

2005

EPV 020 DeLuca Field Notes 2005

Nathaniel DeLuca

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PAREP 2005

Field Notes

- El Paraíso -

Nathaniel DeLuca, Yale University

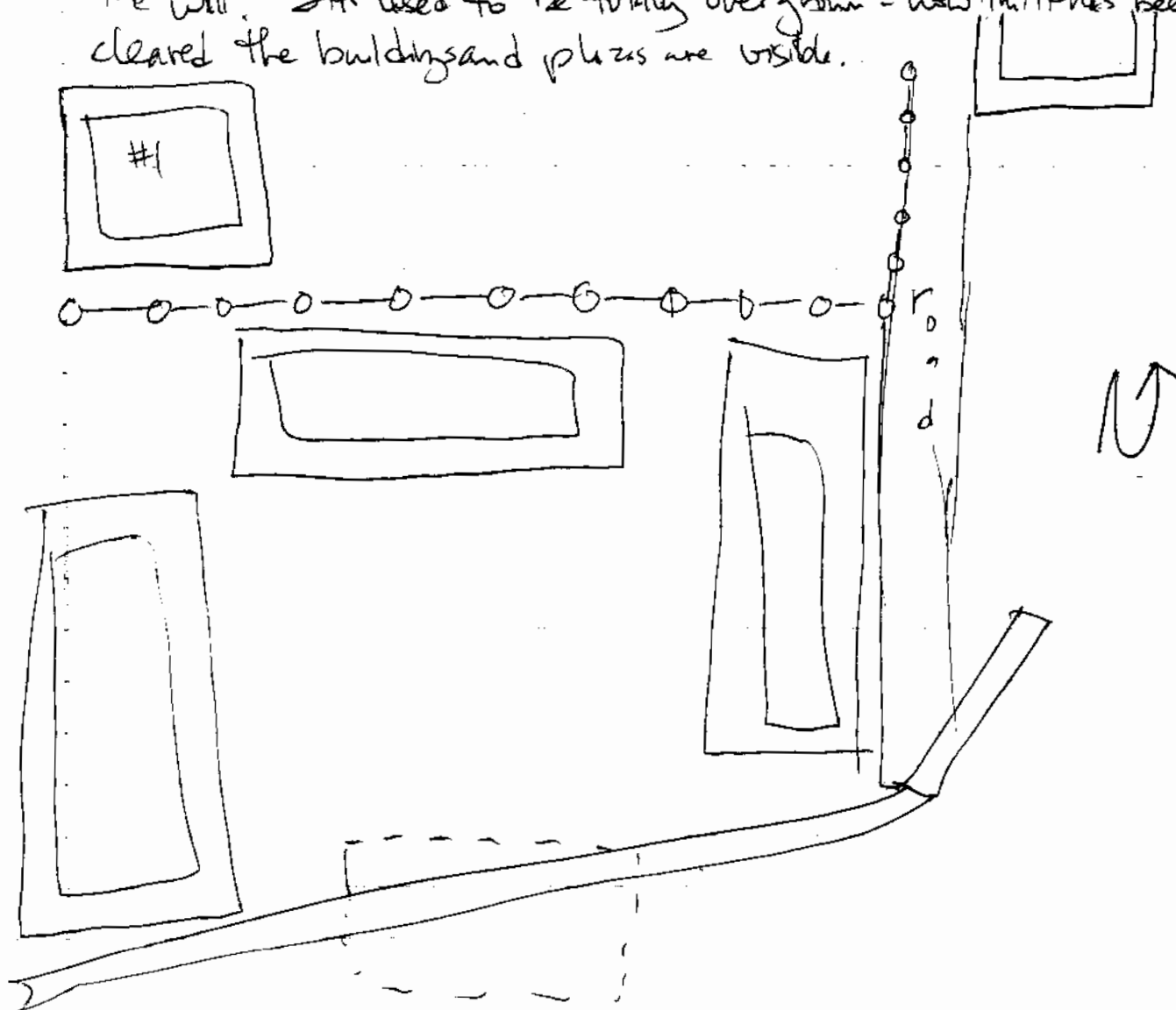
#20: Project Number

2005
June 6, Monday
El Paraiso

2005-20-1

Took tour of all three sites - town, El Cafetal, y
Las Orquideas.

Town site just north of Rio _____, retaining wall had been built
year prior to stop erosion of the site. One building on
south of south plaza has ~~not~~ already been totally destroyed since
the front steps, on N side, which were visible in the profile of
the wall. Site used to be totally overgrown - now that it has been
cleared the buildings and plazas are visible.



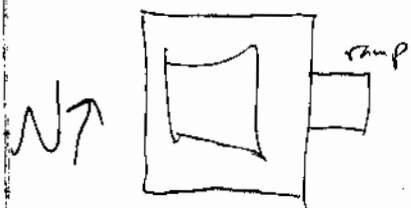
June 6/2005, p.2

2005-20-2

El Cefetal mostly covered in vegetation. Difficult to see some of the structures, but two are very tall and readily apparent. Clearing of the site will begin when we get permission of the land owner. Tramped around site for ~20 minutes trying to locate structures on the site map.

Las Orchidasis about 2km? from center of town in a large tree less cow pasture. Structures are all earthen - no stone architecture. No work has yet been done at this site. Very beautiful, remote location. No shade, but nice breeze.

Very rough sketches:



hall (very
court? uncommon in
this area)



June 7, 2005, Tuesday

Mapping exercises with EDM - setting up, calibrating, using the data collector. Very good to have reminder course having forgotten all the specifics from my previous excavations. Setting up very precise and sometimes frustrating. Practice and patience both needed in large quantities.

Made bearing map of site w/ Mary. Very successful in all aspects.

June 8, 2005, Wednesday

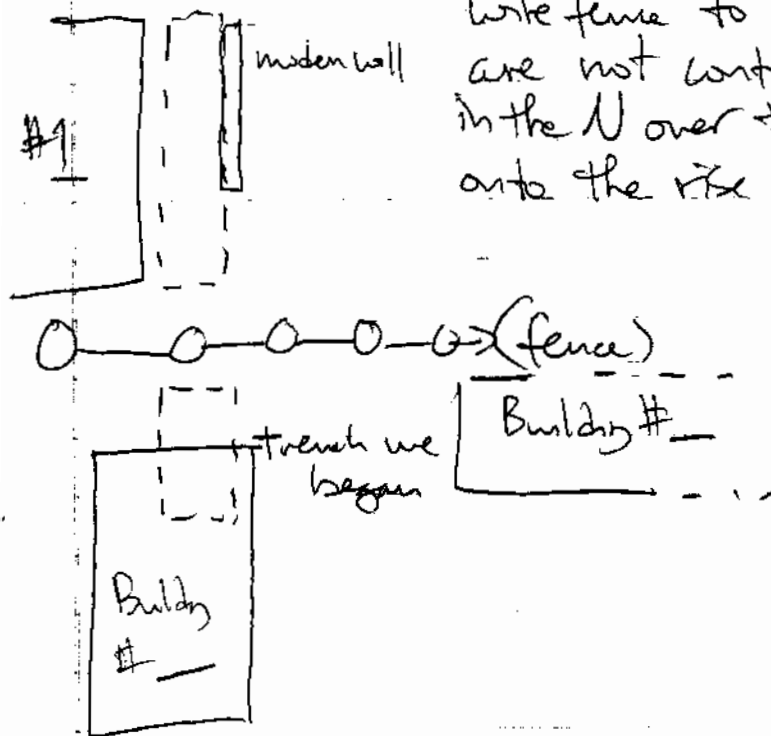
2005-20-4

El Paraiso - Town site

Cloudy, very comfortable.

Mapped 2 quadrants for practice using only compass and tape.
Also mapped all the trees in the main plaza - taking bearing
from centrally located tree - for practice.

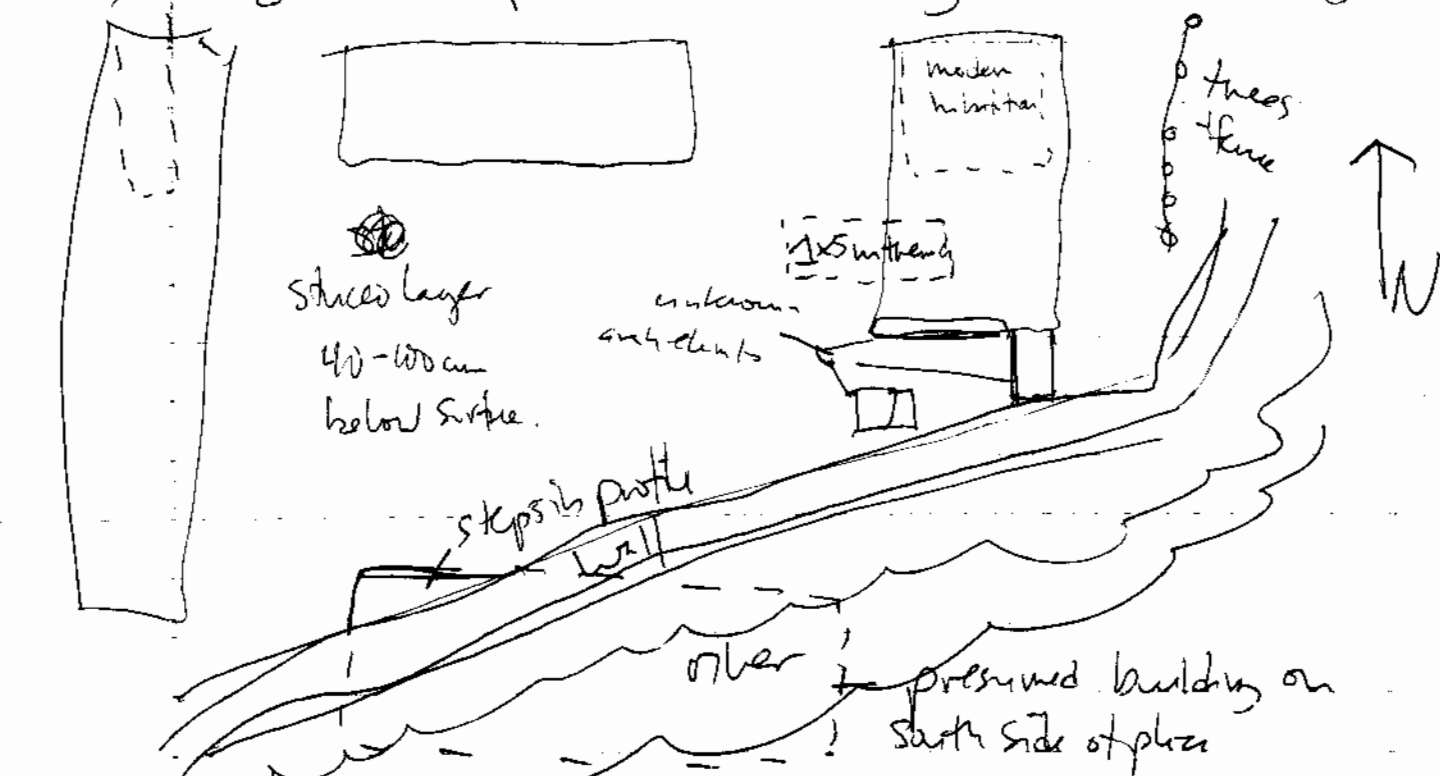
After lunch, began to map a trench on building # —, extending
the trench from BD #7, the largest mound, across the barbed
wire fence to building # —. The trenches
are not continuous. The one we set up begins
in the N over the plaza floor and S ~~over~~ up
onto the rise of the mound.



June 9, 2005, Thursday
El Paraiso - Town site

2005-20-5

#2) Began to setup a trench with Larry Lewan on building# —.



Set up 2 stations w/ EDM - 2 points on an E-W axis
Used tapes to make 1x5m trench. On descent of Marullo, avoided modern habitation on N side of structure which may have ~~been~~ been a mix of modern and primary stones, or primary stones in secondary reorganization. S portion does not have any apparent reorganization on surface. We did encounter several subsurface stones when we sunk the stakes in the E side. Shot in trench corners w/ EDM. Error unknown. Could not shoot 2 points due to obstructions. Helped others shoot points for trench #2, which was problematic due to an inconveniently placed palm tree. Will shoot missed points from both trenches from another station.

Left site for day at 12:15pm.

Workers constructed ~~champs~~ ^{now} ~~at~~ ^{black} ~~off~~ over building# —, across road.

(Afternoon into season)

Z005-20-6

Recording System

[Heading]

~~Date~~

B#
Z005-20-#

Initial description, conditions, changes overnight

Descriptions of finds - Careful, very, documentation
measurements, lots, everything

[Correction: correct spelling ^{Las} Orchidias]

June 10, Friday

2005-20-7

Went to Las Orchidias today. Feeding totally awesome this morning despite celebratory fireworks outside my house at 4:30 AM \pm 17 min. Day started out warm, ended wicked hot. Somewhere in the 90's. Possibly 150°F. The lack of abundant shade made for a sweaty day, and resulted in an approximately 6 in² sunburn on my right hand.

Began general survey of site to determine alignment of buildings to the cardinal directions and each other. Some of them appear to be in direct N-S, or E-W, relationships. Additionally, the ~~new~~ largest mound has a ramp that points directly towards Cerro Azul, to the NE; and, the 'ball court' is oriented E-W towards the plaza. I will attempt a sketch of the site when I have a better understanding myself.

Brianne Hill and I, Nathaniel George Deluca, staked a 15+ m trench between the two mounds that make up the 'ball court'. All of the mounds are severely slumped and modified by tractors, vehicles, and livestock. The area may have also been used for agriculture at some point in the past 2000 years, although I have ~~not~~ no data to prove or disprove that hypothesis. The staking was proceeding quite nicely in the flat area between the ~~2~~ mounds using the two-tape method. We were very careful to check all stakes for error. However, when we began to stake up the south side of the north mound, we were victim of an ancient Mayan curse that made our measurements way (up to 5 cm/stake) off. When we reached to top of the N mound and looked S at our not-so-fine work, we saw that we had staked out ~~to~~ a not so straight trench.

Our professors and friends came to our rescue. One hour and

2005-20-8

Seven people later, we had a straight trench. Apparently, we were not using ~~any~~ nearly sophisticated enough techniques to accomplish the task. Indeed it would have been impossible with two people given the bidirectional slope. Perhaps two specially trained octopi.



Will approach Department at Yale for possible funding for octopuses.

If Science can't do it,
nothing can.

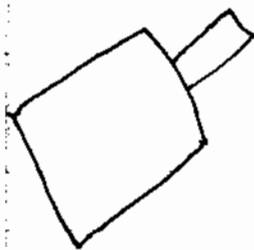
(Please God give me an octopus.)
I drank 2 liters of H_2O . 4 would have been ideal. Will need more containers. Sometimes felt faint. Need more shade time, less standing up quickly.

Patience is a virtue!



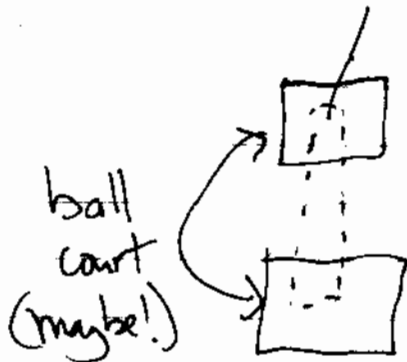
Rode home at ≈ 2 pm. Drank lots of caffeinated sugary water. Felt awesome again.

Potentially totally incorrect sketch of Les Orchidées? (the trench!)



Little mound

plaza



Several of the local youths came and sat with us. They are all very friendly and were willing to help hold tapes, find hammer stones, etc. One even gave us two mangoes; he was very generous despite not having enough money for school. I look forward to having them all around.

June 13, 2005, Monday

Overcast + humid. High chance of rain mid day according to Misa. Possibly the opposite of reality.

8:30 Publishing at townsite. Going to LO.

The workers constructed a fence and champa frame around the trench on the 'speaking platform' and part of the trench on Buddy #1. Bri and I continued to stake out the trench between buildings 2? and 3?, which comprise the 'ball court'. The Trench is quite long, as it traverses two separate mounds. Perhaps ⁴⁵⁻⁵⁰ m? There is already visible differences in the color and texture of the soils at different elevations and locations, as seen in the ~~past~~ post holes for the barbed wire fences. On the mound, esp. #2, the humus layer is thin, ~~approx~~ ≈ 10 cm. below, a mixed matrix of soil and clay, with hard bits of burned clay or ceramic or building material? The soil in the lower elevation between the mounds is very dark and rich, reportedly very good for crops. We continue to find laying out trenches very challenging, and frustrating at times, but our high esprit de corps gets us through. We shot in half the trench w/ the EDM in the afternoon.

Remember: place stake rod on ground surface when shooting trenches! We had some light rain and a thunder storm in the afternoon which interrupted work for a while.

Finally finished trench. Need to ~~now~~ shoot remaining

2005-20-10

points. Discussed possibility of curse as origin of frequent error in measurements.

We will lay another trench tomorrow on Budding? on ~~the~~ S end of plaza.

A misalignment of the barbed wire fence ~~holes~~ holes around our trench has resulted in the placement of one such hole in the trench itself. Oops.

Goretex is very useless and a bit uncomfortable when you are very sweaty and/or already rained upon.

We also shot in the datum from the new wooden stake on the top of the mound which was in turn shot in from the largest mound, building #1, at El Paraiso.

Left site at ≈ 3 pm. Chased by young bull.

June 14th, 2005 Tuesday!

[After careful measurement, we concluded that the trench that spans the 'ballcourt' is a whopping 49m!]

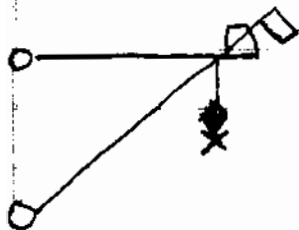
Overcast and breezy in the morning, relatively comfortable, giving way to another thunder storm in the afternoon

All present: Dr. Geller, Brit Hill, Nat DeLuea. All in high spirits.

We began the morning (and ended the day) placing a trench across the span of structure 4, the southernmost large mound at Las Orquideas. The trench runs N-S for 25m in a N-S orientation (duh), perpendicular to the faces of the mound, we think.

We staked out the corners of the mound which had slumped considerably. I am not very proficient in analyzing the topography of the slumped earthen structures and extrapolating the ancient architecture. Something to work on.

We were so much better, so much, at laying out the stakes accurately on the slopes. Best practice: one person holds the zero-ends of ~~the~~ 2 tapes on the 2 origins and the other measures the edge and hypot. + plumb.



Dr. Geller also helped us set up most of the trench. Her expertise and 2 hands were crucial to our success.

Ants got into our lunch. Need to bag it.

Storm rolled in at $\approx 1:30$ as we laid our last stake for the trench. Mary + Ellen had brought out the EDM but

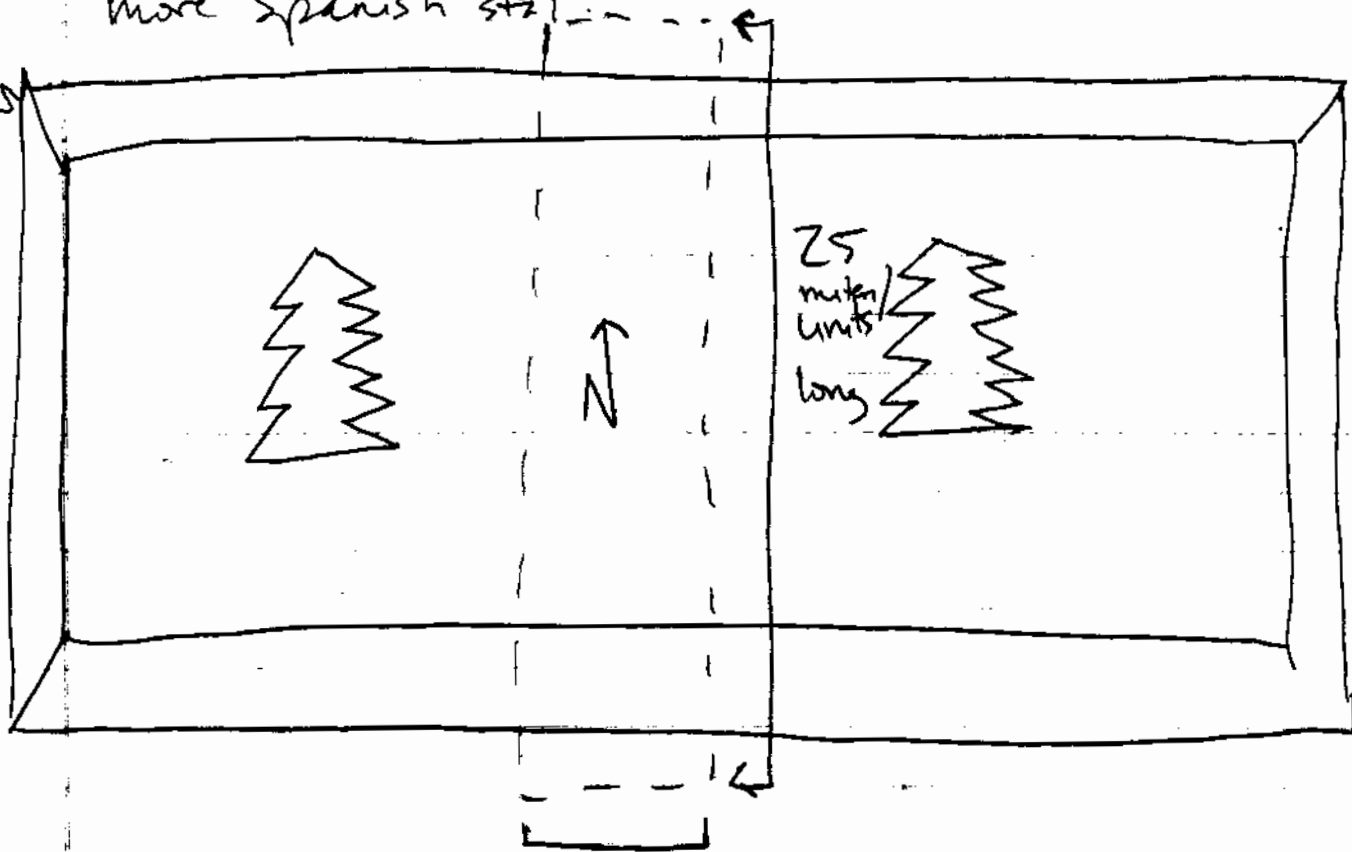
June 14, 2005 Tuesday

2005-20-12

We were unable to use it for the storm.

The workers continued construction of the fences and champas. With all luck, we will begin to excavate tomorrow. Our gigantic trenches. Need to learn more Spanish stuff.

Structure
(2)



I totally copied Bri's Christmas tree motif. Actual species of trees unimportant/unknown.

The compass, the electronic Brunton, is a bit difficult to use for the purpose of taking a bearing. Therefore, we had varied ~~each~~ values for the orientation of the trench. It hovers around $\sim 350^\circ$.

6/14/2005 Tuesday

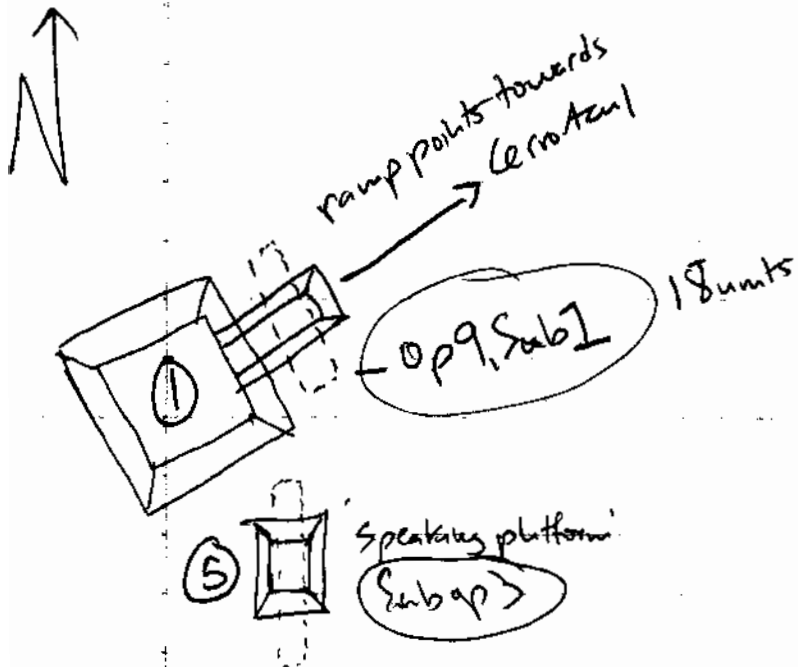
2005-20-13

Operation 9

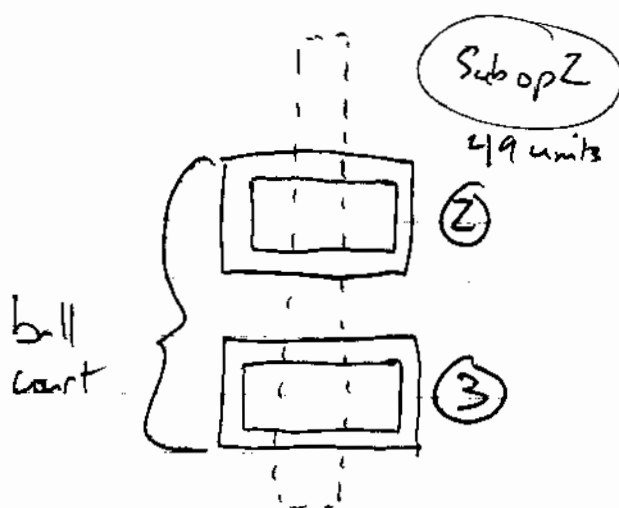
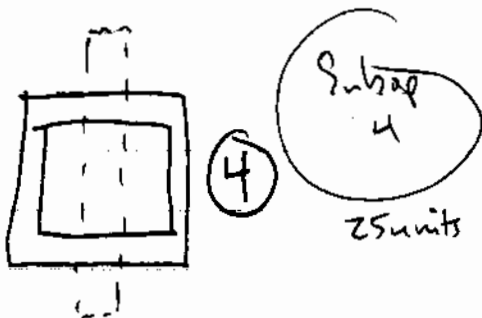


Need to add bearings/orientation of stump

! Positions are relative!



7/1/05
Theorizations
are totally
wrong.

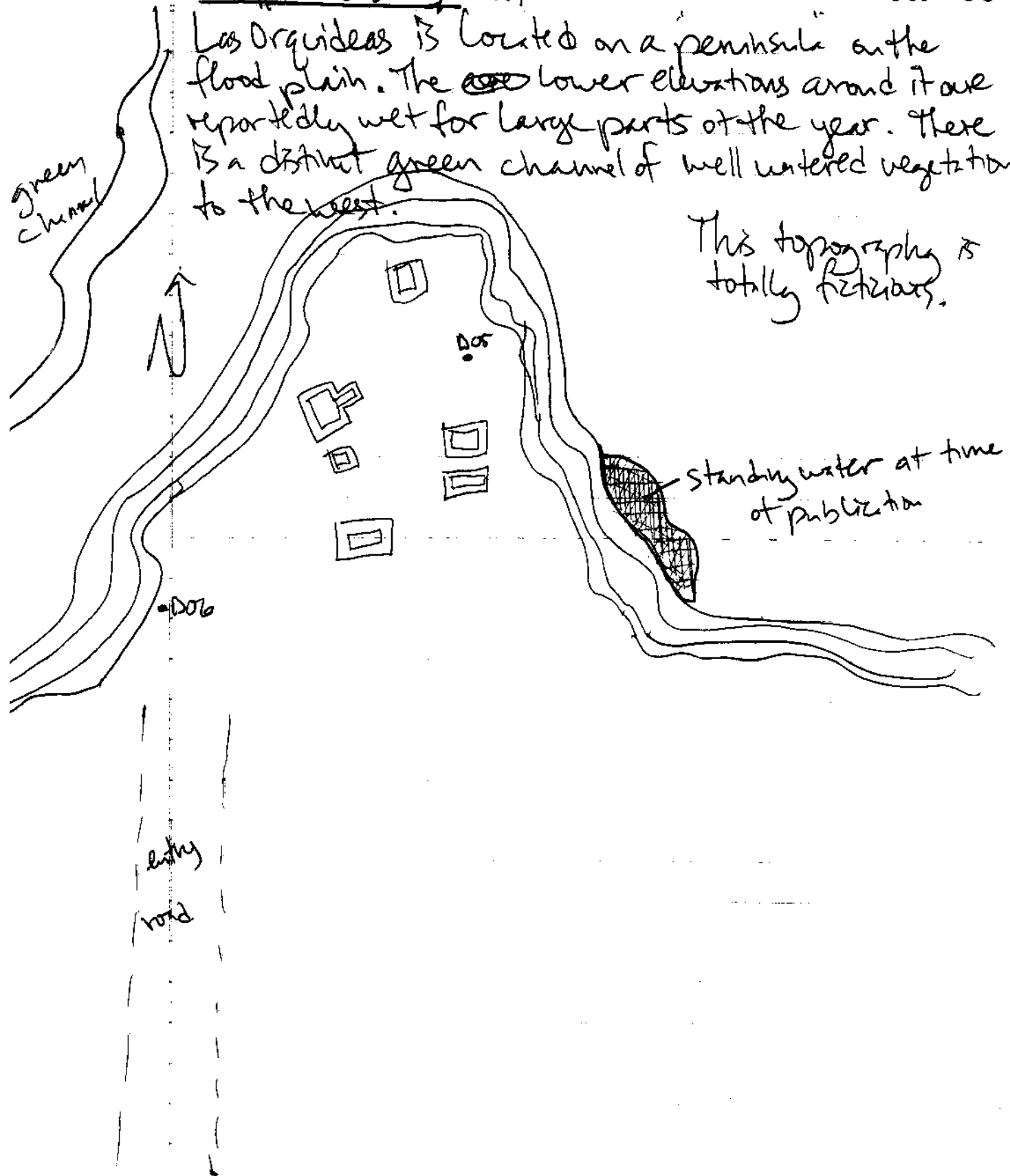


6/14/05 Tuesday - unit

2005-20-14

Las Orquideas is located on a "peninsula" on the flood plain. The ~~are~~ lower elevations around it are reportedly wet for large parts of the year. There is a distinct green channel of well watered vegetation to the west.

This topography is totally fictitious.



6/15/05 Wednesday

2005-20-15

Sunny, partly cloudy, warmish, pleasant breeze.
Began day by shooting in second half of ballcourt
and trench on Structure 4. Got string by hand. Ouch.

I have been assigned to excavate the small "speaking platform"
next to the large mound. The fence and champs is up on the unit.

Began excavation
Structure 5, Subop 3

Op 9/03/Lot 1

Z of datum/station for Subop 3:

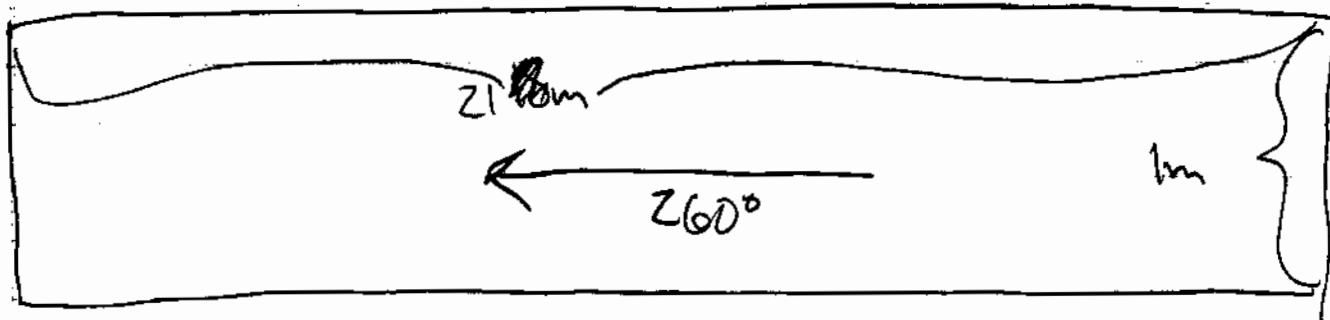
Oh, but first. Went over ~~proced~~ procedures with Pimela.

Working w/ Tulio + Victor Morales.

(10:30) Okay, did not begin excavation. Still cutting grass on trench,
bamboo for champs. Setting up string.

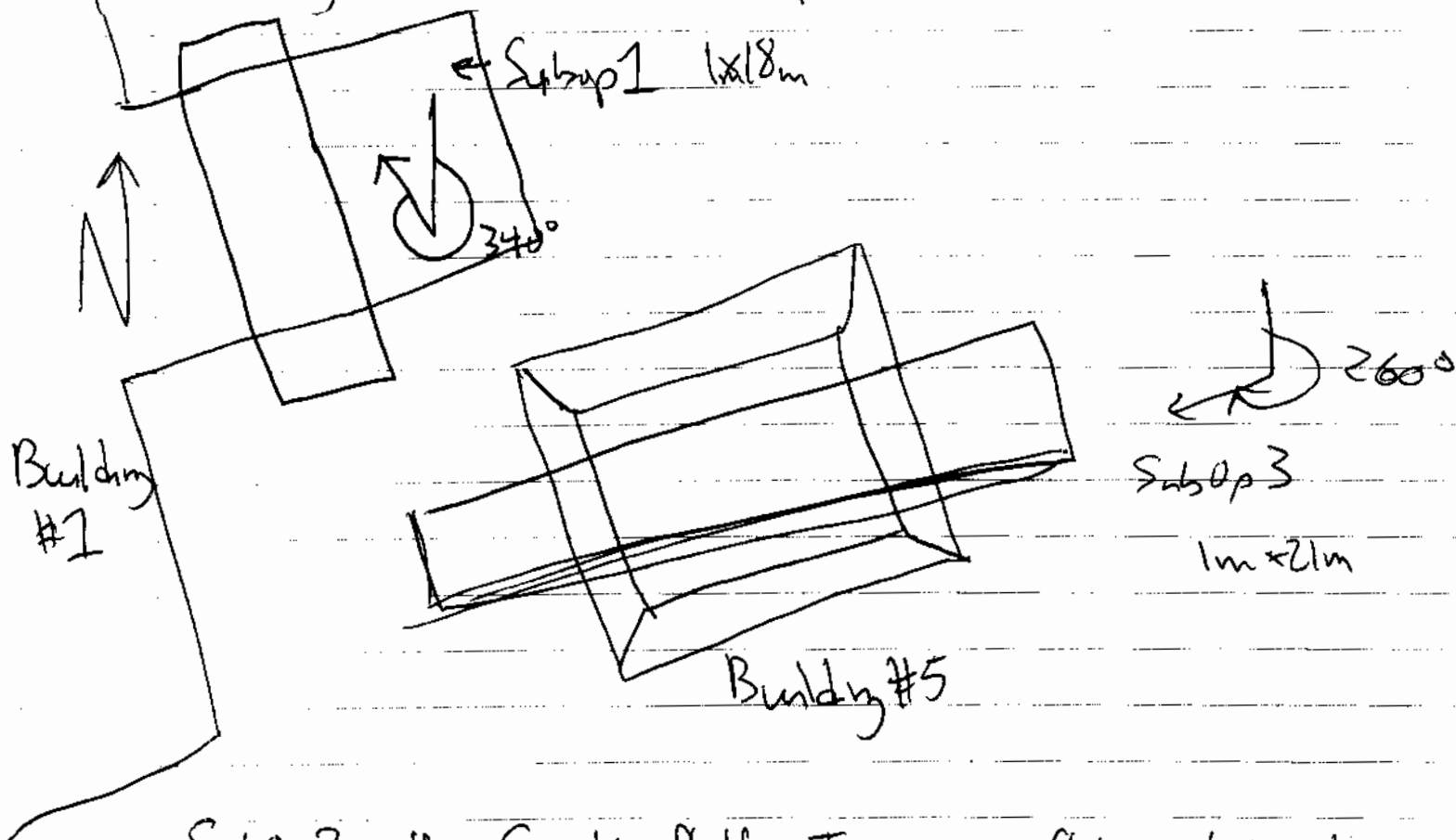
11:45 Still have not begun excavation. Will begin after lunch. Champs are up
over my and Bri's units (Bri is excavating the ramp). The workers
are putting up the champs over the ballcourt now.
Bri + I shot in the points for the trench on the ramp. There was
apparently a mixup with the data readouts. It is very
pleasant for my new champs with the breeze from the
east. Our picks are very shoddy and are in desperate
need of new handles.

Op 9/03

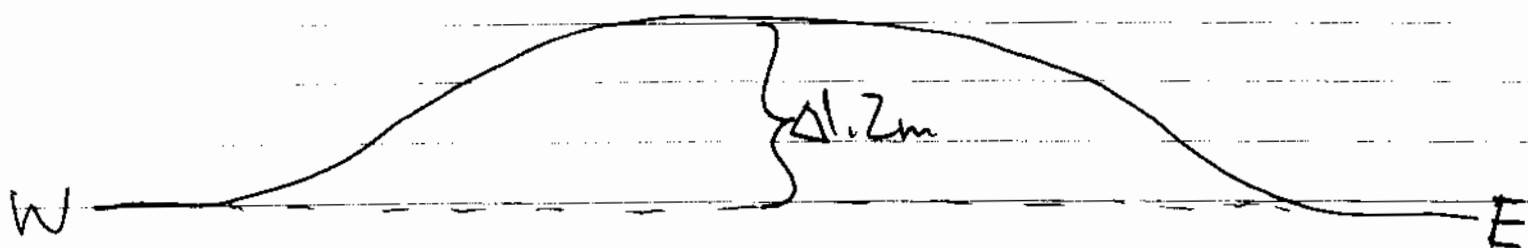


2005-20-16

Looking down trench, WSW, points at St#1



Subop 3, the Speaker Platform Trench, is flat at both ends and rises in the middle, $\Delta \approx (981.81 - 980.64) = 1.2m$



Facing North/Northwest

2005-20-17

After lunch we, Nat, Bri, + Pamela, Op9/3/1, the first lot of the "speakers mound" I removed the grass layer with the patch ax, kinda busted, and we continued to pile through the soil. The soil was very loose and loamy, dark and clumpy, for the 1st 10 cm. The 10-20 cm layer was very dense and clayey. There were very small bits of charcoal and burned fire cracked rocks, all less than dime sized. Did not keep any.

Thursday VI 16, 05

We are joined by Mike Sullivan today. Partly cloudy, warm. Continue to Excavate Str. 5. Yesterday we finished Op9/3/1. Today we will excavate EVA until we reach the floor. I am unsure of what the floor will look like, but the change in the soil color should be apparent. Don Betts said the clay level is distinctly yellow. Additionally, Morillo said it is likely that we will go through the changes and see the floors in the profile. We shall see how the next few hours go.

Need to standardize date log to 16 June 2005

Victor Morales has begun excavation of Op9/3/2. He's a new worker, and possibly Tobi's brother.

~~Op9/3/1~~ Op9/3/1 This lot was excavated 0-20 cm BGS measured from SW corner of EVA.

The soil was dark brown. The 1st 10 cm was crumbly and the second 10 cm was compact. There were a few small bits of charcoal and ceramic ~~bits~~ fire cracked rock. There are lots of ants and earth worms.

16 June 2005, pg 2

2005-ZW-18

Op 9/3/2 EU:A

Same as Op 9/3/1 EU:A. Recovered same artifacts.

There is a small lens of broken ceramic in the fill in the south west corner. One large piece was recovered. There is no concomitant change in the soil color. ~~between~~ The lens starts ≈ 23 cm BGS at the SW corner.

Okay maybe it isn't ceramic. It is an extremely friable material, saffron colored, also red-orange. In small clumps. When crumbled it has a very fine consistency, finer than sand. Perhaps burned clay. After consultation w/ Don Beto, ~~we~~ I will bag it as ceramic.

Towards the end of the level, the soil is the same color at 40 cm BGS as a 1 cm BGS.

Finish Lot 2.

Op 9/3/3 EU:A Continue to excavate modern fill

At ≈ 47 cm BGS, 980.36, we discovered a surface of clay. We will photograph + Munsell the color changes,

Recovered piece of ceramic from SW corner.

Soil before change: 7.5YR 2.5/1-2

Soil after change: 10YR 3/2

Let it be said right now that I am terrible at determining colors with the Munsell. In my own words, it looks

Nat

2005-20-19

more grey and do have a smoother texture.

~~980.28~~ 980.

Ending Elevations: NW ~~980.46~~ 46 = 37
 SW 48 35
 NE 46 37
 SE 48 35

~~Op9/3/4~~ This lot was very short due to the sudden color change $\approx \Delta$ 7-8cm. I will begin a new lot

Op9/3/4 EU: A

Beginning of color change: brown loam to

Another color change, getting whiter, ^{greyish clayey loam} at \approx 980.30. Mottling of the grey & whiter grey ~~clayey~~ ~~clayey loam~~ clayey loam. I think the first color change grades into this one, and does not represent two separate layers.

The color is increasingly white so I will begin another lot.

~~Artifacts were recovered~~ We recovered some broken ceramic(?) from this.

BGS: NW 54 NE 53
 Δ 980.83 SW 54 SE 52

(12:45) Op9/3/5 EU: A

Begins with increasingly whiter clayey loam. Lens of broken ceramic in the SW corner has ended. It's not clear what the relationship of the white clay is to the structure itself. We are still well outside what I believe is the beginning of the structure.

Intelli: NW 980.29 NE 980.30
 SW 980.29 SE 980.31

BGS: -54 \rightarrow -74cm

16 June 2005

2005-20-20

Op9/3/5, cont.

There is now a homogeneous layer of light grey clay. We will excavate 20 cm and terminate. There are no artifacts in this layer.

I am stopping before 20 cm because we are far outside the structure and there is a dearth of cultural materials. I dug two probes > 10 cm in the NW and SW quadrants - they revealed yet more clay - no change in the composition or color.

Ending elevation BGS: 980.83

NW -59

NE -59

SW -59

SE -59

Op9/3/6 EUB Grasslayer of EUB

We begin to excavate EUB, 1 m to the W. I decided to move on from EUB because it reached what I believe to be a thick layer of clay that is below the habitation layer of the mound.

I walked the trench again: I believe the shaped architecture will begin to show up in the Western portion of C, and definitely lay D. For now we may find ~~objects~~ remains from the periphery of the structure.

I tried to use the pickaxe but it broke immediately. I will stick to taking notes.

The line level will remain attached to the same stake.

B

A

↗

It is now in the SE corner of the unit

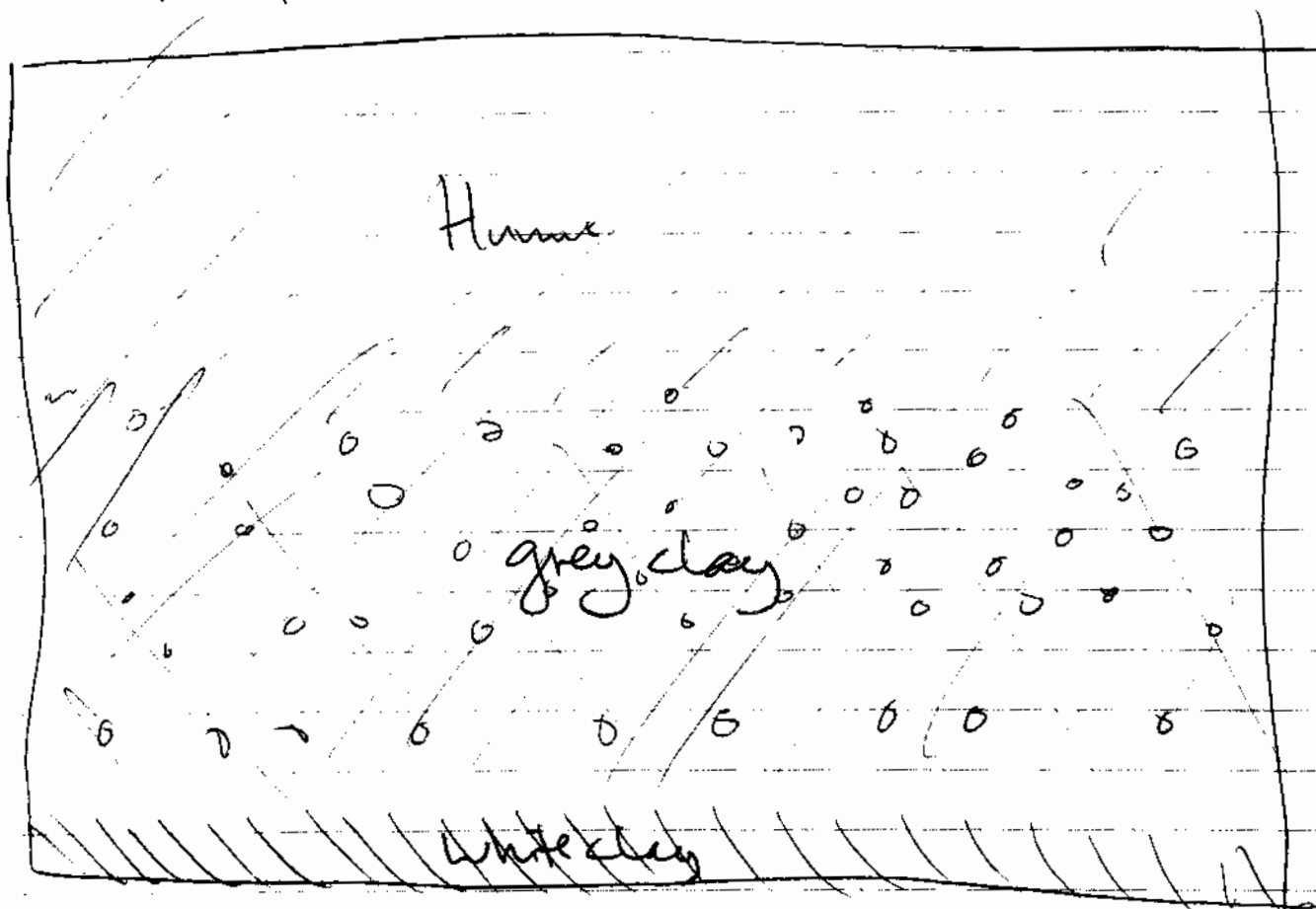
①

980.83

16 June 2005

2005-20-21

West Profile of EU:A



Today was a good day. I am still uncertain about the significance of the lens of ceramic(?) in the mixed humus/grey clay layer, or the clay itself. Ellen + Pamela suggested that the clay itself may be building material. ~~Another location had~~ One known practice was to lay out clay floors and then pile with straw + barn, creating a hard, fired layer. I did not identify a hard, prepared surface here, but that does not mean there wasn't one.

We will continue tomorrow with EU:B. I expect we will find the same lens of ceramic and clay layers.

16 June 2005

2065-20-21

I am now sitting on a bucket. I hope that my penmanship improves.
2pm. The thunder is rolling in. Removing the root layer of EU:B.

Op 9/03/06 EU:B Grass-humus layer
0-20 BGS. Soil brown loam. No cultural materials recovered. Yet...

~~Re~~ End excavation Op 9/03/06 EU:B -

Ending elevations: NW (-20) 980.83 SW (-20) 980.63

NE (-20) 980.83 SE (-20) 980.83

I now realize I excavated more than 20cm in probat the end.

Op 09/03/07 -

Probe in bottom of EU:A, SW corner

Clay becomes very dense and rocky.

Op 09/03/08: ^{EU:B} 20-4cm BGS ~~2~~

17 June 2005, Friday

2005-20-21

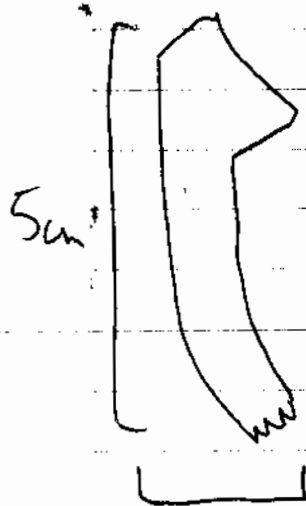
Fuzzy, hot, + humid, gentle breeze
Feeling awesome.

Will continue to exc. EU: B down to clay layer. Will recover any large intact pieces of rough ceramic (as identified by Marulla).

Op 9/03/08 EU: B Continued from yesterday.
20-40 cm BGS, so far. dark brown loose loam

There is increasing speculation that the white clay may be part of the architecture of Structure 5. I remain skeptical and await more evidence.

The lense of ceramic bits, 20-50 cm BGS, contains some ~~large~~ pieces as large as 6-8 cm, with a flange, and a slight curve.



Side view

Because the bits are scattered in a 30 cm lense of soil, it is most likely that they are heavily disturbed, possibly by trampling by cows. (How long has this field been a pasture?) Also, because it is raised above the flood plain this area, the site of Las Orquideas, has probably been

2cm Intensely cultivated - leading to more disturbance of the plow zone,

This layer could also be slumped from the mound, although we are 2m from any drastic change in elevation. The mound does not begin to rise until the West of EU: C.

17 June 2005, Friday, cont.

2005-20-22

Op 9/03/08 EUB, cont:

At 31cm BGS (^{GS}980.83), there is a clay layer on the Western side of EUB. Cont. exc. of tunnel only to 40cm BGS.

Recovered another relatively large piece of ceramic, 8cm x 5cm, rim fragment w/ flange.

Looking west down the trench, it is clear that the ceramic lens is just below the A horizon.

Ending lot 8, will follow clay layer.

Ending elev	NW -31	NE -29
BGS 980.83	SW -31	SE -29

25
29
54

Begin Op 9/03/09 EUB

Will leave the clay intact in the western edge of the unit and follow it back to unit A.

We can hear the Cobra helicopter in the mountains to the west. I received a brief lesson in drug trafficking from Tubo.

The clay is definitely sloping back towards EUB. The clay contains a large amount of the ceramic recovered - small bits and pieces, possibly bagajiqui mixed with the clay?

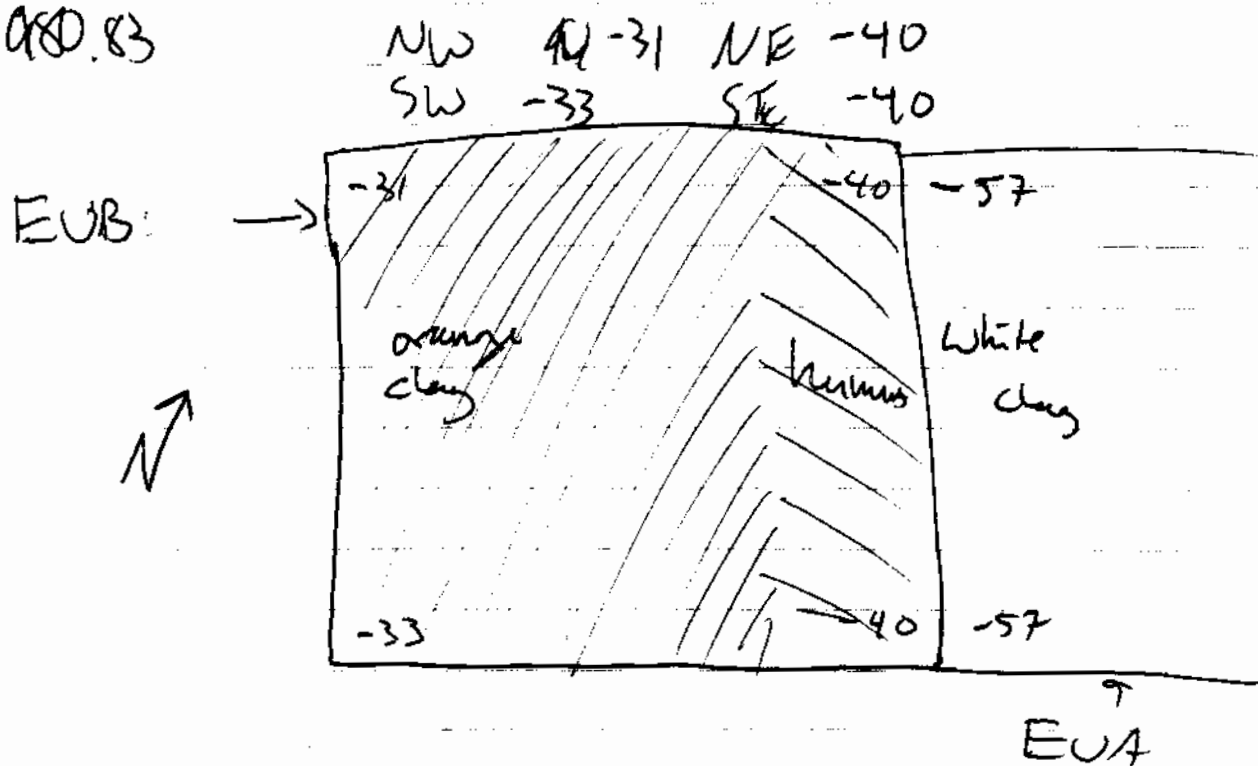
17 June 2005

2005-20-23

The clay continues to EVA but is not continuous w/ the white clay. I believe we excavated through this layer in EU:A. I will stop EUB and continue w/ EUC.

Ending elevations @ 0p9/03/01 EU B

68 : 080.83



I will exc. the rest of the humus in Lot B as 0p09/03/10.

~~0p09/03/10~~ 0p9/03/10 EUB.

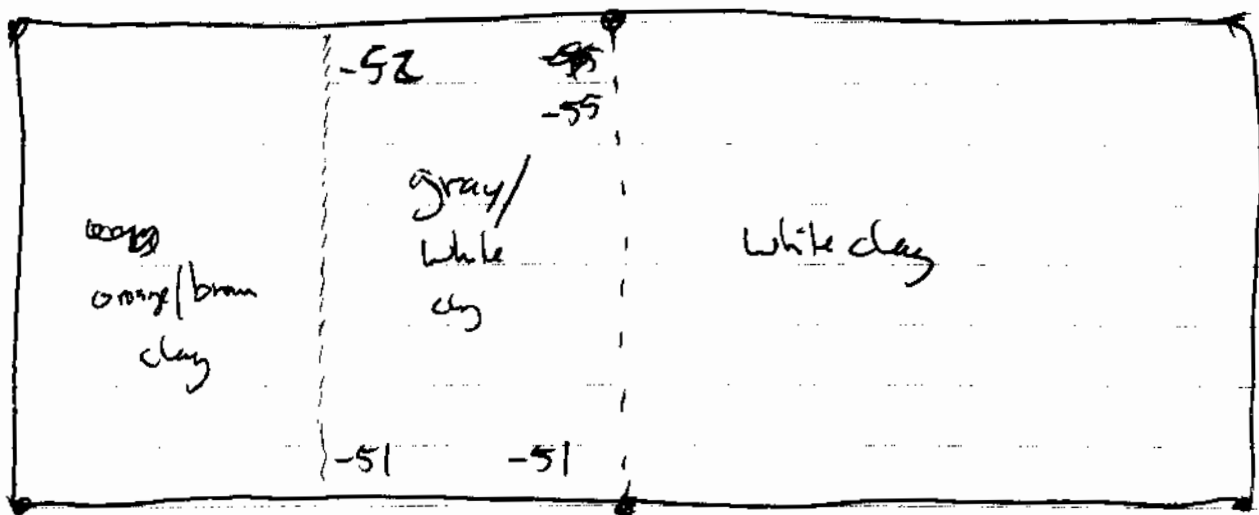
Exc. half of ~~exc~~ EUB, East half, to follow coarse clay. Now obvious that it is continuous with the coarse sands EU:A.

There is an artificial step in the middle of our unit created by an ~~release~~

17 June 2005, cont

2005-20-24

The clay layer in EUB is divided into 2 types, a higher, orange layer and a lower, white layer - similar to that in EUB.



Ending elevation Op 9/3/10
~~BGS: 980.83~~ NW ~~-52~~
 SW ~~-51~~

NE ~~-52~~
 SE ~~-51~~

The trench is being cleaned for a photograph. I hope it shows the 3 distinct colors of clay. ~~There are~~

Took Op 9/3/10 down to the final elevation of EUB to reveal the white clay.

End: NW -55
 BGS: 980.83 SW -56

NE ~~-52~~ -55
 SE -56

7
 83
 55
 28

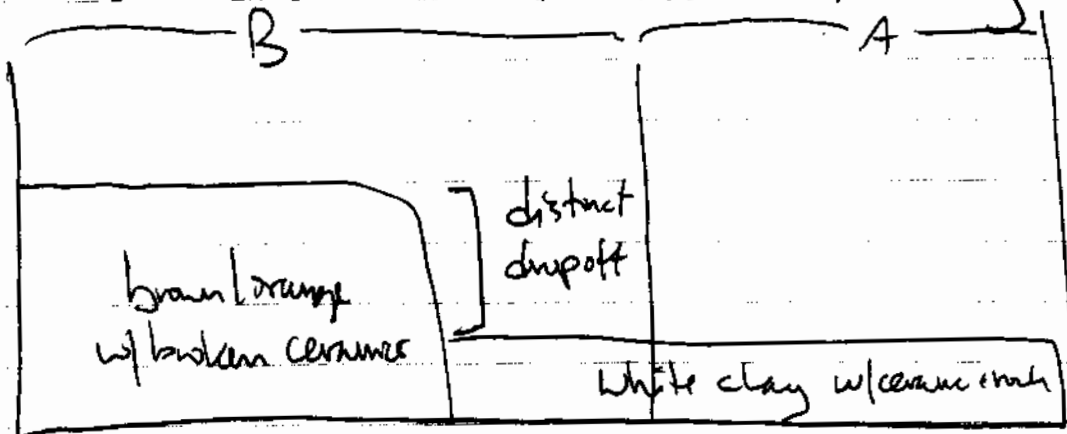
Lot 10 ends with the white clay floor at

White clay ≈ 980.28

17 June 2005, cont

2005-20-25

EU: A+B show two courses of clay



(North/South)
view

profile of trench.

11:00 AM: Begin exc of EUC

Moved datum to #5S

#5S: 1,230.91 N

- 1,144.19 E

981.23 Z



09/03/11 EU: C grass layer, humus layer, 0-20cm BGS

large groundstone (?) - 4988 (981.23) = 980.23 Z

1271.16 N

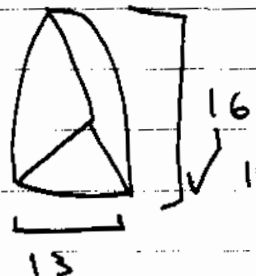
- 1,144.06 E

triangular pillar shape

16 cm tall

13 cm wide

11 cm wide



Too large to be
a man, too
small to be part of
a meter.

Found obsidian blade, prismatic?, 4.5cm x 1.5cm, broken

980.82 cm Z

20 cm S of #4N, in west profile of C

981.23
49
74
41
23
91
15
10

17 June 2005

2005-20-26

I will excavate all the humus in EUB as one lot: Op 9/3/11
Pamela - I am concerned that the ~~orange~~^{orange} coarsest clay runs
exactly perpendicular to the trench. I do not think we cut some
away because more is not visible in the N or S profiles. I
understand some in the SW corner of Lot 10, & there is some humus
underneath it - adding to the probability that it has slumped from
the structure.

Had lots of peanut butter sandwich for lunch. Feeling sleepy. Need to
drink gallon or two of water.

Recovered obsidian shard - debrisage?

Return to Lot 10:

Expanding Lot 10 to the Western half of
EUB. We do not think the clay is Ash but has
~~slumped~~ slumped from the mound. Will excavate Shale ~~put~~
grid at EUB to expose clay problems

Recovered carbon sample from brown/orange
slumped clay.

Having excavated EUB down to the white clay,
it is apparent that the brown/orange clay has slumped
from farther up the mound.

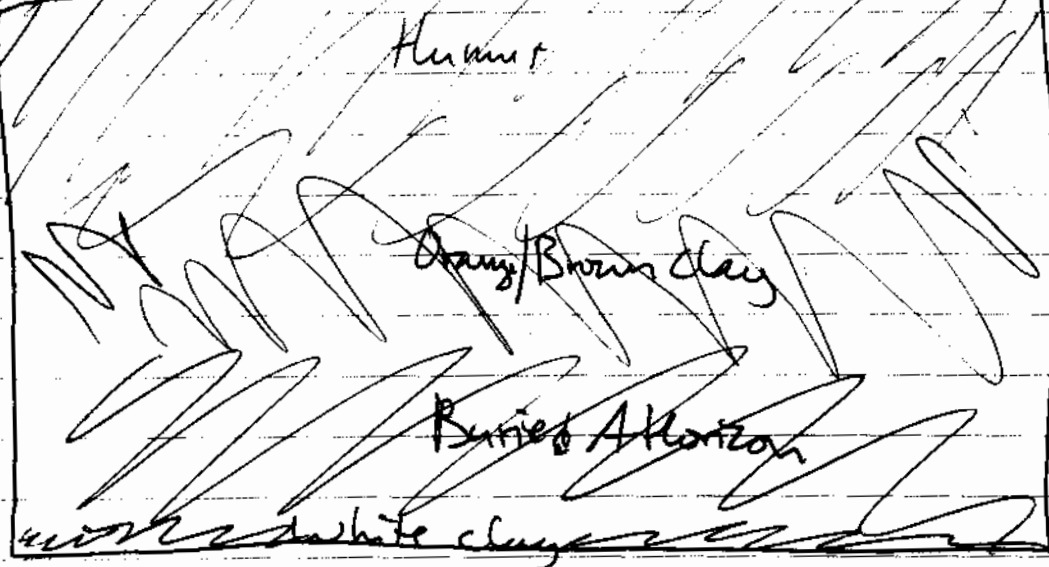
17 June 2005

2005-20-27

S#2

S#3

South profile of EUB



Lot 10 Ending Elevations, the real ones:

NW

NE

SW

SE

The excavation of Lot 10 revealed that the light brown clay was a thin lens of that probably melted off the mound. There is a distinct lens of clay as well as a gradation of color, from the color of the clay to dark brown loam, as well as a gradation of the concentration of ceramic bits, high in the clay to low in the ~~upper~~ more distant layers of the humus.

18 June 2005, Saturday

2005-20-28

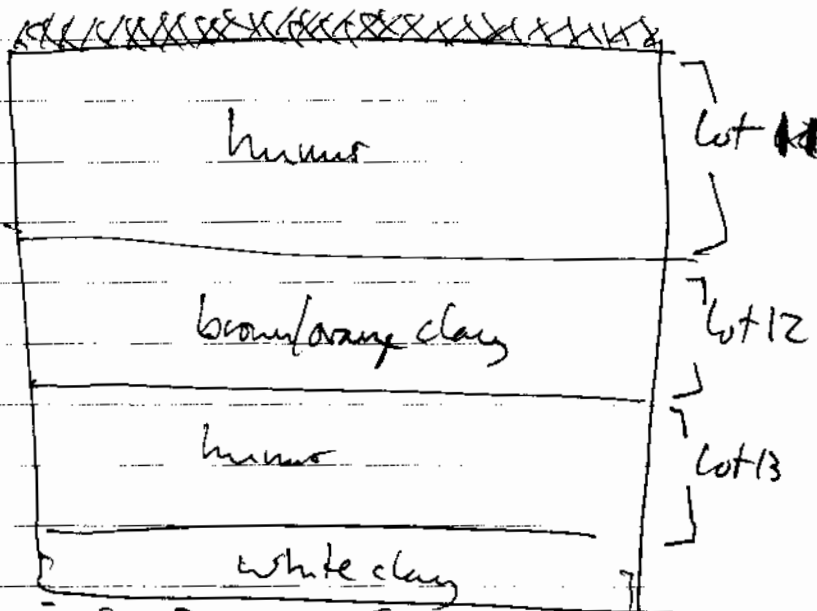
Hazy, hot, sticky

Arrived at 8:30 am after tour of trenches at El Prieto. We are ending today ca. 11:30 for a tour of Los Orchides.

Reburied
lot 11

Continuing with lot ~~11~~ ¹², which comprises a humus layer overlying a course of clay I believe melted off the structure. Underneath the clay is a buried A horizon, which in turn overlies the white clay.

West view of A EUC:
(west wall of A)



lot 11 did not yield any more artifacts.

Ending elevations lot 11: NW ~~910~~ -33 SE
GS: 980.94 SW -40 SE -32

NW -32 NE -40
SW -32 SE -32-40

NW 980.62 NE 980.54
SW 980.62 SE 980.54

18 June 2005

2005-20-29

Begin Op 9/3/12 EU: C ^{yellow} Excavation of clay lens dumped from
Structure #5
of yellow clay

This lens overlies a buried A horizon, which overlies the
white clay layer (depth presently unknown).

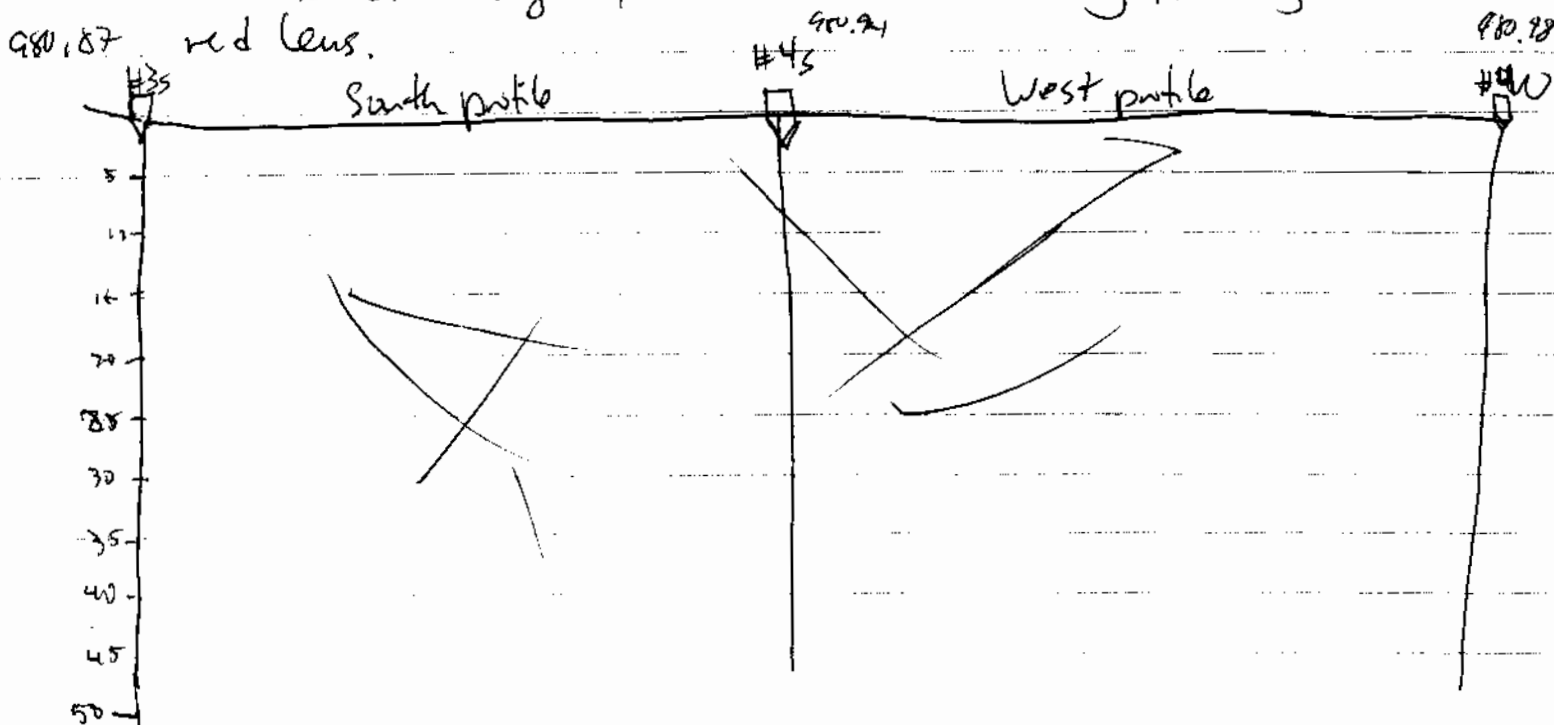
This lot was excavated relatively quickly because we were
able to predict its extent based on the available information
gleaned from the visible stratigraphy at the truckers. We
were able to see the A horizon buried very clearly beneath
the barno layer.

We have discovered a red lens in the SW corner of EU: C, 35cm
BG5 - \approx 980.59. It extends north in the west profile \approx 65cm.

There appears to be a lot of charcoal in the red lens. There is a large piece of
charcoal just east of the red lens in the S profile.

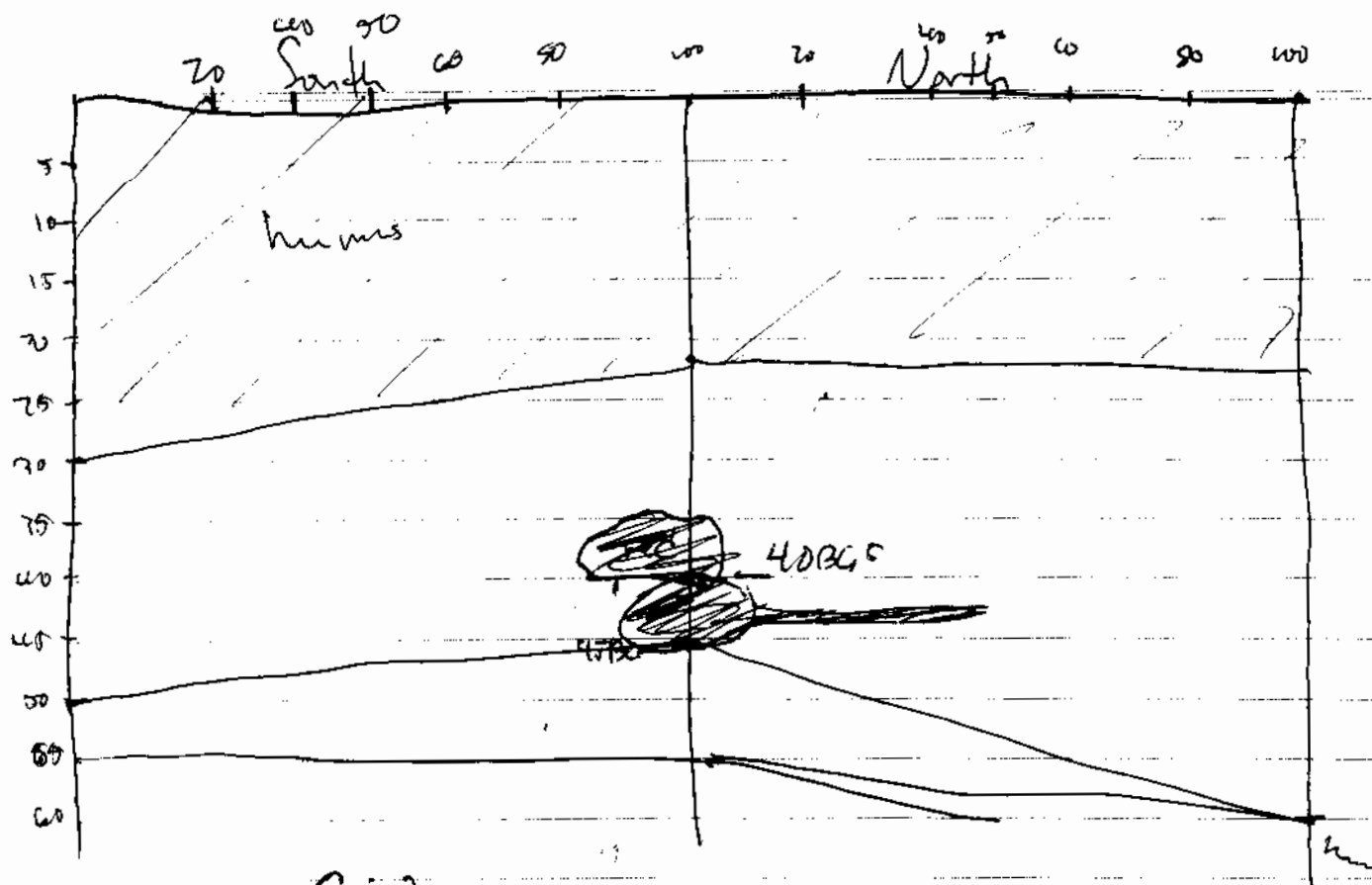
The color of the clay ~~is~~ is increasingly yellow further South and
West in the ~~excavation~~ lot. Pamela suggested that it is part of the structure.

There is still a layer of humus under the clay, including under the
red lens.

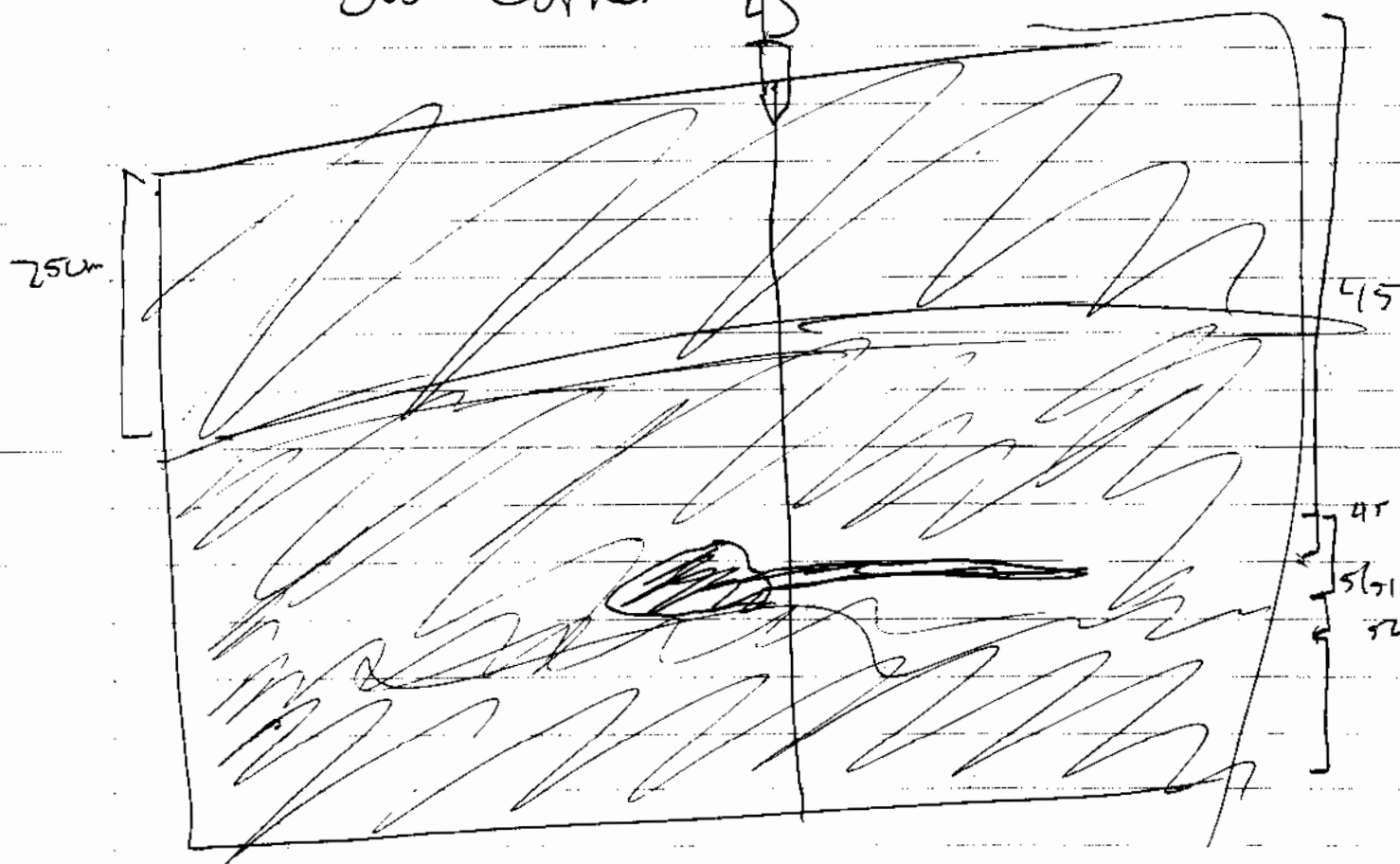


18 June 2005

2005-20-29



SW Corner 45'

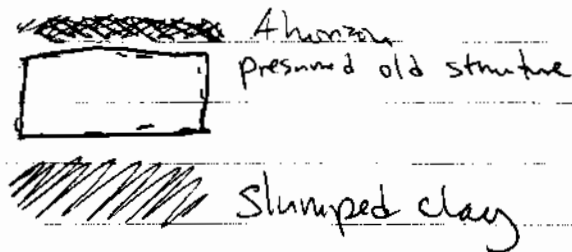
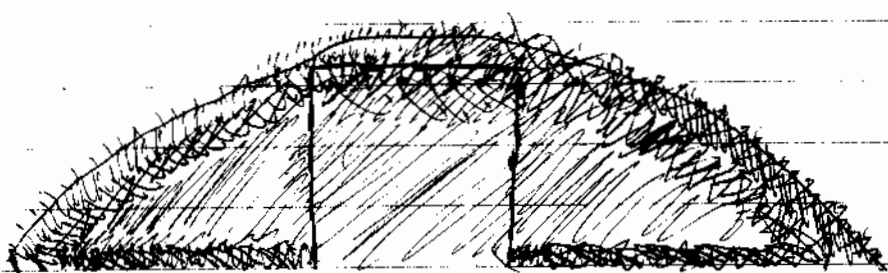


18 June 2005

2005-20-31

The other students and professors visited the site around 11:30 am. Here's what Marcello + Ellen said:

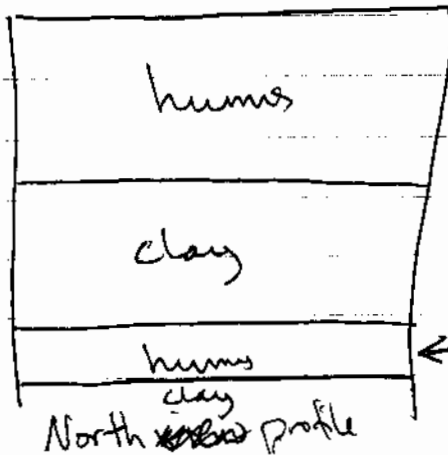
- The light yellow clay is slumped architecture from a building.
- The grey/orange clay is the same ^{as the plan} surface from Marcello's thesis work at Las ~~Armas~~ Achiles. The plaza may extend between all of the buildings (totally huge, thick layer of clay - my probe is now \approx 20 cm deep), or an "apron" surface that extends a short distance from the structure.
- We will ~~know~~ ^{be able to identify} ~~see~~ the eastern wall of the structure, when the buried A horizon disappears. Like SW



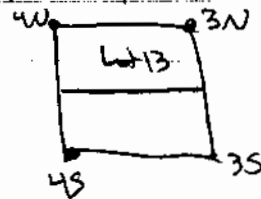
→ Disclaimer! ←

This illustration is of course only an informed prediction. But it probably does look some thing like this

Op 9/3/13 FULL Excavation of buried A horizon between slumped clay architectural material and basal clay surface.



This lot comprises the north half of the buried A horizon in EAC!



18 June 2005

2005-20-32

I am beginning to think my notes from the past week have been disorganized and need improvement. I will do my best to consolidate information from the lots. I should write a description for each lot clearly when I begin each new one. That kind makes sense.

Sunday will begin with EUD and a new degree of diligence.

20 June 2005 - Monday

Very cloudy, foggy even, misty?, cool breeze from north

There is a man sitting outside our trench. I'm not sure what he wants. Perhaps just to watch. Someone stole our datum strings. If they need string...

Begin excavation of EU: D

#5N =
○ 981.22

#4N = 980.98
○



#5S =
981.23

#4S = 980.94
○

Begin: Op 9/3/14 EUD

Gross layer, humus layer

Open Elevations

Closing Elevations

NW: 981.22 NE: 980.98

NW 981.00

NE 980.88

SW: 981.23 SE: 980.94

SW 981.01

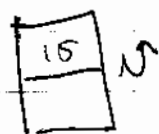
SE 980.88

This lot will comprise the humus layer on the north half of EUD. We will leave the entire south half intact until we reach the white clay in the north half.

20 June 2005

2005-20-33

No cultural materials removed from Op 9/3/14, ~~we have reached the brown/orange clay~~. Closing the lot. Below this elevation, the humus is mixed with ceramic bits.



Op 9/3/15 EUC: Humus, Bhoron, mixed with ceramic bits increasingly clayey humus

Large pieces of ceramic, two with portions of a handle, in NW quadrant of Lot 15, ≈ 980.82 . W/ pedestal remaining pieces in situ.

As expected, this layer of mixed humus overlies the more yellow clay layer.

~~Op 9/3/16~~ Op 9/3/16 EUC: Yellow clay layer

Opening:	NW 980.93	NE 980.93	Closing NW	NE
	SW 980.75	SE 980.75	SW	SE

This layer of yellow clay ~~also~~ overlies the buried A horizon, as visible in the west profile of EUC.

Recovered a piece of ceramic w/ round foot from North profile of EUC.

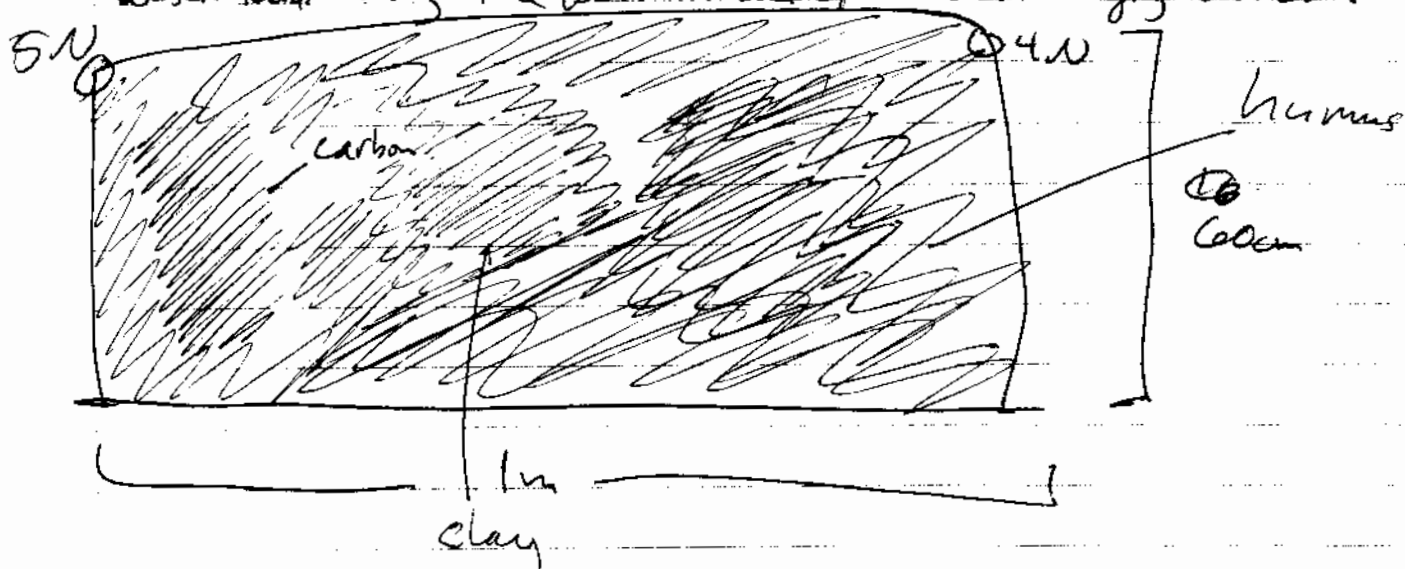
The yellow clay lens has fewer bits of ceramic than the brown/orange lens that lies directly above.

As we excavate the bottom of lot 16, ~~there is~~ we can see

20 June 2005

2005-20-34

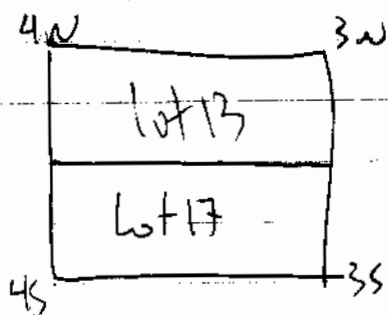
that there is a large area of carbonized organic material ~~in the~~
~~west side~~ clay the western side of the underlying humus.



There is also a "hole" in the humus in which some yellow clay
 lies. I will wait to excavate the rest of the humus to ~~investigate~~
 the extent of these features.

Return to EU:C

~~Op 9/3/17~~ Op 9/3/17 EUC: removed remain humus from
 white clay floor.



Dark brown compact humus devoid
 of cultural materials.

The east half of Lot 17 is deeply, ~~element-wise~~, with yellow
 clay. The yellow clay is in some places lying on top of the
 gray clay. Or there is mottling / disturbance of the ~~carbonized~~
 A horizon - mixed w/ the clay.

20 June 2005

2005-20-35

Opening elevations Lot 17 NW
SW

NE
SE

Closing elevations Lot 17 NW
SW

NE
SE

As predicted, lot 17 ends with the removal of the buried A horizon, revealing the white/orange clay "plaza" material.
Close lot 17.

21 June 2005, Tuesday

Hot & sunny. Torrential rain last night, yet no standing water on path from road or in trenches. Tarps are doing a good job.

We will shoot in the points again for the ball court this morning. The points we had before were not matching up, causing a great deal of consternation.

This morning we will excavate the southern half of EUD which was left intact to preserve the profile which contained the red lens of clay. It has been thoroughly documented and sampled so I feel confident removing it.

Open: 0 p 9/3/18 EUD Hums, grass layer, @ south half of EUD.

We are excavating this lot to expose slumped architectural materials east of structure #5. There are four distinct layers visible in the profile, consistent throughout all the previously excavated units. From top to bottom: ① A horizon w/ no artifacts, ② B horizon w/ mix of clay + bits of ceramics (highest density of ceramics), ③ Yellow clay w/

21 June 2015

2005-20-36

Some artifacts + bits of ceramics, ~~200~~ (4) buried Ahanzan
desire of cultural interest, and (5) white/orange clay layer,
potential

recovered ceramic rim fragment, 10cm x 4cm, at bottom of Lot 18.

End Lot 18

NW 980.96

NE 980.82

SW 980.96

SE 980.82

Open Op 9/3/19

Mixed brown/orange clayey humus layer w/
highest density of ceramic bits

This lot does not reveal any new features or information about the structure.
This EU does contain the first significant increase of elevation is the
trench, moving E → W. Intel Δ between E+W opening elevation of
the grid = 24cm.

Recovered crude prismatic blade 6.5cm x 3cm, just below
the opening elevation, west half of grid, no x, y, z ≈ 980.90.

Open Elevation:

NW 980.96

NE 980.82

SW 980.96

SE 980.82

Ellen visited the site around 10:30am. She looked at the ceramic
material in the brown/orange layer and suggested that it's probably
bajirque from the slumped architecture.

Lot 19 ends with the uncovering the yellow clay.

Closing Elevations: NW -45 (980.78) NE -54 (980.69)
GS: 981.23 SW -44 (980.79) SE -53 (980.70)

21 June 2005

2005-20-37

I just compared the opening & closing elevations of Lots 15-19. They do not match up exactly, but come ~~within~~ ^{within} ~~6 cm~~ ^{6 cm}. I would attribute this to the subjective differences between the humus, mixed and clay layers, with the intermediate one grading into the higher and lower levels without any definite separation. The line of separation between the yellow clay and the buried Ah horizon is well defined. Additionally, my datum string was stolen two nights ago and is now being removed every night. The daily replacement could also certainly be introducing a fair amount of error.

Close Lot 19.

Open Op 9/3/20 EUD: South half of EUD, yellow clay layer

Open Elev:	NW 980.78	NE 980.69
	SW 980.79	SE 980.70

Mostly homogeneous layer of yellow clay w/ some (less than Lots 15+18) bits of brique.

Recovered small, 1 cm x 1 cm, flakes of obsidian.

I will excavate the next EU in a 1 m x 1 m quad.

(1 pm) Asked Pamela where she thinks the wall of the structure may be. Probably 4 EUs For G.

[Questions of the day: What is the origin of the yellow clay?
Why is the brique mostly above the yellow clay?
Both intermediate layers are getting thicker as we get closer to the middle of the structure.]

ZISave 2005

2005-20-38

~~Chris~~ Curious that there are no artifacts laying on the 'plaza' floor.
Need to ask Marcell about how earthen architecture slumps.
We have exposed 4m so far out to 22-18 to go. I'm not sure
if we have enough time in the season to excavate the entire
trench (14 days only left!) Time is indeed flying by.
I don't think there is any way to make the work go faster except
to surely invite Victor and Tibo. I will be happy when
we get into the structure.

Closing elevation lot 20: BGS 981.23

NW-76	NE-77
SW-75	SE-80

Lot 20 ends with the beginning of the burned Ahonran.

Open lot 21: Op 913/21 EUD:

South half of burned Ahonran is EUD

Compact dark brown humus devoid of cultural material. Overlays
white/orange clay surface.

Two carbon samples recovered. The date of these samples
should be after the abandonment of the structure and before its
collapse because they were recovered from a middle elevation
in the lot, neither on the white/orange clay surface nor directly
underneath the yellow clay. Cause of the burning
episodes unknown.

Opening elevation: BGS 981.23

NW-76	NE-77
SW-75	SE-80

Closing elevation

BGS 981.23

NW-93	NE-93
SW-93	SE-93

21 June 2005

6N
○

5N
○

2005-20-39

Open EU:E



Open Lot #21

6S
○

5S
○

Opening elevation Lot #21

NW 981.46

NE 981.22

SW 981.43

SE 981.23

22 June 2005, Wednesday

Overcast w/ threatening clouds. Might it rain today.

I have been in the house for exactly 4 months now. Still loving it.

Continue Lot #21

Lot 21 consists of humus devoid of culture/inter.

End lot 21

End elevation NW -17

NE ~~-38~~ -38

BGS: 981.43

SW ~~-17~~ -17

SE -38

The difference in end elevation is a function of the slope of the surface, ~~not~~ less than the slope of the underlying layer.

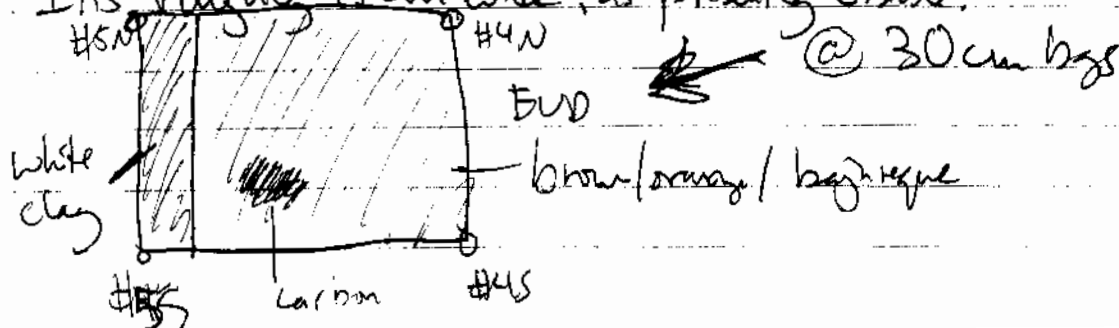
The layer below is the brown/orange/bayouge layer.

One prenat corium and one obsidian flake, very thin, were recovered.

Open Lot #22

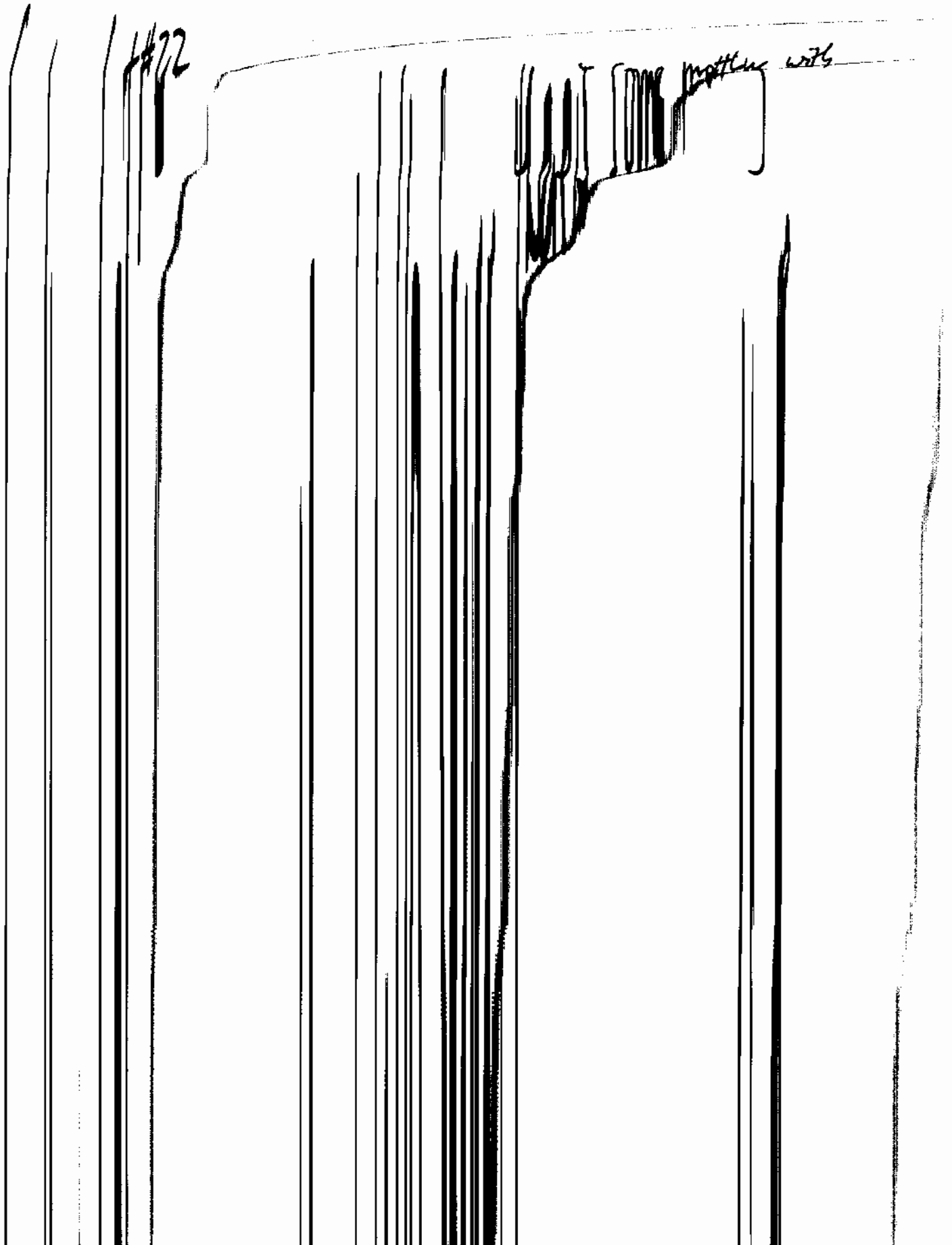
A course of whitish clay is visible along the western edge of EUD at 30 cm BGS (BGS = 981.43) Elevation of feature = 981.13 m.

It is roughly 15 cm wide, as presently visible.



22 June 2005 - Wednesday

2005-20-40



22 June 2005 - Wednesday

2005-20-40

Continue Lot #22

As we excavate deeper into the b/o/b layer, there is some mottling with ~~the~~ clay that is the same color as the wall. Very likely mixed in the process of stamping. Also, frequently we find small bits of charcoal

~~@@~~ A herd of full grown cows and bulls was led through the field. They like to rub their heads in the back dirt.

10:00 AM - rain begins! We have dug a gutter around the trench to divert the water falling off of the roof.

Recovered several relatively large precast ceramic 8cm x 6cm.

As expected, the B/O/B layer terminates with the yellow layer. ~~the~~ The yellow layer originates with the wall feature, with the former originating from the latter.

More sherds recovered from same location - will record location:

From #5N: 85cm E

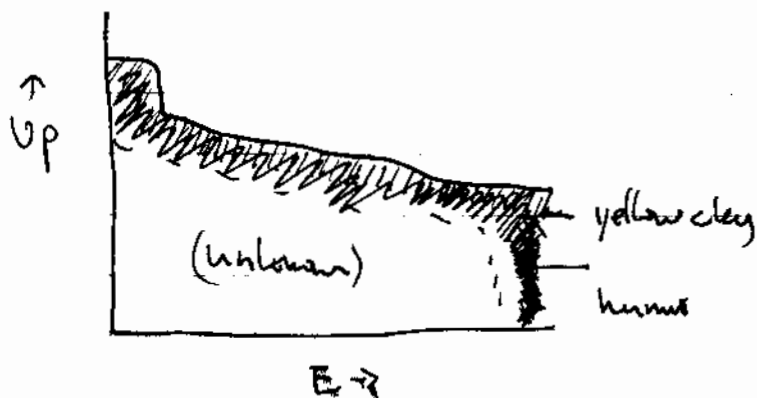
25cm S

980.83 Z

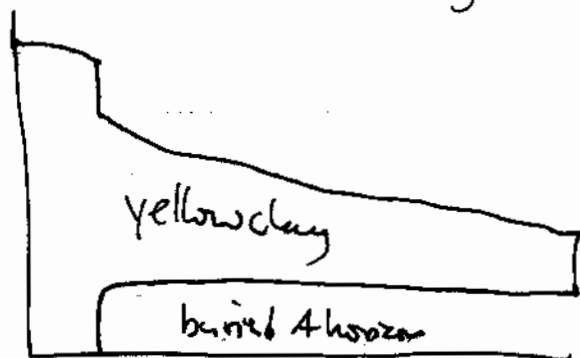
The rain has momentarily ended. The air is a very agreeable temperature

Took photograph of ~~the~~ wall #1 and the east profile of EU:E.

North view of EU:E.



I think it will look something like this:



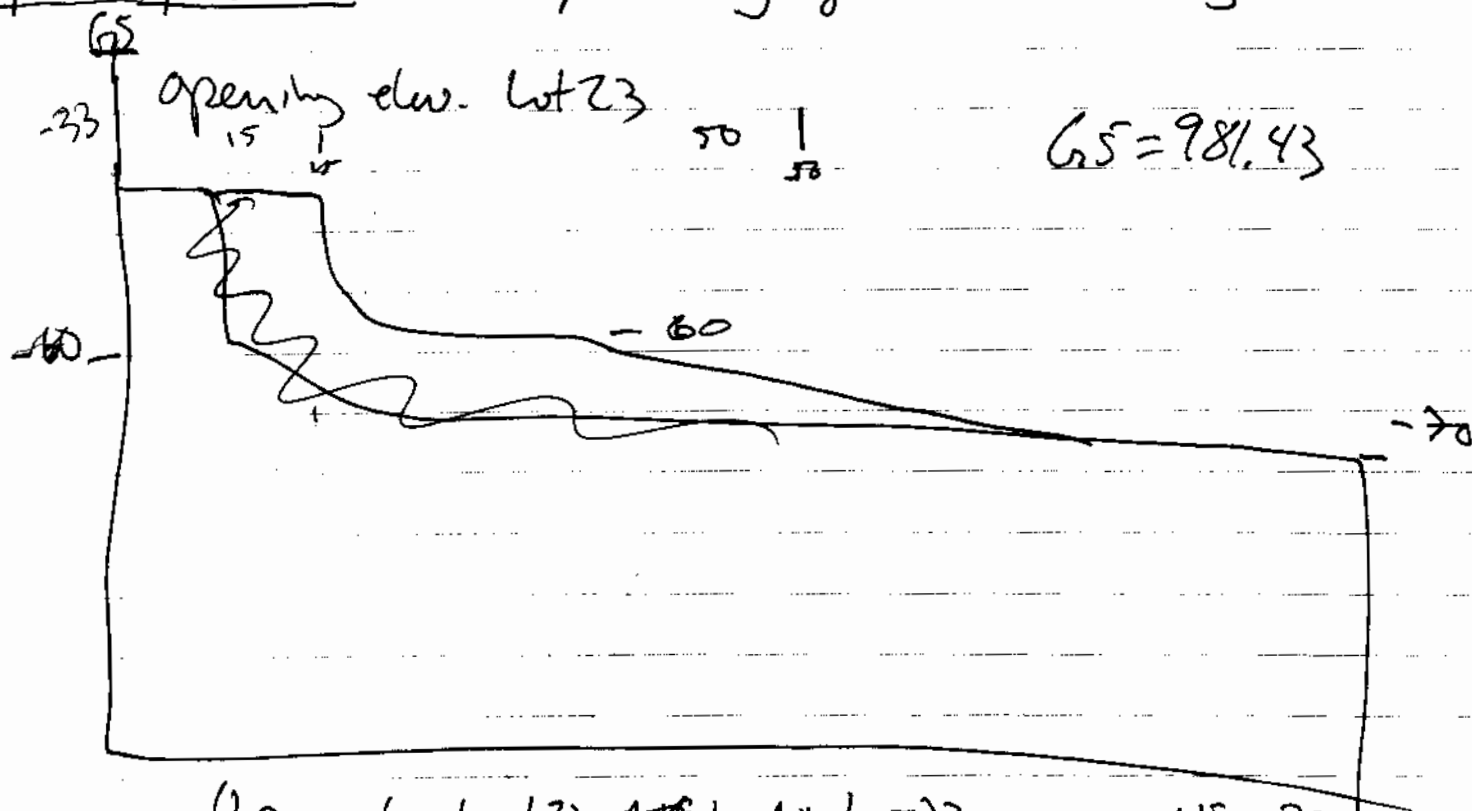
22 June 2005 Wednesday

2005-20-41

We will now excavate the layer of yellow clay, leaving the area under wall #2 intact.

It's now miserably hot and humid. This morning seems to be progressing steadily.

Open: Op 9/3/23 EU:E yellow clay layer in EU:E, excluding wall #1



Open elevation L23	NE	-70
(closing " L22)	SE	-70
absolute	NW	981.10
	SW	981.10
	NE	980.63
	SE	980.63

I just realized that the actual width of the trench (and the others' trenches as well) is actually ≈ 94 cm. This is because the sidewalls are determined by the strings which are wrapped around quite thick stakes. Alas, I'm not sure what effect this really has on anything.

I am leaving the south half of the unit intact for now since I have misjudged some of the original architecture for slumps.

22 June 2005 - Wednesday

2005-20-47

~~Open~~ Op 9/3/23, cont.

The yellow clay overlays the humus layer still. The yellow clay is devoid of cultural materials.

Endy elev
GS = 980.46

980.56 980.46
~~NW-90 (980.46) NE-100 (980.46)~~
~~SW-90 (980.46) SE-100 (980.46)~~
 980.56 980.46

Open Op 9/3/24 : Yellow clay layer, south half of unit.

Open Elev. NW 981.10 NE 980.63
 SW 981.10 SE 980.63

Lot 24 is being excavated to expose the entire surface area of the buried horizon. Same content as Lot 23.

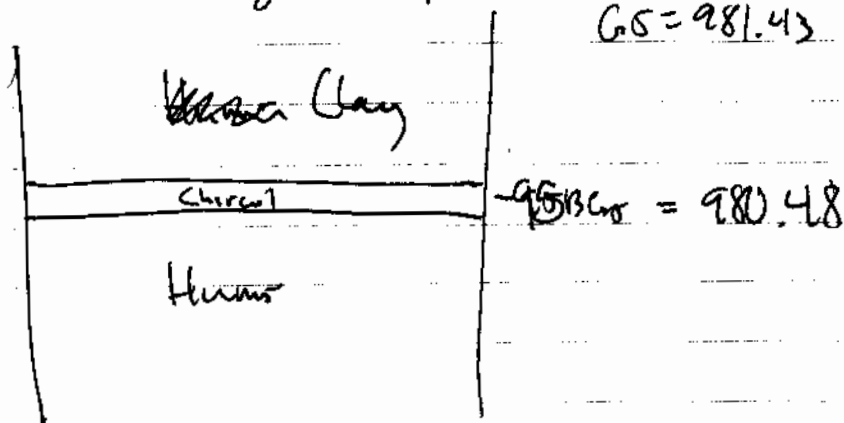
980.56 980.46
 Endy elev NW-90 (981.06) NE-100 (980.46)
 GS = 980.46 SW-90 (981.06) SE-100 (980.46)

brown gray clay (23 June 2005 note)

Open Lot 25 EV:E : Buried humus layer

Lot 25 is the buried horizon, EV:E. There is a very thin charcoal layer on top of the buried humus, directly below the yellow clay.

GS = 981.43



Again, the endy elevations of lots 23+24 are deceptive.

22 June 2005 - Wednesday

2005-20-43

The burned layer on top of the humus does indeed cover the entire exposed area.

23 June 2005 - Thursday

Cloudy, humid, and of course, hot. Inappreciable breeze.

The river Azule was the highest yet today. There was some tangible apprehension as we forded the river. If it gets any higher we may have to caulk up the wagon and hope the oxen can swim across. ~~Fewer~~

Eight people visited us last night from the U of T, led by the national director of archaeology. They ended up spending the night because of their late arrival and the heavy rain which ^{will have} made the drive back treacherous.

The walk out to the site was very mucky as well. The soil in the unit is also quite moist. I will take the tarp off to dry the unit if the sun ever comes out.

I hear gunshots in the back ground...

We begin the day by scraping back the layer of clay remaining on the carbon layer. It is a laborious process but well worth the stunning photo that I will take.

We spoke with Marcella this morning while waiting for the pickup to return from El Cefetel. While enjoying the view of the starkly clad covered mountains from the top of structure #1, ~~Marcella~~ we received some wisdom regarding the excavation of earthen architecture. He said it is strongly defensible to adopt ~~an~~ an M.O. of liberal excavation; that is, to excavate through the different layers without a complete knowledge of

23 June 2005 - Thursday

2005-20 44

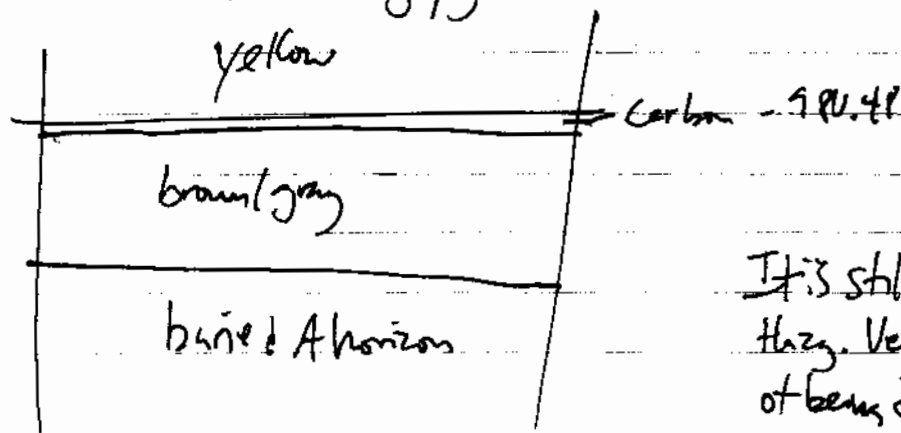
their depositional significance. Because: the complex taphonomic processes make horizontal interpretation nearly impossible (e.g. multifactorial erosion, a long history of human technological alteration of the surface, generation of bioturbation, etc.), ^① this site has low conservation ~~value~~ and reconstruction value. So. We will excavate through the structure and hopefully catch the important features after the fact in the profile. I will certainly continue to take diligent notes. I hope that I have already done so.

Lot 26: ^{typical} ~~Observed~~ Carbon sample from human layer.
NW quadrant of EUE
Z: 980.48 only

Having excavated below the carbon layer, it is now apparent that it does not overlay the human directly, but a darker clayey layer, probably a mix of the yellow clay and the buried horizon. This brown/gray clay has not received much attention in the past EUs because of its relative thickness, but it is of sufficient thickness now to ~~be~~ graduate from minimal transitional layer to a layer in its own right.

There are small bits of charcoal in this layer.

Revised sketch of the stratigraphy:



It's still both hot and humid.
Hazy. Very much, to the point
of being cloudy.

23 June 2005 - Thursday

2005-20-45

Some elevations I needed to retake GS: 981.46

N yellow clay S	End Lot 23:	NW -84	980.62	NE -100	
		SW -87	980.59	SE -100	
	Open Lot 24	NW -70		NE -73	
		SW -70		SE -79	
brown no fine	End Lot 24	NW -87	980.59	NE -100	
		SW -96	980.50	SE -96	980.50
	Open Lot 25	NW -86	980.57	NE 980.47	
		SW -90	980.53	SE 980.41	GS = 981.43
Carbon	End Lot 25	NW -125	980.18	NE 980.47	
		SW -123	980.20	SE 980.47	
	Open/End Lot 26	NW -75	980.48	NE 980.47	
		SW -73	980.00	SE	

11:00 AM: I personally removed the western wall in EU:E, which was determined not to be a wall at all because ~~there was~~ the brown/grey clay layer was found to run beneath it further into EU:E. We will continue to excavate EU:E until we reach the white/orange clay, whose existence in EU:E I have already confirmed by means of a small probe. I do enjoy employing the pickaxe from time to time. To say the pickaxe is quite marginally.

Speaking of marginally, a cool breeze is blowing in from the north. It's still

23 June 2005

2005-20-46

quite cloudy. Cerro Azul is completely obscured, and there is always the threat of yet more rain. I think we are making good progress. We are $\frac{1}{2}$ of the way through the trench and hopefully close to the exterior wall. I look forward to ~~opening~~ opening excavation in the structure itself and all the treasures entombed there. Speak of El Diablo, it's drizzling. 1 pm. We are making slow progress through the brown/grey layer which is actually, on inspection, at least 3 layers of dark soils of varying colors. When we have excavated all of the soil ~~to~~ ^{to} is EU:E to the white/orange clay. I will draw a full profile and attempt to assign colors to the layers with the Munsell.

Profile complete. As always, it is a guessing game determining the colors. Having just read the instructions for use in the front of the book, I am now more comfortable with my frustration while using the Munsell. According to the instructions, there is a less than one in 100 chance of finding an exact match.

For the last $\frac{1}{2}$ hour of the day we will begin excavating EU:F. We have so far gone through the humus, Lot 27.

Op 9/3/27 EU:F	grass, humus layer	
Open elev.	NW 981.46 ^{981.41}	NE 981.43
	SW 981.61	SE 981.61 981.
base elev.	NW 981.17	NE 981.17
	SW 981.17	SE 981.21

23 June 2005

2005-20-47

~~West profile of EU:E (or is it the east profiled EU:E?)~~

~~This drawing is to scale. I'm going to do it on the grid paper~~

Maybe I shouldn't have crossed that out. I bet you can still read it.

Flak Back - I took the tarp off the west half of the trench to the
Munsell. Then it started to drizzle again. I am very pleased with
my profile.

Bri may have found the same white/orange clay that I have,
approx. 1m higher than my surface (she is excavating on
structure #1).

Began a probe in EU:A into the white/orange clay to determine
depth of layer. Lot 28. [Op 9/3/28 EU:A]

I am far behind on lot forms and must do them first
thru tomorrow morning.

24 June 2005 - Friday

Cloudy, warm. The river was a smidge higher today. The
slag down the cattle path was equally squishy as yesterday. There
was \pm 6 inches of standing water in the west end of the trench
today and a few inches in the east end. The middle is apparently
a few centimeters higher, as it was free of water. We left some of
the dark humus layer intact in the middle so it is not surprising it
wasn't flooded. The ends of the trench where the clay is
exposed are muddy pits now. We will have to dig better

24 June 2005 - Friday

2005-20 - 48

... hotter gutters today. There is the potential for lots of water to accumulate over the weekend. Perhaps if we dig the probe through the clay in EU:A we will have a nice drain.

Excavation continues on EU:F. As they excavate the humus layer I will catch up on my paper work.

The humus appears to be deeper in EU:A. This is similar to Subop 5, where there is a sudden disappearance of the clay slump.



Is this evidence of a lost trench? The waste of a backhoe? An interior space? The final is unlikely, as these structures were probably clay platforms and breeze walls.



Or something like that.

The water seems to be seeping in from the sidewalks. All the tarps and trenches in the world can't save us now. I predict lots of hailing out in the coming weeks.

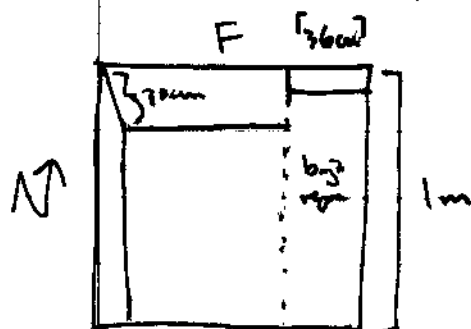
Raining harder now I hope we can find the river beds. My tape measure is broken. It's in danger of retracting forever.

24 June 2005 - Friday

2005-20-49

Cont: Op 9/3/27 EU:F

We have located the bajareque wall!



Z of bajareque = 981.36

The humus on the west edge is at least 30 cm deep. Excavation will likely reveal more.

The "interior" of the Bajareque wall has a certain ~~variety~~. I am leaving the Bajareque intact and will continue to excavate the humus as the same lot because it lacks internal differentiation.

I think we have found the same lens of white clay visible in the east profile of EU:F



Collected carbon sample from Z = 981.30

From #6 N: -40N, -45E

Sunny, then rainy. Then a sun shower. I do look forward to being packed up at 11am.

27 June 2005 Monday
Just another tragic Monday.

2005-20-51

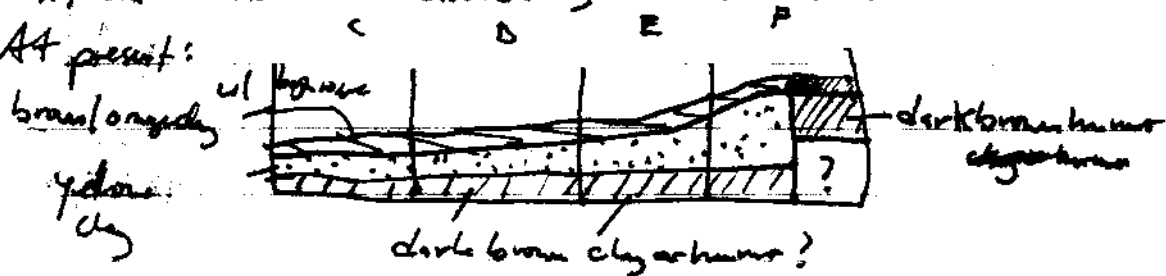
Can't Lot 28 EU:F - continue to excavate humus layer.

The humus layer is much deeper on the west side of the hypocaust well.

Morello suggested that the "buried horizon" may be an intentionally laid clay platform on which daily activities took place. While I have found no cultural materials on this layer and believe it to be humus. I cannot rule anything out at this point as I am woefully inexperienced.

Lot 28 continues to expose humus in the west half and a vertical "wall" of clay. It is probably not a wall in the architectural sense, but there is an undulating vertical character to it.

At present:



It is very puzzling why we are finding humus where we would expect a clay platform to be. Are we inside a structure filled with humus? Why did the clay not slump to the west?

After lunch, another 15-20 cm of water had seeped into the trench, which had been fully bailed in the morning. It is going to be very slow going.

27 June 2005 - Monday

2005-20-32

~~2005-20~~

The humus in EU: F is at least 95 cm BGS.

End lot 28 EUF - arbitrary level - 50 cm of humus

Begin lot 29 EUF

NW 45

NE 45

GS = 981.61

SW 45

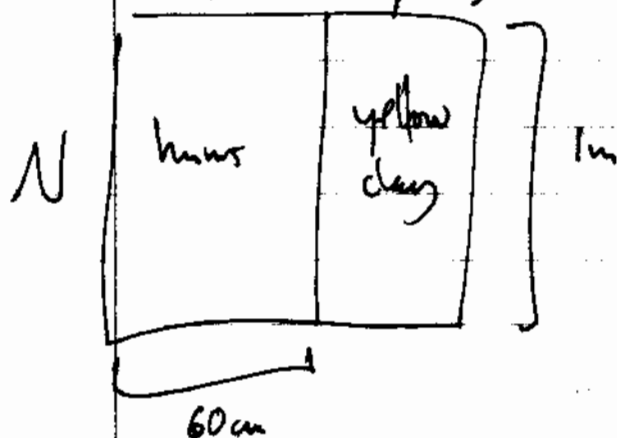
SE 45

(-95 = 980.66)

~~981.61~~

This lot comprises the humus in EUF below 980.46.

Directly adjacent to the humus is a compact yellow clay which will be excavated separately.

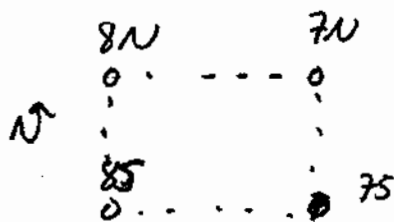


There are yet no cultural materials in any of the humus.

End lot 29 - 60 cm BGS = 980.61 cm

The lot ends with a mottled layer of white clay spots, dark clay and humus, and patches of carbon. The ~~carbon~~ carbon patches are approximately 13 cm higher in lot 29 than in the profile of EU: F east profile of EU: F. They may be the same surface sloped surface.

Open EU: G



2005-20 53

Open Op 9/3/30 EU: G - grass, humus

Open elev: NW 981.81 NE 981.61

SW 981.78 SE 981.61

Excavated 16cm of lot 30 before we put a top.

28 June 2005 - Tuesday

Arrive 8:00 AM

Sunny, hot, partly cloudy. It rained torrentially last night - the river was at an all time high. It over flowed the ^{fur} ~~rest~~ bank and flooded the road halfway to the site. We made it out none the less. We walked through the field again because the cow path is now a river of shit.

Excavation will continue today with lot 30 EU: G, removing the humus layer, and lot 29 EU: F, excavating through half of the mottled layer.

Team tired today, verging on weary. The boring was finished at 8:30 am. The trench is a messy mass of clay, with much disturbance by foot prints.

Open Op 9/3/31 EU: F ~~Excavation~~ Elev. 40N < 55E

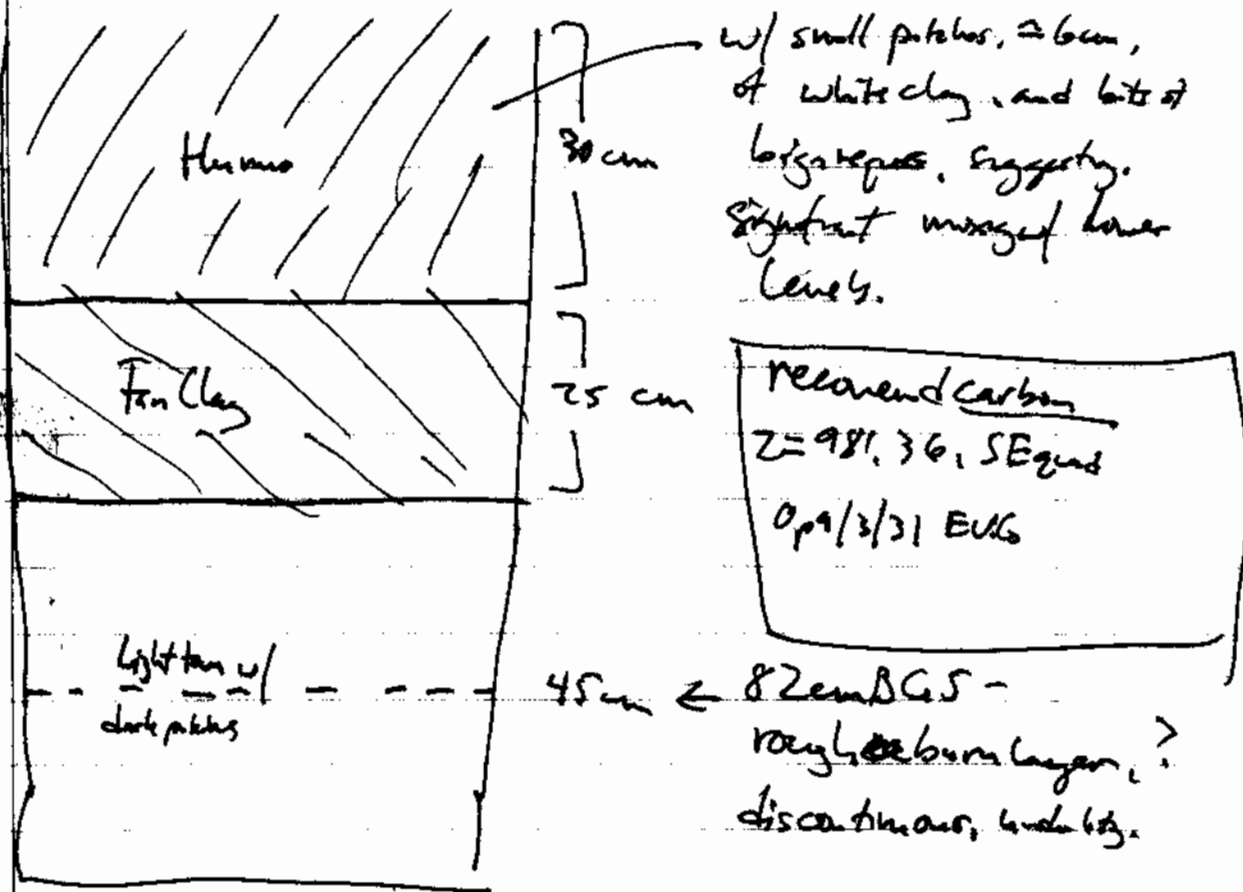
This lot will explore the mottled layer in EU: F

28 June 2005 - Tuesday

2005-ZU-54

The exposed east profile of ^{EU:G}~~EU:G~~ shows several layers that were not recognized when we excavated EU:P.

Facing east west, the east profile of EU:G:



Close Lot 30 EUG - Initial guess/humus layer

This lot comprises the lot 50 cm of humus - relatively homogeneous, 2 small bits of charcoal & wooden remains. There are two ant(?) tunnels in the SW corner of the unit.

End of lot NW 981.36 31 NE 981.36 31
SW 981.36 31 SE 981.36 31

28 July 2005 - Tuesday

2005-20-55

Open lot. 3Z EU:G - 2nd arlatray hump layer
Open Elev: NW 981.43/ NE 981.3/
SW 981.43/ SE 981.3/

~~Lot 31~~ Lot 31 EU:F

Lot 31 was increasingly clayey, dark brown/gray w/ refract yellow/white patches. I had thought there would be a surface inside at this depth, but apparently not. I had hoped to excavate deeper but the day is getting too rainy, saturated and I am afraid it will flood like the rest of the trench. I am going to excavate and let it flood any

Cont lot 3Z - EU:G

recovered dark yellow translucent lithic flake, 2x4cm
@ Z=981.25, SW quadrant.

End lot 31 EU:F

Increasingly wet and clayey, frequent carbon fragments
stopping excavation at +720 BGs (CS=981.61)

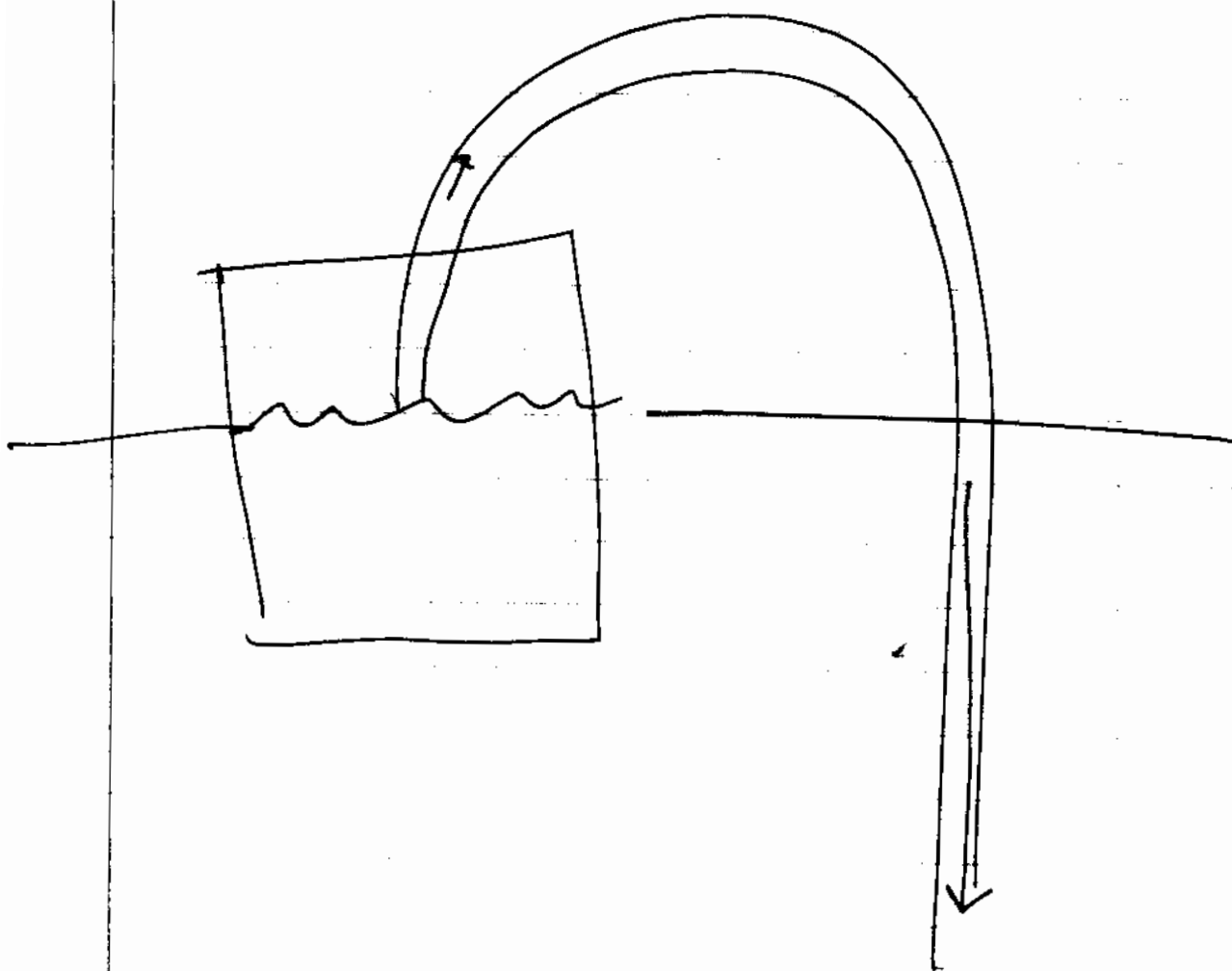
end elev: NW 980.41 NE 980.41

SW 980.41 SE 980.41

2005-21-96

The Simple Siphon:

however, we are already at the lowest point



29 June 2005 - Wednesday

2005-20-57

Hot, partly cloudy. It did not rain last night so the river was lower this morning and there is only 20 cm of water in the trench.

Especially the dog bit my right hand yesterday at $\approx 2:30$ and I managed to put him. Unfortunately he got my thumb. Writing is a bit painful and no doubt will have an adverse effect on my already dreadful penmanship.

There are two frogs trapped in the trench today and the waders are taking much pleasure in hunting them down and abusing them.

Judging by the inundation of EU:F@ 980.41, I'm not sure how deep we will be able to excavate EU:G. The lack of rain last night may eliminate some of the flooding. I brought out ashore to remove the thick humus cap of ~~EU:H~~ EU:H.

Including today, ~~EU~~ I will only be here 8 more work days and we are under constant threat from the rain. The pace of work must press on. Additionally, Bri Blevins this weekend and I may have to take over her trench.

Tulio is excavating EU:G while Victor is making a handle for a probe. It's our hope, or maybe just wish, to excavate the white clay in EU:G and start EU:H today.

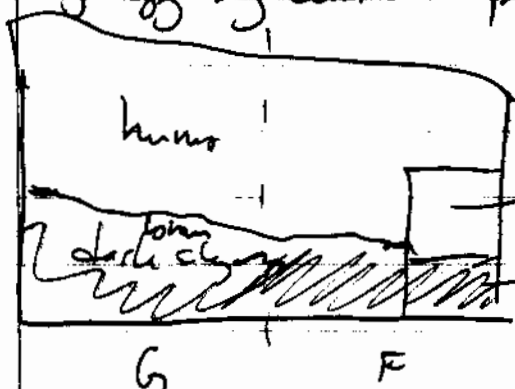
29 June 2005 Wednesday

2005-20-78

Open lot 33 EU: F+G

Open elev: NW 980.91 NE 980.91
SW 980.91 SE 980.91

Mixed clay + humus. I think there's a slope to the clay,
judging by whittis exposed in EU: F+G



The dark clay may be
an interior clay surface.
I need to expose more of
it in the profiles of EU F+G

It's currently not very ^{clear} and
grades ~~imperfectly~~ imperceptibly into the humus. There is
a definite tan layer, ≈ 20 cm thick, that honors between
layers of the dark ^{humus} clay.

Uncovered mottled layer of dark clay w/
pockets of yellow clay + carbon (sample collected)
at -95 cm BGS, (GS = 981.81) Z = 980.86.
Will clear off remaining soil from surface and begin
a new lot.

End elev: lot 33 NW 980.86 NE 980.86
SW 980.86 SE 980.86

~~2005~~ 29 June 2005 - Wednesday

2005-20-54

Open lot 34, EU:G

Mottled dark clay, yellow clay patches, thin surface of carbon / patcher.

Open E: NW 980.86 NE 1086
SW 980.86 SE 980.86

one piece of ceramic removed

The tan clay layer is visible in the side wall
beginning at 85 cm BGS (75 cm) - 20 cm thick, at least.
#82 981.78

There is increasingly large patches of yellow clay in the
interior. Another piece of ceramic removed.

11:10 AM Open EU:H

986 8N

N

95° 85

Open lot 35 - EUH Grass - humus layer

Victor is beginning to remove the top layer of EUH.

Lot 35^{EUH} large rock fragments @ 22 cm BGS (95)

Afterlunch -

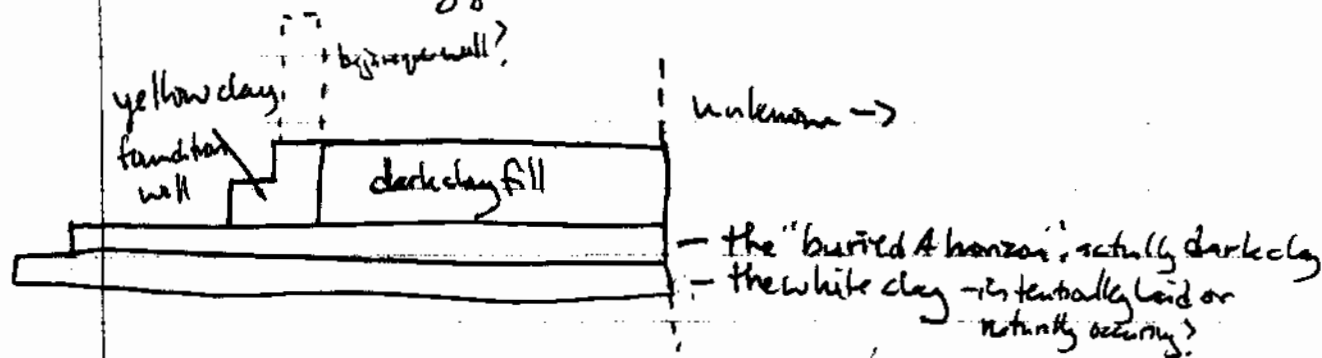
lot 34 continues to be excavated. Now, with a large pickaxe.
It's doing the job nicely.

Recovered carbon sample - 120 BGS (8N)

29 June 2005 - Wednesday

2005-20-60

Dr. Geller suggests this:



The yellow clay walls then mostly in situ, as is the dark clay interior fill. The ~~the~~ buried layers found in the dark brown clay fill may represent different rearing episodes, as well as the ^{possibly} different colors of brown/tan clay.

Lot 34 EUG @ 118 cm BGS (⁸⁰ ~~80~~): Sherd 1 recovered, 9 cm x 5 cm

Lot 35 EUH @ ~~22~~ 22 cm BGS (85): 3 sherds recovered

End Lot 35 EUH @ 40 cm BGS (arbitrary level) (95)

Open Lot 36 EUH

Open Ele: NW 981.60

NE 981.60

SW 981.60

SE 981.60

Lot 36-~~4~~ contains more bones as expected, as well as 4 ant tunnels, extending horizontally from the west and south profiles.

Lot 34 EUG becomes increasingly clay at lower depths and ~~was shown as a full profile at 20~~

29 June 2005 - Wednesday

2005-20-61

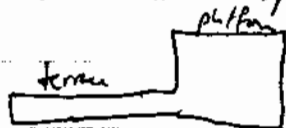
Dug probe into lot 34 EUG, north half
at ~~200~~ -164 BGS (8N), wet gray clay
($Z = 980.17$)

Water has begun to fill the probe immediately. I will
backfill it.

Marcello and Ellen visited at 3pm and inspected our work so far.

Ellen suggested that there may be three construction phases.

1st: the dark brown clay platform



2nd: the yellow clay steps added. The yellow steps are ~~green~~ on
the interior surface, suggesting they were built upon an
eroded structure.



There may have been ~~the~~ 1st phase dark clay steps that
were ~~at~~ later removed. Yellow seems like a more aesthetically
pleasing choice to me.

The burned layers in the dark clay interior may represent
refinishing events, scrape + burn, or one ~~event~~ multiphase
construction process in which different ~~layers~~ thicknesses were
laid and then burned for stability. I really have no idea and
no evidence to back these hypotheses. The light tan
layer suggest an earlier construction phase, too.

So perhaps 3 construction phases are represented here?

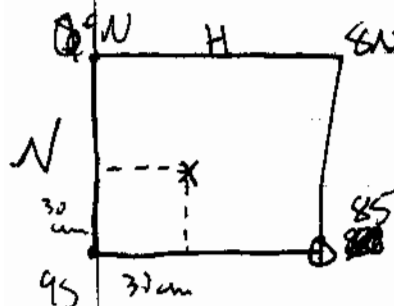
30 June 2005 - Thursday

2005-20-GZ

Quite warm, plenty of clouds. I did not rain last night. The river was again lower, but the far bank has been breached and the roads still flooded (El Rio Santiago). I am feeling a wee bit firm, but am sticking ~~to~~ through it.

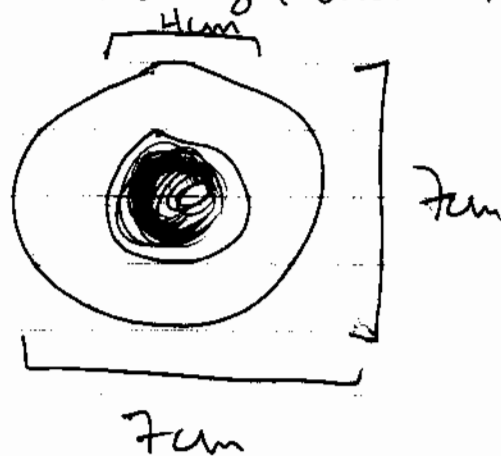
Cart Lot 36 EUH

8:55 AM: found small, thick bowl-like object



It was handed to me by one of my workers. Reportedly found upside down. It looks just like a round rock in its original orientation

-36 BG5-8N

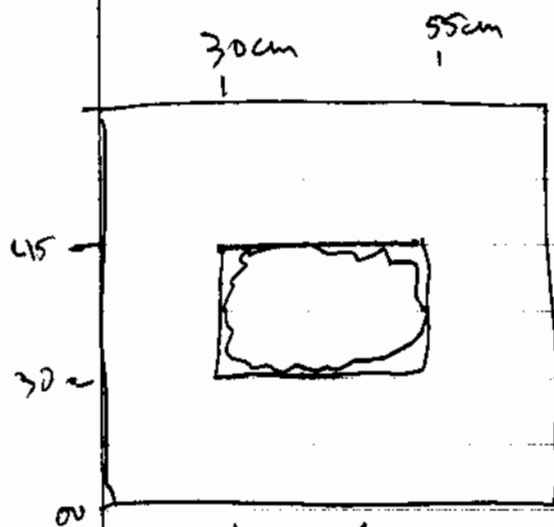


The bowl was not found ~~in~~ with any distinct color change in the soil. The soil was a consistent dark brown humus/clay mix. The amount of ant hills and known history of fracturing of the mounds makes me think this artifact is in its primary context.

< 10% mottling of yellow/white clay @ -45 BG5(8N) in center of EUH

30 June 2000 - Thursday

2000-20-63



Patch of yellow clay @ 43 BGS (8N)
The capite is 6cm thick at the
thickest point.

There is another similarly shaped
lens of yellow clay visible in the
south profile of EUH.

There is a lens of loose soil below the yellow clay capite,
10YR 4/3, whereas the surrounding soil is compact
clay, mottled, 10YR 3/2, mottled w/ bayou grey.

I just took some Sulfated so things might get a little
wacky wacky from here on in.

Obsidian flake recovered @ 80 cm BGS (9N)
I think its time to start a new unit.

End Lot 36 EUH @ 8cm BGS (9N)
End elev: NW 981.18 NE "
SW " SE "

Open Lot 37 EUH - @ 981.18.
Soil is composed of mostly dark clay w/
small bits of bayou grey.

30 June 2005 - Thursday

2005-25-64

EU'H is visible, as seen from the ^{east section,} ~~section~~, unspatulated.

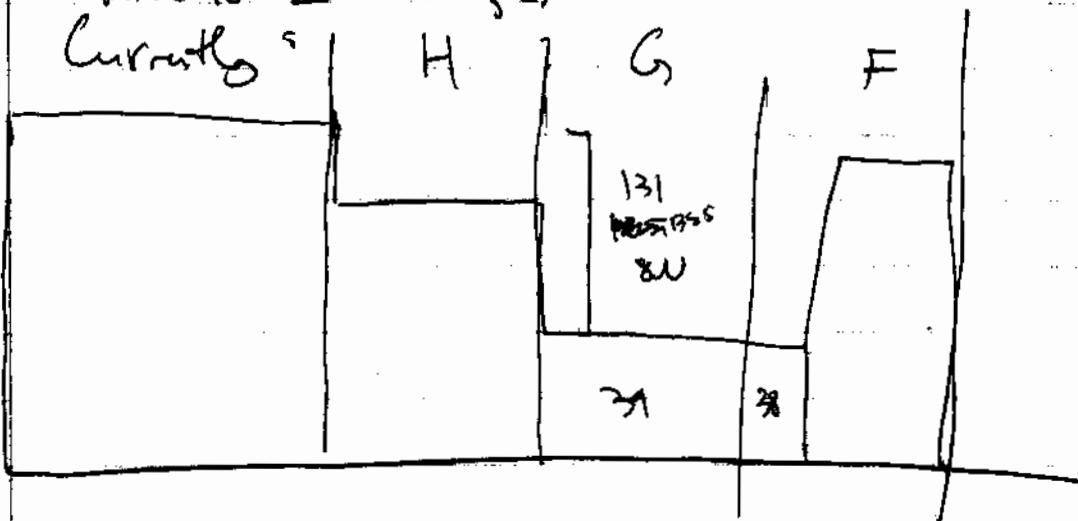
At 88cm BGS (9S), there is a lens of tan clay to the SW corner that extends to at least 110cm BGS, extending 50cm to the northeast.



110 BGS - NW corner (9W)

yellow clay patch. rest of unit 7: gray clay mixed with firm regm.

Return to EU: F, G



I will now excavate units F+G as deep as possible, hopefully to the white/orange clay. It will probably rain tomorrow, and the trench is dry today, so I will seize the moment.

30 June 2005
~~30 July 2005~~ - Thursday

2005-20-65

Open lot 38 EUF Open NW -131 NE -132
 SW -131 SE -132
 NW ~~980.50~~ ^{980.50} NE ~~980.49~~ ^{980.49}
 SW ~~980.50~~ ^{980.50} SE ~~980.49~~ ^{980.49}

GS = 981.81

Open lot 39 EUG Open NW -136 NE -137
 SW -138 SE -137
 NW 980.45 NE 980.44
 SW 980.43 SE 980.44

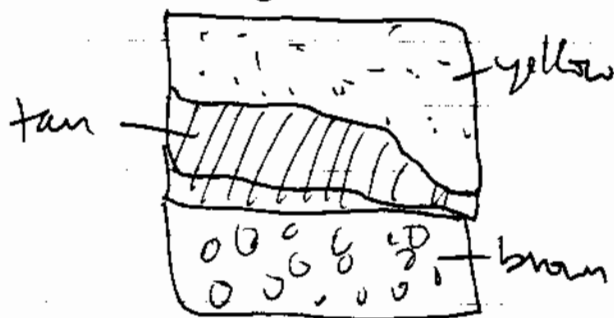
GS = 980.81

Lot 39 will be dug first. Soil changes from dark brown to a lighter gray color, beginning to have orange inclinations, like the white/orange clay visible east of the yellow wall.

At 167 Bss (8N) -25N, ~~980~~ -10 E from 8N
 Shards of ceramic on top of a buried surface

[The white clay is at 980.28 in the units east of the yellow wall]

Below the yellow wall, viewed from the west, are two layers, not very distinct, a tan and darker brown.



It may just be a trick of the light though.
 Nope. It's true.

30 June 2005 - Thursday

2005-20-66

The day is coming to a close. We haven't reached the white clay yet and the workers are exhausted. I just took some more samples so I may be able to rip out the last 20 cm. Probably not.

Yes! Hay barro blanco at -167 BGS (8W) =
Z = 980.14

1 July 2005 - Friday

The cold has caught up with me and I am taking the day off. I will review my lot forms and notes, and upload my pictures to the computer.

Naming of the soil layers -

- A - white clay w/ orange inclusions
- B - yellow clay
- C - brown/orange clay w/ baga regue
- D - humus w/ baga regue
- E - humus + grass
- F - ~~dark brown~~ dark brown clay (inside structure)
- G - tan clay " "
- H - dark brown clay (outside structure)

South section W/eleven + Lot

15	A	28	B	35	C	45	D	³⁵ E	55	F	75	G	85	H	95	I	105	J
90.64		98.83		98.87		98.94		98.23		98.43		98.61		98.78		98.88		98.95

2005-20-67

4th of July Monday

2005-20-68

57 has returned to the US

4th of July Monday

2005-20-68

Hot & sunny, and the clads are always here. Bri has returned to the US and Anne's husband Brian is here. My cold has passed mostly but I still have some minor pain in my right thumb from the dog bite.

Anne opened EUs I & J. I to 76 BG5, lots 40 & 41
J to 45 BG5, lot 42

I am attracting lots of the black bees this morning. I now aspire to have 100 pages of notes by the end of the week. I think I'm up to the challenge.

Unit 42 EU I - patch of bright red soil, poss. in middle, ~~see~~ SE corner $\approx 30 \times 30$, still visible in the S profile, 44 cm BG5 (105)

The clay levels, dark brown and tan, rise ^{dad} gradually from EU F to EU I, present ^{bee} lens (42) unknown.

Recovered one piece of perovskite from the back dirt

There appears to be a lens of grayish clay in the SE corner of EU I, visible in the profile.

4th of July - Monday

2005-20-691

Open Lot 40 EUI Grass, humus

Another

Open: NW 981.01

NE 981.98

— see

SW 981.95

SE 982.00

• ←

Examined in my absence by Dr. Geller on Friday.

50cm level.

Close: NW 981.47

NE 981.49

SE 981.45

SE 981.53

Open Lot 41 EUI ~~Dark~~ Dark gray, tan clay

Open: NW 981.47

NE 981.49

SE 981.45

SE 981.43

This EU marks the transition to the architectural material.
The clay layers are higher than previous EUs.
measurements forth coming, but it is visible to the eye.

4th of July Monday

2005-20-78

Openlot42 EUS - ~~the~~ grass, humus

Open: NW 981.45 NE 982.01
SW 981.82 SE 981.98

50cm level, NW - (11N)

Close NW 980.95 NE ~~988~~ 980.98
SW ~~981.82~~ ^{981.95} SE 980.98

There is no clear transition, is the most profitable, between the humus and the clay. There seems to be a lot of turbulence - from what is unknown.

I am a dumbass . I have not collected as many lithic specimens as necessary. Thinking perlite was naturally present in this soil. I have not collected the rough chunks that did not look like fossils or debris. I have recovered 6+ pieces from the side of the trench where I tossed them, the north side, having looked at them and discarded them. I estimate that there are at least 10 more such specimens in the backlot.

lot 43 EUS - beginning of the clay deck

4th of July - Monday

2005-20-71

Open Lot 43 EUS 50cm BGS

Open: NW 980.95 NE 980.95
SW 980.95 SE 980.95

Mixed humus + ^{dark} clay, no lignite or brown loam clay,
stratigraphy is not clear. There appears to be a lot of
disturbance in the soil at this level. We are
removing as much soil as possible in the next two days
to reveal the profile (section of the center?) of
the structure.

Close Lot 43 EUS

NW 980.45 NE 980.45
SW 980.45 SE 980.45

Open Lot 44 EUS 100cm bgs (11m)

NW 980.45 980.45
SW 980.45 980.45

continue to expose archin layers. This lot should
expose the tan clay layer.

[This lot has not yet been excavated as of
11am 5 July 2005]

2005-20-22

Open lot 45 E U H
9N Open NW -115 980.88 NE -110 980.88
(986.98) SW -110 980.88 SE -110 980.88
excavating tan / dark brown clay mix
to expose the white clay 260 cm lower

^{small change}
There are ~~lots~~ of orange soil, must likely burned before gun, ~~at~~
beginning at 119 BGS (9N) 9N = 986.98, visible in the
western half of the unit, is a tan clay mixture
below tan clay without before gun, west of tan clay
into bag. I will continue to excavate the ~~lot~~ lot until there
is a more dramatic change.

Left at 2pm due to impending storm.

5 July 2005 Tuesday
Arrive 8:30 pm

It's a hot one today! Today may very well be the last
day we excavate. I will try to finish E U H, continue
E U I, and clean the floor of the trench which has gotten
very muddy over the past weeks from the rain.

Continue excavation lot 45.
Collected carbon sample.

Did a little side wall cleaning.

5 July 2005 - Tuesday

2005-21-73

Vic for thumb is still quite injured so we are running shorter labor. My thumb is certainly still hurt, too. I suspect some damage to the ~~ligament~~ durable tissues.

Lot 45 EUH continues to expose more and more gray clay with orange inclusions, similar to the white/orange clay but darker. The orange inclusions are not baryte but rather more likely iron.

There are several ~~clumps~~ clumps of carbon in Lot 45. 3 more samples collected.

End:	NW	-170	NE	-170
(QN)	SW	-167	SE	-167
	981.28			

The bottom of the gray/orange clay lies on top of the white/orange clay, the same basal layer of the previous 7 EUS.

1100

Continue EUH

QN = 981.28

~~Open Lot 46 EUH~~

Continue Lot 41: EUH

current of 980.28

2005-20-74

Open lot 46 EUI H10 B65 (9N) 98L98

Open NW 980 88 NE 980 88

SW 980 88 SE 980 88

From the east profile of EUI, ≈ 200 cm, this lot will consist of hard packed grey clay with orange inclusions, the same soil type seen in lot 44 EUI, the horizontally adjacent lot.

It is still unclear whether this new soil is indicative of an earlier structure. It will be clearer when we have the remainder of EUI-S excavated. With more than a week meter logs and less than two hours left in the day, I am uncertain we will finish the task. Tomorrow will be devoted to clearing the floor and the sidewalks for photographs and drawing the sections. We should have time for everything. Judging by the slope of the structure, I think ~~EUI-S~~ EUI is the closest to the center of the structures.

* Open large red rock, $23 \times 18 \times 13$

Open 13/46 EUI \approx H10 B65 (9N)

37E, 16S of 10N

6 July 05 - Wednesday

2015-20-75

Hot, hazy, humid, cloudy, intermittent spindles.
Merullo, Ellen, & Roxanne came for site visit this morning.

Tulis & Victor will stop excavating the west side of the trench and begin to clear off the floor ~~area~~ to expose the white clay. I will draw the section/profile of the north wall.

Reflections on the section - The east half of the section was relatively easy to draw. There are 5 ~~or~~ distinct levels - brown, buff/orange buff/cream, yellow clay, dark brown clay, and white/orange clay. The wall was drawn as unexcavated.

The west half was more problematic - the layers are not discrete for the most part and there are many small layers/lenses. I did not map in most of the color changes because they were so small and were not indicative of different construction phases. Rather, they are probably the result of different batches of clay that were dumped on the platform during the same construction ~~and~~ episode. [This is precisely the same scenario I excavated most recently at the Henry Whitfield House in Guilford, CT.]

As of 1:45 pm, the floor is 50% clear. I am hoping that I will still be able to photograph today. (Victor is making a go of it with the huge pile of ~~only~~ just using his left hand. A truly dedicated worker.) There's still intermittent showers, and now some thunder, so I'm not sure taking the turps off would be a good idea.

6 July 05 Wednesday

2005-20-76

My section/profile is totally awesome, by the way.

I am going to Bris trench, Op9/1, to take final measurements & three other EUs.

I will measure from the 4 corners, for the water table level.

EUA - lot 42 ending elevations NW 178 NE 149
(locks) SW 170 SE 116

EUA - lot 43 - 34' ⁱⁿ below the ^{bottom} end of lot 42

EUE (Philbert's) NW ~~180~~ ~~180~~ 180 NE 124
SW ~~180~~ ~~180~~ 180 SE 167

EUG (lost excavated cut) NW 58 NE 43
SW 77 SE 75

The day ended at Op9 with a thorough scraping of all the excess gray clay trampled on the white/orange clay on both sides of the wall. With all of the white/orange clay exposed and the sidewalls cleaned, Pamela and I took photographs of each of the EUs on the west side of the wall and two on the east side. The east side was more difficult to photograph because the trench was much

6 July 65 - Wednesday

2055-20-77

deeper at that end. I tried to take some photographs holding the camera up against the opposite wall but most of them came out looking like nothing.

7 July 65 - Thursday

Today I need to: take final elevations of my trench

complete Bri's profile

complete my profile

photograph Bri's trench

Final elevations: Datum = ~~102~~ SS = 981.23

I will take elevations at all of the stakes.

1N 106

7W 110

1S 104

7S 111

2N 105

8W ~~109~~ 108

2S 105

8S ~~108~~ 109

3N 105

9N 104

3S 104

9S 108

4N 107

10N 30

4S ~~108~~ 108

10S 28

5N 110

11N 27

5S 112

11S ~~26~~ 27

6N 108

~~100~~

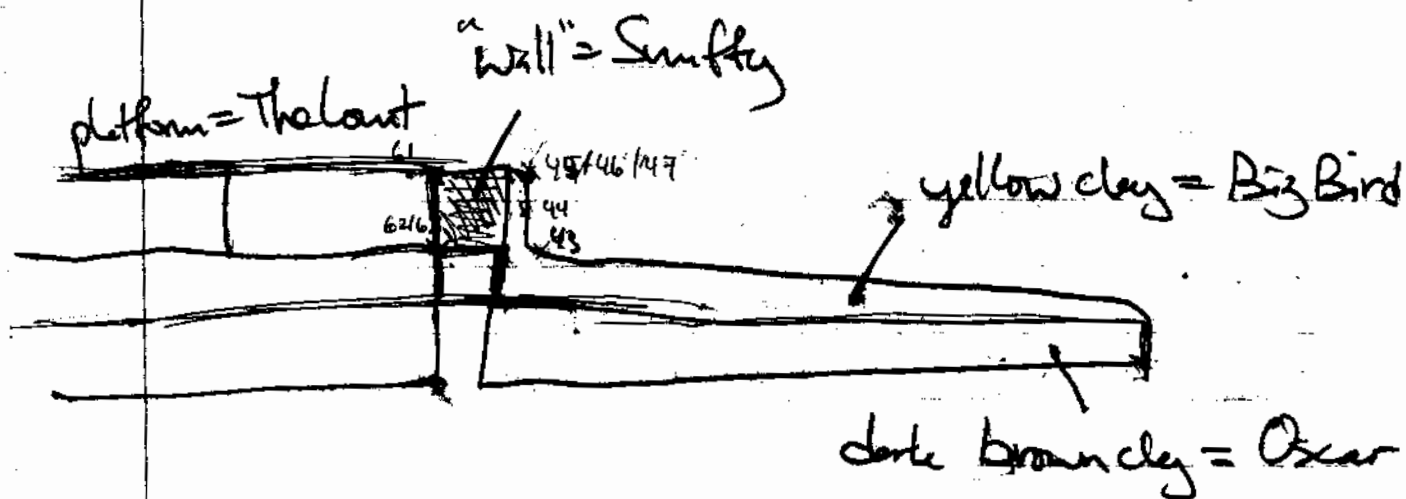
6S 109

~~109~~

9 July 05 - Saturday

2005-20-78

I was given the data points from the EDM - the points that I shot in on Thursday of my architecture. The names of the features are as follows



Thursday - 8 July 05

Thursday was a very long day in the field. Only two workers, Mike & Jasi came out to the field. All tasks were accomplished by 5:30. We also -
- Shot points for the architecture, with the EDM and Ellen's help, for all of the trenches. This was accomplished by drawing out the boundaries of the architecture in the side walls and then selecting points to shoot. One person held a firm in the wall to reset the rod to the necessary height -

Inventory: Lgr Org index Op 913 Nitro Deluca
S-018 Structure #5 #20

Op Sub Lot EW Gen Chart Obsc Page Page Gen Chart Obsc

1	A								
2	A	5							
3	A	3							
4	A	5							
5	A								
6	B								
7	A								
8	B	9							
9	B	8							
10	B								
11	C								
12	C	1	2	1					granulation
13	C								
14	D								
15	D	20							
16	D	1	22	1					
17	C								
18	D	1							
19	D	3		1					
20	D			1					
21	E	1	1						42
22	E	12		2					
23	E								1
24	E								granulation
25	E		1						
26	E								
27	F		2						
28	L								
29	L								
30	S		1						42
31	S	1	1						42
32	S								
33	S								
34	S	8							
35	H	5		2					
36	H			2					marker
37	S								
38	T								
39	S	5							
40	H		3						
41	H								
42	J								
43	J								
44	J								
45	H		2						
46	H			3					

42 Associated points

Page 1

Date	Feature	Class	Sub-class	Description	Northing	Easting	Elevation
2005-06-10	Archaeology	Trench corner		09/03	1,271.03	-1,155.02	981.35
2005-06-10	Archaeology	Trench corner		09/03	1,271.95	-1,151.05	981.82
2005-06-10	Archaeology	Trench corner		09/03	1,271.07	-1,151.09	981.79
2005-06-10	Archaeology	Trench corner		09/03	1,272.00	-1,152.06	981.81
2005-06-10	Archaeology	Trench corner		09/03	1,271.11	-1,152.05	981.79
2005-06-10	Archaeology	Trench corner		09/03	1,272.00	-1,153.06	981.58
2005-06-10	Archaeology	Trench corner		09/03	1,271.08	-1,153.06	981.61
2005-06-10	Archaeology	Trench corner		09/03	1,271.98	-1,154.06	981.45
2005-06-10	Archaeology	Trench corner		09/03	1,271.05	-1,154.05	981.49
2005-06-10	Archaeology	Trench corner		09/03	1,271.95	-1,155.05	981.36
2005-06-10	Archaeology	Trench corner		09/03	1,271.05	-1,150.08	981.82
2005-06-10	Archaeology	Trench corner		09/03	1,271.94	-1,156.03	981.20
2005-06-10	Archaeology	Trench corner		09/03	1,271.01	-1,156.02	981.16
2005-06-10	Archaeology	Trench corner		09/03	1,271.93	-1,157.05	980.87
2005-06-10	Archaeology	Trench corner		09/03	1,270.98	-1,157.01	980.83
2005-06-10	Archaeology	Trench corner		09/03	1,271.88	-1,158.04	980.75
2005-06-10	Archaeology	Trench corner		09/03	1,270.93	-1,158.01	980.72
2005-06-10	Archaeology	Trench corner		09/03	1,271.87	-1,159.05	980.72
2005-06-10	Archaeology	Trench corner		09/03	1,270.97	-1,159.01	980.70
2005-06-10	Archaeology	Trench corner		09/03	1,271.83	-1,160.02	980.68
2005-06-10	Archaeology	Trench corner		09/03	1,270.93	-1,159.98	980.67
2005-06-10	Archaeology	Trench corner		09/03	1,271.72	-1,140.20	980.69
2005-06-10	Archaeology	Trench corner		09/03	1,271.83	-1,145.16	981.46
2005-06-10	Archaeology	Trench corner		09/03	1,270.82	-1,140.28	980.64
2005-06-10	Archaeology	Trench corner		09/03	1,271.76	-1,141.24	980.78
2005-06-10	Archaeology	Trench corner		09/03	1,270.82	-1,141.24	980.83
2005-06-10	Archaeology	Trench corner		09/03	1,271.80	-1,142.22	980.86
2005-06-10	Archaeology	Trench corner		09/03	1,270.90	-1,142.23	980.87
2005-06-10	Archaeology	Trench corner		09/03	1,271.81	-1,143.20	980.98
2005-06-10	Archaeology	Trench corner		09/03	1,270.87	-1,143.22	980.94
2005-06-10	Archaeology	Trench corner		09/03	1,271.82	-1,144.18	981.22
2005-06-10	Archaeology	Trench corner		09/03	1,270.91	-1,144.19	981.23
2005-06-10	Archaeology	Trench corner		09/03	1,271.94	-1,150.06	981.96
2005-06-10	Archaeology	Trench corner		09/03	1,270.90	-1,145.18	981.43
2005-06-10	Archaeology	Trench corner		09/03	1,271.83	-1,146.14	981.61

NW
 EN
 IS
 ZW
 ZS
 3W
 3S
 4W
 4S
 5W
 5S
 6W
 6S
 7W

42 Associated points

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<i>Date</i>	<i>Feature</i>	<i>Class</i>	<i>Sub-class</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Northing</i>	<i>Easting</i>	<i>Elevation</i>	
2005-06-10	Archaeology	Trench corner		09/03	1,270.91	-1,146.17	981.61	75
2005-06-10	Archaeology	Trench corner		09/03	1,271.87	-1,147.09	981.81	8N
2005-06-10	Archaeology	Trench corner		09/03	1,270.94	-1,147.14	981.78	85
2005-06-10	Archaeology	Trench corner		09/03	1,271.94	-1,148.07	981.98	9N
2005-06-10	Archaeology	Trench corner		09/03	1,271.01	-1,148.11	982.00	95
2005-06-10	Archaeology	Trench corner		09/03	1,271.97	-1,149.06	982.01	10N
2005-06-10	Archaeology	Trench corner		09/03	1,271.05	-1,149.09	981.95	105

Handwritten mark resembling a stylized '7' or 'L'.

