

ADAM RABINOWITZ
FIELD NOTEBOOK FOR
EXCAVATIONS IN SOUTH
REGION, JUNE-JULY 2005

& June-July 2006

30 June 2005

First notebook entry, mud day of excavation. First two days occupied with meetings & preparation of various stuffs (tools, recording system, etc.). On site, 28 June involves clearing of grass & plant growth from all areas of site; wet coal spring has led to large amount of vegetation, even in conserved & gravel areas.

Second day (29 June) involved the laying out & excavation of two new trenches/extensions. The first is a 1m wide test trench across the main road.

1 July 2005

Notebook taking interrupted where previous entry leaves off. 1m wide test trench across the main road is meant to test stratigraphy in road in preparation for excavation all the way to the modern street next to museum buildings. In test trench, which runs off the E corner of the 2004 trench, to the other side of the main road (projected), we find two layers of modern fill - one gray, friable, full of modern building debris, the other dark brown, loose, full of rocks & older material (but still some modern) - and beneath them what appears to be an intact layer of collapse covering the LB street surface. The latter may be continuous with the layer of collapse in the street along the NE edge of the building (now "East Stenopos").

In the East Stenopos, cleaning of topsoil began on 29 June. In the northern area, topsoil covered a layer of gray modern fill. Elsewhere, it seems to cover the LB collapse levels directly. The one exception is in the area of the modern damage trench ~~noted~~ noted in 2001-2002; that intrusion is clearly visible in the E Stenopos as an interruption of collapse levels in both surface & section.

In consultation w/ C. Saker thinking about notalr working in rooms 28 & 33 develops. CS feels that there is another hearth slightly to the E of 418; he also notes a piece of hearth floor remaining in 418, which we will try to lift w/ bedrock under it. In room 33, a patch of denser burning under, not over, the last floor surface and a scatter of slag & metal debris in the E corner suggest to CS another hearth. This would have been in operation earlier than the store room function. In general, the waste CS has seen is from small-scale, working at low temperatures, more characteristic of e.g. nail-making than welding or tool-repair.

We develop a sample strategy for floor of room 33: 500g samples collected at points every 50 cm across the room ~~between~~ for 2m out from the NE wall. Sample sites are flagged & shot in white bags numbered, and then appropriate bags used for sample taken around each

2

1 July 2005 cont.

(3)

point. When this work is completed, floor of m 33 will be excavated.

NB: In dealing w/ same layers across different years, same procedure as last year followed: layer code will be CH05 followed by some number as last year; new context sheet w/ reference to old - plus any additional info - will be generated; new database record will be generated and all finds etc. will be tagged w/ CH05 code.

We conduct a new georef vs drawing at 1:50 accuracy test in m 38, after the collapse is thoroughly cleared. We will have Halo Jordano, who has a fair amount of drafting experience but who is not a professional drafter, draw approx. 1/3 of the collapse by hand, using triangulation from fixed drawing pegs, at 1:50. The same area will then be photod & georeferenced & digitized. Both resulting plans will be compared in the GIS to survey points taken at a series of known & recognizable spots. In this way we hope to compare the accuracy of a site where planning is done by hand to the georeferencing / digitization system we have developed.

In the main road, levels of modern fill are removed, starting from the edge of previous excavation in front of the block. The same gray / building debris & brown rocks superposition seems to apply.

In the NW end of the courtyard, we begin to excavate the large pile of rocks left untouched in 2002. These rocks were originally thought to cover another cistern, but excavation shows that they are in fact the fill of a (modern?) pit, perhaps to be associated with the main drainage ditch mentioned above. The pit has relatively distinct edges, where the tan-gray compact clayey soil underlying the cut surface is visible. The fill is a relatively consistent brownish, friable soil with large sandy clumps, frequent land-snail shells, and very mixed material representing all periods of activity in the area. The top of a small glass bottle with squared shoulder is probably modern and should date the fill.

2 July 2005

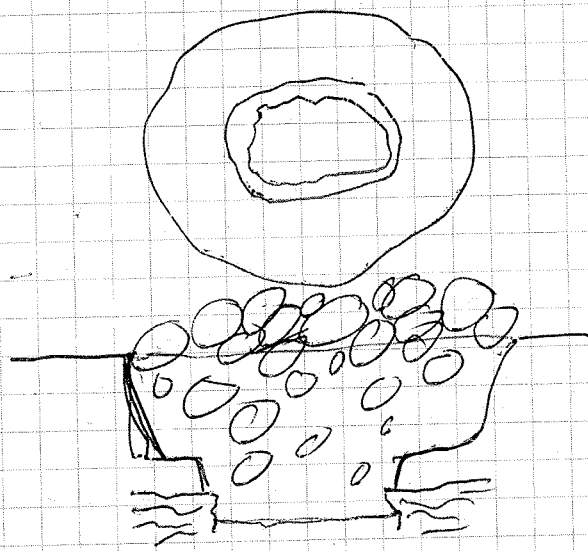
Work continues on modern fill in road - apparent stratification is two chronologically distinct modern layers, one dating from the 19th c & w/ masonry activity, the other from the destruction of the monastery building in this area in the 20th century. Although most material is not retained, we will try to keep particularly diagnostic material to confirm or reject this idea.

The Stompos collapse is documented with a series of georeferencing photos. The 1m spread of reference points with substantial overlap seems to be fairly accurate.

Drawing of m 38 reveals problems with the current plan alignment of the NE wall - needs to be rotated NE by about 5°. Will be dealt with by architect this afternoon; other potential base-plan problems will be checked.

→ also in main street: upper layer of collapse is now being removed near the test trench; behind that team, another

11
4



2 July cont.

has begun to remove the large layer of brown collapse.
In rm 33, metal sample of last floor is complete; that floor begins to be excavated down to the black ashly layer below from the NE wall of the room.

NB x 2: 1) some illicit digging/vandalism went on during lunch yesterday in rm 33: a hole was dug at sample point in N corner and another partially under the sill of the blocked door; 2) one or more of the metallurgical samples in the area of the suspected hearth may have mixed the floor layer & the layer beneath & may give false positive (Chris aware of situation).

- In rm 33, paleobotanical flotation samples collected at rough 1m intervals in quincunx pattern (.....). Samples are approx. 1/2 size of large bags (so 1/2 size of previous yr).

At N end of courtyard, excavation in second pit continues. Upper fill was large rocks; below were some rocks in increasingly visible matrix of sparsely brown loose soil with root mold (standard fill soil). Sides of pit are ca. 2m in diam. at top; about 35cm down there is a partial floor into which a smaller extension of the pit continues; about 20-30cm after the narrowing of the pit, it begins to be cut into bedrock (see sketch opposite). Just below bedrock lip, fill starts to be softer & w/ fewer stones; will become new context.

Courtyard is sectioned along ~~opposite~~ line projected from outside edge of rm 25. Brushed down once more in prep. for metallurgical sample collection.

6 July 2005

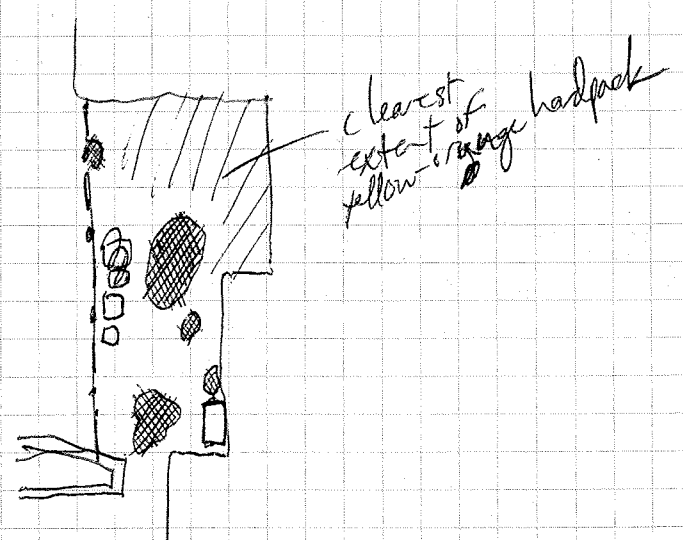
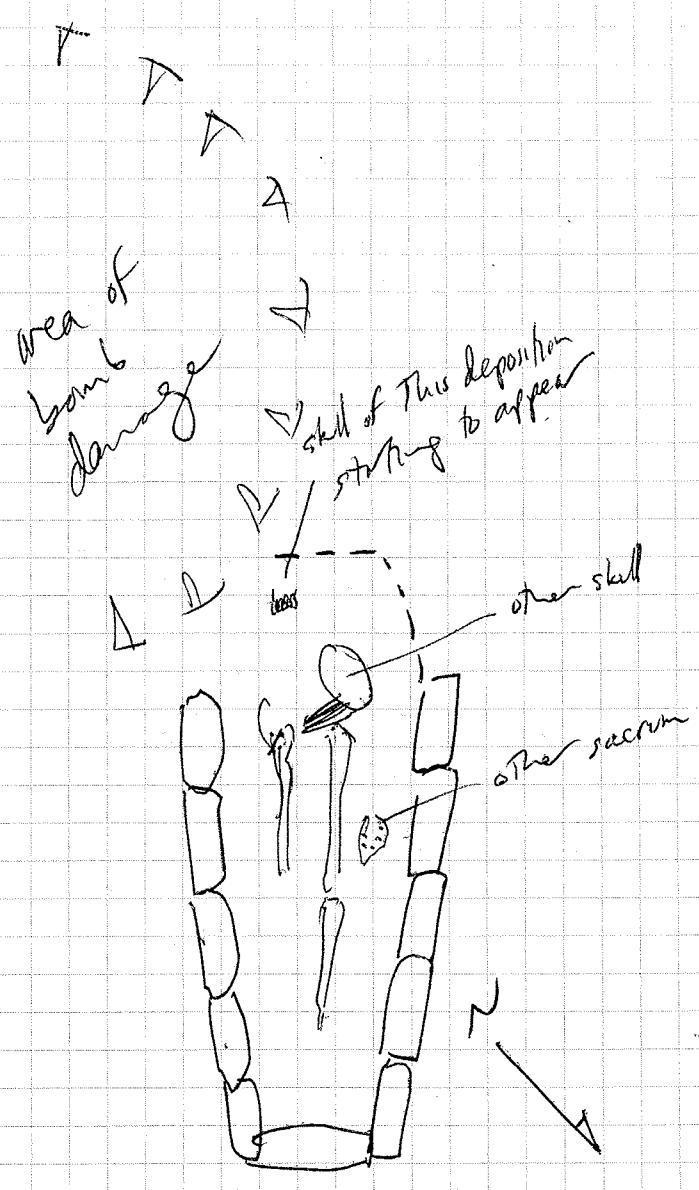
Hicups in notebook for various reasons, mainly associated with Sasha D.'s broken hip (injury sustained Saturday night in Sevastopol). First two days of week primarily occupied w/ ongoing geo referencing photography of street & room 38 (in conjunction w/ drawing vs. ground experiment), with continued removal of modern fill from street, and with extensive metallurgical sampling of courtyard (first & last involving a lot of time with total station, so fairly slow). Work also continues from Monday, as well at N end of courtyard - pulley & wooden work platform ~~work~~ are set up.

~~Today~~ Today (Wed. morn) work in archaeological strata begins in earnest. In main street, last of modern fill is cleared from remains of ancient collapse, and remaining corner of unexcavated fill on NE side of road test trench is excavated to bring trench as a whole to square.

In room 33, Nick & Olga finish clearing, prepare to sample black patchy layer on NE side (up to ca. 2m from NE wall ~~of~~ of room). They also take a sample from another ashly feature in the S corner of room 33. When this sample is complete, they will begin to sample the remaining floor in room 32 (the upper layer of soil was removed yesterday to reveal the ashly layer beneath) and excavate the potential second hearth in room 28.

In the courtyard, work continues on trench 3 (cover slabs at W end all ~~ppc~~ layer of fill removed yesterday). Renata

6



6 July Cont.

Supervises as first pieces of disarticulated bone emerge. The half-section of the courtyard to the N of the tomb begins to be excavated 1-10-15 cm passes after paleobotanical samples taken. Faunal collection w/ re-examination of loess in wheelbarrow.

Excavation of ~~well~~ at N end of courtyard continues; new layer of fill with more rocks reached like yesterday, very sterile - only a few finds of apparently Roman pottery & glassware. Now approaching 3m deep; sides of cut bedrock sheet slightly more square than pond.

Excavation begins in m 38 - removal of rocky collapse with patches of snake stones & small tile fragments (very broken). Special attention paid to areas along NE & SW walls, where stone alignment suggests buttressing or bench.

First deposition reached in T. 3. Only lower half of body uncovered in area originally defined as tomb, so effort made to find head area - built sides only extend to waist of first deposition. Head of tomb seems only to be defined by cut in fill of courtyard - but near by bomb damage to chapel may also have disturbed tomb (see sketch opposite).

Well in N end of courtyard may be cistern after all - about 3m below floor cut opens up to sides. Fill seems to be entirely of large rocks, w/ soil filtered down between - almost entirely sterile.

In courtyard trench, grey ashy surface soil comes down onto compact, clayey yellow fill with many sherds, bones, etc. Probably original fill of courtyard to create surface level.

7 July ~~2005~~ 2005

Clearing of main road & area on NE side of test trench is completed. Anton S.'s team moves to NW end of stenopos & begins to work SE removing rubble collapse down to tile fall.

Current supervisory distribution: Shawn is running excavation in sectioned area in courtyard; Halp is running excavation in room 38; Dyna in pit in N end of courtyard; Anton in street; Nick in rms 28 & 33 & 32. Gardana is keeping registers & checking up on people.

In pit, Dyna finds piece of femur. also suspects layer change, but may be simply environmental conditions. Previous layer had large quantities of burned material, mostly Roman, this layer not as clearly burned.

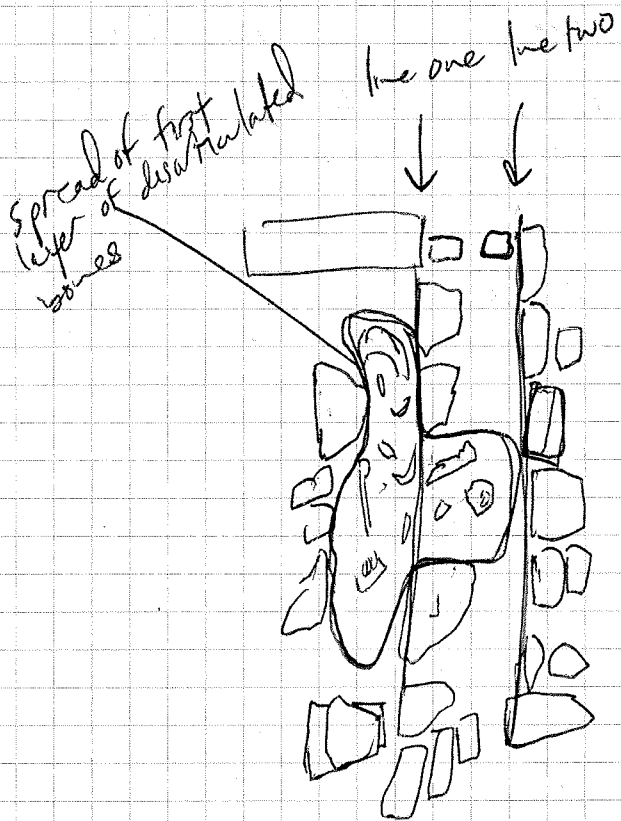
8 July 2005

Entry for yesterday cut completed - will continue w/ yesterday's info.

- In courtyard, surface cleared - dark patches of charcoal too poorly defined, re-clearing establishes limits. They seem to fill cuts or depressions in grey yellow pebbly surface below the final floor of the courtyard - one is very large & oval (at W corner of complex 3). The others are smaller & circular (see sketch opposite). Layer cleared & photogrammed in preparation for sampling. Tomb completed - only 2 skeletons; tomb shallow, only cut into clay about 25cm down (explains use of cover slabs).

- In m 38 after some discussion, layer of rocky collapse just under surface is removed. Determined to be latest erosion/collapse

Depth
2.2m



not to scale - rough sketch; for precision, see geophoto

8 July 2005

9

eroded from walls w/ some modern glass (fallen between stones?) & lead snails. Comes down onto more compact lighter brown to grayish brown soil with rocks protruding, including archaeological elements, probably from room. Currently considered to be original intact collapse; being cleared for photo as of 8/7 morning. Walls of room have series of odd battresses/constructions; one in NW corner probably a internal staircase. Probable doorway to room to NW at N corner - complex extending to NW.

~~Room 38~~ 1 - m 38, Nick clears second possible hearth in final floor surface - filled w/ tile & bone, little slag or charcoal. Rough circle w/ oval extending from it (possibly overcut, possibly for bellows) - drawn, photographed.

1 - room 32, ash surface below final surface sampled.

Following are from 8/7

Morning is rainy - no work on site until 9 am +. Darty entry stiff in morning. When work resumes, it is as follows:

- m 38: clearing of surface of presumed original collapse - little overexcavation, but generally revealing what appears to be intact collapse.
- stonops: section of co. tied buried modern electrical cable. Clearly parts of stonops have been disturbed by modern activity - but traces seem to tend not to be visible on surface. All excavated as one unit - so any discussion of material from NW end of street should taken into account contamination.
- courtyard: black patches given numbers, sampled, drawing completed. Began to be removed.
- well/cistern: odd cutting observed in SE wall of shaft, below area where chamber begins. Water channel?
- tomb 3 area: clearing to SW reveals second tomb (T. 4) extending from the head of ~~the~~ tomb 3, partially damaged by event that destroyed church wall. The alignment of stones suggests that ~~the~~ tomb is parallel to it to the NW, perhaps sharing a wall/side lining w/ T. 4.

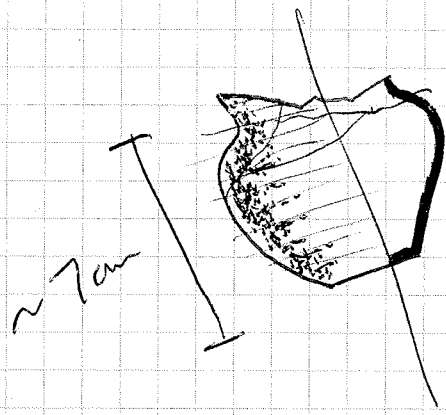
11 July 2005

Saturday occupied w/ a lot much change to general outline of work as above. Continued clearing of black patches in courtyard; the section around tomb 4 laid out & cleared; drawing in room 38; excavation of remains of black ashy layer in 38 and underlying fill (461) where bedrock not present; more limited excavation in stonops attempting to follow line of modern trench; ongoing excavation in well and at crossroads where modern trench passes through.

Monday morning: working clockwise from tomb area:

- tomb 4 & remaining area of new trench/section cleared; stone covering begins to be removed, layer of disarticulated bones very close to surface just under stones. SE side of tomb still not clear; still odd double-wall situation on N/S side (see sketch opposite). Is inner "face" simply a well-aligned series of cover stones?
- in courtyard, serious confusion over limits & nature of black-dark-brown fill in largest & most central of ashy features. Different from others in brown color & compaction of soil; Karissa & Shawn suspect it may have been more similar above & that chocolate brown soil is something new, but I don't see difference. Soil

10



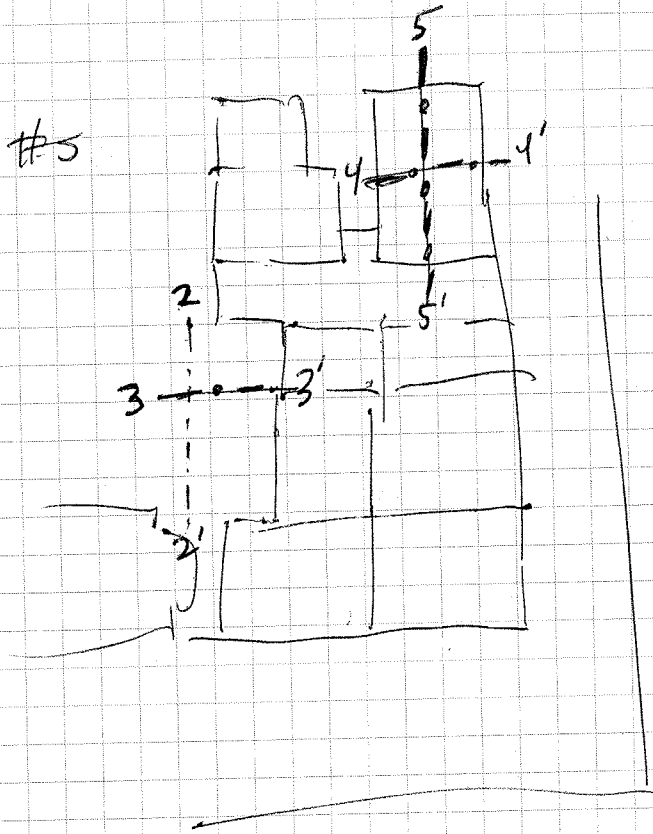
11 July 2005 cont.

- inclusions of clayey material, some of which is distinctly green in color. Soil sample of greenish soil taken - maybe try to test for potassium content (fertilizer?). Limits are very irregular, & I wonder if we're not looking at a planting pit for a small tree (could have been removed by last phase of last year).
- in well/cistern, removal of soil continues. Dyma noted on Sat. That water drips off bedrock by itself - rather than condensation, seems to be water borne, perhaps on surface of clay just under bedrock from groundwater (wick effect?). Soil still wet, but not that wet. Ten finds.
 - in m 32, removal of ~~soil~~ brown fill continues; Nick finishes cleaning ashly black soil from round cuts in E corner of room. In center of fill, strip along ~~the~~ SW side, near stairs, there is another dark soil-filled intrusion. It seems to have extended to the surface of the brown fill, under the ashly layer, although there is a slight possibility that we have come to a new surface in the fill (less likely). There is also a small articulated vessel in situ in the brown fill (see sketch opposite) - photographed & recorded as special find.
 - in m 38, continued documentation - geophotos this morning. In meantime, part of team engaged in cleaning floor of m ~~32~~ 31 (A later will be m to m 30) - when documentation blocks work in ~~part~~ m 38, we'll start to excavate & sieve those floors for faunal samples.
 - in stairwells, removal of fill of electric cable trench continues. Small piece of original collapse left at W corner of 2004 exploratory trench near crossroad. When cleaning of mud fill complete, that will be taken off as only uncontaminated section of ~~original~~ original stairwell collapse.
 - in main road, boundaries of modern trench for electric cable are defined, & remaining collapse is determined to be original. Begins to be removed from SW end, leaving tile collapse beneath.

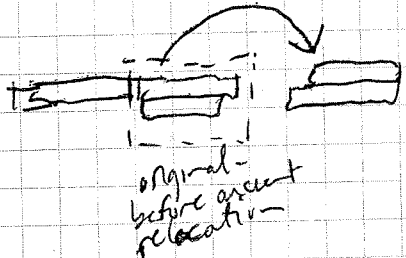
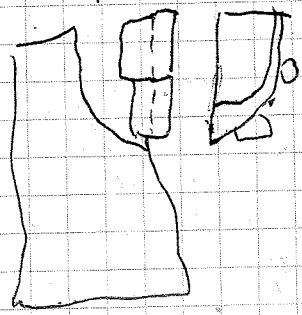
12 July 2005

- Again, description clockwise from tomb 4.
- tomb 4. continued excavation shows layer of disarticulated remains similar to t. 1; series of skulls stacked in neat rows appear at SW end. The SE side of the tomb is clearly severely disturbed by the bomb (?) that damaged the adjoining wall of the chapel. Several bones can be seen sticking out at odd angles, and stones have been forced into the soil of the tomb. Some bones have calcium carbonate concretions, and there were several large chunks of calcium carbonate in the upper layer of stones over the tomb - it is not clear if this material is decayed bedrock worked from the church, or, as seems to have been noted for t. 3 in 2001/2, a layer of lime sealing.
 - in courtyard trench, Shawn & team continue to clean layer of yellow pebbly soil to establish limits, and remaining ashly pits are removed. Yellow seems to be present only ca 1m at from walls on NW & NE sides, irregular ~~at~~ at line elsewhere.
 - in well/cistern, continued excavation of same layer of fill. Some articulated late Roman ceramics including large parts of an amphora - what is date of filling event? used?

flying section #5

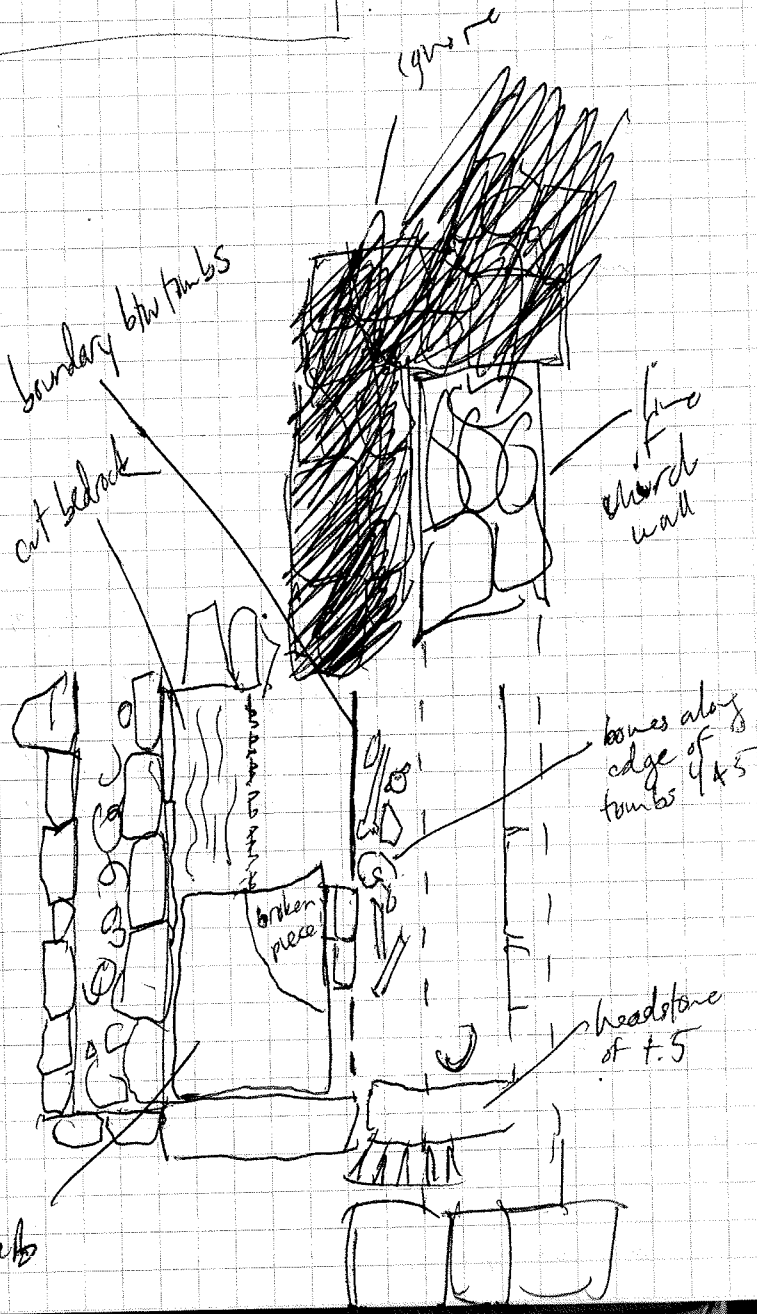


original slab frag position at time of exc.



boundary b/w tombs

cut bedrock



12 July 2005 cont.

- m 32: Nick & Rose continue to remove fill - pit w/ ash & fill - 460 is cleared, while Nick goes down through clayey tan fill to NE. Bedrock strip id'd in 2004, continues; cut seems to be deliberate (?). Finds - ceramic, glass - similar to those in 2004 on other side.
- ms 30 & 31: surface cleaning proceeds in preparation for excavation & sieving of surfaces for faunal remains.
- m 38: excavation of intact wall-fall proceeds; in lower levels, soil reveals patches of yellow clay, probably decayed mud plaster from walls. Extra course against wall appears on NE inside face as well. Visible below brown collapse soil is gray layer w/ charcoal inclusions, apparently many tiles - intact tile collapse & burning?
- stepos: remains of wall collapse removed; tile collapse beneath begins to be cleared. Rest of human body found last year revealed beneath tile collapse; present only to knee; perhaps lower legs removed by animals.
- main street: direction of attack on wall collapse changed to move SW to NE in order to leave area for cleaning. Opinion of Anton & Paolo that collapse is intact - no wooden finds, Byz ceramics.
- m 38: clearing of layer reveals what seems to be ~~first~~ ^{final} layer of tile fall & wall erosion in room; higher along walls. Two stores of internal stair in W corner accidentally picked off & then put back in place.
- tomb 4: second layer of disarticulated bones cleaned & removed; again, concentrated along NW side. Series of 9+ skulls at SW end; ~~the~~ ^{they} & other bones are resting on very flat yellow calc slabs, missing along SE side but perhaps disturbed (flat similar stone off to that side) - covering of original tomb? Lower course of stones along SE side also visible.

12 July 2005

Standard procedure: clockwise from tomb.

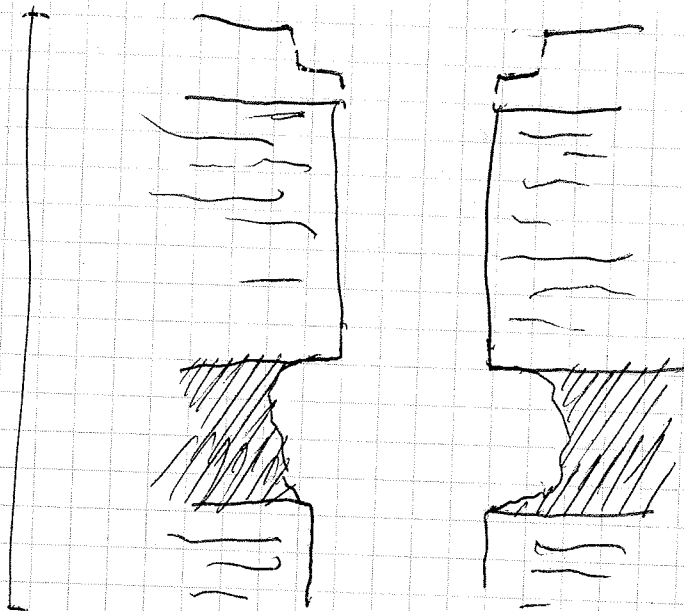
- tomb 4: becomes even more confusing. This morning, a chase after osteo material I think for the Entises the issue. Area of t. 4 is mped, at foot, comes down into bedrock, but with a regular cut parallel to the wall of the tomb; from waist level up, tomb is covered by flat slab that sits on a couple of stones with an incasso. One broken piece that has been off to the side for several days finally becomes totally clear - it is the missing piece of the slab, deposited upside-down as if it had been pried up directly from its original position. To the SE of the tomb, where we had assumed there was only disturbed soil from destruction, there actually appears another (earlier?) tomb (t. 5). It shares its NW wall w/ t. 4, which appears to w/ it, and is full of disturbed skeletal material. It seems to extend underneath the wall of the church, so if it was opened repeatedly, it would need to have been under a threshold. See sketch opposite.
- courtyard: excavation of yellow-orange layer begins - some confusion but seems to be relatively ~~thin~~ thin. Below W corner where layer forms corner, there is some very regular squarish structure in bedrock (?) with clay deposits. Flying sections done in this room for the first time today.

red wall

s along e of 4 & 5

stone 5

4.3m



14 July

* Intaglio signet ring stone from
 series of full of 5-

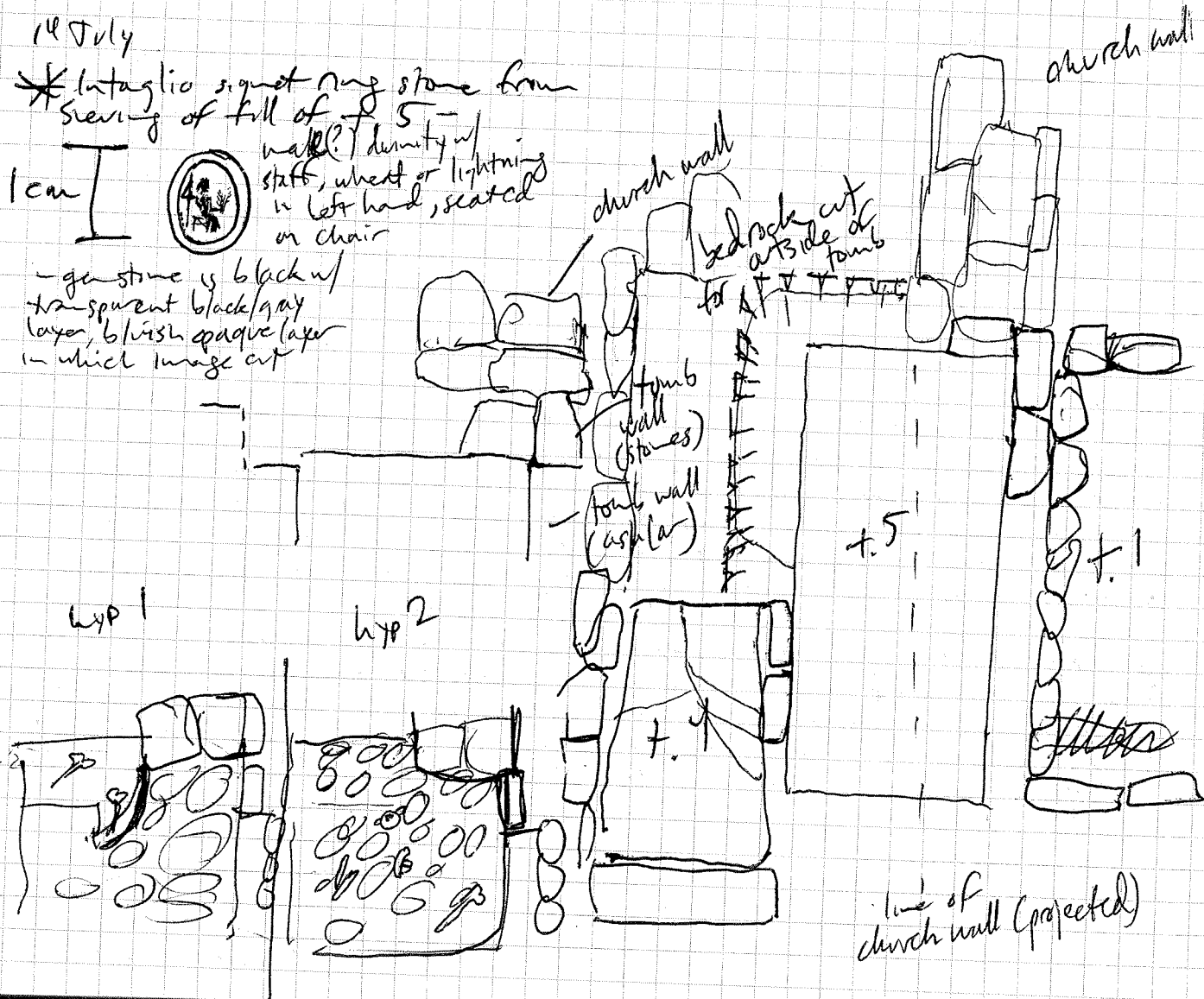
1 can I



wall? density w/
 staff, wheel or lightning
 in left hand, seated
 on chair

- gas stone is black w/
 transparent black/grey
 layer, bluish opaque layer
 in which image cut

church wall



July 13 2005 cont.

- m 32: complete - excavation down to bedrock. Odd but extremely regular linear features that appear to be cuts in bedrock; clear that they do not continue into m 29 though they may appear again in 28 (some continue under dividing wall). Brown fill extended to bedrock except - as visible in section - in a small lunette cut in bedrock along SW side of the room, where fill may have been slightly different (not excavated separately). Nick & team move to m 33, where they begin to remove hearth feature in E corner.
- well/cistern: continues to be excavated. Potential new context id'd at end of day yesterday piled out; some fill. Beneath clay level at again visible in underlying bedrock (see sketch opposite).
- m 38: continued clearing of collapse; after some consideration, it is decided that the slightly gap (gap is in fact the same as fine silt, fine brown layer that had been removed to date. Quick travel cleaning & photo, followed by careful excavation of large stones in an attempt to reveal possible tile collapse beneath. Many fragments visible after cleaning & another carefully worked with block with mallet for a window. In N corner is a small pile of pebbles & broken tile - seems to be a separate deposit. This & other tiles along sides appear to rest on more compact, harder, smoother brownish-gray layer w/charcoal inclusions - Haló interprets as decay of mud plaster on walls.
- sta opo: clearing continues. Tilefall much less pronounced as one moves to the NW. NW end left dirty for ongoing work in 38. Steve & Olga begin to remove grout tile covering upper torso of body in street.
- m 33: Nick & co return to this room to remove visible surfaces, starting w/hearth feature in E corner. Upper layer of ash & metal cores a more defined depression filled with ash & metal debris: a separate patch, probably planned as the same original layer, also fills an irregular oval cut. Not yet clear if concentration of stones - S corner is simply leveling fill or a separate layer.
- main street: excavation of rocky collapse (or fill?) is completed up to line of electric cable trench. Cleaning of sparse tile collapse beneath begins from SW end.

14 July 2005

- tomb 45: situation becomes slightly clearer as attics of earlier tomb, bed of monumental blocks, seems clear. Tomb 6 seems to have been uncovered during church construction, stones in NW & part of NE side removed (for use in wall?), while SE wall raised under church wall. Still some confusion over nature of fill, which has lots of human bone from individuals of various ages, including children - is this the fill removed from the earlier tomb, or is it related to the disarticulated material in t 4? Two hypotheses sketched out opposite: one, church built, tomb emptied & refilled, foundations laid, & in use of t. 9 human skeletal material deposited b/w tomb & wall of church; and two, tomb emptied & all refilled w/same material, on which church walls built - here bones would belong to original occupants. Ceramics, at least at first glance, seem to Larissa to be no later than lotic, so will be important for dating of church. In support of hyp 1, more bones along side shared w/t 40. In support of hyp 2, no limit between the fill of the tomb & the fill under the wall & the fill of bones (e have could church wall sit on pillar of fill?).

14 July 2005 cont.

(17)

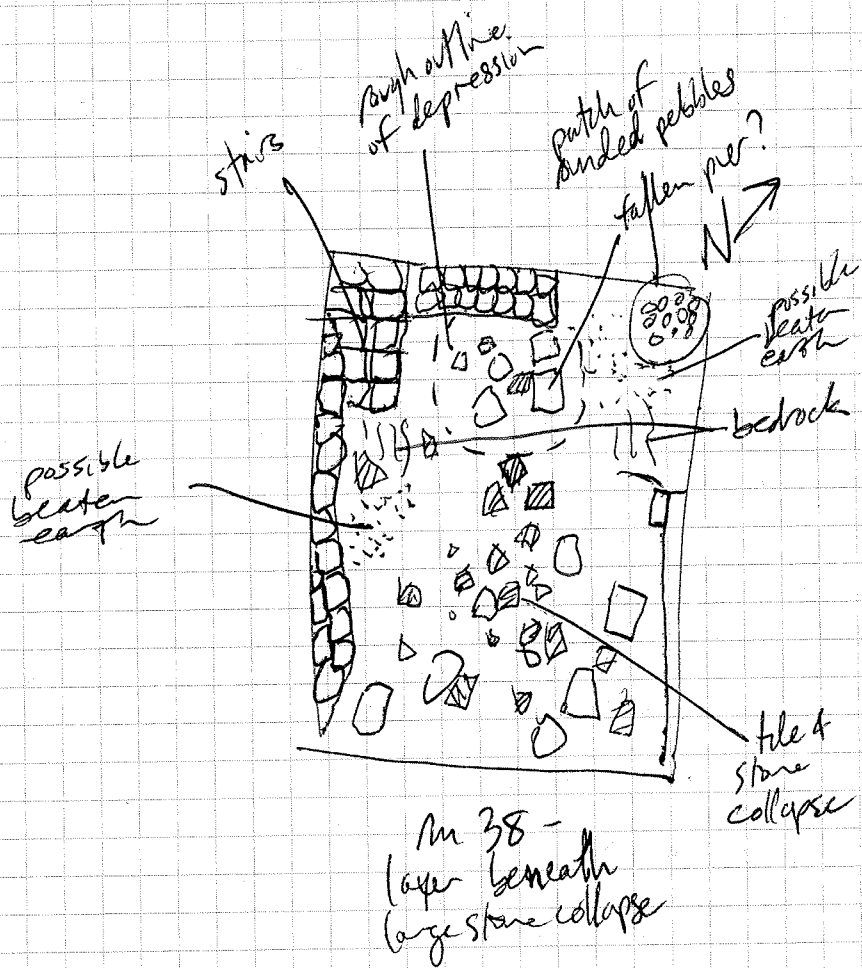
- courtyard trench: removal of yellow soil complete, cleaning continues. New layer of yellowish soil visible in roughly square area around square bedrock feature now visible in surface; that feature seems to be related to stratigraphy in that area. Elsewhere, brown soil with ceramic & bone, patches of black burnt-seeming soil. Remaining ashy pits emptied; one produces very large piece of slag.
- well/cistern: still going down. Soil wetter; finds rare, include bone, tile, some small ceramic frags.
- in 38: stones in brown-gray silty soil continue to be removed. More tiles below, but not as many as one would hope to find in intact collapse. No signs of burnt wood; also, depressions, less tile fall in street in this area. Some signs of floor, surface-bedrock in area of stairs & potential door to street, beaten-down (apparently) in patch below, tiles in S corner. Cleaning in morning. Soil continues to include patches of yellow clay and concentrations of sea grass (from roof & walls, presumably).
- stonopos: remains of skeleton from last year excavated, joined to remains found this year. Head present after all - but face missing (poor preservation). Bones in burnt ~~patch~~ patch, some show signs of burning. After geophotos & recording of skeleton as separate context, excavation from under tiles begins.
- ~~in 33~~ in 33: excavation of ashy deposits in floor pits in NE half of room continues. Slag, metal objects, regular debris present. Will be planned & mopped when complete - work progressing rather slowly.
- near street: remains of tile collapse & street surface continue to be cleaned. No good visible evidence for presence of main drain.

Generally, we decide to use much of of 2004 slab pit in order to begin excavation of courtyard/back room levels. If slabs we needed a stone (intact) tomb, we have to finish it this year.

15 July 2005

Notebook ~~with~~ entry written at end of work - busy with second geophoto test in in 38, other tasks.

- tomb 5: continued excavation of brown fill; more bones found in careless deposits, mixed w/ animal bone including a dog skull. At one point in layer, fill of large rocks is distinct enough for Gordon to take a photo & spot heights, although there is nothing to distinguish this level as a new context. By the end of the day, the tomb is emptied - no new info above the bedrock-cut base. Sides seem to be plastered w/ plaster similar to that of church apse; some ~~areas~~ areas could be interpreted as mortar, with calcium lime base w/ small frags of ceramics - but this material is fragile and only on the face of the wall and this may be simply the plaster backing. The uppermost course on the SE side seems to have been dressed to a line after setting - some tool marks beneath plaster. Masonry is not ashlar w/ all - instead, large regular blocks in regular courses with tile levelling & plaster facing. After lunch, I clean the bedrock bottom again & define the wall

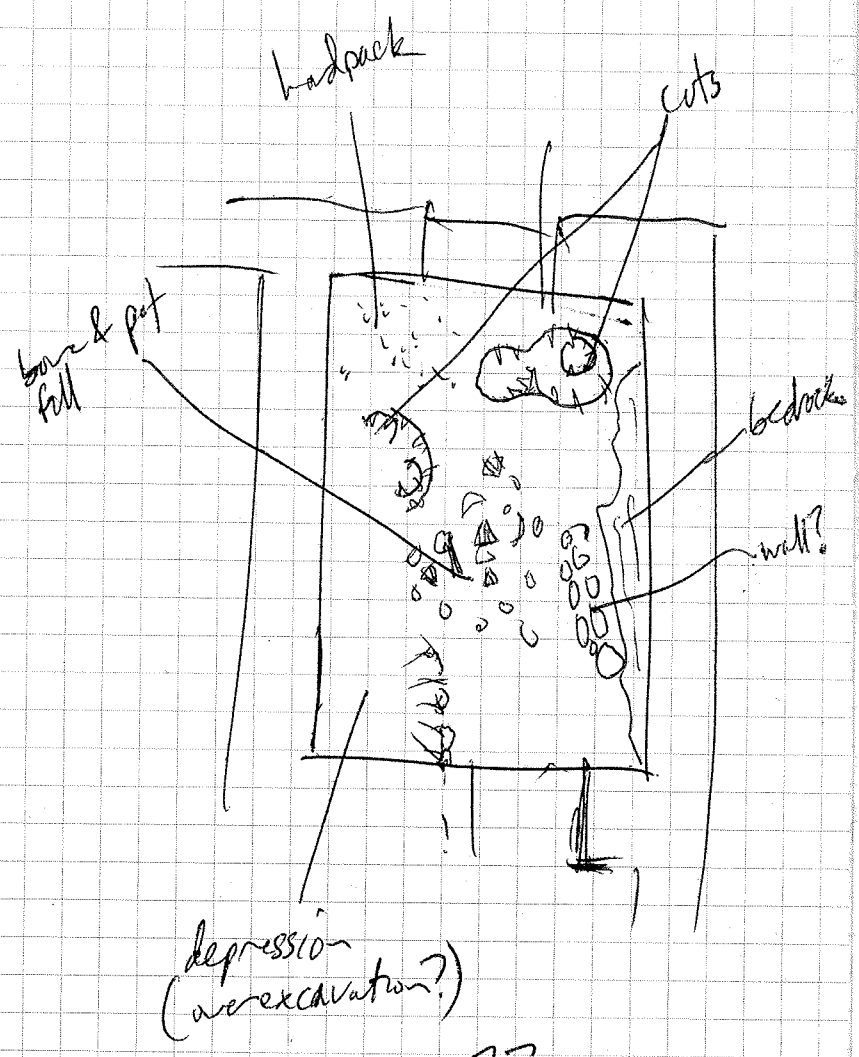
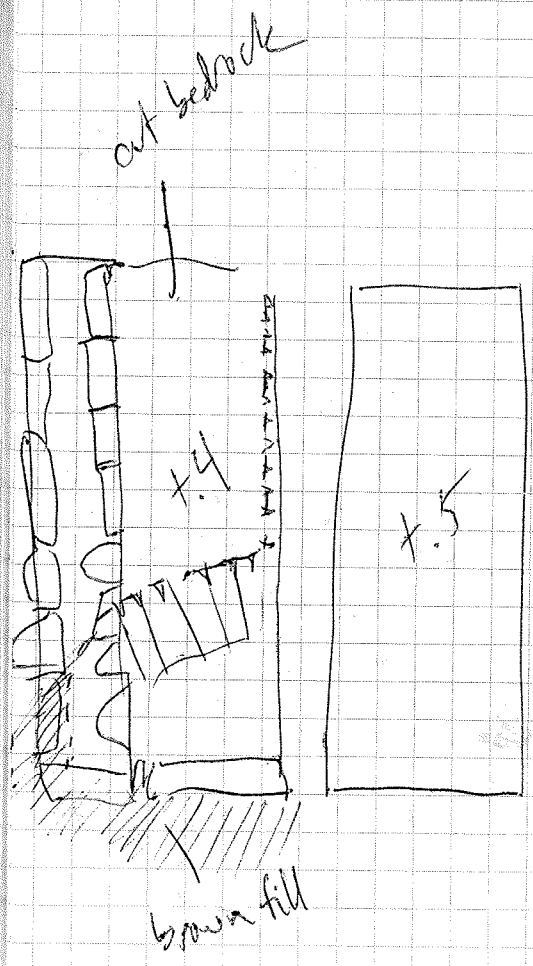


15 July 2005 cont.

- stones further. Only additional evidence for dating is from a place in the SW wall where a stone seems to be lying just above bedrock: several frags of pottery from brown damp soil that may or may not be same as fill (one frag seems to be behind a stone w/ plaster around it). The one that seems very datable is almost certainly late Hell or later - shiny red slip with lead & red unglazed along rim, either ES/legume or (from fabric) much later - Africa? No help there - still doesn't explain relation of this tomb to the chapel. One can from fill today - Carissa thinks 7th c.
- courtyard: apparent fill of trench along NW wall defined; remaining area in crescent along ~~edge~~ edge of large irregular cut in center of area ~~is a new member~~ (it is less dark chocolate colored than the ashy soil & has several stones & tiles set in it - packing for edge of cut?). Large pit clearly visible later rain just to S is defined and excavated. Although dimensions on horizontal are large (21m in diam), it is very shallow & comes down onto bedrock after ca. 10m.
- well: new layer - clay under the brown fill, probably eroded from clay seam just above. On top of clay the skeleton of a medium-sized dog. Under clay a new layer of rocky fill with very little ~~soil~~ soil between the stones. Still very little material though above the clay I found - during a descent to check up - another Roman brick w/ signs of burning, v. similar to bricks & material in "burnt layer" at bottom of first layer of bedrock.
- m 37: work begins in afternoon w/ section cleaning. Several lenses of burnt earth, ash, charcoal are visible beneath an uppermost gray fill ca. 10-15cm thick. Stratigraphy will be complicated. Shawn supervising, after cleaning, begins to remove gray layer along NW ~~section~~ section in area. Preliminary investigation tends to suggest different stratigraphy on either side of the late (removed) wall that ran into the fill of the pit.
- m 31: during slow period in m 38 while documentation activities taking place, Harvey, Olga, Jessica H., Boris set to removing 10cm pass. of last surface of this room/courtyard. All the soil from excavation in this surface will be sieved, mainly to collect faunal remains; the same will be true of the floor of m 30, which we also plan to meshaste. (5mm sieve mesh)
- m 38: work stops after sparse tile collapsed is cleared; geophotos & drawing done. Collapse seems to have more tiles along SE side of room; on NE side where there are stairs, the bedrock seems to have been used as the bottom riser, and there may be some sort of platform in the N corner of the room where there is a odd deposit of rounded pebbles, few tiles, and a hard layer that may be a surface. In front of the second wall along the NW wall of the room (probable star support) there is a substantial, roughly circular depression into which tiles & other elements of collapse seem to spill - including two large square blocks that may represent a part of the corner of the star support. Amid the tile collapse are several smallish, very regular, square terracotta elements, ca. 20cm on a side - could be broken tiles, but should not be ruled out as paving

possible
beater
earth
bedrock

tile &
one
collapse



M 33

July 15 cont

tiles for an upstairs floor.

- Strepops: excavation of fallen tile layer begins. In roughly same area as skeleton, two burnt beams found - one larger but more fragmentary, other shorter but well-preserved. Given "wood" find numbers, wrapped geophotoid; conservators called out to attempt a lift in the hopes that enough rings will be present for dendro dating. Experimental lift w/ foam on the more poorly-preserved example.

- m 33: Nick & Jessica & Dan finish excavating ashly fill of circular & irregular pits & cuts in early floor (?) of room, mainly along NE wall. Situation in the rest of the room is confused: the hard-pack, w/ few inclusions, gives way in an indefinite manner to a loose soil full of animal bones & ceramics (apparently a levelling fill). I would prefer to understand the hardpack as an early use surface & the rest as fill, but I don't know where the contemporary floor in the rest of the room has gone. In addition, the high line of stones in similar soil in the S corner of the room is starting to look like it may be the remains of an earlier wall follows bedrock cut along SE wall in slightly too straight a line to be dismissed as casual.

if in circular (irregular) pit in SE corner, two interesting elements; 1) large fragment of hardened soil w/ ash & iron slag concretions on surface, tossed into fill at an angle (clearly visible in section); 2) hardened dark brown soil at bottom of feature, clearly distinct from fill, with two circular impressions. Not clear if latter extends under limits of cut or should be associated with its use.

bedrock

July 16 2005

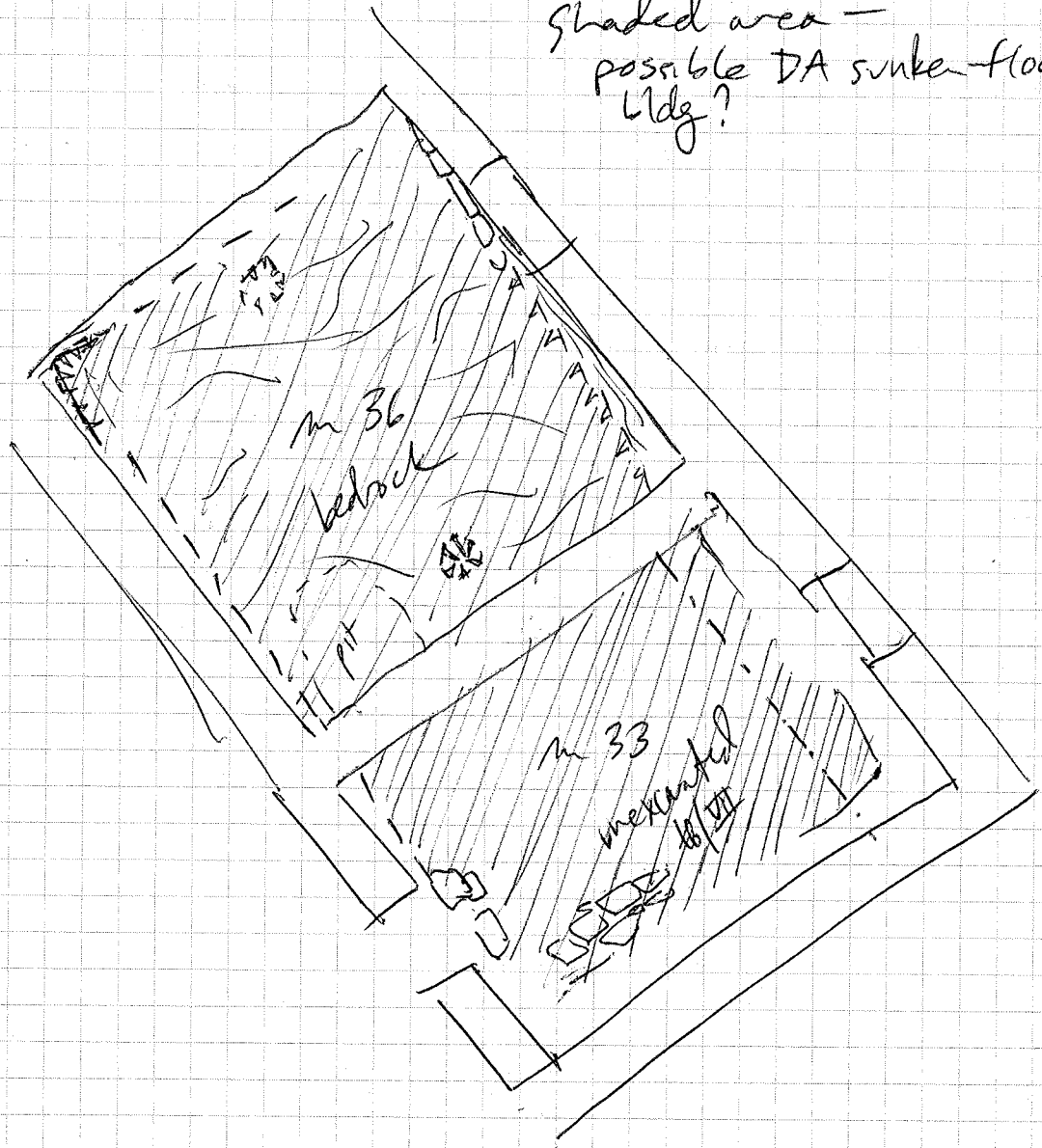
well?

Again entry after end of working day. After work yesterday Edging work today, Cathy & I get lift part of a piece of wood - well attempt to use it for dendro analysis, if we can get a good section; we also take a sample for potential carbon dating.

- tomb 4/t. 5: slabs set in bottom of t. 4 (4 clearly in phase with that tomb, as well as perhaps w/ t. 5 - plastered to t. 4 headstone) are lifted. Beneath is a solid, dense brown fill containing bones & what appears to be late Roman or early Byzantine pottery. This fill continues, without interruption, under the headstone of t. 4 and to the NW, in the area where a large ~~cut~~ circular cut has been made in bedrock. The wall of t. 5 backs up against this fill - not clear if it was built up against a cut in that fill or if the fill was deposited after the construction of the tomb. Under the double wall of t. 4, flat stones look increasingly like the ends of ~~plaster~~ paving slabs (see sketch opposite). Situation is even more confused than before. Excavation ~~was~~ ceased until larger area of courtyard to be opened.

- courtyard: brown fill along NW wall determined to be fill of foundation trenches for that wall, emptied. Clayey orange fill of circular feature just to SE also emptied; beneath, an even harder-packed clay layer. Sequence of cuts & fills - 4 their purpose - gaining increasingly obscure.

shaded area -
possible DA sunken floor
ldg?



16 July 2005 cont.

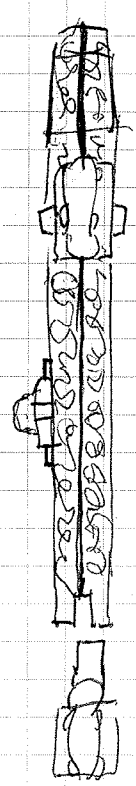
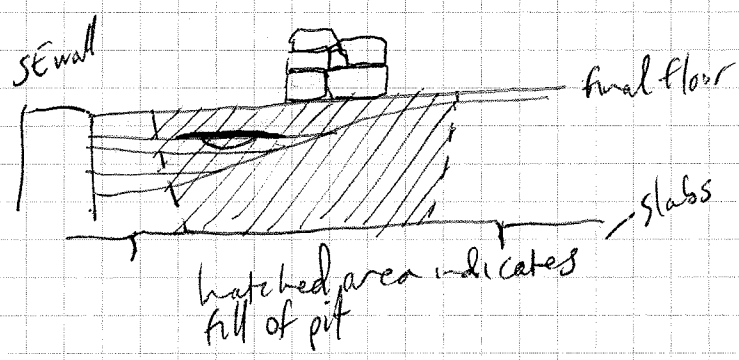
- well: beneath layer of clay, largely sterile fill of large stones continues. We decide that we can't risk losing the work of that team for two more weeks w/out any guarantee of finding the bottom, and close work in the well for the season. Team will move to gray soil over slabs to N.
- m 31: Continued removal of 10cm of floor level for sieving. Cross pendant found in sieve from this layer. By end of excavation day, pass is almost to stairs to upper floor of m 38.
- m 38: drawing continues in morning. Test of the accuracy of hand-planning at 1:50 vs georef photos from ladder continues. Currently, drawing is ca 5 hrs in field; photos are 1 hr for 2 people in field, plus ~~15~~ another 15 hrs for one person referencing & making mosaic/catalogue. When drawing complete, excavation resumes from SE end of m - removal of thickest part of the collapse. In S corner, fragments of a pitnos apparently in situ are found - removed before can be photographed, but ~~total~~ position taken w/total station ("other find" category reconstituted).
- Strepops: ~~change~~ removal of tile collapse continues. Segment near m 58 still left for barrow transit; not yet on geophotos. Treatment of beam remains as mentioned above.
- main street: tile collapse along SE wall of bldg (complex 3) geophoto'd - note presence of larger pieces of carbonized wood, again probably burnt beams. Limits of this deposit may be result of modern intervention in street - but could also represent fall of porch roof (or at least roof slanted to street over m 33). Two large stones set up against outside wall may support first idea.
- m 33: excavation of surface or layer under ashly potu begins, after ash-filled pits are fully emptied. Starting to seem that line of rocks in S may be related to some of cuts in m 36 bedrock - possible that in this corner are some of the few traces of dark age habitation. If so, building probably in mudbrick & timber w/sunken floor, possibly postholes for posts to carry ~~roof~~ roof tree. Alignment 5-7° off alignment of final structures of block (see sketch opposite). Removal of layer still somewhat tentative - concern @ over lack of clarity in relation of various apparent visible layers to each other.

* NB: Sasha Arthipov called his father last night to ask about intaglio signet - AS says certainly glass paste, since dark blue color isn't natural. Quite possible as intep, though I'm bothered by hardness & survival of design, lack of patination.

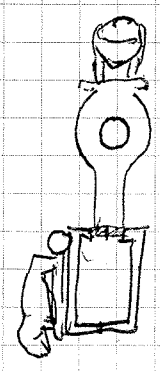
18 July 2005

Work on well & on tombs in church closed - some cleaning of latter for Allyson's drawing. Boris Z. was left, replaced by under supervision student called Alexei.

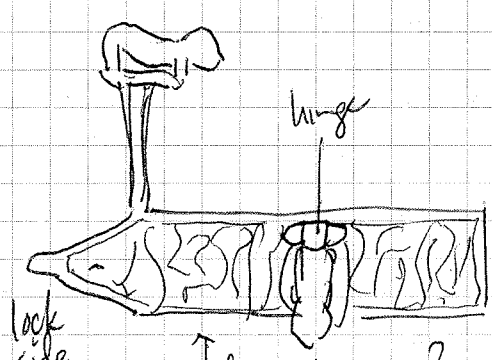




top view



section

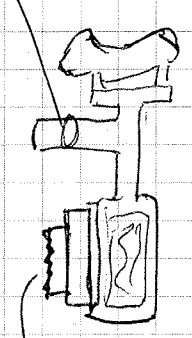


lock side

hinge

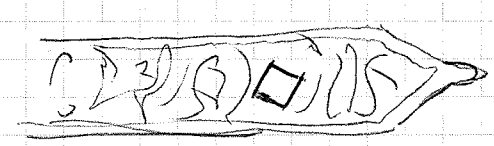
pseudo-kitch inser?

circular x-section



broken edges rest of bar prob. in lock end

back side




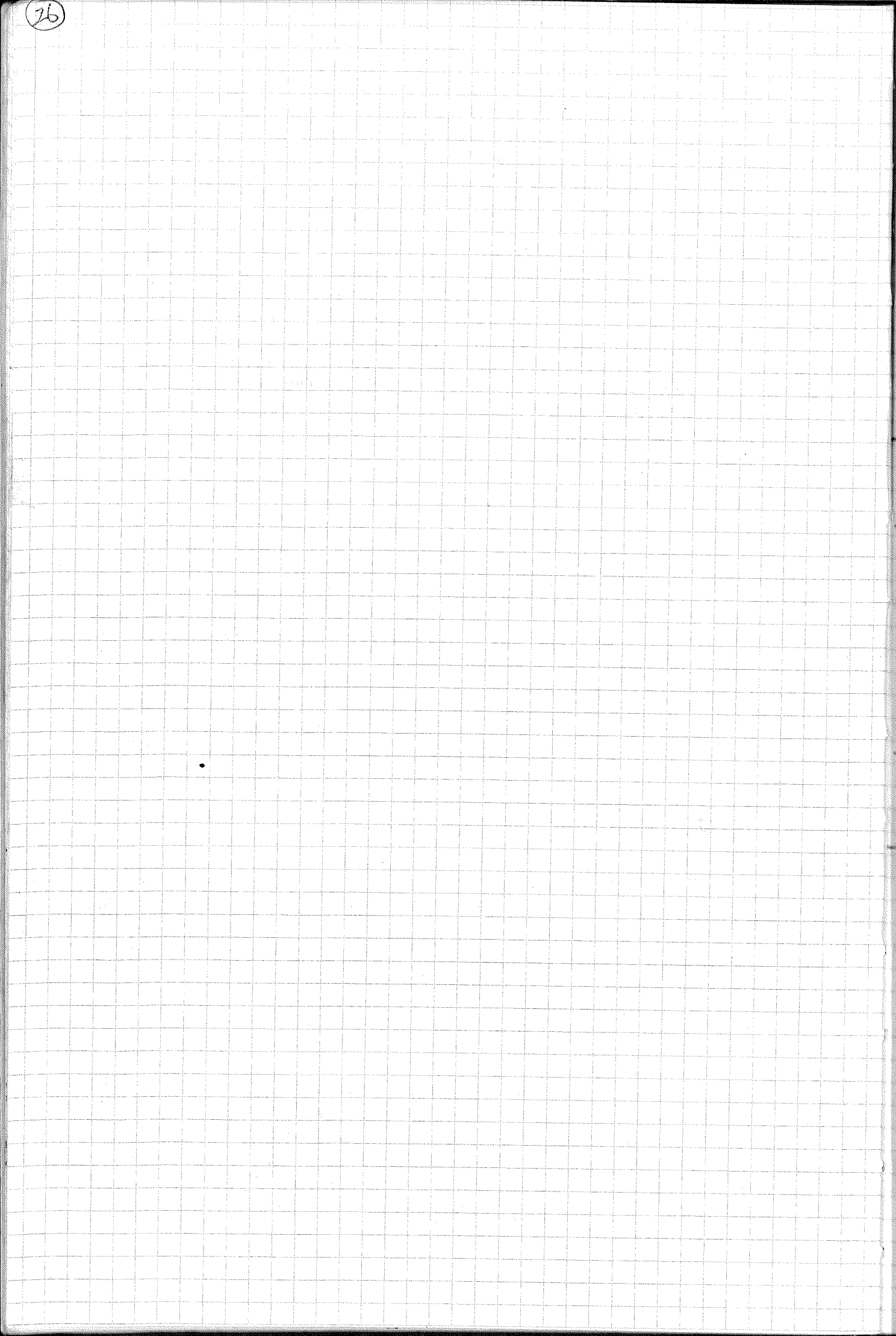
18 July 2005 cont.

25

- in courtyard, continuing confusion. Brown layer with bones & stones removed in preliminary 5-10cm pass, but this reveals complex situation at NW end. In hollow in center of bedrock, at NW end, another orange clay layer, apparently just over bedrock, containing frags of pottery. Next to that a medium brown layer w/ large rocks (W corner of trench), which seems in turn to be cut by a feature filled with an ashy dark brown soil. This seems to sit directly on bedrock; on the other side of a slight rise in the bedrock, the same feature seems to cut a harder grayish layer. This, in its turn, is under the brown layer but its limit to the SE is unclear. Paleobotanical samples taken from the brown being removed.
- m 37: excavation of final floor surface begins. Examination of ~~the~~ section in pit suggests ~~two~~ different situations on NW & SE sides, roughly along the center line of the original last-phase wall...

19 July 2005

- ... although the last-phase wall clearly post-dates the division in the use of the room (I am continuing yesterday's entry today - couldn't complete in field). Current hypothesis - original fill of room sloped down to SE, gradually filled to level w/ fire & hearth remains, then final floor laid down; then large pit cut, filled w/ rubbish, wall built on top (see sketch opposite). Dyma & co. clean off, remaining pieces of final floor surface, down to layer of fire/hearth.
- m 31: excavation of 10cm pass over courtyard continues - suddenly occurs to me that slightly harder-packed gravelly area along the stairs has probably been excavated w/ courtyard surface - that in any case should have been contemporary in last phase, so probably ok.
- m 30 (19/07): excavation in room - for searching for fish remains - begins w/ remaining area of hearth in E corner of room (lower levels). Sample taken for paleobotanical analysis; remaining material will be sieved for faunal remains.
- m 38: excavation of upper layer of tile & stone collapse ~~area~~ continues in NW side of room, where it is very thin over bedrock step & deeper in area of circular feature next to stairs. Also sieved; continues to contain tile frags, ceramics, stones, nails (especially along SE wall, where well-heats are pits & amphora crushed in situ). Some carbonized wood remains.
- ~~the~~ the opposite tile collapse removed & modern trench cleared except in area of m 38.
- main street: removal of tile collapse at side m 33. (19/07): under stone at E corner of block, (look  of Eastern (Banian?) manufacture found - extremely good preservation, w/ lion finials. Two pieces found slightly separate under this stone, which seems to be part of bench w/ capitals (removed as special finds last year). Lock is a padlock, probably for a chest rather than a door (too fine, bronze, door locking mechanisms diff). In road due to looting.
 - two pieces of semi-fallen outside wall of m 33 picked off by mistake, replaced (roughly).



17 July 2005 cont.

- m 33: excavation of fill layer beneath surface contour. W/ hearth remains. In N corner, large quantity of stones in somewhat random position - remains of ~~packing~~ of edges of earlier, sunken floor bldg? Bedrock is cut out from walls of 33, but also seems to be cut under wall dividing 33 & 36, in conjunction w/ that wall - so not clear if early building exists or not. Earlier building could do have been divided into 30 rooms of roughly equal size...

Following reflects today's activity.

- main street: a stone find under the stony collapse next to the wall: bronze vessel (or helmet) with inside of a spearpoint, several pieces of charcoal, apparent iron handle (?), fragments of a couple of pieces of glazed pottery. Soil from inside taken for flotation; charcoal from inside taken for possible carbon dating; photographed & shot in.

- m 38: depression in NW side turns out to be ~~an~~ avoid rectangular pit w/ bedrock cuts along side & channel apparently leading to it. Filled w/ tile collapse, so open at time of destruction.

- courtyard: increasingly complicated situation w/ series of pits & fills - irregular (usually circular) pits. Currently there seems to be a dark ashy fill (in two layers) which is the latest; this in turn fills a cut in a hard gray layer to the SE & a rocky fill to the NW. The rocky fill covers the edge of the layer beneath the upper orange layer, which is filled with broken tiles. This fill in turn fills a circular cut in bedrock. Tiles seem to be medieval - again, issue of dating of construction of house (construction trench later than this, or earlier? when was pit filled?)

- m 31: in angle near blocked door & blocked wall lots of small finds, incl. many metal objects. 2 possible jugs or ceramic vessels used as chimbles, in one case for gold refining.

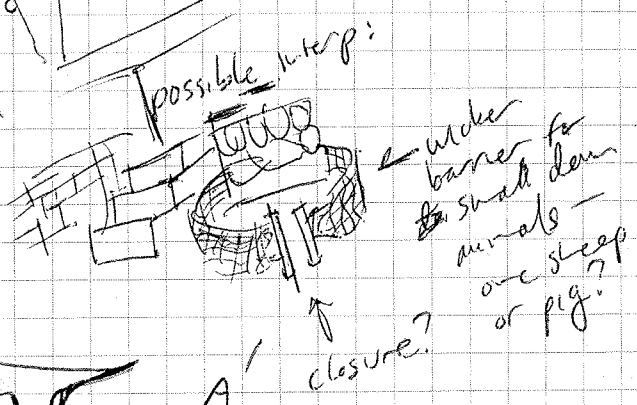
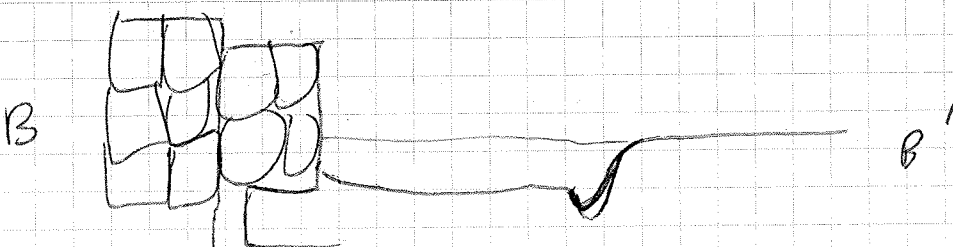
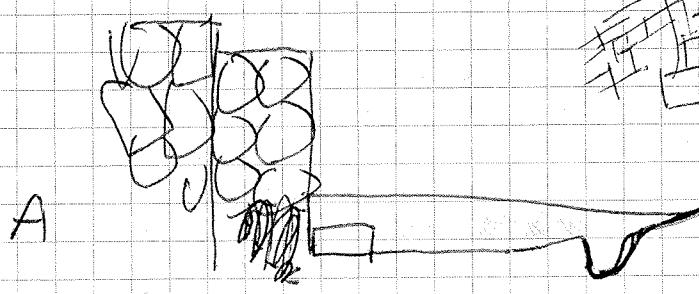
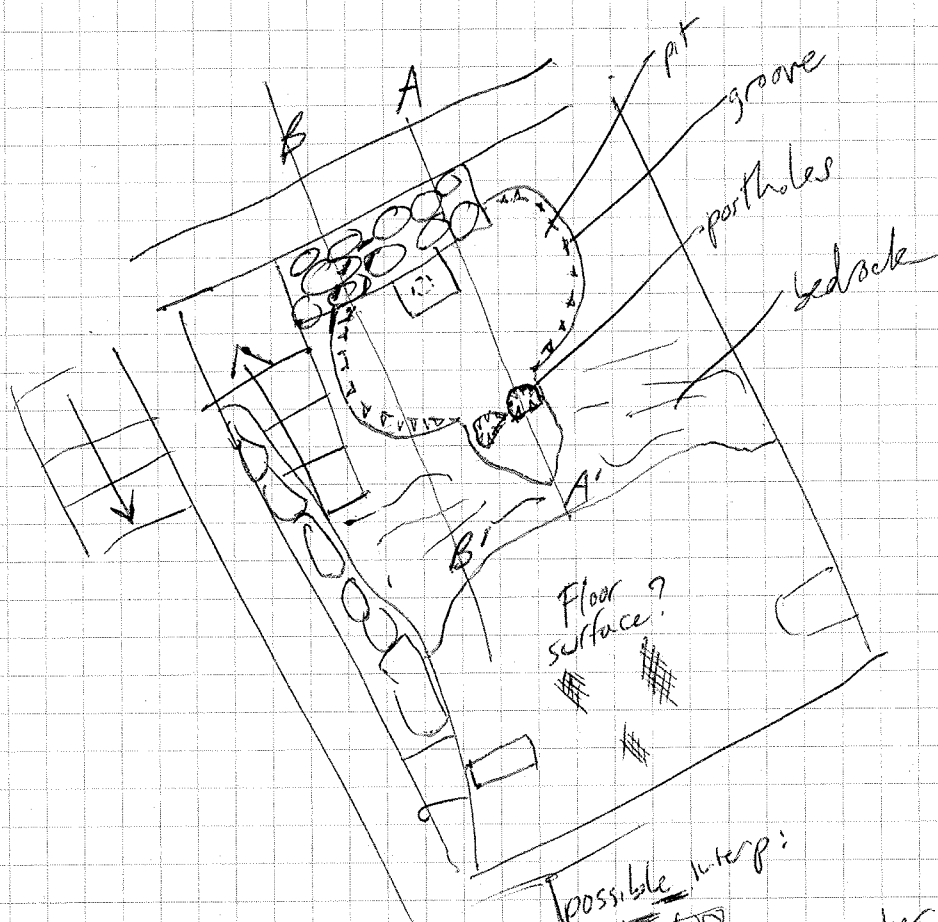
- in unexcavated area, backhoe begins to dig. Comes across very flat mortar (concrete?) construction slightly w/in line of ~~the~~ masonry wall on Kostyushko plan - interp not clear, but certainly 19th - 20th c. Also an intact cannonball.

20 July 2005

Entry written after end of work day - too busy. Note ongoing excavation in m 37 in afternoon (discussed w/ man entry & land).

- courtyard: ongoing removal of various pits & fills, including remainder of brown layer, ~~the~~ ashy black layer in pit(?) against section, and bottom (different) layer of tile & brown earth in pit in middle of NW side, near foundation trench of NW wall. Two small pits/holes in bedrock under ashy layer, but otherwise no particular sense to developments in courtyard. Preliminary analysis of ceramics gives tentative 13th-c. date to almost everything ~~in~~ courtyard, including fill of T. 5.

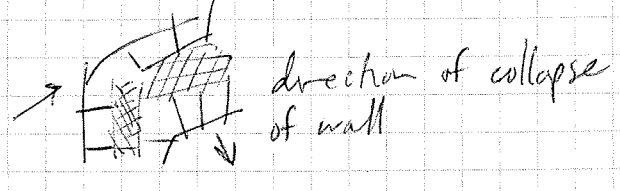
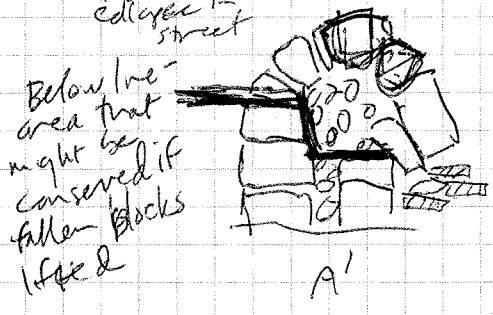
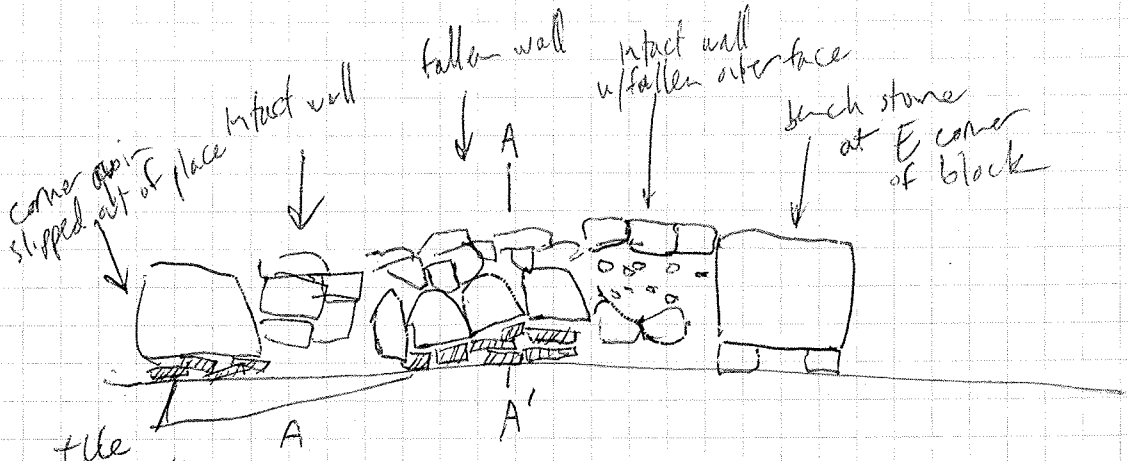




20 July 2000 cont.

- m 37: excavation in both morning & afternoon. Situation is confusing, despite some visible layers in section. On NE side, substantial amount of pit wall removed under the assumption that burnt patch continued beneath; although may be slightly out of sequence, orange patch of burnt earth does seem to be more complicated than it first appeared - runs deeper along NE wall, perhaps actually under soil to NW rather than over it. On SW side, only stable reference point is patch of burnt earth, ash & charcoal against section - seems to sit on a surface & be covered by grey pebbly brown soil on NW side. Removal of that soil & of remainder of wall sitting on it begins, extends around NW side. We are probably being more cavalier with this stratigraphy than we would under ideal circumstances, but it seems far more important to uncover the slabs by the end of the season than it does to be completely certain of the microstratigraphy of something that is almost certainly a dump (note to any future readers - I know that sounds like defensive justification, but it really is true).
- m 31: The S wing has now been excavated to a level much lower than the first 10m pass in the W wing, and has produced a high number of small finds & evidence of fine metalworking (copper & gold). We plan to the W wing again to bring it down to the same level; all soil still being sieved.
- m 38: depression along NW side turns out to be in fact, a feature: a squared oval pit with a channel or depression leading into it and a groove in the soil running around the edge. In the middle of the NW wall, against the stair base (?) is a flat rock with a small circular cut - post base? At the W corner, the groove continues under the stair (?) construction; initially it seemed to be another hiding-place, but now more likely interpretation is a cut to seat the wood-and-wicker structure that probably sat in the groove and enclosed the pit (only way to explain the way earth walls were retained, and pit's well with consistent presence of charcoal at the bottom of the groove. Possibly an animal pen; apparently other pellets from late Byz Chrs. On the other side of the room, vessels broken in situ are removed. Some evidence of burnt wood, but not as much as one would expect if the room had been subject to the same sort of fire that destroyed the rooms along the E side of complex 3. Post-destruction salvage operations? Could also explain m 36... (see sketch & section opposite).
- Note also possible alignment of stones on opposite sides of room at SE end - supports for shelving? coincidence?
- m 33: ongoing excavation of pottery & bone-rich fill under surface associated w/ metalworking - large quantities of animal remains incl. fish bones (as elsewhere on site). Large flatish rock set deep in area where I had hoped for third posthole from earlier bldg - post support? Distinct difference between pile of rocks in N corner & rest of fill.

over
keep
?



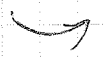
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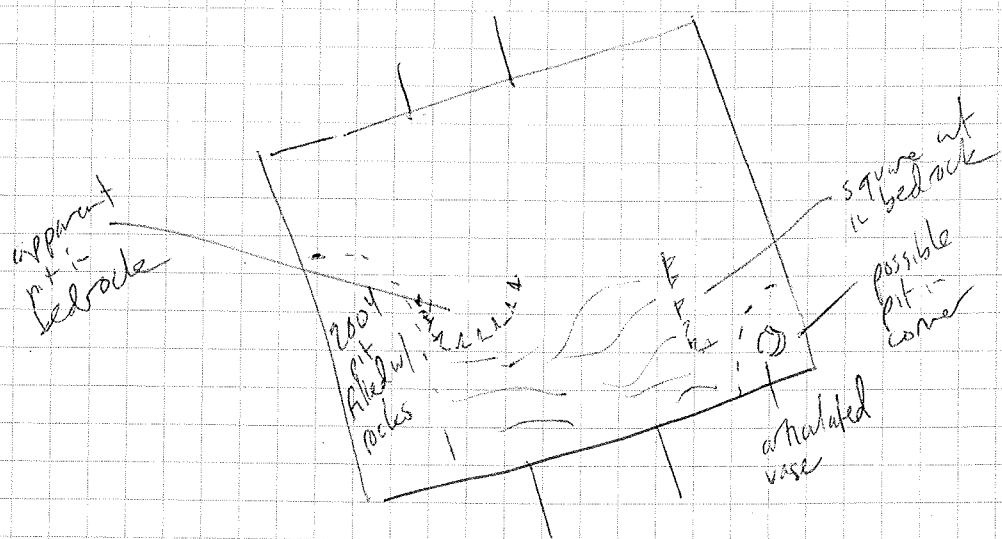
20 July cont.
(rest of entry written 21 July)

- mid-street: ongoing removal of tile collapse. Cleaning of surface below. Removal of part of outside wall of m'33 collapsed in situ; some stones less fixed, need to be removed to extract bucket (done in afternoon by conservators). Remaining rocks left until conversations can be had w/ Chris about how to deal w/ wall - reconstruct from blocks clearly in situ, if fallen, or simply remove? See ~~sketch~~ ~~opposite~~ sketch's opposite for rough elevation & section of situation.

21 July 2005

- courtyard: approaching bedrock in all areas; along SE side of area, where walk left next to T. 3, line of stones appears (possibly in line w/ odd second wall of tomb). We cut back the section, not keeping pottery & w/ out much attention to stratigraphy, to get a better sense of the nature of these stones - tentatively, seem to be a wall.
- m 37: another wall appears under 13th c. fill here too - partially destroyed, but very thick & recognizable. More or less same alignment as walls of block & as slabs, but will need to look on plan. Not yet clear if this is in phase with slabs. Note that fill levels, rich in pottery & animal bone, look almost identical to fill levels in m 33 (color, composition, type of animal bones, etc.). ~~Excavated~~ Fill does seem to cover both ash in S corner & hard, smoother brown soil beneath it - the latter seems to slope down to the buried wall. Tips against a ruined building?
- m 31: work in W wing progresses, reveals pile of spines next to large ashlar block in N corner, & very regular cut line in bedrock, ~~is~~ parallel to line of stairs & in area of greater compaction identified in 2004. Some paleobotanical sampling, ongoing sieving.
- m 38: Layer of most of articulated sheds removed; underneath are large patches of burnt wood, very poorly preserved. Samples of charcoal taken for C14 dating & / or wood ID. Roughly linear features may indicate either structural wood or furniture.
- Oval feature along NW wall cleaned further; good evidence for presence of wood at corner to entrance ramp & under wall at N corner. Its floor surface is different from that in the rest of the room & will be ~~excavated~~ excavated first, as the last event in the room before collapse.
- m 33: ongoing removal of loose pebbly, gray-brown fill full of bones, ceramics, tile frags. Seems to run very deep in E & center of room, except over stone concentration in N corner (that is beginning to look like much the same fill, although with more stones). To the SW, a harder ground seems to rise along the bedrock & along the potential early wall along the SE wall of m 33. The large stone that I proposed yesterday as a post support now has a companion, and both are starting to look more like fill than like post supports.





ab

21 July 2005 cont.

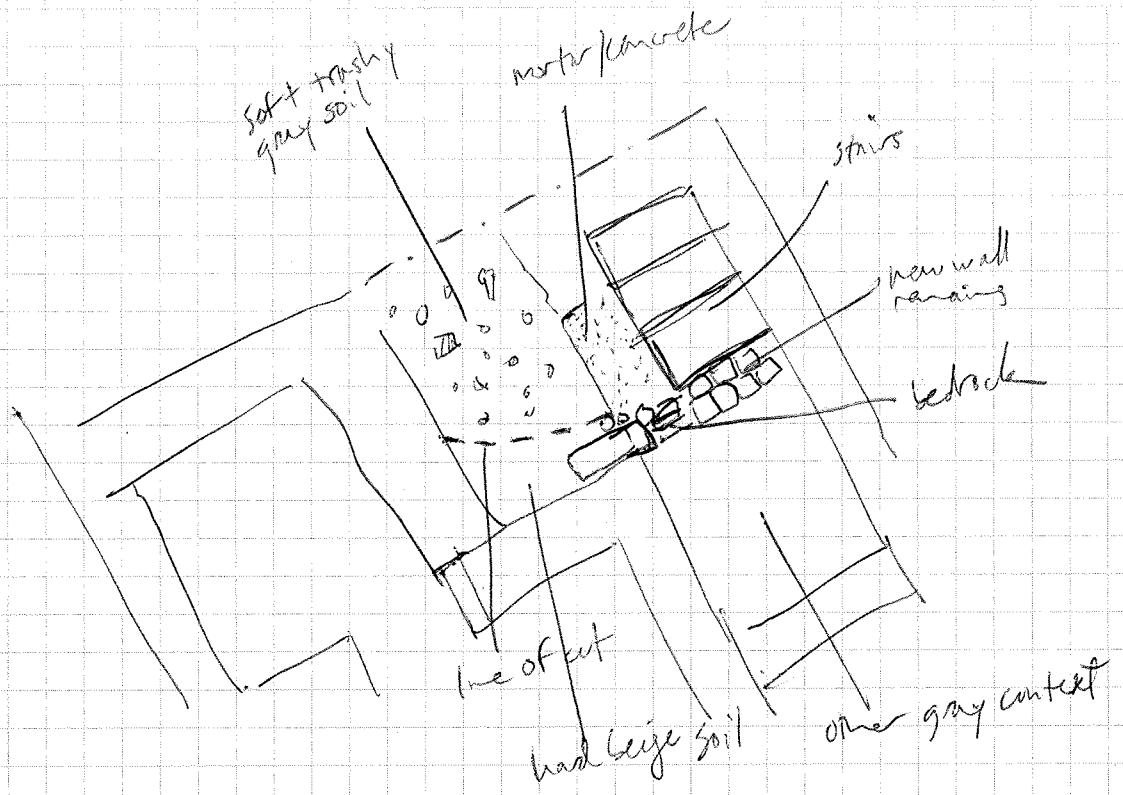
- m 30: work resumes on floor (heart sampled yesterday, but then work stopped). Heart to be a loam pass for sieving & paleobot. sampling; goes somewhat deeper in the area of a possible pit in the middle ~~of~~ SW side of the room. Another possible pit in E corner, & a square bedrock feature next to it. In area of SE doorway, bedrock just under remains of floor. (see sketch - opposite).
- m 38: patch of yellow soil visible in wall of cut for pan (?) suggested by Italo to be sulfur, possible association w/ metalworking in earlier phase?

22 July 2005

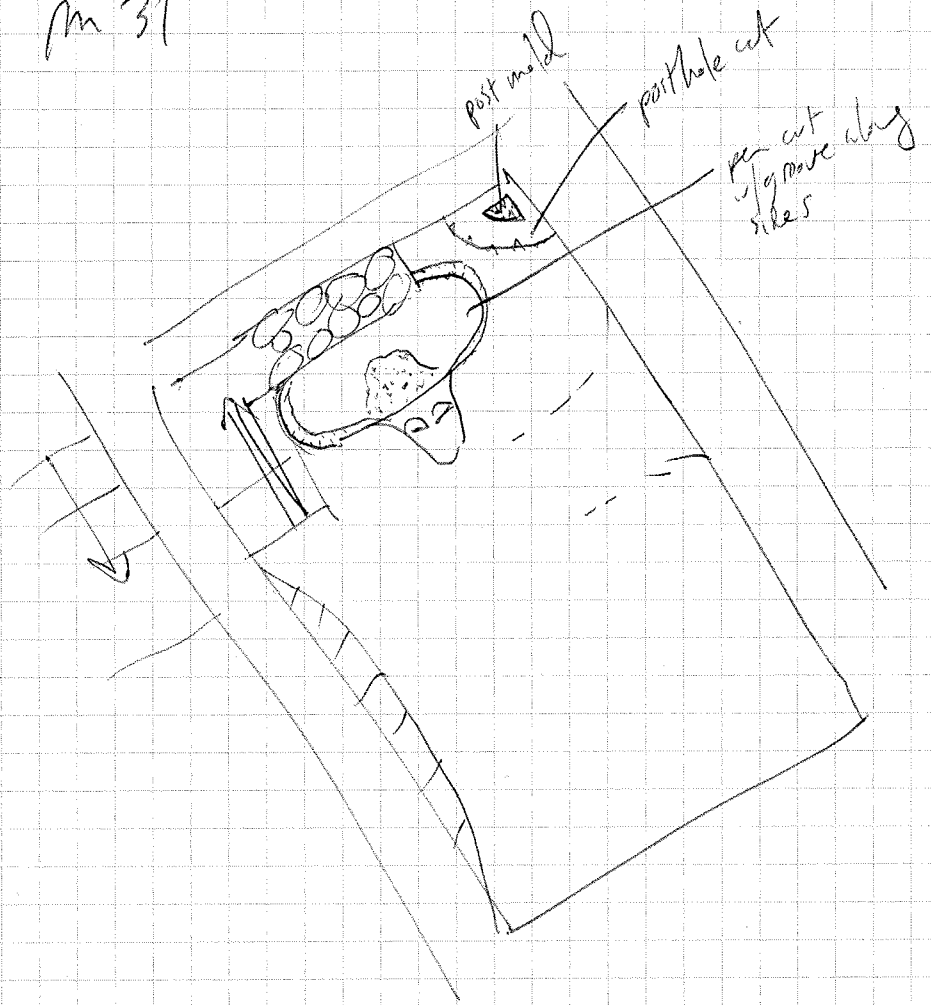
Usual 4th-week breakdown - people getting sick, minor injuries, panic about time left to finish, short tempers, slowed work pace & absenteeism. Kyu students working w/ Italo not particularly attentive, but they like stop sieving earth & c. ~~no~~ ~~no~~ finds. ~~Backhoe~~ Backhoe continues to operate in fill around NE section wall in main-street area.

- courtyard: cleaning down to bedrock complete in courtyard; in W corner, there seems to be a patch of decomposed bedrock & clay cut at a straight 90° angle on the outside & in a rough circle on the inside (by foundation trenches and a pit?). Although it is above the level of the bedrock elsewhere, it seems to be sterile geological soil and will be left in situ. When the surface & sections are complete, we will extend a sounding across the width of the courtyard to the center of the cistern - an attempt to understand the relation between the slabs, foundations, various walls, etc.
- m 37: still some confusion in excavation & some material might be coming from more than one layer. On the ~~NE~~ NE side of the new wall, the dark brown-gray fill continues down to a clean tan-brown level below the visible course of the wall. The situation is slightly different on the SE side. There, the same fill was present but the brown layer below it was somewhat overcut, esp. in the W corner, and the ~~orange~~ layer of orange soil & ash that seemed to be a hearth under the floor on the NE side was taken out together with darker fill and perhaps part of the same brown surface. A floor or surface level above the level of several flat rocks on top of the slabs seems to have been reached; one tile lies flat & broken on this surface. In reaching the surface however several layers may have been removed at once. In the S corner is a hearth w/ charcoal and a deep deposit of white ash - this is probably on top of the brown layer, or on top of an intermediary layer of dumping. Left until out of phase, so relationships confused.
- m 31: removal of floor complete - sieved almost entirely, except when Rona, Olga & Katia stopped sieving because they weren't finding anything in the W wing. Under the floor (ca. 15cm thick) are several new surfaces/layers: ~~IT~~ ~~IT~~ →

39



Am 31



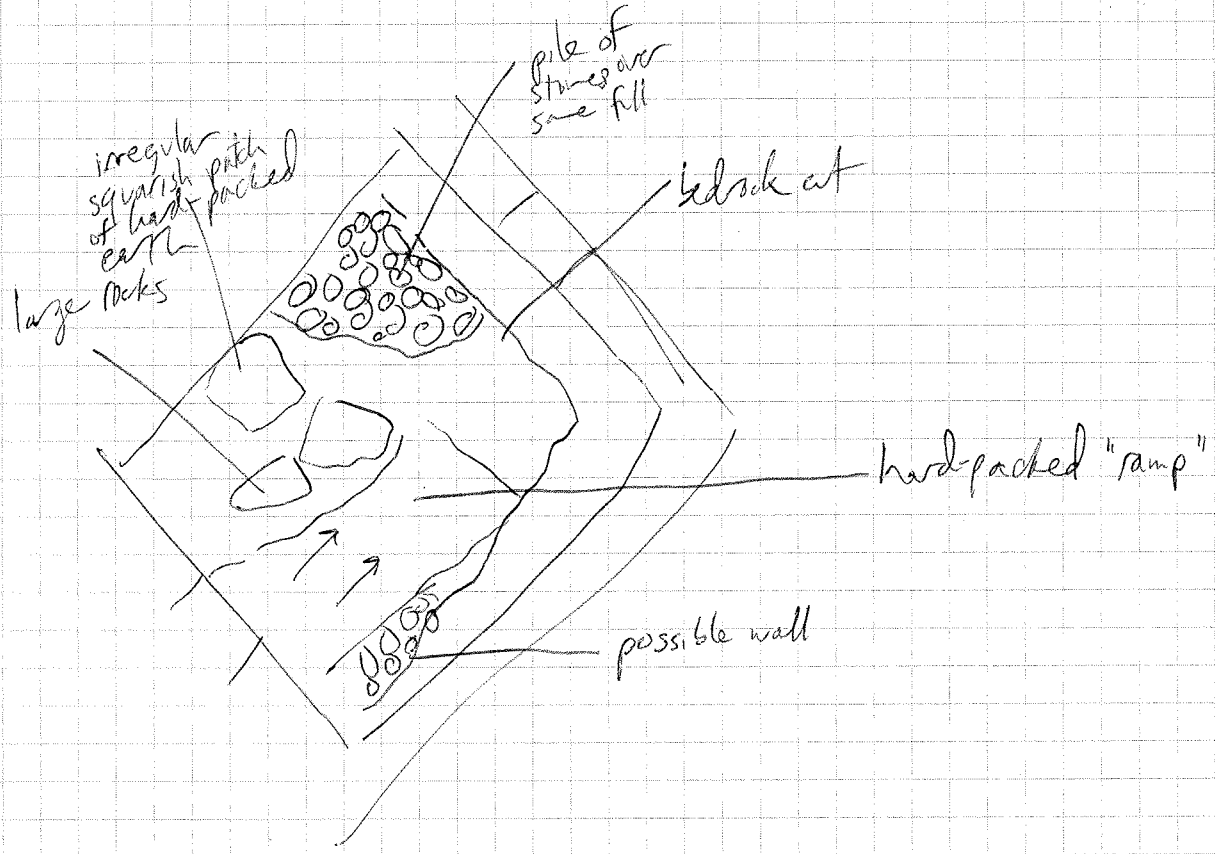
Am 38

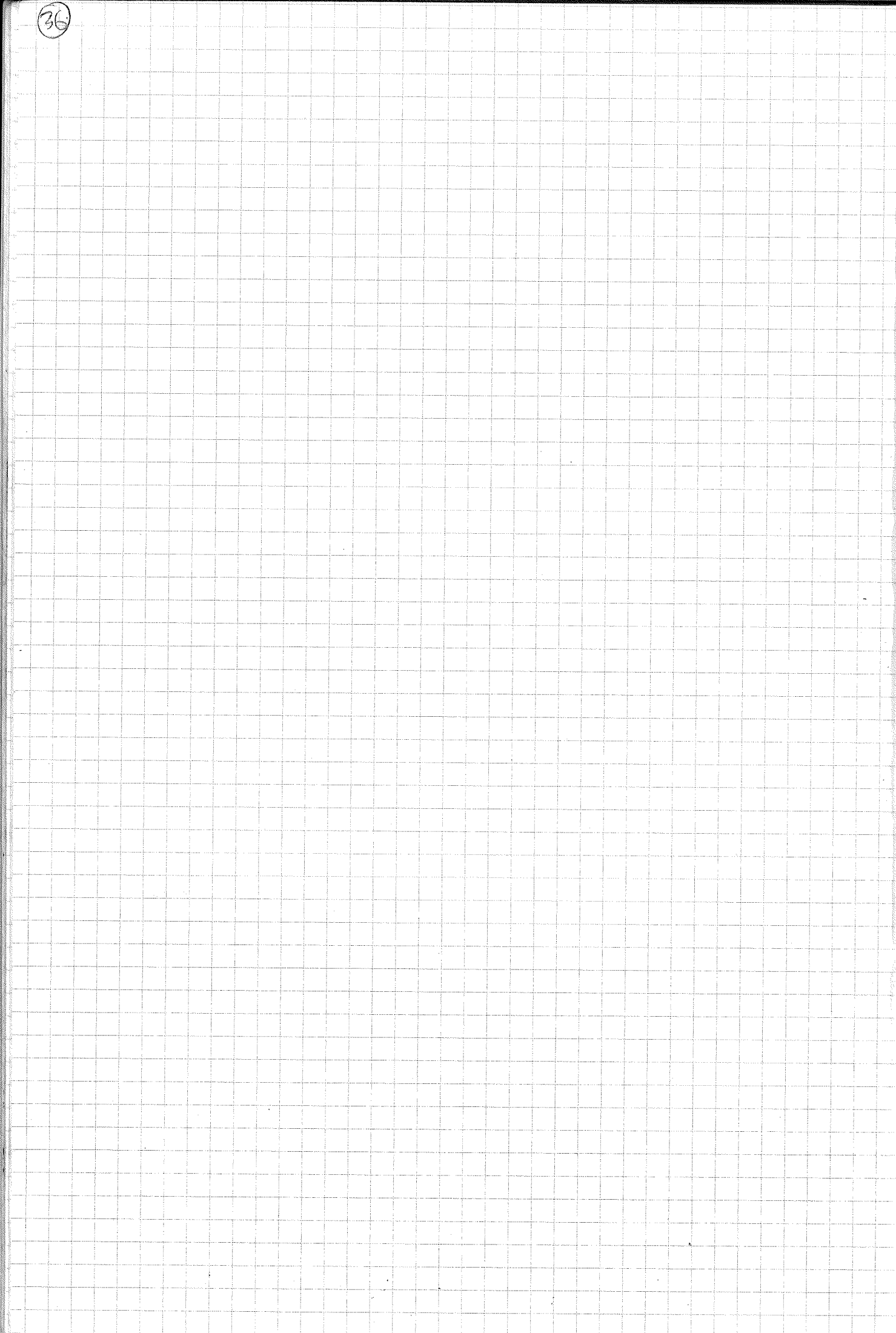
22 July 2005 cont.

The most recent seems to be a level of grey-brown soil w/ similar characteristics to that of the floor, but ~~with~~ softer looser and with more bone and stone visible on the surface. It seems to fill a cut or a smooth, compact tan-brown layer along its SE side. On the NE, there is a very regular rectangular platform that appears to be made of a very fine mortar or cement. At the SE end of the staircase, we also find part of another wall with a NE-SW orientation. A large ashlar block against the wall shared w/ room 30 may also belong to this wall as may a concentration of stones next to it. (see sketch opposite) In the S wing, also seems to be a new surface/layer - slightly irregular but more or less level, with large quantity of crumbers.

- m 38: final clearing of floor level in SE part of room, topography, photos. In NW side floor of pit/pen seems to be removed, groove seems to be deeper than originally excavated. Surface comes down into layer of soil mixed with degraded bedrock in area of entrance to area - probably indicates the presence of moisture coming down bedrock at for access. In N corner of room, quarter-circular pit with internal ~~triangular~~ triangular void - almost certainly a post hole with a post mold (or post void). Related to stail structure or upper floor, or to structure in ~~association~~ association w/ pen? (see sketch opposite)

- m 33: It is becoming increasingly apparent that all the various concentrations of stone and hard earth in this room are the products of one massive filling event: separate tips in a single action. The distribution of the various areas is interesting however, and we plan those levels & take spot heights. Large (revisions of plaster/splaco, some apparently with form, along NE wall. Deposit seems to be hard-packed, leading down from door in a sort of ramp - Nick wonders if it might be from original filling activity (compressed as people walked in w/ buckets or wheelbarrows. See sketch below.





22 July 2005 cont

(37)

- sweeps: work moves back to tile collapse at NW end of steps. Now mat soil from 38 is being swept, doesn't need wheelbarrow passage. Same as tile collapse in rest of street, perhaps a bit less thick / fewer tiles ~~at~~ than at SE end.
- m 37 afternoon: finish removal of hearth in S corner, cleaning of next floor surface down. Sequence now seems to be, from earliest to latest:
 - 1) slabs
 - 2) some sort of spoliation / fill / collapse, w/ large stones lying on the slabs, some tile beneath (one stone very large, flat, worked)
 - 3) construction of the new SW-NE wall, with ground level of packed earth to SE higher than ground level of foundation & packed earth surface
 - 4) destruction & spoliation of wall, dumping over SE floor, probably in pile (going to SW along SE side of wall)
 - 5) ~~creation~~ creation of hearth in S corner, w/ hot, long fire that left a great deal of powdery white ash
 - 6) massive 13th - c trash dumping (similar to fill of m 33, although more compact), over area of now-broken wall, on both sides, ~~over~~ over lower areas of existing dump, ~~over~~ and over top of deposits placed on that ~~over~~ dump (eg the hearth)
 - 7) cutting of giant pit in middle of room, through both fill & collapse
 - 8) filling of pit w/ trash / debris
 - 9) construction of large, poorly made wall on top of both the gray compact fill & the fill of the pit
 - 10) some sort of slightly different activity on both sides of the wall (courtyard & open area / alley? but wall closes it from courtyard)

23 July 2005

Backhoe continues to excavate in area of street; ways level up to next level of road identified in ~~the~~ trench. Will now turn to excavation of area of road to connect with road past museum.

- courtyard: extension trench to SW opened; same sequence of layers as in rest of courtyard, with gray soft soil on top, hard gray soil with orange inclusions, compact brown soil below that. Small balk left between excavated area & new trench so that Prof can draw section.
- m 37: foundation trench along SW walls of m 30 & m 31a identified; m 30 level seems to be right but m 31a trench may have been identified w/ orange soil located along that wall at a higher level. Although trench makes one line the two segments next to the two walls are very different, in both depth & fill. It seems likely that the wall of m 30 was built first, with a deep foundation trench that ran slightly deeper & wider at the corner (to seat the quoining). The wall of m 31a has a much shallower trench, and uses several stones from the earlier

23 July 2005 cont.

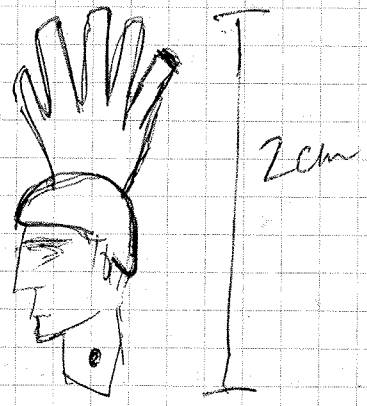
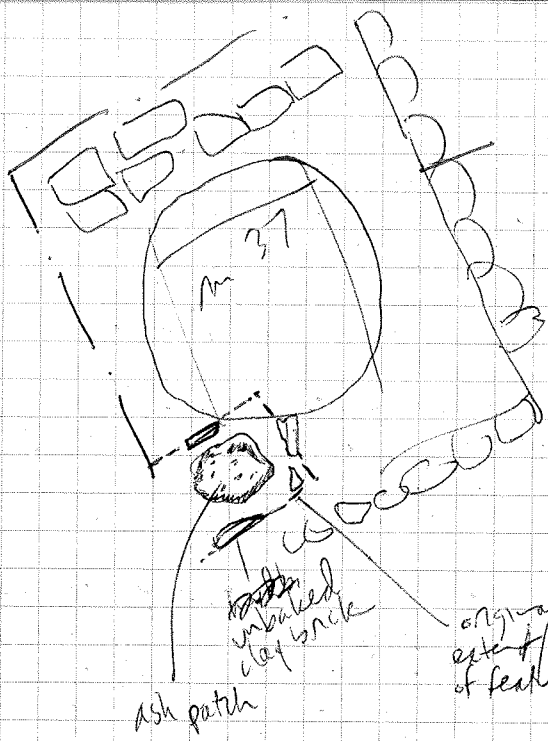
wall and from the collapse or fall to its SE. The situation elsewhere seems clearer, too - a floor level in phase with the early wall, a use surface on which the hearth in the S corner was laid, and the fill above. The latter floor level begins to be removed today.

- m 31: excavation & sieving of layer of fill ~~in~~ in W corner of the room continues; it will be followed by excavation of layer in SE wing.
- m 38: ongoing excavation of fill in pit/per at end of room; fill is mixed trash material, ~~is~~ with slightly different soils on each side of the bedrock skin formed in the area of the entrance. Clearly still fill of the cut - walls continue to be ~~soil~~ soil of distinctly different color. Confusion in N corner where softer soil in area of posthole determined to be ~~soil~~ ~~soil~~ extend further but then limits lost and a chunk of floor surface, I strongly suspect, was excavated. Hard to say whether perception of softer soil was accurate but very likely that current contours are not. Those of original floor. Material kept with number of floor/battuto in that corner. Excavation of floor surface in SE half of room begins.
- Stropos - final cleaning of surface finished. Very well-preserved street surface with small cobbles, large quantities of animal bone pressed into the surface.
- m 33: excavation of fill continues. In NE end of room, appears to come down onto more compact clean brown soil with ash & charcoal inclusions; in this soil is set a large chunk of very chalky stucco molding which the conservators will lift. Many other pieces of this material have been found, usually with moldings or at least one flat face; one has a nail hole with a little iron left in it and what may be the remains of painting ~~or stucco~~ or surfacing. It is concentrated along the NE side, but fragments have also emerged from the ramp near the door. The fill also contains bricks from the ops within Roman constructions across the street, some apparently burnt. Not clear if the wall along the SE edge is still a wall or another fill event, but soil is much harder. There is a ash-filled crater, small, but deep hole near the door that I suspect is an animal burrow rather than a human construction (too deep & narrow to be tool-made). Nice burrowing in for the gran in the storeroom?

25 July 2005

Entry written after end of work. Backhoe continues work - ~~removes~~ removes section separating or excavated area from the main trench. Current plan is to clear surface of road up to monastery wall, then fill in a earth ramp from museum road covering linear water feature.

- ~~at~~ carted: orange-spotted gray soil removed; at lower level, covers a hard, smooth more yellowish soil running along line of 2nd wall associated w/t. 4. This layer seems also to be cut (or to descend) along the same rough line, with a lower level of the same orange-spotted gray-brown soil to the NE. The ~~gray-brown~~ gray-brown soil is similar in its small-~~clump~~ composition to ~~the~~ Late Byz fills in other parts of the trench.



25 July 2005 cont.

- m 37: new developments - removal of remaining fill in S corner reveals continuing presence of ash in that corner, now in a flat area with both white ash & burnt soil patches that seems to fill a space delimited by unbaked clay bricks. ~~These~~ These bricks seem to bound a roughly square space; one is clearly set vertically. Some discussion about relation to the floor identified at this level in the rest of the room, but seems in the end like the floor covers the structure, instead of the structure being cut into the floor. It is also possible that the layer removed above was, in fact, the same floor/surface level, and that it was removed as a separate level in the area of the ~~stone~~ store (?). Work continues in the afternoon. (see sketch)
- m 31: removal of rest of fill in ~~SE~~ corner of room - comes down onto bedrock in that area, forming irregular shape w/ ~~edge~~ edge of mortar (?) surface along NE side. Probably some fill remaining under large rocks & pile of small rocks in E corner - don't seem to be in situ, & soft brown soil with oyster shells continues beneath.
- m 38: we begin removal of floor deposit in SE half of room; descends onto bedrock along its NW edge, onto piles of stones elsewhere in the room. Clean brown hard-pack below may be either fill level or earlier surface - seems fairly regular. In pit/pen, excavation of layer of decayed bedrock near entrance, leveling of other fills until seems to represent single unitary fill - contents still suggest midden fill, fairly clean. Good find - see today from this fill - curved bone head of warrior w/ hole for attachment pig at neck - from a Late Roman/Early Byz box or furniture decoration?
- m 33: finally finished w/ fill 519 - comes down onto a clean brown layer with some ash, very little inclusion of material other than small fragments of charcoal. Ash patch in N corner on top of small layer of slightly different material will be removed separately. Piles of stones along SE & SW sides are clearly set in harder-packed lighter soil, but much fill mixed into cracks & open spaces. Not clear if these stones formed a packing or wall foundations for an earlier sunken-floor building or simply a particularly hard-packed moment of fill - will attempt to determine tomorrow.
- main street: preliminary consultation w/ Chris C. indicates that we should remove rest of collapsing wall; they'll consolidate what's left. Drawn & photo'd in preparation for removal of partially collapsed wall.

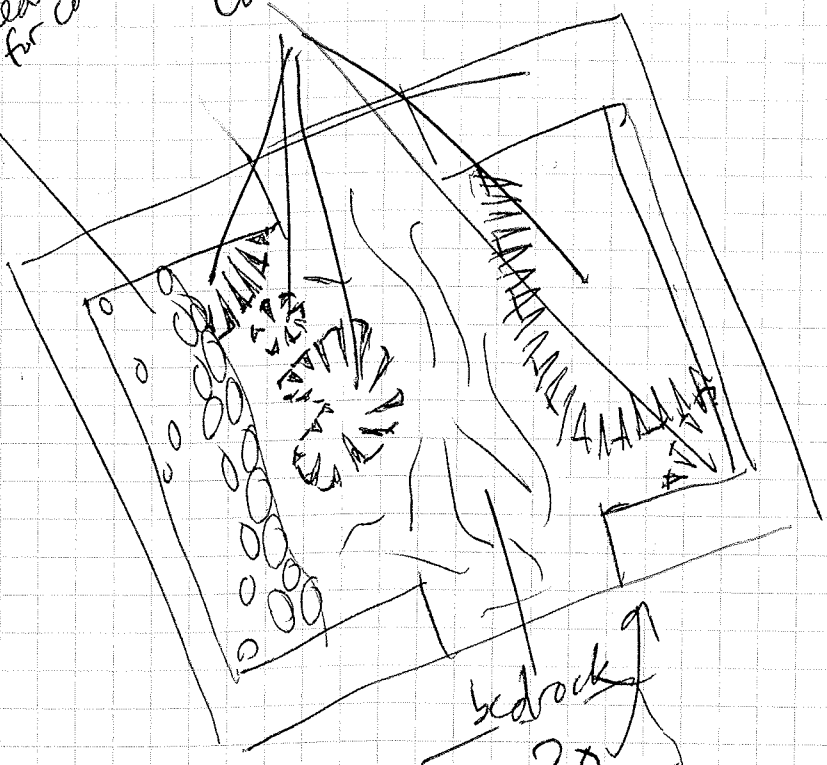
26 July 2005

much pit digging today - slow slightly confusing, probably some layer confusion, especially in ms 30 & 37 (later is very hard to read and very important, so again, certain amount of precision sacrificed for speed).

- courtyard: rest trench to cistern reaches bedrock in NW half, no trace of slabs or any construction. Along SE side concentration of stones - traces of a wall? Some stones in similar concentration to E actually partially covered by decayed bedrock skin - standing open w/ bedrock for a long time?

area filled
w/ rocks for conservation

cuts



bedrock

m 30

motor surface

bedrock cuts

m 31



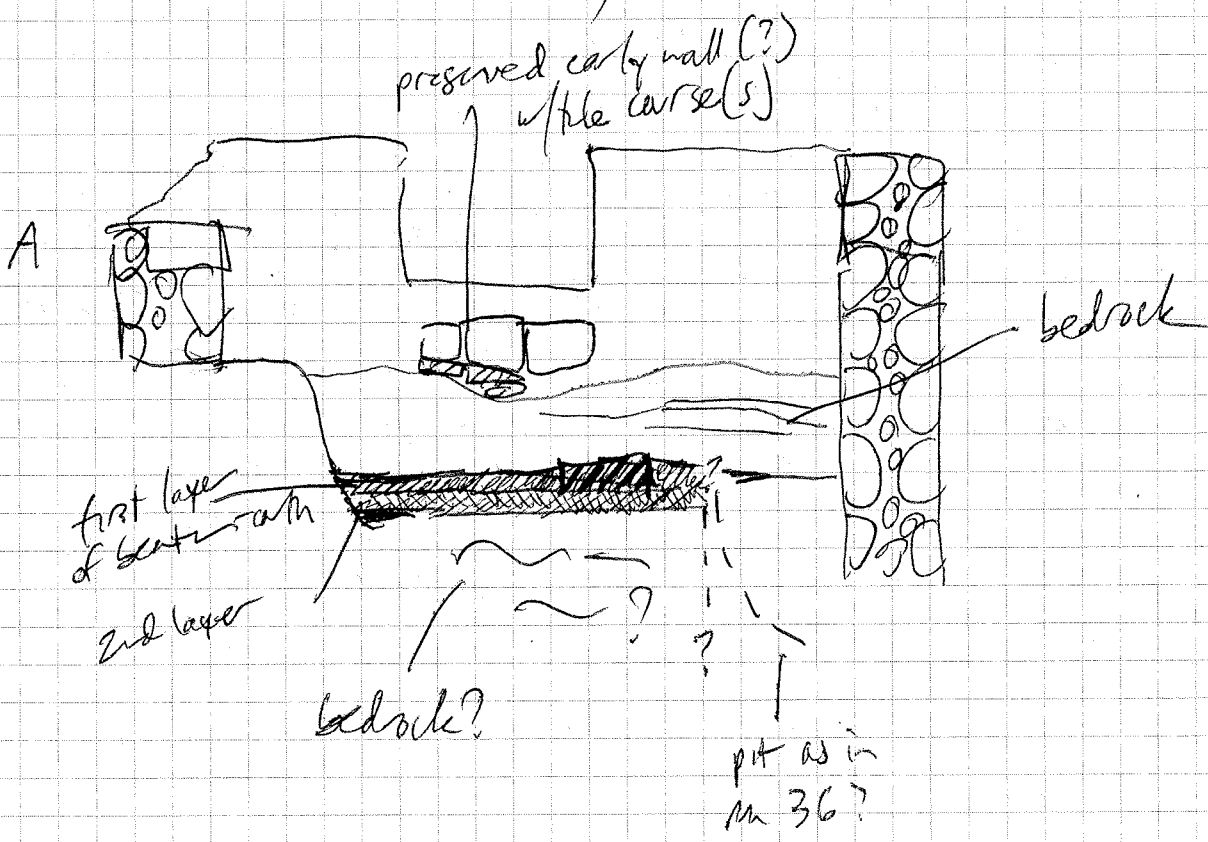
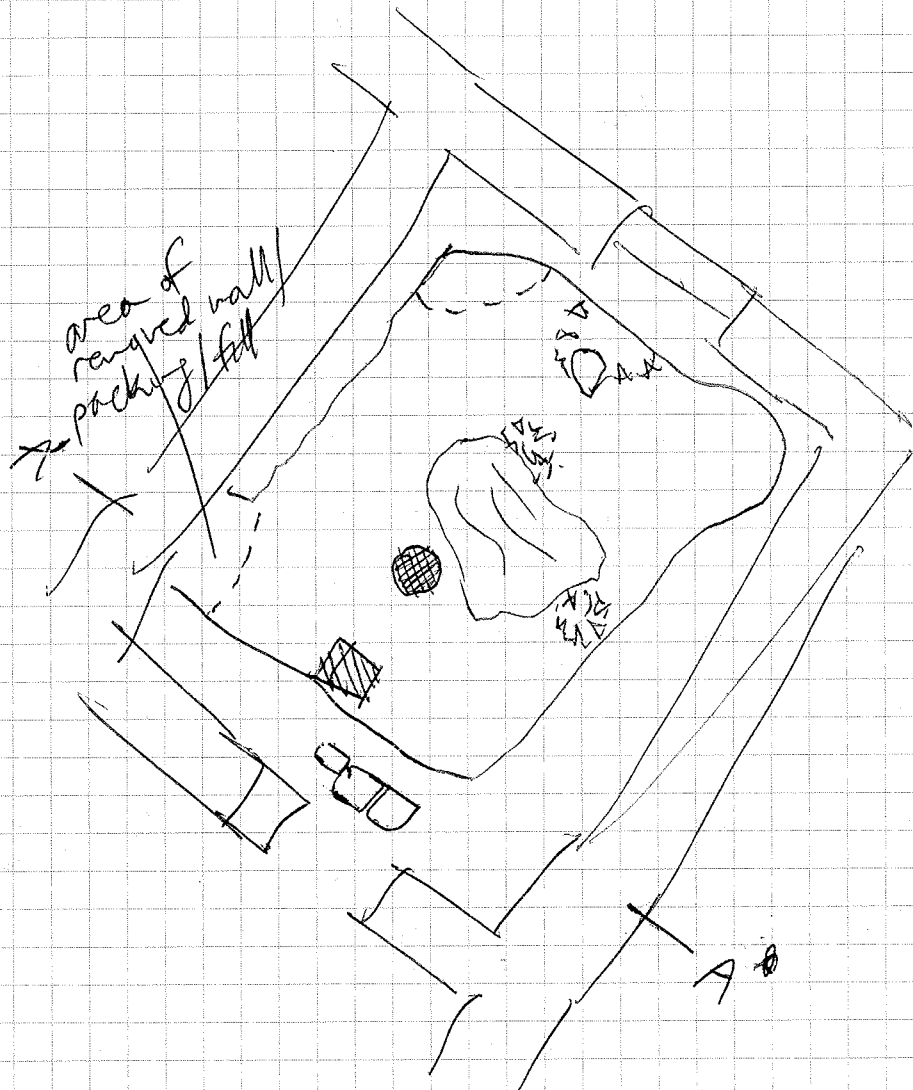
July 26 2005 cont.

- m 37: coming down gradually to slabs - today removed collapse of stones along NW & NE sides of area arrived at level of slabs - along NE wall, only bedrock w/ layer of clay, a couple of small flat stones; elsewhere, slabs continue both to SW & to NW, with areas where only clay is present. Small areas of burning/ash patches along older wall along NW trench edge - one concentration of fine, deep black ash, several other concentrations of gray ash with chocolate brown - orange borders. Mixed in w/ yellow clayey layer not treated separately. Clay-brick construction (of sorts) is left intact, but for today will be documented & removed.

- m 30: as in m 32, bedrock "pore" down center of room w/ filled cuts on either side. To SW, series of at least 3 pits leading on diagonal into W corner; to NE, one very large pit filled with soil ranging in color from gray ash/orange-brown-soil color to dark gray-brown (NB: though Briton S. could not identify ~~the~~ a limit between the two and has treated them as one layer, they may have been distinct, with the gray-orange layer covering the other). In the E corner, a separate pit/cut filled with brown soil may be cut in turn by the cut filled by the gray-orange soil. That brown soil was removed at the same time as the gray-orange, although as a separate context. The gray-orange appears to have covered it, along the edge of the E corner. In turn, the dark gray-brown soil appears to cover ~~the~~ a layer of fine, compact gray ash. See sketch ^{opposite p.}

- m 31: bedrock uncovered in W wing under gray fill w/ bones, along NW side; seems to be a slab or cut bedrock in W corner. Rest of shallow cut comes down onto same layer of hard light-brown fill along SE wall; delimited to NE by layer of mortar/cement; bedrock cuts in area of E corner, under large ash lar block (pit?). See sketch.

- m 38: ongoing address - in SE side of room, last-phase beaten-earth surface is removed to reveal irregular hard-packed surface with deep, narrow trench along limit with cut bedrock flat form between street door & interior stairs. There are certainly animal burrows in the area of this trench and it is not clear if the fill is loose & soft because a) it was disturbed by an animal along its whole length b) it was an area where a wooden partition or construction was seated or c) it was an area where the fill was packed less thoroughly because it was so close to the higher bedrock edge. In addition, in the center of the SE side of the room, on a line with the projecting stone construction near the E corner there is a regular rectangular cut block surrounded by a ring of stones (and set on stones). There is a slightly ~~softer~~ softer soil in this area, perhaps from the cut to seat this stone (seems intentional - stones around it set deep to an edge). Potential interpretation - post base? In the NW side of the room, the pit continues to descend. The difference btw the NE & SW sides continues, although at this point the fill is being removed as one context. The two slightly different areas are separated by a central hard-packed area, and consistently slope down to the sides, where a softer version of the same soil is present. Does this represent use for trash dumping/composting? But presence of animal bones - in any case, someone seems to have consistently stood in the middle & dumped trash to the sides.



27 July 2005

Entry written after end of working day - too busy. In afternoon, conservation & presentation decisions made - will fill rooms w/ backfill, level of gray clay on top; experiment with uncovered side of courtyard w/ fill of clay on top of backfill, but clay covered w/ small gravel mixture when wet. Trash on low side of street cut removed, high side faced w/ clean earth from spoil heap.

~~Entry~~ Entry will begin w/ m 33, will cover yesterday as well.

- m 33: layer of fill comes down onto hard, clean surface with several irregularities. In center bedrock visible (higher than at sides). In N corner, cut down to bedrock & through floor - vaguely circular, but shallow; not very convincing as functional cut. Next to it along the NW wall is a patch of ash covering a thin layer of yellow soil that in turn covers the floor. Is this a short-term heap? ~~Another posthole~~ The packing along the NW wall is removed; ^{is found in 33} below this surface, on Weds, we expose a lower floor with a surface of soft, damp gray ash with charcoal inclusions & patches of brown & reddish brown. When it is clean, four features are visible: 1) a Roman brick from the bath set flat on it against the SW bedrock cut; a circular brown patch on a line to the NE, about 50cm away; an irregular cut or disturbance along the same line again 50cm away; and an area of cut floor/bedrock with a stone set in it against the floor side, in the same line. There is also a posthole (?) against the SE wall, roughly in its center. (see sketch) There may be a slight soil difference in the W corner where in 36 there was a pit, but a limit is not visible in the floor.

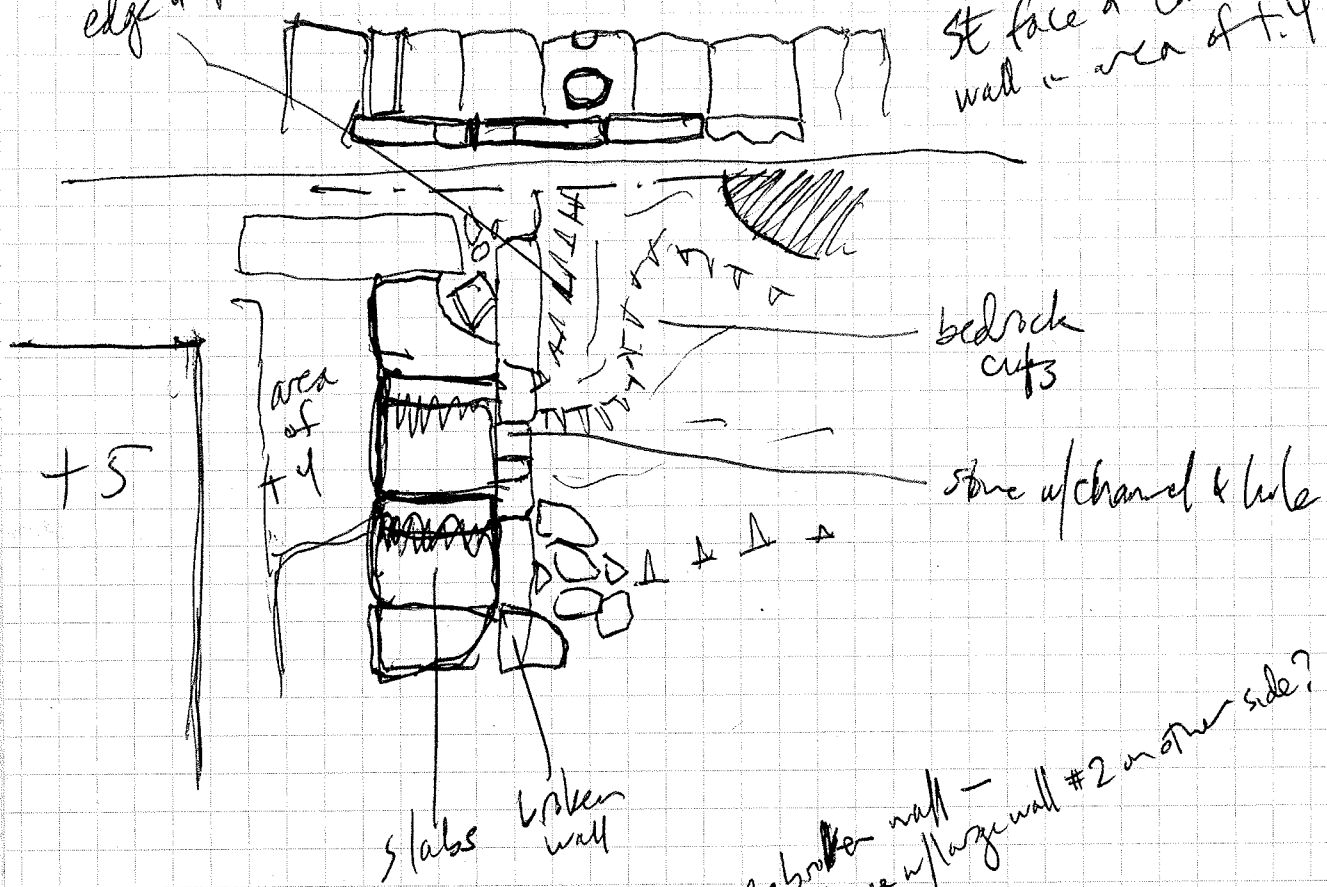
28 July 2005

Fell asleep before last night's entry could be finished. Will continue today with yesterday's entry, starting from courtyard & moving clockwise.

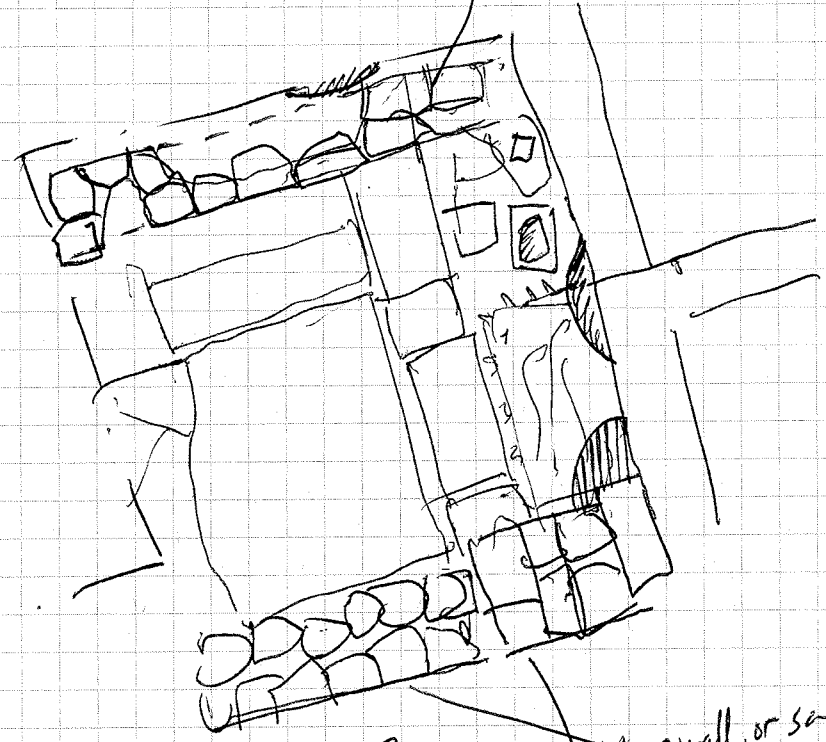
- courtyard: pile of stones next to second wall face (to NW) is moved; bedrock reached in test trench. ~~Side of wall at 4~~ NW face of + 4 is also removed, found to be sitting on slabs bounded by an earlier wall, and ending roughly at the end of the overlaying wall. ~~This wall has been partially~~ The NW wall delimiting the slab area has been partially removed in antiquity, but more aggressive clearing reveals more of its interior. The central stone in this wall has a circular hole and a notch at the top, both sloping down to SE & area of slabs; the larger hole is partially filled with a stone - its face even with the SE face of the wall, while the interior part of the hole and the channel on top are filled with brown silt. On the NW side, there are several bedrock cuts ~~to~~ in the same area as this block - possible connection with the cistern? The wall is built over the fill of a deep bedrock pit to the W, which seems to be the same pit covered by the slabs at the SW end of + 4. ~~Posthole~~ The ~~very~~ very regular circular edge of this pit is visible on the NW side of the wall, ~~and~~ and the narrow ridge between this pit & the cuttings near the well should indicate that there were two cutting phases - one before the wall, one after or in conjunction with it. On a preliminary basis, the tomb seems to cut this construction, and the courtyard

edge of pit

SE face of earlier wall = area of t.4



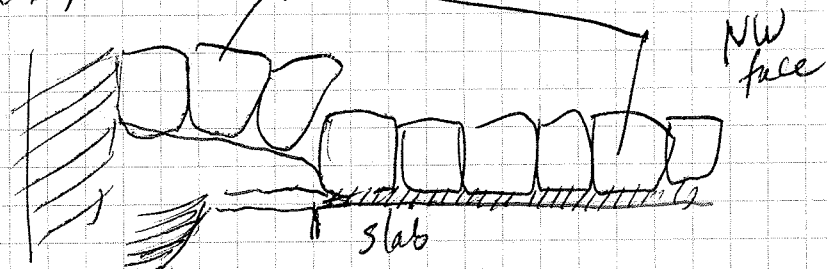
early broken wall - phase w/ large wall #2 on other side?



m 37

later wall, or same as early?

early wall



28 July 2005 cont, probably destroyed the NW face of the wall & its connection w/ the cistern. See plan & elevation sketched opposite.

- m 37: slabs entirely cleaned; hearth removed. Seem to be a pavement, broken in places. It has convinced that largest block is reused wine-pressing floor. Along SE side, 3 different walls (or maybe only 2). Latest is wall in association w/ closing of courtyard in last phase, partially destroyed by modern trench. Below that is another, under wall that seems to rest on soil above a third wall (narrower bit on stage is on same line as wall; just above in E corner). The third wall rests on a thin layer of abandonment over the slabs. Along the NE wall of the later block, the construction cut is clearly visible. The yellowish hard-packed soil that covered the slabs at the lowest level seems to be a surface associated with the use of the first wall. The surface above ~~that~~ (perhaps with the hearth?) may have been associated with the second wall (unless the second wall is simply a slightly different part of the first). We continue today on the SE side of the wall, in the courtyard where we encounter a layer of brown fill covering the same yellow surface that we associate with the first wall. Material seems to indicate a 4th-5th c date for that wall & surface, which puts the slabs earlier (same time as cistern?). See sketch opposite.

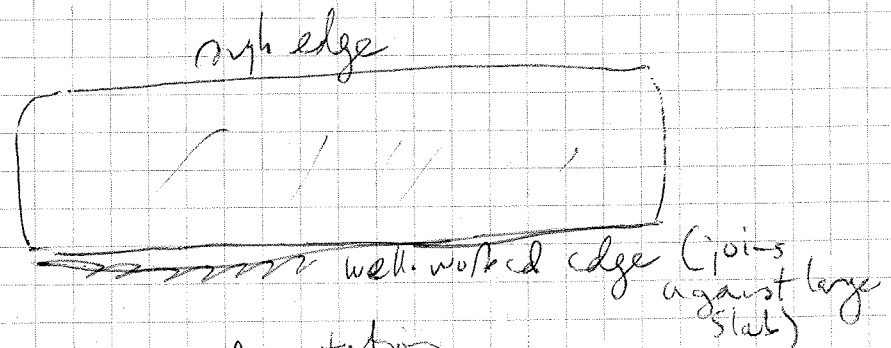
- m 31: last cause - sieving stopped yesterday, conflict w/ Ukrainian students & Italian supervisor, bedrock following hole digging. Situation in W wing seems to involve some bedrock cuts, pits of irregular size, & slope w/ fills of brown - tan soil, some yellow hard-packed soil, into which cut for gray fill was cut (yellow soil overlies bedrock). Bad vibes in room, not clear what stratigraphy looked like over time. In E wing, pass made over soil of current uppermost layer - brown fill, as in other parts of room. About 10-15 cm removed.

- m 38: pit finished; came down into harder packed gray yellow soil not that different from rest of fill, but this one continued into pit wall & was clearly cut by pit hole. In SE side removal of brown irregular hardpack, which Italo now considers to be a surface; below it, loose dark gray-brown fill with tiles, etc. In some areas - especially in N corner near the door - concentrations of stones that may represent earlier structures (may also just be diff fill). Difference along SE wall continues - another large stone in situ against wall under fill.

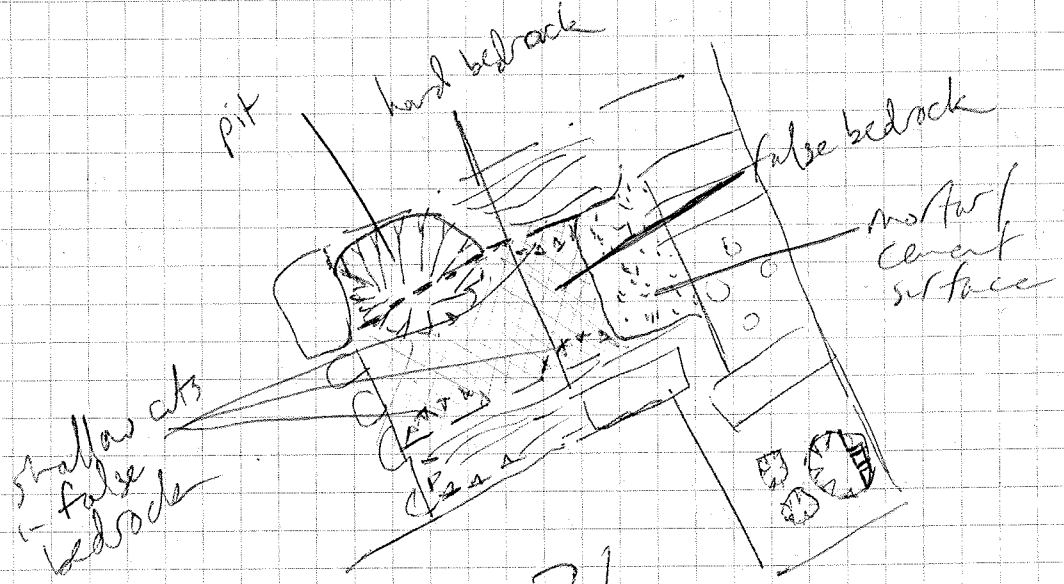
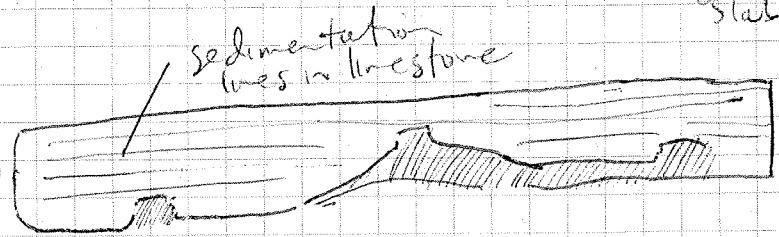
- m 30: yesterday, lowest floor cleaned; in W corner of bedrock cut was a small oval hole cutting the base of a 6-7 m. fetus. Floor itself removed today down to bedrock. One piece of 13th-c pottery near bedrock, but very small & ~~is~~ probably intrusion. Rest of material is 9th-10th. Room will close today.

- m 33: cleaning this morning reveals 2 possible hearth features w/ gray ash & brown burnt soil, some seeds, charcoal, organic material. Photo'd & sampled, then early floor removed down to bedrock. Possible connection w/ pit in m 36; bedrock channel, possibly natural, and at least one possible posthole cut where cut was visible in middle of SE side. Material seems to be quite clearly conc. We also remove last of packing/foundation/compact fill in W corner along bedrock cut; wall w/ the course in front of door will have elevations & be photographed.

block from
37 pavement



outside
(rough) edge)



m 31

19 July 2005

(19)

Entry written next day - too much running around. Work closes today; crane on site for overhead photos. Drives up main street, then up stenopos (right lit but ok) for complex 2 photos. Then back to main street for complex 3 photos. Crane cannot extend basket far enough to get good vertical shots, especially for m 37, but height ok for ~~the~~ rooms closest to street.

- Run 37: drawing holds up excavation, meanwhile, excavation of strip to SE of SE wall, between wall & well cut. At N end, bedrock cut with vaguely circular form (but could be square); to S, large rectangular block (part of pavement?) stretches into section from under wall. On the other side of this block, the wall seems to be in phase with a clayey yellow soil (as on the other side of the wall), below which is yellow-brown fill over bedrock. The ~~end~~ end of a second slab is visible beneath the wall stones on this side.

The fill on the other side of the NW wall is also excavated; two circular cuts (for pithoi?) are visible stretching into the section wall. This wall sits on a level of yellow fill below which there are depressions filled with gray ash and covered by black ash or reddish burnt earth.

Initially we felt that these walls, which were founded on different elements (one on the slabs, one on yellow-brown earth), were two different walls from two different phases. This idea was supported by the break in alignment of the NW face of the two walls. ~~Further~~ The other face, however, seems to be continuous & to follow the natural path of the slabs & ground. I now wonder if they are in fact one wall built over the irregularities of the landscape. That area

In the afternoon, after all has been photographed, we decide to lift one of the slabs. We start with a long rectangular block along the NE side, but it is cracked in the middle. We then move to a rectangular block along the NW, which is lifted intact. Below it is clayey bedrock with a thin layer of brownish soil-sediment & bedding layer, which produces a piece of tabular of uncertain date and one tiny fragment of 1st AD - 2nd AD high-quality Archaic terra sigillata. We begin to lift the largest slab, but stop when it becomes clear that this block, too, is cracked in the middle. See sketch of lifted block, opposite. After this (this is late afternoon), excavation in this room is closed.

- Run 31: Mad dash at the end to get to a stopping point in this room, esp. in E wing. In W wing, (large circular pit cut into bedrock emptied) in course of this work, it becomes apparent that the level of hard white "stone" visible across the middle of the room is instead a thick layer of eroded & re-concretized bedrock covering a deposit of yellow-brown fill representing a very good Hellenistic context. A second look indicates that this area is delimited by very deep parallel cuts in hard bedrock on either side leaving a sort of channel between. See sketch opposite.

In the E wing, near the blocked door to 38, a range of the surface left after the last pass reveals a hard-packed brown smooth floor level (?). In it are three cuts; two relatively shallow subrectangular cuts and one very deep, roughly

29 July 2005 cont.

circular cut with steep walls. In the side of this cut another wall is visible - composed of three visible stones set in a good like about 15cm below that floor level. Once these are cleaned, we run out of time and excavation in this area is closed.

- m 36: Also made scramble to finish here - pit is emptied down to bottom (1.3m deep ca.) as of yesterday, but I want to ~~take~~ off the pile of rocks in the N corner of the other 1/2 of the room, and I also want to start removing what seems like a drab layer of soft brown ~~or~~ dump fill with stones & tile fragments. Effort is not entirely successful - we get about halfway through the fill, starting from the SE wall; the layer comes down into an equally soft ~~or~~ layer that is very distinct in color & composition - very smooth. This layer of beige to red-brown soil with some charcoal. The benefit of this approach however, is to reveal ~~the~~ the bedrock and its cuttings - the S corner of the room - so that situation, at least, is clear. Second looks also suggest that the bedrock platform in the center of the room is covered by a deposit of decayed bedrock. Probable that all of this is one fill episode, as in m 33, but we won't know until next year.
- * NB: material from m 33 cuts 630 & 640 (fill against SW wall & hearth in N corner) is mixed during washing/sorting - all looks grn - (or unitary, but should be noted if either becomes crucial for dating.

- m 33: removal of last bits of packing in doorway to 28, with tile leveling & "course"; removal of remaining bedrock fill in regular channels at lowest level. The pit from m 36 does not seem to continue into this room, although the bedrock division under the wall between 33 & 36 does not exist in this area. There is a very smooth circular cut ~~under~~ under the packing along the SW wall ~~at m 33~~ the larger bedrock cut - possible posthole?

While crane photos, shot etc., bit of main road leading to monastery wall cleaned - bedrock shelf appears along NW side of street. Bulldozer starts to finish w/ trash & sap. Inventory in storage taken (tools etc.).

30 July 2005 (backhoe)

Work closed in all rooms. Investigations in 31 & 38 will have to continue next year. Bulldozer moves a bit more trash, completed, paid, departs. Backfilling by hand begins - in consultation with Chris Cleere, begin with simplest rooms (33, 36, 29). 29 and 36 are basically completely filled with soil, will await clay surfacing. 33 is much deeper, partially filled with soil but will need another 15-20cm to reach original floor level with clay. At 1pm, site closed for the season.