



Building 88

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Chapter 25

Building 88

Lisa Yeomans

Limited excavation took place in Sp.309 of B.88 and, at present, it is isolated from the main area of excavation and forms a side room to an undefined building. There was insufficient time in the 2006 season to understand the relationship of Sp.309 to other spaces in the southwestern corner of the excavation area. At that time, only the westernmost 10m by 40m strip of the 4040 trench of the North Area was excavated. B.88 has been assigned to Level 4040 H (see Chapter 4, Fig. 4.29).

Building 88 Phase B: Occupation

(Fig. 25.1 Harris matrix on CD)

Sp.309 was clearly defined after the surface scrape in 2003 as a room within a Neolithic building (Fig. 25.2 – see Fig. 4.29 for location of B.88 and surrounding architecture), although the full extent of the building could not be established because of limited time. It was separated from the external Sp.226 by a single mudbrick wall. The floor was very patchy and only partly plastered (14168)/(14169). This suggested that Sp.309 was probably a storage room to a building. The

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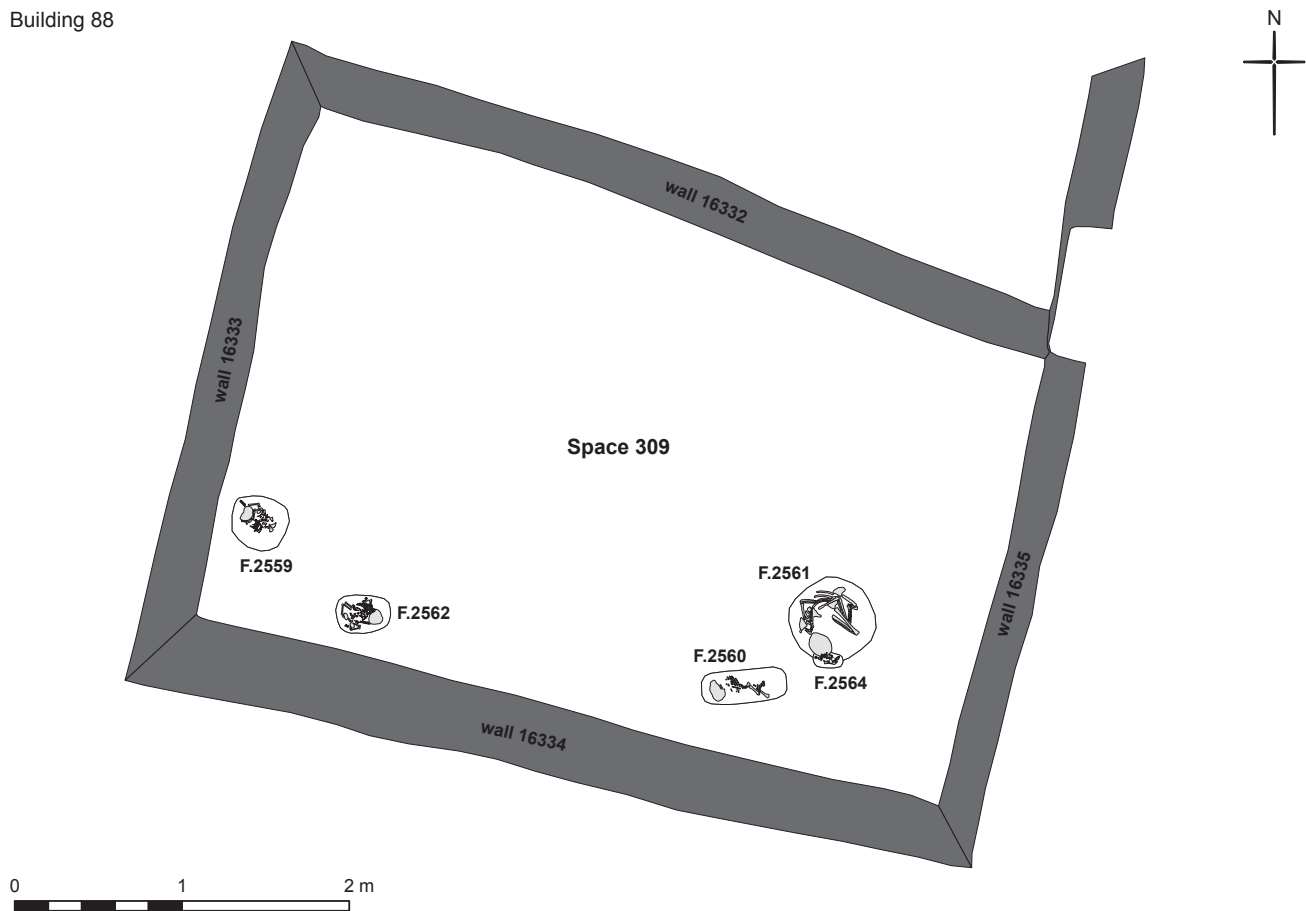


Figure 25.2. Plan of B.88 and surrounding architecture (Plan by Camilla Mazzucato, Cordelia Hall and David Mackie).

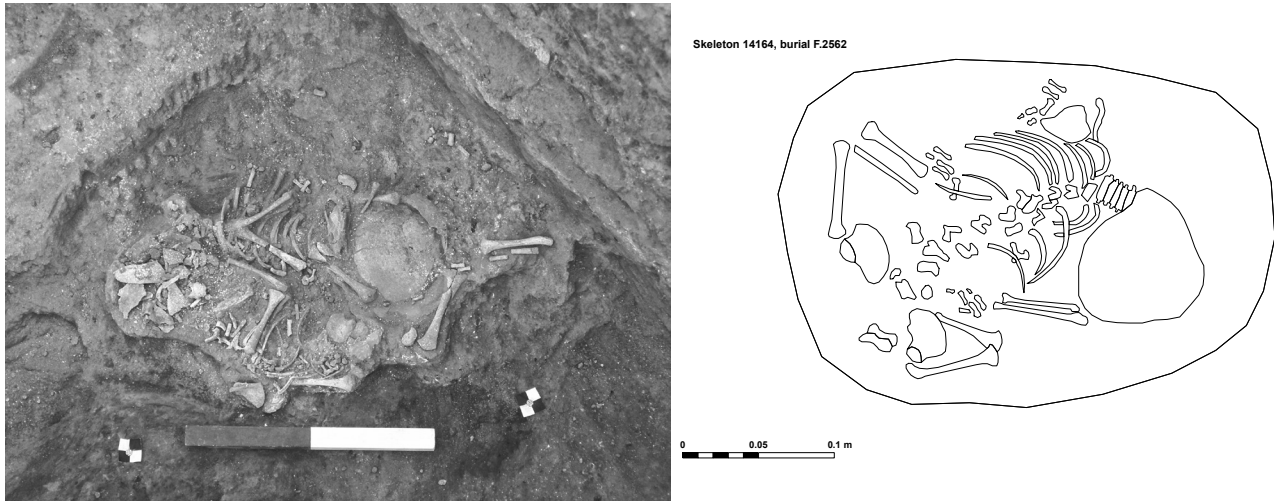
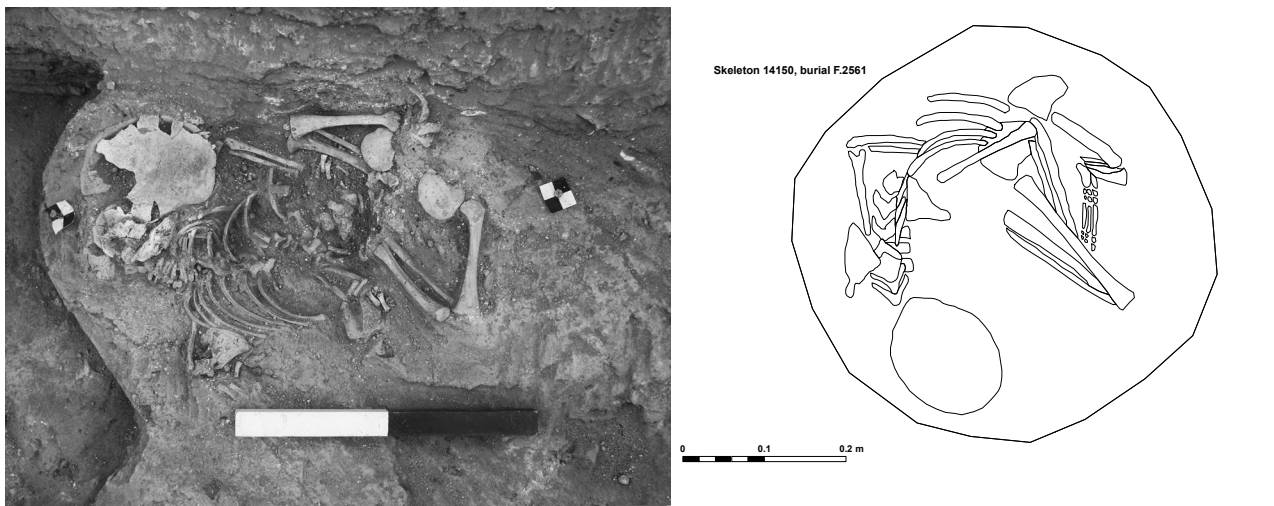


Figure 25.3. Neonatal twins (14138) and (14146) (Photo by Lisa Yeomans).



25.4. Neonatal skeleton (14164) (Photograph by Scott Haddow).

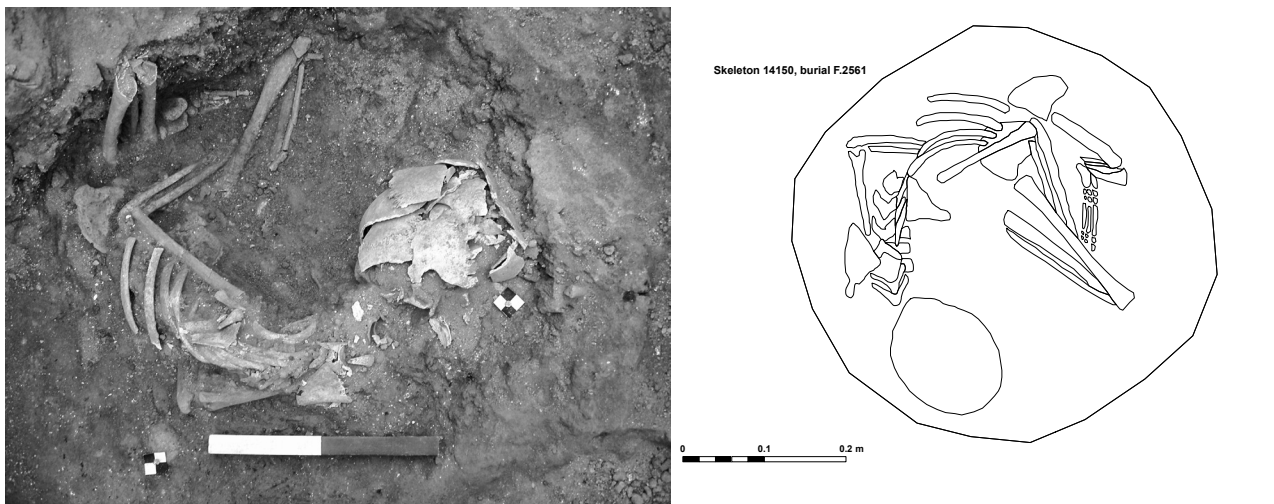


Figure 25.5. Juvenile skeleton (14150) (Photo by Lisa Yeomans).

walls of the room had not been plastered except for a thin layer on the northern wall. The floor layer in Sp.309 had been cut by a number of Neolithic burials. In the southwest corner, five neonatal skeletons (14137), (14138), (14146), (14164) and (14165) had been buried. In the southeast corner, a further neonate (14148) was interred, as well as a juvenile burial (14150) which cut an earlier neonatal burial (14162).

Skeleton (14137) belongs to a heavily disturbed neonate. Isotopic analysis of skeleton (14138) and skeleton (14146) demonstrated that they were probably neonatal twins (Pearson, pers. comm.). These two skeletons were lying in the same cut (Fig. 25.3) with (14138) lying semi-extended on its left side and (14146) lying on its right side with the skull next to the legs of its twin.

Skeleton (14164) was buried lying on its stomach with the head to the east (Fig. 25.4); disturbed skeleton (14165) was found lying over the top and around skeleton (14164). Skeleton (14148) was lying on its right side with its head to the east.

The juvenile skeleton (14150) was lying in a crouched position slightly on its right side (Fig. 25.5????) and the burial of this child partially disturbed the bone of another neonatal (14162) lying on its stomach with the arms folded under the body.

Building 88 Phase A: Closure/infilling

Sp. 309 was left empty at its abandonment and was infilled with fairly sterile room-fill (14103). A goat horncore 14103.x1, a fairly complete pot 14103.x2 and fragments of a large grindstone were the only finds of note within the fill.

Acknowledgements

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