

A - Ceramic

B - Faunal Bone

C - Shell

D - Stone

E - Metal

F - Plaster

G - Charcoal

H - Other

SU - year - area - context - material

SU 17 F 000 A = Area F

SU 17 Z 000 A = Survey

S' Urachi 2017

"Area F"

Continuation of Test Trench 3
(N. of Nuraghe).

Linda Grosner
Alet Smith
Nuri Van Damme
Jessica Martin
Maura ✓

Area F Contexts 2017

- $\Delta 000$ Topsoil
 $\Delta 001$ Fill under $\Delta 000$
 $\Delta 002$ Wall (in w. running N-S)
 $\Delta 003$ Fill under $\Delta 001$ and over $\Delta 002$
 $\Delta 004$ ad-hoc construction under $\Delta 002$ that is likely part of drain cover.
 $\Delta 005$ Floor (?) Very damaged area with white inclusions and some clay that looks like a floor preparation
 $\Delta 006$ Fill above wall from $\Delta 005$ (TT3)
8 which later we realized is two contexts and we will divide into 7 + 8
 $\Delta 007$ Fill (above wall) / potential fill of robber trench
 $\Delta 008$ Floor preparation \rightarrow compact, hard surface
 $\Delta 009$ Cut of $\Delta 008$ to make $\Delta 007$ = negative feature
 $\Delta 010$ Layer below $\Delta 007$ / $\Delta 008$
 $\Delta 010$ Stony brown layer against $\Delta 004$.
 $\Delta 012$ Small construction in the south central area of trench.
 $\Delta 013$

* June 30, 2017 Area F
Excavation Day 6

Bags

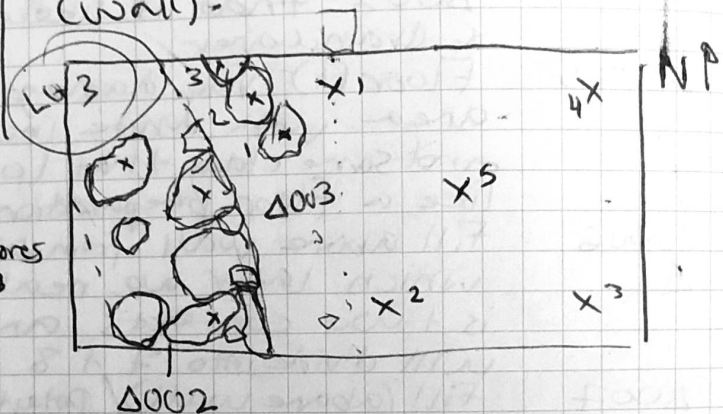
001 A
001 B
001 C
001 D

001 A
001 B

Levels

3 on wall
2 paving stones
5 on 003

This morning we are continuing to remove 0001 to expose the limits of 0003, the hard layer that seems to run below 0002 (wall).



We are coming down on a more compact layer under 0001 in the eastern half of the trench. What is not yet clear is whether it is the same as 0003, which has slightly more rocks.

0001 Lot 3

We excavated the elevated corner in the NW that we had left. There was some question about whether it was a new level and we took levels on top. It was basically the same consistency and content of 0001 elsewhere. This also has wall cleaning fill in it.

0003 Lot 1

We are now excavating the layer below 0001 (which may also run under wall 0002). This layer is darker brown, compact, and has frequent small stones in it. They are mostly river stones. There is a lot of pottery and some bones.

Pottery seems to be mostly Punic and fragmentary, but we will have to take a closer look.

Bags

0003 A
0003 B

Photos

0001 closing
0003 opening

July 1, 2017 Area F
Excavation Day 7

Δ003, Lot 2 We are beginning this morning digging in the NW corner of the trench, which still has soil covering the northern portion of wall Δ002 (if the N position is indeed there).

Bags
Δ003 A } Lot 2
Δ003 B }
Δ003 C }
Δ003 D } Lot 3
Δ003 E }

Photos
action Δ003
day closing
Δ003

We exposed most of the final large stone of the wall but otherwise there seems to be a hole/impossible to understand because it is so small. The confines of the trench are becoming problematic for understanding the stratigraphy in this westernmost corner of the trench.

Δ003, Lot 3 We are continuing to excavate down here in the loose, rocky soil. More stones (part of the drain cover) are now becoming exposed, though the relationship w/ wall (Δ002) is still unclear. Towards the end of the day it became evident that there is a second course of stones under part of Δ002, and so this wall may rest directly on the drain or alongside it. We will have to see.

Lab Ceramic Tallies:

Δ000

Δ001

Lot 1 + 2 + 3 =

360

428

94

31

913 non-diag.

71

21

76

5

173 diag

Δ001 C = 45

Bones for Δ001

322

390

712 ⁰⁰¹ → Bag as of 1/7/17

In Lab we bagged and washed everything that remained from Δ001 (counts above). Everything still needs to be weighed. The ceramics from Lots 1, 2, 3 of Δ001 is now combined since there were no significant differences between them.

The pottery from Δ001 is an interesting mix of periods and functions. There is both Italian and African red slip, black gloss, various pink fine/talavera w/ net linear paint. On the other hand we have tanner as well as a number of seemingly handmade sherds / cooking pots. Some are difficult to tell chronology (says Jeremy) but are probably quite old, so it is clear that Δ001 is still quite a mixed context.

at the very least, I did not observe any ancient material, so it seems clear that this fill is ancient and dating as late as the Later Roman empire since there is CRS.

Δ003 has much less material in it than Δ001. Much more of the fill is rocks and almost equal parts bore as pottery. There are fewer diagnostic materials. The material we do have is generally small and fragmentary aside from some amphorae fragments. This looks generally pink but there are some fragments in there that appear purple, especially the handles.



Δ004 We spent much of this afternoon defining the agglomeration of materials including ceramic tiles, river stones, sandstones, and basalt stones of small-large sizes w/ a ton of dirt mixed in. This is very similar to the construction above the drain in T53 and is precisely what I was expecting to find here. It is difficult to define because of its ad hoc nature and that it really appears loosely constructed as a protection over the drain (presumably). Will be hard to fully define this if we do not enlarge the trench. (discussion on this ongoing...)

[8]

2 July 2, 2017 S'Vrachi Area E
Excavation Day 8

Δ003, Lot 4 This morning we excavated the next lot of Δ003 and we began to see what looks like a floor preparation w/ some mud on top in the west section. It seems to extend a bit into the trench and we uncovered ~~what seemed~~ very little of it closer to the center. In any case it corresponds relatively well with the top of Δ004 and the soil change between TT3 Δ001 + 2. We will clean and change layers.

Bays

Δ003 A
Δ003 B
Δ003 C
Δ003 D

Levels

Δ003 closing =
Δ005 opening = 6 yds.

Δ004 top.

Photos

Δ003 closing
Δ004/2 walls defined

Δ004 We cleared the layer that may or may not be a drain cover (see yesterday). Will define later.

Δ005 This layer is harder than Δ003 and more compact with many white inclusions. There are parts in the west section which show some clay directly on top → looks like a floor preparation and floor, but one that is badly damaged. It is truly only visible clearly in the western 1/3 of the trench. There are bits and pieces elsewhere, so we are closing layer Δ003 and took new levels with Quigley.

[9]

July 3, 2017 S'Urchi Area P
Excavation Day 9.

This morning we cleaned the sections of the trench, which had begun to slope too much. We didn't save any of the material, which came from mixed contexts and didn't vary significantly in any case.

We took new photos of Δ005 closing Δ006 opening and levels. Visits from Anna Ardu + Salvatore!

Levels

Δ005 closing =
Δ006 opening

Photos

Δ005 closing
Δ006 opening

Bags

Δ006 A
Δ006 B
Δ006 C

Photos

Δ006 end of
day progress

Δ006 Lot 1

Below Δ005 and Δ003 is a new layer very similar to Δ003. It is dark brown with small river stones. Relatively soft, especially near Δ004 wall/drain cover.

We are recovering ceramic, bone, and shell. + one piece of worked (?) stone (leaf).

We are nearing the level of the old wall in TR3, which we assume extends into this trench as well. I

am hoping we can speed things up and finish this up in the next day or two before potentially dismantling the drain/wall in the east

part of the trench.

In lab looking at the ceramics → there are many more Iron Age Etruscan ceramics in Δ003 than we saw in Δ001 at first glance. There are also absolutely no Roman ceramics from the Imperial period, which suggests that we are in a relatively early layer → Punic / Republican at the very latest.

It will be important to see if there is any change in stratigraphy associated with the wall below that will allow us to isolate its chronology better. Alfonso is convinced it is a Bronze Age citadel with multiple rooms, but this is a bit of wishful thinking at this point. Quirico doesn't think the construction and the drains proximity suggest anything this early.

We also had all of the vegetation cut between our trench and the Nuraghe so that some of the Lillio walls might be visible from the surface.

July 4, 2017 S'Urachi Area F
Area "Freedom"
Excavation Day 10

Bags
 $\Delta 006$ A } Lt 2
 $\Delta 006$ B }
 $\Delta 006$ C }

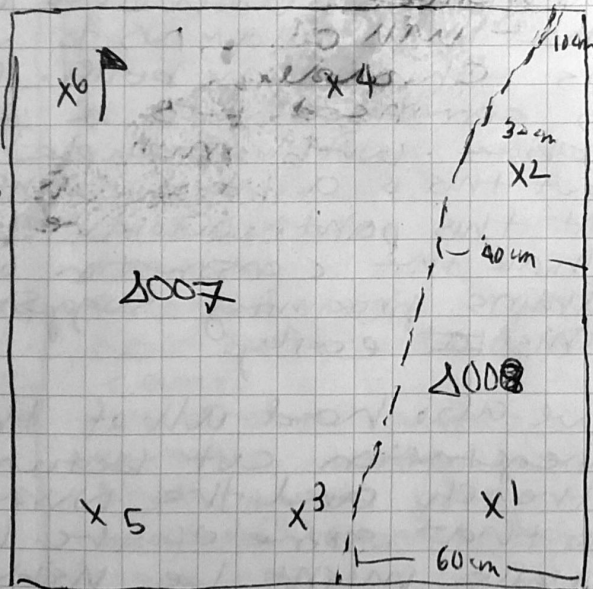
This morning we excavated $\Delta 006$ Lot 2 and realized we are really in two different strata. The western hard area is very compact and more full of rocks and appears to be a floor preparation layer.

Levels

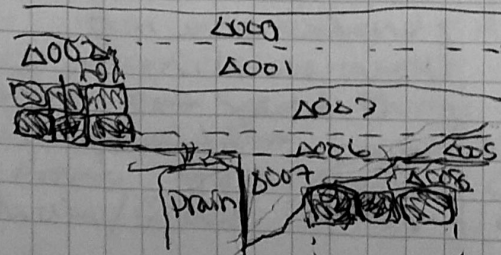
$\Delta 007$ opening (1+2)
 $\Delta 008$ opening (1-4)

Photos

$\Delta 006$ closing
 $\Delta 007 + \Delta 008$
 opening



Bags
 $\Delta 007$ A
 $\Delta 007$ B



$\Delta 006$ Lots 1+2 These should have been two different contexts from the beginning so the material is mixed. If the cut layer is later than there could be some fine dotting to the drain construction.

$\Delta 007$ Lot 1 = $\Delta 006$ (PNA)

This layer is the fill of a cut $\Delta 009$. It is loose with some small rocks and mixed bones + ceramic. We think it is filling the cut to build the drain at this point.

$\Delta 008$ = This layer is very hard + dark with many small stones of various types. It appears to a preparation layer.

$\Delta 009$ = cut of $\Delta 008$ and $\Delta 005$ to insert $\Delta 007$.

By the end of the day we had not come down on the extension of the deep wall that we were anticipating. The fill of $\Delta 009$ is relatively loose and is beginning to look like a rubbery trench from which the stones were removed previously. The situation continues to be very confusing.

We ended slightly early because of extreme heat and because of the light and water that were making everything difficult to distinguish.

* July 6, 2017 S'Urachi Area F
Excavation Day 11

This morning we did some tidying up of the edges of $\Delta 007$ and took photos. We decided to take out 008 since the bottom of $\Delta 007$ was changing consistency.

We took off the top c. 5 cm and bagged them as $\Delta 008$ Lot 1. This was extremely compact layer with frequent small river stones. Dark brown. We hoped the ceramic would be older here but it still seems relatively mixed w/ some Neolithic and some Punic stuff, though there are relatively few finds in this layer.

Bags

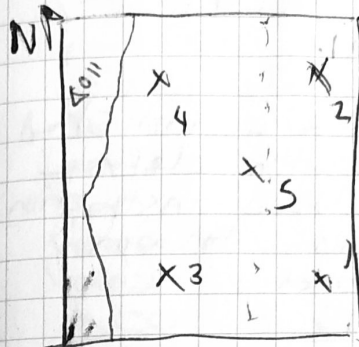
$\Delta 008$ Lot 1 A
 $\Delta 008$ Lot 1 B
 $\Delta 008$ Lot 2 A
 $\Delta 008$ Lot 2 B
 $\Delta 008$ Lot G

Photos

$\Delta 007$ closing
 $\Delta 008$ opening
 $\Delta 008$ progress

$\Delta 008$ Lot 2 we switched lots just in case after the consistency became somewhat looser. I suspect this is because at the water table and the fact that the upper part had time to dry out over the weekend.

Alex Note: I suspect! It may be a change in consistency based on continued contamination from both 007 and the preceding one.



Levels

1-2: $\Delta 008$ closing
3-5: $\Delta 007$ closing
=
1-5 Δ

$\Delta 010$ = under $\Delta 007$ + 008

$\Delta 011$ = Layer up against $\Delta 004$ drain cover. Rocky with dense, dark dirt.

July 7, 2017 S'Urachi Area F
Excavation Day 12

This morning we quickly finished excavating Δ011 to better define the stores of Δ004 (drain construction). We took a photo of this, though the light was quite bad.

Δ010 Lot 1

Photos

Δ011 closing
Δ010 opening

Boys

Δ011 Soil
Sample = 20L

Δ010 Soil
Sample 40L

Δ011 A
Δ011 B

Δ010 A
Δ010 B
Δ010 D
Δ010 G

Levels

None yet!

Following this we are opening Δ010, which appears to extend across the entire SE quadrant of the trench.

As the day progressed we removed several passes of Δ010, which is dark, muddy soil with frequent river stones and the occasional granite and soapstone (?), the kind that is yellowish and begins to powder and dissolve when waterlogged.

There are very few materials at this deep level - mostly nuagie but some seem to be later. The loam appears dark and buried from this layer.

It is extremely difficult to shovel and sift this dirt because it quickly packs down again and is heavy w/ moisture.

The confounding thing is that no real continuation of the old (deep) wall from TT3 has emerged. It appears to be completely robbed or was never there at all. The two possibilities are either that it was removed for the later drain and then foundation of Δ002. or that it was partially robbed in antiquity for reposed materials. Maura still thinks that it could be the end of a Lilliv trench, but there are no Punic/Roman materials or modern garbage at these lower levels, so I think this doesn't seem satisfying as an explanation.

What is clear is that it will be very difficult to understand this area without being able to see more of it. We discussed with Peter opening a much larger trench (presumably next year). This would be up to 20x20 m and cover the area between the old Lilliv excavations and TT3. What we can probably accomplish this year is one more test trench in another location N of the nuagie to see if this deep stratigraphy continues throughout. We are also wondering about the possibility of a bit of geophysics before the season, which might help w/ trench placement.

* July 8, 2017 S'Urachi Area F
Excavation Day 13

This pen is much too blue!

Alex is much too sleepy!
It is the half way
point of excavation.

Bags

Δ010 A

Δ010 B

Levels

Δ013 opening

= Δ010

closing

6 levels

Δ010 Lot 2

This morning we finished
excavating Δ010. There
is definitely no wall
as this was just a dark,
dense clayey layer with
frequent stones of various
kinds (mostly small river
stones, quartz, basalt).
This layer ended around
the same level as we stopped
in TT3. We will excavate
down a bit farther but
this is basically the end
of what we can do.

↳ the trench is nearly
2 m deep and not
stepped, so it will soon
be impossible to get in and
out and now is not possible
unless Alex is lifting!

Lab

- next trench placement.
- Area F trench size

↳ Start in 2018 (Damian)

- Get geophysics N. of site.
to confirm & see full thing
if its this size.

Next trench

2x2 m closer to Muraghe in
the NW area.

July 9, 2017 S'Urachi Area F
Excavations Day 14

Δ013 Lot 1 Today we excavated
c. 20 cm lower at the bottom
of the trench to level things
out. It is untenable to
continue given the depth and water
table.

[monete medib]	Salvatore came to visit and says the material from today is predominantly "Bronze recente" with a few pieces of "Bronze finale." The bronze finale pieces are the ones with burnishing on the outside and scoring on the inside, which have been appearing for several days now. It would be good to have him look at the other stuff from yesterday to see if the chronologies are the same.
	monete recente		
	Bronze finale		
	Iron Age		

After finishing up the excavating
and cleaning of Δ013, we
are excavating to the same level
in ~~ΔTT3~~ Δ007 = FA013

Bags

Δ013 A

Δ013 B

Δ013 H = other → There are a ton of
(first day) pieces of semi-fired
clay in this layer.

Mixed but surely associated
w/ activities w/ fire and/or

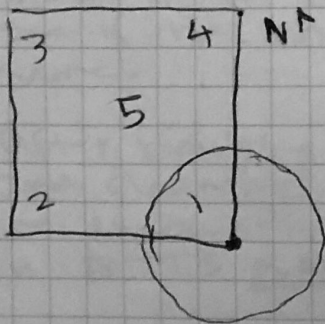
here.

July 10, 2016 S'Urachi TT4
Excavations Day 15

Test Trench 4 = SURT 2 96.106

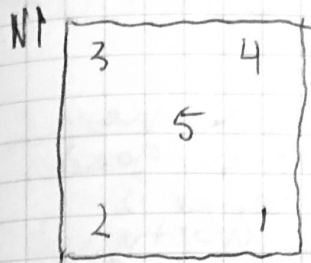
This morning we laid out the next test trench, which is a 2x2m N-S trench on the north side of the nuraghe using the survey collection point. We chose this because it had plenty of ceramics and is located somewhat closer to the nuraghe than TT3. This will allow us to see if the stratigraphy is equally as deep and what kind of levels / periods exist here closer to where Lilliu excavated.

This is also nearly touching the SW corner of Area F in its new extension, which we will begin work on next year.



Quique took levels. This is a very uneven surface with the SE corner being much lower → on the edge of the ~~last~~ slope that was probably a section of the old excavation.

The surface level started at



1. 1.39
2. 1.39
3. 1.37
4. 1.39
5. 1.38

Δ000 = closing
Δ001 opening

Δ000 Topsoil → medium brown dirt with frequent ceramics and some bone. Dense roots and grass in some areas. Loose and easy to remove. We did not sift this, so not full collection but we have a full bag of Punic (mostly) ceramics.

Δ001 This is a compact layer of light brown soil. There are stains of ash and burnt red areas and a ton of well preserved ceramics + bone.

most of the ceramics look Punic after washing and many join together, including a beautiful painted red pitcher.



According to Lilliu's drawings we should be outside a later structure, so it is possible we will be finding layers of ancient trash from a street area. This does not look at all like modern archaeological backfill at the moment...

★ July 12, 2017 S'Urachi TT4
Excavations Day 16

Δ001, Lot 2 This morning we are continuing down at a good pace in Δ001. This layer is continuing to be very dusty and extremely dense with large fragments of ceramics, mostly late Punic / Roman reproduction & black glass, red painted tableware, Punic style amphorae, and a variety of other things (tarana, looeware, etc.). By contrast, there are comparatively few bones. There is some shell and obsidian.

Bags
Δ001 A
Δ001 B
Δ001 C
Δ001 D
Δ001 H

The consistency of this layer makes us wonder whether it is the backfill from the Punic houses that were excavated by Lillio just south of us. At first it looked like a surface but it is really much softer after that interface.

Carlos Gomez Bellard looked at the materials washed (only half!) and says they are consistently 5th / 4th century without lot ep material but with some earlier average stuff. It is unusual not to see at least a bit of Imperial Roman this close to the surface, but would make sense if it is really backfill from lower excavations.

[24]

★ July 13, 2017 S'Urachi TT4
Excavations Day 17

Levels

Δ001 closing

=

Δ002 opening

7	4	1	NP
8	5	2	
9	6	3	

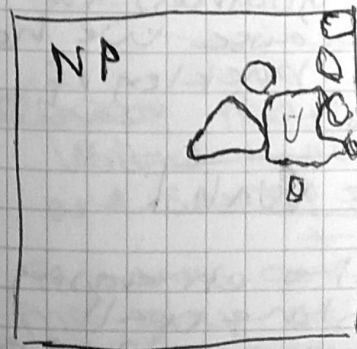
Δ002, Lot 1

This layer is distinctively orange (in contrast to the brown-grey of Δ001). It has a lot of charcoal & soil is sandy. There is much less ceramic and other materials than in Δ001.

By the afternoon we were coming down on what looks like it could be part of a wall, which Quique says is not on the Lillio plan. Upon further digging it there are really only two large rocks and several small ones surrounding them, but it is not at all clear whether this is a real construction, or

Bags
Δ002 A
Δ002 B
Δ002 C
Δ002 D

Soil 20L
Soil 20R



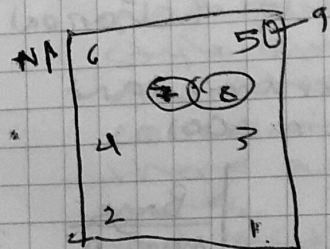
some kind of rubble pile. There is not a clear floor or any level associated with the stones or a clay cut to insert them. We will try to figure this

[25]

July 14, 2017 S'Grachti TT4
Excavation Day 18

This morning we decided to change levels because the red layer has much less ceramics and appears increasingly hard. This may not be a meaningful distinction, but we decided it would be wise to switch just in case.

Δ003, Lot 1



This layer is reddish brown, though not so much red as Δ002. It has a lot of decayed limestone + sandstone. Very hard, difficult to pick consistency.

Levels
Δ002 closing =
Δ003 opening 1-6
7-9 = rocks

Bags
Δ003 A
Δ003 B
Δ004 A
Δ004 B
Δ003 D

Soil sample
Δ005 40L

26

The main distinguishing factor between Δ002 and Δ003 is that the lower one has much, much less ceramic and other material. (Thank goodness for this because we have a huge backlog of pottery.)

Δ004 = Wall

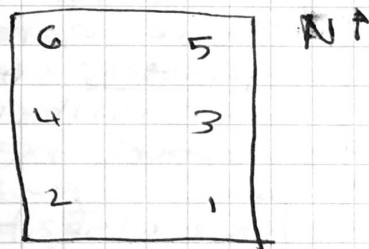
This is the emerging large stone wall that perhaps has a corner. We cleaned

ceramic (both small) were made from the mud marker finds. We will work on defining this but probably not dismantle it.

Δ005, Lot 1 After breakfast we decided to switch contexts as the soil became more dark brown and much less red in color. The transition was gradual and the large Δ004 construction in the small-ish 2x2m trench is now making it difficult to see clearly given the size constraints.

Levels

1-6 =
Δ003 closing =
Δ005 opening



Δ005 in general is not very rocky, and more dark relatively loose soil. It looks like it may run under the Δ004 wall construction, but we will see.

~~Marzo~~ marzo, our old worker, visited with orange Furuta and saved the afternoon.

+
This was our last day with this group of ragazzi and we took some excellent group photos.

27

* July 15, 2017 S' Urachi TT4
Excavation Day 19

Δ005, Lot 2

Today we are continuing to excavate Δ005 in a new pass (and with renewed energy after yesterday's no sleep extravaganza).

Δ005 is dark brown, relatively loose and present in much of the trench, aside from where large rocks related to Δ004 continue to emerge. Since

Bags	
Δ005 A	the light was good, I took several close-up photos of Δ004, which we will work on definitely later.
Δ005 B	
Δ005 C	
Δ005 D	

[We also took air team group photos.]

This lot of Δ005 has a number of mudbrick clumps that emerge in sifting. They are clayey with clear chaff inclusions. I didn't notice this yesterday, so they seem really to be at the bottom of the fill layer.

After breakfast we began cleaning the next layer that emerged on the north side of the trench.

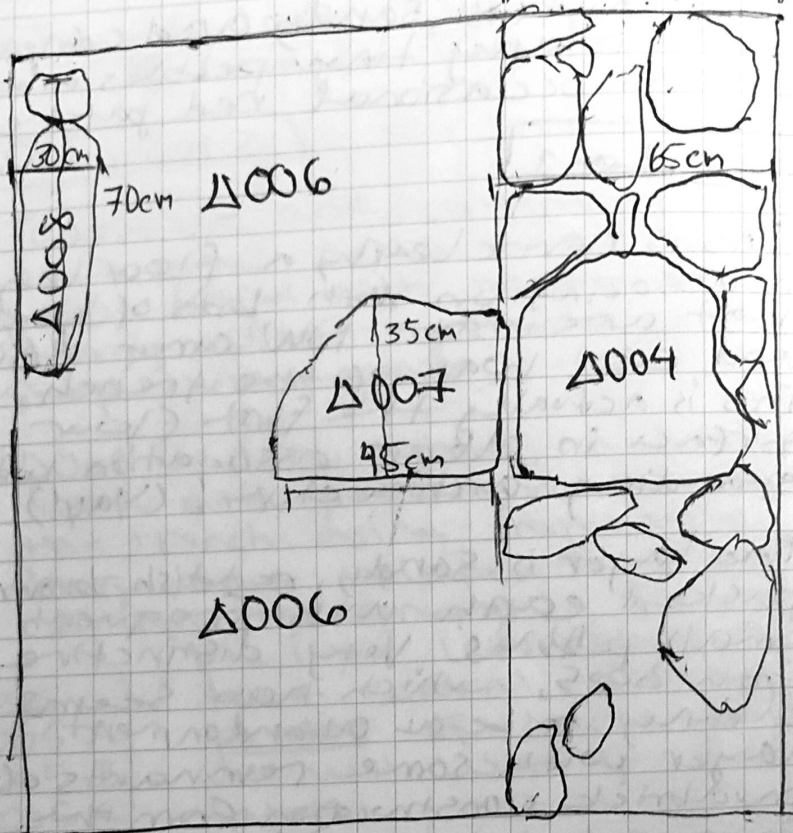
This layer is sandy and compact with many tiny pebbles imbedded. It has occasional red patches.

Δ006, Lot 1

→ This is now clearly a floor layer in association with bits of wall that are in the NW corner of Δ004 and east wall of the trench. This is actually the first floor surface in clear association with standing architecture! (Yay!)

The layer is sandy, reddish-brown packed earth with frequent small pebbles. Very distinctive from Δ005, which now seems clearly to be an abandonment layer with some remnants of mudbrick construction from the former building (collapse). This Δ005 was accumulated then packed down for another later surface in which some white preparation of crushed shells (according to Peter/Christiano) is clearly visible.

NP



July 16, 2017 S'Urachi TT4
Excavation Day 20

Alluvial Fan → gravelly surface
and extending far much of
the area around San Veng.

Hills (Mtis - Narkaria) -
exposed bedrock → much of
surface material will be
washed or blown down
→ unless it is part of a site.

Muraghe Tunis

obsidian

ARS / TS

Seems well preserved w/
high visibility b/c it is
in a pasture area.

Comus

Tymenian dunes from Pleistocene

→ last stage → 260,000-11,000 yrs BP

(land around → sand over old
flood plains.

→ sea is lower, much sand is
blown inland. Sea comes back.
last glacial apex then
comes.

Basalt and calcareous sandstone.

TT4 002

weird amphora - #018

 lamp - #026

black glass base - #030

black glass eye base

painted bowl - #087

painted jar - #096



TT4 005

001 - amphora (Phoenician?)

SU172 98.108 (TT3)

007 A
007 B
007 D
009 A
009 B

SU172 96.106 (TT4)

000 A
000 B
001 A
001 B
001 C
001 D
001 H (slag)
* 002 A ✓
002 B
002 C
002 D
003 A
003 B
003 C
003 D
004 A
004 B
005 A
005 B (worked bone)
005 C
005 D
006 A
006 B
006 D

SU17 F (TT3 extension)

000 A
000 B
000 C ~~two photos~~
* 000 F
001 A
001 B
001 C
001 D
001 F
003 A
003 B
003 C
003 D
005 A
005 B
006 A
006 B
006 C
006 D
007 A
007 B
007 C
007 F (heavy fraction)
008 A
008 B + B (charcoal)
010 A
010 B
010 C (charcoal)
011 A
011 B
011 C
013 A
013 B
013 F - fired clay (charcoal)

Museum Stuff Inventory

Linda clothes

- Socks (4x)
- beavers (7x)
- handkerchief
- hat (1x), hat straw
- Onashirts (\$4x)
- museum shirts
- ~~jeans~~ pants (3)
- flip flops

- Lunch Box
- Ice Packs (4x)
- Mugs (3x)
- Bag of Pins, Pencils + Sharpies
- (licker) counters (4x)
- Knives (2x)
- Bottle Opener
- Compass
- Vialric Tackles (2x)
- Line Level
- Flagging Tape (2x)
- AA Batteries (6x)
- felt (4x)
- Black T-Shirt
- Black Mole Skin
- clipboard
- Europ Converter
- Post-it Notes
- Caribbean + measuring tape

Alex clothes

- Socks (2x)
- Spare Bathing Suit
- ~~3~~ shirts (3x)
- Pants
- 2 Bandanas (2x)
- Shorts (2x)
- Hats (2x)

