

Text in capitals indicates conclusions/evidence which needs review.
**** indicates numerical or other data which needs to be checked.**

3. The Excavations in the Southern Sector, Trench B21

In general the deposits excavated to date comprise a series of isolated pits and dumped deposits associated with the final phase of the settlement. Traces of the walls of a lightly constructed building were present, probably a clay and timber structure with clay floors. Dumps of domestic rubbish were cut through by group of large pits, at least one of which may be a well. The excavated deposits are described in stratigraphic sequence starting with the oldest. The division of the stratigraphy into phases is provisional and may be subject to revision once a more detailed analysis has been conducted of the finds evidence.

Phase I

The earliest deposits exposed so far are lenses of sandy material in the north-west and south-east corners of the trench (Contexts [61] and [65]). These have not yet been excavated but may turn out to be the same deposit and could also be related to similar deposits (as yet un-contexted) in the south-western corner of the trench. However the latter may form part of the structure discussed below. Contexts [61] and [65] have an as yet undetermined relationship with an extensive deposit of greyish brown sandy loam which covers much of the trench. This deposit is visible in the sides of excavated cut features and is up to 0.5 m thick.

Context [61] was cut by [5], an oval pit, 0.65 m deep, cut for the insertion of a pithos [3]. The pithos had collapsed in on itself as a result of the pressure of the surrounding deposits. The fill [2] consisted of a mid-brown sandy loam very similar to the

surrounding deposits and contained several large fragments of pithos body sherd pressed against the *in situ* pithos walls, the contents are summarised in Table *.

MATERIAL	TYPE	WEIGHT (Kg)
BONE		0.38
CERAMIC	Burnt Clay	4.13
CERAMIC	Spindle Whorl	0.095
CERAMIC	Tile	8.995
INDUSTRIAL WASTE		0.3
POTTERY	?Amphora	0.11
POTTERY	?Orangeware	0.095
POTTERY	Amphora	0.27
POTTERY	Attic Black Glaze	0.005
POTTERY	Coarseware	3.575
POTTERY	Greyware	0.6
POTTERY	Orangeware	0.06
POTTERY	Pithos	64.475

Table *. Summary of materials found in pithos fill. Context 2.

Given the nature of the collapse and the similarity of the deposits it seems likely that much of the material within the fill of the pithos derived from the adjacent layers.

Several very large sherds of pithos, including substantial fragments of rim, were found in the deposits to the east. These may be part of this vessel disturbed by ploughing.

The exact mechanism for the insertion of the pithos is not clear. The fact that the cut was only clearly visible at this point could be a result of the dry conditions during the first seasons work when the upper portion of the body was first observed. It also became clear during the excavation that the surrounding deposits were very badly disturbed by animal action, this may have partly obliterated the edges of the cut. Another alternative is that the pit was indeed originally excavated from this point and the surrounding deposits (e.g. context [27]) were intentionally built up against it. However, although there is some evidence (see below) that these deposits did accumulate relatively quickly, it is more

likely that the upper portion of the cut was obscured by the collapse of the pithos discussed above.

Context 61 was sealed by contexts [48], [49], [51] and [58] which were layers composing a single deposit *c.* 0.2 m thick deposit of mid-greyish brown sandy loam containing frequent small rounded pebbles and charcoal flecks.

The finds from these contexts are summarised in Table *.

MATERIAL	TYPE	WEIGHT (Kg)
Bone and Teeth		5.73
Ceramic	Loomweight	0.132
Ceramic	Loomweight	0.465
Ceramic	Loomweight	0.722
Ceramic	Objects	27.763
Ceramic	Tile	94.31
Copper alloy	Casting waste	0.036
Copper alloy	Fibula	0.002
Industrial waste		0.415
Iron	Knife	0.008
Iron	Nail?	0.02
Iron	Fibula?/pin?	0.002
Iron	Nail	0.032
Iron	Nail?	0.08
Iron	Object	0.034
Iron	Rod	0.046
Iron	Bolt?	0.012
Iron	Lump	0.007
Iron	Nail	0.044
Iron	Nail?	0.007
Iron	Object	0.039
Iron	Object	0.014
Pottery	Amphora	12.96
Pottery	Attic black glaze	0.699
Pottery	Orangeware	6.45
Pottery	Coarseware	24.335
Pottery	Greyware	6.985
Pottery	Pithos	45.23
Stone	Loomweight?	0.032
Stone		7.000

Table *. Summary of finds from contexts [48], [49], [51] and [58].

Most of the ceramic material was present as large sherds with fresh, un-abraded breaks. Several were near complete vessels and in a few cases joining sherds were found close together. This suggests that these deposits accumulated quickly and were not subjected to a prolonged period of weathering or trampling by animals or humans. The finds suggest that most of this material was domestic debris from occupation.

Pit [59] was located in the centre of the trench and was excavated following the removal of layer [48]. However, a persistent dark stain with very poorly defined edges had been noted in this area earlier in the excavation and it is likely that this feature was in fact cut from higher in the stratigraphy. The cut was sub-circular in plan and had an asymmetric profile with a steep near vertical northern edge, the southern edge sloped at c. 30 degrees and was slightly convex. The base was flattish. The fill was a mid-brown sandy silt containing occasional charcoal flecks and small cobbles up to 40 mm across. It was filled with similar material to the surrounding deposits. The presence of several large fragments of pithos and roof tile up to 0.4 m across suggests that this feature had been back filled deliberately rather than allowed to gradually silt up.

Context [48] was also cut by pit [52], this circular(?) pit was located against the southern edge of the excavation and was c. 1.60m across and 1.0m deep. Although well defined in the upper 0.3 m by a line of cobbles deposited against the edge of the pit, the fill (Context [42]) rapidly became indistinguishable from the surrounding deposits and it is likely that this feature was 'over dug'.

Phase II

Further, very similar, sequences of dumped material (Context [27]) sealed these deposits to a depth of 0.15-0.20 m. These were cut by [54], a linear feature extending for 4.00 m from the west facing section and 0.2-0.5m wide, 0.1-0.2 m deep. This represents the only well defined structural feature within the trench, probably the wall of a building with the interior to the south. The cut was filled by context [45], a pale brown gritty sandy loam distinguished from the surrounding deposits by the presence of several large stone blocks which seemed to have been deposited within the fill.

Context 45 contained a broadly similar range of material to the surrounding deposits (See Table *) and it is likely that the deposits represent material cut was at least partly back filled with the excavated deposits in order to provide packing for the wall

MATERIAL	TYPE	WEIGHT (Kg)
BONE		0.16
CERAMIC	Burnt Clay	0.93
CERAMIC	Tile	0.17
POTTERY	Amphora	1.1
POTTERY	Coarseware	0.065
POTTERY	Greyware	0.205
POTTERY	Pithos	1.57
POTTERY	Orangeware	0.035
STONE		0.12

*Table *. Summary of finds from context 45.*

Mid-way along the exposed section of [54] was a small section of cobbling *c.* 1 m² in extent Context [8]. The upper surface sloped at *c.* 10 degrees towards the north. It was set upon a dump of gritty sandy clay loam containing up to 20% rounded pebbles and large fragments of pottery stacked so as to provide support for the cobbles.

Although excavated slightly higher in the stratigraphy, the coincidence of its alignment with [54] suggests that they are related. There is also a possibility that this feature is associated with cut [38] to the north. However, a 0.2m thick layer of clayey silty sand (Context [32]) to the south of [54] is interpreted as make-up for a floor which would make this area the interior of the building. In addition there was no convincing evidence for cut [38] being of structural origin.

It is likely that a small section of clay hearth (context [65]) at the south end of cut [54] was part of this structure. The surviving section measured 0.5 x 0.3 m and was 10-20 mm thick. It was constructed upon a base of crushed amphora sherds (context [66]) from a single vessel.

Cut [84] was located c.2.5 m to the north of cut [54] and was sub-circular in plan and 2-2.1 m in diameter and at least 2.0 m deep. Excavation of this feature, which contains a complex sequence of fills is not yet complete and it is possible that it is a back filled well.

Contexts 22 and 25 were probably originally a single feature but were separated by an intrusive feature (Cut [6]). These deposits were composed of large quantities of fired clay set in a matrix of dark reddish brown sandy loam. When originally exposed it was believed that this material could have been used as packing in the foundations for a timber building. However no trace of a cut could be found and the fired clay which largely defined these contexts merged gradually with the deposits to the east. Several

hearth fragments were noted in this general area during the excavation of the under lying deposits and it is possible that this feature was not fully excavated.

Phase III

Cut [38] was aligned west-north-west to east-south-east could be stratigraphically contemporary with 54, 22 and 25, however it was cut by the well so it is likely to be later. The cut was *c.* 2.2 m long, 1.15 m wide and 0.45 m deep. It was filled with dumped domestic material (context 30) containing large (up to 0.3 m) fragments of freshly broken, un-abraded pottery, tile and bone (Table *). Nearly all of the larger fragments were laid flat against the sides of the cut, in some places this was the main means by which the sides of the cut could be identified. Several large (up to 300mm) rounded cobbles were also present in the bottom of a hollow in the base of the cut which was *c.* 0.25 m across. These may have served as packing for a timber post.

MATERIAL	TYPE	WEIGHT (Kg)
Bone		0.735
Ceramic	Burnt clay	2.085
Ceramic	Loomweight	0.22
Ceramic	Tile	51.545
Pottery	Amphora	2.04
Pottery	Attic black glaze	0.075
Pottery	Coarseware	66.555
Pottery	Greyware	0.83
Pottery	Orangeware	0.78
Pottery	Pithos	28.585
Stone	Quernstone	9.75
Stone	Stone	18

*Table *. Summary of finds in context [30]*

The exact interpretation of this feature is not clear. The black sandy loam, pottery and tile probably represent dumping of domestic occupation debris. The relatively clear edges to the cut suggest that this feature had not been open very long prior to being filled. It is possible that this feature originated from the robbing of building stone for use elsewhere.

Alternatively it may be associated with the north-south aligned ditch in squares B17 and B22 (Katincarova-Bogdanova, 1996).

Phase IV

Sealing these deposits was a c. 0.1-0.2 m thick layer of dark greyish brown loamy sand (context [14]). Although colour changes could be seen within this deposits none of them were sufficiently well defined in plan to enable them to be excavated with any degree of confidence and it is likely that this deposit was very heavily disturbed by animal activity. Some of the features discussed above could actually have been cut through these deposits but not recognized because of the dry conditions.

Context [17] in the north-west of the trench contained large quantities of broken roof tile. It was very similar in colour to context [30] and may actually have been the upper fill of that feature disturbed by a combination of ploughing, animal activity and root disturbance. All of these contexts contained large fragments of pottery. Some of this material occurred in tight clusters which could be reconstructed to form parts of whole vessels. This suggests that the post-depositional disturbance discussed above was not significant. It also indicates that this area of the site was not subject to significant trampling during the accumulation of these deposits. Some of the vessels occurred as small “stacks” of sherds up to 3 deep. This would seem to suggest that these pieces were carefully placed rather than being dumped as part of the process of rubbish disposal.

These deposits were cut by a group of four pits (contexts [7], [13], [16] and [35]) *c.* 1.5m in diameter and 1-2.0 m deep. All of these features had steep near vertical sides and flat bases. All three were filled with black, humic silty sand almost indistinguishable from the surrounding deposits in their upper half. There is no clear pattern to the layout of these features, though this may be because only a limited area was available for excavation, long alignments would not be identifiable in such a small area. The fills of some of these features, e.g. [31] were slightly less compacted than the surrounding deposits which might suggest that they are significantly later than the other deposits excavated in this trench. This and the difficulty encountered in identifying the edges of the cuts, hint that these are probably features connected with modern agricultural activity, such as the planting of vines. This conclusion is supported by the presence of several thick roots in fill [41].

These were sealed by a 0.1-0.2m thick layer of loose, humic silty sand which was dark grayish brown in colour and contained a wide range of pottery, tile, metal finds, rounded cobbles of schist and granite up to 100mm across. This deposit probably represents ploughsoil or its local equivalent.

Summary

The broad nature of the stratigraphy in Trench B21 is now clear. A sequence of dumped material, probably domestic debris, seals a series of pits cut in to deposits of uncertain origin (the latter remain to be excavated). The dumps seem to have accumulated relatively quickly. The domestic dumps of domestic material are cut by a series of pits,

some of which may be structural. Evidence for a clay and timber building was found in the south-west corner of the trench, this may be contemporary with a well in the centre of the trench which was cut through the foundations of another possible building. A series of very large pits across the middle of the trench may relate to agricultural activity following the abandonment of the site.

Excavation of the upper deposits has been very difficult. This has been partly due to the very dry conditions, which make subtle colour contrasts very difficult to follow.

However as excavation has progressed it has become clear that much of the upper 0.5-0.6 m of the stratigraphy has been badly disturbed by animal burrows and agricultural activity.

4. The Finds

Detailed description of the finds processing methodology are given in the site archive.

All finds were recorded by context. Pottery, tile, industrial waste and fired clay were collected as bulk finds and recorded by context only. The system of batch numbers used elsewhere on the excavation was retained as a supplement to the system of labeling by context. All metal finds, including coins were recorded in two dimensions and by context.

Special finds were recorded in catalogues retained by the Archaeological Museum Septemvri, all numbers prefixed AMS refer to numbers in that catalogue. All finds are held as part of the archive at the Archaeological Museum Septemvri. Ceramics and building material are the subject of a separate report by C. Ahmad and R. Bridgeman.

Only a selection of the finds are described below. A significant proportion could not be studied in the time available.

4.1 Roof Tiles

A total of **kg of roof tile was excavated from all contexts with the greatest concentration being present in the north-west corner of the trench (Contexts [11], ***,) All of the identifiable fragments were pan tiles of Corinthian type and Kalypteroi of Laconian type (Musil, 1998). All of the fragments were very heavily broken and appeared to be in secondary contexts. Although distinct concentrations were noted, the heavily fragmented nature of the tiles suggests that these deposits do not represent the collapsed roofs (*pace* Musil 1998 p.47) of timber structures. It is more likely that in this

trench at least there is some kind of secondary use, possibly make-up for truncated floor levels.

4.2 Fired Clay Objects

A total of **kg fired clay was recovered from all contexts. Most of this (**% by weight) was in the form of irregularly shaped amorphous lumps.

4.2.1 Hearths, Ovens etc.

Numerous fragments of hearths and associated items were excavated and were present in most contexts. All were re-deposited fragments, no *in situ* hearths were excavated.

Context [25] contained 24 pieces which were probably from the same hearth, all of the pieces were of the same thickness and were in the same fabric. The total weight was 0.86 kg, the largest measured 140x110x15 mm. The smallest fragment was c. 20mm across. All of the fragments were in a coarse, medium red, well fired clay with c. 2.5% angular inclusions of a hard, white mineral, probably quartz. Occasional (c.10) larger inclusions of the same material up to 10 mm across were present. The fabric retained very frequent impressions from a coarse grass or straw temper. One surface, was slightly grayer and more worn. This was probably the upper surface as it was slightly smoother than the other, and occasional pieces retained traces of decoration in the form of a single, straight incised line c. 1-2mm across.

In addition to the hearth fragments context [25] contained two monolithic blocks of fired clay which join to form a single object 367 mm long, c. 105 mm at its widest and weighing 1.94 kg. The fabric was very similar to the hearths. The object had a roughly triangular profile, though one face was deeply concave on a radius of c. 60-80 mm. This face was rough and unfinished, retaining traces of straw or grass temper. It appears to have been formed by pressing the wet clay against a rounded timber. The other two faces are flat and lie at an angle of c. 80 degrees to each other. Where the join between them survives it is crisp and neatly finished. One surface is slightly grayer and more worn looking than the other, which suggests that this may have been more exposed during the objects use. The gray dis-colouration is similar to that seen on the upper surface of the hearth. The redder face retains a 65 mm length of its junction with the rear, concave face. The junction has been neatly finished by rounding it off on a radius of c. 5 mm. Although both faces have been finished by smoothing, they retain frequent traces of the grass/straw temper. The exact function of this object is not clear. It may have been part of the hearth excavated, possibly even forming part of a deeper rim around its edge (**c.f. site note book 2/8/99 for a sketch of this*).

Context [22] was very similar to [25] and was probably part of the same feature, a late pit had caused them to be separated in antiquity. Context [22] contained a total of 27 fragments of fired clay (4.02kg) in an almost identical fabric to the hearth fragments described above. However, these fragments were clearly from a much more substantial structure, the thickest pieces being up to 60mm deep. The largest pieces measured c.

120x120mm, the smallest 25x25x20mm. All of them had a fresh, un-abraded appearance and appear to have been deposited shortly after demolition of the structure. Nine of the fragments retained no traces of their original surface, these were generally all of the smaller fragments (i.e. less than 50mm) though the largest measured 65x50x45mm. Only one of these smaller fragments retained any traces of the wattling seen in the larger fragments.

The other fragments retained traces of the original exterior surface and can be divided into two main groups. The first consisted of 14 fragments up to 120x115x45 mm, down to 47x33x25mm. All of the larger fragments retained traces of wattle laths on their rear surfaces. These were up to 15mm in diameter and in all cases were parallel to each other and most were parallel to the flattened exterior surface. A few (c. 10%) were at an angle of c. 20 degrees to the exterior surface. Traces of straw or grass temper were present throughout the fabric, including the exterior surfaces. These were all flattened, some appeared to retain traces of smearing from the original finishing.

The second consists of five fragments up to 100x110x55mm, the smallest 55x55x75mm. They were distinguished from the first group by the presence of a dark greyish brown to black reduced core. One of the fragments seemed to have two, smoothed “exterior” faces at an angle of c. 60 degrees to each other, though one of these was not very well preserved and could be the result of post-depositional damage. The largest fragment in this group was unusual in that its outer surface was very slightly convex. Three of the larger pieces retained traces of wattling up to 11 mm in diameter. One had a slightly concave surface.

The fired clay from context [22] appears to represent material from a single structure, though it appears to be much more substantial than the hearths recorded in context [25]. Unfortunately, none of the fragments is large enough to permit a reconstruction of the structure though it clearly had walls of sufficient height and thickness to require the support of wattle canes. The lack of evidence for weaving suggests that these were not used as panels or woven into a “basket” but were instead either pushed into the ground vertically or laid flat. One possible interpretation is that these formed part of a domestic oven or similar structure. Alternatively it may be the remains of a wall to the hearth in [25].

Context [48] contained several fragments of fired clay most of these were small, non-diagnostic abraded sections in a fabric similar to the hearth. The largest fragment was the terminal section of a hearth kerb excavated immediately to the east (within 0.25m) of context [2] and may have been displaced from the pithos fill by ploughing. It is in four joining pieces, the breaks are fresh and consistent with excavation damage. The overall shape is sub-rectangular, the joined pieces measure 210x160x72 mm and it is clear that these represent a fragment of a larger object, broken off along one of the longer narrow faces. The vertical sides are all slightly concave to a depth of c.10 mm and the terminal has is rounded. The join with the hearth is represented by a rough, broken area c. 30 mm wide which extends around the base of the object. The sides are roughly smoothed, faint traces of finger impressions are visible and impressions of the organic temper are also

present. The upper surface has been similarly finished. The internal fabric is very similar to the hearth fragments described above, though no trace of the grey reduced fabric was present. Context [48] also contained a fragment from a monolithic block and other fragments which may be from the same kerb as the terminal section, they were in a similar fabric and of a similar thickness. Numerous other small fragments were present, many with wattle impressions similar to those discussed above.

4.2.2 The Clay "Fire-Dog"

This object was found deposited with the hearth material in context [25].

It is 198mm long and a maximum of 86mm wide, narrowing to 27mm at the front of the upper end. It is 160mm in height and its longitudinal profile is raised and prow like with a c. 90mm long 'tail' at the rear. The rear end was broken prior to burial, though otherwise it has a remarkably fresh, unworn appearance. The break also has a fresh appearance suggesting that the object was broken shortly before deposition. It appears to have been carefully smoothed by wiping with a cloth or fine brush prior to firing. Traces of very fine striations can be seen on limited areas of some surfaces.

The base is generally flat but has been hollowed out prior to firing. The hollow starts c.28mm from the front and is 40-45mm wide, increasing in width towards the broken end. It is c.8-10mm deep and is rounded in plan at the front end. The sides of the depression are gently concave and slope at c. 45 degrees to give a gentle, dish-shaped profile. This surface has several deep irregular cracks, which are probably the result of drying prior to firing.

The sides are parallel at the broken, rear end, the profile in plan narrows gradually towards the front of the object where it is 76mm wide. The vertical profiles of the sides are slightly convex. The front has a similar profile in both planes.

The upper surface is decorated with two deeply incised lines with 4-2mm deep, semi-circular profiles, which become shallower towards the front and top of the object. On the objects front they have a slightly steeper profile. Although generally parallel, one of the grooves exhibits a slight wiggle. It is possible that both were incised using a finger whilst the clay was still moist.

The head is pierced by a hole with a minimum diameter of 26mm, flaring out on both sides to c. 40mm.

The fabric is very similar to that seen in the hearth fragments from this context though it appears to be slightly better fired and lacking in the organic temper seen in the hearth. It is mid-reddish brown in colour though small patches on all surfaces are slightly blackened. It is not clear if this was caused during firing, use or as a result of post-depositional alteration. The clay contains numerous (5-10%) small, white inclusions 1-2mm across. It is likely that these are of quartz. A single larger (5mm) inclusion seen on

the upper surface appears to be burnt quartz. Very occasional (<1%) inclusions of a cherry red mineral, possibly haematite can also be seen.

4.2.3 Loom Weights

AMS172 was excavated from context 25 and is in a similar fabric to the firedog though the core is gray and reduced. Although broken can be readily identified as a Type IV (either 1.6 or 3.A) (*****Grozdalina's thesis) or as Bouzek's Type C, possibly C4 (Bouzek, 1996, 150) Bouzek identifies these as being part of a Bronze Age, Aegean tradition. It measures 50x40x30mm, its original dimensions were probably c.50x50x40mm. It was probably originally a loosely tetrahedral shape. One piercing survives completely and traces of another can be seen on one of the broken surfaces. Both are c. 3mm in diameter and located c. 10mm from the top of the object. The broken edges are slightly worn and abraded in appearance. The surviving surfaces have been carefully finished.

A purse shaped example was excavated from [27] . It had been manufactured in a hard, dark stone and carefully inscribed with a letter "M". It had two piercings at the narrow end.

A total of pyramidal loom weights were found, including * complete or near complete examples. They were found in a range of contexts, mainly in association with the pottery dumps. These finds are not discussed in detail here.

4.3 Metal Finds (Excluding Coins)

4.3.1 Iron objects.

(Update from finds DB)

None of the iron objects described below have been X-rayed or conserved. The descriptions given below are based purely on a surface examination. Generally speaking the state of preservation is fair.

AMS162. Possible nail, 46x10x5 mm, one end blunt, other broken.

AMS163. Nail. 53mm long, head square, 17x19mm tapering gradually to a point.

AMS164. Knife blade. 81x18x2 mm, tang 11x11mm (surviving).

AMS165. Possible nail 28x5x5mm, could be fragment of iron corrosion.

AMS166. Possible nail, 38x20x8mm, narrows to 8x8mm at one end.

4.4 Coins

Preparation of the coin report awaits specialist analysis.

4.5 Pottery

Special find AMS171 was a body fragment from a wheel-made vessel in a fine, locally produced oxidised fabric. It appears to have been worked into a 29x25mm oval. Bouzek (1996, 163) identifies these as unfinished spindle whorls, though this example would appear to be too small and may be a gaming counter or similar object.

4.5.1 Coarse wares

A catalogue of the distribution of coarse wares by context is given in Table* , detailed interpretation awaits specialist analysis.

4.5.2 Fine Wares

4.6 Stone Objects

AMS170. This saddle quern was excavated from context 25 and was found close to the firedog discussed in section 4.2.2. It is 320mm long, 205mm wide at its widest and c.50mm thick at its centre. It is plano-convex in section and three of the edges are roughly finished. The third, long edge is even less carefully finished and may even represent a break. The upper surface is sub-rectangular in plan and two of the corners are rounded. The two angular corners coincide with the slightly rougher edge, supporting the suggestion that this is a broken object. The working surface has been worn smooth but is not polished.

The stone is a white, coarse-grained igneous rock with frequent inclusions of a black mineral which is probably biotite. Most of the white colouration appears to be caused by the presence of significant quantities of quartz though other minerals may be present.

Other stone objects were recorded by context only.

Context [30] (Bach K1163) contained another fragment of a saddle quern in the same material as AMS170. It measured 270x200x68 mm and was roughly semi-circular in plan, the long, straight edge probably represents a break. One of the edges retained traces of what appear to be the original finish which was smooth but not polished. The working surface was flat and smooth and only very slightly dished, the object does not appear to have been very heavily worn before it was broken.

The same batch contained what was probably a fragment of stone work in a hard, gray, medium grained igneous(?) rock. Its overall dimensions are 180x165x88 mm. Two of the faces are obvious breaks. These are opposite each other and perpendicular to a large planar surface which is assumed to be the base. One of the sides is vertical with a steeply concave break of slope onto a short section of a planar surface inclined at c 30 degrees. This side is neatly finished and there is a small area of polish parallel to the inclined plane. The other edge is vertical, slightly convex and roughly finished. The upper surface has a 20 mm step 25 mm from the broken end. Behind this is a roughly worked area which may be preserving traces of carving or ornamentation though this so heavily worn that it is impossible to be certain even if this is carving or random damage. This object is so badly damaged that it is difficult to be certain of its identification though it bears some similarity to (STONE OBJECTS IN 1ST FLOOR DISPLAY, C. 500X500X250 MM, WITH LETTER BOX SLIT. EMILLIA THINKS ASSOCIATED WITH FOOD PREPERATION, MAYBE OLIVE PRESS).

A stone slab 340x320x55mm was excavated from context [30], dumped with tile at the western end of the cut. (TOO HEAVY FOR MUSEUM SCALES ESTIMATED AT 15-25kg.). The stone is a gray, medium grained, micaceous metamorphic rock, probably schist. The broad faces were sub-rectangular in plan, one was rough and un-worked, the other appeared to have been worn or finished smooth. One of the corners had been broken off prior to deposition. One of the edges on this side appeared to have been deliberately rounded off on a radius of c. 20mm. All of the short faces were worn or finished to a slight polish. The exact function of this object is not clear, it is most likely to be an architectural fragment.

The few stone objects excavated represent a mix of domestic utensils and small architectural fragments of indeterminate form. All of this material was in secondary contexts, probably as a result of dumping.

4.7 Industrial Waste

By comparison with other areas of the site (Katincarova-Bogdanova 1996) very little industrial waste was recovered. The only potentially significant association was in context 25 where fragments of industrial waste occurred in with fragments of ritual hearth, apparently a common occurrence at Pistiros. However, it would appear that the slag was re-deposited from elsewhere, though the frequency of this association suggests that it was intentional.

Small fragments of tap slag were recovered from context [14].

The presence of tap slag suggests that metallurgy at Pistiros was taking place on a significant scale and may even suggest that smelting of iron was taking place. It is puzzling that despite the large quantities of industrial waste recovered from other parts of the site, no traces of *in situ* hearths or furnaces have been found, even in the buildings identified as being associated with metallurgical activity (Katincarova-Bogdanova 1996).

The small quantities of industrial waste and lack of any evidence for hearths suggest that metalworking was not taking place in this part of Pistiros.

5. Conclusions

Although no major stone architecture was excavated in Trench B21, the deposits excavated to date conform to what was expected, i.e. a sequence of dumps of occupation debris succeeded by a evidence of a final phase of insubstantial timber buildings, though the latter proved very hard to identify and interpret.

Although several intrusive features were identified the dry conditions at the time of excavation made them very difficult to distinguish from the adjacent deposits. It is very likely that other more subtle features were not detected, therefore the dates obtained for layers should be treated with a considerable degree of caution.

In general the wall alignments for these buildings were aligned north-west to south-east, this is a different alignment to the walls of the buildings excavated to the north. The only exception to this is the possible structure represented by the accumulations of hearth material. The accumulation of roof tile in the north-west corner of the trench may represent the collapsed roof to one of these structures, though the highly fragmentary state of this material may suggest that this is actually material reused as make-up to a floor.

The substantial accumulations of debris represented by contexts [27], [48], [58] etc may have been deposited relatively quickly. Much of the pottery consists of large unabraded fragments and joining sherds were frequently found very close together, occasionally as small 'stacks' of 2-3 sherds. This suggests that the deposits were not subject to trampling by animals or exposed to weathering for prolonged periods. However there appears to have been a substantial degree of post-depositional mixing caused by animal burrows and plant roots, several large voids (some up to 0.20m across) were noted and several areas of mottling present are likely to have resulted from the silting up of similar features. This mixing has severe implications for the use of small finds such as coins for dating purposes. Although a detailed analysis has yet to be made of the quantities present, the assemblage seems to be dominated by domestic coarse wares, amphorae and orange wares. Therefore these deposits seem to have originated from the disposal of domestic debris, a conclusion supported by the presence of domestic artefacts such as loom weights, spindle whorls, knife blades and needles. Very little industrial waste was present in comparison to other areas of the site which suggests that these deposits had different sources. Very little of the pottery retains traces of burning or sooting so domestic refuse does not seem to have been burnt prior to disposal.

The wattle impressions on the fired clay objects provide little information with regard to the nature of the structure or structures but do suggest management, perhaps even copicing of local woodland to provide a suitable supply of timber.

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Items for illustration

Clay Firedog

Stone Architectural Fragment [30] K1163