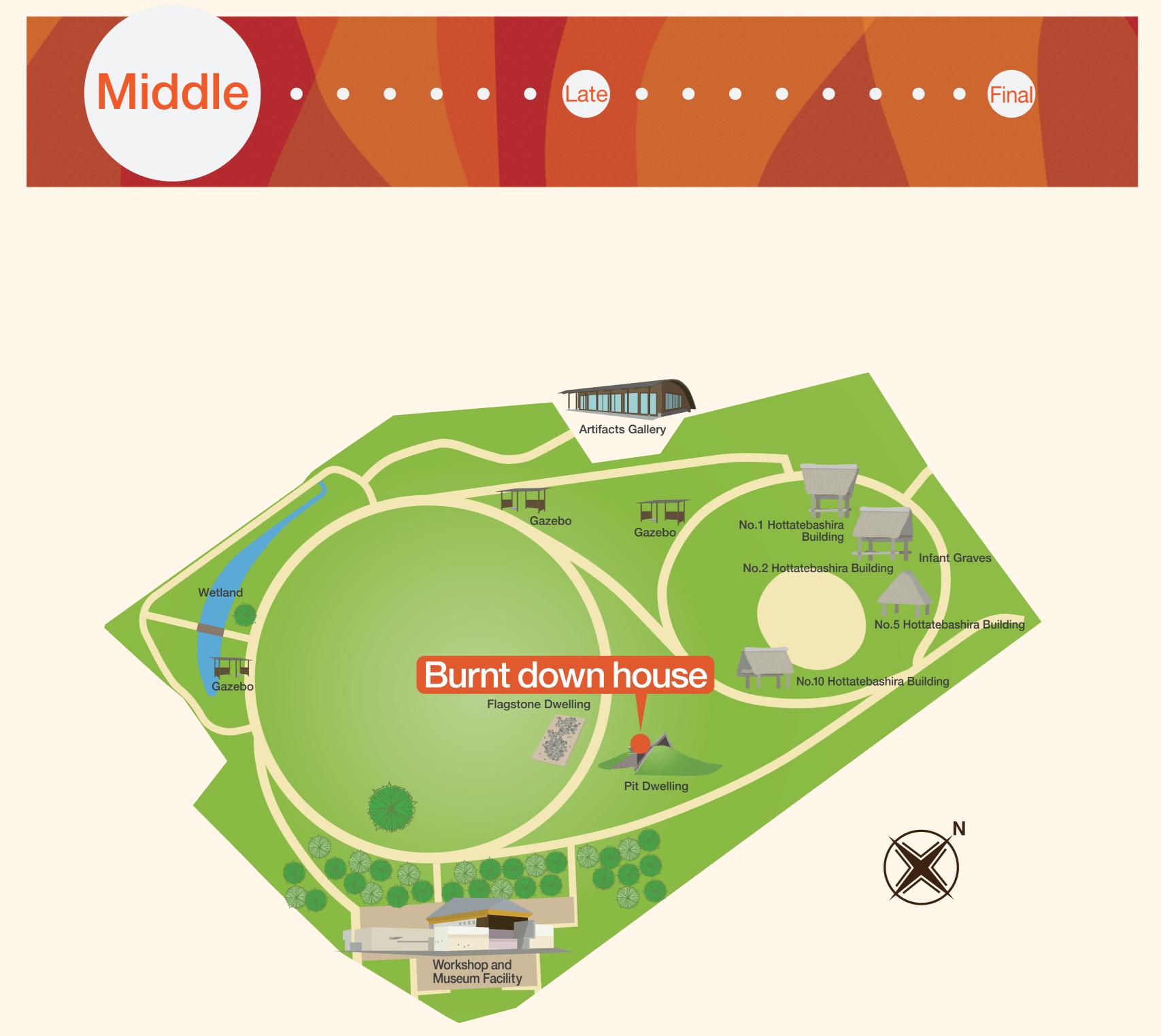


Burning pit dwelling

In the Mid Jomon period village, 22 houses (47.8%) out of the 46 houses surveyed (pit dwellings) were burned. At the Wadai Site (lino) which was also a village from the same Mid Jomon period, 230 pit dwelling houses were discovered, with no burned houses. No other Jomon village in Japan had so many houses that were burned.





The big mystery of the Jomon Village at the Miyahata Site

Why were half of the houses burned in funerary rites?

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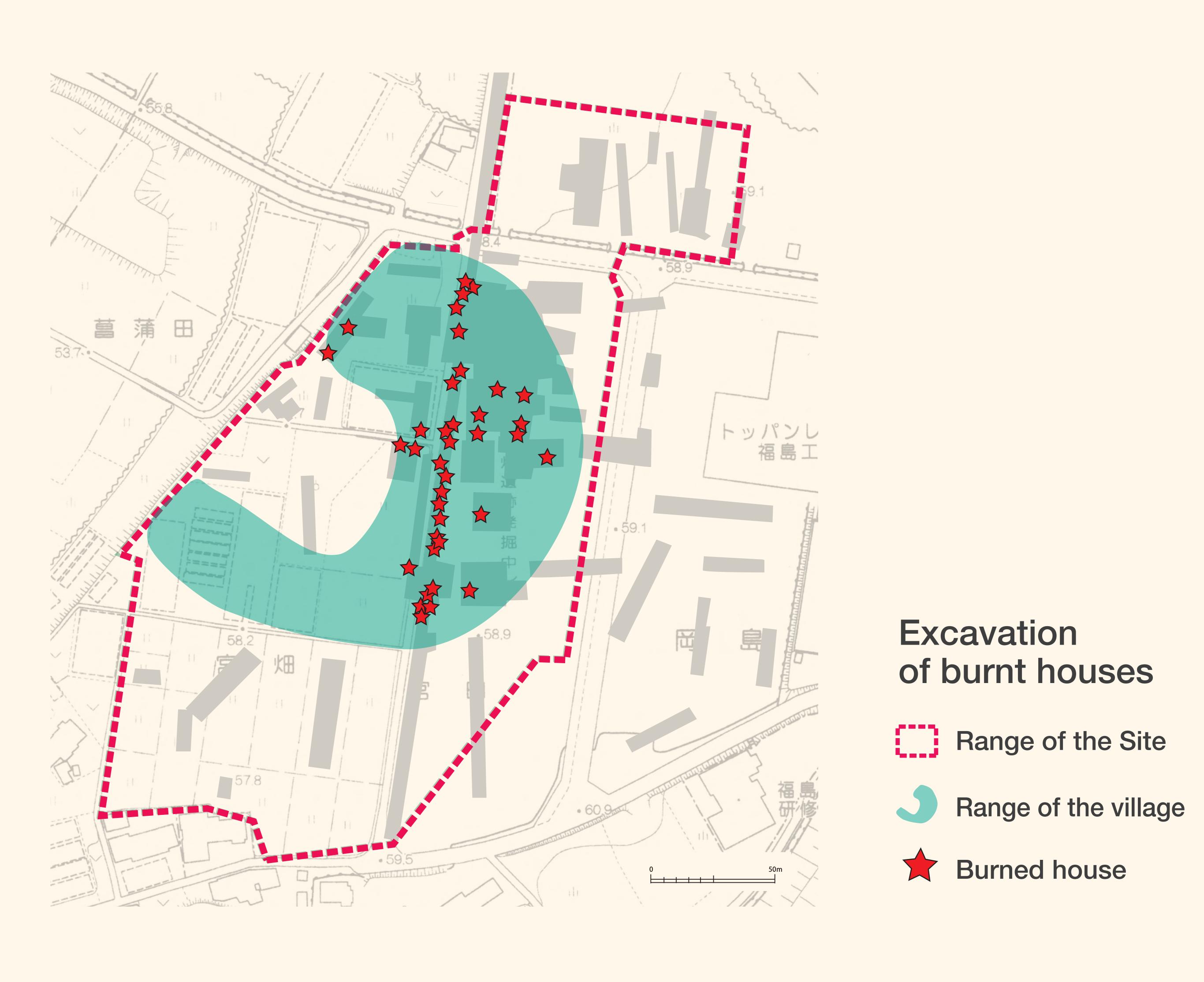
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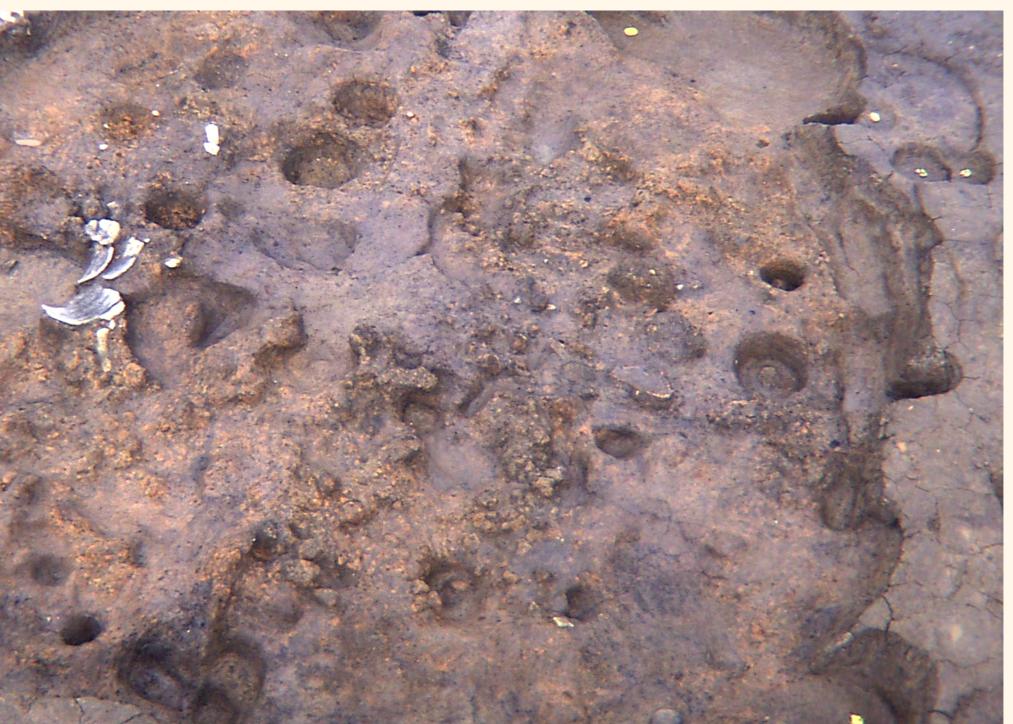
Houses in the Mid Jomon period had soil on their rooves. Since soiled rooves are difficult to burn, it is necessary to set fire to fuel inside the house, and then to maintain the flames of the fire by making holes in the roof to take in air and to add fuel, in order to burn them. Approximately half of those difficult to burn, soiled-roof houses were burned in the Mid Jomon period village. It is thought that 'house sending' (the sending of houses to the next world) was conducted by burning said houses. It is a mystery as to why those burnt houses were chosen and why only the Mid-Jomon period village of the Miyahata Site conducted 'house sending' (the sending of houses to the next world) by burning many houses.













Detection of burnt soil

Detection of coals

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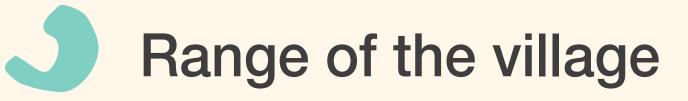


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Excavation of burnt houses

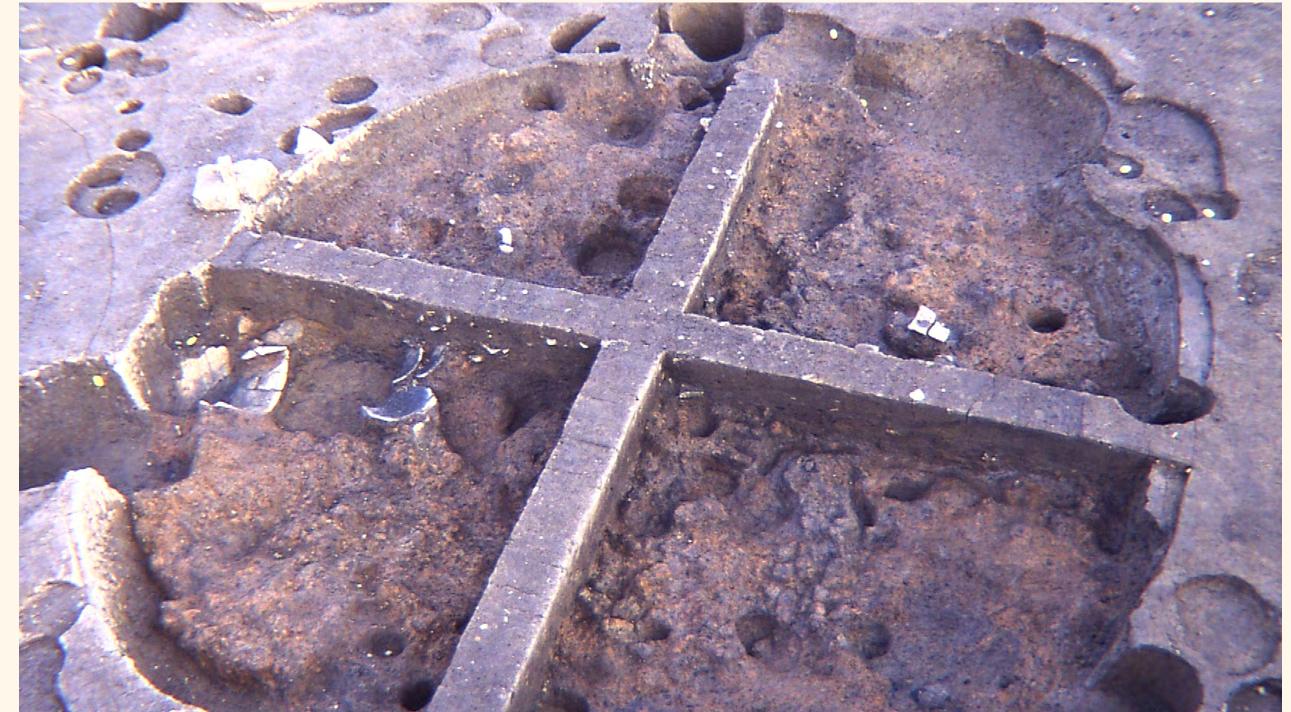






Burned house





Detection of burnt soil

Detection of coals