

Area M

Supervisors' Journal

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Don Perez

3 Oct. 2006

Today was the first day of excavation. In the morning, the EDMs were set up. After some hammer error in the ~~last~~ reference point data was corrected, two loci were opened. These correspond to the two areas of ~~fill~~ backfill dumped into the 2002 excavation pits in Area M. ~~These are bounded by the~~ One locus 601 is the fill inside the building corner in square while ~~the other~~ ^{locus 600} is the fill to the south of this building. We shortly began removing ~~the~~ this backfill, working with the students & clearing with pickshovels.

Squares are arbitrarily called A14A2 ²⁰⁰² ~~working~~ designations.

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Today we continued excavating backfill in both loci opened yesterday, completely locus 600. In the backfill of locus 600, a few furnace fragments were discovered, which of course were not collected. After excavating out the backfill, trash - plastic bags & styrofoam - were discovered mixed in the fill at the bottom of the old excavation pit. Soil changes below this signified the beginning of unexcavated soil. The walls of the ~~locus~~ ^{locus}, particularly the south wall, were cleared. The south side of the unexcavated soil seems to indicate metallurgical activity - much slag ~~exists~~ is in the walls, and charcoal & slag extends into the locus. Melted metal abuts the building.

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Work continues excavating backfill from locus 601, inside the ~~center~~ of the exposed building. Exposed building corner. This excavation has begun to extend slightly into the adjacent square. The excavation has extended slightly lower than the floor of the ~~adjacent~~ locus 600.

5 Oct 2006

Today, after clearing out the remaining backfill of locus 600 & wall collapse we took photos of the transition from locus 600 to 602. This transition is marked by a beginning of metal production debris in large quantities. ~~Some of~~ The beginning of the level slopes towards the west, as the previous excavators followed slag flows along the slope of the hill.

A nice large fragment of a tuyere pipe was discovered in this level and recorded with the EDM, while other furnace fragments were also collected.

~~In the~~ At the same time, beam photos were early taken of the surface immediately to the north. This allowed us to begin excavations there. The topsoil was being noted locus 603 & removed. Slag was present here. In order to quickly quantify the slag, only pieces over 6-7 cm in size were collected. Two guffas of slag were kept in order to weigh them as representative examples, while the rest of the slag

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was collected in guffas which were coated while the slag was discarded. The locus was closed due to a level of fine light yellow dust, which Erez suggests worked its way beneath the slag.

We then began excavating this yellow acolian dust. Before long, we began to see the continuation of the western wall to about a meter's length. A few small furnace fragments were collected, and a screened sample was taken in order to determine what was missed by grosser methods.

Meanwhile, we continue to excavate locus 601 within the walls in what we now know is square G6627.

6 Oct 2006

Today we continued excavating in most loci, opened locus, and moved a fair amount of sediment.

^{we closed} In locus 603, we declared a new locus 604 to reflect ~~the~~ a change to fine dust beneath the surface layer. A large ~~amount~~ amount of stone - likely wall collapse - was found, and the continuation of the wall (locus 518) was observed but was ill-defined. At the end of the day locus 605 was opened. This represents metallurgical layers in G6628 ~~at~~ in the SE corner outside the walls.

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7 Oct 2006

On this day, all loci except walls 520 & 519 were closed in order to institute new procedures for collecting archaeological procedures. Henceforth all silt will be separated into rough size categories, weighed, and a 1 kg sample will be collected.

Locus 605 replaces 602, 607 replaces 604, 606 605, Only fill locus 601 from the 2002 season remains open.

A tuffaceous pipe was found in locus 607, and 607 was redefined to exclude a trapezoidal area in the SW of the unit outside the ill-defined wall 519 locus. Locus 609 was opened in this trapezoidal area, which consists of wall debris & ~~dist~~ aeolian sediment.

Locus 609, the ledge of silt layers outside the wall in the SE corner, was closed after an arbitrary 10 cm & locus 610 represents the next 10 cm.

Locus 608, the trapezoid in the SW corner, was closed & locus 611 represents the next arbitrary layer.

A large amount of silt & some furnace fragments are appearing in the SE ~~end~~ of the unit, within wall 520. This seems to represent a metallurgical phase on top of the wall, extending also into loci 609 & 610.

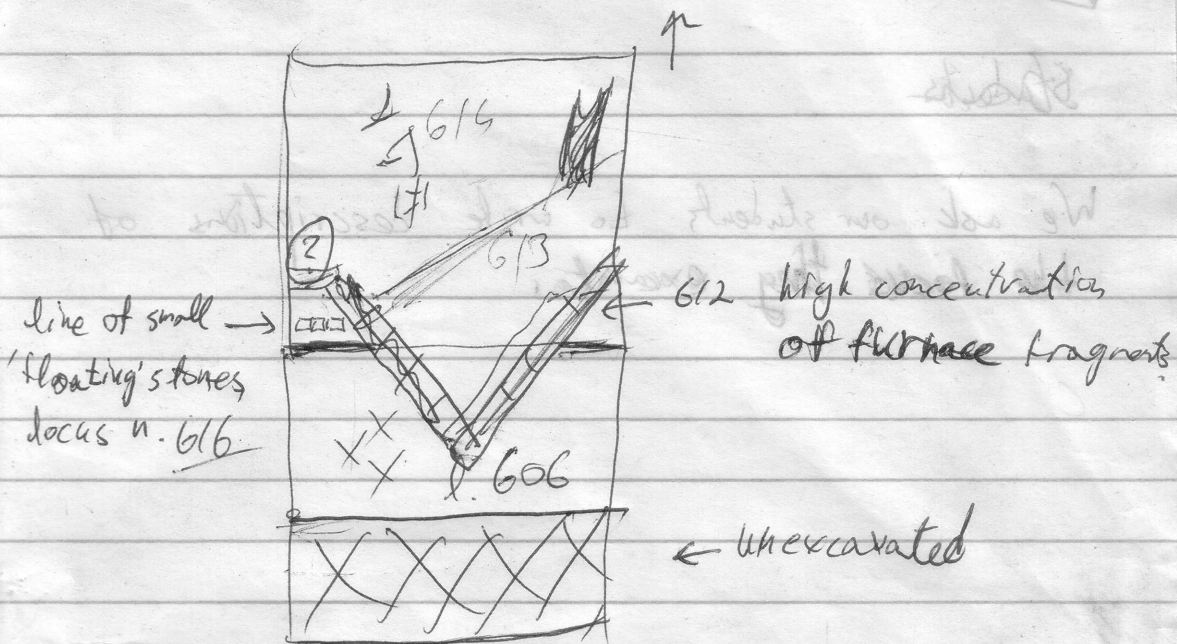
It will probably be awarded a locus in the near future.

10/08/06

In L. 606 there hasn't been much progress. Not changes in the locus elevation. A circular red hard ground, attached to wall 519, has been photographed by Tom (we didn't have camera!) - and could be taken off (Is it a bottom of a furnace?).

L. 607 Is a large locus consisting of the inner side of the building. In its ~~south-east~~ south south-east corner there is a space

10/09/05



bas - In the west side of l. 606 we found a 4-5 fingers fragment, relatively large amount. But this area of the locus is in some dipper level than the eastern side of it.

- In l. 616 - a line of stones which that floats above a dirt layer was dismantled.

- Meil & Kutayba worked on creating a polygon at our walls (514, 520).

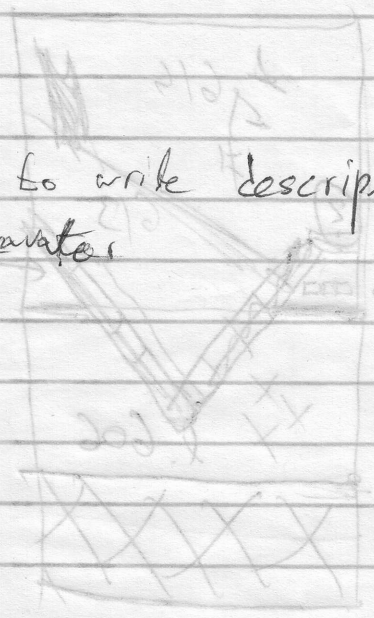


close & open walls locus

20/10/01

Students

We ask our students to write descriptions of the locus they excavate



line of wall
floor stones
locus n. 10

between

In the west side of locus we found a...
The program relatively large amount but this...
side of the locus is in some degree level than...
the eastern side of it.

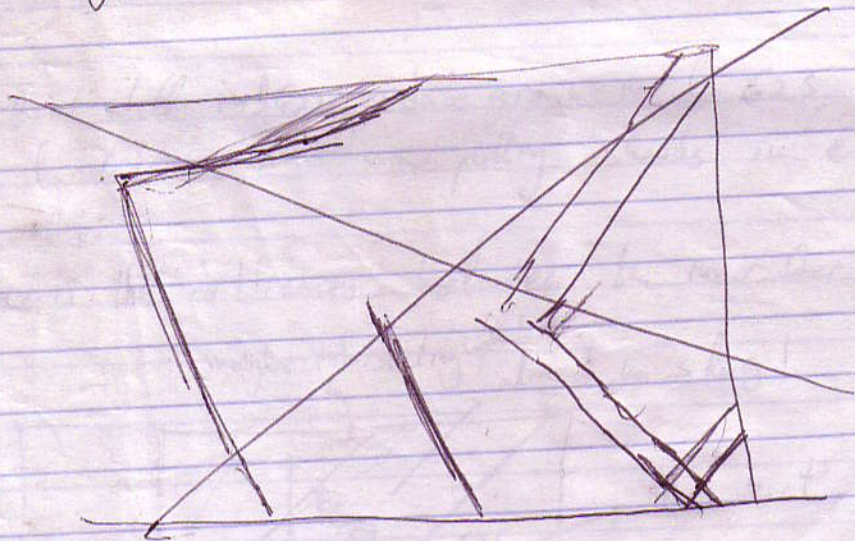
In the line of space...
There is a but larger...

Wall of...
of one wall (2.1, 2.0)

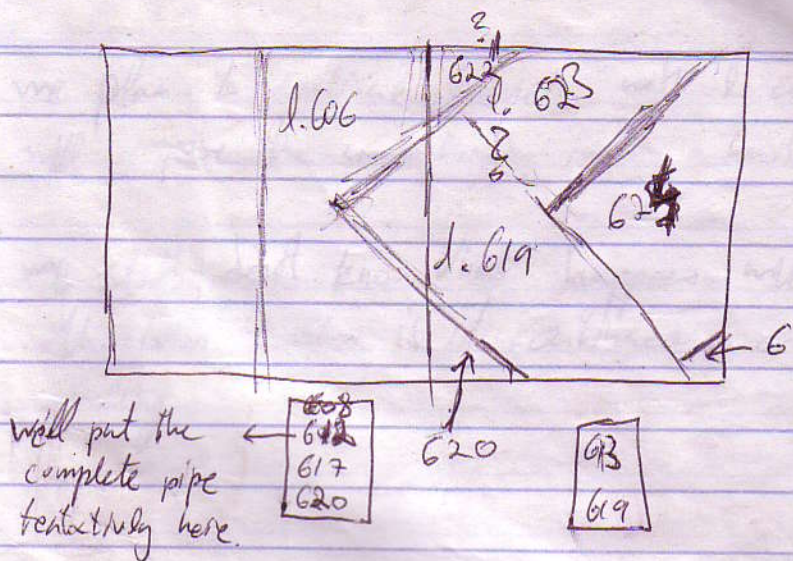
10/2/06

Today we can level-up the slag layer outside the structure. Locus 620 is ~~more~~ rich in archaeological remains, much more in comparison to l. 622 in the other side of the structure, we found a complete ceramic pipe, stuck in the section, and we took it out, reconstructing the locus it seems to be related to.

~~At~~ we opened new loc inside of the structure, according to the walls we found two days ago

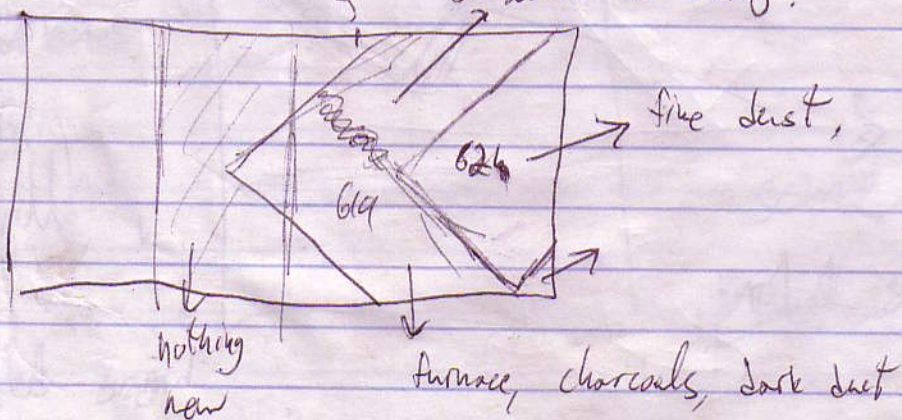


ULS



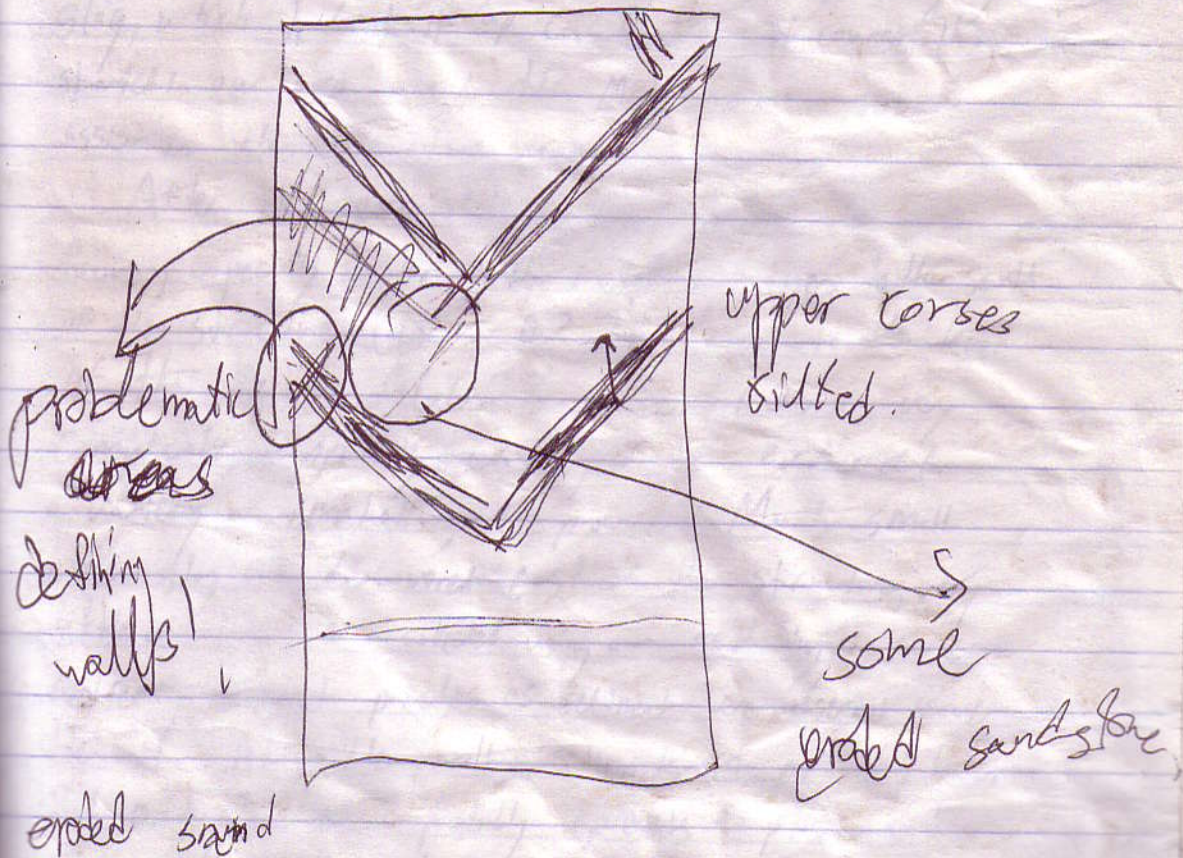
we found shell in l. 622, date grain in l. 625, bead in l. 619 and some pottery shards in each of the basins.

there is the differences between the inner and - maybe intersecting wall? almost no slag!



we plan to continue deeper with l. core only after
will expose the same layer in the building corner.

we still don't know what happens with rock
the inner wall - is it continuous or is it
ending.



Defining wall construction: _____

Defining walls: _____

Defining stones types and rocks types: _____

Defining levels in structure and spaces: _____

Defining / creating sections along squares: _____

13~~th~~ OCT 2006

Much of this morning was spent sorting & weighing slag, which had built up considerably. Of course, this started in our own area & then Michele B. was sent to assist in the other two areas.

After this, excavation continued throughout the units, focusing especially on bringing the metallurgical layers to the south of the structure (locus 627) down to the level of the square G6628. Locus 627 is very complicated, apparently consisting of the evidence for a variety of metallurgical processes. Much small broken slag was discovered east of the structure, very little of which was collected using our methodology. Some extremely compact patches of sediment were observed across the unit. Along the wall, sediments are particularly loose. Red powdery sediment probably represents a plaster exterior to the wall - perhaps to protect the wall from the elements.

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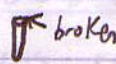
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or even from slag flows. ~~See~~ A number of fuge pipes were found in this locus, as were two odd pieces of glassy slag - one greenish & possibly knapped, the other red. Also, another piece of FF with cloth impressions was found.

Inside the structure, locus 619 was closed & locus 628 opened at an arbitrary depth. Besides walls, this locus is higher than any other.

Northern walls, especially in the west of the unit, remain unclear. Locus 623 especially must be further excavated to clarify this.

The north of unit 66628 remains the deepest part of the excavation. Here, ^{in 624} a worked bone artifact with the remains of a drilled hole & ~~very worn~~ was found, looking like this:  broken

At the very end of the day, the Recon & the EDM stopped communicating. Two fuge pipes found in locus 627 will have to be shot in tomorrow, provided the problem is corrected.

15 Oct. 2006

~~Today no loci were opened, nor were any closed. However~~

14 Oct. 2006

Today, no loci were open, and none were closed. However, all loci were excavated & a number of important finds were made. Locus 626 has been brought down considerably & we have come close to the bottoms of several loci. We seem to have reached the bottom of silt layer of in locus 627, which will be closed tomorrow. ~~Some~~ A sea shell fragment was found here, as was a fish bone, suggesting contact with the Red Sea. We began random sampling of charcoal in this locus for radiocarbon dating, gathering 5-7 samples of the abundant carbon per locus.

In locus 628, a conglomerate boulder, a probable manport, was observed. This may have been intended for flux. Nearby in wall collapse a large long stone was noted & photographed - this may be a link.

Some loci were seen. Some are a few ft above the ground level. Care was taken to collect from the 2002 fill in locus 627.

The fill from the 2002 excavations in locus 601 seems to have been completely removed today. No pottery or other rubbish was found, but the wall's thick foundations were observed. Photos (E00) 90234-90235

15 Oct. 2006

Today, we opened loci 629, 630, 631, 4632 & closed loci 628, 627, 624. All FI & SK loci except 626 continue to be excavated & a number of important finds, including Midianite pottery & floor levels were made.

Early in ~~the~~ ^{we closed} day ~~we closed~~ locus 624 & ^{opened} ~~opening~~ 631 in its place. Here, we seem to have encountered floor levels within the structure. Plaster has been observed in several places in the unit, & in the NE corner plaster was collected next to a Midianite sherd. An ~~pos~~ installation of some sort, consisting of two very large boulders projecting from the southern wall or collapse, will be given a locus tomorrow.

Locus 628 was closed as well & locus 630 opened in its place. The walls next to locus 630 will also get loci soon. Some ore & a piece of copper metal ~~was~~ ^{were} uncovered here. Care was ~~not~~ taken not to collect from the 2002 fill in locus 601. ~~to~~

The fill from the 2002 excavations in locus 601 seems to have been completely removed today. No plastic or other rubbish was found, but the wall's likely foundations were observed. ☺ Photos (EDM's 90294 & 90295)

weakened the probable lintel in 630, which was then removed,
and of the conglomerate cobble.

We finally recorded the wall designated 6519 in the
2002 season, calling it locus 632.

The metallurgical layers south of the structure
continue to be excavated in one locus. Locus 627 was
closed here, and locus 629 opened, when it became apparent
that much of Slag layer 8 had been excavated through.
Nevertheless, this is not a ~~single~~ homogenous locus.

Several ash deposits were observed, and currently Slag rubble
is being excavated from the south central part of
the unit, just south of the wall joint. The deposits
are quite complex. Numerous bellows pipes continue to
be found here. In the eastern half of the locus, near the
wall, a cavity opened which may mark decayed charcoal
or wood. This was near some furnace fragments in
a concentration. In addition, just north of the wall
joint, a number of large furnace fragments were discovered
together. This will be excavated and collected as one
in the hopes of reconstructing the furnace. More
Seastells were found today, including a worked Cowrie shell,
in this locus.

16
16 Oct 2006

Today, we opened three new loci, closed two, and continued in 631, 629, & 633.

Locus 633 was opened very close to floor within the walls in the eastern portion of G6628. This locus lies beneath 633.

Locus 634 was opened. This is an installation of very large stones extending north from the central wall that bisects the unit G6628. Its use is not apparent. It intrudes into locus 631, the floor levels of this room.

Locus 630, the fill in the walls in the center of the unit, was closed. Locus 635 was opened in its place.

In locus 631, a plaster floor with embedded slag was discovered in the NW corner of the locus.

Fragments of what might be plaster were uncovered & dug through in other parts of the unit, but no clear floor was observed.

A large number of tuyere pipes were uncovered in 629, continuing to testify to the vast amount of furnaces active in this locus. In addition, a possibly Midianite, polychrome glass was uncovered here. This locus clearly contains complex features, probably

16 Oct 2008

indicative of different uses across the locus, but we are still unable to logically divide it into separate loci.

Central corner of the unit. The walls are preserved in the south to considerable height over the beach with the 1950s garage. Loc 618, the SE wall, is preserved to 1.35 m in the upper 1/3 in the NE and 2.00 m in the SW. The eastern wall, loc 632, is preserved to 2.0 m in the S and 1.3 m in the north. The west wall, loc 630, stands only to 1.60 m in the S and 1.0 m in the north with 50-60 cm in the middle. The ground level is on the S side of the wall.

We have divided this locus into three - the western & eastern sections with a thin bulk between. This division was made because of the fact that one section had things that were in the post-1902 excavation period the floor in the west. The middle bulk will not be really the main structure.

Every way below the plastic level in the garden room we uncovered a number of long shovels & perhaps collapsed in fill for the perimeter. In ~~the~~ the garden the very largely hard shovels found at a large. The shovels & a large pit was uncovered - likely situated in a lower floor.


7
16 Oct. 2006

Today, Tom photographed & defined the North wall of the central room in the unit. The walls are preserved in the South to considerable heights over the better earth floor discovered yesterday. Locus 618, the SE wall, is preserved to 1.65 m above the apparent floor in the NE and 2.00 m in the SW. The Eastern wall, locus 632, is preserved to 2.0 m in the S and 1.3 m in the North. The West wall, locus , stands only about 60 cm above the floor, and the north wall stands 80-90 cm.

The large, unstable stone on the SW end of the N. wall was removed after photography.

We have divided this ~~area~~^{floor} locus into three — the western & Eastern sections with a 1/2 m bank between. This decision was made because of the fact that our workers hit through the floor in the east & 2002 excavations pierced the floor in the west. The middle bank will aid in reading the room's stratigraphy.

Excavating below the plaster level in the northern room, we uncovered a number of large stones — perhaps collapse or fill for floor preparation. In ~~the~~ ^{the north} ~~part~~ of the unit, largely devoid of stones, ~~next to a large~~ the base of a large pit was uncovered — likely signifying a lower floor.

A pestle-egg-shaped - and mortar - dimpled on both sides - were found next to this pot. 

In locus 629, another ^{one} apparent wall was uncovered. This wall is in approximately the same position as the line of stones above.


Should be 631!

Oct

~~1979~~ 2006

Today, we continued excavating loci 629, (635) 4636 and opened loci 637, 638, 4639 (all walls). We found an Edomite potsherd today & further defined the nature of the floors in 635. We also corrected a previous recording error.

In locus 635, 629, we continue to uncover a vast quantity of tuyere pipes amid the slag & furnace fragments. Interestingly, in the west section of the 29 locus, we have begun to uncover a new level of yellowish sediment. We shall see if this earth slopes downward, as previous levels have, to the east, or if it merits its own locus. In the east, the new wall continues to be defined. It and the area north of it may soon merit their own loci.

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Courses. Both walls leaned significantly due to the weight
of the reticulated layers outside. Nevertheless, the best
preserved parts of the building were covered with this slag
layer

Highly cemented slag. It is a fine texture on the surface
but contains a few pieces of stone - 3/4" or 1" in size
due to the slag layer. Roughly 1/2" or 1" in size
but very variable in size. The pieces are
not uniform in size. All were grey.

Surrounded by a layer of f.f.

Inside the yellowish soil & a few pieces of stone.

The large slag chunks in the soil - found in a number of places.

South - evidence of a layer of soil. The soil is about 2 1/2" thick.

To E. Slag & figure pieces were seen in the soil.

Base slag surface in the soil. NE

In 539 a large piece of slag was seen in the soil.

The soil is a greyish color - perhaps from iron.

Yellowish soil in the soil - a piece of slag.

10/27 - Notes

647 - generally homogeneous, with a layer concentration of tuyere pipes and furnace fragments on the eastern side. Started with a thick layer of finely crushed slag. ^{at the very top} Beneath this was loose dark ash, relatively sterile sediment - little slag, some bone, much copper ore in small chunks, not much charcoal.

641 - ^{first sized chunks (not top steels)} Highly concentrated slag, difficult to penetrate even with a pick. Great concentration of tuyere pipes in the west - 30 in one dig. Changed due to new slag layer. Beneath this, crushed slag (6 inches low) - very crumbly and very few tuyere pipes. Looser soil in north ^{west} than south, with more pottery.

651 - surrounded by more slag & ff

629 - ~~At the~~ NW yellowish soft & powdery soil, more ashy with large slag chunks to the south - more concentration of slag in south in contrast to ~~the~~ ^{higher} sediments in NW part - also much pottery, 2 large teeth in E, slag & tuyere pipes denser next to S. section wall. Less slag, softer dark sediment in NE.

In 629, a large pinkish area existed next to the section wall to the south, next to a grey ashy area - perhaps furnace remains?

Yellowish sediment next to the wall beneath a pinkish layer - perhaps plaster.

Wall 618 632 notes

These wall heights are as to the removal of some dangerous steps

Wall locus 618 - preserved to external height of 1.32m, SE,

six courses $\frac{1}{2}$ m from section

1 m from section - 1.50 m, 7 courses

1.5 m " " - 1.58 m, 8 courses

2 m " " - 1.66 m, 8 courses

2.5 m " " - 1.73 m, 10 courses

3 m " " - 1.70 m, 9 courses

3.5 m " " - 2.10 m, 12 courses

Wall locus 632

at junction with 618 - 2.4 m, 12 courses

.5 m from joint - 1.95 m, 14 courses

1.0 m " " - 1.58 m, 11 courses

1.5 m " " - 1.54 m, 11 courses

2.0 m " " - 1.33 m, 9 courses

2.5 m " " - 1.30 m, 9 courses

3.0 m " " - 1.16 m, 9 courses

Width of 618 .32, .34, .30, .35 = between 30 & 35

length of 618 - 3.60 exterior exposed

Width of 632 .36, .37, .35, .38

length of 632 3.5 exterior exposed

618

Locus 632 roughly built, mostly limestone/dolomite with some

exceptions - sandstone, shales, granite, & in places some

slag pieces. Sizes of stones very varied, ranging from

as little as 5x5 cm to very large slabs reaching

dimensions of 85 x 27 cm x 35 cm

The stones seem to have suffered great heat - most are crumbling

The red layer of siltstone may derive from some sort of rough mortar

Uneven distribution of wall sizes - SE wall having larger stones

General framework of wall is only 1 large stone but

small stones are sometimes reinforced with multiple stones

Both walls have strong inclinations towards inside of building

due to the great weight of the slag which covered the building from the outside

Not a great investment in creating stone foundation

preservation of wall height is almost linear relation to its

relative coverage by the slag pile, i.e. the southernmost

point of the building which is covered by the thickest

accumulation of slag is preserved to the highest

elevation, reaching the height of 2.10 m

Today we

parts of a room in

focused on

the removal of

63346

level. Several

and grinding

largely of

by in the

and the

To

as well as

the

the

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10/27/06

Today we worked to some extent in loc. 6334649 - parts of a room in adjacent squares 6334649, but focused our work in excavating the areas opened by the removal of walls 618 & 632.

6334649 were excavated down to probable floor level. Several groundstems - including dimpled hammerstones and grinding slabs - were found here. Fill consisted largely of collapsed building stems - many of which lay in ~~the~~ their courses as entire courses fell together - and yellow dust.

In the areas cleared of walls 618 & 632 - as well as the adjacent floor & outside ~~work~~ sly deposits - we ~~excavated~~ ^{identified} new loci and excavated. The foundation of wall 6~~32~~18 became locus 656, 618's 32's foundation became 655, the floor became 657, and the sly deposits which had been 642 became 658.

Locus 657 was a beaten earth floor & the sly immediately below it. The floor was compact & in places it's colored red and green. A white spindle whorl was found in the floor. Many T-yore pipes were found in the crusted sly beneath the floor. This

slag layer appears to have been leveled off for the construction of the building.

Locus 655 proved to be compact bunter earth very much like the floor. A group of ~~at~~ radiocarbon samples was taken from this locus in order to produce a terminus post quem for the structure. Carbon was plentiful here.

Locus 656 proved very interesting. Much of it was bunter earth like the floor, but a section of it appeared to be plaster. In a pocket of soft sediment a small slipper juglet was discovered, standing perhaps 10 cm tall ~~and~~ but missing its handle and part of its lip. The jug was empty when discovered, but we hypothesize that this was a foundational deposit and that perishable materials probably were cached in, and possibly next to, the jug. Radiocarbon samples were also taken from this locus, where carbon was plentiful.

Locus 658 is a major ~~slag~~ ^{Copper} production layer associated with the slag layers which were leveled off before constructing the structure.

10/28/06

Today, we moved our total station reference point, excavated in two ^{new} loci - 659 & 660 - and changed our method of collecting furnace pipes.

Yesterday, loci 645, 646, 647, 648 were closed, and we began the day - after two ground stores left in the field were recorded & the total station was moved to a point north of excavations from which our deep soundings can be more easily recorded - by creating a large new locus encompassing the metallurgical levels associated with the area on which these loci sit. This was called locus 659. Very many furnace pipes & furnace fragments were collected here, forming two main clusters - one in the southeast part of the locus, and one in the north central part of the locus. Much crusted slag - and no tapslag sheets - was found in the locus. Patches of ash and decomposed furnace fragments were also noticed. In places, oil sediments were collected for future analysis.

At a ~~arbitrary~~ point about 20 cm down - after one slag layer appeared to have ended, followed by looser sediment, and then a new slag layer was discovered - a new locus was opened, called 660.

10/25/16

This locus also encompasses part of what was 647. This was the first locus in which a new policy of tuyere pipe collection was instituted. Tuyere pipes will no longer be documented individually in GIS - instead, they will be collected in a general basket, like furnace fragments, ore, bone, etc. - unless they display interesting attributes, such as cloth impressions. Nevertheless, it was observed that the pipes and furnace fragments seemed to cluster in a very similar fashion to those in the previous locus. The state of the crustal slag, with patches of ash and other sediments, was also similar to 659.

... which seemed to be likely to be collected
 ... during the part of the wall ...
 ... from here we found a ...
 ... charcoal, but it was not as ...
 ... and yellow ...
 ... will be ...
 ... walls ...
 ... 662 ...
 ... in this wall is 6628 ...
 ... GIS

10/29/06

Today we focused efforts in the Southern Slag deposits (l. 660 & 665), but also defined walls 661, 662, & 638. We began by closing fill loci 633 & 649 - the loci which made up the interior of the room extending from the NW of 660 28 into the NE of 660 28 and beyond. We also closed 652, the probe, which has not been excavated in some days.

To better understand locus ~~633~~⁶⁶¹, the wall, we opened fill locus 663, which lay above where we expected to find the wall. In this fill we uncovered several pieces of pottery, a ~~charcoal~~ and a tuzo pipe.

In wall locus 638, a section of the locus was identified which seemed more likely to be a collapsed-filled doorway than part of the wall. Excavating the sediment from here we found a groundstone, some ~~carbon~~, charcoal, and a pot sherd, as we cleared out the large stones and yellow rust which filled this doorway. New wall loci will be recorded soon for this area.

Walls 661, which is really an extension of the wall called 632, ~~at 660~~ and 662, a short spur perpendicular to this wall in 660 28, were finally recorded in GIS.

Most of our work was focussed in the slag layers in G6627 & G6628 - loci 6604665. We began by leveling 660 to the level of 647. Then we partitioned off a step which will not be excavated in order to protect excavators from collapse. The new locus to be excavated was designated 665. In 665 we renewed the old paradigm of sheet recording in GIS the position of each Taylor pipe recovered, in order to more faithfully map the probable presence of furnaces.

Over the past two days, it became apparent that we had not reached the end of the fill in locus 601 as we had believed on Oct. 27. We continued removing this fill - evident from its light color in the slag layers - and carefully avoiding collecting artifacts from it. Finally today we discovered a bag with a 2002 excavation artifact label in it, beneath a layer of top slags. Beneath it, the slag layer was visible, showing this to be the true end to 601. We are now beneath the 2002 excavations throughout the unit G6627.

In the wall section, an odd ceramic piece was recovered which has tentatively been identified as a lip or handle of a furnace.

10/20/06

Today we again concentrated our energies in the Southern Slag layers - loci 665, 666, & 667. In addition, we closed locus 647 & defined wall loci 668 & 669.

We began the day by officially closing locus 647, as excavations yesterday leveled locus 660 to its level; we defined a step yesterday which included much of 647 which shall remain unexcavated. Tom also photographed the south section & the fragile east section.

In locus 665, we began yesterday to collect fire damaged rocks with the understanding that these stones - mostly small limestone & dolomite pieces - may have been utilized in building furnaces. This practice continues. We closed locus 665, having reached about 20 cm down, and opened two new loci - 666, which encompassed most of the level, and 667, which is becoming increasingly important.

Locus 666 is a general copper production level, much like locus 665 above it. Many fuzer pipes were found in it. It consists of some crushed slag in a compact brown matrix which likely derives from furnace disintegration.

Locus 667 started out as a small triangle to the

west ~~part~~ of locus 666. It was defined as an ash layer, as the very top seemed to be white ash, but this yielded to yellow-brown dust. As we continued down, more of 667 was revealed, and it became plain that ~~the~~ the locus slopes from the ~~west~~ south west. It is not yet clear if it slopes across the entire unit. A slag layer cuts through it, separating the upper, paler yellow dust from a slightly darker dust level. We continue to find fucose pipes a plenty. Copper metal from time to time, though slag is much more scarce. Perhaps this dust represents a period of lower intensity ~~of~~ of smelting?

Finally we officially opened loci 668 & 669 as the wall segments discovered with the removal of collapse locus 663.

Also discovered in locus 667 was a very dense nodule of what may be hematite or other iron ore. This may be flux for smelting, or ~~also~~ a manport of some other nature.

Today we again
667. 666 gone
Slope very steep
670, ~~at~~ by which
Both 666 & 667
dropped drastically
little slag in it
and some red-ox
Loc: 664, 665
though no digging

10/31/06

Today, we again focused our efforts in the southern ~~locus~~ locus 667. 666 goes way entirely to locus 667, which was found to slope very steeply from the southeast. This locus yielded to locus 670, ~~at~~ by which time the sediments had ceased to slope perceptibly. Both 666 & 667 had ^{some} ~~many~~ tuffaceous pipes, but these dropped drastically in number by 670. 670 also has little silt in its upper levels. A goat tooth, a grinding slab, and some red-ox-carbon were recovered from this locus.

Loc: 664, 663, & 626 were ~~not~~ only closed today, though no digging was conducted here.

11/4/06

Notes

Locus 670: A large spot of sand mixed with charcoal and small pieces of slag in eastern side of square, in addition to very hard schist derived from mud, clay, & furnace fragments & some crushed slag.

Locus 671 - beneath 670 was arbitrarily defined because of the thickness of 670 & began with crushed slag, especially in the east of the locus. Spots of ^{small} bricks or sandstone in fill.

No slopes 670 or 671

Select collections from sandstone or bricks, from crushed slag & from 673. ~~Also~~ ^{Also} collection from 673.

Locus 673 is a fine ring with ash. Some bone in this ash, but no slag - probably a hearth. This locus was paved with large stones, sometimes in 2 courses.

Today, we both continued down in the southern part of the excavation and opened the new square, 66629. We found a hearth (673) in the deep levels to the south. Loci 671, 670, 672, & 673 were excavated.



In the southern unit, we began the day digging in locus 670. This locus consisted largely of very hard packed sediments derived from mud, clay, and furnace fragments. Some crushed sly was also present.

At an arbitrary point, we opened 671 in this area. This locus is substantially the same as 670, though it began with a layer of crushed sly, especially in the east of the locus. Some sandstone chunks or sandy bricks were dug through in the locus. Sediment samples were taken from these. It was also observed that in 670 sediments ceased to slope; this may have begun as early as the lower parts of 667.

We also uncovered an intrusive locus to 671 - locus 673, a probable hearth. This locus consists of a half-circle of stone, the other half probably existing extending into the section. Ash including animal bone was recovered in the ring & beneath this some plying was encountered - sometimes in more than one course. The locus remains open.

Finally, in the north we have opened locus 672, encompassing the whole of square G6629. An apparent corner in the NE of quadrant of the unit was apparent as soon as loose stones were removed from the surface. As the sediment - a loose, red, yellow-brown sand, was removed, ~~the~~ another wall, running parallel to the NW-SE corner part of the corner, was uncovered. A nice



Small, double-sided dig
with the pot, was

Today, we focused
also continued removing
We excavated in loc.

In locus 672
we continue to remove
corner and the prob
continue to be refined
two, where we have
tap sheets, in contrast
little sly is found

Thee catinas
collapse in the north
the few stones in the
of the unit are large
from the north, and
access for the south.

In the south,
locus consists of a tan
grey, with small amount

Small, double-sided dimpled groundstone, very like that from locus 631 with the pot, was found in the NW quadrant of the unit.

11/5/2006

Today, we focused again on the southern sounding, but also continued reinforcing the upper fill of square G6629. We excavated in loci 672, 674 & further defined 673.

In locus 672, which contains G6629 at this depth, we continue to remove the upper levels of fill. The corner and the probable wall in the NE quadrant continue to be refined. We are excavating between the two, where we have found large pieces of slag, including tap sheets, in contrast to the rest of the locus, where little slag is found and it is generally smaller.

There continues to be many large stones representing collapse in the northern half of G6629, in contrast to the few stones in the southern half. The southern meter or two of the unit are largely unexcavated, as the unit slopes slightly from the north, and because this area is being used as wheelbarrow access for the south.

In the south, we began by defining locus 674. This locus consists of a ~~thin~~ thick layer of soft earth, mostly grey, with small amounts of crushed slag. In places, there

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one red spots representing the remains of decomposed bricks of clay. There is a small amount of charcoal. In the east, there is a large spot of red sand with charcoal which may develop into the new stratum. This area ~~contains~~ ^{contains} a large number of small, floating stones. This red sand appears to extend under locus 673. The locus as a whole was defined as a metallurgical layer, but might more properly be a fill layer.

Locus 673 has proven to be more substantial than first thought. It extends down four courses, the very top of which appears to be a hearth. We see only the ~~south~~ northern edge. Some stones in the upper portion were removed merely to reveal more stones.

Notes

11/6/06

Locus 675 - many square small stones, more than 50 in number, were found, probably collapse from 673 or other installations. No slag or hearth, but some evidence of burning.

Locus 676 - Core of a rectangular stone structure. In the south, a stone stands upright a few centimeters above the rest. The structure consists of flat stones piled next to each other and covered with plaster. This plaster is chipped at the edges, as though liquid were meant to be spilt on it.

In what is visible of this lip.

Today we are sounding Locus 673 as well as the north wall. The latter, a row of walls, became more latter, a row of walls we appear to be

In 6662 upper fill levels. Working conditions to move most of the time. We continue here, particularly in the NE quadrant as well as a piece of groundstones were

In the south closed on the interior closed at the beginning. is a smaller area of greyish-black



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In 6662 upper fill levels. Working conditions to move most of the time. We continue here, particularly in the NE quadrant as well as a piece of groundstones were

In the south closed on the interior closed at the beginning. is a smaller area of greyish-black.



In what is visible of the western edge, a rectangular stone supports this lip.

Today we continued excavating in the southern sounding (loci 673, 674, 675, 676, 677) as well as the north square 66629 (locus 672). Walls become more apparent in the former. In the latter, a new installation was recorded (676) and we appear to be approaching virgin soil.

In 66629, we continue to excavate the upper fill levels. With more constricted and dangerous working conditions in the southern sounding, we have moved most of our work force here for the first time. We continue to find large pieces of top slag here, particularly in between and next to the walls in the NE quad. We also collected some ^{Chincol} ~~Carbon~~ here, as well as a pierced handmade body sherd. Two simple groundstones were collected outside the walls.

In the southern sounding, locus 671 was finally officially closed (on the intrusive locus 673), and locus 674 was closed at the beginning of the day. Locus 675 was defined, ~~digging~~ ~~is a smaller area for Galtby's site.~~ This locus consisted of greyish-black fill, with many stones (not firestone stones).

These squares are likely collapse from the installations -
loci 673 and 676. This greyish soil, ~~which~~ when removed,
revealed red wind-deposited sand and installation 676.

676 is an odd rectangular installation which may be
cultic in nature. It consists of large rectangular flat
stones covered in a thick layer of plaster - about 2cm.

Few artifacts were found in relation to the installation, though
a large, roughly worked limestone and a small, finely worked,
dense hammerstone were collected slightly above ~~the installation~~ ^(the limestone) and
next to (the hammerstone) the installation. The edges of the
installation are designed such that they slope upward. The
plaster is lipped upwards to a height of four or five cm.

On the southern side, a small, thin stone wall forms the
edge made of flat stones. One rounded stone protrudes upward
in the SE corner. The NE portion of the installation
extends into the section. It appears to rest on virgin soil.

Locus 673 was cleaned for photos & some bone and charcoal
as well as a potsherd were collected.

Locus 677, below 676, is a smaller locus, both to
preserve 676 and to allow for safer excavation. This locus is
red with sand with some fine silt and charcoal inclusions. We
believe we are now very close to virgin soil. We are now about
6m below the top of the silt mound.

2014/11
Today we complete
excavation of sand
square 6662

In the south
with the wind.
was taken from
consists of small
cultic installation

Section photo
taken, with survey
in AutoCad using

Meanwhile, in
down to a point
A will extend across
the NW to the SE.

some taken in the
closely related to

Meanwhile, it is
corner at least
will get found in

A piece of
the unit, and
the walls.

11/7/06

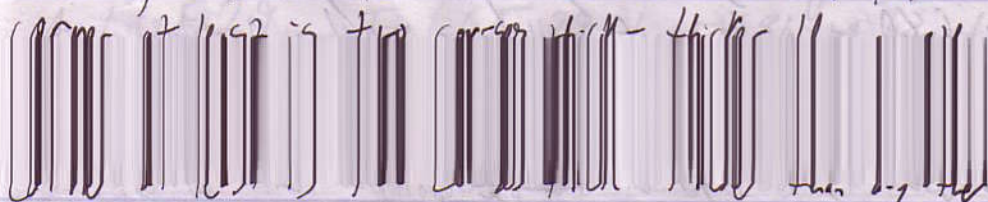
Today we completed work in the southern sounding (with the exception of soil GIS recording), but focused our workforce in square 66629.

In the southern sounding we seem to have hit sterile soil with the wide sand in locus 677. A radiocarbon sample was taken from this sand in order to date it. The sand consists of small rounded quartz grains and pebbles. The cultic installation sits atop this.

Section photographs of the south end west ^{sections of 66627} ~~locus~~ were taken, with surveying tapes for reference. Sections will be drawn in AutoCad using these tapes for reference.

Meanwhile, in 672, square 66629, we have excavated down to a point at which we will soon begin issuing new loci. A wall extending across the unit has been found, stretching from the NW to the SE. Previously we thought this wall ended some place in the middle of the unit and was more closely related to the wall corner in the NE quad.

Meanwhile, it is now clear that the western wall of this



will yet found in this Area M.

A pierced piece of pottery was found about in the centre of the unit, and yet another damaged hammerstone was found between the walls.

20/1/11

11/9/06

Today, we continued work in G6629, opening five new loci (679, 680, 682, 683, & 684) and began work in square G6F29 (locus 681).

In G6F29, we have begun removing the top layer of fill. Much work was spent on removing the raised wheelbarrow track, made of silt-filled brickdirt, in the south of the unit. After this, we began excavating the yellow-brown aeolian sediment marking the top of the locus, especially in the areas bordering already open squares - the south and the east. In the south, the top of walls we already appearing, including the extension of 661 and a corner with a new wall running NE-SW.

Much collapse was removed from this area. In the NE, the unit seems barren of architecture & we are excavating down to the dark grey subsoil in this locus.

In G6629, we began by defining new loci. Locus 680 is a layer of collapsed wall stones. Beneath this is probably a floor level, so we are sieving anything beneath the collapse, and a new locus will be assigned when the collapse is cleared. Dark grey sediment - silt/sand - makes up the matrix.

679 made up wall (locus unassigned) into two, 682 & 683 will represent more room. Sediment is yellowish. A figurine from Cotta donkey - was slightly north of wall collapse just structure visible on web found nearby, etc.

Today, we split off us, under Erez Jorish. This record at Khirbat en Na. We again concentrated at G6F29. In the east down to constitute the new layer of yellow-brown edge of room 2.

679 made up the fill to the west of the collapsed wall (locus unassigned). This locus was soon closed & divided into two, 682 & 683. It is still unclear whether these will represent more rooms or outside the structure.

Sediment is yellowish-brown sand filling to dark grey.

A figurine fragment ~~of~~ - the snout of a terra cotta donkey - was found to the ~~East~~ West and slightly north of the Area. It was located in wall collapse just south of the ruins of a sizable structure visible on the surface. No other artifacts were found nearby, except the ubiquitous slag.

11/10/06

Today, we split our workforce in two, with some of us, under Erez' leadership, going to Khirbat el Jorish. This record is of what befell the rest of us at Khirbat en Nahas.

We again concentrated our work in the northern squares - 66624 & 66F24. In 66F24, locus 681, we have dug in the east down to the dark soil sediment which will constitute the new locus. This is beneath a very thick layer of yellow-brown aeolian sand. In the south, the edge of room 2 - the room south of the removed room, which

679 made up the fill to the west of the collapsed wall (locus unassigned). This locus was soon closed & divided into two, 682 & 683. It is still unclear whether these will represent more rooms or outside the structure.

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is now considered room 1 - has been uncovered, and the interior of the room with ~~soil~~ sledge will soon be given its own locus. Right now, this is the only certain architecture.

In G6629, we began by giving a new locus to the NW corner, which was 682. The area is now 685, designated because of the dark grey sediment which has been reached here. We plan to verify it with square G6629's locus once that square has reached the appropriate level.

In the room ^{in the center of G6629} ~~to be designated~~, locus 680 has been closed, so we have reached the bottom of the wall collapse. More simple hammerstones were found in this collapse. We will soon excavate the bank, locus 686, once a photo has been taken of the section. Then we should be able to excavate ~~the remainder of~~ this area to the level of the pot to clarify the nature of these floors & of the rooms to be another.

We had a collapse of the part of the south wall of the bank, designated locus 686 - a worker & wheelbarrow fell into room 3 but without injury. A worked stone, long observed in the section, also fell & was ~~to~~ recorded with the EDM & collected. The pot was covered in fill but unjured. It is important to remove this bank as soon as possible.

This Armistice
G6629 & G66F
the N. section
G6629. We
It was found to
north & south, find
great deal of wall
stones. Sling made up
continuation of wall
bank, extending

In G66F29, ex
was taken down below
grey sand. The
limit of Room 2
southern wall collapse
outside area due to
seen so far. The
found here, though
objects here. Cracks

11/11/06

This Armistice Day we continued our excavation in
666 29 & 66F 29. We began by photographing
the N. section wall of 666 26 - the south of
666 29. We then proceeded to remove this bulk.
It was found to contain, like the loci pits
north & south, fine yellow-brown aeolian sand and a
great deal of wall collapse in the form of large unburnt
stones. Slig made up the only ~~other~~ artifacts. The
continuation of wall locus 625 was observed in the
bulk, extending into the northern locus.

In 66F 29, excavation also continued. The activity
was taken down below the yellow-brown sand to the darker
grey sand. The top of the walls ~~at~~ marking the
limit of Room 2 were observed here among the
southern wall collapse. I suspect that ^{north of these walls} this is an
outside area due to the lack of architecture & collapse
seen so far. The more dumped hammerstones were
found here, though it remains unclear what small
objects were crushed here.

1/12/06

Today, much became illuminated. Most of the bank in G6629 was removed (loci 686, 688, & 689), and square G6F29 was excavated as well. Architecture found in both places ~~revealed~~ clarified architecture in the whole of the Area.

Beneath the bank, wall 625 was found to continue north into square G6629, so a perimeter middle (PM) was recorded for it in GIS. Examination north of the wall discovered its termination in a perpendicular wall, low. The enclosed space was designated Room 4. Locus 686 was closed at the beginning of the day, and locus 689 was opened for the fill in Room 3 and locus 688 for the fill in Room 4. Sifting yielded little of interest this high up, but will be resumed at approximate floor level in both rooms.

In square G6F29, another wall was revealed, closing off Room 3, and the entrance to the whole complex was found in the doorway next to it. We are now confident that we have both the northern ^{western} and southern ^{eastern} limits of the complex - now we would like to find its eastern and western bounds, and to finish excavating its floors.

Also in G6F29, to the north of the structure west

1/12/06

-1K in 66629

of gyp wall

found in

hole of the

containing

middle (PM)

north of

for wall locus

Locus

and locus

locus 688

hole of hole

middle floor

closing off

was found in

that we have

the complex

western bonds,

structure west

of the doorway, a surprising quantity of slag was uncovered. This included both large sheets of top slag + smaller slag chunks. A tuyere pipe and a bellows pipe were found & point plotted in the same general way, as were two ret-fitted stands of red & white painted pottery & what appears to be part of a ceramic stove or censer.

Dimpled hemispheres of bronze were also found here.

In 66629, wall locus 690 was recorded.

666 needs a PM extending it into this ~~locus~~ square, and the new wall must be recorded. In 66629, wall loci 691 & 692 were recorded, enclosing room 4.

An opening divides 625 from 691, which may be a doorway or may simply have collapsed.

11/13/06

Today, we continued excavations in G6F29 + G6629, and opened a new surface, G6H29. Loci 689, 693 & 694 were excavated. In addition, a number of loci were officially closed, including some which have long been open but not worked on for days - 631, 653, 654, 680, 688, 689.

In locus 689, we officially finished removing the bulk. More sampled homocasts were found in the lower part of the bulk - which was also the one carefully excavated. In addition, a large stone, probably once a lintel & about as long as the bulk was wide, was found, among the many other building stones. 689 is a cross-section of Room 3. We plan to carefully excavate the floor levels of this room in the coming weeks. 688 was also officially closed at about the same level today, though no excavation occurred here.

To fully expose the building complex in the east, particularly the corner of Room 4, we opened surface G6H29 as locus 694. The walls in the western side were easily traced, and this fill removal will continue tomorrow. Work began here in

The end of the day.

Most of our workforce was involved in recording today. One student spent most of the morning sorting & weighing slag, while the other two were involved drawing the lower section of the south profile.

11/14 Notes

698 - Fill inside room 4, S End - my top slag sheets. Above S wall is a layer of finely crushed slag above a thin yellow brown sand. Top slag sheets & chunks rest among this slag powder.

699 - Fill outside wall, probably outside structure - Much slag waste walls, in the form of large chunks & top slag sheets - no small pieces. A large furnace fragment also here, as well as a smaller piece with a corner & TP scar.

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11/14/08

Today we continued excavating primarily in GG429 with a
vastly reduced labor force. We began by closing locus
694, the General square locus, and opened 695,
a locus representing the western half of the square.
Very little of 694 had been excavated (though much
surface slag was collected) & this was done in order
to conserve labor. Soon afterward, loci 698 & 699
were delineated inside & outside room 4.

Locus 698 is inside room 4, making up the
very south end of the room & representing the same
material as the bank (688) at the rest of the
room (681). This sediment included grey-brown
sand & many building stones. Many top slag streaks
were found here, as was a bone needle.

In the southeast, a doorway and wall were
observed. Curiously, the wall does not line up with
the wall across - the ~~two~~ wall makes an odd corner
here;  the purpose of which is unclear.

A fine powderlike layer of slag & large top slags
extended over this wall, beneath which was the topsoil

redish yellow-brown dust.

Locus 694 makes up all of the area outside the wall & is probably outside the building complex.

Many large chunks of slag & pieces of trap slag sheets were uncovered against the walls, also no small pieces of slag were found. Much wall collapse was also uncovered, mixed in the yellow-brown sand.

A very large Furnace fragment, and what may be the corner of a furnace with a tyrene pipe section, were also found next to the wall of the structure north of the complex. Wall 696 makes up the SW wall of this structure.

Also today the central part of the building was better refined. The north west fill, locus 693, in Room 2 was further excavated somewhat, yielding mostly

collapsed building stone & redish dust. Wall 669 was given a perimeter middle to signify the

newly excavated NW section, and Wall 697 - the NW wall separating the courtyard from the

outside world, which appears ^{built independently} ~~separate~~ from adjacent walls 690 & 693, was recorded.

11/16/06

Today we again focused our efforts on the NE of
the excavation - in square G6G294 the NE
corner of G6G29.

We defined locus 700 as the alleyway
between the building complex we are excavating -
specifically the NE wall of Room 4 -
and the building to the NE of that. This
second building has very thick walls - of courses
of two stones. The locus proved very interesting.
Numerous diagnostic sherds were found as well
as groundstones. We decided to sieve all the
deposit & recovered an oval ~~bead~~ pendant
of an unknown stone material, a diamond-shaped
malachite bead blank, two marine shells, and
dove seeds. Of course, much building collapse was
also found here. We extended excavations NW along
the wall of the NE building, uncovering the corner
of the excavated building but not a great deal more.

In G6G29, we opened a new locus outside
the walls to lay bare the outside activity
area - locus 701 - which remains yellow brown
sooty with some pottery & groundstones & tuffaceous pipes.

In locus 699, in square GG H24 again, we have dug below the ash deposits. In many areas we found some crated slag deposits in the south. Much ash also exists here, & building stones are often decomposed.

In the doorway between Rooms 3 & 4, we have removed some collapse - locus 702 - to better define wall 691. A granite was found here, where collapsed stones are so tightly packed to superficially resemble a wall.

In the middle of Room 3, we uncovered at the bottom of the bank a very large stone. We recorded this as locus 703, ~~RA~~ a Perimeter Artifact Standing Stone. It may have actually been a lintel, or it may have been a roof support which, as Erez suggests, was once larger. The stone is very friable granite, so may have been shattered north of the bank. If a roof support, the structure may be a four chambered house. Excavations in locus 696, which continue, & the half-square to the south, though, may ~~disprove~~ show this to be a superficial similarity.

here above the floor.

In addition, we formally closed loci 673 + 676 using the 3.65 m project. 4 officially closed loci 713, 693, 702, 685, 705, 700, 706 + 694. Meanwhile we defined the ~~west~~ east exposed wall of Structure 2, the northern structure - locus 715 - extended loci 637 + 684, the south + east walls of Structure 1, to conform to what is now known of them, and defined a small corner wall locus 714, that exists in the SE corner of Room 4 - see map, 1/19.

11/21/06

Today, we opened excavations in half squares in G6G 30 & G6H 30's south, to further expose Structure 2. We also continued excavating the floor of Room 2.

In G6G 30 & G6H 30, we defined one locus - 718, fill. After some excavation, the continuation of wall loci 696 & 715 were discernible. 715 goes outward slightly; it will be interesting to further trace this wall.

In Room 2, locus 719 was defined north of the doorway, & locus 720 was defined as the

Installation in the NW corner of the room. The deposits here have proven surprisingly deep. ~~This~~ Locus - 719 - has been yellow-brown with blown sand with small broken shells & large tap slugs. Break it, we ~~defined~~ locus will define a new locus at the beginning of next excavation day, as we have hit darker sediment - harder sediment in the ^{South} centre of the locus, looking like floor. We have found very few artifacts - two tuzo pipes, some copper metal, and some dismpled hammerstones, and very little pottery - despite the fact that we have been sifting all deposits.

11/23/06

Today, we continued excavations in Room 2 and Sycuan GGG30 & GGH30. We defined a new locus, 721, in Room 2 directly below locus 719. The depth of the sediments here, as compared to locus 716, is still surprising. These sediments are ~~dark brown or sienna in color~~ grey-brown sandy silt. Two pieces of copper metal were found in situ, as was a dismpled hammerstone. All sediment was passed through a 1/8" screen, but nothing of note was found beyond some bone & pottery.

In GGG 304
along locus 718,
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The SE triangle
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Locus 723

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almost sterile - only
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Locus 724

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In GG 304 GG#30, we defined our loci after closing locus 718, as walls 696 & 715 became visible in places and there is a clear division in activity between the southeast ~~side~~ outside the building & the rest of the square. The SE triangle outside the structure was designated 722, a metallurgical production area. It is practically the same as locus 707 to its south. This locus consisted of a great quantity of slag, with some patches of decomposed furnace, but surprisingly few intact furnace fragments. One nice type pipe was uncovered, as were two dimpled hammers. All good but we should be aware of the presence of the ~~same~~ ⁷⁰⁷.

Locus 723 is the fill inside Structure 2, along the lines of visible & projected walls. This locus is almost sterile - only four pieces of slag were found today, along with one dimpled hammerstone. Wall collapses are very compact here, however. Yellow-brown aeolian sand is all that lies between these stones, some of which are extremely large & require two or three people to move.

Locus 724 is the fill to the west of structure 2, as well as the fill over the still-invisible section of wall 696's northern extension. It, too, is mostly sterile, but thickly strewn with wall collapse. A dimpled hammerstone was found atop wall 696 & given that locus, though it was in fill above the wall rather than secondary use.

11/24/06

Today, we continued work in the fill and metallurgical loci in G6630 & G6630 and briefly worked in Room 2. Finally, we officially closed locus 701, which has not been excavated for some time.

In G6630 & G6630, we continued excavating in loci 722, 723, & 724. 722 continued to prove artifactually rich & really looked to be multiple loci, but was excavated in such a fashion as to make this impossible.

Much slag was recovered here - both large chunks of slag and lenses of finely crushed slag, almost pellets of slag. There are also lenses here, ~~of~~ apparently of decomposed furnace. This locus was completely excavated by the end of the day & should be officially closed.

In locus 723, we continue to find tightly packed building steel collapse mixed with sand but without many artifacts. Only a few slag chunks were collected & no pottery or other artifacts. At one point, a wall was encountered beneath a flat building steel leaning against wall 715.

In locus 724, the wall soon became apparent. Not long afterwards, the artifact concentration markedly increased - likely in leads in association with artifact-rich 700. A new locus was defined, 725. A mandible fragment,

likely coral, was
shards and a piece
that was missed

In locus
students spent
end of the day, however
in the northern

Today work
well as in the loci
began in loci 7

Locus 701
level of 701
One large piece
the locus. Much
metallurgical loci
fragments were

Locus 723
collapse has no
artifact recovery
were found at
ground-level &

4/06

likely coral, was also uncovered here, along with pottery
sherds and a possibly worked stone. S. wing produced little
that was missed. Sediment is brownish grey silt/clay.

In locus 721, little work was done as the
students spent most of the day weighing slag. At the
end of the day, however, a large flat stone was observed
in the north possibly the beginnings of pavement.

11/25/06

Today work continued in loci 721 & 723, as
well as in the locus 721 in Room 2. In addition, work
began in loci 726 & 727 within Room 4.

Locus 725 was excavated ~~to~~ in places to the base
level of 701 today. Sediment is still dark greyish-brown.
One large piece of carbon was collected at the base of
the locus. Much slag was also collected, but unlike
metallurgical layers elsewhere, the layers of decomposed
fragments were not found here.

Locus 723 saw great progress. Much of the
collapse has now been removed & although it is still encountered,
artifact density has gone up dramatically. Pottery & slag
were found at the base of the locus, as were two
groundstones & a bead. This sediment will be given

4/06

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a new locus & given from now on, though this is still yellow-brown sand & contains collapse - i.e., probably is still simple fill, albeit closer in time to the site's occupation.

In Room 2, locus 721 was excavated down to what will be considered its base. In the center of the locus is a ~~large~~ concentration of small flat stones. These may have once formed a pavement, though they are irregular. A hammerstone & carbon were collected, and a medium-sized grinding slab & a dimpled hammerstone remain in situ. Beside the stones, the clay layers have begun to be hit, suggesting the base of the foundation.

In Room 4, excavation began in locus 726, south of the barrow. Carbon, a hammerstone, and a dimpled hammerstone were collected here, but small flat stones like those in

Room 2, possibly representing the floor, were soon uncovered. Sediment consisted of dark greyish-brown sand with some stone collapse.

~~In locus~~ Also in Room 4, in the northern section of the room, locus 727 was defined. Several pieces of charcoal were collected here, as was a date seed. Sediment was again dark greyish-brown sandy mud with some stone collapse.

In addition to the finds mentioned in Room 2, an odd pieced rectangular piece of iron was uncovered.

003

All sediment from
Erez core +
slag & carbon sample
1250-1349

Today, we cut
Room 4 (loci 72
725, 729, 4
In Structure

which we are excavating
728 is a small
decided to give
I suspect - based
one of our workers
guffly from the
him, however, a
screen inset.

still yellow and
yielded few artifacts
The rest of
was defined - but
Some more artifacts

All sediment from Room 244 was sieved.

Erez came from Jariyah to work with guests to collect
glau + carbon samples from the south profile. Basket #'s
1250-1349 were designated for this purpose.

11/28/06

Today, we continued excavation in Structure 2, (loci 723, 728 + 732)
Room 4 (loci 727 + 731) and square GGG 30 (loci
725, 729 + 733).

In Structure 2 - or more correctly the corner
which we are excavating there - we created locus
728 as a small step intrusive to 723 as we
decided to sieve all deposits here. Unfortunately,
I suspect - based on information from a worker - that
one of our workers charged with sieving may be dumping
gullies from here. I have been keeping a close eye on
him, however, preventing him from removing the 1/8"
screen inset. Nevertheless, this locus was
still yellow and in sand with much collapse +
yielded few artifacts. When 728 was leveled to
the rest of 723, a new locus, 732,
was defined - but gullies here remain the same.
Some more artifacts were recovered in 732, including

A dimpled hammerstone was uncovered here, as was a bead with a groove down the centre made of some white substance. Digging continues here.

11/28/06

Today, we focused our digging in square GG H29 and GG G30 & GG H29 inside structure 2, and also dug to a small cist in Rooms 2, 4, 43.

In Room 2, we completed work in locus 735. This was hard-packed earth, slightly darker than the yellow-brown aeolian sediment above. One bead was found, a red, possibly carnelian, round bead. It was found in the silt, but its approximate location is recorded in GIS. We took a

groundshot in Room 4 - locus 737 - but did not work there. Voids noted loc (see below).

In Structure 2, we continue to remove fill in locus 732. The wall collapse is significantly less dense here than in the layers above; but it is still present. Yellow-brown aeolian dust makes up the majority of the sediments. ~~Two~~ Two dimpled hammerstones were recovered here today, as was a hammerstone and a very

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interesting groundstone. The latter was symmetrical & oval within, like a half bar of soap. The inside was red, but it was unclear in the field if this was a stain or the rock's natural color. We continue to sieve all through $\frac{1}{8}$ " screen here, but find little this way. The fill, despite some putty, is not one, remains relatively sterile.

In G6M 29, we have defined (finally) locus 717. This makes up all of the area excavated east of structures 1 & 2 in squares G6M 29 & 30.

We first recognized the need for a new locus when a reconstructable vessel was noted & photographed (photo EDM #1567) with plaster on its side. Slightly lower in elevation than locus 707. The locus number was set aside on 20 Nov & finally designated today, fixing up what was 722, 707, & 708.

Heavy dark gray sediments were slowly removed from the remains of a plaster surface. The plaster is only observed in the centre of the unit so far. We have begun digging in the north & are working south. So far, we have uncovered numerous date seeds, two finger pipes, a dimpled hammerstone, a worked stone, and an interesting piece of crystalline ore.

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In Room 4, we defined two installation loci - 739 & 740. 739 is a shallow plaster basin which appears to have once been greater than is preserved - i.e., the top appears to have perished after the abandonment of the building. This basin lies just north of the patch of ashy sediment sampled yesterday. To its southwest is locus 740, a patch of small stones - cobbles - laid in what may have once been a paving. Both these features were observed earlier, in the digging of the loci above them.

In just outside Room 4, blocking the alleyway between structures 142, wall locus 736 was defined. This is a short external wall made of small stones, likely postdating both structures.

In Room 3, several loci were defined as we attempted to decide the best course for excavating this room. This seems to be a courtyard, and excavation of the southern part proved it has a difficult stratigraphy. We wish to determine whether the pot & pedestal found in this southern section rested on a floor or in a recess. Plaster high up suggests a floor significantly above the pot base.

South of the doorway

We began by ~~excavating~~ defining locus 741, a narrow strip including the standing stone. After clearing some yellow-brown silt in west, ~~if~~ thick plaster was ~~not~~ absent in the west, but none was seen in the east. We therefore opened two new loci after closing 741 - 742, along the ~~eastern~~^{western} wall, and 743, east of the pillar. A grinding stone was found in 741. Little was excavated in 742, for fear of destroying a feature. 743 is hard packed dark gray and brown silt - almost certainly a beaten-earth floor. A piece of copper metal & a piece of miscellaneous, possibly iron, metal were found in 743.

11/30/06

Today we continued excavating in locus 717, where striking architectural features were uncovered - a plaster floor & a pavement - and also continued in 732, where a silt layer was finally reached. In addition, we defined & began excavation in locus 744 (directly in front of structure 10 NE wall) & 745 (the fill in the alleyway). We also defined but did not excavate 746, a strip of the floor in Room 3. In locus 717, we finally completed bringing the entire locus down to the level of the plaster floor & the

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base of the broken vessel. We found that the plaster does not seem to extend across the unit - it is concentrated in the north central part of the locus. To the south we uncovered a very nice pavement, extending NW-SE. Part of it runs along wall 684 & leads to what appear to be steps in the south of the unit. The latter are three ~~or~~ rectangular exposed stones, and one crumbling granite stone visible in the section, placed roughly at regular heights & possibly leading to a second floor.

In this locus we also uncovered numerous bone seeds, including a deposit of about 30 next to this pavement. A badly & round damaged bead of a red-pink material was also uncovered. This is probably of a crypto-crystalline of waste material. It is ~~rough~~, rounded form.

Probably also from 717 is an extremely interesting piece found on the surface. This was found in the place where the workers digging in 717 place their guttaks for ~~storing~~ before they are taken to the sieve. It is a piece of metal with a green material set in the end. It has a fresh break proximally, & my hunch was been part of an earring, like so:  I am 90% sure that it fell out of a guttaka from 717.

In 732, we continue to find a collection of

In locus 745 we excavated to the foundation of building 1.
This locus consisted of crusted slag & grey ash sediment.
A few stone seeds - found by a worker wearing synthetic
Knit gloves - were collected.

In Room 4, installations 739 & 740 were recorded with
the EDM. Locus 739 is a plaster feature, appearing to be
a basin. It dips down about 5 cm gently reaching the
center. Much carbon is embedded in the plaster.

740 is what may be the remains of a pavement just
south of 739. It is composed of roughly uniform flat
stones.

In Room 4, installations loc 747 & 748 were
defined. Both are pavement-like. 747 extends around
feature 720 & the walls, it is most likely associated with that
feature. Especially noticeable is the very large flat limestone
next to the northern wall. Locus 748 is made of smaller stones
on average & includes a groundstone & a simple hammerstone.

Also today Erez collected a sample of crusted slag
from the heap on the eastern side of the wall, just across
from Area M. This was recorded with the EDM & the heap
will be photographed. Also, 80 basket #'s (10460-10540)
were issued to Erez for collecting slag & carbon from the
E. Section of the deep sound, which is still being drawn.

Today we
746, 746, & 74
from locus 7
of Room 3. (degr
hoth in this flo

In locus 7
vessel which was
appears to have b
was in the section
covered the pot.
had to be cut fr
hard-packed slag h
remove the entire
is possible that
pit, as the base
flat surface. Th
for pouring fluids
pot & collected, th
attributing the sa
the seeds may be
pot.

In Room 4

12/2/06

Today, we closed a number of inactive loci (743, 744, 746, 746, & 747), removed the reconstructable vessel from locus 717, excavated the floor of the north part of Room 3 (designating it locus 752) and discovered a hearth in this floor (753).

In locus 717, we removed the reconstructable vessel which was observed & photographed in situ on what appears to have been a courtyard floor. A large stone was in the section ^{beside} the pot, and molten plaster covered the pot. In addition, a great deal of plaster had to be cut from the ~~back~~ back of the pot, and hard-packed clay had to be dug out below it in order to remove the entire pot and a soil sample within it. It is possible that the pot sat in a structured plaster pit, as the base is apparently not meant to rest on a flat surface. The rim is collared, with a small lip for pouring fluids. Date seeds ⁽²⁾ were discovered next to the pot & collected, though caution must be exercised when attributing the same date to the pot as to the seeds, since the seeds may be attributable to the clay layer below the pot.

In Room 4, we opened one new locus, 752, for

12/21/51
The entirety of the northern section of the floor. We excavated all of the fill from the hard earth which seems to mark the floor. Besides the compactness of the earth, the elevation of the standing stone/pillar (locus 703) and the elevation of a newly discovered hearth (locus 753) both suggest that this is a floor - as does the presence of plaster in the SW corner.

Locus 753 is a plaster-lined hearth. It was first observed as blue ash sediment during the removal of fill from the room. Although its nature was unknown at that time, excavation of the fill ceased at this level, above the surrounding area, because the blue ash was observed. Subsequent excavation has shown it to be situated in the NW corner of Room 3 beside the doorway, bounded on the sides away from the walls. A sample of the large quantity of blue ash was taken, as was a carbon sample and a date seed excavated here.

In addition, a fence is currently being built and the excavation is ordered to protect humans & livestock from falling into the deep unit. Some damage had to be done to excavated portions at the site to sink postholes. In order to minimize this damage, we collected some special postholes from these postholes & recorded their elevations with the E.P.M.

Today we
of Room 3, are
and are locus in the
of the loci closed

In Room 3,
In order to clear
Floor exists beside
the remaining floor
pillar in situ.
754, the main
passed through a
of 731, the loci
into the floor.

In the corner
Outside work now
follows the line of
this is indeed a part
to a site which
another, intersecting
Little work was
weighing & the comp

12/3/06

Today we closed all open loci except ~~the~~ the locus of Room 3, one locus opened in the floor of Room 3 today (754) and one locus in the outside work area opened today (755). Most of the loci closed today were architecture.

In Room 3, we closed the locus 752 & Hearth locus 753. In order to clarify the nature of the floor & see if another floor exists beneath the existing one, we have decided to excavate the paving floor south of the eastern doorway, leaving the filler pillar in situ. To this purpose, we have begun opening locus 754, the material east of the pillar, which of course is being passed through a 1/8" screen. This will be excavated to the level of 731, the level of the pot which we believe to be sunken into the floor.

In the courtyard to the east - which I have been calling the outside work area - we have opened locus 755. This locus follows the line of IN 749 in order to determine better this is indeed a pavement or if it is a wall. It stretches north to a site which appeared isolated but which may be part of another, intersecting wall. Otherwise, it follows the unit boundaries. Little work was done in either locus today because of Gray weighing in the completion of section drawing.

12/4

Today, excavations were completed at Khirbat al-N-his. Locus 756 was defined for the thick plaster west of the pillar, and it and 754 were excavated to the level of 681 - a few cm above the level on which the pot rests. The pot was digitally recorded & will be collected tomorrow. The large grinding slab south of the pot & the diorite oval in the NE corner of Room 3 were analysed in the field but will be left in situ. Two small dropped hammerstones were recorded in GIS but left unanalysed in the field - one built into wall 661 which is trifacial (91893) and one which is built into pavement 748 (91894).

In locus 755, we dug down far enough to determine that IN 749 is not the top of a wall, as no stones lie beneath it. A nice plaster floor was discovered quite east, however. This seems to explain the plaster in 717. Presumably there was once a single plastered surface which was broken up post-deposition. This plaster - in several plastering episodes - is visible in the west section, south, while in the north, around the pot, only chunks of plaster appear in the section. Why these plaster chunks are so thick remains a question.

Also today we recorded the approximate dimensions of the slag mound in order to determine its approximate volume.

12/5

Today, we recorded final elevations of the walls. In addition,
we collected the pot base. Finally, we recorded a new
locus, 761, a wall which we were never able to excavate.
This marks an extension of the building complex to which there
was no access from Structure 1, and the possible stairs
rise next to this. Finally, a series of photos were taken today.

	ZA	BS	TS
X	733479.61	733439.39	733469.35
Y	3396597.00	3396639.46	3396580.46
Z	51.18	50.17	52.33

X	733456.10
Y	3396600.29
Z	49.01

Alan A. Beherec

Erica Ann Jones

Wally Davis

Walter Dahlstedt

Michael Danby

James Fenton

Walter O'Kada

Dee Perce