

Figure 26. Sections of Tomb A 7S, E.

Tomb A 7 (E and S)

The top of the shaft to the chambers of Tomb A 7 appeared below the base of a shallow EB IB burial which was cleared separately (Burial A 13). The shaft of A 7 was circular in shape (fig. 27). The entryways to both chambers were badly preserved, and blocking stones were missing in each case, although the large stone shown in the shaft section (fig. 26) may have been a blocking stone moved from its original position by siltation. The entry to A 7E was packed with clay. Several stones toward ceiling level were raised up by siltation, and

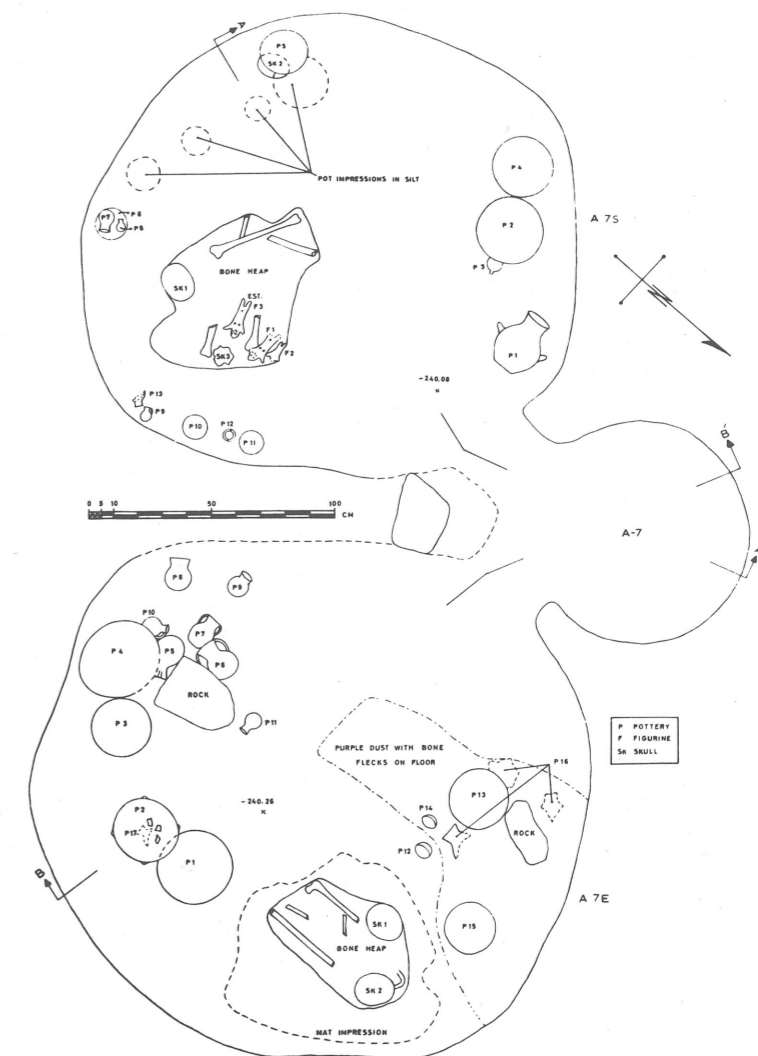


Figure 27. Plan of Tomb A 7S, E.

were probably also blocking stones. The entryways to both chambers contained a lip between the bottom of the shaft and the floor of the chamber, although in the south chamber this was broken away.

The east chamber was crudely round with a convex ceiling (fig. 27). Several large rocks in the natural layers of the ceiling had fallen on P 16 and at least one other vessel. Silt layers were uniformly composed of brown clay with pebbles. Thirteen thin layers of silt were counted in P 3 and under P 2 were 48 layers. The chamber wall had a small crack behind P 4, allowing lime soil to wash in against P 3 and P 4, and under P 4. The considerable evidence for silting was responsible for many of the contents of this chamber not being in their original positions. Some of the vessels were also floated up (for the pottery of A 7E see Mfig. 319-20). The original floor was apparently of white marl. Matting was under the bone heap, and as in Tomb A 5, a thick layer of purple-brown dust

containing bone fragments may be a slight suggestion of an earlier episode of burial, although they could have been dropped during the placement of the bone pile.

The bone pile was in an unusual position in comparison with other tombs, being in the left rear of the chamber. It may also have experienced some shifting with the silting of the tomb. Two mandibles, one found next to Skull 1 and the other in the bone pile, suggest two individuals. The bone tabulation, however, accounts for only a single person, and it may be that Skulls 1 and 2 were pieces of the same skull. The skull fragments were to the left of the bone heap.

The south chamber was also roughly round in shape with a ceiling like that of the east chamber. The chamber floor contained a 0.05 to 0.09 m thick deposit of silt on the floor, along with some ceiling collapse. All pottery vessels seem to have floated except P 12. The floor was white marl, ribboned with clay, and there was no discernible bedding layer. Evidence for matting, however, was present under the bone group.

The bone heap was left of the chamber center and had probably shifted in the silting of the tomb. Two skull fragments were left of it, and a third probably floated to the extreme rear of the chamber. Pottery vessels were on the left and right edges of the chamber, with P 5 in the rear (for the pottery of A 7S see Mfig. 321). Four impressions embedded in the silt deposit at the rear probably indicate original positions for several of the vessels. The bones were very brittle. On the basis of the bone tabulation, the bone group and the three skull fragments apparently represent a single adult.

Three figurines (F 1, 2, 3) were found in the bone heap of the south chamber, two on the edge and one at the bottom. Noteworthy is the small juglet with lug handles found in the shaft, an unpainted example of a type which during EB IB was decorated with groups of painted lines. The presence of this piece suggests that the shaft had been reopened, which may have contributed to the siltation process. Since A 7S has pottery fitting in the late horizon of EB IA while A 7E is an early group (see chapter 3), the juglet piece was perhaps deposited when the shaft was reopened for burial in A 7S.

Human Skeletal Remains

(A 7E)		(A 7S)	
Skulls	(1 or 2?)	Skulls	(3 fragments)
Right Femur	(1)	Femur	(1)
Left Femur	(1)	Right Humerus Cap	(1)
Right Humerus	(1)	Left Humerus Cap	(1)
Left Humerus	(1)	Right Humerus Cap	(1)
Right Tibia	(1)	Right Ulna Cap	(1)
Right Innominate	(1)	Calcanea	(2)
Right Calcaneum	(1)	Radius Head	(1)
Left Calcaneum	(1)	Scapula	(1)
Right Radius	(1)	Sacrum	(1)
Right Scapula	(1)		
Left Scapula	(1)		
Right Talus	(1)		
Sacrum	(1)		

Other Materials

Figurines	(3)
Beads from bone group	

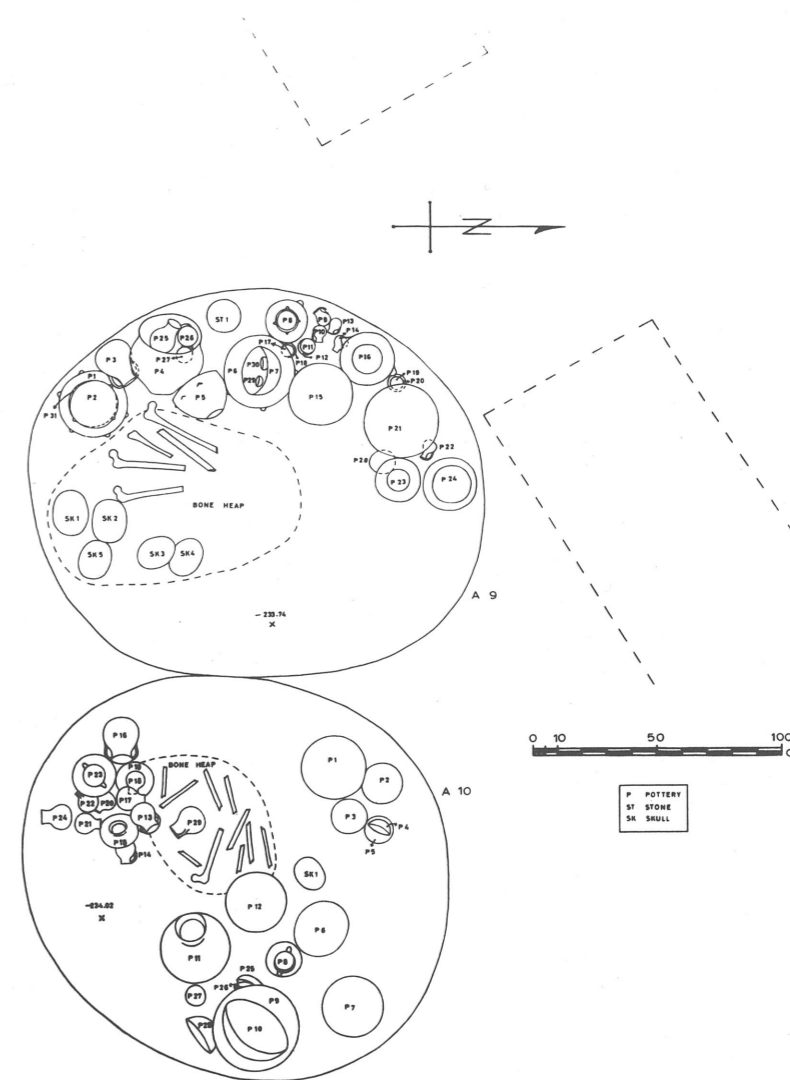


Figure 28. Plan of Tombs A 9 and A 10.

Tomb A 9

The adjacent chambers of Tombs A 9 and A 10 were discovered on the southeast side of Charnel House A 8 (fig. 28). It is possible that a single shaft led to both chambers, but no evidence for a shaft could be found. On the other hand, since A 9 has typological affinities to the late group while A 10 falls in the early group, it is unlikely that they shared the same shaft. A 9 was also higher in elevation than A 10 (see section for A 8, fig. 198), indicating non-related chambers. It was fully silted. The fragmentary bone pile lay south of the chamber, with five skulls on the east edge of the heap. This placement may not have been original, however, due to serious weathering in this chamber. The pottery vessels were ringed around the north and west edges of the chamber (figs. 29-31). Several vessels were stacked inside one another.

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