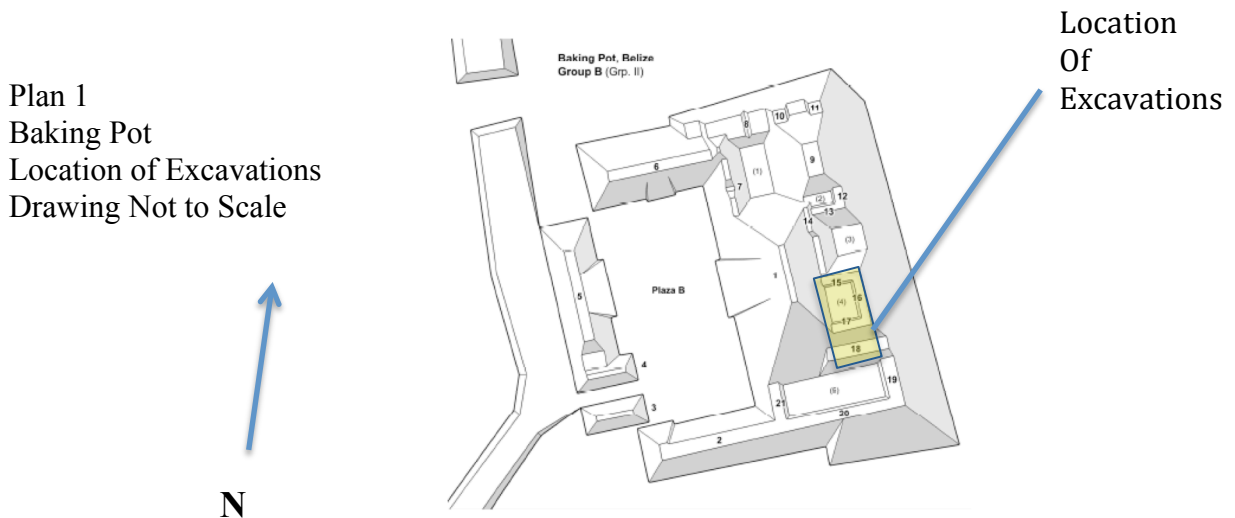


Sample Notebook Entry Excavation

Roberto Campbell
6 June 2014
Baking Pot
Str. B1, E.U. B1-101
Lvl. 1, Lot B1-101-1
Supervisor: J. Hoggarth
Personnel: L. Smith, A. Itza, R. Weiss

Excavations today are focused in the Palace complex of Group B of the site core of Baking Pot, along Structure B1 and Courtyard 4. The palace complex is located on the eastern side of Group B, with Courtyard 4 located on the east of Structure B1 (Plan 1).



One unit, E.U. B1-101, was established in alignment with Structure B1 measuring 5m (N-S) by 4m (E-W) (Plan 2). As our research questions are focused on dating the final occupation in the Courtyard, and finding out the temporal association of the abandonment of the palace with the political collapse of rulership and demographic abandonment of the site, E.U. B1-101 was placed in order to uncover the terminal wall of B1 and the terminal floor of Courtyard 4, with hopes to identify terminal deposits on the terminal floor that may contain dateable materials that may include charcoal or faunal remains.

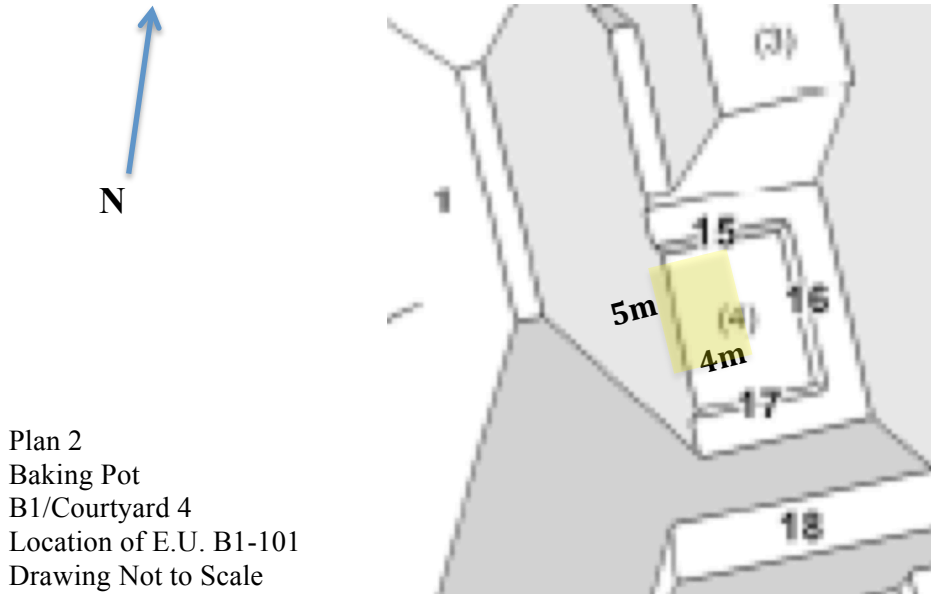
The purpose of today's excavations is to continue to expose the terminal architecture, which was identified in excavations last week. Those excavations found an outset section of Str. B1, which features two terraces. We aim to completely expose the terminal architecture to understand the orientation and form of the structure and search for on-floor deposits.

Excavations in E.U. B1-101 were using cultural stratigraphy, so since we were continuing in level 1, we continued to excavate downward through the collapse until we hit the terminal architecture or other cultural deposit. Thus, level 1 can be characterized as collapse.

Excavations today uncovered the second terrace of the outset structure, as well as digging down to the plaster floor in Courtyard 4 in front of Str. B1. Matrix (soil) was characterized primarily by

Sample Notebook Entry Excavation

Pg. 7



Plan 2
Baking Pot
B1/Courtyard 4
Location of E.U. B1-101
Drawing Not to Scale

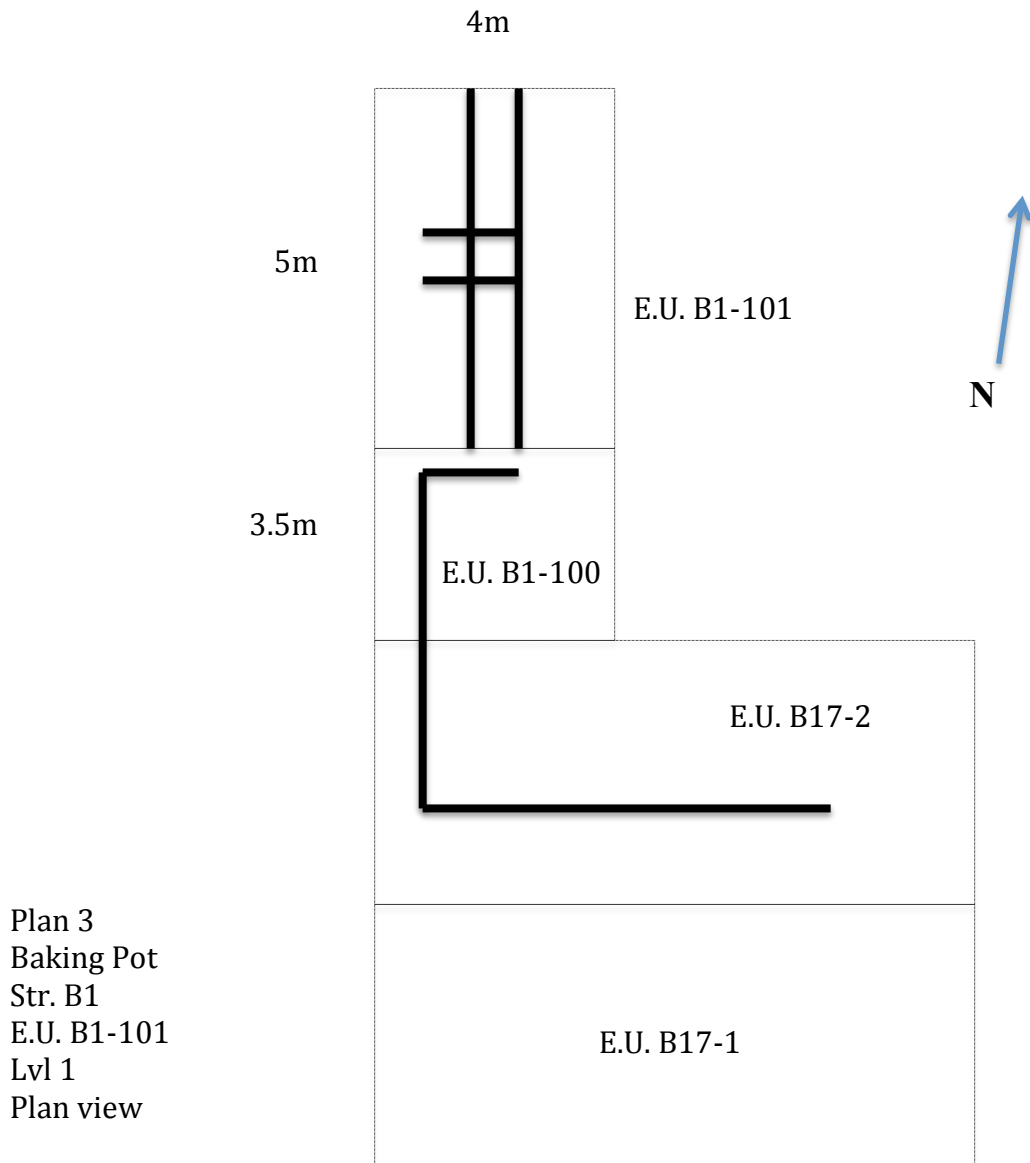
loose brown organic soil mixed with roots, small limestone pieces, and cut limestone blocks. The outset part of Str. B1 measures outward (E-W) approximately 2 meters, running 5.35 meters (N-S) and continuing into the northern baulk of E.U. B1-101. The platform has two terraces, with the first (lower) terrace measuring approximately 47 cm in height and the second (upper) terrace at 72 cm in height. At approximately 297 cm from the southern outset corner, it appears that there is a break in the lower and upper terrace. This may represent an area that was removed from the structure, or else may be a narrow doorway that measures 31 cm in width. (Figure 3).

I was excavating in the northeastern corner of E.U. B1-101, in the area between the eastern baulk and the lower terrace of Str. B1. Roots continued throughout this area and in excavation we found several ceramic sherds. Julie told us that several of the sherds, which were ash-tempered, were of the Belize Red type, which relatively dates between AD 700-900, the later part of the Late Classic period. As these sherds are mixed in with the collapse, this may give us this time range for the final use of the area. Also, excavations found a jar sherd with a pie-crust rim, which Julie said is a diagnostic of the Terminal Classic period, between AD 800-900, so this relative span helps us further refine the timing of the final use of the courtyard.

We recovered 15 bags of artifacts, which includes 8 bags of ceramics, 2 bags of chert, 1 bag of daub, 1 bag of freshwater shell, 1 bag of obsidian, and two special finds, one ceramic dog figurine (S.F. # B1-101-4), and one chert point (S.F. #B1-101-5).

Summary and Interpretation:

Overall, excavations today exposed the entirety of the first terrace of Str. B1. In addition, we are nearly to the level of the terminal floor in Courtyard 4 in front of Str. B1. A cluster of ceramics was identified in the northeast corner of the unit, with ceramics dating between AD 700-900, indicating that this time frame is associated with the abandonment of the palace. The ceramics



Were primarily dish and bowl fragments, which suggest activities associated with serving and eating food rather than preparing or storage of food. However, two granite manos were recovered from excavations, which does point to food preparation, in the form of the grinding of maize or other food. Small amounts of chert also suggest a low level of stone tool production. The elaborate ceramics with hieroglyphs suggests a high status of the people who once lived here, which helps to verify this area as the residential space for a high status household such as the royal court.

Sample Notebook Entry Lab

Labwork today focused on washing and processing the artifacts from yesterdays (5 June 2014) excavations in E.U. B1-101 and E.U. B17-3. I washed two bags of ceramics, all from E.U. B1-101, and a bag of faunal remains from E.U. B1-101. Bag 1/6 was a ceramics bag that contained 73 total ceramics, of which 13 were diagnostic. Julie mentioned that several of the diagnostic ceramics were the ash-tempered Belize Red type. I was able to assess the form of a few of the ceramic sherds, identifying several dishes, a bowl, and a jar fragment. One piece was painted, with a red line at the top of an ash temper dish vessel.

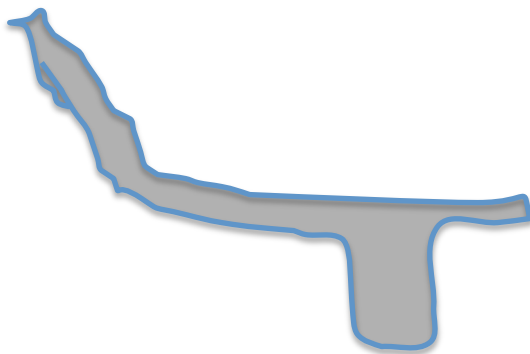


Figure 1
Profile of Ce dish with foot
Baking Pot
Str. B1
E.U. B1-101
Lvl 1
Lot B1-101-1
Illustrator: R. Campbell
Drawing not to scale

In bag 2/6 from EU B1-101, there were 92 total ceramics, of which 21 were diagnostic. Most of these sherds were unslipped jar fragments. However, there were also some bowls and vases. A few of the sherds had a red slip.

In bag 3/6, I washed and counted 21 pieces of chert. Many of the pieces of chert ranged in color from red to brown to white.

Interpretation:

The majority of the ceramics that I washed today were plain (unslipped) vessels, with a few red-slipped ceramics. This suggests that these vessels may have been used for normal everyday activities such as cooking or storage. However, the more elaborate red-slipped vessels were typically dishes, which may suggest some activities that are associated with bringing out 'the china', such as an important meal or event such as a feast. Overall, there was little variation in the ceramics, which suggests that the people who made them might have had a standard idea or tradition of how they should be made.