

Bilua Bifoa

Vella Lavella Archaeological Survey Year 1
Annual Report 2004



Dr. Peter J. Sheppard
Dept of Anthropology
University of Auckland

Dr. Richard Walter
Dept of Anthropology
University of Otago

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War canoes at Vella Lavella in the early 20th century (R. Nicholson 1925:48 . Permission South Australian Museum)

Preface

The following is an annual summary of research on the archaeology of Vella Lavella carried out during 2004 and early 2005 by the Bilua Bifoa Research Project, which is a joint project of the Dept. of Anthropology, University of Auckland; Dept. of Anthropology, University of Otago; and the National Museum of the Solomon Islands and the Western Province, Solomon Islands. This report is prepared in accordance with the requirements of Provincial and National Legislation (Solomon Islands) for distribution to the chiefs and landowners of Vella Lavella, Ministry of Culture and Tourism (Western Province), Solomon Island Research Committee (Ministry of Education, Honiara), and the National Museum. This report contains copies of all finished reports, maps, site record forms, site plans and other texts produced to date. Not all plans or analyses originating from this year's work are finished. They will be made available in next year's report. Scientific analysis of this material is in progress.

The material contained in this text is not to be used in any legal proceedings.



Project Overview

The general goals of this research project are to record the cultural history of the people of Vella Lavella using the methods of archaeology, cultural anthropology and geography. This work is carried out in co-operation with the Solomon Island Museum, the Solomon Island Ministry of Education, the Western Province Provincial Government and with the permission of landowners on Vella Lavella. A three year research permit has been given to the project by the National Government to conduct research on Vella Lavella. Of primary importance however is the on-going consultation with and the co-operation of the people of Vella Lavella to whom we are most grateful.

The ultimate goal of this project is to provide a written record of the long history of Vella Lavella which may be of use to future generations of people on Vella and the Solomon Islands. Such results can be used in Solomon Island schools, museum displays and other places where people wish to provide information on the history and custom of Vella. Much traditional knowledge is fast disappearing as the older generation passes away. At the same time logging and other activities in the bush are often threatening, and some times destroying, custom places and other records of history. It is important to record and preserve as much of this knowledge as possible as it represents the cultural heritage of the children of the Solomon Islands.

This research seeks to answer a number of basic questions:

- When did people first come to live on Vella Lavella? It is possible people have been living on the island for up to 30,000 years, based on results of previous research on Buka in the Northern Solomons.
- When did people first make gardens on Vella Lavella? Our work in Roviana has shown that people there began to make gardens just over 3000 years ago. Is the same true on Vella?
- Has the way of life of people on Vella always stayed the same or did it change

over time? In Roviana for example we found that people who made decorated clay pots (see Figure 1) came to live there some time before 2200 years ago. Did these same people come to live on Vella at that time?

The archaeology of Lapita dispersed in Oceania

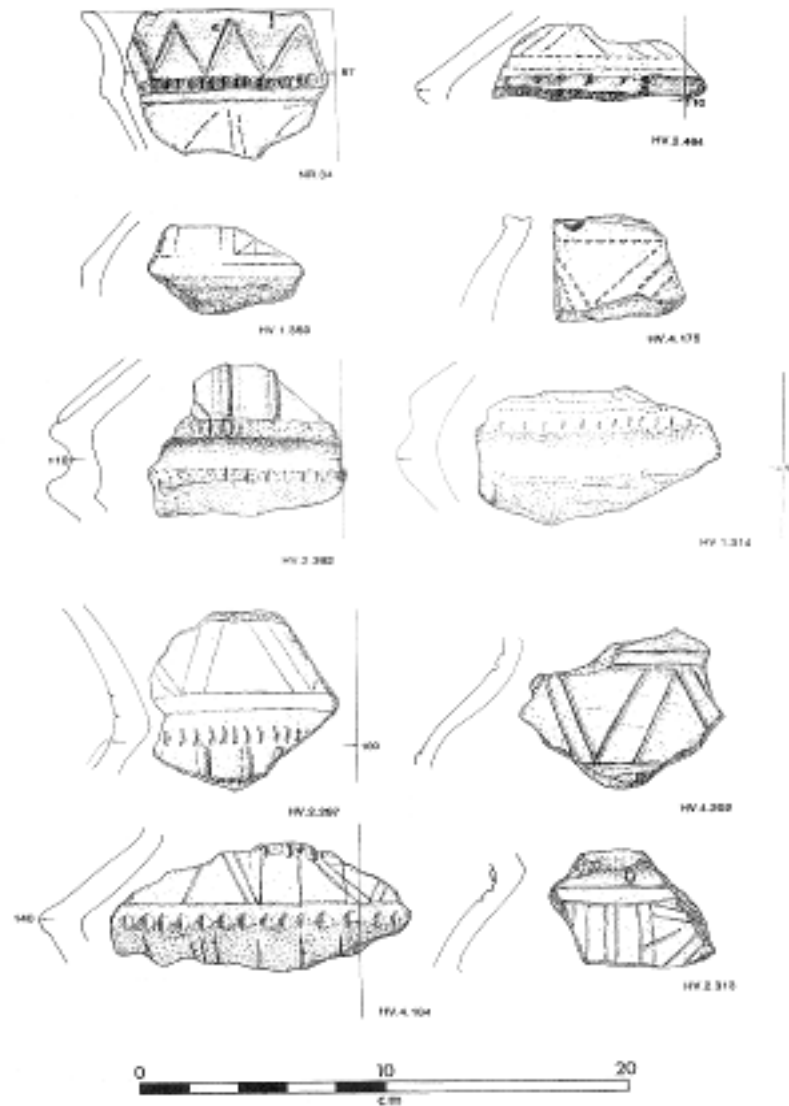
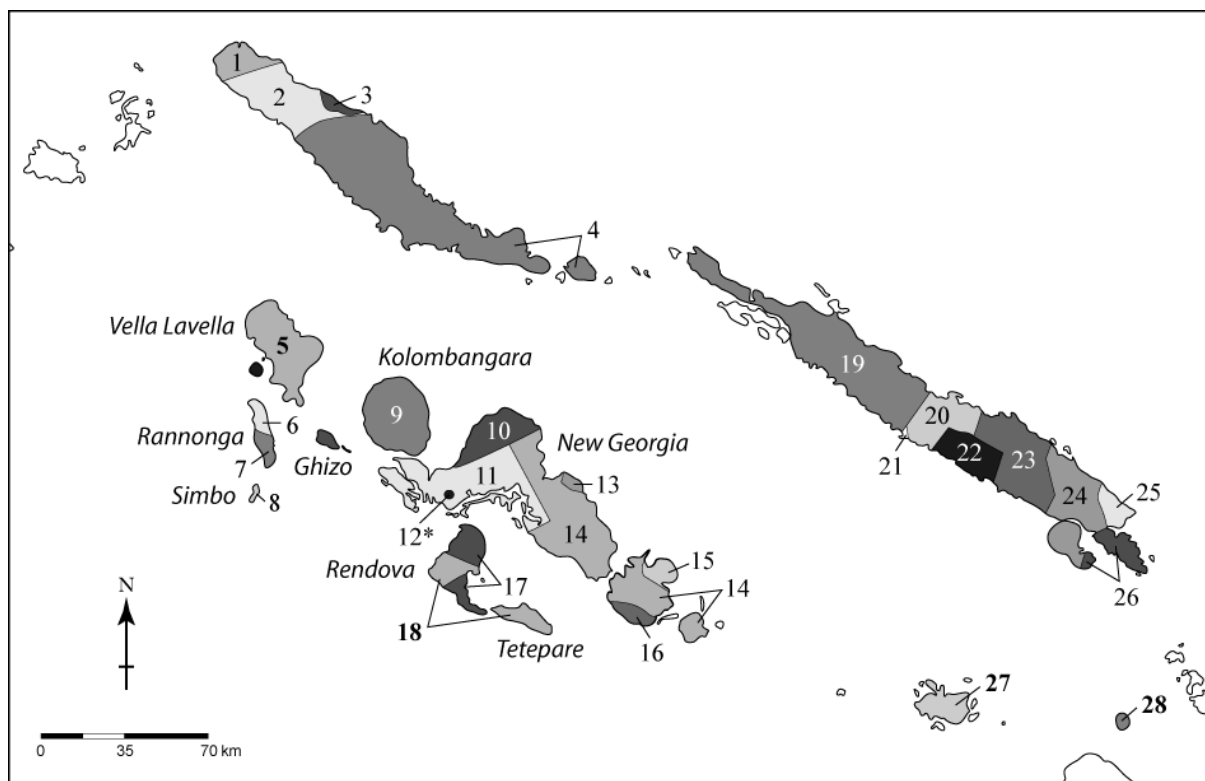


Figure 1. Drawings of two thousand year old decorated pottery pieces from Roviana (Felgate, 2001).

- When did people begin to make *sope* or *matebangara*? In Roviana we first see *hope* which contain skulls about 400 years ago. Before that we see a different kind of platform which dates back as far as 1200 AD or 800 years ago. Is the

sequence of change over time the same on Vella Lavella?

- How were *sope* used prior to the coming of the mission? Are the *sope* on Vella different from those in Roviana, Choiseul or Rannonga?
- The people of Vella Lavella speak a language (Mbilua) which is very different from those of its neighbours whose languages are very similar to each other. How have the people of Vella managed to keep their distinctive language even though they have had very close relations with people from other islands over many hundreds or thousands of years?



1 Vaghua	8 Simbo	15 Mbarke	22 Zazao
2 Riro	9 Nduke	16 Vungunu	23 Blablanga
3 Varisi	10 Kusage	17 Ughele	24 Maringe
4 East Choiseul (5 Dialects)	11 Roviana	18 Mbaniaata	25 Nggao
5 Mbilua	12 Kazakuru*	19 Kia	26 Bhugotu
6 Ghanongga	13 Hoava	20 Kokota	27 Lavukaleve
7 Lungga	14 Marovo	21 Laghu	28 Savosavo

Bold numbers indicate NAN languages; * indicates an extinct language.

Figure 2. Languages of the Western Solomons

Finding the answers to these and many related questions is difficult. We use a number of different methods to help us.

- **Archaeology-** Archaeology is the study of the distant past. Archaeologists and archaeology students from the Universities of Auckland and Otago (New Zealand) will conduct research on Vella over the 3 year period of the project. They will be visiting custom sites such as *sope*, old villages, feasting platforms and other places where people may have lived in the past such as caves. Their work will include: locating the place on maps; making maps of the areas visited, photographing the places; recording and photographing shell valuables and other things found on the surfaces of the sites. In addition they may dig small holes in old ovens (*motu*) or under the walls of platforms to try to find things like charcoal (burnt nuts for example) or shells which they can take back to New Zealand and process in a radiocarbon dating machine. This will help them tell how old the *sope* or other site is. They will also record custom stories about the place from knowledgeable elders. This work may involve the use of video cameras to record custom stories in pidgin and language. The archaeologist will not remove any objects from the surface of *sope*, *matebangara* or other custom places. These objects will be recorded and left where they are found. Any excavated samples recovered during collection of radiocarbon dating samples will be returned to the National Museum of the Solomon Islands after study.
- **Environmental Study.** One way to tell when people began to make gardens is to look for the changes made in the forest at that time. All flowering plants and grasses produce pollen grains which are nearly invisible things blown around by the wind and deposited on the surface of the ground. Pollen from different trees or grasses can be identified as they have different shapes. Over time they accumulate in swamps and wet places. At the same time the charcoal produced by burning of gardens also blows into the swamps. By looking at the different layers it is possible to tell when the large forest trees near the swamps or lakes were first cleared to make gardens. This is the subject of



Figure 3. John Dodson coring in Roviana (Mbulelavata)

environmental history. This work will be carried out by Professor John Dodson from the Dept. of Geography at the University of Western Australia. By looking at small changes in the mud in lakes and swamps recovered by drilling down into the mud (Figure 3) for 3 or 4 meters he can collect samples in which he can study the pollen and charcoal. This only requires a very small sample and usually

only takes a few hours to collect. Hopefully this work will be carried out in 2005.

- **Cultural Anthropology.** Cultural Anthropology is the study of human ways of life. Although the archaeologist will record some custom stories they do not have the time or experience to properly record custom stories or learn about custom ways practised before the coming of the mission. In order to do this it is important that the researcher learns the language and spends a long time collecting information in one area. These are the methods of the cultural anthropologist. It is hoped that a cultural anthropology student (Sarah Krose) will be able to come and live on Vella (based in Maravari for 12 months in 2006. This researcher will be focusing their study on creating a picture of the way of life of people on Vella before 1900 AD and also understanding the relationships of Vella people to their neighbours in the Western Solomons.

Fieldwork Report

Year 1 Regional Archaeological Survey

Two periods of archaeological fieldwork were conducted on Vella Lavella in Year 1 (June-July 2004; January-February 2005), as well as a brief one week visit to Honiara in January 2004 to facilitate the production of a research permit. Fieldwork staff included Peter Sheppard (University of Auckland, New Zealand), Richard Walter (University of Otago, New Zealand), Adrian Taylor (PhD student, Otago) and Anne McKenzie (MA student, Auckland) as well as colleagues from the Solomon Island National Museum (Lawrence Kiko) and the Western Province (Kenneth Roga). Research was initially concentrated in the Maravari region (coast and interior) and the coastal strip extending 7 km to the north to Kolokolo village. Although we wish to record the custom sites on the ridges behind Eloteve, on-going land disputes in the region have meant we were unable to do this in 2004. We hope we will be able to carry out this work in 2005 as it provides a very good area to record a great variety of custom sites. We investigated the Irigila region in northwestern Vella Lavella during the last 10 days of the second period of fieldwork. This extension of our research area came about as we realized that we needed to sample a greater range of environmental and potentially cultural variability. The Maravari coast lacks both a lagoon and fringing reef environment and therefore has comparatively poor marine resources. Irigila is fronted by a large lagoon system and has very rich marine resources which today support the largest village (pop 4000) on Vella Lavella.

In total we have identified and documented (mapping, photography, and test excavation) 17 archaeological sites (Figure 4) including inter-tidal sites, rockshelters, rock art, terraced settlements and shrines. Approximately 25 additional site locations have been reported by local people but have yet to be recorded.

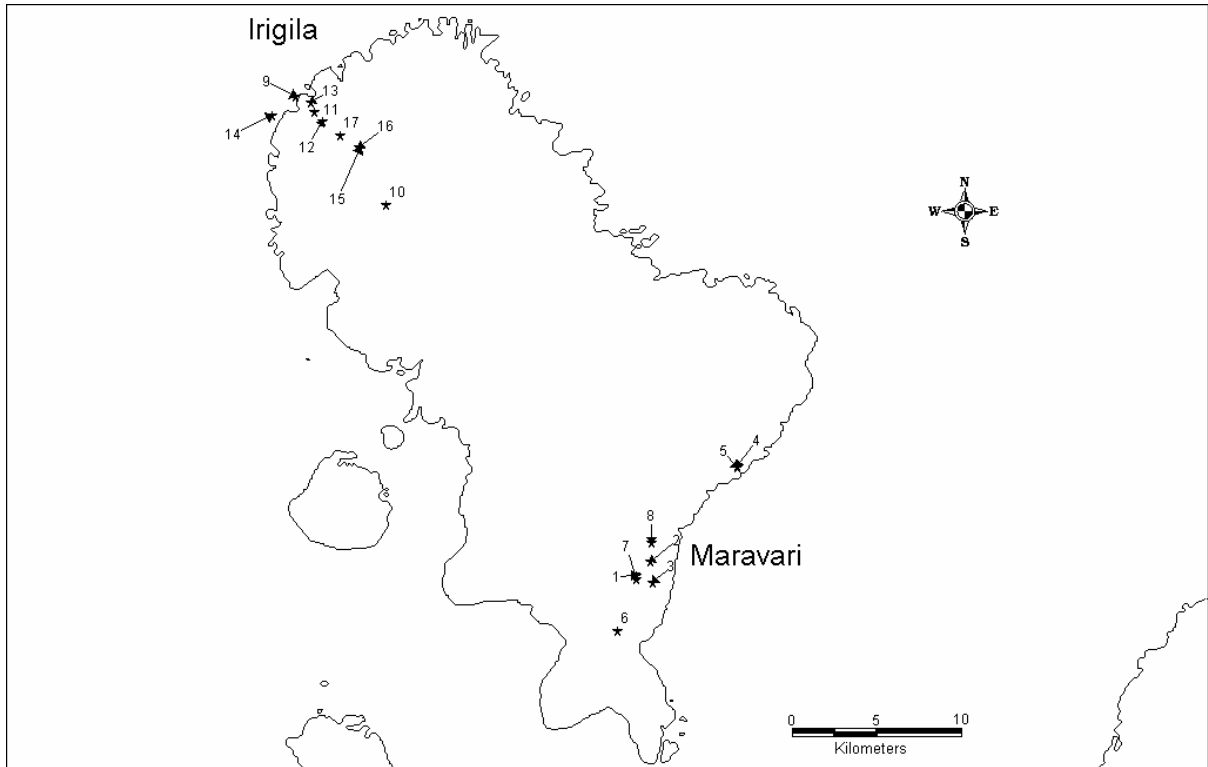


Figure 4. Site locations recorded in 2004

Only limited radiocarbon dating has been conducted so far although a full sample set is now ready to be submitted from this year's work. At present the archaeological record of Vella closely resembles that from Roviana suggesting a similar culture history. Test excavation of a large well situated rockshelter in a marine limestone terrace behind Kolokolo village (Figure 2) was designed to provide an early archeological record. Yet, as we have found in Roviana, the cultural deposit was very thin (30 cm) and although the deposit is not yet dated the thick ceramics (clay pot pieces) recovered from the base of the shelter are unlikely to date older than 2000 years ago (BP). The same time period is represented by the ceramics and obsidian (glass like stone; most likely traded from New Britain) found in an inter-tidal site identified on the western end of Gizo Island. Based on our preliminary ceramic analysis, our investigation of ceramic deposits found in Irigila village (Figure 6) suggests that these deposits date from the same period (3000-2000 years ago) but are disturbed. A programme of surface collecting, coring and test excavation beside the Irigila village church suggests that the modern beach has grown over time from the swampy area of the coconut plantation out to its current position some 200 meters from the swamp. As the shoreline has moved it has disturbed the area where people lived in houses over the lagoon more than 2000 years ago.

Today water rounded ceramics are being brought to the surface by crab activity. These can be found on the path along the front of the church and in the disturbed ground where holes have been dug to extend the old church foundation. Dating of shell from the early beach deposit, found in



Figure 5. Kuboropete Rockshelter (Site 4)

association with ceramics, may provide a date for this early occupation which may relate broadly to very early movement of people into the village area.

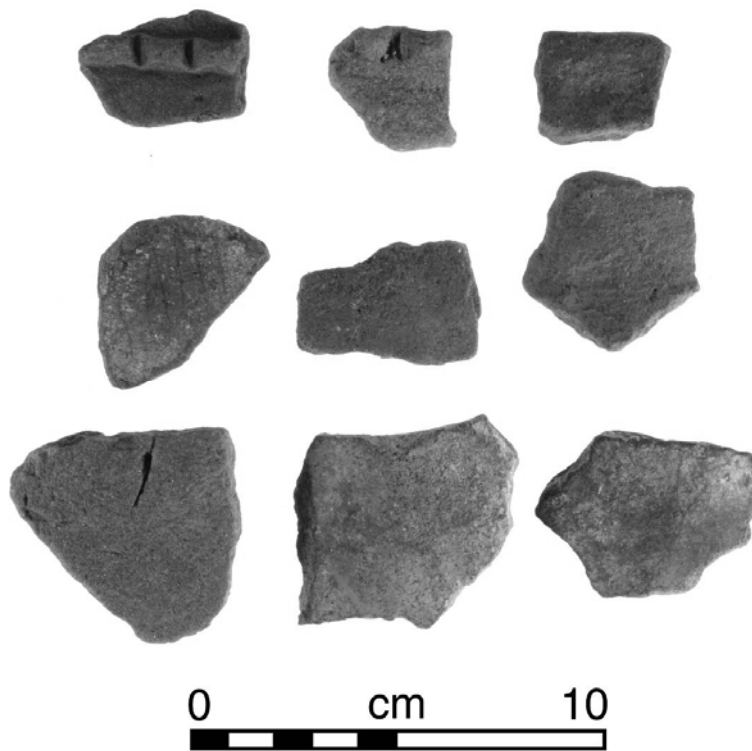


Figure 6. Ceramics (clay pot pieces) from beside the church at Irigila

The early historic period is well represented by village and sacred sites which have associated oral history and European artifacts. A pattern of occupation on interior ridges has been documented with preliminary survey of ridges in the Maravari and Irigila regions. It seems that the coast was only lightly occupied in the 19th century, with hamlets, fortified settlements, nut tree groves and shrines distributed along the ridges (Figure 7, 8, 9) from their coastal approaches to the very high ridges (1500 m +) of the islands interior. More detailed survey and excavation is needed to provide any sort of chronological framework for the recorded sites. It seems likely that we will be able to generate a chronology for the proto-historic period and for some centuries earlier, equivalent to that defined as the Munda Period in Roviana. However, we have yet to identify any earlier sites comparable to those of the Bao Period (pre-1600 AD) in Roviana. Additional survey along ridges between the presently identified sites is needed to check for earlier village sites. The historic endpoint is represented by WWII remains from an old village site (Toupalado), which was inhabited by coast watchers during the war. A 50 cal (?) machine gun was recovered by young men from Irigila during our visit to this site.



Figure 7. Petroglyph at Irigila (Site 13 Sikeura Tamana Lado)



Figure 8. *Sope* at Maravari (Site 2 Sipikelo)



Figure 9. Early 20th century *Sope* at Irigila (Site 11 Sigoaniru)

Study of Shrines (*sope, matebangara*)

Comparison of religious structures (shrines) between Roviana and Vella is an important part of our research programme. In year 1 we have identified and studied 7 shrines of the type known to Vella people today as *sope* (Figure 8) or *matebangara*. More will be recorded in Year 2. These are directly comparable to the *hope* from Roviana although they have many differences. For example Roviana people do not have a special name for large shrines with many skulls representing a number of 'tribes' or what the Vella people call *matebangara*. Our present sample should be enough to create an initial chronology (history of construction) although as we enlarge our sample of shrines next year we will be able to refine it. Initial dating of a shrine (Site 1 Natukubo) from our first period of fieldwork generated a radiocarbon age of Modern (i.e. 1800 -1950 AD) (Figure 10) at the base of an oven (*motu*) associated with the shrine. Most, if not all of the shrines we have studied, were used up to the historic period and therefore our date may simply relate to the last period of use. However in Roviana similar features often gave old dates at their base. To check on this we have excavated additional samples from under wall features to try and get a maximum age for these sites. Refinement of our dating strategies will be an important part of our Year 2 excavation plans. Although the shrines studied to date share all of the key features of those found in Roviana they also have some characteristics (for example; density, number and arrangement of skulls) which may relate to important differences in socio-political organization on Vella (Figure 11, 12). This will require additional archaeological study of more shrines and investigation by the social anthropologists.

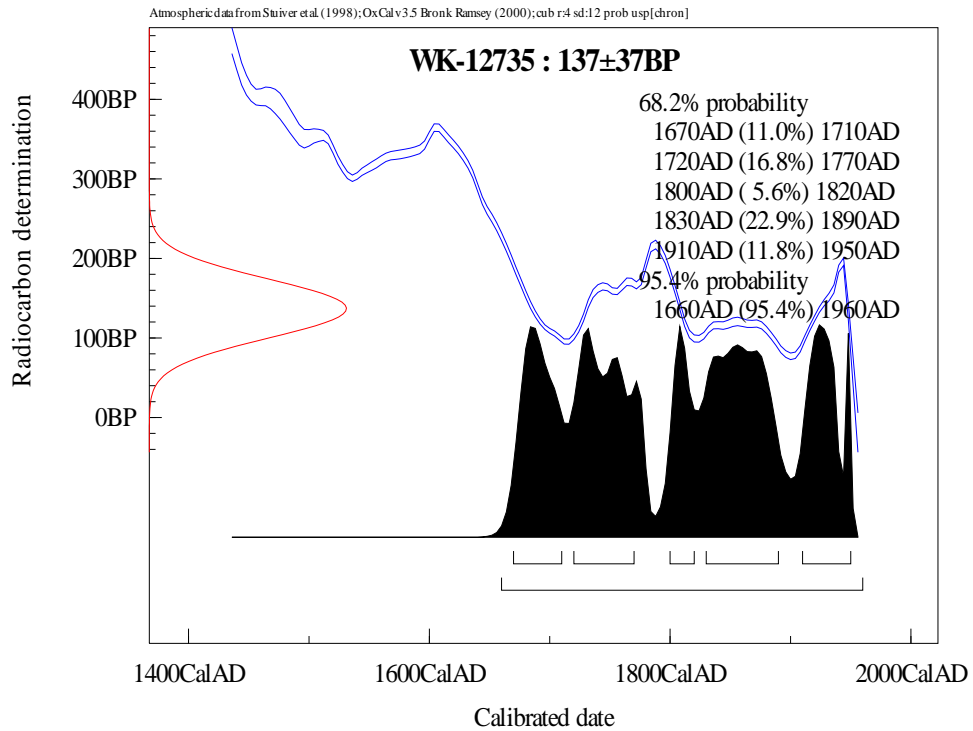


Figure 10. Results of dating a charcoal sample from Natukubo (Site 1)

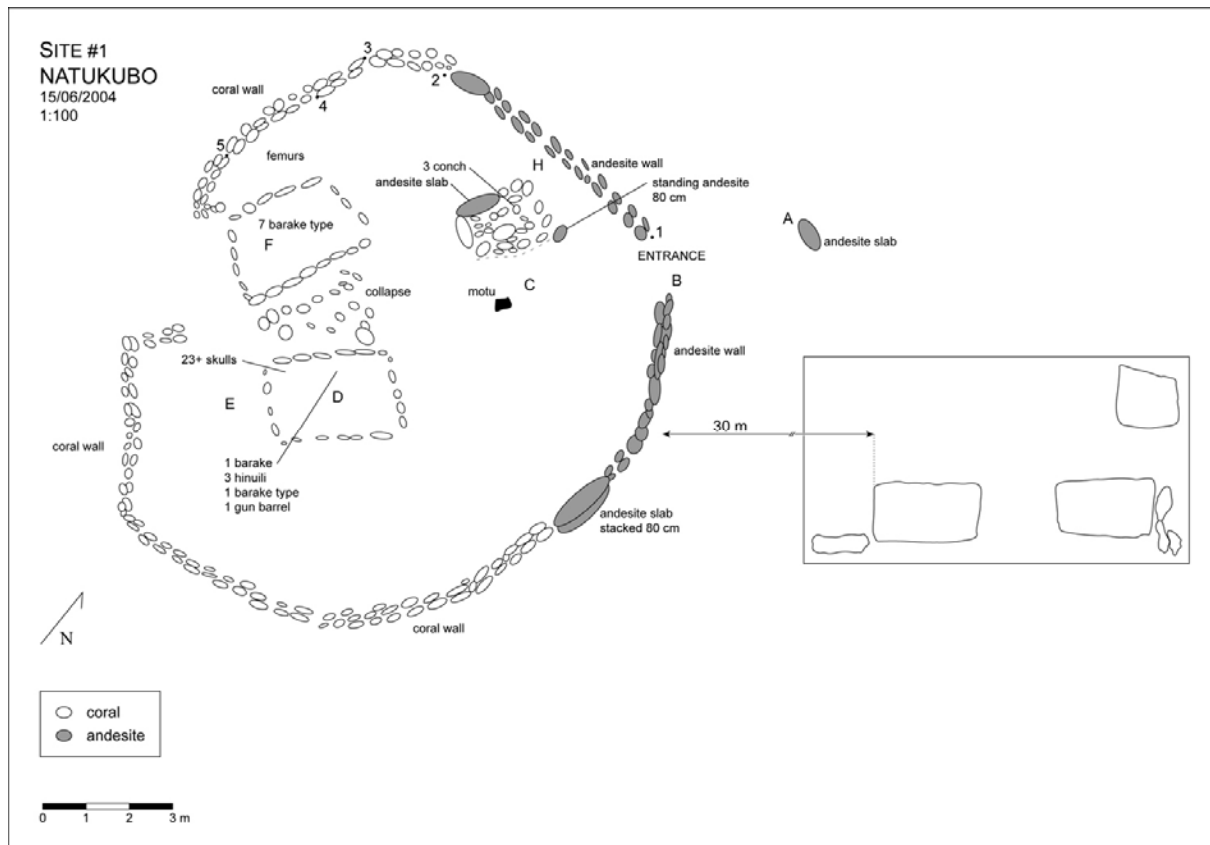


Figure 11. Plan showing features at Natukubo, a *matebangara* shrine (Site 1)

Study of Environmental History and the Age of Gardens



Figure 12. Pollen corer showing mud sample

The aim of Year one was to identify, during survey, appropriate locations to obtain pollen cores in Year two. Small lakes and swamps are not common on the Vella Lavella landscape however we have identified two small swamps in the Maravari region and we are confident that at least the larger site will provide a useful core. In the Irigila region cores may be obtained from the back swamp

and from a swamp near the logging camp near the Mundi Mundi River south of the village. Another very promising site is a fresh water lake located at some altitude (i.e. well above sea level) in the Dovele region east of Irigila. We have yet to visit that lake but it would appear to be a prime location for coring in Year 2. This coring work should only take a few days and require only a small number of samples. Figure 12 shows the type of sample which is removed from the swamp. Analysis and dating of these samples in Australia will allow use to determine when the first gardens were made on Vella Lavella. This is very important work as there is almost no other way to determine this kind of information.



Figure 12. Maravari Village

Cultural Anthropology: The Study of Custom and Oral History

Building on the work of John McKinnon, who lived for a year at Maravari in the 1970's and wrote a PhD on the subject of cultural geography and economy in Bilua, we wish to continue the study of custom history. As part of our archaeological work we will record some of the oral history associated with custom places. However in order to accurately record this information it is important to have a person dedicated to this task. In late 2005 or 2006 we plan to have a student live on Vella Lavella for some time and collect oral history. Hopefully this student will be able to learn Mbilua and collect history in language. At present we have a student coming from Canada to study for her PhD at Auckland. Her name is Sara Krose and she will be initially based at Maravari. This aspect of the research will be supervised by Dr Christine Dureau who has studied Simbo in the past and by Dr Mark Busse who is a former director of the Papua New Guinea Museum. Of particular interest is the way in which the

people of Vella interacted among themselves and with people from neighbouring islands. Additional information on this topic will be obtained from early historic records contained in the Archives of the Methodist Church in Auckland and from the Western Pacific High Commission which was responsible for the early British colonial government in the Solomon Islands.

Research Plans 2005:

- Now that we have collected a good set of dating samples from custom sites we will send this off to the dating laboratory. Results should be available later this year.
- Continue research in the Maravari region in June. Hopefully with a focus on the ridge behind Eloteve after receiving permission from the landholding groups. Working off of the logging road we should be able to record a large number of sites and document in great detail the settlement history of this region.
- Continue research in the Irigila region, mapping all sites along the main ridges working off of the logging road. This will provide a very interesting comparison with work in the Maravari region.
- Look for inter-tidal ceramic sites in the Irigila lagoon system during the low water season. We should be able to locate old sites of more than 2000 years in areas adjacent to river mouths.
- Conduct sampling from swamps and lakes for environmental analysis. At present it looks like this work will be conducted in late 2005.
- During late 2005 we will conduct some preliminary survey in the Varase and Supato regions.



Vella Lavella Site Record Form

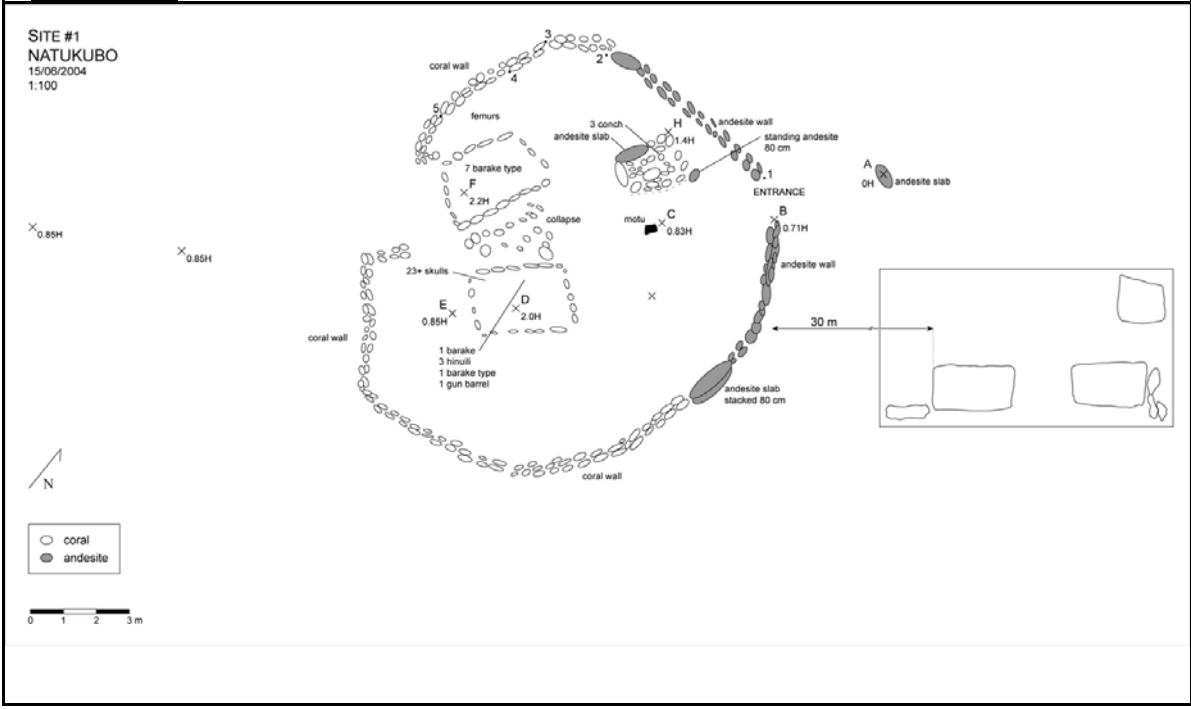
Site Number	1	Site Location	Site is located on top of a spur which is immediately above a gardened area, behind the present day Maravari Village (WSW of village). The river lies to the north of the site and is relatively close, though not in view. This site commands visibility in two directions and is easily defensible.
Site Name	Natukubo		
Site Type	matebangara		
Island	Vella Lavella		

Northing	9130500	Site Description	The site consists of a series of walls and platforms, standing stones and motu.
Easting	246180		
Length M	0		
Width M	0		
Depth M	0		

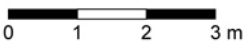
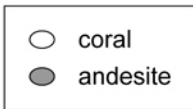
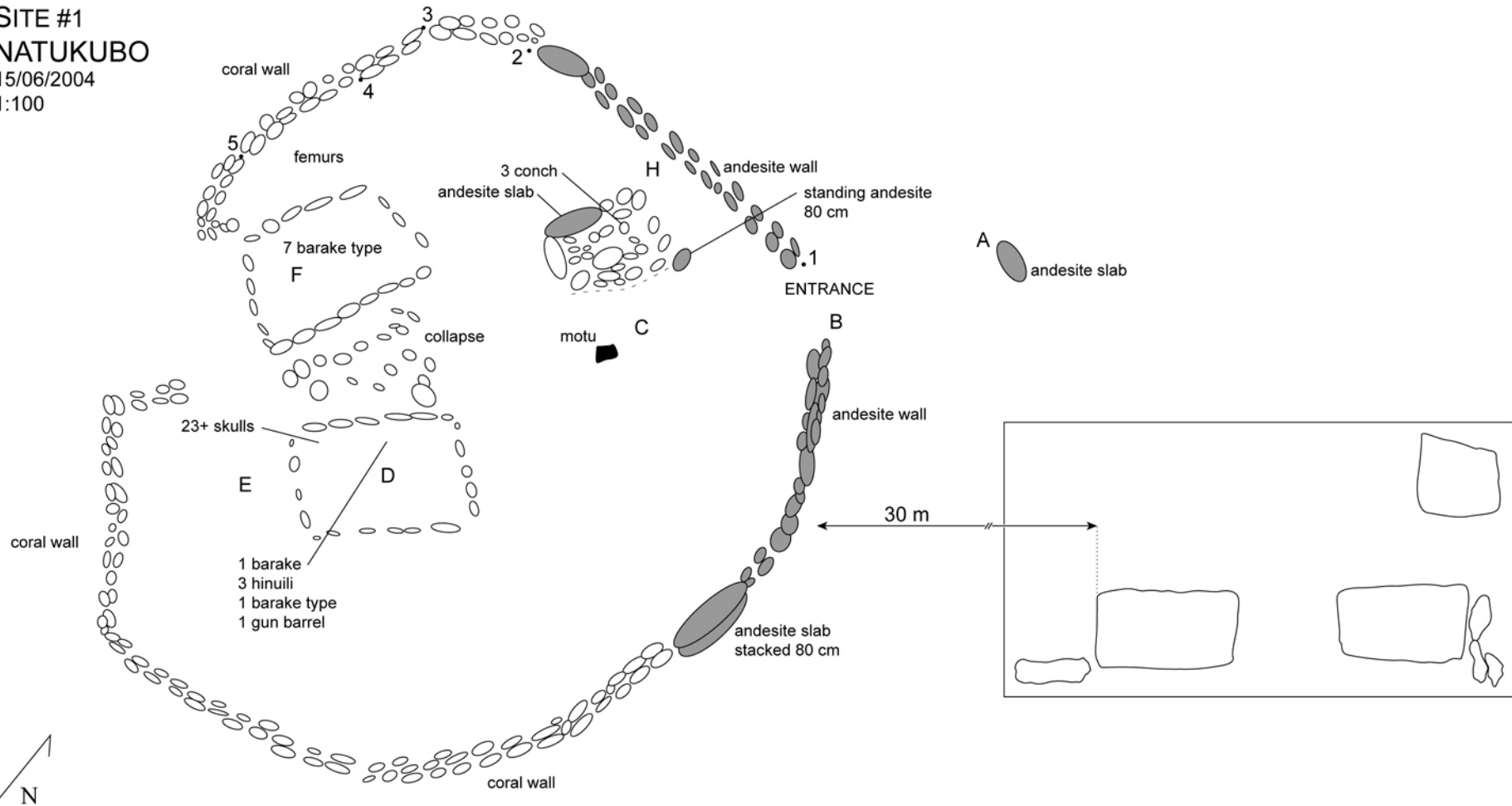
Date	15/06/2004	Artefact	22+ skulls on top but seems like many more inside, 12+ long bones, lots of rough bareke type rings, 1 barava, some poata/bakiha, 1 rifle barrel.
Condition	good		

Photo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Traditio	This is a matebangara shrine. The platform on the seaward side belongs to the Injo Tribe and the platform on the inland side belongs to the Kutakabai and Sabe tribes + Sikuni Tribe ?
Plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Tested	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

Ceramic Type	
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SITE #1
NATUKUBO
 15/06/2004
 1:100



Vella Lavella Site Record Form

Site Number

Site Location

Site is located just below the top of the Luapatete ridge which runs behind the present day Maravari Village (NW of village). The river lies to the south of this site.

Site Name

Site Type

Island

Northing

Easting

Site Description

The site consists of a large platform with skulls and shell valuables, a motu evidenced by fire cracked rock, charcoal and burnt nut shell, a nutting and grind stone and enclosing wall.

Length M

Width M

Depth M

Date

Condition

Artefact

22+ skulls (hidden), 1 barava (photo) 2 conch, 2 hokata, 14 hinuili, 2 small white buttons, 1 bivalve, 2 whole fossil tridacna, large piece of worked fossil shell, 1 trochus shell.

Photo

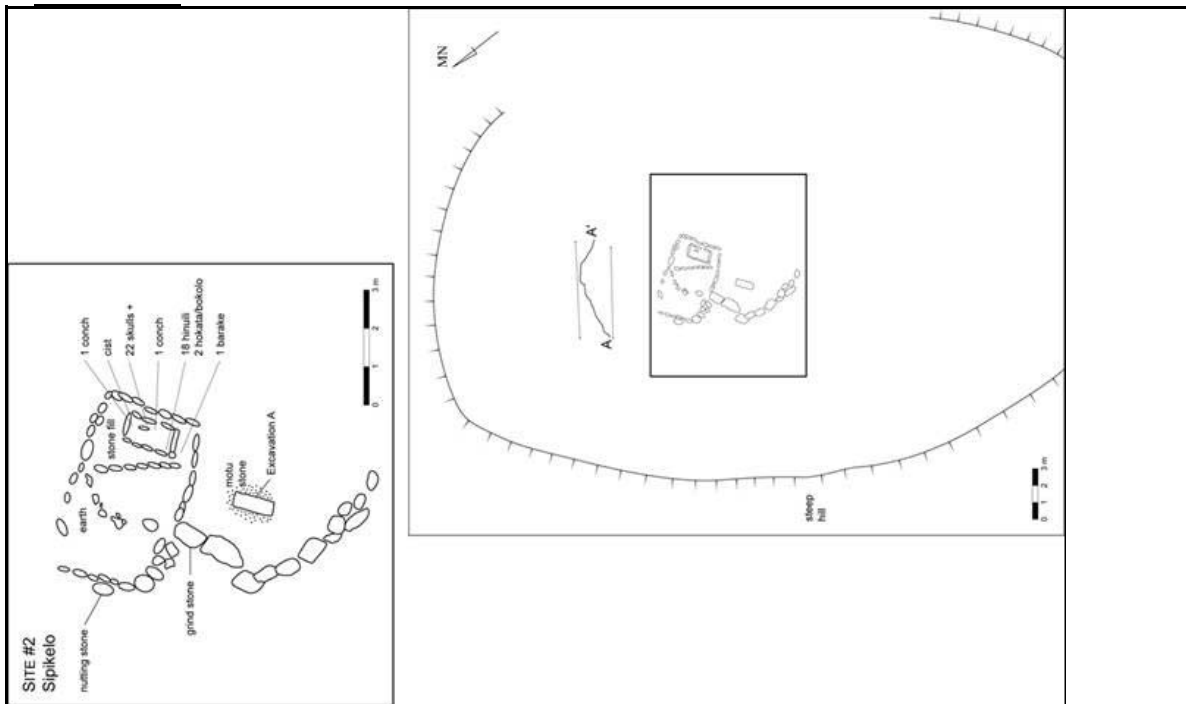
Plan

Tested

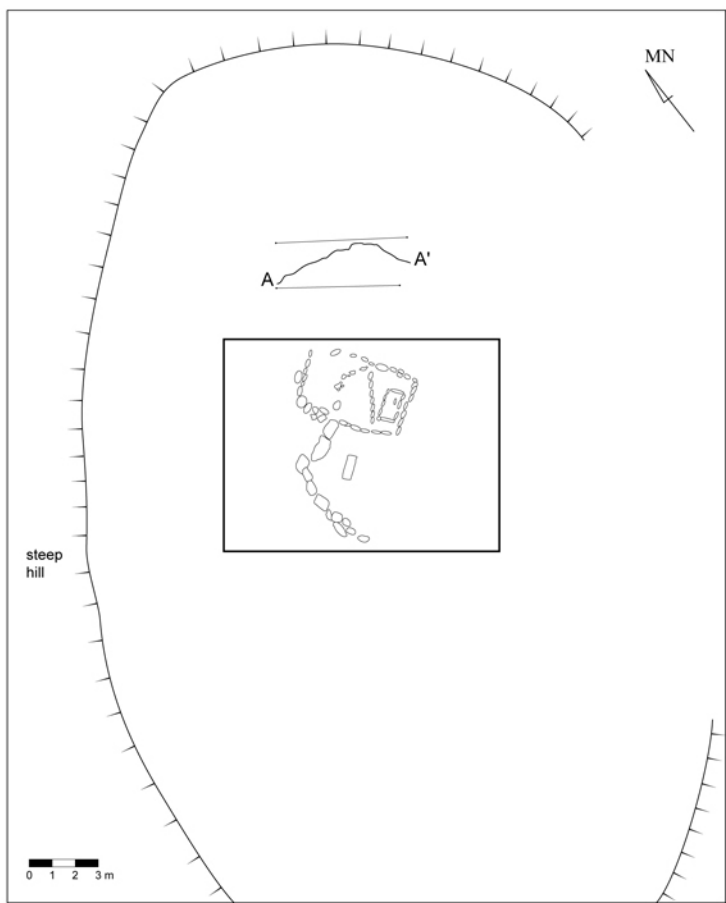
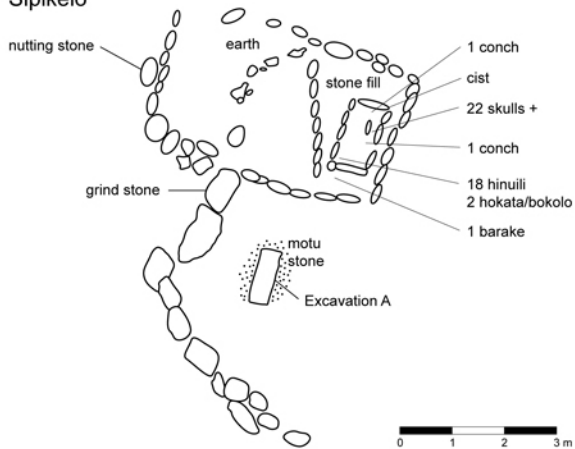
Traditio

This shrine is associated with the Sabe Tribe.

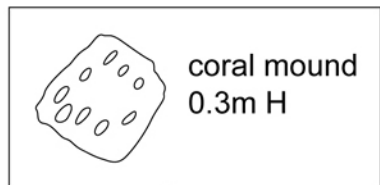
Ceramic Type



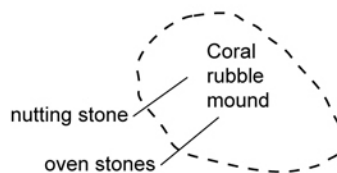
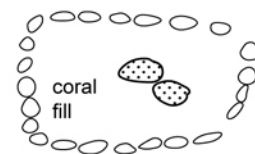
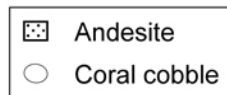
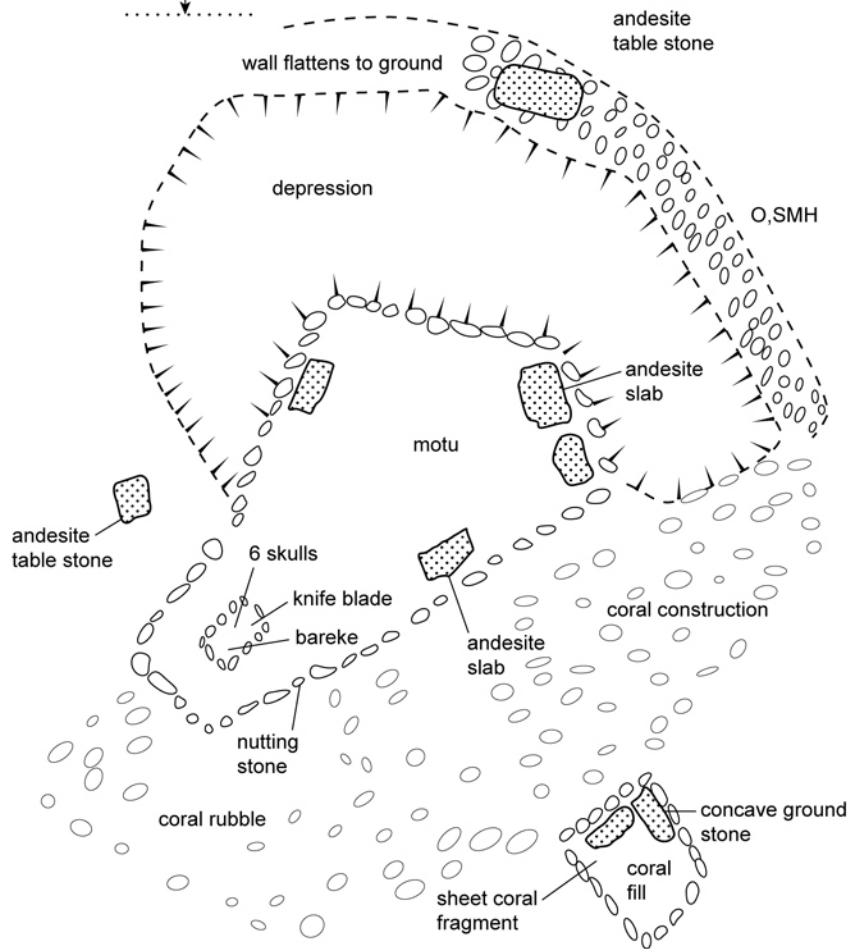
SITE #2
Sipikelo



SITE #3
 KONISIRU
 SOPE
 16/16/2004

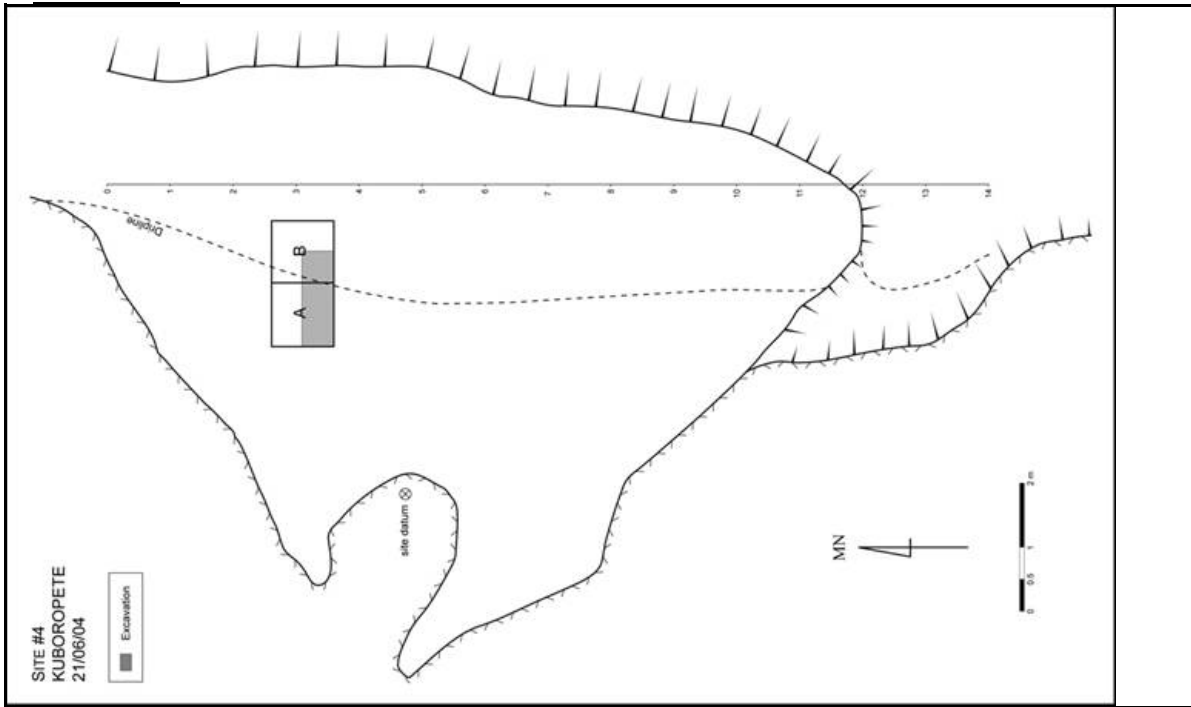


18.526 m

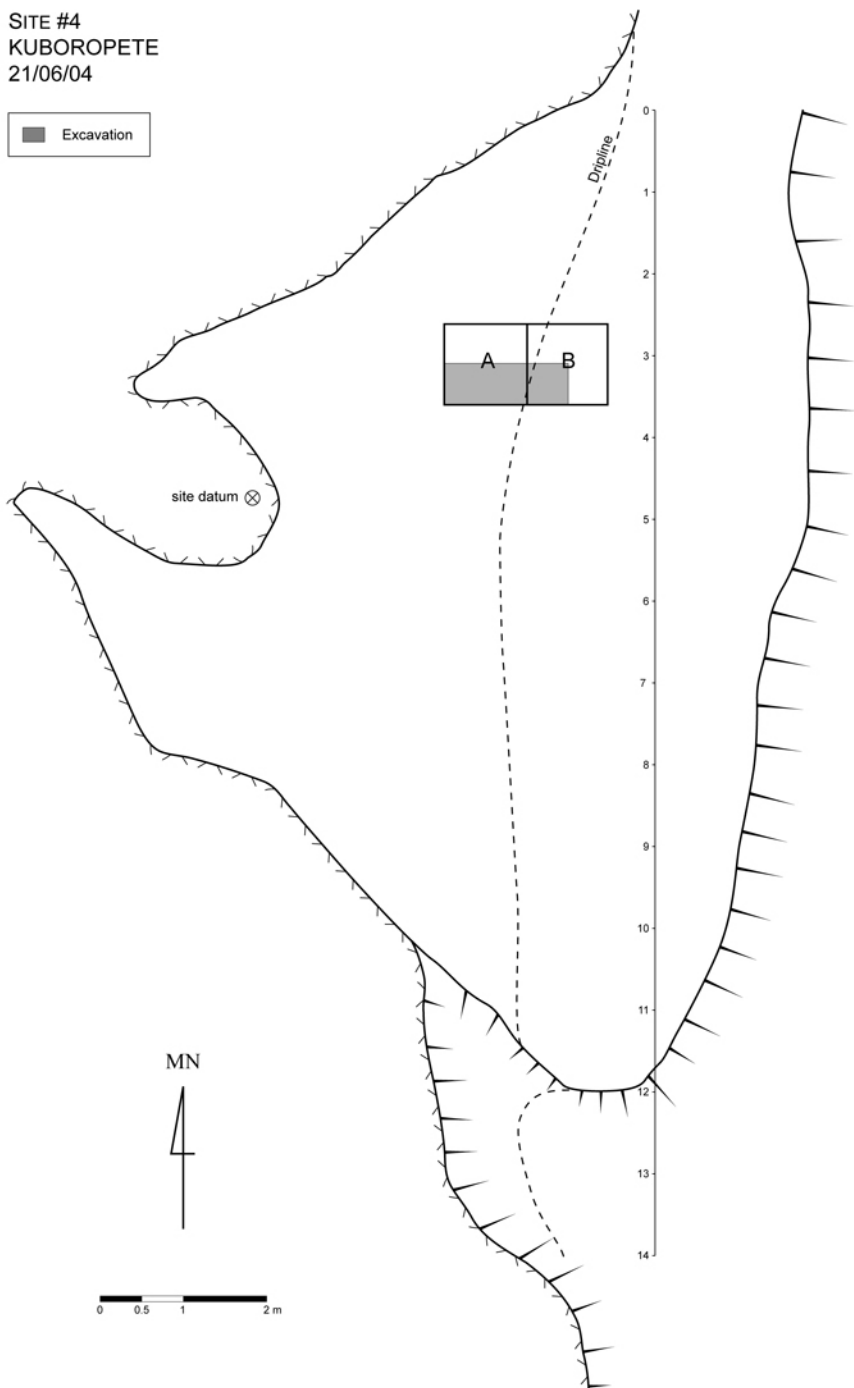


Vella Lavella Site Record Form

Site Number	<input type="text" value="4"/>	Site Location	Site is located directly behind Kolokolo Village school.
Site Name	<input type="text" value="Kuboropete"/>		
Site Type	<input type="text" value="rockshelter"/>		
Island	<input type="text" value="Vella Lavella"/>		
Site Description	The site consists of a rock shelter.		
Northing	<input type="text" value="9136872"/>		
Easting	<input type="text" value="252131"/>		
Length M	<input type="text" value="0"/>		
Width M	<input type="text" value="0"/>		
Depth M	<input type="text" value="0"/>		
Date	<input type="text" value="21/06/2004"/>		
Condition	<input type="text"/>	Artefact	none
Photo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Tested	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Traditio			
Ceramic Type	<input type="text"/>		



SITE #4
KUBOROPETE
21/06/04



Vella Lavella Site Record Form

Site Number

Site Location

Site is located on top of a coral terrace behind Kolokolo Village school, and thus just above the rockshelter (Site 4). The site is thirty metres west of the edge of the cliff above the rockshelter.

Site Name

Site Type

Island

Northing

Easting

Site Description

The site consists of a small shrine, a small stepped platform and a motu to the NE, 2.5 m from the NE corner of the platform. The main platform has a 0.5 m wide step on the western side of the rectangular platform.

Length M

Width M

Depth M

Date

Artefact

18 hinuili, many broken skulls, long bones, human remains in disarray.

Condition

Photo

Traditio

Plan

Tested

Ceramic Type

Vella Lavella Site Record Form

Site Number

Site Location

Site is located in garden lands on the first ridge back from the coastal flat and above the Barakoma river.

Site Name

Site Type

Island

Northing

Easting

Site Description

The site is an old village site which consists of six house sites (low pavement) and a probable transverse defensive ditch.

Length M

Width M

Depth M

Date

Artefact

clay pipe fragment, large stone pounder, shell midden.

Condition

Photo

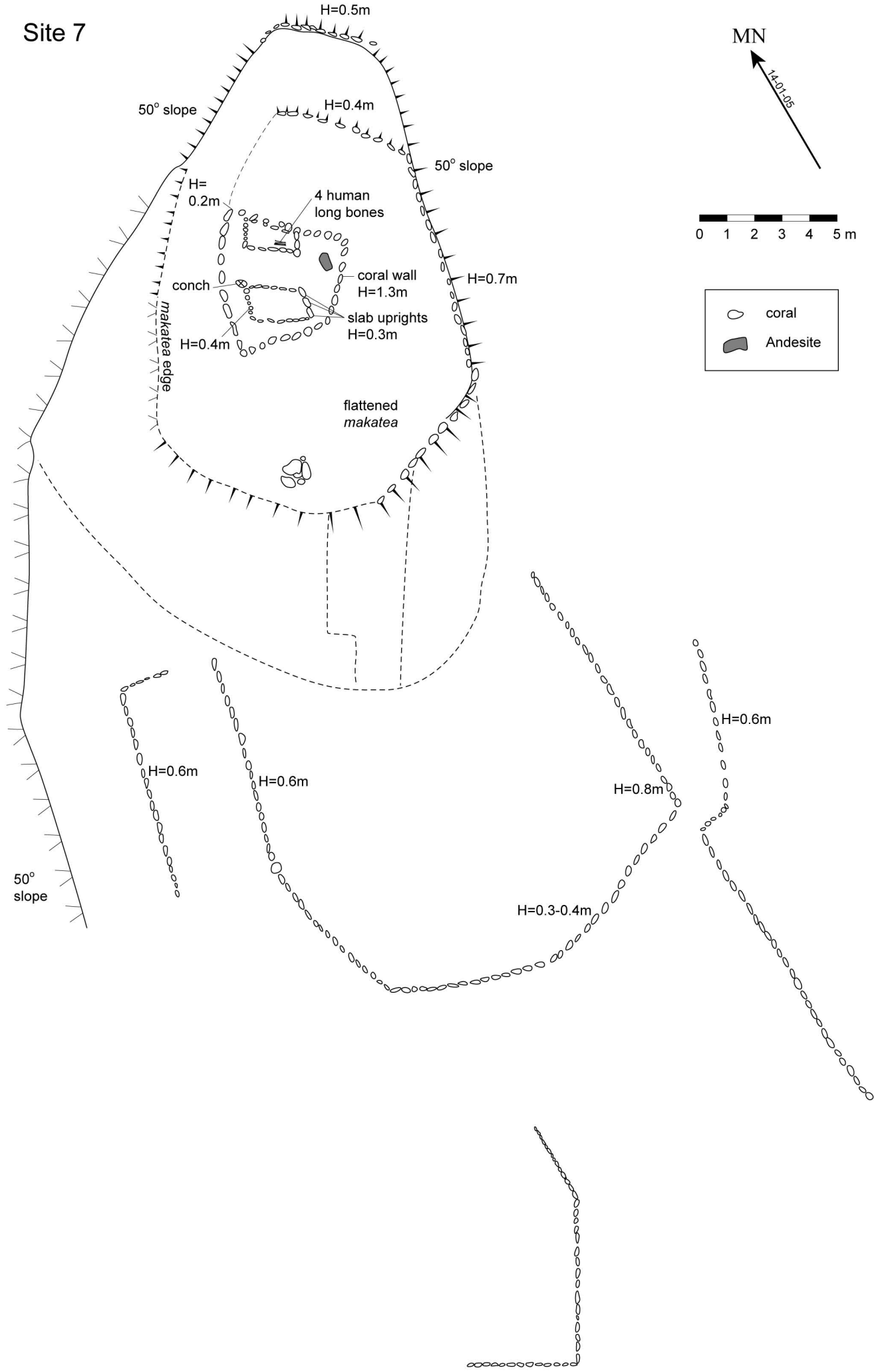
Traditio

Plan

Tested

Ceramic Type

Site 7



H=0.5m

50° slope

H=0.4m

50° slope

H=0.2m

4 human long bones

coral wall H=1.3m

H=0.7m

conch

slab uprights H=0.3m

makatea edge

H=0.4m

flattened makatea

0 1 2 3 4 5 m

MN

14.01-05

coral
Andesite

H=0.6m

H=0.6m

H=0.6m

H=0.8m

50° slope

H=0.3-0.4m

Vella Lavella Site Record Form

Site Number

Site Location

Site is located on top of a spur (115 metres in altitude) above the gardened lands behind the modern Maravari Village, north of the Maravari Stream.

Site Name

Site Type

Island

Northing

Easting

Site Description

The site consists of a coral platform with two skull deposits. To the west of the platform is a motu with coral edging and filled with igneous stone. A number of artificial terraces and coral walls are associated with the platform (see plan).

Length M

Width M

Depth M

Date

Artefact

skulls - whole and broken circa 40, 1 bakisa.

Condition

Photo

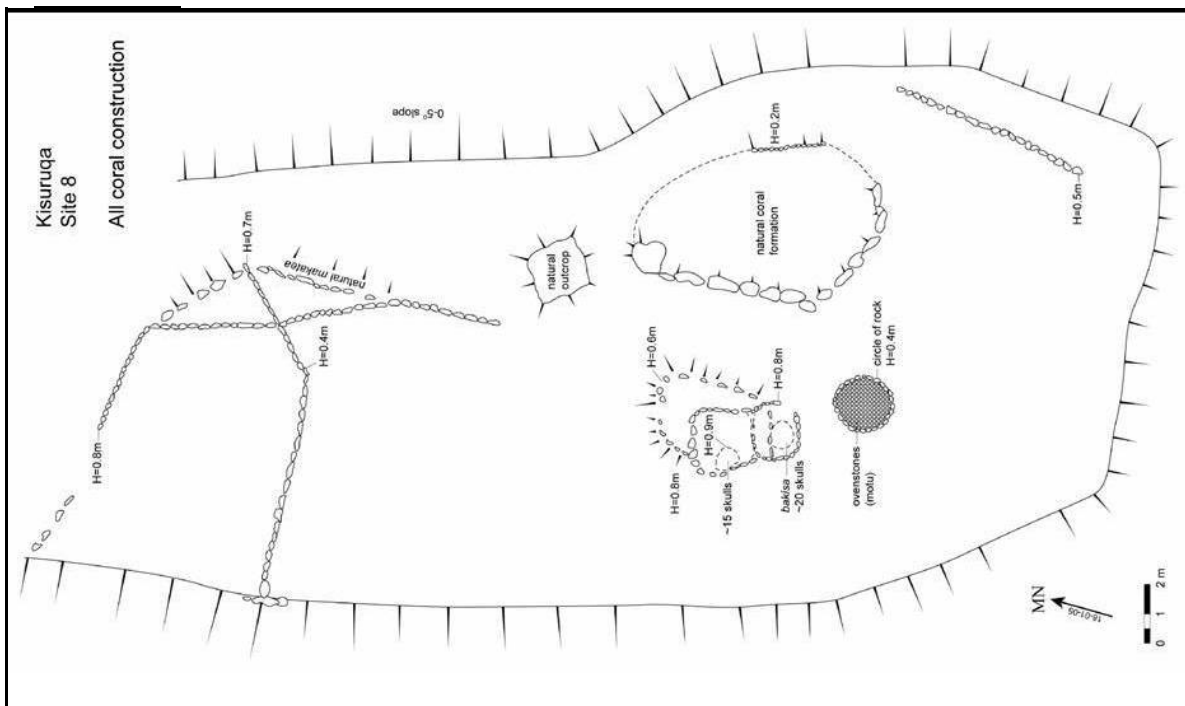
Traditio

Shrine used by mixed tribes; Sabe, Makavore, Kolombangara.

Plan

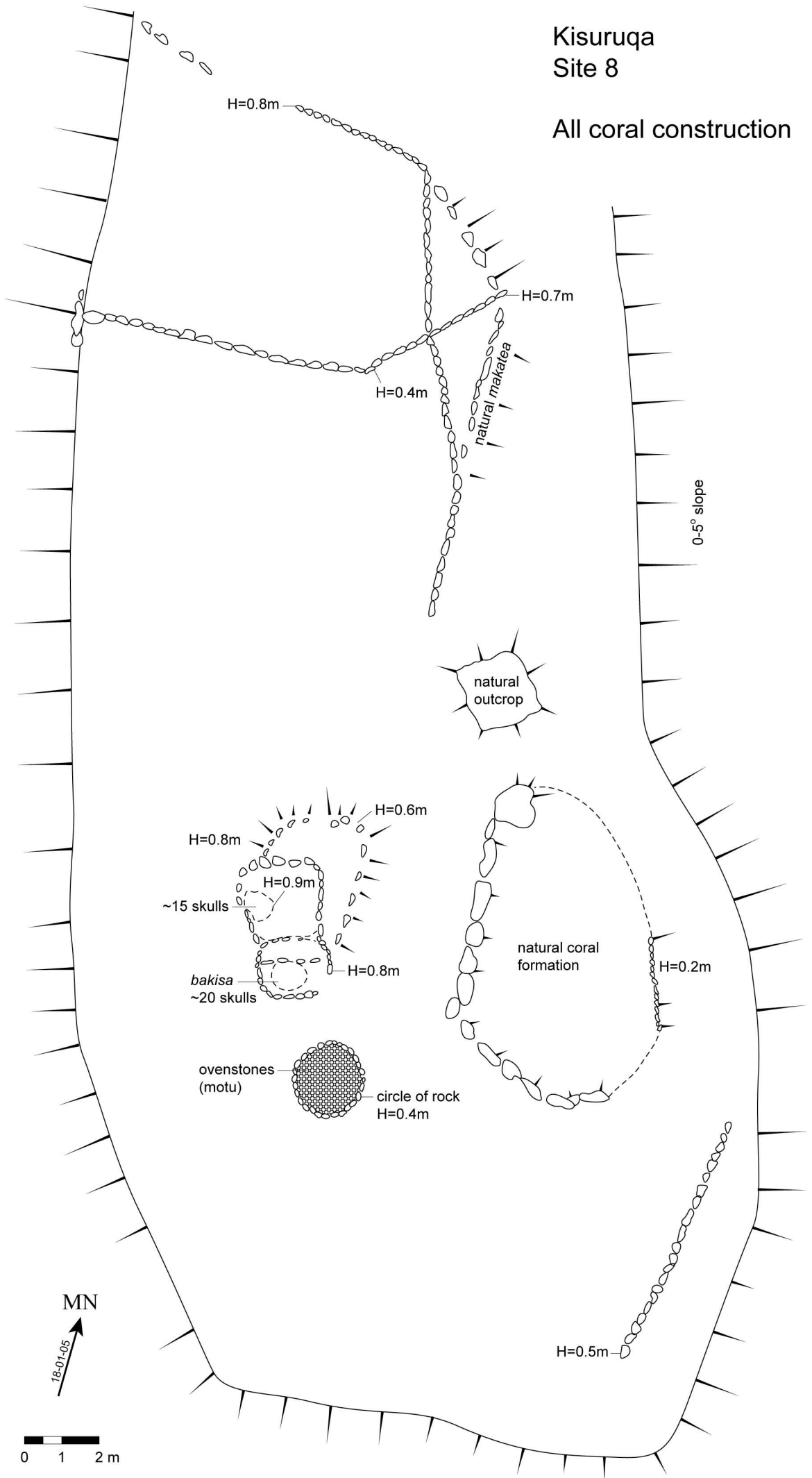
Tested

Ceramic Type



Kisuruqa
Site 8

All coral construction



Vella Lavella Site Record Form

Site Number	9	Site Location	Site is located throughout the central portion of the present Irigila Village.
Site Name	Irigila		
Site Type	ceramic findspot		
Island	Vella Lavella		
Northing	9158536	Site Description	Rolled ceramics found throughout on the surface of the beach ridge. But also some unrolled pieces of pottery were found, apparently moved to the surface by crab activity.
Easting	226175		
Length M	0		
Width M	0		
Depth M	0		
Date	26/01/2005		
Condition	poor	Artefact	surface pottery
Photo	<input type="checkbox"/>	Traditio	
Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Tested	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Ceramic Type	thick, crenulated rim and rectilinear incised		
OLEBound			

Vella Lavella Site Record Form

Site Number

Site Location

Site is located on top of a narrow ridge.

Site Name

Site Type

Island

Northing

Easting

Site Description

This site is an old village site and consists of a complex of raised platforms separated by two transverse ditches. The platforms are faced with andesite cobbles (1-1.5 m high). Two large platforms and clusters of smaller platforms.

Length M

Width M

Depth M

Date

Artefact

WWII machine gun, 1 small white button from the bottom of the motu excavation.

Condition

Photo

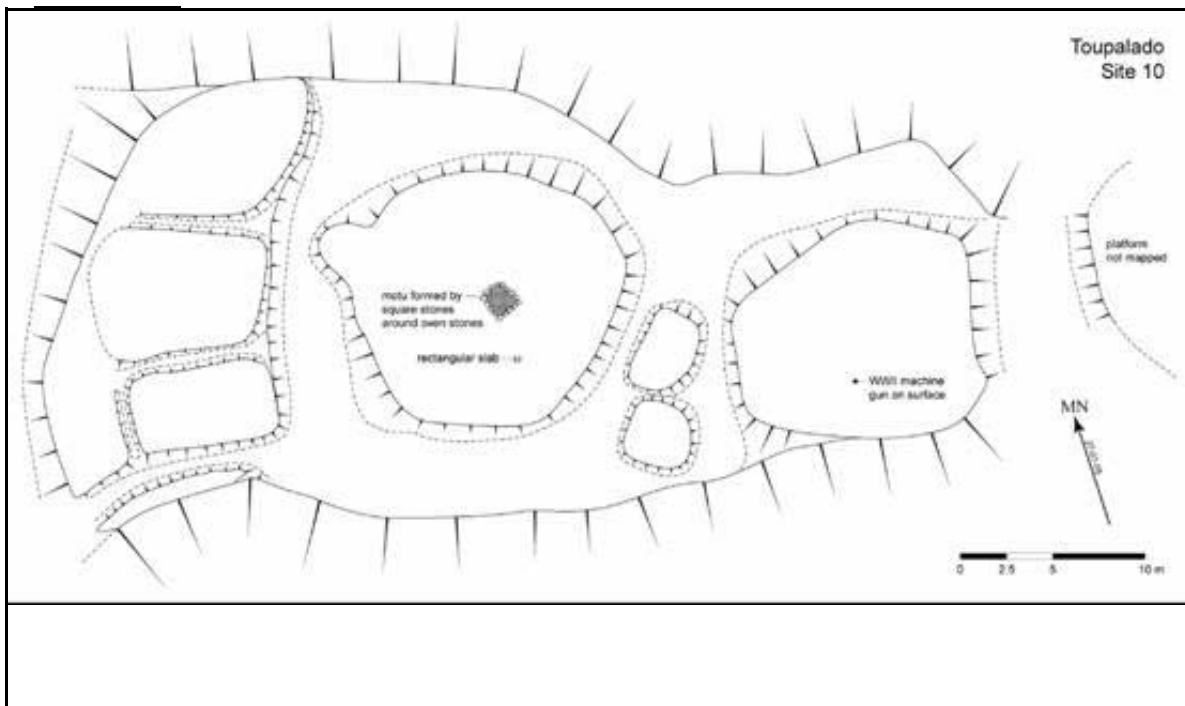
Traditio

Village of paramount chief John Tibo. Forty warriors are reported to have lived on the lower platform and defended this area. His son had a platform futher down the ridge. People moved from here to the coast after the coming of the mission.

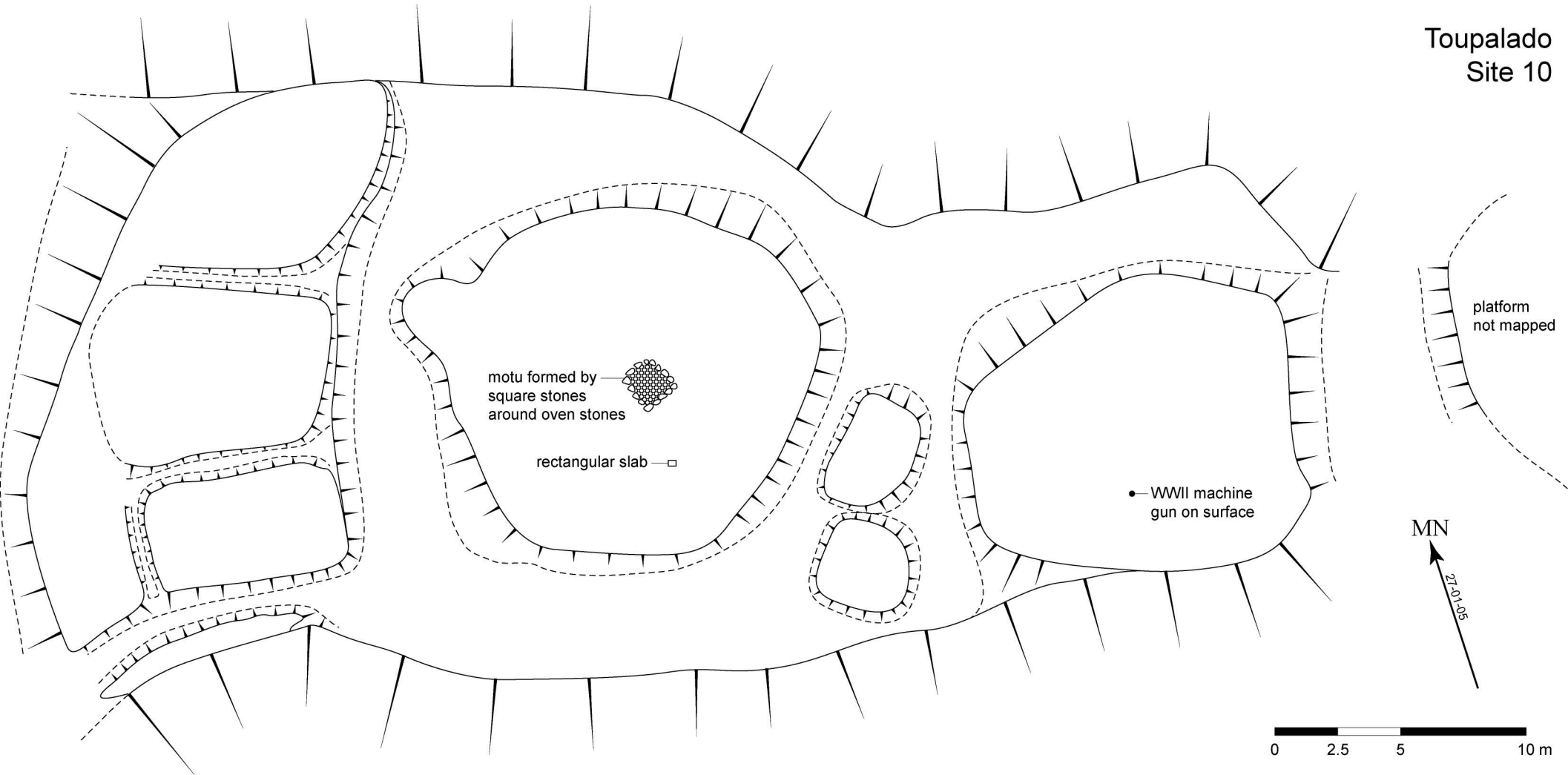
Plan

Tested

Ceramic Type



Toupalado
Site 10



Vella Lavella Site Record Form

Site Number 11

Site Location

Site is located on a spur on a ridge running inland directly behind Irigila village. The site is at 115 mt altitude.

Site Name Sigoaniru

Site Type sope

Island Vella Lavella

Northing 9157674

Easting 227258

Site Description

The site consists of a small skull house (roofed with iron). The remains of the original post are still visible inside the skull house. Adjacent to this is a modern grave.

Length M 0

Width M 0

Depth M 0

Date 28/01/2005

Artefact

~20 shell valuables (small rings, 1 bakisa and 1 barava type) and 1 human skull.

Condition good

Photo

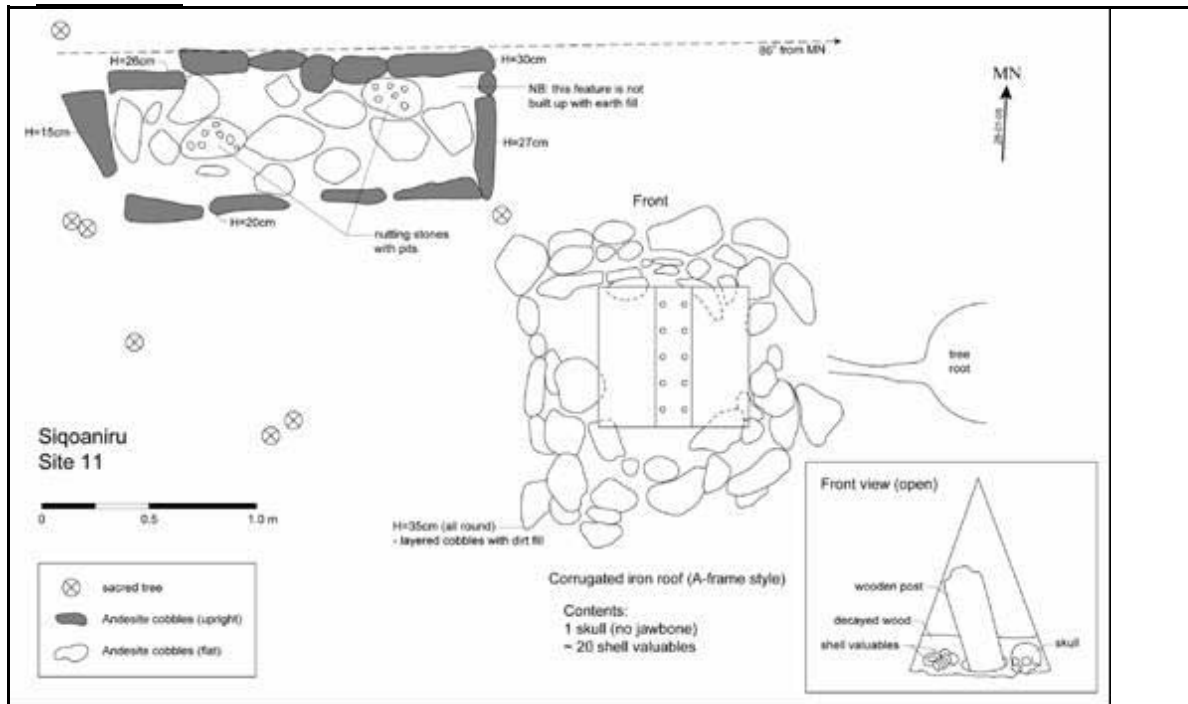
Traditio

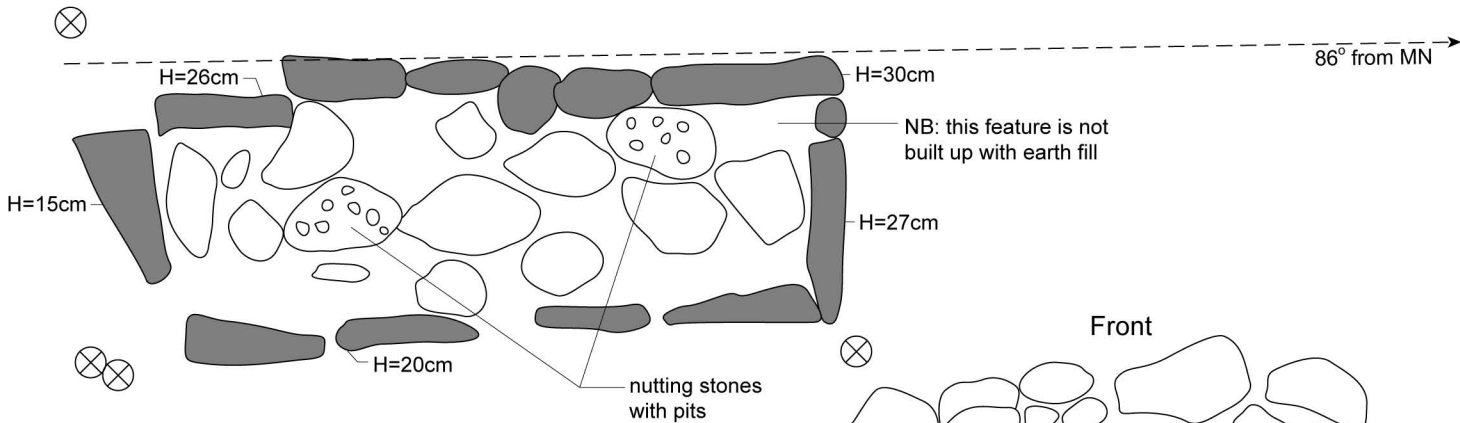
The small sope contains the skull of Iqukalo, a woman who was the major land holder in the area. The modern grave is that of her first born son Sobiri.

Plan

Tested

Ceramic Type

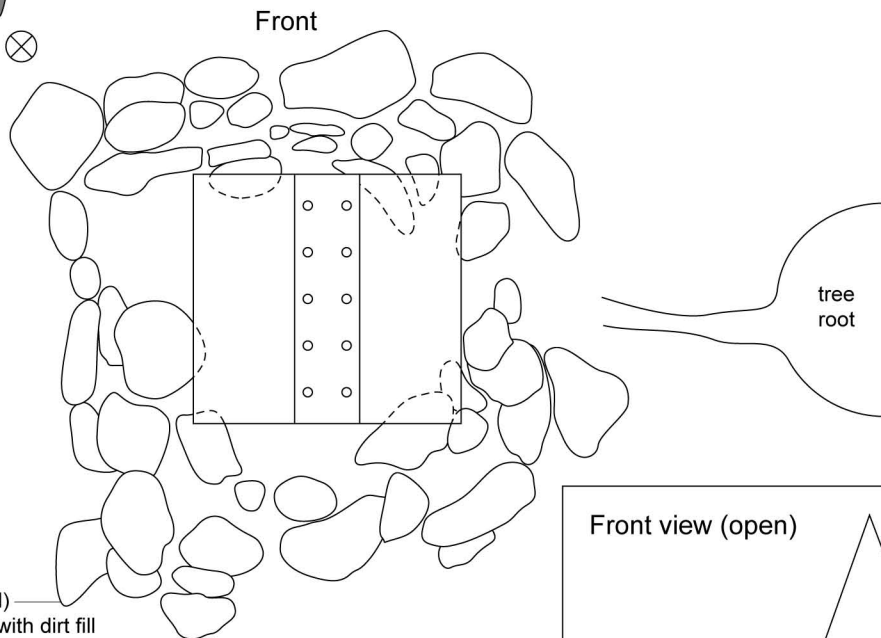




**Siqoaniru
Site 11**

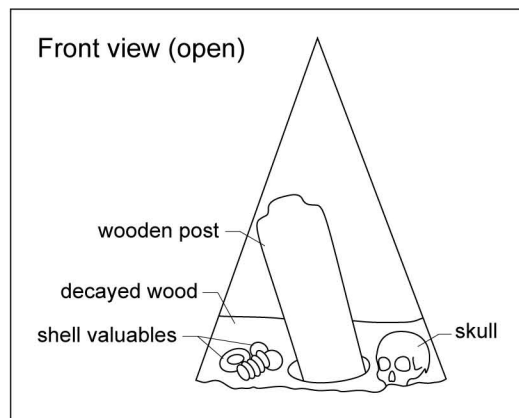


- sacred tree
- Andesite cobbles (upright)
- Andesite cobbles (flat)



Corrugated iron roof (A-frame style)

Contents:
1 skull (no jawbone)
~ 20 shell valuables



Siqoaniru
Site 11

MN
28-01-05

burial



sope

flat rock

base of
mango tree



table

flat stone

Main ridge not surveyed



Vella Lavella Site Record Form

Site Number

Site Location

Site is located along the track which runs along the top of the ridge which runs up from behind Irigila village.

Site Name

Site Type

Island

Northing

Easting

Site Description

The site consists of a single large volcanic (andesite) boulder (height 1mt) This boulder shows signs of pitting from use as a nutting stone and water erosion typical of river action.

Length M

Width M

Depth M

Date

Artefact

none

Condition

Photo

Traditio

According to our guides, if men of the local Sauro tribe touch this stone they are liable to go mad and commit incest.

Plan

Tested

Ceramic Type

Vella Lavella Site Record Form

Site Number 13

Site Location

Site is located 20 mt south of the southern bank of the Timbala River, NE of Irigila village.

Site Name Sikeura Tamana Lado

Site Type petroglyph

Island Vella Lavella

Northing 9158228

Easting 227079

Site Description

The site consists of a large volcanic stone (H 1.6m x 2.1 m x 2.8 m). This stone has five engravings on the northern face, one on the southern face, and one on the eastern face. Other large stones are visible in the immediate vicinity, though no signs of cultural activity were noted.

Length M 0

Width M 0

Depth M 0

Date 29/01/2005

Artefact

none

Condition good

Photo

Plan

Tested

Traditio

Seven giant brothers came down from the interior to this point and made the engravings on the stone. They then turned into dolphins and swam down the river. They can still be seen in the reef passage at Irigila village today.

Ceramic Type

OLEBound

Vella Lavella Site Record Form

Site Number	14	Site Location	Site is located in a cavity on the southern side of a small island (stack) out on the edge of the barrier reef southwest of Irigila village.
Site Name	Unknown		
Site Type	sope		
Island	Vella Lavella		
Northing	9157448	Site Description	The site consists of a skull deposit.
Easting	224780		
Length M	0		
Width M	0		
Depth M	0		
Date	29/01/2005	Artefact	11 skulls and 1 wooden plank.
Condition	poor	Traditio	
Photo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Tested	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Ceramic Type			
OLEBound			

Vella Lavella Site Record Form

Site Number	15	Site Location	This site is located at 204mt above sea level in the Rovevola area on the Kobolo Ridge.
Site Name	Itlinaninani		
Site Type	custom stone		
Island	Vella Lavella	Site Description	The site consists of a single, large, circular, standing stone (80 cm high, 10 cm in circumference).
Northing	915507		
Easting	229970		
Length M	0		
Width M	0		
Depth M	0		
Date	31/01/2005	Artefact	none
Condition	good	Traditio	Site where offerings are made of the first nut harvest fruits. Also sacrifices were reportedly made here.
Photo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Tested	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ceramic Type	
OLEBound			

Vella Lavella Site Record Form

Site Number

Site Location

This site is located on the Kobolo Ridge, 4 mt from the path.
The site is NW and 10 mt (in altitude) below site 15

Site Name

Site Type

Island

Northing

Easting

Site Description

The site consists of a single, small (80 cm), canoe shaped stone.

Length M

Width M

Depth M

Date

Artefact

none

Condition

Photo

Traditio

war canoe stone

Plan

Tested

Ceramic Type

Vella Lavella Site Record Form

Site Number

Site Location

This site is located on the Kobolo Ridge, 43 mt (in altitude) below site 15.

Site Name

Site Type

Island

Northing

Easting

Site Description

The site consists of several bowl-like stones and coral faced platforms.

Length M

Width M

Depth M

Date

Artefact

several stone bowls

Condition

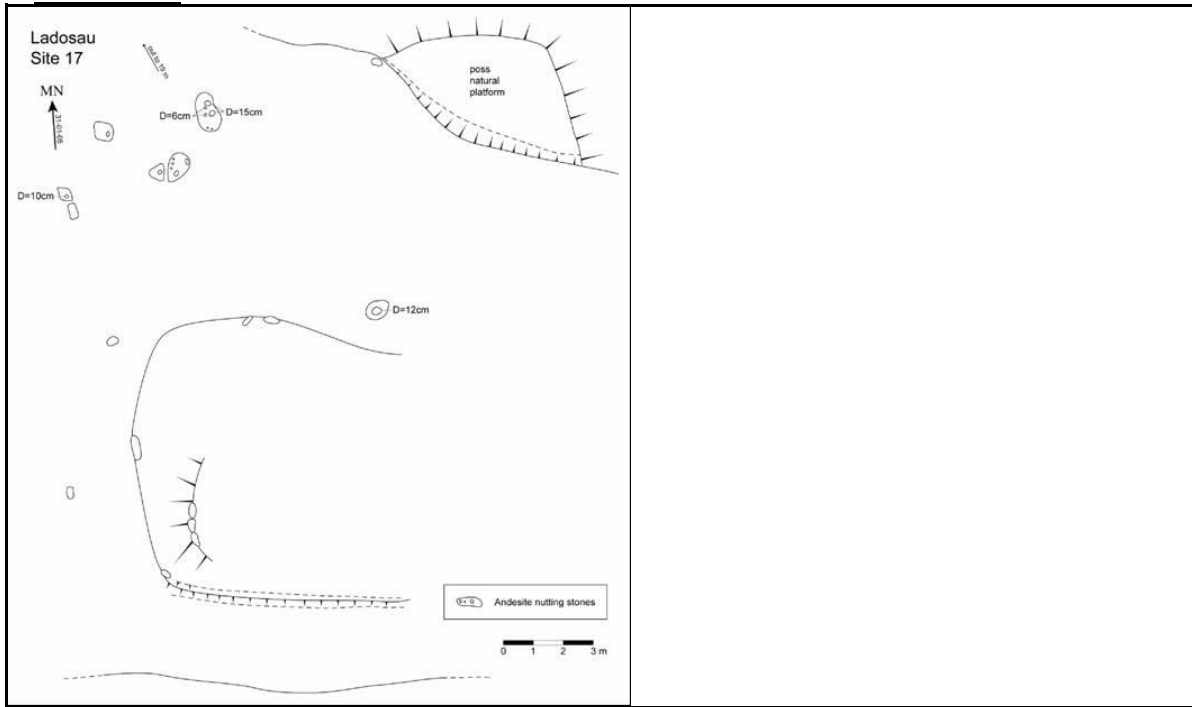
Photo

Traditio

Plan

Tested

Ceramic Type



Ladosau Site 17

MN

31-01-05

cut to 19 m

D=6cm

D=15cm

poss
natural
platform

D=10cm

D=12cm



Andesite nutting stones

0 1 2 3 m

