

Excavation Summary for Extra-Housepit Excavation 31

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Extra-Housepit Excavation 31 (EHPE 31) is one of three small depressions associated with HP 1 (Vol. III, Preface, **Fig. 1**). It was excavated to determine its functional relationship to HP 1. Since no pisolite was recovered from this feature, its association to HP 1 is a result of its proximity to the housepit.

EHPE 31 was initially excavated to determine if it was a roasting pit. However, the near absence of FCR, charcoal, or ash within the pit, suggests that it is a cache pit. Roasting pits usually contain large amounts of ash, charcoal, and FCR. The feature was excavated to a depth of 131 cm below surface level. Sterile till was not encountered at this depth, and it became very hazardous to continue excavating this unit without opening up an additional subsquare. At 131 cm below surface, a charcoal lens was encountered along the bottom, and probably extended into subsquare 12 of the next square to the east. It was not clear what was being stored in this cache pit, as the few faunal remains were relatively evenly distributed between fish, bird, and mammal.