

# Danebury Iron Age Hillfort

## Circular Structure 1

(This is an extract from the original publication which is too large to upload.)

CS 20

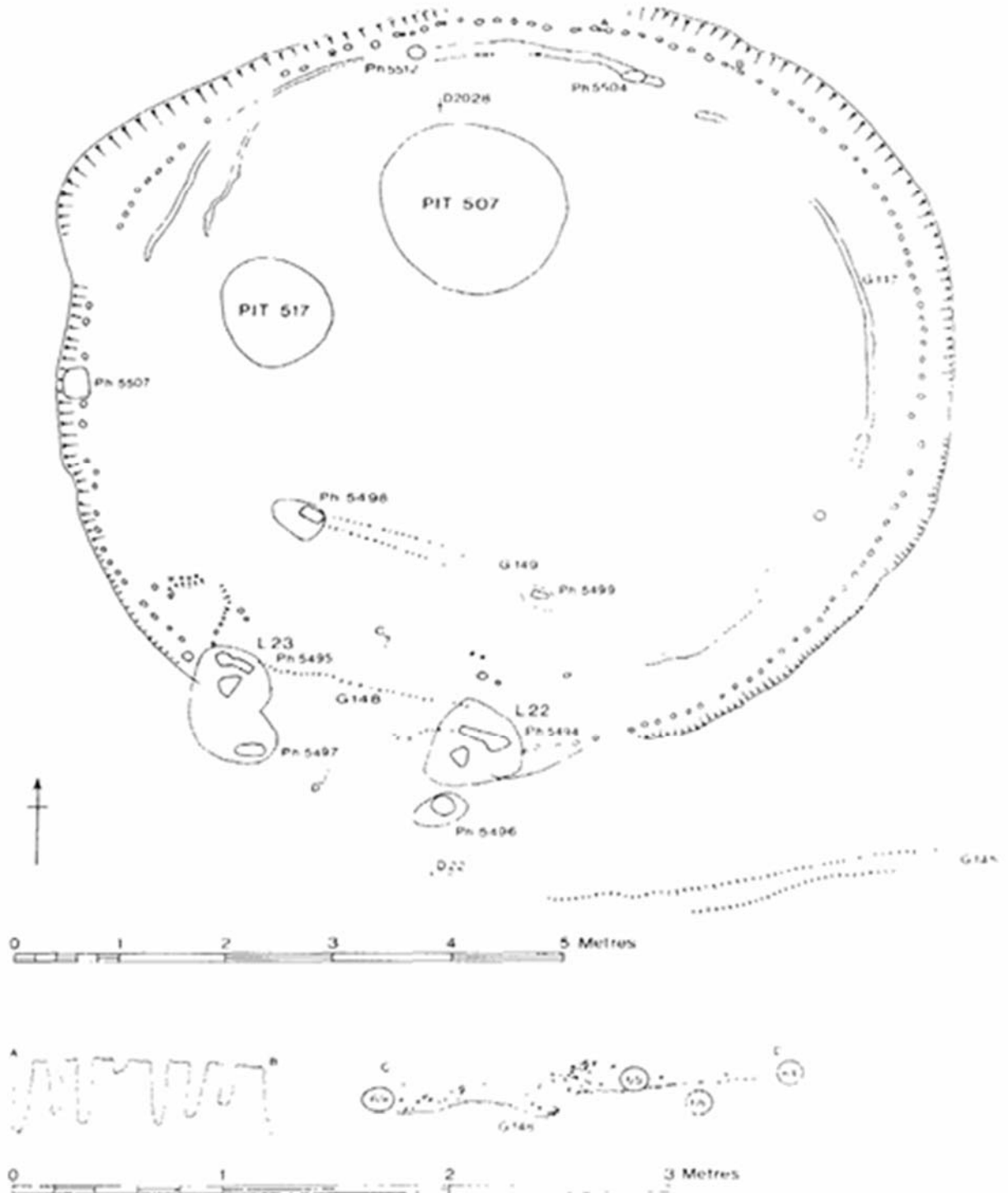


Fig 4.26

postholes, phs 1232 and 1227. The existence of the building must be allowed for but is totally unproven.

**CS20 circular building: 1973/5 (Figs 4.26, 4.27, Pls 36-41)**

Building CS20 occupied a circular terrace cut into the slope of the rampart (46) and lying on the silt in the quarry bottom (73). The building measured 8 m in diameter. Its wall was composed of stakes set closely together in a circle, the stakes being 100-150 mm apart. The door structure was well preserved and complex. The form of the original door frame is best appreciated in Fig 4.26. It consisted of six posts, three on each side of the entrance, set in two groups of post-pits, those on the left coalescing into one while those on the right were in two distinct holes. The posts were packed around with rammed chalk which ensured the accurate preservation of the shape of the timber after the organic material had rotted away (for further discussion, see p 58).

The outermost pair of posts was soon abandoned and removed before the lowest chalk rubble threshold (layers 68, 72) was laid. One possibility is that they functioned only in the actual process of building and were pulled out immediately the structure was complete and before the first threshold was laid. In support of this it might be remarked that no wear was noted on the surface of the silt below the lower threshold, implying that the chalk had been laid very soon after construction. The lower threshold was sealed by a thin layer of silt containing some occupation debris, 110 mm thick (layer 65), before an upper threshold (layer 64), also of rammed chalk, was laid.

Within the building, and aligned on the door, were two additional posts, phs 5498 and 5499, with a slot, G149, between them set in the chalk floor. It is possible that the feature represented a screen creating an inner porch for the house. The upper threshold (64) runs up to the edge of the slot showing that the structure had been erected by the time of the resurfacing of the threshold. Other inner features include a setting of stakeholes forming a 'cupboard' just inside the door to the left, and a discontinuous gully, G147, 50-100 mm wide and of equivalent depth cut into the hut floor and running discontinuously around the circumference of the building at a distance of between 50 and 600 mm from the wall. Several stakeholes and small postholes (pfs 5504, 5512) along the line hint that it may have taken a screen of light material, though how such an inner skin functioned in relation to the wall is open to debate. It is highly unlikely that the slot represented an earlier or later wall replacing or replaced by the stake wall.

Two pits, PS07 and PS17, were open during the life of the structure and were not completely filled until the building had been removed or destroyed.

The hut was floored with a discontinuous layer of chalk rubble laid on the surface of the underlying silt or rampart. Where it lay above these large early pits (in the eastern part of the hut) it had subsided violently into the

pit tops following the consolidation of their fills. In these areas tips of chalk and trampled occupation material (21, 45, 48, 49, 79) occurred to some depth, filling the hollows.

The final occupation layer within the structure covered much of the floor to a depth varying from 10-100 mm (layers 7, 10, 13, 18). Postholes 5513 and 5503 would appear to be contemporary with the use of the building but their exact relationship to the occupation layer is in doubt.

The building was buried beneath silts washed in from the rampart and from the inside of the fort.