

**IMTO – Italian Mission to Oman
University of Pisa**

PRELIMINARY REPORT

**January – February 2004
(SUM04A)**



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During the campaign in winter 2004 (SUM04A), which started on January 24th and finished on February 28th, the field activities were focused on the diggings at the ancient town of Sumhuram and at the structures located in close vicinity to it, SUMWEST (temple *extra muros*) and SUMEAST (houses apparently connected with agricultural activity of ancient settlers) (see fig. 1). In Sumhuram (see fig. 2) the excavations were concentrated at two areas: Area A (squares h-i 10-11) to the south of the Gate Complex, Area F (squares g4-5-h4-5-i5) along the central part of the NW defence wall of the town. SUMWEST or temple *extra muros* is located in c. 300 m north-west of Sumhuram, and SUMEAST – in c. 350-400 m north-east of Sumhuram.

The main goal of the present campaign was to continue the clearings of the square A8 and building BA5 partially unearthed during the previous campaigns, to complete the excavations of the temple *intra muros* (building BF3) and part of adjacent square A20, to start the excavations of the new building BF5 (the so-called “monumental building 2”), to complete excavations of the temple *extra muros* (SUMWEST). In addition, we carried out the rescue excavations of several structures discovered on the place of future cafeteria, ticket’s office and parking place for tourists’ buses (SUMEAST).

Area A (trench supervisor V.Buffa) (see fig. 3, 4). Excavations were concentrated in front of the Building BA6 partially unearthed by F.Albright in early 50-ies, on the square A8 and ruins of the Building BA5 partially unearthed by IMTO in 2002 (SUM02A campaign).

The top strata.

Square A8 and part of Building BA6, in squares h-i 10-11, were covered at the top by the layer US21 consisting of loose reddish loam on the top and more compact and crumbled filling underneath mixed with stone blocks and small stones fell down from the walls of surrounding structures. Very few animal bones and fragments of pottery were found. The following small finds were recovered from US21: a fragment of a bronze mirror (MB245), a bronze needle (MB247), an iron nail (MI77), and a whetstone (S687).

Square A8

The layer US29, unearthed under US21 and represented the last phase of partial occupation of the square A8, consists of rather fine brown to greyish loam mixed with few fragments of pottery and animal bones. It contains also stone blocks fell down from the wall M58 of the building BA6. Next to this wall different areas of ashes and charcoal

included many sea shells were traced. Floor US29, sometimes tramped with stones, was reached at the elevation of 36.70. No doubt, it represents the last living surface at the square A8. It should be pointed out, that the canal running on the square in NE-SW direction was still in use.

Building BA6 was also inhabited at this time: in front of its main door located in the centre of the wall M58 a ramp made of hard packed loam and slightly raised from the floor provided access to the building at the elevation of 36.80. Along with few fragments of pottery, the following small finds were found in the US29: two bronze coins (Co248, Co250), a grinding stone (S690), and whetstones (S691 and S695).

In square h10 a pit, designated as US111, was dug from the floor US29. Its total depth was about 0.5 m, and its bottom rested almost on the floor US136 belonging to the room A55 of the Building BA5. The filling of pit was constituted of loose dark brown loam mixed with a quantity of ashes, animal and fish bones, and fragments of pottery. The pit US111 was partially dug into the filling of another pit, designated as US112, which was connected with the lower surface, i.e. with the floor US22. The following small finds were found in the pit US111: a bronze coin (Co296), a fragment of a bronze awl (MB295), a shell bead (Sh184), a fragment of a soft stone vessel (S723).

Below floor US29 the cultural deposits denoted as layer US22 were constituted of hard light greyish loam. The floor US22, which was, apparently, the constructional floor for the entire square A8, has been made from very hard packed greyish loam. It was tramped several times with small stones and peddles, slightly raising its level. The floor US22 covered the entire ruins of all previously constructed houses like buildings BA1 and BA5, and marked the total rearrangement of the square A8. Along with fragments of pottery and sufficient quantity of animal bones, the following small finds came from the layer US22: bronze coins (Co252, 255, 254), a bronze needle (MB253), a bronze ring (MB281), a bronze bead (MB276), an iron javelin point (MI82), an iron arrow head (MI84), a stone bead (S701), a fragment of a square stone vessel (S704). On the floor US22 a number of bronze coins were discovered, which, probably, constituted a small coin-hoard (Co262, 264, 265, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 278, 284, 285, 288, 289, 290, 292).

In square h10, in connection with the settings of the floor US22, a huge sub circular pit was discovered. Its filling, designated as US112, constituted of loose brown loam mixed with a quantity of small stones and few fragments of pottery. The pit had destroyed parts of the walls M108 and M107 belonging to the rooms A35 and A53 of the previously existed Building BA5. The following finds were discovered in the pit US112: two bronze coins (Co277, 287), a fragment of a bronze awl (MB294).

The continuation of the canal traced at the square A8 in the previous campaigns has been found also on floor US22 in the excavated area. Near the sides of the canal in square i11 the floor has been tramped with fragments of plaster, sometimes with incised drawings and/or South-Arabian letters.

Building BA6

The Building BA6 (squares i-112) was built along the streets A45 and square A8. It was partly excavated by the American Foundation for the Study of Man in the early 50-ies (Albright 1982, fig. 5:V B22, C22). During the present campaign an external structure connected with the main building's entrance, was unearthed (see pl. 1, 1).

Three outer walls of Building BA6 are known up to now: wall M57 running in NW-SE direction along street A45, wall M101, partly investigated by Americans and running in NE-SW direction, and wall M58 along the square A8. Only the length of wall M57 is known, which is 11.50 m. The wall M57 is preserved for a maximum height of 2.30 m. All three outer walls of the building BA6 were made of nicely dressed limestone blocks. An outer annex, the room A51, was built against the wall M58.

Room A51

A square room A51, 2.7x2.7 m in size, was built along the wall M58 next to the NW corner of the Building BA6. It was formed by the wall M58 (outer wall of the Building BA5), the wall M105 running in NW-SE direction along the street A45, the wall M104 running parallel to the wall M58 along the square A8, and the wall M103 running parallel to the wall M105.

The construction technique of the walls M105 and M104 is different from the one used normally in other structures of Sumhuram. They were built with two external rows of vertically arranged sandstone slabs; the inner space between the slabs was filled with one row of medium size limestone blocks, sometimes poorly dressed. The length of the slabs varies from 1.0 m to 0.30 m; their average height is 0.30 m; the thickness of the slabs varies from 8 to 15 cm. The maximum preserved height of the walls M105 and M104 was circa 1.0 m. Both walls were set on a foundation made from roughly dressed limestone blocks. The foundation of the wall M104, running along the square A8, was reinforced by an additional external row of blocks. The fourth wall of the room A51, the wall M103, was, in contrary, made in "traditional" technique using the roughly dressed limestone blocks, probably to sustain the steps leading to the room, that was found next to the junction with wall M104 (see below).

Room A51 was partially covered by the floor US22. Below it, the floor US147 belonging to the room A51 was reached at the elevation of 36.24. The floor was made from very hard packed reddish loam. Some postholes on the floor might indicate the presence of a light roof sustained by beams. The filling above the floor, denoted as layer US147, was consisted of rather loose reddish grey loam containing some remains of mud-bricks, few animal bones and marine shells. The following finds come from the US147: a bronze coin (Co259), a bronze clap to repair stone vessels (MB286).

It looks like that the walls M104 and M105 were unsuitable to reach the height of a normal room. We could think of an open terrace with a low wall around, a sort of bench. The wall M103 topped by sandstone slabs could be considered as the remaining part of the bench.

The entrances to the Building BA6 and to the room A51

Both entrances were constructed from the level of the floor US22, at the elevation 35.84. The entrance to the Building BA6 starts from the passage between walls M104 and M106 (the latter was unearthed only by a short part). From the square A8 the passage had two steps and its floor was reached at the elevation of 36.04 (i.e. slightly higher than the one in the square). The floor was made from hardly packed greyish loam. The passage ends with three large sandstone slabs placed in front of the main entrance of the Building BA6 formed a kind of porch. The entrance is 1.30 wide. The slabs of the porch are of diminishing length, from 1.50 to 1.30, the longest one being the one next to the entrance. A foundation made from roughly dressed stone blocks supported the slabs of the porch. They are raised from the floor for a maximum of 0.50 m at the entrance.

The entrance to the room A51 was placed in front of the wall M103, in the SW corner of the room. Three stone steps lead to the entrance. The lowest one was made of three blocks forming a curved line for a length of 1.08 m. The middle one was made of two flat blocks and was 0.84 long. The top one was made of two flat blocks, and was 1.12 m long.

It is still unclear when Building BA6 was built, but certainly it was in use during the construction and functioning of the floor US22 on the square A8, and later, during the construction and functioning of the floor US29, in other words – during the last two phases of the existence of Sumhuram (1st – 4th cent. AD). Room A51 was built on the floor US22 in the square A8. This provides a clear indication for the time of its construction. It seems that its use did not last long, and during already the accumulation of the layer US22 the room was not in function and, probably, was partially destroyed. Then the floor US29 covered the ruins of the room completely.

Building BA5

Over the part of Building BA5 not excavated in the SUM02A campaign, during SUM03A the superficial deposits had been removed down to floor US22. This year floor US22 has been removed. Room A34 and part of room A35 of building BA5 have been excavated during the SUM02A campaign. During this campaign it has been possible to unearth the rest of room A35, room A53, and room A54, but excavation of the building has not been completed (see pl. 1, 2).

Room A35 The size of the room is 5.0x2.5 m. On the NE the wall M108 closes it. The access to the southern room A53 is in the middle of wall M108 where roughly dressed limestone blocks at the level of the floor were lined with mud bricks. Three steps of a staircase were found in the SUM02A campaign next to M64 in the NW corner of the room. The steps led on the structure formed by the wall M121, which was constructed from floor US114. To the SE of the wall M121 a rectangular structure, a sort of pillar (?), was constructed, separated a very small premises A55 with nicely plastered floor. From the SE the wall M122, also constructed from the floor US114, bordered the structure.

The SE corner of the room A35 was occupied with a lower semicircle platform made from medium size stones. The top surface of the platform was plastered and remained the traces of what might be the imprint of a ring-base of large storage jar. Later the platform

was covered with stones representing the prolonged part of the bench running along the walls M64 and M66 (and now – along part of the wall M108).

The floor of the room, designated as US114 floor, was reached at the elevation of 35.68. It has been later partly destroyed by the pit US112 connected with floor US22 (see above). The following small finds come from the layer US114: five bronze coins (Co280, 283, 300, 301, 302), a bronze clap to repair stone vessels (MB286).

Room A55. A very small square room was located next to the wall M16, and was connected with the room A35 by a narrow passage along the wall M122. Its floor, designated as US136 floor, was lined with a thick layer of mortar that was mounting also on the lower part of the walls. The elevation of the US136 floor is the same as US114 floor (i.e. floor in the room A35). The filling of the room was badly disturbed by the pit US111 connected with floor US29 (see above). What remains of the original filling of the room A55 are deposits of circa 0.10 m thick consisted of greyish rather hard loam mixed with some charcoal and few artefacts. It seems that the entrance to the room A55 was marked by a door-step (?), constructed from three stone blocks placed on the floor US114. An iron point of javelin (MI85) was discovered in the filling of the room A55 (US136).

Room A53 is the southern room of the Building BA5 excavated so far. The wall M108, separated two rooms, rooms A35 and A53, and the wall M120 closed the room A53 from the SW, while wall M66 – from the SE. The size of the room is 2.2x3.3 m. Its entrance was, probably, located in the NW corner. The floor of the room, designated as US150 floor, was reached at the elevation of 35.66 m. It seems that the floor was lined with mud bricks of which few relics remain. The foundations of the outer walls of the room (M120 and M66) are set below floor US150. Wall M108 next to the entrance to room A53 was partly destroyed by the pit US112 (see above). The accumulation over the floor, layer US150, consisted of reddish hard loam incorporating some pottery and few animal bones. Five bronze coins (Co279, 281, 282, 294, 299) were found in the room A53.

A structure erected, probably, to support the initial staircase of the Building BA5 leading to the upper floor, occupied the SW corner of the building. Walls M16, M108, M107 and partially – M120 delimited it. One part of the structure was designated as *Room A54*. It occupies the NE part of the structure and was separated from the rest of it by the very thin wall (M123) of one row of stone blocks. All wall of above-mentioned structure were made from roughly dressed stone blocks. Walls M107 and M108 have a foundation below floors US114 and US150. The compartment SW of the room A54 was filled with limestone chips continues under the section and its meaning remains to be excavated and understood.

As was said, the structure in the SW corner of the building BA5 was erected to support the staircase leading to the upper floor or to the roof of the building. Five stone steps of the staircase are preserved; their length varies from 0.50 to 0.30 m; their height from 0.18 to 0.20 m. The lowest step is placed in the passage connected the room A35 and the room A55 against the wall M108. It is placed on floor US114, and has a foundation of medium

size stones under the floor. The second step goes over wall M108 and is lined with mud bricks. The upper most of the preserved steps is placed over the wall M123. The deposit in the narrow NE part of the structure, room A54, designated as layer US151, consists of very loose dark grey loam containing a quantity of ashes, animal bones, iron slags. The following small finds were discovered in it: three bronze coins (Co298, 297, 295), an oil lamp made with a *Chlamys towsendi* shell (Sh185), a ribbed glass vessel (G46,) fragments of stone vessels (S722, 724, 729). Under layer US151 reddish hard packed filling incorporating many medium size stones was left *in situ*. The staircase has been repaired at least once and later must have gone out of use. At this time the second staircase has been built in room A35.

Building BA5 was destroyed during the construction of the floor US22 in the new square A8. Excavation this year did not yet give indications about the time of construction of the building BA5.

Area F (trench supervisors A.Sedov, C.Odierna). The main goal of excavations at the area in the present season was to complete exploration of the Building BF3 identified as temple *intra muros* sacred to Sayin, the deity worshipped in Sumhuran, and to start the excavations of the new building located nearby, which main characteristic was the “inner courtyard” quite clearly visible before excavations (see fig. 5, 6).

Building BF3

The only room remained unexplored in the previous season, was the *room A42* located south of the entire complex, along the city-wall (M117) of the ancient town. It was trapezoidal in plan, 2.0-2.8x2.0-2.1 m in size. The entrance, 0.7-0.8 m wide, with doorstep made of stone blocks connected the room A42 with adjacent rooms A41a and A41b. The room was closed from the south by stonewall M119, which was, apparently, the outer south wall of the entire temple complex. The filling of the room (US146) was very soft dark brown loam mixed with ashes, charcoal, pottery fragments and enormous amount of animal bones. It looks very likely that at the final phase of its existence, the room was used as a garbage pit where remains of meals cooked in the temple's kitchen (rooms A41a and A41b) were deposited.

As was stated during the previous excavations, the room A42 was taken out of the function after the 1st phase of existence of the temple complex: its entrance was closed, the northern wall (M88) was demolished and used as foundation of the upper wall made from mud-bricks. Later an additional “stone skin” reinforced the wall M88 from the north.

Room A48. As was stated in the season SUM03A, a new room was added to the temple complex during the final phase of its existence by constructing walls M87 and M50 isolated part of the square A20. The additional room was rectangular in layout and 2.3x4.3 m in size. The entrance to the room, 1.2 m wide, was located in its NE corner. Its roof was supported by central pillar, from which a round stone base remained *in situ* in the middle of the room. The floor of the room, made from slightly packed loess, was cleared at the present season. A flat stone platform, 0.5x1.0 m in size, made from two

rows of stone blocks was discovered against the NW wall (M86) of the room. Nearby, also against the NW wall (M86) of the room, a lower stone of a hand-mill was found (see pl. 2, 1).

Square A20

The SW corner of a vast square A20 located in front of the temple complex was excavated in this season down to the floor US54, which corresponds with the 1st phase of the temple existence. For this purpose the wall M50, corresponded with the upper floor level (US56) was demolished. The square was bordered from the SW by very nice preserved wall M93 of the new building BF5 (preserved on the height of more than 2.0 m). An isolated wall M100, which foundation goes even deeper than the floor US54, stood roughly in the middle of the excavated part of the square. Its function still remains unclear, but most probably it was used as a kind of fence protecting the discovered blacksmith workshop from the rest of the square A20. The length of the wall M100 is circa 1.8 m, its width is 0.4 m, and the preserved height is 1.2-1.3 m (see pl. 2, 2).

The remains of a blacksmith workshop were discovered in the excavated part of the square A20, against the walls M86 and M93, at the level of US54 floor. A round furnace, circa 0.8 m in diameter at its base, was found against the wall M86. The conical “body” of the furnace was made from pottery, and its nozzle – from the neck of Dressel 2-4 amphora with broken handles. A fragment of iron slag was found inside the furnace (US149). Two stone blocks were placed in front of the furnace on the floor US54. Ash lenses and burnt areas were traces on the floor of the square A20 to the east of the furnace (see pl. 3, 2).

A mud-brick platform, circa 1.5x2.0 m in size and more than 0.5 m high, was discovered in circa 5 m SE of the furnace, against the wall M93 of the Building BF5. Its function remains unclear, but, probably, it was also somehow connected with the blacksmith workshop. Fragments of lime plaster, sometimes with incised and painted drawings (in black and red), were found in abundance in front of the mud-brick platform, from its NE side. An upper stone of a hand-mill was discovered on the floor US54 in circa 3 m to the NE of the platform.

Building BF4

Remains of what was denoted as Building BF4 was cleared to the SW of the temple *intra muros*, against the defence city-wall (M118). The structure consisted of two adjoining rooms (IV O10 a and b) and was excavated by F. Albright in 50-ies. According to him, “nothing was found within them except a poor-quality mortar”. In all probability, the building represents the final or “late” phase of occupation of Sumhram: the foundations of its walls were places above the ruins of previous structures contemporary to the buildings BF3 and BF5.

Building BF5

A new structure denoted as Building BF5 was started to excavate in the season SUM04A. It is located SE of the Building BF3 and the square A20, and its main feature was still

visible “inner courtyard” (as a sort of deep depression surrounded by stone walls). Only small part of the structure was unearthed in the season SUM04A (see pl. 3, 1).

As we can judge from the first results of the excavations, the Building BF5 was a separate standing structure not directly connected with adjacent buildings. The enormously wide, circa 2.2 m, walls surrounded an “inner courtyard”, rectangular in layout and roughly 5.3x8.1 m in size. The outer “skin” of the walls (M92, M93, M109, M110) was built from medium size stones, while the inner “skin” of the same walls – from huge roughly dressed stone blocks. The space between two “skins” was filled up with small and medium size stones and with mud and loam. Unfortunately, the construction was not stable and the central parts of inner “skin” of all four walls surrounded the courtyard fell down. For this reason in the present season it was a hard task to consolidate the walls, and we succeeded to do it for the wall M92 and part of the wall M109.

In order to reach the foundation of the walls of the Building BF5, we dug a trench, 2.5x3 m in size, in the “inner courtyard”, against its NW wall (M92). The trench was stopped at about 2 m depth from the present surface in the “inner courtyard”, reaching the total height of the wall M92 of more than 3.0 m. The foundation of wall was not reached. The filling of the trench was enormous amount of large and medium size stone blocks fell down from the surrounding walls, mostly from M92 and M93, mixed with hard brownish loam. Total absence of artefacts except single body shards and small fragments of animal bones and marine shells should be noted.

The real function of the structure remains unclear. Its dimensions and especially the width of the walls resemble the so-called “Monumental Building” to the west of the Gate Area of Sumhuram. It could be not excluded that the Building BF5 was constructed around the second well or water reservoir, but this supposition should be carefully examined during the future seasons. In anyway, the Building BF5 is one of the largest edifices known so far to us among the structures of ancient Sumhuram.

Room A50. To the SW of the Building BF5, at the level corresponding with the walls’ foundations of the Building BF4, an additional room A50 was excavated. The room was constructed next to the outer face of the wall M110 of the Building BF5. It was rectangular in layout and, probably, 1.6x3 m in size (its SE wall didn’t preserve). The entrance to the room, 0.7 m wide, was from the SW, in the middle of its SW wall (M111). A lower stone platform, circa 1.3x1.6 m in size, was attached to the outer face of the NW wall (M112) of the room. The filling of the room (US148) consists of small and medium size stones mixed with loose loam, fragments of pottery, animal bones and marine shells. An almost complete stone vessel was found of the floor of the room in its SW corner. Most probably, the room is contemporary to the Building BF4 excavated by Albright, and represents the “late” phase of occupation at Sumhuram.

SUMWEST (trench supervisor A.Pavan). During the season SUM04A the excavations of the temple *extra muros* was completed, reaching the floor in rooms A2 and A3 and

cleaning the southern and the eastern parts of the structure to show the general layout of the sanctuary (see fig. 7, 8, 9; pl. 4, 1).

Room A2. The L-shaped room A2 was paved, like rooms A1 and A3, with a lime plaster, good preserved in all the surface except for the north-western part of the room, where traces of modern fire-places were still visible. Here the plastered floor was not found but it was possible to see directly the bedrock and the preparation for the floor (gravels stone of small-medium size and compact soil). In this part of the room a limestone basin (S11) was found *in situ*, as well as fragments of large storage pottery vessels (base of a jar and fragment of wall with South-Arabic incised letters). A sandstone slab (50x46 cm in size) was placed against the NW wall of the room (wall M6).

The longitudinal part of the room A2 was carefully plastered, and only near the entrance in the SE wall of the room there was a flat bedrock stone, probably left intentionally unplastered (was used as a foundation for something?).

Different layers were possible to distinguish in the filling of the room A2 (US2): soft brownish soil with superficial stones on the top; layer with well dressed stones of medium-big size collapsed from the walls of the room mixed with wadi-pebbles; a very compact lens of greyish colour with traces of charcoal; layer of brownish colour, medium-compact, with fragments of plaster, probably fell down from the walls. The last layer covered the floor of the room, which was slightly degraded towards the west (14.732 in the eastern part; 14.598 in the western part).

The room A2 has three doors, and each door was equipped with doorsteps: in the main entrance (elevation point 14.99), in the door connected it with the room A1 (elevation point 14.92), in the door connected it with the room A3 (elevation point 14.76). All doorsteps were made from stone blocks and were plastered. In the door between rooms A1 and A2 a plastered threshold was found, on which traces of the beams used for the doorframe are still visible.

Room A3 is an irregular quadrangular room, 3.6x2.2 m in size, with carefully plastered floor. Since it was found almost empty except for the collapsed stones from the wall, it's difficult to determine its function. Significantly raised floor of the room, in comparisons with adjacent structures, should be mentioned. A small niche or, probably, a window was found in the exterior face of the wall M6, in the NW corner of the room A3.

Cleaning and removing the stones collapsed from the walls M10 and M9 a new ambient was found (*room A4*). It's not properly a room rather a kind of fence built to protect the temple from the wadi flows. Two walls delimit it: M11, which leans badly to M8, and M12. Both were very roughly made from undressed stones, not tied with any kind of mortar. Most probably, the room was a later addition, built when the Bedouins used the temple as shelter. Two spindle-whorls (B1; Sh12) and small amount of pottery were found in the filling of the room A4.

The main entrance to the temple was designed as a porch, and was made from three rows of stones, plastered on the upper surface and on the sides.

At the end of excavations it was decided to consolidate the walls and the podium in the room A1, otherwise structures would collapse under rain and wind. The intervention was made on top of all well with the exception of small NE part of the wall M3 and the north-western corner of the temple. The entire surface of the temple was filled with soil in order to protect the floor, and a stone fence was built around the perimeter of the structure to avoid the entrance of animals.

SUMEAST (trench supervisors Said Mas'ud al-Mashani and A.Pavan). A new area was opened this season as a result of rescue excavations of several structures located in 250-300 m NE of Sumhuram, on the place of proposed cafeteria, ticket's office and parking place of the future tourist complex. The remains of the structures were first recorded by Ghanim al-Shanfari (see pl. 4, 2).

Structure 1 (see pl. 5, 1). This is the southern most structure of the complex. Only faint traces of walls' foundations were visible on the present surface before excavations. As a result of the diggings, remains of a one-room house, of which only the lower course of the outer stonewalls, 0.7-0.8 m wide, was preserved, have been identified. The house was rectangular in layout; its orientation was in NE-SW direction. The entrance, circa 0.7 m wide, was located in SW corner of the building. The inner dimensions of the room were 2.5x3.8 m. The floor of the room was the bedrock levelled with sand and dark brown loam. Several open fireplaces were traced inside and outside house, but, most probably, they have no direct connections with the ancient structure and belong to the rather recent activity at the site. The filling of the room was loose loess mixed with small stones and a few fragments of pottery shards, among which a piece of *terra sigillata* plate should be mentioned. Two bronze coins identified as the eagle series of Yashhur'il Yuharish, son of Abiyasa, *mukarrib* of Hadramawt, were found in the filling of the room.

Structure 2 (see pl. 5, 2) The structure was located in circa 15 m SE of the previous one. Parts of the stonewalls were visible on the present surface before excavations. The unearthed remains belong to a one-room house, rectangular in layout, oriented towards N-S direction. The outer walls of the structure were 0.75-0.8 m wide. The entire NW corner of the building and big parts of its northern and western walls were demolished, which didn't give the possibility to determine the entrance to the house, which was apparently located in this part of the structure. A stone bench, 0.4-0.5 m wide, was discovered in the interior of the building running along its southern and parts of western and eastern walls. The inner dimensions of the room were circa 2.5x3.9 m. The floor of the room was made from packed loess and was plastered with the lime mortar. An open fireplace was discovered in the interior of the room, close to its NE corner. The filling of the room was loose loess mixed with small stones and a few fragments of pottery. A small silver plaque with unclear design on one of its sides was found in the filling of the room. Outside structure 2, in close vicinity to its NW corner, a limestone incense-burner was picked up.

Structure 3 (see pl. 6, 1) The structure was situated in a few meters to the SE of the first one, and only faint traces of stonewalls were visible on the present surface. Remains of a one-room house were unearthed during the excavations. The house was rectangular in layout, oriented in E-W direction. Its NE part was completely demolished. The lower course of the stonewalls, 0.7-0.8 m wide, were made from limestone and sandstone blocks placed directly on the bedrock. The entrance to the building, circa 0.5 m wide, was, probably, located in the middle of its southern wall. The dimensions of the inner room were 2.3x6.3 m. A stone bench, circa 0.5 m wide, was discovered in the interior of the room along its western, parts of the northern and southern walls. Most probably, the bench was constructed along all interior walls of the room, but was partially destroyed later. The centre of the room was occupied by two rectangular, almost identical, constructions, 0.7x1.8 and 0.6x2.0 m in size, made from limestone and sandstone blocks (some of the blocks were set up vertically). The function of these constructions is not clear, but probably they served as foundations of tables (?). If this is correct, the interior of the house could be reconstructed as a rectangular room with bench along its walls, two tables in the middle, and rather narrow, circa 0.6 m wide, passage around tables. The floor of the room was plastered with lime mortar. The filling of the room was loose loess mixed with small stones and very few pottery shards, mostly walls of vessels.

It is rather hard to make any definite conclusions about the function of all excavated houses at the area SUMEAST. Taken into account that in all probability further north along the wadi ancient fields were apparently located, the presence of the excavated houses might be connected with agricultural activity of the settlers of Sumhuram. According to the first look at the pottery assemblage found in the ruins of excavated structures, they were contemporary to the 1st period of the ancient town, i.e. to the 3rd-1st cent. BC.

Consolidation works (supervisor A.Sedov). In order to protect the previously excavated structures from damages, we decided this season to take care of them in processing a rather simple consolidation works. Already at the end of the season SUM03A, such works were started and they yielded surprisingly good results.

First of all, the top surfaces of all excavated walls of the buildings and structures at Sumhuram were protected by levelling them with a row of stones and mud filling above it. This was done at the temple *extra muros* (SUMWEST), temple *intra muros* (Building BF3), dwelling houses at the Area A (Buildings BA1, BA3 and BA4).

This season more complex works were executed. For instance, almost completely destroyed in antiquity the interior face of the wall M92 and part of the wall M109 of the new excavated Building BF5 was rebuilt and consolidated with its original stone blocks fallen down to the “inner courtyard” (see pl. 7, 2). The space between stone blocks on the facades was filled with small stones and consolidated with special kind of mortar consisted of 35% of mud, 35% of Tyrolean powder, 20% of lime and 10% of white cement. The mortar was camouflaged with fine mud. The “body” of the walls was consolidated with mud and small stones. The same type of coating was used to

consolidate from the landslide the outer face of the part of the city wall M25, the corner, cleared during SUM03B campaign (see pl. 6, 2; 7, 1).

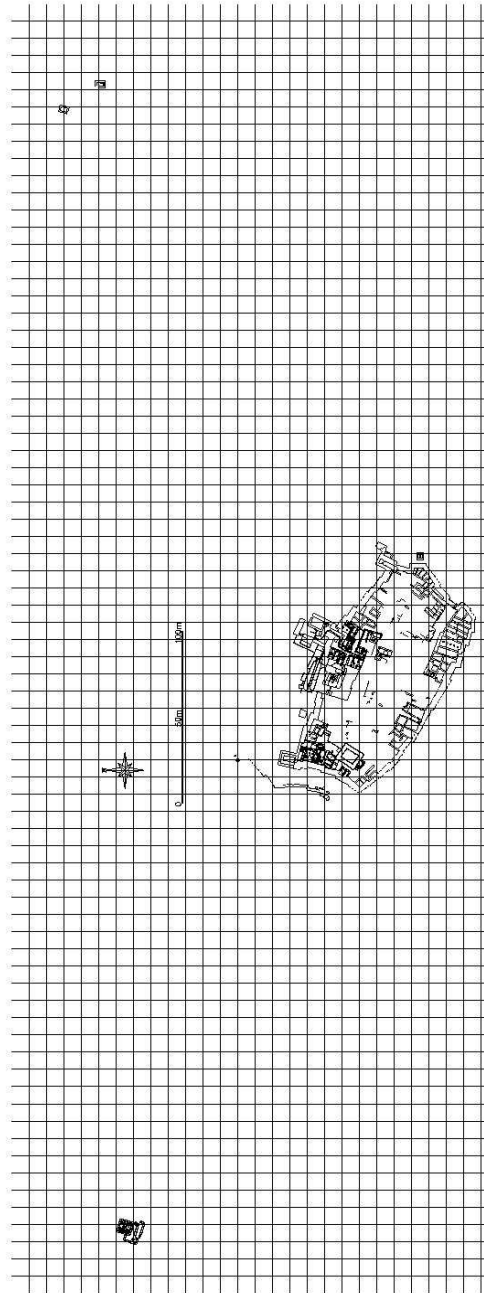


Fig. 1 General plan of Sumhuram and nearby sites SUMWEST and SUMEAST

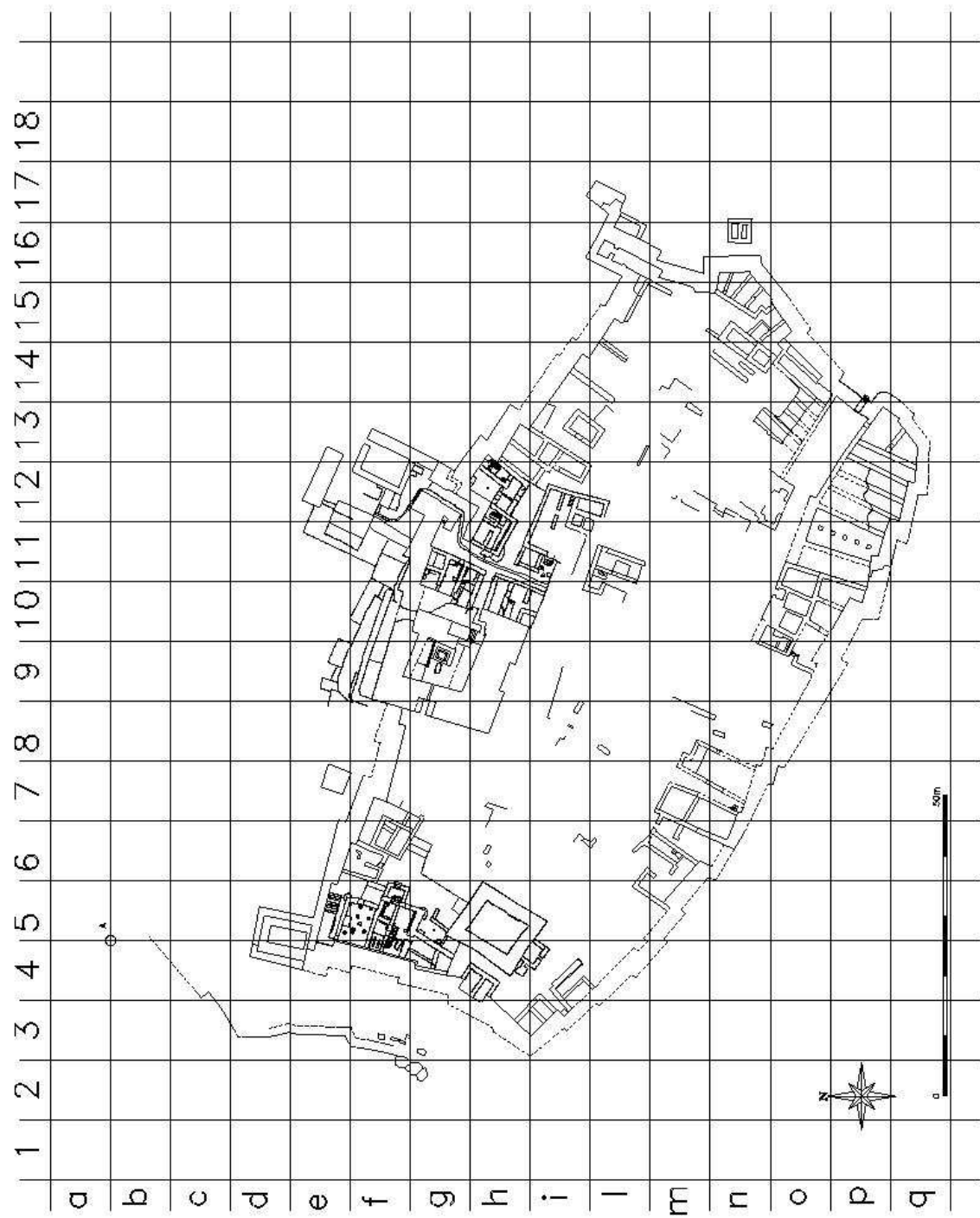


Fig. 2 General plan of Sumhuram



Fig. 3 Area A, general plan of excavated structures

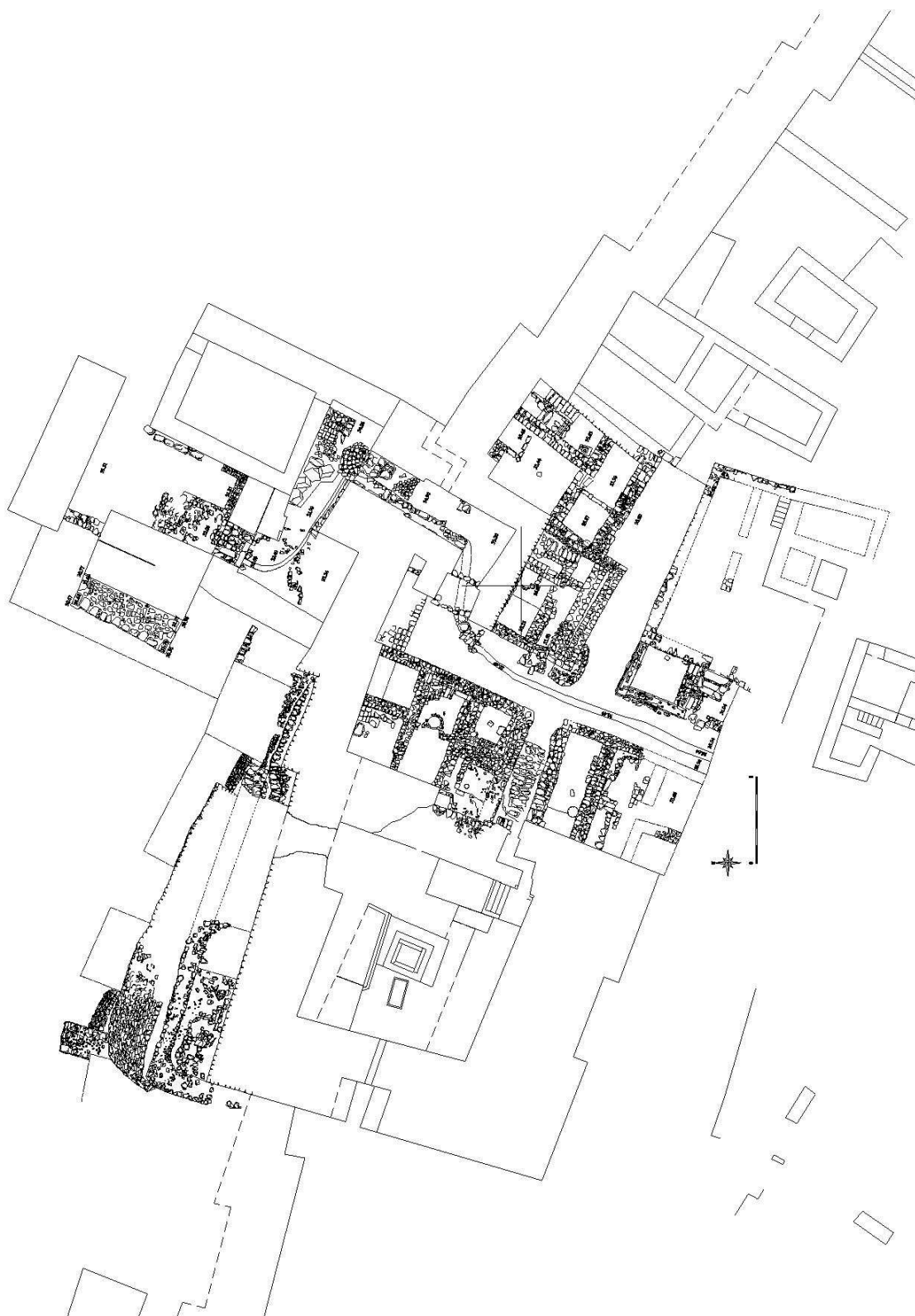


Fig. 4 Area A, general plan of excavated structures



Fig. 5 Area F, general plan of excavated structures.

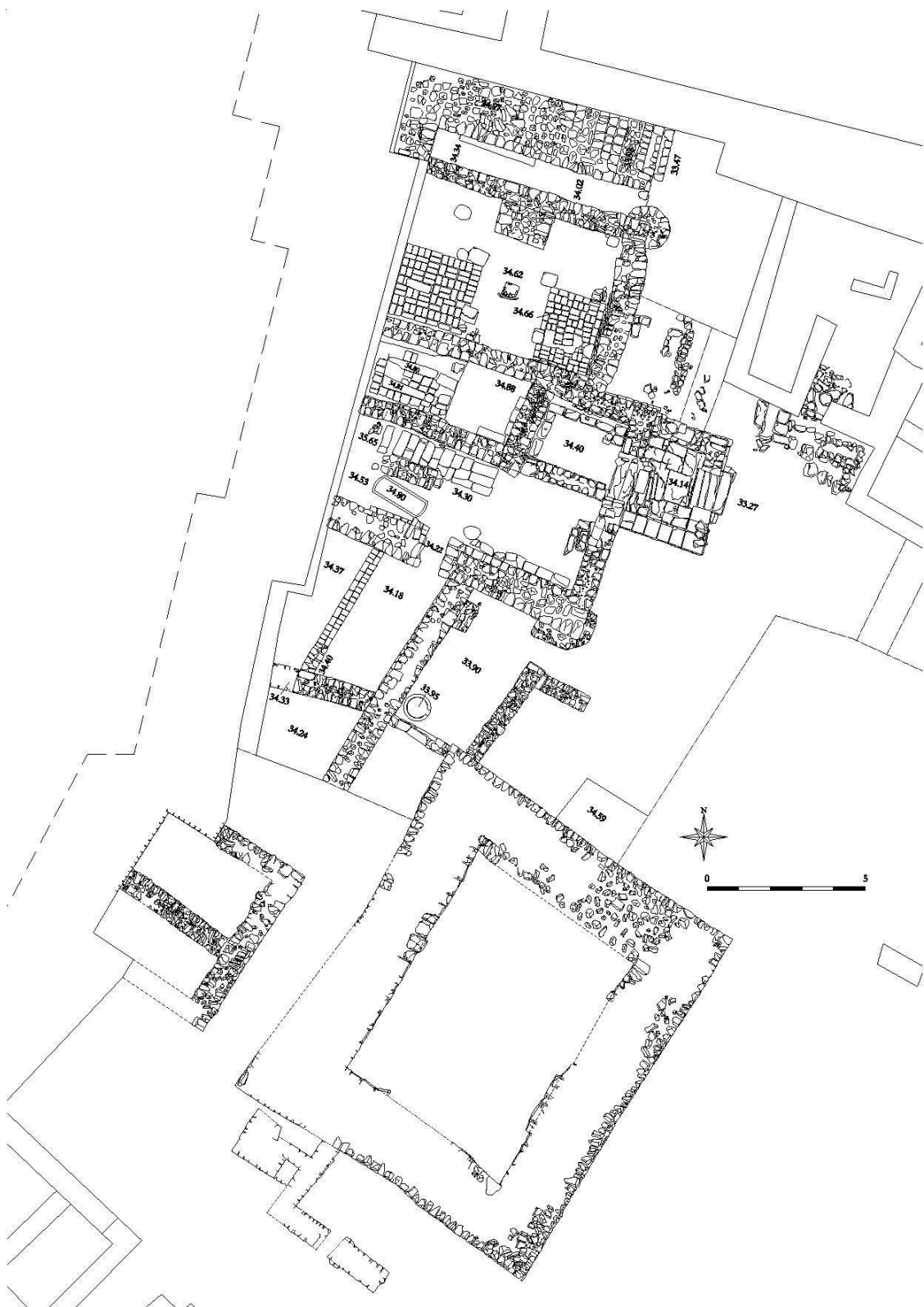


Fig. 6 Area F, general plan of excavated structures

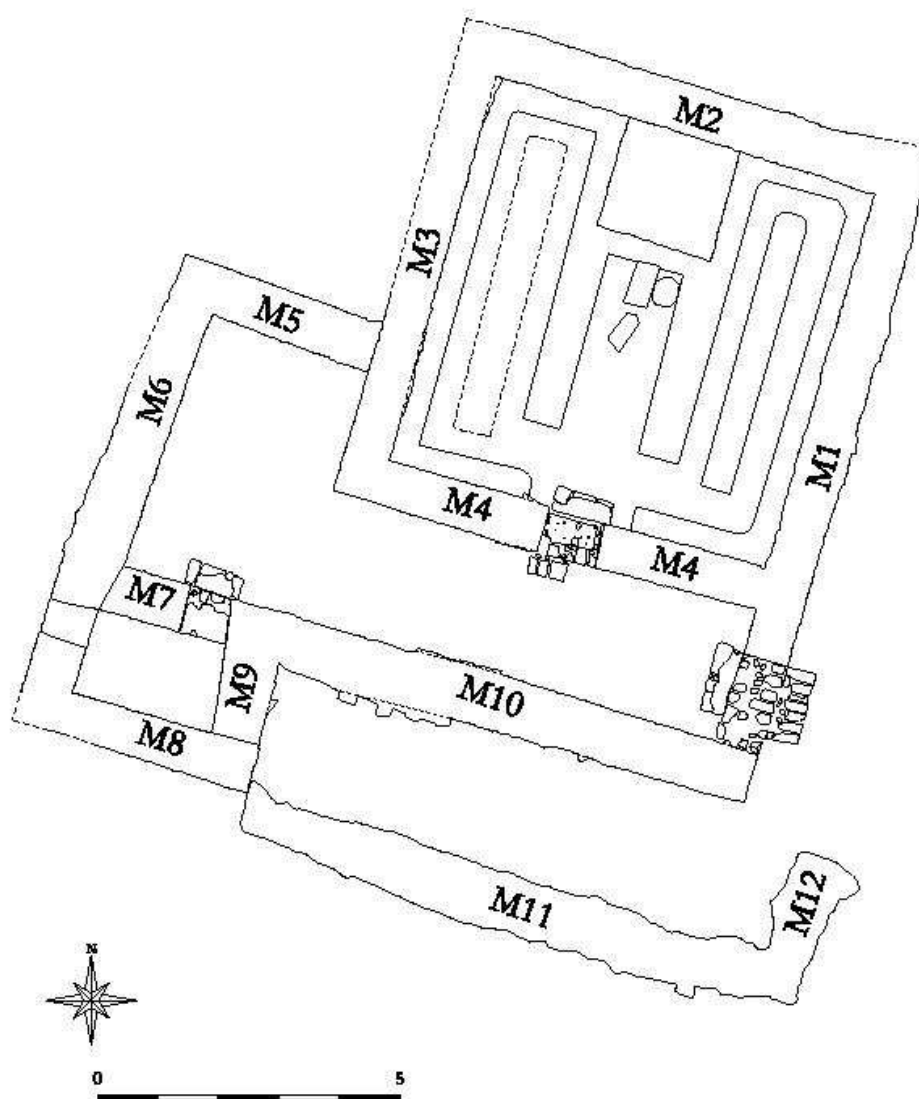


Fig. 7 SUMWEST, temple *extra muros*, general plan of excavated structures.

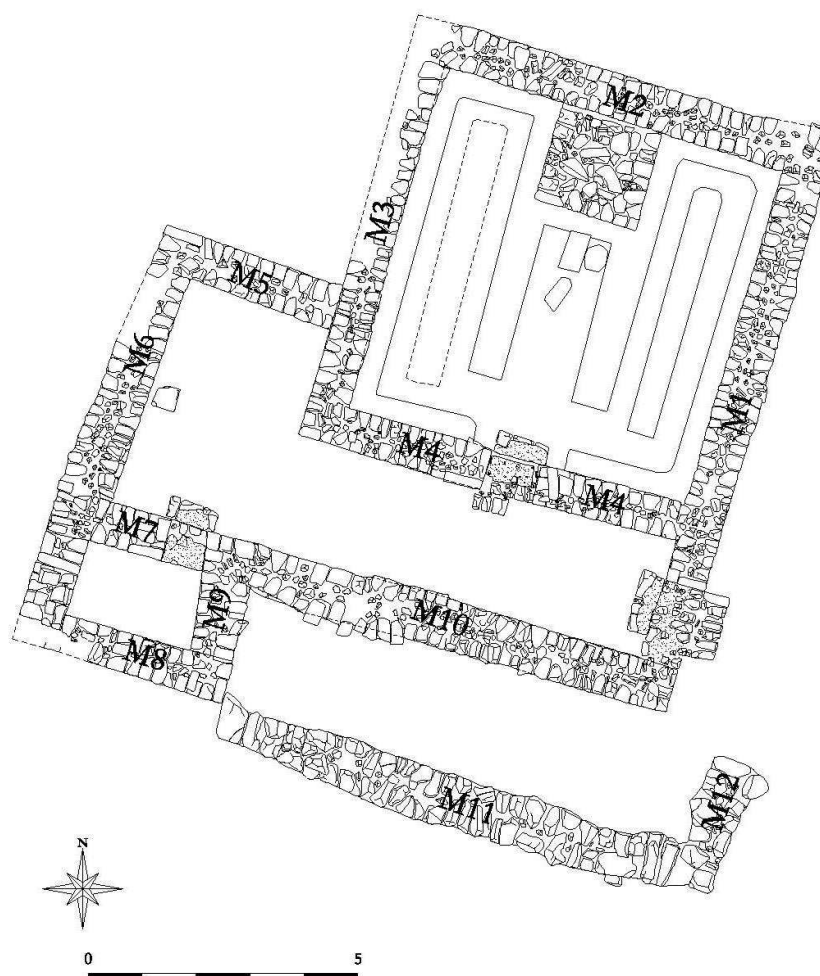


Fig. 8 SUMWEST, temple *extra muros*, general plan of excavated structures.

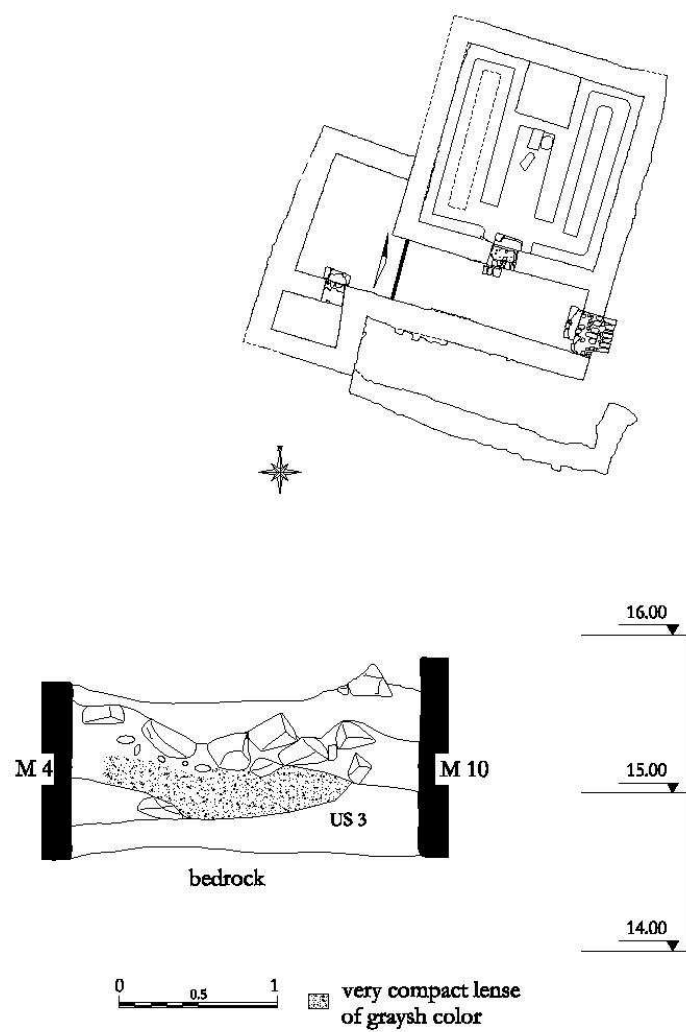


Fig. 9 SUMWEST, temple *extra muros*, section in the room A2.



Figura 1: Area A, entrance to the Building BA6 with room A51



Figura 2: Area A, ruins of the Building BA5



Figura 3: Area F, Building BF3, room A48



Figura 4: Area F, square A20



Figura 5: Area F, Building BF5 during excavations



Figura 6: Area F, furnace in the square A20, US54



Figura 7: SUMWEST, temple *extra muros*, general view



Figura 8: SUMEAST, general view



Figura 9: SUMEAST, structure 1



Figura 10: SUMEAST, structure 2



Figura 11: SUMEAST, structure 3



Figura 12: , corner of the city-wall M25 during consolidation




Figura 13: Sumhura, corner of the city-wall M25 during consolidation

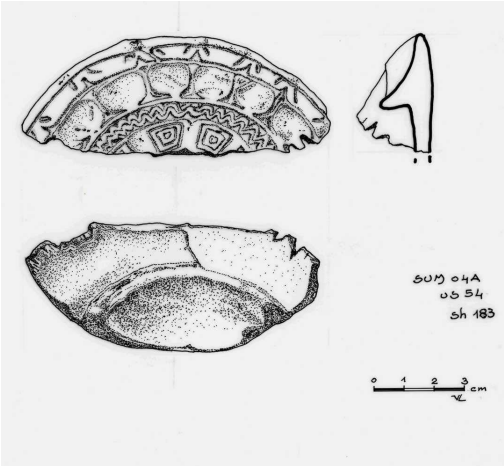


Figura 14: F, Building BF5, part of the wall M92 after consolidation

Object Index Card

Registration Nr. SUM04A US54,62 S730				
Drawing code Nr.				
Definition Millstone	State of preservation good	<i>Measures</i> l. w. h. th. 7.5 diam. 34		Shape circular
Material Brownish limestone	Preserved part Complete			Section Piano-concave
Description Circular upper part of millstone. The top is flat and along the diameter has a flat groove (th. 2, w. 9) to lodge the beam to move the stone. The bottom is slightly concave. In the centre of the stone there is an hole with oval shape (h. 9, w.7).				
Responsible A. Pavan		Date 29/02/04		

Object Index Card

<p><i>Registration Nr.</i> SUM04A US54,59 (#140) Sh183</p>			
<p><i>Definition</i> Lid (?)</p>	<p><i>State of preservation</i> good</p>	<p><i>Measures</i> l. 3.9 w. 9.1</p>	<p>Shape semicircular</p>
<p><i>Material</i> Shell</p>	<p>Preserved part fragment</p>	<p>h. th. 0.5 diam.</p>	<p>Section convex</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Description</i></p> <p>Fragment of shell object with convex surface. From the external edge it's possible to distinguish the following incised motives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - plain and very thin un-decorated band (0.4); - thin band decorated with short and deep lines which start from the base in opposite direction (0.6); - register with rounded elements, slightly pressed on the two wider surfaces (1.2); - register with two overlapped wavy lines (0.5); - register with 2 preserved concentric squares made by three quite irregular squares one inside the other (1.1) <p>It's only hypothetical to suggest the function of the object which could be a lid for a small vessel.</p>			
<p>Responsible A. Pavan</p>		<p>Date 28/02/04</p>	