

Interpretations of Extra-Housepit Excavation 29

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Extra-Housepit Excavation 29 (EHPE 29) is one of three roughly circular depressions associated with HP 1 (Vol. III, Chap. 11.1, **Fig. 1**). The surface is approximately 12 cm deep at the center (pre-excavation) and roughly 2 m in diameter. Its northern edge is difficult to distinguish due to the intersection of the rim of HP 1. EHPE 29 was tested as a potential roasting pit in 1998.

Subsquare 9 of Square A was excavated. An initial 8 cm of aeolian deposits were followed by fine darker soil, with very few cobbles or pebbles. Cicada burrows indicated bioturbation, and trachydacite flakes continued to show up along with two small bone fragments and 3 chalcedony flakes. At 26 cm below surface, the soil was significantly rockier, however the artifacts remained similar, with the addition of a retouched trachydacite flake and most of a beaver tooth. Excavation halted at about 40 cm below surface, due to time constraints and lack of any indication of use as a roasting pit. EHPE 29 appears to have been a cache pit, or perhaps a barrow pit that gradually filled in. It was certainly finer and more artifact rich than the sterile pebble and gravel rich till typical of the slope only a few meters away. One of the more potentially interesting aspects of this feature was the presence of pisolite flakes, the "household" material typical of HP 1 (Vol. I, Chap. 16), although there were only three such flakes among the trachydacite remainder.