

November 10, 2006

Excavations on this day were carried out in five areas of the Structure.

1. the exterior of the structure north of the northwestern wall (L. 1528)
2. south of Room 2 in the northeastern sector of the Structure (L. 1523)
3. inside Room 1 located in the northwestern sector of the Structure (L. 1524)
4. interior (L. 1514) and exterior (L. 1512 and L. 1515) of Room 3
5. in the southern section of the large courtyard/alleyway in the interior of the Structure (L. 1531).

1. Locus 1528

This locus consists of the exterior fill of the Structure in the northeastern corner. Today, the excavation was carried out by three Bedouin workers. Their goals for the day was to remove fill to the level of the neighboring locus (L. 1526) in the northwestern corner of the structure. The sediments in this part of the structure are comprised of wind-blown sands mixed with small pieces of stone debitage from the wall collapse. The wall collapse found within the locus is made up of various sizes, but contains very large stone blocks that once made up the exterior main walls of the Structure. Work in this locus progressed quite slowly and only half of the locus was excavated. No special finds were recorded here; however, small pieces of pottery and slag were recovered.

2. Locus 1523

The locus is found in the exterior-south of Room 2 and is defined by Wall 1535 to the north, Wall 1534 to the east, and Wall 1506 to the west. Excavations in this locus have been following the boundaries of these three walls. Currently, the fill in this locus consists of sediment -reddish in color mixed with stone debitage from the wall collapse. This area contains collapse from all three walls, resulting in different size stones ranging from very large to small. The southernmost part of the locus ends abruptly with a steep drop into the Wadi. If there was once a room in this area, it was destroyed in antiquity. Today's artifacts consist of grinding slabs, small pottery shards, and animal bones. A substantial amount of charcoal was collected from the northeastern corner where Walls 1535 and 1434 intersect. The charcoal was collected and sent to the lab for consideration for carbon dating.

3. Locus 1524

Locus 1524 consists of the interior of Room 1- located in the northwestern section of the Structure. Assignment of locus number for each individual wall will occur in the next day. The fill matrix in this locus consists of loose sands mixed with ash. Large concentrations of pottery (various sizes), tuyere pipe or furnace fragments, and slag have been recovered from this locus. Many of the slags recovered contained traces of charcoal embedded in them. Approximately 12 buckets of slag have been collected and are ready for processing. Currently, all sediments being removed from this locus are being screened. Although Tom believes this room was used for copper production. However,

the amounts of slag, broken pottery, and fragments and their random locations indicate the room was used as a disposal site. Many charcoal samples have been collected and submitted to the lab for carbon dating.

4. Room 3 (L. 1514, L. 1512, L. 1515)

Locus 1514 is located in the southwestern section of the site. It defines a rectangular area of wall collapse located to the west of a wall currently being excavated. The wall has not been assigned a locus number as of this date as it requires further delineation. Locus 1512 consists of the northern and northwestern exterior of L. 1514. Locus 1515 defines the exterior fill in the south and the southwest sections of L. 1514. Whether this area represents another room is currently being debated. Further removal of fill and wall collapse should the function of this area.

5. Locus 1531

Locus 1531 represents patches of compact mud and reddish sand found below the main fill and wall collapse (L. 1517). Excavations in this area have revealed several important features. First, a large wall or platform was exposed in the western-central section of the locus. This feature separates a smaller area to the south from the main room to the north. Similarly, a wall was exposed in the southwestern sector of the baulk. The wall extends towards and intersects the main southern wall of the Structure. The interior of the wall/platform has been constructed with small to medium size stones mixed with slag and compact mud. The end of the wall/platform is defined by a very large square stone (L. 1532) that sits on a square stone. Opposite this stone is a second large standing stone (L. 1533). The function of this stone is not known. It has not support foundation on the eastern section, but does sit on a flat stone or small platform on the west. A series of small paving stones were located between the two standing stones. They both appear to be at floor level. At the northeastern section of the locus, a layer of ash is found. The wall in this section contains evidence of burning. Charcoal samples were collected from the area between the two standing stones. In the southeastern section of the locus, large amounts of charcoal, pottery, and slags were recovered.

November 11, 2006

Excavations on this day were conducted in 6 areas of Site T. They are:

1. L. 1528- the exterior of the north wall (L. 1505) in the northeastern section of the locus.
2. L. 1507-the interior of Room 2.
3. L. 1523- the interior of Room 4.
4. L. 1531- the interior of the courtyard in the southern section of the structure.
5. L. 1512 and L. 1515- the interior of Room 3.
6. L. 1524- the interior of Room 1.
7. L. 1513- the exterior north of Room 1.

The start of the day centered on cleaning the entire site for photographs. Several photographs were taken of the entire site. A separate series was taken on L. 1521- the ash layer located against the exterior of Wall 1506-the southern wall of the main structure. On this day, all the exposed walls were assigned individual locus numbers.

1. L. 1528

Excavations in the northeast section of the locus continued. The goal for the day was to level the fill north of the main wall to level with the adjacent locus (1526). Large boulders from the wall collapse were uncovered. A large patch of ash was uncovered close to the corner of the main structure (L. 1506 and L. 1534). Large roots were also intrusive in this area. Artifacts recovered were pottery and slags.

2. L. 1507

The interior of Room 2 was once again opened for excavation. Excavations in this area proved to be slow and only a few centimeters of sediment were removed.

3. L. 1523

The excavations in the interior of Room 3 continued to be productive on this day. Large pieces of pottery and charcoal were recovered. The reddish fill layer that made up this locus gave way to an ash layer that covered the entire surface of the room. The sediments contained heavy traces of ash and fire affected stones. The pottery recovered from this locus contained traces of burning.

4. L. 1531

The excavations in this locus continued in the section south of the two standing stones and the wall (L. 1537). The area is sectioned and marked by the wall. The sediment in this area contains patches of compact mud and very loose fill and is quite easy to excavate. An intrusive locus was unearthed in the southeastern section of the locus. The reddish sediment gave way to a gray color sediment containing heavy traces of ash. In the southeastern section of the locus a large cache of bellows pipes, furnace fragments,

ceramics, and slag were unearthed. A photo and a perimeter artifact locus was taken. The concentration of artifacts proved to be much more extensive and the polygon was extended to the east to encompass the remainder of the finds.

L. 1512 and 1515

The excavations continued in the interior of Structure 3. The goal was to defined the remaining walls and the opening to the structure. All goals were reached on this day. Room 3 is similar to Room 4 in layout and size. The structure is symmetrical. Excavations in this area focused in the interior of the western, eastern, and northern walls of the room.

L. 1524 and L. 1513

The interior of Room 1 was cleaned, but little work was conducted. The walls of the structure were cleaned from the loose debris and their elevation was recorded. The excavations in this region centered on the northern exterior of the room. Fill and wall collapse removal unearthed an ash layer in the western sector of the locus (L. 1547).

November 12, 2006

Excavations on this day centered on the following sections of Area T.

1. L. 1507- Room 2.
2. L. 1519- Northern section of interior courtyard/alley.
3. L. 1541- Room 4
4. L. 1531- Southern section of interior courtyard/alley.
5. L. 1512, 1515- Room 3.

1. L. 1507

Locus 1507 is the fill in the interior of Room 2. Excavations in this room centered on the removal of the fill and wall collapse. The rock removal consisted of medium size to large boulders from the wall collapse. The sediments are wind-blown and tan in color- very finely sorted. The excavations in this room will continue to level to match the fill and wall collapse removal in the exterior courtyard in the west.

2. L. 1519

Locus 1519 represents the fill and wall collapse of the northern section of the courtyard/alley located in the center of the main structure. The area between the two entry ways in Room 3 and Room 4 was the focal point of the excavation in this sector. The trench excavated to the south of this area indicated the depth of the fill and wall collapse. Therefore, pick axes and terrias were used in the removal of the fill. Excavations will continue in this area throughout the northern section of the courtyard/alley up to the main northern wall of the structure.

3. Locus 1541- Room 4

This locus was the most productive area excavated today. Screenings of all fill commenced on the fill removal. Excavations in an ash layer along the western wall revealed several pieces of Cypro-Phoenician ceramics. The pieces belonged to a small juglet. They were highly burnished, reddish brown in color and were decorated with geometric designs. This style of pottery dates to the 10th-9th Century BC and is imported. Other finds on this day in this section include several vessel handles and rims as well as body shards.

In the northern section of the locus adjacent to the northwestern opening, an installation (L. 1550) is defined by several flat stones. Large pieces of tap slag are found in the northeastern section along with body shards. Charcoal samples were collected from this area and submitted for carbon dating.

Along the eastern wall, a layer of crushed slag (L. 1549) was uncovered encased in hard compact sediments. The southern section of the room contains the wind-blown and loose fill (L. 1551). This area is scheduled for a photograph in the morning.

4. Locus 1531- Southern section of the courtyard

Excavations along the interior of the southern wall of the main structure continued today. This area had been identified as L. 1531 at the beginning of the day. Removal of a cache of bellow pipes, tuyere and furnace fragments, and ceramics in the southwestern area of the locus was expanded to the southeast. Excavations of the sediments in this locus revealed the ash layer found to the southeast (L. 1542) extended into this area. The ash layer consists of well-sorted sands mixed with heavy traces of ash with patches of compact mud. The locus was modified accordingly replacing the fill from L. 1531. Overall, large amounts of fragments were recovered. Other artifacts founds in this locus included a core fragment and a partial well-formed mortar. The following day will require leveling of the surface in this area.

The eastern standing stone (L. 1533) has now become unstable. Sand bags will be used to stabilize the stone.

5. Room 3

All the walls have been defined in the interior of this structure. The three loci (L. 1512, L. 1514, and L. 1515) that originally defined the inner and outer areas have been removed and now one main locus (L. 1548) defines the fill and collapse beneath the original wall collapse. Excavations in this locus are continuing.

November 13, 2006

Excavations at site T on this day continued in the same areas as the previous day. They are as follows:

1. Room 2
2. Room 3
3. Room 4
4. The interior of the courtyard/alley at the southern and the central section.

The day begin with the photographing of the 'installation' in Room 4. The photographed area was of the floor and the small flat stone feature an its contents. Several photos were taken, including some from across the wadi. Booming the walls of Room 3 occurred on this day.

1. Room 2

The removal of fill and wall collapse continued in this locus. Large stones were present throughout the locus, some requiring several people to remove from the room. The fill, which has been tan to this point, has begun to change into a reddish color. This same color change was seen in other sections of the site close to the current depth. Currently,

the fill is being leveled and the locus will be issued a new number. 1 of every 3 buckets are currently being screened. Very few finds, mostly pottery shards were recovered from this area today. No charcoal samples were collected.

2. Room 3

With the exception of the southwestern corner of the structure, all walls have now been defined. As well, the walls have now been photographed for stone drawing. The excavations in this room centered on the removal of fill and wall collapse by levels. Several centimeters were scraped off to reveal a level of reddish compact mud. The locus was changed to reflect the color change. Currently, no buckets are being sieved in this area.

3. Room 4

Excavations in Room 4 continued in two of the four loci currently defined. L. 1550, 'the installation' was photographed and excavated. The flat stones and the contents were removed. A large piece of tap slag was found in the northeastern corner. As well, pottery was recovered. Observations-it is extremely doubtful this is an installation but is more a result of excavation around the wall collapse.

The second locus excavated in this room was the ash fill (L. 1541). The ash fill was removed and a crushed slag layer was found beneath. The crushed slag layer is the same as found in L. 1549. The excavations in this area will focus on the fill (L. 1551) to resolve whether the crushed slag layer can be found in the center of the room. Finds for this day included pottery shards and two round hammerstones.

4. The interior of the courtyard/alley in the south and the center.

Excavations in the interior courtyard focused on two separate areas. The first excavation centered on the excavation of L. 1542 in the southernmost section of the site. The fill here is a dark grey ash. This can be found throughout the southern section of the courtyard. Large amounts of charcoal were collected-particularly from the southeast corner of the unit. In the area where the cache of bellows pipes, furnace fragments, and other types of metallurgical artifacts (L. 1531) were located, buckets of fragments were located and collected. Other finds included ceramics and 1 small piece of Cypro-Phoenician pottery-similar to the ones located in Room 4 yesterday- was retrieved from the screen.

Removal of the fill has revealed a hard compact layer below-a possible floor. The removal of the ash layer will continue, followed by a probe to define any floors below.

In the central section of the unit, the removal of fill and wall collapse continued. Different size boulders were removed from within the fill. Artifacts collected from this excavation were groundstone and slag.

November 13, 2006

Excavations on this day continued at Site T without the assistance of the Bedouin workers. Thus, rock and dirt removal from the excavated areas was slow. Aside from the slow progress, progress was made in several areas. The units excavated on this day centered on:

1. Room 1- L. 1524
2. Room 3- L. 1552
3. Room 4- L. 1551
4. Room 5- L. 1542
5. Northern and central sector of the courtyard/alley.

1. Room 1

Excavations in this room had been put on hold until a passage for sediment and rock removal could be opened. Excavations in this room were reopened on this day. The current locus (L. 1524) consists of a dark grey ash layer containing large amounts of tuyere pipes and fragments, furnace fragments, ash, charcoal, large pieces of slag and ceramics. Currently, all buckets collected from this area are being screened. On this day, one large tuyere pipe was found in situ. The pipe is well preserved and was removed without incident. In the immediate vicinity, two other fragmented pipes were located adjacent to very large pieces of tap slag. The function of this room is not certain, but it appears to be a very large midden where industrial waste from copper production was being disposed.

The removal of sediment fill along the doorway area also continued. Similarly to the interior fill, all buckets were being screened. Other than the fragments of ceramics and slag, no significant artifacts have been found in this area.

2. Room 3

The removal of fill and rock collapse continued in this room. Currently, the sediment removal has been defined as L. 1562. The reddish sediment is very similar to the fill found in the adjacent courtyard/alley and Room 5 at the similar level. The remains of the reddish sediment are being removed to expose the looser fill found below. Once this level is reached, screening of all sediments will commence. On this day, the walls making up this structure (L. 1520 to the west and L. 1506) to the south were recorded. The recording of these walls completes the recording of the structure.

3. Room 4

The removal of sediment fills in this locus centered on the southern portion of the unit (L. 1551). The sediments consist of very loose light brown wind-blown sediment. Removal of the sediment is beginning to reveal a crush slag layer (a continuation of L. 1549) found along the eastern wall of this room.

4. Room 5

Room 5 has been designated as the space between the wall and the standing stone (L. 1537) up to the interior of the southern wall (L. 1506). Excavations in this unit are defined under L. 1542. The current sediment consists of an ash mixed with hard compact mud- possibly mudbrick around the areas around the standing stones. This type of fill is found in patches away from this area. In the outer edges closer to the wall, small flat stones have been uncovered. While these might be paving stones, they are mostly concentrated in the southwestern part of the unit, close to the western wall (L. 1546). The floor could be below this layer as may be evident in the southeaster section of the unit. In this area, removal of the compact ash and mud layer revealed a dark colored ash layer on a flat surface.

5. Courtyard/Alley

The north-central section of the courtyard was excavated on this day. The focus of the excavation in this area was on the northwestern corner, close to L. 1544. The removal of fill here is essential for opening a passageway connecting the alleyway associated with Room 1 for the removal of fill and rocks.

November 16, 2006

Following the day off, excavations at Site T centered on the following units:

1. Room 1- L. 1524, 1547
2. Room 3- L. 1552, 1553
3. Room 4- L. 1551
4. Interior of Courtyard-Northern Section

The day started with the Bedouin clearing stones from two areas-close to the entrance of the structure and by the dumping area. A photograph was taken of Locus 1542. A fire installation was uncovered in the southwestern section of Room 5. Large amounts of furnace and bellows fragments were recovered from the vicinity of this installation. It is possible there are two floors in this section. Below this level, a darker ash layer can be found.

1. Room 1- L. 1524

Excavations in the interior of Room 1 (L. 1524) continued to find large amounts of furnace fragments, tuyere pipe fragments, and large quantities of tap slag. The recovery of these items is coming from an ash layer. The artifacts are being recovered in an alternating sequence. A layer of slag followed by a layer of tuyere pipe and furnace fragments. This sequence has been repeated for several layers.

2. Room 3- L. 1552, 1553

The remainder of the fill made up of reddish sediment mixed with patches of compact mud (L. 1552) was removed on this day. The unit is almost level with the adjacent courtyard to about standing stone level. A looser and sandier fill was found beneath the compact mud. The excavators recovered several pieces of charcoal along with the usual fragments of pottery. In the northeastern sector, a possible furnace base was unearthed. However, upon further scrutiny by Andreas Hauptmann, Archaeometalurgist, it was decided that the base was not a furnace, and it currently remains unidentified. Andreas requested two samples- one from the interior and one from the exterior of the base.

3. Room 4- L. 1551

In Room 4, the remaining layer above the slag layer was removed. The slag layer can now be found throughout the unit, with the exception of the small area around the entrance in the northwest. The removal of the fill also exposed the end of the eastern wall of the structure. In this area, the wall has collapsed into the wadi below.

4. Interior of Courtyard-Northern Section

The excavations in the northern section of the courtyard continued. Large amounts of sediments and wall collapse were removed on this day. At the given rate of sediment removal, the entire section should be exposed to floor level by the end of the week.

November 17, 2006

Excavations at Area T on this day continued in five areas. They are as follows:

1. In the exterior of the structure in the northwest and entrance areas- L. 1526 and L. 1527
2. The passage way between Room 1 and the northern wall- L. 1547
3. The interior of Room 1- L. 1542
4. The interior of Room 3- L. 1553
5. The interior of the courtyard-L. 1519

1. Exterior of the northern wall-L 1526, L. 1527

Excavations on this day resumed in L. 1526. This locus is found along the exterior of the northwestern section of the main north wall. The goals of the excavations in this area were to bring the fill outside the northern wall to level with the adjacent landscape. L. 1526 was partially excavated by two Bedouin. Recovered from the loose and sandy fill were large pieces of tap slag and charcoal. A layer of ash became visible in this area.

Similarly, excavations resumed in L. 1527-the main entrance to the structure. The fill and wall collapse were removed to level with the excavations in the interior courtyard as this provides the only entrance in this sector of the structure.

2. The passage way between Room 1 and the northern wall- L. 1547

The ash fill excavated in this area of the northwestern section of the site continued, yielding amazing results. Two stairs were found within the fill. Further cleaning, exposed two more steps. The series of steps could mean that Room 1 may have been the tower in this structure and the unearthed stairs provide access.

3. The interior of Room 1- L. 1542

Excavations in the interior of Room 1 continued. Removal of the grey ash layer containing large amounts of furnace fragments, tuyere pipe fragments, and large pieces of tap slag continued. The room could have served as the tower and the fill within the room could have been used to stabilize it.

4. The interior of Room 3- L. 1553

The removal of fill in Room 3 continued on this day. The possible furnace base was removed from within the floor. Two samples were collected from the artifact for Andreas Hauptmann. One was taken from the rim and consisted of a dark ceramic and one sample from the interior. This sample was yellow in color. The current level of the interior of the room is close to level with the courtyard to the east.

5. The interior of the courtyard-L. 1519

Excavations in the northern interior of the courtyard continued on this day. Large amounts of fill and wall collapse were removed. While not yet level with the southern part of the courtyard, it is only a matter of time.

November 18, 2006

Excavations on this day were focused in the following areas of Site T:

1. The northwestern exterior of the north wall- L. 1526
2. The exterior of the main entrance to the structure- L. 1527
3. The northern interior section of the courtyard – L. 1556
4. Room 1- Interior- L. 1524
5. Room 2- Interior- L. 1507
6. Room 3- Interior- L. 1553, L. 1558

The day started with the photographing of the newly discovered stairs (L. 1555) leading to the passage and entry of Room 1. Following the excavating assignments for the day, elevations were taken and EDM and Basket numbers were assigned.

1. The northwestern exterior of the north wall- L. 1526

Excavations outside the north wall, in the northwestern sector, continued today. The top level of fill and wall collapse was removed, exposing an ash layer. The fill is made up of light tan wind-blown sand. Artifacts recovered were pottery, hammerstones, dimpled hammerstones, worked stone, and tap slag.

2. The exterior of the main entrance to the structure- L. 1527

The entrance to the main structure was partially excavated on this day. The majority of fill consisted of the sandy sediment mixed with shale debitage. One piece of pottery was found in the fill. The removal of the fill in this locus is being carried out to the level of the interior courtyard (L. 1556).

3. The northern interior section of the courtyard – L. 1556

The interior of the courtyard was excavated in a trench parallel to the northern wall between the passage way into Room 1 and Room 2 (L. 1556). An intrusive locus (L. 1557) was unearthed extending from the entryway and extending into the locus. The installation consists of two large flat stones that could represent the paving of the floor. They are level with the fourth stair found in the passage to Room 1. Most of the artifacts, including ceramics and slag came from the western section of the locus.

4. Room 1- Interior- L. 1524

The interior of Room 1 continued on this day. More slag and furnace fragments were being removed bringing the total removal to about 19 buckets. The sediments are still a dark grey color and very finely sorted.

5. Room 2- Interior- L. 1507

Fill removal of the interior of Room 2 resumed on this day. The courtyard floor is well below the level of the entrance. The fill removal will bring the interior of the room level with the floor of the courtyard.

6. Room 3- Interior- L. 1553, L. 1558

The removal of the interior fill from Room 3 gave way to an ash layer. The level of the room is almost to the level of the courtyard-southern section. Patches of compact mud can be found throughout the level.

November 19, 2006

The day started with photographs of the stairs and the pavement. While the photos were being taken, the Bedouin removed the accumulated rocks from the exterior of the northern wall. Following these two activities, excavations continued. After breakfast break, booming of the stairs and pavement occurred. On this day, the following areas were excavated:

1. The exterior of the northern wall (L. 1526, 1527, 1528)
2. Room 1 (L. 1524)
3. Room 2 (L. 1507)
4. The center of the courtyard (L. 1519)

1. The exterior of the northern wall (L. 1526, 1527, 1528)

Excavation in the exterior of the northern wall continued in three different loci. L. 1526 was very productive on this day, yielding several artifacts including hammerstones, dimpled hammerstones, and worked stone. Perhaps the best find from this locus was a mould made from dolomite limestone. The mould was fragmented, but did contain several complete incisions carved into the rock. The fill and wall collapse gave way to an ash layer. The locus was closed and given a new number (L. 1559). In the middle of the locus, a rectangular installation can be seen in the fill. From the different finds collected from this locus, metal working was probably going on in this area and more related finds should be expected.

The second locus excavated north of the wall was in and around the door (L. 1527). The fill in the exterior of the entrance was first excavated and the stone from the wall collapse were removed. The sediments in this locus consisted of chipped shale mixed with small stones. Part of the eastern wall making up the entrance was removed today. Following the removal of fill from the base of the wall, the corner of the wall was found. The large stones and the fill making up the wall collapse in this section were removed widening the entrance to twice the size. As well, the paving stones located in the northern section of the courtyard (L. 1557) are currently located in the center of the entrance.

The third area excavated in the exterior of the north wall was L. 1528. The fill removal in this area consisted the light color sands found throughout the exterior. Mixed within the fill are large rocks from the northern wall. Pieces of slag were also recovered.

2. Room 1 (L. 1524)

Excavations in the interior of Room 1 continued. More large pieces of slag and furnace and tuyere pipe fragments were removed from within the dark ash layer. Currently, approximately 600 kilograms of slag have been processed, with many more buckets still waiting.

3. Room 2 (L. 1507)

Excavations in the interior of Room 2 continued on this day. Recovered from this locus was a dimple hammerstone and a large grinding slab. The fill and wall collapse being removed gave way to an ash layer by the end of the day. The layer encompasses the entire room. The current locus will be closed and a new number will be assigned.

4. The center of the courtyard (L. 1519)

Fill removal continued in the center of the courtyard south of the paving stones. A small layer of fill exposed more stones from the wall collapse. Few of these stones were removed in the process of leveling the locus to level with L. 1530 located in the south. Artifacts recovered from this locus included a grinding slab and two dimple hammerstones. Excavations adjacent to the entrance to Room 3 were taken below the target level. A layer of ash was evident in the fill at approximately 10 centimeters below the level.

November 20, 2006

Excavations on this day continued in several areas:

1. Exterior of north wall (L. 1559, 1527, 1528)
2. Exterior of eastern wall (L. 1529)
3. Room 1
4. Interior courtyard (L. 1556, 1530)

On this day, the fill between the stones in all the walls was removed by Dr. Najjar. The walls to the structure appear much tidier and manicured.

1. Exterior of north wall (L. 1559, 1527, 1528)

Fill removal along the exterior of the north continued on this day. Two loci were merged. The fill outside the main entrance (L. 1527) was closed and L. 1528 was extended to cover the entire area east of the door. The fill in this locus is still made up of the wind-blown sediment, light in color and easy to excavate. An ash layer was exposed in the northeastern section of the locus- adjacent to the wall. The ash fill layer was uncovered to the north and followed west towards L. 1559. It is a probability that a production installation will be found when this area is further excavated. There were already signs of slags, furnace and tuyere pipe fragments in this area.

In the northwestern corner in L. 1559, fill removal continued along the northern boundaries of the locus. This is mostly fill from L. 1526 that was not removed. The undertaking was conducted to level out the locus with the adjacent landscape.

2. Exterior of eastern wall (L. 1529)

In the exterior of the eastern wall of the main structure, fill removal continued. This area consists of a small mound connected to an adjacent small mound consisting of wall collapse. Whether the main structure currently being excavated is connected to this smaller structure is still under consideration, however, further removal of the fill should provide evidence to answer the question. Other than a few small pieces of slag, no artifacts were recovered from this level.

3. Room 1

Excavations in the interior of Room 1 have currently yielded approximately 1,347.76 kilograms of slag. Similarly, the number of furnace and tuyere pipe fragments continues to rise. A small probe was carried out to determine the depth of the dark grey ash layer. The dark grey sediment a lighter reddish fill about 50 centimeters from the current level. The level will be expanded towards the west into the opening of the structure.

4. Interior courtyard (L. 1556, 1530)

The interior of the courtyard was the center of excavations by several students on this day. The excavations begin by leveling the trench (L. 1530) that was originally carried out during the first weeks of excavations at Site T. The trench area was brought to level and several paving stones were revealed. Upon completion of the trench, it was merged with L. 1556 to the north. Excavations continued throughout the locus exposing rock collapse and many more paving stones. As well, a small wall or installation is beginning to surface in the northwestern area close to the stairs. The locus was cleaned at the end of the day and is ready for photographing in the morning.

November 21, 2006

Excavations at Site T on this day centered on the following areas:

1. Exterior of the north wall (L. 1528, L. 1559)
2. Exterior of the eastern wall (L. 1529)
3. Room 1 (L. 1524, L. 1560)
4. Interior of courtyard (L. 1561, L. 1556, L. 1530)

Fill removal and leveling occurred in the section of the exterior of the northern wall. The fill was removed to ash layer across two loci- L. 1559 to the northwest of the wall, and L. 1528 which extends from the entrance to the corner formed by the intersection of L. 1529 and L. 1528. Recovered from L. 1528 were grinding slabs, fragments of pottery, and large pieces of slag. In the northeastern section a possible installation is becoming evident. The ash layer is darker in color and more slag is being recovered along with furnace fragments and tuyere pipe fragments. The same is true for the area west of the main entrance to the structure. In this area, a significant amount of hammer and hammerstones, dimpled hammerstones and burnt pottery were found. Two grinding slabs were found in proximity on this day.

The exterior of the eastern wall yielded a possible new wall that may connect the main structure to the adjacent new structure. If this is the case, then it is possible the two structures may represent a compound and not an isolated building. Fill and rock collapse removal will continue to determine whether a doorway exists between the two structures. The fill was removed and an ash layer is now exposed in this area.

The interior of Room 1 has now hit the bottom of the ash layer containing the slag and furnace fragments. Approximately two thousand kilos of slag were recovered from L. 1524. The end of the ash layer gave way to a compact mud or a mudbrick. The locus was designated as L. 1560. It represents a trench about .50 meters along the eastern wall. The probe will reveal the depth of the structure wall.

Excavations in the interior of the courtyard proved quite interesting. An installation was unearthed in the northwestern section of L. 1556. The intrusive locus (L. 1561) is surrounded by flat stones aligned in a semi-circular pattern. In the interior of this installation, a dark ash layer can be found with a large pot buried close to the wall (L. 1544). The pot is a large storage vessel and is very poorly preserved. It is lying on its side and probably sits on its side. The removal of the ash layer will continue to be removed. It is possible the installation could be a wall and part of an earlier occupation level.

The removal of wall collapse continued south and east of this installation. The flat stones were not removed, however, the associated fill was brought down to level with the two

standing stones. The level of the standing stones represents the end of the last occupation level. Underneath, large areas of dark ash layer can be found.

Over the next two weeks, the strategy for the remainder of the excavations will be to excavate the exterior of the building and to probe each of the chambers within the structure. The goal of the probes will be to determine the occupation levels at the site.

November 23, 2006

Excavations on this day focused the following units:

1. The exterior of the north wall (L. 1559, L. 1564)
2. The exterior of the west wall (L. 1520)
3. The exterior of the east wall (L.)
4. Room 2 (L. 1565)
5. The interior of the courtyard (L. 1556, L. 1530)

1. The exterior of the north wall

Excavations in the exterior of the north wall were centered in L. 1559. L. 1559 defines the ash layer in this part of the site and covers the entire exterior of the northern wall, although it is designated as L. 1528 east of the entrance to the structure. The removal of the ash layer in this sector revealed a densely crushed slag layer (L. 1564) below the ash. A 2 x 3 meter area has been sectioned and is currently being pro bed. Currently, the crushed slag layer is very dark in color and has been crushed into a finely sediment with mixed pieces of slag. Compact patches of the fine crushed slag are present if patches throughout the locus. Other than the occasion small shard of pottery, no finds were recovered on this day.

2. The exterior of the west wall

The removal of the thick layer of fill and wall collapse remaining on the western side of the main structure along the main wall was resumed. The work here was preformed by three Bedouin and has been moving at a very slow pace. The removal will continue for the next several day until level with the loci located along the exterior of the northern wall.

3. The exterior of the east wall

The ash layer found (L.) in the exterior of the west wall was excavated on this day. The new locus that replaces L. 1529 encompasses a much larger area that includes the southern part of the adjacent structure. Finds recovered from this locus include small pieces of ceramics and large pieces of slag.

4. The interior of Room 2

The interior of Room 2 is currently an ash layer. A new locus (L. 1565) covering the interior of the room was defined on this day. Several stones making up a threshold were uncovered along the entrance to the room. Similar stones were uncovered in the entrance to Room 3 and Room 4. Finds in this room include pottery shards, copper ore, and fragments of slag.

5. The interior of the courtyard

Currently, the interior fill of the courtyard excavated on this day is represented by two loci (L. 1556 and L. 1530). L. 1556 is the fill from the last occupation phase and is found between the flat paving stones found in the northern section of the courtyard. Much of the fill, particularly in the central section of the courtyard contains patches of compact mud, difficult to excavate. The removal of the fill is revealing a layer of ash. This layer of ash exists in the southern part of the courtyard (L. 1530) and inside Room 5 (L. 1542). The removal of the fill in L. 1556 will continue, as well as the stones to reveal the earlier occupations.

November 24, 2006

Excavations at Area T centered on the following areas:

1. Exterior of the north wall (L. 1564, L. 1566)
2. Exterior of the west wall (L. 1520)
3. Exterior of the east wall (L. 1563)
4. Room 1 (L. 1560)
5. Room 2 (L. 1565)
6. Interior of courtyard (L. 1556, L. 1530, L. 1561)

1. Exterior of the north wall (L. 1564, L. 1566)

Excavations in the exterior of the north wall were centered on a 2 x 3 m trench paralleling the exterior of the north wall adjacent to the main entrance of the structure. The trench is being excavated to investigate the stratigraphy of the exterior of the north wall. Fill from a half meter trench was conducted and several stratigraphic layers were identified. The top layer is composed of crushed slag (L. 1564). Approximately 15 centimeters below the crush slag layer is an ash layer followed by a dark brown-reddish fill (L. 1566). Pottery shards were recovered from this fill. Currently, the layer of crushed slag is being removed from the remainder of the locus. The foundation of the main structure wall is also located within the slag layer. All buckets of sediment are currently being screened in this locus.

2. Exterior of the west wall (L. 1520)

Fill and wall collapse removal continued from the exterior of the west wall. A profile in the northwestern section of the fill revealed an ash layer below the excavated locus (L. 1520). Thus picks and *terrias* were the main tools used to excavate. Approximately half of the locus was removed on this day. No screening is currently being carried out in this locus.

3. Exterior of the east wall (L. 1563)

The exterior of the eastern wall was excavated on this day. The current layer is comprised of densely packed crushed slag. The crushed slag covers the entire locus along the eastern exterior of the building. Artifacts recovered from within this layer consist of pottery shards and the occasional furnace fragment. One of every three buckets was screened from this locus.

4. Room 1 (L. 1560)

The probe being carried out in the interior of Room 1 continued on this day. The excavation in this room is centered on a small trench in the center of the room interior (L. 1560). The sediments in the room consist of a dark brown-reddish sediment mixed with small amounts of ash. The bottom of the locus was reached and the locus was closed. Recovered were small pieces of pottery and small traces of charcoal. The foundation of the southern wall-shared with Room 3-is now becoming evident bringing the total to two known foundations. It is possible that the wall that makes up the northern partition (L. 1543) was later installed to complete the tower. Currently, it is well above the level of the adjacent walls.

5. Room 2 (L. 1565)

The ash layer in Room 2 was cleaned and leveled on this day. A test trench to investigate the occupational layers was started on this day. The ash layer (L. 1565) represents the main ash layer covering the entire level of the room. In the eastern section-parallel to the eastern wall of the room (and the main structure) a layer of crushed slag was unearthed. This layer was assigned as L. 1567 in the eastern part of the trench.

6. Interior of courtyard (L. 1556, L. 1530, L. 1561)

Excavations in the interior of the courtyard continued in several different areas. The compact mud layer between the paving stones was leveled to the southern section of the room (L. 1530). This locus was then extended to cover the entire courtyard to the north of the standing stones.

Within the installation located in the western section along Wall 1544, the ash layer (L. 1561) was excavated to a level below the *tabun* (L. 1562). The pedestal of the *tabun* is now complete and the removal of the interior fill will commence on the following day.

November 25, 2006

Excavations at Area T focused throughout the following units on this day:

1. The trench in the exterior of the north wall (L. 1564)
2. The trench in the exterior of the east wall (L. 1563)
3. The exterior of the west wall (L. 1520)
4. The exterior of the south wall (L. 1521)
5. The trench along the south wall in Room 2 (L. 1567, L. 1565)
6. The trench in Room 5 (L. 1569, L. 1570)
7. The trench in Room 3 (L. 1568)
8. The interior of the courtyard (L. 1561, L. 1562)

The day started with the photographing of the tabun (L. 1562). Excavations on the previous day centered on the removal of the exterior fill found along the tabun. The photographs recorded the progress of the removal. The majority of the excavations on this day were centered in trenches along the exterior of the main structure. The foundations of the walls were reached in several areas.

1. The trench in the exterior of the north wall (L. 1564)

The small probed excavated within the main trench of the exterior north wall indicated a layer of crushed slag L. 1564, followed by a layer of ash (L. 1566). The layer of crushed slag was removed along and away from the main wall. The removal of the fill followed the contour of the landscape-in the case of this area, a downward slope towards the west. The foundation of the main wall was reached and excavations indicated the wall follows the contour of the landscape. The crushed slag appears to have served as the main foundation of the structure. The stratigraphy is well defined in this section of the site. Removal of the fill beneath the slag will continue.

2. The trench in the exterior of the east wall (L. 1563)

The slag layer found in the exterior of the eastern wall was probed on this day. The probe revealed that the layer continued well below the end of the eastern wall. A small layer of ash fill detectable in the profile was not detected during the removal of the slag layer. Excavations in this area were ceased several centimeters below the wall.

3. The exterior of the west wall (L. 1520)

The removal of the fill and wall collapse in the exterior of the west wall continued on this day. The removal focused on leveling the area around the exterior of the northwestern

corner and then to the area south. The area should be fully excavated to level in the next two days. One large grinding slab was recovered from the fill in this area.

4. The exterior of the south wall (L. 1521)

The probe that was originally started in the exterior area of the south wall resumed today. The area is on the opposite side of Wall 1546, which butts against the southern wall. The removal of the ash layer (L. 1521) follows the contours of the downward slope. Beneath the layer of ash is the layer of crushed slag, possibly the foundation of the structure.

5. The trench along the south wall in Room 2 (L. 1567, L. 1565)

The interior of Room 2 was probed along the southern wall. The trench is made up of two layers. First the ash layer that comprises the current layer of the room (L. 1565) in the southwest corner and a layer of crushed slag (L. 1567) in the southeast corner of the structure. The foundation of the wall was reached along both loci and was continued for several centimeters below the wall to sterile deposit.

6. The trench in Room 5 (L. 1569, L. 1570)

A 1 meter trench extending from L. 1506 was started in the southern section of Room 5- along the main south wall of the structure. Currently, an ash layer has been defined in the southeast corner of the trench. This locus belongs to the second to last occupation level. In the southwest area of the trench, L. 1542 was the original ash layer designated here. Removal of the ash layer exposed a hard compact mud (1569) that was most likely part of the original floor in this area. Removal of the compact mud revealed a dark brownish red ash layer (L. 1570). Excavations on this day ended before the ash layer sediment could be removed.

7. The trench in Room 3 (L. 1568)

In the adjacent western Room 3, the trench continued along the same axis as in Room 5. A 1 meter trench designated as L. 1568 consisting of a fill mixed with ash was excavated on this day. In areas where the fill was removed, a layer of crushed slag is beginning to become evident.

8. The interior of the courtyard (L. 1561, L. 1562)

Locus 1561, the rest of the ash layer around the tabun was excavated on this day. The area was a small area in the southern section of the locus. As well, the interior of the tabun was excavated- following photographs. During the removal of the contents, a rock

lodged within the tabun broke part of the outer wall into shards. Cleaning of the vessel came to a halt and the area was then cleaned for further photographs.

November 26, 2006

Excavations at Area T on this day focused on the following areas:

1. Probe in the exterior of the north wall (L. 1566)
2. Exterior of the west wall (L. 1520)
3. Probe in the exterior of the south wall (L. 1571)
4. Probe in the northeast corner of the courtyard (L. 1573)
5. Probe in the southwest corner of the courtyard (L. 1576)
6. Probe in Room 5
7. Probe in Room 3

The probe along the exterior of the east wall (L. 1572) was cleaned and ready for photographing. Unfortunately, the photo equipment was commandeered by the Jeriyah crowd and all plans had to be scrapped. The profile for the area is clearly outline and should be very informative in the reconstruction of the stratigraphy.

1. Probe in the exterior of the north wall (L. 1566)

The probe in the exterior of the north wall yielded more seeds-possibly date. These should be helpful for dating. More ceramic shards were also recovered. The probe continues to become deeper. The fill is still dark reddish-brown sediment.

2. Exterior of the west wall (L. 1520)

Removal of the fill and collapse of the western wall continued. More than half of the fill and wall collapse along the wall has now been removed to a light ash fill. A grinding stone and a dimpled hammer stone were recovered from the fill. The remainder of the fill and wall collapse should be completed in the next day.

3. Probe in the exterior of the south wall (L. 1571)

A new locus consisting of a slag layer was opened in the probe of the exterior of the south wall. The slag layer has been excavated for several centimeters and is still continuing. The eastern profile in the fill and wall collapse is clearly delineated.

4. Probe in the northeast corner of the courtyard (L. 1573)

A new probe was started in the northeast corner of the courtyard paralleling Wall 1536 in the south up to the Wall 1505 (the interior of the north wall). The probe covers the area outside the entrance of Room 2. A grinding stone, a hammerstone, and a pestle were found inside the slab-all were found in situ at the floor level where the tabun was found. The fill currently being excavated in this locus is beginning to contain traces of ash.

5. Probe in the southwest corner of the courtyard (L. 1576)

A new probe was started in the southwest corner of the courtyard. The probe is to sample the area between Wall 1546 and Wall 1537. The area being excavated is triangular in shape and the fill consists the loose sands found right above the first occupation layer. Removal of the sand gave way to part of the mud compact floor that survived in this area.

6. Probe in Room 5

The probe along the interior of the south wall continued with the removal of the remainder of the ash fill in the southwest corner of the locus. Underneath the ash fill, a layer of slag was found. The removal of the layer of slag revealed a dark reddish brown layer of fill mixed with ash layer. Mental note: is the stratigraphy in this probe beginning to follow the same pattern as the probe in the north? Significant finds recovered from this layer was a date seed.

7. Probe in Room 3 (L. 1568, L. 1577, L. 1579)

The fill containing ash (L. 1568) in the probe located in Room 3 was completely removed. In the center of the probe, a small lens of slag was located (L. 1577). Upon removal of both loci, L. 1579, a slag layer was exposed. Large amounts of pottery were recovered from the fill above.

November 27, 2006

Fill removal and probing continued throughout the various rooms and affiliated sections of Area T. On this day, the following units were excavated:

1. Probe in the exterior of the north wall (L. 1566)
2. The removal of fill and wall collapse in the exterior of the west wall (L. 1520)
3. Probe in the southern sector of Room 3 (L. 1579, L. 1585)
4. Probe in the southern sector of Room 5 (L. 1575, L. 1582, and L. 1580)
5. Probe in the NE sector of the courtyard (L. 1574, L. 1578)
6. Probe in the SW sector of the courtyard (L. 1576, L. 1584)

Excavations throughout the early and mid-morning were difficult on this day. The wind was blowing and dust in the workers faces made it difficult to see and breathe. The latter was compounded by the screening. Layers of wind blown sediment were found covering most of the trenches. This natural process that occurred at this site can be easily seen throughout the various trenches. The dust was cleaned from all the trenches prior to the beginning of the excavations.

1. Probe in the exterior of the north wall (L. 1566)

The probe in the exterior of the north wall continued. The sediments here are for the most part homogenous. Small strata of wind blown sand appear in many of the layers. Recovered from the unit on this day was pottery, date seeds, charcoal, burnt bone, slags, fragments of tuyere pipes and furnace. The excavated area is getting deeper and the finds are getting less. The goal in this trench is to excavate to the bedrock.

2. The removal of fill and wall collapse in the exterior of the west wall (L. 1520)

The removal of the fill and wall collapse in the exterior of the west wall continued on this day. The area is being excavated by a group of Bedouin supervised by Akram (?), an archaeologist with the Jordanian Department of Antiquities. Significant progress was made in the morning; however, it was hindered in the late morning by rogue Bedouin. The area is scheduled to be completed by tomorrow. A small trench for investigating the stratigraphy of the mound and the foundations of the structure in the west are being planned.

3. Probe in the southern sector of Room 3 (L. 1579, L. 1585)

The Probe in the southern sector of Room 3 continued with the removal of the dark ash layer mixed with slag (L. 1579). The sediment was found throughout the locus. The sediment is the layer directly above the layer of crushed slag (L. 1585) that is the foundation for the entire structure. Recovered from the probe on this day were shards of pottery, bone, fragments of tuyere pipes and furnaces. Currently, the crushed slag layer is

the focus of the excavation and should be completed in the next day. The bottom of the west wall has now been identified. However, southern wall is still continuing into the sediment.

4. Probe in the southern sector of Room 5 (L. 1575, L. 1582, and L. 1580)

The removal of the sediments in the long trench that is located in the southern sector of Room 5 continued on this day. The day started with the removal of the crushed slag layer (L. 1575). A new locus was identified immediately below the crushed slag. The layer was made up of a sediment that was dark-reddish mixed with sands in the west (L. 1582), and a poorly sorted ash layer mixed with slag in the east (L. 1580). The bottom of the south wall has been reached in the eastern sector of the trench but continues in the west. Recovered from L. 1582 were pottery shards, burnt bone, date seeds, charcoal, tuyere pipe fragments, and slag. From the western locus (L. 1580) 15 date seeds, pottery, charcoal, tuyere pipe fragments, and slag were recovered.

5. Probe in the NE sector of the courtyard (L. 1578)

The probe located adjacent to the entrance to Room 2 continued. At the end of the previous day, a grinding slab, a hammerstone, and a pestle were located in situ. Removal of the pestle and hammerstone, and clearance of the sediment revealed the artifact was not a grinding stone but possible a small pit that may have been used to prop storage containers. The conical shaped feature was lined with small and thin paving stones held together with a mud and plaster binding.

The mud layer mixed with ash (L. 1578) that forms part of the floor in this part of the courtyard (contemporary with L. 1561 in the northwestern part of the courtyard) was removed. A layer of ash is becoming evident. Excavations here were stopped by mid-morning. One of the excavators was weighing slag and the other went back to camp due to an injury.

6. Probe in the SW sector of the courtyard (L. 1576, L. 1584)

The triangular probe in the southwestern section of the courtyard, along Wall 1537 and Wall 1546 was excavated. Two loci were excavated and a third was revealed but has not currently been assigned. The first two loci consisted of a light color wind blown sand (L. 1576) and a layer of compact mud mixed with traces of ash and possibly lime plaster (L. 1581). Removal of these two layers revealed a layer of paving stones in situ. The stones had traces of limestone plaster on and around them. These stones appear to make up the primary floor of the primary occupational phase in this structure that is contemporary with L. 1578 and L. 1561 in the northern sector of the courtyard.

Once the surface had been identified, the unit was extended towards the center of the courtyard. The top fill contemporary with L. 1576 was assigned as L. 1584. This locus

was removed and then L. 1581-the compact mud with traces of ash was extended to encompass the entire unit. The removal of the mud layer is currently being conducted and more paving stones lined with mud/plaster have been revealed. Few finds were recovered from these loci. They include a few pieces of ceramic and bone.

November 30, 2006

Excavations resumed following the break. Today, the following areas were excavated:

1. Exterior of the north wall (L. 1566)
2. Exterior of the west wall (L. 1596)
3. Room 1
4. Room 5
5. Northwest Courtyard (L. 1601)
6. Northeast Courtyard (L. 1578)
7. Southern Courtyard (L. 1598, L. 1602)
8. Room 4

1. Exterior of the north wall (L. 1566)

The exterior of the north wall was completed on this day. The day started off with the leveling and cleaning up of the bottom of the unit. The decision was made to stop excavations in this area because of the depth and the stratigraphy. A good stratigraphic sample has been uncovered and should be sufficient for interpreting the formation processes below the site. While the number of artifacts recovered were tapering off, they were still being recovered.

The unit was expanded towards the western wall comprising the western entrance. A small baulk west of the entrance was removed. As a result of this removal, two sets of paving stones covering the entry separated by a layer of compact mud and fill way were identified. The section is scheduled for drawing.

2. Exterior of the west wall (L. 1596)

The removal of fill along the western wall was finally completed. A 1 x 1 meter probe was launched in this area to delineate the stratigraphy in the western section. Similar results found across the site are expected. Recovered early in the excavation was a date seed as well as pottery.

3. Room 1

The fill in Room 1 (the tower) continues to yield many different types of surfaces. Several different layers were identified and labeled on this day. The depth of the room is close to four meters in depth and probably continues. However, due to the approaching deadline, excavations will cease in this room and a section will be drawn.

4. Room 5

The removal of fill in Room 5 continued. A small installation was discovered on the 28th. It consists of a very dark layer of ash with a possible door socket and a small installation that could possibly be a fire ring. It is possible this could represent an earlier occupation period or perhaps an area that was sunk into this section of the structure. The hard compact slag layer that represents the foundation throughout the structure appears to have been dug in this section. There are a variety of different types of sediments including the dark brown-reddish and plenty of ash. These are mixed with the lighter tan/brown pockets of sediments. Excavations in the eastern section (L. 1582), the compact slag layer were stopped. The western section continues.

5. Northwest Courtyard (L. 1601)

The excavations in the northwest courtyard resumed on this day. The start of the current locus (L. 1561) started with the removal of the tabun- to expose the floor. The tabun was in pretty bad shape so it crumbled right away. After peeling the layer of compact mud mixed with burnt ash (L. 1561), a small trench south of the stairs was opened. Immediately, a slag layer (L. 1601) was reached. The probe will continue into the slag layer to test the stratigraphy below.

6. Northeast Courtyard (L. 1578)

Similarly, a probe was started in the northeast section of the courtyard. The area is south of the conical installation. The stratigraphy in this section is composed of fill, ash, and then slag. This layering continues but is not found in other parts of the courtyard. The conical installation is on a pedestal to distinguish the floor in this region.

7. Southern Courtyard (L. 1598, L. 1602)

The floor in the southern part of the courtyard is being exposed. The stratigraphy consists of a layer of wind-blown fill followed by a layer of compact mud mixed with a mud-plaster. This layer can be found covering the paving stones found underneath. The area is being extended towards the east and time permitting will be extended towards the north.

8. Room 4

Excavations in the probe in Room 4 were closed today. A small trench along the north wall (L. 1535) was taken well below the foundation of the wall. A layer of slag was breached into a layer of dark-brown sediment mixed with slag. The probe was extended towards the west- towards the entrance. An installation comprising the threshold of the entrance was unearthed. It is two courses wide and is very well preserved. A layer of compact mud was found east of the installation and was not removed.

December 1, 2006

Excavations at Site T were concluded on this day. All probes were closed-bedrock was not reached on any of the probes. Final photos and section drawing are planned for tomorrow. All current loci will be closed. All Rooms will be assigned an official room number.