

2006

EPV 028 Compton Field Notes 2006

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6 February, 2006

2006-28-01

02/30/01

Work began around 7:15 am with instruction on how to set up a test pit and 1 meter trench. The day is a cool one so far with partly cloudy skies. The ground is quite moist, probably a remnant from the heavy rains on the night of the 4th and the morning of the 5th. The lot I have is about 4 meters south and east of building 10 and is clear of ground cover beyond a few leaves. The ~~lot~~ ^{excavation unit} is also completely level at 999.99 effective meters to the origin's 1000 m. I now have two workers Salvador and Roberto who have started digging the first lot of 10 cm. The soil so far is a milk chocolate brown with some finger-thick roots starting as little as 2 cm below ground level. At about 8 cm (Lot 1) we found our first pottery shard right below some of the roots which were cut out, it is about 1 cm square and very thin compared to the Greek coarseware I found this summer (this piece being between two and three millimeters in thickness). Scratch that. Tom just identified it as a pigment stone. Lot one is now finished and has a uniform depth of 10 cm BGS, ~~put~~ putting the corners and center point of 999.89 m. The depth chosen is an arbitrary one, not due to soil change. At a depth of 3 cm (999.96) the topsoil changed to a mix of soil and clay. The final lot has two small holes, each five centimeters from the west side. Both are about 2 cm in width, and I ~~supp~~ suspect that they are either old insect/animal burrows or holes from the dislodged roots. Ready for Lot 2.

7 February 2006

2006 - 28 - 03

02 - 30 - 02

Today the weather graces us with a steady and dreary drizzle of rain. The workers are spending some time to put up a pavilion and tarp to keep the trench and people dry. Tom notes that this will change the soil color slightly, but in this weather it is more important to keep excess water out. Despite the rain, the trench has no standing water and the ^{absolute} elevations from the previous day have not changed. The trench in lot 2 is being continued and ~~has~~ now contains more Bajareque, ceramics, and now even some obsidian flakes. The soil is still the same, being the chocolate brown clay. Now that everyone else has their tarps up I have far fewer visitors to mooch off of my trench's shelter. Roberto has also returned from gathering the last limbs for the structure, so I can take a break from digging for a while. We are now drawing close to the end of the second lot. The last few centimeters ~~are~~ have an increasing number of obsidian flakes, putting the present total at four, one of them being slightly larger (about 2 cm to a side). A large stone about 10 cm wide is sticking about 8 cm out from the eastern wall. So far we have simply dug under it as it seems to extend more to the east. Tom speculates that it may be tumble (or fall, as I know it).

Final lot measurements:

Soil: Clay, brown

Cultural Material: Bajareque, ceramics, obsidian

Altitude BGS: NW - 20 cm (999.79), NE - 20 cm (999.79),

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Altitude BGS (continued): SE - 20 cm (999.79),
SW - 20 cm (999.79), Centerpoint - 20 cm (999.79)

New Lot

02-30-03

More of the same clay for now. There are a few pieces of ceramics, bajareque, and what may be pigment stone in the first three centimeters. This lot ~~is~~ does not have a great deal of cultural material, mostly limited to a few examples of each of the above mentioned. The clay has had a few reddish discolorations less than a centimeter in any dimension, but Patrick suggests that these are probably just from crushed bits of bajareque or pottery. The farther down we dig, the more compact the clay becomes, a trait that never fails to irritate as we break apart the chunks of clay to be thorough in the excavation. If nothing else the professors have returned to admire the clay and exploit the benches my workers so graciously constructed after lot 2.

Final lot measurements

Soil: Hard Clay

Cultural Material: Ceramics, bajareque, obsidian

Altitude BGS: NW - 30 cm (999.69), NE - 30 cm (999.69),
SE - 30 cm (999.69), SW - 30 cm (999.69), Centerpoint - 30 cm (999.69)

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02 - 20 - 04

Lot 4 ~~is~~ has even less cultural material than lot 3, and the clay only gets thicker with the increasing depth. The depth also is restricting how many people can work at a given time, so progress is slow. I'm considering opening another excavation unit to get more of an idea of where the floor might start and also so that I can employ both of my workers at once. The question is more a matter of which direction to expand to. Heading east would allow me to uncover the fall rock, west shows no particular promise, south is not too exciting either, and north offers a chance to investigate closer to the building (structure 10). For now it's a matter of finishing this lot at a depth of 40 cm BGS. Artifact finds so far are limited to a piece of pottery and a small flake of something that may be ceramic or pigment stone.

Daily stopping depths	NW - 35 cm	NE - 36 cm
BGS	SW - 37 cm	SE - 37 cm

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2006 - 28 - 06

02 - 30 - 04

The rain continues and has not stopped completely yet. Even so, the trench is not flooded and does not require any shoring up from collapsed walls. It seems that the tough clay which so often slows progress is preventing the weather from making a dent in the excavation unit. A class with Jim yesterday taught us about different soil horizons, and given the excessive amount of clay I would guess that I'm in a B horizon. Testing yesterday also involved a sample PH testing of my soil to demonstrate how to figure it out, and mine was shown to be 6.5. An analysis of the soil type demonstrated that we are dealing with clayey silt. This lot is nearing completion.

Final lot measurements

Soil: Clayey Silt

Cultural Material: Ceramics ⁽²⁾ and pigment stone ⁽³⁾ (?)

Altitude BGS: NW - 999.59 (40cm) NE - 40cm (999.59)

SE - 40cm (999.59) SW - 40cm (999.59), Centerpoint - 39.2 (999.60)

New Lot

02 - 30 - 05

This lot is also pretty empty so far. The clayey silt conditions are the same, and the soil is still a milk chocolate (or, as Marcello suggests, a cheap diner coffee) brown. If other trenches at lower starting altitudes are any clue, there is still another 50 cm to go before hitting a floor. On the other hand, there may be an additional floor so close to building 10. I'm noticing that the extent to which the soil clumps makes it

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02-30-05

difficult to break it apart to find very small pieces. The chances that we can find anything smaller than 1 cm in a given dimension are slim. We started encountering roots again in small numbers, though none are so big as to require a machete. Tom has informed me that we need to perform a field count of the cultural material. I still have the bag of lot 4, so I'll fill that in now. The soil color is a little lighter now, changing from the grayish brown of lot 1 to a light chocolate or jamocha brown. End of lot.

Final lot measurements

Soil: Clayey silt, slightly lighter

Cultural Material: Ceramics (2)

Altitude BGS: NW-50cm (999.49) NE-50cm (999.49)

SE - ~~999.49~~ (999.49) SW-50cm (999.49) Centerpoint - 50cm (999.49)
50cm

New Lot

02-30-06

To clarify how I have been drawing diagrams of the excavation unit, the tumble rock that juts from the east wall is only 3 cm ~~thick~~ thick and does not extend through all of lots. It has remained in the diagrams up until now, though, because it was never removed. Progress on this level has been pretty quick, but there has not yet been any cultural material recovered.

End of Day Depths

BGS

NW-60cm NE-60cm

SE-60cm SW-60cm

9 February 2006

2006-28-08

02-30-07

While we went through an entire lot yesterday without finding any cultural material, today is made slightly better in knowing that it's not raining. The excavation depth from yesterday brings us to lot 7, so I'll just get in the final statistics for lot 6 now.

Final lot measurements

Soil: Clayey Silt

Cultural Material: None Found

Altitude BGS: NW-60cm (999.39) NE-60cm (999.39)

SE-60cm (999.39) SW-60cm (999.39) Centerpoint-60cm (999.39)

New lot

02-30-07

This lot has a similar soil so far. We have also found a few small pieces of ceramics or pigment stone. Marcello has identified them as crude pottery that are not diagnostically PreClassic. I just ran another soil test, and the dirt still qualifies as clayey silt. The tarp that was put up by the workers has also been removed to improve our ability to note soil color and find artifacts in the otherwise dark conditions.

Final lot measurements

Soil: Clayey Silt

Cultural Material: Ceramics (9)

Altitude BGS: NW-70cm (999.29) NE-70cm (999.29)

SE-70cm (999.29) SW-70cm (999.29) Centerpoint-70cm (999.29)

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02 - 30 - 08

Starting Altitude BGS: NW - 70cm (999.29) NE - 70cm (999.29)

SE - 70cm (999.29) SW - 70cm (999.29) Centerpoint - 70cm (999.29)

The directors stopped by my pit again and voiced their puzzlement concerning the clay-like soil in my area. Apparently Jim, the soil specialist, has a theory that some of the buildings acted as a dam to the water that rushed over the plaza during rain storms. That left most of the clay here and most of the rocks to the southeast where there is a slightly higher elevation. Ah, there is a soil change! The soil chart says that it is clayey sand, a material that is much softer and easier to dig. I've collected a sample of each type to test for the pH and so that Jim can take a closer look at it. Salvador just uncovered a few chunks of gray clay that he says is typical of water-based deposits. I bagged them for the directors, should that help to clarify their theories of water movement over the site. This lot contains no cultural material that we've found, but there's a wealth of geological data. At the northern edge of the excavation unit we found a small piece of carbon about 1cm to each side. It was bagged along with part of the clay around it.

Final lot measurements

Soil: Clayey silt / Clayey Sand

Cultural Material: None whatsoever, with some carbon of unknown origin.

Altitude BGS: NW - 80cm (999.19) NE - 80cm (999.19)

SE - 80cm (999.19) SW - 80cm (999.19) Centerpoint - ~~70~~⁷⁸cm (999.21)

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2006-28-10

02-30-09

Starting Altitudes BGS: NW-80cm (999.19) NE-80cm (999.19)
SE-80cm (999.19) SW-80cm (999.19) Centerpoint - 78cm (999.21)

Within 5 minutes of digging we uncovered more carbon, this time in the form of many little specks. I am amazed that Salvadore found it.

Finished for day: NW-80cm NE-80cm
SE-86cm SW-80cm

10 Feb 2006

2006 - 28 - 11

02 - 30 - 09

That infernal rain has returned! It woke me up this morning, and it hasn't stopped drizzling since. The trench shows no signs of it, but the ground is still very swampy. We've picked up where we left off yesterday in lot 9. With luck Jim will stop by for the pH tests he said he would bring out. Alright, we're ~~to~~ finding other pieces of pottery similar to those from lot 8, though most of them are smaller than my thumbnail. We're beginning to reach the point where other people started or found floors, so I can only hope we run into something more.

Final lot measurements

Soil: Clayey Sand

Cultural Material: Ceramics (2)

Altitude BGS: NW - 90cm (999.09) NE - 90cm (999.09)

SE - 90cm (999.09) SW - 90cm (999.09) Centerpoint - 90cm (999.09)

New lot

02 - 30 - 10

Starting Altitudes BGS: NW - 90cm (999.09) NE - 90cm (999.09)

SE - 90cm (999.09) SW - 90cm (999.09) Centerpoint - 90cm (999.09)

This trench took a while to begin because my workers helped out some of the TAs with cutting down a banana tree. The lot has been empty so far with the exception of a small carbon deposit at a depth of 94 cm BGS along the very edge of the eastern wall. It would seem that many of the others have already dug below the floors they found and are starting cross sections. Where is the floor here? If nothing else I performed the pH

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2006-28-12

02-30-10

tests on the last of the clayey silt and some of the clayey sand that we dug through soon after. The silt was about 6.5 while the sand was more like a 6.8.

~~Final lot measurements~~

~~Silt Clayey Sand~~

A note before I finish this lot: The southeastern portion is now the only section that is still very clay-like. The other three quadrants are what the workers call jimán, a sandy soil.

Final lot measurements

Soil: Clayey sand with beginning transition to jimán

Cultural Material: None, with a small carbon sample

Altitude BGS: NW-100cm (998.99) NE-100cm (998.99)

SE-100cm (998.99) SW-100cm (998.99) Centerpoint-99cm (999.00)

13 Feb 2006

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02-30-11

While Saturday was nice and sunny, my hopes that the day would be equally warm and dry is yet again thwarted by rain, clouds, and amazingly cold wind. Today we continue down to see if the clay deposit in the southeast corner continues, or if it will also give way to sandy soil.

Starting stakes BGS: NW: 100cm (998.99) NE: 100cm (998.99)
SE: 100cm (998.99) SW: 100cm (998.99)

The centerpoint measurements were primarily for making sure that the pit was even, so I won't keep recording them unless the excavation unit is particularly uneven. The soil sample taken at just below a meter has a pH of 6.5 and contains enough clay to make a ribbon of a few inches (making the 5cm mark for soil testing). Still, it has a lot more sand than the higher elevations. This lot contains a few small rocks, a few being about five more than the rare pebble in previous layers. At the very last centimeter of the lot some larger stones were just barely uncovered, so lot 12 may well contain a floor. I'll diagram what I can see so far.

Final lot measurements

Soil: Clayey Sand

Cultural Material: None Found

Altitude BGS: NW: 110cm (998.89) NE: 110cm (998.89)

SE: 110cm (998.89) SW: 110cm (998.89)

13 Feb 2006

2006-28-14

02-30-12

We're now starting to excavate the possible floor/overhead, though there's hope that it's the former.

Starting Altitudes BGS: NW: 110 cm (998.89) NE: 110 cm (998.89)

SE: 110 cm (998.89) SW: 110 cm (998.89)

There are a few small artifacts here, so far a piece of pottery and a piece of bajeaque. There are also a few pigment stones that Tom identified. Now we're finding a bunch of pigment stones, though some are not bagged just because they are so tiny. With pigment stones I'm holding onto anything larger than my pinkie nail, or about 1 cm in any dimension. The tarp was taken off right before I needed to join my student group to learn how to set up a long trench on a structure. It looks like my workers uncovered more small rocks in my absence, but no more cultural materials.

Final lot measurements

Soil: Clayey Sand

Cultural Material: Pigment Stone (12), Ceramics (2)

Altitude BGS: NW: 120 cm (998.79) NE: 120 cm (998.79)

SE: 120 cm (998.79) SW: 120 cm (998.79)

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02-30-13

Starting elevations: NW: 120 cm (998.79) NE: 120 cm (998.79)
SE: 120 cm (998.79) SW: 120 cm (998.79)

The weather today greets us with an overcast sky but no rain, so I really can't complain. We're presently digging down another 10 cm to find a higher concentration of rocks that might be considered a riverbed. Marcello has basically given up on a floor at this level, so we're trying to figure out where a floor may have been that we went through. The only likely candidate at present is a soil change that is visible in profile at about 25 cm below ground surface. We uncovered one pigment stone and then probed the ground to see how far down the soil goes before hitting rock. From ~~what~~ what I understand there are another thirty centimeters to go before hitting a "floor." We're about halfway through the lot and we're up to three pigment stones, though each is quite large compared to past finds in this excavation unit. Salvatore just found more carbon, so that is bagged in this lot as well.

Final lot measurements:

Soil: Clayey sand

Cultural Material: Pigment Stone (4), Carbon (1)

Final ~~lot~~ Attitude BGS: NW: 130 cm (998.69) NE: 130 cm (998.69)
SE: 130 cm (998.69) SW: 130 cm (998.69)

14 Feb 2006

2006-28-16

02-30-14

Orders from the top want us to keep digging until we either find the floor, riverbed, or my workers cannot escape from the pit without risking serious bodily harm. Apparently they're a pretty good judge of that, so I'll just wait for their sign to stop. We're ending this set of 10 cm, but I'm considering just extending this lot just because it's a lot of the same and we haven't found anything besides a pigment stone. Ah well, the workers need a break, so I'll just do the paperwork.

Final lot measurements

Soil: Clayey Sand

Cultural Material: Pigment Stone (1)

Final Altitude BGS: ^{NW} 140cm (998.59) NE: 140cm (998.59)

SE: 140cm (998.59) SW: 140cm (998.59)

New lot

02-30-15

Alright, there are large rocks that were starting to hit, and ~~the~~ the directors are telling me to finish this level, draw out the bottom and the stratigraphy of two sides, then call it quits. Everything is now cleaned up, and I'm just taking pictures of the finished pit now. There are two north photos (taken from the south) and three ~~west~~ west photos (taken from the east). I'll start drawing once I officially close this lot.

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2006-28-17

02-30-15

Final lot measurements

Soil: Clayey sand

Cultural Material: Ceramics (1)

Final Altitudes BGS: NW: 150 cm (998.49) NE: 150 cm (998.49)

SE: 150 cm (999.49) SW: 152 cm (998.47)

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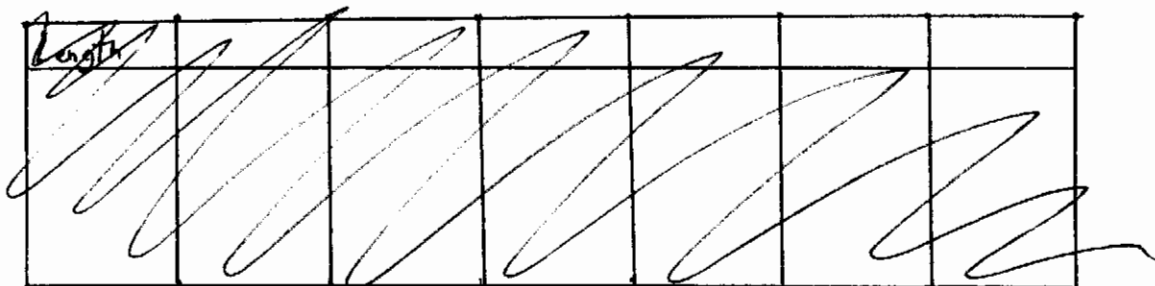
2006 - ~~20~~²⁸ - 018

02-30-15

Alright the first thing I did upon getting back was to finish measurements of my west wall drawing and darken all of the lines. I'll hunt down one of the higher-ups to check over it and then give me instructions on what to do next. I expect I'll be working one of the axial trenches on structure 10; but we'll cross that bridge when we get to it.

~~Final Notes~~

~~Notes: Architecture test pit (2-30)~~



Right, reading is fundamental to understanding why some charts are included in the field manual. The one I started above is for architecture, which I lacked. Take 2:

Final Notes

The purpose of this test pit was to find a possible floor to either the plaza or the nearby structure 10. It was also intended to investigate the source of moderate phosphate levels from soil tests run for the entire site. Subops were assigned to students from a selection of possible locations for test pits ranging from phosphate hotspots

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2006-28-19

Final Notes, cont.

to null zones. The test pit was excavated in 10 cm lots, a distance chosen arbitrarily, and recorded soil changes as they occurred in a lot instead of starting a new lot with each change.

This test pit had minimal cultural material, the majority being uncovered in lots 2 and 3 (10-30 cm BGS, ~~999.89~~ 999.89-999.69 m absolute altitude). Artifacts in these layers included obsidian, ceramics, pigment stone, and some small pieces of bajareque. Lower lots contained far lower concentrations of cultural material ranging from none to a mix of ceramics and pigment stone to small carbon samples.

There were four soil layers, starting with a compact layer of ~~clayey~~ clayey silt with many roots and a small amount of humus/topsoil mixed in. The thickness of this layer ranged from 8 to 16 cm in thickness and was a very dark grayish brown. Layer B was even more compact and contained fewer roots. The clayey silt here was very sticky and was a dark brown. ~~The~~ Layer C consisted of very dense and compact clay, though field tests still determined it to be clayey silt. This layer was the thickest, ranging from 40-120 cm BGS (999.59 - 998.79 absolute altitude). The color was brown, and the nature of the soil made it clump together unless broken apart by hand. Layer D was clayey sand with many (5%) small inclusions which were well sorted and may just be part of the sandy nature of the soil. The color was brown, and the soil was very moist, possibly from ground water. ~~pebble inclusions~~ Rock inclusions accounted for another 5%.

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Final Notes, cont.

~~The~~ Lots 2 and 3 were both part of soil layer B, and the concentration of cultural material dropped abruptly upon reaching the C layer. The C layer contained a few sherds of pottery and the majority of the carbon samples, but no bajareque or obsidian. Layer D contained a very high number of pigment stones (as many as 12 in one lot), but no other cultural material besides the occasional piece of ceramics.

Theories for this section of plaza included a thought that the uneven surface of the plaza area allowed sediment to be deposited and moved with the heavy rains. Sub op 30 is right in front of structure 10 which may have acted as a sort of dam in stopping the move of sediments. That would help to explain the very thick layers of clay, but does nothing to explain the absence of a cobble floor which many others uncovered well above this test pit's final absolute elevation. The only part of the excavation that may have contained a floor was right above the C layer. The very hard packed clay may have served as a floor, and the high concentration of cultural material could be ~~the~~ remains from ~~there~~ when the possible floor was actually used.

15 Feb 2006

2006-28-21

02-42-01 - A

After taking far too long to set up the stakes, we are finally starting on Subop 42. Because the EDM is broken, I don't believe I'll be able to get any absolute elevations for a while. Considering I'm only about three meters from my old test pit (02-30), I can guess that the starting elevation is about 1000.5. The eight meter trench climbs straight up the south side of structure 10 and ends upon reaching the assumed top.

The soil here is humusy and completely taken over by roots, worms, and spiders. Because we started late in the day, we probably will not get past this delightful review of Honduran flora and fauna. Ah well, it's refreshing to start a new subop.

Daily depth: NW: 10 cm

NE: 14 cm

SE: 10 cm

SW: 10 cm

That works as a lot, as well.

16 Feb 2006

2006-28-22

02-42-02-A

It is a new day that looks to have nice weather, so we're digging while we can. I'll be cleaning the bottom of my test pit in a little bit to make things look a bit nicer for when some officials come to visit later today. In the meantime we've uncovered a sherd of pottery already. The soil is a dark brown as it was in the nearby test pit, but roots and small stones are rather numerous. There are also some larger (≈ 15 cm) stones that are sticking out from the unit's walls, and we're leaving them in place for now.

Final lot measurements

Soil: Clayey silt

Cultural Material: Ceramics (6)

Altitude BGS: NW: 20 cm

NE: 20 cm

SW: 20 cm

SE: 20 cm

New lot

02-42-03-A

This layer has a bit of bajareque and ceramics so far, and the number of roots is decreasing. The roots are now almost absent and there are a number of larger stones at the very bottom of this lot. I'll see about drawing them in on the lot form. Among the ceramics is a base to what Ellen and Marcello suspect was

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02-42-03-A

a Square sensor.

Final lot measurements

Soil: Clayey silt

Cultural Material: Ceramics (12), Bajareque (4)

Altitude BGS: NW: 30cm

NE: 30cm

SW: 30cm

SE: 30cm

New lots

02-42-04-A

This lot has many stones, and Marcello suspects I may have a floor. The plan is now to finish this lot and move up to unit B. There have already been a few larger pieces of pottery along with a couple more chunks of bajareque. There are not a great number of rocks at the base of the lot; many that we ran into were exceptionally small and broke very easily. The base is, however, very hard clay like the possible floor I got in the test pit. We'll move up the structure for now.

Final lot measurements

Soil: Clayey silt

Cultural Material: Ceramics (10), Bajareque (6)

Altitudes BGS: NW: 40cm

NE: 40cm

SW: 40cm

SE: 40cm

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2006-28-24

02-42-0⁵~~2~~ - B

This unit has stones visible on the surface, primarily at the north end. We took a picture of the trench at the end of the week to make sure that there are no unnoticed changes over the weekend.

20 Feb 2006

2006-28-125

02-42-0⁵-B

Ah we are so fortunate as to get more rain, always a good way to boost morale. The excavation units appear to be ~~the~~ no different with the exception of acquiring a number of leaves and some moisture. Digging is just revealing the usual roots in the first lot. Just learned about a secretarial error on my part - the lots continue in number even in a different excavation unit. I went back and changed it where I needed to. This lot is complete now, and it underwent a ~~ex~~change in soil type from humus to clayey silt just like in previous top lots.

Final lot measurements

Soil: Humus / Clayey Silt

Cultural Material: None

Altitude BGS: NW: 10cm (1000.15) NE: 10cm (1000.07)

SW: 10cm (999.89)

SE: 10cm (999.71)

Note that the NW corner measurement was taken approximately 20 cm south of the corner because of the large stone there.

New lot

02-42-06-B

Fortunately, banana roots don't seem to go

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02-42-06-B

very deep. We still have some roots, but nothing too difficult to dig through. There are also a few bits of pottery and at least one pigment stone so far. Yes, that appears to be all that we found, though there may be a slight lightening of the soil that will require a little more excavating to verify. It would not surprise me, as I look between the two excavation units, because EU A seems to lighten at the same point.

Final lot measurements

Soil: Clayey silt

Cultural Material: Ceramics (3), Pigment Stone (1)

Altitude BGS: NW: 20cm (1000.05) NE: 25cm (999.92)

SW: 20cm (999.79)

SE: 20cm (999.81)

It seems that we went a little far down in the northeast because of a new rock in that corner. Ah well.

New Lot

02-42-07-B

More roots and clayey soil with very little cultural material. The soil is becoming more clayey and compact as we dig deeper; and I'm not sure if we have a floor. The

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2006-28-27

02-42-07-B

color did get lighter as I had guessed. There are also a few (about four so far) inclusions of powdered / crushed / disintegrating bajareque or ceramics that are only showing up as little pockets of broken pigments. More pottery is being found now, and as we reach the end of this lot a few tips of rocks are beginning to peek out from the soil. Perhaps we have a floor coming up.

Final lot measurements

Soil: Clayey silt

Cultural Material: Ceramics (11)

Altitudes BGS: NW: 32cm (999.93) NE: 30cm (999.87)

SW: 30cm (999.67) SE: 30cm (999.81)

New lot

02-42-08-B

Well, some of the rocks were very thin, so these have been removed. On the other hand, more rocks are showing up in this lot. There are also many more pieces of pottery here than I've found in any other lot. We even have our first piece of obsidian since the beginning of the test pit from the beginning of the field season. We do not necessarily have a wall or floor yet, but the amount of cultural material is reassuring, especially because even more of the rocks are proving to be very small.

Final lot measurements: Soil: Clayey silt

Cultural Material: Ceramics (28), Bajareque (05), Obsidian (1)

Altitudes BGS: NW: 40cm (999.85) NE: 47cm (999.70)

SW: 40cm (999.70)

SE: 40cm (999.70)

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02-42-09-C

Another fine day to dig with the look of a sunny afternoon. We're moving up an excavation unit, and we actually started clearing surface rocks until halted by the discovery of a tarantula that we showed to a few others and then released. Now we can actually get to digging. There are a great number of rather large (40 cm in some dimensions) rocks on the surface, so I'll keep all but the most ~~un~~unstable in to draw.

Final lot measurements

Soil: Humus

Cultural Material: None

Altitude BGS: NW: 19cm (1000.57) NE: 10cm (1000.48)

SW: 10cm (1000.15) SE: 10cm (1000.07)

New lot

02-42-10-C

This lot will be done in stages climbing up the structure to remove several pieces of stone at a time or clean around stones to determine their importance. We're starting with the small rocks in the center of the south edge of the EU. These rocks came out easily, and there is little that I can see below them. I'll ~~probe~~probe the "bottom" third of the trench in a moment. No, nothing immediately below that layer, time to move up to the next third. We've uncovered another slanted stone under the soil on the left, making for a pretty constant slant on the left side of the EU. To get down to the lowest of the rocks we're

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2006-28-29

02-42-10-C

Making this lot a 20cm. Having excavated back a bit more, we have found what may be our wall with a step in front of it. The wall portion is more obvious, the ~~gap~~ step being a matter of how a few of the stones in front of it are. The majority of the tumble rocks have been removed now, and it's looking like we have a very clear step. We will now just clean the floor a bit and I'll have a chance to draw. The step rises about 35 cm above the present bottom of the excavation unit, the southern edge of which is 30 cm BGS. Above it is tumble that is yet unexcavated and some soil. Next step is to excavate the last 10 cm before the step and see if some of the rocks that are peeling out are significant.

Final lot measurements

Soil: Clayey silt

Cultural Material: Ceramics (5), Bejareque (6), Carbon (1)

Altitude BGS: NW: 72cm (999.32) NE: 70cm (999.88)

SW: 30cm (999.95) SE: 30cm (999.87)

New (small) lot

02-42-11-C

Here we're just clearing down a bit in the southern section to see what these rocks are all about. From the look of things we have a bit of floor or a bit of rather flat tumble. I'll draw it out, but then we're set to continue to EU D.

2006 21 Feb 2006

2006 - 28 - 30

02-42-11-C

Final lot measurements

Soil: Clayey silt

Cultural Material: Bajareque (2), CARBON (1)

Altitude BGS: NW: 73cm (999.31) NE: 73cm (999.87)

SW: 35cm (999.9) SE: 37cm (999.8)

New lot

02-42-12-D

We're now heading up the structure to find the next step, terrace, or wall. What we discovered is that the western line of the trench appears to mark the end/edge of our staircase, as is evidenced by a huge pocket of dirt where a rock was expected in the second step's region. The other surprise is that the second step seems to be supported entirely by soil, not rock. We're now looking above this very level line of rocks.

End of Day

Final lot measurements

Soil: Clayey Soil

Cultural Material: None

Altitude BGS: NW: 47cm (1000.96) NE: 37cm (1000.82)

SW: 47cm (1000.29) SE: 37cm (1000.2)

22 Feb 2006

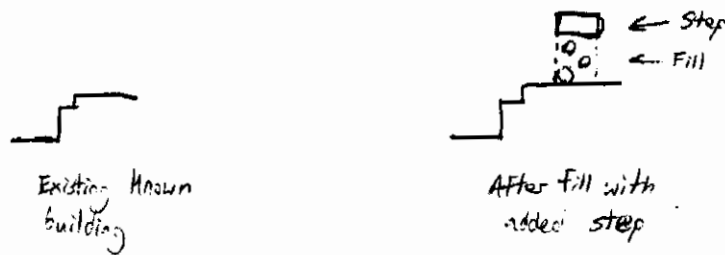
2006-28-31

02-~~42~~42-13-E

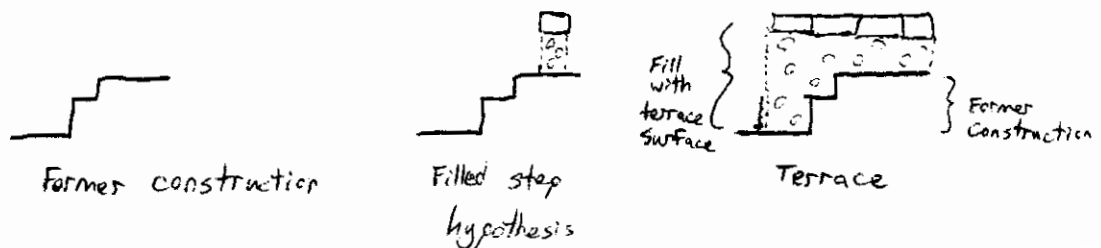
Alright, we discussed our findings with Ellen and some of the assistants, and there appear to be a few options concerning what happened here. I'll sketch out some of the possibilities.

The first thought is that we have some very confusing tumble that happened to fall on other tumble to, by chance, land in a straight flat line. It's not the soundest theory, but it's a possibility that should be listed.

The second idea is that this step was a late addition to the building that was added onto fill.

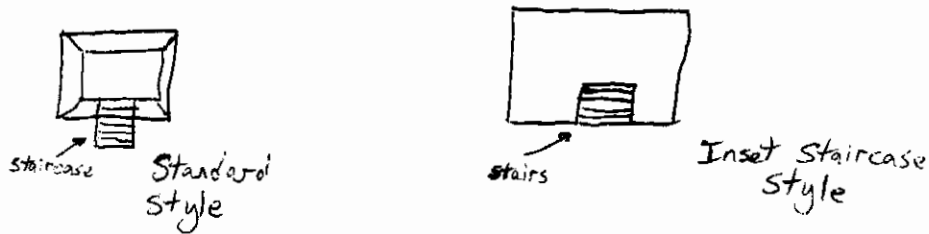


Another thought is that the solid stairs that we have are from an earlier construction that was wholly covered by a full terrace. We get the idea that this may be the case because there are some large stones that are visible in the eastern and western walls that are at the same level as the "floating" step.

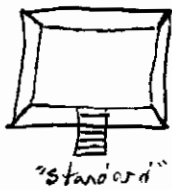


02-42-~~13~~ 13-E

A Fourth hypothesis is that this is part of an inset staircase. The idea is a bit of a new one to me, but there was some talk about the staircase being set back into the structure instead of jutting out like other platforms.

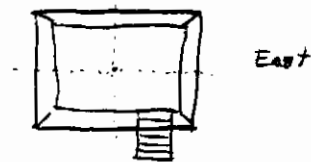


I don't see how structure 10 could be an inset style yet, especially because of the apparent position (horrible spelling there) of the staircase. Because the trench's west wall appears to also be the edge of the staircase, it seems like the stairs are displaced to the east.

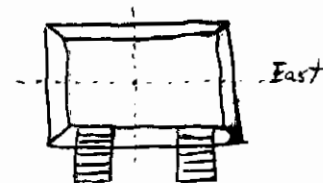


The fact that our trench is slightly to the east of the building's center only means the staircase is even farther to the side.

Then again, we have not found the eastern edge of the stairs, so I can only guess here. I'm not too familiar with the architecture here, but there could even be some sort of double stair thing, should the stairs indeed stop before reaching the centerpoint/axis



What we may be getting



A long shot guess

22 Feb 2006

2006 - 28 - 33

02-42-13-E

So far we've just been clearing back in EU E to the level of the "third step" until we either have a better idea of what's happening or we find some other piece of architecture. Right now it's all fill. We'll now move up to EU F to see if we can find any more architectural levels or building facade. Ellen suspects that the stones we're finding are fill behind a step or building face that fell.

Final lot measurements

Soil: Humus and Clayey Silt

Cultural Material: None Found

Altitude BGS: NW: 98cm (1000.97)

NE: 73cm (1001.05)

SW: 57cm (1000.84)

SE: 37cm (1000.82)

New lot

02-42-14-F

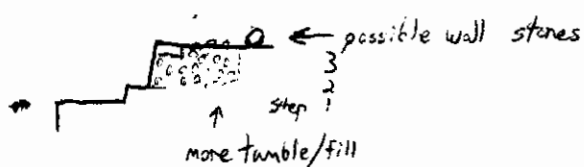
More confusing tangle here with possible fill here. At this point we aren't entirely sure what to think because we've found no definite facade higher up, and there are no lines that we can find. The lots are now very deep as we dig down until we find architecture or a change in the soil. So far the soil has not changed, an observation which confounds the fill idea somewhat.

23 Feb 2006

2006-28-34

02-42-15-D/E

This EU is to level out the area behind the third "step" to see if there is any intended surface that I have been missing. The lot should be only 10 cm or so, and it extends back to a somewhat straight line of slanted stones that starts about 35 cm into ~~the~~ EU E. This section was just excavated, and there has been no clarification of issues. While my workers start on lot 16, back in EU C, I shall continue digging here to see if one particular line of stones is a possible wall. With some excavation it appears that there is no Wall Foundation just under or in front of the stone



line. There is, however, a fairly level line of stones immediately behind the wall along with some stacked stones that seem frozen in the act of falling. Ellen is

pretty sure we're dealing with the actual wall there, and what is behind is fill.

New lot

02-42-16-0C

This is an attempt to even out the lot in front of the stairs while I was digging around lots D and E. The lot uncovered an enormous number of artifacts ranging from ceramics and bajareque to obsidian and chert. ~~It~~ It also uncovered a lower layer of stone that heightens our first step by about 15 cm.

23 Feb 2006

2006-28-35

02-42-16-C

Final lot measurements

Soil: Humus and Clayey Silt

Cultural Material: CARBON (2), Ceramics (69), Bijareque (63),
Obsidian (3), Chert (5)

Altitude BGS: N W: 70³cm (999.31)

NE: 70³cm (999.87)

SW: 45cm (999.8)

SE: 45cm (999.72)

New lot

02-42-17-G

We continue to climb and remove Fall and possible fill while looking for the next tier. There are a few stones that are stacked on top of each other and are slanting back inwards toward the building, but I'm not yet sure about whether or not they're part of the structure

24 Feb 2006

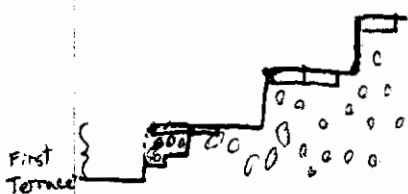
2006 - 28 - 36

02-42-17-G

Exactly what I'm supposed to do at this point is a little suspect. We have a bunch of stacked rocks which may or may not have been arranged purposefully, and intersecting it at various points is another collection of semi-straight stones going horizontally.

Having discussed the situation with the directors, we believe that (or at least made an educated speculation that) there were three terraces in this building, each of which rose about a meter and had platforms that were about a meter deep. This is based on the first "steps" which could just as well be a terrace as mentioned in a hypothesis mentioned earlier. Following the possible terraces leads us to the aforementioned horizontal line of stones, so we'll call that the third terrace for now. We're now pushing back to unit

H to see if we can find any signs of superstructure.



1002.35
 NW: 42 cm
 SW: 0 cm
 NE: 36 cm
 SE: 0 cm
 1002.38

New lot

02-42-18-H

So far this lot and unit have been exactly as was expected by Ellen and Marcello: Full of Fall and without intact architecture. We're going to see about

27 Feb 2006

2006 - 28 - 307

02-42-18-H

leveling this down to where the third terrace
may have been. We will then start up with a
trench heading west to try and find something that
is still intact. So far we're meeting with no
success and will likely have to expand west.

End of day

27 Feb 2006

2006 - 28 - 38

02-42-18-H

Alright, today I have a new worker and am supposed to have two excavation units going at once. I'll get to that once I set out the side branch to this trench to the west and then fill in the values for my attitudes/elevations for the trench. The EDM was up and working on Friday, so we now have something beyond BGS measurements.

I've been setting up a trench on the east side of structure 10 all morning, and progress has been about as slow as when I tried to set up the south side trench. The other two workers have been working on units I and J, the two units directly adjacent and to the west of units G and H. Both are in the works as they look for a better preserved sign of the suggested third terrace.

My assignment for trench setup was just expanded. Now I need to set up the trench all the way across structure 10, not just up the east side. Expect minimal notes today.

End of lot

NW: 78cm

NE: 70cm

SW: 42cm

SE: 36cm

28 Feb 2006

2006 - 28 - 39

02-42-19-I

This lot contains almost wholly rocky fill with practically no stacked rocks. Many of the stones are very large (40 cm wide and up to 20 cm thick) and cross into other units, so they were left in place for the time being. Final cleanup of this lot and the large stones which are being associated with fill will follow a general subop cleanup. The string is all out of place and many of the stakes have lost their lives to crumbling trench sides. Further, the later units are still fill infested ^{with stones} to the point where we cannot be entirely certain what is going on.

Final lot measurements

Soil: Mucus and clayey

Cultural Material:

Altitudes BGS

02-42-20-J

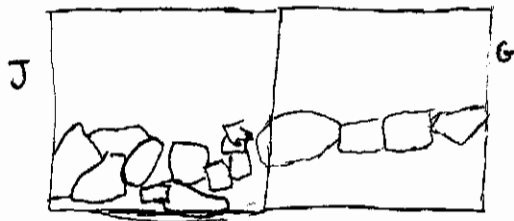
This unit was also excavated while I was busy setting up the long axial trench. It is also quite full of rocks, but some of them actually suggest architecture. The lower (southern) portion of the unit contains a line of partially stacked rocks which ~~are~~ Marcello

28 Feb 2006

2006-28-40

02-42-20 - J

believes are part of a fallen wall. This combines well with the terrace ~~theory~~^{hypothesis} because the wall lines up with the possible third terrace from unit G.



This little sketch is just to show how the two lines appear to be one and the same. This portion is pretty clear, but the northern section still has many large rocks which will be removed later today.

We are now removing the stones which were originally in units G, H, I, and J, excepting those which I diagrammed earlier. There are plenty of stones underneath, granted, but I only had them removed down to approximately the level of the third terrace. We're just clearing now, and afterwards I can send two of them to make the champa over the next excavation unit.

Ah, there's an interesting find: a chunk of a metate about 5cm wide at the base and extends into

28 Feb 2006

2006-28-41

02-42-20-J

a triangular prism shape about 4 cm deep. This seems a little odd, considering the building/structure was presumed to have some pretty respectable religious/ritual significance as gathered from the number of censurs we've uncovered. Around the piece of ground stone was quite a bit of ceramics as well, although that's a relative count compared to how much was found in this section of the structure before. These were found in Unit H. I should really see about separating these lots again. A good deal of ~~lot~~ ^{unit} J's notes were really part of the cleanup that is lot 21 (or perhaps lots 21-23).

Ah, it's fill. That would explain it.

Well, the notes for the cleanup lots are pretty similar: We removed rocks and dirt that was tumble or fill ~~related to~~ ~~in~~ that was related to the third terrace and the superstructure above. Some cultural material was uncovered, primarily in units H, I, and J. Otherwise all units involved were excavated to the level about 3 cm below the third terrace.

1 Mar 2006

2006-28-42

02-42-21-K

We're moving west again, this time from unit J. This makes my path slither along like a slightly confused snake. Observe:



Admittedly L is not yet being excavated, but it is already laid out and ready. The stones that are uncovered, along with that which remains in the west wall almost suggests that the wall of the terrace was two stones/courses thick. This would make sense considering the thickness of the first step of the first terrace. On the other hand, that which I'm seeing as a second layer of thickness may just be well-mannered fill that happened to land in a semi-organized manner. Actually, it looks like any additional thickness would need to be in front if it were to line up with the other probable wall lines I found. The layer I thought I saw was too far behind. There's also a possible other line above the aforementioned "wall" stones that could be something. We'll clear ~~it~~ in front of it to check, noting that there are a few associated tumble stones that are being removed to see.

Nope, a few were stacked partially on each other, but it was far too haphazard to be architecture besides fill.

1 Mar 2006

2006-28-43

02-42-21-K

The clearing process did, however, uncover more of the stones along the third terrace line. It is now quite definite to me that there was a wall or terrace here, probably the third. Ceramics finds in this square have been few, but it seems like most cultural material found around this section is related to fill; I would guess that that suggests secondary context, so I'm not worried or surprised by the frequency.

NW: 58cm

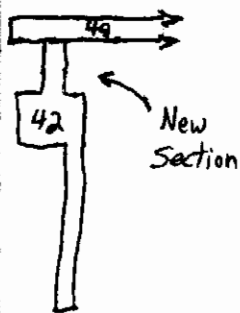
SW: 15cm

2 Mar 2006

2006-28-44

02-42-22-L

We're moving along the trench to at least get things cleaned up and leveled off. This is also the day we start subop 49, the axial trench that runs from the east side of the structure to its center. I'll be going between multiple sheets to record both simultaneously. For now the workers are removing stone and dirt down to the level of the other upper units. There have been a few artifacts in the lot, including a tiny bit of toba. Other than its just rocky fill. Here's the plan for this subop: we shall continue up the structure to its center from unit I to unite with subop 49. It looks like there will be about ~~about~~ 3 units required to accomplish such. The



terrace wall isn't going to get much more clear, so we'll check to see if it's all fill in the center.

Ah, here's a development - we seem to have a wall line at the southern edge of this unit. Its tumble is quite visible, and there quite a few stones that are stacked to suggest its presence. We will now excavate down to about 20-25 cm BGS to see if more remains of the platform which this potential fourth terrace led to.

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22 Mar 2006

2006-28-47 (cont. 44)

02-42-22-L

Final lot measurements

Soil: Clayey silt and topsoil

Cultural Material: CARBON (1), Ceramics (6), Bajareque (2)
Toba (2)

Altitudes BGS: NW: 62cm

NE: 82cm

SW: 65cm

SE: 62cm

New lot

02-42-23-M

Now we're moving north to meet up with subof 49 with new purpose. I'll check in with this unit a bit later.

It looks like there was some obsidian and bone in this unit along with some ceramics. Any floor level that is here is doing a grand job of hiding itself, as there are primarily cluttered stones here. A few are a bit more level, but nothing is jumping out as being more purposeful. I'm going to move up to N for now and I'll return to M later when I have a better idea of what's happening.

Final lot measurements: Soil: Clayey Silt

Cultural Material: Ceramics (6), Obsidian (1), Bone (1)

→ To p. 50

2 Mar 2006

2006 - 28 - 45

02 - 49 - 01 - A

This unit is at the base of the structure and the first lot reminds me of the first unit of subop 42: topsoil with roots and a few fallen rocks. Cultural Material is minimal, though a sizeable chunk of chert was uncovered near the surface. I believe here we are digging down 15 cm because the initial lots in front of the building tend to be very heavy with roots and less so with artifacts - just a personal convention for saving on paperwork. Nothing more in this lot

Final lot measurements

Soil: Topsoil with clayey ~~and~~ silt qualities

Cultural Material: Chert (1)

Altitude BGS: NW: 18 cm (999.87)

NE: 15 cm (999.77)

SW: 18 cm (999.88)

SE: 15 cm (999.86)

New lot

02 - 49 - 02 - A

The soil is lightening into a milk chocolate, and pottery is starting to show up more frequently. Of interest is a vessel foot that appears to have eyes. Ellen is somewhat convinced that it is Post Classic, which would throw off some of the dates at this site.

2 Mar 2006

2006-28-46

02-49-02-A

Either way, they took it off to examine with our ceramics expert. This is about all in this lot. No stones were found, but my workers report that the soil is getting much harder. This may be something of a floor, but I'll head down another 10-15 cm to be certain.

Final lot measurements

Soil: Clayey silt, compact

Cultural Material: Ceramics (15), Bajareque (1), Pigment stone (1),

Post Classic ceramics (1)

Altitude BGS: NW: 33cm (999.72) NE: 30cm (999.62)

SW: 33cm (999.73) SE: 30cm (999.71)

New lot

03-49-03-A

Unless we really strike something interesting, this will be our last lot in this unit, floor or not. We can move on to unit B afterwards. As it is, there was far less in this lot and no particular change in the soil. It is quite possible I went through a floor level in lot 02, so I feel fine in moving up a unit.

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2 Mar 2006

2006-28-48 (cont. 46)

02-49-03-A

Final lot measurements

Soil: Clayey silt

Cultural Material: Ceramics (12), Chert (2), Obsidian (1)

Altitude BGS: NW: 45cm

NE: 45cm

SW: 45cm

SE: 45cm

New lot

02-49-04-B

We're moving up and just getting through the final lot for the day by clearing out the roots 'n' humus layer of lot B. Nothing was here that wasn't expected; we found roots and humus with no cultural material. There are some large rocks that are visible at the top of the next layer, possibly fall from the structure.

Final lot measurements

Soil: Humus with clayey silt

Cultural Material: None

Altitude BGS: NW: 15cm

NE: 15cm (999.90)

SW: 15cm

SE: 15cm (999.91)

3 Mar 2006

2006-28-149

02-49-05 - B

The lot was looking pretty empty until we reached the lighter and more compact layer. Here there were more pieces of ceramics and some obsidian, notably with differing levels of opacity / opaqueness (what the word is). Since we did hit the soil change and past experience has shown that there is very little under the initial soil change, I am going to move on. IF we need to return to this later, we can, but right now it looks like it will be the same as 02-49-03 which only had a few small fragments. Chances are that we'll take this down again when we level out EU C.

Final lot measurements

Soil: Clayey silt

Cultural Material:

Altitude BGS: NW: 30cm

NE: 30cm

SW: 30cm

SE: 30cm

New lot

02-49-06 - C

So far we have only encountered fall rocks and soil - no artifacts and nothing resembling architecture. This pattern continued all throughout the lot and unit, revealing only a few numbers of fallen stones. As we continued through the lot more artifacts were uncovered, but no architecture.

Final lot measurements.

Soil: Clayey silt

Cultural Material:

Altitude BGS:

3 Mar 2006

2006 - 28 - 50

02-42-24-N

Here we dig to find any sign of a floor or platform. So far we have been luckless in this endeavor (especially in unit M), so we search in N to make sure we aren't missing anything. We're still on the top layer of this unit, having only removed a few rocks, and we are finding large pieces of toba and obsidian. I have to wonder if this is perhaps the floor level and we somehow missed it in other places. The distribution of artifacts was quite regular in M, so there was no impression of there being a floor with concentrated artifact finds in a single depth range.

The directors believe that this is the floor as well. It has nearly complete coverage with rather flat rocks that are still pretty levelly placed. We are happy with this and are going on to the next and final unit - O.

New lot

02-42-25-0

This shall be a shallow lot and unit. Like N, the floor is merely 20cm beneath the surface.

Ack, forgot previous lot closing

02-42-24-N FINAL lot measurements

Soil: Humus with clayey qualities

Cultural Material: Ceramics (9), Chest (1), Obsidian (1),
Toba (2)

Altitudes BGS: NW: 25cm

NE: 13cm

SW: 10cm

SE: 6cm

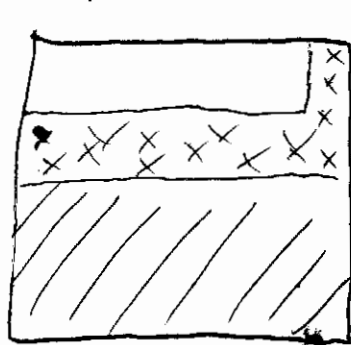
Right, sorry about that

3 Mar 2006

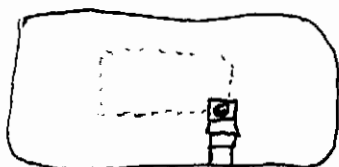
2006 - 28 - 51

02-42-25-0

Initially there were no surprises here; the floor was appearing without incident until we excavated the northernmost section. The floor was not to be found, and we only discovered a straight east-west wall line with about 20 cm of soil between the line and the unit's north border. Looking back, we can see that there is a break in what we thought were completely floor stones. One worker's suggestion is that it is a wall line that would mean ~~mean~~ that the few rocks that were uncovered in the north portion would make a building corner. What was up



- NE
- = Tierra
- ⊗ = Muro?
- ▨ = Piso



Structure 10

- ⊗ = Unit 0
- ⋮ = Possible Building Lines

here? What makes me really wonder is that the corner turns in such a way that it is really plausible to have a building in the center. I allowed the workers to excavate the 15 cm that is unclaimed by either support to the north. It shall be unit P, the extremely thin.

Final lot measurements

Soil

Cultural Material

Altitude BGS: NW: 45 cm

SW: 13 cm

NE: 7 cm

SE: 0 cm

6 Mar 2006

2006 - 28 - 52

02-49-07-D

Today we continue excavating up the side of structure 10 after some weekend rain. The soil is a little damp, but otherwise there is no sign of the past day's weather. This lot contains many stones in the top few centimeters that could be tumble or a sign of architecture at a lower level. We'll see. For now Roberto is cleaning up the previous subop for drawing later today. Only subop 49 is being expanded for now.

Drawing was just started, and I suspect that my record-keeping of this subop will rapidly deteriorate as I spend most of my time depicting the stygian ascent of subop 42. As little of anything like architecture is showing up, we are ~~then~~ digging back and removing stones as we go.

Find lot measurements

Soil: Clayey Silt

Cultural Material:

Altitude BGS: NW: ~~74~~⁷⁴ cm (1000.19) NE: 62 cm (999.79)
SW: ~~83~~⁸³ cm (1000.20) SE: 66 cm (999.99)

02-49-08-E

I'm noticing a pattern as far as soil goes on this structure, partly from a review of soil changes in the drawing of subop 42 - after hitting architecture or heavy fall the O Horizon gradually disappears. The same is true in 49, as we have had no change in the soil after unit C. I need to take a look at it again when the light is better, but I think the O Horizon is the one that is disappearing. Unit E holds a few stones that may be significant, but

7 Mar 2006

2006 - 28 - 53

02-49-08-E

nothing is jumping out at my workers or me. We're moving on for now.

Final lot measurement

Soil: Clayey silt

Cultural Material:

Altitude BGS: NW: 90cm (1000.39)

NE: 74cm (1000.21)

SW: 92cm (1000.36)

SE: 83cm (1000.20)

End of Day

New lot

02-49-09-F

More of the usual here, so I'm back to finishing up my drawings for a while. Shooting elevations for my architecture later today will also keep me from this subop for quite a while.

My, how things can happen while I'm gone. The points are all shot and named after the seven deadly sins. In the meantime my workers found and cleaned a very nicely preserved wall. This was the majority of their day, so tomorrow we will clean the wall some more, number the stones, and take units D, E, and F down to the level of unit C.

Final Lot Measurements

Soil: Clayey ~~silt~~ Silt

Cultural Material: Ceramics (10), Bajareque (2)

Altitude: NW: 114cm (1000.56)

NE: 90cm (1000.39)

SW: 114cm (1000.53)

SE: 92cm (1000.36)

End of Day

8 Mar 2006

2006-28-54

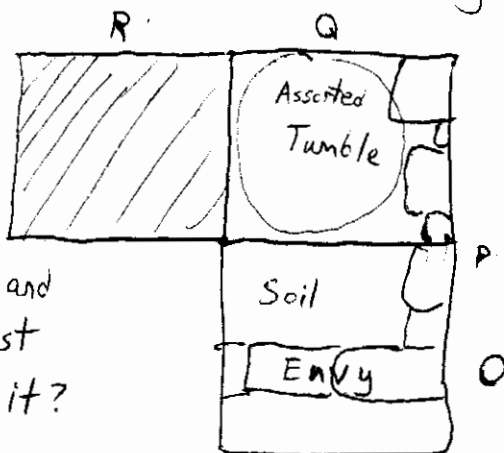
02-42-26-Q

When ~~we~~ I started drawing, the last two units of subop 42 were unexcavated, having been claimed from subop 49 for pursuing the possible wall/corner (Envy). The wall appears to continue back as expected, though the "interior" is cluttered with fall. I'll leave that for now and excavate a portion of unit R. My apologies, my mind still seems a little scattered from yesterday's drawing; we have at this point excavated unit Q and there is much fall. I have just been advised by Marcello to dig down through the fall and determine the exact nature of this proposed wall. It may be that Envy is really just a floor. Because I have more workers, they are also excavating unit R at present.

Simultaneous lot

02-42-27-R

Pretty quickly it was apparent that this is a floor. What is confusing is that it seems to leave a 70cm gulf between the walls and the floor section. Allow me to illustrate, keeping in mind that the entirety of ~~the~~ unit R somehow happens to be a floor while Q is tumble and a possible wall. Is all of Envy actually supposed to be a floor or platform while the soil and blasted tumble of Q and P are just from a previously unknown looters' pit? We shall see.



8 Mar 2006

2006-28-55

02-42-26-Q continued

Aha! How tricky! Q's tumble was hiding a lower level of the floor. Up here the floor is composed of multiple courses of stones (flat ones, mind you) that may just pass for very neat fill or previous construction, though the last is unlikely in my mind. So the floor surface seems to be determined by R, while the lower course/level/fill is apparent in unit Q. There was still no sign of either of these levels in unit P. Ellen and Marcello took a look at it and want us to move to S, directly to the west of O and P.

Final lot measurements 02-42-26-Q

Soil: Humusy Clayey silt (sounds a little confusing, I admit)

Cultural Material: Ceramics (3)

Altitude BGS: NW: 40cm

NE: 13cm

SW: 40cm

SE: 13cm

Final lot measurements 02-42-27-R

Soil: Mix of Humus and Clayey silt

Cultural Material: Ceramics (4), Obsidian (2)

Altitude BGS: NW: 23cm

NE: 23cm

~~NW~~ SW: 17cm

SE: 21cm

8 Mar 2006

2006 - 28 - 56

02-49-10-D

Here we are leveling out the base of the trench between unit C and Zeal, our wall. I suspect that this will be a routine operation that will kick up a few more artifacts and help us find the base of the wall. Units D, E, and F (lots 10, 11, and 12 respectively) are being run simultaneously, and notes for these lots will be combined unless we find something out of the ordinary. So far everything is going normally with the exception of the immense amount of carbon we are finding. Some was recovered from next to the wall, and three different pockets of carbon were found on the east edge of E. Right, make that four, two of them being quite large samples. Now five. The end of the day is drawing near, so I shall be content with stopping lot 11 partway through.

Final lot measurements - 02-49-10-D

Soil: Clayey Silt

Cultural Material: Ceramics (14), Bajareque (4)

Altitude BGS: NW: 98cm

NE: 64cm

SW: 106cm

SE: 68cm

End of Day

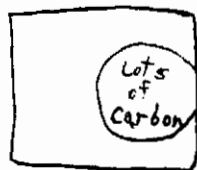
9 Mar 2006

2006-28-57

02-49-11-E

The carbon in this level comes in large deposits of small to medium chunks (ranging from tiny flecks in high concentrations to thumbnail sized fragments) mixed with ceramics and bajareque. All of it has been found in about a 50 cm circle starting at the eastern side of the unit.

The mixture may be from something that fell and shattered while containing something burning. Salva seems to think it was a burnt beam. Another thought is that there was some sort of charred post here. That will depend on if more carbon is found below.



Still more carbon in the same area bringing our total to eight full sample bags. There were more ceramics as well, but little more of note beyond the carbon. For now I'm sticking with the shattered incendiaries hypothesis.

Final lot measurements

Soil: Clayey silt

Cultural Material: ~~90~~ Ceramics (9), Bajareque (1), Chert (1), Obsidian (1)

Altitude BGS: NW: 136cm (999.93) NE: 96cm (999.99)

SW: 138cm (999.90) SE: 107cm (1000.00)

New lot

02-49-12-F

Salva hit a very hefty load of ceramics in this layer and is digging down a little extra in the middle of the unit's western boundary to find the bottom course of the wall. Overall the lot is a crowded one with a great deal of pottery but only a little carbon.

9 Mar 2006

2006-28-58

02-~~28~~⁴²-28-5

Here we expand south to see if the Floor in R links to Envy or its adjacent floor surface. The plan is to just cut down about 25 cm and see if there are Flat stones here. While this is happening I'll be watching to see if there is any more pattern to 49-11-E's carbon.

There is a floor continuation here, and it links up with Envy, the proposed wall, and the floor/platform in front of it in units O and N. This makes the uneven nature of Envy a little dubious because it is so cluttered in comparison. I think we'll dissect Envy a bit and see what it's all about - is it architecture or Fall?

Final lot ~~measurements~~ measurements

Soil: Humus and clayey silt

Cultural Material:

Altitude BGS: NW:

NE:

SW:

SE:

New lot

02-42-29-0

This lot is to scientifically rip out a section of Envy and see what makes it tick.

9 Mar 2006

2006-28-59

02-49-012-F

Final lot measurements

Soil: Clayey Silt

Cultural Material: Ceramics (92), Bajareque (23)

Altitude BGS: NW: 163cm (1000.07) NE: 136cm (999.93)

SW: 167cm (1000.00) SE: 138cm (999.90)

20 Mar 2006

2006-28-61

02-49-10⁵ - ~~II~~ I

Here we are going to excavate until finding the upper platform level, or more fill. Judging from subop 42, we should find something like the platform here. Salva, however, is pretty convinced that a line of rocks in the next unit is another terrace or wall, so we shall see.

Under the soil we found staggered, yet flat stones that may be our platform. We're going to move to the next unit for now to test and see if we need to go lower.

NW: 18cm
NE: 4cm
SW: 21cm
SE: 5cm

02-49-10⁶ - ~~III~~ J

We are digging around the two large stones up top and have come across quite the nice set of surprises (just realized I skipped final lot notes again, sorry. See the end of this lot). First the rock line is indeed a wall, but it appears to face inward. Second, there is a partially intact ceramic vessel. I'll photograph it now.

We removed the ceramics that were photographed and dug down a little further until we reach some flat stones that appear to be the floor (about a centimeter below most of the ceramics). We shall now move to unit J.

Final lot info 02-49-16 - I

Soil: Clayey silt

Cultural Material: Ceramics (7), Chert (1)

Altitude BGS: NW: 20cm

NE: 0cm

SW: 206cm

SE: 0cm

20 Mar 2006

2006-28-62

02-49-1⁶-J

Final lot measurements

Soil: Clayey Silt

Cultural Material: ~~90~~ Ceramics (96, 75 from one vessel).

Altitude BGS: NW: 20cm

NE: 3cm

SW: 29cm

SE: 4cm

New lot

02-49-1⁷-K

Here the major highlight is finding more ceramics from the one large vessel, this time in even larger pieces. More of the floor is visible, and I photographed the majority of the ceramics before removing them.

21 Mar 2006

2006 - 28 - 63

06 - 11 - 01 - A

It is a new day for a completely new site, and I am just starting to get to know the workers. I know one is named Carlos, another Juan (or something like it), and the other two escape my memory. I took a picture of the trench before starting to dig, and I shall have two trenches going simultaneously, the other being G-12. The floor is expected to be about one meter below the surface, so we're going about 20 centimeters a lot.

So far we're getting a huge amount of toba, something that isn't too uncommon here, but is a bit of a find at El Cafetal. Otherwise the soil is infernally dry and rocky. I'm getting in a bit of digging myself when possible. It is also very apparent that modern objects get buried in with the top layer very readily; the belt buckle and glass are good enough proof of that. There is not nearly as much cultural material here as in 06-12, but we're still finding a fair number of objects

Final lot measurements

Soil:

Cultural Material: Ceramics (12), Toba (9)

Altitude BGS: NW: 30cm

NE: 28cm (1010.18m)

SW: 25cm

SE: 23cm (1010.19m)

21 Mar 2006

2006 - 28 - 64

06 - 12 - 01 - A

More tough soil here with more modern contaminants. I am amazed at the sheer volume of cultural material we are finding. The vast majority is ceramics, a fact that should please Cassandra, but we also have a good amount of bajareque, toba, groundstone, chert, and modern trash. The problem I'm running into now is having enough large bags to contain it all.

What rocks we ran into were removed, as none of them resembled architecture ~~or~~ anything else of note. I shall close up this lot and head deeper.

Final lot measurements

Soil:

Cultural Material: Ceramics (192), Bajareque (6), Shell (6), Toba (6),
Chert (1), Obsidian (1), Ground Stone (4), Modern Trash (Plenty)

Altitude BGS: NW: 30cm

NE: ~~20~~ 24cm

SW: 30cm

SE: 25 cm

New lot

06-12-02-A

Cultural material finds are less common in this lot, but to make up for it the soil is much more soft and agreeable. There does not presently appear to be a soil change, but that may be because the top layer was just so baked by the sun.

End of day

22 Mar 2006

2006-28-64

06-11-02-A

We have two more workers today, so I have assigned them to start digging the other end of 06-12. This lot, in the meantime, is looking empty in comparison to yesterday's finds. Perhaps I shall be ~~greatly~~ pleasantly surprised later in the day.

Like 06-12, there is a step that is starting to show on the western edge of the unit. Just eyeballing the two subeps, the two steps appear to be lined up. With luck we will run into a corner farther north. For now I will be content with not plowing through the plaster floor, if there is one.

A little lesson in the theory for this site from Marcello: the river may have flooded this plaza in the past, making most of the lower level sediment (the first 15 cm being that remarkably resilient humus). This also means that my not finding much in the sediment layer is quite natural.

Another step is now visible below and east of the first one we found. This shall be the end of this lot. Should have made two lots.

Final lot measurements

Soil:

Cultural Material: Ceramics (8), Toba (3), Shell (1), Modern Junk (2)

Altitude BGS: NW: 40cm

NE: 61cm

SW: 40cm

SE: 60cm

22 Mar 2006

2006 - 28 - 65

06-12-02-A

From the look of it this team is digging at a slightly faster rate than 06-11, but I don't particularly mind. For now I'll just see what they find.

We made this a rather large lot, but were rewarded with finding a step, first made apparent in the northwest corner at a depth of . I'll let them clean that up and then I'll diagram it and photograph it. Chances are that we will continue downwards to try and find the floor afterwards, unless, of course, there is another stair in front of this one.

Marcello and Ellen just visited and pointed out the yellow stucco that is starting to show being the stones in the step. They believe that this may be the lowest step with the floor right in front of it. We shall see, won't we?

I took a moment to speak with Roberto y Santiago about the steps a bit, and they don't believe that ~~this~~ they are the lowest layer, rather somewhere between the third and fifth. That means that we still have a ways to go before necessarily needing to worry about breaking stucco. On the other hand, that means I still have a ways to go, all the while worrying about breaking plaster.

Final lot measurements

Scit:

Cultural Material: Ceramics (13), Toba (3), Bajareque (1), Chert (2), Shell (2), Modern Refuse (plenty)

Altitude BGS: NW: 70cm

NE: 62cm

SW: 70cm

SE: 63cm

22 Mar 2006

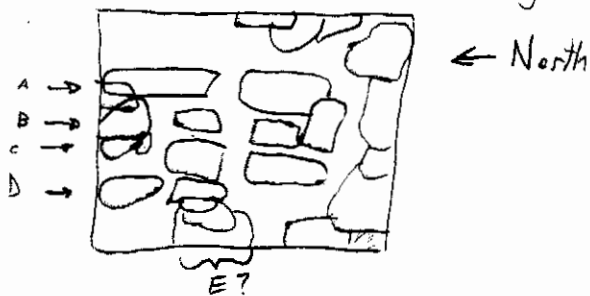
2006-28-66

06-12-03-K

Three simultaneous trenches and their notes should keep me nice and busy. Working from the other end of 06-12, I have no good idea of what they will find. Instead of starting well away from the structure, they are right at its base. Perhaps a step or small terrace is in the near future. On the matter of where the floor is expected, I have no clue. I shall just be prepared for anything.

At present we're running into fallen stones more than anything. I will probably ask for them to be removed in just a moment. Some of them, however, are in lines that would suggest that they fell from a foundation that is yet unclear. Now they are cleaning so that I can see which stones to remove.

At this point I can see at least three, perhaps four, fallen courses from a wall that is yet unclear. I had the workers remove a toba block to try and get a better view of what may be the terrace/wall/step facade. A brief sketch.



An update. The wall line is now visible and I think that that which I termed course A is actually our foundation. That which is farthest west is to be removed, namely E. E consists of three semi-stacked stones which are oriented as though stacked with dirt in between each layer as opposed to fallen. Seeing as they are the farthest from the wall, I would think that they would be of a similar fall pattern to the others, not like stones that slid slightly off of the foundation. We will remove them tomorrow and call it a lot.

End of Day

22 Mar 2006

2006-28-67

06-12-0⁴ - A

We cleaned the step a bit and dug down more and found what is looking to be a plaster floor. It may also be another step, seeing as the feature ends after jutting out about 20 cm. Right now the workers are all taking time to even out their trenches and walls after being asked to clean up by Santiago. After that we will probably be expanding east to allow more room to work on the steps and floor. The same will be looked into at the other end of this trench. For now let us assume that we have a step, and I will move to EU B.

Final lot measurements

Soil:

Cultural Material:

Altitude BGS: NW: 95cm

NE: 95cm

SW: 94cm

SE: 9²cm

End of Day

23 Mar 2006

2006 - 28 - 68

006 - 12 - 05 - B

This an eastern expansion of the original trench to give us plenty of room to document and excavate the floor and steps. That means, naturally, that we must go through the tough humus layer that is full of material. Shall we brace ourselves for more teacups, buttons, and belt buckles?

So far that is the case, with the exception of a large bone fragment and some rather curious thin pottery which appears to have a faint green glaze. I shall ask Ellen and Marcello about it as soon as I can. There are also a good number of pieces that may be rocks or ceramic. They are thick enough to be either, and the "paste" is really bad.

I just came back after lunch, and it looks like we're now hitting the soil change

Final lot measurements

Soil:

Cultural Material: Ceramics (150), Bone (5), Toba (3), Ground Stone (2)

Modern trash (enough)

Altitude B&S: NW: 28cm

NE: 20cm

SW: 28 cm

SE: 20cm

23 Mar 2006

2006 - 28 - 69

006-12-06-H

The stones are removed, and we're digging lower to see if anything was beneath this fallen wall. I don't think we're low enough to expect a floor quite yet, but I'll try to avoid making guesses where they can get me nowhere. Nothing to do but excavate and see.

Having removed the stones and dirt, we are rewarded with more stones and dirt. On the plus side, however, it revealed more of the wall as well to the point that I can count as many as four courses in one section. I am having the workers remove the new "layer" of fill/fall and then dig lower to see what we have. Because this area of the trench is significantly lower than my other two present EUs, I don't know what to think. If this side borders another plaza, is it lower? Is this merely the back of a building?

Just an update: We have a fair number of ceramics and a piece of obsidian. So far it's mostly dirt beneath the rocks. I just realized that I only wrote final lot info for 06-12-03 on the lot form. I'll reproduce it here

06-12-03-H → Soil:

Cultural Material: Ceramics

Altitude BGS: NW: 22cm

NE: 27cm

SW: 20 cm

SE: 28 cm

06-12-06-H: Post Lunch Update: We may have ourselves a stucco floor here. I was starting to wonder where all of the pottery was coming from, and now we have an answer. Cassandra shall be quite happy with the many large pieces and handles. We are almost done with the exception of one last little corner of the EU
End of Day.

23 Mar 2006

2006-28-70

06-11-03-A

So we hit the stair and went a bit lower. Now we're just heading lower where there is no architecture. I'll keep you updated.

About an hour later with no shocking discoveries. Just a few tiny pieces of ceramics.

Now we're talking. We have a third step that leaves only 10 cm of diggable dirt in the unit. To probe where the last step is, we're excavating to the east to make sure there are no more steps. It will also give us a look at the floor in this section. For now, the end of the lot. Oh, I also got a good false alarm with one of the artifacts in the trench. The workers found a piece of dark green glass that I thought was obsidian for about five seconds. What a find that would have been! Oh well.

Final lot measurements

Soil:

Cultural Material: Ceramics (7), Toba (6), Shell (3), Modern Glass (1)

Altitude BGS: NW: 40cm

NE: 90cm

SW: 40cm

SE: 90cm

New lot

06-11-04-B

We are aiming to find more stairs and a floor at this EU, but that will be a while. For now it's just dirt, stone, and bone, as usual in the humus layer.

End of day

24 Mar 2006

2006-28-71

06-12-0⁶ - H

A spot of cleanup from the rain and then we'll have a finished lot. Now that it's raining we have to close the unit up to protect the stucco floor. We shall start excavating two units up because the tarp anchors in the second unit. The rain is making it very difficult to take notes, so I'll do what I can.

New lot

06-12-08 - I

We moved up two squares because of tarp placement and we excavating I. Of note is a soil change from brown to a orange brown that has not appeared anywhere else I've seen. Is this fill? We have three lines in this unit that run north-south and sync up with other lines visible to the north. Perhaps these are stairs in poor repair. If so, I can remove nothing to check quite yet. Instead we move up again to see if the change continues.

Final lot measurements: 06-12-06-H

Soil: Clayey silt

Cultural Material:

Altitude BGS: NW: 58cm

SW: 53cm

NE: 32cm

SE: 40cm

06-12-08-I

Soil: Clayey silt - Orange brown

Cultural Material:

Altitude BGS: NW: 8cm

SW: 9 cm

NE: 3cm

SE: 4cm

End of Day

24 Mar 2006

2006-28-72

06-11-04 - B

We made only a bit of progress today due to rain and a short day. We did, however, finish the lot successfully.

Find lot measurements

Soil:

Cultural Material:

Altitude BGS; NW:

NE:

SW:

SE:

End of Day

24 Mar 2006

2006-28-73

06-12-07-B

A bit more of the same tunnelling down. I'll inform you if there's anything special in this part.

No not so far

End of Day

Mar 27 2006

2006-28-74

06-012-09-H

We're cleaning upwards today to see if there's a similar soil change or if the possible steps continue. Santiago just arrived, and I showed him the lines we found. For now he's dismissing them as being some higher layer that should be removed. I shall at least get everything cleaned up in this lot before going back.

Aha, we have a rather odd little structure/feature which may be a drain, although quite a small segment so far. I can think of nothing else to call this 10 cm wide crevasse that has cut/faced stone sides and a stone base. The entirety of this ditch is about 50 cm long with either a blocked or purposeful end above and obscure preservation below. I can make out where the drain could potentially continue below, as well. Exciting, no? Our next step is to dig out unit J which we skipped over on Friday.

Final lot measurements

Soil: Clayey Silt, again a lot of orange brown

Cultural Material: None

Altitude BGS: NW: 15cm

NE: 5cm

SW: 5cm

SE: 10cm

Ah, let's revisit my analysis. Marcello and Ellen came over with their boots of hypothesis-stomping,

27 Mar 2006

2006-28-75

06-11 - 05 - B

More clearing of dirt here. Like the east side of 06-12, I'll let you know if anything curious shows up.

We end the day today with just a few corners yet to excavate

End of Day

27 Mar 2006

2006-28-76

06-12-09 - H

tore up some more rocks, and declared the southern side of the ditch to be superstructure. Delightful a development as it is, it sure takes some wind out of my sails. ~~and~~ In other news it seems that one of the students, a close friend of mine, is going home due to a family emergency. I don't want to seem an opportunist, but maybe I can take this opportunity to excavate at my old site a bit. Perhaps I can run two sites at once. Ah well, say no more of it, for it is under unfortunate circumstances that I can even consider the option.

End of 06-12-09 - H

New lot

06-12-10 - J

Alright, this unit contains many flat stones slanted slightly down that then ascend to a somewhat preserved line of preserved stones. The soil change does not occur here visibly, although I found a trace of the orange soil under one stone. Does that mean we found the top of our terrace? I would be tempted to say yes if it weren't for the similar font of dark soil behind the large stone line. For now we shall move back to I.

27 Mar 2006

2006-28-77

06-12-07-B

We're basically finished here and have no big developments besides the uncovering of what we think is the floor. I admit that it was actually uncovered when the workers were cleaning up A a bit, but I figure we should find the same in B. Ah fishsticks, they found more cultural material in A. I guess I'll make a new lot for that.

Speaking of crazy amounts of ceramics, Marcello speaks wistfully of some orange splashes on the stucco floor. Apparently they dug up one of them before and found an entire vessel cache beneath. yes, that sounds promising.

End of Day

27 Mar 2006

2006-28-78

06-12-10-J

Final lot measurements.

Soil: Clayey Soil, primarily brown

Cultural Material: Ceramics (5), Obsidian (1)

Altitude BGS: NW:

NE:

SW:

SE:

~~End of Day~~ End of Day

28 Mar 2006

2006 - 28 - 79

06-12-07-B

Just a little to finish here as well. Expect final measurement soon. It looks like the floor ends in one respect. About 60 cm from the wall the pretty regular stucco disintegrates into small pockets of powder and small chunks. A few rocks made it to this level, but they have been removed. I think we'll stop at this depth and then move up the structure.

Final lot measurements

Soil: Clayey silt - Brown

Cultural Material:

Altitude BGS: NW: 113cm

NE: 108cm

SW: 121cm

SE: 113cm

Ah yes, I have a new worker to boost the experience of this team. Sadly, that means I lost Carlos, who seemed to show some promise. Alas.

New lot

06-12-11-A

While cleaning up we just found some more ceramics. That's all there is to report

Cultural Material:

28 Mar 2006

2006-28-80

06-11-05 - B

Also near the end here in preparation for digging down to find the floor or more stairs.

And indeed we have a floor. As they clean it up I should get a better idea of how intact this section is. Perhaps the probable corner reinforced the floor and helped to preserve it.

As it is, the floor only fills about two thirds of the trench base. The rest is a gash of earth that meets with the floor in a jagged edge. Ellen says that it is probably a post construction alteration that suggests a burial of something or someone important. We'll have to return to it later and make an effort to excavate north for now. Huzzah! Progress!

Final lot measurements

Soil: Clayey silt - Brown

Cultural material:

Altitude BGS: NW: 126 cm

NE: 120 cm

SW: 116 cm

SE: 110 cm

28 Mar 2006

2006-28-81

06-12-12-I

Back to the square of strange possible lines we go, ripping things apart with a methodical grace akin to the blue whale's discerning palate. Gone is the middle line, resting on its foundation of earth and small stones. Now we test the third line and look to see if it is the terrace we seek. So far we meet with a fair amount of success, although nothing as clear as the inner sides of the two structures. We'll see what the directors think.

Yeah, according to the directors Roberto's find of a terrace was, bluntly put/reinterpreted, a whacked out pipe dream. If there is a terrace here, they don't exactly see it. Sigh. Now we're moving back to H to demolish mostly skillfully a section of fill to reveal the wall mentioned yesterday.

Final lot measurements

Soil: Clayey silt of the extremely orange variety

Cultural Material

Altitude BGS: NW:

NE: 31cm

SW:

SE: 51cm

28 Mar 2006

2006-28-82

06-12-13-C

We're moving on up and already finding more lovely ceramics. I suspect there is at least one more stair to be found, judging from 06-11 and the stair facade barely visible from unit A.

An update of some magnitude: We not only have a third stair, but potentially also a fourth and a fifth. Don't get exceptionally excited; they show increasing amounts of disrepair. Signs of the stucco we so appreciated ^{are} gone, stones are missing, and facades are chipped. Still, it's a lot nicer than anything we got in El Cafetal. Each stair appears to be uniform in height and is composed of three courses of roughly equal thickness. I shall photograph it and move up.

Final lot measurements

Soil: Humus and Clayey Silt - primarily dark brown

Cultural Material: Ceramics (35), Toba (4), Shell (1)

Altitude BGS: NW: 8cm

NE: 47cm

SW: 8cm

SE: 53cm

New lot

06-12-16-D

The first portion of this unit was primarily nice level stones continuing from the top of our fifth step. The other half, however, is composed of something more akin to fill.

28 Mar 2006

2006-28-83

06-12-14-H

As stated we're cleaning out tumble/fill in the northern half of the unit. We've only come across a few ceramics in the meantime, although one of the sherds has a nice black stripe on it. There were no surprises here. More of the wall to the south was exposed, and the fill beneath the cleared section is more obviously fill. I'm ready to move on.

Final lot measurements

Soil: Clayey silt - Orange Brown

Cultural Material: Ceramics (2)

Altitude BGS: NW: 11cm

NE: 30cm

SW: 10cm

SE: 8cm

New lot

06-12-15-G

Soon after breaking the top soil it was apparent that the wall-fall boundary was to continue. We are now clearing out tumble to see how well preserved our wall is closer to the building center. Not much else of note, sorry.

Final lot measurements: Soil:

Cultural Material:

Altitude BGS: NW: 15cm

NE: 23cm

SW: 9cm

SE: 7cm

28 Mar 2006

2006-28-84

06-11-06-C

We finally get to move north, although the time it will take us to reach the floor shall be rather extensive. We're just heading for the floor and separating our lots into topsoil, middling, and the 10-15 cm above the floor. This is the first layer, so expect a good number of artifacts.

We found a good number of artifacts and will stop here for the day.

Final lot measurements

Soil: Clayey Silt/Humus - Gray brown

Cultural Material:

Altitude BGS: NW: 15cm

NE: 15cm

SW: 19cm

SE: 16cm

End of Day

29 Mar 2006

2006-28-85

06 - 12 - 17 - F

The two teams are moving on up, and we'll see who gets the last square, L. On this side I anticipate finding more of our superstructure wall, but I can't yet be sure how long it is. I'll let you know as we find things.

Nothing surprising here, so we're clearing down to the same level as G. Perhaps one day we'll find the need to clear down to the level of M. Until then we'll keep things simple. The workers just uncovered an interesting circular stone about 20 cm across with some interesting (pardon the word overuse) lines around the side. I don't think it's worked, but I'll save it for the judges.

Final lot measurements

Soil:

Cultural Material

Altitude BGS: NW: 21cm

NE: 32cm

SW: 7cm

SE: 3cm

New lot

06-1²-19-L

We move to the center and hope to find a corner to follow. At the very least the wall appears to still be visible here. Now it looks like our wall turns south, so maybe

2009 Mar 2006

2006-28-86

06-12-18-E

The last unit had a possible Floor level that gave away after receding from the stairs to reveal a possible level of Finishing/prep Fill. We've moved on to see what is up ahead and if it shares a similar pattern.

Sigh, there were a few flat stones uncovered, but nothing nearly substantial enough to call a surface. In addition there's nothing to solid immediately under the flat stones. I'll take them out, and any architecture here will have to show up in the profile.

Down one layer, we have flat, slanted stones on one side and primarily a jumble of fill in the northern section. I'm not sure what to make of it. After, I moved a few more rocks, it looks like one of the "floor" stones is much larger than originally thought and slants under much of the fill. We're cleaning it up now. Yes, that makes a good floor, even if it is buckled.

Final ~~lot~~ lot measurements

Soil: Clayey Silt - Brown

Cultural Material: Ceramics (5)

Altitude BGS: NW: 29cm

SW: 18cm

NE: 13cm

SE: 12cm

29 Mar 2006

2006-28-87

06-11-07-C

I believe we're all familiar with the nearly sterile 80 cm of soil or so between the humus and the floor by now. Same old business.

Ha! Scratch that. Now we get to go more quickly, having requisitioned a full size pick. Beyond that nothing is new.

Final lot measurements

Soil: Clayey Silt, Brown

Cultural Material: Ceramics (5)

Altitude BGS: NW: 80cm

NE: 82cm

SW: 88cm

SE: 91cm

End of Day

289 Mar 2006

2006-28-88

06-12-20-H

It seems that everyone is getting a chance to go wild with removing loads of dirt or fill. We have returned to level this unit out along with G, F, and eventually L. We hope to find some type of floor, be it stone or stucco. Failing that we hope that the other side of the wall has something.

God, this wall goes deep. If the estimated height of the lower wall is any guide, we are close to a floor level. The wall's present course count is nine in one place.

Ah, we may have our floor, one of flat cobbles. We're moving to unit G to dislodge more.

Final lot measurements

Soil: ~~soil~~ Clayey Silt - Orange

Cultural Material: None

Altitudes BGS: NW:

NE:

SW:

SE:

End of Day

29 Mar 2006

2006-28-89

06-12-19-L

our chances of Finding Floor have diminished. On the other hand, I don't think that stucco was restricted to the building interiors. We're working towards the eastern edge of the trench now and running into some frighteningly large stones that, while in a line, are not at all good candidates for being our front wall; the foundation stone is skewed and part of the front surface, the stones are large, unlike the side wall, and the angle is off. If this somehow is part of our wall, I shall be surprised. Yeah, it isn't anything important. We just brought this down to the same level and have moved on to let the cleanup crew clear out the rest.

Final lot measurements

Soil: Clayey Silt - Brown and Orange Brown

Cultural Material: Ceramics (6), Obsidian (1)

Altitude BGS: NW: 28cm

NE: 35cm

SW: 2cm

SE: 8cm

End of Day

30 Mar 2006

2006-28-90

06-12-21 - M

Now we expand south as the heavens dribble upon us. It is indeed a less than pleasant day. Hopefully a wall shall present itself to brighten our day.

The wall is basically there, and it looks to be about 40 cm thick. This leaves about a 60cm x 60cm square for us to clear out a bit. Is our wall as tall on the inside? Have we a floor in there? It is not this team's job to find out, to be honest. We're looking for the room's dimensions first. We shall dig down a little to see how clean the wall is on the inside, but I have plenty staked out as it is, to excavate onwards.

Final lot measurements

Soil: Clayey Silt - Brown and orange Brown

Cultural Material: None

Altitude BGS: NW: 6cm

NE: 6cm

SW: 35cm

SE: 8cm

New lot

06-12-23 - N

No mysteries concerning my goals here. We dig on. One stone seems to overlap with the top of the existing wall and the fill, but I suspect that we are dealing with Fall or a placed floorstone of the later occupation. No matter; we removed it.

30 Mar 2006

2006-28-91

06-11-08-C

To the Floor, Friends. May we discover great things. So far it looks like the cut in the plaster continues at least part of the way into this unit. Having not yet found a continuation, I do wonder if and when it will pick up at all. Ah, we're hitting some stucco in the northwest corner, and that's just about three centimeters below our present level.

End of Day

30 Mar 2006

2006-28-92

06-12-22-G

We're moving on up and clearing on down. Excitement for all. I'll inform you if something exceptional rears its head. Nothing exceptional, sorry. Just more fill whose removal reveals more lovely wall. Onwards.

Final lot measurements

Soil: Clayey Silt - Orange

Cultural Material: Ceramics (5)

Altitude BGS: NW:

NE:

SW:

SE:

New lot

06-12-24-F

Just an observation from Marcello - in unit there is a line of abutment (or whatever it would be called) that shows the outermost layer to be a later addition. Besides that the two of them argued with fair spirits as to where the room is and where a door should exist. Chances are that I will want to head lower to find a floor level or at least the base of the wall. It looks like we're just reaching the realm of the next lot.

End of Day

30 Mar 2006

2006-28-93

06-12-23-N

About in the middle of the unit's length we have the end of this wall, for good or for ill. My workers seem content with the thought that it may be one side of a doorway. With that in mind we may move south once more. If, in finishing the cleaning of this lot, we see some sign that it is a redirecting corner, then we may head east. Expect south, however. Ah, those are our first ceramics for a while.

Still more to do.

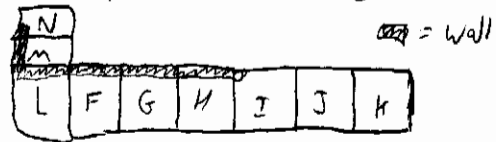
End of Day

31 Mar 2006

2006-28-94

06-12-23-N

So we shall clean out the interior of this wall's apparent end to see where to dig next. Here's a little diagram to keep you updated



The wall definitely ends, and the unit allows me to see the front and back. This wall does not corner, but probably continues ~~west~~ south after a jump

like this amazingly crude sketch. We are scouting south by cutting down about 10 cm to look for signs of the wall. I'm willing to go three units before trying a different hypothesis

Final lot measurements

Soil: Clayey Silt - Brown and orange Brown

Cultural Material:

Altitude BGS: NW: 43 cm

NE: 7 cm

SW: 50 cm

SE: 65 cm

New lot

06-12-26-0

No sign of any architecture picking up again. It's basically fill from the look of it, although we haven't hit the orange soil

~~Back to 06-12-23-N~~

31 Mar 2006

2006-28-95

06-12-24-F

Alright we finished with F. From the look of it, we may have some stone base plates showing. I'll get a chance to poke around inside shortly.

Final lot measurements

Soil: Clayey silt - Orange

Cultural Material: None

Altitude BGS: NW:

NE:

SW:

SE:

New lot

06-12-25-L

Taking more stone out is revealing more of the flat stones on the bottom. Is this our outer surface?

Marcello is hopeful. He also spoke about future plans for the subop including a central cut through the building once we find the door dimensions (should it be a door). The stones continue up to the corner, but we will not continue further to preserve the later floor above in unit E.

Instead we're cleaning the wall near the back.

Final lot measurements - Soil: clayey silt - Orange

Cultural Material: None

Altitude BGS: NW:

NE:

SW:

SE:

31 Mar 2006

2006-28-96

06-11-08-C

Alright, we hit a minimal amount of stucco and defined the boundaries of the cut a bit more. We're moving north to search for the corner, the main priority of this subop. Someday, however, I hope to return and excavate that cut and see what it hides. onwards.

Final lot measurements

Soil: Clayey Silt - Brown

Cultural Material: Ceramics (6), Toba (5)

Final Altitude BGS: NW

NE:

SW:

SE:

New lot

06-11-09-D

Cutting away the first layer of soil and trash. You know the drill. No surprises

Final lot measurements

Soil: Clayey silt / Humus - Brown

Cultural Material: Ceramics (10), Toba (3), Bone (4), Obsidian (1)

Altitude BGS: NW: 25

NE:

SW:

SE:

31 Mar 2006

2006-28-97

06-12-28-⁶110

Santiago came to visit and pointed out two stacked stones that I somehow missed. We're digging a bit more to see if we had the other side of the portal that I didn't know of. For now it's looking promising. Please pardon my scribbling out of lot numbers; I thought I was returning to a lot because we were just starting a new one when Santiago came over. In reality I never had gotten the final measurements written. I guess they are a little less important now. Unit P can wait.

The edge is clear, but the interior of the room is showing signs of wear and tear, an emphasis on the latter. We need to be careful with excavating this section. On the plus side it seems to clean up a bit and stabilize. on to P, now.

Final lot measurements

Soil: Clayey Silt - Brown and Orange Brown

Cultural Material: Ceramics (4)

Altitude BGS: NW: 50cm

NE: 65cm

SW: 16cm

SE: 8cm

• 31 Mar 2006

2006-28-98

06-11-10-D

Ah, on to the pickaxe level. Again, nothing too exciting is expected, although they may run into the back of 5 in any of these next three lots.

End of Day

31 Mar 2006

2006-28-99

06-12-27 - H

We didn't get quite to the Floor level, so it's back to cleaning up. Our progress is impeded early on by a root which I hope did not disrupt the stones too much.

Having passed the abutted line, I can see that the stone tiles continue on to and at least slightly past it.

We shall clear out more and see if our surface makes it to the lower wall.

Yep that's basically the end of our lot.

Final lot measurements

Soil: Clayey Silt - Brown and Orange Brown

Cultural Material

Altitude BGS: NW:

NE:

SW:

SE:

End of Day

31 Mar 2006

2006-28-100

06-12-28-p

We are expecting a corner here and it looks like we may be given cause to celebrate. The corner is apparent and intact, and we have a clear bit of wall leading west to follow after the weekend. Most excellent. There's really not much more to report here besides what the sketch will show.

Final lot measurements

Soil:

Cultural Material: None

Altitude BGS: NW:

NE:

SW:

SE:

3 Apr 2006

2006-28-101

06-12-29-Q

Having found our corner, we are set to move on. The last half hour or so was spent lobbing rocks over the back of structure 9 to clear off the building interior and south wall; it was quite a fun way to start the week. Now we can uncover said south wall and the usual business except that we'll be on the inside.

Alright, it was business as usual until our wall at least partially died. Now we're clearing down to figure ~~out~~ ~~out~~ what happened. In the meantime I've set out the stakes for the entrance axial cut. We shall start a meter outside in a slightly wider than average unit. We will then dig down until we hit the ~~the~~ floor or outside surface. With the proper amount of time we can go farther outside, but getting through this building is critical.

Among the artifacts recovered so far are some nice pieces of obsidian, a bit of toba, and a few bones. One of the bones looks potentially human, but I'll wait for better judges to decide upon such things. I can see how it could be either an animal appendage bone or a human thumb bone.

You know what? I think these may be human because of the number and size of finger and hand bones we're uncovering. This could be exciting.

3 Apr 2006

2006-28-102

06-12-30 - I

As I was moving rocks, the workers here ran into a huge rock on our wall border. It doesn't look too important; it appears to just be a pain to work around.

It's moved now, and we're approaching the expansion's corner. Now to see if the flat stones continue, yes.

The workers thought they found some stairs, but they had no foundation and continued nowhere. Out with them. Afterwards I believe I will try to dig around the corner and discover the west wall from the outside. It may also let us run into any particular signs of the addition's purpose.

A bit more to dig yet.

End of Day

3 Apr 2006

2006-28-103

06-11-10-D

Yes, ladies and gents, the carnival of fun with heavy tools continues. With luck we'll get through this by the end of the day. To brighten spirits a bit in the meantime, the workers made a mini champa to get some shade.

Ah, we have hit the bottom step, that which angles ever so slightly to the east of due north. One more good chunk of soil and we should be ready for the next ~~lot~~ lot. Looks like the stairs maintain a good state of preservation here as well.

End of Day

3 Apr 2006

2006-28-104

06-12-29 - Q

Alright, not too exciting. Santiago believes that they are deer bones. Even so, it's neat to find high concentrations. Also, our searching led us to finding the wall again. Most excellent.

Now that it's pretty much cleaned up, I'll sketch it and close up on this part. On to the interior cut

Find lot measurements

Soil: Clayey silt - Brown and Orange Brown

Cultural Material: Obsidian (2), Toba (1), Bone (6)

Altitude BGS: NW:

NE:

SW:

SE:

New lot

06-12-31 - R

The plan is to dig to the second construction's surface and then stop ever-so-briefly before blitzing downwards.

End of Day

4 Apr 2006

2006-28-105

06-12-30-I

We moved rocks a bit more to make room for a southern expansion here. Should get to it shortly after the workers finish making a mini champa here.

Alright, onwards.

Final lot measurements

Soil: Clayey Silt - Brown and orange Brown

Cultural Material: None

Altitude BGS: NW: 83cm

NE: 100cm

SW: 75cm

SE: 44cm

New lot

06-12-32-S

Boy, this is going to get confusing unless I start mapping things out. We'll get it eventually. Well, now we have ourselves a map along with a rather crummy wall. Looks like it has been slouching too much and now has an unsightly convex hump. They also found a possible stone surface on the outside of it, but to clean it up completely would collapse part of the wall. Little to do but clean off the dirt and leave the stones.

End of Day

4 Apr 2006

2006-28-106

06-11-10-D

In my rounds right before work I noticed something that looks like stucco sticking out of the northeast corner. The workers saw it as well and are digging about it with caution. I think I'll call this lot where the stairs began, a decision not complicated by cultural finds seeing as there were none.

Final lot measurements

Soil: Clayey silt - Brown

Cultural Material: None

Attitude BGS: NW:

NE:

SW:

SE:

New lot

06-11-11-D

Ah good, we're hitting more stucco, having arrived at the floor level. There are also a few very rectangular fall stones in this last layer, so maybe we're close to our goal. Indeed we are hitting plaster once more, though no architecture to the north. Nor are we recovering any cultural material. Even if the basic wash theory holds and all of the material flooded to the corner, wouldn't we have at least something that was dropped off here? If there is a drain here, is there then to be a huge

4 Apr 2006

2006-28-107

06-11-11-D

number of secondary context artifacts within? I really have no clue at this point, though finding a drain would be lovely.

Gorgeous, and we're done here. There's a bit of toba at the bottom, by which I mean a red worked block about 35 cm long sticking out of the north profile. ACK, to think I must wait another day before recovering it.

Final lot measurements

Soil: Clayey Silt - Brown

Cultural Material: None

Altitude BGS: NW: 102cm

NE: 132cm

SW: 122cm

SE: 128cm

New lot

06-11-12-E

We're moving on up again, so expect a bit of cultural material along with lots of soil. I'll tell you if anything odd jumps at us. ~~ing~~ No, not really

End of Day

4 Apr 2006

2006-28-108

06-12-31 - R

Just working downwards here to get wherever we need to be. We just started plowing through a few flat stones that may be similar to the stone surface in units C, D, and E. It's not part of our end goal, though, so they're coming out. Given the size of the unit, we're making good time. Given the size of the fill, we're having a few problems with digging especially when the stones are half the size of the unit and are sticking halfway out of the profile. The biggest one we found is still there, so we're digging around it.

And digging some more

More big rocks.

Oof...

End of Day

5 Apr 2006

2006-28-109

06-12-31-R

So we've been burrowing through a few suspicious layers of rock which are pretty flat and even, one the new floor surface from C, D, and E, the other at a depth of 85 cm BGS (Former being at 40cm).

In other curious news, one of my workers has been switched or possibly completely replaced. I wonder why.

Aha! We have a floor that is probably 40cm higher than expected. A lovely bit of stucco under that second rock layer. Now I want to see if the rock is also a surface or just the first layer of fill. At least we have the first step of this expansion complete, heralded by the undying rasping of these demon cicadas. Marcella will be sad, though, that we have found no cultural material with it yet.

Final lot measurements

Soil:

Cultural Material: Ceramics (1), Plaster (2)

Altitude BGS: NW:

NE

SW:

SE:

05 Apr 2006

2006-28-110

06-11-12-E

Continuing through the rubble layer today before hitting expendable dirt. Again, you'll know if anything interesting happens.

Ah, just getting through the last of this lot we are running up against a pretty clear line of stones that is peeling out ever so slightly. Do we have a wall or step? On to the next lot, especially so that I have a good reason to bag all of this bone we have. Again the workers are convinced we have human bone, and they may be right with one of them, what appears to be part of a human femur. We'll see.

Final lot measurements

Soil: Clayey Silt - Brown

Cultural Material: Ceramics (4), Chert (1), Stucco Fragments

(5), Bone (Lots, about 17)

NE: 20

NW: 2

SW: 25

SE: 25

New lot

06-11-13-E

More dirt and courses here, so basically the same as previous units with some architecture to follow. We also have a few more stucco fragments to suggest wonderful things about the original state of the wall. Muzzah and a helping of arroz con pollo to that!

5 Apr 2006

2006-28-111

06-12-32-5

I guess there's still more work to be done here in removing earth from the eastern side where tumble and fill wreck havoc with our wall.

There, that's done. Looks like the wall is definite need of some therapy. We'll leave it to move south and finish our tour of the building exterior.

Final lot measurements

Soil: Clayey Silt - Brown with orange in small pockets.

Cultural Material: Ceramics (7), Tooth (1)

Altitude BGS: NW: 75cm

NE: 44cm

SW: 69cm

SE: 22cm

New lot

06-12-33-T

The wall continues, yes, but it gets little clearer. The stones are, however, getting larger and the ceramics count is hitting a weekly high. Exciting. Little else that sets this apart from S, otherwise.

Final lot measurements

Soil: Clayey Silt - Brown outside, orange in the wall

Cultural Material: Ceramics (23), Bone (1), Shell (1), Modern (1)

Altitude BGS: NW:

NE:

SW:

SE:

5 Apr 2006

2006-28-112

06-12-34 - R

Right, now we're digging a sub pit under the least level stone of this outer "Floor." We want to see whether it's a step or just a line at the threshold.

Aha! And then there was stucco! Ring the bells and let the cows come home! Simple measurements suggest that this floor is about the same level as the north floor • and the first step to the east. Do we have some hypothesis-happy equalities? Yes, Marcello would think so. Let's clean this puppy up and move to the next unit. We'll skim off the top layer of stones right above the step and hopefully find something exciting... not to say we don't already have that.

5 Apr 2006

2006-28-113

06-12-35-U

I'm not sure what we'll find beyond more broken-down wall. We're beyond the point where we would expect anything too dramatic, now passing through the building ~~axis~~ axis. Perhaps the reason for this expansion will remain unknown until we finish our inside cut, the one in which Santiago wants me to find a hieroglyphic bench. Good luck with that, amazing as it would be if we found one. As it is we just have some sort of retaining rock pile. The end of the day approaches, and it looks like we're about done here.

Final lot measurements

Soil:

Cultural Material: Ceramics (11), Stucco (1)

Altitude BGS: NW:

NE:

SW:

SE:

6 Apr 2006

2006-28-114

06-12-34-R

Yeah, looks like there's little ~~more~~^more to be done here, at least until we can get more rocks from the side of the trench.

Final lot measurements

Soil:

Cultural Materials:

Altitude BGS: NW:

NE:

SW:

SE:

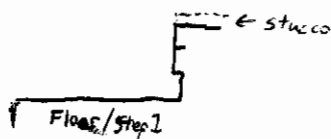
New lot

06-12-36-V

Excellent! We move on to removing more rocks from the top of stucco! Let the fun begin.

Alright, the rocks that needed to be moved are almost entirely gone, but we are left with a really odd (at least to me) bit of architecture on our west border. It looks like a step on the inside of the room

with a curious construction. To be completely honest it reminds me of the south side of



Structure 10 at El Cafetal. Do we perhaps have a C shaped step in the works? Is this just a bench at 40% the normal height? I'm thinking interior step.

6 Apr 2006

2006-28-115

06-11-13-E

Down we go, now to the eighth course. The workers confused the heck out of me by putting some paint chips that fell off of their bucket onto one of the stones they sometimes use to compile artifacts.

As we approach noon, we have uncovered one whole new course and are getting close to finding another two at least. This team digs in layers of about 10-20 cm. Given how my shadow looks, we probably won't hit it before noon.

Now that it's a little past lunch we have twelve courses. Egad, this thing is tall. Perhaps it gives a clue as to what structure it looked like from the back and sides. I suppose the difference would be the stucco that probably covered it all. We recovered a large piece, probably from stucco fall. Soon after we got that to a block out, a fine chunk which still seemed to bear some red paint. The coloration varies on the different sides, one being solid red, another half red and half unpainted. Well, maybe the whole block is a mixture of the colors, I cannot tell.

End of Day

6 Apr 2006

2006-28-116

06-12-37-W

The last unit hit nigh- unmoveable stones, but I think we're really done with unit and said goal which was to establish the wall's location and state of preservation.

Analysis: It keeps going, and it looks like a Greek Frieze that was dropped from a ten story building and then stirred liberally with a jackhammer.

Now we're excavating where there should be a corner, probably in a similar state to the rest of the building. Wish us luck.

No corner yet, and the wall is as ambiguous as ever. We're going to go over 50 more centimeters into unit Y to find this thing.

New lot

06-12-39-Y

That was the most pathetic attempt to set up a trench ever. Guess and check was silly; I should have looked to Pythagoras. At this point I'm not gathering much from the unit. Should I go to Q and work west from there instead? I'll give this lot a little more attention before changing strategies.

Yeah, this is getting us nowhere

6 Apr 2006

2006-28-117

06-12-36-V

I'm rethinking the C-step idea after looking at the way the step continues to the north and south, I doubt that they will curve to the front. It's probably more of a straight step that goes across the whole room. Now my question is how much will be left of any bench we find? Given the height of other benches we've found in visiting sites in Honduras, the top of a bench here would be right on the surface. Ah well, this lot is clean and photographed.

Final lot measurements

Soil: Clayey Silt - Orange Brown

Cultural Material: None

Altitude BGS: NW:

NE:

SW:

SE:

New lot

06-12-38-X

Huzzah! We are now firmly entrenched in the building. Expect great things... eventually. For now expect lots of rocks.

Oh Flangel! It looks like the step is a bench according to the wisdom of Ellen and Marcello. I suppose that's acceptable, especially since it's the "textbook residence" style. I guess we're digging until we have the large fill stones uncovered.

6 Apr 2006

2006-28-118

06-12-38-X

Ah yes, did I mention the fill pattern that they pointed out? It seems to be one that we ran into before where large stones are placed on the existing structure and then covered in looser fill of small stones and dirt. Nice to see patterns in things. One of the pictures I took of 06-12-36-V showed the large and small fill layers for future reference.

Alright, it's nice and cleaned up, so we're ready to move in tomorrow. Having been alerted that we are to lose another two days to Spanish school, I shall start drawing tomorrow.

Final lot measurements:

Soil: Clayey silt - Brown and Orange Brown

Cultural Material:

Altitude BGS: NW:

NE:

SW:

SE:

End of Day

7 Apr 2006

2006-28-119

06-12-40-Z

Marcello's belief is that the expansion may serve as support/spice for a second bench. I don't know about you, but to me that's really exciting. We're heading back further today, and we should have a better idea by lunch.

Now we're starting to run into a bit of the ~~the~~ heavier fill, some of which looks to be lined up ever so slightly. Looking between here and AA, it looks like we have our back interior wall. But... what's the expansion for? Yes, very clear back wall. Now then, what shall we do for the last unit? A surface clean? I believe that's a good place to start.

New lot

06-12-42-AB

The surface clean begins. It looks like our wall ends where we expected it to (width-wise), and a section that resembles fill starts up. Actually, there's a line of semi-erect stones that are in a line, almost like a garden wall. What is this? It has about 10cm between it and the main wall. The mini-wall has no opposite side, so I'm having another 10cm dug out in this little section, maybe more. So far it's not looking to be anything too special

End of Day

7 Apr 2006

2006-28-120

~~2006-28-120~~ 06-12-41-AA

To the Abyss with Fumbling around tumble! It's time for some Apognomatics starting from unit Q. We'll find this other corner yet! It looks as though we have signs of the wall already.

Well, we have the wall, yes, but we also have a corner. I guess that means that our excavation to the west would have been a pretty sad one if we tried to find the connection. So now what is the expansion for? ~~no~~ Seriously, it seems to have no purpose. We'll clean up this section and then probably do some surface cleaning from here to the S, T, U, W line (Interesting how that works as a nickname). Scratch that. We're going to have this team clean out the area between the PQAA line and the RVXZ line. Ah such lovely stucco we have.

Final lot measurements

Soil:

Cultural Material: None

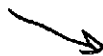
Altitude BGS: NW:

NE:

SW:

SE:

New lot



7 Apr 2006

2006-28-121

06-11-13-E

We're getting close to the end here. What shall be found? I suspect we won't actually have the actual corner, pardon my repetition, here, but we could expand west to get it.

A little checkup - we're to 13 courses.

Now, just after lunch, we are at the bottom of the wall. I'm sure Cori will be happy to know that it is only 15 courses tall. Even so, it's very pretty. The amount of stucco at the base is decidedly minimal, and the artifact count is low as usual. Ah! My apologies to Cassandra.

We now are heading north to ascertain the nature of this upcoming surface.

New lot

06-11-14-F

See above; I'll get back to you.

Gah, lot info

Final lot measurements → Soil: Clayey silt - Brown

Cultural Material: Ceramics (2), Obsidian (1), Plaster (15+)

Altitude BGS: NW: 160cm

NE: 159cm

SW: 130cm

SE: 130cm

Yeah back to 11-14

End of Day

7 Apr 2006

2006-28-122

06-12-43-AC

Alright, Team 2 is going at it to clean out the north end of the building. Already they're finding a really nice amount of ceramics that are on the bench level. Note that I'm going to be running this lots and units a little loosely, but I will keep straight on which level I find everything.

Final lot measurements

Soil: ~~orange~~ Clayey Silt - orange Brown

Cultural Material: Ceramics (8), Plaster (1)

Altitude BGS: NW:

NE:

SW:

SE:

New lot

06-12-44-AD

Now to take out the 40 some centimeter chunk of earth between our two bench sections. Run wild with the picks, friends.

This team does some nice fast work, and does one heck of a job at cleaning stucco. I think it's been about half an hour and they're already halfway done.

End of Day

11 Apr 2006

Group 1
06-12-47-AF

2006-28-123

And the corner project continues with vigor. I am very happy with their progress.

Egad, with Santiago out for day, I have acquired about five more workers. Needless to say we're zipping along with hands yet to spare. Shall I reassign some of them to my projects of side interest? Eh, there's no need. We basically are now working teams of three which makes soil removal slightly quicker, so I still get good progress while having time to draw. Good times. Time to get back to that.

Post lunch - Now that we know where the edge of the step is on three sides, my workers have talked me into making AF into a monstrous unit that spans the depth of the porch. I'm fine with it, especially considering how quickly they work and the additional teams that are getting my side projects out of the way. Go us.

We almost get through it all today. I am impressed. This bodes well for tomorrow.

End of Day

11 Apr 2006

Group 2

2006-28-124

06-02-46-AE

Still cutting to the floor. I'll let you know if something neat is discovered or if the insects get out of hand.

As stated before, more workers. We're getting close to finishing the unit. Found another floor edge.

Alright, now that this unit is done, we're going to make a few more units and start moving in from the outside to avoid blowing out any more architecture.

Final lot measurements

Soil: Clayey Silt - Orange Brown

Cultural Material: Ceramics (23), Shell (1), Stucco (1)

Altitude BGS: NW:

NE:

SW:

SE:

New lot

06-12-48-AG

Our approaching trench is now underway, so we should hit steps akin to those from units A-C, blow through them eventually, and determine what was part of the original construction.

Nearing the end of the day, and everything is going well. That, and we have a bucketload of ceramics.

End of Day

11 Apr 2006

Group 3

2006-28-125

06-11-15-6

Continuing down here we have found one step that is probably the fourth just peeking out of the west edge. The north wall has also been uncovered, so we're making good progress.

The third step is also peeking out now, although it is accompanied by some rather worked tumble. Is it from the structure or the steps?

Well, it's moved now, and we have a pretty solid look at all of the steps. It would appear that all of them about, which is probably healthy considering the first step is not integrated either. We should be done with this early tomorrow, at which point they can start the east trench to find a wall corner. Five teams can be so exciting!

End of Day

11 Apr 2006

Group 4

2006-28-126

06-12-49-AH

Oh man, I'm up to five simultaneous units. This shall spell something akin to chaos for the sake of progress. Finally the north trench shall begin; I have been hoping ever so much to learn more about the area between this building and its probable neighbor.

Still digging and doing well. The team is meticulous and talented. They should do well once we reach the floor levels. Until then it's just a matter of having them go a smidgin more quickly.

End of Day

11 Apr 2006

Group 5

2006-28-127

06-11-16-H

My odd man out is now doing this shallow unit to expose more of the terrace and recover the drain. Let us **hope** for the best.

A little checkup - we're running into trouble here, and the other workers are helping Miguel to decide what to remove. Good old teamwork. We are very close to being able to remove the drain, so tomorrow morning should be full of excitement.

End of Day

12 Apr 2006

Group 1

2006-28-128

06-12-47-AF

Close to finishing, so prepare for the close.

Whoop, and they made the unit larger again, this time to the north. Well, that will give us a lovely view of the "porch," so I'm content. That, and this is all fill from the same construction, so artifact confusion shall be minimal.

The talents of this team with cleaning stucco never ceases to amaze me. They have about ten more minutes of work before the entire northern section of the porch is revealed.

Final lot measurements

Soil: Clayey Silt - Orange

Cultural Material: Ceramics (12), Toba (13), Shell (2), Modern (1)

Altitude BGS: NW: 123cm

NE: 100cm

SW: 116cm

SE: 116cm

New lot

06-12-53-AJ

This team is working the northwest test. It should keep them busy for a while.

12 c
13 T
2 Sh
1 No:

12 Apr 2006

Group 2

2006-28-129

06-12-48-AG

We actually reached the next soil level, so we'll start a new lot.

Final lot measurements.

Soil: Clayey Silt - Brown

Cultural Material: Ceramics (175), Shell (22), Bone (16)

Altitude BGS: NW: ~~20~~³⁰ cm

NE: 25 cm

SW: 30 cm

SE: 24 cm

New lot

06-12-50-AG

Onwards.

Progress is pretty good, and I guess we are approaching the level of the second step.

12 Apr 2006

Group 3

2006-08-130

06-11-15-G

Near completion here as well. All of the stairs but the first and second are fully revealed, and the aforementioned are clearly visible and just need a little cleaning.

Final lot measurements

Soil: Clayey Silt - Brown

Cultural Material:

Altitude BGS: NW: 76cm

NE: 127cm

SW: 55cm

SE: 102cm

New lot

06-11-17-I

Beautifully done, and now we can follow the wall east. The instructions are to dig down about three courses so that we have a clear, yet not pleistic, idea of where the wall goes. Keep up the good work.

As it is, the wall starts falling apart in the upper courses, so we're heading to the fifth.

12 Apr 2006

Group 4

2006-28-131

06-12-49-AH

Just digging along here at a cheerful rate.

Actually we're getting close to our primary goal level. Once we reach that, we shall return to F to start cutting to lower levels

12 Apr 2006

Group 5

2006-28-132

06-11-16-H

Alright, we're chipping away more rocks, and soon enough we'll get that drain piece. We can also expect another worker today to make this team whole.

Right, I don't think the new worker knows about stucco. Let's teach him so that we don't lose more of our surface.

The drain is cut, and we're just cleaning things up. It looks like there was stucco here on flat stones similar to those at the top edge of the wall. The drain oriented roughly east-west, is about 55cm long, 25 cm wide, and 8 cm deep. Good job.

Final lot measurements

Soil: clayey silt - Brown

Cultural Material: Ceramics (15), Bone (2), Chert (1), Shell (1),
Ground Stone? (1)

Altitude BGS: NW: 50cm

NE: 39cm

SW: 29cm

SE: 27cm

New lot

06-12-S1-P

They're just doing a little cleanup detail before moving to my northwest test unit, the one with all of the flat stones that may or may not continue.

Final lot measurements

Soil: Clayey silt/dry - Orange

Cultural Material: None

Altitude BGS: NW: 102cm

NE: 20cm

SW: 99cm

SE: 3cm

12 Apr 2006

Group 5
06-12-52-AI

2006-28-133

This group pursues project Back Door in a 50cm x 120cm unit. Good hunting.

We have the top courses of the wall exposed, and the connected back room hypothesis is looking shaky. Answers, I believe, must be found elsewhere. Shall we soon proceed to Unit AB to continue operations? Yes, once we get a little more soil out of here we shall start attacking the back wall.

17 Apr 2006

Group 1
06-12-53-AJ

2006-28-134

Digging down at a lovely rate. I'll fill you in when something interesting happens.

Nothing too new in this unit, but Marcello and I have made some curious observations about the interior south wall. First, the southeast corner is composed of abutting walls, suggesting an addition. Since the south wall appears to be the older of the two, was this building an addition? The second observation which was entirely Marcello's involves the integration of the benches into the south wall. He is thinking it may continue through the wall into a south building. I'm all about the south building, but the construction through a wall is a little questionable. After cleaning stucco we are totally digging south.

Post lunch update - We probably have enough left to last the rest of the day. Nothing earth-shattering uncovered.

Ah, we're reaching the interesting part which may contain a continuation of the rock line. Give them a moment and we should find ourselves a line or an end to our hypothesis.

New Project
@ Cleanup of SubOP 11.

Seeing as these two are lovingly delicate and good with stucco, I'm having them clean 11 to determine where we should make our floor cut.

17 Apr 2006

Group 2

2006-28-135

06-12-50-AG

Today we start very close to a step, and the lot should close when that point is reached.

Alright, we're there. The step is a little beat up, but it's identifiable. Well done.

Final lot measurements

Soil: Clayey Silt - Brown

Cultural Material: Ceramics (122), Bone (10), Shell (2), Modern (4)

Altitude BGS: NW:

NE:

SW:

SE:

New lot

06-12-55 - AG

I believe here we shall attribute the present level to the floor to this lot.

Post lunch - Still going with a significant decrease in artifacts.

Just hit stucco, probably from the first step. We'll keep going down to the stucco floor and then move up a unit.

~~2006-28-136~~ 17 Apr 2006

Group 3

2006-28-136

06-11-18-J

Today we follow the wall a bit more into a new unit.

Ah, the upper courses survive! We shall have quite a wall, especially if it corners after another unit. That's really all we need in this unit, so we clean and move on.

Final lot measurements

Soil: Clayey Silt - Brown

Cultural Material: Ceramics (15), Bone (8), Toba (2)

Altitude BGS: NW:

NE:

SW:

SE:

New lot

06-11-19-K

Our wall, while still possessing a good number of its courses, is buckling outwards and almost appearing to die? Is this a sign of the corner? A few probes aren't making it much clearer, so we're heading down some more.

127 Apr 2006

Group 4

2006-28-137

06-12-49-AH

They are starting to excavate below the stone line now, so we'll call this a lot

Chiripón

Final lot measurements

Soil: Clayey Silt - Bit of brown with orange brown.

Cultural Material:

Altitude BGS: NW: 129cm

NE: 138cm

SW:

SE:

New lot

06-12-54-0F

I expect a step/floor about 20cm down, so we'll see how that pans out.

No floor yet, but I am still happy. We have about three courses of wall that seem to have more yet below them. Does this mean the building's front is similar and may have another step? Be still my archaeologically nerdy heart.

Oh! And now they've uncovered carbon that may, depending on if we're close to the floor, be ~~the~~ surface material. Yes, that's the floor with a fair amount of a vessel immediately on top. That makes me want to find the floor all around this building. What more is to be revealed? More of the vessel, for one, still encased in carbon. Ah, life is good.

17 Apr 2006

~~Group 5~~

2006-28-138

~~06-12-56-AB~~ Group 5

06-12-56-AB

We have a Fifth team again, the original having not shown up to work. They are now working on the back of the building. May they find something significant.

17 Apr 2006

Group 4

2006-28-139

06-12-54 - ① F

Were starting to move north, so I'll stop this lot
here ~~was~~.

Final lot measurements

Soil: ~~Silt~~ Clayey Silt - Orange

Cultural Material:

Altitude BGS: Nw:

NE:

Sw:

SE:

New lot

06-12-57-AK

More carbon carrying over from G and more ceramics. Ah,
does the joy never end?

I guess the day shall end. Oh well.

18 Apr 2006

Group 1

2006 - 28 - 140

06-12-58 - AL

Nothing really showed up in the stucco sweep, so we'll move up to the south expansion to probe for another building. The plan is to start with about 30 cm of excavation to find a basic sign of construction.

So far we really have nothing to show for our work besides the other side of the wall - no additional architecture and only more fill.

And it would appear that we have abutted Roberto's trench from 2004, evidenced by buried string. I guess this team shall begin the floor cut when they finish here.

Final lot measurements

Soil: Clayey silt - orange

Cultural Material: Ceramics (8), Toba (24), Bone (1)

Altitude BGS: NW:

NE:

SW:

SE:

New lot

06-11-21-C

We're performing a floor cut here, and started to run into a finishing/prep layer for the stucco.

06-11-21-C
010 012

18 Apr 2006

Group 2

2006-28-141

06-12-55-AG

Still digging and slightly past the first step.

And now we have a floor to clean up a bit before moving

up. Expect to return here later to find lower levels.

With two nice steps and a lovely floor we move up.

Final lot measurements

Soil: Clayey Silt - Brown

Cultural Material:

Altitude BGS: NW:

NE:

SW:

SE:

New lot

06-12-509-AM

This should be a quicker lot thanks to the higher stairs.

Loads of artifacts, too.

18 Apr 2006

Group 3

2006-28-142

06-11-19-H

With the wall falling apart, it is important that I verify exactly where it's going by digging down a bit more. Gah! The wall continues! We proceed yet again!

Find lot measurements

Soil: Clayey Silt - Brown

Cultural Material:

Altitude BGS: NW:

NE:

SW:

SE:

06-11-20-L

Once more we dig. Once more the wall goes on, though now it screams horrendously, trapped in clay as if to be falling forever. Little to do but continue.

Find lot measurements

Soil: Clayey Silt - Brown

Cultural Material:

Altitude BGS: NW:

NE:

SW:

SE:

18 Apr 2006

Group 4

2006-28-143

06-12-57-AH

So much carbon to recover, so little time. We're cleaning this lot up and recovering even more censor bits. The aluminum foil evades us again, so we're temporarily bagging in plastic. This does not get to me too much as it will be scrubbed in the end and the vast majority of the samples is not touching the sides. Just a heads up.

Ah, and now we have a few pieces of stucco as well, these being attached to stones of small size. Even so, they are recovered from the same layer as the carbon. There are also some bone fragments, chert, and obsidian to add to the collection.

Oh, there is a stucco floor here, as I can see in unit F. Well that makes more sense given the stucco that shows up everywhere else. We left the stucco where it was and dug a bit lower to cut through the soil change a bit and be sure of where the transition points are. Now the workers think that the wall continues lower through the floor. I can't say I'm too certain about that, but I'm willing to humor a bit more of excavation after photographing what we have.

18 Apr 2006

Group 5

2006-28-144

06-12-56-AB

The prospect of applying blasting caps and explosives to this unit is increasingly more attractive as we chip through fill. I'll tell you if their efforts uncover something.

Well, we found the extension wall, not much prettier from the inside. It shall remain until we get to the bottom of the interior. If we find answers, the architecture shall survive.

18 Apr 2006

Group 6

2006-28-145

06-12-60-AN

Yes, I have a sixth team for a brief while and yes, we are returning to the south expansion. We are taking out another 50 cm to the west to uncover the area of the bench in case, for some crazy reason, it continues through the south wall.

Yeah, no bench. That simplifies matters.

19 Apr 2006

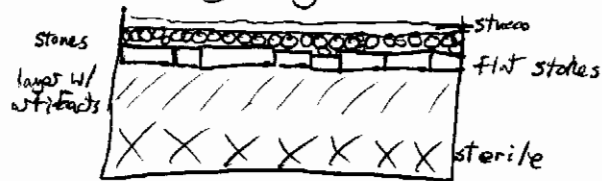
Group 1

2006-28-146

06-11-21-0C

We continue a floor cut, probably in reasonably thin layers, hopefully with the same fortune in finding ceramics.

Ceramics we did find, but also the sterile layer below. The floor was composed of pebbly fill on top of flat finishing stones to hold the final layer of stucco. The earthen layer immediately below the finishing stones contained a fair number of ceramics before giving way to a lighter level of sterile soil.



19 Apr 2006

Group 2

2006-28-197

06-12-59-AM

We are pretty close to finishing here having remnants of all five steps. I suppose that soon enough we will start the process of tearing them out and taking pictures. I am curious to see how they were built.

Final lot measurements

Soil: Clayey silt - Brown

Cultural Material: Ceramics (84), Bone (2), Toba (1)

Attitude BGS: NW:

NE:

SW:

SE:

New lot

06-12-62-AM

This lot will contain the fifth and fourth steps' removal including some photos to look for.

Our fourth step is a beauty, and it is composed of flat stones for all of its depth. Nothing related to the first construction, though.

Same story for number 3. On to another lot

Final lot measurements

Soil

Cultural Material

Attitude BGS: NW: 66cm

NE:

SW: 69cm

SE:

19 Apr 2006

Group 3

2006-28-148

06-11-22-M

Dare I venture to guess how preserved the wall
will be here? I shudder at the thought.

The wall crumbles and continues. Onwards.

19 Apr 2006

Group 4

2006-28-149

06-12-61-AH

Having a clear idea of how deep the wall is, we can continue in one of our original missions to find the north building of structure 9. Minimal artifacts greet us, but little else.

Final lot measurements

Soil:

Cultural Material:

Altitude BGS: NW:

NE:

SW:

SE:

New lot

06-12-64-A0

The same story here, so we'll move on yet again.
Final lot information

Soil:

Cultural Material:

Altitude BGS: NW:

NE:

SW:

SE:

End of day

19 Apr 2006

Group 5

2006-28-150

06-12-0256-AB

We've hit the "Floor" in the back, so we're going to take out the scant remains of the back wall before digging down as we did in 0F.

A lovely line of stones with a lovely set of floor pavings. I'm almost loath to take them out. Because we're working with an oversized unit, I shall have ~~the~~ the southern 60 cm excavated while leaving the northern portion intact to demonstrate the difference and what we removed.

Final lot measurements

Soil:

Cultural Material:

Altitude BGS: NW: 59cm

SW: 90cm

NE: 119cm

SE: 121cm

19 Apr 2006

Group 6

2006-28-151

06-12-60-AN.

Just cleaning up here before taking AL down to the inner floor level.

Ah, that's done. Now to make sure that a floor does not continue through either.

Final lot measurements

Soil: Clayey Silt - orange

Cultural Material:

Altitude BGS: NW:

NE:

SW:

SE:

Now lot

06-12-63-AL

I doubt that we will find anything here, but it's worth a shot.

No floor, so we shall perform a small probe pit to find the outside line to confirm ~~that~~ that this is outside.

~~Nothing was found in the probe pit.~~ Yes, this is the outside line.

Final lot measurements

Soil: Clayey Silt - Orange

Cultural Material:

Altitude BGS: NW:

NE:

SW:

SE:

24 Apr 2006

Group "1"

2006-28-152

06-12-65-AP

Alright, this shall be the last of what I dig in this subop. If we find no wall, we find no wall. There's little else to be said for it.

It looks as though there is no wall, but I'll probe to be certain. One hole on the eastern side looks suspicious, so we'll see what it hides by digging another 20 cm or so here.

Really we have very little besides a few shards. I let the guys dig until the end of the day, but we still found nothing.

Final lot measurements

Soil: Clayey Silt - Orange

Cultural Material:

Altitude BGS: NW:

NE:

SW:

SE:

End of Day

24 Apr 2006

Group "2"

2006-28-153

06-11-23-N

The same story here - Find the corner or leave discontent. Either way I won't be digging more here.

The far end of the square seems promising, so we are going to dig down and under to see if this beast of a wall shall live on.

Aha! I think we have a corner! We'll clean this a bit and then move north half a unit to verify our change

End of Day

25 Apr 2006

Group 2

2006-28-154

06-11-23-N

We have enough dug here to move north just a half unit to get a clearer picture of what's going on.

Final lot measurements

Soil: Clayey Silt - Brown

Cultural Material:

Altitude BGS: NW: 74cm

NE: 68cm

SW: 60cm

SE: 60cm

New lot

06-11-24-0

Just digging out the corner a bit, then I'll take some pictures.

Final lot measurements

Soil:

Cultural Material:

Altitude BGS: NW: 17cm

NE: 64cm

SW: 74cm

SE: 68cm

20 MAR 2006

2006 - 28

3

Final Notes: Subop 42

Excavations started approximately 2.5 meters from the building to establish a floor level and determine the extent of fall from structure 10. The trench runs roughly north-south ~~along~~^{up} the south side of structure 10, and it initially was only eight one meter square units in length. The overall supop purpose was to uncover the side of the structure and get a basic idea of what the top looked like.

The floor was uncovered at about 30 cm BGS in unit A (absolute elevation), and a similar level was uncovered in unit B. Artifacts in both lots were moderate, averaging approximately 10 finds per 10 cm. Unit C saw a change in practice when architecture was uncovered in the north of the unit. Four courses of a step were found and cleaned before cleaning and digging to the proposed floor elevation even with units A and B. In this small lot a large amount of cultural material was uncovered including a number of censor base fragments.

Unit D's ~~and~~ contents turned the first step into the front of a terrace. First a small second step was found that rose about 10 cm and was 10 cm deep. A third "step" was found directly behind the second step, although this third bit of architecture lacked a facade or solid stone foundation or fill underneath. Believing this to be the top of a terrace we moved to unit E.

Unit E contained another line, although it was far less obvious than the previous three; a line of rocks had slid approximately 15 cm from our estimated

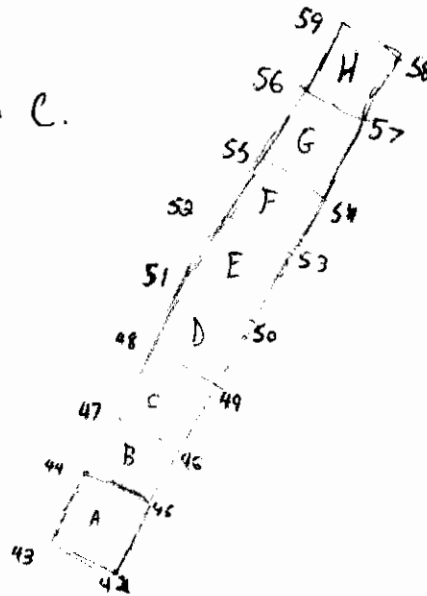
Foundation. The original position was deduced from partially fallen stones in the trench edge. Judging from the height of the stacked stones, the terrace was about one meter high and a meter farther in. We continued upwards expecting to find another terrace after about a meter. Unit F, however, appeared to be entirely fill and fall. Only a small sign of the third terrace was visible from unit F. Unit G contained the third terrace in semi-apparent fragments. The line was later clarified through excavations in units J and K, which had a much clearer picture of the terrace.

The fourth terrace came as a bit of a surprise, clearly visible only after excavating through portions of it. It crossed units H, I, and L and was slightly shorter (about 60 cm tall) than the other terraces. Directly behind it, in unit M, a rough platform surface was uncovered that continued through units N and O to the north. Closer examination of unit O showed a line that could have been a wall. To further investigate the lines (it was a possible wall corner that was found), Unit P was opened to connect subop 42 and 49.

18 Associated points

Date	Feature	Class	Sub-class	#	Description	North	East	Elev
2006-02-24	Archaeology	Trench corner		42	02/42	38.56	17.13	1,000.04
2006-02-24	Archaeology	Trench corner		43	02/42	39.06	16.39	1,000.01
2006-02-24	Archaeology	Trench corner		44	02/42	39.90	16.84	999.99
2006-02-24	Archaeology	Trench corner		45	02/42	39.46	17.70	1,000.03
2006-02-24	Archaeology	Trench corner		46	02/42	40.27	18.21	1,000.17
2006-02-24	Archaeology	Trench corner		47	02/42	40.91	17.35	1,000.25
2006-02-24	Archaeology	Trench corner		48	02/42	41.68	17.81	1,000.76
2006-02-24	Archaeology	Trench corner		49	02/42	41.18	18.74	1,000.57
2006-02-24	Archaeology	Trench corner		50	02/42	42.01	19.02	1,001.19
2006-02-24	Archaeology	Trench corner		51	02/42	42.51	18.24	1,001.41
2006-02-24	Archaeology	Trench corner		52	02/42	43.37	18.81	1,001.95
2006-02-24	Archaeology	Trench corner		53	02/42	42.93	19.60	1,001.78
2006-02-24	Archaeology	Trench corner		54	02/42	43.86	20.10	1,002.30
2006-02-24	Archaeology	Trench corner		55	02/42	44.28	19.31	1,002.49
2006-02-24	Archaeology	Trench corner		56	02/42	45.18	19.81	1,002.77
2006-02-24	Archaeology	Trench corner		57	02/42	44.73	20.57	1,002.74
2006-02-24	Archaeology	Trench corner		58	02/42	45.57	21.14	1,003.01
2006-02-24	Archaeology	Trench corner		59	02/42	46.00	20.25	1,003.17

John C.



25 Associated points

Date	Feature	Class	Sub-class	#	Description	North	East	Elev
2006-02-28	Archaeology	Trench corner		68	02/49	44.41	32.70	1,000.01
2006-02-28	Archaeology	Trench corner		69	02/49	44.72	31.72	1,000.06
2006-02-28	Archaeology	Trench corner		70	02/49	45.41	29.90	1,000.65
2006-02-28	Archaeology	Trench corner		71	02/49	45.70	29.02	1,001.03
2006-02-28	Archaeology	Trench corner		72	02/49	46.16	28.09	1,001.28
2006-02-28	Archaeology	Trench corner		73	02/49	46.50	27.20	1,001.67
2006-02-28	Archaeology	Trench corner		74	02/49	46.88	26.29	1,002.26
2006-02-28	Archaeology	Trench corner		75	02/49	47.30	25.31	1,002.72
2006-02-28	Archaeology	Trench corner	SW	76	02/49 - 02/42 I	47.72	24.44	1,003.08
2006-02-28	Archaeology	Trench corner	SW	77	02/49 02/42 - T	48.09	23.53	1,003.21
2006-02-28	Archaeology	Trench corner	SW	78	02/49 02/42 - U	48.52	22.63	1,003.15
2006-02-28	Archaeology	Trench corner	NE	79	02/49 02/42 - U/P	48.91	21.70	1,003.16
2006-02-28	Archaeology	Trench corner	NE	80	02/49 02/42 - S	49.30	20.80	1,003.23
2006-02-28	Archaeology	Trench corner	NW	81	02/49 02/42 - Q	50.21	21.27	1,003.21
2006-02-28	Archaeology	Trench corner	NW	82	02/49 02/42 - V	49.84	22.14	1,003.23
2006-02-28	Archaeology	Trench corner	NW	83	02/49 02/42 - U	49.39	23.07	1,003.15
2006-02-28	Archaeology	Trench corner	NW	84	02/49 02/42 - T	49.03	23.93	1,003.13
2006-02-28	Archaeology	Trench corner		85	02/49 - 02/42	48.57	24.87	1,003.01
2006-02-28	Archaeology	Trench corner		86	02/49	48.22	25.72	1,002.75
2006-02-28	Archaeology	Trench corner		87	02/49	47.76	26.69	1,002.31
2006-02-28	Archaeology	Trench corner		88	02/49	47.43	27.51	1,001.70
2006-02-28	Archaeology	Trench corner		89	02/49	47.05	28.41	1,001.29
2006-02-28	Archaeology	Trench corner		90	02/49	46.35	30.27	1,000.41
2006-02-28	Archaeology	Trench corner		91	02/49	45.66	32.11	1,000.05
2006-02-28	Archaeology	Trench corner		92	02/49	45.29	33.04	999.92

3/8/06 49-11-E BJ (1), Cer (9), Ob (1), Ch
 49-09-F Cer (10), BJ (2)
 42-27-R Cer (4), Ob (2)
 42-26-Q Cer (3)
 49-10-D Cer (14), BJ (4)

02/42 / 02/49

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John C.

20 Associated points

<i>Date</i>	<i>Feature</i>	<i>Class</i>	<i>Sub-class</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>Elev</i>
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2006-04-19	Archaeology	Trench corner	-	166	06/11	813.78	468.02	1,010.53
2006-04-19	Archaeology	Trench corner	-	163	06/11	814.69	470.02	1,010.56
2006-04-19	Archaeology	Trench corner	-	168	06/11	813.94	466.09	1,010.53
2006-04-19	Archaeology	Trench corner	-	169	06/11	813.97	465.01	1,010.47
2006-04-19	Archaeology	Trench corner	-	170	06/11	813.04	464.95	1,010.41
2006-04-19	Archaeology	Trench corner	-	171	06/11	812.13	465.03	1,010.40
2006-04-19	Archaeology	Trench corner	-	172	06/11	811.07	464.98	1,010.34
2006-04-19	Archaeology	Trench corner	-	159	06/11	815.08	466.13	1,010.89
2006-04-19	Archaeology	Trench corner	-	162	06/11	814.80	469.08	1,010.60
2006-04-19	Archaeology	Trench corner	-	161	06/11	814.78	468.06	1,010.66
2006-04-19	Archaeology	Trench corner	-	160	06/11	814.82	467.13	1,010.85
2006-04-19	Archaeology	Trench corner	-	158	06/11	815.82	466.18	1,011.11
2006-04-19	Archaeology	Trench corner	-	157	06/11	816.15	465.06	1,011.26
2006-04-19	Archaeology	Trench corner	-	156	06/11	814.99	462.98	1,010.76
2006-04-19	Archaeology	Trench corner	-	155	06/11	814.05	463.09	1,010.54
2006-04-19	Archaeology	Trench corner	-	154	06/11	812.03	462.93	1,010.45
2006-04-19	Archaeology	Trench corner	-	153	06/11	811.03	463.00	1,010.45

19 Associated points

Date	Feature	Class	Sub-class	#	Description	North	East	Elev
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2006-03-08	Archaeology	Trench corner		54	06/11	814.00	463.99	1,010.56
2006-03-08	Archaeology	Trench corner		55	06/11	815.00	464.00	1,010.79
2006-03-08	Archaeology	Trench corner		56	06/11	816.01	464.00	1,011.10
2006-03-08	Archaeology	Trench corner		57	06/11	810.99	463.99	1,010.42
2006-03-08	Archaeology	Trench corner		58	06/11	817.01	464.00	1,011.39
2006-03-08	Archaeology	Trench corner		59	06/12	805.00	464.00	1,010.35
2006-03-08	Archaeology	Trench corner		60	06/12	805.00	463.01	1,010.50
2006-03-08	Archaeology	Trench corner		61	06/12	805.00	462.00	1,010.63
2006-03-08	Archaeology	Trench corner		62	06/12	805.01	461.01	1,010.61
2006-03-08	Archaeology	Trench corner		63	06/12	805.00	460.00	1,010.66
2006-03-08	Archaeology	Trench corner		64	06/12	805.01	459.01	1,010.64
2006-03-08	Archaeology	Trench corner		65	06/12	804.99	458.00	1,010.64
2006-03-08	Archaeology	Trench corner		66	06/12	805.00	457.00	1,010.60
2006-03-08	Archaeology	Trench corner		67	06/12	805.00	456.01	1,010.47
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2006-03-08	Archaeology	Trench corner		69	06/12	805.00	454.00	1,009.75
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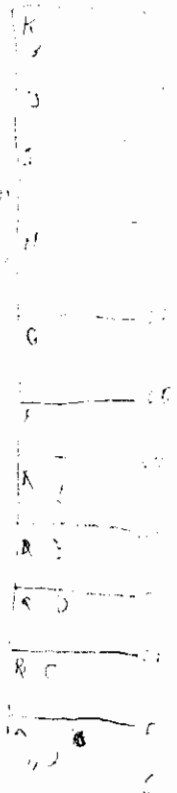
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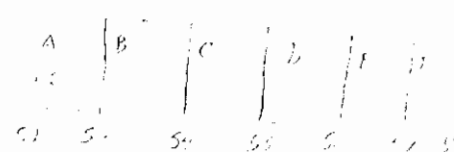
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Step 5 = 1010.50



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06-12

465

John C.

45 Associated points

Page 1

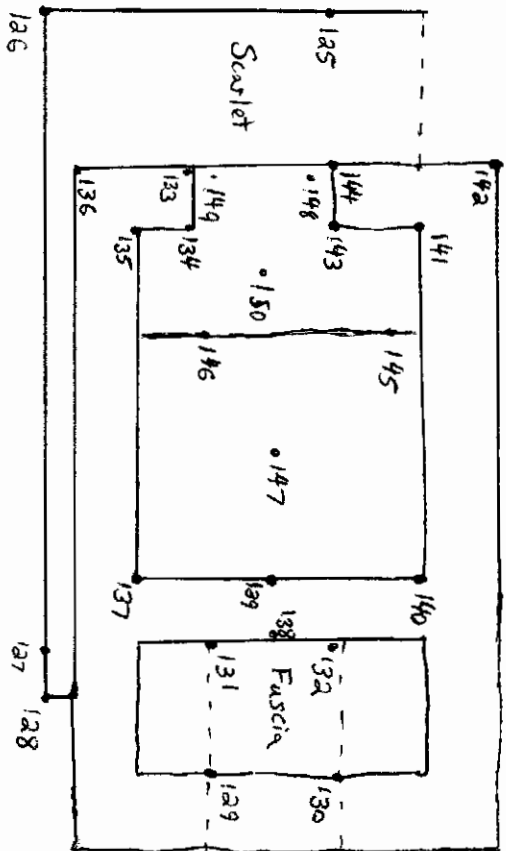
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2006-04-19	Archaeology	Trench corner		84	06/12	803.75	452.99	1,009.45
2006-04-19	Archaeology	Trench corner		83	06/12	803.77	453.85	1,009.63
2006-04-19	Archaeology	Trench corner		87	06/12	806.00	459.01	1,010.63
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2006-04-19	Archaeology	Trench corner		79	06/12	799.98	454.65	1,009.88
2006-04-19	Archaeology	Trench corner		78	06/12	799.50	454.69	1,009.94
2006-04-19	Archaeology	Trench corner		77	06/12	799.45	455.75	1,010.27
2006-04-19	Archaeology	Trench corner		88	06/12	807.09	459.04	1,010.62
2006-04-19	Archaeology	Trench corner		89	06/12	808.06	459.08	1,010.73
2006-04-19	Archaeology	Trench corner		90	06/12	808.16	460.06	1,010.69
2006-04-19	Archaeology	Trench corner		91	06/12	807.24	460.11	1,010.67
2006-04-19	Archaeology	Trench corner		92	06/12	805.98	460.04	1,010.66
2006-04-19	Archaeology	Trench corner		93	06/12	802.84	457.03	1,010.59
2006-04-19	Archaeology	Trench corner		94	06/12	802.90	455.89	1,010.37
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2006-04-19	Archaeology	Trench corner		96	06/12	803.96	457.67	1,010.64
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2006-04-19	Archaeology	Trench corner		98	06/12	802.78	458.99	1,010.65
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2006-04-19	Archaeology	Trench corner		58	06/12	802.70	461.79	1,010.69
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2006-04-19	Archaeology	Trench corner		60	06/12	802.62	463.11	1,010.42
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John C.

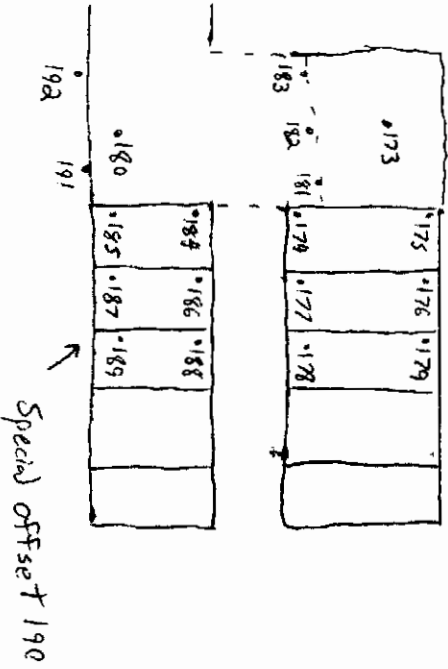
45 Associated points

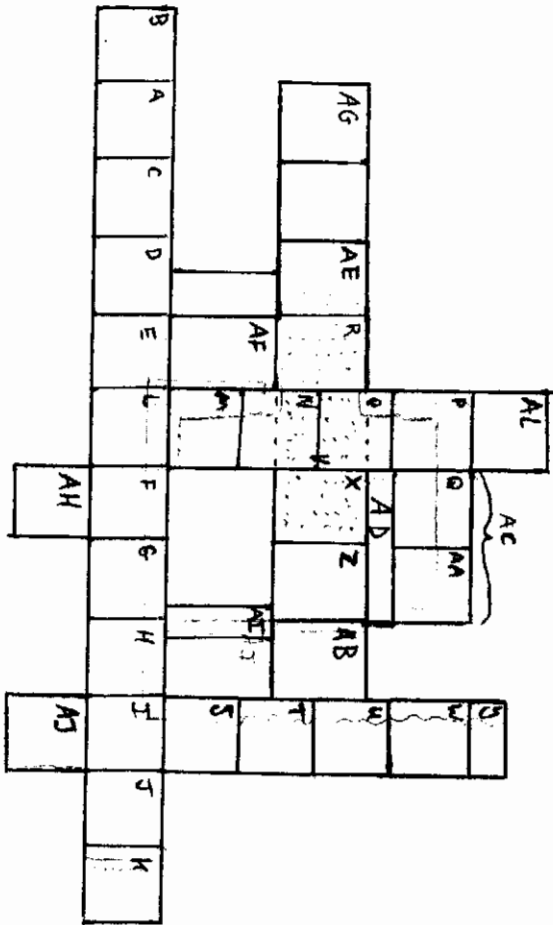
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2006-04-19	Archaeology	Trench corner		65	06/12	801.37	461.01	1,010.79
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2006-04-19	Archaeology	Trench corner		71	06/12	800.12	458.30	1,010.70
2006-04-19	Archaeology	Trench corner		72	06/12	800.09	457.91	1,010.70
2006-04-19	Archaeology	Trench corner		73	06/12	800.22	456.87	1,010.54
2006-04-19	Archaeology	Trench corner		74	06/12	801.56	456.92	1,010.51
2006-04-19	Archaeology	Trench corner		75	06/12	801.69	455.46	1,010.19

06/12



06/11





100

Excavations started approximately 2.5 meters from the actual structure to establish a floor level and determine the extent of fall from Structure 10. The trench ran roughly north-south up the south side of the structure, and it initially consisted of only eight collinear meter-squares. The overarching subop purpose was to uncover the side of the structure and get a basic idea of how the top looked.

The floor was uncovered at about 30 centimeters BGS in unit A, and a similar elevation was uncovered in unit B. Artifacts in both lots were moderate, averaging about 10 finds per 10 centimeters. Unit C saw a change in practice when architecture was found in the north part of the unit. Four courses of a step (PRIDE) were found and cleaned before cleaning and digging to the proposed floor elevation even with units A and B. In this small lot a large amount of cultural material was found including a number of censor base fragments.

The contents of unit D altered the conception of the first step through the discovery of further architecture. First, a small step (GLUTTONY) was found that rose about 10 cm and was 10 cm deep. A third "step" (LUST) was constructed directly behind the second step, although this third bit of architecture lacked a façade or solid stone foundation or fill beneath. Believing this to be the top of a terrace, excavations moved on to unit E.

Unit E contained another line, although it was far less obvious than the previous three; a line of rocks had slid approximately 15 cm from the estimated foundation. The original position was deduced from partially fallen stones in the trench profile. Judging from the height of the stacked stones, the terrace was about one meter in height and a meter deep. We continued upwards expecting to find another terrace after about a meter. Unit F, however, appeared to be entirely fill and fall. Only a small sign of the third terrace was visible from unit F. Unit G contained the third terrace in semi-apparent fragments. The line was later clarified through excavations in units J and K, which had a much clearer picture of the terrace.

The fourth terrace came as a bit of a surprise, clearly visible only after excavating through portions of it. It crossed units H, I, and L and was slightly shorter (about 60 cm tall) than the other terraces. Directly behind it, in unit M, a rough platform surface was uncovered that continued through units N and O to the north. Closer examination of unit O showed a line that suggested a wall interior; to further investigate the lines, unit P was opened to connect to connect subops 42 and 49 while revealing more of the possible interior. Additional excavations to the north and west demonstrated that ENVY was merely the interior of a destroyed portion of a summit surface that, as hypothesized, covered the entire top of the structure with smoothed cobbles.

Intended to uncover the eastern side of Structure 10, subop 49 started about three meters from the base of the building. The first few units contained a substantial number of artifacts, including a postclassical foot, and were dug to a depth of about 50 centimeters. The floor to the east side of Structure 10 consisted of hard packed clay; this level was excavated through in unit A, but not in subsequent units. Units D, E, and F were excavated to a slightly higher level initially to find a wall or staircase more quickly. The wall (ZEAL) was found in unit F, and cleanup excavations began in the aforementioned units to dig down to the floor level. All three of these units contained a great deal of carbon on the floor, mixed with fragments of censurs. Cleaning off the wall and creating a small test hole in front of the wall showed that ZEAL consisted of fourteen courses of stone, the topmost of which were barely intact and only held together on the northern edge of the trench. ZEAL also had a concave orientation, appearing to be ready to fall outwards from the top while the bottom was still roughly plumb.

Further excavations above ZEAL revealed little. It was suspected that a terrace platform would exist above the wall, but no such level was found. Only fall and fill remained. Summit based excavations were performed in units J and K of 49, but were later adopted by subop 42.

The outward-bending of ZEAL along with the walls found in subops 43 and 50 suggest that the building's walls were experiencing pressure from the inside of the structure. This is probably from the loose fill within the structure which, as it settled and was compacted through use, was pushed downwards. Running out of room to be displaced, the fill had to push outwards, similar to that which wrecked havoc in subop 42 and its terraces, pushing them outwards and forcing their collapse. The fill then tumbled out behind the wall

Positioned to the south of Structure 5, subop 11's purpose was to uncover the southern wall of Structure 5 and to follow it to its eastern corner. A previous excavation had exposed a different section of the wall which was further north than the back wall of Structure 5, so the point of connection was a significant goal. Excavation began three meters from the wall to find the OWENS floor and follow it to the wall. Unit A instead hit the steps that comprise the western border of the plaza, so the remainder of the trench was moved east a meter to find the floor. Unit B succeeded in uncovering a plaster surface associated with OWENS, though in units C and D the stucco largely disappeared. Unit E had only a little of the plaster in its own right, but the northern border touched upon the sought after wall, fifteen courses in height. To study the interaction between the stairs and wall, a western cut was made. The stairs abut the wall, suggesting that they were added at a later date.

One additional unit was exposed above the wall to reveal the terrace top that rested behind Structure 5. Stucco still remained on about 40% of the terrace, and an undecorated drain stone was found between units G and H. The majority of the excavation was then dedicated to finding the eastern corner. As units stretched out, the wall started to fall apart; pieces of the top courses were found in various stages of collapse, forcing us to dig slightly deeper to find preserved courses that proved the wall's continued existence. In each unit at least two intact courses were found before moving on. Finally, in unit N the corner was found. A small northern expansion verified the corner's existence.

A floor cut was also performed during this time in unit C to learn about the floor's construction and probe for cultural material. Almost immediately the workers hit small pebbles that covered a layer of larger, flat stones. Beneath this was a dark layer of soil which contained many Copador sherds and other classic artifacts. After fifteen centimeters the soil changed to a sterile layer of orange clay.

Subop: 06-11

Numero del Excavador: 28

Introducción

Al principio, era el objetivo de la trinchera que encontrar las gradas que fueron encontradas en 2004, seguir las y el piso OWENS al norte, y explorar el fondo de Estructura 5. Las unidades de 06-11 empezaron más o menos cuatro metros al sur de la estructura, trepaba al norte y seis metros de largo por un metro al este-oeste. Fue decidido excavar aquí para aprender como sea el fondo de la estructura y si las gradas colinde con la estructura.

Métodos

Empezando en unidad de excavación A, tres de las cinco gradas fueron descubiertas, pero no había suficiente espacio a excavar el piso. Por eso, la trinchera fue movida al este un metro. Usualmente las unidades fueron excavadas en niveles de aproximadamente 30 centímetros para las primeras lotes porque había llenas de artefactos y humus. En esta trinchera el nivel segundo casi siempre era de sedimento sin artefactos ni muchas piedras. Por eso el sedimento fue quitado rápidamente con una pincha hasta que llegaron al nivel del piso. Después excavaban y limpiaban el piso con cucharines.

Después de encontrar un muro en unidad E, las gradas cerca del muro fueron excavadas. También fue decidido a encontrar la esquina del muro al este. En 2004 un arqueólogo encontró otra parte del muro al norte; por eso era importante que encontrar donde estuviera la esquina y como conectaban los dos muros. La trinchera al este era seis metros de largo, y el muro estaba medio caído en unidades K, L, M, y N.

La última parte de la excavación fue un pozo en unidad C que fue excavado por el piso para averiguar si hubiera cerámica debajo. El pozo era 40 centímetros de profundidad.

Resultados

Las gradas colindan con el muro, y encima del muro hay una superficie de una terraza todavía cubierto de estuco. El muro continua al este seis metros de las gradas a la esquina, y solo los niveles mas altos son caídos. El pozo en unidad C mostró que el piso fue construido de cuatro niveles – primero había un nivel de tierra encima del barro que contenía mucha cerámica, y es posible que los artefactos sean de una dedicación o que fueron añadidos a la tierra para aumentar el relleno. Encima del nivel de tierra había un nivel de piedras planas y grandes para preparar para el estuco. Encima de estas piedras había un nivel de piedritas que servían a dar el estuco algo que agarrar. Finalmente había el estuco, más o menos tres centímetros de grueso. Menos que en ese pozo y los niveles de humus, no había muchos artefactos en la sub-operación

Conclusiones

Porque las gradas colindan con el muro al norte, la plaza esta cerrada al norte y oeste. Esta restringía el movimiento de personas entre esta plaza y la que esta al oeste. Las gradas que fueron descubiertas en 2004 sugieren que fuera posible andar de una plaza a la otra, pero todavía la barrera hacia más privada esta plaza. Este hipótesis solo sirve a explicar como era después de la segunda construcción: hay que excavar atrás de las gradas al oeste para averiguar si el montículo y edificios continuaban al muro para realizar el mismo objetivo.

Initially just intended to be an axial trench of structure 9, subop 12 measured eleven meters in length with two teams of workers, one on either end. Team 1 excavated in unit K – the west side of Structure 9 – down to the LOTHROP floor with a low wall to the east. Fall removed from K suggested that the four courses that were still standing may have numbered as high as nine. Further, previous excavations to the north had found a wall and corner that had **NUMBER** courses, was preserved by an interior corner, and was associated with the wall in question. Team 2 started work in unit A, to the east of Structure 9, uncovered a set of stairs, and then was moved east another unit to excavate the floor and approach the stairs from there. With unit C and the other two units, the OWENS floor and five stairs were uncovered and cleaned. Unit D contained somewhat flat stones that were believed to be the platform to which the stairs led.

In the meantime, team 1 had proceeded to unit J to try and find an upper platform. None was found, so work moved to units I and H where a wall was discovered along the southern edge of the trench. This was followed to the east as team 2 dug to meet them. The wall ran to unit F, straddled by L and G, where we suspected it turned south into a corner. Excavations to the south uncovered the eastern doorway and the southeastern corner. A single unit was also excavated along the south wall to verify that the wall continued. During this time team 2 excavated to the base of CHIRIPON's north wall. After nine courses they found that the wall had an outward molding which then continued down for another five courses. There a line of flat stones running along the base of the wall provided a good stopping point for excavations in this section. Team 2 moved to excavating the western "back" of the building to follow the northwestern partially destroyed corner south. Excavations showed that the back of the building was in a horrible state of disrepair, hardly allowing us to distinguish its path.

Revisiting the north wall, a line of abutment was noticed that suggested that the last meter of the building was added later. Noting this, we set up an oversized (1.2 meters wide) trench to excavate through the CHIRIPON's entrance to its back. The task revealed an inner floor that was a step up from the outside plaster surface (yet unexplored) and that the rest of the room was occupied by a stucco-covered bench. As team 2 excavated the area directly in front of CHIRIPON, team 1 cleared out more of the interior of the building and then excavated a small amount beyond the interior back wall – the wall which aligned itself with the original west wall, not the extension. Nothing was found in the first thirty centimeters to suggest a back room, so the two teams started new projects.

Team 2 began to approach the later phase steps in front of CHIRIPON in a trench parallel to the original trench. It found the floor, uncovered the stairs, and then followed through on misunderstood instructions I received. We photographed and drew each step before systematically removing it to see which step lined up with the outer porch. This operation was interrupted while removing the third step when the misunderstanding was realized and further harm was negated.

Team 1 excavated the area between the original trench and the building trench, a 1.6x1.3 meter area, to get a clear view of the porch's dimensions. The team then performed a small test branch to the north of unit I to see whether or not a line of stones that appeared to branch off of the north wall's flat base stones did indeed continue; no such line existed beyond unit I.

Subop: 02-30

Numero del Excavador: 28

Introducción

Este pozo de sondeo estaba 2.5 metros al sur de la Estructura 10, y fue escogido para encontrar el piso al sur de la estructura y para investigar un nivel bajo de fosfato. El pozo era un metro por un metro.

Métodos

El pozo fue excavado en lotes arbitrarios de diez centímetros. Después de cada lote, la profundidad fue medida, cambios en el color y textura de la tierra fueron estrito en los apuntes, y los artefactos que fueron descubiertos fueron puestos en bolsas. Durante la excavación, el pH fue medido con la ayuda del experto de la análisis de tierra.

Resultados

Poco fue encontrado en ese pozo de sondeo. Los primeros niveles tenían unos artefactos, pero debajo de el octavo nivel, habia casi nada. Después de mas o menos 25 centímetros, el color de la tierra cambio a un café un poquito mas claro y se hizo mucho mas duro. El contenido de barro en la tierra era muy alto, y los experimentos de pH solo nos dio que la tierra contenía un poco acido. 115 centímetros debajo superficie la tierra se hizo mas suelto por la composición que contenía mas arena. También había mas piedras en esos niveles.

Conclusiones

El piso de Estructura 10 no podía ser visto menos que en el perfil. Así estaba 25 centímetros debajo del superficie, representado por el cambio de la tierra que no parecía ser importante cuando los trabajadores estaban excavando. Es probable que el cambio mas profundo en el pozo era el nivel del río por la inclusión de arena y piedras redondas.

Subop: 06-12

Numero del Excavador: 28

Introducción

Al principio era el objetivo de esta sub-operación a excavar sobre el montículo que se llama Estructura 9, encontrar el piso LOTHROP al oeste, a encontrar las gradas y el piso OWENS al este. La trinchera era doce metros de largo, y un metro de ancha, pero mucho mas fue añadido. Por hacer esta trinchera, fuera posible averiguar que las gradas continúen al norte de la trinchera de 2004, averiguar que el muro al oeste continúe al sur de la esquina en el noroeste que fue descubierto en 2004, y ver si hubiera un edificio o superestructura en el medio del montículo.

Métodos

La trinchera fue excavada por dos equipos de trabajadores, empezando en unidades A y K. Los dos equipos reunieron en el centro, en unidad L después de encontrar los muros, pisos, y gradas que anticipaban. Las cinco gradas eran bien preservadas al este, pero la superficie era bien destruido; menos que las gradas, casi nada de la segunda construcción sobrevivió. Al oeste, el muro y piso LOTHROP eran poco preservados – el muro en la esquina en la excavación antes tenía mas que doce niveles de piedra, y este muro solo tenía cuatro con cinco mas niveles caídos que descubrieron enfrente del muro. En unidades H, G, F, y L, otro muro fue descubierto. Por eso otras trincheras al sur fueron excavadas, incluyendo excavaciones para encontrar los muros oeste, este, y una parte del sur del edificio CHIRIPON y una trinchera que empezó enfrente de la puerta, corrió por el centro del edificio, y terminó detrás de CHIRIPON. Nunca excavaron dos lados de un muro menos que si estuviera en una esquina o fuera sostenido por otros unidades de relleno. También unos pozos y trincheras al norte fueron excavados para aprender si hubiera otro edificio al norte.

Porque la mayoría de este montículo es de relleno, usualmente los trabajadores sacaban piedras más que tierra y usaron pinchas más que cucharines.

Resultados

CHIRIPON es cuatro metros de largo, incluyendo la expansión que añadió un metro, y es cuatro metros de ancha. Los muros a fuera son de diez y nueve niveles de piedra con moldeo en dos niveles. CHIRIPON tenía tres pisos o superficies. Primero, había un piso a fuera enfrente de la puerta que esta en el muro este. Segundo, había un piso a dentro del edificio, enfrente del tercer nivel – la banca. Todos los niveles son cubiertos de estuco amarillo con una línea de estuco blanco cerca de los perfiles. También, el relleno usualmente tenía piedras mas grandes inmediatamente encima de los pisos con piedras mas pequeños encima de la primera nivel del relleno. Excavación de la trinchera del muro oeste de la expansión solo encontró piedras caídas y una idea básica de donde estaba. Por eso, la esquina suroeste nunca fue descubierta. En unidad F, donde excavaron al fondo del muro donde había otro piso, encontraron mucho carbón mezclado con muchísima cerámica. Las trincheras al norte no encontraron otro edificio; solo contenía relleno.

Conclusiones

Porque CHIRIPON esta en una plaza bastante privada, es posible que fuera la casa de un noble. Después de unos años del uso, la gente decidieron que construir un montículo mas grande. Llenaron el edificio con relleno de piedras y tierra – visto por la diferencia de los colores de la tierra y el método determinado de llenarlo – y construyeron algo encima del montículo nuevo. No sobrevivió mucho de la segundo construcción, solo las gradas y un poquito de la superficie. Lo que fue construido encima de CHIRIPON esta perdido. Es posible que la expansión de CHIRIPON fuera para contener relleno para la segunda construcción, pero no hay evidencia suficiente para decir para que era esta parte del edificio.