

93 26 65.5

21/6/04

Work begins in block 5D - cleaning of grass, loose material over area of 01-02 excavations in preparation for conservation efforts. Larissa, Jessica, Steve and I discuss the database, documentation systems. Context sheets will be filled out in Russian & English (dual recording), data entry/database will be in English. There is a large quantity of material in the soil of the yard (02) - this is collected and assigned to the cleaning of US PA110.

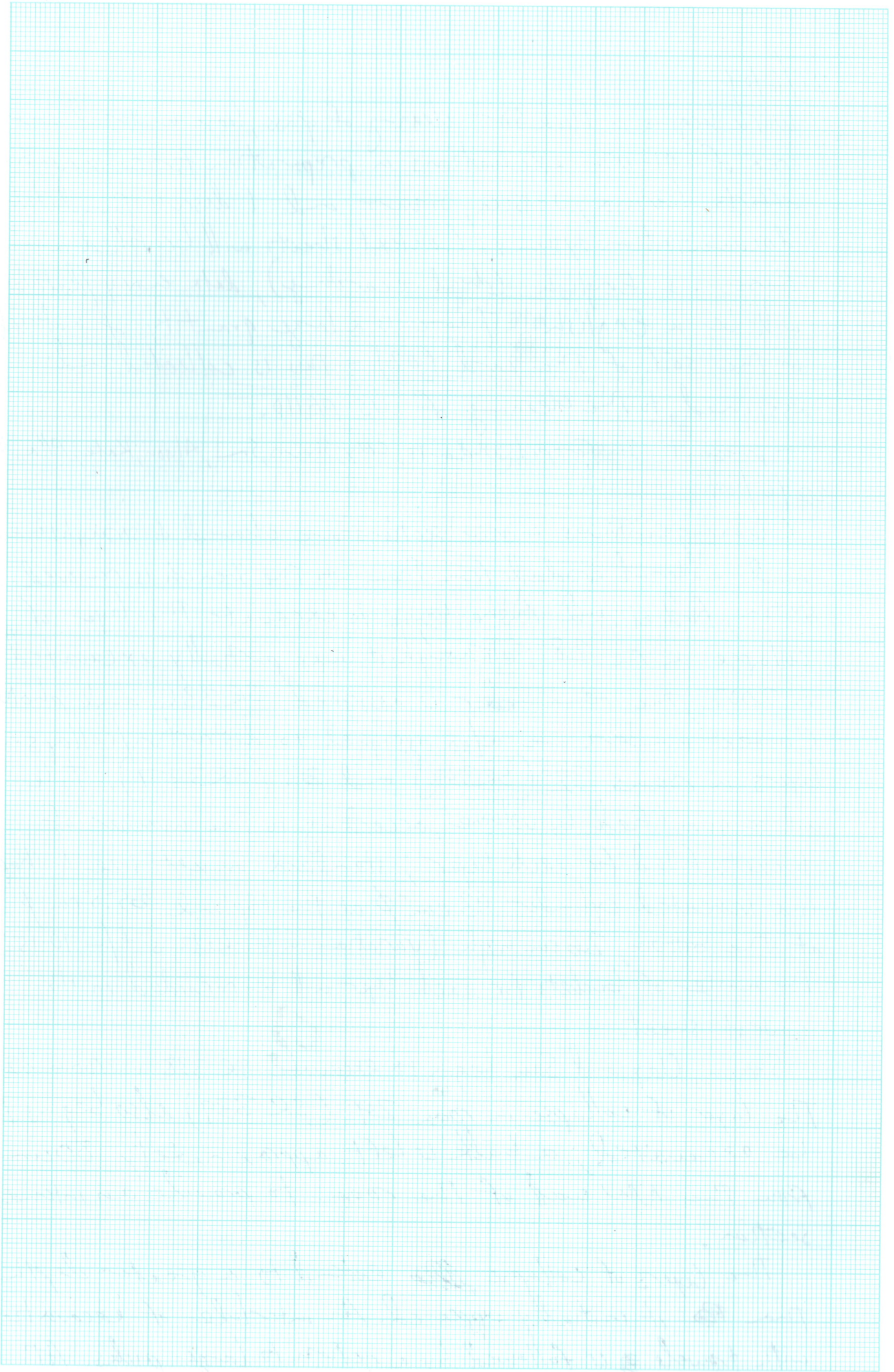
- present: Simferopol students, Clay, Shawn, Sam, Alison, Kate, Alla, Glenn

22/6/04

Cleaning continues - now sections are cleared & straightened and material eroded from them into the trench is removed. Anton, Andrei and Mishe begin to excavate the layer of collapse in room 28; although it was partially excavated in 2002, the remainder is assigned SR 336 and photo'd. Context numbers are also assigned to destruction/collapse layers in rooms 32 (SR 338) and 33 (SR 337). Tile will be quantified by volume, according to the number of buckets filled for each layer; standard bucket size & shape is a truncated cylinder 43 cm ϕ at the top and 35.5 cm ϕ at the bottom, 26 cm high (variation in buckets is $\pm 10-15\%$). The number of buckets for each layer will be recorded on its context sheet.

Shawn, Clay and Sam begin to excavate SR 338 in room 32. The layer of collapse in room 29 (SR 339) also begins to be excavated; a balk is left approximately 80 cm from the NW wall of the room to provide an internal section.

The layers of collapse ~~are~~ extend to a greater depth than ~~it~~ it initially appeared. An interlude of excavation with trowels ~~is~~ followed by a return to large picks. At



22/6 cont.

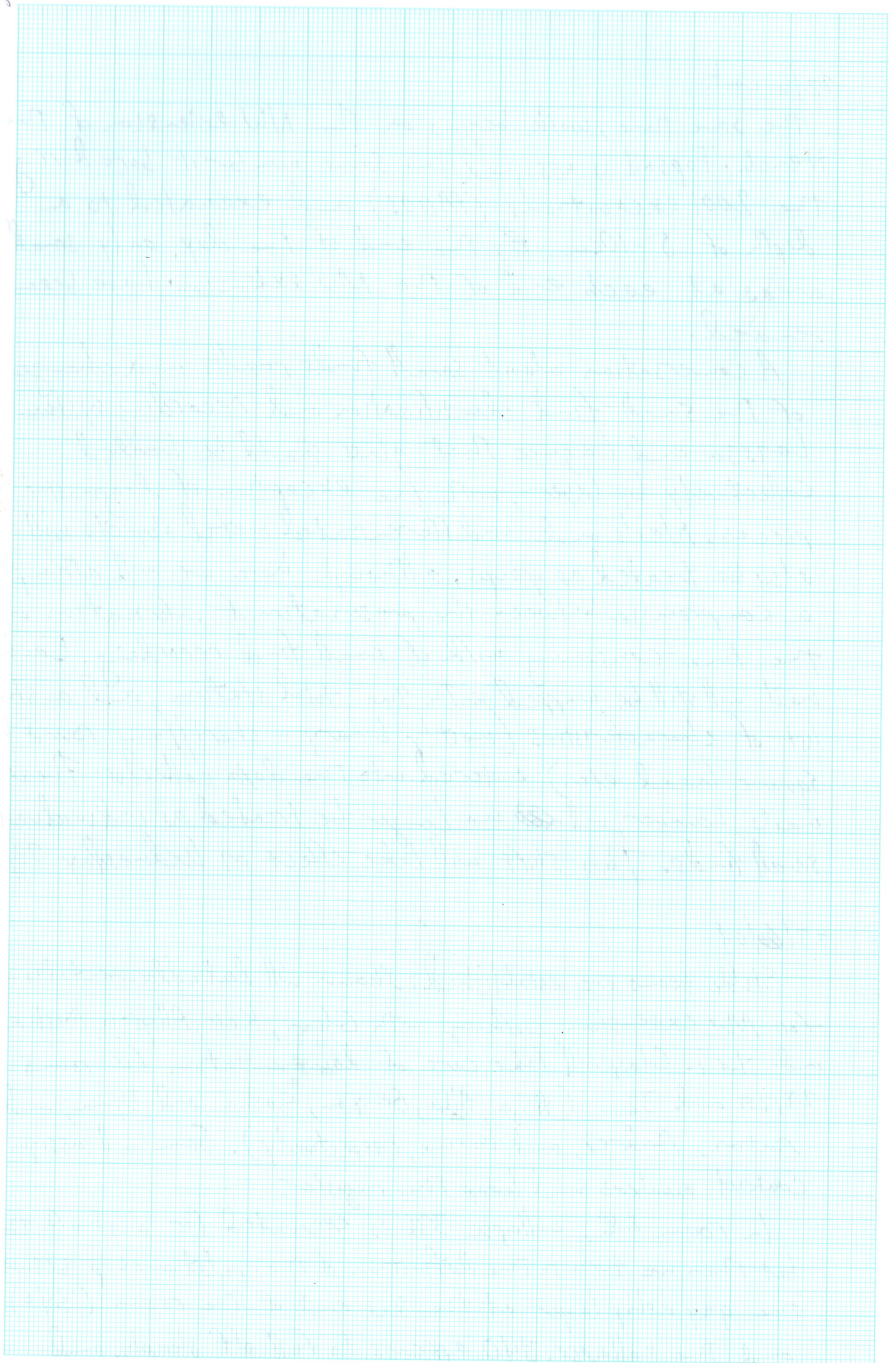
The same time, work begins on the NW extension of the trench. Topsoil is assigned the same number it bore during the 2001 excavations (PA001) and excavated to a depth of 5-10cm. By the end of the day, only small areas at each end of the NW extension have been removed.

A conversation about small finds results in a change of the small-find identification and recording system. Larissa and I agree that glass should be treated collectively by layer, with the exception of diagnostic pieces. Nails and undifferentiated metal objects will also be treated as groups, although here we will attempt a compromise between the preservation of information and the time-consuming work of small-find recording. Each nail will still be mapped with the total station, and a short list of characteristics (mostly binary - short/long, round head/square head etc.) entered into the data collector. These nails, however, will ~~not~~ no longer be treated as individual small finds. This shift will take effect on Wednesday 23/6.

23/6/04

Stable teams are established: Shawn will deal w/documentation for NW extension, working with Glenn, Kate, Allyson, Mishal and Yuri. Clay will take care of documentation for rooms 28/29 and 32 (Anja, Alla, Genya; Sasha and Dyna; and Anton, Andrei, and Karina, respectively). Sam will assign context numbers and keep the register.

In room 28, collapse 336 is excavated for a short time, but then we turn to the definition of the relationship between the grey ash layer at the SW end of the room (340) and the collapse. 340 appears to fall off steeply and



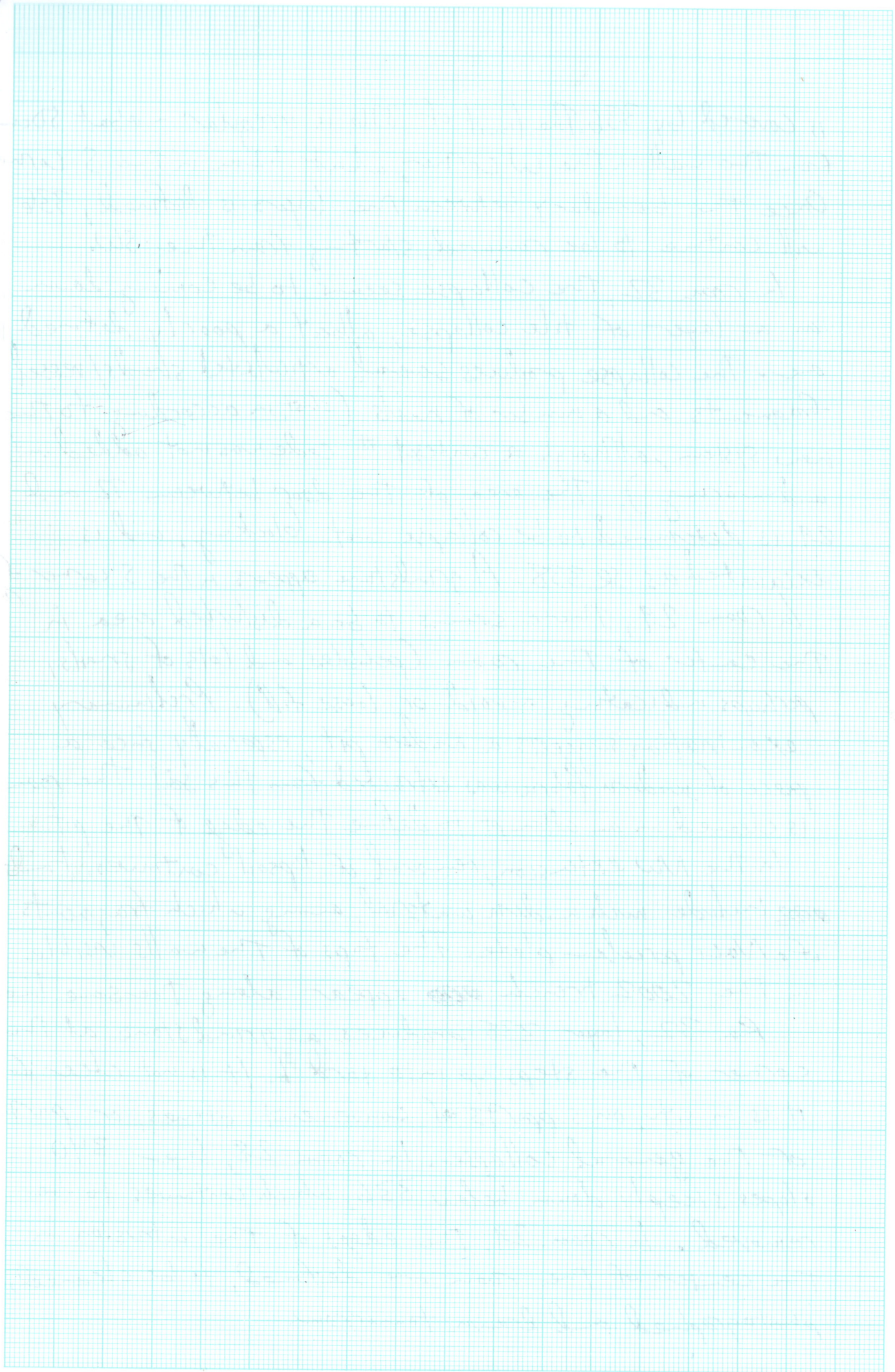
*
 is covered by 336. The limit of 336 is irregular - about 50cm from the wall in the W corner, about 1.2m in the S corner. Once the boundary between the layers is defined, 336 will continue to be removed, starting from the SW.

In room 32, the collapse seems to be coming down on a layer of tile collapse, albeit a poorly defined one. The collapse produces several articulated sheds/vessel fragments and a number of nails (shot in according to the new system, although a context # code was not added until mid-working). The area of the door between 32 and 29 is determined to be collapse not blocking, and is excavated as SR 338. A grindstone appears in the S corner of the room.

In room 29, there seems to be a disturbed area in the center of the room (pebbles and lots of snails, perhaps indicating a void or loose fill). Preliminary examination suggests a modern pit, especially since a piece of modern fabric was extracted from this soil. The room is cleaned in an attempt to define the edge of the pit.

In the NW extension, removal of topsoil continues. Finds ~~are~~ include much modern material, among which fragments of a Nazi porcelain plate. The tops of the walls visible in the 2002 trench ~~are~~ appear along the same line.

Rm 32, layer 338 produces a grindstone at the corner of the steps up into yard 1. It is not clear if it is in situ, on supports of convenient stones, or part of the general collapse. In room 28, layer 340 slopes steeply down below 336, which continues to be removed. In room 29, the edges of the intrusion in the center of the room are defined, to be cleaned, photographed and drawn tomorrow.



24/vi/04

In the NW extension, topsoil continues to be removed. The area along the NE side of the older trench (S corner of the large room/yard in the N corner of the new trench) is over cut during excavation - in addition to topsoil, a certain amount of rubble (mainly disturbed/modern) is also removed.

In room 28, cleaning of 340 and removal of the remains of 336 continues. 340 seems to continue from NW to SE, though it slopes down abruptly at the edge of 336.

In room 32, 338 continues to be cleaned from the surface of ~~340~~ 341. 341 is an irregular layer with concentrations of rootiles, especially just to the NE of the stairs. Once cleaned, the layer is photographed (and photographed with trucks to attempt photogrammetry).

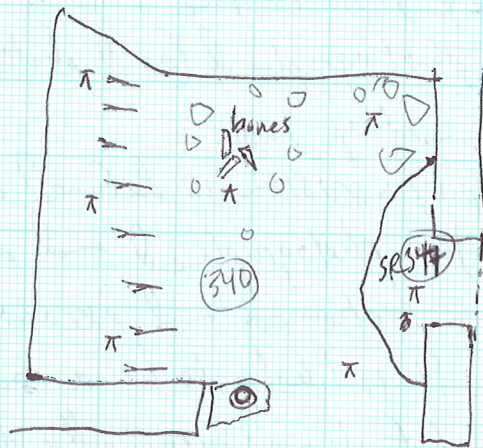
In room 29, the pit/irruption is defined and cleaned. The pebbly loose fill (342) is photographed and drawn by Dyma and Sasha; it is then sectioned and excavated in part, and the profile is drawn. It is likely to be a root disturbance - the remaining portion (if it was originally deeper and the upper portion was not initially noted during excavation) is very shallow. A layer of tile collapse is visible below.

25/vi/04

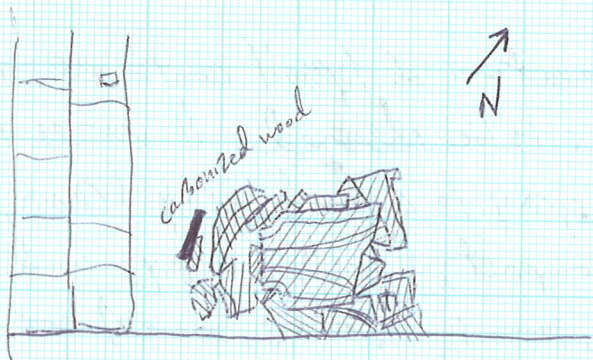
In the NW extension, excavation of topsoil continues. In room 28, layer 340 continues to be cleaned. It varies in color from a lighter ashy gray to a dark gray-brown, but both consistency (soft but compact, slightly clayey) and inclusions (much charcoal, some small rocks, bones) are more or less the same across the layer. There is a concentration of bone of various large mammals located roughly 1m from the NW wall, ~~at the same level as the NW wall~~ about equidistant from the SW and NE walls. There is also a pile of yellowish, compact soil in the area of the doorway; it appears to cover 340.

(#347)

sketch plan of 340 etc.



sketch of tile pile in middle of 341 (roughly 1:50)



In room 32, The area to the NE is cleared and the remaining SR338 removed in an attempt to clarify the nature of the line of stones tentatively identified as a wall along the NE side of the room. Excavation is a bit aggressive, but for the most part the soil removed seems to be ~~be~~ consistent with 338 in the rest of the room.

In room 29, another disturbance (or the lower part of a disturbance) appears in the E corner of the room. It is filled with a soft, loose, dark brown soil with very few rocks and almost no ceramic material (SR 344, filling SR 345). After a moment in which the base of a pot ~~was~~ was mistaken (by me) for the base of a shell, the intrusion began to seem like another root or animal disturbance. In the rest of the room, 339 ~~was~~ continued to be removed from a thick layer of tile collapse.

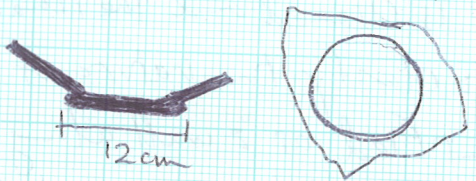
26/VI/04

The rest of 347 is removed in room 28 - it seems to run very deep in the area of the threshold of the door in the NE wall, but a clear bottom and edges are identified in the area within the room. The layer plan is completed in preparation for excavation.

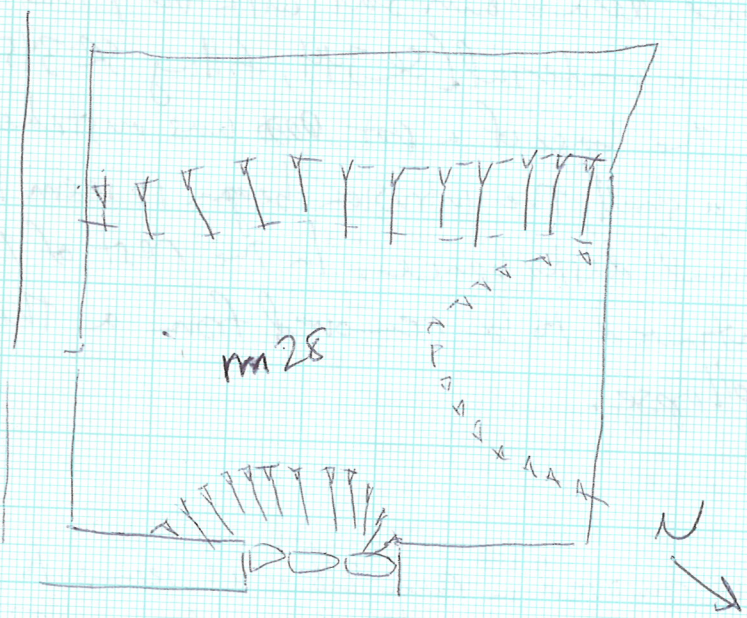
In room 32, we begin to excavate SR341 - ten cm. pass with heavy picks, starting from the ~~SW~~ SW side of the room, along the stairs. There is a pile of tiles against the SE wall of the room, about 30 cm from the lowest riser of the stairs into yard (photographed as a detail and put on a sketch plan here and on the cxt sheet, since in the middle of this layer of collapse). There are also several more fragments of carbonized wood, shot in as "other finds" and conserved.

In room 29, the remainder of 339 is ~~is~~ removed. The

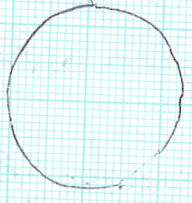
base stolen from SR339



SR340, final



SF 2137 - bronze coin, good preservation - head in profile visible on reverse
 - from 398, tile collapse



26/VI cont.

base we mistook for a shell yesterday was stolen during the night - Dyma thought it might happen, but I left it as an experiment. It was the flat base of a jar or amphora, ^{photos!} about 12 cm in diameter with walls preserved for another 5 cm or so around it (see sketch opposite). Mosaic photos are taken for photogrammetry, which seems to work - so the ~~top~~ layer is removed without a field drawing. All tiles and fragments are kept to be sorted for type and stamps.

The tiles from the group in n 32 are also kept for further study - many ~~of~~ whole or nearly whole examples.

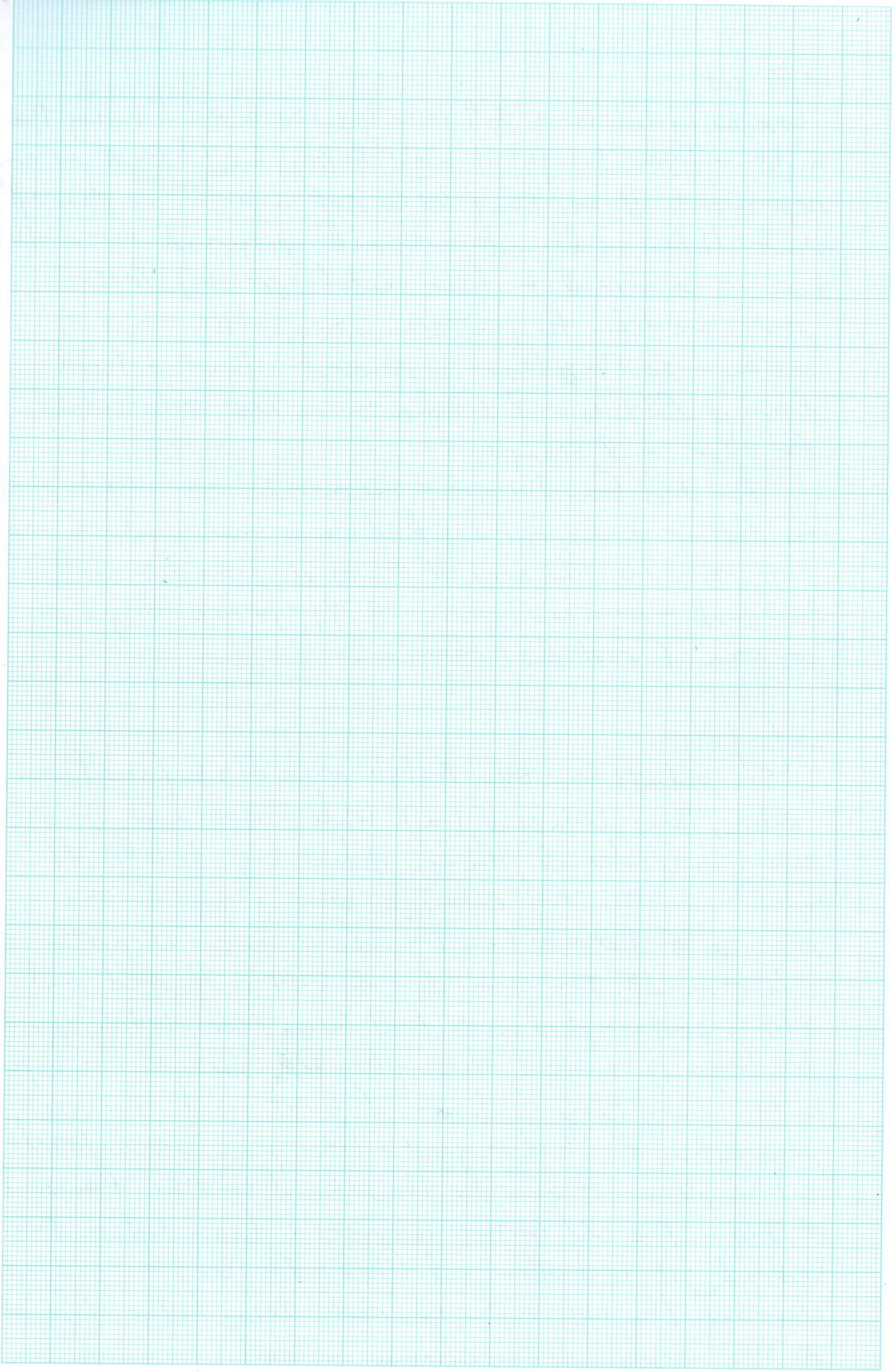
In room 28, the area of stones along the NW wall is determined to be a new layer - SR 349 - perhaps filling a pit or area of root disturbance.

28/VI/04.

Six students from Kiev Meshyla arrive on site (Stas, Roman, Anton, Taras, Lena and Ira). While the area of the NW extension is cleaned, the new students begin to take off topsoil over the NE extension, leaving strips for the passage of barrows from the rooms under excavation.

In room 28, the remainder of 349 is removed and 340 is photographed in its final form (see sketch, opposite). We begin to remove it, starting from the SW wall. The layer contains very large inclusions of burnt wood, the size and preservation of which suggest relatively modern material - but samples are taken for the sake of caution. Removal of 340 in the W corner uncovers a basin cut in the bedrock; it is shallow and filled with the same soil, including charcoal. The cut in the bedrock delimits the slope of ~~of~~ 340, explaining the change in level.

aff



28/VI cont.

In room 32, 341 continues to be excavated. In its lower reaches are more charcoal inclusions, tiles, and at least one chunk of yellow clay that might represent unbaked mudbrick or perhaps the sealing layer of a ceiling or roof. The surface below seems relatively consistent and hard-packed, but is not level - slopes down from SW to NE.

The ~~NE~~ wall of the room is uncovered on both faces, but a layer of collapse over the N end has a large number of voids between stones, and there is a strong possibility that the area between this wall and the NE section has been subject to modern disturbance to deep levels.

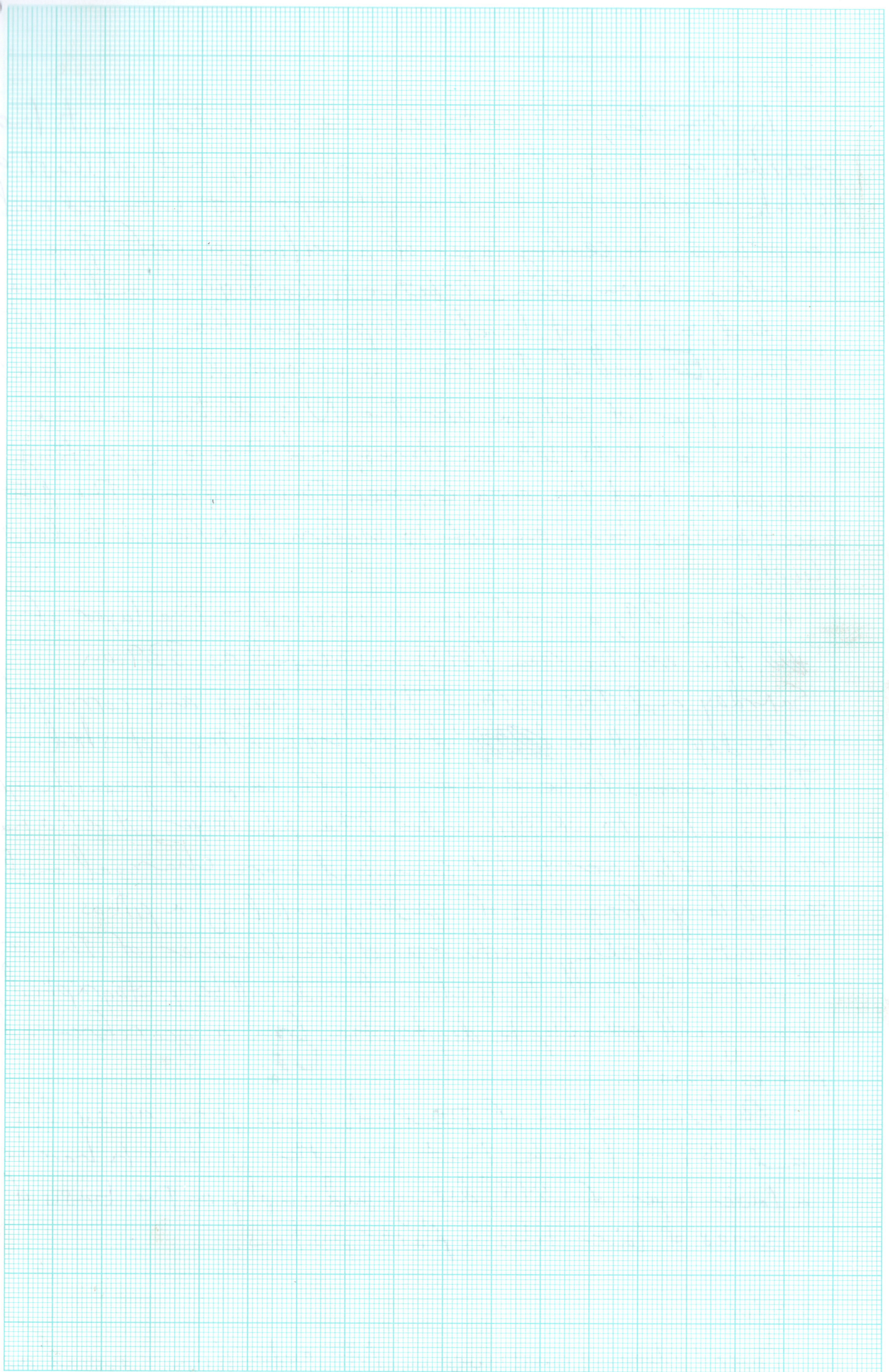
In room 29, a confusion is resolved - the layer of ~~tile~~ tile over the room (348) was treated as 339 on Saturday and this morning. Today's bags are corrected; Saturday's will be ~~dealt~~ dealt with in the pot shed. There seems to be a layer of soft, compact greenish-gray soil similar to SR 341 under the tile layer; it also has tiles lying flat over it, but somewhat more charcoal and several large fragments of pottery, including a pitnos apparently broken in situ against the W corner of the section and the SW wall. It is cleaned and will be photographed; drawing will probably be digitization from a georeferenced photo mosaic.

An examination of the finds shows joins across 348 and 351 - I think that the latter is likely to have been a lower layer of 348, distinguished simply on the basis of a series of lower tiles in flatter positions.

29/VI

Topsoil cleaning continues in NE extension - several paths

Handwritten notes in the left margin, including the number '11' and some illegible scribbles.



29/VI cont.

have been left for burrows but will be removed when work ends in the three rooms currently under excavation.

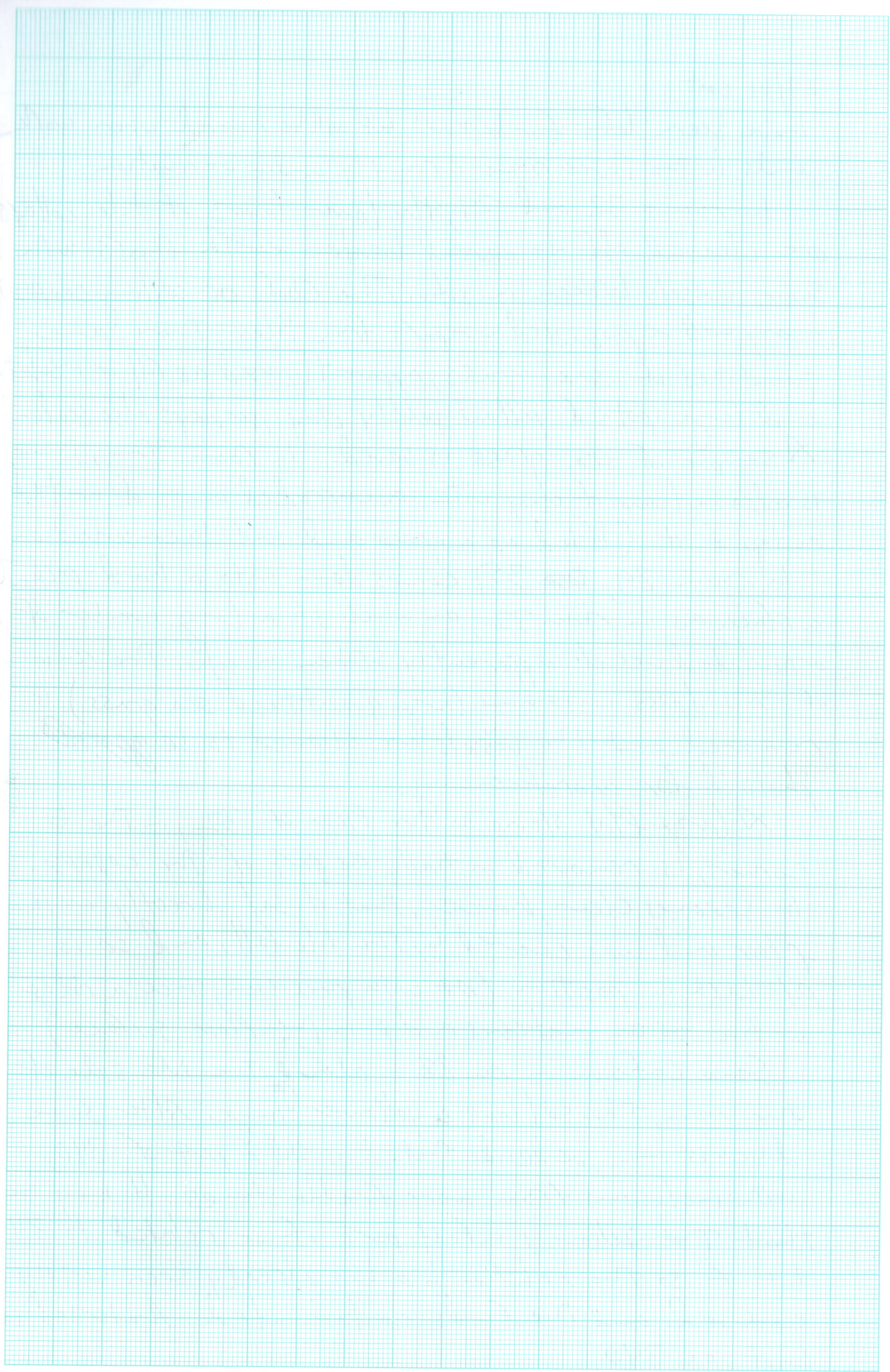
In rooms 32 and 29, the lower layers of tile collapse are cleaned off to reveal beaten-earth floors with some vessels broken in situ. The roof or ceiling composition is very well represented - apart from tiles, there are quantities of sea-grass, apparently used as fill or insulation, and large spots of yellow pebbly clay, perhaps also sealant. A sample of sea-grass is saved. In Room 32, there is also a lump of clay with a corroded mass of metal on top of it (lifted as a group and sent to conservation).

In room 29, ~~351~~ 351 comes down onto a hard-packed surface, as in room 32, on which sit a large number of articulated vessels apparently broken in situ. The remainder of 351 (also containing large quantities of sea grass) is removed and the vessels are cleaned to be ~~photographed~~ photo'd for georeferencing.

A large flat stone on the floor of 32, in the E corner, is removed initially as part of the collapse. It becomes clear, however, that it sat directly on the floor and was covered by the tile fall, and so is put back in position (~~as~~ with precision, since a ridge on the bottom matches a dip in the floor surface).

Some confusion in m 28 - along the NE side of the room, the soil has a yellowish tinge. After some discussion, we decide that it is still a part of 340, with inclusions from more friable stones. It may be that the yellow is in fact part of or related to 349, but if so the relationship has already been seriously confused and the finds contaminated. Material is kept as 340.

Handwritten notes on the left margin, including the number 17 and some illegible characters.



29/vi

Rm 28, burnt layer 352 finally cleaned & down (some irregularities - doesn't cover whole area of room).

~~28~~ In situ pots removed from floor of rm 32. In situ pots in rm 29 cleared for georef photo; there were 4 coins found just over the floor in this room, as well as a nearly-intact green-glaze jug and a number of pithoi/coarse jars.

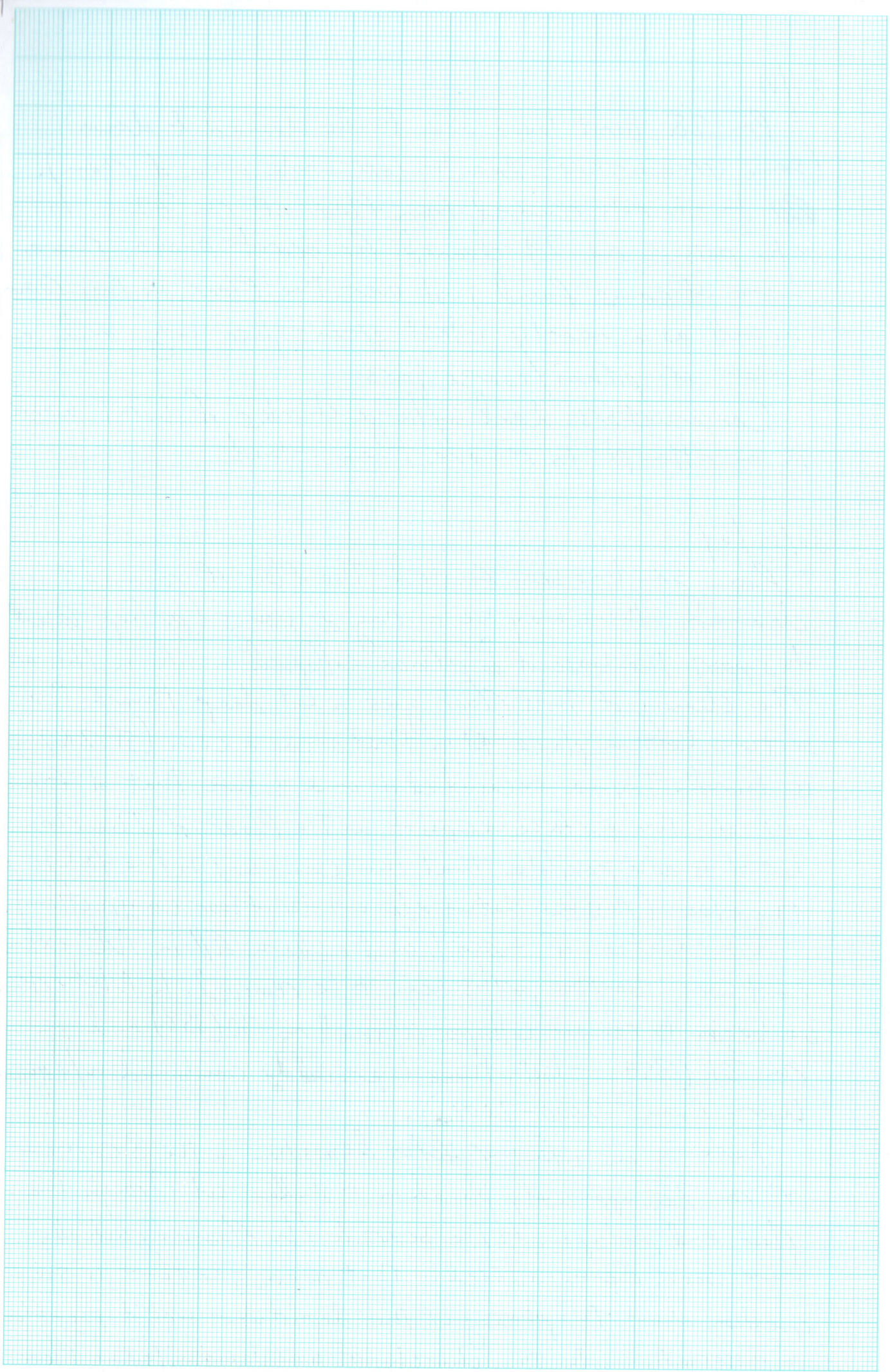
Conservators deal w/ large chunks of burnt wood in an attempt to remove them intact.

30/vi/04

Room 32 has been finished. The floor of room 29 is cleared; there may be a ring of stones (perhaps ~~to~~ to support the base of ^{the} pithos collapsed in situ in this area). The clearing of this floor goes a bit deep toward the section left in place; ~~in~~ in that area a coin (SF 2162) is found. Dyna excavated it and is sure that it forms part of the surface deposit on the floor of the room, but it is also possible that the coin was in the fabric of the floor (possible dating element for floor construction).

Excavation of topsoil and modern fill in NE extension continues; barrow paths begin to be removed. In NW extension, we begin to remove collapse in small rm 30 (358) and in rm 31 (359 - both these layers will be combined w/ equivalent layers from 2000-2002).

There is an intact of fels deposition in the S corner of rm 28, apparently placed in a shallow cut through the floor and perhaps into the bedrock. The floor may actually have been overexcavated in that area, so there is some question about the phasing of this deposition - was it pre-floor in association with the church, or was it cut into the floor after the room was built and used?



30/VI cont.

The bones are not in good order and the body is only partially complete - preservation is further compromised by the fact that someone came last night and dug up and disturbed several parts of the skull. The fill of the tomb is a soft dark brown-gray soil with large inclusions of bedrock fragments and charcoal (SR 368).

The deposition is cleaned and photographed. At the same time, the stones placed over the floor of the church are removed in preparation for the excavation of ~~the~~ tomb 2. Increasing rain, however, cuts the excavation day short. We have a short presentation of the data collecting system at Dacha 1 and then stop for the day.

1/VII/04

The modern intrusions and disturbances in the NE extension continue to be removed; in some areas, intact stone collapse is beginning to appear. In the NW extension, collapse begins to be removed by room - in room 30, SR 358, and in room 31, SR 359. SR 358 comes down onto a layer of collapsed tiles and ~~the~~ includes part of a small stone column found lying on its side (Carissa notes such column frags are often used as benches in streets and alleys - was 30 originally an alley or ambits?).

The cleaning & removal of the remaining pithos fragments composing SR 355 reveal a ring of stones acting as a pithos stand and, next to it, another intact green-glaze jug. Work then ceases in this area.

The cut for the infant burial in TM 28 is cleaned. A fragment of burnt glass (lamp handle?) is found in the W end; in the same area, there is a roughly circular patch of ~~what~~ ash and charcoal, apparently predating the burial.

2

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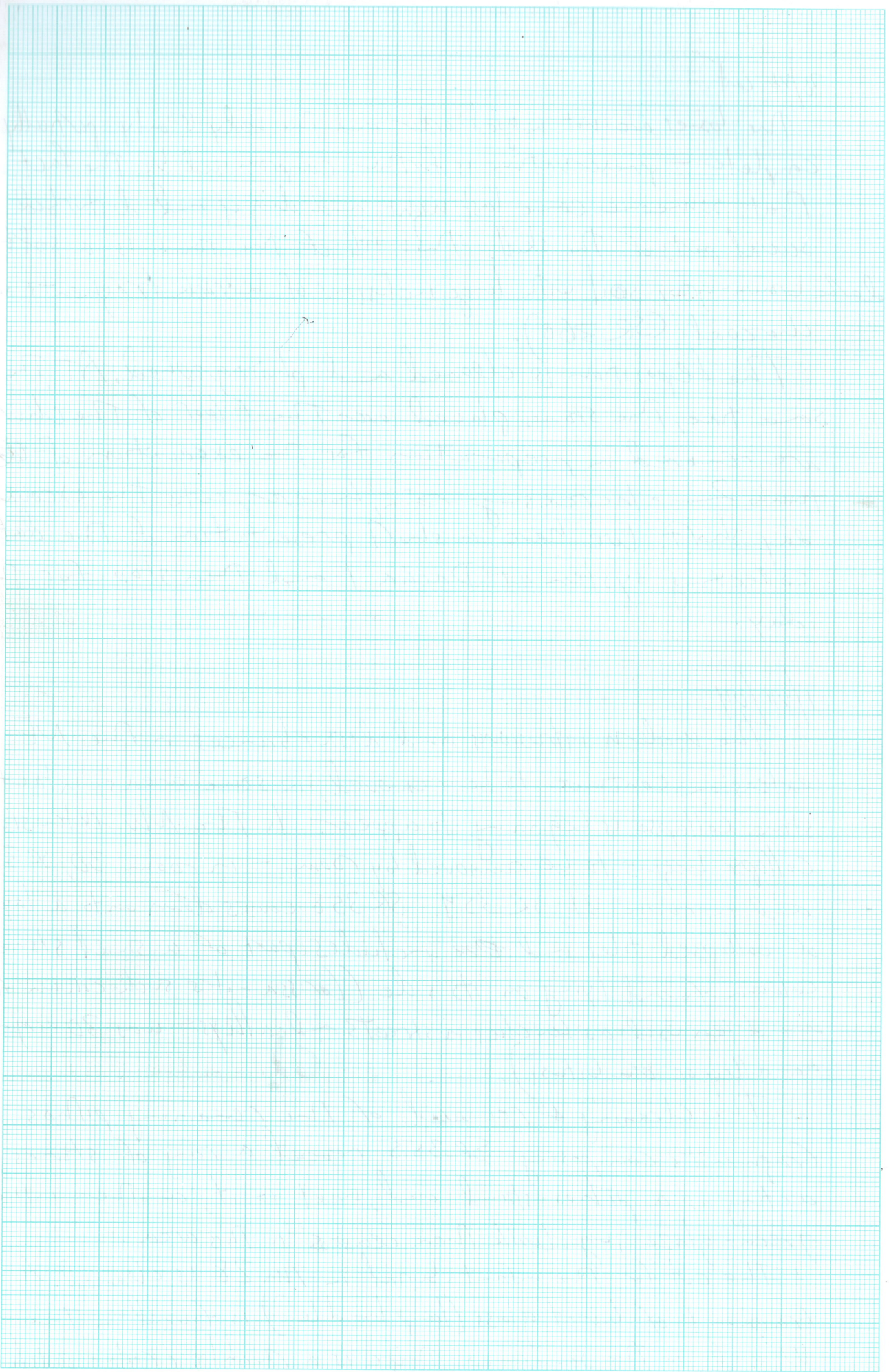
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layer of collapse (SR 359) as it extends to the NW of room 30.

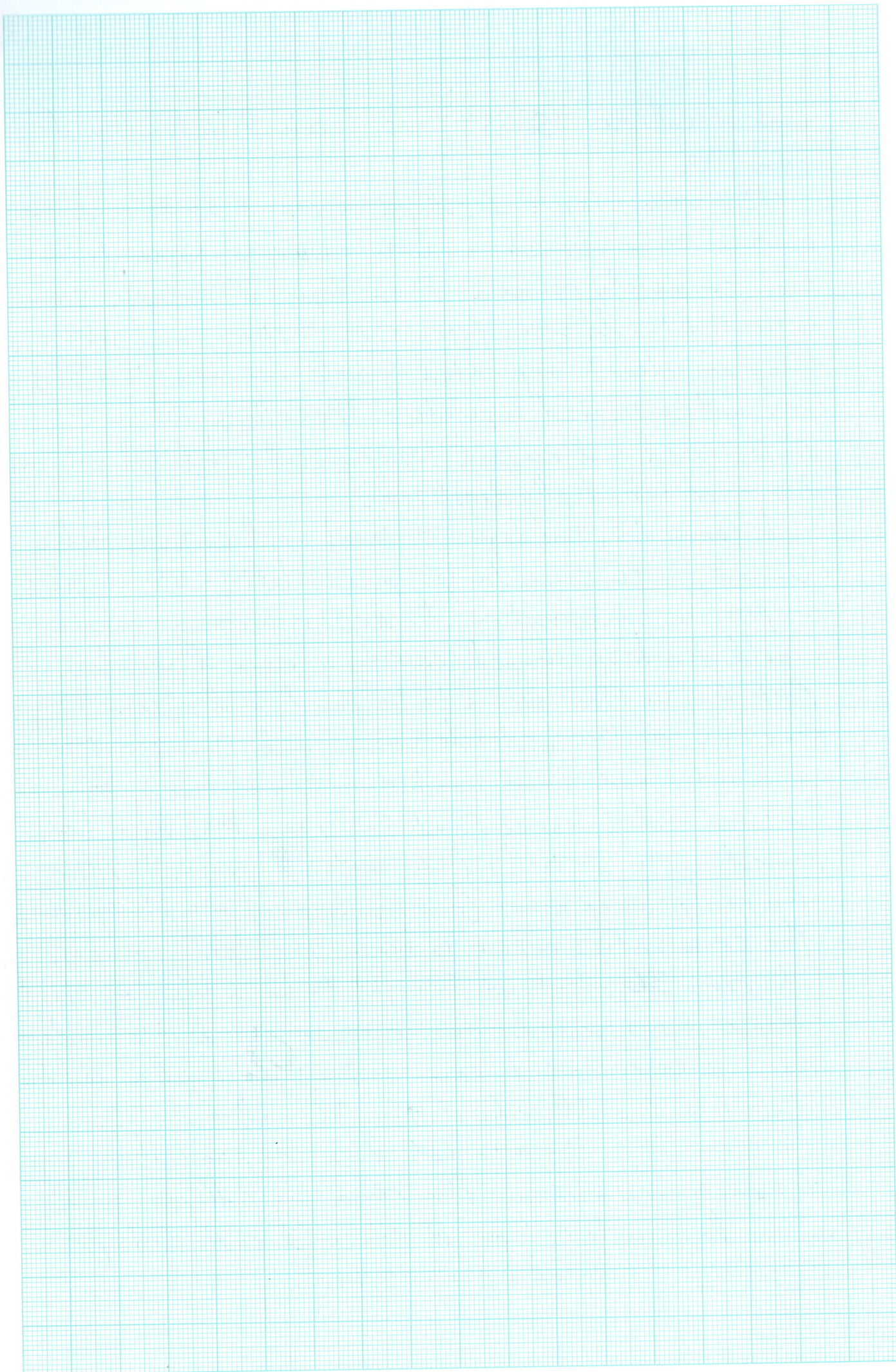
The various layers of collapse in rooms 33, 35 and 36 continue to be cleared; modern intrusions appear to have been completely removed. These layers of collapse seem to be slightly different from room to room, and where they are clearly separated by walls (eg btw 35 & 36) they will be treated separately. The collapse will be photographed and mapped topographically, but will not be drawn or individually digitized.

In room 28, the layer of burnt wood continues to be cleaned, with some larger pieces left in situ on piers for possible conservation. Finds this morning include a gold teardrop-shaped earring or piece of jewelry.

Part of the floor seems to be paved, and given the fragility of the bedrock basin and the quantity of burnt wood (and small quantity of tile), ~~Sam~~ and Larsson and I agree that this room may have been rooked only partially (see sketch ~~to~~ opposite). After the newly cleaned areas (and veg, beans) are photographed, the conservators arrive to begin the lifting process.

In room 36, what we thought to be a layer of intact collapse is reassessed - now we're convinced it's modern fill, and we remove it down to the layer of yellow soil already visible on the NE side of the NE wall of r 32.

In room 31, in the area behind r 30, soil shows signs of modern disturbance. The remaining collapse in 30 comes down onto a layer of tile and roof collapse (SR 369) - cleaned & photographed.



5/VII/04

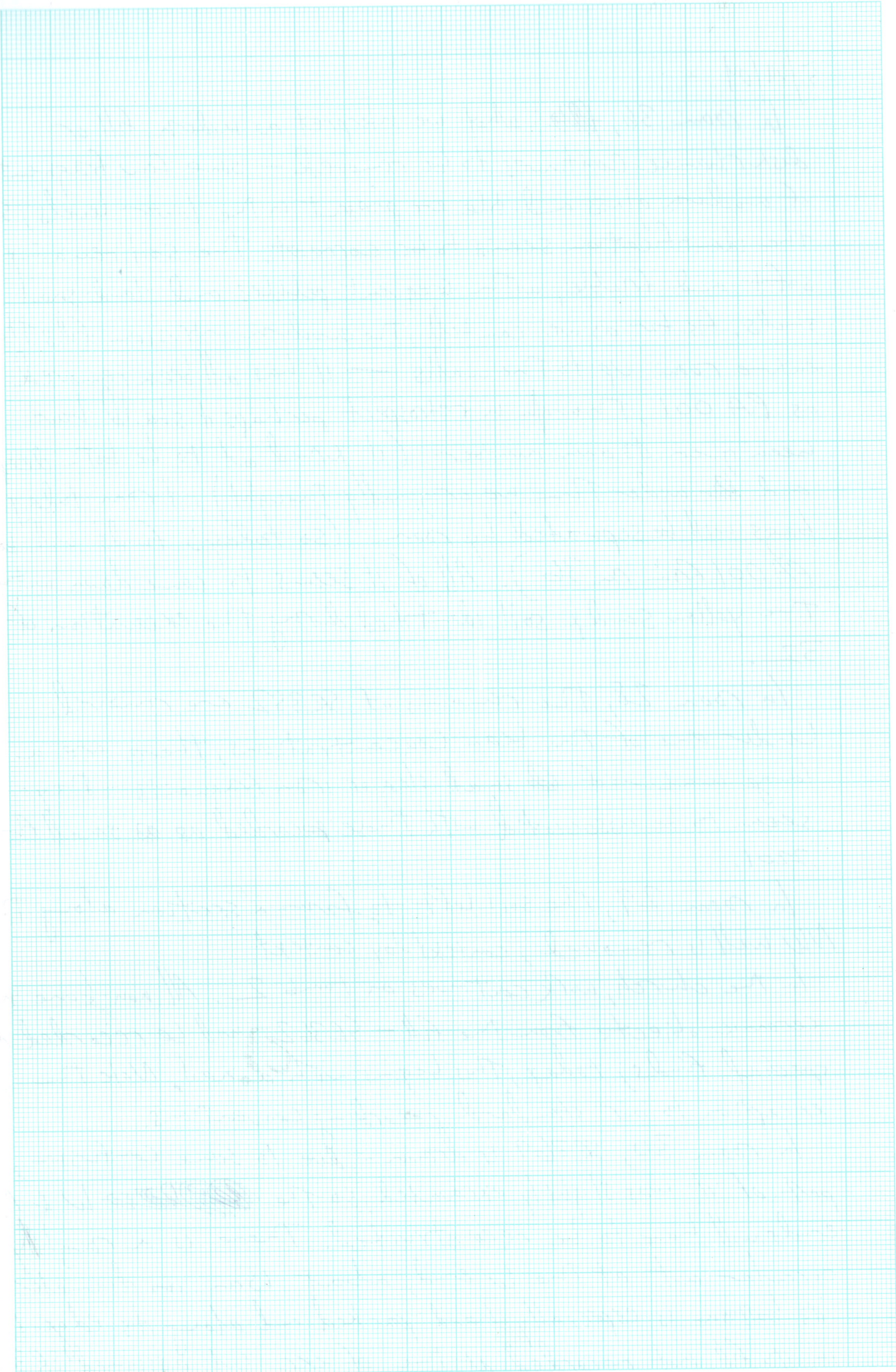
In room 36, ~~the~~ what we interpret as modern fill or disturbance continues to be removed — some few fragments of modern glass and tile are present in the lower levels, so the identification seems to be correct. The soil remains soft and friable, with frequent pebbles and land-snail shells. As far as we can tell, the modern intrusion fills the entire room, up to the walls — it has all been removed as PA 001, though in retrospect perhaps it should have been given its own number (it proved out to be both deeper and ~~be~~ wider than we originally thought). From today, bags will be separated by room (so today's finds will be PA 001 from m 36). All of it seems to come down onto the yellow sandy soil identified during the excavation of 32.

In room 28, the remains of SR 352 are removed. Under one of the beam concentrations, there are a large number of ~~the~~ small slag or iron fragments — they seem to be associated with those recorded as ~~a~~ small find 2201.

In room 29, the soil left to form a section along the NW wall is removed, context by context.

In the church, work continues on tomb 2. All non-bone non-ceramic objects from the fill — SR 362 — will be recorded as special finds; today, this begins with a nail. Note the exception to our standard recording conventions.

In room 30, SR 369 is drawn — due to some confusion, part of it was slightly excavated, so the ~~W & N~~ W & N ends will have to be reconstructed. There is a roughly circular cut at the W end, about 15 cm in diameter; its bottom is especially hard-packed and along its edge (and in its fill, not recorded at time of exc. but assigned SR 370 after the fact) are fragments of wood, apparently not



5/11 cont.

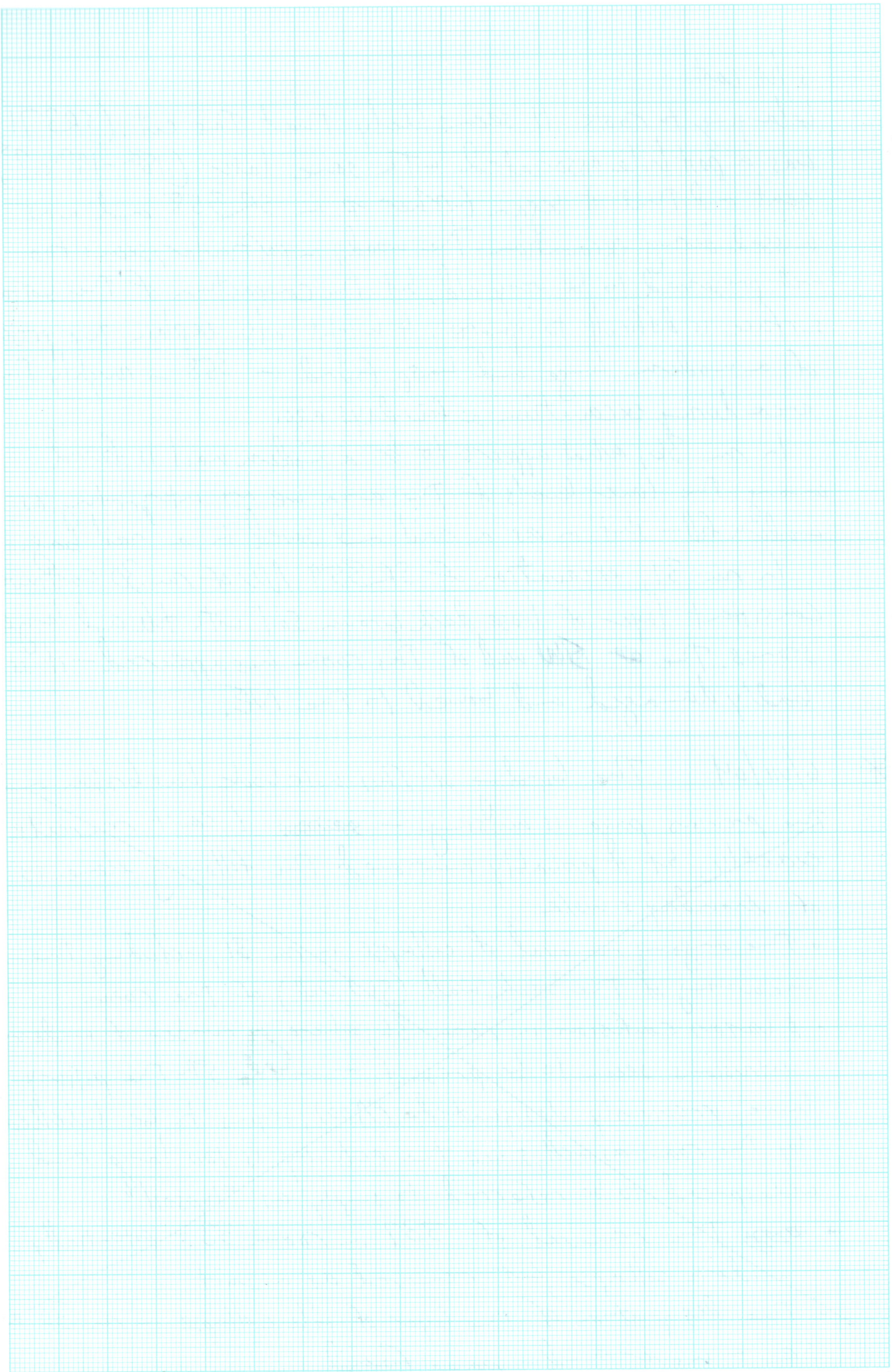
belonging to roots. It seems likely that this cut (SR371) was a post hole associated with some later (18th-19th c?) event, and that it began further up in SR358 and was missed during excavation. The wood, in particular, seems too well-preserved to be very old, but the compaction of the bottom surface is difficult to ignore. It might also explain the presence of a modern hinge and hasp found in 358 in roughly that area during excavation a few days ago.

In m 36, what appears to be a modern nail is found among the lower levels of the area we are interpreting as modern fill - shot in as a nail and saved in a nail bag.

In m 31, excavation of SR359 NW of m 30 continues - consistent layer of loose dark brown soil with tile and large stones. The ~~SW~~ wall of this room has appeared - it is badly damaged and bowed to the NE.

* 6/11/04 The binding of this notebook has broken and the previous page is missing - ~~so~~ I can't recreate it exactly, but it probably mentioned the following elements of Monday's work

- The ongoing removal of collapse in m 31, including the uncovering of the back wall (SW wall) of the room
- A major confusion in m 36, where a number of modern intrusions seem to be present - on the 5th the pottery here, previously designated (A00), begins to be labelled by the room as well, since the activity is too large and widespread to be referred to simply as "topsoil"
- ~~the~~ the removal of 337 in room 33 - potentially modern collapse, but removed as a unit
- The designation of the layer of tile collapse in m 30 as SR - never mind - page found



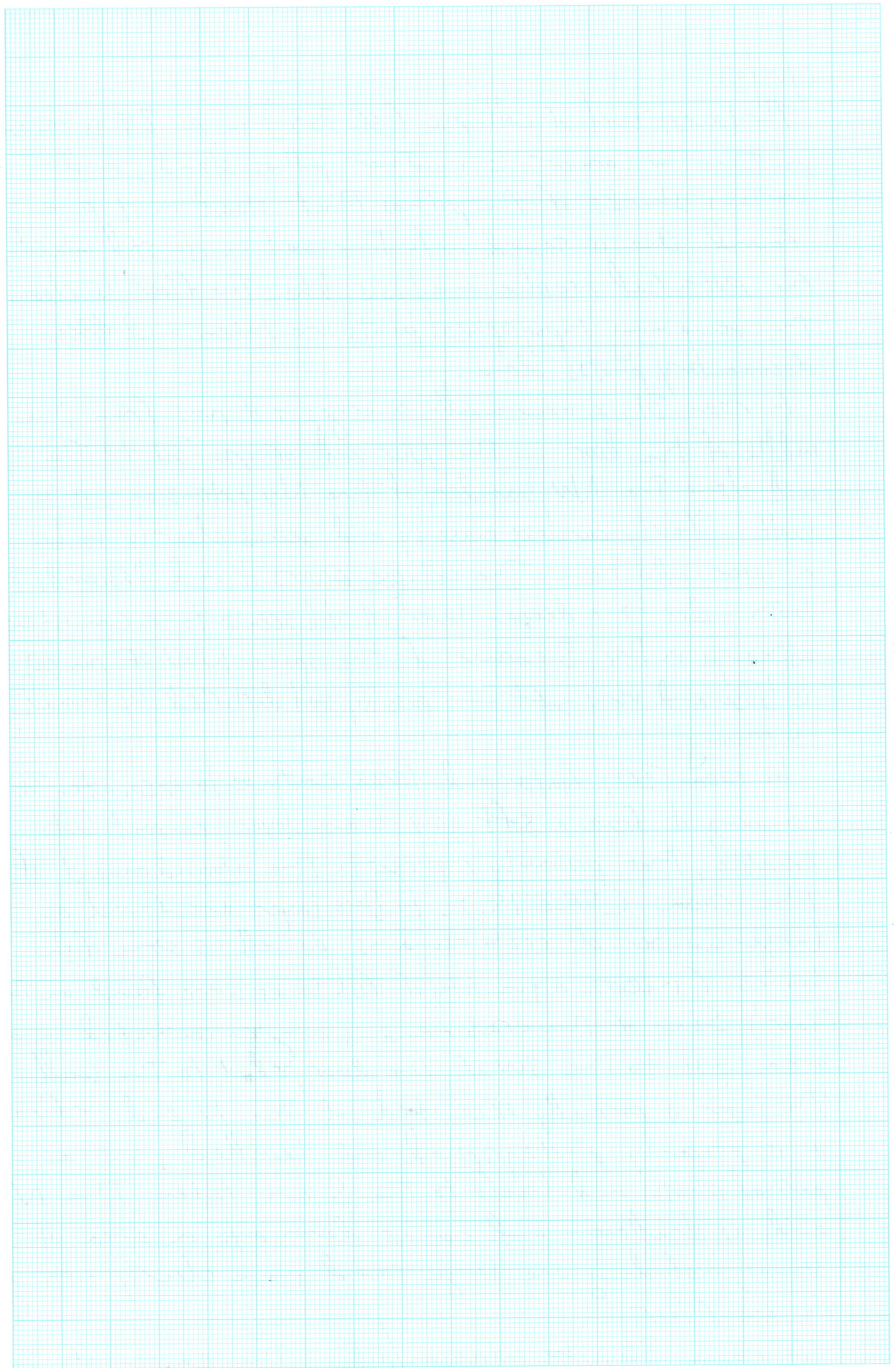
6/11/04

The lowest level of collapse (SR 353) in r. 29 is removed; in the W corner is another pithos stand, and various shreds of the pithos that stood in it are found. One is saved with the soil in it still intact, for potential residue analysis. When the floor is clean, the remaining topographical points are taken and ~~the~~ documentary photos done.

In room 31, a new wall emerges - it runs from the middle of the door in the NW wall of r. 30 to the wall along the NW boundary of the NW extension. It is built in fairly careless masonry and seems clearly to be a later addition. The collapse covers it and descends on both sides to a deeper level; it still seems to be consistent, although in the S corner of the space NW of r. 30 is loose and very soft - possibly soil disturbed by animal burrowing.

In room 30, Anton and Taras continue to excavate 369, removing it from a soft gray-brown layer, compact but friable, that probably represents the abandonment of the room (SR 378). In this layer are found a large number of crab remains, as well as some fish bones (in 2002 a quantity of fish bones were found on this floor). Some of the crab remains are concentrated in an area just to the SW of the door, next to the wall. This layer is partially excavated at the N end before it is properly photographed and levelled, but a partial photo and levels to the S are taken. The N end is shallower and comes down into an area of stones, including one large round stone clearly sitting on the floor.

In room 36, the intrusion/pit in the center of the

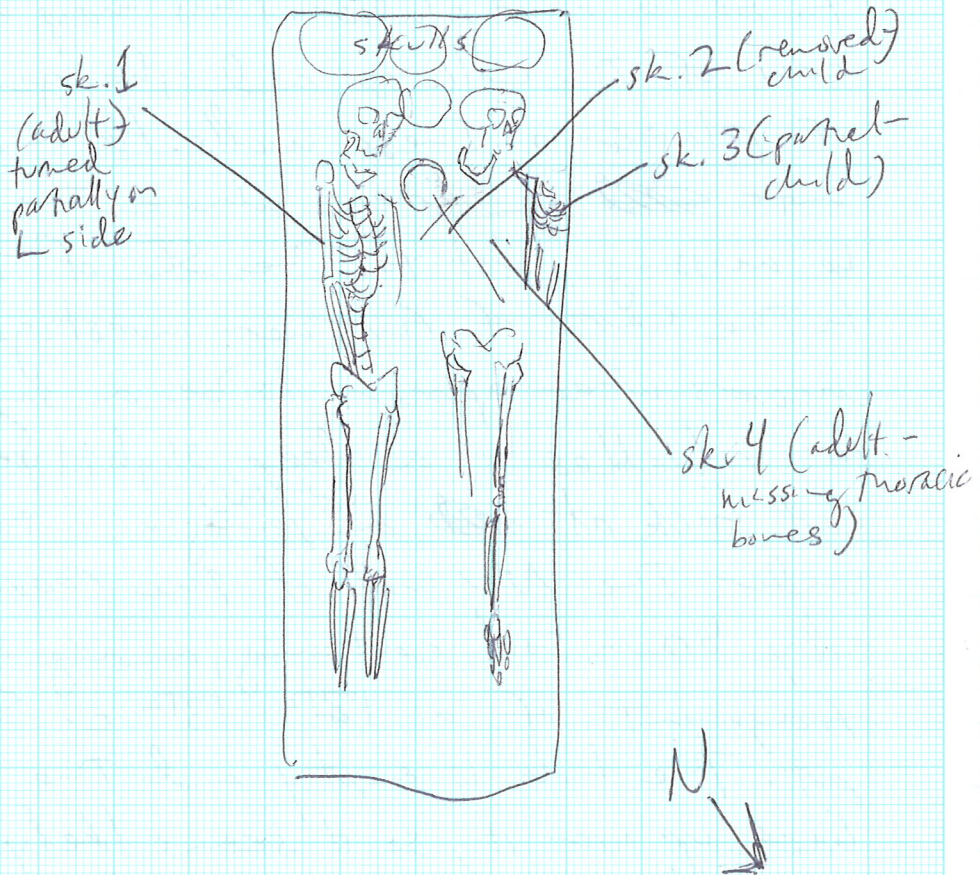


6/VII

room is cleaned and another attempt is made to sort out the situation. The sandy yellow layer still seems to be under the gray-green-brown layer, but voids also appear between rocks in it, and boundaries are unclear. I'm hoping for intact collapse - perhaps yellow because of the type of soil used as ^{mud} mortar in the walls - but I fear that much of the area has been disturbed by modern activity.

The ~~possibility~~ possibility of yellow mud mortar - or at least yellow mud pointing - is confirmed today during the cleaning of the walls in room 28 in preparation for drawing. Sam notices that in the S corner, the soil between the stones is of the same yellow clayey color and consistency, and he also notices that the ~~surface~~ ^{space} seems to be pointed and surfaced with what seems essentially to be a mud plaster. This may explain both the color of the collapse and the general absence of plaster on these walls. He and I both also note ~~an~~ an area where the wall seems to be missing, just to the SE of the bedrock basin. In the course of former investigation, Sam uncovers what appears to be a small hiding place for valuables - a deep, slightly irregular hole cut back at ~~an~~ ^(W-NW) angle into the bedrock under the NW wall of the room and filled with silty brown soil containing, among other things, a fragment of a 12th-13th c. Syrian blue-glazed pot. The hole is empty and the wall was not built back up over it, so it seems likely that if anything was hidden there, the occupants removed it shortly before

found 2 in the small church
(not to scale - t. length ca.
2.3 m)

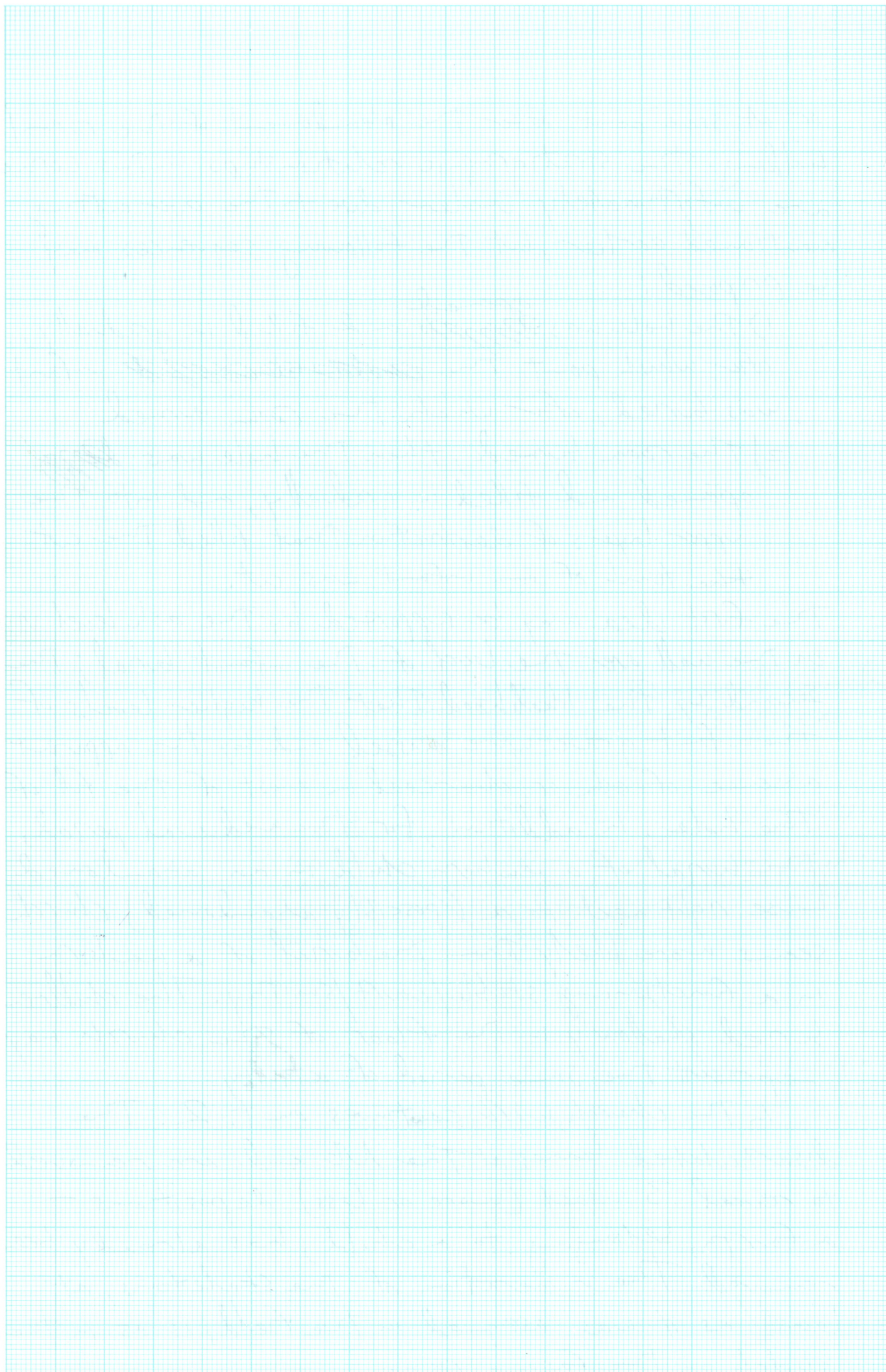


or at some point after the abandonment of the room/
building. The stratigraphic relationships in this corner
are unfortunately unclear, due to the overcutting
mentioned earlier, but the following sequences may
be proposed:

- 1) The hole was ~~digged~~^{opened} and filled in gradually,
after which point the ~~room was buried~~ infant
was buried, after which the room burned
- 2) The room burned, then the hole was ~~digged~~
opened and filled in gradually, and into the
upper layers of destruction that filled the cut
the tomb of an infant was cut.

The first idea may be supported by the ash level visible
on the wall over the level of the infant burial; the
second by the likelihood that the higher levels of
the infant grave were missed and by the apparent
absence of ash or charcoal in most of the fill of
the hole. In addition, for the medieval period,
the burial of a newborn child in an abandoned
house right next to a (possibly abandoned) church
seems more likely than the burial of a newborn
in a functioning stable/court/smithy. The children
buried shallowly in the floor of the church may
represent the same period of activity.

In the church, work continues on t. 2. The
disarticulated bones at the NE end were removed
to reveal 3 intact (more or less) depositions -
a fourth, belonging to a child, has already been
removed. The nomenclature of the skeletons, at
least as it was assigned in the field, is as in the
sketch on the facing page.



6/VII cont.

In room 33, the remainder of SR337 is removed and the layer beneath cleaned. Between the two Maria identifies and distinguishes a thin and irregular layer of plaster fragments with a distinct concentration in the N corner of the room (SR375). It is unclear whether the very fragmentary white plaster represented is modern or medieval.

7/VII/01

In room 33, SR380 is completely cleaned, photographed, georeference photographed, and topographically mapped (not necessarily an important or intact layer, but seems a good subject for experimentation). Once done, it begins to be removed from the NE side.

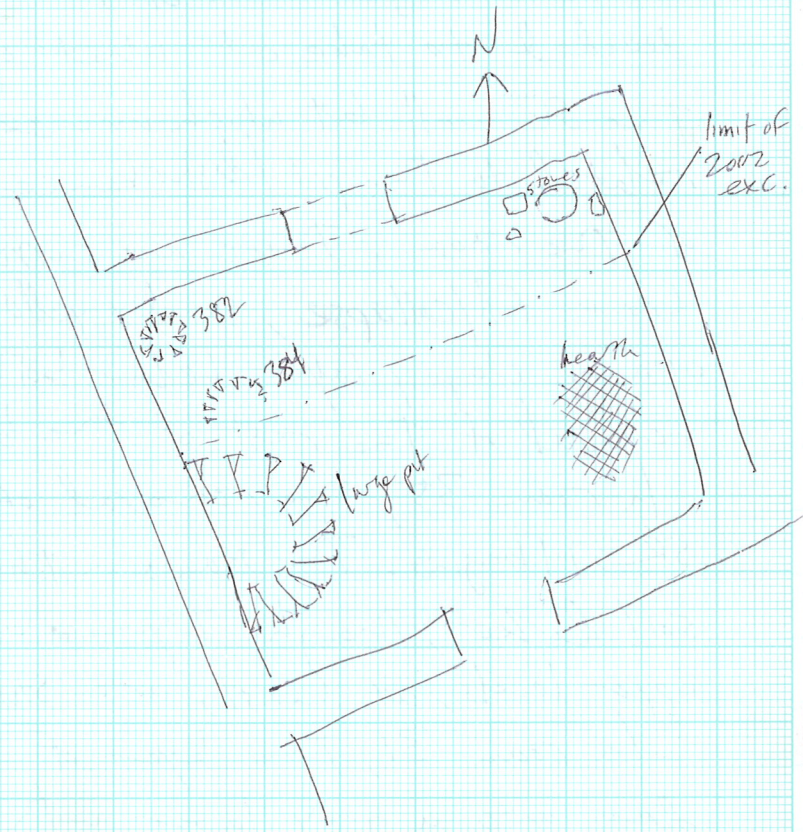
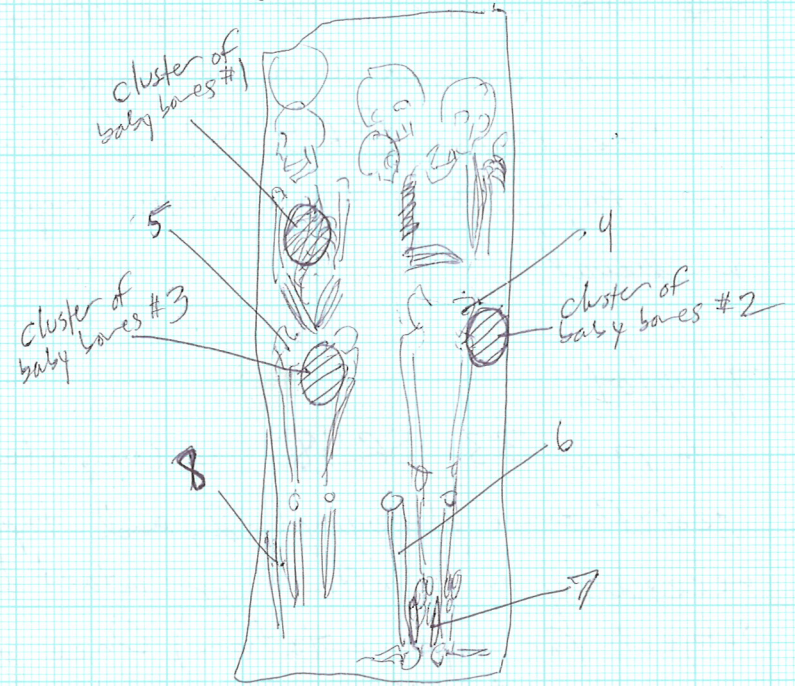
In room 36, removal of the brown soil continues - it is decided to take out what appeared to be collapse over the SE wall but which now seems to be further fill related to the pit/disturbance/crater (?) in the center of the room. There are currently three visible layers - brown fill/collapse, sandy yellow fill/collapse, and an orange clayey layer below both. Our goal today is the removal of the rest of the brown.

In room 35, the removal of compact dark brown collapse SR374 begins. The stones in this room are smaller and the soil darker, though Tyne and Sasha feel that the upper levels, at least, are still modern fill.

In room 31, the layer of brown rocky collapse comes down onto a gray layer with more tiles, ash and charcoal inclusions, and at least one substantial charred piece of wood. This layer is cleaned in the area of rm 31A.

In room 30, the floor of the room is revealed under

found 2, third level of depositions
Level to scale



The layer of abandonment. At least one fairly certain hole is visible in the W corner of the room; its fill is photographed and removed. The rest of the room is cleaned; a new context number is given to the hearth, although it had a number two years ago - This will help to keep the finds situation less confusing.

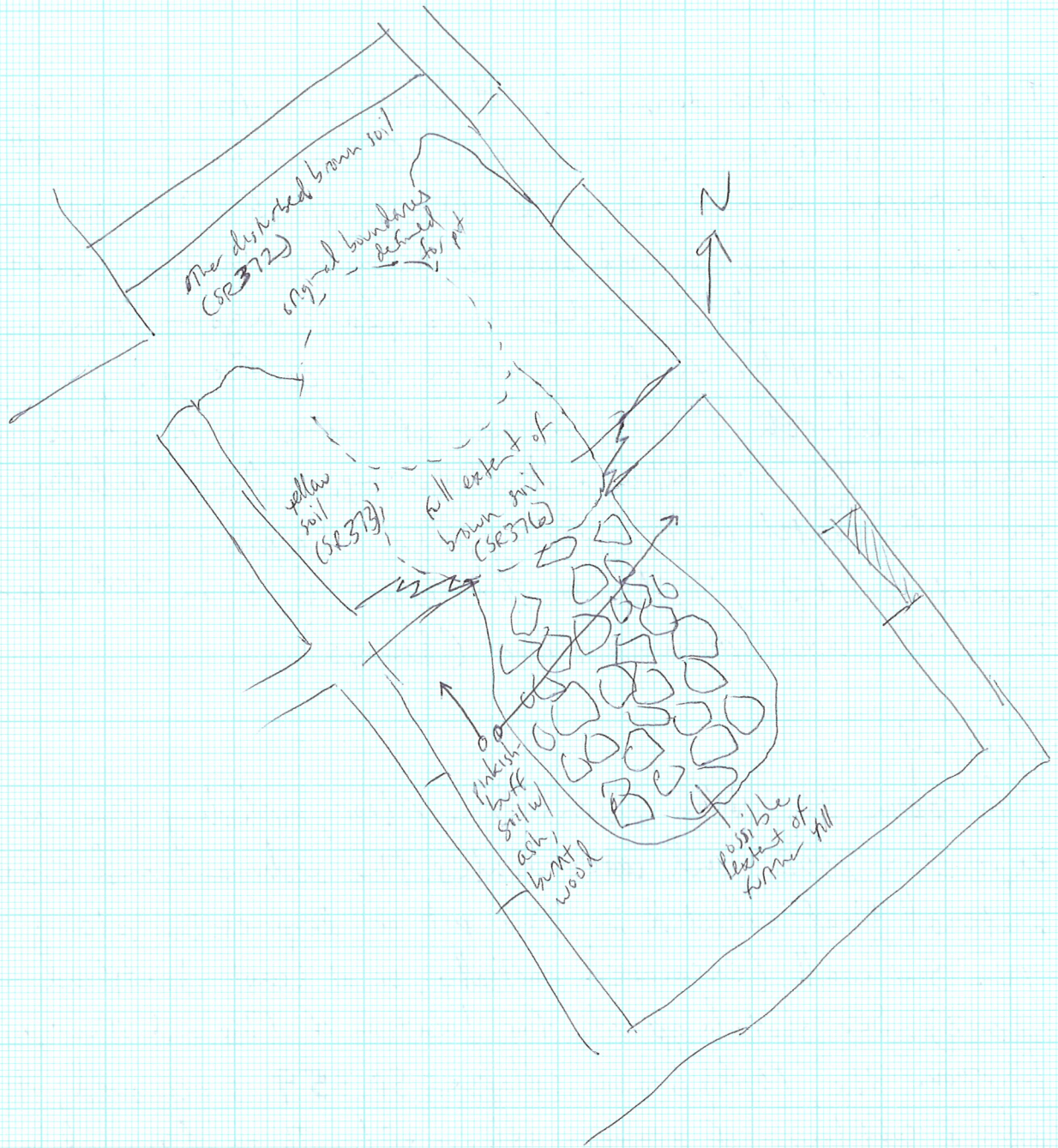
In the church, the third layer of bones is reached in tomb 2. The orientation and numbering of these skeletons is as in the sketch on the facing page. Layers: #1 had skeletons 1 & 2; 3, 4, 5 in 2nd layer; 6, 8 in 3rd layer; 7 in 4th layer, probably floor (Denys).

8/VII/04

In room 30, Anton cleans the floor, including the areas exposed in 2002, and ~~excavates~~ excavates the sediment and erosion material that collected in the pit or depression along the SW wall (excavated partially, or at least identified in 2002). See sketch opposite for location of this and other pits in this layer.
In room 31a, Rocky brown collapse SR359 is removed; it covers a soft layer of gray, ashier soil with small to medium charcoal inclusions, a piece of burnt wood, and a fairly large number of tiles. It is separated from its counterpart SR390 by a very wide but poorly built wall, preserved only for a few courses and dividing m 31 into two just to the NE of the door in the NW wall of m 30.

In room 35, the uppermost layer of rocky brown soil (SR374) begins to be removed. It seems, from the finds, to ~~be~~ ^{be a result of} modern dumping, and it may fill in some pits ^{or depressions} in the uneven surface of the layer of collapse (?) below. Finds include a spherical lead bullet of Cmean War date.

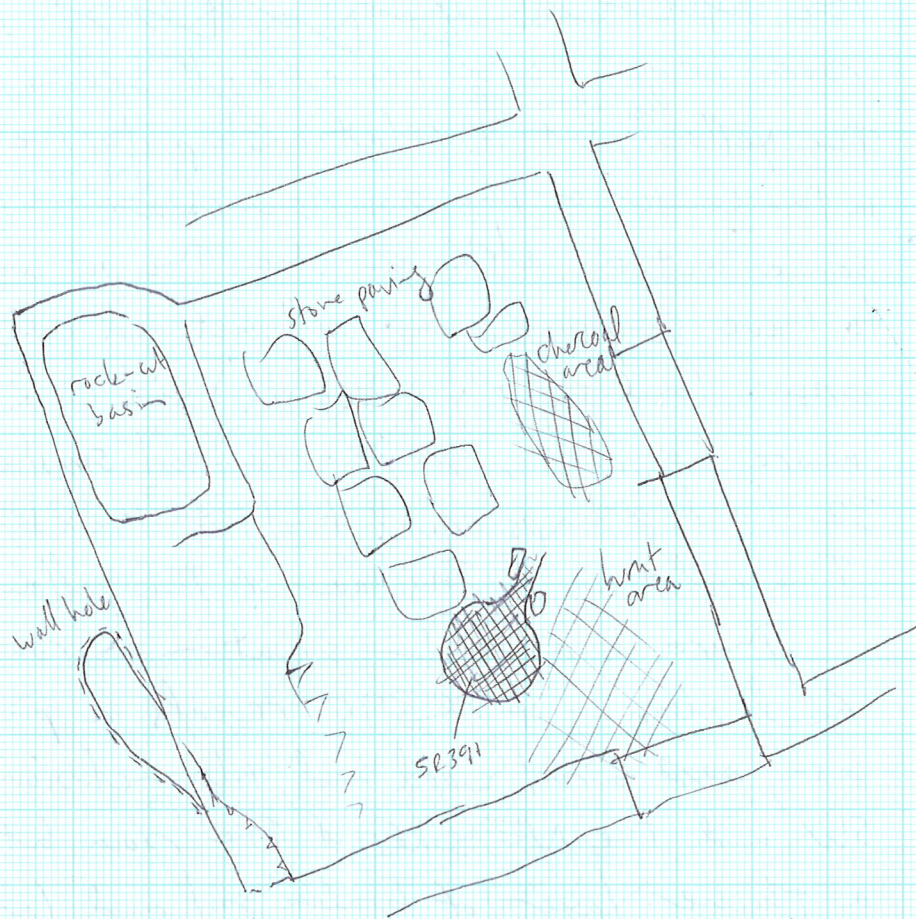
In room 36, the loose ~~to~~ brown pebbly soil along the



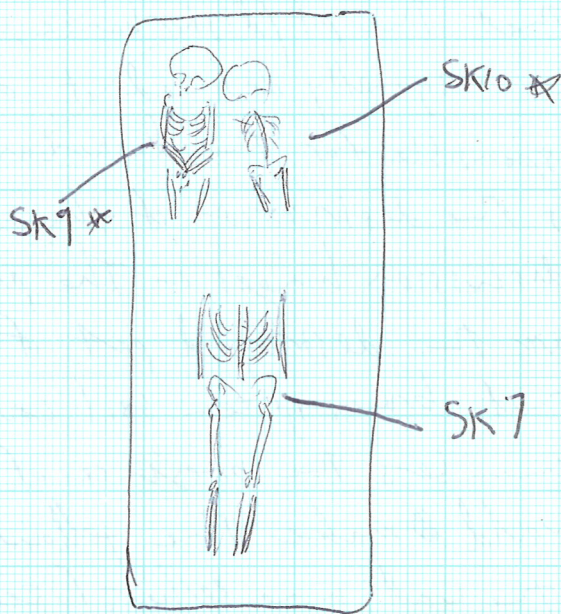
the layer of ~~ash~~ ~~down~~ ~~at~~ ~~SR~~ ~~37~~ NW wall of the room begins to be removed. It seems to sit on top of the yellow, ^{soil w/ stones} but its relationship to the fill of the disturbance in the center of the room is unclear - they may be the same action, although when the pit was cleared it seemed to have very visible and well-defined edges. Below this brown (and slightly greenish) soil is a layer of ashier more compact, gray-green soil similar to 341 in room 32 (and perhaps equal to it, if it extends across the wall). The relation of this layer to the yellow layer is also unclear.

There is a similar situation in room 33, where the final cleaning of SR375 reveals a pinkish-red soil with ash, ~~and~~ burnt wood and tile inclusions along both the SW and the NE sides of the room but what seems to be a thicker layer of brown soil and large stones in the center of the room, more or less of the same width as the break in the NW wall of 33. I am starting to think that the pit/disturbance in room 36 was much larger than we originally defined it, and that the same action was responsible for the disturbance of rooms 33 and 36, as well as the destruction of the wall. Larisa disagrees - the discussion hinges on the presence or absence of yellow soil over the destroyed part of the wall. I am relatively certain that brown-green soil covered that area, while she remembers the presence of yellow soil. Her interpretation would make the yellow later than the destruction of the wall, more earlier. (see sketch opposite)

Room 28 receives a final cleaning. The metalworking hearth (SR391) is roughly circular, with a narrow trail of metal fragments leading away to the N/NE, perhaps representing a flue or bellows-hole. The surface of the floor seems to be



fifth layer of depositions
in T. 2



* #s
^
ADDED BY STU ENE

8/vii cont.

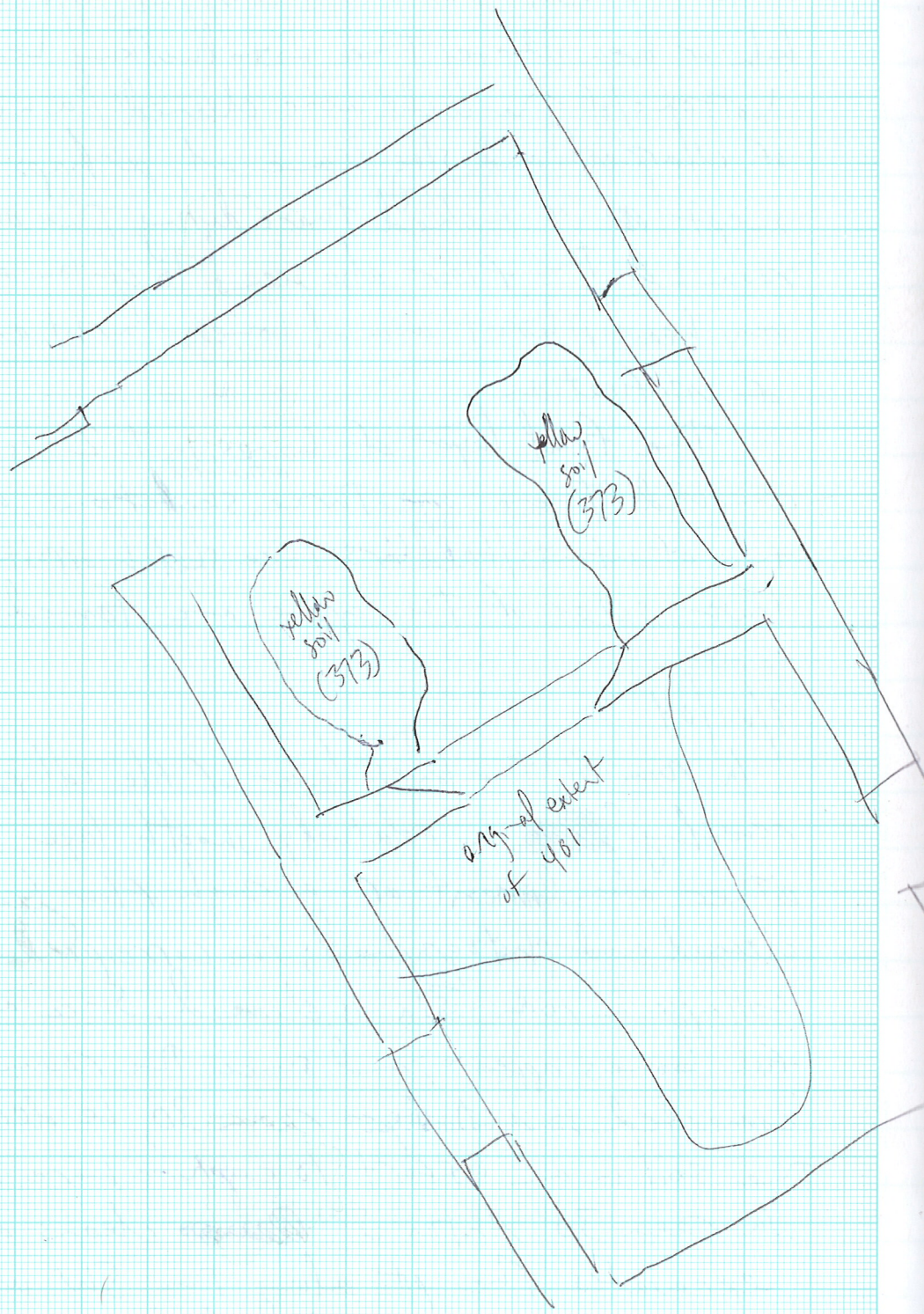
burnt - or at least exposed to ~~heat~~ heat - near the door to the street, and there are several large patches of charcoal on the floor in the E quarter of the room (see sketch opposite). A bronze coin is recovered from the fabric of the floor, but is probably Hellenistic or Roman; other material recovered during cleaning suggests a 13th-c date for the floor. There is no sign of a kiln or oven above the metalworking hearth. As the very bottoms of the walls were cleaned, a number of fragments of charcoal and slag came out, perhaps having been swept ~~or~~ or kicked there during the occupation of the room. ~~The~~ The floor also seems to contain a number of very, very heavily burnt animal bones - burnt almost to the point of vitrification.

The final layer of bones in T. 2 is photographed and removed. There are three ^{articulated} skeletons, one of a child and two of infants/toddlers (see sketch opposite). The bottom and lower sides of this grave are formed by cut bedrock.

9/vii/04

In room 31, the lowest layer of tile collapse is cleaned, revealing ~~the~~ a relatively smooth layer that may represent either abandonment or a rough floor level. After that is cleaned and photographed, the corresponding lower level of collapse in room 31a is cleaned. Since a large number of fish bones appear, and since the room seems to be connected to activity in room 30, we decided to dry-sieve the soil in an effort to capture more evidence.

In room 30, Anton S. ~~excavates~~ cleans and ~~excavates~~ excavates the pit along the SW wall of ~~the~~ the room - the pit was identified in 2002 but not excavated, and its extent appears not to have been fully identified.

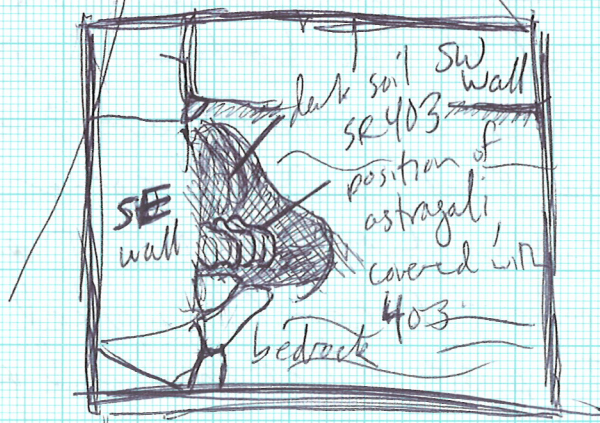
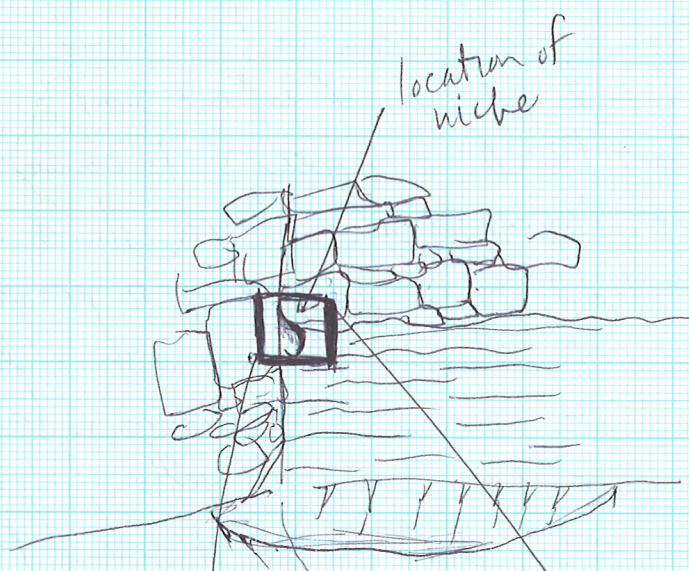


The fill of this pit (SR383) also contains many fish bones, as well as some relatively large chunks of charcoal or charred wood.

In room 35, work continues on the removal of SR374. Below it is what seems to be an intact layer of rocky collapse over most of the room - but against the NE wall, there is a space of clean soil with very few rocks. This soil may represent an intrusion, but ~~the~~ relationship with the rocky collapse is not yet clear.

In room 36, the situation continues to be confusing. The brown green soil is removed, leaving ~~the~~ large isolated outcrops of yellow soil; in the W corner, on the other hand, it appears to come down onto a layer of ashy destruction. Work slows along the SW wall, since it needs to be propped up to prevent its collapse. Along its base the layer of tile, ash and burnt wood seems to continue. Once the brown is largely removed, we also remove the lump of yellow in the S corner. Despite the color difference, it seems just as loose and disturbed as the brown. Once it has been taken down to the level of the bottom of the pit, Clay, ~~and~~ Anton and Andrei begin to remove the ^{yellow} soil in the E corner. Like that in the S corner, it is extremely loose and friable; but unlike the other outcrop, it contains a large number of carefully worked architectural elements, some with plaster still attached and nails stuck in them.

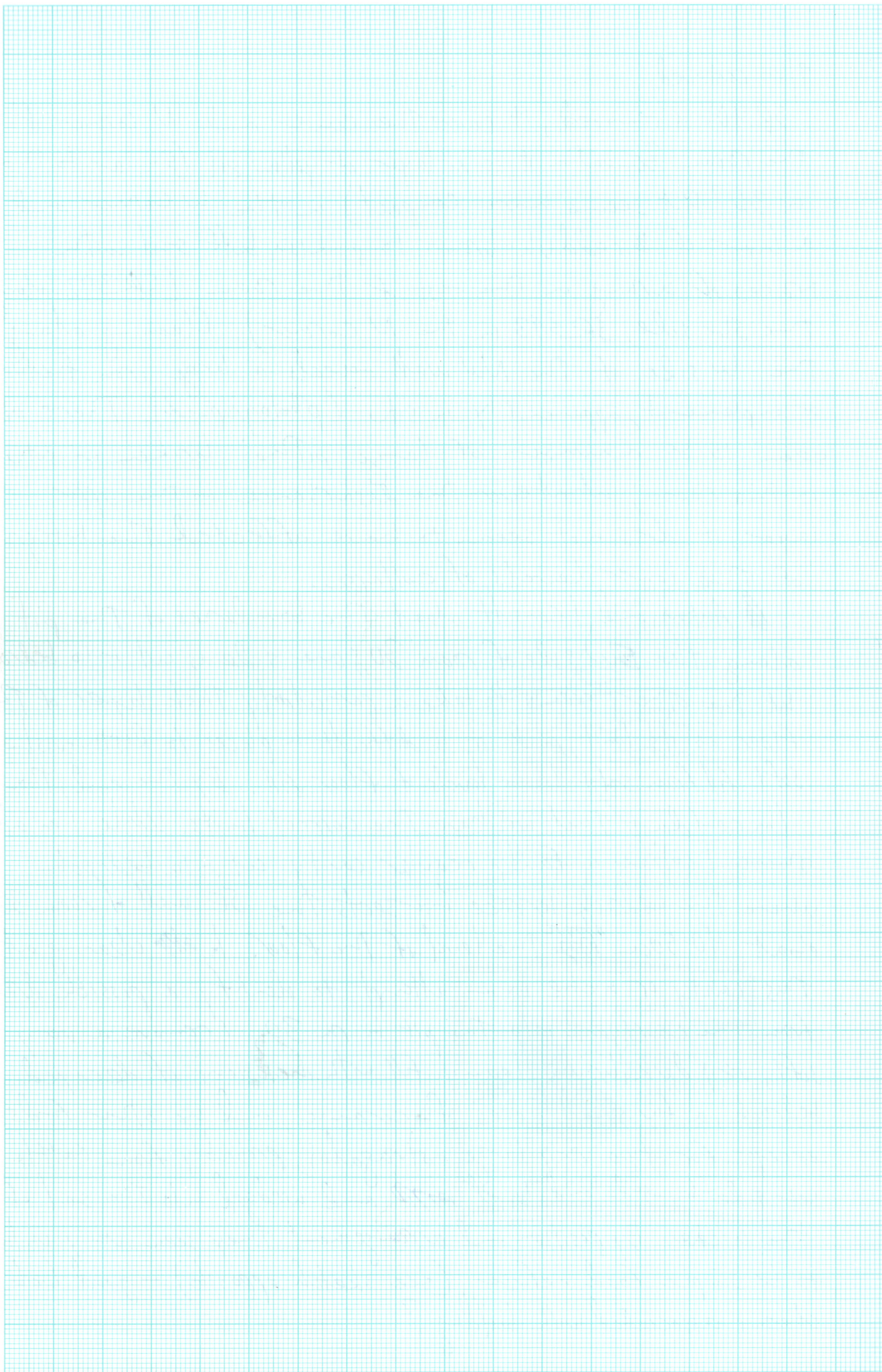
In room 33, the layer of fill/disturbance in the center of the room is removed - although it was initially designated as SR376 to match the fill of the pit in room 36, it is subsequently changed to SR401 when the quantity of tiles, plaster and charcoal seems to be much greater.



9/vii continued.

SR 401 is removed; it covers the center and W corner of the room. Beneath it is a layer of yellow soil (similar to that in 36? But seems more compact) in the W corner and a layer of reddish-brown to pinkish buff soil with traces of burning in the rest of the room (SR 392 along the SW side, SR 393 in the N corner). Cleaning along the W side of the NW wall reveals a large iron fixture or implement, apparently in situ (photographed). There also seem to be a number of large pitthoi broken in situ in this room; whatever the disturbance in the upper layer, it does not seem to have affected the integrity of the lower levels of collapse.

Anton and I consult about the boundaries of the pit along the ~~SW~~ side of room 30; one side is cut into bedrock, but the other seems to take a particularly thick layer of the floor as its limit, and it is difficult in places to distinguish soft fill from soft lower levels of floor fill. By the end, though, I'm confident that we have the correct limits. While I'm over there, I notice a fairly regular cavity cut into bedrock where the bedrock terrace intersects the SE wall of room 30, about 40-50cm ^{above} ~~above~~ the level of the floor. In ~~the~~ cleaning out this cavity or niche in an attempt to identify a possible drain from the courtyard into the pit in r 30, I remove a very soft, very dark brown loamy fill with inclusions of decayed bedrock, a few small pieces of ceramic, and no other finds except for two very large astragali, probably from cattle, set side-by-side and level ~~with~~ and wedged into the soil of the niche. By position and arrangement they seem very unlikely to be simple food refuse (see sketch opposite) - good luck charms associated with building?



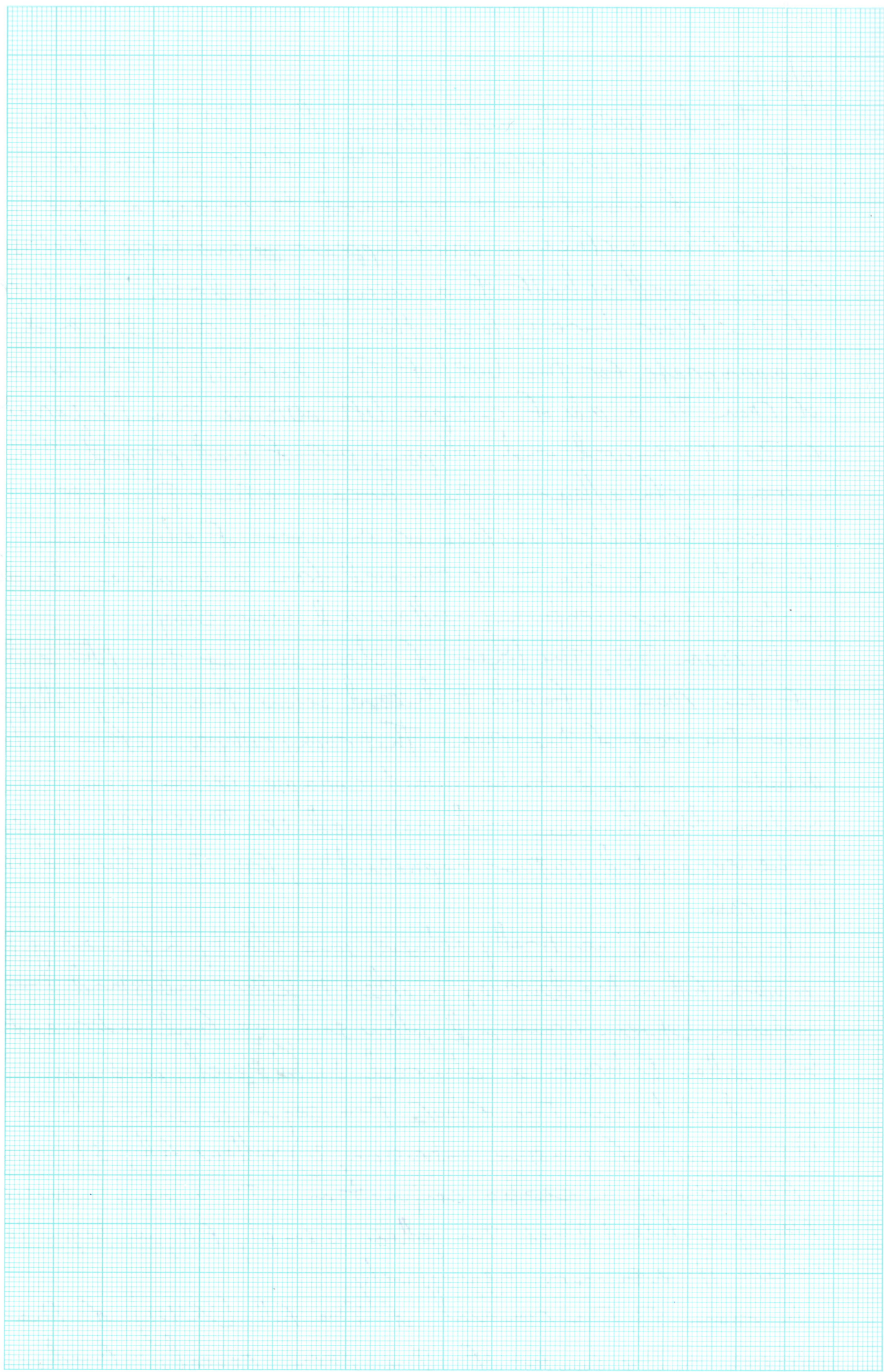
10/VII/04

The day starts with much cleaning. Room 30 is now done and will await the excavation of the floor. In room 31a, the layer of abandonment is removed to reveal a hard-packed floor surface in which appear ~~so~~ two large, flattish rocks, as well as half of a circular handmill. The level of the floor here is lower than it is in room 31, and is appropriate for the level of the doorsill. In the W wing of room 31, a pile of collapse left outside the N corner of 30 is removed and collapsing part of wall propped; the current surface/layer in this area — either the latest, not very compacted surface or a layer of abandonment like that in room 31a — is removed from a smoother, harder packed layer containing yellow and brown clay.

In room 35, the layer of clean soil at the NE end of the room is found to descend below the rocky collapse over the rest of the room. That rocky collapse, after a long debate, is judged to be intact collapse rather than modern disturbance and assigned ext # SR 406. It begins to be excavated, rather haphazardly, from the SW end of the room.

In room 36, we finally achieve some clarity. In removing the modern fill in the doorway in order to better understand the relation between brown and yellow soil, we find underneath both yellow & brown a charred black level, perhaps immediately over the floor. The sequence seems to be 1) some sort of massive intrusion, 2) yellow fill, 3) brown fill, perhaps in ~~also~~ conjunction with a new intrusion. Newly confident that the yellow is simply fill, we begin to remove it even more aggressively.

In room 33, the removal of the fill (SR 401) of the intrusion in the center of the room reveals — finally —



10/VI cont

an intact layer of collapse including several iron tools/objects and at least two pitvot crushed in situ. I'm beginning to wonder if the layer above - previously interpreted as the fill of an intentional pit - ~~was~~ not actually part of the real collapse of the NW wall of the room. Perhaps the destruction of the wall was not intentional but natural, and the stones fell in a ^{slight} depression formed by the slow collapse, along sides and in corners, of the other walls of the room.

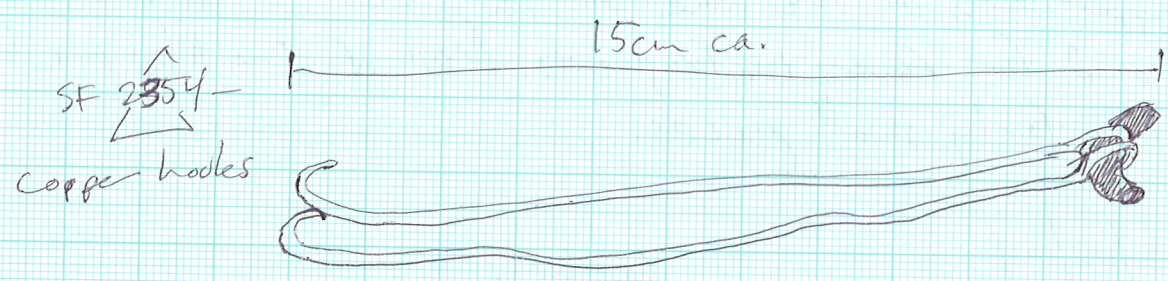
In room 36, the loose yellow soil, at a lower level, starts to produce massive amounts of tile. This is very unlike the upper levels of the same soil, which contained more stones and far fewer tile fragments. Most of the tiles are broken into fairly small pieces.

12/VI/04

Rooms 31, 31a and 30 ~~are~~ ^{have been} cleaned down to floors and are left. The edge of the NW extension is moved 40cm to the NW in order to clarify the NW face of the NW wall of room 31a. At the same time, excavation begins in the area of the trench over ~~the~~ the NE end of courtyard 1.

In room 35, collapse continues to be removed from the smoother, more compact grayish brown soil already visible at the NE end of the ~~room~~ ^{room}. ~~At~~ At the SW end of the room, the stony collapse appears to come down onto a layer of intact tile collapse with at least one pitvot apparently broken in situ.

In room 36, the yellow soil seems consistently to cover a layer of black ash and burnt material - perhaps intact medieval destruction, perhaps not. It also becomes clear that



The gray-green-brown soil left as intact collapse in the NW half of the room is, in fact, more fill that covers the yellow. The dating of these layers remains unclear, although a thick brick and an ~~oddly~~ oddly smooth and thin piece of glass continue to raise suspicions of a modern fill.

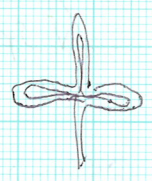
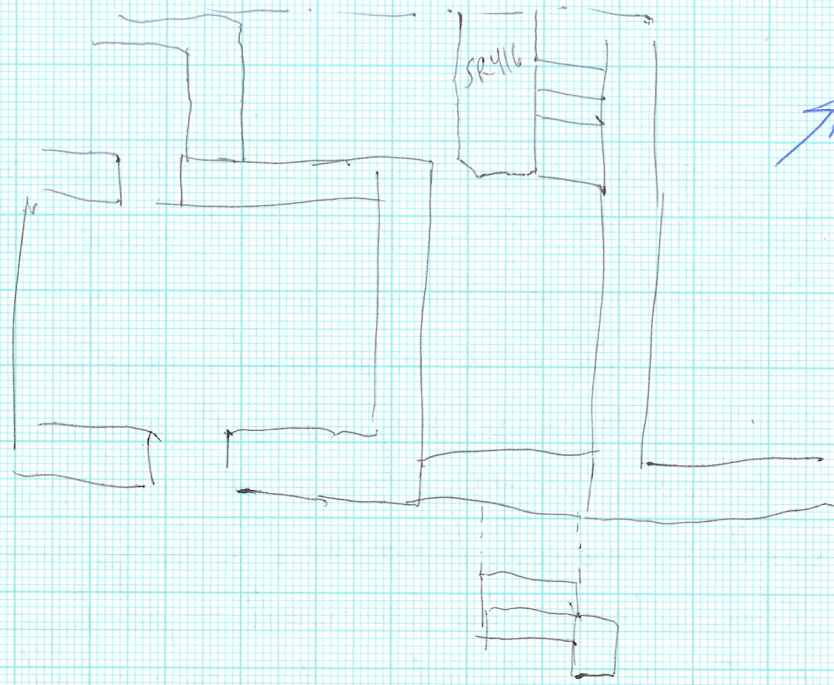
In room 33, the layer of reddish-buff soil along the SW wall is removed. It contains a large number of nails, most of them along the SW wall - perhaps from a door? Below it the layer of tile and pottery collapse/destruction (410) appears to contain a high concentration of burnt wood.

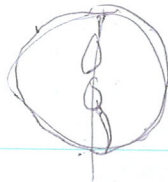
A special find from SR372 involves two ~~thick~~ thick wires with hooks at each end; one end is attached to ~~what~~ what seems to be part of an iron ring. It bears a strong resemblance to the attachments for hanging lamps, but the wire is still flexible and only mildly corroded - in addition, surface scratches suggest that it is copper, not bronze. We suspect 19m-c origins - the preservation simply is too good. (see sketch opposite). ^{13/10} NB, however, that the following day one bronze or copper hooks of similar form and level of preservation are found and seem to Larisa to be from a medieval lamp.

13/7/04

Room 30 is down. An upper layer of collapse continues to be removed from the area of the NW extension that borders Courtyard 1; finds include a reused fragment of Roman gravestone.

In room 31, next to the stairs, Shawn identifies what seems to be an upper floor surface of gravelly, soft but compact gray soil. It may be related to the stairs, also a late construction; The use of space and distribution of covered/uncovered space in that area is unclear, but one might





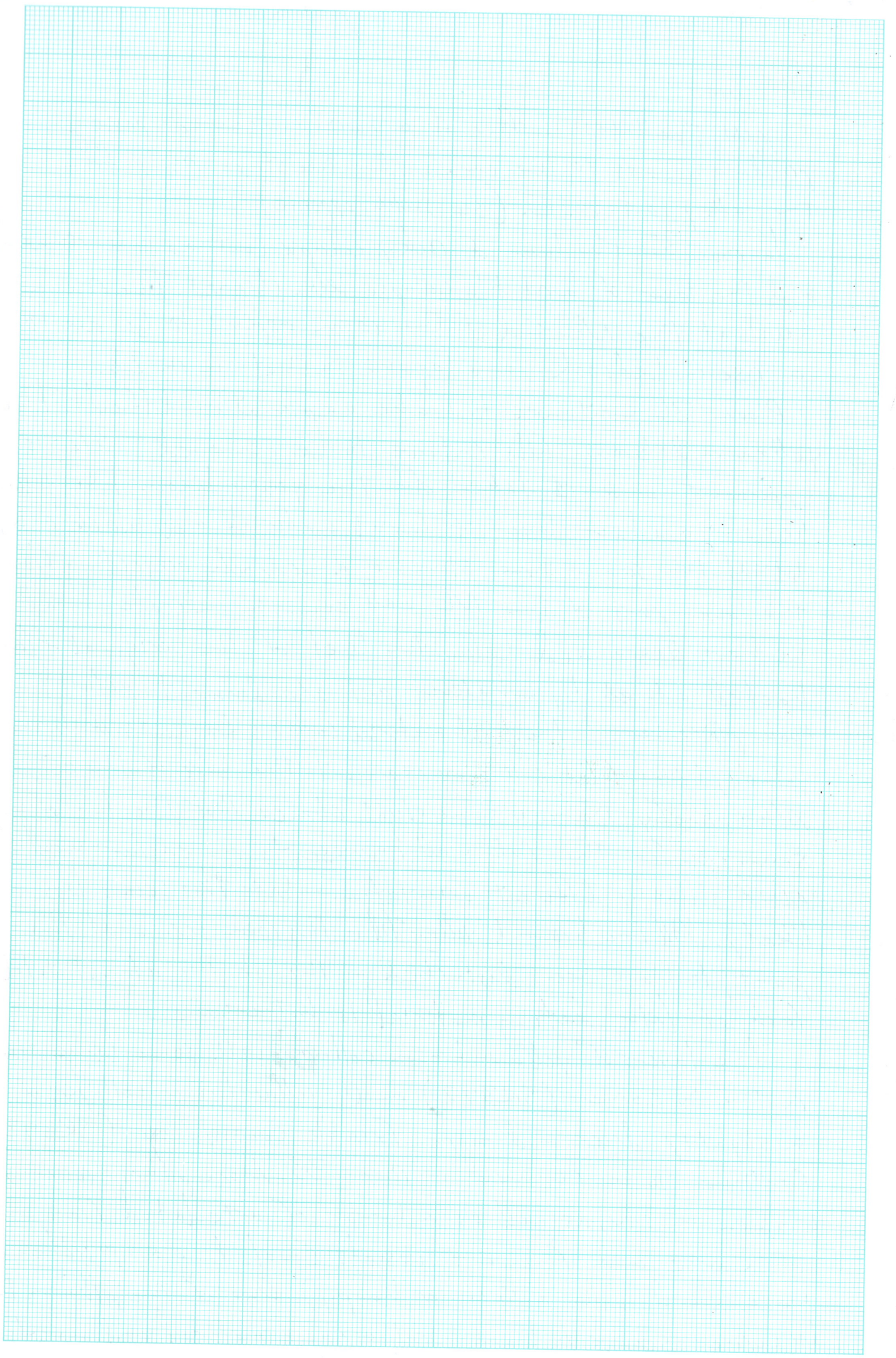
13/7/04 cont.

suggest the latest surface of a narrow uncaired passage providing access to the area under the stairs rising from the alley to the SE. (see sketch, opposite).

In room 35, the layer of rocky collapse continues to be removed and the layer of burnt tile collapse below cleared. The rise in level at the NE end of the room appears to be due to a rise in bedrock, analogous to that in m 28.

Room 36 continues to make explanation difficult. The yellow and brown fills continue to be removed - 372 is uppermost and is taken off the yellow below. The yellow lies over a clear layer of burnt material and black ash, but at the same time stones and bedrock projecting from the lower part of the NE wall seem to indicate that we have descended below the level of the original floor - backed at ~~at~~ by whatever post-abandonment activity took place here? The burnt material contains fragments of broken pithoi, lying flat; it may represent the base of the cut. Alternatively, there is some slight chance that the line of stones under the NE wall represents an earlier wall at a slightly different orientation - but this seems less likely. All the brown & yellow fill in this room seems, at this point, to have been disturbed - though the almost total lack of later dating material is bothersome.

The layers of yellow-brown collapse with some large stones in the S corner (SR392) and yellow-brown collapse of a slightly drier and more friable consistency (SR393) continue to be removed in Room 33. More pithoi appear, broken in situ, as well as a number of unrecipitated fragments of coarse and fine ware vessels (including a polychrome-ware sherd with a siren or harpy). One of the pithoi in the W corner seems to have burnt organic material and insects in it - will be sampled when Galina Pashtkeric comes.



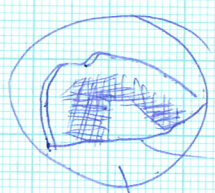
13/7

With Dana, I remove the soil from the hearth in Pm 28. In doing so, I identify two layers of burnt fill: one, the upper, somewhat looser and with a much greater concentration of small pieces of slag; and the other cleaner, more compact with charcoal inclusions and few ~~pieces~~ pieces of slag. Only the latter (SR415) exists across the whole hearth. The former was partially removed when the conservators removed a piece of intact wood. The hearth is sectioned roughly along that line during excavation, and the section photographed but not drawn. All the soil from the hearth is kept in sample bags, separated according to the two contexts; the largest pieces of slag and the results of magnetic investigations (for hammer scale etc) are bagged separately and taken by Dana to conservation.

14/7/04

In the area of yard 1 included in the NW extension, rubble and collapse/fill continue to be removed, uncovering a new wall half-covered by the SW section wall and what may be another new wall - albeit ~~so~~ strangely wide and very poorly made - running between it and the SW wall of 31a/30. There also seems to be a new layer under collapse to the N of the new SW-NE wall: a more compact grey layer with fewer stones, at a higher level than the surface of the cart yard.

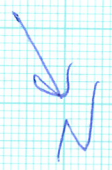
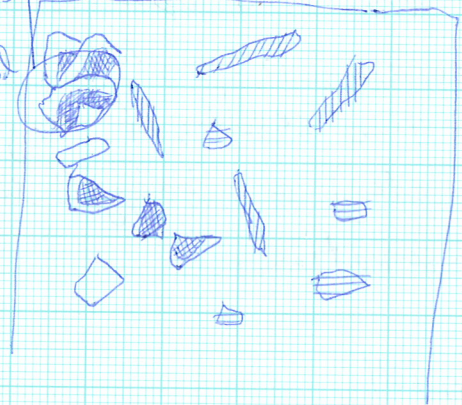
In room 34/yard 2, the fill of the cistern (?) near the N corner of the 2002 trench is excavated - the second layer of fill is a greenish brown soil with some rocks and varying compaction, perhaps as the result of animalurbation (there seems to be at least one burrow). This soil covers a hard-packed tan soil along the N side that seems to be some



reserved area on
inside of pithos shard

pithos
shards in ~ 35-
not to scale

- bunt
weas
- bunt
wool
- tile

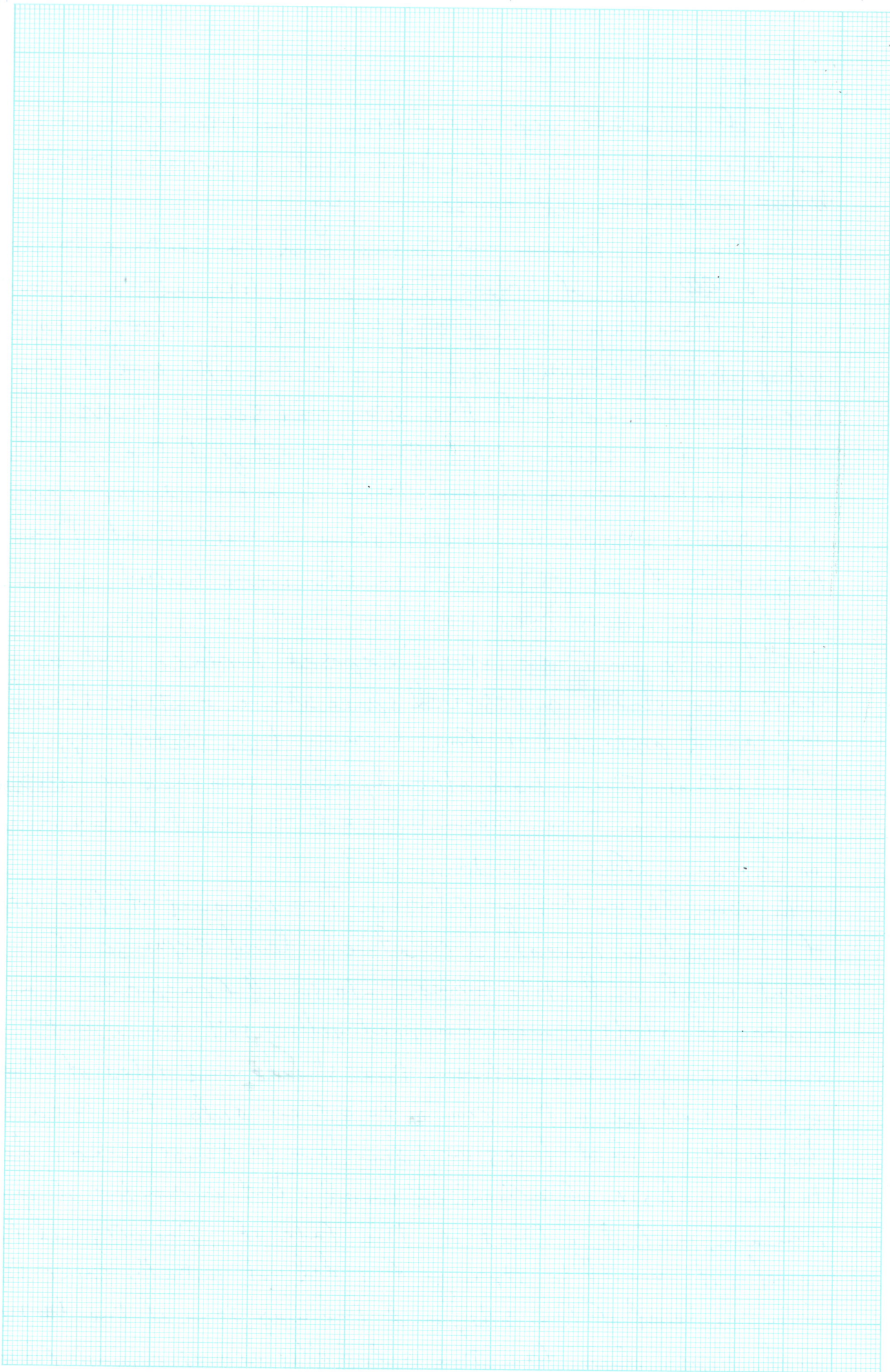


14/7 cont.

soft of deliberate step or platform. The green-brown soil contains many animal & fish bones and a partially intact ~~white~~ flat bottomed coarseware jug.

In room 35, Dyna and Sasha and Ira continue to clean off a ~~the~~ layer of broken, burnt pithos fragments and burnt wood. The layer has a slightly confusing relation to the gray, smooth compact soil rising to the NE end of the trench; the edge of the gray soil seems to cover it, but Dyna is certain that the true edge of the gray is slightly further back and that burnt material covers the gray instead. It is interesting to note that the fragments of pithos broken in situ were burnt in the position in which they now lie - not only are most burnt only on their upper exposed surface, but at least one shows a reserved space where another sherd lay and protected it from burning (see sketch, opposite). The pithos, then, had already been smashed or ~~broken~~ broken when the room burned - smashed by invaders or broken after abandonment?

In room 36, no further clarity. The removal of the last of the yellow reveals a relatively level expanse of burnt wood and tile broken into small fragments in a matrix of slightly more compact yellow soil, somewhat similar to the soil between the sherds and tiles of the intact collapse in the rooms to either side. The area of broken tile, in fact, looks very similar to those areas, down to the inclusion of carbonized wood. But a number of questions remain, including that of the fate of the original floor level - it would be strange if it did not initially coincide with the level of the sills, and the way some of the burnt wood slopes down from the sides also argues against floor.



14/7 cont.

Furthermore, the patch of soft brown soil left against the SE wall, when removed, produces a large quantity of animal bones and two articulated glazed frags that appear to have been broken and redeposited, not crushed in situ.

In room ³³ ~~33~~, the remaining parts of 393 are removed, revealing more pithoi broken in situ and an amphora in the same state. There are also more fine ware fragments and the base of a glass lamp of the sort that would have been placed in a hanging bronze chandelier.

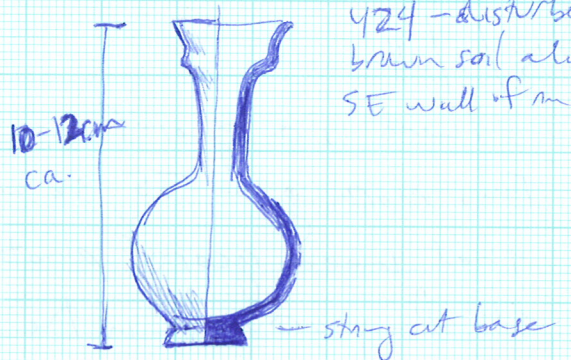
15/7/04

There is a georeferencing and total station bottleneck this morning - 35, 36 and 33 have all arrived at layers that need georef photos and/or topographic survey. Much standing around; in the meantime, the road continues to be cleared, with the uppermost layer of large rocks (SR423) removed across most of the area of the stenopos (with the exception of the E corner, where the deposit is left so as not to dirty the layer in rm 33).

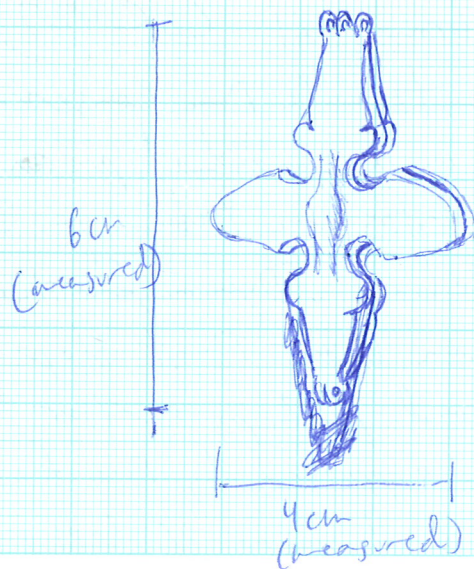
In rm 34/yard 2, Genia and Masha continue to excavate the cistern (?) near the street. They reach a new layer about 1.25m down - a more compact, slightly greasier grayish-brown soil (SR427). We also attempt to make arrangements with the conservators to shore up the wall above, which is in a somewhat precarious condition.

After photos are taken in 33, excavation continues, with some debate. Dyna, Sasha and Ira feel that the smooth gray-brown layer that slopes from the NE is a floor surface and perhaps earlier than the collapse. Their opinion is supported by the fact that the deposit of pottery and tile ends more or less along the edge they established for the layer in question. On the other hand, dark brown is

Intact green glaze juglet from
424 - disturbed (?)
brown soil along
SE wall of m 36



sketch of SF 2424, SR 425



black burnt soil continues under that edge, quite clearly, and I think that it represents the same layer of burning. The burning is thus likely to be ~~older~~ ^{earlier} than the gray deposit, as I see it. Difficulties arise in the absence of a ramp between the rising bedrock along the SE wall and the gray layer, but an analogous situation was present in room 28 — perhaps the burnt material slid/washed/percolated more thoroughly from the exposed rock.

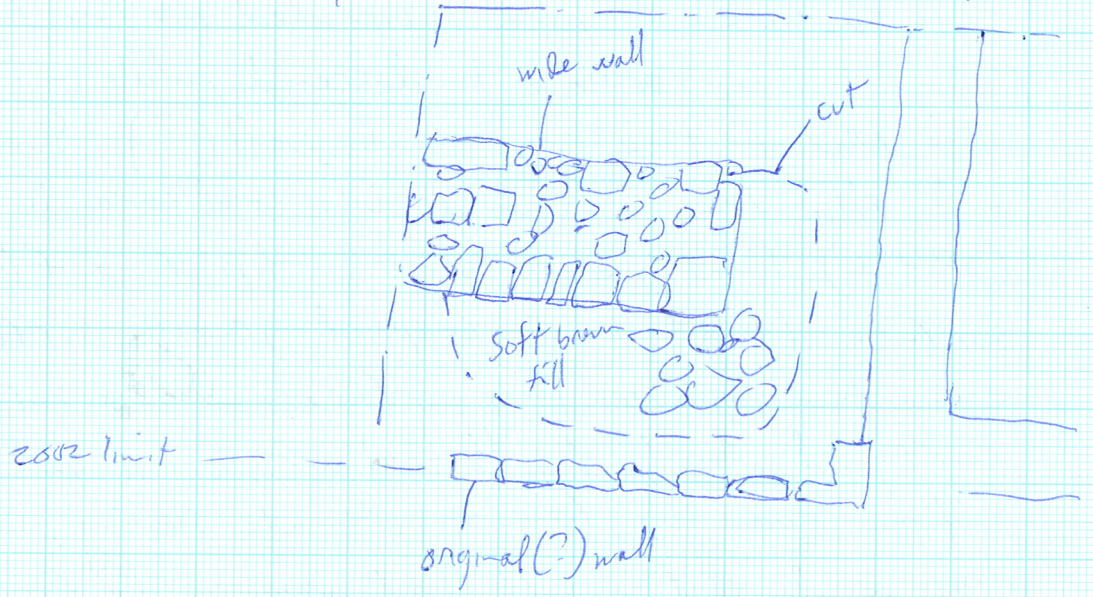
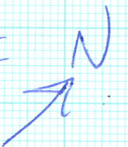
In room 36, after the ~~completion~~ completion of photos, Clay et al. turn to the removal of the remains of the brown-green soil, to be followed by the remains of the yellow soil — this should leave a unitary layer of burnt wood and ashy ~~to~~ black-gray soil across the area of the room. The question of floor level has still not been resolved. Finds include an intact (chipped rim but one section of profile complete) green-glazed juglet (see sketch opposite).

In the area of yard 1 included in the NW extension, Rana & Stas continue to descend, while in the area to the NW of the large, rough wall (?), Slavin, Lena and Alla draw a layer of tile and ceramic collapse (SR426) that appears to sit on top of a floor or use surface (flat, smooth compact grayish surface). The connection between this surface and the surface of the courtyard, which should be lower, is not yet clear.

From room 35, from unsystematic sieving, comes a bronze cross pendant of a sort that apparently functions as a reliquary locket (see sketch opposite).

Steve arrives to lift a series of iron special finds in room 35 and a particularly well preserved piece of burnt wood in room 36. Cleaning of the lower levels reveals burnt material

Sketch of situation in NW end of
yard 1, not to scale



and tiles that seem increasingly like ~~the~~ original destruction. Sam, playing devil's advocate, argues that all the collapse above could have been original, but I don't know how one could explain either the voids between stones or the looseness of the soil in that case. The question of the bottom of the intrusion, however, remains troublesome - how and why could the lower deposit - the burnt wood in particular - have been left in situ?

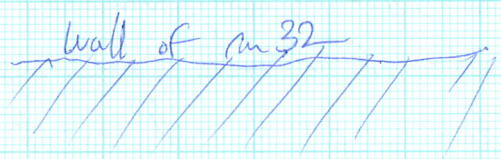
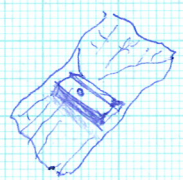
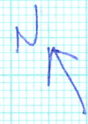
I notice a piece of glazed pottery behind clay pointing in wall 281, but Larisa dates it to the 10th c, so probably residual. Another sherd in the same wall seems to belong to an amphora with thick white slip, which Larisa attributes to the 13th c - but it is too deep in the wall to remove, so not certain.

The pit in m 34 is completed; I assign a new number to the bedrock cut, since only the uppermost layer of fill was investigated in 2002.

16/VII/04

The NW area of the courtyard starts to become clearer: There is a closing wall, possibly original, at the end of the 2002 trench, followed by a space including the wide wall or construction and a massive pit, ~~the~~ the preliminary limits of which look as in sketch opposite; the relationship between pit & wall is not yet clear. On the other side of the large construction is the area of broken tile & ceramics, which in turn covers a gravelly gray-brown hardpack which seems to be cut by the pit (and perhaps by the foundation of the wall). This hardpack is 10-20cm above the current level of the courtyard, so difficult to tell if it is a surface (separated from court by the wall in the 2002 section) or

Sketch of piece of worked (and
joined?) wood in situ in m 36,
not to scale



a compact layer of abandonment.

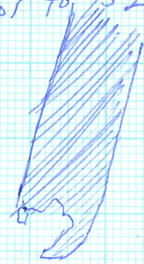
Excavation finished yesterday on pit in rm 34 - bottoms about 1.5 m down on bedrock, with what may be a small settling pit. Unlined - perhaps a soak-away pit for gray water produced by activity in alley (but when filled?).

In room 35, gray ~~soil~~^{compact} soil continues to be removed - but possibly overcut in E corner of room, where it is removed almost down to bedrock. In the center of the NE side of the room, I try to keep excavation limited to the gray soil itself (actually more yellow-brown gray in areas where slightly more moist); it seems to cover a layer of darker, ashier soil over the bedrock (remains of the layer of burning more visibly present in the SW side of the room?).

In room 36, what is almost certainly an intact layer of destruction, including much burnt wood, is cleaned for documentation. As in other rooms, this seems to lie over a thin clay surface which lies in turn directly on bedrock. The projecting stones in the NE wall base, I'm now convinced, do represent some earlier wall, rather than the level of a preexisting floor above the current layer of destruction. It is still not clear what the situation in this room was, but it does seem clear that at the time of destruction the floor level was as low as it is now.

Excavation of SR 410, the layer of destruction ~~of~~ above the floor of rm 33, begins from the area of the door to room 28. This part of the room, along the SW side, is very heavily burnt, and the melting and reventilation of the glaze of the glazed pottery in this area indicates that the fire reached very high temperatures. This is the same area that showed a concentration of nails in the layer

last plank in m 36, near
door to 32



possible position in door



16/IV cont.

above, and this morning it produces a series of ^{iron} objects associated with doors - a hasp, a number of keys. Maria is trying to leave the broken vessels in situ for the photograph, so several of them stand on pedestals. Below 410 is a very thin layer of fine black ash, ~~to~~ to be associated with the fire in this area; it is given a separate number, although in practice it proves almost impossible to leave it in situ while reaching 410.

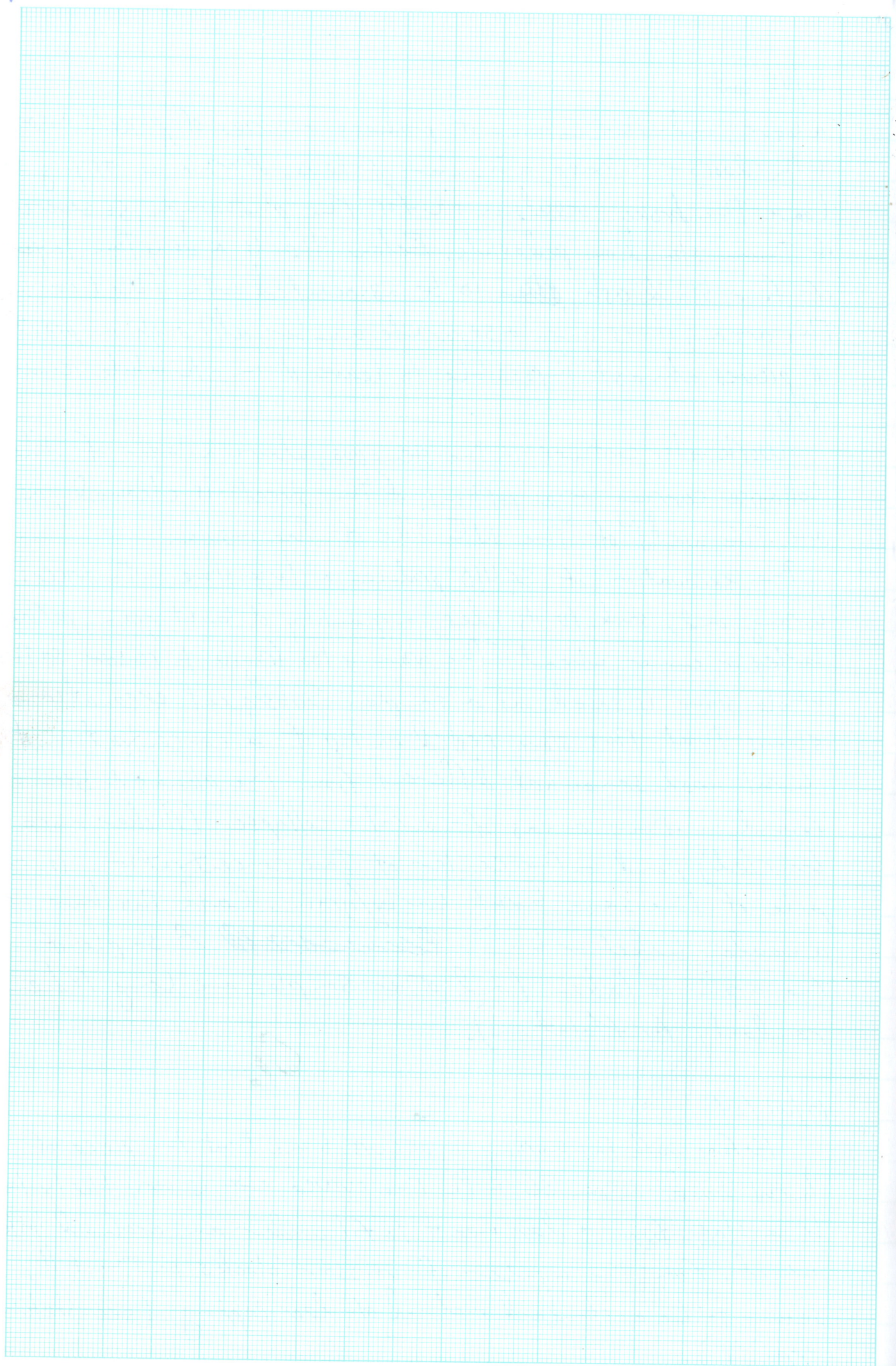
Work also continues in the stenopos, where a layer of tile collapse covering large portions of the street is cleaned, as are the walls of the NE side of the insula.

The excavation of SK410 produces a large stone with traces of burning and, stuck to its sides, a quantity of burnt grain, perhaps barley or emmer wheat. The grain is too fragile to remove, so the whole stone is saved as a sample. Subsequent excavation shows that this stone rested on top of a concentration of burnt wood somewhat different from the planks & beams found in other areas of burnt collapse (thicker, more knurled), and in the center of this concentration is a pile of the same burnt barley/grain. Could this have been a wooden bucket or bin? ~~There is a~~ A sample of the grain is taken (and other samples are being taken randomly for flotation).

17/IV/04

Before work this morning it occurs to me that the piece of burnt wood in m 36 with the curved end is very likely to be a slat from a door meant to fit under an arched lintel, which, from the number of voussoir blocks in the fill, seems to be a standard method of door capping (see sketch opposite).

71



17/VI cont.

In the NW end of yard 1, work continues on the enormous pit. Fill is still soft & brown with many bones and sherds from both course & trench pits. Allan and Lena go to clean one church in preparation for the arrival of a local TV crew.

In room 35, excavation of hard-packed grayashy fill (lower level) continues along the NE side of the trench. The raised bedrock seems to contain two circular hollows, probably pithos holes; one has a small amount of broken pottery in it. The other seems to have been empty at the time the gray layer was deposited. The layer of collapse on the floor also begins to be removed; early small finds include an iron lock lying in situ near the door. A small patch of broken tiles and pottery in the E pithos stand is being raised after a moment of slight confusion, it is given its own context number (yesterday's photo will have to be corrected in the register & database).

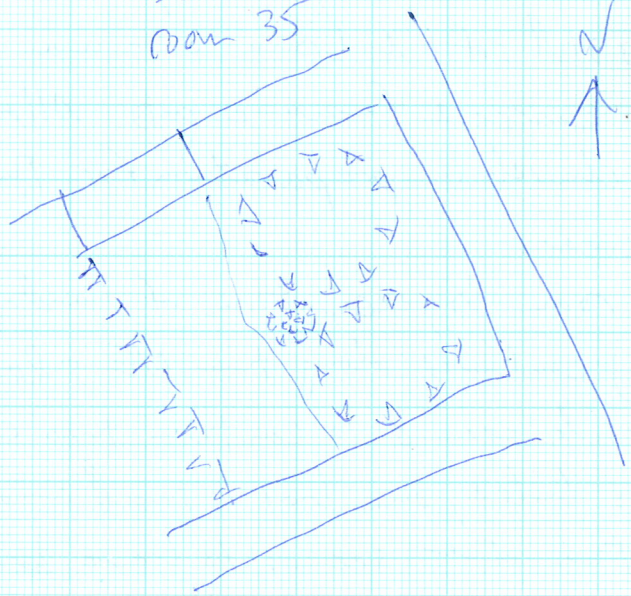
In room 36, the burnt layer is removed from a clean, smooth chocolate-brown floor with a few large rocks apparently in situ along the NW wall. Several large pieces of wood are pedestalled for conservation. Brief discussion of a dog find from the burnt layer - presumably lost here yesterday by one of the site dogs.

Room 33 continues to be cleared, leaving collapsed vessels intact. More keys & iron objects emerge.

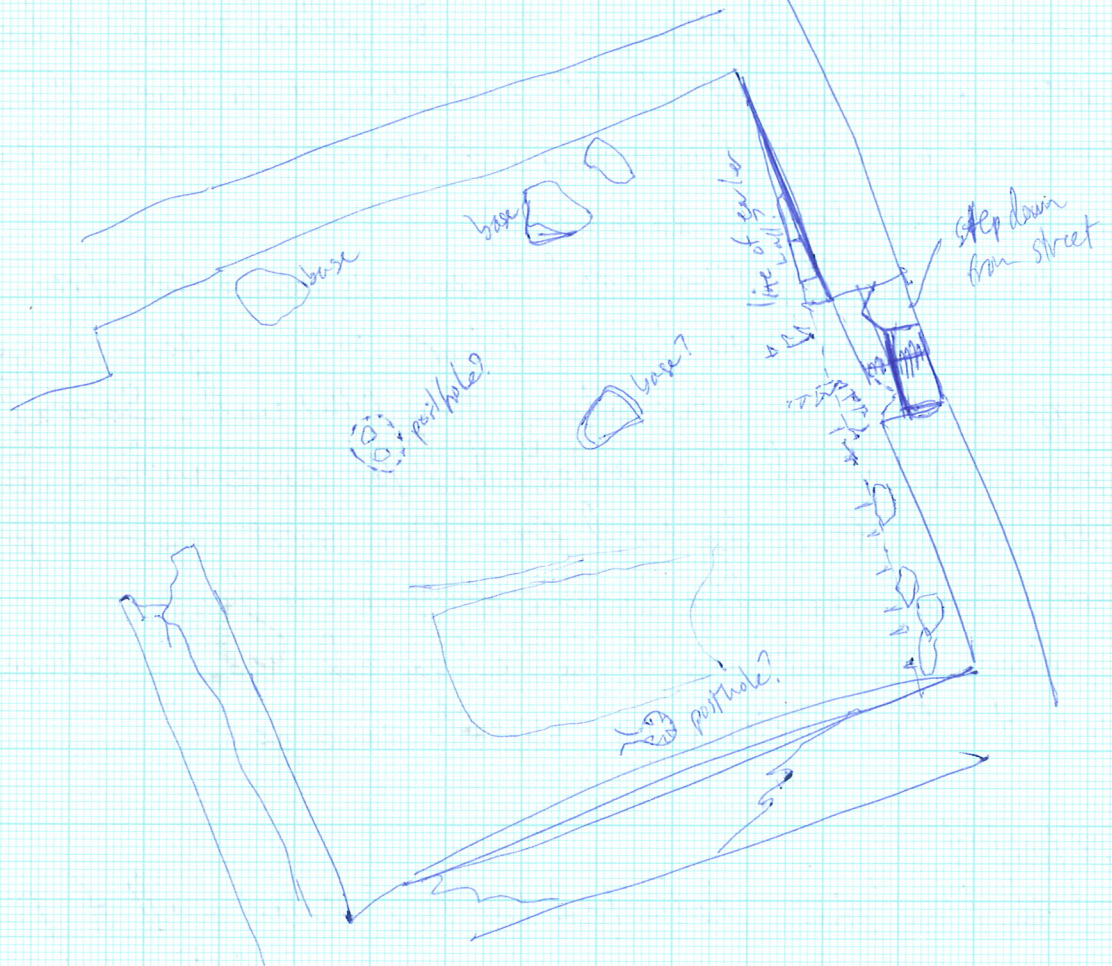
18/VI/04

The room delimited by the NW wall of the courtyard is assigned a new number - n 37. NB: this number had previously been assigned to the room at the N corner of the excavated area, but since it remains largely

bedrock cuts in NE end of
room 35



postholes & bedrock cuts - in 36
(cut to scale)



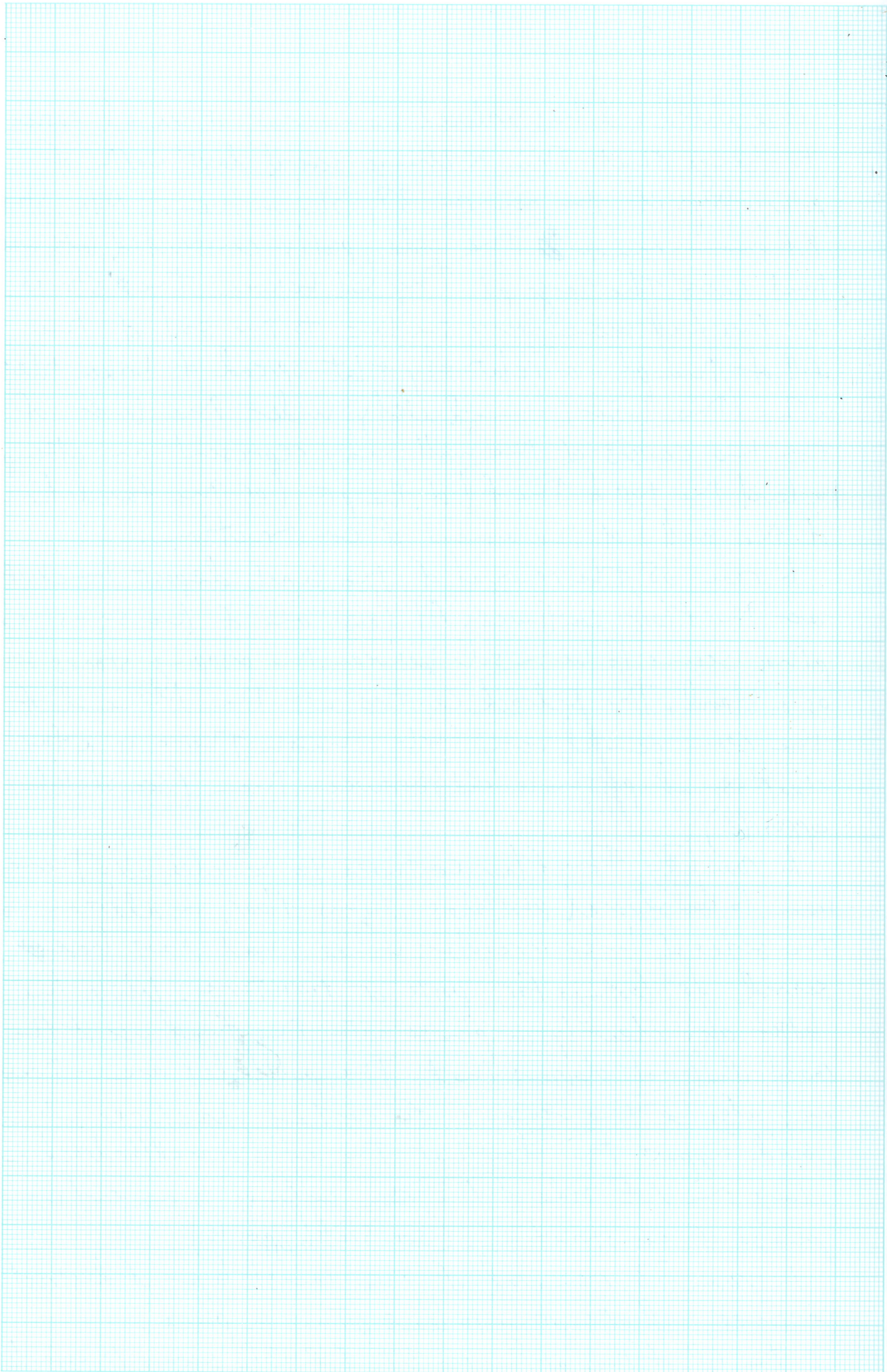
unexcavated and has produced no material, it seemed easier to change that than to change several 'days' worth of pottery bags etc. In room 37, Shawn, Lena, Allan, Stas & I have removed the wide, poorly constructed late wall that covers the large pit. The soil between the stones of this wall seems very similar to the soil of the fill of the pit; a relatively flat spread of broken tiles within this layer, immediately under the layer of the two courses of the wall, may represent an attempt to level the top of the fill of the pit (or the foundation of the wall) at the moment of construction.

In room 35, the removal of the burnt deposit immediately over the floor continues. At least one of the smashed pitnol seems to be in situ between the propping stones serving as a stand. The bedrock cavities at the NE end of the room reveal very little, though there is a fairly clear small posthole cut between them (see sketch opposite).

In room 36, the floor continues to be cleaned. There seem to be several postholes in this floor, in addition to the series of large irregular stones that may have served as footings for posts or furniture. While the latter are clearly in phase with the final use of the room, it is not obvious that the postholes are - they may also be the remains of earlier structures which would support the idea that the angled wall/bedrock cut along the NE side of the room belongs to an earlier phase of construction. (see sketch opposite).

In room 33, removal of the latest layer of destruction continues, still attempting to leave pitnol in place.

The fill of the pit in room 37 (SR431) seems to extend



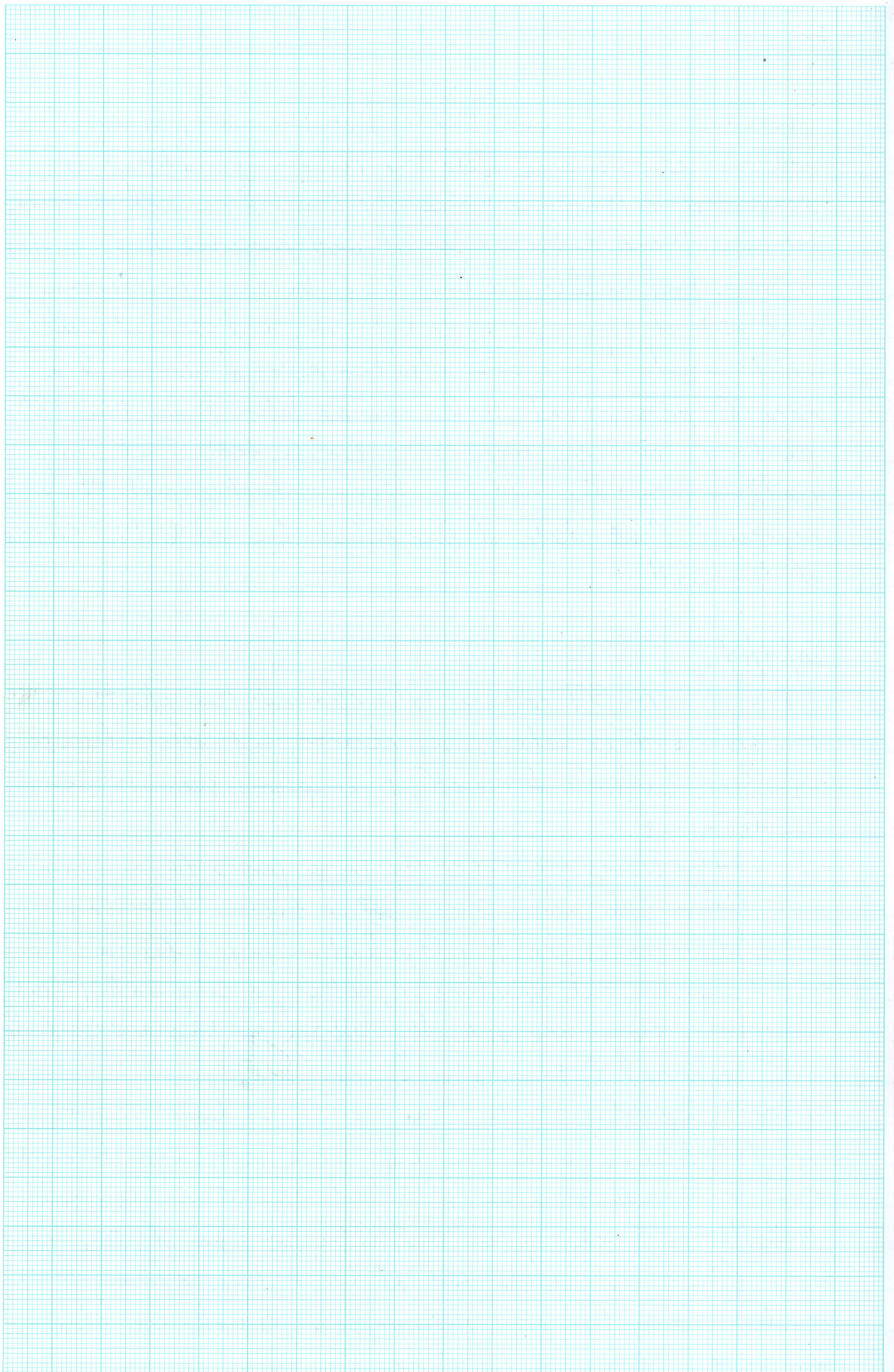
throughout the pit under the level of the wall, so when the wall has been removed ~~the~~ the remaining material is designated by the same number as the fill removed on Friday-Saturday. There are a number of well-preserved finds, including a bone tool handle, a bone knife handle with the tang and part of the iron blade still in it, and several nearly-intact vessels. There are also two pieces of glass and a piece of pottery that strike me as later than the 13th century - perhaps even 15th. Larisa feels that they could be intrusions into the layer, but I suspect they represent the date of the fill of the pit & the construction of the wall.

20/11/04

The pit in m 37 continues to be cleaned; the situation with the stone surface below is no clearer, but after discussion with Stas, Larisa and myself, the options seem to be the following:

- 1) the stones are extremely large pavers for a monumental Roman-pl public square or forum (Larisa)
- 2) the stones are the foundation layer for a monumental structure or, better, a city wall (Stas)
- 3) the stones are actually bedrock in the process of being quarried & then abandoned (me).

I see the problems with the last - not least the thinness of the seams and the cuts back over a surface, rather than only against a face - but the other two seem difficult to accept given the enormous size of the central stone (limits not visible, but at least 1.9m x 1.2m, 10-15cm thick). Since the pit is photographed, its walls are cleaned for section drawings by Pyotr.



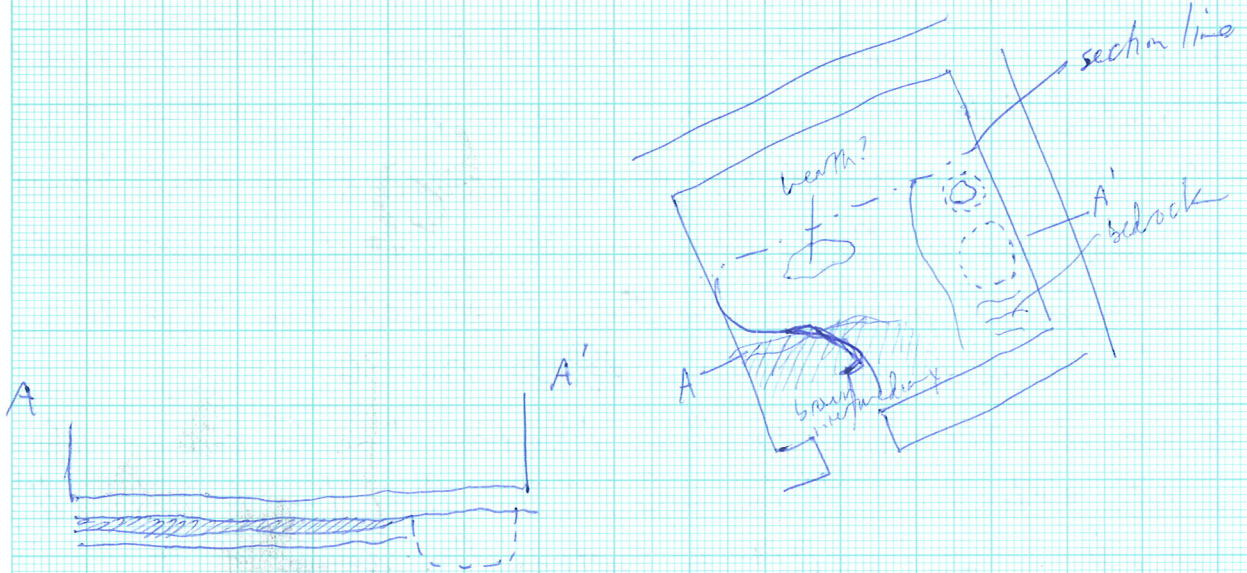
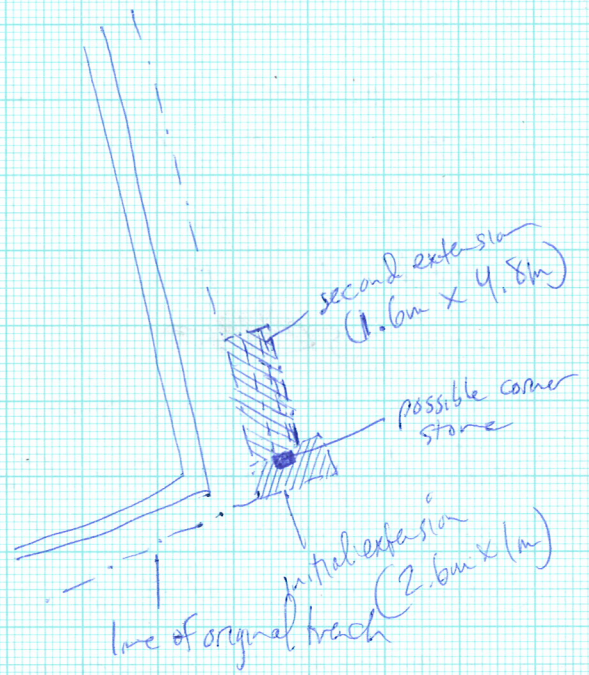
20/VIII/04 cont.

Work finishes in rm 35; the remaining floor material is sampled. Dyna & Sasha move back to rm 29 where the floor is sectioned along a SW-NE line about 1.5m from the NW wall. Under the current floor (SR364) is a second floor layer - this layer, on a preliminary basis, seems to include a hearth and a posthole against the NE wall. For flotation sampling purposes, ~~one~~ for every three buckets of earth removed one bag of earth is saved.

In room 36, the last of the collapse material left to hold up wall b/w 36 & 32 is removed and room is swept again in preparation for excavation of the floor. The excavation of the floor begins with the removal of the thin, patchy layer of chocolate brown soil mainly located along the NW side of the room & in the corners (SR435).

In room 33, excavation of the layers of destruction immediately above the floor continues. This morning the GIS people inform us that there has been a significant confusion of small find numbers ~~of~~ over the last few days - perhaps 15 numbers where wrong number assigned, number duplicated, not mapped etc. About 7 of these cannot be reconnected with spatial data; the bulk seem to be in rm 33, so the record of the large number of iron objects produced by that trench in the last two or three days will be imperfect. Similar but less widespread problems also seem to affect the large quantity of architectural fragments from ~~the~~ rm 36.

A trench stretching to the NE from the E corner of the NE extension (1m wide, 2.7m from the trench wall) is opened in an effort to capture the ~~corner~~ ^{corner} of the wall across the ~~street~~ ^{steps} to the NE of our building. ~~Also~~ It seems to be an area composed entirely of modern fill.



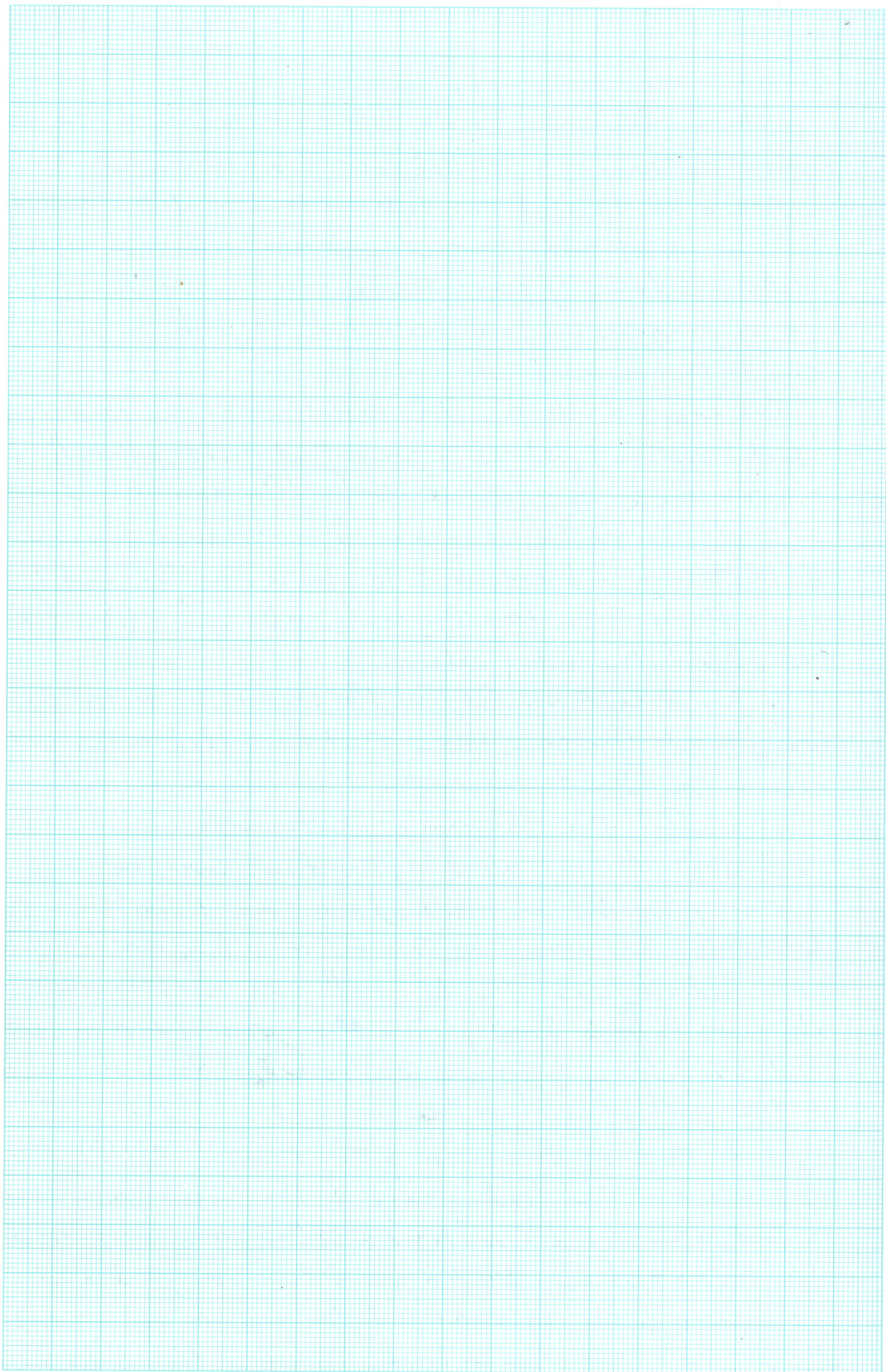
21/VII/04

Richard (Pozanentin) came by last night to look at the stone feature; he thinks it's the slab cover of a monumental tomb. Lusa and I visited the forum or tenenos at the end of the main street today, however, and measured some of the (Hellenistic? Roman?) pavers there - our largest slab is larger, but as it appears now, not substantially so, and a pavement cannot thus be ruled out.

The extension of the NE extension across the road (see sketch opposite) produces a stone that looks, potentially, like a corner block. It is located about 2.7m from the face of the insula. Once this is uncovered, we reduce the width of this trench and extend its length to the NW - the new width is 3.5m from the insula wall and 4.8m from the edge of the initial extension.

In the area of room 30, the NW edge of the section is brought out the same 40cm that was added to the section edge in room 31a to capture the other side of the wall.

In room 29, the stratigraphic situation becomes more complicated. As I understand it, the floor covers not only another floor but an intermediary zone of loose brown soil between the two, as well as the fill of a large circular hole cut in bedrock near the NE wall (see sketch opposite). It also covers bedrock directly in the ~~SE~~ E corner (if it is certain that no underlying layers are being removed). Some of the fill of the posthole may have been removed without a new layer #, and its finds consigned to the floor (SR364); the same is true of the leading edge of the loose brown layer. In fact, the second floor forms a rather irregular T-shape, with the vertical bar oriented toward the door, and another cut appears in the W corner of the trench (a coin was found in it). Not clear if spation impressing floor is due to small pit to overcutting, though the excavators are sure that the limits are real.



21/VII cont.

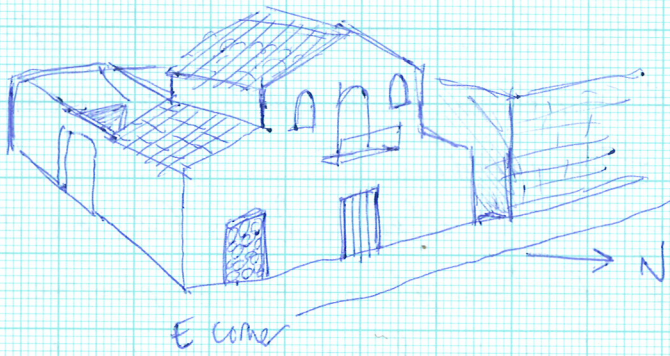
Excavation of the floor in room 32 also begins - the room is half-sectioned arbitrarily and excavated on the NE side (the side closest to m 29). The first layer below the gray compact surface is a dark gray ashy surface, about 2cm below floor level.

Room 33 is cleaned as far as it can be ~~before~~ the removal of the pithoi and amphorae (which have all been given numbers and sampled - that is, the ones w/ organic remains). Photographed & georeferenced.

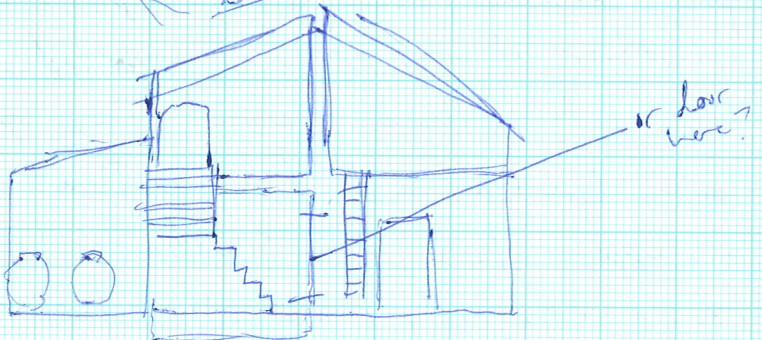
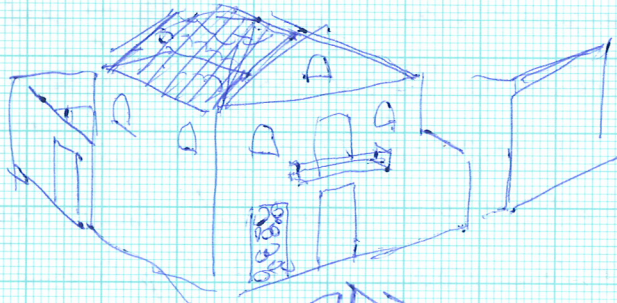
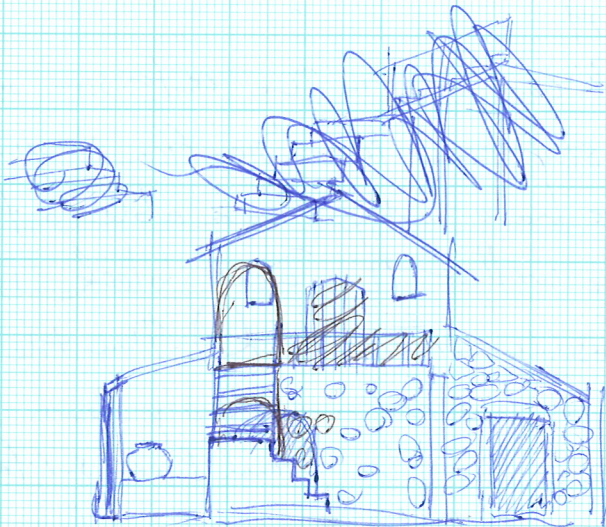
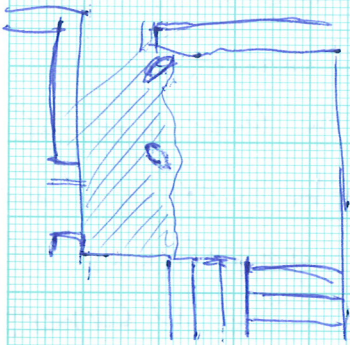
22/VII/04

Work continues in the extension of the trench into the road - there still seems to be significant quantity of disturbed material, and we have not yet been able to figure out where the line of the wall of the next block is located (or continues from the possible corner block). The tile collapse, where it is intact, seems to slope rather steeply down to the E corner.

In room 36, the brown floor surface below a lower layer of black ash (which ~~is~~ was below the grayish surface under the uppermost brown surface) - ash is 449, grayish was 448, lowest brown w 458) begins to be removed in the W corner. Bedrock is exposed over most of the room - although it is clear that it has been cut down near the walls, the central part of the room is full of pits and fissures, and it is not clear whether it was original untreated bedrock or whether it had been cut. In thinking about the upper story of this house, both Carisa and I agree that 36 is likely to have had an upper story; the situation is less clear with the other rooms, especially those with intact roof collapse, which one would assume to have fallen from a single story. This may mean that the yellow & brown soil in this room was original, and of a different character b/c from an upper story. This would



location of ash holes
in m 32



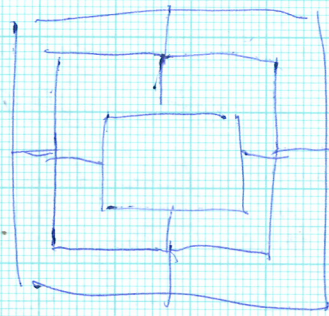
explain, to a certain extent, the presence of the nice architectural fragments & plastered material in the collapse - from the piano mobile? See possible reconstruction ideas opposite.

The direction of the wooden upper stair is confirmed as we excavate the floor of r. 32. Below the hardpacked last surface (even abandonment? or post-burning use?) is a darker, charcoal-rich layer that has a fair amount of hammer scale. Cut into that layer are two oblong postholes along the outside line of the riser of the highest step of the stone stair, along the line an upper flight would have followed to a door in the NE wall, to an upper room. The soil is also darker and harder-packed along this line, suggesting that it might have a) been subject to more consistent traffic and b) protected from the weather a bit more than the rest of the room. Below the black metal-rich layer, cut by the postholes as well, is a layer of loamy dark brown fill with many shreds, bones etc.

Pithoi and amphora continue to be removed in r. 33. The bottom of one of the best amphorae is saved with soil intact for possible residue analysis. More iron objects emerge in the W corner. Under one of the pithoi on the NW side of the room is another pile of burnt grain, this time with linear fibrous structures that could be straw or chaff (photod, sample taken).

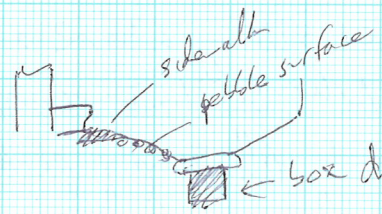
In room 29, excavation of the floor on the SE side of the room continues. Now there seem to be at least 3 floor surfaces sitting above a layer of hard-packed soil leading in a NW-SE line running roughly from the door. This may represent fill simply packed down by the passage of people into and out of the room along this line.

Late in the day, a series of flat rubble blocks along the



gachboard?

Street sketch - section



← box draw?

corner of m 33, street side, are cleared off - the discovery of incised gameboards (?) on one of them makes us think that they probably served as a low bench outside the house.

The road trench ~~down~~ continues to refuse to provide a wall, although the road itself is now visible in gaps in the tile collapse. A concentration of large stones and what appears to be a dip in the layer along the NE wall of this trench suggests that the building material of the wall of the block NE of ars has been removed.

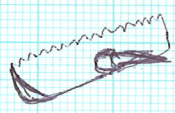
There is a pit in the W corner of m 36 - it is filled with a soft, dark brown soil with white streaks that forms small clumps, is relatively moist, and contains very large amounts of animal bone and broken pottery (heavily 9th-10th c.). It has not been bottomed by the end of the day, although at the SW end there appears to be a step or shallower area.

23/vii/04

No notebook writing until the end of the day - very busy, meeting w/ Galina N. about Bez, etc - so some recreation. The most exciting developments take place in the street, during the removal of the layer of tile collapse. These developments are three: 1) the usable stones serving as a bench at the corner of the main street and the stenopos turn out to be early Byz capitals from a church; 2) towards the SE end of the street, in the center, there are a series of large paving stones in a straight line - most likely covers for a box drain; and 3) about 2m to the NW of the door to room 36, under the tiles in an area of ash but without a recognizable grave cut, is a skeleton identified by Renata as that of an old woman, lacking its head. Elsewhere the street is a fairly regular pebbled surface running down to the center & with packed earth sidewalks along the sides.

SP

in SR456



(upside down, as
in situ)

23/IV cont.

In room 33, remains of articulated vessels continue to be removed & floor cleaned. Under pitnos 1 is the bottom of a wooden bucket - circular flat piece of wood with raised edges. It is not clear if several cylindrical pieces of wood in this area are related to this object, nor whether some strange hard organic material beneath it (leaves?) is. The conservators attempt a ribbon impression and a block lift. They also block-lift a couple of iron tools in another part of the room - one has short teeth that look saw-like, but seems to have a central haft leading to a handle attached at an angle, so perhaps some sort of curving comb? See sketch opposite.

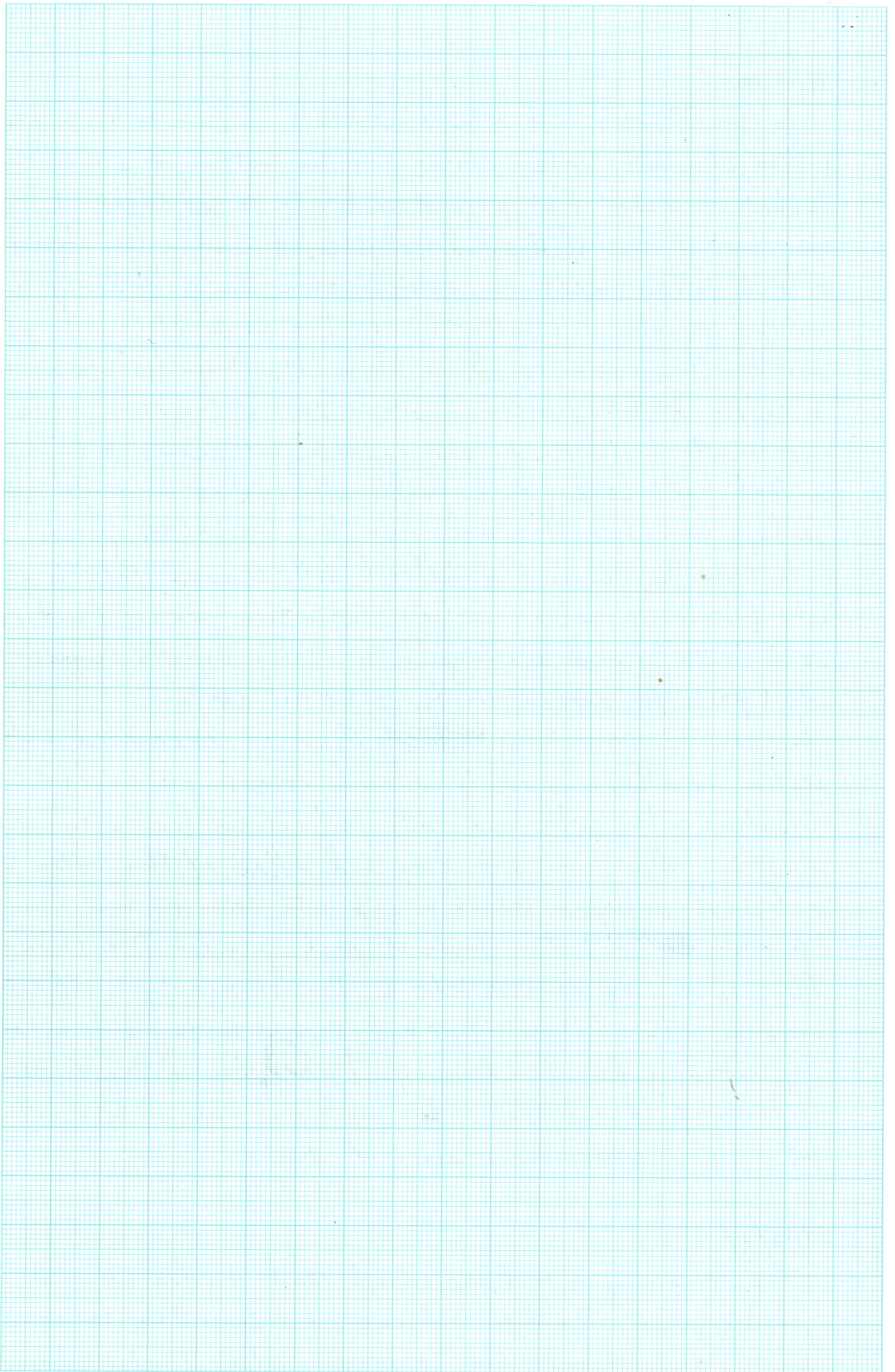
In room 36, remains of bedrock fill removed. Pattern of cuts & holes is unclear - both formation process (natural rock? cuts?) and arrangement - some aspects suggest cuts & posts for earlier structures, but not certain.

In room ~~32~~ 29, remaining ~~floor~~ floor in excavated half-section is also removed to bedrock, revealing a similar situation with cuts and pits, also of unclear origin and function. Many are quite deep and filled at the bottom with a layer of decayed bedrock mixed with ceramics and bone.

In room ~~29~~ 29, the layer of packing under the third floor is removed down to bedrock. The stratigraphy is still rather complex, with all three floors and packing existing only in a strip extending from the doorway. The section of the floor is photographed and total station points are taken on top & bottom, but it is not drawn for reasons of time.

24/IV/04

The remaining bit of uncleaned road is cleared and photographed; the drain is discovered to turn the corner into the main street, but it becomes clear that we have not,



in fact, captured the outside wall of the next insula. I suspect it is ca. 50m to the NE. The bench is given a context number, as a wall, but each architectural fragment will also be removed and catalogued as a small find.

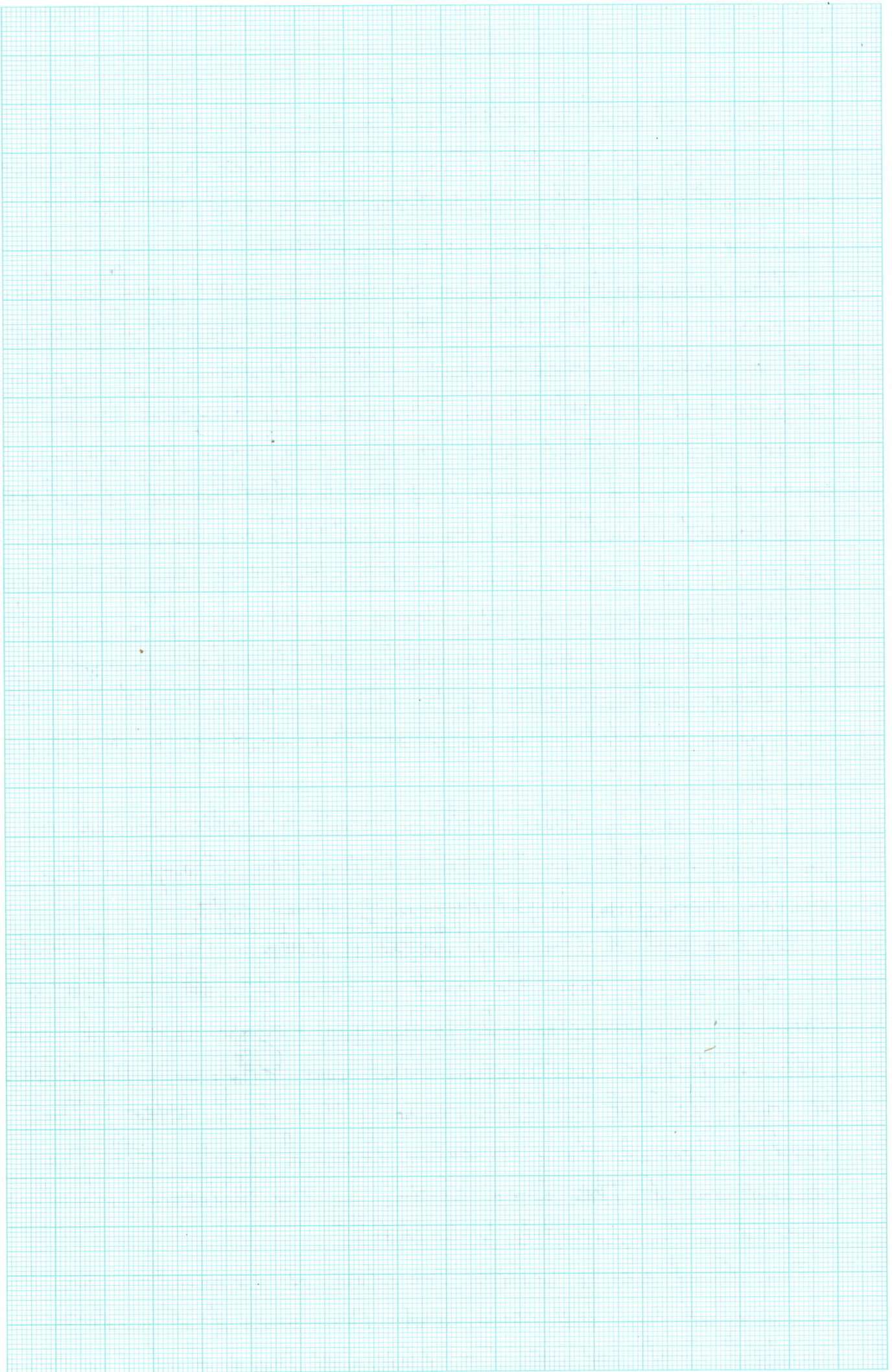
The conservators continue to remove burnt wood in the W corner of rm 33, where this morning they find pieces of a wicker or reed basket and what seems to be a piece of preserved unburnt wood. This corner is occupied by a series of stones that seem to form the base for various containers, including pithos 1 & the bucket/barrel (and perhaps the basket as well). The stones (SR487) are georeferenced, photographed, and removed to facilitate the lifting of the wood.

Work continues in rm 32, where the filling in the bedrock has been almost entirely removed. What is left is a series of deep, subrectangular cuts with no obvious function and no apparent relation to any of the features in rm 29 or rm 36.

The remaining floor levels in rm 29 are also removed; no particular features on this side of the room, though a few shallow depressions might represent other cuts.

By the end of the day, ~~work~~ ^{excavation} is down ^{to bedrock} in the half-section of room 32, in room 36, and in room 29. ~~The~~ The floor of room 33 has been cleaned to the last-phase level and will be left for further investigation next year, along with the floors of rooms 28 and 32 (the remaining floor of the latter). The road is cleaned along its entire exposed length, with the exception of the area containing the skeleton, which is covered with geotextile & backfill.

The final events before the close of excavation are the removal of the last remains of the mound of modern backfill that sat over the plaza at the end of the trench



24/VII cont

and the initiation of cleaning activity in preparation for final photos. At noon excavation is closed for the season.