

Hippus (Sussita) Excavations 2008 – 9th Season Daily Log + Drawing

Date: 21 July 08 Area: NEC Manager: Schuler

Squares	A4	A99	B/C0	D4	C1	A1
Loci	1226		564	1265 (oven)		1226
Baskets	5495	None collected	5496	5490		5494
Walls	W1201, W1267					
Floors	F538					

- Began work in A99
 - Starting elevation = 131.526
 - Ending elevation = 131.32
 - Soil is tractor fill.
 - Removed tractor fill to the level of the top soil. Some wall lines emerging.
- Continued work in A1
 - Starting elevation = 130.008 (A0 floor by pilaster), 130.334 (A2 floor near entrance)
 - Ending elevation = 130.925 (step 4, basalt beam), 130.673 (step 3, basalt section next to wall), 130.475 (step 2, limestone door jamb), 130.246 (step 1, basalt blocks and pavers)
 - Soil is Horizon B
 - Clarified somewhat the fill at the north end of the A1 square to the east of W1267. It may be the remains of a staircase. However, further excavation to the east is necessary. Four possible steps have been identified. However, their treads are not uniform in depth. To the north of the lowest step are a row of pavers. The next step consists of a re-used limestone door jamb. The third step is just a short section of basalt next to W1267. The fourth step is a basalt beam. Neither the first step nor the beam continues to the east into the next square (edges found). If this is a staircase from which stones have been robbed out, to what did it give access?

- On the pavers to the east of the entrance step to the room, some plaster is visible surfacing the stone floor.
 - The stone floor itself is of fine paving stones (Basalt?) typically used for outdoor surfaces.
 - Identified a seam in W1267 1.1m from the north edge of the square.
 - Resumed work in A4
 - Starting elevation = 131.903
 - Ending elevation = 131.561
 - Soil is Horizon B
 - Removed destruction fill.
 - Resumed work in B/C0
 - Starting elevation =
 - Ending elevation = 130.286 (average), 130.455 (collapsed mosaic)
 - Soil is Horizon B
 - To the west end of B/C0 there is a section of mosaic about 1x1m that survives in a number of fragments. It is at a level too high for a floor. A distinct possibility is that these fragments are testimony to a mosaic floor from the second story that collapsed.
 - Continued work in Square D4
 - Starting elevation = 129.940 (average level), 130.024 (plaster floor F597).
 - Ending elevation = 129.42 (bottom of oven)
 - Soil is horizon D – inside oven
 - Various items in fill: metal clip (Item # 292), nail (Item #293).
 - While leveling the area, we discovered the remains of an oven next to W1201 and west of the doorway. The oven has an inside diameter of 1.40m. We removed fill from the oven to a depth of .5m. In the fill were many collapsed fragments from the dome of the oven along with ash, a roof tile, ceramic shards, bones, glass, a button (Item # 295), and a hand grinding stone (Item # 295).
 - Consulted on conservation: decided not to expose the edges. Rather, we will refill it and conserve it next year.
 - Conservation of floor in C1
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- Cleaning for photography.

Daily Drawing

