

# **AZORIA PROJECT SUMMER 2002**

## **TRENCH REPORTS FOR**

### **A200, A400, A1200, A1400, A1600**

#### **A200**

Trench A200 was excavated from 4 June to 6 June and 19 June to 20 June, 2002, by trench master Peter Vanaria and his assistant Nichole Doub with Manolis Dantes, Yiorgos Kanitakis (4/6 – 6/6) and Athanasios Syritoules (19/6 – 20/6). Benchmark R1 (Elevation 370.62) was used throughout the excavation.

#### **Architecture and Trench Boundaries:**

A200 was bounded to the south by wall A201, which consisted of five large stones in a single course (about .5m by .5m each). To the east, it was thought that a cross-wall (A202) existed as a boundary for the trench, but further excavation revealed that the course of the wall might continue past the line of the trench. No other physical boundaries were apparent for A200; the trench continued 7.3m north of A201 and 7m east from the original placement of A202. After the surface and topsoil passes, a new boundary was created to the north by wall A204, 3.8m north of A201.

#### **Loci and Strata:**

Bedrock appeared early and often during the excavation of this trench, the lowest level being in A208 (also in A207), although bedrock cropped up as early as A205 in the southeast side of trench. Wall tumble, presumably from A401, comprised the next strata above the bedrock and pre-bedrock material. The tumble consisted of mostly medium-sized, rectangular stones (on average .15m wide by .5m long) and was seen in loci A208, A206, and A205. Above the wall tumble laid the topsoil (A203) and the surface layer (A200).

**A207 – Bedrock and Pre-bedrock**  
**A208, A206, A205 – Tumble and Pre-bedrock**  
**A203 – Topsoil**  
**A200 – Surface Material**

Interpretations:

The excavation of A200 was an example of the severe erosion that has appeared throughout the ancient site of Azoria. Wall tumble appearing directly above the pre-bedrock layer proves that the floor surface and habitation layer has been lost long ago. The largest quantity of pottery came from the southeast corner, excavated separately as A205 due to the height of the wall tumble. Pottery and bone was also found in fairly sizable numbers in the passes of A206, as well as a stone object. Since there is no other course of the wall found under the first course named A201, I believe that these must have been the foundation stones on the wall. Wall A201 might also show a trace of a threshold, which again proves that the floor has long since departed because the topsoil layer was significantly lower than even the threshold.

Wall A204 might have been the north wall of the room created by the south wall A201, but there is very little remaining except for two nicely cut, large rectangular stones. But erosion was exceptionally bad in this area, and only a topsoil pass was conducted in the area north of A204. Further excavation in this area and the area to the northwest might reveal more information.

**A400**

Trench A400 was excavated from 6 June to 19 June and on 16 July, 2002, by trench master Peter Vanaria and his assistant Nichole Doub with Manolis Dantes and Athanasios Syritoules (Also Michaelis Kofinakis and Yiorgos Kanitakis on 16 July, 2002). Benchmark R6 (Elevation 365.76) was used throughout excavation.

# A1200 Wall Elevations (see sketch)

315. ...  
Bench = 2.585  
H.I. = 368.325

- 1-2.955 = 365.37
- 2-3.085 = 365.24
- 3-2.533 = 365.492
- 4-2.772 = 365.353
- 5-2.363 = 365.462
- 6-3 = 365.325
- 7-2.93 = 365.405
- 8-2.735 = 365.39
- 9-2.75 = 365.365
- 10-3.143 = 365.222
- 11-3.355 = 365.02
- 12-3.508 = 364.917
- 13-3.649 = 365.676
- 14-2.215 = 366.08
- 15-1.838 = 366.445
- 16-1.755 = 366.567
- 17-1.535 = 366.79
- 18-1.35 = 367.029
- 19-1.321 = 367.001
- 20-1.415 = 366.907
- 21-1.545 = 366.67
- 22-1.602 = 366.723
- 23-1.575 = 366.75
- 24-1.85 = 366.427
- 25-3.95 = 365.93
- 26-1.501 = 366.824
- 27-1.746 = 366.579
- 28-1.792 = 366.533
- 29-2.137 = 366.188
- 30-2.324 = 366.001
- 31-2.533 = 365.792
- 32-2.453 = 365.872

A1400 pivot - 3.462 = 364.863

Top A1206 - 1.288 = 367.037

Year 02 Trench/Locus A200 Surface Excavator PAVElevations 370.62  
Benchmark used: R1  
Reading on  
Benchmark: .649  
H.I.: 371.269Bottom Elevations

1-1.58 = 369.689  
 2-.28 = 370.989  
 3-3.914 = 367.355  
 4-3.685 = 367.584  
 5-3.218 = 368.051  
 6-2.54 = 368.729

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

Today's date: 4/6/02Locus above: Ø (surface)Locus parameters: 7m x 7.3m

Verbal description:

Aren Cleared of dense brush + loose stones but some roots may still remain.

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

4 Jun- Modern Zone. Collected 2 pottery pots because area was too large for one bag, yet both pots from same surface. (A200.1 + A200.2)

Year: 02

## Trench/Locus

A200

## Excavator

PAV

10

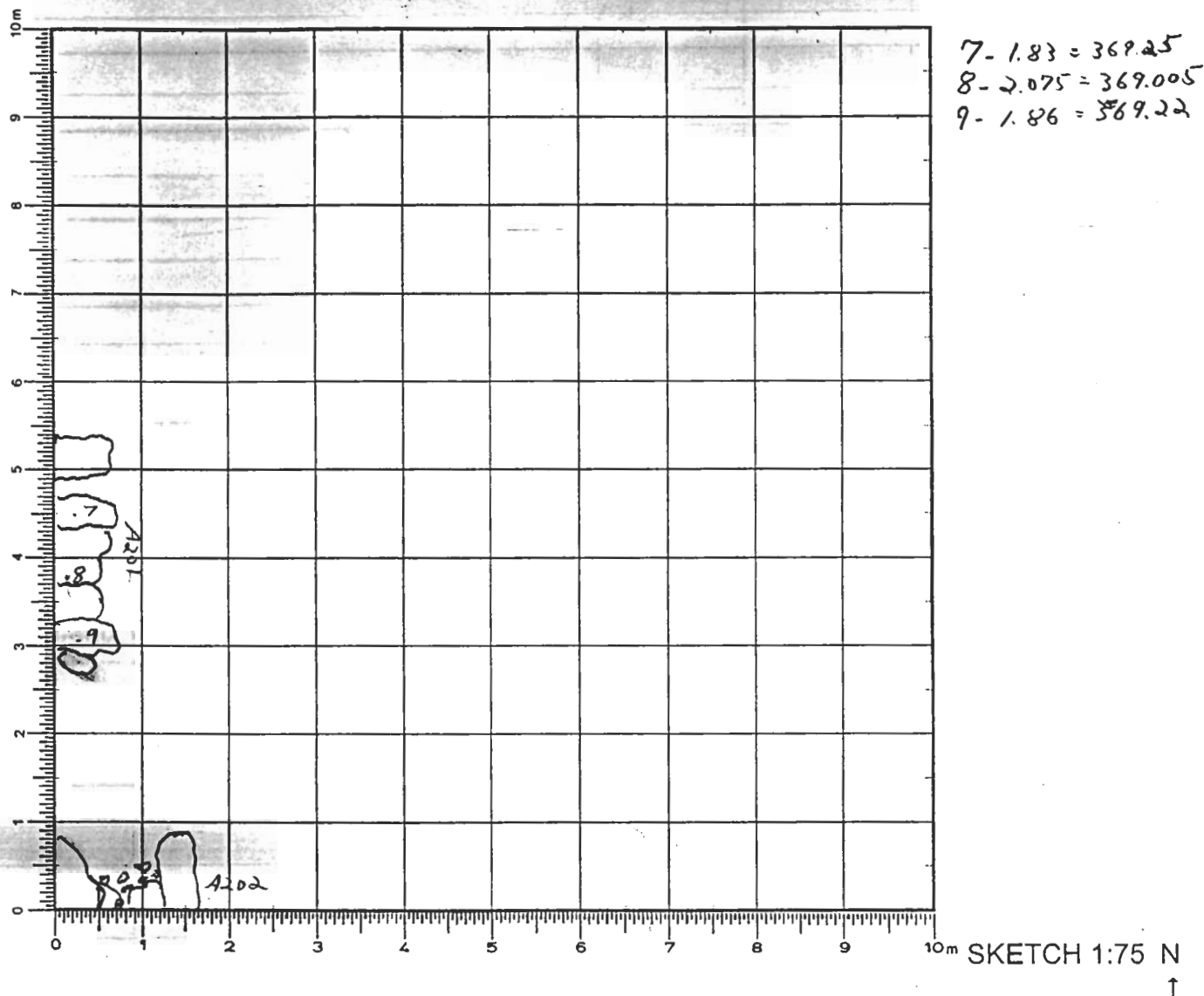
## A!

[illegible]

Year 02 Trench/Locus AR02 Excavator PAV

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

5 June. - Stone Tool found during pottery washing.  
New Tags made and all relevant forms (check-in sheets)  
filled out. Named Object 1.

Year 02 Trench/Locus A201 Excavator PAVElevations 370.62  
Benchmark used: R1  
Reading on  
Benchmark: .46  
H.I.: 371.08

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

Today's date: 4 Jun 02Locus above: Ø (wall)Locus parameters: 2.3m x .65m

Verbal description:

5 rectangular stones visible in a row (about .50 x .50m each)

The first stone to the south stands higher than the following two stones. The 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> stones then have the similar height to the first stone. The stones are a dark grey color.

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

Year 02 Trench/Locus A201 Excavator PAV

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

4 June - After initial cleaning of this possible wall, it is still difficult to tell how long it runs. There might also be a threshold, as <sup>2</sup> flatter rocks are flanked on either side by taller rocks. The wall runs NW, along the edge of the trench. The wall may be joined by a cross-wall (A202) to the SE.

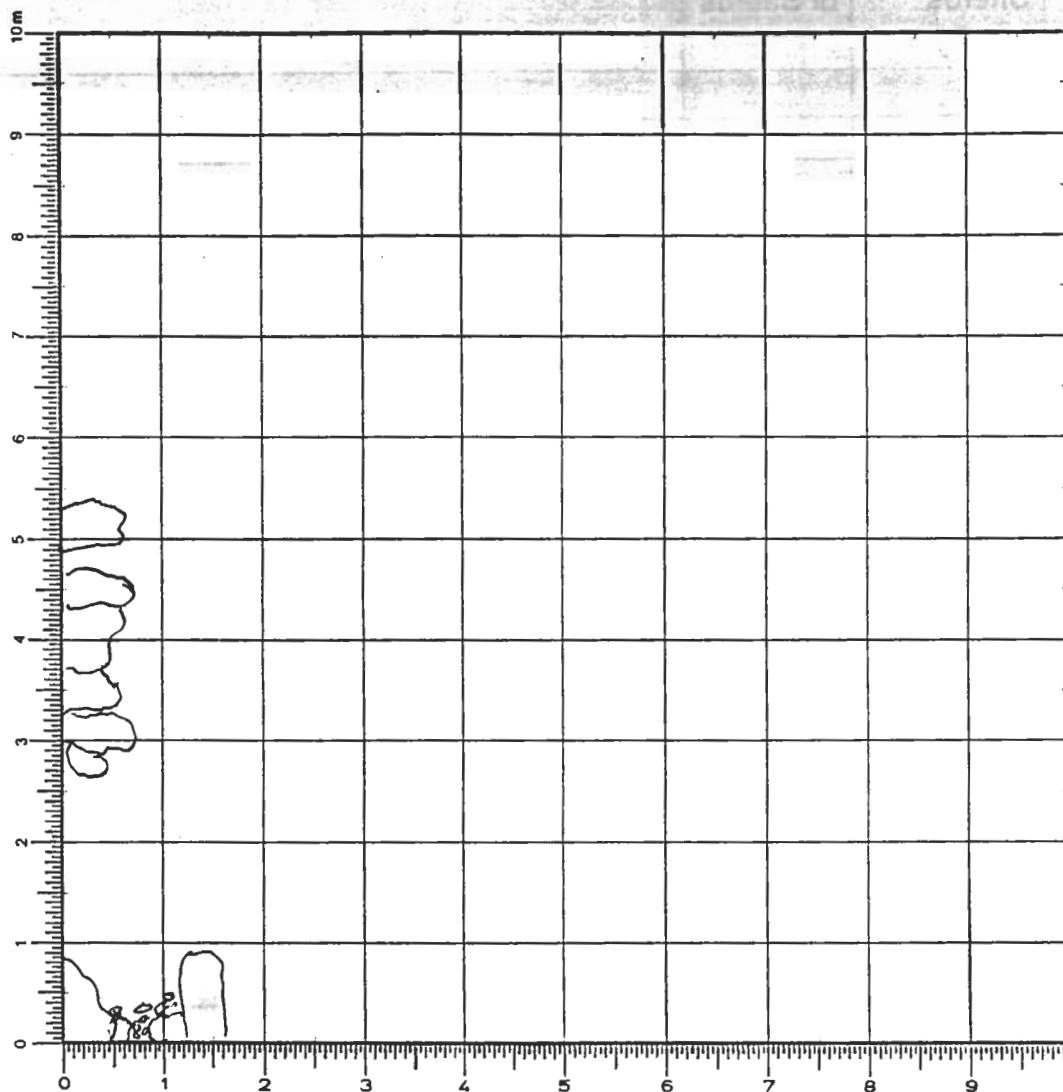


Year 02 Trench/Locus A202 Excavator PAY

## Elevations

Benchmark used: R1

Reading on

Benchmark: 649H.I.: 371.269

1 = 369.689

10m SKETCH 1:75 N  
↑DEFINITION/DESCRIPTION of LOCUS (explain **why** you changed locus numbers):Today's date: 4 Jun 02 Locus above: 9 (wall)

Locus parameters:

Verbal description:

*Large Rectangular Stone (6.5 x 3.0m) marks the end of what may be a wall.  
Most of the rest of the wall is covered by top-soil*

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

Year 02 Trench/Locus A202 Excavator PAV

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

4 June - After initial clean-up, this wall appears to be a cross-wall to the wall along the NW edge of the trench (A201).

5 June - The large, rectangular stone in the South corner, at first thought to be part of the cross wall, was actually misleading.

It came to light in the first pass of A206 that the stone was part of the tumble. However, there does appear to still be a cross wall along the SE edge of the trench. If the cross wall is angled at 90°, the extension of the wall might stretch outside the limits of the trench.

Year 02 Trench/Locus A203 Excavator PAV**Elevations**Benchmark used: R1

Reading on

Benchmark:

H.I.:

Top Elevations

1 = 369.689

2 = 370.989

3 = 367.355

4 = 367.584

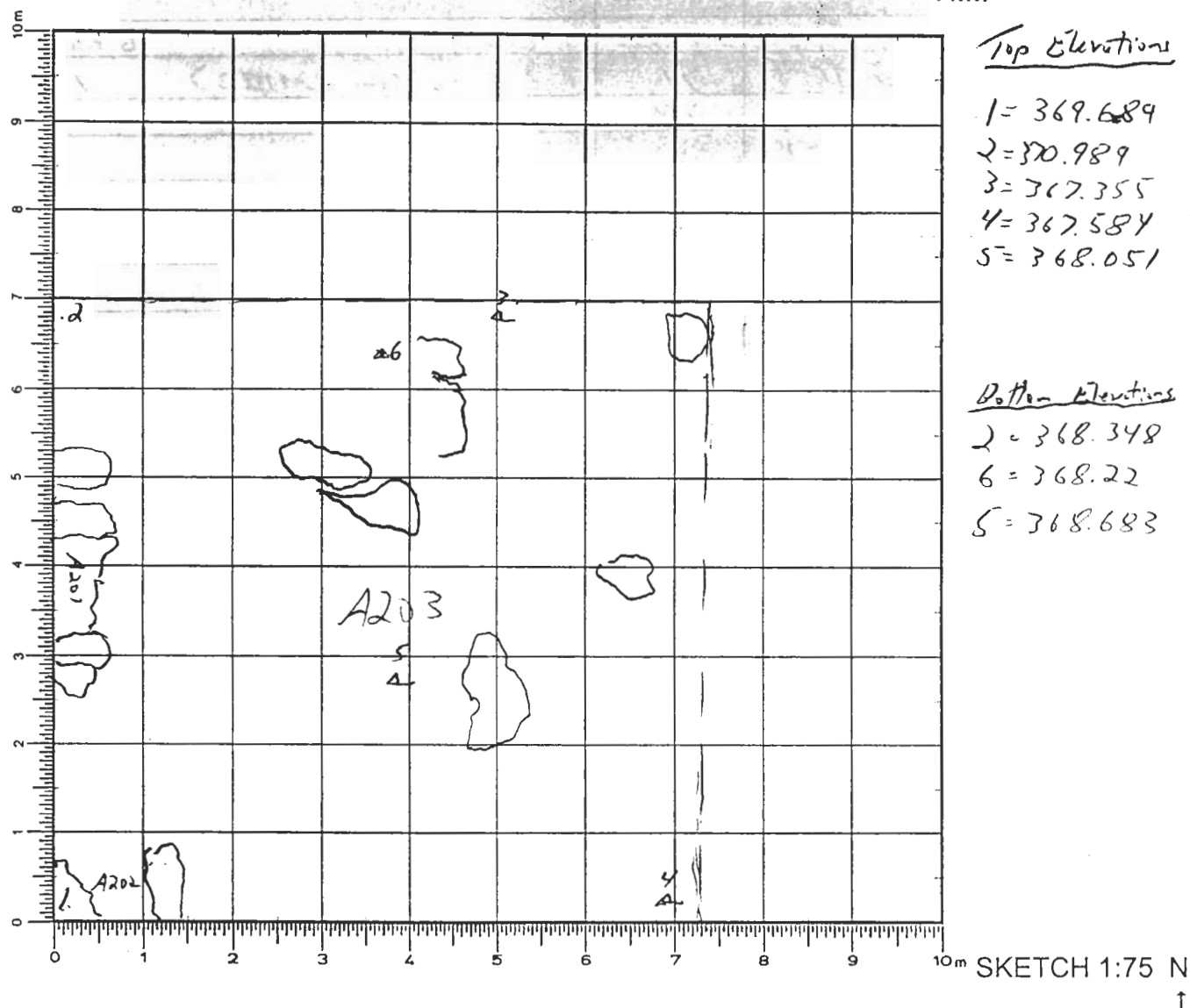
5 = 368.051

Bottom Elevations

2 = 368.348

6 = 368.22

5 = 368.683



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

Today's date: ✓ Jun 02Locus above: A204 surface

Locus parameters:

Verbal description:

Area cleared of dense brush + loose stones. Some roots + small stones may remain. Soil is friable and gravelly. Soil is a dark brown color.

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

Modern Zone, Topsoil

[illegible]

## OBJECTS

[illegible]

### ADDITIONAL COLLECTED MATERIAL

[illegible]

Year 02 Trench/Locus A203 Excavator PAV

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

4 June - This locus is the remaining topsoil for the rest of the trench. However, after the first or second pass, more loci will probably become apparent. For instance, two large stones in the N corner of the trench may turn out to be a wall. There are still many loose stones to be cleared.

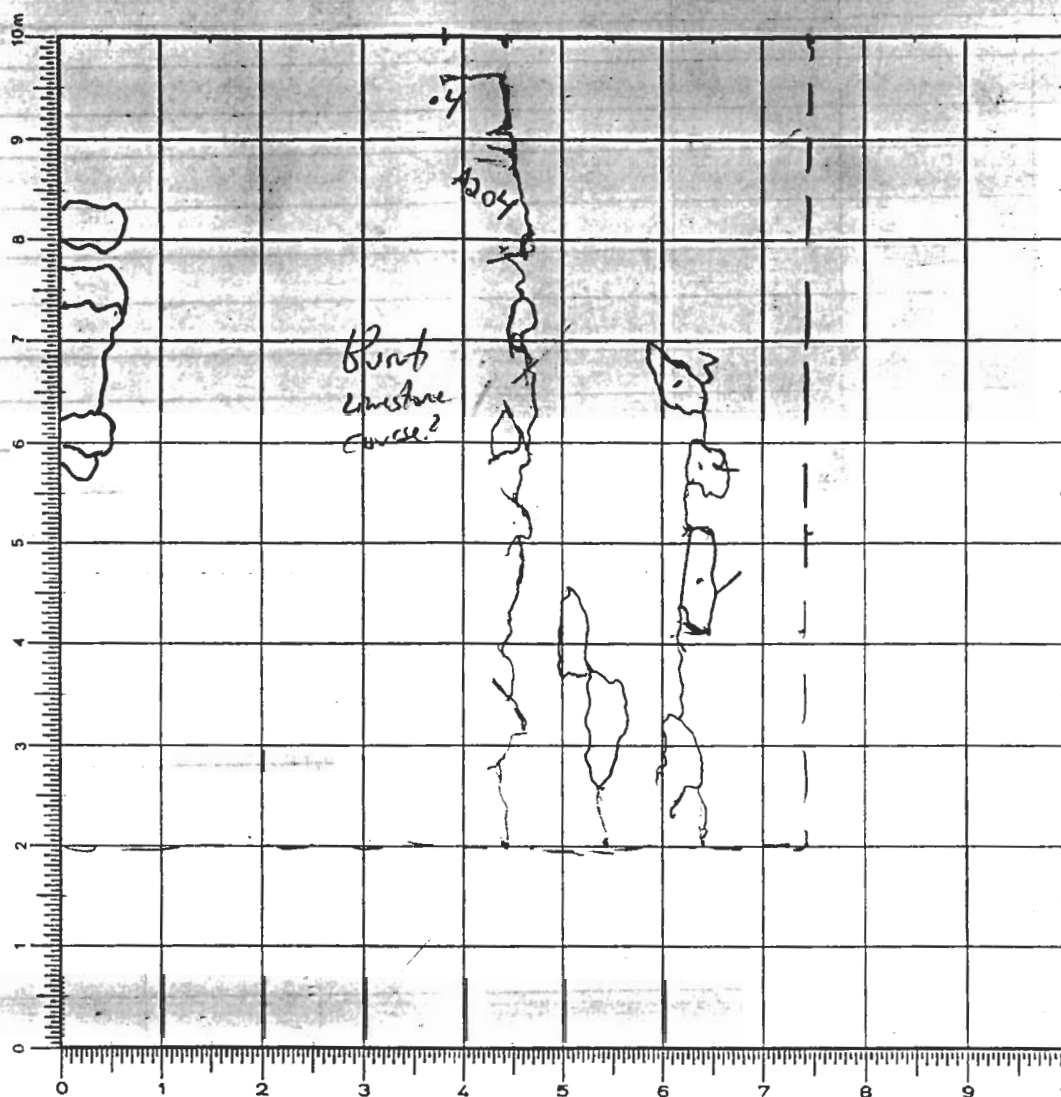
- As first pass is proceeding, it is apparent that the two large stones in the N corner are indeed a wall, therefore another locus will be required (A204).
- The area in the S corner, in the corner of the NW wall (201) and the cross wall (202) has a number of medium sized stones, creating a level that is higher than the surface of the first pass. This will be excavated as another locus (A205). This collection of stones might be rubble from the walls.

5 June - Finished first pass today, will include another small bag of pottery (A203.4)



Year 02 Trench/Locus A204 Excavator PAV

## Elevations

Benchmark used: RA  
Reading on  
Benchmark: 57  
H.I.: 87.19

1 = 3.485  
2 = 3.7  
3 = 3.68

1 = 367.705  
2 = 367.49  
3 = 367.51  
4 = 368.22

SKETCH 1:75 N  
↑

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

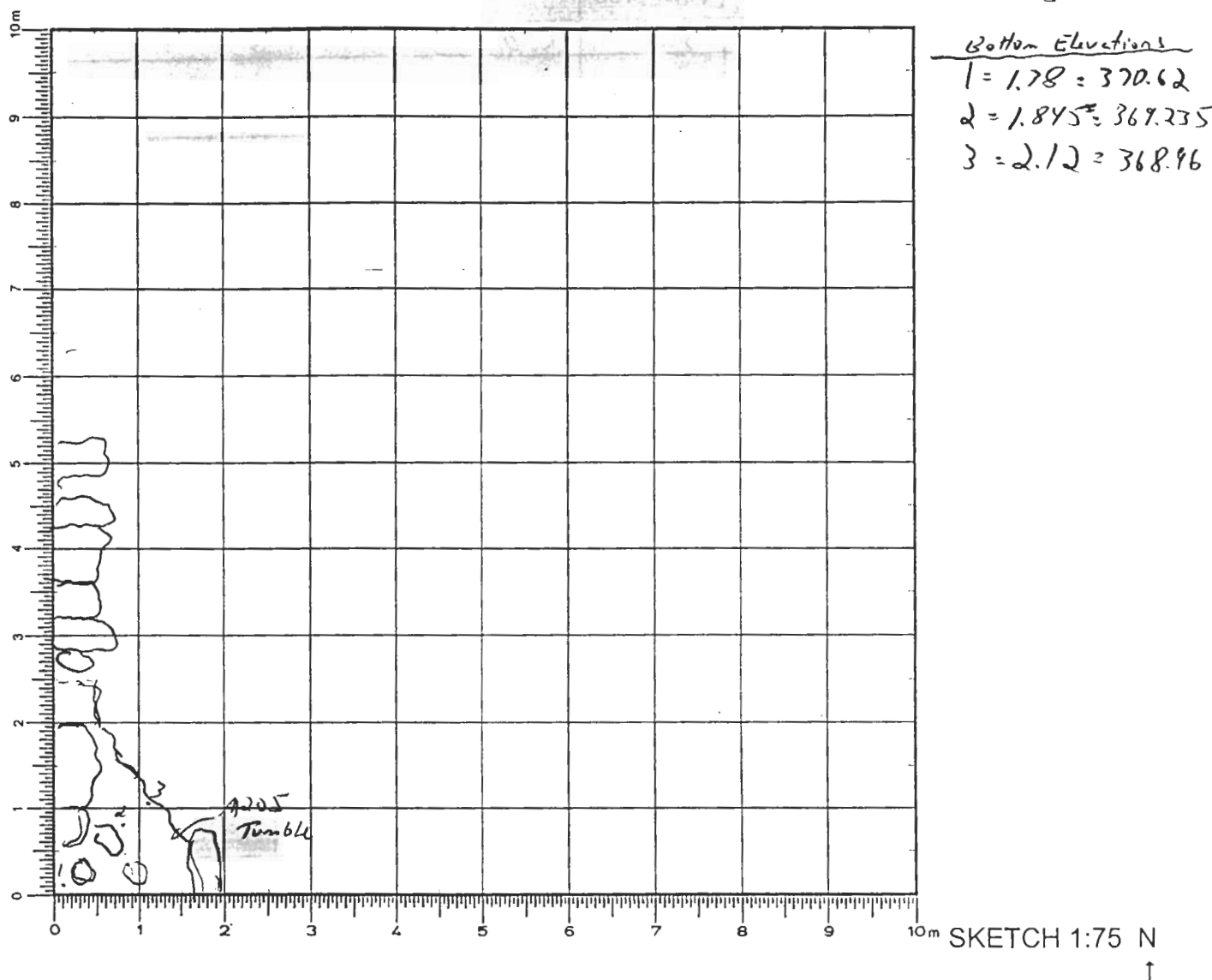
Today's date: 4 Jun 02 Locus above: A203 (topsoil)Locus parameters: 3m x 7m

Verbal description:

Wall was <sup>completely</sup> uncovered after first pass of A203. Large stones were revealed. One (the NW corner most one) is 50 x 50 x 40 cm<sup>th</sup>. The other, which lies directly next to the first in a linear fashion, the face on the East side of the trench, is 1m x 60cm x 7m<sup>th</sup>. Another course is barely visible underneath the rest of the wall is visible in a NW direction (parallel to A203) but there are only medium sized stones (about 40cm x 30cm each).

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

Possibly the foundations of the back wall of the house whose front is A201. The remainder of the wall - (minus the 2 big stones) might have been damaged when the house fell.

Year 02 Trench/Locus A205 Excavator PANElevations 771.62  
Benchmark used: R1  
Reading on  
Benchmark: 46  
H.I.: 371.08DEFINITION/DESCRIPTION of LOCUS (explain **why** you changed locus numbers):Today's date: 5 Jun 02 Locus above: A205Locus parameters: 1.9m x 2.5m

Verbal description:

Collection of medium-sized rocks (20cm x 60cm on average) in corner of  
A201 and A202.

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

5 Jun Tumble from walls A201 & A202.

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

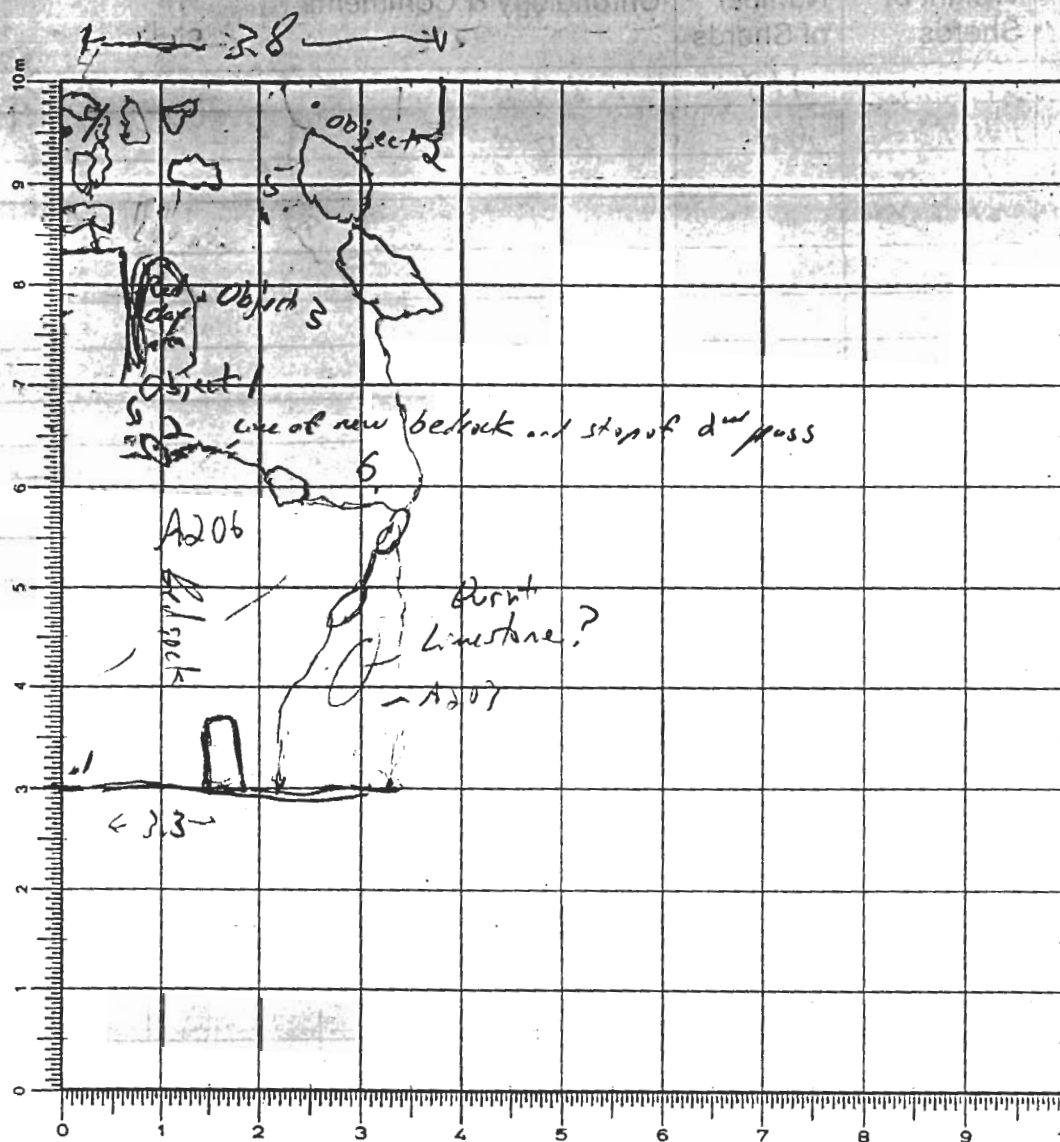


Year 02 Trench/Locus A205 Excavator PAN

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

5 Jun - A collection of medium-size stones has collected in the corner of A201 and A202. It is probably tumble from the walls that has been covered by soil over time. Clearing out the loose stones in this corner may reveal the course of the wall.

- After the soil and rocks were cleared away, the corner of the walls became visible. The wall contains the same size stones as were excavated from the corner. I believe that this corner contained tumble from the wall. Only one course of the wall is visible, however. Soil, in terms of composition, was a little bit harder and firmer than the top-soil.

Year 02 Trench/Locus A206 Excavator PAVElevations 370.62  
Benchmark used: R1  
Reading on  
Benchmark: 46  
H.I.: 371.08

$1 = 2.1$   
 $2 = 2.272$   
 $4 = 2.732$   
 $5 = 2.86$   
 $6 = 2.347$   
 $1 = 368.98$   
 $2 = 368.808$   
 $4 = 368.348$   
 $5 = 368.22$   
 $6 = 368.683$

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

Today's date: 5 Jun 02 Locus above: A203Locus parameters: 7m x 3.3m x 7m x 3.8m

Verbal description:

Changed locus because soil became harder and packed with more stones. Also the prior locus<sup>(A203)</sup> was cut significantly by the appearance of a wall and a collection of stones in the corner of A201 and A202 (A205). Soil here is a more solid brown.

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



Year 02 Trench/Locus A206 Excavator PAV

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

5 Jun - A circular stone object was found near the SW<sup>th</sup> end of A201. It protrudes from the soil and for now is 75 cm long.

- The object in question, when extracted from the soil, was curved on one side then flat on the other. It is football-shaped. Color is whitish-grey. A # of fine pottery and bone pieces were found underneath and around the object. The object itself was found next to what has been called a threshold for a doorway in Wall A201. (See sketch for exact location).

- The soil at the eastern edge of the locus is turning up a large deposit of burnt limestone. Perhaps the house or building was destroyed in part by fire, or perhaps there was a special workstation here.

6 Jun - Another Pass will be started today. The locus of A206 is contracting somewhat due to the appearance of the limestone/bedrock that first appeared in A207. This will probably not be excavated, but the remaining soil in the locus is the same as that above, so another pass is required.

- The Second Pass has revealed a number of medium to small stones (10-60 cm x 10-60 cm). These could still be part of wall collapse, but it is more likely that they are pre-bedrock stuff. Very little pottery compared to first pass.

Year 02 Trench/Locus A206 Excavator PAV

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

6 Jun - During the second pass, a large quantity of reddish pressed clay has appeared. This starts 1.7<sup>South</sup> m from the west corner and .8 m east from the NW trench edge. This clay also starts at the same area in front of wall A201.

- In the red clay area, a piece of stone tool was unearthed. The surface of this stone ~~is~~ similar to that of object 1. This object was bagged as Object 3. It is a circular stone about 5cm in diameter.

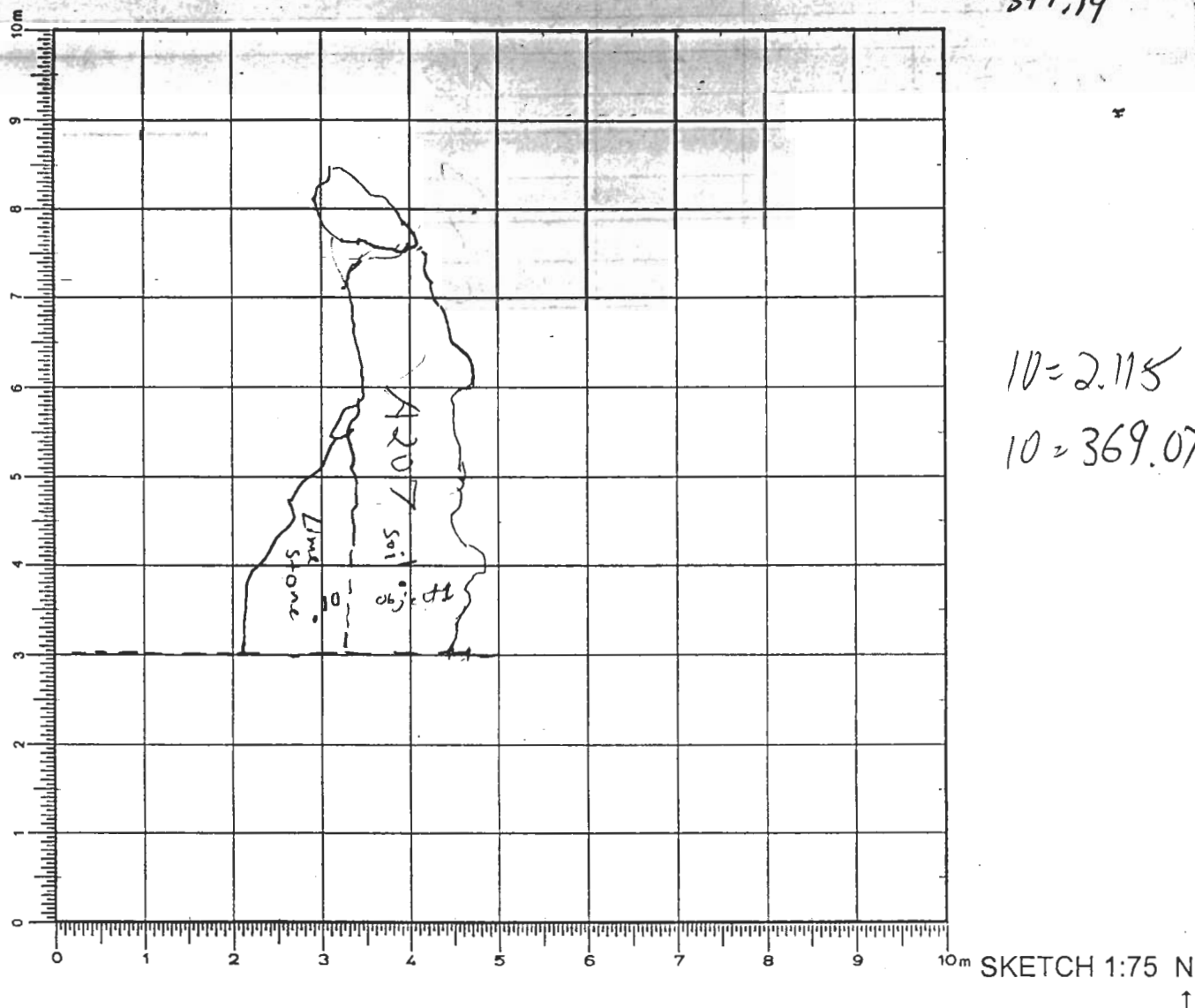
Final Elevations

Benchmark = 370.62  
H.I. = 371.165

1 = Same 1 = 368.98  
 (10) 2 = 2.895 2 = 368.27  
 (3) 3 = 3.24 3 = 367.925  
 (6) 4 = 2.746 4 = 368.419  
 (10) 5 = Same 5 = 369.075

- When the second pass reached a new line of bedrock it was decided upon to stop the pass completely. Final elevations and sketches were taken.



Year 02 Trench/Locus A207 Excavator PAVElevations R1  
Benchmark used: 370.82  
Reading on  
Benchmark: 15  
H.I.: 371.19DEFINITION/DESCRIPTION of LOCUS (explain **why** you changed locus numbers):Today's date: 5 Jun 02Locus above: 203 (typo 10.1)

Locus parameters:

Verbal description:

Burnt limestone layer with white ash-like material covering the rocks and soil. Still some dark brown soil remaining in NE side of locus

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

Year 02 Trench/Locus A207 Excavator PAV

[illegible]

## OBJECTS

[illegible]

ADDITIONAL COLLECTED MATERIAL

[illegible]

Year 02 Trench/Locus A207 Excavator PAV

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

- 5 Jun Burnt limestone layer that was part of A206. Soil should be the same except for the burnt limestone. Also, it is probably the same stratigraphy. Still, a <sup>standard</sup> soil sample was taken and a new locus was named.
- 6 Jun This locus has expanded slightly to include the bedrock/limestone under A206. Most of the remaining soil has been removed to show the bedrock in a consistent basis throughout the locus. Finished pass and logged another pottery find (A207.2)



Year 02 Trench/Locus A208 Excavator PAV

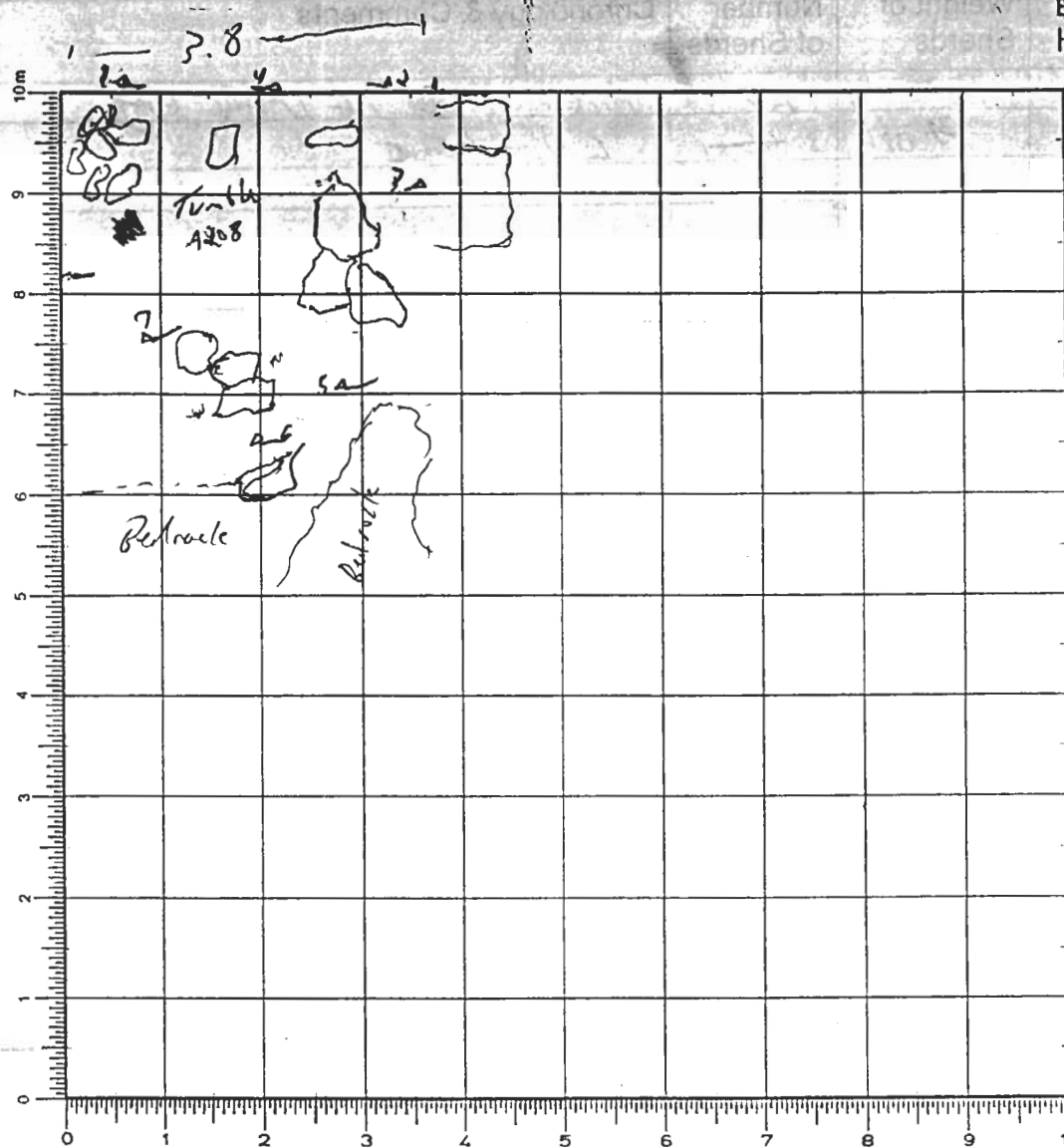
## Elevations

Benchmark used: R1

Reading on

Benchmark: 745H.I.: 371.365

370.62



Final

1 = 3.46 - 367.905

2 = 3.72 - 367.645

3 = 3.662 - 367.703

4 = 3.54 - 367.825

5 = 3.39 - 367.975

6 = 3.217 - 368.138

7 = 3.39 - 367.975

8



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

Today's date: 19 Jun 02Locus above: A206Locus parameters: 3.8m

Verbal description:

Tumble layer. Soil is dark brown and granular w/ medium-sized rocks (about 20cm x 20cm) to small rocks.

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

19 Jun - Continued to take out the tumble layer and cleared out the tumble from the NW corner of the trench near wall A201.



Year 02 Trench/Locus A208 Excavator PAV

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

- 19 Jun - Returning to the A200 trench today, we began by pulling out some tumble in the NW corner of the trench, thus bringing it to the level of the 1st pass. The tumble layer here is all the same, but as we go deeper, the soil takes on a deeper, reddish color, much like the color that appeared in the last pass of A206. Some of the stones, as they emerge from the soil, are a little larger than expected. Some as large as 40cm long by 20cm wide. Some of the stones are nicely dressed and rectangular, about .07m thick on average. Also, there are slices of schist. Pottery begins to appear in the form of piths sherds about 1m into the locus (2.8m from NW corner).
- More pottery, both piths & fine, start to appear as we begin to move south in the pass. Many of the stones are getting large (50cm long) so that the pass is deep, bringing us almost underneath all the tumble. The soil underneath is a dark brown gravelly soil, the sections of reddish soil coming in the NW corner and the southeast side of the locus. The reddish soil is consistent with what I have found to be pre-bedrock soil.
  - The soil in the southeast corner turned into a light brown/yellowish sandy type soil.
  - The soil in the southwest corner of the locus is consistent with the dark red clay patch described in A206. ~~Excavation was halted in this area and it will be excavated separately as another locus (A209).~~
  - The removal of tumble in the NW corner of the trench may have revealed a course of the wall A201. The rocks are medium-sized, consistent w/ the size rocks of the tumble.

Year 02 Trench/Locus A208 Excavator PAV

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

20 Jun - Finished first pass. New pottery pail required (A208.2).  
Not very much pottery found in SE corner of locus, by the huge boulders.