

## Excavation Summary for Extra-Housepit Excavation 24

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Extra-Housepit Excavation 24 (EHPE 24) is a fairly shallow depression (about 35 cm in depth at center before excavation) located about 3 meters to the east of HP 109 on Terrace 1 (Vol. III, Preface, **Fig. 1**). It is approximately 3 meters in diameter and roughly circular (**Fig. 1**). This feature was tested in 1998 to determine if roasting pits (for either meats or vegetables) were associated with HP 109, with the idea that such pits might indicate feasting.

Subsquares 1 and 13 of Square A were excavated first, but neither of these subsquares demonstrated any clear evidence for plant or animal roasting. The soil was blackened, however, and there were a few scattered flakes of charcoal. A few trachydacite flakes were recovered, but no plant or animal remains, or fire-cracked rock. When Subsquares 9 was excavated, some mammal bone fragments were recovered near the surface, which were probably relatively recent. At about 35 cm below surface, there was a "pavement" of reddened and fire-cracked cobbles (making up 50% of the matrix). This rock concentration extended to 50 cm below surface, after which sterile till was encountered.

Excavation of Subsquares 5 was undertaken to explore more of this rock concentration. A small (1 cm in diameter by 2 cm thick) flat oval drilled shell bead was recovered near the surface of Subsquares 5. This type of bead had not been recovered before at the site, according to Brian Hayden. It was not associated with any other artifacts or features and appears to have been lost randomly. Several fire-cracked cobbles and a few flakes of charcoal were recovered at about 20 cm below surface. Below them, the soil

was darker and large, fire-cracked cobbles were found, along with a trachydacite flake. A flotation sample was taken from the matrix of FCR at about 35 cm BS. The amount of FCR and charcoal was much less than that encountered in other roasting pits, but it seems clear that something was cooked in EHPE 24.

The boundaries of the pit are diffuse, seeming to start in Subsquare 5 and sloping into Subsquare 9 (see **Fig. 1**). It may have been used more than once, although the amount of charcoal and FCR does not suggest a great deal of use. EHPE 24 does not appear to be a particularly good example of a roasting pit, but may represent a functionally distinct type.

EHPE 24 has been dated to 490 BP, based on charred wood samples. No plant remains, other than charred wood, were recovered.

### **Figures**

Figure 1: Surface plan and cross section of EHPE 24.

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