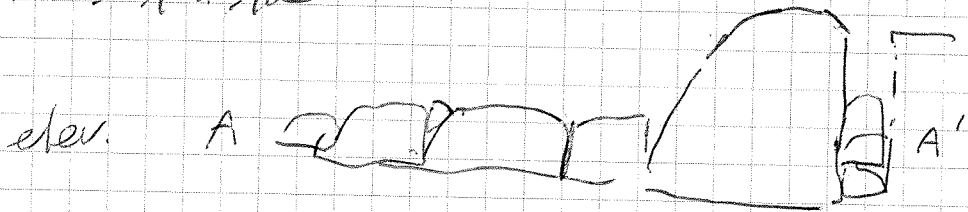


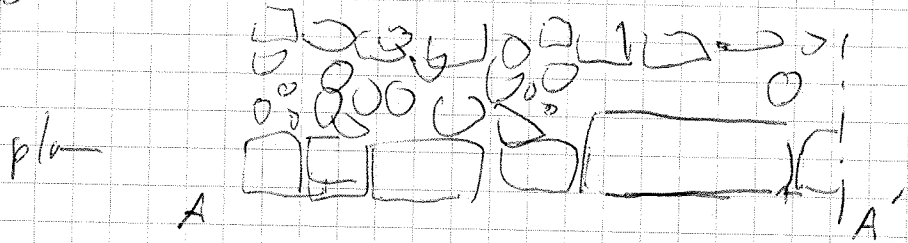
(52) m 38: 712 w/ new layer next to 201 (SE side of rm)
 m 31: 713 in E wing; 717 is eroded bedrock; 617 is hard
 plaster surface
 710 is large cut along wall in E wing
 - no number yet for fill under bedrock/work layer



Wall btw rooms 31 & 31a



not to scale



2006

FIELD NOTEBOOK FOR ADAM RABINOWITZ

19 June 2006

First set of students & staff arrive (all but three students from Kyiv). Day starts late, is spent clearing grass growth from spring & removing backfill from rooms 38, 31, 37. Stones laid over area near altar in chapel in 2002 are removed - This includes stones in area of door (?) to main street, which Carissa remembers as conservation work.

20 June 2006

Backfill removal continues, slowly. General orientation on recording system, bugs, etc. Plan off site a lot for various meetings. We decide to remove the large standing stone in the wall between rms 31 & 31a, since it will be dangerous when we need to excavate in the large trench (see sketch opposite for original position - stone was also on plan, in drawn elevation, and in conservation photos). Conservation cap on this wall removed.

- 21 June 2006 - ongoing backfill removal

22 June 2006

Teams established for initial work (until arrival of Kyiv students) Shanna & Anton, w/ Carissa & Olga, will work in courtyard. Dyma & Sasha & Caitlin will work in rm 31. Lea will be w/ Shanna. Dyma M, & Emma will work in rm 38. Backfill removal continues ~~from 38~~ from 38 is ready for excavation, which will begin with context 712 (remains full under earliest 12R-13R c. floor levels). Soil from this layer will be sieved until we can determine if that strategy is useful. Layers above in this room were sieved for faunal purposes, with good results.

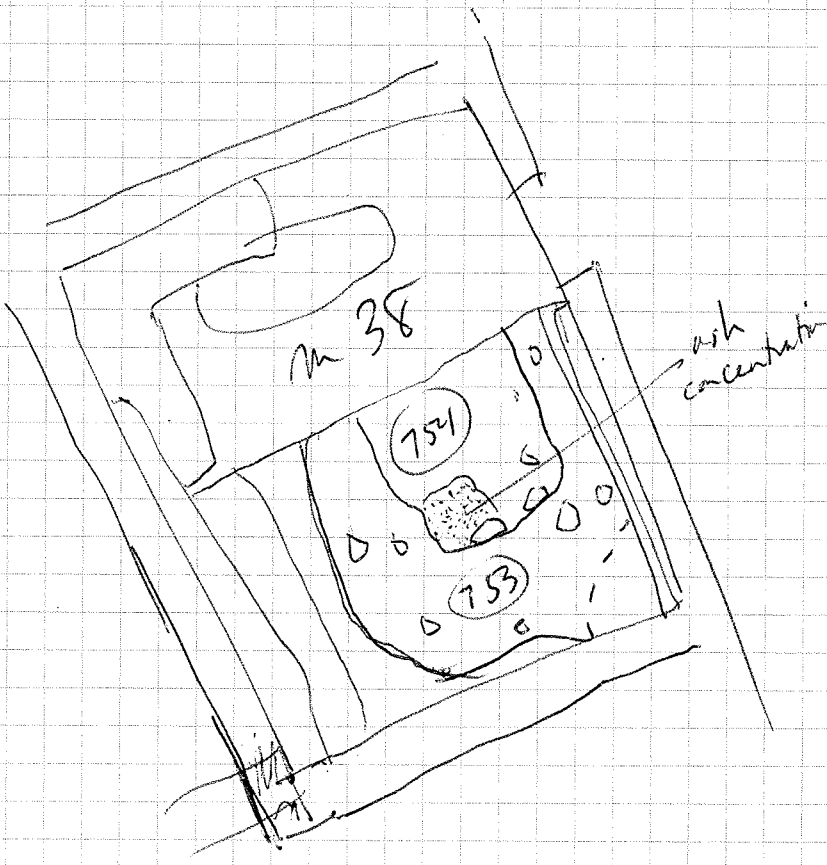
In courtyard, Shanna will begin from rm 37 - sample trench cut on SE side of SE wall over slabs. Her team will then move toward the cistern. The initial stage will be an expansion of the existing trench toward the well in order to clear one side for the construction of a smaller ~~probe~~ cover resting on bedrock.

Final removal of backfill from rm 31 completed after lunch - General checking & correction of 2005 documentation.

23 June 2006

Rain again during the night - first part of morning spent on lecture for students, documentation checking for staff. By 8:30, dry enough to work in rm 38, where 712 still being removed & sieved. Stone projecting from wall on stenopos side is removed, together with the cart platform on which it sits - taken as 712 as well.

cut. →



23 June 2006 cont.

We are experimenting with a different method to capture surface topography & georeference photographic information - using photomodeller 5.2 in conjunction with total-station survey. The courtyard and room 31 are both subject to this before excavation begins.

In rm 31, excavation begins with 713 in the E wing. The soil is a light yellow-brown color, fairly smooth & compact; it seems to occupy the entire area exposed in the E wing. Soon after excavation, along the blocking wall between this room & room 34, it is seen to come down onto a ~~clayey~~ tan-yellow layer that seems to slope down to the NW quite steeply.

In rm 38, more of the fill in the E corner of the room is removed, under the area of the large stone. There is a large pile of stones in this corner, and although the composition seems distinct, the soil that fills it is similar to the rest of 712. Larissa thinks it might be a different soil altogether, but we both agree that it forms part of the same filling event (fills of different composition, as in rm 33 last year). Several of the pieces of pottery are clearly identifiable as 2nd/2 of qd-early IVC.

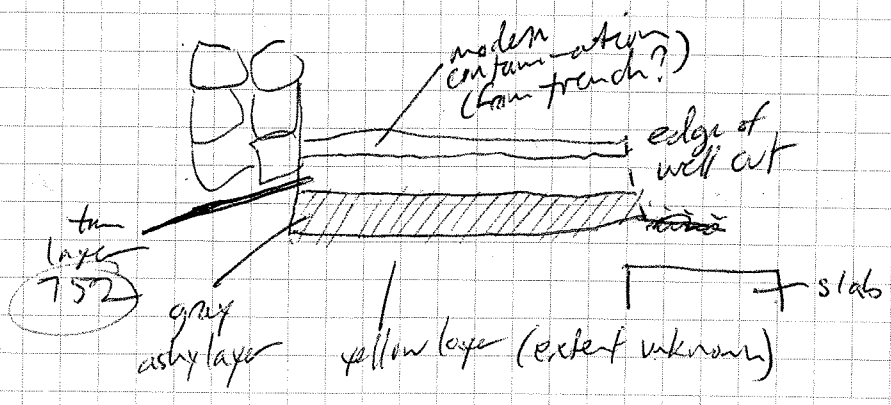
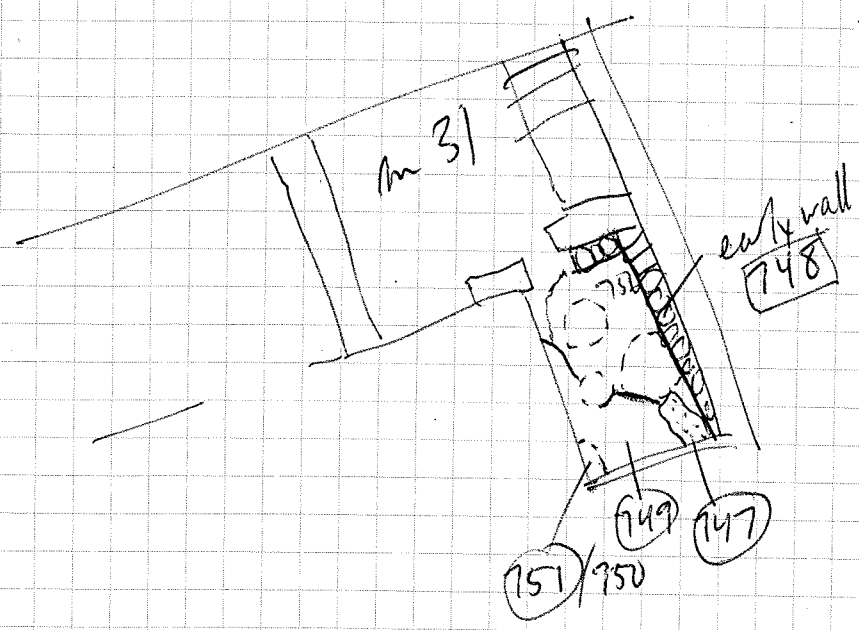
- courtyard geophoto vs photograph test - begun 11:38am
- 1st end: 12:02 pm (rain)
- begin again: 12:39 pm stop: 1 pm

24 June

- geophot test cont: begin 7:35 end photo 8:12
- * but: interruptions for work flow in other trenches; interruptions for ATR stratigraphic discussions w/ other areas; interruption for dead battery at 8:12, so actual time for shots on last photo nearly stop at 8:40
- Also: work held up for shaver's team for entire duration listed above, although some of that time used for stratigraphic discussion

ish concentration

(1754) In room 38, last of 712 is removed. In the center of the room, it descends to a gray layer with a concentration of fine white-gray ash in the S corner of the layer. It is surrounded by a dark brown layer of soft, friable soil (753). Both layers contain large quantities of animal bone, ash & carbon, ceramics. (see sketch opposite). Initially we thought that the ashy layer was the top of a pile covered by the brown layer, but further investigation showed the gray layer to lie on top of the brown layer. ~~10:00~~ Yesterday Dyna M. defined what seemed to be the edge of a pit in the E corner of the room, under the pile of rocks under the piling rock we removed. I think, however, that the 'pit' is artificial - the product of the removal of a concentration of rocks in that area. All of these layers, it seems almost certain, are products of the same simultaneous fill action.



24 June 2006 cont.

(57)

In Room 31, at the SE end of the E wing, 713 comes down on a hard-packed clayey light brown soil with frequent bedrock & ceramic inclusions (749). Over this, against the lowest course of the early wall that has now appeared in this area, is another small patch of yellow clay with charcoal inclusions (747). There is some confusion about the extent of the hard-packed soil (a work surface for the 12th-c. construction phase?), which may have been slightly overexcavated at the edge of the small pit next to the larger one; but Dyna & Sasha are sure that 713 came down directly on to a smoother darker brown layer below. In the area of the stairs, and that ~~749~~ 749 was absent there (see sketch opposite). There is a small ~~sub~~ subrectangular cut in the S corner of 749, filled with a soft dark brown soil (751).

In the courtyard, Shawn removes a large stone set in the ground at the edge of Dyna's old sandage. We conclude that this stone and the softer brown soil in which it is set, are probably a lower layer of fill of the trench excavated in 2001-2002. This suspicion is confirmed by the discovery of a fragment of cannonball ~~found~~ of Canea war date found at the bottom of ~~the~~ this fill. It seems likely ~~that~~ that the trench itself is not a drainage trench but a slit trench from ~~the~~ the 1830s or 1940s - this would explain its depth & the effort that was made to break through the existing walls. Beneath the fill is a yellow clay layer. Experiments with photomodeller continue - still not quite up to speed, but getting there.

Noon-site tour begins, supervisor by supervisor.

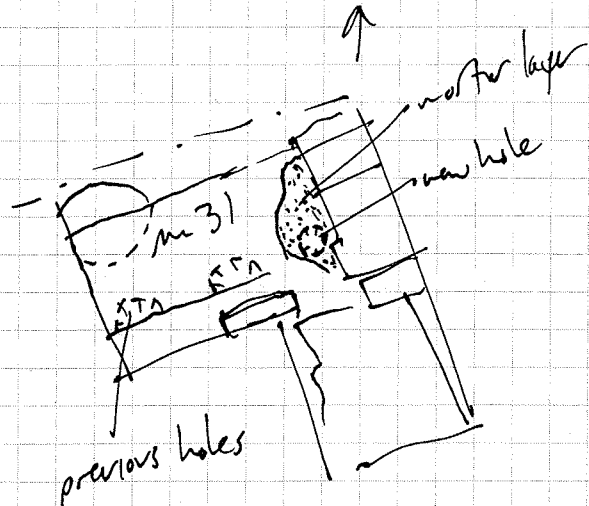
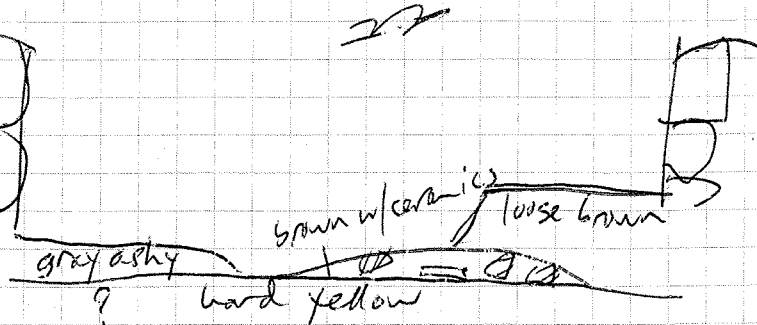
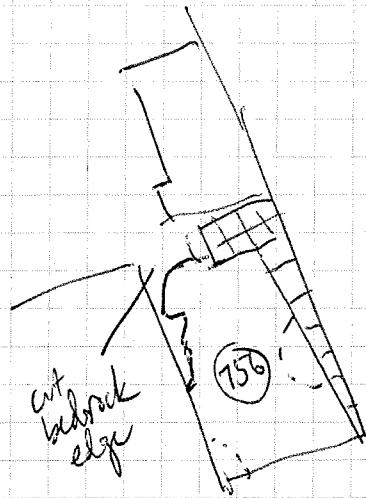
26 June 2006

In room 38 754 (gray ashy fill) is removed after having been down. ~~Context~~ Context is sieved.

In courtyard, uppermost level of soil in new section area is removed. In the E, it has already been partially removed - it is a compact soil, varying in color from dark tan to ashy gray, with frequent charcoal inclusions and small stones. It seems to cover the slightly more friable yellow layer that Dyna exposed over the slab in this area. On a second travelling however, it seems that the tan soil may be a separate layer overlying a gray ashy soil, which in turn covers Dyna's yellow layer (see sketch opposite). Here, too, after the extension of the edge of the trench cut identified in 2002, Allyson draws in the new limit - we will need to adjust the plan accordingly.

In Room 31, top surface of B's uppermost layers (747, 749, 751) is taken as temporary solution until photogram can be worked at. Then the fill of the small pit (751) and the clay layer (747) are removed.

The remainder of 754 is removed in Rm 38, leaving a roughly square depression in the surrounding loose crumbly brown soil. The brown soil is cleared for a photo in preparation for its removal. Fill contains a well-preserved cent



26 June 2006 cont.

with a monogram, perhaps of Constantine and Basil (C.B.C.?) (see guide sketch of legible face opposite). When brown soil is cleared, will be removed (753).

In room 31, (75) is removed revealing rough pieces of bedrock (or stones); the pit seems to have served for the placement of another stone, perhaps as part of the leveling activity. 749 is removed over bedrock and over the smoother, more compact dark-brown surface layer 756. This layer has a large quantity of articulated shreds lying more or less flat in its upper reaches. Bedrock cuts along the NW ~~side~~ and SW sides are now visible; at least one angle matches the cut along the SW side of room 38 (see sketch opposite). 756 also contains several pieces of plaster, concentrated at the S end of the E wing - these pieces are bright red and dark yellow in color, with a very fine and smooth painted surface and a hard, even preparation layer decorated with small, smooth stones. This is initially shot as ~~an architectural sample~~ 'an architectural sample' but then changed to be a small find, so that it can be sent to conservation. Similar plaster fragments were recovered from room 33? and 31? last year.

In courtyard, the soft brown layer with ceramics that seems to be level with the courtyard is removed on both sides of the well. To the SW, it comes down onto a very ceramics-rich layer of slightly different, brown soil near the well, which rests in turn on yellow soil that extends all the way to the wall of complex 1. It also seems to be under the ashy soil to the NE (see sketch opposite).

27 June 2006

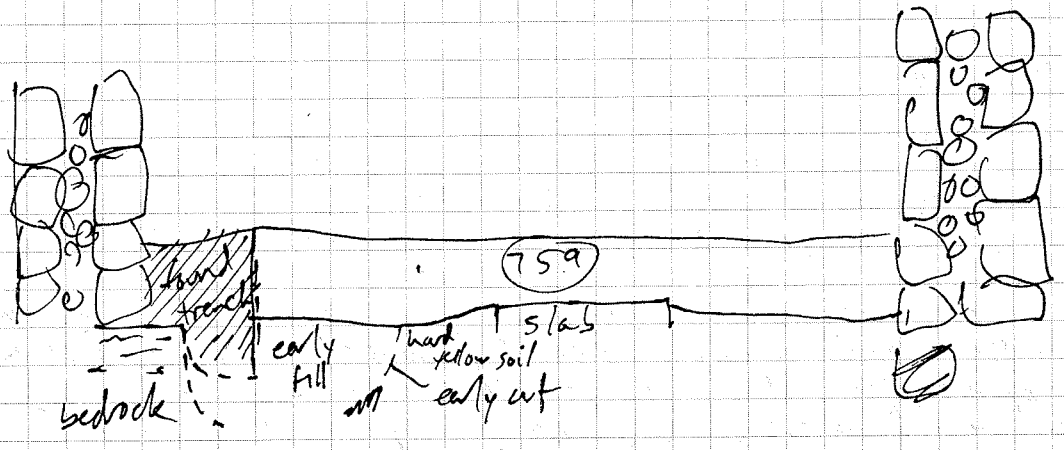
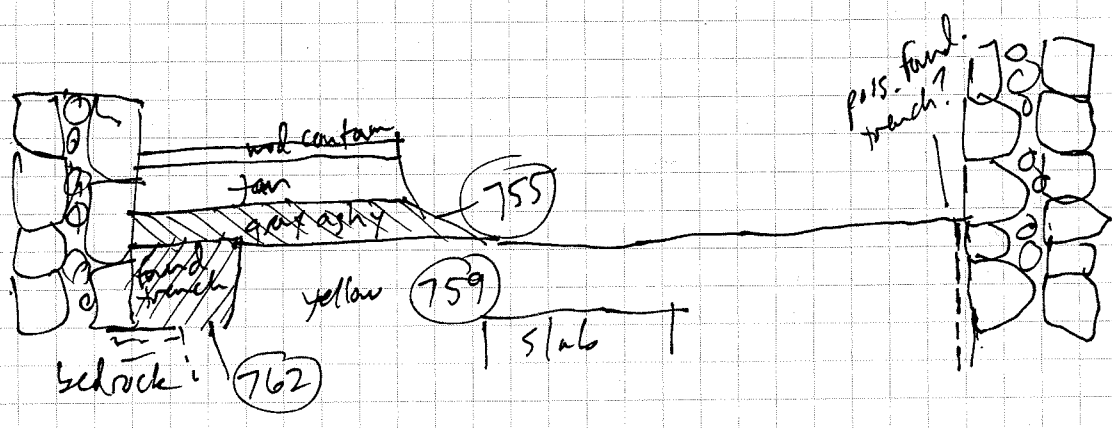
In the courtyard, Shawn & co remove the gray ashy layer at the N end of the sanding, exposing the yellow layer across the width of the trench. Along the wall of room 30, there may be the fill of a foundation trench, although they have not yet defined any clear boundaries.

In room 38, work continues on removal of 753, with variants of confusion about areas of different consistency, piles of rocks, wetter or darker soil, etc. It seems clear that these are inconsistencies due to the filling went itself, as we saw in room 33 and elsewhere.

It also seems probable that this layer represents one filling event with individual dumps of slightly different composition. Some detail photos are taken of individual groups of cut wall stones in the fill.

The stones are concentrated largely along the walls of the cut and under the wall between the room and the stropus. The fill here also includes small pieces of ~~yellow~~ plaster, here painted solid yellow.

In room 31, hard-packed brown layer 756 continues to be removed. It ~~is~~ seems to be deeper at the SE end of the E wing; about 1.5m from the SE wall, another smooth, lighter, compact surface (?) seems to emerge under it. In the W wing, the mortar floor or patch next to the stairs is cleaned, revealing a circular hole near the SE corner of the stairs. It is not clear if this layer continues under the stairs - the two holes already present in the eroded bedrock surface line up roughly with this new hole, suggesting to Larissa that they may all be postholes associated with a wooden construction. (see sketch opposite)



27 June 2006 cont.

Anton, Krishna and Yura open a 1m wide trench across the stenopos, running from the wall of room 35 to the trench cut for the electric cable. They remove the final layer of the street uncovering a shallow, narrow strip of compact brown soil along the wall of room 35 and a very clear underlying surface. The underlying surface varies in color and composition from a dark reddish-brown, with large chunks of burnt bricks, ash, and metal slag, along the sides and a lighter grayish-yellow green color with clay lumps in the middle. The burnt ceramics seem to cover the lighter clayey layer, which may be associated with the construction of the box drain that we assume is present here as well as downslope.

In room 38, ~~there~~ fill 753 seems to come down onto a smoother (less rocky, fairly even) layer of dark brown soil. Too early to tell if this is a surface. Large quantity of nails.

In room 31, the floor (?) of coarsely terraced mortar near the stairs is removed. Work continues on removal of hard-packed dark tan-brown layer in E wing.

In courtyard, situation becomes clearer. Along SNE side of the trench there is a softer brown soil which seems to fill a cut in the yellow layer currently being removed. This cut - parallel to the wall, ca 50 cm wide - is almost certainly a cut for the foundation trench of room 30. On the other end of the sounding, however, the yellow layer seems to be uninterrupted, although the wall of complex 1 extends well below its surface. It is possible that the latter wall sits in a slit trench or against the very edge of a foundation trench in the yellow layer, & hence the foundation cut is no longer visible. If this is not the case, we might have a phasing problem.

28 June 2006

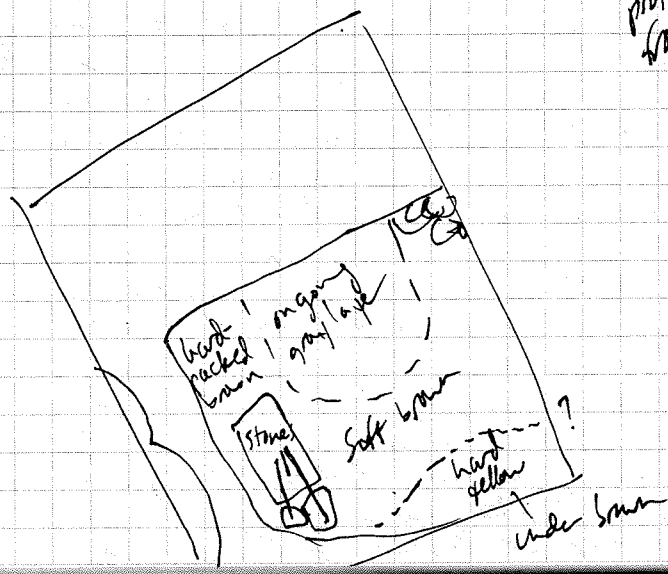
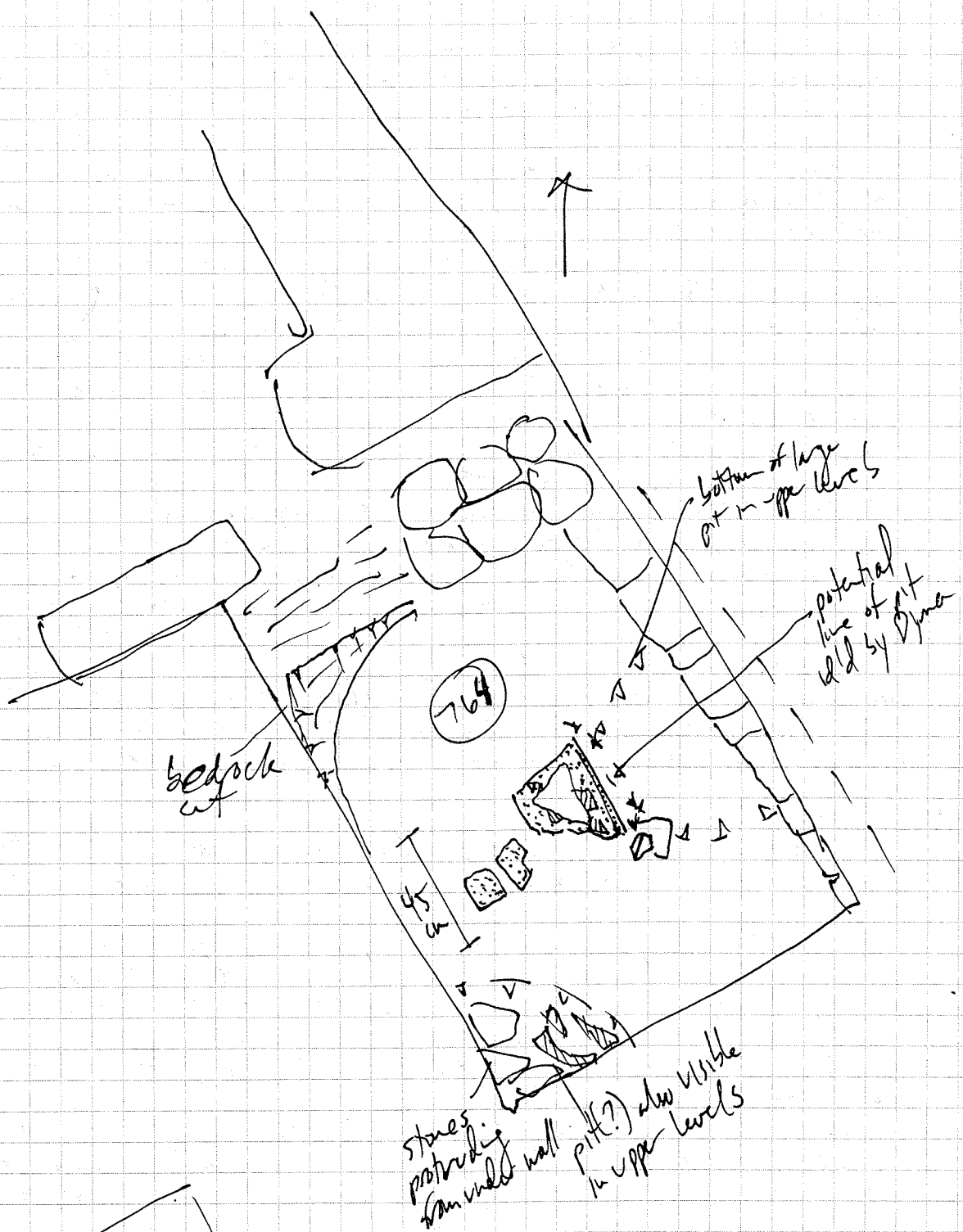
Questions for photos: was 31a down to bedrock? Was sondage beyond room 37 down to bedrock? ~~answers~~ - no and no

In courtyard, Shuman & co. remove the rest of yellow fill 754. In the SE end, it becomes clear that 754 covers the fill of a pit that is subsequently cut by the foundation trench; this early cut also cuts a harder, more compact yellow layer that seems to have accumulated toward the slabs after they began to be robbed (see sketch opposite).

In room 31, it is determined that the irregular bedrock edge along the outside of the wall of room 30 is actually another skin of decayed bedrock, perhaps created in the context of the construction of the 12th-13th c building complex. It covers ~~the~~ and mixes a bit with the surface of 749 and also seems to cover 756. 756 has now been removed revealing another compact brown ~~soil~~ ^{soil} - 764 - with a irregular surface rising to the SW and sloping off steeply towards the course of stones along the NE side of the room.

In room 38, fill 753 continues to be removed - ceramics, large cut building stones, nails, a well-preserved coin of Constantine & Basil (as previous, but much more legible).

In the street, the soft brown soil previously identified as a sidewalk turns out to be the fill of a foundation trench (?) along the wall of room 35. The trench is about 25 ~~cm~~ cm wide and 25 cm deep; it seems to be cut into the surface below the topmost surface. This is unexpected, since we assumed that more



28 June 2006 cont.

(63)

road ~~the~~ surface would have been deposited in the time after the block was constructed. If these relations are accurate, and if the ~~foundation~~ ^{trench} does not have some other explanation, we may have some questions about phasing.

I'm having second thoughts about the concrete wall trench, namely I'd like a second set of concrete bases for fence posts on right behind it. This concrete looks just ~~like~~ like that used for the ~~the~~ fence posts along the massive bank & ditch behind the site - we take some points to check against the plan & photo.

29 June 2006

In the street, the yellowish strip down the middle gets its own number; Anton decides it fills a cut in the reddish surface of the earlier road, and removes it first. As anticipated, it comes down onto the cave slabs of the box drain.

In room 38, what seemed to be a brown hard-packed surface over the yellowish water earth below turns out to be - we think - ~~the~~ a more compact trampled part of 753. There is still a patch of grey ashy soil, in the same place as there was in the layers above, and although it is distinct from the brown by color, its interface is unclear. Both layers have large crumbles, voids, and ~~some~~ lenses of especially soft, or loosely soil, as well as jumbled clumps and large quantities of animal bone - characteristic of fills. Although we may be confusing a final surface in this room (or removing it), I am almost certain ~~that~~ on the basis of the lack of compaction and the general quality of the soil, that we are still dealing with mixed fill.

In room 31, Dyna et al. continue to remove the ~~the~~ compact dark brown-wedged brown soil in which (under which) ~~the~~ a large chunk of brick & mortar wall with plaster surface was found yesterday. Dyna feels that this chunk occupies a small pit, which he begins to define. The ~~the~~ surface into which the pit is cut however, remains unclear. (see sketch opposite).

In the courtyard, the fill of the large pit in the bedrock is removed and sampled. The hard yellow soil is cleaned in preparation for removal.

In room 31a, I start some cleaning in preparation for further excavation.

In room 38, excavation also begins in the cut along the SW side of the room. There are two separate semicircles along the edge of this cut; the southern seems to be filled with a hard clay, while the upper level of the NW cut seems to be filled with a soft, loose brown soil. The two fills are, for the moment, recorded as separate contexts. Still a bit of confusion in the excavation process, with some tramping, some re-cleaning, etc.

30 June 2006

Left site yesterday early - undamn from time while I was absent is: in 38: ongoing removal of 753, complete; clayey layer in E corner is actually the skin just above bedrock; more fill beneath 753, still ugly in center of room, given #785

64

30 June 2006 cont.

also hard layer in by corner given # 784 / m 31: work stops for consolidation & removal of plastered wall frag / m 31a: remaining surface cleaned / courtyard: fill of pit completely removed, yellow soil covering slabs removed, determined that in Dyma's 2005 trench bedrock was reached / steropos, fill of trench for installation / repair of drain removed, cur slabs of drain cleaned

So: beginning morning of ~~20~~ 30 June:

In room 38, the lower fill begins to be removed. Work also continues on the removal of the harder fill in the layer semicircular cut ~~at the corner~~ visible under the addressed wall - dark brown fill seems to come down into a sandier, yellow-tan soil that rises up under the wall.

In the courtyard, the yellow hard soil under the slabs (?) is cleaned. It seems to me that this is the same soil that we found used to level bedrock under the slabs in m 37 last year; Shown has given it a new number, but we will probably make it equivalent / same as. This is the last layer above bedrock here.

In the steropos, the fill of the trench ~~at the~~ for the drain is removed to reveal the cur slabs, and, in the irregular areas left between them and the edges of the trench, a loose fill of medium to small stones and some ceramic fragments with many voids & very little soil matrix. This seems to be the initial stage of fill around the cover of the drain, so it is removed before the cur will be lifted.

Backfill is moved over the slabs in m 37.

In room 31a, the uppermost layer left in 2004 begins to be removed. Samples are taken for paleobotanical analysis. It seems to come down into a dark to medium brown layer with large crumbs and many ceramic & bone fragments - fill again?

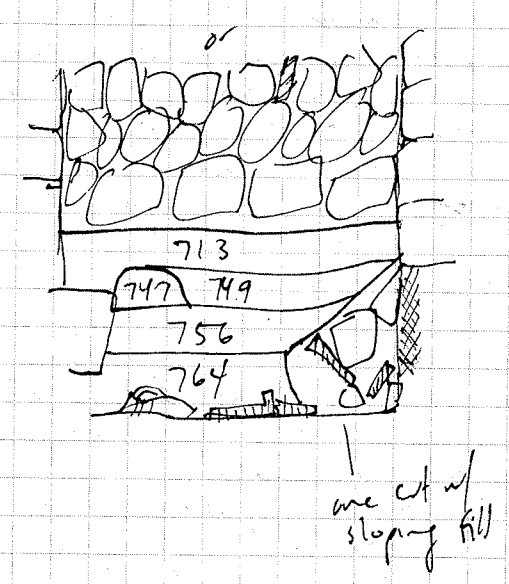
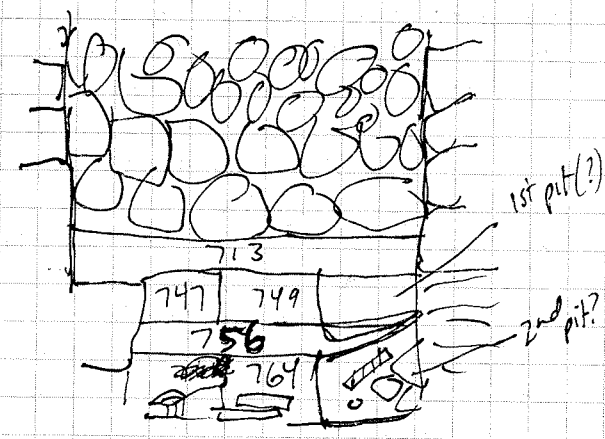
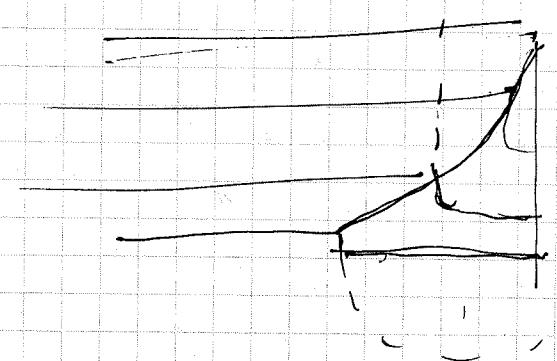
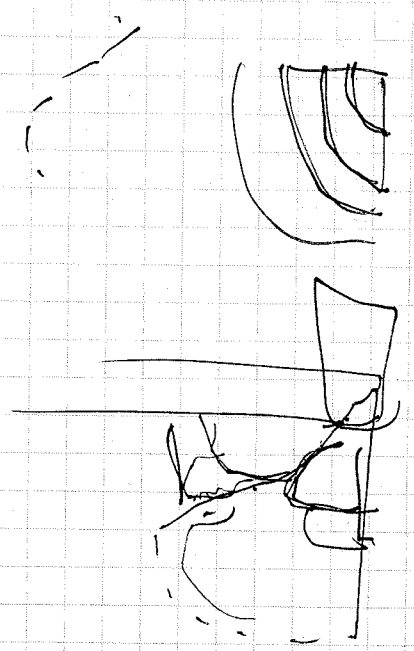
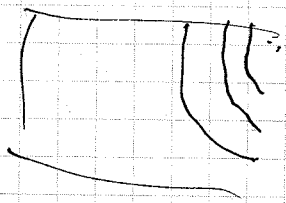
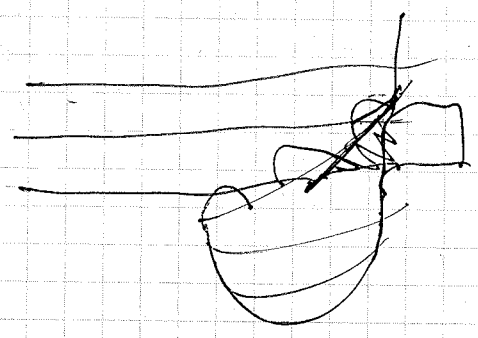
In courtyard, rethink of yellow layer - along the well there is a lighter hard-pack with no inclusions that seems much more similar to the bedding soil under the slabs in 37. A glance at the pottery from that yellow layer now being removed shows a date in the 6th - 7th c - so this soil is equivalent to the soil that was above, and can be related to manipulations of the area during or after the robbing of the slabs - creation of early Byz. use surface?

Gone from site again for most of late morning. Apparently little happened in street; highest layer in m 31a raised, some modern contamination (cigarette ~~bits~~); ongoing removal of lower fill in room 38 (continues below hard-packed surface in W corner of cut, so probably one event); removal of hard clay & bedrock (& mortar / plaster?) packing layer below level of stones in courtyard, preparation ~~area~~ for section drawing.

1 July 2006

In street, removal of sediment in drain begins. All soil is collected for flotation with sample points taken after each pass/bag. A new stage of dense, more compact soil is reached beneath the upper deposit of small pebbles, faunal material, and small soil crumbs.

In room 31, work resumes in area of wall fragment, now lifted by conservators. Yesterday 765 - a layer of light brown, dry hard soil that lay under the water floor patch next to the stairs. →



1 July 2006 cont.

This soil covered the layer of decomposed bedrock/work surface visible in the rest of the room. In the E wing, the medium-brown soil in which the plaster & mortar wall fragment was found also contains a large quantity of late Roman pottery (amphora etc.), some in fairly large articulated shreds.

In room 38, the very large sub-ashlar block is removed, as is the lens (?) of hard-packed soil in the W corner. The rest of the layer seems to contain a large quantity of medium-sized ~~quarry~~ quarry stones, frequently with very little soil, as a matrix. The quantity of stones seems to be somewhat greater than in the fill above, although the soil itself is more or less identical.

Will pause for section drawing in the courtyard. Team moves to shed to have metallurgical samples.

3 July 2006

~~Not~~ Previous entry probably not complete, but can catch up - not too much new.

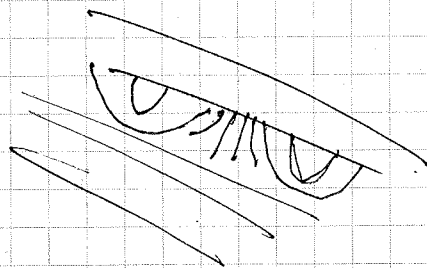
In stonopos, second surface of street is ramped, revealing what seems to be a destruction level ~~with~~ with large potter fragments & evident traces of burning lying flat or ~~just~~ what may be a earlier street surface. The fragments include a rim, and in a d around them are frequent pieces of charcoal. They seem odd as a street surface, especially since the fragments seem to be related to a single vessel or vessel type. They seem to rest on a lower (street?) surface that is more compact. Although we initially thought this might be a cobble surface based on broken ceramics, ~~but~~ the uniformity of the extent of the broken shreds, the traces of burning, and the relatively unworn edges of the pottery suggest it was not used as a street surface.

In room 38, excavation of fill in large cut continues, with no sign of change. Soil continues to be sieved. Layer on other side of bedrock spit is cleared from debris accumulated over the year - it seems to be 606 from CH05, although a squarish cut in the N corner is no longer visible. It is possible that 606 was removed without documentation since one plan indicates that bedrock (or the decayed bedrock layer?) was reached in this area.

In room 31, layer 764 continues to be removed - in the S corner it comes down onto a yellow-white-gray layer of clayey ash and charcoal fragments, over which sit several tiles lying flat, apparently on a surface. Looking at the section that has been left under the wall, it seems less likely that there were two pits than that there was one pit with a hill that spilled up over its lip and rose in a sloping heap against the wall. This would explain why the first cut identified seemed to grow wider with every pass. The tiles visible on the lower surface, under & in 764, seem to be early B72. A lamp with traces of burning, almost whole, was found in this layer.

In the courtyard, the surface of the cut is cleaned back. It is a fairly deep cleaning - 2-4cm - and I am worried that the final-phase surface has been removed but Shaun feels that the soil removed was only recent accumulation. He also feels that this soil is very different from the last surface in the rest of the cut - little metal waste, lighter color.

1st pit(?)
- 2nd pit?



4 July 2004

In storage layer of collapse(?) is removed to reveal a very clear cobbled street surface. The material seems to belong to the 2nd 1/2 of the 9th - 11th c., at least on a preliminary reading.

In room 38, some dark brown crumbly clay fill continues down. Work begins on removal of top layer on the side of bedrock "wall" - could be 606, last layer recorded here last year, or could be accumulated sediment from the winter or could be a layer not identified last year. In any case, assigned CH0650606, since that number was still open.

In room 31, Dyna & co. continue to remove 764 which seems to have a very consistent 6th - 7th c. date. It lies on a ashy clay surface, ~~all over~~ on which a number of tiles are lying flat. In the W corner are fragments of a pithos and a bit of clay that seems to have served (for Dyna) as a stand for that pithos.

In room 31a, Sasha continues to remove the brown fill 794. It seems to fill an irregular depression, ~~located~~ along the sides of which decayed bedrock slopes down to the center. It is unclear if this decayed bedrock is equivalent to the layer in the trench in 31, but it does seem sometimes to contain ceramics & bone.

In the courtyard, Shawn & co. remove the ~~top~~ ^{second} ~~top~~ surface in the morning (no photo made, but top surface taken). They then begin to remove the next layer down, which seems to contain some quantity of ash & charcoal & a large amount of ceramics. At the other end of the church, Penata & Rose & Kathleen start to excavate the area between the tombs & the apse, where a large number of desiccated bones are visible. The soil in which they lie seems mixed, with no clear evidence for a specific cut. It is removed as a single context. In the trench a bronze pendant and a large fragment of stucco moulding (church decoration) that seems to depict circles or foliage.]***

6 July 2006

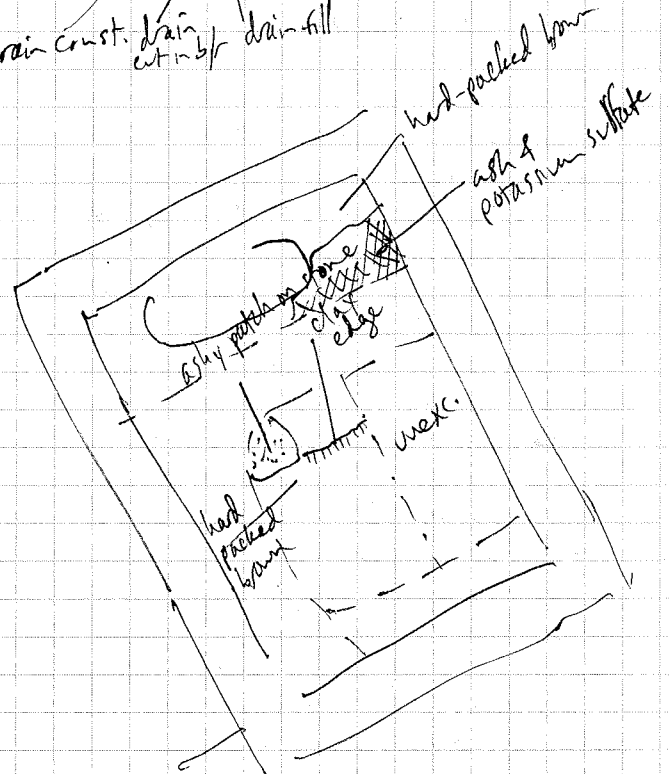
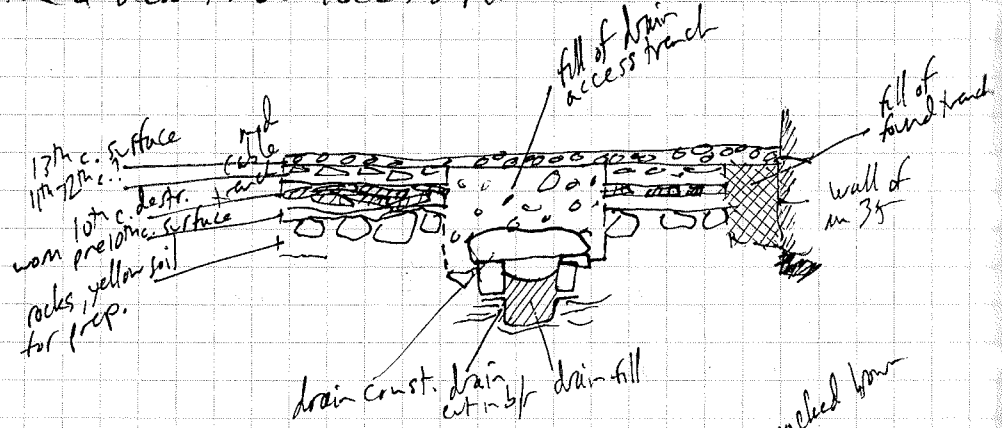
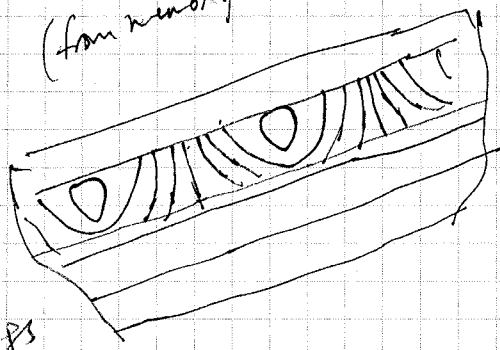
No writing until after noon. I was digging in room 31, W wing, removing bedrock layer 717. The layer is composed of a hard bedrock, skin, dissolved and reconstituted as the bedrock edges of the cut stood open to the air. It contains fragments of ceramics of the late Hellenistic & possibly the early Roman periods as well as bones, a large quantity of seashells, and an unexpected quantity of charcoal. Much of this material may actually have been pilled up from the brown-ita layer below, which has patches of burning and large quantities of bone & ceramics.

In room 31, the tile & pithos fragments on the lowest leather-cash surface under 764 are removed. In the W corner of this area, under a pithos fragment is a jug or amphora, the neck of which was covered by ~~the~~ the fragment. Samples are taken of the loose brown soil inside; the pot seems to have been sunk into the floor, and its contents may be the original.

In room 38, the large square pit continues to descend; in the lower reaches is a fragment of late 10th - 11th c. polychrome Constantinopolitan ware. On the NW side, in the N corner, excavation of the uppermost surface continues. In the N corner, where

* although I originally wrote that this is from the church, it is in fact the large fragment with brick backing from ROOM 31 - the church bricks were all scrollwork & acanthus decoration

(from memory - seen today a.m.)



5 July 2008 cont

a pebble construction was identified in 2005, some sea-worn pieces of pottery continue to be found. Elsewhere in this area, the surface comes down onto an orange to layer with traces of brown.

In the courtyard, the foundation trench of the wall of 30 is found to continue. Earlier stratigraphy may have to be amended, however - it seems already to be visible in the second surface of the courtyard, and it also seems to be filled with at least two and perhaps three separate levels of fill. Its outline is irregular - widens to a square roughly 50cm on a side at the N corner of the current area of excavation. The soil from the foundation trench begins to be excavated.

In the street, the previous surface under the ceramic destruction is excavated, revealing another surface with large stone cobbles perhaps packed in a yellow clay bedding. On the SE side of the hex dam that surface is almost entirely worn away, perhaps through heavier traffic (though it's also possible it was slightly over excavated). On this side the bedding layer is clearly visible.

In the church, last night, the conservators consolidated & lifted a piece of moulded stucco cornice about 40cm long and 25 cm wide, with a strange semi-ovoid holding (see sketch opposite). Conservators are now working on another large fragment, perhaps a pilaster capital w/ acanthus decoration. Anthropological excavation in this area has ceased - apart from the skull removed yesterday, the human bones seen to have perished at the one level.

6 July 2006

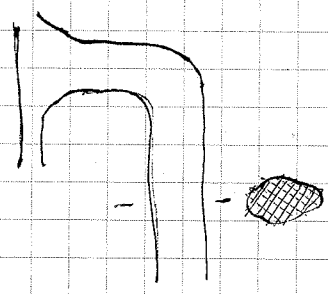
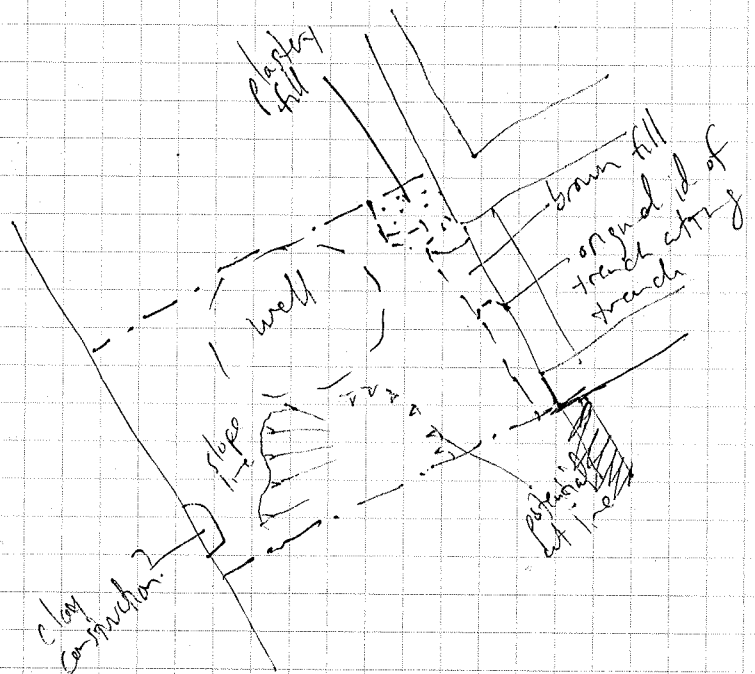
- Entry in fieldbook written in afternoon - digging in m 31a during the day, plus tour for Nicholas Staley-Price.

In street, early surface above yellow preparation fill is removed; yellow fill itself begins to be removed. Soil seems to be close to bedrock, many large stones, deep deposit - maybe major road reworking (see sketch opposite for current stratigraphy). This seems to come down on another use surface, although by the end of the day only a little bit on the SW side has been revealed. Not yet clear how far we bedrock this layer is.

In room 38, the dark brown fill continues. In the W corner of the trench, it comes down on a very distinct patch of grey ash with a greasy texture and charcoal inclusions. This ash is photographed in conjunction with the edge of a large stone on which it sits, but it does not get a large photo. The stone itself seems to ~~float~~ sit in more fill, since clearing reveals a void below & between it and some adjoining stones in the fill. There is a hard patch along the SE side of the room which seems to be delimited to the NE by a line (layer?) of friable yellow clay below the brown fill - not yet clear if this is a separate layer bounded by a cut. (see sketch opposite). The ash is removed by the end of the day - it seems to be a relatively thin layer. On the other side of the bedrock ridge, in the N corner of the room, loob continues to be removed. ~~As to~~ In the area where the pebble-and-sea-ceramic "surface" was found, a large number of ceramic fragments worn by the sea continue to be found. Below this layer appear two new layers - one is a very distinct deposit of charcoal and yellow powdery lumps that CS id's as potassium sulfate, an iron corrosion product. This seems to sit on top of a hard-packed brown surface in the very N corner.

all of found trench

sketch



ΑΡΧΑΙΑ
ΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΗ

Ἀνατολῆς εἰς ἑπιπέδου?

6 July 2006 cont.

At the same time, on the other side of the final-phase pit, Sasha begins to remove ~~an~~ an equivalent deposit of 606. There, however, the two new layers are not in evidence, and all the soil seems to be the same brown fill. Visible in the section under the final-phase staircase, and probably removed in 2005, is a thin layer of red soil with on its surface an even thinner layer of ash & charcoal. This is almost certainly a burnt patch from a fire, though whether it was a hearth or a simple fire is unclear. It also seems to represent a phase before the interior stairs were constructed.

In room 31, further cleaning of the tile and floor/surface deposit of the 6th c. reveals that the structure in the SE corner is, as in 37, a layer of greasy grey ash sitting on top of a clay construction. This construction seems to sit on (be set in?) a lower, more regular surface with an ashy grey-brown color & many charcoal inclusions. It is possible that the layer above was a adornment or destruction, and that this is the actual 6th c. floor surface.

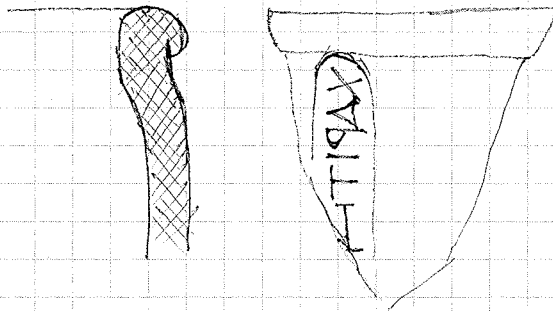
In room 31a, I excavate the layer of mixed soil & decayed bedrock over real (?) bedrock. The latter has a irregular, pitted, and heavily eroded surface that slopes down from ~~the~~ three sides to the middle. As far as I can see there is ~~no~~ no trace ^{here} of the massive cut that is visible on the other side of wall 399. What little pottery there is seems to suggest a late date (glazed fragments).

In the courtyard, Graham begins to remove the material from the foundation trench of the walls along the NE side of the ~~the~~ NW segment of the courtyard. The first level of fill seems to have been distinct, and one fill episode seemed yesterday to cut another. The boundaries have no relation to the wall segments, however and this idea seems difficult (see sketch opposite). It was clear, however, that in the horizon between the 1st and 2nd fills (?), there was a ~~wide~~ large patch of ashy soil containing plaster and large, intact animal bones. This fill occupied a wide area at the ~~middle~~ end of the construction trench and did seem fairly clearly to be ~~ac~~ over the softer brown fill in the rest of the foundation trench. Over the rest of the area, the second level of surface is removed down to the yellow layer that covered the area on the other side of the section wall. The surface of this layer is more irregular - in the center of the cut, it seems to dip down, either ~~as~~ as the result of a cut or naturally. The layer above fills this depression or cut as well (~~at least to see~~ no separate fill context could be defined). Although there does seem to be a clear edge along the NE side, the lack of a cut edge on the other side suggests to me that this is a natural slope rather than an artificial one.

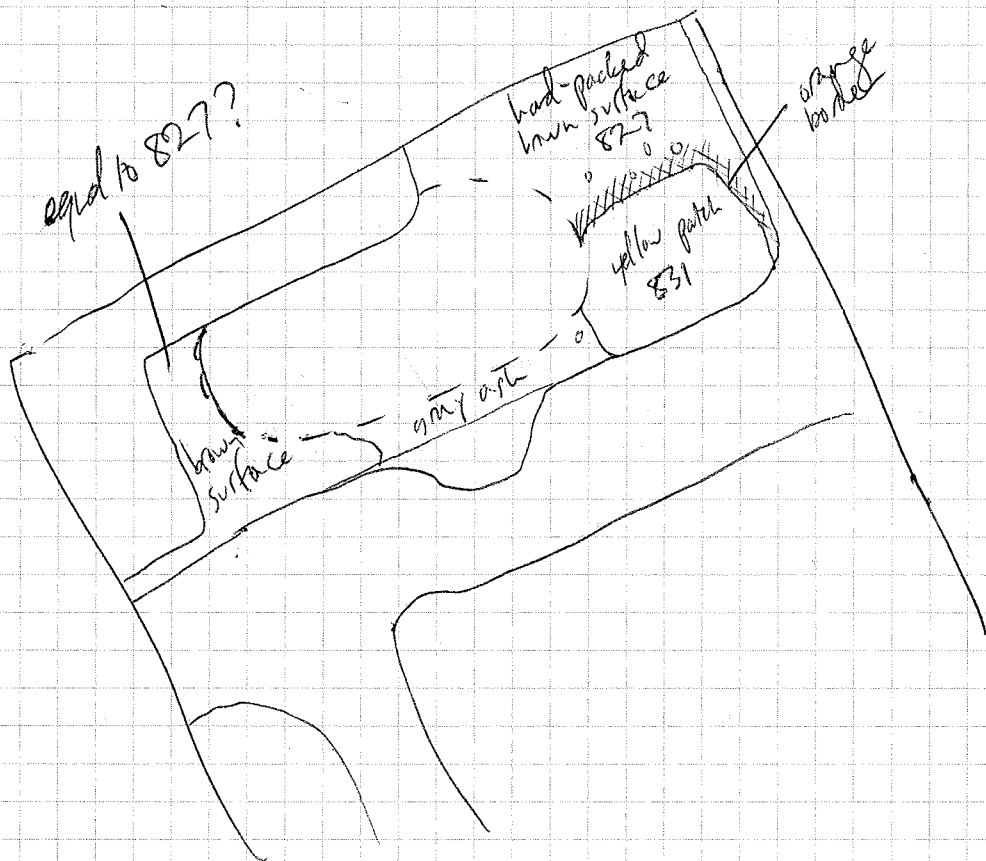
Along the wall of complex 1, Karissa also finds a new feature - a layer of yellow-orange clay or bedrock ~~cut~~ wall that is initially taken to be cut by something but later thought perhaps to be a structure, or part of one, buried beneath the current layer.

No work in the church today.

In the wing of room 31, Sasha finishes removing the ~~decayed~~ decayed bedrock layer. Among the finds from the yellow fill below that, rock (209) is a stamped Hellenistic amphora handle of local manufacture (see sketch opposite).



the last letter is not quite legible - possibly eta? Xap[il]ta?



7 July 2006

In the road, the bright yellow clay fill under the lowest surface continues to be excavated. It seems to come down onto bedrock, although there are also various large, loose stones set into it.

In room 38, the fill finally seems to come down on a yellow clayey surface. The rocks in the W corner with the vad beneath them seem to be set flat deliberately, and therefore may form part of a structure rather than a fill, as the other side of the bedrock ridge; the odd deposit of charcoal and yellow material (potassium sulfate?) is cleared and the rest of 606 removed on both sides of the pit.

In the wing of room 31, Sasha continues to remove 809, the layer of yellow fill with bedrock crumble. Many aphanite fragments emerge, including another stepped fragment, this one a mm, perhaps also local (see sketch opposite). In the E wing of room 31, the Early Byz. stove/hearth is fully uncovered. On its surface is a round spot of burnt red soil and gray ash which is given a separate number and then removed.

In room 38, the clearing of the bottom reveals a gap between the two flat paving/cours. In the gap the brown fill continues, but the stones and ceramics have a black encrustation that we initially took as a indication of burning (looked like the black encrustation on stones from well in courtyard). Gordon and Chris Salter however indicate that such encrustation is a product of being exposed to the water table — either a sulfate-reducing bacterium (Gordon) or manganese leaching out onto the objects (Chris). The bottom of this area seems to be below the water table — it is filled with a gray clayey mud, and water actively begins to creep into it as we dig.

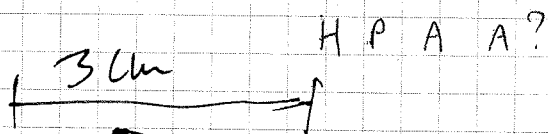
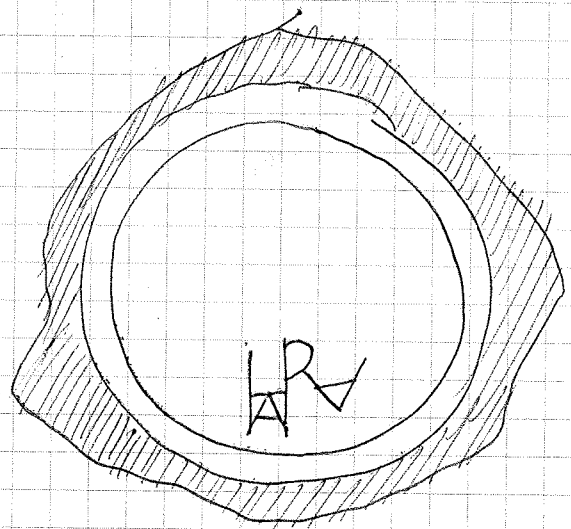
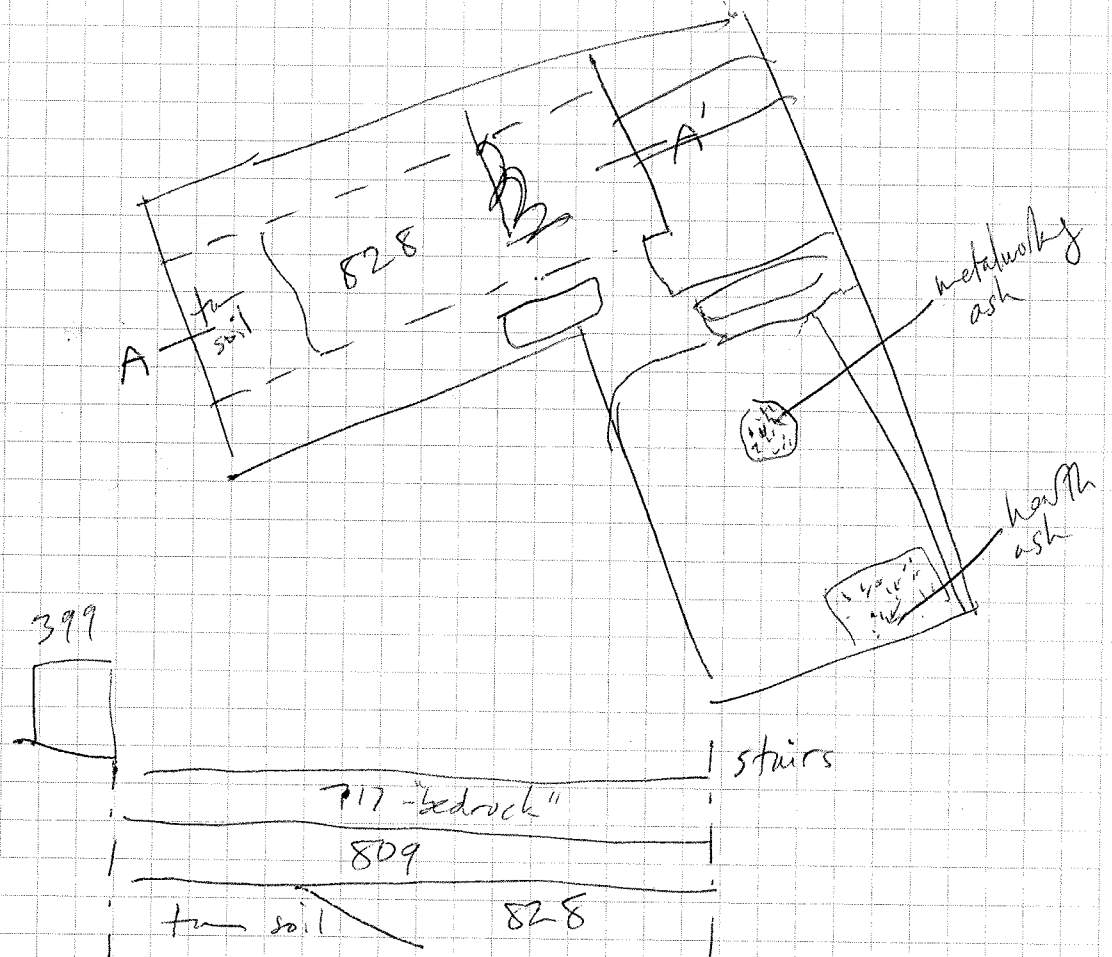
In the courtyard, the yellow layer is cleared, and its surface is found to be very irregular — a circular hole/pit near the well that seems to represent a tree or bush (root voids still visible acc. to Shamm); a large rectangular cut in the center of the layer that disappears under the section, shallow & filled only with the layer above; and a long, narrow cut that also disappears under the section but seems to be filled with a different material.

8 July 2006

In the street, the yellow fill on the NE side comes down into what seems to be a ~~step~~ layer of charcoal and burnt soil, similar to the layer on the SW side. This morning the remains of the brown fill for the construction bench of the drain were also removed. The burnt surface seems to cover another thin deposit of yellow soil that in turn covers bedrock.

In room 38, the odd yellow patch is further cleared — the ash, charcoal patches, and mixed yellow & orange material is assigned its own context number since the yellow material clearly forms a single, clear, consistent patch beneath it. This patch — bordered with the same rust-colored material as was visible above — is sampled, documented and removed as a unit. Under it seems to be an ashy layer (by the step down to the pit) and a hard-packed surface (by the N corner of the room). (see sketch opposite).

In room 31, a floor below the final surface continues, a piece of the hearth is uncovered. By the hearth is a patch of black hearth ash lying on an earlier surface — center with first phase of hearth, or left



8 July 2006 cont.

(97)

on surface ~~above~~ before cast of hearth? The same surface also has a ~~large~~ patch of black ash rich in hammer scale next to a fragmentary iron object. Both ash patches are sampled (one for paleobot, one for metallurgy) and surface is removed. In the W wing, Sasha continues to remove the fill of the bedrock trench. Under the delayed bedrock 77 was a layer of yellowish soil with bedrock bits (809); under this ~~was~~ are two layers, one light tan layer with no number and one dark brown compact layer (828). The latter seems to cover the floor (see sketch opposite). From 828 comes the base of a black glass plate with a graffiti - signature of several letters (see sketch opposite).

In the courtyard, the upper yellow layer 759 is cleared. In the N corner it is covered by the same ashy grayish layer that was visible in the initial sample trench. Along the ~~SW~~ SW wall (Complex 1) it seems to run into a layer of more rocky, rocky soil with larger bone fragments. This soil is looser, but of a similar color and it cannot initially be distinguished from 759.

More excavation in the church - conservator work on plaster in the nave while Karlleen excavates disarticulated human remains in a layer of compact gray soil (final use surface?)

in the opse.

Day rained off at ca. 11-11:30am.

10 July 2006

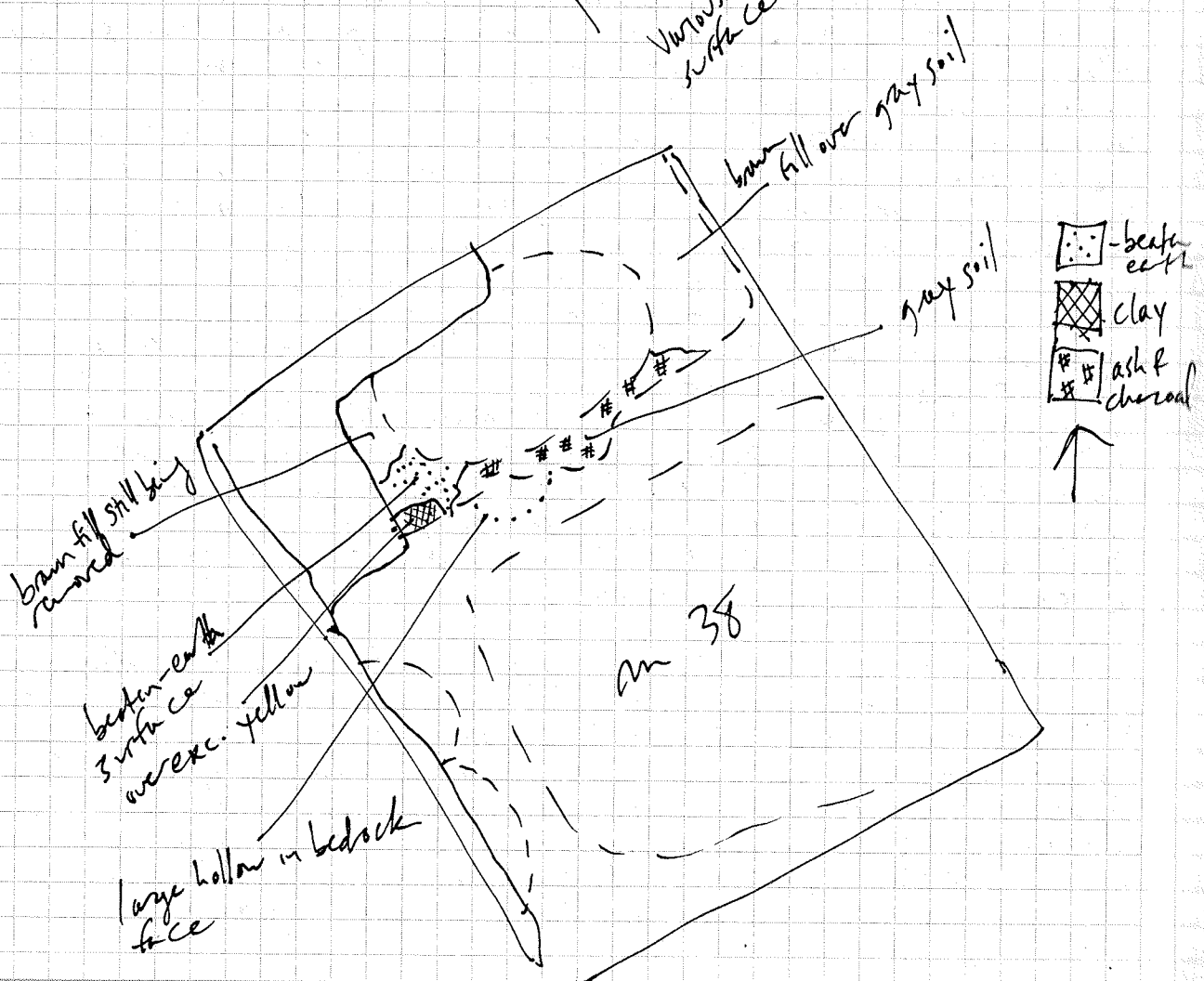
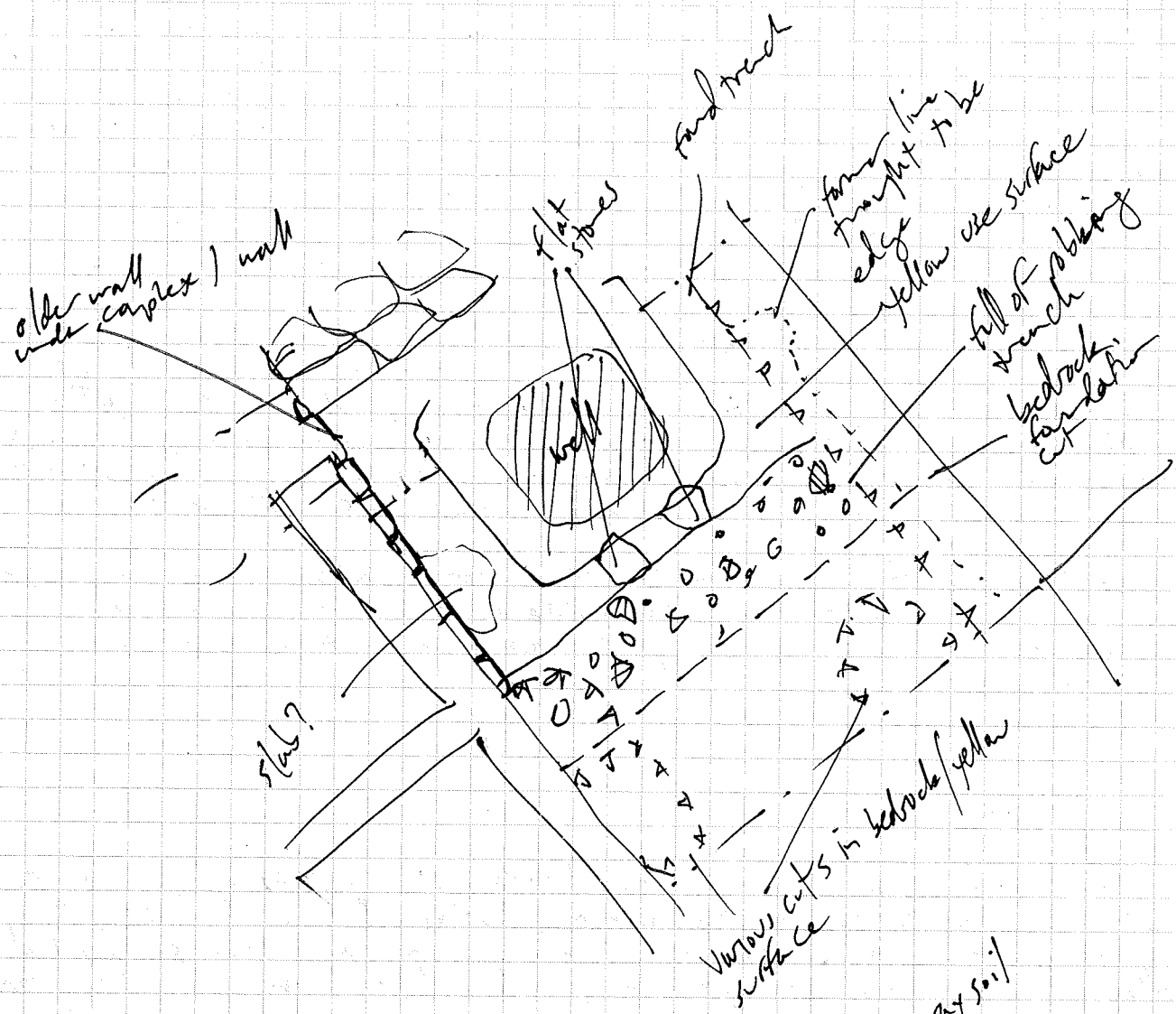
I am working in the courtyard today to try to speed things up. That entry will be substantially more detailed than the others.

In the streets, Anton et al. finish razing the sandy light yellow fill under the thin layer of ash & reddish brown soil that seems to form the earliest flat surface of the street. The sandy soil comes down onto irregular bedrock that seems to slope down to the N from the S on the SW side of the street and in an irregular slope from the NE on the NE side of the street. It is difficult to imagine that this was a original Greek street surface, although there is Hellenistic material just over bedrock in the yellow fill. The box drain seems almost certainly to be medieval in date - it sits on the bedrock edges of a cut presumably made at the same time.

In room 38, the hard-packed beaten-earth surface in the NW side of the room seems to be excavated. Under it is a layer of rubbishy fill like that in the other filled rooms. A flotation sample from this layer produced a large amount of an erod with rings. Not yet any indication of layers in this area (see sketch opposite)

In room 31, in the E wing, for the removal of surface under ash patches. In the middle of the square of loose soil over which the stove was built, Dyna & co. find a tiny lamp set right side up with traces of burning on the spout. Under this floor there appears to be another surface with traces of black ash (but check current status w/ Dyna). In the W wing, Sasha continues to remove 828; below it, above the light tan fill layer is a layer of grayish ashy soil with a larger proportion of charcoal.

→



10 July 2006 cont.

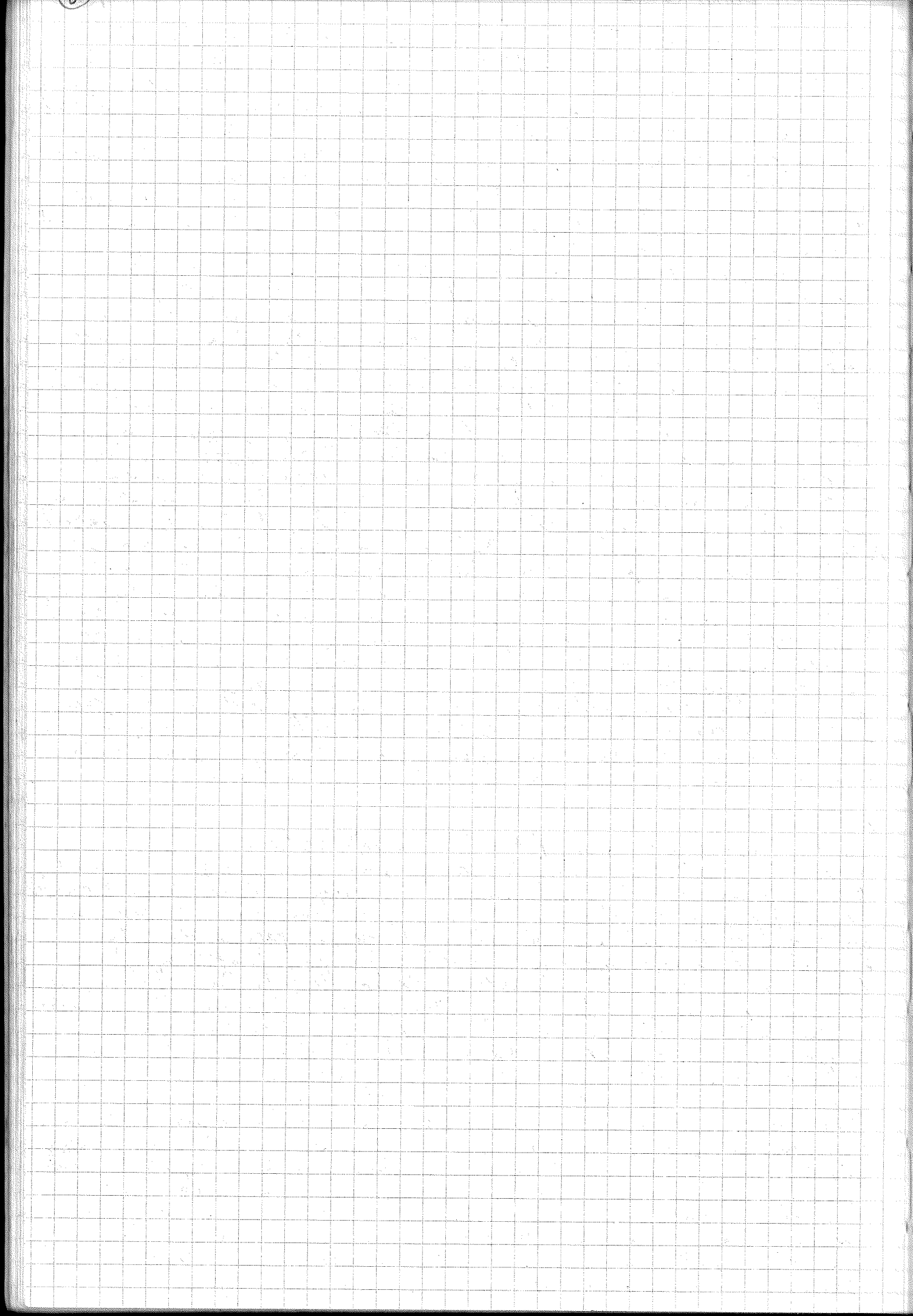
(79)

By the courtyard, 759 is fully removed, and the edge of the well cut is cleaned. The fill (?) of this cut is a brownish-black muddy soil, and I am assuming that it's natural eroded into the cut as the water had therefore do not keep a vertical. The rain yesterday has also made the stratigraphic situation clearer along the NE side of the area - there it becomes abundantly clear that the foundation trench was under-excavated initially, and that it is in fact not an irregular type but a perfectly regular trench ca. 40 cm wide. Shown and remove the remaining fill and Myson redraws her plan. It is possible - though not very likely - that 759 actually covered most of this trench fill, and that the portion excavated earlier was excavated at of phase where it sloped up against the wall. I think, however, that the layer was simply missed during excavation. In the same way, the notably concentration midway between the two section walls along the NE wall of the courtyard can now clearly be seen to be the fill of a ~~robbery~~ trench which was removed some time earlier ~~than~~ the cut itself seems to cut the lighter, harder yellow layer below. 759 - which is probably equivalent to the Early Byzantine wall surface encountered in 37 and at the excavated NW end of the courtyard, on the dry side, there is a cut in decayed/clayey bedrock which probably represents not the robber trench but the original rock-cut foundation track of the structure that may have been located here. Around the well there are also traces of straight edges that suggest a square enclosure or well-head at some point in time. (See sketch opposite). I also remove the small piece of section at the junction between the early Byz wall and the sub and what appears to be an earlier wall under the Complex 1 wall - there is an inside corner here, though we will have to clear the surface to see if there is a bend.

11 July 2006

Work finished in stampos - Petra drawing both sections. In room 38, a little confusion: several layers seem to be in play at different points in the NW side of the room, not nec. being excavated consecutively. In the W corner, the second fill layer seems to cover a more or less vertical layer of yellow clayey soil packed along the face of the bedrock wall - a stone set in it suggests that it may be a facing for the cut, but it is partially excavated with the fill. The gray ashy layer near the door cut is also overexcavated with the fill above in this area, and a similar (?) soil filling a large cavity in the bedrock face is also excavated as that fill. Along the NE side of the NW part of the room, the situation is clearer - the brown fill comes down onto the continuation of the ashy soil in the doorway, although with more clay and a more compact appearance. The gray soil seems to cover, on the other side, a very, very clear beaten earth surface - though this surface is also apparently under the fill that is currently being excavated in this area (hence the great confusion). There are clearly a series of independent actions taking place on this side of the room, in contrast to the unitary fill on the other - but it will be difficult to reconstruct their sequence & chronology at this point. (see sketch opposite)

]- beaten earth
]- clay
]- ash & charcoal



11 July 2006 cont.

In the E wing of room 31, the early Byz. floor is removed, revealing another floor with a stone construction on (?) it. This construction is not yet clear, but it involves a piece of vessel or pipe set concave-side down and open (flue?) and its surface seems to be at least partially covered with a thick, heavy, smooth white substance (bedrock or something else?). Another (and third) under the stone. In the W wing of room 31, Sasha continues to excavate fill - now ~~as he has cleared~~ & begun to make the ashier fill ~~820~~ clear, he has decided that the gray ashy soil we observed yesterday was merely a lens or series of lenses and *** ALTHOUGH TODAY'S PALEOBOT SAMPLES WERE FROM THAT ASHY PATCH,** they have gone in as 820 as well. The natural being removed in the NE end of the cut today is also being considered 820.

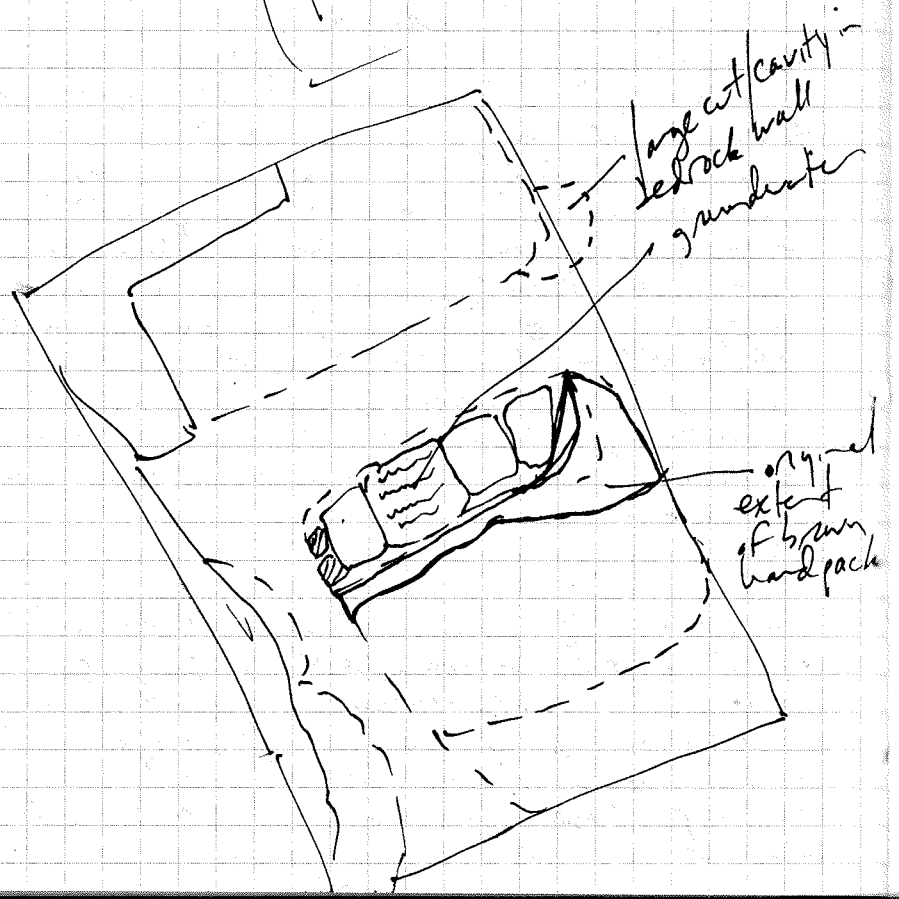
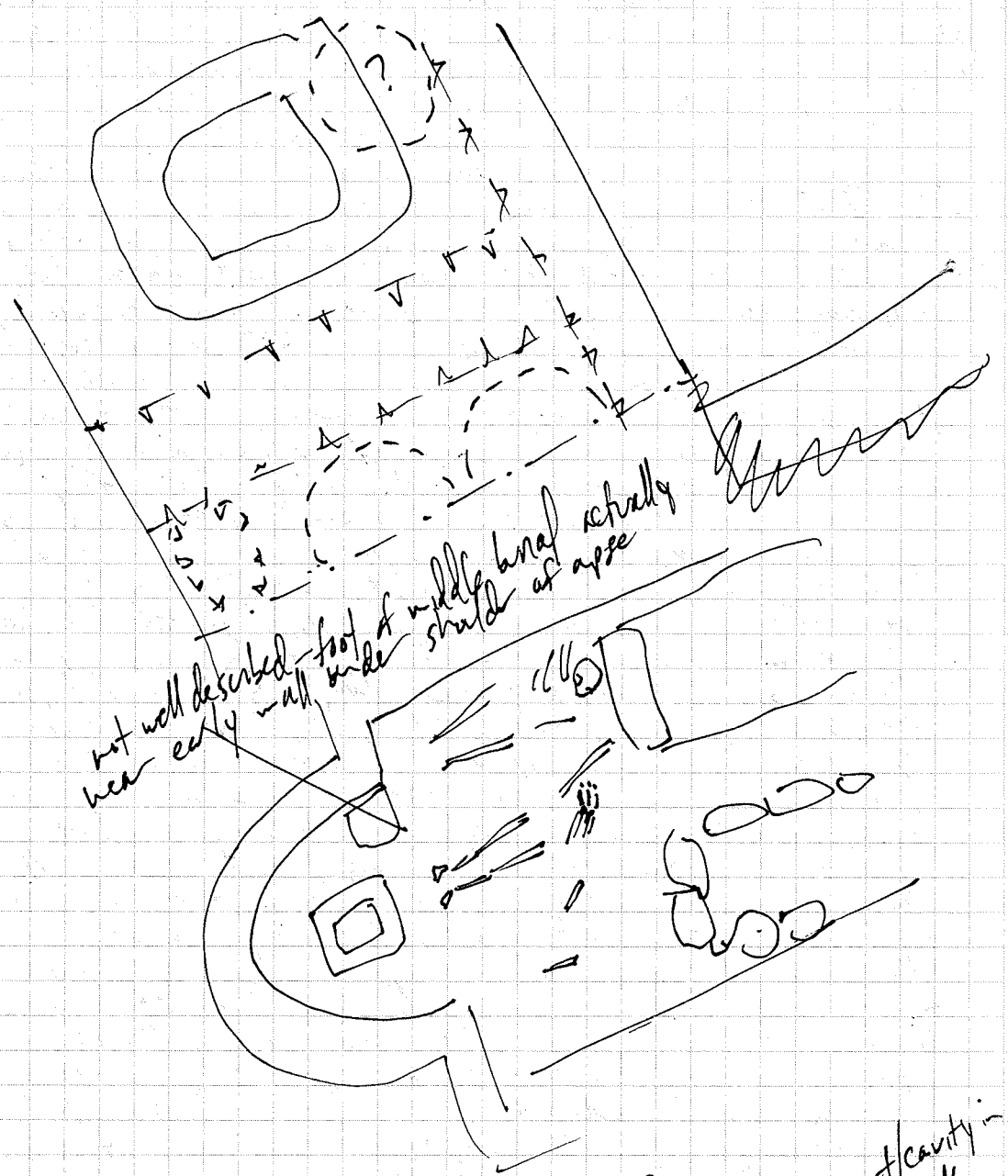
In the courtyard, the fill of the rubble trench across the SE end of the area now open is removed - rocky brown soil full of lime and ceramics and a particularly large number of oyster shells. Although this fill is more or less consistent across the trench, and although on the E side it was certainly covered by the layer above across this area, I still have doubts about the sherd. There were fragments of ceramic etc. much higher up, at this end than at the other and in the section below the wall it seems that part of the fill may in fact reach the area just below the 12th wall. To the N, however, the yellow glaze elsewhere also seems to cover this fill in the section - so we should simply mention the possibility of contamination and the possibility that this trench is actually later than that upper yellow surface.

Once the fill is removed, we begin to have the yellow early Byz. occupation/abandonment layer 772. On the SW side, it comes almost immediately down onto bedrock; on the NE side of the well, it is 20-25 cm deep and comes down onto a lighter yellow soil with patches of medium-gray ash. The soil on the other side of the rubble trench, above the decayed bedrock is similar, although it may have some extra recent sample pressed into the surface. It is clear, however, that a small segment of the 12th c. foundation trench remains unexcavated. In it is a large piece of charcoal, which we take as a possible dating sample.

Antar et al. Move to the church, where they continue to remove the gray soil below the use level in the apse. This soil is full of disarticulated human bone, even below the altar support - either this bone was kicked around during excavation & reexcavation of the tomb, or it and the bones in it were brought - intentionally from another church or less intentionally from T. 5 - from elsewhere & included in the construction material when the church was built.

12 July 2006

In room 38, the next layer of fill in the N cone is excavated and the yellow hard-pack is cleaned off the surface in the W cone. The gray ashy soil is determined to occupy only the area near the step, and to cover the second, gray layer of fill - it is removed as well. The thick yellow clay is removed from around the construction in the bottom of the bedrock at to the SE, and the stone covering is revealed



17 July 2006 cont. clay
The drawing. The old cartons save pottery and a number of tiles. It seems to have been laid deliberately to seal this area around the stones, although it is also present on the bedrock floor itself. It smells - like manure or waste though not quite so strong.

In room 31, E wing, excavations cease temporarily to concentrate on the emptying of the W wing deposit (almost sterile sandy soil and decayed bedrock with occasional Hellenistic ceramics).

In the courtyard, the yellow soil over slabs 4 m centres where slabs ribbed is removed. On the SW side of the rubble trench, 762 seems to have been the situation is different - 762 covered two more circular pits, the fills of which are now apparent & which are given new numbers. There may also be another pit under 772 near the well, but needs to be investigated. (see sketch opposite)

In the church, deep below floor level but without any obvious cut or grave at the, are two (and perhaps three) mostly complete depositions, lying with their heads to the W along the long axis of the church (see sketch opposite). The one nearest the main street is badly preserved, and its head seems to have been displaced; the one in the centre seems not to have its head at all (both head ends seem to have been disturbed by the construction of tomb 2).

13 July 2006

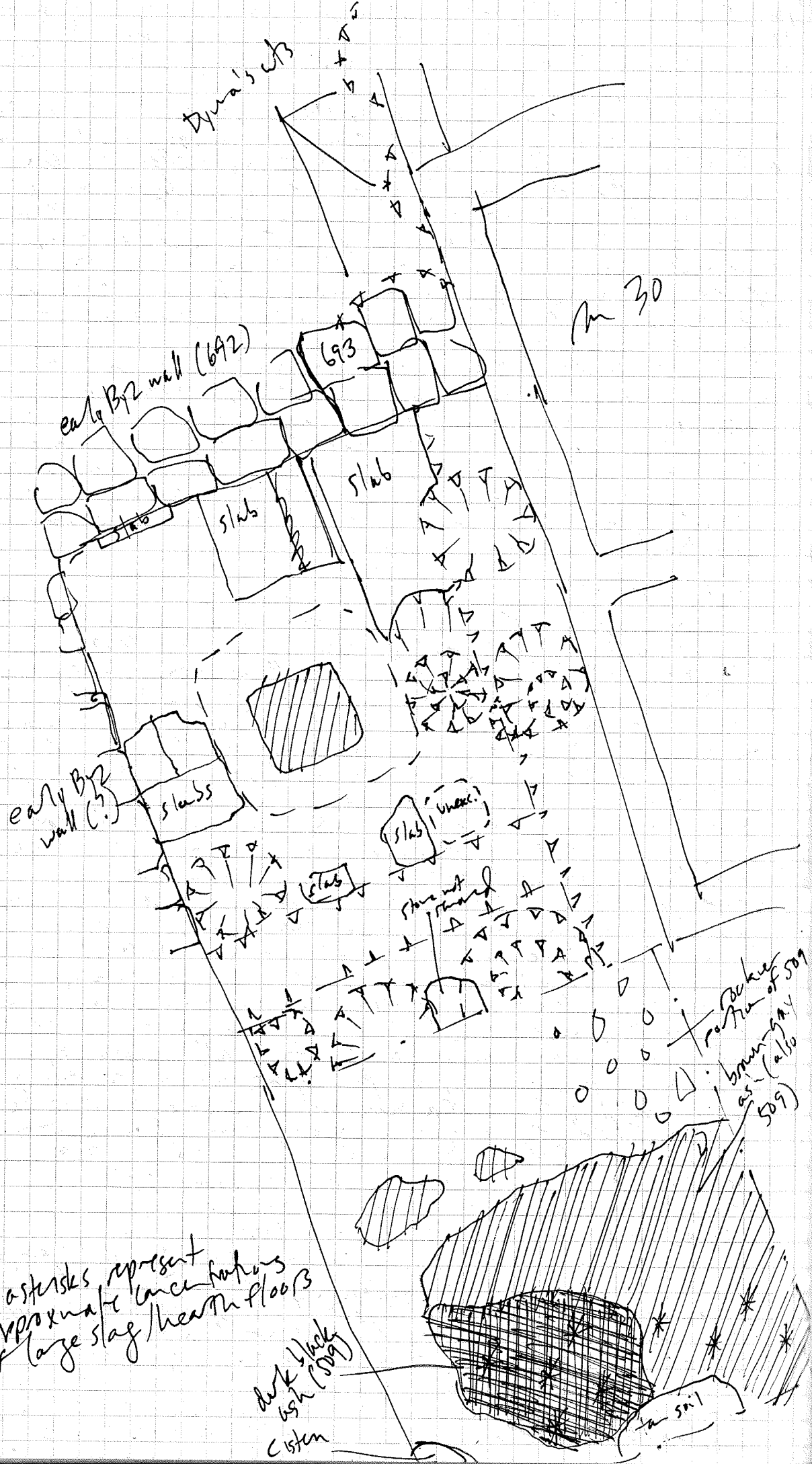
Entry written after end of working day - most of day spent in courtyard trying to get enough done for Chris, Salter & work.

In room 38, the rest of the yellow packing clay is removed so that Dillyson can draw the feature in the bottom of the cut. It appears that I removed this clay at the same time as a hard-packed brown soil underneath it - probably an entirely different layer, rather than simply a lower level of sediment. Only a small patch in the NE corner of the cut is left for levels and the taking of material separately - but its original extent was more or less as in the sketch opposite, including a narrow band covered by clay along the lip of the feature (see sketch). On the NW side of the bedrock ridge, tea tins they might have reached a surface on the E side of the space - but only part of the area is packed down, & that could simply be from tampering during work. The rest looks very much like the soil that has been removed above - a fairly moist, compact, clayey soil with yellow and grey inclusions, substantial amounts of charcoal, and a large quantity of pot & bone. In trowelling along the NE wall of the bedrock cut, I come across a very deep cavity filled with a much looser, loamy soil containing a number of Hellenistic shreds. This soil is given a separate context number; some is removed now, the rest will be removed when the level in the cut is lower. There is some confusion about the floor of the pit from last year - levels suggest that it is 10 cm above where they are now, and that the coin they found in the pedestal under the stone belongs to 338 AD, but this seems unlikely since the tile collapse was well above the stone. Need to check documentation, esp. photos.

In room 31, work stops in the E wing to focus on the removal of the largely sterile tan soil with large white bedrock spalls filling the lower layer of the bedrock trench

cut in wall

original feet brown and pack



* asterisks represent approximate locations of large slag/hearth floors

dark black ash (509) cistern

the back of the front of 509
brown clay (also 509)

soil

13 July 2006 cont.

In the W wing. A bedrock floor covered by a thin layer of ashly gray and yellow clay ~~deposits~~ appears in the NW end by the end of the day.

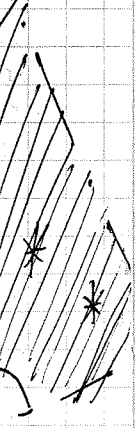
Note: some of the stones have fallen off the top of wall 399, revealing what seems to be an actual face deep within what we have taken as the face. It may be that this wall was not in fact naturally wide, and what we understood as the inside face was actually articulated collapse from one or more of its courses.

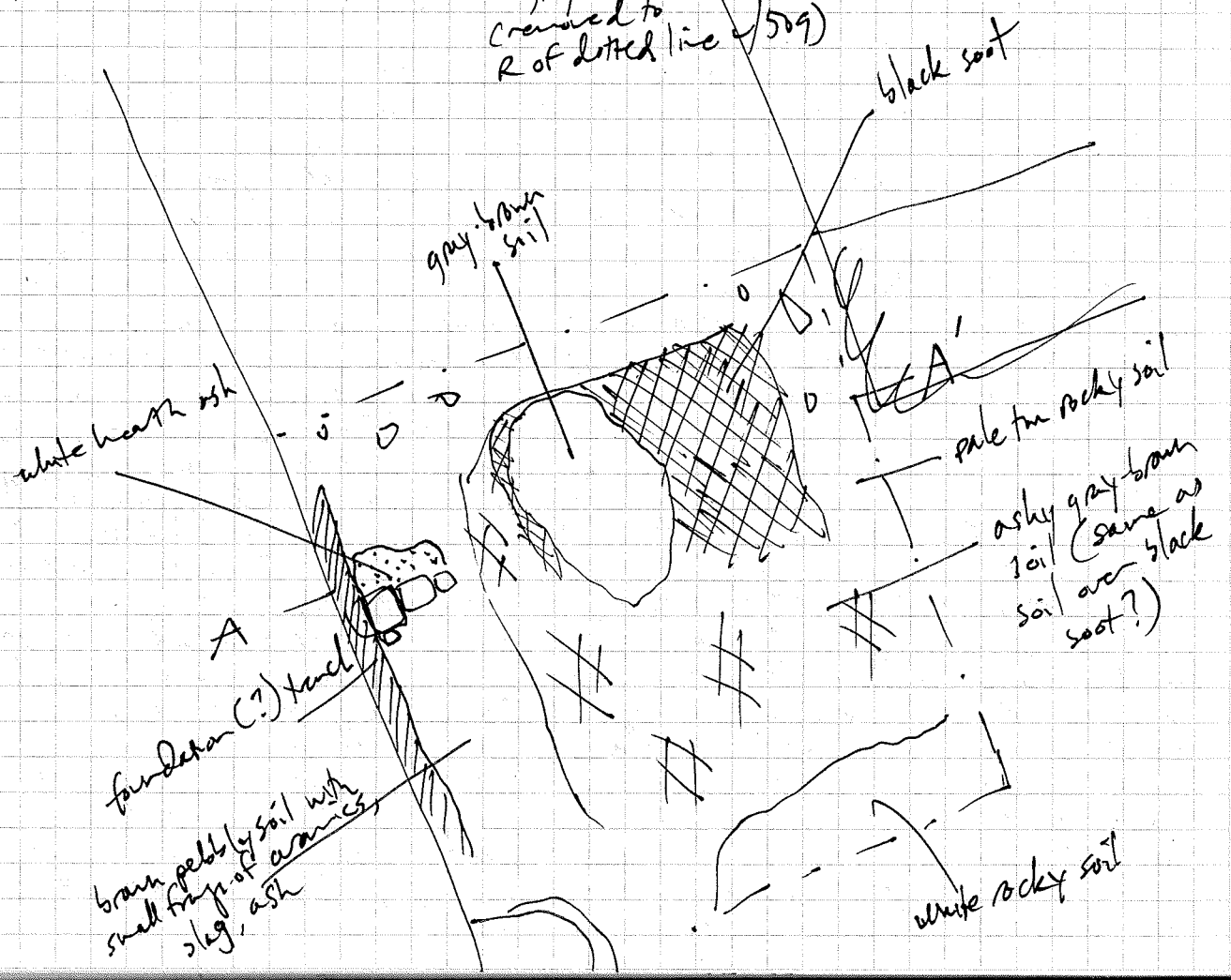
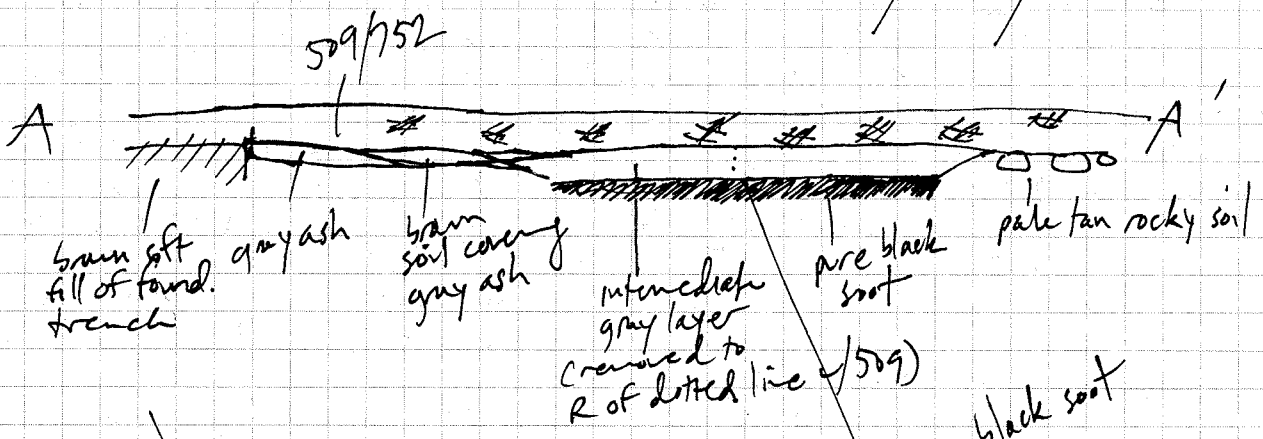
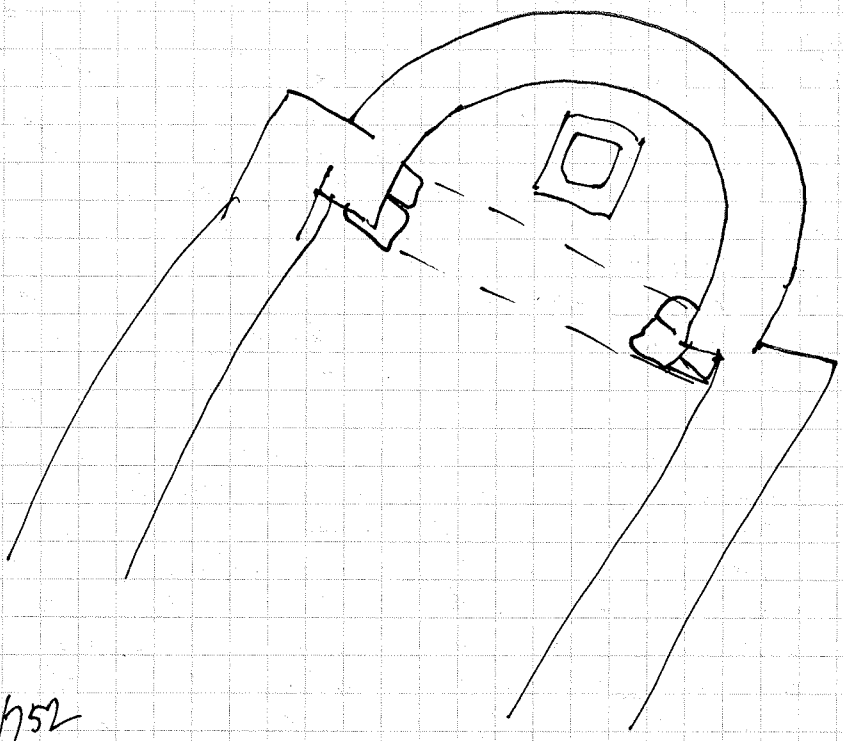
In the courtyard, Lisa and I begin to remove the dark black to gray-brown ash that covers the entire SE half of the remaining unexcavated part of the courtyard. We focus on this area to provide CS with enough information to finish his work. The layer is much deeper to the E and SE, and it seems to cover both a compact very dark brown layer and a more pebbly, loamy ~~soil~~ medium-brown soil to the SW, towards the cistern and the wall of complex 1. It varies in color from a dusty grayish-brown to almost pure black near the N corner of the cistern. We also remove a thin layer of pebbly, friable soil with some plaster content along the SE trench wall - it seems to sit on top of the ash, though in fact it may have sat on top of the dark brown, as did the ash. Below the brown-gray-black spot in this area is also a layer containing a large amount of white mortar or plaster. We collect a large quantity of small pieces of stag from the courtyard in this area, as well as ~~far~~ five ~~near~~ the bottoms, most of which we shot in with the total station and their point data put in their bags. ~~Below~~ This layer - 509, as last year - is particularly rich in various sorts of animal bones, as well as pottery.

On the other side of the section wall, the last of 782 is cleaned, revealing even more pits. The potential pit near the well is a pit, as is a larger pit in the 12th c foundation trench and a smaller, squarish pit at the corner of that trench & the rubble trench. One of these pits contains a large quantity of carbonized material, which is sampled for flotation. Although all are circular - some very much so - these pits are of varying depths & some (some shallow, some two-tiered - some with extra pits at the bottom) they already seem to have been filled in by the Early Byzantine period. The proximity of several of these pits to the well suggests the following sequence: ridding of slabs -> digging of pits -> filling of pits & construction of Byzantine use surface -> at the same time ~~or~~ later than the last, the construction of the well. (See sketch from memory opposite)

In the church, at least four ~~or~~ articulated adult depositions can be identified. Most are in very bad shape (barely well preserved, much more crumbly & early disintegrated than bones in all tombs excavated to date), and all seem to be set on ~~at~~ another lower layer of disarticulated bones, of both adults & children. Still unclear whether these skeletons were buried in the floor of the church or redeposited during construction from another resting place. The soil in the apse is removed down to bedrock; disarticulated human skeletal material appears all the

Becker
the of 509
brown gray
also
509





13 July 2006 cont.

to the bottom. Under the interior reentrant angle between the apse and the nave of the church appears to be an early wall - at first looked like deep foundation for corners, but rest of apse rests on soil well above this level, and the visible and protruding stones seem very much to be arranged in two faces and in courses (see sketch opposite). At first Larissa thinks it could be for an earlier dividing wall between apse & nave, ~~was first found~~ but too far below the lowest level of the foundation of the rest of the apse.

14 July 2006

Because of Packard Lab inspection, switched Sunday off for today. No work.

15 July 2006

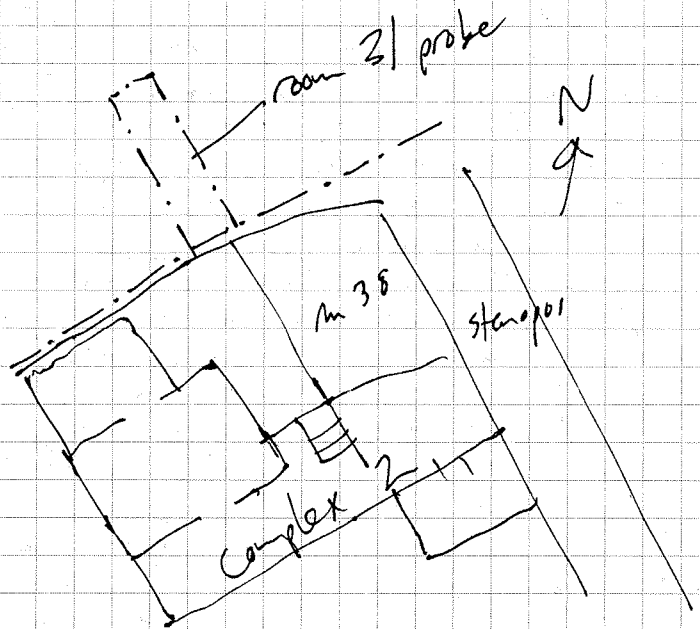
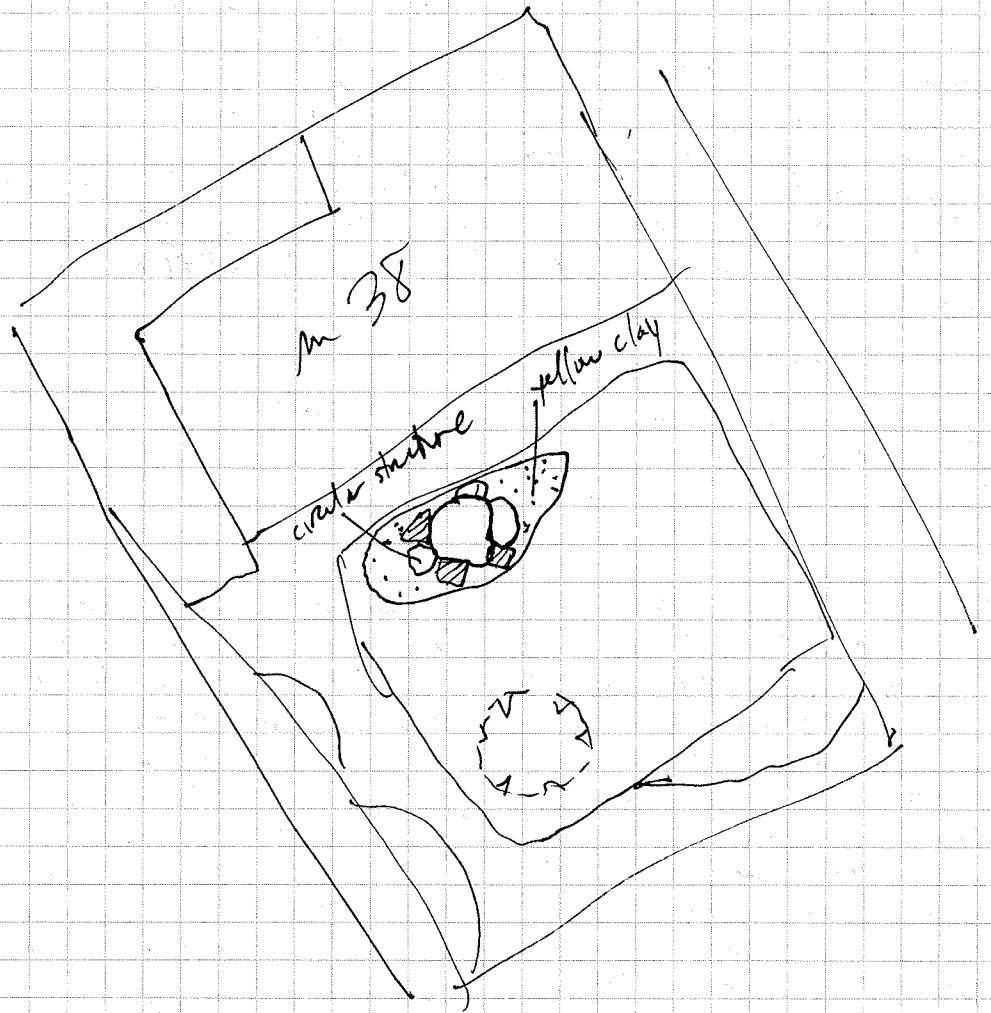
Entry winter on 17 July - working in morning

In room 38, 840 (fill) continues to be removed - no sign of a use surface equivalent to that on the W end of this side of the room. When level at all. Same even with the level of the floor surface of the pit, however, it becomes clear that the pit was not fully excavated in 2005 - the line of the fill cut clearly continues around its original extent, below the current level of 840. At the same time, the brown hard-pack below the yellow clay in the deeper pit is removed, and the remaining soil is removed from around the cover (?) stones over the cut in the floor of the cut.

In room 31a, the final layer of clayey fill/deposit over the bedrock at the bottom of the ~~cut~~ rock-cut bench is removed - this side of the room is complete.

In the courtyard, the final areas of the second section are cleared. 509 is removed from the third section, but there may have been some confusion here. Although 509 is the ashy soil familiar from 2005, it seems to have no particular boundary with the hard-pack at the NW end of this section - just fades into it and 509 are removed at the same time and as 509. It remains to be seen whether we will be able to differentiate between 509 and 752, the worse given to the upper soil in the 2nd section. Further, there is a large ashy patch in the NW part of the third section was a deposit below 509 removed at the same time as 509 since it carries down into black soil (which is serving as the layer indicator). I think that the stratigraphic situation is as sketched opposite, with 509/752 covering a deposit of gray-brown soil which in turn covers more ash. In addition, a wall (?) is also uncovered along the SW side of the third section; the NW of this series of three stones is a patch of white hearth ash. We initially think there is a border along the NE side, too, but this turns out to be only one stone that soon comes loose. This feature is clearly cut by what seems to be the foundation bench of the NE wall of complex 1; on either side of it are patches of harder brown or brownish-yellow soil (see sketch opposite).

oil
rain
as
black



15 July 2006 cont.

In the chapel, depositions beneath the floor continue to be excavated. Several rest directly on bedrock. Others are clearly cut by tomb legs from below the side of which their legs protrude. One of the latter may belong to the skull that was found above at the base of tomb 1.

16 July 2006

Again, entry written on following day - things getting busy. In room 38, the final layers of fill in the old cut in the bottom of the large cut on the SE side of the room are removed. This fill is not directly over yellow clay that seems to form part of the natural clay seam Dina encountered in the well. Under the lower parts of the stone slabs over this cut is a roughly circular arrangement of tiles and small stones, also set into yellow clay beneath brown fill. This structure was photographed & photo-documented but not drawn (see sketch opposite). On the other side of the bedrock ridge, the actual bottom of the pit is cleared - now all visible layers in that area (except the beaten-earth floor) are the same tan-greenish clayey fill.

In room 31, E wing, surface 012 is excavated - it is the surface on which the last two clay & stone constructions stand, and it also includes fill to a depth of ca 30 cm (floor surface beaten into & trampled onto upper layer of fill).

Sasha begins excavation of what we will call "in 31 probe" - essentially a wall-chasing trench ca. 1.5 m wide just over to the NW of the line of the SW wall of room 38, extending ca 4m to the NW. We are attempting to locate the other side of room 31 in an area where we know the archaeological deposit is thin (and mainly composed of rubble). See sketch opposite.

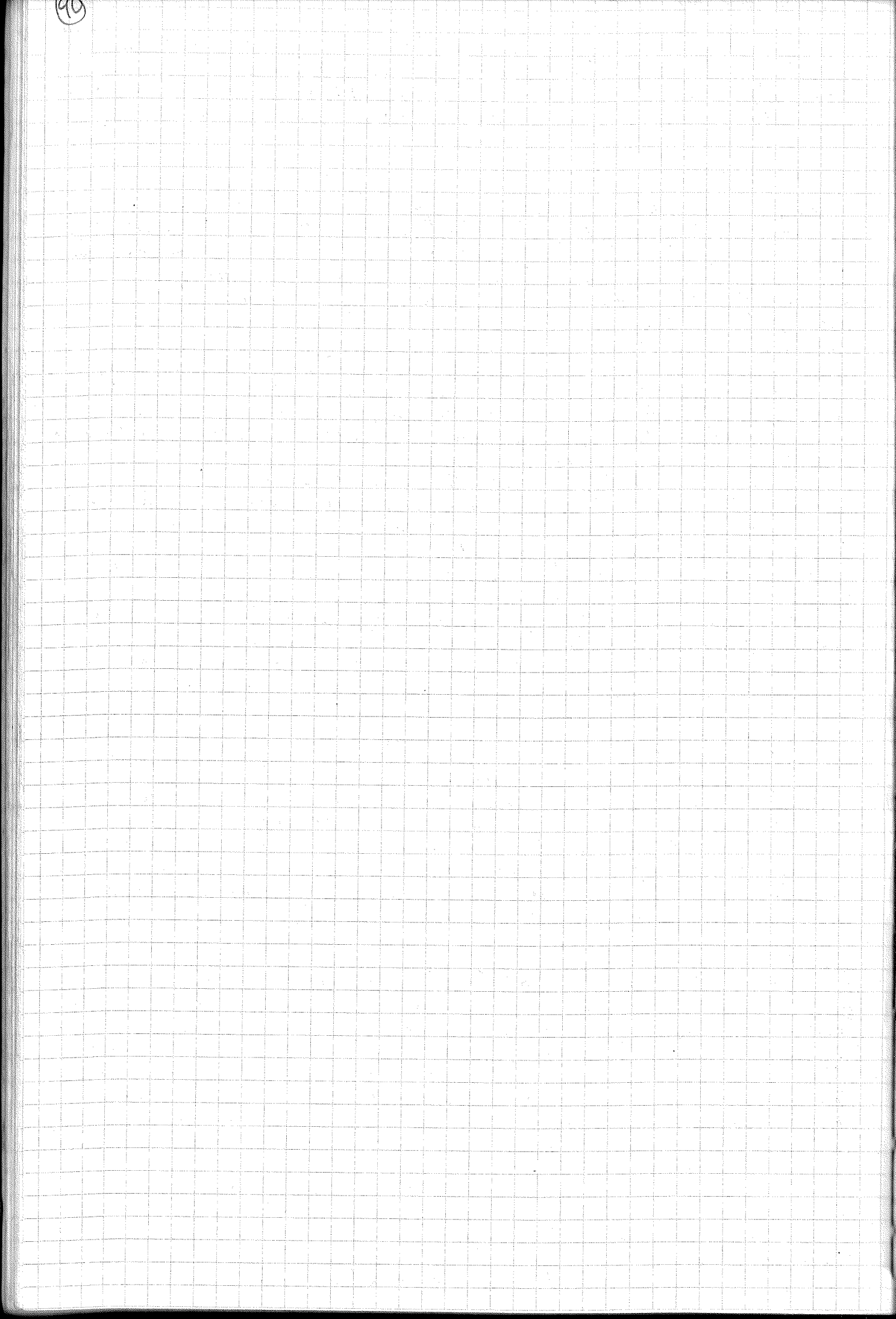
In the courtyard, the gray-brown soil over the ash patch is removed and the ash patch itself is cleared for photos & documentation. The rest of section 2 is also fully cleared for photography.

In the church, the last layer of depositions is removed & the bedrock is cleared. This clearing reveals the outline of a cut in the bedrock floor itself, above which ~~seems~~ there is a patch of burnt soil & charcoal that our guide takes as a hearth (?). We also open the deposit of human bones from the area of the wall of the chapel & the street (located in 2002 but not excavated). The 2002 fill is removed.

17 July 2006

In room 38, final removal of circular structure in hole in large cut, clearing of remaining brown soil (also found under tiles of stone of this construction). Work now concentrates on fill on the side of bedrock ridge now that rest of pit removed - beaten-earth floor on SW end of area removed, work begins on the uniform layer of fill now exposed (though exposed in a not-particularly-chronological manner). Finds include a bronze bell & a ~~group~~ group of stones mortared together (saved as an architectural sample).

In room 31, E wing, bedrock reached. Dina separates layer above as a ~~more~~ context, since slightly more compact. That context covers two more circular pits in the bedrock floor of this room. In the room 31 probe, the line of the SW wall of room 38 is found, and excavation spills in a slightly



17 July 2006 cont.

(91)

irregular manner over the wall to its NE side. Material being removed is largely modern (glass, bottles, etc.).

In the courtyard, the ash patch is now clearly circular and when removal begins it becomes clear that the ash fills a regular pit. In terms of sequence, this will be removed (comes down onto a clear to compact soil), followed by the fine dark brown grey layer to the SE, followed by the construction trench for the wall of complex 1.

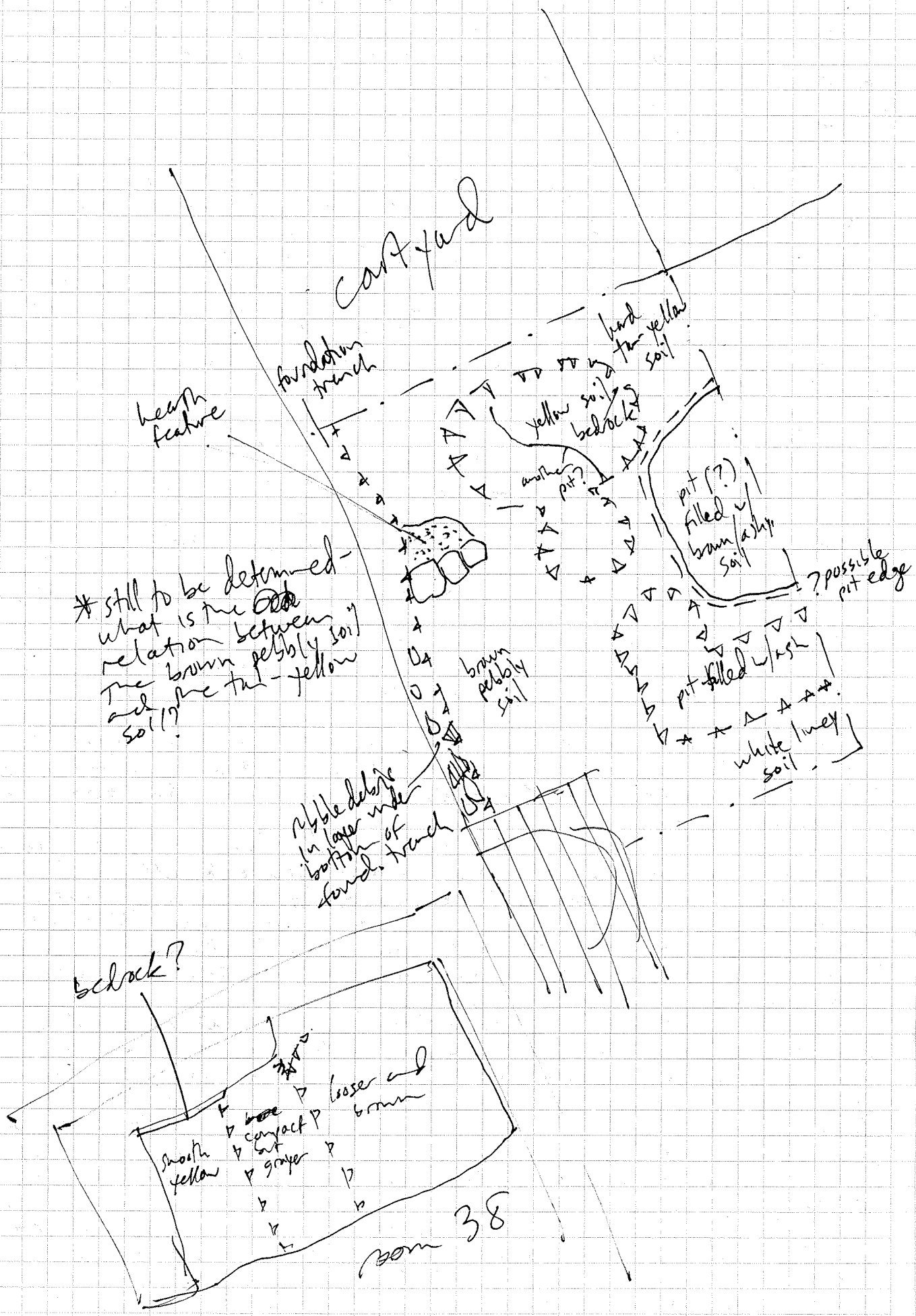
In the chapel, the hearth area is removed and work begins on the wall between the church & the street. The presence of human remains in and around that wall fill suggests that the wall had already been destroyed when the remains were deposited in the street. The fill of the bedrock cut - the center of the church also seems to be removed. Most of the fill is a hard grey-brown soil, but along the NW wall of the church there is a very distinct layer of yellow soil filling a roughly rectangular area between the corner of the apse & the wall of tomb 1.

18 July 2006

In room 38 work continues on the removal of the yellow brown fill in the NW half of the room. Along the SE wall, Diana M. thinks the fill is slightly different, but it looks very similar to me - just less compact, as is usual at the edges of the fills in this room. On the other hand, in this area, an initial removal of another 10 cm exposes a smoother, greyer, ashier soil with much less material, at least in the S corner. It is difficult to say whether this is a different layer - things are moving slowly today and very little was exposed. On the other side of the ridge, Emily removes the material from the second of the two bedrock (semi-circular) cuts. Below the millstone and a thick layer of brown fill is what appears to be a surface, on top of which sit a coin and a fragment of usable architectural decoration (from a window frame or an iconostasis?).

In room 31, the last soil is removed from the two circular pits at the bottom of the larger bedrock cut in the E wing. In the process, the line of a wall is followed, extending out from the W corner of room 38 - but it seems not to be quite in a line with that wall, and I wonder if it doesn't indicate another seam between complexes.

In the courtyard (third section), the situation is both slightly clearer & slightly more confusing. On the one hand, the black ash clearly fills two conjoined cuts, one a large oval & the other a smaller circle - both cut through a light tan-yellow layer and come down onto (decayed?) bedrock. Another pit - a rectangle with a circle at its W corner - is identified in the E corner of the area; it too is filled with black ash. This pit, like the smaller part of the other pit, is filled covered by the dark brown soft powdery soil that occupied most of the E quarter of the area. This soil also covers a hard tan soil to the NE and a crumbly, pebbly brown soil to the SW. The foundation trench of



* still to be determined -
 what is the relation between the brown pebbly soil and the tan-yellow soil?

18 July 2006 cont.

The NE wall of complex 1 is also excavated - it is a very shallow and fairly narrow cut with an irregular bottom and a variable width. Although it is unconvincing as a foundation trench, the wall (itself founded not on large stones set flat but on medium-large irregular stones set upright at a slight angle) does not go below its bottom and therefore an identification is probably correct. See sketch opposite (from memory at end of day). There may also be yet another cut (or shallow depression) with an ashy, trashy fill along the middle of the NE section wall - this may in fact match a ashy patch found on the other side of that wall last year.

In the church, still some confusion over remains in area of street wall and - apparent pit in the street. Edges of that pit are indeterminate, since street surface has been trampled, baked and hardened for four years - but one side is lined with/filled with a very white mortar/concrete with large stones, and we wonder if the intrusion might be modern. In the center of the church ~~area~~ is a large cut in the bedrock, apparently a circular pit attached to a larger square(?) cut. We begin to remove the fill between the tombs today - the bedrock level is quickly found at the end, but there are three skulls and disarticulated material between that end & the end close to the apse. I have found four coins from the area between the foot of the tombs in the sieve.

19 July 2006

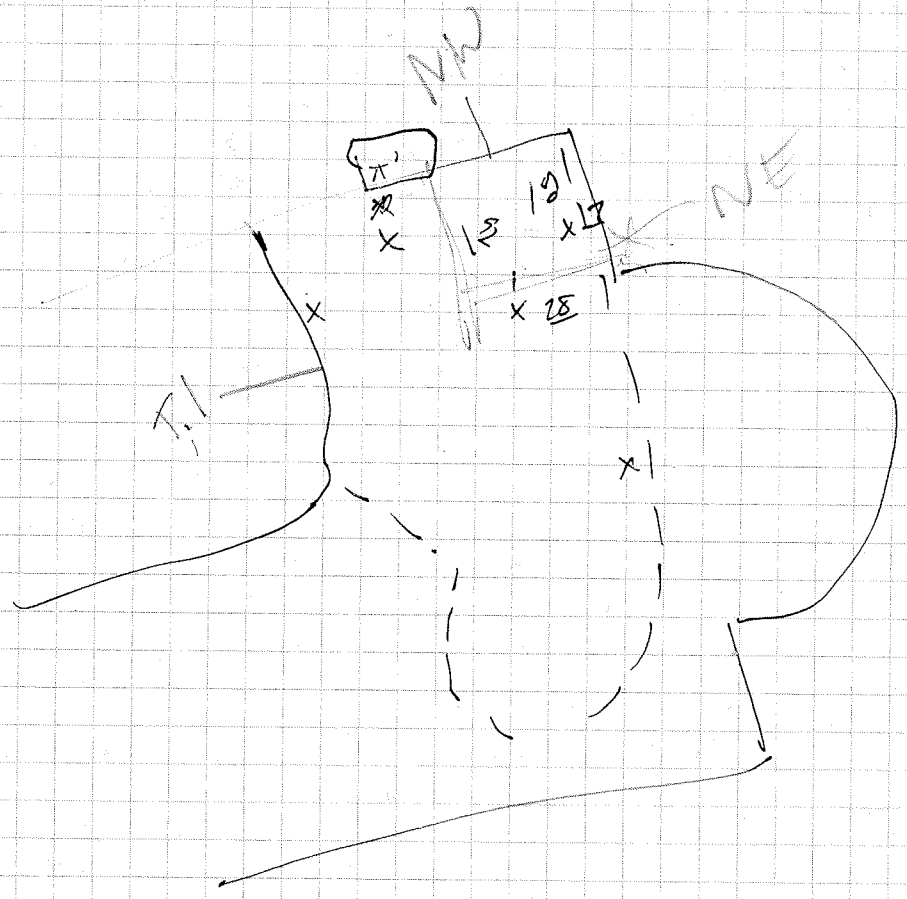
Room 38, ongoing excavation of yellow-brown fill. In the SW part of the ~~room~~ NW part of the room, there is a very hard & smooth layer of clayey yellow soil that seems to be close to bedrock. This soil seems to have an edge against a more friable, softer, ~~yellow soil~~ slightly grayer yellow soil, and the edge seems to be shared with the bedrock beneath. The most reasonable explanation seems to be that the grayer soil fills a cut in the smoother soil and the bedrock. This fill seems to be cut in turn by another cut - roughly square - at the N corner of the room, which is filled yet again by a fairly similar soil (a most clayey loam with lots of pottery and bone, as well as charcoal and clay lumps) that is distinct primarily in its color (brown) and compaction (looser). The bedrock appears to be much lower on this side. (see sketch opposite)

In the room 31 probe more confusing information - the large wall slightly off line with the SW wall of 38 is abutted (?) at its NW end by another wall that shows the sleeper-beam slot. This wall follows the same line to the NW - still no sign of a cross wall to close room 31.

In the courtyard, obvious pits emptied, apparent collapse (?) or pile of 10th c tile along the edge of the foundation trench cleaned while brown pebbly soil is removed. Tan-yellow soil in N corner (754?) also removed, seems to go down to bedrock - but in this area we dig below the level of the three wall-stones left here, which now sit on a earth bank, without identifying a contemporary surface or

edge

find 5: Ae coin: from sieve
 find 6: Ae coin: 17cm from NW wall, 96cm from
 NW wall, 35cm below lip of NE wall
 find 7: Ae coin: from sieve



find 1: astragalos - 28 cm from NE wall of city
 92 cm from NW wall, ca 35 cm
 below lip of cut on NE side
 find 2: tray of marble reentrant - ~~80~~ 7 cm from NE
 wall, 50 cm from NW wall, 37 cm
 below NE lip
 find 3: Ae coin - 54 cm from NE wall, 23 cm from
 NW wall, 8 cm below biggest rock
 in NW wall of church above (π)
 find 4: pc marble reentrant: 91.5 cm from NE wall
 46 cm from NW wall, 6.8 cm
 below edge of T 15m ~~the~~ 2
 sig stones

19 July 2006 cont.

a wall trench. (I think this means we missed a use surface - the wall is very similar in construction to the other Early Byz walls in this area, and all of those sat directly on the surface present when they were built. At a later date these walls were partially covered by ~~some~~ the accumulation of interior & exterior surfaces - ~~but we don't have the surface to associate with the initial construction.~~ It's also a bit unclear what is going on to the ~~SE~~ of the ~~SE~~ line of wall and patch of whitewash ash - there is a somewhat ferocious line of stones along the edge of the foundation trench, and then what seems to be quite a deep deposit of the pebbly brown soil (I think Sharon may have associated this soil with 759 at the N corner, so we may be dealing with only one context at this point).

In the church, the rest of the material between the tombs is cleared and the cut - perhaps, for the construction of tomb 1 - is exposed. This leaves the square cut on the NW side of the area in front of the apse; Sutton has taken down at least one level, but the hard yellow-brown soil continues to descend. We're going to return in the afternoon to finish it.

20 July 2006

Entry written on 7/21. Work ceased around break time for the 68 opening celebration.

In room 38, brown clayey fill at NE end of room continues; along the NW side is a harder yellow-orange mat, may represent the edge of the cut (?) this material fills.

In the courtyard ongoing removal of brown pebbly soil in S corner of section 3. It covers bedrock in places and in others a hard yellow soil over bedrock. It also seems to cover a more compact grey soil in the S corner, where it comes up against a pile of stones & rubble that may be the remains of another wall. A small area of 759 (?) mat remained along the section wall between second & third sections is also removed, revealing another segment of wall at right angles to & ~~is~~ bonded with the three-store wall already identified.

In the church, more remains are excavated from the fill of the pit in the street. Along the church wall, the edge seems to be cut in bedrock; another edge is defined by ~~the~~ the patch of mortar, which Julia states is 400 AD. This is not modern and the other two edges remain unclear. The fill in the bedrock cut in the center of the nave continues, and this and the fill of a very distinct cut along the wall of t. 1 continue to be excavated.

NE
ca

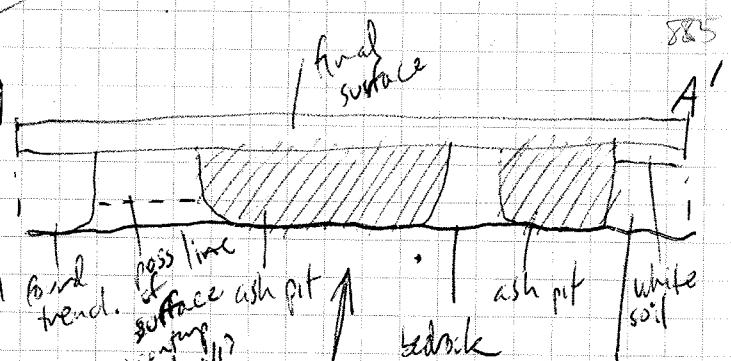
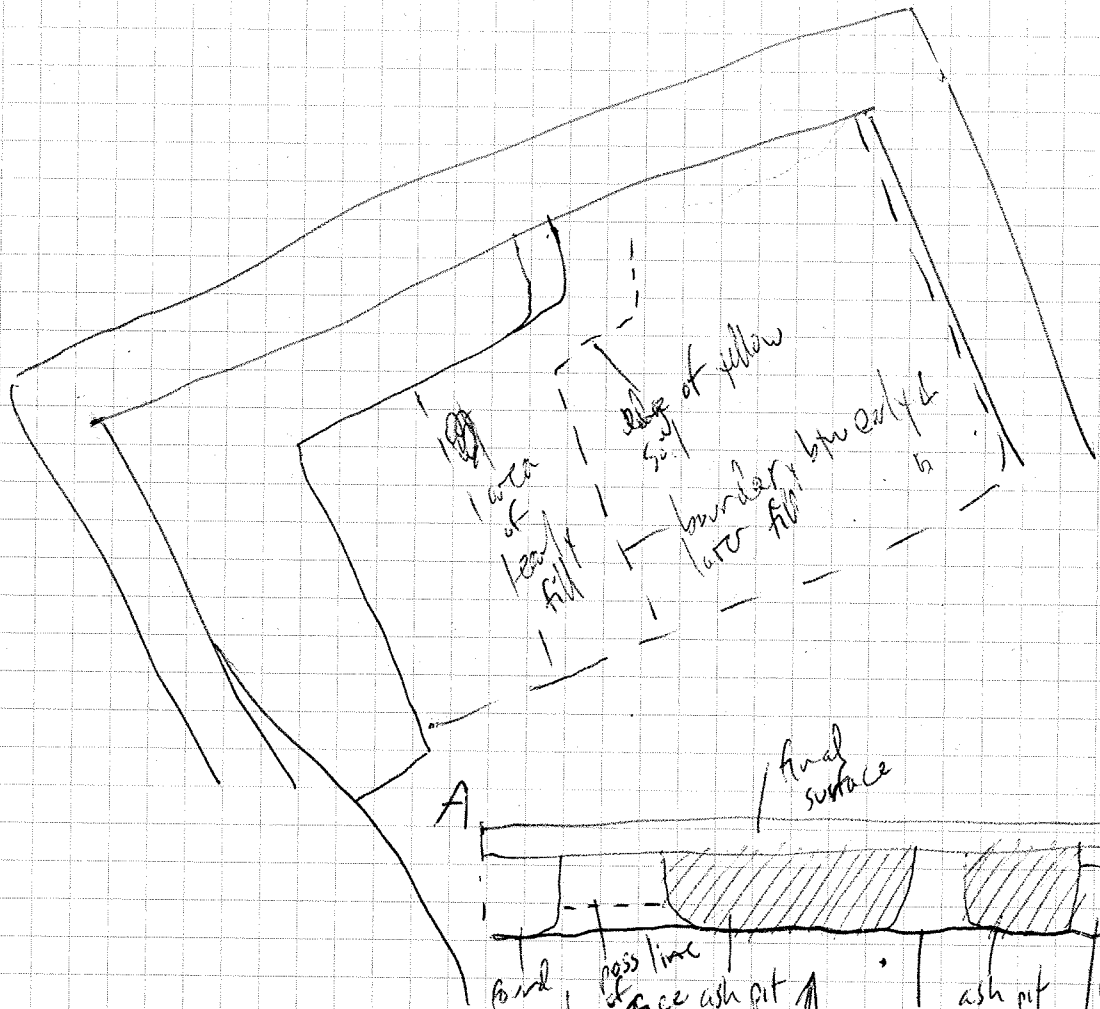
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8m
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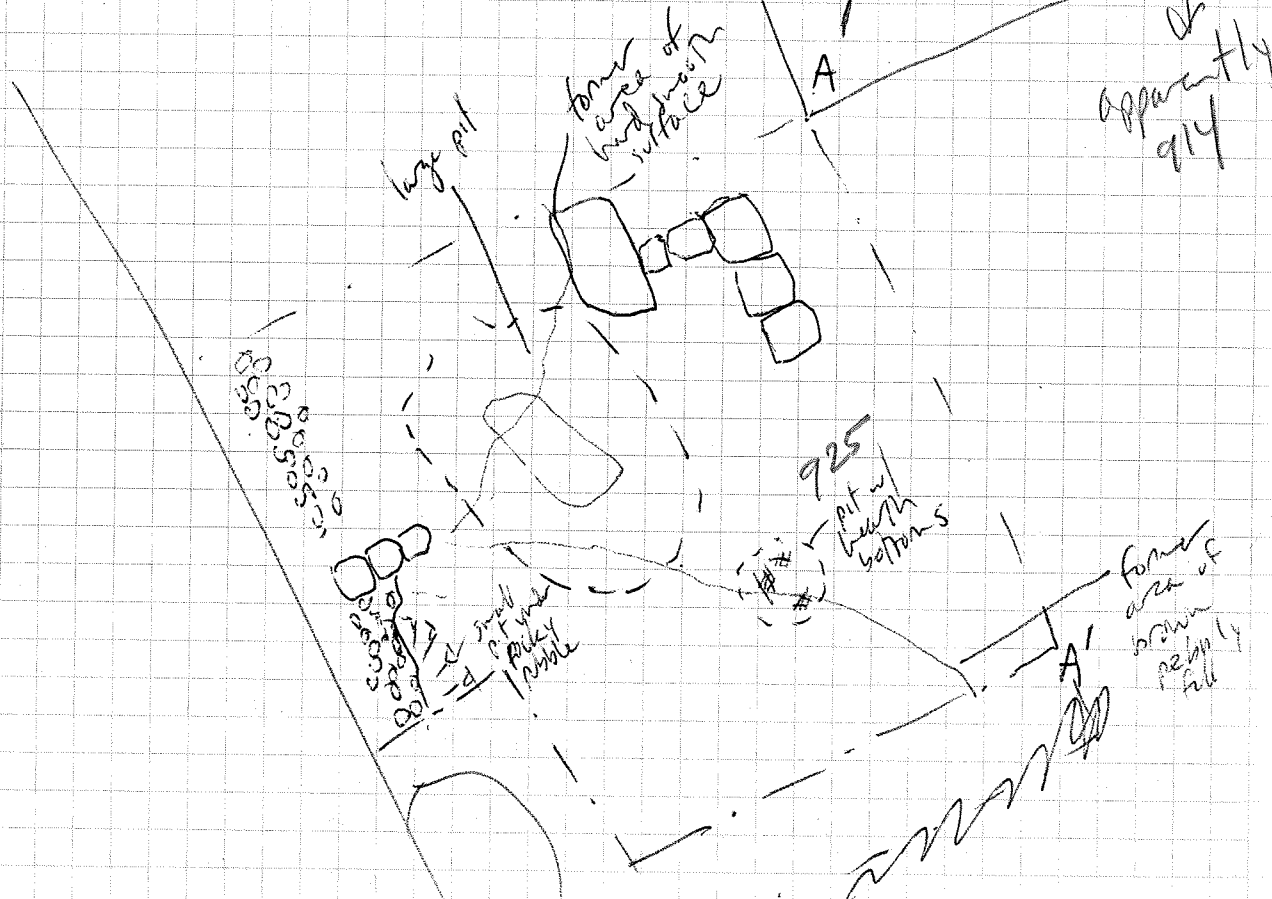
21 July 2006

Entry written on 7/23 - on both 21st & 22nd I spent the whole working day digging.

In room 38 the brown-yellow fill in the NE end of the pit to the NW continues to be removed. It comes down to bedrock without any particular change in character or consistency; the bedrock floor itself is very smooth. Although the limits are difficult to find, there does seem to be one edge along the NW wall of the cut in the area of the ~~cut~~ at late Byz



885
brown pebbly? or something else?
or apparently 914



21 July 2006 cont.

pit in this area. The soil here is dense yellow, and more compact. The finds, however, are similar - a lot of Hellenistic residual material mixed with quantities of animal bone and Late Roman - Early Byz ceramics. ~~It is possible that we dug out the yellow layer during the excavation of the brown soil, but in the profile streaks of yellow seem to be interwoven with streaks of brown, and it may also be that this layer is not an earlier fill cut at a later period, with that later cut then filled, but simply an area of generally mixed fill with a slightly different character (see sketch opposite).~~

In the courtyard, further excavation makes the situation a bit clearer. The yellow, fairly compact soil between the wall fragment & the section in the N part of the trench is removed, but I think it is removed together with an earlier surface in phase with the wall itself. We hope to establish this in the section. It becomes clear that the pebbly brown soil exists in an area that is roughly a quarter-circle, extending out from the cistern; that it is covered by the layer of soil with white brick chunks along the ~~SE~~ side of the trench, and that it covers - from 1) a pile of small-medium stone rubble running in a fairly well-defined line along the wall of complex 1; 2) the fill of the very large pit in the center of the courtyard; and 3) the fill of two smaller pits, one under the stone rubble at the S corner and the other - with 3 beam floors - in the center of the courtyard near the SE side. This suggests to me that the brown pebbly soil is contemporary with the early phase of Late Byz activity in the courtyard but we'll wait for the ceramics results. On the other side of the other small wall stub (along the wall of complex 1), the pile of tiles & pithos fragments we found to cover the gray ash layer, which in turn covers what appears to be a relatively smooth use surface. This use surface exists mainly along the SW side of the area, and it also seems to cover the fill of the large pit in the center and the pile of small-stone rubble along the same wall. The situation here is extremely confusing, but some relative sequences can now be worked out (see sketch opposite).

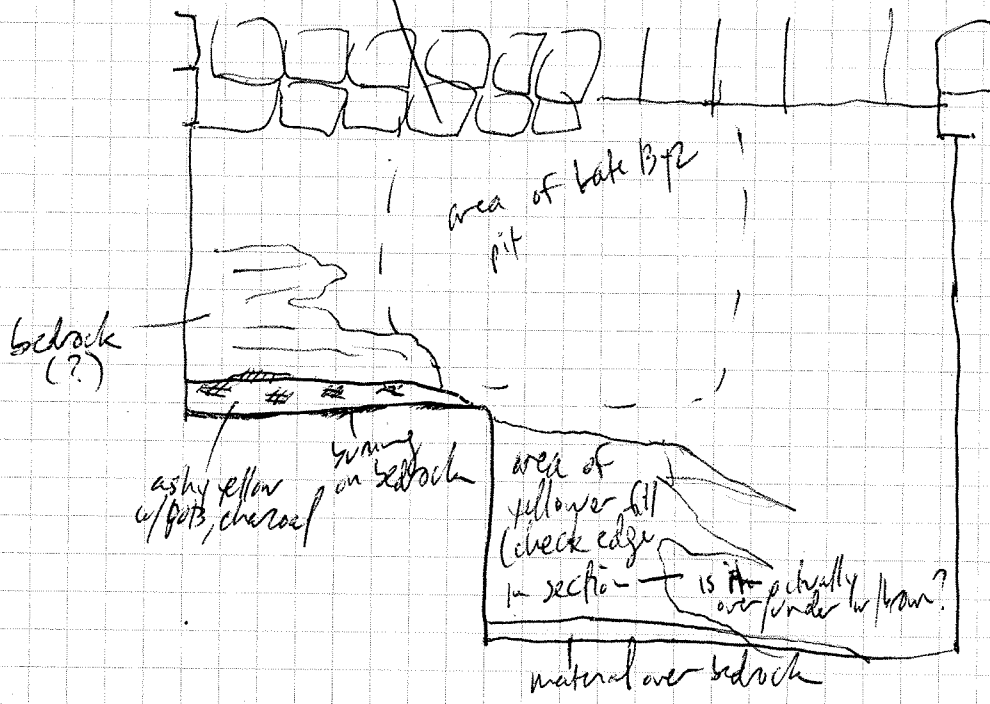
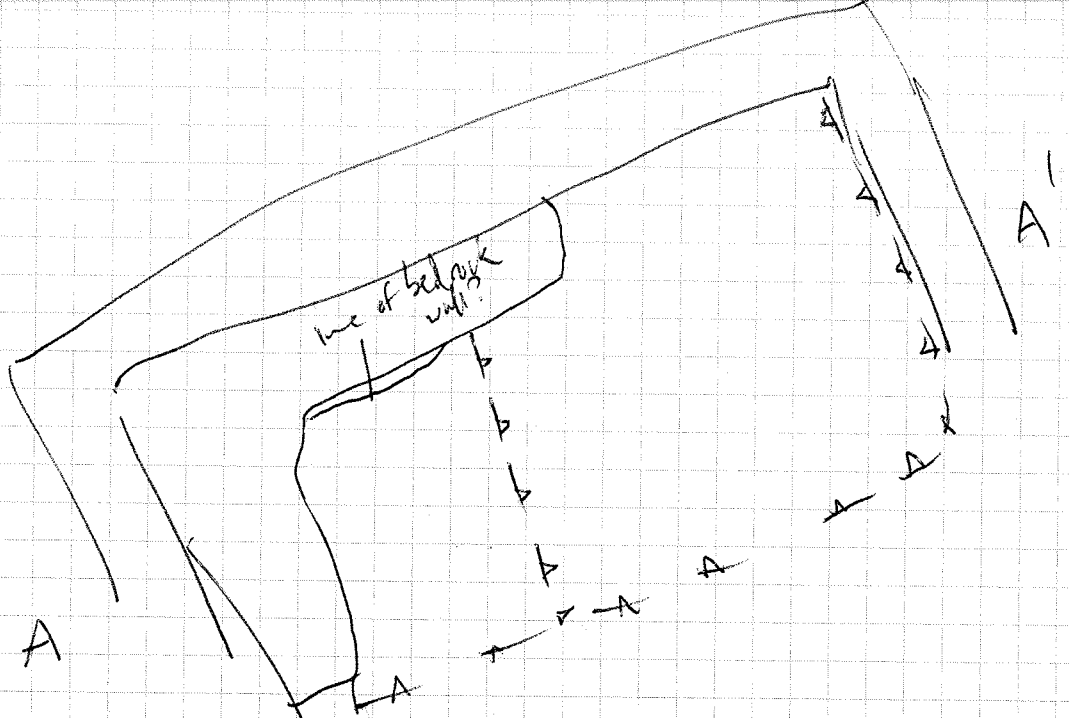
In the church, final excavation of pit in bedrock under nave, trench along wall of T. 1. ongoing excavation of human remains in pit in street. The edges of this pit still have not been defined and the human remains continue much deeper. An area of mortar projecting at the upper SW edge of this cut seems to continue below, as if the pit had been lined with this mortar deliberately. Still not clear when this intrusion happened, since no modern finds indicate recent disturbance.

22 July 2006 (also written on 7/23)

In room 38, the bedrock floor at the NE end of the cut along the NW wall is more or less cleaned, and sections have straightened in this area. We then begin to remove the area of denser yellow soil along the NW section & between the NE & SW ends of the cut. This soil too, seems to cover a layer of abandonment/accumulation (??) over the bedrock floor of the cut [NB: I cannot now discern

885
A
white soil
on top of
thing
be?
entirely
14

of
on
top
of
wall

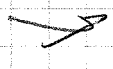


22 July 2006 cont

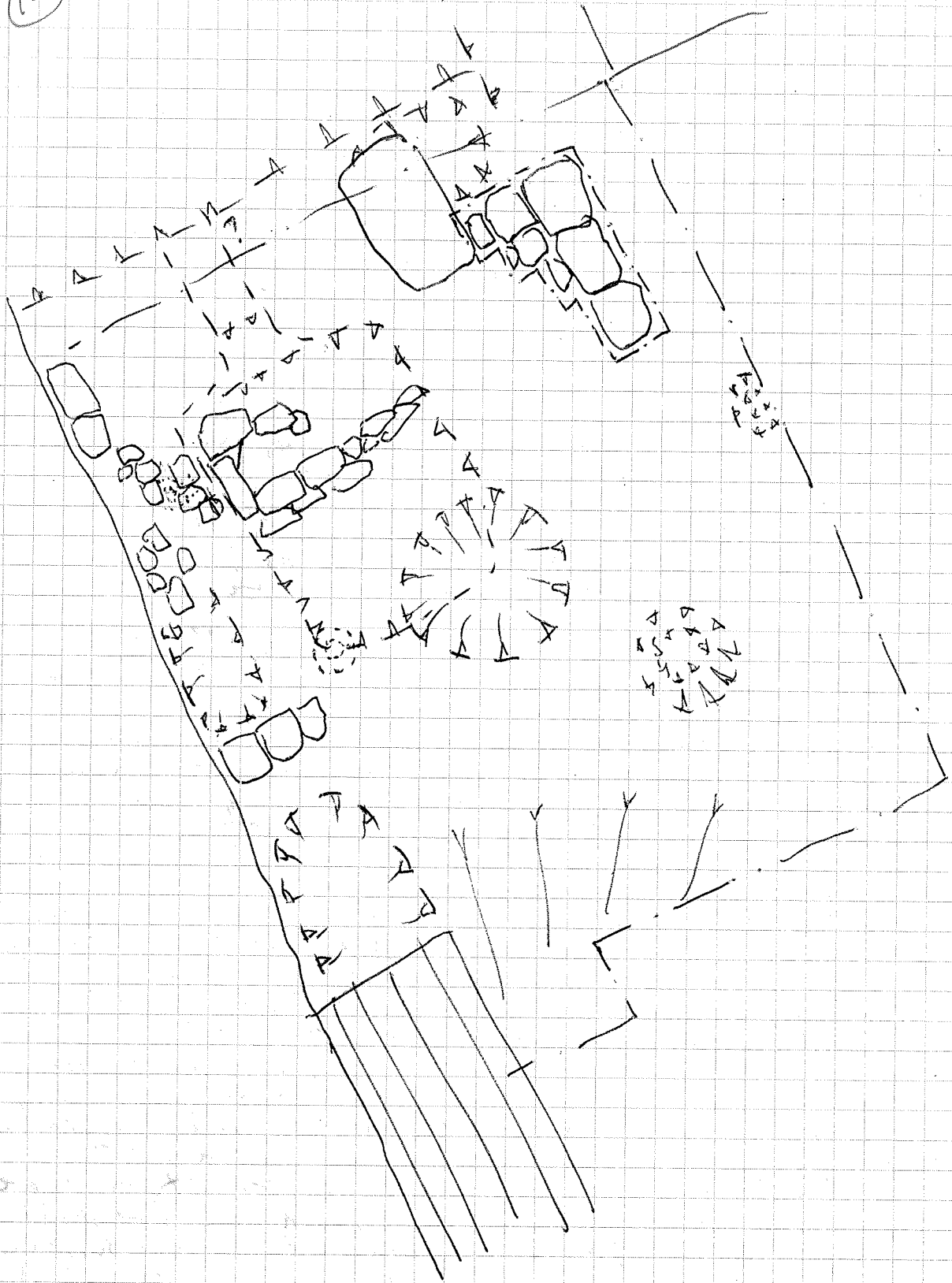
if the layer over the floor was under this section or under the edge of the brown fill, of both - need to check photos, section, and L's documentation. Material in this fill seems similar to the material in the fill removed previously. When this fill has been removed, the ash/yellow soil above the bedrock ledge at the SW end of the cut is cleared & documented; it seems to preserve evidence of burning or ash in several places, as well as at least one large fragment of a work item (the face-down on the surface). When this layer is excavated, we begin to notice that it is full of very tiny fish bones - at least three float samples are taken, so it'll be necessary to get messy results to the fish people. This layer comes directly down to bedrock (it's 7-12 cm thick); I notice that just on the surface of the bedrock there seems to be some ash/evidence of burning. When fully cleared, the cut has a ledge about 1/3 of the way from the SW wall, with very smooth bedrock surfaces on both sides - the one to the NE is about 1m-1.2m lower than the one to the SW. If the section wall to the SW is reliable, the higher part of the cut preserves the same NW wall as the trench in 31, but that wall disappears at the line of the ledge (see sketch opposite).

In the courtyard the situation is increasingly complex. The pit in the center of the courtyard begins to be emptied, as the last of the pebbly soil is removed from the rest of the trench. It is filled by a layer of brown soil, ~~represented~~ that in turn covers a lens of white ash in its W corner. This ash covers a hard, dark, clayey gray-brown soil that fills the rest of the pit down to bedrock - though there is some distraction in its lower layers, where it becomes increasingly clayey. There is also a lens or an interface of small crushed shells at a certain point in the W corner of this layer, but I will have to check w/ Sharon for its exact position. The clayey layer - the lower parts of which increasingly have the aspect of burnt mudbrick - covers an irregular structure of medium-sized stones that appears to have been built deliberately in the square part of this pit. Some mortar is visible between these stones; a sample is taken for Julia Stoylenko. The stones seem to form a transverse wall and a small circular wall (see sketch opposite), and it is possible that some of the (burnt?) clay around them served either as facing for the wall or for a mudbrick superstructure. There are a large number of shells in this layer, and both the shells and the stones have a bright white somewhat pearly surface (calcinated?). At the S end of the pit, the bedrock cut is slightly higher, with a (posthole?) cut in its S corner. At the E corner is another large, round cut partially in the bedrock and partially - it appears - in the fill of the square cut (4th phase later). Part of the bottom of this cut is in a hard bedrock-like material, but this may simply be a product of the way it was cut into the fill (alternatively, it is possible that the two cuts were made at the same time).

In the church, Anton continues to excavate. The pit full of human bones. Its edge to the SW has not been clearly established. It is very deep and goes down to bedrock, cutting the bedrock on the NE side.



(60)



24 July 2006 (entry written one day late)

Last half-day of excavation - attempt to clear courtyard. Final removal of fill in central pit; also includes removal of clay/decomposed bedrock that appears to fill the narrow rectangular cut that approaches the main square cut. This particular task is somewhat confusing: although the orange-tan clay does seem to fit a cut in the bedrock, it also has very irregular borders, AND, most importantly, seems to be part of the material cut by the wide foundation trench of the red wall. If this reading of the stratigraphy is accurate, it creates serious issues for phasing, especially since the mortar in the wall in the pit seems to be non-ferrous (yellowish, small gravel matrix, isn't characteristic). The cut appears to continue up to the foundation trench, but would have been excavated.

Along the wall of complex 1, we remove the pile of small-small/medium stones on both sides of the earlier wall sh. To the S, they are simply a layer of stones in brown soil that covers a clear layer of compact, slightly darker soil - the other part of the fill of the pit next to the cistern. This is excavated completely, with the bedrock top visible on the other side. To the NW of the wall sh, however, there are two different situations. Immediately next to it, the loose stones cover a sandy tan-brown fill, also with some small stones; this fill is located in a shallow, roughly rectangular depression with its long axis parallel to the wall of complex 1. As one moves along this cut/depression to the NW, however, the stone packing becomes more dense and, in its lowest levels, seems actually to be mortared together. I think that these mortared stones are the remains of a wall, perhaps a small wall associated with the functioning of the square cut, or

~~perhaps~~ the very tenuous remains of an earlier structure in this area. Finally, clearing of the courtyard reveals one last small, circular cut - again, perhaps a posthole (see sketch opposite). The pit outside the church is still not finished - several bones are visible in the current wall.

Pictures are taken from the cave today - some will be used for a general photo model attempt.