S'Urachi Survey 2017

Linda Gosner
Alexander Smith
Jessica Nowlin

June 13 - June 21
Extensive survey explorations by Alex and Linda.

June 24 - June 28
Excavation (TT3 / AreaF)

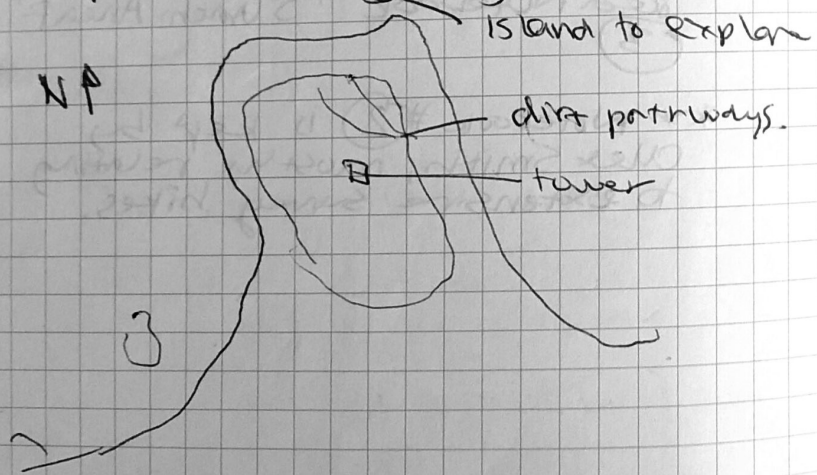
* AreaF continued in Red Notebook "S'Urachi AreaF" (3)

** Notebook #(2) is kept by Alex Smith, mostly relating to extensive survey hikes.

* June 14, 2017

This morning we are exploring the coastal area outside the town of Su Pallisu. The beaches in this area are porous stone with tidal ponds. The landscape is made up of dunes with thick vegetation (visibility c. 30%)

There are some residential properties farther south and some traces of construction (cement platforms, an old stone wall with cement mortar). Also ephemeral activity → campfire.



Most pottery + glass are modern, but we are finding the occasional ancient sherd.

There is an abandoned two story tower that reads "ENEL" on the side. It has a white cemented exterior with indentations.

We walked south to the Spiaggia di Sa Mesa Longa, where the landscape is extremely varied:

- Salt flats
- hay fields (surveyable, but we saw no finds).
- sand dunes

We hiked the promontory called "Cabo de Las Salinas" (northern Sinis peninsula. This is the location of a Spanish tower (one of 9 in the region).

Finished construction in 1580, planned in 1572 after Marco Antonio Iglesias Camos added it to his report. Cost 240 crowns.

6 m high (now), 6.50 m base.

Soldiers who served here lived in San Vero Milis.

"Torre di Capo Mannu"

Next to the tower is a modern house, abandoned. Constructed of cement, rebar and locally quarried stone. Graffiti. Probably from 1950s - 70s (?) Graffiti 1983 as earliest.

Modern + ancient pottery everywhere.

June 16, 2017 Survey

Today we are back at Capo Manno to finish surveying. We are parking at Mandriola. On the N. side of the city there are hay fields, many currently in use (hay baling happening right now). Large rocks in piles and as field boundaries, but could have been for construction previously. All ceramic, glass, etc. is modern around here.

Low growth fields have 10-50% visibility. Others are impossible 0-10% visibility (mostly around the edges)

We found very little along the coast and nearby wanderings. The area is windswept and eroded. However, arriving to the nearby Spanish tower "Torra di Sa Mora" the ground is absolutely littered with ceramic, most of which is ancient or historic. This tower is well preserved.

8 m high
5 m wide
5 m high entrance.

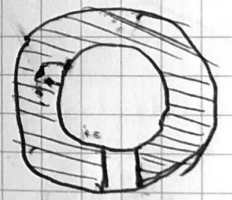
after edit

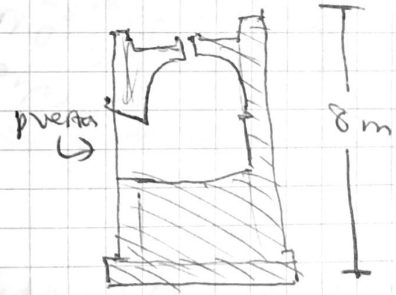
Abandoned in 1842 & Manned until 1846. Used as a lookout tower in WWII.

3 Field boundary off path
5 "
6 Electric tower on path.
10 International Sign.
19 coast
21 Large rock
27 small wall

Informal wall. w/ 90° angle-

29 large rock pile - Road cleaning
31 ceramic scatter
-32 135 ceramics.
32 Spanish Tower
Torra di Sa Mora.





33 ceramic scatter. 129 ceramics.

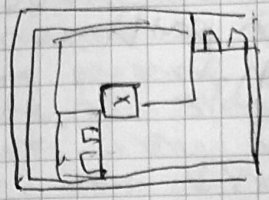
45 ceramic scatter (only one looks ancient). Others modern, eroded from Road.

46 ceramic ancient
47 " "

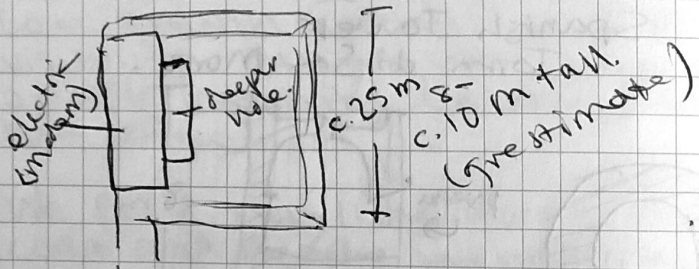
48 Quarry
49.52 Quarry channel

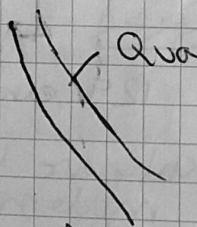
53-58 Field hop - 1 ceramic in
64 ceramics (ancient) 3-4

Nearby lighthouse complex. Probably from the 70's or some recent time has solar panels installed now, but also has old fashioned power polls.



Inland between the lighthouse and the Torre di Capo Mannu we discovered a large, square quarry. It now has an electrical generator built inside it.



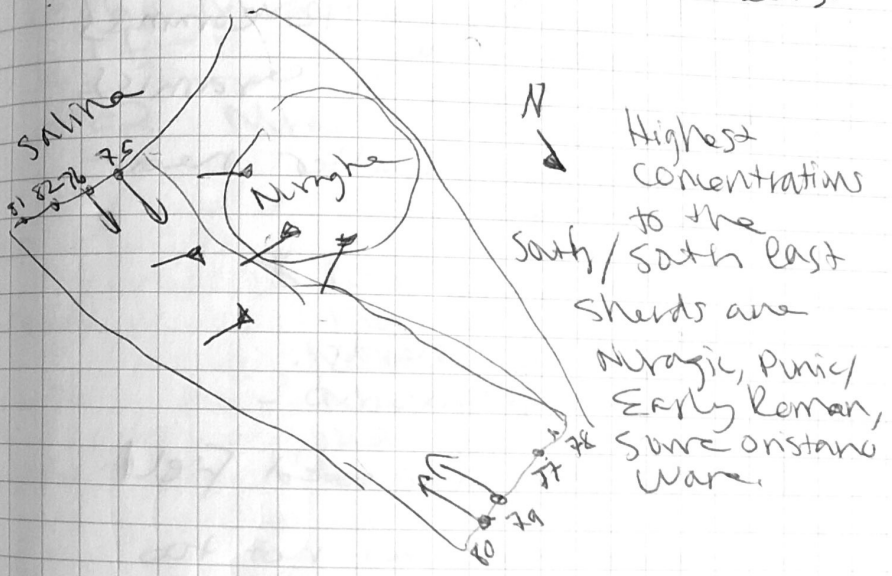


The edges are very worn so tool marks aren't visible. However, this is the type of stone used for Spanish towers so we wonder if it is the source. Conveniently located.

Afternoon Adventures:

We have parked at the Salina Sale Porcus to visit / some of the known nuraghe in the region.

We are walking the field next to the nuraghe w/ 4 transects.



Sherds are Nuragic, Punic / Early Roman, some ostano ware.

Nuraghe 2 In the middle of plowed fields. Tower like visible. Tons of ceramics, mostly punic. Obsidian.

early 100's → Great spot for transect experimentation.

73 Top of Nuraghe
74 Scatter of pottery
75 ~~Linda~~ Start.
76 Alex Start.
77 Alex End - 12 ceramics
78 Linda End - 12 ceramics
mostly Nuragic, Punic (Early Roman--
79 Linda Start - 12 ceramics
82 Linda end
81 (180 START) Alex End - 4 ceramics.

83 ceramic scatter near nuraghe.

85 Swings

86 Field w/ sherds.
Near agriturismo.

90 Rock hut in plowed field.

92 Large rocks but not too visible w/ vegetation.
Some ancient ceramic scatter on the road.

99 Top of Nuraghe 2

4. June 17, 2017
1 Monte Prama
3-4 obsidian scatter @ Monte Prama
7-8 Rock scatter from a dismantled nuraghe. Monte Prama.
13 Nuraghe Cannevadosu.

16 Nuraghe Molas.
17 " other side for scale.

22 Nuraghe Sa Tiria highpoint.

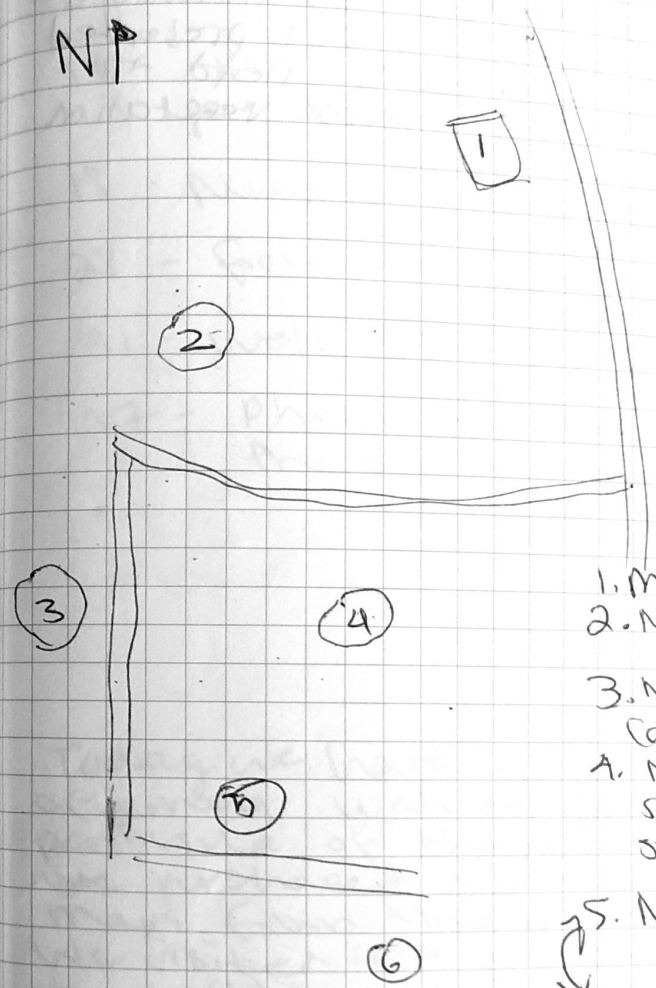
* Nimet seems to have confused Nuraghe Molas and Nuraghe Sa Tiria ? photo labeling correct or compu~~ted~~

This morning Alexis back is in bad shape, so we are doing a driving - heavy day to see some sites farther afield.

We started out at ① Monte Prama to take a few photos (site locked, but a lot of work has been done to expose the cut stone blocks on which the statues stood. Since the last time I visited, the site has been enclosed in a video protected fenced-in enclosure. The surrounding landscape has been given over to vineyards which are newly planted and everywhere (perhaps for the landowner to prevent the archaeological work from taking over the fields.

We visited ② Nuraghe Monte Prama, which looks in temporary shape. Large stones have been reorganized as field boundaries. This seems to be the same landowner as above, though the land is used for hay.

③ Nuraghe Cannovadoso is in the middle of a cultivated field (hay). It is extremely well preserved compared to ②. There is one central tower, maybe 6 m high and possibly 3 towers. Basalt.



1. Monte Prama
2. Nuraghe Monte Prama
3. Nuraghe Cannevadosu
4. Nuraghe su archeddu su procu
5. Nuraghe Molas.
7. Nuraghe sa Tinia.

(5) Nuraghe Molas - potentially the biggest one. Well preserved large basalt walls. Hard to see plan w/ intense vegetation.

June 18, 2017

10 - Phoenician / Punic tombs at Tharros

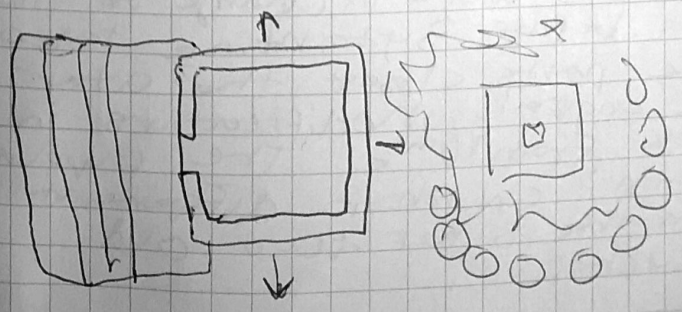
18 - Nuraghe Baboe Cabitza

28 - field wall / rounded wall

31 - well (?)

37 - Phoenician tombs by the sea.

Today we have spent the afternoon walking around the peninsula of tharros.
We purchased some better maps from the gift shop.
We visited the phoenician/Punic tombs (10) past that area is a military watchtower (18) that seems to have been built from the remains of a deconstructed nuraghe.



We walked to edge of the peninsula, where a second "modified" nuraghe is supposed to be. We saw many large basalt rocks. Not clear where it was exactly or what happened to it.

There are also a number of small field boundary walls and some rounded walls including what might be a well. These may be associated w/ earlier iterations of the lighthouse / military command center at the most distant point of the peninsula.

After leaving Tharros w/out looking at the archaeological zone of the city this time, we stopped at the basilica ~~Paleocristo~~ → Chiesa di San Giovanni (6th c. CE). It is extremely well preserved. Probably constructed largely of ~~limestone~~ blocks from Tharros. ~~sandstone~~

~~Notes from impromptu tour:~~

Cagliari
Santa Antioco } other oldest churches in Sardinia

Vandals were in charge at this time before Byzantine takeover. The parts closest the altar are original. Modifications in back from 10th c. The cupola in this church is different from the other two old churches.

Built with ~~use~~ blocks (arenaria) from Tharros city wall. This area was outside the city walls and was used as a punic and roman cemetery previously.

Tharros was probably the seat of the diocese (which included Forodongianus, Neapolis, Oristano, etc.)

Chiesa di San Marco has a baptistry.

—

After the mini-lecture we visited the Phoenician burials on the coast near the chiesa. These are near Anna's house in San Giovanni di Sinis. There appear to have been many (100?), many of which have broken into the ocean.

- www. Capomannuproject.it.
- Archaeological traces. org
  2013 Capo Mannu pubs.
- Quaderni della Soprintendenza
  archeologica.
  Quaderni. Rivista di Archeologia
  Upper Sinis → Nuraghes are not
  along coast, but by
  Tharros they are.
  Giuseppe Naisola → Accademia.edu
  ↳ PhD thesis of Survey
  near Narbolia.
  Nuraghe Cobolas.
- Narbolia, Comuni di
  ↳ monografia su Narbolia.
- Stefania Atzeni - Roman Road(s)

[- Tin, silver, copper, lead -
  argentu, Montiferru.
  ↳ mining regions everywhere.]

Thamos Felix → open access.

[7DDAFC C8639]

www.sardegnageoportale.it
↳ maps available online

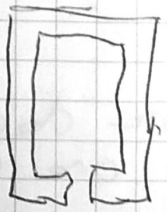
Multiple Landscapes of Exploitation

Afternoon Site visits:

We are looking for several different nuraghi west of Su Rocca Tunda in the agricultural places.

① Nuraghe Is Benas
↳ totally overgrown w/ trees
Great field for surveying
w/ plowed and cut
field. Low yield of common
pottery.

1 - Nuraghe 2
2 - "
3 - House structure -
probably made of stones
from the nuraghe.
mud mortar, wooden
roof beams, metal hinges



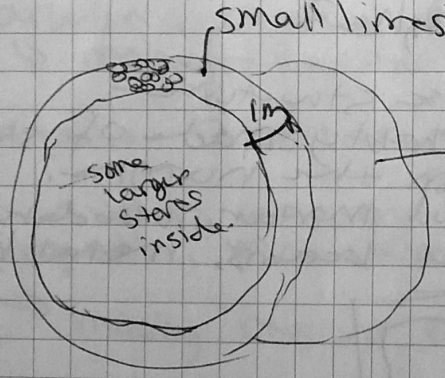
② Nuraghe Lilioi
8 - bottom
4 - top.
Made of small calcareous
limestones (especially the top

Full tower base preserved. Dense, intense bushes around it. The complex has been cordoned off by field walls and is overgrown.

On the way back we found a bunch of rocks under some dense shrubs (pt 10). Possibly a structure but impossible to see.

Nuraghe Zervei

The next nuraghe is (pt 13) closer to the Strada provinciale. When we arrived it looked more like an informal animal enclosure



This may be the deconstructed nuraghe (or not one at all.

Nuraghe Mela (pt. 19)

Very well preserved taken out densely vegetated in between 2 fields. Only accessible via the road where you park about 600 m. away.

Nuraghe Priogu → "lice" (pt 21)

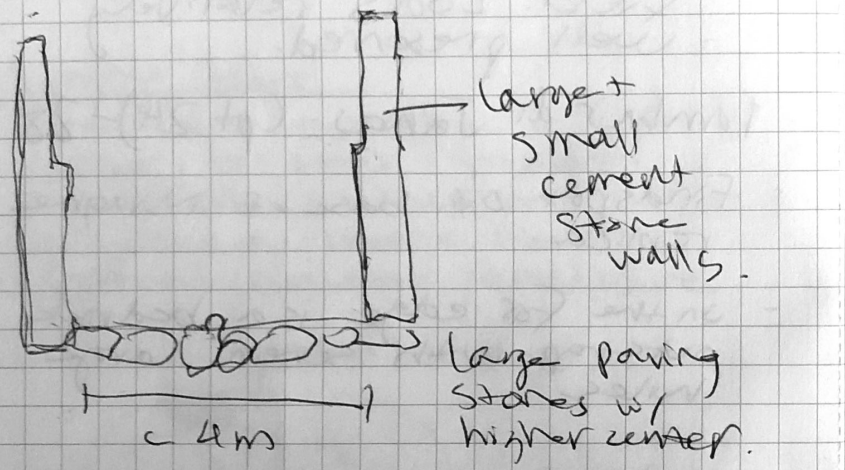
In W-most of vineyard field. Looks relatively well preserved.

- Tombas di Janas (pt 24) - 28
- Findspot of base of Nuraghe replica
- on the far edge is a bedrock outcrop with several large holes

20 June 2017

Today we are doing a "Roman Itinerary" planned by Alfonso, first stop Tramazza.

There is a well preserved Roman bridge here. (1st c BCE 1st c. CE) The others are in Zeddiani (Ponte di Zuppa → cripple / limp).



One in Fordongianus and one Ponti Manni (Aristano)

DTS (-5 (Bridge remains)
6 projected end of bridge.

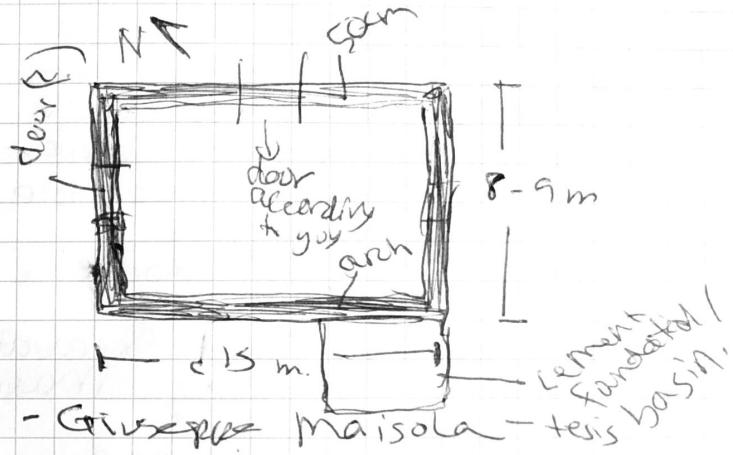
Il ponte sul rio Ozanna

It is strange how quickly the paved bridge drops off and the Road directions are not visible. Deserves more consideration since road routes are unknown here.

Stop 2: Chiesa w/ Roman site between Narbolia and St. Lusurgeddu.

Church → Santa Lusurgeddu

Pt. 8 → cluster of rocks by possible channel.



- Giuseppe Maisola - tesis basin

The landowner spoke to us and said the structure was standing when he was a kid. His brother is an archaeologist working in Switzerland. He seems to know a lot about the landscape, says he has seen traces of Roman road and a place that could be another church that one must hike to in the hills.

Roman - medieval pottery scatters throughout. Very surveyable.

Narbolia

Riparata

Stop to find the church!

pt 15 - Sta. Reparata - more recent

pt 16 - S~~a~~ Pietro → old one.

pt 17 - 24 Sa Muralla - old fortifications. very large c. 4 m tall at points and well intack. Found punic and Nuragic ~~[illegible]~~. Ceramics along the top, as the lower part was not acessible.

27 big wall (extension)

Alessandro Usai excavated around here says Maura.

31 Sta. Riparata - porta

Su anzu - Banzu = baño termale

Between Narbolia and Su anzu there are 2 nuraghe.

We found the Roman baths

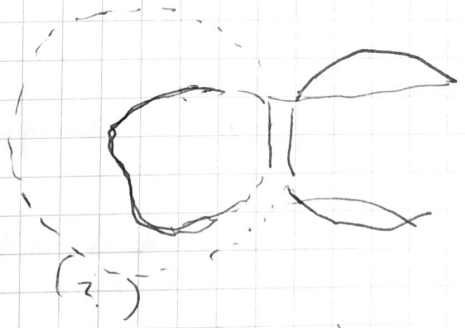
34 - 37 (literally in the middle of nowhere). They are overgrown w/ blackberry bushes.

38

Roman fountain! Ruras

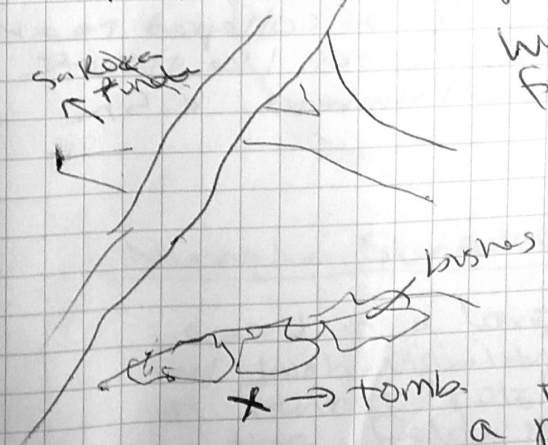
21 June 2017

Today is our last day without the group and with Maura. We are exploring the Sa Rocca Funda and Puzu Idu area, where there are domus di Janas.



pt 3

There is one large one, at least 2 chambers 2-3 m across. Located under bushes and facing the stopsigh that leads to the town. It is on the elevated bedrock outcropping but not at the top.



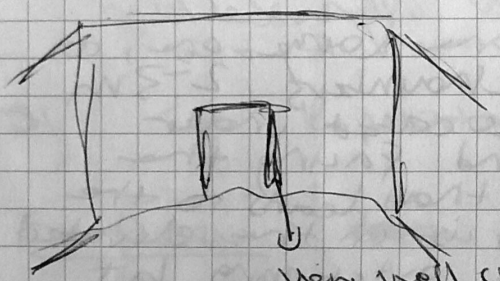
We saw a few other possible ones, very little/no surface material aside from modern trash. This is clearly a place where people of the town have abandoned their refuse.

Is Aieddas

Visited a "Roman wall" at the far N. edge of S'a Rocca Tunda. This is supposedly a villa site, though nothing is visible aside from a c. 5 m portion of the stone/cement wall. Covered in dunes and dense low lying beach shrubs.

Nice place to live though!

Putzu Idu Domus de Janas



very well cut door very deep but the ceiling has collapsed near the entrance. Looks like there are several chambers, c. 5m deep.

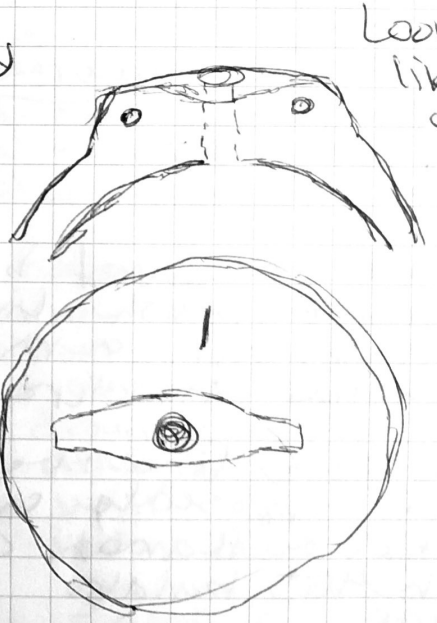
Sta. Andrea Frius.

Afternoon adventures

Nuraghe Surigis (p. 24)

middle of a field with hay and also an apiary. This is one of those on the W/ side of the S'a e Porcus salina. Limestone tower at the top.

Jeremy immediately found an awesome grinding thing made of basalt.



Looks exactly like the ones from Pompeii! But mini.

Nuraghe Suraracceddu Bianco

Located in a large open field w/ high visibility. Covered in fennel. Lots of ceramic in the field; mostly punic + Roman.

pt 27 - ceramic concentration.

Found many ceramics:
medieval glazed, local prod.
Africana D, local TS,
lots of Roman coarseware.

impossible to see Nuraghe.

28-32: "Nuraghe" outline
30 - middle of Nuraghe

There is an abandoned structure
w/ reused stones + cut blocks.

Nuraghe Bidda Maiore
pt 35 top
36 by wall/tombs
34 "

- Very well preserved but extremely covered in brush. Limestone entirely w/ a modern sandstone structure inside.
- Field stones line the street, some supposedly worked. Part of a Roman cemetery with 40+ burials.

Valentina Caregi ?:
↳ worked tombstones (pt 37)

June 24, 2017 TT3

Today is our first day on site with the whole group. We spent the morning doing a small site tour and then divided into our various sections. Alex, Nuri, and I are working on re-opening TT3.

TT3

The trench was completely backfilled last year. It was partially mechanically removed 2 days ago and we are cleaning the rest by hand. We are almost back to the season's end point from last year. The drain rocks have partially fallen.

Δ000	topsoil
Δ001	loose mixed soils (backfill)
Δ002	Dark clayey layer w/ white inclusions
Δ003	drain cover
Δ004	drain fill
Δ005	wall
Δ006	under Δ002, Fill between drain + wall
Δ007	=Δ006 from 2017

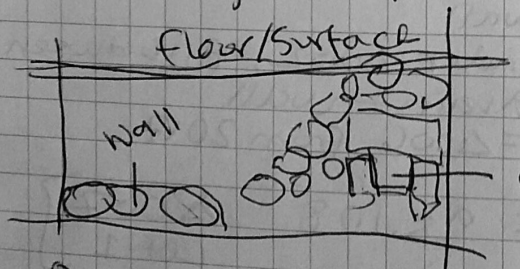
[SU 17 2 98.108 Δ007 Lot 1]

Bags
A
B

photos
Δ007 yaxis
Δ007 progress

In the afternoon we have returned to work from 4-7 pm. (Nobody else had lab work). Alex is now excavating in the corner, continuing with Δ007.

The consistency of Δ007 is relatively compact w/ frequent river stones of small size. It is a dark color with some degraded stones and sand deposits of greenish, yellowish, and light brownish brown hues. The excavation is not elucidating the relationship between the drain Δ004/3 and the wall Δ005, perhaps because they were not contemporary. The drain may in fact have been subterranean with the ground level at the interface between Δ001 and Δ002. In this case the parallel lines Δ005 and Δ003/4 are respecting one another based on longstanding orientation of architecture at this location, but they are not contemporaneous.

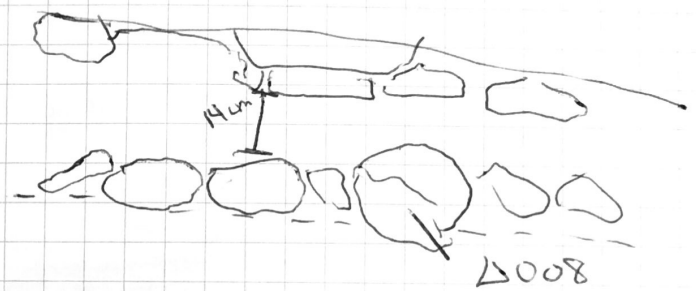


Quique says that at our lowest level we are now 46 cm above the well's current level to the East. Take more levels tomorrow!

* June 25, 2017 TT3
Excavation Day 2

This morning we will remove the drain before continuing in Δ007

Δ003 = Δ008 - stone of drain



Δ009 = layer under drain.

Levels:
Δ007 opening
Δ009 opening = bottom of drain

Quique is taking levels. First Δ007 closing (3) we will calculate from the top for the opening.
- 3 levels for the drain.
- 4 levels on the wall.

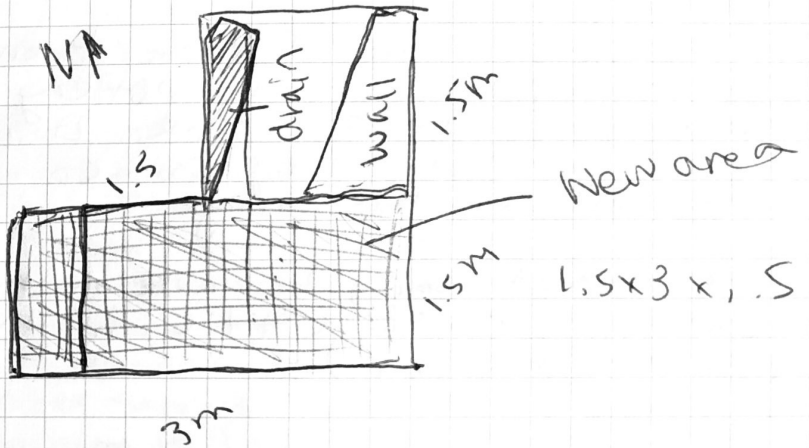
Bags

Δ007 ceramic, bone, F-plaster, D obsidian, G-carbone

Δ009 B, A

June 26, 2017 S'Urachi
Excavation Day 3

This morning we took final photos for TT3, which is now complete. We then expanded the trench so we can further explore the wall and drain.



The new area is 3m x 1.5m. and will now be called "Area F" because of the likelihood that this area will be opened on a larger scale in the future.

Quigie took Levels, I took opening photos. We are sifting all. 000. The topsoil (Δ000) is very loose, dusty, and light brown with frequent roots. In the western half of the trench there is a fair amount of modern trash - plastic, glass.

Photos

000 opening

Levels

000 opening

Bags	Δ000 has a fair amount of ancient diagnostics and undiagnostic pottery- likely mixed periods and consistent with the current hypothesis that these are a mix of old spoil heaps and trash pits lasting through at least the 1980s.
A	
B	
F	

The west side of the trench is much more full of pottery than than the East side. It is surprising that they are so different at this stage.

We ended early because of the extreme heat (47°C in the car thermometer!).

In lab we washed pottery and photographed / carted the finds that were dry from yesterday.

June 27, 2017 Area F
Excavation Day 4

Today we are continuing with the excavation of Area F at the Δ000 level. We are finishing up before breakfast and coming onto a new layer that is much less compact. This is the same as the one we found in TT3 (TT3 Δ001).

Δ001 Lot 1

This level is light brown soil that is notably looser than Δ000 and with fewer roots and other organic inclusions. It has river stones and some medium to large-ish rocks (basalt).

This layer covers the entire area, as did Δ00 (though that one had considerable difference

Bags

000 A
000 B
000 D

Levels (Aq)

Δ000 closing
Δ001 opening

5 points

Photos

Δ000 closing
Δ001 opening

Bags

Δ001 A
Δ001 B
Δ001 D
Δ001 F
2 (soil sample)

June 28, 2017 Area F
Excavation Day 5

This morning and last night we had light rain, so we are starting at 8 am to avoid any difficulty. In fact the weather is a relief and I'm hoping it may help us see the stratigraphy better.

Quigve thinks that what we thought was backfill (Δ001) is actually ancient fill, which was put in place to level the surface later on and avoid the high water level in this area. That allowed for the elevated walls to be constructed in the Punic(?) phases of occupation. This makes a lot of sense, especially in relation to the stratigraphy in the other areas. There is no reason not to find Punic/Roman phases (+ at this point we found a ton of this later material, which was the rationale for opening TT3.

Bags

001 A
001 B
001 D

*Soil actually sampled today from the bump.

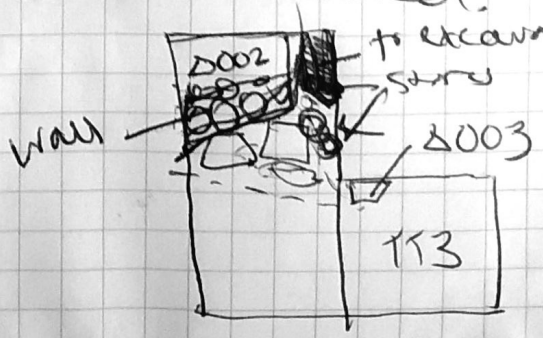
Δ001 Lot 2

This layer goes very deep and continues to be loose, brown soil. A few roots, but otherwise very dusty with the occasional small rocks. Charcoal inclusions. The ceramic appears from now to be mostly Punic and later with quite a few small pieces of terra sigillata. Mixed chronology consistent with a later fill of the landscape here.

We are excavating in c. 5-7 cm passes until we get down to the next layer here. We leave a bump on the Northern edge to minimize fall into the TT3 pit.

We also tried to define the emerging wall (Δ002) better. It appears that we have the outside face on its East side and that there is some collapse (cribbo) on the west at the very edge of the trench.

By the end of the day we are coming down on a layer of possible paving stone that corresponds well with the one we have still exposed in the west wall of trench TT3. This may be the initiation of the drain cap upon which a surface existed → upon which wall Δ003 existed.



Photos
Δ001 profile
Δ001 end of day w/ Δ002 and Δ003

Δ002 = Superficial Wall

This wall runs SSE - NNW and is composed of a combination of large basalt stones and small river and field stones of various types. We have not fully exposed it yet, but it doesn't appear to be preserved more than 2 courses at most.

It sits on top of paving Δ003.

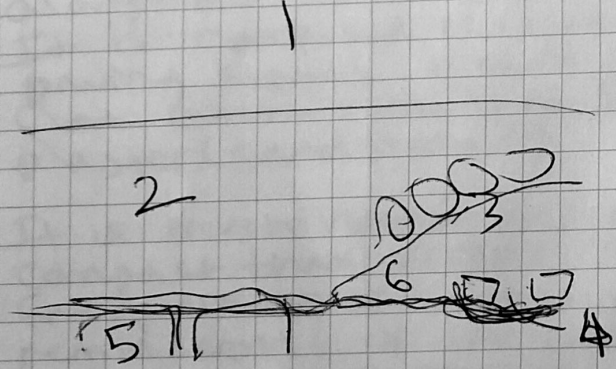
Δ003 "Paving"

This is a layer under and alongside the wall Δ002. It is composed of several flat paving stones made of that flat white rock that looks like plaster (sandstone?).

It is much harder and more compact than Δ001. It has frequent other stones. Very reminiscent of the Δ002/Δ003 initiation of TT3 → to which this layer should correspond. We also hopefully will understand it better this time around!

- paiolo

? → Battue Take Points



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4417918.003

To Do:

Trench 1

- draw section
- shoot in corners
- Final levels
- rev. context sheets

Trench 2

"
"
"
- Finish context sheets

Trench 3

"
"
"
- Finish context sheets

- counts + wts

- Counts + weights

- Counts + weights.

- object photos

- Object photos

- Object photos

Ceramics

- counts + weights
- rough chronologies
- for more sealed contexts date specifically.
- ~~cont~~ Labels.

- Write AIA abstract

- Report:
  - Intro
  - Trench 1
  - Trench 2
  - Trench 3
  - conclusions recommendations

- maps
- photos
- ceramic drawings (3)

Article

Soprintendenza.

TTI 108.92

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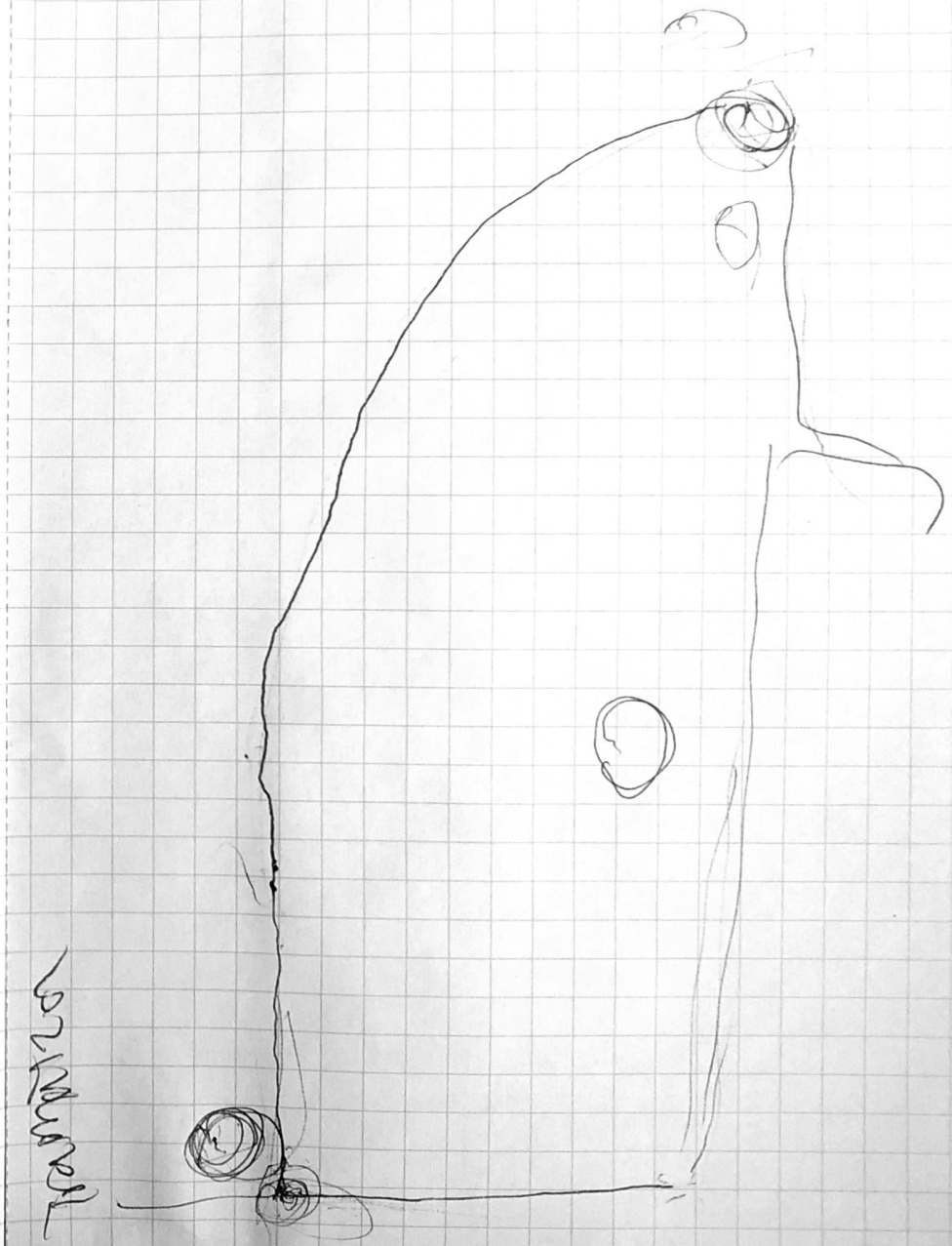
Squadrare.

Alvaro Suler - Soler
Sin tu mirada Sofia.