Context number 6 can be known as a sub deposition occurred during the period of the soil deposit of context number 3. Soil colour recorded as 2.5YR 3/3 Dark Reddish Brown.

Context Number 7

The vertical cut used for erecting the orthostats in the burial is identified as context number 7. This cut has been done in the context number 3. It is rectangular in shape with north-west and south-east orientation, extending up to the soil layer in context 29.

Context Number 8

The northern orthostat belongs to the context number 8. It had faulted from Biotite gneiss and naturally broken from the bed rock. This expanded in less thickness to the direction of west. It can be identified as a well preserved and permanent orthostat 68cm, 25 cm and 98cm in length, breadth and height respectively.

Context Number 9

The eastern orthostat of the burial belongs to context number 9. It is a granite gneiss of 160cm, 20cm, 90 cm in length, breadth and height respectively. This orthostat is higher than relative to the other orthostats. Accordingly, the orthostat is located with an inclination of 30°, in order to connect with the northern orthostat externally. Moreover, the gap between the northern and eastern orthostat, was covered by pieces of rocks. It is clear that they

focused to establish the capstone in a stable way as the pinnacle of the four orthostats located in an equal summit.

Context Number 10

The southern orthostat of the burial belongs to context number 10. Its upper part has been broken into pieces and located at the right side of the burial. Due to the deterioration of the orthostat and the pressure of the capstone towards down might be the reasons that can be imagined for this disintegration. Remained orthostat was 60cm, 18cm, 35cm in length, breadth and height respectively.

Context Number 11

The western orthostat of the burial belongs to context number 11. Due to the pressure exerted by the capstone it had inclined 38° , rushed outwards the burial. The orthostat yielded 158cm, 22cm, 80cm in length, breadth and height respectively.

Context Number 12

The interior cut caused due to the establishment of the orthostats of the burial belongs to the context number 12.

Context Number 13

The internal soil filling of the burial belongs to context number 13. The filling composition recorded as 66.6%, 22.3% and 11.1% of sand, clay and silt. The soil colour identified as 2.5YR 4/8 Red and the filling was loose in nature. It can be considered as a deposition which expands towards 22 and 29 soil depositions. The thickness of the northern and southern orthostat was 60cm and 46cm respectively. The deposition close to the southern orthostat was less in thickness because of the pressure of the capstone and the impermanence of the orthostats. Inside the middle of the soil filling the context numbers of 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27 and 28 included. The north-eastern part of the deposition was enriched with the activities of ants. Parts of the bones and beads which spread out from the main burial urn in context number 17 recognized from the bottom levels of this interior soil deposition.

Context Number 14

The stone splinter located at the sub areas of D2 and D3 in the south-west outwards the burial recognized as context number 14. The rock which is located on the third context's soil layer, featured as 77cm, 50cm, 37cm in length, breadth and height respectively. This was

founded at 35cm in depth in the site and expanded upto 72cm. It is not clear whether this stone was erected for a ritualistic purpose.

Context Number 15

The small stone slabs distributed for southern direction from the burial belonged to the context number 15. The context can be identified at D1, D2 and D3 from the subareas of the soil layer in context number 3. The stone slabs expand within a range of 3. 20×15×05 - 04×03×02 cm. These stone slabs yielded at a depth of 69cm from the surface level and pottery wares of the context number 20 appeared concurrently here.

Context Number 16

Highly deteriorated, black and red ware recognized from the context number 16. This ware identified close to the eastern orthostat belonged to the soil filling of context number 13. This pottery sherd can be recognized as a base of a cup.

Context Number 17

The pottery sherds which can be considered as the main burial urn belonged to the context number 17, located at the soil layer of context number 22. The pottery ware which located closer to the southern orthostat was deteriorated due to the pressure of the capstone and the orthostats. Different models of the pottery wares, few glass beads and a copper artifact yielded from the premises. Many bone remains were recognized from the urn and this context found at 61cm of depth from the surface.

Context Number 18

Highly deteriorated, black and red ware were recognized from the context number 18. This pottery ware recorded from the soil filling of the context number 13 at a lower level of the context number 16.

Context Number 19

A collection of the pottery sherds in the soil layer of the context number 3 was identified as the context number 19. The excavation was conducted at 100cm in breadth and expanded for 40cm at right side in order to yield the pottery wares from D2 and D3 sub areas in the right bank. The area of the context recorded as 40×40 cm, meanwhile rims and body parts of red wares, black and red wares were found.

Context Number 20

The pottery wares in the soil layer of context number 3 was recognized as the context number 20. Though the pottery wares dispersed in south oriented way, it might be distributed over the whole excavated area. It can be hypothesized that pottery wares deposited due to the cultural and natural phenomenon. Accordingly, the rim and body parts of red wares, black and red wares were yielded from the site.

Context Number 21

A small sized pottery ware were found from the outside of the burial at D2 subarea. A well preserved black and red ware in cup model were found from the soil layer of the context number 3.

Context Number 22

Context number 22 identified as a soil deposit had been used for a base to deposit the urn located in context number 17. Slightly hard and dry sand found in the composition of 33.3%, clay 33.4% and silt 33.3%. the soil colour identified as 2.5YR 3/6 Dark Red and the soil layer was loose with moisture.

Context Number 23

Stone slabs found close to the western orthostat in the soil deposit of the context number 13, recorded with sizes of 12×9cm, 8×6cm, 15×4cm, 6×5cm and 8×6cm. It is recorded in various levels in the middle of the burial. It can be imagined, it would be deposited inside the burial with reference to the context numbers 24-28.

Context Number 24

A red ware in a model of a lid yielded closer to the western orthostat in the soil deposit of the context number 13.

Context Number 25

A collection of pottery wares located close to the western orthostat at the north of the context number 24. Factors of two pots or an urn model black and red ware recognized.

Context Number 26

The pottery wares located close to the western orthostat of the burial was identified at context number 13 soil layer for the at the context number 25

Context Number 27

A cup model, red ware located over a stone splinter belonged to the context number 23, which is close to the western orthostat in soil layer of context number 13 identified.

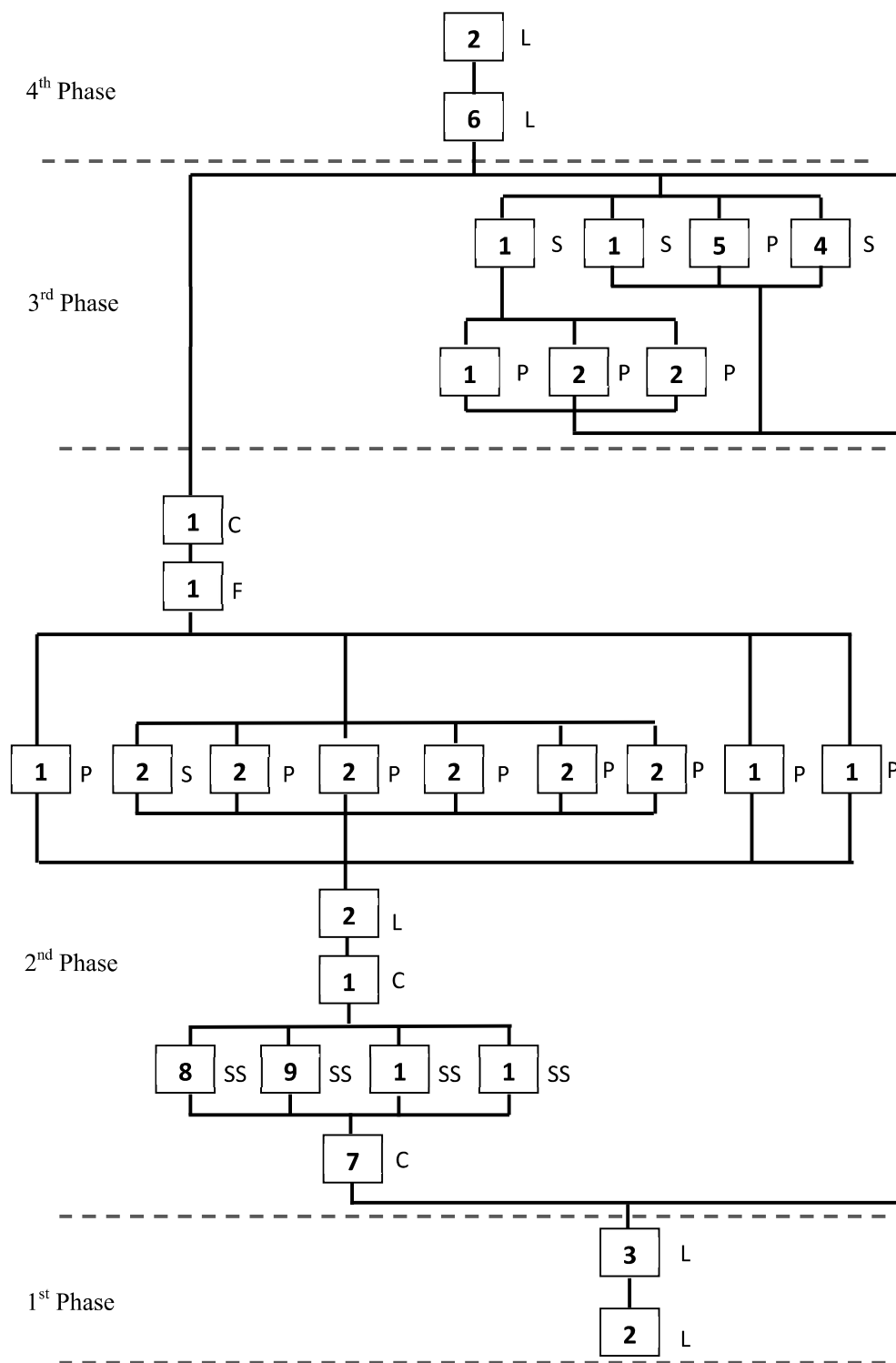
Context Number 28

Close to the western orthostat inside the soil deposit of context number 13, pottery ware collection yielded at the north of the context 27. Body sherds of a red ware and few bone remains recognized.

Context Number 29

It is a main soil layer which deposited after the third context layer. Sand and clay composition recorded as 64% and 36%. A hard layer and soil colour identified as 5YR 3/3 Dark Reddish Brown. The cut made for the construction of the burial extends up to this layer. No artifacts found.

RUSL/PP/EX1/2020 Matrix Chart of the Excavation



L – Soil layer S – Stone CS – Cap stone P – Pottery
 F – Soil Fill SS – Side stone C – Cut

Chart 7-1 RUSL/PP/EX1/2020 Matrix Chart of the Excavation

Soil Stratification of RUSL/PP/EX01/2020 Excavation

When identifying the soil stratification, mainly 4 main layers were found at the excavation site of RUSL/PP/EX01/2020. Different compositions and contexts were recognized at each layer and many human activities had occurred during the recent period on the surface of the premises. The ploughing activities performed during Chena cultivation and operation of the termites had stormed the soil layers in the site.

First Soil Layer

A dry loose soil layer with one centimeter thickness. It contained 90% of silt and 10% carbonic remains and soil colour recognized as 5YR 3/3 Dark Reddish Brown. As this is a humus layer no archaeological evidences were found.

Second Soil Layer

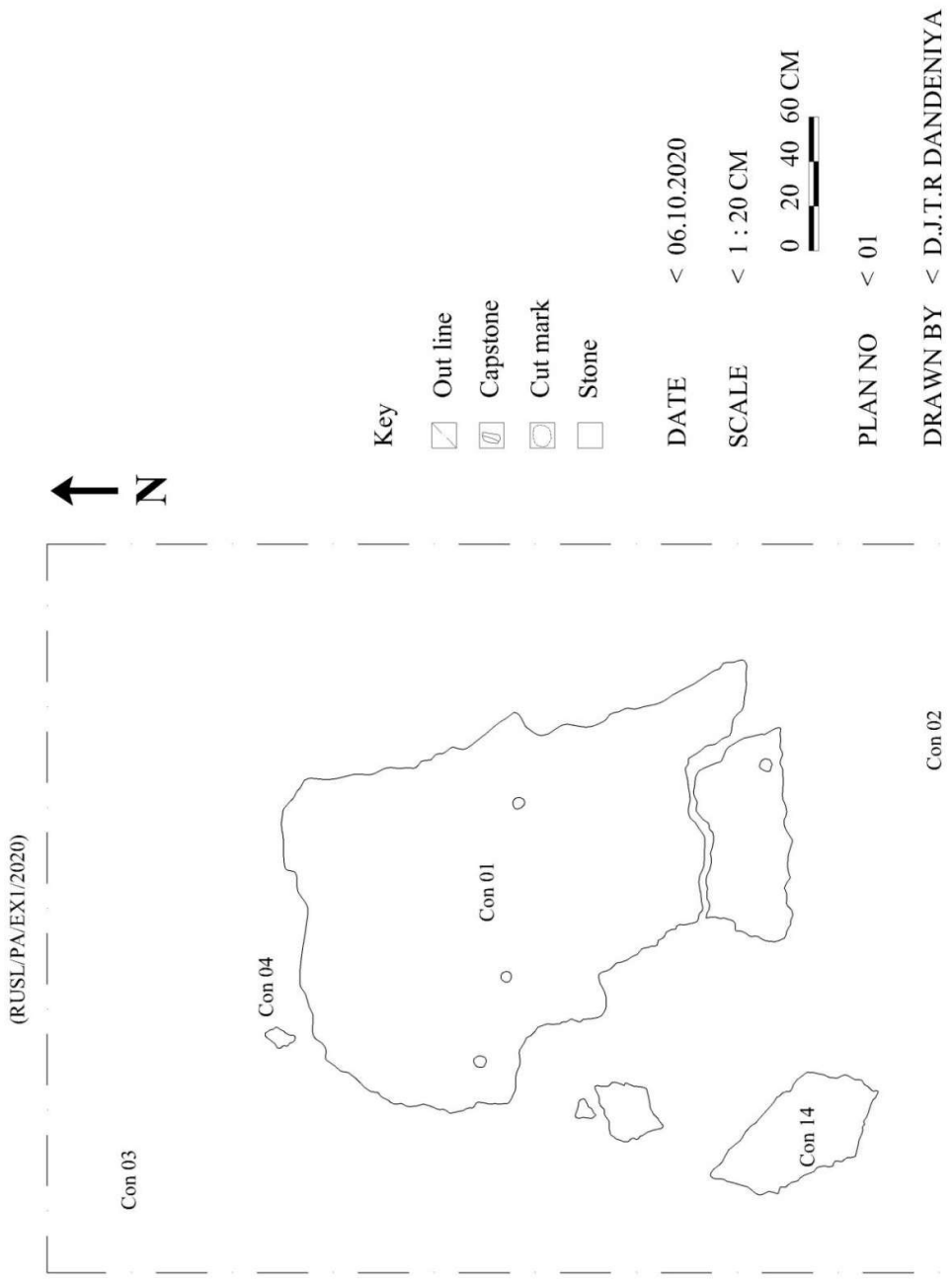
Equal composition of sand, clay and silt included in the layer with moisture, hard soil. The soil colour identified as 2.5YR 3/3 Dark Reddish Brown. The actions of termites were commonly identified at A1, A2, A3, B1 and C1 layers; as a result, further excavations of those layers were not conducted. Pottery wares, pottery sherds and coal were mainly found at the site. Many burial rites were conducted at this layer and the thickness of the layer was 60-63cm. After taking the samples, the layer was removed.

Third Soil Layer

Slightly loosen soil layer which was smooth and expanded throughout the site. It can be identified as a sub deposit which has taken place during the soil deposit of the context number 3. It is represented as context number 6 in the Matrix chart. The soil colour recognized as 2.5YR 3/3 Dark Reddish Brown.

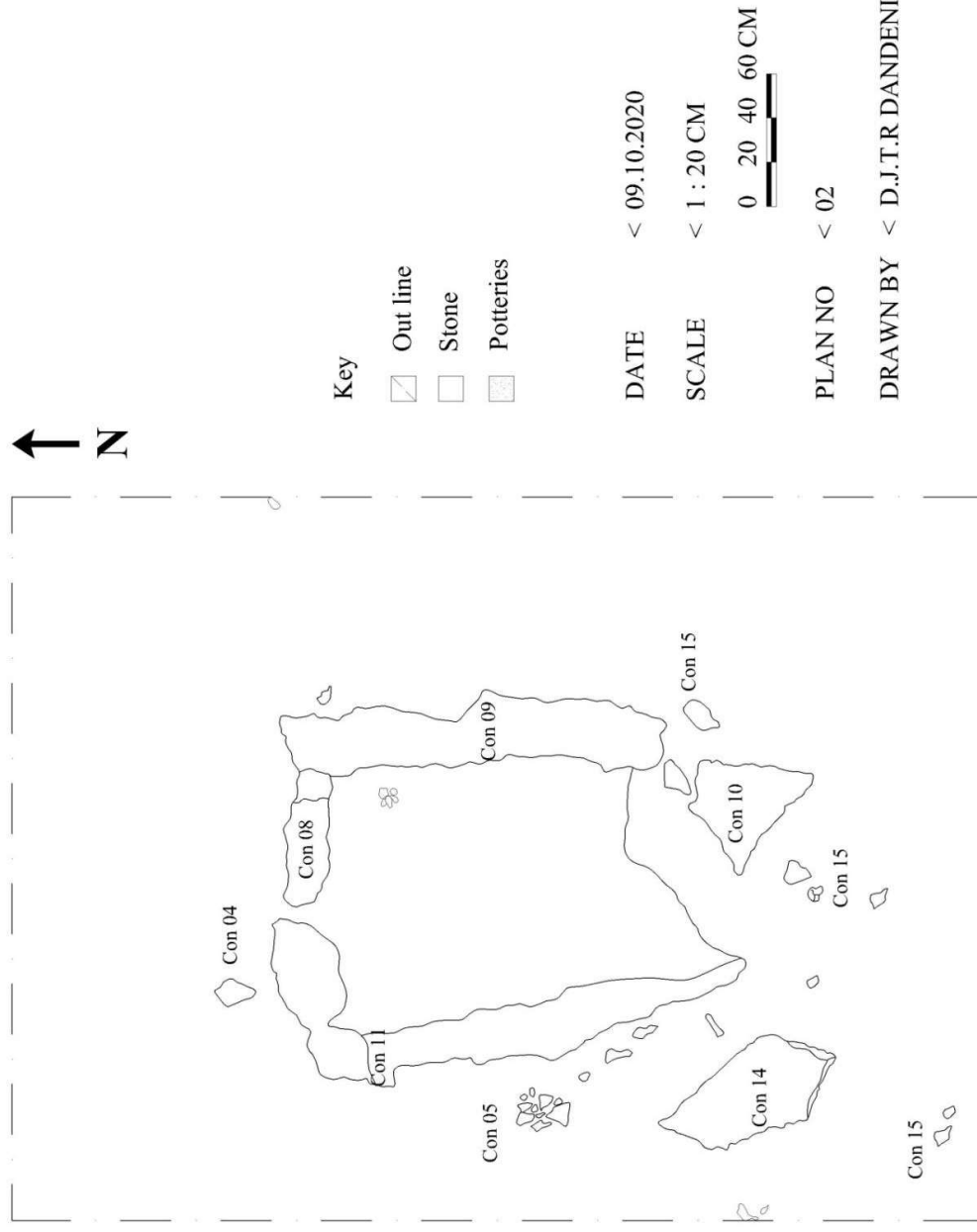
Fourth Soil Layer

It is a main soil layer named as context number 29, which was deposited after context number 03. It constituted 64% of sand and 36% of clay. A hard layer which identified the soil colour as 5YR 3/3 Dark Reddish Brown. The cut which was made for the burial making extended up to this layer and no artifacts were found.



Plan 7-1 Surface of the site before excavation

GROUND PLAN 02
(RUSL/PA/EX1/2020)



DATE < 09.10.2020

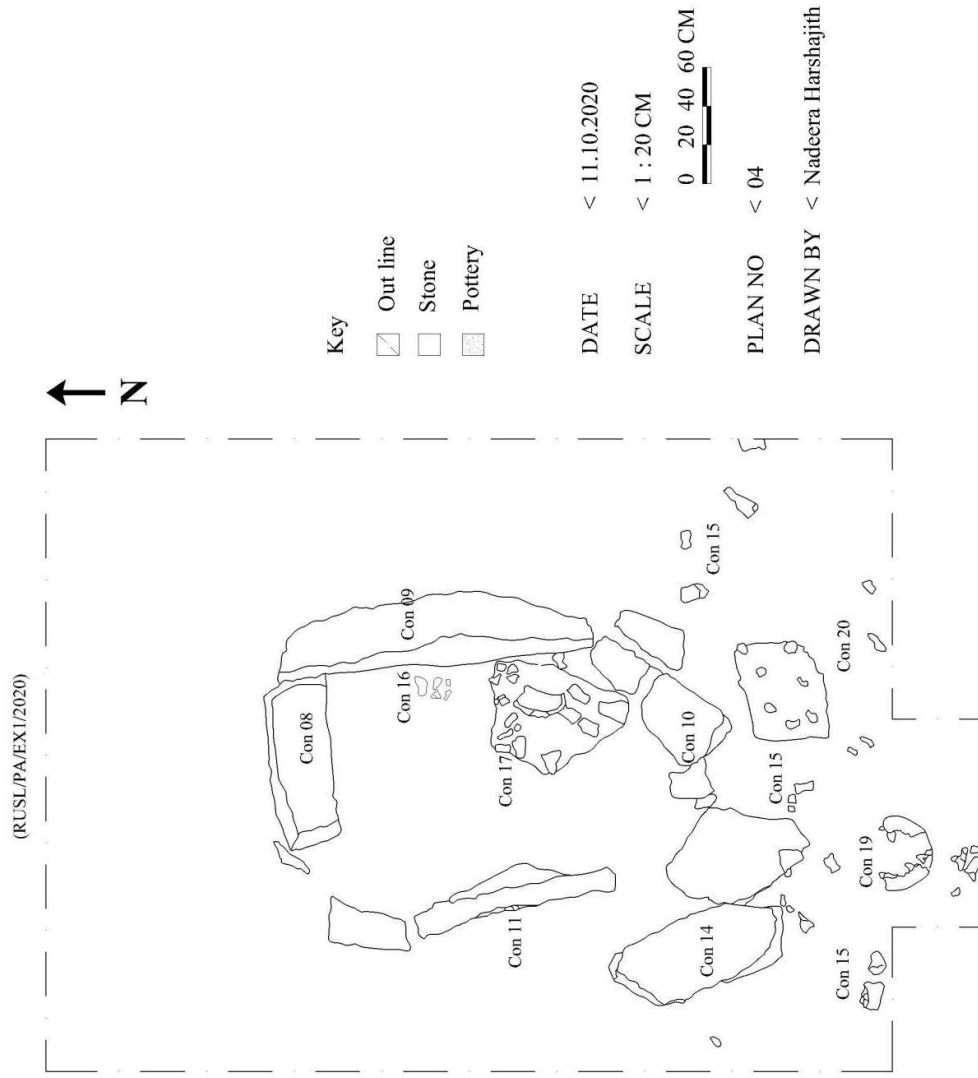
SCALE < 1 : 20 CM

0 20 40 60 CM

PLAN NO < 02

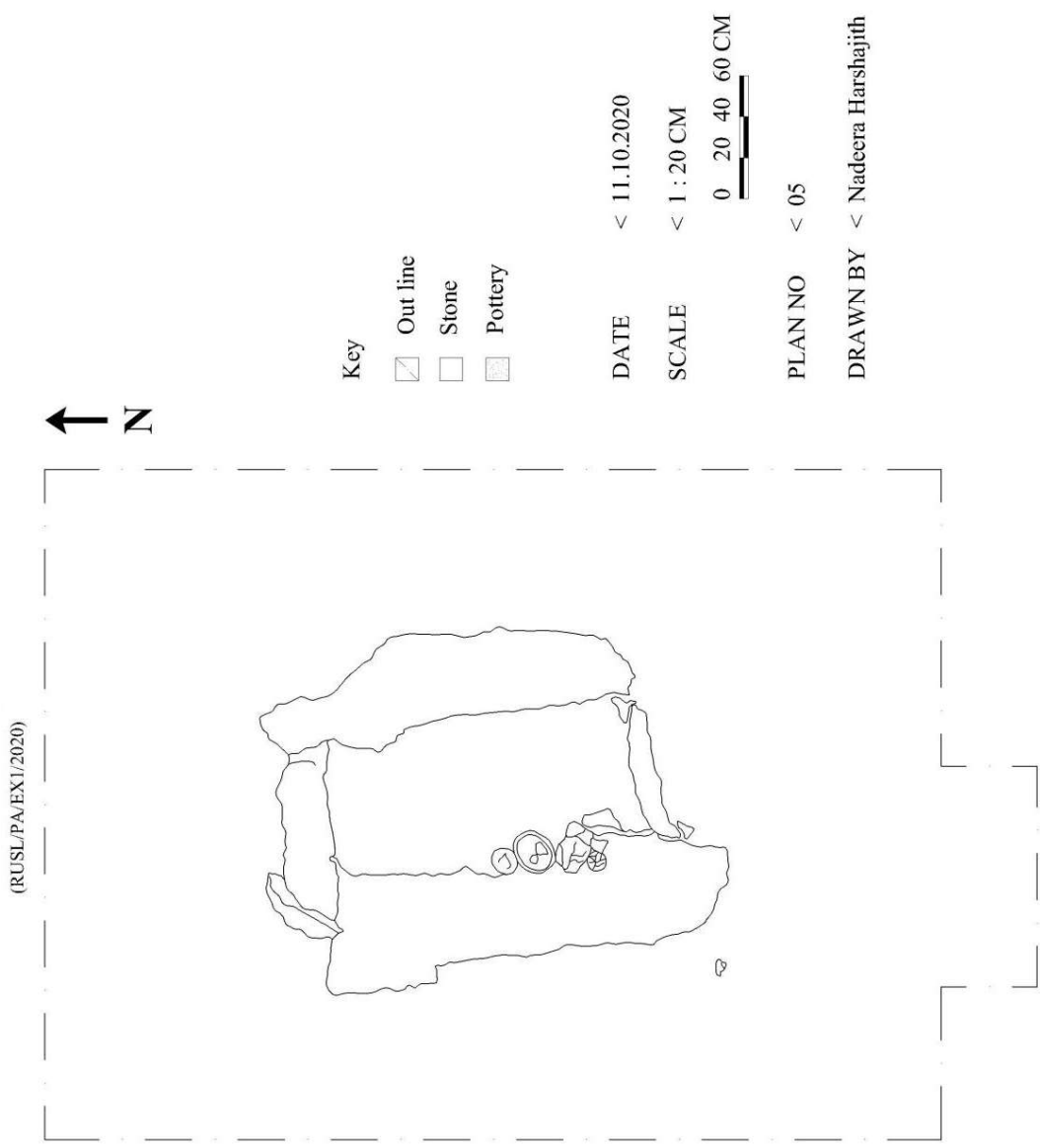
DRAWN BY < D.J.T.R.DANDENIYA

Plan 7-2 After remove capstone

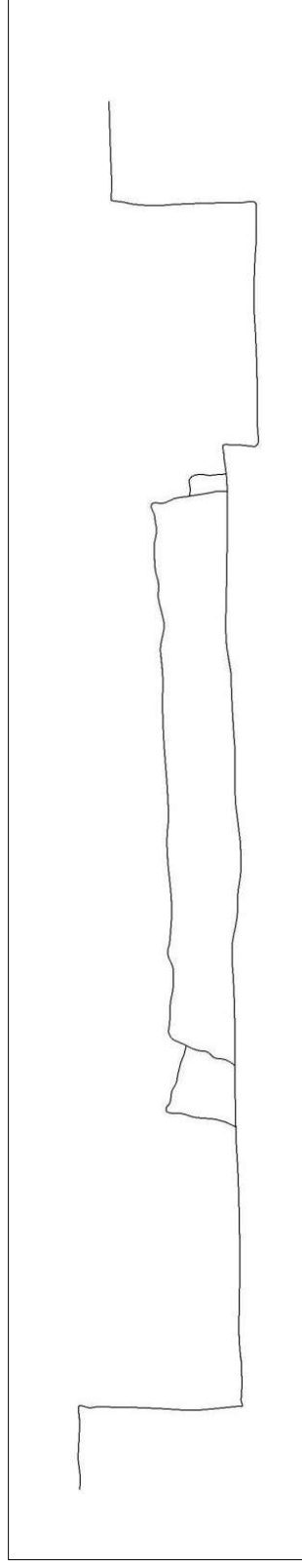


Plan 7-3 Context Numbers 08,09,10,11,13,14,15,16,17,19,20

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Plan 7-4 Placement of the Urns in the Burial



Plan 7-5 East facing elevation



Figure 7-1 Before the preparation of the excavation area

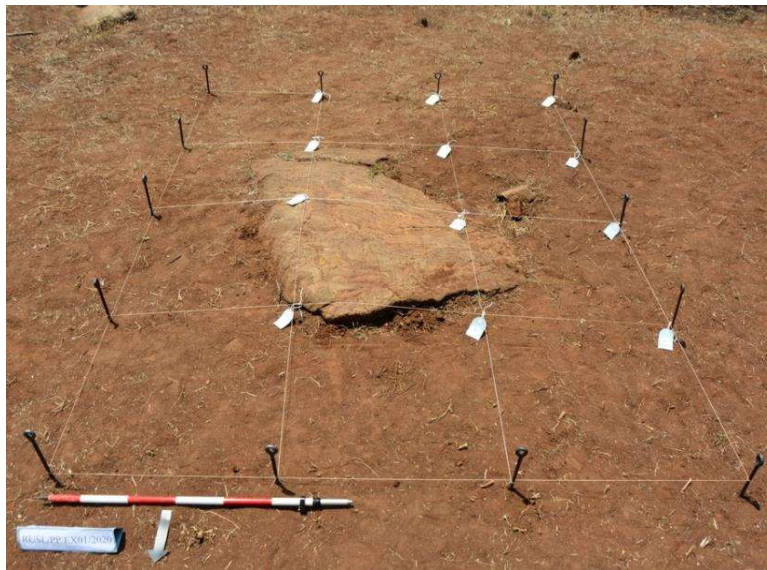


Figure 7-3 After the preparation of the excavation area



Figure 7-4 During the excavation



Figure 7-2 Removal of the burial cap stone



Figure 7-7 After the removal of the burial cap stone



Figure 7-6 During the excavation



Figure 7-5 During the excavation of the burial core



Figure 7-10 During the excavation



Figure 7-9 Deposition of the pottery wares and fragments inside the burial



Figure 7-8 The end of the excavation

Description of the Contexts in RUSL/PP/EX02/2020 Excavation

Contexts number 01

A stone slab in the north of the burial, which was 123cm in length, 26cm in breadth, 40cm in height from the surface level. It was east-west oriented, making an angle of 80° from north made of Gneiss.

Contexts number 02

A similar stone slab as appeared in context number 01 found. To the south of the stone slab, 85° from north erected with a distance of 213cm.

Contexts number 03

The surface soil layer identified as the context number 3. A dry loose soil layer distributed over the area with 5cm thickness. The soil colour recognized as 2.5YR 3/1 Dark Reddish Gray and no archaeological evidences were found.

Contexts number 04

A loose soil layer expanded over the excavated area with a composition of 40% of sand, 40% of fine sand, 12% of silt and 8% of clay. Its soil colour recognized as 10R 2.5/1 Very Dusky Red. Many human activities had been performed in this layer as pottery wares and coal facts revealed. This layer represented 20cm thickness.

Contexts number 05

A deposit of stone slabs yielded at a depth of 24cm from the surface ground level of the context number 05. The soil layer of the context number 04 was deposited on this rock deposit. In the middle of the stone slabs of context numbers 1 and 2 this stone pavement was recognized.

Contexts number 06

A soil layer found at a depth of 27cm from the surface ground level underneath the rock deposit of the context number 5. Black wares, red wares, metal fragments and iron slags recognized from the soil layer. It was 29cm thick layer with 15% of silt, 15% of fine sand and 70% of rough sand. The soil colour recorded as 2.5YR 2.5/2 Very Dusky Red.

Contexts number 07

It was a small red ware located at B2 subarea in a model of a pot. The rim of the pottery ware was broken and the body sherd with 16cm height well preserved with the base. This pottery ware recorded at a depth of 39cm.

Contexts number 08

The fragments of a potteryware found close to the context number 08 in a depth of 38cm.

Contexts number 09

A collection of the fragments of the pottery wares located at the west of the context number 08 in B2 subarea.

Contexts number 10

A lid type pottery ware located in the B2 sub area and found at a depth of 37cm. An urn and its fragments observed from the context numbers of 7,8,9 and 10. The main urn which was deposited inside the burial, broken into fragments and distributed over the area. The pottery wares expanded over an area of 45 ×47cm. Few beads and coal were revealed from the remained pottery wares.

Contexts number 11

Fragments of a small pottery ware belonged to the B2 subarea identified as the context number 11. The model of the ware was unidentified though 47 fragments of red wares recorded. The pottery ware yielded at a depth of 39cm.

Contexts number 12

The pottery remains at B2 subarea belonged to the context number 12. The pottery ware remains located at a depth of 40cm from the surface level.

Contexts number 13

A body sherd of an urn which belonged to B2 sub area identified as the context number 13. Few red ware pottery facts yielded where dispersed within an area of 40×20cm area. The pottery facts revealed at a depth of 40cm.

Context number 14

The context number 14 belonged the remains of a slightly big pottery ware, found at the south-west of the context number 13. The pottery remains found from the B2 and B3 sub areas at a depth of 42cm. The pottery wares recognized at context numbers of 11, 12, 13 and 14 can be identified as concurrent phenomenon.

Context number 15

A pottery collection yielded at north-west of the C2 subarea, which reveled at a depth of 45cm.

Context number 16

A main burial urn located in the sub areas including C1 and C2 revealed at a depth of 43cm. It is a red ware where the height recorded as 28cm, deposited at a depth of 71cm from the surface level. At the base of the urn, fragments of bones yielded while a body sherd and a vessel in a model of a pot appeared above them. Outside the urn, a cup model vessel was found.

Context number 17

The pottery remains which belonged to the C2 and D2 sub areas, close to the south orthostat identifies as the context number 17. These pottery wares deposited at a depth of 42cm from the surface. The pottery sherds dispersed over an area of 45×40cm. A metal blade and various models of pottery wares were found.

Context number 18

The remains of the pottery wares at west bank of C2 ,D2 subareas and the south orthostat identified as the context number 18. The evidences revealed at a depth of 43cm and expanded over 30×20cm in area.

Context number 19

The pottery ware remains located at the south of the south orthostat belonged to the context number 19. Evidences revealed at a depth of 37cm in an area of 45×40cm.

Context number 20

The stone slab pavement extends from the southern corner to east and north of the south orthostat. The interior boundary of the burial, marked from this stone pavement. This

was yielded at a depth of 33cm from the surface level and the size of the stones at this pavement calculated as 25×20 , 10×10 cm.

Context number 21

A soil layer located at a depth of 64cm from the surface level identified as context number 21. The composition recorded as 64% of sand and 36% of clay. The hard soil in the context found the soil colour as 5YR 3/3 Dark Reddish Brown

Context number 22

The pottery fragments located at the east from the context number 07, in D2 subarea was recognized as context number 22.

Context number 23

The pottery fragments dispersed between the south orthostat and context number 16 of C1 and C2 subareas belonged to the context number 23.

RUSL/PP/EX2/2020 Matrix Chart of the Test Pit

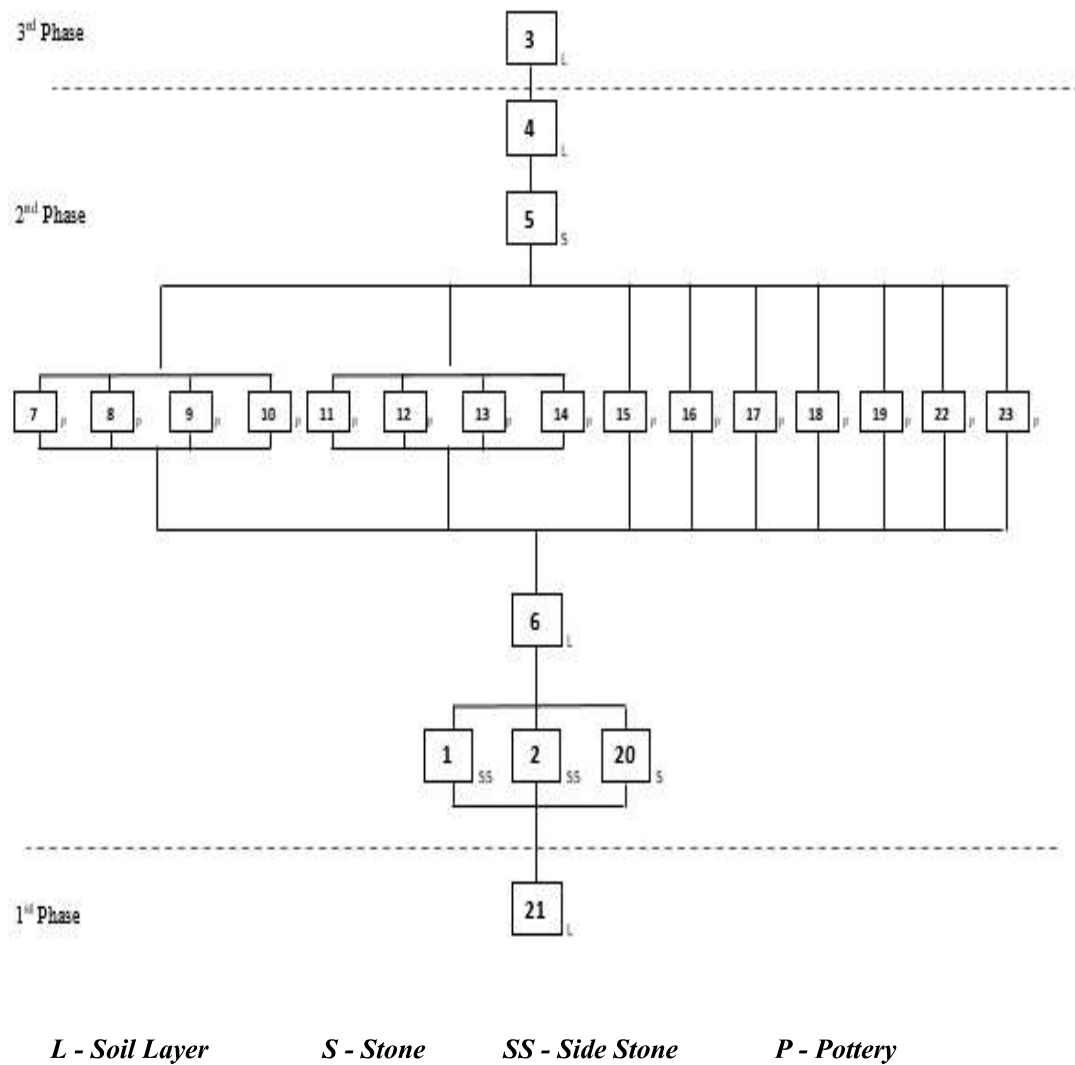


Chart 7-2 RUSL/PP/EX2/2020 Matrix Chart of the Test Pit

Soil Stratification of RUSL/PP/EX2/2020

When study the soil stratification, mainly 4 main layers were found at the excavation site of RUSL/PP/EX02/2020. Different compositions and contexts recognized at each layer and many human activities had been performed during the recent period on the surface. The ploughing activities which done during Chena cultivation and operation of the termites had stormed the soil layers in the site.

First soil layer

The surface soil layer which named as the context number 3 expanded over the whole area with a thickness of 5cm. The soil colour identified as 2.5YR 3/1 Dark Reddish Gray and contained dry, loose soil. No any archaeological factors found from the layer.

Second soil layer

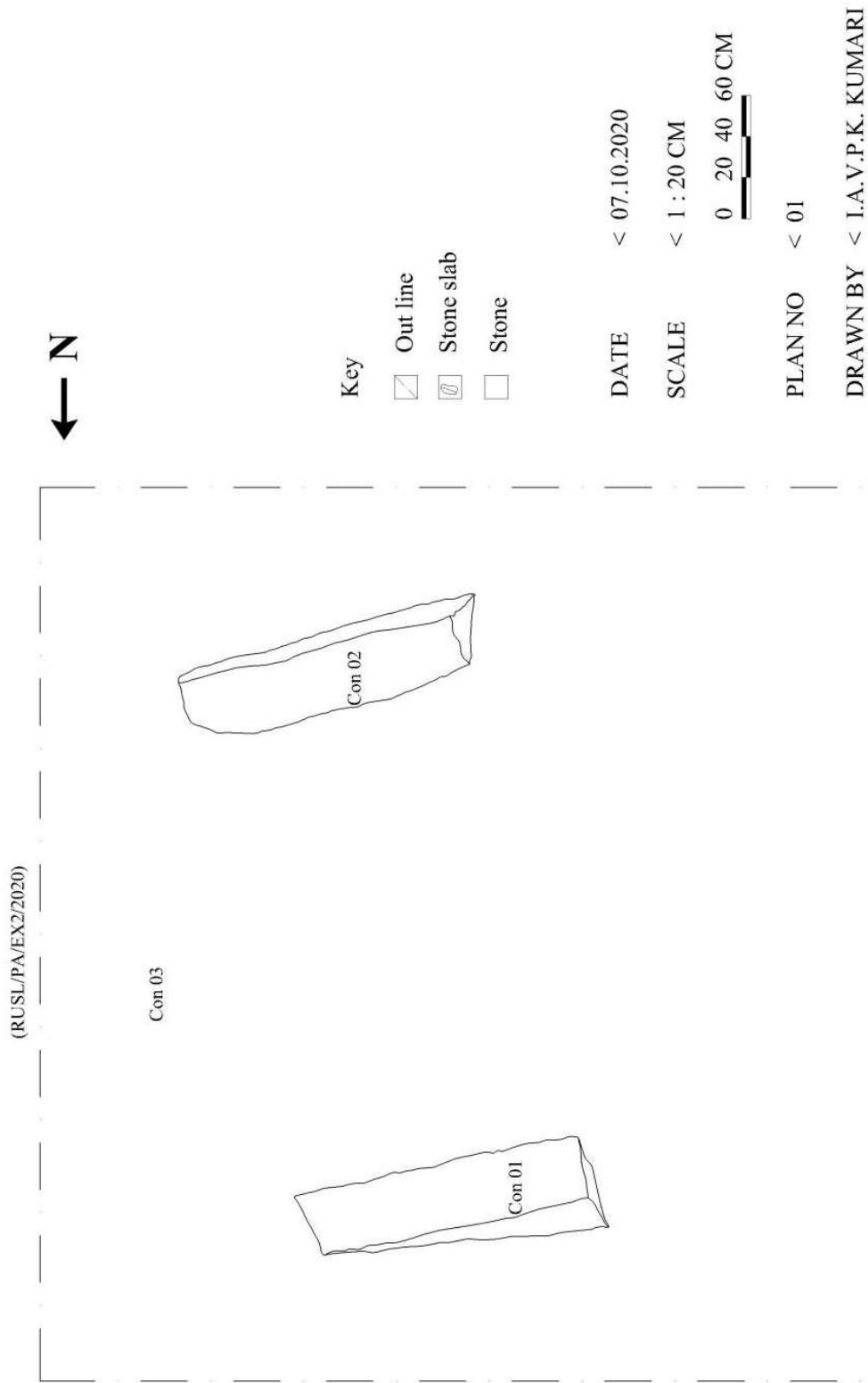
A loose soil layer distributed over the site with a constitution of 40% of sand, 40% of fine sand, 12% of silt and 8% of clay. The soil layer recognized as 10R 2.5/1 Very Dusky Red and the layer expanded 20cm thickness. Many human activities had been performed in this layer with special reference to coal and remains of pottery ware. It is a special feature that a small stone pavement laid on this layer.

Third soil layer

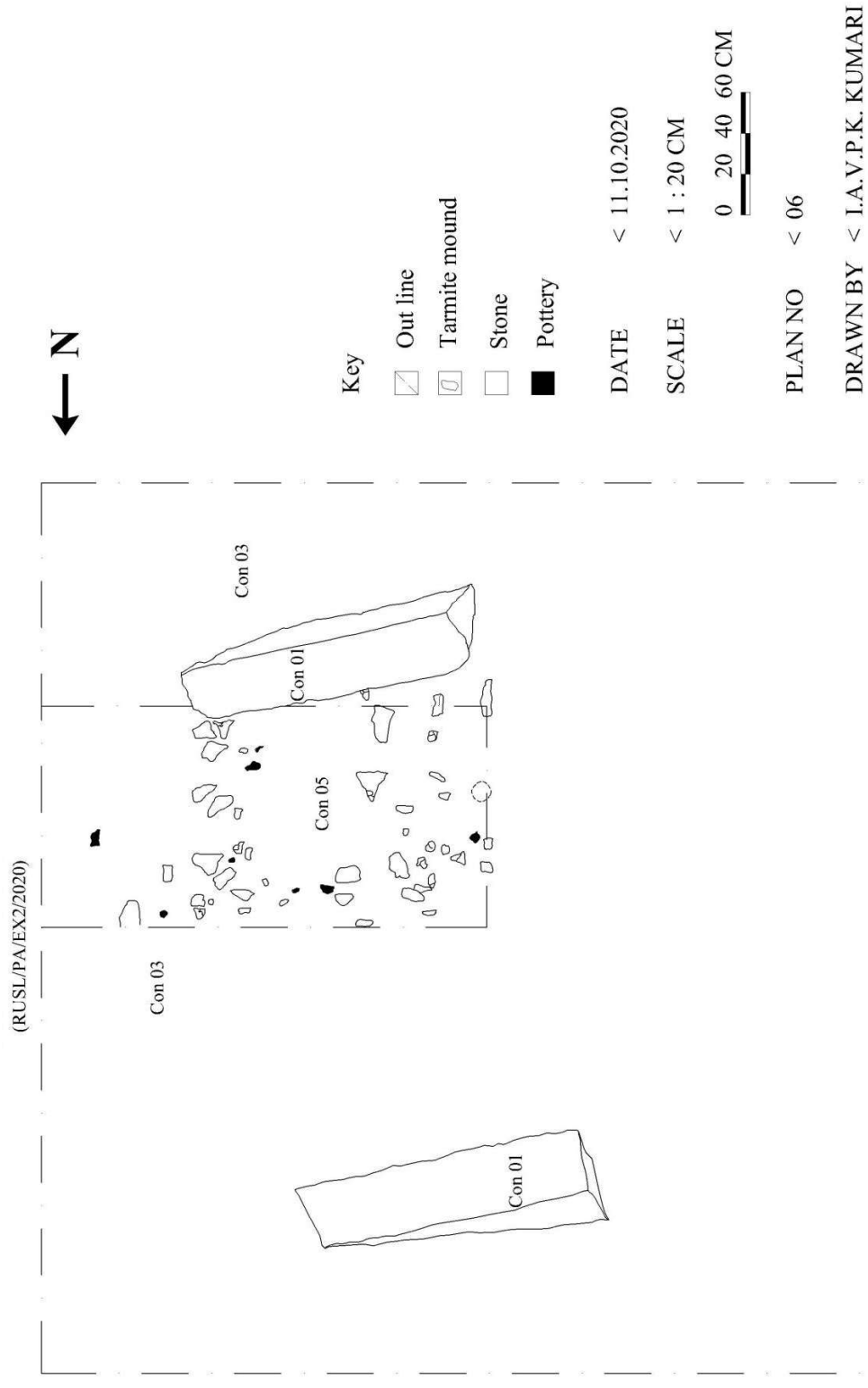
This layer identified as context number 5, and it is a soil layer found at a depth of 27cm beneath the stone slab deposit. Red wares, metal fragments and iron slags recorded from this layer. The thickness of the layer calculated as 29cm and the soil composition was 15% of silt, 15% of fine sand and 70% of rough sand. The soil colour recognized as 2.5YR 2.5/2 Very Dusky Red.

Fourth soil layer

A soil layer which extends from the surface of context number 21, where located at a depth of 64cm. the soil composition recognized as 64% of sand, 36% of clay. The soil was hard in nature and the colour observed as 5YR 3/3 Dark Reddish Brown.

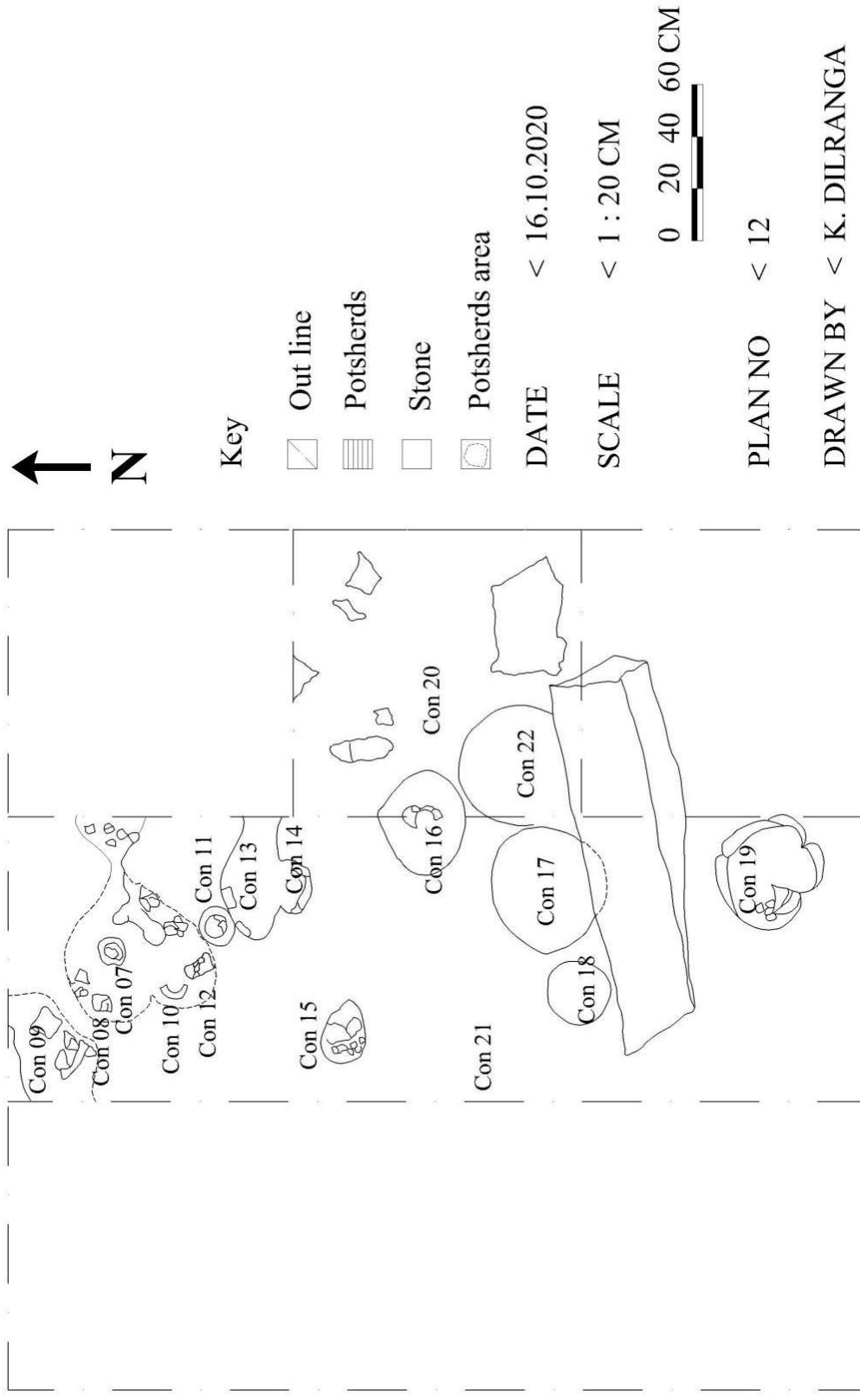


Plan 7-6 Surface before excavation



Plan 7-7 After the excavation of the southern part of the premises

(RUSL/PA/EX2/2020)



Plan 7-8 Context number 09 to 22



Figure 7-11 Before the preparation of the excavation area



Figure 7-12 After the preparation of the excavation area



Figure 7-13 Starting the excavation



Figure 7-14 During the excavation



Figure 7-15 Different sizes of rocks yielded from the stone pavement (Context Number 5)



Figure 7-16 Iron fragment yielded from the excavation



Figure 7-18 The deposition of pottery wares inside the burial



Figure 7-17 The end of the excavation

Description of the Contexts in RUSL/PP/EX3/2020 Excavation

Context number 1

The surface soil layer which was loose and dry, recorded a thickness of 2cm. The soil composition was 75% of sand, 24% of silt and 1% of clay and the soil colour recognized as 5YR 3/3 Dark Reddish Brown.

Context number 2

The western orthostat of the cist burial recognized as the context number 2. It was located at an angle of 40^0 , where the length, breadth, height was 125, 24 and 92cm respectively. This orthostat stands upwards for 32cm from the surface level.

Context number 3

The northern orthostat of the cist burial discovered as the context number 3 is an inclination from west to north, records the length, breadth, height as 107, 38 and 101cm respectively. This orthostat stands upwards for 17cm from the surface level.

Context number 4

The eastern orthostat of the cist burial identified as the context number 4. It is located parallel to the western orthostat recording 127, 25, 89cm as length, breadth and height respectively. This orthostat stands upwards for 28cm from the surface level.

Context number 5

The western orthostat of the cist burial identified as the context number 5. It is located parallel to the northern orthostat recording its length, breadth, height as 90, 14, 90cm respectively. Orthostat stands upwards for 23cm from the surface level

Context number 6

The main soil layer which was found after the surface layer identified as the context number 6. It was a loose soil layer, contained the colour as 2.5YR 2.5/2 Very Dusky Red. The soil composition calculated 50% of silt, 20% of clay and 30% of sand. Artifacts and ecofacts like pottery wares, bone remains, beads, a copper rod, and coal revealed from the layer. The actions of termites were observed at the south-west and north-west in the site and layer enriched about 7cm thickness.

Context number 7

A collection of stone slabs were found from the context number 6, which yielded at a depth of 4cm. These stone slabs distributed over 30×20- 4×4cm area in the site. The stone slabs can be recognized as fragments of a granite rock.

Context number 8

The internal cut which occurred due to the orthostats identified as the context number 8. It was found in quadrilateral shape at north, east, south and west as 103, 138, 110 and 132cm respectively. The orientation of the sharp and horizontal slope coincides with the orthostats.

Context Number 9

A cut done on context number 6, with 76×50cm circular corners of a systematic slope was observed. The convex cut wall consisted a round base, depth of 7cm.

Context Number 10

The filling of context number 9 enriched loose soil deposition. Context recorded the soil colour as, 2.5YR 2.5/2 Very Dusky Red comprising 75% of sand, 15% of silt and 10% of clay. Pottery sherds, stone slabs and a half-burned piece of wood in 5.5cm in length were yielded from the context.

Context Number 11

The stone slabs in the filling of context number 10 included here. Ten stone slabs with a size of 20×14- 12×10cm include in this context. The evidences of the stone slabs yielded at a depth of 25cm from the surface.

Context Number 12

The spreaded fragments of the pottery wares in the soil layer of context number 6 belonged to the context number 12. The pottery wares dispersed over an area of 58×26cm, recorded red wares and black and red wares. Most of the fragments were highly deteriorated. The evidences were found at a depth of 43cm from the surface. The pottery wares can be identified as the parts of the vessels which used to deposit ash.

Context Number 13

The pottery collection found at a depth of 38cm at the soil layer of context number 6 was recognized as context number 13. The evidences distributed at an area 30×22cm and yielded red wares, black and red wares from the site. It can be identified as the parts of a burial ware.

Context Number 14

A fragment of a cup symbol pottery ware at the context number 6 revealed as the context Number 14. It was yielded at a depth of 42cm from the surface and identified as a highly deteriorated black and red ware.

Context Number 15

A bone deposit with a size of 20cm, 16cm in length and breadth respectively, belonged to the A1 subarea. The evidences yielded at a depth of 45cm from the surface level. These bone fragments can be imagined as the ashes of the urn located proximity to context number 12.

Context Number 16

A loose soil layer with 3cm of thickness. The soil colour recognized as 2.5YR 2.5/4 Dark Reddish Brown with the content of 25% of clay, 35% of silt and 40% of clay in the layer. The evidences of black and red ware and bone fragments were yielded from the layer.

Context Number 17

A main soil layer, located after the layer of context number 16. It is a hard layer with 64% of sand, 36% of clay. The soil colour recognized as 5YR 3/3 Dark Reddish Brown. The cut made for burial making extends up to this layer.

The Matrix Chart of the excavation - RUSL/PP/EX2/2020

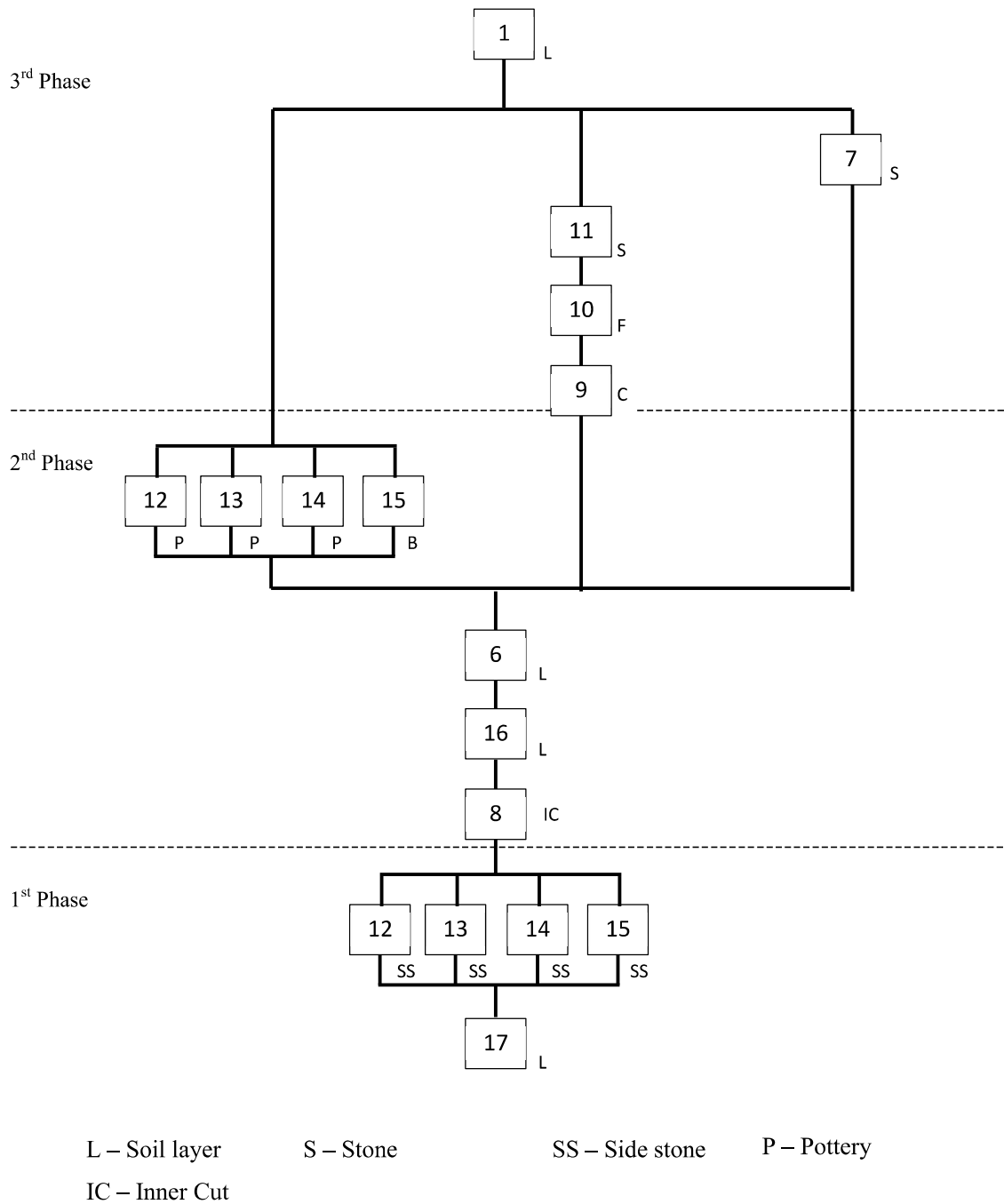


Chart 7-3 The Matrix Chart of the excavation - RUSL/PP/EX2/2020

The interior core of the burial was only excavated when identifying the soil stratification at RUSL/PP/EX 03/2020. Mainly four layers were recognized with different composition and contexts. Different types of human activities could be recognized from the surface, and the interior core of the burial had burrowed to an extent, but not deeply excavated.

First Soil Layer

The surface layer inside the burial core named as the first soil layer. It consisted 2cm thickness and dry, loosen soil. The soil composition recorded as 75% of sand, 24% of silt and 1% of clay and soil colour as 5YR 3/3 Dark Reddish Brown.

Second Soil Layer

The second layer found after the surface layer, named as the context number 6. It was identified as a loosen soil layer with a soil colour of 2.5YR 2.5/2 Very Dusky Red. 50% of silt, 20% of clay, 30% of sand. Artifacts and ecofacts like pottery wares, bone fragments, beads, a copper rod and coal recorded from the layer. The layer had a thickness of 7cm and termites actions observed at the north-west and south-west of the layer.

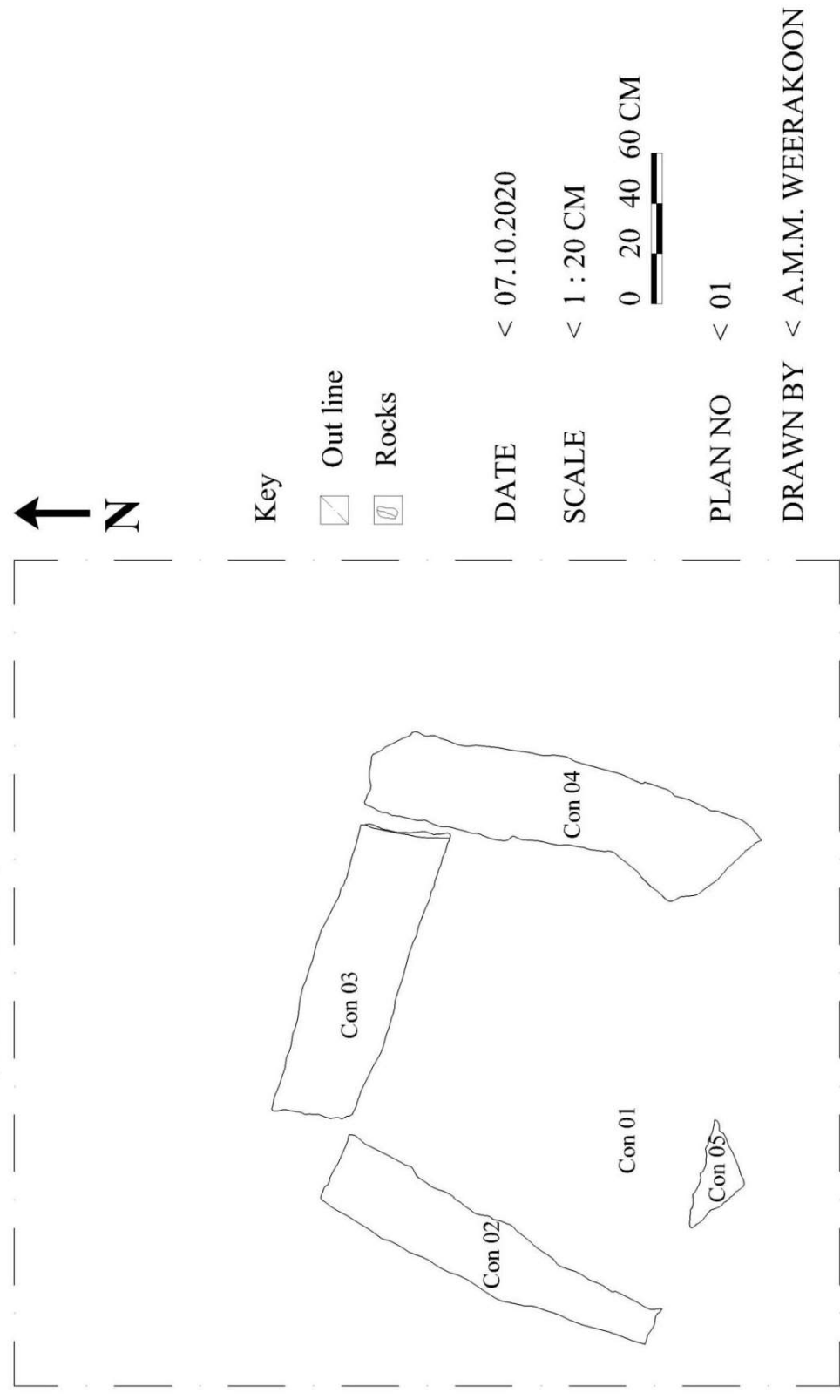
Third Soil Layer

A sub layer with loose soil was recognized as the third soil layer. This layer consisted of 3cm thickness and 2.5YR 2.5/4 Dark Reddish Brown as soil colour. The composition of soil calculated as 25% of clay, 35% of silt, 40% of sand. Some fragments of a black and red ware and bone fragments were yielded from the layer.

Fourth Soil Layer

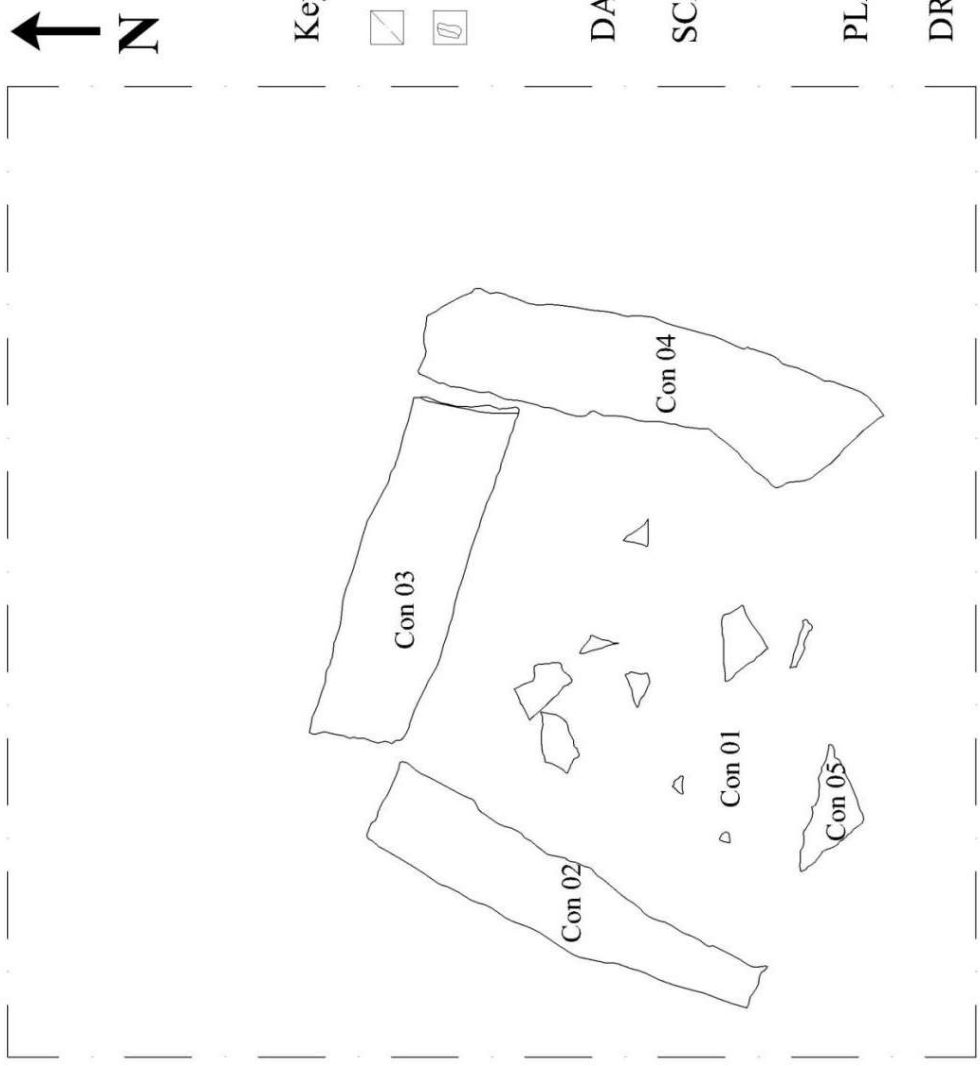
A main soil located after the third sub layer. It recorded 64% of sand and 36% of clay in the soil layer. The soil colour identified as 5YR 3/3 Dark Reddish Brown. The cut made for the burial, extended up to this layer.

(RUSL/PA/EX3/2020)



Plan 7-9 The Surface plan of the excavation area

(RUSL/PA/EX3/2020)



DRAWN BY < A.M.M. WEERAKOON

Plan 7-10 Context numbers 1 2 3 4 5

(RUSL/PA/EX3/2020)



Key



Out line



Rocks

DATE < 09.10.2020

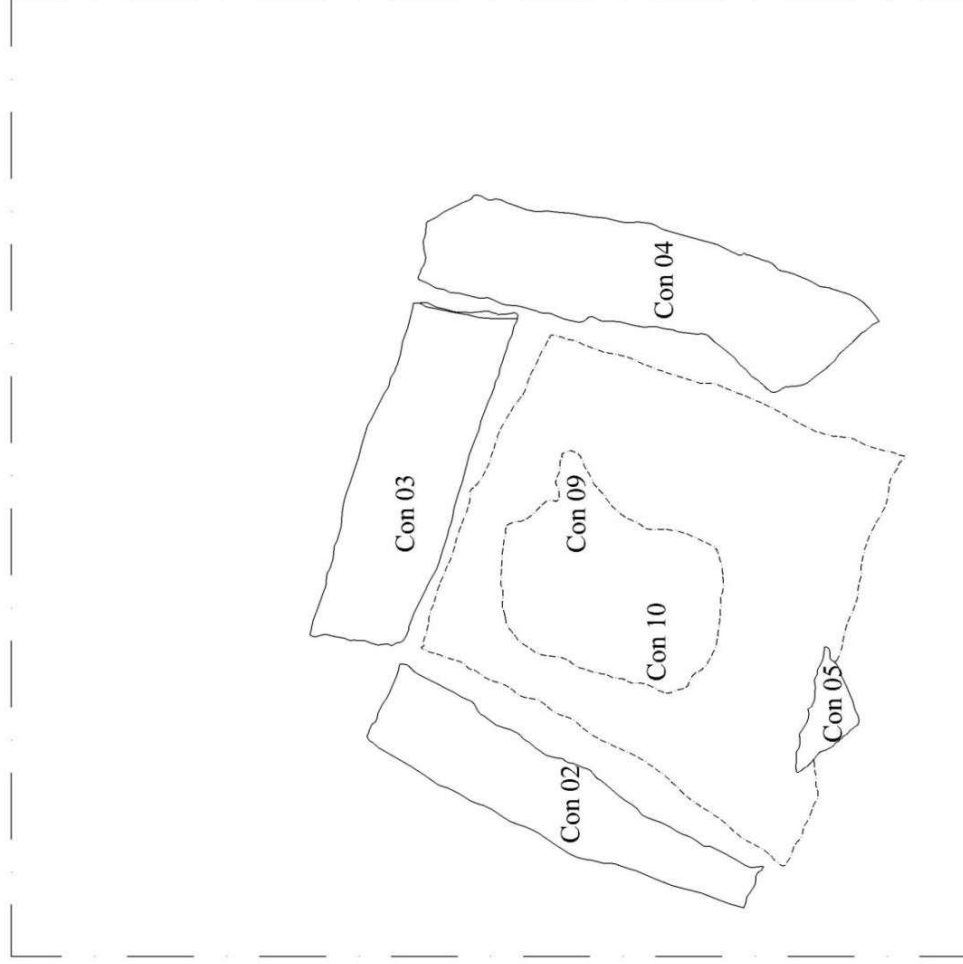
SCALE < 1 : 20 CM

0 20 40 60 CM



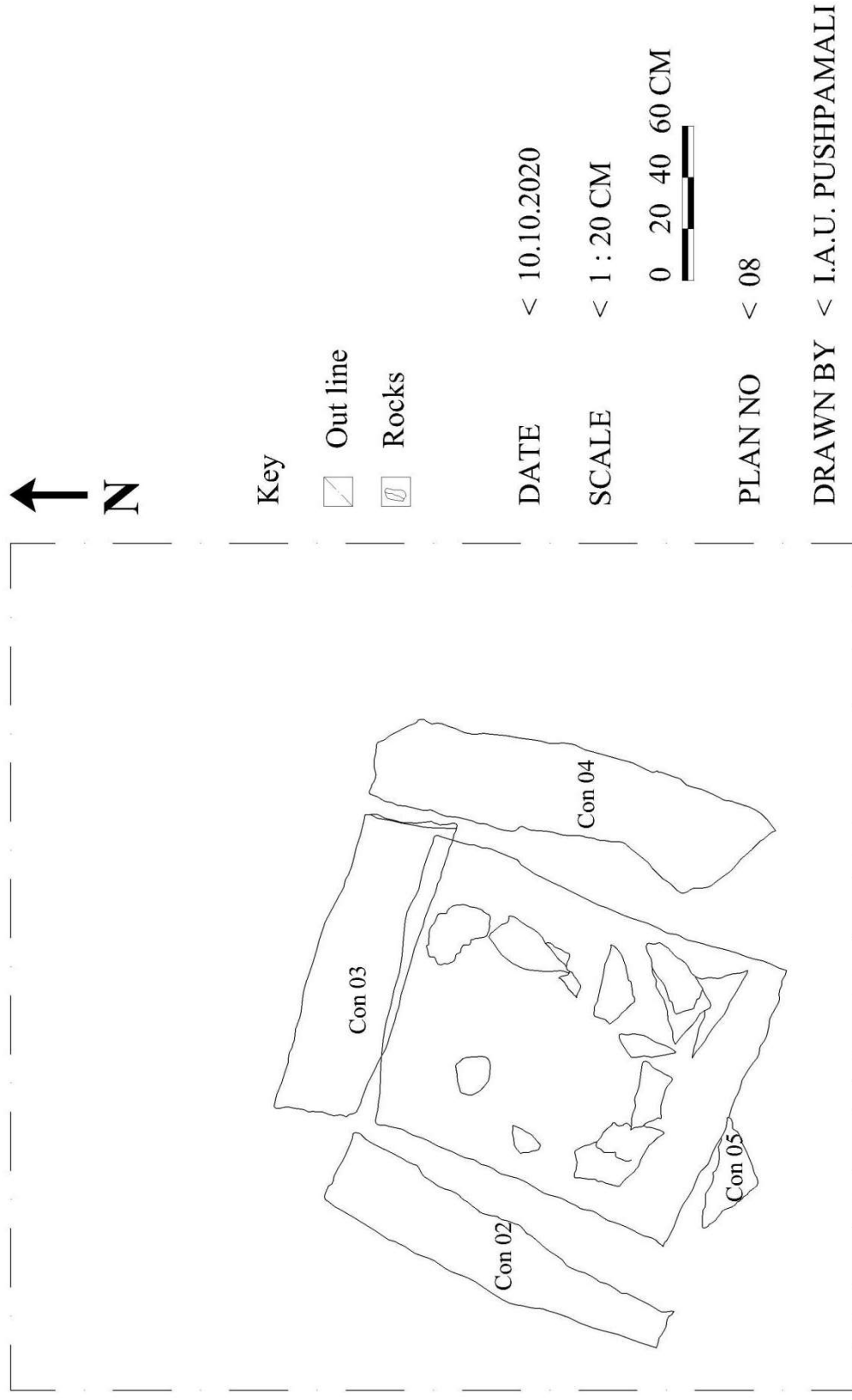
PLAN NO < 05

DRAWN BY < I.A.U. PUSHPAMALI



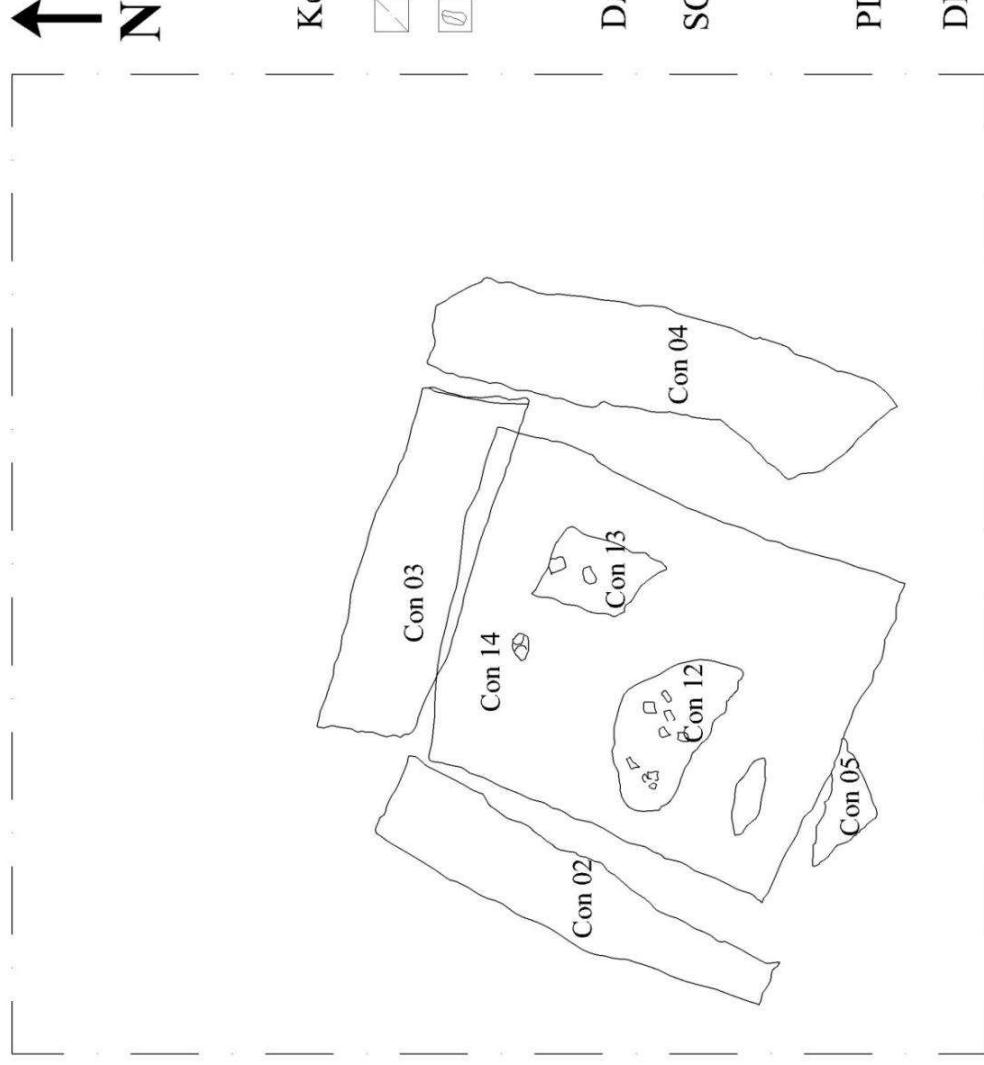
Plan 7-11 Context numbers 2 3 4 5 9 10

(RUSL/PA/EX3/2020)



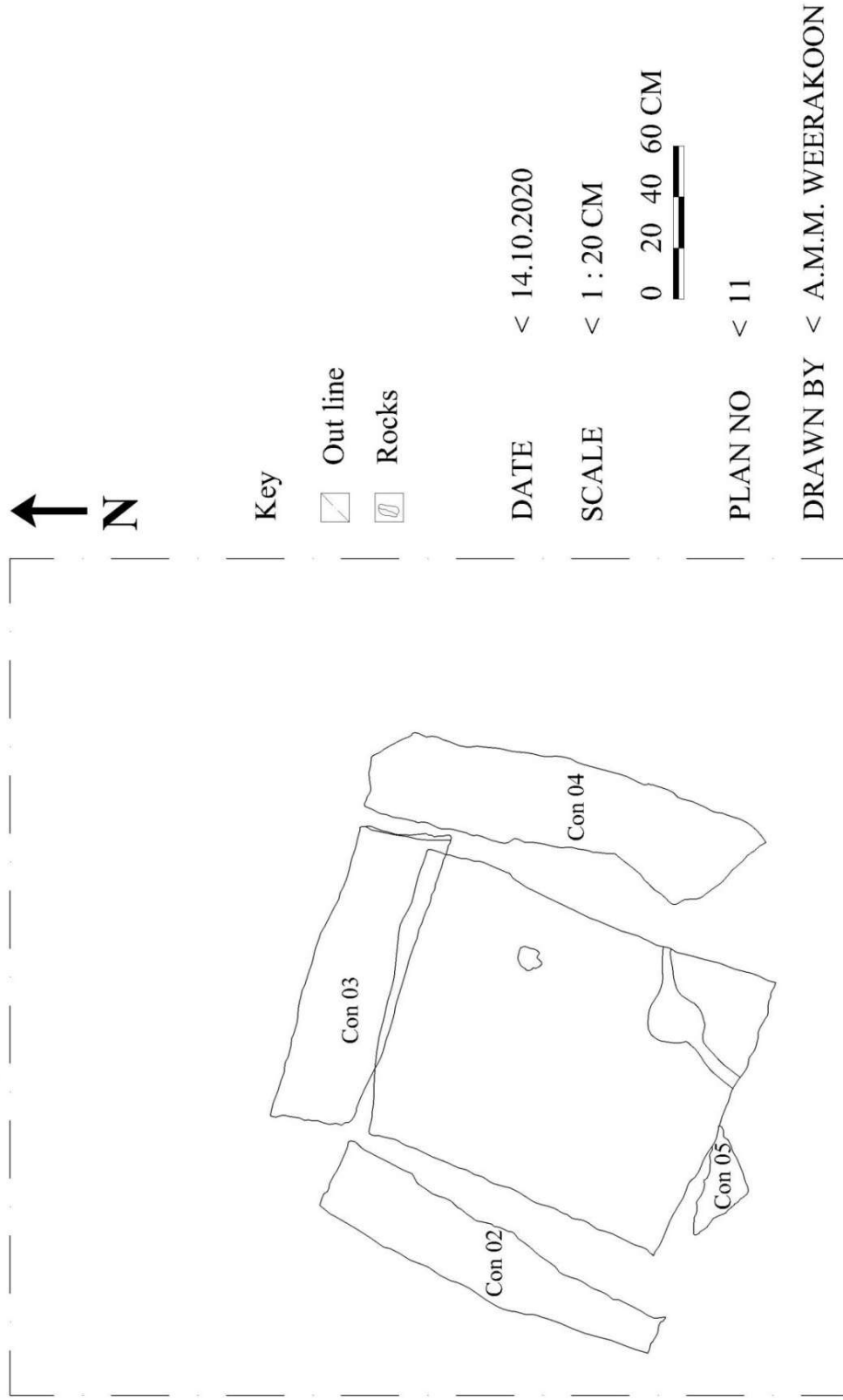
Plan 7-12 The placement of the rock fragments inside the context numbers 1 2 3 4 5

(RUSL/PA/EX3/2020)



Plan 7-13 Context numbers 1 2 3 4 5 12 13 14

(RUSL/PA/EX3/2020)



Plan 7-14 Ground plan at the end of the excavation



Figure 7-19 Before the preparation of the excavation area



Figure 7-20 After the preparation of the excavation area



Figure 7-21 During the excavation



Figure 7-22 After the removal of the filling of context number



Figure 7-23 Stone Pavement of context number 11



Figure 7-24 A copper artifact yielded from the excavation



Figure 7-25 Skeletal remains recovered from the excavation of context number 15



Figure 7-26 After the end of the excavation

Interpretation

The archaeological excavation conducted at Palipbothana megalithic site titled under RUSL/PP/EX 01/2020, RUSL/PP/EX 02/2020, RUSL/PP/EX 03/2020 belonged to the upper Malwatu Oya and Ma Oya basins. The data is interpreted based on the physical and cultural information found from the excavation. The origin of the landscape at the upper Malwatu Oya, upper Ma Oya and middle Yan Oya basins by man runs back to the historical period. When study the settlement pattern horizontally, the establishment of settlements of Mesolithic man at Anuradhapura and its peripheral region expanded from 5850 years BP. This fact was proved from the radio-carbon dating (Deraniyagala, 1992). The Gedige excavation, Anuradhapura (AG85) yielded geometric microliths on the Reddish Brown Earth layer (*ibid*). Similarly, the excavation at Gedige (AG69) revealed microliths from the Reddish Brown Earth layer. The studies conducted by Deraniyagala and Kennedy revealed that the Mesolithic man lived in this land area (Deraniyagala, 1972).

As there are open air sites and caves in Anuradhapura and its peripheral region, it can be imagined that the Mesolithic man inhabited over those areas. The excavations conducted at open air sites revealed stone tools from the Anuradhapura citadel, Jetavana Vihara and Vessagiriya sites yet (Mendis, 2019 ; Mendis, 2010; Mendis, 2006). According to the studies conducted on Sri Lankan pre-historic phase, the basic background for a culture based on hunting and gathering was laid in the areas of Anuradhapura and its peripheral region. The Mesolithic man's subsistence pattern based on the natural environment including hunting, gathering and catching fish. The natural location of Anuradhapura and its peripheral region directly influenced the establishment of Mesolithic settlements. The natural caves located at the rock outcrops in Vessagiriya, Abhayagiriya, Handagala, Punchi Dambulla, Vadakahagala Hinna Nattukkanda, Sangilimalei Mountain can be identified as a diversity of contour lines where as the natural hollows in the land. These areas support by the north-east monsoon rain and the natural hollows create the water collecting places which resulted to establish the basic settlements (Mendis, 2019). Due to the high carrying capacity of the hoofed animals like wild boar (*Sus scrofa*), dotted deer (*Axis axis*), sambar (*Rusa unicolor*), bison (*Bubalus arnee*) Meeminna (*Moschiola meminna*) who made their life styles in this zone, caused a common subsistence pattern of hunting among the Mesolithic man (Manamendraarachchi, 2007 ; Manamendraarachchi, and Adhikari, 2014).

In addition to the prehistoric Mesolithic settlements around Anuradhaura ancient city, it can be hypothesized that prehistoric Mesolithic settlements were existed at Yan Oya Middle valley which located 35km away from the Anuradhapura ancient city. An exploration conducted by Siran Deraniyagala in 1982, yielded quartz flakes and nuclei at Vavullena site. According to the evidences found at Sangilimalei mountain which located at the north of Kok-ebe, a high probability is there for Mesolithic factors; not for the prehistoric artifacts (Deraniyagala 1982 and Senaviratne, 2007).

The natural location plays a significant role to establish the settlements at Middle Yan Oya basin and its peripheral region. The land is formed based on the changes occurred within the time on natural water ways, hollows and conical hills at Upper Ma Oya basin, Upper Malwatu Oya basin and Middle Yan Oya basin. With reference to Anuradhapura district, the main water sources of these basins such as Malwatu Oya, Ma Oya and Yan Oya located at an orientation of north-east, over the Eastern boundary. In addition to Kala and Malwatu Oya, Yan oya is important since the water stays in the river during the whole year. Though the water capacity is less during June- September, the river feeds by the Monsoon rain. The catchment area of the lower valley is well fertile, because a tributary of Yan Oya feeds the Wahalkada Wewa and joined with Yan Oya.

A set of curved contours can be observed in these basin areas and the location of conical hills can be a reason for such a diversity of contour lines. These conical hills appeared as mounds and formed by Biotite gnieiss, hornblend, migmatitic, granatic rocks including highland group rocks like quartzite, Quartz Schist (Cooray,1984). Due to the location of these hills natural caves can be observed at many mountains like Kokebe, Rasnakawewa, Valahaidawewa, Olugaskadawala, Sirambewa, Kalpe, Medagamakanda, Sangilimalei, Kuda Dambulla, Handagala. The main soil type recognized as red brown soil at this eco-system surrounded by conical hills (ibid, *fig* 14 – 2 :291).

Due to the geological location, the reasons affected for the establishment of settlements had been naturally prepared in the environment itself. Among them the location of the caves, rocks used to prepare the stone tools like quartz, reddish brown soil zone and the strip of quartz extend from Wadigawewa to Kiralagala in north-south orientation which made easier to extract the raw materials can be identified. Similarly, the natural hollows which made due to the conical hills supported to catch the fish and the carrying capacity of the hoofed animals prove the existence of a suitable environment for pre-historic man. The

factors which effect for the subsistence and settlements were available in the particular eco-system, as a result it can be imagined that the beginning of the settlements at the above basins could be occurred during the Mesolithic period. Similarly, the creation of its first cultural landscape might be taken place during the prehistoric phase.

The Cultural Contextualization of the Proto and Early-Historic Phase

Proto-historic cultural phase can be identified as the next techno-cultural phase recognized at Middle Yan Oya basin, Upper Ma Oya Basin, Upper Malwatu Oya Basin and middle basins. The oldest proto-historic evidences at Anuradhapura district yielded from the citadel of Anuradhapura. According to the radio carbon dating and Oxcal dating it was revealed that the proto-historic cultural phase goes back to 1000BC (Deraniyagala, 1992 ; Deraniyagala & Abyerathne,1997). Among the burials which situated over these basins are Wadigawewa, Gurugalhinna, Kokebe, Rambewa, Tammannagodalla, Walahaviddawewa, Diwulwewa, Mawathawewa, Walasmulla, Wahalkada, Palippothana and the respective dating revealed from Tammannagodalla and Kokebe. The excavation conducted by Ranjith Dissanayake at Tammannagodalla yielded that the burials records a history of 490 BC (Discussion with Ranjith Dissanayake,2017). The burial Kokebe, which was excavated by Rajarata University of Sri Lanka dated 790BC (Mendis,2017). Similarly, the burial of Palippothana which located close to Kahatagasdigiliya in Rathmalgahawewa dated 369 BC It is clear that, after 200 years period the proto-historic culture expand to the east from Ancient Anuradhapura city. It is significant that the middle basin of Yan Oya found many proto-historic burials. Accordingly we have to investigate whether the proto-historic culture expanded to the external zones making Anuradhapura as the hub. As mentioned by the archaeologists, any settlement which originate at any respective location expand due to the subsistence pattern, technology, settlement pattern, multi resource use (Senaviratne, 1996). In a particular settlement after the expansion of population, the settlements expand. As a result new settlements establish and the inter connection process by developing the social, economic, political and religious institutions.

The reasons which based on the time and space caused the establishment of proto-historic settlements at Middle Yan Oya basin, Upper Ma Oya Basin and Upper Malwatu Oya Basins. According to the radio carbon dating, the expansion of proto-historic cultural sequence taken place at Anuradhapura expanded to the eastern zone. Consequently, in search of raw materials based on the socio-economic-techno fields settlements would be expanded.

Predicated on the researches so far, Anuradhapura city became urbanized in 500 BC. The local and foreign artifacts yielded from the period moreover confirm the fact (Deraniyagala, 1992). With the emergence of Anuradhapura as the main settlement, surrounding areas could be able to provide the motive power to the state. The inter socio relationship proceed over the Middle Yan Oya basin, Upper Ma Oya Basin and Upper Malwatu Oya Basins can be identified as a reason for the establishment of proto-historic settlements.

The area of Middle Yan Oya basin, Upper Ma Oya Basin, Upper Malwatu Oya Basins located in between the Vijayan complex and Highland geological complex (Cooray, 1984). The main soil type recognized as Reddish Brown Earth and Alluvial soil. In order to build up a primary society within such environments different reasons effected. The ecological factors effect for an emergence of a rural state and the location of mineral resources are the significances over these basins. An eco-system consisted with few conical hills and fertile soil is another feature of proto-historic environment. Gurugalhinna, Diwulwewa, Kokebe, Rambewa, Wadigawewa, Tammennagodalla, Palippothana are some proto-historic sites where it consists conical hills in the environment. A diversity of the contours can be identified, due to the location of such conical hills or mounds. Therefore, natural hollows can be observed, later those could be viewed as water contained areas as a result of the north-east monsoon rain. The settlements expanded at Ibbankatuwa, Idamoraluwa and Yan Oya can be named as the pre-historic sites located at hollows (Senaviratne, 1996).

With reference to the utility of water around the basin areas, each proto-historic settlement depicts a small tank. Though it had subjected into many changes nowadays, these tanks were constructed around the hollows during the ancient period. The ability to store water inside the tank is very important here, as the north-east monsoon rainfall records 1000-1500mm. Proto-historic people who engaged in limited agriculture and Chena cultivation might be widen the small hollows, build the dams and construct a tank. This might make easier to do the wet cultivation in the dry season. The alluvial soil which needed for the cultivation is rich in this basin region (Cooray, 1984). The reddish brown soil which is widely spreaded in the region is helpful for the dry cultivation and it can be hypothesized that the utility of water and soil would be directly influenced for the attraction during the proto-historic period. Not only agrarians, the proto-historic people were pastorals. Herding cows to gain milk and flesh was prominent among them. There are people who tame the bison in the areas of Middle Yan Oya basin, Upper Ma Oya Basin and Upper Malwatu Oya Basins called as “Marikaruwan”. These “Marikaruwan” use the traditional methods and “Varamanda” to

tame the wild bison in order to fulfill their needs. At present people rear the cows as herds at these basins to gain milk and agricultural activities. The natural water retention areas located at the basins known as “Eba” and (Mendis,2016). The eco-system related with agrarian, irrigation and pastoral activities played an important role in establishment of proto-historic settlements at Middle Yan Oya basin, Upper Ma Oya Basin and Upper Malwatu Oya Basins.

The location of mineral resources also important in the organization of proto-historic settlements. Among them, the metals located in proximity to Yan Oya is significant. As mentioned by Sudarshana Seneviratne, the outset of the consumption of iron and copper happened during the proto-historic period (Senaviratne, 1994). Copper is an important mineral recognized at Seruwila close to the basins of Middle Yan Oya, Upper Ma Oya and Upper Malwatu Oya. According to a study conducted at Seruwila, by the Department of Geological Survey in 1971, it revealed that it contains the copper magnetite (Senaviratne, 1995). Previously, it was identified that this area contains magnetite iron ore and mercury by the British nation, Davy and Tennent respectively. As mentioned by P. G. Cooray, this magnetite copper deposit was formed at the intermediate geological zone of Eastern Vijayan Complex and Highland complex (Senaviratne,1995). The Seruwila mineral strip of 250 miles can be identified as metamorphic rocks which extends from Seruwila to Hambantota. This mineral deposit contains silver, Bismat, Zinc, Maica, Chromium, Nickel as well as gold at deeper points (Senaviratne,1995) According to the Department of Geological Survey, 07 million tons of magnetite copper spreads 200 feet towards the interior of the earth Seruwila (ibid). As mentioned by Arjuna Thanthilage, it can be observed magnetite deposits in large amounts at Arippe (Thanthilage & Vithaige,2015).

In the consumption of resources, metals have taken a major role in the consumption of resources during the Iron age. As a result, the establishment of the proto-historic settlement in Kadiraweli which is located at the eastern boundary of Yan Oya can be identified. It is revealed that the consumption of iron ore deposit at Seruwila occurred during the historical period. The chemical and element analysis of the metal tools yielded from Anuradhapura citadel’s proto-historic settlement strata shows a resemblance with the iron ore found from Seruwila deposit. Apart from that, Raja De Silva mentioned that artifacts made of iron and copper found at Gurugalhinnna, Diwulwewa, Wadigawewa, Kokebe and Kadiraweli have been found from the excavations. (Senaviratne,1995). According to Arjuna Thanthilage, it was not mentioned accurately whether the artifacts are copper or iron by Raja De Silva (Thanthilage,2008). As described by Senaviratne, copper tools which yielded from

Gurugalhinna was recorded by Raja De Silva in 1970 (Senaviratne, 1984). In fact, iron equipment found from Wadigawewa cist burial explained by S. K. Sithrampalam (Sithrampalam, 1982 in Senaviratne, 1984) As shown by Arjuna Thanthilage, among the metal artifacts yielded at Gurugalhinna it is recorded that only copper made tools were found from the site. Similarly, Kokebe, Wadigawewa and Diwulwewa sites record both iron and copper made tools (Thanthilage, 2007).

Ranjith Dissanayake, who conducted the excavation of Tammennagodalla in 2013 mentioned that gold beads, iron made bangles, earrings, bows, arrows, agricultural equipment, copper made kohl sticks and bangles were yielded from the site (Discussion with Ranjith Dissanayake, quoted Manamendraarachchi and Adikari, 2014). The Palippothana excavation which was conducted by Rajarata University of Sri Lanka in 2020 found copper made kohl sticks and iron rods. It is important that finding information about iron, copper and gold industries at the areas of Middle Yan Oya, Upper Ma Oya and Upper Malwatu Oya Basins. The time range of these basins and the evidences on smelting copper with reference to metal found at 3A layer in Anuradhapura citadel showed up 600-500 BC radio carbon dating. (Deraniyagala, 1972; Senaviratne, 1995).

The beads found at Palippothana excavation is also very important and mainly precious stones and glass beads were used to manufacture those beads. Among them, glass beads are highly recorded. It was found that glass beads were produced during the proto historic period as evidences yielded at proto-historic settlements and burials. The oldest dating on producing glass beads at Anuradhapura revealed from the megalithic site Kokebe in Kahatagasdigiliya. The excavation done at this site by Rajarata University of Sri Lanka in 2020, dated 790BC and blue, green, brown glass beads revealed from the site (Mendis, 2016).

It was revealed that AG 69 excavation of Anuradhapura Citadel dated its glass beads to 350-100 BC (Deraniyagala, 1972). According to the explanations of Deraniyagala, the shapes of the beads yielded at the Citadel showed up similarities with Ujjain, Ahichchatra and Hastinapura excavations as mentioned by Ghosh, Diksith and Lal (ibid)' Deraniyagala's beads form classification of Anuradhapura Citadel in 1972, were resemble with the beads found at Kokebe and Palippothana megalithic sites. Similarly, the transparent quartz beads which found from the site portrays that the consumption of mineral resources in these respective basins.

Accordingly, the technology utilized in Middle Yan Oya, Upper Ma Oya Upper Malwatu Oya Basins and Anuradhapura Citadel's can be observed here. It is clear that these three basins played a vital role to build up Anuradhapura's cultural landscape widely and the transition of techno-cultural phases with the intervention of man could be directly effect on this process. It can be imagined that many proto-historic settlements established at these basins based on the extraction of copper. The consumption of metal resources and apprenticeship of metal technology might be based on the settlement expansion over these three basins.

With reference to the cultural landscape of the proto-historic phase, the megalithic burial complexes and settlement sites like Kudawewa, Padarellawa Ellepothana, Berawayakanda, Hammillakadawala can be seen. Considering the area of the burial complexes there should be large settlements over there. Each burial site consisted a small tank and during the rainy season these tanks overflow then fall under the burial complexes. It is clear that later these tanks might be expanded or changed (Dissanayake, 2018).

The very first preparation of the built environment and its landscape in Middle Yan Oya, Upper Ma Oya, Upper Malwatu Oya Basins suiting to a rural culture happened during the Proto-historic iron age. During this techno-cultural phase the landscape which existed so far changed by using of hollows for the handmade dams of the tanks, building up the villages, burial architecture and the burial rites. Accordingly, the condition which happened over the changes in time can be observed through the remained megalithic burial complexes. More than 45 megalithic burials at Middle Yan Oya, Upper Ma Oya and Upper Malwatu Oya Basins (Manamendraarchchi, 2014; Dissanayake, 2018; Mendis,2017) observed and among the burial structures,

- I. Cist burial
- II. Cairn mounds / Cairn heap
- III. Cairn circle
- IV. Dolmenoid cist (Senaviratne, 2007 ; Dissanayake, 2018)).
- V. Alignment(Mendis,2016,2017)
- VI. Double Orthostat(Mendis et,al,2020)

Accordingly, the grave architecture can be observed as above.

The technological process during proto-historic phase can be read by the mutual relationship which built between the people and the environment. The cist burials can be

observed at Tammannagodalla, Gurugalhinna, Wadigawewa, Kok-ebe, Diwulwewa, Rambewa, Parangiyawadiya, Maradanmaduwa, Walasmulla, Palipbothana, Wahalkada, Mawathawewa and Maradanmaduwa sites over the basins of Middle Yan Oya, Upper Ma Oya, and Upper Malwatu Oya. These cist burials created in the shape of square and Swastika (Pres: comm. S.K Sitrampalam 1982 in Senaviratne, 2007).

Huge stone slabs which used to make the cist burials can be seen as the naturally broken stone slabs from the rocks and stone slabs which removed using metals from the rock. Naturally broken stone slabs can be found from Tammennagodalla and Gurugalhinna sites while Palipbothana, Kok-ebe identified as the stone slabs which removed using metals. Mostly chisels might be used to break the stone slabs and the proto-historic people who lived in 800 BC aware on this advanced stone technology. Accordingly, the first step of the preparation of built environment would be performed by the proto-historic people.

Especially, Cairn mounds were found at the basin of Middle Yan Oya as mentioned by Ranjith Dissanayake (Dissanayake, 2018:79-89). Such burials were yielded at Oluwewa, Parangiyawadiya, Keenagaha Ulpatha sites (ibid:80-89). Also known as Cairn heap whereas the stones used as a heap. Before make a heap of stones, the pottery wares of human bones or coal were deposited over the stones and built the burial. The Cairn circle type built within a stone circle and deposited the ash inside the potteries of the cist burial. Such a burial can be observed at Paluketiwewa (ibid:90). Due to the human activities the burial is at a bad condition in present. In addition, Galandakatuwa burial is an example for Delmenoid cist (ibid:54). Such a type of burial might be existed close to Seruwila temple at the basin of Middle Yan Oya according to the facts in Datuwansa. As mentioned there, the Seruwila temple located at the burial land called Tankithamancha (Dv :68). The Stupa was named as Thittapāsāna Stupa (ibid) In Pāli, Tankithamancha means the stone bed and at this place also there would be a Delmenoid cist burial. Even at present there is a place called “Galandakatuwa” in means of Delmenoid cist burial over the basin of Middle Yan Oya. Accordingly this burial structure would be at the location, though it had been destroyed by the treasure hunters.

Another burial structure called alignment can be found at Kokebe buril site. A rare type in Sri Lanka which consists only double orthostat yielded at Palipbothana burial site. Ranjith Dissanayake explained that such a type found at Karagahawela area in Monaragala. Accordingly, it is clear that the proto-historic people who established the settlements over

Middle Yan Oya, Upper Ma Oya and Upper Malwatu Oya Basins, built different types of burials in their landscape with reference to the built environment.

Especially, the burial rites performed by the proto-historic people yielded at Palippothana Megalithic Site. Among them, the utensils used by the dead person deposited with ash can be revealed by the beads or metals inside the pottery wares. To deposit these materials different types of Black and Red wares were used (Senaviratne, 2007). Some pottery wares have been found with the cup marks with capstones, which can be imagined that the offerings done to the dead person. The spatial distribution of the cup marks on the surface remains at Palippothana found at three clusters of the burial. Its eastern and western clusters portray cup marks over the cap stones at two large cist burials. A dip pattern manifested at the cap stone could be used as a hollow to insert any solid material. At the outside of the Palippothana burial, small pottery ware found and vessel's base was resembled with B1 cups. It can be hypothesized that these wares could be used for a kind of an offering with cups. They are located at the west of the burial since it is still a practice of post burial rite of worshipping the dead. Gotamela records the offering of drugs to the dead in living megalithic tradition also, the Gadaba, Bondo communities offer food for the dead and offer animal blood over the Menhir burial respectively (Mendaly, 2017). In addition, the burial rites which can imagined that had conducted keeping the dead body at the grave yard found at a diameter more than 6 feet in a circular stone and a small stone circle at Tammannagodalla. This circular creation which done using the metal technology, portrays the funerary practices of the culture. Most probably, these sites could be the places where they performed the rites for the dead person before the cremation. Accordingly, the historical space can be studied using the megalithic burials, village tanks, different crafts and industries during the proto-historic phase, which changed the landscape in the basins.

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