

Final Report for B800
TRQ
21 July 2006

This trench was bordered on the west by wall B804 and by scarp on all other sides. Excavations proceeded between 9 June 2006-15 June 06. Benchmark $\Sigma 6$ was used.

Four loci were opened for this trench:

- B850—Rocky architectural fill. Composed of grey clay and patches of reddish soil (pre-bedrock). One pail came from this locus. Pottery: Late Minoan IIIc, Late Geometric, Early Orientalizing, Archaic, and Late Archaic.
- B851—Continuation of B850 with same cobble/gravel fill. Three pails came from this locus. Pottery: Late Minoan IIIc, Early Iron Age, Late Geometric, Early Orientalizing, Orientalizing, Late 7th-Early 6th century, Archaic, and Late Archaic. One terracotta figurine (object 2) and one Late Geometric terracotta weight (object 3) came from B851.1 and one quern came from B852.2 (object 1).
- B852—cobble/gravel fill mixed with green phyllite clay. Four pails come from this locus. Pottery: Late Minoan IIIc, Orientalizing (?).
- B853—Best preserved portion of LM IIIc floor matrix associated with wall B804. One pail comes from this locus. Pottery: Late Minoan IIIc.
- B854—Dense layer of stones within a red clay soil. Soil is mostly sterile. One pottery pail came from this locus. Pottery: Late Minoan IIIc.

This purpose of this trench was to determine the date of wall B804. Originally thought to be Neolithic based on its construction, pottery finds at the base of B804 were entirely LM IIIc, allowing us to dismiss the previous dating for the wall. At the same level as B804 was a short row of stones running in a snaky line N-S. DCH has suggested that this may be a Neolithic wall. Though I disagree that this even resembles a wall, they do seem to mark the easternmost limits of the preserved floor surface associated with B804 and they act as a dividing line between the grey and red clay soils.

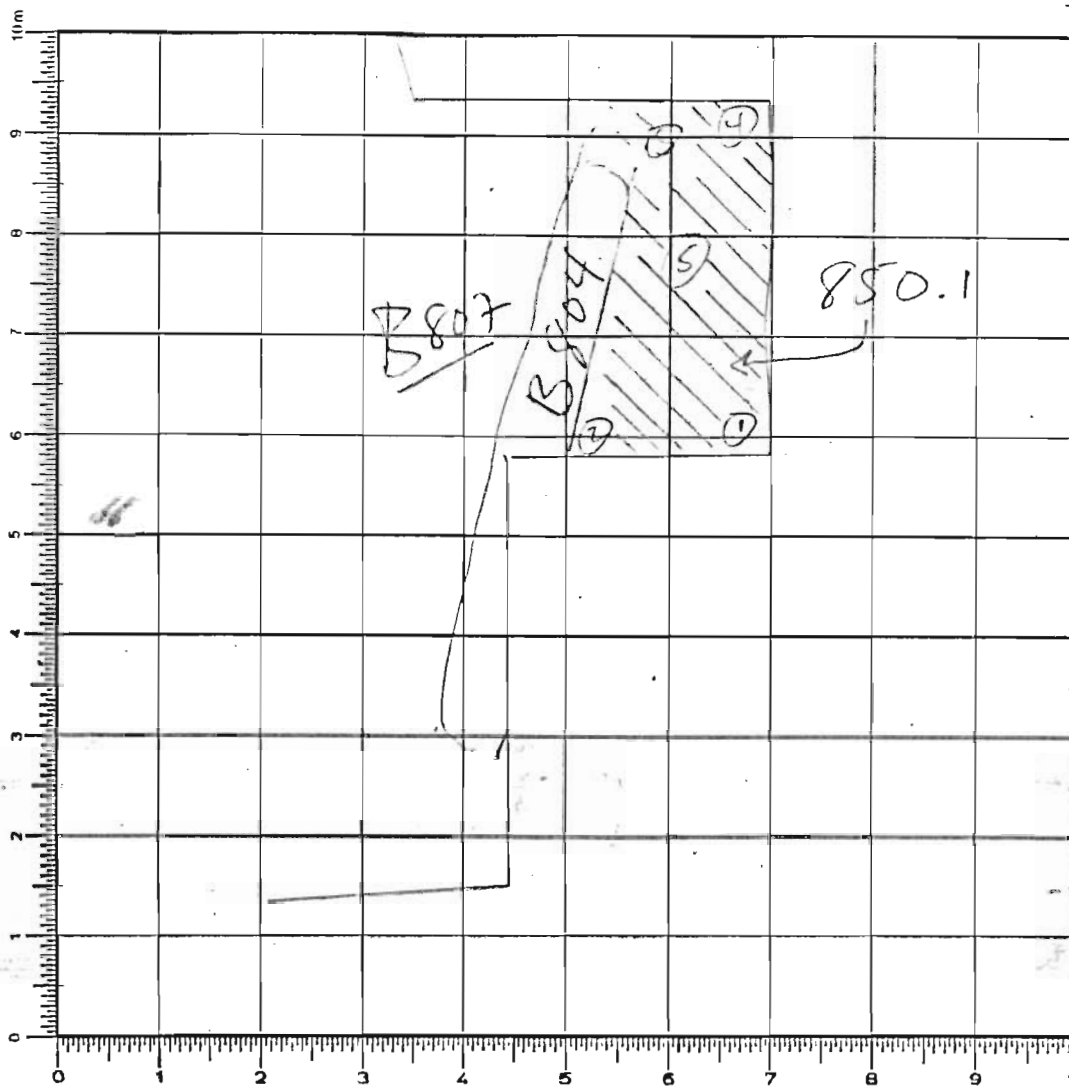
AZORIA Project

p.1

Year 2006 Trench/Locus B800/B850.1 Excavator DCH
B850

H1 =
360.538
Elevations

Benchmark used:
 Reading on
 Benchmark: 26:360.15
 H.L. = 41



TOP B850.1
 1. 3.337 (357.148)
 2. 3.375 (357.14)
 3. 3.4 (357.14)
 4
 5. 3.406 (357.138)

Bottom B850.1

1. 3.4 (357.138)
 2. 3.47 (357.06)
 3. 3.44 (357.09)
 4. 3.394 (357.14)
 5. 3.454
 (357.089)

SKETCH 1:75 N

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

Today's date: 6/9 (9 June) 06 Locus above: B803 ? (Excavated 2003)

Locus parameters: E extension of B800 E of N-S wall (B804)

Verbal description: Rocky layer (cobble/gravel) - architectural fill

Excavation was conducted in a single S → N pass across area (E area) of B800 continuing work initially conducted in 2003 by NAD (B803) matrix is rocky and about 1m from south bulk on the west is some gray clay. on East the matrix is dense rock and red. First quarter of the pass we did not separate 1/4 inch. the matrix is hard and very rocky with large rocks and fine gravel. It tends to be dry and secondary once dug.

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

[illegible]

OBJECTS

[illegible]

ADDITONAL COLLECTED MATERIAL

[illegible]

Year 2006 Trench/Locus B850 / B850.1 Excavator DCI

DESCRIPTION of PROGRESS of EXCAVATION [date each entry and identify associated pottery pair(s)]: First half of the trench most of the material has been bone and pottery in good condition. Most of which are small pieces of both but we have had some medium size pottery. One small a which piece 3rd of the trench has turned up much of the same bone and pottery. The matrix composition continues to be very rocky with varying size of rocks. The underlying ground is rocky nothing much has changed other than the description of the ~~sub~~ southwest bulk and the earth with the rock looks like a gravel layer excavated northern part of the locus. The matrix is very rocky material — equidimensional gravel/pbb/ke layer. The gravel looks to be set in on purpose. looks to be some kind of bedding very regular level. Around noon the first half of the trench has been finished with much of the same material throughout the trench pottery + bone. The wall seem to continue down from the looks of it. The ground seems to be extremely rocky. We did find in the side part of a jaw bone no teeth. We got a standard soil sample, 1/4 bone. The rubble/gravel layer seems to continue but we are going to give it a new locus ~~to~~ number, B851

Year 2006 Trench/Locus B800/B851 Excavator DCHB851

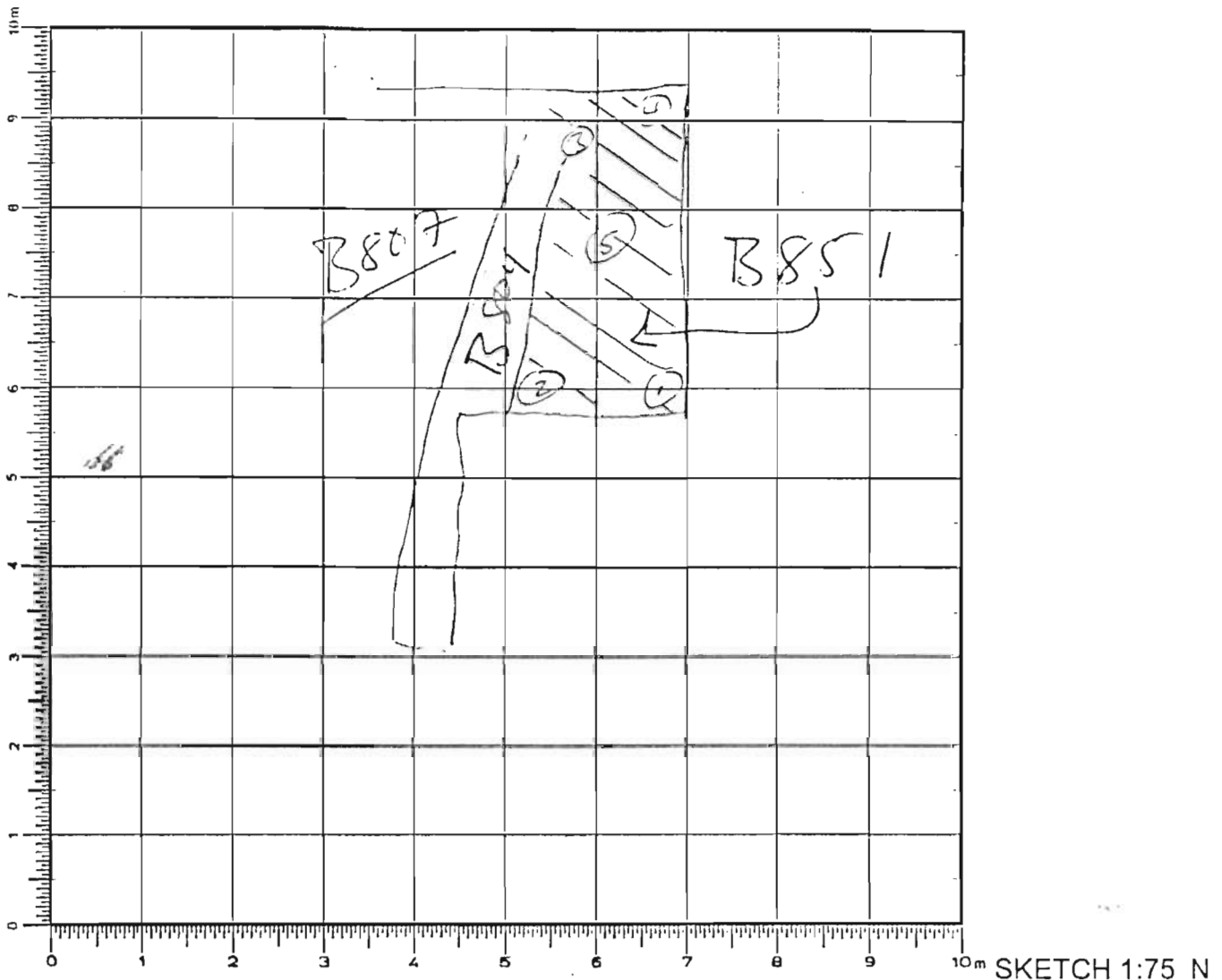
Elevations

Benchmark used: EG

Reading on

Benchmark: EG 360.57

H.I.:

DEFINITION/DESCRIPTION of LOCUS (explain why you changed locus numbers):Today's date: 6-9 (9 June) 2006 Locus above: B850.1Locus parameters: ~~8850.1~~Verbal description: Rocky layer. Cobble/gravel fill layer
Gravel layer~~Excavation~~ Continuation of cobble/gravel - essentially the same material/matrix as B850.1 - (locus above).

V. dense stone material (gravel and cobble-sized stones)

Comments by DCH and Taryn O'Hanlon.

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

Continued the gravel - started excavation in the northern part of W to South. Starting about meter from the Northern scarp where the dense cobble layer is higher + deeper and excavated into it. finding very dense rocky material same as above

[illegible]

OBJECTS

Object Number	Associated Pottery Pail	Identification (material/form)	Location	Elevation	Catalogue Number
1	B851.1	Iron slag frag.	W side of locus		
2	B851.1	TC. figurine	W side of locus		
1	B851.2	Beadrock quarry	W side of locus.		
3	B851.1	LGTC weight			

ADDITIONAL COLLECTED MATERIAL

[illegible]

Year 2006

Trench/Locus ~~B851~~ B851

Excavator DH

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRESS OF EXCAVATION [date each entry and identify associated pottery find(s)]: Seem to be coming down on a hard clean surface of some sort. The cobble material is very deep down in the southern part of the trench and is on a higher level than the cobble material in the north. Rounded pebbles in the matrix as well. On the west of the locus near the N. S. wall found a terra cotta (object #2) figurine and an cobble size iron slag (object #1). The purpose of excavation is to level out this layer of cobble + gravel material. The material looks to be ~~resembling~~ typical archaic leveling fill that is usually found under archaic houses. The cobble + gravel layer seems to peel off a harder smooth surface underneath. Looks like the bottom of the cobble layer ~~is beneath~~ under this layer. It seems that the cobble is thinning out. Pail 1 excavation ended about a meter from the south bulk. The pail was closed to be continued later. Pass left unfinished on 9 June.

After sweeping the excavated area in the N, it looks as if the cobbles/gravel continue underneath, but appear less dense and consolidated. B851 and 880 appear to be layers of a single consolidated layer of cobble gravel fill extending across the entire area E of B804.

The material is similar to the description of the fill west of wall B804 (B807) — by NMD in 2003. The lowest course of ~~the~~ wall B804 has not yet been reached in this pass. (The date of the fill (?) should coincide with seventh century rebuilding phase?)

12-June-2006

B851.2. Still continue the pass from Friday in the southern half from the trench. Part of a stone drum have been found so far from this ~~is~~ continued second pass. This pass continues to bring up much of the same as on Friday pottery and bone. Though we seem to be finding more bone in this part of the pass much of which is small fragments from the same screen. This matrix is proving hard to screen. In the southern part of the trench the matrix is loaded with large rock inclusion. This is especially in the ~~east~~ south eastern corner. South western corner

Year 2006 Trench/Locus B851 Excavator DC 4

DESCRIPTION of PROGRESS of EXCAVATION [date each entry and identify associated pottery pair(s)]: has not been finished. The second pass is almost complete. The second pass is complete now just finishing the scraping + sweeping.

Took elevations, photo. in preparation for another pass

B851.3.

Bottom B851.1/2

Top. B851.3

Monument $\Sigma 6$

$H1 = \Sigma 6 + 0.303$

$H1 = 360.428$
B800 N

TOP B851.3

13.306	357.122
23.397	357.031
33.350	357.073
44.3366	357.062
5.3.411	357.017



We are starting the third pass. starting from north eastern corner. This is also where we are starting our intensive soil sample. 10L in the north. ~~We are~~ We are just starting with pair 3 due to the same matrix persisting in this third pass. The matrix continues to be as a gravel rubble nevere but in the E North eastern corner it is a bit sandy. Soil sample #1 was completed in the strip of the northern part of the trench. Soil sample #2 $\Sigma 6$ was taken in the middle of the trench to the western wall. It looks so far that matrix below seems to be the same material as it has before. So this cobble gravel being better contrasted but it seems as if the matrix is getting finer as we move into the center of the trench. It is still rocky but not as much as it has been in the last two passes. The mix fine material and medium rock seems to be more centered around the wall on the west to about the middle of the trench.

In the middle or center of the trench seems to be larger rocks. A piece of charcoal was found in the screen or some kind of burned material. The 3rd pass has kind of gone at an angle across the trench. From the north east corner running along a diagonal to the middle of the southern part of the trench is larger rocks. From this line over the matrix is heavy with larger rocks and not so much of the finer material. The east side of the trench is much more cobble. The large rocks in the center have been taken out. For a while ~~we~~ it was decided not to touch them; but we now decided to take them out figuring they were not anything. In the south east corner a red clayish matrix seems to be coming up. It is a very hard red material. Coming up in the south eastern corner looks to be a possible neolithic wall due to the redish color of the matrix and very large rocks. But again not sure. need to see more. 3rd pass completed after a bit of sweeping the north east corner is very rocky well most of the north is.

Year 2006 Trench/Locus B852Excavator DC/H

Elevations

Benchmark used:

Reading on

Benchmark: ~~43.26~~ 43.26H.I.: 30

TOP B852/BOT

1 3.386 B851/3

2 3.465

3 ~~3.424~~ 3.424

4 3.461

5 3.440

TOP B852

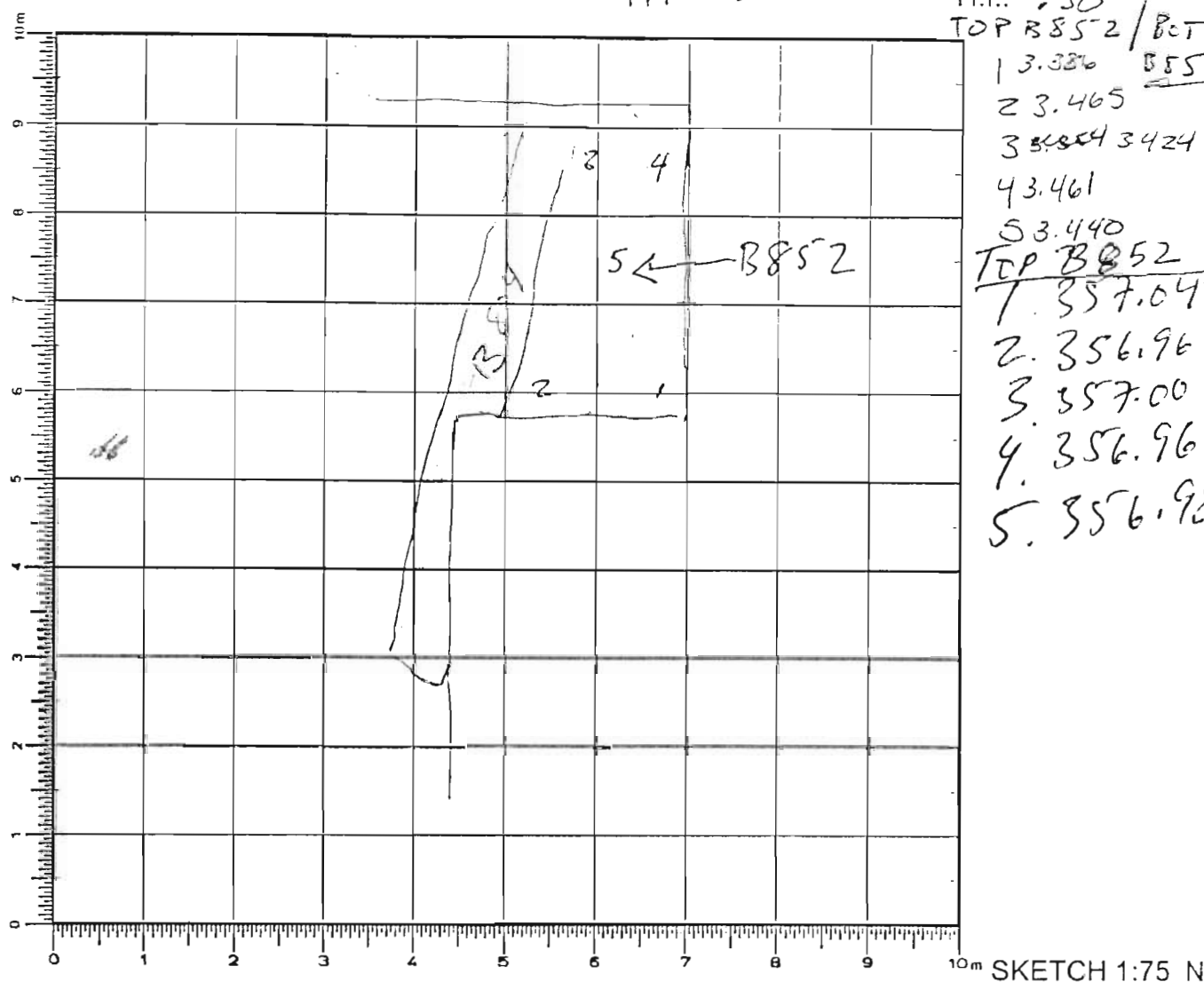
1 357.042

2 356.963

3 357.004

4 356.967

5 356.988



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

Today's date: 12 June 06Locus above B851.3Locus parameters: E of wall B804

(Donald and Tanya O'Hanlon)

Verbal description: Cobble/gravel layer mixed w/ green phyllite

Starting in the north on the first pass on this locus we are removing the cobble and gravel to see if we can get to the red of which is we think might be beneath this rocky matrix. This pass so far is turning up large rocks. The plan is to leave the south east corner alone due to the red of which we found in the last pass. The matrix is hard and extremely rocky. It looks like some red patches are popping up in the along the north eastern half of the wall and its corner. Along the eastern part of the trench looks to be a possible wall turning up. Larger

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

rocks are turning up along with the red dirt. Closed up the trench on the half way through the first pass on this locus, soil sample started will finish tomorrow.

12/June
06

Year 2006 Trench/Locus B852 Excavator DC 14

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

12-June-06 (PCH) (B852.1)

Excavation was conducted along the east side of B804 within B852. The pass was begun in the N edge of the locus and excavated from N to south, removing visible rocky material (cobble/gravel layer) that appears to be a continuation of gravel fill recovered in B850 - B851. This locus B852 was created because the gravel/layer ~~appears~~ stones appear mixed with a gray-green clay - especially along the N and W sides of the locus. At the bottom of B851.3 hard reddish clay/stone appeared in the SE corner and along the E side of the locus. The aim is to remove the gray-green clay and cobble/gravel material, exposing the dense red clay/stone material. We are also looking to see where wall B804 sits — ~~the~~ removal of B851 did not expose the bottom of wall B804.

13/June/06 - Beginning with B852.2

Yesterday's pass from N to S was continued on the west side of the trench in order to take out the gray soil and cobble fill.

A standard soil sample for B852.2 as the SW corner was finished. The sample comes only from the gray clay and only from the west side of the trench along the wall. The red soil will likely become a new locus.

A short line of 5" stones 50 cm ^{from} B804 was preserved as a possible feature, but unlikely. The stones curve slightly, running NE to SW. They are still in the gray soil and will probably be removed.

After a full pass in the gray soil, we are still finding IIIc and Archaic pottery. mixed. Some Neolithic and Archaic was found in the red soil. Bone of pigs and a bovine were some of the more notable pieces.

Year 2006 Trench/Locus B852 Excavator TRQ

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

- 13 June 06 - continued

B804 seems to continue as we dig through B852. The fill is still very rocky with IIIc pottery mixed within. There must be some Archaic pottery, which, if so, suggests that the Archaic construction cut all the way through to Early Iron Age. No discernable floor level can be found, so it may have simply eroded away.

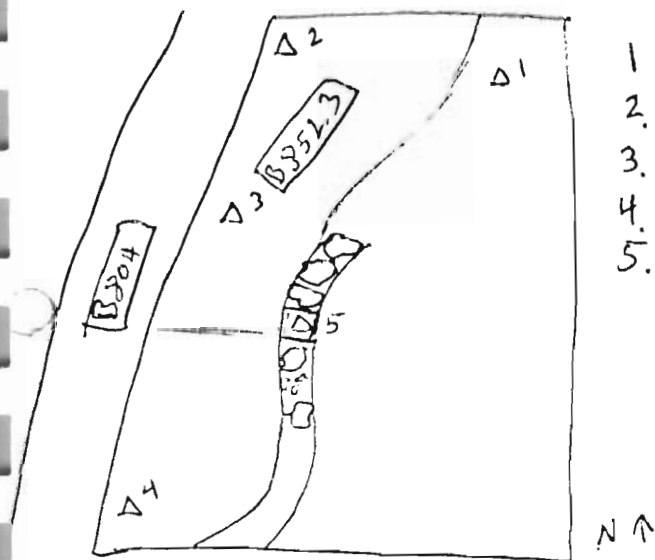
We seem to have a convergence of a IIIc habitation, a Neolithic level in the SE corner, and Archaic fill cut through it all. The floor associated with B804 has either eroded or been dug through. The cobbles along B804 are much smaller and less dense than along the Eastern edge. The grey clay with the cobbles may have been the floor. The area along B804 will be made a new locus, as the floor level.

After sweeping, we will photograph and take elevations for the new locus,

B853
B852 will continue simply by changing buckets, not loci, so we begin B852.3. This pile will contain the material from what is either the floor matrix or Archaic fill. We will move from the red decomposed dolomite west towards the wall B804...

Hi = 360.385m ± 6

1. 3.492m = 356.893m
2. 3.475m = 356.910m
3. 3.509m = 356.876m
4. 3.493m = 356.892m
5. 3.369m = 357.016m



... and then south to a point that preserves the least destroyed part of the "floor." As we began to dig B852.3, an intensive soil sample (5 ltr.) was taken.

A small row of stones in a curvy line may be a feature and will be preserved through the next pass or two in order to determine if there is anything underneath. These stones will mark the easternmost extent of the preserved "floor."

Year 2006 Trench/Locus B852 Excavator TRQ

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

14 June 2006 - B852.4 HI: ~~0.250m = 360.373m~~ BM: $\Sigma 6$

We begin by completing the pass begun yesterday with pail B852.4. Neph and Andy are assisting. The soil was a bit damp from the rain this morning making the line between the red and grey very distinct.

A few very small pieces of plant remains were found along the Northern Bank. If a higher concentration appears a soil sample will be taken.

Near the Northern bank a piece of pottery with a black glaze was found. It may be Archaic, but Peggy believes that it may be IIIc since there is some LM pottery that has an iridescent black glaze. It is often called "dark brown" but is in fact very black. Along B804 a fragmentary jaw with several teeth was found belonging to some quadruped. Another tripod foot was also found in the area of B804.

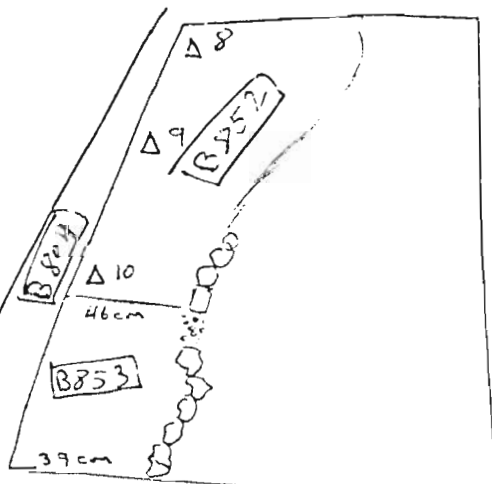
DeH looked at the black glaze again and confirmed that it is IIIc.

In general the bone and shell material is in good condition. Pottery seems to be almost all IIIc with no Neolithic. The stone/cobble does seem to be packing for a floor because of the lack of pottery from other periods. After our pass the size of the stones become smaller, ranging from 5 to 25cm; we are seeing the red level and the stones are coming out very easily. A 10 liter intensive soil sample will be taken from our second pass in B852.4.

Several fragments of a fine ware sphyros (?) have been found between B804 and the wavy line of stones during our second pass into B852.4. We have stripped away most of the grey soil and have come down onto the red soil. We should photograph soon and assign a new locus.

Photographs were taken of the trench and we decided to close B852. A small section in the SW corner, measuring roughly 120cm N-S by 46cm E-W, will be made a new locus. Bottom elevations of B852 were taken along the west side of the trench.

By the end of the day, we had dug out the grey soil and floor packing creating a 16cm difference in elevation and a 6.5 degree slope between the NE and NW corners of the trench.



8. 3.649m : 356.729m

9. 3.725m : 356.653m

10. 3.650m : 356.728m

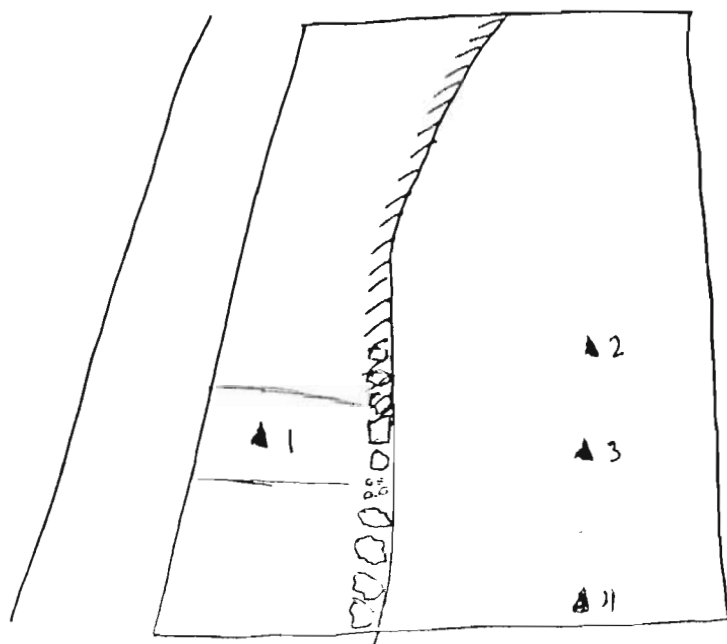
Year 2006 Trench/Locus B852 Excavator TRQ

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

15 June 2006

The question has come up as to why the floor packing for B852 was so well preserved, including the bone fragments within, but the floor surface was not. OCH believes that it is due to water erosion. This may also explain why the surface slopes as much as it does. The clay floor seems to have dissolved and seeped into the cobble floor packing. Therefore, we did not actually dig through the floor in B852, but rather, it was not there when we began to dig. B853 is just the only part that has survived.

HI: 0.202 m = 360.330 m



- 1) 3.511 m = 356.819 m
- 2) 3.368 m = 356.962 m
- 3) 3.329 m = 357.001 m
- 4) 3.305 m = 357.025 m

Year 2006 Trench/Locus B853 Excavator TRQElevationsBenchmark used: Σ6

Reading on

Benchmark: 0.250mH.I.: 300.378mTop

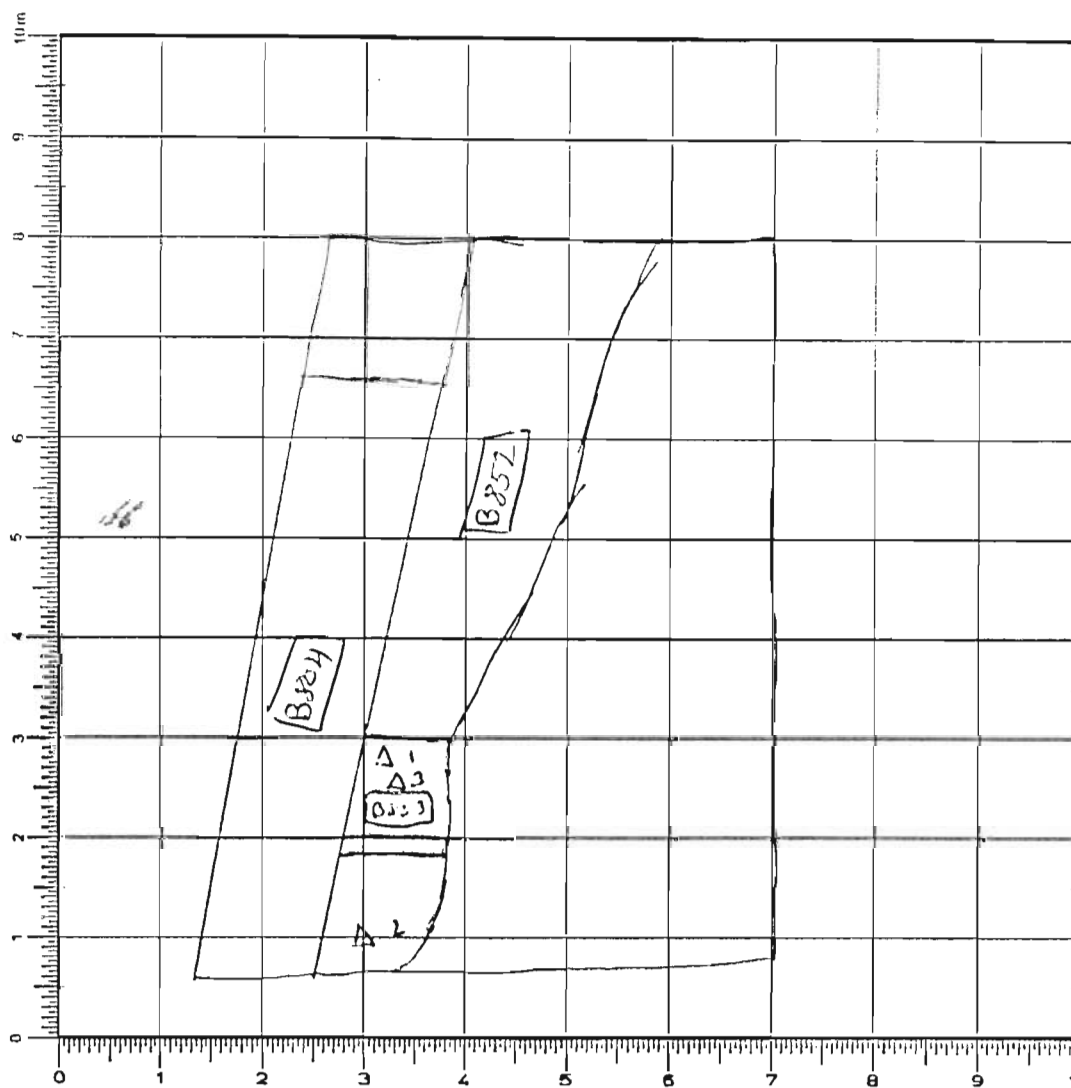
$$1) 3.453m = 356.920m$$

$$2) 3.454m = 356.924m$$

Bottom

$$3) 3.511m = 356.819m$$

$$[H.I.: 0.202m] = 360.330$$

50
SKETCH 1: ~~25~~ N
↑DEFINITION/DESCRIPTION of LOCUS (explain why you changed locus numbers):Today's date: 15 June 06 Locus above: B852Locus parameters: SW corner of B850, measuring 120cm N-S and about 40cm E-W. Abuts B854 on the west.Verbal description: Best preserved portion of LM IIIc floor matrix associated with B854. Great clay matrix only a few centimeters thick over the rocky floor packing.Locus Interpretative Comments (What do you think this is? DATE your comments, continue on additional pages if necessary): 15 June 06

This new locus is the best preserved portion of a floor matrix previously labeled B852. Our goal is to excavate only a ~~20~~ ⁷⁰ cm horizontal pass in 2 vertical stages: first, strip off the few remaining centimeters of

[illegible]

OBJECTS

[illegible]

ADDITIONAL COLLECTED MATERIAL

[illegible]

Year 2006 Trench/Locus B853 Excavator TRQ

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

continuation of 15 June 06

the grey clay matrix of the floor in hopes that this will be an isolated section containing only LM III^a pottery. Second, take out some of the rocky floor packing.

OCH has decided only to remove the grey clay matrix and define the cobbles underneath. We will then take final photographs and close the trench.

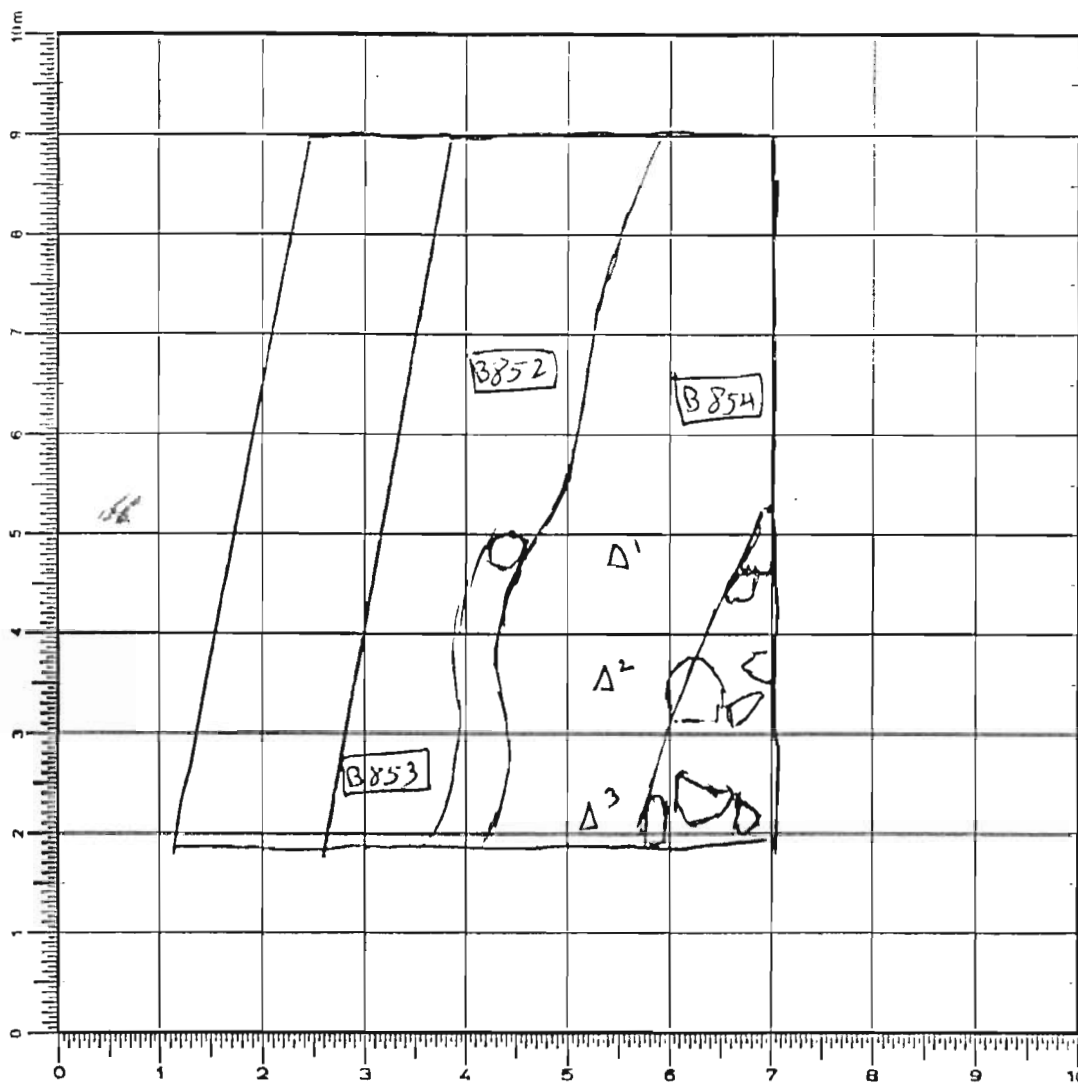
Tayra has noted that the clay matrix is of a different consistency than she had encountered at equivalent elevations further north.

Year 2006 Trench/Locus B854 Excavator TRQ**Elevations**Benchmark used: $\Sigma 6$

Reading on

Benchmark: 0, 202 m

H.I.: 360 330 m



T-8
~~1) 3.368m = 356.962m~~
~~2) 3.329m = 357.001m~~
~~3) 3.305m = 357.025m~~

1) 3.368m = 356.962m

2) 3.329m = 357.001m

3) 3.305m = 357.025m

50
 SKETCH 1: ~~1~~ N
 ↑

DEFINITION/DESCRIPTION of LOCUS (explain **why** you changed locus numbers):Today's date: 15 June 06 Locus above: B851

Locus parameters: ^E corner of trench, bounded by south and east bank and by a curvilinear feature to the west

Verbal description:

Dense layer of rocks within a red clay soil. Stone sizes range from 5cm to 20cm. Top layer is fairly sterile with very few pottery sherds and little to no bone. The soil is much more dense than other soil made red by decomposing dolomite in Neolithic layers.

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

The very SE corner has some of the same grey clay found in B852 and B853. This locus marks the end of excavation in B800. JCH chose not to take final elevations as he may return with a X-ray and explore further.

[illegible]

OBJECTS

[illegible]

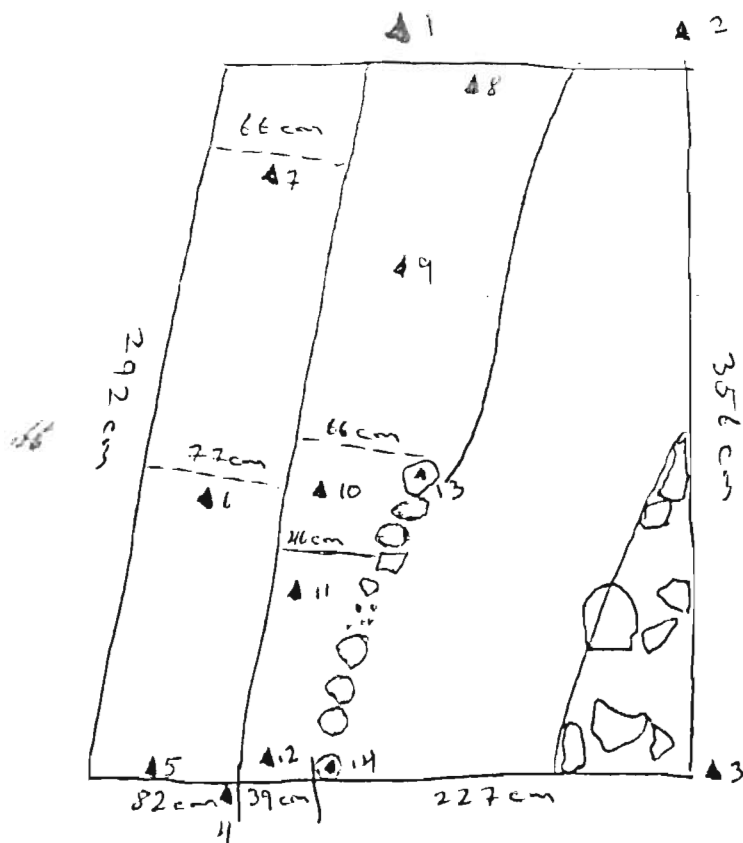
ADDITIONAL COLLECTED MATERIAL

[illegible]

Year 2006 Trench/Locus B554 Excavator TRQ

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

HI 0.250 = 360.378m



- 1) 2.865m = 357.513m
- 2) 2.604m = 357.774m
- 3) 2.725m = 357.653m
- 4) 2.955m = 357.423m
- 5) 3.230m = 357.148m
- 6) 3.169m = 357.209m
- 7) 3.120m = 357.258m
- 8) 3.649m = 356.729m
- 9) 3.725m = 356.653m
- 10) 3.650m = 356.728m
- 11) 3.458m = 356.920m
- 12) 3.454m = 356.924m
- 13) 3.340m = 357.038m
- 14) 3.413m = 356.965m