

Azoria 2004  
Trench report for B1800  
MCA  
5 July, 2004

Introduction:

Test trench B1800 (irregular in shape but roughly 2 x 4m) was located on a low terrace on the southeast slope of the south acropolis, east of B1400 and southeast of B1300. The trench assistants were Marie Archambeault, Dan Moeckly, Christine Pensa, Gypsy Price, Tyler Reavell, and Mary Savig, and the trench supervisor was Mark Alonge. Excavation was conducted from 3 June to 7 June, 2004. The benchmark used was R2 (359.32m).

Because it is one of the few relatively flat terraces on the east side of the south acropolis and further down-slope than previously excavated areas, B1800 was excavated to investigate the extent of occupation on the site and the nature and chronology of activity on the east slope.

Stratigraphic summary:

1. topsoil: B1801 (B1801.1)
2. slope wash: B1802 (B1802.1-.2)
3. road surface: B1803 (B1803.1)

Beneath the topsoil and wash, what seems to be a **road surface** (running north-south) was uncovered. The bedrock that slopes up from this point to the higher terrace of B1300/B1100 and B300/B1400 may have been used as a ramp and formed part of the same access route to other parts of the site as this road surface. If so, the road runs north to south to meet the ramp, forming a sort of switchback as the ramp ascends from south to north. The pottery collected from the road surface, both sitting on it and embedded in it, was all Archaic or earlier. The road surface itself was not excavated, however, to verify an Archaic date for its construction. No finds of note were discovered while excavating in B1800.

The terrace of B1800 is bounded on its east side by a large ancient wall, parts of which are visible further south around the hill; clarifying the function of this wall – and the possibility of uncovering associated features – might justify further work in this area, as would further exposure of the road surface. However, the bedrock steadily encroached on B1800 from the west, taking over half of the trench by the time the road surface was uncovered.

Year 2004 Trench/Locus B1801 Excavator MCA

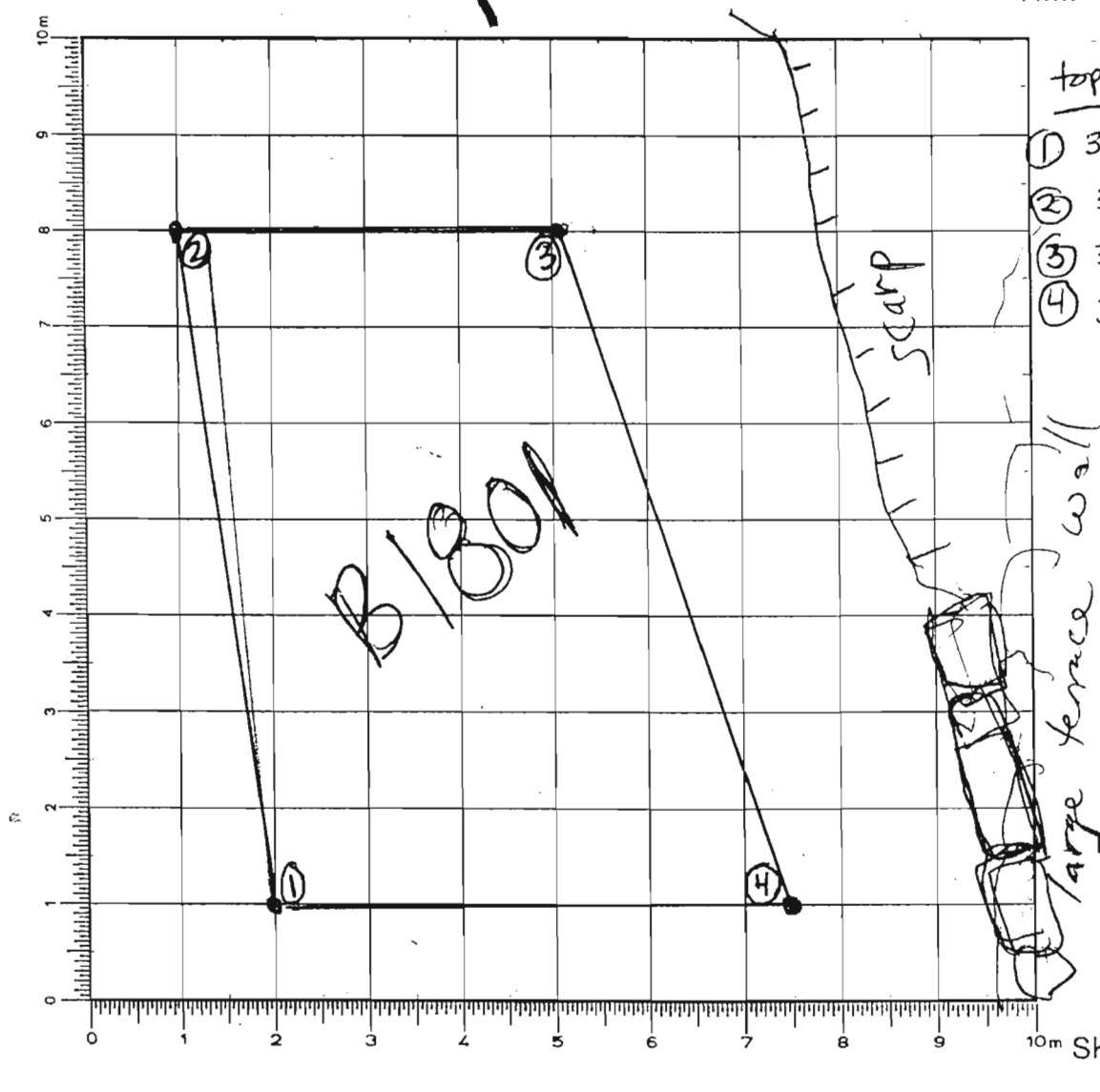
## Elevations

 Benchmark used: R2  
 Reading on  
 Benchmark: 359.32  
 H.I.: 360.40 <sup>For top elevations</sup>  
360.43 <sup>for bottom elevations</sup>  
top elevations:

- ① 358.08  
 ② 357.98  
 ③ 357.80  
 ④ 357.85

bottom elevations:

- ① 358.03  
 ② 357.93  
 ③ 357.75  
 ④ 357.81



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

 Today's date: 03 June 04 Locus above: NONE

 Locus parameters: low terrace east of B0300, southeast of B1300, straddling the 358m. contour,  
w/ large terrace wall to east

 Verbal description: loose, dark brown soil, with some small rocks.

This is the modern topsoil layer. This terrace was burned in the off-season  
which probably accounts for the darkness of the soil.

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

03 June 04:

We begin excavation in a new area, a low terrace off the southeast side of the south acropolis. This trench is B1800. We hope to determine whether habitation there was

|        |    |
|--------|----|
| 359.32 | R2 |
| + 1.08 |    |
| 360.40 | HI |

## OBJECTS

ADDITIONAL COLLECTED MATERIAL

[illegible]

Year 2004 Trench/Locus B1801 Excavator MEA

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

03 June 04 (cont'd.)

habitation of the site this far down the east side of the mountain, which will help determine the extent of the settlement + whether settlement was concentrated in certain areas or covered ~~the whole~~ all sides of the hill.

This first locus in B1800 is the surface layer - dark brown + loose soil with only a little pottery (wash?). After only the first, shallow pass we came down on a much lighter soil (yellow-brown) with similar inclusions to B1801 - that lighter soil = <sup>locus</sup> B1802.

The terrace is bounded on the south east side by a stretch of a large terrace wall (ancient?), below which is a steep drop-off. The western half of the terrace is marked by several large bedrock outcroppings, and is less likely to yield any architecture.

A concentration of bones came up in the SW corner of the locus.

At the western side of the trench the bedrock outcrop just adjacent continues into the trench + is exposed as we dig ~~B1801~~ B1801; it takes up about 1m E-W + 1.5m N-S in the western side of the trench B1800. We'll leave it alone as we dig the next locus (B1802) across the entire trench.

Standard soil sample taken.

calculations of top elevations:

$$\textcircled{1} = 358.08 \quad \text{of B1801}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 360.480 \text{ HI} \\ - 2.323 \\ \hline 358.077 \end{array}$$

$$\textcircled{2} = 357.98$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 360.400 \text{ HI} \\ - 2.422 \\ \hline 357.978 \end{array}$$

$$\textcircled{3} = 357.80$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 360.400 \text{ HI} \\ - 2.600 \\ \hline 357.80 \end{array}$$

$$\textcircled{4} = 357.85$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 360.480 \text{ HI} \\ - 2.548 \\ \hline 357.852 \end{array}$$

$$\boxed{357.85}$$

Year 2004 Trench/Locus B1801 Excavator MCA

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

[Continuation of 3 June 04].

bottom elevations of 1801.1 (only pair of loci) 6

$$\begin{array}{r} \textcircled{1} \quad 360.436 \\ (W) \quad - 2.397 \\ \hline 358.039 \end{array} = \boxed{358.03}$$

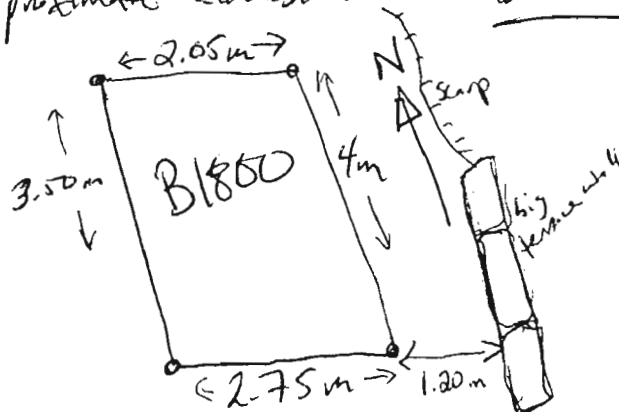
$$\begin{array}{r} HI = 359.32 \quad \boxed{K2} \\ + 1.108 \\ \hline 360.428 \\ \boxed{360.43} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} \textcircled{2} \quad 360.430 \\ (N) \quad - 2.502 \\ \hline 357.928 \end{array} = \boxed{357.93}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} \textcircled{3} \quad 360.430 \\ (E) \quad - 2.676 \\ \hline 357.754 \end{array} = \boxed{357.75}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} \textcircled{4} \quad 360.430 \\ (S) \quad - 2.621 \\ \hline 357.809 \end{array} = \boxed{357.81}$$

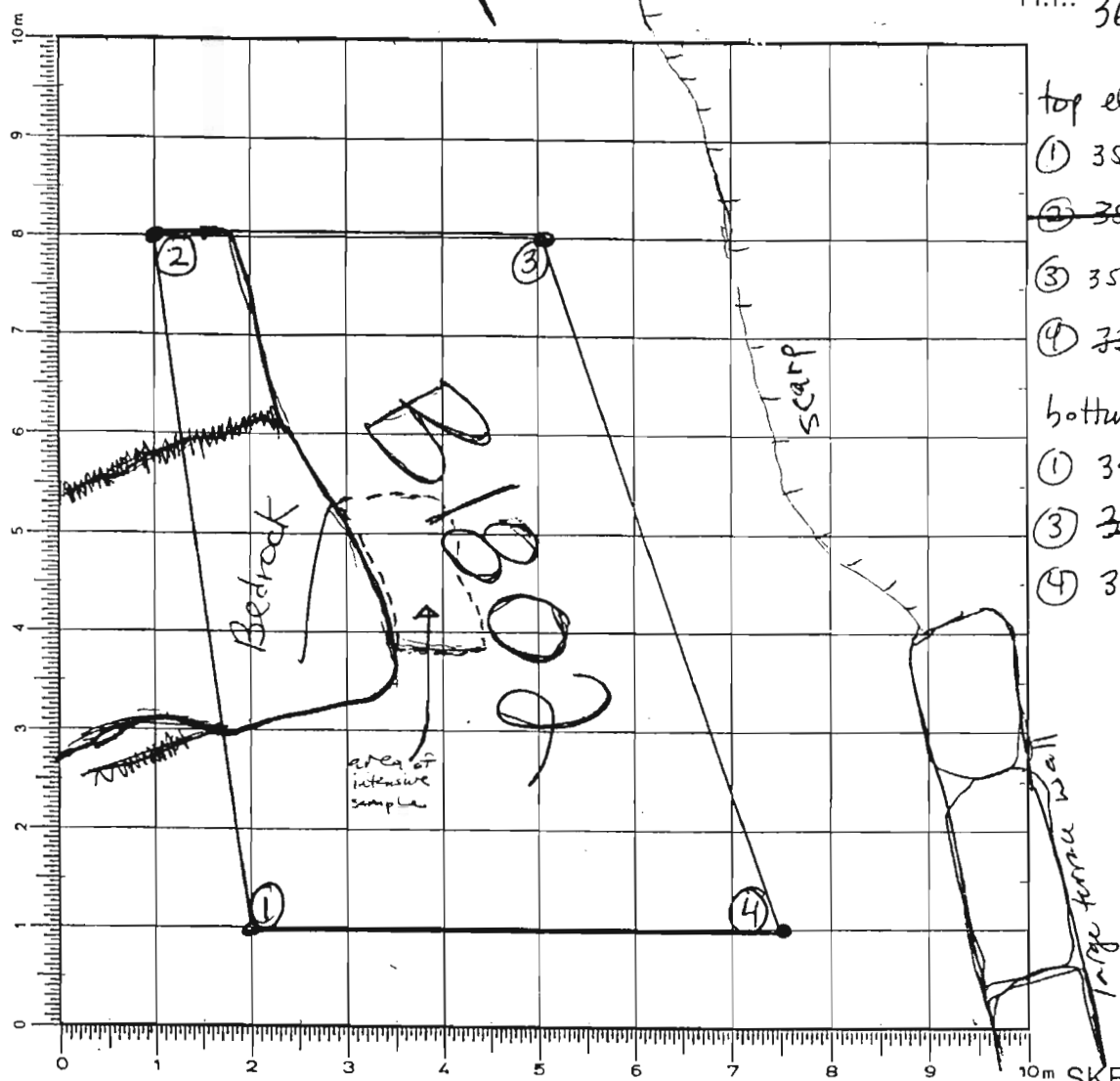
(very) approximate dimensions of B1800:



Year 2004 Trench/Locus B1802 Excavator MCA

## Elevations

Benchmark used: R5  
 Reading on  
 Benchmark: 359.32  
 H.I.: 360.43



top elevations =

① 358.03

② ~~357.93~~

③ 357.75

④ ~~35~~ 357.81

bottom elevations =

① 357.91

③ ~~350~~ 357.65

④ 357.76

SKETCH 1:50 ~~N~~ ↑

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

Today's date: 4 June 04 Locus above: B1801

Locus parameters: low terrace east of B0300 + southeast of B1300, straddling the 358m contour; large terrace wall to east

Verbal description:

yellow-brown soil, w/ small rocks; compact; little pottery + bone

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

4 June 04: The soil of this locus is much lighter in color than the one above (B1801), so we changed loci - although the rockiness of the layer is the same as B1801. The locus covers the whole trench, except for the



Year 2004 Trench/Locus ~~B1801~~ B1802 Excavator MCA

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

(4 June 04 cont'd.)

emerging bedrock at the western side of the trench (see sketch).

As we sweep off the trench to prepare to dig, we notice that the bedrock continues all the way to the northwest corner () of B1800 [see sketch].

Soil is much harder than B1801. As we make the first pass (B1802.1) we immediately come down on more eroded bedrock at the south end of the trench (~~esp. SW~~), ~~a little less than~~ more than half-way across.

On the west side, where we have yet to come down on bedrock, we may be coming down onto an exterior surface - a few ~~flat~~ sherds lying flat at the same level. Possibly a road?

Since we think we might be coming ~~into~~ onto a road surface we start screening, about  $\frac{1}{2}$ -way through the pass. (i.e., the north half of the ~~the~~ locus will be  $\frac{1}{4}$ " screened).

We also take an intensive soil sample in the middle of the locus.

(102). We don't quite finish the pass today, so the rest of it will be excavated as B1802.2 on 07 June 04. However, since the pass (+ locus) is virtually complete (ca. <sup>50</sup>~~30~~ cm left), we finish off the standard sample today, rather than leave it on site over the weekend.



Year 2004 Trench/Locus B1802. Excavator MGA

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

7 June 04:

We finish this pass begun as B1802.1 (on 4 June 04) as B1802.2 - ca. The last  $\frac{1}{2}$  meter of the locus. Since we are coming down on 2 <sup>different layers</sup> ~~new~~ ~~strata~~, the bedrock + the possible road (mostly along the western side of the locus), we'll change loci after completing this pass.

Before changing loci, the pottery sitting on/slightly embedded in our possible road surface will be collected as a separate pile <sup>in this locus</sup>, #

B1802.3.

→ Actually, we decide to collect the surface pottery as a new locus, not as pile #

B1802.3. Final photos taken of B1802 prior to removing surface pottery as B1803.

7 June 04

$$HL = 359.32 \text{ (R2)} \\ + 1.64$$

$$\boxed{360.96}$$

Bottom elevations of  
B1802:

$$\textcircled{1} \quad \begin{array}{r} 360.96 \\ \text{on sketch} - 3.05 \\ \hline = 357.91 \end{array}$$

$$\textcircled{3} \quad \begin{array}{r} 360.96 \\ \text{on sketch} - 3.31 \\ \hline = 357.65 \end{array}$$

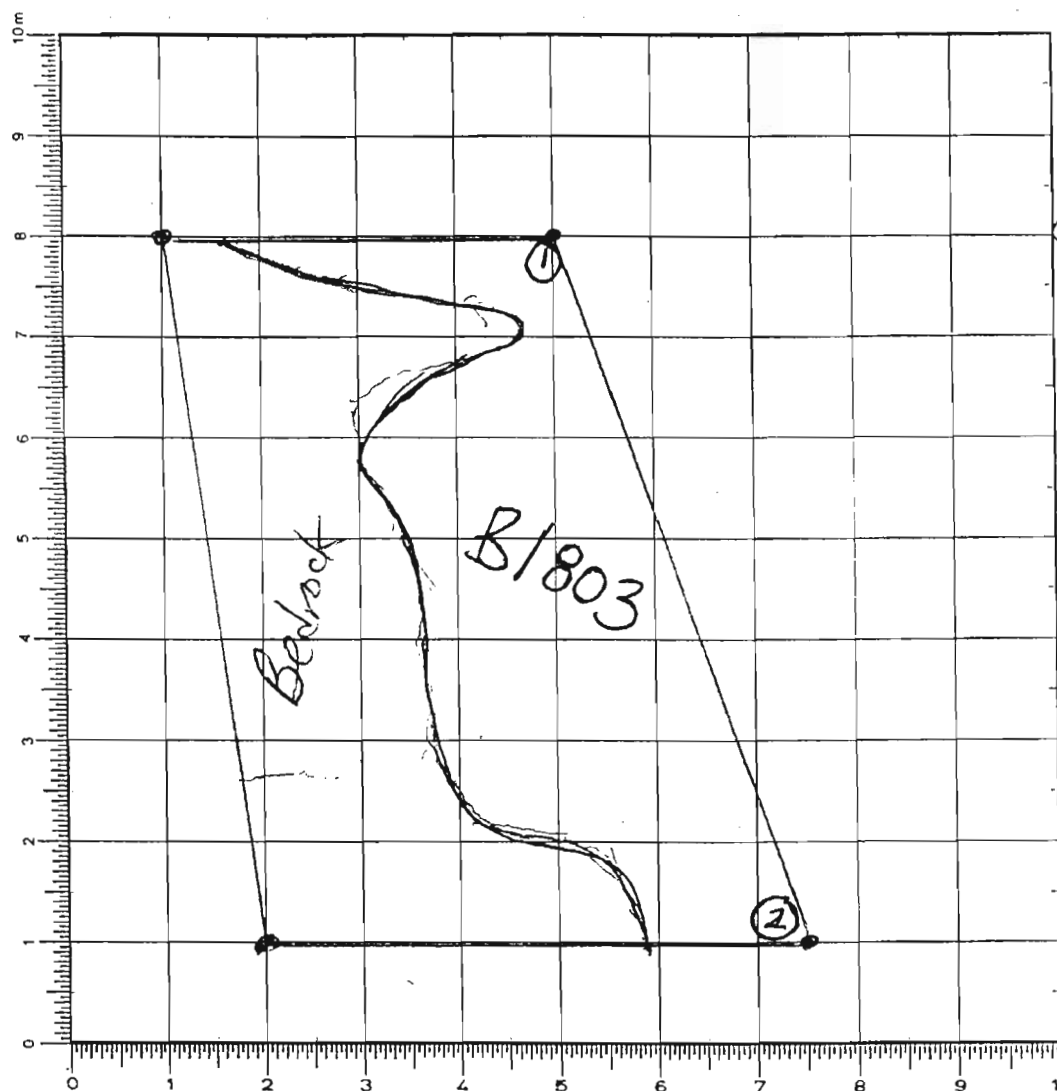
$$\textcircled{4} \quad \begin{array}{r} 360.96 \\ \text{on sketch} - 3.20 \\ \hline = 357.76 \end{array}$$

Year 2004 Trench/Locus B1803 Excavator MCA

## Elevations

Benchmark used: R2

Reading on

Benchmark: 359.32H.I.: 360.96

elevations (top)

① 357.65

② 357.76

SKETCH 1.75  
~1:50

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

Today's date: 7 June 04 Locus above: B1802Locus parameters: low terrace east of B0300 & southeast of B1300, straddling the 358m contour; large terrace wall to east

Verbal description:

light-brown, compact soil w/ many small rocks — thought to be a road surface.

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

7 June 04: We <sup>collect</sup> ~~remove~~ the pottery sitting on & embedded in road surface; we only scrape lightly where necessary to remove sherds partly visible but do not excavate; = B1803.1

[illegible]

## OBJECTS

[illegible]

ADDITIONAL COLLECTED MATERIAL

[illegible]

Year 2004 Trench/Locus B1803 Excavator MCA

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

(7 June 2004 cont'd.)

We screen any loose dirt from the scraping but find ~~nothing~~  
no bones, & since the amount of dirt was a fraction of ~~B~~  
a zembili, we didn't keep a bone bag to record the amount of soil removed  
& screened.

Photos were taken before collecting the pottery <sup>on</sup> the road surface  
(= <sup>final</sup> photos of B1802).