

# Hippos (Sussita) Excavations 2009 – 10th Season

## Daily Log + Drawing

Date: 15 July 09 Area: NEC Manager: Schuler

Squares	ZZ99south	ZZ1west	ZZ2/3	A99north	E5west	F5	F8
Loci	1276	1226	1257	1226	1243	1277	1243
Baskets	2259	2258	2257	2263	2261	2260	2262
Walls	W575, W1235, W1250, W1261, W1266, W1267, W1270, W1271, W1280, W1281						
Floors	F1279						

- Continued work on Square ZZ99south
  - Goal – follow W1266 to the east looking for corners.
  - Starting elevation = 129.303 (top of threshold), 129.740 (average north of W1266)
  - Ending elevation = 129.196 (paving south of threshold), 128.945 (paving north of threshold)
  - The threshold reveals that two doors were used to close the doorway in W1266—a wider one (1.11m) to the east, and a narrower (0.40m) one to the west. Two pivot points lead us to this conclusion.
  - Stone paving was seen on both side of the threshold, with the paving to the north about 25cm lower that the paving to the south.
  - Stopped work to allow the tractor to remove fill on either side of the 2.5m trench.
  
- Continued work on Square ZZ1west
  - Goal – examine area north of W1261 and the fixture tentatively identified as a robbed staircase.
  - Starting elevation = 131.612 (top of column drum), 131.363 (average fill)
  - Ending elevation = 130.947 (average)
  - Lowered level of fill
  - Possible wall running east to west on the north side of the square, aligning roughly with the unidentified fixture seen last year (staircase?). The fixture might be part of the wall

- Soil changed to horizon B
  - Continued work on Square ZZ2/3
    - Goal – follow W1261 to the east, looking for corners to the south and north.
    - Starting elevation = 131.075 (average fill south of W1235), 130.853 (average west of W1270), and 131.320 (average east of W1270)
    - Ending elevation = 130.632 (floor in room)
    - Reached a floor level that aligns with the threshold in W1235 (elevation 130.770) but stands above the threshold in W1261 (elevation 130.401). The floor consists of tightly compacted soil/plaster with some stone surfaces. One cluster of 15 tesserae was found near the floor level.
    - In a couple of spaces, plaster was adhering to the west face of W1270. Numerous plaster fragments were recovered from the fill. Some were painted red or yellow, with minor indications of banding or striping.
    - With the room complete, the level of fill north of W1261 was lowered.
    - Two basalt architectural fragments (#366 and #367) we recovered.
  - Continued work on Square A99north
    - Goal – follow W1267 and W575 to the north looking for corners.
    - Starting elevation = 129.723 (between W1267 and W575, aka “street”), 129.846 (average east of W1267)
    - Ending elevation = 130.116 (average of slanted mosaic in NW corner)
    - Cleaned large mosaic fragment in NW corner of square. It to reveal a white field, with a black band forming a corner. Outside the black banding was a geometric pattern witnessed elsewhere at Hippos.
    - Other small blocks of tilted mosaic were recovered.
    - Another doornail from the north threshold in W575 (#361 11cm from head to bend, 5cm from bend to tip.
  - Continued work on Square F5
    - Goal – investigate unknown area.
    - Starting elevation = 129.777 (average below the floor), 129.969 (average in south of square)
    - Ending elevation = 129.705 Bottom level of South wall), 129.724 (average in SW corner)
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- Lowered the area inside the earlier walls to the level of the next floor (F1279). This floor is at the approximate level of the bottom of the southerly walls (W1280 and W1281).
- Several small coins (#360, #362, #363), nails (#356 7cm and #365 6cm), a gold tesserae (#359), and a chain (#364 with six figure eight links) were recovered.
- Continued work on Square F8
  - Goal – follow paved surface to the west.
  - Starting elevation = 129.126 (average of room in SW corner), 128.916 (average destruction fill)
  - Ending elevation = 128.828 (average SW room), 128.668 (paving estimate – stick too short)
  - Removed fill from plaza including architectural fragments. Three small diameter drums and a capital from the southern section between the stairs and the room. There was also a large drum that fell from the column in the NE corner of the small room. Two small drums were removed from the small room. And a roller (#358) was recovered from the SW corner of the plaza (significantly heavier than the one discovered in the in the NE part of the site..
  - One course of the north wall of the plaza (W1250) is visible in most places.
  - The room in the southwest corner is built on the plaza. Its construction is quite poor, with at least one lower piece missing from the door jamb.
  - Between the two large pedestals to the west there is a small staircase going up to the west.
  - Some kind of wall or staircase bounds the western side of the plaza.
  - Doorway in southern block building seems to be missing the western door jamb. Doorway is blocked by a wall that seems to form the south wall of the small room.
  - #357 15cm weight (donut-shaped stone) found in threshold of W1271

Observations

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Daily Drawing



