

1984

## PSB-022-Maria Masucci-Field Notes-1984

Maria Masucci

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impressive looking from the north side of the site.

The structures do not clearly form any plaza configuration. All of the structures may not be contemporaneous.

This is a problem in any of the sites surveyed. The structures on the south side of the site have obviously been situated to take advantage of the natural rise.

The quebrada bordering the site on the south would also provide water for the site's occupants.

One ~~noted~~ ~~an~~ unusual feature of the site are the long narrow structures - 7, 8, 9, + 12.

No preliminary date assigned

One lota 320A/1 ceramics - Shards from jar found by Mejia's workers.

20 June 94 ~~Thursday~~ Wednesday

Julie Beney, Alec Harris, Katalin McLavin & I spent the morning visiting a potter in San Vicente de Centenario. We had questioned it & some vendors in the Sta. Barbara market who sold vessels for ~~pot~~ pottery in San Vicente.

According to Dolores Ramos Ulloa there are only 2 potters in San Vicente, herself + one other man. Macholva + Agua Blanca are also pottery centers.

Sra Ramos is a young woman - probably in her 20's who learned the craft from her mother. Her mother made basically the same forms - used for flower pots today. She plans to teach the methods to her daughters. She also makes 2 types of pots + bowls.



Her range of forms is limited as are her decorative techniques.

curcular  
in relief  
design  
made w/  
a rough  
movement



flat on one side  
round + convex  
on front side



basic "bean" pot  
made more commonly by the other  
potters in San Vicente  
various sizes  
20cm - 30cm in diameter

Clay: Her clay source is in nearby hills. She collects the clay + it is usable as is during the wet season. She must add more water in the dry season. It is fairly clean clay but we watched while she worked through - starting w/ a lump + pushing it flat + up to aerate it + find the large inclusions which were removed. She worked the clay on a piece of cardboard dusted w/ very fine sand which she says comes from the quebrada. The clay is rolled gently in this sand + it is then worked in as she aerates the clay.

We were given samples of this clay + her colorant - a dry reddish-orange dried clay. She suspends this colorant/clay in water after pulverizing it. She applies it ~~to~~ as a slip & roughly burnishes the slipped area.

She uses a smooth pebble for burnishing.

Forming techniques - she makes all gourd pots + is able to get them quite large w/ one piece of clay. She starts w/ a lump of clay working it w/ water into a smooth uniform block. She then used her hands to scoop out the insides. She then began <sup>+ a 1/2 gourd shell</sup> turning it + smoothing + thinning sides w/ her wetted hands. As the pot was beginning to clearly take form she began using a wet corn cob <sup>or a wet mango seed</sup> for sweeping + smoothing. This leaves

various rows of striations over the vessel surface.

Pots are made 15 deep she said in the wet season to dry they dry, however, in only 4 days in the ~~best~~ dry season. She makes more pots during the dry season.

The slip she applies when the vessels are 1/2 dry - she fires a orange/red. She fires the vessels in a beehive shape construction - home-oven. She claims she can fire the pots in only 45 minutes after the wood (which she collects herself) has burned + dried for awhile in the oven.

She does not commission <sup>out</sup> her pots to be sold but takes them herself to the market <sup>in Sta. Baran</sup> when she has enough made <sup>on the bus</sup>.

The typical price for a medium vessel was 70¢. (Honduran)

Juan Peña

p842254

Site #320 Group B

Site #320 Group A

1-15

320 Group A

← TO Sta. Barbara

Yallow - pasture

Yallow

ridge base line

perennials

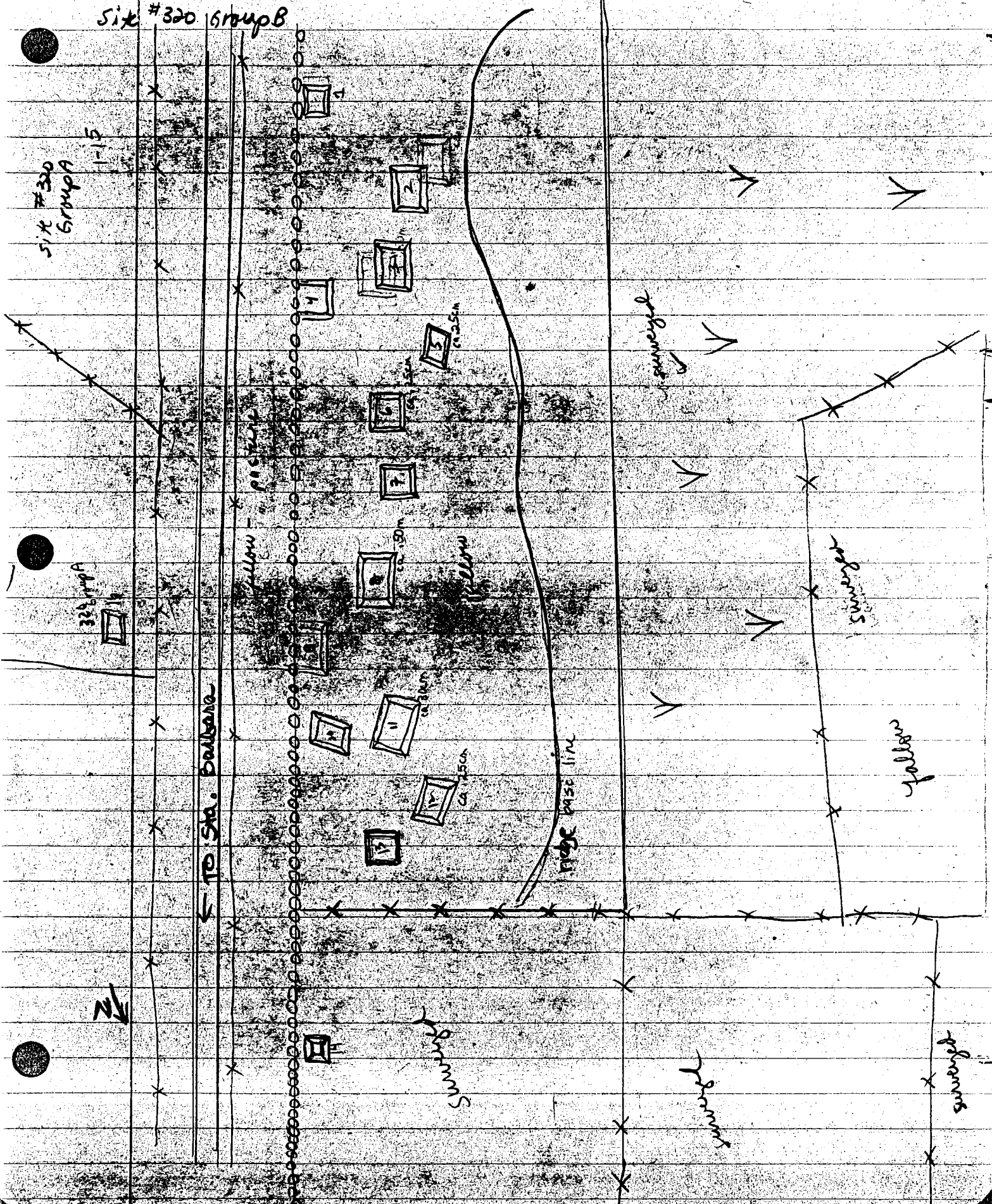
perennials

Yallow

perennials

perennials

perennials



P84-22-55

Site # 320  
Group B

20 June 84 Wednesday

We returned to the meja land ~ 10:00 to map a structure Julie Benza had found in the field lying immediately to the north of the field in which site 320 lies. This structure was mapped & labelled Structure 18 since it was within 100m of site 320.

(of site 320)

This structure was ~ 2x2m in size & .50m in height, consisting of scattered cobbles.

We then crossed the road to continue surveying in a plowed field. Kathleen McLaren & I located a site which ~~was visible from~~ afforded a clear view of site 320 directly across the Sta Barbara - Saulebe Road. A narrow field-cow pasture separate the site from the road & site 320 lies on the other side of the road. It was decided that the site would be designated as Group B of site 320. It is also possible that other structures may ~~be~~ have been located where the <sup>modern</sup> road now lies. Thus such structures would have further joined Group A & Group B.

Group B stretches along a natural rise running N+S parallel to the modern road. The field is today fallow & used for pasture land although the lower portion of the field ~~is~~ at the foot of the rise. The land is flatter & freshly plowed. The owner Juan Peña visited us at the site & said it was planted in corn when the field was drier. The quebrada marginal lies ~~to~~ to the south of site bordering the freshly plowed field lying ~ <sup>50m</sup> ~~75m~~ from the southernmost structure of Group B (Str. 1). A number of shreds were collected as a surface collection from

Site #320  
Group B

20 June 84 Wednesday

184-22-56

Lot  
302A/2

two freshly plowed field bordering Group B +  
labelled 320A/2. This would suggest that more  
structures may have been located in this field  
but now are destroyed.

Group B of site 320 consists of 14 structures w/ one  
structure <sup>(Str. 14)</sup> lying apart ~ 50m <sup>to the north</sup> from the main  
concentration of structures. Structure 14 lies in a separate  
field to the north - also fallow. Both fields are bordered  
on the east by a stone wall. The wall could  
conceivably be built from some of the stones from  
structures making up Group B.

Preservation is generally good in this group  
and it is built on the top of a natural rise -  
topographically a location less likely to be  
extensively ~~plowed~~ plowed + cultivated. Two of  
the structures #9 + 4 appear to be cut by the stone  
wall. Structures 12 + 7 were also very faint +  
under a small mound was visible  
~ .25m but no distinct walls could be discerned.

These are questionable structures. Structure 14 also  
appears ~~to be~~ to have been used as a  
~~dump~~ collecting pile for cobbles from the  
surrounding field. A front wall is clearly  
visible on Str 14 but the summit + height  
is very under due to the large pile of cobbles.

All of the 14 structures are w/in a  
size range of 5x5m. The heights range from  
~ .25m to .75m.

There is no definable ~~structure~~ plaza area  
but the structures cluster along the ridge top +  
edge. The site stretches N to S. The relationship  
between Group A + Group B should become clearer  
after the site is mapped from the points taken

site SB2

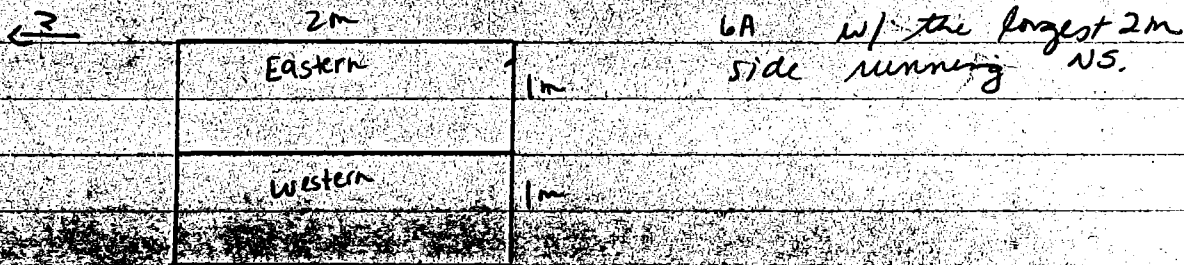
p84-22-57

OP/subop 6A

Guayoguito

21 June 84 Thursday

arrived w/ windy, gully + positive ~11:30am. Ed had watched over excavations during the morning. & continued w/ excavations in op/subop 6A - a pit from 1983 excavations where prehistoric material was found. The pit is 2x2m but divided into ~~two~~ eastern & western <sup>parts</sup> - each 1x2m



When I arrived at 11:30 the eastern portion of the pit was almost level w/ the water side at 90cm.

A flotation sample was taken from the remaining material in the southern quarter of this eastern 80-90cm level. The artifacts from the level excavated during the morning were in separate piles w/ tarp. These were bagged & tagged & quickly examined for a general idea of content.

The lots defined in the morning were

Lot 11	70-80 m	East side of trench	(measurements taken from NW corner)
Lot 12	80-90 m	West side of trench	
Lot 13	80-90 m	East side of trench	

flotation from southern quarter of trench.

all the lots from excavated in the morning contained the same basic array of material as noted by Alex <sup>(#20)</sup> in the previous day's notes: a fairly large quantity of jute, lithics ~~stone~~ - almost totally obsidian <sup>(#20)</sup> + numerous cherts, ~~some~~ but few painted diagnostic <sup>(#20)</sup> & a few small animal bones + some shells.

~~There was a noticeable decrease in the amount of cultural material from~~ Lot 11 70-80m <sup>+ that from</sup> Lot 12+13 80-90m <sup>in the amount</sup>



Site SB2

21 June 84 Thursday

Op/Subop 6A

Although material recovered from both sides of the pit in the .80-.90m level (Lots 12+13) appeared basically equal.

The lots excavated in the afternoon were:

Lot 14 .90-1.00m west side of trench

Lot 15 .90-1.00m East side of trench

Lot 16 1.00-1.10m west side of trench

flotation taken from northern quarter of trench =  
sample (9 litres)

Following lunch the two workers (Sergio + Alfredo) ~~cont~~ began the .90-1.00m level on the west side of the trench (Lot 14). Very few artifacts in comparison to previous levels were being found (jade, obsidian, sherds). One small bone w/ jagged teeth like projections was identified by the workers as part of a Congreso (Crayfish?) <sup>can be</sup> ~~set~~ <sup>found</sup> in the quebrada.

I left to check with Jelic Benzo about the workers having to leave at 3:00 for literacy classes & told them to finish up Lot 14. I did not believe I had been gone that long but when I had returned that had finished the ~~the~~ eastern half of level .90-1.00m (Lot 15) with even fewer artifacts recovered. I questioned them thoroughly & they insisted that they had looked carefully for artifacts. The drop off in artifacts seen throughout the .90-1.00m level, particularly on the eastern portion may in fact be real since the ~~the~~ western half of the 1.00-1.10m level is also lower in artifacts than the levels excavated in the morning.

Site SB2  
Op/Subop 6A

21 June 84 Thursday

P84-22-59

In summary, I am not convinced that ~~this~~ this excavation is in a midden. E artefact content dropped off from the evening through the afternoon from levels 70-80m to 100-110m. Also in general artefact content is greater in the western half of the unit.

The workers insisted that they had to leave at 3:00 for their class. Julie Benzo is going to check in Sta Barbara about the times for the class.

S82 - 6A

22 June 84

sunny - clear + warm

The lots excavated today were:

Continued  
with  
excavations  
at Gualyoguito  
w/ Sergio  
Alfaro  
in 6A

- ✓ Lot 17 1.00 - 1.100 East side of trench  
flotation  
carbon sample - Northern quarter of  
East side of trench
- ✓ Lot 18 1.10 - 1.20 West side of trench - flotation - southern  
quarter of trench
- ✓ Lot 19 1.10 - 1.20 East side of trench
- ✓ Lot 20 1.20 - 1.30 West side of trench
- ✓ Lot 21 1.20 - 1.30 East side of trench - flotation
- ✓ Lot 22 + surface collection - Shards donated by road crew  
of fourth along side of new road near  
6A excavation

East side

Lot 17 1.00 - 1.10m Alfaro noticed some charcoal flecks in the  
southern quarter of the East side of the trench. I gave him  
a piece of tin foil & a clean trowel. He was good about  
only using the trowel to extract the carbon. There  
was no large concentration of the charcoal but small  
flecks throughout.

Soil color remains similar to yesterday - a dark  
brown.

Flotation sample taken from center of East side for  
1.00 - 1.10m level.

Artifacts continued in the same amounts as the last  
lots excavated yesterday. ~~nothing~~ A few unidentifiable  
pieces found in this lot. The majority of lots yesterday  
included at least one unidentifiable - as did a # of  
the lots from excavations w/ Alfaro. Also 2 shards  
w/ thick slip & well burnished w/ a ~~swamp~~ design scraped through  
of obsidian, <sup>crayfish</sup> & <sup>claw</sup> a moderate amt of jute also found.

Lot 17

Sergio unfortunately brought the pick down on a large mano?  
it is rounded-oblong w/ smoothed edges ~~of~~ of  
~~viscous~~ viscular basalt.

Lot 18

1.10-1.20 west side of trench

Flotation sample taken ~~to~~ from southern quarter of the trench.

Charcoal flecks appear throughout but no heavy concentrations are visible. <sup>The matrix</sup> it would be difficult to get enough for a good sample so none was taken.

Artifacts continue as before ~ 30-40 sherds, a few lithics (mostly obsidian) & moderate amount of jute. A plate / open bowl fragment was recovered w/ a wavy modelled rim



w/ a wide incision along the rim. It also appears to be ~~the~~ granular type sherd.

Lot 19

1.10-1.20 east side of trench

Alfredo has noticed more charcoal flecks in the northern quarter of the trench. He collected it w/ a trowel & placed it in aluminum foil. The flecks were dispersed no real concentration ~~to~~ of charcoal is visible.

Given artifacts on this <sup>east</sup> side of the level (1.20-1.20) I have tried to watch the workers carefully but they do seem to be looking through all the matrix for artifacts. ~~Also~~ Less jute, ceramics & obsidian were recovered.

Lot 20

1.20-1.30 west side of trench

~~Artifacts~~ ~~found~~ ~~by~~ ~~the~~ ~~workers~~ One stone ~~of~~ which produces chalky ~~substance~~ ~~was~~ found. This was bagged separately in order to check if it could be hematite or a particular mineral used for paints etc.

The artifacts in amount & content are similar to that of the other levels on the west side of the trench.

22 June 14

Lot 22 The workmen on the road crew have started burying me the big sherds which they find so the tractors are moving the dirt around the 6A excavations, I have placed all this material together as surface collection from road construction around 6A excavations.

Lot 21 1.20-1.30m ~~level~~ East side of trench

flotation sample taken from southern quarter of this side. The workers seem to be getting a little sloppy & tired - it is obvious that it is Friday afternoon. They claim they have to leave at 3:00 again for their classes. We will have to let them go again.

As before in previous levels - the eastern side of the levels in general appear to ~~contain fewer~~ <sup>contain fewer</sup> artifacts. This is my general impression from watching & comparing <sup>artifacts as recovered</sup> as the 3 ~~to~~ ~~the~~ cobbles ~~are~~ have appeared in the floor of the 1.20-1.30m level on the west side of the trench.

I will have the workers leave them in place until it is determined what they signify. There also seems to be cobbles on the floor of the 1.20-1.30m level on the east side.

~~After~~ The workers had ~~cleaned~~ <sup>cleaned</sup> the loose dirt from the cobbles visible on the floor of 1.20-1.30m level. The cobbles do not form any clear pattern at this point. I will talk w/ Wendy to see what she wants done with these cobbles tomorrow.

In general my feelings about today's excavation are similar to yesterday. I am still not convinced we are excavating a midden.

masucci

1984-22-63

SB2

23 June 84 Saturday

6A Continued in 6A up Alfredo & Sergio. The work must go a little slower since we are removing material around the rocks visible in the floor at 1.30m. The lots for today are:

- Lot 23 1:30-1:40 West side of trench - flotation from center of west side of trench
- Lot 24 1:30-1:40 East side of trench
- Lot 25 1:40-1:50 West side of trench

Lot 23 1:30-1:40m West side of trench

The majority of artifacts on the western side of the trench ~~are~~ on the level's levels including the center level

(1.30-1.40m) have come from the central & southern parts of the trench. Artifact content & amount is the same as in

the previous level & quite ceramics, a few small animal bones, (mostly clay) w/ the chert, some fragments.

The matrix in the level has some white & yellow flecks of disintegrated ~~rock~~ stone. No additional stones have been found ~~with the level~~ beyond the ones possible when the level started,

although, there are obviously more stones underneath.

There is a concentration <sup>small</sup> of sherds & pits around some small rocks in the center <sup>of trench</sup> near the west wall.

<sup>Two</sup> sherds w/ a white chalky substance on its exterior surface was found - this was brought separately ~~and~~ until it could be determined what the white is.

Workily ~~to~~ left the site at 10:00 due to illness. I will have to walk around & check on all 3 excavations.

In 6A I have had them remove the small rocks & leave the large on on the west side until we see how deep it goes & if it is associated w/ anything else.

See sketch of floor of 1.40m level.

from par - found all at is since