

2008

EPV 039 Lopez Field Notes 2008

Catalina Lopez

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18-JUN-2008

2008-39-001

EDM set-up (practice plus tips) with Stephanie per Marcello Canuto's instruction until 2:30 pm, arrive at El Cafetal about an hour later.

Height of rod = 1.570 m

Height of instrument = 1.575 m (also)

on-site

Stephanie and I set-up the EDM at DØØ in El Cafetal. We measured the distance from DØØ to DØ1, then DØØ to Station 600, on top of El Cafetal structure # 8.

From Station 600 on top of El Cafetal back to DØØ, height of instrument = 1.575 m.

The next data taken is from Station 600^{El Cafetal} to Stations 601 and 602 by/on top of structure 12 in Los Naranjitos, respectively.

1.515 m = height of instrument at Station 600, structure #12 at Los Naranjitos.

Took data from Station 602 to 601 (Los Naranjitos) and 602 to 603 next to structure #10. It is getting late, so team will return tomorrow to begin test pits for structure #10. Leave at 5:45 p.m.

19-JUN-2008

2008-39-002

9:20 a.m. arrive at El-naranjito, site #7.

The workers are clearing the brush, and Stephanie and I will help set-up the EDM with Santiago.

Height of instrument = 1.38 m

Height of rod = 1.575 m

Took data from 603 to 602.

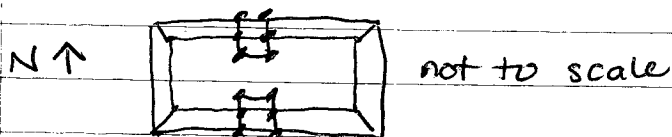
discuss w/mary and Ellen what artifacts would represent a kitchen/cooking area: serving ware, storage vessels (pottery), possibly fish bones, mammal bones, fruit seeds, corn, limestone, grinding stones (volcanic), ash/carbon. middens probably located behind structures.

Spent quite a bit of time setting up two pits on structure #13. One is at the front of the building, the other in the back, and both measure 1x2 m.

^{used the}
We ~~to~~ EDM to take six points for each grid. Mary informs us she will provide us with a printout of the coordinates (see page 2008 39-005)

19-JUN-2008

2008-39-003



STRUCTURE 13
LOS NARANJITOS
S-07

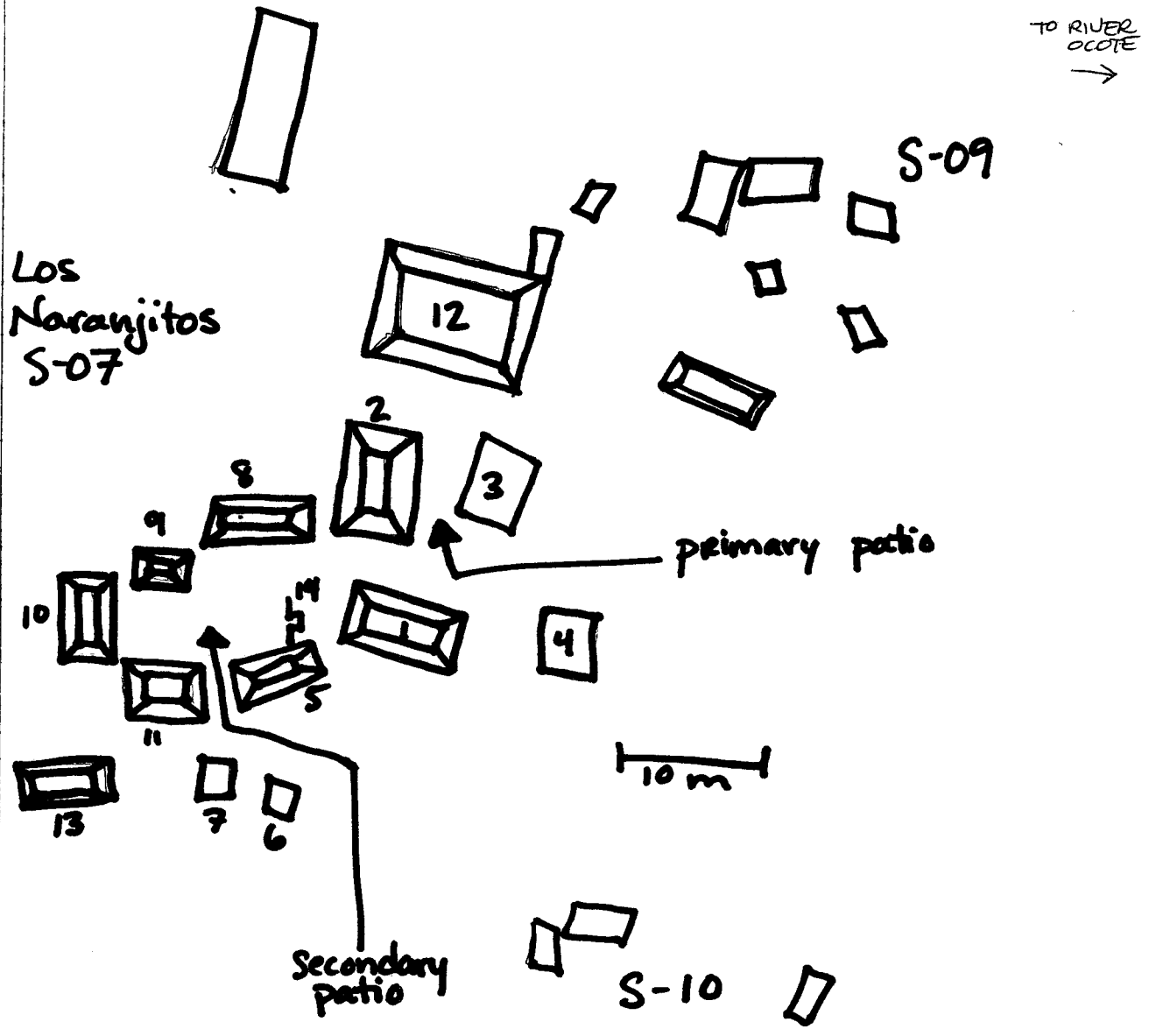
at 2:00 pm, we are finally ready to excavate. I inform Francisco (Paco) that we need to excavate 10cm BGS from the NW corner of EVA, which is the highest.

As Paco excavates, I soon see the tops of the first large rocks. They seem to be protruding at various angles, so it is possible that this is tumble. However, I feel it is a bit early to tell from what part of the structure they belong to. Later, I realize that perhaps Paco misunderstood my directions, because he is excavating 10cm BGS for all corners. To correct this, Ellen and I use the wire level to determine that the northern edge (NW to NE corners) should be excavated to 30cm BGS.

Some pieces of pottery have been unearthed, along with one piece of volcanic tuff.
(cont'd on pg. 2008-39-006)

19-JUN-2008

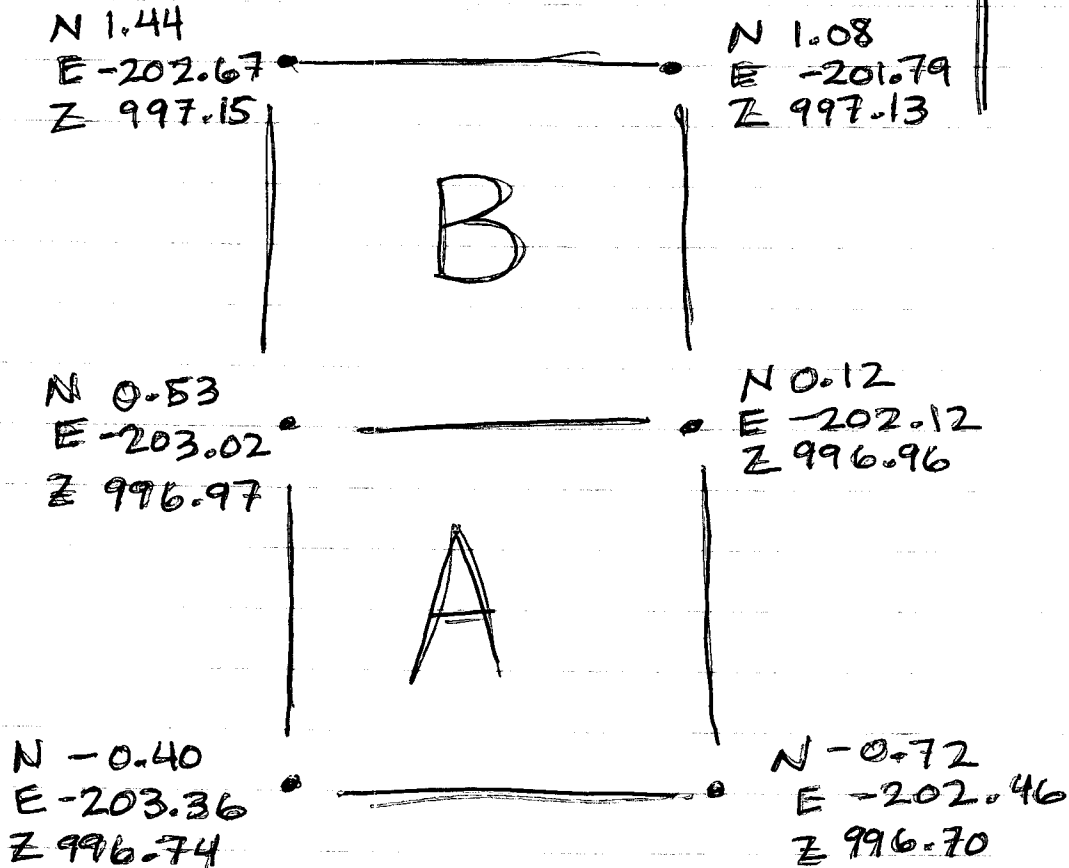
2008-39 004



19-JUN-2008

2008-39-005

Subop 15



This data provided by Mary H.

For Subop 10/15, EV-C and EV-D,
refer to page 2008-39-31

19-JUN-2008

2008-39-006

(cont'd from page 2008-39-003)

additionally, the soil is beginning to change, and more clay is visible, along with more moisture and a darker color.

It is time to wrap things up, so I take my final elevations, which are as follows:

	Initial	Final
NW	996.97	996.74
NE	996.96	996.73
SW	996.74	996.655
SE	996.70	996.625

I used the NW corner as reference. For complete coordinate information, see page 2008-39-005.

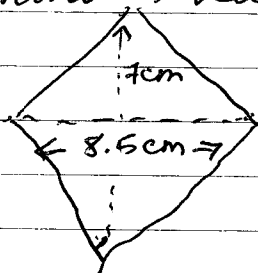
It is getting late now, (sometime after 4:00 pm), so begin to collect our things. POCO covers the pit with a few banana leaves. Marcello is on-site now, and briefly reviews our progress and speaks with Ellen and Mary.

20-JUN-2008

2008-39-007

We arrive at Los Naranjitos a bit after 9 am, and begin where we left off. Yesterday I finished EU A, lot 001, so today we begin with lot 002.

We will excavate 40 cm BGS using the NW corner as a reference point. After a few centimeters, we unearth several pieces of pottery, with the largest at this point measuring 8.5 cm x 7 cm at its longest points (diamond-shaped), corner to opposite



corner. The size of these sherds indicates that we may be getting closer to a midden.

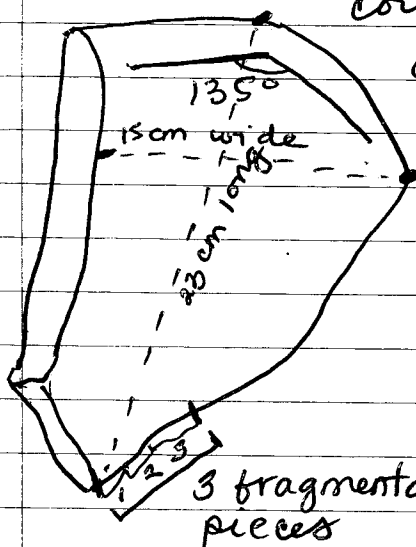
The soil has more clay now, and Paco notes it is getting a bit harder to dig. We also unearth a small piece of chert, possibly debitage per Ellen. However, we'll need to wash it later to confirm.

20-JUN-2008

2008-39-008

We've started lot 003 now, and we unearth more tumbled rock, a few pieces of ceramic, and one piece of obsidian that may possibly be debitage, but will need to analyze that more closely later. It appears that this may be our last lot in unit A. We'll probably start EU B, expecting to find part of the back wall.

Well, I spoke too soon. Just as Paco was excavating the last few centimeters of lot 003, he unearths a large piece of metate, with 3 fragmentary pieces that broke during the excavation. There is one corner that is obtuse and



approximately 135° , 23 cm long and 15 cm at its widest point.

Ellen estimates that it represents about one third of the entire piece.

Due to this new discovery, I suggest to Ellen and Mary to begin lot 004, and they agree.

21

20-JUN-2008

2008.39.009

It is 9:00 am and a new day at Los Naranjitos has begun. Yesterday we closed Lot 003, so today we'll continue with Lot 004 due to the discovery of the metate.

The sky is a bit overcast, but it is still warm and very humid.

As we unearth Lot 004, it becomes evident that the southern half of the grid has stones (still), while the northern half has no stones. Due to this discovery, we decide to finish BOBS for the northern half only. We will leave the southern half alone and close Lot 004 that way. A few pieces of pottery and perhaps some bajareque were found, along with one piece of obsidian.

The final elevations for 30 cm south of the NW and NE corners were 995.25 m and 995.23 m, respectively.

21 JUN - 2008

2008-39-010

We've now started E.V.B, Lot 005, which will be 0-20 cm BGS, since the grid was on a slope and the SW and SE corners were barely excavated and still easily reached 20 cm BGS. I tell my workers to leave the southern half alone and concentrate on the northern half.

We started EU-B Lot 005 a bit after 10am. It's not yet 11am, and Lot 005 is almost finished because I have 2 assistants.

By 11:20 am, we are almost finished with EU-B Lot 006. No major findings. Mostly soil. A few pieces of pottery are found.

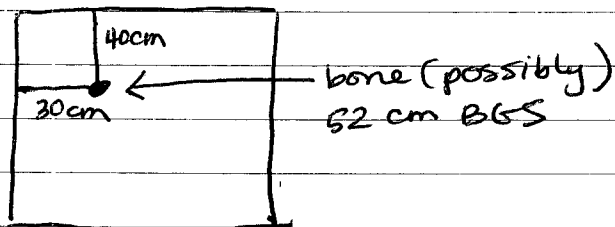
Once we begin Lot 007, and go down a few centimeters, we unearth what Mary identifies as a wall, and it is composed of black rock. I ask my assistants to clean that section off and leave it alone, but to go ahead and continue south of the wall.

21 JUN - 2008

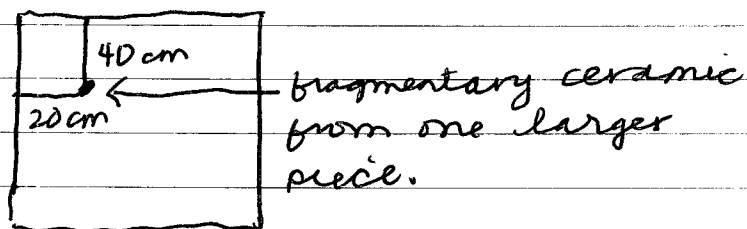
2008-39-011

We take a lunch break from 12-1pm, then start Lot 008, which is exciting because immediately south of the wall I described in Lot 007, we unearth what looks like a flat floor. We find pieces of ceramic, obsidian and possibly bone.

The fragmentary bone was found 40 cm south of the north edge, and 30 cm east of the west edge, and was 52 cm BGS.



Additionally, several fragments of ceramic were found broken in place, 40 cm south of the north edge, and 30 cm east of the west wall, and was 46 cm BGS.



21. JUN. 2008

2008-39-012

The ceramic pieces from the one larger piece were placed in their own lot bag. The (possible) bone fragments were placed in aluminum foil.

Lot 009 is quickly excavated. We only need to unearth the edges of the rocks that compose the southern edge of the wall, to see their shape. We finish this by 2:30 pm.

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ON PURPOSE

23-JUN. 2008

2008-39. 013

arrive on site at Los Naranjitos / S-007 at 9:00 am. The plan for the morning is to make a plan drawing of 10/15 with Mary, and get my assistants (Paco and Tino) started on 10/19 in the Plaza. Our goal there is to locate the plaza floor, which may be plaster, stone or compacted earth, which is most likely. In this case, we will closely watch for stratigraphy changes.

Begin plan drawing at 9:30 am with Mary.

at 10:20 am, I check on my assistants at Op 10/19. They are finished with Lot 001. No artifacts are found. I finish my Lot Form and have them start Lot 002 and I go back to Op 10/15 to continue the plan drawing with Mary.

at 11:00 am, I check on Paco and Tino at Op 10/19, but they have not yet finished Lot 002. Go back to Op 10/15.

finish plan Drawing of Op 10/15 at 11:40 am. My assistants have already finished

23 JUN. 2008

2008-39.14

ep 10/19 Lot 002. There is still no evidence of a floor. Some ceramic, obsidian and possible chert found.

Go ahead and start Lot 003 at 11:40 am.

Break for lunch at 12:15. Come back at 1:15 pm. Still need to finish Lot 3. My assistants say the soil is still soft. No floor at this point. Some artifacts found.

at 1:45. my assistants inform me that the soil has changed color (a bit more yellow) and has become harder. I am not able to tell that there is a change in stratigraphy, so I call Mary over and she confirms that it indeed has changed. The cm BBS for the SE corner are $38\frac{1}{2}$, so I ask my assistants to stop there and level out the bottom of the surface.

Afterwards, I will close the lot and start Lot 5. We will go down an additional 20 cm (38.5 - 58.5 cm) BBS and re-evaluate at that point.

23 JUN. 2008

2008.39.15

So far in lot 5, only 2 pieces of artifacts have been found. As my assistants dig deeper, nothing else is uncovered. It appears that we are close to confirming the existence of the plaza floor.

at .46m BGS (using ref corner SE), it is evident that no other artifacts will be found, and we've unearthed the plaza floor.

The only piece of ceramic was found near the surface of lot 5.

Per Mary's instruction, okay to start the 1st level of EU. B. I expect to find the same amount and type of artifacts as in EU. A, and the same stratigraphy. It is now 2:50 pm

EU. B. Lot 6 has a soft soil, but many, many small, deep roots, with one rather large one.

At this point, I have a flashback of Honduran women sweeping their homes to get rid of debris (in the year 2008) and also of

23 JUN. 2008

2008-39-16

my childhood trips to rural México, where women would sweep the entryway of their homes, clean up the debris, then splash water from colorful, plastic buckets to keep the dust at bay.

I imagine that ancient women (or their housekeepers!) did the same: they kept their living space free of debris, and that is perhaps why EUs A+B are lacking artifacts.

It is 3:15 pm. we are almost 20cm BGS in EU. B, and only a small piece of bajareque has been found so far, plus a tiny piece of obsidian. It is not clearly evident where the larger roots are coming from, so I ask my assistants. Paed states they are from the "guamo" and the coffee plants/trees.

Today has been a lovely day in terms of weather; it is reminiscent of a lukewarm, slightly overcast October day in California. If only more days in El Paraiso could be like this, it would be closer to paradise! It feels great, and I wonder if the ancient people

23 JUN. 2008

2008.39.17

enjoyed these types of days as
much as I do.

PORTION BELOW DOTTED
LINE IS BLANK ON PURPOSE

24. JUN. 2008

2008. 39.18

arrive at Los Naranjitos S-007 just before 9 am. We spend several minutes preparing for the day, including setting up a tarp over Op 10/19.

Once ready, my assistants begin Op 10/19/7. I expect that it will go fast and easy, as I don't expect to find much.

barrialosa

The day is slightly overcast and cool. I'm hoping for another day like yesterday.

at 9:50 am. Paco and Tino finish the first half of lot 7. EU.B (21-30 cm BGS), and several pieces of ceramic are found, including a nice, large piece that is approx 10 cm wide and 5 cm long - a portion of a vessel's lip.

Just like in EU.A, the soil changes between 38.5 cm - 40 cm BGS to "barrialosa".

canche	jinin:	} useful definitions
clay	sandy	
sediment	sediment	
color varies	color varies	

24. JUN. 2008

2008.39.19

we decide Lot 8 will be 40-45 cm BGS, and we continue to find artifacts, which is unexpected.

Soon, we are ready to begin Lot 9. Mary states that we will go ahead with the excavation in EV. B, since we've not yet found sterile soil. We continue to find artifacts, mostly pot sherds.

Marcello reminds us that if this lot (9) is not sterile, there may be a gravelly layer further down, which may be the original living surface. Also, there may be evidence of an ancient river running through Op 10/19.

It is almost lunch time, and we're almost finished with Lot 9. We just need to level it out. After lunch, we will begin Lot 10, which ~~is~~ will be 66-106 cm BGS.

24 JUN 2008

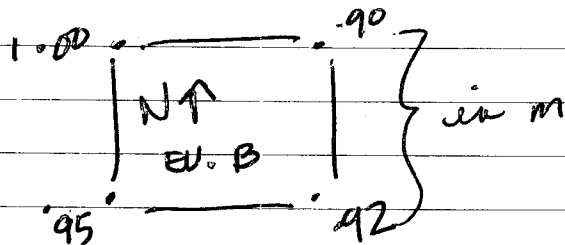
20
2008.39-~~4~~

We come back from lunch at 1:00 pm and are ready to begin 10/19/10 EV. B.

2:40 pm. My assistants have been working steadily, but because the soil has so much more clay now, its density makes it more difficult to unearth. We measure the SE corner, and are at about 85 cm BGS (still top of 10/19/10 EV. B) They note that there has not been a soil change so far during this lot (10).

The past couple of hours seem to have been slow and uneventful. Where the heck is the original floor?

We stop at 3:30 pm and will continue tomorrow.



So far, we have 5 pieces chert + 11 pieces of ceramic

25 JUN. 2008

2008.39.21

8:45 am arrive at Los Naranjos.

Begin work by 9:05 am, after setting up. Yesterday, we were almost finished with 10/19/10 EU. B (65cm - 1.00m BGS).

I've been instructed by Mary to continue until 1.20 m BGS at Lot 11.

It rained last night, so the soil is rather muddy. It is overcast and wet, but still a bit warm and steamy. My glasses keep fogging up.

I finally have the coordinates for Op 10/19, but realize I was only given four instead of six. Since I do not know which two are missing, I will not use the data on my Lot forms, and will discuss this with Ellen back at the lab house at the end of today.

45/25

After we finish Lot 10, the stratigraphy is very visible, so I decide to measure the top layer, which is darker. It turns out to be 48 cm BGS, using the SE corner as reference. Since we've excavated to 1.0 m BGS, the 2nd (yellowish) layer is $1.00\text{m} - .48\text{m} = .52\text{m}$. I take photos of this.

25 JUN. 2008

2008-39-22

also, only 2 more pieces¹ of ceramic were found, so I add them to yesterday's count:

Op 10/19/10 EU.B

19 ceramic pieces + 2 more = 21

5 chert pieces + 0 more = 5

Also, Paco inserts a 31 cm long metal pin vertically in EU.B's floor and tells me he cannot feel any gravel.

We will, however, continue with an additional 20 cm, since we have not uncovered sterile soil yet.

at 11 am, Paco picks a random spot to insert the 31 cm long metal pin, and again, he feels nothing. The bottom of the grid where he inserted the pin was 1.21 m BBS (Lot II)

We finish up Op 10/15/11 at \approx 1.2 m BBS EU.B and begin Op 10/15/12 EU.B 1.2 m - 1.60 m BBS

25 JUN 2008

2008-39-23

Break for lunch: 12:10pm - 1:10pm.
It's sunnier now, and much warmer than this morning. We are still finding artifacts, but to a lesser degree. I hope to find bedrock soon, and my assistants do advise me that rocks (small/medium) are starting to appear.

At ≈ 1.3 m, Paco tells me the soil is more fine and soft (sandy) with some rocks. It is evident to me that per my assistants' descriptions there has been a change in stratigraphy. Visually, I am not able to discern this, so I will wait for the lot to be finished to examine the stratigraphy.

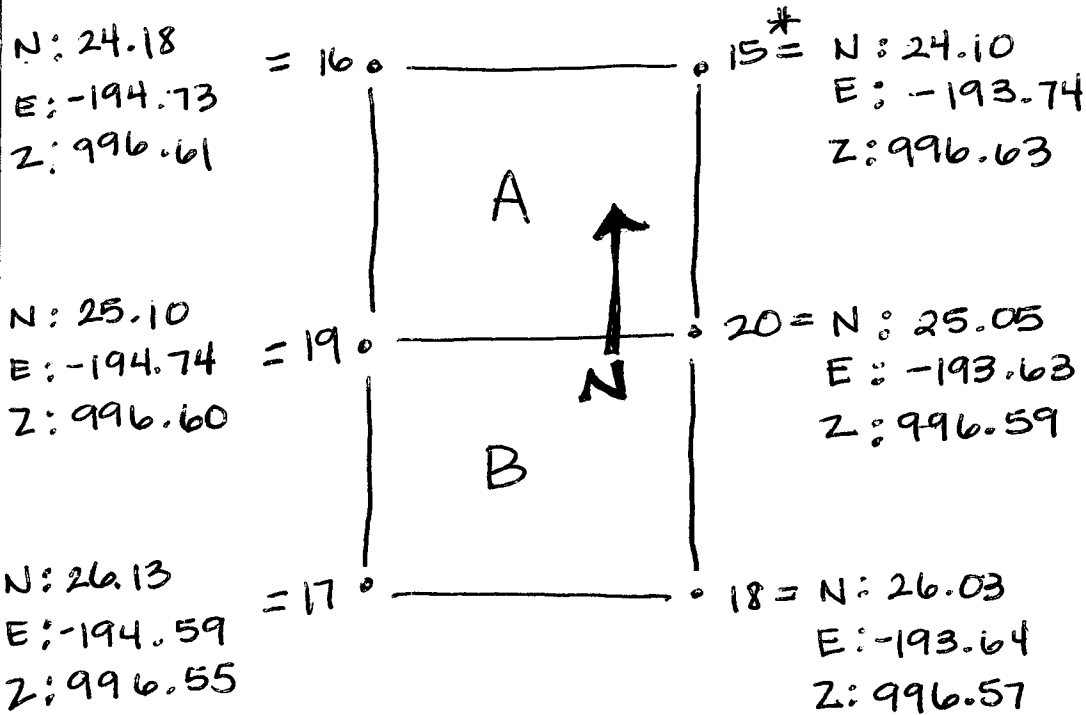
By the end of the day (3:45pm more or less), Paco and Tino have excavated Op 10/19/2 EV. B to 1.5m BGS. We pack up our things and get ready to go home.

Additionally, Ellen takes the coordinates with the EDM to obtain the data I was missing. What follows is the complete data for Op 10/19:

25 JUN. 2008

2008.39.24

Op 10/19 Coordinates



* NOTE: 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20 represent the Point Numbers. 15-18 were taken on 2008/6/21. 19 and 20 were taken on 2008/6/25.

All coordinates provided by Ellen Bell.

Tomorrow, we will finish Op 10/19/7 EV.B, up to 1.6m B&S per Mary's instruction. Additionally, we will start Let 8 with the goal of locating gravel and/or bedrock.

26 JUN. 2008

2008.39.25

9:00 am (more or less). Arrive at Los Naranjitos. Since we left off at Op 10/19/12 EU-B 1.5m BGS, I decide to go ahead and close the lot.

Op 10/19/13 will be an unknown cm BGS at this point, since Mary simply wants us to go down until we find bedrock. Once this happens, I will note the cm BGS accordingly.

There was a storm last night, so the day is cool, wet, and overcast.

The soil is still the same clay loam we've been working with since 49cm BGS, with the exception of a fine layer of a sandier, softer type of soil at 1.3m BGS.

As Paco gets deeper into Op 10/19/14, he tells me that the dark, gravelly soil is called «cascajo».

Finally finish excavating the plaza pit. Mary had asked us to excavate just $\frac{1}{2}$ m (the Northern half of EU-B) x 1m to confirm how many layers exist (stratigraphy). We've unearthed five layers. Mary then instructs me to create two sections

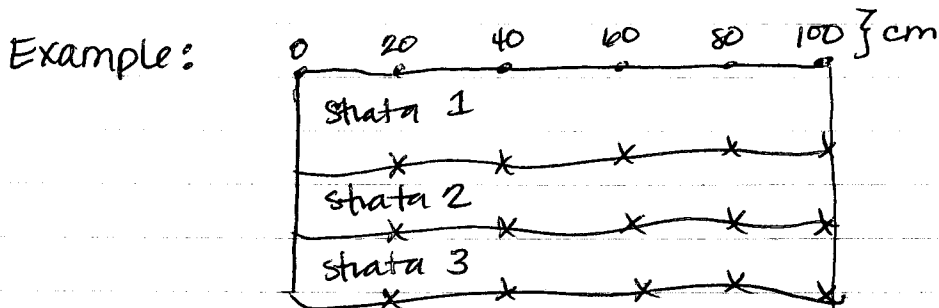
26-JUN-2008

2008.39.26

drawings: one of the East wall, and the other of the South wall.

I have never created section drawings for stratigraphy, and I ponder awhile, deciding the best way to do this.

I decide to have Paco make little wooden stakes for me, which I will have him insert into the earth where the strata change, at 20cm, 40cm, 60cm, 80cm, 100cm intervals (horizontally)



After this, we measure the cm BGS for each and every little wooden stake, and I use the data to create x and y coordinates, which I later plot on my graph paper for my section drawing.

Example: at 20cm (horizontally), the first stake is at 59cm BGS for the South wall of 10/19 EU-B, so my x and y coordinates will be 20, 59 (cm).

26 JUN 2008

2008.39.27

Note: my datum point was the SE corner of EU-B (Op 10/19)

Towards the end of the day, I am ready to identify the different types of soil using a soil guide provided by Mary, along with the color using the Munsell soil color charts:

Strata ¹	Soil Type ²	Soil Color ³
1	Silty Clay	10YR 3/2
2	Coarse Sand	10YR 4/3
3	Coarse Sand	10YR 4/3
4	Fine Sand	10YR 5/4
5	Medium Sand	10YR 4/3

1. Strata 1 = the strata closest to the surface, Strata 5 = The strata at the bottom of the pit.
2. Per the soil guide provided by Mary H
3. Per the Munsell Soil Color Chart.

27. JUN. 2008

2008.39.28

8:45 am / 9:00 am. Ready to work.

I am ecstatic and relieved that I no longer have to work on the plaza pit (Op 10/19 EU.B). Ellen needs to take the final elevations, and that will be all.

In the meantime, I get to go back to Op 10/15, which is much more fun and interesting to me.

Our goal is to excavate the western half of the grid, to expose the base of the wall that is located in the northern edge of the grid. Additionally, we hope ~~will~~ to confirm that the cobble floor was added afterwards.

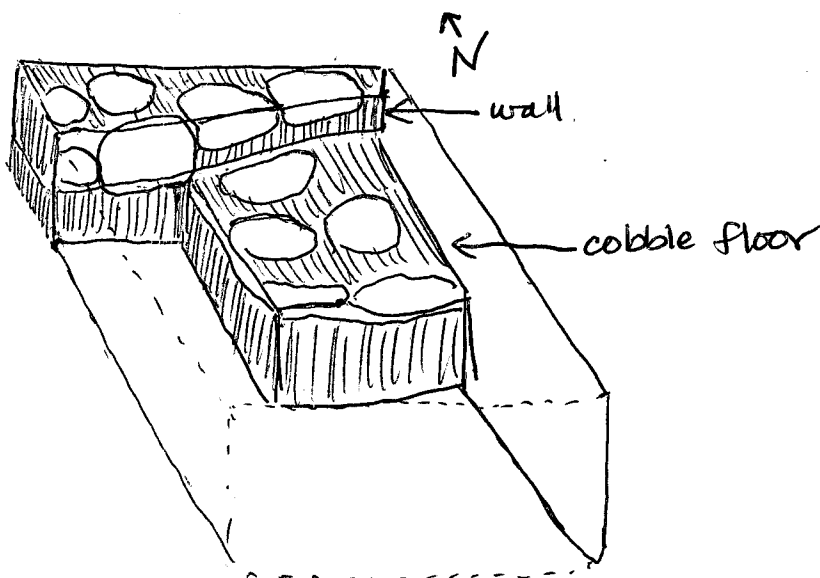


Figure
2008.39.26
Op 10/15/6.
After
excavation

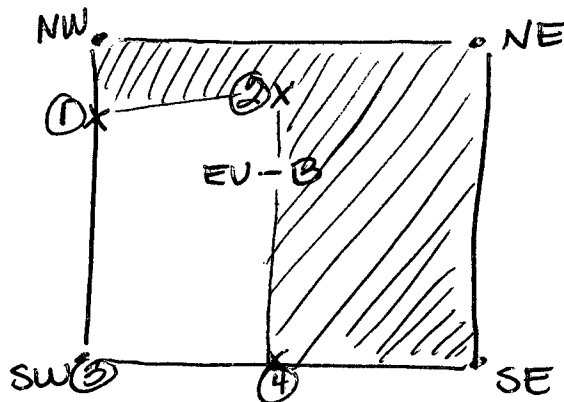
27 JUN 2008


2008-39-29

Op 10/15/10 EU-B turns out to be a bit tricky in terms of beginning and final elevations.

We excavated the west half of the grid, but left the wall in place.

Point	Location	Beginning Elevation	Final Elevation
①	29cm South of NW corner.	50 cm BGS	71 cm BGS
②	48 cm East of, and 20cm South of NW corner	51 cm BGS	70 cm BGS
③	SW corner	51 cm BGS	74 cm BGS
④	48 cm East of SW corner	51 cm BGS	75 cm BGS



 = part of grid that was NOT excavated in Op 10/15/16 EU-B.

So, the actual size (NxE) is not 1x1m, or 1/2m x 1m, but 50cm x 70cm approx.

27 JUN 2008

2008-39-30

The excavation reveals that the base of the wall is just a few (< 4) centimeters than the base of the cobble floor. Also, the cobble floor abuts the wall. We conclude that the two features were built around the same time, but the wall came first.

After finishing Op 10/15/10 EU-B, we will start Op 10/15/11 EU-C, which is immediately to the North of EU-B.

Additionally, EU-D has been set in place (just in case) and the coordinates for both EU-C and EU-D are provided by Ellen Bell. (See page 2008-39-31)

Our goal with EU-C is to reveal the rest of the wall/platform, and/or any other features.

Well, the excavation for EU-C is unremarkable. Some artifacts are found, and, as expected, the fill behind the wall is revealed.

Tomorrow, we will begin EU-D.

27 JUN 2008

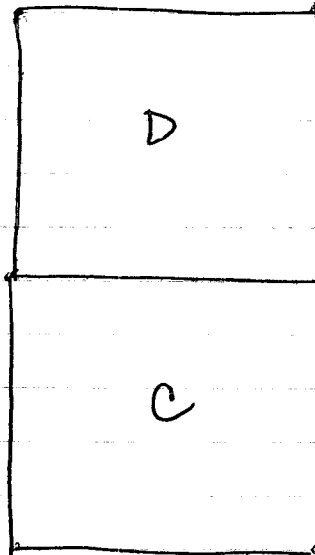
2008-39-31

OP 10/15, EV-C and EV-D

N ↑

Coordinates

N 3.29
E -202.06
Z 997.25



N 2.93
E -201.08
Z 997.22

N 2.32
E -202.33
Z 997.22

N 1.99
E -201.37
Z 997.23

N 1.44
E -202.67
Z 997.15

N 1.08
E -201.79
Z 997.13

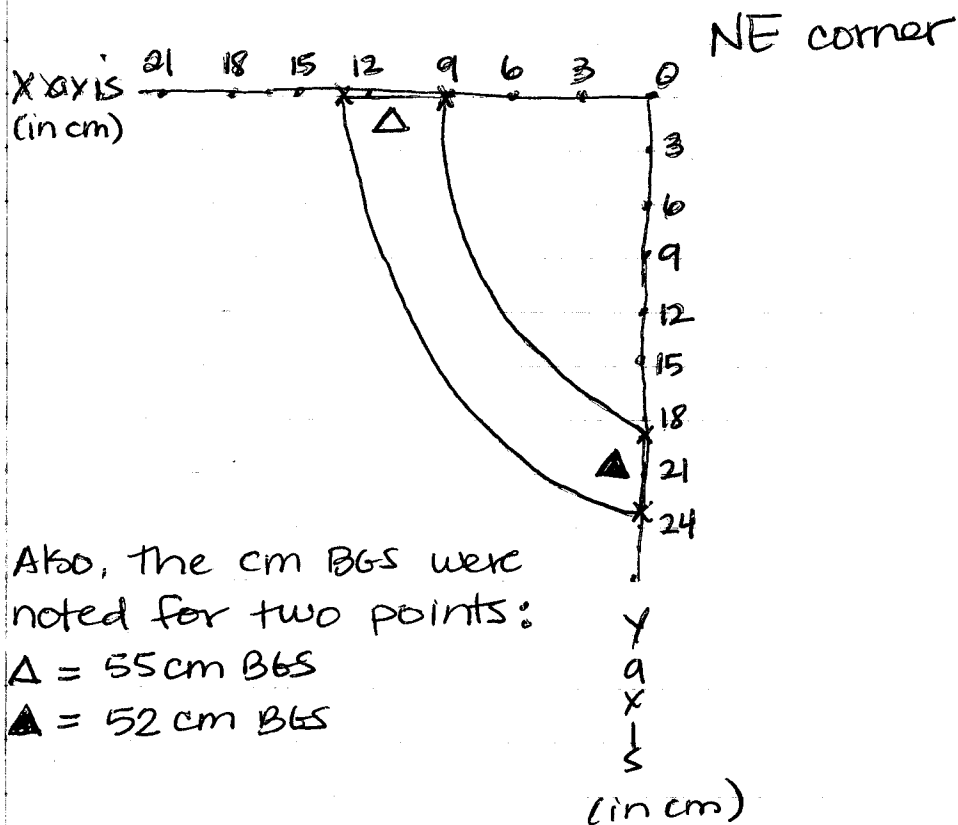
Coordinates for EV-A and EV-B
are on pg. 2008-39-005

28 JUN 2008

2008.39.3D

We begin EU-D, and just like EU-C, some artifacts are recovered, and the rest of the wall's fill is unearthened. The only difference, really, between EU-D and EU-C, is that the fill is a bit more sunken in, in EU-D. Also, a rather large piece of ceramic was uncovered in the NE corner of EU-D: The rim and part of the curve of the neck.

The rim is 4 cm thick, and if plotted on graph paper, would look as follows:



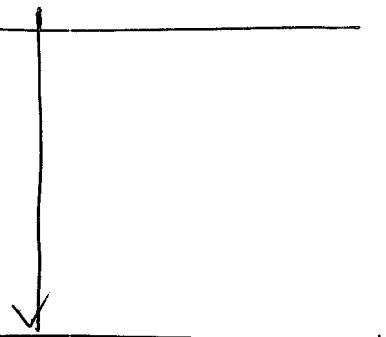
I close Op 10/15', and prepare for Final Report.

29 JUN 2008

2008-39-33

Former Lot	EU	New Lot
10/15/01	A	10/15/01
10/15/02	A	10/15/02
10/15/03	A	10/15/03
10/15/04	A	10/15/04
10/15/01	B	10/15/05
10/15/02	B	10/15/06
10/15/03	B	10/15/07
10/15/04	B	10/15/08
10/15/05	B	10/15/09
10/15/06	B	10/15/10
10/15/01	C	10/15/11
10/15/02	C	10/15/12
10/15/03	C	10/15/13
10/15/04	C	10/15/14
10/15/01	D	10/15/15
10/15/02	D	10/15/16
10/15/03	D	10/15/17
10/19/01	A	10/19/01
10/19/02	A	10/19/02
10/19/03	A	10/19/03
10/19/04	A	10/19/04
10/19/05	A	10/19/05
10/19/01	B	10/19/06
10/19/02	B	10/19/07
10/19/03	B	10/19/08
10/19/04	B	10/19/09
10/19/05	B	10/19/10
10/19/06	B	10/19/11
10/19/07	B	10/19/12
10/19/08	B	10/19/13
10/19/09	B	10/19/14

after 10/19 excavation



NOTE: The Lots were assigned incorrectly but have been corrected on all Lot Forms associated with Ex. 39.

The incorrect Lot #'s are in the 1st column under the heading "Former Lot", and the correct Lot #'s are under the heading "New Lot". — Ex. 39.

Corrections also made in Ex. 39's field notes