

Azoria 2005
Trench Report for B2600
DWM
18 July 2005

Excavation dates: 30 May 05 – 31 May 05

Trench Workmen: Manolis Devdas

Trench Assistants: Samantha Keller, Cory Chisholm, Ben Bragg, Robin Grieg

Datum Point: R2 (359.20)

Location: Rectangular trench located immediately to the east of the civic building excavated last season (B2100). The trench's eastern boundary is the western wall of the civic building (B2104). The trench runs 2.3 m south down a gradual slope and extends 3.9 m to the west.

Purpose of excavation: To investigate the open space adjacent to the civic building.

Stratigraphy: The trench was excavated in two loci. The first locus, B2601, was a shallow pass to remove top soil. There was no particular concentration of pottery retrieved, which dated from LMIIIc through Hellenistic. The second locus, B2602, was another shallow pass, which was hindered by the appearance of large stones in the NE corner of the trench. The stones are similar to those visible above the surface in the SW corner of the trench, and they may be tumble from the architectural features located further north up the hill. The southern portion of the trench has a clay layer beneath, along with a plaka found towards the center of the trench. Finds included two spindle whorls and a concentration of pottery sherds in the NW corner. The pottery retrieved also dated from LMIIIc through Hellenistic.

Conclusions: B2600 is likely an exterior space adjacent to the civic building, but its function, if any, cannot be ascertained. The clay layer and the plaka suggest a floor surface, but there is no indication of roofing debris. The slope of the hill that the trench is located on, and the wide spread of pottery recovered, suggest that the finds in this trench are the result of slope wash and erosion.

Locus List:

B2601: Topsoil

B2602: Slopewash/Tumble debris

tandem with the ovens. Architecturally, the ceiling debris and the column base provide evidence for at least two roofed rooms that could have functioned together. The stone pedestal, B3707, and the burnt clay features are the best evidence for a floor surface.

Locus List:

B3701: Topsoil

B3702: Tumble

B3703: Slopewash/Roofing debris

B3704: Roofing/Habitation debris

Architectural Features:

B3405: N-S wall in west

B3705: E-W wall in south

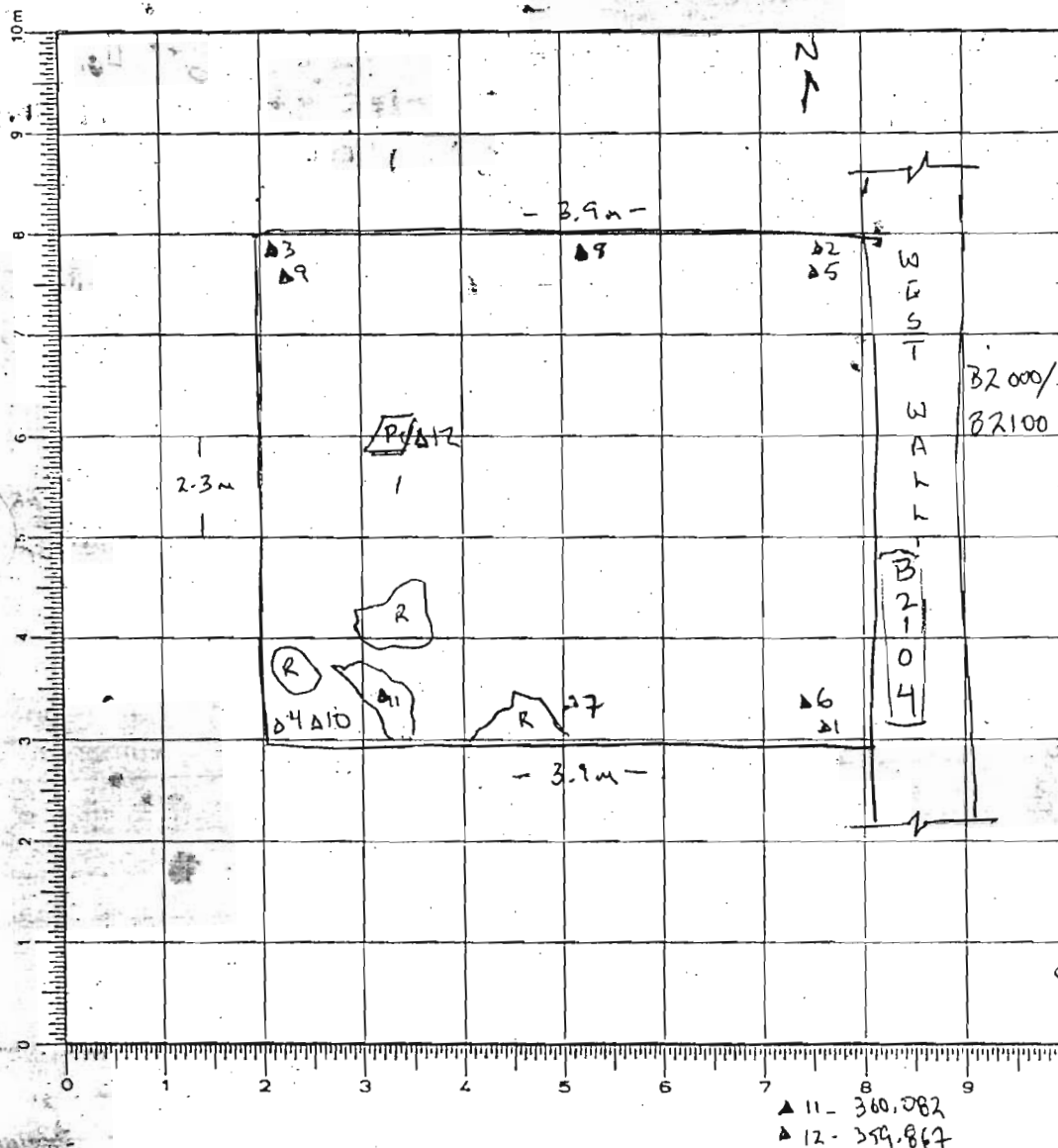
B3706: N-S wall in NE corner

B3708: E-W wall in northern half

Year 05 Trench/Locus 32601 Excavator DWM

Elevations

Benchmark used: A7
 Reading on Benchmark: 359.2 m
 H.I.: 1.925 m



- Δ1 - 1.246 m
- Δ2 - 1.051 m
- Δ3 - 1.129 m
- Δ4 - 1.175 m
- Δ5 - 1.150 m
- Δ6 - 1.285 m
- --- ---
- B.M. 359.2 m
- H.I. 1.925 m
- 1.812 m
- Δ7 - 1.158 m
- Δ8 - 1.109 m
- Δ9 - 1.120 m
- Δ10 - 1.140 m
- Δ11 - 0.936 - Rock
- Δ12 - 1.145 - Pit
- P1 - Pit in shed
- R - Rock
- A1 - 359.859
- A2 - 359.374
- A3 - 359.936
- A4 - 359.995
- A5 - 359.977
- A6 - 359.840
- A7 - 359.866
- A8 - 359.509
- A9 - 359.892
- A10 - 359.872

SKETCH 1:75-N
 not to scale ↑

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

Today's date: 30 MAY 05 Locus above: N/A

Locus parameters: 3.9m E-W x 2.3m N-S

Verbal description: Removal of top soil in 210 cm pass. Rectangular trench located adjacent to civic building (32000/32100) in supposed agora covered with vegetation that was removed before excavating. Matrix was moist red soil.

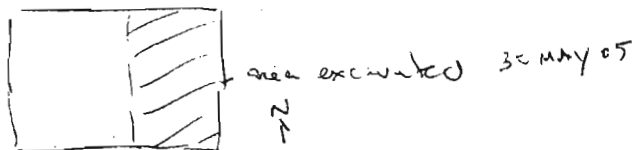
Locus Interpretative Comments (What do you think this is? DATE your comments, continue on additional pages if necessary):

topsoil

Year 05 Trench/Locus B2601 Excavator DUM

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

30 May 05: Start of excavation season! Area known as Agora cleared of vegetation adjacent to the civic building B2000/B2100. South slope of agora remains uncleared of vegetation. 2.3 x 3.9 m trench opened in N slope of agora. ≈ 10 cm pass to remove topsoil over approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ the trench completed.

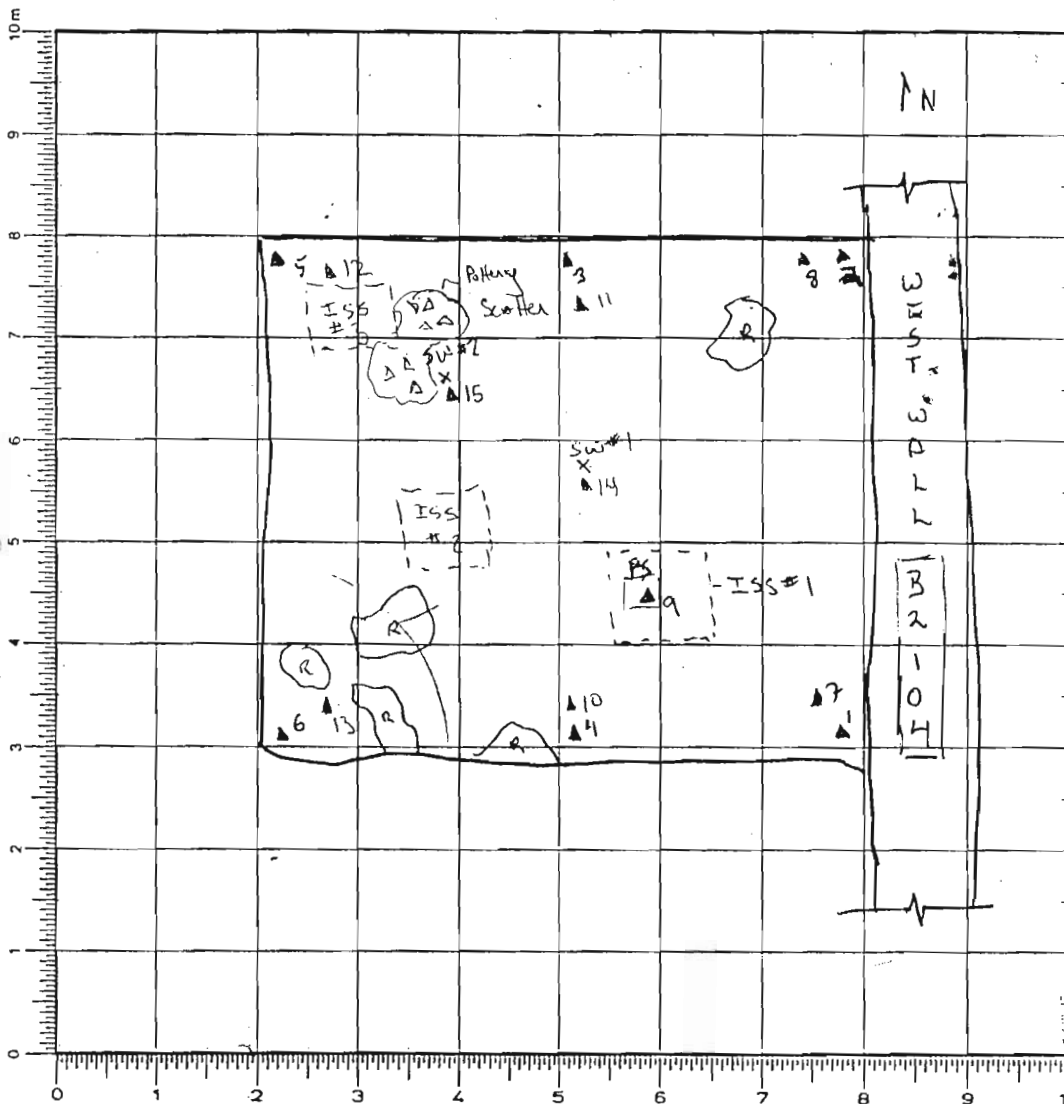


Some pottery - coarse ware, one fragment of cup base recovered (B2601.)
31 May 05 - completed pass to remove topsoil. More coarse ware was found in this area of the trench, along with bone. Significant pottery finds include pithos sherd with raised pattern - probably body sherd - and glazed kylix fragment (base) - probably late 5th C. BC. (B2601.)
 Large boulders located in SW corner of trench. No particular concentration of pottery in any one area - probably scattered and deposited in area due to ploughing and erosion. Matrix is red, moist soil which separates fairly easily.

Year 05 Trench/Locus B2602 Excavator DWM

Elevations

Benchmark used: RZ
 Reading on
 Benchmark: 359.2
 H.I.: 1.812



Δ1 - 1.287	359.840
Δ2 - 1.150	359.977
Δ3 - 1.109	<u>Top</u> 359.905
Δ4 - 1.156	359.866
Δ5 - 1.120	359.892
Δ6 - 1.140	359.872
H.I. - 1.645	= 360.845
Δ7 - 1.059	359.786
Δ8 - 1.000	<u>bottom</u> 359.845
Δ9 - 1.069	<u>flat stone</u> 359.776
H.I. - 1.750	
Δ10 - 1.285	359.745
Δ11 - 1.129	359.821
Δ12 - 1.136	<u>bottom</u> 359.814
Δ13 - 1.102	359.848
Δ14 - 1.102	- SW #1
Δ15 - 1.100	- SW #2
Δ14	359.848
Δ15	359.850

sw - spindle whorl
 PS - Paving Stone (?)
 R - Rock
 ISS - Intensive Soil Sample

SKETCH 4.75 N
 not to scale ↑

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

Today's date: 31 MAY 05 Locus above: B2601 - First locus after removal of topsoil

Locus parameters: 3.9 (E-W) x 2.3 (N-S) m

Verbal description: Tax contractor pass executed after removal of topsoil.

Soil is redder than that in overlying locus (B2601) but moist and does not easily break up. Surface seems to slope upward from south to north.

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

1 Jun 05. The paving stone, the objects found, and the clay surface in the southern portion suggest a floor surface.

Year 05 Trench/Locus B2602 Excavator DWM

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

31 MAY 05: First pass after removal of topsoil; still shallow enough to assume disturbance by plowing. Excavation proceeds slowly due to wet soil. Decrease in amount of pottery and bone recovered as digging proceeds from E-W. (B2602.1). At outset, rocks similar to those found in SW corner of trench in B2601 appear in NE corner of trench. Workman (Mawlis D.) speculates that large stones deposited during Boyd's excavation. Approximately near elevation $\Delta 9$, $\frac{1}{3}$ of way through trench, soil separates evenly along a plane ≈ 7 cm below top of surface. A flat stone, perhaps a paving stone lies along surface. Pottery and bone do not appear to be below level surface. Mawlis D. thinks this may be a floor surface. An intensive soil sample (#1) is taken in this vicinity.

1 JUN 05: First pass after removal of topsoil continues from E-W. Surface slopes upward from north to south. Matrix breaks up fairly easily to a ^{depth of} ≈ 7 cm above surface in southern part of trench, near and around paving stone, while it is only easily broken to a depth ≈ 4.5 cm in the northern part of trench. Two spindle whetls found in northern part of trench on surface; pottery scatter found in vicinity of Spindle whetl #2 in NW corner of trench, both coarse ware and fine ware? ^(B2602.2) Surface in north of trench seems to be bedrock while that in southern part of trench consists of yellowish clay overlain by packed stones. Excavation becomes more difficult in western part, particularly in southern sector where large rocks are located. Depth of these rocks is not known but some seem shallow and might have been removed in another pass. Two intensive soil samples are taken in case we are dealing with a floor, one in center of trench (ISS#2) and another in NW corner (ISS#3).