

## 6 THE POTTERY by Gavin MacGregor

Pot sherds found to the immediate east of the marker stone (*illus 2*) derived from one vessel (SF 13; *illus 4*): a small, undecorated flat-based vessel with a pronounced foot and slight barrel-shaped profile. The rim is flat apart from a short portion where it has an external bevel; potentially where the rim has not been as carefully executed. A slight groove runs below the rim, probably created by running a finger around the vessel when wet.

The fabric is coarse with moderate angular stone temper, including quartz and a black igneous rock, up to 5mm in length. The outer surface has been smoothed. The vessel originally had an orange-buff exterior and a grey-brown interior, suggesting the vessel was fired inverted. The outer surface is largely obscured with sooting, which is more pronounced on the upper body.

About three quarters of the vessel was recovered by the excavation, the rest presumably removed during the disturbance into the burial, as evidenced during the excavation of the topsoil above. The portions of the vessel that were located underneath, when it lay on

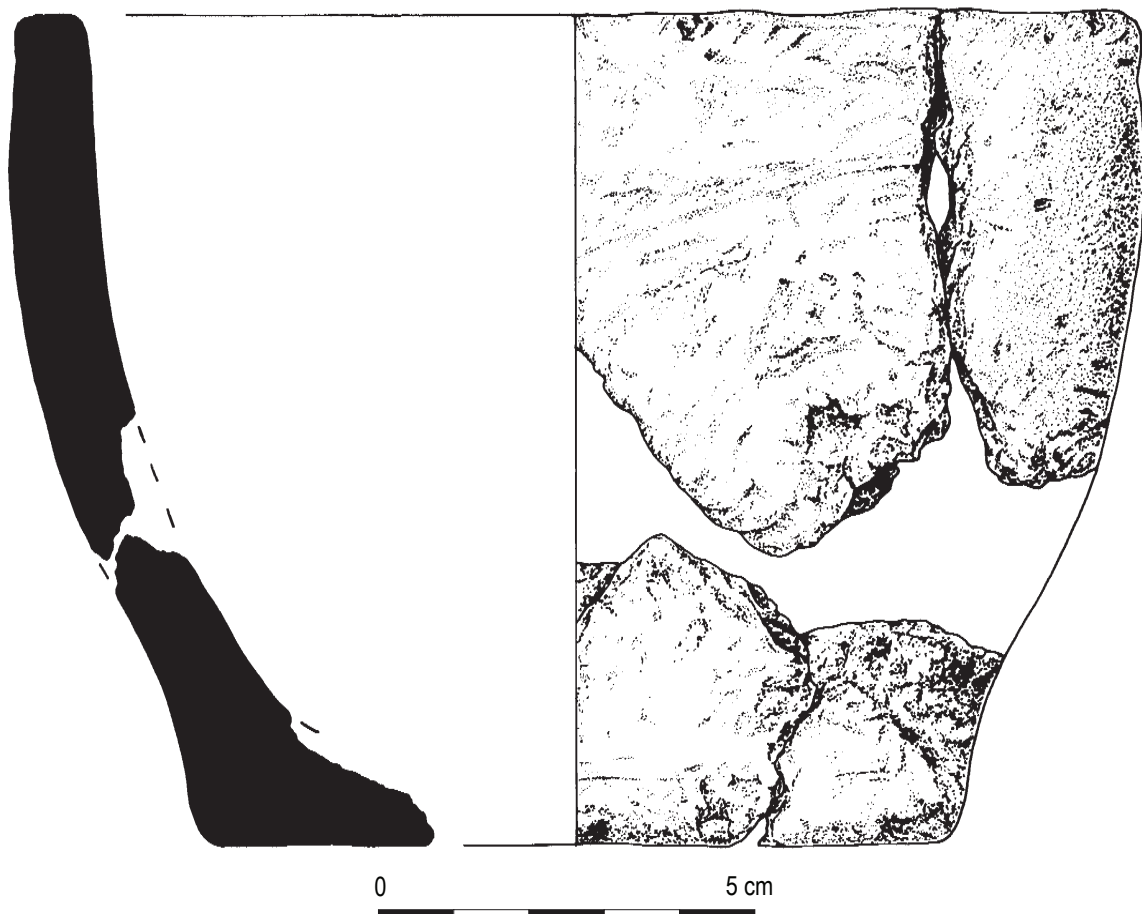
its side, are very eroded, with the outer faces missing, probably due to water percolation. The vessel can be reconstructed to a height of *c* 110mm.

The closest parallel found for the Pabay Mor vessel is the small, undecorated bipartite urn which was deposited in a cist at Cnip, Lewis, associated with human remains dated to 1856–1520 BC (GU-3488) (see *Table 1*; Dunwell et al 1995). There are affinities with the small undecorated urn deposited in a cist at Allasdale, Barra, associated with human remains dated to 1760–1600 BC (GU-14151) (Cook forthcoming). Also of note is the small, flat-based bucket-shaped urn from a cist at Port na Long, North Uist (Megaw & Simpson 1961).

### Catalogue

*SF 13: 13 rim sherds, 8 basal sherds and 53 body sherds, fragments and crumbs.*

Th 13 mm (body); Th 10 mm (rim); Rim diameter 150 mm; Basal diameter 100mm; Wt 700g.



*Illus 4 The Pabay Mor urn*