

Excavation Summary for Extra-Housepit Excavation 27

Sara Mossop Cousins Extra-Housepit Excavation 27 (EHPE 27) is a very shallow (4 cm in depth at the center before excavation) depression located just north of the rim of HP 8 and about 3 m east of EHPE 28 (Vol. III, Preface, **Fig. 1**). It is 3 m in diameter and roughly circular. EHPE 27 was partially excavated in 1998 to test its possible function as a roasting pit.

Subsquare 9 in Square A was opened up. At 7 cm below surface the soil was somewhat blackened and there were a few charcoal flecks showing up. There were clear indications of bioturbation (cicada burrows and bodies). The dark soil continued for 25 cm without any cobbles, with few pebbles and no modified artifacts. Some flakes of trachydacite were recovered. A large boulder was encountered at 29 cm below surface. More flakes showed up, and fire-cracked cobbles were found around the large boulder. A piece of utilized block shatter, perhaps a "notch," was also recovered. The pebble concentration and the cobble increased, and more flakes were recovered. Small pieces of charcoal were found, with 4 salmon vertebrae, several mammal bone fragments, and what may be a canine metacarpal or metatarsal, at about 45 cm below surface.

The excavation was halted at 52 cm below surface. Artifacts were still occurring, but it seemed clear that EHPE 27 was a cache pit, or even simply a natural depression in the debris-flow from the rim of HP 8. EHPE 27 was closed without reaching sterile. It may be of interest to return and check the distribution of boulders, cobbles, and FCR, but it does not seem to be a plant roasting pit. The artifacts recovered are of a similar density and distribution to EHPE's 29-31 which appear to have been cache pits associated with HP 1.