

Innberetning v/ Mohi el-din Zarrong

20/5-1983

innberetningsdato

Tjernagel

gnr. 50

bnr. 1

fk.nr.

gardsnavn

Sveio

Hordaland

kommune

fylke

eier/bruker

postnummer/adresse

Ang. Utgravning steinalderbuplasser

Boplass 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 11, 12, 34, 38, 39.

dato

Test Excavations of stone Age
Sites at Tjernagel, Sveio x)

The test excavations of the Mesolithic sites at Tjernagel under the direction of Mohi el-din Zarrong were terminated on the 16th of June 1983 after a season of two weeks. An area of 25m² was excavated down to the subsoil from a total of eleven sites.

The excavations of the sites in question are intended to examine the content of the material remains of the prehistoric occupation in the area that will be subject to certain construction. It is also hoped that the excavations of the sites will provide sequences of archaeological assemblage which could be useful for establishing a chronological framework for the area under consideration.

The test of the sites were carried out in a format of 1m², i.e. each test being 1 m². The deposits of each square were divided into arbitrary strata, each stratum having a depth of 10 cm. In addition, changes in soil texture and other specific features were also recorded. The residue of the excavated squares was sifted in the sea, except for the first two sites where we have no access of any screen at the time.

x) For the location and the general description of these sites see Berit Gjerland's report.

Following is the documentation of the sites in terms of each excavated square (sq.).

Site 4.

Two squares were unearthed. The squares which are designated A and B from North to South respectively were set 4 m apart, separated by a rock outcrop (see Fig. I).

Sq. A

The square is dug to a depth of 45 cm. It consisted of two layers in terms of soil composition: The turf and a grayish sand soil of coarse texture. The turf which constitute the uppermost layer is 10-15 cm in depth. The thickness of the lowermost layer is 30 cm.

As for Sq.B it appears to be of the same soil composition as that of Sq.A.

No finds were made in either of the above mentioned squares.

Site 5

Two squares were excavated in this site. There were given the letter A and B from North to South. A of is left in between (see Fig II).

Sq.A.

The maximum depth of this square is 60 cm. It composed of the turf (20 cm in depth) and a gray sand whose thickness is 35 cm.

Sq.B.

Is dug to 65 cm at most. The top layer is made up of the turf. It is 20 cm in depth. Underlying the turf is a dark gray sand soil of fine texture whose thickness is 15 cm. Below the sand is a lense of ash of 0.5 cm. The lowermost layer is made up from a light gray sand of coarse texture.

No lithic artefacts were encountered in both squares.

Site 12

In this site three squares were excavated. Sq.A which lies immediately to the north of Sq.B is 1 m apart from Sq.C to the East (see Fig. III).

Sq.A.

Is composed of the turf (being 10 cm in depth) and a brownish sand soil with a considerable amount of fragmented stones whose thickness is 40 cm. The soil composition of the other squares is found to be similar to that of Sq.A.

Few flint artefacts were found in Sq.A.

Site 1

As in site 12 three squares were dug from site 1, There are Sq.A, Sq.B, (the latter being a continuation of the former to the South) and Sq.C which lies 3m to the west of Sq.A (See Fig.IV). In the three excavated squares the top soil which is made of the turf is found to be in the range between 10 to 20 cm in depth. The underlying layer in the above mentioned squares is of a similar composition and texture as that of site 12. Flint was found in Sq.A and Sq.B.

Site 2

Three squares were laid out in North-South direction. There are designated Sq.A, Sq.B and Sq.C. Sq.A is set 1 m North of Sq.B and Sq.C is 2 m to the South of Sq.B (see Fig.V).

Sq.A

This square is made up of two layers in terms of soil composition: The turf (the Top layer) and a dark brown clay soil of fine texture; The former is 10-15 cm in depth and the thickness of the latter ranges between 10 cm to 20 cm. Traces of ash were found in this clay soil.

The soil composition of the other two squares is typical to that of Sq.A. A few pieces of charcoal were found in Sq.C. Soil sample is kept from Sq.B. The site is sloping gently toward the hog (hoy?) i.e. the East. The thickness of the wall in Sq.A varies between 10 cm in the Western side to 30 cm in the Eastern one.

A relatively large number of flint artefacts together with few quartz/quartzite and rock crystal was found in the three excavated squares. The industry is largely microthic with a high frequency of waste flint. In view of the considerable amount of it seems likely that the site may have been devoted to certain activity, i.e. workshop. However, further excavations will revealed more as regard the nature of the site which seems to be of interest.

Site 11

Two squares were excavated from this site. Three squares which are set 1 m apart are designated Sq.A to the North and Sq.B to the South (see Fig. VI).

Sq. A

The square is made up of two layers of soil: The turf (being 2-10 cm in thickness) and a brownish sand soil whose depth is 15 cm.

Sq.B

The soil composition of this square is marked by the turf (15 cm in depth) and a dark gray sand of coarse texture (being 10 cm in thickness).

A few flint artefacts were found in Sq.A and only two pieces of flint came from Sq.B.

Site 38

This site which is not on the original map was found by Bjørn Myhre and myself. The site is located 15 m South-East of site 11 and immediately to Southern end of the bog. Two squares were excavated. The squares which are designated Sq.A to the West and Sq.B to the East are set 1 m apart (see Fig. VII).

Sq.A

The top soil is made up of 5 cm of white sand soil which seems to be a result of leaching as the square slope gently from South to the North. Underlying the top soil is the turf whose thickness is 10 cm. The lowermost layer is composed of dark clay soil of fine texture. This layer which is 15 cm in depth is rich with ashes. Charcoal sample is taken from this layer where a number of flint and rock crystal artefacts were found. The depth of the soil composition of these squares varies from 0.5 cm in the South wall to 30 cm in the Northern wall at most.

Sq.B.

The soil of this square is composed of the turf which ranges between 0.5 to 10 cm in depth and a brown sand soil of coarse texture whose thickness varies from 0 to 20 cm. Very few flint artefacts were found in this layer.

Site 7

The site is intersected by narrow stream or ditch running from North-East to South-West. Two squares were laid out on each side of the stream. The squares which are designated Sq.A and Sq.B are set 5 m apart on a North-South orientation (see Fig. VIII).

Sq.A

This square which lies on the western side of the stream is composed of two layers: The turf (being in the range between 0.5 to 10 cm in depth) and a brown sand soil whose thickness is 15 cm. No lithic artefacts were found in

this square.

Sq.B

The uppermost layer of this square consisted mainly of a rather loose grayish sand soil the thickness of which is 30 cm. The second layer which is also 30 cm in depth is made up of the turf. The lowermost layer is a brown sandy soil whose depth is 25 cm.

A number of flint artefacts (together with some quartz/quartzite as well as rock crystal) were found in the uppermost layer. Nothing is found below the first 30 cm. Since the turf was found beneath the top sandy layer it seems likely that the top sandy soil ^{was} originally dug out from the stream and dumped on its eastern side. However, further investigation will probably provide more information as regard the nature of the site. So far the site appears to have been subjected to certain disturbance especially on the eastern side of the stream.

Site 3

Two squares were set 1 m apart on a North-South direction (see Fig. IX). Sq.A which lies to North of Sq.B was dug to the subsoil and only the turf was removed from Sq.B.

Sq.A

The thickness of the turf which constituted the uppermost layer ranges between 0.5 to 15 cm. Underlying the turf is a dark clay soil of plastic texture whose thickness is similar to that of the turf. This layer is rich with ashes and a sample of charcoal was taken from 20 cm below the surface. A lense of light grey sand of 2 to 5 cm in depth is marked on the North-West corner of the square. The lowermost layer is composed of a brown sand whose depth is 15 cm.

A considerable number of artefacts (mainly of flint with few pieces of quartz/quartzite and rock crystal) were found in three stratum i.e. between 10 cm to 40 cm. However, few artefacts can be recognized and the majority of the lithic material is made up of waste flint. The examination of the lithic material through wear analysis may reveal that what we considered as a debris, may have been an actual tool. Whatever the case might have been, it would be unwise at this stage to be too docmatic about the results obtained from only 1 m² until further records. At any rate the site seems to be of

importance and it requires a systematic exploration. On the basis of the lithic artefacts uncovered so far we can only deduce that the site may have been a workshop where flint and other rawmaterial were knapped.

Site 39

This site which is not among Berit Gjerland's list is located 75 m East of Tjernagelhaugen and 35 m West of site 12. Two squares were examined. The squares are designated Sq.A to the North and Sq.B to the South with a balk of 1 m in between (see Fig. X).

Sq.A.

The thickness of the turf (the top layer) ranges from 10 to 15 cm. Below the turf is a brownish sand soil of coarse texture whose depth is 25 cm. It consists of a considerable number of stone slaps and stone fragments.

The soil composition of Sq.B is found to be similar to the above mentioned square.

No finds were made.

Site 34

A total of four squares were investigated in this site. These were Sq.A, Sq.B, Sq.C and Sq.D. The first two squares were set 5 m apart on a North-South direction and the others were set in an East-West direction with a balk of 1 m in between (see Fig. XI).

Sq.A

In this square the depth of the turf is 20 cm. Below the turf is a dark clay soil of plastic texture whose thickness is 10 cm. The lowermost layer is composed of a brownish sand soil with stone fragments. The depth of which being 15 cm. The dark layer is very rich with ashes.

A comparatively high number of flint artefacts were found in two stratum i.e. 20-30 cm and 30-40 cm. Charcoal sample is collected from a depth of 20 cm.

Sq.B

The soil composition of this square is more or less similar to that of Sq.A.

Few flint artefacts were found in the bottom strata i.e. 40-50 cm which is mainly of brownish sand.

Sq.C

This square is made up of the same soil composition of the above mentioned squares.

Some hundred flint artefacts were found in between 40-50 cm and very few pieces of flint were added from the lowermost strata i.e. 50-60 cm.

Sq.D

The soil of this square is typical to the rest of the excavated squares of site 34.

Few flint artefacts were found in two stratum i.e. 30-40 cm and 40-50 cm.

The site in question has produced a comparatively high percentage of flint artefacts. In Sq.A the artefacts were found in association of what appears to be a cultural layer. This is indicated by the presence of ash together with a preserved piece of charcoal.

The type of the lithic materials uncovered so far revealed affinity with Fosna culture and the site may be regarded as Fosna-related site. However, until all the site records have been studied in detail the above mentioned remarks remains largely a matter of speculation. Further excavation on the site will probably clarify the issue. In this connection we should bear in mind that the phrase Fosna culture itself seems to be an ambiguous term.

Whatever the case might have it seems that site 34 is one of the important prehistoric occupation in the area concerned.

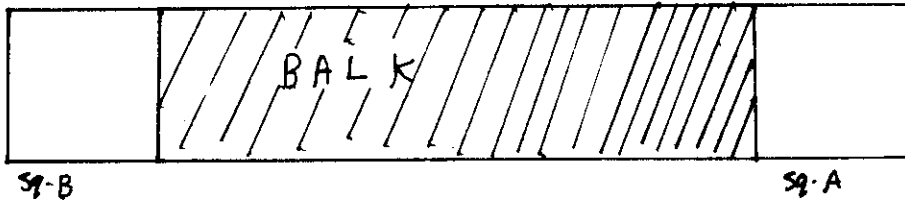
It extended over a relatively large area as compare to the rest of the investigated sites.

Tjernagel, Sveio 21.05.1983

Mohi el-din Abdalla Zarrong

Fig. I The excavated part of site 4
 one of the test pits is included in sq. A.

→ N
 scale 1:50



1

x wooden stick

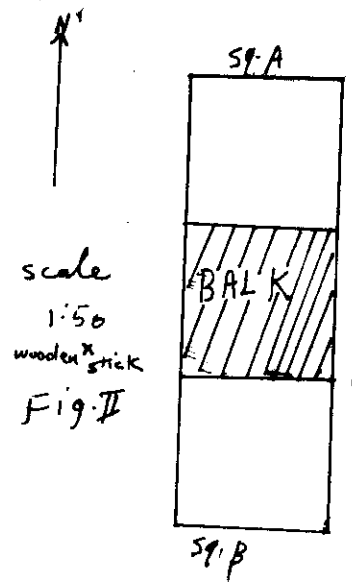
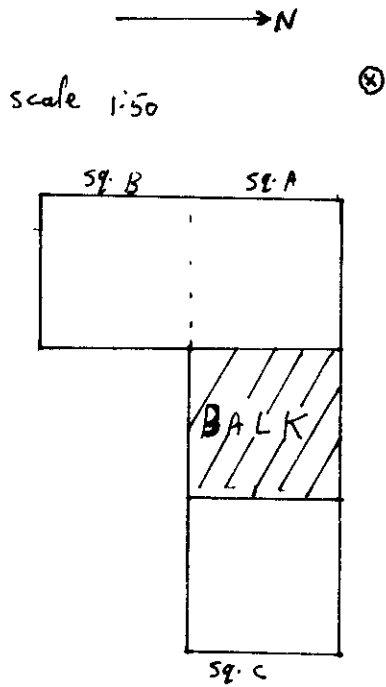
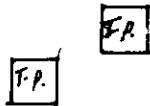
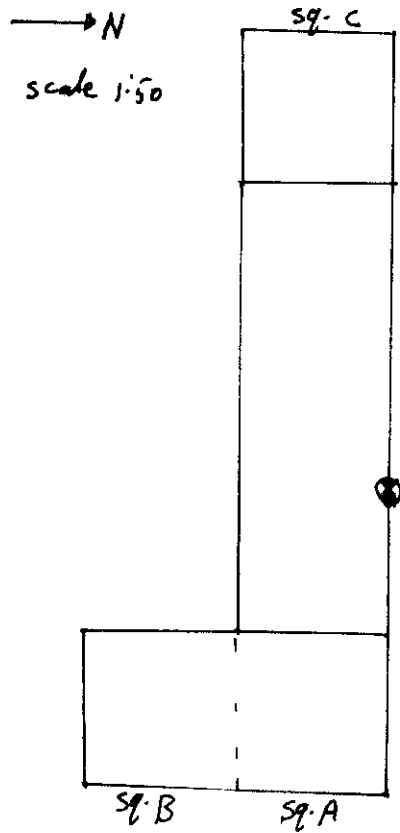


Fig. III



The excavated squares of site 12

⊙ = stone mark
 F.P. Test pit



T.P.

Fig. IV
The excavated section of site 1
⊗ Rock mark
T.P. Test pit
one such test pit is located in sq. B

Fig. V: The excavated portion of site 2

x : wooden stick

⊗ Rock mark

Two of the test pits are included in sq. A and sq. B

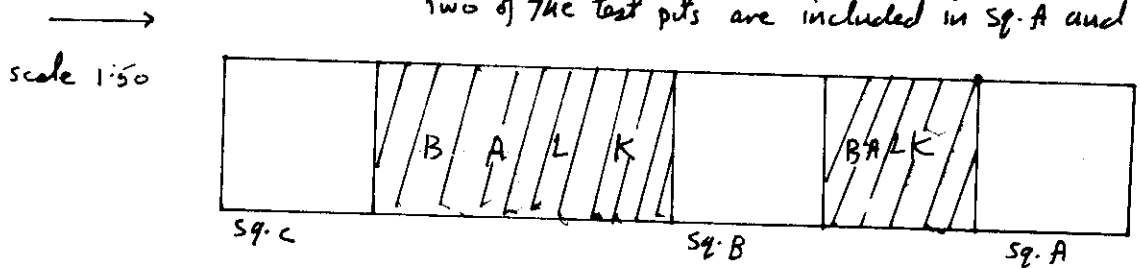


Fig. VI scale 1:50

The excavated part of site 11

x wooden stick

⊗ Rock mark

←

⊗

x

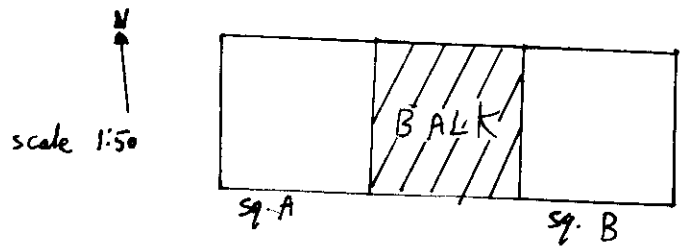
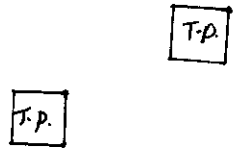
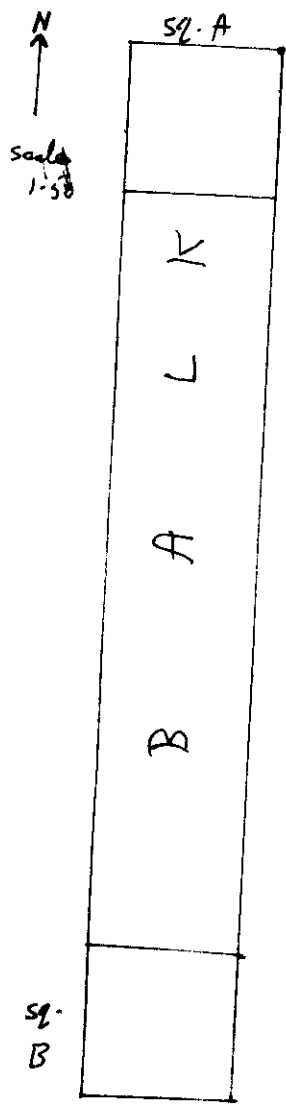


Fig. VII.
The excavated part of site 38

⊙ Rock mark

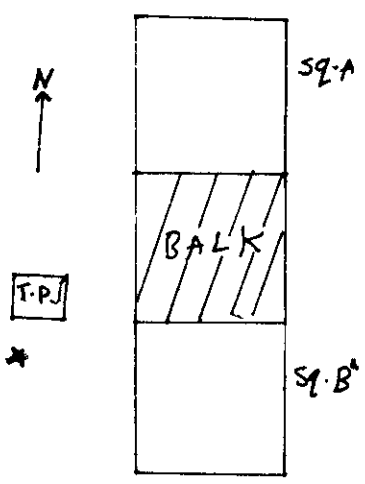
⊙

Fig. VIII The excavated squares of site 7
T.P. Test pit
⊙ Rock mark



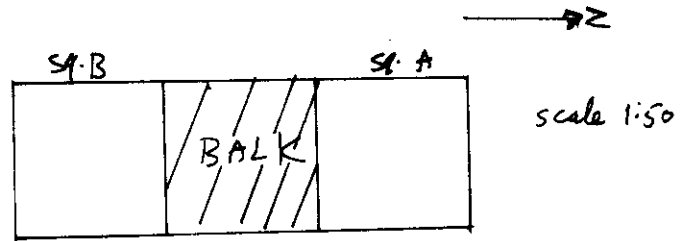
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Fig. IX scale 1:50



The excavated part of site 3
T.P. Test pit
x wooden stick
only the tiep was removed from SB.B

Fig. X



The excavated portion of site 39

⊗ Rock mark

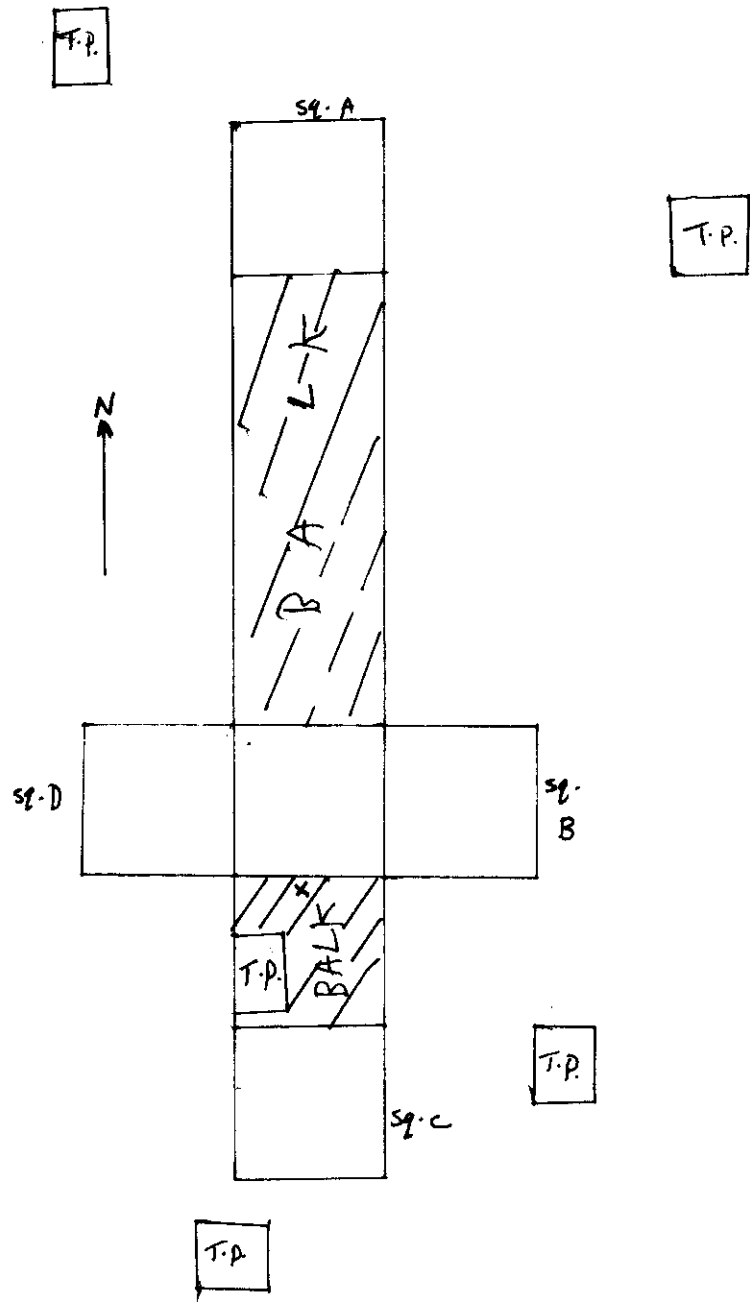


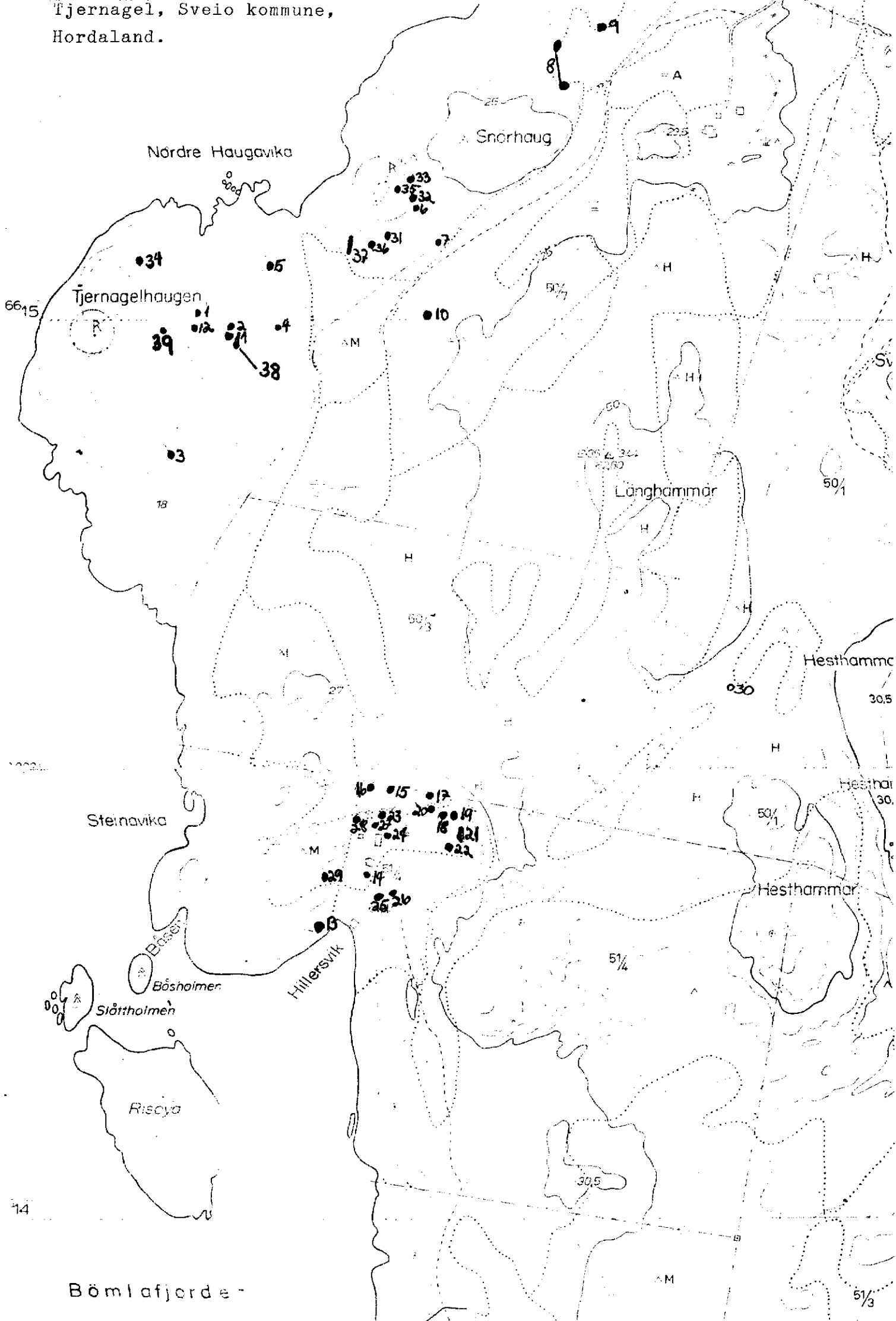
Fig. XI, scale 1:50

The excavated section of site 34

x wooden stick

T.P. test pit

Tjernagel, Sveio kommune,
Hordaland.



Bömlafjorde -