

Trench Report: A900

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Datum Points: There was only one datum point used during the excavation of this trench. It was R1 and its elevation was +370.62 masl.

Excavation Dates: June 13th to June 19th, 2002.

Location: Trench A900 is located northwest of Boyd's trench, roughly north of A800 and immediately east of A1200. Its northern extent runs 3.76 m, east to west, which follows the natural contour of the hill. The trench runs north to south measuring 4.56 m along its southern side, 8.42 m along the west, and 9.05 m along the east.

Purpose: Based on surface collection **A900.1** and the partial exposure of wall features on the western slope, it seemed apparent that the area just north of A800 would yield architectural features. Trench A900 was opened just to its north in order to investigate whether or not any of these features extended along this direction of the terrace.

Depositional History: The excavation ended with locus **A902**, at the bottom of which was a deposit of packed clay. Unfortunately, due to natural transformations (i.e., erosion and deterioration), only a small area of this surface has survived in the southeast section of the trench. The best-preserved area was embedded with a paving stone (ca. 40cm x 20 cm). That the packed clay surface was a floor was supported by the presence of this paving stone as well as by the discovery of a pithos scatter, which was located on the floor by the southern scarp. To the east of this surface, along the eastern scarp, a roughly linear (north to south) accumulation of eroded bedrock and small to large-sized stones was uncovered. While there appeared to be no trace of this continuing into the northeast corner of the trench, it did continue southward into trench **A1100** as **Wall A1102**. Furthermore, a western wall face, which was not extant in trench **A900**, was preserved and defined in trench **A1100**. Thus, **Wall A1102** seems to continue into **A900** but erosional forces have displaced, broken down or destroyed completely major parts of this wall. Stratum **A902** consisted primarily of chippy and fairly loose soil with small to medium-sized stones as well as several larger stones (probably part of the tumble from upslope). No other evidence of walls was evident. Indeed, excavation of the western and northern sections of the trench did not produce any other features. There were four large boulders, which were situated in the middle of the trench and, together, they may suggest a northern cross-wall. But, little else has survived to confirm this hypothesis. Only the poorly preserved northern extension of **Wall A1102** and the paving stone would lend support that this floor was an interior space. Based on the ceramic evidence, the date assigned to this floor is Hellenistic but there were traces of Archaic and possible Orientalizing and Late Geometric sherds found. However, the fact that this area was subject to heavy erosion as well as its proximity to Boyd's trenches (her dump may have contaminated this area), may suggest that the dating for the floor may not be secure. This is an especially real possibility since the stratum just above **A902**, **A901** (surface material), consisted of the same chippy, loose soil, sherds of pottery ranging from the Hellenistic and Archaic (with some Late Minoan IIC) periods, and plaster fragments from Boyd's cistern upslope.

Conclusions: Trench A900 was subject to heavy erosion and, as a result, any features that may have existed here are, with the exception of floor surface in the southeast section, not preserved. This surface continued into the southern baulk, suggesting that further excavation should focus on the area south of A900 to determine the nature of this floor. This course of action was realized with the excavation of Trench A1100. At some future point, it may be informative to investigate beneath the clay surface either to confirm its date of use or to discover other possible habitation phases.

Cut to the Chase:

1. **Floor:** Probably Archaic with surface contamination of Hellenistic pottery
2. **A902:** Habitation level intermixed with tumble and surface material, poorly preserved due to heavy erosion.
3. **A901:** Topsoil: modern surface material with some tumble and Boyd's dump.
4. **A900.1:** Surface collection for A900 and A1100 (see Melissa's notebook)

Year 2002 Trench/Locus A900

Excavator SZP

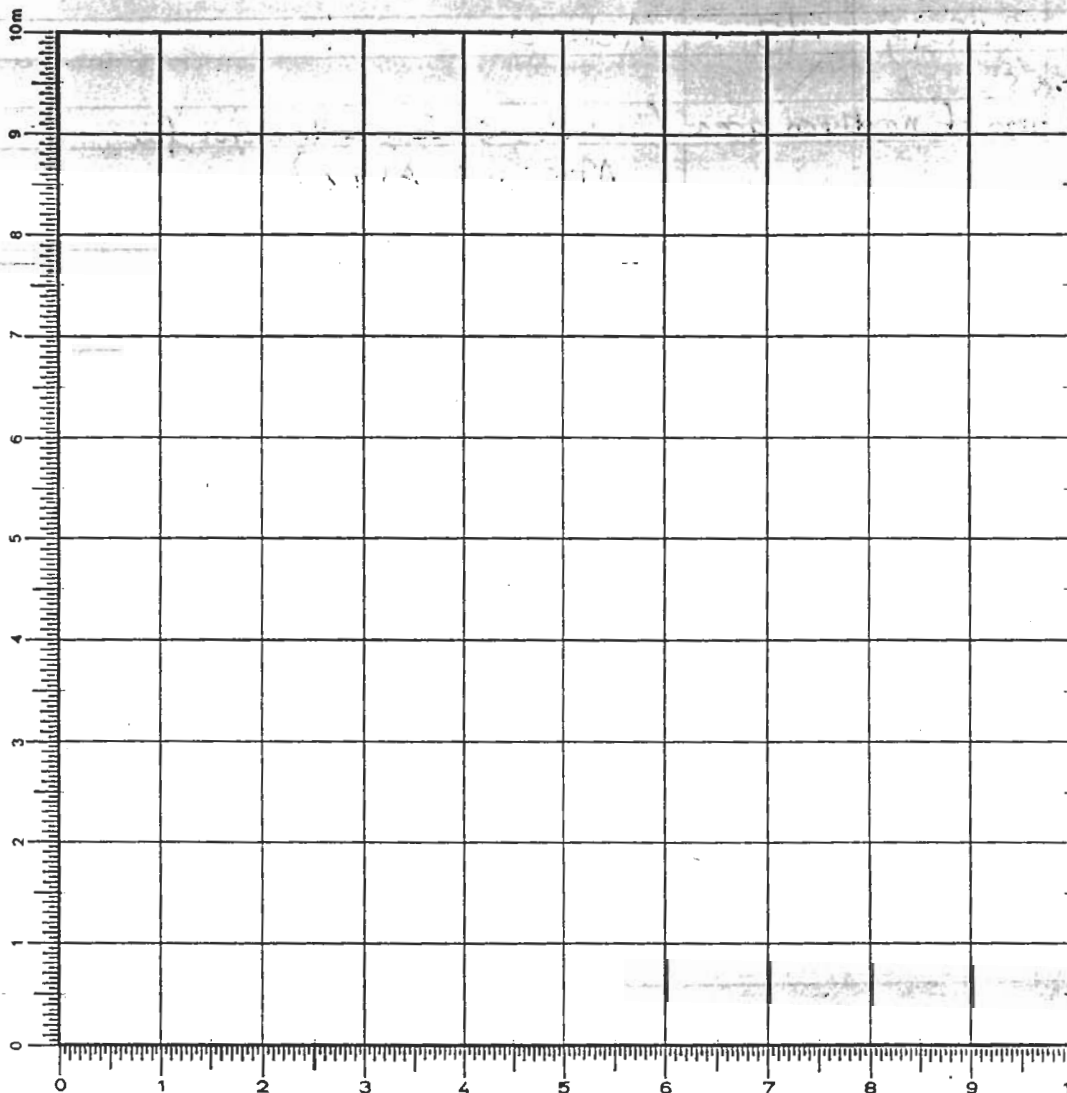
Elevations

Benchmark used:

Reading on

Benchmark:

H.I.:



SKETCH 1:75 N
↑

DEFINITION/DESCRIPTION of LOCUS (explain **why** you changed locus numbers):

Today's date:

Locus above:

Locus parameters:

** See next page*

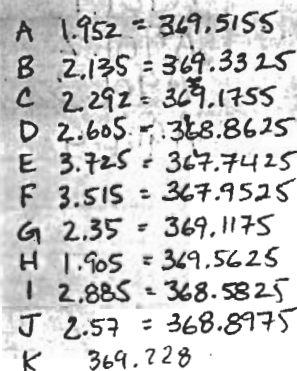
Verbal description:

Locus Interpretative Comments (What do you think this is? DATE your comments, continue on additional pages if necessary):

Elevations

Reading on

Benchmark: 370.62m

$$H.L.: (+0.8475m) = 371.4675$$


SKETCH 1:75 1/2

Locus above: Surface collection A900.1 - See Melissa's notebook = Surface collection for northern area

Locus parameters:

Verbal description: Opening of new trench (A900) northwest of Boyd's trench and roughly north of A800; it is an elongated quadrangle with a relatively smooth and consistent slope down the southwest; in the middle of the western perimeter there is a large stone (ca. 80cm x 60cm); in the middle of the trench, there is a stump of a medium size tree (diameter ca. 30cm); the soil is light brown with rocks of various sizes (ranging from pebble size to fist size for the most part);

Locus Interpretative Comments (What do you think this is? DATE your comments, continue on additional pages if necessary):

(17-VI-02) This is surface material containing fill from Boyd's excavations

Year 2002

Trench/Locus

A9D

Excavator

SZP

OBJECTS

(1. VIII. 02)
decat

ADDITIONAL COLLECTED MATERIAL

[illegible]

Year 2002 Trench/Locus A901 Excavator SZP

DESCRIPTION of PROGRESS of EXCAVATION [date each entry and identify associated pottery pail(s)]:

13. VI. 02: Opening of new trench A900; light brush in north corner cleared; elevations (10 points) taken - see

- Pass consisted of mostly soil and some small to medium sized stones

Sketch plan;

General pass of ca. 20cm depth started in southern quadrant with large picks, moving south to north; small amount of pottery A901.1 - mostly coarseware found; tooth fragment - probably animal - found; standard soil sample taken;

Excavating suspended after ca. 4.50m of trench completed

14. VI. 02: Continued removal of surface material (A901), moving south to north, with large pick; followed by clean-up (scraping and sweeping); Spoil tip is located just beyond (ca. 1.50m) NW trench corner; small quantity of burnt soil dispersed in SE quadrant - no sample taken; concentration of pottery and animal bones found in SE quadrant A901.2 - including an archaic lamp obj. #1; majority of pottery is coarseware; several large rocks in the SE quadrant - nature is uncertain; bones found; fragment of plaster also found - from Boyd's cistern

~~Excavation of A901 (surface material) completed~~

First pass of A901 (surface material) completed.

17. VI. 02: Began a deep second pass (ca. 40cm in depth) with large picks - to continue to clear out Boyd's dump (very loose soil stratum); found a small, smooth egg-shaped stone in the SE quadrant obj. #1 - A901.3; standard soil sample taken; bone and pottery fragments found A901.3 - again, primarily from SE quadrant; a couple of shells were found (with bone bag); calcified bedrock in N scarp, roughly 3m from southern trench limit; large masses of bedrock and stone along E bank from southern trench

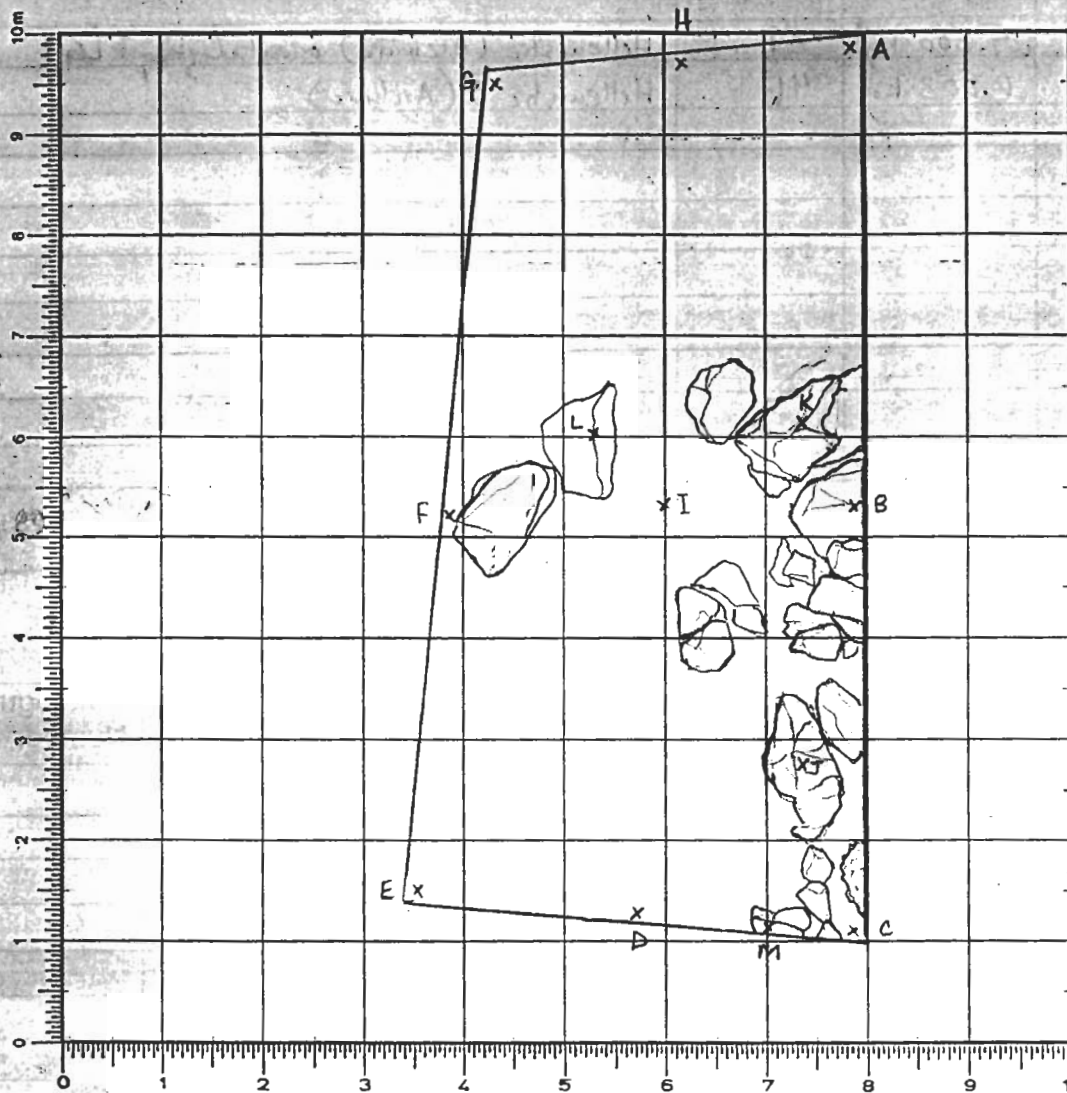
Year 2002 Trench/Locus A901 Excavator SZP

DESCRIPTION of PROGRESS of EXCAVATION [date each entry and identify associated pottery pail(s)]:

17. VI. 02: limit to ca. 6m - see sketch for A902; more of Boyd's cistern plaster found; day's excavation ends at ca. 4m from southern baulk line.
(cont)
18. VI. 02: Continued second pass in northern end of trench; collected relatively few pottery fragments A901.4; few more fragments of Boyd's cistern plaster; found two stone objects obj. # 1 and 2; further cleaned and defined bedrock and stones along E baulk; excavation of A901 completed with clean-up.

Year 2002 Trench/Locus A902Excavator SZP**Elevations**Benchmark used: P1

Reading on

Benchmark: 370.62H.I.: (0.748) 371.368 m

A (2.312)	
B (2.555)	368.843 m
C (2.575)	368.793 m
D (2.454)	368.414 m
E (3.622)	367.746 m
F (3.575)	367.793 m
G (2.605)	368.763 m
H (2.405)	368.963 m
I (2.895)	368.473 m
J (2.443)	368.925 m
K (2.193)	369.175 m
L (2.585)	368.783 m
M (2.14)	369.228 m

DEFINITION/DESCRIPTION of LOCUS (explain why you changed locus numbers):

Today's date: 18.VI.02Locus above: A901

Locus parameters:

Same as A901

Verbal description:

A902 is material below A901 (surface material). A901 was Boyd's dump material and was considerably loose and easy to break up. A902 marks the beginning of slightly more packed soil that is not associated with the surface material.

Locus Interpretative Comments (What do you think this is? DATE your comments, continue on additional pages if necessary):

The area in the south appears to be a purposely built space (clay surface w/ paving inset) - the stones' bedrock along the east side may be a poorly preserved wall. The area in the north has little preserved in the way of architecture.

Year _____ Trench/Locus _____ Excavator _____

DESCRIPTION of PROGRESS of EXCAVATION [date each entry and identify associated pottery pail(s)]:

or finds - probably due to heavy erosion.
The southern section appears better preserved - here we find a paved floor surface and the majority of the pottery and bone.

Plaster from Boyd's cistern is still found which ~~was~~ suggests that A902 may still contain Boyd's material ~~or that~~
~~natural processes contaminated this~~

Year 2002 Trench/Locus A902 Excavator SZP

DESCRIPTION of PROGRESS of EXCAVATION [date each entry and identify associated pottery pail(s)]:

18. VI. 02: Start of new locus (A902); elevations (13 points) taken - see sketch plan.

A pass with large pick (ca. 15-20cm) taken moving from south trench end to north; four sea pebbles found in the SE quadrant obj. # 1-4 - A902.1; further definition of the stone and bedrock outcrop along the E baulk - probably wall collapse from above (upslope).

A small area (ca. 1x1m) of packed clay with a paving stone inset (ca. 40cm x 20cm) was uncovered in the SE quadrant (ca. 1.10m from E baulk line). The area immediately surrounding the paving stone unlike the surrounding clay is relatively free of inclusions; this deposit of clay appears to continue into the S baulk - possibility that this may be roofing clay from building collapse but the position of the paving stone suggests this is a deliberate construction - perhaps a paved porch or court; two intensive soil samples were collected - one from the SE quadrant and another from the central trench area - along with a standard soil sample;

Pottery A902.1 was also collected - again the majority of this was found in the SE quadrant. Five large pithoi fragments (3 large body sherds and 2 rim pieces with a quilloche relief) were uncovered by the S baulk (ca. 1.6m from E baulk line); bone was also found.

Excavation was suspended for the day at ca. 4.8m from the S baulk line.

19. VI. 02: Completed excavation of A902; very little pottery A902.2 was collected in the N section of trench; excavation was halted ca. 2m from NE corner to ca. 1.5m from the NW corner see sketch plan; north of the westernmost boulder, there was little to no sherds found; bone was collected (including shell) and more of Boyd's. (9 ph. cistern plaster; trench A900 closed after closing elevations.

AZORIA Project

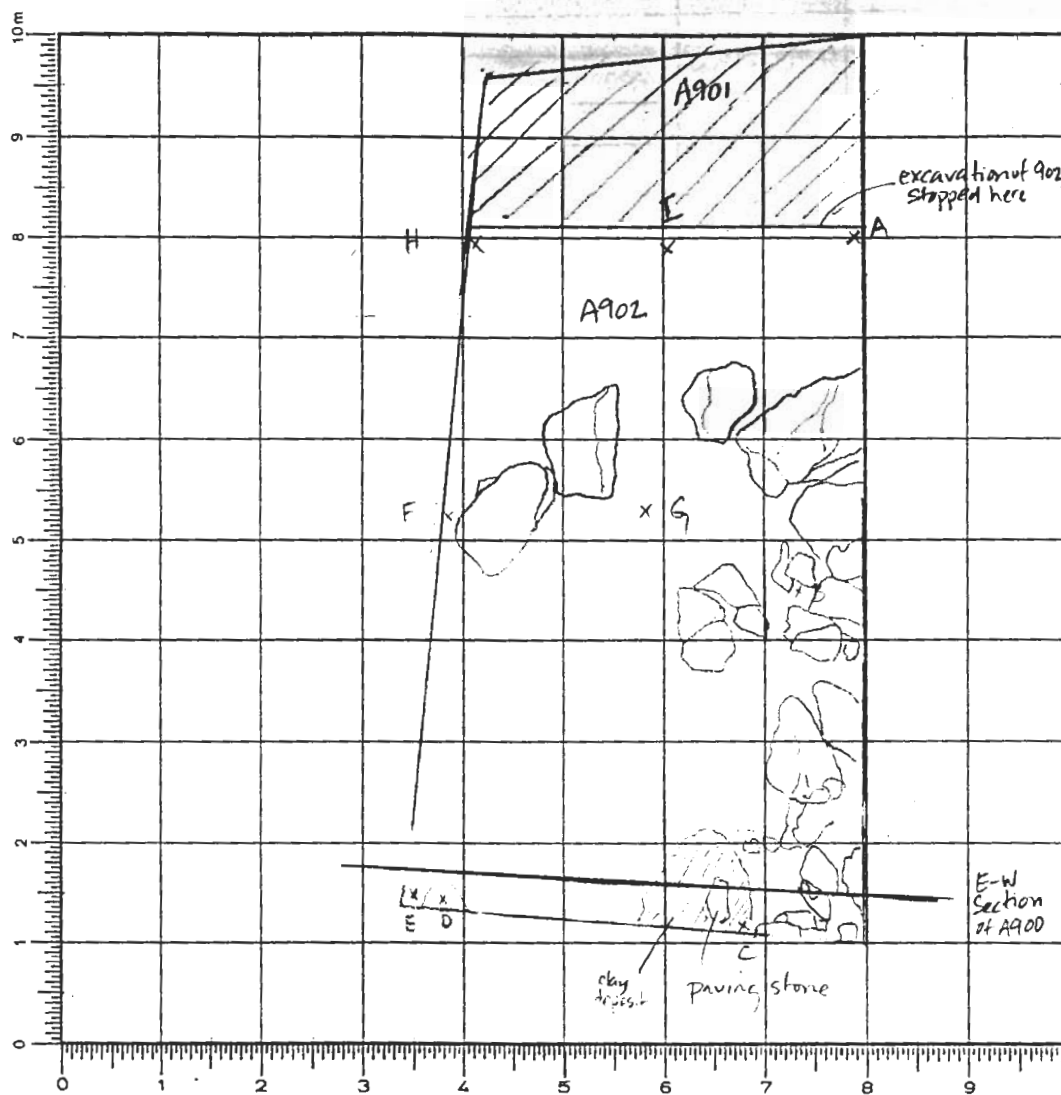
p.4

Year 2002 Trench/Locus A902 (end) Excavator SZP

- stones in sketch plan A902 start also in this.

Elevations

Benchmark used: R1
Reading on
Benchmark: 370.62
H.I.: (0.673) 371.293m



A (2.648)	368.645m
B (2.685)	368.608m
C (2.892)	368.401m
D (3.215)	368.078m
E (3.588)	367.705m
F (3.355)	367.938m
G (2.891)	368.403m
H (2.985)	368.308m
I (2.895)	368.398m

END ELEVATIONS OF SE CORNER OF A902 25.VI.02



HI (4.825) = 370.57

A	1.7
B	1.66
C	1.764
D	1.515
E	1.91
F	1.52
G	1.565

SKETCH 1:75 N
↑

DEFINITION/DESCRIPTION of LOCUS (explain why you changed locus numbers):

Today's date: 19.VI.02 Locus above: A901

Locus parameters:

Verbal description: end elevations for A902

Locus Interpretative Comments (What do you think this is? DATE your comments, continue on additional pages if necessary):