

1995 reports DG

Report on Trench 56/1

^{5m} Trench was opened 3/10/95, one of several located along the expected extension of the west perimeter wall of the insula. It is situated higher (approx. 90 m from the S.W. corner) than the other trenches and is also higher than the level of the current "road" running N/S along the west wall.

Excavation quickly revealed Wall A running at a slight diagonal to the grid (approx S.W. - N.E.) across the trench. Later it was found that this adjoined, but was not bonded to Wall B (E/W along the southern grid-line and Wall C (E/W along the northern gridline). It was concluded that Wall A was a later structure than B or C.

Excavation quickly reached bedrock in the north of the trench (at an approx depth of 30 cm from surface). Wall C was found to fail at this point. In the south of the trench a floor was found either side of Wall A, with ~~two~~ boards of small river pebbles resting on the floor to the east.

It was not until the trench was extended 1.5 m to the west that it was found that Wall B has a corner, in all probability the N.W. corner of the insula. Two very large corner stones are all that remain and while the NW exterior of the corner is fine and very well defined, the interior and south face of Wall B (now realised to be the northern perimeter wall) is much damaged. An extension of .5 m south ^{into} of the southern bank was necessary to establish this. In hindsight, the extension should have been larger, as it was difficult to excavate cleanly in a small space full of large tumble from the wall

However, excavation here also reached bedrock (at an approx. depth of 160 cm from surface at S.W. corner of trench) showing that the western perimeter wall (called Wall D in this trench) was on bedrock. The bedrock was in fact cut to the face of the wall and between it and the first course ~~was~~ are cut layers of shaly rock.

Comment

If this is the N.W. corner of the insula, then we have lost the corresponding S.W. corner of the insula to the north, as Wall C fails before reaching a corner, and here there is only bedrock, very near the surface.

The assumption of a street E/W between the two walls is supported by measurement: approx 3.5 m, which is also the measurement between the corners excavated at the S.W. of the insula. However, if the original street was level, it would have had to be built up on its southern side (against the northern perimeter wall).

Wall A reflects at least secondary (perhaps an even later) habitation as it is built across what may be the ^{original} street, is not bonded to either of the walls it meets, and does not conform to the grid.

Very little pottery was found ^{in the eastern section}, perhaps supporting the assumption that most of the area excavated was road and not domestic interior. Much pottery at ② West was up against the secondary Wall A.

56/1 continued p. 2

However, excavations here also reached bedrock (at an upper depth of 160 cm from surface at 2 W corner of trench) showing that the western perimeter wall (called Wall D in this trench) was on bedrock. The trench was in fact cut to the face of the wall and between it and the first corner was one cut (open) of study took.

Comment

If this is the N.W. corner of the wall, then we have lost the corner pointing SW corner of the wall to the north, as Wall C falls before reaching a corner, and there is only bedrock, very near the surface.

The assumption of a street E/W between the two walls is supported by measurement of approx 3.5 m, which is also the measurement between the corners excavated at the 2 W of the wall. However, if the original street was level, it would have had to be built up on to same level (against the northern perimeter wall).

Wall A reflects at least secondary (perhaps an earlier) habitation as it is built across what may be the street, is not bonded to either of the walls of masonry, and does not conform to the grid.

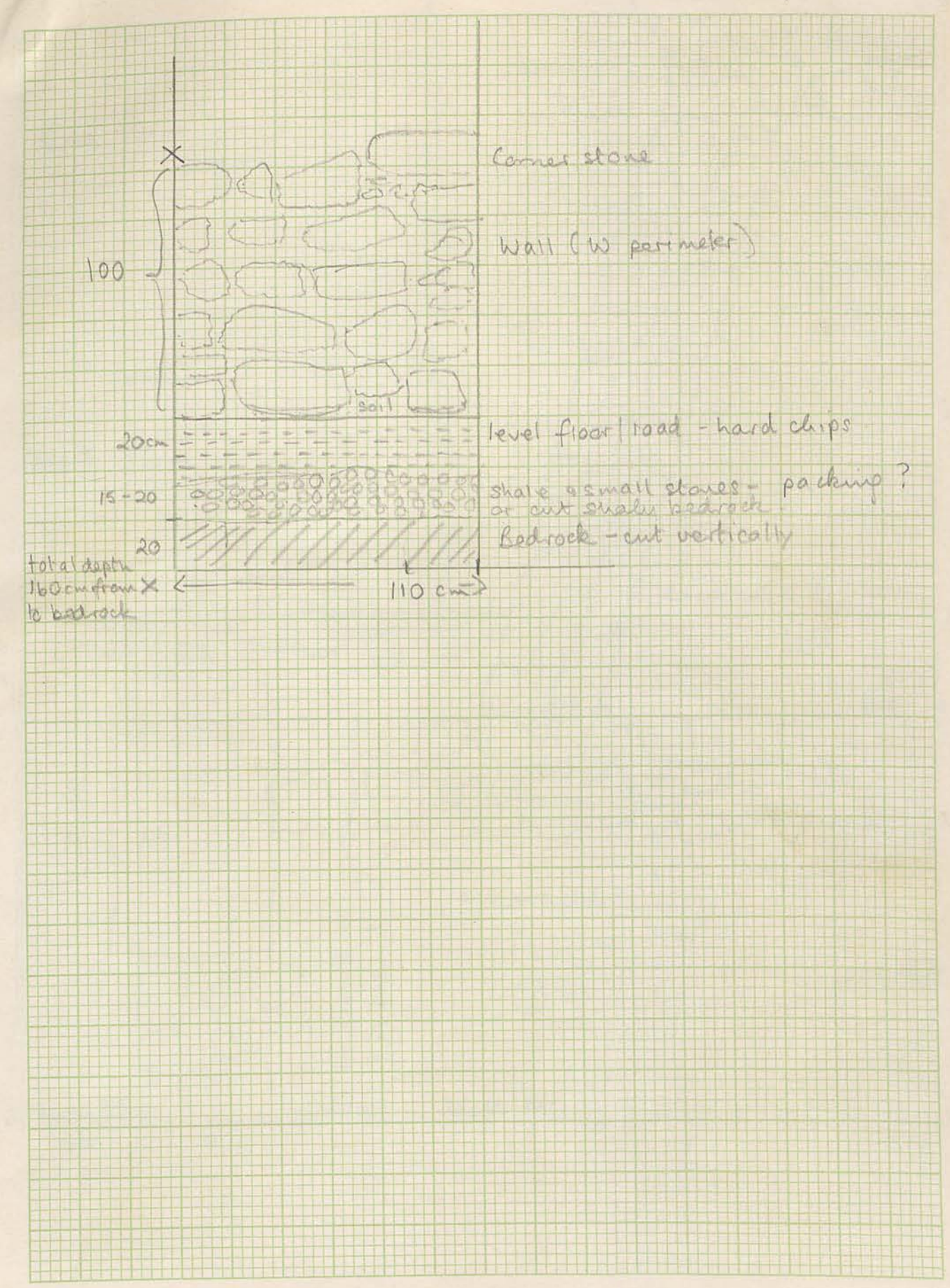
Low wall group was found, perhaps supporting the assumption that most of the wall construction was low and not timbered interior. This group of 3 walls was up against the secondary wall A.

56/1

SECTION OF WESTERN PERIMETER WALL - EAST FACE

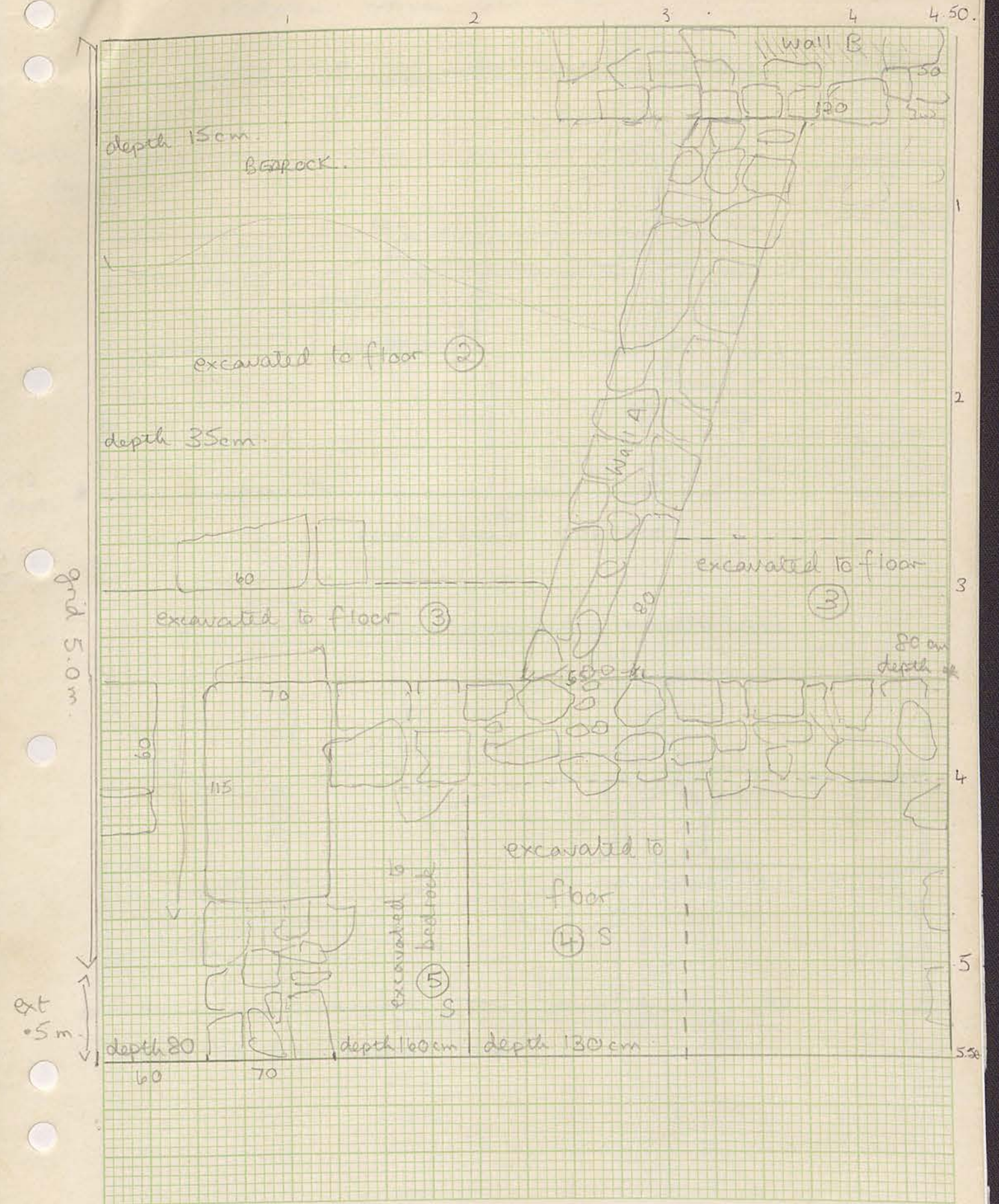
2mm Squares

Scale into 20 cm



56/1 Top plan

2mm Squares



TRENCH 56/1

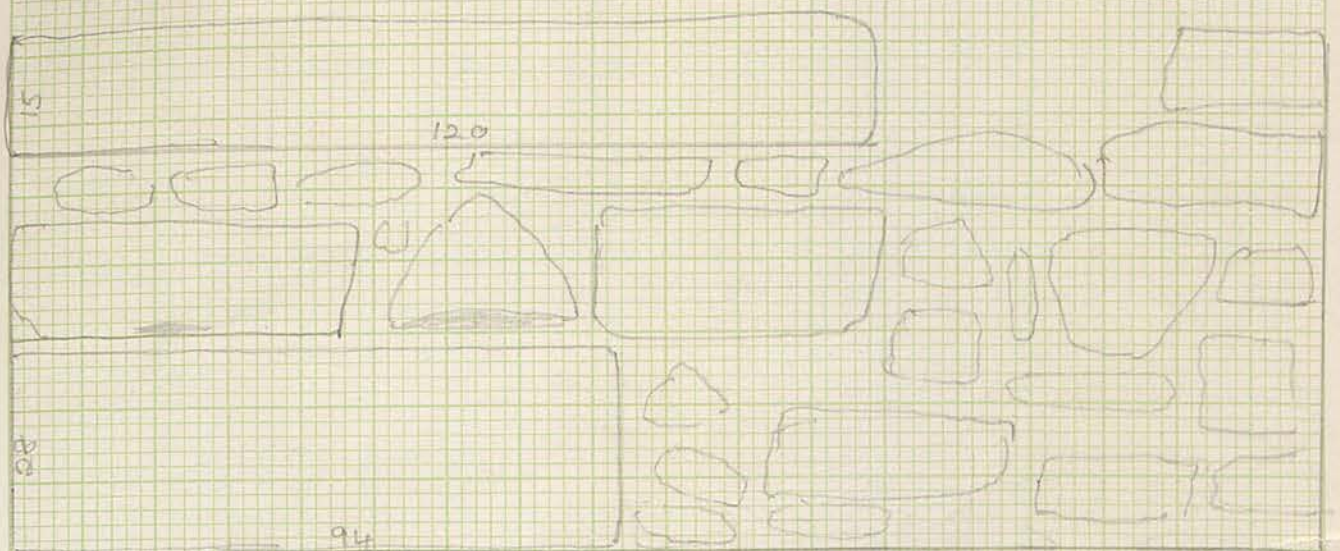
2mm Squares

CORNER WALL SECTIONS.

1. WEST FACE OF CORNER (N.W.), showing corner stones & WEST WALL

depth 72

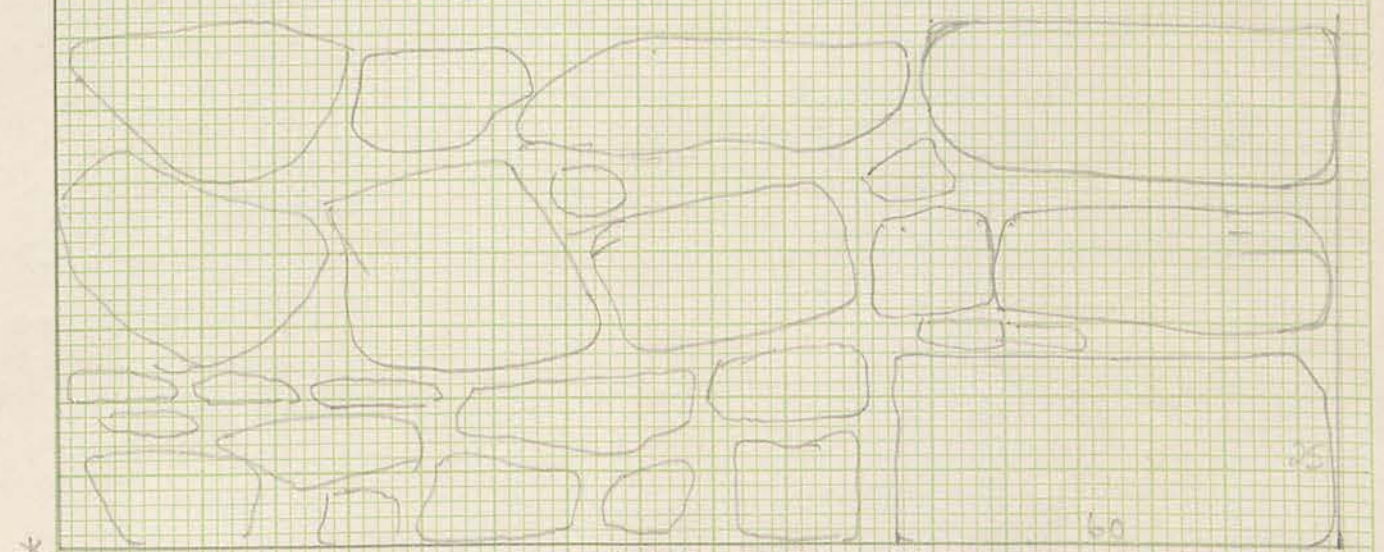
1cm = 10cm



72 depth *

180 cm FLOOR / ROAD SURFACE

2. NORTH FACE OF CORNER & NORTH WALL



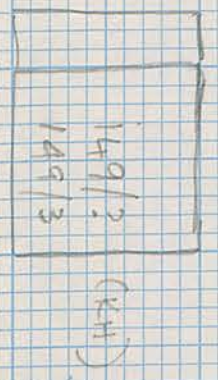
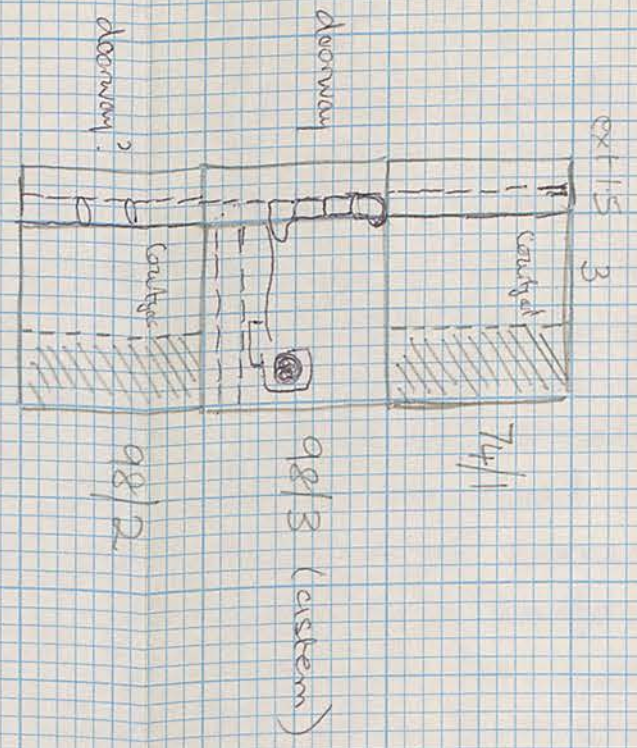
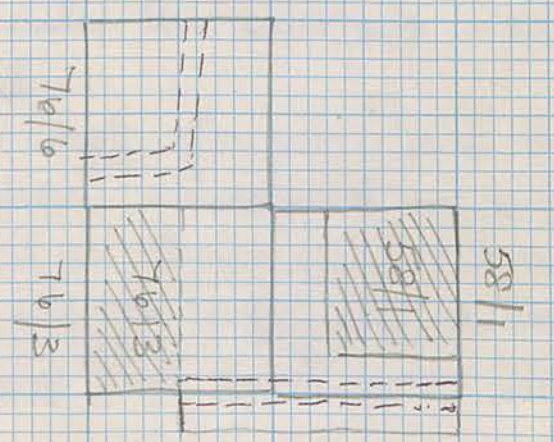
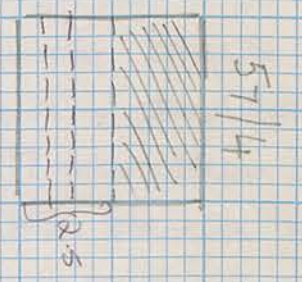
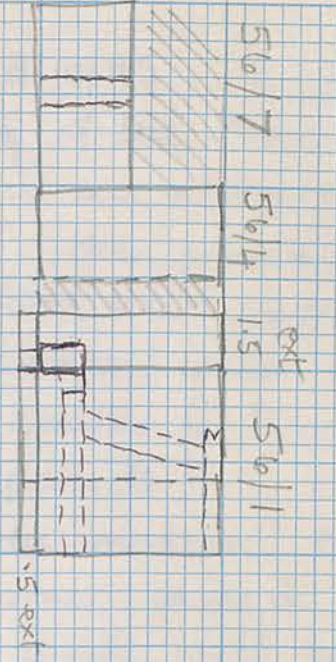
*

depth 75 from surface at *

175 cm FLOOR / ROAD SURFACE

DG new benches

25



Report on 56/4.

This trench was opened on 13/10/95. A 2.5 x 5 m. section (i.e. the western half of the 5 x 5 m. grid) was excavated to level (2), in an attempt to locate the opposite corner of the insula to the west. The width of the road was calculated at approx 3.5 m, commensurate with the width between corners to the south (S.W. corner of D.G. and a large stone opposite).

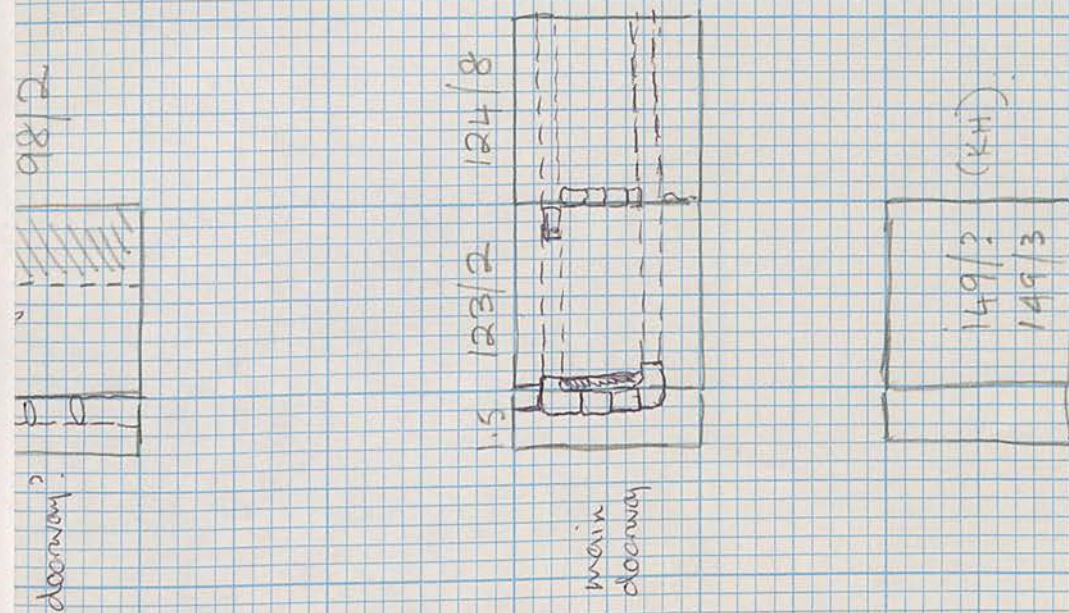
The trench is located in the modern "road" and the measured location of the corner came in the middle of this road, at a level sunk well below the level of the corner in 56/1.

The road surface was extremely tough to excavate. In the north of the trench bedrock was reached in a few centimetres. It was then assumed that the corner was lost and the trench was abandoned.

Report on 56/7.

This trench was opened on 15/10/95 and it was hoped to find the northern perimeter wall of the insula to the west. Only the southern half of the trench was excavated.

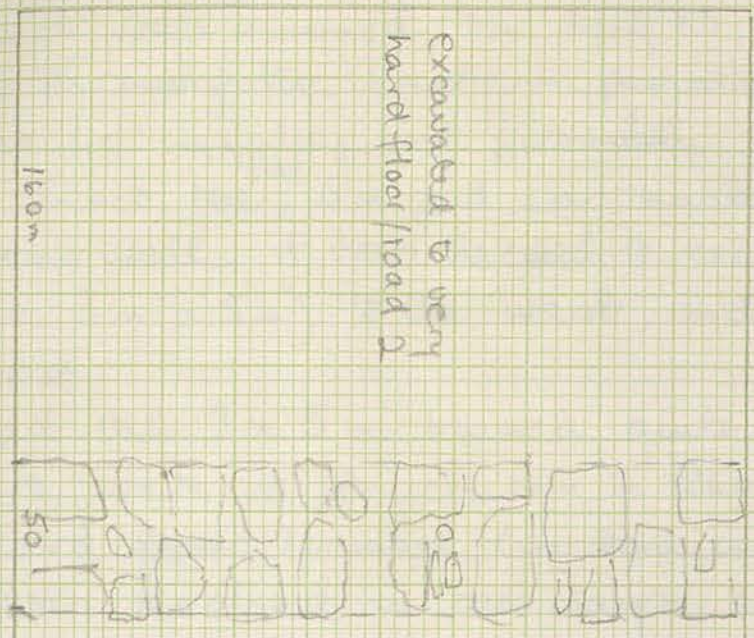
An E/W wall was not found, but a N/S wall was and excavation continued on either side of this wall to a floor at level (2). The wall was a meagre one and appeared to finish at the floor so is perhaps secondary ^(or later) and built across the original road, as was wall A in 56/1. Pottery to the west and none to the east may suggest interior (west) and exterior (east) of secondary habitation.



2

FRENCH 56/7
TOP PLAN OF SOUTHERN WALL
2.5 x 5m.

Wall A - 2/3 common, set on floor, not bedrock.



Excavated to very hard floor / road 2

Excavated to very hard road / floor

Excavated to

(2)

(1)

2.5.

5m

101 Paulsen 18/10/95

Report on Site

The trench was opened in 1911/12 at 25 x 25 m (approx) in the western half of the site (approx). It was intended to level the ground to create the opposite corner of the trench to be at the same level as the rest of the site. The trench was 2.5 m wide and 2.5 m deep. It was found that the trench was not level and the bottom was uneven. The trench was 2.5 m wide and 2.5 m deep. It was found that the trench was not level and the bottom was uneven.

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Report on 74/1

This trench was opened on 2/10/95, with the object of pursuing the western perimeter wall of the domestic insula, and possibly locating a corner. Since the ^{full} 5m grid was unlikely to include the western wall, it was decided to excavate only the 3m (i.e. 3m x 5m) to the west, and then extend to the west.

In fact the 3 x 5m. trench quite soon revealed that there were no structures in this area. ~~In fact~~ A very hard floor (crushed limestone and hard-packed earth) was reached in two days at an approximate depth of 45cm from surface of northern bank. The floor included bedrock, levelled to floor surface. The floor followed the natural gradient i.e. sloping to the south, which suggests an outside floor, probably a courtyard.

The trench was extended 1.5m to the west, where the expected western perimeter wall was found in reasonably good condition on both faces, but only 2-3 courses high. On the western side of the wall, another very tough floor, presumably the road.

Comment - the courtyard probably slopes down to the cistern in the trench to the south (98/3).

An ashly stain on the courtyard floor, against the west wall, suggests use of courtyard for cooking at some stage.

1/11/95

The trench was 1.5m deep and 1.2m wide. The floor was made of stones and was 10cm thick. The walls were made of stones and were 10cm thick. The trench was completed on 11/10/95.

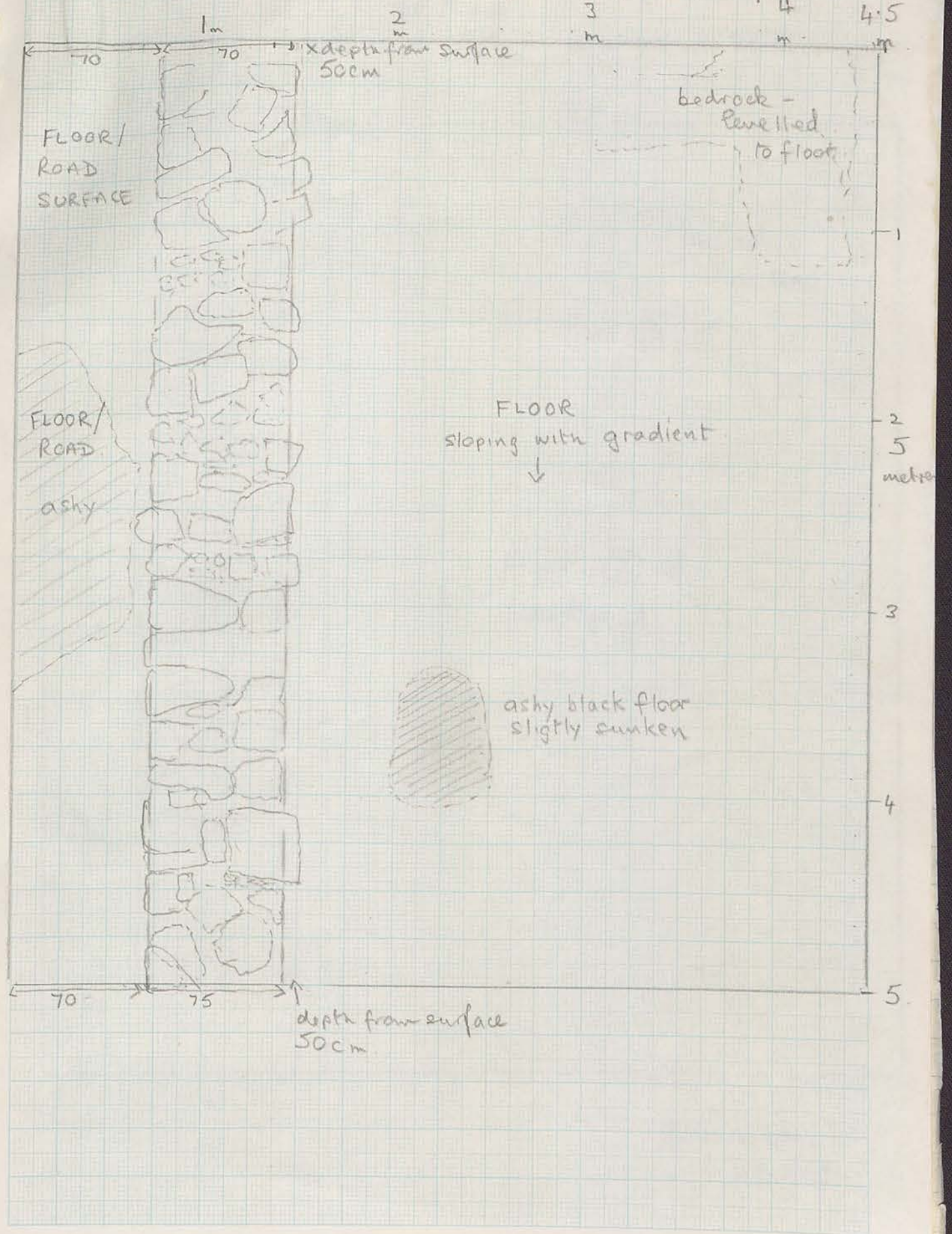
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TRENCH 74/1 completed. 11/10/95.

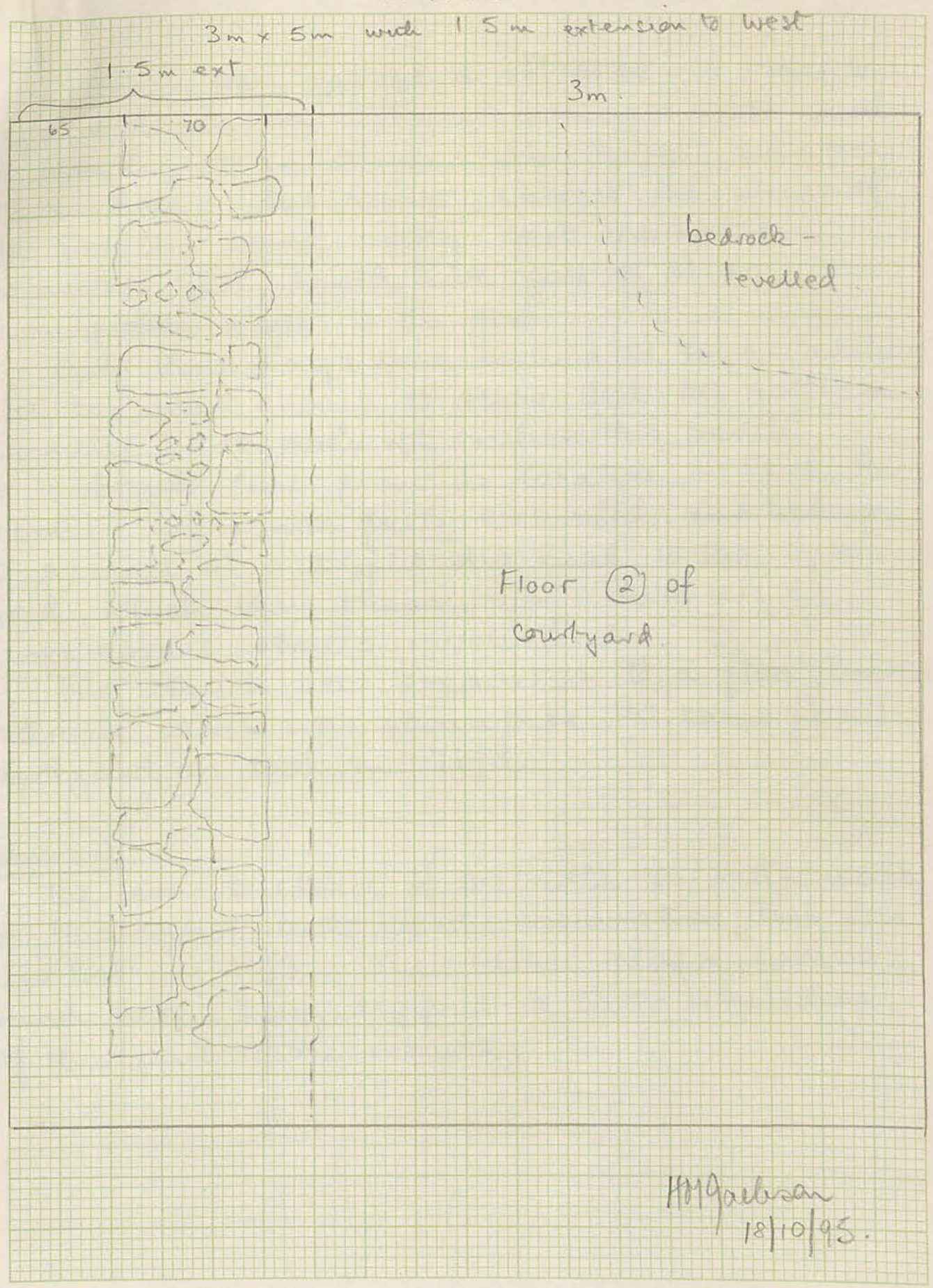


Handwritten notes on the left page, possibly including the name 'Trench 74/1'.

TRENCH 74/1

2mm Squares

TOP PLAN



Report on 7b/6

This trench was opened on 16/10/95, in order to try and locate the northern perimeter wall and to investigate an obvious wall corner seen on the surface. This corner, were it the corner of the insula, would imply that the northern perimeter wall would have gone off at a considerable angle to the grid.

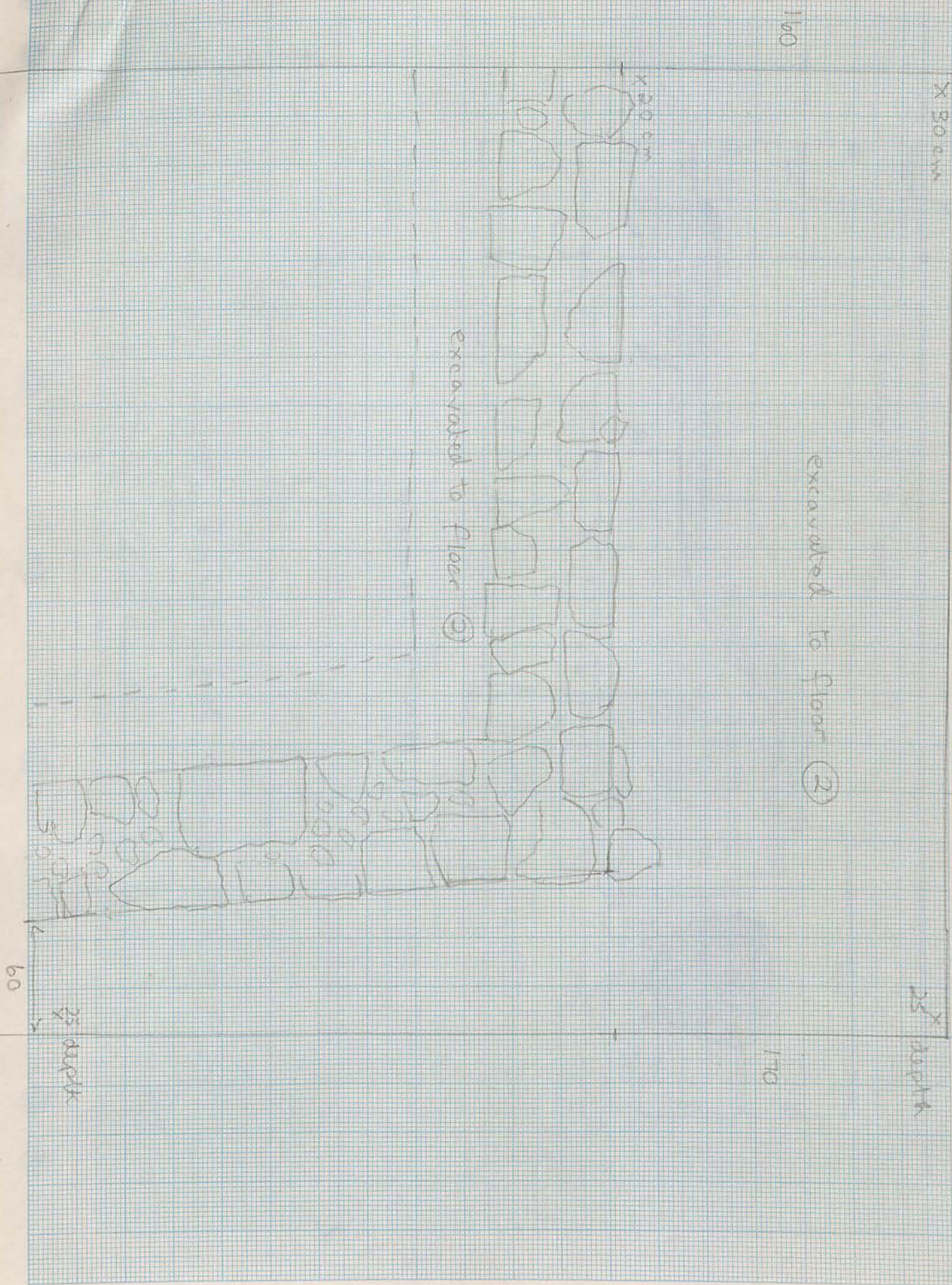
Only three days were available for excavation but this was enough to show that the northern perimeter wall does not exist in this trench in a straight line from its location in 5b/1. The "corner" seen was fully excavated, and belongs to a wall at a slight diagonal to the E/W grid, which then turns N/S. There are no large corner stones involved.

The trench was excavated to a floor/levelled bedrock which was shown to be the same floor/courtyard as that in 7b/3.

Comment

The non-existence of the north perimeter wall in this trench backs up the assumption that it is also lost in 7b/3. The rather meagre corner found here may suggest a later rebuilding of this part of the insula.

TRENCH 7b/6



7b/6

The trench was opened on 10/10/21 in order to
 to find out the position of the wall and
 to see if there was any other wall found on
 the surface. The trench was 1.5m wide and
 the walls were 0.5m high. It was found that the
 wall was built on a concrete base 0.5m off of a
 concrete surface up to the grid.

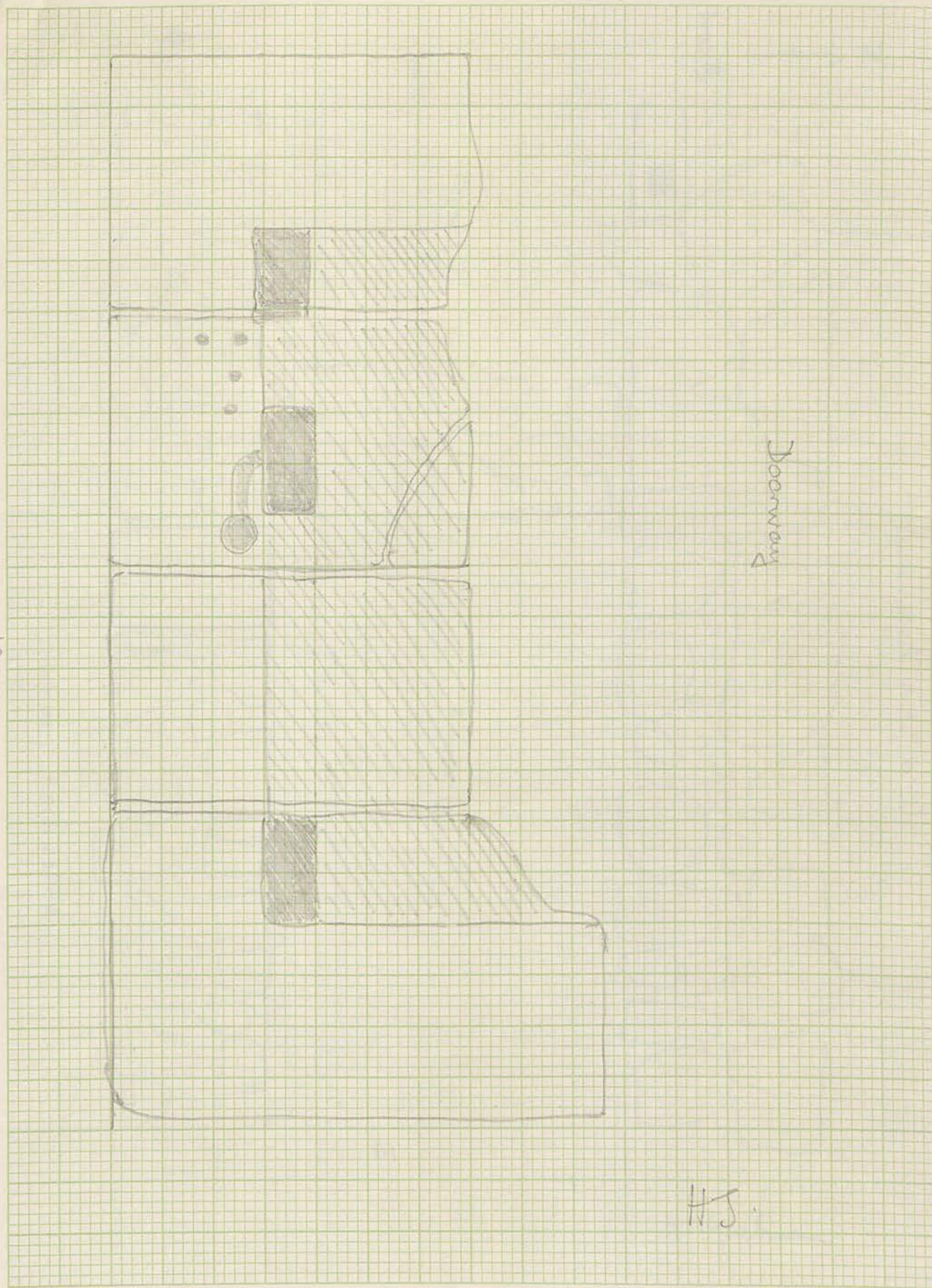
Only three steps were available for excavation
 but this was enough to show that the bottom
 of the trench was not level with the ground.
 In a straight line from the corner in 2/11, the
 "corner" seen was fully excavated, and beyond
 it a wall of a slight diagonal to the left
 was seen, which then turned 1/2. There are no
 large corner stones involved.

The trench was excavated to a floor level
 below which was shown to be the same floor
 level as that in 7b/3.

Comment
 The main structure of the wall is concrete with
 in the trench, built up the concrete. That is
 also not in 7b/3. The wall might have
 found here may suggest a later building
 of the part of the wall.

DOORWAY

2mm Squares

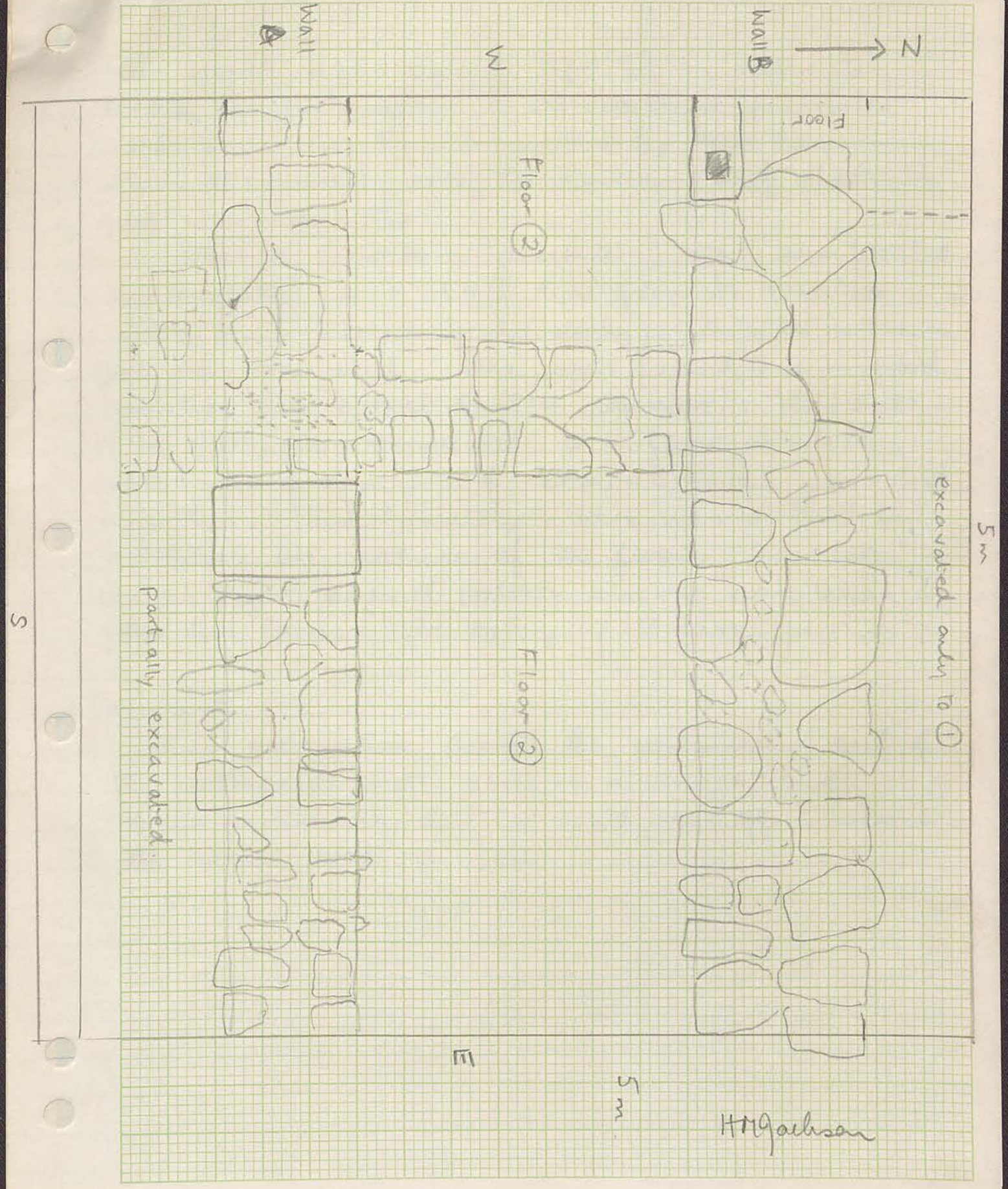


Doorway

1 cm = 10 cm

H.S.

TOP PLAN TRENCH 124/8



H. G. Johnson

excavated only to ①
5m

partially excavated
5m

5

5m

E

Floor ②

Floor ①

Floor

Wall B

Wall A

N

3

Report on 57/4

This trench was opened 16/10/95 in order to locate the continuation of the northern perimeter wall seen in 56/1. With only three days in which to excavate, only the southern half of the 5m grid was excavated.

Wall A (northern perimeter) was soon located successfully in a direct line from its location in 56/1 (2 trench grids away). Only the northern face was excavated; this was found to be in good condition and to exist of $3/4$ courses. This side of the wall was excavated to a floor on which rested the fragments of several large jars and a pithos. Unfortunately, there was no time to establish the nature of the floor. Over two days, eight bags of pottery sherds were taken from this locus - all belonging to large jars.

Comment

This excavation proved the continuation east of the northern perimeter wall in a straight line. It seems unlikely that it could veer off to become the "corner" wall in 76/6.

1/12 in 2/14

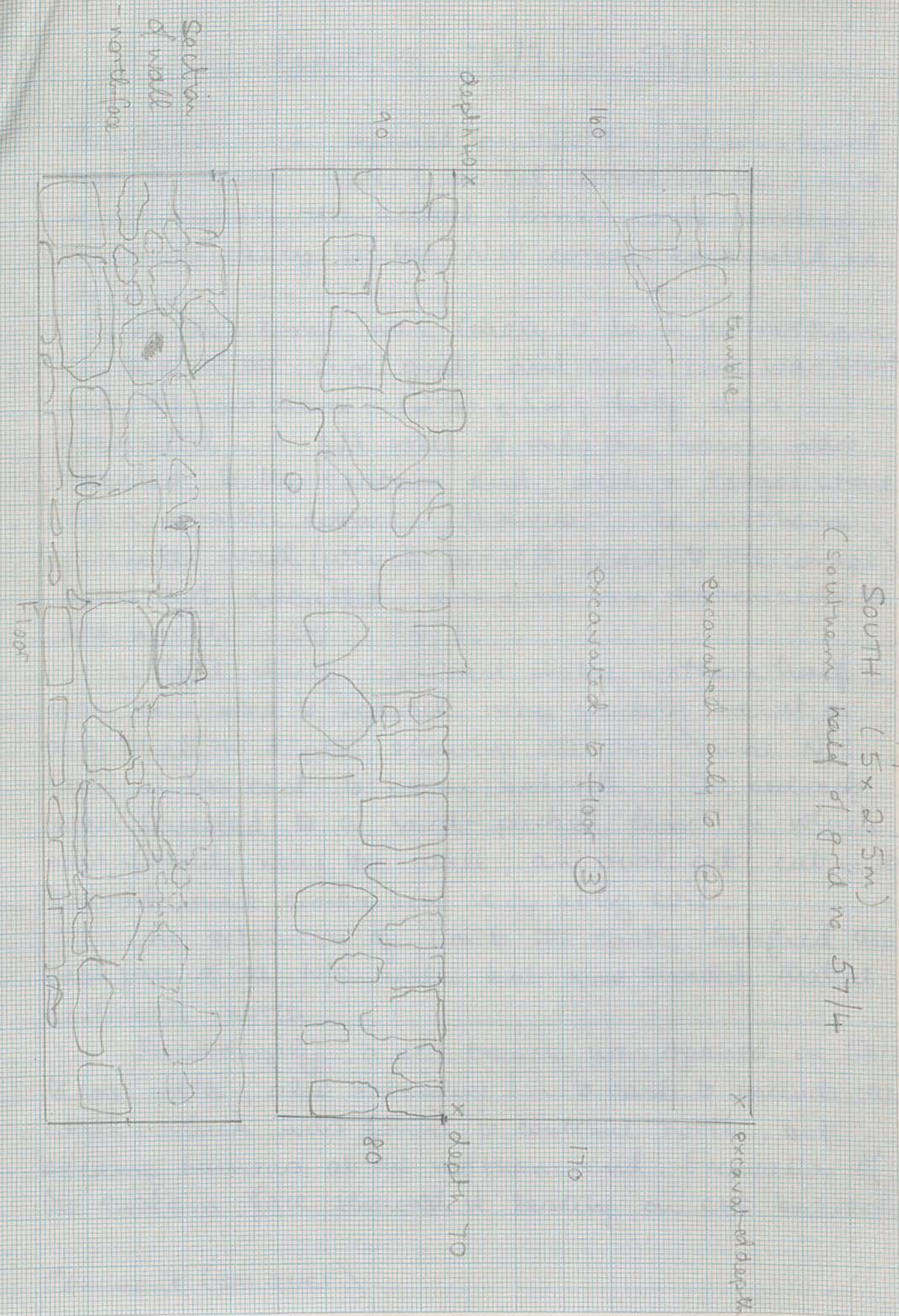
This trench was opened 10/12 in order to
 locate the continuation of the northern perimeter
 wall seen in 2/1. This wall, which appears
 to be concrete, and the southern half of the 2m
 gap was excavated.

Wall A (northern perimeter) was also located
 successfully in a short time from the location
 in 2/1. (2.5m from 2/1). Only the northern
 face was excavated; this was found to be in good
 condition and to rest of 2/1 concrete. This side

of the wall was excavated to a level on which
 rested the fragments of several large pipes and
 a gutter. Unfortunately, there was no time to
 establish the nature of the floor. The two
 large, split logs of rotted timber were also
 from this area - all belonging to large farms.

(continued)

The excavation proved the continuation east of
 the northern perimeter wall in a straight line.
 It was unlikely that it could have been off to become
 the corner wall in 10/1.



TRENCH 57/4

SOUTH (5 x 2.5m)
 (southern half of grid no 57/4)

trouble

excavated only to ②

excavated to floor ③

excavated to depth

170

depth 70

80

Section of wall
 - north face

depth 90

floor

Report on T6/3 → 58/1.

This trench was opened on 11/10/95. It was hoped that excavation here (the NE "corner" of the insula) would locate the actual corner corresponding symmetrically to the NW corner excavated in 56/1.

Since the corner was likely to be in the northern section of the 5m. grid, and since time was short, only the northern (2.5 x 5m) half was excavated. A N/S wall of only one course was located to the eastern end, with a larger stone at a possible corner. However, the northern perimeter wall (which would lead to the corner) was not located, even in an extension to the north into 58/1.

T6/3 itself, at least in the northern half, was excavated to bedrock very quickly i.e. at a very shallow depth, showing the one-course N/S wall in the east to be on bedrock. The bedrock was levelled to a hard-packed floor, in which was found, near the wall, an oval pit, cut in the bedrock and containing very ashy soil.

An extension of 1m to the east, clarified the east face of the N/S wall but also showed that it continued north.

Accordingly, a slit trench was opened in 58/1 to the north, also extending 1m to east to include the wall, which was found to continue north, but became ruinous at the northern end. Excavation of the eastern face showed it resting on cut bedrock.

Comment (see over)

1/23 - 5/27

Worked on the 1/23 - 5/27 in the morning
The corner of the wall was found
in the trench to the west of the corner
of the wall.

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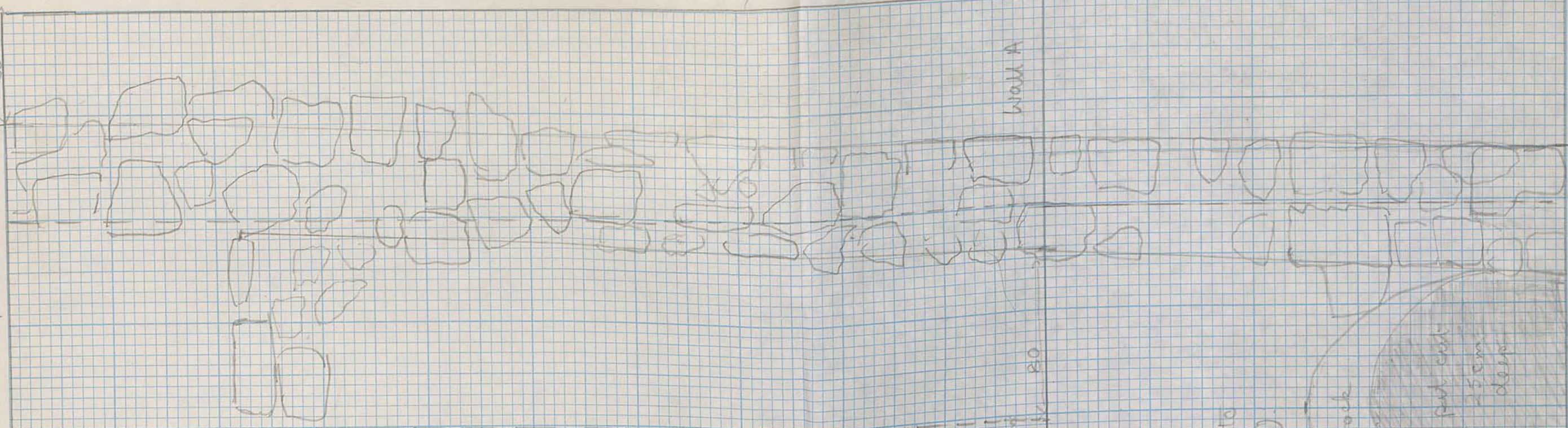
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Comment on T6/3 -> 58/1

Although no corner was found, it was useful to locate this N/S wall. The area is much eroded and very close to bedrock. Since the expected northern perimeter wall was not found in adjacent trench to west (T6/6), one may conclude that it is lost to erosion. As ~~Trench~~ Trench 57/4 later showed, the northern perimeter wall certainly existed strongly for some distance from the NW corner. It is perhaps possible that the larger stone seen in the N/S wall in T6/3 was connected originally with a corner and that the extension north of that wall was a later addition, but this cannot be ascertained this season.

58/1
ext 1m → 59/7

Wall



58/1
unexcavated

x depth 10cm
bedrock
labeled
to floor

excavated to
floor (2)

76/3
unexcavated

Wall A

depth 10cm
x x 80

76/3
N. half

76/3 North half
5m x 2.5m
Put 100 x 80
Bedrock 180-130
cut → 77/9
1.0 m extension

76/3 9 58/1